



using the power of nature
to transform urban youth

Eagle Eye Institute

Providing access to hands-on exploratory learning on the environment and career bridging to natural resource fields for urban people with an emphasis on underserved youth.

Wynter Auguier Interns at Mass Audubon Habitat

I started this internship in June at Mass Audubon Habitat in Belmont. I came to this internship through Eagle Eye and my job counselor at YouthBuild Just-A-Start, Cambridge, Ma.

This was a great experience for me. I love working outdoors and the projects that I've done



Wynter Auguier

really show my talent. It shows that I'm very creative and have a natural touch to do this work. It showed me that I can do other things than construction. Getting out into the nature, it's really peaceful. Being outdoors, doing this type of work, it's something that I've

never been involved in. I've always worked in the city and I never got out of the city much. Here you hear the birds chirping all day. You hear birds chirping, crickets and you work at your own pace and it's beautiful. It's a beautiful thing.

"I learned that I love working in nature."

—Wynter Auguier

I've learned that I am a very good people person. I love being around different people. I love working in nature. I've learned a lot of things.

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Message From the Executive Director

This is the time of year we think of change and for us at Eagle Eye it is time for change and a time for growth. Let me introduce myself. I am the new Executive Director and am excited to be back at Eagle Eye. I was here in 1997 as Eagle Eye's first full time staff person, coordinating 2 full seasons of "Learn About" programs. *(See p. 2)*



Rita-Renée Toll-DuBois

My return now as ED bears testimony to the impact that these programs can have on all who are involved. My skills grew as my commitment deepened and I return, dedicated to bring Eagle Eye's Green Industry Career Pathway (GICP) model onto the national stage through our partners; YouthBuild USA and The Trustees of Reservations.

GICP continues to transform the people involved. Stereotypes are breaking down as people come together in nature to learn about themselves, others, and nature. Participants' vision of what is possible and of what is meaningful is changing as their awareness shifts. This is true for the instructors as well as the students. As Andy Kendall, President of The Trustees of Reservations notes:

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Eagle Eye Welcomes Rita-Renéé Toll-DuBois as New Executive Director; Anthony Sanchez Now Board President



Anthony Sanchez will now be focusing on his duties as Board President.

In 1991, when we started Eagle Eye Institute, there were few organizations doing this work. Now there are more organizations connecting urban youth to the environment. We have been riding the crest of this movement and helped others to understand the importance of connecting urban youth with nature.

One thing I have learned doing this work is the value of building a community of adults to support urban young people as they connect to the opportunities that nature provides.

As I step out of my role as Executive Director, I am excited to pass the torch to Rita Renée Toll-DuBois who shares a deep commitment to Eagle Eye's mission and understands the value of community building. Rita Renée was our first employee in 1997. After working with Eagle Eye, Renée went on to fur-

ther her skills in securing funding, supervising staff, and building partnerships, while deepening her understanding of the issues faced by urban youth of color, and low-income communities. Early on in her tenure working with UMass (Amherst) Extension in Boston, Renée saw the opportunity to use Eagle Eye's Learn About Forests™ program to build Extension's capacity to effectively reach and serve urban youth of color. She became one of Eagle Eye's first Program Champions. She went on to launch the Boston Urban Stewards™, a community-based out of school time program for middle and high school age youth focused on improving the condition of public street trees, increasing community awareness and involvement in the care of the urban forest while developing the leadership, communication, workforce, and advocacy skills of the young people.

As Board President, I will be focusing my efforts on long term planning and sustainability as well as developing Eagle Eye Land Trust as a training site. This year we had two interns who lived on the land for six weeks (*see page 7*) and made a significant contribution while learning about land management. I look forward to continuing this internship program to help deepen the skills of interested young people and to connect the next generation to Eagle Eye Land Trust. I will also take time to sit quietly under the trees and deepen my connection to the earth and to the vision of using the power of nature to transform urban youth.

Message from the Director

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"One of our superintendents said that teaching youth from Eagle Eye was the most rewarding day he'd had all year, [and said] 'If everything they are seeing that day is new to them, how couldn't that be a revelation for me, too?'" Hear from summer interns, Raheem, Melinda, and Wynter speak of being personally transformed through their experiences, opening their "Eagle Eye" and taking flight on the wings of opportunity.

