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OBFS NEWS

Volume 2008
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The OBFS Newsletter is posted on the web site (www.obfs.org) as a PDF file. It is available to all members in good standing. Hard copies will be sent only to members who specifically request them. A reminder to specifically request hard copies will be e-mailed to all members at the time of publication.

Please remember to vote in the Annual Election – Ballots have been sent to all member stations in good standing. If you do not receive a ballot, let us know at editor@obfs.org or David.White@MurrayState.edu

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At the annual meeting, we reviewed our OBFS annual budget and as a group moved and voted to increase our annual dues structure for the first time since the 2003. Our 2009 annual dues notices will be distributed by our OBFS Treasurer, Virginia Boucher, in January 2009, and dues will be raised to \$150 for station members and \$50 for individual members.



Human Diversity Award presented to Outdoor School of Texas Tech University Llano River Field Station

The Organization of Biological Field Stations (OBFS) is pleased to announce the winner of its 2nd Annual Human Diversity Award. This award is designed to recognize a station that demonstrates impressive success in recruiting underrepresented groups to field science activities. The award was presented at the OBFS Annual Meeting in Black Rock Forest, New York on 20 September 2008 to the Outdoor School of Texas Tech University Llano River Field Station (LRFS).

The Outdoor School is recognized as a Texas High School Project Exemplar Program at Texas Tech University's Llano River Field Station in Junction, Texas. It is a Science/Technology/Engineering/ Mathematics (STEM) Texas Essential Knowledge & Skills (TEKS) transdisciplinary, inquiry-based, innovative curriculum (12 content areas) that incorporates multiple best learning practices to improve instruction for at-risk students and teachers from urban environments, in which access to outdoors and materials is restricted. The model is flexible, adaptive, and transportable and can be effectively replicated through training at the station, school district campuses, city or state parks and informal science centers.

The Outdoor School has had 7,322 learners since 2004 with 49% female and 51% male; 50% Caucasian, 44% Hispanic, 5% African American and 1% Other. English Language Learners make up 6% of the Hispanic Population. About 50% attendees come from Title 1 schools and are of low socioeconomic status and disadvantaged. The Outdoor School is effective with 94% of attending schools showing gains in 5th grade science Texas Assessment Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) scores and disadvantaged students (Title 1) having the most impressive gains – one school raised 5th grade TAKS scores by 34 percentage points.

The Outdoor School has multiple positive impacts on students. The program provides integrated learning experiences in an outdoor setting. Teamwork is a key part of the program - curricular and all scheduled activities focus on Communication, Cooperation and Commitment. Students use all senses in learning, think for themselves, take ownership and enjoy being students. At the Outdoor School, every moment is a teachable moment; students learn manners and respect. Each child is stimulated through activities that meet all learning styles and multiple intelligences. Positive learning impacts occur through

learner-centered instruction, shared investigations and repetition of concepts in multiple ways for better student understanding. According to teachers, children who attended the Outdoor School had significantly higher ratings in self-esteem, conflict resolution, relationship with peers, problem solving, motivation to learn, and behavior in class.

The LRFS Outdoor School Program illustrates, incorporates and addresses multiple Exemplar categories, but is especially strong in teacher professional development, mentoring and collaboration and is highly effective with transdisciplinary STEM instruction and improving success of traditionally underrepresented students. The LRFS Outdoor School Program effectiveness is attributable to 1) Texas Essential Knowledge Skills based STEM curriculum and lesson plans, 2) auditory, visual and kinesthetic instruction and learning, 3) inquiry based learning, 4) teacher workshops and along side observation of LRFS OS teachers and instruction, 5) transdisciplinary, multi-experiential learning, instruction and activity that includes team building, manners and self confidence across the OS STEM curriculum and 4 day/3 night stay, 6) pre-K-12 OS teacher preparation and post-K-12 OS follow up, with schools and teachers. LRFS Outdoor School is adding GLOBE (Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment) training and capabilities. This will enhance the effectiveness of our already successful program and provide added dimensions in areas of problem based learning associated with field sciences and the scientific method, technology and equipment to acquire, process and interpret environmental data associated with earth, water and weather.

House Bill B1700 (6/15/2007) was unanimously passed by the Texas Legislature and signed by governor Perry to expand the Outdoor School impact to benefit more students through collaboration with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and local school districts. Consider the potential and need with more than 130 state parks scattered throughout Texas and in proximity to most of the 1000 school districts, and that Texas is more than 85% urban and 97% private property.

The Outdoor School teachers are humbled in receiving this prestigious award from OBFS. It helps validate that we are making a difference in providing important positive experiences for our youth in the sciences and outdoors. This is critical given tomorrow's decision-makers and potential leaders in Texas are today's urban youths - with increasing

minority composition, little contact with natural resources and understanding of why land and water need to be understood and conserved.

IF YOU WISH TO NOMINATE A PROGRAM OR FIELD STATION FOR THE HUMAN DIVERSITY AWARD, PLEASE SEE BELOW



Promoting Human Diversity in Field Science

The Organization of Biological Field Stations
2009 Annual Human Diversity Award

Nomination Deadline: 15 March

The OBFS Human Diversity Award provides recognition for unique activities, programs, or approaches (funded or unfunded) that increases the involvement, engagement, and sustainability of underrepresented groups in field science. Broadly speaking, underrepresented groups in field science may include, but are not limited to, ethnic minorities (African Americans, Hispanics, Asians, Native Americans, and others), women, first-generation college students, inner-city youth, disadvantaged rural communities, K-12 groups, tribal colleges, community colleges, undergraduate institutions with small programs, and citizen monitoring programs.

Promoting Human Diversity may be accomplished by disseminating materials and using, rearranging, or creating infrastructure to facilitate transitions between the field and classroom. Activities should stimulate both applied and individualized approaches to experiential scientific learning. We will also recognize stations that demonstrate

how retention and application of new scientific concepts are promoted to facilitate further discovery and increase scientific dialogue among diverse user groups. This may include a pedagogy for the basic knowledge needed by underrepresented groups to address the current challenges in environmental and natural resources management and research at all educational levels (K-12, undergraduate, graduate, and continuing education).

In addition to the honor and recognition of peers, the OBFS Human Diversity Award includes a permanent plaque for the winning station; an official award letter that can be included in the official materials, grant applications of the winning station; a second traveling OBFS plaque that will record previous winners and be housed at the most recent recipients facility; and recognition on the OBFS website. The award may include a travel reimbursement of up to \$1000 for the awardee to attend the annual OBFS meeting if travel funds are limiting for the winning institution.

Timing of Submission, Review and Award

January	A request for nominations for the award will be announced on the OBFS web site and through the OBFS list server in mid-January. Nomination of institutions by others as well as institutional self-nominations will be accepted.
15 March	Nominations due.
16 March	All nominees will be notified and requested to submit the information listed below.
31 March	Nominee supporting material due.
1 May	OBFS Diversity Committee announces recipient as determined by members of the OBFS Diversity Committee who are not from organizations with current applications.
Early September	Award will be presented at the OBFS Annual Meeting. The OBFS Historian, will photograph the representative(s) from the field station receiving the award.

Send nominations to Tom Arsuffi (tom.arsuffi@ttu.edu) by 15 March, 2009.



Promoting Human Diversity in Field Science
The Organization of Biological Field Stations
Annual Human Diversity Award

Nominee Supporting Material
Deadline: 31 March

Submission Instructions: Please email this form and (a) two high resolution digital photographs of program activity, (b) your station logo (if any), (c) your station strategic plan (if any), and (d) letters of support from project partners (if appropriate) to **Tom Arsuffi (tom.arsuffi@ttu.edu)** by midnight, 15 March.

