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OBFS NEWS

Volume 2009

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

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The **OBFS Newsletter** is posted on the web site (www.obfs.org) under publications 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

Items for inclusion in the Newsletter should be sent to editor@obfs.org or David.White @MurrayState.edu in early December. A call for articles will be sent to all members.

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At the annual meeting, we reviewed our **OBFS annual budget** and as a group moved and voted to increase our annual dues structure for the first time since the 2003. Our 2009 annual dues notices will be distributed by our OBFS Treasurer, Virginia Boucher, in January 2009, and dues will be raised to \$150 for station members and \$50 for individual members.



Human Diversity Award presented to Outdoor School of Texas Tech University Llano River Field Station

The Organization of Biological Field Stations (OBFS) is pleased to announce the winner of its 2nd 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 Black Rock Forest, New York on 20 September 2008 to the Outdoor School of Texas Tech University Llano River Field Station (LRFS).

The Outdoor School is recognized as a Texas High School Project Exemplar Program at Texas Tech University's Llano River Field Station in Junction, Texas. It is a Science/Technology/Engineering/ Mathematics (STEM) Texas Essential Knowledge & Skills (TEKS) transdisciplinary, inquiry-based, innovative curriculum (12 content areas) that incorporates multiple best learning practices to improve instruction for at-risk students and teachers from urban environments, in which access to outdoors and materials is restricted. The model is flexible, adaptive, and transportable and can be effectively replicated through training at the station, school district campuses, city or state parks and informal science centers.

The Outdoor School has had 7,322 learners since 2004 with 49% female and 51% male; 50% Caucasian, 44% Hispanic, 5% African American and 1% Other. English Language Learners make up 6% of the Hispanic Population. About 50% attendees come from Title 1 schools and are of low socioeconomic status and disadvantaged. The Outdoor School is effective with 94% of attending schools showing gains in 5th grade science Texas Assessment Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) scores and disadvantaged students (Title 1) having the most impressive gains – one school raised 5th grade TAKS scores by 34 percentage points.

The Outdoor School has multiple positive impacts on students. The program provides integrated learning experiences in an outdoor setting. Teamwork is a key part of the program - curricular and all scheduled activities focus on Communication, Cooperation and Commitment. Students use all senses in learning, think for themselves, take ownership and enjoy being students. At the Outdoor School, every moment is a teachable moment; students learn manners and respect. Each child is stimulated through activities that meet all learning styles and multiple intelligences. Positive learning impacts occur through

learner-centered instruction, shared investigations and repetition of concepts in multiple ways for better student understanding. According to teachers, children who attended the Outdoor School had significantly higher ratings in self-esteem, conflict resolution, relationship with peers, problem solving, motivation to learn, and behavior in class.

The LRFS Outdoor School Program illustrates, incorporates and addresses multiple Exemplar categories, but is especially strong in teacher professional development, mentoring and collaboration and is highly effective with transdisciplinary STEM instruction and improving success of traditionally underrepresented students. The LRFS Outdoor School Program effectiveness is attributable to 1) Texas Essential Knowledge Skills based STEM curriculum and lesson plans, 2) auditory, visual and kinesthetic instruction and learning, 3) inquiry based learning, 4) teacher workshops and along side observation of LRFS OS teachers and instruction, 5) transdisciplinary, multi-experiential learning, instruction and activity that includes team building, manners and self confidence across the OS STEM curriculum and 4 day/3 night stay, 6) pre-K-12 OS teacher preparation and post-K-12 OS follow up, with schools and teachers. LRFS Outdoor School is adding GLOBE (Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment) training and capabilities. This will enhance the effectiveness of our already successful program and provide added dimensions in areas of problem based learning associated with field sciences and the scientific method, technology and equipment to acquire, process and interpret environmental data associated with earth, water and weather.

House Bill B1700 (6/15/2007) was unanimously passed by the Texas Legislature and signed by governor Perry to expand the Outdoor School impact to benefit more students through collaboration with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and local school districts. Consider the potential and need with more than 130 state parks scattered throughout Texas and in proximity to most of the 1000 school districts, and that Texas is more than 85% urban and 97% private property.

