Internship Title: Town Forest Management Internship

Internship Site: Town forests in Chittenden and Franklin counties

Description: Today, there are over 67,000 acres of forestland owned by more than 168 municipalities, all open to the public to enjoy. Vermont town forests, also called municipal forests, community forests, or natural areas and country parks, contribute to the regional landscape by keeping productive forestlands in timber management, protecting physical and biological diversity, maintaining connectivity between larger patches of forest and providing public access for recreation, hunting and other uses. Approximately 8,500 acres of town forests are conserved with the Vermont Land Trust (VLT), a non-profit conservation organization, thus protecting them in perpetuity. Several of these conserved town forests are found in Chittenden and Franklin counties, including the Andrews Community Forest in Richmond, Catamount Community Forest in Williston, Maple Shade Town Forest in Westford, and Georgia Town Forest. These town forests are managed almost entirely by volunteers, with some assistance from the County Foresters and Vermont Land Trust staff, and often lack the capacity and means to do stewardship work such as forest management planning, boundary line maintenance and invasive species control.

This intern will assist with management duties on the conserved town forests listed above by performing forest inventory for future forest management plans, recreational trail assessments, boundary marking, and non-native invasive plant inventory and planning. The internship is mostly field-based but there will be a minor component of office work spent writing up the trail and invasive plant assessments, georeferencing FMP maps using GIS, and reviewing FMPs for conserved lands. Training will be provided on inventory techniques, trail assessments, non-native invasive plant ID and mapping, and boundary marking. There will also be opportunities to tour an active timber harvest, learn about Audubon’s bird habitat assessment method and VLT’s ecological assessment method, and setup deer browse monitoring plots. This internship will help provide the intern with some of the field skills required when starting off as a forest technician or field forester.

Desired qualifications/skills/coursework:

- Course work and strong skills in tree and plant ID, forest measurements and mapping, GIS, silviculture, and forest management planning.
- Ability to work independently, and be comfortable alone in the woods for a day.
- Ability to walk for an 8-hour day over steep and rough ground in all conditions, including extreme heat, rain, and bugs.
- Good time and project management skills.
- Enthusiasm for conservation and forest resource management.
- Access to a car.

Supervision: Supervision and training will be shared between Caitlin Cusack, Stewardship Forester, Vermont Land Trust and Ethan Tapper, Chittenden County Forester, VT Forests Parks & Recreation.
Start and End Dates: Mid-May – Mid-August, 2019 (exact start/end dates are negotiable)

Total Hours: 240 (20 hours/week for 12 weeks)

Compensation: $3,000 total stipend ($12.50/hour). This compensation includes mileage and use of the intern’s personal vehicle.

*Rubenstein students who will have completed their sophomore or junior year by May 2019 are eligible to apply. Rubenstein students can apply for up to 3 Perennial Internships. Earning internship credit through the Rubenstein Internship Program will be required.*

How to apply:

1. Click the following link to view the Rubenstein Perennial Internships in Handshake (https://uvm.joinhandshake.com/employers/226837)
   a. If asked to log in: click “UVM Net ID Login” & login
   b. Click the Favorite button to enable easier searches in the future
2. Click “View All Jobs” in Jobs at Rubenstein Perennial Internship Program box on right side of page
3. You should now see the great Perennial internship opportunities! Click “View Details” to learn more about each position.
   a. Please do take the time to read through each individual description so that you don’t miss a great opportunity by judging an internship solely on its title
   b. You may apply for up to three Perennial Internships
   c. All applications are due by midnight, Wednesday, January 30th, 2019
4. You’ll need to upload all required documents in Handshake in order to apply for any Perennial Internship:
   a. Click on your name at top right of screen in Handshake
   b. Select Documents
5. Please upload documents as pdfs whenever possible. The following are required documents:
   i. Resume
   ii. Cover Letter - You should write & upload unique cover letters for each position to which you’re applying
   iii. Transcript - Login to your my uvm portal, click on the Registrar link, click Request Official Transcript by email, once received save it as a pdf and upload
iv. Other Required Documents - Reference(s) & Position Ranking - in one document, please include & upload:

1. Reference(s) – Provide name & contact information for at least one professional reference. This could be someone who supervised you in a past work/internship/volunteer position, a professor or teacher, etc

2. Position Ranking - If you are applying for more than one Perennial Internship, provide a list of the positions in rank order

6. In addition to the documents you’ll submit, a recommendation form needs to be completed by a Rubenstein faculty, graduate student or staff member of your choosing. Please provide your recommender this link to the recommendation form when you ask if they are willing to complete the form to support your application.

   a. Only one recommendation form needs to be completed regardless of how many Perennial Internships you’re applying for. This recommendation form needs to be completed by the January 30th deadline.

   b. Your recommender will complete & submit this form online and then your recommendation will be confidentially added to your application(s).

7. Make sure that your resume and cover letter(s) are as strong as they can be! Utilize the resources around you:

   a. The Rubenstein Stewards are great at reviewing resumes/cover letters and providing helpful feedback – stop by Aiken 219.

   b. Stop by Anna Smiles-Becker’s (Rubenstein Career Counselor & Internship Coordinator) office (Aiken 220G) to sign up for a resume/cover letter review appointment.

   c. Visit the The Hub, 1st Floor Davis Center Mondays-Thursdays 10am-5pm, Fridays 10am-3pm.

8. A team of Rubenstein faculty and staff will be reviewing all submitted applications and forwarding materials onto each Perennial site. If you are selected to interview for a Perennial Internship, you will be contacted by the site to set up an interview during early-mid March.