

**Organization of  
Biological Field Stations**

**Newsletter  
No. 39  
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# OBFS



## Newsletter

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Newsletter Editor

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I.

"YE OLDE OFFICIAL OBFS BALLOTTE"

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Please return by December 25, 1984 to:

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II. MINUTES - 1984 ANNUAL MEETING FOR BUSINESS - SEPTEMBER 29,30, 1984

BAMFIELD MARINE STATION, BAMFIELD BRITISH COLUMBIA

1. In Attendance: From the host station - Ron Foreman; Kenneth Armitage, (Ecology Program, Univ. of Kansas, KS); Laura Carter, (E.N. Huyck Preserve, NY); Michael Christensen, (Colorado Field Camp, Phillips Univ., OK); Steve Davenport, (Long Marine Lab, Univ. of CA); Daniel Dawson, (Valentine Eastern Sierra Reserve, CA); Deborah Gordon, (E.N. Huyck Preserve, NY); Alan Grundman, (Jasper Ridge Biol. Preserve, Stanford Univ., CA); Jim Halfpenny, (Mountain Research Station, CO); Richard Hartman, (Pymatuning Lab, Univ. of Pittsburgh, PA); John Janovy, (Cedar Point Biol. Station, NE); Dennis Johns, (Rocky Mtn. Biol. Lab., CO); Jeff Kennedy, (U.C. Natural Reserve Syst. CA); Joe King, (Hancock Biol. Sta., KY) Harold Klieforth, (Whittell Forest, NV); Charles Kupchella, (Hancock Biol. Sta. KY); Lyndal Langh-rin, Santa Cruz Island Reserve, CA); George Lauff, (Kellogg Biol. Sta., Michigan State Univ., MI); James Layne, (Archbold Biol. Sta., FL); Richard Marzolf, (Div. of Biology, Kansas St. Univ. KS); Jennifer Shay, (Univ. Field Sta., Winnipeg); Paul Siri, (Bodega Marine Lab, CA); Don Usner, (Big Creek Reserve, CA); Bobby G. Whiteside, (Southwest Texas St. Univ., TX); James Wolfe, (Mississippi St. Univ. Res. Center, NSTL, MS); Michael Yoder-Williams, (Sagehen Creek Field Sta. Univ. of CA); James Tyler (N.S.F.); Jack A. Stanford (Biol. Station, Univ. Montana); Jerome G. Rozen (American Mus. Nat. Hist.); \* additional members in attendance
2. President Parmelee convened the first session of the meeting on Friday, Sept. 28.
3. The minutes of the 1983 Business Meeting were approved as circulated in a previous OBFS Newsletter.
4. The Secretary/treasurer, (R. Coles), reported that membership now totals 93, (30 individual memberships, 50 station memberships); as of the date of the meeting, 13 members are in arrears for dues. During the past year, there have been 3 resignations and 12 new members have joined.

The treasurer's report was presented as of Sept. 21, 1984. During the previous year income totaled \$4,512.95 - \$2,780 from dues; \$1,000 from the Course Announcement; and \$732.95 in interest on our Certificates of Deposit (which total \$2000) and on the fluctuating balance in our NOW checking account.

For the same period, expenses totaled \$4590.77, broken down as follows - office expenses, \$460.47; AIBS dues, \$100.; travel by officers to meetings in Washington, DC and to AIBS meetings, \$2,471.60; Course Announcement Poster, \$1,173.58; Newsletter expenses, \$385.12.

For the year, expenses exceeded income by \$77.82. September 15, 1983 the checking account balance was \$6,627.63; Sept. 21, 1984 the balance was \$6,549.91. In addition to the account, the OBFS also owns \$2000 in Certificates of Deposit. These assets are at the Eureka Bank, Eureka, MO. The report of the secretary/treasurer was accepted.

The secretary/treasurer mentioned that internal auditors of his University had questioned the use of secretarial/clerkal time for OBFS business without reimbursement. Hourly costs including Social Security for this assistance is currently \$7.02/hr. After discussion it was moved (Lauff), seconded (Shay), and passed

\* David Parmelee (Univ. Minnesota); Richard Coles (Tyson Research Center); M. Hamilton (James San Jacinto Mts. Reserve); J. Merritt (Carnegie Mus. Nat. Hist.)

that the OBFS retain secretarial/clerical services as performed by Tyson Research Center on an hourly basis, not to exceed \$500/yr. This arrangement is to be reviewed annually at the regular OBFS business meeting.