Program Title:

Field Station Name:

Station Website:

Contact Person:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Program partners:

Funding sources (if any) for the program:

Describe your program objectives: (1/2 page maximum)

What is your station strategy for human diversity? (1/2 page maximum)

How has the station and program achieved the definition of success listed above, including example data (participant numbers, graduation rates, or other appropriate measures)? (1/2 page maximum)

How does your the station distributes educational and research results and materials to a broad public, and, in particular, to underrepresented groups? (1/2 page maximum)



Improvements in Facilities, Communications, and Equipment at Biological Field Stations and Marine Laboratories (FSML)

http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5449

DUE DATE MARCH 6, 2009

Contact **Kandace Binkley** or **Peter McCartney**
(biofsm1@nsf.gov)



National Science Foundation
WHERE DISCOVERIES BEGIN

Biological Field Stations and Marine Laboratories (FSMLs) are off-campus facilities for research and education conducted in the natural habitats of terrestrial, freshwater, and marine ecosystems. FSMLs support biological research and education by preserving access to study areas and organisms, by providing facilities and equipment in close proximity to those study areas, and by fostering an atmosphere of mutual scientific interest and collaboration in research and education. To fulfill these roles, FSMLs must offer modern laboratories and educational spaces, up-to-date equipment, appropriate personal accommodations for

visiting scientists and students, and modern communications and data management systems for a broad array of users. In recognition of the importance of FSMLs in modern biology, NSF invites proposals that address these general goals of FSML improvement.

A revised version of the *NSF Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide* (PAPPG), NSF 09-1, was issued on October 1, 2008 and is effective for proposals submitted on or after January 5, 2009. Please be advised that the guidelines contained in NSF 09-1 apply to proposals submitted in response to this funding opportunity. Proposers who opt to submit prior to January 5th, 2009, must also follow the guidelines contained in NSF 09-1.

One of the most significant changes to the PAPPG is implementation of the mentoring provisions of the America COMPETES Act. Each proposal that requests funding to support postdoctoral researchers must include, as a separate section within the 15-page project description, a description of the mentoring activities that will be provided for such individuals. Proposals that do not include a separate section on mentoring activities within the Project Description will be returned without review (see the PAPP Guide Part I: *Grant Proposal Guide* Chapter II.C.2.d for further information).

Solicitation 05-550

OBFS Annual Meeting 2009



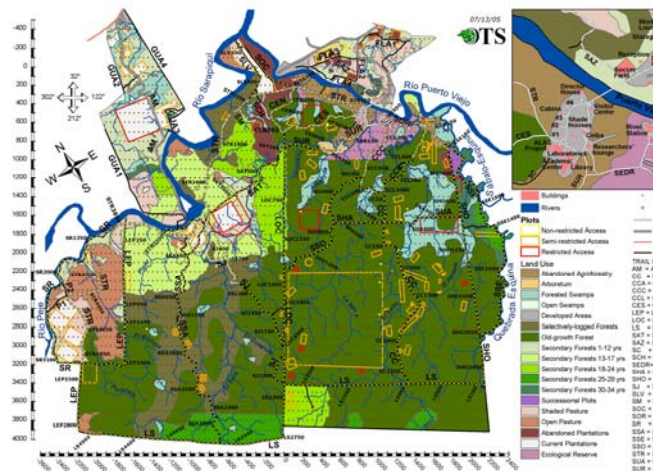
Location: La Selva Biological Station, Costa Rica

- Dates: 23 – 27 September 2008
- 23 September (Wednesday)—arrival for field trip participants
 - 24 September (Thursday)—registration, one-day field trips, evening mixer, Welcome from OBFS President
 - 25 September (Friday)—OBFS business, committee meetings, symposium on International Field Stations
 - 26 September (Saturday)—general meeting, NSF updates, committee meetings, OBFS auction
 - 27 September (Sunday)—board meeting, shuttles to airport
 - 28 – 30 September –post-meeting field trips to Palo Verde (Trip 1) and Las Cruces (Trip 2)

Accommodations: La Selva has approximately 150 beds in a variety of configurations including dormitories, senior researcher rooms, and researcher cabins. A limited amount of family space is available. Please contact Deedra if you plan to bring a partner or family. The Sueño Azul Hotel is about half an hour away for those who want more luxurious accommodations (swimming pool, massage, aromatherapy).

three months). Other nationalities may require a visa (please check with your embassy). A new Costa Rican requirement for a yellow fever vaccine for all visitors and citizens has recently been instituted.

Health: La Selva is neither a malaria nor a cholera area. There are a few cases of dengue fever (the flu-like version) every year, usually among the staff who live in



Registration fee: ~\$355 (room & board at La Selva, mixer, auction)

Transportation: Shuttles from the airport can be arranged through OTS for an extra charge. La Selva is approximately a two hour drive from the San José international airport. Renting a car is also an option.

Requirements: A valid passport is required for U.S. citizens but no visa application is required (a tourist visa form is provided on the airplane and is good for

the populated Puerto Viejo community. Mosquito spray is recommended. Consult the CDC for further information.

Weather: September is wet season and La Selva is a lowland rainforest. However, September is not the wettest month and there is often a “little dry season” during this time. Mornings are usually clear. Lightweight ponchos are appropriate for trail walks in the rain. An umbrella is highly recommended (available in the gift shop) for walking among the buildings during the rain. Temperatures range from pretty warm to quite hot. Labs and meeting spaces are air-conditioned but residences are

not. Residences are provided with fans. It does cool off at night and sleeping with a sheet on and the fan going is quite comfortable.

Contacts: Contact Lianna Mora at the OTS office in San José for registration and logistics. Contact Deedra

McClearn (station director) for questions about La Selva and its biota. More information will soon be available about the meeting program, the short and long field trips, appropriate clothing, and other topics.

**LOOK FOR MORE INFORMATION
ON THE 2009 ANNUAL MEETING TO
BE AVAILABLE SPRING**

2010 OBFS Meeting

<http://141.211.177.75/umbs/about/>

The University of Michigan Biological Station (UMBS) will host the Organization of Biological Field Stations' annual meeting in 2010. Among North America's oldest continuously operating field stations, UM Biological Station has been dedicated to education and research in field biology and related environmental sciences since 1909. It hosts active programs of interdisciplinary research, involving undergraduate and graduate students from across the United States and the world.



The UMBS manages 10,000 acres bounded by undeveloped shorelines and manages another 3200 acres on Sugar Island in the St. Mary's River between Michigan's Upper Peninsula and Canada. The holdings contain a rich diversity of natural habitats: extensive forests of pine, northern hardwoods, conifer swamps, and successional aspen stands, fields and meadows, pine plains, rivers, streams, and wetlands.

The UMBS campus of approximately 20 acres is laid out in the form of a small village along South Fishtail Bay on Douglas Lake (15 km² area) in Pellston, Michigan within a 10,000 acre research reserve. It has a large full-service dining hall where meals are planned with local produce

and meat. Accommodations range from rustic one-room cabins, larger two-to six-bed cabins with bathrooms, to winterized dormitory. Located at the northern tip of the Michigan's Lower Peninsula, UMBS is only three miles west of U.S. Route 75 and six miles from the Pellston Regional Airport (PLN).

Pre-meeting field trips may include an ecology tour of Wilderness State Park on the shores of Lake Michigan, a trip to the Upper Peninsula's Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore on Lake Superior with a stop at Grand Sable Dunes, or a guided boat trip along the historic Inland Waterway in northern Michigan's Lower Peninsula.

