

**Organization of  
Biological Field Stations**

**Newsletter  
No. 61  
December 1995**

Date: Tue, 26 Dec 1995 13:11:47 -0700 (MST)  
From: RMBL\_DIR@western.edu  
To: pgconnors@ucdavis.edu  
Subject: obfs newsletter and ballot

#61

OBFSNews

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Organization of Biological Field Stations \* De

#### 1995 OBFS Annual Meeting

The OBFS annual meeting at Treehaven, WI in September was a success. Official minutes from the meeting are being sent to all OBFS members via regular mail. As usual, one of the most rewarding aspects of the meeting was the opportunity for field station directors and managers to interact informally and learn from each other. The wintry weather and convivial atmosphere of the Treehaven station made camaraderie all the more opportune.

The 1996 annual meeting will be held at the White Mountain Reserve, in eastern California. Look for more information about next year's meeting in the spring issue of this newsletter. In 1997 we will be meeting at the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology in Charleston, OR.

Note From OBFSNews Editor  
-by Susan Lohr

Please accept my apologies for the tardiness of this newsletter. I do have a good excuse, though. At least, I think it's a good one! My husband Jim and I just became parents to a little baby girl, Camille Isabel Lohr, born November 26, 1995 and placed with us for adoption on December 9th. She is adorable and we are very happy.

I'm somewhat uncertain as to how best to make the transition between hard copy OBFS newsletters and electronic ones. The minutes of the meeting were prepared as camera ready copy by Dick Coles's office, so I am not retyping them in order to send them via email to those of you on-line. I will mail them separately to everyone. Those of you not on-line will also receive this newsletter and the ballot for election of officers in the same mailing, unless you are an individual and not a station member, in which case you will not receive a ballot. And those of you on-line will receive this newsletter and the ballot (if you are a station member) via email. You will need to print out the ballot and mail it to Dick Coles as instructed thereon. All of this is assuming I have your correct email address, of course!

Hopefully future submissions to this newsletter could be made either via email or on a disk, so we don't have to make duplicate electronic and hard copy mailings. Thanks for your assistance, and

don't forget that this is your newsletter. Feel free to send items for publication.

## OBFS and the Internet

- by Mark Stromberg, Hastings Natural History Reserve

[Ed. Note: Mark will provide a column for each issue of OBFSNews that discusses various aspects of Internet use by field stations. If you want to contact him directly, his email address is "stromber@violet.berkeley.edu".]

## Pika\_Net --or-- Official OBFS Joe Pika Fan Club News Machine

At the last OBFS annual membership meeting, we decided we could all benefit from a service that would send one e-mail message simultaneously to all OBFS members. Chuck Yohn at Juniata College offered his access to such a mail server. Those of us who subscribe to other e-mail servers realize that we get deluged by e-mail messages from such servers. Many of the message sent to "the group" are junk mail. You know; UFO sighting, requests from sophomores for literature citations for their term papers, and even the occasional report of a pika on Steen 's Mountain in Oregon.

So, we decided that we would not let just anyone subscribe to the mail server. Most mail servers will add you to the mailing list if you simply send the mail server a message with your e-mail address and the word "subscribe" in the message. In the interest of limiting our mail messages to OBFS business, we decided that OBFS members can only be signed up by sending their e-mail address to Chuck Yohn. He will check to see if you are a member, then sign you up. Chuck is at: "fieldstation@juncol.juniata.edu". Send him an e-mail and ask to be signed up for the pika\_net. Why "Pika\_Net" and not "Pika-Net"? Unix protocol won't let you use dashes, so if you want to separate words in a line, you need to use the underline.

