



Founded 1968

# OBFS NEWS

Volume 2007

<http://www.OBFS.org/>

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 Common Interests: **Bohdan Dziadyck**  
 Diversity: **Brian Kloeppel**  
 International: **Deedra McClearn**  
 Small Field Stations: **Linda Wallace** and **Bo Dziadyck** (co-Chairs)  
 Organizational Development: **Kari O'Connell**  
 Outreach: Philippe Cohen  
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### Llano River Field Station, Site of the 2007 OBFS Meeting



### An earlier Meeting a Black Rock Forest, Site of the 2008 OBFS Meeting



The OBFS Newsletter is posted on the web site ([www.obfs.org](http://www.obfs.org)) as a PDF file. It is available to all members in good standing. Hard copies will be sent only to members who specifically request them. A reminder to specifically request hard copies will be e-mailed to all members at the time of publication.

Please remember to vote in the 2008 Annual Election – Ballots have been sent to all member stations in good standing. If you do not receive a ballot, let us know at

[David.White@MurrayState.edu](mailto:David.White@MurrayState.edu) .

## Human Diversity Award presented to Organization for Tropical Studies

The Organization of Biological Field Stations (OBFS) is pleased to announce the winner of its first Annual Human Diversity Award. This award is designed to recognize a station that demonstrates impressive success in recruiting underrepresented groups to field science activities. The award was presented at the OBFS Annual Meeting in Junction, Texas on 15 September 2007 to the Organization for Tropical Studies (OTS).

OTS has headquarters at Duke University and owns and operates three biological field stations in Costa Rica - La Selva in the Caribbean lowlands, Palo Verde in the Pacific dry forest, and Las Cruces in the midelevation cloud forest near the Panamanian border. For nearly 45 years, OTS has run tropical ecology courses for undergraduates, graduate students, and legislative decision makers. The hallmark of OTS courses is the hands-on, intensive field experience that counteracts the "nature deficit syndrome" from which many young people of the developed world suffer. On OTS courses, students wade through swamps, climb trees into the canopy, and hike through the forests. They handle bats, bugs, frogs, and tree seedlings in the course of their investigations. They formulate scientific hypotheses and then learn how to collect their data, use the proper equipment, and prepare a scientific presentation to explain their results.

OTS courses have always been filled with keen, motivated, and academically qualified students. Leaders in the organization realized, however, that special recruiting efforts were needed to attract certain groups of students to the courses. Through a combination of targeted fellowships, recruitment

of a diverse range of academic mentors, and the formation of an influential Advisory Committee for Academic Diversity (ACAD), OTS has made impressive strides in increasing the number of Hispanic American, African American, and Native American students in its programs. Over the past several years, approximately 25% of the undergraduate students on OTS programs have been from these underrepresented groups. Follow-up data on alumni indicate that 75% of these students enroll in graduate or professional schools or acquire jobs in fields related to the biological sciences after graduation.

OTS credits its success in attracting a diverse group of students to many sources, including the amazing natural beauty of Costa Rica, the dedication and professionalism of its staff and instructors, and the unwavering support of its 60+ member institutions. In addition, strong financial support from the National Science Foundation, the Mellon Foundation, and other funding agencies has created many exciting programs and learning opportunities. OTS is pleased and proud to accept the OBFS Human Diversity Award and pledges to continue its efforts well into the future.

**IF YOU WISH TO NOMINATE A PROGRAM OR FIELD STATION FOR THE HUMAN DIVERSITY AWARD, PLEASE SEE THE NEXT TWO PAGES**



Photo Credit: Tom Arsuffi

Photo Caption: The 2007 Human Diversity Award of the Organization of Biological Field Stations was presented to the Organization for Tropical Studies. Brian Kloepfel is shown presenting the award to Deedra McClearn.



*Promoting Human Diversity in Field Science*  
The Organization of Biological Field Stations  
2008 Annual Human Diversity Award

**Nomination Deadline: 1 March**

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The OBFS Human Diversity Award provides recognition for unique activities, programs, or approaches (funded or unfunded) that increases the involvement, engagement, and sustainability of underrepresented groups in field science. Broadly speaking, underrepresented groups in field science may include, but are not limited to, ethnic minorities (blacks, Hispanics, Asians, Native Americans, and others), women, inner-city youth, disadvantaged rural communities, K-12 groups, tribal colleges, community colleges, undergraduate institutions with small programs, and citizen monitoring programs.

Promoting Human Diversity may be accomplished by disseminating materials and using, rearranging, or creating infrastructure to facilitate transitions between the field and classroom. Activities should stimulate both applied and individualized approaches to experiential scientific learning. We will also recognize stations that demonstrate how retention and application of new scientific concepts are promoted to facilitate further discovery and increase scientific dialogue among diverse user groups. This may include a pedagogy for the basic knowledge needed by underrepresented groups to address the current challenges in environmental and natural resources management and research at all educational levels (K-12, undergraduate, graduate, and continuing education).

In addition to the honor and recognition of peers, the OBFS Human Diversity Award includes a permanent plaque for the winning station; an official award letter that can be included in the official materials, grant applications of the winning station; a second traveling OBFS plaque that will record previous winners and be housed at the most recent recipients facility; and recognition on the OBFS website. The award may include a travel reimbursement of up to \$1000 for the awardee to attend the annual OBFS meeting if travel funds are limiting for the winning institution.

**Timing of Submission, Review and Award**

January	A request for nominations for the award will be announced on the OBFS web site and through the OBFS list server in mid-January. Nomination of institutions by others as well as institutional self-nominations will be accepted.
1 March	Nominations due.
2 March	All nominees will be notified and requested to submit the information listed below.
31 March	Nominee supporting material due.
1 May	OBFS Diversity Committee announces recipient as determined by members of the OBFS Diversity Committee who are not from organizations with current applications.
Early September	Award will be presented at the OBFS Annual Meeting. The OBFS Historian, will photograph the representative(s) from the field station receiving the award.

Send nomination to Amy Whipple ([Amy.Whipple@nau.edu](mailto:Amy.Whipple@nau.edu)) by 1 March.



