**Summer internship in pollinator ecology and restoration**

**Dates:** Part-time position from May 20-August 20 (dates flexible)

**Location:** The Nachusa Grasslands, a tallgrass prairie restoration run by the Nature Conservancy in Franklin Grove, Illinois

**Project managers:** Sean Griffin ([s.griffin@rutgers.edu](mailto:s.griffin@rutgers.edu)), PhD student at Rutgers University  
Bethanne Bruninga-Socolar ([bethanne.ab@gmail.com](mailto:bethanne.ab@gmail.com)) PhD student at Rutgers University

**Project description:** With over 80% of natural prairie habitat in the United States lost due to agricultural development and much of the remaining prairie in danger from further degradation, conservation groups such as The Nature Conservancy have started actively restoring prairie in order to preserve biodiversity and protect this unique ecosystem. In light of worldwide concerns about the recent decline of bees, in our research we investigate whether current prairie restoration efforts are effectively conserving and restoring populations of native bees and other pollinators. Using an ongoing tallgrass prairie restoration run by The Nature Conservancy at the Nachusa Grasslands, Illinois, we will determine whether native pollinator communities benefit from prairie restoration, with the goal of providing information that can help conservationists better protect this important group of organisms.

**Qualifications:** Must have an interest in insects and pollinators, be an independent worker, be willing to work long hours in hot and humid conditions, and have a car for driving to and from field sites. No background in entomology required, though previous research experience is preferred.

**Duties:** In this project, we will use traps to sample pollinator communities across restoration sites and agricultural plots throughout the summer. Interns will participate in a one week training period at the end of May, and will independently conduct six sampling rounds every two weeks until mid-August (dates somewhat flexible). Sampling rounds will take 2-3 days each, and will involve placing and collecting traps at each site. Other work will include equipment repair and preparation of insect specimens (hours and location flexible).

**Compensation:** NIU students can get internship credit for this research project. We will provide a grocery stipend and housing at the Nachusa Grasslands during sampling dates, though commuting is an option. More stipend may be provided depending on available funding. Co-authorship on publications resulting from this research may be extended depending on job performance. If the intern wants an independent project to be used as an honors thesis, we are willing to work with the student to develop research ideas and create a project.

**To apply:** Send your resume, 2 references, a short statement of interest, and contact information to Sean Griffin at [s.griffin@rutgers.edu](mailto:s.griffin@rutgers.edu) by March 21. If you have any questions regarding the internship or application, please call Sean Griffin at 301-706-7467.