

BARNSTABLE COUNTY  
AMERICORPS CAPE COD

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REPORT  
TO THE  
COMMUNITY

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YEAR 20  
2018 / 2019








## OUR MISSION

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BARNSTABLE COUNTY  
AMERICORPS CAPE COD IS  
DEDICATED TO SERVING  
THE CRITICAL  
ENVIRONMENTAL AND  
COMMUNITY NEEDS OF  
CAPE COD THROUGH  
NATURAL RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT, DISASTER  
PREPAREDNESS AND  
RESPONSE, ENVIRONMENTAL  
EDUCATION, AND  
VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT

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**21ST CENTURY  
CONSERVATION  
SERVICE CORPS**

*Corporation for*  
**NATIONAL &  
COMMUNITY  
SERVICE** 

# AMERICORPS CAPE COD YEAR 20



Dear Reader,

On behalf of Barnstable County, I would like to recognize the incredible efforts of the twentieth Corps of AmeriCorps Cape Cod members. They have brought the Cape another eleven months of selfless service, professionalism and energy. They came from all over the country to Cape Cod in September of 2018 to embark on an exciting journey. They served in every town on Cape Cod with our natural resource officers, shellfish constables and conservation agents. They assisted key organizations in environmental education efforts, volunteer engagement and disaster preparedness. Most importantly, they embodied the spirit of service that has come to define our program over the years. Days were not always easy; service weeks were long, challenging and tiring. Regardless, this remarkable group of people showed up day after day, sometimes fifty hours a week, to put their best foot forward and provide for the critical needs of Cape Cod.

This was a year of change and transition for the program; two new residential houses, provided by Barnstable County and the Town of Barnstable, replaced a long-standing home to the program. Despite the uncertainty of change, members and staff stepped up to work through the challenges and build new memories. These new houses joined our Wellfleet House provided by the Cape Cod National Seashore to continue to symbolize Cape Cod's commitment to these young professionals, without which we would struggle to find viable, affordable member housing. These organizations and individual leaders continue to be instrumental in strengthening our program and our connection to the community.

At this point, nearly 500 men and women have provided over 880,000 hours of service to Barnstable County. In September, AmeriCorps Cape Cod will begin its twenty-first year. We are fortunate to have dedicated support comprised of service partners, advisory board members, alumni, volunteers, and staff. Barnstable County, Cape Cod National Seashore, our towns and non-profits continue to serve as key program partners.

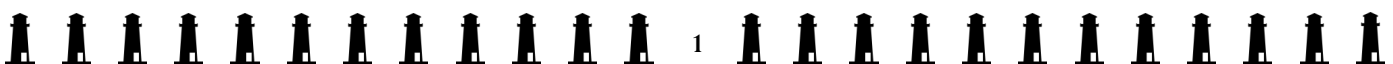
This report is presented to Cape Cod to provide insight into AmeriCorps Cape Cod's commitment to providing quality year-round community service that protects and sustains the natural resources of Cape Cod for the use and enjoyment of future generations. Our report begins by introducing key environmental needs of the community, elaborating on our natural resource management projects, and advances in the field of disaster preparedness and response. The report also highlights our continued success in community education and our volunteer engagement events. Finally, the report concludes with a town-by-town listing of all the services our program has provided to the fifteen towns of Cape Cod.

Every year, AmeriCorps brings energetic young professionals from all over the country to Cape Cod. They provide their knowledge, new ideas and enthusiasm to help us solve our most pressing environmental issues. They truly are the Cape's number one renewable resource and we must never take that for granted.

In Service,

Andrew Platt  
Program Coordinator  
AmeriCorps Cape Cod

*The AmeriCorps Cape Cod program is funded through grants from the Corporation for National and Community Service and the Massachusetts Service Alliance and matching funds from Barnstable County. Housing is provided by Barnstable County, the Town of Barnstable and the Cape Cod National Seashore. The Resource Development Office is responsible for the overall supervision and administration of the AmeriCorps Cape Cod program.*





# ADVISORY BOARD

**RON BEATY**

*Barnstable County Commissioner*

**RYAN BURCH**

*Town of Brewster*

**PHILIP BURT**

*Barnstable County Dept. of Health & Environment*

**BRIAN SHARP**

*International Fund for Animal Welfare*

**NANCY CHURCH**

*Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve*

**NINA COLEMAN**

*Town of Barnstable*

**TIMOTHY FAMULARE**

*Town of Provincetown*

**HILARY GREENBERG-LEMONS**

*Town of Wellfleet*

**MICHAEL LACH**

*Harwich Conservation Trust*

**RACHEL HUTCHINSON**

*Town of Chatham*

**HEATHER MCELROY**

*Cape Cod Commission*

**LAUREN MCKEAN**

*Cape Cod National Seashore*

**STEVE MCKENNA**

*MA Coastal Zone Management*

**JOHN OHMAN**

*Assembly of Delegates—Dennis*

**JESSICA ERICKSON WHRITENOUR**

*The 300 Committee Land Trust*

On behalf of the Barnstable County Commissioners and the staff of the Resource Development Office, the AmeriCorps Cape Cod (ACC) program extends its thanks to the members of the Advisory Board for all their support and assistance they provided throughout this program year. As a driving force, they help advance and improve the benefits that ACC provides to the local community and its Corps members.







*RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE*



**JULIE FERGUSON**  
DIRECTOR



**PRISCILLA ELLIS**  
ADMINISTRATIVE SUPERVISOR



**BOBBI MORITZ**  
RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

**QUAN TOBEY**  
RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT OFFICER



*AMERICORPS CAPE COD*



**ANDY PLATT**  
PROGRAM COORDINATOR



**MEREDITH BALLINGER**  
PROGRAM SUPERVISOR  
POCASSET AND RANCH HOUSE

**ALEX BATES**  
PROGRAM SUPERVISOR  
WELLFLEET HOUSE



**KAYLA BAIER**  
PROGRAM SPECIALIST



# RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

## 25 YEARS OF RESOURCES



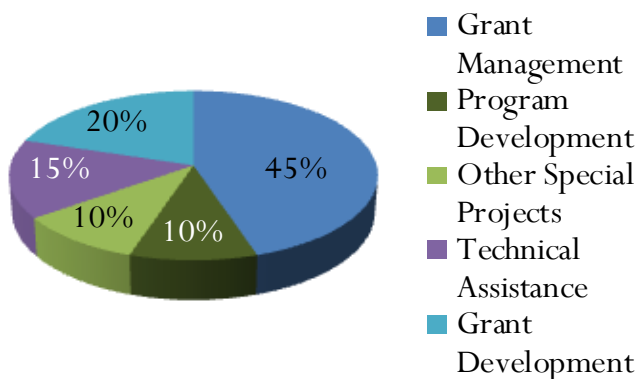
The Resource Development Office (RDO) was established in 1994 to assist the departments of Barnstable County and municipalities on Cape Cod pursue funding opportunities available through federal, state and local funding sources. The role of the office is to:

- ◇ Provide training and technical assistance in grant writing
- ◇ Provide oversight and fiscal management.
- ◇ Research appropriate funding opportunities
- ◇ Assist in the development and writing of grant proposals
- ◇ Review proposals written by other departments



*RDO Staff (left to right): Priscilla Ellis, Quan Tobey, Julie Ferguson, and Bobbi Moritz*

### RDO RESPONSIBILITIES



# RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

## 25 YEARS OF RESOURCES



During FY19, RDO staff provided grant writing services, fiscal management, technical assistance, and education to several County divisions, including AmeriCorps Cape Cod, Cape Cod Cooperative Extension, Cape Cod Medical Reserve Corps, Barnstable County Regional Emergency Planning Committee, Department of Health and Environment, Department of Human Services, Children's Cove, and Public Health Nurses.

RDO is available to assist with grant writing, administration and oversight services to the individual towns of Barnstable, Bourne, Brewster, Chatham, Dennis, Eastham, Falmouth, Harwich, Mashpee, Orleans, Provincetown, Sandwich, Truro, Wellfleet, and Yarmouth.

During FY19, RDO staff provided direct technical assistance with grant proposals to the towns of Brewster, Provincetown, Sandwich, and Yarmouth. Staff respond to requests for assistance from each town as necessary. The Resource Development Office manages approximately 6.5 million dollars of grant funding from Federal, State, Local, Private Contracts, and Awards.

### HIGHLIGHTS OF GRANT-FUNDED PROJECTS



#### BARNSTABLE COUNTY AMERICORPS CAPE COD

Three year grant-funded regional program from the Corporation for National and Community Service.



#### CHILDREN'S COVE

Grant funded by Massachusetts DCF to provide coordinated multidisciplinary services to child abuse victims and their families.



#### MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Substance Abuse Prevention Collaborative  
Opioid Abuse Prevention Collaborative  
Emergency Preparedness  
Tobacco Cessation



THE UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE



#### ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Southeast New England:  
Coastal Watershed Restoration Program.



