



# Focus on Farms & Trails

SUMMER 2022 NEWSLETTER



## FARM WORK IS 'BEST DONE IN GOOD COMPANY'

FARM PHOTOS BY MARY MCGURN

Working on a farm is often far less romantic than it appears from the outside. There are incredibly beautiful moments with deep (and edible) rewards, but farming is often also hot, repetitive, tedious and dirty. This season at April Hill Farm and Education Center, the Greenagers summer youth crew will participate in every aspect of our farm. They will transplant seedlings, move sheep through pastures, prune tomatoes and harvest CSA shares.

This type of demanding work is best done in good company. Over the stretch of weeks, strangers will become comrades and friends. The summer farm crew will thin rows of radishes, sharing conversation while they work. They will carry heavy totes of winter squash together, one on each side. Someone will make a joke or tell a story that interrupts the monotony of a long afternoon weeding. Each of them will, in some way, prove to themselves that they are stronger and more capable than they knew. But it is through their collaborations with one another that they will become part of a community.

*Sarah Monteiro, April Hill Farm Director*

## A TRAIL CREW IS LIKE THE BREAKFAST CLUB

With Spring in the rear view mirror we look forward to the start of our summer crews. This year the crews will be made up of youth from ten high schools and seven universities. As one crew member once remarked "a trail crew is like the breakfast club," in other words folks from different backgrounds bonding over a shared experience. By the end of the summer crews will have made friendships, trail miles, and likely a few blisters.

*Elia Del Molino, Conservation Director*



# In Conversation with our 2022 Trail Crew Leaders

ALL CREW LEADER PORTRAITS BY KENZIE ODEGAARD FIELDS



MEGAN SMITH, ASSISTANT CREW LEADER  
PITTSFIELD ALL-GIRLS CREW

## What are your hopes for this season for your crew?

"I hope the season is confidence building for the crew and encourages them to spend more time outdoors."

"I hope they have a good experience working and learning on the trail and build healthy relationships."

"I hope they have fun and learn a lot."

"I hope to make some very sexy staircases on the Appalachian Trail."

"To slay invasives and send them to the depths from which they came."

"That everyone really vibes and gets a lot done."

"Make a community and get all the projects completed."

## What is it about working here that inspired you to apply for the position?

"I love being outdoors and being active, so this job is the perfect match for me. It allows me to truly enjoy myself while also working and making money."

"The desire to be outdoors and learn about the environment through a community-based program. Also, I enjoy working as part of a team."

"I love the people at Greenagers and enjoy the work. I like being outside and showing my friends and family the trailwork I've done."



AUSTEN DUPONT  
FIELD OPERATIONS



ADAM BOSCARINO, ASSISTANT CREW LEADER  
APPALACHIAN TRAIL SPIKE CREW



IZZIE HAYWOOD, ASSISTANT CREW LEADER  
LENOX / STOCKBRIDGE / LEE CREW

**What challenges do you anticipate?**

“Teaching the teen crew members to do the work efficiently.”

“Poison Ivy”

“I think the biggest challenge will be to balance keeping everyone busy with not overworking anyone.”

“Ticks and getting a lot of work done in a short amount of time.”

“Pain and soreness.”

“Dealing with group dynamics.”



DAN SNOW, ASSISTANT CREW LEADER  
YANNER PARK CREW



GEORGIE GODFREY, CREW LEADER,  
PITTSFIELD ALL-GIRLS CREW



QUINN DAVIS, CREW LEADER  
APPALACHIAN TRAIL SPIKE CREW



CHRIS SCHILLING, CREW LEADER  
LENOX / STOCKBRIDGE / LEE CREW

**What most excites you about the upcoming season?**

“Being outside and creating a beautiful space for the community.”

“Eating plants from the woods.”

“I’m most excited to be camping on the AT five days at a time.”

“Camping, meeting new environments and people.”

“Stone work.”

“Making stone steps and stairs.”

“Lots of stone work.”

“Meeting my crew members.”

“The chance to teach others about this profession.”

**What are your hopes for this season for yourself as crew leader?**

“Build time management and environmental conservation skills.”

“I hope to get more experience in assistant leading so that I can be a crew leader next summer.”

“I hope I can be calm and organized and lead by good example.”



