

IOP NEWSLETTER 82

July 2007

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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: Margaret Collinson (UK)

Vice Presidents: Mikhail Akhmetiev (Russia), Zlatko Kvaček (Czech Republic), Volker Mosbrugger (Germany)

Members at Large: Andrew Drinnan (Australia), Steve Manchester (USA), Harufumi Nishida (Japan)

Secretary/Treasurer: Gar Rothwell (USA)

Conference/Congress Member: Hans Kerp (Germany)

IOPC VIII IN BONN, 2008

The 8th International Organisation of Palaeobotany Conference will be held in Bonn from Saturday 30th August to Friday 5th September 2008 in Bonn, in close conjunction with the 12th International Palynological Congress. The 8th IOPC will be held in the main building of the University of Bonn, located in the centre of town, near City Hall, at only five minutes walking distance from the main railway station. This venue has a large Audimax lecture theatre and sufficient larger lecture rooms, and medium-sized to smaller meeting rooms situated around a central courtyard, together forming an ideal setting for the meeting.

The opening ceremony will be in the afternoon of Saturday 30th August, followed by two key-note presentations and the icebreaker party. During the mid-conference break on Tuesday, 2nd September several one-day excursions will be offered, including the Neogene browncoal deposits of the Lower Rhine Embayment, Tertiary and Quaternary volcanism and fossil deposits in the Eifel Mountains, the famous Messel quarry, the Carboniferous of the Ruhr District, and the Devonian of the Rhenish Slate Mountains. For those who prefer cultural program during the mid-conference break, there will be an excursion to Cologne, including visits to the famous cathedral and the Roman-German museum, a unique exhibit on the daily life in the northern part of the Roman Empire. The conference dinner is scheduled for Wednesday evening and is preceded by a boat tour on the Rhine River. This part of the Rhine Valley with its steep vineyards, and many romantic castles and ruins is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Several post-congress excursions (2 - 5 days) will be offered, e.g., Palaeozoic (Nordrhein-Westfalen, Rheinland-Pfalz), Permian & Triassic (northern Bavaria, Thuringen, Sachsen), Cretaceous, Paleogene & Neogene (Niedersachsen, Sachsen-Anhalt, Sachsen) and Quaternary (Mecklenburg-Vorpommern). These excursions will visit a number of classical localities and museums with palaeobotanical exhibits.

Please consult the IOP Web Site <http://www.palaeobotany.org/> or the Institut für Paläontologie Web Page at the Universität Bonn for additional information as it becomes available. We

anticipate that more information about registration, field excursions, symposia, etc. will be posted soon.

CALL FOR SYMPOSIA FOR IOPC-VIII - DEADLINE EXTENDED

A call for proposals for symposia was made earlier at the University of Bonn web site, but few members are aware of this source of information. Therefore, the period for making symposium proposals is being extended to August 15, 2007.

As indicated in the original call - "Each symposium will have two convenors. Symposia will be restricted to time blocks of three hours; depending on the theme, a symposium may include two or more blocks. A symposium starts with a 10 minute introduction by the convenors and concludes with a short summary. Each speaker will have 15 minutes for the oral presentation and five minutes for discussion. In order to avoid too many parallel sessions and to give everybody a fair chance to give an oral presentation, the number of oral presentations will be restricted to two per speaker. Convenors may invite a keynote speaker for their symposium. Keynotes can fill two time slots and counts as a single presentation. Proposals for symposia, preferably in electronic format, should be sent to [Hans Kerp](#) with a carbon copy to [Thomas Litt](#). Proposals should include (1) the title of the symposium, (2) the names and addresses of the convenors, (3) a brief summary of the symposium (c. ½ page), and, if possible, (4) a list of potential speakers. Because we want to encourage interactions between palaeobotanists and palynologists, especially proposals for interdisciplinary symposia dealing with both palaeobotanical and palynological aspects of the same theme (e.g., palaeoclimate, palaeoecology, extinction events) are most welcome."