In partnership with:

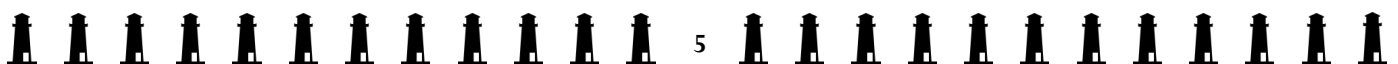
Woods Hole  
Oceanographic  
INSTITUTION

For several years, the WHOI Sea Grant Program has named the Cape Cod Cooperative Extension as a sub-recipient of funds originating from NOAA (National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration), to work in support of various programs. One such multi-year sub-recipient fund supports a Flood Plain Specialist focusing on efforts to educate homeowners, coastal resource managers, and the general public to the flooding risks that currently exist, and those projected into the future. Another multi-year fund supports Cape Cod Cooperative Extension staff for coastal geology and aquaculture programs.



VISTA  
Volunteers In Service To America

The Corporation for National & Community Service, through a competitive process, granted a VISTA member to Children's Cove to organize and implement an educational outreach program that raises awareness and mitigates the prevalence of child sexual abuse for Cape Cod and the Islands.







# AMERICORPS MEMBERS

## POCASSET HOUSE



**Collin Buckner**  
Cincinnati, OH



**Kayla Burgess**  
Kingston, MA



**Katie Evans**  
Rancho Santa Margarita, CA



**Jennifer Lin**  
Hoboken, NJ



**Rachel Robinson**  
Carbondale, IL





# AMERICORPS MEMBERS

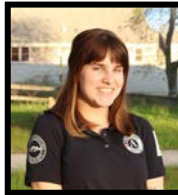
## THE RANCH HOUSE



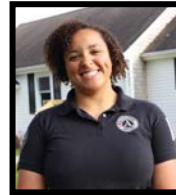
**Amberly Bark**  
Lake Forest, CA



**Allison Bargabos**  
Manlius, NY



**Ashley Gardner**  
Dallas, TX



**Makayla Stepp-Davis**  
New Windsor, NY





# AMERICORPS MEMBERS

## WELLFLEET HOUSE



**Amber Andrew**  
Woodbury, CT



**Courtney King**  
West Sand Lake, NY



**Ben Cockrell**  
Camp Hill, PA



**Jenna La Fontaine**  
New Haven, CT



**Samuel Collins**  
Shrewsbury, MA



**CJ Pettinger**  
Fargo, SD



**Sarah Comstock**  
Youngstown, OH



**Samantha Pierce**  
Clearwater, FL



**Jordan Fleming**  
Athens, GA



**Phoebe Plank**  
North Ferrisburgh, VT



**Rachel Hoyt**  
McCordsville, IN



**Adrienne Tardif**  
Yarmouth, MA



# AMERICORPS CAPE COD

## COMMUNITY IMPACT, 1999-2019



*Since 1999, AmeriCorps Cape Cod members have diligently addressed critical environmental and disaster preparedness and response needs within our community and expanded volunteering opportunities for our community members.*

**In the past 20 years, members have participated in the following activities:**

### **Environmental Conservation Projects**

- Completed 4,175 land and water based conservation projects

### **Environmental Education**

- Taught 2,234 environmental education activities to 57,898 students

### **Disaster Preparedness and Response Activities**

- Taught 548 community disaster preparedness education classes
- Participated in 28 disaster simulations including the 2016 Barnstable County Regional Emergency Planning Committee Train Derailment Drill
- Staffed each of the Cape's three regional shelters, as well as the Multi-Agency Coordination Center at Joint Base Cape Cod for the first 72 hours during the 2013 winter storm "Nemo"
- Staffed each of the Cape's six regional shelters opened for public safety during 2013's Superstorm Sandy
- Responded to the historic 2012 marine mammal stranding events affecting over 175 marine mammals
- Staffed three regional shelters twice in 2018 when Cape Cod was hit with the "Four' easter"

### **Community Events**

- Organized and participated in annual events including: National AmeriCorps Week, National Volunteer Week, County Day of Recognition for National Service, Arbor Day, Earth Day, Harwich "Tour de Trash", Cape Cod Canal Clean Up, Barnstable County Hazardous Waste Collections, Boy Scout Emergency Preparedness Fair, Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, Coast Sweep beach clean-up, Project WET Festivals, Brewster Conservation Day, and Dennis Conservation Celebration

### **Fostering an Ethic of Service**

- Engaged 13,045 community volunteers in over 43,145 hours of community service
- Delivered 305 presentations about AmeriCorps, national service, community service and/or civic engagement

### **Community Collaborations –**

- Partnered with over 150 federal, state, county and/or town departments, schools, community groups, and non-profit agencies

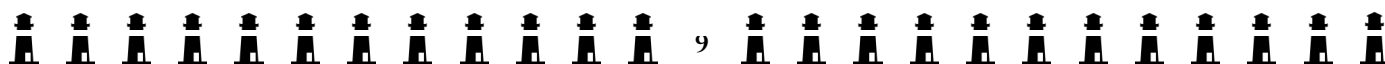
### **Building Community**

- 88% of AmeriCorps members have successfully graduated from the program.
- 112 Corps members have stayed or returned to the Cape after graduation to live and work for a period of time. Forty-two alums are currently living and working on the Cape; 14 are working for Barnstable County or a Municipal department.
- From Sept. 1999 to May 2019, AmeriCorps Cape Cod members have served a total of 883,575 hours.
- Volunteers recruited, trained and managed by Corps members have served 43,145 hours.

***Estimated Value of Service  
to the Cape Cod Community  
September 1999 – May 2019***

**= \$29,794,048\***

*\* Source: The Independent Sector sets the State and National Volunteer Rate each year. (\$32.15 for 2018)*







# EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

## WAQUOIT BAY NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE

### Field Trip Fun

*Rachel Robinson, Pocasset House member*

I chose to serve a year with AmeriCorps Cape Cod so that I could take a productive gap year from school and get some real-life experience to better decide what I wanted to study. Thinking I might want to teach, I was placed with Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (WBNERR) on Tuesday and Thursday with their education department.

Since I began my Individual Placement, I've done a variety of programming both at the Reserve and out in the community. The first week I was at WBNERR, my fantastic supervisor, Nancy Church, showed me around the state park's property. The second week we jumped right in with visiting school groups.

My favorite programs to run at the Reserve have been the 6th Grade Estuary Days. Nancy and I greet the buses as they pull up to our visitor's center, then we each take a class, and it's a full day from there! Students create gravel box models that demonstrate how fertilizer put down in one small spot can impact the entire aquifer. We run around in a meadow playing a game that teaches about how bioaccumulation affects animals further up the food chain, specifically about osprey and DDT. Depending on the time of year, we're able to see the osprey atop their nests! I then teach the students about the importance of oyster filtration to Cape Cod's environment, and they get the chance to



*Not even the rain will stop Rachel from giving her field trips an educational experience!*

measure some shells from the oyster grant in the bay. We finish their visit by taking some weather and water quality data down on the beach and exploring the water and sand for different creatures. It's a blast for both the kids and me!

I also had the opportunity to be a part of several other programs. These include: 2nd Grade Erosion Studies, 8th Grade Pond Studies at Lawrence School, and Vacation Week programs with the Wampanoag Tribe. I have been incredibly appreciative of the opportunity to educate over 900 students (25 field trips) across Barnstable County.

On top of these experiences, I also got to do water quality education in Cape Cod middle schools through our Full Corps WET Fest Program, and marine science programming at the National Marine Life Center for visiting Girl Scout troops. I'm quite proud of all the service I've done with AmeriCorps Cape Cod, but it is the science education that has been the most fulfilling. I've decided to go back to school to become a science teacher, and I am incredibly grateful to this program for making me feel excited and prepared.



*Rachel and Waquoit Bay field trip students display their Oyster art work.*

# EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

## BARNSTABLE COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



### Talking About “Number Two”

*Kayla Burgess, Pocasset House member*

“Ahhhh! Poop!” may not be a line you expect to hear in an educational skit for children, but it turns out that “number two” is actually an important issue on Cape Cod. Water quality on the Cape is highly affected by the vast number of septic systems leaching nutrients and contaminants into the ground and surface water. In order to educate the public about this and other important water-related issues, AmeriCorps Cape Cod, in partnership with the Cape Cod Cooperative Extension and the Cape Cod Groundwater Guardians team, puts on “WET Fests”. These festivals take place at elementary and middle schools across Cape Cod, educating students in grades 3-6 about topics ranging from how a septic system works to turning off the faucet when you brush your teeth. For two hours out of their school day, students get to participate in hands-on educational activities as well as watch a short skit, starring our very own AmeriCorps members in the roles of “Groundwater Wizard”, “Chore Kid”, and some lively contaminants, namely “Poop” and “Gasoline”. At the end of the event, students take the “Groundwater Guardian Pledge”, promising to do what they can to protect Cape Cod’s sole-source aquifer, the one and only source of drinking water here on the Cape. This year, we visited eleven schools, educating over 1,200 students from Bourne to Provincetown.



