

FORESTRY SUMMER WORK

OPPORTUNITIES: 2 to 4 people doing invasive species control, timber stand improvement and other work as determined at the time. You would report to the Farm Manager.

LOCATION: The farm has over 1,000 acres of forest with meadows interspersed and is located due west of Charlottesville near White Hall. The work would all be done on the farm, with possible occasional work helping our neighbors.

WORK DESCRIPTION: The primary activity is expected to be invasive species control through manually sawing and shearing grapevines, hack and squirt treatment of nonnative trees, herbicide and manual treatment of oriental bittersweet and treating various other species as appropriate. Other activities might include:

- Maintaining a chestnut breeding orchard for The American Chestnut Foundation,
- Follow up on research projects and treatments conducted in prior summers,
- Assisting professional contractors to deal with invasive species,
- Work on wildlife habitat improvement,
- Landscaping activities that may include plantings, grass cutting, mulching, weed whacking, etc.,
- For someone skilled with horses, part of the time may be spent working with our 3 horses,
- Enhancement of habitat for various species of fish in the five ponds on the property, and
- Assisting the Farm Manager with other matters as needed (e.g. landscaping, special projects, storm cleanup, ..).

However, the expectation should be that most days will be spent in the woods with one or two other summer interns focused on treating grapevines and nonnative invasive species. The Farm Manager will meet with you at times during the day, but will not be present most of the time. The work will occur in varying weather conditions and may involve encounters with all manner of wildlife (e.g. deer, bear, turkeys, grouse, snakes) as well as ticks, chiggers and other pests (though mosquitoes are quite rare here). If you are interested, you can work to obtain a Private Pesticide Applicator Certificate.

HOURS: Monday to Friday - 7:00am to 3:30pm with a 30 minute break for lunch (bring your own, as it takes too long to leave the property to go anywhere). The hours may be adjustable, but only with the agreement of the Farm Manager, who keeps these same hours and also usually starts earlier.

DURATION: Start and end dates are negotiable, but the assumption is that the work would start sometime in May and go until sometime in August. Reasonable time off for planned vacations is ok, as long as it is mutually agreed to well in advance.

COMPENSATION: You will operate as an employee and be paid \$15 for each hour worked. Occasionally bad weather or other circumstances may cause the Farm Manager to contact you and cancel work for a whole day or part of a day. Hours not worked will not be paid, but there are often opportunities to make up for lost time. Timesheets will be turned in at the end of each week and will cause the appropriate paycheck to be received the following week or be deposited through direct deposit. The assumption is that you will work 8 hour days. Authorized overtime in excess of 40 hours per week will be paid at time and a half - though overtime hours may be worked only with the explicit permission of the Farm Manager and likely will not occur at all. No expenses will be reimbursed except for unusual items agreed to in advance.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Interested in learning more about invasive plants
- Self-motivated and able to work to high standards under minimal supervision
- Willing and able to undertake continuous physical labor on a daily basis
- Punctuality and keeping your supervisor informed at all times is critical
- The work is demanding and the Farm Manager and the Owner have high standards and high expectations. Anyone continuing to do inadequate work, being absent without communicating properly with the Farm Manager, displaying inappropriate attitudes, abusing the equipment or the property, conducting unauthorized activities, or operating in an unsafe fashion will be let go. Having said that, our interest is to make you successful - that creates a win-win for all of us.
- Knowledge of forestry and/or related subjects is a plus
- Experience working with horses is also a plus
- You should be comfortable with working in the forest for long stretches

OTHER CONDITIONS:

- You must supply your own transportation as well as room and board. If you need a place to stay, look on Craig's List for summer sublets, which are plentiful in the Charlottesville area due to the presence of UVA.
- You may bring your own tools (e.g. saws, lopping shears) or use ours.
- Do not expect bathroom facilities to be handy, though two strategically placed outhouses are available.
- Plan on providing your own work boots for rough terrain, hard hat, work gloves, insect repellent, ...
- Long sleeves and long pants are normally required.

SUMMARY: For the right person(s) interested in field work this is a mountain paradise. This work is not for everyone, but for the right person(s) it can provide a fun, educational and rewarding summer experience. You will have the opportunity to learn about a variety of invasive plants, their impact on the forest and the techniques for dealing with them.

HOW TO APPLY: Reply by email to rodswalker@gmail.com. Send a resume that includes contact information and references along with a cover letter that includes an explanation of why you would like to be considered for this work. Those who sound most promising will be contacted and an interview with the Owner and/or Farm Manager will be arranged.