Pictures from the 2008 meeting at Black Rock Forest



The Annual Meeting of the OBFS was held at the Black Rock Forest, located in southeastern New York State, from September 17-22, 2008. The 1600-hectare forest serves as a field station for the Black Rock Forest Consortium, a group of twenty academic organizations that use the station for research and education.

The theme of the meeting was “The Greening of FSMLs”. In support of that theme the meeting highlighted “green” features of field station facilities and operations. Carpooling was encouraged via a ride sharing website and a \$5 “carbon offset fee” was included in the registration costs and used to purchase carbon offsets through carbonfund.org (a not-for-profit that supports renewable energy, energy efficiency, and reforestation projects) to reduce impact of participants’ travel. Black Rock Forest provided a tour of the station’s green buildings, the Science Center and the Forest Lodge, which feature a 24 kilowatt photovoltaic power system, geothermal heating and cooling systems, composting toilets, incorporation of locally-produced wood and stone and many other energy conserving design features. Meals highlighted the bounty of the Hudson River Valley by featuring fresh local fruits and vegetables, meats, and wines. Much of the meeting was

broadcast over the internet for those who could not attend in person, thanks largely to John Kim and Mark Stromberg. Recycling and reuse of plastic, paper, glass, aluminum and other metals and containers were practiced and waste food was composted. All meals featured the use of cloth napkins, stoneware plates and mugs, and metal utensils. Electronic attachments were frequently used to minimize paper handouts and each attendee was given a reusable water bottle with name tag so they could always locate their mug or glass.

The meeting began with two field trips. One explored the Hudson River and its passage through the Highlands via a kayak tour and visit to the Audubon Society’s facility at Constitution Marsh. The second field trip visited mountainous regions to the north of the Black Rock Forest (the Catskill and Shawangunk mountains), and included meetings with naturalists and researchers and a tasting at a local winery.

The Welcoming Mixer and dinner on Thursday were followed by opening remarks from OBFS President Brian Kloeppel and from Bill Schuster, Executive Director of the Black Rock Forest Consortium. Then Dr. Neil Maher, Black Rock Forest’s historian, provided

a presentation on the ecological history of the forest and the surrounding Hudson Highlands.

Programs for the meeting included a wide range of reports, panel discussions and committee meetings. One was an NSF discussion/update kindly provided by Peter McCartney and Judy Skog from the National Science Foundation and another featured a discussion on green facilities at field stations around the country. A slide show featured new facilities at several field stations and presentations by new OBFS member stations, and Deedra McClearn provided a slide show about the 2009 OBFS Annual Meeting to be hosted by her station at La Selva, Costa Rica, where the theme will be “International Field Stations”. There were meetings and reports by various OBFS committees including those on Small Field Stations, Diversity, and Organizational Development. The Education/Diversity session included a presentation by Wynn Cudmore about his Northwest Center for Sustainable Resources (NCSR), a program among a consortium of community colleges and headquartered at Chemeketa Community College in Salem, OR. A second presentation was made by William Ehmann of Empire State College about an AIBS/NSF college education session. A third presentation was made by Norman and Joyce Baron who lead the School-in-the Forest program at Black Rock Forest, which gives students from underserved public schools in New York City the ability to participate in educational activities in the forest. The 2nd Annual OBFS Diversity Award was awarded to the Llano River Field Station of Texas Tech University. Discussions were also presented about the 2008 Congressional Visits Day Report, an LTER Update by Brian Kloeppel, an AIBS/NSF update from Eric Nagy, and discussion and approval of the budget for 2008-2009. The final session included a discussion about the OBFS Website and information management led by Faerthen Felix.

The station tour included a driving tour to several native forest, stream, and pond locations around the Black Rock Forest. Several faculty members working at the forest provided overviews of some of the research and education programs of the Consortium. Dorothy Petet of Columbia’s Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory described results of a series of paleoecological investigations in the forest and around the region. Kevin Griffin of Columbia University

described results of watershed-based ecological, physiological, and hydrologic studies in the forest’s Cascade Brook watershed. J.D. Lewis of Fordham University described long-term studies of the implications of loss of eastern hemlock trees to the invasive hemlock wooly adelgid insect and then a group of scientists described the new, large-scale, manipulative “Future of Oak Forests” research project.

The infamous OBFS auction was held in the Forest



Lodge on Saturday night. The theme was “Woodstock Revisited” and long hair, love beads, and hippie gear were in full abundance. Lead auctioneer Peter Connors once again simultaneously entertained and amazed, recreating the “heady” Woodstock experience while bidding up valuable and un-valuable objects alike, contributed by member stations, to truly exorbitant heights. A total of \$6,000 was raised for the endowment of the organization in the process! The approximately 70 participants all departed safely, as tired from laughing as from the discussions and networking, lighter in the wallets, but informed and inspired about the future of the OBFS. On to La Selva!

Station News

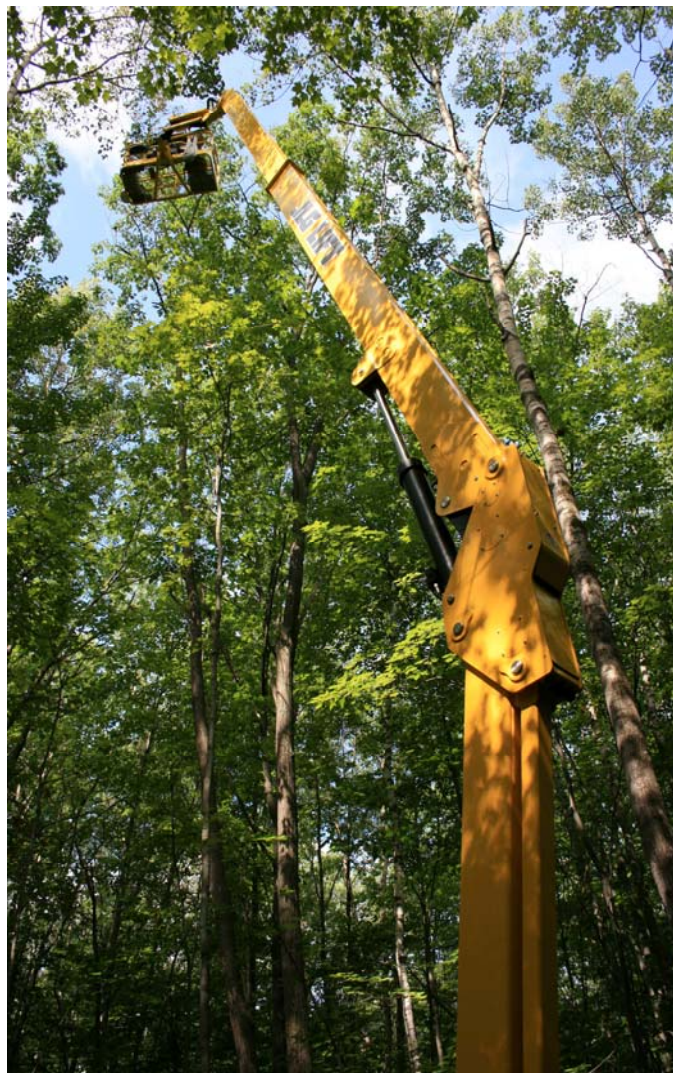
Forest Accelerated Succession Experiment at the University of Michigan Biological Station

In an attempt to forecast the future of carbon storage capacity in the forests of the upper Great Lakes Region, researchers at the University of Michigan Biological Station (UMBS) are using chain saws and pry bars to girdle, and thus kill, nearly 7000 aspen and birch trees in an 83 acre area of forested land. In watching how the ecosystem responds to this change, especially in its ability to store carbon, the Forest Accelerated Succession Experiment (FASET) research team will learn what to expect from regional forests twenty to thirty years from now. Within the FASET research area is a 110 foot tall tower that is instrumented to measure carbon fluxes of the altered forest.

