Summertime Field Research Opportunity:
Two Wetland Restoration Field Technicians

The Tuchman lab is hiring two field assistants to help with the summer field research component of IES’ “Invasives to Energy” program. This work focuses on the restoration of Great Lakes coastal wetlands that have been invaded by hybrid cattail (*Typha x glauca*), with the goal of restoring wetland function and biodiversity while finding uses for the biomass that this invasive plant produces.

**Project Description:** Great Lakes coastal wetlands are critical habitats that help maintain the overall function of the Great Lakes ecosystem. They are used as spawning sites by many fish species, stopovers and feeding grounds for migrating birds, and are home to hundreds of species of plants, insects, amphibians, and reptiles. They also act as filters that remove and process nutrients that are carried into the aquatic system through runoff water, helping to buffer the open lake system from these pollutants. Over the past several decades, increasing pressure from a suite of invasive wetland plant species has threatened coastal wetland biodiversity and function. Our lab’s research focuses on wetlands that have been invaded by hybrid cattail. This plant is able to take advantage of excess nutrients in wetlands and grow rapidly. Every year the above-ground leaves die, and the plant’s energy is stored in its roots. Over several years, this leads to an accumulation of leaf-litter that prevents other plant species from growing, and prevents many animals from using the wetland.

In a large scale experiment, we have mechanically cleared out substantial sections of cattail from several wetlands, and are monitoring the effect of this removal on the wetland plant community. This summer we will also be setting up a new type of large-scale restoration experiment that focuses on creating connective wetland channels to help fish and other organisms access wetlands that are blocked by cattail invasion.

**Location:** These research projects are located in wetlands in Northern Lake Huron, and in the St. Mary’s River. During the summer, the research group works out of the University of Michigan’s Biological Station, located on Douglas Lake in Pellston, Michigan. Typical housing is in tin cabins, with food provided in a cafeteria. UMBS provides an ideal opportunity to make connections with field researchers, students, and professors from a variety of institutions.

**Job Description:** Field technicians will help conduct wetland plant surveys, collect and process plant, soil, and water samples, enter and organize data, and help establish large-scale ecological research experiments. Successful applicants must be capable of working long days in uncomfortable conditions (ie hot, cold, wet, buggy), and able to carry up to 30 lbs of equipment.

**Qualifications:** You must have a strong work ethic, and a positive attitude. Past work, volunteer, or recreational experience that demonstrates your ability to perform manual labor is necessary. Previous fieldwork experience is a plus. Preference will be given to applicants who show a strong interest in wetland ecology, plant ecology, and/or restoration ecology.
Institute of Environmental Sustainability
Loyola University Chicago

**Period:** Field assistants need to be available to work full time from June 15th through August 17th.

**Compensation:** $12/hr, and room and board will be provided.

**To Apply:** Please email an explanation of why you are interested in the position and why you believe you would be a good candidate, along with an attached resume, to Brendan Carson at bcarson1@luc.edu by March 10.