The Outdoor School teachers are humbled in receiving this prestigious award from OBFS. It helps validate that we are making a difference in providing important positive experiences for our youth in the sciences and outdoors. This is critical given tomorrow's decision-makers and potential leaders in Texas are today's urban youths - with increasing

minority composition, little contact with natural resources and understanding of why land and water need to be understood and conserved.

IF YOU WISH TO NOMINATE A PROGRAM OR FIELD STATION FOR THE HUMAN DIVERSITY AWARD, PLEASE SEE BELOW



Promoting Human Diversity in Field Science

The Organization of Biological Field Stations
2009 Annual Human Diversity Award

Nomination Deadline: 15 March

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 (African Americans, Hispanics, Asians, Native Americans, and others), women, first-generation college students, 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.
15 March	Nominations due.
16 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 nominations to Tom Arsuffi (tom.arsuffi@ttu.edu) by 15 March, 2009.



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

Nominee Supporting Material
Deadline: 31 March

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 **Tom Arsuffi (tom.arsuffi@ttu.edu)** by midnight, 15 March.

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

DUE DATE MARCH 6, 2009

Contact **Kandace Binkley** or **Peter McCartney**
(biofsm1@nsf.gov)



National Science Foundation
WHERE DISCOVERIES BEGIN

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.

A revised version of the *NSF Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide* (PAPPG), NSF 09-1, was issued on October 1, 2008 and is effective for proposals submitted on or after January 5, 2009. Please be advised that the guidelines contained in NSF 09-1 apply to proposals submitted in response to this funding opportunity. Proposers who opt to submit prior to January 5th, 2009, must also follow the guidelines contained in NSF 09-1.

One of the most significant changes to the PAPPG is implementation of the mentoring provisions of the America COMPETES Act. Each proposal that requests funding to support postdoctoral researchers must include, as a separate section within the 15-page project description, a description of the mentoring activities that will be provided for such individuals. Proposals that do not include a separate section on mentoring activities within the Project Description will be returned without review (see the PAPP Guide Part I: *Grant Proposal Guide* Chapter II.C.2.d for further information).

Solicitation 05-550

OBFS Annual Meeting 2009



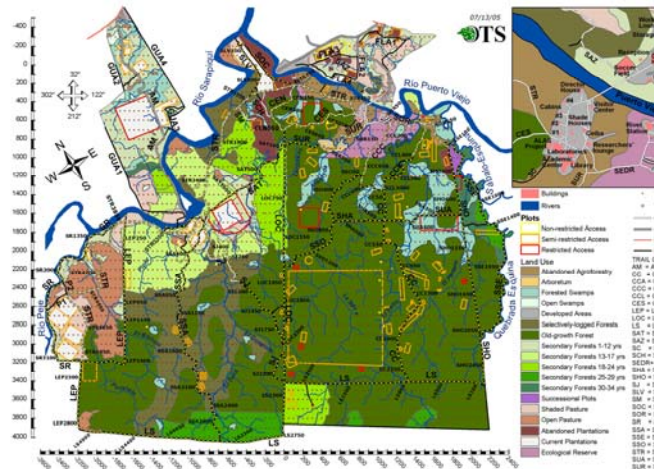
Location: La Selva Biological Station, Costa Rica

- Dates: 23 – 27 September 2008
- 23 September (Wednesday)—arrival for field trip participants
 - 24 September (Thursday)—registration, one-day field trips, evening mixer, Welcome from OBFS President
 - 25 September (Friday)—OBFS business, committee meetings, symposium on International Field Stations
 - 26 September (Saturday)—general meeting, NSF updates, committee meetings, OBFS auction
 - 27 September (Sunday)—board meeting, shuttles to airport
 - 28 – 30 September –post-meeting field trips to Palo Verde (Trip 1) and Las Cruces (Trip 2)

Accommodations: La Selva has approximately 150 beds in a variety of configurations including dormitories, senior researcher rooms, and researcher cabins. A limited amount of family space is available. Please contact Deedra if you plan to bring a partner or family. The Sueño Azul Hotel is about half an hour away for those who want more luxurious accommodations (swimming pool, massage, aromatherapy).

three months). Other nationalities may require a visa (please check with your embassy). A new Costa Rican requirement for a yellow fever vaccine for all visitors and citizens has recently been instituted.

