

KAPPLER, ANDREAS

ANDREAS KAPPLER Professor for Geomicrobiology,
University of Tuebingen

HOMETOWN At the
moment, Tuebingen,
Germany

TSRC Since 2006.
Organizer & Participant

I KNEW I WANTED TO BE A SCIENTIST WHEN Probably
it was in 1998 during the participation in the Woods
Hole Microbial Diversity Summer Course that I
realized I would like to become a professor. I liked
science in general already, I but never really thought
about becoming a professor until then.

HIS STORY Fostering new collaborations and long-
lasting professional relationships in science is a
cornerstone of the TSRC experience. The founders



Andreas Kappler

built TSRC on that
premise and anyone
coming to TSRC for a
long time will attest to
the efficacy of the TSRC
environment for doing
just that. However, one
newcomer's list of TSRC
inspired collaborations
and accomplishments is
somewhat staggering,
too many to even list here. Andreas Kappler is the
whirling dervish of collaborators. At his second
TSRC workshop in 2008, Andreas was hiking up
Gold Hill with another participant, Eric Roden,
talking up a storm, sweating, and running out of
breath. Their conversation turned to running out of
oxygen, and what that might mean for the complex
soil bacteria they study. If the bacteria ran out of



oxygen, how would they produce energy to live?
Would they find a substitute for O₂ to breathe on?
How would it be metabolized? They hypothesized
theories, devised experiments to test their ideas, and
returned to the Intermediate School for donuts,
coffee, and more meetings. Back at their labs, they
completed the experiments and are now preparing
a manuscript for publication. "I can definitely say
that the Telluride workshops have influenced my
scientific life and career, a lot," wrote Andreas, who
in 2008 was awarded the Göttingen Academy of
Sciences Award in Biology, which was "definitely
influenced" by his TSRC peers. "I am looking
forward to the next TSRC meeting in 2010 already.

FAVORITE HIKE Sneffels Highline Trail is fantastic!
I also love the Bridal Veil Falls hike for mountain
biking.

"I went on a seven hour
hike in 2006 with one of the
conference participants to
make him tired and I finally
asked him, after seven
hours, whether he would
like to come as a postdoc
to my group. Since I still
had chocolate and he was
hungry, he agreed."