



PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

—BY RHONDA STRUMINGER

How many times have you had to answer the question, what is a field station? The majority of the public remains unaware of our existence or the critical role we play in monitoring the health of our planet, fostering innovation, and promoting science. Within the science community, many colleagues have not even heard of field stations. To thrive, field stations need everyone’s support and acknowledgement.

Thanks to the efforts of OBFS leadership, the US 2022 CHIPS Act explicitly mentions field stations. [Section 10349](#) states: “The NSF shall continue to support enhancing, repairing, and maintaining research instrumentation, laboratories, telecommunications, and housing at biological field stations and marine laboratories.” This has helped provide ongoing station funding and recognition in the U.S. through the [NSF: 23-580](#) program solicitation: Infrastructure Capacity for Biological Research. We urge US members to take advantage of this opportunity!

Moreover, OBFS collaborates with the American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS) annually to send member station representatives to advocacy training so they can meet with members of the U.S. Congress to elevate our visibility and needs (read about the latest visit on page 10).

OBFS, as an international organization, is looking at ways to expand how we help our member stations. To start an advocacy day in your country or share ideas of a partner organization, please reach out to me. Through the OBFS network, we can help each other improve our visibility and garner financial, political, and volunteer support from colleagues, governments, and the public in general. To better share our ideas, we have started a few topics in an [OBFS Discussion Board Forum](#) we are calling Increasing Field Station Visibility. From publications to outreach, strategic partnerships to social media, we ask you to contribute your success stories, advice, or any other thoughts to the existing topics (or add a new topic!). We hope some best practices will emerge that we can make available to our members. Contact me at president@obfs.org.

Wishing you successful and inspiring spring and summer field seasons!

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Banner photo: Warming Warning, David Buckley Borden and Aaron M. Ellison. Designed to immerse visitors in a 3-D visualization of climate change, on view at the Harvard Forest “Farm”. [Read more here.](#)

APPLY FOR A MINI-GRANT—PAGE 2

OBFS MINI-GRANTS—BY SHANE WADDELL

OBFS is accepting proposals from member stations and individual members for projects related to the five priority areas of the [OBFS Strategic Plan 2021-2026](#):

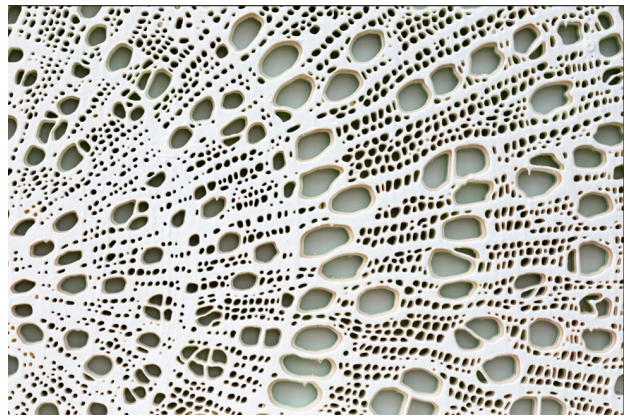
- 1) Collaborations within the OBFS community and with other organizations
- 2) IDEA+ (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility)
- 3) Membership Support
- 4) Advocacy: raising awareness and promoting the value of Field Stations
- 5) Sustainability for the Organization and Member Stations.

Proposals up to US \$5000 will be accepted throughout the year. **Apply at:** <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1ku2-naqW0yevG8dhrtsd-G2KvjrrjelGWduWiu4x2xQ/edit>. A Board committee will review the proposals on a rolling basis and make decisions in a timely manner. Two recent grant examples:

Arts at FSMLs: Curated List of Potential Artists Partners

Awarded to Nancy Lowe and Leah Wilson. They produced a 36-page document entitled “*Ecotones: Arts at Field Stations | A Guide for Arts Programs at Field Stations & Marine Labs.*” The Guide is available to OBFS members on the [Member Access Documents](#) website (login required). The Guide includes:

