

James H. Barrow Field Station Newsletter (Vol. 2, Issue 1; June 2014)



So Many Opportunities!

Here at Hiram we have so many opportunities for students to engage in internship work, especially at the Field Station during the summer. This summer there are a number of wonderful internships that involve awesome work not only for the school but for the whole community. We have students working with many professors such as Dr. Sarah Mabey, Jane O'Brien, Dr. Jennifer Clark, Dr. Cara Constance, Brad Goodner, Matt Sorrick, Nick Hirsch, and the director of the Field Station Jim Metzinger. Other students have additional internship work at outside rehabilitation facilities that Hiram works closely with such as the Akron Zoo, Penitentiary Glen, and the Medina Raptor Center. Work for these internships includes maintenance around the Field Station, animal care/rehabilitation, bird mist netting, frog observations/genetics, stream studies, nature education, etc. From this hefty list, you can imagine the work these students accomplish during their summer vacation!

New Members on the Way

Over the last few weeks, Field Station interns have been studying the husbandry of waterfowl, particularly White-winged Wood Ducks. Half a dozen fertile eggs have been collected and are now being overseen. Each egg is being carefully monitored and observed by researchers using equipment that allows examination of the developing embryos through the shell of their eggs. This tool allows those examining the eggs to understand the qualities and needs of each individual egg. Currently, the eggs are being kept in specialized incubators that create optimal conditions for this development, similar to that of a parent's care. With this care, each egg is on its way to hatching into a healthy duckling, with some already beginning to pip holes in their eggs' shells.



JAMES H. BARROW FIELD STATION

Display in Progress: Tadpole Tank

Have you ever collected eggs out of a puddle, put them in a tank, and watched them grow up into frogs? That's exactly what we are doing here at the Hiram College Field Station. A few weeks ago members of the biology department scooped up frog eggs from the frog ponds around the Field Station and placed them in a tank. These eggs have developed into lively tadpoles and will soon become frogs. To display their development, the interns at the Field Station (Sara Amport and Sarah Bednarski, along with other crew members) have created a half water/half land terrarium. This terrarium features various native plants, a pond, a calm stream, and an island. If everything goes as planned, the newest tank will be on display within the next few weeks for public viewing. Below is a picture of the tank.



Changes in the Display Room

Recently, students working at the Field Station this summer have been discussing new design plans for the display room where the community is welcome to view various animals that are native to Ohio. Plans including extending the mural that is painted on the frog exhibit and creating different displays for more animals. Work on these designs will start soon, and we are all very excited to implement our ideas and craft an amazing display!

If you find an injured or orphaned bird of any kind and need assistance, give us a call at 330-527-2141. Although we cannot take mammals, Medina Raptor Center (330-667-2386) & Penitentiary Glen (440-256-2131) both handle furry critters who may be orphaned or injured in NE Ohio. Also, check out our Facebook page for the latest Field Station information, photos, and news: <https://www.facebook.com/JamesHBarrowFieldStation>.