



the GreenWay

SCA's Conservation Quarterly

Spring 2013



SCA crews will help to rebuild New York-New Jersey parks damaged by Hurricane Sandy after removing debris and sand deposited by the storm. Right: Jacob Riis Park, Gateway National Recreation Area, courtesy of Pisan/NPS.

SCA Launches Major Sandy Recovery Effort

Help is on the way for park lands ravaged by Superstorm Sandy.

The Student Conservation Association is mounting a large-scale, collaborative, youth-fueled recovery program to repair storm-damaged public lands throughout the New York-New Jersey area. SCA restoration teams will address urgent ecological needs at a range of sites, from national parks to local waterfronts, employing the organization's considerable institutional experience and expertise. Current plans call for the engagement of more than 200 primarily local youth and young adults this spring and summer and as many as 1,000 students over the next three years.

Sandy's environmental damage is substantial. In addition to damaging historic structures, visitor centers and park offices, the storm destroyed wildlife habitats, dumped tons of sand and debris, and wiped out trails and campgrounds. "Our immediate objective is to help ready these parks for the summer season," states SCA Director of Program Innovation Laura Herrin. "This region has proven its resilience time and again and our young people here are ready to do whatever it takes."

Among the largest projects, SCA is partnering with The National Parks of New York Harbor to coordinate a comprehensive youth engagement effort at Gateway National Recreation Area, one of the region's hardest hit sites. SCA will remove massive

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CONSERVATION BEGINS HERE
Student Conservation Association
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Preserving America's Grandeur in a Time of Sequesters

From Yosemite to the Everglades, nothing signifies America's grandeur more visibly than our national parks. Yet, despite greater environmental awareness than ever, that grandeur is in jeopardy.

The threat comes from the many other ways that new generations have to vacation, entertain themselves, and experience the world. Combating it requires a renewed commitment to ensuring that succeeding generations continue to value our natural heritage—and all that it represents for America.

Recent trends highlight the problem. Attendance rates at national parks have long been flat. Younger generations are not visiting the way previous ones did. A family summer trip to a national park is no longer the quintessential American vacation.

Federal sequester cuts are compounding the issue and the uncertainty of future spending causes further paralysis. The answer is to renew citizen activism for our national parks. The American people were crucial to the parks' creation and now is the time for us to come to the parks' rescue again.

Visiting a national park is one way of showing support. Volunteering your time at a national park is another. Contributing financially to nonprofit organizations that support the parks—or provide services in them—is yet another.

Wallace Stegner called our national parks "America's best idea" and it would be a tragedy for Americans of any generation to become divorced from such a truly spectacular concept. The best way to ensure that doesn't happen is to spend some time this spring and summer in one of America's national parks. It already belongs to you, and it's important to take care of what you own.

Dale M. Penny

Sandy Recovery Effort *continued from page 1*

piles of wreckage, uprooted trees and beach sand. In addition, members will conduct environmental impact studies, reforest and replant washed out areas, restore damaged habitats and coordinate other volunteer groups. SCA is reaching out to potential partners including the Jamaica Bay Conservation Corps and The Corps Network to add hands and speed to the recovery effort.

An SCA advance team will soon assess Gateway's Jamaica Bay and Staten Island units and work with park managers to develop a restoration plan for refuge islands, Jacob Riis Park, Fort Wadsworth, Miller Field and more. "These sites are rich in heritage and personal meaning for the people of New York-New Jersey," notes Herrin. "As we help these landmarks heal and restore public access to them, local residents may visit to aid their own healing process."

Past Experience Provides Big Boost

SCA's own history has come into play at The National Parks of New York Harbor. Giles Parker, the chief of staff, began his park career as an SCA intern in 1994. Carol Whipple, on assignment at New York Harbor from the NPS Denver operations center, is an alumna. Tim Hudson, Gateway's newly appointed hurricane recovery coordinator, worked with SCA 25 years ago when he was chief of maintenance at Yellowstone and SCA conducted a far-reaching wildfire recovery project. More recently, SCA led flood-restoration efforts at Mount Rainier National Park and assisted in the Gulf oil spill environmental response.

Part of the SCA response at Gateway will be a special team funded by American Eagle Outfitters. "We're very excited to support the National Parks of New York Harbor because we know the need there is so critical," says American Eagle Outfitters Foundation Director Marcie Eberhart.

Other SCA volunteers will continue to aid Hudson River Park, an estuarine sanctuary on Manhattan's west side that was battered by Sandy. An additional SCA team will restore portions of Morristown National Historical Park in New Jersey. Still other SCA crews will serve in New Jersey state parks, including Cheesquake and Voorhees, where SCA earlier volunteers assisted in the initial storm clean-up.

