

**JARROD MATTHEW THAXTON**  
**CURRICULUM VITAE**

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**AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION:**

Fire and Disturbance Ecology, Tropical Forest Ecology and Restoration

**EDUCATION:**

2003	Ph.D.	Louisiana State University (Plant Biology)	<i>Advisor:</i> William J. Platt
1995	A.B.	Princeton University (Ecol. and Evol. Biology)	<i>Advisor:</i> Stephen P. Hubbell

**EMPLOYMENT:**

2008-present	Assistant Professor, Dept. of Biology, University of Puerto Rico
2006-2007	Fire Ecologist USGS Hawaii Cooperative Studies Unit, University of Hawaii at Hilo
2003-2006	Research Ecologist USDA Forest Service, Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry, Hilo, HI.
1995-1996	Research Assistant Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Republic of Panama.

**AWARDS and FUNDING:**

2009-2010	UPRM Biosciences and Engineering Initiative. "Quantitative approaches to understanding fragmentation effects in Puerto Rican forests" (\$68,300)
2008-2011	DOD Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program. "The Potential for Restoration to Break the Grass/Fire Cycle in Dryland Systems in Hawaii." with S. Cordell and G. P. Asner, co-PI's (\$1,540,000)
2003-2004	J. B. Johnston Science Foundation. "Effects of fire intensity on invasive shrubs in a Louisiana pine savanna." (\$5,000)
2002-2003	LSU Graduate School Dissertation Fellowship
2000-2002	Nature Conservancy/Mellon Foundation Ecosystem Research Program. "Effects of overstory removal on fire behavior and shrub invasion in pine savannas," with W. J. Platt, co-PI. (\$22,578)
1999	Sigma Xi Grants-in-Aid of Research. "Effects of fire intensity on native and exotic shrubs in longleaf pine savanna." (\$700)
1999	Best oral presentation at LSU Biology Graduate Student Symposium
1996-2000	LSU Board of Regents Doctoral Fellowship
1995	Award for best field-based Senior Thesis, Princeton University

**CURRENT TEACHING – UPRM:**

BIOL 3417	Plant Organismal Biology	all semesters
BIOL 6994	Ecology of Disturbance and Restoration	Fall 2008
BIOL 6607	Population Ecology	Spring 2009
BIOL 6993	Biology of Invasive Species	Fall 2009
BIOL 4925	Undergraduate Seminar	Spring 2010

**PAST TEACHING – Louisiana State University (TA):**

BIOL 2153	Principles of Genetics	Fall 2000
BIOL 1209	Introductory Biology Laboratory for Majors	Spring, Fall 2001, Spring 2002

### **GRADUATE STUDENT ADVISEES (UPRM):**

Roxanne Almodovar	“Ecosystem effects of invasive species”	M.Sc. chair; 2009-present
Jessica Lopez	“Effects of restoration on insects”	M.Sc. chair, 2009-present
Paola Escobar	“Water quality bioindicators”	M.Sc. committee, 2009-present
Vivianette Caraballo	“Effects of N-fixing trees”	M.Sc. committee, 2009-present
Janesse Colon	“Herb communities in mangrove forests”	M.Sc. committee, 2008-present
Mervin Perez	“Restoration of bryophytes”	M.Sc. committee, 2008-present
Jose G. Martinez	“Dry forest restoration approaches”	M.Sc. committee, 2007-present
Brett Wolfe	“Barriers to dry forest regeneration”	M.Sc. committee, 2008-2009
Jose Cancel	“Conservation of a rare plant”	M.Sc. committee, 2008-2009

### **PUBLICATIONS:**

#### ***Peer-reviewed Publications:***

6. **Thaxton, J.M.**, T.C. Cole, S. Cordell, D. Sandquist and R. Cabin. 2010. Seed and seedling dynamics following ungulate exclusion and grass removal in Hawaiian tropical dry forest. *Pacific Science* (in press).
5. **Thaxton, J.M.** and J.D. Jacobi. 2009. Assessment of fuels, potential fire behavior and management options in subalpine vegetation on Mauna Kea volcano, Hawaii. Hawaii Cooperative Studies Unit Technical Report (in press).
4. **Thaxton, J.M.**, S.J. Dewalt, and W.J. Platt. 2007. Spatial patterns of regeneration after Hurricane Andrew in two south Florida fringe mangrove forests. *Florida Scientist* 70(2): 148-156.
3. Giardina, C.P., C.M. Litton, **J.M. Thaxton**, S. Cordell, and D.R. Sandquist. 2007. Science driven restoration: A candle in a demon haunted world – Response to Cabin (2007). *Restoration Ecology* 15(2): 171-176.
2. **Thaxton, J.M.** and W.J. Platt. 2006. Small-scale fuel variation alters fire intensity and shrub abundance in a pine savanna. *Ecology* 87(5): 1331-1337.
1. Drewa, P.B., **J.M. Thaxton** and W.J. Platt. 2006. Responses of root-crown bearing shrubs to differences in fire regimes in *Pinus palustris* (longleaf pine) savannas: exploring old-growth questions in second-growth systems. *Applied Vegetation Science* 9: 27-36.

