



ARBORETUM

University of Wisconsin-Madison

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VOLUNTEER POSITION DESCRIPTION

Title: Earth Partnership Team Leader

Responsible to: Earth Partnership Field Manager Marian Farrior; mlfarrior@wisc.edu; (608) 265-5214

Objective: To serve as voluntary adjunct staff providing assistance in ecological restoration and management, and providing non-formal environmental education, in the UW-Madison Arboretum's collection of native ecosystem communities.

Responsibilities:

1. Teach and supervise other volunteers at the ecological restoration work parties in restoration activities such as:

- Clearing and stacking brush (using loppers and hand saws)
- Removing invasive plants (using weeding and/or herbicide application)
- Removing downed wood
- Preparing sites for prescribed burns
- Planting seeds and plants in restoration sites
- Maintaining recently planted sites
- Maintaining trails
- Collecting research data

2. Set-up, lead, and clean-up the work parties once per month on a Saturday morning. Team leaders typically arrive at the Arboretum at 8 a.m. to prepare for the 9 a.m. to noon work party, and typically wrap-up between 12:30 and 1 p.m.

3. Provide learning opportunities to the volunteers about a variety of related topics (e.g. phenology, plant identification, native ecosystems, restoration ecology, ecological principles, research at the Arboretum, etc.).

4. Keep accurate records of attendance and hours of work of the volunteer participants.

5. Deal with emergency situations.

6. Know where all the equipment and vehicles are stored and their proper use. Clean up equipment and return vehicles at end of work party.

7. Maintain contact with Arboretum staff to determine work assignments and feedback on the work parties.

8. Follow established Arboretum procedures and policies.

Qualifications:

- Have attended an Arboretum Ecological Restoration Work Party at least twice
- Red Cross Adult First Aid & CPR Certification (you must complete the training by August 1, 2013; please see the Badger Red Cross website at http://www.arcbadger.org/Course_Descriptions.php)
- Desire to help manage Arboretum ecological communities
- Willingness to teach and ability to supervise volunteers

- Willingness to apply herbicide on invasive plants
- Ability to work outside under most weather conditions and during all seasons, in areas that may have bees, wasps, noxious plants such as poison ivy & ragweed, at work sites without bathroom facilities
- Ability to lift 30 pounds, bend, squat, kneel and sometimes work on hands & knees
- Ability to follow through on commitments and take responsibility to be a leader
- Provide own transportation to and from the Arboretum
- Valid Wisconsin driver's license for 2 years and good driving record (if you do not have a WI driver's license for the past 2 years, you will have additional paper work to fill out)

Training and Preparation: A training program will be provided by Arboretum staff members and other professionals. Training will consist of demonstrations, hands-on experience, field work, and lectures. Cost for the training is \$85; this includes a Team Leader Training Manual and materials. You are also required to obtain Red Cross Adult First Aid & CPR Certification by August 1, 2013. Successful completion of the Team Leader training (including the CPR/First Aid Certification) will be required before beginning the Team Leader position. There will be periodic gatherings for Team Leaders, such as special work parties, field trips, and classes.

Please come dressed for working outdoors; wear long pants and sturdy shoes or boots.

Commitment : A one and half to two year commitment is required, to include four months of training followed by 60 hours as a volunteer Team Leader.

Rewards of Volunteering at the UW Arboretum

- Enjoy being outdoors and in nature
- Help preserve native ecosystems and the environment
- Take pride in caring for this green jewel in the midst of Madison
- Get physical exercise and fresh air
- Encounter amazing wildlife – sandhill cranes, great horned owls, gray treefrogs, tiger beetles, and monarch butterflies all make their homes here
- Learn more about the natural history and ecology of southern Wisconsin ecosystems – prairies, savannas, wetlands, and forests
- Receive a quarterly newsletter just for volunteers
- Receive recognition in *NewsLeaf*, the Friends of the Arboretum newsletter
- Attend the annual Volunteer Recognition Reception with friends and family -- enjoy good food and good company
- Learn new skills that may be applicable at home or at work
- Meet others who share similar interests
- Meet others who have different interests
- Meet visitors from near (Monroe Street) and far (Nigeria)
- Receive recommendations for jobs or school
- Share your knowledge and expertise with others

2013 Team Leader Training Schedule and Topics

April 4, Thursday 6-8:30 p.m.

First Things First: Learning from History*

Instructors: Molly Fifield Murray, Marian Farris

This presentation will introduce what we can learn from the land – its history, geology, climate and patterns of human use. We will learn more about the history of the Arboretum while learning about techniques and resources for understanding the geology and land use patterns of a site.

April 14, Sunday 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Ecological Design: From Yards to Landscapes*

Instructors: Molly Fifield Murray, Marian Farris

This workshop will cover the basics of how to design and implement a restoration at different scales (yards to landscapes) and ecosystem types (wetlands to forests to prairies). We will cover the ten steps of ecological restoration, and dig deeper into site analysis and preparation, plant selection, how to plant and seed native plants, native plant and seed sources, and ongoing site maintenance.

April 20, Saturday 12:30-3:30 p.m.

Ecological Literacy: From Observations to Principles*

Instructors: Marian Farris

Celebrate Earth Day! This workshop will cover the fundamentals of ecological literacy – the principles and processes of our native ecosystems. We will also hone our observation skills as we explore the ecosystems of the Arboretum. What is learned in this workshop can be applied to other landscapes as we begin to see the functions and elegant design of nature.

April 25, Thursday 6:00-8:30 p.m.

Reading the Landscape: Woodlands*

Instructors: Sara Christopherson, Marian Farris

This presentation will cover the woodlands of Southern Wisconsin – their soils, light, topography, and plant and animal species. We will tour Gallistell Woods and learn the basics of tree identification. We may also see some ephemeral spring flowers!

