

IOP NEWSLETTER 85

April 2008

SPECIAL IOPC-VIII AND IOP EXECUTIVE ELECTIONS ISSUE

CONTENTS

**ELECTION OF THE NEW IOP EXECUTIVE
RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP AND VOTE
GET ONTO THE WEB SITE
IOPC-VIII (BONN) UPDATE
NEW RECENT PUBLICATIONS SECTION FOR IOP WEB SITE
PROPOSAL TO HOLD IOPC-IX IN JAPAN
STUDENT TRAVEL SUPPORT FOR IOPC-VIII
NEW NORTH AMERICAN REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE
UPCOMING MEETING
POSITIONS AVAILABLE
NEWS OF THE MEMBERSHIP
OBITUARY**

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)

ELECTION OF THE NEW IOP EXECUTIVE

The time is rapidly approaching for election of a new IOP executive. According to the IOP statutes <http://www.palaeobotany.org/modules.php?name=iop&sec=about&page=5> , “The election of officers should take place at each General Assembly during the International Organisation of Palaeobotany Conference...” To afford all members the opportunity to participate in the election, voting will be primarily by electronic means through the IOP web site. Those wishing to send a paper ballot may do so. Instructions for voting will be included with the call for balloting, which will appear in IOP Newsletter 86 (June, 2008). A final tally of votes will be made and the new officers will be announced at the General Assembly during the IOPC in Bonn this September.

A slate of candidates has been assembled through the nominating process that was announced in IOP Newsletters 83 and 84. Nominees for the New Executive are as follows:

For President:

Patricia Gensel, USA
Gar Rothwell , USA

For Vice President (three will be elected):

Ruben Cuneo, Argentina
Carol Gee, Germany
Volker Mosbrugger, Germany
Ruth Stockey, Canada
E. Taylor, USA

For Member-at-Large (three will be elected):

Brian Axsmith, USA
David Ferguson, Austria
Lena Golovneva, Russia
Thomas Litt, Germany
Kathleen Pigg, USA
Sun Ge, China

For Secretary/Treasurer:

Johanna Eder, Germany

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP AND VOTE

To be sure that you are eligible to vote, please check your status on the IOP Web Site at <http://www.palaeobotany.org/> . You can pay your dues on-line at the web site, if you wish. You also can update your biographical information in the Members (only) Area. If you have trouble logging on to the Members Area, you can contact [Jason Hilton](#) or [Gar Rothwell](#) for assistance. Likewise, if you have trouble paying our dues or updating your biographical information, you can contact Hilton or Rothwell.

Please remember, only current members of IOP are eligible to stand for office and/or to vote for the IOP Executive.

GET ONTO THE WEB SITE

Thanks to the extraordinary efforts of our web masters, **Jason Hilton** and **Mihai Popa**, the IOP web site <http://www.palaeobotany.org/> has been completely redeveloped, and is rapidly becoming the central source of information for the organization. One of the advantages of membership is placement of your contact information on the “members only” part of the web site, and access to that information by all current members. If you have not yet uploaded your information to that site, you may do so at any time by going to <http://www.palaeobotany.org/modules.php?name=members> putting in your user name and password, and uploading your information. If you do not remember your username and password, click on the link to lost names and passwords, and that information will be sent to you.

IOPC-VIII (BONN) UPDATE

Preparations are going well for the 8th International Organisation of Palaeobotany Conference (IOPC-VIII) that will be held in Bonn, Germany in conjunction with the 12th International Palynological Congress (IPC-XII), August 30 through September 5, 2008. An exciting fully-integrated program is shaping up, symposia, plenary lectures, pre-, mid-, and post-conference field trips, contributed paper sessions, and cultural events. You can find specific information, plan registration and housing, and keep up on organizational progress by visiting the conference web site at

<http://www.paleontology.uni-bonn.de/congress08/index.htm>. A printed version of the most recent Conference/Congress circular can be downloaded from http://www.paleontology.uni-bonn.de/congress08/IPC_IOPC_Bonn%202008.pdfH.

Highlights of the conference are as follows:

- **Opening, mid-conference, & closing events**

The opening ceremony will be held on the afternoon of Saturday August 30, and will be followed by two keynote presentations and the icebreaker party.

The congress dinner will be held in the evening of Wednesday, September 3 as a boat tour on the Rhine River.

The closing ceremony will be held on the afternoon of Friday September 5.

