



Intern Dani Thompson says "kids learn best by playing, falling down, and making a mess."



Learning by Doing Brings Best Results

by Danielle Thompson, SCA intern

Environmental education is tricky business.

Since arriving last June as an environmental education intern at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Field Office in Anchorage, Alaska, I have been a careful observer of the staff educators and their methods. I've witnessed, for example, the most wonderful "ah ha!" moments when a teacher finally breaks through to a child. Eyes light up at a newly learned fact, mouths fall open at the sight of a wild animal, hands suddenly no longer care about getting dirty or wet. You never can tell what will trigger these reactions, but the essential ingredient is a great instructor.

In our Alaska Native Science and Education program, one of the most popular activities takes place at an outdoor hydrology station where students learn how to be both good and bad engineers while they develop areas along a "river." The middle-schoolers are a bit timid at first as they approach the water table. The group leader invites them to put twigs and pebbles in the river to make it more realistic and a few brave pupils stick their hands in the cold water as others look on from a safe distance.

Later, as the activity continues, the kids are asked to build dams, bridges, and culverts and by now everyone is getting

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Stewardship: Everyone, Everywhere, Every Day

As your family gathers for the holidays, dinner table conversations may well turn to a son or daughter's recent service with SCA or the prospects of a loved one applying for next year. SCA was privileged to host so many outstanding young women and men in conservation positions over the past many months, and we look forward to welcoming even more in 2013.

As our members regularly state and demonstrate, stewardship isn't something you do once and consider over. They approach conservation as a lifelong commitment, an ongoing practice, repeated over and over and—ideally—passed on to each succeeding generation.

Through the work and influence of SCA members, this ethic has spread far beyond wilderness areas to include urban centers, suburbs, and rural communities. Of course, we will always care dearly for pristine natural places but some of the greatest stresses are taking place in our built environment, and SCA is also determined to protect these special places and preserve the quality of life for those who live in them.

Stewardship is how we fulfill our role as a part of nature and avoid growing apart from it. As we reflect at year-end, let each of us consider on how we can minimize our environmental impact, live more sustainably, and conserve our precious resources for those who will follow us. There may be no better way to celebrate the season and ensure a joyous, healthy New Year for us all.

Happy holidays!

Dale M. Penny

Learning by Doing *continued from page 1*

into it. No one seems to notice or care that their sleeves are soaked and muddy. I learn right then and there that youth learn best by playing, falling down, and making a mess of themselves. This activity is successful because it engages the students in a unique, hands-on learning experience. And, oh yeah, they aren't treated like kids. They are treated like future engineers!

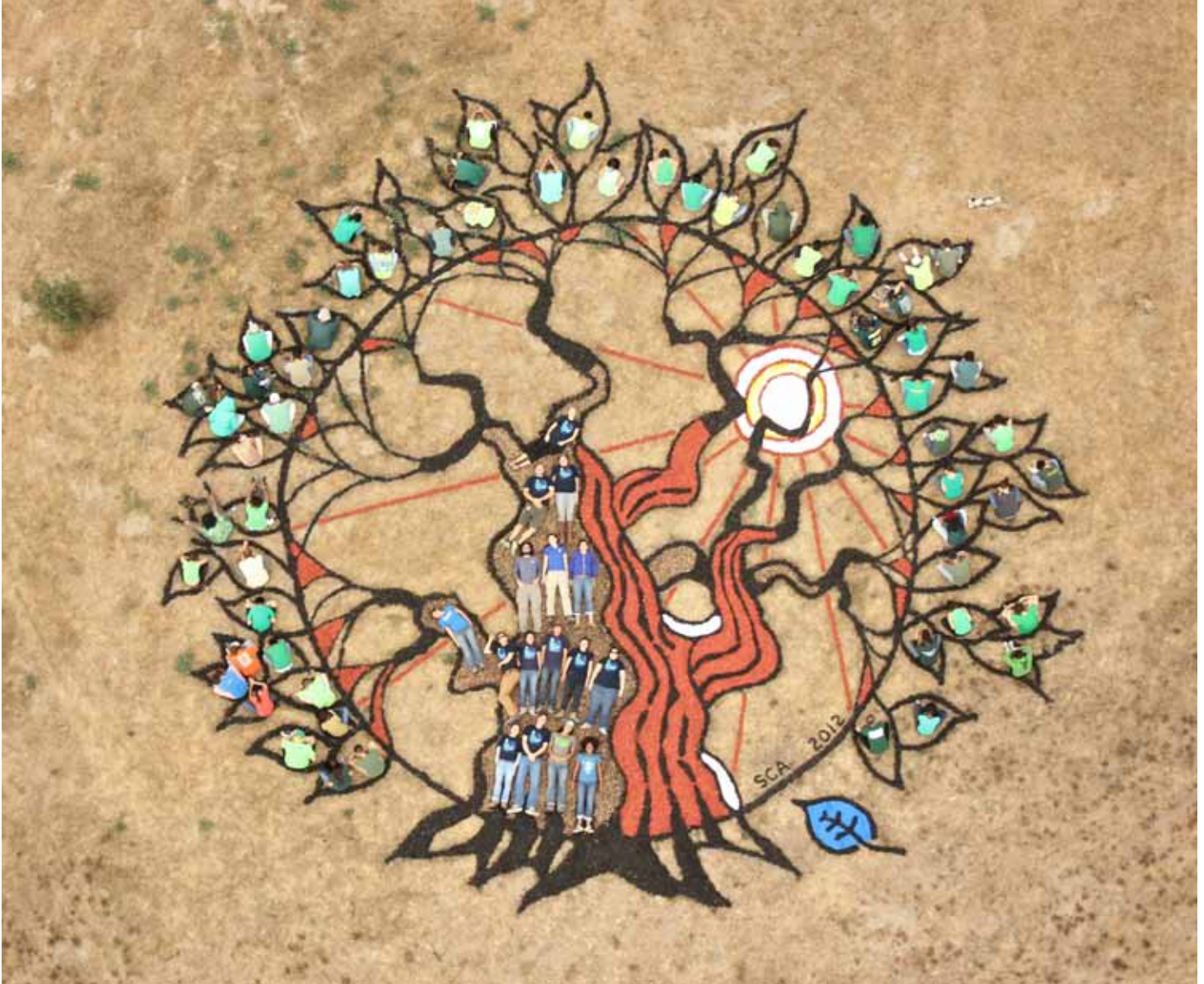
Soon I developed my own curriculum, "Creeks & Critters," comprised of five half-hour segments including a Nature Scavenger Hunt, noise pollution, and salmon identification. Did you know you can remember all five species of Pacific salmon using only your hand? Pinky = Pink salmon, ring finger = Silver (rings are silver!), middle finger = King (it's the biggest: king), index finger = Sockeye (if you were a ninja who could only fight with your finger, you would "sock someone in the eye"), and thumb = Chum (it rhymes!).

It was SO wonderful to see the kids' excited faces and I got a lot of good feedback from school teachers. They even want to make this a yearly outreach project with the Fish and Wildlife office!

I, too, have learned a lot here, collecting water quality and aquatic invasive samples from the Chena Slough in Fairbanks, restoring shorelines along Montana Creek, and attending hearings on the controversial Su-Watana Dam project. More than anything, I wanted to create a fun and memorable experience for my students, and that's exactly what I've received in return.

Please remember Dani's internship is made possible by generous donors like you. Give now at thesca.org/donatenow or use the enclosed envelope. Read more from Dani and other SCA members in the field at followme.thesca.org.





SCA volunteers really put themselves into this depiction of The Tree of Life in Oakland, California

Seeds of Stewardship, Tree of Life

SCA volunteers put their hands and minds to work last month over a stimulating weekend in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Members of SCA's Alumni Council teamed up with 50 students from Skyline High School and employees of East Bay Regional Parks to restore a long stretch of Martin Luther King, Jr. Regional Shoreline plagued by invasive species and abundant litter. East Bay parks rely heavily on volunteers for maintenance, and the SCA team did not disappoint, removing hundreds of exotic plants and truckloads of trash. As one teen told KCBS: "I want to support the environment. I don't really like sitting in front of a TV or technology all the time."

The Council, led by Chairman Jeff Chen (SCA '06, Yosemite NP) and the founder of Pick Up America, the nation's first coast-to-coast roadside litter pickup program, also developed

strategies for expanding alumni engagement in 2013 before attending an Outdoor Nation Youth Summit to help forge solutions to the barriers keeping young people indoors.

A highlight of the weekend was the creation of an enormous "human painting." Jeff Chen and Art for the Sky's Steve Harrington used colorful mulch and eager young people to create The Tree of Life before launching a remote-controlled, camera-equipped helicopter drone to shoot an aerial photo of the "painting." The exercise gave participants a brand new perspective on nature and their roles within it.

"It's not a question of are we or are we not going to change the world," Jeff told the group. "Every single thing that we do changes the world." Everyone smiled and nodded in agreement.

There's Pride in Tiger Town

The Tigers may have come up short in the World Series, but Cordell Barnes insists Detroit's best days are still ahead and he wants to have a hand in them. "Giving up on a city doesn't make sense to me," he says. "You wouldn't say 'my house is messy, so I'm going to leave it.' You'd clean it up."

