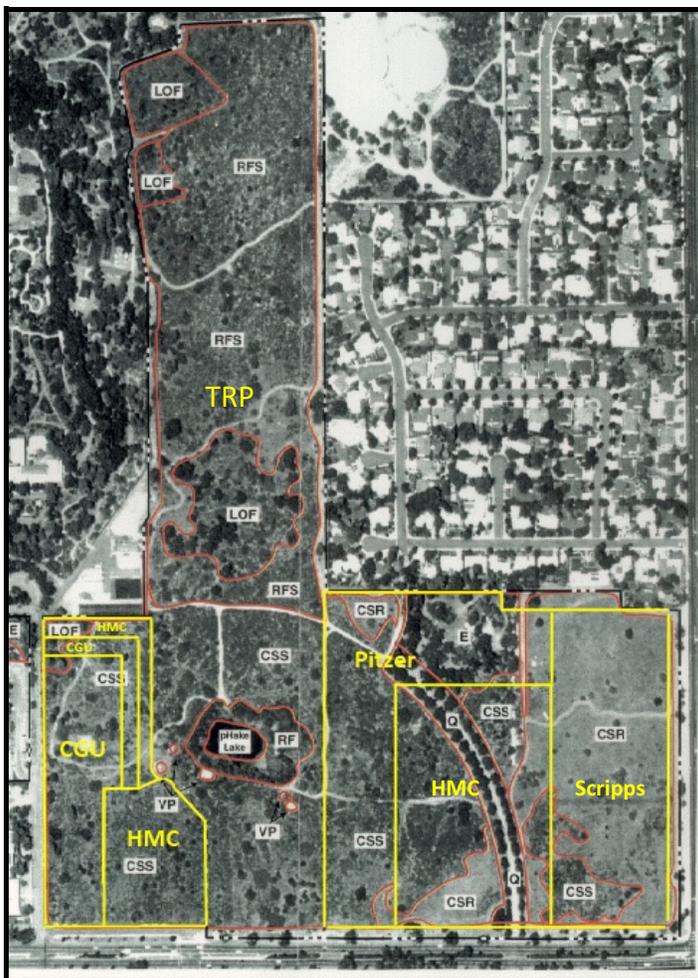




The Friends now have a logo, courtesy of March Rosenbluth!

Eastern 36 acres have been sold

The sale of the eastern 36 acres of the Field Station has now been completed without any publicity. Twelve acres each are now owned by Harvey Mudd, Scripps, and Pitzer Colleges. The divisions can be seen below. No plans for building have yet been announced.



The Infirmary is located on the portion now owned by Pitzer which intends to use it as part of the Robert Redford Conservancy. Although too small to support the current populations at the BFS, the long, narrow, 40 acre center portion (TRP, which was protected temporarily from development as a result of the lawsuit brought by the Friends in 2000) is now supposed to become permanently protected, according to a July 28, 2011 CUC press release.

Sightings

- ✓ Bright pink stars of canchalagua and cheerful yellow sun cups
- ✓ Lovely drifts of brilliant blue eriastrum
- ✓ Flags marking research areas



- ✓ Mounds of silvery, felt-leaved doveweed
- ✓ Light shining through translucent fruit on redberries
- ✓ Dragonflies darting and dipping
- ✓ Harvester ants busily collecting
- ✓ Creamy flowers tufts tipping branches on laurel sumac
- ✓ Regenerating shrubs in the burned areas



- ✓ Monarch caterpillars munching milkweed
- ✓ Solitary bees making nests

Join Us on July 4th!

Visit the FBBFS booth in Memorial Park—let us know if you'd like to help staff it.

Join us in the parade! Stop by the booth for more info.

Field Guide to the Butterflies at the BFS!



Nancy Hamlett has worked with the Field Museum to produce a terrific picture guide to our local butterflies, such as the West Coast Lady at left!

<http://fieldguides.fieldmuseum.org/guides/guide/664>

Not to be missed! (Photo by Nancy Hamlett)

11 new plant species added to BFS list!

(www.bfs.claremon.edu)

Meet the Inhabitants



California Bay (*Umbellularia californica*) can become a large tree such as the one above which is growing outside of the Infirmary at the BFS. Plants can be multi-trunked and pruned as hedges. They are evergreen, grow in sun or shade, and require little water. Groups of small, yellow-green flowers in winter and spring are followed by 1" spotted green or purple fruits.

The long, narrow leaves have a similar flavor to that of the Mediterranean bay leaves used in cooking. Native Americans used the leaves to treat headaches, earaches, and toothaches. Poultices were used to relieve rheumatic pain and a tea was used to treat colds and stomach aches. The fruits were dried and eaten; the seeds were roasted and ground to make a beverage.

