We are seeking enthusiastic and qualified applicants for a summer Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) position based in Athens, Georgia. This project will focus on quantifying patterns in stream temperature in the Little Tennessee River (LTR) watershed in western North Carolina. The student will be involved with collecting, organizing, and synthesizing temperature data from the LTR, working with sensor data from current thermistor deployments and helping to facilitate additional deployment of sensors by citizen scientists with the nonprofits Trout Unlimited and Main Spring Conservation Trust (MSCT). The student will use spatial statistical models to explain observed temperatures using variables such as canopy cover, slope, and air temperature. These data layers will also serve as the basis for habitat suitability maps for brook trout (Salvelinus fontinalis) and other species of interest. The student will likely attend the Little Tennessee River Watershed Conference to be held June 16th, 2018. This project is part of a larger collaborative project investigating the effects of stream warming on detritus-based ecosystems. The student may have the opportunity to assist with various other aspects of this project as well.

The position runs from May 30 to August 8 (dates slightly flexible) and includes a competitive stipend. Applicants must be current undergraduate students who are planning on continuing full-time enrollment in fall semester, 2018. GIS experience is required. Interested applicants should email a resume (including relevant coursework and any prior research experience), a cover letter describing how the REU activities align with their training and career goals, and a list of three references to Dr. Amy Rosemond: rosemond@uga.edu. Please put ‘Summer REU’ in the subject line. The deadline for applying is Monday, April 2nd.

Project Evaluation and Reporting: Deliverables and documentation of learning outcomes from this study will include 1) a written report on the findings by the student and 2) weekly meetings to discuss research, knowledge of ecology and aquatic ecology and plans for the future with mentors, and 3) additional writing and reflection. The participant will be encouraged to present their research findings at an undergraduate research conference.