E.A.G.L.E. Initiative begins:
Cleo Hirsch, Tufts University Student and Eagle Eye Intern

This spring I volunteered as an Eagle Eye Champion to organize two Learn About Forests™ (LAF) programs. The LAF programs were at Holly Hill Farm, an organic farm with 150 acres of natural preserved land in Cohasset MA. I worked with the Somerville Boys and Girls Club, along side seven Tufts students from the Tufts Mountain Club who graciously volunteered to help me run the programs. This group included one recent graduate who served as a natural resource professional instructor sharing his knowledge on geology.

Overall, the programs were beyond doubt the most important part of my spring semester. After a day in nature with young people from Somerville I felt a sense of renewal and a whole new appreciation for the access I have to the natural world and the power that nature can have on every individual if we only take the time to learn about and appreciate it.

This summer as Program Coordinator Intern paid through a Tufts University Internship grant, I organized and ran two Learn About Forests and Agriculture programs at The Trustees of Reservations Appleton Farms and two

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Message from the Founders

The past few years has been financially challenging for Eagle Eye and many other non profits. Even though we have had to make some hard budgetary decisions we remain dedicated to empowering urban youth to take a hands-on role in caring for our environment.

In the spring we started a new initiative called E.A.G.L.E. (Earth Advocates, Green Leaders for the Environment) which reaches out to Tufts University students in order to engage their spirit, energy, and passion for the environment as Champions in organizing our Learn About programs. By simultaneously engaging Tufts University students and urban youth, we inspire the gatekeepers of the natural world for generations to come, bringing young people of different ages, races and educational backgrounds together with the (continued on Page 4)
It is not only important, in my mind, for urban young people to get out into the environment so that they can learn to take care of it, and also so they can re-teach those who have already had these experiences, how important it is for all human beings to care and to do the little things to make a difference. My own personal transformation is being more aware of the privilege I have had to experience the natural world and then what that means that I need to do to give back.

It’s a pretty small investment for a big payoff. You get a community of urban people out into a new environment. You get the natural resource site to open its doors to people it probably has never opened its doors to before which is really important to them and a learning experience for them. You get the natural resource professionals who volunteer their time who get connected with a different type of person than they have ever worked with before and you get them reconnected with their own passion for the environment through the eyes of young people who are totally psyched to be in this new place where they might work everyday but for an urban person it is might be like heaven.

My organizational skills greatly improved over the summer due to my job as Program Coordinator. I learned a lot about organizing people and programs, communicating with adults and getting them to make commitments and stick with them, and learned that paying attention to the details is essential when you are in charge of organizing and running a program for youth. This work taught me a lot about leadership.

The other aspect of the internship that taught me the most was the time I spent with young urban people. Working with the youth opened my eyes to the “lived experience” of people in the Somerville community that I had previously not had any contact with. I feel that I have gained valuable experience that I can use in future jobs I have working with youth.
“I think forests are important because animals need somewhere to live. We also need the oxygen that the trees produce to live. We get many supplies from the forests. We get maple syrup and so many other foods…and wood. The animals think the forests are important because the forests are their home. But the most important thing is oxygen and food.”

-Eseka Allen, Age 10
Margaret Fuller House

“This program will encourage our youth to get out of the city more and do more activities that promote health living. Also, we hope it will make them want to grow their own food and think about food system issues in a broader way.”

-Iva Popa, Age 18
Groundwork Somerville Green Team

“I think the youth are now more excited about farms. I heard several say they would now be interested in working on a farm. I think it is important to create the connection for youth between the food they eat and the farming community - to show them a large operating farm is only a commuter rail trip and a short bike ride away.”

-Lizabeth Koerber, Age 25
Green Team Supervisor, Groundwork Somerville
We are very thankful to Tufts University student, Cleo Hirsch who worked with Eagle Eye this past spring and summer to begin our new initiative. Cleo’s enormous enthusiasm and impressive abilities have been inspiring. She grasps our mission and its importance and is now actively supporting Annie Sloan, our Tisch Scholar.