KATE LEGER, CREW LEADER, HOLYOKE CREW



MAX WHALEN, CREW LEADER  
SOUTHERN BERKSHIRE CREW



# Farm Crew Leader: Finding Her Leadership Voice

*Interview with Maeve Wilbur in her first season*

## **Where are you from, and what is your background in school or work?**

I was raised in New Marlborough, so I've always heard and known about Greenagers as an organization. For schooling, I got my undergraduate degree in Behavioral Neuroscience, and I have a Master's degree in Behavioral Sciences. As for work, almost all of my summer jobs have been at some sort of farm or garden. I worked for a summer at Gould Farm in Monterey, and most recently I worked at Mill River Farm in New Marlborough.



## **What is it about working here that inspired you to apply for the position?**

What inspired me to work here is the importance of community engagement. Not only the community that you create within your own crew and the other crews involved with Greenagers, but also with many other organizations and individuals throughout the Berkshires and beyond. Even though I've only been a part of the Greenagers community for a short time, I can already tell that this is a special place to work at and be involved with because of their dedication to community.

## **What are your hopes for this season for your crew?**

My first and maybe obvious hope for our crew this season would be to enjoy the time they spend working with Greenagers. Secondly, I am hoping that this season is a constant learning process for everyone and myself included. Not only learning about farming and gardening practices, but also learning about how to effectively work in groups, solve problems, and understand each other better. Even though I've only been here briefly, I have already learned so many new things that I appreciate so much, and I only hope that our crew will get this experience and feel the same way.

## **What most excites you about the upcoming season?**

What excites me most about this upcoming season is really just getting to be involved with this organization that I have heard so much about growing up. I have known many people who have worked or been a part of the Greenagers community before and they always have such positive things to say about it.

## **What challenges do you anticipate?**

One personal challenge I anticipate comes with the new leadership role. Having never really been in a position like this before, I will have to learn how to really use my voice and communicate with my crew. Otherwise, challenges are also moments in which you can learn, so I'm looking forward to anything that may come up throughout the season.

## **What is your favorite food to grow?**

My favorite food to grow would probably have to be tomatoes. There is a lot of care that goes into growing tomatoes, plus they're a great snack to have while working with the plants.





REPLACING A BRIDGE AT FRENCH PARK IN EGREMONT

# Donors From Three Organizations Make Bow Wow A Reality In Record Time

We are thrilled and honored to be engaged in a collaborative project with Egremont Land Trust, and Sheffield Land Trust as the new owners and stewards of Bow Wow Woods, 50 acres of upland and wetland forest on Bow Wow Road in Sheffield. In addition to being a unique property on its own, it also adds conservation land to the larger Sheffield/Egremont Scenic and Agricultural Corridor.

This conservation project was made possible by a patient landowner who was willing to wait for us to put the pieces in place, and the quick and generous response of community donors and foundations. Together, we raised \$550,000 to close on the property in April. With Bow Wow Woods, Greenagers can now offer educational experiences in a unique wetland forest complex and mature upland forest as well as the open fields, hedgerows, and farmland that comprise April Hill.

**We want Bow Wow Woods to be a recreational and ecological resource for the Egremont and Sheffield communities in perpetuity.** Therefore, we are now engaged in raising **\$450,000 for a stewardship endowment.** Hitting our goal will ensure that this property will be stewarded by Greenagers youth who work in our Conservation Programs.



# FEATURED 2022 PROJECTS

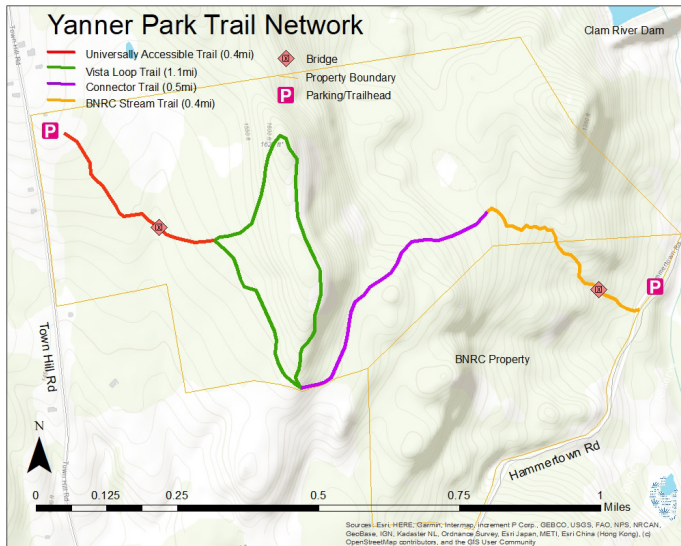
## CREATE NEW ACCESS FOR HIKERS

### Thomas and Palmer Brook

Over eight days this summer, a Greenagers youth trail crew will be working with Berkshire Natural Resources Council on their Thomas and Palmer Preserve to open up an out-and-back spur trail to an outcropping known as "Whale Rock". It's called



Whale Rock because it looks like the spine of a whale breaking through an ocean wave. The crew will be corridor clearing, bench cutting, and installing stone structures along the 1500' trail.



