

BARNSTABLE COUNTY
AMERICORPS CAPE COD

WAYPOINT

YEAR 16, Fall 2014



The AmeriCorps Cape Cod program is dedicated to serving the critical environmental and community needs of Cape Cod through natural resource management, disaster preparedness and response, environmental education and outreach, and volunteer engagement.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MEET THE HOUSES.....P.	3
COMMUNITY, OUTREACH, AND DEVELOPMENT (COD) DAY UPDATE.....P.	4
AMERICORPS GROWS UP: CELEBRATING ITS 20TH BIRTHDAY.....P.	6
AMERICORPS COLLABORATION.....P.	7-8
PEDALING FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING.....P.	9
SECRET BEACH STRANDED.....P.	10
#BHSUNSETCHASERS.....P.	11
PUMPKIN CHOCOLATE-CHIP COOKIES.....P.	12
14 PEOPLE. 1 KITCHEN. CHALLENGE ACCEPTED.....P.	13
SUSTAINABLE CAPE.....P.	14
CATAUMET CENTER FOR THE ARTS OPENING.....P.	15
WETFEST!.....P.	15
PHOTO MONTAGES.....P.	16-19
POPPY SEED OR BLOODSUCKING DEMON? PART 1.....P.	20
THE CURSE OF MAUCH.....P.	21
QUAHOGS COULD SAVE THE DAY.....P.	22
PAWS-ING TO APPRECIATE WITH MISSION WOLFP.	23
AMERICARTOGRAPHY.....P.	24

Barnstable County AmeriCorps Cape Cod is funded by Barnstable County and through grants from the Massachusetts Service Alliance and the Corporation for National and Community Service. Housing is provided by Barnstable County and Cape Cod National Seashore. AmeriCorps Cape Cod is managed by the Barnstable County Resource Development Office.

EDITORS:
Hope Goodrich
Kevin Richards
Carolyn Mecklenburg
Alice Hintermann
Teikyo Mowchan
Amanda Carron

LAYOUT AND DESIGN:
Hope Goodrich
Zach O'Halloran

Meet the Houses!



LE HAC HOUSE

Top (from left to right): Matt Rusnak, Ryan Berstein, Teikyo Mowchan, Frank DeLeo

Middle: Valerie Falconieri, Kelsey Dunn, Alice Hintermann, Lauren Markram

Bottom: Kelly Barber, Sarai Zelada, Natalie Wall, Sasha Berns, Hope Goodrich

Kneeling: Sebastian Wheeler



BOURNE HOUSE

Top (from left to right): Kevin Richards, Zach O'Halloran, Mike Quarella, Dave Riddell

Middle: Sawyer Cresap, Emily Meshumar, Carolyn Mecklenburg, Amanda Carron, Megan Liggett

Bottom: Katelyn Olsson, Lizzy Profita, Carly Brady, Jen Morrison



WELLS HOUSE

Top (from left to right): Cody Michel, Andy Platt, Alex Smith

Bottom: Eric Lefevers, Jobeth Minniear, Celina Scott, Will Weinrich



DAY

From the combined desks of the LeHac and Bourne Member Leaders, we bring forth an exciting and extensive list of our Community Outreach and Development (COD) Day activities so far (broken down and organized, just the way we like it).

Tuesday

Sawyer, Katelyn, Mike, Lizzy, Teikyo, Frank, Natalie, Lauren

- Office time to work on personal and “go-to” projects such as:
 - Worm farm and composting lesson
 - Cape Cod Commission Shadowing
 - Children’s Book
 - Planning an “Orleans Green Week”
- Green Ribbon Puppet Show: script maintenance and organization
- Mashpee Shellfish Population Assessment
- Stonehill College Career Fair
- Grant 101 Training with Sebastian
- Fire Safety Puppet Shows
- Meeting with Lenny Fontes, coordinator at Children’s Cove
- Quahog Seeding and Net Planting with Chatham Shellfish
- Oyster Breeding Sampling at the Marine Biology Lab
- Martin Luther King (MLK) Day Preparation: donations
- Invasive Plants Removal at Wellfleet Historical Society
- Storage Cage Cleaning and Painting at the Resource Development Office (RDO)

Wednesday

Matt, Ryan, Sarai, Alice, Megan, Emily, Carly, Carolyn

- Office time to work on personal and “go-to” projects such as:
 - County Greenhouse Brainstorm
 - Planning an “Orleans Green Week”
 - Children’s Book
 - Sustainable art lesson
- Green Ribbon Puppet Show: stage painting and puppet maintenance
- Mashpee Shellfish Population Assessment
- Table presentation at Cape Cod Volunteer Fair held at the Yarmouth Senior Center

