

# AMERICORPS CAPE COD YEAR 22



Dear Reader,

On behalf of Barnstable County and AmeriCorps Cape Cod, I would like to recognize the outstanding efforts and perseverance of our year twenty-two AmeriCorps members who provided another selfless year of service to the Cape Cod community. I believe it takes a special person to dedicate a year of their life to service - but it takes an even more special person sign up for a year of service during a pandemic. This year's Corps remained enthusiastic and flexible to successfully complete their year of service.

When we began the program year, we were not sure where the service year would lead us. The spring before, AmeriCorps Cape Cod made the difficult decision to end the program year early in response to the pandemic. The summer leading up the 22nd program year, AmeriCorps staff worked tirelessly to prepare by creating new systems from the ground up. There were still a lot of unknowns surrounding what service would look like in a socially distant setting and how the program would adapt to accommodate hybrid, virtual, and in-person settings. Nevertheless, this year's Corps jumped right into the service year determined to make positive change in the community. 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.

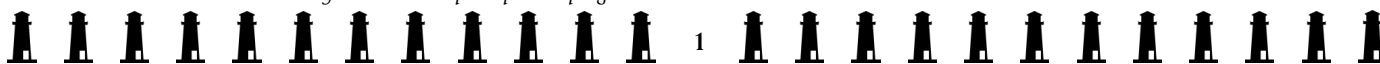
These members' service adds to the twenty-two-year-old legacy of the program. As of the conclusion of this year, there have been nearly 500 AmeriCorps Cape Cod members who have provided over 930,000 hours of service to Barnstable County. In September 2021, AmeriCorps Cape Cod will begin its twenty-third 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, the Cape Cod National Seashore, our towns, and nonprofits continue to serve as key program partners. Without the support of our many partners and alumni, AmeriCorps Cape Cod would not be the resilient program it is today.

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 highlights of favorite projects our members have participated in.

When I reflect on this program year, I think about how these are the individuals who are going to be change makers in the world as future educators and stewards of the environment. I am proud of the service AmeriCorps Cape Cod continues to provide to our community. AmeriCorps 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 better place to live.

In Service,  
Meredith Ballinger  
Program Coordinator  
AmeriCorps Cape Cod

*The AmeriCorps Cape Cod program is funded through grants from AmeriCorps the Agency and the Massachusetts Service Alliance and matching funds from Barnstable County. Housing is provided by Barnstable County, the Town of Barnstable, the Chatham Conservation Foundation, and the Cape Cod National Seashore. Barnstable County's Cape Cod Center for Public Safety Training is responsible for the overall supervision and administration of the AmeriCorps Cape Cod program.*





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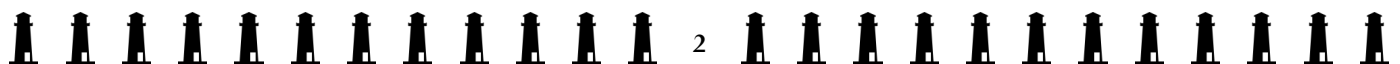
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*Town of Chatham*

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*Cape Cod Commission*

On behalf of the Barnstable County Commissioners and the staff of the Cape Cod Center for Public Safety Training, 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.



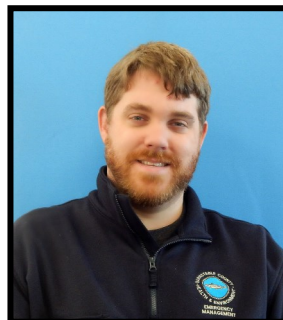
# PROGRAM STAFF



## CAPE COD CENTER FOR PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING



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DIRECTOR



**ANDREW PLATT**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

## AMERICORPS CAPE COD



**MEREDITH BALLINGER**  
PROGRAM COORDINATOR



**DANIEL FLOCKTON**  
PROGRAM SUPERVISOR  
POCASSET AND BARNSTABLE HOUSES



**DEREK BRUDAHL**  
PROGRAM SUPERVISOR  
WELLFLEET AND CHATHAM HOUSES



**PHOEBE PLANK**  
PROGRAM SPECIALIST



# AMERICORPS MEMBERS

## BARNSTABLE HOUSE



**Kaitlyn Henderson**  
Rock Hill, SC



**Emily Ray**  
Shelburne, VT



**Colleen Lucey**  
Derry, NH



**Marta Springer**  
St. Peter, MN



# AMERICORPS MEMBERS

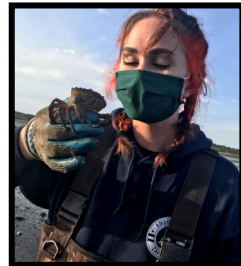
## CHATHAM HOUSE



**Ashley Boudreau**  
Nashua, NH



**Julia Gerard**  
Buffalo, NY



**Mary Doucette**  
Brewster, MA



**Caroline Stephen**  
Marlborough, MA





# AMERICORPS MEMBERS

## WELLFLEET HOUSE



**Bianca Bowman**  
Alexandria, VA



**Nicole Westfall**  
Wakefield, NH



**Jordan Halloran**  
Yarmouth, MA



**James Whitaker**  
Sherborn, MA



**Tristan Jilson**  
Fredericksburg, VA



# AMERICORPS CAPE COD

## COMMUNITY IMPACT, 1999-2021



*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 22 years, members have participated in the following activities:**

