



Fall 2011

Eagle Eye Institute

Empowering urban youth from low income communities, especially youth of color, to play an active role caring for our environment.

Caring for Carrots; Creating a Compassionate Community



Healy Boys and Girls Club of Middlesex County

Who loves carrots? I, Emily Wolford, current E.A.G.L.E. Initiative Program Manager, love carrots. I can still recall my favorite after-school snack

from my younger years: two raw, uncut carrots – must be of the Danvers persuasion and must have greens intact – accompanied by a glass of milk. Every day for five years, I would leap off the school bus, run up the seemingly never-ending hill of my driveway, past the towering oak trees and the young pine saplings and barrel into my home, a farmhouse nestled in the footsteps of the Catskill Mountains in New York’s Hudson River Valley. Sitting on my knees at our kitchen table, crunching away on my carrots, I would excitedly tell my mother all about the day’s adventures in learning, discovery, and friendship-making. When I was a young person, carrots created an opening for me to connect with my family; to communicate my feelings; and to celebrate the benefits of healthy food choices. The carrot instilled within me a positive relationship with nature.

I am thankful for the carrot’s existence on earth and in my life, and due to my involvement with Eagle Eye, I have realized how valuable a sustained routine and supportive structure is for youth. Eagle Eye uses the Learn About Forests program model to introduce urban young people to the value and purpose of internalizing a true appreciation of nature, and I am proud to be part of a team which continues to Champion Learn About Forests programs free of charge to our local communities of youth.

Continued on Page 2

Message from the Board Foundation Team

Whether we believe weird weather events like hurricanes, tornadoes, and early Nor’easters are becoming the norm, or not, we’ve all had our noses pressed up against the fact that nature is a force that will not be denied, especially when it’s been tinkered with.



Now some would argue about the causes, but I think I know my audience here. I will not waste words, or your time on distractions. Let’s simply rest in the knowledge that up to this point we have all been willing to put off what needs to be done, or said, or stood for; but, this is going to change, and right now.

Foundation Team: Anthony, MaJa, Bill and Chris

Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center’s Youth Learn About Forests:

“I learned the forest has many secrets, it waits for people to find it.” -Wilson, age 16, Quincy

“There are a lot of relationships between the living things.” -Raymond, age 15, Chinatown

Starting today, we, you and I and everyone connected to each other through the work of Eagle Eye, are standing for a saner future. In this future, we share clean water, air, and fresh food for all: the simple products of a stewardship ethic expressed in vast and interconnected urban green spaces, community forests, farms, and in the wild lands

and woodlands of New England, *Continued on Page 2*

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Caring for Carrots, Continued from Page 1 This past summer, carrots were a fundamental food during our six learning and four stewardship programs for urban youth living within the City of Cambridge and Tufts University's host communities: Somerville, Medford and Chinatown. As these young people dipped these wondrous orange roots into hummus, salsa, or even peanut butter, they experienced the ways cultures all over the world eat and value the carrot, all the while benefitting in health and wellness from its consumption. I can still hear their collective carrot crunches complementing the sounds of the natural world, of animals, of insects, and of halcyon, summer days gone by...



Somerville's Mystic Mural Project Youth at Mass Audubon Habitat Education Center

The Learn About Forests program model is the cornerstone for Eagle Eye's current E.A.G.L.E. Initiative, and in reflection of our partnership with Tufts University, we are continuing to mobilize individuals and organizations in order to provide free learning, stewardship, and outdoor leadership opportunities for our youth. Together, we are Earth Advocates; we are Green Leaders for the Environment!