- Grant 101 Training with Sebastian
- Fire Safety Puppet Shows
- Meeting with Lenny Fontes, coordinator at Children's Cove
- Suni Sands Clean Up with Barnstable DPW
- Educational Walks in Beebe Woods
- Garden Bed Maintenance with Sustainable CAPE
- Martin Luther King (MLK) Day Preparation: nutrition and fitness lesson plans
- Invasive Plants Removal with Orleans Tree Department

Thursday

Zach, Kevin, Jen, Dave, Sasha, Kelsey, Kelly, Hope

- Office time to work on personal and "go-to" projects such as:
 - Native & Invasive Species exhibit
 - County Greenhouse Historical Research
 - Researching future projects such as working with wild animals and proper art material removal
 - Personality test result board
- Green Ribbon Puppet Show: script and audio maintenance
- Mashpee Shellfish Population Assessment
- Grant 101 Training with Sebastian
- Fire Safety Puppet Shows
- Squash Loading at the Cape Cod Cooperative Extension Organic Farm
- WetFest Gear Loading
- Children's Cove visit: Meeting with Lenny Fontes, coordinator at Children's Cove
- West Barnstable Conservation Area Trail Maintenance with Barnstable Department of Public Works
- Overwintered Oysters with Chatham Shellfish
- MLK Day Preparation: donations and lesson plans
- Cape Cod Community College Presentation
- Invasive Plant Removal with Orleans Tree Department

And we are only a couple months in! Be on the lookout in future Waypoints for further updates for everything and anything COD.



AmeriCorps Grows Up: Celebrating Its 20th Birthday

By Carolyn Meklenburg



On Friday September 12, 2014, President Barack Obama and President Bill Clinton spoke to new AmeriCorps members gathered on the White House lawn for the national swearing-in ceremony about their devotion to service. But they were also speaking via live video stream to Barnstable County AmeriCorps Cape Cod members at the AmeriCorps induction ceremony at Tufts University in Boston -- and every other AmeriCorps member around the country -- being sworn in that day. President Clinton, in particular, reminded us that this wasn't just another year for AmeriCorps. It was twenty years ago to the day that the first AmeriCorps class pledged to "get things done for America." Since then, over 800,000 volunteers have devoted a year or more of their lives to serving their communities in an array of focus areas, from education to public health to environmental service.

At the mature age of 16, Barnstable County AmeriCorps Cape Cod has been around for almost as long as AmeriCorps itself. We made ourselves well-known at the Boston celebration among the other state AmeriCorps groups. Although, perhaps we were not as numerous

as, say, the hundreds of CityYear Boston members, we were featured in Massachusetts Service Alliance's video about AmeriCorps programs in Massachusetts, and we made up a third of the "AmeriChoir" that sang the "Star-Spangled Banner" at the opening of the ceremony -- Teikyo Mowchan, Celina Scott and Carolyn Meklenburg bravely volunteered. While we are clearly proud of our own community here in Barnstable County, I think I can speak for all of us when I say that as we left Boston that day, we all felt proud to be a part of the larger AmeriCorps community that has been serving our nation for twenty years. And of course, proud that we got to "meet" the President.



AmeriCorps Collaboration

November 14th, Greenfield, MA

By Valerie Falconieri

On November 14th, 2014, AmeriCorps Cape Cod sent two member leaders, Amanda Carron and Valerie Falconieri, and a staff member, Libby Fifer, to participate in a collaborative service project involving AmeriCorps members throughout Massachusetts. There were approximately 50 AmeriCorps members who participated from

different programs including AmeriCorps Cape Cod, Massachusetts Land Initiative for Tomorrow (Mass LIFT), Dial/Self Resources Invested for Students Excellence (RISE) AmeriCorps, and Student Conservation Association (SCA) Massachusetts.

At our initial gathering, we all stated the AmeriCorps pledge in unison, introduced our respective programs, and

then split into groups to work on various projects. Whereas AmeriCorps Cape Cod focuses on natural resource management and disaster preparedness/response, SCA Massachusetts focuses on environmental education and high priority conservation projects. Mass LIFT focuses on land protection through education, service, and land

Continued on next page



trust support. Dial/Self RISE AmeriCorps members serve as tutors and mentors for youth in a variety of schools and youth-serving agencies. Libby mentioned that it felt like we were reuniting with our long-lost cousins!

We began our first service project at Just Roots, a community farm in Greenfield that provides local food to Franklin County, and is dedicated to social and food justice. Just Roots hosts community workshops and also does public education and outreach in schools. Most of the projects AmeriCorps completed that day involved preparing the farm for the winter and spring. This included further insulating a greenhouse, planting garlic and mulching the beds, removing rocks from a field for future use, and making new signs for the community garden plots. Amanda and Val worked with seven other AmeriCorps volunteers on the greenhouse project. The project involved carefully adding another layer of plastic to an existing greenhouse. Much coordination and communication were needed to make sure the expensive plastic did not tear during the process. However, the process went smoothly and it turned out to be quite a success!

