

ORGANIZATION OF BIOLOGICAL FIELD STATIONS

59TH ANNUAL MEETING

Rising Tides and Winds of Change: A New Generation for Field Stations



November 11-16, 2024

Hobcaw Barony

Georgetown, South Carolina, USA

Co-hosted by:

Clemson University Baruch Institute
of Coastal Ecology and Forest Science (BICEFS)

University of South Carolina Belle W. Baruch Institute
for Marine and Coastal Sciences (BMFL)



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Welcome to the South Carolina Coast!



What is this place, Hobcaw Barony?

It's confusing, but Hobcaw Barony was the private property of Belle W. Baruch who purchased it from her father, Bernard Baruch, a Wall Street Financier and Presidential advisor. When Belle died in 1964, she placed her property in a non-profit trust with the charge to work with the public universities of South Carolina to further research and education in forestry, wildlife, and marine science. Her partner, Ella Severin, helped guide the Foundation until her death in 2001. In 1968 the Clemson Baruch Institute was founded (Non-Marine Natural Resources), with USC Baruch Institute (Marine Sciences) following in 1969. A few years ago, Coastal Carolina University and Francis Marion University co-sponsored a new SC Studies Institute (Anthropology and History). So from 1 visionary woman we have 1 property, 16,000 acres, 3 institutes, 4 universities, 2 fully-staffed field stations (Clemson and USC), and 10,000 years of history.

HOBCAW BARONY
THE BELLE W. BARUCH FOUNDATION

HOSTS

Skip Van Bloem
Bill Strosnider
Annie Wade
Lexi Brandon
Bruce Pfirrmann
Stephanie S. Li
Sam Downs
Jeff Jefferson
...and all BICEFS and BMFL Staff!

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Tom Bansak, Flathead Lake Biological Station (Chair)
Skip Van Bloem, Clemson University Baruch Institute of Coastal Ecology and Forest Science (OBFS VP and Co-host)
Bill Strosnider, University of South Carolina Baruch Marine Field Lab (Co-host)
Scott Thomas, Hancock Biological Station
Teresa Schueller, UW-Milwaukee at Waukesha
Jason Wallace, Center for Desert Studies
Brett Biebuyck, Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory
Sonia Nobrega, Queens University Biological Station
Sofía Rodríguez, La Selva Biological Station, Organization of Tropical Studies
Megan Napoli, Mohonk Preserve, New York.

OBFS President's Welcome

Hello to the OBFS Community!

We are very excited to welcome you to the Palmetto State and the 59th meeting of the Organization of Biological Field Stations.



Our hosts from the Clemson University Baruch Institute of Coastal Ecology and Forest Science and the University of South Carolina Baruch Marine Field Lab, along with the OBFS planning committee, have done an amazing job organizing our time in Hobcaw Barony. The coordination efforts have been impressive and the team has pulled together a line-up of guest speakers who promise to leave us inspired and motivated to accomplish more at our own stations than we ever thought possible. From learning about Gullah Geechee culture to studying American alligators and tracking data, the plenary sessions will be loaded with insights to help us connect with our local communities and histories as well as to do better, more inclusive and innovative science. Please try to come to the board meetings (they are tempting to blow off, I get it), but these sessions are the best ways to understand all that OBFS does for its members and how your station (and you personally) can benefit from OBFS initiatives.

The concurrent sessions this year are especially thought-provoking. From considering the land that your station is on, and its history, to thinking about how to reduce your station's ecological footprint, we can take advantage of our time together to help each other tackle some of the problems we think we are facing alone (we usually aren't!).

We are so happy you are here to join us in person or virtually. Our community continues to grow and it is thanks to your energy, enthusiasm, and love of the work field stations do, that we thrive. This meeting, please take the time to welcome new members and better know the ones you've met before. Consider volunteering for OBFS and taking on new initiatives. We are a group open to new ideas and receptive to trying new things. If you want to share an idea, or have any questions, concerns, or compliments, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or any of our hosts (listed above) or Board members (listed below).

I look forward to getting to know all of our participants, making wonderful memories, and sharing new ideas. These meetings never cease to inspire and I thank you for being a part of this year's adventure.

Best wishes for a safe and fruitful meeting,
Rhonda Struminger, OBFS Board President (2024 - 2026)

OBFS Board Members

Rhonda Struminger, Board President
 Lara Roketenetz, Past President
 Skip J. Van Bloem, Vice President
 Beth Norman, Secretary
 Paul Wetzel, Treasurer and Membership Committee Chair
 Sonia Nobrega, At-Large One
 Sofia Rodriguez, At-Large Two
 Scott Thomas, At-Large (Early Career)
 Stacy McNulty, Editor
 Sarah Oktay, Network Coordinator
 Itchung Cheung, Collaborations Committee Chair
 Shane Waddell, Governance and Sustainability Committee Chair
 Phoebe Jekielek, IDEA+ Committee Co-Chair
 Tori McDermott, IDEA+ Committee Co-Chair
 David Maneli, International Committee, Chair
 Brian Kloeppe, Development Committee Co-Chair
 Sarah Oktay, Development Committee Co-Chair
 Conner Philson, Communications and Outreach Committee Chair
 Mary Hufty, Historian
 Paul Foster, AIBS Liaison

Hobcaw Barony Information

Guidelines

You do **not** have permission to explore past the electronic gate, except for going to BMFL. This means that you are allowed to explore the area on the public side of the gate and you are allowed to go down Crab Hall Road to BMFL. All other areas are off limits unless accompanied by a member of staff.

Meals

The vegetarian options or meal options for specific dietary restrictions are only for those who required one in advance.

On Site Lodging

For those that have received confirmation for On Site lodging, information will be or has been emailed to you from Annie Wade (annie@baruch.sc.edu). Please refer to the information in the email for details regarding lodging.

Internet and Wi-Fi

There is wifi at the station, close to most buildings. At the BICEFS buildings, those with access to **eduroam**, can connect to the network that way. Others can use **clemsonguest**. After choosing the network, you will get a pop-up. You will need to accept the Terms Of Use in order to connect. At the BMFL dorms, cottages and the Kimbel Center, the wifi name is **kimbel**. There is no password needed. Please please please, there are a lot of us, so use the internet wisely.

