

AMERICORPS CAPE COD YEAR 21



Dear Reader,

On behalf of Barnstable County, I would like to acknowledge and commend the incredible efforts of the twenty-first Corps of AmeriCorps members who provided another selfless year of service to the Cape Cod community. Our year together was anything but ordinary, yet these 20 members persevered and made positive impacts.

Every year during our interview with prospective members we ask questions such as, “How would you handle serving in all weather conditions?” and “How would you deal with limitations on personal space?” These are the typical challenges a member may face during a year but this year a more fitting question would have been asking this Corps, “Are you willing to serve during a global pandemic?”

Over the year, especially as the global pandemic began to evolve in early 2020, our members remained patient and committed to serving our Cape Cod community. They brought a level of integrity, compassion, and selflessness to a situation that was unnerving, uncertain, and unprecedented. Even though the tough decision was made to suspend the program two months early, the members were still able to carry on the program’s legacy. Members served in every town on Cape Cod with local, county, state, federal, and nonprofit organizations with the goal of improving our natural environment and making us better prepared in the event of a disaster.

These members’ service adds to the twenty-one-year-old legacy of the program. As of the conclusion of this year, there have been nearly 500 AmeriCorps Cape Cod members who have provided over 880,000 hours of service to Barnstable County. In September 2020, AmeriCorps Cape Cod will begin its twenty-second year and continue to build upon these achievements and these members’ legacy. We are fortunate to have the continued support 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.

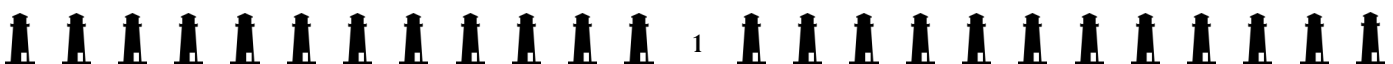
The report that follows offers insight into AmeriCorps Cape Cod’s commitment to providing quality year-round community service that protects and sustains the natural resources of Cape Cod for the use and enjoyment of future generations. Our report begins by introducing key environmental needs of the community, elaborating on our natural resource management projects, and highlighting advances in the field of disaster preparedness and response surrounding COVID-19. 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.

AmeriCorps Cape Cod continues to exemplify the community benefits of service programs across the country. These programs do not only improve the direct community being served but they also instill an ethic of service in each member who graduates by furthering a culture of service-minded individuals who strive to make the world a healthier place to live.

In Service,

Kayla Baier,
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 Fire and Rescue Training Academy

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

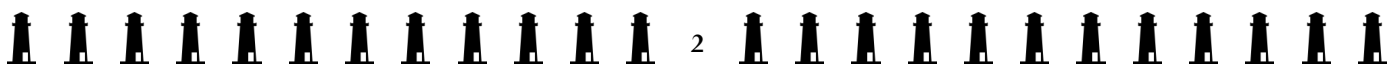
BRIAN SHARP

International Fund for Animal Welfare

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.



PROGRAM STAFF



RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE



JULIE FERGUSON
DIRECTOR



BOBBI MORITZ
RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT OFFICER



QUAN TOBEY
RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

AMERICORPS CAPE COD



KAYLA BAIER
PROGRAM COORDINATOR



CONNOR O'BRIEN
PROGRAM SUPERVISOR
POCASSET AND BARNSTABLE HOUSES



PHOEBE PLANK
PROGRAM SUPERVISOR
WELLFLEET HOUSE



MEREDITH BALLINGER
PROGRAM SPECIALIST



RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

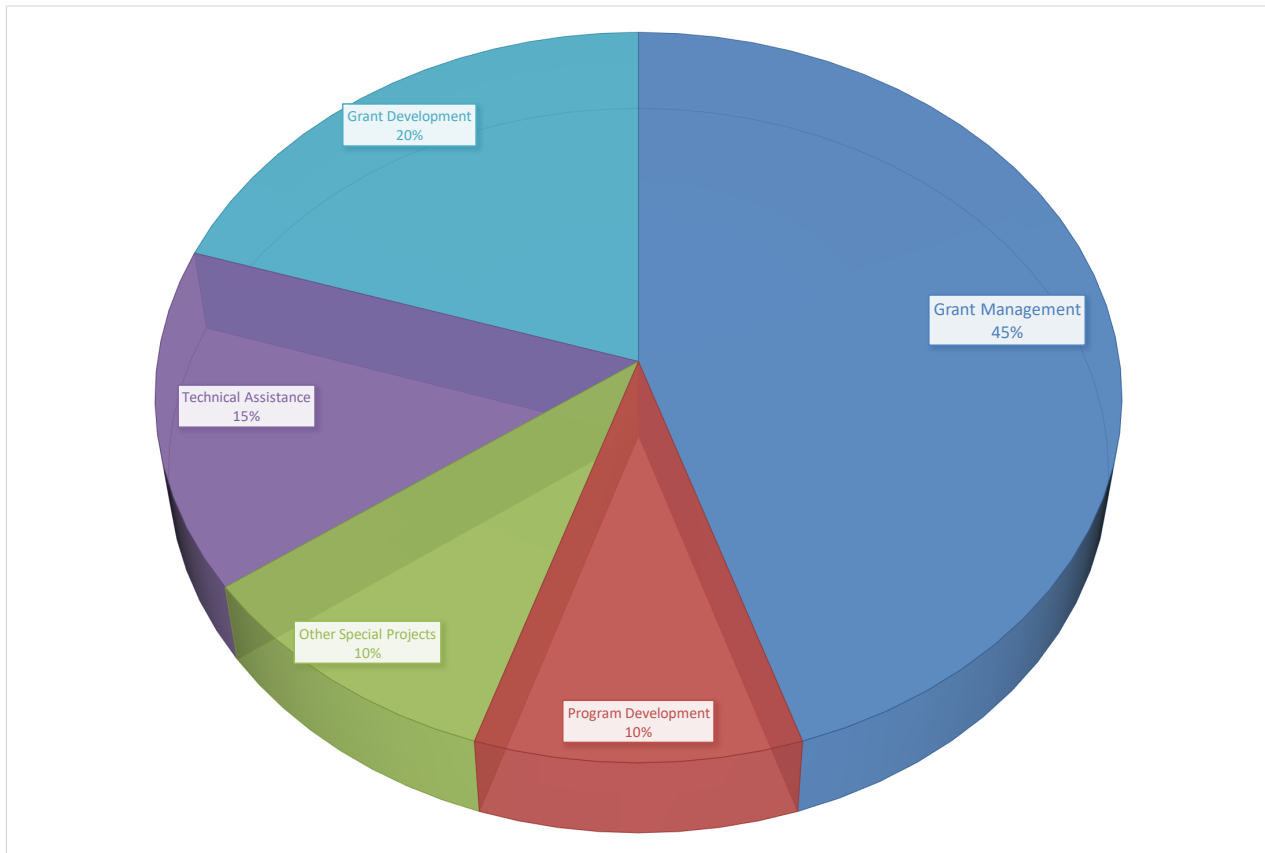
26 YEARS OF RESOURCES



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

RDO RESPONSIBILITIES



RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

26 YEARS OF RESOURCES



During FY20, 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.

The 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 FY20, RDO staff provided direct technical assistance with grant proposals to the towns of Brewster, Harwich, 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.



THE UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE



MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Southeast New England:
Coastal Watershed Restoration Program.

In partnership with:

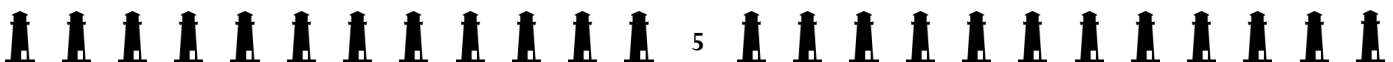


For several years, the WHOI Sea Grant Program has named the Cape Cod Cooperative Extension as a sub-recipient of funds originating from NOAA (National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration), to work in support of various programs. One such multi-year sub-recipient fund supports a Flood Plain Specialist 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



Lourdes Abreu-Torres

Paterson, NJ



Sarah Paulson

Needham, MA



Alexandra Davies

Wayne, NJ



Andrew Schwitzgebel

Cincinnati, OH



Jordanne Feldman

Utica, NY



Emily Smith

Murrells Inlet, SC



Daniel Flockton

Carver, MA



AMERICORPS MEMBERS

BARNSTABLE HOUSE



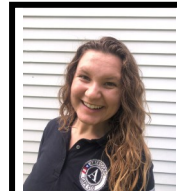
Esra Depp
Boston, MA



Katharine McGovern
Stoneham, MA



Kelsey Leahy
Elizabethton, TN



Chansea Montgomery
Topeka, KS





AMERICORPS MEMBERS

WELLFLEET HOUSE



Nicholas Banning
Springfield, IL



Bee Perry
Marstons Mills, MA



Celia Davalos
Castaic, CA



Eric Rippee
Kansas City, MO



Travis Lavenski
Hurricane, WV



Hannah Schmidt
Rhododendron, OR



Corrine Losch
Littleton, MA



Katherine Witte
Spring Valley, NY



Kendall Pargot
Helena, MT



AMERICORPS CAPE COD

COMMUNITY IMPACT, 1999-2020



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 community members.