*Promoting Human Diversity in Field Science*  
The Organization of Biological Field Stations  
Annual Human Diversity Award

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**Nominee Supporting Material**  
**Deadline: 31 March**

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**Submission Instructions:** Please email this form and (a) two high resolution digital photographs of program activity, (b) your station logo (if any), (c) your station strategic plan (if any) and (d) letters of support from project partners (if appropriate) to Amy Whipple ([Amy.Whipple@nau.edu](mailto:Amy.Whipple@nau.edu)) by midnight, 31 March.

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**Program Title:**

**Field Station Name:**

**Station Website:**

**Contact Person:**

**Address:**

**Phone:**

**Email:**

**Program partners:**

**Funding sources (if any) for the program:**

**Describe your program objectives:** (1/2 page maximum)

**What is your station strategy for human diversity?** (1/2 page maximum)

**How has the station and program achieved the definition of success listed above, including example data (participant numbers, graduation rates, or other appropriate measures)?** (1/2 page maximum)

**How does your the station distributes educational and research results and materials to a broad public, and, in particular, to underrepresented groups?** (1/2 page maximum)





## Improvements in Facilities, Communications, and Equipment at Biological Field Stations and Marine Laboratories (FSML)

[http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=5449](http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5449)

**DUE DATE MARCH 7, 2008**

**Contact Kandace Binkley or Jess Zimmerman (biofsm1@nsf.gov)**



Biological Field Stations and Marine Laboratories (FSMLs) are off-campus facilities for research and education conducted in the natural habitats of terrestrial, freshwater, and marine ecosystems. FSMLs support biological research and education by preserving access to study areas and organisms, by providing facilities and equipment in close proximity to those study areas, and by fostering an atmosphere of mutual scientific interest and collaboration in research and education. To fulfill these roles, FSMLs must offer modern laboratories and educational spaces, up-to-date equipment, appropriate personal accommodations for visiting scientists and students, and modern communications and data management systems for a broad array of users. In recognition of the importance of FSMLs in modern biology, NSF invites proposals that address these general goals of FSML improvement.



### Gerald Selzer

In 2007, OBFS lost a good friend and supporter in Gerald Selzer. Gerald had been, along with Kandace Binkley, the NSF contact for the Field Stations and Marine Laboratories Program. The OBFS Auction was always one of his favorite events at the annual meeting. In his honor, we have created the

OBFS "gong" that is now being used to open and close the auction.



## Gerald Selzer (1943-2007)

Outstanding Service and Commitment to  
the Organization of Biological Field Stations (OBFS)  
the National Science Foundation (NSF)  
and the Scientific Community

*"I have been asked to do many things that I am eminently unqualified to do" GS*

Not surprisingly, he excelled at them all.

## 2007 OBFS MEETING – LLANO RIVER FIELD STATION

The Llano River Field Station of Texas Tech University @ Junction hosted the annual meeting of the Organization of Biological Field Stations in 2007. The OBFS meeting began the evening of Thursday, 13 September 2007 and ended noon on Sunday, 16 September 2007. A full report of activities and meeting notes is available in the 2007 Annual Report. Below are some pictures from the annual meeting.



1. Areal view of Llano River Field Station
2. Group picture of attendees
3. Serving wenches?

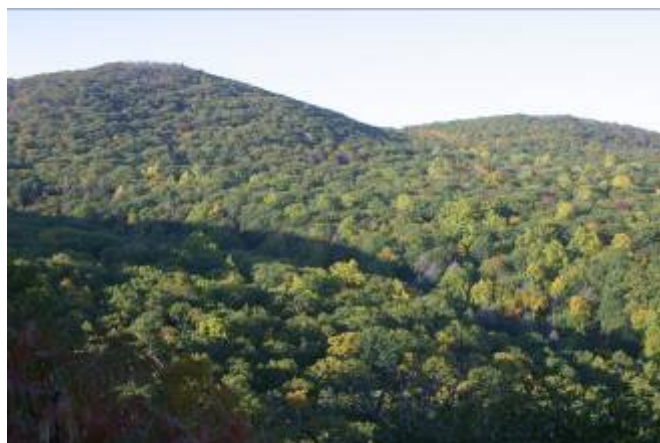


## 2008 OBFS MEETING – BLACK ROCK FOREST

The Black Rock Forest in New York State's Hudson Highlands will host the 2008 annual meeting of the Organization of Biological Field Stations. Individuals who plan to participate in the pre-meeting field trips should arrive on Wednesday, September 17, 2008. Following the field trips, the OBFS meeting will begin on the evening of Thursday, September 18, 2008 and end by noon on Sunday, September 21, 2008.

The Black Rock Forest is a 3830 acre natural area in the highlands of the Hudson River Valley, located 2 miles west of the Hudson River and 50 miles north of New York City. It provides classic examples of the region's native forest, stream, and pond ecosystems as it has always been privately owned, carefully managed, and never developed. It was established as a private forest research station in 1928 and was part of the Harvard Forest system

from 1949 – 1989. For the past 18 years it has been operated by the Black Rock Forest Consortium, a group of 20 academic institutions including Columbia University and the American Museum of Natural History, that actively use the forest as a field station for research and education.





Black Rock Forest is a place of great natural beauty and biological diversity. It contains seven lakes and ponds, plus numerous small streams and waterfalls. We will offer tours of the native hardwood forest, aquatic habitats, and both historic and current research sites in areas such as tree physiology, forest hydrology, paleoecology and biodiversity research. More than 400 scientific papers have been produced from the research in the past 15 years.



We will offer two pre-meeting trips to nearby natural areas- one to explore the Hudson River itself and its passage through the Highlands by passenger boat and/or kayak, the second trip to explore the two natural mountainous areas to the north (the Shawangunk Ridge and Catskill Mountains). There are many other nearby sites worth visiting, from New York City itself (an hour's drive) to two outstanding art/sculpture centers within a 20 minute drive, as well as West Point Military Academy and a host of historic sites.

The station features 18,000 square feet of newly constructed, "green" meeting and lodging facilities (partly supported by NSF/FSML). We will offer tours of the environmentally enlightened features of the facilities including use of wood and stone from on-site, geothermal ground-source heat pumps for heating and cooling, waterless, composting toilets, and a 24-kilowatt solar panel array. The facilities can support meetings for 100 or more guests with an on-site overnight capacity of 75 and many nearby motels, hotels, B+B's, etc. Transportation arrangements are facilitated by the forest's proximity to Interstates 84 and 87 (both only 15 minutes away) and four airports (Newark, JFK, and LaGuardia near NYC and Stewart Airport in Newburgh, only 15 minutes away). For meals we will feature selections of fresh local fruits and vegetables, meats, and wines. And we will arrange for musical entertainment by some of the outstanding musical talent in the Hudson River Valley.

Just outside the doors of the Forest Lodge is the Black Rock Forest with over 18 miles of hiking trails and outstanding views of the Hudson River Valley. Guests are sure to enjoy hiking the forest trails, biking the forest roads, and viewing the local birds and wildlife. We will have maps of the forest, field guides, and mountain bikes available. A ping pong table and a foosball table will be set up in the Lodge basement.

**LOOK FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE 2008 ANNUAL MEETING TO BE AVAILABLE SPRING.**



**In 2009 OBFS plans to hold the Annual meeting at Le Salva in Costa Rica**

# Station News

## Lakeside Lab hires full-time director

Peter J. van der Linden has been hired as the Executive Director of the Iowa Lakeside Laboratory on West Okoboji Lake. Peter is the first full-time director in Lakeside's 98-year history.

Lakeside Lab is operated by Iowa's three state universities under the Board of Regents. In 2006 it was designated as a Regents Resource Center and its mission expanded. Peter's role is to extend the universities' services into Northwest Iowa and make the Lab a center for lifelong learning.

Peter is a graduate of Iowa State University with Bachelors and Masters degrees in Botany. He spent the summer of 1974 at Lakeside as



an undergraduate student. Peter previously served as Executive Director of Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve near Niles, Michigan, and as Curator of Plant Collections at The Morton Arboretum in Lisle, Illinois.

## Josua Lindahl Hill Prairies Nature Preserve dedicated

In cooperation with the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, Augustana College of Rock Island at one of its field stations in the Quad Cities in September, 2007. As part of the 27 hectare Collinson Ecological Preserve, the new state nature preserve was established to protect two small hill prairies on west-facing bluffs overlooking Mill Creek. The 0.24 ha of grade B loess hill prairies are representative of the Glaciated Section of the Middle Mississippi Border Natural Division of Illinois and comprise the core of the new preserve which includes 8 ha of surrounding forest as a buffer.

The Josual Lindahl Hill Prairies Nature Preserve is the first privately owned nature preserve in Rock Island County and the only

loess hill prairie under nature preserve protection for a distance of approximately 240 km along the Mississippi River in northwestern Illinois. The Illinois Nature Preserves System was established in 1963 and currently accords the highest possible level of protection for natural areas.

Augustana College owns and manages three field stations in the northern part of the state. In addition to the Collinson Ecological Preserve, the College owns the 40 ha mixed wetlands Beling Ecological Preserve on the Rock River in the Quad Cities. Halfway between Chicago and the Mississippi River in Lee County is the 170 ha woodland, grassland and wetland mosaic, Green Wing Environmental Laboratory.





**YE OLDE OFFICIALE OBFS BALLOTTE, JANUARY 2008**

This year's ballotte is for new officers and accepting the new bylaws

*Voting is open to station members only. Ballotte cards must be*

*returned by February 29, 2008. The biographies given below are designed to assist voters in making choices. If you have not received a ballotte card in the mail, please contact*

[david.white@murraystate.edu](mailto:david.white@murraystate.edu)

**PRESIDENT (vote for one)**



**Brian Kloeppe** - I am the Site Director at Coweeta Hydrologic Laboratory near Otto, North Carolina and Assistant Research Scientist in the Odum School of Ecology at the University of Georgia. I also enjoy chairing the OBFS Human Diversity Sub-committee and serving as the OBFS/LTER Liaison Representative. In September 2005, Coweeta co-hosted the OBFS Annual Meeting with

nearby Highlands Biological Station. If elected, one of my primary duties as President of OBFS would be to continue implementing the OBFS Strategic Plan that was developed and approved prior to our 2005 Annual Meeting. Current OBFS President Jan Hodder has led the implementation of this plan and I and the Executive Board would continue promoting field stations and where possible to increase funding available from multiple sources for field station programs and facilities. This increase in funding is crucial to all field stations and especially to small field station budgets that are highly dynamic as a result of changes in state, academic, and private funding. I would appreciate your vote to serve OBFS as President and I look forward to hopefully seeing you at the 2008 OBFS Annual Meeting at Black Rock Forest in New York!

**Mark Stromberg** - For the past 20 years, I have managed the Hastings Natural History Reserve for UC Berkeley and the Museum of Natural History. I joined OBFS in 1986 and so and



have attended most meeting since. This means I knew some of the OBFS board members who long ago retired, not necessarily that I have absorbed much of their wisdom. In about 1997 (I am not sure; and my notes are vague), I established the OBFS website (hosted at Stanford). In 1999, OBFS moved it to an LTER server and talked James Brunt into running a

listserv for OBFS from LTER. OBFS owes James a vote of thanks as he is still running it! I maintained and developed the OBFS website and through this, got to know many OBFS members over the years as their websites came online. I

helped write the OBFS Operations Manual. I volunteered to be the OBFS Network Coordinator in 1999 and was re-elected until 2006 when Faerthen Felix volunteered to give the position the benefit of her energy and skills. I served on several committees and attended various national meetings on behalf of OBFS as NSF, NAML, LTER and others were exploring networking opportunities. I represented OBFS at many meetings as a part of a RCN program directed by Bill Michener to develop (among other things) means of discovering ecological data at field stations. I have been a co-chair of the UC Natural Reserve System's Information Management Committee (2002-present) where we worked with an employee, Kevin Browne, who developed the Reserve Administration Management System (RAMS) that is used by all of the UC field stations and several OBFS members. So, with this background, I am running for president? What OBFS needs is an accomplished people-person who has experience at the national level. That would be Brian Kloeppe. As a strong supporter of OBFS, we need the best president we can get, and so my motto is "Vote for Brian, vote early and vote often!" I will remain grateful to OBFS to appear on the ballot, but in all political reality, Brian is my candidate!

**SECRETARY (vote for one)**

**Greg Smith** - I would be pleased to serve as Secretary of OBFS. I believe strongly in the mission of field stations, especially given the continued increase in "urbanized" students that have little to no exposure to nature. I, myself, am a field ecologist, studying birds and mammals to investigate how and why populations and communities are structured across space and time. I teach classes in Conservation Biology and Wildlife Ecology and regularly take advantage of field station resources. I have been actively involved with OBFS for the past six years, and in that short time have come to greatly respect the work being done by field station personnel. It is always encouraging to speak with others who have dealt with similar issues and have found novel ways of solving them. My



field station experience includes serving as Director/Manager of field stations in Kansas and Ohio and serving on the OBFS Small Field Stations Subcommittee. My academic training (B.S., University of Florida; M.S., Mississippi State University; Ph.D., University of Oklahoma) has exposed me to a variety of habitats, issues, and resources (including field stations), adding to my experience. I am currently on the Graduate Faculty in the Department of Biology at the

University of Akron and serve as Manager of the Martin Center for Field Studies and Environmental Education located in Bath, Ohio. I will bring my experience to the Executive Board and do all that I can to advance the mission and goals of OBFS. I look forward to working with each of you.

**vote**

## MEMBER AT LARGE (vote for one)

**Philippe Cohen** - I've managed biological field stations since 1986, after receiving a Ph.D. in geography from the University of Minnesota. During that time, I've managed two different field stations - one in the remote East Mojave Desert (<http://granites.ucnrs.org/>), and the second within a 15 minute commute of Stanford University (<http://jrpb.stanford.edu/>). These field stations are in distinctly



different circumstances, with vastly different infrastructure needs and fiscal support. This broadens my view of field station needs and challenges. In addition, I've been a member of the Board of Trustees of the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory since 2004. My involvement in OBFS includes past chair of several committees (administration and facilities [pre-strategic plan], investment, governance, and currently, outreach); V-P of OBFS, 2002-2003; participation in OBFS-sponsored workshops and a Congressional Visits Day; and previous tenure as representative at large, 1998-2000. As chair of the outreach committee, I'm working on a new brochure. Many of you were saw and commented on an initial layout at the 2007 meetings. I also was the primary author of the sustainability principles for OBFS (see link on OBFS home page). My OBFS activities reflect my commitment to promoting the organization and enhancing field station visibility. I am particularly interested in three issues. First, management challenges field stations face as they increasingly become part of the urban-wildland interface. The model of field stations in "remote" locations is becoming anachronistic for understanding the challenges we face. I want to position the organization to better serve the community as these issues come to the fore. Second, I am committed to sustainable practices and think field station ought to model such practices. Sustainable infrastructure is also critical to the long-term fiscal health of field stations. I encourage you to read the OBFS sustainability guidelines for my thinking on this. Third, biological field stations are among the most important contributors to our understanding and wise management of our ecological heritage. However, we have not adequately communicated that relevance to our communities, both large and small. I want to improve that track record. Finally, I have the unofficial distinction of unsuccessfully bidding on more items at OBFS auctions than any other member. My other OBFS badge of distinction is helping identify the all-important "Top Ten Quotes" of the meeting.



**Bill Schuster** - I am a barber with a shop on London's Fleet Street who was wrongfully imprisoned years ago, and I will have my revenge! Oh sorry, wrong bio. I am really a forest ecologist who has worked at the Black Rock Forest field station in southeastern New York for the past 15 years. I earned a BA in Biology at Columbia University, an MS in Forest Ecology at Penn State, a PhD in Biology at University of Colorado and did a postdoc at University of Utah before accepting my current position as Executive Director of the Black Rock Forest Consortium. I dabble in various aspects of forest ecology research but spend the majority of my time attempting to maintain an appearance of smooth operations and a modicum of productivity at our field station. In other words, like most of you, I am a professional juggler. I have attended many debauch-erous OBFS meetings over the past 15 years and hope that people will exhibit a bit more decorum when we host the 2008 meeting here at Black Rock. Or perhaps you would prefer a meat pie and a shave?

**Deedra McClearn** - I am a member of the OBFS International Committee. I was pleased to accept the Human Diversity Award of the Organization of Biological Field Stations on behalf of the Organization for Tropical Studies. I am Station



Director for Le Selva. Le Selva is located at the confluence of two major rivers in the Caribbean lowlands of northern Costa Rica, La Selva comprises 1,600 hectares (3,900 acres) of tropical wet forests and disturbed lands. It averages 4 m (over 13 feet!) of rainfall that is spread rather evenly throughout the year. La Selva was originally established in 1954 by Dr. Leslie Holdridge, as a farm dedicated to

experimentation on mixed plantations for the improvement of natural resources management. It was purchased in 1968 by the Organization for Tropical Studies and declared a private biological reserve and station. Since then, it has become one of the most important sites in the world for research on tropical rain forest. Over 240 scientific papers are published yearly from research conducted there. The earlier we can give kids experience, the better. We had a group of kids that had been raised in rural areas come to La Selva for an environmental education program. They were not interested in nature; they live in nature and hunt tapirs with their dads. But they were blown away by the labs and we couldn't get them away from the microscopes. So you never know how you are going to touch them.

## Proposed Revised Bylaws

As you are aware OBFS recently applied to the IRS for non profit status. This resulted in the need to update the OBFS Bylaws to bring the organization into compliance with IRS standards; the Executive Board has revised the Bylaws to reflect the needed changes. The revised Bylaws

must be approved by a 2/3 majority of the membership.

On the ballot, please vote yes or no to approve the revised Bylaws. The revised bylaws are presented below.