- **Symposia**

The joint IOPC/IPC has accepted 41 integrated symposia that cover a vast array of topics in paleobotany and palynology. A listing of the symposia is presented at the conference web site.

- **Contributed papers**

There will be a complete program of contributed papers covering a wide range of topics. The call for abstracts has gone out with a submission deadline of May 10, 2008. Please submit your abstract as soon as possible, as late submissions will not be accepted.

- **Field trips and excursions**

A total of 16 pre-, mid-, and post-conference field trips and cultural excursions are planned in conjunction with the conference. A complete listing of the events, locations, dates and costs is posted under "Field Trips" at the conference web site.

- **Registration**

On-line registration will begin later this month, and will continue until May 10, 2008.

Consult the conference web site for information regarding registration.

- **Housing**

Housing and public transportation passes are available through the conference web site. Participants are encouraged to register as soon as possible to assure the most cost effective and convenient housing.

NEW RECENT PUBLICATIONS SECTION FOR IOP WEB SITE

IOP website now has a recent publications section designed for advertising monographs and books and other things not widely available on the internet or as articles in widely accessible journals. Check it out!

PROPOSAL TO HOLD IOPC-IX IN JAPAN

The Palynological Society of Japan proposes to host the combined IPC/IOPC in 2012

During the annual meeting of 2007, the Palynological Society of Japan voted to put forth a proposal to host the 2012 IPC in Japan as the joint meeting with IOPC. This continues the practice employed by IPC/IOPC in Bonn, 2008. Japanese IOP members and the Palynological Society of Japan came to an agreement for inviting the joint congress, last year. We sent the proposal to President of IFPS, Professor Thomas Litt by e-mail on October 9, 2007. Also the Japanese regional members of IOP have informed IOP President, Professor Margaret Collinson of this proposal. The organizing committee consisting of both PSJ and regional IOP members was established in April 2008. Here we wish to provide more detailed information about this proposal to IFPS and IOP.

The general plan of the joint congress is as follows. The Congress will be held as the joint of IPC/IOPC during September 2012 at Chuo University, central Tokyo.

Organizer:

The Palynological Society of Japan (PSJ)

Co-organizers:

Following scientific societies will co-organize the congress.

The Botanical Society of Japan
 The Palaeontological Society of Japan
 The Japanese Society for Plant Systematics
 Japanese Association of Historical Botany
 Japan Association for Quaternary Research

Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS)
 Science Council of Japan
 (Companies and Individuals)
 Tokyo Convention & Visitors Bureau
 Chuo University International Meeting Support Fund

Collaborating bodies:

Chuo University
 Paleo Labo Co., Ltd.
 Palynosurvey Co.
 Association of Pollen Information

Financial support to participants:

Financial support to participants from developing countries and to students will be planned as has been customary at previous IPC/IOPC congresses.

Organizing Committee:

President

Hikaru Takahara, Professor, Kyoto Prefectural University

Vice-President

Harufumi Nishida, Professor, Chuo University

Treasurer

Teiji Kondo, Forest and Forest Product Research Institute

Treasurer

Yoshimune Morita, Professor Okayama University of Science

Organizing Committee Members

Reiko Kishikawa, Medical Doctor, National Hospital in Fukuoka

Arata Momohara, Associate Professor, Chiba University

Norio Sahashi, Emeritus Professor, Toho University

Takeshi Saito, Associate Professor, Meijo University

Yuichi Takahashi, Yamagata Prefectural Institute of Public Health

Kazuhiko Uemura, Chief Researcher, National Museum of Nature and Science, Tokyo

The congress venue:

The congress will be held primarily at Chuo University Korakuen Campus, Kasuga, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo. The Campus is located in central Tokyo where excellent transportation, accommodations, and tourist services are provided. It is within five-minutes walk from Metro Stations (Korakuen, Kasuga) of several lines connecting to major Metro and train networks, and about 12 minutes walk from JR Suidobashi Station. Many historical, cultural and tourist attractions such as the Imperial Palace, Meiji Shrine, Asakusa Sensoji Temple, Botanic Gardens of the University of Tokyo, National Museum of Science and Nature, Tokyo Bay-area, Akihabara Electric Town are within 30 minutes distance.

