

## CANDIDATE PROFILES FOR 2011 OBFS ELECTIONS.

The election is held through SurveyMonkey and open to all member stations in good standing.

**Polls open from November 18 to December 18, 2011**

**The order for Member At Large candidates was chosen by filling station attendant.**

**Frame your favorites!!**

### PRESIDENT



**Bill Schuster** I have been Executive Director of the Black Rock Forest Consortium since 1992 with appointments at Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory (Senior Adjunct Research Scientist) and Center for Environmental Research and Conservation (Adjunct Research Scientist). My prior experience includes forestry, park management, environmental protection, and teaching. I have a BA from Columbia, an MS from Penn State, a PhD from University of Colorado, and did postdoctoral work at University of Utah. I oversee the research, education, and conservation programs of the Consortium that operates the 1600-hectare Black Rock Forest field station in southeast New York State. The Consortium has 23 academic institutional members from around the New York region. In the past 20 years use of the field station has increased to 15,000 visitor-days per year with about 500 papers produced, construction of 1700 square meters of new "green" facilities, and a quadrupling of the staff. My research interests are in ecology, ecosystem management, and environmental change. I have authored or co-authored 50-some research publications, and I teach, lecture,

and train students in forest ecology and environmental science. My field experience ranges from the Eastern Deciduous Forest to the Great Plains, Rocky Mountains, Sonoran and Mohave deserts, Alaska's North Slope and the old growth Podocarp forests of New Zealand. OBFS has been outstandingly helpful in the growth of my station and is in position to contribute substantially to our nation's scientific understanding and dialog at a critical time. I am a passionate supporter of field stations, fully committed to OBFS, and would be most honored to serve a term as President. If elected I will eliminate the Department of Commerce.

### SECRETARY



**Sarah Oktay** I am the Director of the UMass Boston Nantucket Field Station (zero industrial accidents since I started my tenure in 2003!), and I am the sole candidate (I think) for secretary. Greg has done a great job and I won't be nearly as efficient, but I'll do my best. I have a B.S. in Marine Chemistry and a Ph.D. in Chemical Oceanography from Texas A&M University-Galveston which is why I never understand what many of the biologists, botanists, and wildlife ecologists at OBFS are saying. I am a passionate believer in outreach and community involvement, and I dedicate approximately 30% of my time to working with students of all ages and the public via classes, workshops, citizen science projects, and via multiple media outlets. A serial volunteer, I serve on a half dozen or so other local committees, commissions, and environmental groups. I am very excited about the role OBFS has in fostering our collective research and education endeavors and would be willing to do all I can to work with my fellow draftees in furthering OBFS organizational goals. I believe coordinating and meeting with my colleagues in OBFS is one of the most efficient and fun ways of improving my own field

station. I am currently the chair of the recently merged Small Field Stations/Member Support Committee. Last year I participated in Congressional Visit Day, which I highly recommend to OBFS members. If elected I will eliminate Congress.

## MEMBER AT LARGE (Member Number 2) Vote for one of the choices



**Jeff Brown** Hi! My name is Jeff Brown and I am the Director of the UC Berkeley – Central Sierra Field Research Stations (CFFRS) and resident at the Sagehen Creek Field Station. Sagehen is located about 8 miles north of Truckee, California. CFFRS represents about 29,000 acres and covers a true trans-Sierra transect. This includes the entire North Fork of the American River (West of the Sierra Crest), the Central Sierra Snow Lab (at the Sierra Crest), and the Sagehen Creek Field Station (on the East side of the Sierra Crest). I am not an 'ologist; however, I have had a lot of experience working with and learning from scientists. I have over ten years of experience managing field stations and reserves, and my supervisor would say that I have been extremely effective. I have been active in the OBFS since 2004 and feel very strongly that it is an asset with tremendous potential, great member support, and an active and engaged board. Some say that my greatest strength is my enthusiasm for all endeavors that I engage in as well as my ability to get things done; some also say that every once in a while I actually have a good idea. These are traits that I

think would directly benefit OBFS, and I am willing to commit to do my share in the interest of furthering the needs of its diverse membership as well as those of the organization. If elected I will eliminate the EPA.