Health: La Selva is neither a malaria nor a cholera area. There are a few cases of dengue fever (the flu-like version) every year, usually among the staff who live in



the populated Puerto Viejo community. Mosquito spray is recommended. Consult the CDC for further information.

Registration fee: ~\$355 (room & board at La Selva, mixer, auction)

Transportation: Shuttles from the airport can be arranged through OTS for an extra charge. La Selva is approximately a two hour drive from the San José international airport. Renting a car is also an option.

Requirements: A valid passport is required for U.S. citizens but no visa application is required (a tourist visa form is provided on the airplane and is good for

Weather: September is wet season and La Selva is a lowland rainforest. However, September is not the wettest month and there is often a “little dry season” during this time. Mornings are usually clear. Lightweight ponchos are appropriate for trail walks in the rain. An umbrella is highly recommended (available in the gift shop) for walking among the buildings during the rain. Temperatures range from pretty warm to quite hot. Labs and meeting spaces are air-conditioned but residences are

not. Residences are provided with fans. It does cool off at night and sleeping with a sheet on and the fan going is quite comfortable.

Contacts: Contact Lianna Mora at the OTS office in San José for registration and logistics. Contact Deedra

McClearn (station director) for questions about La Selva and its biota. More information will soon be available about the meeting program, the short and long field trips, appropriate clothing, and other topics.

**LOOK FOR MORE INFORMATION
ON THE 2009 ANNUAL MEETING TO
BE AVAILABLE SPRING**

2010 OBFS Meeting

<http://141.211.177.75/umbs/about/>

The University of Michigan Biological Station (UMBS) will host the Organization of Biological Field Stations' annual meeting in 2010. Among North America's oldest continuously operating field stations, UM Biological Station has been dedicated to education and research in field biology and related environmental sciences since 1909. It hosts active programs of interdisciplinary research, involving undergraduate and graduate students from across the United States and the world.



The UMBS manages 10,000 acres bounded by undeveloped shorelines and manages another 3200 acres on Sugar Island in the St. Mary's River between Michigan's Upper Peninsula and Canada. The holdings contain a rich diversity of natural habitats: extensive forests of pine, northern hardwoods, conifer swamps, and successional aspen stands, fields and meadows, pine plains, rivers, streams, and wetlands.

The UMBS campus of approximately 20 acres is laid out in the form of a small village along South Fishtail Bay on Douglas Lake (15 km² area) in Pellston, Michigan within a 10,000 acre research reserve. It has a large full-service dining hall where meals are planned with local produce

and meat. Accommodations range from rustic one-room cabins, larger two-to six-bed cabins with bathrooms, to winterized dormitory. Located at the northern tip of the Michigan's Lower Peninsula, UMBS is only three miles west of U.S. Route 75 and six miles from the Pellston Regional Airport (PLN).

Pre-meeting field trips may include an ecology tour of Wilderness State Park on the shores of Lake Michigan, a trip to the Upper Peninsula's Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore on Lake Superior with a stop at Grand Sable Dunes, or a guided boat trip along the historic Inland Waterway in northern Michigan's Lower Peninsula.

Pictures from the 2008 meeting at Black Rock Forest



The Annual Meeting of the OBFS was held at the Black Rock Forest, located in southeastern New York State, from September 17-22, 2008. The 1600-hectare forest serves as a field station for the Black Rock Forest Consortium, a group of twenty academic organizations that use the station for research and education.