The Korakuen Campus provides sufficient number of well-equipped lecture rooms with PC projectors and other facilities, including internet access to accommodate the joint congress. The largest lecture hall has the capacity for 540 participants. A larger lecture hall, if needed, is accessible within 5 minutes walk at

Proposed Schedule of the IPC/IOPC 2012

day	am	noon	pm	ev
1			Plenary session	party
2	Plenary session	poster session 1	session 1-6	
3	session 7-12	poster session 1	session 13-18	
4	one day excursion	one day excursion	one day excursion	
5	session 19-24	poster session 2	session 25-30	
6	session 31-36	poster session 2	session 37-42	Banquet
7	session 43-48	poster session 3	meetings	
8	session 49-54	poster session 3	Closing ceremony	Farewel party

Funding:

(Government and Education)
 Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (KAKENHI) by
 The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science
 and Technology (MEXT)

Bunkyo Culture Center, which is next door to the Korakuen Metro Station.

There are many entertainment attractions around the Korakuen Campus, too. Tokyo Dome is the Japanese

first all-weather baseball stadium where you can enjoy exciting professional baseball games, as well as occasional pop-music concerts. The Dome is located within an entertainment area, Tokyo Dome City, where Korakuen Amusement Park, La Qua Spa, and both national and international gourmet places are located. The Congress banquet will be held at a university restaurant on campus or at a nearby hotel or restaurant.

International access:

Major airlines arrive at Narita International Airport about 60 km air-distance from central Tokyo, whereas some international flights from Asia and most domestic flights land at Tokyo International Air Port (Haneda), which is fairly close to Tokyo. From Narita trains as well as limousine bus services are available, which take you to Tokyo within 60-90 minutes at ca. ¥3,000.

Climate:

Early to middle September is still hot and humid in Tokyo Metropolitan area. Most transportation, housing and shopping facilities are well air-conditioned. Occasional shower is sometimes heavy-raining. September is a typhoon season, which is inevitable, but many meetings of major scientific societies of Japan are held in this month. In northern regions such as Hokkaido, you can breath cooler autumn air.

Metropolitan and domestic traffic:

Railway fares within Japan depend on the distance you travel. Use of Express Services other than Inter-city rapid service trains costs you extra charges. The Shinkansen Super Express is most safe and fastest way to move between major local cities. Various domestic flights from Haneda connect major cities, too.

Both JR and other private rails within Tokyo area cost you from ¥130 to ¥600 for one ride, depending on the distance. JR daily ticket for Tokyo area provides you free trip within metropolitan area by paying ¥730. For foreign travelers, Japan Rail Pass is economical and convenient. It can be obtained at Narita International Airport JR station, and some other major stations within Japan, as well as at authorized sales outlets in travel agencies abroad.

Housing, eating and shopping:

Tokyo used to be one of the most expensive cities in the world decades ago, but that is not true now. There are a variety of accommodation types, including well-equipped five-stars (>¥20,000: USD 1 = ca \105) to medium class hotels (¥15,000-6,000), so-called business hotels (¥9,000-4,000), typical Japanese style inn (Ryokan) with Tatami-mat (room charge varies), and much economical multi-bed type sharing rooms for bag-packers (¥3,000-1,000). There are several Youth Hostels in Tokyo.

Tokyo is a well-known gourmet metropolis, providing various national and international foods to fulfill a variety of demands of visitors. Many convenience stores offer economical and sufficient meals, such as sandwiches, rice-balls (Onigiri) and lunch-box type foods. Convenience stores are open all day, some are 24 hours.

Tourism:

You can see detailed tourist information about all parts of Japan on the web site of the Japan National Tourist Organization at (<http://www.jnto.go.jp/>), and around Tokyo at (http://www.tcvb.or.jp/en/index_en.htm), Mt. Fuji, Nikko National Park, Hakone Hot Springs, and so on. Yokohama, Sendai, Kyoto (2.5 hrs by JR Shinkansen Super Express), Kyoto-City, Lake Biwa, Nara, Kobe, Osaka, Hakkaido (1 hr by flight from Haneda Air Port) are also readily accessible.

Possible excursions:

Pre-/Post-conference

- Yakushima Island (World Heritage Site: Old growth forests of *Cryptomeria japonica*)
- Alpine zones (Central Japan) Beech forests and subalpine forests
- Nikko National Park and Toshogu Shrine (World Heritage Site), Pleistocene plant fossil site and hot springs at Shiobara
- Sub-tropical vegetation in southeastern islands
- Lake Biwa (largest lake of Japan) near Kyoto
- Cretaceous and Tertiary plant fossil sites and cool-temperate mixed forests in Hokkaido, visiting hot springs
- Mesozoic floras in south Honshu, visit to Fukui Dinosaur Museum, and warm temperate mixed forests

•Other optional excursions to Korea and/or China will be programmed in cooperation with Korean and Chinese colleagues.