In the past 21 years, members have participated in the following activities:

Environmental Conservation Projects

- Completed 4,320 land and water based conservation projects

Environmental Education

- Taught over 2,400 environmental education activities to 59,354 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"
- Set up tents for COVID-19 drive through testing sites

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

Civic Engagement

- Engaged 13,463 community volunteers in over 43,563 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

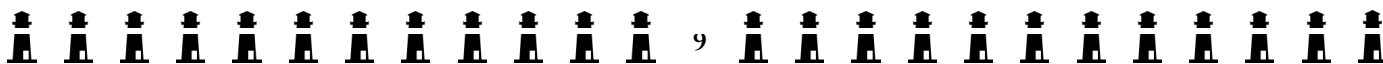
- 88% of AmeriCorps members have successfully graduated from the program.
- 112 Corps members have stayed or returned to the Cape after graduation to live and work for a period of time. Forty-four alums are currently living and working on the Cape; fourteen are working for Barnstable County or a Municipal department.
- From September 1999 to May 2020, AmeriCorps Cape Cod members have served a total of 909,746.50 hours.
- Volunteers recruited, trained and managed by Corps members have served 43,563 hours.

*Estimated Value of Service
to the Cape Cod Community*

= \$30,459,589*

September 1999 – May 2020

* Source: *The Independent Sector* sets the State and National Volunteer Rate each year. (\$25.43 for 2019)





ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

WAQUOIT BAY NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE

A Science Communication Problem

Andrew Schwitzgebel, Pocasset House Member

“We don’t have a science education problem; we have a science *communication* problem.”

A mentor of mine at the University of Alabama used to tell me that, and though I thought I knew what he meant, it has taken me years and nearly two full AmeriCorps terms to fully understand the statement.

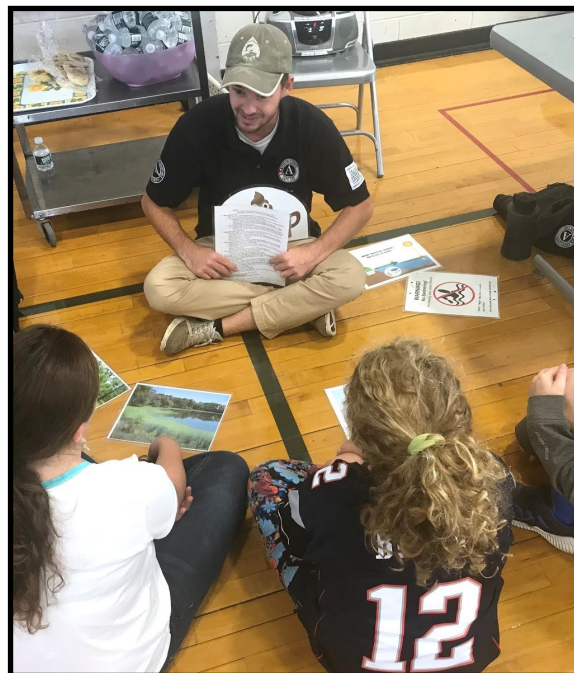
With my two AmeriCorps terms emphasizing environmental education, I’ve had the opportunity to teach in classrooms from grades two to twelve. I’ve led field trips, summer camps, and education fairs outside the classroom on both coasts, and I feel that I’ve acquired enough experience to say this much at least, “kids are smart.”

Kids are smart and our schools are doing a great job of teaching environmental science concepts. Great, right? Where’s the problem?

The problem became apparent during my time conducting the Shiverick’s Pond study with 8th graders at the Lawrence School in Falmouth. When introducing the project to the students, I was amazed that I could ask a class of 8th graders to list off all the risk factors for a body of water experiencing ‘eutrophication’ (an algal bloom caused by increased nutrient input) and get anything other than blank stares in reply. However, when I took them outside to observe the pond up close, they couldn’t recognize any of the factors. They *knew* it, but they didn’t *understand* it. This is why it is so important to get kids out of the classroom to apply what they learn; it’s how we can communicate to them that the science they’re learning is real, relevant, and important.

While serving at the Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (WBNERR), I learned how WBNERR, alongside the other twenty-eight National Estuarine Research Reserves, does such a great job at bridging the gap between the scientific community and the public. With programs like guided hikes, presentations hosted by researchers, publicly available data, and of course, school field trips and programming, WBNERR is putting in valuable time and effort to engage the public with the science they are producing.

During my time with WBNERR, I enjoyed leading guided hikes at South Cape Beach. As I would explain the impacts of sea level rise and point out dead and dying trees at the border of the forest and marsh that have been killed by salty groundwater encroachment, I could always see the moment on the people’s faces when *knowing* about the effect of sea level rise became *understanding*.



Andrew teaches local students about the effects of eutrophication.

I also found school field trips put on by WBNERR to be similarly rewarding because I could help teach kids how to use the scientific method to answer their own questions about how science works. Connecting through science is empowering for kids, and potentially world-changing for us, because it can lead to a new generation of adults who will believe science not because a scientist told them to, but because they understand where that science is coming from.

WBNERR’s unique position as part of the Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) simultaneously is what allows them to bridge the problematic gap between science and public understanding; being a state park and part of the DCR makes public outreach a priority, while also being a NOAA research reserve makes research and science a priority. This combination is exactly what the public needs right now to better understand the complexities of scientific research and findings. Going forward in my own career path I hope to emulate that success while continuing to help bridge the gap that still exists between the scientific community and the public.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

BARNSTABLE COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



Well, Well, Well Water We Doing for Environmental Education? You'll Sea!

Jordanne Feldman, Pocasset House Member

When you hear your child got flushed down a toilet at school, it usually means a trip to the principal's office! For me, it means that child learned about septic systems. As the Wet Fest Coordinator, I have flushed about 1,200 kids down a fake toilet during my AmeriCorps Cape Cod term. They crawl through a fake septic system and learn about the system's inner workings, in a fun and interactive way. The rest of their experience at the Wet Fest event is dedicated to learning about water conservation, protection, and how to be environmentally friendly.

Here on Cape Cod, we are surrounded by one of the most vulnerable resources on Earth: water. Water is such a big part of our lives here, whether it is going to the beach, swimming in kettle ponds, taking a ferry over to the islands, or just taking a walk along one of the many beautiful rivers. Not to mention that all drinking water on the Cape comes from groundwater. So every time you turn on the faucet, you are tapping into water right below your feet. All the groundwater on Cape Cod comes from the same pool of water called an aquifer. Our aquifer is very special because it is an unconfined Sole Source aquifer. This means it is very susceptible to contamination since there is no "confining" layer to protect it from contaminated surface infiltration. It is deemed Sole Source by the EPA because it produces water for more than half of the population.



Corrine explains the process of a raindrop's journey through the water cycle.

These two factors make the Cape Cod aquifer a delicate water supply, the reason why AmeriCorps Cape Cod organizes the educational Wet Fest events for 3rd to 5th graders across the Cape.

We also think learning should be fun and we do our best to make Wet Fests as interactive as possible. We encase students in giant bubbles, have students compete in a bouncing race to save sea turtles, D.O. the limbo based on dissolved oxygen levels, make "edible aquifers" with ice cream, soda and sprinkles, as well as many other hands on activities. We make sure the children who participate in Wet Fests leave with a comprehensive understanding of how our aquifer works, ways they can conserve water, and how protecting the environment impacts so many other processes.

I personally think the best way to enact change is through education which is why I felt so passionate about being the Wet Fest Coordinator. I realized I wanted to be an environmentalist when I was in 4th grade and my teacher taught us the value of recycling, conserving resources, and creating a healthier planet. My goal through this program was to be that role model for the kids of Cape Cod. Children are our future, and they will be the ones to really make a difference in the world. Here's hoping the Wet Fest program planted the seed of environmentalism in at least a few students!

In closing, a few words from Wet Fest's Water Wizard: "We all need to do our part and work together to make a difference in our community. Above all else: be kind to yourself, each other, and the environment."



ACC members are all smiles after putting on their first Wet Fest at Monomoy Middle School.



