



Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie

Volunteer Job Description

Title: Plants of Concern (POC) Volunteer Plant Monitor

Purpose: Accompany POC staff to monitor 11 rare plant species at Midewin as a “citizen scientist.” Measure and count plant populations, assess threats such as invasive species, record presence of associate species, provide information on habitat, location, and population status. Provides Midewin managers with valuable data that is used to evaluate and respond to threats to rare plants.

Department & Site: Plants of Concern research plots at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie

Qualifications & Training: Knowledge of local flora useful but not necessary; will provide free training and ongoing support. This workshop will give you an opportunity to learn monitoring skills and to select a monitoring assignment. Attendance at one Plants of Concern workshop training session urged. 2007 Locations and dates are below. Workshops will be held from 9:30 to 3:00.

- Saturday, March 31 Volo Bog (Ingleside, Lake County)
- Sunday, April 15 Morton Arboretum (Lisle, Du Page County)
- Sunday, April 22 Ryerson Woods (Deerfield, Lake County)

Time Commitment: Time commitment is determined by the desires and constraints of the monitor; dependent on number of assignments and chosen level of participation. Midewin monitoring begins at 8:15 am; monitors can stay all day, or a ½ day from morning until lunch, or from lunch until 3-4:00 pm. Hours are flexible, and normally on weekdays.

Training: In addition to the above Workshop, a local site and safety orientation of Midewin will be provided.

Benefits: Work in the field with researchers, learn native and invasive plants, and participate in long-term research to aid in understanding and preservation of rare plants. You will meet other like-minded individuals who also volunteer with the program. You will take part in achieving Midewin’s mission. Volunteers receive ongoing recognition from their supervisor and staff, and are invited to an annual volunteer recognition banquet in November.

Contact: Susanne Masi, Research Botanist, POC Coordinator; smasi@chicagobotanic.org or Chris Pratt, Midewin’s Volunteer Coordinator at 815-423-6370; cmpratt@fs.fed.us

Plants of Concern is coordinated through the Chicago Botanic Garden by Susanne Masi (smasi@chicagobotanic.org), with strong partnership with The Habitat Project (Audubon – Chicago Region). It has been funded by Chicago Wilderness, the Wildlife Preservation Fund, USFS (Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie), and CorLands, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and C2000.