*Samantha uses bubbles to help students understand water tension concepts.*



*After playing the “poop character” in the WET Fest skit, Rachel teaches students about water runoff.*

My individual placement at Cape Cod Cooperative Extension has given me the opportunity to improve my leadership skills and gain meaningful experience in environmental education as the WET Fest coordinator. Throughout the year, I was tasked with scheduling and planning each event, working with school administrators as well as AmeriCorps staff to reach as many schools and students as possible throughout the winter months. Maintaining our eighteen different interactive activities has been another important part of my responsibilities. With the help of my fellow Corps members who dedicated themselves to running these activities at each event and gave me valuable feedback throughout the year, I have worked to improve each activity to more effectively meet learning outcomes in addition to being more enjoyable and memorable for the students. Although many of my responsibilities lay behind the scenes, each WET Fest gave me the opportunity to lead my peers as well as up to 80 students to make sure each event ran smoothly. This program has helped me pursue my passion for environmental education and given me valuable skills that I will carry with me throughout my career.







# VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT

## 19TH ANNUAL CANAL CLEANUP

### *Fill That Boat!*

Saturday, April 20th, 2019

Ashley Gardner, Ranch House Member

At 19th Annual Canal Clean-Up, AmeriCorps Cape Cod members, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Cape Cod Moves united their efforts to help 150 volunteers collect and fill a boat with over 500 pounds of trash! During event setup on April 20th, all three organizations kept high hopes despite the rainy, windy morning. Band members from Cape Cod Moves started to soundcheck their guitars and drums, the harsh wind subsided, and volunteers trickled in. Stomachs and hearts were filled thanks to Cape Cod Moves' outdoor kitchen set-up and donations from Cape Cod Coffee, Cape Cod Bagel, and Stop & Shop. It is also important to note that we kept this event as low waste as possible; all the cups, plates, and utensils were composted after use, and volunteers were gifted re-usable water bottles! Once volunteers fueled up and geared up, they were shuttled down various spots of the 7-mile-long canal to begin the trash pick up. L.L. Bean participated in this event again by supplying a boat to display all the trash and hard work of participants.

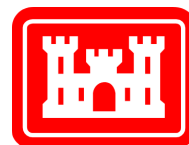


*Cape Cod Moves band members make this clean up event even more enjoyable.*

After a whopping 500 pounds of trash was sorted and added to the boat, volunteers enjoyed live music, burgers, face painting, and educational tables! This event would not be made possible without its passionate organizer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Park Ranger, Elisa Carey. Many thanks also must go out to our large volunteer groups: Plymouth Cub Scout Pack 51, Bourne High School NHS, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Marco Patriots, YMCA Camp Burgess and Hayward, and of course a large cohort of Cape Cod Moves volunteers. We hope that one day, there will be no need for trash cleaning events; however, we are thankful for this day of uniting to maintain a healthy planet!



*Kayla paints community volunteers' faces after picking up trash.*



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**



# VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT

## 19TH ANNUAL CANAL CLEANUP



*Community volunteers pose with their trash grabbers before searching for trash.*



*Makayla and Jen fill up re-usable water bottles for community volunteers.*



*ACC Corps and Program Supervisors pose in front of the "boat load" of trash collected during Canal Cleanup 2019.*



# VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT

## EARTH DAY

### *Loads of Trash and Loads of Fun*

This year, in celebration of Earth Day, AmeriCorps members participated in and helped plan 3 large scale trash pick up events. All events were a wide success!

**Dennis Conservation Celebration** *planning done by member Phoebe Plank through her placement with Dennis Conservation Land Trust and the Town of Dennis*

- 200 volunteers participated
- 2,600 lbs of trash collected

**Tour De Trash** *planning done by member Benjamin Cockrell through his placement with Harwich Conservation Trust*

- 150 volunteers
- 950 lbs of trash collected

**Beautify Brewster** *planning done by member CJ Pettinger through her placement with Brewster Conservation Trust*

- 77 Volunteers
- 2,000 lbs of trash collected



*Kayla shows off some of the collected nips at the Dennis Conservation Celebration.*



*Volunteers enjoy beach views while picking up trash for the Harwich Tour De Trash event.*



# VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT

## EARTH DAY



*Courtney, CJ, Jordan, and Jen proudly display their collected trash from the Beautify Brewster event.*



*Getting things done and signing people in!*



*Katie helps disperse trash pick up supplies to volunteers.*





# VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT

## EARTH DAY 2019

### Dennis Conservation Celebration

*Phoebe Plank, Wellfleet House Member*

As a member of AmeriCorps Cape Cod Year 20, I served with both the Town of Dennis Department of Natural Resources and the Dennis Conservation Land Trust. These two organizations work hard to inform the public about the importance of protecting open space in Dennis and engage the community in local conservation through walks, talks, and other events. One event that stood out to me as making an impact on the local community was the Dennis Conservation Celebration. The Dennis Conservation Celebration is a collaborative, town-wide litter clean-up event hosted by the Department of Natural Resources and the Dennis Conservation Land Trust, along with the Town Department of Public Works. Much of my service focused on helping to plan, coordinate, and lead this event.

The planning process began in October and continued up until the day of the function in April. I was responsible for coordinating volunteers for the town-wide litter clean-up and for reaching out to various social and environmental-based non-profit organizations on Cape Cod and extend an invitation for them to showcase their great work at Dennis Conservation Celebration's non-profit information fair. For several months I sent numerous emails, made many phone calls, and attended multiple planning meetings. By January things were starting to fall into place. We had our food donations for the event secured and began receiving confirmations from non-profits who were excited to attend. The spring came and went in a blur as we finalized the Dennis Conservation Celebration details. The team worked hard to spread the word about Dennis Conservation Celebration and publicize the event. In the weeks leading up to Dennis Conservation Celebration, every time I checked the event's

pre-registration page, the volunteer numbers continued to rise. It was exhilarating to see the event come together so smoothly. Before I knew it, it was April 27th.

With the help of the Department of Natural Resources, the Dennis Conservation Land Trust, the Department of Public Works, AmeriCorps Cape Cod members, and all-star volunteers, the event was a real success. We had almost 200 people out cleaning up the streets of Dennis that day. Participants collected 2,600 lbs. of trash, including an astonishing 3,540 nip bottles. To make things even better, a total of 25 non-profits contributed their time and knowledge to the event's non-profit information fair. And the forecasted rain held off!

I am so proud to have worked alongside my service partners, the event planning committee, dedicated volunteers, and fellow AmeriCorps Cape Cod members to put on such a great event. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped to make the second annual Dennis Conservation Celebration a huge success! In the two years that this event has been running, it has made such a positive impact on the community. Dennis Conservation Celebration is not only an event in which people can get together to help clean up the town of Dennis, but it is also a celebration of the comradery among those who care for the local environment. I look forward to seeing what's in store for future Dennis Conservation Celebrations.



*AmeriCorps Members with former Alumni Jason B.*



*Phoebe displays the areas she helped protect through her volunteer events.*

# NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

## SHOREBIRD FENCING



*Supervisor Meredith, members Ashley and Sarah, and supervisor Alex install symbolic signs alongside Shorebird Fencing.*



*Ashley and Samantha pose after fencing over 5 beaches in one day!*

### Save the Birds, Save the Beaches

*Ashley Gardner, Barnstable House Member*

Upon accepting a position with AmeriCorps Cape Cod, I had hopes of gaining opportunities which involved the preservation of endangered species. I received just that from my individual placement with Mass Audubon's Coastal Waterbird Program whose mission on the Cape is to protect endangered and threatened shorebirds. Shorebird protection and shorebird monitoring receive a mix of public support and backlash, due to the temporary fencing off of beach portions for these birds. Mass Audubon staff has mastered how to set up these fences efficiently while also gaining public allies. It is incredibly refreshing to work alongside such a passionate non-profit program which seeks out the preservation of endangered shorebirds and effective public education.

Here is an excerpt from CWP assistant director, Lyra Brennan's answers to some frequently asked questions about shorebird fencing and habitat:

"Fencing is put up to proactively protect the nesting habitat of threatened shorebirds on the coast of Massachusetts. Fencing provides a place for birds to nest, take refuge, and raise young. Species that Mass Audubon protects habitat for include Piping Plover, Least Tern, Common Tern, and American Oystercatcher. CWP works with towns and other landowners for permission to fence habitat.

The breeding habitats of these birds are protected by federal (Terns, PIPL) and state law (PIPL). Mass Audubon is authorized by the town/landowner to implement the guidelines set forth in these laws. These birds are threatened or endangered, and without protection, the population will not be able to recover to sustainable numbers. Early in the nesting season, we fence in order to protect nesting habitat that has been used historically or that could potentially be used. These guidelines are in accordance with state and federal laws."







# NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

## Thompson's Field

Ben Cockrell, Lebac House Member

As AmeriCorps Cape Cod members, we pledged to get things done. So, over the last nine months, we have done just that. We served on the flats, in the woods, on the beaches, and in schools. One a week we are covered in the stench of low tide and the next, our fingernails are caked with mulch and our chaps coated with fresh sawdust. Every week brings a fresh take on new skills to learn and implement. I am consistently amazed at how much service we can accomplish, adding to the legacy that AmeriCorps continues to bring to the community. One such legacy lives at the Thompson's Field Conservation Area in Harwich.

Our first day of group service took place at Thompson's Field. We brush cut sprouting pitch pines and scrub oaks. Halfway into the day, I stumbled upon a ground hornet nest with my hedge trimmer. They were irritated, and I found out quickly what they do to outsiders. Little did they know I would return weeks later for my individual placement. My placement was a partnership between the Harwich Conservation Trust, the Town of Harwich Conservation Department, and the Chatham Conservation Foundation. I served at each organization once per week; when I was in Harwich, I often spent time at Thompson's Field. It was only after my wasp extravaganza that I learned the rich AmeriCorps history surrounding this beautiful restoration project.



*Samantha pauses for a smile while participating in land restoration at Thompson's Field*



*Allison tests out power tools on her own for the first time in the Field!*

Thompson's Field represents not only the service that this year has offered but also the continued efforts of AmeriCorps members from the last 20 years. AmeriCorps always plays an active part in invasive species removal at Thompson's Field, and over the previous six years, AmeriCorps has specifically aided the Town of Harwich in their management plan to restore Thompson's Field to natural heath and grassland. This restoration is accomplished through pile burns, the cutting of pitch pine and scrub oak, and the management of any existing invasive species. Every year, AmeriCorps members cut down trees to allow for the restoration to continue its course. Before and after pictures from each consecutive year give an eye-opening account at the astounding fruitfulness of this continued operation. Our work allows curious dog-walkers and nature lovers alike to enjoy watching this rare heathland habitat flourish with native plant species, animals, and a re-invigorated glimpse of how unique Cape Cod's open space can be if we carry on a drive to maintain it.





*Members get ready for a day of Shellfishing in Falmouth.*



*Ashley and Kayla pose for a picture with all of the oysters before replanting them.*

## *Shell fishing with Falmouth*

*Collin Buckner, Pocasset House Member*

Coming from the Mid-West I knew nothing of shellfish other than some people were allergic to them, and they were a large portion of the menu at the always phenomenal, Joes Crab Shack, in Newport, Kentucky. Now, after serving with the Shellfish Division of Marine & Environmental Services for the Town of Falmouth under the guidance of Chuck Martinsen, Deputy Director of Falmouth Marine & Environmental, Town Game Warden/Shellfish Constable, and Christina Lovely, Shellfish Biologist and Fisheries Technician, I understand the importance of shellfish better than when I first arrived here on Cape Cod.

For almost 11 months we have seeded, broadcasted, propagated, and grown shellfish in select locations around the Town of Falmouth. Some primarily for research, others for education, but mostly for public future use so that the Town can benefit economically and environmentally.

The Town of Falmouth itself consists of 70 miles of coastline, making it one of the more "coastal" towns on the Cape. Within its borders, there are 11 herring runs, 60 commercial fishermen, and over 1,200 recreational shellfish permits each year.

The aforementioned shellfish clean and denitrify the waters of Cape Cod so that all may recreationally enjoy the beauty, and health of the waters. The shellfish are sought out for consumption from Boston to Providence as well as up and down the Cape.

During my life in the Mid-West I have served worked with a natural resource that has such a constant profound economic and environmental impact on a community. It truly serves a definite purpose and is worth every moment and dollar spent for its protection.





# NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

## FIRE WEEK AT THE CAPE COD NATIONAL SEASHORE

### Fire Week

*Alex Bates, Wellfleet House Supervisor*

This spring, AmeriCorps Cape Cod members had the opportunity to receive a weeklong wildland firefighting training with David Crary, the Fire Management Officer at the Cape Cod National Seashore. The training combined classroom sessions, online modules, and practice in the field.

Members practiced prescribe burns at the Lombard-Paradise Hollow Fire Management Research Area in South Truro. The Cape Cod National Seashore and the University of Massachusetts – Amherst have conducted research on the effects of prescribed burns on forest composition using sixty 0.1-acre plots. This research has been ongoing since 1986. Members practiced creating a fire break, using a drip torch, and were able to observe how wind direction and fuel type affected the fire.

Members assisted with several pile burns as well. The first was at Doane Rock Picnic Area in Eastham. This burn was completed alongside volunteers from the Friends of Cape Cod National Seashore. Pile burns were used to remove excess wood debris left from winter storms. This was also the members' first introduction to using the firefighting rigs. They were able to help attach hose and use them to extinguish the pile burns when finished. The second pile burn was at Upper Boat Meadow in Eastham. Pile burns were also used here to remove a large amount of tree debris and aggressive invasive species, such as privet.

Fire training also gave members hands-on practice with other aspects of wildland firefighting. Members had the opportunity to practice deploying emergency fire shelters, learning the proper technique of rolling hose, and operating in squads with a squad boss. The training throughout the week gave members the option for members to earn their S-190 and L-180 certifications which is the first step to further pursuing wildland firefighting.



*Phoebe successfully maintains a pile burn.*



*Adrienne gathers supplies in a National Seashore truck for one of the practice pile burns.*



# AMERICORPS CAPE COD & THE CAPE COD NATIONAL SEASHORE



*Jumping for joy after getting ready for a pile burn!*



*Sarah proudly stands with her properly felled tree.*



## ***Burning Up***

*Sarah Comstock, Wellfleet House Member*

Hello, I am from Youngstown, Ohio. On Tuesdays and Wednesdays, I serve with the Cape Cod National Seashore Fire Management Office as their Volunteer Coordinator. My service year responsibilities included: recruiting volunteers to conduct wildfire fuel reduction projects around the National Seashore property, managing weekly projects with the Friends of the Cape Cod National Seashore, maintaining tools and gear, and conducting invasive vegetation harassment projects.

A typical fuel reduction project involves using tools such as loppers, hand saws, brush cutters, and chainsaws to clear potential wildfire fuel and make piles of the cut material. During open burn season, from January 15th until May 1st, we burn the piles to remove the fuel altogether. Between October 2018 and May 2019, I worked with the Friends of the Cape Cod National Seashore for a total of 563-person hours, removing fuel from 15.02 acres. Different cut/pile/burn projects were conducted by individual volunteers who covered 45 person-hours, Cape Cod Technical School students worked for 33 person-hours, Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School students completed 18 hours, and the Senior Environment Corps served for 3 hours.

Now that burning season has ended, I am beginning my vegetation harassment project. I will travel around the Seashore, including my home base at Marconi Site, and remove or trim invasive vegetation. The primary plants I will focus on are Autumn Olive, Spotted Knapweed, Japanese Knotweed, Bittersweet, Cypress Spurge, and Black Locust. This project is essential not only because of the general threats that invasive species pose, but mainly because freshly burned spots are highly susceptible to invasive plants and it is crucial to allow native plants to fill those disturbed plots.

The Seashore conducts herbicide-free invasive species harassment meaning that the plants will come out manually. Some can be pulled by hand, like Cypress Spurge and Spotted Knapweed. For others, it is best to continually strip leaves until the plant dies, like Autumn Olive and Bittersweet. The weed whip can also be a helpful tool, particularly for Japanese Knotweed. I am looking forward to getting to see more of the Seashore and serve in the sunshine!





