

greenagers
youth environment community

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MARY MCCOY

"I had so much fun. I wish I wasn't a senior so I could come back here next year. I love the outdoors and this helped me see things I could possibly do in my future."

WOMEN WORKING FOR THE LAND, TOGETHER

APRIL HILL HOSTS WOMEN IN CONSERVATION & AGRICULTURE CONFERENCE

The idea for our *Women in Conservation and Agriculture* conference came from a winter brainstorming session on ways to introduce more young women to the work we do at April Hill. All our programming: conservation, trails, carpentry/trades, and farming are male-dominated fields.

We live in a world in which women are constantly told they are either not enough or too much. Where we are constantly reminded that our worth is most valued at a superficial level and our autonomy can be taken from us.

We also live in a time where the effects of our short-sightedness have devastated the once balanced ecosystems of our natural world. We have left very little as sacred. The cultures that knew and still know of our connection to our planet, are the voices we have repeatedly oppressed, denied, and colonized.



Women in Conservation & Agriculture Conference

Conference participants chose two workshops from the following workshops. All of our workshops were led by local women professionals in the fields of conservation and agriculture. We couldn't be more grateful for their time, expertise, and ability to make a chilly, rainy day feel so bright and fun. THANK YOU!

Turtle Tracking - Angela Sirois-Pitel and Nicole Kauffman,
The Nature Conservancy

Invasives at April Hill - Jess Toro, Native Habitat Restoration

Arboriculture Climbing Demonstration - Maeven Broderick (Greenagers trail crew alumna) and Lorraine Fountain, Hartney Greymont

Vegetable Gardening to Mitigate Climate Change & Keynote Speech
- Jen Salinetti, Woven Roots Farm

Seed Saving: What it is, Why it matters, How to do it - Sarah Monteiro,
April Hill Farm Director

We must change. If this planet is going to survive, we must change the way we treat ourselves, one another, and the landscapes that hold us. Our future depends on caring deeply. Our future depends on learning and unlearning and radical imagination.

I imagine a world in which women are valued deeply for their intellect, their skills, and their capacities. I imagine a world in which the young women I work with are not *taught* empowerment but are innately empowered because the environments around them reflect their inherent worth. I imagine a world in which women are our future farmers, conservationists, environmental stewards, and leaders in innumerable spaces.

I believe our future depends on us.

I hope our *Women in Conservation and Agriculture* conference was the first of many. I am already thinking ahead to next year and how to expand our language beyond the binary to include more young people in our work at Greenagers.

Nothing great is accomplished alone. An extra special thanks go to our crew leaders: Maeve, Cecilie, April, and Georgie for keeping everything running smoothly even among the heavy rain and gusting winds!

- Sarah Monteiro
April Hill Farm Director

The Women in Conservation & Agriculture Conference was generously sponsored by:



PITTSFIELD CREW LEADS THE WAY WITH ALL WOMEN



For the first time in program history, Greenagers ran an all-women trail crew. In July and August the six person crew rebuilt a stonewall at Jacob's Pillow, helped with a reroute of the Appalachian Trail in Dalton, built a new trail at Girls Inc.'s Onota Lake campus, and cleared vegetation at Hancock Shaker Village. Youth crew members were recruited and hired from Pittsfield and Monument Mountain High School. All of them were new to the trail crew experience, but they took to it like a pick mattock to a hillside. The crew was led by Georgie Godfrey and Megan Smith. Both spent the previous three to four years working for Greenagers seasonally, first as trail crew members, then as assistant crew leaders, and this summer both were promoted to the position of crew leader.



BEFORE AND AFTER STONE WALL AT JACOB'S PILLOW



STAFF

April Albano
Trail Crew Leader

Will Conklin
Executive Director

Elia Del Molino
Conservation Director

Bob Dileo
*April Hill Farm
Livestock Manager*

Karen Faveau
Business Director

Georgie Godfrey
Trails Coordinator

Cecilie Macpherson
Farm Crew Leader

Sarah Monteiro
April Hill Farm Director

Samantha Suters
*Deputy Director,
Development Director*

Leslie Svilokos
Property Manager

Yuri Whitehead
*Pathways to the
Trades Director*

Maeve Wilbur
Farm Crew Coordinator

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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.