

Building Volunteer Engagement and Service Learning in Stewardship



Moderator: Laura Mattei, Sudbury Valley Trustees
Malin Clyde, Nature Groupie (based at Univ. of NH)
Camille Duquet, TerraCorps
Tom Mullin, Unity College





Empowering generations of outdoor enthusiasts to
volunteer for nature in New England...
...because we know what a network of nature lovers
can do to change the world

Identified Needs of the Conservation Community*



Increased capacity to care for and study lands and waters



Create a culture of stewardship in New England

* Includes land trusts, state and federal agencies, towns, other conservation organizations

How Can Land Trusts Use



Recruit volunteers for nature-based projects using online registration system

Download (free) **Stewardship Training Guides** to train volunteers



Get help navigating the world of stewardship, citizen science, and volunteers through a (free) subscription to **The Compass**



Empowering generations of outdoor enthusiasts to volunteer for nature

Volunteer

Recruiting
Volunteers:

Events
Calendar

Volunteer Events

Winter Water Quality Monitoring - Holderness, NH

Squam Lakes Association

Wednesday, March 14th - 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Salamander Crossing Brigade Volunteer Training - Nelson, NH

Harris Center for Conservation Education

Wednesday, March 14th - 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Training: Conservation Easement Monitoring for Volunteers - Brentwood, NH

UNH Cooperative Extension Natural Resources Program

Saturday, March 17th - 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Cotton Mountain Trail Work Day - Holderness, NH

Squam Lakes Association

Monday, March 18th - 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Guided Hike in the Rattlesnake Trail Network! - Holderness, NH

Squam Lakes Association

Tuesday, March 20th - 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Training: Mobile Mapping Made Easy - Manchester, NH

UNH Geospatial Technologies Training Center

Wednesday, March 21st - 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

MORE EVENTS >>



FEATURE STORY

Salamander Success: City Will Close Road to Protect Migrating Amphibians Based on Citizen Science Efforts

A wood frog makes her way across North Lincoln Street in Keene, New Hampshire. This year, she'll... [READ MORE](#)

Announcements



Stewardship Jobs and Internships in New Hampshire

Check out those seasonal and year-round internship and job opportunities in NH. [MORE](#)



2018 Summer Internships with Nature Groupe

Are you an undergraduate looking for summer work in conservation? [MORE](#)

Join the
Community:
Sign Up

The image shows a screenshot of the Nature Groupie website. At the top left is the logo "Nature groupie" in orange script, followed by "OUTDOOR VOLUNTEERS IN NEW ENGLAND" in orange uppercase. In the top right corner, there are social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, and a red "Sign up" button which is circled in yellow. Below the header is a red navigation bar with white text for "Events", "Training", "Citizen Science", and "Stories". The main banner features a black and white photo of two people in outdoor gear working in a field, with the text "Empowering generations of outdoor enthusiasts to volunteer for nature" overlaid. A red "Volunteer" button is positioned in the lower right of the banner. Below the banner is a "Volunteer Events" section with a list of events, each with a title, location, and date. To the right of the events is a "FEATURE STORY" section with a photo of a salamander and the headline "Salamander Success: City Will Close Road to Protect Migrating Amphibians Based on Citizen Science Efforts". Below that is an "Announcements" section with a photo of a person and the headline "Stewardship Jobs and Internships in New Hampshire". At the bottom of the events list is a black button with white text that says "MORE EVENTS >>".

Sign up

Events Training Citizen Science Stories

Empowering generations of outdoor enthusiasts to volunteer for nature

Volunteer

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2018 Summer Internships with Nature Groupie

Are you an undergraduate looking for...

Join the Community

Weekly Bulletin
for Volunteers


The Compass
(quarterly news for partners)




https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A_https.prod.tivaresponse.net_feed.htm-3Ffeed-3Dhttps-3A_naturegroupie.org_28a-3Eg-3D789-26a-3D700-26a-3D31701-26a-3D1-6146-28a-3D30D-26a-3D301-26a-3D30a00f00000915aEAD&u=DeMFA&u=cEMrceVYimSA_MAlxrooA&v=QHQ_QZ29v3LkxwDFSON9Suwgf5gCwcd5GqjnyZ&u=Q4hikmfQ7Y1N2gw8k5523VhqlFu6RMEcEbc8JDJ&a=gc_jl08KfW8HHz-M30j3H0mh-m18Cqj4E5p4GZU&w

discover the w own backyard.


