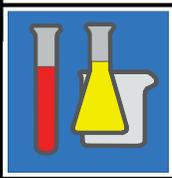




**THE SOCIETY FOR ORGANIC PETROLOGY**



# NEWSLETTER

Vol. 27, No. 1

March, 2010

ISSN 0743-3816

## 27th TSOP ANNUAL MEETING 12-16 September, 2010



Denver Convention Center

**CALL FOR PAPERS:** Submit abstracts by **May 24, 2010**

**Denver, Colorado  
USA**

**27<sup>th</sup> Annual TSOP Meeting**  
**September 12-16, 2010**  
**Denver, Colorado USA**  
**See pages 9-10**

**PRELIMINARY MEETING SCHEDULE:**

**CALL FOR PAPERS**

Submit abstracts by **May 24, 2010**

**Conference Topics will include:**

**Oil Shale and Gas Shale**  
**Petroleum Geology and**  
**Geochemistry**  
**Coal Resources and Utilization**  
**New Techniques and Applications**

Sat/Sun, Sept 11, 12: Arrival Denver, Colorado @  
Sheraton Denver West Hotel, Lakewood, CO.

Sunday, September 12: Registration; Icebreaker; Short  
course - *Basics of Organic Petrography*.

Monday, September 13: Registration; Technical Sessions;  
TSOP Business Lunch; Outgoing Council Meeting.

Tuesday, September 14: Technical Sessions; Conference  
Dinner; Incoming Council Meeting.

Wednesday, September 15: Field Trip: Western Colorado -  
Piceance Basin, Mahogany Oil Shale with overnight stay in  
western CO.

Thursday, September 16: Return from Field Trip

**The Society for Organic Petrology**

**TSOP** is a society for scientists and engineers involved with coal petrology, kerogen petrology, organic geochemistry and related disciplines. The Society organizes an annual technical meeting, other meetings, and field trips; sponsors research projects; provides funding for graduate students; and publishes a web site, this quarterly Newsletter, a membership directory, annual meeting program and abstracts, and special publications.

Members may elect not to receive the printed Newsletter by marking their dues forms or by contacting the Editor. This choice may also be reversed at any time, or specific printed Newsletters may be requested.

Members are eligible for **discounted subscriptions** to the Elsevier journals *International Journal of Coal Geology* and *Review of Paleobotany and Palynology*. Subscribe by checking the box on your dues form, or using the form at [www.tsop.org](http://www.tsop.org). You will then be billed by Elsevier. Contact Paul Hackley <[phackley@usgs.gov](mailto:phackley@usgs.gov)> if you do not receive a bill or have any other problems with a subscription. For the best prices on subscriptions to **AGI's Geotimes**, see their web site at [www.geotimes.org/current](http://www.geotimes.org/current)

**TSOP** is a Member Society of AGI and an AAPG Associated Society.

## The Society for Organic Petrology Newsletter

ISSN 0743-3816 published quarterly

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**DEADLINES: June Issue: June 5, 2010  
September Issue: September 5, 2010**

Writers, Photographers and Associate Editors Needed!

### GUIDELINES:

The TSOP Newsletter welcomes contributions from members and non-members alike. Readers are invited to submit items pertinent to TSOP members' fields of study. These might include meeting reports and reviews, book reviews, short technical contributions including those on geologic localities or laboratory methods, as well as creative works such as poems, cartoons and works of fiction. Color illustrations may be possible in some issues.

Please do not embed **graphics** or **photos** in word processor files. You can provide photos or other graphics as slides or prints (which will be returned after being scanned) or as digital files (300 dpi preferred) via email or on cd or dvd. Low resolution images are discouraged as they cannot be reproduced well in print. **Text** is preferred in Microsoft Word, RTF or plain text formats.

### Contact the Editor:

Rachel Walker  
Pearson Coal Petrography  
7300 W. 15<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Gary, Indiana  
USA 46406  
ph. 219-944-0477  
e-mail: [drachelwalker@gmail.com](mailto:drachelwalker@gmail.com)

### Address Changes

Please report any changes in address or contact information to: Paul Hackley, TSOP Membership Chair, [phackley@usgs.gov](mailto:phackley@usgs.gov)

Members can update their own information by logging into the secure TSOP website: [www.tsop.org/mbrsonly/](http://www.tsop.org/mbrsonly/)

### Society Membership

The TSOP Newsletter (ISSN-0743-3816) is published quarterly by The Society for Organic Petrology and is distributed to all Society members as a benefit of membership. Membership in the Society is open to all individuals involved in the fields of organic petrology and organic geochemistry. For more information on membership and Society activities, please see:

**[www.tsop.org](http://www.tsop.org)**

For purposes of registration of the TSOP Newsletter, a permanent address is: The Society for Organic Petrology, c/o American Geological Institute, 4220 King St., Alexandria, VA 22302-1520 USA

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Officers and Committee Chairs are reminded to provide their records to Ken Kuehn, **TSOP Archivist**. Please contact Ken at [kenneth.kuehn@wku.edu](mailto:kenneth.kuehn@wku.edu) for further information.

\* \* \* \* \*

### Institutional Level Dues Supporter

On behalf of TSOP Council we would like to say thank you to the following Institutional Level Dues Supporter for their consistent support of the Society and its goals.

- **Albert V. Tamashausky, Asbury Graphite Mills**

## President's Letter

Dear TSOP Members,

The Council had a successful Mid-Year Meeting on March 1st, which provided a great opportunity for discussion between council members and committee chairs. Various issues were discussed in detail and great progress was reported on a number of fronts.

First of all, we are happy to see the growth of our technical/scientific family as shown by the continuous increase in TSOP membership numbers, which is currently showing 241 active members.

