

**Organization of
Biological Field Stations**

**Newsletter
No. 67
November 1998**

OBFS News



The Newsletter of the Organization of Biological Field Stations
November 1998

Editor: David S. White, Hancock Biological Station

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Administration and facilities Philippe Cohen
Education Ron Lawrenz
International Rick Wyman
Public Relations Chuck Yohn
Research Steve Havera
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Program: Shorty Boucher

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REPORT FROM THE OBFS 31ST ANNUAL MEETING AT ARCHBOLD BIOLOGICAL STATION, SEPTEMBER 18-20, 1998

The Organization for Biological Field Stations held its 31st Annual Meeting at Archbold Biological Station in Florida from September 17-20th, 1998. Yes, it was the 31st meeting - at last the vexing problem of the date of the official inaugural OBFS meeting was resolved, unearthed from the bowels of the Archbold Library by Laura Carter, Huyck Preserve. 70 participants, representing 45 stations, were in attendance. Some of the highlights of the meeting included:

Data Management A series of presentations and discussions concerning integration of data management at field stations featuring John Helly (San Diego Super Computer Center) and James Brunt (Long-Term Ecological Research Network Office). Jack Stanford reviewed progress on the report and initiatives stemming from the earlier OBFS workshop held at the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis in May. Mark Stromberg headed up the OBFS herpetologist's team and has compiled a cross-site comparison of the status of amphibians at OBFS field stations and conducted preliminary qa/qc and analyses at the meeting.

Field Trips Early morning field trips included the scrub habitats of the main property at Archbold and a swamp buggy tour of the MacArthur Agro-ecology Research Center, the full-scale working cattle ranch at Archbold. Also about fifteen participants attended the successful pre-meeting field trip on the Kissimmee River led by the Riverwoods field station Director, Carlos De la Rosa.

Business Meetings These covered usual business such as nominations and committee reports. Also reviewed were: policies and procedures at field stations; information about a new field station opportunity to subscribe to SPIN, a search engine for funding opportunities and a discussion of the proposed new Animal Welfare Act rules as they pertain to field studies.

Conservation Activities

We had various discussions of the role of field stations in regional conservation issues, including:

1. A presentation on working relationships between OBFS and The Nature Conservancy by Liz Chornesky, Director of Stewardship from TNC's International Headquarters.
2. A GIS overlay analysis showing the distribution of field stations in relation to the ecoregions of North America was shown. This will be used to illustrate how field stations can provide a widespread infrastructure of sites for monitoring environmental change.
3. A survey to assess conservation activities and data collection by field stations, and their partnerships with other conservation organizations and natural resource agencies. This was completed by 42 stations in attendance at the annual meeting and is being distributed to those stations unable to be present.

The results of the map overlay analysis and the survey is to be written up for publication (for more information email Hillary Swain).

Social Events Included an excellent BBQ followed by an evening slide show "tour" of the ecosystems of Florida by Jora Young, from the Florida Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. Refreshing swims at Lake Annie. And, most memorable of all, the OBFS auction, featuring the two stalwart auctioneers Dan Dawson and Peter Connors, who coerced, cajoled and compelled the assembled crowd to part with over \$3,500 of their hard earned cash for a vast array of donated items. No one present will forget the performance act of the Spanish-moss/palmetto frond-bedecked scrub ensemble, nor the soul-filled rendition of "Mommies don't let your daughters grow up to be herpetologists"

This was a meeting in the great OBFS tradition some serious business, super field trips, and an enormous dose of great humor and fun - while dodging spells of deluging rain, surviving the somewhat cramped lodging and dining conditions, and thankfully scheduling the week before Hurricane Georges (which, in the end, hardly affected Archbold). Thanks to all who participated and helped to organize the 1998 meeting!

Hilary Swain, Archbold Biological Station

MINUTES OF 1998 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING OF THE ORGANIZATION OF BIOLOGICAL FIELD STATIONS

Archbold Biological Station, Lake Placid, Florida September 17-20, 1998

Part I. Saturday, September 19, 11:00 AM

1. President Art McKee convened the meeting. Members of the Executive Committee had been introduced during welcoming remarks Thursday evening: Vice-president Virginia (Shorty) Boucher, Editor David White, Secretary-Treasurer Peter Connors, Network Coordinator Mark Stromberg, Past President Jack Stanford, and Members-at-large Ron Lawrenz and Hilary Swain. All members present during this session introduced themselves.
2. Historian's Report: Prompted by some fruitful and timely research by Laura Carter in the archives of the Archbold Library, Bob Fisher and Bob Dalgleish presented a brief review of early OBFS meeting histories, and answered the troublesome question "Just how old is OBFS?" The conclusion: The first OBFS formal meeting occurred in 1968, making this 1998 meeting the 31st. The first meeting of the organizers of OBFS took place in 1966. The founding date of the Organization is considered 1968.
3. Minutes: The minutes of the 1997 OBFS meeting at Oregon Institute of Marine Biology, published in the January 1998 OBFS Newsletter, were accepted on a motion by voice vote, without discussion.
4. Report of the Secretary-Treasurer:
 - A. Membership: A list of meeting attendees is in Appendix I. Membership at September 30, 1998 stands at 181 active (dues paid for 1998) members (144 station and 37 individual), up from 176 active 1997 members (143 station and 33 individual). Including all members paying dues in 1997 or 1998 raises the total membership to 199 (158 station and 41 individual). During the year (to Sept 30, 1998), OBFS acquired 10 new members (6 station and 4 individual). Current membership lists, with addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses, are included in this Newsletter. Members discovering any mistakes in these data are requested to send corrections to the Secretary (obfs@ucdavis.edu.)
 - B. Constitution and Bylaws: The OBFS Constitution and Bylaws have been revised twice since last published for the membership, with elections by Newsletter ballot in 1992 and 1998. The current version of this organizing document is published in this edition of the Newsletter.

C. Finances: The Interim Financial Report (August 31, 1998) follows these minutes. Balance in operating funds as of August 31, 1998 was \$28,255.04, up from \$18,024.57 on September 30, 1997, after the 1998 transfer of \$1,000.00 from operating funds to the OBFS Restricted Fund. Total income during the period was higher than projected because of the transfer of an accumulated surplus of \$2526.96 from the OBFS Poster Account held at Rocky Mountain Biological laboratory. Total expenses during the period were lower than projected because of deferred Newsletter expenses of \$1,050.00 paid after August 31, 1998.

The Interim Financial Report was approved by the membership. A Proposed Budget for 1999 was approved by the Executive Committee and follows these minutes.

D. OBFS Restricted Fund: This fund, to be treated as an "endowment fund," was proposed by Rick Wyman at the 1996 meetings. It was formally adopted by the change in Bylaws passed during 1998. It is managed by the Investment Committee (Connors, Wyman, Sedra Shapiro), and is currently in Bank Certificates of Deposit. As of August 31, 1998, the Fund totaled \$5,729.55. This includes contributions of \$100 or more since 1996 from members Wyman, Shapiro, Boucher, Swain, Chuck Yohn, Bob Fisher, Susan Lohr, and La Suerte Biological Field Station (Al Molina), plus \$2000 transferred from OBFS operating funds (1997-1998) and \$2164 from the 1997 OBFS auction. The Restricted Fund is growing rapidly. The Executive Committee voted to transfer an additional \$2000 to the Fund from operating funds in 1999 (shown in Proposed Budget, below) and to transfer to the Fund the \$2526.96 received from the Poster Account Surplus mentioned above. Most impressively, the 1998 OBFS auction added \$3543 to the Fund, thanks to generous contributions of auction items and spirited bidding by members.

