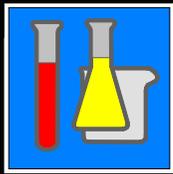




**THE SOCIETY FOR ORGANIC PETROLOGY**



# NEWSLETTER

Vol. 28, No. 3

September, 2011

ISSN 0743-3816

**29<sup>th</sup> TSOP ANNUAL MEETING  
& 64<sup>th</sup> ICCP Meeting  
September 15 – 24, 2012  
Beijing, China**

**Start Planning Now!**



State Key Laboratory of Coal Resources & Safe Mining, Beijing. Photo from meeting website:  
[www.iccp-tsop2012.org](http://www.iccp-tsop2012.org)

**Call for Papers - Abstracts due July 15, 2012**

**TSOP 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting  
& 64<sup>th</sup> ICCP Meeting**  
September 15-24, 2012  
Beijing, China

[www.iccp-tsop2012.org](http://www.iccp-tsop2012.org)

**Call for papers: Abstracts due July 15, 2012**

Abstract should be submitted by July 15, 2012 via email at [tsopiccp2012@gmail.com](mailto:tsopiccp2012@gmail.com) or [daishifeng@gmail.com](mailto:daishifeng@gmail.com)

If submitting by post, please enclose a copy of your abstract on a CD at the following address:

Prof. Shifeng Dai  
State Key Laboratory of Coal Resources & Safe Mining  
China University of Mining and Technology (Beijing)  
D-11, Xueyuan Road, Haidian District  
Beijing 100083  
P.R. CHINA

**Organizing Committee:**

**Chairs:** Profs. Jianyong Qiao & Suping Peng

**Executive Chairs:** Profs. Shifeng Dai & Kuili Jin

**Co-Chairs:** Yaodong Jiang, Yucheng Chai,  
Jinxing Dai, Tiegung Wang,  
Zhijun Jin, Yupeng Yao,  
Yu Liu, Yuzhuang Sun,  
Mingquan Zhang, Dahua Li,  
Yuegang Tang, Hongmei Wang,  
Daiyong Cao, Jian Li.

**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 and field trips; sponsors research projects; provides funding for graduate students; and publishes a web site, a quarterly Newsletter, 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. Members are eligible for discounted subscriptions to the Elsevier journals *International Journal of Coal Geology* and *Review of Palaeobotany and Palynology*. Subscribe by checking the box on your dues form, or using the form at [www.tsop.org](http://www.tsop.org). 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

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### 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. Photos, graphs and other illustrations are welcomed. Low-resolution images are discouraged, as they cannot be reproduced well in print. Articles are preferred in Microsoft Word, RTF or plain text formats.

### Contact the Editor:

Rachel Walker  
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### 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/)

The TSOP Newsletter 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:

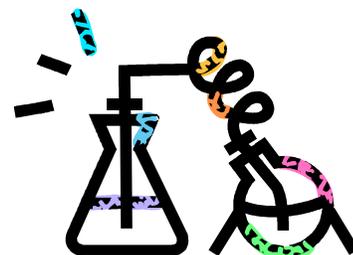
[www.tsop.org](http://www.tsop.org)

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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### Newsletter Submission Deadlines

December Issue: December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011  
March Issue: March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012  
June Issue: June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012  
September Issue: September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012

## President's Letter



Dear TSOP Member,

In my first letter as TSOP President for the 2011-2013 period and on behalf of the Society, I would like to thank Hamed Sanei and Paul Hackley for their outstanding contributions as President and Secretary respectively over the past years, as well as Agnieszka Drobnik who completed a valuable two-year term as Councilor. Moreover, I have to thank Leslie Ruppert for her work as Chair of the Nominating Committee. I would also like to welcome **Judith Potter** and **Jackie Holt** as **Vice-President** and **Secretary** respectively, and **Mike Trippi** as **Councilor** of this new Council. In the same way it is fair to acknowledge the work carried out by the chairs of the various TSOP committees. I hope that the new group that makes up the TSOP Council and Committees can be as effective in promoting the Society as the previous group.

