

TORTOISE CONSERVATION/DATA SCIENCE INTERNSHIP

The Herpetology and Data Management programs at Archbold Biological Station are seeking a Tortoise Conservation/Data Science Intern to support an exciting new project funded by Disney Conservation Fund. The successful candidate will play a key role in initiating high-resolution, remote tracking of Gopher Tortoises at Archbold, helping to bring our 53-year mark-recapture study into the digital age. The intern will be jointly supervised by Dr. Betsie Rothermel, Archbold Herpetology & Restoration Ecology Program Director, and Vivienne Sclater, Archbold GIS & Data Manager. The duration of the internship is approximately 9 months, with a desired start date in **late January 2021**.

Varied duties will include (50% of time):

- Capture, measure, tag, and track juvenile and adult tortoises
- Assist with surveying and mapping tortoise burrows
- Assist with sandhill restoration efforts (e.g., removal of invasive plants, occasional prescribed fires) in the tortoise study area
- Help maintain a network of cellular tracking nodes and base stations
- Manage data downloads and implement efficient data processing protocols for both tortoise and scrub-jay tag detections
- Develop a geodatabase and scripts to summarize tortoise tracking data for analyses and outreach



Independent project (remaining 50% of time): To be determined with input and guidance from the project PIs; could be an original research project focused on some aspect of tortoise spatial/behavioral ecology, or an internet-based outreach project focused on engaging the public and disseminating key findings from Archbold's tortoise research

Desired qualifications:

- Recent M.S. degree in ecology or wildlife biology; or a B.S. degree with significant (> 1 year) prior research and data management experience
- Field research experience, preferably with herps
- Strong interest and aptitude in working with large data sets and developing programming skills for ecological applications
- Some familiarity with coding languages, such as R
- Demonstrated experience implementing a GIS project
- Enthusiasm for engaging in virtual outreach and communicating project results to the public

- Capable of doing physically demanding work in the hot, humid subtropical climate of southern Florida

Benefits to an Archbold internship

- Weekly stipend of \$185 – \$210 depending on qualifications (B.S. or M.S.)
- An additional \$60 per week stipend while the Station’s dining room is closed (due to Covid-19). Once our kitchen facilities reopen, we will provide breakfast and lunch Monday through Friday.
- Free lodging at the Station (shared housing, no pets)
- Close interaction with Principal Investigators and Research Assistants who will provide mentoring and professional development
- Development of critical skills that will strengthen your future graduate school or job applications, including building proficiency in data management, field research, and science communication
- Cross-disciplinary learning opportunities through formal orientation sessions and research seminars, as well as informal interactions with researchers and interns in the Avian Ecology, Plant Ecology, Agro-ecology, and Education programs
- Opportunity to live and work at a world-renowned field station embedded in the Florida scrub ecosystem, a North American biodiversity hotspot
- Opportunities to explore other Florida ecosystems and natural areas during your free time

How to apply

- Applicants must have U.S. citizenship or current authorization to work in the U.S.
- Email the following (preferably as one attachment in PDF format) to Dr. Betsie Rothermel (brothermel@archbold-station.org), including ‘Intern position’ in subject line:
 - 1) Cover letter describing your qualifications and indicating your availability
 - 2) Current resumé or CV, including GPA and a list of relevant coursework
 - 3) Contact information for three references



Deadline to apply is **November 15th**

Visit our website for more information:

<http://www.archbold-station.org/>

Archbold is an equal opportunity employer and encourages applications from members of underrepresented groups