If you wish to actively participate in IOP-VIII by organizing a symposium, please submit your proposal as soon as possible to:

Prof. Hans Kerp
Chair 8th IOPC
Forschungsstelle für Paläobotanik
am Geologisch-Paläontologischen Institut
Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster
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48143 Münster
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E-mail: kerp@uni-muenster.de

or,

Prof. Thomas Litt
Chair 12th IPC
Institut für Paläontologie
Universität Bonn
Nussallee 8
53115 Bonn
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E-mail: t.litt@uni-bonn.de

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS OF NEW IOP OFFICERS

Article 7 of the IOP Statutes (<http://www.palaeobotany.org/modules.php?name=iop&sec=about&page=5>) states that the election of officers should take place at each General Assembly during the International Organisation of Palaeobotany Conference. The next election will be held in 2008 and completed at IOPC-VIII in Bonn, Germany August 30 - September 5, 2008. The Executive Committee is seeking nominations for the offices of President, Three Vice Presidents, Three Members at large, and Secretary/Treasurer.

At Bariloche, Argentina in 2004, the following were elected:

President: Margaret Collinson (UK)

Vice Presidents: Vice Presidents: Mikhail Akhmetiev (Russia), Zlatko Kvaček (Czech Republic), Volker Mosbrugger (Germany)

Members at Large: Andrew Drinnan (Australia), Steve Manchester (USA), Harufumi Nishida (Japan)

Secretary/Treasurer: Gar Rothwell (USA)

The President, Vice-Presidents, Members-at-large, and Secretary/Treasurer all must be elected at Bonn. Of these posts, the Constitution allows that only the Secretary be eligible for re-election to multiple, consecutive terms. The Members-at-Large are eligible

for re-election to a maximum of two consecutive terms, but other officers are ineligible for reelection to consecutive terms. Andrew Drinnan and Steve Manchester are serving their second consecutive term as Members-at-Large. Therefore, only Harufumi Nishida is eligible for re-election as a Member at Large. All officers are eligible for election to another office.

Nominations must be made to the Secretary, in writing, before December 1st 2007. Both mailed (Gar Rothwell, Secretary/Treasurer IOP, Department of Environmental and Plant Biology, Ohio University, Athens, Ohio, 45701, USA) and e-mailed <<mailto:rothwell@ohio.edu>> nominations will be accepted.

IT'S TIME FOR A NEW SECRETARY/TREASURER

Since 1999 it has been my pleasure to continue in the footsteps of Mike Boulter by attempting to conduct IOP business in an efficient manner and to promote the organization in the international arena. During this period we have adapted and prospered in a rapidly changing world by reforming the geographic regions by which we are organized, by revising the Statutes and By-Laws, by initiating electronic communications for Newsletter distribution, by establishing routine electronic elections procedures, by developing a treasury, and by dramatically changing the nature of our Web Site. Some of these changes are complete while others are ongoing.

To continue to prosper IOP requires the periodic infusion of vigorous new leadership. It's now time for such an infusion to the position of Secretary/Treasurer, and for a new person to take the responsibility of organizing and conducting IOP activities. Therefore, I do not plan to stand for re-election as Secretary/Treasurer in the 2008 elections. Please consider who could best promote the International Organisation of Paleobotany during the next few years, approach her/him about standing for election to the position, and send your nomination for this position to me as soon as possible.

Thank you,
Gar Rothwell
Secretary/Treasurer, IOP
<<mailto:rothwell@ohio.edu>>

WHERE WILL IOPC-IX (2012) BE HELD?

Although we are only entering the most active period of organization for IOPC-VIII in Bonn, it's not too early to look ahead to where we will meet in 2012. The location for the next IOPC is chosen by a vote of the membership at the General Assembly held at each IOPC.

Now is the time to begin thinking about proposals to host IOPC-IX in 2012. A call for proposals will be included in a forthcoming IOP Newsletter. If you or someone else you know may be interested in hosting IOPC-IX, think about it seriously, talk it over with your colleagues, and be prepared to respond to the "Call for Proposals", which will be included in a forthcoming Newsletter.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

25th Midcontinent Paleobotanical Colloquium -Please make plans to attend the 25th Mid-Continent Paleobotanical Colloquium March 14-16th, 2008 hosted by Brian Axsmith at the University of South Alabama in sunny Mobile. Events planned thus far include 1) a visit to the Axsmith lab and USA Herbarium to see and discuss Mesozoic and Tertiary plant fossils, and extant Gulf Coast flora, 2) a welcome party with light food and drinks hosted by Debra and Cooper Stults at their home on the eastern shore of Mobile Bay, 3) scientific sessions, and 4) evening mixer and banquet at the historical Creole Mansion on the University of South Alabama campus. The banquet will be followed by a lecture by University of South Alabama paleoecologist Dr. Rich Aronson.