The majority of upper midwestern old-growth forests were logged and subsequently burned by wildfire at the beginning of the last century. The re-growth of the forests was dominated by fast-growing, high light requiring, but relatively short-lived aspen species with slower-growing, shade tolerant maple, pine, beech and oak species in the understory. The aspen are now in the natural process of dying out in the forests across the upper Great Lakes Region. Since aspen will not regenerate in the shade of the existing understory trees, the result will be forests with more diverse collections of dominant canopy tree species. Since the natural process of understory species replacing dying aspen will not be complete for several decades, researchers devised FASET to speed up the process.

The FASET team hypothesizes that once the girdled trees die there will be a short-term drop in carbon sequestration, as leaf area in the canopy (LAI) is reduced and heterotrophic respiration increases, followed by a transition to a more diverse and complex ecosystem with a greater carbon storage capacity than that of the pre-treatment and control forests. They expect that a forest composed of trees of varying ages

and types no longer shaded by aspen will result in enhanced carbon storage.



Within a mile of the FASET site, an AmeriFlux tower has been monitoring carbon cycling in an undisturbed aspen dominated forest since 1998. The data generated with these towers, as well as that collected via a zero-emissions canopy access vehicle, will show what the carbon uptake in the manipulated forest is compared to that in an undisturbed forest.

Fires in Central Coastal California

Mark Stromberg, Hastings Natural History Reserve,
University of California



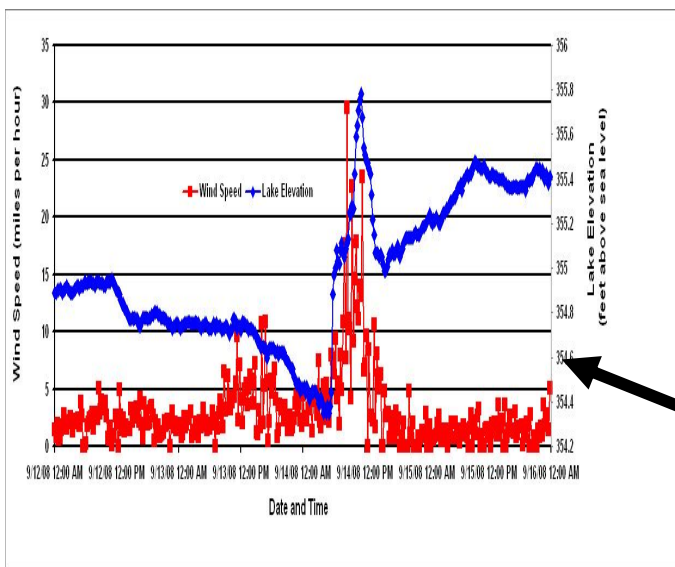
It is not every year that a wildland fire reaches from one field station in California to another. But, that is the case with in 2008 with the Indians/Basin complex fire in June and July and later in October, the Chalk Fire. Extending from a bulldozer line on the Lambert Flats on the edge of the Hastings Reserve, to the interior Dolan Ridge of the Big Creek Reserve, fires swept through the central coast (see map). At about 224,000 ac. this is the largest fire complex in the history of fire-fighting in California. Suppression costs were the second highest in US history at \$120.1M for the Indians/Basin Complex Fire and \$22.9M for the Chalk fire (16,200 ac.). Previously, the most expensive fire in

US history was the Biscuit Fire in Oregon in 2002 at “only” \$150M. Imagine what that kind of money could do for prescribed fire program.

Both fires are described by the USFS and federal on the “Inciweb” pages and if you don’t know about it, also check out the [GeoMac site](#). Local blogs were set up by land owners and often these had the most updated information. Hastings contributed regularly to one of the most popular blogs, “Life in the Fire Lane”, including tens of thousands of hits on our web cams that showed the fire on our boundary. The field station staff at both Hastings (Jaime del Valle-Battalion Chief, Cachagua Fire) and at Big Creek (Feynner Arias- Big Sur Fire Brigade) were terrific in providing firefighters with local information- maps, roads, access, geography, etc.. Fire fighters came from as far away as American Samoa, so needless to say, they needed some orientation. Both reserve staff members have long been active members of the local fire protection organizations.

Hurricane Ike Creates Rare Seiche on Kentucky Lake

On September 14, the remnants of Hurricane Ike moved through the West Kentucky area with strong constant winds that caused property damage, downed trees, and left tens of thousands of people with out electricity. The winds also pushed water across Kentucky Lake that piled up on the eastern shore and then rebounded back to the western shore. In the accompanying graph we have plotted wind speed and lake levels during Ike’s most intense period. Our Hancock Biological Station lake monitoring station is in the middle of the lake and showed an approximate 14 inch change in elevation over a 6 hour period that corresponded with the highest steady wind period. Changes in water depth at the shorelines would be expected to have been two to three times what occurred in the middle, enough to leave boats high and dry or potentially to wash them into the middle of the lake.



Graph of Hurricane Ike as it passed over Kentucky Lake. Wind speed in red and lake level in blue.



**E OLDE OFFICIALE
OBFS BALLOTTE, 2009**

This year's ballotte is for new officers and accepting the revised bylaws. Ballotte cards were mailed to each member in good standing and must be returned by

February 26, 2009.

VICE PRESIDENT

BILL SCHUSTER. I have been Executive Director of the Black Rock Forest Consortium (and an OBFS member) since 1992 and have appointments as Senior Adjunct Research Scientist at Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory and Adjunct Research Scientist at the Center for Environmental Research and Conservation at Columbia University. My prior experience included park management, environmental protection, forestry, and teaching. I am a



forest ecologist with a BA from Columbia University, a MS from Pennsylvania State University, and a PhD from University of Colorado with postdoctoral training at University of Utah. I oversee the scientific research, education, and conservation programs of the Black Rock Forest Consortium, based at the 1600 hectare Black Rock Forest field station in southeastern New York State. The Consortium includes 21 academic institutions in New York region. Since taking my current position I have seen use of the forest increase to over 11,000 visitors per year, nearly 400 papers and publications have been produced including two dozen doctoral and masters theses, and the Consortium has constructed 1700 square meters of "green" office, lab, classroom, lodging and meeting facilities. My research interests are in ecology, ecosystem management, and environmental change. I have authored or co-authored 50 research publications and teach and lecture in forest ecology and environmental science. I have field experience in the Eastern Deciduous Forest, the Great Plains, the Rocky Mountains, the Sonoran and Mohave Deserts, and the old growth Podocarp forests of New Zealand. My favorite pastimes include climbing, hiking, biking, skiing, enjoyment of music, immersion in nature, and attending OBFS meetings.

AMY WHIPPLE. As is true for so many biologists, my



experiences in field courses and at field stations while completing my BS/MS at Penn State were crucial in my early development as a scientist. I then attended UC Davis for my PhD in population biology. The working environment at Bodega Marine Lab and Reserve, where I could have access to the field,

lab, and a range of excellent colleagues all within a few steps shaped the way I approach science and initiated my desire to work to provide these types of resources for others. My joint interest in field stations and interdisciplinary research brought me to Northern Arizona University where I work to promote interdisciplinary research and education and direct our new research station as Merriam Powell Research Station Director and Assistant Research Professor of Biology. Living and working in a region with such a strong Native American presence has reinforced, for me, the notion that serving diverse audiences in general and the Native American community in particular needs to be integrated into all that we do. The support of the OBFS community has been crucial to me in getting our research station building up and running. I have served OBFS as member-at-large and as chair of the human diversity sub-committee. I am excited to run for the office of Vice-President in particular because of the role of the Vice President in the annual meeting programming and planning. Annual meeting feedback being collected from members provides a basis for continuing to improve meeting content without losing the characteristics of the meetings that are most appreciated by the membership.

TREASURER

PHILIPPE COHEN. I've been nominated to be Treasurer (a rare enough honor all by itself). The fact that I'm sending these words should be proof of my willingness to serve. But there are a couple of things you may want to consider before casting your vote. First, if elected I will have to resign as member-at-large on the Board. Which do you prefer, having me there to pontificate or have access to the organization's bank account?



Second, the truth is, I can do this because unlike many of you, I have an administrative associate that keeps me honest and will likely do the real work. Of course, she has her own peculiarities, but then who in OBFS doesn't? Finally, ask yourself this would electing Philippe to be treasurer set a new fashion standard that future treasurers will have to live up to? So, if you find this combination of benefits and constraints appealing, if you can see the inherent trust in the faces of this photo, then by all means, vote for me. Otherwise, leave me on the Board as a member-at-large and suffer the consequences.

VINCENT VOEGELI. My exposure to field stations began in 1986, when I attended a two week graduate course at the Gerace Research Center



on the small island of San Salvador in the Bahamas. While sitting in the orientation, I remember thinking that the director of the facility had to have the coolest job in the world, and wondering how I could ever get such a position (be careful what you wish for!). When a friend became the director in the early 90's, I

jumped at the opportunity to be his assistant (while dragging my young family along). Two years opened my eyes (to say the least) of the actual work involved with such a job. I was asked to come back as the director in the 2001, and it was definitely with some mixed feeling that I accepted the position. Six year later when I left, I remembered back to my first thoughts of managing a field station, and again thinking that, even having lived through it all, it really was one of the greatest jobs in the world. Presently in Bozeman, Montana, and, in between trying to find the ocean, helping with the design and construction of a new field station for the Yellowstone Ecological Research Center.

DIRECTOR AT LARGE

DEEDRA MCCLEARN. I have worked for the Organization for Tropical Studies since 1996. For the first seven years, I was the coordinator of the Costa Rican graduate course in Tropical Ecology—the so-called “Fundamentals” course. Then for two years I was the director of the new OTS undergraduate study abroad semester in South Africa, based in Kruger National Park. For the past 3+ years I have been the director of the OTS La Selva Biological Station in the Caribbean lowlands of Costa Rica. My academic background is in mammalogy and functional morphology. My research has been mostly with bats, mice, and small arboreal mammals (squirrels, possums, kinkajous). For the past five years I have also been working on the growth and reproduction of three canopy trees and three understory fern species in relation to

weather patterns at La Selva. Priorities for La Selva these



days include keeping the station active as a teaching and research site and trying to keep the finances healthy. We are also committed to environmental education in the community, training local nature guides, greening the station, and working with other conservation NGOs in Costa Rica and Latin

America. Increasingly we are actively communicating the scientific findings of the station to the press, the Costa Rican government, and international organizations. My principal interests within OBFS would be in international issues, high technology infrastructure (sensors and data bases), research & education, sustainability, and community relations.

SARAH OKTAY. I am the Managing Director of the University of Massachusetts Boston Nantucket Field Station. I am a relatively new member of the OBFS although the UMB-NFS has been a member for several years now with the prior Director, the late Dr. Wes Tiffney, attending past meetings. I have a B.S. in Marine Chemistry and a Ph.D. in Chemical Oceanography from Texas A&M



University at Galveston. Due to a complex trade agreement between Canada and Mexico, I wound up at UMass Boston in the Earth, Environmental and Ocean Science Department from 2000-2003 where I did a variety of research including some interesting and controversial work on the Hudson River

involving the World Trade Center tragedy and the associated chemical signature in area sediments. In 2003, I became the second Director of UMB-NFS. I am a passionate believer in outreach and community input and I dedicate approximately 30% of my time to working with students of all ages and with the lay public through multiple journalistic sources and several websites and civic positions. A serial volunteer, I serve on the local Conservation Commission, am Vice President of the Nantucket Civic League, and implement environmental policy initiatives through approximately 7 other local committees, commissions, and environmental groups. The UMB-NFS is a member of the Nantucket Biodiversity Initiative and works closely with other island research and conservation NGOs. We have started a total of 5 new

programs for young scientists and naturalists (Junior Research Interns, Junior Rangers, Adopt a Pond studies) to integrate environmental studies into both public and private education. When not plotting world dominion, 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 the OBFS organizational goals.

Proposed Revised Bylaws

The Executive Board has revised the Bylaws to reflect needed changes. The revised Bylaws must be approved by a 2/3 majority of the membership. On the ballot, please vote **yes** or **no** to approve the revised Bylaws. The revised sections of the bylaws are presented below. Additions are in **bold**, deletions are in ~~strike through~~. The entire Bylaws may be viewed at www.obfs.org.

BYLAWS OF ORGANIZATION OF BIOLOGICAL FIELD STATIONS, INC.

ARTICLE I. PURPOSE

Section 1. Purpose. The purposes of Organization of Biological Field Stations, Inc. are exclusively those allowed for organizations defined under §501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Within these limits, the purposes of Organization of Biological Field Stations, Inc. include the following:

To facilitate the highest quality environment for scientists, students, teachers and the public to pursue research and education, and to enhance biological and environmental understanding.

To assist its members in providing optimal infrastructure for exemplary scientific research, innovative and effective learning, and informed natural resource stewardship.

To enhance the capacity of field stations through training and information sharing.

To educate the public and decision-makers about the critical role of field stations in research and education.

To enhance public support for funding field stations infrastructure and the activities supported at field stations.

ARTICLE II. INDIVIDUAL NON-VOTING MEMBERS

Section 1. Individual Non-voting Members. OBFS may have individual non-voting members ~~at the discretion of the Board of Directors~~.

Section 2. Rights and Obligations of Individual Non-voting Members. The Board of Directors may by resolution establish categories of individual non-voting membership

and determine any obligations and privileges of members in those categories. The individual non-voting members will not have the power to vote on the **member** election of directors or members, or to participate in a binding **member** vote on any corporate matters.

ARTICLE III. STATION VOTING MEMBERS

Section 1. Qualifications of Station Voting Members. A station voting member must be a field station or marine laboratory established and operated for scientific and educational purposes, or an organization that supports or is significantly involved in a field station or marine laboratory. Each Station Voting Member must designate a representative.

Section 2. Powers and Purpose of Station Voting Members. Station voting members ("voting members" hereafter) have the power to elect and also to remove the members of the Board of Directors and certain officers of Organization of Biological Field Stations, Inc., to elect and remove voting members and to vote on any amendments to the bylaws or articles which would alter the qualification, selection, removal, obligations, rights or powers of the voting members, and to vote on any other matters properly put before them for an advisory vote by the Board of Directors **or by motion during a member meeting**. The voting members do not have the power to make binding or enforceable decisions on matters reserved for the Board of Directors, including adopting budgets, authorizing expenditures, setting policies, or determining the organization's programs and activities. **During member meetings, voting members may forward a seconded motion to the board by voting on any issue. Any such vote by the voting members shall be recognized by the Board of Directors as a board meeting "notice" and must be acted on in a board meeting within 30 days of the member vote. All member, board, or committee minutes and consent resolutions are open and available to all organization members.**

Section 3. Dues. Annual dues, if any, will be set by the voting members.