One-day tours

- Mt. Fuji and Hakone National Park
- Yokohama and China Town gourmet tour
- Kamakura historical tour
- Nikko, cool-temperate mixed forests and historical sites
- Tokyo downtown and bay-cruise
- Imperial Palace and Meiji Shrine
- Tokyo Metropolis offers you a variety of other daily excursions. e.g. Hato-bus tours (<http://www.hatobus.com/en/index.html>).

STUDENT TRAVEL SUPPORT FOR IOPC-VIII

Travel support to help offset the costs of participating in IOPC-VIII will be offered by IOP to students who will be presenting research at the Conference. Although funds are quite limited, we will offer as many of these competitive awards as possible. Details about eligibility and instructions for applying will be posted in IOP Newsletter 86, which will appear in June, 2008. Travel funds will be available to the awardees at the conference.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Collections Manager for Paleobotany Peabody Museum of Natural History Yale University

The Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History is soliciting applications for the position of Collections Manager for Paleobotany. The fossil plant collections are housed in the Class of 1954 Environmental Science Center, a purpose-built facility on the Yale University campus for collections, research and teaching. The Peabody is a multi-faceted natural history museum with collections spanning anthropology, biology, geology and paleontology. Additional information on the fossil plant collections and the Peabody can be found at: <http://www.peabody.yale.edu/>.

The Paleobotany Collections Manger is responsible for

the day-to-day management of the fossil plant collection, including all aspects of the preservation, improvement, development and use of the collections. Duties include oversight of relevant budgets, staff, students, and volunteers, maintenance of the collections, processing of materials, care and conservation, documentation, and databasing. The Collections Manager will represent the Botany Division within the Peabody and Yale, nationally, and internationally, to promote the collection and to maximize its use. The Collections Manager will also promote knowledge of the collection through exhibitions, public education initiatives and presentations at meetings, and will pursue grant funding and carry out research that relates to collections improvement and development, including, as appropriate, collecting expeditions.

Education and Experience:

1. Master's Degree in a scientific field and three years of related experience, or an equivalent combination of education and experience.

Additional Education and Experience:

1. Master's Degree in the Biological or Geological Sciences and one year of museum experience, or the equivalent combination of education and experience.
2. Preferred: Ph.D.

Skills & Abilities:

1. Thorough knowledge of paleobotany and stratigraphy.
2. Experience in collections management, databasing, and field collecting.
3. Effective interpersonal skills.
4. Ability to work independently.
5. Ability to write grant proposals and reports.

Please note that applications must be submitted via the following web site: <http://www.yale.edu/hronline/stars/application/external/index.html> ..

Use the keyword "Peabody" to go directly to the relevant information.

The due date for applications is April 15, 2008. Please contact Sharon Rodriguez (sharon.rodriguez@yale.edu) for any further information about this position.

Geologist I North Dakota Geological Survey

Vacancy Announcement

The North Dakota Geological Survey is seeking another paleontologist to enhance the state's fossil resource management program. This person will work with the North Dakota State Paleontologist and one other staff paleontologist. Attached is the position description and application information. The application deadline is April 1, 2008.

Location: Bismarck
Salary: \$2,513--\$2,932/month
Closing Date: April 1, 2008
Position Number: 405-4968
Requisition Number: None
Status: Full-time, Regular
Type of Recruitment: Internal/External
Job Order Number: None
Date Posted to Web: February 22, 2008

Minimum Qualifications:

Requires a bachelor's degree in geology or earth science, a valid driver's license, and effective verbal, written, and interpersonal communication skills.

Preferred Qualifications:

Experience with paleontological fieldwork.
Experience in preparation and curation of vertebrate fossils.
Familiarity with computerized fossil data bases.
Familiarity with Mesozoic and Cenozoic stratigraphy and paleontology of the Great Plains.
Familiarity with design and production of fossil exhibits.
Experience conducting paleontological research and preparing reports and scientific articles.

Application Procedures:

All applicants must apply by letter to the address listed below, stating qualifications, including a resume, college transcripts, a completed State of North Dakota Application for Employment (SFN10950) <http://www.nd.gov/hrms/jobs/apps/application.htm> and the names, telephone numbers, and addresses of three or more references. Applicants who are residents of North Dakota and eligible to claim veteran's preference must include Form DD214. Claims for disabled veteran's preference must also include a current statement of disabled status from the Veteran's Affairs Office. Persons needing accommodations or assistance in the application or interview process should contact Karen Gutenkunst at (701) 328-8011.