We have also created more opportunities for our intellectually, socially, and environmentally curious Tufts student Champions and volunteers to instill environmental change in local, urban youth. Motivated by the success of our day-long summer experiences for youth in nature, the E.A.G.L.E. Initiative now provides free after-school environmental programs at two local youth development organizations. Known as "Eagle Club," Eagle Eye uses this program to foster stewardship and community learning in an urban-based setting by nurturing leadership, unity, and well-being. Eagle Club participants at Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House in Cambridge and at the Healey Boys and Girls Club

of Middlesex County in Somerville know that we use aspects of the natural world to open up their Eagle Eye. When asked what he loves about the carrot, a nine-year old from Somerville named Juan told me: "I love the carrot because it helps me to see better." Thank you, carrot, for letting Juan see better, surely in more ways than one.

And, thank you, carrot, for being with us in the Blue Hills Reservation at Eagle Eye Institute's 9th Annual Hike-A-Thon, an intergenerational hike involving and celebrating the empowerment of urban youth in nature. Climbing the Great Blue Hill as one unified community with one all-encompassing commitment, I was reminded of words the French artist Paul Cezanne once said: "The day is coming when a single carrot, freshly observed, will set off a revolution." Will you join Eagle Eye Institute's carrot revolution? What will you do to cultivate active environmental leadership in urban youth? How will you reveal your carrot compassion?

Crunch crunch crunch. -Emily Wolford



Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House's Eagle Club at Squirrel Brand Community Garden, Cambridge

Message from Foundation Team, Continued from Page 1 and all across America.

And those of us, the ones who know nature now, help the ones who have yet to see her, do so, and in return, meet their true selves. Our future, the one we're building together needs young, awake, grounded, and ardent voices to speak into existence a future we can all believe in. We, you, I, Eagle Eye, are cultivating these leaders, these stewards of our uncommon, bright future.

On behalf of the Foundation Team, I thank you for standing with us. *-Bill Labich*



Ted Hirsch, friend and supporter, takes in surroundings along a trail in the Blue Hills Reservation with over fifty fellow hikers at Eagle Eye Institute's 9th Annual Hike-A-Thon, held Oct. 23, 2011 in Milton, MA.

Hikers of All Ages on the Great Blue Trail: Eagle Eye Institute's 9th Annual Hike-A-Thon

On Sunday, October 23, 2011, a beautiful fall day, over fifty Eagle Eye supporters participated in Eagle Eye's largest fundraising event of the year. Members of the Tufts Mountain Club, Tisch College and other Tufts University students, youth and youth leaders from Healey Boys and Girls Club of Middlesex County and supporters of Eagle Eye Institute gathered in the morning sunlight to discuss our mission of empowering urban youth from low income communities, especially youth of color, to play an active role caring for our environment."

E.A.G.L.E Initiative Program Manager, Emily Wolford, welcomed the group with the help of cheers from the youth. Board member, Bill Labich, then took a moment to thank everyone for their fundraising efforts which allow Eagle Eye Institute to continue to provide learning programs and natural experiences for low-income urban youth. The groups then set out to hike to the Great Blue Hill Summit, cleaning the trails of litter along the way. Co-Founders Anthony Sanchez and Maja Kietzke expressed, "Thanks

to all who continue to give their time and money which allows us to provide hands-on experiences in nature at no cost to the youth development organizations we work with. So far we have raised \$10K of our \$20K goal through this hike-a-thon. It's not too late to send in your support."

Youth from the Youth from the Healey Boys and Girls Club of Middlesex County participated in the Back 2 Nature Weekend with the Eagle Club where they slept out in tents at Ponkapoag Pond near the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) cabins in the Blue Hills Reservation prior to the hike-a-thon. The youth had such a great experience that they asked Emily, when can we do something like this again? Thanks to AMC for allowing us to use their cabin at no cost.

Also, many thanks to the local businesses who donated to make the hike a success: Basil Tree Gourmet Catering, Rocket Science Screen Printing and Rancatore's Ice Cream.



Susan Ekstrom, Engagement Coordinator for the Trustees of Reservations, instructs fire building with the Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House as they Learn About Forests at Holly Hill Farm in Cohasset, MA. July 21, 2011.

