

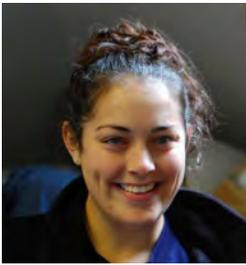
Maine Conservation Connection

Maine Conservation Corps

March 2014

MCC Announces Staff Changes

In 2014, the MCC announced two prominent staff changes: former MCC Environmental Educator and Field Team Member Katie Nemmer now is the Outdoor Recreation Assistant and longtime MCC stalwart Krista Rogers has the additional duties of interim Environmental Steward (ES) and Veteran Community Leader (VCL) Program Coordinator.



Interim ES and VCL Program Coordinator **Krista Rogers**: A graduate of Mount Holyoke College and a native of Maine, Krista has worked with the Maine Conservation Corps in varying capacities for four years. She began as a Trail Training Academy Member in 2010, and led two MCC crews that same year as a Field Team Leader. In following years, she served as a Senior Team Leader, then as Training Coordinator for the inaugural year of the VCL Program before transitioning into her current role. Fun Fact: Krista has made it her goal to learn one new musical instrument a year (this year it's the Banjo).

Outdoor Recreation Assistant **Katie Nemmer**: Although Katie claims Hamburg, New York as home, she previously served with the MCC as a Field Team Member in 2011, as an Environmental Educator (EE) with Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands in 2012, and as an EE with Maine Department of Environmental Protection in 2013. She is a 2007 graduate of Rochester Institute of Technology and a 2012 graduate of Erie Community College. Katie works with Mick Rogers, Supervisor of Outdoor Recreation, on various aspects of two grant programs that fund recreational opportunities throughout the state. Fun Fact: The first moose Katie ever saw was in Hallowell, Maine on the trails behind the MCC office – and this was after two seasons of traveling all over the State!



MCC Training Coordinators Selected

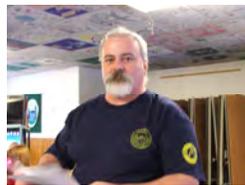
The MCC is thrilled to welcome back talented Training Coordinators this season:



Field Team Training Coordinator **Erin Amadon**: A hearty ‘welcome back’ to Erin as our Field Team Training Coordinator this season! Erin brings with her 16 years of trail work knowledge and experience. When she is not working with MCC she is a founding member of Peter S. Jensen and Associates LLC, a member of the Professional Trail Builders Association. Erin stays busy working on technical trail projects, teaching trail skills, and pursuing her new found hobby of fly-fishing (when she finds the time!). Fun Fact: Erin has paddled 120 miles of the Rio Grande River by canoe.



Senior Team Leader **Lindsey May**: Hailing from Waukesha, Wisconsin, Lindsey has been leading trail training activities with Erin Amadon for the past several weeks. She is a 2003 graduate of Waukesha South High School and a 2007 graduate of the University of Wisconsin – Stout with a Studio Arts degree. Lindsey was an MCC Field Team Member in 2006, an MCC Trail Training Academy graduate in 2011, an MCC Field Team Leader in both 2011 and 2012, and a Senior Team Leader last year. Fun Fact: Inspired by her first season of trail work with MCC, Lindsey spent six months hiking the Appalachian Trail in 2008.



VCL Training Coordinator **James Weston**: Jim served as a VCL at Androscoggin Riverlands State Park in 2013, and we’re fortunate he applied to train the VCL service members this year. Jim is a 1981 graduate of Milford Area Senior High School in Milford, NH and is currently attending the University of Maine at Machias, studying Recreational Tourism. Jim is a U.S. Navy veteran and still calls Machias, Maine home. Fun Fact: Jim raised and rescued ferrets for several years and rescued four kittens abandoned during his term of service last year at his host site.

MCC Environmental Stewards Start Service



Left to right: Matt Kennedy, Conner Casey, Laura Crossley, Sarah Fensore, Anna Farrell, and Jake VanGorder

This Environmental Steward position unites the primary and most successful elements of the MCC Field Team program and MCC individual placement positions, while responding to community needs. Environmental Stewards bring enthusiasm, expertise and focused effort to creating and improving recreational trails, planning conservation projects, and developing, training, and sustaining a community volunteer base.

In January, the MCC welcomed six AmeriCorps 1700-hour service-term Environmental Stewards. The 2014 1700-hour ESs are:



Conner Casey: Conner is the son of Chris and Elizabeth Casey of Washington, D.C. He is a 2004 graduate of Gonzaga College (Washington, D.C.) High School and is a 2013 graduate of the University of Maine at Orono with an Ecology degree. Conner is hosted by the Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge in Wells for his term of national service. Fun Facts: Conner is trying to start a band in Southern Maine and likes carrots.



Sarah Fensore: Sarah is the daughter of David and Carolyn Fensore of New Gloucester, Maine. She is a 2009 graduate of Hebron Academy (ME) and a 2013 graduate of Colby College with French/Art and Environmental Studies degrees. Sarah is hosted by the Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge in Wells for her national service term. Fun Fact: Sarah has been involved in over 40 theater productions (including one in French) as an actor, singer, poster designer, scenic artist, or director.



Matthew Kennedy: Matt is the son of Ed and Cindy Kennedy of Beverly, Massachusetts. He is a 2009 graduate of Beverly (MA) High School and is a 2013 graduate of Tufts University with a Biology and Environmental Studies degree. Matt is hosted by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, Portland Biological Monitoring Program for his term of national service. Fun Fact: Matt has had a close encounter with an airborne sturgeon.



Laura Crossley: Laura is the daughter of Norman and Pam Crossley of Lisbon, Iowa. She is a 1995 graduate of Solon (IA) High School, a graduate of the University of Iowa with a B.A. in Spanish and Anthropology, and a 2013 graduate of Tufts University with a M.A. in Urban & Environmental Policy & Planning. Laura is hosted by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, Portland Watershed Unit for her term of national service. Fun Fact: Laura once climbed a volcano (momentarily forgetting her fear of heights) and returned to sea level by sliding on her seat in the snow.



Jake VanGorder: Jake is the son of Doug and Kathy VanGorder of West Tremont, Maine. He is a 2010 graduate of Sterling College with a Conservation Ecology degree and previously served as an Environmental Educator with MCC in 2012. Jake is hosted by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, Volunteer River Monitoring Program for his term of national service. Fun Fact: Jake excels at local team-trivia events, but was recently stumped with the youngest person to serve as U.S. President (no, it was not J.F.K.).



Anna Farrell: Anna is the daughter of Tom and Martha Farrell of Maumee, Ohio. She is a 2009 graduate of Notre Dame (OH) Academy and is a 2013 graduate of Denison University with an Environmental Studies/Geosciences degree. Anna is hosted by the Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory for her term of national service. Fun Fact: Anna has never read a single book in the Harry Potter series, although she confesses to having seen some of the movies.

MCC Veteran Community Leaders Start Service



Left to Right: Jake Skakal, Dylan Cookson, Andrew Mowry, and G. Peter Marquis, Jr. Not pictured: James Thomas.

The MCC recently welcomed its second group of VCL service members. This AmeriCorps 1700-hour service-term program is for military veterans and current Reserve and National Guard members. The VCL program combines a rigorous, skills-based training regimen with leadership development designed to take advantage of the members' unique leadership skills and experiences. Our 2014 VCLs are:



Guy Peter Marquis, Jr.: Peter is the son of Peter and Edna Marquis of Van Buren, Maine. He is a 1980 graduate of Van Buren (ME) District Secondary School and is a 2013 graduate of the University of Maine at Presque Isle with a Business Administration degree. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps for over 12 years and in the Maine Army National Guard for another 8 years, including two separate

active-duty deployments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Peter is hosted by the Caribou Parks and Recreation Department for his term of national service. Fun Fact: Peter was heavily involved in youth activities and sports as a coach, umpire, and referee.



Dylan Cookson: Dylan is the son of Shane and Carla Cookson of Corinna, Maine. He is a 2006 graduate of Nokomis (ME) Regional High School and a 2011 graduate of the University of Maine at Orono with a Wildlife Ecology degree. He actively serves in the Maine Army National Guard and previously served as a VCL with MCC last year. Dylan is hosted by Vaughan Woods State Park for his term of national service. Fun Fact: Dylan says, "In the Army, they always take care of you, but in AmeriCorps, you get a chance to take care of others."



Jake Skakal: Jake is the son of Jerry and Janet Skakal of Olathe, Kansas. He is a 1997 graduate of Lawrence (KS) High School and a 2013 graduate of California State University at Bakersfield with a Liberal Studies degree. He is a U.S. Navy veteran who served for four years as an Aviation Boatswain's Mate Fuel Handler and previously served as a VCL with MCC last year. Jake is hosted by the Brunswick Parks and Recreation Department for his term of national service. Fun Fact: Jake would enjoy living off the land for an extended period of time.



