AASP-
THE
PALYNOLOGICAL
SOCIETY

Elytranthe globosa
by David M. Jarzen

NEWSLETTER

March 2011
Volume 44, Number 1

Published Quarterly by AASP — The Palynological Society

A.A.S.P. NEWSLETTER

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A.A.S.P.

The Palynological Society

The American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists, Inc. - AASP-The Palynological Society - was established in 1967 by a group of 31 founding members to promote the science of palynology. Today AASP has a world-wide membership of about 800 and is run by an executive comprising an elected Board of Directors and subsidiary boards and committees. AASP welcomes new members.
The AASP Foundation publishes the journal Palynology (biannually), the AASP Newsletter (quarterly), and the AASP Contributions Series (mostly monographs, issued irregularly), as well as several books and miscellaneous items. AASP organises an Annual Meeting which usually includes a field trip, a business luncheon, social events, and technical sessions where research results are presented on all aspects of palynology.

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Volume 44, Number 1
Sophie Warny, Editor

CALL FOR ADDITIONAL NEWSLETTER CORRESPONDENTS

Dear AASP members, I have been the NL editor for five years now, and over the years, I have been depending on some of you to submit articles and various announcements that are of interest to our members. Many of these articles are important for our students.
I am looking for a few more correspondents to cover some of the European countries (France, Belgium, Italy), and to cover Africa, Australia, Central America, and Asia as we have very little news from these parts of the world. If you are interested to serve as a correspondent, please email me at swarny@lsu.edu. Thank you!

Sophie Warny

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The AASP Newsletter is published four times annually. Members are encouraged to submit articles, "letters to the editor," technical notes, meetings reports, information about "members in the news," new websites and information about job openings in the industry. Every effort will be made to publish all information received from our membership. Contributions which include photographs should be submitted two weeks before the deadline. Deadline for next issue of the newsletter is **May 15**. All information should be sent by email. If possible, please illustrate your contribution with art, line drawings, eye-catching logos, black & white photos, colour photos, etc. **We DO look forward to contributions from our membership.**

A message from our President:

From the Pulpit

By Paul Strother

In the last newsletter, I mentioned that Vaughn Bryant had single-handedly invented the field of Forensic Palynology and it turns out to be not the case. I received a couple of emails from New Zealand the UK, politely correcting this error. Dallas Mildenhall wrote, "Forensic palynology has been a ongoing discipline since at least 1959 when Austrian Prof. Wilhelm Klaus solved a crime using palynology. The discipline was well established in New Zealand, Australia and the United Kingdom before ever it came to the attention of US scientists." So I apologize for this error, and I appreciate the response this has engendered. I was to continue this theme with some comments on the increasing international character of the Society, but I think the following essay is more interesting. It's been a gradual process, but the revolution is now complete: Photomicrography is done digitally. And digital is different from film, significantly different. Each color image that you capture is really a composite of three channels: Red, Green and Blue (RGB). For many applications this basic fact does not concern us because we find the results of a color rendition on paper or on a display screen to be quite satisfactory. For critical imaging, however, especially in Light Microscopy (LM) where optical resolution is near theoretical limits, the composite nature of a color digital image can significantly affect the appearance of a photograph.

Each channel may represent a distinctly different focal plane in the original specimen. Yes, it's true. The difference between the wavelengths of Red, Green and Blue light cause a shift in the plane of focus when working with critical specimens. Figure 1 illustrates a specimen of *Asteridium* (*Michrystridium*) from the Ordovician Kanosh Shale in western Utah, US. This specimen is small (the scale bars in all figures are 10 µm); it was photographed under oil using a 63x objective. The top image is in color (RGB) and beneath it are displayed the contents of each of the three different channels that were used in *Photoshop* to generate the color image. The arrow points to a spine that appears in focus in both the Red and Green channels, but is clearly out of focus in the Blue channel. When the three channels are blended together to form a composite color image, that image will necessarily be less sharp than the images from each channel when viewed individually. The same will be true if all three channels are blended to convert a digital color image to Grayscale (Black & White) for publication.

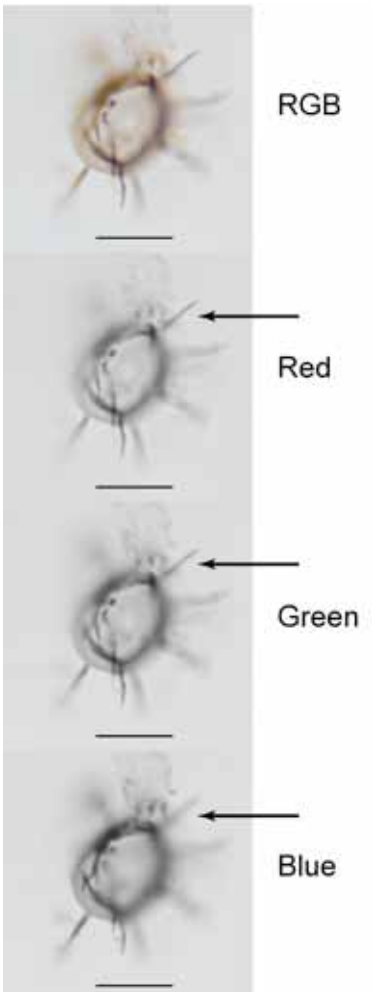

Figure 1

Another difference between R, G and B channels may be due to variation in the spectral transparency of a specimen. Organic walled microfossils, spores and pollen grains do not necessarily transmit light uniformly across the visible light spectrum. In my experience working with Paleozoic and Precambrian samples, palynomorphs are more opaque to Blue light and more transparent to the longer wavelengths found in the Red and Infrared end of the spectrum.

