

Dear Moore Farms Staff,

I wanted to write a letter of thanks to each and every one of you. This letter is long over due, seeing how I meant to write something of the sort months ago, while the memories were still fresh. However, the memories are still as crisp as the day I left, the happenings of time well spent and an impact that was made by the goings on of such a well-educated and amply talented crew of individuals. The semi-absurd amount of pictures helps as well.

I was not sure what to expect interviewing at a private botanical garden, in rural South Carolina, under the supervision of men with names like Jenks Farmer and Evan Clements. It seemed to me that it may be a possible test of my resolve to cope with the nuances of right vs. left, conservative vs. liberal, rural vs. urban and the like. Arriving for my interview shed light on what can only be described as me judging books by their covers, when nothing should be judged until thorough evaluation has occurred. Everyone that I met that night, the following day, and the months to come were exceptionally educated in their fields, and incredibly devoted to furthering education, and bettering their communities and state.

As a Landscape Design Student, the goal for my internship at Moore Farms was to develop the skills needed to promote sustainability through the incorporation of more edibles into the normally ornamental aspects of residential, and even potentially commercial landscape design. What better way to do this than going to a garden/farm practicing exactly what I was trying to learn? What I didn't expect was that I would develop an incredible appreciation and respect for horticulture and agriculture, as well as their practitioners. Enough so, that I plan on finishing my design degree, and pursuing horticulture instead of landscape architecture at the graduate level.

The amount of time, thought, experience, and expense that was shared with us as interns was incredible. I was able to witness so many different aspects of the field in which I am interested. I was able to experience California for the first time, touring gardens, and small organic farms. We were able to tour botanical gardens around the south east, not only having guided tours by the curators of these gardens, but also being able to experience them with guys like Ethan Kauffman, Madison Turnblad, and Jenks, who are as knowledgeable as the curators themselves. Working with Evan everyday (and that boy can work), really gave me insight to the amount of trials, disappointments, and joys of an organic production farm trying to be profitable. The South Carolina summer sun is a relentless trial all it's own out in that field, and then add up the nut sedge, crabgrass, ants, squash bugs, vine borers, grasshoppers, and caterpillars. I salute you Evan Clements. Also thanks to Bob Waites, I gained insight from you in regards to the over seeing of this operation, from a contractors/business management perspective. I am not sure that I would want to fill your shoes.

Another incredible aspect of this internship was the networking that is so highly promoted. Not just with the staff on hand, but all of the guests we

entertained, nurseries and gardens toured, and the meeting and greeting that was involved with all of it. We really did meet a ton of people. I really enjoy the kinship that I felt amongst the horticulture community, as well as the kinship that I felt with the Moore Farms staff. Monday night dinners were one of my favorite thing about this summer, don't let the lackadaisical attitudes of some ruin that tradition, because it's a great one. I really do want you all to know that I sincerely appreciate the opportunities, the education, and the direction I received this past summer. I am sure that I will be back to visit, and will probably keep in touch with most of you. An admonishment to future intern would be this, be careful coming to the farm if you have plans of pursuing something other than horticulture, they will turn you! It wasn't even right away for me, but it did happen.

Sincerely,

J. Dan Appel