

# Pathways

A group of about ten hikers are standing on a dark, rocky ridge in the foreground, looking out over a vast desert landscape. The middle ground features a deep, eroded canyon with layered rock formations. In the far distance, a range of blue-toned mountains stretches across the horizon under a clear, light blue sky. The overall scene conveys a sense of adventure and exploration in a natural setting.

Alternative Spring Break

Service Learning Literary Magazine 2022 | Vol XI

---

# Welcome

Welcome to the 2022 Alternative Spring Break literary magazine, Pathways. This year marks the 30th anniversary of ASB's founding at the University of Virginia. Originally part of Madison House, ASB is now an independent, completely student-run 501(c)(3) that has sent thousands of students on meaningful service trips all over the world.

This journal is a testament to the hard work and commitment to service learning exhibited by members of ASB. Each year, participants and site leaders have the opportunity to further engage in service learning with their site through the completion of creative and research grant projects. These projects represent the passion and accomplishments of their authors along with the rest of the ASB community that makes these trips possible.

ASB is a massive endeavor that requires the dedication and effort of so many outstanding individuals. I would like to thank our executive board, site leaders, community partners, University administrators, site contacts, and all of the participants who chose to spend their spring break traveling and volunteering with a group of strangers. Additionally, I'd like to thank Ms. Kathleen Baireuther, the UVA Alumni Association, and the Hannah Graham Fund for funding our grants and community outreach programs.

This organization has had a profound impact on so many people, and it has been such a joy to work with everyone involved. Without further ado, we are excited to share with you this year's Pathways!

ASBest,

Julia Moschella

ASB Service Learning Chair 2021-2022

Cover Photo: Anza Borrego Desert, CA - *Abbey Ingram*



---

# Table of Contents

## **Baireuther Grants (4-11)**

Oregon's Ivy Takeover

Kelsey Lipscomb

Sea Level Rise in John's Island, SC  
and the Greater Charleston Region

Austin McNichols

## **Creative Grants (12-15)**

New Orleans, LA: Video Blog

Katie Capone

Sequoia, CA: Video Blog

Caroline McGahren

Sequoia, CA: Mini Newspaper

Abby Uvegass

## **Fellows Project (16-17)**

## **Photo Contest Winners (18-20)**

## **Trips & Site Leaders (21)**

## **Executive Board & Fourth Years (22-23)**



Moab, UT - *Julia Moschella*

---

# Baireuther Grants

## Oregon's Ivy Takeover

*Kelsey Lipscomb*

*(adapted from full version)*

Oregon is a vibrantly green and well diverse state, from multiple active volcanoes, to the Pacific Ocean, Oregon has a variety of landscapes and scenery to offer. Outdoor enthusiasts flock to Oregon to explore a plethora of famous environmental sites, such as Mount Hood, Multnomah Falls, Haystack Rock, and Mount St. Helens through the distance. There are also many diverse cities located throughout Oregon, the largest of them all being Portland. Portland houses a very diverse and eclectic crowd, many of which enjoy volunteering with Portland Parks and Recreation to help maintain the beauties of their natural areas. Many natural areas within Portland are commonly known as Buttes which are steep hills but are considered to be relatively flat at the top and are isolated from other peaks. Buttes are commonly found in Portland because they line the outskirts of the Cascade Mountain Range that runs up the Pacific Northwest. Some of the famous Buttes, such as Powell Butte and Kelly Butte, within Portland have faced a large amount of issues lately that has hindered the success of the biodiversity and ecosystem that resides along the Buttes. These Buttes have been facing problems with invasive species, such as English ivy, that tend to compete with the native species for nutrients. Portland's homeless crisis has become so drastic within the past few years that many without homes have taken to the Buttes for shelter and isolation. This has also posed a challenge on the wildlife as the trash deposited on the buttes from these communities frequently contaminates the ecosystem. Portland has also fallen victim to multiple environmental disasters as a result of climate change, the most recent of which being the Pacific Heat Dome that took place during the summer of 2021, which created record-breaking heat temperatures. Lastly, deforestation within the Pacific Northwest has also been a large perpetrator to the degradation of the ecosystem within the area.



