

SEA Currents

The Newsletter of Caribbean SEA and TenneSEA
(Student Environmental Alliance)

Volume 13

November, 2017



Looking back to the summer of 2015...a group of McCallie teens and their leaders, Will Honeycutt and Karah Nazorn traveled to St Lucia on a service trip. Their goal? Teach swimming and snorkeling to a group of local kids as well as teaching marine protection. They were coming to support our Kids for Coral program in St Lucia. These boys were fantastic. Dennery Village still talks about those boys who spent the day in their village. And the kids have never forgotten those boys. It also had an impact on the teens from

Friendship from Dennery Village to McCallie School !

McCallie. Fast Forward to Summer 2017 and Garrison Brock and Hugh Steel return to St Lucia . Avid soccer players, they bring soccer balls and jerseys to several Football Clubs in St Lucia. In particular, they are heading back to Dennery Village where they also provide school supplies. Garrison's programs called One Ball One Goal brought so much back to these kids! Fast Forward again to November 2017 and Mary Beth is back in St Lucia. Just by chance she spots kids playing with the soccer balls provided by

One Ball, One Goal in two different communities! These experiences will have a long lasting impact, not just in St. Lucia, but also on the teen boys who found out that kids are kids wherever you are! I could not be prouder of them! Pay it forward...



My Tennessee: Clean Water Starts Here!



We are excited to announce our Focus on improving Mountain Creek has received funding from the Tennessee Healthy Watershed Initiative and the Lyndhurst Foundation! Our partners with the Hamilton County and City of Chattanooga Water Quality Departments are excited as well! We are working together to pilot test our new watershed friendly yards certification program in the Mountain Creek Watershed. We have name it My Tennessee : Clean Water Starts Here to help everyone understand each one of us can help protect our water! Residents of the City of Chattanooga may also qualify for the City's cost share program for implementing stormwater improvements. If you would like a free evaluation of your yard, just give us a call or email Julie at julesnovak@caribbean-sea.org. You might even get an award!! Our initiative has also spawned the Friends of Red Bank Streams (FORBS) a new community watershed alli-

ance aimed at Mountain Creek and Stringer's Branch. Several of the members of FORBS are already installing rain gardens and streamside buffer zones to help the creeks! They really are friends of the creek. In addition, we are hoping to see a greenway get developed as well as protect some of the upper reaches of the creek. Mountain Creek watershed runs from the top of Signal Mountain and up the valley almost to Soddy Daisy all the way to its junction with Stringers Branch at Baylor Lake. Come help us improve these watersheds! Clean Water starts with YOU!



Welcome, Julie!



While we hated to see Allie leave for California, we are extremely grateful for our good fortune in having Julie Novak come join our team as our new TenneSEA Program

Director. Julie has volunteered with us for years, particularly at the Bonnaroo music festival clean ups for the Gear Closet. She is a graduate of Auburn University (BS) and the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (M.A.Ed). Julie worked as an Agricultural Extension Agent for 10 years coordinating the 4-H Program and then started her own handmade, children's clothing business. She's not afraid of getting dirty or getting lost in the woods!

Dominica Relief after Hurricane Maria.

Dominicans will be measuring time by Hurricane Maria for many years. The storm took them by surprise since it exploded into a Category 5+ storm so quickly. No one was untouched by the storm. My friend Elvis has lost everything. Simon and Wendy had their house blow up



around them as the winds reached over 220mph. They huddled under their soaked mattress since it was the only thing to hold them down. Then there was the mud. And mountains of downed trees. And not a bit of green. Simon said it looked sepia toned. Thanks to you, we have sent water filters and solar powered chargers and school supplies. We have helped Liz's school. They need more water filters. And building supplies. And fishing supplies. But the green is returning. Our Nature Island is coming back and so will tourists. Simon says, "Plan your visit for next year!"

Red Bank Grads Give Back!