Most importantly, I am pleased to announce approval of the 501(c)(3) status from the IRS on behalf of incorporation liaison Sharon Swanson. This tremendous achievement for TSOP is the result of the exhaustive work put in by Sharon Swanson and other colleagues for the past two years in both the previous and current TSOP Council. Under its new 501(c)(3) status, TSOP will be classified as a public charity, considered exempt from U.S. Federal income tax; this means any U.S. contributions to TSOP will be tax deductible. This provides a great opportunity for TSOP to collect personal donations and corporate sponsorship, which I hope the members and affiliates will consider. You can find more details on this new development in an announcement by Sharon Swanson in this issue.

We have also been quite pleased to see the successful launch of TSOP's secured log in page. Mike Avery has been working hard on creating this remarkable addition to TSOP's webpage, which provides extended access of members to each other. I hope all members will take advantage of this feature and provide necessary feedback and comments. Furthermore, David Glick has made significant progress on the new version of the public section of the web site, which will provide significant graphical and functional improvements to the current website. We hope to see the successful launch of the new webpage in the near future.

Our former president and current Chair of the Research Committee, Colin Ward, has announced the new and improved Spackman Award scoring structure, which was reviewed by his committee to provide more robust and fair evaluations of the student applicants.

Mark Pawlewicz, along with the rest of the organizing committee for the 2010 Denver, Colorado meeting is working hard to ensure another successful TSOP reunion. This long expected return of TSOP to North America will be followed by the 2011 meeting in Halifax. Again we urge all members and their affiliated organizations to provide full support to Mark Pawlewicz and his team, and take advantage of TSOP's new tax status in donating any financial support. We also look forward to the active participation of students in the meeting, coordinated by Jesse Carrie (Student Committee Chair).

It is with great regret that we learned the passing of member and palynologist Doug Nichols of Berthoud, Colorado, on January 22, 2010, at the age of 67.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions, suggestions, or advice.

Hamed Sanei  
TSOP President

March, 05, 2010,  
Geological Survey of  
Canada, Calgary, Alberta



\* \* \* \* \*

## CATCH UP ON YOUR TSOP DUES!

Are you paid up? TSOP funding is dependent upon members' dues, so please check to ensure you are up to date. You can check your dues expiry date online by logging into your account at the **Members Only** site and select **My Information** or you can contact Mike Avery at [mavery@nrca.gc.ca](mailto:mavery@nrca.gc.ca). Don't forget, members can elect to pay several years in advance by taking advantage of the *5 years for the price of 4* discount.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Members-only Website Update

The number of TSOP members taking advantage of the benefits of the new **Members-only** section of the website is approaching 50%. Thanks to those who have taken the few minutes needed to activate their account. As noted in the December Newsletter update, some of the benefits for these members are that they can download a pdf version of the current TSOP Membership Directory and they have easy access to a searchable online directory. The online version is updated as soon as we receive new contact information changes. Also, the 'My Information' link provides extra information such as their **dues expiry date**, their current Newsletter delivery preference and more.

As promised, several improvements have been made since the last update. The 'My information' page now allows members to edit to their own contact information. Also, the online version of the directory displays the email address of the member as a hyperlink so that the user can click on this link to send an email to the member they have selected from the list. This is a small feature but is very convenient if you want to connect with another TSOP member but you don't have their email address handy.

Activating your account is easy. Send us a note via one of the following addresses: [silo.admin@tsop.org](mailto:silo.admin@tsop.org) or [mavery@nrca.gc.ca](mailto:mavery@nrca.gc.ca). You can also get instructions on the 'Members-only' welcome page via the easy link on TSOP's main page [www.tsop.org](http://www.tsop.org) or directly at [www.tsop.org/mbrsonly](http://www.tsop.org/mbrsonly). We encourage members to make the Members-only page a bookmark or favorite in their browsers.

We are working to provide more secure content like access to Programs and Abstracts from Annual Meetings. Again, your suggestions for how to make use of the secure site are welcome.

Mike Avery  
TSOP Treasurer and secure website manager

\* \* \* \* \*

### Bank fees and the move to online payments

A recent look at banking costs reveals that TSOP is spending a substantial amount of money to accomplish the few banking transactions we need to operate our Society. For instance, our current arrangement for collecting dues by credit card charges a 14% fee per transaction. To combat this we are moving towards an online PayPal payment system which will reduce our costs for processing credit cards to between 3 and 4% per transaction. This would reduce the \$401 we spent last year to process \$2860 in dues payments to around \$100, a saving of \$300 that can be put to better use within the Society.

It is not necessary to set up a PayPal account to pay your TSOP dues - you can pay by credit card when you reach the PayPal site. An added benefit is that they accept American Express and Discover along with Visa and Mastercard. If you already have a PayPal account, you can also choose to use it to send payment. Paying via the secure PayPal site also eliminates the problematic step of sending your credit card details to the TSOP Treasurer.

Members will soon be able to access an online dues payment form which provides all the functionality of the current paper dues form. You can select various dues payment options, make voluntary donations, request Elsevier discount subscriptions and send in updates to your contact information. Watch for an email announcement alerting you that the online payment system has been implemented.

The preferred access to the online dues form is through the **Members-only login**. Once you are logged in you can go directly to the dues payment options page. The form is broken up into several easy to follow pages with a summary/check-out page. Members who have not yet setup a login account can use a form outside the Members-only section but they will have an extra step. They must first establish their identification by entering their name and email address. The email address entered must match their email address in our files or they cannot continue. Therefore members must keep us informed of their current email address in order to use the form. The Members-only opening page has details on setting up your login account.

