



OBFS NEWS

Volume 2004, No. 2.

The Newsletter of the Organization of Biological Field Stations

Issued December 2004,

Editor: *David S. White, Hancock Biological Station*

Executive Board (Term of office, E-mail address)

<i>President</i>	Sedra Shapiro (2004-2006 – sshapiro@sciences.sdsu.edu)
<i>Vice President</i>	Robert Wyatt (2004-2006 – wyatt@wcu.edu))
<i>Secretary-Treasurer</i>	Claudia Luke (2002-2005 – cluke@sciences.sdsu.edu)
<i>Member at large</i>	Beth Cline (2003-2005 - e.w.cline@csuohio.edu)
<i>Member at large</i>	Larry Weider (2004-2006 – ljweider@ou.edu))
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Standing Committee Chairs

<i>Administration and Facilities</i>	Philippe Cohen
<i>Education</i>	(acting)Jan Hodder
<i>International</i>	Rick Wyman
<i>Public Relations</i>	(acting)Sedra Shapiro
<i>Research</i>	(acting)Hilary Swain
<i>NSF Relations</i>	Art McKee
<i>Program</i>	Robert Wyatt
<i>Small Field Stations</i>	Beth Cline
<i>Data Management/Networking</i>	Mark Stromberg
<i>AIBS Representative</i>	Eric Nagy

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. A reminder to specifically request hard copies will be e-mailed to all members in January 2004. 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.

Check out the new and improved

OBFS Web Site

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

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OBFS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS FOR 2004

Center of Ecology and Environmental Technology

Susan Mopper
University of Louisiana
Lafayette LA 70504-2787

Columbia-Greene Community College Biological Field Station at the Cohotate Preserve

Jon Powell, Director
4400 Route 23
Hudson NY 12534

Estacion del Mar Cortez

Jose A. Mercade
Glendale Community College
Glendale CA 91208

Field Research Station

Amanda Camp and Kent Rylander
P.O. Box 186
Junction TX 76849

Forbes Biological Station

Stephen P. Havera
PO Box 590
Havana IL 62644

Ford Forestry Center

Glenn Mroz and Jim Schmierer, SFRES
HCR 2
L'Anse MI 49946

Galapagos Academic Institute for the Arts and Sciences (GAIAS)

Susan Carey
Universidad San Francisco de Quito
San Cristobal, Galapagos,
ECUADOR

Gobabeb Training and Research Centre

John R. Henschel
Desert Research Foundation of Namibia
Walvis Bay
NAMIBIA

Holt Research Forest

Jack Witham
508 Old Stage Road
Arrowsic ME 04530

Merry Lea Envir Learning Center at Goshen College

Luke Gascho
P.O. Box 263
Wolf Lake IN 46796

Santa Rita Experimental Range

Mark Heitlinger
Campus Ag Center, 4101 N Campbell
Tucson AZ 85719

William Beebe Tropical Research Station

Phil Schaeffer
Caligo Ventures
Armonk NY 10504



REQUEST FOR OBFS PHOTOGRAPHS

Do you have any photographs or slides from OBFS Meetings or events from past years that you would be willing to share? I am seeking photo donations to become part of the OBFS Photo Archive file. Former OBFS Historian Robert (Bob) Fisher sent me a large box full of photographs, slides, and albums, consisting of approximately 500 slides, 1,000 prints, and various duplicate prints. These slides and photos are now stored at Washington University's Tyson Research Center, near St. Louis, Missouri.

Historically significant and other appropriate photos and slides will be scanned, as time allows during the coming year(s). They will then be added to the OBFS web page, and will be viewable from the "Gallery" link. These could also be made available as prints or enlargements to OBFS members, upon special request.

I am especially seeking older slides or photos, those from the OBFS "early years" (late 1960s and early

1970s) which may help document some of the early OBFS meetings, activities, and members/officers. However, please feel free to share images from recent OBFS meetings, as they will all be a valuable part of the OBFS historical archives, and could be used to provide examples of OBFS success stories. Your photos and/or slides can be returned to you, after they are scanned, if you wish.

My Email address, phone number, and mailing address are below.

David A. Larson, OBFS Historian
Field Station Manager
Washington University Tyson Research Center
P. O. Box 258
Eureka MO 63025
Phone: 314-935-8431
Fax: 314-935-8433
Email: dlarson@biology.wustl.edu

ATTENDEES AT 2004 OBFS ANNUAL MEETING

NAME	AFFILIATION	NAME	AFFILIATION
Anderson, James	University of Mississippi	McKee, Arthur	Flathead Lake Biological Station
Anderson Jr., John P.	Aton Forest	Meltzer, Lorayne	Kino Bay Center/Prescott College
Armsby, Michelle	Shoals Marine Laboratory	Michener, William	ILTER Network Office
Bogdanowicz, Christine	Shoals Marine Laboratory	Mock, Janice	James H. Barrow Field Station
Boucher, Virginia (Shorty)	UC Davis Campus Reserves	Morin, James G.	Shoals Marine Laboratory
Boyer, Ed	Kino Bay Center/Prescott College	Muth, Allan	UC NRS Deep Canyon Res Cntr
Brown, Jeff	Sagehen Creek Field Station	Nagy, Eric	UVA Mountain Lake Bio Station
Cline, Elizabeth	Woodlake Environmental Field Stn.	Nakayama, Violet	UC Systemwide NRS
Cohen, Philippe S.	Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve	O'Connell, Kari	H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest
Connors, Peter G.	Bodega Marine Laboratory	Plehn, Jim	Davis Campus Reserves
Consolatti, Nina	MSU Kellogg Biological Station	Poston, Muriel	NSF/Division of Bio Infrastructure
Dziadyk, Bohdan (Bo)	Green Wing Laboratory	Quinby, Peter	Pymatuning Laboratory
Ehmann, William J.	Sigurd Olson Environmental Inst.	Risch, Thomas	Arkansas State University
Faloon, Kristine	Shoals Marine Laboratory	Savino, Jeffrey	Lake Erie Center
Felix, Faerthern	Sagehen Creek Field Station	Selzer, Gerald	NSF/Division of Bio Infrastructure
Folk, Monica	Disney Wilderness Preserve	Semans, Sheila	State Coastal Conservancy
Goldman, Jeffrey	AIBS	Shapiro, Sedra	SDSU-Field Station Programs
Greene, Janice	Bull Shoals Field Station	Simons, David	Ouachita Mountains Bio Station
Hamilton, Michael	UC James Reserve	Siri, Paul	Commonweal Ocean Policy Prog.
Hansen, Ross	Shoals Marine Laboratory	Slavik, Karie	U Michigan Biological Station
Hardy, Laurence M. (Mac)	Ouachita Mountains Bio Station	Smiley, Kimberly, Rose, Sonrisa	UC White Mntn Research Station
Hardy, Laura	Ouachita Mountains Bio Station		UC White Mntn Research Station
Hodder, Jan	Oregon Inst. of Marine Biology	Smiley, John	AIBS Director of Public Policy
Huffy, Mary P.	Archbold Biological Station	Sponberg, Adrienne	Ecology Research Center
Innes, Jim	Teakettle Experimental Forest	Standar, Ryan	UC Hastings Reserve
Jones, Drew	Hopkins Forest - Williams College	Stromberg, Mark R.	Archbold Biological Station
Kim, John	SDSU-Field Station Programs	Swain, Hilary	James H. Barrow Field Station
Kloeppel, Brian	Coweeta Hydrologic Laboratory	Taylor, Dennis	University of Oklahoma Bio. Stn.
Larson, David	Tyson Research Center	Weider, Lawrence	Merriam-Powell + Walnut Creek
Lawrenz, Ron	St. Croix Watershed Res. Station	Whipple, Amy	Hancock Biological Station
Lohr, Susan	Lohr Associates, Inc.	White, David	ILTER Network Office
Love, Lela P.	Archbold Biological Station	White, Marshall	Southwestern Research Station
Luke, Claudia	SDSU Santa Margarita Eco.Res.	Wilson, Dawn S.	Highlands Biological Station
Lyman, Ed	Division of Marine Fisheries	Wyatt, Robert	Huyck Preserve
Lymn, Nadine	ESA	Wyman, Richard L.	Raystown Field Station
Marshall, Samuel D.	U. Cincinnati	Yohn, Chuck	

Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting of the Organization of Biological Field Stations, Shoals Marine Laboratory, Portsmouth, New Hampshire, September 16-19, 2004

Thursday, September 16, 7:30-10:00 pm

Welcome Address- Sedra Shapiro

President Sedra Shapiro called the meeting to order with the Tom Callahan Memorial Big-Assed Gavel. The following members of the Executive Board were present: Past-President Eric Nagy, Vice President Robert Wyatt, Secretary Treasurer Claudia Luke, Editor David White, Network Coordinator Mark Stromberg, and Members at Large Nina Consolatti and Larry Weider. Sedra Shapiro welcomed attendees and highlighted the value of the meeting for enhancing communication among our members.

Introduction to Shoals Marine Lab - Christine Bogdanowicz

Christine provided attendees with information and logistics about the meeting.

Executive Board Meeting

The Executive Board met from 8:30 pm to 10:00 pm. All members were present. Items discussed included tying the annual congressional briefing to OBFS goals in the strategic plan, strategic planning initiative schedule and effort, future meeting location proposals, clarifying role of OBFS in supporting NEON, concern regarding funding for FSML, the need to update OBFS materials, and need for transferring information and materials between old and new executive board members. The outcomes of the meeting were that the Board (1) felt the strategic plan was not ready for adoption and would like to review it to provide input for further refinement, (2) affirmed support of NEON activities, and (3) affirmed

OBFS's intent to continue and expand its relationship with AIBS and activities concerning Congressional Briefing Day.

Friday September 17, 9:00 – 10:15

One-third of the attendees (including President Shapiro) were not present because morning seal viewing tour had not returned. VP Robert Wyatt opened the meeting and asked committee chairs to announce topic of committee meetings.

Friday September 17, 10:15 – 10:30

President Shapiro formally began OBFS Business meeting.

National Environmental Observation Network (NEON) Update - Bill Michener, LTER

Two days ago, Bill Michener and Jeff Goldman's NSF proposal for a 2-year NEON planning project was funded for \$2 M. The NEON Inc website (<http://www.neoninc.org/>) used to coordinate this project is on-line and has a downloadable copy of the proposal. NEON is a program that seeks to draw funds from the MREFC account at the National Science Foundation (NSF). The account was originally set up for massive capital investments that involve large teams of scientists and that are expected to transform science. NEON seeks funding from this account to transform environmental research by studying processes on a geographically-distributed continental scale. One of the difficulties has been to clearly identify the ecological questions that could be addressed by a large investment in infrastructure. A "big question" committee led by David Tillman reinvigorated NEON by laying the groundwork for the kinds of questions that could be addressed. Congress is now in support of NEON should a credible plan be developed. NEON funding would range from \$500 M to \$1 B. The program would incorporate a build-out phase and have a 30-year life span. If successful, additional NEONs would be funded.

Planning Project Overview - The current funded planning grant to develop NEON questions and distribution of infrastructure is a 2-year design process based on a series of consortiums organized into a Science and Education planning group and a Networking and Informatics planning group. Committees within these planning groups include sciences, education, facilities and infrastructure, and consortium development. The Science and Education Plan will be completed in 13 months and will be community driven and transparent. It will meld IBRCS process (AIBS) and NRC process (focused on sciences). The Networking and Informatics Baseline

Plan will make data accessible for use by many and take advantage of the Terragrid network. Bruce Hayden and Bill Michener are Co-PIs and will head up the Science and Education and Networking Information groups respectively. They will work with consultants and AIBS (Jeff Goldman) to carry out the project. All committees will meet concurrently in January, March and June 2005 at locations scattered across country.

OBFS Involvement – OBFS is encouraged to participate in the planning effort in a number of ways:

- Contribute to regional NEON meetings
- Self-nominate and /or nominate others to serve on NEON committees and subcommittees. Criteria for participation include exceptional and relevant expertise, must play well with others, and can attend every meeting.
- At large participation via web
- Peer review: reference design, NEON Inc.
- SUPPORT NEON!

Friday September 17, 10:30 –11:20

Report on OBFS Strategic Planning – Susan Lohr, Art McKee, and Eric Nagy

In February 2003, OBFS submitted a planning grant to NSF for a one-year strategic planning effort. The effort was funded in August 2003 and a web survey was distributed to solicit input on OBFS goals and priorities from the membership. The survey was followed by input from attendees at the annual meeting in September, a web forum discussion, and a weekend planning meeting in January 2004. Drafts of the strategic plan were circulated to the Executive Board and general membership.

A lot of ideas were gathered from the community, many overlapping, and were summarized and condensed down to manageable number. The next step is to start prioritizing our goals and make the document more practical. The current document is still a working draft and needs our input. During this meeting, the team is soliciting additional input from attendees regarding committee structure and commitments and funding issues. This additional information will then be incorporated and the document sent out to the membership for review.

One item presented for Susan for consideration was how to address an "overly" ambitious strategic plan. These could include (1) extend timeline to 20 years, (2) identify half as many 5-year tasks, (3) phased and/or merged committees, and (4) make personal time commitment: chairs 10 hrs/mo and members 5 hrs/mo. Monthly meetings is a possibility.

