

**Organization of
Biological Field Stations**

**Newsletter
No. 65
January 1998**



OBFS *News*

The Newsletter of the Organization of Biological Field Stations • January 1998
Editor: David S. White, Hancock Biological Station

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OBFS Home Page <http://jasper.stanford.edu/OBFS/>

1997 Annual Meeting

The 1997 OBFS meeting was held at the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology, University of Oregon, on September 17 to 21. The meeting included trips to the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area (overview by Dr. Richard Emler), Cape Arago intertidal area, and the South Slough (led by Mike Graybill, Steve Rumrill, and Tom Gaskill). Special presentations were made by Bruce Newton on the Natural Resource Conservation Service and by

Bill Michner on a summary of the Data Management Workshop held at ESA in August. Nearly perfect weather along with an excellent meeting and food were provided by Jan Hodder, Linda Shapiro and their staff.

The 1997 meeting also provided the '1st Annual OBFS Auction', a unique event that not only raised funds (\$2,164!!) for the organization but also set a "standard" for future auctions.

Deadline for items for the Spring OBFS Newsletter is May 15, 1998

Proposed Networking Workshop for Field Stations

[The following draft proposal has been submitted to the National Science Foundation. It also has been transmitted electronically to OBFS members. If your organization is interested in participation, contact Jack Stanford at stanford@selway.umt.edu addressing the questions on page 3.]

Jim Reichman, Director of the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS), has agreed to host a 5 day workshop for a core group of about 15 OBFS directors to be held during the week of May 18-22 at NCEAS in Santa Barbara. Reichman has told us that he will agree to a simple addendum to the existing NSF grant to NCEAS, if NSF is able to support the workshop.

Because NCEAS is fully equipped to host discussions and facilitate onsite preparation of the report, we expect to have a product for the OBFS membership and NSF by the end of the workshop.

The purpose of the workshop is to produce an action plan for networking data management and ecological monitoring at biological field stations. Networking OBFS stations was a priority recommendation of our recent New Horizons report that was funded by NSF. Also, having a national network of field stations dedicated to common acquisition and sharing of

long-term databases in order to answer strategic ecological questions is directly complementary to LTER and also seems responsive to efforts by the Clinton administration to better understand and report trends in the nation's environmental quality.

At the OBFS annual meeting at Oregon Marine Biological Laboratory last September, the representatives of the some 180 OBFS member stations directed us to plan and initiate this workshop and to ask NSF for travel and per diem for participants. This action was based on two days of discussions and rumination on the whole idea of long-term data acquisition and management at OBFS sites, many of which have such data but do not have the resources or skills to develop state-of-the-art ecological informatics. We concluded that OBFS wants to be networked to improve research and education at our stations, but not in a way that compromises current station mandates.

We feel strongly that a planning workshop at NCEAS will clarify if that means simply enhancing the OBFS website for sharing ideas and other communications, or whether it means a proactive network of environmental monitoring and research based on shared databases gathered and/or synthesized around common research and education goals.

We visualize a report that has three primary deliverables:

1) a strategy for OBFS collaboration among LTER, LTRIB and AERC sites, many of which have a longer track record for managing, archiving and internet sharing of long-term databases, and with the San Diego Supercomputer Center, which we hope will facilitate a master data archive as is apparently being implemented for LTER sites; 2) listing and rationale for protocols and standards to be used by OBFS member stations in distributing and archiving site specific databases (existing and new); and, 3) a master plan for a national environmental monitoring network using OBFS sites, including a clear articulation of the benefits of such a network to the nation (e.g., what strategic questions can be addressed by such a network) and the infrastructure needs of our sites.

Issues to be discussed, resolved and worked into an action plan include:

- * Standardized database development: What level of data management and standardization is appropriate or desirable for OBFS stations? What long-term data do we have on hand now that can be formalized and distributed locally and/or via the web? What strategic environmental problems will be resolved by analysis and synthesis of these existing databases? Given the general emphasis on organismic and population biology at OBFS sites, should biodiversity questions be a priority for the OBFS network and what are the strategic questions?
- * Standardized data acquisition: What monitoring data should be routinely collected by a network of field stations, perhaps grouped by biomes and/or environmental problems, to resolve strategic national environmental issues? What will our standards be for analytical quality control, metadata, interactive access and data sharing? Background for this issue is contained in a data management report [*Blue book* – see page 9 for further information on this publication, ed.] produced several years ago by NSF and OBFS.

- * Pilot project: Can we design a test of the networking ability of OBFS stations from data and infrastructure we currently have? Can we do a meaningful test during the workshop at NCEAS? What kind of larger scale pilot projects do we envision?
- * Logistics of networking: How do we use web pages and archival systems like the San Diego Supercomputer Center to network OBFS sites? How can collaborations with LTER sites help us?
- * Infrastructure needs: What communications, computer, analytical and sampling equipment do we need to address the above issues? Much of this information is contained in the database that was used to develop our New Horizons report.
- * Use of network for education: Because almost all of the OBFS stations were created around an education mission, how can networking for research directly assist our education programs? How does the recent NSF grant to examine field-based ecology curricula fit in to a plan for networking?

To examine these issues and to provide data for synthesis at the workshop, we have sent the following questions electronically to all OBFS member stations via email and via the OBFS newsletter:

- What is your station name?
- Email address?
- Website address?
- Does your station have environmental or ecological databases of any kind in time series longer than 5 years?
- If so, what are they? Give brief descriptive titles such as: daily surface temperature for Walden Pond, 1889-1997; or annual census of mammals in 4 ha gridded plot, 1985-1996.
- Which of these databases are in electronic form, complete and suitable for internet transmission and/or posting on a public access web page?
- Which of your electronic databases have metadata (e.g., specific numerical or text information which describes methods,

location, dates, etc. and indicates the quality of the data).

- Which of these databases are posted on your web page?
- Can your station actively participate now in a national network for acquisition and sharing of long time series environmental or ecological data (if yes, we assume you are now gathering long-term data, or could do so without additional revenue, and that you are staffed to post and use large data sets via the internet)?
- If not, why not?

We will be the facilitators at the workshop and we have developed an agenda; but, since the group is small by design, we will start with a discussion of the charge and modify the agenda per input from participants. Our strategy is to have a synthesis statement written at the end of each day that will feed directly into preparation of the master plan and completion of the workshop report. We expect the report will be something like 20 or 30 pages at the most and prepared on the spot. We propose the following as a general agenda we wish to follow to complete the tasks given above (we expect everyone to arrive on Sunday and depart on Friday).