Our monthly bank account service fee has been continuing to rise and we are looking into cheaper alternatives such as an online banking services in order to reduce these fees. Many thanks to Jingle Ruppert for leading this initiative.

If you have any suggestions to help with this effort then please contact us ([iruppert@usgs.gov](mailto:iruppert@usgs.gov) or [silo.admin@tsop.org](mailto:silo.admin@tsop.org)).

Mike Avery  
TSOP Treasurer and secure website manager

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### TSOP Web Site Will Get a New Look

David Glick  
Internet Committee Chair

After a long period of development, we have set a goal of switching over to a new look for the TSOP web site by March 31, 2010. **Please see the screen image on the back page of the newsletter for an example of the new design.** The main page will have items of current interest which can be easily updated. The new site has drop-down menus and will include more photographs and graphics. It is written using Cascading Style Sheets for consistent appearance of pages and easier maintenance. The secure section recently developed by Mike Avery will be included. Please watch your e-mail for an announcement, or check the site [www.tsop.org](http://www.tsop.org). Until then, the new site can be seen at [www.tsop.org/test/](http://www.tsop.org/test/). It is still under development, so some parts may not work properly as we conduct experiments during March.

The initial goal is to move all existing features to the new site. The new site will then be a starting point for the next stage of expansion and ongoing updates. **Ideally, there would be volunteers in the Internet Committee** in charge of updating each of several sections on the site: one for the calendar of events (this could be shared with the Newsletter), one for the links section, one for discussion forums, one for photographs, etc. They could do the entire job of creating pages and submitting them, or they could just provide content to someone else who would create the updated web pages. **If you can help, please contact me at [webmaster@tsop.org](mailto:webmaster@tsop.org).** Let me know what your particular skills or interests are and we will find a place to use your help.

We also hope to keep the old site available until we are sure that the new site is working well for everyone and for a variety of web browser programs.

\* \* \* \* \*

### TSOP Archives – What are they?

The TSOP Archives comprise non-current official documents that record the course of the Society's activities and business. The archives contain information of enduring value including:

- 1) regular publications (e.g., Newsletter, Annual meeting Abstracts and Program, Proceedings volumes and Guidebooks from the annual meeting, Membership Directory and Bylaws),

- 2) occasional publications (e.g. Special volumes, Research Committee final reports, self-studies),
- 3) Society business (Minutes of Council Meetings, documents pertaining to the formation of TSOP)
- 4) records of official (formal) relations between TSOP and individuals (Honorary members, awardees, invited speakers, etc.), Institutions or Corporations, other Societies, and governments.

TSOP officers and Committee chairs are charged with providing potentially relevant documents to the Archivist at the conclusion of their term in office to be considered for inclusion in the archives.

Ken Kuehn  
TSOP Archivist

\* \* \* \* \*

### **New Tax Status for TSOP!**

**Sharon Swanson**

As you heard in our annual meeting last September, TSOP Council applied for a new tax status in the U.S. Internal Revenue Code under section 501(c)(3) (application submitted in June, 2009). I am happy to report that the Internal Revenue Service determined (finally!) that TSOP qualifies for the new tax status, in a letter dated February 9, 2010. TSOP Council expects that this change in tax status will significantly benefit TSOP in the future, as explained below.

What will the 501(c)(3) status do for us? Classified as a public charity, TSOP is exempt from U.S. Federal income tax, and U.S. contributions to TSOP are tax deductible (section 170 of the Code). TSOP is also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers, or gifts (sections 2055, 2106, or 2522 of the Code).

In the June TSOP Newsletter, I will give you more information related to the tax status, including information about our responsibilities as an exempt organization. I would also like to say THANK YOU to the many TSOP members (Dave Glick, Mike Avery, Peter Warwick, Colin Ward, Suzanne Russell, and Paul Hackley, to name just a few) who patiently responded to my MANY requests during the application process.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **2010 Graduate Student Grant Program 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, 2011 for awards granted in 2010).

#### **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 2010 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 15, 2010.** Grants will be awarded in September, 2010.

Detailed information and an application form are on the TSOP web site: [www.tsop.org/grants.htm](http://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](mailto:c.ward@unsw.edu.au)

**Call for nominations  
for the 2010 John Castaño Honorary  
Membership Award**

**Deadline: May 30, 2010**



You are invited to nominate the scientist of your choice for the 2008 John Castaño Honorary Membership Award, The Society for Organic Petrology's highest honor ([www.tsop.org/honmem.htm](http://www.tsop.org/honmem.htm)). The award acknowledges distinction in a scientific discipline of significance to the Society, in recognition of contributions in research, service to TSOP, or education. The John Castaño Honorary Membership conveys life membership in the Society. It is named in honor of John Castaño, one of our most active Houston-based founding members. John served as inaugural Vice-President, and later, as President of TSOP. He was an organizer of three TSOP meetings in the Houston area, and was made an Honorary Member in 1995. John served TSOP in many capacities until his death in 1997; a memorial article was published in the June 1997 issue of the TSOP Newsletter.

If you would like to suggest a candidate for the 2010 Castaño Honorary Membership Award, **please submit a letter of recommendation and a brief vita of the nominee to Isabel Suárez-Ruiz (Instituto Nacional del Carbon, INCAR-CSIC, Ap.Co.,73, 33080-Oviedo.Spain. E-mail: [isruiz@incar.csic.es](mailto:isruiz@incar.csic.es) by May 30, 2010. It is suggested that supporting letters of recommendation from colleagues and other scientists accompany the package. Emphasis should be placed on the significance of the nominee's work.**

Nominations are reviewed by the Castaño Award Committee and results are announced at the Annual Meeting. The selection process is confidential and nominees do not have to be former or current TSOP members.

