

## Youth Interns

Summer 1998

Steven Adams  
 Gary Anderson  
 JaDon Anderson  
 Miguel Barrera  
 Joseph Bellinger  
 Jessica Beitran  
 Wayne Bottomley  
 Michael Brown  
 Shantai Brown  
 David Bualat  
 VanAnh Bui  
 Katherine Cao  
 Juan Carapia  
 Malinda Chambers  
 Azim Choudhry  
 Troy Collins  
 Cortney Davis  
 Kelvin Davis  
 Rodney Davis  
 Camila de Oliveira  
 Edmund Tyri Gaines  
 Sophia Garcia  
 Veronica Garcia  
 Ebony Gray  
 Jason Griffin  
 Dante Hall  
 Carlos Harris  
 Michael Harris  
 Richard Hembry  
 Crystal Hill  
 Jaka Hyatt  
 Carlyce Ahmal Ingram  
 Keenon Jeanjacques  
 Murjani Johnson  
 Ashley Jones  
 Jasmine Jones  
 James Joyner  
 DeAndre Jurand  
 Juanita Jurand  
 Jovan King  
 Richard Lancin  
 David Leiva  
 Joseph Lewis  
 Andy Li  
 Gordon Li  
 Marisa McFarlane  
 Jessica McPeters

Ronald McIvin  
 Kevin Miller  
 Eden Mok  
 James Moore  
 Mikka Mooring  
 Clarence Morrison  
 Guillermo Ortega  
 Kenny Osborne  
 Michael Ouyang  
 Dominic Pellom  
 Walter Pinell  
 Lawrence Porchia  
 Shontia Porter  
 Kevin Powell  
 Marcus Richardson  
 Richard Roth  
 Irma Sanchez  
 Kengi Shivers  
 Pierre Singletary  
 LeShawn Smith  
 Tony Smith  
 Pedro Tehuma  
 Elijah Trail  
 Rashad Tyler  
 Antoine Wagner  
 Jonathan Ward  
 Shannon Watson  
 Juanita White  
 Carlina Williams  
 Schyneida Williams  
 Tamika Williams  
 David Wong  
 Victor Wong  
 Joseph Wydler  
 Jack Young

### Environmental Justice Youth Interns

Derek Hall  
 Silene Huang  
 Kenny Osborne  
 Tonia Rivera  
 Benjamin Wong  
 Danni Wu

# Youth Programs Update

## SLUG Teens Take on New Challenges

*"What I've learned at SLUG is how to be a grown up. They taught me how to get a job, how to act at one, and how to keep a job. I've learned how to garden and landscape at a high caliber. I know how to speak out loud as a speaker. But the main thing I have to say is I've learned how to live an adult life."*

— Richard Roth, YGI Intern

As we prepare to harvest the crops of our fourth summer season, it is exciting to see SLUG interns completing ambitious projects at the Farm and creating the foundations for positive and healthy futures. The St. Mary's Urban Youth Farm has become a model for urban agriculture and youth employment. Now an institution in the neighborhood, the Farm is known both as a location for job training and opportunity and a source of fresh organic produce for the community.

The overwhelming response to our outreach this summer (110 teens interviewed for 70 jobs!) was a clear demonstration that, contrary to the image often presented in the media, urban youth are motivated to work and to contribute to their communities. When teens are presented with an interesting and rewarding alternative, where they can learn new skills and provide food for their community — they step up to the challenge.

### A different kind of summer job

Working at the St. Mary's Farm, teens are presented with a unique job experience — unlike their peers who may have worked over the summer babysitting, sorting mail or delivering newspapers, the SLUG teens built a pond, restored native habitats, grew vegetables and cared for fruit trees. The multitude of projects going on at the Farm create a rich learning and working environment. And because they do all the work themselves, the teens can step back at the end of the day, look at the hillside, the recycled materials area, or the community garden, and take pride in a job well done.

This summer youth interns assigned to the Farm's crop areas learned techniques to maximize food production under the guidance of Urban Agriculture Coordinator Kathi Colen. A former instructor at University of California at Santa Cruz's Farm and Garden Apprenticeship program, Kathi introduced new plant species to the teens, from purple potatoes to companion plants which attract beneficial insects.

In addition to tending crops, this summer the SLUG crew broke ground on a bee deck, which will house several hives of bees provided by the San Francisco Beekeepers Association. Once the hives are up and humming, the teens will learn to care for the bees and harvest the honey, which will be processed and packaged for sale through *Urban Herbals*. The teens are also growing tarragon, jalapeños and garlic, all earmarked for *Urban Herbals* vinegar and salsa production.

In connection with SLUG ecological restoration projects in other parts of the Bayview (see Habitat Conservation Update), teens at the Farm are rejuvenating the Farm's creek and pond, and propagating native plants to attract birds and butterflies. Meanwhile, one group is focusing on major landscaping improvements in the front of the Farm. This hardworking crew cleared out construction debris, reorganized the materials recycling area, and planted flowers in the entryway.

