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Quincy Swatson with his aquaponics system at Perry Traditional Academy

SCA Alumnus Giving Back, Giving Hope

Growing up in Pittsburgh's troubled Manchester neighborhood in the 1990s, Quincy Kofi Swatson thought most of his doors were closed. "It was a homogenously poor neighborhood," he says, "and homogenously of one race, and you'd get caught up in the mindset that everyone is in the same situation and there are limited ways to get out."

For Quincy, that began to change at age 16 when he joined an SCA crew working in city parks and, eventually, Allegheny National Forest. "Being in that forest, experiencing wildlife, camping, suddenly being with people from different cultures—SCA showed me there are so many doors of opportunity available," he says.

Now 23, Quincy is opening doors for others.

With two college friends, he's founded The Door Campaign to provide role models for youth in Pittsburgh's lower socioeconomic areas. "Kids look up to people they see on TV: rappers, entertainers, athletes. Not necessarily people in the local community," Quincy states. "I felt an obligation to engage with these kids and show them I came from same neighborhood and overcame the same obstacles."

Quincy concedes without his mom's watchful eye, he could have easily fallen into gangs and drugs, and adds without SCA, there likely would not be a Door Campaign. "SCA changed my thinking on everything," he notes. "My crew leaders and other SCA staff, looking up to them and seeing their influence, this is me wanting to imitate that."

Quincy wants to use the platforms of urban agriculture and sustainability to capture the interest and imagination of

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CONSERVATION BEGINS HERE
Student Conservation Association
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

SCA Delivers Long-Term Impact

As you'll see through the member and alumni profiles in this issue of *The Green Way*, an SCA experience may last a few weeks but its impact lasts a lifetime.

Every day, in parks and cities across our nation, SCA volunteers aid threatened wildlife, fragile habitats and cherished landmarks. If their impact was confined to these accomplishments, these outstanding young women and men would still have earned our gratitude. Yet their contributions extend much further.

The SCA experience instills powerful, lifelong conservation values. It yields skills and insights that members carry with them forever. And it launches these youth on leadership tracks that position them to bring sustainable policies and practices to governments, corporations, nonprofits and communities in the years ahead.

SCA has been building new generations of conservation leaders for nearly six decades. Seventy percent of our 75,000 alumni are either working or studying in a field related to strengthening our environment. As noted on these pages, alumnus Quincy Swatson was so inspired by SCA that he started his own nonprofit to aid at-risk youth. Leah Duran is now a park ranger, helping others to embrace our natural heritage. And the facing page features two additional alumnae preparing for outdoor careers.

With your continued support, SCA will soon introduce new programs to engage even more of America's youth—particularly those in under-served urban communities. We will grow our commitment to protecting and restoring our precious wilderness, and implement innovative initiatives addressing climate change, Gap Year opportunities and more.

The impact of SCA is long-lasting. And your investment and faith in SCA positively impacts our nation's public lands, wildlife and youth. Thank you.

Jaime B. Malpas

SCA Alumnus Giving Back *continued from page 1*

Pittsburgh teens. His initial pilot project involves 45 students in aquaponics: growing vegetables and raising fish in a common, symbiotic ecosystem.

"I felt that if I wanted to make an impact, I needed to create my own revenue source," he reasons. He's cultivated a long list of local chefs who have agreed to buy his herbs, lettuce and tilapia, and the city school district is ready to expand the project to other classrooms. Thus far, students have learned about nature, science and the benefits of locally-produced food; in time, Quincy hopes his aquaponics enterprise will also provide these teens with jobs.

"SCA opened my eyes," Quincy declares. "Now I want to open doors."

Opportunities like those provided by SCA to Quincy are only possible through the generosity of individuals like you. Please help us empower even more emerging leaders by renewing your support today.



A Day On. From New York City to East Palo Alto, SCA marked Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day by hosting seven major conservation service projects across the country. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis joined 350 SCA volunteers in removing more than a half a ton of debris from Anacostia Park in Washington, DC. "SCA changes the lives of the young people who participate in it," Jewell stated. "It's a great model for others to follow."

