

**Organization of  
Biological Field Stations**

**Newsletter  
No. 32  
June 1981**

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# OBFS



NUMBER 32

JUNE 1981

Newsletter Editor

Joseph F. Merritt  
Powdermill Nature Reserve  
Carnegie Museum  
Star Route South, Rector, PA 15677

# Newsletter

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I was victorious in the "hotly contested" race for editor. Many thanks to my supporters and to Jeanne Davis for a smooth transition period. I welcome your suggestions for the improvement of our newsletter. JFM



# Organization of Biological Field Stations

## 1981 ANNUAL MEETING

The Edmund Niles Huyck Preserve, Inc.

Rensselaerville, New York 12147

September 25 - 28, 1981

### Tentative Schedule

#### Friday, September 25

Noon - 6:00p.m.	Registration - Institute on Man & Science
5:30 - 6:30	Reception - Weathervane Restaurant
6:30 - 7:30	Dinner - Weathervane Restaurant
8:00 - 9:00	Introduction to the Huyck Preserve
9:00 - ??	Open

#### Saturday, September 26

7:30 - 8:00 a.m.	Breakfast - Weathervane Restaurant
9:00 - 10:00	Research at Huyck - Guggenheim Pavilion
10:00 - noon	Hike through Huyck
Noon - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch - Weathervane Restaurant
1:00 - 3:00	Business Meeting - Guggenheim
3:00 - 5:00	Field Trip
5:30 - 6:30	Happy Hour
6:30 - 7:30	Dinner - Weathervane Restaurant
8:00 - 9:00	Directors Silde Show - Guggenheim

#### Sunday, September 27

7:30 - 8:00 a.m.	Breakfast - Weathervane Restaurant
9:00 - 10:00	Funding for Field Research
11:00 - Noon	Open
Noon - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch
1:00 - 5:00	Biological Field Research: <u>QUO VADIS</u> Thomas Eisner, Cornell University Edward O. Wilson, Harvard University Eugene P. Odum, University of Georgia George H. Lauff, Michigan State University Jermome G. Rozen, Jr., American Museum of Natural Hisotry William J. Hamilton, Jr.
5:30 - 6:30	Reception
6:30 - 7:30	Dinner - Weathervane Restaurant
8:00 - 9:00	Great moments in field researc h

#### Monday, September 28

7:30 - 8:00	Breakfast - Weathervane Restaurant
9:00 - 10:00	Unfinished OBFS Business
10:00 -	Departure

1981 OBFS Annual Meeting

Travel: Rensselaerville is located approximately 30 miles southwest of Albany, New York, on N.Y.S. Highway 85. It takes approximately 45 minutes to reach Rensselaerville by car from Albany County Airport or rail and bus terminals. Cars may be rented at the airport or bus terminal, or a shuttle can be provided to Rensselaerville. The airport is served by U. S. Air, American, Braniff, T.W.A., Eastern and many commuter airlines. Avoid being routed through New York City.

Climate: September is probably the most beautiful month in the Northeast, though the weather is not at all predictable. Temperatures can range from a high of 75°F to low of 40°F, and occasional rain.

Accomodations: Lodging will be at the Conference Center of the Institute on Man and Science. Most rooms are furnished with two twin beds, all have private bathrooms. The Institute is an independent institution located on a portion of the Huyck estate not included within the Preserve.

Meals: Will be served at the Weathervane Restaurant of the Institute on Man and Science. Breakfast is buffet style, lunch and dinner will have a limited menu. Coffee breaks will be scheduled for mid-morning and mid-afternoon each day. Individual meals may be purchased for non-registered guests.

Registration: Lodging and meals for the three days of the conference will cost \$100.00. Please use the registration form below.