Cordell, 17, is one of 70 local teens in SCA Detroit's Conservation Leadership Corps. They're building trails and clearing trash from Rouge Park on the city's West Side to boost Detroit's appeal.

"You should take pride in making your city parks look nice," he reasons. "It's where you live."

The SCA Detroit program, sponsored by Johnson Controls, Inc. in partnership with The Greening of Detroit, is one of nearly two dozen urban conservation initiatives conducted by SCA around the country. Targeting young people of color, these programs provide participants with summer jobs, work skills, and career training.

"We've been doing this work for 50-plus years," SCA Detroit Director Amit Weitzer commented. "We're bringing national resources to local partners who know the neighborhood and know the need. And that synergy is really powerful."

From Chicago to Houston, and Oakland to Washington, D.C., SCA is helping previously under-represented constituencies discover new professional opportunities and, as they enter the workforce, ensuring a more inclusive conservation community. "You can see the work we've done. It's apparent," says 18-year-old Milena Preston in Detroit. "I got a chance to help out my community, and leave a mark, and do something that actually matters."



**Income For Life
+ Tax Savings
= SCA Gift Annuity**

Dartmouth Mathematics Professor Emeritus Bob Norman and his wife, Nita, have sponsored SCA volunteers for many years and have always been impressed with the thank you letters they have received from participants. When they learned about SCA's charitable gift annuity program, which could help to replace some of Bob's income after he retired, they decided to participate. According to Bob...

"You can imagine how pleased we were to learn that there was another way we could support SCA and in return boost our income for life and reduce our taxes. From my perspective as a mathematician, the numbers really worked, particularly when you add to the equation the important fact that after our lifetimes, our gift will be used to help SCA create new generations of conservation leaders."

You too can enjoy a high return for life and significant tax benefits while helping SCA create new generations of conservation leaders. Your annuity rate will depend on your age (at nearest birthday) when you make your gift.

Age 65 - 4.7%	Age 75 - 5.8%	Age 85 - 7.8%
Age 70 - 5.1%	Age 80 - 6.8%	Age 90 - 9.0%

Sample single-life rates - Two-life rates are somewhat lower - \$5,000 minimum

Please contact Hugh Montgomery at (603) 504-3241 or hmontgomery@thesca.org for more information.



Apprentice Crew Leader Adrian Willis is grateful to “get back to doing what I love with SCA”

The Path to Conservation Leadership

One minute they are teachers, the next they may be guardians, and always they are role models. They are SCA crew leaders, entrusted with the responsibility of guiding hundreds of SCA members on a path of service, teamwork, and stewardship—and they do so safely and effectively, year in and year out. But how do these leaders gain the wisdom and experience they share with their crew members?

For the past two years, SCA has partnered with the Garden Club of America (GCA) in a pilot program to place recent alumni as apprentice crew leaders on a select number of SCA crews. Funded by the Sara Shallenberger Brown GCA National Parks Conservation Scholarship, the program provides college undergraduates with the skills and insights needed to begin conservation careers.

“This position has given me the most hands-on leadership practice I’ve ever had,” states Christina Spohn, who apprenticed last summer at Wind Cave National Park in South Dakota. “Two amazing mentor leaders guided me through, and working together really bonded our crew. It was amazing to know my leadership helped bring this about.”

Apprentice crew leaders are an important part of the SCA continuum that offers participants a series of experiences to strengthen their outdoor capabilities, prepare them for professional opportunities, and instill a lifelong ethic of conservation.

“We are working with these young people at that critical time when they are considering what they’d like to do in life,” notes GCA Scholarship Chair Laurie Davis. “This experience can cement conservation as a career choice.”

Adrian Willis, a burly Texan who has served on five SCA crews from Maine to Alaska, jumped at the apprenticeship option. “I’d been looking for ways to get back to doing what I love with SCA,” he says. “I know I want to work outside and I know I want to work with kids, but I thought I’d have to wait till I was 21. This is a great opportunity.”

With hundreds of SCA crews in the field each year, the apprentice crew leader program offers tremendous growth potential—as does the experience itself. “The work I’ve done with SCA has molded me into who I am today,” says Julia Schock, the third of this year’s apprentices. “I now feel much more confident about being a crew leader and it is my sincere dream to help other young adults thrive as I have.”

SCA Wins Bechtel Grant, Service Awards

SCA conservation programs have earned several boosts in recent weeks, much-appreciated testaments to their impact on the people and places they serve.