### **Environmental Conservation Projects**

- Completed 4,440 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”
- Assisted throughout the COVID-19 pandemic by setting up tents and directing traffic for COVID-19 drive-thru 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 13,666 community volunteers in over 45,754.5 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**

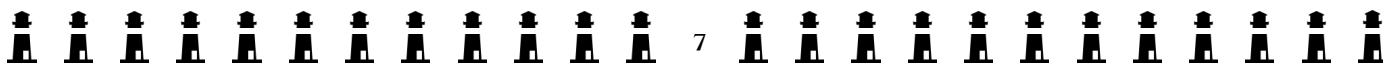
- 88% of AmeriCorps members have successfully graduated from the program
- 112 Corps members have stayed or returned to the Cape after graduation to live and work for a period of time — forty-four alums are currently living and working on the Cape; fourteen are working for Barnstable County or a Municipal department
- From September 1999 to July 2021, AmeriCorps Cape Cod members have served a total of 932,649.25 hours

*Estimated Value of Service  
to the Cape Cod Community*

*September 1999 – May 2021*

**= \$31,113,233\***

\* Source: *The Independent Sector* sets the State and National Volunteer Rate each year. (\$28.54 for 2021)





# VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT

## CAPE COD CANAL CLEAN-UP

### Cleaning the Cape Cod Canal in the Midst of a Global Pandemic

*Ashley Boudreau & Julia Gerard, Chatham House Members*

The Cape Cod Canal Clean-Up is an annual, collaborative event between AmeriCorps Cape Cod (ACC) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in celebration of Earth Week. Typically, this is a one-day community event which includes games, interactive booths, music, and food. This year, however, AmeriCorps Cape Cod's Year 22 Corps transformed this event into a week-long, socially distanced community volunteer opportunity. The goal of the event was to bring the community together to beautify the Cape Cod Canal through collecting litter that had been deposited over time. This year the event took place beginning Sunday, April 18th and ran through Saturday, April 24th. Community members looking to volunteer and pick up trash were able to register for the event online for the first time via Google Forms.

ACC and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers were challenged to make the event one that would be both safe and fun. To ensure that the event remained socially distanced, volunteers were able to choose from three different time slots each day at eight different locations along the Canal.

As this event is a collaborative one, the AmeriCorps Cape Cod team assisted in creating marketing material and promoting the event. Furthermore, ACC members played a large role in coordinating the event by meeting with various volunteer groups across the Canal, welcoming them, and providing supplies, safety tips, and directions on how to track the amount of litter collected. Members also added to the event by creating "Litter Bug Bingo" which was designed specifically to engage younger volunteers. By collecting all of the items on the bingo card, volunteers were challenged to complete the full card, thus stopping the "Litter Bugs" and becoming honorary "Earth Protectors." This joint event would not have been possible without the help of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers team, led by Volunteer Coordinator, Elisa Carey, who mapped locations, trained members on event logistics, put together supplies, contacted volunteers, and combined all trash pickup.

As the event ran for an entire week, the Clean Swell app was utilized to allow for participants to easily record each item of trash they collected. The Clean Swell app records the total weight of trash collected, how big of an area one covered, and how much time volunteers spent cleaning up. Clean Swell provided a great way to directly measure the positive impact of this event. In total, over 155 volunteers participated in the 20th Annual Canal Clean-Up and together removed more than 375.95 lbs. of litter, making this event a huge success! This year's event paved the way for future Cape Cod Canal Clean-Ups to utilize online registration, week long community engagement, and track the amount of litter collected through Clean Swell. AmeriCorps Cape Cod is looking forward to continuing to host this event, in conjunction with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in the future as well as being able to bring back certain collaborative event aspects of the past!



*The Year 22 Corps poses for a photo with the trash they collected.*

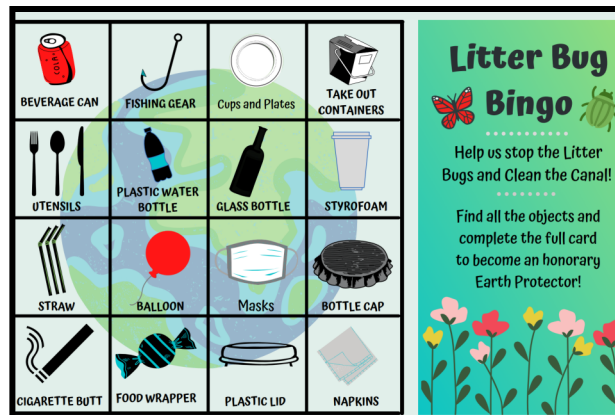


# VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT

## CAPE COD CANAL CLEAN-UP



*Two volunteers hold up their full bags of litter.*



*Litter Bug Bingo, made by Ashley and Julia, was used to engage younger volunteers.*



