

Undergraduate Field Research & Extension Program

Summer 2009

Arnot Teaching and Research Forest

The Arnot Teaching and Research Forest is a Cornell University property managed by the Department of Natural Resources. "The Arnot" is unique as a 4200+ acre working forested landscape near Ithaca that is dedicated to the department and university mission of teaching, research, and extension. Through research and extension, Arnot interns contribute to the improved management of natural resources in the Northeast.

Up to 6 undergraduate research & extension internships are available during summer 2009. The Arnot Forest Research & Extension Internship Program includes a \$3000 stipend for 11 weeks. Interns stay in a free, shared Arnot cabin and access the camp kitchen. Interns work individually with a focused, faculty-guided project. Interns are eligible for 3 independent study credits during the subsequent fall semester when they prepare written and oral presentations of research data. The Arnot Field Intern Program will provide undergraduates with experience in hypothesis development and testing, field data collection, data analysis, and written and oral presentation of results to scientific and lay audiences.

Projects in 2009 will address one of several natural resource management issues. Previous intern projects have included: ginseng population dynamics, forest management effects on greenhouse gases, influence of logging debris on herps and seedlings, soil and management effects on sugar maple, invasive plants, gourmet mushrooms, and grassland bird habitat enhancement. More intern project details are available at www.dnr.cornell.edu/arnot.

There are no course pre-requisites, but successful interns are expected to have well-developed skills in field biology, plant/animal identification, basic statistics, orienteering, and writing. Additional project specific skills may apply. Participants will develop additional skills in field biology, data collection, statistics, technical and Extension writing, and public presentation.

Expectations: Under the supervision of a project leader, each intern will implement a field-based research project that contributes to an improved understanding of the ecology of a managed hardwood forest. Interns, with project leader guidance, are expected to: commit to summer field work from May 26 to August 7, participate in an on-site orientation program, contribute to extension program materials, prepare and present an oral presentation during the DNR fall internship seminar series, and complete a written project description.

To Apply: **All materials are due by March 25th, 2009.** Interviews will be held March 31 and April 1. Submit a resume, list of references, and a statement expressing your interest in the Arnot Forest internships to Dr. Peter Smallidge in 116 Fernow Hall. Please indicate examples of research subjects that are of interest to you. Materials should be submitted electronically as MS Word files to <pjs23@cornell.edu>. Interns should plan to arrive at Arnot on the evening of May 25. Cornell University freshmen, sophomores, and juniors are eligible to apply.

For additional information contact the Arnot Forest Director, Peter Smallidge by email <pjs23@cornell.edu>, phone 607 / 592 - 3640, or in person at 116 Fernow Hall.