DISASTER PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE

BARNSTABLE COUNTY REPC

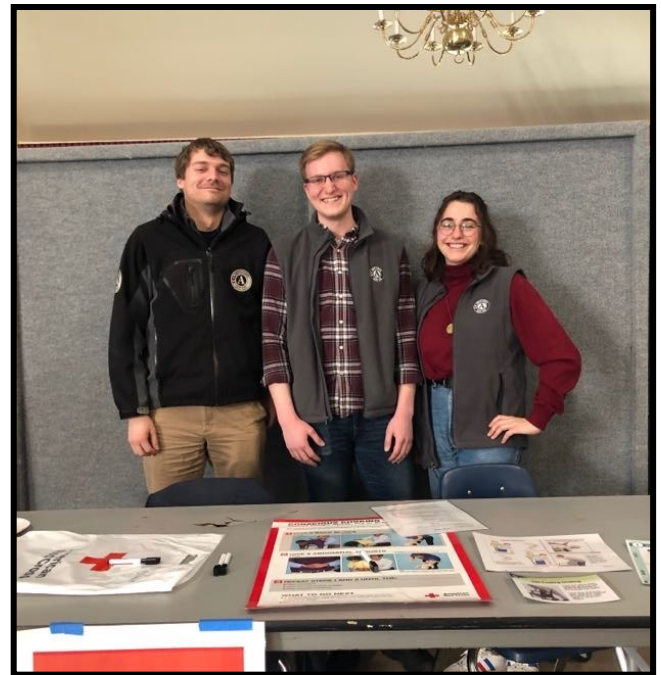
A Year of Unpredictability

Daniel Flockton, Pocasset House Member

Over the past year I served with two other AmeriCorps Cape Cod (ACC) members, Eric Rippee and Alexandra Davies, at the Barnstable County Regional Emergency Planning Committee (BCREPC). Under the tutelage of Barnstable County’s Emergency Preparedness Specialist, Andrew Platt, we quickly learned that Emergency Management is a complicated business, especially here on Cape Cod. Our unique geography and demographics present public safety personnel with novel challenges. Thus, as Andrew often says, “we do things a bit differently around here.”

Unlike many other parts of the country, Barnstable County’s Regional Emergency Shelter System is a collaborative effort among many different local emergency response agencies and organizations. Throughout our year of service, we have been fortunate to assist many of these emergency sheltering partners with planning procedures. Eric, Alexandra, and I have conducted extensive emergency shelter planning activities, that include taking inventories of shelter supplies, updating emergency contact lists, reviewing shelter floor plans, and assisting with volunteer trainings. In January we attended two important trainings, Branch Director Training in Falmouth and a Basic Shelter Operations Training in Chatham, that helped us gain a greater understanding of all of the details and logistics that go into opening and operating an emergency shelter. After more training from Andrew, we were able co-teach a Basic Shelter Operations course for our fellow AmeriCorps Cape Cod members. Traditionally, as part of the year of service with AmeriCorps Cape Cod, members serve alongside other volunteers at shelters as necessary, making this training particularly important. Thankfully, a mild winter made shelter deployments unnecessary.

The latter half of our service year with the BCREPC promised to be even busier than the former, with additional volunteer trainings, emergency preparedness presentations, and a shelter drill on the agenda. But emergency management is anything but predictable. In mid-March, our service year had rapidly shifted from disaster preparedness to disaster response during the coronavirus outbreak. Alongside my fellow BCREPC AmeriCorps members, we led a small team of other AmeriCorps members who assisted Barnstable County staff with setting up a COVID-19 testing site at Cape Cod Community College. We also helped answer the phones at the BCREPC’s Multi-Agency Coordination Center (MACC) for 8 of the first 10 operational periods, until the COVID-19 outbreak caused us to serve remotely



Daniel, Eric, and Alexandra (left to right): The three ACC members individually placed with the BCREPC.

from the ACC program residences. At that point, our service efforts with the BCREPC had ended. However, Eric, Alexandra, and I quickly transitioned our efforts into collaborating with our housemates on natural resource management and environmental education service projects to continue having a positive impact on Cape Cod’s local communities.

This year has brought lots of changes for AmeriCorps Cape Cod and Barnstable County, many of them being unpredictable. Undoubtedly, with the presence of COVID-19 on Cape Cod, disaster-preparedness and response will become an increasingly integral part of AmeriCorps Cape Cod’s mission in coming years, both at the BCREPC and within the Cape’s individual towns. I am thankful that I was able to spend my service year, alongside Eric and Alexandra, learning about all that goes into disaster preparedness and response here on Cape Cod and how the BCREPC and AmeriCorps Cape Cod are two important driving forces in helping to get things done to keep the local community healthy and safe.



BCREPC
BARNSTABLE COUNTY
REGIONAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE

COVID-19



Serving in the Time of Coronavirus

Alexandra Davies, Pocasset House Member

If you had told me in September that the latter part of my AmeriCorps Cape Cod term would be spent dealing with an international pandemic, I would have called you crazy. How unfortunate that no crystal ball or psychic could predict such an event. COVID-19 has greatly affected me in how I serve Cape Cod and, to a larger extent, how I take care of my own health.

Originally, I was placed with the Barnstable County Regional Emergency Planning Committee, or BCREPC for short. My role at the BCREPC was focused on research, data input, and editing. I edited both County plans and projects completed by the other two AmeriCorps members serving at the REPC alongside me. Nothing strenuous. Our year was relatively calm with only one MACC (Multi-Agency Coordination Center) opening in October. As time went on it felt like we would not see any action in our service year.

As March rolled around, the responsibilities of the BCREPC cohort shifted and we began planning for AmeriCorps Cape Cod's Annual Canal Clean-Up Event. The last task I had in preparing for the Clean-Up was writing donation request letters and planning which snacks to buy. However, as I finished those tasks, I learned that our positions, as well as the layout of AmeriCorps Cape Cod's service in general, would change. All future community events would be canceled, including the Canal Clean-Up. AmeriCorps' service quickly transitioned from field-based to online teleservice. The virus, which at one point seemed so far away, was now present on the Cape and affecting how we, as AmeriCorps members, could serve normally.

Up until this point, I had very minimal experience in the communications field. Yet, due to the confidence that service partners and AmeriCorps Cape Cod had in my service ethic, I was given the opportunity to help with communications outreach for the Barnstable County Government. In this new role, I was able to continue serving at the office instead of serving from home. While I was initially apprehensive about this new position, I tried to see this as an opportunity to help others while continuing to make a difference in the community.

I spent days monitoring the Cape and its various closures due to COVID-19. My brain was abuzz with CDC facts and checklists; I had the new and developing COVID-19 symptoms memorized and ready to recite. Every day I read the various newspapers across all fifteen towns to gather

information about what people needed to know. I was the person to ask if you wanted to know which restaurants were doing take-out orders, or which beaches were closed. It was hard to watch the number of cases increase in Barnstable County and Massachusetts as a whole. It was even harder to watch the death toll rise in front of my eyes.

For two weeks I worked between eight to ten hours a day researching and swimming through the sea of online nonsense. If someone posted false or concerning information on a Facebook group, I reported it back to my supervisor. It was interesting to watch people's reactions to the virus and how quickly misinformation could spread. Overwhelmed does not begin to describe how I felt with these service responsibilities. However, I was persistent in finishing the challenges presented to me. I am thankful for the friends I have within the AmeriCorps program for keeping me sane and positive when we were all clouded with the daunting reality of our current situation.

While I knew all of the COVID-19 facts by heart and washed my hands with a near-religious passion, it did not make me immune to catching the virus. At the end of March, I was gasping for air on the bedroom floor. The next day I was tested for COVID-19. A nurse in a hazmat suit shoved a cotton swab up my nose as I sat in the car. The testing site looked like something that crawled out of a Sci-Fi book. I tested positive on March 29th and began what felt like an endless time quarantined in bed.

Unlike most cases, mine lasted for four weeks. I dealt with respiratory issues, low fevers, dizziness, coughing, chest pains, and constant fatigue. I could no longer serve with the REPC or AmeriCorps Cape Cod in general. I struggled to get out of bed without feeling breathless. As someone who is independent, it was hard to accept that I could no longer complete simple tasks without the help of the few remaining housemates who were quarantined with me. Without these friends in the house, I doubt I would have handled the virus as well as I did.

As members of AmeriCorps Cape Cod, we served our communities to the best of our ability. However, the presence of COVID-19 created new challenges and unprecedented circumstances that skewed the format of service for us here on the Cape. As I continue to reflect on my year of service in the time of coronavirus, I have many questions that may never get answered. One thing I do know is that our service as AmeriCorps Cape Cod members in this 21st year of the program was extremely valuable and the experiences we shared with one another were anything but ordinary.





VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT

MLK DAY 2020

A Day On, Not a Day Off

Monday, January 20, 2020

Katharine McGovern, Barnstable House Member

For 21 years, AmeriCorps Cape Cod (ACC) has been spending Martin Luther King Jr. Day doing what we do best: SERVING. This holiday is a way for AmeriCorps members and the Cape Cod residents to be reminded of the positive impact that service has on our community.

Martin Luther King Jr, throughout his life, possessed an incredibly strong spirit of service. He emphasized the importance of serving the community and the power that acts of service can have. He famously said, "Everyone can be great because everyone can serve." Our MLK Day of Service is one of AmeriCorps Cape Cod's signature events and is planned every year by the program members. Throughout the years the event has given our members the chance to go outside of AmeriCorps Cape Cod's four program focus areas and serve organizations we normally would not get the chance to interact with. This year, we chose to focus on serving Cape Cod's youth.