Section 4. Selection of Station Voting Members. Voting membership shall be automatically approved following a determination that the applicant has paid any required dues and satisfies any other qualifications required for membership. This determination can be made by the

Board of Directors or by a committee delegated this task by the Board of Directors.

Section 5. Records of Members. The secretary shall ensure that the organization maintains a current, formal, alphabetical record of the names, addresses, emails and status of voting members and non-voting members.

Section 6. Suspension or Removal of Station Voting Members. A voting member may be suspended or expelled by the voting members or by the Board of Directors for serious misconduct, which adversely affects the interests or reputation of the corporation.

Before the voting members can suspend or remove a voting member there must be not less than fifteen (15) days prior written notice of the suspension or expulsion, to the voting members, giving the reasons therefore. Further, there must be an opportunity for the member to be heard, orally or in writing, not less than five (5) days before the effective date of the suspension or removal by the voting members, or by a person or persons authorized by the Board of Directors to decide that the suspension or removal not take place.

Suspended voting members may be reinstated through an application to the Board of Directors that satisfactorily explains reasons for reinstatement.

Section 7. Resignation of Station Voting Members. Any voting member may resign at any time by sending or delivering a written resignation to the secretary.

Section 8. Quorum for Station Voting Membership Meetings. A quorum will consist of the presence, participation by conference call, or voting by mail, or email, where that is allowed, of at least ten percent of the voting members.

Section 9. Decision-Making by Station Voting Members. The affirmative vote of at least a majority of the voting members present at or participating by conference call, mail or e-mail in a properly called meeting, for which a quorum has been achieved, is necessary and sufficient to make decisions or pass resolutions by the voting members, unless a greater proportion is required by law, the Articles or Bylaws. All decisions require a clearly stated motion, a second, and a vote. All motions, which are successfully adopted, must be recorded in the written minutes.

Section 10. Proxy Voting. Proxy voting will not be allowed at any meeting of the voting members or as part of reaching any decision by the voting members.

Section 11. Voting by Mail, Fax or E-mail. Unless prohibited or limited by the Articles or Bylaws, any action which may be taken at any annual, regular or special

meeting of the voting members may be taken without a meeting if the corporation delivers a written ballot to every member entitled to vote on the matter, by mail or e-mail, at the address provided by the station/voting member. The written ballot will: a) set forth each nominee or proposed action; and b) provide an opportunity to vote for each vacant board position, and for or against each proposed action. Approval by written ballot will be valid only when the number of votes cast by ballot equals or exceeds any quorum required to be present at a meeting authorizing the action. The vote is limited to the subject specified on the ballot.

Section 12. Annual Membership Meeting. There must be an annual meeting of the voting members, which will be held to nominate members to the Board of Directors. It will be held at a time and location determined by resolution of the voting members, or by the Board of Directors, if the voting members do not do so. Attendance at annual meetings is open to all interested parties and encouraged for all members (voting and **non-voting individual**).

Written notice of the annual meeting must be sent by mail, or e-mail, as directed by the voting member, to all voting members ~~entitled to receive notice~~, at the address, or e-mail provided by the voting member or as it appears in the corporate records, at least 30 days in advance of the meeting.

At the annual meeting voting members will hear and consider reports from the Board of Directors, officers and staff concerning the activities, management and budget of the Corporation. Voting members will then nominate persons to fill any vacancies on the Board of Directors, and vote on any other matters for which proper notice was given. Voting for members of the Board of Directors will occur within three months of the annual meeting and be by secret ballot. Members may be given the option to vote by mail or e-mail rather than in person. The failure to hold an annual meeting does not affect the validity of any corporate action.

Section 13. Other Membership Meetings.

A. Regular Meetings. The Corporation may hold a series of regular meetings of the voting members at times and locations set by the Board of Directors or officers, **executive committee or by a petition of at least 10% of the voting members.** A single notice sent by mail or e-mail at the address provided by the voting member, at least thirty days in advance of the beginning of the series of regular meetings will be sufficient and no further notice is required so long as the meeting dates and times which were announced do not change.

B. Special Meetings. Special meetings of the voting members may be called by the officers, executive committee, the Board of Directors or by a quorum of the voting members **or by petition of at least 10% of the**

voting members. Notice for a special meeting must be mailed by mail or e-mail, or fax, at the address provided by the voting member, at least thirty days in advance of the meeting and must specify the purpose(s) for which the meeting is called. Only the business for which a special meeting is called may be considered at the meeting.

Section 14. Content of Notice. The notice must contain the date, time, location and when required, the purpose of the meeting. Notices of special meetings always require a statement of the purpose(s) for which the meeting is called. If amendments to the Bylaws or the Articles of Incorporation will be considered, the notice must state this fact and the exact wording and an explanation of the amendments to be considered must be included with the notice. **Voting and non-voting members will receive the same notices and may participate in the same member meetings.**

Section 15. Waiver of Notice. Any ~~voting~~ member may waive the right to receive full advance notice of any meeting. Waivers of notice will be in writing, signed by the person entitled to notice, and will be given to the Secretary to be placed in the corporate records. Waivers may be signed before or after the meeting has taken place. The attendance of a voting member at any meeting without specific objection to improper notice will constitute a waiver of the full notice of that meeting.

Section 16. Record Date. The record date for determining the members entitled to receive notice of a meeting will be the day before the day on which the notice is sent. The record date to determine the members entitled to vote at a member's meeting will be the date of the meeting.

ARTICLE IV. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. Duties of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors will establish the corporation's policies and review and change them as necessary, oversee its programs and activities, appoint or employ and supervise its staff, authorize its expenditures, oversee its financial affairs, and ensure the proper management and use of its assets and property. The board must also ensure that the corporation properly employs the necessary corporate formalities to make its decisions, that it prepares and submits all required state and federal reports, and that it operates in compliance with relevant state and federal laws. Board members must diligently prepare for, attend, and participate in the meetings of the Board of Directors and any board committees as needed, in order to carry out these tasks. The role of the board does not include direct management or conduct of the daily operations of the organization. **The Board of Directors must present proposed annual budget and pending major policy or program decisions to the Annual Meeting for advisory vote. The Board must report in full to the Annual**

Meeting all major budgetary, policy, and program decisions made since the previous member meeting.

Section 2. Qualifications of Directors and Composition of the Board of Directors. Nominees for positions on the Board of Directors must have demonstrated a commitment to the mission and purposes of Organization of Biological Field Stations, Inc., and must have expertise in areas relevant to the needs of the organization. There shall be three classifications of directors as follows:

A. Station Voting Member Elected Directors. Member elected directors shall be elected by the voting members as described in Article III, section 2 and Article IV, Section 5. Nominees for these positions must be ~~voting~~ members **(voting or non-voting)**. There shall be at least six and no more than eight member elected directors: president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and two to four directors at large. The Board of Directors shall determine the number of directors at large to be elected by the voting members. The ~~immediate~~ past-president shall ~~continue to serve on the board, in the office of past-president,~~ for a two-year term following the election of the new president.

B. Board Selected Officer Positions. The Board of Directors will select by majority vote and appoint the editor and network coordinator who shall automatically be both officers and members of the Board of Directors on appointment. These appointments will be for two-years with possibility for reappointment with no term limits. **Sitting committee chairs must recluse themselves from discussion and voting on appointments to their positions.**

C. Organizational Standing Committee Chair Directors. Organizational Standing Committee chair directors shall be appointed by the Board of Directors and shall serve on the board while serving simultaneously as the chair of one or more of the committees that have been designated as an Organizational Standing Committee by the Board of Directors. **Sitting committee chairs must recluse themselves from discussion and voting on appointments to their positions.** The Board of Directors shall have the right to determine how many Organizational Standing Committees are needed, and therefore how many committee chairs serve on the Board of Directors. These appointments will be for one year with possibility for reappointment with no term limits. The voting members may declare Organizational Standing Committees, so designated by the Board, to be unnecessary and pass a resolution to re-designate them as ad-hoc committees whose chairs do not serve on the Board of Directors.

