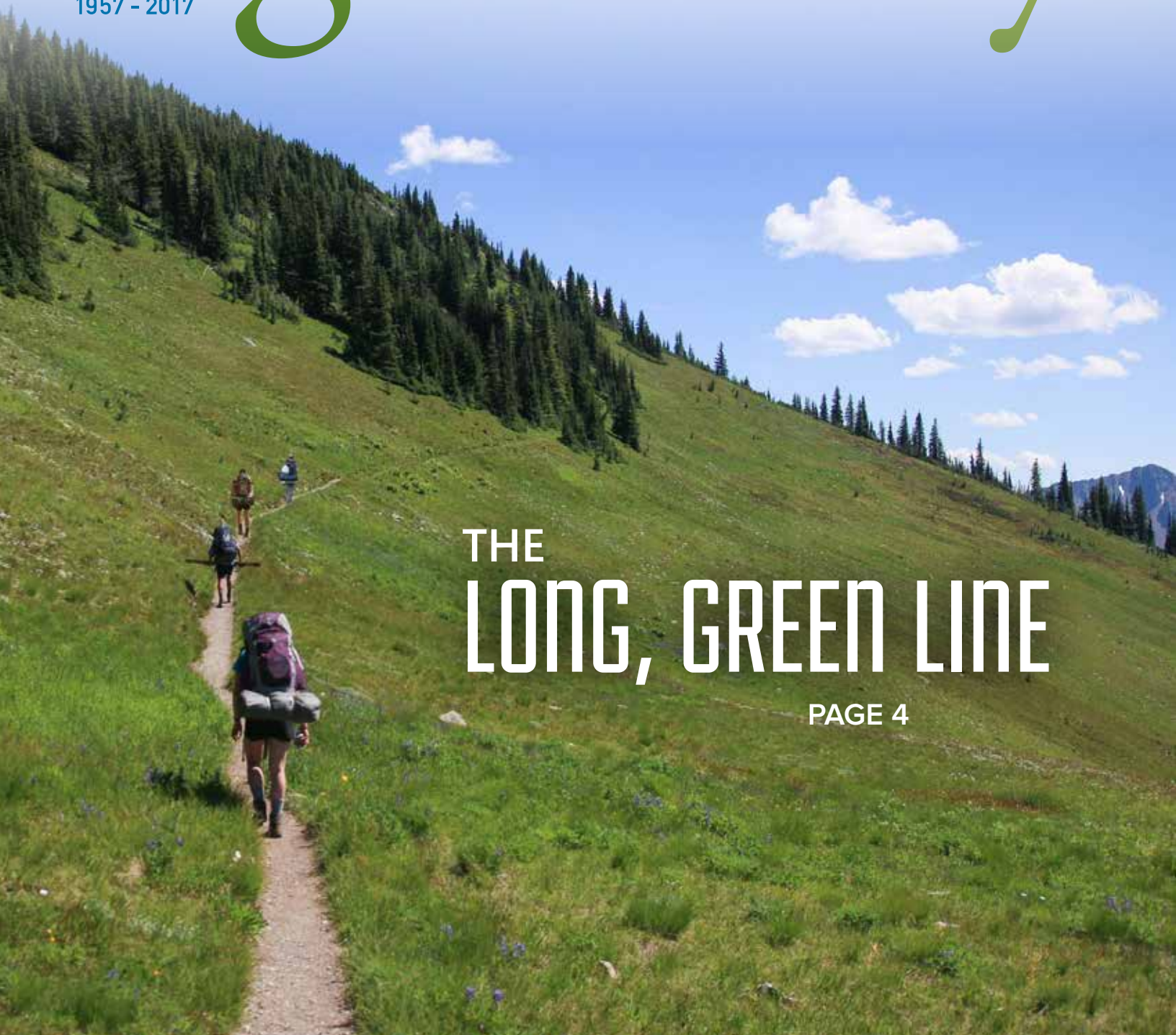




the greenway



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SCA ALUM RECALLS "MYSTERY STEW"

An Enduring Vision for Conservation



JAIME BERMAN MATYAS
President and CEO

A few weeks ago, on Earth Day, SCA joined with hundreds of others in our nation's capital to answer the question: *What's working in conservation?*

SCA was among the teen program leaders at the Earth Optimism Summit at the Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History. Scientists, civic leaders, artists, and other thought leaders gathered to shift the field's focus from problems to solutions. It's a lens that is sometimes underutilized by the conservation community but, on this day, the hopefulness voiced by so many was both inspiring and contagious.