Discussion from the floor indicated that attendees generally supported an extended timeline

as long as there was a plan to revisit the plan every 5 years. Other comments on the plan included: the strategic plan takes a committee-oriented approach; member would like to see how the priority goals cluster relative to responsible groups (exec board to committees); there are lots of committees, and would require over half of the organization be on committees; recommendation that committees be limited in size to 2 or 3 because they would be more productive; specific outlines for each committee would be helpful for engagement; the plan is lacking land stewardship focus and role of field stations in improving education and learning and is not high enough on the priority list; missing university administration as part of our outreach to stakeholders; encourage everyone to review their strategic plan relative to OBFS strategic plan to align goals; recommend include future strategic planning in the plan; some communities are associated with a goal and some not. Also some discussion ensued regarding where values, such as transparency and diversity, should be incorporated in the plan – as a goal or a policy to be incorporated in all activities? To provide some clarity for level of effort and organization, Susan Lohr will develop an appendix during this meeting with list of each committee and their specific tasks and how they relate to the plan's goals (see meeting notes below).

Friday September 17, 11:15 – 12:30
Concurrent Committee Meetings

Friday September 17, 1:30 – 4:30
Concurrent Committee Meetings

Friday September 17, 4:30 – 6:00 pm

OBFS Business

Historian Report - David A. Larson

Former OBFS Historian Robert (Bob) Fisher has sent 4 cardboard file boxes of OBFS papers and files to David Larson. Bob also sent one box full of photographs and slides. The 5 boxes are now being stored at Tyson Research Center. David has begun to sort through the 5 boxes, and is creating an inventory list of items stored in each box. Appropriate photos and slides will be scanned, and added to the OBFS web page, as time allows during the coming year. These files and photos will prove useful to help fill in information gaps, and provide examples of OBFS success stories. David Larson welcomes any OBFS photo donations (old or new), and any comments relating to the OBFS items now stored at Tyson.

A group photograph was taken by David Larson, in front of the "Kiggins Commons" building on Appledore Island. It was taken with a Casio QV-

300EX digital camera, a 3.3 megapixel model. Photos of other events during the meeting were also taken. The resulting photo images are high-resolution, and are stored on computers and backup CDs at Tyson Research Center.

NSF Education report- Jan Hodder and Hilary Swain

In 2002, Mike Klug, Jan Hodder and Hilary Swain received an NSF grant to develop a report entitled, "The Role of Biological Field Stations in Education and Recruitment into the Biological Sciences." The report was prepared by workshop participants at a workshop held in Washington D.C. in February 11-12, 2002. The primary goals of the workshop were to explore educational opportunities that capitalize on the unique learning environment of FSMLs and the role that FSMLs can play in enhancing student diversity in the biological sciences. Important features of FSMLs that were identified at the workshop included: long-term research efforts that facilitate repeated teacher-student involvement, experiential learning opportunities, well-developed organizations that allow sharing successful learning and recruitment modes, wide geographical distribution of sites that may also be close to urban and suburban areas, and access to areas of unusual beauty.

Sessions at the workshop explored the topics of facilitating field-based experiences for K-12, undergraduates, and the community at large. Participants discussed current conditions at FSMLs, challenges and barriers to participation by the educational group, strategies that FSMLs may take to enhance participation and increase diversity of participants, what is needed to research and evaluate needs, and recommendations for the FSML community and NSF.

The full text of the report is online at www.obfs.org. A major goal of the report is that it is useful to your field station. Distribute this report to your Department Head, Dean, local curriculum coordinator for K-12 program, faculty members using you station, local community college, county commissioners, local movers and shakers etc. Hilary and Jan will mail sets to other national organizations (e.g., LTER, DOE sites, National estuarine research reserves, national association of biology teachers, etc.)

Investment Committee Report -Philippe Cohen

The roughly \$37,000 that OBFS current holds in the Citizens funds did very poorly. Socially responsible green funds made on average about 10% this year. Our funds were at negative 1.5%. The committee will find out what is happening with these funds, allow 6-month probation and, if not satisfied within that time frame, will make transfer to other green funds. The committee also recommends that

the bylaws be changed to reduce the responsibilities of the investment committee, which currently has responsibilities to audit, fundraise, write grants and in general act as a development group. The fund raising responsibilities should not be "housed" in one group since these efforts must be tied to the activities generated by other groups.

Report of the Secretary Treasurer - Claudia Luke

A MOTION made to accept the minutes from the last annual meeting was approved unanimously. As of September 2004, total membership was 208 members with 176 station members and 32 individual members. Eleven new members joined this year. Membership in OBFS has increased since 1981 from around 60 to over 200 (a bar graph of memberships during the time period was presented). The administrative database developed by Mark and Andrew Stromberg has had a few additional improvements to help manipulate the database for use as mailing labels and other mail merges. Please remember that the administrative database is independent of the information displayed on the website for individual field stations. Current administrative contact information was circulated for editing by attendees. A review of all historic OBFS newsletters allowed the Secretary to identify Executive Board officers and meeting sites since the inception of OBFS. A few mysteries still remain. The list was passed on the David Larson and as soon as these issues are resolved, will be posted to the website.

The financial report (August 31, 2003) for Operating and Restricted Funds follows these minutes. Operating Fund: The balance as of August 31, 2003 was \$34,435.50 up from \$30,856.04. Restricted Fund: This fund was established in 1998 and is managed by the Investment Committee (Philippe Cohen – Chair, Peter Connors, and Hilary Swain) and is currently divided between two green funds (Citizens Index and Citizens Emerging Growth Funds). The balance in the Restricted Fund as of August 31, 2004 was \$42,945.14, up from \$38,219.47 on August 31, 2003 after earning and capital gain/losses, auction proceeds, and member donations. The auction produces money for the restricted funds each year. Many thanks to the generous contributions of auction items, the generous bidding, and the creative efforts of the auctioneers.

Audit Report - Robert Wyatt

Vice President Wyatt reported that his review of the financial records for this fiscal year showed that all expenditures were properly accounted for.

A MOTION made to accept the Operations and Restricted Budget reports was approved unanimously by the membership.

Committee Reports

Data Management/ Networking - Mark Stromberg

The committee reviewed strategic planning goals to determine how to translate these into website services. These included developing tools to conduct surveys, and provide real-time conferencing capabilities. Presently the OBFS web page gets about 30,000 hits per month and the page that most people are reading is the job page. Mark is looking for a group of support staff to upload information to the website. Check out the new OBFS website now online (www.obfs.org). It has a new look and includes a revised display and interface for the field station databases.

Education Committee - Robert Wyatt

In the absence of an officially appointed chair, Robert Wyatt served as interim chair and agreed to keep the minutes. There were 15 people in attendance. It was noted that OBFS members represent a tremendous range of diversity with respect to educational programs, which creates opportunities as well as challenges.

Discussion of the OBFS draft strategic plan highlighted that the plan is not explicit about how we might achieve the laudable goal to "be the primary advocate for enhancing resources for field science and field-based scientific education." It was generally agreed that the plan did not articulate clearly enough the tasks that the Education Committee should take on (in contrast to some other areas, in which the tasks are very clearly listed).

