2024 Field Technician for Mosquito Monitoring and Biocontrol Project

BRIEF JOB DESCRIPTION:

The Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF) is looking to fill a single position for a seasonal laboratory field assistant to work on two projects starting in late May (start date can be flexible before June) on a 40 hour per week basis, until completion of the projects in the winter (with opportunity for a student to telework part-time in the fall). The first project involves mosquito trapping and testing activities for the Maine statewide mosquito monitoring program as described in DACF's "Plan for the Protection of the Public Health from Mosquito-borne Diseases." The successful candidate will assist in selecting sites and servicing mosquito traps weekly, assist in mosquito identification, properly handle, and label specimens using cold-chain protocol, keep records and manage data. The second project is a classical biological control program, working on releasing caterpillars which have been imported to control black swallowwort. Work includes rearing and releasing moths, two late night moth monitoring events (with travel and accommodations covered), collecting environmental data, and analyzing data and writing reports. During the majority of the season, 40-hour work weeks will be the typical schedule, however, the position allows for some flexibility and would be an excellent opportunity for a student looking for full-time summer employment with some part-time flexible work into the fall. Work will be based in Augusta, Maine, with some opportunity for telework. Some statewide travel is expected, including to mosquito monitoring sites from Augusta to Unity that are visited regularly. Time will be split approximately 30 hours per week for the mosquito program and 10 hours per week for the swallowwort program. Contract position at $18/hr.

KNOWLEDGE/SKILLS/ABILITIES:

- Education and Experience:
    - Biology, horticulture, entomology, botany or related field (*in progress/students encouraged to apply!)*.
    - Priority given to training or experience in insect and/or plant identification and the use of dichotomous keys.
- Computer Skills:
    - Ability to use Microsoft Office applications including, Word, Excel, Outlook, Teams, PowerPoint, and Publisher.
    - Priority given to candidates that can conduct simple data analyses within spreadsheets (simple formulas, creating graphs, copying graphs and tables from Excel to Word) and comfort writing technical reports.
- Communication Skills:
    - Strong verbal and written communication skills.
    - Ability to communicate with supervisors and collaborating laboratories about routine sample drop off dates and times.
- Organizational Skills:

    - Must be able to manage multiple priorities and switch back and forth between projects easily and work independently.
    - Good time management and record keeping abilities including while in the field.
    - Ability to stay organized between different work locations (field, lab, office, remote worksite).
- Field and Lab Skills:
    - Comfort in field and laboratory conditions.
    - Comfortable handling live insects (specifically mosquitos) and plants.
    - Ability to traverse uneven ground while carrying approximately 15-20lb of equipment (field sites are within the woods).
    - Ability to drive to coordinate locations and follow instructions to find remote field sites.
    - Experience with use of a dissection microscope.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

Candidates must have a valid driver's license and be at least 18 years of age.

TO APPLY:

Please email a cover letter and resume or C.V. to Gary Fish (gary.fish@maine.gov). For questions, please email or call Gary at (207) 287-7545.

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

Monday May 27, 2024