



REU Position Announcement with the Coweeta LTER Program

Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) funds are available to support two students at the Coweeta Hydrologic Laboratory during summer 2012.

REU students will have the opportunity to work side-by-side with scientists in the Coweeta Long-Term Ecological Research program on research projects in the Little Tennessee River basin in western North Carolina. A core part of the REU experience at Coweeta is to guide a student in light of working with an LTER researcher to develop an independent project in which the student takes part in all steps of the scientific process. This includes helping to form the question and hypothesis to sharing the results of their research with peers and Coweeta scientists at the end of their 10-week summer internship. Some examples of past undergraduate projects include assessing trends in a ten year stream salamander survey, examining the difference in sap flux among different length sapflow probes, and examining trends in water quality data in watersheds dominated by different types of land use.

We are seeking undergraduate participants as REU students in Coweeta LTER research during summer 2012; to be eligible, applicants must be enrolled in classes for the 2012 fall semester. REU students will be involved in one of two research projects. The first is measuring coarse woody debris at our nine intensive hillslope plots corresponding to three different land use scenarios: forested, traditional valley development, and new mountaintop development. Coarse wood is an important part of both terrestrial and stream communities, but abundance of coarse wood likely differs among the different land use types. The student would help quantify this difference and work with project scientists to correlate coarse woody debris and ant colonies. Ants in the genus *Aphaenogaster* are of particular interest since they are the primary seed dispersers in eastern woodlands.

The second project would involve participation in stream salamander surveys in the Little Tennessee River basin. Coweeta LTER researchers are developing a methodology to rapidly survey salamanders, aquatic snails, crayfish and *Tallaperla* stoneflies using leaf litterbags. The student would be charged with helping to further refine this method.

REU students would work for 10 weeks during summer 2012. They would each receive a \$3,000 stipend and a \$250 materials and supplies budget to cover any expenses associated with their summer project. All three internships would begin mid to late May and end late July or early August. Students will be housed for free at the Coweeta dormitory.

If interested in this position, please email a résumé, cover letter, and a list of three references to Jason Love, Coweeta LTER Site Manager: jplove@uga.edu. Questions? Email Jason at the address above or call him at 828.524.2128 x113. The deadline for applying is March 16th.