**Jerald Dosch** My name is Jerald Dosch. I have a Ph.D. in Ecology and Evolution from Rutgers and am the Director of Macalester College's Katharine Ordway Natural History Study Area (aka, Ordway Field Station). I have over 20 years of research and teaching experience and first joined the OBFS a few years ago. I co-wrote a successful NSF-FSML planning grant proposal for the Ordway station and have several years of board experience serving on the Friends of Fort Snelling/Fort Snelling State Park Association (an organization dedicated to the preservation of the historic and natural values in the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area). Since becoming director of Macalester's field station I have helped strengthen its commitment to its four pillar mission of education, research, sustainability, and civic engagement. In addition to reinvigorating the station's undergraduate research program we became a core network member of the NSF-RCN funded Ecological Research as Education Network (EREN) and a new partner with Discover Life. The station has reached out to the local elementary school (we began serving as an

outdoor extension of their classrooms in 2011), scouts (Girl, Boy, and Cub), the local Sierra Club chapter, a local arts organization, and a regional citizens' organization aimed at protecting and enhancing the Mississippi River watershed. I would love to serve as an OBFS officer in order to represent the organization's small stations and liberal arts colleges. I believe these members with relatively little land and small budgets need representation on the board in order to achieve our big hopes. If elected I will eliminate the Department of Education.



**Becca Fenwick** During the last four years as the Director of the James Reserve, my appreciation of the vital role that field stations play in the natural sciences has increased ten fold. My background as a tectonic geomorphologist has enabled me to spend extensive time in the field all over the world, working with many different types of field scientists and students. I have spent the last 4 years integrating technology, ecological research, and data management in a Mediterranean type ecosystem and across the UCNRS, learning new appreciation for interdisciplinary collaborations. OBFS is a network that fosters community spirit and support between the members and helps us do our jobs more effectively. If asked to serve as a member at large I look forward to helping better this process. If elected I will eliminate the Department of State.



**Deedra McClearn** My early training was in mammalogy, and I am particularly drawn to small mammals such as bats, mice, and shrews. Recent research projects in Costa Rica have taken me into the plant world, with phenological studies of big rainforest canopy trees and small understory ferns. For the past 15 years I have worked for OTS (Organization for Tropical Studies), coordinating graduate ecology courses in Costa Rica, developing an undergraduate study abroad program in South Africa, and then serving as director of the La Selva Biological Station for the past six years. One dominant theme of our work at La Selva for the past five years has been organizing our databases, gathering and creating metadata for hundreds of research projects,

and updating all of the information about the station (species inventories, trail maps, bibliographies). Although I am leaving my job as station director in a few months, I plan to continue several OTS projects on a contract basis, including compiling meteorological data for tropical stations throughout Latin America. I'm looking forward to taking courses in web design and educating myself in areas where I need to reformat large areas of my cortex. If elected I will eliminate the Department of Justice.



**Stacy McNulty** I have 15 years combined experience in field biology research, education and field station administration. My background is terrestrial vertebrate ecology, and I serve as Associate Director of the SUNY ESF Adirondack Ecological Center (AEC) in New York. In addition to representing the AEC at many OBFS meetings since 2002, I served twice as a reviewer for National Science Foundation Field Stations and Marine Labs. In 2010 I became Chair of the OBFS Human Diversity Committee designed to promote diversity at FSMLs. In my time at the field station, I have been a graduate student, faculty researcher, teacher, field trip leader, event coordinator, editor, boat mover, budget planner, fundraiser, counselor, and macaroni salad maker. Field stations

facilitate a transformative bond to place; like many OBFS members, it was at a field station that I found my passion. The combination of setting, facilities, data and especially the expertise of dedicated individuals at field stations provides a special opportunity to understand ecosystems and how humans interact with them. I endeavor to help OBFS showcase these strengths by linking field stations' scientific legacy with future societal needs, including creating openings for the next generation to become involved in OBFS. If chosen, I would be pleased to serve the organization with dedication and humor. If elected I will eliminate the Department of Health and Human Services.



**Tom Risch** My career has been profoundly impacted by biological field stations both in terms of undergraduate education and research opportunities. Currently as a Professor of Animal Ecology, I am able to see these same positive outcomes of field station experiences on my students. Annually I teach a class, Neotropical Bat Ecology, at a station in Nicaragua, where I have opportunity to introduce tropical ecology to students from Arkansas State University (ASU) and other institutions. In the past two years, while serving as Chair of my department, I have been instrumental in establishing two field stations for ASU. These stations are located in very different ecosystems: the Ozark Mountains and the Mississippi Delta. OBFS is an organization that reflects my own personal passions for field station research, education, and outreach. It would be a privilege to be able to utilize my administrative experience and love of field stations to further the mission of OBFS. If elected, I will eliminate the Department of Defense.

## BYLAWS CHANGES

Please vote yes or no on the proposed changes to the OBFS Bylaws

Proposed deletions are in red, insertions are in blue.

Article IV Section 5. Selection of Voting Member Elected Directors.

A) Nominations. Voting member elected directors shall be nominated ~~by the voting members~~ at the annual meeting of the voting members held for that purpose. Nominations may be made by the Board of Directors, by individual board members, by voting members, ~~or~~ by individual nonvoting ~~members.~~ ~~Or~~ members, ~~or~~ by an ad hoc "Nominations Committee" appointed by the President to serve the sole, and short-term task, of developing a slate for a particular election.