

# **Intern Request :**

## **Land Use History Internship**

The New Canaan Nature Center, Southern Fairfield County's Leading Environmental Education center is seeking a talented, motivated student with a strong background in Communications, Horticulture and Natural Resource Management to assist in development of interpretive Land Use History Media products in preparation for the Center's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2009.

### Duties include but not limited to:

1. Historic Land Use research.
2. Preserving and archiving historic documents and artifacts.
3. Creation of interpretive electronic and print media documenting the history of the New Canaan Nature Center.

### Qualifications:

- A quick learner with a self-teaching approach to investigating and solving problems.
- Good working knowledge of Natural Resource Management techniques and Environmental education practices
- Proficiency in Excel, Word, PowerPoint.
- Some experience in Web content creation
- Detail oriented with a high standard for accuracy.
- Strong written and oral communication skills
- The ability to lead and work well with a team

### Anticipated Outcome:

Upon successfully completing this internship, the participant will learn valuable career skills in the fields of:

- Library Science
- News and research reporting
- Electronic and print publishing
- Environmental media development and delivery

The ultimate goal of this project is to create and deliver a comprehensive, attractive and compelling history of the New Canaan Nature Center in a number of media formats for public consumption.

### These include:

- Print: Brochures / Booklets, etc.
- E – Media: Web Content / E – Newsletter / PowerPoint shows, etc.

# **Intern Request :**

## **Land Management Library Internship**

The New Canaan Nature Center, Southern Fairfield County's Leading Environmental Education center is seeking a talented, motivated student with a strong background in Horticulture and Natural Resource Management to assist in development of a research and public resource Library for its volunteer based Habitat Restoration Program.

Successful candidates will learn valuable research and public education career skills in the emerging fields of Ecological Restoration and Sustainable Land Management by assisting the Nature Center's Land Manager in a variety of tasks.

### Duties include but not limited to:

1. Creating Historic Land use binders to record past present and proposed future actions on the Nature Center's natural area management zones and ornamental gardens.
2. Development of reference and public resource materials including the subjects:
  - What is a Habitat?
  - What is Habitat destruction - and why do we care?
  - What is Habitat restoration?
  - How are we restoring Habitats at the New Canaan Nature Center?
  - How you can help us restore Habitats here @ NCNC
  - How you can restore Habitats in your own backyard

### Qualifications:

- A quick learner with a self-teaching approach to investigating and solving problems.
- Good working knowledge of Natural Resource Management techniques
- Proficiency in Excel and Word.
- Detail oriented with a high standard for accuracy.
- Strong written and oral communication skills
- The ability to lead and work well with a team

### Anticipated Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this assignment the participant will be able to:

1. Identify and describe common invasive New England plant species.
2. Identify and describe common New England Native plants and plant communities
3. Define the fundamental concepts relating to Ecological Restoration and Sustainable Land

- Management and describe effective methods to attain these goals locally.
4. Describe the history and current state of Environmental Restoration and Sustainable Land Management locally, regionally and nationally.
  5. Identify and create a Library of resources to aid Nature Center Staff and private landowners to solve local Ecological Restoration and Sustainable Land Management issues.
  6. Teach staff how to access research materials.
  7. Teach the public how to access resource materials via new displays.
  8. Demonstrate proficiency in E – media creation by aiding communications director in enhancing the Nature Center’s web site relating to historic, present and future on site, regional and national Sustainable Land Management efforts.

# **Intern Request :**

## **Habitat Restoration Internship**

The New Canaan Nature Center, Southern Fairfield County's Leading Environmental Education center is seeking a talented, motivated student with a strong background in Horticulture and Natural Resource Management to assist in the development of interpretive displays and project management materials for its volunteer based Habitat Restoration Program.

Duties include but are not limited to:

1. Historic Land Use research
2. Development and installation of interpretive Research and Project Management displays Including :
  - What is a Habitat?  
(Unique local ecosystems – Food, Water, Cover, Nesting)
  - What is Habitat destruction - and why do we care?
  - What is Habitat restoration?
  - How are we restoring Habitats at the New Canaan Nature Center?
  - How you can help us restore Habitats here @ NCNC
  - How you can restore Habitats in your own backyard
3. Conducting site inventories
4. Development of site inventory databases
5. Field management of invasive plant species and tracking results over time

Qualifications:

- A quick learner with a self-teaching approach to investigating and solving problems.
- Good working knowledge of Natural Resource Management techniques
- Proficiency in Excel and Word.
- Detail oriented with a high standard for accuracy.
- Strong written and oral communication skills
- The ability to lead and work well with a team
- An interest in and the ability to perform physical outdoor work

## **Anticipated Outcome:**

*Upon the successful completion of this assignment, the participant will have Created and Installed a Significant Habitat Restoration Interpretive Display in the Lobby of the Nature Center's Solar Greenhouse. (See details Below).*

## **Habitat Restoration Project Management - "Six Step Plan" - Presentation Format:**

The Project Mgt. Process will follow a "Six Step Plan" detailed below. The Six Step Plan will address the Social and Psychological components of an Environmental Restoration project. You will create an exhibit that answers questions I and II as they relate to the entire Natural Campus, then answer questions I-VI as they relate to specific projects within the campus.

### **I. Open Space – Mission accomplished?**

In this section you will answer the "Mission Accomplished" question by:

- Researching institutional goals
- Interviewing visitors and professional staff involved with delivering site services to the public
- *Interpreting this information in a summary opening statement*

\* Note: All public open space is intended to serve the needs of its community in four key ways:

#### Enhancement of:

1. Biodiversity
2. Recreational opportunities
3. Educational opportunities
4. Unique "sense of place"

During your research you will answer question I by determining if open space services #1- #4 have been delivered to the public.

### **II. How Did Things Get This Way?**

In this section you will answer the "How did things Get this way?" question by:

- Researching Geologic, Ecologic and Cultural History of the site
- Conducting Site inventories
- *Interpreting research results in a public display with photographs, maps and charts*

### **III. What Do we Plan to Do about it?**

In this section you will answer the “What Do We Plan To Do About It?” question by choosing a specific habitat restoration project and:

- Researching best management practices to solve the specific problems indicated in Section I.
- Create a complete project proposal including:
  - Description of the management method
  - Materials Lists and costs
  - Description of Labor resources
  - Project schedule
  - Description of safety hazards / precautions
  - Creating Publicity to boost awareness and gain financial / labor support
- *Note 1: all open spaces can be restored through four fundamental actions:*
  - *Controlling access*
  - *Improving Biodiversity*
  - *Improving Interpretive opportunities*
  - *Monitoring Impacts (Before / After )*
- *Note 2: All proposed actions must be:*
  - *Appropriate*
  - *Measurable*
  - *Sustainable*

### **IV. Let’s Get Started!**

In this section you will record the progress of the restoration project by:

- Taking photographs and interpreting them
- Recording participants work hours
- Providing anecdotal interpretation (diary) of work in progress

### **V. How Did We Do?**

In this section you will answer the “How did we do?” question by:

- Re - inventorying the work site and posting results
- Taking “After” photographs and posting them

- Interviewing project participants and visitors to see if mission goals in step I are better accomplished
- Interpreting and posting the interview results

## **VI. Advocate and Educate!**

In this section you will propose and create methods to:

- Publicize this project and promote future work
- Educate the public via various media / events
- Post a closing statement in the exhibit and encourage others to add their thoughts