The committee evaluates research, service and educational impact on the following criteria:

- Research contributions include work that demonstrates a high degree of originality and serves to advance the science of organic petrology or related disciplines. Nominees must possess a sustained international record of professional publication and achievement.
- Nominees recommended for service must demonstrate

significance contributions to TSOP in a leadership role. Their service must have enabled the Society to stimulate interest and promote innovative research in coal geology. Contributions include educational activities, administrative duties, or the development of the Society.

- Nominees recommended for education must demonstrate a high degree of dedication and significant impact as a teacher of organic petrology or related disciplines.

**Dr. Isabel Suárez-Ruiz**  
TSOP Vice-President and  
Chair of the Honorary Member Selection Committee

\* \* \* \* \*

**TSOP 2010 Council Mid-year Meeting SHORT  
Minutes, March 1, 2010**

**Location:** Teleconference hosted from Geological Survey of Canada, Calgary, offices of TSOP President Hamed Sanei

**Attendance:** Hamed Sanei (President), Leslie Ruppert (Nominating Committee Chair), Mark Pawlewicz (2010 Meeting Chair), Colin Ward (Research Committee Chair), Rachel Walker (Editor), Isabel Suarez-Ruiz (Vice President), Sharon Swanson (Incorporation Liaison Committee Chair), Mike Avery (Treasurer and 2011 Meeting Co-Chair), Paul Hackley (Secretary), Jesse Carrie (Student Activities Committee Chair), Peter Warwick (Distinguished Service Award Committee Chair), David Glick (Internet Committee Chair), Prasanta Mukhopadhyay (AGI Liaison Committee Chair and 2011 Meeting Co-Chair), Agneiszka Drobniak (Councilor).

- 1. Call to Order and Presentation of Agenda:** Hamed Sanei. The meeting was called to order at 1106 Mountain Time.
- 2. Officer's Reports**
  - a. President's Report:** Hamed Sanei. The President acknowledged Council and Committee Chairs for their efforts and expressed his gratitude and satisfaction with the high level of coordination and cooperation between all involved in the meeting.
  - b. Vice-President's Report:** Isabel Suarez-Ruiz. The Vice-President reported that Magdalena Misz-Kennan would serve on the Castaño Award Committee and thanked past member Harvey Belkin for his service.
  - c. Treasurer's Report:** Mike Avery. The Treasure is investigating PayPal as an alternative to current high banking costs at Wells Fargo. Discussion of the

budget indicated that no mid-year adjustments were necessary.

- d. **Secretary:** Paul Hackley. The Secretary described business conducted via email since the 2009 Annual Meeting and noted that he will not be able to attend the 2010 Annual Meeting.
- e. **Editor:** Rachel Walker. The Editor presented the good news that each Newsletter print run was costing only about 30.00 USD thanks to printing by volunteer Dave Glick.

### 3. Annual Meeting Planning Committees

- a. **2014 TSOP Meeting:** Research Committee Chair Colin Ward indicated that he has had some preliminary discussion with a potential organizer for the 2014 Meeting. Council asked Colin to initiate more discussion with the organizer who could then present Council with a formal proposal.
- b. **2013 TSOP Meeting:** Vice-President Isabel Suarez-Ruiz reported that a preliminary proposal had been received from a potential organizer for the 2013 Meeting. Council asked the Secretary to present the potential meeting organizer with a request for a formal proposal. The proposed meeting would follow the format established for the joint TSOP-ICCP meeting planned for 2012 in Beijing, which consists of the ICCP meeting, followed by a multi-day field trip, followed by the TSOP meeting, with separate registrations for each of the events.
- c. **2012 TSOP Meeting in Beijing:** No report of new information related to the planned joint TSOP-ICCP Meeting in Beijing was available.
- d. **2011 TSOP Meeting in Halifax:** Prasanta Mukhopadhyay and Mike Avery. The 2011 TSOP meeting will be held in the Prince George Hotel, the same venue as the 1998 TSOP meeting, on July 31-August 2, 2011. The presentations will have a geochemical focus and include sessions on shale gas, as well as environmental aspects of energy resource extraction including carbon sequestration.
- e. **2010 TSOP Meeting in Denver:** Mark Pawlewicz. Plans are well underway for the 2010 meeting in Denver which is anticipated to have sessions on oil shale, gas shale, conventional oil and gas, and coal. Volunteers are still needed to help with registration and other aspects of the meeting.

### 4. Committee Reports

- a. **Distinguished Service:** Peter Warwick. Potential nominees will be announced to Council via email.
- b. **Incorporation Liaison:** Sharon Swanson. TSOP now has a tax status of 501(c)(3), allowing tax-free charitable contributions from US citizens. Status was granted February 9, 2010, from the Internal Revenue Administration.
- c. **Internet:** Dave Glick. The new TSOP website should be ready to go public by the end of March. The old web site will be kept online temporarily until the new web site is bug-free and working happily.
- d. **Research:** Colin Ward. An updated Spackman Award application package is ready to put out on the Society's website. The work on a CBM desorption standard is approaching a successful conclusion as an ASTM standard method.
- e. **Membership:** Paul Hackley. Membership continues to increase by about four persons per year overall.
- f. **AGI Liaison:** Prasanta Mukhopadhyay. The AGI Liaison Committee Chair Dr. Muki will attend the AGI Spring MSC meeting in April and report back to Council following the meeting.
- g. **Promotion of TSOP and Coal Science Outreach:** Former Chair Tom Gentzis has had to step down but will continue to serve TSOP in other roles. A new person is sought to fill the role of the former Chair.
- h. **Publications:** Mike Trippi. New members are hesitant to take advantage of the free publication gift offered at joining TSOP.
- i. **Ralph Gray Award:** Hamed Sanei for Jim Hower. The final procedural methods of the new Ralph Gray Award Committee will be published in an upcoming Newsletter.
- j. **Student Affairs:** Jesse Carrie. There will be a TSOP-sponsored student event at the 2010 Denver meeting.