5. Editors' Report: Joe Merritt described the Newsletter, its frequency, and content and his desire to receive and publish materials from members. Comments and suggestions are also welcome as Joe hopes the Newsletter will reflect the needs and desires of the membership as much as possible.
6. Report of the AIBS Representative: Dick Hartman described our relationship with AIBS as one of its smallest adherent societies. Because of schedule of conflicts, Dick was unable to attend the most recent general meeting of the council. Currently AIBS officers include: Peter Raven (President); Don Duckworth (President-elect); Paul Apple, of the U.S.F. & W.S. in CO (Secretary); AIBS members receive the monthly publication BIOSCIENCE which is supplemented by the FORUM, a newsletter. There was mention of pending legislation which would establish a Biological Inventory of Species of the U.S. (BISUS) to examine the biota of the U.S., especially preserves and wilderness areas. Dick reported that AIBS has been under a new executive director for the past few years, is more focused in its activities, and is on a good trajectory.

Dick Hartman, who has served as our AIBS representative for a number of years, expressed a desire to step aside and allow another person to serve in this capacity. Since the next meeting was close at hand, Jerry Rosen, who will be attending to represent the American Museum of Natural History, offered to represent OBFS as well, and to do so at little or no cost to us. To accommodate future needs, the President will appoint a member of the executive committee or an active member who has participated in recent OBFS meetings to serve as the representative. The group expressed appreciation and gratitude to Dick Hartman for his service.

7. Report of the Summer Course Announcement Poster: Poster Editor, Jim Halfpenny, reviewed the 1984 poster, its cost, composition, listings, etc. He has agreed to make a repeat performance in 1985, and plans to change the color, redo the map and to revise the content. However, there is not much space for expansion of the general message. Jim solicited input from directors wishing to have a listing in 1985 and will contact the membership for material which must be submitted by November 1. It was emphasized that to be most effective, the poster should be out and in the hands of students in early December. Consequently, directors should not hesitate to list courses which might later be cancelled for lack of instructor or of enrollment.

In order to ensure that the poster operated on a self-sufficient basis, a motion was passed to raise the charge for a listing to \$60.

Dick Coles will again mail a notice announcing the availability of the poster to various professional newsletters, state conservation department magazines, etc., and request that members knowing of an appropriate outlet, please send him the name and address of the editor.

8. Future meetings: The 1985 meeting will be held Thur. Sept. 26 through Sunday, the 29th, at the Hancock Biological Station of Murray State University and located on the west shore of Kentucky Lake of the Land Between the Lakes in Kentucky. The

1986 annual meeting will be at Cedar Point Biological Station in Nebraska.

10. The meeting recessed and was resumed in the afternoon of Saturday, Sept. 29.
11. Ron Foreman, director of the host station, reviewed departure arrangements and described support for research at Canadian Biological Stations. In Canada the equivalent of NSF is the Natural Science and Engineering Research Council of Canada, (NSERCC). In contrast to NSF policies, NSERCC supports basic operations, insurance costs, library staff, maintenance and so on through "infrastructure" grants. Bamfield receives about \$200,000/yr. as do the other marine stations, Huntsman and Memorial. These are relatively simple to renew, the 3-year grant being awarded on the basis of a 4 page application form. NSERCC does not support renovation or construction, or the purchase of new equipment. In Canada there are about 45 university-related field stations which have formed the Canadian Council of University Field Stations (CCUFS). Among these there are four large ones, the three above plus Kananaskis of the University of Calgary. There are several large government labs, the presence of which squeezes the smaller related facilities.
12. Those present joined in a vigorous round of applause in appreciation of the effective performance of Ron Foreman and the staff of Bamfield Marine Station for the meetings. The weather was marvelous, the field trips, conferences, salmon on the beach and other events were much enjoyed by all.
13. There was a recess for a discussion concerning the upcoming NSF sponsored workshop on the research needs of biological field stations. The OBFS business meeting was resumed the morning of Sunday, Sept. 30.
14. The nominating committee reported nominees as follows: for secretary/treasurer, Dick Coles, (the incumbent) and for editor, Joe Merritt, (also the incumbent). The nominations were accepted. The president also appointed a program committee for the 1985 meeting: Jeff Kennedy and Dennis Johns.
15. Jennifer Shay reported on the CCUFS. The latter was formed at a meeting in 1981 of 29 directors of Canadian field stations after discussion of the financial problems they confronted. The objectives are (1) to facilitate communication; (2) to encourage research use; (3) to encourage financial support, and (4) to encourage preservation of field areas for field course programs. There are two classes of membership resembling the arrangements in OBFS. At a subsequent meeting in the spring of '83 discussion focused on, (1) should a field station be established in each major biome found in Canada? (2) could a policy be developed concerning university field stations? and (3) could or should the CCUFS act as a lobbying organization? A group has been formed by the University of Canada to prepare a position paper concerning question #2, and four drafts of the proposal have been written and revised. Regrettably, the large, well-funded government labs which report at a high level in the government have been included. Their input has distorted the results to the point where it is probable that the directors of the university field stations do not agree with many provisions of the report and may ultimately take a public position in opposition to the report, or at least to the objectionable portions thereof.
16. The meeting was adjourned leaving ample time for a delicious brunch and departure of travelers.