5. Database and Networking: Jack Stanford led a discussion of current and future OBFS efforts in these areas. These will include proposals and demonstration projects. The initial proposal will request funds for a follow-up (to the May 1998) workshop at the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS). Demonstration projects include completion of a personnel database and the amphibian status survey begun during summer 1998. Both are projected with target dates of December 1, 1998. Stromberg requested that all stations that have not yet responded to the amphibian survey do so within two weeks, after which he will complete the analysis. Another project would develop a more extensive database inventory, requiring more time and funds. Stanford proposes requesting funds for this effort from NSF. The discussion following these remarks centered on the difficulties of providing all the desired information in compatible formats, contrasted with the significant opportunity for funding a large-scale project.

Part II. Saturday, September 19, 1:45 PM

6. Search Service for Funding Sources: Bob Dalglish described a targeted funding search service (InfoEd International) that could be useful to many OBFS members. A motion passed that OBFS should support this effort if enough members sign up. More on this topic is presented elsewhere in the Newsletter.

7. DIMES Publication: Hilary Swain discussed distribution of the report, "Data and Information Management in the Ecological Sciences: A Resource Guide," edited by WK Michener, JH Porter and SG Stafford, published by the LTER Network Office. She will mail the report to all OBFS station members that were not present at the meetings to pick up a copy. OBFS will pay the mailing costs, and will also pay part of the printing costs to the LTER Network Office (estimated at \$250).

8. Report of the AIBS Representative: Hilary Swain reported on changes at AIBS over the past year. The organization is now financially stable, reinvigorated, and more active. Swain recommended that OBFS take advantage of the AIBS members' privilege of free advertising in Bioscience, by publishing a one-half page version of the annual field course poster.

9. Research as Important Use of Federal Lands: Wade Sherbrooke (Southwestern Research Station) introduced this topic with a request that OBFS write a letter urging that the US Forest Service consider research as an important use of forest lands. Taber Allison (Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory) expressed a similar need at his site. McKee expressed the problem of a disconnect in policies and practices between the local, regional and Washington offices of federal agencies. Philippe Cohen suggested that the topic is a fertile one for a future OBFS program: "protecting the integrity of research and teaching at field stations near public lands."

10. FIRST - Faculty Institutes for Reforming Science Teaching Through Field Stations: Jan Hodder reported on this NSF-funded program, described in the last two Newsletters. The goal of the program is to promote the use of field science and field stations in undergraduate teaching. Five stations will participate in the program: Archbold Biological Station, San Diego State University Biological Field Stations, Southwestern Research Station, Hancock Biological Station, and St Croix Watershed Research Station. (The second FIRST Workshop was held at Archbold following the OBFS meetings.)

11. 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, and a website: <http://www.capital.net/com/iobfs/>. The website is receiving about 40 hits per week. IOBFS has about 100 station members, and published a first IOBFS Directory of station members in 1997.

12. OBFS List server: Mark Stromberg discussed the improvement in the listserver arrangement that we now have through lternet (address: obfs@lternet.edu). He requests that we minimize traffic on the listserver to avoid overburdening our lternet hosts. Connors suggested that we could reduce the traffic without losing important content by being careful to reply to inquiries only to the originator of the inquiry, not to the entire OBFS list.

13. Report of the Editor: David White reported on target publishing dates for the next Newsletter: October 19, 1998 for submission of articles, late November for publication. This earlier schedule will bring the election (ballots published in the winter Newsletter) into better alignment with the election term (calendar year). Publication will be in paper format, mailed to members, as well as in electronic format on the OBFS website.

Part III. Sunday, September 20, 8:35 AM

14. GIS Help: Roberta Pickert, GIS Manager at Archbold Biological Station, is also the Treasurer of the Society for Conservation GIS and Chair of the SCGIS International Committee. She described some of the aims and activities of the organization, including training, tech help and education among members. OBFS members interested in SCGIS should contact Roberta at rpickert@archbold-station.org, visit the website <http://www.scgis.org>, or write to The Society for Conservation GIS, PO Box 861, Lake Placid, FL 33862

15. Field Studies Poster: The poster listing field study opportunities for biology students had been compiled for many years, through 1997, by the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory. In 1998 Sonda Donovan at RMBL again stepped in to produce the poster on an emergency basis. Sonda will continue to do this in 1999 for OBFS on a contract basis through RMBL. Listing on the poster will continue to cost \$60 per station; stations will be contacted in October.

16. Nominations: President McKee had previously announced the Nominating Committee: Kathleen Gibson (Chair), Sedra Shapiro, John Wehr, Jeff Savino. The Committee reported its nominations for 1999-2000 (two-year terms) for the following positions: Executive Committee Member-at-Large: Stephen Tonsor, Arnold Van der Valk, and Carlos de la Rosa; Editor: David White; Network

Coordinator: Mark Stromberg. The slate of nominations was accepted on a voice vote. A ballot will be included in the winter Newsletter.

17. Future Meeting Sites: The 1999 OBFS meeting will be at the University of Virginia Mountain Lake Biological Station in southwestern Virginia. (At the Saturday evening slide show, Eric Nagy showed slides and described the facilities, habitats, and potential field trips available at the station.) The meeting dates are September 15-19, 1999. Details of the meeting will be sent to members along with registration materials in early summer 1999.

The 2000 meeting will be held at HJ Andrews Experimental Forest, Blue River, Oregon. Offers to host meetings in 2001 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.

18. NAML - OBFS interactions: As part of an effort to foster increasing cooperation with the National Association of Marine Laboratories, the President of OBFS will extend invitations to the annual OBFS meeting each year to a leadership representative of NAML, and the President will attend the annual meetings of NAML at their invitation. If Art McKee is not able to attend, Jack Stanford will go in his place. These interactions will be especially helpful as NAML and OBFS continue developing related data networking initiatives.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 AM.

Peter G. Connors, Secretary-Treasurer

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS ORGANIZATION OF BIOLOGICAL FIELD STATIONS

Constitution:

ARTICLE 1. The name of this organization shall be the Organization of Biological Field Stations (OBFS). A Biological Field Station is defined as a facility engaged in field research and/or instructional programs of biological or related phenomena.

ARTICLE 2. The purpose of this Organization shall be: the advance-ment of biological science through (1) the development of research and teaching programs at field stations, (2) the implementation of cooperation among these Stations, and (3) the dissemination of information about these Stations.

ARTICLE 3. There shall be two classes of membership: (a) Institutional and (b) Individual. Institutional membership shall be open to biological field stations which will designate a single representative, normally the station Director, who will cast the vote of the station and be eligible to hold office in OBFS. Individual membership shall be open to persons, regardless of institutional affiliation, who subscribe to the purposes of the Organization. Individual members will have all the privileges of membership, except that they will neither vote nor be eligible to hold office in the Organization except as Members-at-Large on the Executive Board.

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, 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.

ARTICLE 5. The Organization shall have no capital stock. No member shall be entitled to receive as dividends, profits, or otherwise, any property or money derived from the operation of said Organization, but all property earnings and income of the Organization, after the payment of necessary charges and expenses of operations, shall be used exclusively to carry out the scientific and educational purposes of the Organization as expressed in Article 2 of the Constitution.

