

**Mountain Lake Biological Station**  
**Open House 2019**  
*Saturday, July 20, 2:00 - 5:00*

**Scheduled Activities**

**NEON Tower Tours** 2:30 and 3:30 – depart from Lewis Patio  
**“Rate of Occurrence”** (light sculpture tour) 2:30, then every 30 mins – depart from Lewis Patio  
**“Artist Meets Scientist”** (art performance) 3:00 – by the pond  
**Nature Hikes** 3:15 and 4:00 – depart from Lewis Patio

**Meet Our Scientists & Organisms**

Insect Display - insect curating and caterpillar petting	Lewis 109
Snake Lab	Lewis 203
Mosquito World	Lewis 204
Social amoeba	Lewis 209
Forked Fungus Beetle Lab	Lewis 211
National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON)	Lewis Foyer
Wildlife – camera traps, specimens	Lewis Auditorium

**Exploration & Crafts**

Exploring pond inhabitants	Riopel Pond Beach
Observing organisms under microscopes	Walton Pavilion
Nature crafts and face painting	Walton Pavilion lawn

**Collections & History**

Collections – “Cabinet of Curiosities”	Lewis 201
Historical photographs and scientific instruments	Lewis Library

**ArtLab**

ArtLab display	Lewis 108
ArtLab short film	Lewis 204A

## What is MLBS?

Mountain Lake Biological Station, a unit of the University of Virginia, is a residential field station located atop Salt Pond Mountain in the southern Appalachians in Virginia. Programs include summer field courses, Research Experiences for Undergraduates, numerous faculty-driven research projects, scientific meetings, outreach activities, and more. The Station is open year-round but is busiest in the summer. An average high-season day hosts 50-100 people, including undergraduate and graduate students, research faculty from around the world, and family members. Everyone in the community works, eats, and lives together every day and integrates research and mentorship in the truest sense of a Jeffersonian “academical village.”

The Station is remote but accessible, and is surrounded by sharp ecological gradients and fine-scale changes in habitat—ideal conditions for studying ecology and evolution. Visiting scientists conduct research in plant and animal population biology, behavioral ecology, life history evolution, community ecology, ecological genetics, biosystematics, epidemiology, conservation biology, and the physiology of behavior.

## The Site

Immersion in protected natural areas is a key appeal of MLBS for both research and training. The station sits on a remote wooded ridge at an elevation of 1,160m (3,800ft) precisely on the divide between the Atlantic and Mississippi drainage basins in the Appalachian Mountains of southwestern Virginia. The Station consists of a forested reserve of 640 acres on which UVA holds a renewable 50-year lease. Adjoining the station is the Jefferson National Forest, where over 100,000 acres of woodland are available for study. Of this forest, the 10,500 acres adjacent to MLBS are designated as NFS Wilderness. The Mountain Lake Lodge owns another 2,500 acres bordering MLBS and welcomes its use for teaching and research. Mountain Lake itself, which is within walking distance, is the only naturally-formed lake in the unglaciated Appalachians.

The variety of rich and diverse habitats near MLBS provide excellent opportunities for studies in terrestrial and aquatic field biology. Mixed deciduous forests, mountain streams, successional meadows, a large naturally-formed lake, ponds, rocky ridges, sphagnum bogs, small stands of red spruce, Canadian hemlock, white pine, and both disturbed and virgin habitats are all within walking distance of the Station. Because MLBS is located on the eastern continental divide and is surrounded by strong elevational gradients, it is uniquely situated to provide abundant opportunities for observational and experimental studies on scales relevant to the ecology and evolution of many plant and animal populations.