Backyard Winter Bird Survey
February 10th - 11th
All of New Hampshire [Learn More](#)



Salamander Crossing Brigades Training
March 14 (Nelson), March 23 (Keene), March 25 (Hancock)
Count migrating amphibians and help them cross roads in the spring.
Great for: Wildlife lovers, night owls, and all nature lovers. [Count It](#)




Get Your Free Nature Groupie Sticker!
(While Supplies Last)
Show your love of nature and the outdoors with a Nature Groupie sticker!
Great for: Water bottles, bumper laptops, jkks, helmets, or anywhere. [Get It](#)




Step Into Winter Trail Work
NEW DATES: February 1, 5, 8, 12 - Holderness, NH
Explore the sights and try out winter trail work in the Sojourn Lakes region.
Great for: Outdoor enthusiasts, winter lovers, and hands-on learners. [Explore It](#)


GET OUTSIDE



13 Places to Explore



10 Outdoor Adventures



56 Citizen Science Projects

THE COMPASS

NAVIGATING THE WORLD OF STEWARDSHIP, CITIZEN SCIENCE & VOLUNTEERS

Extension THE STEWARDSHIP NETWORK: NEW ENGLAND

Main

Welcome to the first edition of *The Compass*, a free, quarterly newsletter designed to help conservation organizations, towns and public agencies navigate the world of stewardship, citizen science and volunteers. We'll highlight tips and tricks for working with volunteers and share information about the gains and trends from the Stewardship Network: New England shared calendar. You can unsubscribe at any time. Set your tools and checklists down, grab a hot cup of something and enjoy reading our first edition!

The Stewardship Network: New England Team
Emily Lord, Emma Tuley, Haley Ambrose and Mimi-Cytle
Uplink Cooperative Extension
Alyson Eisenhart and Caitlin Peterson
NH Sea Grant & UNH Cooperative Extension



FEATURE STORY
Staying Smart About Stewardship Volunteers: 3 Lessons from our Shared Calendar
We looked back at three years of calendar data and uncovered some interesting things about our users and trends.
[Learn More About Our Volunteers](#)



Nature Groupie Growth 2014 - 2017



Mark Glowacki

UNH college student

“I’d like to volunteer more, but it’s not something I can just set a specific time aside to do because...you’re juggling work and school and social life and everything. So it’s nice to say, ‘Oh, there’s something in a few weeks that I’m interested in’ and I can see how I can contribute to that and get something out of it.”