We continue to build bridges and relationships between youth, natural resource professionals and natural sites that continue to develop and grow even after our involvement. Last year we completed a successful 4 year initiative that helped YouthBuild USA establish a green industries career path for youth adults and The Trustees of Reservations connect with a new urban audience.

The lives of so many youth have been touched and their perception of themselves has changed as well as what they see possible for themselves, others and their environment. This could never have happened without supporters like you. This is something we can all take great joy in.

Maja Kietzke and Anthony Sanchez

“It’s a pretty small investment for a big payoff.”
- Cleo Hirsch, Tufts University Student and Eagle Eye Intern

8th Annual Hike-a-Thon is a Great Success!

On Saturday October 2, a spectacular sunny day, 25 friends of Eagle Eye ages 3-65 came together at the Ponkapoag Pond of Greater Boston’s Blue Hill Reservation to have fun, make new friends and raise financial support. The reservation stretches over 7,000 acres and is managed by The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation. Our hosts, Friends of the Blue Hills, engages the public in activities that protect the park by preventing encroachments, increasing park resources and improving park management.

We hiked roughly 5 miles around the 200 acre Ponkapoag pond home to a very unique bog ecosystem that we were able to explore along one of the oldest bog boardwalks in the country. Friends of the Blue Hills, Executive Director Judy Jacobs and biologists, Rick Kesseli and John Walsh joined us during the hike to share their knowledge of this unique natural environment.

A new addition to our hike this year was engaging in a stewardship project. We demonstrated that “many hands make light work” as 25 pairs of eager hands pulled garlic mustard, an invasive plant at the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) camps. Here we were welcomed by Trisha Minton, the winter caretaker of the AMC camps who said she was amazed and impressed by the amount of work we were able to accomplish in an hour.

Everyone enjoyed a delicious lunch donated by Somerville’s Basil Tree Gourmet Catering. And the grand finale was delicious ice cream thanks to Rancatore’s Ice Cream of Belmont and Lexington, Ma. All hikers received an Eagle Eye t-shirt screen printed and donated by Rocket Science Screenprinting of Somerville, MA.

To date we are half way to our fundraising goal of $15,000 for this event... it’s not too late to send in your support.
TUFTS TISCH SCHOLAR, Annie Sloan working with Eagle Eye Institute

As a sophomore at Tufts University, I am part of the Tisch College Citizenship and Public Service Scholar program, an innovative leadership program that develops core civic skills and encourages students to incorporate the ideas of active citizenship into their daily lives.

During the past spring semester, I was in an “Education for Active Citizenship” class with fellow potential scholars which prepared us to become avid and informed leaders in our communities.

Each scholar works annually on a project designed “to create positive change, to engage University resources, and to build capacity in Tufts’ partner communities.” I am very excited to be working with Eagle Eye Institute this year as my Tisch Scholar project.

Eagle Eye Institute struck me as a unique and multidimensional organization that has a profound impact on all those involved. I am very passionate about both public education, and the environment and outdoors; this project seemed like a perfect combination of these two interests. I am thrilled to have a leadership role within Eagle Eye in helping to run and organize “Learn About Forests” programs, and in working to utilize Tufts’ resources to build a sustainable connection between Eagle Eye and the university. Through my experiences with Eagle Eye thus far, I have seen community organizing in action and I have learned the importance of persistence and dedication. I look forward to helping Eagle Eye Institute achieve its mission and goals in the upcoming year.
Highlights and Accomplishments 2009

- 248 YouthBuild (YB) students from 6 Massachusetts YouthBuild programs participated in learning and stewardship days, a 164% increase from last year
- Completed 4 year GICP* demonstration project in partnership with YouthBuild USA and The Trustees of Reservations
- Established working relationship between YouthBuild programs and The Trustees of Reservations; one example was that YB Fall River completed 1,457 volunteers hours on two of The Trustees of Reservation properties
- All participating Trustees staff reported that working in the GICP* program has empowered them to engage urban audiences better
- 85% of the YB programs indicated that working in the GICP program has helped them see the Trustees as a valued partner and resource for employment, environmental education, and community service opportunities
- 89% of participating Trustees staff surveyed view YB students and staff as volunteers and as potential members of The Trustees of Reservations. All Trustees staff reported that they have formed a relationship with YouthBuild staff.

