

# Maine Conservation Connection

## Maine Conservation Corps



### April 2011



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<http://www.maine.gov/doc/parks/mcc>

### 2011 Trail Training Academy

On February 14, the MCC's 2011 Trail Training Academy got under way with the welcoming of 6 new MCC members. This year's training was taught by Trail Training Instructor Erin Amadon and Outdoor Recreation Assistant Steven Gaffney, with additional instructors brought in for topics such as Wilderness First Responder certification and chainsaw and rigging training.

The 6 Trail Trainers are spending 11 intensive weeks learning all about how to build and maintain trails, as well as how to lead an MCC trail crew. The training includes several weeks of service projects at Cobscook Bay State Park, the Augusta Nature Center, and on the AMHI state government campus in Augusta.



Small engines instructor Rob Hoag teaches the Trail Trainers about the inner workings of a chainsaw.

The 2011 Trail Trainers:

**Alexander Bradley** is from Dresden, ME. Bradley is a 2008 graduate of Southern Maine Community College where he studied Integrated Manufacturing. He previously served as an MCC Team Member in 2004 and as a Team Member with the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps in 2009 and Nevada Conservation Corps in 2010.

**Elise Giasson** is from Auburn, ME. Giasson studied Creative Writing & Gender Studies at the University of Maine – Farmington. She previously served with the MCC as a Team Member in 2009 and a Team Member & Assistant Team Leader in 2010.

**Lindsey May** is from Waukesha, WI. May is a 2007 graduate of the University of Wisconsin – Stout where she studied Studio Art. She previously served with the MCC as a Team Member in 2006.

**Joseph O'Brien** is from Tulsa, OK. O'Brien is a 2009 graduate of the University of Oklahoma where he studied Advertising & Psychology. He previously served as an AmeriCorps member with the NCCC in 2009-2010.

**Timothy St. Thomas** is from Montvale, NJ. St. Thomas is a 2009 graduate of Ramapo College of New Jersey where he studied History & Secondary Education. He previously served as a Team Member with the Northwest Service Academy in 2010.

**Johanna Stacy** is from East Providence, RI. Stacy is a 1999 graduate of Mount Holyoke College where she studied Environmental Studies.



Back row L to R: Lindsey May, Timothy St. Thomas & Alexander Bradley  
Front row (in yellow) L to R: Johanna Stacy, Joseph O'Brien & Elise Giasson

## MCC Welcomes 2011 Senior Team Leaders

**Andrea Bachynsky** of Flemington, NJ is a 2008 graduate of Rutgers University where she studied Communications and Art History. This is her third year with the MCC.

Bachynsky is a 2009 graduate of the MCC's Trail Training Academy. She led crews during both the summer and fall seasons of 2009 and 2010.

**Michelle DiMeglio** of Philadelphia, PA is a 2004/2005 graduate of Lafayette College where she received a B.S. in Environmental Engineering and a B.A. in English. This is her second year with the MCC.

DiMeglio is a 2010 graduate of the MCC's Trail Training Academy and led a crew during the 2010 summer season.

**Katherine Kelley** of Belmont, ME is a 2007 graduate of Belfast Area High School and this is her fourth year with the MCC.



From L to R, STL's Katherine Kelley, Andrea Bachynsky & Michelle DiMeglio

Kelley served as a Senior Team Leader during the 2010 season as well. She is also a graduate of the MCC's 2009 Trail Training Academy and led MCC teams during both the summer and fall of 2009. In 2008 she served as a Team Member and Assistant Team Leader.

## Environmental Educator Starts Service

At the end of January the MCC welcomed an additional Environmental Educator to join the 20 who started at the beginning of January.

**Michelle Zelkowitz** of Freeport, ME is serving 1700 hours at the Androscoggin Land Trust in Auburn. Zelkowitz holds several degrees, the most recent of which was a doctorate degree from the Union Institute and University in Interdisciplinary Studies with a concentration in education and art in 2003. She previously served in AmeriCorps as a Volunteer Services Coordinator at the Moriah Shock Incarceration Correctional Facility.

## AmeriCorps Member Conference

On March 31<sup>st</sup>, 100 AmeriCorps members (including MCC Environmental Educators) representing 11 AmeriCorps programs and from all across Maine participated in the Maine AmeriCorps Spring Member Conference, hosted by the Maine Commission for Community Service. This year's conference took place at Thomas College in Waterville. Marjorie Withers, LCPC, who has worked in mental health and as a consultant for 30 years, spoke to the conference about diversity in Maine during the keynote address. Members attended 15 different workshops, 11 of which were presented by fellow AmeriCorps members.



MCC Environmental Educators at the AmeriCorps Member Conference

## MCC in the News

Our members are doing great things! To read all about what they've been up to and how they are making a difference in the communities where they are serving, please visit the MCC's News page on our website: <http://www.maine.gov/doc/parks/mcc/smokl.html>. You can also find all of our past newsletters here as well.