Andrew Mowry: Andrew is the son of Kenneth and Gayle Mowry of Des Moines, Washington. He is a 1994 graduate of Mercer Island (WA) High School and attends Oregon State University, where he studies Natural Resources Policy and Management in the College of Forestry. He served in the U.S. Army for over four years, including deployments to Bosnia (with the 1st Armored Division while stationed in Germany) and to both Kuwait and Iraq with the 4th Infantry Division while stationed in Fort Carson, Colorado. Andrew is hosted by Elliotsville Plantation, Inc. for his term of national service. Fun Fact: Andrew's family is descended from the owners of the first tavern in the U.S., established in the mid-17th century in Providence, RI.



James Thomas: James is the son of Dave and Julie Thomas of Fairfield, Maine. He is a 1980 graduate of Lawrence (ME) High School and is a 2014 graduate of the International Sports Sciences Association College with an Exercise Science degree. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps for four years, through the rank of Corporal, as an administrator in a helicopter pilot training squadron. Fun Fact: James was an aspiring actor and a stand-in during the filming on a Stephen King movie.

MCC Trail Training Academy Members Start Service



From left to right: Stevie Dembowski, Ryan MacGlashing, Amie Daniels, John Mylroie, Deidrah Stanchfield, and Stuart Blanchard.

The MCC Trail Training Academy began mid-February and runs through early May. It teaches MCC AmeriCorps 900-hour national service members how to build sustainable trails, work together as a team, and become great Field Team Leaders.

The members receive 11 weeks of extensive trail skills training in timber work, chainsaw safety and operation, rigging and grip hoist operation, and rock work. All participants receive Wilderness First Responder certification. 2014's Trail Training Members are:



Amie Daniels: Amie is the daughter of Scott Daniels and Donna Dube of Lewiston, Maine. She is a 2008 graduate of Lewiston (ME) High School and is a 2012 graduate of the University of Maine at Farmington with an Environmental Science/Art and Religion degree. Amie previously served as a Field Team Member with MCC in 2012. Fun Fact: Amie visited the Grand Canyon in 2012.



Stuart Blanchard: Stuart is the son of Peter and April Blanchard of Winthrop, Maine. He is a 2007 graduate of Winthrop (ME) High School and is a 2013 graduate of the University of Maine at Orono with a History/Anthropology degree. Stuart previously served as a Field Team Member with MCC in both 2012 and 2013. Fun Fact: Stuart has summited Maine's Mount Katahdin each year since 2008.



John Mylroie: John is a 2004 graduate of Cheverus (Portland, ME) High School. John previously served as a Field Team Member with MCC last year. Fun Facts: John substitute teaches at Cape Elizabeth High School, has been able to dunk a basketball since the 7th grade, and walked on to the (NCAA Division I) basketball team at George Washington University.



Deidrah Stanchfield: Deidrah is the daughter of Stephanie Stanchfield of Augusta, Maine. She is a 2003 graduate of Cony (Augusta, ME) High School (*Go Rams!*). Deidrah previously served as a Field Team Member with MCC in 2013. Fun Fact: Deidrah bred snakes and lizards in the past and lived with 120 reptiles at one point.



Ryan MacGlashing: Ryan is the son of Greg and Carol MacGlashing of York, Maine. He is a 2007 graduate of York (ME) High School and is a 2013 graduate of the University of Maine at Orono with a Marine Sciences degree. Fun Fact: Ryan has never had a Facebook account.