2010 Highlights & Accomplishments

- In spring Cleo Hirsch, Tufts University Junior was our first Tufts student to volunteer in our E.A.G.L.E. initiative. Cleo ran 2 Learn About Forests programs for Somerville's Healey Boys and Girls Club of Middlesex County at Holly Hill Farm in Cohasset, and engaged 4 other student volunteers and 1 alumnus through Tufts Mountain club.
- Cleo wrote and received Tufts University Career Services Summer Internship Grant to work with Eagle Eye in the summer.
- Hired E.A.G.L.E. Initiative Program Manager John Lawson in May.
- Cleo and John ran 2 Learn about Forests at Trustees of Reservations Appleton Farms and 2 Urban Stewardship Programs during the summer with youth from Groundwork Somerville and the Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House of Cambridge.
- John and Cleo made initial link to Jonathan M. Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service at Tufts; wrote Tisch Scholar job description.
- Annie Sloan worked with Eagle Eye as Tisch Program Scholar for the Fall term; ran 1 LAF program for Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House youth at Appleton Farm.
- Emily Wolford hired as new E.A.G.L.E. Initiative Program Manager December.

2011 Program Highlights

Eagle Eye Institute and YouthBuild USA teamed up for a 3 day leadership development and sustainable living program at the MountainStar Forest in Peru, Mass. The camping retreat was led by Eagle Eye staff, YouthBuild USA's Green Initiative and Youth Build Alumni from the Young Leaders Council. Participants included YouthBuild USA students (Who have since graduated...congratulations!) and Eagle Eye interns.



Participants learn about stone wall building from MountainStar Forest site manager, Scott Beach. Peru, MA. June 14, 2011



Drexel, age 9, engages in trail clearing at Copicut Woods, July 28, 2011

Medford Boys and Girls Club Learn About Forests, July 28, 2011 Copicut Woods

What the Youth Learned:

"Today I learned about that forest that some leaves, if you crumple them, they smell like mint and pumpkin!"

-Samantha, age 9

"Today's experience was important to me because I discovered community, love, and friends."

-Debra, age 13

"Today I learned that all of us can be a family and work together."

-Treyshaun, age 11



Mystic Learning Center youth Learns About Forests at Appleton Farms, July 25, 2011

CASSANDRA PASTORELLE
TUFTS '12 | TISCH SCHOLAR
SUMMER PROGRAM INTERN

Cassie joined Eagle Eye in the Winter of 2011, and after spending her first summer working as a Learn About Forests Program Champion, she continues to integrate her love of the outdoors with her passion for civic engagement as our current Tufts University Tisch Program Scholar for the Fall 2011 semester. Cassie plans and delivers weekly outdoor experiences for the Healey Boys and Girls Club of Middlesex County in Somerville.



"I'm continually moved by the experiences of the young people that we work with. It's so wonderful that we have this model that works across the board regardless of where people have been, of their personal experiences, or the hardships they've been through. Everyone can gather as a community and go through this immersion in nature over the course of the day; from the walk in, to the instruction, to the stewardship and be able to come out with something positive.

For example, we had a girl named Arianna in one of our Learn Abouts this summer. She is ten years old, but the comments, the questions and the insights she had were way beyond her years. She ended up having a special relationship with one of our instructors, Helen Johnson, a Department of Conservation and Recreation forester. I think Arianna felt like she had come into her own, she was finally in an environment where she was feeling her best and at her brightest. That was great for Helen to see, to be able to inspire that in a young person.

Nature is one of the things I most value in my own life and it is a joy to share that with others. I love interacting with young people because of their enthusiasm, energy, curiosity, and resilience. Being responsible to any degree for making a small transformation in a young person's life has been the most rewarding and fun experience I've been involved in!"

CLEO HIRSCH | TUFTS '12
EAGLE EYE SUMMER PROGRAM CO-
ORDINATOR

Currently in her senior year at Tufts University, Cleo started volunteering with Eagle Eye in February 2010 as a Learn About Forests Program Champion. Committed to conservation and engaging youth in fun outdoor learning opportunities, Cleo continues to permeate the Eagle Eye culture with her energy, insatiable laugh, and strong sense of self.