Jan Hodder reported that a "New Horizons" survey of educational programs at field stations, done in 1985, has not been updated and is in dire need of being repeated and improved. Based on her recent experience on an NSF-sponsored study, she suggested two initiatives: (1) an assessment of the current level of educational activity at field stations and marine labs, including minority participation; and (2) the development of uniform assessment procedures that will reveal effective strategies in education that can be shared among OBFS members and others.

There was considerable discussion of the need to improve communication and sharing of experiences among field stations on issues such as how much various educational alternatives cost and how instructors at field stations can be adequately compensated for their time. It was also argued that administrators on campus need to be encouraged to take a broader view of the impact of what they regard as "costly" field and lab experiences for students. For

example, the role of such experiences in recruiting students to major in field sciences and in retaining students should be factored in, but seldom is this considered.

Muriel Poston argued that field stations need to link up with community colleges in their area to help offer field experiences that students might otherwise miss out on. She pointed out that many students choose a major before they transfer to a four-year college; hence, their early experiences can be determinative. She also recommended that field stations consider offering opportunities for community college faculty to receive additional experience/training in field sciences at field stations and marine labs. These might take a form similar to REUs (for undergraduates) or RETs (for K-12 teachers).

NSF Relations - Art McKee

The main focus of the committee was to come up with ways to reaffirm the FSML competition. We agreed to put together a package to be presented to NSF program officers. A large portion of FSML funding last year was delayed until this fiscal year. In addition, the level of funding has not matched inflation. The NFS relations committee will be submitting a request to OBFS members for information to support the package to NSF in the next month or so.

Administration and Facilities - Philippe Cohen

The committee had a broad ranging discussion that initially began with the sharing of experiences with unfunded management mandates. That is, when either government regulations or permitting agencies result in requirements for which there are little or no funding support. How does one address these sorts of situations and how does one navigate the court of public opinion? Many of the examples ranged from mosquito control due to the threat of West Nile Virus, to the construction of new facilities. This eventually became a discussion of how increasingly field stations are face with urban/wildland interface issues. The group consensus is that ultimately, many of these problems are only successfully addressed through outreach and education, and that there can never be too much of either. Discussion ended with discussion of perimeter issues and easements, and the complex political, conservation, and public issues they entail.

Public Relations – Chuck Yohn

Sedra Shapiro approached the committee with a proposal to use a graphics artist to create a standard graphics “look” for OBFS. This look not just encompasses the logo, but also color schemes/patterns and overall material look to create a distinctive, uniformly recognizable gestalt for OBFS

public interface. Materials that would ultimately be affected include: displays, course poster, brochures, newsletter, website, NSF Reports, and OBFS Letterhead. The new “brand” products should be easily reproducible and accessible. The committee recommended that Sedra begin working with a graphics artist on this project and that \$5000 dollars be allocated to the project. The products will be submitted for approval to the executive committee and membership.

Mark Stromberg reported that the OBFS Field Courses poster produced relatively few hits to the website. We noticed that hits from the poster spiked in February, just after the poster was sent out and then dropped to zero hits. It may be possible that the posters are depleted of the pull-off tags after one month. Nina reported that the current usage of the OBFS display is very low (only two instances this year). We concluded that we need to promote the display more aggressively.

A higher national profile for OBFS as outlined in the strategic plan will require a greater emphasis and sophistication in our PR efforts. It will also require closer coordination with the executive committee. We make the following recommendations: (1) PR committee be combined with government relations committee and reconstituted as a public affairs committee. Within that committee, individuals or task pairs could handle the aspects media production, media relations, lobbying to provide a coordinated professional public image; (2) the existing committee does not feel that it currently has the committee commitment or composition of professional expertise to help in the transformation of OBFS. We discussed the possibility of obtaining this help for the organization. One suggestion is that the committee write a capacity building grant to provide support for a part-time PR person in the OBFS office if such an office is created.

Friday September 17, 4:30 – 6:00 pm

New Facilities Slide Show and Next Year’s Host Station

Next year’s meeting will be Sept 22-25th co-hosted by **Coweeta Hydrological Lab** (Brian Kloeppel) and **Highlands Biological Station** (Robert Wyatt) both located in Macon County, North Carolina. Pre-meeting field trips will include interpretive hikes in the White Mountains including tour of the waterfalls or a whitewater rafting trip. More information available on the OBFS website.

Sagehen Field Station – Jeff Brown. This station, founded by Starker Leopold, is located in the Sierra Nevada and administered by UC Berkeley. It is the 35th reserve in UC Natural Reserve System. The

field station runs the Sierra Snow Lab, which has oldest snow dataset in the country.

Ouachita Mountains Biological Station – Laurance Hardy. Dr. Richard Spears could not be here because he has contracted West Nile virus. The reserve consists of 380 acres over two sites and is surrounded by USFS lands. Habitats are predominantly mixed deciduous forest and facilities are comprised of two buildings that contain a dorm, classroom, office and library.

Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve – Philippe Cohen. The field station has new facilities. Data regarding the performance of the facilities is available on their website.

Hastings Reservation – Mark Stromberg delivered a new building to the reserve with a difficult delivery that involved making bridges and jacking up a moving truck.

Kino Bay - Ed Boyer. The field station has new facilities, a new truck, and new personnel and is located in Mexico on the Sea of Cortez

Saturday, September 18, 9:00 – 10:30 am

Committee Reports

Small Field Stations Committee - Beth Cline

Fourteen persons attended the meeting. A result of a discussion concerning the definition of a small station was that small stations are those that have extremely limited resources (e.g., personnel (perhaps just one person), funds). Acreage may vary but often these sites may be one person away from elimination. The purpose of the Small Field Station Committee is to assist new stations, act as a “support” group, and exchange experiences and advice (e.g., how to conduct research and education programs on limited scale). In reviewing the strategic plan, the Small Field Stations Committee felt that operationally, they were best suited to continue as a Working Group that would be part of the Operations Committee. As this working group, they would: (1) develop materials to present administrators with examples of small field stations, what they do, and the purpose they serve; (2) identify field stations within x miles as potential new members of OBFS and send information to the Membership Committee, and (3) perhaps form regional consortia of small stations. The committee also felt that a one-page summary of outcomes of the annual meetings that are relevant to small stations would be helpful for justifying meeting attendance.

International Committee – Rick Wyman

Rick and Art McKee visited Washington DC this year and met with congressional representatives, Smithsonian, and NSF staff in an attempt to find money for an international field station program. The

program would consist of a series of international meetings to bring field stations together from different countries. Rick is also developing a proposal to use university scholarships to bring international students to do work at field stations. Discussion from membership after Rick’s report centered on how field stations could help international students. For example, many international students do not have money for housing or food while they are here. Archbold Biological Station is participating in a Conservation Biology GIS training program that is sponsored by ESRI. NSF’s REU program may be another option for funding international student participation.

