Summer 2021 Aquatic Research Technician Position

Project Title: Enhancing habitat and diversity in cattail-dominated shorelines

Overall Project description: Invasive, hybrid cattail have expanded into Minnesota nearshore lake zones, altering habitat for fishes and displacing native plant species. Our objective is to understand the effects of hybrid cattail invasion on the ecological dynamics of nearshore lake communities across Minnesota. We will compare regional effects of cattail removal on nearshore lake ecosystems in 20+ lakes across ecoregions of Minnesota by measuring water quality variables, identifying plants, and sampling and identifying fishes.

Term of Service: June through late August 2021.

Location: The project will be based in St. Paul, MN but travel throughout the state of Minnesota is required.

Compensation: $12.50 per hour for approximately 40 hours per week. Work days/hours may be variable and include weekends.

Primary duties (Job #340798):
- Travel to 20 + lakes across Minnesota throughout the summer for extensive field work.
- Set and retrieve minnow traps to collect and identify fishes.
- Help identify and enumerate nearshore plant species.
- Measure water quality and other physical habitat variables in the field.
- Collect and record accurate, detailed field data and notes.
- Properly care for all sampling equipment, follow safety procedures, and follow animal use permit requirements.

Skills required:
- Must be organized, responsible, detail orientated, and willing to work as a team member.
- Must be able to conduct field work under all outdoor conditions (rain, heat, wind, bugs)
- Must be able to hike 4 miles carrying up to 40 lbs of equipment over uneven and/or steep terrain
- Must have a valid driver’s license and good driving record
- Must be comfortable working in/around water and canoeing/kayaking to some sites
- Must be comfortable camping for at least two weeks
- Must have a positive attitude and eagerness to learn

Preferred Skills and Attributes:
- Past experience with fish and/or plant identification/sampling
- Past field work/research/outdoor experience
- Experience using a hand-held GPS

To apply: Please apply through job opening #340798 at the following url: https://humanresources.umn.edu/content/find-job, click on “students” and then enter the job number in the search bar at the top of the page. Email Amy Schrank at aschrank@umn.edu for more information.