"Deciding to come back to Eagle Eye for a second summer was an easy decision. At Eagle Eye I have been able to work for an organization that reflects my own values, doing work that I feel passionate about, all the while being supported by a community of amazing people. This summer we had a new team in the office, and from my very first day I knew that it was going to be an incredibly fun and productive summer.

Going into the second summer of the E.A.G.L.E. initiative, it was rewarding to see how many youth development organizations, natural site hosts, and natural resource professionals were already familiar with our program and excited to partner with us again. One thing that I find to be true about Eagle Eye is that once a person participates in one program or event with us, they are ready to come back and do more, because the spirit and community behind each program is so captivating to all involved."

Nature gives us the space to take a deep breath in and relax, be ourselves, come together as a community away from everything else that may be happening in our lives, and simply have fun. Working with young people in nature is wonderful because we can all be a little more crazy, run a little faster, and get a little dirtier than we can in the city. Every time I work with young people in nature, I learn something new about the natural world, and I feel a deeper connection to nature than I did the day before. My work at Eagle Eye has taught me both the power of nature as a transformational space, and the power of nature as a carefree environment full of fun to be had."

JAMIE NORTON | TUFTS '14
TUFTS WORK STUDY STUDENT
STUDENT VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

"I enjoy giving young people the important opportunity to learn more and explore the world around. I especially like what Eagle Eye does, bringing urban youth of the city to new, exciting environments. I have learned through working with Eagle Eye, that urban youth don't have the same opportunities to connect with nature as I did growing up. This has been eye opening for me."



Originally born in the United Kingdom, Jamie grew up in Groton, Massachusetts, exploring the natural world around him through his passion for cross country running. Currently a sophomore at Tufts University, Jamie is Eagle Eye's Student Volunteer Coordinator, as well as a member of the E.A.G.L.E. Initiative program development team. In the spring of 2011, he organized an urban stewardship and learning program for young people from the Healey Boys and Girls Club of Middlesex County and included an afternoon adventure learning experience featuring a group canoe trip along the Mystic River!

Jamie's experience in social justice activism, combined with his involvement in counseling young people at running camps and a memorable service trip to Kenya in 2009, have influenced his decision to major in both International Relations and Peace and Justice Studies while at Tufts.

Thank you Volunteers!
We couldn't do this work without you!

Together, we create the next generation of environmental leaders and provide our local communities of youth with peaceful and meaningful experiences in nature.

Volunteers directly contribute to the power of our programs, and they come away from their volunteer experience equally transformed and more aware of the impact they are making on urban youth. When asked why he volunteers with Eagle Eye Institute, Brian Lawlor, natural resource professional from Mass Audubon Habitat, commented that volunteer experiences "are good for our mental and physical health. This is true for all people but urban youth face more barriers and find fewer opportunities for outdoor experiences in natural areas." Brian also spoke to the benefits of being able to share his environmental passion and knowledge with young people from Somerville's Mystic Mural Project. "We can communicate positive environmental messages that are not always being told in the media."

Tufts University students and alumni also understand the significance of engaging with urban youth in the outdoors. "This type of experience is grounding and empowering," Leah Effron, a Tufts University student volunteer, observed after her participation on a Learn About Forests program at Holly Hill Farm with the Cambridge Boys and Girls Club this past summer; "I am in awe at their gusto, curiosity, and wisdom."

