Employment Opportunity

Natural Area Land Manager Assistant – Full Time Limited Term

The Prairie Enthusiasts is a grassroots nonprofit organization with a mission to educate about, protect, manage, and restore fire-dependent ecosystems of the Upper Midwest, such as sedge meadows, prairies, savannas, and oak woodlands. These systems once dominated the landscape, but today only a tiny fraction remain intact. These remnants harbor many specialized and endangered plants and animals which depend on these now rare habitats. As an accredited land trust, The Prairie Enthusiasts strives to protect and manage these natural areas and to help others learn about their importance.

With 11 regional chapters in Illinois, Minnesota and Wisconsin, our mission is largely carried out by volunteers and staff at the local level. This position will be with the Empire-Sauk Chapter and you will be working at:

- The Pleasure Valley and Parrish Savanna Conservancy, Blue Mounds, WI (NW Dane County)
- Mounds View Grasslands, 8624 Reilly Rd., Barneveld, WI (Eastern Iowa County)
- Possibly other TPE preserves in the area (approx. 45 minutes from Central Madison)

What is it like to work for The Prairie Enthusiasts?
The culture of our team is rooted in the core values of The Prairie Enthusiasts:
Stewardship, Sustainability, Collaboration, Education, Respect and Supportive.

Who we are seeking
We are hiring 2 or 3 people to assist in the management of natural areas with the goal of restoration back to pre-settlement conditions, increasing biodiversity and improving ecosystems. We are seeking people who are task-oriented, eager to serve, and supportive of the mission of The Prairie Enthusiasts.

If you are willingly accountable for your work and would like to contribute to making The Prairie Enthusiasts a stronger organization... if you value teamwork and would place the good of the organization first... if you want to grow and improve... if you want to bring your whole self to work... if you seek ways to help without being asked... then you may be a good fit for our team.
**Work Schedule**
It is anticipated that you will work full time (40 hours per week), for a limited term, from April 1st through August 1st in 2022 (maximum of 672 hours). Work is dependent on weather conditions with restriction of work during rainy conditions. Work can be scheduled during the weekend to allow for 40-hour work week.

**Compensation**
This position pays up to $20.00 per hour, depending upon experience. It is not eligible for any benefits.

**Work-Activities**
- Cut and treat and/or herbicide invasive species including garlic mustard, dame’s rocket, buckthorn, honeysuckle, multiflora rose, reed canary grass, and sumac.
- Basal bark herbicide treatment of brush and trees
- Girdle trees with chainsaw and treat with herbicide
- Establish or maintain forested prairie grassland burn breaks using chainsaws and mowing
- Clear brush and trees with handheld power equipment and herbicide cut stems
- Help conduct prescribed burns in grasslands and savannas

**Minimum Qualifications**
- Ability work independently and follow directions of Natural Area Land Manager
- Ability to work an 8-hour day operating chainsaws or carrying a 38 lb. back pack herbicide sprayer over steep and wooded terrain
- Ability to identify and distinguish native species from non-native or invasive species
- Ability to safely operate a Polaris 6X6 UTV and a Kubota 30 hp tractor with a hydrostatic transmission or similar motorized equipment, with instruction
- Ability to mix and apply herbicide under the direction of the Natural Areas Manager or Conservancy Manager, including but not limited to: 2-4-D, Garlon-4, Garlon 3a, Escort, Oust, Imazapyr, fluazifop, and clethodim
- Ability to orient in wooded terrain with maps and aerial photos

**Desirable Qualifications**
- Experience leading or participating as a crew member for prescribed burns
- Proficient at woodland, savanna, prairie and wetland plant species identification
- Adept at safe use, maintenance, and repair of chainsaws, brush saws, herbicide sprayers, prescribed fire equipment, leaf blowers and pumper units

**How to apply**
In your cover letter, tell us why you are interested in working with The Prairie Enthusiasts and how this position is a fit for you. Email a cover letter and resume to The Prairie Enthusiasts Empire Sauk Chapter Natural Area Land Manager: Andy Sleger at asleger@theprairieenthusiasts.org. Call or text Andy at 608-445-0038 with any questions. Applicants should provide a detailed description of their knowledge, experience, and abilities as they relate to the qualifications listed. Applicant must also provide information as to their ability to start work on April 1st 2022. These positions will remain open until filled.

*The Prairie Enthusiasts is an Equal Opportunity Employer*