

**Organization of  
Biological Field Stations**

**Newsletter  
No. 24  
July 1977**

## ORGANIZATION OF BIOLOGICAL FIELD STATIONS

July, 1977

Number 24

OFFICERS: President: Jennifer M. Shay, Delta Marsh, University of Manitoba  
Vice President: Edmund H. Smith, Pacific Marine Station  
Secretary-Treasurer: Richard W. Coles, Tyson Research Center  
Editor: Robert C. Dalgleish, Huyck Preserve

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: As you all know, we have recently amended our constitution to include Marine Biological Stations. It is therefore with considerable pleasure that on behalf of the Inland Stations I extend a very warm invitation to our marine counterparts to join us. There can only be benefits in the exchange of ideas that will emanate from this broadening of our membership.

Some of you may be familiar with the late Archie Tryon's paper relating to the organization of biological field stations. There are many aspects of that paper that deserve our attention and provide areas where we can be of assistance to each other. Perhaps an exchange of ideas regarding the need to standardize the collection, storage and retrieval of ecological data gathered at Field Stations would be one place to start. I'd hazard a guess that most of us do not make maximum use of the opportunities that our biological stations provide, to contribute to a storehouse of data for our station and for comparison with data from other biological stations. There was brief consideration of this topic at our last Annual General Meeting held at Delta, but I think it merits more discussion and the development of specific recommendations. Some stations may well have techniques and data cards that have evolved through the years to a state approaching the excellence that merits their dissemination.

Is this a matter worthy of a session at our next meeting at the Pymatuning Laboratory of Ecology in September? - Jennifer Shay.

Seeking Position as field station Resident-Manager/Biologist; I am familiar with physical, electrical, mechanical and plumbing repairs. My research interests are ecology and behavior of terrestrial vertebrates especially reptors and mammalian predators. Can build, repair and use radio telemetry equipment. Will send vitae. Jay H. Schnell, Ph.D., Box 54, Klondyke R. S.; Willcox, Arizona 85643.

The Society for Industrial Microbiology will hold its 28th Annual Meeting August 21-26, 1977 at Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan, concurrently with the American Institute of Biological Sciences. Registration with SIM will provide admission to all sessions. The SIM program includes symposia on Microbiological Testing for Mutagenicity, Cosmetic Microbiology, Microbial Degradation of Lignins, Microbial Products in Human Nutrition, Genetic Engineering and Plant Cell Culture. Contributed papers on a wide variety of topics will be included. For further information contact Mrs. Ann Kulback, Society of Industrial Microbiology, 1401 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, Virginia 22209.

OUACHITA BIOLOGICAL STATION has been established in the Big Fork Civil Township of Polk County, Arkansas, encompassing 300 acres. The area is in the Caddo Mountains of the Ouachita Province of the Paleozoic area. Topographically the area consists of steep, rocky mountain slopes forming narrow ridges running east-west, separated by narrow floodplains. Soils, developed in mixed material from alternate beds of shale, sandstone, and novaculite, are dry to droughty and have moderate erosion potential. The natural vegetation is predominantly oak-hickory on ridgetops and north slopes and shortleaf pine on south slopes. Oak, beech, gums, sycamore, and wild cherry grow along drainages and near the base of north slopes.

Facilities include a 20 by 30 ft cinder-block building on a concrete slab, which provides floor space for a laboratory, a food preparation area, a dining area, and a 200 sq ft dormitory. Two restrooms are included, one with shower. Electricity, propane gas, and water are available. Because the tap water is untreated spring water which will not pass Public Health Standards, drinking water must be brought in by all visitors. A floored attic of about 600 sq ft affords additional sleeping area for persons with sleeping bags or air mattresses.