Cell phone

There is cell phone reception in most places at the field station.

Money

Though we have little to sell, the Clemson or USC institutes are CASH only. The Hobcaw Barony Discovery Center accepts credit card if you buy souvenirs there.

Conference Schedule

Pre-Meeting Workshops and Field Activities

| Monday, November 11 - Workshops | | |
|---|---|--|
| Time | Activity | Location |
| | All day: Registration | BICEFS Front Desk |
| 7:30-8:30 | Light Breakfast/Plantersville Tour meets | Kimbel Lodge |
| 8:30 – 12:00 | Workshop 1: Workshop: Expand Your FSML Horizons with The Virtual Field | BICEFS Multi-Purpose Room |
| 12:00 – 13:00 | Lunch | BICEFS Porch |
| 13:00 – 16:30 | Concurrent Workshops Workshop 2: Workshops: myFSML - Development of an Interoperable Field Station Management Platform Workshop 3: Best Practices for Field Station Outreach and Environmental Education | BICEFS Multi-Purpose Room BMFL |
| 17:00 – 17:30 | OBFS Board Meeting | Kimbel Lodge |
| 18:00 – 19:15 | Dinner | Pond Shelter |
| 19:30 – 20:30 | International Matching Program work period | BICEFS Classroom |
| Tuesday, November 12 – Field activities | | |
| Time | Activity | Location |
| | All day: Registration | BICEFS Front Desk |
| 7:30-8:30 | Light Breakfast | BICEFS Porch |
| 08:00 | Field trips | Discovery Center (Bill and field trip wranglers) |
| 11:30 – 12:15 | Lunch | BICEFS Porch |
| 13:15 | Field trips | |

Main Meeting Program

| Tuesday, November 12 – Main meeting begins here | | |
|--|---|------------------------------------|
| 15:30 – 16:30 | New Member Welcome and OBFS overview | Multi-Purpose Room |
| 16:30 – 18:00 | Opening Reception, Mixer, and Discussion Overview | Multi-Purpose Room |
| 18:00 – 19:15 | Dinner | |
| 19:30 – 21:00 | Welcome* and Plenary #1: Zenobia Harper Gullah Geechee Culture | Tent (Streamed with Translation) |
| 21:00 | Silent auction sorting | Bldg B Conference Room |
| Wednesday, November 13 – Concurrent sessions | | |
| Time | Activity | Location |
| | Morning: Registration | BICEFS Front Desk |
| 7:30-8:30 | Light Breakfast | BICEFS Porch/tent |
| 08:30 – 10:00 | Plenary #2: Reed Beaman National Science Foundation Field Station Infrastructure and Capacity Funding | Tent (Streamed) |
| 10:00 – 10:30 | Coffee Break | Tent |
| | Concurrent Sessions | |
| 10:30 – 12:00 | 1. Creating and Evaluating The Timbuctoo Institute for Climate Science and Careers -a New York State-funded diversity initiative to transform representation in Natural Resource-related Academic and Professional Careers. | Discovery Center |
| | 2. Connection to Place: Approach to addressing history of field stations and their land | Pond Shelter |
| | 3. Get Excited About OBFS-Funded Programs! | Multi-Purpose Room (Hybrid) |
| | 4. Safety in the Field: Identity Matters | Kimbel Lodge |
| Meanwhile | Silent auction sorting | Kimbel Lodge |
| 12:00 – 13:00 | Lunch | Tent |
| | Concurrent sessions | |
| 13:00 – 14:30 | 5. Strategies for belonging when DEI is restricted/banned in a FSML's state | Multi-Purpose Room (Hybrid) |
| | 6. Friend and Fund Raising at Biological Field Stations | Discovery Center |
| | 7. Reducing our ecological footprint | Pond Shelte |
| | 8. Mentoring in the Field: Feedback Session to Develop Best Practices | Kimbel Lodge |
| 14:30 – 15:00 | Break | Tent |
| 15:00 – 16:00 | Station Tour (Meet at Clemson–clemson wrangles, USC hosts) | BMFL |
| 16:00 – 17:00 | Lightning Session | Multi-Purpose Room |
| 17:00 – 17:30 | Poster Session and Local Meet and Greet | BICEFS Hall and Multi-Purpose Room |
| 18:00 – 19:15 | Dinner | Tent |

| | | |
|--|--|-----------------------------|
| 19:30 – 20:45 | Local Hero Award Presentation and Plenary #3: Amy Armstrong SC Environmental Law Project: Protecting Nature and Communities | Tent |
| 20:45– | Live music | Pond Lab |
| Thursday, November 14 – Concurrent sessions | | |
| Time | Activity | Location |
| 7:30-8:30 | Light Breakfast | Kimbel Lodge |
| 8:30 – 10:00 | Concurrent sessions | |
| | 9. Disaster Response & Recovery for Field Stations | Multi-Purpose Room (Hybrid) |
| | 10. FSMLs and Indigenous Partnerships | Discovery Center |
| | 11. Beyond the Field: Making FSMLs Relevant to a Broader Audience | Pond Shelter |
| 10:00 – 10:30 | Coffee Break | BICEFS Porch/Kimbel |
| 10:30 – 1200 | Awards: OBFS Distinguished Service Award; Advancing Equity Award; Lifetime Memberships; Endowment, Historian Report Followed by Group Photo | Tent |
| 12:00 – 13:00 | Lunch | Pond Shelter |
| 13:00 – 14:30 | Plenary #4: American Alligators: Building Long-term Data Sets and Tackling Emerging Issues. Thomas Rainwater and Miriam Boucher | Tent |
| 14:30 – 15:00 | Break | |
| 15:00 – 16:30 | All Attendee Business Meeting / Committee Reports / 2024 Host | Tent |
| 16:30 – 17:15 | Discussion Review | Tent |
| 17:15 – 18:00 | Mixer and Review of Auction Items | Pond Shelter/Kimbel |
| 18:00 – 19:15 | Dinner | BICEFS Porch/tent |
| 19:30 | Auction and Dance Party | Pond Shelter |