Once all of the volunteers completed their projects for the first half of the day, we gathered for a communal lunch. AmeriCorps Cape Cod provided Cape Cod Potato Chips, which were quite a hit!

After lunch we headed to the second service site, the Greenfield Energy Park. The park is a green space that has been reclaimed from an abandoned railroad station site. It is owned by the Town of Greenfield and organized by the Northeast Sustainable Energy Association (NESEA), a non-profit organization. NESEA educates the public about responsible energy use; therefore the park had displays of renewable energy projects. Volunteers did a Fall cleanup at the park that included removing weeds, raking up leaves, and clearing the

pathways.

Upon completing the second service project, all of the volunteers gathered for a review and reflection of the day. The whole day was filled with positivity and energy. The teamwork, leadership, and organization of this project were commendable. Together, we completed an incredible amount of work—all in one day of service! The success of the project was a nice reminder that there are AmeriCorps members throughout the state, just like those of us here on Cape Cod who have dedicated a year of their lives to service. When AmeriCorps members come together for a common cause, we make huge, positive impacts on the communities in which we serve. At the end of the day, we did an alligator clap, said our goodbyes, and traveled back to the Cape with a greater appreciation of what it means to serve.



Pedaling for Affordable Housing

By JoBeth Minniear

Approximately a year ago, I realized my life lacked two things I greatly enjoyed: serving others and exploring the United States. I grew up in the Midwest, went to college in the Midwest, and settled into my first job in the Mid-Atlantic area. Volunteering was an occasional weekend activity, occurring a few times a year. Recognizing that my current work position was not satisfying my need to volunteer and explore, I talked to friends who had incredible life-changing adventures while giving a summer of their lives toward a great cause: the affordable housing crisis sweeping our nation.

A good friend of mine introduced me to an incredible organization called Bike & Build, a non-profit that executes eight cross-country cycling trips to benefit affordable housing. This is accomplished by raising money and awareness, as well as stopping along the route to help build at affordable housing sites. Last summer, I rode the Southern US route: an 80 day, 4,220 mile trip from Jacksonville, FL, to Monterey, CA. During this trip, our group of 32 volunteers stopped in 12 cities to help build local affordable housing for a total

of seventeen days, including: a week in New Orleans to continue Hurricane Katrina relief, a Habitat for Humanity house in Dallas, and Veterans' housing in Las Vegas. We rode through several National Parks, including Monument Valley, the north rim of the Grand Canyon, Zion, and Yosemite. Through the miles and service, our team became a family. They became the family I never knew I needed. Without this family, the physical and mental challenges of crossing the country on a bike would have been almost unbearable. We experienced this incredible trip together and the bond will always be there. The daily roadside adventures – anything from exploring abandoned buildings in Texas, to climbing cliffs in Colorado, to making ridiculous videos in Florida, and the stories and gratitude of the

homeowners we helped, made this summer unforgettable.

The three months with Bike & Build started a passion for serving and adventure. The Barnstable County AmeriCorps Cape Cod FireCorps is a continuation of this passion. Although only two months have passed since the beginning of the program, it has proven to challenge me both physically and mentally. I'm excited to continue this year of service and hope the adventures never end.



Secret Beach Stranded

By Matt Rusnak

Photograph by Matt Rusnak

Upon arriving on Cape Cod, I was instantly hooked by the beauty of my new home. Having been to the ocean only one other time in my life, I was in awe of the beauty of the sand and rock beaches, the frigid ocean water, and sheer numbers of seals. The sunsets on Cape Cod are a mosaic like none I have seen, and it is easy to see why the Cape captures the hearts of not only the tourists, but also those who call this peninsula home.

The first sunset I experienced was the second day after we had moved in. Several of the members, including myself, decided to take a trip to Secret Beach in

Wellfleet. After driving for what seemed to be an hour down a narrow sandy lane, we finally came to a parking lot (if you could call it that) that was surrounded by dunes. As we crested the top of the dune I was overtaken with excitement and ran into the water of the bay. We saw many types of crabs, jellyfish, and even some small fish. As the sun was setting, the air started cooling down and the mosquitos

began to feed; we decided to call it quits and head back to the cars.

We arrived at the cars with plenty of light, but as the other car in our party began to pull away into the distance we realized that our car wouldn't start. We ran after the other vehicle but to no avail; they were gone and we were stranded with little cell service.