In completing these projects, SLUG interns reap the rewards of succeeding in a job where they learn concrete skills, work hard, make friends and contribute to the surrounding community. With the knowledge and confidence they gain at the Farm, they are prepared to take on many other challenges in their lives.

Visitors are always welcome to visit the Farm during open hours, which change seasonally (call to confirm). Come by to check out the impressive results of the SLUG teens' hard work!

— Laurie Belton & Rachel Brahinsky

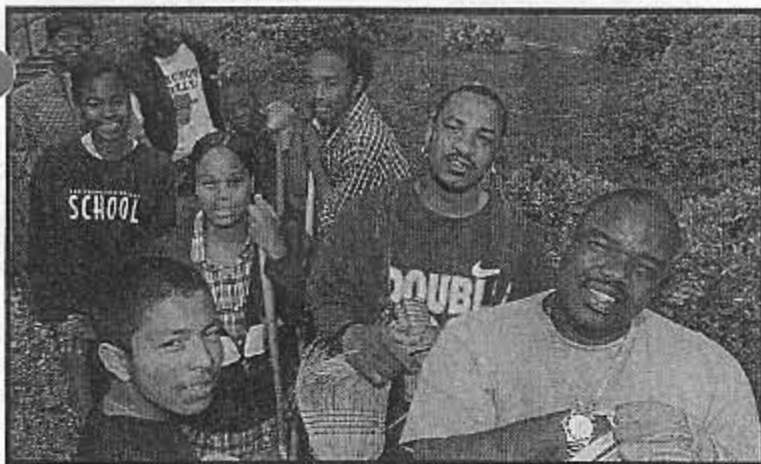


In July the teens installed an 8,723 square foot pond liner which will make



it possible to keep the pond full year round. Species to be introduced include

Taking a Break. Supervisor Carlos Mims, Assistant Grafton Mims and the Woodside Landscape Interns keep the grounds of the Youth Guidance Center in tip-top shape!



John Caperton

## SLUG Aftercare Program

Last January, SLUG was contracted by the Juvenile Probation Department to serve as the aftercare provider for youth leaving the Log Cabin Ranch, a juvenile detention facility in La Honda. The SLUG case manager, Millard Chambers, meets with youth before they leave the ranch, and provides intensive support during the crucial transition period following their release.

### Youth Perspective:

**Aftercare:** The care, treatment, help or supervision given to a person discharged from an institution (as a hospital or prison).

The aftercare program is a united family. A family that comes together as one and overcomes obstacles that stand in the way of achieving higher goals.

The aftercare program is the key to freedom. The key to becoming a mature, accurate, responsible, reliable team player.

When you talk to young kids at Log Cabin Ranch about what they plan to do when they get released from L.C.R., most of the time they don't know or some say they plan to do the same thing they were doing before they went to jail. Every time you mention SLUG to them, their first thought is: minimum wage. They said they could be making more selling drugs. That is not what the aftercare coordinator wants. So they give us a key. But it is up to us to turn that key and open that door to a safer and better life.

—Julio Pinell

*Julio Pinell is 18 years old, and has been with SLUG since May. After graduating from Log Cabin, he participated in the Asian Neighborhood Design carpentry program and worked at SLUG at the same time. He is now an assistant in the Community Gardens and Maintenance Department.*



cattails, irises, cow parsnips, bee plants, and monkey flowers! The pond water,

*At the Farm this summer I worked on the pond restoration. At first we had to pull all native plants out and put them in flower pots. After that we fine-tuned the pond by pulling out all the weeds. Then we put the liner on the floor of the pond and put the gravel in. I learned a great deal from SLUG. I finally accomplished something worth being proud of. The one thing I am proud of is that I'm helping a community better understand the balance of nature.*

—Antoine Wagner, age 15

### 1998 Accomplishments

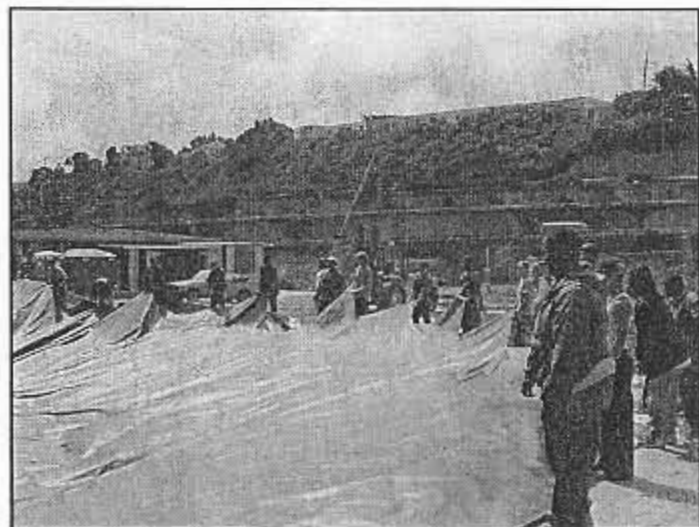
16,637 hours worked by 111 youth in 6 months of SLUG's Youth Internship programs.