Post Meeting Workshops

| | | |
|--|---|-----------------------------------|
| Friday, November 15 - Workshops | | |
| Time | Activity | Location |
| | All day: Check out | BICEFS Front Desk |
| 7:30-8:30 | Light Breakfast | Kimbel Lodge |
| 8:30 – 12:00 | Concurrent workshops | |
| | Workshop 4: Ecotones: Arts at Field Stations & Marine Labs Workshop 5: Developing Workflows for Field Station Data Using R and GIS Tools | BMFL BICEFS Multi-Purpose Room |
| 12:00 – 13:00 | Lunch | BICEFS Porch |
| 5:00-7:00 | Development Event | Georgetown Public Library |
| Saturday, November 16 | | |
| Time | Activity | Location |
| 7:30-8:30 | Light Breakfast for stragglers | Kimbel Lodge |

Workshop Descriptions

Workshop #1: Expand Your FSML Horizons with The Virtual Field

Presenters: Angie Patterson, Claudia Luke, Sara Kassis, and Itchung Cheung

Time: Monday November 11, 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Location: BICEFS MP Room

Description: The Virtual Field (www.thevirtualfield.org) is an NSF-funded project that creates and shares virtual teaching materials and events from field stations and marine laboratories (FSML) with educators around the world. Participation is open to all OBFS field stations and marine laboratories. Benefits include: (1) a global audience for your field station, (2) increased awareness of your FSML by home institutions, community members and donors, (3) creation of pre-field trip activities for your field site that deepen in-person learning experiences, (4) expansion of support for your on-site researchers, and (5) connections with FSML and faculty educators.

This three-hour workshop is an exploration of virtual technology and how it is being used to broaden student-learning at FSMLs. We will start with an overview of TVF projects, plug you in to 3D virtual environments, and lead you through a series of fun exercises that get you started making your own virtual experiences for visitors. We will show you how you can use smartphones, 360-degree video cameras, and virtual headsets to expand your educational programs. We leave time for a discussion of how we might as a community be able to use these technologies to raise awareness of the value of FSMLs.

Whether you just want to know more, get your toe in the water, or are ready to jump in, this workshop will get you up to date and participating in The Virtual Field.

Workshop #2: myFSML - Development of an Interoperable Field Station Management Platform

Presenters: Jason Tallant, Brett Biebuyck, Jumanah Saadeh, Amanda Young

Time: Monday November 11, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m

Location: BICEFS MP Room

Description: The Virtual Field (www.thevirtualfield.org) is an NSF-funded project that creates and shares virtual teaching materials and events from field stations and marine laboratories (FSML) with educators around the world. Participation is open to all OBFS field stations and marine laboratories. Benefits include: (1) a global audience for your field station, (2) increased awareness of your FSML by home institutions, community members and donors, (3) creation of pre-field trip activities for your field site that deepen in-person learning experiences, (4) expansion of support for your on-site researchers, and (5) connections with FSML and faculty educators.

This three-hour workshop is an exploration of virtual technology and how it is being used to broaden student-learning at FSMLs. We will start with an overview of TVF projects, plug you in to 3D virtual environments, and lead you through a series of fun exercises that get you started making your own virtual experiences for visitors. We will show you how you can use smart phones, 360-degree video cameras, and virtual headsets to expand your educational programs. We leave time for a discussion of how we might as a community be able to use these technologies to raise awareness of the value of FSMLs.

Whether you just want to know more, get your toe in the water, or are ready to jump in, this workshop will get you up to date and participating in The Virtual Field.

Workshop #3: Best Practices for Field Station Outreach and Environmental Education

Presenters: Tara Muenz and Steve Kerlin

Time: Monday November 11, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m

Location: BMFL

Learn how your field station can successfully expand your education-related programming! Stroud Water Research Center education staff will share examples of field-based activities for students and teachers as well as community audiences as well as sources of successful lesson frameworks, tools, funding, and resources. Time will also include a facilitated discussion on best practices, successes that other field stations could implement, and collective feedback on your outreach and educational programming.

Workshop #4: Ecotones: Arts at Field Stations & Marine Labs

Presenter: Nancy Lowe

Time: Friday November 15, 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m

Location: BMFL

Using the new Ecotones Guide for Arts at FSMLs, we will explore: current work in art + science + environment (at FSMLs and beyond), language for thinking about art & artists, starting a new arts residency (or developing an existing one), building relationships with artists and arts orgs, using arts to expand your FSML's DEI, recruiting and selecting artists, crossing disciplines between art & science, (art-sci collaborations, matching, cross-training, etc.) fees, stipends, and contracts... and other helpful information. Will also include some brief hands-on art-making activities (no art experience necessary!)

Workshop #5: Developing Workflows for Field Station Data Using R and GIS Tools

Presenters: Rebecca Kauten and Alex Liebrecht

Time: Friday November 15, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m

Location: BICEFS MP Room

This workshop is meant for beginner level practitioners to either become familiar with basic functions and fundamentals of the tools, or learn a bit more about newer functions not previously available from desktop clients.

Got data piling up you don't know what to do with? Do the letters R and G-I-S have you a bit flustered? This workshop is meant for practitioners to either become familiar with basic functions and fundamentals of the tools, or learn a bit more about newer functions not previously available from desktop clients. (Note: this workshop is not intended for advanced users of either tools)

Participants can expect to accomplish the following:

1. Develop reproducible workflows for R Studio and ArcGIS tools to manage and interpret data from your field station.
2. Take home a digital archive of resources which can be modified based on your field station needs.