No matter where you look in Portland, English ivy is frequently in sight. Ivy was planted throughout Oregon in the 1700s by the English settlers because it grows quickly, requires little maintenance, and serves as an evergreen ground cover, all of which are the things that led to it being designated as a Class B noxious weed in Oregon (McQueeney). A Class B noxious weed is one that is abundant in some areas of the state, but are absent or rare in others. An



---

environmentalist's goal for the Class B weeds is to control and reduce their occurrence where they are abundant, and to prevent them from spreading to those parts of the state where they are rare or absent (Leininger). English ivy has spread quickly and aggressively to many of Portland's well-known natural areas, such as Kelly's Butte and Powell's Butte where it has taken over much of the landscape. This ivy tends to outcompete understory vegetation and can also kill overstory trees after climbing to and dominating the canopy which blocks sunlight from reaching it; the excess weight of English ivy on the canopy branches can cause additional damage to trees during storms. Ivy monopolizes the nutrients of decaying trees, further preventing sunlight from reaching the native species below. In order to rid the area of English ivy to allow for other Portland native species to grow, such as elderberry, the ivy must be picked at the root to prevent growth of new ivy. This is a tedious task as ivy tends to spread quickly, but eradication of this invasive plant can greatly benefit the surrounding ecosystem.

Portland has also seen a substantial rise in its homeless population as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic within its Metro Area. Back in 2017, from which the most recent statistics of homelessness was recorded, 4,177 people were reported as homeless in Multnomah County which has only since grown (Parker). Mental illness is now more common among the homeless in Oregon than in any other state as 35-40% of homeless adults in Oregon suffer from some form of mental illness. This mental health crisis within Oregon has contributed to the increase in the number of homeless. Unfortunately, one of the only places for them to sleep are in "tent camps" along roads and highways, as well as within Portland's various Buttes. Not only are these people drastically suffering with nowhere to stay dry or warm, but it is also leading to an increase in trash buildup within the natural areas that they call home. The buildup of trash is easily noticeable to anyone who ventures down the street in Downtown Portland or walks through Kelly Butte. There have also been the discovery of used needles and syringes within these tent camps that pose a biohazard to the entire community and its ecosystem. When walking through Kelly Butte, there is trash everywhere which impedes the ecosystem's success, as all litter does. It also takes away the natural beauty of the state park when there is litter and tents everywhere. Cleaning up the trash is one way to combat this issue, but the only real solution would be to find a way to end homelessness all together. This would not only get everyone off the streets and into a stable environment, but it would work to beautify the surrounding environment. That way, the natural parks will be able to flourish with native wildlife.

Another significant challenge to the wildlife and native species of Portland was the Pacific Northwest Heat Dome that took place in 2021 as a result of increased temperatures across the country that then halted over the Pacific Northwest. These increased temperatures are occurring across the globe as global warming is inevitably upon us as a result of increased CO2 in the atmosphere. The last week of June, 2021 was extraordinarily hot in Oregon with a high of 113 degrees Fahrenheit on June 28th, with a nighttime low of 85 degrees Fahrenheit. A wide variety of crops were impacted by the record-setting heat, notably berries, cherries, and even some vegetables across the region (Benson). The Heat Dome took place until mid-July and was named a "1000-year weather event" that was made 150 times more likely by climate change. As a result of the heat wave, numerous extensive wildfires took place up and down the West Coast. Although these wildfires pose a dangerous threat to human and animal populations in the surrounding areas, the native plant species will typically benefit from these wildfires as they burn away old shrubbery which allows for the growth of new plants and vegetation. However, in the

---

absence of a fire, these plants will struggle to survive a dry heat as their roots tend to dry out which inhibits nutrients from reaching the body of the plant. Their leaves will tend to turn from green to brown as they are scorched by the sun. One way to prevent roots from drying up is to lay a pile of mulch in a ring shape around the base of a freshly planted shrub to help retain the moisture within the base of the roots, as well as to protect the roots from sun rays. Because of climate change and the fact that seasonal temperatures change quicker than they used to, plants need to be covered in mulch by mid-March in order for the mulch to retain enough moisture in time for the summer heat that tends to hit hard in June. Before climate change became such a drastic issue, these plants were able to be mulched up until May as the heat did not roll in until around July 4th within the Pacific Northwest, an entire 2 months later than the current conditions allow. There needs to be a heavy amount of mulch planted around the base of each plant as the mulch is easily flattened down with rain. If a too little amount of mulch is laid around the plant, the rain will compress the mulch nearly to level with the surrounding soil. Similarly, planting new vegetation in shaded and wooded areas is beneficial to these growing plants as it shades the plant from too much sun during the summer heat and prevents scorching of the leaves.

