station's facilities are available to groups meeting there.

For most people, Texoma is just a lot
of water in a convenient package—a
good place to land some striped, exercise
a sailboat, lie in the sun like vacationing
lizards. The people at the field station
seem almost a separate species—learning
about the lake and its shoreline, not
skimming over its surface. You might
almost call them "fishers of fact."

"It's a real challenge," Terri Brandeberry says. "If you want a laid-back
summer, this is not the place to come.
But if you are willing to work, you can
really accomplish something."

Linda Shalaway lives in Stillwater. Victor Réus, an OU graduate, is a free-lance
photographer based in Norman.

The University of Oklahoma Biological Station is on the Buncombe Creek arm of Lake
Texoma, about 17 miles south of Madill. Its 1985 summer session starts the first week in June,
and registration is June 1.

All courses run eight weeks and are open to anyone—pre-college, undergraduates, graduates
and teachers. Tuition is the same as for the Norman campus; $22.00 per semester hour for
deeper-division undergraduate classes, $25.90 for upper-division undergraduate classes and
$30.60 for graduate-level classes.

At the station, students live, work, eat and sleep biology. Room and board runs $195 for
eight weeks in the dorm; apartments are $230 for the same period (meals included).

Scholarships of $400 are available.

To learn more about registration and scholarships, write the University of Oklahoma
Biological Station, 730 Van Fleet Oval, Norman, OK 73019, or call (405) 325-5391.

The Bass Fisherman's Friend: Loren Hill

Loren G. Hill. You may not recognize the
name. But chances are, you have used his
inventions, seen him on television, read
about him in fishing magazines or heard him
speak at seminars and fishing institutes nation-
wide.

To the students and faculty of the University
of Oklahoma Biological Station, Dr. Hill is the
director and a prominent fish biologist. But to
millions of anglers across the country, this soft-
spoken, darkly tanned man is an avid and skilled
fisherman who has invented new lures and
methods to help them land bass.

Take, for example, the Snatrix. Ten years ago
fishing for bass was drastically altered by Dr.
Hill's invention of a plastic lure that looks for all
the world like a small water snake.

"I first got the idea for the Snatrix when I caught a four-pound bass
with a nine-inch water snake in its mouth," Hill says. Later, one idle
afternoon down by the lake as he watched his son swimming, Dr. Hill
scooped up some clay and made a mold of the lure he envisioned. He
promptly forgot about the mold, then rediscovered it two days later,
baked hard by the sun. He used this mold to cast five plastic "snakes."
When he tested the lures and lost all five to fish, he knew he was on to
a good thing.

The lure is now manufactured commercially by Bill Norman Lures,
with annual sales of $8 to $9 million.

Another Hill invention is the pH method of fishing. In earlier
research, Dr. Hill discovered that water pH (acidity or alkalinity)
directed the movement of fish. Based on this finding and many years
of studying bass, he developed a simple, portable pH meter that can be
used by fishermen. The unit, mounted on a boat, is attached by a long
cord to a probe that can be dropped into the water to measure pH. An
angler who knows what pH bass prefer can predict when

and where the fish will be.

The pH meter has been tested by the pros, who "can't believe how accurate it is," says Dr.
Hill. He has been issued two U.S. patents, and more than 60,000 anglers are currently using his
invention.

And there's more to come, Hill promises. An ichthyologist by training, inventor by nature, he
continues to put technical knowledge to practical use by developing new aids for fishermen.

Hill's creative energies have also been applied to the administration of the Biological Station.
Under his direction for the past 16 years, the station has become a major education and re-
search center. He has expanded the summer ses-
sion from the five courses originally taught to
nine. And over the years he's been successful at
angling for funding from the National Science Foundation.

The Biological Station's research program under his direction oper-
ates with federal funding of close to 1 million. Hill has hired three
biologists—fishery ecologist, zooplankton ecologist and phytoplankton
ecologist—to study reservoir environment. He hopes to add a fourth
researcher soon.

In September 1984, Dr. Hill began his own $300,000 study of the
competitive interactions of black bass and striped bass in Lake Texoma
and at Toledo Bend (on the Texas-Louisiana border). The study is
funded by the Bass Research Foundation. This year, Dr. Hill is shar-
ing his knowledge and experience with others as a staff member of the
American Bass Fishing Institute, which holds seminars in cities all
over the country.

Until the fall of 1984, Dr. Hill was also chairman of the University
of Oklahoma's Zoology Department. He resigned from that position
to become director of the Biological Station and spend more time on
the shores of Lake Texoma.

—Linda Shalaway