MS assistantship with mussels in Illinois available

Location: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in Champaign, Illinois
Salary: Approximately $24,000 per year, plus tuition waiver Start Date: 7/1/2019, though somewhat flexible Last Date to Apply: 03/31/2019

Description: We are seeking a MS student to study long-term viability of Northern Riffleshell (Epioblasma rangiana) and Clubshell (Pleurobema clava), two federally-endangered mussels that have been reintroduced in Illinois. The project will evaluate suitable habitat in the Vermilion River (Wabash River drainage) for reintroductions, monitor existing populations to understand spatio-temporal variability in survival, movement, and possible recruitment, and make population projections under varying assumptions of recruitment. These data will be used to develop Illinois’ conservation plan for Northern Riffleshell and Clubshell in the Vermilion and Wabash River Basins in Illinois. The position will consist of both field studies and quantitative modeling of empirical data. The graduate student will be in the Department of Natural Resources (NRES) at the University of Illinois and advised by Dr. Kirk Stodola, Illinois Natural History Survey (INHS). Student will also work closely with aquatic biologists Jeremy Tiemann and Alison Stodola of INHS’ Prairie Research Institute and will require collaboration with local, state and federal partners.

Qualifications: Applicants should have a BS degree in biology, ecology, fisheries or other related discipline. Applicant should have experience working outdoors, strong communication skills, and the ability to work independently as well as part of a research team.
Preferred Experience: Experience collecting and identifying freshwater mussels, operating personal watercraft (canoes and kayaks), and collecting field data under adverse weather conditions. Experience with ESRI ArcGIS products, Program R, and scientific writing would be an asset. Start date will be June/July 2019, though some flexibility in start date may be possible.

To Apply: Please send cover letter, CV, GRE scores (unofficial are sufficient), transcripts (unofficial are sufficient), and contact information for three references to Dr. Kirk Stodola (kstodola@illinois.edu) by March 31, 2019.
https://mollusk.inhs.illinois.edu/2019/01/16/seeking-graduate-assistant-for-mussel-conservation/

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