| Tuesday, November 12 - Field Trip/Events Meeting Locations, Guides, and Times | | | | | |
|---|---|------------------------------|-----------------|--|-----------------------|
| | Trip | Time | Guide | Meeting Location | Meeting Time |
| 1 | Tom Yawkey Wildlife Center | 8:30-2:00 * nt | | South Island Public Boat Ramp, Georgetown (~30 minutes south of Hobcaw Barony, at the end of South Island Road County Road S-22-18). | 9:45 |
| 2 | Sandy Island Tour | 8:00 - 12:00 * nt | | Sandy Island Boat Landing, Pawleys Island (~ 30 minutes north of Hobcaw Barony, at the end of Sandy Island Road / County Road S-22-362). | 8:45 |
| 3 | Black River Cypress Preserve – Bike | 8:00-2:00 * nt | | 16368 County Line Road, Andrews, SC (~ 45 minutes west of Hobcaw Barony). | 8:45 |
| 4 | Black River Cypress Preserve – Kayak | 8:00-2:00 * nt | | 16368 County Line Road, Andrews, SC (~ 45 minutes west of Hobcaw Barony). | 8:45 |
| 5 | Discover Hobcaw Barony | 10:00-12:00 | Hobcaw Staff | Discovery Center | 9:50 |
| 6 | Villages of Hobcaw | 1:00-3:30 | Hobcaw Staff | Discovery Center | 12:50 |
| 7 | Gullah Tea | 9:00-11:00 | Jacque Williams | Kimbel Lodge | 8:55 |
| 8 | Gullah Roots Tour | 9:30-2:00 * | Gullah Roots | Discovery Center | 9:20 |
| 9 | North Inlet Estuary Morning | 8:30-11:30 | Bruce/Matt | Discovery Center | 8:15 |
| 10 | North Inlet Estuary Afternoon | 12:30-3:30 | Bruce/Matt | Discovery Center | 12:15 |
| 11 | Historic Plantersville | Monday 7:30-1:00 * | Ray Funnye | Kimbel Lodge | Monday 7:30 |
| | nt: No transportation (or rentals) | * lunch included | | | |

Field Trips

1. **Tom Yawkey Wildlife Center Tour:** Experience a bus guided tour with SCDNR staff around the 24,000 acre Tom Yawkey Wildlife Center. Participants are introduced to the history of the islands, drive through various wildlife habitats and historic sites, and hear about the legacy of Tom and Jean Yawkey. The activity level of this trip is easy but participants do have to maneuver two floating docks as they board a pontoon boat for a short ride across the Intracoastal Waterway.” (SCDNR, 2022). Majority of tour on island is via an airconditioned bus.
2. **Sandy Island Tour:** Take a journey back in time on a tour of Sandy Island, a hidden jewel on South Carolina’s Hammock Coast that is only accessible by boat. Located between the Waccamaw and Great Pee Dee rivers in the Pawleys Island area, Sandy Island is the last true undeveloped island on the east coast of South Carolina. Residents still travel to and from the island by boat, as they have for generations. Tours de Sandy Island include an in-depth history of the Gullah people of Sandy Island, and visit the old Mt. Rena cemetery, Sandy Island’s schoolhouse, its volunteer fire department, its villages, as well as a stop at Pyatt’s General store.” (Hammock Coast - SC Tourism, 2024). Activity level is easy but participants will walk across floating docks to board the former Sandy Island school boat for a trip across the Waccamaw River. Majority of tour on island is via school bus.
3. **Black River Cypress Preserve – Guided Bike Ride:** “The Black River Cypress Preserve (BRCP) is a privately owned nature preserve. Its primary purposes are conserving flora and fauna, protecting the ecological functions of the Black

River and its watershed, and preserving the aesthetic beauty of the river and its associated forests. The Cypress Preserve offers a unique opportunity to experience some of North America’s most diverse and exotic ecosystems—from mysterious black water swamps and rivers to sparkling pine savannas. Participants will explore via the Preserve’s biking trails, led by Preserve staff. Each trail features interpretive signs and plaques, identifying the flora and fauna that have evolved in these landscapes over millennia” (Black River Cypress Preserve, 2022). Exertion level is moderate.

4. **Black River Cypress Preserve – Guided Kayak:** “The Black River Cypress Preserve (BRCP) is a privately owned nature preserve. Its primary purposes are conserving flora and fauna, protecting the ecological functions of the Black River and its watershed, and preserving the aesthetic beauty of the river and its associated forests. The Cypress Preserve offers a unique opportunity to experience some of North America’s most diverse and exotic ecosystems—from mysterious black water swamps and rivers to sparkling pine savannas. Participants will paddle through the swamps along well-maintained canoe and kayak trails, led by Preserve-approved and experienced guide(s)” (Black River Cypress Preserve, 2022). In addition to paddling, hiking/biking will be required to access the boat landing. Exertion level is moderate.
5. **Discover Hobcaw Barony Tour:** “This two-hour tour requires little walking and includes highlights of Hobcaw Barony’s 16,000 acres of history, ecology and research. A privately owned research reserve, the property represents every environment and century of the Lowcountry. The bus stops for a tour inside Bernard Baruch’s c.1930 home that played host to politicians, generals and newspapermen, as well as Winston Churchill and President Franklin Roosevelt. In addition to Hobcaw House, tours include a drive by the home and stables of Bellefield Plantation, the home of Mr. Baruch’s oldest daughter Belle Baruch who owned all the property by 1956, as well as a stop in one of four slave villages – settlements on Hobcaw Barony that were constructed by enslaved people then inhabited by them and their descendants well into the 20th century. Information shared will include coastal ecosystems, native wildlife and endangered species” (2024 Belle W. Baruch Foundation). Activity level is easy; majority of tour via air-conditioned bus.
6. **Villages of Hobcaw Barony Tour:** “Although Friendfield Village is the most frequented African American village at Hobcaw Barony, there are remnants of additional, hidden villages, rarely seen by the public. On this tour, participants will visit the four villages to discuss the history of each village through oral interpretation as well as historical photographs of these areas. On the way to Barnyard Village to see the newly renovated cabin as well as the remaining extant buildings in that location, participants will drive-by the lone cabin at Alderly/Oryzantia, once owned by Joseph and Theodosia Burr Alston before stopping in Barnyard. Next stop is Strawberry Village where the one room schoolhouse that educated many children over time is located, and lastly a stop at Friendfield Village. (Exertion level: moderate impact – standing and walking on uneven terrain at times).” (2024 Belle W. Baruch Foundation).
7. **Gullah Tea Experience:** A locally-sourced and blended tea tasting with Gullah Herbalist, Jacque Williams, featuring ingredients from across the Lowcountry and specifically, Hobcaw Barony. The event will include light snacks and an introduction to Gullah culture and traditional natural resource use.
8. **Gullah Roots Tour:** Gullah-Geechee history comes alive as the Gullah Roots Tour Company provides an authentic Gullah-Geechee heritage experience with a driving tour of historic Georgetown focused on regional Black history followed by reflection over a genuine Soul Food meal. Activity level is easy; majority of tour via air-conditioned bus.
9. **North Inlet Estuary and Salt Marsh (Morning):** Introduction to the natural history, culture, and ecology of North Inlet estuary, with a particular focus on the research, education, and outreach activities of the University of South Carolina’s Baruch Institute and the North Inlet-Winyah Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. We’ll travel through the various habitats of North Inlet estuary via boat, including tidal creeks, salt marshes, barrier islands, and oyster reefs, and employ a mix of research methods (including plankton nets, seines, and trawls) to sample the diverse collection of flora and fauna. Activity level is easy but will require traversing floating docks to board and depart small boats.
10. **North Inlet Estuary and Salt Marsh (Afternoon):** Introduction to the natural history, culture, and ecology of North Inlet estuary, with a particular focus on the research, education, and outreach activities of the University of South Carolina’s Baruch Institute and the North Inlet-Winyah Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. We’ll travel through the various habitats of North Inlet estuary via boat, including tidal creeks, salt marshes, barrier islands, and oyster reefs, and employ a mix of research methods (including plankton nets, seines, and trawls) to sample the diverse collection of flora and fauna. Activity level is easy but will require traversing floating docks to board and depart small boats.
11. **Scenic, Historic Plantersville Bike Ride:** The 25-mile Bike Tour of Plantersville will begin at the Plantersville Cultural Center (PCC) at 8:00 AM, with bus service from Baruch. Bikes will be provided or you can bring your own. Riders should prepare for an easy ride on paved and hard-packed gravel/coquina roads. The lowcountry is flat, total