- Samples of artists working at the intersection of art, science and environment
- Language for thinking about art and artists
- Guidance for selecting artists
- Steps to publicize artist residencies
- Ways to match art-science partners
- Building equitable art-science collaborations
- Recruiting artists from underrepresented groups
- Suggestions for artist-in-residence programs
- Advice for building relationships with artists and arts organizations
- Residencies as compared to commissioned artwork, with info about fees and contracts
- Reflections about interdisciplinarity and transdisciplinarity
- Information about exhibits, funding, etc.
- Selected references



Leah Wilson, [Listening to the Forest](#), an old-growth tree from the cellular level to the forest, a collaboration with HJ Andrews Forest and Oregon State University.

Members of the Ecotones Arts at FSML group suggested a second section to address non-residency arts programs at FSMLs (e.g., art workshops, exhibits, events, visiting artists). We may begin working on this section at the 2024 OBFS meeting in November. If you have questions or comments about the Ecotones Guide, please email Nancy Lowe at sciencecandance@gmail.com.

Continued on page 3; also see more art produced with field station and marine lab partners on page 7. Contact: Shane Waddell, Governance and Sustainability Committee Chair, smwaddell@ucdavis.edu.

OBFS MINI-GRANTS — CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Undergraduate Field Experiences Research Network (UFERN) System of Assessment

Awarded to Emily Ward and Kari O'Connell. Last summer, a small group of OBFS members met to participate in a UFERN-OBFS workshop collaboration focused on assessing undergraduate field experiences. Participants identified student outcomes specific to their field programs on which to build an assessment plan (see snapshot of identified behavioral outcomes at right).

They were then introduced to the UFERN system of assessment (hosted by Center for the Improvement of Mentored Experiences in Research). A second workshop is in development for this summer. Stay tuned!

Students will be able to read maps

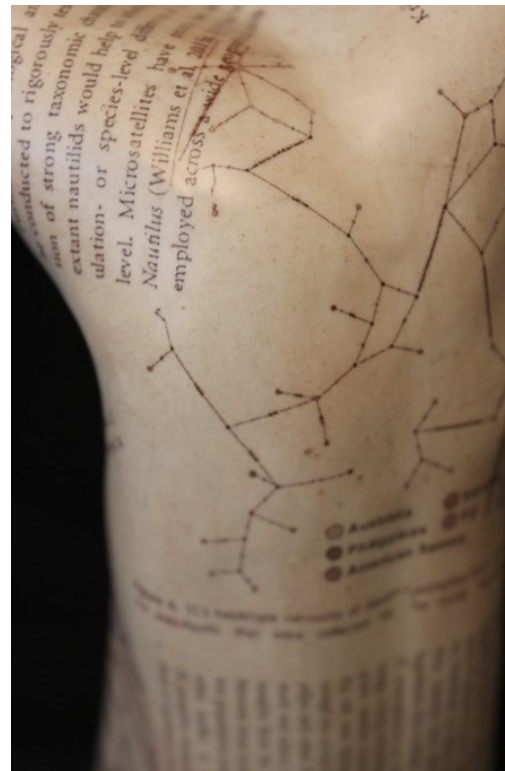
develop own idea on how one can meaningfully contribute to conservation and sustainability efforts around the world

Write a scientific paper

How to write like a researcher vs. non-research writing

Science communication (for non-scientists)

Learn how to be an academic professional



Above left and right: *Fernanda Oyarzun, Origin, from the Marine Consciousness series (2017)*. *Fernanda was an artist-in-residence at [Friday Harbor Labs](#) at University of Washington. Her scientific research, which weaves into her ceramic work and art-science explorations, is based on the ecology and evolution of marine invertebrates. [Read more here.](#)*

SCHOODIC INSTITUTE 2024 ACADIA SCIENCE FELLOWS

— BY CATHERINE SCHMITT

Two scientists have been awarded Acadia Science Fellowships to conduct research in Acadia National Park. An initiative of the National Park Service, National Park Foundation, Schoodic Institute at Acadia National Park, and the David Evans Shaw Family Foundation, [Acadia Science Fellows](#) expand the capacity of the National Park Service to understand environmental change in parks.

