

GA-TACF Chestnut Internship

Sponsored by The Georgia Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation

The following internship program is intended primarily to support existing or novel GA-TACF projects in GA (see www.acf.org/ga). Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to communicate with GA-TACF at gachestnut@gmail.com prior to the development of a full application.

The mission of The Georgia Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation (GA-TACF) is to assist in the work of The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF) in bringing back a revival and a renewal of the American chestnut tree as a prominent part of the forests of the United States of America by strengthening TACF's financial and membership base, education, public awareness, and research activities. The objectives shall be to: (1) recruit new members to join and support TACF's research work; (2) raise funds and provide information of major fundraising opportunities to the TACF Board of Directors; (3) develop educational activities concerning American chestnut in this state; (4) generate media coverage of state activities; (5) increase the awareness and participation of the public in TACF projects; (6) identify and help protect existing American chestnut trees in the state in order to preserve varied genetic materials; (7) engage where possible in breeding activities carried on under the supervision of and in cooperation with TACF; (8) do such other things reasonably related to the foregoing which will advance the cause of preserving and reviving the American chestnut tree.

Description of the GA-TACF Chestnut Internship

GA-TACF plans to award one college/university student (hereafter "intern") a stipend of \$2000. The time period for the internship will Nov. 15 through Aug 15 of the following year (~48 weeks). The internship is intended to focus on an existing GA-TACF project or on a proposed new project that supports GA-TACF's mission. Under the supervision of a faculty advisor, the intern may help with activities such as:

- 1) planning, preparing and planting new orchards
- 2) locating, mapping, and collecting data on wild chestnuts
- 3) carrying out annual maintenance tasks at existing orchards
- 4) collecting, maintaining and summarizing research data
- 5) participating in cross-pollination and seed harvest activities
- 6) inoculating and culling trees in orchards
- 7) recruiting and managing volunteers for orchard activities
- 8) reporting progress at TACF annual meetings and/or other venues.
- 9) participating in basic research projects that support GA-TACF's mission.
- 10) developing and implementing special public education and outreach efforts

Benefits to Participants

Benefits to the intern include gaining education and experience in plant genetics and breeding, plant pathology, horticultural and forestry methods, ecology, conservation, public education and outreach, and other areas. GA-TACF anticipates that interns will typically come from science-based majors directly associated with such areas, including majors such as agriculture, biology, botany, ecology, environmental science, forestry, horticulture, natural resource management, plant pathology, etc.

Projects focusing on public education and outreach efforts may be suitable for non-science majors. Experience as a GA-TACF intern may help students on their paths toward careers in such areas.

Benefits to the advisor include gaining experience in helping to coordinate a multi-faceted ecological restoration and public engagement project. Data collected during the course of the project will be available for use in presentations and papers, which may be authored or co-authored with the advice and consent of GA-TACF. GA-TACF strongly suggests that the advisor include the intern as a co-author in any presentations or papers related to the internship.

Eligibility and Application

The internship offer will be made to a student with a faculty advisor at a college or university within the natural range of American chestnut in GA. Applications must be submitted to gachestnut@gmail.com as an MS-Word document by Nov. 1. Decisions to award the internship will be made by the GA-TACF grant evaluation committee by Nov. 15. Intern/advisor pairs will be eligible to participate in this internship program for multiple years if agreeable to GA-TACF. Applications must include:

- 1) Cover sheet with applicants' names, institution(s), mailing addresses, e-mail addresses, and phone numbers.
- 2) Description and location of the GA-TACF project being supported or proposed.
- 3) Description of the planned activities for the intern as well as the anticipated educational benefits.
- 4) A complete project time-line (normally one year).
- 5) Description of the anticipated types and levels of support that might be necessary for the project beyond support for the intern.
- 6) Profile(s) or resume(s) of the grant applicants, no more than one page in length.

Time Commitments

The intern will be expected to commit 1/2 day (4 hrs.) per week, *on average*, on the project (192 hrs per year), including time for travel, education, and training, and will keep a log of weekly activities.

The advisor will meet or communicate directly with the intern, *on average*, ~30 min every two weeks, as necessary to assure that the project is on track, and will sign off on the intern's log of activities. The advisor will communicate directly with GA-TACF whenever any questions or major developments arise that impact the focal project, or at the minimum once every two months.

As part of this arrangement, GA-TACF will help coordinate volunteers to help oversee and assist with the project.

Proposed stipend schedule

\$1000 on Nov. 15, \$1000 on May. 15

Final Report

The intern/advisor pair will submit a final report by Sept 1 of each year, detailing major accomplishments and identifying any major upcoming needs. The report should be no more than 1 page, and will have the intern's log of activities as an addendum.