



JOINT MEETING TSOP - AASP - ICCP

The Society for Organic Petrology, AASP-The Palynological Society
and the International Committee for Coal and Organic Petrology

September 18 – 23, 2016

Houston, Texas USA

THIRD CIRCULAR

We are pleased to present the third circular regarding this first historic joint meeting of these three related geological, geochemical and biological scientific societies. We have finalized our schedules of technical sessions including the Symposia and Theme Sessions, and further finalized the pre-meeting Short Course, and the two fieldtrips. Some of the social events are yet to be decided upon, so look for additional information on those in the near future.

The purpose of this joint meeting is to bring together a diverse group of scientists to discuss the close relationships between organic petrology and palynology, to foster thoughtful discussion and address issues that may be of benefit to furthering the respective sciences. Key themes to be addressed during joint activities include source rock/source-rock reservoir resource assessment, microscope methods of characterizing microporosity, coal characterization, and palynofacies/kerogen.

The venue for this meeting will be the historic Magnolia Hotel in downtown Houston. The Magnolia was built in 1926 as the former Post-Dispatch Building. It was re-purposed in 2003 as The Magnolia Hotel, and further underwent a significant upgrade in 2009. The hotel is centrally located in downtown within walking distance of excellent restaurants and pubs. Over the past several years downtown Houston has undergone a major revitalization with many new office buildings, exciting arts and entertainment venues, and several world-class restaurants. We believe the downtown will provide exciting possibilities for every need and want.

SHORT COURSE

Saturday All-day Short Course: It is the pleasure of the Organizing Committee to present an all-day pre-meeting short course entitled, "*Integration of microscopy and geochemistry in petroleum source rock evaluation*". The course will be taught by Dr. Richard Tyson (GeTech,UK). The course will be presented in a classroom setting, and will emphasize the integration of microscopy and geochemistry to better understand and characterize source rocks in both conventional and unconventional exploration. Microscope methodologies discussed will include both palynofacies and organic petrographic techniques. Additional details of the short course are being finalized and will be published in upcoming announcements.

SYMPOSIA/THEME SESSIONS

After considerable discussion, a number of integrated Symposia and Theme Sessions have been finalized. These will include:

1. **Microscope methodologies in recognizing and characterizing organic microporosity** (Joint TSOP/ICCP Theme Session: Monday PM)
2. **Palynofacies and Kerogen** (Joint TSOP/ICCP/AASP Theme Session: Tuesday PM)
3. **Multi-modal Characterization of Source Rocks, including Source-Rock Reservoirs** (Joint TSOP/ICCP/AASP Symposium: Wednesday All-Day)
4. **Palynofloral Contributions to Source Rocks** (AASP/TSOP Theme Session: Thursday AM)
5. Additional AASP-sponsored Sessions will include an **Alfred Traverse Symposium**.

At this moment, a list of Invited/Keynote Speakers has been finalized, and invitations will be sent out very shortly. For many of the proposed joint sessions, at least one organic petrography/geochemistry and one palynology Keynote Speaker will be invited. All interested scientists will be strongly encouraged to contact us and propose to submit their abstract(s) for one or more of these Sessions and the all-day Wednesday Symposium. Exact details regarding these sessions will be forthcoming in the next respective Newsletters, and will appear on respective websites very soon.

FIELD TRIPS

Friday-Sunday Pre-Meeting Field Trip: This 2+ day field trip will visit Eagle Ford Formation outcrops in west Texas, and will be led by Barry Wawak (Manager of Reservoir Geology, Core Laboratories, Houston). The field trip will depart on the afternoon of the Friday prior to the meeting, and return by Sunday late afternoon or early evening. The Eagle Ford Formation is a world-class source-rock reservoir resource in the subsurface of south Texas, and the accompanying strata have been researched extensively in stratigraphic, geochemical and biostratigraphic studies.