Schedule: The attached schedule is tentative. The speakers listed have confirmed their participation. A second program is being developed wherein the role of the news media in promoting conservation and field biology will be explored. Mr. Andy Rooney, television commentator (60 minutes), and a neighbor of the Preserve; Mr. Robin Brown, ATV, London, England, producer of NatureWatch and two other "media" representatives have been invited to participate in the conference. The schedule has been planned to take advantage of the more frequent flights eastward in the morning and westward in afternoons. Early arrivals and those who wish to stay longer are welcome, and accomodations will be provided on the station at no cost.

Field trips: Biologists familiar with the Huyck Preserve and its flora and fauna will be available to lead field trips within the Preserve or to nearby areas of interest. A guide will be provided describing the habitats through which one passes while enroute from the airport to the Preserve. With the exception of the Wolf and Mountain Lion, all precolonial mammals are found on the Preserve.

detatch

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Pre-registration: From \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I will (will not) attend the 1981 Annual Meeting, September 25 - 28, 1981.

I will (will not) require transportation from Albany Co., Airport.

I will require accomodations for \_\_\_\_\_ persons.

Tentative travel plans: by car; by air, \_\_\_\_\_ line, flight # \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_, time: \_\_\_\_\_

## MT. EVANS RESEARCH STATION

Echo Lake Laboratory was established in 1936 for high altitude cosmic ray research. After WW II an A-frame building was constructed at the summit of Mt. Evans and Doolittle Ranch was purchased to house the families of researchers. A consortium of several universities built and used the present laboratories and dormitory at Echo Lake. During the summer months scientists overflowed into tents and trailers. Biologists with their experimental animals (goats, pigs, rats, mice and humans) were crowded in with physicists with their cloud chambers and other cosmic ray devices. This strange mixture produced some wierd experiences for both groups.

With the development of "atom smashers" for the physicists and large pressure chambers for the physiologists the pace of activity slowed. The University of Denver (a private university), which through the years had served as the caretaker institution, became the sole owner of the facilities. It is now developing the newly named Mt. Evans Research Station for classes and research in field oriented biology without diminishing its usefulness for high altitude physics and astronomy.

There has been no attempt to publicize the station for several years. Researchers and professors from the University of Denver have used it on a day or weekend basis (one hour from the campus) but there have been no summer programs or intensive use by researchers from other institutions. Hopefully this will now change. A course "Ecology in the Rockies" is being offered this summer to be followed by an aquatic oligochaete workshop in August. The brochure enclosed with the newsletter is being mailed to biology departments throughout the United States.

The budget for the station in its inactive condition is approximately \$18,000 a year which includes salary and housing costs for a caretaker. This has been covered by the university. As the projected use increases the fees received will be used to help meet the higher operating costs. There is no anticipation that the station will ever cover its operating expenses because of the short season for maximum use.

We will welcome a visit from you if you are ever in the area.

## THE LEONA M. SUNDQUIST MARINE LABORATORY AT SHANNON POINT

Sundquist Marine Laboratory (SML) is located on 73 wooded acres on Shannon Point in Anacortes, Washington. The property includes a five-acre freshwater pond and 2900 feet of saltwater frontage along Guemes Channel, a part of Georgia Straits--Puget Sound. The laboratory building includes 52 seatables served by a continuously flowing seawater system, a lecture room, two student laboratories and individual research spaces. Unfortunately, on site housing is not yet available though an appropriation is being sought from the state legislature. However motels, campsites and occasional private rentals are available in the vicinity.

The laboratory was established by the state of Washington to serve a consortium of public colleges and universities. Current members are Eastern Washington University, Central Washington University, The Evergreen State College, Edmonds Community College, Everett Community College, Skagit Valley College and Western Washington University which administers the facility.

SML operates year-round and is first and foremost an undergraduate instructional facility though some research is encouraged. While marine sciences are the primary focus, terrestrial and freshwater studies are also appropriate.