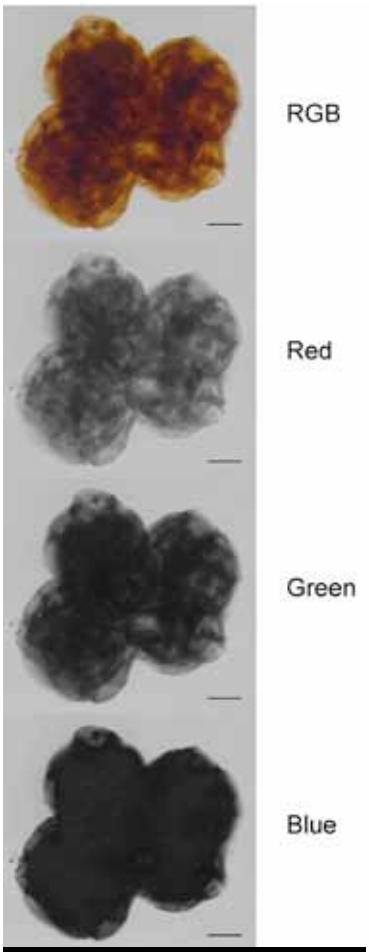

Figure 2

Figure 2 illustrates what this looks like for some Cambrian cryptospores (*Agamachates* sp.) from the Bright Angel Shale in the Grand Canyon, US. The figure displays the RGB image at the top with the Red, Green and Blue channels underneath. One can see that the Blue channel is quite dark, this specimen has blocked most of the blue light from reaching the CCD sensor in the camera. As a result, there is considerably more noise in the Blue channel than in either the Green or the Red channels. During Grayscale conversion, one might be well advised to favor the Red and Green channels for these kinds of images.

Figure 3 shows three different versions of Grayscale conversion for the specimen in Figure 2. The top image was converted from RGB by using the default conversion in *Photoshop* (Image/Mode/Grayscale). The second image was created by using the Channel Mixer option in the Image/Adjustments menu. In this case, to diminish the effect of the noisy Blue channel, I blended only the Red and Green channels using a ratio of 60 Red/40 Green. This removes the data from the Blue channel entirely. The third image was generated using the Red Filter option in the Image/Adjustments/Black & White menu of *Photoshop*. For me this gave the best result, rendering more image detail in the interior of the specimen, simply by picking the most transparent spectral range. The bottom line is that there is no single optimal method for RGB to Grayscale conversion, so it is best to familiarize yourself with the techniques such as these if you wish to get the best results from digital photomicrography. The default conversion algorithms in built-in software on a digital camera or in *Photoshop* were developed for "average" situations and they may not yield optimal results for palynomorphs.

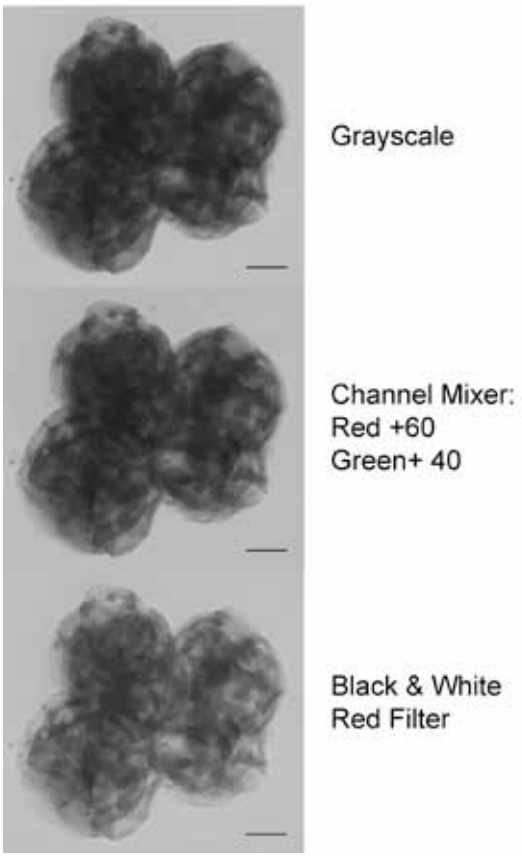

Figure 3

Please send me feedback. I would especially like to know if others have considered such things as standards for digital equivalents to the (analog) 18% graycard and whether it is possible to agree on a set of color standards for the publication of palynological images. Should we be setting our backgrounds to gray (as I have done in the above figures), or should photomicrographs have a white background?

Managing Editor's report

Palynology Volume 34, Part 2 was published in early December 2010. It contains seven technical articles and completes the volume, running from pages 147 to 286. All paid-up members should have received their copies during December 2010. I am currently putting together Volume 35 part 1. However, at the time of writing, the precise number of articles and their final running order has not been established. Manuscript submission rates continue to be very healthy.

Since the online manuscript submission system for *Palynology* went live on 1st November, I have been learning how to use it. I send manuscripts out for review electronically via the system and then progress them all the way through the entire process online. I am a beginner using this system, so please do bear with me until I am fully up to speed.