With this focus area in mind, we chose to serve the Nauset Youth Alliance and the Boys and Girls Club of Cape Cod. Both organizations work to positively guide, inspire, and nurture young people here on Cape Cod in a safe setting. Through after school programs, summer camps and enrichment programs, the Nauset Youth Alliance and the Boys and Girls Club enhance the growth and development of the young people in their programs by allowing them to realize their own potential and encouraging them to be productive, caring members of the Cape Cod community.

When asked what the Nauset Youth Alliance and the Boys and Girls Club of Cape Cod would benefit most from through a donation drive, the overwhelming response from both organizations was for arts and crafts supplies. Crayons, paint, pipe cleaners, and colored pencils are just a small fraction of the supplies that David Rost, Nauset Youth Alliance's Executive Director, said the program goes through within a matter of weeks because "each day our children do an arts and crafts project in our afterschool program." Art projects serve as a creative outlet that the young people can use to express themselves and are one of their favorite activities. For three weeks leading up to MLK day, we collected arts and crafts supply donations using drop-off bins located across the Cape, and we were overwhelmed by the generosity we saw. On the day of the event, we sorted through the donations and separated what we had collected with the help of some of our volunteers and created bins full of supplies that were soon to be dropped off at each organization.

Overall, the response we received from the community was astounding. Between the amount of people who came to volunteer or participate in the activities we had planned and the level of generosity we experienced from donors; our members could not have been more grateful. After delivering the donations we received to Nauset Youth Alliance, David Rost told us that "the breadth of the donations allowed us to expand our typical offerings to include fabric arts and sculpture. Because of people's generosity, we are able to serve 130 students in the Nauset School District." This is exactly the impact ACC had hoped the day would have.

Martin Luther King Jr. day is an incredible way for all of us to honor Dr. King's legacy. This annual AmeriCorps Cape Cod event will continue to give both members and the community the opportunity to honor the power of service while also providing support to various Cape-wide organizations in need in the years ahead. By treating this day like a day on, not a day off, ACC will keep Martin Luther King Jr's spirit of service thriving for many years to come.



Katie, event organizer, displays some of the arts and crafts supplies donated by the community!

VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT

MLK DAY 2020



Celia and ACC care about service!



Local members of the Boys and Girls Club of Cape Cod show off their recycled t-shirt bags.



Kelsey gets crafty while teaching how to make paper cranes out of recycled paper.



Sorting through donated supplies at the end of a fun-filled day!



VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Engaging the Community as a Washashore

Kelsey Leahy, Barnstable House Member

Being an engaged AmeriCorps member of the Cape Cod community looks very different at different points in the service year. We all came to the Cape to serve, but we didn't fully know what to expect, and there was no way to guess that we would be finishing out our year during a global pandemic.

My main project of the year was helping to plan the annual Dennis Conservation Celebration, which had to be postponed to the Fall of 2020, when I will be gone on the next journey of my life. I spent many hours talking to community members in preparation for the event: meeting with DPW employees to work out logistics for the town-wide litter pick up, asking for food and supply donations from local stores, and serving alongside the Department of Natural Resources and the Dennis Conservation Land Trust (DCLT) to make the event successful and sustainable.

Another project in which I helped engage the local community was during DCLT's annual Spooky Stroll, where other members of ACC Year 21 donned animal masks and taught the community members about different nocturnal animals they might encounter on Cape Cod. Later in the year, a small group of us joined forces again, this time with local Dennis volunteers, to help build a bog bridge at Cole's Pond Bog. I am grateful that both projects allowed us to serve alongside and connect with community members, while also providing us the opportunity to see and enjoy local lands that mean so much to the residents of Dennis.



Members pose as nocturnal creatures at the DCLT's annual Spooky Stroll.

Thanks to Hannah, the AmeiCorps member individually placed in Harwich, I was even able to join the community at the South Harwich Meetinghouses' Boar's Head Festival and dress in medieval garb to celebrate Epiphany. My involvement in the Festival allowed me to see a different side of the Cape community, one that focused more on music and arts rather than physical labor and poison ivy patrol. These unique service experiences during my year on the Cape have helped me to both learn and grow. Outside of my time as a member, I was able to integrate into the local community in variety of other ways: performing oboe and reading poetry at open mics, joining a writing group, and celebrating Purim at the Hamantaschen Hoedown!

All of these experiences and more have made my time on Cape Cod unforgettable. I am one of many washashores that have walked this land, but I know that my time here made a difference. Serving with AmeriCorps Cape Cod encouraged me to be an active and engaged member of the community, and I know that whenever I come back, I will be welcomed again with kindness.



Top: ACC members and volunteers help the DCLT construct bog bridges at Cole's Pond Bog.

Bottom: AmeriCorps members get into character to celebrate Epiphany at the Boar's Head Festival.

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

HEALTH & CONSERVATION



From the West to Wellfleet

Celia Davalos, Wellfleet House Member

220 West Main Street, Wellfleet is where I'd report on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays this service year. Each morning I was welcomed into the town's Department of Public Works building with "hellos" and warm smiles!

My Tuesdays were spent serving with the Wellfleet Conservation Trust (WCT) in which I would help get things done both behind the screen at the office and in the field at various Conservation Restriction and Fee Properties. I served directly alongside the Trust's President, Denny O'Connell and Trustee, Michael Fisher. Alongside Denny and Michael, I completed various stewardship tasks including invasive plant removal, signage maintenance, and general maintenance of trails on the WCT's various properties. During my service with WCT I got to see the process of property inspections which included visiting Conservation Restriction properties and completing the accompanying written reports. I also had the opportunity to organize a service day involving WCT Trustees, volunteers, and fellow AmeriCorps members to manage four different Fee Properties. During my year, Denny and Michael provided me the opportunity to draft a Stewardship Policy for the Stewardship Committee to approve for the sake of future procedural tasks on WCT land. I am very grateful to have served with Denny and Michael this year. The passion and dedication they have to their town are attributes I strive to emulate in my future career path.

On Wednesdays and Thursdays, my service days were dedicated to serving with the Wellfleet Health and Conservation Department. Hillary Greenberg-Lemos, the Health and Conservation Agent, always greeted the office space with her infectious laugh. I admired her dedication to her position and her ability to swiftly interchange between her many titles. Through my affiliation with the Health Department, I was able to accompany Hillary to various meetings that she attended, such as grant hearing meetings at the Center for Coastal Studies for a project called "Increasing Coastal Resiliency Inter-Municipal Shoreline Management."

This is an effort that the towns of Eastham, Wellfleet, Truro, and Provincetown are organizing to allow for the procurement of a uniform system that will slow the process of dune erosion for bayside beaches in the four towns. Hillary also oversees the Herring River Restoration Project, the largest herring run restoration project in the nation! Aside from serving with her, I also served directly with Doug Guey-Lee, the Assistant Health and Conservation Agent. With Doug, I attended on-site visits for the Conservation Committee and other general Health Department duties. The rides around town and walks along trails I had with Doug would turn into lessons and teaching moments about the intricacies of the town. I was grateful for these conversations with Doug because they allowed me, as a curious transplant from the other side of the nation, an opportunity to learn about the inner-workings of the town that I had learned to call home for the year.

I feel especially fortunate to have both lived and served in the Town of Wellfleet during my time as a member of AmeriCorps Cape Cod. I have learned so much from the ACC program, my fellow housemates, my service partners, as well as the Wellfleet community. Thanks to all who helped make my year in Wellfleet one that I will never forget!



Celia in uniform (WCT hat and ACC shirt) and ready for a day of service!





NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SHOREBIRD FENCING

Nauset Beach

Kendall Pargot, Wellfleet House Member

Nauset Beach is one of the best parts of my service week. Getting to see shipwrecks, seals, a whole array of shorebirds, and spending time with the Town of Orleans Natural Resources Officer, Dick Hilmer, in his element only adds to the experience. Nauset Beach is part of the Cape Cod National Seashore, spreads across three towns, and is one of the few beaches on Cape Cod that allow vehicles. It is also home to populations of Piping Plovers and Least Terns. Because of these populations of threatened and endangered birds, the beach is part of a statewide habitat conservation and protection program. But it falls upon the Town of Orleans, and specifically Dick Hilmer, to ensure that both the birds and the beach-going citizens are protected. With a crazy amalgamation of jurisdictions, birds, and lots of people itching to go out in their vehicles and on walks, it makes Nauset Beach an interesting place to experience.

All in all, it is ultimately the presence of the birds that makes Dick Hilmer’s job as the town’s Natural Resources Officer so important and why having an AmeriCorps placement so necessary. Because there is so much of Nauset to cover and so much available habitat for the birds, symbolic shorebird fencing is vital to this beach.

Dick has shorebird fencing down to a science it seems. Slightly broken stakes are re-purposed to be used in areas of high winds and wave action because they are more likely to be broken again or get lost. Paces are counted out almost exactly for stake placement and seeing a straight line of them is extremely satisfying. Old twine is also recycled and reused to the best of its ability. Several years of trial and error have led to an effective way to string twine between stakes to complete symbolic bird fencing.



Members enjoy the sun as they learn about the environmental importance of symbolic shorebird fencing at Nauset Beach.