### Yanner Park Trail Network

In the summers of 2022 and 2023, Greenagers trail crews will build a trail network at the Town of Sandisfield's Yanner Park. The network will connect Town Hill Road to Hammertown Road and the trails at BNRC's Clam River Reserve. The network will contain a 0.4-mile trail through a sedge and red maple forest, a 1-mile loop with easterly views, and a 1-mile trail that will connect to Hammertown Road. The addition of this trail system will open up a 4-mile loop via secondary roads, a 4.5-mile loop via BNRC's Clam River trail and dirt roads, and the option for a 1-mile spur to the Clam River Reservoir.

### We asked our trail crew leaders, what is your go-to hiking trail in the area?

- Seven Sisters, Bear Mountain, Mount Tom
- Beartown
- Tyringham Cobble
- Bash Bish
- Stevens Glen - it's short, but very pretty
- Bidwell
- Mahanna Cobble and the AT Section of Mt. Greylock
- High Falls
- Thunderbolt Trail on Mt. Greylock
- Bullard Woods and the Lenox Reservoir



PHIL ANDERSON, ASSISTANT CREW LEADER  
SOUTHERN BERKSHIRE CREW





MOBILE CHICKEN COOPS BUILT BY OUR PATHWAYS TO THE TRADES STUDENTS



BOB DILEO, APRIL HILL FARM LIVESTOCK MANAGER



ELI FRY, TRAILS MANAGER

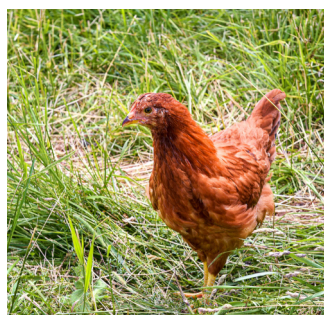
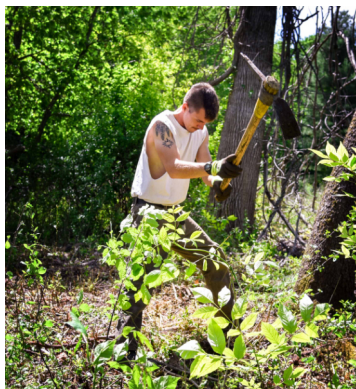
## Farewell, Eli

After two incredible years Eli “the trails guy” Fry is saying goodbye to Greenagers. He leaves behind a legacy of trail building projects in New York, Connecticut, and Massachusetts as well as a raft of youth that have benefited from his guidance and professionalism. Under his watch the trails and conservation program added shoulder seasons in the Spring and Fall as well as a brand new project that engages youth in environmental science and data collection. It’s impossible to overstate the influence he’s had on programming as a trail builder, organizer, and educator. Eli will be taking a position with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation administering their recreational trails program. Thank you, Eli! We will miss you hugely.



PHOTOS: KENZIE ODEGAARD FIELDS





## STAFF

**Will Conklin**  
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**Elia Del Molino**  
*Conservation Director*

**Bob Dileo**  
*April Hill Farm  
Livestock Manager*

**Gabriel Doudna**  
*April Hill Steward*

**Austen Dupont**  
*Field Operations*

**Karen Faveau**  
*Business Director*

**Eli Fry**  
*Trails Manager*

**Isamaya Hagstrom**  
*Food Justice Coordinator*

**Cecilie Macpherson**  
*2022 Terracorps/Americorps  
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**Sarah Monteiro**  
*April Hill Farm Director*

**Chris Powell**  
*Educator*

**Samantha Halley Suters**  
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**Leslie Svilokos**  
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Greenagers provides employment and volunteer opportunities for teens and young adults in the fields of conservation, sustainable farming, and environmental leadership from our 100 acre historic farm base in South Egremont, MA. Through vocational-environmental programs and community engagement, Greenagers prepares youth for success in their education and work. Greenagers, Inc. is a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) organization.