- SCA has received a \$500,000 grant from the S. D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation to expand its engagement of underrepresented Bay Area youth in environmental education, conservation service, and community stewardship. During the three-year grant period, SCA will offer 900 internships for college-age individuals throughout California and 400 positions for underserved high school-aged youth.
- U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar has bestowed a *Partners in Conservation Award* to the Phoenix District Youth Initiative, a joint workforce development program of the Bureau of Land Management and SCA. The presentation took place at a ceremony in Washington, D.C.
- The Wildlife Society has named the Career Discovery Internship Program (CDIP), created by a partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and SCA, recipient of its 2012 *Diversity Award*. The prize, which recognizes innovative programs that further diversity in employment, academic enrollment, or membership, was presented last month at the Society's 75th anniversary conference in Portland, OR.
- NH Governor John Lynch has recognized SCA's Manchester community program with a 2012 *Spirit of New Hampshire Award*. SCA's Conservation Leadership Corps serves students from three public high schools. "These youth come from an extremely diverse background," the competition committee notes. "Many are first generation immigrant/refugee family members. SCA fosters them in the rewards of giving back to their community while growing personal and professional conservation ethics and skills."



Birds of a Feather

Grace and Ana Ydiarte finish off one of 70 birdhouses created as part of a Dr Pepper Snapple Group/SCA habitat restoration project at Yolo Basin Wildlife Refuge in California. The girls participated with their father, Todd, who works at the DPS Sacramento bottling facility. Elsewhere this fall, Dr Pepper Snapple Group employees and family members joined SCA volunteers in Chicago, Dallas, Gettysburg, Houston and New York.

Gifts of Stock: Tax-Saving Ways to Give to SCA

Donating appreciated stocks or securities is another way you can help protect our treasured lands and build new generations of conservation leaders.

From a tax standpoint, stock is often considered the smartest asset to give. An outright gift of stock or mutual fund shares that you have held long term will provide you with an immediate income tax deduction for the full fair market value and you will completely avoid capital gains tax on the appreciation in value. With so many proposals being floated about changes in tax law, why not lock in this deduction by making a stock gift before the end of the year?

If you have any questions, please contact Hugh Montgomery, SCA's Director of Gift Planning, at (603) 504-3241 or hmontgomery@thesca.org.

Gifts of stock can be transferred to:

Mr. Thomas Robb
Wells Fargo Advisors
Voice: 800.926.921
Fax: 603.526.8087

Please notify Hugh before you initiate any stock transfer so we can ensure a smooth process and proper acknowledgement of your contribution.

Give the Gift of Conservation this Season.

Donate in Honor or Memory of Family or Friends.

Honor someone special and help make a difference by supporting the work SCA members do all year to protect and preserve America's parks and green spaces.

Donating during the holidays is a great way to celebrate a joyous season in a creative way. For a minimum of \$10 for each person being honored, you can check off everyone on your holiday list—plus, they'll receive notification of the good done in their name.



Make your gift today using the enclosed envelope, or visit thesca.org/holidaytribute

Domtar, SCA in New Alliance

SCA has launched a new international environmental partnership with Domtar Corporation, a leading sustainable paper company, in support of SCA's urban initiatives for youth in more than 20 major U.S. and Canadian cities.

SCA and Domtar commemorated the alliance with back-to-back service projects in October. Just outside the firm's Montreal headquarters, more than 50 Domtar employees, family members, and SCA volunteers planted 300 native trees and shrubs and removed invasive plants and trash from Parc de Rapides, home to Quebec's largest heron colony and an important migratory bird sanctuary. A similar number of volunteers turned out at Andrew Jackson State Park in Lancaster, SC, near a local Domtar mill, to construct a new trailhead kiosk, build new picnic tables, and restore an eroded lakefront at the popular 360-acre park.

Over the next 12 months, employee volunteers will be teaming with SCA members to protect natural and cultural landmarks near Domtar facilities across North America. "Domtar has a long tradition of being committed to enhancing the livelihoods of the communities in which we operate. These hands-on projects provide an additional opportunity to express our 'caring' value, improve places where our employees work and live, and support young SCA conservationists," states Domtar President and Chief Executive Officer John D. Williams.





The American Institute of Philanthropy and Charity Navigator rank SCA among America's top conservation charities for fund-raising efficiency.

SCA is a nationwide conservation force of college and high school volunteers who protect and restore America's parks, forests, and other public lands. SCA's active, hands-on approach to conservation has helped to develop a new generation of conservation leaders, inspire lifelong stewardship, and save our planet.

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the **GreenWay**
 SCA's Conservation Quarterly Winter 2012

Got Dirt?

Working for the planet isn't always easy. It can be dirty work. But that doesn't mean it isn't fun!

As *The Green Way* goes to press, our judges are making their final decisions in SCA's annual **Got Dirt?** Photo Contest. Find out which image won two round-trip tickets on Southwest Airlines at contest.thesca.org