California bay is one of two native plants (the other is tanbark, *Notholithocarpus densiflorus*) that can act as hosts for the fungus that causes Sudden Oak Death (*Phytophthora ramorum*), alth the BFS oaks seem to be fine. It can also act as a host for Pierce's Disease (*Xylella fastidiosa*) which affects oleanders and grapes. That disease is transmitted by the glassy-winged sharpshooter, a leafhopper that can overwinter on citrus.

Tours of the BFS

Community and school groups can arrange to take tours of the BFS.

If you are interested in bringing your group to the BFS to learn about what is there,

please call or email the Director: 909-398-1751

wallace.meyer@pomona.edu

BFS Volunteer Days

First Saturday of the month, 10:00 a.m. until noon, followed by a tasty pizza lunch for the volunteers.

If you have questions or want to be added to the volunteer list, please contact the

BFS Volunteer Coordinator:

Nancy Hamlett

(hamlett@hmc.edu)

or call 909-964-2731

Claremont Garden Club

Free and open to everyone interested in any type of gardening.

Meetings are on the second Wednesday of most months 6:30-8:30 pm at the Napier Center at Pilgrim Place. Talks start at 7pm.

To ask questions or sign up for the monthly email newsletter, send a message to gardenclub@sustainableclaremont.org

For more info, see the Garden Club pages at www.sustainableclaremont.org



The Western Harvest Mouse

(Reithrodontomys megalotis) is brownish with lighter sides and a white stomach. The average length is 5 ½", with the tail shorter than the body, and a weight of half an ounce. The ears are hairless, and the front feet only have four toes.

The mouse is found throughout California in many habitats where shrubs or herbaceous plants provide cover for its orange-sized nests. It may have several of these to serve as rest stops. Nests are built of grass and other plant material with an entry hole at the bottom that leads to a small chamber lined with something soft, like

pinebush fluff. The mice rarely live beyond a year, but females can breed as young as four months and may produce several litters and as many as 50 offspring.

Harvest mice are nocturnal, and most active before midnight and when there is little moonlight. They eat seeds, leaves, and stems, and sometimes insects such as grasshoppers. They tend to forage along trails created by other rodents. They are not very territorial and will huddle together if it is cold. They provide food for many predators such as snakes, owls, and coyotes. *(Photo by Paul Stapp)*

Recent Photos



Clockwise from above left: field of penstemon; Nevin's barberry; dodder on yerba santa; sapphire flower; poison oak; hollyleaf cherry; pearly everlasting; teaching garden started



"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

BFS Earth Day Open House

Lots of people visited during the Second Annual BFS Earth Day Celebration on April 25, and had a rousing good time!

The tours included:

Bird-watching Tour

General Tour of the BFS

Wildflower Tour

“Claremont Natives for your Garden” Tour

Family Science Tour

Lizard Diversity & Ecology

Soil Science

Bird Ecology

Robotics for Bio-monitoring

Mammal Diversity and Ecology

Night Family Tour

Night Sky

Insects of the Night

Bat Surveys

🌸 Keep an eye out for next year’s celebration!



Climbing milkweed, in the Southeast Field.

Look closely to see ants gathering nectar.

The Friends is a non-profit, grassroots organization

“Dedicated to Education and the Environment”

See the Friends website

www.fbbfs.org

for past newsletters and a map showing which colleges now own which parts of the Field Station

City of Claremont: www.ci.claremont.ca.us P.O. Box 880,
Claremont, CA 91711 City Clerk: 399-5460
Claremont Colleges: www.claremont.edu
The Claremont Courier: 1420 N. Claremont Blvd., Suite
205B, Claremont, CA 91711 Phone: 621-4761
Inland Valley Daily Bulletin: 2041 E. Fourth St, Ontario CA



How big is big enough?

A field station is land left in its natural state for use in the study of complex interactions between plants and animals. The usefulness of such natural laboratories depends on size and shape. Extinctions occur frequently in small areas, due to smaller populations. The current 85 acres is just large enough to maintain reasonable stability in the existing ecosystems. Narrow shapes increase the amount of pollution by noise, air, water, and pesticides from surrounding areas, and increase the chances of competition from exotic (non-native) species, so the center bit of the BFS alone would not be sustainable.

Who uses it?

The BFS is used by Claremont Colleges faculty and hundreds of students every year, as well as by many schoolchildren from Claremont and the surrounding areas. It has also been used by college classes from as far away as Long Beach, by scout troops, and by members of the public.

What's there?

There are over 30 acres of the fast-disappearing coastal sage scrub community along with a number of species of state or federal concern. There is a stand of oak woodland in the north where water wells up along an earthquake fault, there is annual grassland slowly returning to coastal sage scrub in the east, and there is a one-acre, man-made lake excavated in 1978 which is a sanctuary for western pond turtles displaced by development.

Since much of Claremont was originally covered with coastal sage scrub, it is a fascinating window into our past.