For more information, contact:

Karen Gutenkunst
North Dakota Geological Survey
600 East Boulevard Avenue, Dept. 405
Bismarck, ND 58505
Telephone (701) 328-8000

Summary of Work:

Assist in curation and management of the North Dakota State Fossil Collection, assist with the public fossil digs program and other fossil excavations, prepare fossils for research and exhibit, assist in production of fossil exhibits, assist with website development, and conduct paleontological research in North Dakota.

Equal Opportunity Employer

The employing agency does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, or disability in employment or the provision of services, and complies with the provisions of the North Dakota Human Rights Act.

Access Application for Employment Form SFN 10950 at

<http://www.nd.gov/hrms/jobs/Apps/application.htm>

View Employment Benefits at:

<http://www.nd.gov/hrms/hr/weenk.htm>

Visit North Dakota state Government:

<http://www.nd.gov>

NEW NORTH AMERICAN REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

After many years of tireless service to the International Organization of Palaeobotany as the Regional Representative for North America, Edie Taylor is turning over the region to Steve Manchester. Future correspondence, dues payments, news of the membership, etc. for North American members should be addressed to Steve at steven@flmnh.ufl.edu, or by "snail mail" at the Florida Museum of Natural History, Dickinson Hall, Museum Rd. and Newell Dr., PO Box 117800, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, 32611-7800, USA.

Our heartfelt thanks to Edie, and our best wishes for success to Steve!

UPCOMING MEETING

The Palaeobotanical Society of India and The Birbal Sahni Institute of Paleobotany are sponsoring an international conference “Plant Life Through the Ages” November 16 and 17, 2008. Information about the conference and registration are posted at the Society web site <http://www.palaeobotanicalsociety.org/> and on the IOP web site.

NEWS OF THE MEMBERSHIP

Celebration of Prof. Li Xingxue's 90th Birthday: Presentation of a Compilation of Prof. Li's Publications (Nanjing, June 23, 2007)

The Celebration Meeting for congratulations to Prof. Xingxue LI, the dean of palaeobotany in China, on his 90th birthday was held in Nanjing, China on June 23, 2007. The meeting was in combination with the Annual Meeting of the Palaeobotanical Committee of the Palaeontology Society of China. Over a hundred palaeobotanists from home and abroad presented in this celebration meeting, including Hermann Pfefferkorn and Dan Chaney (US), Hans Kerp (Germany) Jean Broutin (France) and other foreign guests who were participating in the ICCP-XVI in Nanjing during the same time. More than 40 congratulating articles with 90 photographs recalled the unforgettable time meeting with Prof. Li, were presented in the booklet “*Deep-Rooted and flourishing, A devoted life to Paleobotany and Geology—Congratulations to the distinguished Chinese Paleobotanist, Prof. Xingxue LI on his 90th birthday*” published by Jilin University Press. The foreign contributors sending their warm congratulations in this booklet include Chaloner W., Beck C., Schopf W.J., Dilcher D., Wagner R., Archangelsky S., Rigby J., Akhmetiev M., Mosbrugger V., Pfefferkorn H., Kerp H., Chandra S., Banerjee M., Tiwari R., Nishida H., Ohana T., etc. A compilation of Prof. Li's publications, entitled “*LI XINGXUE WENJI*” (Paper Collections of Prof. Li) issued by the University of Science and Technology of China Press, was presented for the first time. A number of talks about recent advances on Chinese palaeobotany (mostly systematic studies), from early vascular plants in Silurian and Devonian through Mesozoic early angiosperms, were presented in this meeting.

