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Edited and designed by:

Ryeon Corsi
Colleen Flanagan
Colum Lang
Katie LeFevre
Gabe Lundgren
Kaelyn Modrak
Riley Moffat
Aimee Wang

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THE BIG FIX: A BIG SUCCESS

By Alison L'Heureux

After months of planning and countless hours of preparation by the Recovery Program and Housing Assistance Corporation (HAC), the Barnstable Big Fix was a big success.

Weather can sometimes be a concern on Cape Cod, but May 1st could not have been a more beautiful spring day. Over 150 community members volunteered with AmeriCorps members and HAC staff. All participants met at the Barnstable Senior Center to kick off the day where they heard from Corps members; HAC CEO/President, Rick Presbrey; and Barnstable Assistant Town Manager, Tom Lynch. Then teams assembled and headed to their assigned home to complete the needed tasks. Twenty-two senior or disabled homeowners in the town of Barnstable received home repairs and

yard clean-up. Teams painted, raked, cleaned gutters and assisted skilled professionals with larger jobs such as hand rail and grab bar installations.

HAC was aware of the need to assist senior and disabled homeowners with day-to-day maintenance tasks in order to ensure their ability to stay in their homes comfortably. The Recovery Program, with assistance from HAC staff, was put to the task to plan a service project to meet this need. Many of the tasks completed were small jobs but they made a big difference. Other improvements increased homeowner safety. There is no doubt that HAC would like to make the Big Fix an annual event and it is great that AmeriCorps was a large part of the inaugural experience. We are now all aware of this important need in the community.

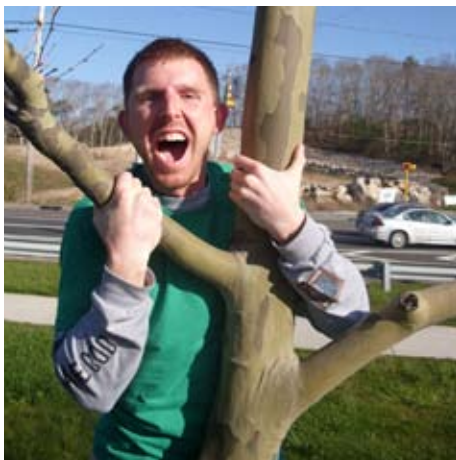
The Big Fix was a large undertaking, but it was a great experience from start to finish. There were days during the planning phase when May 1st simply seemed like a far-off date on the calendar. However, by May 2nd it was clear it was so much more. All the hard work was worth it as it was obvious the folks that were helped are very grateful. Manual labor aside, it was also great to share a smile, hug or listen to a story from the members of the community we were assisting. When we look back on the memories we have made during AmeriCorps Year XI, I am sure the Big Fix will be a big part of them. ●

"Of course all of my memories are my favorite, but here's one thing I really liked: shellfish work in Chatham Harbor." —Dan Fister



10TH ANNUAL CANAL CLEAN-UP

By Colleen Flanagan



Although an event with the word “clean-up” in the title may sound like a prolonged day of drudgery and boredom, Canal Clean-Up 2010 was anything but boring. With an exciting array of educational booths, food, and entertainment, Canal Clean-Up 2010 managed to be a fun and successful community event.

To set the scene, the weather cooperated with us perfectly. The day of April 24th was sunny and unseasonably warm. Occasionally the wind was strong enough to knock over a poster or two, but it was nothing we couldn’t handle.

We started the day with a plethora of bagels, cream cheese, and Starbucks coffee. Then people started arriving, the multiple registration tables got going, and the cleaning began! The event was rather relaxed; volunteers had the option to have some food,

check out the educational booths, walk down the Canal, or ride the shuttle farther down and walk back.

Later in the morning, as people started drifting back to the site with their bags of trash, we opened the tie-dye and face-painting booths and started up the popcorn machine. As lunchtime approached, pizza donations began trickling in and were seized immediately by hungry children and adults. Music by AmeriCorps members and the Falmouth Fiddlers completed the atmosphere of general happiness.

However, don’t be fooled by the fun and laid-back nature of this event! With over 200 volunteers, we collected 358 pounds of trash and 96 pounds of recycling, making the 10th anniversary of the Canal Clean-Up a smashing success! ●

AMERICORPS WEEK 2010

By Caroline Walden

From May 10th to May 14th, 2010, AmeriCorps Cape Cod participated in AmeriCorps Week, a national event designed to celebrate and highlight AmeriCorps service throughout the country as well as recruit and encourage more Americans to engage in and serve their communities.

At the site of the former Suni Sands Motel across from Craigville Beach in Centerville, AmeriCorps members, school groups, and community volunteers (totaling over 200 people) put in a grand total of 916 hours of community service and collaborated with the Town of Barnstable and the Growth Management Department to help build a Coastal Mitigation Nursery. In addition to town support, the project was funded in part by a grant from the Massachusetts Service Alliance with match funding from Barnstable County.

As the week progressed, the site was transformed from a vacant lot into a beautiful garden and nursery as volunteers prepped, planted, and sanded the garden beds. Thousands of native coastal plant species





such as beach grass, seaside goldenrod, and bayberry (not to be confused with invasive barberry!) were planted and will eventually be transplanted and used throughout the town. AmeriCorps members taught over 100 students about the importance of native plants in coastal mitigation, as well as the significance of giving back to their community through service.

