



SCA Camden crew members Jeremiah Watson and Naquann Johnson weed the Beckett Street Farm.

## Camden Crew's Labor Bears Fruit—and Vegetables

Be honest: when you think of Camden, New Jersey, a certain image comes to mind—and it probably doesn't include local teens cultivating a community garden.

But had you visited the Beckett Street Urban Farm last summer, you would have seen teams of SCA members raising peppers, cucumbers, kale and more. Ostensibly, their objective was to grow affordable vegetables for area schools and families; in reality, crew members concede they had an ulterior motive.

"People say Camden is dirty and bad," states 15-year-old Miriam Gonzalez. "By making everything more beautiful and pretty, we're making the community better."

Camden is ranked as America's most dangerous city. Much of its built environment is in decay. The Beckett Street Farm used to be a vacant lot. But in addition to growing crops, these SCA students are growing hope. Not just for them but for the entire neighborhood.

"My friends said my job was pointless, that you don't get paid enough," Hanif Williams recalls. "But I told them I'm not just here for the money. I'm here for my community. From my perspective, you get more than the paycheck." Hanif is 15. Clearly, his SCA learnings were not limited to horticulture.

Camden is what is known as a "food desert." Fresh produce is so scarce, locals routinely settle for less nutritious alternatives, leading to health issues like obesity and diabetes.

*(continued on page 2)*

### IN THIS ISSUE:



**Veterans' Days Are Brighter**  
page 3



**Intern Has Puppy Love**  
page 5



**Stronger Than The Storm**  
page 7

**CONSERVATION BEGINS HERE**  
Student Conservation Association  
[thesca.org](http://thesca.org)



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Enhancing the Conservation Movement

SCA is coming off the most productive conservation season in our history, and it's easy to imagine our young volunteers working in such far-off places as Kenai and Yosemite. But SCA actually places more students in our community crews than in any of our backcountry programs.

I've long viewed SCA as the "farm team" for America's conservation movement—though not quite as literally as the awesome Camden-based members featured in our lead story. Caring for our urban environments can often be forgotten, as can the young people growing up there. As SCA expands our community programs and empowers a generation of under-served youth, we are increasing our value and impact for our nation.

By this I don't just mean those who work at government agencies or NGOs focused on protecting our air, water, and land. I mean any position in any organization where these diverse young leaders can apply their conservation values and skills to the way they work, the partnerships they build, and the decisions they make every day.

Conservation should not be the purview of a few, it is a responsibility for all. And by effectively empowering the many populations we serve, SCA is demonstrating that a more inclusive conservation movement is also a stronger movement.

In recent weeks, I've enjoyed the pleasure of meeting numerous young volunteers and, as you read this, I am in Seattle where SCA's community members are being honored by the National Park Service for their work on Mount Rainier. I hope you, too, will share in our successes and continue forward with us, from snowy summits to community gardens.

Thank you.

*Jaime B. Matyas*

### Camden Crew's Labor *continued from page 1*

Seventeen-year-old Desmond Hill admits he "never tasted a fresh vegetable right off the vine" until he joined the SCA Camden crew three years ago. He's been back every summer since and hopes to return as a crew leader to show others the value of giving back.

SCA engages nearly 2,000 under-served youth in conservation leadership programs like this in more than a dozen cities nationwide including Chicago, Oakland, and Washington, DC. The Camden team is sponsored in part by Campbell's Soup Foundation, which is headquartered nearby, and their harvest goes to the Camden Children's Garden, which accounts for 10% of the fresh fruit and vegetables consumed at local tables.

"This is an extra-positive thing for Camden," says Tyra Stanley, 15, "because instead of having people think all the negative stuff, we're showing there are positive things happening here. We're growing this food with a lot of love."

*SCA's Camden program is also supported by project partners DCCB and Hopeworks, as well as the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, Boeing Company Charitable Trust, and Subaru America Foundation.*



### SCA Founder Recognized

In observance of the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act, theclymb.com—an outdoor adventure and retail site—named SCA Founding President Liz Putnam one of its "5 Heroes of the American Wilderness" along with John Muir, Aldo Leopold, Rachel Carson, and Act author Howard Zahniser.