It is hoped that the Ouachita Biological Station will serve as a center for in-depth study of the biota and ecology of the Ouachita Mountains of Arkansas and Oklahoma and, ultimately, compilation and synthesis of such findings. Visiting biologists are welcomed and encouraged to use the facilities. Usage will be restricted to research or teaching. It is planned to grant use permits to full-time research or teaching staff members (including graduate students) of institutions of higher learning, or recognized private or public agencies and organizations. Undergraduate student usage will be restricted to groups accompanied by a full-time research or teaching staff member. - Richard K. Spears, Jr., Department of Biological Sciences, Louisiana State University in Shreveport, 8515 Youree Drive, Shreveport, Louisiana 71115.

The Virtues/Hazards of a Yellow Page Listing: By institutional inadvertence several years ago the Tyson Research Center became listed in the yellow pages of the St. Louis area. Owing to this somewhat dubious distinction, and possibly for other reasons into which it is not necessary here to go, we have received the following kinds of inquiry by telephone: 1. Is this where I can donate my mother-in-law's body to science? (Caller referred to nearby Medical School). 2. Where can I have my chromosomes examined for damage due to LSD? ("Not here"). 3. Please help me settle this bet, which was just entered into at Joe's Bar: If a chicken is caught outside in a thunderstorm, is it true that it is so disoriented by the weather that it looks skyward and opens its beak, thus drowning to death? (Amount of bet not specified, caller referred to State University School of Agriculture). 4. I have this ghost in my house which makes noises and appears in view on certain occasions. The neighbors say my description of its appearance could reflect the visage of a now-deceased former owner of the house. Can you help me evict this visitor? (Caller referred to Physics Department where there is a researcher interested in extrasensory perception and psychic phenomena. Several days later a local news telecast carried this caller's story). 5. Can you analyze my well water? (By now, we assume the reader is able to devise his own response to these kinds of questions).

6. We are looking for a site to locate a school for heavy equipment operators - Would the research center be willing to have several hundred acres leveled by bulldozers without charge? 7. Can my hunting club assist you by removing your surplus deer? 8. I raise registered Basset Hounds, you know those low slung dogs. Well, I have this, er, problem. Copperheads which den uphill from my kennel keep biting my male dogs on strategic pendulous structures. I have lost three good sires this year. What can I do to discourage these snakes? (This female caller was obviously hesitant to discuss the details of her problem with a total stranger on the first phone call, but evidently she summoned her courage and this picture emerged).

This sampling might be considered by the OBFS station directors as depicting either a cluster of irritating distractions from the hectic day's activity or possibly a welcome and amusing diversion from the persistent problems of the daily routine. Those in the latter category may wish to consider the yellow page ad as a new form of job enrichment - a relatively inexpensive step which would presumably be applauded by the personnel department. - Richard W. Coles, Tyson Research Center.

THE EXPERIMENTAL ECOLOGICAL RESERVES (EER) study conducted by the Institute of Ecology has been completed. The results will be published by the Government Printing Office for the National Science Foundation.

The initial EER network which emerged from the study includes 67 locations representing a total of 71 inventoried sites in 28 states, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. These sites represent over half of the ecosystems in the United States and include types which cover nearly three-fourths of the land area of the contiguous United States. About half of the sites designated for the network are Federal lands managed by agencies such as the U. S. Forest Service and the Energy Research and Development Administration. Nearly 40 per cent are controlled by universities. Private groups and State governments own the remainder. Ninety per cent of the land area is under Federal control. University sites, however, provide one-third of the representative environments and frequently possess considerable biological diversity within a site. The emphasis of the initial EER network is terrestrial. In an expanded network, aquatic and man-managed environments should receive priority along with the terrestrial ecosystems not represented.

The report on Experimental Ecological Reserves: A Proposed National Network will be issued in three parts to serve the needs of differing audiences most effectively.

The Preview is designed as a size-page, 8-1/2" by 11" brochure. It includes a summary of the network, recommendations, list of participants, and a map showing sites in the initial network of 67 sites in relation to population distribution. An inserted map will identify all 171 sites inventoried and can be used as an overlay on the Kuchler vegetation map in the National Atlas or other maps of the same scale. Graphics play an important part in helping the Preview communicate the concept of the network of Experimental Ecological Reserves (EER) to a broad audience, including legislators, state and federal

officials, environmentalists, and others who need to know about the proposed network but do not need the detail of the entire report.

