



International Organisation of Palaeobotany

IOP NEWSLETTER 110

August 2016

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

Please send us your contributions for the next edition of our newsletter (June 2016) by May 30th, 2016.

President: Johanna Eder-Kovar (Germany)
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IOP Logo: The evolution of plant architecture (© by A. R. Hemsley)

FROM THE SECRETARY/TREASURER

Dear IOP Members,

I am happy to report, that IOP seems to be on track and ready for a new Executive Council to take over. The elections are progressing nicely and I will report the results in the September/October Newsletter.

The one area that is still problematic is the webmaster position. We really to talk amongst ourselves, and find someone who is willing and able to do the job. I discuss the position in more detail below.

Everything seems to be falling into place for IOPC X at Salvador Brazil. The Olympics seem to have gone well, so the Brazilians are all practiced as great hosts, so our meeting should be great fun. I look forward to seeing all of you there.

As always I am eternally grateful for submissions to the newsletter, even if the news is bad. Carole Gee reports on the bad news of the passing of Richard Dayvault, and well as the good news of the publication of 'The Palaeobotany of Italy'. And Gar Rothwell provided an important update on the status of the Ohio University Paleobotanical collections since his retirement from that institution.

I will publish one more newsletter in late September-Early October to report on the results of the elections, the status of IOP, and the upcoming IOPC 2016 meetings.

As always, please send anything you want

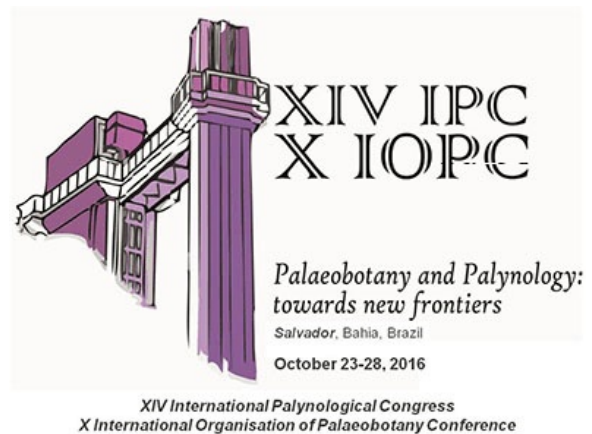
included in that newsletter to the address at the end of this newsletter.

In addition, please send any issues that you think need to be addressed at the Business meeting. I will add those to the Agenda.

Respectfully,

Mike

IPC XIV/IOPC X 2016



The 2016 joint meeting of the International Palynological Congress and the International Organization of Palaeobotanists will be held 23-28 October 2016 at Salvador, Bahia, Brazil. The venue is The Bahia Othon Palace.

The homepage with registration details is up and running.

The Website is:

<http://www.ipciopcbrasil.com/>

The site is very easy to use, but if your Institution has a robust Firewall the site may

be blocked as it was for me. I simply registered from home and had no problem.

Time is running out, but do please remember to double check the requirements for entering Brazil. For example, US citizens need a visa, but every country is different.

IOPC 2020

At this time we have no official bids to host IOPC2020.

IOP MEMBERSHIP

Thank you for the great response to the recent call for membership updates. I did a hard cull to clean up the rolls for the incoming Secretary/Treasurer and so we now have 279 members. I deleted any member who was more than 2 years in arrears. I used the 2 year cut-off because the current system won't allow anyone to pay dues until after their membership has expired, so it is easy to forget to pay when one's membership expires on January 1.

In addition, some members have a bias against using Paypal. If there are issues with Paypal, please let me know what they are, and we can discuss them at the Business Meeting. That system makes life very easy for the Secretary/Treasurer but if there are problems we need to know what they are so we can address them. Sending checks in anything except US dollars is not helpful because the exchange costs are too prohibitive.

IOP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

The IOP Executive Committee elections are underway and will be open until 30 August. To date 73 members have voted for a participation rate of 26%. That is an even worse voting rate than American elections, and I know that you don't want to make us Ugly Americans look good. So if you haven't already, please vote. If you need another ballot, please just let me know.

IOP Webmaster

I was very sorry to accept the resignation of Alan Spencer as our Webmaster. Alan has done a great job for us for more than 10 years now, but he has decided that he needs to focus on other things. I would personally like to thank him publically, and acknowledge how much he has helped me these past years. His help was invaluable. I hope all of you also take the time to thank him for his service to IOP.

