CONSERVATION SPECIALIST
Southern Lower Peninsula

The Michigan Nature Association (MNA), a statewide land conservancy, is seeking an exceptional candidate for a Conservation Specialist position based in the Southern Lower Peninsula region. MNA protects a vast network of over 180 nature sanctuaries, totaling over 12,500 acres, in 60 of Michigan’s 83 counties. Many of the sanctuaries house rare habitats and species and are managed to protect their viability. For more information on MNA, please see our website at michigannature.org.

Location: This is a field-based position. Work will occur at MNA sanctuaries across Michigan’s southernmost counties, with occasional travel to other regions of the Lower Peninsula. The Conservation Specialist will report daily to the Stewardship Coordinator’s home office in Grass Lake (Jackson County).

Time Commitment: Part-time, hourly, temporary. Applicants should be available 32 hours / 4 days per week

Duration: 14 -16 weeks, May-September 2020. Start and end dates are flexible

Compensation: $13/hour + mileage reimbursement

Supervisor: Stewardship Coordinator

Responsibilities:
• Assist with annual monitoring of MNA sanctuaries in the Southern Lower Peninsula region; submit completed monitoring reports to Stewardship Coordinator.
• Lead and assist volunteer stewards implementing sanctuary management plans across the region
• Lead volunteer workdays and recruit new volunteers
• Ensure trails and entrances/parking areas are safe and in good repair with adequate signage
• Perform ecological management tasks, primarily invasive species removal
• Work with Stewardship Coordinator to address trespass and encroachment issues as directed
• Assist MNA stewardship staff with sanctuary management tasks as needed
• Track and report personal and volunteer hours to Stewardship Coordinator
• Safely operate and maintain MNA stewardship tools including chainsaw, brush cutter, herbicide wands and backpacks

Minimum Qualifications:
• Progress toward or completion of a degree in environmental science, natural resource management, or related field; or equivalent work experience
• Exceptional self-motivation and work ethic; ability to accomplish assigned tasks under minimal supervision
• Ability to perform physically demanding work outside, in a wide range of weather conditions and terrains, involving unpleasant factors such as heat, humidity, precipitation, mud, stinging insects, poison ivy, and others. Must be capable of lifting 50 lbs.
• Basic knowledge of biology, ecology, and typical native Michigan habitats
• Ability to communicate professionally and politely with MNA staff, volunteers, sanctuary visitors, and the general public
• Valid driver’s license

Desired Qualifications:
• Possession of or willingness to obtain a Michigan Pesticide Applicator license and First Aid/CPR certification
• Experience operating and maintaining power tools
• Experience working with volunteers

To Apply:
Please send a cover letter, resume, and contact information for 3 references via e-mail to Rachel Maranto, Stewardship Coordinator, at rmaranto@michigannature.org or mail to Attn: Conservation Specialist Application, Michigan Nature Association, 2310 Science Parkway, Suite 100, Okemos, MI 48864. Applications will be accepted through March 15, 2020, or until the position has been filled.

The Michigan Nature Association is an equal opportunity employer committed to workplace diversity.