The theme of the meeting was “The Greening of FSMLs”. In support of that theme the meeting highlighted “green” features of field station facilities and operations. Carpooling was encouraged via a ride sharing website and a \$5 “carbon offset fee” was included in the registration costs and used to purchase carbon offsets through carbonfund.org (a not-for-profit that supports renewable energy, energy efficiency, and reforestation projects) to reduce impact of participants’ travel. Black Rock Forest provided a tour of the station’s green buildings, the Science Center and the Forest Lodge, which feature a 24 kilowatt photovoltaic power system, geothermal heating and cooling systems, composting toilets, incorporation of locally-produced wood and stone and many other energy conserving design features. Meals highlighted the bounty of the Hudson River Valley by featuring fresh local fruits and vegetables, meats, and wines. Much of the meeting was

broadcast over the internet for those who could not attend in person, thanks largely to John Kim and Mark Stromberg. Recycling and reuse of plastic, paper, glass, aluminum and other metals and containers were practiced and waste food was composted. All meals featured the use of cloth napkins, stoneware plates and mugs, and metal utensils. Electronic attachments were frequently used to minimize paper handouts and each attendee was given a reusable water bottle with name tag so they could always locate their mug or glass.

The meeting began with two field trips. One explored the Hudson River and its passage through the Highlands via a kayak tour and visit to the Audubon Society’s facility at Constitution Marsh. The second field trip visited mountainous regions to the north of the Black Rock Forest (the Catskill and Shawangunk mountains), and included meetings with naturalists and researchers and a tasting at a local winery.

The Welcoming Mixer and dinner on Thursday were followed by opening remarks from OBFS President Brian Kloeppel and from Bill Schuster, Executive Director of the Black Rock Forest Consortium. Then Dr. Neil Maher, Black Rock Forest’s historian, provided

a presentation on the ecological history of the forest and the surrounding Hudson Highlands.

Programs for the meeting included a wide range of reports, panel discussions and committee meetings. One was an NSF discussion/update kindly provided by Peter McCartney and Judy Skog from the National Science Foundation and another featured a discussion on green facilities at field stations around the country. A slide show featured new facilities at several field stations and presentations by new OBFS member stations, and Deedra McClearn provided a slide show about the 2009 OBFS Annual Meeting to be hosted by her station at La Selva, Costa Rica, where the theme will be “International Field Stations”. There were meetings and reports by various OBFS committees including those on Small Field Stations, Diversity, and Organizational Development. The Education/Diversity session included a presentation by Wynn Cudmore about his Northwest Center for Sustainable Resources (NCSR), a program among a consortium of community colleges and headquartered at Chemeketa Community College in Salem, OR. A second presentation was made by William Ehmann of Empire State College about an AIBS/NSF college education session. A third presentation was made by Norman and Joyce Baron who lead the School-in-the Forest program at Black Rock Forest, which gives students from underserved public schools in New York City the ability to participate in educational activities in the forest. The 2nd Annual OBFS Diversity Award was awarded to the Llano River Field Station of Texas Tech University. Discussions were also presented about the 2008 Congressional Visits Day Report, an LTER Update by Brian Kloeppel, an AIBS/NSF update from Eric Nagy, and discussion and approval of the budget for 2008-2009. The final session included a discussion about the OBFS Website and information management led by Faerthen Felix.

The station tour included a driving tour to several native forest, stream, and pond locations around the Black Rock Forest. Several faculty members working at the forest provided overviews of some of the research and education programs of the Consortium. Dorothy Petet of Columbia’s Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory described results of a series of paleoecological investigations in the forest and around the region. Kevin Griffin of Columbia University

described results of watershed-based ecological, physiological, and hydrologic studies in the forest’s Cascade Brook watershed. J.D. Lewis of Fordham University described long-term studies of the implications of loss of eastern hemlock trees to the invasive hemlock wooly adelgid insect and then a group of scientists described the new, large-scale, manipulative “Future of Oak Forests” research project.

The infamous OBFS auction was held in the Forest



Lodge on Saturday night. The theme was “Woodstock Revisited” and long hair, love beads, and hippie gear were in full abundance. Lead auctioneer Peter Connors once again simultaneously entertained and amazed, recreating the “heady” Woodstock experience while bidding up valuable and un-valuable objects alike, contributed by member stations, to truly exorbitant heights. A total of \$6,000 was raised for the endowment of the organization in the process! The approximately 70 participants all departed safely, as tired from laughing as from the discussions and networking, lighter in the wallets, but informed and inspired about the future of the OBFS. On to La Selva!

