NATIVE MUSSEL PROGRAM
Internship 2017

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Center for Aquatic Mollusk Programs

Position Description: The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will be filling up to 4 internship positions to assist with freshwater mussel surveys, monitoring, host identification, and propagation of endangered freshwater mussels. The position will be based in Lake City, Minnesota, but will travel statewide. Start date is somewhat flexible, but is expected to begin by May 22, and continue to at least August 30 (POSSIBLY extending through May 21, 2018).

Duties include (but are not limited to):
- Diving in large rivers such as the Mississippi and St. Croix
- Sampling mussels in streams, rivers, and lakes while snorkeling or diving
- Excavating and sorting quadrat samples
- Endangered mussel propagation and reintroduction
- Assisting with mussel host identification in the laboratory
- Meticulous data recording and sample tracking
- Maintaining and organizing field and SCUBA equipment
- Operating computer notebook, light microscope, and GPS receiver
- Collecting and maintaining live native fish species in aquaria and large holding tanks
- General laboratory maintenance and cleaning
- Operating state vehicles and motor boats; towing and launching boats

Required Qualifications: Open water SCUBA certification and Class D Driver's License or equivalent are required. Interns must be enrolled in a degree seeking biology (or related) program.

Preferred Qualifications: Mussel and fish identification experience, Responsible, Self motivated, Excitement for biology. Competency with Microsoft Office applications.

Working Conditions: The position is based out of Lake City, 1hr 15min southeast of St. Paul in the Mississippi River Valley. Workweek is usually M-Th or M-F and some weekends, but could extend for up to 8-days on occasion. Applicants should be comfortable in the water, and prepared to work long hours in a variety of field and weather conditions (sometimes in uncomfortably cool water). Must work well with others for long periods, requires travel throughout Minnesota, and frequently involves staying in motels. Workers are responsible for their own housing and living expenses. However, lodging costs for overnight stays while traveling for work will be paid by the DNR, and meal expenses during those periods will be reimbursed. SCUBA equipment and wetsuits will be supplied by the DNR.

Wage: $12.00/hour (40 hours/week)
Questions? Contact bernard.sietman@state.mn.us

Snuffbox
Epioblasma triquetra