The Chicago Botanic Garden is now accepting applications for seasonal employment within our Aquatic Plant & Urban Lake Studies Program. Applicants are encouraged to submit their materials soon – preferably by February 12, 2016.

Located 25 miles north of downtown Chicago, the Garden's 385-acre campus includes 81 acres of lakes, streams, and wetlands. Over the past 15 years, ½-million native aquatic and shoreline plants have been added along 4½ miles of our lakeshore. These shoreline plantings have been highly effective in stabilizing eroding shoreline soils and enhancing aquatic habitat, and they now serve as a research site for scientific study and documentation. Most recently, the award-winning North Lake Shoreline Restoration Project added 120,000 new plants to our shoreline – visit www.chicagobotanic.org/research/shoreline/north_lake.php for more information.

The Aquatic Plant Maintenance seasonal staff will work closely with the Garden's Director of Restoration Ecology and the Assistant Ecologist, Lakes to maintain these new shoreline plantings. Typical work responsibilities for this position include removal of weedy/invasive plant and algae species, replanting due to plant mortality or herbivory, and other maintenance activities to support robust plant communities and aesthetic shoreline conditions. Staff in this position are provided with an exceptional opportunity to learn identification of over 200 taxa of native wetland plants while gaining a better understanding of lake shoreline erosion control strategies and shoreline ecology.

Candidates for this position should have coursework and/or work experience in botany, environmental studies, aquatic horticulture, or closely related fields. Candidates must have a strong work ethic, function well in both team and individual work assignments, and possess a high comfort level being in and around water and an ability to swim should the need arise in an emergency. Employees must be able to operate row boats and trolling motors, be able to walk across uneven terrain and bend over for extended periods of time (e.g., pulling weeds), and have an ability to lift and carry 35 pounds.

The 2016 employment term for these positions begins in April/May and continues through at least August, with several workers’ schedules expected to extend until mid-December. The compensation rate is $12.50 per hour. The normal work schedule is Monday through Friday, 6:30 am – 3:00 pm. Paid holidays and one personal day per four months of employment are provided; health insurance benefits may be available for employees scheduled to work longer than six months.

To be considered for this position, please email an introduction letter and detailed resume to Bob Kirschner at the Chicago Botanic Garden: bkirschn@chicagobotanic.org. No telephone calls, please. Applicants are encouraged to submit their materials by February 12, 2016.

To learn more about the Chicago Botanic Garden, visit www.chicagobotanic.org