Volunteer Opportunity Description: *Endangered Species Research-Seed preservation unit*

**Description/Purpose**
Assist in Arboretum research on endangered species as well as orchid species. The seed preservation unit processes propagules (seeds or otherwise) for preservation, typically in a deep freezer. Unit also will test viability of stored propagules periodically and perform basic research on germination biology of endangered species.

**Responsibilities/Tasks**
- Clean and process propagules for preservation
- Weigh seeds using an analytical balance or microbalance
- Germinate seeds in a laboratory/greenhouse setting
- Perform work under sterile conditions for some species
- Record results and steps taken

**Required Skills**
- Ability and patience to work at a desk with very small objects (often using a microscope)
- Basic understanding of plant reproductive biology and seed germination techniques

*Time Commitment and Schedule Details*
Irregular schedule annually, when germination studies are begun they may require regular (perhaps daily) attention for a few weeks. The unit can schedule these responsibilities to accommodate availability to a certain extent.

*Given training commitment, volunteer applicants with willingness to work in the unit for more than one year are given preference.*

**Benefits/Impact**
- Assist Arboretum in preservation of listed species and contribute to knowledge for future preservation efforts
- Learn advanced seed preservation and germination techniques
- Opportunity to work with endangered species
- Meet other volunteers and staff enthusiastic about seed biology

**Work Environment:**

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<th>Indoors</th>
<th>Lifting</th>
<th>Outdoors</th>
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<td>Sitting</td>
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<td>Working with children</td>
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<td>Standing</td>
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<td>Working as part of a team</td>
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**How to Apply for this Opportunity**
If you are currently an Arboretum Volunteer and would like to apply for this opportunity, please contact the supervisor listed below.

**Staff Supervisor & Contact Information**
To get more information or to RSVP for the information session on February 18th, please contact:

David Remucal, PhD  
Curator of Endangered Plants  
remu0005@umn.edu  
612-301-1838

*To apply for this volunteer opportunity, you first need to become a registered Arboretum volunteer. To find out more and get started, please visit our website and check out the [How to Volunteer](#) page.*