**BYLAWS OF THE  
ORGANIZATION OF BIOLOGICAL FIELD STATIONS, INC.**

**ARTICLE I. PURPOSE**

Section 1. Purpose. The purposes of Organization of Biological Field Stations, Inc. are exclusively those allowed for organizations defined under §501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Within these limits, the purposes of Organization of Biological Field Stations, Inc. include the following:

To facilitate the highest quality environment for scientists, students, teachers and the public to pursue research and education, and to enhance biological and environmental understanding.

To assist its members in providing optimal infrastructure for exemplary scientific research, innovative and effective learning, and informed natural resource stewardship.

To enhance the capacity of field stations through training and information sharing.

To educate the public and decision-makers about the critical role of field stations in research and education.

To enhance public support for funding field stations infrastructure and the activities supported at field stations.

**ARTICLE II. INDIVIDUAL NONVOTING MEMBERS**

Section 1. Individual Nonvoting Members. OBFS may have individual nonvoting members at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Rights and Obligations of Individual Nonvoting Members. The Board of Directors may by resolution establish categories of individual nonvoting membership and determine any obligations and privileges of members in those categories. The individual nonvoting members will not have the power to vote on the election of directors or members, or to participate in a binding vote on any corporate matters.

**ARTICLE III. STATION VOTING MEMBERS**

Section 1. Qualifications of Station Voting Members. A station voting member must be a field station or marine laboratory established and operated for scientific and educational purposes, or an organization that supports or is significantly involved in a field station or marine laboratory. Each Station Voting Member must designate a representative.

Section 2. Powers and Purpose of Station Voting Members. Station voting members ("voting members" hereafter) have the power to elect and also to remove the members of the Board of Directors and certain officers of Organization of Biological Field Stations, Inc., to elect and remove voting members and to vote on any amendments to the bylaws or articles which would alter the qualification, selection, removal, obligations, rights or powers of the voting members, and to vote on any other matters properly put before them for an advisory vote by the Board of Directors. The voting members do not have the power to make binding or enforceable decisions on matters reserved for the Board of Directors, including adopting budgets, authorizing expenditures, setting policies, or determining the organization's programs and activities.

Section 3. Dues. Annual dues, if any, will be set by the voting members.

Section 4. Selection of Station Voting Members. Voting membership shall be automatically approved following a determination that the applicant has paid any required dues and satisfies any other qualifications required for membership. This determination can be made by the Board of Directors or by a committee delegated this task by the Board of Directors.

Section 5. Records of Members. The secretary shall ensure that the organization maintains a current, formal, alphabetical record of the names, addresses, emails and status of voting members and non-voting members.

Section 6. Suspension or Removal of Station Voting Members. A voting member may be suspended or expelled by the voting members or by the Board of Directors for serious misconduct, which adversely affects the interests or reputation of the corporation.

Before the voting members can suspend or remove a voting member there must be not less than fifteen (15) days prior written notice of the suspension or expulsion, to the voting members, giving the reasons therefore. Further, there must be an opportunity for the member to be heard, orally or in writing, not less than five (5) days before the effective date of the suspension or removal by the voting members, or by a person or persons authorized by the Board of Directors to decide that the suspension or removal not take place.

Suspended voting members may be reinstated through an application to the Board of Directors that satisfactorily explains reasons for reinstatement.



Section 7. Resignation of Station Voting Members. Any voting member may resign at any time by sending or delivering a written resignation to the secretary.

Section 8. Quorum for Station Voting Membership Meetings. A quorum will consist of the presence, participation by conference call, or voting by mail, or email, where that is allowed, of at least ten percent of the voting members.

Section 9. Decision-Making by Station Voting Members. The affirmative vote of at least a majority of the voting members present at or participating by conference call, mail or e-mail in a properly called meeting, for which a quorum has been achieved, is necessary and sufficient to make decisions or pass resolutions by the voting members, unless a greater proportion is required by law, the Articles or Bylaws. All decisions require a clearly stated motion, a second, and a vote. All motions, which are successfully adopted, must be recorded in the written minutes.

Section 10. Proxy Voting. Proxy voting will not be allowed at any meeting of the voting members or as part of reaching any decision by the voting members.

Section 11. Voting by Mail, Fax or E-mail. Unless prohibited or limited by the Articles or Bylaws, any action which may be taken at any annual, regular or special meeting of the voting members may be taken without a meeting if the corporation delivers a written ballot to every member entitled to vote on the matter, by mail or e-mail, at the address provided by the station/voting member. The written ballot will: a) set forth each nominee or proposed action; and b) provide an opportunity to vote for each vacant board position, and for or against each proposed action. Approval by written ballot will be valid only when the number of votes cast by ballot equals or exceeds any quorum required to be present at a meeting authorizing the action. The vote is limited to the subject specified on the ballot.

Section 12. Annual Membership Meeting. There must be an annual meeting of the voting members, which will be held to nominate members to the Board of Directors. It will be held at a time and location determined by resolution of the voting members, or by the Board of Directors, if the voting members do not do so. Attendance at annual meetings is open to all interested parties and encouraged for all members (voting and individual).

Written notice of the annual meeting must be sent by mail, or e-mail, as directed by the voting member, to all voting members entitled to receive notice, at the address, or e-mail provided by the voting member or as it appears in the corporate records, at least 30 days in advance of the meeting.

At the annual meeting voting members will hear and consider reports from the Board of Directors, officers and staff concerning the activities, management and budget of the Corporation. Voting members will then nominate persons to fill any vacancies on the Board of Directors, and vote on any other matters for which proper notice was given. Voting for members of the Board of Directors will occur within three months of the annual meeting and be by secret ballot. Members may be given the option to vote by mail or e-mail rather than in person. The failure to hold an annual meeting does not affect the validity of any corporate action.

Section 13. Other Membership Meetings.

A. Regular Meetings. The Corporation may hold a series of regular meetings of the voting members at times and locations set by the Board of Directors or officers. A single notice sent by mail or e-mail at the address provided by the voting member, at least thirty days in advance of the beginning of the series of regular meetings will be sufficient and no further notice is required so long as the meeting dates and times which were announced do not change.