While driving along the highway from Portland to Cannon Beach, it is impossible not to notice the number of Douglas firs, which happen to be the Oregon state tree. These Douglas firs are credited for creating the appearance of a vast horizon, however many have been cut down recently within the forests that line the highways. There is an immense number of empty fields full of chopped logs as you near the Pacific coast. A recent analysis has documented the loss of 522,000 acres of forest cover in Western Oregon since 2000 (“Oregon Wild”). Because trees are being cut down at an immense rate, the streams that run through forests once shaded are now warming at drastic rates which causes a variety of issues, including dried up salmon runs. Salmon runs are specific areas within a stream where salmon choose to breed. When the water is dried up, salmon are forced to repopulate elsewhere. Another issue resulting from this deforestation is the lack of nutrient rich soil as the land is drying up without trees to shade it. It is time for the timber industry to be held accountable for warming waters, declining salmon runs, and depleted soils, all of which are greatly attributing to the decline of the ecosystem. Some ways to help solve issues of deforestation are to plant trees, go paperless, and buy recycled products to reduce the consumption and therefore demand of paper products.

## References

Benson, Diane. Spokane Healthy Yards says: et al. “Washington State University.” CSANR What Can We Learn from the Pacific Northwest Heat Dome of 2021 Comments

Leininger, Sam. “Weed Classifications.” WeedWise Program, WeedWise Program, 9 Apr. 2020

McQueeney, Cathy. “800X400.” Clackamas SWCD, 13 Dec. 2017,

Parker, Njeri. “Home.” JOIN, Njeri Parker

[Http://Joinpdx.org/Wp-Content/Uploads/2021/01/web\\_logoArtboard-9.Png](http://Joinpdx.org/Wp-Content/Uploads/2021/01/web_logoArtboard-9.Png), 24 Feb. 2018

“Report: Oregon Lost 500,000 Acres to Deforestation since 2000.” Oregon Wild





Portland, OR - *Kelsey Lipscomb*



Hilton Head, SC - *Caroline Caruso*

---

# Sea Level Rise in Johns Island, SC and the Greater Charleston Region

*Austin McNichols*

*(adapted from full version)*



Charleston 1987 (left) and Charleston in 2020 (right).

## Background

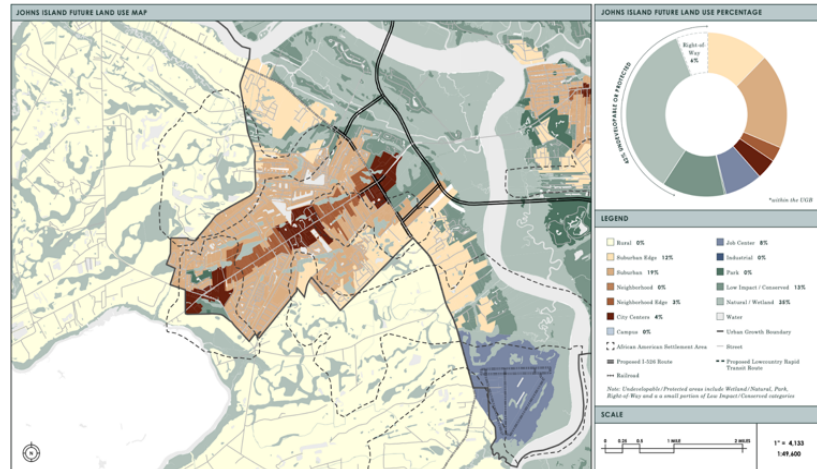
Sea level rise is a massive, growing concern in the entirety of the area surrounding Charleston, South Carolina. This includes the community of Johns Island where we are going to work for spring break. Sea level has risen about 10 inches since 1950, but the rate is only increasing. Six inches of that rise has come in just the last 26 years. Now the rate of rise is about one inch every two years, thus the next 13 years could see sea level rise of another 6 inches, double what was seen in the past 26 years. That increasing influx of water means typical flooding is now encroaching farther inland, which is having major impacts on the human infrastructure in the area. In the fall, king tides can reach up to a foot and a half higher than the normal sea level. And in South Carolina today, flooding across the state has increased by 75%.

