



Founded 1968

# OBFS NEWS

Volume 2006

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

## Contents

### Executive Board (2006)

President - **Jan Hodder** [jhodder@uoregon.edu](mailto:jhodder@uoregon.edu)

Past president - **Sedra Shapiro** [Sedra@sdfoundation.org](mailto:Sedra@sdfoundation.org)

Vice President - **Larry Weider** [ljweider@ou.edu](mailto:ljweider@ou.edu)

Secretary-Treasurer - **Claudia Luke**  
[cluke@sciences.sdsu.edu](mailto:cluke@sciences.sdsu.edu)

Member at large - **Amy Whipple** [amy.whipple@nau.edu](mailto:amy.whipple@nau.edu)

Member at large - **Dawn Wilson** [dwilson@amnh.org](mailto:dwilson@amnh.org)

Editor - **David White** [david.white@murraystate.edu](mailto:david.white@murraystate.edu)

Network Coordinator **Mark Stromberg**  
[stromber@socrates.berkeley.edu](mailto:stromber@socrates.berkeley.edu)

### Standing Committees

Member Support - **Hilary Swain**, Acting Chair.

Governance - **Eric Nagy**

International - **Rick Wyman**

Annual Meeting - Vice President **Larry Weider**

Small Field Stations Subcommittee - **Bo Dziadyk**

Diversity Subcommittee - **Brian Kloeppel**

Organizational Development - **Kari O'Connell**

Outreach Committee - **Philippe Cohen**

Website Subcommittee - **Mark Stromberg**

Nominations Committee - **Past President**

Investment Committee - **Philippe Cohen**

Editor's note, <i>D. White</i> .....	2
A View from the OBFS Presidency, <i>J. Hodder</i> .....	2
New OBFS Member Stations .....	3
OBFS Human Diversity Award .....	3
NSF MSML Proposals .....	4
2007 OBFS Meeting – Llano River Field Station .....	4
ILTER and OBFS - a Continuing Collaboration. <i>S. R. Katz, W. Michener and M. Thomas</i> .....	7
Thousand Islands Biological Station (TIBS) .....	9
Resource Discovery for Field Stations Provides Training, Tools and a Virtual Community for OBFS, <i>S. Romanello</i> .....	9
<i>YE OLDE OFFICIAL OBFS BALLOTTEE, 2006</i> ....	11
Proposed Changes to OBFS Bylaws .....	12

### Site of the 2007 OBFS Meeting



OBFS News (ISSN 1533-2195) is an official publication of the Organization of Biological Field Stations. David White edits it with assistance from Gerry Harris at the Hancock Biological Station on Kentucky Lake. OBFS News is published in December. The deadline for article submissions is December 1. Articles for inclusion may be mailed to the Hancock Biological Station, 561 Emma Drive, Murray, KY 42071 (USA) or may be sent via E-mail to [david.white@murraystate.edu](mailto:david.white@murraystate.edu), Phone 270-474-2272, Fax 270-474-0120. Additional or missing copies of OBFS News and copies of some back issues may be obtained from the editor. Copies also may be found at <http://www.OBFS.org>.

OBFS News is sent electronically as a PDF file to all members in good standing. Hard copies will be sent only to members who specifically request them. The exception will be candidate biographies and the voting cards that will be sent out by hard copy each December. OBFS News will be available also at the OBFS Web Site as a PDF file.

**Remember to vote in the OBFS election** (If you did not receive a ballot, contact [david.white@murraystate.edu](mailto:david.white@murraystate.edu))

### **Editor's Note – *David White***

As of this edition, the information formerly available just in the Newsletter will now be divided between the Newsletter and an Annual Report. The Newsletter will contain news from member stations, election materials, opportunities and services for members, annual meeting information, funding possibilities, and other 'news'. The Annual Report will contain the minutes of the annual meeting, other meeting minutes, budgets, meeting attendees, and other business of the organization. There may be some overlap; however, the divisions probably will become clearer over time. Both publications will be in .pdf format. The Newsletter will be sent via e-mail to all members in good standing and will be available on the website. Hard copies will be sent upon request to the Editor. The Annual Report will be available on the website, and an e-mail will be sent to all members indicating its posting. Normally, both publications will be completed in December of each year.

At this time, OBFS is searching for someone to take over the role of editor. If you are interested, please contact

and of the Executive Board members listed above. The Editor shall be responsible for editing, publishing, and disseminating the OBFS Newsletter, the Annual Report, the Ballot, and other organizational materials as directed by the Executive Board. The Newsletter and Annual Report shall be published in December with supplements as needed. The Editor also shall be responsible for disseminating the annual ballot for the election of OBFS officers. The ballot along with biographical sketches of the candidates will be sent in December of each year to all Station Members in good standing as of December first as a separate mailing. The Editor shall maintain a complete listing of all members and an archive of all past Newsletters and other publications as required. The Editor shall serve a term of two years and assume office on 1 April of odd-numbered years. Individuals elected to this office are eligible for re-election to the next succeeding term of the same office. If, for any reason, the Editor shall be unable to carry out the duties of that office, a replacement may be appointed by the Executive Board to serve the remainder of the term.

### **A View from the OBFS Presidency – *Jan Hodder***

The first OBFS meeting since the adoption of the OBFS strategic plan was held at one of the oldest field stations in the US, the Flathead Lake Biological Station. The University of Montana hosts and the Annual Meeting Planning Committee (chaired by Larry Weider) are to be thanked for holding a very successful meeting with many interesting and thoughtful presentations, activities, and committee meetings.