If you have any questions, please address them to Daniel Jones at Taylor and Francis (email: Daniel.Jones@tandf.co.uk), copying me in if you think it appropriate.

I do hope that all users of this system are finding easy to navigate around, and generally user-friendly.

James B. Riding
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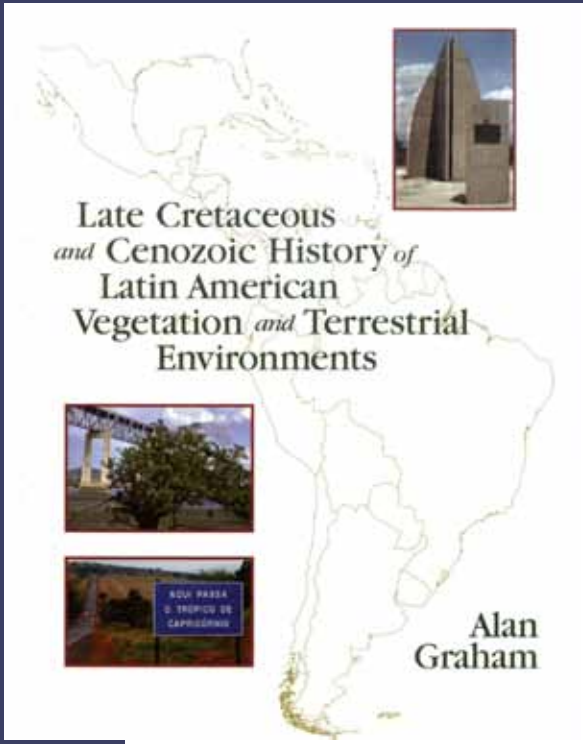
March 2010



"Late Cretaceous and Cenozoic History of Latin American Vegetation and Terrestrial Environments" by Alan Graham. 2010 Missouri Botanical Garden Press, P.O. Box 299, St. Louis, Missouri 63166, U.S.A. ISBN 978-1-930723-68-9. 617 Pages. $95 (Hardcover).

Latin America contains the largest biodiversity of plants and animals in the world. From rainforests in the tropical lowlands, to paramos in the upper Andes, to savannas in the Argentinian pampas, as well as some of the driest places of the planet in Chile, Latin America is host to an impressive suite of ecosystems and complex geology that involves the interactions of the South American, Caribbean, Cocos, and Nazca plates.

Why is the region so diverse? What is its history? This is the aim of this book. The subject seems almost overwhelming, given the wide variety of elements that need to be taken into account to produce a meaningful synthesis. In order to do justice to such a mammoth task, one must draw on knowledge of modern and fossil plants, biogeography, geology, paleoclimatology, and tectonics. And who else but Alan Graham is qualified to write such a tome? He has an encyclopedic knowledge of fossil and living plants, an excellent background in geology, and has walked and done research around all of Latin America during the past 35 years. I do not know of anybody alive who is capable of writing such a book as this. Perhaps Jan Muller (who passed away about 15 years ago) could have written a similar book, but unfortunately he did not.

Graham starts at around the end of the Cretaceous, a natural starting point given the fact that most of Latin America's vegetation is currently dominated by angiosperms (flowering plants), and by the end of the Cretaceous (~70 My), angiosperms had dominated most Latin American ecosystems.

The book is mainly arranged by country, a design that is helpful in the sense that you can go to a region or country and find out what we know about its landscape, climate, geology, and fossil record, together with an extensive list of references that provide an opportunity to go into greater depth. Common themes found throughout the book are 1) a plethora of good illustrations (maps, diagrams, photos), 2) a vast array of references, and 3) the main narrative is mixed here and there with anecdotes, historical references, connections to human endeavors, and Graham's personal insights, that I think greatly increase the readability of the book.

Chapters 1 to 3 give an overview of climate and topography (Chapter 1), geology (Chapter 2), and vegetation (Chapter 3). These chapters present an excellent summary of the major landscape, climatological, geological and vegetation features, arranged by country, from Mexico and the Antilles to Chile and Argentina. The geology chapter covers the Caribbean geology and then the Andes orogeny, both major players in the diversification of the floras and faunas in Latin America. Graham develops his own scheme of plant classification that is very pragmatic. It consists of 12 major vegetation

biomes that he can trace back in the fossil record, namely: deserts, shrubland-woodland-chaparral-savanna, grassland, mangrove, beach/strand/dune, bog/marsh/swamp, aquatic, lowland tropical rain forest, montane broad-leave forest, coniferous, paramo, and tundra. There are plenty of excellent illustrations of plants and extant pollen types to help visualize these biomes.

Chapters 4 through 7 deal with the plant fossil record (both pollen and macrofossils) of the region. Mexico is treated in Chapter 4, the Antilles in Chapter 5, Central America in Chapter 6, and South America in Chapter 7. With numerous illustrations, and a vast array of references, these chapters attempt to summarize the main fossil localities and fossil types representing many of the 12 vegetation biomes that have been found since the Late Cretaceous to Quaternary in each region. Some chapters even deal with the human population of the Americas, although I think this issue was beyond the scope of this book, and it is a topic that cannot be dealt with in just a few pages. Be aware that Graham does not limit himself to providing only a list of species or plant families, but he mixes geological, climatic, and biogeographic changes together with the description of the fossil record. You can very easily get lost in the reading unless you have read the corresponding chapters on climate, geology and vegetation of a given area.

