

# Maine Conservation Connection

## Maine Conservation Corps



**April 2010**



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### MCC 2010 Trail Training Academy Commences

In late February the MCC Field Team welcomed six new AmeriCorps members to participate in the 2010 Trail Training Academy. Erin Amadon, a professional trail builder and instructor (and former MCC Team Leader & Senior Team Leader), is teaching the Academy again this year.

Thus far, the group has received extensive instruction in many aspects of trail construction,

maintenance and team leading, including workshops on Leave No Trace, conflict resolution, chainsaw operation/safety, griphoist/rigging, and power equipment operation, among many others.



FT Coordinator Bryan Kalleberg instructs the Trail Trainers on how to operate a Kawasaki Ranger at Crescent Beach State Park.

All six also received Wilderness First Responder certification. During the last few weeks of training, the group will put all of their new skills to work to accomplish several service projects around the state. One of those service projects will be at Lake St. George State Park in Liberty and volunteers are needed to help on Thursday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> (Earth Day). See the Volunteer Opportunities listed at the end of the newsletter for more details.

## 2010 Trail Trainers:

**David Bartoletti** is from Finleyville, PA. He is a 2007 graduate of the University of Dayton where he studied Philosophy and he served for six months with the MCC in 2009 as a Team Member and Assistant Team Leader.



**Charles Davis IV** is from Bridgton, ME. He is a 2009 graduate of the University of Maine at Orono where he studied Parks, Recreation & Tourism. He served as an Assistant Team Leader with the MCC in 2008.

**Michelle DiMeglio** is from Morton, PA. She is a 2004/2005 graduate of Lafayette College where she received a B.S. in Environmental Engineering and a B.A. in English.



**Michael Ferry** is from South Bend, IN. He is a 2008 graduate of Marquette University where he studied Journalism and he served six months with the MCC in 2009 as a Team Member.

**Krista Rogers** is from West Bath, ME. She is a 2008 graduate of Mount Holyoke where she studied Geology and Biology.



**Chelsea Simon** is from Arlington, VT. She is a 2009 graduate of the College of Charleston where she studied Hospitality & Tourism Management.



From L to R, Krista Rogers, Chelsea Simon, Michael Ferry, Michelle DiMeglio, Trail Training Instructor Erin Amadon, Charles Davis IV & David Bartoletti

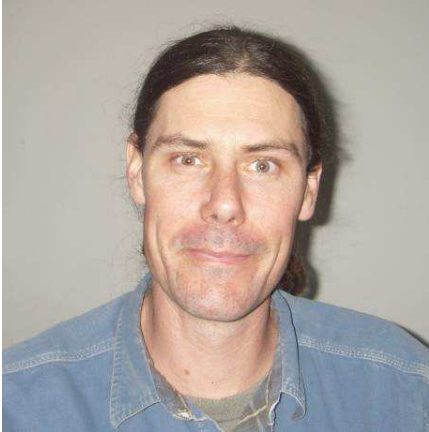
## Field Team Welcomes Senior Team Leaders



Two veteran MCC members are working as Senior Team Leaders for the 2010 Field Team season.

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

She successfully completed the 2009 Trail Training Academy and led MCC teams during both the summer and fall of 2009, and in 2008 she served as an AmeriCorps volunteer as a Team Member and Assistant Team Leader.



**Scott Pfeiffer** of Troy, ME originally served with the MCC as an Assistant Team Leader/Team Leader and AmeriCorps volunteer in 1996-97. From 1997-2000 he was an MCC Team Leader and from 2000-2003 he was a Crew Supervisor.

Since 2003 Pfeiffer has helped run the non-profit Garcelon House in Troy, which acts as an incubator for cottage industries and supports sustainable innovations in rural living. Pfeiffer manages the woodlot and trails systems for the Garcelon House.

## Two Environmental Educators Start Service

**Leo Maheu** of Berkeley, CA is serving 1700 hours with the Merryspring Nature Center in Camden.

During his term of service, Maheu will be working with volunteers and staff to expand Merryspring's environmental education offerings to include more programs for children. Some of the projects he will be working on include organizing self-guided nature trails, developing a children's evening astronomy program, and expanding Merryspring's bimonthly summer programming. To learn more about the Merryspring Nature Center, please visit [www.merryspring.org](http://www.merryspring.org).



**Michael McGlenn** of Whitmarsh, PA is serving 1700 hours with the Maine Energy Education Program in Augusta.

McGlenn will be bringing hands-on energy workshops to 4<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms across Maine. He will be teaching students about where and how electric power is made, the differences between renewable and non-renewable energy sources, as well as lessons on climate change. This summer McGlenn will also be helping out with a local community garden. To learn more about the Maine Energy Education Program please visit [www.meepnews.org](http://www.meepnews.org).

## **Environmental Educators Attend Conference**

Jo Hersom, Environmental Educator Program Coordinator, and 19 MCC Environmental Educators attended the 2010 AmeriCorps Conference at Unity College in Unity, ME on March 10.

The conference, which brings AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps VISTA volunteers in Maine together for a day, is sponsored by the Maine Commission for Community Service and provides educational and networking opportunities. The Keynote was delivered by Emily Wright Timko, Associate Multi-faith Chaplain at Bates College. Conference sessions included an Alumni Panel, Leadership Workshop, and Civic Reflection sessions, among others.



## **Environmental Educator Completes Service**

Erik Walling of South Portland, ME served 1700 hours with the Maine Department of Conservation's Bureau of Parks & Lands in Augusta and finished his term of service in late March.

Walling, who is a 2009 graduate of the University of Southern Maine where he studied Environmental Planning & Policy, assisted Bureau planners in monitoring conservation

easements held by the state during his term of service.

