

Advertisement for prospective graduate students:

Master's degree or Ph.D. in Ecosystem Science and Management (College of Agricultural Sciences)

and

Graduate Assistantship at Shaver's Creek Environmental Center focused on Plant Science

November 2018

Context

The Department of Ecosystem Science and Management is a world-class department in the College of Agricultural Sciences and is Pennsylvania's leader in preparing students for careers in sustainable management of natural resources.

Shaver's Creek Environmental Center (SCEC) is a field lab for Penn State students seeking experience in wildlife conservation education, environmental education, and human-nature connections. Shaver's Creek collaborates across all colleges in the University, as well as serving the wider community through engagement with schools, government agencies, and the general public.

Research (Master's or Ph.D. level)

We are looking for a graduate student whose research interests are in the areas of native or invasive forest plants, ethnobotany, non-timber forest products and/or plant conservation. The chair of the student's committee will be Ecosystem Science and Management faculty member and Shaver's Creek Plant Science Program Director, Dr. Eric Burkhart. His research program in Pennsylvania is focused on developing sustainable wild crop management and production systems for American ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*), goldenseal (*Hydrastis canadensis*), ramps (*Allium tricoccum*) and other native forest plants using agroforestry cultivation and plant husbandry.

Graduate Assistantship at Shaver's Creek

The assistantship for this research is for a 2-year period (Master's degree) or a 5-year period (PhD). The successful candidate will be a student in Ecosystem Science and Management where they will work each semester for 5 hours per week as a research assistant. For Shaver's Creek, they will work in the fall semester for 15 hours per week primarily as a teaching assistant for FOR 203 (Field Dendrology); in the spring, they will work for 15 hours per week primarily as a teaching assistant for FOR 303 (Forest Herbaceous Plants) and FOR 403 (Invasive Forest Plant Identification, Ecology and Management). The logistics of working between campus and Shaver's Creek means that use of personal car is necessary.

Candidate information

- The successful candidate will be highly motivated and have a demonstrable interest and background in plant sciences and forest management.
- The assistantship covers tuition fees and a generous stipend for 9 months of the year (fall and spring semesters).
- We will begin seeking applicants during the spring of 2019, and the successful candidate will begin studies in August 2019 (fall semester).
- Further information: Please direct questions to Dr. Eric Burkhart (Ecosystem Science and Management faculty and Shaver's Creek Environmental Center faculty) epb6@psu.edu or Dr. Lucy McClain (Graduate Assistant Coordinator, Shaver's Creek Environmental Center), lucy@psu.edu
- Application Procedure: For more information on graduate studies and application processes see: <https://ecosystems.psu.edu/graduateprograms/forest-resources/apply>