



SUMMER INTERNSHIPS in Field Ecology

***With the Farmscape Ecology Program, Hawthorne Valley Farm, Ghent, NY.
May - August/December 2012 (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 mapping of ecological habitats in the County. We also study the cultural relationships between people and the landscape, including a county-wide community land assessment looking at people's diverse perceptions and interactions with the landscape. By involving community participants in the research and by sharing the results widely, we strive to stimulate, facilitate, and inform a sense of connection to the many dimensions of the landscape. 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.

This year, we are primarily looking for interns interested in field ecology, including the mapping of plant communities and surveys of vertebrates and invertebrates. We will also be doing socio-cultural research, and interns with an interest in both ecology and culture are particularly welcome.

Activities: Interns will participate in field inventories of plants and animals in a variety of natural habitats and will have responsibilities related to the preservation and identification of plant and invertebrate specimens collected during the fieldwork. The intern will also be partially 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. We welcome inquiries from graduate students who feel their projects may be fitting. We would also be glad to collaborate with students whose universities offer the potential for independent credits.

Qualifications: 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 outdoors 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, most 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. Those who also have an interest in studying human relations to the landscape are urged to apply.

General Conditions: 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 the types of 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.