

Directions to the Ouachita Mountains Biological Station

Phone 479-394-3956

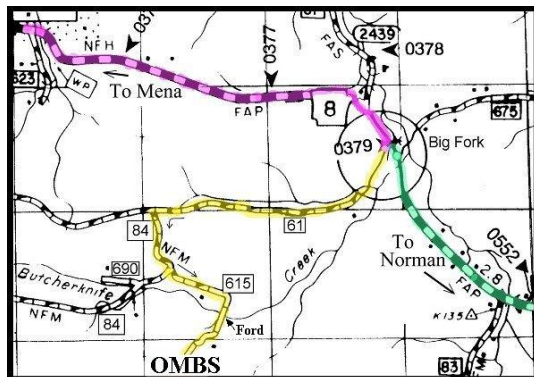
From Mena, go east on Ark. Hwy. 8 about 18 miles to Big Fork. From Norman, go west on Ark. Hwy. 8 about 18 miles to Big Fork.

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.



ENVIRONMENT

The OMBS is located in the Ouachita Mountains of the Interior Highlands. Elevation ranges from 369-622 m (1210-2,041 ft). 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 organisms are found. The Rich Mountain salamander (*Plethodon ouachitae*) and the Caddo Mountain salamander (*Plethodon caddoensis*) are endemic to these mountains.

The OMBS consists of 600 acres (242.8 ha) of undisturbed forest and contains three permanent creeks (Butcherknife and two unnamed). A small spring-fed creek meanders from well above the cabins throughout the length of this area. The terrain to the south and far west of the headquarters is rugged; more gentle slopes are around the headquarters and along the valley to the west. The terrain above the cabins is steep and rugged up to the peaks of Fork Mountain to the south. The saddle between the peaks includes an old abandoned pit slate mine. Approximately 2.5 miles of trails provide access to much of the OMBS. The property map is divided into 16 quads for ease of determining locations.



Phoebe

The Facilities

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

Nuthatch – A 1360 sq. ft. dormitory with a new living/dining room area, two bathrooms, shower, and sleeping facilities for 10; central heat/AC.



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

Bufo – Residence.

Dogwood – The office and library; heat/AC. Home of the Big Fork station of the U. S. Weather Bureau.

Kingfisher – A nice pavilion with lights, electrical outlets, and water. Excellent place for outdoor lectures or meetings.

Neotoma – A one-bedroom cabin with one single and two bunk beds, several windows and electricity (no water).

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

Cub – A storage building.

Rattlesnake – A well-equipped shop.

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. WiFi is available.

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.

For reservations call: 318-797-5338 OR to select your +own reservation date go to:
<http://calendar.yahoo.com/ombs615>

Reserve Online: www.theombs.org/

Since the OMBS is privately funded, any contributions toward expenses are gratefully accepted. **On-line Gift Shop:**

<http://www.theombs.org/OMBSGiftshop.htm>

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.

The OMBS has primarily served collegiate groups on weekend field trips and many faculty researchers. Researchers from Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, Tennessee, Michigan, Florida, and Kansas 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. Coordinates: +34.463236; -94.003969



How to Contact the Station

Museum of Life Sciences
LSU in Shreveport
One University Place
Shreveport, LA 71115-2301

Phones

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

FAX: 318-797-5338

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

E-Mail: lhady@lsus.edu

Web Page: www.theombs.org

Resident Manager

Dr. Jeff Pittman
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June 27, 2016



Ouachita Mountains Biological Station

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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 ten 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.



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