



Maine Coastal Island Refuge

Christopher J. Dupree

Biology Major

Grambling State University

The Journey

The journey to my 2010 SCA Internship began in my home town of Arcadia in north central Louisiana. It ended along the coastline of northern Maine in Milbridge. My journey covered 15 states and over 1,800 miles. My biggest worry entering the intern was definitely the climate differences, but come to find out, it can get pretty warm up north as well. Although I knew I would miss my family and friends, this was something I wanted to do. So my journey began.

Overview

While on my internship I worked at the Maine Coastal Island National Wildlife Refuge where I worked under the supervision of Mr. Jim Fortier. He and I along with staff and other members of the SCA worked on many of the refuges coastal property, improving it for the wildlife and visitors alike. The refuge contains more than 50 offshore islands and four coastal parcels, totaling more than 8,100 acres. The complex spans more than 250 miles of Maine coastline and includes five national wildlife refuges: Petit Manan, Cross Island, Franklin Island, Seal Island, and Pond Island. The primary focus at the refuge is restoring and managing colonies of nesting seabirds.

The refuge islands provide habitat for common, Arctic, and endangered roseate terns; Atlantic puffins; razorbills; black guillemots, and many other seabirds. Also throughout the refuge many other different types of birds such as bald eagle can be found, which makes the refuges very popular for bird watching and hiking.



Job Description

- *Managing trails & build bridges along swampy areas.*
- *Assist biologist with migratory island bird surveying.*
- *Managing blueberry fields and shrub areas.*
- *Assist in invasive species control*
- *Assist in refuge Maintenance*
- *Provide interruptive services for refuge visitors*
- *Perform routine island maintenance*
- *Enhance riparian environment along*



My Evaluation

My 2010 SCA Internship at Maine Coastal Islands Nation Wildlife Refuge was a great experience, hard to put in words. I got a chance to work alongside some of the best when it comes to providing a better environment for the wildlife and people who share it. Mr. Fortier and the rest of the refuges staff made sure I was fully prepared for our daily work excursions. We worked tirelessly on our many tasks, doing them to the best of our ability and completing in a timely fashion. We were routinely joined by the staff; their way of showing their appreciation. Not all was the work thorough; I got a chance to visit many of the refuges islands and other properties. My 2010 SCA Internship was a success and I enjoyed every minute of it.



Last Thoughts

As I sit back and think about it, this summer has flown by. All I really remember, from day 1, is thinking, “what have I gotten myself into”. As the days went on I began to embrace my surrounding and realized what a wonderful opportunity I had been presented with. I appreciate everything the staff, here at the refuge, has done to make this such a enjoyable experience. Although, only for a summer, I’ve learned so much from everyone which I will never forget. As my time here winds, down all I want to say is “thank you” to everyone, for accepting me in and making me feel at home, thousands of miles away from Louisiana.