- Day 1. Introductions. Explanation of NCEAS facilities and uses; logistics. Discussion of charge and proposed agenda. Discussion of issues.
- Day 2. Examination and synthesis of OBFS databases and capabilities. Demonstration of LTER shared databases, problems and opportunities.
- Day 3. Resolution of strategic questions. Development of protocols for data management. Beach break or some extracurricular activity. Strategy for implementation, initial discussions.
- Day 4. Outline of master plan. Strategy for implementation, final. Outline of report and writing assignments
- Day 5. Wrap-up discussions and writing of the draft report.

The participants listed below were determined at the '97 annual meeting and have

been augmented by a few key players that we think need to be involved.

Jack Stanford, Chair, Flathead Lake BS, University of Montana; Art McKee, Co-Chair, Andrews Experimental Forest, Oregon State University; Marge Holland, University of Mississippi BS; Philippe Cohen, Jasper Ridge BS, Stanford University, CA; Dan Dawson, Sierra Nevada Aquatic Research Lab, UC-Santa Barbara; David White, Hancock BS, Murray State University, KY; Bill Michener, Jones Ecological Reserve, GA; Rick Wyman, Huyck Bio Pres., NY; Tabor Allison, Rocky Mountain Biological Station, CO; John Janovy, Cedar Point BS, NE; plus 3 more OBFS members to be determined from response to email and newsletter. We also wish to invite an LTER representative, and Bob Waide and John Helly from the San Diego Supercomputer Center.

The group would be 15-16 total. Based on 16 participants and NCEAS estimates for airfares, meals and lodging, we developed the following budget for the workshop:

<u>Travel</u>	
16 US visitors @ 500*	8,000
Per diem \$46 x 16 people x 6 days	4,416
Activity Total	12,416

<u>Fixed Expenses</u>	
Lodging est. 80 visitor nights @ \$80	6,400
Contingency for report prep, printing and distribution	5,000
Fixed total	11,400

Grand Total	23,816
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We believe that OBFS now is ready to move into the national spotlight in a manner similar to the LTER network. The NSF Field Station and Marine Labs competition is largely responsible for moving OBFS stations into the arena of big research. The proposed workshop will coordinate and focus our national efforts to a great extent. Clearly from the meeting in Oregon, the members are united in this goal. But, we want to start simple, develop a catalog, if you will, of what we already have in a

collective sense, what new science might be gleaned from databases we currently have on hand and then brainstorm a plan for what reasonable new science is possible given the realities of resources in the next decade.

*Jack Stanford
Art McKee*

Minutes of the 1997 Annual Business Meeting of the Organization of Biological Field Stations

Oregon Institute of Marine Biology, University of Oregon, Charleston, Oregon
September 17-21, 1997

Part I. Saturday, September 20, 8:00am

1. President Jack Stanford convened the meeting. Members of the Executive Committee had been introduced during welcoming remarks Thursday evening: Vice President Dan Dawson, Editor David White, Secretary-Treasurer Peter Connors, Past President Steve Havera, and Members-at-Large Ron Lawrenz and Dick Coles (absent).

2. Future Meeting Sites: The 1998 OBFS meeting will be at Archbold Biological Station, Lake Placid, Florida. (At the Saturday evening slide show, Hilary Swain showed slides and described the facilities, habitats, and potential field trips available at the station.) The meeting dates are September 16-20, 1998. Details of the meeting will be sent to members along with registration materials in early summer 1998.

The 1999 meeting will be held at Mountain Lake Biological Station, University of Virginia, in southwestern Virginia. Offers to host meetings in 2000 and beyond are solicited, and should be addressed to members of the Executive Committee, with an indication of any limitations on meeting size or timing.

3. Nominations: President Stanford had previously announced the Nominating Committee: Stanford (Chair), Jan Hodder and Chuck Yohn. The Committee reported their nominations for 1998-99 (two-year terms) for the following positions: President: Art McKee; Vice-president: Virginia (Shorty) Boucher and John Wehr; Secretary-Treasurer: Peter Connors;

Executive Committee Member-at-Large: Hilary Swain and Eric Nagy. A ballot will be included in the Winter Newsletter.

4. Proposed change in Executive Committee membership: The Executive Committee proposed an addition of one new member, to be designated Network Coordinator, with responsibilities for the OBFS website, email list, and network communications. As OBFS expands its activities in areas of access and coordination of environmental databases, coordination with NAML and LTER, etc., these responsibilities increase in importance to the Organization, and should be represented at the Executive Committee level. The Secretary will prepare a proposed change to the Bylaws to this effect, to be included with the ballot in the Winter Newsletter.

5. The Executive Committee appointed Mark Stromberg to function as a temporary Network Coordinator through 1998. In a session prior to the business meeting, Stromberg led a discussion that resulted in these actions and suggestions:

(1) The secretary will collect email and URL addresses once each year with dues notices. Members should contact both the secretary (obfs@ucdavis.edu) and Mark Stromberg (stromber@violet.berkeley.edu) for any interim changes.

(2) Stromberg will establish a new listserver, probably working through the LTER network, for communication to all OBFS members. This will replace PIKAnet, which has experienced some difficulties.

(3) The Executive Committee decided not to publish an updated paper copy of the Directory (Guide to Biological Field Stations, 1992). Instead, Stromberg will use the 1997 responses to a digital questionnaire to update all the station listings on the OBFS website. New members or members who did not return the questionnaire should fill in the form on the OBFS website. The main objective of the Directory has been to inform students and researchers on university campuses, and the Committee believes that this audience has access to the website.

(4) The Executive Committee announced that only members with dues paid for the current year will be listed on the website; past members not paying dues will be dropped. In a related decision, the Executive Committee announced that multiple sites within an umbrella organization must pay for multiple memberships to be listed separately as members.

6. NAML and LTER interactions: As part of an effort to foster increasing cooperation with the National Association of Marine Laboratories and the Long-Term Ecological Research Program, the President of OBFS will extend invitations to the annual OBFS meeting each year to leadership representatives of those organizations, and the President or a designated representative will be available to attend annual meetings of those organizations at their invitation. These interactions will be especially helpful as NAML and OBFS continue developing related data networking initiatives.

7. Field Studies Poster: The poster listing field study opportunities for biology students has been compiled for many years, through 1997, by the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory. In response to the need for a successor, Jeffrey Savino, Lake Erie Research Center, volunteered to assume this responsibility.