B. Special Meetings. Special meetings of the voting members may be called by the officers, executive committee, the Board of Directors or by a quorum of the voting members. Notice for a special meeting must be mailed by mail or e-mail, or fax, at the address provided by the voting member, at least thirty days in advance of the meeting and must specify the purpose(s) for which the meeting is called. Only the business for which a special meeting is called may be considered at the meeting.

Section 14. Content of Notice. The notice must contain the date, time, location and when required, the purpose of the meeting. Notices of special meetings always require a statement of the purpose(s) for which the meeting is called. If amendments to the Bylaws or the Articles of Incorporation will be considered, the notice must state this fact and the exact wording and an explanation of the amendments to be considered must be included with the notice.

Section 15. Waiver of Notice. Any voting member may waive the right to receive full advance notice of any meeting. Waivers of notice will be in writing, signed by the person entitled to notice, and will be given to the Secretary to be placed in the corporate records. Waivers may be signed before or after the meeting has taken place. The attendance of a voting member at any meeting without specific objection to improper notice will constitute a waiver of the full notice of that meeting.

Section 16. Record Date. The record date for determining the members entitled to receive notice of a

meeting will be the day before the day on which the notice is sent. The record date to determine the members entitled to vote at a member's meeting will be the date of the meeting.

### **ARTICLE IV. BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Section 1. Duties of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors will establish the corporation's policies and review and change them as necessary, oversee its programs and activities, appoint or employ and supervise its staff, authorize its expenditures, oversee its financial affairs, and ensure the proper management and use of its assets and property. The board must also ensure that the corporation properly employs the necessary corporate formalities to make its decisions, that it prepares and submits all required state and federal reports, and that it operates in compliance with relevant state and federal laws. Board members must diligently prepare for, attend, and participate in the meetings of the Board of Directors and any board committees as needed, in order to carry out these tasks. The role of the board does not include direct management or conduct of the daily operations of the organization.

Section 2. Qualifications of Directors and Composition of the Board of Directors. Nominees for positions on the Board of Directors must have demonstrated a commitment to the mission and purposes of Organization of Biological Field Stations, Inc., and must have expertise in areas relevant to the needs of the organization. There shall be three classifications of directors as follows:

A. Station Voting Member Elected Directors. Member elected directors shall be elected by the voting members as described in Article III, section 2 and Article IV, Section 5. Nominees for these positions must be voting members. There shall be at least six and no more than eight member elected directors: president, vice - president, secretary, treasurer and two to four directors at large. The Board of Directors shall determine the number of directors at large to be elected by the voting members. The immediate past-president shall continue to serve on the board, in the office of past-president, for a two-year term following the election of the new president.

B. Board Selected Officer Positions. The Board of Directors will select by majority vote and appoint the editor and network coordinator who shall automatically be both officers and members of the Board of Directors on appointment. These appointments will be for two-years with possibility for reappointment with no term limits.

C. Organizational Standing Committee Chair Directors. Organizational Standing Committee chair directors shall be appointed by the Board of Directors and shall serve on the board while serving simultaneously as the chair of one or more of the committees that have been designated as an Organizational Standing Committee by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall have the right to determine how many Organizational Standing Committees are needed, and therefore how many committee chairs serve on the Board of Directors. These appointments will be for one year with possibility for reappointment with no term limits. The voting members may declare Organizational Standing Committees, so designated by the Board, to be unnecessary and pass a resolution to redesignate them as ad-hoc committees whose chairs do not serve on the Board of Directors.

Section 3. Number of Directors. The Board of Directors must consist of no fewer than eight and no more than sixteen members. The voting members may pass a resolution to increase the size of the board and create new member elected positions.

Section 4. Terms of Voting Member Elected Directors. Voting member elected directors will assume office on April 1 and serve two-year terms, which will be staggered so that one-half of the directors are elected in even years and one-half of the directors are elected in odd years. Only the secretary and treasurer can serve consecutive terms. However, unless they formally resign or are removed from office, directors will remain in office until their successors are properly elected, designated, or appointed.

### Section 5. Selection of Voting Member Elected Directors.

A) Nominations. Voting member elected directors shall be nominated by the voting members at the annual meeting of the voting members held for that purpose. Nominations may be made by the Board of Directors, by individual board members, by voting members, or by individual nonvoting members. Or by an ad hoc "Nominations Committee" appointed by the President to serve the sole, and short-term task, of developing a slate for a particular election.

B) Election Policy and Procedures. The Board of Directors may prepare and adopt by resolution, a formal written policy regarding the details of the board election process, including requirements for the announcement of elections and the solicitations of nominations, the role of a nominating committee, and the schedule and procedures that must be used to hold elections.

Section 6. Removal of Directors. Directors elected by the voting membership may be removed with or without cause by resolution of the voting members. Proper

notice must be given in advance, as required for an annual membership meeting, or for a regular meeting of the voting members, or as required for a special meeting of the voting members, whichever is appropriate, stating that the removal of a director is to be considered (See Article III, Sections 12 and 13). The Board of Directors may remove directors appointed by the board.

**Section 7. Resignation of Directors.** A director may resign at any time. The resignation of a director must be in writing and be delivered to the board, its presiding officer, the president, or the secretary. Once delivered, a notice of resignation is irrevocable.

**Section 8. Filling Vacancies on the Board of Directors.** The vice president shall fill the vacancy of president. The Board of Directors shall by majority vote, appoint directors to fill any other vacancies on the board. A voting member elected director appointed to fill a vacancy will serve only until the next regular election of directors, at which time she or he must be nominated and elected by the voting members in order to remain a director. Board appointed directors will serve out the term of the person they are replacing and will be eligible for reappointment.

**Section 9. Conduct of Directors.** Directors must discharge their duty of loyalty and their duty of diligence in good faith with the care an ordinarily prudent person in a like position would exercise under similar circumstances and in a manner the director reasonably believes to be in the best interest of the corporation.

**Section 10. Quorum.** At all meetings of the Board of Directors, the presence or participation by phone, or other conference communication forum, of a quorum, which is at least a majority of the number of board members in office immediately before the meeting begins, is necessary to allow the transaction of corporate business or the making of corporate decisions.