Now if you think the report of a pika on an OBFS meeting field trip to Steen's Mountain is unique, check this out. For those of you who regularly use e-mail servers, our Pika-Net server is also not the same old story. Assuming Chuck has signed you on, here is how you send a message to everyone on Pika\_Net:

1) Go to the "To:" section of your e-mail software to prepare a new message. Send it to: `LISTSERV@JUNCOL.JUNIATA.EDU`

2) Go to the "Subject" section of your e-mail software in the same new message and type in:  
`@LS PIKA NET`

Then in quotes, put the real subject of the message you are sending. So, if I

were going to send a message to everyone on the pika\_net to request spare change, my header would look like this:

To:  
LISTSERV@JUNCOL.JUNIATA.EDU  
From: stromber@violet.berkeley.edu  
Date: November 15, 1995  
Subject: @LS PIKA\_NET"please send spare change"

#### Home Page News

I've added the 1995 course poster to the home page. Sonda Eastlack is in the process of doing the 1996 course listings for summer sessions at OBFS sites. I will post that new information as soon as possible.

We've also got room for messages and notices. If you have job announcements or whatever, send them to me and I will get them posted.

Finally, check out your listings. If you have your own home page, send me the URL and I will link your home page. If your phone numbers, address or staff have changed, let me know.

#### World Wide Web Access, Fun Sites

For those of you who were at the Wisconsin meeting, I showed you some fun places to visit on the web. I also tried to get you all some notion of how to get on the web. E-mail is fine for chats, and the mail server is good for notices, job announcements and pleas for help. But the web is a way to learn and download massive amounts of data. The web is also a lot of fun. Our site is <http://jasper.stanford.edu/OBFS/> and remember to copy that exactly- capital letters matter.

Compuserve (see last newsletter) and Microsoft are now facing free Internet access. In Washington D.C. and San Francisco, Metricom is offering free net access. Various start-up companies across the country are considering free access. Check the computer store near you; or ask for a user group or your campus information management staff. You should be able to buy a connection (PPP or SLIP) for about \$20/month for about 200 hours/month. You can get this now with Compuserve's 800 numbers; you can access the net from any phone that can handle an 800 call. In January, Compuserve and Microsoft Network are offering net access at \$4.95 for three hours a month, and then \$1.95/hour for more through Compuserve and \$2.50/hr more on Microsoft.

Just for a brief review (see last newsletter), to get on line, contact Compuserve. Ask for an Internet starter kit. For IBM pc's, it should have a program called Netscape, and one called "Trumpet". Trumpet is a small program that runs your modem and then a small script which dials your local provider's phone number (or Compuserve's 800 number) and then gives your

account number and password when asked. It then should establish a PPP or SLIP connection. Once that is done, Netscape can run. In the Windows environment, Netscape will look for Trumpet and start your connection. For the Macs, you need system 7.5 or a copy of MacTCP, (a control panel), ConfigPPP (another) and an extension called PPP as well as a copy of Netscape. You set up your phone number, account number and pass word in ConfigPPP. Once done, the Mac version of Netscape will find and start the helper applications. Once you have Netscape running, it is the same on any platform. Netscape is not the only web viewer software out there. Mosaic works. And each private server (AOL, CompuServe, Microsoft, etc.) have their own version. With any connection, buy the fastest modem you can afford. You need at least a 9600 modem with compression. Speeds of up to 28000 are possible, but only on extremely quiet phone lines. If you have noisy lines, stay with 9600 and compression.

Keeping up with the developments on the World Wide Web has become a major challenge. I showed many of you the searching tool developed by Yahoo(<http://www.yahoo.com>). Another good one is McKinley (<http://www.mckinley.com>).

There are good newspapers on the web. For instance, try the San Jose Mercury News (<http://sjmercury.com/main.htm>). Reading news on-line is awkward, but they do have Dilbert (<http://www.unitedmedia.com/comics/dilbert/>). You can subscribe to these and other newspapers and magazines with a phone call and credit card.

Most government agencies are rapidly moving to offering data and software on web sites. One of the most sophisticated state agencies is that for California water. We have data from hundreds of weather stations, on line, searchable for past records (<http://cyclone.water.ca.gov>). On a national scale, check out offerings from NOAA and National Geodetic Survey. There are literally millions of sites and the number grows daily. Maybe we should start at list of good one and post it on the OBFS home page.