Bylaws

1. Election of the Officers and other members of the Executive Board shall be by a simple majority of a mail vote on ballots submitted to the voting membership at least one month prior to the expiration of terms of the officers and Members-at-Large.
 2. The President and Vice-President shall serve a term of two years and shall assume office in January of even-numbered years. Individuals elected to these two offices shall not be eligible for re-election to the next succeeding term of the same office. The Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected for a term of two years and will assume office in January of even-numbered years. 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 reelected for any number of terms. The two Members-at-Large shall be elected for two-year terms, one to assume office in January of even-numbered years, the other in January of odd-numbered years. If, for any reason, the president shall be unable to carry out the duties of that office, he/she shall be succeeded by the Vice-President for the remainder of the term. If for any reason the Vice-President is not able to assume the duties of President, a special election shall be held to select a President. Vacancies in the other offices may be filled until the next election by appointment of a member in good standing by the Executive Board to serve the remainder of the term. The duties of the officers shall be those usually devolving upon such offices except as may be otherwise provided by the Executive Board.
 3. The Executive Board shall appoint a nominating committee of three members at least two months in advance of the election date and notify the members of the Organization of the membership of this committee. The committee shall accept nominations from any three members for presentation on the ballot.
 4. The President, in conjunction with the Executive Board, may appoint other committees to carry out the purposes of the Organization as such become desirable or necessary.
 5. An Annual Meeting of the Organization shall be held at a place and time to be determined at a preceding Annual Meeting. The Executive Board may call additional meetings as may be desirable or necessary.
 6. Annual Dues for Institutional Members and Individual Members shall be established by the voting membership at the Annual Meeting. The Secretary-Treasurer shall accept dues to be placed in an account for disbursement to carry out the purposes of the Organization subject to annual audit by the Executive Board or its appointed representatives. The fiscal year shall be the calendar year. Members shall be dropped after one year non-payment of dues, but may be reinstated by the Executive Board following payment of the current annual dues.
 7. The Constitution and Bylaws may be revised by a 2/3 majority of the membership voting by mail ballot.
- Notwithstanding any provision of the Constitution or Bylaws which might be susceptible to a contrary construction:
- a) The Organization shall be organized exclusively for scientific and educational purposes;
 - b) The Organization shall be operated exclusively for scientific and educational purposes;
 - c) No part of the net earnings of the organization shall or may under any circumstances inure to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual;
 - d) No substantial part of the activities of the Organization shall consist of carrying on propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation;
 - e) The Organization shall not be organized or operated for profit;

- f) The Organization shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distributing of statements), any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office;
- g) The Organization shall not:
1. Lend any part of its income or corpus, without the receipt of adequate security and reasonable rate of interest to:
 2. Pay any compensation, in excess of a reasonable allowance for salaries or other compensation for personal services actually rendered to:
 3. Make any part of its services available on a preferential basis to:
 4. Make any purchases of securities or other property, for more than adequate consideration in money or money's worth from:
 5. Sell any securities or other property for less than adequate consideration in money or money's worth to: or
 6. Engage in any other transactions which result in substantial diversions of its income or corpus to: any officer, member of the Executive Board or substantial contributor to the organization. The prohibitions contained in the Section (g) do not mean to imply that the Organization may make such loans, payments, sales or purchases to anyone else, unless such authority be given or implied by other provisions of the Constitution or Bylaws.
 9. Upon dissolution of the Organization of Biological Field Stations, the Executive Board shall distribute the assets and accrued income to those organizations as determined by the Board, but which organization or organizations shall meet the limitations prescribed in Sections (a) to (g) inclusive of Article 8 immediately preceding.
 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.

Revision Approved May 1998

INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT, August 31, 1998

Total OBFS Funds, September 30, 1997 \$22,188.57
(\$16,380.07 in CD's; \$5,808.50 in checking account)

Income:

Dues \$12,025.00
Directory shipping reimbursement 10.00
Interest (includes only interest paid to date) 1291.17
Donations 207.00
Poster account surplus received 2526.96
Total income: \$16,060.13

Expenses:

Office expense:
Wages: secretarial, database development,
website editing \$2894.00

Supplies, phone, copying, postage 149.71
Missouri corporation registration fees 25.00
AIBS dues 100.00
AIBS meeting expenses 355.40
Newsletter expenses 740.00
Total expense: \$4,264.11
Total OBFS Funds, August 31, 1998 \$33,984.59
(\$31,939.04 in CD's; \$2,045.55 in checking account)

Transfer to OBFS Restricted Fund \$1,000.00

Balance, OBFS Restricted Fund \$5,729.55
(Includes contributions of 2164.00 from 1997 Auction;
1207.00 from member donations; 2000.00 from operating funds)

Balance, operating funds \$28,255.04

CD Schedule:

\$3,158.71 @ 5.64%, 12 mos, due 28 January 1999
\$4,729.55 @ 5.64%, 12 mos, due 02 February 1999
\$8,795.34 @ 5.51%, 12 mos, due 30 April 1999
\$4,848.39 @ 5.51%, 12 mos, due 11 August 1999
\$5,342.15 @ 5.64%, 12 mos, due 01 November 1999
\$5,064.90 @ 5.51%, 6 mos, due 09 September 1999

PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET FOR 1999
(Exclusive of Restricted Fund)

Income:

Dues \$11,800.00
Interest (does not include Restricted Fund earnings) 1,000.00
Total: \$12,800.00

Expenses:

Office and website expense \$5,700.00
AIBS dues 100.00
Newsletter 2,000.00
IOBFS mailing costs 500.00
Travel to special OBFS functions 2,500.00
Contribution to OBFS Restricted Fund 2,000.00

Total: \$12,800.00

Submitted, Peter Conors, Treasurer

LIST OF ATTENDEES AT THE 1998 OBFS MEETING

Full addresses of field station members can be found in the membership listings

Acevedo, Oris
Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute

Allison, Taber
Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory

Anoruo, Ambrose O.
Savannah River Environmental Science
Field Station

Batterson, Mary L.
Cedar Point Biological Station

Bible, Ken
Wind River Canopy Crane Research Facility

Biesboer, David D.
Lake Itasca Forestry and Biological Station

Boucher, Virginia
Sedgwick Reserve

Brennen, Lenny
Tall Timbers Research Station

Brunt, James
LTER Network Office
Dept of Biology
Univ. of New Mexico
Albuquerque, NM 87131

Carter, Laura S.
EM Huyck Preserve

Carter, Geoff
EM Huyck Preserve

Chornesky, Elizabeth
The Nature Conservancy
1815 North Lynn Street
Arlington, VA 22209

Cohen, Philippe S.
Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve

Congdon, Bruce
Blakely Island Field Station

Connors, Peter
Bodega Marine Lab

Dagleish, Robert
338 Woods Hall
University of Missouri
St. Louis, MO 63121

Dawson, Daniel R.
Valentine Eastern Sierre Reserve/UCS
Reserve

Dziadyk, Bohdan
Green Wing Laboratory

Finkenbinder, Leo R.
Quetzal Education Research Center

Finkenbinder, Zana
Quetzal Education Research Center

Fisher, Robert L.
Juniata College
Huntingdon, PA 16652

Frost, Thomas M. DEB/640
National Science Foundation
4201 Wilson Blvd
Arlington, VA 22230