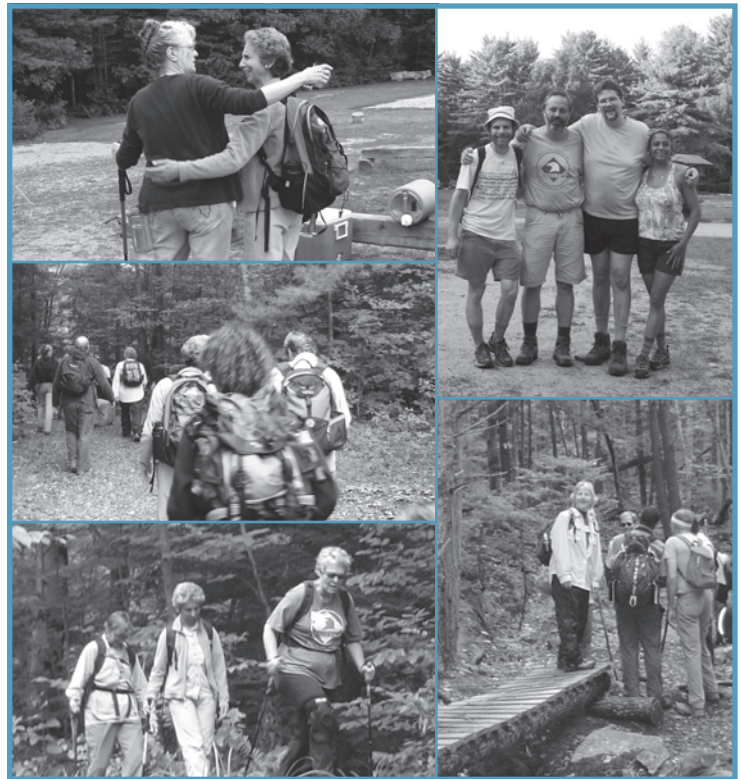
These journeys of transformation require energy and commitment over the long-term. We count on YOU, our community of supporters, to help us make this transformation possible; getting more people connected to the environment and to each other. Be generous with your pledge. Volunteer your time. Provide links to other people, jobs, internships, and resources. I am excited to be working with all of you as we continue to bridge the divide between urban people and our natural world. Thank you all for your generous support!

— Rita Renée Toll-DuBois

Eagle Eye 4th Annual Hike-a-Thon a Big Success

On Saturday, September 16th, thirty-six people from across the state came together to hike and raise money in support of Eagle Eye's Green Industry Career Pathway program. Hikers helped raise \$18,000 from over 240 individual supporters. It was a beautiful pre fall day as the hikers enjoyed the varied terrain and different landscapes of the Tully Trail, a loop through a largely undeveloped conservation area in the North Quabbin Region of Central Massachusetts managed by The Trustees of Reservations. Thanks to the Tully Lake Campground staff for their assistance in helping to make the event a success.

Special thanks to Redbones Barbecue of Somerville for providing lunch for all hikers, as well as Whole Foods, Shaw's Supermarket and Finagle a Bagel of Cambridge, for their generous donations of food for the event. Also a big thank you to Maia Wentrup, massage therapist who treated hikers to a brief massage to help relieve those tired muscles at the end of event. Thank you Caitlin Brooking, Carly Bruder and Widmine Remy for assisting to make the event run smoothly.



Website Redesign Thanks to a team of volunteers from Fidelity Investments

www.eagleeyeinstitute.org

A BIG thank you to Common Impact for matching Eagle Eye Institute with an extremely talented and dedicated team of corporate professionals from Fidelity Investments to redesign and rejuvenate our website to provide our users with the most current information on the happenings of Eagle Eye. With the expertise of the Fidelity team, we expect to have our NEW website up and running for your enjoyment and use by the end of November.

The Fidelity team consists of Feissal Damaa, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Paul Mallier, Mark Roy, Christopher Whitlock and Melinda Winters. Without the work of these volunteers, Eagle Eye would not have been able to update and integrate new technology into its website- we sincerely appreciate all of the energy and time spent for this effort. Special thanks to Zach Goldstein of Common

Impact for connecting Eagle Eye Institute and Fidelity Investments.



Second Year of Eagle Eye's Green Industry Career Pathway Program with YouthBuild USA and The Trustees of Reservations



CTI YouthBuild Lowell students at Tully Lake.

