

Position Title: Watercraft Inspector

Position Description: Beaver Creek Reserve's Citizen Science Center is seeking enthusiastic interns interested in assisting with aquatic invasive species prevention, education, and research for the 2010 summer season. The main duties of a Watercraft Inspector are to increase awareness of aquatic invasive species by sharing information about aquatic invasive species regulations, laws, and prevention steps with boaters, anglers, and other visitors at boat landings and to help these individuals check their watercraft and equipment for aquatic plants and animals before they enter the water. During these checks, inspectors collect valuable data on boater behaviors and knowledge and regularly report the data in the online database.

Background: Aquatic invasive species (AIS) have the potential to negatively affect our ecosystems, economy, and recreational opportunities, and in some parts of our state, lakes and those who care about them are already experiencing these effects. With over 15,000 lakes and 5.3 million acres of wetlands, Wisconsin waters are an extremely valuable natural resource. As a Watercraft Inspection Intern, you will aid the state's invasive species prevention efforts by conducting watercraft inspections and monitoring in a specified Department of Natural Resources (DNR) region, thereby playing an important role in preserving Wisconsin's water bodies for future generations.

Primary Responsibilities:

- Successfully complete a *Clean Boats, Clean Waters* training session.
- Disseminate information to boat landing visitors and the general public on AIS and what can be done to prevent their spread.
- Conduct watercraft inspections, record data, and report the data in the online database.
- Survey landings for necessary WDNR aquatic invasives signs and work with local lake groups to maintain stock of AIS publications at landing kiosks (if present).
- Meet regularly with supervisor to discuss and review inspection schedule.
- Coordinate efforts with other local watercraft inspectors and AIS Coordinators and communicate with regional and statewide inspectors.
- Maintain relationships with lake groups by recruiting volunteers and providing hands-on watercraft inspection training to those volunteers from the lake groups

Secondary Responsibilities:

- Attend fishing tournaments, sailing regattas, boat shows, fishing expos, local lake fairs and other events to educate citizens on prevention steps and how to properly clean boats, trailers, and equipment.
- Successfully complete a *Citizen Lake Monitoring Network* training session.
- Conduct shoreline and lake surveys for presence/absence of Eurasian water-milfoil and other AIS.
- Assist with miscellaneous projects and activities.

Required Qualifications:

- Be at least 18 years of age with a valid driver's license and private vehicle.

- Be able and willing to work early mornings, evenings, weekends, and holidays, including Memorial Day, and July 4th to match peak use of public boat landings. Opportunity available to work on Labor Day.
- Be willing and able to approach, engage, and educate diverse citizens at boat landings, fishing tournaments, meetings, and other events to encourage a change in behavior and instill a sense of personal responsibility to prevent spread of AIS.
- Have good verbal and written communication skills to communicate with a variety of audiences, including boaters, the media, and various user groups.
- Be able and willing to work outdoors in variable weather conditions.
- Be able to successfully operate a canoe.
- Be well-organized, self-motivated, able to multi-task, and able to work both independently and as part of a team.
- Be able to accurately record data, be proficient in Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, email, and be comfortable entering data into databases.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Have a good working knowledge of aquatic ecology, of the impacts that aquatic invasive species can have on lakes, streams and wetlands, and of the ways to reduce the spread of aquatic invasive species.
- Be skilled at identification of aquatic plants and animals and be able to work with experts in the state and region.
- Natural Resources, Education, or related class and/or work experience preferred.

Duration/Hours: Positions will start approximately in the end of May and continue through August 20. Four positions are available at 40 hours per week. Must attend Clean Boats, Clean Waters training workshop around May 24-25 (actual dates TBA). Weekly schedule is somewhat flexible, but 60% of hours are required to be worked in early morning, evening, holidays, and on three out of every four weekends. Positions require travel throughout Chippewa, Dunn, Eau Claire, and St. Croix Counties in West Central Wisconsin. Mileage will be reimbursed. Housing is not provided. Hourly rate of pay: \$11 for 40 hours/wk position.

To Apply:

Please send a cover letter and resume to:

Beaver Creek Reserve
 c/o Anna Mares
 S1 County Highway K
 Fall Creek, WI 54742

Only hard copy applications will be accepted. Questions can be e-mailed to Anna Mares at anna@beavercreekreserve.org.

Deadline: Applications must be postmarked by March 19. Screening of applicants will begin on April 5.