The week was capped off by a picnic celebration on Friday as a thank you to everyone who made the project possible. Local band Four Fun Friends serenaded the crowd as community members, students, and town officials alike enjoyed the lunch provided by Sea Street Café. ●



BOOK & MEDIA SWAP!

By Margaret Kane

As a part of my Individual Placement with the Town of Chatham Conservation Department, I help organize events with ChathamRecycles, the volunteer-run group focused on increasing recycling rates in the town of Chatham. The group usually hosts two major community events during the year, focusing on the recycling and reuse of items. This year I helped plan a third new event called the Book & Media Swap. The purpose of the swap was to allow residents of the town to trade old books, movies, and music for free with other people.

A week before the event, we collected items at the community center, and then on a Saturday invited people to stop by the swap to take home as many goodies as they wanted. With additional donations from the library, we

had a packed room full of used treasures. I personally took home some great novels, cookbooks, and VHS tapes.

An important goal of ChathamRecycles is public education, so I created some large informational posters about CD and book waste in the U.S. and ways to reuse and recycle those items. FYI, apparently old CDs make great wall decorations!

Overall it's great to see literary and musical treasures reused and appreciated instead of thrown away or buried in a box in the attic. I hope swap events like this become popular in other towns and states across the country—it's an easy and important way to reduce our ecological impact on the planet! ●



PLAYING WITH FIRE

WITH THE CAPE COD NATIONAL SEASHORE FIRE CREW

By Colleen Flanagan

[Disclaimer: Smokey the Bear says that playing with fire is hazardous and can cause wildfires.]

Almost all AmeriCorps Cape Cod members (especially Wellfleetians) are now familiar with the standard cut-pile-and-burn drill at the National Seashore. Members arrive, gear up in Nomex, and head out to the work site. At the work site, there is a short informational briefing, and then AmeriCorps members and fire crew members begin cutting designated trees into small pieces and hauling them to the fires to be burned.

But that's all old news! Here is a limited edition insight into all the other things that the fire crew does when they're not busy supervising us:

First of all, the cast of characters:

- David Crary, Jr.: Fire Management officer at the Seashore, safety expert, and general expert on all things nature and fire related
- Justin DeForest: Engine Captain at the Seashore, long distance kayaker, and person generally in charge of a lot of things
- Amy Henderson: Veteran CACO crew member and former AmeriCorps member
- Becky Eide: Minnesotan vegetarian motorcycle driver
- Hawk Fick: Native American stick killer and funny voice specialist
- Samuel Urffer: Turkey farmer and running enthusiast
- Steve Gallegos: On-the-spot songwriter and chainsaw operator
- Colleen Flanagan: AmeriCorps volunteer coordinator and synchronized swimmer



Next, the activities:

Take apart chainsaws! On the first day I got to spend with the winter fire crew, we each took apart our chainsaw and reviewed what each part was and how to repair or replace it. Then, we played show-and-tell with the maintenance kit, describing how to use each of the tools to keep a chainsaw running in perfect tree-cutting order.

Explode cans! (Ok, just one can...) During one delightful cut-pile-and-burn day, Hawk had brought a can of Chef Boyardee for lunch, and it was sitting in the pile getting warm, as usual. As I was walking over, I heard Steve say, "Hawk, is that a pop-top? You might want to—" BANG! The can exploded and flew across the clearing, losing its precious contents in the process.

Explode MRE heater packs! One night at our weekly Wellfleet softball match, Becky and Samuel brought MRE heater packs and a couple of plastic water bottles. We carefully poured the sediment from the heater pack into the plastic bottle, added a little bit of water, put the cap on tightly, and threw the water bottle

into the field. With bated breath, we watched as the bottle expanded to grotesque proportions and finally exploded with a bang. You learn something new every day.

Burn fields and timber undergrowth! I was lucky enough to have the opportunity to attend the S-290 Intermediate Wildland Fire Behavior class with Becky, Hawk, and Steve. Over the course of four days, we struggled to understand (and occasionally stay awake through) the different effects of and relations between temperature, humidity,



weather, fuel type, fire behavior, etc. Each day included a prescribed burn, where we burned an area of grass on the Camp Edwards training facility, at the Otis Air Force Base. On the second day, the wind speed and humidity aligned to put the fire danger above the red flag level (just as the fire used to create a line of control made an accidental break for the road!), so we didn't do much burning. The third day, however, provided us with an opportunity to measure how fast the different types of fires spread and how tall/long the flames were. Then

the only thing left was... the written test. And the ride home, which, depending on everyone's mood, could be entertaining, insane, irritating, or a little of all three.

On another epic day, after having completed the S-290 class, Justin decided that we should test our newfound knowledge on calculating how fast fire can move, depending on weather and terrain conditions. The fire was controlled and we were doing some rate-of-spread calculations and lighting technique experiments, when Justin decided to give us some practice as if we were on a real incident. He set a "spot fire" on the other side of the road for us to put out, in addition to our main fire. To add complications and help the crew learn to problem-solve in difficult situations, he hid the bladder bags. And, after we put it out, the fire across the road flared up again! But, by making use of extra water supplies and mobilizing the engines, we put the fires out without burning down the forest.

