



Vibrant Volunteers

SUMMER 2021
VOLUME 1 NO 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PG. 1

Meet the Volunteer
Services Team

PG. 2

Volunteer Spotlight –
Meghan Durkin!

PG. 3

All About Internships

PG. 4

Corporate and Community
Volunteer Groups

PG. 5

Volunteer
Opportunities



Meet the **VOLUNTEER** Services Team

At The Trustees, we are a team and are encouraged to help each other when we can. The Day of Service is a day when staff works in an area or department other than their own, supporting colleagues, and gaining a better sense of the work that is being accomplished across the organization. Comradery amongst our teammates is the greatest reward while witnessing the impact of our group efforts! Past projects have included filing, writing thank you notes to our members, planting bulbs, carving pumpkins, stringing holiday lights, and performing trail maintenance projects.

This year, the Volunteer Services Team assisted the staff at Stevens-Coolidge House and Gardens in Andover by removing a hoop greenhouse which had not been used in several years. The plan for the cleared field is to allow it to revert to grassland for haying purposes.

Our team consisted of [from left to right above] Janelle Woods-McNish, Managing Director of Community Impact; Bob Bowers, Director of Volunteer Services; Eliza Forman, Recruitment Specialist/Volunteer Services and Eileen Small, Engagement Specialist/Volunteer Services. Under the direction of Jeremy Dick, Stewardship Manager, the team dismantled shelving, removed the greenhouse framing, and dug out landscape fabric. We had the opportunity to assist property staff with a much-needed project, and enjoyed working together, especially since we had not been all together since the start of the pandemic! Many thanks to the SCHG team for hosting us and providing us with a challenging and rewarding Day of Service.



Recently, Robin Grossman, Volunteer Services Associate, had the pleasure of interviewing Trustees volunteer, Meghan Durkin. Meghan joined the Trustees volunteer team as “Partner to the Director of Volunteer Services.” She is a graduate of Penn State University, with a degree in Hospitality and a minor in Spanish. Meghan is originally from Pennsylvania and expressed her love for the Redding Terminal and the diversity throughout the state. While researching possible career options, Meghan discovered the *Manager in Training* program being offered at The Four Seasons Hotel in Los Angeles, California. She decided to take a huge leap and relocate to the west coast and is thrilled she did. After completion of the training program, Meghan was promoted to *Room Assistants Manager*, with her responsibilities including the management of the housekeeping and front desk staff.

In March of 2020, Meghan was returning home from a camping trip in Yosemite National Park with friends when she was shocked by the news of Covid. They were told The Four Seasons was shutting down for three months. Since Meghan already had a visit to Boston planned, she took off for the east coast, and while visiting she decided to stay. That meant she and her boyfriend would travel cross country to move her out and relocate back East. They set out for an adventurous drive from coast to coast!

Meghan settled into the beautiful town of Newburyport. She shared that “Newburyport has lots of green space for connecting with community” and so she began exploring the outdoor shared spaces in her new home. Parks and walking trails aligned with her passions and hobbies. Meghan discovered The Trustees of Reservation through her outdoor adventures and her new Newburyport community, and decided that she wanted to become a part of supporting these places for others.

Meghan works as a volunteer with the Volunteer Services Team as *Partner to Director of Volunteer Services*. She works with Eileen Small, Eliza Forman, and Bob Bowers. She has helped on many creative projects, using her professional skills to support the Volunteer Services Team. These projects include building educational tools, creating processes for volunteer relations and conflict management, and developing safe and healthy work environment.

Meghan’s favorite part of the Trustees is that everyone is so passionate and collectively makes a huge impact on conservation.

Five Fun Facts about Meghan

1. She drove cross country two times during the Covid-19 outbreak
2. Blue is her favorite color
3. She loves hiking, hiked the Pacific Trail -- a 16-mile trail
4. She loves gardening and plants
5. New Orleans is one of her favorite places, rich with history and lots of energy



A well-designed internship offers powerful benefits for students and for sponsoring organizations like The Trustees. From a student perspective, internships mean the opportunity to gain hands-on experience, learn from seasoned staff, and explore the connection between academic and professional life. On the organization's side, internships can inspire young people to become able stewards of our historical, cultural, and ecological resources.

“There is no better way for students who are interested in natural resource management to get some understanding of the field than interning with us for a semester. I believe the same is true for all the different kinds of work we do at The Trustees.

