

Dr. Hal Van Ryswyk, professor of Chemistry at Harvey Mudd College, is investigating lead contamination levels of the soil at BFS and whether these are correlated with proximity to the urban thoroughfares along BFS (basically Foothill and Mills). Lead residues in soil are long-lived and Dr. Van Ryswyk, along with his students, will quantify this contamination. Transects (single lines through the study zone) will be laid out from the streets into the BFS interior.

Dr. Marius Van der Merwe, a recent addition to the faculty of the Joint Science Department of the Claremont Colleges, has chosen BFS to conduct his long-term study of the California ground squirrel (*Otospermophilus beecheyi*). Our ground squirrels, like the dusky-footed woodrats, are among the few remaining mammal species one is likely to encounter in the urban landscape of Southern California. The species' distribution ranges from a small area of south-central Washington to northern Baja California. They build underground burrows, which may house a single individual or be extensive enough for a colony. For an excellent description of the ground squirrel and its activities, you can visit <http://www.etc-etc.com/sqrlinfo.htm>. Dr. Van der Merwe and his students will be studying the foraging behavior and dietary preferences of the squirrel at BFS. His work will be year-round and with the squirrels being highly active during the summer months, so will he! Additional research plans include setting up night-time camera traps to capture various nocturnal feeders at BFS as well.

Dr. Steve Adolph, Professor of Biology and Dr. Mike Erlinger, Professor of Computer Science, both from Harvey Mudd College, have received funding from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and Harvey Mudd Center for Environmental Sciences to develop a wireless

communication network capable of transmitting real-time environmental information using the Bernard Field Station. Initial work will include installing temperature sensors at various lizard perching locations (Dr. Adolph is a herpetologist), such as on tree trunks of various heights. These data will be used as part of Dr. Adolph's LizardNet project. If successful, this "remote sensing" project could be greatly expanded to provide information to many biologists and other researchers at the Colleges.

I am certainly excited by all the new activity and wish the researchers all success in their new endeavors.

Teachers: If you would like to bring your class to the BFS, fill out a use request form at bfs.claremont.edu or call the manager at 624-666

General Plan Update

The City Council and Planning Commission are meeting to consider the land use alternatives that will become part of the General Plan. You can see what these are on the City's website (www.ci.claremont.ca.us). The City and consultants are working on the first draft of the Plan and of the EIR that goes along with it. The public will have the opportunity to comment on these at another community meeting in the fall. The EIR should be available this summer for public review, and the draft General Plan should be brought forward for approval around March 2006. Do take a look at the draft and let the City know what you think. Land use policies will be in this document and they will guide decisions about what development is approved in the future.

To get info about the BFS:

You can get information about the history and features of the station, as well as about its plants and animals (and some great pictures) at www.bfs.claremont.edu.

Past Issues of the Newsletter

When you suddenly have a question about pink glow worms or elderberry and can't locate the right past issue of the newsletter, log on to our website and find the info there.



"A tour of the property readily convinces visitors of the importance of keeping such a beautiful expanse of land, shrubs, and trees for scientific purposes."

Robert J. Bernard in "An Unfinished Dream" pg 708

If you would like to be put on the snail-mail or email list, please send a note to bfsfriends@earthlink.net