- Adam Pierce contacted me when he moved back to Chattanooga after living out west for many years. He studied Environmental Science and Watershed Science in Colorado. When he came back to Chattanooga to work at Propex, he wanted to stay involved in watershed work, volunteer work. He graduated from Red Bank High School.
- Shannon Kelly graduated from Red Bank Elementary and Middle School before heading to Notre Dame High. She graduated from UTK with a civil engineering degree with concentrations in water resources and geotechnical engineering. She works at Chattanooga Engineering Group specializing in Storm water.
- Matt Arp is a Project Manager at Wright Brother's construction. Friendly arm twisting from fellow Red Bank grad and buddy, Adam, brought them on board to donate site work.



What's going on? Mountain Creek is eating its own stream bank on the Red Bank Elementary School property. We have our current Red Bank students working on design solutions, but guess who they are helping? Past grads of the Red Bank schools who have teamed up with us to solve this erosion issue. Adam is spearheading the project through Propex. Shannon is our lead engineer, and Matt is handling the site work. What a great Red Bank Team!! Because of this team of current and past Red Bank students as well as many more, we will stabilize the stream bank behind the school so it won't erode any further. Thanks to you all and Go, Red Bank!

Red Bank Elementary builds a rain garden and grows a Stream Team!



Last school year, STEM teacher Diana Hess was on a mission. She wanted her environmental club to build a rain garden! We wrote grants, but were denied.

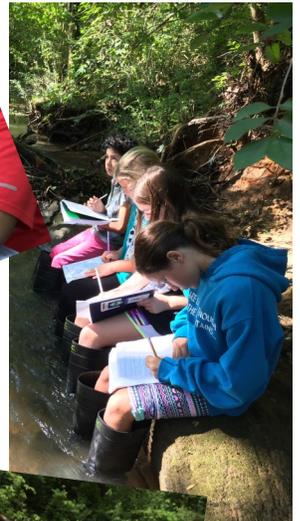


That's when the power of positive thinking and persistence came in...we started calling and asking for donations from everyone from Home Depot and the rock quarry to an engineering firm. WE DID IT!! Diana and the kids were amazing and we couldn't accomplished it without the help of our friends from ASA Engineering.



fourth graders stream education school These training sessions the end of last engineering stream bank

are helping make happen! They will continue on this year with continuing to monitor and map the water quality and quantity, using our WaterWatch app, and document progress in and assist with the stabilization process. These students will also be teaching community members about the creek and how to use WaterWatch, as well as training their replacements, next year's Stream Team. These Red Bank Students are a talented bunch!

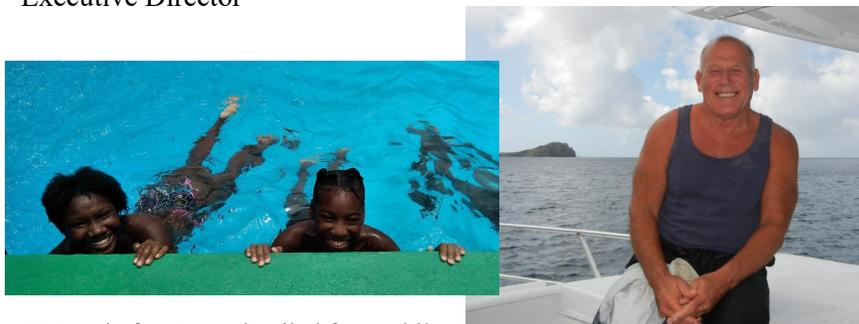


Sorry for the newsletter delay...

Dear Friends of SEA,

Thanks for your patience! I know it has been too long since we published a newsletter. It's been a difficult couple of years. I was writing a newsletter coming back from St. Lucia in March of 2015, in a lot of pain but not knowing I had fractured a rib earlier that day. That was only the beginning. It took me a while to get to the right doctor, but by July was diagnosed with multiple myeloma, a blood cancer which was eating holes in my bones and seriously weakening them. After radiation, chemotherapy and prayers and healing energy from around the world, I slowly regained strength so I could undergo a stem cell transplant on December 28, 2015, my RE birth day. I couldn't have gotten through any of that without my family and friends. They are my heroes! I am happy to say that as I have bounced back, SEA has become even stronger, thanks to the work of the Board, staff, volunteers and friends. I am energized by what's happening, even though I still overdo it sometimes! I am traveling (too much says my husband!) and was thrilled to enjoy backpacking in Glacier National Park with my daughter this summer. Dr. Kassim says I am getting strong again, so let's continue to protect this Earth of ours....TOGETHER!