As we sat and fretted about our situation

while being eaten alive, we gingerly entered the car. The windows began to fog so we exited and looked away from the car over the dune. What we saw was one of the most beautiful sights I have ever seen. A fiery sunset lit up the sky and suddenly our trivial worries were put into perspective. As the sun penetrated the horizon and the zenith of the sunset subsided we reflected on our lives. We were lucky to have been left behind. We were lucky for this bonding moment which, unbeknownst to us, was a catalyst for lasting relationships with complete strangers and Cape Cod.



#bhsunsetchasers

By Megan Liggett

Photograph by Lizzy Profita

One of the first weekends after moving into the Bourne House, as I was preparing my dinner, I overheard some excited discussion in the dining room about the how beautiful the sky and sunset were that night. By the time I was ready to sit down and eat, nearly everyone who was in the house was scrambling out the door, cameras and phones in hand, to chase after the sunset in the hopes that they would make it to the beach in time to catch the sun just before it dipped below the horizon, leaving the sky ablaze with brilliant colors. Even though I was a bit disappointed that I missed the first group outing to catch the sunset, I was determined that I wasn't going to miss the next one. The sky had grown dark by the time the sunset chasing crew had returned, and they burst through the door full of excitement from the

chase, and with incredible pictures to share. A new hobby was Bourne that day: sunset chasing.

Since then numerous sunsets have been captured on the phones and cameras of the Bournians from several locations on the Cape, many along Buzzards Bay and the Canal (Old Silver Beach, Monument Beach, and the Cape Cod Canal under the Bourne Bridge, just to name a few), and even a few off the Cape. With so many amazing pictures, it didn't take long for many of the Bournians to join the instagame on Instagram and share the awe-inspiring views with which we have been rewarded by sunset chasing on Cape Cod. A new hashtag was claimed specifically for these events #bhsunsetchasers. With the days getting shorter, and most sunsets occurring while many of us are still at our various sites, sunset chasing has slowed down a bit at the Bourne House, but that doesn't stop us from appreciating the view on our way home or while we are out on the water finishing a day of work. What started on a whim as a new adventure became a bonding experience for the house and a new tradition. Not much beats the excitement of scrambling out the door, getting into the car and racing to the beach to witness the natural beauty of each new Cape Cod sunset. Cape Cod, you never cease to amaze.



Photograph by Zach O'Halloran



Photograph by Zach O'Halloran



Photograph by Megan Liggett

Pumpkin Chocolate-Chip Cookies

A recipe for the harvest season

By Teikyo Mowchan

It's official. Autumn has fallen over the Cape; the trees have donned their traditional garb of red and gold; every day the sun stays sky-born just a little bit shorter, and the nights are getting colder. Winter is coming. And it's easy to get discouraged by the departure of the summer's warmth, but fear not, my friend, there is a solution and it's easier than you think.

Time and time again for centuries, the human race has endured the descent into the Fall season by utilizing that oldest of coping mechanisms: feeding. Not just any old morsel will do though since it is the harvest season after all; a period when we as nation become infatuated with all things pumpkin-infused.

This quick and easy, pumpkin-y recipe combines the classic and enduring joy of chocolate-chip cookies with the reassuring fluffiness of fresh pumpkin bread to deliver a familiar treat with an autumn twist. I, myself, stumbled across it while searching for something sweet and seasonal that I could bring for a fellow Corps member's birthday. I'm a vegan so I was hoping to find something vegan-friendly and crowd-pleasing. I've since made these treats again, so I can safely report that they are, in fact quite delicious, and I think everyone else who ate them thought they were okay as well.

But enough chatter! To the task at hand...



Ingredients:

- ½ cup Canned Pumpkin Puree
- ½ cup Sugar
- ¼ cup Vegetable Oil
- 1 tablespoon Unsweetened Applesauce
- 1 cup All-Purpose Flour
- 1 teaspoon Baking Powder
- ½ teaspoon Baking Soda
- A Dash of Salt (optional)
- 1 teaspoon Cinnamon
- ⅛ teaspoon Cloves
- ⅛ teaspoon Ginger
- ⅛ teaspoon AllSpice
- ½ tablespoon Vanilla
- 1 cup Semi-Sweet Chocolate Chips

Instructions:

- 1) Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.
- 2) While it's warming combine the pumpkin, sugar, oil, applesauce and vanilla in a bowl. In a separate bowl, combine all the other ingredients except the chocolate chips.
- 3) Now combine the wet and dry mixtures, and fold in the chocolate chips.
- 4) With a spoon, make approximately 1-inch balls and drop onto a lined cookie sheet. (The recipe should make about 10-15)
- 5) Bake them for 10-12 minutes or until fluffy. Poke one of the cookies with a fork; if it comes out clean then they're done!
- 6) Let them cool for about 15 minutes and enjoy!

