

**Organization of Inland  
Biological Field Stations**

**Newsletter  
No. 17  
June 1973**

ORGANIZATION OF INLAND BIOLOGICAL FIELD STATIONS

Newsletter No. 17, June 1, 1973

To: OIBFS Members

From: L. S. Putnam

I join with the expression of sadness indicated in the last news letter regarding the death of Arch Tryon. Arch was one of the group attending the first meeting in Washington, D. C., which resulted in the formation of OIBFS. The effect of his influence and interest in OIBFS, his ability as a scientist, his stature as a gentleman, and his quality as a friend will continue to be an inspiration to all of us. You will be pleased to know that Bob Dagleish immediately expressed our concern to Mrs. Tryon.

One of the serious problems of OIBFS is that all field station directors are so busy keeping their stations together that there is little time left for OIBFS activity. I would be the first person to admit to being neglectful of duty. This year the financial crunch hit Ohio State University rather suddenly, and one of the first things to suffer was the Stone Lab summer class program. We had thought our position was reasonably secure, but apparently our internal public relations were not strong enough to stand the pressure. Bill Marshall once warned that directors should be ever diligent in providing a flow of information to upper administration regarding the value of field stations. I can personally recommend now that all directors should increase effort in this respect.

We are not reducing our research program, and, in fact, have some \$500,000 additional grants. There will be a small study group this summer, and every indication is that Stone Lab will function again in 1974.

Directors of stations from time to time change, due to fatigue if nothing else. I had planned to retire at the close of the 1973 summer and return to regular teaching and research. Just for the record, the situation here had nothing to do with this decision.

One of the important questions which OIBFS should consider and solve is the possibility of expanding membership. There are arguments either way. On one hand we might lose the close association we have had and the opportunity to meet at specific stations. On the other hand, the stimulus of more members with ideas and activity might be a real advantage. Each director should give some thought to this problem and be ready to act on it by next year.

Bob Dagleish has a fine program arranged for us at Rensselaerville next month. I hope we can have a good attendance.

The following editorial, from the March 1973 issue of BioScience, seems particularly appropriate.

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FIELDISM

As everyone knows, discrimination is running rampant in our society of equal opportunity. Discrimination might be defined as any systematic violation of the golden rule applied to individuals on the basis of their class membership--and it seems to appear almost anywhere one seeks it. Racism is the familiar form,

but it is probably feminism that has led even more dramatically to the uncovering of the subtle mechanisms by which discrimination is institutionalized. Religious and racial minorities are hardly a challenge to the discriminating mind, since they can be isolated from controlling society so easily. Ever-present women, however, bring out the ultimate in clever mechanisms. The well-marshaled counterattack of the "libs" serves as a penetrating model for analysis of other forms of discrimination.

Suppose the college biologist wants to conduct a field study. His research area may be a 2 hours' or 2 days' drive from his office. His laboratory colleague may be able to schedule classes so as to allow 2 hours in the research laboratory, but such scheduling hardly profits the field worker. Why not "save up" those 2 hours per day and spend, say Wednesdays, in the field? Because Wednesdays are faculty meetings, that's why. And Tuesdays and Thursdays are class lectures. And Mondays are the department's colloquia, which everyone has to attend. And Fridays are when five of the seven committees meet.

The laboratory biologist would think it absurd to request permission of his dean to step across the hall in order to do research. Yet, in most institutions, if the biologist's field study area is outside the city limits, this is exactly what the field biologist is required to do.

When plans are laid for equipping the biology department, or a windfall of equipment moneys blows the department's way, is it not microscopes that are usually purchased? Who thinks of binoculars and telescopes? Perhaps it is fundamentally more scientific to magnify a small object nearby than a large one in the distance.

When the field biologist requests a professional portable tape recorder, he may be told to purchase the El Cheapo model for home-use instead. After all, it costs less than a quarter the price, so that the savings can be applied to the purchase of that 23-channel FM super-duper laboratory recorder for the physiologist on the next floor.

What about getting students and animals (or plants) together? Some universities grudgingly provide inadequate travel reimbursement for field trips, if that. However, it is little problem to obtain quadruple-injected fetal elephants for the laboratory. No expense is spared in bringing animals to students; none is incurred in bringing students to animals.

As in all forms of discrimination, there are rationalizations for practicing fieldism. Field biology is old-fashioned. Field biology is descriptive. Field biology is qualitative. Field biology is done by pedants. No doubt some impressive examples of such half-truths can be paraded, although one is hard-pressed to decide whether such cases are the cause or effect of fieldism. Yet, only the ignorant can fail to see the many modern, experimental, quantitative, and original papers being published on field studies.

It is difficult to escape the realization that the real basis of fieldism, as in so many other areas of discrimination, is purely psychological. When overt antagonism flares, one can sometimes observe those tell-tale slips that reveal underlying emotions. The plain fact is that everyone suspects that the field biologist actually enjoys his work--one of the true horrors in American society. An acquaintance once asserted that teachers should not be paid more, even if society could afford it, because they enjoy their work. Perhaps fieldism is another victim of the Protestant ethic.

Yet college courses in field biology are bulging, despite occasional dissuasions of some faculty advisors. Applications for graduate school to work in ecology, evolutionary studies, animal behavior and other areas of field biology are soaring; competent, important dissertations are emerging. And somehow the young professors of field biology are still managing to carry on their tasks despite the impediments.

Out into the field they go, keeping their appointed rounds just as if they had a sack of mail instead of a pack of optical, acoustic, or chemical instruments over their shoulders. If they use every moment carefully, working from dawn to dusk, they may return with the critical data in hand. Sunburned, scratched, weary, and perhaps even undernourished, the field workers do return. Leaning against the doorsill to greet them is the colleague from down the hall, dressed in his immaculate white lab coat, sipping a cup of coffee. He looks up, smiling, and says slyly "How'd your vacation go?"

Jack P. Hailman  
Department of Zoology  
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Madison 53706

#### NEWS FROM THE STATIONS

Iowa Lakeside Laboratory, University of Iowa. Richard V. Bovbjerg

Holding our own on funding after a couple of scares about expensive facilities being used so seldom except for the summer!

How can Station Directors go to meetings during the summer? Am I the only director who works for a living? I will miss seeing the group in New York.

Environmental Sciences Center, University of Calgary. G. W. Hodgson

G. W. Hodgson was appointed as director. Funding looks poor.

Pymatuning Laboratory of Ecology, University of Pittsburgh. Richard T. Hartman

Dick Hartman, formerly Chairman, Department of Biology has been named director of the Pymatuning Laboratory of Ecology. He replaces Dr. C. A. (Arch) Tryon who died February 1, 1973 while on sabbatical leave at the University of Massachusetts.

Except for increased funds for capitol improvement funding is expected to remain at last years level. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has frozen allocation for higher education in the Commonwealth System.

A new teaching laboratory and a lecture classroom will be contributed. Library facilities will be expanded and improved.

A cooperative program involving a regional college (Clarion State College) will continue in a somewhat expanded form. The possibility of extension of the program to include other regional colleges is being considered.

University of Denver High Altitude Laboratory. Mario Iona

The laboratory and housing facilities at Echo Lake (el. 10,700 ft.) and Mt. Evans (el. 14,150 ft.) are little used by our usual clientele of physical scientists and biological researchers are especially invited.

Lake Itasca Forestry and Biological Station, University of Minnesota. David F. Parmelee

New Course Offering: Protozoology will be taught by Eugene C. Bovee  
(University of Kansas)

1973 Summer faculty new to the Itasca program: Eville Gorham (Univ. Minn.); Jack D. Rogers (Washington State University); Warren H. Wagner (University of Michigan); Harold E. Schlichting, Jr. (North Carolina State University).

Just holding our own on funding.

We plan to winterize kitchen-dining facility and build one student cabin.

Grants are pending.

Interesting visitor for 1974: Dr. Tony Walsby (University of London, England) will be visiting the station for several weeks in August.

University of Manitoba - Delta Marsh. Dr. J. M. Walker-Shay

Commenced weekend extension courses on ecology related subjects.

Ornithology added to summer session credit courses.

A full time Administrative Assistant commenced June 1972.

Dr. J. H. Gee is Acting Head while Dr. Shay is on sabbatical (returns September 1973).

Funding looks good.

A new building has permitted the consolidation and expansion of laboratory facilities and increased student accommodation.

A grant from the Provincial Government was accepted.

Hastings Reservation, Star Route, Box 80, Carmel Valley, Ca. 93924, University of California. J. Davis

Funding looks OK.

Dr. Harry Frith, CSIRO, Canberra, Australia was a visitor last summer.

Alice L. Kibbe Life Science Station, Western Illinois University. John E. Warnock

Courses offered this summer include ornithology, herpetology, animal ecology, mammalogy, plant taxonomy and plant ecology.

Funding same as last year---very slim.

No new facilities---but cooperating agencies have acquired adjacent lands.

Illinois Chapter, The Nature Conservancy

Eagle Island----143 acres

Maag Tract-----30 acres

Roost Tract-----40 acres

Illinois Department of Conservation

Sand Hills-----46 acres

Over 400 total registered visitors.

Oneonta State Biological Field Station at Cooperstown. W. N. Harman, Comm. Chairman

An intensive 3 week course in aquatic ecology has been taught at the station during the summer of 1972 and will be taught again the summer of 1973. We are trying to arrange a 6 week Limnology course with 3 participating field stations; 2 weeks on Lake Ontario at Oswego State's Rice Creek Biological Field Station, 2 weeks at dystrophic Racquette Lake at Cortland State's Field Station, and 2 weeks on Otsego Lake at our facility.

Funding is bleak.

The Field Laboratory on the upland site is complete with rough furnishings so that researchers may work there during the winter, with a minimum amount of discomfort.

A proposal has been made to the National Science Foundation for our inclusion in their proposed national network of Biological Field Stations.

A resident family of Coopers Hawks provided a great deal of interest.

A viable and active "Otsego Lake Committee" of the Otsego County Conservation Association maintains files and meets regularly at the station. They are providing a valuable link with the community concerning applied aspects - political, legislative, etc., concerning plans to reduce the eutrophication rate in Otsego Lake.

There is an open invitation for qualified researchers to do work at the station. Just write for information.

Eagle Lake Field Station, Susanville, California. Robert Ediger

Dr. Roger Lederer - Ornithologist, joining the staff.

We have worked out a new budget arrangement with the state so our funding looks pretty good.

We applied for a NSF Summer Institute and an Undergraduate Research Participation Grant. Both of these have been turned down.

Dr. Paul Maslin, Limnologist has submitted a grant to the EPA but hasn't received an answer as yet.

Sponsored an Environmental Conference for the State, Federal and County agencies located in Lassen Co., Calif.

Conard Environmental Research Area of Grinnell College, B. F. Graham

Newly Constructed (Fall 1972) 14 acre lake, the gift of an anonymous former student of the late Dr. Henery S. Conrad.

The Iowa Academy of Science will meet at Grinnell College, April 27 & 28. Tours of the Research Area are planned.

Rice Creek Biological Field Station, State University College, Oswego, N.Y.

Dr. George R. Maxwell.

Summer Session 1973 - Field Zoology, Zoology 287 - Dr. John Brunson and Dr. S. Nelson, SUCO - Ornithology, Zoology 276 - Dr. George Maxwell, SUCO - Plant Systematics and Local Flora, Botany 257 - Dr. Mildred Faust, Syracuse University - Problems in Aquatic Biology, Biology 298 - Dr. Ronald Engel, SUCO.

Funding about the same or less.

NSF Equipment Grant. No word yet. Several aquatic ecology proposals. Again no indication of acceptance or rejection.

We are trying to work out a summer course offering in aquatic biology in cooperation with Oneonta and Cortland.

University of Montana Biological Station.      John F. Tibbs

We're offering some short (one-month) courses and other full session (two-month) courses. We're also expanding our aquatic offerings.

Funding looks about the same level as last several years. There's nothing to spare.

We are beginning construction of a sewage treatment plant and a new winterized residence.

Summer institute was turned down by NSF. The institute proposed, an interdisciplinary one on "Man and the Environment in Montana", was to have been a cooperative one between the two universities in the state. The entire summer institute program by now, of course, has folded.

Interesting visitors last summer included Dr. and Mrs. T.T. Macan (aquatic ecologist).

There was a great increase in numbers of applicants this year over recent past years.

The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Field Station.      Millicent Ficken

We recently acquired 45 additional acres of Cedarburg Bog as a gift from the Nature Conservancy. Funding was better than usual. Research use of the Station continues to increase.

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Cam Gifford has accepted an appointment at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution as technical director of the new Aquaculture and Environmental Systems Laboratory.

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#### CLARENCE ARCHER TRYON, JR. MEMORIAL FUND

A fund has been established at the University of Pittsburgh in memory of Dr. Clarence Archer Tryon, Jr., Professor of Biology and Director of the Pymatuning Laboratory of Ecology. Dr. Tryon died February 1, 1973 at Amherst, Massachusetts while on a sabbatical leave from the University of Pittsburgh. It has been suggested that this fund be used for library facilities at the Pymatuning Laboratory of Ecology, Linewville, Pennsylvania. This laboratory was developed under the leadership of Dr. Tryon who was its director for more than twenty years.

Contributions to this Memorial Fund may be sent to the Department of Biology, University of Pittsburgh or to Mr. David Smith, Treasurer, 2401 CL, University of Pittsburgh, Pa. 15260.

Please make checks payable to Clarence A. Tryon Memorial Fund.

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Dr. Jay Schnell, Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Alaska is seeking a summer position at a field station. He has had extensive experience with radio-tracking techniques with birds and mammals and is particularly interested in a position (part or full time) which would involve research as well as teaching.