**Section 11. Decision-Making and Voting.** All decisions require a clearly stated motion, a second, and a vote that must be recorded in the written minutes. Each member of the Board of Directors will have one vote. At the request of any director, the names will be recorded in the minutes of each director who voted for, voted against, or abstained on a particular motion.

The directors must diligently and conscientiously attempt to make decisions by consensus. They must employ all standard consensus practices and techniques including the expression and careful consideration of minority views. When a consensus apparently cannot be achieved, any director may request and require that a vote be taken in which the affirmative vote of at least two thirds of all of the Directors participating in any properly called meeting at which a quorum is present, is sufficient

to make a decision of the Board of Directors unless a greater proportion is required by law or by these Bylaws.

**Section 12. No Proxy Voting.** No proxy voting is allowed at any meeting of the Board of Directors or as part of reaching any decision of the board.

**Section 13. Telephonic Meetings.** Meetings may be held by telephone, or other method, so long as all participating directors may simultaneously hear and speak with each other. A director participating in such a meeting is deemed present for purposes of a quorum.

**Section 14. Decisions Without Meetings.** The Board of Directors may make any decision or take any action within its power without a meeting through a written "unanimous consent resolution" that sets forth the action so taken. The resolution is effective when two-thirds of the directors have voted in the affirmative. The unanimous consent resolution may be sent or transmitted by mail, fax or email. The unanimous consent resolution must be filed with the corporate records.

**Section 15. Board of Director Meetings.** The Board of Directors must meet at least four times per year, and shall strive to do this by meeting at least once each quarter of the year.

**Section 16. Notice of Board of Director Meetings.** Notice must be given every board member of every meeting of the board, stating the date, time, and location of the meeting, and the purpose of the meeting if so required by law or these Bylaws. The notice must be given not less than seven days in advance of the meeting if delivered by telephone conversation or in person, and not less than seven days in advance if delivered by mail, email, or fax to an address provided by the board member.

Regular meetings: After the initial notice is given of the schedule for a series of regular meetings, which will occur at a fixed time and place, no further separate notice is required for each of those regular meetings. Notice must state the time, date, and location of the meeting. The Board of Directors may by resolution establish or change the dates of regularly scheduled meetings, with proper notice given to all directors.

**Section 17. Waiver of Notice.** Any director may waive the right to receive full advance notice of any meeting. Waivers of notice must be in writing, signed by the person entitled to notice, and must be given to the secretary to be placed in the corporate records. Waivers may be signed before or after the meeting has taken place. The attendance of a director at any meeting without specific objection to the notice constitutes a waiver of the full notice of that meeting.



Section 18. Authority of Directors. No director may speak or act on behalf of the Corporation without specific authorization by the Board of Directors to do so.

### **ARTICLE V. OFFICERS, CHAIRPERSON, AND STAFF**

Section 1. Officers. The officers of OBFS must carry out the policies and decisions of the Board of Directors as directed by the board. The officers must include a president, vice-president, past president, secretary, treasurer, network coordinator and editor. The same person may not hold more than one office. All officers must serve simultaneously as members of the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Election and Term of Office. The voting members will elect the president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. As soon as possible following the election of directors, the Board of Directors will meet to appoint the network coordinator and editor.

All officers shall serve two-year terms and assume office on April 1. Only the secretary and the treasurer can serve consecutive terms. The president and secretary will assume office in even numbered years. The president shall serve a further two years as past president, beginning at the end of their term as president. The vice-president and treasurer will assume office in odd numbered years. Each officer will hold office until her/his successor has been properly elected and has taken office, unless she or he resigns or is removed.

Section 3. Removal. The voting members may remove any officer elected by the voting members. Any officer appointed by the Board of Directors may be removed by the Board of Directors whenever, in its judgment, the interests of the corporation would be best served by such removal. Removal will be without prejudice to the contract rights, if any, of the officer so removed. The person being considered for removal has no vote in the process of removal.

Section 4. Vacancies. If any office of the corporation becomes vacant by death, resignation, retirement, removal, disqualification, or any other cause, the directors in office may appoint an officer to fill such a vacancy. The appointed officer will hold office for the remaining portion of the term of that office.

Section 5. President. The president is the principal officer of the corporation and will, in general, supervise or oversee the supervision of all of the affairs of the corporation. The president generally will preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors, unless the board selects another person to preside. The president will

also perform other duties as may be assigned by the Board of Directors. The president may serve as an ex-officio member of any committee.

Section 6. Vice-President. In the absence of the president or in the event of the president's inability to act, the vice-president will perform the duties of the president. The vice-president, when acting as president, will have all the powers of and is subject to all the restrictions on the president. The vice-president will also perform other duties assigned by the Board of Directors.

Section 7. Past President. The past president will perform or oversee procedures for nominations for officers. The past president will also perform other duties assigned by the Board of Directors.

Section 8. Secretary. The secretary will perform or oversee the performance of the following duties: a) record and keep the minutes of the meetings of the members and of the Board of Directors and of any board committees, in one or more books provided for that purpose; b) see that all notices are duly given in accordance with the provisions of these Bylaws or as required by law; c) be custodian of the corporate records; d) keep a register of the mailing address of each voting member as provided by such member; e) ensure that all required state and federal reports are prepared and filed in a timely fashion; and f) perform or oversee all duties incident to the office of secretary and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned by the president or by the Board of Directors. The secretary may delegate some or all of these tasks but remains responsible for their proper completion.

Section 9. Treasurer. The treasurer will perform or oversee the performance of the following duties: a) be responsible for the proper management and control of all funds of the corporation; b) prepare full and accurate financial records on a timely basis of all the income, expenses and assets of the corporation; c) present reports at every board meeting on the financial affairs of the corporation; d) provide financial information necessary to prepare and file the required reports to state and federal government agencies, showing the income, disbursements, and assets of the corporation; and coordinate with the secretary to prepare a register of current voting and non-voting members. The treasurer may delegate some or all of these tasks but remains responsible for their proper completion.

Section 10. Editor. The editor shall be responsible for editing, publishing, and disseminating the OBFS Newsletter and other organizational publications as directed by the Board of Directors. The editor also shall be responsible for disseminating the annual ballot for the election of OBFS officers.