Fencing is really only half of what happens with this conservation plan, although most of the year is focused on getting the beach ready for the birds. Bird monitoring takes place starting as soon as the first birds, called scouts, arrive. Movements are tracked and nests are catalogued so the eggs and eventual chicks can be protected from predators such as foxes, coyotes, and crows. This arrives in the form of “exclosures”, which are cages meant to keep predators out while protecting the nests. Birds are carefully monitored throughout the spring and summer and everything is done to ensure the survival of all the plovers and terns found on Nauset Beach, including closing the over sand vehicle trail to cars.

Due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, I was unable to experience the second half of this process. Although I am disappointed I am not able to help more with protecting the birds during the nesting season, I am grateful to have had the opportunity to be involved in this important conservation effort.



Close up of a piping plover on Nauset Beach, courtesy of Dick Hilmer.

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

SHELLFISHING & PROPERTY MONITORING



Surf and Turf

Katherine Witte, Wellfleet House Member

This service year I had the opportunity to individually serve with the Chatham Shellfish Department and the Chatham Conservation Foundation (CCF). This joint placement was a great way to explore the whole town and get to learn about the incredible land and sea resources throughout Chatham.

In the fall months, I spent most of my time assisting the Shellfish Department with their oyster season. The stellar team at the Chatham Shellfish Department consists of Deputy Shellfish Constable; Rachel Hutchinson, Shellfish Constable, Renee Gagne, an incredibly dedicated volunteer, Dan, and a joyful, hardworking seasonal employee, Andrea. During oyster season we flipped 50 oyster cages with grow out bags full to the brim with beautiful Chatham oysters. We would empty the bags onto the boat and broadcast the oysters to Chatham's many recreational shellfish areas. Each trip to the flats ended with the team covered with oyster mud from head to toe and lots of happy recreational oyster fisherman. My favorite part about serving with the Shellfish Department this year was the happiness and excitement the team felt to be out in the water and serving alongside each other.

In the winter months, I spent most of my time assisting the Chatham Conservation Foundation with baseline reporting for properties with boundary markers that needed to be evaluated. Julie Baca, the Land Steward at CCF, taught me about the software and the methods the Foundation uses to monitor properties. Together we monitored approximately 16 properties and 8 assemblages, or property collections. We walked acres of conservation lands checking for encroachment and monitoring special habitats throughout Chatham. Something that surprised me most about property monitoring is discovering the amount of dumping that occurs on conservation lands. Julie and I came across some strange and often unique objects during our time together while monitoring. My favorite part of serving with CCF was seeing how dedicated the organization is to preserving conservation land in Chatham and the quality lunchtime conversations Julie, Dorothy Bassett (CCF's Executive Director) and I had together.

While my in-field service in Chatham was cut short due to AmeriCorps Cape Cod's program limitations brought about by COVID-19, I am still thankful for the experiences I got to have while serving with the Chatham Shellfish Department and CCF. I was able to meet new people, explore new places, and gain an understanding of the importance of natural resource management and conservation in the coastal town of Chatham.



The Shellfish Team (left to right): Kate, Dan, Rachel, Andrea.



A view from one of CCF's properties, Frost Fish Creek.



NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT FIRE TRAINING & PILE BURNS

Tending to the Fire

Phoebe Plank, Wellfleet House Supervisor

This year, AmeriCorps Cape Cod (ACC) members had the opportunity to participate in a multi-day wildland firefighting training with Josh Nigro, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation’s (DCR) District 1 Fire Warden. The training included a combination of classroom sessions and online modules.

During the first day of training members received an introduction to wildland fire behavior, learning how weather, topography, and fuel availability impact a fire’s rate of spread. Members also learned how to use correct terminology when describing fire behavior and predicting how behavior can change. Members had the opportunity to learn from Josh Nigro as well as guest speakers that included David Crary, the Fire Management Officer at the Cape Cod National Seashore, and Dave Celino, DCR’s Chief Forest Fire Warden.

Day two focused on real-world applications. Members learned about specific case studies and real-world instances of erratic wildland fire behavior. By learning about these cases, members were able to analyze and understand the importance of communication in wildland firefighting and how a breakdown in communication can lead to severe consequences. Members ended their second day by learning about the significance of emergency fire shelters and practicing how to properly deploy shelters in the event of an emergency situation.

Due to inclement winter weather and the presence of COVID-19 on the Cape in the spring, members were unable to participate in the field component needed to complete their S-130, S-190, and L-180 wildland firefighting certifications. However, they did still get opportunities, during group service projects, to practice the skills they had learned in the classroom. In February and March, members attended multiple pile burn projects. These projects, in conjunction with the Harwich Conservation Trust (HCT), the Town of Harwich Conservation Department, and the Cape Cod National Seashore, allowed the members to apply skills that they had learned during training in a more hands-on setting. While in the field, members were able to learn about the technique that goes into constructing a burn pile, the importance of direct and clear communication that is needed while tending fire, as well as the precision required in safely putting a fire out. These opportunities also gave members a clearer picture of how fire can be used as a successful land management tool.



Bee (left) and Kendall (right) maintain a pile burn at HCT’s Pleasant Bay Woodlands property.

While a premature end to the service year hindered the members from obtaining their official wildland firefighting certificates, they were still able to receive valuable knowledge and experience from service partners and professionals who are dedicated to and passionate about fire management here on Cape Cod. The opportunities that the members had to learn about fire behavior and the skill sets that they gained this year are great first steps in pursuing a career in wildland firefighting or natural resource management in the future. As the ACC staff person who took the lead on organizing this training, I am grateful that I could help provide the members with this opportunity to explore new options and interests!



AMERICORPS CAPE COD & THE CAPE COD NATIONAL SEASHORE



Planning Ponds Day

Travis Lavenski, Wellfleet House Member

The typical image of Cape Cod is striking: temperate summers, stunning beaches, undisturbed trails, and exciting marine life - throw in the abundance of ice cream shops and entertainment centers and it's easy to see why the Cape is known as the perfect vacation destination. But lurking beneath the Cape's immediate appeal is another less recognized gem: the vast array of freshwater kettle ponds.

Formed by glacial deposits over 18,000 years ago, kettle ponds have dotted the Cape's landscape for as long as it has existed. Kettle ponds have largely been a pristine playground left for visitors to fish, swim, and kayak in. Over the years however, traffic at the kettle ponds has steadily increased. Coupled with a rapid increase in pond water levels, this has resulted in a notable degradation of the shoreline of many of these ponds. In response, the Cape Cod National Seashore (CCNS) has stepped in and created the "Ponds Team" to promote sustainability amongst the 20 named kettle ponds within its boundary. As part of the Ponds Team's efforts, my service partner, Lauren McKean, and several other CCNS employees host annual AmeriCorps Cape Cod "Ponds Work Days". As Year 21's CCNS AmeriCorps Placement, it was my duty to develop a workplan and lead the group in workday activities.



Bee, Katie, and Lourdes install jute to prevent shoreline erosion at Dyer Pond.

As I imagine most people would be, I was initially incredibly nervous about the prospect of heading the workday so early in the service year. As part of my responsibility of planning the Ponds Day in October, I had to reach out to people I'd never met, select native bushes to be planted that I had never heard of, and lead a group of members I barely knew – all things that were terrifying to me. This felt like a lot of responsibility all at once, and the prospect of being an underwhelming team lead haunted me throughout the process. But when the day came, I was relieved to find a group of people who, like me, just wanted to make a difference. Without a hitch, the AmeriCorps team tackled each task with unbridled enthusiasm and eagerness. In fact, the Ponds Day was so efficient and successful that we finished an entire day's work before lunch. Once my fears had dissolved, I was able to fully appreciate the service we were able to provide to the community.

Although this was a relatively minor project in the grand scheme of things, planning Ponds Day started the year on the right note for me. It enabled me to gain valuable leadership experience that will be needed for my future career in the legal profession. Notably, it taught me that each of my fellow AmeriCorps members were passionate, capable, and intelligent people with whom I would eventually make lifelong friendships. It also foreshadowed the support I would receive from my service partner as she was as supportive and encouraging as possible throughout the entirety of the project. Most importantly, it reminded me why I joined AmeriCorps Cape Cod in the first place: to be a small part in something that is bigger than myself.



Members display damaged straw wattle removed from Nauset Light Beach.



