

Stockton University Begins Thinning Phase of its Forest Management Plan

A More Resilient and Fire-safe Forest Likely to Flourish as Selected Trees
are Removed

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plan. Phase one happened earlier this year when a section of woods underwent the first of planned prescribed burns.

Zimmermann is teaching a summer intensive research course emphasizing forest measurements, which gives students the opportunity to design research experiments directly related to Stockton's forest management.

"Stockton's forest gives character to our campus and defines who we are. It's a living laboratory that provides research opportunities that very few students are offered. It's also a forest that needs our assistance now," Zimmermann said.

Dr. Jamie Cromartie, associate professor of Entomology, plans to use various insect trapping methods, including putting sugar bait on trees that were not removed, to see how moths and other insects respond to the thinning and whether new species are found. "We have a lot of specimens and data from many years of collecting in these forests, now we will see whether restoring the forest also increases the abundance of characteristic Pine Barrens insects," said Cromartie.

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