



NANTUCKET CONSERVATION FOUNDATION, INC.

Volunteer Internship Opportunities 2010 Department of Science and Stewardship

The goals of the Nantucket Conservation Foundation's Department of Science and Stewardship are to conduct focused research, inventory and monitoring projects to provide a better understanding of the rare resources found on our properties. This information is used to make well-informed ecological management decisions and develop detailed management plans for the Foundation's conservation lands.

The Department of Science and Stewardship is seeking motivated, self-reliant and committed volunteers interested in learning about and participating in the Foundation's conservation research work. Volunteers will assist year-round staff and seasonal field assistants with field research, habitat restoration and management work, and data entry related to these efforts. Our staff is committed to providing volunteers with opportunities to gain experience working on a variety of projects involving rare species conservation, habitat management, and applied ecological research. Volunteers can participate in many projects, including:

- Learning to key out and identify Nantucket's common and rare plant species;
- Monitoring vegetation community response to prescribed burning, brush-cutting, and sheep grazing;
- Locating and inventorying populations of rare state-listed plant species that currently or historically occurred on Nantucket;
- Monitoring and protecting populations of wildlife species of special concern such as spotted turtles and nesting shorebirds;
- Inventory, management, and monitoring of invasive plants.

For detailed descriptions of our current projects, please visit the Foundation's website at:

www.nantucketconservation.org/page.php?section=2&page=current_research.

Responsibilities: Volunteers will assist Foundation staff with conducting field work related to current research projects in a variety of community types, including grasslands, heathlands, shrublands, beaches, and wetlands. Some of these areas have been or will be treated with brushcutting, prescribed burning, sheep grazing, and/or invasive species removal. Field work may be conducted under adverse conditions, including dense vegetation, inclement weather and in the presence of mosquitoes, ticks, poison ivy, etc. Participation in data entry could also be expected, as time allows. Volunteers will be trained to actively participate in all of these tasks. Requests for participation on particular projects of interest will be considered. Volunteers that have obtained prior prescribed fire training (NWCG S130/190 certification) may have an opportunity to participate in prescribed burns, at the discretion of the Foundation's Prescribed Fire Manager.

Qualifications: Volunteers should be pursuing an undergraduate science degree, or have already obtained a degree in a related discipline. Mature and motivated high school students at least 16 years of age will also be considered. Volunteers are expected to commit to working for a minimum of 40 hours during the field season. Volunteers are expected to approach their work with a positive attitude, high level of commitment, and eagerness to learn new skills. Strong observational, critical thinking and organizational skills with attention to detail are also essential. A sense of humor is always appreciated.

Availability Requirements: Full-time field work is conducted from early May through late October. Hours are generally Monday through Friday, averaging eight hours per day, although work times may vary depending on weather, tides, etc. Volunteers must arrange their availability prior to beginning work.

and commit to working a full 8 hours on the days they have arranged to work. Volunteers will be accepted as full-time (for a full work week) or as part-time (working a set number of days per week). Part-time volunteers must provide weekly availability information by Friday of the prior week to facilitate scheduling. Late arrival and early dismissal on work days will not be permitted, as it disrupts the work schedule of other research team members. Work-related transportation is provided, but volunteers are expected to provide their own transportation to and from work. Equipment necessary for field work is provided. Volunteers are responsible for arriving at work with appropriate headwear, footwear and field clothes, outerwear appropriate to expected weather conditions, sunscreen, food, and drinking water. Smoking is not permitted at the work place or in the field. Cell phone/PDA/iPod use during working hours is limited to during breaks only.

Application: Please submit a cover letter and resume via email to:

Karen C. Beattie, Science & Stewardship Manager
Nantucket Conservation Foundation, Inc.
kbeattie@nantucketconservation.org