**6. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 1335 Mountain Time.

Respectfully submitted,  
Paul C. Hackley – TSOP Secretary  
Prepared March 5, 2010

## 27<sup>TH</sup> TSOP ANNUAL MEETING 2010

September 12-16, 2010

Denver, Colorado

Meeting theme: *Advances in Organic Petrology*:

Conference Topics include:

- Oil Shale and Gas Shale
- Petroleum Geology and Geochemistry
- Coal Resources and Utilization
- New Techniques and Applications

### Technical Sessions:

- **Oil shale:** Geology; Geochemistry and Technology
- **Gas:** Shale and Coal: Geology; Technology; the Future
- **Oil & Gas:** Conventional oil and gas: From Exploration to Application
- **Coal:** Technology: the Future

### Call for papers: Submit abstracts by May 24, 2010

Via email to: Mark Pawlewicz [pawlewicz@usgs.gov](mailto:pawlewicz@usgs.gov)  
and/or Paul Hackley [phackley@usgs.gov](mailto:phackley@usgs.gov)

Please submit abstracts up to 250 words in Microsoft Word. Indicate preference: oral or poster presentation. Personal contact information required. Abstract form is available at TSOP.org.

Following review and notification of acceptance, authors will be invited to submit their papers for a special issue of the International Journal of Coal Geology.

### REGISTRATION, CONFERENCE DINNER AND FIELD TRIP FEES:

Registration includes participation in all TSOP sessions, ice breaker reception, and business luncheon for TSOP members and coffee breaks.

**Registration costs:** Will be posted on website.

**Short course:** \$35

**Conference Dinner:** \$50

*Payment can be made via PayPal. Site under construction.*

Meeting, registration and abstract submittal information available at: [www.TSOP.org](http://www.TSOP.org)

\*\* Please make known any special dietary considerations for luncheon and dinner.

### ACCOMODATIONS:

The meeting will be held at the Sheraton Denver West Hotel. This hotel is located in Lakewood, Colorado, west of Denver. It is about 50km (30 miles) from Denver International Airport easily accessed by major highways. Attendees should plan to stay at the Sheraton.

\*In making reservations, please indicate your participation in the TSOP meeting. Meeting pricing is available. Call + 888-627-7027.

For hotel information please see:

[www.starwoodhotels.com/sheraton/search/hotel\\_detail.html?propertyID=883](http://www.starwoodhotels.com/sheraton/search/hotel_detail.html?propertyID=883)

### MEETING SCHEDULE:

- Sat/Sun, Sept 11,12: Arrival Denver, Colorado and Sheraton Denver West Hotel, Lakewood, CO
- Sunday, September 12: Registration; **Short course-** *Basics of Organic Petrography* offered Sunday afternoon.  
**Icebreaker-** Sunday evening.
- Monday, September 13: Registration; Technical Sessions; TSOP Business Lunch; Outgoing Council Meeting; local half day trips.

- Tuesday, September 14: Technical Sessions; Conference Dinner; Incoming Council Meeting; local half day trips.
- Wednesday, September 15: Field Trip: Western Colorado - Piceance Basin, overnight stay in Rifle, CO. **Attendance limited to 26 people.**
- Thursday, September 16: Field Trip return.

**Short course: \$35.** Sunday, half day. *Basics of Organic Petrography*: Sample preparation to reflectance data acquisition; microscope equipment to data quality and accreditation.

**Field Trip to western Colorado: \$185.** A special overnight trip to the Piceance Basin near Rifle, Colorado. This will be conducted as a multiple-stop trip by vans to various vantage points to see the *Mahogany ledge* zone of the Green River *Formation*, a significant oil shale deposit. Attendance limited to 26 people.

**LOCAL FIELD TRIPS:**

- Denver Museum of Natural History. \$30. Half day.
- CO School of Mines Gem and Mineral Museum: Museum visit and local geology trail. \$30. Half day.
- Dinosaur Ridge: walk along roadside outcrops with dinosaur footprints and see geology of Denver's Front Range. \$30. Half day.

**ORGANISING COMMITTEE:**

Mark Pawlewicz USGS [pawlewicz@usgs.gov](mailto:pawlewicz@usgs.gov)  
Paul Hackley USGS [phackley@usgs.gov](mailto:phackley@usgs.gov)  
Mike Lewan USGS  
Ron Johnson USGS (oil shale field trip)



Dinosaur Ridge entry sign.



Skeletons on display at the Denver Museum of Natural History

Colorado School of Mines  
Geology Museum



### New Zeiss 50x Oil Immersion Objective

Zeiss has produced a new 50x 1.0 numerical aperture oil immersion objective for organic petrology applications. As recently as 2006, Zeiss provided an objective with anti-reflection coatings that resulted in “muddy” images with less than optimum contrast (ICCP Newsletter, 2006; TSOP Newsletter, 2006). The new infinity-corrected objective is shown in Figure 1 along with the older objective.



