How did your internship opportunity happen?
My UW-Platteville advisor, Kris Wright, shared the internship opportunity with me. I work with the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) coordinator.

How does your internship complement your academic goals?
As a biology major, this internship is giving me ‘real world’ experience in a biology-related field. I am working with a variety of difference people in a cooperative way.

What types of skills are you learning?
I have learned to identify many species in the field including Asian carp and zebra mussels. There are other species like Japanese Hops and Chinese Mystery Snails causing problems in our own backyard too.

How are you spending your days?
My days include data entry, office organization, educating boaters and fishermen about Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) and the “Clean Boats Clean Waters” program. I also monitor the streams and lakes for AIS and staff booths at the local fairs to educate the general public about AIS.

Tanner Ruechel
UW-Platteville
Student & PACCE
Summer Intern

Interning at Southwest Badger Resource Conservation & Development Council

Senior majoring in Biology with an emphasis in molecular/genetics

Hometown: Pulaski, WI

“I have learned a great deal about the problems AIS cause as well as their possible solutions.”
– Ruechel

Tanner’s aha moment:
“Did you know all earthworms are considered invasive species in Wisconsin?”