For Charleston and Johns Island, finding ways to address the encroaching waters are hugely important to a successful future. Particularly, because sea level rise will mean less land area on which to build, while the Charleston area faces a population influx and a crisis of affordable housing. Over the past decade, the population of the Charleston region has increased by 13% while the median rent and home sales prices have increased by 54% and household income has increased only 31%. This means that there are more people seeking housing, while it becomes more expensive than many can afford, in addition to the issue of shrinking land area. In response, Charleston City's comprehensive plan, finalized just this fall, incorporated their plans to provide more affordable housing while pushing development into areas with coastal resilience in mind. Zoning laws are now being shaped to heavily restrict development of lower-lying areas and to redirect construction to areas that are less likely to flood. Ultimately, this will become elevation-based zoning. The controversy of development facing Johns Island and the plans to



confront that lead me to the goal of my research. While working on Johns Island I hope to speak to the staff working at Sea Island Habitat for Humanity to find out how they choose their sites, and for home building especially, how to they consider where they are building and the longevity of those sites.

### What was learned on the trip?



Our journey from James Island to Wadmalaw Island each morning on the way to the work site posed an incredibly interesting perspective for this project. Driving from the busy beach community of James Island, with large department stores and countless restaurants through Johns Island with its more suburban communities, and lots of new, expensive residential development going on, and finally to Wadmalaw where the development stops. Wadmalaw starkly contrasted the other islands with a strange mix of smaller, older homes and large new mansions but overall, a much more spread out, undeveloped area. The history of Wadmalaw Island makes it a valuable community for the people that live there. Some of the people living there have ancestors who settled there as new freedmen of the Charleston community. That history is why Habitat feels it is valuable for them to build homes there that allow people to continue to build families and history in that area. Additionally, their construction of single-family homes keeps the area affordable for those already living there. This can be contrasted with the expensive new development on John's Island which makes the cost of living for the entire community increase, and while wealthier newcomers can afford the price the families with centuries of history cannot keep up and are forced to move. Habitat is doing what they can to try to stop this happening to the community on Wadmalaw Island.

Sea Island Habitat for Humanity also takes their community's threat from sea level rise into account when building their homes. Through my conversations on the work site with Construction Supervisor, Doug Mackenzie, I was able to learn a lot about what practices go into constructing homes that will stand the test of time despite the rising ocean around Charleston. Firstly, the site on Wadmalaw Island has already benefited from the higher ground Wadmalaw Island currently sits on, at least relative to some of the other Islands surrounding Charleston. Next, each site must be constructed with certain gradients of the land to encourage water flow away from the home, as well as drainage pits required for plots of land over a certain size, including the work site we were contributing to during spring break. As for the house itself, there are lots of little improvements made to the home to increase energy efficiency as well as save the homeowner money. The major sea-level rise related measure taken by Sea Island Habitat is the height of the foundation of the house itself, which allows them to weather flooding better, saving the homeowner a lot of trouble when storms do come through. Placing the house an extra 10 inches higher allows the homeowner to then receive a discount on their flood insurance. Habitat