elevation change is about 100 feet. This is a modified version of the 25-mile Tour de Plantersville route that is operated annually by The Village Group. Participants will embark on a scenic bike ride, with the first scheduled stop at Hasty Point Plantation. Here, they will have the opportunity to take a break, enjoy light snacks and water, and go sightseeing at this historic site. A second stop will be planned along the route for participants to rest and appreciate the beauty of our natural surroundings and ending back at PCC. Plantersville Road is a State Scenic Byway, the only one in Georgetown County and the Peedee Region of SC. The history of Plantersville is steeped in the Georgetown rice culture and the slave labor that made it so prosperous. An important aspect of antebellum rice production was the unique societal culture that supported the crop. Rice planting was an exacting science, which required strict attention to details, and adaptability to changing conditions on the part of the planter, his overseer, the slave driver, and the field hands. The rice plantation slave community was rich in a culture known as Gullah. Gullah culture includes storytelling, cuisine, music, folk beliefs, crafts, farming and fishing traditions, as well as its own language and dialect exhibiting strong influences from West and Central African cultures.

Concurrent Sessions

Wednesday 10:30am - 12pm

1. Creating and Evaluating The Timbuctoo Institute for Climate Science and Careers -a New York State-funded diversity initiative to transform representation in Natural Resource-related Academic and Professional Careers

Location: Discovery Center

Presenters: Paul B. Hai, SUNY ESF; Alex Walls, SUNY ESF

Description: This 90-minute session will be broken into 3 30-minute sections. The first section, "Searching for Timbuctoo," will share the pre-Civil War history of Gerritt Smith's "Scheme of Justice" to provide free men of color with land grants across New York State in order to ensure their access to the vote in the face of State legislation disenfranchising black voters. In 1849, John Brown, who later led his small unit of men against the Federal Arsenal at Harpers Ferry, came to live among and help the grantees at one settlement, which came to be called Timbuctoo. The second section "Visiting Timbuctoo," will introduce the Timbuctoo Institute, created in 2023 with a NY State budget appropriation, explaining the Institute's design, development, and intentionality from content, to partners, to participants. The third section "The Promise of Timbuctoo," will present and discuss preliminary research findings assessing the efficacy of the Institute, drawing on two years of data collected from pre- and post-participation evaluations as well as first person testimonials from close to 100 participants.

2. Connection to Place: Approach to addressing history of field station's and their land

Location: Pond Shelter

Presenters: Bill Strosnider

Description: In this session three field stations will share their efforts to address the fraught histories of the lands on which they reside (e.g., dispossession from native peoples, legacies of slavery, violent events, etc.). Learn how about their efforts, successes, setbacks, future plans. Included is the U South Carolina Baruch Marine Field Lab's past lack of acknowledgement of chattel slavery on Hobcaw Barony and the different initiatives (e.g., community service projects and historical research) we have ongoing. The session will conclude with an interactive discussion on how we all might do better together.

3. Get Excited About OBFS-Funded Programs!

Location: MP Room and Zoom

Presenters: Paul Foster, David Maneli, Shane Waddell, Chris Lorentz

Description: Join us for an exhilarating session that highlights the incredible opportunities offered through OBFS-sponsored grant programs! We'll explore the mini-grant program, the Station Exchange Program (SXP), and

the International Matching Program, which connects 2-3 field stations from diverse regions to foster knowledge sharing and collaboration.

You'll learn how to apply for these exciting grants and hear inspiring stories from past recipients who have maximized these fantastic resources. Don't miss our lively open Q&A discussion at the end, where you can ask all your burning questions about these thrilling opportunities. We also want your feedback on how these programs serve you as we start to think about the next OBFS strategic plan. Let's get started and discover how OBFS can empower you and your field station!

4. Safety in the Field: Identity Matters

Location: Kimbel Lodge

Presenters: Stefanie Whitmire and Blair Schneider

Description: This session will invite participants to engage in a confidential, respectful environment to learn about how safety in the field can change based on an individual's identity and experiences. This training will teach participants how to analyze safety through an intersectional framework to better prepare and support ourselves and our colleagues. Participants will work through risk assessment analyses and define reporting guidelines during the session using their own unique field sites. The training will also provide resources and strategies to empower participants to be better prepared before, during, and after a fieldwork experience.

Wednesday 1pm - 2:30pm

5. Strategies for belonging when DEI is restricted/banned in a FSML's state

Location: MP Room and Zoom

Presenters: Tori McDermott, UAF; Rebecca Kauten, Iowa Lakeside Laboratory

Description: "As of May 2024, 85 bills targeting diversity programs have been introduced and 14 have been signed into law restricting or banning DEI on college campuses (Betts, 2024). These practices have real world consequences for those seeking to create spaces of belonging within their stations (e.g., funding withdrawals for DEI programs/positions, limiting language, etc.). As such, this session seeks to serve as a hybrid participatory concurrent session to discuss potential navigation strategies and best practices for engaging in DEI+ practices when DEI+ is restricted or banned in a FSML's State. We invite the audience to brainstorm and workshop alongside us to navigate this new landscape as we discuss topics from language usage to alternative funding to getting support from friendly states, to continue the important DEI+ work many of our stations are committed to." Betts, A. (2024, May 23). What to know about state laws that limit or ban D.E.I efforts at colleges. The New York Times. <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/04/21/us/dei-education-state-laws.html>"

6. Friend and Fund Raising at Biological Field Stations

Location: Discovery Center

Presenters: Brian D. Kloeppe, Western Carolina University; Sarah Oktay, Herring Gut Coastal Science Center; Paul Foster, Bijagual Reserve Costa Rica; Tom Bansak, Flathead Lake Biological station,

Description: Our concurrent session on Field Station Friend and Fund Raising is geared toward helping participants to plan and complete the next step in their development pathway by our next OBFS annual meeting in September 2025. We all have a different starting point and we are encouraging and expecting you to move forward on your development journey. We will present subtopics on identifying and communicating with your field station audience, empowering friends to become donors, finding funding sources for international field stations, and closing the deal with donors at a variety of events. Our small group of concurrent session leaders is from a variety of field stations across the Americas and we will connect with you. We will each present a short summary on our individual topic, but our goal is to facilitate a group discussion to provide you with immediate feedback and direction to empower you to take the next step.

7. Reducing our ecological footprint

Location: Pond Shelter

Presenters: Sofia Rodriguez

Description: TBD

8. Reducing our ecological footprint

Location: Kimbel Lodge

Presenters: Blair Schneider and Stefanie Whitmire

Description: While there are several mentoring curriculums available that contain a very solid foundation applicable to a variety of research scenarios and settings, there are none that specifically address the unique challenges associated with a field-based mentoring experience. The term fieldwork applies broadly to any work-related activities outside of an institution, such as day trips to a local stream, overnights at a national park, month-long stays in a different country, or camping in the remote wilderness. In addition to strains on physical health, fieldwork can also add strain on mental health for participants. Mentoring considerations during fieldwork requires an awareness of how groups with different identities are perceived and treated by others in the field environment, as well as unique safety concerns that arise from being in a field setting. Join us to discuss what best practices look like for a mentor and a mentee when embarking on a field trip together. The results of these feedback sessions will be incorporated into a workshop training that can be disseminated broadly for use by field scientists.

Thursday 8:30am to 10am

9. Disaster Response & Recovery for Field Stations

Location: MP Room and Zoom

Presenters: Isabel Ashton, Black Rock Forest

Description: In the new era of climate disasters, field stations are often remote and vulnerable to extreme events such as fires, floods, and storms. In this session, I would like to tell the story of Black Rock Forest and how we managed emergency operations and recovery from an extreme storm event in July 2023. Recovery is ongoing and has been complex. It requires navigating state agencies, FEMA processes, press and politicians, and donor outreach; all while trying to maintain research and education functions. I will share lessons we learned about damage inventories, emergency closures, and receiving grants through FEMA. Ideally, I can find other field stations that have managed federally-declared disasters that can share their experiences and provide more tips and best practices during this session. .

10. FSMLs and Indigenous Partnerships

Location: Discovery Center

Presenters: Dustin Angell, Archbold Biological Station; Sonia Nobrega, Queen's University Biological Station; Phil Matson, Flathead Biological Station

Description: This is a mixed-format session, including presentations and small group discussions. Representatives from Queen's University Biological Station, Flathead Lake Biological Station, and Archbold Biological Station will present on partnerships between FSMLs and Indigenous groups, including an overview of the topic and examples from their field stations. After this, the audience will divide into small groups for facilitated conversations on the topic.

11. Beyond the Field: Making FSMLs Relevant to a Broader Audience

Location: Pond Shelter

Presenters: Kerry Wininger, Center for Environmental Inquiry, Sonoma State University; Sarah Oktay, Herring Gut Coastal Science Center; Gary Bucciarelli, UC Davis

Description: FSMLs are really good at what they do. But how can they be bigger than they are currently: reach more people, serve different groups, support student engagement in environmental challenges, address local community issues, tap into diverse funds, serve faculty, and all-around synergize with other powerful efforts taking place in education, sustainability, land and resource management, and more? Faculty, FSML staff, and others are invited to come hear from a panel of FSML leaders who have experience expanding the idea of what FSMLs can be, and join a discussion on changes you'd like to see, ideas you may have brewing, and how to move the needle on making our community make an even bigger impact.

Poster Session

POSTER 1

AUTHORS: Tara K. Muenz¹, Steve C. Kerlin¹, Scott H. Ensign¹

TITLE: Accessible and Meaningful Watershed Educational Tools

AFFILIATIONS:

¹Stroud Water Research Center, PA, USA

ABSTRACT: Are you interested in providing meaningful watershed educational experiences to your audiences across the world? In this presentation, the Stroud Center Education Department will review how to successfully provide experiential learning opportunities that engage educators, students, citizens, conservation practitioners, municipal decision-makers, and researchers, to collaboratively advance knowledge and stewardship of fresh water. We will give you a roadmap of researched educational tools, frameworks, models and lessons to support your outreach efforts, courses, and grant collaborations. Included are NOAA's Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEE) framework, Stroud Center's Wikiwatershed® Web toolkit, the WATERS middle school curriculum, and examples from National Science Foundation projects that include broader impacts. These learned-centered activities connect audiences with their local environment and equip them to make decisions and take actions that contribute to stronger, sustainable, and equitable communities.

POSTER 2

AUTHORS: Anicka H. Chaffey¹

TITLE: Art at Archbold: Creating Comics for Science Communication

AFFILIATIONS:

¹Archbold Biological Station, Venus, FL, USA

ABSTRACT: For research organizations, collaborations between artists and scientists present an innovative opportunity to bridge the gap between researchers and the public and garner excitement within the community about science and conservation. Comics present a compelling medium to explore such collaborations; with their combination of both text and visual storytelling, comics can represent tough-to-grasp concepts in a way that is both engaging and easily digestible. For this project, the author collaborated with the Avian Ecology and Education programs at Archbold to create a 25-page comic book about Florida Scrub-Jays that will be used for outreach and as a teaching resource in middle-school classrooms within the local school district. The goal of the project was to create educational material to teach the local community about the threatened and endemic Florida Scrub-Jay and Archbold's conservation efforts. To maximize the utility of this comic, the author incorporated FL middle-school science learning benchmarks so that educators can use this comic in their classrooms to not only have students learn about the local ecosystem, but also to provide applied examples of the core science concepts that are part of the existing science curriculum. Ultimately this project serves as an example of how collaborations between artists, scientists and educators can give birth to creative outreach solutions that inspire and educate adults and kids alike about science and conservation!

POSTER 3

AUTHORS: Beth C. Norman^{1,2}, Alexandra Bros^{1,3}, Theresa Black¹

TITLE: Promoting Lake Stewardship in Northeastern Pennsylvania: Lacawac Sanctuary's PLEON Program

AFFILIATIONS:

¹Lacawac Sanctuary Field Station and Environmental Education Center, Lake Ariel, PA, USA

²Department of Earth and Environmental Science, Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA, USA

³Department of Biology, Miami University of Ohio, Oxford, OH, USA

ABSTRACT: Lakes in the Pocono Mountain region of Northeastern Pennsylvania provide essential wildlife habitat and ecosystem services and form an important part of the tourism-based economy. Like many lakes around the world, Pocono lakes are experiencing warming temperatures, altered precipitation regimens, invasive species, increased runoff, nutrient loading, and contamination, often resulting in degrading water quality, nutrient enrichment, and harmful algae blooms. Effective lake stewardship requires evidence-based, data-driven approaches. However, most Pocono lakes are owned by private community associations, many of whom do not have expertise in lake ecology or management. These groups require a trusted source of information, education, and data collection. Recognizing this need, Lacawac Sanctuary launched the Pocono Lake Ecological Observatory Network (PLEON) in 2017. PLEON consists of several initiatives, including formal lake monitoring services, a lake stewardship field course, and a citizen-led water quality monitoring program. The goals of PLEON are to empower the public to better understand and manage their freshwaters, create a community of scientists and landowners working to preserve Pennsylvania’s lakes, and collect and communicate ecological data that help inform effective lake management. All PLEON initiatives emphasize and prioritize partnerships with the community. To date, PLEON has worked with 18 lake associations to develop or contribute to on-going monitoring in 31 lakes across 3 Pennsylvania counties. We have also worked with volunteers to monitor water quality of Pennsylvania’s 3rd largest lake, Lake Wallenpaupack. The PLEON program received the 2024 Environmental Partnership Award and the 2024 Governor’s Awards for Environmental Excellence from the Pennsylvania Environmental Council.

2024 OBFS Lightning Talks

TBD

Guest Speaker Biographies

Plenary 1 (Tuesday at 7:30pm):

Zenobia Harper (zharper@coastal.edu)



A resident of Georgetown, South Carolina, Harper is an artist and the founder of the Gullah Preservation Society. She has worked as an Artist in Residence with the South Carolina Arts Commission, and her art is featured in numerous galleries and in many private collections. Growing up Gullah, Harper was gifted with all of the rich foundations that the culture has to offer; she now works to preserve it for future generations.

Plenary 2 (Wednesday at 8:30am):

Reed Beaman (rsbeaman@nsf.gov)



Reed Beaman is a Program Director at the National Science Foundation (NSF) with primary responsibilities for the Collections in Support of Biological Research and Advancing Digitization of Biodiversity Collections programs. Previously at NSF he was responsible for a variety of programs in biology, including Next Generation Networks for Neuroscience, Advances in Biological Informatics; Dimensions of Biodiversity, and Critical Techniques, Technologies and Methodologies for Advancing Foundations and Applications of Big Data Sciences and Engineering. Reed's research interests have focused in Southeast Asia, particularly on Mount Kinabalu, a biodiversity hotspot on the Island of Borneo. His dissertation work involved the description of eight new plant species and landscape level biogeographic analysis using remote sensing imagery and geographic information systems.

More recently, he has engaged with researchers in Asia as the Biodiversity Expedition Lead for the Pacific Rim Applications and Middleware Grid Applications (PRAGMA) network, a community of practice that facilitates cyberinfrastructure experimentation on an international scale. Reed was a Postdoctoral Fellow in Biological Informatics sponsored by the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney and University of Kansas, during which he developed software tools for automating geo-referencing specimen data. He continued work on digitization methods while Associate Director for Informatics at the Yale Peabody Museum and as Curator of Informatics at the Florida Museum of Natural History prior to serving at the NSF. Reed earned a BS in Botany at the University of Michigan and a PhD in Botany at the University of Florida.

Plenary 3 (Wednesday at 7:30pm):

Amy E. Armstrong (amy@scelp.org)



Amy Armstrong graduated from University of South Carolina with law degree and a Master's in Environmental Resource Management. She started working for the South Carolina Environmental Law Project ("SCELP") in September, 2002, after receiving a competitive two year fellowship from Equal Justice Works. SCELP is a 501(c)(3) public interest environmental law organization. In 2004 Amy transitioned into staff attorney at SCELP, where she remained until the death of SCELP's President, Jimmy Chandler, in 2010. Upon Mr. Chandler's death, Amy became SCELP's Executive Director/Chief Counsel. Amy represents environmental and citizens groups before state and federal courts and agencies in an extensive administrative and regulatory practice. She has handled numerous appeals of administrative decisions before the state's appellate courts, as well as federal courts. She has litigated cases involving

protection of freshwater and saltwater wetlands, endangered species, citizens' rights, water quality, air quality and coastal management.