The new awards will support research to inform management of forests and wildlife in Acadia and other national parks. The 2024 Acadia Science Fellows are:

Peter Howe, graduate student in the University of Maine School of Forest Resources

Marisa Monroe, graduate research assistant in the University of Maine Department of Wildlife, Fisheries & Conservation Biology

Like many national parks, Acadia is experiencing rapid changes, the impacts of which are still largely uncertain, challenging the National Park Service to manage and protect both natural and cultural resources.

"Acadia isn't what it used to be. Still recovering from deforestation prior to park establishment, Acadia is now simultaneously responding to rapidly warming temperatures, changing precipitation regimes, and newly arriving invasive species," said Schoodic Institute President & CEO Nicholas Fisichelli. "Protecting Acadia requires close coordination of scientists and managers to understand rapid change and develop stewardship solutions – this is the role of the Acadia Science Fellowship and we are excited to have Marisa and Peter contributing to our community of science." (*cont. on page 5*)



Above left: Peter Howe paddling. Above right: Marissa Monroe. Photo Credits: Schoodic Institute.

The 2024 OBFS Annual Meeting

At Baruch Institutes of
Hobcaw Barony in
South Carolina

November 11-15

OBFS.org

Useful 2024 Meeting Links

To learn more about the rich history of [Hobcaw Barony](#) and the visionary Belle W. Baruch.

[Between the Waters](#), fascinating interactive website on the site's history was also produced by our public TV service.

Co-host [USC Baruch Institute of Marine and Coastal Ecology](#), including the majority of on-site housing and evening events.

Co-host [Clemson Baruch Institute of Coastal Ecology and Forest Science](#), where most of the daytime program will occur.

See page 12 for details!



Above: Part of Clemson's Baruch Institute of Coastal Ecology and Forest Science.

ACADIA —CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

The Acadia Science Fellowship is building on the success of Second Century Stewardship, which supported 20 fellows between 2016 and 2023.

“Science and scientists play an integral part in Acadia National Park’s management,” said Superintendent Kevin Schneider. “We rely on the best available science to make the best decisions for the park. We are eager to welcome the Acadia Science Fellows to the team and work with them to understand our ever-changing landscape.”

More about the fellows and their research: [Peter Howe](#) is creating a Northern Forest Historical Atlas with photogrammetric analysis of archival aerial photographs of the Maine woods. Using images from the Acadia region between 1949 and 1980, Howe will compile spatially accurate photomosaics of Acadia's forests through time.

"This timely project will support the park's ongoing efforts to restore ecosystems at Great Meadow, Bass Harbor Marsh, and on our mountain summits," said Resource Management Program Manager Rebecca Cole-Will. "We cannot have a thriving ecosystem in the future if we don't understand how the ecosystem has evolved. This project will shed light on that important piece of the puzzle."

[Marisa Monroe](#) is engaging citizen scientists in monitoring Acadia's 11 species of amphibians. During their seasonal nighttime migrations between forests and wetlands, frogs, newts, and salamanders often have to cross roads. Monroe plans to engage volunteers to monitor park roads during rainy nights.

"Right now we don't know when or where amphibians are crossing our roads, especially outside of the early spring rush to lay eggs," said Acadia National Park Wildlife Biologist Bik Wheeler. "This work will give us a much fuller understanding of amphibian movements and how we can best protect them."

Learn more at schoodicinstitute.org.

Contact: [Catherine Schmitt, Science Communication Specialist, CSchmitt@SchoodicInstitute.org](mailto:CSchmitt@SchoodicInstitute.org).

NEW ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR RESEARCH AT JASPER RIDGE BIOLOGICAL PRESERVE - 'OOTCHAMIN 'OOYAKMA



Above: Adriana Hernandez dissects a flower to image on a scanner. Credit: Gayle Laid at the California Academy of Sciences.

Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve - 'Ootchamin 'Ooyakma (JRBP'O'O) is excited to welcome Dr. Adriana Hernandez as the new Associate Director for Research. Adriana took over the directorship of the preserve's research program from Dr. Nona Chiariello when she retired in January after more than 35 years at Jasper Ridge.

Adriana brings more than 12 years of scientific and research experience in institutions similar to Jasper Ridge in the fields of plant biology, evolution and conservation. Adriana earned a Bachelor of Arts in Biological Sciences from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and a PhD at Cornell University in Plant Biology. She has navigated a research career from ethnobotanical research as an undergraduate at UC Santa Barbara to applied conservation genetics and ecology at the Santa Barbara Botanical Garden. During her Ph.D, Adriana built her own independent research program to work on the biogeography, floral trait evolution, and molecular adaptive evolution of *Calochortus* (mariposa lilies). She continued her plant biology career as a postdoctoral researcher at the California Academy of Science where she developed a systematic approach to disentangle species relationships in *Castilleja* (paintbrushes).

Adriana is looking forward to exploring the numerous research projects along the trails and seeing how the land, flora, and fauna change throughout the seasons and over the years. Adriana is also particularly excited about the [JRBP'O'O Oakmead's Herbarium](#) vouchers: "This is perhaps the best time for a botanist to explore the collections! I am ecstatic to delve in..." Adriana mentioned.

Adriana grew up in Oxnard, California, and as a first-generation Mexican immigrant to California, and first-generation college student, she is excited to participate in the numerous and diverse education and outreach programs of JRBP'O'O!

Please join us in welcoming Adriana to the JRBP'O'O and OBFS community!

Read long post: <https://jrpb.stanford.edu/news/welcome-dr-adriana-hernandez-new-associate-director-research-jasper-ridge-biological-preserve>



Above: Matthew Burtner et al., Listening for Coastal Futures. The Coastal Futures Conservatory (CFC) integrates arts and humanities into the investigation of coastal change. Working with scientists at the Virginia Coast Reserve, the CFC aims to deepen understanding and stimulate imagination by opening ways to listen to the dynamics reshaping coasts. [Read more and listen here](#) and see the story on pages 2-3.

COMMUNICATING FIELD STATION SCIENCE — BY BREEZY JACKSON

The UC Merced Yosemite and Sequoia Field Stations joined the Sierra Nevada Research Institute, the National Park Service, and the US Geologic Survey to host a two-day science symposium showcasing research important for management of the Sierra Nevada region of California.

The 2024 Sierra Nevada Science Symposium took place on March 5-6, 2024 on the UC Merced Campus. Over 200 people attended the meeting which featured talks, posters, and panel discussions spanning a range of topics including wildfire resilience, park management, climate-smart forest strategies, and indigenous co-stewardship.

In addition to Yosemite and Sequoia Field Stations staff helping to plan and present the symposium, researchers who utilize the field stations were well represented at the symposium contributing eleven invited talks and seven posters.

For more information about the symposium and for links to the full schedule and abstracts follow this link:

<https://news.ucmerced.edu/news/2024/2024-sierra-nevada-science-symposium-convenes-sierra-researchers-uc-merced>

Contact: Dr. Breezy Jackson, Yosemite and Sequoia Field Stations Director (bjackson10@ucmerced.edu).

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE NEWS

Is there a subject you wish you could discuss with other field stations but haven't made the time?

Is there a speaker you have wanted to hear from but haven't had the opportunity?

Do you want other field stations to learn more about what is happening in your corner of the world?

Are you looking for help with a particular challenge?

Let the International Committee know and together we can organize a one-hour Virtual Café on the topic of your choice!

Send an email to david.maneli@mcgill.ca with your ideas or suggestions.



Events Calendar

Stay in the know: scroll to the bottom of the OBFS Events webpage <https://obfs.org/events/> and click "Subscribe to Calendar." It's easy!

