

**Organization of Inland
Biological Field Stations**

**Newsletter
No. 6
April 1968**

OIBFS NEWSLETTER



CHARTER MEMBERS

Loren Putnam reports (4/16/68) 34 charter members as follows:
M. Dale Arvey, University of the Pacific; Robert L. Birch, West Virginia University; Richard V. Bovbjerg, University of Iowa; L. Floyd Clarke, University of Wyoming; J. B. Cragg, The University of Calgary; Robert C. Dalglish, The Edmund Niles Huyck Preserve, Inc.; John Davis University of California; Robert V. Drexler, Wilderness Field Station; Millicent S. Ficken, University of Wisconsin--Milwaukee; Cameron E. Gifford, Earlham College; Mary K. Hartz, Muskegon Community College; William T. Helm, Utah State University; Loren G. Hill, University of Oklahoma; Matthew H. Hohn, Central Michigan University; Thelma Howell, The Highlands Biological Station, Inc.; Donald Hunsaker, San Diego State College; Mario Iona, University of Denver; J. D. Ives, University of Colorado; George H. Lauff, Michigan State University; James N. Layne, American Museum of Natural History; William H. Marshall, University of Minnesota; George R. Maxwell, State University College at Oswego; Richard L. Meyer, Chico State College; John G. New, State University College; John D. Parsons, Southern Illinois University; Loren S. Putnam, Ohio State University; Carl D. Riggs, University of Oklahoma; Vincent D. Roth, American Museum of Natural History; A. Randolph Shields, Field Biology Teaching & Research Center; Richard Solberg, University of Montana; Frederick K. Sparrow, University of Michigan; C. A. Tryon, University of Pittsburgh; Jennifer M. Walker, University of Manitoba; John E. Warnock, Western Illinois University.

This is an encouraging response and indicates the need for the organization. The geographical spread is excellent and will provide a wide base for any activities the organization may undertake.

List of Staff Members, Station Directors and Stations:

Three lists have been prepared, (1) directors arranged alphabetically with their station numbers, (2) stations with their code numbers and (3) 1966, 1967 and 1968 staff members with their professional field and station numbers. All three lists and number codes will be sent free to dues paying members of OIBFS. For all others the lists are \$1.00. Make check to OIBFS and send to Arch Tryon. There are over 200 names on the staff list.

ANNUAL MEETING
Sept. 6 - Sept. 8
Franz-Theodore Stone Laboratory
Put-in-Bay, Ohio

Arrangements:

The meeting will extend from Friday evening to Sunday noon. Those who come by car should drive to the Catawba Ferry dock. Cars can be left at the dock. The nearest airport is Toledo, 50 miles from the ferry. If arrivals at the airport can be grouped, Loren Putnam may be able to provide transportation from the airport. Transportation may also be possible from the AIBS meeting in Columbus.

Please notify Loren Putnam at the earliest possible moment, even if your plans are tentative. It will not be possible to arrange group transportation from Toledo and Columbus otherwise. Loren will not be able to provide accommodations for wives or camp followers. If you bring any along, query Loren as to where they can be stashed during the meetings.

President W. H. Marshall: Call for Program:

This is a call for suggestions as to subjects. We should try to organize an in-depth-discussion of at least several basic problems involved in station activities as well as sessions where ideas about operations are discussed. In the past two meetings, the discussions have largely centered about stations with teaching programs. I believe this has been too one-sided since the stations which have research programs as their major activity certainly could have a worthwhile session directed towards their type of operation.

Please send suggestions to W. H. Marshall as to topics which you wish discussed and names of people you would like to see lead the discussion.

ELECTIONS

The present Board of Directors is a temporary arrangement. A President, President-Elect, Secretary-Treasurer, and Editor will be elected prior to the annual meeting, September 6-8, at Put-in-Bay, Ohio.

