



2011 Summer Internships

**SUMMER INTERNSHIPS in Field Ecology and Socio-Cultural Research
With the Farmscape Ecology Program, Hawthorne Valley Farm, Ghent, NY.
May - August/December 2011 (3 to 6 months total, exact dates are flexible)**

The Hawthorne Valley Farmscape Ecology Program is dedicated to exploring the human and natural dimensions of the landscape of Columbia County, NY through research and outreach. Our interdisciplinary research focuses on historical, current and potential future interactions of people with the land. This includes, for example, the documentation of the distribution of native plants and animals within our county, the study of the ecological interactions between native species and agriculture, and the study of cultural relationships between people and the landscape, including a county-wide assessment of the food system and oral history project. By involving community participants in the research and by sharing the results widely, we strive to stimulate, facilitate, and inform people's sense of connection to the many dimensions of the landscape in which they live. The Farmscape Ecology Program is part of Hawthorne Valley Association, an educational non-profit, and is comprised of wildlife ecologist Conrad Vispo, botanist Claudia Knab-Vispo, and social scientist Anna Duhon.

We are looking for a **field ecology** and a **socio-cultural research** intern to join our interdisciplinary research team starting mid May 2011. *While an interest in both fields is not requisite, we encourage the applications of individuals who do have dual interests; we will try to facilitate their involvement in various aspects of our work.*

Field Ecology Internship (3 to 6 months)

Activities: This intern will participate in field inventories of plants and animals in a variety of natural habitats and on farms and will have responsibilities related to the preservation and identification of plant and invertebrate specimens collected during the fieldwork, as well as specimens still in need of processing from past projects. The intern will also be responsible for computer work consisting of data entry and remote sensing to identify suitable inventory areas from digital aerial photos. Additional data entry or gathering relating to the sociological fieldwork might also be requested. Finally, there is the opportunity to participate in the creation of an ornamental garden with native plants around our building and the opportunity to work with the Hawthorne Valley farmers and farm apprentices in the commercial vegetable fields for $\frac{1}{2}$ day each week.

Applicants staying for longer than 3 months or able to continue to write-up research during a fall school semester are encouraged to consider developing an independent project within the parameters of our research. Depending on the intern's skill set and interests, there might also be the opportunity to take on responsibilities related to GIS, web-design, and outreach via social media. We would be glad to collaborate with students whose universities offer the potential for independent credits.

Qualifications for Field Ecology Intern: We are looking for candidates with a strong interest in natural history (expertise in certain taxonomic groups, e.g., mosses, lichens, grasses, sedges, birds, butterflies, dragonflies, ground beetles, bees, spiders, or ants is a plus but is not required), who are comfortable in a rural environment, thrive out-doors even when the going gets rough, are sociable and enjoy interacting with a diverse range of people of all ages, are energetic, self-motivated and able to work independently with attention to detail, and, importantly, are eager to learn.

We expect the candidates to have basic computer skills (word, excel, databases) and some academic and/or work experience in field biology, field ecology, natural history, environmental science, sustainable farming/gardening, environmental education, or related fields. Experience with GIS software, web-site design, and social media would be a plus.

Socio-Cultural Internship (3 to 6 months)

Activities: This intern will have the opportunity to assist in different aspects of the ongoing Community Food Assessment, a complex undertaking that aims to paint a broad picture of the food system in Columbia County (from production of food to its distribution, consumption and accessibility), and to make this information widely available in a clear and compelling form. The intern may also have the opportunity to assist in an oral history project focused on dairy and livestock farmers. Intern activities may include: assisting in developing and conducting surveys of different key groups in the food system (i.e. farmers, food pantry coordinators); entering and analyzing the data that we've collected; compiling relevant agricultural, historical and sociological data from the literature; working on an interactive GIS-based food resource map; helping to facilitate community involvement and gatherings; conducting and/or transcribing and processing interviews; and developing website, print, presentation, and other outreach materials. The socio-cultural intern may also be requested to assist in field inventories of native plants and animals in a variety of natural habitats and might have some responsibility for related data entry and processing. Finally, there is the possibility to work with the Hawthorne Valley farmers and farm apprentices in the commercial vegetable fields for $\frac{1}{2}$ day each week.

Applicants staying for longer than 3 months or able to continue to write-up research during a fall school semester are encouraged to consider developing an independent project within the parameters of our research. Depending on the intern's skill set and interests, there might also be the opportunity to take on responsibilities related to GIS, web-design, and outreach via social media. We would be glad to collaborate with students whose universities offer the potential for independent credits.

Qualifications for the Socio-Cultural Intern: We are looking for candidates with a strong interest in agricultural communities, local food systems, and social justice. A love for nature and the desire to learn about plants and/or insects would be a plus. Candidates should be reliable, resourceful and have a strong attention to detail. They should work well in a team, but also have the ability to be self-guided and work independently. They should be comfortable in a rural environment and enjoy interacting with a diverse range of people. We expect candidates to have research, computer and writing skills and some academic and/or work experience in social science (such as anthropology, sociology, sustainable economics, planning, or a related field). Proficiency with Microsoft Excel would be particularly helpful, and familiarity with GIS is a plus.

Conditions for both internships: The internship is based at Hawthorne Valley Farm, a 400-acre organic and biodynamic diversified farm located in the heart of Columbia County, NY, in the northwest corner of Hillsdale. Interns will be expected to work at least five days per week, including the option of working half a day a week in the Hawthorne Valley Farm gardens (in order to obtain some hands-on farming experience). Periodic requests for weekend and after-

hours work will occur, though the basic internship is organized around a 40 to 45-hour workweek. Independent projects might require some additional hours.

Compensation: On-farm housing with shared kitchen and bathroom and a \$650/month stipend are provided.

Additional Information: Information about the farm is available at www.hawthornevalleyfarm.org; for more on the Farmscape Ecology Program itself, see www.hawthornevalleyfarm.org/fep.

Application Process: Please send a CV including contact information for three references along with a cover letter explaining your interest in the internship, including which specific areas of the research you feel most drawn to and qualified for, whether you are interested in a 3 or 6 month internship, and if you would like to develop your own project. Potentially suitable applicants will be interviewed by phone, and typically a personal visit to the Farm is requested before we make a final commitment. If you have questions, please contact Conrad, Claudia or Anna at 518-672-7994 or fep@hawthornevalleyfarm.org.