8. OBFS Restricted Fund: Connors and the Investment Committee (Rick Wyman and Sedra Shapiro) reported on the status of a new "endowment fund" proposed by Wyman at the 1996 meetings. During the past year

contributions have been received from Wyman, Shapiro, Boucher, Yohn and Bob Fisher (\$100 each) and from La Suerte Biological Field Station (\$500). OBFS contributed \$1,000 from dues collections to the Restricted Fund, bringing the total contributions to \$2,000, currently in a Certificate of Deposit. The Investment Committee will prepare a change in the Bylaws establishing and defining the Fund, to be included with the ballot in the Winter Newsletter.

The Executive Committee has authorized another contribution to the Fund of \$1,000 from dues collections for 1998. In addition, pledges of \$100 contributions were offered at the meeting by Wyman, McKee, Jeff Kennedy and Steve Tonsor.

9. Minutes: The Minutes of the 1996 OBFS Business Meeting were approved as circulated to members after the 1996 meeting.

10. Report of the Secretary-Treasurer:

A. Membership: Membership at September 30, 1997 stands at 176 active (dues paid for 1997) members (143 station and 33 individual), up from 173 active 1996 members (138 station and 35 individual). Including all members paying dues in 1996 or 1997 this raises the total membership to 198 (158 station and 40 individual). During the year (to Sept 30, 1997), OBFS acquired 18 new members (15 station and 3 individual). *[Current membership lists with addresses, phone numbers and email addresses are printed at the end of this newsletter. Members discovering any mistakes in these data are requested to send corrections to the Secretary (obfs@ucdavis.edu.)]*

B. Finances: Balance in operating funds as of September 30, 1997 was \$18,024.57, up from \$13,346.19 on September 15, 1996. Total income during the period was 12,902.32 (up from \$11,855.82 in 1996), exceeding expenses of \$7,223.94 (down from \$8,764.18 in 1996) and producing an addition to operating funds of \$4,678.38, after a contribution to the OBFS Restricted

Fund of \$1,000.00. The Restricted Fund also received \$1,000.00 in donations from 6 members (listed above) and \$2,164.00 in contributions at the fund-raising Auction, producing a balance of \$4,164.00 at September 30, 1997. The Interim Treasurer's Report (through September 15, 1997) was approved by the membership. A Proposed Budget for 1998 was approved by the Executive Committee.

11. Report of the AIBS Representative: Swain presented a summary of her report, which is included as an Appendix. She recommended that OBFS take advantage of a privilege that AIBS members have for free advertising in Bioscience, by publishing a version of the annual field course poster. She also reminded the membership that OBFS members are eligible for a 20% discount on subscriptions to Bioscience. In the ensuing discussion, Stanford and McKee volunteered to write an article about OBFS for Bioscience.

12. Education Committee: Jan Hodder reported on progress during the past year on a joint project with the Ecological Society of America. Jan and others have prepared and submitted a proposal to NSF asking for support for a series of OBFS-based workshops to determine new curricula for teaching field biology. [*The proposal was funded and is described further on page 8 of the Newsletter*]

13. Report of the Editor: David White reported on target publishing dates for the next Newsletter: Dec. 1, 1997 for submission of articles, Dec. 15 for publication. Publication will be in paper format, mailed to members, as well as in electronic format on the OBFS website.

Part II. Sunday, September 21, 1997, 8:00 AM

14. Book Proposal: Philippe Cohen presented a preliminary proposal to the membership for a book about field stations targeted at the public audience of natural history readers. He will

refine the idea based on the discussion, and contact the membership by email.

15. International OBFS: Rick Wyman reported on the continuing progress in building an international version of OBFS focused widely around the globe. He has instituted an email address: iobfs@capital.net, has completed the first two editions of the IOBFS Newsletter, and has published the first IOBFS Directory of about 100 stations. He noted that some stations are members of both OBFS and IOBFS. The membership applauded Wyman on the excellent Directory, and on the continuing progress in building IOBFS.

16. NAML LABNET Workshop: Mark Stromberg reported on the Workshop, held in Charleston, SC in July 1997, at which representatives of the National Association of Marine Labs and other agencies began the process of designing methods for linking marine lab data sets to answer regional or continental environmental questions. The focus at the workshop (attended by Stromberg and Connors as representatives of OBFS) was on design of a survey to be sent to marine labs to assess attributes of data sets already available; on identifying questions that might be confronted with available data sets; and on technical aspects of querying, connecting, and evaluating these disparate data sets. Stromberg pointed out that many marine labs manage very large data sets of, for example, physical oceanographic data. Lynda Shapiro countered that NAML includes marine labs both large and small, with many of them comparable in size and resources to many inland biological field stations.

17. Networking OBFS sites: The 1997 meeting concluded with spirited discussion of networking for sharing research and education data and materials and ways to advance the national visibility and purpose of OBFS member stations. We agreed that OBFS needs to develop a networking plan that is based on the recommendations in our New Horizons report. Networking should focus on shared databases from OBFS stations to answer environmental questions of strategic importance to national governments. The members unanimously

supported a proposal by President Stanford for him to chair a working group to develop a networking and shared data management plan. Philippe Cohen, Dan Dawson, Art McKee, Bill Michener, David White and Rick Wyman agreed to serve on the working group. Other interested OBFS members should contact Stanford about serving on the working group. Stanford and Art McKee will prepare a proposal to Tom Callahan at NSF for funds to allow the working group to meet at the National Center for Ecological Synthesis to develop the plan. Stanford and McKee will poll the OBFS membership to determine currently available data sets that

might be used in a pilot study of informatics at the NCES workshop. That poll will be sent out about January 1, 1998. The NCES workshop will be held in late April or early May, 1998, if everything works out. [See full report on proposed networking workshop on page 2]

The Meeting was adjourned at 10:45 AM.

Peter Connors
Secretary Treasurer

FIRST - Faculty Institutes for Reforming Science Teaching Through Field Stations

The National Science Foundation has awarded funds to Drs. Jan Hodder, Oregon Institute of Marine Biology and Diane Ebert-May, Northern Arizona University for the FIRST project that was submitted on behalf of OBFS to the Undergraduate Faculty Enhancement Program. The project will involve six OBFS field sites and will begin in spring 1998.

The goals of the FIRST Project are to implement a long-term professional development program for new faculty, senior faculty, and post-doctoral students from universities, four-year and community colleges. The project will be implemented and sustained by six teams centered at field stations throughout the United States. These teams will be prepared to develop regional communities of faculty centered at field stations who take a leadership role in the reform of undergraduate biology education.

The specific aims of the FIRST project are to accomplish the following outcomes:

a. Use field stations as the foci to build and maintain coalitions of faculty who will implement and sustain reform in undergraduate biology education at field

stations and in their colleges and universities.

