



OBFS President's Note

BY LARA ROKETENETZ, OBFS PRESIDENT

There has been lots going on “behind the scenes” so to speak at OBFS. You can reveal the mysteries beyond the curtain by getting involved with any or all of the incredible initiatives being organized by our hardworking committees.

Of note, the Governance Committee chose our inaugural recipients of the Mini-grants; the IDEA+ Committee created a new rubric for the Advancing Equity Award and put out the call for nominations (please nominate your own station or another worthy colleague!); the Communications and Outreach and Collaborations Committees sent a delegation to Washington, DC to share the importance of Field Stations and Marine Labs (FSMLs) with US congressional leaders; and the International Committee put on not one, but TWO, regional meet-ups for Latin American and African/European stations over the last two months.

I encourage you to learn more about OBFS’ work, participate in these initiatives in the future, and join our enthusiastic team of volunteers on the Board of Directors and Committees to continue to advance our collective goals at OBFS. Being actively involved in OBFS over the last several years has enhanced my own experience with the organization; I hope that you find this to be true as well when you join in the fun with the OBFS crew!

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Banner: Detail of Scott Adams’ painting Map No. 2 (see page 7), courtesy The Schoolhouse Gallery gallerieschoolhouse.com

SALMON MAKES GOOD “CENTS” AT FIELD STATION —BY LISA BUSCH

Sitka Sound Science Center had a wonderful surprise this year that came in an uncanny way.

Silver Bay Seafoods, a locally owned fish processing company with plants all around Alaska, donates to the Science Center, one penny for every can of salmon it produces. This year there was a dip in the canned market, but Silver Bay had a good year with salmon catches statewide exceeding expectations. The company decided to donate generously to an organization it believes in – Sitka Sound Science Center. Owner Rich Riggs designed a scavenger hunt for SSSC Director Lisa Busch to locate the check – over \$450,000!! – found at the weighing station at the playground next door to the field station. The funds are the rarest of donations – unencumbered dollars for operations. This contribution will support a plethora of research and science education activities.



*A scavenger hunt
results in netting
a big catch*

The One Cent for Science Program was developed shortly after a board of directors training in which board members were taught that they don't have to ask their friends for money they can simply introduce the director to their friends, and she can make the official ask. One board member, a local contractor, asked, "So all I have to do is introduce you to people?"

During a break from the training, he ran into the owner of Silver Bay and set up a meeting with the director. The meeting entailed a proposal for this One Cent for Science program. Since that time the company has donated between \$40-140,000 annually. This year was a lot more!

Left: SSSC Director Lisa Busch receives a check from Silver Bay Seafoods.

OBFS GOES TO WASHINGTON —BY CONNER PHILSON & SHANE WADDELL

“Change doesn’t come from Washington. Change comes to Washington.” Taking this quote from former President Barack Obama to heart, four OBFS members went to Washington DC in late April for Congressional Visits Day (CVD) to bring about change in the form of increased research funding for the National Science Foundation (NSF). NSF has long supported field stations directly via the Division Biological Infrastructure and via grants to the users of field stations.

Last year’s CHIPS and Science Act specifically points to Field Stations and Marine Laboratories (FSMLs) as a critical piece of national infrastructure and mandates federal support. The Act resulted in \$9.9 Billion of NSF funding in 2023, the largest NSF budget in history. However, with rapidly rising inflation, the buying power of NSF funding is not keeping pace. The looming US debt limit crisis and subsequent legislation passed in the US House of Representatives proposing to decrease U.S. federal spending by 8.1% in 2024 threatens NSF funding. Now, more than ever, it is important for OBFS to advocate for science and field stations.

Partnering with the American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS), Jennifer Seavey (Shoals Marine Laboratory), Shane Waddell (University of California-Davis NRS), Rebecca Kauten (Iowa Lakeside Laboratory Regents Resource Center) and Conner Philson (UCLA & Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory) participated in three days of science policy and communications training and visits with US Senators, Representatives, and their staffs. As part of these meetings with over 20 congressional offices across seven states, we asked for \$11.9 billion US for the NSF in 2024.