Section 3. Number of Directors. The Board of Directors must consist of no fewer than eight and no more than sixteen members. The voting members may pass a resolution to increase the size of the board and create new member elected positions.

Section 4. Terms of Voting Member Elected Directors.

Voting member elected directors will assume office on April 1 and serve two-year terms, which will be staggered so that one-half of the directors ~~are elected~~ in even years **(including president and secretary)** and one-half of the directors ~~are elected~~ in odd years **(including the vice president and treasurer)**. Only the secretary and treasurer can serve consecutive terms. However, unless they formally resign or are removed from office, directors will remain in office until their successors are properly elected, designated, or appointed.

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 non-voting 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.

B) Election Policy and Procedures. The Board of Directors may prepare and adopt by resolution, a formal written policy regarding the details of the board election process, including requirements for the announcement of elections and the solicitations of nominations, the role of a nominating committee, and the schedule and procedures that must be used to hold elections.

Section 6. Removal of Directors. Directors elected by the voting membership may be removed with or without cause by resolution of the voting members. Proper notice must be given in advance, as required for an annual membership meeting, or for a regular meeting of the voting members, or as required for a special meeting of the voting members, whichever is appropriate, stating that the removal of a director is to be considered (See Article III, Sections 12 and 13). The Board of Directors may remove directors appointed by the board.

Section 7. Resignation of Directors. A director may resign at any time. The resignation of a director must be in writing and be delivered to the board, its presiding officer, the president, or the secretary. Once delivered, a notice of resignation is irrevocable.

Section 8. Filling Vacancies on the Board of Directors.

The vice president shall fill the vacancy of president. The Board of Directors shall by majority vote, appoint directors to fill any other vacancies on the board. A voting member elected director appointed to fill a vacancy will serve only until the next regular election of directors, at which time she or he must be nominated and elected by the voting members in order to remain a director. Board appointed

directors will serve out the term of the person they are replacing and will be eligible for reappointment.

Section 9. Conduct of Directors. Directors must discharge their duty of loyalty and their duty of diligence in good faith with the care an ordinarily prudent person in a like position would exercise under similar circumstances and in a manner the director reasonably believes to be in the best interest of the corporation.

Section 10. Quorum. At all meetings of the Board of Directors, the presence or participation by phone, or other conference communication forum, of a quorum, which is at least a majority of the number of board members in office immediately before the meeting begins, is necessary to allow the transaction of corporate business or the making of corporate decisions.

Section 11. Decision-Making and Voting. All decisions require a clearly stated motion, a second, and a vote that must be recorded in the written minutes. Each member of the Board of Directors will have one vote. At the request of any director, the names will be recorded in the minutes of each director who voted for, voted against, or abstained on a particular motion.

The directors must diligently and conscientiously attempt to make decisions by consensus. They must employ all standard consensus practices and techniques including the expression and careful consideration of minority views. When a consensus apparently cannot be achieved, any director may request and require that a vote be taken in which the affirmative vote of at least two thirds of all of the Directors participating in any properly called meeting at which a quorum is present, is sufficient to make a decision of the Board of Directors unless a greater proportion is required by law or by these Bylaws.

Section 12. No Proxy Voting. No proxy voting is allowed at any meeting of the Board of Directors or as part of reaching any decision of the board.

Section 13. Telephonic Meetings. Meetings may be held by telephone, or other method, so long as all participating directors may simultaneously hear and speak with each other. A director participating in such a meeting is deemed present for purposes of a quorum.

Section 14. Decisions Without Meetings. The Board of Directors may make any decision or take any action within its power without a meeting through a written "unanimous consent resolution" that sets forth the action so taken. The resolution is effective when two-thirds of the directors have voted in the affirmative. The unanimous consent resolution may be sent or transmitted by mail, fax or email. The unanimous consent resolution must be filed with the corporate records.

Section 15. Board of Director Meetings. The Board of Directors must meet at least four times per year, and shall strive to do this by meeting at least once each quarter of the year. **Members may attend board meetings. Executive committee or other board committee meetings may be closed.**

Section 16. Notice of Board of Director Meetings. Notice must be given every board member of every meeting of the board, stating the date, time, and location of the meeting, and the purpose of the meeting if so required by law or these Bylaws. The notice must be given not less than seven days in advance of the meeting if delivered by telephone conversation or in person, and not less than seven days in advance if delivered by mail, email, or fax to an address provided by the board member.

Regular **board** meetings: After the initial notice is given of the schedule for a series of regular **board** meetings, which will occur at a fixed time and place, no further separate notice is required for each of those regular **board** meetings. Notice must state the time, date, and location of the **board** meeting. The Board of Directors may by resolution establish or change the dates of regularly scheduled **board** meetings, with proper notice given to all directors.

Section 17. Waiver of Notice. Any director may waive the right to receive full advance notice of any meeting. Waivers of notice must be in writing, signed by the person entitled to notice, and must be given to the secretary to be placed in the corporate records. Waivers may be signed before or after the meeting has taken place. The attendance of a director at any meeting without specific objection to the notice constitutes a waiver of the full notice of that meeting.

Section 18. Authority of Directors. No director may speak or act on behalf of the Corporation without specific authorization by the Board of Directors to do so.

ARTICLE V. OFFICERS, CHAIRPERSON, AND STAFF

Section 1. Officers. The officers of OBFS must carry out the policies and decisions of the Board of Directors as directed by the board. The officers must include a president, vice- president, past president, secretary, treasurer, network coordinator and editor. The same person may not hold more than one office. All officers must serve simultaneously as members of the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Election and Term of Office. The voting members will elect the president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer, **and directors at large**. As soon as possible following the election of directors, the Board of Directors will meet to appoint the network coordinator and editor.

All officers shall serve two-year terms and assume office on April 1. Only the secretary and the treasurer can serve consecutive terms. The president and secretary will assume office in even numbered years. The president shall serve a further two years as past president, beginning at the end of their term as president. The vice-president and treasurer will assume office in odd numbered years. Each officer will hold office until her/his successor has been properly elected and has taken office, unless she or he resigns or is removed.

Section 3. Removal. The voting members may remove any officer elected by the voting members. **Voting members also may remove the Past President.** Any officer appointed by the Board of Directors may be removed by the Board of Directors whenever, in its judgment, the interests of the corporation would be best served by such removal. Removal will be without prejudice to the contract rights, if any, of the officer so removed. The person being considered for removal from office, **board, or committee chair** has no vote in the process of removal.

Section 4. Vacancies. If any office of the corporation becomes vacant by death, resignation, retirement, removal, disqualification, or any other cause, the directors in office may appoint an officer to fill such a vacancy. The appointed officer will hold office for the remaining portion of the term of that office.

Section 5. President. The president is the principal officer of the corporation and will, in general, supervise or oversee the supervision of all of the affairs of the corporation. The president generally will preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors, unless the board selects another person to preside. The president will also perform other duties as may be assigned by the Board of Directors. The president may serve as an ex-officio member of any committee.

Section 6. Vice-President. In the absence of the president or in the event of the president's inability to act, the vice-president will perform the duties of the president. The vice-president, when acting as president, will have all the powers of and is subject to all the restrictions on the president. The vice-president will also perform other duties assigned by the Board of Directors.