This year late July-early August we had our 28<sup>th</sup> annual meeting in Halifax, Canada. I am pleased to report the great success of that meeting due, firstly, to the significant dedication and effort of Prasanta "Muki" Mukhopadhyay and Mike Avery as well as the other members of the organizing committee. Therefore, from this page I would like to thank them. In addition, the success of the Halifax meeting was also due to the excellence of the

technical sessions, the high quality of the presentations and keynote addresses, the short course on Shale Gas Resource Evaluation and the very interesting and well conducted field trip to visit the coal and organic deposits of the Joggins Cliffs World Heritage Site, and the Moncton Subbasin in Southeast New Brunswick. I believe that all the attendants really enjoyed this meeting.

During the Business Lunch at the meeting, we were glad to offer TSOP's highest award, the **Castaño Award**, to Prasanta "Muki" Mukhopadhyay for his life-time scientific achievements. Moreover, Mike Avery, the TSOP's Treasurer was the recipient of TSOP's 2011 **Distinguished Service Award**. I offer my sincerest congratulations for them on behalf of the Society. I would also like to congratulate the recipients of this year's Ralph Gray and Dal Swaine Awards for Best Published Papers; the Spackman Awards for best thesis; and finally the Best Student Paper awards. We wish great success in your career and we are honored to have you in our society.

With respect to the relationship between TSOP and ICCP, closer operations are anticipated for the next two years as the TSOP Annual Meetings will be held as joint meetings with the ICCP. These joint meetings will be held in **China (2012)** and in **Poland (2013)**, respectively. During the 2011 ICCP Meeting in Portugal this September, the final details of the Dispersed Organic Matter Atlas (**DOM Atlas**), which has been developed under the umbrella of the two organizations, will be discussed in order to have this ready as soon as possible. There is no doubt that close cooperation between TSOP and ICCP will be always a benefit both for both organizations and our memberships.

Just a few days after the TSOP Halifax Meeting, our new secretary Jackie Holt has created a **Facebook** page for TSOP. This is a new initiative for the benefit of the Society and all of you are invited to participate in this page.

Just log into your Facebook account and search for TSOP.

Finally, I want to convey that I am honored to be working for you and the Society and that all of you are invited to contact me with questions, suggestions or advice. You will always be welcomed.

Best regards.  
Isabel Suárez-Ruiz  
TSOP President.  
(Oviedo, Spain. September 2011)



## Credit Card Payments

By Mike Avery

Confusion around this topic was brought to my attention recently when I recently received a TSOP memo that stated that we could no longer accept credit card payments. Despite several articles in which the high cost of our bank based credit card processing was discussed, there was never an intention to drop credit card processing entirely. The proposal discussed and agreed upon with the TSOP Council is that we discontinue our merchant services with our bank, Wells Fargo, who was charging more 14% in fees per card transaction. **Credit card processing will now be delivered via PayPal at less than 4% per transaction.**

Using PayPal, TSOP saves at least 10% in fees for each payment and it is much more secure than having members send in their card information by various insecure methods including fax or emails. Furthermore, the Treasurer no longer has to deal with locked file cabinets and other methods to store members' card information. Now members can enter their card information directly into a secure site. PayPal is the largest online payment provider

and it stakes its reputation on proving a safe, secure and hassle free means of paying online. *There is NO need to have or create a PayPal account; payments can be sent without requiring one.*

The majority of registrations for this year's Annual Meeting were processed via PayPal without a major hitch, with TSOP paying less than 3% in fees per transaction.



## Dues are due in advance

To be a full member for 2012 you must pay your dues before January 1, 2012. The September newsletter is generally used to remind members to pay their dues sometime in the fall for the coming year. Many members are now choosing to pay their dues online at [www.tsop.org/dues](http://www.tsop.org/dues). The form is easy to follow and works for all payment methods including checks (mostly for US members), money orders, wire transfer and credit, debit and bank cards.

TSOP funding is dependent upon members' dues, so **please check to ensure you are up to date**. If you are not sure what your dues status is, please check online at [www.tsop.org/mbrsonly](http://www.tsop.org/mbrsonly) or contact the Treasurer at [mavery@nrcan.gc.ca](mailto:mavery@nrcan.gc.ca). Don't forget, you can escape the hassle of yearly dues payments and save money and time by taking advantage of our popular **5 years for the price of 4** discounts.



