

**Organization of  
Biological Field Stations**

**Newsletter  
No. 60  
June 1995**

# OBFSNews

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The Quarterly Newsletter of the Organization of Biological Field Stations • June 1995

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## 1995 OBFS Annual Meeting

21-24 September

Treehaven Biological Field Station  
University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point  
"Venture North to the Great Lakes Forest of  
Wisconsin"

- by *Corky McReynolds, Director of Treehaven*

### General Information

The 1995 OBFS annual meeting will be held September 21-24 at the Treehaven Biological Station of the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point, College of Natural Resources. Treehaven is the result of a generous gift from Dorothy and Jacques Vallier. Their donation of 1400 acres of beautiful north woods to the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point Foundation fulfilled a need to find a permanent home for the summer session. Treehaven has since grown to be "Wisconsin's center for the integration of natural resource education, research and recreation." Treehaven's multipurpose, year-round design, flexible facilities and location provide a beautiful and unique setting for public workshops, conferences, university courses, meetings, education-oriented seminars and inservices, school environmental programs, Elderhostels, public naturalist programs for youth and adults, and public special events exploring natural, historical and cultural features of the northwoods. Further, Treehaven's trails can be enjoyed throughout the year, leading to natural settings with an abundance of wildlife.

The regular program will begin on Friday with a business meeting, formal presentations, and a logger's outdoor picnic and concert. Saturday will include field trips to other biological field stations and more meetings. A registration form is enclosed. We urge you to make your reservation as soon as possible, but no later than August 15. Don't miss the opportunity to join us for the pre-meeting excursion into the wild and scenic Sylvania

Wilderness and Recreation Area in Upper Michigan's Ottawa National Forest.

### Travel

If flying, route to Rhinelander/Oneida County Airport serviced by United Express and Northwest Airlinck. Treehaven is 16 miles from the airport. Registration includes transportation from and to the Rhinelander airport and Treehaven. Car rentals are also available.

If driving, head north on Highway 51 to Tomohawk. Treehaven is located between the towns of Tomohawk and Rhinelander, Wisconsin, off county road 'A'.

### Accommodations

Occupancy of Treehaven is limited to 112 people. Treehaven rooms will be allotted on a first-come, first-serve basis. Each carpeted room contains two sets of bunkbeds and table with chairs. The bathroom is just down the hall. Occupancy will be two per room. If you prefer to stay at a local motel, you may wish to contact June or Anne at Treehaven to obtain a list of facilities. Their number is (715)453-4106.

### What To Bring

For those of you attending your first OBFS meeting, dress is informal. [*Ed. note: for the rest of you, we expect black tie...*] We encourage you to bring clothing appropriate for both cool and warm temperatures. If you will be joining us for the excursion to the Sylvania Wilderness Area, make sure to wear layers, comfortable shoes or hiking boots, and pack rain gear. You may also wish to bring your camera, and those of you who enjoy fishing, don't forget your pole.

### Cost

There are two meeting packages to choose from. The first includes the pre-meeting field trip into Sylvania Wilderness Area and the second does not. Both packages do include all your meals,

lodging, linens and transportation to and from the airport.

OBFS Annual Meeting and Sylvania Wilderness Area field trip: \$255  
OBFS Annual Meeting: \$205

### Why Not To Miss the Sylvania Wilderness and Recreation Area Field Trip...

Sylvania is a beautiful combination of lakes and old growth forests spread out over 21,000 acres. This tremendous wilderness is located in the Ottawa National Forest in Ironwood, Michigan. The forests of maple, birch, hemlock and associated species of northern hardwoods and scattered pine, spruce and fir are still largely virgin timber. The autumn foliage is spectacular.

The water quality of the lakes is as high or higher than most inland lakes in the United States. The chemical character of many of the lakes is that of rainwater. Their transparency is seldom exceeded in lakes of other regions. It is sometimes possible to see the lake bottom in as much as 30 feet of water.

Fish populations are similar to what might have been found in the western Upper Peninsula by the first settlers. Most fish, though relatively large, are quite old. The lakes contain limited numbers of bass, lake trout, walleye, northern pike, perch and sunfish. Michigan fishing licenses are required and special regulations prevail.