The last chapter (eight) provides what Graham calls "the broader picture." He discusses several major events that have shaped the vegetation of Latin America, including, 1) the Great American Biotic Interchange as a consequence of the rise of the isthmus during the Pliocene and the subsequent migrations of plant and animals between North and South America using Panamá as a bridge, 2) permanent plant exchange with Africa through dust storms and hurricanes, 3) climate and stability of tropical ecosystems, and 4) a long discussion on the refugia hypothesis (lowland rainforest fragmentation during glacial intervals). He also discusses the molecular clock and a short geological history of the main families of the forest in Latin America today.

Reading this book it is clear that Graham loves plants and nature, and he is deeply concerned about the destruction of the ecosystems, or "removal of vegetation" in his own words, by humans, at rates not seen before in the fossil record. He makes the point at several places in the book that climate and ecosystems have always brought change, and that Earth as a whole is interconnected, i.e., what happens in one place, affects other places at some point in time. It is a single planet that does not obey country boundaries. Graham points out that we need to understand the past to predict the future. As Winston Churchill once said, "The farther backward you can look, the farther forward you are likely to see."

This book has an impressive array of references, places and fossil localities. That is a plus of the book, and one of the reasons I think it would be useful as a textbook in undergraduate and graduate classes, as well as for professional botanists, paleobotanists, biogeographers, paleoclimatologists, and even plate tectonic scientists. It directs you to the right literature of the region, time-period, or subject that you are interested in. There is nothing in the market today with that sort of indexed literature.

I think this book could become a classic and obligate reference in the years to come. I recommend you having it in your library and the price is affordable. And I hope some young palynologist would take the whole book and enter the information in a database, similar to what the invertebrate workers have done during the past 20 years, leading to an amazing body of research (Sepkosky, Jablonsky, Alroy and coworkers at University of Chicago). This book would be a beacon for such an endeavor that would constitute a massive work but be well worth the effort.

Reviewed by Carlos Jaramillo, Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panamá.

Pine Island injection well

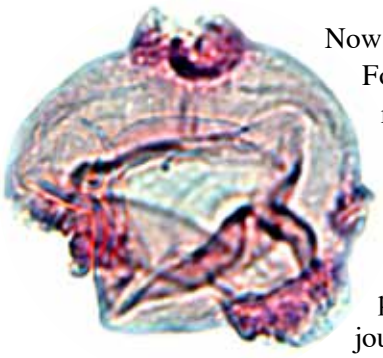
Jarzen and Klug Make the Front Page!

David M. Jarzen, Ph.D.
Palynology
Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida

The Eocene in Florida is a time that most paleontologists know as marine. The Florida peninsula had not yet emerged from the waters of the Caribbean and the Atlantic…at least that was the evidence until now.

In a paper recently published in the journal *Palynology* [volume 34(2): 164-179], David Jarzen (University of Florida) and Curtis Klug (Cardno EXTRIX, Ft. Myers) describe a small, yet diverse, palynoflora of pollen, spores and a few dinoflagellates. Some of the pollen forms are related to parent plants that produce insect pollinated flowers, and therefore clearly point to a nearby land source. If this observation holds true, then the palynoflora from the Oldsmar Formation, dated independently as Lower to Middle Eocene, represents the oldest land flora in the state of Florida.

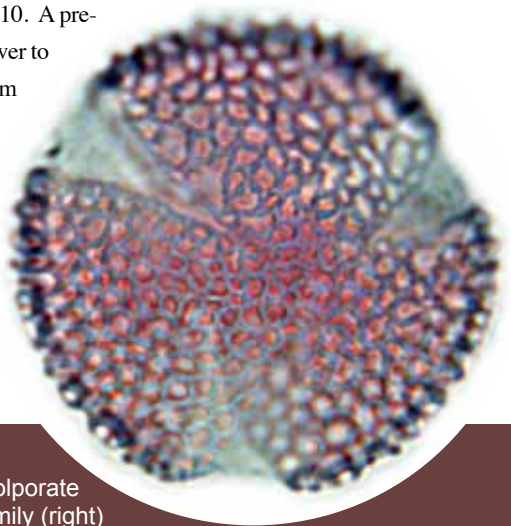
News of the find extracted from a lignitic sample recovered from an Injection well drilled on Pine Island in Lee County, Florida spread fast. The local paper in Fort Myers, *The News-Press*, published a synopsis of the find under the heading "*Pollen, spores change history*". With a title such as that we suspected the writer must have truly sensationalized the story in order to attract readers. But, the journalist, Kevin Lollar, did not sensationalize the details of the Jarzen and Klug paper. His accurate and clear details of the story, shared part of the paper with a story on Nicole Kidman and Keith Urban and the Golden Globe Awards. Not bad for pollen and spores! In fact the Kidman/Urban story shared only the second page continuation of the Jarzen/Klug item from the front page.



Now while it may be true that the Fort Myers "*The News-Press*" may have a very restricted circulation, and had we not brought this newspaper article to your attention, it may have forever been lost in the electronic and paper archives of south Florida journalists ....perhaps forever. It does however, demonstrate in part the advantage of getting our palynological stories/studies out to the general public. There seems to be a real "thirst" for information, especially information as to the origin or basis for our plant life that readers enjoy learning about. The nitty-gritty details of our work may be reserved for our colleagues, our peers, but the essence of our work should reach the public. They will ultimately fund our research, attend our lectures and teach their children.