## Internet Committee Progress

by David Glick

Productive discussions took place at the Halifax meeting, and I thank everyone who participated or volunteered. The website's "Ask a Petrologist" feature will continue, now operated by Secretary Jackie Holt. We plan to post some of the past questions and answers from former Secretary Paul Hackley on the site. Jackie has also set up a **Facebook** page for TSOP; see the link on the TSOP home page, or search for "The Society for Organic Petrology (TSOP)" and participate on Facebook! Judith Potter plans to work on the In Memoriam section. The References section has been updated recently and we plan to provide those updates in EndNote format as well.

Photographers were active at the Halifax meeting and we'll soon have some new photo galleries on the web site. Contributions of individual photos or sets (up to 14 photos), relating to some TSOP topic or activity, would be welcomed. Please remember to include captions and the name of the photographer. Send photos to [webmaster@tsop.org](mailto:webmaster@tsop.org).

The Internet Committee would welcome your help in expanding other features and content of the site. With the proper assistance, we might undertake: a discussion forum (outside the web site, such as Yahoo! Groups, or within the site); a searchable index; a site map; and investigation of software such as Zotero for an actual database to organize the literature references. Please contact me at [webmaster@tsop.org](mailto:webmaster@tsop.org), let me know what your particular skills are and we will find a place to use your help with an existing feature of the web site or a new one.



## 2011 Outgoing Council Annual Meeting Short Minutes

### Paul Hackley – Outgoing TSOP Secretary

The Society for Organic Petrology 2011 Outgoing Council met July 30, 2011, in Prince George Hotel Boardroom 217 prior to the TSOP Annual Meeting in Halifax. Attending were Hamed Sanei (Outgoing President), Isabel Suarez-Ruiz (Vice President and Incoming President), Mike Avery (Treasurer and 2011 Meeting Co-Chair), Agnieszka Drobnik (Outgoing Councilor), Paul Hackley (Outgoing Secretary and Membership Committee Chair), Shifeng Dai (Councilor and 2012 Meeting Co-Chair), Yuegang Tang (2012 Meeting Co-Chair), Sharon Swanson (Incorporation Liaison), Jingle Ruppert (Nominating Committee Chair), David Glick (Archivist and Internet Committee Chair), P.K. Mukhopadhyay (2011 Meeting Co-Chair), Colin Ward (Research Committee Chair), Mike Trippi (Incoming Councilor and Publications Committee Chair), and Jesse Carrie (Past Student Affairs Committee Chair). This article presents an excerpt of society business discussed at the Outgoing Council Meeting.

President Hamed Sanei called the meeting to order at 5:07PM Halifax time following introductions. Editor Rachel Walker was not able to attend and her regrets were presented by Hamed. The meeting agenda and minutes of the 2011 Mid-Year Council Meeting were approved.

Vice President Isabel Suarez-Ruiz announced that the recipient of the 2011 Castaño Award would be Halifax Meeting Co-Chair Dr. Muki. Hamed expressed his appreciation for the work of Isabel and the Castaño Award Committee and noted that the business lunch during the Halifax meeting would be a great time for the presentation of the Award.

Treasurer Mike Avery reviewed the current status of TSOP funds, noting an overall

increase of approximately 1180 US dollars in the 10 months since the last annual meeting. A decline in dues payments may be related to the number of members who have paid five years in advance. Core Laboratories contributed 3000 US dollars to support the 2011 meeting. Hamed noted that it is easier to find corporate donations for the annual meetings than to find donors who will contribute to TSOP in general, and suggested that networking personally for donations is a good avenue to promote TSOP.

Outgoing Secretary Paul Hackley reviewed the secretarial tasks completed since the 2011 Mid-Year Meeting including an email discussion with Elsevier regarding their initiative to discontinue the guarantee of the TSOP meeting proceedings in a stand-alone volume of the International Journal of Coal Geology.