Gibson, Kathleen
Pymatuning Laboratory of Ecology

Gravelle, Julie
Andrews Forest

Hartnett, David
Konza Prairie

Hastings, Robert
Turtle Cove Environmental Research Station

Havera, Steve
Forbes Biological Station

Helly, John J.
San Diego Supercomputer Center
P.O. Box 85608
San Diego, CA 92186

Hodder, Jan
Oregon Institute of Marine Biology

Holland, Marge
University of Mississippi Field Station

Hufy, Frances

Janovy, John Jr.
Cedar Point Biological Station

Johnston, Gail
Saint Louis University Field Station

Kleiforth, Hal
Desert Research Insititute

Klug, Mike Kellogg
Kellogg Biological Station

Laughrin, Lyndal
Santa Cruz Island Reserve

Lawrenz, Ron
St. Croix Watershed Research Station

Layne, Jim
Archbold Biological Station

Luke, Claudia
Sweeney Granite Mountains Desert
Research Center

Mahan, Dave
An Sable Institute

McKee, Arthur
Andrews Forest
Mihuc, Tim Great Rivers Field Station

Mitchell, Randy
University Akron - Bath Field Station

Molina, Alvaro
Ometepe Biological Field Station

Moreau, Robert
Turtle Cove Environmental Research Station

Nagy, Eric
Mountain Lake Biological Station

Nierzwicki, Sandra
Bayer Darrin Fresh Water Institute

Ornes, Harold
Savannah River Environmental Science.
Field Station

Reynolds, Mark
Sedgwick Reserve
Rhodes, Russel G.
Bullshoals Field Station

Romspert, Alan P.
Desert Studies Center

Savino, Jeffrey
Lake Erie Center

Sexton, Owen Jr.
Tyson Research Center

Shapiro, Sedra,
San Diego St. Univ. Biological Field Station

Sherbrooke, Wade C.
Southwestern Research Station

Stanford, Jack Flathead Lake Biological Station	University of Kentucky, Robinson Forest
Steadman, Virginia Carter EN Huyck Preserve	Van der Valk, Arnold Iowa Lakeside
Stromberg, Mark R. Hastings Reserve	Weeks, Steve Bath Field Station
Swain, Hilary Archbold Biological Station	Wehr, John Louis Louis Calder Center
Tonsor, Stephen Pymatuning Laboratory of Ecology	White, David S. Hancock Biological Station
Trydahl, David White Mountain Research Station	Wyman, Richard L. Huyck Preserve
Turner, Dwayne A.	Yohn, Chuck Raystown Field Station

REPORTS FROM THE 1998 OBFS MEETING

NCEAS Efforts Continue

As noted above in the minutes from the 1998 meeting, OBFS is pursuing a number of efforts in databases and networking as a result of the May meeting at the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS). Jack Stanford is leading an effort to develop new proposals to NSF to develop more extensive databases. Two demonstration projects are underway with initial target dates of December 1, 1998. The projects include completion of a personnel database and the amphibian status survey begun during summer 1998. OBFS members will be kept informed of progress on new proposals and demonstration projects through the OBFS home page and the OBFS list server. The OBFS project is listed on the NCEAS home page as <http://www.nceas.ucsb.edu/fmt/doc/?cgi-bin/ppage.pl?project=225>

Mommas

As promised in the OBFS Auction, Here are the lyrics to "*Mommas Don't Let Your Babies Grow Up to Be Herpetologists*", Lyrics by Claudia Luke and Alexis Schuler. Sung to the tune of Mommas Don't Let Your Babies Grow Up to Be Cowboys, written by Ed & Patsy Bruce

Morphology, ecology, evolutionary biology
The emphasis is a hard thing to choose
It could have been mammalogy, ornithology, ichthyology
But it's herpetology academic blues.

Lizards ain't easy to catch and they're harder to hold
But the thrill's in the chase so she'll chase them until she grows old.

Zinc oxide, dark glasses, and old stinky Levis
And each dawn she starts the new day
When the lizards are in the night-driving begins
And some day she'll just cruise away....so

CHORUS:

Mommas don't let your babies grow up to be herpetologists
Don't let 'em go night-driving in them old trucks
Let 'em be doctors and lawyers and such
Mommas don't let your babies grow up to be herpetologists
Or you won't understand her when she finds a salamander
And gives it to someone she loves.

Herpetologists like blazing hot deserts and sticky swamp lands
And if she's not careful, she might pick up the wrong snake (too late!)
From then on you'll find her in her office behind her
Desk and as you get up to leave
It's your five on her four as you walk out the door
In the famous herpetologist's handshake

CHORUS

I could tell you of crocs in the tub and of frogs on the floor
I could tell of the stress and unrest of someone you adore
So if you don't like turtles or academic hurdles
Mommas won't you listen to me
Be sure the only snake she knows of is the one in the clothes of
Her sweetheart or husband to be.

CHORUS

Faculty Institutes for Reforming Science Teaching through Field Stations Project - The FIRST project

One of the main goals of the NSF funded FIRST project is to help faculty develop skills to include more active field centered learning in their curricula. Five field stations are participating to achieve this goal:

- Archbold Biological Station
- Hancock Biological Station
- San Diego State University Field Stations
- Southwestern Research Station
- St. Croix Watershed Research Station

Each field station team has recruited five institutional teams, each of three faculty, from colleges and universities adjacent to their sites who are also participating in the faculty development goals of the

project. These institutional teams will develop plans to include inquiry-based learning in their curricula with activities at the field stations or at field sites adjacent to their home campus.

At the end of the OBFS meeting in September the FIRST field station teams and project directors, Diane Ebert-May and Jan Hodder, held their second meeting at the Archbold Field Station. During this meeting they were assisted by Charlene D'Avanzo from Hampshire College, and they continued to develop plans for workshops that each field station team will hold in 1999 for the institutional faculty in their region.

Additional information about the FIRST project can be found at the FIRST web page:

<http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~oimb/first> or you may contact Jan Hodder at

jhodder@oimb.uoregon.edu

Jan Hodder

Information Management in LTER

The Long Term Ecological Research (LTER) Network is a collaborative effort involving more than 900 scientists and students investigating ecological processes operating at long time scales and over broad spatial scales. The Network promotes synthesis and comparative research across sites and ecosystems and among other related national and international research programs. The National Science Foundation established a program in 1980 to support research on long-term ecological phenomena in the United States. The Network now consists of 21 sites representing diverse ecosystems and research emphases. A network office coordinates communication, network publications, planning activities, and information management.

The latest developments in information management in Long Term Ecological Research take advantage of advances in web-based database interfaces to provide access to network-wide data sets via a single point of entry. Following the LTER network information systems (NIS) plan, a number of prototypes were developed addressing different data types found in the network. These include the climate databases (project name: CLIMDB), the site description information (SITEDB), a basic data catalog (DIOC), and the personnel database (PERSDB). In addition to these developments, LTER Network information managers and Network Office personnel continue to pursue other activities and collaborations in informatics with the San Diego Supercomputer Center and the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis in Santa Barbara.

The LTER NIS plan describes an information system that seamlessly facilitates and integrates data exchange, with the mission of meeting the research needs of LTER scientists. The strategy being to design and develop a distributed, LTER-wide information system using a modular approach while maintaining and building on present functionality. The NIS working group is in the process of evaluating the prototype modules. These prototypes each use a different database/web technology and are being developed and tested at LTER sites prior to being installed at the Network Office. This work will lead to the development of the LTER NIS interoperability framework a set of specifications that describe the interactions of discrete units of a system, into which additional, future modules can be added.