One of the outcomes of all this "publicity" is that we have been invited by the Lee county office of IFAS (Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences of the University of Florida) to present a talk to the general public on our recent finds on Pine Island. IFAS wants to expand its coverage of research and exploration in the south of Florida and our research seems to fit the bill. So, on March 19th we will present a bit of palynology and some insight as to the stratigraphy and paleoecology of Pine Island 50 million years ago. The audience will learn of the oldest land plants in Florida!

Jarzen, D.M. and Klug, C. 2010. A preliminary investigation of a lower to middle Eocene palynoflora from Pine Island, Florida, U.S.A. *Palynology* 34(2): 164-179.
David M. Jarzen, Florida Museum of Natural History
Curtis Klug, formerly with Cardno EXTRIX, Ft. Myers.



Corsinipollinites sp. (top) and insect-pollinated tricolporate related to the Gentianaceae family (right)

REMINDER!

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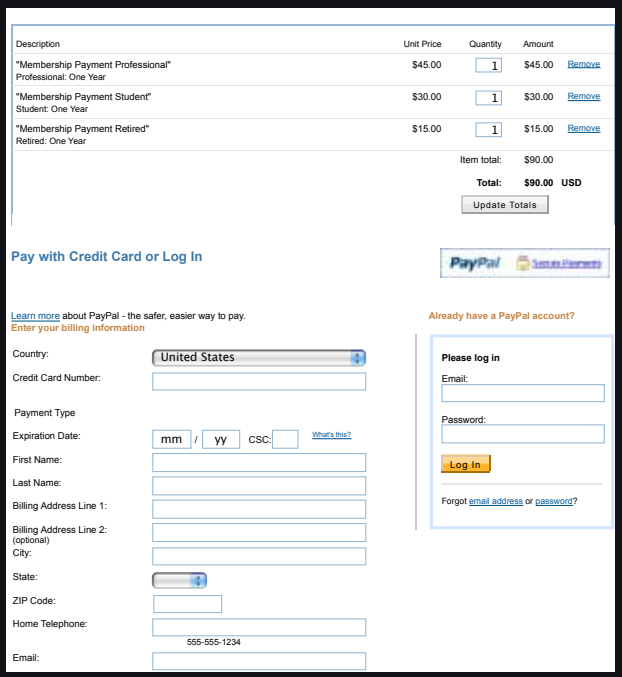

New Paleoecology listserv

The paleoecology section of the Ecological Society of America has a new moderated email listserv (esa-paleoecology-section@googlegroups.com <mailto:esa-paleoecology-section@googlegroups.com>). You may add yourself to the listserv at the section website (esa.org/paleoecology <http://esa.org/paleoecology>). The old email list (yahoo groups) is being discontinued. Please also inform your students and colleagues about the new listserv. You do not need to be a member of the section to join the listserv.

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Past in Pictures...

Professor Owen Davis rides the baby "mammoth" at the Canadian Museum of Nature during the 1995 AASP meeting at Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

Photo: D.M. Jarzen.

OBITUARY: William "Bill" Clinton Elsik

Founding member (#17 above) of AASP dies at the age of 75

Bill Elsik has passed away Friday, January 21, 2011 at the age of 75. Born October 8, 1935, to Isabel Valentine Matcek Elsik and Vilem Tomas Elsik in a sharecropper's house on Indian Camp Prairie, part of the paternal grandparents John Frank and Teresie Kocurek Elsik's farm and ranch in Burleson County, Texas. He was christened in the Caldwell Catholic Church, and he was later confirmed in the Evangelical Unity of the Snook Czech Moravian Brethren Church.

Bill grew up on his parents' farm and ranch between Snook and Tunis, Texas. His favorite pastime was hunting and fishing. During rainy periods he and his younger brother would make clay dams in the roadside ditch in front of the house and catch crawfish. During the summers he chopped, picked and weighed cotton. One particularly hot, dry summer he recalled standing over a six-inch wide, six foot deep crack in the black gumbo soil and thinking, "This is not for me."

He attended grade school at Happy Hill School near Tunis and later Snook Independent schools. He graduated as valedictorian from Snook H.S. in 1953. During high school he managed football and played basketball and softball. He drove a mechanical cotton picker for his father in Burleson and Victoria counties. He attended Texas A & M University and attained a BS, MS and PhD in geology, finally specializing in palynology.

Bill spent one summer hustling jugs on a seismograph line in west Texas for Gulf Oil. At that time he would drive the highways at night with his wife and first son looking to harvest rattles from snakes run over on the road. He found one still wriggling, stopped a short distance away and walked back with a stick to dispatch the snake. As he approached it, a large truck drove by and one of the tires picked up the rattler and swung it through the air a few inches from his head. "God gives us many more lives than cats," he often said.

Bill married Mary Lynn Mikeska on June 29, 1957. They had two sons, William Jr. and Curtis, and one daughter, Cheryl Lynn. Bill joined Humble Oil & Refining Co. in 1962, retiring 28 years later from then Exxon Corp. He was a founding member and a president of the American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists. He had the honor of having a colleague name a newly discovered spore after him.

He is survived by his loving wife Mary Lynn, his two sons; Bill Jr. and wife Jennifer Curt and wife Kristi, brothers and sister-in-law; Gene & Janice Elsik, David Elsik, sister; Sandi Elsik, sister-in-law; Georgia & Jimmie Cummings and five grandchildren; Clint, Jacob and Rachel; and Christopher and Jonathan.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents and daughter Cheryl Lynn.