But it does mean that we need someone to take on that position. Alan has generously offered to be there to assist in the transition, so things should go smoothly for our next webmaster. If you have an interest in the position, or know someone who would like to serve IOP as Webmaster, please let me know as soon as possible. This position is not voted on, and you can serve as long or as short of time as you would like.

Our organisation can't function properly without a webmaster. Alan and our previous webmasters have done a great job of setting up and maintaining the site, so it just needs someone with the time and skills to keep it

running. Please consider this position, if it fits your agenda.

OBITUARY

Dr. Richard D. Dayvault **6 May 6 1948 – 29 August 2015**



Dick Dayvault with wife Jalena in the Upper Jurassic Morrison Formation of NE Utah

The last year has been an extremely sad one for all of us with the passing of so many beloved paleobotanists and palynologists. As we mourn the loss of our colleagues, we also reflect on their contribution to our field of science and personal enrichment to our lives. I'd like to tell you about my research partner and friend of mine, Dr. Richard D. Dayvault, who died about a year ago.

Dick was a professional geologist and mineralogist who worked on environmental clean-up for and with the Department of Energy in Grand Junction, Colorado, for 35 years. Weekdays on the job, he cleaned up

toxic uranium mine waste sites in western Colorado, but on the weekends, he and his wife Jalena became avid fossil hunters of plants. In fact, Dick had collected fossil plants of all sorts for a number of decades; his email moniker was "geocycad."

However, it was through the fossil cones, of which he had amassed hundreds of specimens from all over Utah, that we met. In 2007, Dick and Steven Hatch published an article on "Conifer Cones from the Jurassic and Cretaceous Rocks of Eastern Utah" in which they appealed to the paleobotanical world to have a closer look at these cones. Reading this article, I could not believe the wealth of three-dimensionally preserved cones that had been gathered together by Dick through the amalgamation of older private collections and his own dedicated collecting. By heeding his call in the article, Dick and I became friends, colleagues, and research partners in 2008 on conifer cones from the Upper Jurassic Morrison Formation from Utah and Wyoming.

Hence, we didn't know each other very long—three years short of a decade—but we would go prospecting for cones in Utah pretty much every single year and collaborated intensively for an overview paper entitled "Palaeobiodiversity of conifer seed cones in the Upper Jurassic Morrison Formation of Utah, USA," which was published in *Palaeobiodiversity and Palaeoenvironments* just last year (June 2014).

Born and raised in North Carolina, Dick spent his early years collecting rocks, minerals, and crystals. He took his interests into college, where he received his B.S. and

M.S. degrees in Geology from East Carolina University in Greenville, N.C. Afterwards, Dick moved on to the University of South Carolina in Columbia, where he was Curator at the L.L. Smith Geology Museum and taught physical and historical geology classes. He then continued to teach these courses, plus igneous petrology labs, at East Carolina University.

Thus, Dick was on the academic track, when the call for a geoscientist drew him westward to the Department of Energy in Grand Junction, Colorado. Dick told me that this first road trip west—replete with gorgeous arid landscapes, breathtaking geology, and wide open spaces—hooked him, like they continue to captivate me. Many of our long drives to fossil cone localities were spent chatting and taking in the strikingly beautiful rock formations of eastern Utah.

Paleontology came relatively late in Dick's career, but like all of his interests, he embraced it with enthusiasm, vigor, as well as a scholarly approach, for Dick was not just a "rockhound." In addition to collecting fossils and minerals in his spare time, for the past few decades, Dick wrote and published extensively, for example, *Ancient Forests: A Closer Look at Fossil Wood*, a aesthetically well-illustrated book couthored with Frank Daniels, and a number of scientific articles on fossil plants, silicified wood, geodes, and minerals. Dick was a consulting editor for the magazine *Rocks and Minerals* from 1976 to 2015, as well as the recipient of several awards by geological societies in Colorado.

Dick passed away at home at the end of August 2015 after a brief illness. He is survived by his wife Jalena, a civil engineer

and hydrologist, by his mother Anna Lee, brother Steve (and wife Paula) of North Carolina, and honorary sister, K.D. Ashbrook of Grand Junction.

Yes, Dick and I had only seven years of fieldwork and research together, and he has left us all much too soon, but Dick's contributions to Jurassic paleobotany of North America and to the Morrison Formation will stand forever.

Carole Gee
University of Bonn
Germany

WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THE OHIO UNIVERSITY PALEOBOTANICAL COLLECTIONS?