IDEA+ SPOTLIGHT: INTRODUCING 'OOTCHAMIN 'OOYAKMA — BY JORGE RAMOS

Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve is honored to introduce 'Ootchamin 'Ooyakma, pronounced *oot-cha-mean oo-yahk-ma*, as the translation of Jasper Ridge in the Muwekma Ohlone Chochenyo dialect ([hear Monica V. Arellano, Tribal Vice Chairwoman say it here](#)) The aboriginal Puichon Ohlone name of the area in which Jasper Ridge is located had not been recorded, but 'Ootchamin 'Ooyakma is the name suggested by the [Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area](#). It translates to red ridge or mountain. As those familiar with the preserve know, Jasper Ridge itself is named after the red siliceous material, or jasper, found on the ridge.

Stanford | Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve
'Ootchamin 'Ooyakma
SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SCIENCES

The translation 'Ootchamin 'Ooyakma will be added to the Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve logos on all the signage at the preserve (see above). This translation is enthusiastically supported by students, faculty, staff, docents, and other affiliates, as well as by the School of Humanities and Sciences.

There is strong consensus that the translation should be viewed as a gift from the Tribe, reflecting the Tribe's [relationship with Stanford](#), the Tribe's [language revitalization](#) effort and focus on education, and the sacredness of the Jasper Ridge area to the Tribe.

For more about the significance of having this translation, please read the companion article by Faculty Director, Professor Tad Fukami: ['Ootchamin 'Ooyakma, what does it mean to all of us?](#)

Above: The new logo of Stanford University, Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve, 'Ootchamin 'Ooyakma, School of Humanities and Sciences.

LACAWAC SANCTUARY FIELD STATION'S NEWEST ADDITION —BY CRAIG LUKATCH

The Lacawac Sanctuary Field Station and Environmental Education Center is in the Pocono Mountains in eastern Pennsylvania. Lacawac's dream to have adequate space to host education programs for K-12 students, collegiate classes and the public has finally come to fruition. In May the Board of Trustees and Lacawac Staff will officially open the new William E. Chatlos Environmental Education Center with a ribbon cutting ceremony.



The dream for a new space for education began in 2017 when our founder Arthur Watres' son sold the family home located in the heart of the sanctuary to [Lacawac](#). Lacawac immediately began work on securing funding for the purchase of the home and for the renovations and construction of the new center. With the help of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Chatlos Roegner Charitable Gift Trust, and support from donors and foundations, Lacawac was able to raise the necessary funds to develop its new education center.

In late 2022 renovations began on the existing structure and were completed by the summer of 2023. Renovations made way for The Overlook Estate Foundation Classroom, The Bonnie Yablon Conference Room, The John A. and Margaret Post Foundation Classroom, a new ADA entrance and bathroom, an education prep room and space for educational displays. Renovations included a new roof, a solar array donated by Green Mountain Energy's Sun Club, and heating and cooling system.

Besides renovations, Lacawac created plans to construct a new 3,000 square foot addition to the center. Construction on the building began in July of last year and construction is substantially completed as of the end of March.

The addition connects to the existing building by a decked surface and courtyard. The lower-level houses storage and a wet laboratory to learn about ecology with hands-on activities, modern equipment, and up-to-date resources.



The upper-level or great room with its cathedral ceiling is spacious to host field trips, summer camps, educational workshops, conferences, retreats, classes, and meetings in a comfortable and adaptable setting. A deck facing Heron Pond gives spectacular views of Lacawac and even our nesting Osprey pair.

Lacawac is indebted to all those who have supported the development of our new center and helped our vision become reality.

*Contact: Craig Lukatch, President,
Craig.lukatch@lacawac.org*

Left: The new exterior of the William E. Chatlos Environmental Education Center at Lacawac.

NEWS FROM AIBS —BY PAUL FOSTER

OBFS is a long-standing member of the American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS) <https://www.aibs.org/> together with approximately 110 other scientific societies, universities, and natural history institutions.