The meetings were successful, with offices on both sides of the aisle acknowledging the important role of research funding for the US’s strategic agenda. In these meetings, we highlighted how FSMLs facilitate effective and efficient use of taxpayer dollars, advance the next generation of scientists, foster trust between scientists and local communities, and enable US leadership in global challenges such as climate change, wildfires, flooding, conservation, and public health.

OBFS partners with AIBS annually to make these CVD meetings possible and a great success. It is a great opportunity to learn new skills, hone your messaging, and participate in democracy. Consider participating next year. In the meantime, get involved with OBFS’ Outreach & Communications Committee, which works on field station advocacy year-round!

Conner Philson (cphilson@ucla.edu) is a PhD candidate at UCLA; Shane Waddell (smwaddell@ucdavis.edu) is Associate Director at UC Davis.

In Brief

Bodega Marine Reserve in California was featured in a [short radio interview](#) recently about renewing a long-term lease with Sonoma County to allow for research and class use of tidelands habitat adjacent to their site.

OBFS Advancing Equity Award

Please consider nominating your peer field stations for the OBFS Advancing Equity Award (formerly the Human Diversity Award), which provides recognition for unique activities, programs, or approaches (funded or unfunded) that increases the involvement, engagement, and sustainability of underrepresented groups in field science.

For more details, please see: <https://www.obfs.org/human-diversity-committee>



IDEA+ SPOTLIGHT: CREATING RESPECTFUL COMMUNITIES WITH CODES OF CONDUCT —BY HALEY DUNLEAVY

It can happen in the blink of an eye. Someone says an offensive comment around a bonfire, makes a racial microaggression in the lunch line, or worse. When someone's behavior causes harm at your field station or marine lab, it's critical to respond quickly and appropriately.

Codes of conduct can help. They create a shared understanding of expected behavior for your station's community while simultaneously providing resources and clear reporting pathways for those who are targets of misconduct. In the best case scenario, they prevent misconduct from occurring. In the worst case, they provide a pathway to action to ensure someone's bad behavior stops. But what makes for an effective code of conduct and how do you draft it?

The first step is to consider how you hope visitors and staff behave at your station. This can cover a wide range, including interactions with one another and local communities, expectations for operating vehicles, or ethical considerations for research. When drafting these behaviors, ADVANCEGeo recommends breaking them into two categories: expected and prohibited behaviors.

Next, prepare for when someone behaves inappropriately by identifying reporting pathways. As much as we hope incidents won't occur, chances are they will. When your station's staff or visitors are targets of misconduct, they need to know what options are available to them.

Clearly state to whom and when people can report. Provide essential contact in-

formation for multiple reporting options, both on and off-site. Include who is notified of reports and what information is shared. Additionally, if you or your staff are mandatory reporters to your home institution, offer alternative confidential options, such as [The Fieldwork Initiative](#) or [THRIVE Lifeline](#), a Trans-led crisis text line, staffed by people in STEM.

Then, give insight into what happens after a report is made. List both supportive actions that people can request and disciplinary actions that may be taken against perpetrators. Briefly describe potential options for investigations.

Finally, enforce it. Refer to your code of conduct in station orientations and informational handouts. Post it in common use and privately-accessed areas, like toilets and showerhouses. And be ready to respond when a report is made.

For more guidance on drafting or revising your station's code of conduct, check out resources from [FieldFutures](#) and [ADVANCEGeo](#) or refer to this [example outline](#) from Anne Kelly's session on field safety and inclusion at the 2021 OBFS annual meeting. Use Toolik Field Station [code of conduct](#), revised in 2022, as a sample to get started on your own.