Mary Beth Sutton,
Executive Director



PS Just before I got derailed for a while, we lost a dear friend and collaborator, Gary McNabb, who ran Leisure Time Dive Shop for years. Gary lost his life during a diving accident in Belize. He will forever be remembered as a positive force in the dive community and one of those folks who supported us from the day we chartered Caribbean SEA. Despite the delay, we are establishing a dive training scholarship in Gary's name, to continue his good work. If you would like to help, please contact me. Marybeth@caribbean-sea.org.



Our own Mr. Wizard! Water Watch Mobile App is available!

Randy Hale is our Wizard. Technically, he's a volunteer...in reality, we treat him as technical staff. He is our friend. Not only can he advise us or fix techie issues, he is quick with the punch line that gets everyone laughing! It gets really funny when he and our other wizard, Naomi, start talking! Whew!

Our App is here and needs users! The platform has been donated by Fulcrum, whom we really appreciate. Randy has developed two Apps, in fact, one for visual stream surveys and the other for water testing. Another in development will be for ocean shore monitoring. We want everyone to try it out and give us feedback. It works all around the world!

You have to download the Fulcrum App and then get us to add you by email address. It is being used from Tennessee to Trinidad and beyond, so join the fun! If you want to try it out, send Julie your email and we will get you set up!

Volunteers of the Year (s)!!



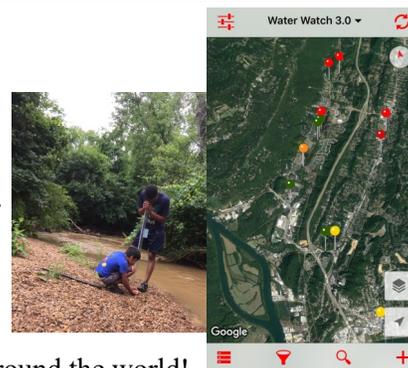
Christine Bock Hunt and Susan Russell

Conventional wisdom holds that a great leadership team is built by people with complementary skills. For five years now, we have benefitted from the great teamwork of Christine and Susan! Together, these two inspire, add levity, keep us organized, tend to details and have made our Save Water Drink Wine and unquestionable success!

So how do they pair up? Christine is our big picture girl! She was the creative spirit who brought Save Water Drink Wine to the Barn Nursery and instigated bringing in regional wines from Dahlonga (through a very serious taste testing trip!). She is our cheerleader and our true energizer bunny! Now SUSAN is our vital detail person who keeps us in line with her organization and her wicked wit! She keeps us on task (well, she really tries!) and ensures everything is thoroughly planned and carried out. She keeps everything clear and manageable. She is that glue that holds us together or breaks us apart laughing!

Without these two amazing and dedicated women, Save Water, Drink Wine would not be the festive, upbeat, and fun event it is which provides essential support to our clean water projects.

Three Cheers to Susan and Christine!



What's going on in St Lucia?



free farming, since pesticides have now been found in the spring water most folks use for drinking water. We are also working to reduce plastic pollution. Lots of positive change!

St. Lucia is our Caribbean home base and Nadia has been especially busy lately, especially since we are part of the newly launched U.N. Environment IWECO Project. Our work starts at the community level, so we are helping with community engagement through Citizen Science as well as simply care of the community. Our St. Lucia Programme Director, Nadia, has worked with the schools around Soufriere ever since she left secondary school, so she is embedded in this community! We will also be helping farmers move their pig farms away from the streams and assist other farmers with moving toward pesticide



In the last few years our Caribbean SEA sponsored environmental clubs have won the National Science Fair (primary school students !!) and written books on endemic species in St. Lucia. Our Rainforest to Reef camps have entered their second decade and our Chef and partner, Forestry Office Mathurin James, continues to guide us and the kids with his wisdom and care. Big



Thanks to our sponsor, St Lucia Electricity Service for helping with these programs, and La Mer, who sponsors our Kids for Coral Program, which teaches the kids about the ocean habitats while teaching them snorkeling. We have added optional swimming lessons for kids since so many of them cannot swim. I love hearing them scream through their snorkels when they see a big school of fish for the first time!! It is imperative that young people understand the need to protect the ocean, especially the coral reef. The storms of 2017 would have been even worse if the reefs had not protected the islands from the storm surges. Our young people can be the change agents for protecting the mangroves and the reefs!



