In 1931, a consensus of responsible opinion revealed the lack of a general biological station in eastern and mid-western United States, south of Beaufort, North Carolina, which was open all year. It was deemed advisable to establish a laboratory in Florida, where individuals on leave of absence from their institution for research purposes could be accommodated, and where life cycles and seasonal aspects of biological problems could be observed.

The laboratory was established by Mr. John F. Bass, Jr. in memory of his Father to whom he owes a large portion of his financial independence. Mr. Bass is the active head of the organization, and furnishes the supporting funds.

**PURPOSE:** The Bass Biological Laboratory was founded to furnish research facilities to investigators in biological fields, where the fauna, flora, and climate play an important role in the problem under observation.

**LOCATION:** Englewood was selected because of its proximity and easy access to large areas of different environments scarcely disturbed by a sparse population. Fifteen years ago, the surrounding country was exploited by the lumber industry. This was succeeded by the cattle raisers who had free range. From time to time, the cattle men have burned the woods in order to secure better grazing. The salt water fisheries have been active over a long period of time, but pound nets and stop nets have been prohibited.

Longitude 36 50'--Latitude 82 20'; zone between Lower Sestical and Sub-tropical; eleven miles south of Venice, passenger, express, and freight railhead; Thirty-five miles south of Sarasota, nearest shopping district; ninety miles south of Tampa; fifty miles north of Fort Myers.
TERRESTRIAL: The back country is accessible by truck over old and little used lumbering trails. Within a few miles is a great variety of habitats, a few of which are: Low, sandy keys, with palms and sea grapes running down to mangrove tangles near the water's edge; high sandy scrub oak elevations; tall and bushy grass and vegetation around muck ponds; young southern pine thickets; meadow and marsh lands; cactus and dry lands; jungle-like hammocks.

FRESH AND BRACKISH WATER: A number of fresh water streams and rivers flow into Lemon Bay and Charlotte Harbor Bay. The Caloosahatchee, Peace, and Myakka Rivers extend far inland. Some portion of them are affected by tides and as they approach their respective outlets, the salinity of their water increases. There are networks of drainage canals which have been abandoned, and the countryside is dotted with ponds, some of which are permanent. The ponds, rivers, and ditches have changing beds of muck and sand. They contain a multitude of aquatic life.

MARINE: Lemon Bay is sixteen miles long, varying in width a quarter to two miles. It is crossed by two bridges which furnish easy access to long stretches of beaches on the Gulf of Mexico. The Bay, itself, is a depository for a number of small creeks. There are many different types of bottom characteristics, such as mud flats, sand bars, oyster bars, eel grass beds, sandy and muddy channels, projections of limestone formation, and little bays and coves. A number of mangrove covered islands are submerged at high tide. Two outlets lead to the Gulf of Mexico and one into Charlotte Harbor. Stump Pass, leading into the Gulf, is only two miles from the Laboratory dock. Commercial and sport fishing is very active in the vicinity, and the Laboratory receives exceptional cooperation from the fishing fleet.
LABORATORY GROUNDS: The Laboratory proper consists of many small buildings erected on a ten-acre tract which is bounded on the west by a cove of the Bay. There is a dock and small salt water laboratories on the water front. In this building there is equipment for a number of aquariums fed by a constant supply of salt water through lead pipes. Live wells float conveniently at hand near a terrapin pen. In front of the orange grove is a two story building, which houses the kitchen as well as upstairs dormitory facilities. An outdoor veranda generally serves as a dining room. Centrally located is a two room log cabin which houses the library, office, and photographic dark room. The other half of this structure contains a laboratory where Mr. Bass often works, and where most of the chemicals, dyes, and instruments are kept. Nearby, there is a long laboratory with many desks and shelves, where four workers can operate at ease. Just across the road there is a dormitory with a large central living room, which is used for sociable gatherings and ping-pong games. This room is flanked on either side by two large bedrooms, each of which can accommodate two persons. There is a bathroom with all facilities. A Supply Organization is located in a T shaped building, where a stock of preserved and living material is kept. In the rear are placed live animals cages, frog ponds, alligator, snake and turtle pens. All laboratory buildings are of log cabin construction of such type as to afford rather uniform insulation factors. Other physical features of the grounds are a residence, a number of out buildings, a vegetable garden and gardener’s quarters. Each year has brought a new building or improvement, so that this description is only of a general nature.

EQUIPMENT: The Laboratory is primarily a field Laboratory, and Associate Research Fellows are expected to bring special chemicals and instruments needed for their problem. The instrument inventory consists of: binocular, compound, and dissecting microscopes; microtomes;
Leica camera photographic, micro-photographic and enlarging equipment, all available for short periods of time. A quantity of glassware is kept on hand as well as most of the standard chemicals and stains.

COLLECTING GEAR: There is a constant activity in this field, both on land and water. A two-masted schooner with auxiliary motor operates in the Gulf. A twenty-six foot motor boat and a one man, fourteen foot motor boat work in the bays and along the shore. A truck and passenger cars are available for land expeditions. Camping equipment, including tent and related equipment are on hand to establish temporary field quarters. There is an assortment of shrimp trawls, bottom drags, minnow nets, plankton nets, dip nets, fish, game, and insect traps and cages on hand to help in this work.

LIVING CONDITIONS: Scientific activity and social life at the Laboratory are very closely associated so that there is a general spirit of cooperation. The atmosphere is homelike, as most recreation is self-promoted. Associate Fellows are furnished laboratory space, meals, and living quarters on the grounds. Laundry expenses are very low, as formal wear is seldom used. It has been possible to arrange outside living quarters, at a minimum cost, for Fellows who desire to bring their families to Florida.

FELLOWSHIP ELIGIBILITY: Primarily, the laboratory facilities are granted to the faculty members of colleges, universities, and other established institutions, however, exceptions can be made to this policy. The organization is run in such a way that applications for varying periods of residence can be received throughout the year. No supervision or instruction is afforded by the Laboratory. In making application, a fairly definite outline of the problem must be submitted. A list of equipment needed should be enclosed. Reprints or a bibliography of papers published should accompany the application.
Fellows will be expected to identify specimens used by them for the key-card index file of local fauna and flora. A synopsis of their findings is required as an addition to the Library files in order to aid future investigation in the same field.

**COSTS:** Each Fellow will be charged a nominal fee of one dollar a day for Laboratory maintenance. This item may be disregarded in exceptional cases. Ordinary collecting activities carried on by the investigator with a minimum of help from the local staff, lies within the field of the Fellowship Grant. If the collecting problem or caging requirements are out of the ordinary, an assessment will be necessary to cover material and wage costs.

On application, a list of persons who have previously availed themselves of the Laboratory's facilities will be forwarded.