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KLIEFORTH, Dr. Harold

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LAUFF, Dr. George

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LAYNE, Dr. James N.

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MARTIN, Dr. William H.

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MERRITT, Dr. Joe

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## THE KANANASKIS CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH\*

by P.M. Wallis, J.P. Corbin, R.M. Zammuto, and B.H. Seghers

The Kananaskis Centre for Environmental Research is a research and teaching unit of the University of Calgary with laboratory and office facilities on the main campus and a field station on the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains, 80 km west of Calgary. The Centre carries out environmental research in a variety of disciplines with major funding from the University of Calgary and private and government funding agencies. It is an independent academic unit of the University reporting directly to the Vice-President of Research. The Kananaskis Centre employs 7 scientists at the professorial level including the Director (Dr. Dennis Parkinson). The staff also includes 7 technicians, 2 Postdoctoral Fellows, and 7 support staff. Visiting scientists, graduate students and many others use the facilities on a part-time basis for their field work.

The Kananaskis Field Station is an integral unit of the Centre serving both the University of Calgary and an ever-increasing number of other educational and research institutions. It was built in stages from 1966 to 1973 and originally equipped with a Negotiated Development Grant from the National Research Council. The physical plant consists of a large, fully equipped laboratory building, a garage with shop facilities, a

lodge with 13 dormitory units, 5 duplex housing units, and 2 mobile homes. The laboratory building contains separate laboratories for ecology, microbiology, nutrient dynamics, atmospheric studies and teaching. Major equipment includes 6 growth chambers, freezers, cold rooms, a dark room, an extractor tower, autoclave, computer equipment (both a minicomputer and direct telephone access to the mainframe computer on campus), centrifuges, fume hoods, chromatographs, freeze-drying equipment, microscopes, and a variety of glassware and electronic equipment. The Field Station maintains a weather station, an herbarium containing a comprehensive collection of local plants, a small museum collection of local birds and mammals, and a library. Xerox, telephone, drafting, and secretarial services are also available on site. A list of over 400 publications produced by the Kananaskis Centre is available from the librarian. Meals are regularly served in the lodge to dormitory residents whereas cooking facilities (and furnishings) are provided in the duplexes and trailers. The Kananaskis Field Station (elevation 1390 m) is located at the base of Barrier Mountain (2192 m) with convenient access to montane, sub-alpine, alpine, and aquatic (lakes, streams, and beaver ponds)

ecosystems. A great deal of the research carried out at the Field Station is biological in nature but projects in meteorology, geology, chemistry, geography, hydrology, satellite imagery and engineering have all taken place here. The main thrusts of biological research are in botany, mammalogy, ornithology, aquatic ecology, ichthyology, microbiology, parasitology, and soil biology.

Paleozoic carbonate bedrock underlies most of the Kananaskis region. It is resistant to erosion and therefore tends to form cliffs and ridges. Mesozoic bedrock, running in three belts through the Kananaskis Valley, is much more erodible and consists of shale, conglomeritic sandstone or coal-bearing seams. Folding and faulting has resulted in a series of similarly oriented thrust sheets. Superimposed on this geologic pattern are the topographic expressions of glacial and non-glacial depositional and erosional processes.

As climate ameliorated following the retreat of the most recent ice sheet, plant community succession tended to proceed from arctic and cordilleran elements to the current boreal and cordilleran assemblages of plant communities. Uncontrolled wildfires in the past have burned over most of the Kananaskis region and have affected orderly plant succession. Only about 10% of the subalpine and montane areas are vegetated by climax associations. Nearly 90% of the forested lands are characterized by a recurring forest-fire ecosystem with lodgepole pine and/or aspen seral communities. Of the 18 climax associations present, 15 are spruce or spruce/subalpine fir dominated. One community is dominated by Douglas fir while the other two are wet area communities. The flora of the Kananaskis region includes at least 620 species of vascular plants. There are 10 species of trees, 70 shrubs (including 22 willows), 17 ferns or fern allies, and 400 forbs. Approximately one-half of the species reported from the region are circumpolar in range and one-half are restricted to North America. Of the North American species, the boreal forest and cordilleran elements are the most abundant showing the close ties that the Alberta Rocky Mountain flora has with the widespread boreal forest flora.