Nature Groupie Extension Fellowship: A Case Study for Internship Collaboration

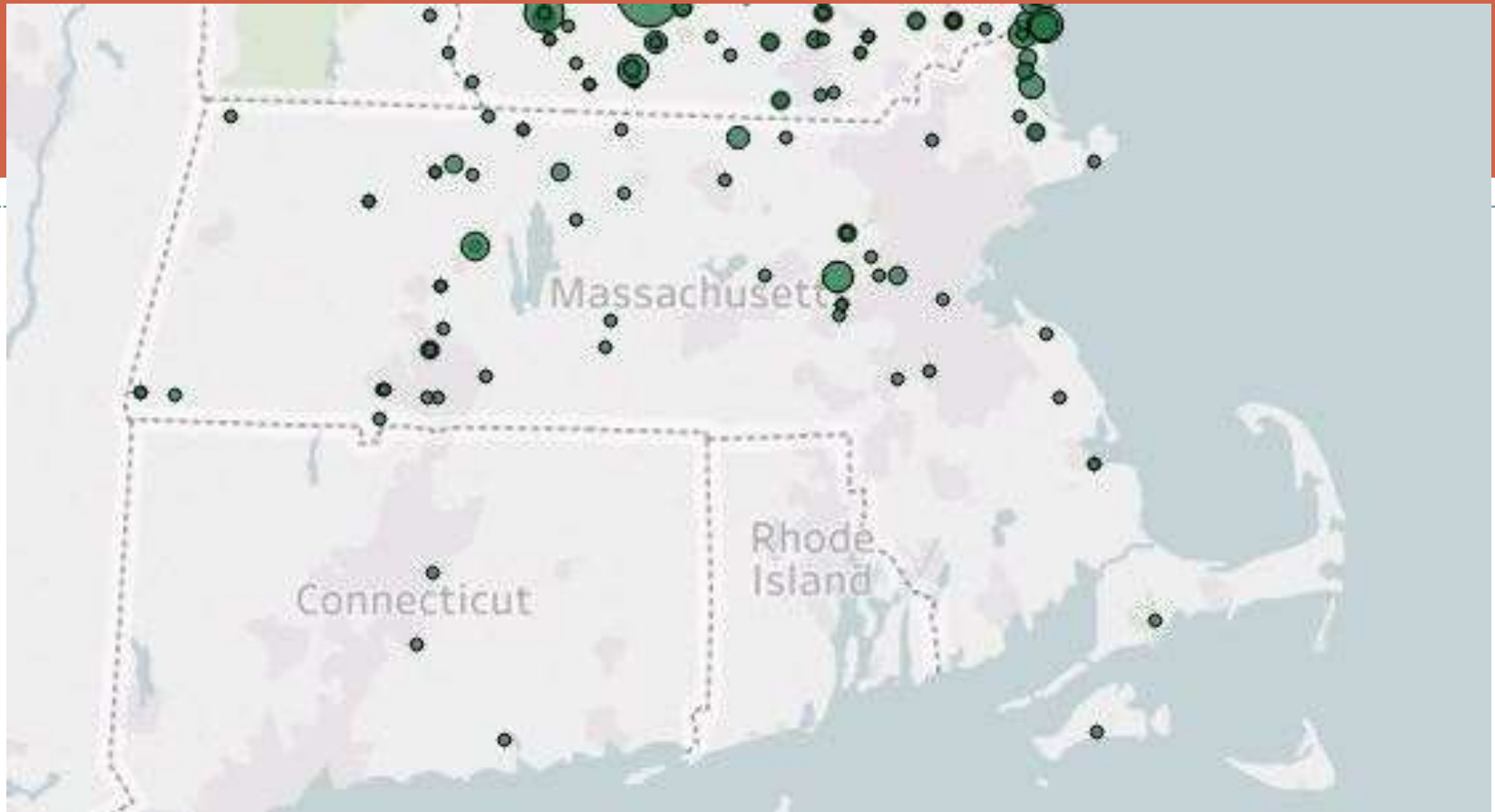


- Funded by private charitable donations to UNH Extension
- UNH Extension recruits and hires students
- Partners apply for interns for 2-week stewardship and citizen science projects
- Student(s) conduct 4-5 field projects during 10-week summer internship
- Partners gain stewardship capacity, engagement with students
- Students gain job experience, a living wage, and introduction to local organizations and real-world conservation issues

Nature Groupie in Massachusetts



Calendar Map in MA



[The Network Mapped!](#)

Users and Events



Organizations:

- Land Trusts
- Conservation Commissions
- Trail Organizations
- Watershed Organizations
- Volunteer Research Organizations

Events:

- Clean-Up days
- Invasive Plant Removal days
- Citizen science project
- Science Trainings
- Trail building and trail maintenance

Successful Users: Sudbury Valley Trustees



- Regional Land Trust
- Committed to posting volunteer days on the network (10+ events)

***Volunteers registered through Nature Groupie directly ***



Sudbury Valley Trustees

- ❖ Spring Garden Clean Ups
- ❖ Garlic Mustard Pull
- ❖ Buckthorn Pull
- ❖ EDDMaps Training



Successful User: Conservation Commissions



- Townsend Conservation Commission
- Squannacook River Clean-Up Events → reoccurring throughout Summer 2017
- Clear river for canoes and restore wildlife habitat





“Having never organized anything of this magnitude we needed a means of getting the word out about our effort, recruiting volunteers and a way for them to sign up for one of the five Saturdays that we had scheduled for the clean-up. The Commission is a volunteer board and our staff is part-time, so any way that the process can be streamline and organized was imperative. This we found in Nature Groupie. Posting our event on their website was made simple by following the detailed instructions provided by the Network. As a matter of fact the description that we posted on the website became our press release. We were notified when a volunteer signed up for a shift with their contact information. This simplified the planning process greatly. We had a successful 2017 clean-up and are looking forward to a 2018 clean-up for which we will definitely be utilizing Nature Groupie again! “ – Karen Hill, Townsend Conservation Commissioner

Successful Users: TerraCorps



- 37 AmeriCorps members
- Urban Agricultural Groups and Land Trusts
- Opportunities for volunteer engagement
- 23 Service Sites state-wide





Engage the un-engaged!

Nature Groupie User Benefits



Organizations:

- Access to training guides
- Increase volunteer numbers and skill set
- Volunteer registration
- Part of New England wide community
→ bigger network and reach

Volunteers:

- Diverse volunteer opportunities
- Increase skill level
 - Wildlife ID
 - Invasives
- Networking and social opportunities
- Inclusive community



Service Learning/Community Based Learning and Land Trusts: ABC's for Success

Tom Mullin

Unity College

2018 Massachusetts Land Conservation Conference

INTRODUCTIONS

Tom Mullin

Associate Professor
Parks and Forest Resources
Unity College

National Association of
Interpretation Board
Member

Fellow of National
Association of Interpretation

- Donald Harwood Award for Faculty Excellence in Service Learning from Maine Campus Compact
- Member at Large, ATC Stewardship Council

WORKSHOP OVERVIEW

- How to developing an effective community based learning/service learning program
- Best Practices
- How to manage and mentor students within their academic needs
- Statewide resources for connecting with students

Definitions and Academic Jargon

- Service Learning
- Community Based Learning
- Campus Compact



Service Learning and Community Based Learning Defined...