More than once during the proceedings, I thought of Liz Putnam and the stirring spirit she exhibited in starting SCA 60 years ago this summer. Moved by an article on the troubled state of our national parks, Liz vaulted over the dilemma and landed on the idea of student volunteers. Since then, America's youth have proven to be a potent solution for providing additional assistance to our public lands.

Although parks today face challenges that no one could have foreseen in the 1950s, young people remain a reliable answer. Some of them are profiled in this edition of *The GreenWay* and thousands more are poised to dedicate their upcoming school vacations to protecting and restoring lands from Kenai to Key West. And even as SCA marks our 60th anniversary, we are committed to empowering new generations of young leaders who will chart a positive course in the face of complex issues and opportunities that lie ahead.

Anchored in Liz's own optimistic vision, we are continually developing new volunteer and workforce-training experiences in urban, frontcountry and backcountry settings with government, corporate, and academic partners. These hands-on, outdoor experiences intentionally push participants beyond their comfort zones to a place where they discover increasingly effective levels of self-confidence, critical thinking, perseverance, teamwork, and more. The results are nothing short of life-changing and, uniquely, this transformation occurs not alongside their SCA service but because of it.

As we fulfill our mission of "building conservation leaders," SCA is in fact developing the leaders our times demand: passionate agents of change grounded in SCA's core values including service, stewardship and inclusivity, and individuals who are equipped to thrive in our modern marketplace and society.

I am grateful for the important role you have played in helping SCA reach this milestone year and for your support in our future accomplishments. I hope you will keep an eye out for the special anniversary features we will introduce throughout the year. And, finally, should you have reason to ask "what's working in conservation?" please remember the young women and men of SCA, who provide powerful, sustainable solutions for our environment each and every day.

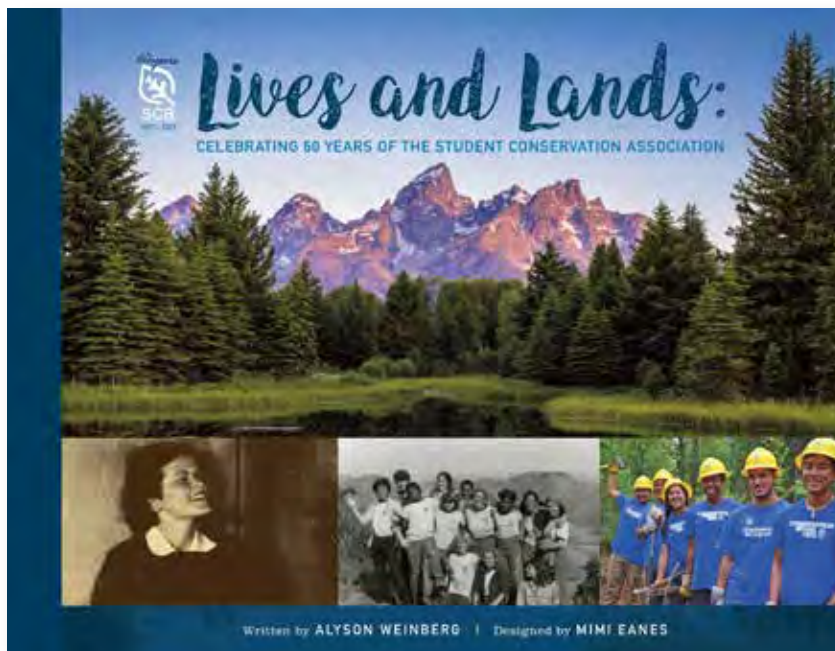
Jaime B. Matyas



ORDER NOW!

Lives and Lands, a limited edition volume celebrating 60 years of the Student Conservation Association, is scheduled for release on June 20th. This essential keepsake is for all who cherish nature and the young volunteers who help sustain it.

