

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Please save the date for the 41st Mid-Continent Paleobotanical Colloquium 2024 (MPC) and a very special symposium to celebrate Sir Peter Crane's 70th Birthday at the Field Museum in **Chicago, April 12-14, 2024.**

The MPC program will be preceded on Friday April 12, 2024 by a distinctive event to celebrate Peter's birthday. The speakers at this special symposium will be long-time collaborators from around the world who have agreed to join us to help celebrate Peter's countless contributions to the field of Paleobotany. One of Peter's early contributions as curator was to initiate MPC back in 1983, which was hosted that year at the Field Museum, so it seems fitting to bring the Colloquium back this year to its original location.

The main MPC program will take place at the Museum on Saturday, April 13 followed by an optional field trip on Sunday, April 14 to one of the nearby Mazon Creek Lagerstätte localities. This site is home to exquisitely preserved fossil plants and the mysterious Tully Monster. The Paleobotanical collections at the Field Museum will be open to students and researchers as well.

Please let us know if you would like to attend this event so we can plan accordingly. You may attend both the Friday symposium and Saturday colloquium, or just the Saturday colloquium, depending on what your schedule permits. We will be launching the MPC website in early 2024 and will provide more details for registration, hotels, and student travel awards as soon as the information becomes available.

We look forward to hosting you in Chicago in 2024, back where it all began!

Organizing committee:

[Fabiany Herrera](#) (Field Museum)

[Patrick Herendeen](#) (Chicago Botanic Garden)

[Michael Donovan](#) (Field Museum)