April 27, Saturday 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

What's That Flower?: Plant Families and Plant Identification*

Instructors: Marian Farris, Amy Jo Dusick

This workshop will introduce the dominant plant families in Wisconsin and their key characteristics. We will explore plant adaptations and their functions. We will learn basic flower anatomy, and practice using field guides in the Arboretum's Native Plant Garden.

May 4, Saturday 12:30-4 p.m.

Ecosystems of Southern Wisconsin: Abrahams Woods and Oliver Prairie

Instructors: Isaac Nadeau, Marian Farris

A field trip to two of the Arboretum's outlying properties, Abrahams Woods and Oliver Prairie. We will explore the beautiful spring ephemeral wildflowers of Abraham's Woods while learning

about geologic and land use history of this southern maple forest, then go next door to Oliver Prairie to look for signs of spring there. Some plant identification will be covered. Bring your field guides, binoculars, water bottles and snacks, and dress for being outdoors. We will convene at the Arboretum parking lot at 12:30 for directions to the site.

May 9, Thursday 6:00-8:30 p.m.

Reading the Landscape: Prairies*

Instructors: Sylvia Marek, Marian Farrior

This presentation will explore the prairies of Southern Wisconsin – their soils, light, topography, and plant and animal species. We will tour the Grady Tract and identify some of the plants found in a dry prairie.

May 18, Saturday 12:30-4 p.m.

Ecosystems of Southern Wisconsin: Faville Prairie

Instructors: Brad Herrick, Marian Farrior

We will explore the diversity, history and beauty of Faville Prairie in this field trip. Bring your field guides, binoculars, water bottles and snacks, and dress for being outdoors. We will convene at the Arboretum parking lot at 12:30 p.m. for directions to the site.

May 23, Thursday 6:00-8:30 p.m.

Reading the Landscape: Oak Savannas*

Instructors: Amy Jo Dusick, Marian Farrior

This presentation will explore the oak savannas of Southern Wisconsin – their soils, light, topography, and plant and animal species. We will tour the Arboretum's oak savannas and identify some of the plants found there.

May 30, Thursday 6:00-8:30 p.m.

Reading the Landscape: Wetlands*

Instructors: Diane Dempsey, Marian Farrior

This presentation will cover the wetlands of Southern Wisconsin – their soils, light, topography, and plant and animal species. We will explore the wetlands and ponds of the Arboretum, and discover the large and small flora and fauna that live in these wet places.

June 8, Saturday 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

What's That Weed?: Invasive Plants and Management Techniques*

Instructors: Michael Hansen, Marian Farrior

This workshop will cover the basics of invasive plant identification and control. We will learn and practice various management techniques for the most prevalent invasive plant species at the Arboretum. We will also discuss the elements of management plans and prescribed burns.

June 13, Thursday 6:00-8:30 p.m.

Nurturing Nature: Native Plant Seeding and Planting*

Instructors: Susan Kilmer

This workshop will cover how to collect, plant, and seed native plants. We will learn basic horticultural techniques for native plant gardens and restoration sites, and practice planting and seeding of native plants.

June 20, Thursday 6:00-8:30 p.m.
Pruning Like a Pro: Tool Selection, Use, & Care*
Instructors: Ken Zuba

This workshop will teach you to prune like a professional, including when and how to prune both shrubs and trees. We will see demonstrations of how to prune and practice renewal pruning techniques. We will also learn the best tools for pruning and how to take care of them.

June 27, Thursday 6:00-8:30 p.m.
What's Happening Right Now: Current Research at the Arboretum*
Instructors: Brad Herrick, Mark Wegener, Susan Carpenter

This presentation will explore the current research projects at the Arboretum – from the latest uses of GIS technology for tree monitoring to saving native bumblebees. We will learn the basics of restoration ecology and what species of fauna and flora are currently being studied at the Arboretum.

July 11, Thursday 6:00-8:30 p.m.
Getting to Work: Leadership Skills in the Field
Instructors: Marian Farris, Judy Kingsbury

This presentation will explore the different skills needed to lead a work party. We will discuss safety guidelines and scenarios to be aware of when leading groups in the field. We will also cover volunteerism, team building, and communication skills such as conflict transformation, working with different age groups, and presentation skills. We will create individual leadership plans to identify skills to develop and next steps.

July 20, Saturday 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Learning from Leopold: Putting the Land Ethic into Action*
Instructors: Marian Farris, Amy Jo Dusick

This workshop will cover the principles and practice of the land ethic. We will watch *GreenFire*, a movie about Aldo Leopold's life and impacts. Through nature observations, individual reflections, and group discussions, we will begin to discern what the land ethic means for ourselves and our communities. We will also engage in some hands-on ecological restoration work at the Arboretum.

July 25, Thursday 6:00-8:30 p.m.
What's That? Monitoring Plants & Animals*
Instructors: Brad Herrick, Marian Farris

This presentation will cover the types of monitoring that are occurring at the Arboretum, and the various citizen science monitoring programs that are available that people can get involved with (flora, fauna, and insects, as well as water quality). We hope to even do a little monitoring practice!

August 1, Thursday 6:00-8:30 p.m.
That's a Wrap: Team Leader Finale
Instructors: Marian Farris

For participants who have completed the Team Leader Training, we will practice presenting

Teachable Moments, answer any remaining questions, complete paperwork, and conduct evaluations. We will also celebrate becoming an Arboretum Team Leader with a ceremony.

*Those sessions marked with an asterisk will also be open to the public as part of our School of the Land series of classes. Team leader trainees will stay a few extra minutes after the listed end time of these sessions for question-and-answer time.