Mammals of the area include white tail deer, black bear, racoon, skunk, beaver, otter, muskrat, porcupine, coyote, fox, mink, chipmunk and

### Workshop Highlights

- Experience Wisconsin's Northwoods as the season changes
- Learn about College of Natural Resources integral undergraduate program at Treehaven
- Attributes of leadership and implications for field station directors
- Visit the new labs of the 7000-acre University of Notre Dame Environmental Research Center and the LTER programs of Trout Lake Station
- Adventure into the Upper Peninsula of Michigan for a fall canoe tour of Sylvania Wilderness (optional field trip)
- OBFS annual business meeting
- Plenty of Wisconsin's favorite beverage (beer?), brats and cheese

squirrel. A variety of water and forest birds including eagle, loon and osprey can be seen in their natural habitat.

### Air Travel Information for the 1995 OBFS Meeting

Northwest Airlink is arranging for 30-seat planes to leave Minneapolis airport, destined for Rhinelander, at the following times:

weekdays - 9:25 a.m. and 1:05 p.m.

Saturday - 11:20 a.m.

For your return trip, Northwest Airlink will have flights departing from Rhinelander to Minneapolis at:

Sunday - 10:50 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

Monday - 10:50 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

By arranging your travel to utilize these airlink services, your flight will be more pleasant, your luggage will be able to stay with you, and Treehaven shuttle services will be more efficient. If you have any questions regarding Northwest Airlink, give Treehaven a call. We will assist you in any way we can.

### Program Schedule

#### Wednesday Sept. 20 - Pre-meeting arrivals

12:00-5:00 p.m. Registration

5:00 p.m. Reception

6:00 p.m. Dinner

#### Thursday Sept. 21 - Pre-meeting arrivals

7:00 a.m. Breakfast

8:30 a.m. Departure for pre-meeting field trip to Sylvania Wilderness Area

#### Thursday Sept. 21 - All other arrivals

12:00-5:00 p.m. Registration

5:00 p.m. Reception

6:00 p.m. Dinner

8:00 p.m. Executive Committee and Committee Chairs meet

#### Friday Sept. 22

7:00 a.m. Breakfast

8:00 a.m. Welcome: Alan Haney, Dean, College of Natural Resources: "Integration of Natural Resource Education"

10:00 a.m. Break

10:15 a.m. Business meeting Part I

12:00 p.m. Lunch

1:00 p.m. NSF update

3:00 p.m. Tour of Treehaven facilities

4:15 p.m. Committee meetings

6:00 p.m. Outdoor logger's dinner and concert

**Saturday Sept. 23**

- 7:00 a.m. Breakfast
- 8:00 a.m. Business meeting II
- 10:00 a.m. Break
- 10:30 a.m. Field trip to University of Notre Dame's Environmental Research Center and Trout Lake Station. Includes a program and panel discussion on innovative educational activities at field stations, chaired by Dave Mahan from Au Sable Institute.
- 6:15 p.m. Dinner
- 9:00 p.m. Slides from stations (10 slide limit strictly enforced!)

**Sunday Sept. 24**

- 7:00 a.m. Breakfast
- 8:00 a.m. Business meeting III
- 10:00 a.m. Departure

**Publications Available from OBFS**

Over the years the OBFS has produced several publications. Most are available from Dr. Richard Coles, OBFS Secretary, Tyson Research Center, P.O. Box 351, Eureka, MO 63025, ph. (314)935-8430. If there is a charge, it is mentioned below.

1. OBFS brochure
2. OBFS poster listing summer field opportunities
3. OBFS Directory of member stations (\$10)
4. Gorentz, J.B., ed. 1992. Data Management at Biological Field Stations and Coastal Marine Laboratories. 110 pp.
5. Lohr, S.A. et al. 1995. A New Horizon for Biological Field Stations and Marine Laboratories. Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory, Miscellaneous Publication No. 3. 36 pp. (available from Susan Lohr, RMBL, Box 519, Crested Butte, CO 81224).

