

MEMPHIS



BOTANIC  
GARDEN

Home of the  
Goldsmith Civic Garden Center

### **Job Title: Native Plant Curator and Horticulturist**

Memphis Botanic Garden is a 96-acre garden in the heart of urban Memphis featuring 30 display gardens and a wide array of educational programming and community events. The Garden is currently seeking applicants for the position of Native Plant Curator & Horticulturist.

The ideal candidate is a knowledgeable and experienced horticulturist to lead and oversee our areas dedicated to ecologically minded landscaping with a focus on native plants. We are expanding our native and nature inspired spaces. It is our intention to be a leading source of knowledge, education, research, and living examples of what environmentally conscious and sustainable landscape design and care looks like in the Mid-South.

Persons applying for this job must already have a strong knowledge of native plants, and more importantly, a passion for creating nature inspired landscapes as well as sharing their passion with our visitors and fellow staff.

**Type:** Full Time / Hourly

**Reports to:** Director of Horticulture

### **The Arboretum**

The successful candidate will be responsible for the Arboretum, an approximately 3 acre portion of our campus, which is being revitalized in 2023. The area already houses a beautiful & diverse collection of trees as well as open turf grass areas. The Garden has engaged Thomas Rainer and Claudia West of Phytostudio to help us install 3 to 5 meadow areas in this space that will be dedicated to different areas of ecological value. Currently, we have a meadow dedicated to Monarch butterflies, one to birds (focused on the Goldfinch), and one called the Pecan Grove Meadow that is to be an example of sustainable landscape practices; altogether these total approximately ½ an acre of designed meadow plantings. The successful candidate will play a key role in working with the Garden and Phytostudio to bring this space to life. This garden is also connected to our Urban Home Garden and Orchard, and these two spaces together will serve as an example for Memphians and other guest as to what sustainable landscaping and organically grown food can look like in our private and public spaces. If the vision behind what we are doing excites you and you feel you have the necessary knowledge requirements, we'd love for you to apply!

**Gardens the successful candidate will also be directly involved in or oversee/assist with:**

- **Native Woodland** - We have a 4 acre native woodland that has both designed landscape elements and wild areas. Currently, we have a talented horticulturist

assigned to this area; It will be part of this role to assist with curating plants, management strategies, and act as a sounding board and peer while collaborating with them.

- **My Big Backyard** - This is our 2.5 acre children's garden that has areas dedicated to wildlife. This garden will also have an assigned horticulturalist that this role will collaborate with when maintaining and enhancing those specific areas.
- **Pollinator Garden** - This is one of our beloved gardens that has had the benefit of many talented horticulturists over the years. As our Native Plant specialist you will be able to work with this garden's assigned horticulturist to discuss how to enhance and improve this space.

#### **Scope of Work:**

- Must be able to perform garden maintenance tasks in any weather conditions. This includes tasks such as: weeding, pruning, mulching, planting, trimming, etc.
- Frequently required to lift up to 50lbs
- Able to prepare and give educational presentations and write articles on topics pertaining to your focus area
- Must be able to work well with the general public as well as organize and lead volunteers in gardening tasks
- Must be able to work 40 hours per week between the hours of 6 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday.
- Working with our Education Department to develop educational programming for adults and the over 40,000 children from school groups that visit the Garden each year.

#### **Requirements:**

**This is not an entry level position.** You must have a related degree or at least two years of relevant experience in an area directly related to this position. You will be asked general horticulture questions pertaining to gardening practices and native plants in your interview, and you need to be able to demonstrate a good level of foundational knowledge.

- Bachelor's degree or higher in a relevant field
- At least two years experience or more in a directly related professional field. This does not mean a local nursery or an organic farm. While those are wonderful areas, they are not directly related to this position. Working in a native plant nursery, conservation team, design firm, or other botanical institution focused on ecologically minded landscapes, etc. are what would be considered directly related.
- Practical and verifiable working knowledge of areas described above

#### **Work Culture Expectations:**

You will be part of a team of passionate and hardworking staff. We support each other and work closely together, at times for long hours, often in tough conditions. The ability to have a positive attitude, work hard, get along with co-workers, and so forth is as important as your horticultural knowledge and skill sets. You will need to bring a positive attitude and energy to our workplace culture. Negative practices such as gossip, complaining, and laziness bring the entire team down and will not be tolerated.

**Physical Requirements:**

- Ability to stand for long periods of time
- Ability to stoop, kneel, crouch, crawl, climb, balance
- May be required to perform tasks at varying heights requiring ladders
- Hearing and visual acuity including close, distance, color, peripheral vision, depth perception, and the ability to adjust focus
- Ability to lift/move up to 10 pounds regularly, frequently up to 50 pounds

**Typical Working Conditions:**

- Regularly works outdoors in both hot and cold conditions
- Frequently exposed to wet and/or humid conditions
- Occasionally exposed to risk of fumes, airborne particles, toxic or caustic chemicals
- Often exposed to loud noise levels

**Special Requirements:**

- Must submit to and pass a background check and drug screening.

Compensation is commensurate with education, skills, and experience. Full benefits package offered.

If interested, email resume, cover letter, and at least three professional references to Daniel Grose, Director of Horticulture, at [daniel.grose@membg.org](mailto:daniel.grose@membg.org)