

Directions to the Ouachita Mountains Biological Station

Phone 479-394-3956

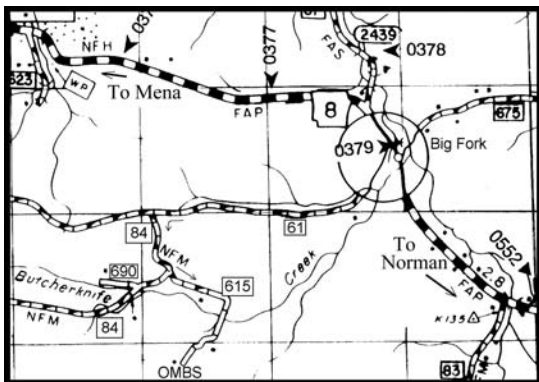
From Mena, go east on Ark. Hwy. 8 about 18 miles to Big Fork. From Norman, go west on Ark. Hwy. 8 about 18 miles to Big Fork.

Go southwest from Big Fork on the Heath Valley Road (Polk County Rd. 61) for 2.1 miles. The Heath Valley Road is just west of a small bridge on the west edge of Big Fork. NOTE: Do NOT turn on Polk Road 61 in Board Camp; turn at the east end of 61 in Big Fork.

Turn left onto Polk County Rd. 84 for 0.5 mile

At fork in road, go left on Polk Rd. 615, marked Dead End, passing a pasture with manufactured homes on the right. The Station is in the mountains on the right, back of the pasture. Continue on the road which curves around to the right, crossing a ford at Butcherknife Creek. The ford is about 0.7 of a mile from the intersection of PCR 84 and PCR 615.

Go 300 yards beyond the creek. When near a house, keep to the right on a narrow lane. Cross the cattle guard and follow the lane 0.2 of a mile around the pasture to the entrance of OMBS.



The Facilities

The physical plant of the Ouachita Mountains Biological Station consists of eight buildings.

Nuthatch – A 600 sq. ft. combination laboratory/kitchenette with two bathrooms, shower, dining area, a small work area, and sleeping facilities for 10; heat/AC.

Phoebe – Approximately 1200 sq. ft. An excellent teaching space (lecture or lab) for 20 or more students with lots of light and windows. A bathroom with shower, washer/dryer; heat/ AC.

Bufo – Residence.

Dogwood – The manager's residence, office and library; heat/AC.

Kingfisher – A nice pavilion with lights, electrical outlets, and water.

Neotoma – A shop and general purpose storage for tools, etc.

Bear's Den – A residence with 2 bedrooms, kitchen, den, fireplace.

Cub – A storage building

Utilities: Electricity, water, septic systems, and telephone. Cellular phone service is available but erratic. The water system is new with a modern purification and water treatment system.

Since the OMBS is privately funded, contributions toward expenses are gratefully accepted.

ENVIRONMENT

The OMBS is located in the Ouachita Mountains of the Interior Highlands. Elevation ranges from 395–622 m. The area is a mixed pine-hardwood forest depending upon the degree and orientation of the slope. Dominant tree species include shortleaf pine, post oak, black oak, white oak, blackjack oak, southern red oak, and sweetgum with dogwood, downy service-berry, American hornbeam, eastern hophornbeam, and winged elm in the understory. Within a 50 mile radius several endemic species of salamanders may be found. The Rich Mountain salamander (*Plethodon ouachitae*) and the Caddo

Mountain salamander (*Plethodon caddoensis*) are endemic to these mountains.

Extensive area permits tent camping. The immediate vicinity of the buildings is wooded. An adjacent, spring-fed stream runs into three ponds in late stages of succession.

Conditions for use: Prior arrangements must be made for use. Inquiries are welcome. **For reservations call: 318-797-5338**



Phoebe

The OMBS consists of 380 acres in two parts of 200 acres and 180 acres, respectively. The headquarters area consists of 40 acres that includes a lowland area of open mixed forest near the entrance. A small spring-fed creek meanders from well above the cabins throughout the length of this area. West of the creek are found rolling hills and the boundary of the National Forest. The property east of the creek is slightly more rugged than that to the west. The terrain above the cabins is steep and rugged up to the peaks of two mountains to the south. The saddle between the peaks includes an old abandoned slate pit mine. The OMBS property continues down the south slope of the mountains for about ¼ mile.



Loxoscelis reclusa

Flora and Fauna

Lists of species are being developed for the vascular plants, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals, spiders, and insects. While some of these are relatively well known, others, such as the spiders and insects, are very poorly known and complete lists will take many years to compile.

To date the station has primarily served collegiate groups on weekend field trips and various faculty researchers. Researchers from Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, Tennessee, Michigan, and Florida have used the station.

The station is organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes including:

Research: Promoting research, publication of studies, and education about the ecology, biota, and biodiversity of the Interior Highlands of Arkansas and Oklahoma, with particular emphasis on the Ouachita Mountains.

Education: Education and dissemination of information regarding the ecology, biota, and biodiversity of the Interior Highlands of Arkansas and Oklahoma, with particular emphasis on the Ouachita Mountains.

Public Outreach: The Station has served collegiate needs as a research and educational center since 1962. Outreach to the local community will improve as scientists learn more about the local biota.



How to Contact the Station

Museum of Life Sciences
LSU in Shreveport
One University Place
Shreveport, LA 71115-2399

Phones

318-797-5338 (Dr. Hardy's office and Museum of Life Sciences)

FAX: 318-797-5222

479-394-3956 (Station office; also FAX)

E-Mail: lhardy@lsus.edu

Web Page: www.lsus.edu/lsusmus/ombs/

Resident Manager

(ombs615@aol.com)

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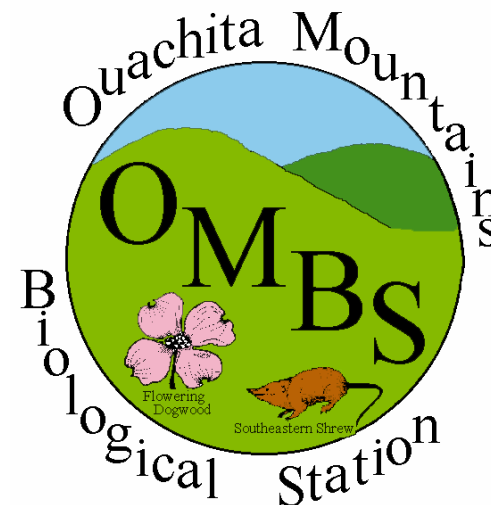
Dr. Kimberly G. Smith, Univ. Ark., Fayetteville, AR.

Dr. Renn Tumilson, Henderson St. Univ., Arkadelphia, AR.

Legal Agent

Ms. Susanna Mosley, Rich Mountain Community College, Mena, AR.

September 18, 2006



Ouachita Mountains Biological Station

281 Polk Road 615
Mena, AR 71953-8865
479-394-3956



The Ouachita Mountains Biological Station is a 501(c)(3) organization founded under the laws of the state of Arkansas and administered by a board of nine governors. All contributions are deductible to the full extent of the law. The OMBS is a full member of the Organization of Biological Field Stations.