Ph.D. Position: Landscaping plant choice and long-term invasion patterns

Overview: The Residential Landscape Ecology Lab of Dr. Basil Iannone (https://rle-iannone.com) in the School of Forest Resources and Conservation (http://sfrc.ufl.edu) at the University of Florida is seeking a creative and motivated Ph.D. student. This position includes competitive stipend, tuition waiver, and benefits. Position will start in January 2020. Review of applications will begin immediately.

Duties: Residential landscapes are the most rapidly expanding land cover type in the US, with low-density housing now covering 26% of the total US land area. New, supposedly non-invasive, landscaping plant species are continually introduced into these expanding landscapes. Nevertheless, little is known about how the rate of introduction, i.e. propagule pressure, of these non-native species affects long-term patterns of naturalization. The student will seek this understanding via a mixture of field work, analysis of historic landscaping records, consideration of plant traits, and a suite of analytical approaches. In addition, the student will collaborate with individuals working at state, national, and international levels in horticultural production and sales to develop tools for preventing future plant invasions.

Qualifications: Applicant should have a master’s degree in ecology or related field, interests in applied, interdisciplinary research, biological invasions, and good writing skills. Knowledge of spatial statistics/analyses are beneficial but not required.

To apply: Email: (1) Cover Letter stating your research/career goals, how you would benefit from this opportunity, and your qualifications; (2) C.V.; (3) unofficial transcripts; (4) GRE scores (including percentiles); (5) contact information for three professional references; and (6) a writing sample (e.g., publication, thesis, etc.) on which you are the first author to biannone@ufl.edu. Place “Hort Invasion” in the email subject line. Official transcripts and GRE scores, and letters of recommendation will be required for admittance. Please contact Dr. Basil Iannone with any questions at biannone@ufl.edu

Students can apply through the School of Forest Resources and Conservation (http://sfrc.ufl.edu/academics/graduate) or through the School of Natural Resources and Environment (http://snre.ifas.ufl.edu/academics/graduate).

Finally, the student will also be affiliated with the Sustainable Human and Ecological Development Group (https://programs.ifas.ufl.edu/shed) and the Center for Land Use Efficiency (https://clce.ifas.ufl.edu/news/clue-initiative-release.html).