Station News

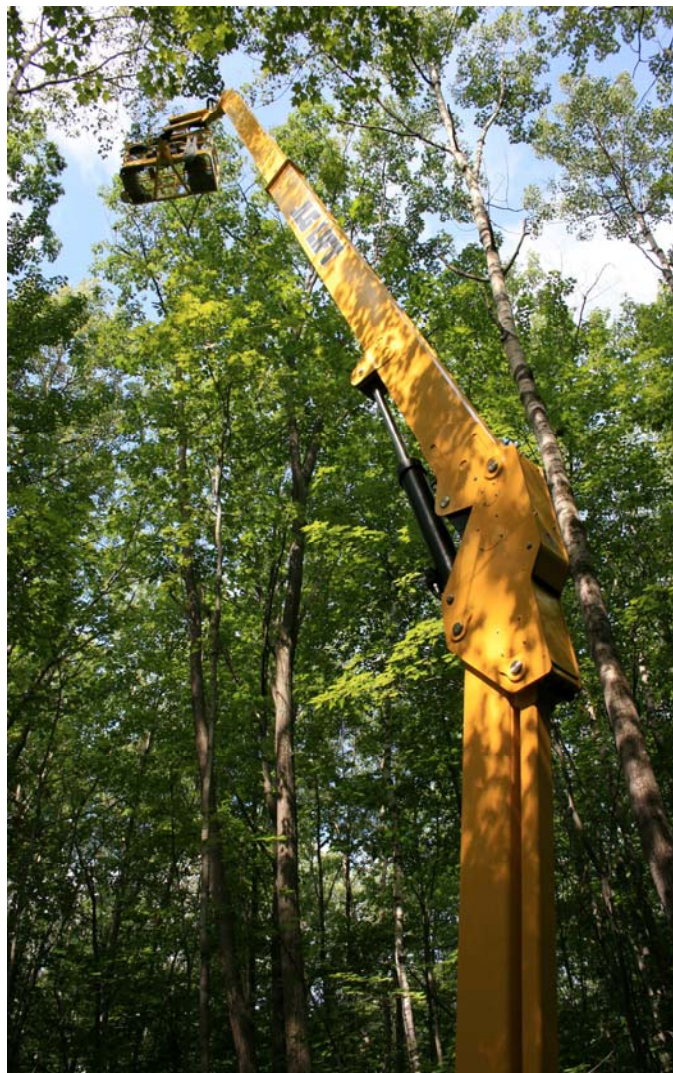
Forest Accelerated Succession Experiment at the University of Michigan Biological Station

In an attempt to forecast the future of carbon storage capacity in the forests of the upper Great Lakes Region, researchers at the University of Michigan Biological Station (UMBS) are using chain saws and pry bars to girdle, and thus kill, nearly 7000 aspen and birch trees in an 83 acre area of forested land. In watching how the ecosystem responds to this change, especially in its ability to store carbon, the Forest Accelerated Succession Experiment (FASET) research team will learn what to expect from regional forests twenty to thirty years from now. Within the FASET research area is a 110 foot tall tower that is instrumented to measure carbon fluxes of the altered forest.

The majority of upper midwestern old-growth forests were logged and subsequently burned by wildfire at the beginning of the last century. The re-growth of the forests was dominated by fast-growing, high light requiring, but relatively short-lived aspen species with slower-growing, shade tolerant maple, pine, beech and oak species in the understory. The aspen are now in the natural process of dying out in the forests across the upper Great Lakes Region. Since aspen will not regenerate in the shade of the existing understory trees, the result will be forests with more diverse collections of dominant canopy tree species. Since the natural process of understory species replacing dying aspen will not be complete for several decades, researchers devised FASET to speed up the process.

