**LTER DataBits**
**Information Management Newsletter of The Long Term Ecological Research Network**

◆ *Feature Articles*

## LTER Newsletter DataBits New Design

*- Karen S. Baker, Palmer LTER and Marshall White, LTER Network Office*

DataBits, the LTER Data Manager newsletter, has a new design. The newsletter was developed in 1990 as a mechanism for the LTER sites to share information. Publication continued through 1994 under the editorship of John Porter (VCR). A visit by Karen Baker (PAL) to the network office catalyzed the Network Office plan to recreate DataBits. A prototype was developed for presentation to DataTask and was built upon the concepts of modular design, online publication, co-editorship as well as both inreach and outreach opportunities. The redesign for Spring99 DataBits was developed in conjunction with Marshall White (NET), a part-time student graphic designer, who works with Patty Sprott (NET) to produce the online version of the LTER Network News. The initial guiding principles listed below will evolve as the concept of rotating editorship develops.

- Keep layout simple and modular
- Make look coherent with LTER Network News and LTER Web
- Design for online presenation, but store as single file for simple hardcopy output
- Promote cross-site and cross-network data manager communications
- Co-ordinate editor responsibility by having rotating co-editors
- Facilitate remote editing (ie Netscape Composer is free)
- Develop in working documents location to facilitate co-editing prior to posting
- Provide Table of Contents for quick browsing
- Provide summary box to serve as email announcement with active hyperlink
- Sections to include Summary Box, Feature Articles, News Bits, and Calendar
- Standardize layout graphics (ie size < 20kbytes, resolution = 72DBI, format=JPEG)
- Consider article organization for archive and future access