The Clymb credits Liz with "providing opportunities for thousands of young adults to live and work in the outdoors every year" and quotes her as urging youth to "go for their dream... This world needs their help more than ever before."



SCA's Veterans Fire Corps expanded this year to protect national parks like Yosemite (above) from wildfire.

## Veterans' Days Are Brighter

In a different uniform and under very different circumstances, they'd previously served in places like Baghdad, Kandahar and the Mediterranean. This time, their duties took them to Coconino National Forest, Olympic National Park and the Grand Canyon.

Nearly 50 post-9/11 veterans acquired career training and certifications in wildland firefighting this year through SCA's Veterans Fire Corps, and many members have already joined the nearly 70% of earlier corps alumni employed in the fire-fighting field.

"You want to do things for your community and you also want to know you have a career. The SCA provides for that," says former Navy corpsman Wesley Adams.

"I had the option to obtain my Red Card through a class at Ohio State, but SCA gave me the opportunity to learn in a unique environment," adds Katy Tuckerman, a former Army sergeant from Columbus. "With the knowledge and insights

I've gained, I've been hired on as a Forest Service employee with the [Black Hills, WY] Bearlodge Ranger District."

Corps members reduce potential fire fuels, conduct public education and occasionally assist in fire containment. At Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest, for example, teams cleared trees downed by mountain pine beetles; at the Grand Canyon, they protected a rich archeological site from damaging flames.

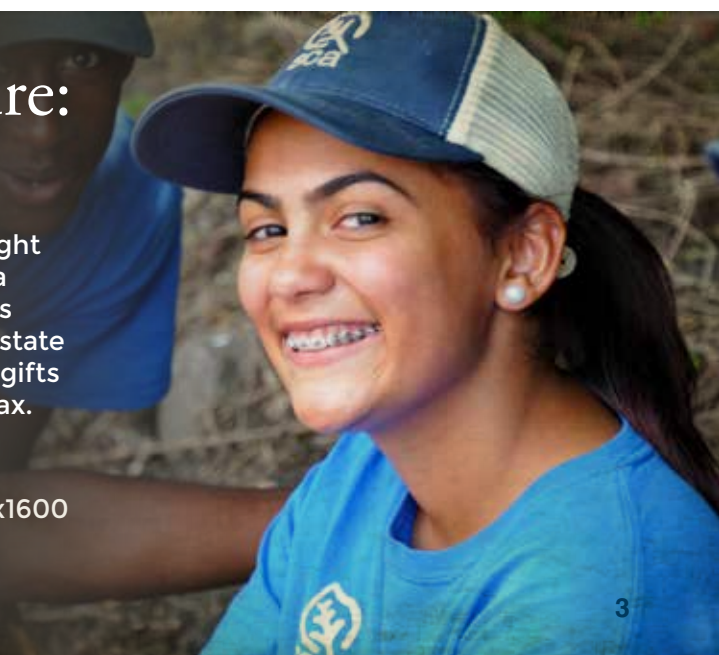
Yet the program does more than mitigate fire risks and build job skills. It also aids participants' transition to civilian life. "I gained the qualifications and experience needed for employment as a firefighter," states Michael Mayulianos, "but more importantly, I regained a strong sense of belonging, service, and comradeship that I had not experienced since the Navy."

In addition to partnering with AmeriCorps and the US Forest Service, SCA this year introduced the Veterans Fire Corps to the National Park Service, and expects to begin work with the US Fish and Wildlife Service in 2015.

## A Simple Gift For Their Future: DESIGNATE SCA IN YOUR IRA

One of the simplest legacy gifts you can make to insure a bright future for youth conservation service is to designate SCA as a beneficiary in your IRA or retirement plan. And because funds remaining in a retirement plan or IRA may be subject to both estate and income taxes when left to individuals, they can be great gifts to charity as they are exempt from both estate and income tax.

