



the GreenWay

SCA's Conservation Quarterly

Summer 2011



Above: Now in ruins, Hassel Island in the West Indies was once a bustling trade center in the mid-19th century. Right: SCA intern Sarah Dylla (in navy blue polo) will work with park staff and other local officials to begin the long process of planning, restoring and preserving the historic site.

Saving History

"SCA provided me with my first big job adventure," Sarah Dylla says of her internship at Virgin Islands National Park. The ad might have read: *Virgin Islands National Park seeks a cultural landscape planner for historic site in ruinous state on deserted island in former commercial hub of West Indies. Must be OK with mosquitoes [lots!] indoor camping [electricity spotty], rats, roaches, and lizards, but also, white sand beaches, amazing barbecue, wonderful people.*

"When I saw the position description on the SCA website, I knew it was for me. It spoke to me! I was very interested in the challenge of preserving cultural heritage for future generations. I called Mark Hardgrove, the park superintendent, and forced him to hire me," Sarah says with a laugh.

Mark apparently didn't need much convincing. "When we saw Sarah's qualifications, there was no question," he says. "She was it."

That's Sarah on the right. Right out of college with a degree in art and architectural history, Sarah was to work with an interdisciplinary team of local planners, high school teachers, the St. Thomas Historic Trust, and park professionals to develop a draft cultural landscape plan for Hassel Island in St. Thomas harbor. Sarah's specific assignment was to determine the site's period of significance, inventory the elements that were still on the landscape, determine how best to interpret the history and artifacts of the site to visitors, create a plan, and gather public input before submitting it to the National Park Service for funding and implementation. She had six months.

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CONSERVATION BEGINS HERE
Student Conservation Association
thesca.org



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Portraits of Conservation Leadership

For more than 50 years, SCA has led the way in advancing solutions to strengthen America's public lands, young people, and our society at large.

Most recently, to better prepare our members for success, we have begun to align our programs into a graduated continuum of experiential learning practices. We have grown our diversity programs to engage more underrepresented youth, and we have broadened our partner network to include many others in hands-on service to the land.

In this issue of The Green Way, you will read about SCA members at various stages in their SCA experience as well as some of our newest collaborators. I remain tremendously grateful for your own support and hope you'll enjoy these stories from the field.

Recently, I traveled to Washington to meet with National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis and colleagues from the Public Lands Service Coalition and The Corps Network. I also testified before a congressional committee in favor of expanded service and job training opportunities on federal land.

As our members practice conservation leadership in parks, forests and communities across our country, SCA is demonstrating conservation leadership at the highest national levels. Together, we are creating pathways to outdoor careers, lifelong stewardship, and a healthier environment. Thank you.

Dale M. Penny

Saving History *continued from page 1*

For extra credit, she was to develop a trails plan for the island.

Acquired by the Park Service in 1978 and left untouched until now, the site was in a "severe state of ruin" according to Hardgrove. Immediate work was needed to stabilize crumbling and collapsing historic structures to make it safe for visitation.

While the site has been occupied for thousands of years, its heyday had been the mid-19th century when prevailing trade winds brought sailing ships directly to the West Indies and St. Thomas harbor, known as the best shelter in the Caribbean. When the Royal Mail Steam Packet located its West Indies hub there, Hassel Island became a bustling trade center. It was the age of steam. Coal to power the huge ships arrived via sailing vessels, which was slower but cheaper, and was carried onto steamships by local women.

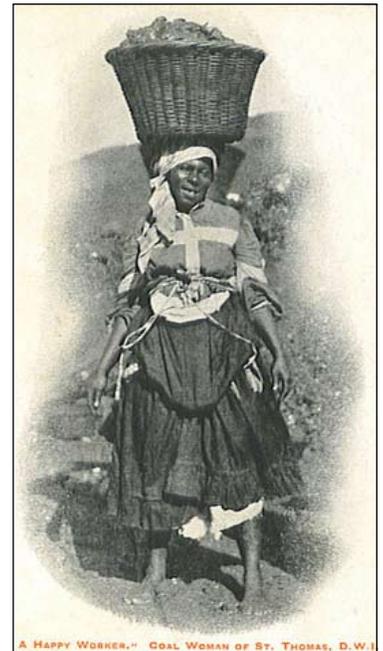
One of the significant historical elements on Hassel Island, the Creque Marine Railway, had been used to hoist ships as big as 700 tons out of the water for repairs. The marine railway was in operation right up into the mid-60's and its huge Boulton steam engine is the only one of its kind known to still exist.