The FASET team hypothesizes that once the girdled trees die there will be a short-term drop in carbon sequestration, as leaf area in the canopy (LAI) is reduced and heterotrophic respiration increases, followed by a transition to a more diverse and complex ecosystem with a greater carbon storage capacity than that of the pre-treatment and control forests. They expect that a forest composed of trees of varying ages

and types no longer shaded by aspen will result in enhanced carbon storage.



Within a mile of the FASET site, an AmeriFlux tower has been monitoring carbon cycling in an undisturbed aspen dominated forest since 1998. The data generated with these towers, as well as that collected via a zero-emissions canopy access vehicle, will show what the carbon uptake in the manipulated forest is compared to that in an undisturbed forest.

Fires in Central Coastal California

Mark Stromberg, Hastings Natural History Reserve,
University of California



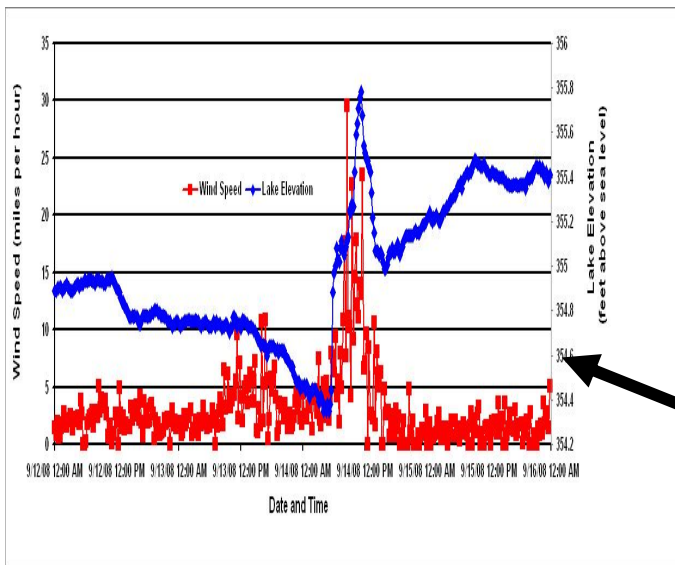
It is not every year that a wildland fire reaches from one field station in California to another. But, that is the case with in 2008 with the Indians/Basin complex fire in June and July and later in October, the Chalk Fire. Extending from a bulldozer line on the Lambert Flats on the edge of the Hastings Reserve, to the interior Dolan Ridge of the Big Creek Reserve, fires swept through the central coast (see map). At about 224,000 ac. this is the largest fire complex in the history of fire-fighting in California. Suppression costs were the second highest in US history at \$120.1M for the Indians/Basin Complex Fire and \$22.9M for the Chalk fire (16,200 ac.). Previously, the most expensive fire in

US history was the Biscuit Fire in Oregon in 2002 at “only” \$150M. Imagine what that kind of money could do for prescribed fire program.

Both fires are described by the USFS and federal on the “Inciweb” pages and if you don’t know about it, also check out the [GeoMac site](#). Local blogs were set up by land owners and often these had the most updated information. Hastings contributed regularly to one of the most popular blogs, “Life in the Fire Lane”, including tens of thousands of hits on our web cams that showed the fire on our boundary. The field station staff at both Hastings (Jaime del Valle-Battalion Chief, Cachagua Fire) and at Big Creek (Feynner Arias- Big Sur Fire Brigade) were terrific in providing firefighters with local information- maps, roads, access, geography, etc.. Fire fighters came from as far away as American Samoa, so needless to say, they needed some orientation. Both reserve staff members have long been active members of the local fire protection organizations.

Hurricane Ike Creates Rare Seiche on Kentucky Lake

On September 14, the remnants of Hurricane Ike moved through the West Kentucky area with strong constant winds that caused property damage, downed trees, and left tens of thousands of people with out electricity. The winds also pushed water across Kentucky Lake that piled up on the eastern shore and then rebounded back to the western shore. In the accompanying graph we have plotted wind speed and lake levels during Ike’s most intense period. Our Hancock Biological Station lake monitoring station is in the middle of the lake and showed an approximate 14 inch change in elevation over a 6 hour period that corresponded with the highest steady wind period. Changes in water depth at the shorelines would be expected to have been two to three times what occurred in the middle, enough to leave boats high and dry or potentially to wash them into the middle of the lake.