We thank Dr. Elsik's son for this message.

Doug Nichols Contribution 44 now available for purchase!

NEW AASP FOUNDATION PUBLICATION

Reevaluation of the holotypes of the Wodehouse pollen species from the Green River Formation (Eocene, Colorado and Utah)

by
Douglas J. Nichols

Abbreviated Abstract

In the earliest publication on North American Paleogene palynology, Roger P. Wodehouse (1933, Tertiary pollen–II. The oil shales of the Green River Formation. Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club, 60, 479-524) described 15 new genera and 41 new species from the Green River Formation (Eocene, Colorado and Utah). The holotype illustrations were line drawings. The holotype specimens of the Wodehouse pollen species have been located on the original slides and photographed for the first time. Reevaluation of the original material resulted in some major changes in nomenclature and altered the generally accepted concepts of several genera.

96 pages (4 Tables, 11 text-figures, 21 photographic plates)
8 1/2 x 11 format, hardback binding
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ANNOUNCEMENT #1

2011 TSOP GRADUATE STUDENT GRANT PROGRAM, THE SPACKMAN AWARD

The Society for Organic Petrology (TSOP) invites applications for graduate student research grants, the Spackman Award. The purpose of the grants is to foster research in organic petrology (which includes coal petrology, kerogen petrology, organic geochemistry and related disciplines) by providing support to graduate students from around the world, who demonstrate the application of organic petrology concepts to research problems.

Size of the Spackman Award:

Monetary awards up to a maximum of $1,000.00 US will be granted. TSOP will also provide Merit Awards, in the form of certificates redeemable for TSOP publications, to top-ranking applicants not receiving grants. The program awards a maximum of two grants each year. All applicants are invited to apply for a year's free Student Membership in TSOP.

Use of the Spackman Award:

Grants are to be applied to expenses directly related to the student's thesis program, such as fieldwork, laboratory analyses, etc. A portion (not to exceed 25%) of the funds may be used to attend TSOP Annual Meetings. Funds should not be used to purchase capital equipment, to pay salaries, tuition, room, or board during the academic year. Funds must be spent by the end of the calendar year following granting of the award, and an account of expenditure with copies of receipts should be provided by the end of that year (December 31, 2012 for awards granted in 2011).

Review and Ranking of Applications:

A committee of at least three TSOP members (and/or external experts when needed) will review the pool of applications. The reviewers will be drawn from people having no association with the host institution of any applicant. Each reviewer will independently rank each proposal according to established merit criteria, using the Application Evaluation Form included in the application packet. The cumulative score from all of the reviewers will be used to determine the final ranking of the applications. Winners will be notified prior to the 2011 Annual Meeting, and all applicants will be informed by e-mail of the final status of their applications.

Application Deadline:

TSOP Spackman Award application deadline is May 16, 2011. Grants will be awarded in September, 2011.

Detailed information and an application form are on the TSOP web site: www.tsop.org/grants.htm or applications may be obtained from:

Prof Colin Ward
Chair, TSOP Research Committee
School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences
University of New South Wales
Sydney, NSW, 2052
Australia
E-mail: c.ward@unsw.edu.au

ANNOUNCEMENT #2

Job oppening for paleo-ecologist in Amsterdam

Due to the retirement of one of our associate professors (Bas van Geel) in October 2012 and the retirement of our full professor (Henry Hooghiemstra) in October 2013, we have a temporary vacancy for 2 years for an Assistant Professor Paleo-ecology, with a strong interest in the use of pollen, non-pollen palynomorph and macrofossils in fine-resolution paleo-ecological studies of Quaternary lake and peat deposits and archaeological sites.
full-time (38 hours per week). Vacancy number: W11-020
see http://www.uva.nl/vacatures/vacatures.cfm/828A7C95-34D3-46EB-A6B4A30FD7467B92
Tasks

- The candidate is expected to take over the teaching tasks, including the coordination of a paleo-ecology course with field course and the supervision of individual student projects (undergraduate and graduate levels).
- The candidate will be involved in ongoing research projects (mammoth diets; Holocene peat deposits and the evidence for solar forcing of climate change; annually laminated sediments).
- The candidate is expected to expand his/her research capacity by applying to Dutch national and European calls for proposals.

During the first year the leaving associate professor will function as a coach for the candidate.
The position will be embedded in the IBED-research group Paleo-ecology and Landscape Ecology [led by Prof. Henry Hooghiemstra]. This research group has a prominent international position in the field of paleo-ecology and paleo-climatology.
Requirements
PhD in Quaternary paleo-ecology/paleo-climatology
Strong publication record in paleo-ecology, as demonstrated by publications in international peer-reviewed journals
Proven success in research grant applications
Broad interest in the fields of paleo-ecology and paleo-climatology
Inspiring teacher (in English) with excellent communication skills
Team player with proven organizational skills
Further information
For more information please contact: Dr Bas van Geel (+31 20 5257664, B.vanGeel@uva.nl) or Prof. Henry Hooghiemstra (+31 20 5257857, H.Hooghiemstra@uva.nl).