Camp time!!



Kids 4 Clean Water is our summer day camp we offer at various locations around Chatta-

nooga including Signal Mountain, Greenway Farm in Hixson, and Audubon Acres in East Brainerd as well as Belize and St Lucia! Our goal is education leading to positive action for our water. What better way to get students interested in water than playing in it? The camps are



based on stewardship, conservation, empathy and compassion, and bringing awareness to

their personal impact to the watersheds. By participating in the camp participants gained understanding of what a watershed is, where water goes when it rains and even how sewer water is treated and where it goes! During the camp at Greenway participants take a canoe trip



on the North Chickamauga Creek while cleaning it by collecting. Kids 4 Clean Water Camp encourages participants to better understand their watersheds and develop empathy for the land in which we live. We also provided a Fall Break Adventure Camp this year to get students outside and learning while having a blast! Throughout the week, the students got to go hiking, canoeing, caving, help band birds, play in the creeks, and so much more! Come join us next year!



THE GEAR CLOSET



For the second time in our short history, a bar has displaced the Gear Closet! Last time it was Clyde's....this time, Mikes Hole in the Wall is moving across the street into our old spot. We found a new home near Rock Creek on Amnicolabut boy did we have to work to get moved in there! We sealed the roof and took out an office and cleaned and painted and re-wired and insulated.....wow! We are so incredibly grateful to the myriad of volunteers who helped us pack and move and get the new space ready.....especially a couple of very important volunteers named Philip and Mike! There is no way to include everyone who helped.....so let us just say THANK YOU!!! To staff, interns, wizards and volunteers.....we really really really could not have done it without you!



And then there was Bonnaroo! Thanks again to our fabulous partners at Clean Vibes who we help

with the clean up and to US Express who makes it possible by donating transportation. And all those folks who help pick stuff up...Wow. Our friends make what we do possible. Come out to 1510 Riverside Drive across from the Boathouse Restaurant and visit! Thanks to everyone!



Signal Mountain Streams Clean Up!



Since the Tennessee River Rescue happened during Fall Break this year, we organized another opportunity for the students to get involved! Students from Signal Mountain Middle High School, Nolan Elementary and Thrasher Elementary all participated and picked up many bags of trash around their schools and waterways. Why worry about trash around their schools? As one marked, "If we wash into the river!"

mentary's Club Participated and picked trash around their waterways. Why worry about the young lady re-don't get it now, it will just



Smart girl! And why is there so much trash around our schools? Guess our education work is just beginning, right? Austin Lisowski, a Kids 4 Clean Water



camp graduate and now camp counselor, helped organize the event with Julie and the Mountain Stewards. Good work, everyone! Let's keep our streams clean!

Caribbean SEA & TenneSEA

Clean Water Starts with Me!

Our mission is to empower students to lead their communities to protect and restore their local environment through collaborative watershed projects.

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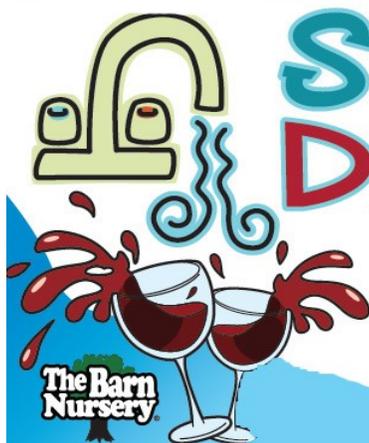
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One Ball, One Goal
Founder Garrison Brock
with a new friend
in Soufriere, St Lucia



Thanks to TVA volunteers for constructing our rain garden!



Save Water Drink Wine!

Saturday, February 10th

**SAVE
THE
DATE!!**

Special thanks to the Coolidge Family at Chattanooga Printing and Engraving for helping us with everything!