What students are saying about the Learn About Forests™ programs...

"It's a peaceful place to be [the forest]. It's more interesting than I thought."

– Kentra Beltran, 20

"Teamwork is everything."

– Christopher Jerome Knight, 20

"Nature is a beautiful thing."

– Rosa Montanez, 24

"Nature is a place to relieve lots of stress"

– Mdeph Tessier, 18

"It's good exposure for young adults to be outside and doing something positive instead of being in the hood."

– Justin Cleveland, 17

"There is more than just drugs and street life."

– Jordean Borges, 18

"We don't always have to be in school to learn something."

– Martin Waithe

"Everything in the forest is important and has a lot to do with life on the outside world."

– Shoron Matthews, 21

150 YouthBuild students from Cambridge, Boston, New Bedford, Brockton, Lowell and Springfield recently participated in one of eleven Eagle Eye's Learn About Forests™ programs coordinated by The Trustees of Reservations staff at three of their sites across the state; Notchview, Windsor; Tully Lake, Royalston; and Copicut Woods, Fall River, Ma. This is the first introductory program of the Green Industry Career Pathway that connects YouthBuild students to natural sites (many for the first time) to help build their awareness of the natural world and their responsibility to help take care of it.

The same young adults are participating in day long stewardship programs to give them the opportunity to make a contribution while interacting with and learning skills from green industry professionals and staff from TTOR who focus on land protection and management.

Over the course of the winter and spring a core group of interested YouthBuild students will be given additional learning opportunities and support to explore careers in green industry professions.

(Read about student's experiences in internships this summer pages 1, 6 & 7.)



YWCA YouthBuild Springfield at Bryant Homestead.



YouthBuild New Bedford (left) and YouthBuild Just-A-Start, Cambridge (right) at Copicut Woods.

What our partners are saying about working together...

The Trustees, Eagle Eye, and YouthBuild seek to bring their unique strengths to a successful joint venture. In particular, Eagle Eye has developed critical programs, designed to introduce participants to their environment. YouthBuild is experienced with training its participants for jobs. The Trustees has professional expertise in environment-related subjects and can assist the participants in finding jobs.

Through our combined education and service-oriented learning and training initiatives, The Trustees and our partners aim to promote outdoor experiences that develop a young person's awareness of our relationship with nature, to meet our role as stewards of the environment and community, and to encourage involvement in opportunities for a satisfying career in the green industries.

Our desire is that these young adults' experiences will lead to changes in attitudes about the environment, and lead participants to be more active when faced with environmental issues and challenges in their communities."

Andrew Kendall
President, The Trustees of Reservations

YouthBuild USA is focused on the success of the Green Industry Career Pathways project to demonstrate the ability of hands-on environmental education and career development to enhance the YouthBuild program model, including job training, counseling, leadership development, graduate support, and education.

It is rewarding to witness the successes we've had to date, including student placements in internships, college, and jobs following their graduation from YouthBuild. We are also thrilled to witness the youths' sharpened sense of global and personal responsibility as a result of this project.

On behalf of the staff and board of YouthBuild USA, I am pleased to say that we are proud to have such a dedicated organization (Eagle Eye Institute) as our ally and friend, and am excited about the future of our partnership."

Dorothy Stoneman
Founder and President YouthBuild USA

YouthBuild students are from low-income backgrounds and range in age from 16 to 24. They study for their high school equivalency while learning construction skills and working on low income housing projects.

Learn About Forests™ Program Champion Shares His Experience of Getting Beyond Stereotypes

Linton Harrington

*Bioreserve Outreach Education Coordinator
The Trustees of Reservations Copicut Woods*



Linton Harrington

I think young people especially urban youth tend to be stereotyped as being trouble makers, being in gangs. But doing these programs you have a chance to get beyond just seeing them on the street and getting to know who they are, getting to know their names, some of their stories, seeing their sense of humor. Then you can't hold these stereotypes once you know someone and realize that they are people like you; that they come from different backgrounds or they might have different situations they are dealing with at home but that when you come here to the forest we are all in the same place. We are all trying to learn from each other. It washes everything away and it doesn't really matter so much what color you are, whether you are from the city or the suburbs, whether you have a college degree or a high school diploma. It makes you look differently.

