

**Organization of
Biological Field Stations**

**Newsletter
No. 25
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ORGANIZATION OF BIOLOGICAL FIELD STATIONS

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Number 25

Minutes: 1977 Annual Meeting for Business, Pymatuning Laboratory of Ecology,
September 24, 1977

1. In Attendance: Richard T. Hartman, Host. Raymond Barnett, Eagle Lake Biological Station; Richard Bovbjerg, Iowa Lakeside Laboratory; Richard Coles, Tyson Research Center; Robert Dalglish, E. N. Huyck Preserve; Robert Fisher, Raystown Field Station; George Lauff, W. K. Kellogg Biological Station; Roger Lederer, Eagle Lake Biological Station; Peter Marchand, Babcock Nature Preserve; Neil Miller, E. J. Meeman Biological Field Station; Brent Nickol, Cedar Point Biological Station; David Parmelee, University of Minnesota Forestry and Biological Station; Jennifer Shay, University of Manitoba Field Station at Delta Marsh; Richard Spears, Ouachita Biological Station; Robert Sweeney, Great Lakes Laboratory; John Tibbs, University of Montana Biological Station, George Maxwell, Rice Creek.
2. First Session, Saturday 9/24, 11:00 am:
 - a. President Shay convened the meeting and on behalf of the group expressed our gratitude to Helmut Moysenko of the Nature Conservancy for his having joined our meeting and for his presentations of Biological Data Management.
 - b. The minutes were approved as circulated in Newsletter #23.
 - c. Old Business:
 1. John Tibbs reported that in the absence of input from the membership, he had responded to a request from AIBS with a statement of the general philosophy and purpose of our organization and of the needs of society for biological field stations. For further details see last years minutes.
 2. Roger Lederer reported that, as planned at the 1976 meeting, he had attended the Fish and Wildlife Service Symposium on Classification, Inventory and Analysis of Fish and Wildlife Habitat. He served as chairman of a session on remote sensing. The meetings original goal of developing an inventory of habitat was abandoned as many attenders thought such an effort would be futile. Roger found the meeting interesting but not especially profitable or productive.
 - d. New Business:
 1. President's Report - After discussing recent correspondence, Jennifer Shay noted that the current term of our representative on the AIBS governing board, Bob Dalglish was drawing to a close. She praised Bob's performance in the past and suggested he be reappointed. The members of the Board of Directors present (Coles and Tibbs) concurred and Dalglish agreed to an additional period of servitude in that position.

The matter of reimbursement of expenses for attendance at meetings of the AIBS Board of Governors had arisen since last year's meeting of OBFS. On an interim basis the OBFS Board of Directors provided reimbursement. It was moved, seconded and passed that the OBFS Board of Directors be empowered to handle this matter in the future, providing reimbursement as judged possible.

President Shay reported on her efforts to contact Canadian stations which might wish to join OBFS. She had circulated a letter to 46 Canadian universities. Twenty-two (48%) of these responded. Eleven Universities have stations, six expressed interest in joining OBFS. (Many Canadian universities which lack a field station reported they utilize the provincial parks instead.) Ed Smith was to have contacted the marine station directors to invite their participation in OBFS, but as pressing matters arose at his home station, Ed became unable to make the annual meeting. Consequently the results of his efforts were not known.

AIBS has contacted President Shay in search of six members of our organization, competent in the area of field station management to be listed as possible experts to serve (with the individual's consent) at various programs, including at hearings by legislative committees. Members of OBFS might have expertise in protection policies and management practices of natural areas for research and education. Members wishing to be listed should contact President Shay immediately. In the meeting it was mentioned that those listed should have solid knowledge of their area of expertise and should not 'spread themselves too thin.' Congressional staff can be quite probing and somewhat aggressive at such hearings. When completed a booklet presenting the listings for many disciplines will be available to OBFS members.

2. Secretary-treasurer's Report - Richard Coles distributed an updated list of the 57 members; some corrections were offered; a further revised list will comprise part of the next newsletter. There were 8 new members, 5 which represent new member stations. The 3 others reflect a change in the person administering a station which continues to belong.

Pursuant to a decision reached at the previous annual meeting, the secretary distributed a draft of a new directory of OBFS members. This was prepared from responses by members to a questionnaire which had been circulated. Non-responding members are not represented.

The possibility of utilizing the Nature Conservancy's computerized data bank in the preparation of a much more complete directory of North American stations, not merely limited to responding OBFS members was discussed by Bob Dalgleish. Bob offered to serve as editor on the project which would be published by World Digest Publications and sold as a marketable item. A draft would be circulated to OBFS members for their approval, and the final version would be available for purchase. Use of a floppy disk computer would facilitate frequent updating of the publication.

In the interim, it was decided that the secretary should proceed with finalizing the present draft, the duplication of 150 copies, and the distribution of a copy to each member.

The balance in the treasury as of 9/20/77 was reported as \$668.63. Receipts to date included: interest on the \$1,000 certificate of deposit, \$60.; sale of one directory, \$3.25; dues income \$500.; income from course listing poster \$500.; Total receipts - \$1,063.25. Disbursements included: AIBS donation (to bring OBFS contribution for 1976 to \$100.), \$52.; 1977 dues and contribution to AIBS, \$100.; course listing poster costs \$433.55. Total disbursements \$585.55.

It was observed that added income from poster listings is anticipated and that among the many successes of the poster effort, was a net profit. Additional disbursements, to Washington University as reimbursement for postage and duplication costs in the secretary's office, and to the E. N. Huyck Preserve for travel by the AIBS representative and a few remaining costs associated with the poster are anticipated before the close of the year.

Acceptance of the treasurer's interim report was moved, seconded and passed.

e. The first session of the annual meeting for business was adjourned.