As many of you know, Gar Rothwell has retired from Ohio University, and with that, the Ohio University Paleobotanical Collections are now dispersed to a number of museums and collections. Because the ability to reference and re-examine published specimens is an integral part of paleobotanical research, Gar has submitted the following update on where we can find the specimens we might need for our research.

Publications with OUPH specimen content:

The following list of publications, although probably incomplete, includes nearly all of the studies that are based on

specimens that until recently have been housed at Ohio University. Specimens that support this research, and that were housed in the Ohio University Paleobotanical Herbarium, have been transferred to the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, and the Natural History Museum, University of Kansas, Lawrence. The collections have been relocated by general topic as follows:

Coal Ball material – Field Museum
Devonian/Lower Carboniferous seed plants – University of Kansas
***Psaronius* tree fern trunks** – Field Museum
Paleozoic Conifers – University of Kansas
Anatomical sections of living plants – Field Museum
Mississippian (Weddington Delta, Arkansas) fossils – University of Kansas
Miscellaneous collections – Field Museum

Publications

Basinger, J. F., G. W. Rothwell, and W. N. Stewart. 1974. Cauline vasculature and leaf trace production in medullosan pteridosperms. *American Journal of Botany* 61: 1002-1015.

Bateman, R. M., P. Kenrick, and G. W. Rothwell. 2007. Do elongate lycopods occur in Palaeozoic strata? *Hestia eremosa* gen. et sp. nov. from the Dinantian of Oxroad Bay, East Lothian, Scotland. *Review of Palaeobotany and Palynology* 144: 323-335.

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PALAEOBOTANY OF ITALY



The volume „Palaeobotany of Italy“ is edited by the organizers of the 9th European Palaeobotany and Palynology Congress in Padova, Italy (EPPC2014). Italy’s palaeobotanical record is extensive. However, this heritage has largely been forgotten. More than 300 million years lie between the oldest plant fossils discovered in Italy and Quaternary plant remains found in archaeological excavations. Fossil floras throughout Italy are remarkable in that they show a surprising abundance and diversity over the millions of years. The Italian palaeobotanical heritage represents an

important source of new information on the evolution of plants and the ecosystems in which they lived, but can also help in predicting future environmental scenarios. The present volume is the first general book on fossil floras of Italy; it is bilingual with an Italian and English text. The book is divided in a detailed overview on the history of palaeobotany in Italy, a general part on materials and methods in palaeo- and archeobotany and nine chronological chapters (from the Carboniferous to Archeobotany). Each chapter is divided in geographic areas as well as in macro- and microfloras. Additional information are given on the institutions different collections are stored in. This book provides a state of the art of the different floras with an exhaustive reference list. Since the first volume was sold out within two years, a second, slightly corrected version has been re-printed.

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UPCOMING MEETINGS

The 10th European Palaeobotany and Palynology Conference



EUROPEAN PALAEOBOTANY & PALYNOLOGY CONFERENCE

The 10th European Palaeobotany and Palynology Conference will be held in Dublin on the 12th to 19th of August 2018 at University College Dublin. Partner organizations include Trinity College Dublin and the National Museum of Ireland. We look forward to welcoming you in 2018

Jennifer McElwain, Earth Institute,
University College Dublin
Chair of EPPC organizational committee

25th International Workshop on Plant Taphonomy 2015, November 25 - 26, 2015, Bonn, Germany

The 25th International Workshop on Plant Taphonomy will be held on the last weekend in November in Bonn, from Friday, November 25 to Saturday, November 26, 2016. The date provides terrific opportunities for stimulating discussions over Glühwein at the Bonn Christmas Market, so please mark it on your calendar! The 2016 workshop will feature a keynote lecture from Robert Gastaldo (Colby

College, Maine, USA) on “Time, Space, Sedimentary Systems, and Some Thoughts on Geochemistry of Why, or Not, We Have A Fossil Plant Record,” as well as a round-table discussion on the taphonomy of leaf cuticle led by Lutz Kunzmann (Senckenberg Naturhistorische Sammlungen Dresden, Germany). Contributed talks and posters on all aspects of plant taphonomy are welcome.

Although there will be formal presentations, we hope that the meeting will retain its informal, discussion-oriented, workshop flavor, and students and new members wanting to check out plant taphonomy are especially wanted. The deadline for pre-registration and abstracts is October 1, and more information will be contained in a second mailing at the end of summer. If you are interested in receiving this second circular or if you have any questions, please send an email to Carole Gee (cgee@uni-bonn.de).

Carole Gee and Thomas Litt
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CALL FOR NEWS AND NOTES

Please send submissions for the next news letter by 15 September 2016 to:

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