Sarah recently presented the draft plan at a public meeting where it was extremely well received. "Everyone melted after she spoke," Hardgrove said. "She convinced them to preserve the site in its 19th-century state rather than cover it with palm trees."

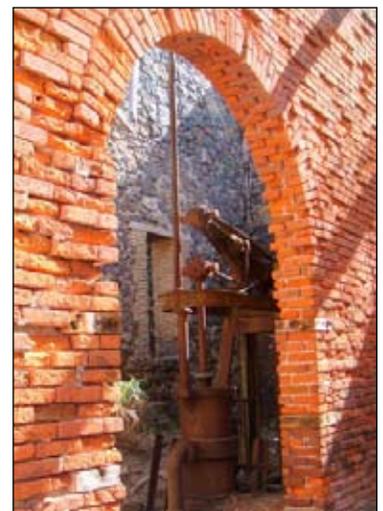
Superintendent Hardgrove had very kind words for Sarah and SCA. "She was awesome. Every time we have used SCA, it gets better and better. It is one of the solutions to many of our problems. Not just for the quality of the interns, which is fantastic, but for the return on our investment. We get great value. The interns are very project oriented."

The plan will be submitted to the Park Service soon with 2013 as the target date for opening the Hassel Island National Historic Site to the public. Exhibits are to be constructed based on Sarah's 3D mockups. And, yes, she did manage to do the trails plan as well.

As for Sarah's next adventure, she's headed to a job with the University of Virginia as an historical digital humanities specialist. Her dream: to work for the Park Service again someday.



A HAPPY WORKER." COAL WOMAN OF ST. THOMAS, D. W. I.
Photo circa 1800s of local woman carrying coal to steamships docked in the St. Thomas harbor.



Remains of a cast iron steam engine from the 1840s built in Hamburg by the Boulton Co.

It's hard,
dirty work...



...and thousands of students
can't wait to get started.

Donate today to ensure SCA can say yes to all the students who are hoping to get to work restoring habitats, building bridges, and greeting and teaching park visitors about conservation.

Help SCA save America's parks this summer.

thesca.org/SayYES

Outdoor Nation Summer Summits... The Revolution Continues!

Outdoor Nation, the youth-led movement championing the outdoors that launched last year in Central Park, returned to New York on June 23 to kick off its 2011 series of Youth Summits in New York City, Atlanta, Minneapolis, Denver and San Francisco. Thirty-eight of the more than 1,300 delegates participating at the Summits are SCA members.



Congratulations to: Judy Bokingo, Heather Buckner, Stephanie Campbell, Lizzy Cantor, Lily Cason, Nycekka Childs, Daniel Coale, Arielle Conroy, John Crowe, Rosemary Dattler, Dan Donohue, Kathryn Drago, Mason Floyd, Michael Fraatz, Kristen Healy, Janet Henkai, Zach Heyman, Christopher Jackson, Aroni Johnson, Colin Kenney, Doug Klien, Rich Landy, Hailey Lankowski, Brenda Lopez, Rachel Lowenthal, Nathan McWilliams, David Meza, Max Pucciarello, Richard Santiago, Charles Schureman, John Sherman, Ashley Singleton, Lauren Smith, Jamila Stevenson, Shanae Turner, Courtney White, Karsten Wildeus, Iz Yankura.

During each regional summit, delegates discuss regional issues and brainstorm project ideas that remove barriers to participation and ultimately engage more young people in the outdoors. They also gain direct exposure, through speakers and targeted sessions, to some of the most transformative national campaigns going on in the country, including America's Great Outdoors, Let's Move Outside and the campaign for America's State Parks.

For more information, visit OutdoorNation.org

We'd like each issue to be better than the one before.

If you have suggestions for stories you'd like to see published or ideas on how to improve the newsletter, write to us at thegreenway@thesca.org



SCA

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Become an SCA **facebook** fan! Connect and share with thousands of conservation-minded people. facebook.com/StudentConservationAssociation



Watch and listen to member stories on SCA's YouTube channel youtube.com/user/conservationinaction

Scene + Heard



The 2-Minute Interview with Dera Lyotte

SCA Intern and Rosebud Sioux Tribal member Dera Lyotte speaks about her internship at the Waubay National Wildlife Refuge in South Dakota. Dera, a student at Sinte Gleska University, is one of twenty interns taking part in SCA's new Tribal Intern Program this summer.

What will you be doing in the Tribal Intern Program?

I'll be working with the biological and maintenance staff on a variety of projects including habitat surveys and monitoring, wildlife surveys, bird banding and general park duties. Also learning about day-to-day refuge operations."

What sparked your interest in doing the program?