LTER Information Managers are actively cooperating with several national agency/interagency efforts to facilitate interoperability between the LTER Network and the greater scientific community including OBFS. Mark Stromberg has been actively working with the LTER Network Office to advance the capabilities of the personnel database.

James Brunt, LTER

Funding Opportunities

At the NSF sponsored workshop on Networking among field stations (OBFS), Long Term Ecological Reserves (LTER) held at the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis, Santa Barbara, California, 17 - 22 May 1998, there was a discussion about adding value to computer networking among field facilities. The continuing, or new maintenance costs for networking could be better justified if such a network would benefit the facility in a number of ways. One such enhancement was the possibility of linking facilities to a system which would match funding opportunities with the needs of the facility and its research faculty and staff. The following proposal has been submitted by InfoEd International for consideration by OBFS.

InfoEd International has developed a series of interlinked modules which include: SPIN, a search engine for academic funding opportunities in support of research, curriculum development and physical plant; SMARTS, which provides a database on which the facility can be described and the facility subscribers can maintain their curriculum vitae, including keywords used to describe their research and funding interests; and GENIUS, by which subscribers can make their c.v.'s available, if they desire, to others. These three modules are collectively known as SPIN-Plus. The SPIN database is maintained daily and presently lists over 7,000 programs which support academic funding opportunities. SPIN-Plus is accessed through the Internet and requires no additional software beyond Netscape or M.S. Internet Explorer (3.0 or higher). Access is controlled by a username and password, unique to each subscriber. Some of your home institutions and a marine station already subscribe to SPIN-Plus. The annual subscription for these subscribers is based on the level of external support. The rate negotiated for field facilities is approximately 10% of the lowest institutional subscription. This negotiated rate is based on a limited number (6) of users from each facility, management of the subscribers, and collection of fees by OBFS. A three-month trial period (October, November, December) will be provided at no cost. The 1999 subscription cost of \$250 per station is based on a minimum of 25 OBFS members participating.

The discussion at the OBFS business meeting focused on the implementation and desirability of this service being made available to members as an optional charge to members, and OBFS agreeing to these terms. I have agreed to serve as SPIN-Plus administrator for at least the first year.

It was noted that the only cost to OBFS was the additional time required of the Treasurer to collect subscription fees from those wishing the year-long subscription. The Treasurer agreed to this additional duty and a motion to enter into the agreement passed.

Accounts for OBFS subscribers have been established for the trial period. Others wishing to enter this trial period are to promptly contact me by e-mail at "dalgleish@umsl.edu". Please give name of field station, institutional affinity if any, director's name, address of station, e-mail address, highest degree, areas of research interest.

Bob Dalgleish

Field Station Policies

At the recent OBFS annual meeting I was asked to chair a discussion on field station policies. It was clear from the discussion, and from the material members have provided me, that this is a broad topic of high member interest. Perhaps one of the standing committees will want to take this on as a longer-term project. Following is my initial summary.

The scope of the policies adopted by stations differs significantly based on if the station is independent (Archbold, RMBL) or associated with a larger institution or university (Mountain Lake, Cedar Point).

Stations associated with a University or larger institution require a much smaller and more focused set of policies as the general policies of the larger institution regarding personnel, employment, salary, benefits, privacy, purchasing, etc. will apply. Similarly, policies directed toward employees rather than toward visitors to the station may be used elsewhere by the organization. In an effort to limit the scope of THIS INITIAL discussion I focused on policies directed mainly toward station visitors.

The discussion at the meeting at Archbold, followed by a perusal of the materials people provided, yielded the following laundry list of possible policy areas or topics. The list was not meant to be comprehensive but as a starting point for further discussion and to give you ideas for your own policy manuals. I have made only a nominal effort at organization and I recognize that many of these topics overlap.

TOPICS: ADMINISTRATIVE: how policies are set, how policies are distributed, how we document who has read the policies, who can use the station, station fees, vehicle use, camping, pets, health and safety, personal behavior, drugs, alcohol, financial policies including petty cash and overtime, posting of warnings (i.e., cliffs, snakes), traffic/driving speed, parking, communications (phone, fax, mail, email), smoking, dining/food service, housekeeping, emergencies, liability, tools, shops, expulsion, guests/volunteers/friends, children, compliance, how to attain grievance procedure, trash, recycling, media use of site/ who can talk to media/ publicity, firearms, fishing, fires, medical care, photocopying, swimming.

RESEARCH: collecting, introductions/exotic species, manipulations, computer use/internet access, library policies, data access/sharing, land use/zoning, boats, lab policies including safety, hazardous materials, shared equipment, vertebrate research/animal care, tree climbing, permits (state, federal, local), field markers/pin flags, bird banding, diving.

The following stations have provided me with all or some of their policies. If you are not included, please contact me: the University of Mississippi Biological, Trout Lake Station, Mountain Lake Field Station, the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology, Archbold, Cedar Point, Univ. of Nebraska, St. Croix Watershed Research Station, Louis Calder Center, Turtle Cove, Hofstra Univ. Marine Lab, Desert Studies Center, Southwestern Research Center, Forfar Field Station, Andros Island, Bahamas, International Field Studies, White Mountain Research Station.

Depending on interest and feedback I will decide how to proceed with further information distribution.

Dan Dawson

IOBFS

The latest edition of the IOBFS Newsletter, an informal letter from the International Committee of OBFS is available . Contact Rick Wyman at the Huyck Preserve and Biological Research Station for copies of either the newsletter or the directory of international stations (rlwyman@capital.net). The directory lists basic information on more than 100 field stations in Africa, the Americas, Asia, Australasia, and Europe. -Rick Wyman

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, Michigan 49060. Phone: 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.

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)

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)

Here is a list of some recent, related publications on data management in the ecological sciences (below). You will have to find these on your own:

Callahan JT. 1984. Long-term ecological research. *BioScience* 34: 363-367.

Colwell RK. 1995. The report of the special committee of the Ecological Society of America on "ESA communications in the electronic age." *Bulletin of the Ecological Society of America* 76: 121-131.

Franklin JF, Bledsoe CS, Callahan JT. 1990. The Long-Term Ecological Research Program: a contributor to ecological science. *BioScience* 40: 509-523.

Helly, J. 1996. The state of computational ecology. Report from the NSF Workshop on Computational Ecology, San Diego Supercomputer Center, September 1996
[http://www.sdsc.edu/compeco_workshop/helly_publication.html]

Gross, K. E. Allen, C. Bledso, R. Colwell, P. Dayton, M Dethier, J. Helly, R. Holt, N. Morin, W. Michener, S. T. A; Pickett, and S. Stafford. Report of the committee on the future of Long-term Ecological Data (FLED). Ecological Society of America
<http://esa.sdsc.edu/FLED/FLED.html>

Helly, J. 1998. Visualization of ecological and environmental data. **In. Michener, W.K., J. H. Porter, and S. G. Stafford. Data and information management in the ecological sciences: a resource guide. LTER Network Office, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM. 133 pp. This is the so-called DIMES report; copies were handed out at the OBFS meeting with funding from LTER Network Office. THANKS!**

LTERnet. 1996d (February 22) Information management in the Long-Term Ecological Research (LTER) network. In US Long-Term Ecological Research Program (LTER) Online]. Available: <http://lternet.edu/im.htm>.

