

STOCKTON COLLEGE

THE RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY



Galloway Resident, Stockton Professor Conducting Comprehensive Insect Survey

Franklin Parker Preserve, Burlington County, is the Research Site

For Immediate Release

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Galloway Township, NJ- With their subtly camouflaging colors and miniscule size in comparison to their fellow fauna, insect populations are sometimes overlooked. The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey's Associate Professor of Entomology, Jamie Cromartie, and his students aren't leaving the diverse insect inhabitants of the New Jersey Pinelands unnoticed.

The Franklin Parker Preserve Insect Survey, a joint project between the New Jersey Conservation Foundation and the American Entomology Society, began in 2006 and is planned to continue indefinitely.

Franklin Parker Preserve, which was a cranberry farm before it was purchased by the New Jersey Conservation Foundation in 2003, is located on 9,400 acres of Pinelands in Woodland Township, Burlington County. The preserve is home to more than 50 rare, threatened or endangered species that inhabit either wetlands or upland forests.

Professor Cromartie, the current president of the American Entomology Society, is conducting insect collection surveys, recording data and documenting insect population dynamics with the help of both former and current students.

Professor Cromartie said, "Surveys have already documented the presence of many species of concern including plants, birds, snakes and amphibians. The insect survey is intended to provide a very complete picture of the largest group of animals on the preserve and probably the most complete insect survey ever done for a site in the New Jersey Pine Barrens."

A variety of techniques are used in addition to photographic and video documentation. Moths are captured by light trapping and baiting, flying insects are caught in intercept traps and ground/plant dwellers are trapped in pitfalls and sweep nets.

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Insect Survey/ page 2

Professor Cromartie said, “Our main focus will be on the changes in the fauna of the former cranberry bogs which are being restored to a more natural ecological condition. This process will unfold over many years, and we intend to follow the changes in the insects present in those sites.”

Participants in the survey include:

- Students from the New Jersey Governor’s School on the Environment, led by instructor and Stockton environmental studies graduate Julie Akers
- Stockton professors Dr. Jack Connor and Dr. George Zimmermann
- Students in the fall 2008 and fall 2010 entomology class
- Dr. Daniel Duran, a Stockton biology graduate and recent PhD graduate of Vanderbilt
- Dr. John LaPolla, a biology graduate and PhD graduate of Rutgers University, who involved a group of his students from Towson University
- Recent environmental studies students April Hamblin and Conor Sullivan are working on a comparative study of bees at the Parker Preserve and on Stockton’s campus

For more information on the Franklin Parker Preserve, visit www.njconservation.org and click on “Visit Our Properties.”

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