Report from AIBS

-by Steve Havera, AIBS Representative

The American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS) Council meeting convened 3 December 1995 in Washington, DC. The AIBS is a non-profit national scientific organization whose mission is to address important public policy issues in the life sciences, including environmental, medical and agricultural issues. Founded in 1947 as an operating component of the National Academy of Sciences, AIBS is now an independent federation of 45 scientific life science societies representing more than 80,000 biologists, students and others concerned with the biological sciences.

There are about 4,500 individual members of AIBS.

In addition to the typical council meeting topics that are discussed each year, including BioScience, Special Science Programs, and Meeting and Membership, some time was devoted to discussion of the role AIBS should play as an umbrella for biological societies and what AIBS can do to get affiliated societies more engaged in public policy. The majority of the meeting, however, focused on the discussion of an AIBS restructuring plan and how it relates to interactions with affiliated societies and organizations.

In letter dated 8 November 1995 to AIBS Council representatives, Executive Director Cliff Gabriel and President W. Hardy Eshbaugh stated "Significant changes are occurring at AIBS that will help the Institute be more responsible to the needs of the biological sciences community. Over the next few months, AIBS will restructure its operations to strengthen member services and public policy as detailed in the Institute's strategic plan. The need for these changes is driven largely by a failed real estate partnership the Institute entered into in 1987 and a steady erosion of federal contract activity that provided overhead revenue to support the Institute's basic infrastructure. These changes are necessary to ensure the future of the organization by providing for a sustainable funding basis. Over the next few months, AIBS will restructure its operations using a variety of cost-saving mechanisms such as out-sourcing and rent reduction. Even though this organizational transition away from dependency on federal contracts will be difficult at first, it will be beneficial in the long run. The Board believes a streamlined Institute will be better able to address the needs of its members and its affiliated societies and organizations." Thus, AIBS will be undergoing significant changes in 1996.

As the OBFS representative to AIBS, I requested that AIBS consider endorsing the Freshwater Imperative and the Fish and Wildlife Diversity Funding Initiative. I also provided information from OBFS of examples that demonstrated how research in biology has addressed major societal problems from our report "A New Horizon for Biological Field Stations and Marine Laboratories". This information was requested by AIBS so that a compendium of examples can be developed to counteract the current widespread congressional attack on research funding.

#### New Guidelines for NSF FSML Facility Competition

The revised guidelines for the NSF "Improvements in Facilities, Communications, and Equipment at Biological Field Stations and Marine Laboratories (FSML)" grant competition were

recently released. The deadline will be the first Friday in April each year. The guidelines are clear, concise, and well conceived, and reflect many of the discussions OBFS has had with NSF over the past few years. Cost sharing requirements have been reduced significantly, thereby increasing the applicability of the competition to a greater number of field stations.

The required format for proposal submissions is extremely specific, and should be followed exactly. Those interested in submitting a proposal to this competition will want to request a copy of the new guidelines from the NSF Forms and Publications Unit, telephone (703)306-1130, email "pubs@nsf.gov". You will also want a copy of the NSF Grant Policy Manual, which contains newly revised (as of August 1995) forms and instructions for all NSF grants.

"Timberdoodling"

-by Bob Dall, Program Coordinator, Treehaven

I recently had the pleasure of leading a group of adventuresome biologists into the Sylvania Wilderness Area in the Ottawa National Forest near Watersmeet, Michigan. This elite group of professionals, members of the Organization of Biological Field Stations, were visiting from various parts of the country to attend a conference at UWSP-Treehaven, in Tomahawk, Wisconsin. They were especially eager to experience and study the natural communities unique to the Northcountry. Their enthusiasm reminded me that wilderness is near at hand in our "neck of the woods", and that even a naturalist is sometimes guilty of taking this for granted.