14 People. 1 Kitchen. Challenge Accepted.

By Emily Meshumar

Cooking has been a huge passion of mine for as long as I can remember. One of my favorite memories is cooking with my family. It has always been a means of bringing people together, whether it is the actual act of cooking or eating. Food always has a way of entertaining people. Upon my arrival to the Bourne house, I was nervous about cooking in a kitchen with thirteen other people. Cooking is such a big part of my life that I needed my space to be able to express. Our kitchen is small, but manageable. Now three months into the program, I find my time to cook when the kitchen is quiet. I put on my music and break out some mixing bowls or pots and pans and start the process.

When I used to bake at home,



my mom, brother or I would be eating what I made for weeks or just the three of us would devour whatever I made. Now I have thirteen other mouths who will eat what I make, so I have more motivation and excitement to cook and bake more. I made the switch from vegetarianism to veganism about three and a half months ago, and baking vegan goodies has been more of a challenge. I find myself baking at least twice a week now because I like trying to find different vegan recipes and substitutions for animal-based products. So far, I have made things like ginger cookies, double chocolate chip cookies, apple pie, chocolate cake, oatmeal cookies, soft pretzels, bread and pumpkin pie. My favorite part about cooking is being in the company of others and sharing my creations with them. I get satisfaction from others' full stomachs and happy faces. This motivates me to want to cook more.

Family dinners have been a highlight for me. Although I have only cooked once so far, I have lent a hand with others' family dinner preparation. I enjoy being able to share my knowledge and love of cooking with others because I think it is a useful skill to have. We all sit around our dining room table with the food spread out and assume our house dinner seats. It normally takes about five minutes before everyone is settled with food on our plates and we start to eat. With good food comes good company and conversation. It is a fulfilling way to enjoy one another's company and to appreciate where we are. It is a humbling and warming experience. Food is a gateway to bringing people together and to appreciate the good things in life. I look forward to continuing my cooking and baking journeys in the Bourne house and to see what other concoctions I can create.

Sustainable CAPE

Growing Food. Growing Community. Growing Connection.

By Sarai Zelada

As I sit to write about my experience with AmeriCorps' new Individual Placement (IP), I receive a text from Francie, my IP service partner. It's an invitation for dinner. How appropriate. The thought of human interactions based around food is always exciting. Food! That's the concept around this year's new IP, Sustainable CAPE (Center for Agricultural Preservation and Education). Based in Truro, Sustainable CAPE strives to illustrate the links among local food, health, and the environment.

To achieve this, Sustainable CAPE oversees many programs. It runs the Truro Educational Farmers' Market (TEFM) during the summer months. Different from an ordinary farmers' market, this one is focused on educating the community and empowering individuals to become agents of change. In an effort to make local food more accessible next year, the TEFM will provide additional assistance for individuals enrolled in the federally funded Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

During the school year, Sustainable CAPE

works with local schools, and through its Farmer to School program, students are able to eat food grown in their own gardens for lunch two days each week. Similarly, the Children's Community Garden at the Truro Public Library allows children to grow their own vegetable garden. While doing so, children learn to care for their natural world. Eating kale right off the plant becomes so common for them.

In my IP experience with Sustainable CAPE, there is no day that can be classified as normal. Once, with the help of fellow AmeriCorps members, we went down to the beach and collected seaweed. We also gathered salt marsh hay. We used these materials in our garden beds. As a preparation for winter, we used the "lasagna

method", alternating layers of carbon and nitrogen in each bed. The children enjoyed it and it was great to be able to use local resources that are in abundance.

I am slowly becoming a part of the Sustainable CAPE community. It is a unique IP and I am excited to be part of the movement uniting food, community, and the environment.



Cataumet Center for the Arts Opening

By Sawyer Cresap

To celebrate the 15th year of AmeriCorps Cape Cod and all the service completed in Cape Cod's 15 towns, the AmeriCorps members of Year 15 planted 15 trees -- one in each town. To commemorate this action, and the previous 14 years, an art exhibit was created in the form of posters and shown in the Cataumet Center for the Arts in Bourne in October 2014. The AmeriCorps members of the Bourne House and AmeriCorps staff attended the reception for this event and were touched by the warm welcome of friends and service partners who were grateful for all the work AmeriCorps Cape Cod has done for them over the past 15 years. The posters, displaying each of the Cape towns and a beautiful leaf image, were hung all around the gallery, along with many plaques

and certificates awarded to the AmeriCorps program. The art opening was a wonderful experience for the new members; they loved to see just how much their predecessors have worked to improve the Cape and how important their service this year will be.



Photograph by Zach O'Halloran

WET FEST!



