



# Friends of the University of Oklahoma Biological Station Newsletter

**Spring 2001**

## 2001 Reunion and founding meeting of the Friends

**July 13-15, 2001**

Mark your calendars for the  
1<sup>st</sup> official meeting of the  
Friends. Come enjoy visits  
with friends, dedication of  
the Riggs building, field  
trips, and more.

For information, please call  
405-325-7431 or email  
[uobs@ouwww.ou.edu](mailto:uobs@ouwww.ou.edu)

## DID YOU MISS IT?

July 2000 marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of OUBS and the first reunion of alumni, faculty, and friends of the Station. The July weekend with high temperatures made it feel like the old days, but the air-conditioning and warm hospitality made it a habitable and enjoyable place for those of us who've grown older and lost our heat-hardening.

There were many highlights for the 150 who attended, including alumni from both US coasts. Former students and as well as current and former staff and faculty and family members covering many years shared pictures, videos, and spent lots of time reminiscing. Meals were a good time for visiting over great food prepared by OU's Food Services.

At our banquet, we also presented several awards. Plaques honored staff and faculty who have worked at the Station for 10 or more years. Plaques were presented to professors Carl Riggs, Loren Hill, and William Matthews for their service as leaders of the Station. A plaque honored Mr. and Mrs. Norman W. Brillhart who donated the land and original building for the Station. All of the plaques are now mounted in the library.

A high point of the weekend was an evening of presentations on the history of the Station. Carl Riggs described the early days of the station and all the help from local individuals, politicians, OU administrators, and others who aided him in bringing the station into existence. Loren Hill picked up the thread and discussed changes during his tenure as Director. We then adjourned to the pavilion to visit and dance to the music of Richard Page's duo.

The Station has grown a lot over the years, and we enjoyed tours of the facilities. Of course, no reunion would be complete without examining local flora and fauna. A number of folks found themselves up to their necks in Lake Texoma, helping professors Bill Shelton, Bill Matthews, and Clark Hubbs seine fish of various types for us to examine. Be sure to put the next reunion on your calendar for July 13-15, 2001.

## **FRIENDS ORGANIZATION FORMED**

Attendees gathered for a business meeting and discussed their future relationship to the Station. The group decided to form an organization of Friends of the University of Oklahoma Biological Station to include alumni, staff, faculty, and friends who are interested in its welfare. We formed a Steering Committee consisting of Bedford and Carolyn Vestal, Wendy Anderson, Delmas Northcutt, Connie Taylor, Chuck Carpenter, Harley Brown, and Larry Weider. They were charged with developing plans for the organization and future reunions to present at the next reunion meeting.

## **UOBS welcomes a new limnologist, Dr. Dave Hambright.**

Dave is originally from North Carolina, though he spent the last 9 years on the staff of the Kinneret Limnological Laboratory (KLL) on the shores of Lake Kinneret (the Biblical Sea of Galilee) in Israel. Dave earned his bachelor's degree from the University of North Carolina, Charlotte (1982), his Master's degree from TCU in Ft. Worth, TX (1985) and his PhD from Cornell University in upstate New York (1991). He gained post-doctoral experience in Cornell's Center for the Environment and at KLL. Dave and his wife, Tamar Zohary (also a limnologist) have four children

Dave's research is centered on the roles of consumer and prey species in regulating freshwater community dynamics. He began his career examining the potential for using piscivorous fishes, such as largemouth bass, to combat symptoms of eutrophication. This field, commonly known as biomanipulation, strives to reduce abundance of algae in lakes (the primary symptom of eutrophication) by increasing stocks of piscivorous fishes. Such practices are believed to reduce densities of planktivorous fishes like perch, bluegills, and minnows, which allow for increase in densities of herbivorous zooplankton, the primary consumers of algae. Though Dave has continued interest in biomanipulation, his recent research efforts have focused more on the zooplankton-algae link in aquatic food webs, in which he studies zooplankton feeding mechanics and selective zooplankton grazing, as well as the role of zooplankton in nutrient cycling. In addition to lake food webs, Dave brings to UOBS considerable experience in the fields of wetlands rehabilitation, fisheries management, paleolimnology, biogeochemistry, and ecological and economical valuation of natural freshwater resources.

## **2001 Reunion and Founding Meeting of the Friends of the University of Oklahoma Biological Station**

During and after the business meeting at the 2000 reunion there were a number of suggestions about what needed to be done at the next reunion. The Steering Committee volunteered to do the planning and we have met several times to set an agenda. In the flyer you've received we have a tentative program that reflects your suggestions and our plans.

After hearing the delightful descriptions of the history of the Station, many wanted to hear more about history of the research done there. Professors, Chuck Carpenter and Bill Matthews have volunteered to provide an overview of research over the last 50 years. The attendees who spent many of their childhood summers as "faculty brats" kept several of us laughing over their stories of adventures during station sessions. They were so entertaining that we're attempting to get some of them to relate their stories to a wider audience in our informal session. After the success of the seining in the lake, many of you expressed the desire to have more opportunities for bird or nature walks or short field trips around the Station campus and local area. We've scheduled time for them and will need folks to volunteer to lead and follow. Those are some things we've added. What we've left out of the schedule are any outdoor games, as there were no takers last year because of the high July temperatures.

One of the most special events will be the dedication of the Carl and Cathy Riggs Library/Administration Building. We will hold a naming ceremony to honor the Riggs for their work in founding and developing the Station and for their support in helping acquire an important parcel of land for the Station.

In our business meeting last summer we decided to organize the alumni and friends in order to provide for future meetings and to provide ongoing support of the Station. This summer we will hold the founding meeting of the Friends of the University of Oklahoma Biological Station (FUOBS). We will organize under the umbrella of the University of Oklahoma Association, the alumni organization of the University and want to include alumni, former and present faculty and staff, and any individuals who consider themselves a friend of the Station. The Steering Committee will present for your approval a constitution, slate of officers, and plans for the operation of the group and its activities. For example, there were suggestions last year for having reunions at intervals ranging from every year to five-year intervals. The steering committee will present a plan to meet every two years, a compromise that gives participants and station staff a break, but is often enough to maintain continuity. There may be other business that arises before or during the meeting.

Many of you suggested you wanted to be able to purchase a t-shirt or cap or other memorabilia with the Station's logo. Director Larry Weider and the staff will be working on having such memorabilia available for your consideration.

This promises to be an excellent opportunity to get together and to get a good organization off the ground. We look forward to seeing you in July.

Bedford Vestal for the Steering Committee

**The Friends of the University of  
Oklahoma Biological Station**

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## **Join the Mailing List**

It is a daunting task to find all of the people that have known and loved the Station throughout the years. Please help us find and contact all of the people that have made UOBS such a remarkable and memorable place. If you, or someone you know, are not on the mailing list, please contact us.

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