Michener, W K; Brunt, J W; Helly, J J; Kirchner, T B; Stafford, S G. 1997. Nongeospatial metadata for the ecological sciences. *Ecological Applications*, 7(1): 330-342.

This is really worth reading...

Stanford, J. and A. McKee. 1999. Networking OBFS field stations. Report from NCEAS workshop, May 1998. Santa Barbara, CA. (in prep.)

NSF BIOLOGICAL FIELD STATIONS AND MARINE LABORATORIES (FSML) PROGRAM

1999 proposal deadline for FSML proposals is "first Friday in March. Direct URL for the FSML program announcement is <http://www.nsf.gov/cgi-bin/getpub?nsf9817>. The document number is NSF 98-17 and is available electronically. The Program Director is Dr. James T. Callahan, Program Director. 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.
-

"Ye Olde Official OBFS Ballote", 1999

This year's ballot is for election of three officers. Biographical sketches for each of the candidates are given below.

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

EITHER, mail a copy of the attached ballot card to Organization of Biological field Stations, PO Box 247, Bodega Bay, CA 94923.

OR, you may indicate your vote by e-mail, with your station name included, to obfs@ucdavis.edu. Please vote for only one candidate for each office. Ballots must be received by **January 1, 1999**.

The candidates:

Member at Large

Carlos de la Rosa

I did my undergraduate work at the Simón Bolívar University, in Caracas, Venezuela and obtained my Ph.D. in Aquatic Ecology from University of Pittsburgh, in 1985. I have been instructor for the Dept. Biological Sciences of the University of Pittsburgh, Visiting Assistant Professor at West Virginia University, J. M. Stroud Scholar and Research Associate for the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, and Resident investigator at the Guanacaste Conservation Area, Costa Rica.

After leaving the Academy, I became Environmental Management Advisor for the US Agency for International Development in Costa Rica. Later I worked in several consulting jobs, particularly as Biodiversity Specialist for the Organization of American States in their San Juan River Basin Sustainable Development Project, Costa Rica & Nicaragua; as Biodiversity Specialist for the Iguana Verde Foundation (Panama/Costa Rica); and Biodiversity Advisor for the Norwegian Agency for International Development.

I am President and former Director of the International Foundation for Environmental Restoration, Education and Management (Central America), and currently hold the position of Director of the Riverwoods Field Laboratory, a joint project between the Florida Center for Environmental Studies and the South Florida Water Management District. Besides developing and running the station, I also participate as investigator or project manager in various projects related to the Kissimmee River Restoration. I am particularly active in the baseline studies in Phytoplankton and Periphyton, the Isolated Wetlands Monitoring Project, the Chironomid Species Inventory and Phenology Project, the Collections of Freshwater Organisms in Florida, and a project in protected areas assessment and management using GIS in Venezuela.

My research concentrates on three main areas: (1) Taxonomy, phenology, ecology and Natural history of Chironomidae (Diptera); (2) development of freshwater monitoring and evaluation techniques for ecosystem integrity, environmental impact, and conservation; and (3) integrative methods for conservation and management of tropical and subtropical biodiversity, particularly using GIS techniques.

In education, besides having taught undergraduate and graduate courses in Ecology, Evolution, Organismic Biology and Aquatic Ecology, I have developed environmental education programs for various levels, from K-12, teachers, volunteer organizations, NGOs and GOs both, in North America, and in Latin America. I actively participate in environmental education programs in South Florida, conducting workshops at Riverwoods and other areas.

Stephen J. Tonsor

Steve Tonsor received his B.S. in Zoology in 1977 and M.S. in Biology in 1978 from the University of Michigan. He completed his Ph.D. in 1983 at the University of Chicago. His thesis work was on the evolution of gene flow distance in variable environments. He was an assistant professor at West Virginia University 1983-1985, assistant and then associate professor at Michigan State University's Kellogg Biological Station from 1985-1995. At KBS, he was the first manager of the 1200-acre Lux Arbor Reserve, and was instrumental in its donation to the University. Since 1995 he has been director of the University of Pittsburgh's Pymatuning Laboratory of Ecology, one of the OBFS founding field stations. Steve has had a life-long interest in field science. He taught adult education courses and led field trips for the Field Museum of Natural History. He taught Field Plant Systematics for 8 years at the Kellogg Biological Station, and participated in numerous additional field courses. While at KBS, he also developed and taught modules for KBS's high school summer institute, Habitats and Organisms. He currently teaches Ecological Management at the Pymatuning Laboratory of Ecology. On campuses, he has taught Evolution, Graduate Evolution, Population Biology, Introductory Biology, Plant Ecology, Quantitative Genetics, Writing Seminar for Ecology and Evolution Majors, Senior E&E Seminar, and numerous graduate seminar and special topics courses. Steve's research centers on mechanisms of adaptation to changing environments, and includes work on the evolution of gene flow and population genetic structure, Wright's shifting balance process, and the role of epistatic interactions in evolution. Current work focuses on the evolution of reaction norms in novel environments, using responses of *Arabidopsis thaliana* to elevated CO₂ as a model system. He has published floristic inventory work, and is currently involved in land use and vegetation mapping work at Pymatuning Laboratory. In addition to his academic efforts, Steve has been involved in a variety of environmental and botanical public service activities. These include stints on the Science Advisory Boards of the Nature Conservancy, Michigan Chapter, The French Creek Project, the USGS NAWQA for Allegheny/Monongehela District, The Technical Advisory Committee for U.S. Representative Tom Murtha, The Phipps Conservatory and Botanic Gardens Board of Directors, its Executive Committee and its Collections

Committee (Chair), the University of Pittsburgh liaison to the Three Rivers University Consortium for the Environment. Steve plays blues harmonica, fishes, rides his bike to work, does some print-making and gardening, and co-raises two children.

Arnold Gerard van der Valk

He was born in The Netherlands and grew up in Canada where he received his B.Sc. in Biology from the University of Windsor and M.Sc. in Botany (Plant Ecology) from the University of Alberta. He earned his Ph.D. in Botany (Plant Ecology) from North Carolina State University in 1973. For the last 25 years, he has been in the Department of Botany at Iowa State University. At ISU, he has taught mostly undergraduate and graduate courses in ecology, primarily plant ecology and wetland ecology. His research program is focused on the ecology of wetlands (primary production, mineral cycling, vegetation dynamics, seed banks, restoration and creation, and classification and inventorying). He is an editor or author of four books on various aspects of wetland ecology and author or co-author of nearly 100 scientific papers in wetland ecology. Since 1993, he has been the editor-in-chief of the international journal, *Plant Ecology*.

Arnold van der Valk has worked and taught at field stations throughout his professional career. He first taught aquatic plants at Iowa Lakeside Laboratory in the mid-1970s, and he currently co-teaches a course in restoration ecology as well as short courses for biology teachers at Lakeside. During the 1980s, he was involved in a 10-year, experimental study of the vegetation dynamics of prairie wetlands at the Delta Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Station in Canada. In 1994, he was hired by the Iowa State Board of Regents as Director of Iowa Lakeside Laboratory. Lakeside is run cooperatively by Iowa State University, The University of Iowa, and The University of Northern Iowa.

