Side job – residential landscape planning, execution, and maintenance
$11 an hour plus gas money; part-time for about 8 or 9 weeks; some work on-site, some without coming to site.
Deadline: June 18

The number of hours would be 5 to 10 hours a week for about five weeks. The hours would likely taper off after that to fewer hours per week for, perhaps, three or four more weeks, but the total amount of work is not exactly predictable. Most of the work would be at my home in Charlotte, about 20 miles from downtown Lansing. But some of the work would not require coming to my home. I would pay $9 per hour plus a bonus of $2 more per hour for every hour worked if the student completes all the work assigned. The bonus would be paid at the end of the summer job. The work during daylight hours could be at almost any time of day any day of the week. This would give the student flexibility to work around putting in hours s/he is working at another job. For every trip out to my home, I would pay $5 to help cover the cost of gas.

TASKS:

1. Take stock of every inch of my yard (under 1/3 acre but heavily landscaped by the previous owners and, a little, by me), identify specifically all the plants, including trees, and do a drawing with annotations showing what I’ve got and where everything is.

2. Design changes to the landscaping to solve problems. Lay out in writing (probably with drawings) exactly what needs to be done. These tasks will include lots of consultation with me about what’s driving me crazy, what I’m unable to maintain, what I like, and so on. Obviously, this requires knowledge of what kind of plants will do well in different locations.

3. Even before completing tasks #1 and #2 above, tackle the obvious pressing problem areas that need attention right now just for maintenance. This is largely physical labor, not head work.

4. Carry out all the steps for changing the landscaping that the student is able to do unaided. Some work may require, I kind of assume, retaining one or more contractors with the right equipment or whatever is needed.

5. Create a master maintenance guide for everything in the redesigned yard telling what to do (or have done) how often and when. This should be easy to follow, matched to a drawing of the yard, full of detail, and clear about what specific products and services I need and where to get them, and clear about tools.

6. As we go along, carry out various maintenance tasks beyond the obvious problems mentioned in task #3 that the student tackled first.

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