Steeped in history, *Lives and Lands* features the inspiring story of SCA Founder Liz Putnam, uplifting memories and testimonials from SCA alumni, and breathtaking photos of some of America's most beloved parklands. Most of all, this book conveys the enriching spirit of generation after generation of young conservation leaders.



Order yours today and save 20% off the list price.

Order online at [THESCA.ORG/LivesAndLands](https://thesca.org/livesandlands)

EARTH DAY was Out of this World



SCA COMBINED CONSERVATION SERVICE WITH FAMILY FUN ON EARTH DAY, engaging over 1,500 people at events held coast to coast. In New York City, we hosted New York State Parks Commissioner Rose Harvey along with 700 parents, youngsters, and other volunteers at Riverbank State Park (left). Festivities included a Recycling Relay, a Decomposition Derby and tree giveaways as well as numerous restoration and maintenance projects. A similar SCA Earth Day program drew hundreds more to the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History in Washington, DC.

SCA hosted additional events in Houston, Philadelphia, San Francisco and Seattle, among other locations. SCA's Earth Day activities were presented by American Express with support from Southwest Airlines.

See photos, accounts at [THESCA.ORG/EarthDay17](https://thesca.org/earthday17)

THE LONG, GREEN LINE

GOOGLE WASN'T YET A THING IN 1953. THAT MEANT ANOTHER LATE NIGHT IN THE VASSAR LIBRARY FOR SOPHOMORE LIZ CUSHMAN. (THE MORE FAMILIAR LAST NAME OF "PUTNAM" WAS ALSO IN THE DISTANT FUTURE.)

Amid her stacks of research materials, one particular publication stood out in the dim light: the October issue of Harper's Magazine—specifically an article by historian and provocateur Bernard DeVoto. It was entitled "Let's Close the National Parks."

DeVoto contended that places like Yosemite and Yellowstone were tragically underfunded and, until budgets were increased, he called on the Army to secure the parks lest they be "loved to death" by a growing legion of visitors.

Lock up Yellowstone? For Liz, the notion was heresy. But the idea that national parks were in some sort of freefall was just as unsettling. Two years later, she penned her senior thesis on "A Proposed Student Conservation Corps." Parks would benefit from extra hands and young people would earn valuable experience. A genuine win-win, she reasoned.

The double-spaced, 38-page paper earned an "A" but that was only the beginning, of course. Upon graduation, Liz set out to determine if youthful volunteers really could make the difference for beleaguered national parks and in 1957—60 years ago this summer—the first SCA members, 53 in all, arrived at Grand Teton and Olympic National Parks.

Liz Putnam launched SCA—which, in turn, ignited a youth service movement—to help protect the country's most cherished natural sanctuaries. Six decades later, what prompts today's youth to serve the great outdoors? We asked a few that very question...

...



Alejandro Cruz knows national parks. His dad has worked with the Park Service for 25 years and Alejandro, a 20-year old biology major, has already fulfilled two SCA internships. Last March, at Grand Teton, he immersed himself in a week-long orientation at SCA's NPS Academy, a career development program conducted in collaboration with the National Park Service.

"I want underserved and underprivileged communities—especially younger people—to understand that public lands are every American's birthright," declares Alejandro. "I want to inspire them to get out there, and to spread the word about conservation."

In part, Alejandro's drive comes from his first SCA assignment at Seney National Wildlife Refuge on Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

"We brought up a bunch of kids from inner-city Detroit for five days," he recalls. "I was giving a talk on Monarch butterflies, and this ten-year old boy was just staring at them. At first, I didn't think he was listening but he asked a bunch of questions after the presentation. He was super-interested in the outdoors!"

"Then a chrysalis hatched and he got to release that Monarch. He thanked me and mentioned it was his first time up there. It might have been a small moment for you or me but, for him, to experience this new feeling—I'll never forget the look of awe on his face."

As the son of a Park Service lifer, Alejandro sees the value of conservation service and looks forward to making his mark



“I want underserved and underprivileged communities to understand that public lands are every American’s birthright.”

