Old Woman Creek National Estuarine Research Reserve (OWC) and the Friends of Old Woman Creek are offering an Aquatic Ecology undergraduate research internship during summer 2019. The internship is expected to last approximately 11 weeks, from mid- to late May – August (start and end dates are somewhat flexible). Located in Huron, Ohio, on the south-central shore of Lake Erie, Old Woman Creek is one of the state’s few remaining examples of a natural estuary. OWC is part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s National Estuarine Research Reserve System, a network of 29 coastal reserves whose mission is to address state and regional coastal management needs through research, education, and stewardship.

The Aquatic Ecology intern will assist Dr. Kristi Arend, OWC Research Coordinator, with wetland research primarily related to fish and aquatic invertebrate communities. The intern will also assist with water quality monitoring. Responsibilities include a combination of field, laboratory, and computer work, such as collecting fish using fyke nets and an electrofishing boat and identifying larval fish and zooplankton using a dissecting microscope. The intern will have the opportunity to develop and pursue an independent project and be a member of a cohort of summer interns involved in research, education, and stewardship. We are looking for someone with a strong interest in aquatic ecology, particularly habitat impacts on aquatic food webs.

Desired qualifications include: progress toward a Bachelor degree in biology, ecology, natural resources, or a related subject; the ability to use a dichotomous key and microscope for identifying organisms; valid driver’s license; familiarity with using water quality meters; an understanding of basic freshwater ecology.

All applicants must be able to swim; have some experience using self-powered boats or motorboats; be able to lift at least 35 pounds; be tolerant of working in poor conditions (e.g., weather, biting insects, poison ivy).

Interns will earn a $5000 stipend, paid incrementally throughout the summer. Free onsite housing in shared accommodations may be available.

To apply: Submit electronic copies of the following application materials to Kristi Arend at kristin.arend@dnr.state.oh.us by February 22: (1) a cover letter of interest, identifying the internship for which the student is applying and describes interest in, qualifications for, and anticipated benefits from the internship; (2) current CV/resume; and (3) contact information for 3 references. Interested students can contact Kristi Arend by email or phone (419.433.4601) with any questions.