LeHac and Bourne continue to carry on the tradition of WetFests! WetFest is a daylong event where 26 AmeriCorps members educate students on water based activities. Such activities can vary anywhere from a virtual septic system to saving turtles from oil spills. Thus far we have had six WetFest events, one at Monomoy Middle in Chatham, two at Barnstable Intermediate in Hyannis, one at Mattacheese Middle in West Yarmouth, and one at Wellfleet Elementary. This is an excellent event to get students out of the classroom and have some fun while still learning!

AmeriCorps Training



Photo montage by Hope Goodrich

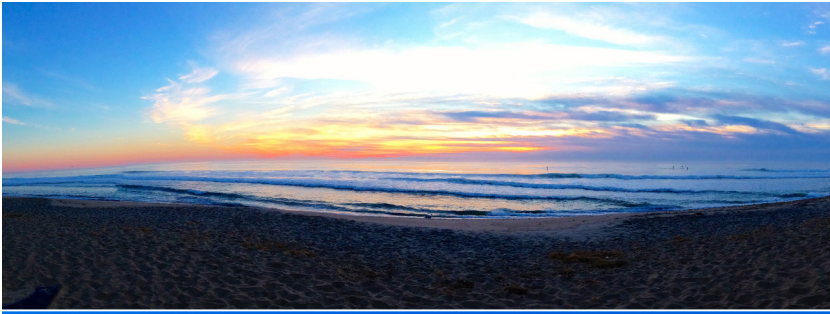


Photo montage by Lauren Markram





Photo montage by Hope Goodrich



Poppyseed or Bloodsucking Demon?

Part 1

By Sasha Berns

Fighting. I was fighting for my life. Two hundred and seventy three months ago I was in a battle. A battle against Lyme disease. I was basically defenseless, relying only on the immune system of my mother. Yes, I was still in the womb. Our lives had been changed by just one bite. One lowly deer tick craved a meal and found my mother.

Flash forward twenty-two years: the Barnstable County AmeriCorps Cape Cod beginning-of-the-year retreat was coming to a close. After two eventful days on Coast Guard Beach, we had but one training left. We packed up our things and said our long, sweet goodbyes to that house on the hill; then we caravanned to Eastham Town Hall. Very few people had showered, and our group had a stench that floated above us on this journey.

We filed into town hall as new friends, not as three houses but as one corps. We chatted about the past few days, we laughed, maybe some of us even cried, and we waited for the last training of retreat. Our expectations for this next couple of hours were low. After weeks and weeks of seemingly endless classroom sessions, we were

ready to be done.

Suddenly it happened. Everything changed. He walked in, stood at the front of the room, plugged in his zip drive, and struggled to pull it up on the screen. Something was different about this presenter, and it was his mustache. It was glorious. He started his presentation, and I was hooked on his words like an embedded tick. He called himself Larry.

Up until that point, everyone had heard “watch out for ticks” and “do a tick check” nearly every day, but none of us knew the importance of these statements. Larry started off with the basic biology: what is a tick? Having studied entomology in college, I loved this. When he went through the phylogeny and classifications it was like a fond walk down memory lane.

Then they filled the screen: giant blown-up pictures of deer ticks towering over us in our seats. Everyone was wide-eyed trying to memorize the look of the tiny lethal demon. Some people even took out their phones to take a snapshot. Maybe they wanted to look at the giant tick pic all the time. I don't know. Who am I to judge?

These ticks looked fairly

harmless, but we were soon to learn this was not the case. Not at ALL the case. The miniscule little monsters could ruin your life with no more than one single bite. From their nymph stage, at the size of a poppy seed, to their adult stage where they can be the size of ten poppy seeds, these microscopic beasts can inflict absolute terror on their human blood sources.

Larry then described to us where the ticks like to hang out. You know, lay low until they can really chomp down on some good ol' human flesh. He spoke of how ticks perch on blades of long grass just waiting for an innocent human leg to brush up against them. They hang there, front legs raised high in the air, ready for that first tender touch of flesh. The image of an infant with its arms raised, strapped in a Baby Bjorn came to mind. Just then on Dave's shoulder I saw a black speck. It was about the size of a poppy seed. I leaned forward to investigate...



To be continued...



The Curse of Mauch

By Frank DeLeo

“There is no way this is happening right now,” exclaimed Kris after the brush-mower blade malfunctioned, “I have been using these Billy Goats for six years and never had problems like this.” It was 8:30 a.m. on what I thought was going to be a normal Wednesday morning, and I had just arrived to the Orleans Conservation Trust (OCT) office to meet my supervisor Kris Ramsay. Today’s task was going to be mowing back the vegetation on two properties, Namequoit Bog and the Mauch gift. Whenever the weather manages to cooperate, Kris and I jump at the opportunity to spend a day outside managing the OCT properties. Luckily for me, Kris rented a new “toy” for me to play with, a brush-mower.