SUN Ge

President of Palaeobotanical Committee of Palaeontological Society of China
Research Center of Paleontology, Jilin University
Changchun 130026, China

WANG Jun

Secretary General of Palaeobotanical Committee of Palaeontological Society of China
Nanjing Institute of Geology & Paleontology, CAS
Nanjing 210008, China

Reports from IOP Members of India: 2008

- Dr.Ms. Sudha Gupta joined as Lecturer in Botany Palaeobotany-Pteridology section in the Department of Botany, Kalyani University, Kalyani, West Bengal.
- Dr Subir Bera joined as Professor in the Department of Botany, Palaeobotany–Palynology section, University of Calcutta, West Bengal.
- Dr Mahesh Shindikar joined as Lecturer, Bharati Vidyapeeth Institute of Environment Education and Research, Bharati Vidyapeeth University, Pune, Maharashtra.
- Dr. Manju Banerjee and Dr. Prasanta K. Sen participated in the International Conference on “Deltas:Deltaic Gateways –Linking Source to Sink” held at Dhaka, Bangladesh in January, 2008 under Asia Pacific Net work(APN) Project on Asian Mega Deltas.
- Professor Robert A. Spicer of Open University, U.K. delivered the Palaeobotanical Society International Medal Award Lecture on “What plant fossils tell us about the environmental change” in the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany, Lucknow on April 11,2008.
- The 12th J.Sen Memorial endowment lecture of the University of Calcutta was delivered by Prof. Robert A. Spicer of Open University on “Deep Time Climate Change : A fossil plant perspective” on April 15, 2008 in the Department of Botany, University of Calcutta.

OBITUARY

Sergius H. Mamay, Paleobotanist



Dr. Sergius H. Mamay, paleobotanist with the United States Geological Survey (retired) and Research Associate of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History, passed away at 1:51 PM on Wednesday, March 26, 2008, from complications following a fall and subsequent hip surgery. He would have turned 88 on May 20th.

Self-described as the world's only left-handed, Japanese-speaking, glockenspiel-playing paleobotanist, Serge Mamay was also one of the world's foremost experts on late Paleozoic plant fossils, particularly those of Permian age. He brought together and identified a large collection of plant fossils now deposited in the Smithsonian Institution which specialists from around the world visit to compare and investigate. Among his numerous publications, the well-known 1964 monograph with Charles B. Read —“Upper Paleozoic Floral Zones and Floral Provinces of the United States” — is among the most oft cited papers published on American Paleozoic plants. Similarly, Serge's “Paleozoic Origin of the Cycads,” published in 1976, is a landmark paper with broad, lasting significance. Serge also published a large body of work describing new taxa and floras of the late Paleozoic age from the western United States, erecting no less than 19 new genera of fossil plants, most for unusual plant remains from the Permian of north central Texas. The latest of his works, scheduled for publication

later this year, includes the first descriptions of the genus *Comia* in North America and a new genus, *Auritifolia*.

Serge was a quiet but intense man who was devoted to his research and blessed with a photographic memory of the scientific literature. He was born in Akron, Ohio, in 1920, the son of two factory workers of Russian descent. He learned to play the piano “by ear” early in life, a gift that, along with his ability to improvise, afforded him the opportunity to earn money playing in dance orchestras through high school and late-hour nightclubs while going to college. This income substantially funded his higher education during the depression years. He continued to play the piano until his death.

Majoring in botany and languages at the University of Akron, Serge was drafted into the U.S. Army during World War II, one semester shy of completing his B. Sc. He entered the Army Medical Corps, but after being heard playing the piano in the USO Service Club during basic training, he was assigned to the post's band, where he played the piano in the dance band and the glockenspiel in the marching band.

In 1944, Mamay saw a chance to get back to school through the Army Specialized Training Program and applied for language training (thinking about German or French). He spent the next two years becoming fluent in conversational Japanese and learning the written language, first at Yale, then at the University of Michigan. Finishing the course as top man, Serge gave the valedictory address—in Japanese, of course! He spent the remainder of his military service as an interpreter at Army General Headquarters in Tokyo, Japan, during the occupation, completing his college degree while still in uniform.

Returning to the U.S. in late 1946, Serge started graduate school in 1947 at Washington University in St. Louis, where he studied with Professor Henry Andrews, completing his Master's degree in 1948 and Ph.D. in 1950. Following graduate school, Serge was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship to study at Cambridge University in England.

While at Cambridge, Serge was recruited by Preston Cloud, Chief of the Paleontology and Stratigraphy Branch of the USGS. He accepted the job and moved to Washington, D.C. in 1951. Serge retired from the Survey in 1982. During his 31-year career with the USGS he was an integral part of the paleontology group at the USNM, composed of scientists from both the Survey and the museum's paleontology department. Serge remained active in retirement and worked a regular schedule as a research associate of the Smithsonian Institution until recently. A strong

proponent of libraries and the importance of their collected works, Serge oversaw the Paleobotanical and USGS Survey Library for many years and acted—even in retirement—as librarian. He also continued as the guardian of the collections and showed them off to researchers from around the world.

