



SUMMER 2018 PAID INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY

**With
THE AMERICAN CHESTNUT FOUNDATION**

Background Information

The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF) has been working for over 30 years towards the restoration of the American chestnut in eastern forests. Employing traditional breeding, as well as genomic tools and germplasm conservation, we aim to breed a population of trees that are resistant to chestnut blight (*Cryphonectria parasitica*) and can be returned to the landscape and thrive unassisted. Our small staff relies on a large network of citizen scientists and professional partners to participate in range-wide breeding and conservation, trial new techniques and technologies to advance our mission, and engage the public. The TACF program in New England comprises four volunteer state chapters across all six New England states, as well as a network of research and agency partners.

Project Description and Responsibilities

The New England TACF internship serves the New England region, based out of South Burlington, VT.

PRIMARY PROJECT

The 2018 intern will receive training in order to assist in all aspects of the regional breeding program and chestnut restoration work conducted by the New England TACF Chapters. Each volunteer-run State Chapter (Maine, Vermont/New Hampshire, Massachusetts/Rhode Island and Connecticut) conducts their own breeding program for blight-resistance and regional adaptability. The intern will provide assistance during the field season with planting (depending on start date), wild tree scouting and pollination activities, inoculation (more below) and routine orchard maintenance. In addition, the 2018 intern will assist the Regional Science Coordinator with program administration, including data collection and entry, greenhouse management, and other types of Chapter and program support.

ADDITIONAL DUTIES

- (1)** Assist with inoculation and selection programs in the beginning of the summer. Inoculation is the process by which we measure blight-resistance of our hybrid chestnut trees and ultimately make breeding selections. The intern will participate in the process from creating and maintaining fungal cultures in the lab through challenge inoculation and breeding selection in the field. For more information on the inoculation procedure, please visit this site: <http://ecosystems.psu.edu/research/chestnut/breeding/inoculation>
- (2)** Maintain container-grown chestnuts in the greenhouse/nursery space. Take on the seasonal management of a local chestnut collection at the UVM Horticulture Research Center (HRC). The intern will receive training on any special equipment to be used at the HRC and be responsible for routine maintenance of the orchard.
- (3)** TACF is currently developing an on-line database to store all breeding program data. Efforts are underway to enter all current and historic Chapter data into this new on-line system. The intern will receive training on data formats and assist with the loading and entry of appropriate chapter data. In addition, the intern will work to digitize and upload historic wild tree reports.
- (4)** The intern will develop tools and templates for improved volunteer engagement, communication, and recruitment within TACF's chapters. As time allows, the intern will assist with the

implementation of desired tools within TACF's New England chapters, and provide training on recommended tools, especially those that employ newer technologies.

Qualification/Experience

The internship candidate should be precise, observant and have some training in forestry, ecology, horticulture and/or laboratory procedures. The Intern needs good written and oral communication skills, and should be self-directed and possess good time-management skills. The intern should be comfortable working independently and with others, enjoy working outside, and be proficient with MS Office, especially Excel. Note that training will be provided, but a background in forestry, ecology, horticulture, biology or a related field will be helpful.

The intern should also be a good traveler, and have a good driving record. The intern **must** provide his or her own automobile and have a flexible work schedule, i.e. be able to work some long days and sometimes stay overnight on the road. Time off will be provided to make up for extra-long days above and beyond a normal 8-hour work day and notice of long, overnight or weekend work days will be given with as much advance notice as possible.

Additional Information

There will be ample opportunity for an intern to learn and evaluate various non-profit management styles, learn several lab and field-work techniques, challenge communication and people skills, and learn about working within a unique research and outreach structure. Depending on the outcome of the field season's activities, there may be opportunity for write-up and publication in TACF's *eSprout* newsletter, *Chestnut* magazine, and/or a Chapter newsletter.

How to Apply

Applications will be accepted by e-mail. Please feel free to contact Kendra if you have any questions. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Please send a cover letter, resume and three references to:

Kendra Collins
The American Chestnut Foundation
705 Spear Street
South Burlington, VT 05403
e-mail: kendra.collins@acf.org
Phone: 802-999-8706

Remuneration: The internship pays \$12.50/hour for approximately 12 weeks during the field season: mid-May – mid-August. Travel reimbursement will also be provided. Opportunities for continued work past mid-August may be considered, depending on intern interest and funding availability.

For more information on our project please explore the following:

The American Chestnut Foundation: www.acf.org; the ME Chapter: www.acf.org/me/; the VT/NH Chapter: www.acf.org/vt-nh/; the MA/RI Chapter: www.acf.orh/ma-ri/; the CT Chapter: www.acf.org/ct/ and the Chestnut Growers website: ecosystems.psu.edu/research/chestnut