

2019 Candidates for OBFS Office and Proposed Bylaw Changes

Ballot Question. Board Proposed Bylaw Change

The Board of OBFS proposes to change the organization's fiscal year, and therefore its tax year, to the calendar year to be more in line with the standard IRS tax year. The current fiscal year presently begins on September 1. The new fiscal year will begin on January 1. The change will require a transitional short year in 2019. Changes to the bylaws are approved by a simple majority of those members voting. On your ballot please select either YES or NO.

Proposed change to OBFS BYLAWS (version 01 Jan 2017). Changes are highlighted.

ARTICLE VII. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Change from

Section 3. Tax Year. The tax year of the corporation is **September** 1 to **August** 31.

To

Section 3. Tax Year. The tax year of the corporation is **January** 1 to **December** 31.

The Board of OBFS, upon the recommendation of the Nominations Committee, presents the following candidates for office. All candidates must be nominated at the Annual Meeting. Both President and Secretary candidates are running unopposed. Please consider nominating yourself or others. A list of present officers and their terms can be found on the OBFS website at <https://www.obfs.org/governance>



Chris Lorentz: President

I am grateful to be considered for the position of President of OBFS. In the past, I have served as Vice President, At-Large Board Member and committee member. I am excited for the opportunity to serve in this capacity, as the Organization has offered me much in return, including mentorship, technical support and networking, among others. If elected, I will focus on the retention and recruitment of members, the enhancement of the website, increased collaboration with related organizations, such as AIBS, ESA and U-FERN. I would also like the Board to update the existing OBFS strategic plan that will focus on the potential Executive Director position, among other initiatives. I will also try to avoid impeachment.

I am currently in my 26th year of teaching at Thomas More University, a small, liberal arts college in Northern Kentucky, where I also serve as Director of our Ohio River Biology Field Station. I earned my bachelor's in Biology from Columbia University in New York and my Ph.D. in Vertebrate Ecology from Kent State. I teach Aquatic Biology, Evolution, and Invertebrate Zoology, among others, and often travel with students for study-abroad experiences. My research is in the fields of aquatic toxicology, bio-assessments of aquatic ecosystems, and the conservation of freshwater species, including native mussels and hellbenders. Lastly, I have developed a STEM outreach program for K-12 schools that involves day-long field trips, a summer camp and teacher workshops.



Lesley Knoll: Secretary

I am the Station Biologist at the University of Minnesota Itasca Biological Station and Laboratories. My field station professional career started in 2012, but I participated in research at a number of field stations throughout my education. I held a leadership position at a smaller, independent field station and now at a larger, university field station so I am familiar with the unique opportunities and challenges of each. I attended seven of the past eight OBFS meetings and am finishing up my term as member-at-large on the board. In this time, I have gone from being someone brand new to the field station management world and having no idea what fizz-mull (FSML) meant to being someone who can

now help out the new folks. BUT, I still have lots left to learn and always value how much I learn at the annual meetings. I am ready to keep giving back to this organization that has taught me so much and would be honored to be selected as Secretary of OBFS.

Member at Large Two/Early Career (Vote for TWO). Listed alphabetically.



Faustine Bernadac

First, let's get my name right - it's not fOWstine, like a Faustian Bargain, but rather fEAUstine, like a Fake Christine. I was born and raised in Paris, France but I have been working in the Arctic for over 10 years. Most of my expertise in polar bear country has been in Alaska, but I have had the chance to also work in the High Canadian Arctic, Siberia, Greenland and Svalbard.

My education was in France, where I got an undergraduate degree in Biology from the University Denis Diderot in Paris and an MSc in Agronomy from the National Engineering School of Agronomy and Food Sciences. I also managed to graduate with an MBA in the process, which has proven to be useful at times. My only regret is that I'm now too-well educated to be in the US House of Representatives, even though I've now gotten my US Citizenship.

My affiliation with Toolik Field Station began early in my Arctic career, vis-a-vis my roles as Science Project Manager and International Regional Planner at Polar Field Services, which I held from 2008 to 2012 and 2012 to 2014, respectively, and then as a Field Operation Manager with the NEON project from 2014 to 2018. In 2018, I became the Facility Supervisor of Toolik. Learning about this side of field station work was the reason that I attended my first ever OBFS meeting in 2018. Belgium was my 2nd meeting, and I decided that I wanted to be more involved with the organization, hence my decision to run for a slot on the Board of OBFS. I hope that my obvious adaptability and resourcefulness (if a Parisian girl embracing Alaska is not adaptable, I do not know what is 😊), my diverse background working with universities, non-profit, and federal and state agencies can be beneficial to the OBFS, its mission, and its members. Merci!