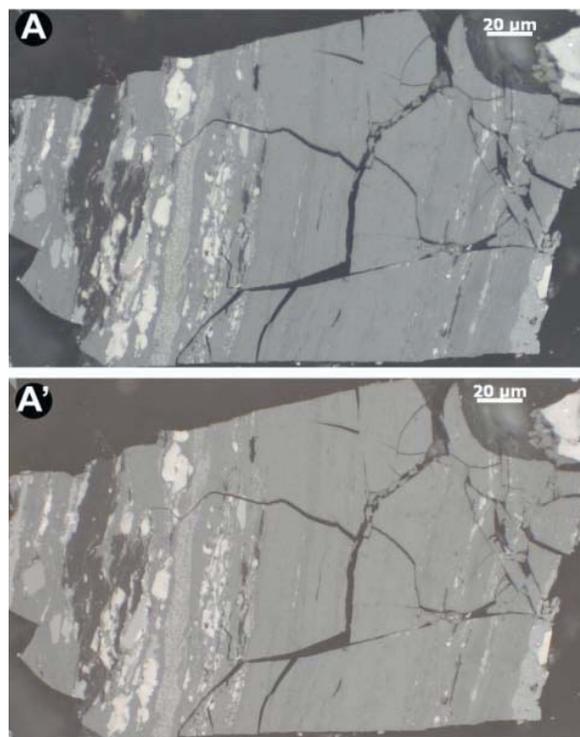
**Figure 1.** New (left) and old (right) Zeiss 50x oil immersion objectives.

The new Zeiss objective contains improved lenses with satisfactory anti-reflection coatings, resulting in improved image contrast over the older objective. To illustrate the improved contrast,

Figure 2 shows an image pair of the same field taken with the old and new objectives. The upper image (A) is from the new objective and the lower image (A') is from the old objective. Camera conditions, e.g., exposure and white balance, and microscope constraints, e.g., voltage to lamp, aperture and field diaphragm openings, were held constant for collection of the image pair. Apart from cropping to the center of field, these images were not manipulated in any fashion.

The improved contrast power of the newer objective is apparent in the image pair. In particular, note the significant reduction of stray light reflected from the binder portion of the field in the upper photograph (A). The improved contrast results in higher quality images for presentation and publication and potentially fewer errors in maceral identification, e.g., discriminating vitrinite from low reflecting adjacent semifusinite.

The cost of the new Zeiss 50x oil immersion objective is 5384.00 USD.



**Figure 2.** Image pair of same field taken with new (A, upper image) and old (A', lower image) objectives. The photograph is of a high volatile bituminous coal ( $R_o = 0.90\%$ ).

The new objective is used with a Zeiss AxiImager A1m organic petrology research microscope equipped with spectral fluorescence measurement instrumentation in the U.S. Geological Survey Organic Petrology Laboratory in Reston, Virginia. More information about the laboratory is available from [http://energy.er.usgs.gov/coal\\_studies/organic\\_petrology/laboratory.html](http://energy.er.usgs.gov/coal_studies/organic_petrology/laboratory.html).

Any use of trade, product, or firm names is for descriptive purposes only and does not imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.

#### References :

- ICCP Newsletter, 2006, Letter to the editor: ICCP News, no. 39, p. 6-7.
- TSOP Newsletter, 2006, Letter to the editor: The Society for Organic Petrology Newsletter, v. 23, no. 4, p. 5-6.

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## A Journey to a Fractured Land

*Tim A. Moore, Country Manager, Indonesia, Arrow Energy*

(Images provided by Tim Moore)

The lava flow was barely a month old and jutted into the warm Indonesian sea like a lover's arm. As our little boat approached, we could see the rock was the color of uncooked meatloaf and not dissimilar in texture. I've been on active volcanoes before, but not ones surrounded by miles of sea. After a day of travelling, we had reached our goal.

Agus (Budiluhur), Arrow Energy's General Manager for Exploration in Indonesia, had been trying to get me to visit Anak Krakatau for a few months. Finally, with some spare time we headed out to the relatively tiny volcano that lies between Java and Sumatra. The Sunda Strait is generally thought of as quiet water, storm wise, but the currents can be tricky, as in any narrow gap between islands. So, going out even on a relatively minor excursion like this can't be taken lightly, never mind that we'd be visiting a volcano!



Of course, working for Arrow, our mission is gas; but the gas both Agus and I didn't want to become intimate with was a particularly unpleasant and deadly one - hydrogen sulphide. Our geologist's senses were on high alert.

The previous day we had travelled to Sumatra by ferry, then hired a moderately-sized motorised supply boat which was going south, towards Anak Krakatau. That night we stayed on the little island of Pulau Sebesi; not much in the way

of luxury accommodation but we had all we needed, food, shelter and the anticipation of setting foot the next day on one of the world's most famous volcanoes. By morning we had doubled the size of our little expedition. Three young agricultural university students had taken a weekend break and were hoping to make it to Krakatau. Lacking a boat for the final leg of their journey, they were resigned to returning to the mainland. Since we had plenty of room, we invited them aboard, and in the fresh morning sun, we set the bow towards the south and embarked.



In 1883, Krakatau Island was nothing more than a large, jungle covered navigational hazard. But August of that year, in an explosion that was 'heard around the world', as Simon Winchester has written, Krakatau wrote itself into history books the world over. To see the remnant three small islands of this once great volcano is jaw dropping; not just in their current magnificence but in the realization of the forces and energy it took to obliterate what was there and is no more. It is estimated that 20 cubic kilometres of rock were thrown into the air. That magnificence of course killed hundreds of thousands of people, not just from the explosion itself but from the instant tsunami that was generated. Though seared into the memories of generations of Indonesians, it still came as a surprise that in 1928 Anak Krakatau rose out of the sea spitting and sputtering ash and lava. It was that new piece of earth's crust we were about to step onto.

