

## Species Interactions Lab Manager at Virginia Tech

The Rogers Lab ([www.haldre.org](http://www.haldre.org)) in the Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation at Virginia Tech is hiring a lab manager. This position will be based in Blacksburg, VA, and the successful candidate will be responsible for handling administrative tasks, data management, molecular lab setup and management, and supervision of undergraduate researchers.

Our lab uses a combination of observational studies, experiments, and modeling to understand the ecological role of vertebrates in terrestrial systems and to develop effective conservation strategies in today's changing world. Our two primary study systems are the Mariana Islands ([www.ecologyofbirdloss.org](http://www.ecologyofbirdloss.org)) and the Appalachian Forests. In the Marianas, the introduction of the brown tree snake has led to the functional or total loss of birds from Guam's forests, and our research explores how this cascades to affect food webs, seed dispersal, and pollination by comparing these processes on Guam to nearby islands. We are using DNA metabarcoding of pollen, feces, and gut contents as well as e-DNA approaches to uncover species interactions. In the Appalachians, we are starting a project to explore how defaunation and invasion have affected the ability of plants with animal-dispersed seeds to shift ranges in response to a changing climate. This project will include field work to identify fruit-frugivore interactions.

The lab manager will coordinate hiring, travel, reimbursements, purchasing, and bills for our research projects (~ 45% of the time), manage data and supervise data entry tasks (~25% of the time), get our molecular lab setup and conduct DNA extractions and library prep in the lab (~ 20% of the time), and supervise students and conduct field work on plant-animal interactions (~10% of the time). While there may be some travel to field sites in Virginia or to learn methods from collaborators, we do not expect there to be extensive overnight travel associated with this position.

**Pay and benefits:** \$37,000 - \$42,000 depending on experience; standard VT benefits package with health insurance and retirement (see <https://www.hr.vt.edu/benefits.html> for more information); \$1500 for relocation expenses.

**Duration:** 1-year contract, with potential for extension

### Required Qualifications:

- Experience working in a science related field, such as, biology, environmental science, botany, ecology, or other natural science
- Experience working in a molecular biology research lab

### Preferred Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in biology, environmental science, botany, ecology, or other natural science
- Experience in DNA extractions and library prep for metabarcoding/eDNA samples
- Experience in ecological field work
- Project management experience

**To Apply:** Fill in the application at <https://careers.pageuppeople.com/968/cw/en-us/job/524310/community-ecology-lab-manager>. Please upload a resume/CV and cover letter, in which case you will not need to fill out the education and work history sections of the online application. You will also need to provide contact information for 3 references. You must be

legally eligible for employment in the US and the successful candidate will be required to have a criminal conviction check. Job # 524310.

**Deadline:** Position is open until filled, but we will start evaluating applicants on Wednesday, February 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Questions:** Contact Dr. Haldre Rogers at [haldre@vt.edu](mailto:haldre@vt.edu).

### **About Virginia Tech**

Dedicated to its motto, *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve), Virginia Tech pushes the boundaries of knowledge by taking a hands-on, transdisciplinary approach to preparing scholars to be leaders and problem-solvers. A comprehensive land-grant institution that enhances the quality of life in Virginia and throughout the world, Virginia Tech is an [inclusive community](#) dedicated to knowledge, discovery, and creativity. The university offers more than 280 majors to a diverse enrollment of more than 36,000 undergraduate, graduate, and professional students in eight [undergraduate colleges](#), a [school of medicine](#), a [veterinary medicine](#) college, [Graduate School](#), and [Honors College](#). The university has a significant presence across Virginia, including the [Innovation Campus](#) in Northern Virginia; the Health Sciences and Technology Campus in Roanoke; sites in Newport News and Richmond; and numerous [Extension offices](#) and [research centers](#). A leading global research institution, Virginia Tech conducts more than \$500 million in research annually.

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