The OBFS web site continues to expand, and a number of committees have plans to add material of use to the membership in the upcoming year. Emails will inform you of these additions. Mark Stromberg (Hastings Reserve, CA) is stepping down as web master after many years of service to OBFS in developing and growing the web site. If you have not looked at any other pages than the newsletter at [www.obfs.org](http://www.obfs.org) lately, take a little time to explore the site. There is a wealth of information for both new and more established FSMLs. We owe Mark a big thank-you for developing our web site into the useful tool it is today and hope that he continues to play a role in its growth.

A second round of thanks is due to David White (Hancock Biological Station) who has served as the OBFS Newsletter editor for the past 10 years. For this addition of the Newsletter, you may notice a change in size and contents. The OBFS membership directory and the minutes and participant list from the annual meeting that used to make up the bulk of the pages in previous

Newsletters have been moved to an Annual Report to be posted on the web site each fall. The Newsletter will be produced once a year in early winter and will contain information about new members, news from member stations, announcements, election results, and other contributed materials. The Newsletter will be available in hard copy to all who request it. In addition to the Newsletter and Annual Report, the editor also is responsible for mailing out the annual ballot for organization officers and any changes to the bylaws. As it was this year, information and registration for the annual meeting will be web based.

The OBFS Strategic Plan has guided a reorganization of how OBFS members conduct business both at the annual meeting and between meetings. At the 2006 annual meeting, restructured committees met to develop plans for the upcoming year and then committee chairs met with the OBFS Executive Board at the end of the meeting for input and further development of the plans. The outreach committee is undertaking a project to prepare a brochure that provides information about OBFS. There will be opportunities to comment on its design at the 2007 annual meeting. The OBFS web site featured in the plans of a number of committees. The organizational development committee plans to develop a list of funding and partnership opportunities for OBFS members for the web. The members support committee discussed updates for the web based field station operational manual, and the web site sub committee is

planning further work on the OBFS database. Sub committees of the common interests committee also held meetings. The diversity sub committee is planning to recognize OBFS stations that have made efforts to increase the involvement, engagement, and sustainability of underrepresented groups in field science. The international sub committee is developing sources for funding a series of regional workshops to engage international field stations. The small field stations sub-committee plans to work with the annual meeting committee to ensure topics are included in the annual meeting that are of interest to smaller field stations. Finally the governance committee is developing job descriptions for OBFS officers and working to ensure that OBFS is in compliance with its tax-exempt status.

### NEW OBFS MEMBER STATIONS

This may be a new record for biological stations joining OBFS in any single year. We welcome the following sites (and welcome back a few old members)

- **Centre ValBio**, Ranomafana, Madagascar, Stony Brook, NY (Patricia Wright)
- **Chihuahuan Desert Rangeland Research Center**, Las Cruces, NM (Derek Baley)
- **Coastal Research and Education Center**, Charleston, SC
- **Deer Creek Field Station and Education Center**, Ashland, OR (Michael Parker Janes and Stewart Joseph Graf)
- **George Miksch Sutton Avian Research Center**, Bartlesville, OK (Steve Sherrod)
- **Green Oaks Field Research Center**, Galesburg, IL (Stuart Allison)
- **Jornada Experimental Range**, Las Cruces, NM (Kris Havstad)
- **Klamath Bird Observatory**, Ashland, OR (John Alexander)
- **Laguna Madre Field Station**, Corpus Christi, TX (Roy Lehman)
- **Las Cabezas de San Juan Nature Reserve Field Station**, San Juan, PR (Myrna Robles)
- **Las Cruces Biological Station and Wilson Botanical Garden**, OTS, Costa Rica, Durham, NC (Amy Barbee)
- **Meanook Biological Research Station**, Athabasca, AB (Kristin Fazakas)
- **Middle Mississippi River Wetlands Field Station**, Carbondale, IL (Matt Whiles)
- **Palo Verde Biological Station**, OTS, Costa Rica, Durham, NC (Amy Barbee)
- **Santa Catalina Island Conservancy**, Avalon, CA.

- **Sierra Nevada Research Institute - Wawona Station**, Yosemite National Park, CA (Eric Berlow)
- **Southeast Kansas Biological Station**, Pittsburg, KS (Joe Arruda)
- **Tofino Botanical Gardens Clayoquot Field Station**, Tofino, BC (John Platenius)
- **Yellowstone Association Institute**, Yellowstone National Park, WY (Sarah Richey)

.....and welcome back!!

- **Appleton-Whittell Research Ranch**, Elgin, AZ (Bill Branan)
- **Darrin Fresh Water Institute**, Troy, NY (Sandra Nierzwicki-Bauer)
- **Katharine Ordway Natural History Study Area**, Saint Paul, MN (Mike Anderson)
- **La Selva Biological Station**, OTS, Costa Rica, Durham, NC (Amy Barbee)
- **Powdermill Nature Reserve**, Rector, PA (David Smith)

### OBFS Human Diversity Award

*The OBFS Diversity Committee* has created a new annual award called "Promoting Human Diversity in Field Science" to encourage and recognize unique activities, programs, or approaches (funded or unfunded) that increase 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, etc.), 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).

The award is to be given annually at the OBFS Annual Meeting, usually in September. The award will include

- a) a permanent plaque that will be given to the winning station,
- b) an award letter that could be included in future station proposals, materials, etc.,
- c) a second traveling OBFS plaque that will note the annual winning stations, and
- d) the award may include a travel reimbursement of up to \$1000.00 for the awardee to attend the annual OBFS meeting if travel funds are limiting for the winning institution.