Beyond specific recovery projects, SCA members will conduct public outreach and provide environmental education throughout the restoration effort, relying on social media to tap into recreational, birding and other networks.

Follow the progress of SCA's Sandy recovery program at thesca.org/sandy.



Debris along Black Bank Beach at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge.

Photo courtesy of Fulton/NPS

Garden Club of America Support Reaches Milestone

One of SCA's most loyal and generous supporters has set a new benchmark. The Garden Club of America (GCA) recently surpassed \$1 million in cumulative philanthropy to SCA. In the mid-1950s, the first GCA donations provided SCA Founder Liz Putnam with crucial seed funding. Since then, nearly 200 GCA clubs have supported SCA.

At the same time, GCA and SCA are expanding the number of leadership positions fielded through the Sara Shallenberger Brown GCA National Parks Conservation Scholarship. Launched in 2010, the scholarship opens a professional pathway to national parks by expanding SCA's apprentice crew leader program from its urban programs to sites such as Yellowstone, Indiana Dunes and Acadia.

This year, GCA is supporting five apprentices including Claire Hannapel of Durham, NC; Jacob Faber of Wayne, NJ; Philadelphia's Maryanne Manuel; Needham, MA native Matthew Spitzer; and Sage Taber of Seattle.

Each apprentice crew leader is currently enrolled in college and first joined SCA while in high school. In their new roles, they will help deliver the type of outdoor experience that played such a key part in transforming their own lives. "Having the chance to get computer game-addicted fifth graders off their couches and into the woods fills me with enthusiasm," states

Jacob, a rising sophomore at Middlebury College in Vermont. "I'm deeply concerned about the consequences of human societies' frequent lack of stewardship for the land."

SCA is grateful to the Garden Club of America and its local chapters for their continuing support.



Double Your Gift today through SCA's

Million Dollar Challenge

**America's national parks need 1,400
SCA volunteers this season!**

Help us raise \$500,000 by May 31st
and your gift will be doubled!

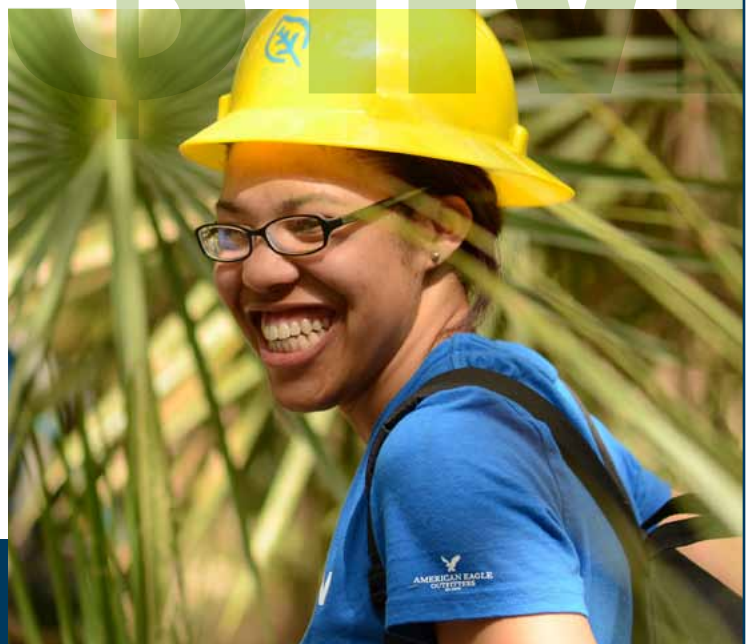
Your contribution of...

\$50 = \$100

\$250 = \$500

\$500 = \$1,000

for conservation service!



Visit thesca.org/challenge



Members of the Student Conservation Association (SCA) clear brush away from marked trees, in an attempt to reduce summer wildfires at Big Cypress National Preserve.

Spring Break – SCA Style

At SCA, “Alternative Spring Break” is admittedly a misnomer. Although the agenda is far from the typical surf and sand, there’s not much of a break. But that didn’t deter 135 college students from signing on in March; fact is, that’s what attracted them.

For the sixth consecutive year, SCA dispatched spring breakers to national parks for a week of conservation service, thanks to the generosity of founding sponsor American Eagle Outfitters. At Big Cypress National Preserve, next door to Florida’s Everglades, students cleared potential fire fuels from areas favored by the Red-cockaded Woodpecker, an endangered species.

When a tree is found to house a nest, “we have to clear a 10-foot radius, tearing out all grass and low vegetation,” noted Bowling Green’s Chris Dawson. “This is critical because a lot of the woodpecker houses have been lost by forest fires, which can jump up a tree and burn out their nests.”

“We’re doing something that matters,” added, volunteer Emma Donachie. “Yardwork for the little woodpecker.”