On February 23, 1968, the following nominating committee was appointed by President Marshall: R. L. Birch, West Virginia; J. E. Warnock, Western Illinois; and Dale Arvey, University of the Pacific.

According to Bylaw 4, these men "shall accept nominations from any three members." If you desire to make such nominations please do so (with two other members) and send as soon as possible to Dr. R. L. Birch, West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia 26505.

The election date shall be set for August 1, 1968. A notification as to nominations will be sent to all members for a mail vote by July 1.

THE IBP AND THE OIBFS

George Lauff, in response to a recommendation made at the 1967 annual meeting, has diligently mined information and forwarded it to the editor. Despite George's efforts, specific information as to the immediate status of IBP is not easily stated. Since the idea of IBP was hatched in 1959, it has somehow survived a difficult gestation and parturition to emerge in the U. S. as a child of the National Academy of Sciences. A series of reorganizations have kept IBP in a state of flux but it now appears to be stabilizing.

It is impossible to review the history of IBP in this space but fortunately a good account of the history, aims and organization of IBP has been produced by the House Subcommittee on Science, Research and Development of the Committee on Science and Astronautics of the U. S. Congress. (By all means obtain a copy of this from your representative or write the subcommittee chairman, E. Q. Daddario. Indicate your interest in the IBP at the same time.) While the report lists nine subcommittees which cover a wide variety of ecological interests, there are two key statements which indicate a narrowing and focusing of IBP aims.

(1) One of the existing integrated research projects (p. 37) is titled Analysis of Ecosystems (p. 50) and its description contains this statement:

"In a sense, this is the central core of the U. S. IBP effort. It is representative of what the whole IBP effort is trying to achieve and stands as an example of the elaborate planning required in a modern systems-model approach to complex functions."

(2) The second statement is given on p. 65 in the section on costs and funding: "Recent information indicates that an attempt is underway to reduce the size and cost of the IBP by consolidating the major projects into a single program consistent with the theme of ecosystem analysis." (My emphasis.) This probably means that the research of greatest interest to OIBFS members will be developed and integrated by the Analysis of Ecosystems research project. An organization chart for this project is given (p. 52, Daddario report). The director of the project is Dr. Frederick E. Smith, School of Natural Resources, University of Michigan and the coordinator is J. A. Kadlec of the same institution. You can be placed on the mailing list for releases from this office by writing to Dr. Smith.

George Lauff feels that biological stations having staff, facilities, or environments that could contribute to some facet of IBP activities, would have to assume the initiative in contacting the appropriate Biome Directors. For the six Biome Projects listed under the research program on the Analysis of Ecosystems, two biome directors have been chosen: George Van Dyne, Colorado State University, Grasslands and Frank Pitelka, University of California, Tundra. However for the deciduous forest Helmut Leith, University of North Carolina, is chairman of a coordinating committee and Paul Zinke, School of Forestry and Conservation, University of California, is chairman of the coordinating committee for the coniferous biome (Western).

The possible role of OIBFS in acting as an agent for members, or as a voice for the entire group, should be discussed at the 1968 meeting. Perhaps there should be Ecosystem Experiment Stations, financed on a permanent basis, to examine ecosystem changes along altitudinal-latitude grids.

Surely the member stations of OIBFS provide a starting point for this approach.

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF
SPECIALIZED FACILITIES AND SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS
OF NSF

Prepared by Dr. W. H. Marshall, President, OIBFS for
Dr. Frank Blair, Advisory Committee, Division of
Biology & Medicine, National Science Foundation

The Organization of Inland Field Biology Stations is acutely aware of the very significant contributions made by the Specialized Facilities and Specialized Programs Division of the National Science Foundation. The Directors of some 20 field stations have met twice and on each occasion the importance of these programs has become abundantly clear. To cite a few examples, the facilities and programs at stations in North Carolina, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Oklahoma, Montana, Colorado, Utah and California have made major advancements over the past decade as a result of support from this Division.