A request for nominations for the award will be announced on the OBFS web site and through the OBFS list server in mid-January with a closing date of 01 March. Nomination of institutions by others as well as institutional self-nominations will be accepted. All nominees will be notified on 01 March and requested to submit the information listed below by 31 March. Materials will be reviewed by the OBFS Diversity Committee and a recipient determined by 01 May by members of the OBFS Diversity Committee who are not from organizations with current applications. The award will be presented at the OBFS Annual Meeting. The OBFS Diversity Committee will assist the winning field station to involve their campus and/or local media in publicizing the award after the OBFS Annual Award is given. David Larson, OBFS Historian, will photograph the representative receiving the award from the winning field station.

The materials to request in the award entry announcement will include: a) program title, b) station name, c) contact person and telephone number, email address, and mailing address, d) program objectives, e) program partnerships (and letters of support from partners if appropriate), f) one page describing how the station and program achieved the definition of success listed above, including example data (participant numbers, graduation rates, or other appropriate measures), g) station strategic plan (if they have one) or station strategy toward human diversity, h) description of how the station distributes educational and research results and materials to a broad public, and, in particular, to underrepresented groups, i) source of funding (if any) for the program, j) one to two high resolution digital photographs, k) station logo (if they have one), and l) station web site URL (if they have one).

The materials from the winning station will be converted to the format for posting "Promoting Human Diversity in

Field Science" on the OBFS web site to build a legacy of Human Diversity Success.

The OBFS Diversity Committee members include: Jeff Brown, Tom Hayes, John Kim, Brian Kloeppe (chair), Richard Rothaus, Jennie Sheldon, and Amy Whipple



### **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 2, 2007**

**Contact Kandace Binkley (biofsm1@nsf.gov) or Gerald Selzer (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.

## **2007 OBFS MEETING – LLANO RIVER FIELD STATION**

The Llano River Field Station of Texas Tech University @ Junction eagerly anticipates hosting the annual meeting of the Organization of Biological Field Stations in 2007. **The OBFS meeting will begin the evening of**

**Thursday, 13 September 2007 and end before noon on Sunday, 16 September 2007.** Participants should plan to arrive by 5 PM Thursday evening, 13 September for the mixer and supper, which will be followed by

opening remarks by the OBFS President and Director of the Host Station. **Those participating in premeeting field trips should arrive on Wednesday, 12 September.**



### **Description of Llano River Field Station @ TTU-Junction**

The LRFS is bisected by the South Llano River on the 411-acre picturesque campus located on the western edge of the beautiful Texas Hill Country. The main campus habitat consists of mesquite thickets, pecan bottoms, open grassland, and riparian areas and provides a natural landscape for academic learning, recreation, and solitude. The Field Station concept is relatively new and was established on Texas Tech's Junction campus in June of 2002 to provide a laboratory and classroom environment for K-12, undergraduate and graduate students and researchers from universities, institutes, and agencies. The Field Station encourages and supports research of watershed, riparian habitats and rangeland, wildlife and management. Research projects are encouraged on campus, with local ranchers, at the Walter Buck Wildlife Management Center and at the nearby South Llano River State Park.

The Station also features the Outdoor School designed to create innovative educational experiences that immerse learners into authentic, real world, hands-on activities that stimulate imagination and understanding of difficult abstract concepts. The Outdoor School is an extension of the classroom and is not to be mistaken for a camp. The units taught are aligned with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) and programs, with common focus and goals, are individualized to each independent school district and individual classroom teacher to make sure everyone's needs are acknowledged and met.

(<http://www.depts.ttu.edu/hillcountry/OLC/index.htm>)

### **Housing Accommodations**

Housing at the Junction campus consists of five air conditioned/heated units for 120 persons and ten screened cabins for 100 persons.

**Study units** are lodge style rooms consisting of bunk beds, dressers with storage and mirrors. 2 Bath facilities (each with 2 sinks, 2 toilets and 1 shower) and a lounge area connect the two wings. Each Unit houses an optimum of 16 persons (2 wings of 8). There are no kitchen facilities located in the study units and food preparation in rooms is not permitted.

**Suite units** are arranged with two suites connected by a common bath. The bath consists of a shower and a toilet. Each Suite in Tech House has 2 lavatories, 2-4 beds (sleeps 2-4 people per suite), 2 closets, shelves and writing desk with good overhead lighting. Tech House has a central lounge with comfortable chairs and a table for meetings or games. Tech House is all on the ground floor with maximum sleeping capacity of 24. Each suite in Robert Packard Hall has 2 lavatories, 1-Full size bed and 1-Full sized Futon sofa/sleeper, 2 closets, shelves and writing desk with good overhead lighting. Robert Packard Hall's rooms are all upstairs (one flight) with maximum sleeping capacity of 16.

**Bear Bryant's Screened-in cabins** provide rustic quarters at a low cost. Each cabin, shared by up to 12 people, is equipped with electricity, bunks, tables, chairs, chests, ceiling fans and study area. The cabins are served by 2 centrally located bathhouses. Bathhouse #1 has 13 sinks, 9 toilets and 6 showers for women and 13 sinks, 9 toilets, 4 urinals and 6 showers for men. Bath House #2 has 9 toilets, 10 sinks and 11 showers for women and 6 toilets, 3 urinals, 10 sinks and 11 showers for men.