- b. Prepare teams at field stations to become regional professional developers of biology faculty, including new faculty and post-doctoral students.
- c. Enable the field station teams and associated faculty to gain experience in inquiry-based science teaching and learning through workshops that model this kind of science teaching.
- d. Enhance faculty's ability to provide all students opportunities to gain scientific understanding through direct experience with methods and processes of inquiry in the field and in undergraduate science courses.
- e. Facilitate collaboration and communication among faculty about their reforms in biology teaching using electronic media.

Further information on the FIRST project can be obtained from

Jan Hodder,
Oregon Institute of Marine Biology
email: jhodder@oimb.uoregon.edu

Report from LTER Intersite Committee Meeting, 24-25 Oct. 1997

Potential OBFS-LTER Linkages. Several converging forces are creating an atmosphere with improved opportunities for OBFS sites to become more involved with the LTER program at several levels. NSF is asking the LTER sites to think about ways of scaling-up to regional questions and making the data more available via the web. NSF is also pushing the concept of "Observatories": **environmental observatories**, such as LTER sites and many OBFS sites with LTER-like data sets; **sentinel observatories**, which seem to be sites with long-term records of processes or states such as the Mauna Loa observatory record of atmospheric CO₂ levels; and **archival observatories**, such as museum-like collections. We have examples of all types within the OBFS community.

The National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS) has a mandate to explore ways of improving collaboration among ecologists/biologists by assisting them with the collation of data from different sources and its analysis. The San Diego Supercomputer

Center (SDSC) is forging ties with LTER and ESA to serve as a data archiving center. The door is open for OBFS to capitalize on the SDSC archiving services if we feel it appropriate.

All of these efforts have the common theme of making data more available for new areas of research and education as well as fostering collaborative studies. Many programs are still in the formative stage, and program announcements are not available.

Jim Gosz, current Head of the LTER Network, is actively promoting collaboration between OBFS and LTER sites. We have assurances that the LTER Network will assist with any OBFS efforts to improve networking by providing advice and counsel on networking infrastructure and protocols. We have been invited to explore potential collaborative work with local LTER sites, and to avail ourselves of the services provided by NCEAS and SDSC.

Arthur McKee

OBFS Display

The OBFS display is available for meetings. It is a very good way to advertise the activities of OBFS and the importance of field stations in research and teaching. The display may be reserved by contacting Nina Consolatti, Facilities Coordinator, Kellogg Biological

Station, Michigan State University, 3700 East Gull Lake Drive, Hickory Corners, MI 49060, (616)671-2228, email: Consolatti@kbs.msu.edu. Contact Nina also for special information on shipping and handling the display.

Data Management Workshop Reports

Also available for the asking from Nina Consolatti are two NSF sponsored workshop reports on data management at field stations. Contact her at the addresses given above for the OBFS display.

- 1) Data Management at Biological Field Stations. Report of a Workshop May 17-20, 1982,

W.K. Kellogg Biological Station, Michigan State University (the 'green' book).

- 2) 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 (the 'blue' book).

NSF Biological Field Stations and Marine Laboratories (FSML) Program

1998 proposal deadline for FSML proposals is "first Friday in March". There have been minor updates in the FSML program announcement and a new document number assigned. Direct URL for it is <http://www.nsf.gov/cgi-bin/getpub?nsf9817>. The new document number is NSF 98-17 and is available ONLY electronically. The Program Director is Dr. James T. Callahan. Phone: 703/306-1469, email: jcallaha@nsf.gov.

Susan Lohr and Jan Hodder, among others, have served on the FSML panel and offer the following words of wisdom to those of us who are submitting proposals (reprinted from the 1997 Winter Newsletter):

1. Follow the directions in the program announcement and **DO NOT DEVIATE**.

2. Write as well as you can. Eliminate redundancy. Spell correctly. Eliminate computer-generated mistakes, such as incomplete deletions, etc.
3. Talk with Tom Callahan ahead of time, if you have any questions at all about the appropriateness of your request or your offered match.
4. Do not assume any prior knowledge of your field station on the part of the reviewers.
5. Make your arguments cohesive and compelling.
6. Be honest.

OBFS Proposed Budget for 1997-98

Income:

Dues	\$ 11,800.00	
Interest	<u>900.00</u>	
Total:		\$12,700.00

Expenses:

Office and website expense	\$ 5,500.00	
AIBS dues and meeting expense	600.00	
Newsletter	2,400.00	
Travel to special OBFS functions	2,500.00	
Contribution to OBFS Restricted Fund	1,000.00	
Addition to operating funds	<u>700.00</u>	
Total:		\$12,700.00

OBFS FINANCIAL REPORT
September 30, 1997

Treasury balance, September 15, 1996	\$ 13,346.19
(checking account: \$1,346.19; CD: \$12,000.00)	
Income:	
Dues	\$ 11,865.83
Directory sales	110.00
Interest (includes only interest paid to date)	<u>926.49</u>
Total:	\$ 12,902.32
Expenses:	
Office expense:	
Wages: secretarial, database development, website editing	\$ 2,931.70
Supplies, phone, copying, postage	314.66
Letterhead printing	131.53
Missouri corporation registration fee	15.00
AIBS dues	100.00
AIBS meeting expenses	322.89
Travel for OBFS functions (Hodder, Stromberg, Frost)	1,227.52
OBFS Poster shipping	509.14
Newsletter expenses	<u>1,671.50</u>
Total operating expense:	\$ 7,223.94
Transfer to OBFS Restricted Fund	\$ 1,000.00
Addition to operating funds	\$ <u>4,678.38</u>
Balance, September 30, 1997, operating funds	\$ 18,024.57
Member donations to OBFS Restricted Fund	\$ 1,000.00
Auction fund-raising donations to OBFS Restricted Fund	\$ 2,164.00
Balance, September 30, 1997, OBFS Restricted Fund	\$ <u>4,164.00</u>
Total OBFS Funds	\$ 22,188.57
(\$16,380.07 in CD's; \$5,808.50 in checking account)	
CD Schedule:	
\$8,318.95 @ 5.64%, 12 mos, due 1 May 1998;	
\$5,061.12 @ 4.85%, 6 mos, due 1 November 1997;	
\$3,000.00 @ 4.85%, 6 mos, due 1 February 1998.	

"Ye Olde Official OBFS Ballote", 1998

This year's ballot contains proposed changes to the OBFS Constitution and Bylaws and election of four officers. Changes to the Constitution and Bylaws require passage by a 2/3 majority of the membership voting by mail ballot. Biographical sketches for each of the candidates follow the ballot. You may elect to enter a write in candidate's name.

