

Experience the Mountain

"The wilderness surrounding MLBS provides a perfect classroom for learning about the natural history of the Appalachians. This region is rich in biodiversity, and the climate is ideal for studying many creatures of the forest including fungi, salamanders, and plants."

Dr. Rytas Vilgalys (Duke University), instructor



"The community at Mountain Lake is truly special and I would urge anyone with an interest in field biology to experience life 'on the mountain' as early as possible in their academic career."

Jenn Vance (UVA), course student

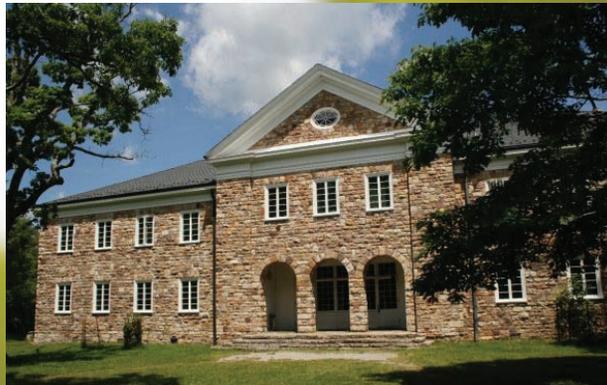


"Hidden on the top of a mountain and filled with people excited about learning and doing science, MLBS is an academic utopia. I've never been anywhere else where the people work so hard and have so much fun together. The world would be filled with field biologists if everyone got to learn biology at a place as extraordinary as MLBS."

Dr. Vince Formica (Swarthmore College), researcher

The Location

MLBS is a remote field station atop Salt Pond Mountain in Giles County, Virginia. The closest large town, Blacksburg Virginia, is a 30-minute drive. **Directions:** Take Rte 460 west from Blacksburg. Turn right onto Rte 700 (Mountain Lake Rd.). Follow it 7 miles to the top of the mountain. Pass through the Mountain Lake Lodge property along the west shore of the lake. When the road turns to gravel, continue 0.8 miles. Bear right at the fork onto Salt Pond Rd. Bear right at Station entrance and check in at Lewis Hall. **Visits by appointment only.**



Contact Us!

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UNIVERSITY of VIRGINIA

MOUNTAIN LAKE BIOLOGICAL STATION



The University of Virginia's
residential field station for
biological research and education
in the southern Appalachians

est. 1930

The Station

Mountain Lake Biological Station was established by the University of Virginia in



1930 as a center for biological research and advanced field training. The Station consists of 260 hectares of eastern deciduous forest surrounded by the Jefferson National

Forest and the Wilderness Conservancy at Mountain Lake. Its rich ecological and biological diversity, full on-site scientific and residential support, and inspiring academic community make it an ideal place for researchers, instructors, and students alike.

Community

The Station is proud of its scholarly community of students, instructors, researchers, and family members who work, live, dine, and play side by side. Seminars are offered twice weekly, and the annual Walton

Lecture brings a distinguished biologist to the Station each summer. Activities such as swimming, volleyball, hiking, and mountain



biking are enjoyed by many. Special events including live music and dancing, a sand volleyball tournament, a July 4th celebration, an Open House, and other festivities occur throughout the summer.

Facilities



Research & Teaching

Two laboratory buildings are equipped for traditional field biology as well as modern techniques. The 1930s-era Lewis Hall houses classrooms, an auditorium, a library, private research labs, common-use labs, and the Station office. The auditorium offers seating for 90+ people and is fully equipped for audio-visual presentations. Wilbur Laboratory (1996) contains controlled environment rooms and chambers, aquatic environment facilities with flow-through stream capacity, a computer lab, a scope and balance room, and a wood shop. Wireless internet is available in all facilities.

Residences & Dining

Residences include rustic and modern dorms, private cottages and suites. Cottages vary in size, including some that have kitchenettes and are suitable for small families. During the summer all residents eat at the dining hall. In other seasons residents share a fully equipped common-use kitchen. Coin-operated laundry is on-site.



College Level Courses

Advanced undergraduate and graduate-level field biology courses are offered in areas such as ecological genetics, community ecology, population biology, and behavioral ecology. Taxon-focused courses include mammalogy, ornithology, herpetology, entomology, mycology, and botany. Courses are offered through UVA Summer Session and earn credit toward the UVA Biology major, but are open to students from any institution. Faculty are recruited locally and internationally. Financial aid is available.



Visiting Groups

MLBS hosts conferences, workshops, retreats, field trips, and day visits for a variety of science-oriented organizations. The Station welcomes inquiries from groups interested in visiting or using its facilities. For more information, please contact the Station Manager at 540-626-7196.