Thank you all for the continued support, leadership, and love:

- Elle Bu, Tufts University
- James Bowker, Tufts University
- Thomas Claiborne, Tufts University
- Bradley Benjamin, Tufts University
- Ethan Peritz, Tufts University
- Mike Borys, Tufts University
- Anna Graham, Tufts University
- Cassie Pastorelle, Tufts University
- Cleo Hirsch, Tufts University
- Daniel Meer, Tufts University
- Kipp Callahan, Tufts University alumnus
- Kaiya Berrow, Tufts University alumnus
- Kevin Criscione, Tufts University
- Mae Humiston, Tufts University
- Margaret McCarthy, Tufts University
- Meg Wylie, Tufts University
- Michelle Cohen, Tufts University
- Thea Mink, Tufts University
- Victoria Stevenson, Tufts University
- Leah Effron, Tufts University
- Madeleine Carey, Tufts University
- Philip "Pike" Hughes, Tufts University
- Orli Gottlieb, Tufts University
- Jamie Norton, Tufts University
- Lloyd Olson, Tufts University
- Laney Siegner, Tufts University
- Tufts Mountain Club, Tufts University
- Tom Thumb's Garden, Tufts University
- Tufts University Crafts Center
- Theta Chi Fraternity, Tufts University
- Outdoor Resource Center, Tufts University
- Jonathan M. Tisch College, Tufts University
- Sandy Vorce, Mass Audubon Habitat
- Brian Lawlor, Mass Audubon Habitat
- Nathaniel Evers, Mass Audubon Habitat
- Jonny Belber, Holly Hill Farm
- Helen Johnson, DCR
- James Rassman, DCR
- Bruce Wenning, The Country Club
- Susan Ekstrom, Trustees of Reservations
- Linton Harrington, Trustees of Reservations
- Margie Coffin-Brown, Olmsted Landscape Preservation
- Brian Velozo, YouthBuildUSA Green VISTA
- Stacy Kilb, Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources
- Jennifer Forman-Orth, Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources
- Melinda Duffy, Eagle Eye past participant
- David Lefcourt, City of Cambridge DPW
- Alex Rosario
- Josh W. Castellano
- Melinda Stockmann
- Katharine VanBuskirk & John Scibetta



Leah Effron, Tufts student volunteer, joins Eagle Eye and the Cambridge Boys and Girls Club of Middlesex County at Holly Hill Farm in Cohasset, MA. July 14, 2011

Soaring Eagle

Anonymous
MaJa Kietzke
& Anthony Sanchez

Eaglet

John Bullitt
Michael Lawson
& Nancy Ann Nelson
Richard Games
Paul Pierron
Trust Company Cambridge

Nestling

Arbella Charitable Matching
Chris Cato & Rosa Morales
Ginny Dorne
Sigrid Ewers
Kenneth Gooch
Beverly Hoffman & Roger
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Roger Plourde
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Eagle Egg

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Nancy Busnach
Congregational Church
of West Medford
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Estelle Disch
Delson Filho
& Elizabeth Pereira
Sarah & Sam Freeman
FW Russell & Sons Disposal
Lesli Gordon

Golden Eagle

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Catherine S England
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Carol Pine
Ron Pulsifer
Gail Strand
Kira & Joe Jewett
Henry Vandermark

Paul & Annie Niedergang
Annonymous
Joanne Peckarsky
Bruce Wenning
Joshua Meltzer
Chris Porter
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Thank You to our Donors!

“Eagle Eye Institute opens young peoples’ eyes to the environmental diversity our planet holds, showing them the larger world outside their city streets. They bring consistently high energy to their mission: educating underserved urban youth about the environment and how to be a good steward.”

When I saw foundation grants and government funding drying up, it reminded me that individuals need to step up and support the causes they believe in more than ever.” -Henry Vandermark

Nest Builder

Judy Bexfield
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Mayor Joseph Curtatone
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Errico Studios
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& Steven Evitt
Howard Wolf
Carol Wolfe
Pat & Don Yanke

Grants Received

Anonymous Foundation	\$5,000
Henry P. Kendall Foundation	\$5,000
Roy A. Hunt Foundation	\$5,000
Mass Cultural Council	\$5,000
Orville W Forte Foundation	\$2,500
Living Springs Foundation	\$1,000

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Please help us reach
our annual campaign
goal of **\$45,000!**

We have already raised
\$25,000

Help us raise another
\$20,000
to reach our goal this year!

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

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