Voting is open only to Station Members of OBFS. Members may vote in either of two ways:

EITHER, mail a copy of this ballot to Organization of Biological Field Stations, PO Box 247, Bodega Bay, CA 94923. Please include a return address on the envelope to allow checking of membership voting status. If voting privacy is desired, place ballot within an inner envelope, and the ballot will be tallied by an independent observer.

OR, if absolute privacy is not required, you may indicate your vote by email, with your station name included, to obfs@ucdavis.edu.

Proposed changes to the OBFS Constitution and Bylaws.

I. Changes to create an office of Network Coordinator with responsibility to coordinate all network communication, email list and website maintenance activities for OBFS:

Present wording in Constitution, Article 4:

"The management of this Organization shall be vested in an Executive Board consisting of the officers of the Organization (President, Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer, and Editor) and two Members-at-Large who may be Institutional Members or Individual Members. The members of the Executive Board shall be elected according to the Bylaws for this Organization."

Proposed wording to replace present wording:

"The management of this Organization shall be vested in an Executive Board consisting of the officers of the Organization (President, Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer, Editor, and Network Coordinator) and two Members-at-Large who may be Institutional Members or Individual Members. The members of the Executive Board shall be elected according to the Bylaws for this Organization."

Present wording in Bylaws, 2:

"The Editor shall be elected for a term of two years and will assume office in January of odd numbered years. The Secretary-Treasurer and Editor may be re-elected for any number of terms."

Proposed wording to replace present wording:

"The Editor and the Network Coordinator shall be elected for terms of two years and will assume office in January of odd numbered years. The Secretary-Treasurer, Network Coordinator, and Editor may be re-elected for any number of terms."

II. Addition to the Bylaws to create an OBFS Restricted fund:

Proposed wording of a new bylaw:

"10. The Treasurer shall establish an "OBFS Restricted Fund" with the objective of long-term accumulation of capital to provide funding for OBFS projects. The Executive Board may direct the proceeds from fund-raising events, donations, or a portion of annual dues income to the Restricted Fund. The fund will be invested under the direction of an Investment Committee appointed by the Executive Board. Expenditures from the Restricted Fund are limited to 50% of annual investment earnings, authorized by the Executive Board, except that expenditures for special projects may exceed earnings if approved by a 2/3 majority of eligible members responding in a written ballot or a 2/3 majority of eligible members present at an annual meeting."



THE BALLOT

CONSTITUTION, ARTICLE 4

Approve Changes
 Disapprove Changes

BYLAWS, 2

Approve Changes
 Disapprove Changes

NEW BYLAW (creates an OBFS Restricted Fund)

Approve
 Disapprove

PRESIDENT

Art McKee

(write in)

VICE PRESIDENT

Virginia (Shorty) Boucher
 John Wehr

(write in)

SECRETARY-TREASURER

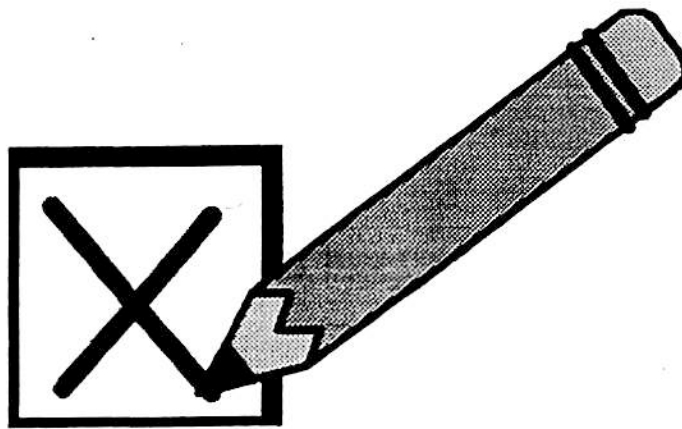
Peter Connors

(write in)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER-AT-LARGE:
(Vote for one only)

Eric Nagy
 Hilary Swain

(write in)



**VOTE
EARLY!**

Candidate Biographical Sketches

President

Art McKee

This brief biography and candidate's statement proved tough to write. In large part because the writing happened to coincide with some stupid squabbling among mid-level functionaries within the federal and university bureaucracies which help administer the program at the Andrews Forest. It was a control issue which completely ignored the mutually agreed upon institutional goals. The squabble was totally tangential to the scientists and educators in the Andrews Forest program, but it was intense and came very close to permanently poisoning the partnership. It appears to be resolved, and in a positive way, through a public reaffirmation of the intrinsic value of cooperative efforts which capitalize on the complementary strengths of the participants and their resources. It became a case study in inter-institutional sociology.

The whole process forced me to reflect on how and why I'd become director of the Andrews Forest. But the introspection also helped me clarify my thoughts about where we, the OBFS community, are currently positioned and the potential future. So, first a brief biography, and then a brief statement about what I see as opportunities for OBFS.

I grew up in Vermont, a landscape of dairy farms and woodlots, in a small town with several sawmills. My mother's family had been local lumber barons who'd not weathered the great depression very well and lost their holdings, but not their interest in forestry. Early family programming had emphasized what we'd today call stewardship, and the rural Vermont social milieu had emphasized a community-level sense of mutual respect and support, a kind of do-no-harm and help your neighbor philosophy.

My higher education was all at land-grant universities, the U's. of Vermont, Maine and Georgia, with majors in botany, forestry, and ecology. At those land-grant schools, I had many professors who moved easily between basic science and its application in natural

resource management. They were good role models, continually curious about how the natural world worked, and interested in applying that knowledge to resource management.

I was lucky enough to obtain a research associate position with George Woodwell at Brookhaven National Laboratory during the formation of the Environmental Defense Fund, and saw how our basic research on the movement of pesticides and radionuclides in food chains formed the foundation for legal action and legislation. My next position was with Oregon State University as the site coordinator at the Andrews Forest for the multi-institutional and interdisciplinary Coniferous Forest Biome Project of the NSF-funded International Biological Program. The Biome Project at the Andrews Forest evolved into our LTER Program, a continuing series of basic ecological studies of forests and streams in the Pacific Northwest. It has been very gratifying to see knowledge gained from that research form the basis for many changes in management of forests and streams, both regionally and nationwide. In '76, I wrote the proposal which created the position I hold today of Director of the Andrews Forest. The basic goals of that proposal were to create an environment at the Forest which would foster interdisciplinary ecological research and help ensure the rapid communication of knowledge with land managers and policy makers. The idea for the proposal sprung out of a multiagency project in Oregon and Washington during '73-'76 when I worked with district-level federal and state land managers who were eager for information that would improve management. Commonly voiced concerns were maintenance of long-term productivity and ensuring viability of species across the landscape. Those concerns remain prominent today, and underlay the research program of the Andrews Forest. I've spent most of my professional life chasing funding and coordinating research to understand the basic ecology/biology of these themes or issues. They are sufficiently complex that interdisciplinary research is essential. And, they are issues which the OBFS stations and labs can address as a