« ALEJANDRO CRUZ, SCA INTERN
(pictured left, fourth from right)

These urban programs are part of a strategy designed to promote homegrown stewardship, environmental justice, professional opportunities and greater inclusivity in the conservation field. But some will tell you it just makes sense. “Conservation starts with taking care of your backyard,” states Valeria Casas, 21, of Houston. “If you can’t do that, you’ll never do it in a national park.”

Valeria has served on or led nine SCA crews in the past six years—most of them in her hometown.

“I see my city equally as beautiful as someplace like Yosemite,” she says. “Plus, this is where the people are, where you can teach and motivate them to volunteer.”

Before SCA, Valeria says she was unsure of herself, introverted, and perhaps even a little selfish when it came to giving back. Now, she believes she can and should make a difference. “I honestly feel like SCA has helped me find a purpose, a duty to impact other people. I’m inspired!”

This spring, the Houston Community College sophomore is spending her weekends leading teenagers in tree plantings and other projects in local parks. Valeria sees a lot of herself in her crew members and wants to help them discover the outdoors as she did. “We’re in a time of a lot of uncertainty in government, in society, and as Millennials we have a duty to learn about and preserve these areas,” she says. “We have to help steer the way to our future.”

Valeria hopes to remain in Houston after school as a city planner to “get people more involved in making their own decisions about clean air and water.” But first she’ll lead another SCA team this summer, restoring wetlands in Dickinson Bayou just a few miles from her home.

“I gotta sharpen my axe,” she says. “There’s lots of trails out there still waiting to be built.”

...

A few weeks ago, Brian Bates made the three-hour drive from Auburn, WA to Olympic National Park. Brian holds a degree in Forestry from Green River College and has worked in a couple of related jobs. He’s hoping a six-month SCA internship will further burnish his career credentials.

(continued on next page)



Valeria Casas

at one of the two sites where SCA began exactly 60 years ago. “I definitely feel like I’m part of the SCA legacy,” he says. “This organization gave me a sense of pride and stewardship. Being part of SCA is being part of something bigger.”

...

In SCA’s early days, our service programs invariably required urban youth to travel great distances to remote wilderness areas, a prospect that routinely dwelled beyond city teens’ interests, means or both. In

time, SCA pioneered urban conservation initiatives to provide service and job opportunities in some of America’s largest municipalities, and today our city-based crew programs engage more participants than our backcountry crews.

“I honestly feel like SCA has helped me find a purpose, a duty to impact other people.”

VALERIA CASAS, NINE-TIME SCA ALUMNUS



“I was born in Washington and have always been around mountains, forests and rivers. I thought it would be cool to work outdoors and, for the longest time, I thought you could only be a ranger. But there’s a whole forestry industry out there, from wildland firefighter to tree disease pathologist, corporate green officers and more.

“When I tell people I want to get into Forestry, they say ‘Oh, you mean logging?’ and I say ‘No!’”

For Brian, getting a job is a means to an end. He’s alarmed by our growing consumption of finite resources and wants to educate his fellow citizens about stewardship and sustainability. “To a great degree,” he states, “most of the drastic changes affecting our environment, from water to land and air quality, are human-influenced: agriculture, fossil fuels, pollution.

“I feel if people had more information, they’d use fewer resources. I want to build awareness and set a good example for others to follow.”

As a burgeoning forester, Brian knows that Olympic National Park is home to some of the largest remaining primeval and temperate rain forests in the lower 48 states. He also views the park’s famed wilderness coastline as the perfect place to draw a line in the sand.

“We only have this one planet,” Brian notes, “and it is definitely in our interest to maintain it. Not only for us but for future generations.”

Brian followed a well-traveled path to Olympic. It is the only park in the nation to host SCA volunteers in each of SCA’s 60 years. The “long, green line” of SCA members will also reach hundreds of other preserves, historic sites and

local communities this year. Participants will perform roles that would not otherwise be filled, and produce results that would not otherwise be achieved. In the process, these young people will gain the experience and confidence they need to excel throughout their lives.

The light in Liz Putnam’s college library may have been faint all those years ago but thanks to her pioneering vision, the future shines quite brightly. 🌲

SCA volunteers like Alejandro, Valeria and Brian depend on generous readers like you.

Please give to the Million Dollar Challenge today at [THESCA.ORG/TGW](https://thesca.org/tgw)

DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT!!