20 youth participants in Log Cabin Aftercare Program.

42 Green Team workdays.

### The 1998 Summer Crop grown by the Youth Interns at St. Mary's Farm (a partial list)

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| 2 rows of corn      | 48 Bell peppers   |
| 65 cucumbers        | 260 dry beans   |
| 65 eggplants        | 260 green beans   |
| 48 Jalapeño peppers | Over 1200 potatoes of several varieties, including: Yellow Finn, Russian Banana, All Blue, Red LaSoda |
| 48 tomatoes         |   |
| 315 lettuce plants  |   |
| 2 rows of collards  |   |
| 65 zucchini         |   |



with a little help from our windmill, will improve irrigation at the Farm.

# Habitat Conservation Update

## Department is Born!

*Saving our natural resources while creating jobs and learning opportunities for urban youth and adults. Restoring wildlife habitats, growing native plants, producing compost and teaching conservation.*

I am delighted to report on our newest department – Habitat Conservation. Some of our projects are new and some have been long in the making, but they all focus on deepening and healing our connection to each other and to the natural world. Through creative urban restoration and conservation programs we link environmental and social justice needs, and strengthen the web of life we all depend upon for our survival. Please join in this effort by getting involved with some of our programs described below.

### Bayview Hill Natural Areas Management Program

Making the world safe for native plants (and birds, bees and schoolchildren!) is all in a day's work for SLUG's restoration team on Bayview Hill. With the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department, Brett Harte School and the Native Plant Society we are protecting some of the City's most diverse and threatened native grasslands.

### Youth Conservation Leadership Program

Attention ducks, geese and catfish: Housing soon available at the St. Mary's Farm pond and wetlands—space is limited! Thanks to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the hard work of garden-intern Youth Conservation Leaders and SLUG crew members at the Farm, hundreds of schoolchildren and thousands of birds, bees and butterflies will have a new place to live (and/or learn). Come on out to see!

### Wetlands, Pier 98 and Bay Trail Projects

SLUG has begun an exciting journey towards restoring the south-east waterfront with dozens of community groups and government agencies. And there is still time to catch up and get involved in this vital work. We will be helping the Port of San Francisco with wetlands restoration and public access improvements at Pier 98. The Conservation Corps, San Francisco Beautiful, local agencies and

several other groups are working on the Bay Trail Project, extending over six miles of the Bay Trail in the coming year.

### Log Cabin Ranch Nursery

SLUG crews and residents of the Log Cabin ranch youth detention facility in La Honda have been propagating up a storm at our native plant nursery. Look out for our Spring Plant Sale now in the planning stages. (For more on this program, see page 18)

### SLUG Soils and the SF Landscape Brush Chipping and Composting Program

With generous grants from the Materials for the Future Foundation and the San Francisco Recycling Program, SLUG Soils and Compost is building the base of its future success. We bought a tractor and fixed up our dump truck and are now building a pad at the Farm for making mountains of compost for sale at local outlets. And don't forget about our brush drop-off at the Farm on Saturdays, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. or our mobile chipping service for large landscapes. Questions? Give us a call!

— Carl Grimm

## 1998 Accomplishments

10 new jobs created.

350 youth engaged in native grassland and wetland restoration and education.

70,000 square feet of native grassland on Bayview Hill cleared of French Broom.

5,000 square feet of coastal prairie planted and maintained at St. Mary's Farm.

17,500 native plants propagated at Log Cabin Native Plant Nursery.

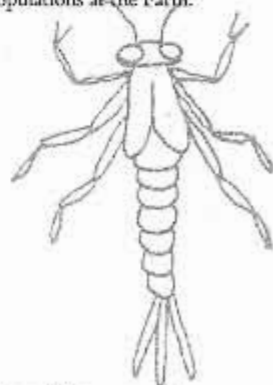
42 tons of brush kept from landfill by Chipping and Composting Program.



John C. ...



After creating wetland habitats at the St. Mary's Farm, we had planned to re-introduce the San Francisco Fork-tailed Damselfly to its restored habitat. Before we had the chance, we were delighted to discover that the Damselfly (*Ischnura gemina*) re-introduced itself! This beautiful insect will help reduce mosquito, aphid, and leafhopper populations at the Farm.



Restoration team members strike a pose after a long day of pulling French Broom from native grasslands on Bayview Hill. From left to right: Trameka Fullbright, Juan Gonzales, Damarr Simmons, Dyeshia Sampson, Ebony Phillips and George Kent.