network at a larger spatial scale. OBFS seems well poised to pursue the network concept first developed in the 1995 report, "New Horizon for Biological Field Stations and Marine Laboratories", and further promoted during Jack Stanford's leadership of OBFS. There are several funding opportunities emerging which could provide the backing for a network. Each has its own constraints and potential, and range from participation in a network of sites to measure the nation's ecological health (the White House's "report card"), to an active collaboration with the LTER program through the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis, to a small stand-alone network addressing a particular research project and funded by NSF or EPA. For example, a new initiative at NSF called the Knowledge and Distributed Intelligence Initiative (KDI) specifically lists OBFS in the enabling text as one of the probable beneficiaries of the program. KDI is intended to create an infrastructure that would enhance multidisciplinary inter-station research and communication, including cross-site data management and analysis. This new initiative will be formally announced shortly, and once the game rules are clear I am willing and eager to work with others to develop a proposal. The KDI proposal should set the stage for an OBFS network effort where we address some specific research question. It is my intent to work with several OBFS members to help define the question and seek funding. There are other areas of opportunity for OBFS. Educational programs are the bread and butter of many of our member stations. We need to seek ways to promote funding for our educational efforts, and to encourage students to participate. I will specifically ask Tom Callahan, or his stand-in, to discuss NSF funding options for educational support at next year's meeting. And, next year's meeting agenda should also include a session focusing on educational programs at field stations. We should structure our meetings to reflect the balance between research and education at our member stations. I look forward to the next few years as we create a functional network among the OBFS members. There are very real organizational and sociological challenges to making a network work. Despite my recent trauma, I remain a firm

believer in the synergistic properties of cooperative, collaborative efforts, especially where the participants recognize that their complementary strengths are greater than the sum of their parts.

Vice President

Virginia (Shorty) Boucher

In the summers of 1976 and 1977, I worked as a field assistant at the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory. I found the experience so stimulating that I applied to graduate school as a plant ecologist. As a graduate student and then again as a post-doc I worked at the Hastings Reservation, a field station run by UC Berkeley, and I was hooked for good. I then spent 6 years as Co-Manager of the Sagehen Creek Field Station in the Sierra Nevada of California. I've been an active member of OBFS since 1990. In 1994 I came to UC Santa Barbara as the Co-Director of the new Sedgwick Reserve. I have continued to do research on plant ecology part-time, but the majority of my time has been spent expanding the programs at the reserve - based largely on the examples of field stations that I've come to know through OBFS. As a resident of California where development gobbles wildlands at a great pace and where landowners are frequently unenthusiastic about scientists on their property, I am committed to the need for protected sites for field research.

Field stations are poised to provide an increasing array of services to the scientific community. There are opportunities to allow us to network and share our databases to provide a more comprehensive and predictive monitoring system. Increasingly, applied research of various types is being done at field stations. I feel that OBFS can make significant contributions to these and a multitude of other important environmental and scientific issues.

John Wehr

My most memorable and rewarding times as a student were on field trips, studying stream communities, desert plants, and doing forest inventories. Today as a teacher and field station

Director I try to pass along that excitement and provide students the opportunity to learn something about the natural world. This has been a great challenge since many of our college students come from mainly urban environments and may never have set foot in a forest other than Central Park. I have been a member of the Biology faculty at Fordham University since 1986 and Director of the Louis Calder Center Biological Station since 1991. Our station has more than doubled in staff and student size in that period and has received more than \$1.5M of grant and gift support for facilities, research programs and education. I have also taught field courses at the University of British Columbia and at the Loch Lomond Field Station in Scotland.

The OBFS is probably the most important scientific organization that I belong to. I look forward to the fall meetings not only for the camaraderie and evening entertainment, but also for the advice and ideas from OBFS members on site management, personnel, and summer teaching programs. The fall meeting is the backbone of the organization. As an OBFS officer, I would like to see a future meeting include in its agenda discussions about (1) summer teaching programs, which many stations are trying to establish, and (2) inter-campus (station to main campus) transportation. I would also like to add that I seconded Shorty Boucher's idea at our last OBFS field trip in Oregon to bring the keg out to the field.

Secretary-Treasurer

Peter Connors

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 Secretary-Treasurer since 1996. 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; however, I believe my distinguishing

qualification for this position is that I am willing to do it.

Executive Committee Member-at-Large

Eric Nagy

I grew up on Cape Cod Massachusetts and lived my early life within the National Seashore. Forever I have been surrounded by the practical and political issues of biological research and long-term preservation. My first experience with a field station was in 1979 as a high school volunteer at the Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies. After graduating with a degree in Biology from Oberlin College in 1985 I spent several years doing research in Colorado where I first visited Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory, in Australia, living at a small research facility south of Sidney, and at Duke University. I did my graduate work at UC Davis in Population Biology and conducted all my dissertation work at the Bodega Marine Laboratory and the Wantrup Wildlife Sanctuary. As a graduate student I was able to visit other field stations in California and was always interested in how such facilities operated. Since completing my Ph.D. in 1995 I have been the Associate Director of Mountain Lake Biological Station where I coordinate research, run the NSF/REU program, serve as data manager, and conduct my own research on the ecology and evolution of plant hybrid zones. While I am almost certainly the candidate with the shortest experience managing field stations, I am extremely enthusiastic about OBFS and the role field stations can play in collecting and coordinating data useful in educating the public about the importance of caring for the Earth's biosphere. I am also very concerned that basic science field courses for undergraduates may not be competing well in our current social climate of fast-track, micro-focused career objectives that seem so popular these days. Field stations need to attract more students earlier in order to keep field biology a prosperous field. OBFS members are by far my most valuable resource as I work to make my station a better place. I hope that by serving as Member-at-Large I can

increase my interaction with the organization, especially as I prepare for the 1999 OBFS meeting at Mountain Lake, and return some of the wisdom I hope I have been collecting.