To learn more go to: [thesca.org/giving-plan](http://thesca.org/giving-plan)  
Or contact SCA's Gift Planning Department: 1-888-722-9675 x1600  
[giftplanning@thesca.org](mailto:giftplanning@thesca.org)



## They Came, They Sawed...

An SCA trail crew found themselves in the middle of the largest national commemoration of the historic Wilderness Act when they were joined in September by Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, US Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe, several members of Congress and other officials at Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge in New Jersey. Exactly 50 years earlier, Great Swamp became the first wilderness so designated under the Act.

Following their news conference, Sec. Jewell and Dir. Ashe borrowed one of the crew's cross saws to assist in clearing trail. "How many 22-year-old lumberjacks can say that they've cut away a blowdown with the Secretary of the Interior?" crew leader Emily Bowles queried afterward.

In his remarks, Ashe noted the importance of engaging young people in the outdoors. "Today's children will be tomorrow's elected officials, business leaders, parents, and public servants," he said. "We need them to sustain our wildlife heritage for future generations. That won't happen if they never experience nature or understand the stake they have in healthy wildlife and ecosystems."



SCA's Edward Whitehead, Interior Sec. Jewell, crew leader Emily Bowles and USFWS Dir. Ashe.

SCA was also part of the behind-the-scenes activity: alumna Tylar Greene is now a public affairs specialist with the Fish and Wildlife Service and played a key role in managing the anniversary event.

Sec. Jewell teamed up with another SCA crew and CEO Jaime Matyas the following week to help restore a portion of the Potomac River on the 9/11 National Day of Service and Remembrance.



Photo: Kevin Mazur/WireImage

## SHINING STARS

Walden Woods Project founder and rock musician Don Henley of the Eagles recently presented SCA with the Project's Environmental Challenge Award for engaging youth in stewardship. At a ceremony in Boston, SCA vice president Kevin Hamilton and alumna Sophia Bass Werner, a habitat specialist at Boston Harbor Islands last summer, accepted the prize with the evening's major award winner, actor Robert Redford. "Our youth are our future," Redford stressed, "and that's why I'm here tonight in celebration of these honorees."

## Have you ever considered a gift of stock?

*Protect our treasured lands and help build the next generation of conservation leaders by donating appreciated stocks or securities to SCA.*

Appreciated stock should be transferred to SCA's broker:

Wayne McCormick  
Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC  
900 Elm Street - #700  
Manchester, NH 03101  
Toll Free: 800-221-2655

SCA Account #: 5961-7769  
First Clearing DTC#: 0141  
SCA Tax ID No. 91-0880684



For further information, contact us at:  
donorrelations@thesca.org or  
(703) 524-2441 ext. 1600

*Thank You!*



*See more photos, updates on Marinell's kennel blog at [thesca.org/puppylove](https://thesca.org/puppylove).*

A native of Baton Rouge, Marinell rarely ventured outdoors as a child. "If you walked outside during the summer," she grins, "you were equally likely to burst into flames or melt." But later she enrolled at Appalachian State University and amid the Blue Ridge Mountains "realized what I had been missing was something I'd spent my entire childhood trying to avoid. I needed nature and wilderness." When SCA and Denali's six million pristine acres called, she didn't hesitate.

The new sled pup fits in the palms of Marinell's hands but for now the staff has agreed to keep disturbances to a minimum. So, instead of entering the kennel, she heads to the office, sits at her computer and logs on to Facebook. Earlier, Marinell had asked for suggested puppy names with a wilderness theme to mark 50 years of the Wilderness Act. Scanning the hundreds of options submitted by followers, she finally chooses Zahnie for Howard Zahniser, the Act's primary author.

"It amazes me," Marinell says, "that everything I experience here—the views, the wildlife, everything—is what others have seen and experienced for centuries. Now it's fitting that Zahnie will patrol this vast park for eight years—the same length of time that Zahniser spent writing the Wilderness Act."



## Intern Has Puppy Love

Marinell Chandler is torn. An intern at Denali National Park, she's seen multiple grizzlies, a breaching humpback and a cloud-free Mount McKinley. "I've fallen in love with the natural beauty of Alaska," she says. Yet she longs to go inside.