A brush-mower is basically an oversized lawnmower with a blade the size of a recycling bin. Kris gave me the short and simple run-down on how to operate one of these behemoths, and I was ready to tackle the wall of brush in my path. Slogging through high grass, multiflora rose, and numerous species of briar, the brush-mower made quick work of each plot on the property. With the briar snagging every piece of clothing and protective gear I had on and the mower dragging me around as though it had a mind of its own, controlling this massive machine was quite the daunting task. However, just when I seemed to be getting the hang of it, the throttle broke. That, coupled with the fact

that for some reason the mower would only run with full choke on, was enough; Kris and I decided to eat lunch and exchange the mower at the Harwich hardware store.

An hour later we had a new mower in our possession, but Mauch would have to wait. Namequoit Bog needed to be mowed before a group service project on Friday. The Bog was mowed without a glitch, so it was back to

Mauch to finish the last two plots. Kris and I unloaded the truck, I got the mower started, turned the blade on, and started cutting. After making my first pass, I realized that nothing was getting cut. From across the property I could hear Kris sigh, “Not again.” We opened the mower, and sure enough the belt was loose. Without the compression of the belt on the gear, the blade wouldn’t spin. This was far beyond our ability to fix in the field, not to

mention that this mower would only run with full choke on as well. For some reason this property did not want to be mowed. That is when I appealed to the potential spiritual beings present on the property, “Why do you curse us, Mauch?” At this point, Kris and I deemed the Mauch property cursed and cut short our attempts at mowing, at least for the day. With two broken mowers, our wills had been shattered for the time being. As Kris and I loaded the truck and drove off, we vowed to return to finish the job someday no matter how many mowers it would take!





Quahogs Could Save the Day!

By Lizzy Profita

For my individual placement I serve with Rick York, the Shellfish Constable for the town of Mashpee. He is working on a project to remove the nitrogen from the Mashpee waters by primarily using quahogs and oysters, rather than installing expensive sewage systems. Although oysters are thought to filter more nitrogen from water, quahogs actually remove the same amount of nitrogen per live weight as oysters. This project could immensely reduce costs for the town and improve the water quality in a natural way.

Additionally, there is another advantage to this project buried just under the sand. These quahogs could serve as a protein source in a natural disaster during which the Cape may not be able to access food resources. We, along with some Community Outreach and Development (COD) day groups, have been performing a population assessment to determine how many shellfish would be readily available if a disaster occurred. We have taken numerous square-meter samples in the

Great River area and will next be moving to other areas in the Waquoit Bay system and Popponesset Bay. Quahog seed, planted under nets from last year in these areas, will grow to legal size by next season. We have also recently seeded two hundred thousand quahogs in Popponesset Bay that will be ready for consumption in about two years, and seeded over one million quahogs in the Great River area. With this many quahogs planted, the population could begin to spawn naturally and become sustainable. This way, the town could eliminate the cost of purchasing new seed to plant each year.

By continuing to perform this assessment in all the suitable quahog habitats in Mashpee, we will be able to determine how long the townspeople could rely on its shellfish population as a food source. Collecting the data may take a while, but it is worth knowing if there could be a potential food source available in the immediate area in case of a disaster. So next time a big storm is on its way, make sure you have your disaster kit ready and quahog rakes at hand!

Paws-ing to Appreciate with Mission Wolf

By Amanda Carron

On a weekend much like any other in the middle of October, a handful of AmeriCorps Cape Cod members from all three houses gained service hours, learned about and met live wolves. Hosted by the Harwich Conservation Trust (HCT), Mission Wolf is a travelling wolf show to educate the general public about the history, behavior, recovery, and mystery of wild wolves. Upon arriving at the Harwich Community Center, members helped HCT by setting up chairs in the gymnasium as well as distributing informational sheets about upcoming HCT programs and directing audience members to their seats. After completing these tasks, members were asked to stay and enjoy the program.

To describe the experience in a word, it was breathtaking. The show started with Executive Director and Co-Founder Kent Weber and his wife Tracy explaining how Mission Wolf began. It was formed in 1988 with federal and state licenses to open the nonprofit in the Colorado Rockies. The sanctuary encompasses 50 acres that allow up to 40 rescued wolves and wolf-dog mixes to live out their natural lives. Every year, the Webers hit the road with “wolf ambassadors,” several wolves from the sanctuary, who provide people with a rare opportunity to see these magnificent animals up-close.