In Manhattan, the 250 SCA volunteers restoring East River Park's water-front included UN Ambassador Samantha Power and her young son (in center of photo above). "Global activism starts with advocating for your own communities," Power told the SCA crews. "I want my son to grow up to be like all of you." For more MLK Day coverage, visit www.thesca.org/mlk2015.

Interns on Path to Careers and Influence



Growing up in Houston, Stacey Kinney says she only saw ducks on office park ponds. Now, here she was at Coldwater River National Wildlife Refuge in Lambert, Mississippi, netting and banding them by the dozen.

“Getting one of those little silver bands on is not easy,” Stacey declares. “The ducks start flapping like mad and don’t even listen when you tell them to calm down!”

A university senior majoring in conservation, Stacey recently completed a three-month term in the Career Discovery Internship Program (CDIP). Offered jointly by SCA and the US Fish and Wildlife Service, CDIP connects culturally and ethnically diverse college students to wildlife-focused professions across the country. As these SCA alumni advance through their professions, they will help to guide the direction of their employers and hometowns while forging a more inclusive conservation community.

Despite her struggles wading through mucky marshes—“you won’t believe how many times I got stuck!”—Stacey is confident her work made a difference, and not just for the birds. “Duck banding provides necessary information for game bird management,” she states. “It really brings home the importance of the work you’re doing.

“SCA has played a big part in my gaining an understanding of nature that goes beyond just its beauty, and it has gotten me closer to a career goal of mine: a job with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.”

A thousand miles away, fellow CDIP intern Mary Nghe scans the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge in Philadelphia and sees the issue. Overwhelmingly, she notes, most of her colleagues are White. “A more diverse staff will give the youth of the community someone to look up to,” Mary says. “They’ll think, ‘wow, I could be him or her one day.’

“When your staff is predominately one ethnicity, children tend to assume that those occupations are only for that sole ethnicity.”

Mary’s roles at Heinz ranged from biological research to visitor services, but the pharmacy major wasn’t sure how they’d fit into her own career plans until discussing it with her supervisor, deputy refuge manager and SCA alumna Mariana Bergeson. “Mariana recommended Nature Rx. It’s a program where doctors prescribe time outdoors to their patients,” says Mary, who is now exploring the concept with her advisor at Philadelphia’s University of the Sciences.

Stacey Kinney is also back at school now, wrapping up her final year at Southeastern Oklahoma State University. And with her SCA experience still fresh in her mind, this self-proclaimed “conservationist-in-training” can’t wait to write her life’s next chapter. “I truly believe,” she says, “in working hard toward a common goal of saving habitat, wildlife and our limited resources.”

See Mary Nghe’s video recap of her SCA experience at thesca.org/nghe.





2014 IMPACT

SERVICE

SCA ENGAGED
7,655 VOLUNTEERS

3,951
IN OUR FIELD PROGRAMS

1.5 MILLION
HOURS OF VOLUNTEER
SERVICE

3,704
IN COMMUNITY PROJECTS

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

4,821 METRIC TONS OF CO₂ REDUCED

26.6 MILLION kWh of ENERGY CONSERVED

5.4 MILLION GALLONS OF WATER SAVED

144,412 CULTURAL AND HISTORIC ARTIFACTS PRESERVED

1.4 MILLION ACRES OF HABITAT RESTORED AND DEFENDED

1.5 MILLION ANIMALS MONITORED AND PROTECTED

7.6 MILLION FEET OF TRAILS MAINTAINED FOR PUBLIC USE

378,006 PEOPLE EDUCATED IN ECOLOGY, SUSTAINABILITY

285 MILES OF SHORELINE RESTORED

SCA VOLUNTEERS SERVED IN ALL 50 STATES, PLACES THAT ARE HOME TO OR VISITED BY MORE THAN

INFLUENCE

220 MILLION PEOPLE

THE 15 MOST POPULAR NATIONAL PARKS

OVER 12 OF AMERICA'S LEADING CITIES





Walking Two Worlds

by Leah Duran, Park Ranger and 3x SCA Alumna

When I first moved from Lassen Volcanic National Park to Oakland, I missed stars the most.