Research Committee – Hilary Swain

The committee highlighted areas of the strategic plan that would be the responsibilities of the research committee. The committee recommended focusing on national efforts (NEON and LTER) where there is clear and immediate need. They decided to incorporate transparency into this process by posting minutes of their meeting on the website. The committee decided to focus on four areas: (1) data on research success stories from the field stations are needed. Hilary Swain, Beth Cline, and John Smiley agreed to form a working group to gather one story from each field station member over the course of the year. They will work with Mark to set up a form on the website to assist in this process. (2) Many field stations are not participating in the NEON process because they are intimidated by the process. The committee identified one OBFS volunteer from each of the regional NEON areas to call field stations in their region to attend the NEON planning meetings. (3) The committee decided to generate a list of nominations for the upcoming LTER strategic planning process. (4) A committee member brought up the issues of bioethics for conducting research at field stations. Anyone with existing policies about finding a balance between preservation and disturbance should post their statements on the research code link in the on-line Operations Manual.

Adoption of Budget for 2004-05 – Claudia Luke

I presented the proposed costs of various activities proposed by the membership and committees. Discussion primarily centered on the expenditure of \$5,000 for developing a materials for OBFS. After discussion from the floor, the membership decided to use the money to update and revise the OBFS brochure. The “look” developed for the brochure would be evaluated by the membership for incorporation to other OBFS materials. The membership specifically commented that they wanted to make sure the logo for the organization remained

“as is.” Brochure revision will be organized by Sedra Shapiro.

A MOTION made to accept the proposed Operations Budget for 2004-05 was approved by the membership: all but one in favor and one abstaining.

Update on AIBS – Eric Nagy

OBFS is an organizational member of AIBS. Eric is our AIBS representative and attends council meetings on our behalf. As an organizational member, our membership receives AIBS reports every other week regarding issues and activities in Washington D.C. In addition, we attend annual council meetings and post a ½ page advertisement in Bioscience for free. (OBFS has a simple blurb about field stations that we do every year and is available to the membership for review and editing. Please see Eric if you would like to help with the ad). Several years ago, OBFS began contributing \$1,000 per year to support AIBS's public policy office. This amount increased last year to \$2,500. As part of this initiative, AIBS provides support and training for OBFS members to contact and meet with their congressional representatives in Washington. For the past two years, OBFS has participated and found the event hugely valuable. This year Sedra Shapiro, Eric Nagy, Philippe Cohen, Beth Cline, and Ian Billick attended. Discussion from the membership in response to Eric's report centered around whether we should just focus on the Congressional visits day or if we should also work towards another congressional briefing such as the one we hosted with NAML 3 years ago. The visits day was valued for the ability to convey a one-on-one message to representatives, determine the interests of the representatives, training of OBFS members, and ability to reach about 25 to 30 representatives. The Briefing was valued because it created a bigger splash with large numbers of attendees. Hilary Swain recommended that we start thinking about another congressional briefing since it takes time to prepare. In addition, we need to consider the advantages and disadvantages of working with NAML.

Adrienne Froehlich from AIBS recommended an additional possibility for an event – a local congressional visits day where congressional representatives are invited to tour field stations. August is a good time since congress is in recess and many representatives are touring. AIBS will support this effort by providing a template for contacting and advertising the tour. Hilary Swain also recommended that OBFS develop 5 main talking points about OBFS for field stations to make during the tour. Gerald Selzer (NSF) recommended that one of these talking points be that field stations are a good source of information. If they know that the field station is source of information, you will stay on their radar.

Saturday, September 18, 10:30 – 12:30 pm

NSF Report – Muriel Poston and Gerald Selzer

Muriel Poston presented a review of NSF programs that may be pertinent to field stations. These programs are described on the NSF website at www.nsf.gov. For research support, she specifically recommended CAREER, IGERT, MBE, MRI, Biological Research Collections, FSML, Frontiers in Integrative Biological Research, Biocomplexity in the Environment, Research Coordination Networks in Biological Sciences, Postdoctoral Fellowship Programs, Research Opportunity Award, Research Experience for Teachers, Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU), Undergraduate Mentoring in Environmental Biology (UMEB), Cross-disciplinary Research at Undergraduate Institutions (C-RUI), Research Assistantships for Minority High School Students, and the Dissertation support program. For education support (Education Directorate), she recommended informal science education (ISE), Advanced Technological Education (ATE); Division of Undergraduate Education also has a list of programs: Advanced Technological Education (ATE), Curriculum, Laboratory and Instructional Development (CCLI, NSDL, DTS), and RET sites. Biological Sciences Directorate has developed a biology education strategic plan called Nurturing Discovery: Biology Education for the 21st Century. Use this as resource for combining programs. It has not been publicly released yet, but should be up this fall

Gerald Selzer reported that FSML was not issued last year. Bio had flat budget but pressure to spend in new areas. As a consequence FSML was short changed and the applications submitted in April have not been funded yet. Fiscal year 05 money will be available Oct 1 and will be used for funding the April 04 proposals. The expectation is that the program will catch up with additional funding later. Recent changes include that this year the grant will pay indirect costs; cost sharing is waived up to \$175,000 for applicants not receiving awards in the last 5 years, and one proposal per station (rather than one per institution). The maximum allowed for the request has risen but the total budget for the program has not. Keep in mind that if you ask for \$200,000 that's 10% or more of the total FSML budget. The most important thing we can do to support the program is to write good proposals and send them in. Demand (i.e., number of proposals submitted) can be used by Gerald and Muriel to generate money. There are other funding sources within NSF to apply for research equipment funds (e.g., major research instrumentation program). Please do consider these other program since they usually have more funding. The success rate for FSML is between 35 and 40%.

FSML also still offers planning grants for \$25,000 to support strategic planning to run planning effort to identify strengths and weaknesses, what programs we want, cure weaknesses, and identify strengths. Money gets used for people to visit the field station and workshops. In your FSML proposals, remember to place the request in the context of your station's strategic plan. Review criteria for planning grants are same as those for FSML (i.e., establish need based upon ongoing research activities; demonstrate use by a diverse researcher community (multiple institutions); grant is for improving existing station rather than starting new ones). If you are interested in being in the review community for NSF proposals, send an email to Muriel or Gerald with your resume. This is good way to get experience writing grants.

Saturday, September 18, 1:30 – 2:30 pm

OBFS Strategic Planning – Susan Lohr

Susan provided a summary of the responsibilities required by the OBFS committees to carry out the strategic plan. Discussion from the floor ensued. Members comments included: the list of goals for the committees is not measurable; unclear how certain tasks map onto the research committee; recommendation for an appendix of all the gathered information so that people could see how the ideas were generated; committees should be encouraged to provide feedback on strategic plan tasks; some tasks associated with the committees are problematic; discussion regarding level of specificity needed for strategic planning effort; do we show committees how to carry out the plan?; how can we assess whether we need to hire an employee, if we don't make an attempt at a list of tasks?; recommend that we keep committees as small groups, less than 10, so that they can make decisions. Beth Cline expressed concern that the small field stations committee was not identified in the plan. Susan and Eric Nagy replied that the strategic plan attempts to cover the needs of small stations but does not pull them out as a committee. Hilary Swain recommended having them as a permanent subset of the operations committee.