*Year 22 members work together to clean up a stretch of the Canal.*



*Marta holds a garbage bag open for Julia.*



*This group of volunteers had a successful day cleaning up!*



# DISASTER RESPONSE

## MARINE MAMMAL STRANDINGS & RESCUES

### Dolphin Days, Dolphin Daze: Responding to Marine Mammal Strandings

*Marta Springer, Barnstable House Member*

If it's dolphins you want, it's dolphins you'll get! Cape Cod is the place to be for marine mammal strandings, with hundreds of whales, dolphins, porpoises, and seals stranding each year. Emphasis on the dolphins, here. The hooked shape of Cape Cod can act as a trap for marine mammals and extreme tidal fluctuations cause animals to end up in shallow waters with no way to swim out to greater depths, leaving them at risk for stranding. Enter IFAW's Marine Mammal Rescue and Research (MMRR) team of expert IFAW staff, top-notch interns, trained volunteers, and an AmeriCorps Cape Cod Individual Placement member (that's me). MMRR's mission is to promote the conservation of marine mammal species through the rescue of stranded marine mammals, improving stranding science, and increasing public awareness of marine mammals through education. IFAW is authorized to operate under an agreement with NOAA National Marine Fisheries which gives them permission to respond to marine mammals that are otherwise protected by the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act. The team investigates an average of 262 stranded seals, dolphins, porpoises, and whales every year, sending out team members to assist sick, injured, or stranded animals in need of help. Typically, the number of mass strandings on Cape Cod increases during the winter months, and this year was no exception, with many dolphins stranding in groups throughout the season.

I promised dolphins, so here it is: This past March was a seemingly endless stream of dolphins stranding in Wellfleet with a total of 45 dolphins stranded. A typical dolphin stranding event involves getting a call on the IFAW hotline about a dolphin or dolphins in shallow water or already beached, the IFAW team gearing up and getting to the site as soon as possible, the team extracting the dolphins from the mud and doing a health assessment on the animal, and then releasing the dolphin back to the ocean. For one of these many strandings in the March dolphin madness, multiple AmeriCorps Cape Cod members were able to help in getting 6 common dolphins off the land and back in the water. Another milestone during March was the use of IFAW's new dolphin mobile rescue clinic vehicle, "Moby." The MMRR team used "Moby" to its maximum capacity during one stranding event to assist with



*Marta helps IFAW's MMRR team place a stranded dolphin onto a stretcher.*

the assessment of 9 dolphins. During that same stranding, in that very same mobile rescue clinic, for those 9 dolphins, I was tasked with running the blood test machines as we made our way from the stranding site to the determined release location. This was my first time operating the blood machines on my own for a live stranding event which was an exciting challenge.

Aside from running blood test machines and plucking dolphins out of muddy situations, at IFAW I spent my time fielding hotline calls, cleaning gear after responses, collecting data and measurements from deceased marine mammals, ensuring that vehicles and gear are response ready, delivering seal awareness signs for beaches, creating volunteer trainings, participating in deceased animal exams called necropsies, and so much more. My service with IFAW as an AmeriCorps Cape Cod member has been both educational and dynamic – it has taught me how to be prepared and remain ready to help with any stranding situation that the MMRR team is faced with.

# NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

## TRAIL MAINTENANCE



### Overcoming Hazards on the Lee Baldwin Trail to Get Things Done

*James Whitaker, Wellfleet House Member*

When I was young, I would walk trails, some of them extremely remote, and would wonder how they were made and maintained. Do animals trample them? Do people really come all the way out here with power tools just to keep the path clear and the ground trodden? In my capacity as an AmeriCorps Cape Cod member serving with the Town of Brewster Department of Natural Resources, it has been my duty during the past year to watch over and maintain the Town's trails. For me, it means donning protective gear, fueling up a weed whacker or chainsaw, and walking the trail systems located around Brewster. Some trails need low lying grasses trimmed, some need to be widened, and sometimes a fallen tree may need to be cleared from the path. Most trails in Brewster suffer at least one of these issues which I can often help resolve in a few hours. However, there is one trail in Brewster that is both hazardous and requires frequent maintenance.

The Lee Baldwin Trail is a small, 0.7-mile loop located south of Wing Island and the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History. It consists of a hill dotted with large granite boulders and beech tree groves. Of all the pathways in Brewster, the Lee Baldwin Trail is the most troublesome. Poison ivy covers nearly everything on the hilltop in a sea of mottled gray vines and oily leaves. The vines sprawl across the ground and climb bushes and boulders to face height. The ivy also climbs up trees, grows in thick, and strangles them until they topple. Many of the trees along the trail that have been strangled by poison ivy have fallen to form a timber field. This timber field houses a network of walking paths and gives the Lee Baldwin Trail its distinctive appearance. It also makes a good habitat for small creatures and insects, including pesky tick species.