So, if you want to be part of a fun and exciting profession, take the next available Red Card class, and you can be a wildland firefighter, too! •





SHARING SERVICE

By Katie LeFevre

Though we here at AmeriCorps Cape Cod enjoy working together every day, it is always exciting to meet new people. This year several of the Bourne house members were lucky enough to work with another AmeriCorps program called “Leaps in Literacy.”

The Brockton, MA group is able to have service projects outside of the school on Fridays and each member is given the task to organize one. Because one of their members grew up in Falmouth, they decided to come and work with us for a day. And boy did we make them work!

We were lucky enough to serve at the Falmouth Service Center that Friday, which is one of the favorite service partners for the Bourne house. They always take great care of AmeriCorps, loading us up with free treats (Pie in the Sky pastries!) and delicious lunches. We continually have lemonade breaks and friendly gardeners thanking us for our hard work so we were very excited to share this great day.

As a group, we made a lot of improvements for the Service Center. We fixed fallen fences, weeded the butterfly garden, placed wood chips on many of the paths and rototilled several garden beds. Our biggest projects were creating a water irrigation system to prevent flooding

in the garden and creating a new garden bed for asparagus.

For the irrigation system, several volunteers had to create a ditch that ran the length of a path. In the middle of the ditch a literal “man-sized hole” was created to fit a barrel, which would collect the flood water. The hole took quite a bit of time to dig out but the “Leaps in Literacy” crew was proud of the final product. After multiple wheelbarrow trips to the stone and soil piles, the ditch was finally filled and the stress of flooding in the garden was buried. For the asparagus bed, volunteers had to rototill land that had never been gardened on and plant the asparagus seeds. As the day wound down, the members that worked on that project had to be dragged away from the bed!

All in all, our experience with the Brockton, MA AmeriCorps group was a great one. We all enjoyed meeting new people, educating them about the awesome things that we do and also learning a little more about what they are doing to serve America. ●

A WEEK'S WORK IN HARWICH!

HARWICH BLITZ WEEK 2010

By Peter Woodruff

An uncommonly warm week in early April marked the ninth annual occasion of the Harwich Blitz Week event, a volunteer-powered habitat restoration and invasive species removal bonanza on conservation properties in the town of Harwich. Unlike past years where only Thompson's Field (a town-owned 57 acre parcel) was targeted for Blitz Week enhancement projects, this year two additional sites were included: one a town-owned property, the “Dan Larkin Memorial Conservation Area” located right off Rte. 28 on the edge of the Herring River; and the other a recently



"I vividly remember our first day of group service at Falmouth Service Center. Our house really worked well together and you could just see people getting the hang of things throughout the day. It was certainly a sign of great things to come." —Korinda Walls

purchased property of the Harwich Conservation Trust, "White Cedar Woods Conservation Area," also located directly off Rte. 28. Service on HCT land was included this year to expand the scope of Blitz Week and further spread the benefits of such a project.

The monumental Blitz Week began with both Bourne and Wellfleet houses tackling loads of invasive Asiatic Bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculata*), Scotch Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*), and over a dozen bulging bags of garbage at the Dan Larkin Memorial Conservation Area. The transformation was incredible! Going from an impenetrable thicket to an airy sanctuary, the health of the habitat was vastly improved by AmeriCorps and set a great tone for the days to come.

Tuesday through Thursday were spent at Thompson's Field, where each COD Day had an opportunity to guide and collaborate with student service-learning groups. They came from Harwich Elementary, High School, and Cape Cod Regional Tech. The Harwich 5th Graders learned all about invasive species and their removal, how ecological succession takes place, and how to identify a number of local bird species. The Regional Tech students, being from their horticulture department, already had training in habitat restoration and thus were able to make use of previous experience when contending with Thompson's Field's overgrown meadows, and tackled their task with much zest! The upland meadow habitat is ecologically special here



as it is an increasingly rare habitat throughout MA due to continued development and decreasing agricultural land-use. In order to allow for a healthier and hopefully more biologically diverse habitat, the encroaching pines, oaks, and bittersweet were selectively removed by AmeriCorps and CCRTech students. The Harwich High School's National Honor Society made additional volunteer contributions late Tuesday afternoon.

After three days of education and ecological restoration at Thompson's Field, the AmeriCorps team of Bourne and Wellfleet members regrouped for Friday's invasive locust removal project at White Cedar Woods Conservation Area. The aims were ambitious and the weather threatening, but the group persevered and made a significant dent in

the invasive Black Locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) groves on the property.

All told, among Harwich Blitz Week AmeriCorps members, the Harwich Conservation Trust, and the 200+ volunteers they coordinated collectively put in over 1,000 service hours towards bettering Harwich's conservation land. Quite an achievement! Ryan Mann, the outreach and stewardship coordinator at HCT, made it clear that "without the help of AmeriCorps and its constituents these projects could not happen; AmeriCorps is awesome!" A volunteer at Thompson's field stated, "I enjoyed the diversity of sites... [and] good feelings of accomplishment seeing what we can do for the community all over Harwich!" Now I'm looking forward to seeing what we can accomplish next year! ●

“NO NUZZLING WHILE I CROSS THREE LANES OF TRAFFIC!”

