



The University of Oklahoma
Biological Station

Field Notes

Friends of the University of Oklahoma Biological Station

Fall 2003

Vol 3 Issue 1

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE: FUTURE DIRECTIONS

It's been several months since the last FUOBS reunion in July and what a great time we had! Good food, good friends, and good fun! We celebrated the groundbreaking of the new NSF/OU/FUOBS funded guest researcher apartment project. Further, we honored one of our long-time UOBS faculty members, Dr. Charles ("Chuck") Carpenter with the naming of the "Dr. Charles Congden Carpenter Classroom" in the UOBS teaching building. This project was spearheaded by Dr. Julia Yoshida and was funded by the generous donations from former Carpenter students that spanned a couple of generations.

The Station has gone through some amazing transformations during its storied history and in this article, I would like to briefly outline where I think the Station should be heading over the next 3-5 years. One thing that has become increasingly clear during my tenure as UOBS Director is that, like many state institutions, OU/UOBS will have to rely increasingly on non-state sources of funding to meet the needs of the future. This means our research faculty needs to continue the aggressive pursuit of extramural funding to help support the research mission at the Station. Likewise, the continued generous support of the Station by FUOBS members and benefactors has injected a new vitality to the programs and direction of UOBS. I hope that folks will continue to be generous with their time and resources to help UOBS reach its potential.

As I see it, we have a number of critical projects that need to be at least implemented, if not completed, within the next 3-5 years:

1.) Completion of the NSF/OU/FUOBS apartment project: There should be continued effort with the OU College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) to secure the final matching funds needed to meet our commitment (need approximately \$30,000 to finish off the total match of \$70,000 from UOBS and CAS).

2.) Secure funding from OU to hire a replacement UOBS researcher/professor to take the place of Dr. Bill Matthews, who has moved on to become Chair of the OU Department of Zoology. Securing this replacement position is absolutely critical for the future success of the research mission of the Station.

3.) Expand the educational outreach component (K-12) at UOBS via strengthening ties with other OU units (e.g. Sam Noble Museum of Natural History and Oklahoma Biological Survey) to secure funding to support a variety of programs (e.g., science teacher training workshops and school-out-of doors).

4.) Begin dialog with critical "players", including the FUOBS Executive Board, OU officials, local/state/federal government representatives to formulate more concrete ideas of developing a portion of the Station into a "regional center" for biological studies and education, including the notion of constructing a new education/nature center building that would include classrooms and a large lecture arena to go along with the current UOBS infrastructure. Given our geographic location, UOBS is located near boundaries of several major eco-regions in the state, which harbor a wide variety of plant and animal species. Likewise, being located in a rural region that has been historically hampered by economic forces, such a center could help augment the science educational needs of the students (and for that matter the general public) from south-central-east Oklahoma and north-central Texas. The station could serve a variety of K-12 activities, including such things as "science camp" (for grades 8-12), or as a day-trip destination for younger and older (e.g. Elderhostel) age groups. The Station has historically served and continues to serve this function but at a very modest level and only through the voluntary participation of our very dedicated UOBS staff. Something more formal and structured needs to be implemented with secured funding for additional staff members to oversee this program,

In closing, these are just a few of the ideas of the "vision thing" from my perspective as UOBS Director. I would welcome comments and input from interested parties, as we strive to help the Station reach its full potential. Thanks for reading this article and I look forward to welcoming folks to the next FUOBS reunion in 2005!

Larry Weider
Director, UOBS



GROUNDBREAKING

One of the many highlights of the 2003 FUEBS reunion was the groundbreaking for the guest researcher housing project. University officials, UOBS staff, FUEBS executive committee members and a good gathering of the Friends group were on hand at the planned construction site for the housing project just north of the main UOBS campus on land that was previously purchased for this expansion. The weather was hot but the spirits were high as the groundbreaking took place under the guidance of Larry Weider and Graduate College Dean T. H. Lee Williams.

The land has been purchased and the architectural plans have been drawn and the ground has now been broken! The Friends organization is currently working on securing the funds so that we can have naming rights for one of the three apartments in the guest researcher complex. This is going to be a beautiful part of the UOBS campus and we all look forward to its completion.



Dr. Weider and Dean Williams
at the groundbreaking

2003 KIDS FISHING TOURNAMENT

Saturday morning was a big event for several of the younger attendees of the 2003 FUEBS reunion in that there was a fishing tournament held at the boat docks. There was considerable action as the local populations of black bass, bluegill, redear and channel catfish were tempted by youngsters dangling poles baited with local orthopterans and annelids. There was considerable success much to the delight of the young anglers attached to the other end of the rod and reel.. The event was led by FUEBS members Kim Hauger and Jim Pickens and Von Allen from the University of Oklahoma College of Arts and Sciences. Prizes for the anglers were provided by Zebco Corporation and included age appropriate rod and reel combos. Much thanks to Zebco and its representative, John Grisham, for helping make this event possible and a real pleasure for the kids. Also thanks to John for helping out at the docks as well. The fishing tournament will be an event at each reunion and occurs during the time that the parents of the participants are out on the various field trips offered on Saturday morning. If you have a youngster in the family, be sure to bring them along to the reunion in 2005 so they may participate in this event.