A list of area hotels in Junction will be provided on our meeting website.

### **Meeting Facilities and Equipment**

Facilities for classes and meetings include traditional classrooms as well as specialized labs for science, computer labs (1 Mac & 1 PC) and distance learning/Conferencing Labs. There are 11 classrooms available for use. These can accommodate groups from 20 persons up to 100 persons, depending on the room setup. The dining hall, which can accommodate up to 150 persons, can be used as a meeting room.

### **Food Service**

Meals are served cafeteria-style. Menus include freshly baked bread, wholesome entrées and fresh salads & fruit. Junction is less than a mile from the station and a variety of restaurants offer additional options for eating.

## **Recreation and Activities**

Canoeing, tubing, and fishing on the river, hiking, volleyball, sand volleyball and basketball and swimming are some of the recreational activities available. Our facility also offers a Challenge (Ropes) course. Much of the campus contains natural areas, which encourage birding and wildlife observation.

## **Socials/Entertainment/Meeting Theme**

We have planned a South Llano River bonfire and barbeque followed by a country-western dance at the pavilion and amphitheatre for Friday evening. Other evening activities/day trips will be developed in conjunction with the OBFS meeting program plans. The theme for the 2007 OBFS meeting and auction is, "How the West Was Won" and was inspired by a rhinestone cowboy named Peter. Peter was Lewis, or possibly Clark, in Montana.

## **Travel**

Texas Tech University Field Station is located in near Junction in Kimble County, Texas. For air travel, Austin-Bergstrom airport generally provides the least expensive airfares and most convenient connections, and is 2.5-hour drive from Junction. San Antonio Airport is another option for air travel and sometimes provides reasonable rates and connections and is a 2-hour drive to Junction. Rental cars are readily available at each location.

## **Premeeting Field Trips and Excursions**

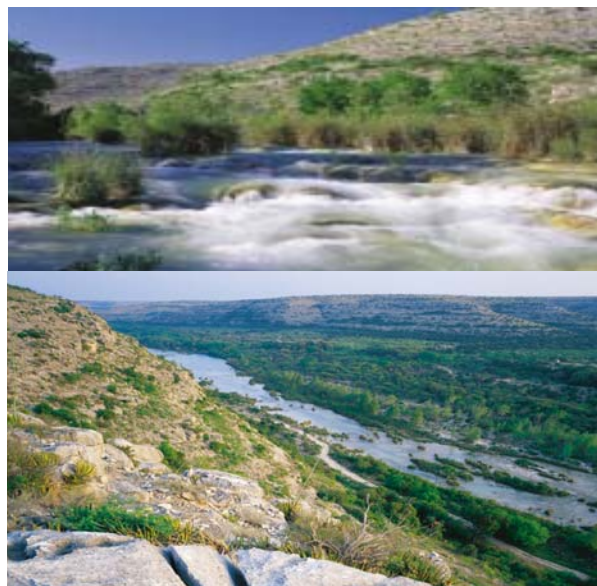
We have a tentative suite of field trips planned for the meeting including: 1) tubing, rafting or canoeing down the Devils, South Llano or Guadalupe rivers or 2) Enchanted Rock State Park and Selah, the Bamberger Ranch. The South Llano River State Park is 3 miles from the station. Those who wish to experience the landscape and biological diversity of this region and explore some of the rugged beauty of rivers, springs and countryside should plan to join the field trips.

For pre-, post- meeting and accompanying guests, eight of Texas' top 13 tourist attractions are within 2 hours from Junction including the Alamo, San Antonio's Famous Riverwalk, Sea World and Fiesta Texas. The San Marcos Outlet Mall currently has over 200 shops where everyday prices reflect 25 to 75% savings. The Gulf Coast and Padre Island are within a few hours drive from Junction.



At TTU-Junction for the naturalist, we have canoeing, tubing, swimming, and fishing the South Llano River. Hiking, birding, wildlife and wildflower photography

**Field Trip 1: Devils River and Dolan Falls.** At the southwestern corner of Texas, in Val Verde County, is an oasis. One that brings life to an area of dramatic contrast. Secluded and undeniably breathtaking, the Devils River winds its way through some of the most visually striking land in the state. Many fish species found nowhere else on earth call the river home. And because dams, pollution and development have never corrupted its course and flow, the Devils River constitutes a biological community that has remained substantially unaltered over time.





**Selah, Bamberger Ranch Preserve** is a 5,500 acre ranch that has been described as the largest habitat restoration project on private land in Texas. The ranch is a working example of grass-based agriculture the practices of good conservation and their value to the entire ecosystem. To educate visitors by providing facilities and programs that enhances the visitors' experience and encourages appreciation and awareness of Selah's and their own natural and cultural heritage. To provide a place where visitors of all ages can experience the beauty of nature, learn the importance of good conservation and land stewardship, and leave with a sense of power that the individual can positively impact his or her environment.



## Field Trip 2. Enchanted Rock and Bamberger-Selah Ranch

### Enchanted Rock State Natural Area



**Enchanted Rock State Natural Area** consists of 1643.5 acres on Big Sandy Creek, north of Fredericksburg, on the border between Gillespie and Llano Counties. It was acquired by warranty deed in 1978 by the Nature Conservancy of Texas, Inc., from the Moss family. The state acquired it in 1984, added facilities, and reopened the park in March 1984, but humans have visited here for over 11,000 years. Enchanted Rock was designated a National Natural Landmark in 1970 and was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1984. The Rock is a huge, pink granite exfoliation dome that rises 425 feet above ground, 1825 feet above sea level, and covers 640 acres. It is one of the largest batholiths (underground rock formation uncovered by erosion) in the United States.

