

Water Quality Monitoring Technician (Paid Internship) With the MANISTEE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Position Location: The Manistee Conservation District, 8840 Chippewa Highway, Bear Lake, MI 49614
231-889-9666

CONTACT: Susan Spencer, District Administrator: susan.spencer@macd.org; www.manisteedc2.org

General Description:

Note: This is a paid internship position lasting 24-week (flexible up to 4 additional weeks). The Intern will report directly to the Manistee CD Administrator. The position deals primarily with water quality monitoring of inland lakes and area stream monitoring for the Manistee Conservation District in Bear Lake, MI. The primary duties lie in performing lake surveys of invasive and native aquatic vegetation and water quality on lakes and streams in the Huron-Manistee National Forest, as well as completing work on a MiCorps Stream Monitoring grant. and coordinating coordinate stream monitoring activities. Additional duties include assisting the district in a variety of ways, including educational outreach to promote citizen science, promoting the services and programs of the Manistee Conservation District, and other work, as assigned. It is strongly preferred that the applicant have completed coursework in aquatic biology and have direct experience with stream and lake monitoring, including the use of Dissolved Oxygen (DO) monitors, Secchi disk transparency, in-depth data reporting, and excellent computer skills, as well as face-to-face communication skills. The intern will also work one day a week at the Misty Acres Nature Preserve.

Position Background:

Through a contract with the Manistee CD, the US Forest Service has identified the need to conduct assessments of local lakes, taking surveys of invasive and native aquatic vegetation, and compiling data as well as preparing uniform reports for each lake, following a specific protocol. Results will be used to identify waterbodies where aquatic vegetation and/or water quality has been degraded or where restoration projects can be implemented. The Manistee CD is also completing work on its MiCorps (DEQ) Stream-monitoring grant, which will need to be coordinated and completed, with 2 more Stream-monitoring events scheduled to fulfill the grant's obligations.

Specific Duties:

- 1) Report directly to the Administrator of the Manistee CD
- 2) Perform surveys of invasive and native aquatic vegetation and water quality.
- 3) Haul and operate a 70 lb. canoe and be prepared to spend 2-3 days per week collecting water samples.
- 4) Compile water quality information and data in a report for each lake or stream.
- 5) Attend and help lead the meetings of local watershed groups, and maintain a networking relationship with these groups.
- 6) Perform, as assigned, additional duties to promote the programs and services of the Manistee Conservation District (for example, working at the district Farmer's Market booth on Saturdays during the summer, helping with the district's HHW and water quality testing events).
- 7) Perform small property maintenance duties at Misty Acres Nature Preserve and participate in Misty Acres Farm Days.

Required Skills:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use of GPS and GIS• Coursework or experience in aquatic biology• Experience identifying macroinvertebrates• Thorough knowledge of aquatic invasive species• Leadership skills: ability to coordinate and manage volunteer groups of diverse ages and backgrounds• Strong organizational skills• Experience in educational outreach• Excellent public speaking and oral presentation skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demonstrated ability to communicate science to non-scientists.• Ability to work well as part of a team• Proficient in MS Office programs, especially Excel• Demonstrably strong written communications skills.• Ability to operate and transport a canoe (provided by the district)• Ability to perform physically strenuous activities• Valid driver's license and ability to operate a pickup truck (must submit a driving record)
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Housing: Living quarters will be provided to the intern for the duration of the internship at Misty Acres Nature Preserve. The intern will need a vehicle to travel to and from work.

Salary and/or benefits: \$1,100/month with paid-for housing and utilities, mileage reimbursement (when using personal vehicle for work-related travel), program support, training and development costs, as well as other resources provided for intern's success.

Other Details: Intern will work out of the Manistee Conservation District, but, during certain weeks, will spend a good deal of time in the field, monitoring the water quality of assigned lakes. Intern will also assist with district events, as well as helping out with assigned duties at Misty Acres Nature Preserve. The position is for 40 hours per week, with 30-32 spent doing work for the Manistee CD and 8-10 hours working at the Misty Acres Nature Preserve.

Important: This position has the possibility of growing into a full-time position in January of 2019.

Location Description:

The Manistee Conservation District is located just south of Bear Lake, MI, the Manistee Conservation District has been serving Manistee County since 1945, connecting private landowners to numerous services, information, access to government programs and technical and environmental land-management assistance. The Manistee Conservation District is 15 miles north of Manistee, MI, a charming port city on the western shores of Lake Michigan. There are numerous opportunities for hiking, swimming, kayaking, and exploring the vastness of the Manistee National Forest.

Misty Acres Nature Preserve is located on the Manistee/Benzie County line and is a beautiful nature preserve owned and managed by the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy

Training opportunities: Intern will receive 1-2 day intensive training provided by a former Manistee Conservation Specialist, well-acquainted with the specific duties and expectations of the position. There may be additional opportunities through the USFS and other organizations for training, one-day workshops and conferences.

How to Apply:

Submit **cover letter**, addressed to Susan Spencer, MCD Administrator, and **resume** to susan.spencer@macd.org. You may also send these materials through the post to:

Manistee Conservation District
8840 Chippewa Highway
Bear Lake, MI 49614
Attn: Spring & Summer Intern Position

For any questions, please call Susan Spencer, Manistee CD Administrator, at 231-889-9666, Tuesday-Thursday, 9 am – 5 pm, or email susan.spencer@macd.org