# 2018-2019 SERVICE PARTNERS

**Kristin Andres**

Association to Preserve Cape Cod

**David Agger**

Wellfleet Cemetery Commission

**Brian Baumgaertel**

Barnstable County Department of Health and Environmental/  
MASSTC

**Andrew Bagnara**

Orleans Conservation Trust

Eastham Conservation Foundation

**Kelly Barber**

Barnstable Land Trust

**Emily Beebe**

Town of Truro, Health and Conservation Department

**Lyra Brennan**

Mass Audubon — Long Pasture

**Shana Brogden**

Town of Eastham, Department of Natural Resources

**Pat Brophy**

The Family Pantry of Cape Cod

**Joanna Buffington**

Eastham Conservation

**Ryan Burch**

Town of Brewster, Natural Resource Department

**Phil Burt**

Barnstable County Regional Emergency Planning Committee

**Tom Cambareri**

Cape Cod Commission

**Katelyn Cadoret**

Town of Mashpee, Conservation Commission

**Matt Cannon**

Chatham Conservation Foundation

**Elisa Carey**

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Cape Cod Canal

**Nancy Church**

Waquoit Bay Estuarine Research Reserve

**Kalliope Chute**

Barnstable County, Cape Cod Cooperative Extension

**Nancy Civetta**

Town of Wellfleet, Shellfish Department

**Nina Coleman**

Town of Barnstable, Barnstable Marine and Environmental Affairs

**Kimberly Concra**

Barnstable County, Cape Cod Cooperative Extension

**David Crary Jr.**

Cape Cod National Seashore

**Robert Daglio**

Truro Conservation Land Trust

**David J. DeConto**

Town of Sandwich, Department of Natural Resources

**John DeFoe**

Cape Cod National Seashore

**Judy Desrochers**

Meetinghouse Farm

**Mary Everett- Patriquin**

Housing Assistance Corporation

**Timothy Famulare**

Town of Provincetown, Environmental Planning and Conservation  
Department

**Ashley Fisher**

Town of Mashpee, Department of Natural Resources

**Jim Ford**

Falmouth Service Center, Falmouth Community Garden

**Sophia Fox**

Cape Cod National Seashore

**Mary Kay Fox**

Friends of Mashpee Wildlife Refuge

**Tim Friary**

Cape Cod Organic Farm

**Catie Fyfe**

Mass Audubon, Long Pasture

**Katherine Garofoli**

Dennis Conservation Land Trust

**Judith Giorgio**

Town of Chatham, Department of Health and Environment

**Chris Gonnella**

Town of Barnstable, DPW - Structures & Grounds Division

**Kelly Grant**

Town of Yarmouth, Conservation Commission

**Hillary Greenberg-Lemos**

Town of Wellfleet, Health and Conservation Department

**Hilary Greene**

American Red Cross Massachusetts

**Sarah B. Griscom**

Pleasant Bay Community Boating

**Doug Guey-Lee**

Town of Wellfleet, Health and Conservation Department

**Dick Hilmer**

Town of Orleans, Department of Natural Resources

**Will Holden**

Barnstable Land Trust

**Rachel Hutchinson**

Town of Chatham, Shellfish Department

**Ian Ives**

Mass Audubon — Long Pasture

**Mark Kasprzyk**

Town of Falmouth, Conservation Commission

**Sean Kortis**

Barnstable Marine and Environmental Affairs

**Michael Lach**

Harwich Conservation Trust

**Liz Lewis**

Town of Barnstable, Marine and Environmental Natural Resources

**Maura Lyons**

Nauset Youth Alliance

**Christina Lovely**

Town of Falmouth, Marine and Environmental Services

**Tyler Maikath**

Harwich Conservation Trust

Dennis Conservation Land Trust

**Tom Marcotti**

Town of Barnstable, Marine and Environmental Natural Resources

**Chuck Martinsen**

Town of Falmouth, Marine and Environmental Services

**Meg Materne**

Barnstable Clean Water Coalition

**Laura McCullough**

Family Pantry of Cape Cod

**Lauren McKean**

Cape Cod National Seashore

**Andrew McManus**

Town of Mashpee, Conservation Department

**Elizabeth Migliore**

Town of Dennis, Department of Natural Resources

**Dennis Minsky**

Town of Provincetown, Open Space and Harbor Committees

**Agnes Mittermayr**

Center for Coastal Studies

**Allison Murphy**

NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service

**Misty Niemeyer**

International Fund for Animal Welfare

**Joshua Nigro**

Massachusetts DCR Forest Fire Control

**Russel Norton**

Barnstable County, Cape Cod Cooperative Extension

**Kristen Patchett**

International Fund for Animal Welfare

**Nicole Paine**

Town of Eastham, Department of Natural Resources

**Katharine Parsons**

Mass Audubon, Long Pasture

**Timothy Parsons**

Town of Yarmouth, Department of Natural Resources

**Tim Pasakarnis**

Cape Cod Commission

**Gislaine Peters**

Mass Audubon Coastal Waterbird Program

**Dick Pooley**

Falmouth Service Center, Falmouth Community Garden

**John Pribilla**

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Cape Cod Canal

**Heinz Proft**

Town of Harwich, Department of Natural Resources

**Francie Randolph**

Sustainable CAPE

**Jim Rassman**

Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

**Chief Paul Rhude**

Cotuit Fire Department

**Heather D. Rockwell**

Barnstable Clean Water Coalition

**Becky Rosenberg**

Town of Wellfleet, Recreation Department

**Ron Schmitt**

Master Gardener Association of Cape Cod

**Nicole Smith**

Town of Harwich, Harwich Conservation Department

**Diane Speers**

Bourne Society for Historic Preservation-Valley Farm Thrift Shop

**Jill Talladay**

CARE for the Cape and Islands

**Jeff Thibodeau**

Brewster Conservation Trust

**Daniel Tobin**

Town of Chatham, Parks and Recreation Department

**Amy Usowski**

Town of Harwich, Conservation Department

**Shona Vitelli**

East Falmouth Elementary School

**Christopher Watt**

Truro Center for the Arts at Castle Hill

**John White**

Bourne Friends Food Pantry

**Paul Wightman**

Town of Chatham, Conservation Department

**Emily Wolfe**

Mass Audubon, Wellfleet Sanctuary

**Joshua Wrigley**

Town of Sandwich, Department of Natural Resources

**Martin Wunderly**

Town of Barnstable, Conservation Division

**John York**

Bourne Society for Historic Preservation-Valley Farm Thrift Shop

**Rick York**

Town of Mashpee, Department of Natural Resources

**Janet Young**

Center for Coastal Studies

**Kathy Zagzebski**

National Marine Life Center

**Alexandra Zollo**

The 300 Committee Land Trust





# 2018-2019 INDIVIDUAL PLACEMENTS



## **POCASSET AND RANCH HOUSE**

### **AmeriCorps Cape Cod Office**

Signature Events & Community Outreach

### **Barnstable County Department of Health & Environment**

Regional Emergency Planning Committee

### **Barnstable Clean Water Coalition**

Stormwater sampling

### **Barnstable Land Trust**

Boundary Marking and Signage

### **Cape Cod Commission**

Stormwater Infrastructure Mapping

### **Cape Cod Cooperative Extension**

WET Festival, Hazardous Waste Mitigation, and Native Plant Project

### **Mass Audubon Coastal Waterbird Program and Long Pasture Sanctuary**

Educational Outreach and Bird Monitoring

### **National Marine Life Center**

Improving Volunteer Engagement

### **Town of Barnstable: Conservation Department**

Trail Improvement Project

### **Town of Barnstable: Natural Resources Department**

Shellfish Propagation & Education

### **Town of Falmouth: Conservation Commission and The 300 Committee Land Trust**

Land Management Coordination

### **Town of Falmouth: Marine and Environmental Services**

Shellfish Program Volunteer Corps Management

### **Town of Mashpee: Natural Resources**

Shellfish and Water Quality Restoration

### **Town of Sandwich: Department of Natural Resources**

Scorton Creek Shellfish Restoration

### **Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve**

Environmental Education- Community Outreach

## **WELLFLEET HOUSE**

### **American Red Cross - Cape Cod and Island Chapter**

Preparedness Education

### **Association to Preserve Cape Cod**

Outreach Coordination

### **Barnstable County Department of Health & Environment**

Regional Emergency Planning Committee

### **Cape Cod National Seashore**

CACO Fire Volunteer Coordination

### **Cape Cod National Seashore**

National Seashore Planning

### **International Fund for Animal Welfare Marine Mammal Resource & Research Program**

Marine Mammal Education and Response

### **Town of Brewster: Department of Natural Resources and Brewster Conservation Trust**

Brewster Natural Resources Collaboration

### **Town of Chatham: Department of Natural Resources and Pleasant Bay Community Boating**

Chatham Coastal Shellfish Survey

### **Town of Dennis: Department of Natural Resources and Dennis Conservation Trust**

Community Engagement and Outreach

### **Town of Eastham: Department of Natural Resources**

Vernal Pool Certification and Oyster Planning and Outreach

### **Town of Harwich: Department of Conservation, Harwich Conservation Trust and Chatham Conservation Foundation**

Advancing Conservation Land Stewardship

### **Town of Orleans: Nauset and Orleans Conservation Trust**

Land Management and Volunteer Outreach

### **Town of Provincetown: Planning & Conservation Department**

Land Management & Chapter 91 License Analysis

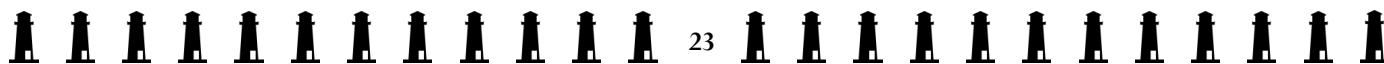
### **Town of Yarmouth: Conservation and Natural Resources Departments**

Yarmouth Environmental Stewardship Program

### **Town of Wellfleet: Health, Conservation, & Shellfish**

Department and Town of Truro: Conservation Department

Update Septic Tank Mapping and Shellfish Propagation





# YEAR 20 SERVICE PROJECTS

## Water Education Festivals (WETFest)

Taught over 1,200 students about groundwater, water quality, and other water issues relevant to Cape Cod through experiential learning activities.

Bourne Middle School	Peebles Elementary School
Bournedale Elementary School	Provincetown Schools
Cape Cod Academy	Quashnet Elementary School
Monomoy Middle School	Truro Central Schools
Nauset Youth Alliance	U.S. Army Corps Canal Day
Oak Ridge School	Wixon Innovation School
Orleans Elementary School	

## Mass Audubon Coastal Water Bird Program

Installed fencing and signage with Mass Audubon Coastal Water Bird Program to protect federally and state-listed Piping Plover and Least Tern population at:

Craigsville Beach (Barnstable)	Ridgevale Beach (Chatham)
Long Beach (Barnstable)	Trunk River (Falmouth)
Kushy Marsh (Barnstable)	Menauhant Beach (Falmouth)
Dead Neck Sampson's Island (Barnstable)	South Cape Beach (Mashpee)
Squaw Island (Barnstable)	New Seabury Beach (Mashpee)
Scussett Beach (Bourne)	Popponesset Beach (Mashpee)
Ellisville Beach (Bourne)	Great Island (Yarmouth)
Hardings Beach (Chatham)	Seagull Beach (Yarmouth)
Forest Beach (Chatham)	East Sandwich Beach (Sandwich)

## Barnstable

### **American Red Cross Heroes Breakfast**

Assisted the American Red Cross with their annual Hero's Breakfast fundraiser by setting up the conference room as well as informational tables for various organizations on Cape Cod. Members also assisted with cleaning up the conference room after the event concluded.