Specific discussion on how to carry out the plan included discussions of how much time the membership could devote to committee activities and whether the level of activity would require that OBFS hire a part-time person. The majority of the membership voted that they would be able to contribute 5 hours per month for committee membership. This amount of effort would allow for participation in a web conference each month with the Vice President. Hilary Swain recommended that we use OBFS field stations to find foundation funding for a 5-year initiative with a staff member since this

person will need at least several years to achieve OBFS goals.

General comments on the strategic plan overall included: the introduction, historical perspective, and vision are missing from this document; the plan needs to lead from the vision which then justifies reasons for the committees; the logic of plan should flow from beginning to end so that we can see how goals flow from the vision; need more preamble; we can't assume we are the only ones who are going to read this document; may need different versions - long version for some groups and short version for our use; we need separate vision statements for research, education, etc.; the plan must distinctly reflect the organization and the goals must reflect that distinctiveness (e.g., perhaps move the goals in the plan that are not distinctive, such as transparency, into other categories). Susan requested that members please email suggestions for how to change the vision statement.

The next steps are that Eric Nagy will take feedback, incorporate it into this structure. He reported that the Executive Board had requested that they get a change to review the document with intent of reviewing the direction of the strategic plan. The plan would then be adopted or not at the end the calendar year. A show of hands from the membership supported not hiring someone to carry out OBFS objectives next month.

Saturday, September 18, 2:30 – 6:00 pm

Tour of Appledore Island and Surrounding Islands

Sunday, September 19 9:15-11:07

OBFS Business

Report from Nominations Committee - Art McKee, Jan Hodder, Rick Wyman

The committee proposed that the following OBFS members be nominated to 3 positions: for Secretary-Treasurer, Claudia Luke; for Editor David White; and for Member-at-Large, Amy Whipple, Jeff Savino, and Brian Kloeppel. No nominations were received from the floor. Art McKee asked for requests for nominations for Congressional visits day and encouraged all members to attend this event.

Closing Remarks – Sedra Shapiro

President Shapiro thanked Shoals Marine Lab, Christine Bogdanowicz and staff for a wonderful meeting. Thanks to previous executive committee members and especially to Eric Nagy and strategic planning committee. The Meeting was adjourned at 11:07 am.

Claudia Luke, Secretary-Treasurer

OBFS FINANCIAL REPORT 2003-2004

I. Operating Funds

	Actual	Budgeted
Previous Balance Aug 31, 2003:	\$30,856.04	
(\$26,621.52 in CDs; \$4,234.52 in checking account)		
Income:		
Membership dues	\$18,682.00	\$18,000.00
Interest (CDs, checking)	\$ 477.34	\$ 1,000.00
Total Income:	\$19,159.34	\$19,000.00
Expenses:		
AIBS dues and public policy	\$ 2,600.00	\$ 2,670.00
Bank Charge	\$ 102.51	\$ 0.00
Missouri corporation registration	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00
Travel OBFS committee	\$ 97.59	\$ 3,000.00
Congressional Visits Day	\$ 5,599.66	\$6,000.00
OBFS traveling exhibit		
Shipping	\$ 249.67	\$ 500.00
Materials and labor	\$ 0.00	\$ 3,600.00
Field studies poster	\$ 3,318.61	\$ 3,000.00
Office and website		
Secretarial and database support	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 900.00
Supplies	\$ 0.00	\$ 900.00
Website editing charges	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
OBFS History	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,000.00
IOBFS		
Office and website	\$ 1000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Newsletter	\$ 196.84	\$ 500.00
Total Expenses:	\$15,579.88	\$24,085.00
Transfer to Restricted Fund:	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Balance August 31, 2004	\$34,435.50	
Fund Holdings	August-04	August-03
Investments - CDs:		
211125 1.49% (1.50% yield), 12 mos. due 11/01/04	\$6,848.20	\$6,734.48
211242 1.49% (1.50% yield), 12 mos due 1/28/05	\$3,997.85	\$3,924.15
211243 1.49% (1.50% yield), 12 mos due 2/02/05	\$5,986.00	\$5,875.65
212240 1.49% (1.50% yield), 12 mos, due 9/15/04	\$6,076.52	\$5,971.84
614444 1.24% (1.25% yield), 6 mos, due 9/25/04	\$4,169.40	\$4,115.40
Checking Account:	\$7,357.53	

II. Restricted Funds

Previous Restricted Fund Balance Aug 31, 2003:	\$38,219.47
Contributions:	
Transfer from Operating Funds	\$ 0.00
Auction proceeds	\$ 6,001.50

Donations	\$ 100.00
Citizens mutual fund	(\$ 1,393.43)
Interest (checking)	\$ 17.60
Total Contributions:	\$ 4,725.67

Expenses: **\$ 0.00**

Restricted Fund Balance Aug 31, 2004 **\$42,945.14**

Fund Holdings

Investments - Citizens Mutual Fund:	
Core Growth Fund (1491.667 shares @ \$16.84)	\$25,119.67
Emerging Growth Fund (994.293 shares @ \$11.66)	\$11,593.46
OBFS Checking Account:	\$ 6,232.01

III. Adopted Operating Budget for 2004-05

Income:

Membership dues	"	\$18,000.00
Interest (CDs, checking)		\$ 1,000.00
Total Income:		\$19,000.00

Expenses:

AIBS dues and public policy initiative		\$ 2,670.00
Bank Charge		\$ 0.00.00
Missouri corporation registration		\$ 15.00
Travel OBFS committee		\$ 3,000.00
Congressional Visits Day		\$ 6,000.00
OBFS traveling exhibit		
Shipping		\$ 500.00
Brochure		\$ 5,000.00
Field studies poster		\$ 3,500.00
Office and website		
Secretarial and database support		\$ 900.00
Supplies		\$ 900.00
Website editing charges		\$ 1,000.00
IOBFS		
Office and website		\$ 1,000.00
Newsletter		\$ 500.00
Total Expenses:		\$24,985.00

Transfer to Restricted Fund: **\$ 0.00**

Balance **(\$5,985.00)**

Submitted by
Claudia Luke
Secretary-Treasurer

OBFS DISPLAY & DATA MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP REPORTS

OBFS owns a portable, freestanding display booth with text and graphics explaining the importance of field stations. This display was initially created with NSF support in 1996, and is available for OBFS members to borrow for use at professional meetings, open houses, field days, fundraisers, etc. It is about 7'9" tall, 2' deep and 8' long, with its own internal lighting. Shipping costs for use of the display may

be reimbursed by the OBFS. Anyone interested in borrowing the display should contact Nina Consolatti, Kellogg Biological Station, 3700 East Gull Lake Drive, Hickory Corners, MI 49060. Phone: (269) 671-2228; E-mail: Nina.Consolatti@kbs.msu.edu.