In all my service hours out on the trails in Brewster, there has been no other property that possesses nearly as many ticks as the Lee Baldwin Trail. On an early April walk down the trail, I witnessed ticks on just about every tenth blade of grass. I have seen ticks so often during my service that I've learned to easily spot them while walking down a trail. I always manage to see some on any walk I take down the Lee Baldwin Trail.

Managing this unique spot has always been challenging given the maintenance it requires, and the poison ivy and ticks it contains, but I have learned there are consequences of not keeping up with trail work.

During much of April and May, I spent most of my time monitoring and maintaining other trails and tried to avoid the Lee Baldwin Trail as the tick nymphs were hatching. When I finally got around to it, the Lee Baldwin Trail looked as though it was in the midst of returning to wilderness. Vegetation had recently sprouted and many parts the trail had become tunnels of green grasses, shrubs, and branches in desperate need of trimming. Poison ivy and greenbrier vines sprawled along the ground and climbed trees and bushes. It took me a day and a half to cut and trim everything. Both the brush cutter and hedge trimmer that I used to maintain the trail became nearly untouchable with the amount of poison ivy oil they were covered in.

While spending much of the spring trimming back new vegetation growth, I realized that any neglected trail could devolve into a state like the Lee Baldwin Trail or worse. After braving the hazards and helping fix up the Lee Baldwin Trail, it became clear to me just how much goes into creating and maintaining trails so that the public can easily and safely access them. I have completed a wide variety of land management projects with AmeriCorps Cape Cod and the Town of Brewster Department of Natural Resources, assisting with many hours of mowing, cutting, and trimming. I think I finally recognize and understand the value of trail maintenance, and I am glad to have been involved in the upkeep and care for the trails in Brewster through my year of service.



*Action shot of James performing trail maintenance.*



# NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROPERTY MAPPING

## Creating a Useful Tool for Future Conservation in Dennis

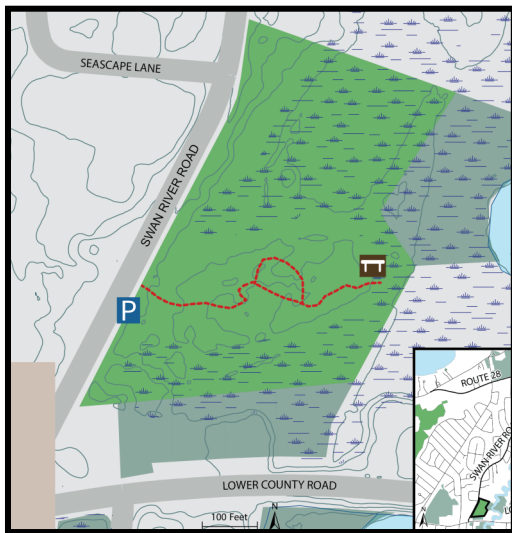
*Emily Ray, Barnstable House Member*

I never expected to become so familiar with all the trail systems in a town, but here I am! Over the past year I have come to know the trails in the Town of Dennis like the back of my hand after walking, maintaining, and mapping them as part of my service with AmeriCorps Cape Cod’s Year 22 Corps. My Individual Placements with the Dennis Conservation Land Trust and the Town of Dennis Department of Natural Resources have provided me with unique service opportunities that have enhanced my knowledge and understanding of the various land types and public trails found in Dennis.

My time in Dennis has been a progression. My Individual Placement service began by surveying trails, looking for any hazards, performing maintenance needs, and monitoring for dumping. After getting to know the trails, I began creating maps of trail systems located on Dennis Conservation Land Trust (DCLT) properties. I collected data from the Town GIS Specialist, Alicia Messier, as well as from DCLT archives and MassGIS, the state’s database of spatial information accessible to anyone. After collecting the necessary data, I compiled it into a map project in GIS. GIS, or Geographic Information Systems, are computer and software tools that provide a framework for gathering and analyzing spatial data. You can map, query, and analyze data based on location. Once the

data was in GIS, I was able to change the way it was displayed. For example, I changed the symbology, or how geographic features are represented on a map, by varying color, size, and more. The most important change was to display the protected land in Dennis with different colored parcels according to owner — primarily the Town of Dennis and the DCLT. I even styled the maps with Adobe Illustrator, adding fun features like a legend, parking and bench symbols, and inset maps!

After creating trail maps for four of the DCLT’s properties, I formatted them into a brochure, adding pages that included background information about the diverse types of land in Dennis (woodland, marsh, freshwater pond, barrier beach). The brochure has proved useful – volunteers have used it and enjoyed it, and DCLT Board Members have even requested copies. The brochure has successfully helped garner excitement around DCLT’s trails! Upon completing the brochure, I was able to hand out copies at a DCLT Land Stewardship Volunteer meeting. The Land Stewardship Volunteers were then able to use the brochure as an educational and orienteering tool when assisting with a trail clearing project in the spring. Seeing the brochure that I helped create being actively utilized by the local community feels like a beautiful culmination of my year of service with AmeriCorps Cape Cod.