Now when I see a group of youth walking down the street, it is harder for me to have those stereotypes because you think back and there might be a good chance I might know some of those students. One of the instructors was saying he had done these programs last fall and then a few months later he was walking down the street in Taunton and happened to see one of the YouthBuild students who had come to one of the programs. He stopped and chatted with the student and was excited to see him and find out what had happened to him.

Urban youth have a lot to offer in terms of their enthusiasm, their energy, their perspective and their skills. They can contribute a lot to the work that needs to be done out here. I think people might be more reluctant to give someone a chance if they know that they have gotten into trouble when they were younger. I think a lot of people make mistakes when they are younger and if you are not given a chance to get beyond those mistakes and given a fresh start, then you are stuck in a place where you are not allowed to change. There is a lot to be gained from giving them a chance to show what they have to offer.

Wynter Auguier Interns at Mass Audubon Habitat

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I've learned about the life span of trees. I've learned how woodchucks and chipmunks eat certain plants in the garden and how they can be pests. I've learned different names of butterflies, crickets, grasshoppers. I could fill up the whole table with things I've learned here.

I turned this internship into a way to teach others that there's other things than just doing construction.

Some of the students I brought up here to do a project removing invasive plants; buckthorns, and goutweed, have never been out of the city. Bringing them out here was a total shock to them. They really loved coming here. And that makes me feel real great inside, that I could be a leader to them and teach them that there are other things in life.

I hope that more people have the opportunity to come here and do exactly what I did...to open up their minds to new things. After this experience, I hope to get into this type of field.

Working as Land/Forest Management Interns at Eagle Eye Land Trust

Melinda Stockmann

former Eagle Eye staff; now pursuing a Master's in Landscape Design at New York University, Syracuse

I learned everything from the difference between a board and a plank to how to plant a tree to identifying different wildflowers and trees. And that all adds up to something bigger... added to my breadth of understanding.

I had never worked so hard for such a long period of time outside, doing outdoor manual labor- carpentry, masonry, shoveling, gardening, landscaping, tree work. I learned- that even with this kind of work I still have that drive and that desire to see projects through.

I'll tell other people that this is a really good chance to connect with yourself, with others and with nature... and to just really get back to the basics. Coming out here for six weeks you get to just be, appreciate work, play and the food you eat. Also think about what you want to be and what you want to do and where you are going and what you are being. That's an opportunity that a lot of folks don't get. So, I'd say it's challenging especially if you're used to being in a routine and having constant stimulation. You have to be committed to the opportunity for what it is. It's definitely worth it. And it pays off on a lot of different levels. Outdoor living is fun.

Raheem Hooks

YouthBuild Brockton graduate, now studying at Roxbury Community College

What I learned about myself that I didn't realize before was that I could go to school and have a career in arboriculture. I didn't think that before. But now I really think that I can do it.

What I learned about others, out here, was that



Raheem Hooks and Melinda Stockmann at Eagle Eye Land Trust, Peru, MA.

a lack of knowledge can hurt people. I learned a lot about other people's cultures and the way they live. And that the lack of knowledge is hurting everybody 'cause people don't know about each other. They just know stereotypes. Once they meet and start talking, they see that most of that stuff's not true and that they can get along.

What I learned about nature was that a lot of people don't respect it. And here I see that I love it and trees are a passion for me. They're alive and breathing. People need to respect them more.

If another YouthBuild student was pursuing the Green Industry Career Pathway and this internship, I'd tell them to do it. Don't be scared of the forest...and the opportunity. It will be good for their life. It will be good because they'll come back with different knowledge and different skills. It builds character. You learn and it does a lot for you. It cleans your mind out. You come with all types of crazy stereotypes that you think about the place or that you think about outside. And then you go home and your mind's cleaned out 'cause you got all the knowledge you need. Like what's real. It's real cool. They should take advantage of the opportunity.

Help us raise the *final* \$28,000 to reach our 2006 fundraising goal.

Donations allows us to fill a critical funding gap, one that accounts for as much as **20%** of our overall budget.

We spend that money wisely, with 83 cents of every dollar raised going directly to support our programs.

To a small organization like Eagle Eye, **each donation makes a major difference!**

Support Eagle Eye's Green Industry Career Pathway Program for Urban Young Adults

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Using nature to transform urban youth!