#### ***Conference Proceedings:***

2. Cabin, R.J., S. Cordell, D.R. Sandquist, **J.M. Thaxton**, and C. Litton. 2004. Restoration of tropical dry forests in Hawaii: Can scientific research, habitat restoration and educational outreach happily co-exist within a small private preserve? In: *Proceedings of the Society for Ecological Restoration Annual Meeting, August 24-26, Victoria, Canada.*
1. Cordell, S., D.R. Sandquist, C. Litton, R.J. Cabin, **J.M. Thaxton**, L. Hadway, J.M. Castillo, and D. Bishaw. 2004. An invasive grass has significant impacts on tropical dry forest ecosystems in Hawaii: The role of science in landscape level resource management and native forest restoration in West Hawaii. In: *Proceedings of the Society for Ecological Restoration Annual Meeting, August 24-26, Victoria, Canada.*

#### ***Published Reviews:***

1. **Thaxton, J.M.** 2000. North American forests and forestry. *Journal of Biogeography* 27: 228-229. (Review of L.C. Walker, *The North American forests: geography, ecology and silviculture.*)

### **RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS (1<sup>st</sup> author only):**

**Thaxton, J.M.** 2008. Restoration of tropical dry forest on grass-invaded sites. **University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus.**

**Thaxton, J.M.** 2007. Combining top-down and bottom-up approaches to restoration ecology: effects of disturbances and invasive species. **Department of Biology, University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez, PR.**

**Thaxton, J.M.**, S. Cordell, R. Cabin, D. Sandquist, C. Litton, C. Cole. 2007. Ecology and restoration of Hawaiian dry forest: lessons from Kaupulehu. **Nahele Dry Forest Symposium, Kailua-Kona, HI.**

**Thaxton, J.M.,** C. Cole, and S. Cordell. 2006. Seedling abundance and diversity following alien grass removal in a disturbed Hawaiian dry forest. **Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting**, Memphis, TN, and **Hawaii Conservation Conference**, Honolulu, HI.

**Thaxton, J.M.,** R.J. Cabin, S. Cordell, D.R. Sandquist and C. Murray. 2005. Effects of shade, water and grass removal on Hawaiian dry forest restoration. **Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting**, Montreal, Canada, and **Hawaii Conservation Conference**, Honolulu, HI.

**Thaxton, J.M.** and W.J. Platt. 2001. Effects of fuel loads on fire and shrubs in longleaf pine savanna. **Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting**, Madison, WI, and **Natural Areas Conference, Fire Forum**, Cape Canaveral, FL, and

**Thaxton, J.M.** and W.J. Platt. 2000. Effects of fire intensity on shrub resprouting in pine savanna. **Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting**, Snowbird, UT.

**Thaxton, J.M.** and W.J. Platt. 1999. Effects of fire intensity on shrub resprouting in a longleaf pine savanna in Louisiana. **National Park Service - Big Thicket Science Conference**, Big Thicket National Preserve, Beaumont, TX.

**Thaxton, J.M.,** S.J. DeWalt, and W.J. Platt. 1998. Spatial dispersion of saplings in southeast Florida fringe mangrove forests damaged by Hurricane Andrew. **Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting**, Baltimore, MD.

#### **ACADEMIC AND COMMUNITY SERVICE:**

- 2009 Scientific contributor. "Plan Eco-Yagüez 2012" conservation plan for Mayagüez, Puerto Rico
- 2009 Invited Lecturer. Fire and Invasive Species Learning Network (The Nature Conservancy), Guánica Commonwealth Forest, Puerto Rico
- 2008-present Member, Building Safety Committee, UPRM Department of Biology
- 2008-present Member, Graduate Studies Committee, UPRM Department of Biology
- 2007 Session Organizer, "Conservation and Restoration of Tropical Dry Forests," Organized Oral Session, Ecological Society of America Meeting, San Jose, CA
- 2005 Invited Lecturer. US Forest Service Forestry Short Course. Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA.
- 2004-2007 Internship Mentor. University of Hawaii – Hawaiian Internship Program. Directed UH-Hilo students in field projects on Hawaiian forest ecology.
- 2004 Invited Guest Lecturer. Graduate Ecology Seminar, University of Hawaii-Hilo.
- 2001-2002 Invited Guest Lecturer. Plant Population Biology and Conservation Biology courses (Louisiana State University), Introductory Biology (River Parishes Community College, Sorrento, LA).
- 2001-present Manuscript Reviewer: American Midland Naturalist; Forest Ecology and Management; Functional Ecology, International Journal of Wildland Fire; Natural Areas Journal, Pacific Science, Plant Ecology
- 2001-2002 Leader of "Botanical Wonders" workshops for Girl Scout leaders at Camp Whispering Pines, LA. Developed interpretive programs on the ecology and conservation of pine savannas for Girl Scouts.
- 1998-present Society Member: Ecological Society of America, Sigma Xi, Florida Academy of Sciences
- 1996-2000 Developed and taught short courses on tropical ecology and conservation for middle school students at Denman Junior High School, McComb, MS.