REFLECTING ON THE YEAR TELESERVICE & COVID-19

Keeping Service Meaningful

Connor O'Brien, Upper Cape Program Supervisor

Back in March, spring and summer of 2020 held a lot to look forward to. Members were poised to put their fire training into action. At each new project, service partners told me how impressed they were with members' competence and efficiency. We had developed an exciting new partnership with the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal AmeriCorps program and my fellow supervisor, Phoebe, and I were on track to schedule over 150 group service projects for the year. Unfortunately, those hopeful plans, relationships, and experiences were cancelled by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In early March, I had a conversation with Andrew, a member in the Pocasset house, that I will likely remember for the rest of my life. We had just gotten back from a service project and were relaxing on the couch discussing the growing concerns over COVID-19. At the time, there were only a few confirmed cases in the United States. We discussed in very frank terms how COVID-19 would likely become a generation defining event and our lives would never be the same. We could predict the devastating economic impacts, the disproportionate effect it would have on underserved communities, and the likely possibility that most people would know someone who had the virus and perhaps most people would know someone who had died. We compared it to other large scale tragic historical events like 9/11, the Vietnam War, and World War II. In all these events, the pain of losing loved ones was so pervasive across the nation, it changed American history and culture, and we figured that that would also be the case for the Coronavirus. Oddly, though our conversation topic was morbid, the conversation was lighthearted, as it was early enough in the pandemic for us to brush off our negative predictions with the qualifier "or maybe it won't happen."

Even in mid-March, when the possibility of COVID-19 significantly impacting the way we served and lived became clearer, Phoebe and I still felt we could make hopeful predictions for the rest of the year. We saw getting covered in soot while tending to controlled burns, culling oysters at the beach in short sleeves and sunglasses, and snacking on wild blueberries while doing trail maintenance. The reality was that, like everyone else trying to get by in the pandemic, we could not make predictions or plans. As the country rushed to respond to a pandemic, our jobs became trying to figure out how to continue ACC service in an environment that was exceedingly unpredictable and in constant flux. Phoebe and I spent the first weeks on the phone scheduling projects, cancelling them, rescheduling, and then cancelling again as

regulations and our situations changed. Despite challenges, we eventually found a system that worked and, with help from service partners, organized meaningful service projects. It wasn't perfect, projects still got cancelled, members left for home, the houses were put under quarantine multiple times, but we found a way to weather the changes and still be useful in the community. Adapting to change became necessary and ACC members, service partners, and the Cape Cod community stepped up to support this new reality.

During quarantine, I thought of how I would eulogize this year. Having to shift gears so frequently and not being able to provide the kind of service we were used to felt like a loss and, though we felt the progress of our plans and the state of the program pre-pandemic regressing, we were too busy to mourn it. As the country begins to open again and some normalcy returns, I am able to get some more perspective. Seeing how hard ACC members and staff worked, how much was done for Cape Cod, and the impact that was made on the partner organizations both pre and post pandemic, I realize that a eulogy is not necessary. Year 21 ended early in a fashion that no one hoped for, but overall, the year had been an unambiguous success. Between the trails cleared, habitat protected, groundwater guardians created, and members of the community touched, ACC Year 21 leaves a positive legacy on Cape Cod and has exemplified the AmeriCorps pledge to Get Things Done.



Jordanne smiles for the camera while helping construct oyster bags for the Town of Falmouth from the backyard of the Pocasset House.

REFLECTING ON THE YEAR

TELESERVICE & COVID-19



Kendall and Nick safely help The Family Pantry of Cape Cod prep garden beds for the summer growing season.



Celia repairs a kayak rack in Wellfleet during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Upper Cape members maintain a safe social distance from service partner, Francis Smith, during a field project in late March.



2019-2020 SERVICE PARTNERS

David Agger
Wellfleet Cemetery Commission

Abigail Archer
Barnstable County, Cape Cod Cooperative Extension

Julie Baca
Chatham Conservation Foundation

Catherine Baker
Housing Assistance Corporation

Kelly Barber
Barnstable Land Trust

Dorothy Bassett
Chatham Conservation Foundation

Alexander Bates
Orleans Conservation Trust

Edward Blanchard
Eastham Conservation Foundation

Edward Blanchard
American Red Cross Massachusetts

Lyra Brennan
Mass Audubon — Long Pasture

Shana Brogden
Town of Eastham, Department of Natural Resources

Pat Brophy
The Family Pantry of Cape Cod

Jon Bruce
Brewster Conservation Trust

Ryan Burch
Town of Brewster, Natural Resource Department

Phil Burt
Barnstable County Regional Emergency Planning Committee

Katelyn Cadoret
Town of Mashpee, Conservation Commission

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

Curtis Cottrell
West Barnstable Fire Department

David Crary Jr.
Cape Cod National Seashore

Katy Cushman
Wellfleet Shellfish Promotion+ Tasting Inc.

David J. DeConto
Town of Sandwich, Department of Natural Resources

Judy Desrochers
Meetinghouse Farm

Julie Early
Dennis Conservation Land Trust

Ashley Fisher
Town of Mashpee, Department of Natural Resources

Judy Ford
South Harwich Meetinghouse

Mary Kay Fox
Friends of Mashpee Wildlife Refuge

Catie Fyfe
Mass Audubon, Long Pasture

Katherine Garofoli
Dennis Conservation Land Trust

Buzzards Bay Coalition

Chris Gonnella
Town of Barnstable, DPW - Structures & Grounds Division

Kelly Grant
Town of Yarmouth, Conservation Commission

Christopher Green
Mass Audubon — Wellfleet Bay

Hillary Greenberg-Lemos
Town of Wellfleet, Health and Conservation Department

Hilary Greene
American Red Cross Massachusetts

Olivia Guerra
International Fund for Animal Welfare

Doug Guey-Lee
Town of Wellfleet, Health and Conservation Department

Amy Henderson
Brewster Conservation Trust

Dick Hilmer
Town of Orleans, Department of Natural Resources

Rachel Hutchinson
Town of Chatham, Shellfish Department

William Iacussa
Mass Audubon — Wellfleet Bay

Ian Ives
Mass Audubon — Long Pasture

David Johnson
Town of Brewster, Natural Resource Department

Mark Kasprzyk
Town of Falmouth, Conservation Commission

Robbin Kelley
Town of Harwich, Harwich Cemetery Department

Sean Kortis
Barnstable Marine and Environmental Affairs

Michael Lach
Harwich Conservation Trust

Liz Lewis
Town of Barnstable, Marine and Environmental Natural Resources

Christina Lovely
Town of Falmouth, Marine and Environmental Services

Laura Ludwig
Center for Coastal Studies

Tyler Maikath
Harwich Conservation Trust

Dennis Conservation Land Trust

John Mankevetch
Town of Wellfleet, Shellfish Department

Tom Marcotti
Town of Barnstable, Marine and Environmental Natural Resources

Chuck Martinsen
Town of Falmouth, Marine and Environmental Services

Joseph Maruca
West Barnstable Fire Department

Meg Materne
Barnstable Clean Water Coalition

Laura McCullough
The 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

Geneva Mommsen
National Marine Life Center

Sarah Naciri
Sustainable CAPE

Owen Nichols
Center for Coastal Studies

Misty Niemeyer
International Fund for Animal Welfare

Joshua Nigro
Massachusetts DCR Forest Fire Control

Russel Norton
Barnstable County, Cape Cod Cooperative Extension

Dennis O'Connell
Wellfleet Conservation Trust

Stephen O'Grady
Orleans Conservation Trust

Joe O'Keefe
YMCA Camp Burgess & Hayward

Nicole Paine
Town of Eastham, Department of Natural Resources

Katharine Parsons
Mass Audubon — Long Pasture

Jeremiah Pearson
Town of Falmouth, Parks Department

Gislaine Peters
Mass Audubon Coastal Waterbird Program

Lillie Peterson-Wirtanen
Barnstable Land Trust

Andrew Platt
Barnstable County Regional Emergency Planning Committee

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

Francie Randolph
Sustainable CAPE

Jim Rassman
Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

Heather D. Rockwell
Barnstable Clean Water Coalition

Becky Rosenberg
Town of Wellfleet, Recreation Department

David Rost
Nauset Youth Alliance

Kerri Sadoff
YMCA Camp Burgess & Hayward

Francis Smith
Trout Unlimited

Nicole Smith
Town of Harwich, Harwich Conservation Department

Stephen Smith
Cape Cod National Seashore

Diane Speers
Bourne Society for Historic Preservation-Valley Farm Thrift Shop

Jeff Thibodeau
Brewster Conservation Trust

Amy Usowski
Town of Harwich, Conservation Department

Nancy Vail
Wellfleet Cemetery Commission

Joel Wagner
Mass Audubon — Wellfleet Bay

Mike Walker
Barnstable County Regional Emergency Planning Committee

John White
Bourne Friends Food Pantry

Paul Wightman
Town of Chatham, Conservation Department

Joshua Wrigley
Town of Sandwich, Department of Natural Resources

John York
Bourne Society for Historic Preservation-Valley Farm Thrift Shop

Rick York
Town of Mashpee, Department of Natural Resources

Kathy Zagzebski
National Marine Life Center

Alexandra Zollo
The 300 Committee Land Trust



2019-2020 INDIVIDUAL PLACEMENTS



POCASSET AND BARNSTABLE HOUSES

Barnstable County Department of Health & Environment
Regional Emergency Planning and Preparedness Education

Barnstable Clean Water Coalition
Stormwater Sampling

Barnstable Land Trust
Program Development and Volunteer Engagement

Cape Cod Cooperative Extension
WET Festival, Hazardous Waste Mitigation, and Cafeteria Composting Project