*Emily and three DCLT volunteers pose with a trail sign after completing a volunteer project.*

*A sample map of DCLT’s Swan River Overlook property that Emily created for the Trust’s trail brochure.*

# NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

## LAND MANAGEMENT



### Serving in Harwich: Land Management at Pleasant Bay Woodlands

*Caroline Stephen, Chatham House Member*

The Harwich Conservation Trust (HCT) has been working since 1988 to preserve nature and maintain outdoor conservation lands and recreational areas for the local Harwich community. AmeriCorps Cape Cod has worked alongside the HCT for 20+ years to help keep these lands accessible for the public. In 2013, the Harwich Conservation Trust raised \$3.6 million to purchase a parcel of land in East Harwich — approximately 50 acres of undeveloped land that had been historically owned by a family since the 1700s.

That parcel of land, located at 75 Kendrick Road in East Harwich, recently opened to the public as Pleasant Bay Woodlands in late 2020. As part of my Individual Placement service with the Harwich Conservation Trust, I have had the privilege of helping maintain the newly opened recreational area. Over the past 11 months, I have served alongside the Harwich Conservation Trust and the Town of Harwich Highway and Conservation Departments to help install split rail fencing along the parking lot at Pleasant Bay Woodlands. I have also assisted the HCT in maintaining the property by adding entrance and exit signs to the parking area, putting up trail signs, and even building a new trail to redirect visitors from walking over a borrow pit connected to a neighboring, privately owned cranberry bog. After helping complete all these projects, I was able to help the Harwich Conservation Trust host a Grand Opening of Pleasant Bay Woodlands to celebrate the official opening of the public conservation area. Now whenever I visit, I frequently see

cars parked in the new lot, people out walking the trails, and visitors enjoying the woodlands.

While there is still a lot of invasive species management that needs to be completed at Pleasant Bay Woodlands, it is a beautiful place to take a hike, explore the forest trails, and enjoy the view of the cranberry bog. There are many Harwich Conservation Trust volunteers who come by Pleasant Bay Woodlands to pull invasives like garlic mustard and multiflora rose simply because they are dedicated to improving the habitat. The Harwich Conservation Trust and their volunteers are a group of extremely passionate individuals who truly care for Harwich, the community, and the natural environment. It has been great spending this past year serving with HCT staff and volunteers and seeing what can be done with a group of hard-working people who come together to improve the area around them.



*Caroline tends to the land in Harwich.*





# AMERICORPS CAPE COD & THE CAPE COD NATIONAL SEASHORE

## A Year of Unforgettable Service at the Cape Cod National Seashore

*Bianca Bowman, Wellfleet House Member*

“The woodchucks get the most done!” Anyone who works or serves with the Cape Cod National Seashore Fire Management Office (CCNS Fire Management Office) would understand what one of our volunteers meant by that claim. November through April, in all kinds of weather, a dedicated group of volunteers joins the CCNS Fire Management Office in cutting down low-lying brush and vegetation, forming piles out of the cut brush, and then burning the piles given appropriate burning conditions. Many of these volunteers are members of the Friends of the Cape Cod National Seashore (FCCNS) and have been volunteering with the Fire Management team for many years – in some cases multiple decades. This explains why the ‘Friends’ or ‘Woodchucks’ – a group that comes every Tuesday unless the Cape Cod roads are impassable – can indeed claim that they “get the most done!” The Woodchucks, and all our other industrious volunteers, have cut and burned acres upon acres of brush that might otherwise easily catch fire and burn park structures or ecologically important areas. Additionally, after open pile burn season ended in May, our volunteer projects also help us cut back and manage invasive species that encroach upon native Cape Cod species that thrive in the National Park. This year, as the AmeriCorps Cape Cod Individual Placement member serving under Fire Management Officer, Dave Crary, I had the privilege of leading and working alongside these many different groups of volunteers.

My main responsibility as the CCNS Fire Management Office Individual Placement member was to organize as many cut/pile/burn or invasive species management volunteer projects as possible. Each morning, I hustled to make sure tools were sharp and PPE was ready and brought out to our project site. After briefing the volunteers and seeing everyone begin working at the project site, I was able to relish in the incredible luck I had of leading outdoor projects with enthusiastic, service-minded individuals, despite serving during a global pandemic. The fact that these projects were outdoors attracted many new volunteers this year, and in some months made it possible to organize projects at least twice a week with volunteer groups including the Woodchucks, Scout Troops, local organizations, and other various members of the Cape Cod community.

Before my service year began, I could not have imagined how fulfilling and inspiring service like this would be. I graduated virtually from college in May 2020 and really wanted an

opportunity to work outdoors; I thought that outdoor work would be the best way to be part of in-person environmental conservation projects despite the COVID-19 pandemic. I had learned about and became interested in prescribed fire during college and hoped that I might be able to learn more and gain applicable skills through this specific AmeriCorps Cape Cod Individual Placement. I got exactly what I wished for. While serving with the CCNS Fire Management Office, not only have I been able to lead cut/pile/burn projects, but I have learned about the organizational structure, equipment, and strategies used to fight wildfires and perform controlled burns in forests and other ecosystems. Before serving with the CCNS Fire Management Office, I didn’t realize how much planning, technique, and study I would need to understand the many aspects of controlling fire. I have been consistently thrilled at how much I’ve learned every single day – and how much more I still have to learn. As part of my service year, I was also able to help put on an in-person wildland firefighter certification course for National Park employees and the rest of the AmeriCorps Cape Cod Year 22 Corps members. After becoming certified, the Year 22 Corps and I have been able to help successfully conduct controlled burns throughout the Cape Cod National Seashore, for wildland fuels management as well as for fire research projects.