### **Cape Cod Organic Farm Butternut and Sweet Potato Harvest**

Assisted the Cape Cod Cooperative Extension and the Cape Cod Hunger Network to harvest over 2,500 pounds of butternut squash, and 600 pounds of sweet potatoes to later be distributed to food pantries across Cape Cod.

### **Cape Cod Extension Tree Farm**

Assisted the Cape Cod Extension to remove mature trees to be later utilized by town municipalities.

### **CARE for Cape and Islands Day**

Served with CARE for Cape and Islands at their annual event. Members planted pollinator plants, maintained trails, and removed invasive species.

### **Coombs Bog Ditch Maintenance**

Served alongside Barnstable Land Trust staff and volunteers to cut and remove invasive willow trees to maintain the shrubland habitat. Members also removed overhanging vegetation and debris along an old cranberry bog to improve water flow.

### **Cordwood Road Fuel Reduction**

Members served with Massachusetts Forest Fire Control, Barnstable Department of Public Works and Cotuit Fire Department to create a fuel break and fire access road.

### **Filling An Old Well with Barnstable Land Trust**

Members assisted Barnstable Land Trust Staff and Volunteers to fill in an old well with 17 tons of sand on Barnstable Land Trust Property to create a foundation for a future viewing platform.

### **Fuller Farm**

Removed and chipped tree debris and invasive plant species with the Barnstable Land Trust.

### **Meeting House Farm**

Assisted Meeting House Farm to clean up winter storm damage along the rhododendron trail as well as prune and widen existing trails on the property.

### **Otis Atwood Trail Maintenance and Trail Blazing**

Opened two new bypass trails around a previously closed section for safety and ecological restoration. Members also blocked off existing illegal trails and posted signage for the new routes they created.

### **Sandy Neck Shorebird Fencing Installation**

Served with the Sandy Neck Park staff to install fencing along a section of beach to protect endangered species such as the Piping Plover and Least Tern.

### **Sandy Neck Handicap Ramp Sand Remove**

Assisted Barnstable Department of Public Works to remove sand from the beach handicap accessible ramp.

### **Shellfishing at Scudder Landing and Coves Point**

Seeded quahogs at Coves point, culled oysters at Scudder Landing, built and repaired quahog nets for the Barnstable Shellfishing Department.

### **Stonewall Cleaning and Barn Cleanout along Church Street**

Members assisted the Barnstable Land Trust to remove debris from a barn on Barnstable Land Trust property, widen a section of Cape Cod Pathways trail, and clear green briar and english ivy off a stone wall along church street.

### **Trail Maintenance and Blazing Whelan Conservation Area**

Members served with the Town of Barnstable Conservation Department to blaze and clear brush from trails at Whelan Conservation area.





# YEAR 20 SERVICE PROJECTS CONT.



## Bourne

### **Bournedale Herring Run Cleaning**

Served with the Army Corps of Engineers Cape Cod Canal to clean debris and sand from the Bournedale herring run.

### **Canal Clean-up**

Volunteered with the Army Corps of Engineers Cape Cod Canal to set up and take down the event in addition to picking up litter along the Cape Cod Canal.

### **Pumpkin Patch Unloading**

Assisted Bourne and Cataumet Methodist Church to unload 2,500 pounds of pumpkin to benefit the Bourne Friends Food Pantry.

### **Sandplain Grassland Maintenance at Hog island**

Assisted the Army Corps of Engineers Cape Cod Canal to cut invasive black oak, pitch pine tree and other vegetation to maintain globally threatened sandplain grasslands and heathland.

### **Sagamore Hill Trail and Erosion Work**

Served with the Army Corps of Engineers Cape Cod Canal to remove vegetation encroaching on the Sagamore trail system.

### **Squash Preparation for The Friends of the Bourne Council on Aging Food Pantry**

Assisted Valley Farm Community Garden to cut, prep, and package pumpkin for the Friends of the Bourne Council on Aging food pantry.

### **Valley Farm Community Garden Pumpkinfest**

Participated in Valley Farm's annual Pumpkinfest by assisting with general set up and clean up of the day of the event. Members also facilitated pumpkin themed children's games.

## Brewster

### **Beautify Brewster**

Led groups of volunteers on various cleanup routes throughout the town and sorted the collected debris at the Brewster Transfer Station.

### **Brewster Children's Garden**

Served with the Master Gardener Association of Cape Cod to mulch the children's garden.

### **Brewster Conservation Celebration**

Assisted the Brewster Conservation Trust and Brewster Department of Natural Resources setup, parking, and takedown. Members also tabled for their Individual Placements and performed the Green Ribbon Puppet Show.

### **Brewster Conservation Trust Trail Maintenance**

Multiple service days were spent with the Brewster Conservation Trust maintaining the Hay House, John and Kristi Hay, Lee Baldwin, Eddy Bay, and Eddy Sisters trails.

### **Brewster Farmer's Market**

Spent multiple service days assisting with setup and takedown at the Brewster Farmer's Market.

### **Brewster School Garden Construction**

Assisted the Nauset Youth Alliance to reconstruct garden beds at Eddy Elementary school to serve as a teaching tool in their afterschool program. Members also installed two rain barrels to be used to water the garden.

### **Hawk's Nest Farm**

Served with the Brewster Department of Natural Resources and two TerraCorps members to remove pitch pine trees as part of an ongoing project to reclaim native meadow habitat.

### **Maples Property**

Raked and seeded a portion of newly acquired Brewster Conservation Trust property after the demolition of a house.

### **McGregor Property**

Spent multiple service days pruning the vista overlooking Smith Pond, removing vegetation debris and invasive species, constructing and burning brush piles.

### **Nickerson State Park Chainsaw Day**

Assisted Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation to buck and limb fallen trees at Nickerson state park and remove them to reduce forest fire fuel.

### **Nickerson State Park Pile Burn**

Burned old picnic tables and debris with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation for a fuels reduction burn.

### **Nickerson State Park Tree Removal**

Removed fallen trees with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation along Flax Pond Road to create a fire break between the road and upslope campsites.

### **Oyster Cull**

Spent multiple service days culling oysters, maintaining oyster cages, and installing new cages at the town grant site at Mants Landing with the Brewster Department of Natural Resources.

### **Punkhorn Parklands Conservation Area**

Spent multiple service days maintaining Calf Field Pond, Eagle Point, and Seymour Pond trails with the Brewster Department of Natural Resources.

### **Stony Brook Herring Run**

Removed overgrown vegetation along the herring run and stone walls of the Grist Mill with the Brewster Department of Natural Resources.



# CONT. YEAR 20 SERVICE PROJECTS

## Chatham

### **Barclay Pond Trail**

Removed Japanese knotweed from the parking lot and executed general trail maintenance with Chatham Conservation Foundation.

### **Captain Harding Conservation Area**

Reclaimed meadow habitat by removing grey poplar saplings, green briar, and invasive plant species, installed a new bench, blue bird boxes, and trail sign.

### **Chatham Book and Media Swap**

Assisted with the setup of the annual Chatham Recycles event.

### **Frost Fish Creek Trail**

Cut back overgrown vegetation along the access road, performed general trail maintenance, and flagged a rerouted section of trail with the Chatham Conservation Foundation.

### **North Beach**

Installed symbolic shorebird fencing with the Chatham Conservation Department and assisted with the construction of cages to prevent coyote predation.

### **Overwintering Oysters**

Removed oyster cages from summer location, transported them to Oyster Pond and sunk them on a line with the Chatham Shellfish Department.

### **Oyster Cage Retrieval**

Pulled oyster cages from Oyster Pond, thinned oysters into new bags and returned them back to the summer grow out location with the Chatham Shellfish Department.

### **Seaside Links Golf Course**

Removed invasive plant species with the Chatham Parks and Recreation Department.

### **Sylvan Gardens Conservation Area**

Removed invasive plant species and fallen trees with the Friends of Sylvan Gardens and the Chatham Conservation Department from the town-owned conservation area.

## Dennis

### **Blueberry Patch**

Spent multiple service days pruning several town-owned blueberry patches with the Dennis Department of Natural Resources in preparation for the upcoming growing season.

### **Dennis Conservation Celebration**

Assisted with event setup and takedown, town cleanup efforts, and tabled for members Individual Placements.

## **Indian Lands Conservation Area**

Maintained trails with the Dennis Department of Natural Resources and rerouted several sections of trail away from the Bass River due to erosion.