I had been living in remote areas during my service with SCA and then as a National Park Service ranger. Within my first few weeks of transition, I climbed Claremont Canyon to watch a meteor shower and instead saw fog creep over city lights.

As I grew accustomed to walking between skyscrapers instead of pine trees, new companions filled my life. On my bike commute to San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park, a chorus of cawing coaxed me to stop at a large intersection, where I witnessed a flock of red-masked parakeets: the famous “Parrots of Telegraph Hill.”

Along the beach at Aquatic Park, I smelt salt air and watched egrets decorate the sand with their toes. My walks home from the BART train are like garden strolls, with redwoods next to palm trees next to rosemary bushes. These snippets remind me why I’m here—to inspire others to protect nature and our collective history.

After working at Lassen, I transferred to John Muir National Historic Site before switching to my current position at SF Maritime. Far from being a wilderness recluse, Muir lived in town, raised a family, and ran a thriving orchard business. He used his political connections to fight for protecting nature, proof we can walk both worlds.

Since moving to an urban area, I’ve realized we need future champions of conservation to arise from cities, where nature is less evident and where the majority of the country’s population lives. By trading work pants and boots for slacks and flats, I’m redefining for myself what a conservationist is, as there are countless ways to contribute.

Throughout my two moves in the last three years, one constant source of inspiration has been SCA’s Alumni Council. I was welcomed onto the Council during my service at Lassen, and continue to be invigorated each time I reconnect with this amazing group of 14 alumni from across the U.S. I can’t thank SCA enough for placing me on the rewarding path of serving the planet.

thesca.org

WE ARE MOVING CONSERVATION FORWARD



SCA strives to create hands-on experiences that transform both lives and lands. We seek to empower young people to plan, act, and lead—while they ensure America’s natural legacy. **That’s a refreshing vision that SCA delivers on year after year.**

In 2015, SCA is renewing our commitment to that vision by launching new and expanded programs to **engage America’s young people in the care and nurturing of a more sustainable planet.**

By empowering more under-served youth, we will strengthen our urban environments, and advance the youth conservation movement from our backcountry to our backyards. We will extend our promise to protect and restore our cherished wilderness.

And look for our initiatives addressing climate change, green career training and more. Regardless of how much you give, you will be helping to forge a brighter future for our land and our youth. **Help us by renewing your support with a gift today.**

**Use the attached envelope
or give securely online at
THESCA.ORG/RENEWTGW**

DONOR PROFILE: JOHN AND PATRICIA CASE



John and Patricia Case remember the day they sat in on a presentation by an SCA intern at Glacier National Park. Witnessing her genuine enthusiasm for the park, it was immediately clear how much the exposure and experience had meant to this young woman.

As the Cases explored SCA further, they became inspired by the variety of opportunities provided for young people to work in the outdoors while making a real difference for our parks and public lands.

While John and Patricia support several conservation organizations, they feel SCA's "hands on" approach sets it apart from other groups. "SCA is one of the best ways you can leverage your contributions to get a great deal accomplished and make a difference for the public lands and the people that use them," John says.

"People have a responsibility to protect open spaces," Patricia adds, "and those who are able should support and contribute to these efforts."

The couple split their time between Michigan and Arizona, but also manage to visit a number of national parks every year—nearly 300 in total so far. "As the world gets more complex and life is always 'busier,' people need places like parks, public lands and green spaces to unwind and unplug," Patricia notes. That's why they continue to support the conservation efforts SCA—and look for other impassioned SCA volunteers along the way.

Your Investment in Their Future Can Produce Many Happy Returns ... For You and For Them

Would you like to make an investment in the future of SCA's youth conservation service work that will pay dividends far into the future? Consider a charitable gift annuity with SCA and receive income for life and a charitable tax deduction in the year of the gift. At the end of your life, the residual would be used to support SCA's mission.

For example, a 75-year-old making a \$10,000 gift to SCA could enjoy lifetime income of \$580/year (5.8%) and could also enjoy a tax deduction in the year of the gift of \$4,503.