Graph of Hurricane Ike as it passed over Kentucky Lake. Wind speed in red and lake level in blue.



**E OLDE OFFICIALE
OBFS BALLOTTE, 2009**

This year's ballotte is for new officers and accepting the revised bylaws. Ballotte cards were mailed to each member in good standing and must be returned by

February 26, 2009.

VICE PRESIDENT

BILL SCHUSTER. I have been Executive Director of the Black Rock Forest Consortium (and an OBFS member) since 1992 and have appointments as Senior Adjunct Research Scientist at Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory and Adjunct Research Scientist at the Center for Environmental Research and Conservation at Columbia University. My prior experience included park management, environmental protection, forestry, and teaching. I am a



forest ecologist with a BA from Columbia University, a MS from Pennsylvania State University, and a PhD from University of Colorado with postdoctoral training at University of Utah. I oversee the scientific research, education, and conservation programs of the Black Rock Forest Consortium, based at the 1600 hectare Black Rock Forest field station in southeastern New York State. The Consortium includes 21 academic institutions in New York region. Since taking my current position I have seen use of the forest increase to over 11,000 visitors per year, nearly 400 papers and publications have been produced including two dozen doctoral and masters theses, and the Consortium has constructed 1700 square meters of "green" office, lab, classroom, lodging and meeting facilities. My research interests are in ecology, ecosystem management, and environmental change. I have authored or co-authored 50 research publications and teach and lecture in forest ecology and environmental science. I have field experience in the Eastern Deciduous Forest, the Great Plains, the Rocky Mountains, the Sonoran and Mohave Deserts, and the old growth Podocarp forests of New Zealand. My favorite pastimes include climbing, hiking, biking, skiing, enjoyment of music, immersion in nature, and attending OBFS meetings.

AMY WHIPPLE. As is true for so many biologists, my

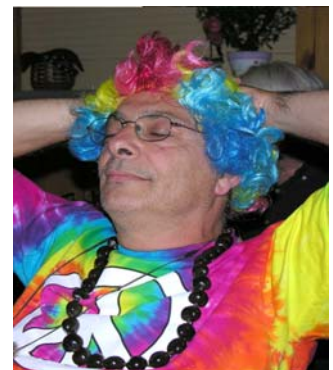


experiences in field courses and at field stations while completing my BS/MS at Penn State were crucial in my early development as a scientist. I then attended UC Davis for my PhD in population biology. The working environment at Bodega Marine Lab and Reserve, where I could have access to the field,

lab, and a range of excellent colleagues all within a few steps shaped the way I approach science and initiated my desire to work to provide these types of resources for others. My joint interest in field stations and interdisciplinary research brought me to Northern Arizona University where I work to promote interdisciplinary research and education and direct our new research station as Merriam Powell Research Station Director and Assistant Research Professor of Biology. Living and working in a region with such a strong Native American presence has reinforced, for me, the notion that serving diverse audiences in general and the Native American community in particular needs to be integrated into all that we do. The support of the OBFS community has been crucial to me in getting our research station building up and running. I have served OBFS as member-at-large and as chair of the human diversity sub-committee. I am excited to run for the office of Vice-President in particular because of the role of the Vice President in the annual meeting programming and planning. Annual meeting feedback being collected from members provides a basis for continuing to improve meeting content without losing the characteristics of the meetings that are most appreciated by the membership.

TREASURER

PHILIPPE COHEN. I've been nominated to be Treasurer (a rare enough honor all by itself). The fact that I'm sending these words should be proof of my willingness to serve. But there are a couple of things you may want to consider before casting your vote. First, if elected I will have to resign as member-at-large on the Board. Which do you prefer, having me there to pontificate or have access to the organization's bank account?



