

# Vermont Youth Conservation Corps



## VYCC Helps Out Richmond Farm During Flood



After record rains last week, Polly Tobin, Director of Field Programs, received a call Saturday morning, in the midst of Field Staff Training, from a local farmer needing help moving some animals from a flooded area to a higher, dryer spot. Polly and VISTA volunteers Matt Dragon and Andrew Magee were joined by Crew Leaders Jim Cote and Chris Severson (pictured) to provide a helping hand to

rescue the flooded animals. From saving old barns to rescuing piglets, VYCC crews cover a lot of ground!

## Field Staff Training in Progress!



On May 1st, the first wave of VYCC Leaders arrived to begin their orientation and were later joined by the additional Leaders to engage in the most intensive period of training for leaders, the VYCC Field Staff Training, which provides the VYCC's adult leaders with the diverse skills necessary to lead teams of young people to accomplish work projects on public

lands throughout the state and reach new levels of leadership and personal growth. Workshops during the three-week intensive residential training include safety, emergency response, group dynamics, wilderness cooking, leadership development, State Park management, backcountry construction, trail building, and more. Our program depends upon highly trained and skilled Field Staff, and every year we recruit, interview, hire, and train over 50 men and women to lead our crews. To meet this year's crop of outstanding Crew Leaders, please [click here](#).

## Have You Supported the Spring Campaign Yet?

Last month, one of our long-standing government grants was unexpectedly cut, and we need your help now more than ever to enable the VYCC to continue to serve Vermont's youth -- youth who need the kinds of experiences VYCC offers, and young people who learn the value of conservation and stewardship of the environment through their work protecting and improving Vermont's lands. In the first few weeks of our campaign we have raised just over \$12,500. If you haven't made your gift yet, please help us reach our \$25,000 spring goal so that we can respond to the hundreds of youth that have already applied for work and opportunities this field season!!

## FACES BEHIND OUR SUCCESS



Brian Cotterill, our Operations Director, is hard at work this spring coordinating the final details of the work projects for the VYCC's 25 Wilderness, Roving and Community Crews throughout the state. Working with project sponsors throughout the year, Brian develops and secures work projects and funding, coordinates the extremely complicated logistics of matching tools, equipment, crews and projects, serves as a technical trainer and field support for Field Crews, and manages the overall completion of work projects. It takes an extraordinary person to manage this program, and Brian excels at making VYCC Operations run smoothly. Thank you Brian!

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[www.vycc.org](http://www.vycc.org)

Read our [spring appeal](#) or [donate online](#).

### **Project Profile: Brattleboro Community Trails Project**

In 2006, the VYCC will field its first-ever Brattleboro Community Crew through an exciting partnership with the Windham Foundation, the Entergy Corporation, Retreat Healthcare, the John and Grace Hogle Wildlife Trust, and the Vermont Agency of Transportation. This seven-week project in Brattleboro represents one of the twenty-five summer crews the VYCC will field in 2006 (we have crews operating throughout the year!), and the goal for this project is to create an environmentally stable network of publicly accessible trails in the Brattleboro area, while offering Corps Members an opportunity to improve and care for the natural resources in their local community. When completed, the residents of Brattleboro and surrounding towns will have a trail system that will provide lasting recreational opportunities for years to come. If you or someone you know would like to be part of this exciting project, there are still a few Corps Member positions available. For information on how to apply, contact J.P. Grogan at (802) 434-3969 ext. 139 or [click here](#).

We will be hosting a press conference and information session on June 6th at 3:00 p.m. at the Retreat Farm in Brattleboro, to celebrate and announce the Brattleboro Community Trails Project. Representatives from each of the organizations involved will speak about the project and its importance to the community, providing maps and detailed information about the work involved. To attend, please RSVP to Kate Villa at (802) 434-3969 ext. 110 or [kate@vycc.org](mailto:kate@vycc.org).

### **Quote of the Month**

*"The VYCC develops the very skills valued by employers, namely personal responsibility, leadership, judgment, and initiative. Job development and youth training are truly an investment in the overall economic future of our state. While tech schools and local colleges can provide technical skills, I am unaware of any other program in Vermont that provides similar high-quality leadership, job training, and workforce development as provided by the VYCC."*

*-Jim Feinson, President, Gardener's Supply*

[Read More VYCC Quotes.](#)

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