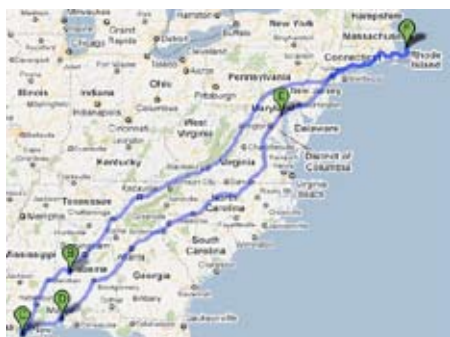
THE TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS OF SEVEN AMERICORPS CAPE COD MEMBERS IN THE DEEP SOUTH

By Kaelyn Modrak



The above quotation is the famous last utterance of Daniel O'Hara as he attempted to cross three lanes of treacherous traffic in Mobile, Alabama while his housemate (and BFFL) Kaelyn, fondly rubbed her cheek to his shoulder and said, “aarw.” Distracted not only by the unwanted nuzzle, but also the lingering smell of Jenny Burkhardt's garlic hummus, Topher Valis' lament on overbearing mothers in the “Raymond” voice relayed to Margaret Kane, or “Deb,” who responded accordingly in the back seat, Colleen Flanagan's maniacal robotic laughter, and Katie Mueller's unfruitful attempts to stop “the voices,” Dan O. lost his sanity and the seven members lost their lives as Tory veered wildly off the road and into the murky depths of a Mobile Bayou never to be seen again. Today, some say when the fateful bayou bubbles, a voice calls across the water in harrowing tones... “Maa! Maaaa!”

In the words of Toph: “JK LOLZ!” However, the title of this Waypoint article articulates surprisingly well the spirit of our service trip: affectionate camaraderie bordering on claustrophobic hysteria. The seven of us learned to appreciate the real meaning of patience during the sixty hours we spent together in a cramped car laughing, bickering, belting “Filet O'Fish,” snapping snarky comments, and writing new memories, or “stooories,” we won't soon forget.



Please see the map to understand fully the length and puissance of our trip which most of us fondly refer to as “Bam Bam Tat Tat” (Alabama, Habitat). Our first sojourn was Greensboro, Alabama and a trip down memory lane for our nostalgic friend, Dan O. It was there, with nonprofit organization HERO and AmeriCorps

NCCC, that Dan O. spent three months constructing picnic tables, cabinets and love. I mention this stop because it chanced to be an epoch in Daniel O'Hara's life: he has accepted a full time job with HERO next year as the Youth Build Construction Manager.

Next stop: the provocative New Orleans! The night included jambalaya, a walk down Bourbon Street, salsa lessons, a serious dance party, and a stay in a hotel much too glamorous for the likes of AmeriCorps members.

Fortunately, New Orleans did not spoil us; the next five days we spent in Alabama serving with Habitat for Humanity-Mobile County, and we “got things done.” Jenny became the hardwood flooring extraordinaire; Dan O. managed thirty at-risk youth



in between learning to tile; Katie and Colleen teamed up to measure and install nearly all the baseboard for the house; Toph mastered cutting tile “nubbins;” and Margaret measured and positioned the tiling for a closet, solo.

As for myself, I was reminded again how much I revel in the feeling of being on a Habitat site; I love the smell of the sawdust, and measuring twice before slicing through a 2x6, but most of all, observing the work we had accomplished by Friday. Marci, our construction supervisor, informed us that we had completed in one week what most groups would finish in three... Sheboygan!!!!

At the end of the week we were all craving to return to Cape Cod to hole ourselves up in our rooms and avoid each other with shifting eyes, but we did so feeling proud and accomplished.



Lessons we learned:

1. We can endure each other for over sixty hours in a car.
2. If Toph says he wants to army crawl on the floor, run.
3. Never believe a “Kaneclusion.”
4. That’s not a robot, it’s Colleen!
5. New Jersey is not a stink hole (debatable).
6. Don’t let Jenny drive Tory.
7. And most importantly, never nuzzle Dan O. while he’s crossing three lanes of traffic. ●

RED CROSS AND AMERICORPS CAPE COD: BUILDING CAPACITY FOR U.S. MILITARY SUPPORT

By Kevin Denney

Two C-130 “Hercules” aircraft and three Blackhawk helicopters overhead, a convoy of military vehicles rumbling by, the high blast walls of an Army Camp a short drive away, and automatic weapon fire nearby. Welcome to AmeriCorps Cape Cod!



The story begins June 1859 with a man named Henry Dunant, who was a businessman on his way to see Napoleon. Suddenly he found himself caught in the Battle of Solferino, a bloody engagement between the French and Austrian armies. The army medics and doctors could not keep up with the overwhelming number of wounded soldiers. Dunant helped coordinate volunteers who lived nearby to assist the wounded and dying on both sides of the conflict. Dunant would go on to form the International Red Cross/Red Crescent societies. Dunant would also go on to inspire many others to create Red Cross/Red Crescent movements all over the world. Among those inspired was a woman named Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross.

Mrs. Barton followed closely in Dunant's footsteps as she helped wounded soldiers from both the North and South during the Civil War. In 1881, this legacy of Red Cross services to the armed forces would take on a whole new meaning when the Red Cross was officially chartered by Congress with one stipulation: that the Red Cross would always support the U.S. military.

