Organization of Biological Field Stations
59th Annual Meeting

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

Links to Recorded Plenaries, Concurrent Sessions, the Awards Ceremony, and the Business Meeting

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 Baruch Marine Field Laboratory (BMFL)

Plenaries

Plenary 1: Zenobia Harper (https://youtu.be/WuukAv1mssQ)
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: *Reed Beaman* (https://youtu.be/HUUTCalnE7Y)
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: Amy E. Armstrong (https://youtu.be/E2lYqSTcPXo)
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

Plenary 3: Amy E. Armstrong (continued)
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: Thomas Rainwater and Miriam Boucher (https://youtu.be/Vzn4Qh3bWLo)
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 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.

Recorded Concurrent Sessions

3. Get Excited About OBFS-Funded Programs! ***(****https://youtu.be/ZUX5gJ8nXEU****)***
Learn from members and committee leaders about the programs OBFS offers our membership.

9. Disaster Response & Recovery for Field Stations ***(****https://youtu.be/sRF3R1nBG28****)***
Presenters: Isabel Ashton, Black Rock Forest

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.

Awards Ceremony (https://youtu.be/YhQoQJQaymI)

Learn about OBFS' history and meet the winners of the Distinguished Service Award (Philippe S. Cohen), and the diversity awards: The IDEA+ Innovation Advancing Equity and Community Connections Award (Baruch Marine Field Laboratory) and the IDEA+ Advancing Equity Award (Toolik Field Station).

OBFS Annual Business Meeting (https://youtu.be/R5Vog-h00NM)

Learn about all the exciting things the OBFS Board is doing for its members!