I grew up outdoors a lot, raised by my mom and my grandma. I was taught to be one with the Earth so I don't know, I thought—it's different, outside of my bubble—and I went for it because it's a good opportunity...a brand new adventure.

How's it going so far?

I really like it. Right now, I'm working with birds. I actually used to be afraid of them, but because of the bird surveys we're doing I can say: hey, look, that's a cormorant, and that's a gadwall. I was raised to take care of and respect the Earth.

What impact might your internship have in your tribal community?

Hopefully I can spark a revolution of young kids doing something for the Earth rather than for themselves. It's important to me and I really want others to follow through as well. I want people back home in my reservation to say, "Look! Dera's doing something. We can do that too!"

For more about this and other SCA programs, visit thesca.org



Dale rallying the crowd of volunteers at Texas Trees Foundation

SCA and Southwest Airlines Hit the Road

Southwest Airlines and SCA are teaming up to celebrate SWA's 40th Anniversary. We've got an SCA crew, a bio-diesel bus, and 40 community service events in 25 US cities. After conducting a warm up project in San Antonio, the Conservation in Action tour officially kicked off June 1, in the airline's hometown of Dallas. More than 700 Southwest employees engaged in conservation projects at the Texas Trees Foundation, Trinity River Audubon Center, and Rochester Park.

Crossing the United States in a biodiesel RV, the Tour40 crew is a diverse group of young people who share a common passion for conservation. In her blog post, Kimberly Teruya, crew member and designer for the RV's eye-catching wrap, recaps the excitement of the day.

"Thank youuuuu Dallas! The Tour40 team just kicked off the Conservation in Action Tour and wished Southwest Airlines a happy 40th birthday by celebrating in true SWA and SCA style with three different service projects and a huge party...in an airplane hangar. Gotta LUV working with an airline! At 6:30 Friday morning, after scarfing down the hotel breakfast buffet, the SCA team donned yellow staff shirts and was ready to divide and conquer...our three Dallas service projects.

Tour40 crew members Diana and Becca led projects at the Texas Trees Foundation, the largest urban non-profit tree farm in the nation, where over 300 blue clad volunteers arrived at 8 a.m. to the sounds of a DJ, SWA CEO Gary Kelly, SCA CEO Dale Penny and the sight of over 500 trees ready for a new home. I helped lead a group of more than 100 excited volunteers who helped repair fences, widen trail, plant native grasses, collect seeds, and remove some dead Christmas trees. Over at Rochester Park, Tour40 crew members Andrew and Marchetti's 100+ volunteers followed in the footsteps of a previous SCA crew that had first created the trail system bringing new life to a park that had been overrun by off-highway vehicles (OHV). One project down, 38 more to go! Can't wait to (as the Texans say) see y'all out on the road!"

Thanks to American Eagle Outfitters, Sony and Coca-Cola Company for also helping to make the tour a huge success.

For photos, more blog posts, team bios and to sign up to participate, visit tour40.thesca.org/roadreports



SOUTHWEST.COM

Student Conservation Association

Tell Your IRA Required Minimum Distribution to *Take a Hike!*



While putting Young People on the Conservation Trail

If you are 70½ or older, you can make tax-free transfers of up to \$100,000 this year from your IRA to qualified charitable organizations like SCA. One of the great advantages of this arrangement is that amounts transferred directly from your IRA to qualified charities count toward your 2011 required minimum distribution. Consider this special opportunity before taking your distribution.

Example: If your required minimum distribution is \$15,000 and you arrange for a direct transfer of this amount to SCA, you will no longer have to take any taxable distribution for the year. If you wish instead to make a gift of \$5,000, you can transfer that amount to SCA and then take a taxable personal distribution of the remaining \$10,000.

Act now! Under current law this opportunity extends only until the end of 2011.

For further information and a sample letter to send to your IRA trustee/custodian, please contact **Hugh Montgomery** at 603.504.3241 or hmontgomery@thesca.org



Alumna Finds Career in Last Frontier

Allyssa Gabriel first visited Alaska on vacation. An SCA internship brought her back. And now, thanks to a new job with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, she may never leave.

In 2009, the Georgia native was installed as “greening coordinator intern” for three Fairbanks-based refuges: Arctic, Kanuti and Yukon Flats. She soon discovered that some refuge waste bins contained up to 90% recyclables, but was told recycling wasn’t feasible due to relative isolation of the refuges.