Community-based learning

Service-learning

Campus Compact
35 states and regions
<http://www.compact.org/>

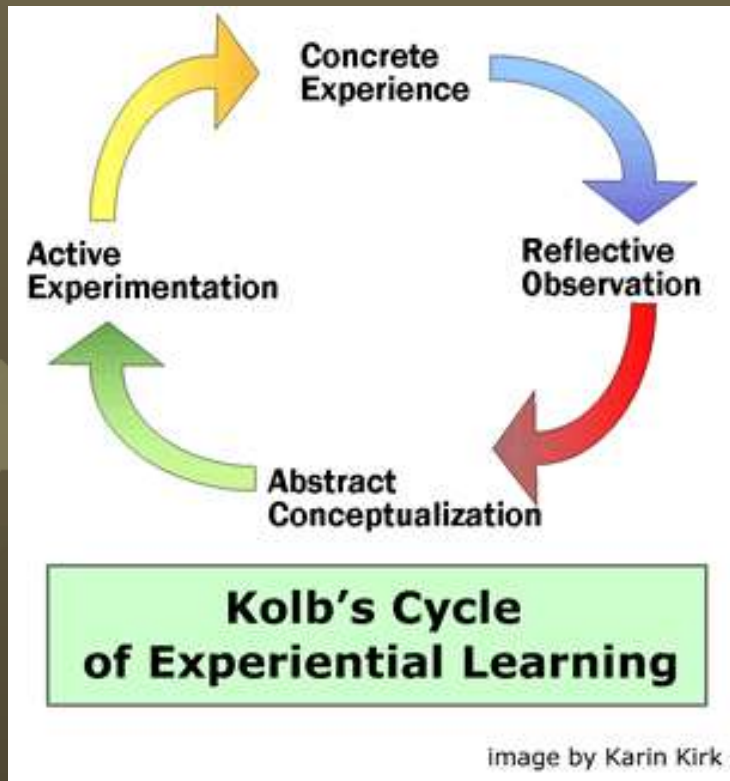
SERVICE LEARNING FRAMEWORK

- Typically one to three months, can be longer in some cases. May have a hourly component. Think semester time frame
- Generally a one time experience, but can be more
- Typically unpaid but costs often picked up
- Usually part of an educational program- credit bearing class
- Distinguished from volunteer experience by established intentional learning goals/objectives
- Promotes educational, personal and professional development
- Focus matching a project with the course objectives for particular class that meets the community partner's need

Project Based Academic Experiences



KOLB'S EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING CYCLE



- What?
- So What?
- Now What?

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Students
- Supervisors/site contact
- Faculty



COMMON COLLEGE COMPONENTS OF SERVICE LEARNING

- Established Learning Objectives
- Observation
- Reflection
- Evaluation
- Assessment
- Public Presentation

HOW DO YOU KNOW WHEN YOU ARE READY TO PARTNER WITH A COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

1. You have time to think and plan for a project.
2. The primary goals of your organization are met.
3. You have an available **willing** staff member to serve as a mentor/ supervisor/content person
4. You have the basic resources need to support the additional help or project."um, we need a map of the property"



TOP 3 REASONS NOT TO PARTNER WITH AN COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

1. Funding was cut and you need free labor in order for your organization to function or to get basic functions done.
2. You need it now!...like within a couple of weeks
3. We need the free labor to get the job done and students will easily do the job with little oversight by me

Other reasons?

GETTING STARTED

Step 1: Set Goals

- What does your organization hope to gain from the partnership?
- Are you looking for additional help on a project?
- Are you growing quick and needing new talent?
- Are you a non-profit that doesn't have a lot of money but can provide a meaningful and rewarding experience?
- Are you looking to introduce land conservation to emerging professionals?