## **Rain Barrel Program**

Assisted the Association to Preserve Cape Cod with their rain barrel program and did some grounds work on their edible landscape.

## **Remote Set Bag Construction**

Assisted Municipal Shellfish Departments with the Dennis Department of Natural Resources with filling bags with crushed oyster shells supplied by the Barnstable County Cooperative Extension.

## **Romig Conservation Area**

Cleared and rerouted a section of heavily overgrown trail, removed debris and fallen trees, and started the construction of a new section of trail.

## **Scargo Lake Herring Run**

Served with the Dennis Department of Natural Resources to clear debris, branches, and trash from the herring run between Scargo Lake and Sesuit Creek.

## **Spooky Stroll**

Dress up and acted as various native nocturnal animals during an educational night walk at the Dorothy Connors Bell Conservation Area with the Dennis Conservation Land Trust.

## **Whitfield Johnson Conservation Area**

Removed bittersweet and other invasive species from the town-owned conservation area with the Dennis Department of Natural Resources.

## **Wilbur Preserve Conservation Area**

Cut and removed dead wood from a turpentine beetle infestation in order to reduce wildfire risk with the Dennis Department of Natural Resources.

## Eastham

## **Cottontail Acres**

Removed honeysuckle, bittersweet, and other invasive species with the Eastham Department of Natural Resources.

## **Herring Brook Property**

Removed bittersweet and debris with the Eastham Conservation Foundation.

## **Herring Run**

Cleared two herring runs with the Eastham Department of Natural Resources by removing thatch buildup, trimming tree branches, and removing debris prior to the migration of herring into the ponds.

## **Oyster Cull**

Culled, sorted, and cleaned oysters from float bags in Salt Pond with the Eastham Department of Natural Resources in preparation to be broadcasted into the river for recreational permit holders.





# YEAR 20 SERVICE PROJECTS CONT.



## **Sandy Meadows Conservation Area**

Spent multiple service days felling, dragging, and chipping pitch pine trees to reclaim native heathland habitat with the Eastham Department of Natural Resources.

## **Terrapin Nesting Habitat**

Spent two service days with the Eastham Conservation Foundation creating terrapin nesting habitat to deter terrapins from crossing roads when searching for a place to lay eggs.

## **Falmouth**

### **Bourne Pond Oyster Cull**

Served with the Town of Falmouth Department of Marine and Environmental Services to harvest over 13,000 pounds of oysters from Bourne Pond and later distribute them in West Falmouth for recreational shellfishing.

### **Breivogel Invasive Removal and Vernal Pool Protection**

Served with the 300 Committee, Town of Falmouth Conservation Department, and Falmouth DPW to remove snow fencing, replace with split rail fence and remove invasive vegetation to protect existing vernal pools and encourage native species growth.

### **Building Oyster Bags**

Constructed and repaired oyster bags oyster propagation with the Town of Falmouth Department of Marine and Environmental Services.

### **Coonamessett Reservation Habitat Reservation**

Served with the Falmouth Conservation Commission and the 300 Committee Land Trust to remove invasive vines and bushes that were competing with native plants.

### **East Falmouth Elementary School Garden**

Members assisted East Elementary School staff and volunteers to install new school garden beds.

### **Falmouth Community Garden Demolition**

Served alongside Falmouth Community Garden to prepare the garden to be moved to a new site location. Members dug up irrigation pipes and dismantled the surrounding chain link fence.

### **Mooring Maintenance at Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve**

Moorings were taken apart, cleaned, and removed to be repainted and repaired over the winter. Members also assisted Waquoit Bay staff to repair a giant outdoor horseshoe crab sculpture.

### **Moving Oysters to Overwintering Site**

Served with the Town of Falmouth Department of Marine and Environmental services to breakdown oyster farms and move animals to a dry storage container to improve their survival through the winter.

## **Peterson Farm**

Served with the Falmouth Conservation Commission and the 300 Committee to remove invasive plants encroaching onto the trails and fence. Members also removed debris from an old demo site and planted native shrubs around the property.

## **Pollinator Field Preparation**

Assisted the 300 Committee, The Town of Falmouth Conservation Department and the Friends of Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge to clear fallen trees and brush cut the fields to prepare for native pollinator plantings.

## **Quashnet Woods Trail Work**

Assisted Waquoit Bay staff with general trail work tasks at the Quashnet Woods trail including felling trees to prevent future ATV use, installing water guards along the trail and replacing split rail fencing.

## **Riverbend Trail Head Fence Installation and Habitat Improvement**

Members assisted the 300 committee to install fencing and remove vegetation to designate a future pollinator meadow.

## **Teaticket Park Cleanup**

Assisted the 300 Committee to brush cut and provide general cleanup at Teaticket park.

## **Two Ponds**

Members cleared vegetation growth in a wetland to prepare for construction of a handicap accessible boardwalk.

## **Waquoit Bay Oyster Farm Breakdown**

Assisted the Town of Falmouth Department of Marine and Environmental Services to break down oyster farms that were being utilized for research by Wood Hole Oceanographic Institute.

## **Harwich**

### **Bluebird Nestboxes**

Relocated and repositioned bluebird nestboxes at the Robert F. Smith Cold Brook Preserve with the Harwich Conservation Trust.

### **Coastsweep 2019**

Assisted with event setup, volunteer registration, and garbage pickup at beaches throughout Harwich.

### **Eyes on Owls**

Assisted with event setup, greeting and assisting attendees, and registration. The event was hosted by the Harwich Conservation Trust.

### **Herring Run**

Spent two service days clearing herring runs with the Harwich Department of Natural Resources between Hinckley's Pond, Seymour Pond, and Long Pond.





# CONT. YEAR 20 SERVICE PROJECTS

## **Harwich Family Pantry Garden Fence Repair and Pea Planting**

Assisted the Harwich Family Pantry to repair a fence, weed garden beds and plant wax beans and green beans for the upcoming garden season.

## **Harwich Family Pantry Winterize Garden Beds**

Assisted the Harwich Family Pantry to winterize their garden beds.

## **Meet Your Local Farmer**

Assisted with event setup, registration, takedown, and cleanup. The event was hosted by the Harwich Conservation Trust and Cape and Islands Farm Bureau.

## **The Big Fix**

Volunteered at the Housing Assistance Corporation's (HAC) annual event "The Big Fix". Members assisted seniors, veterans, and disabled home-owners with general clean-up, landscaping, and small home repair projects

## **Thompson's Field**

Spent multiple service days removing tree debris, oak saplings, constructing and burning brush piles with the Harwich Conservation Department to maintain meadow and heathland habitat.

## **Tour de Trash**

Assisted the Conservation Department and Harwich Conservation Trust with setup, registration, and takedown of the annual town cleanup.

## **Mashpee**

### **Besse Bog**

Assisted the Mashpee Department of Natural Resources to clear vegetation encroaching on the trail.

### **Mashpee River Cleanup**

Spent multiple service days with the Mashpee Conservation Department to clean culverts by removing trash and obstructions from fishways and fish ladders.

### **Oyster Days**

Assisted the Mashpee Shell fishing department to split remote set oyster bags in trays for overwintering. Members also culled legal oysters for recreational harvest.

### **South Cape Beach Boardwalk Repair**

Served with Waquoit Bay National Estuary to remove and repair broken railings on South Cape bridge and replaced rotten wood on boardwalks with the Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (WBNERR).

### **Scout Fair**

Assisted the American Red Cross of the Cape, Islands, and Southeast Massachusetts to educate scouts about first aid and disaster preparedness.

### **Vernal Pool Certification**

Members assisted the Mashpee Conservation Department by surveying native indicator species to certify potential vernal pools.

## **Orleans**

### **Kiosk Installation**

Installed six trail kiosks with the Orleans Conservation Trust at the trailheads of Wood's Cove, Ice House Pond and Reuben's Pond, Mill Pond Valley, White's Lane, Twining's Pond, and Meadow Bog.

### **Flint Site Management**

Removed invasive species with the Orleans Conservation Trust and built burn piles for the upcoming burn season.

### **Mauch Property**

Removed invasive plant species and tree debris with the Orleans Conservation Trust.

### **Nauset Beach Shorebird Fencing**

Installed symbolic fencing with the town at Nauset Beach for the Town of Orleans Statewide Habitat Conservation Plan for Endangered Shorebird Species (Piping Plovers and Least Tern).

### **Pilgrim Lake Herring Run**

Cleared the herring run of debris to allow herring to migrate through Lonnie's Pond estuary into Pilgrim Lake.

## **Provincetown**

### **B-Street Garden**

Built four new handicap accessible garden beds for the community garden and made minor repairs to existing garden beds.

### **Center for Coastal Studies**

Spent multiple service days collecting invertebrates from benthic samples as part of a long-term project to create detailed benthic habitat maps.

### **Trail Maintenance**

Maintained trails and removed debris at Nicky's Park, Hawthorne Park, and Old Colony Nature Pathway.

### **Salt Hay**

Delivered salt hay collected along Province Land Road to Truro Elementary, Truro Public Library, and Wellfleet Elementary to be used as mulch in gardens.