Allyssa not only refused to take no for an answer—she became the answer, persuading skeptical colleagues to participate and even fly in trash from remote site visits. In the first month alone, her newly launched recycling program recovered 1,100 pounds of materials. Allyssa also formed a coalition of local recycling partners, instituted new waste prevention measures, and arranged the purchase of a fleet of bicycles for staff use.

Fast forward to today and Allyssa, 25, is still in Alaska, now officially a member of the Kanuti Refuge staff, conducting youth outreach in addition to other responsibilities. “Since my first fishing trip in 2008, I knew I wanted to stay. I can’t see myself being anywhere else.”

Although she majored in Geography, Allyssa says she “kind of wanted to get into natural resources. SCA opened my eyes to opportunities that I had never considered before.”

As a Fish and Wildlife staffer, Allyssa says she most enjoys inspiring village students by relating her personal SCA experiences and promoting career opportunities with the agency. “The field work, getting out in the community, meeting people and seeing the village up close and personal—I just love coming to work,” she states.



Left, Audubon's Women of the Gulf stand to receive their award in the grand ballroom at the Women in Conservation 10th Annual Rachel Carson Awards Luncheon. Right, Partner Award recipient Amy Shaw.

SCA Alums and Partner Receive Well-Earned Recognition

Congratulations to SCA alumnae **Jennifer Raabe** and **Christine Chung** on being selected to receive **Audubon's Women of the Gulf Recognition** at the Women in Conservation 10th Annual Rachel Carson Awards Luncheon. The recognition honors women conservationists who have put themselves at the frontline of efforts to repair environmental damages caused in the wake of the Gulf Oil Spill.

SCA alumna Jennifer Raabe, a resident of Mississippi, was stationed at the Gulf Islands National Seashore along the Mississippi-Alabama border, where she conducted surveys monitoring osprey and other nesting birds. After sightings of tar balls and the heavy presence of oil which followed, Jennifer underwent extensive hazardous materials training and began searching for affected marine life and alerting responders.

Christine Chung, an SCA Resource Management Intern at the Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge in Wells, Maine, was deployed to Grand Isle, Louisiana for two weeks during the spill. She worked as a Technical Specialist with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, assisting in the surveying and recovery of oiled and injured wildlife. During her stint in the Gulf, Christine was able to successfully rescue eleven birds in one day.

A surprise twist for the SCA award winners was the opportunity to meet SCA founder and 2010 Rachel Carson Award winner Liz Titus Putnam, who also made an appearance at the ceremony.

When asked about the events of the day Christine Chung stated, "When I realized Liz Putnam was here I couldn't believe it. I was...star struck. I thought, 'wow! the founder who started everything for me. I wouldn't be where I am now if it wasn't for her.'"

The Student Conservation Association recently presented its "Serving Youth Serving Nature" Partner Award to **Amy Shaw** of Kenai, AK.

Shaw, a biologist and internship coordinator at the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association (CIAA), has recruited and trained 65 SCA interns over the last two years. The interns sample smolt and adult salmon throughout the Yentna, Susitna and Skwentna watersheds, which stretch from Denali National Park to the Kenai Peninsula. Their efforts help to protect salmon resources, maintain the stability of fish populations, and ensure the salmon's economic viability for the Cook Inlet region.

Interns gain many benefits from conducting hands-on research at the remote field sites, including increased skill sets, on-the-job experience, and a greater familiarity with Alaska's unique salmon runs.

Shaw says her greatest satisfaction comes from seeing the interns grow more confident and capable with experience. "It's amazing to see how self-reliant they become," she notes. "By the end of the summer, they're calling me and saying, 'we had a problem while you were gone and we tried this and this... and fixed it.' That's probably the coolest thing I get to see."

In order to work effectively from their remote Alaskan camp sites, Shaw ensures that every intern is outfitted and deployed safely and successfully trained in field sampling, bear safety, boat safety and plane safety, wilderness first aid, and back-country base-camp design. "Alaska is such a big wild place," Shaw says. "Safety is my number one priority."

SCA relies on the support of many resource management partners like Shaw, whose support helps SCA achieve its mission of "building the next generation of conservation leaders."



Crew leaders in the making demonstrating their posi-enthusi-tude: positive, enthusiastic, attitude.

The Making of a Leader

by Anna Brown, SCA alumna and crew leader

When I was 15 years old, I met two people who changed my life. Their names were Steve and Brooke, and they were quite the pair. Steve was a graduate student from Washington State, somewhat quiet and reserved, but at the same time wonderfully sincere and full of random information that made him the best trivia player I had ever met. Brooke was a fearless twenty-something year old who was training for a marathon and had a chipped-tooth grin so wide and cheeks so rosy that her smile was contagious. My first encounter with Steve and Brooke was at an airport, where they had come to meet me and five other wide-eyed teenagers for an SCA High School Conservation Crew at Wind Cave National Park.