2003 REUNION AUCTION

It is a rare moment when people have fun contributing money. But it happened at the 2003 FUEBS reunion. Several grads and professors contributed a variety of items for the auction. Fishing rods and lures, books, art, jewelry, antiques and clothing were up for sale.



Julia Yoshida auctions off a straw fishing hat

The "loot" was grouped into three parts. First, there were 5 & 10 items purchasable at the start of registration and throughout the weekend. Second was the silent auction where bids were placed with anonymous numbers. Hotly contested items from the silent auction were then placed with other highly valued items into the third part, a live auction where the items were auctioned on Saturday night under the guidance of auctioneers Julia Yoshida and Bedford Vestal.

Sample of auction goods



Prints from George Sutton's *High Arctic* opened and closed the auction. Gyotaku fish art, a bird print by Prideaux John Selby, and First Edition Royal Octavo Audubon prints of prairie dogs and kangaroo rats followed. Genuine Hawaiian aloha shirts with fish and turtle images found willing shoulders. Inscribed and autographed books by George Sutton, Ernst Mayr, David Sibley, Tony Hillerman and Julia Child were

scooped up quickly. Dr. Hubert Frings' (OU Zoology alumnus and professor) autobiography had its debut offering at the auction. Illustrated nineteenth century botany books and an original copy of *Chicken Little* found new homes. Even straw Texas hats by Manny Gammage and 18k University of Texas blazer buttons (both found in Massachusetts) were allowed into the auction! Both remained north of the Red River. Many other items made up the two-hour event.



Dr. Hubbs snares a great deal in silent auction

There were a few pleasant surprises for buyers. A pair of opal and sterling earrings flew off the 5 & 10 table at the start of the sale, and an astute buyer found a valuable abalone and gold Mexican fish pin which was seriously underpriced!

We plan to have a similar auction next reunion. A recent trip to Honolulu yielded more aloha shirts with fish and INVERTEBRATES! In Maine, we found a chromolithograph of bison (1800) and a book on the *Short Grass County* by Stanley Vestal. Join us in 2005. Arrive early and don't miss the 5 & 10. Who knows what treasures you might discover!

SUMMER SESSION 2004

Session I: May 16 - May 28

Bird Ecology
Field Insect Ecology
Molecular Techniques for
Field Biology
Vascular Aquatic Plants
Wetlands Science and
Management

Terry Maxwell
Ken Hobson
James Thompson Jr.
Ron Woodruff
Ron Tyril
Robert Nairn

Session II: August 3 - August 15

Experimental Herpetology
Field Botany
Field Mammalogy
Reservoir Fish Ecology
Water Resources: Preservation
and Conservation-Senior Capstone

William Lutterschmidt
Bruce Smith
Michael Kennedy
Tim Patton
Dave Hambright

CARPENTER CLASSROOM



Larry Weider and Julia Yoshida present plaque to Dr. Charles Carpenter

Dr. Charles Congden Carpenter has taught and conducted research at UOBS for 35 years. At the reunion this July, a group of his former students recognized his contributions to their professional and personal lives by contributing funds to have his former classroom named after him. These funds will help to build new housing for the visiting researchers and teachers at UOBS. An "all-weather" plaque posted at the class doorway reads:

CARPENTER CLASSROOM

Dr. Charles Congden Carpenter

During his 35 years at UOBS,
he shared his passion for
and introduced us to
the joys of field herpetology, ecology
and animal behavior.

We are forever grateful
From his students, 2003

Dr. Carpenter's note to the Contributors for the Carpenter Classroom::

"I wish to thank each of you for your generosity in making this wonderful surprise possible. I feel thrilled, yet humble, that I received this honor from my former students, but with gratitude in knowing that perhaps I passed on my love for field biology to others. I enjoyed teaching at UOBS and always looked forward to those summers where I was free to express this interest to others. Over those many summers I met and worked with many students and tried to show that studying animals could be exciting. Your successes in your fields of endeavor always made me feel I may have made a difference. Thank you again! You have made my day. As a teacher, it is always the students that count."

"Doc"

Charles C. Carpenter, Professor Emeritus of Zoology

RESEARCH IS KEY

Education and research are high on the priorities list for UOBS. Many of you have taught or attended summer college class sessions over the years on everything from field mammalogy to stream ecology and aquatic plants and invertebrate zoology. There have also been summer high school programs headed up by Dr. Bruce Smith for students selected by their science teachers as having a special talent and interest in biology. Many of you have helped in these classes as well. These educational endeavors are the backbone of the Station.

