



# 2015 AASP Annual Meeting Update



AASP – The Palynological Society will hold its 2015 meeting as part of the 2015 Annual Meeting of the Geological Society of America (GSA) in Baltimore, Maryland, USA. The meeting is scheduled for Sunday, November 1 through Wednesday, November 4, with pre-conference events on Saturday, October 31. The conference will be hosted at the Baltimore Convention Center, which is located adjacent to Baltimore's renowned Inner Harbor. Because we will be meeting as part of the larger GSA conference, arrangements for registration, housing and abstracts will be handled by GSA through their website, [www.geosociety.org](http://www.geosociety.org). The GSA has a firm abstract deadline, which is normally in July.

One goal of the conference committee is to propose at least four AASP sponsored or co-sponsored topical or theme sessions and to also solicit talks for general palynology session(s). At present, we are pursuing several possible theme session topics, all of these potentially co-sponsored with other societies: Integration of Sedimentology and Microfossils; Rot in the Fossil Record; The Role of Paleontology in Geologic Mapping; and Quaternary palynology.

We enthusiastically encourage AASP members to suggest sessions or, even better, to offer to chair and organize a session. Sessions co-sponsored with other organizations are welcome. Please contact Pete McLaughlin ([ppmclau@udel.edu](mailto:ppmclau@udel.edu)) if you are interested in proposing or co-chairing a session. Sooner rather than later would be appreciated -- avoid the holiday rush! The GSA deadline for submission of a final list of AASP-proposed sessions is February 1, 2015. Planning is underway for two field trips, which will emphasize AASP interests but will be offered through GSA to attract other interested participants. One field trip being investigated will examine the Cretaceous of Maryland, emphasizing the Potomac Group, an interesting interval that records angiosperm evolution in pollen and has yielded important finds of charcoalfied flowers. Another trip is being planned to examine application of palynology to climate, sea-level rise, and land use issues in modern environments near the Chesapeake Bay and Potomac River. We hope to have feedback on our proposals and finalize trip offerings early in the New Year.

We are planning at least one social event in the Little Italy/Inner Harbor-area along with the AASP business luncheon. Incoming and outgoing board meetings will be held immediately before and after the technical sessions, respectively. Dates will be announced once finalized with venues and/or GSA.

Pete McLaughlin, Lucy Edwards, and Debra Willard are serving as the planning committee for the 2015 meeting. More information on AASP activities and schedules will be included in forthcoming AASP newsletters.

Peter P. McLaughlin, Jr., Ph.D., P.G.  
Senior Scientist, Delaware Geological Survey, University of Delaware  
DGS Building, 257 Academy Street  
Newark, DE 19716-7501  
email: [ppmclau@udel.edu](mailto:ppmclau@udel.edu) -- phone: 302-831-8263 -- fax: 302-831-3579  
home page: <http://www.dgs.udel.edu/profile/peter-p-mclaughlin>

Above: *Baltimore Inner Harbor (photo credit: Visit Baltimore at [baltimore.org](http://baltimore.org))*