The Report is designed as a 40-page, 8½" by 11" booklet, using the Preview as a cover. The six chapters describe the need for the EER network, study procedures, characteristics of the initial EER network, sources of support, and development and management of the sites and network. The major audiences for the Report are university scientists and governmental agencies carrying out ecological research.

The Supplement makes the working papers of the project accessible to participants and respondents and to others who may need them. It includes, for example, the inventory request and responses and the 171 site evaluations. It will be duplicated in an inexpensive way from the typed copy.

Copies of the Report will be provided to Dr. Richard Coles, Secretary-Treasurer, OBFS, for distribution to the OBFS membership. The Supplement will be sent to all EER participants and to the contacts at the 171 inventoried sites. A limited number of copies of the Supplement will be available on a special order basis from The Institute of Ecology.--George Lauff

The 1977 OBFS Course Announcement cited 68 different courses offered by 26 member stations. The number of courses and institutions represented is the same as last year. This announcement was financed by a \$25.00 fee paid by the stations listed. A summary of the course offerings, with an address for further information, was published in BIOSCIENCE of May, 1977. The announcement was mailed April 4th, via bulk mailing, to 1800 biology departments in the United States and Canada, addressed by name to the department chairman. This mailing list was provided at cost by AIBS. Additional copies of the announcement have been distributed in response to inquiries generated by the BIOSCIENCE announcement.

The Naturalists' Directory and Almanac, 43 ed. will be compiled and published by World Digest Publications of Kinderhook, New York. Many field stations have been cited in previous editions of the Directory. Please complete the enclosed questionnaire and return it to the publisher, if you wish your station and/or staff cited in this directory.

Organization of Biological Field Stations annual meeting, September 22-25, 1977 at the Pymatuning Laboratory of Ecology, Linesville, Pennsylvania.

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R. C. D.

Room 1522 Longworth HOB  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
Contact: (202) 225-6044

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - July 22, 1977

Congressman Phillip Burton, Chairman of the House Subcommittee on National Parks and Insular Affairs, has announced that public hearings have been scheduled in Washington, D.C. on August 2, 1977 on H.R. 6286, a bill referred to as the "Natural Diversity Preservation Act". This bill, introduced jointly by Congressman Keith Sebelius of Kansas and Chairman Burton, is designed to provide additional and improved protective mechanisms to help preserve representative examples of our nation's natural diversity of species and resources.

In introducing the bill, Congressman Sebelius noted that "man and his proliferating development is greatly changing the face of the earth, and modifying the natural landscape to such an extent and with such speed that adequate representations of the various indigenous components of the natural scene will soon be irretrievably gone if some purposeful action to save these component pieces is not initiated promptly".

"The principal criterion for selection of areas", Burton said, "would be their importance to science as unmolested natural areas representative of native species, ecosystems and geologic land forms."

H.R. 6286 provides for the establishment of a nationwide inventory and registry process to identify meritorious areas, and a grant-in-aid mechanism to assist in acquisition, if deemed appropriate, along with other forms of protection. This is intended to be primarily a state and local effort under general Federal direction.

Persons wishing to testify should either call the Subcommittee office in Washington at 202-225-6044 or write to: Subcommittee on National Parks and Insular Affairs, 1522 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. All requests to testify must be received by the Subcommittee no later than July 29, 1977.

Witnesses should bring at least 30 copies of their prepared statement and give them to the Subcommittee clerk before the beginning of the hearing at 10:00 a.m. in room 1324 of the Longworth House Office Building.

Persons wishing to testify should be prepared to summarize their written statements in five minutes. Persons not wishing to appear may file a statement for the record in which case three copies should be sent to the Subcommittee Office. The hearing record will remain open until August 12 to receive written statements.