When Arnold van der Valk was hired as director, Lakeside was threatened with closure by the Regents because of declining enrollments. Since taking over as director, Lakeside's summer curriculum has been completely overhauled: all courses were shortened; many new courses were introduced, including courses in archaeology, geology, environmental planning, restoration ecology, soils and watershed analysis; and more emphasis was placed on undergraduate courses and courses for non-traditional students (nature photography, SCUBA, mushrooms, etc.). Because of these curriculum changes and improvements in recruiting, Lakeside enrollments increased nearly 300%. A new Friends group was also started which initiated a successful capital campaign to build a new water quality laboratory. This campaign raised over \$800,000. The new Waitt Water Quality Laboratory was officially opened in July 1998, the first new building at Lakeside in over 25 years. In 1996, the Iowa Board of Regents approved renovating many of Lakeside's key buildings, e.g., the Mess hall, and building new housing facilities for students and staff. Altogether nearly \$2,000,000 for capital improvements were authorized.

Since becoming director of Lakeside, he has become particularly interested in two areas that are of concern to many field stations: fund raising and community relations. If elected to the Executive Committee, he would like to see OBFS develop guidelines or suggestions to help field stations raise funds from private sources, both individuals and foundations.

Network Coordinator

Mark Stromberg

At Hastings, I maintain a network of Mac computers and a few NT or Windows machines. I started and maintain the OBFS website. Working with LTER, I maintain the mail server, which allows OBFS members to share messages quickly (obfs@lternet.edu). I serve on a committee of parents and technical advisors in the Carmel Unified School District where we installed a computer network and wrote the strategic plan for technology in the school district (1998-2008). I have attended the LabNet

workshop held by NAML as a representative of OBFS where the marine labs outlined their plans for data and information management for member labs (summer, 1997). I attended the OBFS-LTER workshop at NCEAS (National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis) in the spring of 1998. At Hastings, I manage a relatively isolated field station with a small staff, about 25 buildings, and about 6,000 researcher user-days a year.

Editor

David White

As a student, I had no knowledge of biological field stations. My first position, however, was as research biologist at the University of Oklahoma Biological Station where I learned the tremendous value of field stations in teaching and research. Following three years at Oklahoma, I was on the faculty of the University of Michigan Biological Station at Douglas Lake for ten years, taught one summer at Camp Filbert Roth, and have served as Director the Hancock Biological Station on Kentucky Lake and Coordinator for the Center for Reservoir Research (Murray State University) since 1988. I have missed only one summer at a field station in the past 22 years. I have been an associate editor for the Southwestern Naturalist and the Journal of Freshwater Ecology and am a past Chair of the North American Benthological Society Editorial Committee. The Station/Center has a full-time staff of five and all the hardware and software needed to produce the Newsletter. We operate primarily on IBM PCs with full scanning and Corel capabilities. We also have the services of a full-time editor/illustrator who assists in the production and publication of bulletins, flyers, newsletters and posters. We produce an annual bulletin and poster that are distributed nationally, and the station has had its own home page since 1995. Newsletter duties are a way to repay part of what OBFS has given me over the past 10 years.

1999 ANNUAL MEETING: ORGANIZATION OF BIOLOGICAL FIELD STATIONS MOUNTAIN LAKE BIOLOGICAL STATION

The 1999 OBFS Annual Meeting will be held at Mountain Lake Biological Station (www.virginia.edu/~mtlake) **Friday September 17 through Sunday September 19, 1999.** Mountain Lake is located on a remote wooded ridge at an elevation of 1,160 meters on the top of Salt Pond Mountain in southwestern Virginia. It is near the town of Blacksburg, southwest of Roanoke (the nearest airport). Mountain Lake is a teaching and research facility operated by the University of Virginia and supports basic research primarily in the areas of ecology and evolution. One or two pre-meeting field trips will be planned for **Thursday September 16.** A canoe trip limited to 24 people will be led by Mountain Lake's Director, Henry Wilbur (a superb naturalist native to Virginia), and his wife Becky. They will guide a full-day canoe trip down a nearby section of the New River though a combination of flat water and class 2 rapids between Pembroke and Bluff City in Giles County. The trip is appropriate for anyone who is a confident swimmer and is willing to take up a paddle. Training is provided for even the most novice. Young children should probably not join the expedition (please contact me if you are unsure). The trip will include stops along the river for swimming, exploring, and lunch. Bag lunches and drinks will be provided. Come with hat, sunscreen, water, swim suit, and rain gear. And while it is usually easy to stay dry, be prepared to get wet. A few dry-bags will be provided for camera equipment etc. Other field trips are currently being researched - possible a white water rafting trip (with private outfitter, pure recreation), or a caving trip (we have a karst topography and the area is loaded with caves; part cerebral, part corporal value).

The pre-meeting field trip will start early on Thursday, September 16 and will finish up around 4 p.m. in time for the Meeting reception and dinner. Please plan to arrive Wednesday for the pre-meeting field trip.

The 1999 OBFS Annual Business Meetings will begin officially early on **Friday, September 17**. A theme for the Meeting is still under consideration, but will very likely be in the area of education (recent and possible initiatives at field stations, teaching oriented networking, etc.). We will of course continue to follow up on the current networking efforts, NSF opportunities, and other projects and initiatives that are underway.

The Meeting will include hikes around the station and to local features and habitats including Mountain Lake itself, an extremely unusual and rare phenomenon.

Social events planned include a barbecue on the beach, a square dance, a slide presentation on the history of Mountain Lake and the area given by a 30-year station resident and civil war buff, and of course the infamous (but lucrative) OBFS Auction!

The Meeting will conclude at lunchtime on Sunday, September 19.

Mountain Lake Biological Station can house approximately 100 people. We have also arranged for alternate (and more expensive) housing at the Mountain Lake Resort Hotel two miles from the station (www.mtnlakehotel.com/, 540-626-7121). Guests bringing their families and looking for a little tennis or shuffleboard on the side might want to explore the Hotel option. Currently the Hotel is reserving 10 rooms for OBFS visitors. You must make reservations for the Hotel option with me EARLY (by August 1). Camping is available at an NFS campground approximately 5 miles away down a very rough gravel road on the other side of the mountain (4-wheel drive or rental car recommended). Camping is also welcome on the station. Numerous other traditional hotel/motel accommodations are 30-45 minutes away in the college town of Blacksburg. Housing at the station ranges from modern doubles and apartments, to "rustic" cabins and dorms of varying sizes. All accommodations have bathrooms with showers. Only the modern units have heat, although most other units have fireplaces. Visitors will need to bring all their own bedding, towels, and toiletries. Plan for cool to warm days (50's-70's) and cold to cool nights (30's-50's). It could be warm and sunny and beautiful swimming weather (bring your bathing suite), or cold and rainy. The fall colors will not be out yet, but the air and sky will be crisp and clear with the coming fall.

There is only one convenient airport to Mountain Lake, Roanoke Regional. I recommend renting cars there. A car pool list will be posted as people make plans, as we did for Archbold. Mountain Lake is about a 1.5 hour drive from Roanoke. If you will be driving from elsewhere, we are about 5 hours from Washington D.C., 3 hours from Charlottesville VA, and 3 hours from Durham NC. See our web page for driving directions to the station, and lots of other general information.

Meeting details will be posted on the Mountain Lake web site (www.virginia.edu/~mtlake), as they develop, and registration will be possible on-line starting in the spring. Please address questions to me at enagy@virginia.edu or 804-982-5486. The main meeting notice and more details will go out in the May OBFS Newsletter. I am excited about hosting next year's meeting and look forward to seeing you all again.