3. Second Session, Saturday 9/24, 7:00 pm:

a. Committee reports and other items.

1. Program - (Fisher, Lederer and Bovbjerg)

Suggestions of topics to be considered at the next annual meeting arose from the floor. Tibbs suggested we consider curriculum as represented at biological stations and relating to the needs of the biological field sciences. Shay suggested discussion of what degree of time commitment and effort on the part of the student is represented by the "credit hour." Bovbjerg suggested continued discussion of data acquisition and ecological monitoring as practiced at field stations.

As the newly created program committee had not functioned very effectively in advance of this year's meeting, Bob Fisher guaranteed to mobilize the committee earlier next year. At the request of the Board of Directors, Richard Bovbjerg, whose term on the committee was ending, agreed to serve a full 3 year term.

2. Next Meeting - It was decided to hold the 1978 annual meeting at the Eagle Lake Biological Station of the California State University at Chico. The hosts (Barnett, Lederer and, presumably Ediger) promised to explore the best routes (via Reno or Chico) and times of arrival and departure, and other logistical matters. The dates were set as Thur. Sept. 28 through Sun. Oct. 1, 1978.

3. Report of the AIBS delegate (Robert Dalgleish) - The AIBS now tries to influence the legislative process, and has established a Department of Public Responsibilities. Biologists are the most numerous group of scientists, are the most underpaid and are the most unemployed. While these superlatives are items on which nearly all biologists can easily agree, we have failed to reach a profession-wide consensus on other matters. AIBS continues to solicit our input and our support. Indeed the budget is at a deficit and new members are needed. OBFS members were encouraged to join and support AIBS for their own sake and for the benefit of their students.

Of the 1400 bills before Congress last year, 100 were deemed to be of concern to biologists. A copy of one bill was circulated in a recent OBFS newsletter. Members are encouraged to deliberate on these matters and communicate their views to their representatives.

It was pointed out that OBFS would have improved input ("more clout") in regulatory and legislative processes through increased reliance on AIBS as a vehicle.

Shortly the AIBS presidency will pass to Paul G. Pearson of Rutgers. Dues charged to adherent societies are rising, but as OBFS membership is small, the provision that dues not exceed the rate of \$1. per member still applies to us. OBFS continues its policy of making a voluntary donation sufficient to bring our total contribution to AIBS to \$100.

4. Report of the Editor (Robert Dalgleish) - The editor is striving to maintain a light-hearted and informal tone to this organ. He would like to put a newsletter out as often as 4 times per year, but needs and desires greater input from the members. Consequently, the schedule of appearance may be somewhat irregular.

Those present deemed the course announcement poster which represented offerings at 26 member stations, to have been a most successful and worthwhile effort. It had been distributed to over 2,000 bioscience departments; a notice in Bioscience that the announcement was available, produced additional requests for copies.

To expedite compilation of next years announcement, directors should submit their offerings by early November. Dalgleish suggested that directors should not hesitate to submit material in fear that some listed course might not be available to applicants next spring. Instead it was suggested that directors be prepared to tell applicants of any cancellations of courses and to suggest alternatives. For quite a few stations the subjects taught do not change markedly from one year to the next.

It is essential that preparation of the poster begin early. Anyone having a suitable photograph is encouraged to send it to Bob Dalgleish for consideration.

Concerning the general directory mentioned in the first session, Bob suggested it bear a title resembling - "The Organization of Biological Field Stations Directory." The publishers will print it if we put it together; there is a possibility of a small discount to OBFS members.

Acceptance of the editor's report was moved, seconded and passed.

5. Report of the Nominating Committee (Ediger, Hartman and Tibbs) - The nominating committee proposed a slate of: President - Jennifer Shay; Vice-president - Ed Smith; Secretary-treasurer - Richard Coles. (The posts of Editor and Secretary-treasurer each bear 2-year staggered sentences; Bob Dalgleish will continue on as editor for next year.)

The next newsletter will solicit added nominations and the subsequent newsletter will contain ballots to be returned to the secretary by January 1. After that date the ballots will be counted and the victims notified.

6. Additional New Business - During the non-business portion of the annual meeting, the report of a conference "Long-Term Ecological Measurements" held at Woods Hole, March 16-18, 1977 was discussed. One of the recommendations of the conference was that a committee on long-term ecological measurements be established to serve as liason between the ecological community and NSF. In the business meeting it was suggested, moved and passed that OBFS should be represented as a participant in such deliberations and that President Shay contact Daniel Botkin, chairman of the conference to suggest that Richard Hartman serve in this capacity. In addition NSF will be asked to underwrite his expenses in attending meetings.

It was suggested that stations publishing posters or circulars confine their information to one side of the paper so it can be tacked on a bulletin board. The attachment of small tablets with a preprinted address from which applications or further information may be obtained is also very helpful.

Further it was suggested that member stations producing announcements, pamphlets, etc. should send copies to other members. In this regard the secretary will explore the possibility of distributing xerographically copied mailing labels to the members.

7. There being no further business, the president, on behalf of the members assembled thanked Richard Hartman, our host, for organizing the meeting, hospitality of his staff and facilities, for libations and very tasty refreshments above and beyond the call, and for transportation to points of interest in the vicinity of the Pymatuning Laboratory of Ecology.

8. The meeting was adjourned.

NOTE: MEMBERS WISHING THEIR 1978 COURSES LISTED MUST SUBMIT COURSE TITLES AND DATES OF THE TERMS BY DECEMBER 5TH, TO:

Dr. Robert C. Dalglish
The Edmund Niles Huyck Preserve, Inc.
PO Box 77
Rensselaerville, New York 12147