

The Nature Conservancy * Missouri Field Office

Title: Field Botanist
Closing date: 13 May 2005
Supervisor: Missouri Department of Conservation, Grasslands Botanist
Location: Missouri Department of Conservation Grasslands Field Station, Clinton, MO
Starting Salary: \$26,500 annually plus benefits
Preparer: Doug Ladd

SUMMARY OF POSITION

The Field Botanist works closely with Grasslands Field Station staff to implement vegetation sampling, ecological monitoring, and other field research and data analysis related to grassland management and conservation issues in Missouri. Responsibilities include working closely with researchers and seasonal field staff to ensure accurate field data collection and analysis; training, coordinating, and supervising seasonal field crews; coordinating logistics and scheduling of field crews; and conducting extensive vegetation sampling in various grasslands throughout Missouri, with an emphasis on vegetation sampling in tallgrass prairies and related grasslands in the Osage Plains of southwestern Missouri. This position is a collaboration between The Nature Conservancy and the Missouri Department of Conservation, and is supervised by the Conservancy's Missouri Director of Conservation Science, with daily supervision and coordination provided by MDC's Grassland Botanist. The Field Botanist supervises up to six seasonal botanists. This is a one year term position with potential of annual renewal for two additional years.

DUTIES

1. Implement and document accurate, repeatable vegetation monitoring and related research activities as directed in grassland sites throughout Missouri.
2. Supervise, and coordinate seasonal botany crews to ensure efficient, accurate accomplishment of vegetation monitoring and other field work associated with grassland conservation and management activities.
3. In conjunction with other MDC and TNC staff, train field crews to achieve fluency in accurate species level identification of grassland flora regardless of phenological status; ensure consistency among data collecting and floristic identifications of all crew members.
4. Assist with data input and data analysis as directed.
5. Assist with management treatments and other activities as directed.

QUALIFICATIONS

1. Demonstrated familiarity with vascular plant floristics and identification, and an aptitude to rapidly learn and retain plant

identification concepts. Familiarity with Midwestern flora and vegetation, especially that of tallgrass prairie systems, highly desirable.

2. Knowledge of general concepts and procedures associated with vegetation ecology and field research, including data collection protocols, field research techniques, and vegetation sampling methodology. Experience with basic experimental design and applied statistics helpful.

3. Excellent verbal and written communications skills, and the ability to work with diverse personalities to achieve common goals; proven aptitude for training and working closely with other field staff.

4. Demonstrated commitment to accuracy, detail, and organization, including ability to ensure accurate and consistent data collecting and recording protocols among different field workers.

5. Highly responsible, self-directed worker with demonstrated enthusiasm for and commitment to floristic botany and conservation.

6. Ability to perform field work outdoors for extended periods under all extremes of Missouri weather. Valid driver's license and ability to operate manual transmission and four wheel drive vehicles.

7. Minimum of a B.S. in botany, ecology, or related field of study.

Send resume and cover letter to:

Sherry Leis, Grassland Botanist
Grasslands Field Station
Missouri Department of Conservation
P. O. Box 368
Clinton, MO 64735

Questions can be directed to Sherry Leis at (660) 885-6981, sherry.leis@mdc.mo.gov.

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