We landed on the back flank of the volcano and by mandate could only stay a short amount of time, presumably to reduce risk. Through the heat and humidity we climbed up a ridge on the side of the volcano. The gases we were avoiding could clearly be seen on the steep slopes of the cinder cone, maybe 80 meters above our heads. From the vantage point of

the ridge you could look around and see all the remaining bits of the old, original Krakatau and imagine that one day, Anak would no longer be a child but would merge with its old self again and be the ruler of the Straits to new generations of Indonesians. It is quite humbling to know that with all our supposed human power, we are powerless to effect even the slightest change on Earth's processes. Yet, this place had a spiritualness to it that went beyond the mere physical. The power and the serenity of Anak Krakatau made me realize how fragile we really are, but instead of dread it made me feel the privilege it is to exist on this Earth and be fully aware.

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### North American Coalbed Methane Forum April 28-28, 2010

Hilton Garden Inn at Southpointe  
Canonsburg, Pennsylvania, USA

The North American Coalbed Methane Forum will hold its Spring Session at the Hilton Garden Inn near Cannonsburg, Pennsylvania on April 28-29, 2010. This year the Forum celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The Spring 2010 Forum titled 'Coalbed Methane – from Prospect to Pipeline' will consist of two day sessions with presentations covering technical, regulatory and legal aspects of coalbed methane development and production.

Please contact Ihor Havryluk [havryluk@zoominternet.net](mailto:havryluk@zoominternet.net) or Dr. Kashi Aminian [Khashayar.aminian@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:Khashayar.aminian@mail.wvu.edu) for details.

\* \* \* \* \*

### 62nd Meeting of the International Committee for Coal and Organic Petrology (ICCP)

September 26th-October 2nd, 2010

**Hosts:** Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts (SASA) and University of Belgrade, Faculty of Mining and Geology  
**Location:** Belgrade, Serbia, Knez Mihailova 35 (City Centre)

**Deadline for Abstract Submission:** May 31st, 2010

#### Planned Schedule Includes:

**Sunday**, September 26: ICCP Council Meeting and Ice breaker  
**Monday**, September 27: Registration, Welcome, ICCP General Assembly  
**Tuesday**, September 28: ICCP Commissions and Council Meeting  
**Wednesday**, September 29: ICCP Commissions and Poster session  
**Thursday**, September 30: ICCP Commissions, Symposium, Poster session and Conference Dinner  
**Friday**, October 1: Symposium and ICCP Plenary Meeting  
**Saturday**, October 2: Field trip to Kostolac basin and Viminacium archeological site.

#### Registration Fee, Conference Dinner, Fieldtrips (at this point estimated)

ICCP Members and Guests: Early registration	150 €
after May 31, 2010	180 €
Students	50 €
Accompanying persons	50 €
Conference Dinner	50 €
Field trip	60 €

For further information please see the 2<sup>nd</sup> Circular:  
[http://www.sanu.ac.rs/English/62ndICCP\\_SecondAnnouncement.pdf](http://www.sanu.ac.rs/English/62ndICCP_SecondAnnouncement.pdf)

or email to: [ICCP.erc@sanu.ac.rs](mailto:ICCP.erc@sanu.ac.rs)

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### Calendar of Events

2010

**March 21-25, 2010:** American Chemical Society Spring Meeting, San Francisco, California. <http://portal.acs.org/>

**April 11-14, 2010:** AAPG Annual Convention & Exhibition, in New Orleans USA. [www.aapg.org](http://www.aapg.org)

**May 2-7, 2010:** European Geosciences Union General Assembly, Vienna, Austria.  
<http://meetings.copernicus.org/egu2010/>

**June 13-18, 2010:** Goldschmidt Conference, Knoxville, Tennessee, USA. [www.goldschmidt2010.org/](http://www.goldschmidt2010.org/)

**July 11-16, 2010:** Carbon 2010, the Annual World Conference on Carbon, Clemson University, South Carolina, USA.  
<http://caeff.ces.clemson.edu/carbon2010/>

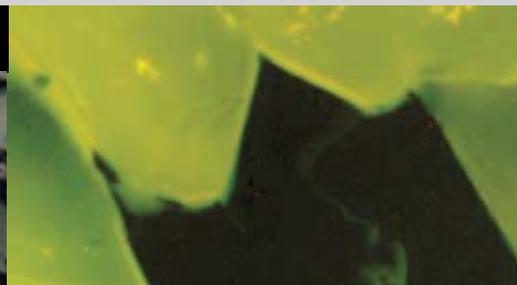
**September 12-16, 2010:** 27<sup>th</sup> Annual TSOP Meeting, Denver, Colorado, USA.  
[www.tsop.org/2010Denver/index.htm](http://www.tsop.org/2010Denver/index.htm)

**September 29 – Oct. 2, 2010:** 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual AASP Palynological Society Meeting, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. [www.palynology.org/](http://www.palynology.org/)

**October 11-14, 2010:** 27<sup>th</sup> International Pittsburgh Coal Conference, Istanbul, Turkey. [www.engr.pitt.edu/pcc](http://www.engr.pitt.edu/pcc)

**October 31 – Nov. 3, 2010:** Geological Society of America Annual Meeting, Denver, Colorado, USA.  
[www.geosociety.org/meetings/2010/](http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/2010/)

## First Announcement



## 2<sup>nd</sup> ICCP Course in Organic Petrology

Held at GeoLab,  
Helmholtz Centre Potsdam  
German Research Centre for  
Geosciences - GFZ  
Potsdam, Germany

**June 14-18, 2010**



The International Committee for Coal and Organic Petrology (ICCP), in conjunction with Geolab, DGG (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Geowissenschaften), the Teichmüller Foundation and GFZ (the German Research Centre for Geosciences), is pleased to announce a training course in organic petrology to be held in Potsdam in June 2010.

