

ORDWAY-SWISHER

BIOLOGICAL STATION

University of Florida IFAS



UF | IFAS Research
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

OUR INFRASTRUCTURE | YOUR OPPORTUNITIES

About

The Ordway-Swisher Biological Station (OSBS) in Melrose, Florida is a research and demonstration facility operated by the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) and administered through the UF/IFAS Office of the Dean for Research. Faculty from across the country utilize OSBS for research, teaching and extension work to answer a diverse suite of biological and ecological questions.

9,500+
acres

with 75+ miles of roads

90%
of projects

attract external funding

30
minute

drive from UF campus

Research

Our infrastructure supports individual faculty research projects and productive collaborations. OSBS data populate four data portals – **National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON)**, **Integrated Digitized Biocollections (iDigBio)**, **Barcode of Life Data Systems (BOLD Systems)**, and **biodiversity data sets (VertNet)**. These data sets are freely available at <http://ordway-swisher.ufl.edu>.

More than 40 state and federal agencies, universities, and NGOs have utilized OSBS for research with focus areas that include:

Agroecology	Botany	Biodiversity	Climate Change
Disease ecology	Ecosystem Dynamics	Fire Ecology	Forest Ecology
Hydrology	Land-use Change Impacts	Limnology	Wildlife Ecology

Our UF researchers say it best:



“I wish I’d known about the station when I first arrived at UF – it’s truly **captured my imagination**.” -Dr. Matt Smith, UF/IFAS Plant Pathology



“I regularly teach classes at OSBS. It’s an **excellent outdoor classroom** and **superior research facility**.” -Dr. Katie Sieving, UF/IFAS Wildlife Ecology and Conservation



“OSBS is a **real gem** and a **unique resource** for all kinds of biodiversity studies, ranging from plants to animals to fungi to bacteria.” -Dr. Pam Soltis, Florida Museum of Natural History, UF Biodiversity Institute



“It’s the **ideal site** for our studies of host plants, butterflies and fire frequency.” -Dr. Jaret Daniels, Florida Museum of Natural History, UF/IFAS Entomology and Nematology

Conservation

We manage and protect the ecological integrity of many habitats and species.

15 Distinct Vegetation Communities at OSBS

- Basin marsh
- Basin swamp
- Baygall
- Classic upland lake
- Lake bottom
- Sandhill
- Sandhill upland lake
- Sinkhole
- Scrubby flatwoods
- Xeric hammock
- Mesic hammock
- Abandoned field/pasture
- Borrow area
- Pine plantation
- Successional hardwood forest

To date, 672 plant species and 284 vertebrates species have been documented on site.



A conservation easement maintains diverse communities for future generations.

Teaching

We support a mix of courses ranging from K-12 to college level to professional training.

Classes and training events are held in newly upgraded facilities.



On-site lodging is available for out-of-town guests.

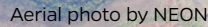
Outreach

We provide life-long learning about the natural world.

Request a workshop or tour.



Consider volunteering through our Conservation Work Campers program.



Visit <http://ordway-swisher.ufl.edu> and select the Project Portal to submit an application for use.

Photo credits: Fox squirrel by Linda S. Martin | Students in classroom by NATA | People mover and S. Coates speaking by David Godwin | Camper by Andy Rappe

An Equal Opportunity Institution. Florida Agricultural Experiment Station, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida, UF/IFAS Dean for Research, Jackie Burns, publishes this information to advance research programs and related activities. For more information, contact the UF/IFAS Office of the Dean for Research, P.O. Box 110200, Gainesville, Florida 32611-0200, (352) 392-1784.