**2012 Visitors to Pinelands Field Station.** This year our dorm has been pretty full for most of the summer. Long term resident John Abraham from western Africa has been working with Cesar Rodriguez-Soana at the Blueberry Cranberry research station. Faye Benjamin (Rachel Winfree lab) and her crew were studying bees and pollination ecology in early summer. Howard Ginsberg (USGS University of Rhode Island) and crew were studying tick ecology on small mammals and lizards and Matt Ayres (Dartmouth College) and his group studying Southern Pine Beetle populations.

**Research at multiple scales:** The Pinelands Field Station is now in the third year of a large forest thinning and soil disturbance study. The project has dual roles in investigating the possible change of the forest to an alternate stable state system of grass understory replacing the ericaceous shrubs and to explore impacts of forest harvesting disturbance to the forest. Given the effort that Dennis Gray and John Dighton put into site preparation it is encouraging to see some preliminary results suggesting we can see changes occurring in this otherwise resilient system. The project is being conducted in collaboration with the New Jersey Conservation Foundation.

At the other end of the scale, Jenn Oberle-Kilic (GA IMCS, Ecology & Evolution) has studied the interactions between fungal hyphae of species of contrasting enzymatic competence and their substrate where she has characterized changes in the near hyphal substrate at the nano- and micro-meter scale using a combination of atomic force microscopy and focal plane array ATR-FTIR microspectroscopy. She is currently analyzing the rest of her data and writing her PhD dissertation.

Other graduate students in the group include Natalie Howe (Ecology & Evolution) who is studying the ecological services provided by lichens in the pine barrens and Joni Baumgarten (Ecology & Evolution) who is starting work on the interactions between switchgrass and soil organisms in a bioenergy context.

**New Lab.** The new lab had doubled the size of our really, really old lab and has allowed us to better accommodate visiting scientists as well as giving us more ergonomic and cleaner working environments.

**Congratulations to:** Sarah Smith (MS candidate, Biology Camden) who has recently been recruited as a research scientist at the Pinelands Commission. Sarah has been working on island...
biogeography in the pine barrens looking at development of islands of forest regrowth in disturbed areas in relation to the colonization by soil micro-arthropods. Congratulations also to Melanie Maghirang (MS Biology Camden) who on completion of her MS on the effects of control burning on soil microarthropods was recruited earlier this year by the Forest Service, so we still can’t get rid of her from the field station. Sarah and Melanie were undergraduates involved in our forest post harvest residue management project in Finland.

**Ralph Good Award:** In remembrance of Dr. Ralph Good (the first director of the PFS) awards are given to deserving graduate and undergraduate students. This year the awards are going to Sarah Smith and Rebecca Bachelor (MS Biology Camden). Sarah works on island biogeography of soil microarthropods and Rebecca on surveys of ericaceous mycorrhizae and their host plants in the NJ pine barrens.

**Current grants:** Dighton & Gray: Impacts of Forest Thinning and Soil Disturbance on Sustainability in the NJ Pine Barrens USDA McIntire Stennis ($199,960).

Haggblom, Kerkoff & Dighton: The role of *Acidobacteria* Communities in Carbon and Nitrogen Cycling Processes in New Jersey Pineland Soils USDA McIntire Stennis ($190,000).

**Recent Pinelands Field Station publications:**


**Other Oceanography news for December**

**New Grants in December:**

Falkowski, P. Consortium of Algal Biofuels. UCSD. ($440,325)

Kohut, J. Evaluation of Broad and Fine Scale Models of Butterfish Biomass Applied to By-Catch Reduction. NOAA CINAR ($58,284)


Sherrell, R. Collaborative Research: Suspended Particle Geochemistry Along the US GEOTRACES Eastern Pacific Zonal Transect from High Productivity Ocean Margin to Deep Sea Hydrothermal Plume. NSF ($146,821)


**Publications in December**