**Graduate Research Assistantship – Thousand Cankers Disease**

Contingent on available funding, a Master’s-level Graduate Research Assistantship at the University of Tennessee will be available in 2013. The project is focused on aspects of the control of thousand cankers disease (TCD) of walnut. TCD is caused by a fungus (*Geosmithia morbida)* that is vectored by the walnut twig beetle (*Pityophthorus juglandis).* TCD is recently established in the eastern US and has prompted quarantines on the movement of black walnut wood products. For more information: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/foresthealth/forestpests/tcd/index.shtml>.

The project involves collaboration with the USDA Forest Service and APHIS. Research topics include:

* Phytosanitary standards development
* Beetle and fungus host preference
* Infestation potential and persistence of the insect and fungal pathogen in trees, logs and wood products
* Prevalence of *G. morbida* in forest environments

The appointment will be in the Department of Forestry, Wildlife & Fisheries (FWF) at the Knoxville campus of the University of Tennessee. Two years of support includes an annual stipend of approximately $17,500 plus tuition and benefits. Information on graduate studies in FWF is available at <http://fwf.ag.utk.edu/Academics/msprogram.htm>.

For additional information, please contact:

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