Appointment
We offer a position for 38 hours per week in a highly stimulating academic environment and a dynamic international atmosphere.
Due to the temporary replacement budget and because the future scientific direction of Paleo-ecology at IBED has yet to be determined, the appointment will be on a temporary basis for a period of two years.
The salary is in accordance with the university regulations for academic personnel (Collective Labour Agreement Dutch Universities) and will range from € 3,195 to € 4,374 gross per month (salary scale 11) based on a full-time appointment.
The annual salary will be increased with 8 % holiday allowance and 8.3 % end-of-year bonus.
Job application
Applications should include a detailed CV including a list of publications, a motivation letter, and the names and contact addresses of three references from which information can be obtained. Applications should be sent by e-mail to application-science@uva.nl
Please quote the vacancy number in the subject field. The deadline for applications is March 25, 2011. Interviews will be held end March early April.

Links:
http://www.science.uva.nl/ibed
http://www.science.uva.nl/ibed-ple/
http://home.medewerker.uva.nl/b.vangeel/

LSU Science
Office of the Dean

Denison Estate Gift to Benefit Palynology Center

Chris and Kathy Denison of Houston, Texas, have pledged ten percent of their estate to the LSU Center for Excellence in Palynology (CENEX).

Chris Denison is a graduate of the University of Sheffield. He has worked as a core-based sedimentologist with Chevron for the last ten years and incorporates various aspects of biostratigraphy, sedimentology, and palynology. His involvement with AASP began in the early 1980s. He served as president of the organization in 1999. Prior to joining Chevron, Denison worked at University of Texas, and the Bureau of Economic Geology. "CENEX has had a long and tortured history fundraising through downturns in the industry. But there is tremendous good will toward CENEX in the palynology community," said Denison.
Kathy and I are happy to be able to support CENEX through our estate. The process was painless."
CENEX has been a primary focus of the American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists (AASP) and gifts from the organization and its members like the Denisons has helped to create a steady stream of support for the center.

**LSU AND CENEX THANK CHRIS DENISON (1999 AASP PRESIDENT)
FOR HIS GENEROUS DONATION!**

AASP SESSIONS SUBMITTED AT GSA!

1) Phanerozoic Palynology: Applications to Stratigraphic, Paleoenvironmental, and Paleoclimatic Research
Session Type: Oral Francisca Oboh-Ikuenobe (Missouri University of Science and Technology), Lanny Fisk (PaleoResource), Debra Willard (U.S. Geological Survey).
This session focuses on studies of Cambrian to Holocene sedimentary sequences, which use palynology as a proxy for biostratigraphy, paleoecology, paleoenvironmental reconstruction, and paleoclimatology.

2) New Horizons in Precambrian Palynology and Paleobiology
This session is sponsored by AASP-The Palynological Society, The Paleontological Society and GSA Division of Geobiology and Geomicrobiology.
The session host is Paul Strother (Boston College).

3) From organic detritus to coal: Tracing the terrestrial decomposer community in permineralized peat, lignite and coal
In this session, we will evaluate processes and rates of terrestrial decomposition recorded in permineralized peat and coal, and investigate ways to link the paleoecological record of terrestrial decomposition in permineralized peat and coal.
This session was submitted by Anne Raymond (Texas A&M University) and Jen O'Keefe (Morehead State University).

AASP-The Palynology Society
44th Annual Meeting - Southampton
September 4-7, 2011

Sunday September 4th to Wednesday September 7th, 2011
National Oceanography Centre, University of Southampton, England

Conference website (live 1st April 2011): www.southampton.ac.uk/aasp2011

This year's AASP Annual Meeting will be held at the National Oceanography Centre, University of Southampton, England, and will be a joint meeting with *The Palynology Group* of *The Micropalaeontological Society*. The National Oceanography Centre, a collaboration between the Natural Environment Research Council and the University of Southampton is the largest institution of its kind in Europe, a £50m purpose-built centre which opened in 1995.

Southampton is located centrally on the south coast of England, and is within easy reach of both Heathrow and Gatwick airports (both around an hour and a half away). Southampton Airport (www.southamptonairport.com) is a hub for the European regional airline Flybe (ww.flybe.com), with direct connections to many European Cities. The city is just over an hour from London by train and the Eurostar Terminal from Europe.

The AASP meeting will run consecutively after *Dino 9* at the University of Liverpool (http://pcwww.liv.ac.uk/~dino9).

Costs (in UK pounds sterling): pre-registration will be £75, students £45. On-site registration will be £125, students £75.

Delegates will be responsible for booking their own accommodation for the conference, from the selection of student residences, hotels, etc., listed on the conference website.

Deadlines: for pre-registration, abstract submission and field trip bookings - 1st August 2011.
Online pre-registration, abstract submission and fieldtrip booking will be available by the beginning of April 2011.

Technical Sessions. The two day technical program (Monday 5th- Tuesday 6th September) will accommodate more than 60 talks (in two concurrent sessions), including keynotes. Two themed sessions are currently planned, and suggestions for additional sessions are welcomed:

1. Industrial applications of palynology
2. Palaeozoic palynology symposium

Poster sessions will be convened during tea and coffee breaks.

Ice-breaker, Sunday 4th September: there will be a pre-conference welcome reception with refreshments and nibbles, followed by a keynote invited lecture.