Mass Audubon Coastal Waterbird Program & Long Pasture Sanctuary and Town of Barnstable: Natural Resource Department
Educational Outreach, Bird Monitoring, and Shellfish Propagation

Town of Dennis: Department of Natural Resources and Dennis Conservation Land Trust
Community Engagement and Land Stewardship

Town of Falmouth: Conservation Commission, Parks Department & The 300 Committee Land Trust
Land Management Coordination and Volunteer Engagement

Town of Falmouth: Marine and Environmental Services
Shellfish Propagation and Educational Outreach

Town of Sandwich: Department of Natural Resources
Mill Creek Shellfish Restoration and Land Management

Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
Environmental Education and Community Outreach

West Barnstable Fire Department
Community Outreach and Strategic Disaster Planning

WELLFLEET HOUSE

Barnstable County Department of Health & Environment
Regional Emergency Planning and Preparedness Education

Cape Cod National Seashore & Town of Wellfleet: Shellfish Department
National Seashore Park Planning and Shellfish Propagation

Center for Coastal Studies
Marine Fisheries Survey & Analysis

International Fund for Animal Welfare Marine Mammal Resource & Research Program
Marine Mammal Education and Response

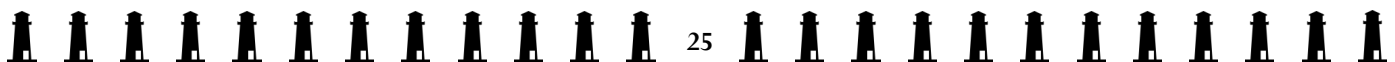
Town of Brewster: Department of Natural Resources and Brewster Conservation Trust
Brewster Natural Resources Management Collaboration

Town of Chatham: Department of Natural Resources and Chatham Conservation Foundation
Shellfish Propagation and Property Monitoring

Town of Harwich: Department of Conservation, Cemetery Department, and Harwich Conservation Trust
Conservation Land Stewardship and Community Outreach

Town of Orleans: Nauset Beach & Orleans Conservation Trust
Land Management and Volunteer Engagement

Town of Wellfleet: Health and Conservation & Wellfleet Conservation Trust
Septic Tank Survey and GIS Property Mapping





YEAR 21 SERVICE PROJECTS

Water Education Festivals (WETFest)

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

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Bourne Intermediate School | Oak Ridge School |
| Eastham Elementary School | Quashnet Elementary School |
| Eddy Elementary School | Wellfleet Elementary School |
| Monomoy Middle School | Wixon Innovation 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) | Flume Pond (Falmouth) |
| Dead Neck Sampson's Island (Barnstable) | Trunk River (Falmouth) |
| Squaw Island (Bourne) | Woodneck Beach (Falmouth) |
| Forest Beach (Chatham) | South Cape Beach (Mashpee) |
| Ridgevale Beach (Chatham) | Popponeset Beach (Mashpee) |
| | Great Island (Yarmouth) |

Barnstable

Bayview Farm Brushcutting

Assisted Barnstable Land Trust with brush cutting and mowing Bayview Farm field.

Boardwalk Prep

Cut and expanded trail in preparation for an accessible boardwalk and wildlife viewing deck with Barnstable Land Trust.

Cape Cod Extension Invasive Removal

Assisted the Cape Cod Extension to remove invasive species surrounding farm buildings.

Enchanted Forest at Mass Audubon Long Pasture Sanctuary

Members led nighttime tours and educated the community about wildlife at the Sanctuary.

Fuller Farm

Removed invasive pitch pine and bittersweet to maintain field habitat with the Barnstable Land Trust.

Halloween Safety Day

Assisted West Barnstable Fire Department with setup, facilitation of safety education games and activities, and clean-up of the event.

Hyannis Ponds Fuel Reduction

Members served with Massachusetts DCR to Forest Fire Control to create a fuel break and improve fire access road.

Meetinghouse Farm

Assisted Meeting House Farm with removing invasive undergrowth, staging burn piles in preparation for the creation of a labyrinth garden, and maintaining community garden plots.

Mill Pond Overlook Fence Installation

Assisted Barnstable Land Trust with installing split rail fencing at Mill Pond Overlook.

Ropes Field Split Rail Fence Replacement

Served with Barnstable Land Trust over two days to remove and replace rotted split rail fencing.

Shellfishing at Scudder Landing and Coves Point

Seeded quahogs at Coves Point, sank oyster cages at Scudder Landing, removed bio-fouling and repaired quahog nets for the Barnstable Shellfishing Department.

Swift Avenue Meadow Restoration

Helped Barnstable Land Trust remove bittersweet roots to control further growth in preparation for the installation of wildflower garden.

Bourne

Pumpkin Patch Unloading

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

Sagamore Hill Trail Maintenance

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

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

Brewster Community Garden

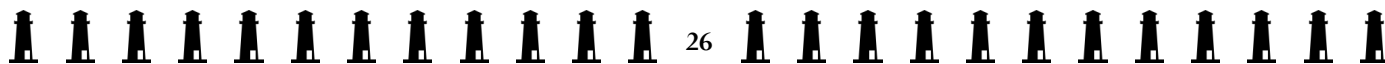
Spent multiple days with the Brewster Conservation Trust installing mesh fencing around the Brewster Community Garden to prevent the intrusion of rodents.

Gear Maintenance

Assisted the Brewster Department of Natural Resources with maintaining and constructing shellfish propagation gear.

Hawk's Nest Farm

Spent multiple service days with the Brewster Department of Natural Resources to remove pitch pine trees as part of an ongoing project to reclaim native meadow habitat.



YEAR 21 SERVICE PROJECTS CONT.



MacGregor Property

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

Mother's Bog

Removed pitch pine saplings at Mother's Bog Conservation Area to restore native cranberry bog habitat with the Brewster Department of Natural Resources.

Nickerson State Park Chainsaw Training

Participated in a multi-day chainsaw training with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation. Helped to buck, limb, and fell trees at Nickerson state park and remove them to reduce forest fire fuel.

Oyster Cull

Culled and sorted oysters with the Brewster Department of Natural Resources at the town grant site at Mants Landing.

Oyster Overwintering

Helped remove oysters from the town grant site at Mants Landing before culling and storing the oysters at the Brewster Department of Natural Resources' office building in preparation for overwintering.

Punkhorn Parklands Conservation Area

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

Slough and Walker Pond Herring Runs

Removed vegetation and debris from herring runs between Slough Pond and Walker Pond to increase flow and movement.

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.

Wing Island Restoration and Trail Maintenance

Spent multiple days removing invasive species to restore marsh habitat and maintain trails on Wing Island with the Brewster Department of Natural Resources.

Chatham

Atwood House Exploratory Trail

Removed invasive vegetation with the Chatham Conservation Foundation to create an exploratory trail at the Atwood House.

McCoy Tree Farm

Spent multiple service days helping the Chatham Conservation Department clear trails of downed and damaged tree material at the McCoy Tree Farm Conservation Area.

Menekish Property

Removed invasive plant and tree species at the Menekish Property with the Chatham Conservation Foundation.

Mill Creek & Taylor Pond

Spent multiple service days raking and broadcasting quahogs at Mill Creek and Taylor's Pond with the Chatham Shellfish Department.

Oyster Broadcasting

Helped the Chatham Shellfish Department broadcast oysters into Stage Harbor.

Star Bog Invasive Removal

Removed invasive plant species with the Chatham Conservation Department to clear the parking area at Star Bog Conservation Area.

Stetson's Cove Oyster Retrieval

Removed oysters and propagation gear from Stetson's Cove with the Chatham Shellfish Department in preparation for broadcasting and overwintering.

Upweller and Gear Maintenance

Spent multiple service days helping clean the Chatham Shellfish Department's upweller at Stage Harbor and organizing propagation gear at the Department's gear yard.

Dennis

Blueberry Patch

Members pruned several town-owned blueberry patches with the Dennis Department of Natural Resources in preparation for the upcoming growing season.

Cole's Pond Bog

Members assisted the Dennis Conservation Land Trust with installing bog bridges and general trail maintenance at Cole's Pond Bog.

Remote Set Bag Construction

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

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

Dressed 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 & Shoop Garden Conservation Area

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





CONT. YEAR 21 SERVICE PROJECTS

Eastham

Black Locust Sapling Removal

Removed black locust saplings from a parcel owned by the Eastham Conservation Foundation to prevent commercial powerline companies from using chemical herbicides for management.

Herring Run Clean-Up

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

Spent multiple service days culling, sorting, and cleaning 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.

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.

Falmouth

Bourne Pond Oyster Overwintering

Served with the Town of Falmouth Department of Marine and Environmental Services over multiple days to remove propagation gear and transport oysters to overwintering site.

Building Oyster Bags

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

Cardoza Grassland Parcel Management

Assisted the 300 Committee Land Trust with removing and uplimbing Norway maples and red cedars to preserve field habitat.

Coonamessett River Trail Signage

Served with the Falmouth Conservation Commission and the 300 Committee Land Trust to install signage along the Coonamessett River trail system.