**Registration Form**

Please photocopy this form and return it before August 15th. If you are receiving this newsletter via email, please print this out and mail it. Send your check with the completed registration to:

OBFS Annual Meeting 1995  
2450 Pickerel Creek Rd.  
Treehaven, WI 54487

Name:  
Title:  
Mailing Address:

Phone:  
FAX:

- Check one:
- OBFS Annual Meeting and Sylvania Wilderness Area field trip, \$255
  - OBFS Annual Meeting, \$205

Would you like meatless entrees?  
(Circle one) Yes No  
Would you require transportation to and from airport? (Circle one) Yes No

**We'll see you in September!!! If you have any questions call (715)453-4106**

**Note From OBFSNews Editor**

*-by Susan Lohr*

I take keyboard in hand to welcome you to what I hope will become a quarterly newsletter. I want this to be **your** newsletter, not just mine, so please send me notes, columns, announcements, suggestions, etc. so I can pass them along. I'm hoping to create a written forum of the same informal and interactive nature that we experience at our annual meetings. One of the most rewarding aspects of OBFS is the collegiality, and I hope we can continue that relationship through the year.

It is traditional for the June newsletter to concentrate on imparting information about our annual meeting. Please read the presentation carefully that came from Treehaven, and send in your registration form as soon as possible. It sounds like a productive and fun meeting, with the added benefit of the beautiful fall colors in the north woods. If you have never attended OBFS meetings, you should know that they are informative, informal and interactive. There are many opportunities to meet other field station administrators and learn from each other. Our meetings are also known for spending more time outside than inside, which keeps us field biologists happy.

It will be difficult to step into the shoes of Joe Merritt, who was editor of this newsletter for many

years. I want to take this opportunity to thank Joe for his efforts on behalf of OBFS, as witnessed through his newsletter productions. It will be especially difficult to top the color selection that he evolved...that bilious green that he thought was pink will be famous for a long time.

## Book Reviews

This column will appear periodically, mentioning publications that may be of interest to OBFS members. Contributions are welcome!

**"Journal of Small Flows"** - (review by Susan Lohr). This is a free quarterly publication from the National Small Flows Clearinghouse (West Virginia University, P.O. Box 6064, Morgantown, WV 26506-6064). I have found it a great help in evaluating small waste disposal systems, especially at high altitude. Topics also cover water quality issues, water supply and treatment systems, and alternative approaches to sewage disposal. Case studies are provided in appropriate detail. I recommend it to all site managers who are responsible for their own water supply and disposal systems. Subscriptions may be requested by writing to the above address.

## OBFS and the Internet

- by Mark Stromberg, Hastings Natural History Reserve

[Ed. Note: Mark will provide a column for each issue of OBFSNews that discusses various aspects of Internet use by field stations. If you want to contact him directly, his email address is "stromber@violet.berkeley.edu"]

### Hints for OBFS Member Access to the Internet

Until about a year ago, navigating "the Internet" was like rounding Cape Horn to get to California. Travel in cyberspace is easier now; you can get to California on a commercial jetliner. For most academic staff associated with universities, the ride is almost free. Software called "Netscape" or "Mosaic" is your ticket to ride to gopher sites, using "ftp" to download data, downloading pictures, sounds, movies and much more. Internet now means having only two large bits of software; your favorite e-mail slave and Netscape (or rough equivalents like Mosaic).

For many of us, access to e-mail continues to be a very important part of the net. If you are in an academic setting, go to your computer department, get "an account" and modem. When you set up your account, ask for a "ppp" connection. Purchase the fastest modem you can; those from Global Village are consistently dependable. If you buy a new one, it will have all the newest compression routines. For e-mail software, academics can often obtain a copy of "Eudora" for free; otherwise it is worth purchasing (IBM and Mac versions) from QualComm (1-800-238-3672).

Eudora is among the best, most user-friendly of the e-mail software I have seen. If you have a local phone number to dial for your campus account, you are now set for e-mail. If you have no campus support, check at a computer store nearby to see if a local private company is providing internet access accounts. Thousands of small companies are springing up who provide you up to 20 hours/month for about \$20/month based on a local phone call. Again, you should ask for a "ppp" account.