Eric Nagy, Associate Director, MLBS

STATION NEWS

Do you have items of interest to the organization? Let the editor know and they will be printed here. Please remember that the Newsletter is published twice a year in November and May. The Newsletter will continue to present descriptions of new station members. This will occur primarily in the spring edition.

Itasca: Save This Date

"Itasca at 90: Field Stations at the Crossroads." A symposium in honor of the founding of the University of Minnesota's Lake Itasca Forestry and Biological Station, will be held September 30, 1999, on the University's St. Paul campus. Planned topics include the social implications of field stations, the value of field stations in long-term ecological studies, and current and future funding for field stations.

Lay Field Station

Saint Louis University has recently opened a second Missouri field station to promote environmental and biological education and research. It is called the Lay Field Station in honor and memory of the family of alumnus Henry A. Lay who provided generous gifts of land and funds. The station is located in Pike County about 100 miles northwest of St. Louis, and about 3 miles from the Mississippi River at Louisiana, Missouri. It consists of approximately 300 acres on rolling hills and is primarily oak-hickory forest with several old fields, a six acre lake and several small ponds. A newly constructed complex of buildings provides classrooms, laboratories, library and meeting space. One classroom has computers equipped with statistical and graphic programs, word processing programs and internet connection. Laboratories are equipped with standard glassware, analytical balances, compound microscopes, stereomicroscopes and measuring, testing, and collecting equipment. Bench space is available for visiting researchers. The Pavilion provides seating for 100 people and can be arranged for lectures and presentations or round table discussions and other types of programs. Additional construction plans will provide housing for summer faculty or visiting researchers and their families.

Summer classes are held in three week sessions. Class/lab size is limited to 16 students. Students live in air-conditioned dormitories with laundry facilities. Meals are provided in the dining hall. A field fee of \$200 covers room and board for three-week courses. A limited number of work-scholarships are available to cover the cost of the field fee.

Two summer classes were offered in the summer of 1998 Field Ecology and Summer Flora. A full schedule is planned for the summer of 1999 consisting of 8 classes Ecology, Plant Ecology, Ornithology, Prairie Ecology, Phycology, Entomology, Biology for Education Majors, and the American Environmental Movement (an American Studies course).

Prairie restoration research projects were begun during the past year. In the coming year, effort will be put into species surveys and database development. Population monitoring efforts will initially concentrate on amphibians. A small weather station is in place. Our website will eventually be expanded to display this information.

We are developing outreach programs for teacher enhancement, youth projects, and informal workshops to promote environmental education opportunities in the local community. We have a team participating in the FIRST project and plan to utilize our field station resources to enhance the learning experiences of our students, especially in connection with the development of an undergraduate program in conservation biology. For information, visit our website at <http://patellab.slu.edu/biology>.

Gail Johnston, Program Director

The Savannah River Environmental Sciences Field Station

The concept leading to the establishment of the Environmental Sciences Field station was proposed by Dr. Ambrose Anoruo, Assistant Professor of Biology at South Carolina State University in 1995.

After receiving funding through USDA Capacity Building Grant in 1996, South Carolina State University met with USDA Forest Service and the Department of Energy to discuss the formation of an Environmental Sciences Field Station at the Savannah River Site. The primary focus of the Field Station would be to provide hands-on, field-orientated experiences for undergraduate students from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU's), Minority Institutions (MI's) and other collaborating institutions. The concept was accepted and in 1996, the Department of Energy provided space at the Savannah River Site, a 198,000 ha government property, for the construction of classrooms and laboratories. The President of South Carolina State University, Dr. Leroy Davis extended invitations to regional colleges and universities in South Carolina, Georgia and North Carolina for membership of the Field Station. The response to support and join the Field Station was overwhelming. In November, 1996, faculty appointees from all invited institutions met at the Savannah River Site to hold the inaugural conference and to form the Environmental Sciences Field Station Advisory Board. Each member institution is represented on the Advisory Board by a faculty appointee of the president of the institution. Currently, there are twenty-five member institutions, nine from South Carolina, four from North Carolina, eleven from Georgia, and one from Florida. Nineteen of these institutions are HBCU's.

More than 900 student visits have been made to the Field Station by member institutions as of May 1998. Summer, 1998 marked the beginning of a new phase in the educational program of the Field Station. Three environmental science courses were taught at the Field Station to undergraduate students from member institutions. About 36 students registered for the course and 14 others participated in research activities at the station.

The Savannah River Environmental Sciences Field Station became a member of the Organization of Biological Field Stations in 1996. Although the station has operated since late 1995, it was formally opened on May 9, 1998. A letter from Honorable Albert Gore, Vice President of the United States was read at the opening ceremony by Dr. Leroy Davis, President, South Carolina State University. The focus of the Savannah River Environmental Sciences Field Station is minority undergraduate research and education in science, mathematics and engineering. The Field Station has recently redesigned its curriculum to include the following courses, Introduction to Environmental Science, Wetlands and Aquatic Ecology, Soils and Hydrology, Land Use and Conservation, Environmental Engineering Technology, and Field Techniques in Environmental Chemistry. This curriculum was designed to help increase science literacy and public education of minority undergraduates on complex environmental issues and to contribute to the skilled human resources of the nation's environmental, agricultural, and natural resource professions.

Ambrose Anoruo

Fire Ecology and Management Data Base Now Online

Tall Timbers Research Station is pleased to announce that our Fire Ecology Data Base is now available on the World Wide Web. This data base consists of keyworded citations to nearly 11,000 scientific publications and commentaries that pertain to fire ecology and management throughout the world. New citations are added to regular updates. Many citations are of research publications that pertain directly to basic aspects of ecology and management of vegetation, habitats and landscapes using prescribed fire. There is also an extensive Thesaurus of keywords for the data base that may be read or printed directly from the website.

There is no charge for use of this data base. Support for database compilation has been provided by Tall Timbers and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. A special grant from the Education Program of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies supported the format changes and additional compilation tasks required to post this database on the web. To access the data base, go to the Tall Timbers web site: www.talltimbers.org; click on the Fire Ecology Data Base button on the home page, and then look for the "click here to use the data base" hot text within the introductory descriptive material.

Leonard A. Brennan

Northeastern Naturalist, Scientific Journal

The *Northeastern Naturalist* published by the Humboldt Field Research Institute in Steuben Maine, is a quarterly journal publishing scientific articles, research papers, research summaries, general interest articles, field notes and other special features. It is an essential scientific library journal for field stations and natural history organizations. Articles focus on terrestrial, freshwater, and marine organisms and environments in the northeastern US and Canada. The *Northeastern Naturalist* is always looking for fresh material from researchers and natural history writers and photographers. It serves as a regional counterpart to the *Southwestern Field Naturalist*, the *American Midland Naturalist*, and the *Canadian Field Naturalist*. Subscriptions are \$40 or \$30 for students. For information on writing articles or subscribing, contact Northeastern Naturalist, Humboldt Field Research Institute, PO Box 9 Dyer Bay Road, Steuben ME 04680-0009

Suzanne Becque

Information for contributors to THE OBFS NEWSLETTER

OBFS News is edited by David White and Cheryl Bullington and printed at the Hancock Biological Station, Murray State University. Items for inclusion in the newsletter can be mailed to the Hancock Biological Station, 561 Emma Drive, Murray, KY 42071 or sent via email to david.white@murraystate.edu or cheryl.bullington@murraystate.edu. **Articles for the Spring Issue of OBFS News should be received by May 1, 1999**