The Station has also been a hub for undergraduate and graduate education over the years and many master theses and doctoral dissertations have been researched at the station. Chad Hargrave is a current graduate student in the Department of Zoology at the University of Oklahoma and is currently using the Station as his base for field research in ichthyology and fish ecology under the direction of Dr. Bill Matthews.

Chad's dissertation research addresses the role of stream fishes in affecting ecosystem function, such as energy capture and organic matter processing rates. He is addressing this question from three perspectives: 1.) What is the individual effect of different fish species in stream ecosystems? 2.) What is the mechanism behind the effects of the different fish species? and, 3.) Do the individual fish effects interact when fish communities are composed of multiple fish species (particularly, does the presence of one fish species enhance the effect of a second?). Chad has used artificial streams, located in the research park of the UOBS, to test most of these questions, but is currently verifying results in a field experiment in Brier Creek near the Biological Station. To date, Chad has tested 12 species in monoculture tank experiments, and has shown that most fish species affect stream ecosystems to some degree. However, effects vary among species in strength and in mechanism.



Chad Hargrave cooling off following a hard field day

Finally, in multi-species community experiments, Chad has shown that individual fish effects are enhanced in streams with more than one species, suggesting positive feedback among different fish effect mechanisms. Chad will be presenting these findings at a zoology departmental seminar in April 2004.

Chad's dissertation research was made possible by the facilities and supportive staff provided by the UOBS field station. Chad also has been assisted in set-up and maintaining his experiments by UOBS staff, professors and other graduate students and some of the members of our FUOBS group.



Chad Hargrave and Rachael Remington collect specimens

GIFTS TO THE FRIENDS

In 2001, FUOBS started an OU Foundation account for the benefit of the Biological Station with a gift from Pat and Carl Riggs. During the last year the following people have made contributions to the Friends of UOBS (listed in order of receipt).

Richard and Ellen Rowe Phillips -in memory of Carl Riggs
Pamela Genova
Bedford and Carolyn Vestal
Charles and Jan (Jones) Swaney - in thanks to Charles Carpenter
Robert J. Husky
Fred G Silva - in memory of Kenneth G. Mills
Marian McCarley
Bruce Smith

If you wish to honor someone with a gift, please use the form on the last page of the newsletter and indicate the name of the honoree.

GIFT OF SUTTON PRINTS

Dr. W. R. Johnson, a Norman dentist, learned of the successful auction of George Sutton prints at the last Friends reunion auction and has donated five prints of Dr. Sutton's work for our fund raising. Dr. Johnson was an undergraduate in zoology when Dr. Sutton moved to OU and they became lifelong friends and birding companions. The prints, some signed and numbered, include hawks, parrots, and multiple species renderings. In addition, Dr. Johnson presented the Friends with an autographed copy of *The Dictionary of Birds of the United States* by Joel E. Holloway. This book, fresh off the presses, was illustrated with George Sutton line drawings through the help of Dr. Johnson. The Executive committee is grateful to Dr. Johnson for this contribution. Meanwhile we are working on deciding how to make the items available for auction to Friends in order to generate the most benefit for UOBS.

PLEASE HELP FUOBS FUND NEW RESEARCHER APARTMENT

A major current need of UOBS is raising the station's portion of money to match the National Science Foundation grant to build the new visiting researcher apartment building (see groundbreaking story). The building will contain three units that can be configured in a variety of flexible ways to help the Station attract visiting research scientists. At the 2003 reunion the Friends Executive Committee proposed, and the membership approved, making our goal this year the raising of \$15,000 in order to name one of the apartments for the Friends. Approximately \$7,880 is available from previous gifts, the 2003 reunion auction proceeds, and account earnings, leaving \$7,120 to be raised to meet our goal. In other words, we're over half way there. Please help us meet our goal of helping the Station by contributing and/or pledging this year. You can indicate your contribution and make pledges for the next 2 years using the form on the last page of this newsletter. Please make checks payable to "OU Foundation" and send to the address on the bottom of the form.

YOUR BOARD 2003 / 2005

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The Friends of the University of Oklahoma Biological Station (FUOBS) has been established under the umbrella of the University of Oklahoma Alumni Association. On July 14, 2001, the organization met and initially elected officers. On July 12, 2003, the above officers were elected. Those attending accepted the proposed constitution and any amendments. The purpose of this organization is to promote and support the Biological Station and to promote connection with its friends and alumni. Any person who is a current or former student, faculty or staff member or friend of the Biological Station may become a member of this club.

FUOBS

OU Alumni Association
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74019-4849

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