The faculty is reasonably well equipped for most laboratory and field work: a modest library, compound and dissecting microscopes, analytical instrumentation (e.g. meters for pH, multiple temperature sensing, dissolved oxygen, salinity), drying oven, muffle furnace, centrifuge, nets, dredges, sampling bottles, etc. A variety of boats are available for on the water work e.g. Boston Whaler, 17' Navy whalers, 17 1/2' Fiber Form (85 h.p. Johnson), 36' x 12' Diesel Powered Trawler-"The Leona III" built in 1979. SML is spacious enough and equipped sufficiently to accomodate groups of 25 students quite well.

SML is a service center possessing no faculty. All courses and programs originate on the consortium campuses and are taught at the laboratory as though it were a part of that school. Programs vary from term to term but the schedule for Summer 1981 is illustrative of the laboratory's purpose:

- Water Quality Analytical Techniques for the High School Teacher
- Special Projects in Water Quality
- Field Marine Biology
- Survey of Coastal Fishes
- Survey of Marine Algae
- Coral Reef Biology (offered on Maui, but equipped and arranged by SML)

During the typical academic year courses in Marine Ecology, Marine Invertebrate Physiology, Coastal Environmental Assessment, Ichthyology, Marine Biology for the Public, General Marine Biology, etc. are offered. Also public school groups frequently tour the facility and numerous groups use the laboratory boats for field excursions into the San Juan islands.

Research at SML includes the following topics: Effects of various petroleum fractions on controlled marine communities; The ecological development of an artificial reef; The study of marine communities near sewage outfalls; intertidal lichens; Population analyses of intertidal crabs; Effects of oil on oyster growth and development; and The behaviour of various marine invertebrates. Moreover, water quality data are routinely kept and are available to interested parties.

For further information contact Charles J. Flora, Director, Aquatic Studies, Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA. 98225. Phone (206) 676-3510



# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

MAY 12 1981

IN REPLY REFER TO:

W350

Dr. Robert C. Dalgleish  
President, Organization of Biological Field Stations  
The Edmund Niles Huyck Preserve, Inc.  
Rensselaerville, New York 12147

Dear Dr. Dalgleish:

Mr. Arthur Stewart of the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service has referred to me your letter to him of April 20, 1981. The functions of the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service (HCRS) and those of the National Park Service (NPS) are in the process of being consolidated, in accord with an order issued on February 19, 1981, by Secretary of the Interior James G. Watt. This consolidation is scheduled to be completed by May 31, 1981.

At this time, it appears likely that the National Natural Landmarks program presently administered by HCRS will be included among my program responsibilities as the Associate Director for Science and Technology in NPS. We believe this particular activity of HCRS, which primarily involves identifying and encouraging the conservation of significant natural areas outside of the Federal land management establishment, will complement the scientific research, planning, and management activities which we are presently conducting within the National Park System.

While HCRS has not published the Directory of Research Natural Areas to which you refer in your letter (I believe this Directory was published by the Federal Committee on Ecological Reserves in 1977), they have recently published an updated listing of all the 537 natural landmarks currently listed on the National Registry of Natural Landmarks. As several of these landmarks are nature preserves, research natural areas, or university research stations, I have enclosed a copy of the Registry for your information.

Since coming to the Park Service it has been one of my particular interests to try to increase our cooperative activities with the non-federal scientific community. The need for such cooperation and interaction is even more important in light of current economic conditions and the Administration's intent to reduce the Federal budget. If we are to improve our understanding and management of the unique natural features with which we have been entrusted, while, at the same time, reduce the level of Federal monies and manpower devoted to this effort, we must be able to rely on the expertise of groups such as the Organization of Biological Field Stations.




Dr. Robert C. Dalgleish

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On behalf of the National Park Service and HCRS, thank you for the invitation to have a representative attend your annual meeting. We will try to do so if at all possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard H. Briceland". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, looping initial "R".