---

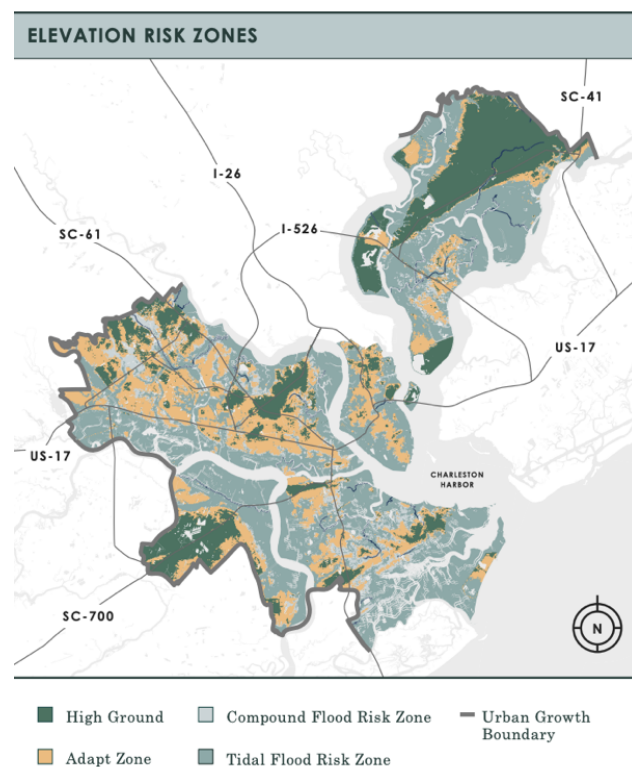
also constructs all of their duct work for their HVAC systems in the attic and the walls of their homes. In the long-term, this allows homeowners to avoid having to replace their duct work, potentially multiple times, when large flooding events occur, something the entire construction crew admits is just a part of life in Charleston.

Part of my research was also to find out how much the governance of Charleston County impacted the construction efforts of Habitat for Humanity operating there. Particularly, regarding the new comprehensive plan recently adopted by Charleston City Council. While this was adopted by the city, its detailing of measures applying to several surrounding islands appears to mean it covers the larger County as well. Through my conversations with everyone on the work site, many of whom have lived in Charleston for many years, particularly Doug having lived there for three decades, it appears there are no tangible changes stemming from this plan as of yet. Many of the people working there had not even heard of the comprehensive plan and its intended new changes. However, Doug Mackenzie had absolutely heard of the plan and apparently had been working with an organization focused on sustainability to create recommendations for the City to include in the plan. After submitting an immense document to the city about ways to reduce emissions, as well as prepare for encroaching seas, Doug said that almost none of their recommendations were included in the city's plan. Doug's frustration with the city's lack of regulation was echoed by other members of the construction team. Overall, it appears the city does little to ensure developers and their contractors are acting according to the commonsense practices that will ensure their homes will last beyond the next 30 years.

### Analysis of Sea Island Habitat for Humanity's Sites

The transition to stricter elevation-based land use is an important part of future development for Charleston and thus a significant section of the city's Comprehensive Plan, as mentioned in the background section. The comparison of the plans in this document with the practical applications, or lack thereof, we have witnessed in Charleston provides an interesting perspective into progress for this city's future.

This figure from the City of Charleston Comprehensive Plan provides a look at the future prospects of land in the Charleston area. Unfortunately, this map does not include Wadmalaw Island so the implications for our site specifically cannot be discussed, but the potential for their sites on John's Island and James Island can still be analyzed. The dark green on this map represents "High Ground," which is land





---

outside of the FEMA 100-year floodplain and above the NOAA maximum category 3 storm surge. It appears that four of the five sites that are included in the Comprehensive Plan land use map. So there is one site sitting in the “Adapt Zone.” That means the site is on ground above the FEMA 100-year floodplain but still below the NOAA maximum category 3 storm surge. Overall, Sea Island Habitat for Humanity appears to do a fairly good job of finding sites that are going to have longer lifetimes for their residents.

## **Conclusion**

The research I conducted on this trip allowed me to find renewed respect for the work of Habitat for Humanity, at least for the Sea Island Habitat for Humanity branch in Charleston, South Carolina. There is often concern that organizations like these may cut corners because of their smaller budgets and lesser manpower. However, I found quite the opposite was true. The people of this organization go above and beyond the requirements of their local government to provide stable, long-term homes for those who join their program. In order to survive the rising seas as climate change worsens and land subsidence sends the city farther below those waters, Charleston will need to take genuine steps to discourage development in places that will only make things worse. At the same time, they need a well thought out way to reduce the number of people left behind by new development as they are currently careening towards a crisis of affordable housing.

## **References**

“Water Levels - NOAA Tides & Currents.” Tides & Currents, <https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/waterlevels.html?id=8665530&units=standard&bdate=19500101&edate=20161231&timezone=GMT&datum=MSL&interval=m&action=data>.

