

IOP NEWSLETTER 73

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The views expressed in the newsletter are those of its correspondents, and do not necessarily reflect the policy of IOP.

President: Else Marie Friis (Sweden)
Vice Presidents: Muriel Fairon-Demaret (Belgium), Zlatko Kavzek (Czech Republic), Sun Ge (China)
Secretary: Gar Rothwell (USA)

PREPARING FOR IOPC-VII IN BARALOCHE

Preparations for IOPC-VII are proceeding rapidly, with an excellent web site (<http://www.iopc2004.org/>) available for providing information, allowing for online pre-registration, and for keeping track of the growing number of organized symposia. If you wish to propose an additional symposium, please contact the meetings organizers as soon as possible.

Those requiring an official invitation to attend IOPC-VI can arrange for this service by checking the appropriate box on the pre-registration form that is posted at: <http://www.iopc2004.org/form.htm>
Please pre-register before July 15, 2003.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR IOP OFFICERS

As of 1993, the IOP Constitution Article 7 calls for elections of Executive Officers to be held at IOP Conferences. The next election of IOP officers will be at the General Council Meeting during IOPC-VII in Bariloche, Argentina, March 21-26, 2004.

At Qunhuangdo, China in 2000, the following were elected for two terms of office:

Vice Presidents: Fairon-Demaret (Belgium), Z. Kavzek (Czech Republic), Sun Ge (China).

Members at Large: Collinson (UK), Drinnan (Australia), Manchester (USA).

The President, Secretary and Congress Member must be elected at Bariloche. Of these posts, the Constitution allows that only the Secretary is eligible for re-election: Gar Rothwell offers himself for re-election.

Nominations for President and Secretary must be made to the Secretary, in writing, before December 1st 2003.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS TO HOST IOPC- VIII

At the General Council Meeting of IOP at IOPC-VII in Bariloche, Argentina in April, 2004, the location of IOPC-VIII will be decided. The membership will vote on all detailed invitations that are received by the Secretary by January 1, 2004.

Guidelines for materials to be submitted are available from the Secretary upon request. Proposals may be submitted as e-mail attachments and/or mailed to the Secretary. The mailing addresses are: Gar W. Rothwell, Secretary IOP, Department of Environmental and Plant Biology, Ohio University, Athens, OH, 45701, USA , or [<rothwell@ohio.edu>](mailto:rothwell@ohio.edu).

NEW IOP WEB SITE ON LINE

The ongoing effort to develop a new IOP web site has begun to bear fruit. The web site has been completely redesigned, and it should now work equally well with all types of servers. Although only a bear bones version is now up and running, it has been set up at Ohio University to allow ready access for updates and revisions. For future reference, please book-mark the new URL for the web site: <http://www.ohiou.edu/~iop/index.html/>.

The old web site: <http://iop.biodiversity.org.uk/> also is still up and running, but we don't know how much longer it will be supported at the University of London.

In the fall we will be conducting a campaign to update the online membership information that is still available only on the old web site.

UPCOMING MEETING

The Botany 2003 meeting, to be held July 26-31 at the Arthur R. Outlaw Convention Center in Mobile,

Alabama, is approaching, and the DEADLINE for early registration is JUNE 24th! Register early and get a break on the cost. EVERYTHING YOU NEED FOR REGISTRATION and information on the meeting, including searchable database of submitted abstracts, can be found at the following website: <http://www.2003.botanyconference.org/>

Preceding the meeting will be the 2nd Educational Forum. Information about this event is also on the website. Also be sure to check out information on special sites and activities in Mobile, field trips, and information on transportation, which includes Special Conference Airline Rates!

Again this year, if you have late-breaking research to report, Recent Topics Posters can be presented. The DEADLINE for submitting is JULY 17th--see the website.

This year we have an excellent paleobotanical program of student papers, contributed papers and posters on Monday and Tuesday. On Wednesday the Section is cosponsoring with the Systematics Section an all-day symposium entitled: "Dating in the 21st Century: Theory and reality in finding a date for your clade", organized by Patrick Herendeen and Peter Crane and including a number of our Section members and other friends and colleagues in the presentations.

