Shoals Marine Laboratory Horticulture Internship

Appledore Island

Applications reviewed on a rolling basis
Internship Duration: June 9 – August 17, 2014

Shoals Marine Laboratory (SML) offers undergraduate students a unique opportunity to study marine science in the field with exceptional faculty from institutions throughout North America. Operated by University of New Hampshire and Cornell University, SML offers several research internships during the summer season that cover a diversity of topics from marine biology, sustainable engineering, and our newest offering: horticulture.

Appledore Island, at 95 acres, is the largest of the Isles of Shoals located about seven miles off the Maine/New Hampshire coast. Only a one-hour boat ride from Portsmouth, NH, Appledore holds rocky intertidal zone, seabird colonies, and is the home of Shoals Marine Laboratory (SML). The Horticulture internship will focus on the cultivated landscape of Appledore, including the famous Celia Thaxter Garden. Celia Laighton Thaxter (1835-1894) lived most of her life on the island, where her parents operated the Appledore Hotel. The family home was famous as a gathering place of some of the greatest artists, writers and musicians of Celia’s time. During summer months, the house was decked out in color and fragrance, full of bounty from the garden, a living work of art. This garden inspired writing and paintings by luminaries of the day.

More than a century later, SML in collaboration with the greenhouse at UNH's Thompson School of Applied Science have brought this garden back to life. Students studying horticulture at the Thompson School grow the seedlings for Thaxter's island garden, and in June, these plants are brought to Appledore for the annual recreation of the Thaxter Garden. “Our choice of plants is dictated by Celia's book and her garden diagram,” explains horticulture manager Chris Robarge, of the Thompson School at UNH, who has overseen the growing process since 1983. This paid internship enables a 10-weeks program working with SML staff and Chris, whose expertise centers on horticultural facilities operations, seasonal floral crop and cut flower production, spring bedding plant production, and integrated pest management strategies.

The program will address the horticulture challenges encountered when cultivating and tending a historically significant garden like Celia’s, a vegetable garden, and our campus landscape on a
remote island. The position will include the opportunity to experience the rich landscape history of Portsmouth, NH and UNH’s greenhouse facilities through field trips. The intern will live on Appledore Island during this internship and is expected to manage and participate in public tours of the Thaxter Garden; maintain all gardens and grounds of the SML campus; create plans for future improvements (especially the watering system); create public education and outreach materials for the Thaxter Garden; conduct an independent study of their choice; and submit a written report including recommendations for improvements and/or changes to existing gardens and public programs.

Students of any college or certificate programs in horticulture, landscape design and architecture, plant science and related fields that seek practical experience are encouraged to apply.

**Compensation:** $150/week (room and board included in the internship appointment), 40 hr/wk, Transportation from Portsmouth, NH provided.
Questions? Contact: jennifer.seavey@unh.edu

**To apply submit a cover letter, resume and two references to:**
Dr. Jennifer Seavey
Executive Director
Shoals Marine Laboratory
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