



Native Mussel Seasonal Technician

Wild Rivers Conservancy of the St. Croix & Namekagon is recruiting for a Native Mussel Seasonal Technician at the during the summer of 2024. Wild Rivers Conservancy (<https://wildriversconservancy.org>) is the official nonprofit partner of the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway. We inspire stewardship to forever ensure the rare ecological integrity of the St. Croix and Namekagon Riverway. This position will be 4 months beginning approximately May 13th, 2024.

Position Summary

This position is under the daily guidance of Michelle Bartsch, Research Biologist for the US Geological Survey, Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center (UMESC) in La Crosse, WI. Administration and payroll supervision of this position will be through Marc White, Natural Resources Manager for the Wild Rivers Conservancy. This position will assist USGS with the propagation of the federally endangered Winged Mapleleaf Mussel and the UMESC Lab in La Crosse, WI.

Core Functions

- Assist with husbandry of host fish for federally endangered Winged Mapleleaf mussels, including set up and maintenance of holding and propagation systems
- Assist with husbandry of newly released juvenile Winged Mapleleaf in the laboratory, including collecting and enumerating newly metamorphosed juveniles; maintaining the juvenile mussel culture system (feeding, cleaning, water exchanges); monitoring juvenile health, survival, growth; daily and weekly water quality monitoring
- Assist with placing juveniles in secondary grow-out locations, including preparation of bioassay trailer for deployment along St. Croix River; collection, sieving, and characterization of river sediment; weekly field trips to assess bioassay trailer maintenance and assess juvenile mussel survival and growth
- Perform data entry, proofing data, and project reporting
- Other duties as assigned

Requirements

- Must be a US citizen or permanent resident of the United States with a valid state driver's license.
- College student or recent graduate with coursework in biology, natural resources, or a related field. Other majors or courses of study will be considered, but some background in natural resources is helpful.
- General knowledge of the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway is helpful.

- Ability to work well both independently and as part of a team, be detail-oriented and organized, and to follow oral and written directions.
- Good oral and written communication skills.
- Ability to work with a flexible and changing schedule. Must be able to work some long days, weekends and evenings.
- Ability to lift and carry up to 25 pounds independently, and up to 50 pounds with assistance.

Work Site and Conditions

- Seasonal will be hired through the Wild Rivers Conservancy of the St. Croix & Namekagon with the office in Osceola, WI.
- Seasonal will be based out of the USGS Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center in La Crosse, WI.
- There will be travel throughout the St. Croix watershed in both Minnesota and Wisconsin.
- Work in the field is required and will involve some physical activity, including walking, standing for long periods of time and may include work on a boat.
- Schedules can be variable or on a week-to-week basis.
- Positions will be 4 months, beginning May 13th. Start date of the position is flexible with prior approval.

Please send a cover letter, resume and references to mbartsch@usgs.gov by March 1st or until the position is filled. This is a temporary seasonal position ranging 32-40 hours weekly for a period of up to four months at a wage of \$18/hr.

The Wild Rivers Conservancy is an equal opportunity employer. We celebrate diversity and are committed to creating an inclusive environment for all employees.