Working with college students
can be like herding sheep



STARTING AN SERVICE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP

Step 2: Write a Plan

- Identify and analyze needs within your organization
- Determine the scale, scope and appropriateness of how students could help meet those needs. (Specific project, day-to-day support, research, etc.)
- Draft a project description

STEP 2 CONTINUED

- What sort of academic background do you want in an student/class
- Who will have the primary responsibility for supervising the class/student?
- What will they be doing?
- Will you provide training opportunities outside of the project itself ?
- What is your time frame for completion? What is their timeline for academic work? Must match

Brainstorm ideas

- Case Examples. Mural, Park and Forest Resources, Interpretive Methods, Admin and Organization

ESTABLISHING A COMMUNITY BASED LEARNING PROGRAM

Step 3: Recruiting Partners

- How will you find college partners connections?
- Start early!
- Develop relationship with local CBL-Service Learning resources.
- Take a look at college's course offerings and who is instructing them. Contact directly
- Social media sites, college websites, professional organizations, college/university CBL-Service Learning Office



PARTNER RESOURCES

- Campus Compact

<http://www.compact.org/>

- Campus Compact of Southern New England

<http://ccsne.compact.org/>

College and Universities in Massachusetts that are members of Campus Compact

[Amherst College](#) | [Assumption College](#) | [Babson College](#) | [Baypath College](#) | [Bentley University](#) | [Berkshire Community College](#) | [Boston Architectural College](#) | [Boston University](#) | [Brandeis University](#) | [Bridgewater State University](#) | [Bristol Community College](#) | [Brockton Hospital School of Nursing](#) | [Bunker Hill Community College](#) | [Cape Cod Community College](#) | [Clark University](#) | [College of the Holy Cross](#) | [Emerson College](#) | [Emmanuel College](#) | [Endicott College](#) | [Fitchburg State University](#) | [Framingham State University](#) | [Gordon College](#) | [Greenfield Community College](#) | [Hampshire College](#) | [Harvard University](#) | [Holyoke Community College](#) | [Lasell College](#) | [Lesley University](#) | [Massachusetts College of Art and Design](#) | [Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts](#) | [Massachusetts College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences](#) | [Massachusetts Institute of Technology](#) | [Massasoit Community College](#) | [Merrimack College](#) | [MGH Institute of Health Professionals](#) | [Middlesex Community College](#) | [Mount Holyoke College](#) | [Mount Ida College](#) | [Mt. Wachusett Community College](#) | [North Shore Community College](#) | [Northeastern University](#) | [Northern Essex Community College](#) | [Pine Manor College](#) | [Quinsigamond Community College](#) | [Regis College](#) | [Roxbury Community College](#) | [Salem State University](#) | [Simmons College](#) | [Smith College](#) | [Springfield College](#) | [Springfield Technical Community College](#) | [Stonehill College](#) | [Suffolk University](#) | [Tufts University](#) | [University of Massachusetts Dartmouth](#) | [University of Massachusetts Lowell](#) | [University of Massachusetts Medical, Worcester](#) | [University of Massachusetts Amherst](#) | [University of Massachusetts Boston](#) | [Urban College of Boston](#) | [Wellesley College](#) | [Wentworth Institute of Technology](#) | [Western New England University](#) | [Westfield State University](#) | [Wheaton College](#) | [Wheelock College](#) | [Williams College](#) | [Worcester Polytechnic Institute](#) | [Worcester State University](#)

PARTNERSHIP REMINDERS

- Choose your Partners Carefully. Make it work for **you** and the student/class
- Seek written plan/documentation of the agreement. Not an absolute, but helps establish professional connection
- Have all the contact information in place. Phone, email, other numbers for all college connections



STEP 4: MANAGE THE STUDENTS

- First few beginning days are defining days
- Provide clear expectations
- Provide orientation
- Provide resources needed to do the job
- Check in on the students. Find out their schedule
- Give lots of feedback
- Evaluate performance every few weeks

TOP 10 CONCERNS OF STUDENTS

1. Give us Real Work.
2. Do what you say, and say what you do.
3. We like feedback.
4. We want to be included.
5. Please Explain.
6. I want a mentor
7. A minute of your time, please.
8. Be prepared.
9. Um...I need a chair.
10. Trust me to do the job

LEGAL ISSUES

Disclaimer

- Workers' and Unemployment Compensation/ Liability
(College- Student- Worksite)
- International Students
- What to do if it's not working out?

ENDING PROJECTS

- Certification of Completion/Appreciation/Recognition
- Letter of Recommendation
- Formal thank you and debrief
- Invite to a board meeting for presentation
- Complete required college paperwork- evaluation
- Public presentation
- Newsletter profiles
- Provide closure



SOURCES & REFERENCES

- Service Learning: Learning by Design: EPA US Government
<http://www.epa.gov/osw/education/pdfs/svclearn.pdf>
- Campus Compact (National Organization)
- <http://www.compact.org/>

Q & A