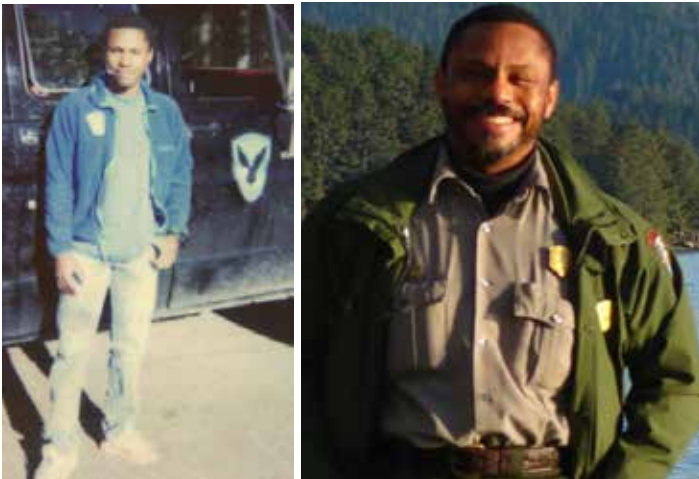
Marinell cares for the park's sled dogs and one of them has just had a puppy, or what she calls a "canine ranger." Every year, Denali's dogs traverse more than 3,000 miles within the park's boundaries, transporting staff and supplies with minimal impact. "There is nothing more satisfying than walking to work and being greeted by 31 furry coworkers who truly love what they do," Marinell states.

## SCA Seattle Honored

SCA's Northwest community crew program has earned the National Park Service (NPS) Director's Partnership Award for its service at Mount Rainier National Park. Since 1984, more than 750 local SCA members have worked to improve Rainier.

"Their extraordinary contributions enhance the national park experience," said NPS Director Jonathan B. Jarvis, "and as we look ahead to the National Park Service's centennial in 2016, they expand and amplify our efforts to reach a new generation of Americans."

Jarvis instituted the Director's Award last year. SCA, which was founded in nearby Olympic National Park, is currently commemorating 30 years of conserving Seattle's natural and cultural resources.



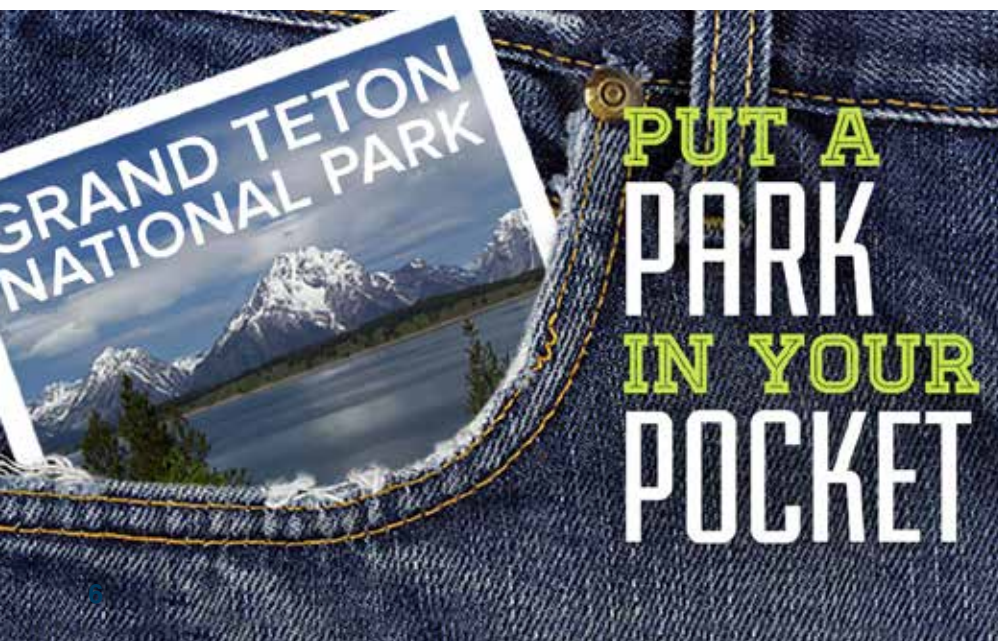
Clarence Wadkins as an SCA volunteer in 1989 (left) and today.