Elizabeth Long

I have been the Director of the Daniel Smiley Research Center at the Mohonk Preserve in New Paltz, New York since 2015 (<http://www.mohonkpreserve.org/>). My field station experience dates back to my M.S. days on Virginia's eastern shore, continued through my Ph.D days throughout California, and stretched into my postdoc in southern California. With the help of a planning grant from FSML, I went to my first OBFS meeting in Sitka in 2016 and was blown away by the supportive community of people I met there. It was so helpful to me to find a group of folks who had faced similar challenges as me and who

were thriving, and willing to share all of their tips and advice for success. I hope to continue in that tradition and offer my support to other OBFS members. In particular, I'm eager to work with diversity initiatives, help small stations build networks and partnerships, and be an advocate for science and field stations. For the past two years I served on the OBFS Auction Committee and Human Diversity Committee, and I'm involved in network initiatives promoting art in science, building leadership skills for diverse field station communities, and promoting open science and digitization efforts. My scientific background is in the ecology, evolution, and genetics of birds and butterflies, but in my current role I dabble in everything from meteorology to limnology to phenology. One of the best parts of my job is managing several historic datasets (we have continuous monitoring that dates to the 19th Century!), and I also feel very lucky to be able to support and develop our numerous Citizen Science programs.



Teresa Schueller

I'm currently the director (and only employee) of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee at Waukesha Field Station, a 2-yr liberal arts college within a larger institution. When I was hired in 2014 I had no prior field station experience except for having participated in undergraduate summer research (toad mating behavior) at Purdue University's Ross Biological Reserve. I didn't realize how lucky I was at the time! The UWMWFS is fifty-two years old, and there has only been one director before me. It's a lovely place—98 acres in rolling kettle moraine country in SE WI, with a beautiful restored prairie, and a wonderful culture of art and science collaboration. When I arrived the

station was operating as though it were still 1975, which I admit may have some charm, due to its lack of modernization and input from external expertise. I, however, have more up-to-date aspirations. I first learned that OBFS existed in 2016. I attended my first annual meeting in 2017—the experience was transformative. The support I've received from OBFS members has been invaluable. Before OBFS 2017, I didn't know that NSF planning grants existed, but after the meeting I knew we needed one for our station. With help and support from OBFS members we submitted a successful application and are in the middle of our strategic planning process. We couldn't have done it without support from all of you. I'm interested in serving on the OBFS board because I believe in the OBFS mission and I've received so much support as I've begun my field station journey; I'd like to give back, uphold its mission, and become a support person for others.



Chris Tracy

My position as resident Director of the Philip L. Boyd Deep Canyon Desert Research Center (or as we call it, PLBDCDSC), near Palm Desert, California, came after a long journey through field stations around the world. My first field station experience (you always remember the first) was at the University of Michigan Biological Station, where I was one of those camp kids who run amok all summer and annoyingly had the answer to Prof. Parent's field class questions well before the students did. As an undergraduate at Colorado State, I returned to UMBS where I duly cursed those camp kids and somehow no longer knew the answers to any questions. I then went to the University of Oklahoma for my M.S. and University of Wisconsin for my Ph.D. both on physiological and life history variation in a Mojave

Desert lizard, the chuckwalla. After being shamed by more camp kids at those respective field stations, I fled to Darwin, Australia where I spent nine years as a postdoc working with physiological ecology of tree frogs, crocodiles, and hypolithic cyanobacteria. I had a short stint on the faculty at University of Melbourne before landing a tenure-track position at California State University Fullerton. While at CSUF, I took many classes to the Desert Studies Center at Zzyzx, where I asked questions that stumped undergraduates, but that camp kids could answer. When Al Muth retired in 2017 as Director of Deep Canyon, I seized the opportunity to run amok permanently (this was not actually in the position description).

One of Al's bits of advice when he left was that I should make sure to go to OBFS meetings, and that advice has served me well. Because I value the support and sense of community in OBFS, I want to volunteer myself to help out as a member-at-large. I hope that my experiences at a wide variety of field stations give me a unique perspective that will be useful to OBFS. Thank you for your consideration.



Danielle Zoellner

I am currently the academic program coordinator at Michigan State University's WK Kellogg Biological Station (KBS). KBS is a rural field station a little over 1 hour from main campus, with easy access to the diverse communities of Kalamazoo and Battle Creek, Michigan. My love of field stations began when I completed a 5-week course at Colorado State University's Mountain Campus as part of my undergrad degree in Natural Resource Management which confirmed for me that I was definitely in the right field! I spent several years working "in the real world" for the Colorado Natural Heritage Program, the Colorado Department of Natural Resources and then as a paralegal in a Fort Collins law office before eventually going back to graduate school for an MS in Coastal Marine and Wetland Ecology and a PhD in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. My research interests lie in how human activity on the landscape impacts plant communities and ecological services in various habitats. My passion lies in connecting students of all types and backgrounds to the land and giving them experiences that encourage critical thinking on land management, environmental issues, and conservation practices...and what

better place to do this than at a field station! At KBS I get to coordinate, manage, and deliver all sorts of fun things like a summer NSF REU program, a research and internship program for MSU students, a large portfolio of undergraduate and graduate summer courses; but I also get to develop and lead public programs like a Field Botany short course and hikes about wild edible plants and identification of trees and shrubs in the winter. So far, I have been able to avoid a "publish or perish" type of position which has allowed for time to attend and contribute to OBFS meetings over the last 4 years. These meetings have been extremely valuable to build relationships across the network and bring back, plus share, a wide variety of best practices. Thanks for your consideration!