In Search of Wilderness

It was a crisp autumn day as we embarked on our day long adventure into the wilds of the Sylvania wilderness. To reduce physical and visual impacts on the designated wilderness area, management rules dictate that traveling groups consist of no more than 10 people. Since the object of this excursion was to provide folks with a wilderness canoeing experience, our group of nine created an uneven number of paddlers leaving me without a paddle. I felt rather smug as biologist Alan Romsper and my colleague Anne Wilfahrt chauffeured me across Crooked Lake. It's a rare opportunity to enjoy the scenery while someone else does all the paddle work. I began to feel a bit like King Tut transported abroad by my trusty slaves. The fantasy was short lived however when, at the first portage trail, I was expected to carry my own weight and that of a 70 pound canoe! In reality I was glad to oblige. There is nothing like good physical exertion in Wisconsin's great outdoors. It is a healthy and natural part of wilderness life.

As we paddled together, keen eyes and trained intellects scanned and scrutinized the landscape. Traveling with biologists is an adventure in itself. Each person applied his or her personal scientific specialty, and catalogued everything from Acer to Zapus (Acer saccharum, sugar maple and Napaeozapus insignis, the woodland jumping mouse). It was rather like watching the bar code scanner at the supermarket. One quick peek and all the details come to light. The conversation was intellectually stimulating, even challenging. The scientific community is often portrayed as cold and calculating but throughout their visit, these folks demonstrated a real concern for the natural environment and a true love for the land.

The predominant natural community at Sylvania is a climax hardwood forest. This means that the forest cover has never been harvested or greatly disturbed by human influence. The vegetation and associated wildlife species have, over time, developed a stable living arrangement in terms of the type and diversity of species found here. The dominant tree species are long lived. Sugar maple, beech, basswood, yellow birch, and hemlock are able to reproduce in their own shade to replace themselves and out-compete "pioneer" species that enter in after a fire or major upset.

Historical literature gives us the impression that the entire Northcountry was covered with white pine forest prior to settlement and turn of the century logging. In fact, this was only true for those areas where the soil type encourages good pine forest growth. Other natural communities also existed such as the hardwood forest, wetlands and bogs we still see today in Sylvania and throughout the Northwoods.

Following some enjoyable paddling and floating, plus a couple of portages, we reached our destination. We floated out upon a tiny lake nestled amongst rolling glacial hills and nearly surrounded by a bog mat of sphagnum moss and aged black spruces and tamaracks. Here we found our prize, the wilderness we had hoped for.

A quiet stillness guarded this place. The word serene comes to mind but cannot truly describe it. The visitors began speaking in soft whispers as if some forgotten spirit entered them. Every breath inhaled was sweet bog perfume. A great blue heron glided in to sample the frog population in primitive fashion. A green frog peered casually from the water's edge. Someone suggested wading barefooted across the floating bog mat and a few explorers disappeared into the foliage.

Tart, ruby cranberries dangled from slender vines. Feathery tamarack trees mingled with black spruce, their narrow stems reminding us that life and growth is slow and patient in this cool, low-lying community.



Nature is a work of art and wilderness is a work of perfection

The raucous cry of a gray jay broke the silence and folks were less timid about sampling crunchy apples discovered in their lunch packs. In a show of true dedication, biologist Dick Coles paddled the perimeter of Kerr Lake seeding the air with pre-recorded spruce grouse squawks. I don't believe a grouse responded but the habitat was right and the element of the unknown is often the alluring aspect of the wild. Simply knowing that it exists is a reward unto itself. Our canoe excursion taught us that wilderness still exists in our hearts and minds, and in the world of nature.

#### Eco tips

When visiting any location designated as wilderness check with the natural resources agency responsible for its management. Special rules and safety procedures may apply.

4

Note: This is the email version of the OBFS ballot. The OBFS Secretary, who should receive this ballot for counting, is not on email. Please print a copy of this (only one copy, of course!) and mail it to:  
Dick Coles, Secretary OBFS, P.O. Box 351, Eureka, MO 63025.  
Please mail by 15 January 1995.