The Cape Cod & Islands American Red Cross chapter is proud to announce that it has exponentially increased its ability to support the U.S. military. At this moment the entire operation takes place in a small FEMA trailer located near the Otis Air National Guard Base's movie theatre and exchange. Inside it are three computers, wireless Internet access, a coffee maker, a microwave, various shelving and storage units, a printer, a couple phones, webcams, and a small library. It will be primarily used to give soldiers, airmen, sailors, marines, federal employees, and their families a place to communicate during deployment. It will also be used for military members to meet with other military support groups, learn about how to deal with the phases of deployment, and sign-up for Red Cross classes.

The amount of time, effort, creative problem solving, phone calls, emails, and physical labor involved to convince people of this need was astounding. Through it all, we on the Red Cross team knew this place would help thousands of military personnel and their families in significant ways. Personally, there are a few people I want to thank, the first of whom being Darlene Johnson Morris, the founder of



AmeriCorps Cape Cod and head of the Barnstable County Resource Development Office. Without AmeriCorps Cape Cod, the Red Cross would not have had enough manpower to dedicate to this project. I would also like to send thanks to Lisa Buchs for all her hard work, Karl Armstrong for his unwavering support even when hope was low, the Mashpee Fire Department, the West Barnstable Fire Department, FEMA, the Massachusetts Forest Fire Control, Otis Pantry, Colonel Alston, the Barnstable Sheriff's Office, and to all the volunteers whose job it will be to build the services at the Resource Center, maintain a high level of service on a daily basis, and be ready 24/7 for emergencies.

Finally, my heartfelt gratitude goes out to everyone serving in the military or federal positions that the Red Cross is here to provide support. This Red Cross Resource Center is for you. Thank you for keeping us safe and free. ●



"My favorite memory was when we, the Bournians, had our classroom photo shoot for our holiday card. Mustang Pride!" —Erin Leonhardt

FAVORITE
MEMORIES

FAVORITE
MEMORIES

"Snuggling: the best way to winterize a body." —Ryeon Corsi



A RETREAT OF THE LINGUISTIC SORT

By Ryeon Corsi



Selective illuminations from the etymology of *retreat*, n. as found in the *OED*:

2. a. An act of leaving or escaping from a difficult or dangerous situation.
3. e. An establishment or institution for the treatment of people suffering from **mental illness**, addiction, etc.
5. a. **Withdrawal into seclusion, quiet, or privacy**, usually by leaving society, public life, or office; an instance of this. Also: the state of being in seclusion.
6. **Reticence**; retiring nature; an instance of this.

Have we entered a round of Scattergories, you ask? In considering the latest AmeriCorps Cape Cod Retreat at Yarmouth's Greenough Scout Reservation, maybe so. As the thirty-seven members and staff rapidly colonized campland, springing forth about half as many tents pigmented in all colors visible to the naked eye, with a buzzing radio monologue of World Cup-speak punctuated by guttural whoops and groans chattering in the background, we can easily throw out definitions 5.a. and 6. as non sequiturs. No comment on 2.a. and 3.e. primarily due to the peculiar events that frequently take place in an undisclosed residence off Pamet Point Road (re: "Heads Will Roll").

Alas, the *OED* would not be the *OED* without including a definition apt for this particular grant-fulfilling and refreshing triannual revelry:

5. d. orig. U.S. An event at which members of a company or other group gather away from their usual environment for discussion of ideas, **team-building**, etc.

In the absence of the scheduled team-building activities that once populated our days at Coast Guard Beach, we recreated with the infrequently seen members of the other houses, spending the daylight hours dabbling in Greenough Pond, snatching each other's floatation devices, and partaking in (or spectating) the merciless Watermelon Wrestling spotlight event (of which the rugby star of a former life Mike Towle claims victory). On land, organized sports took charge, manifesting in basketball smacktalk (of which the HAC team can back up by way of winning games), football free-for-alls, kickball tourneys, revisionist bocce ball, and of course, the Bourne-brought Kan Jam (re: "The Kan Jam Story"). Wild Card Player (WCP) Colum Lang slotted the disc twice, a feat that has earned him two imaginary plaques on the Kan Jam Wall of Fame, currently in-construction on the west wall of the Bourne greenhouse.

But what would a retreat be without:

5. c. Movement in a reverse direction; movement backwards; movement back or away [into our nostalgic memories of serving Cape Cod and learning each other's ways]? ...hey, even the *OED* occasionally needs some elaboration.

Even after undergoing nine months of pure convivial joy, a fact to which all Year XI members will surely attest, we were still able to surprise one another with covertly kept memories of service projects, first impressions, kind deeds, and house shenanigans as we gathered around the fire with s'mores and M&Ms.

No retreat is without its idiosyncrasies, laughs or reconstructions; as for this retreat, the days' propitious horizons have imbued our memories with the delightful haze of a summer still with each other. ●

WARM WEATHER MAKES EVERYTHING BETTER

By Caroline Walden

No longer is it necessary to wear eight layers of clothing to service! No longer do we have to worry about our hands freezing to loppers! No longer do we have to suffer the agonies of an ice-cold morning shower! Gone are the winter doldrums!

