

**Host Agency:** *The Georgia Conservancy* is a statewide, member-supported conservation organization. Since its founding in 1967, Georgia Conservancy and its members have ensured the protection and conservation of some of our state's most precious natural places. Our mission is protecting Georgia through ecological and economic solutions for stewardship, conservation, and sustainable use of the land and its resources.

**Position Title:** Coastal Conservation & Engagement Fellow

**Host Location:** Georgia Conservancy Coastal Office, United Way Building, 428 E Bull Street, Savannah, GA 31401.

**Fellowship Mentor/Supervisor:** Courtney Reich, Coastal Director, creich@georgiaconservancy.org, 912-656-1316

**Work hours:** This is a full-time position at 37.5 hours per week. Office hours are 9:00 am – 5:00 pm, but hours can be flexible if agreed to by supervisor. Fellow is expected to be physically present in the office at least 3 days per week, the remaining hours can be remote work.

**Fellowship Goals:** This fellowship will support our ongoing initiatives to achieve the following vision for Coastal Georgia:

- A healthy, resilient and diverse coastal ecosystem that can endure natural and human disturbances, continue to perform its functions, and support self-sustaining populations of native fish, birds, wildlife and plants.
- An economy that offers diverse options including healthy, sustainable nature-based businesses such as commercial fishing and recreation-based tourism.
- Compact patterns of growth that: 1) are located away from environmentally unsuitable areas (e.g., sensitive coastal resources and areas prone to flooding and storm surge); 2) are sited, designed and constructed to respect, restore and maintain ecosystem functions; and 3) engender a respect by the people who live there for the land and water around them.
- A population closely connected to our coastal lands, islands and waters through heightened awareness and safe, convenient access.

More specifically, the selected fellow will work on the following Coastal programs:

### 1. Primary Program Objective

*South Atlantic Salt Marsh Initiative (SASMI) Implementation:* A regional effort and voluntary, non-regulatory partnership, SASMI brings together leaders from the Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability (SERPPAS) and other local, state, and federal partners, communities, and non-governmental organization to identify opportunities to protect and restore the 1M acres of salt marsh from North Carolina through Brevard County in East-Central Florida. The Fellow will work with Conservancy staff, the GA DNR, and regional stakeholders to facilitate implementation of SASMI in Georgia through development of a Georgia SASMI Implementation Plan for the six coastal counties and facilitation of marsh

restoration and conservation projects. The Fellow will work with Conservancy staff to perform site visits, coordinate stakeholder engagement, and pursue funding opportunities.

## 2. Other Program Objectives

*North Atlantic Right Whale (NARW) Temper of the Times Grant:* The Conservancy received a Temper of the Times grant to develop signage to inform recreational boaters about the danger to North American right whales from speeding boats of the Georgia Coast during NARW calving season (Nov – Apr). The Fellow will work with Conservancy staff and partners to manage a grassroots effort to create and distribute signage.

*Black Sea Bass On-Demand Gear Project:* The Conservancy is part of a SeaGrant funded project to evaluate on-demand gear for the black sea bass fishery in Georgia. As part of this effort, Georgia Conservancy is working with partners to explore the potential for a sustainable black sea bass market in Georgia that would create the economic conditions necessary to support a sustainable fishery. This task will include participating in meetings and workshops with regulators, fishermen, seafood distributors, restaurateurs, etc. In addition, the Fellow will be assisting with grant administration and partner coordination related to the SeaGrant.

*Chatham County Resilience Ordinance Evaluation:* The Georgia Conservancy will be a stakeholder in Chatham County's Resilience Plan. The planning process will begin with evaluation of select ordinances and codes to evaluate their ability to support community resilience to coastal hazards such as tropical storms, flooding, sea level rise, etc. The Fellow will attend stakeholder meetings and participate in code review with Conservancy staff.

*Tybee Island Resilience Plan:* The Conservancy is part of team selected to assist the City of Tybee Island with development of a Consolidated Resilience Plan. The Fellow will work with Conservancy staff and City staff to review existing plans, facilitate a technical advisory committee, identify gaps and develop an action plan for the City to accomplish its resilience goals.

*Georgia Conservancy Program Archive:* Work with Conservancy staff to survey and organize the Conservancy's coastal archives.

## **Position Duties**

- Engage with partners including non-profits, community organizations, local, state and federal agencies, and other potential partners on conservation and outreach initiatives.
- Establish and grow Georgia Conservancy's existing programs along the coast with a focus on SASMI Plan Implementation.
- Perform field work as assigned in support of project work.
- Assist with coordination of stewardship and member engagement events. Attendance at events may be required on the weekend.
- Aid in analyses, including data management and analysis, and summarization of project findings, including report writing.

- Contribute to the promotion of Georgia Conservancy and conservation through development of information sheets/brochures, written articles, and speaking engagements.
- Other tasks as assigned by the Georgia Conservancy Coastal Director or Executive Director

### **Performance Expectations**

- Represent Georgia Conservancy and the Georgia Sea Grant Program in coastal Georgia
- Ability to manage projects, and set and stick to deadlines independently
- Ensure that conservation activities are carried out in keeping with the organization's values, mission, vision, and work plan.
- Creatively engage local populations in a meaningful and long-lasting way
- Establish constructive relationships with staff, partners, and members.
- Demonstrate initiative and be a team player.
- Adhere to the highest ethical standards for professional conduct and scientific integrity.
- Some field work as well as weekend and evening work required.

### **Position qualifications**

- Bachelor's degree in natural sciences or resource management preferred.
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office programs and applications is required. Experience with ESRI ArcGIS and design software is preferred Experience conducting field work, monitoring, or sampling preferred but not required
- Excellent oral and written communications skills and the ability to synthesize and communicate technical and complex information to both technical and non-technical audiences.
- A solid knowledge base of ecology, coastal ecosystems, and land management in Georgia, preferred.
- Ability to work outdoors, in all weather conditions and on varying terrain, with or without accommodation; must be able to carry field equipment at times, with or without accommodation.
- Volunteer management and/or educational experience a plus
- Demonstrated experience in community engagement and outreach preferred.
- Highly organized and able to juggle multiple demands in a dynamic and growing organization.
- Capacity to work independently.
- Ability and willingness to travel locally. Valid driver's license and personal vehicle needed.
- Positive attitude with a desire to learn.

### **Status & Benefits**

The successful candidate will be hired as a full-time fellow for 37.5 hours per week with an August-October 2021 start date (negotiable). The program length is for one year with the possibility of ongoing employment at the completion of the fellowship.

### **Equal Employment Opportunity Policy Statement**

Georgia Conservancy is committed to recruiting, selecting and retaining the best employees by affording equal employment opportunity to all individuals regardless of age, religion, marital status, disability, race, gender or sexual orientation. This policy also includes those provisions of law that apply in particular to disabled veterans.