

The Pymatuning Laboratory of Ecology (PLE) is delighted to announce that we have been awarded a grant from the NSF Field Station and Marine Lab program to construct a new laboratory building.

The proposed building is 3,600 square feet and contains 3 research labs. This space will provide increased space to our current bird researchers (including new animal care space), new space for our new researchers, and sterile lab space to build new capacity in the fields of molecular and microbial biology.

In addition to serving as research space during the spring and summer for researchers from around the U.S. and around the world, the new building will also serve as a new base of outreach for the BioSci Department during the fall and winter. We estimate that this outreach effort will reach 750 rural middle and high school students annually.

This substantial investment from NSF reflects a 5-year effort by the administration and staff to place PLE on a new trajectory of growth in its missions of education, research, and outreach. NSF has recognized the tremendous growth that is occurring at PLE and funded the proposal on its first submission. This award reflects the tremendous efforts of a large team of people including PLE staff, instructors, researchers, Facilities Management, BioSci Outreach, BioSci Fiscal Office, BioSci Advising, and the University administration that has supported and invested in the field station, allowing it to become the dominant center of ecology in the region.

After a period of design and engineering, construction is scheduled to begin in July 2013 and the building will be completed by April 2014. Once completed, Facilities Management estimates the building's value at \$1.2 million.

Rick Relyea
PLE Director