

2013 Interns Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens

Here are brief informal bios of interns who applied and were selected for important seasonal positions at the Gardens. Please give them a warm welcome when you meet them.

Business Management Intern: Alexander Morris

Alexander is a Colby College junior majoring in economics and Spanish with a minor in math. He was born in San Francisco and grew up just ten minutes north of the Golden Gate Bridge with a great love for the outdoors. He has made several visits to extended family in South Africa, where both his parents were born and spent their first 30 years before coming to the U.S. and attaining citizenship. Alexander's objective is to learn all he can about running a small business. He is planning for a technical career when he graduates, perhaps starting as an analyst, and was very intrigued with the fact that this position will give him hands-on experience – from understanding the business plan to assisting in running the operation, to analyzing data that will help us make decisions for continued success. He is particularly interested in the new POS system and hopes for opportunities where he can apply his talents in technology to help us maximize its potential.

Alexander is also an athlete who plays tennis, soccer and a college passion – ultimate Frisbee. His time on the East Coast has been limited to Colby College during the school year, and he is looking forward to the treat of a Maine summer! Board member Bob Boyd, a Gardens founder, and his wife, Kitty, have agreed to host Alexander in their home for the coming season.

Environmental Education Intern: Jessica Helmbold

Jessica comes to us from the Patuxent Research Refuge in Laurel, Maryland, where she has worked since 2009. She has held several positions there, including biology assistant, recreation assistant for the National Wildlife Visitor Center, and environmental education and interpretation intern. She holds an M.S. in environmental science from Taylor University and a B.A. in biology from Franklin College, both in Indiana. She is a native of Baltimore, Maryland, and enjoys nature photography, sewing, and gardening. She will be here at the Gardens Wednesday through Sunday from May until October.

Horticulture Intern: Carrington Flatness

Carrington is a senior in Horticulture at Iowa State University and will be graduating with a bachelor of science in May, 2013. Her hometown is Mazon, Illinois. She attended Joliet Junior College in Illinois, receiving an associate's degree in floral design in 2011. When not digging in the dirt, she loves to read, see Broadway plays and musicals, and listen to music (especially *a cappella* music). She can't wait to meet everyone!

Horticulture Intern: Kristin Neill

Kristin was born and raised in Greensboro, N.C. She is a freshman at North Carolina State University with a double major in horticulture and plant biology and a minor in biological sciences. Kristin's passion in her studies is with plant propagation of vegetables and ornamentals. In her free time she loves to ride horses and sail. She has been riding horses competitively since she was 9. She recently joined the sailing club at NC State and loves to go sailing with the team on the weekends.

Pearson Horticulture Intern: Montana Williams

Montana is a Coloradoan, a term he feels illustrates his identity by expressing his innate love for nature and the outdoors. He is active in his community and volunteers with the local senior center and the Northern Colorado AIDS Project. He attends Colorado State University in his hometown, Fort Collins, and will graduate this May with a bachelor of science degree in horticulture and a minor in business administration. While attending CSU, he was awarded the A.M. Binkley Scholarship for academic achievement and during his college career has remained a consistent member of Phi Alpha Xi, the horticulture honor society. During his sophomore year, he worked for the CSU Annual Trial Gardens and last summer interned with Fort Collins' own public garden, the Gardens on Spring Creek, an experience that helped cement his decision to pursue a career in public horticulture. As a horticulturist, he wants to work towards reducing our impact on the environment through more sustainable gardening practices and

help educate the public on how they, too, can add beauty to their own landscapes while protecting our precious natural resources.

Social Media Marketing Intern: Pete Kilpatrick

Pete will join the Marketing team in May as our summer intern. He will graduate from University of Southern Maine's School of Business in May with a B.S. in marketing and a minor in environmental sustainability. After high school Pete began pursuing a music career and in the past 13 years has performed more than 1,200 concerts as the leader of the Pete Kilpatrick Band and sold more than 30,000 albums. He has performed with Dave Matthews, Ray Lamontagne, John Popper, and others. Pete has cleverly used his marketing skills to promote his band and album sales through social media, word of mouth, radio, and print. Pete's responsibilities at CMBG will include creating and coordinating social media communications and assisting with ongoing marketing efforts to help us build awareness and enhance the guest experience. His goal is to gain practical, hands-on marketing experience as he launches his new career. Pete and his wife, Molly, have a one-year old son and live in Brunswick.

Volunteer Coordinator Assistant Intern: Fang Fei Chen

Fang Fei Chen (Fei for short!) will be entering her senior year at Bates College in the fall of 2013, earning a bachelor of arts degree in sociology with a minor in anthropology. She has extensive experience in human resource management, including work in her native China, in the Lewiston area surrounding Bates, and at Bates College itself, where she is a teaching assistant in the Chinese Department. Her experience also extends to the computer and technology, writing and research in the field of journalism, and working with volunteers. Fei believes that it's important to "never put off till tomorrow what you can do today!"

Winter Volunteer Coordinator Intern: Cathy Messmer

Cathy was the 2013 winter Volunteer Coordinator Assistant, volunteering for two half days every week from January to April. She is in her fifth year of volunteering at the Gardens and has helped out in variety of roles: working with the grounds crew, training as a docent to give both walking and cart tours, and welcoming visitors as an ambassador. During her winter volunteering, she enjoyed working in an office setting again, even after spending more than 20 years as an administrator at Drew University in New Jersey. Cathy helped the newest members of the Gardens find their volunteering niche. She also found it interesting to get a different, wintertime, perspective on the work at the Gardens as she worked beside Amanda!

Cathy has been a gardener most of her life and, even though her house on Southport is on a small lot, she and her husband, Bill, have been able to find room for both vegetables and flowers, and recently a couple of young apple trees, a sour cherry and some elderberry. In the summer, she works for Historic New England (HNE) as a guide at Castle Tucker in Wiscasset. She has also completed several research projects for HNE and will give a talk this summer on her study of the history of Wiscasset's sunken garden. She is on the board of the Friends of the Southport Historical Society, helping out at the wonderful Hendricks Hill Museum. Last but not least, she has discovered rug hooking, a craft that goes back more than 200 years, and fears she has become addicted to it! Cathy has been invaluable to the Gardens during the 2013 winter season.