There also will be a field trip to a newly recognized Pleistocene plant fossil locality along the amazing Mobile/ Tensaw Delta led by Brian Axsmith, Debra Stults, and University of South Alabama geologist Doug Haywick. Collect fossil plants and observe the rich extant flora of this region.

Registration fee will soon be announced, and will be kept as low as possible. It will cover the Friday evening party including transportation, lunch, mixer, and dinner Saturday. The official hotel (Homewood Suites) provides hot breakfast and transportation to and from the airport and campus. A minimal fee will be announced for the field trip.

More information, including a meeting web site, will be announced soon. If you are not on the MPC mailing list, or you have early questions, please contact Brian Axsmith at: baxsmith@jaguar1.usouthal.edu.

MEETING PROPOSAL

Anyone interested in attending a meeting on southeastern paleontology in North America?

The new museum of natural history and Center of Excellence in Paleontology at East Tennessee State University are considering hosting a conference next year that targets paleontological research in this region. The meeting will be held at the natural history museum located at the Gray Fossil Site in Tennessee. To learn more about the site and museum, see <http://www.etsu.edu/grayfossilite/>.

The meeting will cover all aspects of paleontology (plants [mega- and micro-], invertebrates, and vertebrates) in the southeast and will be relatively informal (similar in nature to the Mid-Continent Paleobotany Colloquium). We are considering different names but for now we are calling it the Southeastern Paleontological Association meeting.

If you are interested please contact Dr. Chris Liu (liuc@etsu.edu). We are thinking of mid-summer 2008 but are open to other times.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BRIGITTE MEYER-BERTHAUD, MONTPELLIER

Last year (2006) Brigitte Meyer-Berthaud was presented with the "Prix Paul Bertrand, G. Deflandre et M. Deflandre-Rigaud, Jean Cuvilliers" at a ceremony at the French Academy of Sciences (l'Académie des Sciences de Paris) in Paris. The award is presented periodically by the "Sciences de l'Univers" section of the Academy to a paleontologist. The award recognized Brigitte's work on the 'earliest trees.' Dr. Meyer-Berthaud is Directeur de Recherche, CNRS, Laboratoire de Botanique et de Bioinformatique de l'Architecture des Plantes in Montpellier.

HONORARY DEGREE TO DAVE DILCHER

David L. Dilcher received an honorary doctorate, a Doctorat Honoris Causa, from the Université Claude Bernard Lyon I, in a ceremony held in Villeurbanne, France on May 22, 2007. Here is a translation of the citation for the award:

"A systematist of angiosperm floras, Professor Dilcher conducted his research on the origins of the flowering plants, their nature, their mode of reproduction, and their adaptations to the environment in relation to changing global climate. The combination of botanical and geochemical data is at the center of the problems of environmental reconstructions, estimate of paleotemperatures, and partial pressure of CO₂ in relation to the effect of greenhouse. Since the beginning of his career, Professor Dilcher has published no less than 15 volumes and 211 articles, of which 5 were published in Science and 10 in PNAS.

"The candidates for Professors were approved by the Scientific Council of the Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1 for their numerous discoveries, but also for their collaboration with Lyon research. The title of Doctor Honoris Causa has been approved by the Minister of Foreign Affairs." Dr. Dilcher was nominated for this honor by Frédéric Thevenard.

(Transcribed for the Newsletter by Edith L. Taylor)

A "NEW" BOOK BY LEO LESQUEREUX!

Letters Written from America 1849-1853, by Leo Lesquereux: Translated from the French by H. Dwight Page; biography and illustrations by Donald G. Tritt; Introduction and Editing by Wendy Everham. 480 pp., incl. full-color frontispiece; genealogical section; several photos and illustrations. Smythe sewn and case bound with lithocase cover.

Available from Picton Press, Rockland, Maine:
<http://www.pictonpress.com/> ISBN: 0897258037;
Price: \$59.50

Dr. Hook writes, "This publication was driven by Tritt, emeritus professor of psychology at Denison University (Granville, OH), and the Swiss-American Historical Society. I emphasize that it is not a scientific treatment, but it does provide a wealth of historic information that has never been published. It also gives the correct

pronunciation of the name (on page 1, footnote): '2/ Pronounced Le-crew as reported in interviews conducted with great grandchildren...!'"

