



ANACOSTIA WATERSHED SOCIETY

2012 Summer Stewardship Interns (6 positions)

AWS mission:

The mission of the Anacostia Watershed Society is to protect and restore the Anacostia River and its watershed communities by cleaning the water, recovering the shores, and honoring the heritage. Since 1989, AWS has mobilized thousands of volunteers, interns, and supporters to plant trees, stencil storm drains, restore wetlands, remove invasive plants, stabilize streambanks, pick up trash, provide operational and programmatic support, experience the river through paddle canoes and kayaks, ride pontoon boats, and much more, all in the name of returning the Anacostia River and its surrounding communities to a clean and healthy condition.

Description:

We are looking for skillful and enthusiastic individuals to support our Stewardship Team's programs for the summer of 2012. This internship provides excellent exposure to the world of watershed stewardship, ecological restoration and locally-based non-profit environmental organizations. The position will require support on implementing and documenting a variety of stewardship activities related to trash reduction and management, invasive plant management, tree planting, wetland restoration, meadow creation, biodiversity conservation and volunteer supervision.

This position is not a paid position.

Requirements:

- ✓ A college student or novel professional with a strong desire to do both indoor and outdoor stewardship and restoration work teaming up with other interns, and AWS staff.
- ✓ Ability to work with minimal supervision.
- ✓ Good physical condition and willingness to work in the outdoors using different hand tools and equipment (after proper training), working under cold and wet weather conditions.
- ✓ Travel to different sites within central Prince George's County, Maryland, and eastern Washington, D.C. (within the Anacostia River watershed).
- ✓ Good written skills to help us write reports, write blog entries and newsletter articles, communicate with partners, craft restoration plans, proposals, etc.
- ✓ Good oral communication skills to help us supervise and educate volunteers.
- ✓ Candidates should have college coursework or background in biological sciences, environmental sciences, natural resources management, ecological restoration, forestry and related disciplines.
- ✓ Commit to be available at least 3 days per week, 9:30am-5:00pm, days and hours are negotiable, but preferably the team will need to work as a unit.
- ✓ Must be reliable and responsible.
- ✓ Proficient in MS Office.
- ✓ Ability to drive, using AWS or personal vehicle. AWS can reimburse at 50 cents per mile for personal vehicle use.
- ✓ GPS/GIS experience.

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- ✓ Basic knowledge, and some experience, in native and nonnative plant species identification and ecosystem restoration.

Expected competencies to be gained:

1. Knowledge about invasive and native plant species identification and management; also knowledge about ecosystems and other aspects of the local biodiversity.
2. Knowledge about ecological restoration and conservation.
3. Knowledge about the Anacostia watershed and the partnerships and stewardship efforts occurring in the area to clean it and restore it.
4. Experience working with different professionals and volunteers from different backgrounds.

Our Field Projects:

1. Invasive Plant Control

AWS is continuously working to develop a viable, technically sound, and efficient model for managing populations of high priority invasive plant species in at least three sites in the watershed. Typical duties will include:

- Survey, and map infestations of invasive plants on public parklands in Washington, D.C., and Prince George's County in Maryland.
- Assist AWS staff in leading and supervising invasive plant removal outings with youth and adult volunteers.
- Remove invasive plant infestations using manual and mechanical control techniques.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of invasive plant management practices through site assessments and photo-documentation.
- Identify and document the presence and/or resurgence of native plant species and wildlife at the restoration sites.
- Conduct field data collection and data entry.
- Assist in editing and developing invasive plant control plans and strategies for the different restoration sites.

2. Trash Trap Projects

For over three years AWS has been testing a trash trap to capture and analyze solid waste that enters the Anacostia River and its tributaries. AWS staff, volunteers and interns remove trash from the trap, then sort the trash by type.

- Monitor the trash trap (approximately once a week, depending on rainfall).
- Maintain the trap.
- Collect trash captured by a trash trap (at least once a month, depending on rainfall)
- Sort out the trash into 4 categories for trash characterization (at least once a month).

3. Tree planting

AWS has planted more than 1,500 native trees along local tributaries to eventually shade the streams and provide all the valuable ecosystem services provided by trees. AWS will increase its tree planting operations in 2012 with a goal to plant at least 1,000 native trees (mostly in spring and fall). Additionally, the trees planted in previous years need basic maintenance to ensure their survival and health.

- Conduct field assessments and research to find places in need of tree planting e.g. riparian areas, forest edges heavily infested and impacted with invasive plants, sidewalks, etc.
- Assist AWS staff in organizing and supervising tree planting events with youth and adult volunteers.
- Conduct tree surveys to assess maintenance needs and general tree health conditions.
- Assist in basic maintenance routines such as weeding, watering, mulching, etc.

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4. Wetland restoration

AWS has planted more than 170,000 sq. ft. of native wetland plant cover --of at least 4 herbaceous emergent species-- in the tidal portion of the Anacostia River. Our current target is to restore a 11,000 square foot area that has been taken over by *Phragmites australis*, a common wetland invasive plant in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

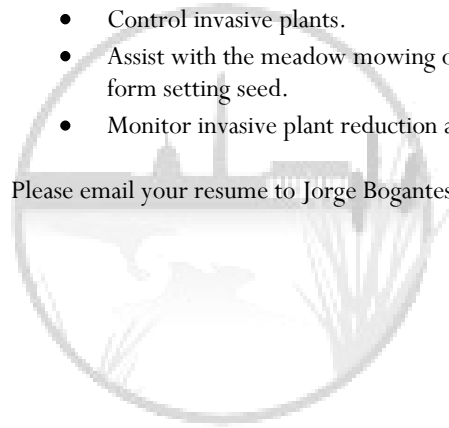
- Assist in preparing and maintaining wet beds to propagate native wetland plants in early spring.
- Assist in controlling *Phragmites australis* at the project site through repeated cutting throughout the spring.
- Help with the installation and maintenance of a goose enclosure at the project site.
- Help AWS staff to plan the wetland plantings and help supervise volunteers during wetland planting events.

5. Meadow creation

AWS is implementing an interesting model of vegetation management along the floodways of the NW Branch of the Anacostia River. The goal is to replace the current regime of mowing and extensively spraying herbicides, which encourages invasive plant growth, with a riparian meadow composed of soft-stemmed native wildflowers and grasses.

- Help with the site preparation in spring (removing invasive plant cover, tilling, and other activities).
- Supervise volunteers during native seed sowing events.
- Remove woody plants which are not allowed to grow on the floodway and also to break off the natural succession process.
- Control invasive plants.
- Assist with the meadow mowing operations to foster native herbaceous plant cover and discourage invasive plants from setting seed.
- Monitor invasive plant reduction and native plant establishment.

Please email your resume to Jorge Bogantes Montero, Conservation Biologist, at jmontero@anacostiaws.org



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