YE OLDE OFFICIAL OBFS BALLOT  
(One per Station-Level Customer)

PRESIDENT

\_\_\_\_\_ Jack Stanford  
\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_  
(write-in)

VICE PRESIDENT

\_\_\_\_\_ Dan Dawson  
\_\_\_\_\_ Rick Wyman  
\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_

(write-in)

SECRETARY-TREASURER

\_\_\_\_\_ Peter Connors  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (write-in)

MEMBER-AT-LARGE

\_\_\_\_\_ Dick Coles

\_\_\_\_\_ David White  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (write-in)

Please return this ballot by Monday January 15 to:

Dr. Richard W. Coles  
Secretary-Treasurer,  
OBFS  
P.O. Box 351  
Eureka, MO 63025

Candidate Statements for the 1995 OBFS Election Ballot

President:

Jack Stanford

Jack A. Stanford is Jessie M. Bierman Professor of Ecology at The University of Montana and also is the Director of the Flathead Lake Biological Station, an ecological research and educational facility of The University of Montana. He is a faculty member of the Division of Biological Sciences at The UM and serves the University of Washington as an affiliated faculty member.

Professor Stanford received a BS in Fisheries Science (1969) and a MS in Limnology (1971) at Colorado State University and his PhD in Limnology (1975) at the University of Utah. He was Assistant (1974-1979) and Associate (1979-1980) Professor of Biology at the University of North Texas in Denton. He became Station Director in 1980 and was awarded the distinguished Bierman Chair at The University of Montana in 1986. Dr. Stanford has published 87 juried papers and books on the limnology and fisheries of lakes and streams throughout the world, but his research emphasis for over 20 years has

been on the 22,241 km<sup>2</sup> Flathead River-Lake ecosystem in Montana and British Columbia. He has mentored 23 graduate students since 1974. Current research projects (and recent papers) include:

- landscape ecology of floodplains of gravel-bed rivers, emphasizing the role of interstitial flow and groundwater upwelling on biotic diversity and productivity (Nature 335:64-66, 1988; J. N. Amer. Benthol. Soc. 12(1):48-60, 1993; Groundwater Ecology, Academic Press, 1994; Regulated Rivers 10(2-4):159-168, 1995);
- influences of environmental change on the mass transfer of materials and pelagic primary productivity of the oligotrophic Flathead River-Lake ecosystem (pp. 91-124 in Watershed Management, Springer-Verlag, 1992); and,
- biophysical factors controlling the longitudinal distribution, abundance and growth of biota in large rivers and lakes, with emphasis on ecology of endangered fishes (BioScience 41(1):14-21, 1991; Aquatic Conservation 2:35-63, 1992; Oikos 65:377-390, 1992).

Personal Statement: "As President of OBFS, I would strive to implement the recommendations of our recent NSF report. Our first priority is to see that NSF provides the basic, competitive grants program that will allow our stations to be adequately equipped and continue to be vital field sites for basic ecological research. But, I also am hopeful that a funding initiative at NSF or through a special congressional action might be forthcoming to allow networking of field and marine stations to serve a national environmental monitoring objective. Of course, I also would carry on the rich tradition of OBFS in promoting education and research at our member field stations."

Vice President:

Dan Dawson - Manager, Valentine Camp and Sierra Nevada Aquatic Research Laboratory, University of CA, Santa Barbara, 1979-present. Member, OBFS, 1982-present. Member, OBFS Executive Committee, 1994, 1995.

"One of the most important aspects of OBFS membership is the annual meeting. It is the one opportunity we have each year to see our field station colleagues, make new acquaintances, share ideas, and participate in sessions expressly directed toward field station management. Having missed only one meeting since joining OBFS in 1982, I have a good feel for both the positive and negative aspects of the meeting. As vice-president, I would head the program committee for the annual meeting. As Manager of a moderate sized, University affiliated field station, with both teaching and research use, I hope to be able to put together a program that is of interest to all of the membership. I envision more use of panel discussions and concurrent sessions as a way to meet our varied needs. As both the 1996 and 1997 meetings will be held out west, I will be in close proximity (35 miles in 1996) and able to coordinate closely with the host station. Having served on the Executive Committee for the last 2 years, I am aware of both the constraints and the opportunities open to OBFS, and will work hard to support the President in both day-to-day business and new initiatives. I have benefited from my participation in OBFS and would welcome the opportunity to serve you and give something back. Thank you."