Section 7. Past President. The past president will perform or oversee procedures for nominations for officers **and board members**. The past president will also perform other duties assigned by the Board of Directors.

Section 8. Directors at Large. Directors at Large will serve duties as defined by the Board of Directors.

Section 9. Secretary. The secretary will perform or oversee the performance of the following duties: a) record and keep the minutes of the meetings of the members and of the Board of Directors and of any board committees, in one or more books provided for that purpose; b) see that all notices are duly given in accordance with the provisions of these Bylaws or as required by law; c) be custodian of the corporate records; d) keep a register of the mailing address of each voting member as provided by such member; e) ensure that all required state and federal reports are prepared and filed in a timely fashion; and f) perform or oversee all duties incident to the office of secretary and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned by the president or by the Board of Directors. The secretary may delegate some or all of these tasks but remains responsible for their proper completion.

Section 10. Treasurer. The treasurer will perform or oversee the performance of the following duties: a) be responsible for the proper management and control of all funds of the corporation; b) prepare full and accurate financial records on a timely basis of all the income, expenses and assets of the corporation; c) present reports at every board meeting on the financial affairs of the corporation; d) provide financial information necessary to prepare and file the required reports to state and federal government agencies, showing the income, disbursements, and assets of the corporation; and coordinate with the secretary to prepare a register of current voting and non-voting members. The treasurer may delegate some or all of these tasks but remains responsible for their proper completion.

Section 11. Editor. The editor shall be responsible for editing **and publishing, and disseminating** the OBFS Newsletter and other organizational publications as directed by the Board of Directors. The editor also shall be responsible for **generating and disseminating the annual ballots for the election of OBFS officers and other member votes**.

Section 12. Network Coordinator. The OBFS website serves as a major management and outreach tool for organization. The network coordinator is responsible for ensuring that the features, user interface and operation of the website meet these needs.

ARTICLE VI. COMMITTEES

Section 1. Establishment of Committees. The Board of Directors may establish any committee, including standing committees or temporary committees, by a resolution. Such resolutions must name the committee and the purpose of the committee, must state whether it is a Board Committee or an Organizational Standing Committee, and must state what powers, authority and duties have been delegated to the committee, how the chair of the committee and how the members of the committee will be

appointed or elected, and may state what procedures, if any, the committee will use in carrying out its work.

The Board of Directors must always have the power to amend, alter, or repeal the decisions of its committees, subject to limitations on the unilateral amending of contracts, interference with third-party rights, and other legal limitations.

Section 2. Board Committees.

A. The Board of Directors may establish Board Committees to which are delegated part of the power of the whole board to authorize expenditures and draft budgets, policies and programs to be approved by the full board. Such committees must be established by the affirmative vote of a majority of all directors then in office. Board Committees must consist of two or more directors, and must not have any members who are not members of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors will appoint the chair and members of a Board Committee.

B. Executive Committee: The Board of Directors may appoint an Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will have the power to make decisions between board meetings, including financial and budgetary decisions. The Executive Committee must comply with the provisions of the Bylaws concerning the full board as far as those are reasonably applicable to the Executive Committee. All Executive Committee decisions must be recorded in official minutes, which will be submitted to the full board. Unless the Board of Directors decides otherwise, the Executive Committee will consist of the president, who will be the chair, past president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and ~~two members~~ at large of the organization. The Executive Committee must make reasonable efforts to inform all board members of the issues to be dealt with at an Executive Committee meeting.

Section 3. Organizational Standing Committees. The board may establish Organizational Standing Committees, including working committees or advisory committees, which do not have the power to authorize expenditures, adopt budgets, set policy, establish programs, or make decisions for the corporation. Such committees are established through a resolution adopted by the directors present at a properly called meeting. Any OBFS member may be a member of such a committee, whether or not that person is a member of the Board of Directors.

Section 4. Organizational Standing Committee Chair. The Board of Directors will appoint the chair of an Organizational Standing Committee or if the board wishes, it may delegate that power to the president, the executive board, or the members of the Organizational Standing Committee, subject to later confirmation by the board. The chair will serve a one-year term and be eligible for reappointment. The executive committee will review

Organizational Standing Committee chairs annually and make recommendations for reappointments of chairs to the Board of Directors.

Section 5. Committee Procedures. Unless otherwise specified, Board Committee meetings will operate with the same quorum and voting requirements as the full board, and will operate according to the procedures of the board as stated in these Bylaws. If any formal decisions or resolutions are voted on at a committee meeting, then the votes and the resolutions so adopted must be recorded in the form of corporate minutes and filed with the secretary.

Section 6. Limitations on Powers. No committee may a) elect, appoint or remove any officer, member of the Board of Directors, or member of a Board Committee; b) authorize the sale, lease, exchange, or mortgage of all or substantially all of the property and assets of the corporation; c) authorize the dissolution of the corporation or revoke proceedings therefore; d) amend, alter, or repeal the Articles, the Bylaws, or any resolution of the Board of Directors; e) authorize the payment of a dividend or any part of the income or profit of the corporation to its directors or officers.

ARTICLE VII. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Section 1. Compensation of Officers and Directors. No officer or member of the Board of Directors will receive any compensation for fulfilling the responsibilities of a member of the board or of an officer as defined in these Bylaws. However, the corporation may pay compensation to officers and members of the Board of Directors for other services performed as employees or independent contractors as long as the required rules for conflicts of interest are followed. Board members and their relatives who receive regular compensation from the corporation must always constitute less than a majority of the board. Officers and members of the Board of Directors may receive reimbursement for actual expenses incurred in the course of fulfilling their responsibilities.

Section 2. Conflict of Interest. A conflict of interest is always present whenever the corporation pays money or other compensation, or provides any tangible benefits, to an officer or member of the board or to a member of a director's or officer's family. All transactions involving conflicts of interest must be approved using the following procedures: 1) Conflict of interest transactions must be approved by the full Board of Directors; they cannot be approved by staff, the executive director, or by a committee. 2) directors and officers who have a conflict of interest in any matter must a) declare the existence of any

direct or indirect conflict of interest, b) disclose its nature on the record, and c) abstain from voting on that matter. The minutes must record this to show that it was done. 3) The rest of the board must analyze the transaction and sufficient information to ensure that all transactions involving a conflict of interest are fair to the corporation and that no special benefits are being given to any person. The information relied upon by the board, and its source, must be recorded in the minutes. 4) All conflict-of-interest transactions must be approved by the affirmative vote of a majority of all of the members of the Board of Directors who do not have a conflict of interest involved in that issue, as long as no less than two disinterested directors vote to approve the transaction.

All Directors and officers must sign a disclosure of all conflicts of interest, and update it if that disclosure needs to be changed.

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

Section 4. No Discrimination. In the delivery of its services to the public, OBFS does not discriminate for or against any person on the basis of ethnicity, nationality, place of origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, familial status, economic status, age, or mental or physical disability.

Section 5. Annual Financial Review. The board must require the performance of an annual financial review which must involve the services of a trusted person with bookkeeping or accounting skills and knowledge, and which does not rely upon the services of the person who does the financial bookkeeping for the organization, or the person(s) who sign the checks for the organization. This financial review need not be formal, but must at least review and reconcile the checkbook entries, bank statements, deposit slips, receipts and expense documentation. The Board of Directors may authorize a full formal audit as necessary.

ARTICLE VIII. AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. The affirmative vote of at least two thirds of ~~a quorum of voting~~ members is necessary ~~and sufficient~~, to make, alter, amend or repeal the Articles of Incorporation or the Bylaws. Proper written notice must be given in advance **to all voting members**, including a written copy and written explanation of the proposed amendments.