Among the benefits OBFS receives for its membership is an invitation to participate in the annual Congressional Visits Day. Additional training through communicating science bootcamps has given past field station representatives valuable tools for engaging with legislators and policy makers.

AIBS continues to be an important conduit for public policy and legislation information and also facilitates a reverse Congressional Visits Day whereby legislators or their staff visit field stations and marine labs. AIBS has been at the forefront of helping its member societies develop IDEA (Inclusive, Diverse, Equitable, and Accepting) policies and practices.

The 2023 annual Council Meeting again focused on IDEA+ issues. Leading off the meeting was AIBS President Judy Skog who encouraged adding an S for support to the IDEA concept. She noted that support from family members, mentors, and colleagues had been important to her throughout her career.

Also at the Council Meeting, AIBS Director of the Community Programs Division, Jyotsna Pandey and Kathy Joyce presented ideas for the next phase in the AIBS IDEA effort. These focus on creating a working group within AIBS to sustain its IDEA work and create a community of practice. <https://www.aibs.org/assets/collections/news/aibs-suggested-strategy-expanding-idea.pdf>

Finally, AIBS has developed a new strategic plan for 2024-2028 (<https://www.aibs.org/assets/pages/about/AIBS-Strategic-Plan.pdf>). The background section provides a history of the organization while the three strategic priorities include: Scientific Peer Advisory & Review Services, Publications & Communications, and Community Programs. Within the latter priority is providing professional development opportunities for biologists including Congressional Visits Day.

This year OBFS was represented by two participants, Brian Kloeppe from Western North Carolina University and Sarah Oktay from Herring Gut Coastal Science Center in Massachusetts, USA.



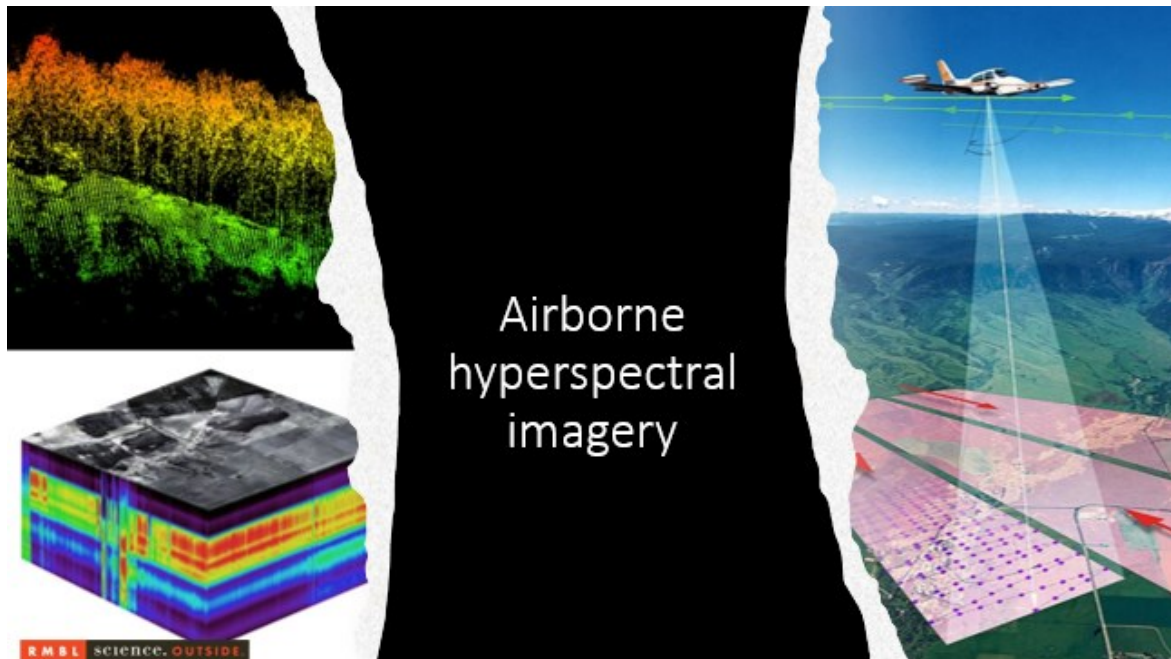
If you have any questions about AIBS or our involvement in the organization, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Contact: Paul Foster, OBFS Liaison to AIBS, pfoster@bijagual.org.