Also available for the asking from Nina Consolatti are hard copies of "Data Management at Biological Field Stations and Coastal Marine Laboratories, January 1992, Report of an Invitational Workshop, April 22-26, 1990, W.K. Kellogg

Biological Station, Michigan State University," (aka "the blue book").

IMPROVEMENTS IN FACILITIES, COMMUNICATIONS, AND EQUIPMENT FOR RESEARCH AT BIOLOGICAL FIELD STATIONS AND MARINE LABORATORIES (FSML)

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

- Gerald B. Selzer, Directorate for Biological Sciences, Division of Biological Infrastructure, 615 N, telephone: (703) 292-8470, fax: (703) 292-9063, email: gselzer@nsf.gov
- Muriel E. Poston, Directorate for Biological Sciences, Division of Biological Infrastructure, 615 N, telephone: (703) 292-8470, fax: (703) 292-9063, email: mposton@nsf.gov
- Kandace S. Binkley, Directorate for Geosciences, Division of Ocean Sciences, 725 N, telephone: (703) 292-8583, fax: (703) 292-9085, email: kbinkley@nsf.gov

Deadline: First Friday in March Annually

Program Guidelines: NSF 04-543

<http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2004/nsf04543/nsf04543.htm>



HAIKUS

Haikus are 17 syllable Japanese poems often describing moments of transient beauty. Is there transient beauty in an OBFS meeting? Perhaps. The following are some haikus from the Kananaskis and Appledore OBFS meetings by John Kim

Kananaskis 2003

Gentle but rugged
Canadians avoid wars.
Cheap pharmaceuticals.

Dial-up Internet,
Agitated ecologists.
Soon, fiberoptics.

Short pants on glacier--
Hair on Jeff's legs shake like quills.
Katabatic winds.

"Trees in av'lanche chutes,"
Lectures Ed. I feel sleepy.
Sheep! Binoculars!

Spruce, fir, pine... whate-
Ver. They're just all green and tall.
I'm from San Diego.

Appledore 2004

Arrr! Arrr! Rugged
Ecologists coming 'board!
Got any dramamine?

Even tent cater-
Pillars writhe and war -- then go.
Why can't Bush and Dick?

What th'hell's this clear cold
Liquid falling from the sky?
I'm from San Diego.

Cold Atlantic winds
Jeff's leg hairs don't shake like quills
He's got zip-off pants

Five thou for graphic
Artists. Grad student -- thirty!
Ecol'gists -- priceless.

On Appledore, bird
Colony, beaut'ful black birds
Swarm and draw my blood.

John Kim

YE OLDE OFFICIAL OBFS BALLOTTE, 2004

This year's ballotte is for election of
Member at Large: **Amy Whipple,**
Brian Kloeppe, **Jeff Savino**
Secretary-Treasurer: **Claudia Luke**
Editor: **David White**

Ballotte cards were mailed to for station members in December and must be returned by January 24, 2005. The biographies given below were designed to assist voters in making wise choices – separating the pirates from the swabbies, so to speak

MEMBER AT LARGE

Amy Whipple I believe in the potential of the people, the mission, and the Organization of Biological Field Station to make a positive difference for people and for the environment. This belief comes from my experience in the past two-plus years seeing what OBFS accomplishes with limited resources. This effectiveness is due to the commitment and generosity of OBFS members to OBFS and to helping each other. As a relatively new member involved in two



young field stations I have been a major beneficiary of mentoring assistance. I see the upcoming implementation of the strategic plan, and potentially, serving as a member-at-large as opportunities to give back to OBFS and its members through my active, year-round engagement in helping the organization to become stronger and accomplish more.

I would contribute to the overall goals and activities of the executive committee. I see the member-at-large positions as being especially appropriate to facilitating regular communication between the membership and the executive committee to achieve greater transparency. My talents and interests would be suited to helping to get grant funding for appropriate OBFS staffing or high priority projects. I am also interested in developing programming for OBFS meetings. For instance, Larry Wieder and I are both at universities with large Native American enrollments and have discussed the possibility of a focus at an upcoming OBFS meeting on involvement of Native Americans and Tribal Colleges in field station education and research activities. As project director for an interdisciplinary environmental research center which emphasizes networking across disciplines and across our region I also feel a strong affinity for executive committee tasks that are currently on the 5-10 year goals list including coalition, integrative, and interdisciplinary activities. Currently I am participating in the research committee's effort to help more field stations become engaged in the NEON planning process. With the education committee, I would like to help field stations capitalize on NSF's growing interest in community college education and the report "The Role of Biological Field Stations in the Education and Recruitment into the Biological Sciences" by Klug, Hodder, and Swain.

While I have had field station duties in my professional position only for a bit over two years, I have been preparing for a field station career since I was an undergraduate. As a graduate student at UC Davis' Bodega Marine Lab and Reserve I was an active participant in the field station community. My current position is with the Merriam-Powell Center for Environmental Research at Northern Arizona University. I work to develop both campus-based and field station facilities and programs. Field station facilities development focuses on the Merriam-Powell Research Station and the Walnut Creek Center for Education and Research: a partnership of a community college, a private college, a state university, a museum, and a national forest. I am a co-PI on a NSF Major Research Instrumentation grant funding an on campus ecological genetics and genomics facility that will complement field station facilities in northern Arizona.

Brian Kloeppe I am the Site Director at Coweeta Hydrologic Laboratory near Otto, North Carolina, and Assistant Research Scientist in the Institute of Ecology at the University of Georgia. My under-graduate and graduate degrees

included projects at several field stations that had a positive influence on me as an ecologist and person. At field stations, the scientific training, the education and outreach to public and scientific audiences, and the research productivity complement each other well and foster enjoyable and highly productive work environments.

Here at Coweeta, we have thoroughly enjoyed all OBFS projects and activities and especially enjoy working with the positive and energetic OBFS members! The knowledge and insight that we have gained as a result of interactions with OBFS members include revisions to proposals that have led to successful FSML grants and to establishing a structure to more efficiently manage facilities and site research use. In September 2005, Coweeta will be co-hosting the OBFS Annual Meeting with nearby Highlands Biological Station. Robert Wyatt, Director of Highlands Biological Station, and I have worked together on numerous projects for several years and our close proximity facilitates these interactions. Our field stations look forward to co-hosting the 2005 OBFS Annual Meeting.

If elected, my duties as a Member-at-Large would be to serve on the annual meeting program committee that is chaired by the Vice President, to lead special projects as set forth by the President or the Executive Board, and to work with other Executive Board Members to participate on regular and special projects, duties, and initiatives. I would happily fulfill these duties if elected. One of the most important aspects of our organization is to promote field stations and where possible to increase funding available from multiple sources for field station programs and facilities. This increase in funding is important to all field stations and especially to small field station budgets that are highly dynamic as a result of changes in state, academic, and private funding.