Drainage Improvements at Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

Members assisted Waquoit Bay staff with creating drainage ditches and rain gardens.

Moraine Trail Maintenance

Members assisted The 300 Committee Land Trust to prune hiking trails and remove downed trees.

Teaticket Park Cleanup

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

Two Ponds

Members cleared vegetation growth around handicap accessible boardwalk.

Waquoit Bay Oyster Farm Breakdown

Served with the Town of Falmouth Department of Marine and Environmental Services, NOAA, U.S. Fish & Wildlife to break down oyster farms in Waquoit Bay, record data on the farms, and re-distribute oysters to recreational harvest area.

Harwich

Coastsweep 2020

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.

Harwich Family Pantry Garden Production Garden Prep

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.

Hawksnest State Park

Helped the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation fell tees and buck and limb downed material to clear trails of hazards and blockages.

Marceline Arboretum Invasive Removal

Removed invasive species and edged around native tree species with the Harwich Cemetery Department in preparation for the official opening of the Marceline Arboretum.

Muddy Creek Headwaters

Cleared the parking area of surrounding invasive vegetation and helped maintain trails on the property with the Harwich Conservation in preparation for the official opening of the Muddy Creek Headwaters Conservation Area.

Osprey Palooza

Helped the Harwich Conservation Trust repair and install osprey poles at Salt Meadow Lane and Red River Beach.

Pleasant Bay Woodlands

Removed invasives, constructed and burned brush piles with the Harwich Conservation Trust to restore open field habitat at the Pleasant Bay Woodlands Conservation Area.



YEAR 21 SERVICE PROJECTS CONT.



South Harwich Meetinghouse: Halloween Unhinged and Boar's Head Festival

Participated in multiple theatrical, community engagement events at South Harwich Meetinghouse to celebrate Halloween and Epiphany.

Thompson's Field

Spent multiple service days removing invasive tree and plant species, constructing, and burning brush piles with the Harwich Conservation Department to maintain meadow and heathland habitat.

Mashpee

Fitch Trail Stair Building

Spent multiple service days with the Mashpee Conservation Department to remove and replace rotted trail stairs and re-grade a hill at the trailhead.

Mashpee Herring Run Clean-Up

Members partnered with the Mashpee Conservation Department and Mashpee Wampanoag AmeriCorps members to clear herring runs of vegetation and debris.

Mashpee River Woodlands Trail Maintenance

Remove downed trees and vegetation encroaching on trails.

Oyster Cage Construction

Assisted the Mashpee Shellfish Department with building oyster propagation gear.

Scout Fair

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

Trailhead Kiosk Construction

Members assisted the Friends of Mashpee Wildlife Refuge with constructing a trailhead kiosk.

Quashnet River Restoration

Members served with Trout Unlimited to remove sweet gale along the riparian zone of the Quashnet River.

Orleans

Flint Site Management

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

Nauset Beach Shorebird Fencing

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

Provincetown

Salt Hay Collection

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

Sandwich

Brady's Island Trail Construction

Served with the Sandwich Department of Natural Resources to remove brush, vines, and cut a vista trail.

Cook's Farm Vegetation and Tree Removal

Assisted the Sandwich Department of Natural Resources with clearing vegetation along trails and removing hazardous trees.

Herring Run Clean-Up

Served with Sandwich Department of Natural Resources to clear blockages from the herring run at Mill Creek and Shawme Farm.

Maple Swamp Trail Clearing

Spent multiple days serving with the Sandwich Department of Natural Resources to clear and construct new trails at the Maple Swamp Conservation Land.

Shellfishing at Mill Creek

Served multiple days with the Sandwich Department of Natural Resources culling oysters, removing bio-fouling from cages, and spreading oysters in the recreational harvest areas at Mill Creek.

Talbot's Point Parking Lot Expansion

Spent multiple service days with the Sandwich Department of Natural Resources clearing 1/2 acre of vegetation and trees in preparation for expansion of trailhead parking.

YMCA Camp Burgess Property Maintenance

Members assisted YMCA Camp Burgess staff with winterizing garden beds and chipping brush piles.

Truro

Sustainable CAPE Children's Art Show

Assisted with cleaning and hanging artwork for a seed themed children's art show at the Truro Public Library.

Wellfleet

Chipman's Cove

Removed juvenile oysters from hats used to collect oyster spat with the Wellfleet Shellfish Department in preparation for a donation of more juveniles.

Culch Bag Construction

Helped stuff culch bags with recycled sea clam shell with the Wellfleet Shellfish Department.

Gear Maintenance and Organization

Helped clean and organize gear with the Wellfleet Shellfish Department at the Department's gear yard.





CONT. YEAR 21 SERVICE PROJECTS

Grant Site Management

Harvested quahogs in preparation for broadcasting, swept clam nets, and moved oyster seed at the town grant site with the Wellfleet Shellfish Department.

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.

Shellfish Signage Installation

Helped the Wellfleet Shellfish Department install signage to signify locations where shellfishing is permitted.

Tagging Oyster Bags

Tagged shell bags with identification tags with the Wellfleet Shellfish Department for the upcoming growing season.

Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary Sea Turtle Open House

Assisted with setup, facilitation of sea turtle themed arts and crafts, and closeout at Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary's annual Sea Turtle Open House.

Wellfleet Cemetery Beautification

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

Wellfleet Harbor Conference

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

Wellfleet Trail Maintenance

Maintained trails at and cleared debris from Indian Neck Beach, Head of Duck Creek Conservation Property, Fox Island Marsh Conservation Lands, and Charles and Adelaide Walker Family Conservation Lands with the Wellfleet Conservation Trust and the Wellfleet Health & Conservation Department.

Cape Cod National Seashore

Marconi Game Habitat Restoration

Spent multiple service days felling, bucking, limbing, and burning pitch pine trees to restore wild game habitat within the National Seashore.

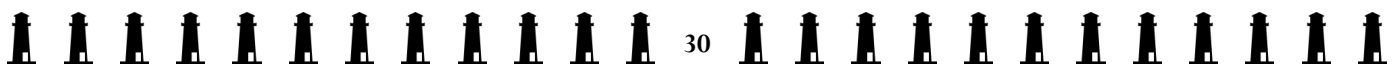
Ponds Day

Planted native plants, repaired water bars and secured jute around various ponds within the National Seashore, and removed damaged straw wattles from Nauset Light Beach.

Yarmouth

Mill Creek Park Clean-Up

Served with Yarmouth Conservation Department to remove invasive brush and prep decorative plants for winter.



SPECIAL THANKS



PROJECT DONATIONS

- ◇ Cape Cod Bagels
- ◇ Cape Cod Coffee
- ◇ Roche Brothers
- ◇ Stop & Shop - Falmouth, Hyannis, Marstons Mills, Mashpee, Orleans, Provincetown
- ◇ Trader Joe's

MEMBER TRAINERS

- ◇ Kelly Barber
- ◇ Ryan Burch
- ◇ Kayla Burgess
- ◇ Nancy Church
- ◇ David Crary
- ◇ Larry Dapsis
- ◇ Dick Hilmer
- ◇ Rachel Hutchinson
- ◇ Dave Johnson
- ◇ Liz Lewis
- ◇ Misty Niemeyer
- ◇ Josh Nigro
- ◇ Andrew Platt
- ◇ Jim Rassman
- ◇ Amy Usowski



AmeriCorps Cape Cod Year 21 Members, Staff, and Barnstable County Officials at the swearing in ceremony in September.



CELEBRATION OF OUR 20TH ANNIVERSARY



This past year was an important milestone for the AmeriCorps Cape Cod program. We celebrated our 20th anniversary. With AmeriCorps Cape Cod Alumni, current members, service partners, friends, and family. We gathered to celebrate by participating in beach clean-ups and eating amazing local food. Thank you all for your continued love and support!



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 19 Award Recipient: Mollie Thompson

Year 20 Award Recipient: Rachel Robinson

Year 21 Award Recipient: Nicholas Banning



**Year 21 Award Recipient:
Nicholas Banning**



DEPARTING STAFF



CONNOR O'BRIEN

UPPER CAPE PROGRAM SUPERVISOR

As a native Cape Codder, Connor first connected with the AmeriCorps Cape Cod program last year while interning with the Town of Brewster Department of Natural Resources. Excited about the opportunity to further engage with the program, Connor joined the ACC staff as the Year 21 Upper Cape Program Supervisor. Connor hopes his future endeavors will keep him in Massachusetts where he plans to pursue work in natural resource management or public administration.



PHOEBE PLANK

WELLFLEET PROGRAM SUPERVISOR

Phoebe served as a year 20 AmeriCorps Cape Cod member and was placed with the Town of Dennis Department of Natural Resources and the Dennis Conservation Land Trust. She wanted to continue to give back to the ACC program and the Cape Cod community by joining the staff as the Year 21 Wellfleet Program Supervisor. After this year, she hopes to follow her passion for natural resource management and community engagement by seeking out environmental jobs in the New England region.