## Volunteer Opportunities & Events

You can always find all of the MCC's volunteer opportunities on our Volunteer Calendar: <http://www.maine.gov/doc/parks/mcc/volunteer.html>. Please contact Volunteer Coordinator Sarah Gaffney at (207) 624-6092 or [sarah.gaffney@maine.gov](mailto:sarah.gaffney@maine.gov) with any questions about volunteering with the MCC.

### **Earth Day Trail work on Whiskeag Trail (Bath)** **Saturday, April 23**

Kennebec Estuary Land Trust (KELT) and Bath Trails offers a morning of trail maintenance along the Whiskeag Trail in celebration of Earth Day on Saturday, April 23 from 9:00 am to noon! The maintenance will include clearing pathways of foliage and debris that may have built up over the winter months as well as constructing several needed bog bridges. Volunteers are asked to meet behind the Bath Public Works' new compost facility at 9:00am on Saturday. Please wear clothing that can get dirty, sturdy hiking shoes, and work gloves. Please bring along rakes, loppers, or folding saws to help clear debris. To reach the Bath Public Works facility from downtown Bath- Head north on Front St. and turn left on Oak St. for 0.5 mile. Turn right on Lincoln St. (which becomes Oak Grove St.) and continue on Oak Grove St. for 1 mile. The facility will be on your left and down the road just beyond the Bath Public Works' barn. Please RSVP to MCC Environmental Educator Becky Kolak at [bkolak@kennebecestuary.org](mailto:bkolak@kennebecestuary.org) or 442-8400.

### **Trail Work at Bradbury Mountain State Park (Pownal)** **Saturday, April 23**

MCC Environmental Educator David Hammes is looking for help on Saturday, April 23 from 8 am-noon at Bradbury Mountain State Park. They are clearing the tread on the new connector trail leading from the Boundary Trail to Pineland Public Lands. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact David at (207) 668-4712, (772) 882-5701 (c) or [bradburymackworth@gmail.com](mailto:bradburymackworth@gmail.com).

### **Stream & Culvert Clearing Day (Waldoboro)** **Saturday, May 7**

Every year, tens of thousands of alewives make their annual migration up the Medomak River. This year's Medomak River alewife 'run' is just around the corner! The Medomak Valley Land Trust is planning for a stream and culvert clearing day on Saturday, May 7th at 1pm. Keeping the streams and culverts free from blockages is very important for alewife passage, and they need all the hands they can get. The day will involve trudging through streams and culverts, and removing anything and everything that might block alewife passage. The work won't be clean or dry (dress appropriately), but it should be fun and rewarding. If you have access to clippers, loppers, saws, etc, bring them along; they will come in handy. We'll meet beforehand at the MVLTL office, which is at 25 Friendship St. in Waldoboro. Please contact MCC Environmental Educator Stewart DesMeules at [volmvl@midcoast.com](mailto:volmvl@midcoast.com) for more information or to sign up.

## **Counting Alewives! (Waldoboro)**

**Mid-April through early June**

Looking for a flexible, ongoing volunteer opportunity running from mid-April to early June? The 2011 Alewife Count is your answer! The countdown has begun! The 2011 Alewife run is expected to begin sometime in late April, reaching full strength by mid-May. 2011 marks the 5<sup>th</sup> year of the annual alewife count, and we're determined to count every single fish that swims up the Medomak River. The count is organized by the Lloyd Davis Trust, an organization working towards the restoration of alewives in the Medomak River. The alewife run has grown from 30,000 fish in 2007, to over 120,000 in 2010. The Lloyd Davis Trust is continually working towards the restoration of alewives, and this count is not only key in judging the progress we've made towards restoration, but it's very useful to have when we apply for grant funding. The only way this count is possible is through the help we get from volunteers.

Volunteer shifts are 2 hours long, most of which will be spent counting the alewives as they swim through our weir under the Mill St. bridge in Waldoboro. We will hold a short group training (no more than 30 minutes) in mid-April for volunteer counters. Don't worry if you can't attend that, I'll be around for a one-on-one training. Shifts will be available from 10am-8pm, 7 days a week for roughly 4 weeks. Counting will begin when the run starts, which should happen in late April. The last of the fish typically swim through our weir in mid-June, and we'll need the most help with counting in May.

If you would like to sign up for a 2hr counting slot, send an email to MCC Environmental Educator Stewart DesMeules at [volmvl@midcoast.com](mailto:volmvl@midcoast.com). There is a calendar of taken shifts up on the Lloyd Davis Trust website. Find it here: [http://www.midcoast.com/~mvl/alewifecount\\_calendar.html](http://www.midcoast.com/~mvl/alewifecount_calendar.html).

If you don't see a name in the slot you would like, it's still open! In your email, please include the following:

- Date and time of the specific shift you'd like (if you know now)
- # of shifts you'd like to volunteer for
- Availability/Flexibility – Afternoons, Evenings, Weekdays only, Weekends only, or anytime.

Feel free contact Stewart by email or call 832-5570 if you have any questions.