From Robert Hook, via Bill DiMichele

NEWS FROM THE MEMBERSHIP

Dave Greenwood Promoted - David R. Greenwood was recently promoted to Professor at Brandon University, Brandon, Manitoba, Canada. Congratulations, Dave!

Activities of our Indian Colleagues - Dr. B. N. Jana, Scientist-D of Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany, Lucknow, India, visited the School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences of the University of Birmingham, Birmingham, UK and worked jointly with Dr. Jason Hilton, from June 11 to September 12, 2006 under Bilateral International Exchange Programme of the Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi and the Royal Society of London, UK

Drs V. S. Rao & K.P.N. Kumaran of Maharashtra Association for the cultivation of science, India visited the Chinese Academy of Sciences and its two institutions State Key Laboratory of Systematic & Evolutionary Botany (Institute of Botany, Beijing) and State Key Laboratory of Loess & Quaternary Geology (Institute of Earth Environment, Xian) along with Paleontological Museum of San Ya City, Hainan Province and San Ya, Nanshan Dongtian Park Development Ltd and attended the International Symposium on Speciation and Biodiversity, origin and Evolution of some important plant groups, vegetation succession and environmental changes in Sino-India during the Cenozoic and the influence on Asia and global changes by the uplift of the Himalayas during March 28-April 1, 2007.

Department of Botany, University of Calcutta, India and Institute of Palaeobotany, Beijing, China have undertaken joint investigation on Quaternary Climate through Indian National Science Academy and Chinese Academy of Science. Collaborators Prof. Manju Banerjee and Dr Subir Bera, Department of Botany, University of Calcutta and Prof. Cheng Sen Li and Prof Yu-Fei Wang Chinese Academy of Science, Beijing. Professor Cheng-Sen Li and Dr. Yi-Feng Yao visited Calcutta in March, 2006 for collection of samples.

Dr. Ms. Ashalata D' Rozario, Department of Botany, University of Calcutta visited Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Science, Beijing with CAS-TWAS fellowship to work on Late Palaeozoic flora for three months.

Dr. Ms. Sudha Gupta, Department of Botany, University of Calcutta visited Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Science, Beijing with fellowship to work on Tertiary flora of Tibet for two months.

OBITUARY

Professor Felix Yulianovich Velichkevich (January 4, 1942 – August 1, 2006)

Professor Felix Yulianovich Velichkevich passed away suddenly on 1 August 2006. He died from a heart attack in Minsk in the presence of his wife and son who were taking him to hospital for a medical examination. His sudden and unexpected death filled his family, friends, colleagues and many palaeobotanists from all over Europe with great sadness.

Felix Velichkevich was born on 4 January 1942 in Zawidówka, near Homel in Belarus. His detailed curriculum vitae was published a few years ago on the occasion of his 60th birthday (Zastawniak 2003).

He studied at the A. Hercen Pedagogical Institute in Leningrad (currently St Petersburg, Russia), in the Faculty of Natural Sciences. His studies were interrupted by conscripted military service causing a 3-year delay. During the final years of his studies he was a disciple of Dr P. I. Dorofeev, a scientist known worldwide for his contribution to the palaeocarpology of the Neogene, who worked at the A. Komarov Institute of Botany of the Soviet Union Academy of Sciences in Leningrad. Dr Dorofeev was Felix Velichkevich's teacher and mentor, whom he greatly esteemed until the last days of his life. Together they participated in many expeditions, collecting materials for studies of fossil Quaternary vegetation. Though F. Velichkevich worked in Minsk in Belarus their close cooperation lasted for many years and resulted in many important joint publications. With time, F. Velichkevich, the most talented disciple of P. I. Dorofeev, became the best continuator of the latter's work.

Felix Velichkevich took a position in the Institute of Geochemistry and Geophysics of the Belarussian

Academy of Sciences in Minsk in 1971. In 1972 he defended his candidate (=doctoral) thesis on the Quaternary floras of Belarus. In 1982 he took a doctor's degree (corresponding to the habilitated doctor's degree in Poland) on the basis of his monograph of the history of the Pleistocene flora of the East European Lowland. He was Head of the Department of Quaternary Geology and Palaeopotamology from 1985 to 1997 when he resigned from the post. In 2002 he retired but remained in the Institute as a part-time employee.

