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ENST 396.01: Supervised Internship (PEAS)

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ENST 396

Autumn PEAS 2016 Supervised Internship

Aug 29th – Oct 21st

2 credits

Instructor: Josh Slotnick, 239-6993, joshua.slotnick@umontana.edu

Teaching assistants: Hannah Oblock, Jac Sussman

Ian Wilder 406-529-1474

Background on the farm

The PEAS farm is the result of a partnership between EVST and the non-profit Garden City Harvest (GCH). GCH supplies the operating expenses to run the farm, and EVST sends the labor, in the form of students and a teacher. GCH's primary missions are to grow high quality food for low-income people, and to offer educational opportunities in ecological food production. In addition to the partnership in the PEAS farm, GCH also manages two other neighborhood farms in Missoula and 9 community gardens. The Missoula Public School district owns the land and leases the property to the City of Missoula. The City then subleases to GCH. The farm has been in operation since 1997, and has been in the Rattlesnake since 2002.

What you will do

You will be involved in all of the following activities:

CSA Harvest

The PEAS farm operates a 100 member CSA. A CSA is like a magazine subscription, but instead of receiving a magazine once a month; our CSA members get an allotment of produce each week from the beginning of June to the first week of October. We harvest for our CSA on Mondays and Thursdays. The members come and pick-up their food between 4:30 and 6. On Mondays 23 households get their food at the Garden City Harvest Office at McCormick park, we pre-box these shares and a volunteer drives them down to the office at 4:00, the remaining 28 Monday households get their food at the farm. All the Thursday CSA members pick up their food at the farm. Some of the CSA members have also purchased flowers, so we will harvest flowers as well as vegetables on harvest days and make bouquets.

Food Bank Harvest

In addition to bringing the CSA leftovers to the food bank, we custom grow 3 crops for the food bank: onions, winter squash, and carrots. We will do these harvests in September/October. We will harvest, and then cure, thousands of pounds of onions and squash. The carrots we will wash and bag, and then send them off to the food bank, where they will go quickly. We do onions and winter squash because the food bank can store these crops without refrigeration.

Gleaning

We operate a service to Missoula whereby we will come to a person's yard and pick their unwanted fruit. "Gleaning", means a second harvest, after the best has been picked. In this case, nothing has been picked and we come in to clean up. We began doing this a few years ago, focusing on the rattlesnake, to reduce the potential for negative bear interactions in the neighborhood. We have since spread across the town –we'll pick apples anywhere. We bring good-looking apples to the food bank, the beat-up ones we save for our cider pressing/pumpkin carving event the Saturday before Halloween. We typically go on gleaning runs on Tues/Wed afternoons.

Irrigation and Weekend watering

As long as the weather stays warm, irrigation is relentless. You will help to set up pipes, fuss with the drip irrigation in the field south of the parking lot and in the greenhouse, hoop house and orchard. We will need some help these first few weekends, if you can help with that you can buy yourself some free time during the coming week.

General farm maintenance

We will pull weeds, plant cover crop, help with compost, pull up drip tape, store supplies for next spring, do all the necessary tasks for keeping the farm running this fall and setting us up for next spring.

Other programs and people you will see on the farm

Ethan Smith

Ethan is GCH's Operations Manager, he watches over the infrastructure at all the neighborhood farms, and he is the main person responsible for our field work, orchard and composting operation. His home base is the PEAS farm and you will see him often. He also teaches a graduate course in Agro-ecology and is a great resource.

Ian Wilder is our caretaker. He lives in the apartment above the barn. The farm is a public space, it is ours, and it is his. If an ethic of respect pervades all our actions we can continue to live in relative harmony.

Tami McDaniel, and Youth Harvest

Tami runs GCH's Youth Harvest program and coordinates Mobile Market. She has overseen the work of a handful of Missoula teens at the farm all summer. Some of these kids will continue working at the farm this fall. On Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays YH also has a mobile market, they drive off in our big red panel van and set up markets at a handful of retirement homes in Missoula.

Jason Mandala and Farm to School

Shortly you will begin to see organized hordes of children descend on the farm. Jason and GCH's Farm to School program, host these field trips for hundreds of Missoula schoolchildren. Jason also teaches the EVST course, Practicum in Sustainable Ag. Education. The students in this course lead many of the field trips and get the opportunity to learn some hand-on instructional skills.

Wed. Afternoon Class.

Wed. afternoons all the students in Fall PEAS come to the farm. In this linked section class I will talk more in depth about what we are doing at the farm and why. Attendance is mandatory.

Grades

This is an internship course. However, you should keep a journal with an entry for each week, starting next week. Entries should reference the Wed section course, as well as something you did during the week. Journal's are due the last week of the PEAS farm season. A journal entry should be no longer than a page, but long enough to show that you thought a bit about what you saw and did. A journal can include photos. Your attendance should be near perfect. If you can't make it at your section time, call me. Having a paper/test in another course is not a suitable cause for missing the farm.

Journal: 50 points

Attendance and Enthusiasm: 50 points