All these experiences and opportunities have made me so grateful for my time on Cape Cod serving with AmeriCorps Cape Cod and the CCNS Fire Management Office. I don’t know what’s next for me after my program ends, but know I’ll be lucky if whatever I do is as dynamic and fulfilling as serving with Dave Crary, the Fire Management Office, and everyone else at the Cape Cod National Seashore.



*Bianca poses with a burn pile and Friends of the Cape Cod National Seashore volunteers.*

# FIRE TRAINING AT THE NATIONAL SEASHORE

## FIELD SESSIONS & PRESCRIBED BURNS



*Bianca and Julia communicate with each other while on site of a prescribed burn.*



*Members help lay hose in preparation for extinguishing a prescribed burn plot.*



*Cape Cod National Seashore's Fire Management Officer, Dave Crary, holds an After Action Review with the Year 22 Corps at the end of a field training session.*



# 2020-2021 SERVICE PARTNERS

**David Agger**

Wellfleet Cemetery Commission

**Kristin Andres**

Association to Preserve Cape Cod

**Abigail Archer**

Barnstable County, Cape Cod Cooperative Extension

**Julie Baca**

Chatham Conservation Foundation

**Kelly Barber**

Barnstable Land Trust

**Dorothy Bassett**

Chatham Conservation Foundation

**Alexander Bates**

Orleans Conservation Trust

**Susan Bliss**

Garden Club of Harwich

**Kathleen Brady**

Red Lily Pond Project

**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, Department of Natural Resources

**Phil Burt**

Barnstable County, Cape Cod Center for Public Safety Training

**Katelyn Cadoret**

Town of Mashpee, Conservation Department

**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

**David Crary Jr.**

Cape Cod National Seashore

**John Cullity**

Sandwich Conservation Trust

**David J. DeConto**

Town of Sandwich, Department of Natural Resources

**John DeFoe**

Cape Cod National Seashore

**Judy Desrochers**

Meetinghouse Farm

**Julie Early**

Dennis Conservation Land Trust

**Tim Famulare**

Town of Provincetown, Conservation Commission

**Mary Kay Fox**

Friends of Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge

**Chris Gonnella**

Town of Barnstable, DPW — Structures & Grounds Division

**Hillary Greenberg-Lemos**

Town of Wellfleet, Health and Conservation Department

**Olivia Guerra**

International Fund for Animal Welfare

**Doug Guey-Lee**

Town of Wellfleet, Health and Conservation Department

**Samuel Haines**

Town of Bourne, Department of Natural Resources

**Amy Henderson**

Brewster Conservation Trust

**Chris Holden**

Town of Barnstable, Department of Public Works

**Rachel Hutchinson**

Town of Chatham, Shellfish Division

**Jamie Infanti**

Mass Audubon — Long Pasture

**David Johnson**

Town of Brewster, Department of Natural Resources

**Mark Kasprzyk**

Town of Falmouth, Conservation Commission

**Robbin Kelley**

Town of Harwich, Cemetery Department

**Michael Lach**

Harwich Conservation Trust

**Jim Lane**

Red Lily Pond Project

**Liz Lewis**

Town of Barnstable, Marine and Environmental Natural Resources

**Scott Lindell**

Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

**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

**Dorria Marsh**

Brewster Conservation Trust

**Chuck Martinsen**

Town of Falmouth, Marine and Environmental Services

**Meg Materne**

Barnstable Clean Water Coalition

**Seamus McArdle**

Town of Sandwich, Department of Natural Resources

**Laura McCullough**

The Family Pantry of Cape Cod

**Heather McElroy**

Cape Cod Commission

**Lauren McKean**

Cape Cod National Seashore

**Andrew McManus**

Town of Mashpee, Conservation Department

**Melyssa Millett**

Town of Harwich, Conservation Department

**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

**Connor O'Brien**

Harwich Conservation Trust

**Dennis O'Connell**

Wellfleet Conservation Trust

**Robert O'Connor**

Sandwich Conservation Trust

**Stephen O'Grady**

Orleans Conservation Trust

**Nicole Paine**

Town of Eastham, Department of Natural Resources

**Katharine Parsons**

Mass Audubon — Long Pasture

**Jeremiah Pearson**

Town of Falmouth, Parks Department

**Lillie Peterson-Wirtanen**

Barnstable Land Trust

**Andrew Platt**

Barnstable County, Cape Cod Center for Public Safety Training

**John Pribilla**

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

**Heinz Proft**

Town of Harwich, Department of Natural Resources

**Grant Putnam**

U.S. Fish & Wildlife

**Joseph Queenan**

Sandwich Conservation Trust

**Heather D. Rockwell**

Barnstable Clean Water Coalition

**David Rost**

Nauset Youth Alliance