The work was hard but varied, as students also relocated airplants from cypress trees designated for clearing, removed invasive Brazilian pepper plants, and helped to demolish abandoned buildings.

At Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area in Southern California, students rid Zuma Canyon’s upper ridges of invasive plants and pulled even more exotic plants to aid restoration efforts at nearby Malibu Beach State Park. “The most memorable part of that day was when we heard things like, ‘You guys are my heroes’ from workers who had been planning this project for 20 years, said Tavon Betts, a student at Morehouse College. “I just wanted to run back and start removing more invasives!”

For all they accomplished, the students also managed to bond with the land and one another. New York resident Ray Diaz admits Alternative Spring Break was his first time in a tent. Ever. “We get to the campground and I’m like, so where’s the hotel—and there isn’t any!” he recalls. But, he told KNBC-TV, it was all worth it as he discovered what sustainability is all about. “Being able to see how other people live compared to how you live, it’s extremely profound.”

Arizona State University Brittany Elena Morris agrees. “I found a family in these people that I didn’t expect,” she says. “We’re united in our conservation efforts and, with that common mission of saving the world, we’re likely to come together again.”

Three Tax-Smart Ways to Help SCA Protect Treasured Lands

The *American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012* (ATRA, signed into law January 2, 2013) contains many new provisions relating to income tax planning and resolves much of the uncertainty that had clouded estate planning for years.

1. Remember SCA in your estate plans

With new permanent provisions in place, it's important to review or create your estate plans. Please take this opportunity to remember SCA in your will or living trust or name SCA as a beneficiary of an IRA, 401(k) or life insurance policy.

2. Create a charitable IRA rollover gift

If you are 70½ or older, you can once again make direct tax-free transfers of up to \$100,000 from your IRAs to charities like SCA in 2013. The amount you transfer will count toward this year's required minimum distribution

3. Consider gifts of appreciated stock or real estate

Higher capital gains tax rates for certain taxpayers, coupled with a new 3.8% net investment income tax, make capital gains tax savings from gifts of appreciated assets particularly beneficial. Consider donating appreciated securities or real estate outright or create an arrangement that will pay you income for life.

Register now for a FREE telephone seminar
Navigating the New Tax Landscape
June 4, 2013

For further information, please contact
Hugh Montgomery at (603) 504-3241 or
hmontgomery@thesca.org



Alumna Profile: Priya Cook

Priya Cook has led an SCA crew in Washington DC, interned at Great Smoky Mountains National Park, developed educational curriculum as an SCA staff member, and has just joined the SCA Alumni Council as co-chair.

Q: You joined SCA not to start your career but to restart it, is that right?

A: Yes, I used to be a teacher and wanted to combine my experience and education with my love of the outdoors. I went to high school in Singapore where students have very few backcountry opportunities, and I wanted to help urban students explore the outdoors.

Q: And then you took an SCA internship. How did that pave your way to the Alumni Council?

A: Having taken an internship in mid-career, I think I bring a different perspective to the SCA experience. I want to share those insights and hope they can help inform the organization as it recruits and engages young people.

Q: Given your background, how do you see the impact of SCA on young people?

A: Young people come to SCA just as they are establishing their independence, thinking about college studies and careers, and trying to build skills. The outdoor setting is a good place for all that, and SCA provides valuable exposure to a range of fields and experiences.

Q: You attended the SCA-NPS Academy in Alaska. What was that like?

A: Amazing! Academy students came from rural communities, urban areas, many tribes. They were all so well-informed. Their thinking was way ahead of mine at that age.

Q: Why do you think leadership programs like the Academy are important?

A: People don't protect what they don't know. All of our resources, all that we depend on and consume, are linked to the environment. This generation's behaviors are critical to our future.

Students Reflect on SCA-NPS Academy

Eighty-five SCA members from a wide range of backgrounds are on their way to potential careers in America's national parks.

In March, SCA and the National Park Service conducted our third annual NPS Academy at Grand Teton, Great Smoky Mountains, and Kenai Fjords National Parks. The Academy, which has expanded every year since its inception, is designed to prepare students for entry-level park positions and diversify the parks' workforce. Participants learned about the Park Service's mission, history and professional opportunities over Spring Break, and are now back at their universities serving as NPS Ambassadors. This summer, they'll work as SCA interns in national parks across the country.

Here's what some of this year's students had to say about their Academy experience:

"Even as a diverse group, we found that what we have in common—a commitment to preserving the environment—far outweighs our differences. Within SCA, being entrusted with caring for our nation's natural resources is the first step in becoming an active and successful intern."