So many young SCA volunteers willing to serve. So many National Parks and green spaces need help. So much work to be done—this year—SCA’s 60th year...

Help SCA respond to this challenge and **HAVE YOUR GIFT MATCHED!** Help us celebrate 60 years of service and get a jump start on the *next* 60 years!

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New Initiatives Take Flight

Young conservation volunteers have long helped shape America's public lands. With research confirming that service to the land also shapes young volunteers, SCA and the S.D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation have announced a new effort to enhance and deliver positive developmental outcomes to young people nationwide.

A year-long initiative is now underway to enrich SCA's program framework and enhance the training provided to adult practitioners who supervise SCA members in the field. "SCA's track record in character development through service to nature is unrivaled," states S.D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation Program Officer Alex Hooker. "We are pleased to help SCA formalize its developmental road map and to assist both the organization and the field in advancing the understanding, practice, and outcomes of nature-based experiences related to character development in youth."

At the same time, SCA and the Pisces Foundation are joining forces to develop and pilot citizen-science components within its urban conservation crews in Chicago and San Mateo (CA). The new curricula will focus on science practices related to pollinator habitats, water quality, and other local conservation priorities, while providing students with valuable science skills and career training.

"These hands-on, service-to-nature experiences will provide context for students to appreciate the value of their work and the importance of science to understanding and protecting their community," says Jason Morris, Senior Program Officer of the Pisces Foundation.

New Board Chair

At the March meeting of the SCA Board of Directors, Margie Brown, (below) the former CEO of CIRI, an Alaska Native corporation, succeeded attorney Steve Seward as chair. Bob Unsworth, a director and principal of Industrial Economics, Incorporated as well as an SCA alumnus, moved into the vice chair position. Seated as new directors were Mark Baum, chief commercial officer for the Food Marketing Institute; Amy Efrogmson, a human resources manager with Avitus Group and an SCA alumna; and Karen Kress, a career nonprofit and resource development executive. SCA expresses its deepest gratitude to sunsetting board members John Gordon, George Hatch, Alan Mintz, Jackie Oldham, and Mr. Seward.



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The Student Conservation Association (SCA) is America's largest and most effective youth conservation service organization. SCA conserves lands and transforms lives by empowering young people of all backgrounds to plan, act, and lead, while they protect and restore our natural and cultural resources. Founded in 1957, SCA's mission is to build the next generation of conservation leaders.

BOARD CHAIR: Margie Brown
PRESIDENT/CEO: Jaime Matyas
EDITOR: Kevin Hamilton
GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Julia Eva Bacon



FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Ed Bartlett

SCA alumni around the world have sent in stories to help SCA commemorate our 60th anniversary, including this tale from Ed, a former chairman of the SCA board of directors.

IN 1964, MY CREW AND I SPENT FIVE WEEKS IN OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK.

We survived on some pretty bland dehydrated food. It rained for 19 of the 21 days we worked in the rain forest. I had to sleep on an incline so the water would run to the bottom of my sleeping bag. Still, due to the heavy physical nature of the work, I returned home having added seven pounds of new-found muscle.

Our last night at Olympic, we camped on an incredibly rugged beach with a heavy surf. Somebody found an old tin pot and we cleaned it up. Everybody contributed their last packages of dehydrated food for our final night's supper. Together, we created a "mystery stew."

We built a fire in the sand next to a large, fresh water stream that came down from the hills and ran into the ocean. The stream had cut a significant swath through the sand so that its



banks were about four feet high on either side. Unbeknownst to the group, the tide was coming in.

The pot, the fire, the evening—everything was perfect. As we were getting ready to remove our dinner from the campfire, a large wave came up the beach and stopped just short of the fire. We all breathed a sigh of relief. However, that same wave travelled up the streambed beyond where we were sitting. It soon crested over the banks of the stream. The water then flowed back down to the beach and right through the fire. It picked up our pot and headed out to sea with all of us in pursuit. The pot tipped over, spilling all its contents, before we were able to rescue it.

We went to sleep hungry but with a story that continues to provide sustenance!

See video of Ed's rubbish-retrieving dog and other alumni stories at
THE SCA.ORG/Bartlett