Sea-Level Curve Calculator - United States Army.  
[https://cwbi-app.sec.usace.army.mil/rccslc/slcc\\_calc.html](https://cwbi-app.sec.usace.army.mil/rccslc/slcc_calc.html).

The US State of High Tide Flooding a 2017 Recap and 2018 ...  
[https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/monitoring-content/sotc/national/2018/may/2017\\_State\\_of\\_US\\_High\\_Tide\\_Flooding.pdf](https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/monitoring-content/sotc/national/2018/may/2017_State_of_US_High_Tide_Flooding.pdf).

“Charleston City Plan.” CHARLESTON CITY PLAN, <https://www.charlestoncityplan.com/>.

Arruda, Paola Tristan. “Charleston Comprehensive Plan Recommends Zoning Changes Based on Flood Data.” <https://www.live5news.com>,  
<https://www.live5news.com/2021/07/07/charleston-comprehensive-plan-recommends-zoning-changes-based-flood-data/>.

---

## Creative Grants

### New Orleans, LA: Video Blog

*Katie Capone*

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-lKKvL-yUZakEUMkywa9hUFCWcDNvZmc/view?usp=sharing>

### Sequoia, CA: Video Blog

*Caroline McGahren*

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1t481fjFccPRpvQVXu73c6j6AqZgjRWeC/view?usp=sharing>



New Orleans, LA - *Abby Hendrickson*

### Mini Newspaper: The Sequoia Sequence

*Abby Uvegas*

*(adapted from full version)*

---

# The Sequoia Sequence

Volume 1, Number 1

March 4, 2022 - March 13, 2022

Priceless

## NEWS

### Flying across the country for an “environmental” service project

Is it fair to say that we are an “environmentally conscious” group when we took part in producing 130 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> in our trip between Charlottesville, Virginia and Northern California – all in the name of an environmental service learning trip? Can we say that our trip was for the good of the environment?

I think that we presently live in an age of “cancel culture” – where fear and shame are pervasive – where “us versus them” can stifle conversation and diversity of thought. I think that sometimes, this culture makes it difficult to remember that multiple truths can and do coexist and that dichotomies are often false.

In the case of this trip, the particular dichotomy that I reject is that one cannot travel for service and be of service to the environment. My rejection is based on several components from our trip; we participants of the Sequoia Squad, assisted with tree monitoring, brush pick-up, dam clearing, and fish net repair. Tree monitoring is used to check the health of the trees and thus the health of the biodiversity that lives with and depends on the trees. Brush pick-up, particularly in the areas where rangers live, eliminates some of the debris that fuels wildfires. Dam clearing, in our particular case, restored flow to the dam that supplied clean drinking water to the park. Our fishnet repair will help in removing the nonnative/invasive species of trout that lives in the waterways of the park that endanger the local amphibians. In all of these cases, we are doing valuable work that aids the environment. We are also aiding the people that work in the park who, I believe, are also part of the environment.

Based on these points, I believe that we can, if we choose to, call ourselves “environmentally conscious” and I believe that our trip – despite putting out a ton (metaphorically speaking) of CO<sub>2</sub> – can be considered as environmentally oriented.

All of this is not to say that ASB is a perfect system. My wonderful site leaders brought up how there wasn’t an environmental trip in Shenandoah National Park. Why not? While I hold space for the ability to describe environmental service trips out west as environmentally conscious, there is no doubt that an environmental service trip in Shenandoah – a trip that would not put out nearly as much CO<sub>2</sub> as a trip to Northern California – would be, in some sense, *more* environmentally conscious than our trip to Northern California. After all, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions is a hot topic in the current climate crusade. However, after beginning this topic with a nod to cancel culture and false dichotomies, I’d be remiss if I didn’t acknowledge my belief that one can still consider themselves environmentally conscious without being concerned with CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. I am not here to “cancel”; I want everyone to have space for their beliefs – this being my way of making space for such differing beliefs.





---

# The Sequoia Sequence

Volume 1, Number 1

March 4, 2022 - March 13, 2022

Priceless

Pictured above: all nine members of the Sequoia Squad digging out the dam that provides drinking water to the park.

## **Human interaction with water in drought: is there such a thing as environmental altruism?**

It is widely known that California is prone to experiencing drought – drought that causes wildfires and fear among the general public. Our trip to Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Parks was in danger of being canceled because of these fires. When we arrived, driving up to the groves, we saw miles of burned and charred trees.

All living things need water to survive. The environment needs water to survive. Humans need water to survive.

When thinking about how humans interact with their environment, I feel the need to consider the human ego and desire. We are the only beings on earth (that we know of) to have an ego. The ego is our inner protector – our psychological shield. Every single interaction we have, we approach with our ego in the name of self-preservation. Our ego makes sure that we come first.

I think our desires come from our ego. If our ego protects us from feeling pain, who's to say that it doesn't take part in the numbing of pain? Desire is not *always* numbing pain, but I would say that it is, more often than it is not. In this discussion I feel an approach to discuss the line between need and want – a line that is often blurred or completely ignored, living in a materialistic and consumerist society. I do not use these terms derogatorily. Humans need water to survive but we also need water for the things that we desire.

Humans want clean water to bathe, wash dishes, remove fecal matter from sight, make their favorite athleisure... Is there a point where we use water to our benefit and to the environment's detriment? If there is, have we crossed that point already? In terms of water waste in industrialization and commercialization, perhaps we have. But I want to focus on the more personal aspects of human water use...

We lived in a drought-ridden area for a week. We camped; we used minimal water for cooking, cleaning our dishes, and washing our faces. The water was clean and we were grateful to have it. But what if the drought were more severe? Or what if we lived full-time in an area with severe drought? I stayed in Colorado for a month a couple years ago; my family told me, regarding toilet etiquette, "if it's yellow, be mellow; if it's brown, flush it down," because the cost of water was not worth the benefit of having pee removed from the toilet bowl. Another instance: I studied in Spain for a month. We had a 5 minute limit on showers and buying water was more expensive than buying any other beverage you can think of. In these instances, there is some shortage of water. The severity of the shortage is perceived differently by every individual and their reactionary measures to try to reduce water consumption also varies. What remains the same is the shortage – regardless of how it is perceived or reacted to.

I believe that humans will always act in their own best interest and I don't think that this is to be condemned. I think that the way we humans interact with the environment has lasting effects on our species as well as all the other species that live with us. I think that humans are only "environmentally conscious" when all of our needs and desires are met – when our ego is no longer geared up for battle. I don't think that we can act altruistically

---

# The Sequoia Sequence

Volume 1, Number 1

March 4, 2022 - March 13, 2022

Priceless

toward the environment; I don't think humans can put the environment ahead of their own needs, however I think that humans can meet their needs without detriment to the environment – as we once did, living symbiotically with the other beings of the world. However, this kind of lifestyle is nearly lost on us as we descend further into our egocentric lifestyles. That's a different discussion for a different time.

**Rainfall: an inconvenience or blessing?  
Something else? Both?**

You have probably heard the children's nursery rhyme, "Rain, rain, go away! Come again another day!" How curious it is to me that we have come to hate a process as natural as the water cycle. Rain is a natural and beautiful process that often helps the environment and helps us. So why do we get so upset when it starts to rain and why do we wish for it to go away?

The night that we arrived at our campsite in Sequoia NP, it was raining. Due to some delays, we got in late and missed the rain during tent set-up. We considered ourselves lucky and would have been dreadfully irritated with the alternative. Again we see human ego and desire. The rain would've threatened us – would've made us colder and more miserable – so the ego steps in and we desire for it not to rain, even if such a rain would benefit the environment we claim to care so much about. "Oh the rain is so inconvenient," except when it revives the rivers, nourishes your crops, and replenishes moisture to our surroundings.





---

# Fellows Project

## ASB Experience

*Brooke Barnes*

*(adapted from full version)*

### Volunteering with Outside Foundation



Cleaning up one of the islands after a massive storm! (Watch out for chiggers!)



Traveling to the islands! Guess who saw dolphins?



One of the islands was a station for guests. They had hammocks and team building exercises that we "successfully" completed. Andrew is enjoying himself after a long day of work.