- Apoorva Mahajan, Great Smoky Mountains National Park

"The most memorable moment was when we shared the personal roots that led us to the National Park Service. We learned so much about where people come from and how their experiences shape who they are."

- Victor Thornton, Grand Teton National Park

"My past experiences have been all over the map regarding interpretation, but I've never really gotten actual park setting experience. I thought this was perfect because I could actually see what a park does with education and interpretation."

- Cori Renton, Great Smoky Mountains National Park

"This was a great opportunity to interact with people in the Park Service and other students, and connect to the issues—like climate change and its impact on walrus—that are affecting our state."

- Molissa Udevitz, Kenai Fjords National Park

"It was cool to see the different jobs and career paths in the park. I really enjoyed talking to the forestry and vegetation management crew."

- Syed-Waqar Shah, Great Smoky Mountains National Park

"Throughout the week we met various people involved with NPS: archaeologists, vegetation restoration specialists, youth educators, rangers, scientists, policy makers, managers. The list is endless. In the midst of this diversity, the big thing that seems to connect these people is their absolute love for what they do."

- Jalissa Frederick, Grand Teton National Park



SCA-NPS Academy student Emily Sosa (standing) creates an iron triangle dinner bell with Great Smoky Mountains National Park Ranger Mike Meldrum during an interactive interpretation program in the park's Cades Cove area.

FREE TELEPHONE SEMINAR *Navigating The New Tax Landscape*

June 4, 2013

Valuable Pointers for Your

- Estate Planning
- Income Tax Planning
- Charitable Gift Planning

Followed by an update from
SCA President Dale Penny

Tuesday, June 4, 2013

Please register by May 24th.

Contact Hugh Montgomery at
hmontgomery@thesca.org
or 603.504.3241 to reserve your spot.

SCA Teams Up with Points of Light Foundation

Two leaders of the national service community are joining forces to celebrate volunteerism.

The Points of Light Foundation and SCA will co-host a special service project on The National Mall, America's front yard, on Saturday, June 22nd. The event coincides with the Points of Light Foundation's annual conference and SCA Founder's Day, commemorating the day when Liz Putnam's first SCA crews began work in 1957 and the kick-off to our 2013 summer service season.

More than 500 volunteers, including some surprise special guests, will help restore and freshen some of the nation's most inspirational cultural and historical monuments including the Lincoln Memorial, the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial, and the World War II Memorial.



Donna Shaver, Padre Island National Seashore.
Photo by Todd Yates, Corpus Christi Caller-Times

Annual Report, Service Map Now Online



SCA's electronic 2012 annual report is now online with videos, slide shows and other interactive features, plus profiles of SCA members and projects around the country.

See it at thesca.org/annualreport.

Also posted on our website is our brand new interactive Service Map that allows you to explore where SCA members are serving and what they're accomplishing in all 50 states. The SCA Service Map is made possible through the generosity of Dr Pepper Snapple Group.

Start exploring now at thesca.org/map.



Two SCA Alums Honored

Donna Shaver, chief of Sea Turtle Science and Recovery at Padre Island National Seashore and an SCA alumna, was recently announced as the winner of the National Park Service's Excellence in Natural Resource Research Award. More than 30 years ago, an SCA internship to support endangered sea turtles lured Shaver to Padre Island and she has been there ever since, becoming one of the world's leading authorities on Kemp's ridley turtles and a near-legendary figure in forestalling their demise.

Twenty years after his SCA internship, Ranger Jeff Wolin has just recorded a CD entitled "Songs for Junior Rangers." Wolin, currently working at Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument in Colorado, hopes "families will listen to the songs, dance to them, wonder about them, and then decide to visit a park and get outside." The album has already won the Parents' Choice Foundation Gold Award and a National Park Service interpretive award.

New Landscape Architecture Initiative

SCA will partner with the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) and the National Park Service in ten Northeastern cities this summer to help prepare underrepresented youth for careers in landscape architecture and historic preservation.

The pilot collaboration will pair SCA crews with local ASLA member firms in Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C. and across southwestern Connecticut. The program will introduce teenaged participants to landscape design, project management and other related practices.

Alumni will be eligible to serve in entry-level landscape architecture internships at the National Park Service's Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation in Boston and Denver Service Center, a construction management project office.



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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EARTH DAY 2013

More than 1,500 volunteers joined in SCA Earth Day projects nationwide last month. Participants planted prairie grasses at Sheldon Lake State Park in Houston (left) as well as trees and shrubs outside Seattle's new, green Bullitt Center (right), and aided 15 other signature projects supported by title sponsors American Eagle Outfitters, ARAMARK, Dr Pepper Snapple Group, Exelon Foundation, Johnson Controls, the NASCAR Foundation, Sony, and Southwest Airlines. See more photos and a full recap at thesca.org/earthday.



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