The invasion of novel species can result in serious harm to ecosystem stability and function, resulting in a loss of biodiversity and the degradation of vital ecosystem services. However, it remains unclear why some habitats are more susceptible to successful invasion than others. In this study we experimentally tested the theory of fluctuating resource availability by manipulating the supply of soil moisture in an old-field community in situ at the Boston Area Climate Experiment (BACE; Waltham, MA,) and we manipulated the potential uptake of soil resources by manually clipping background vegetation or leaving it intact. We invaded experimental plots with seeds of *Persicaria lapathifolia*, an annual weedy herb and then sampled: complete life-cycle demography for nearly 2,000 *P. lapathifolia* individuals, environmental variables such as soil moisture and soil inorganic nitrogen, and physiological variables such as leaf chlorophyll and tissue C:N. Overall, increases in soil resource supply and/or decreases in uptake promoted invasion by *P. lapathifolia*. Furthermore, plots that did not receive manipulations hypothesized to be favorable to invasion were entirely resistant to invasion. We also observed a shift in demographic rates throughout the growing season suggesting that antecedent drought may promote invasion in the spring, but is later countered by the effects of concurrent drought.

The Fisk Jubilee Singers and their many copycat competitors created a mania for spirituals in the 1870s. All kinds of popular entertainment wanted a piece of the action, including stage adaptations of Harriet Beecher Stowe’s evergreen *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*. This presentation surveys how jubilee singers transformed a popular melodrama into a musical melodrama, and even infiltrated plays that had nothing to do with slavery or race.

We look forward to your participation. Refreshments will be paid for by the BFRF - Pick up your lunch in Olin Pandini’s (before noon), sign the Chat list at the checkout period. Please join your colleagues in the Needham Room. For additional information, contact Sandra Castaldini, x5339.

Next Chat
Wednesday, April 15th