We will be working with the president of OBFS and the meeting committee to put together an agenda of plenary and other sessions that will be of interest and value for types of stations. We hope to provide sufficient off time to use station tubes and kayaks in the river, hike our nature and birding trail, or visit the nearby Llano River State Park and Walter Buck Wildlife Management Area. Hope to see y'all in Texas in 2007.

For more information contact

Tom Arsuffi, Director, Field Station & Research, 254 Red Raider Lane, PO Box 186, Texas Tech University, Junction, TX 76849 [tom.arsuffi@ttu.edu](mailto:tom.arsuffi@ttu.edu)  
<http://www.depts.ttu.edu/hillcountry/junction/>

## LTER and OBFS—A Continuing Collaboration – *Samantha Romanello Katz, William Michener, and McOwiti O. Thomas (LTER Network Office, University of New Mexico)*

The Long Term Ecological Research (LTER) Network is an NSF-funded collaborative effort involving more than 1,800 scientists and students investigating ecological processes over long temporal and broad spatial scales. The 26 LTER sites encompass desert,

forest, grassland, marine, urban and agricultural sites that are distributed from Alaska to Antarctica and from French Polynesia to Puerto Rico. Ten of the sites are also members of OBFS. Because of this overlap and, especially, because of their shared scientific and educational interests, the two organizations have a long history of coordination and collaboration.

LTER scientists contributed to some of the early strategic planning efforts by OBFS, including the development of the OBFS Operations Manual in 2001 and the 2005 OBFS Strategic Plan. In addition, the LTER Network Office hosts the OBFS web site and has worked closely with OBFS members to co-develop the OBFS Data Registry. Since 2002, LTER and OBFS have been jointly involved in a Research Coordination Network project, the *Resource Discovery Initiative for Field Stations* (RDIFS). The overarching goal of this 5-year project is to facilitate storage, discovery, and access to the strategic environmental information resources that are collectively held at North American biological field stations. Approaches for achieving this goal include expanding and improving the OBFS Data Registry, developing several key databases (e.g., a site characteristics database, a bibliography of field station publications, and a database of field station quality assurance/control and standard methods), continuing to improve and support the OBFS web site, and infusing information technologies and geographic information systems (GIS) into field stations and marine laboratories. This latter activity has been enabled via a series of innovative training sessions that have been held every fall since 2002 to disseminate software tools, knowledge, and resources.

**Cost Rica 2006 Training Session.** The latest RDIFS training workshop was held October 16-27, 2006 at La Selva Field Station in Costa Rica. The workshop provided hands-on informatics training with various proprietary and open source software programs. The 18 participants came from across the US, Panama, Bahamas, and Puerto Rico. Participants learned the skills and tools necessary to acquire, manage, archive, and spatially analyze (using GIS) data and information at their respective field stations. Specific topics included ecoinformatics; metadata (including the Ecological Metadata Language Content Standards, the OBFS Data Registry, and Morpho metadata management system); data base management systems; quality assurance and control; dynamic website design; biodiversity databases and the Digital Flora Project; and embedded sensor networks. Instructors included William Michener and Marshall White (LTER Network Office); William Shuart (Virginia Commonwealth University); John Porter (Virginia Coast Reserve LTER); Kristin Vanderbilt (Sevilleta LTER); Robert Colwell (University of Connecticut); John Kim (San Diego State University Field Stations Program); Jeffrey Tseng and Philip Rundel (Center for Embedded Networked Sensing).



**A Retrospective View.** The RDIFS project has been a success. More than 140 field station personnel from more than a third of the field stations representing the United States, Canada, the Bahamas, and French Polynesia have participated in the training sessions. Based on post-training surveys, 98 per cent of the participants felt that the training met their expectations. Similar percentages said the skills learned would be useful in their jobs and that they would recommend the training to others. From a cyberinfrastructure perspective, numerous improvements have been made to the OBFS website and the Data Registry form has been significantly updated, giving it much improved search and performance capabilities. The Data Registry is now EML 2.01 compliant and contains more than 4,200 items. The database of field station standard methods has over 1300 references, can be searched using simple or advanced searches, and the results or subsets of results can be stored as a list and exported into Endnote or EML. RDIFS has also created a virtual community of field station personnel who continue to share lessons and expertise after they return to their respective stations.

**The Future.** Although RDIFS funding is drawing to a close, the LTER Network Office and OBFS will continue to explore mutually beneficial opportunities for collaboration and coordination. The Network Office will continue to provide support for the OBFS web site and key databases like the Data Registry. We expect that the National Ecological Observatory Network and other incipient large environmental observatory initiatives will foster training and infrastructure development within both OBFS and LTER. We look forward to an exciting future for field-based research and education opportunities.

# OBFS



## Thousand Islands Biological Station (TIBS)

The SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF) Thousand Islands Biological Station (TIBS) owns and operates a unique field research site located in the upper St. Lawrence River and recently became a member of the Organization of Biological Field Stations (OBFS). TIBS exists in a truly large river ecosystem that boasts an average annual discharge of over 243,000 cfs and is the only natural outlet for the North American Great Lakes. Most TIBS facilities are on a 1 hectare island, one in an archipelago over 1,800 in the region. It is an awesome research location with a diversity of habitats from extensive coastal marshes to deep pelagic environments. The geologic origin, a combination of many forces including effects of the Wisconsinian glaciation and older limestone formations and the Frontenac arch (a band of metamorphic rock connecting the Adirondack Region and the Canadian shield), creates its diverse landscape. The St. Lawrence Seaway, a global shipping channel, connects the Upper Great Lakes and the Atlantic Ocean runs directly by TIBS.

TIBS is a place where students and others come and learn more about aquatic ecosystems through research, classes, demonstrations, field experiences and workshops. Opportunities exist for faculty and graduate study, undergraduate experience, volunteers, and the community. Our mission is to conserve environmental resources of the St. Lawrence River by conducting applied ecological research to assist decision makers while providing educational and outreach opportunities. The facilities are modest and can only accommodate small groups, but include several seaworthy boats, a main lodge with a fantastic view from a bluff, several small residence cabins, and a boathouse with a laboratory. Several facilities also exist on the mainland, a 1 km trip by boat.

Vital research in the area of aquatic ecology and management is growing at TIBS. The Seaway, hydropower use and water levels management of the river provide important and interesting research opportunities. The research program focuses on aquatic ecology with an emphasis on fisheries, wetlands, limnology, invasive species, water levels management, and the effects of flow regime interruption. Partnerships exist with state and federal government, non-governmental organizations, citizens groups, and others. We are a small group at TIBS (< 15 individuals), but our goal is to have a large impact by providing high quality programs and opportunities. We look forward to being a valuable part of the OBFS network. To learn more about TIBS check the OBFS link or our website at [www.esf.edu/tibs](http://www.esf.edu/tibs)



## Resource Discovery for Field Stations provides training, tools and a virtual community for OBFS – *Samantha Romanello, SEEK/LNO*

Resource Discovery for Field Stations (RDIFS) is a 5-year Research Coordination Network grant provided by the National Science Foundation to facilitate storage, discovery, and access to the strategic environmental information resources that are collectively held at North American biological field stations. To achieve this goal, six major activities were designed: providing software engineering support for data registries and repositories, creating a thesaurus for field biology, a site characteristics database, a bibliography of field station publications, a database of field station quality assurance/quality control and standard methods and an extensive education, outreach and training program which includes both trainings and workshops. The two-week training designed to disseminate the tools and teach participants the skills to incorporate these tools has become the highlight of this grant for OBFS members.

Since its inception in 2002, RDIFS's has organized four, trainings and provided opportunities for more than 70 information managers, directors and field station representatives from over 40 different field stations representing the United States, Canada, Costa Rica, Spain, the Bahamas, and French Polynesia. This innovative and successful training opportunity held in the fall, the trainings provide hands-on computer experience with a variety of proprietary and open source software programs, including software created through the grant. Participants learn the skills and tools to resolve issues of data acquisition and archiving that can be taken back and applied at field stations.

This year's training was held at the new LTER Network Office's Informatics Training and Software Usability Testing Laboratory at the University of New Mexico. The lab is equipped with 21 Dell Optiplex GX280 workstations with large, dual, LCD color monitors and an advanced audio-visual system for instruction. Of the 23 participants who attended this year's training, fifty-two percent were from underrepresented groups. All of the participants who completed the post training survey reported that the training met their expectations. Furthermore all of the participants reported that the instructors were knowledgeable and well-organized, the materials were useful, and the knowledge and skills they

learned will be useful in their jobs. The final training in the series will be held at La Selva field station in Costa Rica in October 2006.

Among other achievements, the RDIFS grant has enabled a variety of improvements to the Organization of Biological Field Stations (OBFS) website. The data registry and repository has an updated registry form, better search and performance capabilities, and is now EML 2.01 compliant. The registry currently holds over 4200 items, and the database of field station standard methods has over



1300 references, can be searched using a simple (keyword, title, author, abstract) or advanced search, and the results or subsets of results can be stored as a list and exported into Endnote or EML.

Through the relationships fostered between participants and facilitators, RDIFS has created a virtual community where OBFS field station managers and employees can take advantage of new information technologies created through this and other grants. Participants have access to software designers, information managers, and metadata coordinators who, together, provide an extensive network of support for participants after they return home to implement the skills learned.

GIS instructor, Will Shuart, (Commonwealth University) provided an excellent introduction to ESRI's ArcGIS software in relation to OBS station needs.



Vote for any number of options.

- Joe Smith
- John Citizen
- Jane Doe
- Fred Rubble
- Mary Hill



*...several California OBFS members also claim they were turned away and not allowed to vote...*

## YE OLDE OFFICIAL OBFS BALLOTTE, 2006

This year's ballotte is for **new officers** and **proposed bylaws changes**

Ballotte cards must be returned by January 24, 2007. The biographies given below are designed to assist voters in making choices.

**New Officers Candidates:** Secretary **Claudia Luke** (1-year term dependent on vote to change Bylaws); Treasurer **Shorly Boucher** (or Secretary-Treasurer dependent on vote to change Bylaws); Editor **Position open**; Network Coordinator **Faerthen Felix**; Member at Large **Tom Arsuffi, Janice Green, or John Kim**



### SECRETARY **Claudia Luke** (1-year term dependent on vote to change Bylaws)

I would be pleased to continue to serve as Secretary for OBFS. I have been field station director at two California reserves and have served as principal investigator for grants and contracts that support field station activities.

My writing and summary skills include drafting regional habitat conservation management plans, status summaries of endangered species, fire management planning publications, and outreach materials. In my years as Secretary-Treasurer, I worked with Network Coordinator Mark Stromberg to establish an online administrative database to enhance information exchange among administrators in the organization. I see great opportunities for using the new database to catalogue existing field stations throughout the United States and elsewhere that may be interested in joining our organization. During my tenure, I also spearheaded an effort to gather, copy and archive OBFS newsletters. I am working with OBFS Historian David Larsen to summarize and "recapture" our history of activities for posting on the website. This is an exciting time for OBFS, and I am looking forward to incorporating new projects and goals outlined in our new strategic plan.

### TREASURER (or Secretary-Treasurer dependent on vote to change Bylaws)

#### **Shorly Boucher**

I've been a loyal OBFS member since about 1990 and a field station junkie since 1974, when I was a field assistant at RMBL. All of my dissertation and post-doc research was done at the Hastings Reserve of Mark

Stromberg fame, and I have managed reserves in California, a total of six different ones since 1989. I currently run 3 reserves for UC Davis. I served as OBFS Vice-President from 1998-2000, and in that role I was responsible for auditing the organization's financial statements for the first time – an opportunity that gives me some insight into what is required of the treasurer. Because I am running unopposed, for a position that doesn't seem to be drawing potential candidates like flies, I'm going to keep this statement short. I hope that our current, able Secretary-Treasurer will show me the ropes and that I can live up to the high standard she has set.

### EDITOR **Position Open**

### NETWORK COORDINATOR

#### **Faerthen Felix**

I am the Assistant Manager for UC Berkeley's Sagehen Creek Field Station. Not an academic, I came to the station from a career position with the US Forest Service where I was Program Director & Lead Avalanche

Forecaster for the Manti-Lasal Avalanche Center [the SE Utah office of the Utah Avalanche Center]. I also served as Editor of "The Avalanche Review", the publication of the American Avalanche Assoc. I have frequently used web-sites as promotion & education tools in the past, typically employing HTML and javascript in addition to other technologies such as blogging, podcasting, video-blogging, and

graphics design. I built and maintain the web presence of Sagehen Creek Field Station at <http://sagehen.berkeley.edu>

### MEMBER AT LARGE (vote for one of three)

#### **Tom Arsuffi**



Given the next generation of citizenry and children will be >85% urban, have little contact with nature, yet need to be natural resource literate, OBFS resources are critical to provide for an environmentally informed citizenry and nurture and train future scientists. It is crucial that OBFS helps foster

the diversity and training of future scientists and teachers in environmental science and conservation. They will be in great need. I have a variety of experiences to contribute to OBFS, starting with student experiences at Flathead Lake-UMBS, as a postdoc at UGA-Marine Institute-Sapelo Island, as Director-SWT-Aquatic Station and now, Director- Field Station & Research at TTU-Junction. Such diverse skills will help me further Strategic Plan goals of OBFS in areas of research, education, funding, policy, media, outreach and administration. I have served as President of a 1000+ member Texas Academy of Science, as Program Chair for regional and international scientific societies, as reviewer for NSF, EPA, USDA panels, external reviewer for state science center programs, original ESA SEEDS partner & mentor, advised NSF/NIH funded K-12 teacher training in research, developed K-12 watershed education units, worked with the national media, received research/education grants over \$3 M, completed over 30 graduate students and was a participant in AIBS/OBFS Congressional Visits Day. I look forward to applying my services to the needs, growth, and productivity of OBFS.

#### **Janice Greene**

I am a professor of Biology at Missouri State University. I became Director of the Bull Shoals Field Station in 2002. My background is in education as a public school teacher and as the Education Coordinator



at the Welder Wildlife Foundation in Sinton, Texas. Currently, I teach courses for preservice and inservice teachers at the field station. The field station is relatively new (1999), has recently acquired new facilities, and is currently developing a long-range plan for additional facilities and programs (I am the one who showed all the new toilet pictures at the meeting.). I would bring

my education background to the OBFS Board as well as the perspective of a "new", small field station administrator.

#### **John Kim**

It has been my childhood dream to become a Poet Laureate of the Organization of Biological Field Stations, but lacking such an



opportunity, I humbly vie for the position of Member-At-Large. I bring two qualifications to the position, namely, that I am a member, and, at times, I can appear rather large. I have felt this way standing among the Efé in the Ituri Forest and at Seoul International Airport. As a Member-at-Large, I would endeavor to represent the concerns of all full-time and part-time data managers (which nearly

every body is). I am especially interested in encouraging small, practical, do-able, collaborative data management projects that promote field stations and the usage of their data. Vote for me, and I promise to deliver a brand new 3.0GHz Intel Duo Core Macintosh Xblade Data Server with Wifi, DVD-burner and iTunes to every field station, and reduce the national debt, fix Medicare, kill the terrorists and bring home the troops.

**Proposed Bylaws Changes**

**1. Electronic Voting Ballots**

During the next year, OBFS will be consulting with a non-profit lawyer to assess any needed changes to bring OBFS Bylaws into compliance with national standards. The Executive Board would like to be able to interact more quickly and less expensively with OBFS voting members via electronic ballot to ensure that any needed Bylaws changes can be addressed promptly. This proposed bylaw change will allow OBSF to carry out elections via paper or electronic ballot. *Existing Bylaw: Bylaw 7.* "The Constitution and Bylaws may be revised by a 2/3 majority of the membership voting by mail ballot." *Proposed Bylaw Change: Bylaw 7.* The Constitution and Bylaws may be revised by a 2/3 majority of the membership voting by mail or electronic ballot.