There is more than I can list that was magical about that crew: being away from home for four weeks, sleeping under the stars, learning how to cook, building a bridge with nothing but hand tools and logs, wearing a birthday cape one day while working on that bridge (it was my sixteenth), climbing the highest mountain in South Dakota, climbing a way higher mountain in Wyoming, spelunking in one of the world's longest caves, and discovering unexpected friendships that would change the way I thought about the world. It wasn't until years later, when I became an SCA crew leader myself, that I realized how much of that "magic" was not merely serendipitous, but directly attributable to the tireless and dedicated work of Steve and Brooke.

At crew leader training, I suddenly sense that I am more united with Steve and Brooke now than I was when I was fifteen years old. That's because now, I share in their vision, as all SCA crew leaders of the past and present do. We're part of a circle that never diminishes—it is only capable of growing larger.

The energy at training is contagious. Last summer, my crew members invented a word that is the best I have yet come across to try and describe the SCA energy that was present then and is here now: posi-enthusi-tude. That's right: positive, enthusiastic, attitude. It's the kind of feeling you get when you look out at the horizon and see endlessness. It's the wave of

heat that flushes across your chest when you realize something that makes you feel expansive. It's spring. It's starting over. It's sensing the limitlessness in the complexity of a single flower.

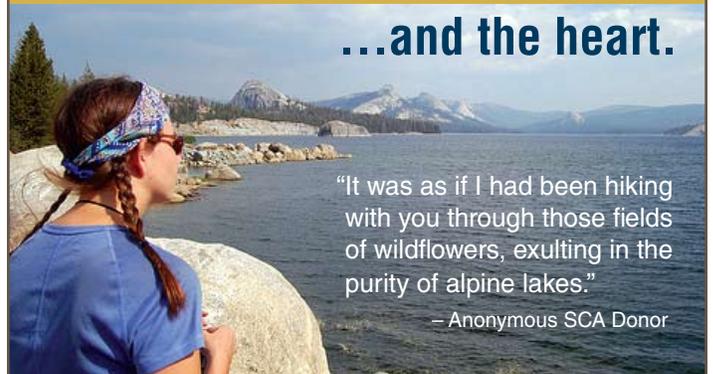
We come from all walks of life. But we all have one thing in common—we are all dedicated to empowering young people and hold a conviction that the outdoors is our greatest classroom. We are united in our vision of the future—one where all people tread mindfully on this great landscape of life and hold each other up when we have to scale mountains. Above all else, we hold in our hearts an unwavering faith in the power of young people, and we find hope in that. The shirts on our backs say "SCA," and we wear them proudly, because this is the organization that has brought us together to do the great work. And when we gaze up at the stars at night, we remember that we are all sleeping under the same roof.

This year, I'll be leading crews at Yosemite and Virgin Islands National Park. There is so much hard work that goes into these crews even before they begin. But the most important component to our preparation occurs internally—it is the intricate work that we must do inside each of our hearts and heads before any of this can begin.

Ahead of me on the trail I see the faces of all the 2011 high school participants who will soon arrive wide-eyed at airports across the country. Behind me, I see Steve and Brooke, and I remember one of the first things they taught me about trail work. They taught me that trails are hand hewn. They taught me that the work is a slow, mindful process. But that when it's all said and done, you'll be able to walk an unwavering path.

Become an SCA Sponsor and receive a letter from the field

...and the heart.



"It was as if I had been hiking with you through those fields of wildflowers, exulting in the purity of alpine lakes."

— Anonymous SCA Donor

The SCA tradition of sponsorship connects you directly with an SCA member. When you give at least \$250 annually, you will receive a biography and a personal letter describing the impact of the SCA experience and the tangible accomplishments achieved along the way.

You can become a sponsor by making a sustaining monthly gift for as little as \$21 through our Partners in Conservation giving program—use the included reply envelope, or visit

thesca.org/donate



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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For further information, please contact **Hugh Montgomery** at 603.504.3241 or hmontgomery@thesca.org



the **GreenWay**
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Follow me... coast to coast!



Follow SCA members working coast to coast as they blog in real time from Acadia National Park in Maine to Denali National Park and Preserve in Alaska. Together, we'll share in their excitements, frustrations, and epiphanies as they explore the world around them and gain a deeper understanding of the role they can play in conserving it.

Follow Russ Aguilar and other SCA members on a journey of personal, professional and outdoor exploration at followme.thesca.org