Professor Velichkevich was an outstanding expert in the palaeocarpology of the Late Cainozoic and Pleistocene of Central and Eastern Europe, and an author of 230 related publications (Zastawniak 2006). He left fossil plant remains, mainly fruits and seeds, from innumerable Pleistocene localities in many Central European countries, from Belarus through Lithuania, Latvia, Ukraine and Russia to Poland. He classified and described these materials and placed them in separate collections. A considerable part of them formed the basis of his final work: Atlas of the Pleistocene macrofossils of vascular plants of Central and Eastern Europe" (Velichkevich and Zastawniak 2006); he had time to enjoy the first volume of the atlas in the last days of his life.

A separate chapter in Professor Velichkevich's scientific life was his cooperation for many years with the staff of the Palaeobotany Department of the Institute of Botany of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Cracow, which started in 1990. This cooperation resulted in important joint publications and, moreover, he participated in the research activity of the Department. Professor Velichkevich proved to be a superb ambassador for Belarussian science and an excellent partner in Polish-Belarussian studies on the floras of the younger Neogene and Quaternary of Poland. A short summary of his achievements in these fields of study was published quite recently (Mamakowa et al. 2005), and a complete history of his cooperation with Polish palaeobotanists he described himself in an article entitled "Testimony of a Byelorussian palaeobotanist". He managed to have it printed in the journal *Nauka Polska* just before his final departure from Cracow (Velichkevich 2007). This publication was written at the request of the Fund of the Józef Mianowski Society which financed his first, very productive, research visits to Cracow.

On the recommendation of the Director of the Institute of Botany of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Cracow, in recognition of his unquestionable scientific authority,

Felix Velichkevich obtained in 2001 the title of professor, conferred by the President of the Republic of Poland. From 1 June 2004 until his death he held the regular position of professor in the Department of Palaeobotany of the Institute of Botany PAS in Cracow.

Professor Velichkevich was a scientist of world caliber in the field of palaeocarpology of the younger Cainozoic. His whole adult life was devoted to intensive studies of fruit and seed remains, extracted - most often personally - from deposits of different age and in different regions. In his scientific activity he was a paradigm of great solidity, diligence, and reliability. He had a superb memory, e.g. he very rarely had to check data he used in his texts. He had a profound knowledge of the flora and vegetation of the Pleistocene in almost the whole of Eurasia. He remembered the composition of each fossil flora from the localities he investigated, and, above all, knew and remembered the details of the morphological and sometimes also the anatomical structure of the fruits and seeds of hundreds of fossil plant taxa. He knew perfectly the whole Russian literature of Pleistocene palaeocarpology and stratigraphy. He worked very quickly but was very scrupulous in his attention to details; everything had to be in perfect order, including texts handwritten in pencil, research material and even the desk at which he worked in his favourite place – a tiny room in the Department of Palaeobotany of the Institute of Botany PAS. He systematically kept a diary in which he recorded all the more important everyday events. In his records from July 2006, the last month of his life spent in Cracow on intensive work on the second volume of the "Atlas", expressed the joy that he had experienced in being able to invite his son Alexander, daughter-in-law Irina and his beloved grandson Yanek to the town he liked best, and serve them as a guide.

Felix Velichkevich enjoyed popularity and respect among Polish palaeobotanists. He was a pleasant, good, friendly, decent, tactful and unobtrusive colleague; he did much of value in our Department and Institute. He spoke Polish very well, to which his passion for reading undoubtedly contributed much. During his stays in Cracow he read many Polish fictional and historical books from which he knew perfectly the history of Poland. His special talents of storytelling, conversation and sense of humour made him an engaging companion.

He will remain in our hearts as a cheerful, honest, sincere and friendly man who willingly shared with us his wide knowledge and experience. We are grateful for his presence among us and many years of cooperation.

According to his will, Professor Velichkevich was buried in the cemetery in Oktyabrsk, in the northern part of the Homel district, about 250 km south of Minsk. It was there that he spent his childhood and early youth with his parents, and it was to there that he wished to return. He lies in the family tomb beside his grandmother and father Yulian.

Ewa Zastawniak
W. Szafer Institute of Botany
Polish Academy of Sciences, Cracow
Poland
(Linguistic verification by Mr. Arthur Copping)