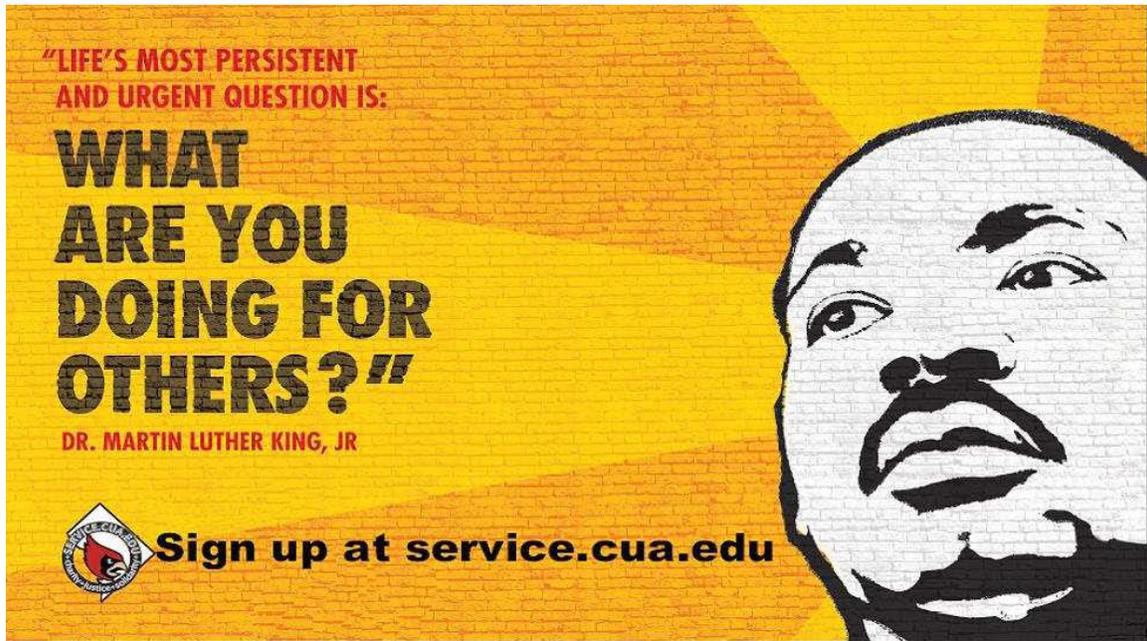
Stephanie 'Stevie' Dembowski: Stevie is the daughter of Paul and Theresa Dembowski of Casco, Maine. She is a 2005 graduate of Lake Region (Naples, ME) High School and is a 2009 graduate of Cornell University with an Animal Science degree. Fun Fact: Stevie is a long-distance hiker; she hiked all over Ireland in 2011 and 'thru-hiked' (hiked the entire distance of) the Appalachian Trail in 2013.

MCC Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator Begins Service



Michael Hein: Michael is the son of Natalee McGuire and Don Mandel of Augusta, Maine. He is a 1988 graduate of Cony (Augusta, ME) High School (*Go Rams!*) and is a 1992 graduate of Marquette University with a Political Science degree. Michael served in the Army National Guard for 7 1/2 years as both an enlisted Administrative Specialist and a Chemical Platoon Leader when commissioned as an officer in 1992. Michael volunteered over 250 hours with the MCC for six months prior to his term of service, which began in January. He was voted the MCC Volunteer of the Month for December, 2013. Michael was recently nominated by the MCC for a 2013 President's Volunteer Service Award, issued by the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation and administered by the Maine Commission for Community Service. Fun Fact: Michael walks from his Augusta home to work at the Hallowell MCC office (five miles, round-trip) most days, for the much-enjoyed exercise.

2014 Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) Day of Service



The theme of the 2014 Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) Day of Service was “Life's most persistent and urgent question is: ‘What are you doing for others?’” Here is what the MCC AmeriCorps service members did for others on MLK Day:

Six MCC Environmental Stewards (Matthew Kennedy, Laura Crossley, Anna Farrell, Sarah Fensore, Conner Casey, and Jake VanGorder) and four MCC Veteran Community Leaders (Peter Marquis, Jr., Jake Skakal, Dylan Cookson, and Andrew Mowry) spent the afternoon on January 17th at Camp Mechuwana in Winthrop, Maine cleaning up and disposing of brush and debris from the recent ice storm which ravaged the region the previous month.



At the request of the Camp staff, and under the supervision of MCC Field Team Training Coordinator Erin Amadon, the MCC AmeriCorps members spent several hours in winter weather helping prepare the site for next season's campers. Practicing responsible 'leave no trace' training, they cleared the site of potentially dangerous downed tree branches, debris, and other safety hazards.

New MCC Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator, Michael Hein donated blood at a Red Cross blood drive at the Augusta (Maine) YMCA on January 21st to participate in the 2014 MLK Day of Service and to ‘do something for others.’ Along with the other new MCC members who participated in the MLK Day of Service, Michael is a fellow 1700-hour AmeriCorps national service member.