**This is for informational purposes only. Those considering a planned gift should check with their advisers.*

To learn more, please contact Wilke Nelson, SCA's Director of Gift Planning, toll free, at: 1-888-722-9675 x2024 or by email to: Wnelson@theSCA.org. To learn more about charitable gift annuities and other gift planning options with SCA please visit:

thesca.givingplan.net





Awards and Recognitions

SCA sends congratulations to two of our own: Southwest Regional Program Director **Bettina Mok** (left) was recently honored with a Bay Area Jefferson Award for public and community service. And **Bob Birkby**, veteran SCA crew leader and author of

Lightly on the Land: The SCA Trail Building and Maintenance Manual, was recognized by the National Outdoor Book Awards for his *Fieldbook*, a sequel to the latest edition of *The Boy Scout Handbook*, which Birkby also wrote.

SCA Hosts Outdoor Conference

SCA recently co-sponsored the 21st annual Wilderness Risk Management Conference in Atlanta, GA. SCA experts presented on topics ranging from mitigating field hazards to learning from “near misses.” More than 300 outdoor professionals attended the event, which was chaired by SCA Vice President for Program Quality Steve Smith and also sponsored by the National Outdoor Leadership School and Outward Bound.



NH Governor Honors SCA

New Hampshire Governor Maggie Hassan recently issued a formal proclamation honoring SCA's NH Corps, based at Bear Brook State Park, and their 20-year partnership with AmeriCorps.

Over the past two decades, more than 600 SCA NH Corps members have provided environmental education to 13,000 elementary school students in the Allenstown and Manchester school districts while helping to conserve 75 state parks. Members have also presented special interpretive programs to more than 100,000 park visitors in an initiative sponsored by Public Service of New Hampshire.

SCA Joins “Olympian” Coastal Clean-Up

SCA members in the State of Washington will assist Olympic National Park and the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary in a large-scale marine debris removal project later this year.

SCA interns will participate in site assessments, logistical planning and volunteer coordination, and four crews of SCA high school students will haul debris from remote, high priority beaches including Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve in nearby Port Townsend.

“These efforts will improve the ecologic and scenic integrity of over seventy miles of wild Pacific Ocean coastline,” states Olympic National Park Superintendent Sarah Creachbaum. “As a result, diverse wildlife resources including critical, sensitive and endangered species will be better protected and the public's enjoyment of the coast will be improved.”

The project is funded by a grant to SCA from the National Marine Fisheries Service, a unit of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Other partners in the effort include the Washington Coastal Clean Alliance, Washington Conservation Corps, NatureBridge, the Marine Resources Committee and Washington's CoastSavers.





The American Institute of Philanthropy and Charity Navigator rank SCA among America's top conservation charities for fund-raising efficiency.

SCA is a nationwide conservation force of college and high school volunteers who protect and restore America's parks, forests, and other public lands. SCA's active, hands-on approach to conservation has helped to develop a new generation of conservation leaders, inspire lifelong stewardship, and save our planet.

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Intern Makes Bombshell Discovery—Literally

Ordinarily, when SCA interns uncover an historic artifact, they do all they can to preserve it. But Lyddia Wilson wisely chose not to interfere when her startling discovery was seized and obliterated.

Lyddia, an interpretive intern at Richmond (VA) National Battlefield Park, recently found a live cannonball with an intact fuse that likely dated back to the Civil War. She was clearing the grounds around Fort Gilmer in advance of the 150th anniversary of a notable conflict there, when she encountered the explosive device nestled in a former moat.

"I've always wanted to find something of historic value in the woods and I finally did!" Lyddia exclaims.

She summoned the park historian who, in turn, called the local bomb squad, and the ordnance was safely removed and destroyed.

Park officials indicate the shell, a 12-pound round, may have been used by Confederate forces as one of several improvised hand grenades rolled down the side of the fort against Union soldiers from the 7th United States Colored Troops (USCTs) in the latter phases of the Battle of Fort Harrison. Of the 198



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USCTs who began the attack against Fort Gilmer, only one returned safely. The others were killed, wounded, or captured.

Despite the rout at Fort Gilmer, General Ulysses S. Grant eventually achieved victories at Fort Harrison and New Market Heights, giving the Union forces a toe-hold just miles south of the Confederate capital.