FireCorps member, Alex Smith, enjoying his time with the resting wolves. (Photograph by JoBeth Minnear)

After thoroughly explaining the “education vs. extinction” ethic of Mission Wolf, Kent and Tracy brought in two wolves and one wolf-dog mix. Everyone held their breath as Maggie first strolled in. She is the strong female of the pack with a shockingly white fur coat and blazing yellow eyes. She was followed by Zaeb, the largest and youngest of the three, with a primarily black coat, and Abraham, her wolf-dog mixed mate whose coat was a pleasant mix of tan, black, and white. The most memorable moment soon followed when the wolves, still leashed, walked around the members and volunteers who were sitting cross-legged on the floor of the gym. The wolves would then decide if they wanted to meet you by getting extremely close to your face and making point-blank eye contact. If you were lucky, they would give you some lovely wolf kisses. I was lucky enough to share a smooch with Maggie.

Not typically awake during the day, the wolves soon got over the excitement of seeing everyone and plopped down in the middle of the circle to rest as Kent continued to educate the audience about wolves. Kent ended the show with having the wolves howl alongside the audience members. As the howls echoed and dissipated, a roaring applause finished our time with the wolves. I walked away from Mission Wolf with a better understanding and respect of wild wolves, the memory of staring into bright yellow eyes, and a tie-dye Mission Wolf tee-shirt.







































AmeriCorps member, Dave Riddell, getting sniffed by Maggie.

"AmeriCartography"

By Mike Quarella



 Name - Position/House College: Major HOMETOWN	 Sebastian Wheeler - LeHac House Supervisor Boston College: English SARATOGA SPRINGS, NY	 Eric Lefevers - Wells House Supervisor Roanoke College: Environmental Science ROANOKE, VA
 Libby Fifer - Bourne House Supervisor Wheaton College: French/Art History NEWTOWN SQUARE, PA	 Kevin Richards - Bourne Central Connecticut State University: Molecular Biology WALLINGFORD, CT	 Emily Meshumar - Bourne Ithaca College: Cultural Communications WEST WINDSOR, NJ
 Jen Morrison - Bourne Franklin Pierce: Anthropology/Env. Science BRIDGEWATER, MA	 Sasha Berns - LeHac University of Michigan: Evolutionary Biology/Ecology WESTPORT, CT	 Dave Riddell - Bourne SUNY Env. Science & Forestry: Env. Science SPENCERPORT, NY
 Carolyn Meklenburg - Bourne Stonehill College: English/Sociology WESTFORD, MA	 Matt Rusnak - LeHac Virginia Tech University: Env. Studies/ CARLISLE, PA	 Sawyer Cresap - Bourne Syracuse University: Environmental Policy DELMAR, NY
 Sarai Zelada - LeHac University of Massachusetts: Natural Resource Cons. LYNN, MA	 Zach O'Halloran - Bourne East Carolina University: History WINTERVILLE, NC	 Natalie Wall - LeHac St. Lawrence University: Biology HILTON, NY
 Carly Brady - Bourne Worcester State College: Natural Science BRIDGEWATER, MA	 Celina Scott - Wells University of Tennessee: Wildlife & Fishery Science BERLIN, MD	 Katelyn Olsson - Bourne Boston College: Biochemistry/Env. Studies FOXBORO, MA
 Amanda Carron - Bourne Member Leader Westfield State College: Wilderness Leadership WILBRAHAM, MA	 Alex Smith - Wells Mid Tennessee University: Environmental Science BRENTWOOD, TN	 Alice Hintermann - LeHac Washington University St. Louis: Anthropology CAMBRIDGE, MA
 Michael Quarella - Bourne University of New Hampshire: Biomedical Science LEOMINSTER, MA	 Lizzy Profita - Bourne University of Hawaii: Zoology WILMINGTON, DE	 Lauren Markram - LeHac Skidmore College: Environmental Studies MAMARONECK, NY
 Teikyo Mowchan - LeHac Wheaton College: Math/Studio Arts NEWINGTON, CT	 Megan Liggett - Bourne Ashland University: Biochemistry CHARDON, OH	 JB Minniear - Wells Iowa State University: Meteorology HUNTINGTON, IA
 Ryan Bernstein - LeHac Colby Sawyer University: Env. Studies/Pottery NEWTON, PA	 Hope Goodrich - LeHac Oberlin College: Environmental Studies/Dance NEW YORK, NY	 Will Wenrich - Wells Univ. of Massachusetts: Env. Science/Info Tech. MORRIS PLAINS, NJ
 Kelly Barber - LeHac Unity College: Environmental Analysis HARLEYSVILLE, PA	 Andy Platt - Wells Member Leader Boston College: Chemistry GLASTONBURY, CT	 Valerie Falconieri - LeHac Member Leader Ithaca College: Anthropology/Env. Studies BROOKLYN, NY
 Kelsey Dunn - LeHac Sanoma State University: Env. Studies IRVINE, CA	 Cody Michel - Wells Central College: Environmental Studies DECORAH, IA	 Frank DeLeo - LeHac Holy Cross: Psychology/Environmental Science FAIRFIELD, CT