

LEARNERSHIP/ STUDENT INTERNSHIP in Field Botany and Native Plant Gardening

With the Farmscape Ecology Program, Hawthorne Valley Farm, Ghent, NY
Beginning Late May 2022 (3-6 months, exact dates are flexible)

The Farmscape Ecology Program is dedicated to exploring the human and natural dimensions of the landscape in and around Columbia County, NY through research and outreach. The Program is part of Hawthorne Valley Association, an educational not-for-profit located on a farm in rural upstate New York. It is comprised of a wildlife ecologist, a botanist, a social scientist, and an entomologist, and a staff dog.

Our interdisciplinary research explores various dimensions of the historical, current, and potential future interactions of people with the land. An important part of our work is applied farmscape ecology, which involves documenting synergies between agricultural production and nature conservation, as well as creating, managing, and monitoring experimental on-farm habitats for beneficial wildlife.

For the 2022 field season, we are looking for someone dedicated mainly to the botanical aspects of our applied farmscape ecology work, involving hands-on gardening, botanical research, and public outreach. The season will run approximately three months, from late May to late August. At the end of three months, if both parties are satisfied with the experience, there may be an opportunity to extend the position for three months in order to help us wrap up the field work and include an independent project, but that is not guaranteed.

Activities: The chosen applicant will be involved in the creation and maintenance of perennial beds in a native plant garden; the maintenance of on-farm habitats (pollinator beds, beetle banks, a hedgerow, native meadows) created to support pollinators and other beneficial insects; and the maintenance of a small, native plant nursery. Maintenance tasks include hand weeding, weed whacking, watering, planting/transplanting, seed collecting and mowing. The learner/intern will also be involved in the monitoring of vegetation composition and flower abundance in select areas across the season (both on the farm and off the farm); facilitate weekly gardening activities with a small group of volunteers; support and conduct occasional tours for small groups of visitors in the butterfly house and native plant garden; assist with insect sampling and processing of insect specimens, as needed; and will be trained and become responsible for the weekly monitoring of the phenology trails at Hawthorne Valley Farm. The learner/intern is expected to keep accurate records and to do data entry into the computer.

Qualifications: We are looking for candidates with a strong interest in plants and gardening or agriculture, who really enjoy the outdoors. The ideal candidate has some experience with plant identification and gardening and is eager to hone his/her skills in these areas, but also is excited to learn about insects and their interactions with native

plants and agriculture. Candidates should be comfortable living and working in a rural environment, be energetic, and thrive outdoors even when the going gets rough (think long hot days in a field without shade!). Given the work environment, it is important that candidates are sociable, able to interact with a diverse range of people of all ages and backgrounds, self-motivated and can work independently with attention to detail. Most importantly, we are looking for people who are eager to learn. We expect the candidates to have basic computer skills (word, excel). Some academic and/or work experience in field biology, field ecology, natural history, environmental science, sustainable farming/gardening, environmental education, or related fields is a plus but not a requirement.

Accessibility: Our intention is to make this position accessible to applicants from diverse backgrounds, who are excited by this opportunity. We encourage people who are under-resourced, BIPOC, or with a nontraditional background to apply. If you have any concerns or questions about the accessibility of this learnership/student internship for your situation, please don't hesitate to be in touch.

General Conditions: The position is based at Hawthorne Valley Farm, a 500-acre organic and biodynamic diversified farm located in the heart of Columbia County, NY. Successful applicants will be expected to work 40–45 hours per week, which will occasionally include hours that are earlier or later than normal work hours and time on weekends.

Compensation: The successful applicant will be provided with housing (a small apartment with a shared kitchen and bathroom) in the Farmscape Ecology Program building and a stipend of \$1,000/month. We don't want finances to be a barrier to taking this position: upon acceptance, there will be the opportunity to apply for a needs-based scholarship (maximum \$500/month). Please refer to this scholarship description (<https://hvfarmscape.org/scholarship>) to you help self-assess your eligibility.

COVID-19 Considerations: We take COVID-19 seriously. We require all interns to have their vaccinations up to date, including being boosted. While we recognize this is an ever-evolving situation, we will have a shared protocol for Farmscape Ecology Program staff that outlines how to work at and around the office safely. Those living in the shared apartment will work with one another to determine a COVID protocol that they are both comfortable with. We can update you regarding current COVID conditions and protocols during the application process.

Additional Information: Information about Hawthorne Valley Association is available at <https://hawthornevalley.org>; for more on the Farmscape Ecology Program itself, see <https://www.hvfarmscape.org>. To read the mission of our internship/learnership program, please see <https://hvfarmscape.org/internships>.

Application Process: Please email us (fep@hawthornevalleyfarm.org) a résumé including contact information for three references along with a cover letter highlighting why you are interested in this position, what you hope to learn during your time with us, and any relevant experience you might bring. Accepted candidates will then have the opportunity to apply for the needs-based scholarship. If you have questions, please contact Claudia Knab at 518-938-1109 or via the email address provided above.

We will begin reviewing applications on Feb. 15, 2022, but continue to accept applications until the position is filled (if you are considering to apply after Feb. 15, please check on <https://www.hvfarmscape.org/internships> to see if the position is still available)