Hilary Swain

Arriving home one day last spring after a long, hot, but rewarding stint of vegetation mapping at Archbold Biological Station, I gave my usual cheery report to the two kids concerning this and that neat thing I had seen in the field during the day. Eight-year old Alex replied brightly, and with keen interest, "Mummy, I'd really like to go with you one day to this special 'field' where you always see all these great things". I roared with laughter, but reflected warmly on all the wonderful 'fields' that have shaped my life, and the field stations with which they have been associated. First, as an undergraduate in Britain, with classes at Millport on the Isle of Cumbrae and at Malham Tarn. Second, as a graduate studying Goldeneye ducks, at the remote field station called Jagaretorpet, run by the Swedish Sportsmen's Association in Varmland, Sweden. Third, as a Postdoctoral Fellow in behavioral ecology at Culterty Field Station, Aberdeen, on the wonderful Ythan Estuary in NE Scotland. And now, for the last 2 ½ years, in the sanctuary-like atmosphere of the scrubs of Central Florida, as Executive Director at Archbold Biological Station.

All of life's experiences seem to count for those involved in field stations and wishing to

serve OBFS. My research interests in conservation biology, particularly in GIS, reserve design and management for endangered species, fit in well with Archbold's dual mission of long-term ecological research and conservation. My professional background working for the government conservation agency in Britain, and now strong involvement with The Nature Conservancy in Florida, help me convey the applied relevance of field station research. After seven years as Assistant, then Associate Prof. in the Biology Department at Florida Institute of Technology I am a great supporter of the role of field stations to fulfill the educational needs of undergraduate and graduate students.

In the past two years I have greatly enjoyed my interaction with OBFS members, and their joint approach to resolving issues of research and facilities management. I have welcomed the opportunity to serve OBFS as society representative to the American Institute for Biological Sciences, and as OBFS spokesperson at the 1997 NSF-ESA-OBFS-LTER data management workshop in Albuquerque. I look forward to hosting the 1998 OBFS Annual Meeting at Archbold. If elected as Member-at-Large I would wish to expand these roles, in particular furthering OBFS efforts to link computer networking and information management among field stations, and developing an integrated role for field stations as centers of expertise for regional conservation planning and monitoring environmental change.

Report of the OBFS Representative to the American Institute of Biological Sciences

This write-up reports on the two most recent meetings of the American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS) Council on 24 November 1996 and 23 November 1997 in Washington, D.C. 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 scientific life science societies, including OBFS, who represent more than 80,000 biologists, students, and others concerned with the biological sciences.

Typical AIBS Council Meeting topics were discussed in both years covering the status of Bioscience (doing very well), Meetings

(successful ones in 1996 in Seattle and in 1997 in Montreal; the 1998 AIBS Annual Meeting will be in Baltimore on August 2-6, in conjunction with several societies including the Ecological Society of America). AIBS Membership is growing (with 47 societies and over 6,000 members) and the Grants and Contracts Program of AIBS continues to provide peer review and scientific oversight for a variety of research programs.

The financial status of AIBS has significantly improved since 1995, when the organization was restructured, and AIBS is now in a secure fiscal position. The Society is located in affordable offices, has out-sourced financial and membership services, and has a new Executive Director on board (Richard O'Grady). Member society fees have been significantly reduced and member organizations are offered opportunities to (1) use the Society News Section of Bioscience to profile organizational activities and (2) take advantage, annually, of using a free quarter page ad for OBFS in Bioscience, which has a circulation of 10,000. AIBS also offers Meeting services for its member societies.

Fran James, 1997 President of AIBS, has spearheaded a couple of initiatives in 1997 including a joint AIBS/National Center for Ecosystem Analysis and Synthesis project in

conjunction with graduate classes at eight U.S. universities to review the science behind Habitat Conservation Plans that have been submitted to USFWS under the Endangered Species Act. Several folks closely associated with field stations have participated in this effort including Henry Wilbur (Director, Mountain Lake), Fran James (Scientific Advisory Board Member, Archbold Biological Station), Hilary Swain (Executive Director, Archbold Biological Station), and Frank Davis (Faculty Director, Sedgewick Ranch, University of California at Santa Barbara). Other initiatives include a reinvigorated AIBS Education Committee with the charge of coordinating education activities over member societies (anyone who is interested might contact the Chairman, Gordon Uno, University of Oklahoma, <guno.ou.edu>).

In the coming year, if any field stations or members would like me to raise issues with AIBS, which serves as the umbrella organization for biological societies, please contact me (Hilary Swain, Archbold Biological Station, PO Box 2057, Lake Placid, FL 33862, tel: 941-465-2571, fax: 941-699-1927, email: hswain@archbold-station.org.).

Hilary Swain

The 1998 Organization of Biological Field Stations Meeting – Archbold Biological Station

The 1998 OBFS Annual Meeting will be held at Archbold Biological Station (<http://archbold-station.org>) Thursday, September 17 through Sunday September 20 1998. Archbold is located in central Florida near the town of Lake Placid, approximately 2-2½ hours from Orlando, Tampa, or Miami. Archbold is an independent research facility devoted to long-term ecological research and conservation (look for Swain, 1998, upcoming Focus on Field Stations feature in the January issue of the *Bulletin of the Ecological Society of America*).

Plans for the meeting include a choice of

three optional pre-meeting field trips at nearby facilities, with arrival and check-in late in the afternoon on Wednesday, September 16.

Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution <<http://www.hboi.edu>> in Ft. Pierce, on Florida's east coast, about 1½ hours east of Archbold. Harbor Branch is an independent oceanographic research institute with a focus on marine science, aquaculture, environmental research, marine operations, and biomedical research. They support a fleet of some of the most technologically advanced research vessels in the world and have a superb marine education and conference center.

The Disney Wilderness Preserve (call

407-935-0002 for a brochure) just south of Orlando and about 2 hours north of Archbold. The Preserve is a creative mitigation project restoring more than 3,000 acres of uplands and wetlands. The site was established in 1992 as a cooperative agreement between The Nature Conservancy, the Walt Disney Company, and several public agencies.

Riverwoods Field Laboratory <<http://riverwoods.ces.fau.edu>>, on the Kissimmee River, 2 hours south of Orlando and 40 minutes east of Archbold. Riverwoods serves as the center for ecological research for one of the largest river restoration projects in the world, including many projects by the South Florida Water Management District.

Each of the three pre-meeting field trips will start early on Thursday, September 17 and will finish up around 3 p.m. to allow driving time to get to Archbold Biological Station for a 6 p.m. OBFS Welcome Reception.

The 1998 OBFS Annual Business Meetings will begin officially early on Friday, September 18. One theme of the Meeting will be the role of field stations in regional conservation. The Meeting will include field trips around the globally significant scrub landscapes of the Station, with opportunities to see numerous rare endemic plant and animal species. Saturday, September 19, will include a visit to MacArthur Agro-ecology Research Center (MAERC), a major division of Archbold which is a 10,000 acre working cattle ranch examining the interface between ecological patterns and processes, agricultural practices, and economics. Social events planned include a reception at Lake Annie, the pristine sink hole lake on the Station property, and a barbecue at the Ranch (MAERC). There will be a special session on educational activities at field stations on Sunday morning, and the Meeting will conclude at lunch time on Sunday, September 20.

