

## VOLUNTEER JOB DESCRIPTION

**TITLE:** Historian Volunteer  
**LOCATION:** Chinsegut Nature Center & Wildlife Environmental Area  
**SUPERVISOR:** Chinsegut Nature Center Director

### **Background:**

The Chinsegut Wildlife and Environmental Area and Nature Center (CWEA) is unique in the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) wildlife management system, as it is the only area managed specifically with the goal of providing conservation education programs to the public.

The CWEA is composed of two tracts. The 408-acre Nature Center Tract contains rolling sandhills and scenic Mays Prairie, hiking trails and boardwalks, and a 49-person capacity Nature Center. The 420 - acre Big Pine tract also contains hiking trails, is open to the public anytime and has the distinction of being one of the largest contiguous (and the southern-most) tracts of old-growth longleaf pine in Florida. The diverse natural communities of the CWEA provide habitats attractive to many wildlife species (including several that are endangered or species of special concern).

Chinsegut has a long compelling history starting from its first Native American inhabitants through the Bishop family whose homestead is found on the area through the purchase of the area by Colonel Raymond Robins, responsible for bequeathing the property to various government entities.

### **Position Responsibilities:**

The Historian volunteer's principle responsibilities are to become knowledgeable of the history of Chinsegut, organize existing historical documents, news clippings and other materials as well as to set up a system to acquire and organize new and current information, so that visitors and staff have more readily available access to the body of historical information available. Descendants of the Bishop family who knew about the homestead at Chinsegut are still living. An opportunity exists to record their live testimony before its too late. The goal is to use the documentation of the history of Chinsegut to provide insights about conservation efforts in the past, for educational purposes, and for insight for making informed management decisions today.

### **Assigned Tasks:**

- Become knowledgeable of the History of Chinsegut WEA, Colonel Robins, and the Bishop family

- Review and organize documents, news clippings, photographs, artifacts and memorabilia about Chinsegut into accessible binders, photo albums or filing system.
- Develop a budget for appropriate storage and display of historical documents and artifacts.
- Contribute to or develop an interpretive program about Chinsegut History
- Conduct and record cultural history interviews with the Bishop family descendants
- Complete associated tasks as assigned by The Nature Center Director
- Assist The Nature Center and WEA visitors as needed

• **Skills/Previous Experience/Qualifications:**

- Must possess a valid driver's license Excellent verbal and written communication skills Strong research skills
- Experienced in local history of Hernando and Pasco counties highly desirable
- Excellent organizational skills
- Experience with word processing programs and internet search engines
- Ability to lift 25 pounds

**Requirements:**

- Complete required orientation and training
- Complete appropriate application and other administrative forms correctly
- Accurately record volunteer hours
- Contribute at least 24 hours of scheduled work each month
- Study history of the Chinsegut WEA
- Be willing to pursue additional professional development opportunities

**Benefits:** This volunteer position will provide an excellent learning opportunity for those interested in historical research and teaching.

**Length of Commitment:** There is a fairly large collection of news clippings as well as even more materials waiting to be collected. Even more importantly these need to be catalogued, and displayed in a way that can be easily used. A commitment of 100 hours per year is suggested.

**Equipment Issued:** Materials necessary for cataloguing, storage and documentation,

- Uniform T-shirt
- Nametag
- Volunteer Handbook
- Educational and training materials

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Chinsegut Nature Center Director      Date

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Chinsegut Interpreter      Date  
VolunteerGJB02/2004