

Horticulturist

Grade: 8

Reports to: Curator
Job Status: Exempt, Full-Time

Department: Husbandry
Approval Date: March 17, 2016

Job Summary:

Develops, implements and manages the South Carolina Aquarium's horticultural projects including internal exhibits, external exhibits, off-site nursery and other plant displays.

Essential Functions:

- Adhere to South Carolina Aquarium policies and procedures.
- Demonstrate a love of working with South Carolina native plants.
- Assist Curator in developing the horticulture program for the South Carolina Aquarium.
- Oversee the daily care and aesthetics of all plant displays including all aspects of plant culture, rotation of plant material, management of animal interaction with plant material, etc.
- Participate in research, design, modification and development of new exhibits/systems at the SCA and nursery.
- Establish and cultivate relationships with local and regional plant resources.
- Acquires and/or propagates all Aquarium plant material.
- Manage off-site nursery facilities.
- Develop and maintain off exhibit plant propagation and holding area (nursery) through normal nursery practices.
- Train and supervise horticulture volunteers at the Aquarium and nursery.
- Maintain accurate records and reports.
- Develop, execute and provide knowledge and expertise for field projects involving the use of existing or installed native plant material for habitat reclamation and enhancement.
- Liaison with the City of Charleston for horticultural activities on National Park Service property adjacent to the Aquarium.
- Manage the pest management program for SCA.
- Assist with special projects as requested by the Curator.

Other Duties and Responsibilities:

- Support the mission by participating in Aquarium sponsored programs and events on a regular basis.
- Maintain inventory of supplies and equipment used in horticultural operations.
- Cross-train in other areas of husbandry.
- Respond to visitor and telephone inquiries.
- Keep abreast with current related literature.
- Attend and makes presentations to professional conferences and meetings.
- Participate in cross-functional activities like conducting tours, educational programs, member programs, committees, etc.
- Work with and supervise outside contractors.
- Liaison with the owners of Wando Farms (nursery location).

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

- Strong knowledge of the practices and principles of horticulture in a botanical garden setting and in botanical/zoological mixed species exhibits.
- Knowledge of the flora and fauna of the Southeastern U.S., especially as it pertains to South Carolina native plant communities.
- Skilled in all aspects of plant culture including watering, fertilization, pruning, pest management, plant propagation, etc.
- Good organizational, communication and interpersonal skills.
- Knowledge of organic/natural pesticide and fungicide control.

Education and Experience Required:

- Bachelor's degree in Horticulture, Botany or related field, or the equivalent to a degree in experience
- Minimum of three years experience in a related field

Licenses and Certifications Required:

- Valid Driver's License
- South Carolina pesticide license (or ability to acquire)

Supervision of others:

- Horticulture and other Husbandry volunteers
- Interns

Physical Requirements: Mark (x) to what applies to this position:

	Percentage	Average	Seldom	Often	Not Applicable
Walking				X	
Standing				X	
Bending				X	
Stooping				X	
Crouching				X	
Climbing Ladders		X			
Climbing heights (8') est.		X			
Carrying (up to 50 lbs.) etc.		X			
Sitting		X			
Kneeling				X	
Balancing		X			
Pushing & Pulling		X			
Crawling		X			
Diving			X		
Swimming			X		
Working with Tools		X	X		
Drive Company Car				X	
Drive/Ride in Aquarium Boats			X		
Computer Tasks (typing & using mouse)		X			
Phone Task		X			

Hazardous Requirements: Mark (x) to what applies to this position:

	Percentage	Average	Seldom	Often	Not Applicable
Minor or Severe cuts		X			
Falls			X		
Exposure to falling objects			X		
Required to wear Personal Protective Equip.			X		
List all required PPE's:					
Hazards to eyesight			X		
Hazards to hearing			X		
Hazards to sense of smell			X		
Exposure to Chemicals			X		
Exposure to Toxic Chemicals			X		
Exposure to Hazardous Materials			X		
Exposure to Ozone			X		
Exposure to Confine Spaces			X		

Working Conditions: Mark (x) to what applies this position:

	Percentage	Seldom	Occasional	Often/Yes	Not Applicable
Normal office environment			X		
Works Outdoors				X	
Works in Warehouse			X		
Contact with customers and the public			X	X	
Works Normal Office Hours				X	
Works Rotating Shifts		X			
Contact with outside vendors			X		
Required to travel			X		
Required to work weekends			X	X	
Required to work late nights			X		
On Call			X	X	
Required to carry Cell Phone			X	X	
Required to wear a beeper or Radio			X	X	
Required to work in extreme weather			X		
Required to work in extreme heat or cold			X	X	

The above statements are intended to describe the general nature and level of work performed by people assigned to this classification. They are not construed to be an exhaustive list of all job duties performed by the personnel classified.

The Aquarium is an "at-will" employer, and as such, employment with the Aquarium is not for a fixed term, or definite period and may be terminated at the will of either party, with or without cause, and without prior notice.