Archbold can house approximately 50 people at the Station and another 20 at the Ranch. Housing is variable with some bunk dorm rooms and rooms in individual cottages. Cottage accommodation is also available at the Ranch, about a 20 minute drive from the Station. Archbold can provide meals for about 70 people.

There is a Best Western hotel about 4 miles from the Station. Visitors can also stay at Riverwoods Field Laboratory, which is about 40 minutes from Archbold. There is no camping at Archbold or the Ranch.

Travel options to Archbold are numerous, but all require a flight then drive from Orlando (2-2½ hour drive), Tampa (2-2½ hour drive), Miami (2-2½ hour drive – personally I do not recommend Miami unless you are planning trips to the Florida Keys or the Everglades), West Palm (2 hour drive), or Ft. Myers (1½ hour drive – nearest airport but harder to get cheap flights). If you are going on any of the pre-meeting field trips, we would suggest flying into Orlando. When folks start registering for the Meeting and pre-meeting field trips, we will assess demand and arrival times and try to arrange van transport for any groups with critical mass. Otherwise plan to rent a car and drive independently.

September is still hot (80's and lower 90's) and steamy in Florida, but all our accommodations are air-conditioned and this is a good time to see flowering plants. Archbold is a great base from which to explore many of the other ecoregions of Florida (Myers and Ewel, 1990) and OBFS visitors who want to come earlier or stay later and explore independently are welcome.

Meeting details will be posted on the Archbold website, <<http://www.archbold-station.org>>, from the end of January onwards, allowing early registration. The main meeting notice will go out in the May OBFS Newsletter. Looking forward to seeing you all – start planning now for the weird and the wonderful in the OBFS Auction!

References

Myers, R. L. and J. J. Ewel (Editors). 1990. *Ecosystems of Florida*. University of Central Florida Press, Orlando.

Swain, H.M. *in press* 1998. Archbold Biological Station and the MacArthur Agro-ecology Research Center. *Bull. Ecol. Soc. Am.* 79(1).

Hilary Swain

Station News

New Director at Itasca

Dr. David Biesboer will be the new director at the University of Minnesota's Lake Itasca Forestry and Biological Station. Dave is a professor in the Plant Sciences Department and has taught the plant biology course at Itasca for several years. He is a past recipient of the Horace Moore award for outstanding undergraduate teaching. His research interests include nutrient cycling in Iron Springs Bog, a Scientific and Natural Area adjacent to Itasca Park, and erosion control projects sponsored by the Minnesota Department of Transportation in northwestern Minnesota. Dr. Donald Siniff will be leaving to focus his attention on research with Weddell seal populations in the Antarctic. Thanks.

*Jon Ross
Resident Biologist*

University of Idaho

I will be leaving the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Range Sciences later this month to move to Idaho Falls, Idaho to join my husband. I have enjoyed and appreciated the OBFS connection over the years I have worked with the McCall and Clark Fork Field Campuses and the Taylor Ranch Wilderness Field Station. OBFS members are the warmest and most supportive group of professionals I have encountered. Keep up the good work! I wish you all the very best in the coming years.

Long Live the Pika!

*Carol Spain
Coordinator, Continuing Education and
Outreach
College of Forestry, Wildlife and Range
Sciences*

Endowed Chair at Southeastern Louisiana University

Southeastern Louisiana University seeks an individual at the level of Full Professor (or Associate with demonstrated excellence) with expertise in environmental biology to serve as the Edward G. Schlieder Endowed Chair of Environmental Studies in the Department of Biological Sciences. This individual will be expected to enhance research and education programs centered around Southeastern's research station in the oligohaline wetlands of the Lake Pontchartrain Basin, a large estuarine system. Potential areas of environmental study include (but are not limited to) estuarine ecology and biogeochemistry, conservation, trophic interactions, restoration ecology, systems and landscape modeling, or fisheries research. This individual will be expected to work closely with government agencies, educators, and the private sector in addressing environmental problems and implementing new technologies that will enhance ecosystem productivity and sustainability. The candidate must have a distinguished history of refereed publications, invited presentations, and proven success in obtaining substantial extramural support. Interested applicants are encouraged to submit a packet including (1) a two to four page narrative describing how the applicant would use the endowed professorship to enhance their academic productivity and Southeastern's interdisciplinary program in environmental studies, including graduate and undergraduate research opportunities, (2) a current vitae, and (3) names of three to five references to Dr. Nick Norton, Department Head, Department of Biological Sciences, Southeastern Louisiana University, Hammond, LA 70402-0736. Screening will begin March 1, 1998, and continue until the position is filled.

Southeastern Louisiana University has over 15,000 students and has been one of the nation's

fastest growing universities for the past five years. The Department of Biological Sciences has 32 full-time faculty, over 30 graduate students, and is housed in four buildings, one of which is undergoing a multi-million dollar renovation (for details, including other open positions in the department, refer to our web page at <http://www.selu.edu/Biology>). Southeastern is committed to a continued diversi-

fication of its faculty and particularly encourages applications from minority and female candidates.

Bob Hastings

LTER/OBFS Mail Server

As we discussed at the last annual meeting, the Long Term Ecological Research Program has been kind enough to host the OBFS mail server. James W. Brunt, John Vande Castle, and the LTER Network Office in Albuquerque have been instrumental in setting this up. On behalf of OBFS, I want to take this opportunity to thank LTER for their support. I am sure this mail server will foster quick communication between OBFS members and will serve to increase the cooperation and networking between LTER and OBFS members.

You can now send a message to all paid-up members of OBFS who have given us an email address by sending a message to: obfs@lternet.edu.

I will be maintaining the list of those on the LTER mailer, depending on the Secretary-Treasurer for annual updates. If, during the year, you change your email address, you need to let me know. If you want to be deleted, let me know. New members are always welcome. I've

already heard from a bunch of folks with bad addresses. Anyone able to help here?

If you know of these folks, can you send me a good email address for:

No such user: GREENES at node NS
User not known: bathouse@altnews.com.au
Unrecoverable error: restine@forestry.umn.edu
Permanent fatal error: mficken@csd.uwm.edu
Did not reach the following recipient:
fieldstation@juniata.edu
Error -- No such local user:
Postmaster@HIRAM.EDU, :<truaxc>

You can start sending messages on the LTER server as soon as you want. I think we should keep the Juniata server going for a few more weeks. It will help in finding the recently changed or missing email addresses.

Mark Stromberg

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