CALS-CCE 2015 Invasive Species Summer Internship: Onondaga County

Title of project: CCE Invasive Species Statewide Outreach Program Internship

Worksite location (CCE association or associations where intern will work): CCE Onondaga

Contacts are: Caroline Marschner, Invasive Species Project (cam369@cornell.edu)

Faculty sponsor: Mark Whitmore, Dept. of Natural Resources, (mcw42@cornell.edu)

Other campus-based mentors/supervisors: Deborah Grantham, Dept. of Crop & Soil Sciences, CCE Invasive Species Statewide Outreach Program (dgg3@cornell.edu)

Project summary and intended outcomes (no more than 5 – 10 sentences):

Develop a list of priority hemlock stands in the Skaneateles Lake watershed. Survey these stands for presence of the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA). Identify hemlock hedges on private properties, contact landowners, and evaluate for potential rearing of HWA predators. Conduct outreach to landowners in infested areas so they are aware of best management practices.

Brief description of the student intern’s role and responsibilities (no more than 5-10 sentences):

Intern will identify hemlock stands, inventory them, and map specific locations where HWA has been found. Data on infestation severity will be taken. Results will be mapped and analyzed with Mark Whitmore and reported to the Finger Lakes PRISM and the CCE Invasive Species Statewide Outreach Program. CCE Educator Jessi Lyons will assist in identifying priority hemlock stands and obtaining landowner permission to enter the property.

What qualifications and previous coursework does the student need in order to be prepared for this internship?

Intern will need to be able to identify the species of interest, know inventory methods, and be able to map point and extent data (use of GPS and an on-line mapping system).

What benefits/skills will the student gain through this internship?

Intern will learn about invasive species, their impacts, potential management strategies, and design of an applied research approach to the issue. The Hemlock Woolly Adelgid will be the focus of the project. The intern also will learn about Cornell Cooperative Extension, its mission and approaches, and how CCE interacts with and supports partners.