The course is centred on the petrology of coals with a particular emphasis on extending familiarity with a wider range of coals and dispersed organic matter. Practical applications and technological importance will be stressed.

While a basic geological understanding will be assumed, the course is designed for those with little or no knowledge of coal. It is therefore suitable for undergraduate or post graduate students as well as established professionals who require a more thorough understanding of petrological aspects of coals.

## Topics to be covered include:

- Macerals, microlithotypes, lithotypes, minerals, rank
- The petrographic microscope
- History of organic petrology
- Petrographic techniques: sample preparation, point counting, reflectance, fluorescence
- Coal origin and formation including peat-forming environments, sedimentary environments, coalification and tectonic setting
- Coal classification & standards
- Interpretation of petrographic results and their applications
- Exploration, beneficiation
- Coke
- Chars - combustion, gasification, hydrogenation
- Practical sessions
- Field trip to lignite mine

## Presenters

Dr Alan C. Cook

Prof. em. Dr Claus F. K. Diessel

## Cost

Company / Professional	1500 €
Government / non-profit	750 €
Student	300 €

Cost for the course excludes travel, accommodation and meals except where stated. Costs include field trip, course notes, lunches and coffee, ice breaker and farewell function.

Course language is English

Space is limited and will be on a first come basis.

A detailed course outline will become available soon at [www.iccop.org](http://www.iccop.org).

Further information is available from:

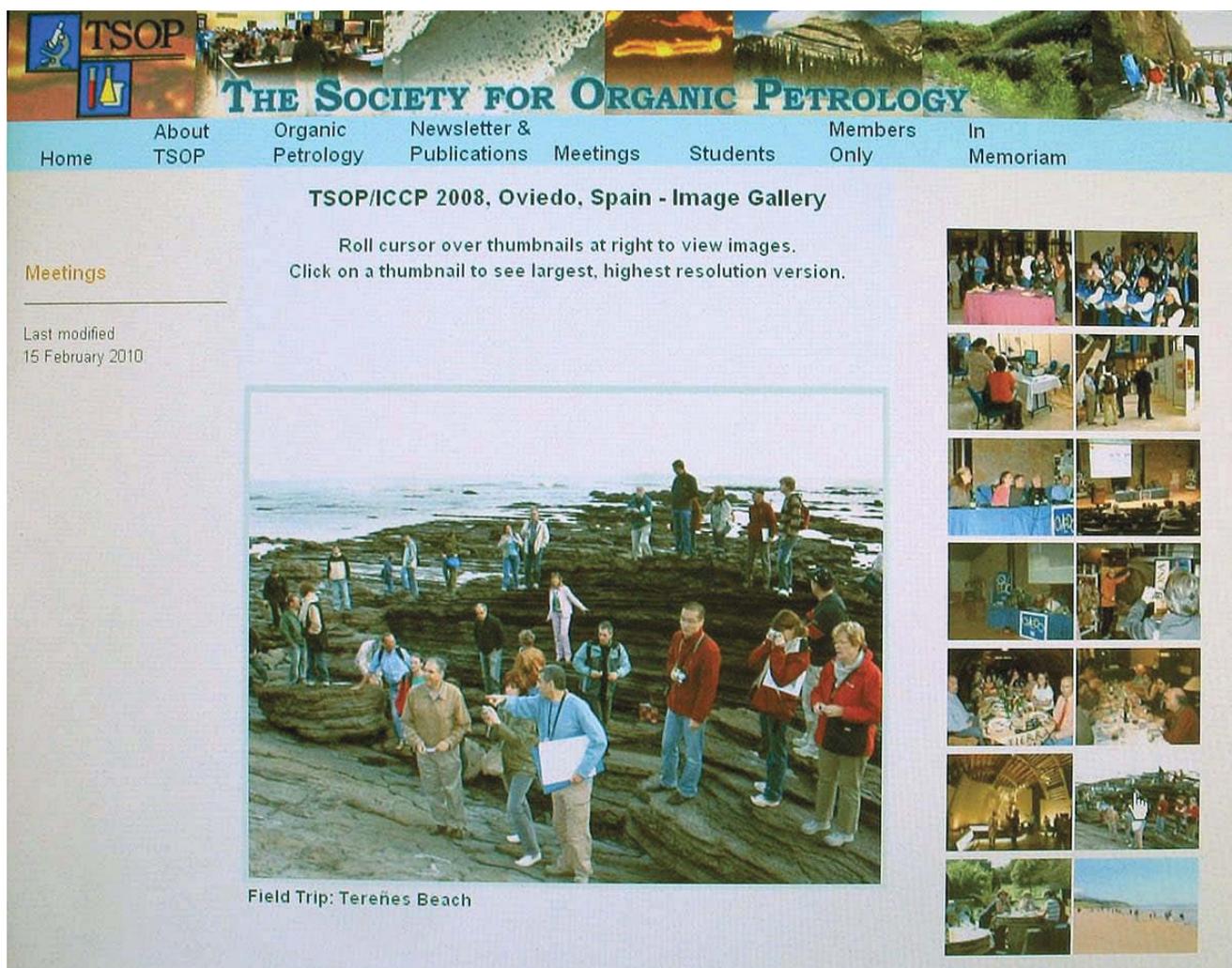
Lopo Vasconcelos at [lopovasconcelos@gmail.com](mailto:lopovasconcelos@gmail.com)

or

Nikki Wagner at [Nicola.Wagner@wits.ac.za](mailto:Nicola.Wagner@wits.ac.za)



## New Webpage Design Screenshot



An example image gallery on the new site