Contact Haley Dunleavy:
hdunleavy@alaska.edu

If you are interested in additional resources, have content to submit for the IDEA+ Spotlight, or are interested in joining the IDEA+ committee please reach out to Tori McDermott (vmmcdermott@alaska.edu), Phoebe Jekielek (phoebe@hurricaneisland.net) or email diversity@obfs.org



Photo: Dr. Jorge Ramos of Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve, California

Transitions

Peter McCartney, National Science Foundation Program Officer, retired after working with the Field Station and Marine Lab community, the Long-Term Ecological Research (LTER) team and other NSF programs. The Capacity: Field Stations contacts are now Reed Beaman (rsbeaman@nsf.gov) and Matt Herron (mherron@nsf.gov).

OBFS thanks Peter for years of support and good humor.

JORGE RAMOS—ESA EDUCATION AWARDEE

— BY PHILIPPE COHEN

Odum Award recipients demonstrate their ability to relate basic ecological principles to human affairs through teaching, outreach, and mentoring activities. This year's Odum Award for Excellence in Ecology Education was presented to Jorge Ramos, instructor in the Department of Biology at Stanford University and executive director of the Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve.

Ramos manages the preserve's day-to-day operations, research grants and supervises a team of scientists, educators, technology specialists and operations personnel to accomplish the mission of understanding the Earth's ecosystems through research, education, and protection of natural resources. Prior to taking the role of executive director, Ramos served as the preserve's associate director for environmental education and was the co-instructor of the keystone course "Ecology and Natural History of Jasper Ridge," which has trained students and community members to become docents of the preserve since 1975.

Jorge Ramos received the 2023 ESA Odum Award for Excellence in Ecology Education

Ramos is an engaging educator with a passionate dedication to science outreach. Before working at JRBP, Ramos worked at Conservation International as a science advisor and manager to develop community conservation carbon projects for the organization's Blue Carbon Initiative. He has served in leadership and outreach roles for many nonprofit organizations, educational programs, and community groups, including Latino Outdoors, Save the Redwoods League, the National Science Foundation's GK-12 Sustainability Schools Program, the American Geophysical Union's Mentoring365 program, Organization of Biological Field Studies and the Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science.

He has advanced educational initiatives and provided mentorship within ESA. He has been an inspiring mentor in the SEEDS program for over 16 years, including as a national advisory board member; past chair of the ESA Student Section and Environmental Justice sections; and was a steering committee member for EcologyPlus, a pilot program supporting career pathways for diverse college students and early career scientists.

Ramos is an active leader and communicator within the profession. Working at the intersection of ecology and education has allowed Ramos to uniquely advance the field of ecology through hands-on research and educational experiences with a focus on diversity, equity and inclusion.

FROM FLORIDA TO ALASKA: A STATION EXCHANGE EXPERIENCE —BY DUSTIN ANGELL



Above, left: Dustin Angell during his station exchange; Right: SSSC's Emily Klawitter feeds salmon in the saltwater pens. Credit: Dustin Angell

“Aren’t you worried a bear will eat you? You know it is going to be cold, right? Will you really do a polar plunge with the staff?” These are the questions your family asks if you are a Floridian heading to an Alaskan field station. My answers: no, yes, and maybe.

This spring I had the good fortune to participate in OBFS’s inaugural Station Exchange Program (SXP), available for researchers and educators. This meant two weeks as a de facto member of the Sitka Sound Science Center’s education team. This opportunity was well-timed, because at Archbold Biological Station in Venus, Florida we were currently re-envisioning our educational outreach programs. The Center is the gold standard in educational outreach and - although intimidated - I wanted to know their alchemical formula. How did they manage to provide so many different K-12 programs, what did their programs look like in action, and how did their place-based research inform their education activities?

