

Staff Researcher

The **Lakes Environmental Association (LEA)** is a non-profit organization based in Bridgton, Maine focused on the protection of 41 nearby lakes and ponds and the watersheds that surround them. The organization is primarily membership supported and has 8 highly-motivated, year-round staff members who work both individually and as a team in a wide variety of project areas. The LEA's focus is water quality protection with an emphasis on education, monitoring, invasive species control, and environmental policy. The LEA also runs the Maine Lake Science Center, which focuses on scalable lake and watershed research, community engagement, and stewardship of environmental systems.

Job Summary

This position is responsible for all aspects of LEA's water testing program, as well as various advanced testing initiatives. LEA's main water testing season runs from May – September, during which time 26 lake basins are sampled every two weeks. The staff researcher helps to collect water quality information such as clarity, temperature, and oxygen as well as chlorophyll-a and total phosphorus samples on 41 lakes and ponds. They also train and oversee 2-3 interns each summer to assist with sampling. Other projects, such as algae monitoring, high-resolution data temperature monitoring, and use of equipment such as fluorometer and data sondes are within the researcher's purview. The researcher is responsible for compilation, analysis and reporting of the data collected. Other duties will include public outreach, media creation and weekly monitoring at a local National Atmospheric Deposition Program site.

Preferred Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in biology, ecology, environmental science or related field. Master's degree is optional but preferred.
- At least 2+ years of experience in a related environmental field with water monitoring knowledge or skills.
- Experience driving and launching small watercraft.
- Very detailed and organized.
- Excellent technical and non-technical writing skills.
- Familiarity with Microsoft Office; some experience with other software programs such as R or InDesign a plus.
- Ability to direct work assignments, set priorities, delegate tasks, analyze situations, and make qualified decisions.
- Ability to work both independently and in a collaborative team environment.
- Excellent communication skills.
- Experience with lab work such as pH, chlorophyll filtering & analysis, etc.

Job type: Full-time

Must be authorized to work in the United States on a full-time basis for any employer.

Interested parties should submit a cover letter and resume to Colin Holme, colin@mainelakes.org