For those of us at remote field stations, our campus connections are often only accessible via a long distance phone call on the modem. Eudora will let you compose all your e-mail, then connect only long enough to download new messages and send out your new messages. This is a workable alternative for many. If your long distance charges are steep, and you don't have a local internet provider, you might consider purchasing an account at CompuServe or America On Line. For about \$10/month, CompuServe will now provide "ppp" connections in addition to good software for e-mail and other commercial services (movie reviews, news summaries, weather reports, etc.). CompuServe is at 1-800-848-8990, or look in your local phone book.

Netscape (NetCom: 415/528-2555 ) or Mosaic are software packages which include a lot of supporting programs (movies, sound, pictures, FTP, gopher). Call Netscape to obtain the name of a vendor near you; the program is basically free to anyone in academics. You could also ask at your computer source (campus, etc.) Once you have a "ppp" account, let Netscape use your modem to call in to your account (even a CompuServe account). Note that you remain connected while you begin to browse around the internet. So, a local connection becomes really important, unless money is no object. But the net viewer (Netscape) lets you open literally millions of "home pages". This really IS the internet.

Each "homepage" is a screen that can be scrolled and includes pictures, sounds, and best-connections to other pages. Anything that is underlined on a page can be "clicked" and will call up a different page. Each of these pages have a "URL" or a unique electronic address. You can save "URL"s by adding them to your "bookmarks" once you find a good one. Once you get Netscape up running, just fool around. It is self-explanatory. You can go back and forth between pages. There are some wonderful pages which let you search the 38 million URLs now registered. One of these net-searchers is named "Lycos" (hunting spider...). Another wonderful index to the net is "Yahoo". Use the Netscape Home Page (<http://home.netscape.com/>) to find Yahoo.

OBFS now has a home page. It is on the Jasper computer, maintained by Stanford University. Our OBFS address (or URL) is now: <http://jasper.stanford.edu/OBFS/>  
Thanks to Phillippe Cohen for the server, to Eric Rainbolt for building the home page, and to Ken Chang (Stanford) who has been a great help in getting the details straight.

On the OBFS home page, we have a map of all the member stations in the currently printed OBFS directory. Click on the region in the country where you want information, and a new page clicks open with a list of all the member station names. Click on one of the station names, and the text entry from the last OBFS directory pops up. If your station has a home page (for instance, see the Hastings Reserve home page, or the University of California Natural Reserve System [www.ucop.edu/DANR/nrs/nrs.html](http://www.ucop.edu/DANR/nrs/nrs.html)). We can add a link to your home page in your station text entry. We can quickly update your station manager name, phone number, address, fax number, etc. We will be announcing this home page soon in the ECONET and ECOLOG discussion groups.

In addition to the directory of station members, we included links to other interesting ecological URLs (compliments of UC-Davis). We will have a place for you to click and read the OBFS newsletters, and another place to click for special announcements for OBFS members.

We need your help in updating the home page. Please send your URL's for home pages, and updated station information to: Mark Stromberg at "stromber@violet.berkeley.edu" (Hastings Natural History Reserve) or Philippe Cohen at "hf.pcn@forsythe.stanford.edu" (Jasper Ridge Preserve).

We also need basic text information for the following stations:

IL Kaskaskia Biological Station  
Kansas Ecological Reserves  
George Reserve  
El Verde Field Station, Puerto Rico

We look forward to hearing from you and are pleased to have OBFS move into the modern information network.

## **Joint OBFS/NAML Workshop Held** *-by Susan Lohr*

The OBFS received National Science Foundation funding in March to hold a workshop with the National Association of Marine Laboratories, to assess the needs of field stations and marine labs for the next decade. The enclosed publication is the result of that workshop. Many OBFS members returned the comprehensive survey sent out in January, which generated the information that provided a foundation for the workshop. Your prompt replies and general support were greatly appreciated. We are still working on a more detailed compilation of survey results, which will be ready for the annual OBFS meeting, so if you haven't yet returned your survey please do so.

The publication resulting from the workshop has been well received by NSF, and we have heard there may be some expanded funding opportunities forthcoming. You may each have other uses for this document, such as for your university administration, potential donors, the staff of your local senator or representative, or your grandmother and other relatives. We printed 1000 copies, so please don't hesitate to ask for more.