† **Yes, change OBFS Bylaws to allow electronic ballot voting.**

† **No, do not change OBFS Bylaws**

**2. Investment Committee Name Change**

During strategic planning sessions in 2004, the Governance Committee recommended that the name of the Investment Committee be changed to the Finance Committee. *Existing Bylaw: Bylaw 8(g)10.* "The fund will be invested under the direction of an Investment Committee appointed by the Executive Board." *Proposed Bylaw Change: Bylaw 8(g)10.* The fund will be invested under the direction of an ~~Investment~~ **Finance** Committee appointed by the Executive Board.

† **Yes, change OBFS Bylaws to rename the Investment Committee as the Finance Committee.**

† **No, do not change OBFS Bylaws**

**3. Nominating Committee Chair**

During strategic planning, OBFS identified that the Nominating Committee should be chaired by the Past President. This recommendation was made to insure that the Nominating Committee contained a member familiar with other OBFS members. *Existing Bylaw: "Bylaw 3.* The Executive Board shall appoint a Nominating Committee of three members at least two months in advance of the election date and notify the members of the Organization of the membership of this committee. The committee shall accept nominations from any three members for presentation on the ballot." *Proposed Bylaw Change: Bylaw 3.* The Executive Board shall appoint a Nominating Committee of three members at least two months in advance of the election date and notify the members of the Organization of the membership of this committee. The committee shall be chaired by the Past President and shall accept nominations from any three members for presentation on the ballot.

† **Yes, change OBFS Bylaws to stipulate that the Nominating Committee will be chaired by the Past-President.**

† **No, do not change OBFS Bylaws**

**4. Split the Secretary-Treasurer Position Into Two Positions**

Recent initiatives and activities of the Society have generated additional work for the Secretary-Treasurer, making it difficult for one person to provide the needed level of service required. The proposed change would separate the Secretary- Treasurer position into two two-year positions. The Secretary would assume office on April 1 of even years and the Treasurer on April 1 of odd years. *Existing Bylaw 2.* "The President, and Vice President shall serve a term of two years and shall assume office on April 1st of even-numbered years. Individuals elected to these offices shall not be eligible for re-election to the next succeeding term of the same office.

The President shall serve a further two years as Past President, beginning at the end of term as President. The Secretary-Treasurer, the Editor and the Network Coordinator shall be elected for terms of two years and will assume office on April 1st of odd-numbered years. The Secretary-Treasurer, Network Coordinator, and Editor may be reelected for any number of terms." *Proposed Bylaw Changes: Bylaw 2.* The President, ~~and~~ Vice President, and Secretary shall serve a term of two years and shall assume office on April 1st of even-numbered years. Individuals elected to these offices of President and Vice President shall not be eligible for re- election to the next succeeding term of the same office. The President shall serve a further two years as Past President, beginning at the end of term as President. The Secretary, Treasurer, ~~the~~ Editor and ~~the~~ Network Coordinator shall be elected for terms of two years and will assume office on April 1st of odd- numbered years. The Secretary, Treasurer, Network Coordinator, and Editor may be reelected for any number of terms. *Existing Bylaw 6.* "The Secretary-Treasurer shall accept dues to be placed in an account for disbursement to carry out the purposes of the Organization...." *Proposed Bylaw 6.* The ~~Secretary~~ Treasurer shall accept dues to be placed in an account for disbursement to carry out the purposes of the Organization....(NOTE: Should the membership decide to not split the position, the candidate(s) for Treasurer identified by the Nominating Committee has agreed to accept the position of Secretary-Treasurer, and the candidate for Secretary has agreed to step down.)

† **Yes, change OBFS Bylaws to separate Secretary-Treasurer position into two two-year positions.**

† **No, do not change OBFS Bylaws**

**5. Membership Services.**

In the last 5 years, OBFS has developed a variety of services that are typically provided to station members (\$100 annual fee), but are not available to individual members (\$25 annual fee). Examples of these services are shown in the table below. *Existing Constitution: ARTICLE 3.* "There shall be two classes of membership: (a) Institutional and (b) Individual. Institutional membership shall be open to biological field stations which will designate a single representative, normally the station Director, who will cast the vote of the station and be eligible to hold office in OBFS. Individual membership shall be open to persons, regardless of institutional affiliation, who subscribe to the purposes of the Organization. Individual members will have all the privileges of membership, except that they will neither vote nor be eligible to hold office in the Organization except as Members-at-Large on the Executive Board." *Proposed Constitution Change: ARTICLE 3.* There shall be two classes of membership: (a) Institutional and (b) Individual. Institutional membership shall be open to biological field stations that will designate a single representative, normally the station Director, who will cast the vote of the station and be eligible to hold office in OBFS. Individual membership shall be open to persons, regardless of institutional affiliation, who subscribe to the purposes of the Organization. Individual members ~~will have all the privileges of membership, except that they~~ will neither vote nor be eligible to hold office in the Organization except as Members-at-Large on the Executive Board.

† **Yes, change OBFS Constitution to allow OBFS to provide different services to station and individual members.**

† **No, do not change OBFS Constitution**

	OBFS Memberships	
	Individual	Station
List Serve	x	x
Job Listings	x	x
Newsletter	x	x
Field Station Directory		x
Field Classes Directory		x
Field Data and Contacts Database		x
Congressional Visits Day		x