Saturday Post-Meeting Field Trip: This will be a one-day excursion to Cretaceous through Eocene strata of east-central Texas. These strata are equivalent to the important Wilcox Formation that forms major reservoirs in the subsurface of the deepwater Gulf of Mexico. The field trip will leave early Saturday morning from the Hotel, and return early evening back to Houston. Final details of both field trips will be presented in upcoming Newsletters and on the respective Society websites.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Multiple social activities of interest to all participants are being discussed and should be finalized in the very near future with the hotel and off-site venues.

Monday PM Icebreaker: The Monday evening Icebreaker will take place on the rooftop patio of The Magnolia Hotel (weather permitting). The patio offers a great view of the Houston downtown skyline and sunset.

Tuesday PM Happy Hour: On the Tuesday late afternoon, a Happy Hour will accompany an opportunity to view the posters that will be part of the technical aspect of the meeting. Drinks and finger food will be served and there will be sufficient opportunity to chat with authors about their poster displays.

Mid-Meeting Event: A special event is being planned for the Wednesday Evening at a nearby locality in Downtown, preferably within walking distance of the Hotel. The hope is to find an outdoor venue to view the Houston skyline and enjoy the early Fall weather. This event will immediately follow the end of the Wednesday all-day Symposium, so it is our hope to continue the discussions and renew friendships in this relaxed atmosphere. Details of this event are still being determined.

In addition to all these events, attendees will have sufficient opportunity to enjoy the Houston downtown with its numerous world-class restaurants, and abundant drinking establishments.

SOCIETY BOARD MEETINGS

Along with the technical and social activities, the respective Societies will have their necessary Board of Directors meetings, and Business Luncheons. The current schedule includes:

ICCP Council Meeting:	Sunday	September 18 th	16:00-21:00
TSOP Council Meeting:	Sunday	September 18 th	17:30-21:00
TSOP/ICCP Business Luncheon:	Tuesday	September 20 th	12:00-14:00
TSOP Council Meeting:	Tuesday	September 20 th	19:00-21:00
AASP-TPS Outgoing Board Meeting:	Tuesday	September 20 th	19:00-22:00
ICCP Council Meeting:	Thursday	September 22 nd	18:00-21:00
AASP-TPS Business Luncheon:	Friday	September 23 rd	11:30-13:30
AASP-TPS Incoming Board Meeting:	Friday	September 23 rd	17:00-18:30

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCOMMODATIONS

Houston is a significant transportation hub and the Intercontinental Airport (IAH) is serviced by all major airlines from Europe and Asia. Both airports (IAH and HOU) are serviced by the major US-based airlines: IAH is a major hub for United Airlines, and HOU is a major hub for Southwest Airlines. All the major American airlines (e.g. Delta and American) fly into IAH numerous times through the day. All major European, Asian and Middle East airlines (e.g. KLM, British Airways, Air France, Lufthansa, Singapore, Korean Air, JAL, Emirates, and Qatar Airways) fly once a day in and out of IAH. Transportation to and from the downtown area from both airports is available via taxi, shuttle, and MetroBus. Further information on fares and routes from the two airports will be distributed in later circulars.

The Magnolia Hotel: Our current negotiated room rate at The Magnolia hotel is US\$179/night (single occupancy). Double- and triple- occupancy will be priced accordingly. This room-rate includes complimentary hot breakfast, a late afternoon happy hour (complimentary beer/wine), a complimentary bedtime cookie buffet, and free internet. A listing of alternative nearby hotels and hostels will be made available to meeting participants, however, in order to meet our hotel commitments, all attendees are strongly encouraged to stay at the host Hotel.

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

The local Organizing Committee consists of Thomas Demchuk (RPS), Jen O'Keefe (Morehead State U.), Thomas Gentzis (Core Laboratories) and Joe Curiale (Independent). Over the next several months as the technical and social programs are finalized, we will do our best to keep the societies and membership informed of new events, the associated costs, and deadlines. We look forward to a great joint meeting in September of 2016.