Rick Wyman - "I received my BS in biology at Panhandle State University in Goodwell Oklahoma, and earned a MS (1970) and Ph.D. (1973) at Illinois State University. My graduate studies were in ecology and animal behavior. I conducted my dissertation research in Sri Lanka.

Since then I have worked for an engineering and environmental consulting firm, and taught at six colleges and universities in New York State. I came to Huyck Preserve in 1986 and I am currently an Adjunct Associate Professor at SUNY-Albany. I have published 48 scientific papers and am the editor of the book Global Climate Change and Life on Earth (Chapman and Hall). I have served as the Huyck Preserve's institutional representative to the OBFS since 1986, and have chaired the International Committee since its inception. I have also served on the NSF Panel for Facilities Improvement at Field Stations and Marine Laboratories in 1993 and 1994.

"I believe that as biologists we have a great responsibility to try and save as much of the Earth's biological diversity as we can. The OBFS is an organization that can make a difference in this endeavor. The OBFS must define a set of objectives that will allow us to better achieve that goal. We must do everything we can to increase the training of future field biologists and to help organismal biologists, ecologists and others continue to conduct important research, no doubt increasingly focused on conservation biology and biodiversity studies. We should seek out associations with other professional organizations that will help in these endeavors. I believe that the OBFS must become a more mature and vigorous organization through increase in membership both nationally and internationally, and through the development of ongoing activities and projects that run throughout the year. Many field stations outside of the US desperately need our help.

"To accomplish these goals we may eventually need to have paid staff. I believe we need to establish and help grow an endowment whose purpose would be to support the activities of the OBFS membership. We should develop a "Friends of the OBFS Committee" composed of influential and well-off people who will take on the task of funding the endowment. In addition a small portion, say 5%, of the recent dues increase should be set aside in an endowment fund. This is a long-term goal (perhaps 10 years), but once an endowment is established, income from the fund could help in a number of ways, e.g. funding travel for third world representatives to attend OBFS meetings, funding special projects at competitively selected field stations, pay for publications, and support a permanent staff."

Secretary:

Peter Connors - Ph.D., Reserve Manager of Bodega Marine Reserve, the site surrounding Bodega Marine Laboratory, University of California-Davis.

"I have attended all OBFS meetings since 1985, and have hosted the 1987 meeting. I have served on the Executive Committee, Program Committee, Facilities Committee, Nominating Committee, and as an active participant for OBFS in the joint OBFS-NAML Workshop on the needs and role of field stations and marine labs held in March 1995. I am able to assume the responsibilities of OBFS Secretary-Treasurer partly because my station is of sufficient size to have secretarial staff assistance available year-round. My position as an administrator at a marine lab, a terrestrial biologist, and the reserve manager of a site both terrestrial and marine has given me exposure to the needs and strengths of both inland field stations and marine labs; it may also help in promoting communication between OBFS and NAML."

Member-At-Large:

Dick Coles - "As a member of OBFS since 1974 and Secretary-Treasurer from 1976 through 1995, I would bring continuity and vintage to the Board. Recent OBFS successes building NSF support for upgrading of facilities prompts a turn of our attention to communication/education/outreach activities. I would encourage interstation exchange of information and of students on field trips. I suggest as well that we reach out to handicapped, urban and minority communities to broaden our constituency and service mission."

David White (Director of the Hancock Biological Station on Kentucky Lake and Coordinator for the Center for Reservoir Research, Murray State University) - "My field station experience includes years at the Oklahoma Biological Station, 10 years at the University of Michigan Biological Station, 1 year at Filbert Roth (now defunct), and since 1988 I have been the director of the Hancock Biological Station. I have attended OBFS meetings since 1988. I have a strong belief that field stations must form the base for ecosystem research and education. OBFS has been of tremendous help to me in establishing and maintaining a viable biological station in Kentucky through exchange of ideas and through the focus on issues of importance to all field stations. As "Member At Large", I would be an advocate for the Organization to maintain high visibility with governmental and private agencies and to focus on agendas common to all field stations."