On behalf of Editor Rachel Walker, Hamed requested that pictures from the 2011 Halifax meeting be sent to the Editor for inclusion in the Newsletter. Some discussion was made of going to all e-delivery for the Newsletter; no action was taken.

Outgoing President Hamed reported that he had enjoyed working with Council and the Committee Chairs during the past years and made acknowledgment of the individual contributions of Councilors and Committee Chairs to the Society.

On behalf of 2010 meeting chair Mark Pawlewicz, Paul Hackley noted that the number of contributions to the Conference Proceedings volume for the International Journal of Coal Geology was very slim, with only six papers received. Abstracts from the 2010 meeting are now available on AAPG Datapages.

Dr. Muki and Mike Avery described the upcoming 2011 Meeting program including the shale gas-focused technical sessions, the shale gas short course to be delivered by Dan

Jarvie and others, and the field trip to the Joggins Fossil Cliffs World Heritage Site and a prospective lacustrine Mississippian shale gas play in New Brunswick.

2012 Beijing Meeting Organizing Chair Shifeng Dai presented plans for the 2012 meeting, including the location at Xijiao Hotel (same venue as the 2006 TSOP Meeting), sponsors, and the field trip to Yunnan Province. The meeting will be held jointly with the ICCP with the Yunnan field trip separating the two meetings. Registration costs will be kept separate for each meeting, which can be paid in cash or by bank transfer. A portion of the cost of the Yunnan field trip will be borne by the meeting sponsors and the field trip flight arrangements will be booked through the meeting organizers.

The 2013 TSOP Meeting will be held in Sosnowiec, Poland, and chaired by Magdalena Misz-Kennan.

In 2014, the TSOP Meeting will be held in Sydney, Australia, chaired by Kaydy Pinetown, Colin Ward, and others. The organizing committee is planning the meeting for a yet to-be-determined venue in Darling Harbour.

The 2015 Meeting will be held in Balikpapan, Kalimantan Timur, Indonesia, chaired by Tim Moore with a focus on coal and a tentative theme is titled "Terrestrial Hydrocarbons in Tropical Climes".

Archivist Dave Glick is planning to retrieve archival TSOP hardcopy records from Ken Kuehn sometime this Fall. Mike Avery expressed interest in production of a catalogue of materials contained in the archive, particularly with respect to membership applications from early TSOP members.

Incorporation Liaison Sharon Swanson noted that progress is being made toward filing the Annual Report for Corporations in the State of Virginia in August. The State wants TSOP

financial balance sheets for 2009-2010 in order to review the requested exemption from Virginia rules, which prohibit solicitation of funds. The exemption would allow TSOP to solicit funds from members on "membership renewal" forms. The financial information will be compiled and submitted to Redmon, Peyton, and Braswell LLP.

Internet Committee Chair David Glick presented several ideas related to development of the web site and requested that those who can help out with the various tasks contact him to start work. A Facebook page for TSOP and an Ask-a-Petrologist archive with answers were some of the additional ideas considered.

Membership Committee Chair Paul Hackley noted that receipts for mailings related to membership matters will be kept separately from Newsletter or publications costs for more accurate future accounting.

Nominating Committee Chair Jingle Ruppert described the results of the ballot sent out by TSOP Ballot Chair Bill Huggett in May, 2011. When voting closed on July 15, 2011, results indicated that Judith Potter was the new Vice President; Mike Trippi the new Councilor, Jackie Holt the new Secretary, and Mike Avery and Rachel Walker were re-elected as TSOP Treasurer and Editor, respectively. Seventy-nine members returned ballots. Hamed acknowledged those who volunteered to stand for election but did not win for their willingness to serve. As immediate Past-President, Hamed becomes the new Nominating Committee Chair and the idea to send out several reminder emails to generate more voters in the membership was discussed.

Publications Committee Chair Mike Trippi noted that he had received only one request from a new TSOP member for a gift publication, even though seven new members were contacted over the past year.

Outgoing President Sanei indicated that the Dal Swaine Award Committee would be chaired by Joe Curiale and the Ralph Gray Award Committee would continue to be chaired by Jim Hower. Background information about Dal Swaine and the Dal Swaine Award needs to be uploaded to the TSOP website. Clear procedural guidelines for selection of both award recipients needs to be established through communication between Council and the Committee Chairs and also posted on the TSOP website.