Second, the truth is, I can do this because unlike many of you, I have an administrative associate that keeps me honest and will likely do the real work. Of course, she has her own peculiarities, but then who in OBFS doesn't? Finally, ask yourself this would electing Philippe to be treasurer set a new fashion standard that future treasurers will have to live up to? So, if you find this combination of benefits and constraints appealing, if you can see the inherent trust in the faces of this photo, then by all means, vote for me. Otherwise, leave me on the Board as a member-at-large and suffer the consequences.

VINCENT VOEGELI. My exposure to field stations began in 1986, when I attended a two week graduate course at the Gerace Research Center



on the small island of San Salvador in the Bahamas. While sitting in the orientation, I remember thinking that the director of the facility had to have the coolest job in the world, and wondering how I could ever get such a position (be careful what you wish for!). When a friend became the director in the early 90's, I

jumped at the opportunity to be his assistant (while dragging my young family along). Two years opened my eyes (to say the least) of the actual work involved with such a job. I was asked to come back as the director in the 2001, and it was definitely with some mixed feeling that I accepted the position. Six year later when I left, I remembered back to my first thoughts of managing a field station, and again thinking that, even having lived through it all, it really was one of the greatest jobs in the world. Presently in Bozeman, Montana, and, in between trying to find the ocean, helping with the design and construction of a new field station for the Yellowstone Ecological Research Center.

DIRECTOR AT LARGE

DEEDRA MCCLEARN. I have worked for the Organization for Tropical Studies since 1996. For the first seven years, I was the coordinator of the Costa Rican graduate course in Tropical Ecology—the so-called “Fundamentals” course. Then for two years I was the director of the new OTS undergraduate study abroad semester in South Africa, based in Kruger National Park. For the past 3+ years I have been the director of the OTS La Selva Biological Station in the Caribbean lowlands of Costa Rica. My academic background is in mammalogy and functional morphology. My research has been mostly with bats, mice, and small arboreal mammals (squirrels, possums, kinkajous). For the past five years I have also been working on the growth and reproduction of three canopy trees and three understory fern species in relation to

weather patterns at La Selva. Priorities for La Selva these



days include keeping the station active as a teaching and research site and trying to keep the finances healthy. We are also committed to environmental education in the community, training local nature guides, greening the station, and working with other conservation NGOs in Costa Rica and Latin

America. Increasingly we are actively communicating the scientific findings of the station to the press, the Costa Rican government, and international organizations. My principal interests within OBFS would be in international issues, high technology infrastructure (sensors and data bases), research & education, sustainability, and community relations.

SARAH OKTAY. I am the Managing Director of the University of Massachusetts Boston Nantucket Field Station. I am a relatively new member of the OBFS although the UMB-NFS has been a member for several years now with the prior Director, the late Dr. Wes Tiffney, attending past meetings. I have a B.S. in Marine Chemistry and a Ph.D. in Chemical Oceanography from Texas A&M



University at Galveston. Due to a complex trade agreement between Canada and Mexico, I wound up at UMass Boston in the Earth, Environmental and Ocean Science Department from 2000-2003 where I did a variety of research including some interesting and controversial work on the Hudson River

involving the World Trade Center tragedy and the associated chemical signature in area sediments. In 2003, I became the second Director of UMB-NFS. I am a passionate believer in outreach and community input and I dedicate approximately 30% of my time to working with students of all ages and with the lay public through multiple journalistic sources and several websites and civic positions. A serial volunteer, I serve on the local Conservation Commission, am Vice President of the Nantucket Civic League, and implement environmental policy initiatives through approximately 7 other local committees, commissions, and environmental groups. The UMB-NFS is a member of the Nantucket Biodiversity Initiative and works closely with other island research and conservation NGOs. We have started a total of 5 new

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programs for young scientists and naturalists (Junior Research Interns, Junior Rangers, Adopt a Pond studies) to integrate environmental studies into both public and private education. When not plotting world dominion, I am

very excited about the role OBFS has in fostering our collective research and education endeavors and would be willing to do all I can to work with my fellow draftees in furthering the OBFS organizational goals.