Section 11. Network Coordinator. The OBFS website serves as a major management and outreach tool for organization. The network coordinator is responsible for ensuring that the features, user interface and operation of the website meet these needs.

### **ARTICLE VI. COMMITTEES**

Section 1. Establishment of Committees. The Board of Directors may establish any committee, including standing committees or temporary committees, by a resolution. Such resolutions must name the committee and the purpose of the committee, must state whether it is a Board Committee or an Organizational Standing Committee, and must state what powers, authority and duties have been delegated to the committee, how the chair of the committee and how the members of the committee will be appointed or elected, and may state what procedures, if any, the committee will use in carrying out its work.

The Board of Directors must always have the power to amend, alter, or repeal the decisions of its committees, subject to limitations on the unilateral amending of contracts, interference with third-party rights, and other legal limitations.

#### Section 2. Board Committees.

A. The Board of Directors may establish Board Committees to which are delegated part of the power of the whole board to authorize expenditures and draft budgets, policies and programs to be approved by the full board. Such committees must be established by the affirmative vote of a majority of all directors then in office. Board Committees must consist of two or more directors, and must not have any members who are not members of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors will appoint the chair and members of a Board Committee.

B. Executive Committee: The Board of Directors may appoint an Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will have the power to make decisions between board meetings, including financial and budgetary decisions. The Executive Committee must comply with the provisions of the Bylaws concerning the full board as far as those are reasonably applicable to the Executive Committee. All Executive Committee decisions must be recorded in official minutes, which will be submitted to the full board. Unless the Board of Directors decides otherwise, the Executive Committee will consist of the president, who will be the chair, past president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and two members at large of the organization. The Executive Committee must make reasonable efforts to inform all board members of the issues to be dealt with at an Executive Committee meeting.

Section 3. Organizational Standing Committees. The board may establish Organizational Standing Committees, including working committees or advisory committees, which do not have the power to authorize expenditures, adopt budgets, set policy, establish programs, or make decisions for the corporation. Such committees are established through a resolution adopted by the directors present at a properly called meeting. Any OBFS member may be a member of such a committee, whether or not that person is a member of the Board of Directors.

Section 4. Organizational Standing Committee Chair. The Board of Directors will appoint the chair of an Organizational Standing Committee or if the board wishes, it may delegate that power to the president, the executive board, or the members of the Organizational Standing Committee, subject to later confirmation by the board. The chair will serve a one-year term and be eligible for reappointment. The executive committee will review Organizational Standing Committee chairs annually and make recommendations for reappointments of chairs to the Board of Directors.

Section 5. Committee Procedures. Unless otherwise specified, Board Committee meetings will operate with the same quorum and voting requirements as the full board, and will operate according to the procedures of the board as stated in these Bylaws. If any formal decisions or resolutions are voted on at a committee meeting, then the votes and the resolutions so adopted must be recorded in the form of corporate minutes and filed with the secretary.

Section 6. Limitations on Powers. No committee may a) elect, appoint or remove any officer, member of the Board of Directors, or member of a Board Committee; b) authorize the sale, lease, exchange, or mortgage of all or substantially all of the property and assets of the corporation; c) authorize the dissolution of the corporation or revoke proceedings therefore; d) amend, alter, or repeal the Articles, the Bylaws, or any resolution of the Board of Directors; e) authorize the payment of a dividend or any part of the income or profit of the corporation to its directors or officers.

### **ARTICLE VII. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

Section 1. Compensation of Officers and Directors. No officer or member of the Board of Directors will receive any compensation for fulfilling the responsibilities of a member of the board or of an officer as defined in these Bylaws. However, the corporation may pay compensation to officers and members of the Board of Directors for other services performed as employees or independent contractors as long as the required rules for conflicts of interest are followed. Board members and their relatives who receive regular compensation from

the corporation must always constitute less than a majority of the board. Officers and members of the Board of Directors may receive reimbursement for actual expenses incurred in the course of fulfilling their responsibilities.

**Section 2. Conflict of Interest.** A conflict of interest is always present whenever the corporation pays money or other compensation, or provides any tangible benefits, to an officer or member of the board or to a member of a director's or officer's family. All transactions involving conflicts of interest must be approved using the following procedures: 1) Conflict of interest transactions must be approved by the full Board of Directors; they cannot be approved by staff, the executive director, or by a committee. 2) directors and officers who have a conflict of interest in any matter must a) declare the existence of any direct or indirect conflict of interest, b) disclose its nature on the record, and c) abstain from voting on that matter. The minutes must record this to show that it was done. 3) The rest of the board must analyze the transaction and sufficient information to ensure that all transactions involving a conflict of interest are fair to the corporation and that no special benefits are being given to any person. The information relied upon by the board, and its source, must be recorded in the minutes. 4) All conflict-of-interest transactions must be approved by the affirmative vote of a majority of all of the members of the Board of Directors who do not have a conflict of interest involved in that issue, as long as no less than two disinterested directors vote to approve the transaction.

All Directors and officers must sign a disclosure of all conflicts of interest, and update it if that disclosure needs to be changed.

**Section 3. Tax Year.** The tax year of the corporation is September 1 to August 31.

**Section 4. No Discrimination.** In the delivery of its services to the public, OBFS does not discriminate for or against any person on the basis of ethnicity, nationality, place of origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, familial status, economic status, age, or mental or physical disability.

**Section 5. Annual Financial Review.** The board must require the performance of an annual financial review which must involve the services of a trusted person with bookkeeping or accounting skills and knowledge, and which does not rely upon the services of the person who does the financial bookkeeping for the organization, or the person(s) who sign the checks for the organization. This financial review need not be formal, but must at least review and reconcile the checkbook entries, bank statements, deposit slips, receipts and expense documentation. The Board of Directors may authorize a full formal audit as necessary.

### **ARTICLE VIII. AMENDMENTS**

**Section 1. Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.** The affirmative vote of at least two thirds of a quorum of voting members is necessary and sufficient, to make, alter, amend or repeal the Articles of Incorporation or the Bylaws. Proper written notice must be given in advance, including a written copy and written explanation of the proposed amendments.

