



International Organisation of Palaeobotany

IOP NEWSLETTER 109

March 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)
Vice Presidents: Bob Spicer (Great Britain), Harufumi Nishida (Japan), Mihai Popa (Romania)
Members at Large: Jun Wang (China), Hans Kerp (Germany), Alexej Herman (Russia)
Secretary/Treasurer/Newsletter editor: Mike Dunn (USA)
Conference/Congress Chair: Francisco de Assis Ribeiro dos Santos

INTRODUCTION

Dear International Organization of
Palaeobotany Members,

Please accept this March newsletter that
obviously is coming out in April.

Please feel free to contact me with
questions, comments, or any information
you would like passed on to the
Membership. I can be reached at:

Mike Dunn
Department of Biological Sciences
Cameron University
Lawton, Oklahoma 73505
Ph.: 580-581-2287
email: michaeld@cameron.edu

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear colleagues,

The preparations of IOPC X in Salvador
Brazil are progressing rapidly. Thanks to all
of you who have submitted proposals of
symposia! Thanks also to the organizers,
especially to Francisco de Assis Ribeiro dos
Santos. Most topics have been accepted and
the program promises an exciting and
stimulating conference. See the congress
website
(<http://www.ipciopcbrazil.com/sessions/>)
where you find the symposia including a
brief description of the subject and
objectives. Have a look to it and if you have
not yet registered for participation, this is the
right moment to do so.

The IOP Executive Committee is preparing
the General Meeting which will include the

elections for the new Executive Board. Mike
provided the details in the last issue of our
IOP Newsletter 108. Please have a look to it
and do not hesitate to submit your proposal
for candidates. All members have the right
to submit such nominations. Keep in mind
that the eligibility of the nominated
candidates needs to be checked by the
Executive Committee. According to our
statutes, the ballot has to be published in our
Newsletter not later than a month prior to
the Opening of the Congress in Brazil.

It is still five years ahead, nevertheless it is
necessary to consider where our next IOPC
shall be held in 2020. Please take into
account that such a conference offers a huge
chance for promotion for the organizers,
though it means also lot of organizational
work. So, offers are very welcome and
should be addressed to our Secretary. Please
keep in mind, we also need to discuss and
decide about the next venue during our
General Meeting in Brazil.

Our webmaster, Alan Spencer, has resigned
due to lack of time. First of all, I would like
to thank Alan for the time and effort he
spent. We are looking now for an alternative
solution and would appreciate an offer on a
voluntary basis. If you have any idea or
proposal, please contact our Secretary, Mike
Dunn.

Now, enjoy this Newsletter issue and
support us with contributions and ideas to
make IOPC X and IOP efforts successful

Many thanks for all your contributions,
Cordially

Johanna Eder
IOP President

FROM THE PAST PRESIDENT

To IOP or Not to IOP; That is the Question

As a reflection of the growing enthusiasm for paleobotanical research that permeated the 1950s, the International Organisation of Palaeobotany was born at the International Botanical Congress of 1954. IOP originally functioned within the context of the International Union of Biological Sciences. In the 1960s and 1970s activities of IOP were enhanced and strengthened by initiation of International Organisation of Palaeobotanical Conferences, publication of IOP Newsletters, and establishment of a full suite of officers. During the 2000s the activities of IOP moved to the internet, with establishment of the IOP website from which nearly all IOP business is now conducted. This folks, is the international umbrella organization of our discipline.

Over the past 20 years I have been repeatedly saddened by the low level of participation in IOP. Despite having the lowest annual dues of virtually all national or international academic organizations, we have far fewer dues-paying members than active paleobotanists. Beyond obituaries, we have extremely low participation in content development for the IOP Newsletter. Despite repeated calls for nominations of future IOP officers, Mike Dunn tells me that he has received almost none.

To each of you who bother to read the IOP Newsletter, I ask whether or not IOP remains an important resource for our discipline, or has it outlived its usefulness? If the answer is “no” then we have to

recognize this fact and fold up shop. If the answer is “yes”, then it is time to step up and pay your dues, encourage your colleagues to pay their dues or join IOP, nominate good candidates for future IOP officers, have a colleague nominate you as a future IOP officer, keep your colleagues up-to-date on your activities and opinions by writing content for the Newsletter.

Gar W. Rothwell
Distinguished Professor
Ohio University,

Courtesy Professor
Oregon State University

Past President of IOP, and Pissed off “Old Guy”

FROM THE SECRETARY/TREASURER

Dear IOP Members,

It is hard to believe that I am in my last year as your Secretary Treasurer.

First and foremost want to thank all of you who have supported IOP by submitting content to the newsletter. And maybe even more importantly, I thank those who have supported me emotionally and professionally. You know who you are, and I thank you.

But it troubles me that under my watch, IOP is in trouble. The comments from Johanna and Gar reflect conversations that we had regarding the state of IOP, and I hope that all of you realize how much they care about the future of our organization.

I accept that much of it is my fault. I know I got off to a very slow start, and no doubt I could have been a better Secretary/Treasurer. But IOP is a member driven organization, and if we are to continue as a force for Palaeobotany we all need to step up and do our parts. Currently, that is not happening. Please accept the following examples:

1) Thank you for the very positive response to my recent call for membership renewals. I was extremely pleased with the response, but in no way are we the “International” representation of Paleobotany. Many regional paleobotanical organizations have more members than we do.

2) None of us seem to be willing to take an active role in IOP. As noted below, some, but not all of the open leadership positions have nominees, and none are contested.

