

Friends of the Ouachita Mountains Biological Station

The Ouachita Mountains Biological Station (OMBS) is a 501(c)(3) organization and all contributions are deductible to the full extent of the law. The OMBS is a full member of the Organization of Biological Field Stations.

The OMBS is located in the Ouachita Mountains of the Interior Highlands of Arkansas. 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.

The extensive area permits tent camping. The immediate vicinity of the buildings is wooded. An adjacent, spring-fed stream runs into three ponds in different stages of succession. Since these facilities are privately funded, contributions toward expenses are gratefully accepted.

To date the station has primarily served collegiate groups on weekend field trips and various faculty researchers. Researchers from Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, Tennessee, 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 grow and improve as the scientists and educators learn more about the flora and fauna of the Ouachita Mountains.

Opportunities for Service: (Check the level that is appropriate for you)

Friend: \$100.00 **Contributor:** \$500.00 **Patron:** \$1,000.00 **Other:** \$ _____

Please fill in the information below.

Make check payable to **Ouachita Mountains Biological Station**

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please send this form with your check to:

**Ouachita Mountains Biological Station
Museum of Life Sciences
LSU in Shreveport
One University Place
Shreveport, LA 71115-2399**

Opportunities for Planned Giving

Types of Donations and Tax Advantages

Donations can be designated for specific purposes or as unrestricted gifts for use by the Ouachita Mountains Biological Station, Inc. (OMBS).

Cash Gifts – Contributions to the OMBS can be deducted in computing taxable income on itemized federal tax returns. If the gift exceeds the deductible limit allowed by law for any one year, the donor may be able to carry the excess forward by spreading over a period of five years.

Securities – Gifts of appreciated securities allow the donor to avoid paying capital gains tax on the appreciation since purchase of the shares and the full market value of such securities at the time of donation can be deducted in computing taxable income. The five-year carry over mentioned before also applies here. Further, the donor may immediately purchase in the market the number of shares donated, thereby retaining the stocks, but with a new cost basis.

Real Estate – The sale of real estate held for many years may incur a large capital gains tax liability. This may be especially true for real estate that is not a person's principal residence, and therefore is not covered by exclusion limits allowed for the sale of a residence. The capital gains tax can be avoided by donation of the qualifying real property. In addition, the appraised value of the property can be deducted in computing taxable income. Donations of property in the form of a Living Trust can also result in tax deductions. Through a Living Trust a donor may obtain a current-year tax deduction for the gift of a personal residence or other property to the OMBS, while reserving occupancy and usage rights for the lifetime of the donor and spouse.

Other Personal Property – The OMBS can accept artwork, books, and other such valuables, with the realization that the OMBS generally is in no position to store and/or exhibit such items of personal property. Such items would be converted to cash. The donor may wish to provide for liquidation of such assets with the OMBS designated as a recipient of the proceeds. The tax laws governing deductibility for such donations are complex and should be discussed with a financial advisor.

Gifts of Life Insurance – A donor may designate the OMBS as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy while retaining the right to change beneficiaries at another time. If the OMBS is designated as both owner and beneficiary of the policy, the donor is entitled to a tax deduction nearly equal to the cash surrender value of the policy at the time of donation and may be allowed a charitable deduction for any premiums paid to maintain the policy after donation.

Charitable Remainder Trust – By making the OMBS a beneficiary of a Charitable Remainder Trust, the donor can make a substantial gift to the OMBS during the donor's lifetime while receiving the earned income of the gift, which may be directed to another beneficiary. This allows the donor to take a tax deduction for part of the amount of the gift at the time the trust is established and it avoids payment of income tax on appreciated qualifying assets (real estate or securities) used to establish the gift in the form of a trust.

Charitable Income Trust – A Charitable Income Trust allows a donor to give to the OMBS income from principal for a specified period of time, after which the assets revert back to the donor or the donor's heirs. The assets are transferred to a trustee (e.g., a financial institution), which makes payments to the OMBS for a designated period of time of the trust, after which the assets revert to the donor or to specified heirs. An attractive feature is that heirs may receive such assets largely free of estate and gift taxes.

Bequests – A person's will can incorporate many of the above approaches to donation. If you would prefer not to make specific bequests to the OMBS, you may wish to consider naming the OMBS as a "remainder beneficiary," which would allow the OMBS to receive the designated dollar amount or a percentage of your estate after the specific bequests to all other beneficiaries have been distributed. It should be noted that a change in a personal will can be made rather easily by adding amendments.

Corporate Matching – Many private corporations and their subsidiaries in the United States will donate matching funds for charitable contributions by employees, and in some cases they will even match donations of retired employees for a limited period of time after retirement. You may wish to check with your company to determine whether they will match gifts to the OMBS when you make an individual donation, thereby increasing the value of your donation.

Tax Advice – The tax laws of the United States encourage charitable donations by allowing tax deductions for contributions to certain types of organizations. The Ouachita Mountains Biological Station, Inc., approved under IRS section 501(c)(3), is included under this legislation. The tax laws governing tax deductible contributions to such organizations are quite complicated and often require consultation with a professional advisor who is aware of the individual's personal situation. The information provided here is intended to serve as a useful introduction to this complex topic, but it is not intended to substitute for the detailed, professional attention your circumstances may require. We therefore encourage you to consult with an attorney or a financial or tax advisor to learn how the laws apply to your individual circumstances.