As past Student Affairs Committee Chair Jesse Carrie has received his PhD and is no longer a student, a new Chair is sought. Interested persons (or the mentors of persons who don't know they are interested yet) should contact Incoming President Isabel Suarez-Ruiz.

Research Committee Chair Colin Ward noted that a record eleven applications were received for the Spackman Award and two awards were granted. Alan Davis is stepping down as chair of the Spackman Committee and Jesse Carrie offered to serve on the committee. Technical issues related to the DOM Atlas were addressed by Mike Avery and corrected CDs have been sent to ICCP President Petra David for distribution to scientific reviewers for comments on Atlas content. Hamed acknowledged Carolyn Thompson-Rizer's contributions to development of the Atlas.

Abandonment of the Promotion of TSOP & Coal Science/Outreach Committee was discussed because it has been extraordinarily difficult to fill this Chair. Most persons are prohibited from soliciting donations to TSOP by conflict of interest rules. It probably is better to promote TSOP through personal networking and solicitation. The decision to keep or abandon this Committee was left for the Incoming Council.

The 2011 Outgoing TSOP Council Meeting was adjourned at 7:48 Halifax Time.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Ohio Valley Organic Petrography Meeting**

March, 2011  
Indiana Geological Survey,  
Bloomington, Indiana

John Steinmetz, director of the Indiana Geological Survey, gave the opening remarks. Maria Mastalerz introduced the technical session, emphasizing the informal nature of the proceedings. The presentations range from summaries of work already or nearly completed to updates of ongoing work, with some of the results having been obtained the previous day. No abstracts are prepared and there is no organized collection of papers resulting from the meeting. Some of the older participants noted the similarity of the Ohio Valley meeting to the informality of the early years of the North American Coal Petrographers, the predecessor organization to The Society for Organic Petrology.

Jim Hower opened the talks with a discussion of electron microscope studies of metal-bearing fullerenes in the stoker ash from a Kentucky university power plant. Agneizska Furmann, an Indiana University MS student, discussed her laboratory studies of the activity of methanogenetic bacteria. Ling Guo, an Indiana University PhD student, presented results of her studies of H stable isotopes and the formation of hydrocarbons from coal; for example, tracing the contribution of water to the hydrocarbons.

Cortland Eble showed the results of his studies of the methane content of coals and roof shales in western Kentucky. In general, coals have about 2.5- 3 times the gas content of the associated organic-rich roof shale. Coals and shales proximal to active mining have less gas

than coals and shales from deeper, undisturbed sections.

Jen O'Keefe, substituting for her student, Adam Layne, presented the results to date of the study of the conversion of the ash collection system at the Morehead State University steam plant. The baghouse collection system retains a very fine sooty carbon.

Maria Mastalerz discussed pre-pilot-scale underground coal gasification projects in Indiana with particular attention to the thickness and depth of coals most attractive for development.

Jen O'Keefe presented preliminary results from petrographic and mycological studies of the Miocene Eel River coals in California. In a related investigation, Jim Hower closed the session with updates on the studies by Hower, O'Keefe, Eble, and many others on fungal, bacterial, and insect contributions to the degradation of wood and the formation of macerals.

Following lunch, the speakers and other attendees held an informal group discussion of the current research directions and the problems and prospects for organic petrographic studies.

Maria Mastalerz and her students, Furmann and Guo, led a tour of the IGS petrology lab and the isotope and other laboratories in an adjacent building.

Participants hope to meet again in March 2012, possibly in Lexington, KY.