## Yellowstone Alumni Reminisce

To celebrate the 25th anniversary of SCA's Greater Yellowstone Recovery Corps, which deployed 650 young volunteers to restore damage caused by wildfires in 1988, SCA recently checked in with some of those who served. Clarence Wadkins, who'd been planning a career in criminal justice, says his summer with SCA "changed my career goals completely. I'd never known people did work in the back-country! It changed my entire outlook" and today Clarence is an interpretive specialist with the National Park Service.

Rebecca Quiñones, currently a postdoctoral field researcher at the Center for Watershed Sciences at UC Davis, told us Yellowstone represented her first field work, and jokes the highlight was "having both hot and cold water streams nearby!" And fellow alum Garrett Dutton, now the front man for the alternative music group G Love and Special Sauce, recalls "magical" evenings playing his guitar by the campfire and is proud that his label, Brushfire Records, donates a portion of its profits to the environment.

See more profiles commemorating SCA's 75,000 alumni at [thesca.org/75K](http://thesca.org/75K).



Get an insider's view of some of our greatest parks with SCA's new "Park in Your Pocket" guides. Download a mobile version or print a one-pager. Our first guides spotlight our first two park partners in 1957: Grand Teton and Olympic National Parks.

Learn more at [thesca.org/parks-your-pocket](http://thesca.org/parks-your-pocket).

## Stronger Than the Storm

In October of 2013, on the first anniversary of Hurricane Sandy, SCA launched **ConSERVE NYC**: an ambitious initiative designed to mobilize 1,000 volunteers in 12 months to restore New York City parks and prepare them for storms to come.

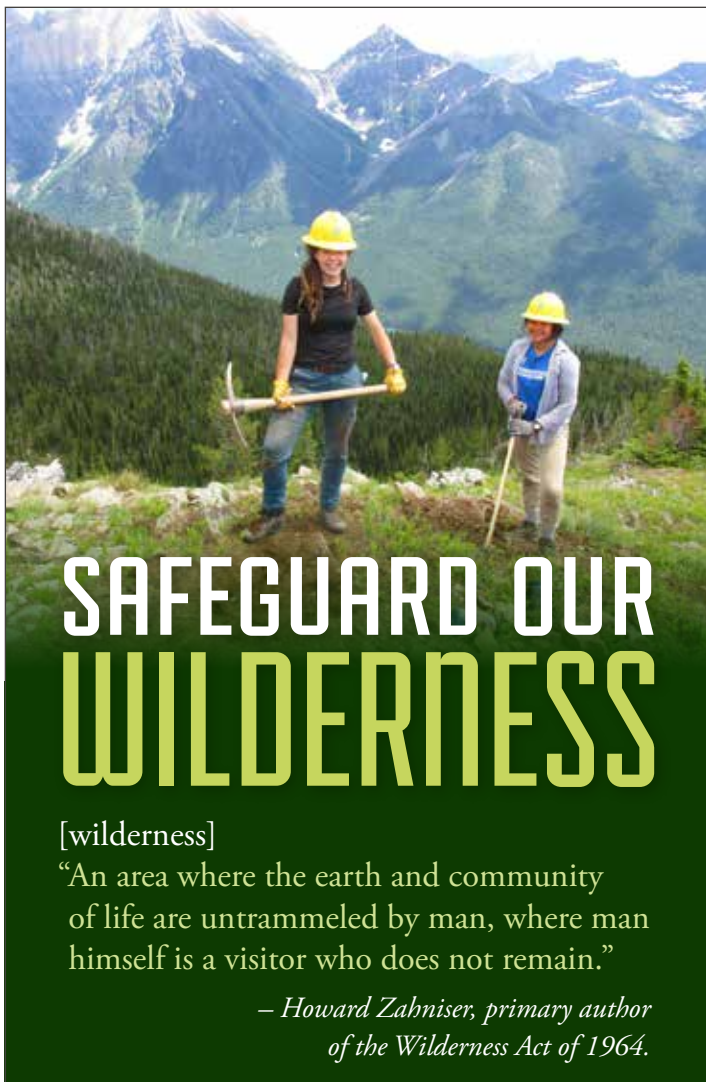
One year and a dozen projects later, SCA has put more than 1,100 city residents to work in all five boroughs. Participants came from local schools and youth groups as well as corporate, nonprofit, and government partners. Over 75% of volunteers were under age 25, and more than 25% returned for multiple service events.

