

## **JOB ANNOUNCEMENT**

### **Restoration Technician (6 month)**

The Winous Point Marsh Conservancy (WPMC), located just outside Port Clinton in Ottawa County, Ohio, is a non-profit conservation organization that maintains Ohio's largest privately-owned wetland (5000 acres). WPMC was established in 1999 to increase the natural resource contributions of the Winous Point Shooting Club, a private duck-hunting club founded in 1856 that has funded wetlands and wildlife research and training programs since 1949.

#### **Summary:**

Occupying an ancient, abandoned channel of the Grand River, Mentor Marsh became Ohio's first State Nature Preserve in 1971. It is also a registered National Natural Landmark with the National Park Service. At 801 acres, Mentor Marsh is one of the largest natural freshwater marshes protected along the Lake Erie shoreline. It provides critical spawning habitat for Lake Erie fish and is an important refuge and nesting site for waterbirds and migrating songbirds.

After salt mine tailings were dumped in an adjacent creek, Mentor Marsh became Ohio's largest stand of the invasive, non-native Common Reed Grass (*Phragmites australis*). The Cleveland Museum of Natural History (CMNH) Natural Areas Division began a large-scale restoration of Mentor Marsh in 2012. Since then, restoration efforts have included helicopter and drone spraying stands of *Phragmites australis* and non-native cattail, spot spraying from amphibious vehicles and with backpack sprayers, helicopter seeding and hand planting historically native herbaceous wetland plants, and installing trees and shrubs along the swamp forest edge.

As a WPMC Restoration Technician, you'll be working directly with our stewardship partners at the CMNH Natural Areas Division. This is a six-month grant-funded seasonal position working 40 hours/week. This full-time temporary position will run from approximately May 9, 2022 to November 11, 2022. Exceptions to these dates will be considered for current students or those with extenuating circumstances. These positions are based out of Mentor, OH and will include daily travel to nearby work sites. On-site training will be provided for all essential skills. Housing is not provided. The Restoration Technician works for the CMNH Mentor Marsh Habitat Restoration Manager, contractors and project partners to implement best management practices and the strategic plan for invasive species control and habitat restoration at the 801-acre Mentor Marsh. The desired end goal is a landscape mosaic of native marsh and swamp forest.

#### **Essential Duties and Responsibilities:**

Assist in the ecological restoration and management of native marsh and swamp forest communities via herbicide application.

Assist with the operation of an amphibious utility task vehicle UTV with crew and supplies.

Operates and maintains hand and power tools in working conditions to implement invasive plant management.

Assist with data collection and entry via monitoring and mapping of invasive plant populations.

Analyze GPS and aerial drone mapping surveys and incorporate into GIS maps to prioritize treatment.

Assist in plant identification using taxonomic field guides.

Pre-plan and assist with on-site coordination of contractors and local partners on invasive species treatment projects.

Identify sources on-site, collect, and disseminate seeds and cuttings to restore marsh habitat.

**Minimum Qualifications:**

High school diploma OR GED and 6 months of related experience.

Experience operating various types of equipment in a safe and efficient manner (e.g., hand tools, 4-wheel-drive vehicles, UTV, or similar equipment).

Must have a valid driver's license.

**Desired Education and Experience:**

Bachelor's degree or current undergrad pursuing a degree from a four-year college or university with a concentration in Biology, Botany, Restoration Ecology, or a or a closely related Natural Resources related field.

Experience or familiarity with taxonomic keys and/or field identification guides for plants and animals.

Experience with identifying and utilizing different techniques to remove non-native invasive plants.

Experience in field-work using a variety of hand tools, backpack and tank sprayers, and operating amphibious utility task vehicles.

**Other Qualifications:**

A passion for science, nature, and conservation.

A familiarity with the local, native flora of Northeast Ohio.

Excellent organizational skills and attention to detail.

Ability to work with and communicate in an interdisciplinary professional team atmosphere. Ensures personal safety and safety of crew by following all safety procedures mandated by state/federal law, CMNH & WPMC policies, and crew leader discretion.

Ability to exercise initiative and good judgment in anticipating problems before they arise.

Willingness and desire to learn a variety of land management and invasive species management techniques including how to operate the relevant tools and equipment.

Ability to lift 45lbs with or without reasonable accommodation.

Willingness to lift and carry a 25lb backpack for extended periods of time.

Basic mathematical skills.

Must be able to provide your own transportation to work sites.

Willingness to work in and hike up to 6 miles daily outdoors completing strenuous field work requiring considerable physical exertion and/or muscular strain. Willingness to work in semi-remote locations, without immediate access to

restrooms facilities, on difficult, hazardous, and physically challenging terrain as well as work in a wetland environment and tolerate the physically demanding conditions typical of northeast Ohio's natural areas (inclement and variable weather conditions, heat, humidity, poison ivy, and biting and stinging insects).

Work Schedule: Typically a Monday-Thursday 7am to 5pm daytime schedule, with occasional evenings and weekends as agreed upon in advance. Work schedule is partially weather-dependent and will be 35-40 hours per week.

**TO APPLY**

Please send a cover letter, resume, and three professional references to:

Mia Yeager

[myeager@cmnh.org](mailto:myeager@cmnh.org)

No phone calls, please.

Job Announcement Number:

Posting Date: