

Dillon L. Epping

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EDUCATION:

Bachelor of Science degree: May 15, 2015

University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point

MAJOR: Water Resources

GIS Certificate: January 2018 – Present

Northeastern Illinois University

RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE:

Aquatic Plant Maintenance

Chicago Botanic Garden

April 2017-Present

- Responsible for maintaining and installing the half-million native aquatic and shoreline plants that have been added along 4.5 miles of the garden's lake-shore
- Proficient in identifying over 100 native and invasive aquatic/riparian plant species
- Experienced in the use of brush mowers and various landscaping tools/equipment
- Able to identify a multitude of species bloom times, used for seed collection and management purposes
- Completed multiple shoreline restoration surveys
- Reliable for teaching and instructing new team members on various ecological practices and techniques
- Basic knowledge of ecological landscape planning and design
- Able to launch and operate a watercraft

Aquaculture Technician

May 2016-April 2017

Aquaterra Farms

- Raised and cared for Arctic Char in recirculating aquaculture systems
- Maintained and repaired system components, such as filters, flowmeters, piping and pumps
- Aided in the development of proper feed regimes and growth models for Char
- Helped in designing and building aquaculture system components such as feeders, fresh water lines and fiberglass tanks
- Developed a water quality monitoring program to insure proper fish health
- Proficient in using a plethora of power tools and building materials
- Able to operate large machinery such as a farm tractor (with bucket and forks)
- Able to lift and carry 50lbs or more

**Regional Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator for Portage,
Waupaca and Waushara Counties**

April 2015-April 2016

Golden Sands Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc.

- Coordinated aquatic invasive species outreach and education programs in three counties with DNR, UW-Extension, County Conservationists and volunteers.
- Led a multiple county Galerucella rearing project, producing over 250,000 insects to combat the spread of Purple Loosestrife
- Organized and instructed 12 aquatic invasive species identification, monitoring and removal trainings with volunteers and students
- Proficient in submergent and emergent aquatic plant identification
- Conducted visual and point-intercept aquatic plant surveys, using GPS, to develop maps for lake groups
- Completed a county wide Shoreline Habitat Assessment Survey in Green Lake County
- Managed employee payroll, company finances and other administrative duties for Golden Sands RC&D
- Co-created a company regional strategic plan for 2016

Ecological Restoration Intern

Summer 2012

Dr. David Rogers, University of Wisconsin Parkside, Kenosha WI

- Conducted prairie plant surveys from over 100 transects at Chiwaukee Prairie and Illinois Beach State Park
- Completed a tree inventory for the entire UW Parkside campus for future research and management
- Cataloged and organized over 500 plant specimens for the campus herbarium
- Met multiple deadlines while working cooperatively with fellow interns
- Experience using Excel spreadsheets for cataloging, transferring and storing data
- Proficient in operating a GPS unit for finding field locations and storing plot data
- Used mapping software similar to ArcGIS to map out GPS locations
- Facilitated a clean work environment and properly cared for equipment to ensure quality project results

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ ORGANIZATIONS:

Permaculture Initiative of Kenosha

- Co-created the organization's facebook page
- Helped to "permablitz" a members front yard, from conventional landscape to an edible permaculture
- Participated in a Garlic Mustard management project located at Hawthorne Hollow

CERTIFICATIONS/ MISCELLANEOUS SKILLS:

- OSHA Forklift Certified
- Wisconsin Driver License

REFERENCES:

Peter Nagle
Chicago Botanic Garden
1000 Lake Cook Rd.
Glencoe, IL 60022
847-309-9840
pnagle@chicagobotanic.org

Kyle Woolever
Superior Fresh
W15506 Superior Fresh Drive
Hixton, WI 54635
262-325-6654
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Amy Thorstenson
Golden Sands RC&D's Executive Director
1100 Main St. Suite #150
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