It is officially springtime on Cape Cod and after a long hard winter, it is finally evident why this place is the destination of so many tourists and vacationers. This is not to say that Cape Cod is not beautiful in the winter. However, the arrival of warm weather has made it possible to get outdoors and soak in the beauty of it all.

While abundant sunshine and moderate temperatures have led to unsightly farmer's tans and sunburns, greening foliage has also led to more poison ivy incidents. However, despite these unpleasantities, the general consensus among members is that life is 2,765,423 times better when it is warm out. Service is more enjoyable (especially days spent out on a boat shellfishing) and there are so many more ways to spend free time. Most importantly, fourteen people are no longer forced to spend all of their time crammed inside one tiny house.



Popular warm weather Bourne House activities include bike riding, beach days, and backyard camping. Grilling, frisbee, and general outdoor lounging have become quite commonplace as well. With only a short time left until the program comes to a close, members are scrambling to squeeze every last drop out of the precious time left on this gorgeous spit of land. Many exciting events lie ahead and it looks as if the summer months will prove to be the most enjoyable ones of the year. ●

THURSDAY NIGHT SOFTBALL

By Margaret Kane

Well, here are some words I never thought I'd utter: softball is fun!

If you could have witnessed my childhood you'd know why I'm not generally a huge sports fan. Growing up, I was never the most athletically-inclined or coordinated kid, and I was usually scared of any ball that came remotely close to my large fluffy hair and thick glasses. My only memory of being on a sports team involved me standing in right field at a softball game hoping that the ball would stay as far away as possible so I wouldn't be embarrassed if and

when I didn't catch it. Before you start feeling too sorry for me, I wasn't too sad that I couldn't play sports; luckily I enjoyed music and was able to pursue that interest during my grade school years. Anyway, I've shied away from most team sports in general, even on a casual level, since I don't feel too confident in my abilities. Therefore, this spring when Dan O'Hara mentioned getting some Wellfleet house members together for an evening game of softball, I was slightly hesitant to play, but decided to give it a go in order to enjoy some house camaraderie.

I was in for a pleasant surprise when the game began and it was actually incredibly fun! I hit the ball a few times and made it to first base! Then,

later in the game, due to encouraging words from teammates, or maybe an act of the gods, I made it to home base! It's likely that was my first time running past home base ever, therefore it was a moment to be documented in the Cape Cod history books.

Thursday night softball has become a tradition and a fun way to experience some house bonding. We have a great mix of relaxed game-playing and competitive spirit, and I have come to love our weekly toss of the ol' ball. Thanks to AmeriCorps I now have a newfound appreciation for softball. Not that I'll be joining the big leagues anytime soon, but I'm certainly more confident in my capability to hit the ball and have an Ameri-good time. ●



THE KAN JAM STORY

By Colum Lang and Aimee Wang

A new phenomenon is sweeping Cape Cod! Introduced by Jambassador Katie LeFevre, the Frisbee game has gained a passionate corps of players. There is even a Kan Jam Hall of Fame (also known as the Bourne greenhouse) in which the Jam is stored and the legends of the game are immortalized.

But with all this fuss, you may ask: what is Kan Jam?

The original game was played with Frisbee and a tin garbage can with a slot cut in its front, and the modern apparatus is only slightly more refined, featuring open-topped plastic “kans.” Two teams of two players each face off in a battle of accuracy and athleticism. One player throws the Frisbee at a distant kan, where his/her teammate lies in wait to assist. The goal is to get the Frisbee into or at least to touch the kan. There are two important characteristics of a Kan Jam master: Frisbee accuracy and skill in assisting—the ability to convert an errant Frisbee shot into a bucket (slam dunking the Frisbee into the top of the kan) or a dinger (a shot that bounces off the kan)—involving soccer-like goalie dives mixed with the crisp finish of a direct dunk. Each type of hit scores a number of points, and the first team to get 21 points walks away victorious. Yet if your team is lagging woefully behind, you can always go for the Hail Mary: a direct throw into the all-too-small slot in the kan’s front means an instant win.

Due to its flexible and simple apparatus we have taken the Jam all over Cape Cod, from the Bourne

yard to many a pondside, and have entertained many an enquiring bystander with our curious sport. Games range from impromptu pickup games to dramatic tournaments.

Take for example the fierce rivalry between two expert teams, Team Kanarchy (Kevin Wade and Riley) and Team Jambitious (Sean and Colum).^{*} The showdown began at retreat with a double overtime win by Team K; but their joy was soon cut short when Team J won the next round. A punishing series of games followed where neither team could gain first place for long. *But then!* the members of Team J wandered off to play wiffle ball.

Team K took the opportunity to take on a battalion of waiting upstart teams and proved their expertise by going on a winning streak of eight games, making dunk after reliable dunk into the kan. Finally, they got sick of the ease with which they were winning in their rivals’ absence and abandoned jamming for the day—and just in time, for the field was later



ambushed by a gang of water-balloon-wielding marauders. It is excitement such as this that has led to talk of a future Kan Jam World Series, the prize being a glorious golden Frisbee.

In the meantime, the Hall of Fame carries only two names, given for the distinction of having successfully thrown the Frisbee through the kan’s slot: Dan Fister and Colum Lang, who has actually performed the feat *twice*. We honor their accomplishments and hope that the Jamming tradition is carried into the next Corps year and beyond. ●

^{*}Team names completely made up; our apologies to the players.