FIRE & WATER: ROCKY MOUNTAIN BIOLOGICAL LAB INVESTMENT —BY IAN BILLICK AND CONNER PHILSON

US Senators Michael Bennet and John Hickenlooper secured \$970,000 in congressionally-directed spending to enhance prediction and management of Colorado River Basin water and forest health through the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory (RMBL).

The project will deploy the National Ecological Observatory Network's (NEON) Airborne Observatory over two nearby drainages (Taylor and East Rivers) to collect hyperspectral imagery. Combining this data with micrometeorological measurements, RMBL scientists will link vegetation and forest health to hydrology and fire. This will improve scientific understanding of the Gunnison Basin as well as enhance global interpretation of hyperspectral imagery from Landsat Next, an incoming generation of planned satellites.



Above: Illustration of the NEON Airborne hyperspectral imagery and system.

"As Colorado and the West face the worsening effects of climate change, this funding will support the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory's work to manage the Colorado River Basin water and forest health to meet our state's changing needs," said Senator Michael Bennet. "I'm glad we could support nearly eighty projects across thirty Colorado counties in this round of funding, including this significant investment in Colorado's forests and watersheds."

This earmark, mixed with the mention of field stations and marine laboratories (FSMLs) in the 2021 CHIPS Act and ongoing efforts for earmarks in California, illustrates the power of advocacy and relationship building FSMLs.

For more information on RMBL contact Executive Director, Ian Billick (director@rmbll.org).

For how to engage in field station advocacy, visit the [OBFS Advocacy](#) page or contact Conner Philson, Outreach and Communications Committee Chair (connerphilson@gmail.com).

HOW TO FIND US

www.obfs.org/

[@joinobfs](https://twitter.com/joinobfs)



[@OBFS-FieldBio](https://twitter.com/OBFS-FieldBio)



[YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)



[The Virtual Field](#)



Above: Live oak, South Carolina.

Organization of Biological Field Stations

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STACY MCNULTY, EDITOR
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OBFS 2024 ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE

The planning committee and your hosts at Clemson and the University of South Carolina are excited to have you visit their field stations from November 11-15, 2024.

Registration will open in a few weeks and along with it a draft schedule. Watch the remodeled OBFS website and listserv.

This year, not only has the meeting moved to November, but the daily schedule has changed too, with workshops Monday and Friday, field trips Tuesday, and the main meeting from Tuesday evening to Thursday night.

***OBFS Meeting Theme:
Rising Tides and Winds of Change: A
New Landscape for Field Stations***

The auction theme will be bird-related; for now, we're **Winging It!**

We have an exciting lineup of workshops:

- ◆ Ecotones: Arts at Field Stations & Marine Labs
- ◆ Expand Your FSML Horizons with The Virtual Field
- ◆ myFSML - development of an interoperable field station management platform
- ◆ Best Practices for Field Station Outreach & Environmental Education
- ◆ Developing Workflows for Field Station Data Using R and GIS Tools

Calls for concurrent sessions, lightning talks, and posters will come out soon. Travel details can be found on the website or the last newsletter. We hope to see you there.

Skip Van Bloem and Tom Bansak, OBFS Annual Meeting Committee

HISTORY INTERN — BY CONNER PHILSON

OBFS has hired an undergraduate student intern to help digitize and synthesize OBFS's decades of historical documents. As physical records of OBFS are scattered across the country, digitizing these records will help preserve the history of the organization for generations to come.

The intern will be based this summer at Clemson University's Belle W. Baruch Institute of Coastal Ecology and Forest Science and overseen by the OBFS History Committee.

Thank you to OBFS Vice-President Skip Van Bloem for leading the charge and hosting the intern.