I would appreciate your vote to serve OBFS as a Member-at-Large, and I look forward to seeing you at the 2005 OBFS Annual Meeting.

Jeff Savino I am here to report for duty!

I believe that my opponents are capable of making monumental blunders if they become YOUR member-at-large. I have a 14-part plan that will insure that the necessary work be done and to return accountability to this high office.

My opponent from North Carolina has been known to practice matriculation and has a sister that is an avowed thespian.

Is this the sort of person you want as YOUR member-at-large? A flip-flopper? I didn't think so.

My other opponent, from Arizona & well, she's too nice, I'd be an idiot to attack her. Makes me think that she's hiding something. Do you want someone TOO NICE as your member-at-large? I didn't think so.



SECRETARY-TREASURER

Claudia Luke I would be pleased to continue to serve as Secretary Treasurer for OBFS. In addition to tracking operating budgets for 10 years as a field station director at two California reserves, I have served as principal investigator for grants and contracts that support field station activities.



Most recently these projects have included a Field Station Marine Lab grant to establish a wireless network at the Santa Margarita Ecological Reserve, a monitoring contract for our state Fish and Game to employ graduate students in regional monitoring projects, and a Technology Opportunities Grant to install an early warning fire sensor network and educational outreach project in collaboration with 8 regional partners. My writing and summary skills include drafting regional habitat conservation management plans, status summaries of endangered species, fire management planning publications, and outreach materials. I am currently Adjunct Professor in Biology at San Diego State University and serve on the Board of Directors for the South Coast Wildlands Project, on the Advisory Commission to the Mojave National Preserve, and in a variety of watershed planning groups. In the last

3 years as Secretary Treasurer, I have worked with Network Coordinator Mark Stromberg to establish an online administrative database to enhance information exchange among administrators in the organization. In this coming term, 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 have begun 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 the new projects and goals outlined in our new strategic plan.

EDITOR



David White: As a student, I had no knowledge of biological field stations. My first position, however, was as research biologist at the University of Oklahoma Biological Station where I learned the tremendous value of field stations in teaching and research. Following three years at Oklahoma, I was on the faculty of the University of Michigan Biological Station at Douglas Lake for ten years, taught one summer at Camp Filbert Roth, and have served as Director the Hancock Biological Station on Kentucky Lake and Coordinator for the Center for Reservoir Research (Murray State University) since 1988. I have been an associate editor for the *Southwestern Naturalist* and the *Journal of Freshwater Ecology* and am a past Chair of the North American Benthological Society Editorial Committee. Our Station/Center has a full-time staff of five and all the hardware and software needed to produce the Newsletter. We also have the services of a full-time editor/illustrator who assists in the production and publication of bulletins, flyers, newsletters, and posters. We produce an annual bulletin and poster that are distributed nationally, and the station has had its own web site since 1995. Newsletter duties are a way to repay part of

what OBFS has given me in inspiration and ideas over the years – and besides, it is one of the fun things I get to do!

2005 ANNUAL MEETING

Co-Hosted by Coweeta Hydrologic Laboratory and Highlands Biological Station, both located in Macon County, North Carolina

Coweeta Hydrologic Laboratory (CHL) and Highlands Biological Station (HBS) will be co-hosting the 2005 Organization of Biological Field Stations (OBFS) annual meeting 22-25 September 2005 in western North Carolina. Coweeta and Highlands are both located in Macon County, NC and are approximately 30 minutes apart by car. Coweeta is a research and education center and is a US Forest Service and University of Georgia institution. Coweeta was established in 1934 for research and training in the management of forests and streams in the biologically diverse southern Appalachian Mountains. Highlands Biological Station is a year-round biological field station whose principal mission is to promote research and education in biodiversity studies (ecology, systematics, evolution, and



conservation) with special emphasis on the diverse

flora and fauna of the region. Founded in 1927, HBS became an inter-institutional center of the University of North Carolina in 1976. Both CHL and HBS have on-site research labs, teaching and classroom labs, year-round housing, and extensive access to public and private research sites containing forests, streams, riparian areas, and manipulated land areas. Both Coweeta and Highlands have a long history of student training at the graduate and undergraduate level and have trained more than 300 graduate students over the last 70 years in a variety of terrestrial and aquatic disciplines.

ANNUAL MEETING

The 2005 OBFS Annual Meeting will officially begin after a reception and dinner on Thursday, 22 September. Participants should plan to arrive at Coweeta for dinner and the reception no later than 5:00 PM EDT. For all meeting details, registration forms, and travel arrangements please see http://www.obfs.org/annual_meetings/2005/.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Participants will be housed at either Coweeta Hydrologic Laboratory in the recently renovated Coweeta Residence or at Highlands Biological Station in one of six modern dorms or cottages. Meals during the meeting will be catered and served at Coweeta Hydrologic Laboratory or at Highlands Biological Station for the fundraising auction. Breakfasts will be served at both Coweeta and Highlands since participants will be housed at both locations. A special mountain barbecue dinner is scheduled for Saturday evening.

OBFS NOTES, ETC.

NEON

As noted in the minutes from the 2004 OBFS meeting, the National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON) is entering the design phase. The design committee has been selected and its first of three meetings will be in Los Angeles, January 4-6, 2005. The design committee will address continental and regional scale questions pertaining to many environmental grand challenges as they relate to (1) biodiversity and ecosystem functioning; (2) biogeochemical cycling, (3) climate change, (4) hydroecology, (5) infectious disease, (6) invasive species, (7) land use, and (8) other emerging issues. To follow the progress of NEON, go to <http://www.neoninc.org>.

CUAHSI

The Consortium of Universities for the Advancement of Hydrologic Science, Inc (CUAHSI) is moving forward. Among a host of other activities that can be seen on the web site (<http://cuahsi.org>), CUAHSI members are now in the process of designing Hydrological Observatories (HOs). HOs will be LTER-like facilities that will span the realm of hydrology – including the relationships of hydrology to ecology. Proposals are due to NSF in late winter 2005, which eventually will create at least 5 HOs.

There will **BE TWO ORGANIZED PRE-MEETING FIELD** trips on Thursday, 22 September 2005. One will be an interpretive hike of Whiteside Mountain and area waterfalls led by Dr. Robert Wyatt. The other will be a white water rafting trip on the Chattooga River operated by the Nantahala Outdoor Center. Participants for the field trips should plan to travel to the meeting location by Wednesday evening, 21 September 2004. All travel information will be posted on the annual meeting link on the OBFS web page (http://www.obfs.org/annual_meetings/2005/) after all field trip arrangements have been completed. Other options for travel and recreation in the area will be provided. While at the meeting site, all meeting participants will be able to participate in short field trips to view education, research, and biodiversity projects during a break in the OBFS meeting agenda.

For more information:

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OR

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