### Volunteering with Habitat for Humanity

Never picked up a hammer a day in your life? No worries! The volunteers of Habitat for Humanity teaches you everything you need to know to finish their houses.



Anthony being a legitimate carpenter by working on a whole roof...  
vs



Me thinking I'm a carpenter because I know how to use the saw



Caroline A. and Emily's She-Shed!



---

## Discussing the Housing Crisis in Hilton Head, SC

At the end of everyday, the group does a reflection, where we talk about our favorite parts of the day, the most difficult part of the day, and what we're excited for.

Upon volunteering for Habitat for Humanity, we were asked to read articles about the organization and the circumstances of the residents in recent years. Upon reading them, my eyes were opened to the realities of some of the low-income residents of Hilton Head and South Carolina.

- Many service workers have to pay for bus tickets daily to travel two and a half hours to Hilton Head and back because of the lack of work in the outer cities of the southern sector of the state.
- Because tourism is one of the lead attractions in the city, housing there is insanely expensive...

I remember someone saying that some of the private houses on the island have been there so long that they don't even have deeds on the property!




## Reflection

From the eight hour car ride from Charlottesville, the countless ice cream breaks, and the intense games of Contact, I'd have to say that this was the most fun I've had on a Spring Break trip. Not only did I get to explore the beauty of Hilton Head with some great people, but I got to contribute to a cause that aided in the path for secure housing of members of the community.

If you are wondering if this trip is for you, this trip is for everyone who is willing to make a difference. Whether you go on an environmental or housing service trip, I guarantee you will leave with experience of service-learning and gratitude.

I am so glad that I decided not to go home for Spring Break. I've made some of the most memorable memories I could've made with some great friends.

Alternative Spring Break's mission statement:

**The mission of Alternative Spring Break at the University of Virginia is to bring together members of the University of Virginia in the common goals of charitable service to and education about the global community, in order to promote and train future service leaders. **

---

## Photo Contest Winners



Moab, UT - *Brenna Bartholomew*



Moab, UT - *Adela Novak*





Hilton Head, SC - *Caroline Caruso*



New Orleans, LA - *Katie Capone*





Moab, UT - *Julia Moschella*





**2021-2022**

**Trips & Site Leaders**

Grand Canyon, AZ  
*National Park Service*

Keerthi Medicherla & Louisa Edwards  
*\*canceled due to COVID-19*

Sequoia, CA  
*National Park Service*

Becca Danese & Caroline McGahren

Anza Borrego Desert, CA  
*National Park Service*

Ella Thomas & Voss Neal

Portland, OR  
*Portland Parks & Recreation*

Kelsey Lipscomb & Carly Thurman

Moab, UT  
*National Park Service*

Morgan Butler & Julia Moschella

Hilton Head, SC  
*Habitat for Humanity*

Caroline Caruso & Anthony  
Murphy-Neilson

John's Island, SC  
*Habitat for Humanity*

Jackie Canning & Tyler Jones

New Orleans, SC  
*Rebuilding Together*

Sarah Whiteside & Louis Diment

---

## Executive Board

Katherine Zain	President
Justin Ngo	Vice President
Meredith Christian & Aarti Sakhuja	Placements Co-Chairs
Keerthi Medicherla & Logan Cunningham	Site Leader Co-Chairs
Sarah Whiteside & Aly Carbaugh	Outreach Co-Chairs
Morgan Butler	Community Outreach
Louis Diment	Development
Caroline Caruso	Financial Aid
Abigail Hendrickson	Secretary
Julia Moschella	Service Learning
Wade Gallagher	Treasurer
Victoria Thompson	Webmaster
Ned Flanagan	Student Advisor
Brooke Barnes	Spring Fellow



---

## Fourth Years

Katherine Zain	Aarti Sakhuja	Keerthi Medicherla
Meredith Christian	Ned Flanagan	Wade Gallagher
Logan Cunningham	Caroline Caruso	Voss Neal
Ella Thomas	Anthony Murphy-Neilson	Kelsey Lipscomb
Emily Franklin	Brianna Ivy	Steven Lunsford
Hannah McHale	Zaira Khan	Jackson Mullins
Alize Dreyer	Tommie Harrell	Adela Novak

THANK YOU!!!