



## **THOUSAND ISLANDS LAND TRUST JOB DESCRIPTION – Watercraft Inspection Stewards**

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**Background:** The Thousand Islands Land Trust (TILT) is a regional community-based nonprofit organization founded in 1984 and incorporated as an independent, nonprofit 501(c)3 organization in 1985.

TILT's mission is to conserve the natural beauty, diverse wildlife habitats, water quality and outdoor recreation opportunities of the Thousand Islands region, for present and future generations.

TILT works with private landowners, community and government leaders, and various conservation partners to conserve flora and fauna, water and air quality, and our region's important environmental features. The goal of TILT's work is a greater quality of life, an improved foundation for the economy, and an enhanced environment.

Since 1984, TILT has helped lead land conservation efforts in the Thousand Islands. Today, TILT protects over 11,000 acres of sensitive habitat, which supports the overall health of the St. Lawrence River ecosystem. TILT was awarded National Accreditation by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission in 2009 and Reaccreditation in 2014 and again in 2020.

In partnership with SLELO PRISM (St. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management) TILT implements invasive species management practices to protect native habitats, biodiversity, natural areas, and freshwater resources emphasizing the prevention, early detection, rapid response, and education and outreach of invasive species.

As part of TILT and SLELO PRISM, Watercraft Inspection Stewards provide public education and outreach at boat launches regarding statewide Clean, Drain, Dry practices in order to help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species. Stewards collect data daily from the public using the Survey123 Watercraft Inspection Steward Program Application (WISPA).

Stewards work independently and travel frequently between various boat launch locations throughout the SLELO PRISM region (including Jefferson, St. Lawrence, Oneida, Lewis and Oswego counties).

### **Job Description:**

Playing a critical role in invasive species management, Stewards will visit assigned boat launch locations around the region to interact with the public and gather recreational boater information, conduct voluntary watercraft and equipment inspections, and familiarize the public with aquatic invasive species. Stewards will be responsible for monitoring two (2) boat launches within close geographic proximity to each other and will operate with a high degree of independence.

These responsibilities include: conducting watercraft inspections, data collection and administering voluntary surveys, identification and management of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS), and interactions with the public and distribution of educational materials.

The Watercraft Inspection Steward is an hourly, seasonal paid position that reports to the TILT Education and Outreach Coordinator. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, the following—

Primary Responsibilities:

1. Deliver existing education and outreach to the general public regarding standardized Clean, Drain, Dry practices and Aquatic Invasive Species
2. Demonstrates proper AIS preventative boat cleaning and launching techniques
3. Visually inspect boats for AIS
4. Interact with program participants (recreational boaters, anglers, other park patrons, and others) as part of program delivery
5. Use tablet (provided) to record survey and inspection data through digital survey
6. Ensure consistent and quality data collection and management including daily uploads
7. Physical removal of AIS in provided disposal location
8. Maintenance of field equipment and AIS portable disposal stations

Secondary Responsibilities:

1. Represent TILT, SLELO PRISM and NYS DEC (as funder) before the public as part of program delivery

Qualifications:

1. High school diploma or equivalent required. 1-2+ years of study or training in biology, ecology, natural resources, environmental science or other applicable scientific experience preferred
2. Prior experience working with the public and/or providing education or outreach of some type preferred
3. Ability to approach the public in a respectful and courteous manner
4. Highly self-motivated and responsible
5. Ability to work independently, work within teams, and take direction from supervisors
6. Excellent written and verbal communication skills and outgoing personality
7. Attention to detail
8. Interest in and familiarity with AIS management and the Eastern Lake Ontario region and/or the St. Lawrence River
9. Familiarity with the basics of boating, angling, and outdoor recreation
10. Ability to swim
11. Must have a valid driver's license, reliable transportation and a good driving record

Locations:

Watercraft Inspection Stewards will be assigned to two launches near one of the following locations.

Exact launch locations subject to change at the discretion of TILT and SLELO PRISM. Applicants should list their preferred boat launch locations in their cover letter.

- Massena
- Heuvelton
- Redwood
- Clayton
- Cape Vincent
- Three Mile Bay
- Sackets Harbor
- Henderson Harbor
- Ellisburg (Lakeview WMA)
- Lake Bonaparte
- Pulaski
- Oswego
- Oneida Lake
- Rome

### Working Conditions:

Training on all program aspects including AIS identification, will be provided jointly by TILT and SLELO PRISM Representatives. Stewards will work outdoors at assigned boat launches and are responsible for their own transportation and housing. Activities will occur in variable weather conditions. Knowledge of freshwater resources, aquatic invasive species and previous boating experience is a plus.

### Dates, hours and compensation:

The Watercraft Inspection Steward is a 40 hours per week position, beginning with a paid, mandatory 3-day training from May 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> and starting their roles on May 29<sup>th</sup>. Position is expected to end on Monday, September 6<sup>th</sup> with some opportunities for extension. TILT is looking to hire a total of 10 Stewards.

Typical work week is Thursday through Monday, with some holiday weekend work required (Memorial Day, Monday following July 4<sup>th</sup>, Labor Day). Some local travel is required. Wages will start at \$14/hour.

### **To Apply**

**Applications are due by March 31<sup>st</sup>, but will be reviewed as received; starting January 15<sup>th</sup>.**

Applications should include a cover letter describing your interest and qualifications and preferred locations, a resume, and contact information for two (2) professional references. Please send to Alaina Young, TILT Education and Outreach Coordinator, at [ayoung@tilandtrust.org](mailto:ayoung@tilandtrust.org) or Thousand Islands Land Trust, P.O. Box 238, Clayton NY 13624. In order to expedite the internal sorting and reviewing process; please write your name (Last, First) and Watercraft Inspection Steward as the subject line of your email. More information about the Thousand Islands Land Trust may be found at: [www.TILandTrust.org](http://www.TILandTrust.org). No phone calls or faxes, please.