Maria Mastalerz conducts a tour of the IGS petrology lab



Peter Sauer (Indiana Geology), Agneizska Drobnik (IGS), Cortland Eble (KGS), Jen O'Keefe (MSU), Jim Hower (CAER), Weifeng Xue (China University of Mining & Technology – Beijing; visiting at CAER), Jack Crelling (SIU), Rachel Walker (Country Mark); Arndt Schimmelmann (Indiana Geology), Nelson Shaffer (IGS), Sharon Swanson (USGS), Ling Guo (IU PhD student), Maria Mastalerz (IGS)

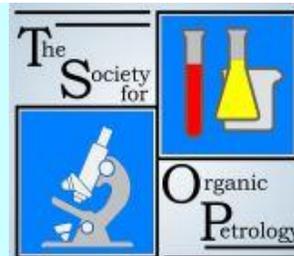


# TSOP Halifax 2011

## 28<sup>th</sup> Annual TSOP Meeting July 31-Aug 4, 2011

Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

The Society for Organic Petrology (TSOP) in partnership with  
Canadian Society for Coal Science and Organic Petrology (CSCOP)



### Thank You!

First of all, we extend a sincere thanks to all who registered and participated in TSOP Halifax 2011 and for making it a very successful conference. Special thanks to all the oral and poster presenters who provided the content for the incredible technical sessions. Our meeting started with the very informative Shale Gas short course. Thanks to the registrants and spectacular presenters: Dan Jarvie, Bjorn Wygrala and Thomas Hanschel. The short course notes will be a treasured resource for those who attended. Thanks to Nelly Koziel for leading the registration task and making it look easy. Thanks also to registration helpers: Cathy and Michelle Avery.

Next, thanks to all of you who joined us for the relaxing, entertaining time at our Icebreaker. Special thanks to the intriguing Highland dancers for their demonstration of this unique part of our Nova Scotia heritage. Thanks to Jillian MacLeod, Elizabeth MacKay and Katie MacDonald for all their work and effort, and to narrator Leanne MacLeod and logistics supporter Dawn MacDonald. On Tuesday evening we capped off the very successful technical sessions with the lobster banquet. The mood was set by the captivating piano of Brian Cardott who composed most of the selections for his family. Next the spectacular musical talents of Michael Kruge entertaining with jazz/blues pieces on his electric mandolin brought us right up to serving time. After a fabulous feast we were treated to banquet speaker Richard Hoover of NASA who carried us off in contemplation of 'Life in the Cosmos'.

We wish everyone could have joined us for the field trip because it was a very satisfying wrap-up to the 'Shale Gas' theme of the technical sessions. Along with the many shale gas/oil stops we also spent some special time absorbed in the World Heritage Joggins Fossil Cliffs. We extend our gratitude to all the field trip participants who enthusiastically followed us around for two days through two provinces and contributed so much of their insight at many outcrops. In particular, we are most appreciative of John Calder, Steve Hinds, Dave Keighley and Matt Stimson's outstanding leadership for the various stops and special visits. Corridor Resources are thanked for their fascinating tour of their McCully gas production facility in Sussex, NB and Contact Exploration for their access to the Stoney Creek oilfield.

Thanks to the spouses, partners, and guests who trusted us enough to venture on a day tour to Peggy's Cove, Mahone Bay and Lunenburg. Reviews of the trip were very positive.

Many of the amenities that we enjoyed at the meeting were made possible by the sponsors who lent their financial and in kind support for the TSOP Halifax 2011 meeting. These organizations were the backbone of what we could offer our registrants to make their time with us enjoyable and a great learning experience. We extend our sincere thanks to our gold sponsors, Core Lab, Sproule, Southwestern Energy and Schlumberger who led the sponsorships, with significant contributions from CCS Nova Scotia, St. Brendon's Exploration, Canadian Society for Coal Science and Organic Petrology, Eastrock Resources, Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, Corridor Resources and Pearson Coal Petrography. In kind support was provided by Global Geoenergy Research Ltd, Geological Survey of Canada, Nova Scotia Department of Energy, US Geological Survey and the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board. We make special mention here of the efforts by planning committee member Paul Harvey for his remarkable success in the sponsorship campaign.

Please accept these few words from the planning committee members as an indication of our appreciation of your participation and support of the success of TSOP Halifax 2011.

Sincerely,

Chair: P. K. Prasanta Mukhopadhyay (Muki); Co-chairs: Mike Avery, Dave Brown, John Calder, Paul Harvey and Hamed Sanei.