HEADS WILL ROLL

By Christopher Valis



Heads Will Roll is a sport in which players attempt to score points by throwing a severed doll head into a tree, usually a scrub oak or a cedar, either to get the hair wrapped around a branch or to get the head wedged in the split of the tree. Primitive forms of Heads Will Roll may have existed in ancient times as early as 1286, when the heads of Mongol warriors of the Golden Dawn were thrown over the walls of the besieged Crimean city of Kaffa (now Feodosiya, Ukraine). It is thought that the modern game of Heads Will Roll was influenced by the stories of Pier Gerlofs Donia, who was said to have been able to decapitate up to six mannequins in a single blow of his mighty long sword.

There are many forms of this sport today. The most recent is called Head Hunter. The players are instructed to throw a long spear-like object, such as a baseball bat at a fastened doll head in an attempt to dislodge it from its wooden resting place.

The first standardized rules were established in Wellfleet, Massachusetts on May 9, 2010. Today, Heads Will Roll is played by only 14 people in one town in North America and continues to gain popularity through word-of-mouth and a

possible movie deal with Miramax. So, whether you're all alone or enjoying the company of good friends, break out the box of decapitated doll heads and give 'em a toss, I promise you won't be disappointed! ●

WHAT I HAVE AMERILEARNED

By Erin Leonhardt

I learned how to engage myself in the community
While learning at house meeting filling up the soap dispenser with water was an absurdity
Using loppers and handsaws to cut down invasive species became a breeze
Moving our greenhouse three times to the South facing side was an ease
Chainsaw training was a bit nerve-racking and scary
Luckily we had the skills and enthusiasm of Dave Crary
Gearing up in foulies to create a view at Sagamore Hill in the rain made us uncertain
Once we ate warm pizza in the middle of the day our wet bones stopped hurtin'
Living in a house with 13 people is one way to never get bored
Having a TV, radio in the kitchen, one in the quad and YouTube on is too many chords
When we first arrived at the house in September I could barely remember anyone's name
Now I can tell whose underwear and socks are left in the laundry room without shame
Propagating oysters and clams in Mashpee and Barnstable was fun and muddy
After some long days of trail clearing and lopping our arms felt like putty
Creating a Coastal Mitigation Nursery for AmeriCorps Week required teamwork
Volunteers and students helped with the nursery and enjoyed the free t-shirts and perks
As the end of the year wound down it actually felt like it was time to blossom
All the experiences, lessons and friends I made while serving were awesome!



REFLECTIONS ON TWO YEARS OF SERVICE

By the Haiku Czar, a.k.a. Brian Dinizio



Blue Dodge Caravan
Two years of driving on Cape
New transmission, ugh

Perilous forests
Achy back, could it be lyme?
Doctor says no, ow



So many new friends
So many new memories
I sure will miss it

Illustrations by Aimée Wang

FAVORITE MEMORIES



"One of my favorite memories was climbing Mt. Washington with wonderful Wellfleetians." —Margaret Kane

HOLIDAYS:

"Bourne House Easter: delicious brunch, high-speed egg hunt, and flying kites on the beach!" —Ashleigh McCord

"Dancing at the HAC Christmas party." —Mike Towle

"Brunch and kite flying on Easter Sunday!" —Katie LeFevre

"Good memory of the year... Wellfleet Christmas morning." —Colleen Flanagan

SERVICE:

"I loved the Tuesday COD Day 'Kill Woody' project, sawing in the wind and the rain then eating delicious sandwiches in the van was amazing!" —Colum Lang



"One of my favorite service memories was pumpkin carving at Meetinghouse Farm. And one of my favorite non-service memories was seeing whales off of Race Point in P-Town!" —Caroline Walden

"My highlight this year was seeing my first shark, even though it was dead. The type of shark is a Thresher Shark; we found it December 23. I was at my placement at the Eastham DNR and we got a call about it. We helped the shark experts from WHOI load it into a truck, so that they could find out why it died, etc..." —Amie Vos

RETREAT:

"I had a great time at the retreat in September getting to know everyone and waking up early to watch the sunrise." —Alison L'Heureux

"One of my favorite memories of the year was swimming and body surfing off Coast Guard Beach at fall retreat." —Riley Moffatt