“My position brought me all over the state of Maine, to places I had heard of and many that I hadn’t. I visited coastal islands, mountainous areas, blueberry fields that stretched as far as I could see, a boggy white cedar swamp, the first state park ever established in the state and many more. I received valuable training and skills, and learned valuable lessons, but most important of all I made powerful connections with great people. I never thought that my 1700 hour term would fly by so fast, but it has. Although the challenges were great and the tasks many, I am leaving fulfilled and better prepared to meet new challenges ahead,” says Walling.

Walling has accepted a position with the Maine Natural Areas Program as a Conservation Aide and will remain living in the Augusta area. He also hopes to continue to serve as a volunteer on future Maine Conservation Corps projects.



Walling (on R) helping fellow Environmental Educators restore Cottontail habitat on Cutts Island this spring.

## **MCC Invited to Washington, D.C. Fly-In**

The MCC, along with other State Corps, was invited by Mary Ellen Ardouny of the Corps Network to participate in the National Wildlife Federation’s “fly-in” to promote job creation on public lands. Sarah Gaffney, the MCC’s Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator, spent two days in Washington D.C. participating in the fly-in.

Joined by Mainers Mike Chelminski, of Stantec Consulting and Lance Linkel of Linkel Construction, the three visited the offices of Senators Olympia Snowe and Susan Collins, as well as Congressman Michael Michaud and Congresswoman Chellie Pingree on Capitol Hill to talk about climate change adaptation, as well as the value of natural resources in Maine.



Lance, Sarah & Mike on Capitol Hill

## Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities & Events

The MCC's calendar is really filling up fast and there are lots of ways to get involved! April 18-24 is National Volunteer Week, April 22<sup>nd</sup> is the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Earth Day, and May 8-15 is AmeriCorps Week.

Follow this link to see the MCC's Calendar and check back often:

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

Here are some highlights of upcoming events and opportunities:

**Lake St. George State Park:** the MCC's Trail Training Academy is completing a service project clearing trail, cutting blow-downs, and completing other trail work at Lake St. George State Park in Liberty and they need volunteers on Thursday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Come celebrate Earth Day and help us out on the trail! If interested, please contact Sarah Gaffney at 624-6092 or [sarah.gaffney@maine.gov](mailto:sarah.gaffney@maine.gov).

**Pemaquid Watershed Association:** the PWA has several different opportunities in April & May, including days of trail work at the Doyle Preserve, Bearce Allen Preserve, and

the Crooked Farm Preserve, plus a joint Earth Day event with the Lion's Club cleaning up roadsides in Bristol, with free lunch provided afterwards! Check out the details on the calendar, and to sign up contact MCC Environmental Educator Rebecca Kolak at 563-2196 or [pwalearn@pemaquidwatershed.org](mailto:pwalearn@pemaquidwatershed.org).

**Fourth Annual Friends Spring Vacation Camp:** Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed is holding a camp for 3rd-5th graders this April 19-22nd, 2010! Individuals with environmental, science, education and/or outdoor experience would be greatly appreciated! (Individuals with First Aid or outdoor responder training are an added bonus!) Our Spring Camp is a fun, nature and ecology based day camp and held at the YMCA Camp of Maine in East Winthrop. We offer (2) two-day sessions: Session A is Monday and Tuesday April 19 & 20, Session B is Wednesday and Thursday April 21 & 22. The major themes of each two-day session will focus on spring ecology and exploring nature and will include: a pond exploration "safari" (searching for and identifying critters in the local pond), a geocaching scavenger hunt, writing in nature journals, searching for salamanders and open water fishing! The camp day runs 9:00 am to 3:00 pm for campers, with volunteer leaders/staff arriving at the YMCA Camp of Maine, in East Winthrop, on Cobbossee Lake, at 8:15-8:30 for morning prep. Please contact the Friends' Education Director, Tamara Whitmore, at 621-4100 or [tamara@watershedfriends.com](mailto:tamara@watershedfriends.com) for more details or to express interest in this opportunity.

**Wind Power Noise Information Session:** the Sandy River Land Trust and Phillips planning board are co-hosting an informational session on the sounds of wind power in Phillips on May 3rd at 6:00pm and they need volunteers to help set up and staff the event! The event itself will be a presentation by Robert Rand, INCE expert on acoustics and environmental noise. If interested, please contact MCC Environmental Educator Ben Godsoe at 578-0306 or [bgodsoe.srlt@gmail.com](mailto:bgodsoe.srlt@gmail.com).

**Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens:** in celebration of AmeriCorps Week, the CMBG in Boothbay will have an AmeriCorps informational table set-up May 6-12. Come visit the beautiful gardens and meet CMBG's MCC Environmental Educator Emily Ellingson! Also, the CMBG is offering free admission for moms on Mother's Day! To learn more, contact Emily at 633-4333 or [ellingson@mainegardens.org](mailto:ellingson@mainegardens.org).

**Talk on Water Conservation:** in celebration of AmeriCorps Week MCC Environmental Educators Leo Maheu & Frank Sokol are doing a joint presentation on Water Conservation (100+ ways to conserve water at home!) and AmeriCorps. The presentation will take place on Wednesday, May 12 at the Merryspring Nature Center in Camden at 7pm. For more information, contact Leo Maheu at 236-2239 or [leo@merryspring.org](mailto:leo@merryspring.org).

**Farmer's Markets:** the MCC is hoping to attend several central Maine Farmer's Markets during AmeriCorps Week to raise awareness about AmeriCorps, national service, and how AmeriCorps programs like the Maine Conservation Corps impact local communities. More details to follow soon!