**Amber Salvage**

Town of Dennis, Department of Natural Resources

**Nicole Smith**

Town of Harwich, Harwich Conservation Department

**Christopher Southwood**

Town of Bourne, Department of Natural Resources

**Sara Sperber**

National Marine Life Center

**Taryn Szalay**

Town of Falmouth, Marine and Environmental Services

**Steve Touloumtzis**

Sandwich Conservation Trust

**Megan Tyrrell**

Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

**Amy Usowski**

Town of Harwich, Conservation Department

**Nancy Vail**

Wellfleet Cemetery Commission

**Mike Walker**

Barnstable County, Department of Health and Environment

**Paul Wightman**

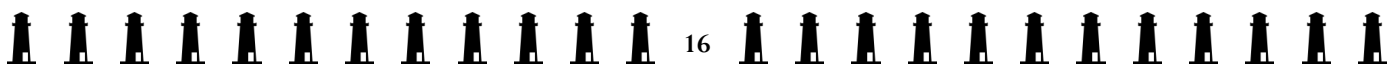
Town of Chatham, Conservation Department

**Joshua Wrigley**

Town of Sandwich, Department of Natural Resources

**Alexandra Zollo**

The 300 Committee Land Trust





# 2020-2021 INDIVIDUAL PLACEMENTS



## **POCASSET AND BARNSTABLE HOUSES**

**Cape Cod Commission & Barnstable Clean Water Coalition**  
Water Quality Monitoring and Volunteer Engagement & Stormwater Sampling

**Barnstable Land Trust & Orleans Conservation Trust**  
Program Development, Land Management, and Volunteer Engagement

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

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

**Town of Falmouth: Conservation Commission & Parks Department**  
Land Management Coordination & GIS Mapping

**Town of Falmouth: Marine and Environmental Services & Cape Cod Cooperative Extension**  
Shellfish Propagation and Educational Outreach & WET Festival, Water Festival, and Hazardous Waste Mitigation

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

**Town of Bourne: Department of Natural Resources & Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve and Friends of Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge**  
Water Quality Management & Environmental Education and Community Outreach

## **CHATHAM AND WELFLEET HOUSES**

**Cape Cod National Seashore Fire Management**  
National Seashore Fuels Reduction, Invasive Species Control, and Volunteer Engagement

**Cape Cod National Seashore Park Planning & Town of Provincetown**  
National Seashore Park Planning & Hazard Mitigation and Emergency Management Planning

**Brewster Conservation Trust & Wellfleet Conservation Trust**  
Land Management, Property Mapping, and Community Engagement

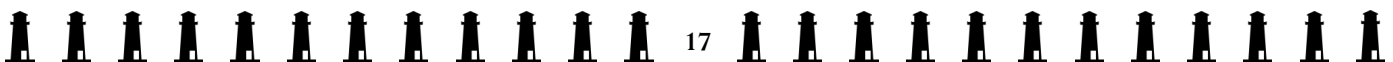
**Town of Brewster: Department of Natural Resources & Center for Coastal Studies**  
Natural Resources Management & Marine Fisheries Survey and Analysis

**Town of Chatham: Department of Natural Resources and Shellfish Division & Chatham Conservation Foundation**  
Shellfish Propagation & Property Monitoring and Volunteer Engagement

**Town of Harwich: Cemetery Department & CARE for the Cape and Islands**  
Land Management and Community Education & Environmental Stewardship Communication and Outreach

**Town of Harwich: Conservation Department & Harwich Conservation Trust**  
Land Stewardship and Community Outreach

**Town of Wellfleet: Health and Conservation & Shellfish Departments**  
Septic Tank Survey and Natural Resource Management & Shellfish Propagation





# YEAR 22 SERVICE PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

## Full Corps

**Fuller Farm Trail Maintenance/Meadow Support (Barnstable)**  
Helped the Barnstable Land Trust manage invasive plants in field habitats, cut back branches along existing field trails, and create a new trail opening to re-direct walkers away from the future site of a native wildflower garden. Members also assisted with the creation of burn piles in preparation for the 2022 open burn season.

**COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics at Little Creek (Eastham)**  
Assisted Barnstable County at the Little Creek Vaccine Site in Eastham. Members directed traffic to ensure an orderly and efficient drive-thru clinic. Hundreds of Cape residents received COVID-19 vaccinations at these clinics.

**WHOI Sugar Kelp Research Project (Falmouth)**  
Participated in an ongoing research study at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. Members sorted, measured, and weighed sugar kelp blades as part of an ongoing sugar kelp breeding project.

**Fire & Prescribed Burns at Cape Cod National Seashore (Wellfleet/Truro)**  
After completing their introductory Wildland Firefighting training, members helped conduct several prescribed burns with the Cape Cod National Seashore Fire Management Office. Plots in Wellfleet and Truro were burned to further ongoing research, including a 30+ year study of fire management techniques.

