

Maine Conservation Connection

Maine Conservation Corps



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Lester Kenway Retires

On December 19, 2008, Lester Kenway retired after a legendary career in trail work.

Since 1971, Lester has been involved with trails through positions with the State of Maine, as an Appalachian Trail volunteer, and as an independent contractor. He served as the Trail Supervisor at Baxter State Park for 22 years (1978-2000) and as the Field Team Program Coordinator of the Maine Conservation Corps for 7 years (2001-2008).

Lester received many awards over his career including the Guy Waterman Alpine



Lester Kenway

Steward Award in 2005 for innovations in repairing Katahdin's alpine trails and an Honorary Membership with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy in 2007 for his distinguished contributions to the Appalachian Trail.

Although he will no longer be coordinating the MCC's field teams, Lester won't be far from the trail. He continues to be the vice president of the Maine Appalachian Trail Club, in addition to promoting his thriving trail tools business, Trail Services, LLC. Lester will now also be able to conduct more trail workshops and training sessions for organizations such as the Professional Trailbuilders Association and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy.

For the 2009 trail season, Field Team Managers Steven Gaffney and Sara Knowles will be taking over Lester's responsibilities at the MCC.

MCC Welcomes 10 New Environmental Educators

On January 5, 2009, the Maine Conservation Corps welcomed 10 new environmental educators to its program.

With these new additions, there are currently 17 environmental educators serving across Maine from Wells to Presque Isle. Some of the ongoing projects include trail maintenance at Cutts Island, updating for the Governor's carbon challenge, and working on energy audits.

In early February, all of the environmental educators met at Camp Mechuana in Winthrop for the MCC AmeriCorps Day of Networking, followed the next day by the American Heart Association's CPR & First Aid training.

For more information about the MCC's environmental educators, contact Jo Hersom at

(207) 624-6091 or jo.a.hersom@maine.gov

New Field Team Managers Take Over

For the 2009 trail season, Field Team Managers Steven Gaffney and Sara Knowles will be taking over Lester Kenway's responsibilities at the MCC.

Steven started doing trail work in 1998 in his home state of Vermont. He attended Paul Smiths College where he



received a degree in Forestry & Recreation in 2002 before joining the MCC in 2003 as a Team Leader. Before becoming a Field Team Manager, he helped coordinate the MCC's crews as a Field Team Assistant.

Sara, who is originally from Colchester, Illinois, received a degree in Psychology and Sociology from Western Illinois University in 2004. She joined the MCC in 2006 as a Team Member, and was a Senior Team Leader before becoming a Field Team Manager.

For further information about the services offered by the MCC, Steven can be reached at (207) 624-6088 or steven.gaffney@maine.gov and Sara can be reached at (207) 624-6090 or sara.knowles@maine.gov.

Governor Proclaims Maine Conservation Corps Day

In conjunction with the 25th anniversary of the Maine Conservation Corps and the 75th anniversary of the Civilian Conservation Corps, Governor John Baldacci proclaimed November 14, 2008 to be Maine Conservation Corps Day.

In his proclamation, the Governor acknowledged the MCC's contributions to

natural resource projects in communities throughout the State of Maine.

The proclamation also notes that in 2008, MCC members served more than 83,000 hours providing conservation education and engaging conservation volunteers. In addition, 92 MCC members (and interested volunteers) built and rehabilitated over 36 miles of trail in 2008.

MCC Welcomes New Volunteer & Marketing Leader

The Maine Conservation Corps recently welcomed AmeriCorps volunteer Sarah Gaffney of Vassalboro, Maine to serve as the Volunteer and Marketing Leader.



Sarah Gaffney

Sarah graduated from Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois with a degree in Creative Writing and Environmental Studies. She also served with the Maine Conservation Corps as a Team Member in 2004.

In her new position, Sarah will promote the MCC and coordinate its marketing efforts. She will also focus on enlisting volunteers to serve with field teams and environmental educators on conservation projects throughout the state of Maine.

Anyone interested in volunteering with the Maine Conservation Corps can contact Sarah at (207) 624-6092 or sarah.gaffney@maine.gov.

Preparation Begins for Trail Training Academy

On February 23, 2009, the MCC will commence its 2009 Trail Training Academy at Camp Mechuwana in Winthrop.

The Trail Training Academy, implemented in 2007, is designed to train potential MCC Team Leaders in various

trail skills. Over the course of 10 weeks, 6 new MCC members will be focusing on skills such as chainsaw operation, Wilderness First Responder certification, timber bridge construction, and volunteer management.

Erin Amadon of Troy, Maine is the 2009 Trail Training Instructor. Erin has been doing trail work for 12 years and has worked with numerous trail organizations throughout New England. She graduated from Unity College in 2003 with a degree in Park Management and first worked with the MCC as a Team Leader in 2005. She also maintains a position at the privately contracted trail company Peter S. Jensen Associates, LLC.

Elizabeth Doyle of Gardiner, Maine will also be helping with the Academy as a Field Team Assistant. Elizabeth graduated from the University of Maine in 2005 with a degree in Psychology, and she originally joined the MCC in 2005 as a Team Member. She will remain with the MCC for the 2009 season and plans to attend graduate school in January 2010.



Erin Amadon & Beth Doyle

Project Highlight: Marshall Island

Marshall Island, managed by Maine Coast Heritage Trust, lies in Jericho Bay off the coast of Maine. The next land mass east of Marshall Island is Portugal.

A three year MCC project culminated this past year with the completion of a loop trail system. During the 2008 season, the crew on Marshall Island cleared 11 miles of trail, built 56 feet of bog bridging, constructed one campsite, built 11 cairns, covered 552 feet of bog bridging



The crew on Marshall Island

with chicken wire for additional traction, and removed 28 bags of trash left on the island.

This MCC project has created a maritime environment that is a truly wild and one of a kind destination for Maine's residents to experience. Check with Maine Coast Heritage Trust for recreation details.

If you would like to receive this newsletter, please e-mail sarah.gaffney@maine.gov