Amy has successfully argued numerous cases in the S.C. Supreme Court, resulting in greater protection of our natural environment and the public's standing to challenge permits. She has also argued cases in the U.S. District Court for the District of South Carolina and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. She is a frequently speaker at Continuing

Legal Education courses throughout the State as well as a guest lecturer for the USC School of Law, the Charleston School of Law, and Coastal Carolina University. Amy grew up in Columbia, SC. She received her B.S. in Biology from the University of Michigan in 1992. Before attending law school, she worked with the S.C. Department of Natural Resources managing a population of federally endangered Red-cockaded Woodpeckers. In her spare time, Amy enjoys walking her dog, kayaking SC's many beautiful waterways, cooking, traveling, reading and playing the piano.

Plenary 4 (Thursday at 1pm):

Thomas Rainwater (ttrainw@clemson.edu)



Thomas Rainwater is a wildlife biologist and research scientist with the Tom Yawkey Wildlife Center and Clemson University's Baruch Institute of Coastal Ecology and Forest Science, both in Georgetown, South Carolina. He received his B.S. in Biology from Furman University (1989), M.S. in Environmental Toxicology from Clemson University (1994), and Ph.D. in Environmental Toxicology from Texas Tech University (2003). For the last 34 years, he has worked on various research projects in the United States, Central America, Africa, and Asia focusing on the biology, ecotoxicology, and conservation of wildlife, particularly the impacts of environmental pollution, habitat alteration, and over-exploitation on endangered crocodilians and turtles. In 2010, he joined the Tom Yawkey Wildlife Center on a long-term study of American alligators in coastal habitats. This project has provided novel insights into the reproduction, diet, growth, behavior, movement, survival, and longevity of animals living at the interface of freshwater,

estuarine, and marine systems, and how environmental changes (e.g., pollution, habitat loss, increasing human population, climate change) may influence different life history traits of these apex predators.

Miriam Boucher (mnbouch@clemson.edu)



Miriam is a conservationist and wildlife biologist (AWB) with 9 years of experience in environmental monitoring and wildlife management. She has considerable experience and demonstrated proficiency in project development and implementation for large-scale wildlife management and research projects in diverse locations. Her unique experiences working with the non-profit, government, industry, and academic sectors have developed strong skills in terrestrial and aquatic monitoring from the dense jungles of Belize to industrial development projects in her native Alberta.

Other Things to do in the Area

- **Brookgreen Gardens** (20 min drive north of Hobcaw Barony) - open 9:30am to 5pm, \$22 admission per adult for 7 consecutive days
- **Huntington Beach State Park** (20 min drive north of Hobcaw Barony) - open 6am to 6pm, \$8 admission per adult
- **South Carolina Maritime Museum** (7 min drive south of Hobcaw Barony) - open 11am to 5pm, closed Sundays, free admission - donations appreciated
- **Gullah Museum of Georgetown** (7 min drive south of Hobcaw Barony) - open 11am to 4pm, closed Sundays, \$10 donation admission
- **The Rice Museum** (6 min drive south of Hobcaw Barony) - open 11am to 4pm, closed Mondays and Sundays, \$9 admission per adult

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OBFS Expectations and Code of Conduct

OBFS Expectations

OBFS is committed to a safe and supportive environment free from all forms of discrimination, harassment, and assault. Responsible and respectful conduct is expected while participating in all OBFS annual meeting activities.

OBFS Code of Conduct

The OBFS Board has recently adopted a code of conduct which was modified from the American Geophysical Union Code of Conduct. We hope to finalize this with input from the membership and through online discussions. OBFS is committed to providing a safe, productive, and welcoming environment for all meeting participants. All participants, including, but not limited to, attendees, speakers, volunteers, exhibitors, OBFS board members, service providers, and others are expected to abide by this OBFS Code of Conduct. This Code of Conduct applies to all OBFS meeting-related events, including those sponsored by organizations other than OBFS but held in conjunction with OBFS events, in public or private facilities.

- All participants, attendees, and vendors are treated with respect and consideration, valuing a diversity of views and opinions.
- Be considerate, respectful, and collaborative.
- Communicate openly with respect for others, and as necessary, critiquing ideas rather than individuals.
- Avoid personal attacks directed toward other attendees, participants, and suppliers/vendors.
- Be mindful of your surroundings and of your fellow participants. Alert OBFS board members or site host staff if you notice a dangerous situation or someone in distress.
- Respect the rules and policies of the meeting venue, lodging, hosts, or any other venue associated with the meeting.

Unacceptable Behavior includes:

- Harassment, intimidation, or discrimination in any form.
- Physical, sexual, or verbal abuse of any attendee, speaker, volunteer, exhibitor, OBFS board member, service provider, or other meeting guest.
- Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to, verbal comments related to gender, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, race, religion, national origin, inappropriate use of nudity and/or sexual images in public spaces or in presentations,
- Threatening or stalking any attendee, speaker, volunteer, exhibitor, OBFS board member, service provider, or other meeting guest.
- Disruption of presentations during the meeting, or at other events organized by OBFS at the meeting venue, hotels, or other associated facilities.

Consequences are as follows:

- Anyone requested to stop unacceptable behavior is expected to comply immediately.
- The OBFS board, meeting hosts, or security may take any action deemed necessary and appropriate, including immediate removal from the meeting without warning or refund.
- OBFS may report misconduct to the violator's home institution or to the appropriate authorities, depending on the nature of the offense.

Misconduct Reporting

If you are the subject of unacceptable behavior or have witnessed any such behavior, please immediately notify an OBFS board member, an OBFS volunteer in a leadership position, site host staff, or local authorities. Board members will have nametags with a ribbon or a star to distinguish them as reporting entities.

COVID Information

In order to keep our community safe and healthy, OBFS Annual Meeting participants are encouraged to:

- Be fully vaccinated
- Stay home if you are feeling unwell
- Test negative before arrival
- Bring a COVID test with you
- Maintain social distance and/or wear a mask when appropriate
- Follow CDC covid recommendations which can be found here:

<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2022/p0811-covid-guidance.html>

About OBFS



The Organization of Biological Field Stations (OBFS) is a nonprofit, multinational organization representing field stations and research centers across the United States, Canada, and 17 other countries and territories on five continents. The mission of the Organization of Biological Field Stations is to help member stations increase their effectiveness in supporting critical research, education, and outreach programs. We pursue this goal in a manner that maximizes diversity, inclusiveness, sustainability, and transparency.

Hobcaw Barony Map