Serge had three colleagues of particular importance in the development of his scientific career: Charles B. Read, Ellis L. Yochelson, and Arthur Watt, all with the U.S. Geological Survey. Charlie Read, a paleobotanist considerably senior to Serge, was third in a long line of USGS-Smithsonian stratigraphers who worked in late Paleozoic rocks of the western United States. In 1955, Read joined Mamay and Yochelson on a trip to West Texas and New Mexico during which he showed them many collecting localities and helped them to understand the regional stratigraphy and the local lore. This was a turning point in Serge's career, taking him into the study of Permian plants. Mamay and Yochelson went on to write a highly significant paper on the presence of marine animal remains in "coal balls" (petrified peats found in coals of the late Paleozoic), and they remained good friends and colleagues throughout their lives.

In addition to being a Guggenheim Fellow, Serge was a 50-year Fellow of the Geological Society of America, a longtime member of the Paleontological Society, and a member of the Cosmos Club (1963-1974). He was elected to Honorary Membership in the Paleobotanical Section of the Botanical Society of America. During the course of his career, Serge also was honored informally many times by his colleagues, who named the fossil plant family and three genera (*Mamayocaris*, *Delemaya*, and *Sermaya*), in his honor. He was very proud to have been dubbed one of the "three Serges"—all great paleofloristicists who met in 1979 at the International Carboniferous Congress in Urbana, Illinois: Sergio Archangelsky—expert on Southern Hemisphere Gondwanan floras; Sergei Meyen—expert on Northern Hemisphere Angaran floras; and Sergius Mamay—expert on paleotropical Euramerican floras. This remarkable trio has been commemorated by the species *Neuraethopteris sergiorum*, which simultaneously honors of all three.

Serge led a colorful life, and he was quite a character in the museum family for decades. Stricken with diabetes in the 1960s, he kept meticulous records of the fluctuations in his blood sugar. He carefully saved, and joked about, every letter or reprint request in which his name was spelled incorrectly. They were numerous. His favorite was one addressed to "Dr. Sergium Mammary." A heavy cigarette smoker in his younger

years, Serge kept a sign in his office admonishing smokers to "Smoke If You Insist, But Don't Exhale and Don't Return!" Serge enjoyed word play, as exemplified in the generic name *Wattia*, which he gave to an enigmatic plant, in honor of his colleague Art Watt. In 1966 Serge, Frank Whitmore, and Dave Dunkle founded *In Vino Veritas*, the members of which would honor each other as publications were produced by buying the latest author a martini. Serge was also a lover of fine art and enlivened the Smithsonian - USGS paleobotanical library by borrowing a painting entitled "Death Preferred" from the National Collection of Fine Arts. The painting shows a damsel draped in a bed sheet about to hurl herself from an open window as three men break through the door leading to her chamber. Its unveiling was attended both by the Assistant Secretary of the Smithsonian and the Chief Geologist of the Survey.

Outside the museum Serge was an avid fisherman, gardener, and lapidary—known for his collection of picturesque, handcrafted bolo ties and belt buckles. He enjoyed fishing for bluefish and striped bass on the Chesapeake Bay and often would rent a whole boat for himself and his guests. Serge was the proud owner of an ornate desk that had belonged to U.S. Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter, which he found at a small second hand furniture store in Washington, DC. After that purchase, Serge always gave the proprietor a reprint of his latest paper, which was displayed on an antique desk or bookshelf at the front of the shop.

We can say, without hesitation, that Serge Mamay will be sorely missed by his many friends and colleagues in paleobotany and geology. He was a generous mentor to many younger paleobotanists and upon retirement gave most of his enormous reprint collection to Judith Skog at George Mason University. A scientist of note, he will always rank among the greatest American paleobotanists in the history of the discipline.

Serge is survived by Hermie, his wife of 54 years, his daughter Patricia Conklin of Orlando, Florida; his son Gregory Mamay of Tumon, Guam, and his sister Nina Richards of Sarasota, Florida. Funeral services will be held at 3:00 PM on Thursday, June 12, 2008, at Fort Myer Chapel, Fort Myer, Virginia, with inurnment following at the Arlington National Cemetery Columbarium.

Submitted by:

Dan Chaney
Bill DiMichele
Tom Dutro
Frank Whitmore

Patricia Conklin
Tom Phillips
Hermann Pfefferkorn