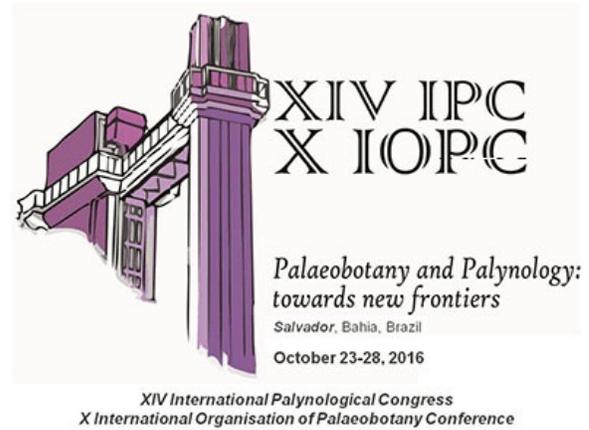
3) We have no offers for IOPC 2020. If none of the members are willing to step up and host our organizing event; what’s the point of IOP?

Only you can decide if there will be an International Organisation of Palaeobotany. I will do everything in my power to help the next Secretary/Treasurer, but no matter who is in that role, they can’t do it without you.

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. Be sure to note the substantial savings for early registration.

The Website is:

<http://www.ipciopcbrazil.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.

The payment form is in Portuguese, but credit cards are credit cards in any language, so that was no problem either. Google translator is available on the site, but I didn’t need it.

The date for abstract submission has been moved back to 30 April 2016, so there is

still time to submit your abstract.

Winners of the student travel awards will be announced in the June Newsletter.

Remember that to be eligible, students must be presenting a paper. The awardee's will be given a check in US Dollars at the closing ceremony.

IOPC 2020

At this time we have no bids to host IOPC2020. Please be thinking of where you want to meet next, and spread the word about what a fun bunch we are when we break out of our labs, holster our rock hammers, and let down our hair.

IOP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Please consider this the official call for nominations for Officers of the Executive Committee of The International Organisation of Palaeobotany.

This cycle we need to nominate and elect:

President

Secretary/Treasurer

Three Vice Presidents

Three Members at Large

I am re-publishing the rules and regulations below, but in general:

Johanna cannot run again for President. I will not run again as Secretary/Treasurer (or as President). Vice Presidents, Bob Spicer, Harufumi Nishida, and Mihai Popa are not eligible for re-election. Members-at-Large Jun Wang (China), Hans Kerp (Germany), and Alexej Herman (Russia) are eligible for re-election, but must be re-nominated. Alternative Members-at-Large may be nominated, but the members must all be from different countries.

A nomination form is attached to this email. Please fill out the form and send it to:

Mike Dunn

michaeld@cameron.edu (Preferred);

or by snail mail to the address at the end of this newsletter.

From Article 4 of the IOP Constitution:

4.1 The officers of IOP shall be: President; three Vice-Presidents; Secretary/Treasurer; three Members at Large; Conference/Congress Member.

4.2.1 The President shall chair meetings of the Executive Committee and the General Assembly.

The position of President is up for election and needs a nominee.

4.3.1 The Secretary/Treasurer is the driving force behind the Organisation. He/she shall transmit suggestions from the membership to the President and Executive Committee, maintain an IOP web site on the internet, maintain contact with regional and local groups of palaeobotanists, maintain contact with IUBS by the assistance of one of the Vice Presidents, control the income and

expenditure of IOP and maintain a central treasury, transmit decisions of the Executive Committee and President to the membership. The newsletter shall be the Secretary/Treasurer's chief medium of communication.

The position of Secretary/Treasurer is up for election and needs a nominee. Although this position is eligible for consecutive terms, I am not running and will not accept a nomination. Therefore I will act as a neutral election monitor.

4.5 Vice presidents shall not serve more than one consecutive term of office. One of the three Vice Presidents is selected by the Executive Committee to take special responsibility for the Committee with IUBS affairs. He/she will instigate creative projects, in consultation with the Executive Committee, which will be part of the activities of IUBS relevant to the aims of the IOP.

The three Vice-President positions are all up for election and need nominees.

4.6 The three Members at Large must be from different countries: they may not serve more than two consecutive terms of office.

The three Members at Large: Jun Wang (China), Hans Kerp (Germany), and Alexej Herman (Russia), are all eligible for re-election, however must be re-nominated. Other nominations will also be accepted.

The Conference/Congress Member will be

selected by the Executive Committee once the venue for IOPC 2020 is selected.

At this point we have very few nominations. In fact not all of the open positions, have nominees, and of the positions that have nominees, none are contested. I will keep the nomination process open until 1 June, so please consider who you want to run IOP, and nominate them, or even nominate yourself.

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.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

The first Joint Northeast-MidContinent Paleobotany Meeting, Cornell, May 20-22,

2016 (a.k.a., the 33rd Midcontinent Paleobotanical Colloquium).

A schedule and call for participants will be forthcoming.

Botany 2016 – “Celebrating Our History, Conserving Our Future” Savannah, Georgia, July 30-August 3, 2016.

Societies participating in Botany 2016 will include the: American Bryological and Lichenological Society, American Fern Society, American Society of Plant Taxonomists, International Association for Plant Taxonomy, Society for Herbarium Curators, and The Paleobotanical Section of the Botanical Society of America.

www.botanyconference.org

The 10th European Palaeobotany and 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



EUROPEAN PALAEOBOTANY & PALYNOLOGY CONFERENCE

look forward to welcoming you in 2018

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

CALL FOR NEWS AND NOTES

Please send submissions for the next news letter by 31 May 2016 to:

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