Conference dinner, Tuesday 6th September.
The conference dinner will take place on board *HMS Warrior*, the second and largest iron-clad warship in the world, commissioned in 1861, and now berthed at Portsmouth Historic Naval Dockyard (www.hmswarrior.org).
After being piped aboard and welcomed with a tot of rum, delegates will have dinner on tables placed between the cannon on the gundeck. There may be an opportunity to visit the *Mary Rose* Museum (Henry VIII's flagship raised from beneath the Solent) prior to the meal.

AASP Business Luncheon: this will take place on Tuesday 6th September at a local restaurant, and will cost approximately £20.

Field Trips. Two field trips are planned:

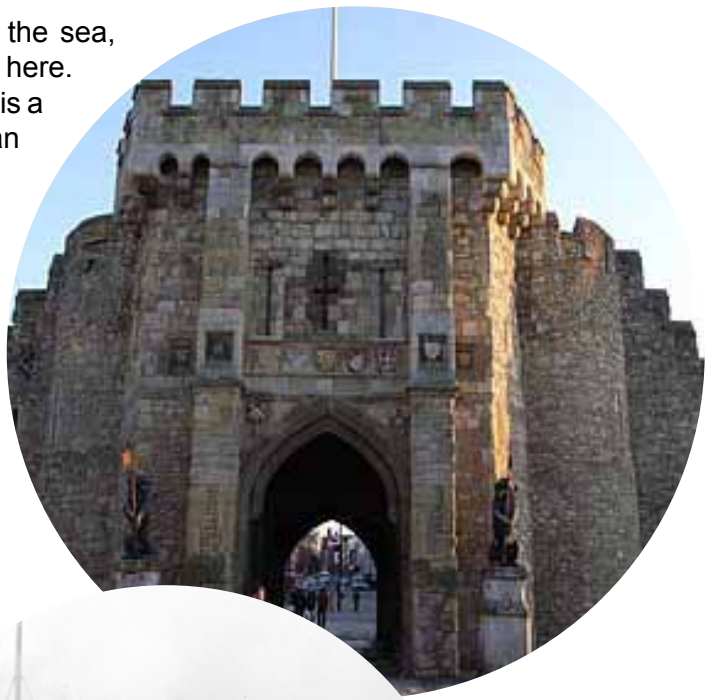
Field trip 1. Pre-conference: Isle of Wight, Sunday 4th September. This trip will visit classic areas of English geology, ranging from non-marine Wealden (Cretaceous: Hauterivian/ Barremian, which has yielded some of the earliest well-dated angiosperm pollen), through the marine middle Cretaceous (e.g. Atherfield Clay), to the Chalk and into the Paleogene succession of Whitecliff Bay (left: Eocene-Oligocene). These successions have been extensively studied in terms of their palynology.

Costs will be about £40, inclusive of transport, lunch and entrance fee to the *Sandown Dinosaur Museum*.

Field Trip 2. Post-conference: UNESCO World Heritage Jurassic Coast of Dorset (see picture above), Wednesday 7th September.
This trip will take in the world-famous localities of Lulworth Cove and Stair Hole, developed in Upper Jurassic to Upper Cretaceous sediments and including the Lulworth Fossil Forest. Other localities to be visited will include Kimmeridge Bay (above), the type locality of the Kimmeridgian Stage, and the Middle Jurassic of Osmington Mills.
Costs will be about £40, inclusive of transport and lunch.

The host city: Southampton

The city of Southampton has a long involvement with the sea, as both the *Titanic* and the D-Day armada sailed from here. Even today the arrival of a cruise liner like *Queen Mary II* is a noteworthy local event. The city is big on history – you can walk around the beautifully preserved Norman city walls which date from the 1100's – or visit the Archaeology or Maritime museums, the Tudor House Museum, or the Solent Sky aircraft museum (the Spitfire, the most famous World War two fighter aircraft was designed and first flew in Southampton, and many flying boats were also built here). There are two trails around the city which visit places of historic importance related to the *Titanic* and to Jane Austen, who resided in Southampton from 1807-9. (For more information visit www.visit-southampton.co.uk).



After the conference you might also wish to explore the nearby Hampshire villages, the New Forest (where William II was murdered in 1100), or the historic cathedral cities of Salisbury (close to Stonehenge) and Winchester (former capital of England) only a few minutes drive away.

For more information, visit:
www.visit-hampshire.co.uk

For more information, contact:
John Marshall (jeam@noc.soton.ac.uk)
or
Ian Harding (ich@noc.soton.ac.uk)

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The Society for Organic Petrology
28th Annual Meeting

Theme: 21st Century Energy Resources and Petroleum Systems

July 31- August 4 - Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

TSOP

TSOP is an international society for scientists and engineers involved with coal petrology, kerogen petrology, organic chemistry and related disciplines

ANNUAL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR PAPERS

Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada
World Trade and Convention Center

July 31 - August 4, 2011

Conference Theme:

Energy Resources and Petroleum Systems in the 21st Century

Short Course: Geochemistry, maturation, and petroleum system modelling related to shale gas resource evaluation

Field trip to Joggins Fossil Cliffs and shale gas evaluation in the Elgin and Moncton subbasins

TECHNICAL PROGRAM AND ABSTRACTS, GENERAL INQUIRIES AND REGISTRATION

Prasanta Mukhopadhyay
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or

Mike Avery
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ABSTRACT SUBMISSION DEADLINE: APRIL 30, 2011

Meeting and abstract submission details:

http://www.tsop.org/2011Halifax

TSOP: www.tsop.org

TSOP student research grant (deadline May 16, 2010)