Participants rid shorelines of an elephant's weight in storm debris, cleared the equivalent of two football fields of invasive species, and improved enough trail to climb up one side of the Empire State Building and down the other—five times.

Volunteers were also transformed. One started an environmental club at his Queens high school. Another landed an SCA internship at Hudson River Park just weeks after joining a weekend clean-up there. Still another was inspired to enroll in college to pursue a degree in biology. "What SCA has accomplished is fantastic!" declares Terese Flores of the NYC Parks Dept. "Once it starts, the ball just keeps rolling!"

ConSERVE NYC will continue as part of SCA's ongoing Sandy Recovery program, and efforts to bring it to other cities are underway.

*Among other achievements, SCA's ConSERVE NYC volunteers planted more than 2,000 native seedlings.*



# SAFEGUARD OUR WILDERNESS

[wilderness]

"An area where the earth and community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain."

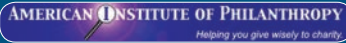
— Howard Zahniser, primary author of the Wilderness Act of 1964.

For more than half a century, SCA has been giving young conservationists the chance to protect amazing places "untrammelled by man." Your support for the Student Conservation Association allows us to continue to preserve all kinds of wilderness and create the next generation of conservation stewards.

**Please consider a special Year-End gift today—*doubled*—thanks to our Year-End Matching Gift Opportunity going on now.**

In order to advance the Student Conservation Association, a generous donor has offered to match all year-end gifts up to \$100,000. That means gifts made ***before December 31st, 2014*** will be matched dollar for dollar—doubling your support—for our youth and for the preservation of our national parks, forests and public lands.

Use the attached envelope, or give securely online at: [thesca.org/matchtgw](http://thesca.org/matchtgw)



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.

Chairman of the Board: Steve Seward  
 President/CEO: Jaime Matyas  
 Editor: Kevin Hamilton  
 Graphic Designer: Julia Jandrisits  
 E-mail: [thegreenway@thesca.org](mailto:thegreenway@thesca.org)

Printed on 100% post-consumer paper, processed chlorine-free, soy ink



[thesca.org](http://thesca.org)



Proud Member



Follow us on



The SCA National Conservation Center  
 689 River Road, P.O. Box 550  
 Charlestown, NH 03603-0550

# SCA IN THE NEWS



# THE GreenWay

SCA'S CONSERVATION QUARTERLY | FALL 2014



"These kids are demonstrating what an asset they can be for the community and leaving it better than they found it."  
 – [PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE](#)

"SCA is the single greatest provider of conservation volunteers in the nation and this year reached the extraordinary milestone of having inspired 75,000 young Americans to volunteer."  
 – [THE HUFFINGTON POST](#)

"SCA programs involve and inspire underserved, local youth and young adults in hands-on conservation stewardship."  
 – [SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS](#)

"The Student Conservation Association aims to foster interest and careers in conservation by placing students in the nation's parks, exposing them to real-world environmental conservation efforts."  
 – [PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER](#)

"They enjoy the outdoors, they're mission focused, and work as a team until the job is completed."  
 – [GRAND CANYON NEWS](#)

"The students' efforts will go a long way toward ensuring that sections of the trail washed out two years ago by Hurricane Irene will remain a natural asset for years to come."  
 – [NEW JERSEY HERALD](#)

See more coverage of SCA members' accomplishments at [thesca.org/newsroom](http://thesca.org/newsroom)