MCC Volunteer of the Month – January, 2014



Jocelyn Duffy has been voted the MCC Volunteer of the Month for January, 2014. A recent transplant from Oregon to Hallowell, Maine, Jocelyn's help in the MCC office over the past four months has been invaluable. She assisted MCC office staff and fellow MCC volunteers with projects ranging from grant research, online graphic design, database management, site mapping, and organizing, and event volunteerism with the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands. For volunteering over 100 hours last year with the MCC, Jocelyn was also recently nominated for a 2013 President's Volunteer Service Award.

Current MCC AmeriCorps Opportunities

AmeriCorps Field Team Members

Come build great trails with great people! The MCC Field Team is composed of trail crews (3 - 6 people) serving to construct and improve recreational trails in the mountains, along the beautiful coastline, and in communities all over the State of Maine.

Projects include remote back-country hiking trails, local nature and walking paths, multi-use trails, and accessible pathways for wheelchair use. Some of the trail structures the MCC builds are stone staircases, timber bridges, boardwalks, bog bridging, and rock water bars. The summer season runs May through mid-August. The fall season runs mid-August through early-November.

You will learn sustainable trail-building skills, valuable physical and interpersonal skills, get in great shape, make a real difference, and have fantastic stories to tell after your service. Field Team Members serve 3 - 6 months on both front- and back-country crews.

Field Team Member Qualifications:

- Must be at least 18-years-old and High School diploma or equivalent
 - Must be a U.S. Citizen
 - Must agree to criminal and sex offender background checks
 - Live and perform strenuous work under challenging conditions
 - Have the desire to learn, serve others, and make a difference
-
- Summer Season Application Deadline: **March 31, 2014**

 - Fall Season Application Deadline: **June 20, 2014**

 - Location and Hours: Training takes place in the Hallowell area; field work is conducted throughout Maine. 40 hours-per-week; some weekends and overnights required

- Field Team Term of Service:
 - May 19 to August 15, 2014 (450-hours), August 19 to November 14, 2014 (450-hours), **or** May 19, 2014 to November 14, 2014 (900-hours)
 - 300-hours, 450-hours, or 900-hours of service is required
- Benefits:
 - Stipend of \$260 per week (less taxes)
 - Health Coverage
 - \$1,175, \$1,468 or \$2,775 AmeriCorps Education Award
 - Student Loan Forbearance (if eligible)
 - State Park Pass
 - Housing during training and orientation (during service days only)

AmeriCorps Environmental Stewards

May 12, 2014 - November 8, 2014

The Maine Conservation Corps (MCC) is accepting applications for AmeriCorps Environmental Steward positions located throughout Maine for May 2014. MCC is dedicated to environmental education, outdoor recreation and conservation projects, volunteer opportunities, and developing career and leadership skills.

Environmental Stewards serve in 900-hour positions throughout the State of Maine. They receive a 3 weeks of training, which includes: Driving Dynamics - First Aid Certification - Chainsaw Safety - Trail Design and Layout - Bridge Building - Stone Cutting - Stonework - Carpentry - Griphoist and Rigging - Conflict Resolution, Diversity, and Communication - Leadership - Management - Grant Writing.

900-hour positions receive a living allowance of \$6,240 (\$260/week for 24 weeks) and, if eligible, an AmeriCorps education award of \$2,775 upon successful completion of the program. Other benefits include health coverage during service with COBRA benefits at the completion of service, student loan forbearance and interest payment, experiential learning, a wide range of training and networking, and a Maine State Park Pass.

APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR POSITIONS STARTING May 12, 2014 is March 31, 2014.
Applications will be reviewed as they are received.

Essential Qualifications for ALL MCC Environmental Stewards are:

- Must be at least 18-years-old and High School diploma or equivalent
- Must be a U.S. Citizen
- Must agree to criminal and sex offender background checks
- Have the ability to live and perform strenuous work under challenging conditions
- Have the desire to learn, serve others, and make a difference
- Ability to follow directions
- Responsible and reliable
- Good communication skills, and excellent work ethic
- Possess motivation and initiative
- Interest in personal growth and participating in on-going training

- Previous planning and fundraising experience
- Experience with volunteer management
- Eligibility for AmeriCorps and ability to complete term of service
- State positions require a valid driver's license and a good 5-year driving record

For more information, contact:

Brenda L. Webber, Administrative Recruitment Associate
207-624-6085 or 1-800-245-5627 (Toll Free in Maine)
www.maine.gov/doc/parks/mcc

The Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry provides equal opportunity in employment and programs. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform essential functions. Accommodation arrangements must be requested in advance by contacting MCC staff.