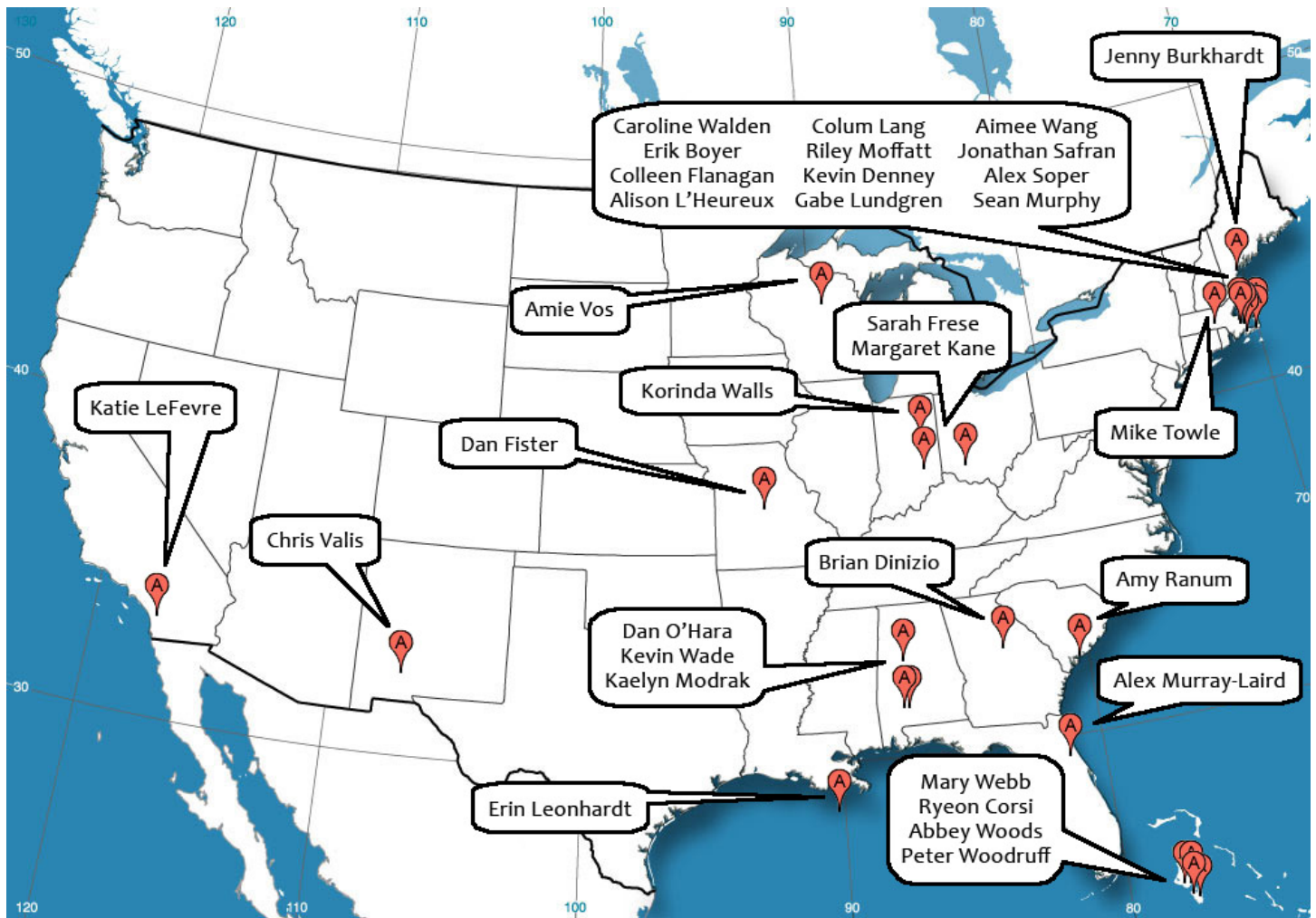
"Some of my favorite memories are thinking back to the fun we had on the beaches – Frisbee, bonfires, dune hikes, sand 'sculptures,' and swimming." —Peter Woodruff

WETFEST:

"My favorite memory is seeing the members time and time again in their WETFest full body animal costumes and how it became completely normal to hold a conversation with someone in a lobster suit straight-faced without laughing." —Amy Ranum

"I had a great time doing the WETFest we [HAC members] got to do. Brought me back to my glory days." —Alex Soper

LIFE AFTER AMERICORPS: WHERE ARE WE GOING?



BOURNE HOUSE

Brian Dinizio – Eatonton, GA
 Sarah Frese – Muncie, IN
 Colum Lang – Pocasset, MA
 Katie LeFevre – Angelus Oaks, CA
 Erin Leonhardt – Grand Isle, LA
 Gabe Lundgren – Plymouth, MA
 Riley Moffatt – Pocasset, MA
 Sean Murphy – Dedham, MA
 Amy Ranum – Charleston, SC
 Kevin Wade – Greensboro, AL
 Caroline Walden – Wellfleet, MA
 Korinda Walls – Fort Wayne, IN
 Aimee Wang – New Bedford, MA

WELLFLEET HOUSE

Jenny Burkhardt – Portland, ME
 Erik Boyer – Wellfleet, MA
 Ryeon Corsi – Island of Infinite Possibilities
 Kevin Denney – Pocasset, MA
 Dan Fister – Columbia, MO
 Colleen Flanagan – Cape Cod, MA
 Margaret Kane – Yellow Springs, OH
 Kaelyn Modrak – Nauvoo, AL
 Dan O'Hara – Greensboro, AL
 Chris Valis – Truth or Consequences, NM
 Amie Vos – Minocqua, WI
 Abbey Woods – Island of Infinite Possibilities
 Peter Woodruff – Island of Infinite Possibilities

HYANNIS HOUSE

Alex Murray-Laird – St. Augustine, FL
 Alison L'Heureux – Cape Cod, MA
 Jonathan Safran – Boston, MA
 Alex Soper – Boston, MA
 Mike Towle – Worcester, MA
 Mary Webb – Island of Infinite Possibilities



AmeriCorps Cape Cod
P.O. Box 427
Barnstable, MA 02630

If you would prefer to receive the Waypoint through e-mail in PDF format,
please send us your e-mail address at americorps@barnstablecounty.org.

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