**Chair** P. K. Mukhopadhyay (Muki)  
[muki@global-geoenergy.com](mailto:muki@global-geoenergy.com)

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Hamed Sanei: [hsanei@nrcan.gc.ca](mailto:hsanei@nrcan.gc.ca)



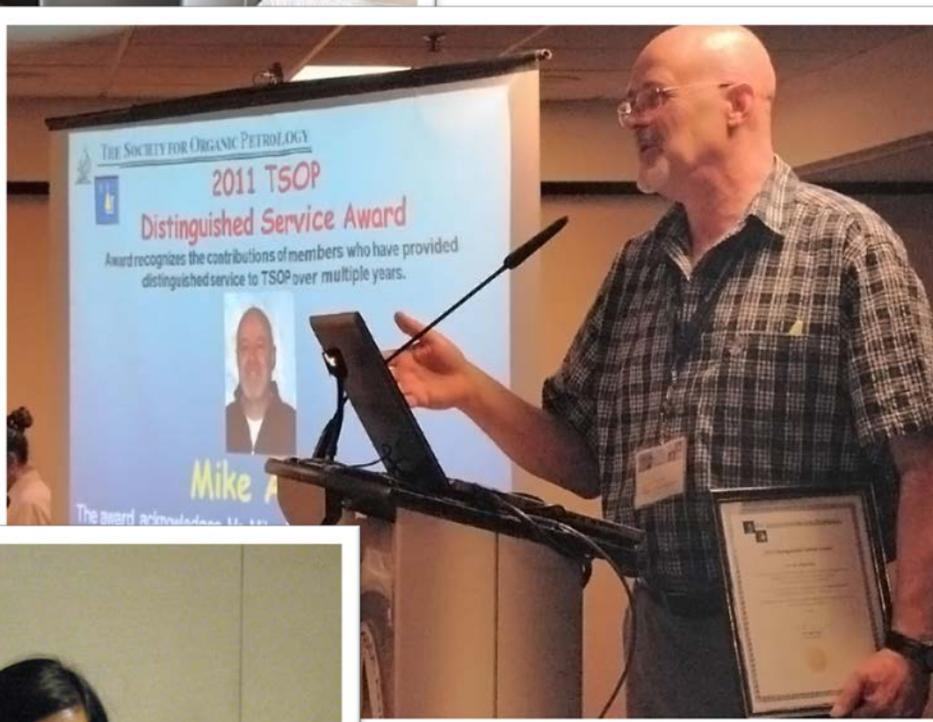
## Halifax Meeting Photos

Prasanta "Muki" Mukhopadhyay receives the **Castaño Award!**

(photo by Shifeng Dai)

Mike Avery, TSOP Treasurer, receives the **Distinguished Service Award!**

(photo by Dave Glick)



Isabel Suarez-Ruiz presented the **Best Student Paper** award to Deepa Agnihotri for her presentation entitled *'Coal seam correlation of Indian Gondwana coalfield: a palaeobotanical perspective.'*

(Photo by Dave Glick)





Lila Gurba (left) and Colin Ward (right) of Australia both received **Farthest Traveled Awards** from incoming TSOP President Isabel Suarez-Ruiz.

(Photo by Dave Glick)

TSOP Council at the Business Luncheon, Monday August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011.

(Photo by Hamed Sanei)



Technical Sessions were a great success at the meeting.

(Photo by Shifeng Dai)



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Check [www.tsop.org/cal.htm](http://www.tsop.org/cal.htm) for more info!

### 2011

#### October:

**9-12<sup>th</sup>, 2011:** Geological Society of America Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA: Archean to Anthropocene – the past is the key to the future!

[www.geosociety.org/meetings/2011/index.htm](http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/2011/index.htm)



### 2012

#### April:

**22-25<sup>th</sup>, 2012:** AAPG 2012 Annual Convention & Exhibition, Long Beach, California, USA.

[www.aapg.org/longbeach2012/](http://www.aapg.org/longbeach2012/)

#### June:

**17-22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012:** Carbon 2012, The Annual World Conference on Carbon, Krakow, Poland.

[www.carbon2012.pl/](http://www.carbon2012.pl/)

Abstract deadline: December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011.

#### July:

**15-22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012:** 9<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Environmental Geochemistry, Aveiro, Portugal.

