



2020
YEAR IN REVIEW



Office of Environmental Stewardship & Sustainability

*Our Vision: Empowered Human Communities. Resilient
Natural Communities.*



Looking back over the past year, I think the most comprehensive way to describe the year is the “Year of Change.” When I began here at Sewanee I knew there were going to be a lot of changes over time and this year has not proven me wrong. There have been some goodbyes (Lauren Newman C’18) as well as the welcoming of new faces to our team (Sara McIntyre and Carl Conry) and then of course there’s that thing we call COVID. No one said change would be easy and it has come with growing pains, but ultimately I think we have persevered and are better for it. We have remembered what it means to be in community with each other, we’ve laughed together, oh how we have laughed, and we have had a chance to remember why we have chosen our fields.

Amy Turner

*"The environment is where we all meet;
where all have mutual interest; it is the
one thing all of us share." Lady Bird
Johnson*

01

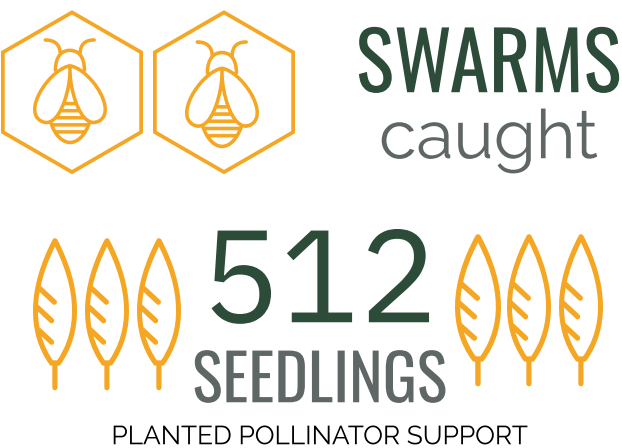
University Farm



Under normal conditions student’s pack 90% of the farm’s produce for use by McClurg dining hall and Stirling’s coffee shop. However, just as the University Farm salad crop was peaking in March, the Governor’s stay-at-home order was delivered.

Without student aid or the product outlet of McClurg, the farm staff responded quickly and creatively by changing salad packaging to retail-sized bags and routing production to a local online farmers market and local food banks.

After much picking and even more hand washing, over 270 gallons of fresh salad greens were delivered to the food bank.



02

Domain
Management




As a COVID-19 redeployment collaboration with Domain Management, Michele and Joe Dombrowski spent several weeks installing over 3,000 new trail markers throughout the entire Domain trail system.

Armed with guidelines that included instructions for how many paces before and after a curve a trail marker should be

placed and formulae for determining maximum and minimum distances between markers, Michele and Joe began by walking and marking the Domain Perimeter Trail - from both directions.

Together, the Dombrowskis nimbly injected human perspective and intuition into the math of the guidelines to excellent effect.



 = 50 NAILS



Southern huntboard in place at McCardell residence on Bob Stewman Road. Locally-produced from Domain-sourced lumber.



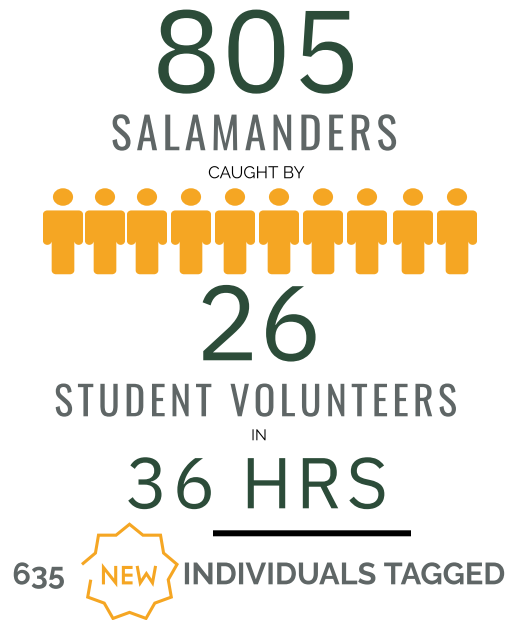
03

Headwaters Research



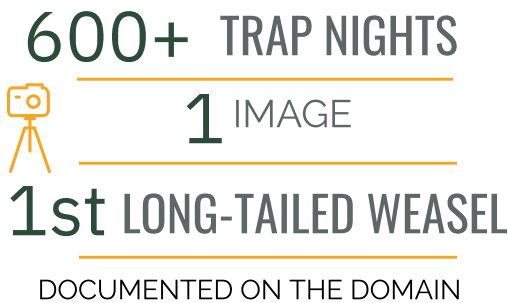
Research and adventure collided when a dedicated team of students braved treacherous conditions to collect salamanders at night from the bottom of a steep and perilous ravine. Earlier that fall Dr Todd Pierson of Kennesaw State University observed unique alternative reproductive tactics by two-lined salamanders on a parcel of private land near Fiery Gizzard Recreation Area.

Interest piqued, Sewanee Research Manager, Kevin Fouts, gained access permission from the landowner and assembled an intrepid team of student scientists.

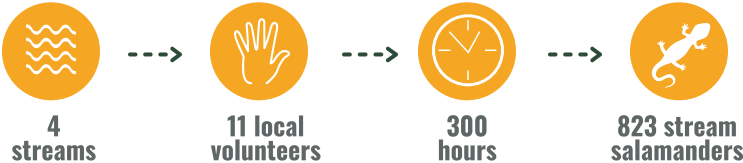


For several rainy nights in the fall, students Michael Kochinski (C’21), Reed Middendorf (C’22), Brooks Sullivan (C’23), and Guy Wall (C’21) picked their way down the slippery ravine toting models, scales, collection materials and headlamps to survey the stream.

Though more field data is needed and a plan is underway to expand on the preliminary work, the team was able to find and observe the same alternative breeding tactics described by Dr Pierson. Additionally, they found a few welcome surprises. Namely, a horsehair worm and a spring salamander not currently found on the Domain.



BASELINE STREAM SURVEYS



04

Sustain
Sewanee



Christian Shackelford and Allen Shropshire from the Chattanooga-based nonprofit, green|spaces were invited to Sewanee. Christian and Allen gave a talk on their energy



equity work with the Empower Chattanooga Program. Through the program they host workshops that provide low-cost and no-cost ways to save BIG on energy bills.

68

HANDMADE
BEESWAX WRAPS

REPLACE PLASTIC FOOD PACKAGING



26 days
of EARTH DAY
[VIRTUAL] ACTIVITIES

16 LEADERS

IN SUSTAINABILITY



While at the Climate Strike in Chattanooga, Sustainability Coordinator, Lauren Newman was able to connect with 2 young Kenyan women who developed a technology that converts cow urine into electricity.

During their campus visit, Teresia Mwema and Hannah Wambui demonstrated their invention, shared their story with the Sewanee community, and made many friends along the way.

05

Collaborative Programming

APRIL 7,
2020

Join us for a webinar from leading educators, activists, and policymakers in Tennessee about what YOU can do to help support climate solutions in Tennessee.



OESS is excited to collaborate with our stakeholders across campus to:

- Create a wide variety of programming to engage the community on the Domain.
- Launch the Environmental Justice Working Group to support BIPOC students, researchers, and activists; explore academic opportunities for our students and examine environmental justice issues in our community.
- Develop and implement the University Farm Center redesign.
- Release newly revised recreation maps and resources for Domain users.
- Move the needle on Sewanee’s Carbon Neutrality Commitment.

"In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks." John Muir

PROGRAM TOPICS RANGED FAR AND WIDE