“YouthBuild is a good group to work with. I doubt we’d have made the connection if we hadn’t been working with Eagle Eye”
- Jim Caffrey, Trustees of Reservation Champion

- All YB staff stated that they now incorporate time in nature as a regular feature of their curriculum year and 81% indicated that working with the GICP program has introduced their program to environmental education curricula
- 85% of YB programs state they were influenced to create a Green Industry Career Pathway by participating in GICP, have increased their knowledge of the green industries, and have been assisted with green industry opportunities for their students
- YB New Bedford reports that Eagle Eye was a catalyst in their establishing an 8 week stewardship program in their community
- Eagle Eye Institute is featured in the YBUSAs Spring 2009 Bulletin as a key player in the development of YBUSAs national green initiative
- 2 GICP graduates completed a one week intensive land management and sustainable living internship at MountainStar Forest in Peru Massachusetts

“As far as The Trustees and the green industries, Eagle Eye has been the gateway, the ones who have opened up this whole other realm to us that we hadn’t realized was there, that we weren’t pursuing, and because of that, it has opened up so many other opportunities”
- Temestocles Blessed Ferriera, YB New Bedford

*GICP – Green Industry Career Pathway; combines Eagle Eye’s Learning, Stewardship, and Career bridging programs into a comprehensive 9 month program for one consistent group of urban young adults, ages 16-24 currently enrolled in MA YouthBuild (YB) programs delivered by Champions from The Trustees of Reservations.
“I have contributed to Eagle Eye since it was founded in 1992.

Initially, I gave my support because I believed in backing a local start-up whose growth and results I could personally observe.

I have been very pleased with my choice. Eagle Eye has grown through connections with other organizations by sharing its innovative programs. This networking is one of Eagle Eye’s strong points. The founders have great vision and initiative and they follow through with action.

The environment needs help from future generations and Eagle Eye serves a dual purpose by sparking this interest in urban youth who are also in need of help.”

-Gail Strand

### Nest Builder

- Paul Bain Jr
- Jennifer Lee Bastress
- Rachelle Bennet
- Edwin Cady
- Century 21
- Committee to elect Joseph Curtatone
- Edna Doggett
- Erriro Studios
- Jeff Fowler
- Sarah Freeman
- Benjamin & Erica Gaddis
- Carol & John Greeley
- Linton & Elisabeth
- Harrington
- Susan & Philip Kliavkoff

### Grants Received

- Anonymous Foundation $10,000
- Anonymous Foundation $5,000
- Cahn Funds for Social Change $5,000
- Jack Forté Foundation $5,000

- Jane’s Trust $35,000
- Living Springs $1,000
- Orville W Forté $2,500
- Roy A Hunt Foundation $5,000
- Mass Cultural Council $3,040
Please help us reach our annual campaign goal of $45,000!

We have already raised $20,000

Help us raise another $25,000 to reach our goal this year!

Your donations are critical in supporting our work of connecting urban youth with hands-on experiences in nature that build their awareness and develop their responsibility.

Support Eagle Eye’s “Earth Advocates; Green Leaders for the Environment” Initiative

Contribution Levels

☐ Visionary Eagle $10,000  ☐ Eaglet $500
☐ Soaring Eagle $5,000  ☐ Nestling $250
☐ Bald Eagle $2,500  ☐ Eagle Egg $100
☐ Golden Eagle $1,000  ☐ Nest Builder $50
☐ Other $ _______________________

Name: _________________________________
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Would you like to receive future newsletters and mailings electronically? Yes ☐ No ☐

Please send your tax-deductible contribution to:
Eagle Eye Institute
P.O. Box 440481 Somerville, MA 02144
(617) 666-5222

Or go to www.EagleEyeInstitute.org and click “Donate Now” to make an instant credit card donation.

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Using the power of nature to transform urban youth.