<http://9iseg.web.ua.pt/>

**21-25<sup>th</sup>, 2012:** 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of The Palynological Society, AASP. University of Lexington, Lexington, Kentucky. See flyer page 15.

[www.palynology.org](http://www.palynology.org)

#### September:

**15-24<sup>th</sup>, 2012:** ICCP and TSOP meetings, Beijing, China. [www.iccp-tsop2012.org/](http://www.iccp-tsop2012.org/) ICCP meeting 15-19<sup>th</sup> Sept. (registration starts 14<sup>th</sup> Sept); Yunnan field trip 20-22<sup>nd</sup> Sept; TSOP meeting 23-24<sup>th</sup> Sept. These three segments have separate registration fees so that participants may choose to go to one or both meetings and the field trip to suit their own professional and scientific requirements. TSOP registration fees are discounted before 15 July, 2012. Abstract deadline: 15 July 2012.

#### October:

**15-18<sup>th</sup>, 2012:** International Pittsburgh Coal Conference, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA.

[www.engineering.pitt.edu/pcc/](http://www.engineering.pitt.edu/pcc/)

Focus on environmental emissions issues and technologies surrounding the continued use of coal.

#### November:

**4-7<sup>th</sup>, 2012:** Geological Society of America Annual Meeting, Charlotte, North Carolina, USA: Geosciences: Investing in the Future.

[www.geosociety.org/meetings/2012/](http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/2012/)





**45<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of AASP – The Palynological Society  
University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY  
July 21 – 25, 2012**

**Conference Co-Hosts**

**Cortland F. Eble, *Kentucky Geological Survey*  
Jennifer M.K. O’Keefe, *Morehead State University***

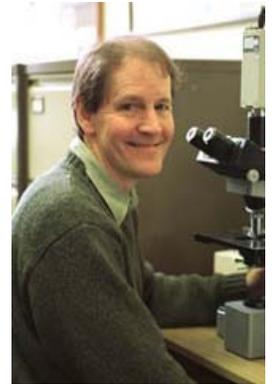
**Devonian – Carboniferous Symposium in Honor of Geoff Clayton and Ken Higgs**  
Co-chaired by Zélia Pereira and Reed Wicander



A CIMP-sponsored symposium will be convened at the Lexington meeting in honor of Dr. Geoffrey Clayton and Dr. Kenneth Higgs. For more than three decades, Geoff and Ken have made tremendous contributions to our understanding of Late Paleozoic palynology. Lexington, surrounded by Late Paleozoic age strata, is a perfect venue to celebrate their contributions to late Paleozoic palynology!



Geoff



Ken

**Pre-Meeting Field Trip, July 21, 2012**

A pre-meeting trip to Natural Bridge State Resort Park ([www.parks.ky.gov/findparks/resortparks/nb](http://www.parks.ky.gov/findparks/resortparks/nb)), located approximately 80 miles SE of Lexington is planned. This will provide attendees a chance to enjoy one of Kentucky’s most scenic areas. The centerpiece of the park is a “natural arch” of Early Pennsylvanian sandstone that has been undercut by erosion. The park is transected by several well-maintained walking trails that afford easy access to this beautiful area. The park also has a very comfortable lodge and restaurant.



View from the natural bridge in early fall

**Post-Meeting Trip, July 25, 2012**

The post-meeting trip will explore several world-class outcrops that expose Devonian and Carboniferous strata, focusing primarily on the Devonian “black shales.” These shales are the principle source of natural gas production in Kentucky, and are being studied for their potential as a reservoir for CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration and enhanced gas production. The shales were deposited during a time of explosive land plant expansion and diversification. From the Middle to Late Devonian, we see the emergence of all the major plant groups that would later contribute to the vast coal accumulations deposited during the Pennsylvanian. Both macro- and micro- fossils are common and collecting is encouraged.

Devonian Shale Outcrop at Vanceburg, KY





Field Trip to the  
World Heritage Joggins Cliffs,  
Bay of Fundy, Joggins,  
Nova Scotia

Natural Oil Seeps



New Brunswick area outcrops  
(All three photos by Paul Hackley)