I have worked with interns and volunteers for 13 years now and they have been involved a wide variety of tasks from invasive control to bridge building, from trail blazing to technical rigging and stonework. Their experience varies with their interest and capabilities as well as our work schedule and needs, but they always leave having helped us and gained a valuable insight into the profession.

Recruiting and managing interns does require an investment of supervisor time and requires more flexibility than working with paid staff, but the rewards of helping to train the next generation of parks professionals are substantial.” – **Josh Knox – Trails Specialist, Western Division**

Nicole Aube will be joining our Chestnut Hill Farm team on June 15 as the Livestock Caretaker. She is a current student at the UMASS Stockbridge School of Agriculture and has a particular fondness for sheep. She will be holding chore responsibilities and retail hours in our newly re-opened farm store. Please join us in welcoming her to The Trustees!



The Trustees welcomes corporate volunteer groups to participate in service projects across Massachusetts. These volunteer groups help property staff with planned work and projects ranging from trail maintenance and invasive species removal, to beach clean ups and event preparation. For the corporations, service days are great team-building activities, align with social responsibility goals, and are fun for staff! For The Trustees, corporate service days help staff to complete important projects, support the conservation and preservation mission of the organization, and help create connections and partnerships in our communities.

Recently, corporate service groups have helped with spring garden clean ups at The Bradley Estate in Canton and agriculture work at Powisset Farm in Dover. These groups did an incredible job supporting the work of property staff and helping to prepare these properties for the spring!

If you are part of a corporate or community group who would be interested in organizing a group volunteer project, please reach out and let us know!

– Eliza Forman, Recruitment Specialist/Volunteer Services

As an organization, The Trustees is dedicated to bringing the next generation into The Trustees to carry on our legacy of stewardship. Not only do we offer educational programs, camp and cooking classes for our youth, but we also strive to engage our younger volunteers by offering them enriching activities to assist us in protecting our beloved properties for all to enjoy for generations to come. Many of these volunteer roles are focused on gardening, farming and trail maintenance.

– Eileen Small, Engagement Specialist/Volunteer Services



Volunteering is a great way to learn, meet people who share your interests, use your skills to give back to your community, and have fun! The volunteer website is a great resource to explore volunteer opportunities across the state. New opportunities are added frequently, so there is sure to be something right for you! A few new roles are included below. Express interest or share the links with your network online!

Retail Assistant – deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum

Established in 1950, deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum is the largest park of its kind in New England encompassing 30 acres, 20

miles west of Boston. Providing a constantly changing landscape of large-scale, outdoor, modern and contemporary sculpture and site-specific installations, the Sculpture Park hosts more than 60 works, the majority of which are on loan to the Museum. Inside, the Museum features a robust slate of rotating exhibitions and innovative interpretive programming. As a retail assistant, you will have the opportunity to work alongside our talented and knowledgeable staff learning about the various components of a successful retail enterprise. Volunteers will receive on-site training as well as learn about the amazing history of deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum.

volunteer.thetrustees.org

Mechanic Volunteer – Chestnut Hill Farm

Located in Southborough, Chestnut Hill Farm is a hidden gem that provides organic vegetables to the local community through a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program and farm stand. It is a growing endeavor with 250 members. The property is a happy and bustling gathering space for our community throughout the season and we would love to have you join us. As a non-profit and a Trustees property, the farm is also committed to a level of community engagement and education that goes beyond agriculture to include community building and support. Currently, Chestnut Hill Farm is seeking talented and experienced individuals with a background in any equipment and automotive repair. Most of this work will be carried out individually with several opportunities to work on larger projects and to assist or lead Trustees' staff or volunteers.

Nature, a Walking Play

Event Volunteer Roles – Fruitlands, Appleton Farms and Francis William Bird Park

The Trustees and TigerLion Arts present *Nature*, the mythic telling of Emerson and Thoreau's mutual love affair with the natural world. Grounded in the story of their friendship, this virtuosic production offers a perspective on their lives that is strikingly relevant, richly complex, and yet utterly simple. *Nature* is performed outdoors as a "walking play." A professional ensemble of actors takes the audience on a journey through the natural environment as scenes unfold around them. Bagpipes, ancient flutes, drums, and rich choral arrangements are intricately woven into the experience. Be a part of this special performance! Event Volunteers will serve in a variety of roles including event attendants, parking crew, wayfinding, and check-in. As a volunteer you'll have the chance to experience this amazing performance and give visitors an equally amazing experience. Performances are scheduled to take place at Fruitlands, Appleton Farms and Francis William Bird Park!