## **Sandwich**

### **Herring Run Cleanup and Trail work at Cook Farm Conservation Land**

Served with Sandwich Department of Natural Resources to clear blockages from the herring run at Mill Creek and Shawme Farm. Members also removed invasive vegetation encroachment at the trailhead of Cook Farm and the dam at Upper Shawme Pond.





# YEAR 20 SERVICE PROJECTS CONT.



## Maple Swamp Trail Clearings and Sign Construction

Spent multiple days serving with the Sandwich Department of Natural Resources to clear and construct new trails at the Maple Swamp Conservation land. Members also painted and installed more than 60 signs designating where the multiple trail systems were in addition to painting color-coded trail blazes.

## Shellfish Gear Cleaning and Oyster Sorting

Served with Sandwich Department of Natural Resources at the town oyster grant at Mill Creek to remove bio-foul on cages and transfer mature oysters to grow out cages.

## Town Neck Beach and Springhill Beach Shorebird Fence Installation

Installed shorebird fencing and signage with the Sandwich Department of Natural Resources to protect shorebird nesting habitat for Piping Plovers and Least Tern.

## Vegetation Maintenance at the East Sandwich Blueberry Patch

Assisted the Sandwich Department of Natural Resources and Department of Public Works to prune blueberry bushes and clear paths for public access.

## Truro

### Sustainable CAPE Children's Art Show

Assisted with cleaning and hanging artwork and organizing a craft at a mushroom themed children's art show at the Truro Public Library.

### Twine Fields

Spent multiple service days assisting the Truro Land Trust build a trail on a recently acquired property. Members widened the trail, removed invasive plant species, debris, tripping hazards, and spread mulch.

### Wood Kiln

Assisted Truro Center for the Arts at Castle Hill cut and process oak and pine trees for their wood kiln.

## Wellfleet

### Barge Painting

Painted the underside of a barge with the Wellfleet Shellfish Department.

### Chipman's Cove

Harvested 26 bushels of quahogs with the Wellfleet Shellfish Department and moved them to Indian Neck Recreational Area.

### Grant Site Preparation

Moved additional shellfish gear out onto the town grant in preparation for 200,000 additional baby oysters.

### Great Island Pavement Removal

Members assisted the Town of Wellfleet Health and Conservation Department to remove pieces of asphalt from an old landing.

## OysterFest

Served with the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Shellfish Promotion and Tasting (SPAT) to collect and recycle oyster shells from festivalgoers for later use to replenish oyster reefs in the Wellfleet Harbor

## OysterFest Road Race

Assisted the Wellfleet Recreation Department during the OysterFest Road Race by handing out water along the race route.

## Oyster Bags

Constructed shell bags with the Wellfleet Shellfish Department.

## Oyster Cull

Separated, sorted, and cleaned oysters from float bags at Salt Pond with the Eastham Department of Natural Resources.

## Oyster Pitting

Removed oyster bags and shellfish gear from the town grant prior to sea ice moving into the Wellfleet Harbor. The oysters were then overwintered underground.

## Oyster Planting

Spent multiple service days planting 335,000 baby oysters with the Wellfleet Shellfish Department to assist with shellfish propagation for commercial and recreational shellfisheries.

## Wellfleet Cemetery Beautification

Removed debris and invasive species with the Wellfleet Cemetery Commission at Duck Creek and Pleasant Hill Cemeteries.

## Wellfleet Harbor Conference

Assisted partnering organizations with conference setup, registration, and closeout.

## Wellfleet Historical Society

Removed Japanese knotweed, seeded pollinators around the property and transplanted native flowers into heirloom garden beds.

## Wellfleet Trail Maintenance

Spent multiple service days maintaining Clover, Box Turtle, Head of Duck, and Drummer Cove trails with the Wellfleet Health and Conservation Department.





# CONT. YEAR 20 SERVICE PROJECTS

## Yarmouth

### **Grays Beach**

Served alongside Yarmouth Department of Natural Resources to improve accessibility to the conservation trails at Grays beach. Members also bucked and limbed fallen trees from previous winter storms.

### **Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program**

Assisted the Yarmouth Conservation Commission by acting as scribes at the Town of Yarmouth Municipal Vulnerability Planning workshop.

### **Town-wide Cleanup Day**

Helped the Yarmouth Conservation Commission set up and take down the tables and signs for registration of volunteers for town-wide trash cleanup day. Members also assisted with trash pickup.

### **Sgt. Gannon Songbird Sanctuary**

Assisted the Orenda Wildlife Trust, Yarmouth Police Department, and Saint Pius X Parish to create a song bird Sanctuary in memory of Sgt. Sean Gannon. Members cleared the property of trash and debris, planted native shrubs and trees and installed birdhouses on the property.

## Cape Cod National Seashore

### **Highland Center**

Assisted with general cleanup around the Highland Center grounds, installed snow fencing, and planted native shrubs.

### **Marconi Fire Break**

Spent two days sawing, bucking, and limbing pitch pine trees to establish a fire break for a future prescribed burn within the National Seashore.

### **North Atlantic Coastal Laboratory**

Spent multiple service days collecting invertebrate data in benthic samples for an ongoing habitat evaluation of East Harbor in Truro.

### **Pond Days**

Spent two service days planting inkberries, blueberries, bayberries, and other native plants, installing split-rail fence, and securing jute around various ponds within the National Seashore.

### **Trail Day**

Replaced benches along trails at the National Seashore.

### **Wildland Fire Training**

Prescribe burned wildfire research plots in Truro and assisted with pile burns at Doane Rock picnic area and Upper Boat Meadow Conservation area.



# SPECIAL THANKS



## PROJECT DONATIONS

- ◇ Cape Cod Bagels
- ◇ Cape Cod Coffee
- ◇ Home Depot - Hyannis
- ◇ Stop & Shop - Hyannis
- ◇ Stop & Shop - Falmouth
- ◇ Trader Joe's - Hyannis
- ◇ Shaw's - Hyannis

## MEMBER TRAINERS

- |                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| ◇ Andrew Bagnara | ◇ Kalliope Chute    |
| ◇ Eddy Blanchard | ◇ Larry Dapsis      |
| ◇ Rikki Brown    | ◇ Rachel Hutchinson |
| ◇ Ryan Burch     | ◇ Shannon Jarbeau   |
| ◇ Phil Burt      | ◇ Kathy Parsons     |



*AmeriCorps Cape Cod Year 20 Members and Staff at the swearing in ceremony in September.*



# DARLENE JOHNSON-MORRIS AWARD



Darlene Johnson-Morris was the founder and original visionary for the creation of AmeriCorps Cape Cod. Darlene was able to garner investment from community stakeholders to get the program off the ground and continued to grow and adapt the program to the needs of Barnstable County. After leading the AmeriCorps Cape Cod program for 17 years, Darlene retired in 2017. To honor her dedication and service to the AmeriCorps Cape Cod program and Barnstable County, the program established the Darlene Johnson-Morris Award in Year 18 of the program. Each year, one member receives the Darlene Johnson-Morris award. Program staff select the award recipient based on the member's commitment to community service and by going over and above to demonstrate a service ethic.

*Year 18 Award Recipient: Matthew O'Keefe*

*Year 19 Award Recipient: Mollie Thompson*



**Year 20 Award Recipient:**  
**Rachel Robinson**



# DEPARTING STAFF



## ALEX BATES

*WELLFLEET PROGRAM SUPERVISOR*

Alex served as a year 19 AmeriCorps Cape Cod member and was placed with the Brewster Department of Natural Resources and Brewster Conservation Trust. He fell in love with the Outer Cape vibes and stayed another year as the Wellfleet Program Supervisor. After this year, he hopes to continue environmental work on the Cape.



## MEREDITH BALLINGER

*UPPER CAPE PROGRAM SUPERVISOR*

Meredith served as a year 18 AmeriCorps Cape Cod member and was placed with the Wellfleet Health and Conservation Department. She then continued her New England journey up the coast of Maine where she spent a year as an Island Institute Fellow on the St. George Peninsula before returning to Cape Cod as the Year 20 Upper Cape Program Supervisor. She hopes her future endeavors will keep her on Cape Cod where she hopes to pursue work surrounding community development and engagement.



## ANDREW PLATT

*PROGRAM COORDINATOR*

Andrew served as a member in Year 15 in Wellfleet and in FireCorps in Year 16. He returned to the program as staff in 2016, as the Program Specialist in charge of community outreach and development. In 2018 he became the Program Coordinator. Andrew is now moving on to the Barnstable County Department of Health and Environment as the Emergency Preparedness Specialist.

# REPORT EDITED & COMPILED BY:

Ashley Gardner  
Kayla Baier  
Meredith Ballinger  
Alex Bates

# CONTRIBUTIONS BY:

Collin Buckner  
Kayla Burgess  
Ben Cockrell  
Sarah Comstock  
Katie Evans  
Phoebe Plank  
Rachel Robinson  
Bobbi Mortiz





BARNSTABLE COUNTY  
AMERICORPS CAPE COD

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3195 MAIN STREET (PO BOX 427)  
BARNSTABLE, MA 02630

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