

GREEN CORPS

FALL REPORT 2022

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ORGANIZERS IN ACTION

ORGANIZERS WORK TO CONNECT WILDLIFE IN PENNSYLVANIA

Across America, we're losing wildlife habitat at an alarming rate. Every minute, the U.S. loses two football fields' worth of forest, meadow, grassland, desert, beachfront, riverside or wetland. What's worse, the remaining nature is becoming increasingly compromised and fragmented by roads, suburbanization, fossil fuel infrastructure development and more.

In 2022, three Green Corps organizers partnered with PennEnvironment to protect wildlife in Pennsylvania. To fight habitat fragmentation there and elsewhere, we need to create and preserve wildlife corridors. Wildlife corridors describe strategies for connecting habitats—allowing wildlife to safely move and migrate between them. Corridors can include projects like highway over- and underpasses, strips of woodlands or wildflowers, or culverts to allow amphibians and fish to pass under roads.

Our organizers advocated that Pennsylvania study the gaps in and opportunities for wildlife corridors across the commonwealth. As a resolution was being considered in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, our team

petitioned in communities such as Chester and Newtown and hosted letter-to-the-editor writing parties to generate more visibility for this commonsense solution. Most notably, organizers reached out to local elected officials, including city councilmembers and county commissioners, as well as to hunting and fishing organizations, to demonstrate the widespread support for this idea and highlight the benefits wildlife corridors could provide for wildlife and Pennsylvanians. In a matter of weeks, 47 elected officials and 45 recreation organizations signed onto the idea.

The team also hosted an online panel, "Protecting Pennsylvania's Wildlife," to educate Pennsylvanians on this issue and highlight the work already happening in the Keystone State and the region to protect wildlife ranging from birds to elk. At the end of March, the Pennsylvania House Transportation Committee brought the resolution up for a vote—and after three years of organizing, it passed. While more work remains, the connections created by Green Corps organizers will strengthen ongoing conservation efforts in Pennsylvania.



Staff

Scott Parkhill from Audubon Mid-Atlantic (top right) speaking on the Protecting Pennsylvania's Wildlife online event, organized with help from Green Corps.

YOU MAKE GOOD ORGANIZING POSSIBLE



Staff

Hi! I'm Renee Wellman, Green Corps' new executive director. I started with Green Corps as part of the Class of 2017.

Through the dozens of campaigns I've been a part of, I know firsthand the

impact this program has on pressing environmental issues and on individual lives. Green Corps has helped pass state-level climate legislation, push agribusinesses to commit to more sustainable growing practices, and protect public lands for generations to come.

Looking back, I'm amazed by the dozens of young people I've helped train who have gone on to have meaningful, impactful careers in the environmental and social change movements. It's an honor for me to write to you today, and I look forward to sharing more of the work you're helping us accomplish for the planet.

Thanks for all your support,

Renee Wellman
Executive Director



ALUMNI UPDATE

ANNIE SANDERS, GC'07 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR 2017-2022



Courtesy of Annie Sanders

GREEN CENTURY CAPITAL MANAGEMENT

Over the course of her 16 years with Green

Corps, Annie directed hundreds of local campaigns on behalf of Natural Resources Defense Council, Sierra Club, National Wildlife Federation, Corporate Accountability and more. As an organizing and field director, she trained more than 250 staff to be effective organizers and activists.

Annie this fall joined Green Century Capital Management as the director of shareholder advocacy.

She will use the firm's leverage as an investor to push some of the nation's largest corporations to eliminate deforestation from their supply chains, cut greenhouse gas emissions, and reduce plastic pollution.

"I learned so much from Green Corps, especially from my first year as an organizer. From making a strong ask, to running effective meetings, to developing a campaign strategy, the skills I learned from Green Corps have been invaluable. I know they will continue to help me make the biggest impact I can for our planet."



Training the next generations of environmental organizers

Support the training of future generations of environmental organizers by including a gift to Green Corps in your will, trust or retirement accounts.

For information, call (800) 841-7299, or email plannedgiving@greencorps.org.



Staff

Annie takes her Green Corps organizing experience to her new role as director of shareholder advocacy with Green Century Capital Management.

FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZING



ALUMNI UPDATE

ASHLEY SHAEFFER YILDIZ, GC '07



Courtesy of Ashley Shaeffer Yildiz

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH

Ashley Shaeffer Yildiz has dedicated her career to reducing the environmental impact of industrial food systems. Industrial livestock operations are a major cause of greenhouse gas emissions, biodiversity loss, deforestation, water depletion, and air and water contamination, and they can also increase the risk of antibiotic-resistant diseases.

Ashley joined Friends of the Earth to help design and execute a new international climate and agriculture finance program. Using finance as a lever to pressure agribusinesses to reduce their climate impact and other social and ecological harms, she is helping lead the Stop Financing Factory Farming campaign targeting the World Bank and leading regional development banks. In coordination with international partners, she designs and implements hard-hitting campaign strategies aimed at pressuring international financial institutions to strengthen their policies and criteria for lending, exclude the worst animal agribusiness actors from their portfolios, and shift their investments toward smaller-scale, diversified, agroecological production systems.



Courtesy of Ashley Shaeffer Yildiz

Ashley documents the impacts of Conflict Palm Oil on endangered species and local communities, as she walks in a recently cleared area of one of the last natural forests remaining in the buffer zone of the Tanjung Puting National Park in Borneo, Indonesia.

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MEET THE GREEN CORPS CLASS OF 2023



RAYNA SHAMAH



Staff

Rayna Shamah graduated from the University of Michigan with a degree in biopsychology, cognition and neuroscience and a minor in environmental studies. Since graduating, she has served as a research intern for the Alliance for a Sustainable Amazon, a nonprofit working to conserve biodiversity and other natural resources in the Peruvian Amazon. While at the University of Michigan, she volunteered for the American Red Cross and was part of Alpha Phi Omega, a national service fraternity.



JAKE SCHWARTZ



Staff

Jake Schwartz graduated from American University, where he majored in political science with a concentration in American government and minored in international service with a concentration in democracy and human rights. Since graduating, Jake has worked in marketing for Gefen Publishing House and in research at the National Democratic Institute. He has also worked on political campaigns for candidates such as Hillary Clinton, Joe Biden and Bob Casey.