This year's Paleobotanical Mixer and Banquet will be at Roussos Restaurant, which is within easy walking distance of the Conference Center. We have decided to save up our auctioneering skills and interesting items for perhaps next year, and plan to have a nice evening of visiting with each other this time. You can take a virtual tour through the restaurant at <http://www.roussosrestaurant.com/index.htm>.

We will have our Paleobotanical Section Business Meeting on the Tuesday afternoon of the meeting. If you have items for the meeting please bring them to the attention of this year's Chair, Brian Axsmith, who can be reached at: Brian J. Axsmith, Department of Biological Sciences, University of

South Alabama, Mobile, AL 36688-0002; 251- 460-7528; baxsmith@jaguar1.usouthal.edu. Alternatively, (and especially because Brian is swamped with being the Local Representative for the entire meeting), let me know if you have items to include. Already I have had a proposal for a symposium for next year's meeting at Snowbird, Utah. Proposals for potential field trips and other activities will be welcomed.

Kathleen B. Pigg,
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REPORTS OF MEETINGS

13TH MEETING OF "ORGANISATION FRANCOPHONE DE PALEOBOTANIQUE", NANTES (FRANCE), JUNE 6-8 2003. - The Natural History Museum in the western city of Nantes was chosen 2 years ago for the site of the 2003 OFP meeting, an event that attracted about 25 french-speaking paleobotanists including a relatively large number of young ones. In selecting this place, the organizing committee which included Serge Régnault (curator of the Geology Department) and Philippe Gerrienne (chairman of OFP) had the following objectives:

- promote paleobotany outside our community through 2 key-lectures listed in the Museum summer agenda, one entitled "What remains from algae after their death?" by Patrick Genot (Nantes Univ.), the other "Recent viewpoints on two key-periods of the history of plants" by Ph. Gerrienne (Univ. Liège) and B. Meyer-Berthaud, which focussed on early land plants and early angiosperms;
- visit a historical institution, a unique opportunity to realize, through the first curator's (François-Rene Dubuisson) cabinet of curiosities, that natural history represents an old tradition in Nantes. This early

collection, gathered around the early 18th century, shows an amazing variety of objects from petrified wood to “bilobites” (actually arthropod mudcracks). More importantly for us, the museum is the place where, at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries, Prof. Edouard Bureau (not Boureau!) achieved his famous descriptions of Paleozoic plants from Maine and Basse-Loire;

- make our community of paleobotanists aware of the potential in terms of fossils and rare literature resources housed in museum collections outside Paris.

Brigitte Meyer-Berthaud, UMR 5120 CNRS-CIRAD (Montpellier)

NEWS FROM THE MEMBERSHIP

Margaret Collinson is thrilled to announce that she now holds the title 'Professor of Plant Palaeobiology' in the University of London, a promotion in April 2003. She would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in the palaeobotanical community for the special spirit of friendship which has contributed so much to her success. She hopes to see you all in Argentina.

The first day was dedicated to a visit of the Museum in the morning and of the beautiful Botanical Garden in the afternoon. Particularly interesting was the visit of the greenhouses led by the chairman of the garden, Claude Figureau. The special coating around vertical poles that he developed years ago is now colonized by various cyanobacteria and bryophytes, a very healthy and almost natural environment for growing epiphytes without fertilizers and antifungal substances.

The Saturday program included 13 oral presentations. Two Edouard Boureau prizes were attributed this year to young researchers. One went to Camille Joly (Univ. Nantes) for her communication on the history of plant succession in a coastal peat near Nantes from the end of the Neolithic to the present days; her work is based on palynological data. The second went to Aude Soria (Univ. Montpellier) for her talk on the anatomical and architectural diversity in the Late Devonian genus *Pietzschia*, a member of the Cladoxylopsida. The recipients got a check of 300 euros as a contribution to their participation to a forthcoming meeting. Concluding the meeting, the field trip organized by Prof. Hubert Lardeux (Univ. Rennes) took us on a sunny and very pleasant Sunday to the lovely surroundings of the Loire basin to two Paleozoic (Middle Devonian and Namurian) and one Cretaceous sites which all yielded diverse and abundant specimens.