The Organization recognizes that field stations are the foci where universities and other research organizations bring the investigators and students into contact with natural living systems. Field stations are where the basic biological problems which underly the pressing questions of pollution, destructive land use, and burgeoning populations can be studied in detail and student training be accomplished under natural conditions. In effect, we bring the resources of many biologists to bear on research within the ecosystems of natural habitats.

Such research now requires modern equipment, buildings for year round work, and program funding in a degree equivalent to that available at the central educational and research installations. By necessity the latter either are located in urban areas or by their size destroy the natural areas in their vicinity. Thus, they must concentrate on laboratory phenomena.

The Specialized Facilities and Program Division has been the vehicle for Field Stations to present their specific needs, receive reviews and obtain support for programs directed to these needs, receive reviews and obtain support for programs directed to these needs. By the nature of these programs, large student bodies cannot be used to justify them. As a result, support in direct competition with "home" institutions is difficult to obtain. With increasingly larger total university and college enrollments, this situation will intensify. However, equally important is the need to demonstrate and study ecological problems as they exist in nature.

In the last few months, we have learned of many newly planned Field Biology Stations indicating clearly an increasing interest on the part of the universities and colleges throughout the country. The importance of this NSF Division is indeed self-evident to this group which anticipates even greater emphasis on field studies. We believe that the demands for information on environmental biology will grow and that the shortage of trained field biologists will become more acute. This clearly calls for expanded programs of support.

BRIEF NOTES

Don Hunsaker reports that he and Bob Dalglish are making good progress on the North American Field Station Directory. They would like information on any new facilities that you may know about.

The attempt to obtain a scientist from abroad to visit ten stations was not successful. The chief difficulty seemed to be the amount of time (40 days) required although the remuneration was generally considered very good. Dr. Macan of the Freshwater Biological Station in England indicated he might be interested another year. Bill Marshall was able to arrange a visit to Minnesota, Manitoba and Montana by Dr. George Dunnet, an ornithologist from Aberdeen. Bill suggests you come to the September meeting with plans for a visitor in 1969.

Dr. James Layne has been appointed director of the Archbold Biological Station and is also serving as Curator for the Archbold Expeditions, Department of Mammalogy, American Museum. He was formerly in the section of Ecology and Systematics, Cornell University. He reports that the Archbold Station is expanding its research program with emphasis on vertebrate populations and the physiological and behavioral adaptations of small mammals. A new laboratory has been equipped for this work.

Dr. John New, Biology Department, State University College, Oneonta, New York reports that a field station will be placed on 340 acres fronting on Otsego Lake. The first building will be constructed this summer. Primary emphasis will be on ecosystems research in terrestrial and aquatic ecology.

Dr. A. Randolph Shields is director of a new Field Biology Teaching and Research Center which is operated by MACCI (Mid-Appalachia College Council, Inc.) LaFollette, Tennessee 37766. The latter is a consortium of 12 regional colleges. They will have temporary structures for this summer and are completing plans for a permanent installation. A NSF grant has been received for this. Bob Birch has acted as a consultant for the group on the station. An account of this appeared in the Morgantown paper and may be the first mention of OIBFS in the mass media.

Dr. W. Frank Blair, who is a member of the advisory committee for the Division of Biology and Medicine, National Science Foundation, has been writing a position paper on the need for increased support of the Specialized Facilities and Specialized Programs. This program has been cut in the budgets of recent years and it is one that is vital to the field station effort. By all means give Dr. Blair any assistance that you can.

Arch Tryon has run a brief survey on the magnitude of the field station effort in North America. Returns are not complete but the results from 18 stations are as follows. The amounts would at least be doubled when all returns are received.

Annual Expenditures (1967)

Salaries	217,775
Equipment	140,100
Supplies	49,183
Maintenance	<u>52,598</u>
	459,656

Capital Investment

Buildings	1,802,943
Equipment	512,000
Improvements	<u>442,250</u>

2,757,193