Aerial view of the Kananaskis Field Station showing laboratory, lodge and duplex housing units.

### Local Animals

The Field Station is adjacent to Barrier Lake (308 ha) which was created by damming the Kananaskis River in 1947 for the generation of hydro-electric power. The reservoir has been stocked with many species of fish but is now dominated by brown trout, longnose and white suckers, and mountain whitefish. Brook trout and rainbow trout are also present. About 25 species of birds overwinter although about 150 species breed in the area. Ornithological studies have concentrated on the ecology of swallows which are abundant around the Field Station.

There are a variety of mammals in the Kananaskis area. Grizzly bears have been extensively studied and further studies on black bears are underway. Grazing studies of sheep and elk have been carried out at the Field Station and some work has been done on moose. Most of the mammal studies have dealt with small rodents. Four species of vole and 2 species of mice occur in the area along with a variety of other small and large mammals.

There are many visitors to the Field Station. An average of 5 undergraduate field courses takes place each summer from a variety of universities and colleges. Graduate students and visiting professors working in environmental disciplines from many universities frequently use the facilities.



*Clockwise from upper left, kitchen and dining facility in the lodge, stereoscope and aerial photography, growth chambers, main office.*

Their research and residence requirements are negotiated with the Director and the Station Manager (Dr. Peter Wallis). Dormitory accommodation is available on a first-come-first-served basis and 1 or 2 duplex units are sometimes available for families. Each year, the Field Station also hosts

several small University of Calgary sponsored conferences and other environmentally-related meetings from other institutions, mainly in the winter months. The Kananaskis Centre encourages visiting scientists and graduate students working in environmental disciplines from any university or public laboratory to use the Field Station. Occasionally, financial assistance is offered by the Centre at the discretion of the Director to help with accommodation costs when necessary. No bench fees are charged for laboratory use although charges for xeroxing, long distance telephone calls, and secretarial service are made. At the moment, full room and board charges in the dormitory are \$20/day for students attending courses. Graduate students and visiting scientists who stay longer than one month are charged \$13/day. The fee schedule for the fiscal year beginning 1 April, 1984 has not yet been set but increases will be less than 10%.

Further information may be obtained from: Dr. Dennis Parkinson, Director (403) 284-6344 or Dr. Peter Wallis, Station Manager (403) 284-5355/673-2167 Kananaskis Centre for Environmental Research, University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta CANADA T2N 1N4

\* Sixth of a series of articles on Field Station located in Canada or owned by Canadian institutions.



*Clockwise from upper left; microbiology and parasitology laboratory, library, microscope room, gas analysis for air pollution research.*

## VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Graduate and Post-graduate Research Grants -- The Biological Research Station of the Edmund Niles Huyck Preserve Inc., offers grants for the support of research in which the natural resources of the Huyck Preserve are utilized. These grants in amounts up to \$3500 are available to graduate and post-graduate investigators.

The 1,400 acre Preserve is located on the Helderberg Plateau, in the Town of Rensselaerville, 30 miles Southwest of Albany, New York. Included within the Preserve are natural and re-forested woodlands, old fields, Lake Myosotis (100 acres), Lincoln Pond (10 acres) and approximately three miles of intermittent streams. Housing and laboratory space are provided here.

Inquire for instructions on application and additional information from: Box 188, Rensselaerville, N.Y. 12147.

Applications are due on or before January 4, 1985. Awards will be announced by March 15, 1985.

2. A new book from the Carnegie Museum of Natural History

A new release from the Special Publication series of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History entitled, "Winter Ecology of Small Mammals," edited by Joseph Merritt will be available within the next two weeks. This book, bound in hard cover, contains 392 pages produced in an 8 1/2 inch by 11 inch double column format. Copies may be ordered for \$45.00 plus postage and handling. Please see enclosed announcement.

3. New Members to OBFS--- WELCOME TO OBFS

Lois Kruschwitz, Alpine Learning Center, Boulder, Colorado

Steve Davenport, Ano Nuevo Island Reserve, University of California, Santa Cruz

Donna J. Young, White Mountain Research Station, Los Angeles, California