## Outer Cape

**Shellfishing at Oyster River and Stetsons Cove (Chatham)**  
Over several service days, members planted, broadcast, culled, overwintered, and refloated oysters. They also cleaned and maintained aquaculture gear for the Town Shellfish Division.

**Sandy Meadow Land Management (Eastham)**  
Felled, cut, and chipped large adult pitch pines and locust trees with the Eastham Department of Natural Resources to reclaim native heathland habitat at the Sandy Meadow Conservation Area.

**Pile Burn at Pleasant Bay Woodlands (Harwich)**  
Burned brush piles at Pleasant Bay Woodlands. The project furthered the Harwich Conservation Trust's Forestry Management Plan and early successional habitat management for the 4+ acre property.

**Pond Erosion Control at Cape Cod National Seashore (Wellfleet/Truro)**  
On several occasions, members assisted National Park Service staff with pond erosion mitigation efforts across the Cape Cod National Seashore. Members helped install split rail fencing, planted native shrubs, and installed water bars to mitigate effects of overuse at kettle pond shorelines.

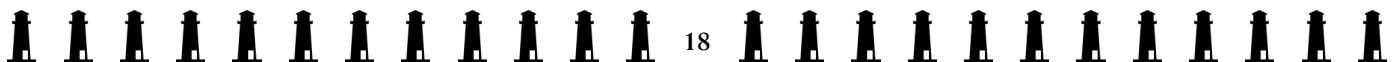
## Upper Cape

**3-Panel/Bournedale Hills Stair Installation (Bourne)**  
Helped the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers install stairs at the 3-Panel/Bournedale Hills Trail. By creating a uniform height between steps, members increased trail accessibility. Erosion control methods for downhill runoff were also improved.

**Peterson Farm Trail Construction (Falmouth)**  
Assisted the Falmouth Conservation Commission create a new public walking trail at their Peterson Farm property. Members cut back invasives such as multiflora rose, black locust, and porcelain berry, collected trash and debris, and removed fallen trees from across the path.

**WBNERR Boardwalk Removal (Mashpee)**  
Removed portions of the marsh boardwalk at South Cape Beach. The boardwalk was originally constructed to facilitate access for researchers from Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve but had become a liability due to storm damage.

**Shellfishing at Mill Creek (Sandwich)**  
Spent several service days culling, overwintering, refloating, and broadcasting oysters with the Sandwich Department of Natural Resources.

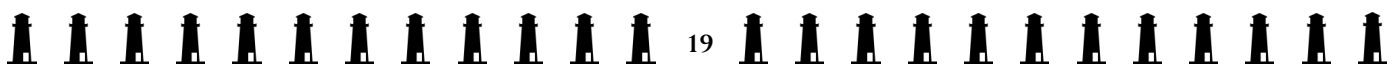


# SPECIAL THANKS



## MEMBER TRAINERS

- ◇ Kelly Barber
- ◇ Bill Burke
- ◇ Ryan Burch
- ◇ Nancy Church
- ◇ Nancy Civetta
- ◇ David Crary
- ◇ Larry Dapsis
- ◇ Bill Gerard
- ◇ Hillary Greenberg-Lemos
- ◇ Nicole Hunter
- ◇ Rachel Hutchinson
- ◇ Dave Johnson
- ◇ Kira Kasper
- ◇ Liz Lewis
- ◇ Christina Lovely
- ◇ Chuck Martinsen
- ◇ Andrew Platt
- ◇ Aleutia Scott
- ◇ Taryn Szalay
- ◇ Paul Tucker
- ◇ Amy Usowski
- ◇ Josh Wrigley





# 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 above and beyond to demonstrate a service ethic.

*Year 18 Award Recipient: Matthew O'Keefe*

*Year 19 Award Recipient: Mollie Thompson*

*Year 20 Award Recipient: Rachel Robinson*

*Year 21 Award Recipient: Nicholas Banning*



**Year 22 Award Recipient:  
Bianca Bowman**

# DEPARTING STAFF



## **KAYLA BAIER**

*PROGRAM COORDINATOR*

Kayla first connected with the AmeriCorps Cape Cod program as Year 18's Outer Cape Program Supervisor. She returned to ACC for Year 20 to take on the Program Specialist role before transitioning into the Program Coordinator position in 2019. Kayla stepped down as Program Coordinator in 2020 to pursue her passion for social services. Kayla accepted a position as the Director of Property Management for the Community Development Partnership in Eastham, MA. We are grateful for Kayla's steadfast leadership and will miss her contagious smile around the AmeriCorps Cape Cod Office.



## **DANIEL "DAN" FLOCKTON**

*UPPER CAPE PROGRAM SUPERVISOR*

Dan served as an AmeriCorps Cape Cod member with the Year 21 Corps and was placed with the Barnstable County Department of Health & Environment's Regional Emergency Planning Committee (REPC). He wanted to continue giving back to the ACC program and the Cape Cod community by joining the staff as the Year 22 Upper Cape Program Supervisor. Dan hopes his future endeavors will keep him in Massachusetts where he plans to seek out jobs focused on natural resource management, community engagement, and environmental education.