The Center staff was so welcoming that I soon felt like a long-time employee. I participated in 6 staff meetings, 7 orientations, 3 field work excursions, and a variety of educational activities. It was a heady two-weeks, but I eventually figured out the Center’s formula. Yes, they had an educational outreach staff several times larger than ours, but focusing on that metric alone would be to miss the mark. That these staff were well-trained, mentored, and exhibited a “can-do” attitude gets closer. Their secret ingredient wasn’t even their place-based science. Instead, it was a total commitment to community need, constantly asking: what do the local people need, how can we help, and who can we work with to meet this need? From this all else grew and flourished.

It was either that or the weekly polar plunge.

I’ve returned to Archbold with inspiration and ideas, and the hope that we can host one of their staff in the future. When the SXP opportunity comes around again, I recommend you consider taking the plunge and applying. Say “yes” and jump on in. If you’re like me, you won’t regret it.



*Above: Mark Adams
(photo credit
coastalstudies.org)*

Below: Swimmer, 2017



*Art courtesy The Schoolhouse
Gallery galleryschoolhouse.com*

*Contact:
ajenness@coastalstudies.org*

CCS SCIENTIST/ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE —BY AMY JENNESS

The Center for Coastal Studies has named Mark Adams as the first Scientist/Artist-In-Residence. Employed by the Cape Cod National Seashore as a cartographer for 30 years, Adams has collaborated frequently on CCS projects as a scientist. Now the Center is thrilled to establish a new chapter in the partnership and Adams will create public programs that merge the Center's scientific work with the creative arts.

Adams' first CCS program will be with the Fine Arts Work Center on Feb. 3 as part of the FAWC First Friday series where he will create a map of the land and sea that highlights areas of our research and invite participants to add their own words or artwork.

"I love the idea of creating new knowledge by combining art and science," said Sarah Oktay, former Center for Coastal Studies Executive Director. "Uniting the creative processes with science has been part of the Organization of Biological Field Stations initiatives and is regaining momentum with Nancy Lowe leading a new group of interested FSMLs to build upon the prior work of the #ArtSciConverge collaborative Faerthen Felix and Jeff Brown, formerly of Sagehen Creek Field Station, led for OBFS (artsciconverge.blogspot.com/). Given that we are in Provincetown, Massachusetts where art is part of the fabric of the community makes perfect sense for the Center."

Adams, based on Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard since 1987, said his experience in ecology, coastal geology, scientific illustration, and field sketchbooks was evident in the 2017 solo museum exhibition at the Provincetown Art Association Museum, "Expedition" and a 2021 installation at the Cape Cod Museum of Art: "11,000 years of Landscapes and People of the First Light."

After leaving the National Park Service last year, his focus is on using painting, printmaking, and public art installations to instigate an immersive experience of the marine environment. Adams' art features layered images of maps, personal notebook pages, text, data and images of animals and friends. Adams' volunteer work with refugee relief organizations has spurred his interest in the intersection of climate change and human ecology. He studied biology, landscape architecture, printmaking and photography at the University of California, Berkeley, the California College of the Arts, and he frequently workshops with artists at the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown. Adams also teaches at the Castle Hill Center for the Arts (Truro MA), the Fine Art-work Center, the Provincetown Art & Artist's Museum and the Provincetown School.

PIERCE CEDAR CREEK INSTITUTE OFFERS NEW RESIDENCIES FOR ARTISTS — BY SARA EDELMAN

Imagine a place where the quiet solitude of nature awakens your creative spirit. A place with that “up north” feel located close to home. A place with access to hundreds of acres of flora and fauna, individuals with expert knowledge about nature, and a supportive atmosphere to nourish your inner artist. That special place is Residencies at Batts Cottage located at Pierce Cedar Creek Institute, a nature center, environmental education center, and biological field station. Tucked away in the idyllic small town of Hastings, MI, the newly renovated Batts Cottage is open to writers, artists, photographers, and musicians of all backgrounds and genres. In the past it was used by researchers, artists, and writers. Retreats are available April – September on a one-, two-, or three-week schedule.

Batts Cottage is the only original building on the Institute’s property. Located a half-mile east of the main campus, which includes an earth-bermed visitor center, education building, maintenance facility, and additional rental housing. Since the Institute’s opening in 2001, the property has grown to 850 acres of wetlands, forests, marshes, streams, lakes, and prairies with almost 10 miles of trails.

Residents are not required to provide programs or displays for the Institute’s members and guests but are welcome to speak to staff about being involved. The small towns of Hastings and Delton are approximately 12 miles away and the Grand Rapids International Airport is 35 miles away. For more information and how to apply, go to https://www.cedarcreekinstitute.org/batts_rental.html.

Contact sedelman@cedarcreekinstitute.org

HIRAM COLLEGE'S SECRET STATION, NORTHWOODS — BY JIM TOLAN

Among our collegiate OBFS friends, Hiram College is lucky to have its 550-acre James H. Barrow Biological Field Station just 2 miles away from main campus in northeast Ohio.

I’m sure many of you are envious of such a close proximity. However, we know sometimes you can’t be far enough away! To offset that convenience and to diversify research and learning opportunities, Hiram thought why not go big and establish a second field station 600 miles off campus in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula (UP)? And so it was done in 1976, when a group of Hiram students, under the leadership of Professor Rea Knight, began construction on what would become a grouping of six sleeping cabins and a lodge on the shore of Cherry Lake just south of Munising, MI (see photo, page 9).

Almost 50 years later, this 14-acre off-grid outpost, known as the Northwoods Field Station, serves as a Waldenesque classroom for

immersive courses of study in any discipline, as well as a diversely-unique field station surrounded by Hiawatha National Forest and Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore.
(continued p. 9)



Above: Hiram College’s Northwoods Field Station, Michigan

HOW TO FIND USwww.obfs.org/[@joinobfs](https://www.instagram.com/joinobfs)[@OBFS-FieldBio](https://www.instagram.com/OBFS-FieldBio)[YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)[The Virtual Field](#)**HIRAM NORTHWOODS, CONTINUED**

Many Hiram students can't get enough of Northwoods, and we recently made the trek for a spring break get-away to play in the snow. The UP did not disappoint with over 2 feet on the ground. Plenty of cross-country skiing and cold-weather primitive living was enjoyed by all. We also proved that every season in the UP is bug season as millions of snow fleas dotted the white canvas, and we all agreed that we prefer these to the usual biting suspects!

Hiram College is open to collaboration and to sharing our field station resources for the mutual benefit of Hiram students and yours as well!

Contact: *Jim Tolan* (tolanje@hiram.edu)

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Click the links to access; journal subscription may be required

Treibergs, K. A., D. Esparza, J. A. Yamazaki, and M. K. Smith. 2023. Journal reflections shed light on challenges students face in an introductory field biology course. *Ecosphere* 14:e4509. DOI: [10.1002/ecs2.4509](https://doi.org/10.1002/ecs2.4509)

The authors analyzed journal reflections from undergraduates in an introductory field biology course, identifying four categories of challenges:

1. Scientific (concepts, field methods, and data)
2. Logistic (e.g., timing of the course and equipment)
3. Conditions (difficulties with organisms, inclement weather) and
4. Additional challenges across an array of student difficulties.

Students with the least prior outdoors experience were more likely to report a logistic challenge. Recommendations to support students include: discuss the purpose, context, and value of the scientific practices that students perform prior to the field lab; consider location and duration of the lab to adjust logistical challenges; outline expectations and prepare students for activities; destigmatize fear of failure via social support of instructor(s).

“What students were doing in the field lab was more important than student gender, race/ethnicity, or prior outdoors experience in influencing the type of challenge a student might experience.”

Harvey Lillywhite, former Director of Seahorse Key Marine Laboratory (FL), has a new book “[Discovering Snakes in Wild Places: Stories of Passion, Adventure & Science](#)” highlights the wonder and excitement of field work and field stations.

Organization of Biological Field Stations

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