Richard H. Briceland  
Associate Director for  
Science & Technology

Enclosure

National Registry of Natural Landmarks, Heritage Conservation & Recreation Service  
Federal Register 45(232):79698-79723, Monday, Dec. 1, 1980

## MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 1. 38th Annual meeting, Society for Industrial Microbiology

Location: Medical College of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia

Dates: 10-14 August, 1981

Subject: Symposium will cover hydrocarbon microbiology, wine making, protoplasts, actinomycetes, monoclonal antibodies and mycotoxins.

Contact: If interested, contact Ms. Ann Kulback, Society for Industrial Microbiology, 1401 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, Virginia 22209.

### 2. International Colloquium: Winter Ecology of Small Mammals

Location: Powdermill Nature Reserve, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Star Route South, Rector, PA 15677

Dates: 14-18 October 1981

Subject: Ecology of winter-active small mammals, emphasizing subnivean (below the snow) dynamics and adaptive strategies of small mammals in coping with harsh winter environments. Disciplines include functional morphology, behavior, plant and animal physiology and population ecology. Invited participants; proceedings will be published in the Bulletin of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History.

Contact: Joseph F. Merritt, Organizing chairman  
Powdermill Nature Reserve, Carnegie Museum, Star Route South, Rector, PA 15677

OBFS MEMBERS: Do you plan to host a conference? I will be happy to announce your conference in our newsletter.

X. for comment only

POPULATION ESTIMATES NEEDED

Over the past several years the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has developed a habitat-based assessment methodology called the Habitat Evaluation Procedures (HEP). Habitat models for selected wildlife species have been constructed for use in evaluating habitat suitability, one component of HEP. These models are currently being evaluated and refined in tests conducted by the Fish and Wildlife Service and the the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers.

This notice is a request for aid in locating species population estimates which will be suitable for model testing. Data should have been collected over at least a 3-year period using consistent techniques, and be from a location accessible by researchers to allow collection of data to apply the model. The data must be sufficiently current that habitat measurements taken in 1981 reflect the conditions at the time the population estimates were made.

Eight species are of immediate concern; individuals with information on the whereabouts of population estimates for any of them are asked to respond (see form below)

- |                           |                    |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Eastern gray squirrel     | Eastern meadowlark |
| Eastern fox squirrel      | Pine warbler       |
| Hairy woodpecker          | Indigo bunting     |
| Scissor-tailed flycatcher | Field sparrow      |

An additional 54 species will be considered for testing in the future:

- |                          |                              |                         |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Eastern cottontail       | Eastern box turtle           | Green heron             |
| Snowshoe hare            | Eastern yellow-bellied racer | American woodcock       |
| Red squirrel             | Central newt                 | Mourning dove           |
| Beaver                   | Bullfrog                     | Great horned owl        |
| White-footed mouse       | Wood frog                    | Barred owl              |
| Eastern woodrat          | Blue-winged teal             | Belted kingfisher       |
| Southern red-backed vole | Wood duck                    | Common flicker          |
| Meadow vole              | Cooper's hawk                | Downy woodpecker        |
| Muskrat                  | Ferruginous hawk             | Black-capped chickadee  |
| Raccoon                  | Red-tailed hawk              | Carolina chickadee      |
| Mink                     | Broad-winged hawk            | White-breasted nuthatch |
| Bobcat                   | Prairie falcon               | Long-billed marsh wren  |
| Elk                      | American kestrel             | Wood thrush             |
| Mule deer                | Turkey                       | Veery                   |
| White-tailed deer        | Ruffed grouse                | Yellow warbler          |
| Moose                    | Sharp-tailed grouse          | Northern waterthrush    |
| Antelope                 | Sage grouse                  | Red-winged blackbird    |
| Snapping turtle          | Bobwhite                     | Brewer's sparrow        |

TO: Jean Hunt, EL  
USAE Waterways Experiment Station  
P. O. Box 631  
Vicksburg, MS 39180

Telephone (601) 634-3641 or FTS 542-3641

I am aware of population estimates for the following species: \_\_\_\_\_

Data are from the state(s) of \_\_\_\_\_

Information is enclosed.  
Call me at ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

FROM: