

BIO-OCEANS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Issue 27, July 2005

On the web at: <http://www.bedfordbasin.ca>

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SHORT TAKES

Memo to our past Treasurer, Ms. Betty Anderson, from all of us:

We have found two people to replace you (partly) on finances and membership, but it will be a while or longer before we match your quality and quantity. Many thanks for your valued contributions.

Included in this 27th issue is our very first **READER SURVEY**. It is a short survey that will take only a few minutes of your time. Please complete and return it in the stamped, self-addressed envelope provided. It is very important for you to let us know your views. We will report on the results of the survey in a future issue.

Members may want to look at the beautiful nature photographs by our own **Roger Belanger** that can be viewed at www.chezzetcookimages.ca. These photos capture the evanescent beauty of the Chezzetcook area and the changes it has undergone seasonally and over the past 25 years. Some of these photos are being offered for sale on the web site.

The latest issue of the **BEDFORD INSTITUTE NEWS** is a good read that lives up to its billing as a newsletter about life inside BIO. You can find it at <http://hypatia.bio.ns.ca/>. A few of the interesting items in the volume 2, number 1, issue are the following:

○ The issue is dedicated to **Vivien Srivastava** who passed away on November 8, 2004. The introductory page gives a brief description of her life and career including a mention of the honorary doctoral degree that was posthumously awarded to Vivien by Mount Saint Vincent University in May.

○ A large **new laboratory building** has been under construction at BIO since last December with occupation expected in September 2006. In a well illustrated feature article, BIO News Editor Claudia Currie goes behind the scenes to explain how this project came to be, who is guiding it, and how it will be used.

○ “Pool Buoys” is a photographic **exposé** of some of the BIO staff who swim lanes at various local pools during their lunch periods.

○ Another interesting article follows up BIO's involvement in the international effort to document the scientific impacts of the 2004 Boxing Day earthquake and resultant **tsunami** in the Indian Ocean.

Happy reading and have a good summer.



WHAT'S GOING ON: 1 JULY - 30 SEPTEMBER 2005

Here are some current and upcoming events in the Halifax Regional Municipality and adjacent regions that may interest members. Send in event listings to David Nettleship, for inclusion in future issues of the newsletter (voice: 826-2360; internet: dnnlundy@navnet.net).

1 Jul. to 30 Oct.: Art Gallery of Nova Scotia – **“Clay Glaze Fire: 4000 Years of Ceramics of Asia”** (Exhibition from the collections of the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria. For additional information: 424-7542.)

1 Jul. to 30 Oct.: Museum of Natural History – **“Sable Island”** (An exhibit of the history of Sable Island and its recent use by humankind over several centuries.)

1 Jul. to 8 Oct.: Dartmouth Heritage Museum – **“Spanning the Harbour”** (Exhibit of the 50th Anniversary of the Macdonald Bridge. For additional information, call 464-2300.)

1 Jul. to 23 Oct.: Grafton Street Dinner Theatre, Halifax – **“Comin’ Home” and “Goin’ to the Chapel”** (Stage productions of the sailors home coming from the 1940s musical comedy and the original Cape Breton wedding set in 1969, respectively; plays alternate weekly at 6:45 pm with reservations from Amy at 425-1961.)

1 Jul. to 30 September: Pier 21 National Historic Site – **“Cunard on Canvas: The Langley Collection”** (An exhibit of paintings of ships from the outstanding collection of John Langley, President of the Cunard Steamship Society.)

1 Jul. to 2 Sep.: LaHave Islands Marine Museum – **“Welcome Home: Hooked Memories of Bell’s Island”** (Presentation by Nina Seaman. For information, call 902-688-2973.)

1 Jul. to 5 Sep.: Old Red Schoolhouse, Peggy’s Cove – **“Peggy! The Unauthorized Autobiography of Peggy of the Cove”** (Multi-media history presentation by John Beale, long-time resident of Peggy’s Cove, about Peggy’s origins and life in the village, set on location in a beautiful one-room schoolhouse built in 1834. Performances 2:00 and 4:00 pm daily Thursday through Sunday. Call 823-2099 for reservations; seating is limited.)

1 Jul. to 15 Sep.: Museum of Natural History – **“The**

Butterfly Pavilion” (An exhibit of live tropical butterflies in all their dazzling colours, shapes and patterns – new residents arrive bi-weekly.)

1 Jul. to 7 Aug.: Art Gallery of Nova Scotia – **“April Gornik: Paintings and Drawings”** (Exhibition of one of the United States’ most acclaimed landscape painters organized by the Neuberger Art Museum in Purchase, New York. Gornik graduated from Halifax’s Nova Scotia College of Art and Design in 1976. For additional information: 424-7542.)

1 Jul. to 28 Aug.: Shakespeare by the Sea 2005 – **“Twelfth Night”** [1 Jul.], **The Merchant of Venice** [3, 8-10, 12, 14, 16, 22, 24, 26 Jul.; 6, 16, 25, 27 Aug.], **“The Adventures of Robin Hood”** [15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 28, 30 Jul.; 2, 4, 6, 7, 12, 13, 20, 23, 25, 27, 28 Aug.], **“Pericles: Prince of Tyre”** [29, 31 Jul.; 5, 7, 9, 11, 14, 18-21, 26, 28 Aug.]. (Live theatre at Halifax Casino on Tuesdays and Thursday through Sunday at Point Pleasant Park. For additional information and times, call 422-0295 or go online: www.shakespearebythesea.ca)

1 Jul. to 31 August: Maritime Museum of the Atlantic – **“Re-Birth of the Model of RMS *Franconia*”** (Largest model in the Museum’s collection is now restored and on display -- restoration of this 13’ model of RMS *Franconia* began in early 2004 with thousands of hours of work performed since then by volunteers of the Maritime Ship Model Guild. It was built in 1922 and once graced the shipping offices of Samuel Cunard & Co. For additional information: 424-7490.)

1 Jul. to 31 August: Maritime Museum of the Atlantic – **“Vikings! The Vinland Mystery”** (An exhibit that reveals Viking life showing what a typical settlement looked like in both North America and Europe, enhanced by artifacts from the historical site at L’Anse aux Meadows, Newfoundland. For details, phone 424-7490.)

1 Jul. to 31 August (Fridays, 4:00 pm): Maritime Museum of the Atlantic – **“Skills of the 19th-Century Sailor”** (A hands-on demonstration by heritage interpreter Derek Harrison showing the effort and skill required by early sailmakers, sailors who had to hand-stitch thousands of square feet of canvas and make repairs after a good blow!)

1 Jul. to 30 September: Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, Boat Shed on the museum’s wharf – **“Restoring a Stevens Class Sloop – A Demonstration”** (Watch as work proceeds on the restoration of the first commercially built boat by world renown Nova Scotia boat-

builder David Stevens, a 29-foot Bermudan-rigged wooden vessel originally built in 1946 and named Val-kyrie. Call 424-7490 for specific times.)

5-10 Jul. and 2-6 Aug.: Chester Playhouse – **“The Four-some”** (Norm Foster’s comedy about golf. For information, call toll-free 1-800-363-7529.)

10-15 Jul.: Maritime Museum of the Atlantic – **“Marblehead to Halifax Ocean Race 2005: July 10 – July”** (A special exhibit in celebration of this year’s Centennial Race – first held 10 August 1905 – and to track progress of the more than 100 yachts that will compete in America’s oldest ocean race.)

12 Jul.: Museum of Natural History – **“The Secrets of Alpine Plants: Saxifrages & Meconopsis”** (7:30 pm – An illustrated talk by Finn Haugli, director of the world’s most northerly botanic gardens in Troms, Norway, to reveal the survival strategies exhibited by alpine plants that thrive 1200 km north of the Arctic Circle.)

12 Jul.: Sackville Library, 636 Sackville Drive – **“Antique & Classic Cars”** (7:00 pm – Join members of the Halifax Antique Car Club in the library parking lot to tour and talk about their vintage cars and classic machines.)

12 Jul. to 16 Aug.: Maritime Museum of the Atlantic – **“Tales of Pirates & Privateers of the North Atlantic”** (A special program offered on alternate TUESDAYS at 7:00 pm [from 12 Jul. to 16 Aug.] to review the pirates and privateers – William Kidd to dread pirate Roberts – and their successes, failures, and place in the history of Canada’s shores. Call 424-7490 for a schedule.)

14 Jul.: Keshen Goodman Library, 330 Lacewood Drive – **“Maritime Folk Music”** (2:00 pm – Musicians Bill Shaw, Dave Chiasson and Alistair Macdonald will perform and discuss their favourite folk songs. For information, call 490-6410.)

14 Jul.: Spring Garden Road Library – **“Music for a Blue Train”** (7:00 pm – NFB Film Club bluesy documentary featuring an eclectic line-up of musicians who busk in Montreal’s metro, or subways – put some ‘Jazz’ in your step with host Bad News Brown, a charismatic harmonica player!)

17 Jul.: Fundy Geological Museum (FGM), Parrsboro – **“Wasson Bluff Special Place”** (A geological walk to view the Bluff’s Jurassic-age red beds, basalt lava flows, river channels and wind-blown sands – some of Canada’s oldest dinosaurs have been discovered in these tide-washed cliffs. Meet at FGM, depart on guided tour at 9:30 am for 15-min drive to Two Islands beach access. For ad-

ditional information, phone: 902-254-3814 or toll-free 1-866-856-3466.)

23 Jul.: Fisheries Museum of the Atlantic, Lunenburg (902-634-4794) – **“Tancook whaler Amos H. Stevens”** (Public program to participate in the christening and launch of the 37-foot Tancook whaler *Amos H. Stevens*, built in the museum’s boat shop, and to enjoy a Tancook Island exhibit and the South Shore Ship Madellers Guild display – free admission.)

25 Jul. to 3 Aug. & 17-18 Aug.: Maritime Museum of the Atlantic – **“Bluenose II”** (Nova Scotia’s sailing ambassador will be berthed adjacent to the Museum in late July and five days in August; schedule subject to change, call 424-7490 for updates.)

30 Jul.: Fundy Geological Museum (FGM), Parrsboro – **“Joggins Fossil Cliffs”** (A guided walk through Coal Age fossil forests and cliffs that house some of the world’s oldest reptile fossils. Depart FGM at 9:30 am for 45-min drive to Joggins. For additional information, phone: 902-254-3814 or toll-free 1-866-856-3466.)

4-7 Aug.: Maritime Museum of the Atlantic – **“Visiting Ship: Danemark I”** (Visit of fully-rigged, 243-foot Danish Navy vessel will be berthed at wharves adjacent to the Museum. Call 424-7490 to confirm timing of visit.)

6 Aug.: Museum of Natural History – **“In Search of the Wild Banana: Bogs & Barrens Hike”** (1:00 pm at parking lot entrance to Peggy’s Cove, Hwy. 333 – A guided walk by Museum botanists Frances Anderson Marion Monroe to see, smell, taste and explore the plants and lichens that occupy this inhospitable landscape; rain or shine, and dress accordingly.)

7 Aug.: Fisheries Museum of the Atlantic, Lunenburg (902-634-4794) – **“Nova Scotia Folk Art Festival”** (12:00 to 4:30 pm – Public annual festival showcases the best of Nova Scotia’s folk artists along with the museum’s fisherman-made folk art collection.)

9 Aug.: Museum of Natural History – **“Family Butterfly & Dragonfly Hike”** (10:00 am at parking lot beside Uni-ake Museum Estate Park, Mount Uniake – A 2-hour expedition, led by entomologist Derek Bridgehouse, in search of butterflies, moths and dragonflies; bring binoculars and notebook. Must register by 1 Aug., call: 424-3563.)

9 Aug.: Keshen Goodman Library, 330 Lacewood Drive – **“Sidewalk Astronomy”** (6:30 pm at – Take a peek at outer space via Halifax RASCal’s portable telescopes with

knowledgeable volunteers. For information, call 490-6410.)

10 Aug.: Museum of Natural History – “**Innovative Rhododendrons: The Barlup Breeding Program**” (7:30 pm – Join Jim Barlup, one of the most innovative rhododendron hybridizers in the United States, and learn about his techniques of injecting more hardiness into tender western hybrids.)

14 Aug.: Fundy Geological Museum (FGM), Parrsboro – “**The Rocks of West Bay – Ram’s Head**” (A guided walk to discover some of the most spectacular exposures of amphibian track ways in Atlantic Canada. Depart from Parrsboro Lion’s Arena at 10:00 am for 15-min drive to Partridge Island access. For additional information, phone: 902-254-3814 or toll-free 1-866-856-3466.)

20-21 Aug.: Fisheries Museum of the Atlantic, Lunenburg (902-634-4794) – “**Fishermen’s Picnic**” (Sat.: 10:00 am to 9:00 pm; Sun.: 10:00 am to 6:00 pm -- Public celebration of the seafaring heritage, including competitions of dory racing, scallop shucking, and lobster trap building. Fun for all.)

28 Aug.: Fundy Geological Museum (FGM), Parrsboro – “**Red Rocks – McGahey Brook, Cape Chignecto Provincial Park**” (A guided walk through the Cobequid-Chedabuctou fault zone, a region that marks the birth of the super continent Pangea 400 million years ago! Depart FGM at 9:30 am or join the group at park entrance at Red Rocks, West Advocate, at 10:30 am. For additional information, phone: 902-254-3814 or toll-free 1-866-856-3466.)

6, 13, 20, 27 Sep.: Mount Saint Vincent University – “**Focus on Women: Contemporary Issues**” (1:00 pm – Lunch-time series by Marian Pelletier that explores gender as it relates to socialization, the media, sports, violence and global issues – bring your lunch, no registration or fee. For general information, call the library at 490-6410.

A LITTLE SCIENCE HUMOUR

Old oceanographers never die, they just stop having a whale of a time.

Old oceanographers never die, their tides just go into permanent wane.

Old oceanographers never die - they just stop making waves.

From: Anne Spencer <pleezmail#NoSpam.yahoo.ca>

Metallurgist: A pseudo scientist, who uses undetermined suppositions, indefinite theories, and inexpressible hypotheses; which are based on unreliable information, uncertain quantities, and incomplete data; derived from non-reproducible experiments and incomplete investigations; using equipment and instruments of questionable accuracy, insufficient resolution, and inadequate sensitivity, to arrive at timid, tentative cloudy, abstruse, and non-committed conclusions prefaced by the phrase, "IT DEPENDS".

From: "Douglas J Robinson"
robinson#NoSpam.syspac.com

Hurricane Michelle and El Nino are having a drink in a bar. 'I'm so tough' boasts Michelle, 'I can devastate entire island economies and cause multimillion dollar damage to the eastern seaboard'. 'That's nada' dismisses El Nino. 'I can cause flooding in deserts, the desiccation of rainforests. Entire ecosystems thrive or die at my mere whim. The economies of nations are subject to my vacillations. Whereupon a small North Atlantic low pressure system enters the bar, precipitating meekly on the floor. Hurricane Michelle and El Nino dive for cover behind the bar, trembling. 'What's up with you?' jeers the barman, 'I thought you two were the toughest meteorological phenomena in town!'. 'We're tough' wails El Nino, piteously, 'but he's cyclonic!'

From: Josh Phillips <j.phillips#NoSpam.msim.org.uk>

My sister is marrying a Geologist, and jokes would be appreciated.

You should take her aside and warn her that geologists have their faults.

You could warn her that "the more you try to be gneiss, the more you get taken for granite"

Schist happens.

Tell her to have a gneiss day.

Whatever you do, don't take him for granite.

And, lastly, keep your apatite and may the quartz be with you!

From: Philip Clarke
<clar0318#NoSpam.flinders.edu.au>

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Mathematical Cow
(developer of
cow-culus)

BIO'S BRIAN PETRIE AWARDED TULLY MEDAL

By Ken Mann

Dr. Brian Petrie has been awarded the 2004 J. P. Tully Medal for his outstanding contributions to oceanography in Canada.*

Brian has been around BIO for 30 years. Born in Cape Breton and educated at St Francis Xavier and McGill, he worked for a year at the University of Waterloo towards a PhD in solid state physics before he heard the call of the sea. In the summer of 1970 he was interviewed by Gordon Riley and Pete Wangersky for entry into Dalhousie as a PhD student. He says they asked him if he was a fan of Jacques Cousteau, to which he replied Jacques who? Apparently that was the right answer, for in those days Dalhousie Oceanography had too many starry-eyed imitators of Jacques Cousteau who were looking for a glamorous life but not the hard slog of graduate school. On completion of his PhD, Brian held a fellowship at Woods Hole for a year before accepting a job in BIO with the Marine Ecology Laboratory. One of his first projects was with the team studying St George's Bay, so he was handy for quick trips back to his family in Cape Breton. His team mates included Dan Ware, Barry Hargrave, Gareth Harding and Ray Sheldon. Later, when he had moved to the Atlantic Oceanographic Laboratory, Brian had a project in the Strait of Belle Isle, at a time when Newfoundland was considering running a power cable across from Labrador.

Brian and his family lived in Colby Village until 1983, when they bought a house in the South End of Halifax that had belonged to the well-known writer Will Bird. Apparently Will used to read stories to the local children in his back garden,

and in later years those now grown up children often came knocking at the door asking for Mr Bird. When the Shannon pool was available to BIO staff, Brian was a regular at lunch-time workouts. Now he loves to run in Point Pleasant Park or in Dalplex, aiming for 100 km per month. He has two sons, both in medical school at Dalhousie. Now his years of outstanding contributions to science have been recognized by the award of the J.P. Tully Medal in Oceanography, and we, his friends and colleagues, offer our warmest congratulations.

*The citation for the award notes that Brian's "early research led to a clearer dynamical understanding of important physical processes in the coastal ocean, such as internal tide generation and shelf break upwelling. More recently, his collaborative work in monitoring and interpreting the variability of marine ecosystems has led to significant breakthroughs in understanding long-term changes and regime shifts. Witnessing this is his joint publication with Ken Frank, Jae Choi, and Bill Leggat in the most recent issue of *Science* (308, 1621-1623) entitled "Trophic cascades in a formerly cod-dominated ecosystem". Dr. Petrie's scientific advice is also highly sought on a wide range of issues affecting "stakeholders" in Canada's east coast offshore waters (oil&gas industry, invertebrate fisheries, etc.). This award pays tribute to his many solid and profound contributions to coastal ocean science and its application for the public good."

FROM THE ARCHIVES ... 35 YEARS AGO *Compiled by* *Bosko Loncarevic*

[These Highlights are excerpted from the BI World Newsletter, published at the Institute between 1967 and 1973. Complete versions are posted on our web site.]

{May, 31, 1970, Vol. 4, No. 5} In May BIO was visited by a dozen of MPs from the Parliamentary Committee on National Resources and Public Works - Fred Dobson advertised for a second-hand canoe - ICNAF reported on its Annual Meet-

ing - An Air-Sea Interaction Workshop was attended by Profs. R.W. Stewart, O.M. Phillips and M.S. Longuet-Higgins - A "Fleet Requirements Committee" was appointed to plan for a new ship (Members: J. Brooke, K.S. Manchester, G.R. Douglas and M. Eaton) - Among the new arrivals were: Dr. D. Macdonald (Baffin's doctor), Ed Murray (Public Relations), Eric Banke, J.P. Thorburn, W.C. Cook (Metrology), R.J. Burke, Betty Curran, Maureen Murphy (Hydrography). - An "International Conference on Tidal Power" was held at NSTC. - The Staff Association had some second thoughts about organizing another staff picnic - CSS Acadia was prepared for summer visitors - Three weekly messages from Hudson (+ 2 poems by Danny Winters).

{June, 1970, Vol. 4, No. 6} Announcement of Summer Visitor Tours with Dartmouth High School Graduates as Tour Guides (paid for by City of Dartmouth). 24 BIO Staff volunteered to give Intro Lectures. - the Library announced the production of "Volume One of BIO Collected Publications for 1968" - Vivien Srivastava suggested a year with 53 pay-weeks - Discussion of "Basic Research" Policy (from New Scientist) - Long description of duties of a Secretary by Joan Sim (before word processors).

{July, 1970, Vol. 4, No. 7} Messages from HUDSON-70 working off Vancouver Island - Mike Eaton described his 6-week visit to Denmark's Hydrographic Office - More "Travel Tips" from Mr. Scott - Another Danny Winters poem from HUDSON by - Noon slide shows were organized for all participants in HUDSON-70 - Betty Curran summarized news from the Royal Commission on Status of Women.

And that was that in July 1970.



Noteworthy Reads: Book Reviews in Brief

By David N. Nettleship
Book Review Editor

The **Noteworthy Reads** section is an effort by BIO-OA to produce a representative list of recent noteworthy book publications related to the marine sciences and other subjects of general interest. The listing is not intended to be comprehensive or complete, but merely an attempt to highlight a number of 'good reads' that may be of interest to OA members and associates. The principal aim is to identify titles of new publications from a variety of disciplines including oceanography (physical, chemical, biological), geology, natural history, nautical engineering and design, etc. Most books listed are available at local bookstores and via HRM libraries; book prices are regular retail in Canadian funds, but remember that discounts of 20-30% are normally available on line at: e.g., amazon.ca or chapters.indigo.ca. Anyone interested in becoming a regular contributor to 'Noteworthy Reads' should contact David Nettleship (voice: 902-826-2360; internet: dnnlundy@navnet.net).

SPECIAL PUBLICATION: CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF EINSTEIN

Stachel, John (ed.). 2005. Einstein's Miraculous Year: Five Papers that Changed the Face of Physics. Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ. 248 pp. Softcover, \$21.25 (ISBN 0691122288). – This paperback edition of the 1998 hardcover publication is part of a celebration of the 'World Year of Physics' and the significance of Albert Einstein and the appearance, in 1905, of his five scholarly papers that changed the course of modern physics. Beautifully translated and edited by John Stachel, the collection exemplifies the human quest for knowledge and one man's amazing ability to better understand the nature of the world.

GENERAL REVIEWS

Barry, Donald. 2005. Icy Battleground: Canada, the International Fund for Animal Welfare, and the Seal Hunt. Breakwater Books, St. John's, NL. 210 pp. Softcover, \$19.95 (ISBN 1550812114). – A thorough and fair-minded review of a difficult subject, this work stands out as an important work by its sheer depth and detail. The book clarifies the many issues associated with the continuing conflict between the anti-hunt protests and industry counter-protests, and should be a lasting contribution to the debate.

Boileau, John. 2005. Half-hearted Enemies: Nova Scotia, New England and the War of 1812. Formac Publishing,

Halifax, NS. 176 pp. Softcover, \$19.95 (ISBN 0887806570). – A look at Nova Scotia's role in the War of 1812, a significant historic conflict between United States and Canada, and the province's spoils and casualties. John Boileau, a retired army colonel, explores the complexities of families and neighbours at war, brought about largely by the British naval presence in Halifax and the activities of Nova Scotia's privateers. Overall, a most revealing and valuable review.

Burdick, Alan. 2005. Out of Eden: An Odyssey of Ecological Invasion. Douglas and McIntyre (Greystone Press), Vancouver, BC. 336 pp. Hardcover, \$35.00 (ISBN 0374219737). – A book on invasive species – the invaders who threaten biodiversity – and the scientists that study them. The review takes the reader from relatively simple case studies of individual introductions to the complex ecology and sociology of invasions by aliens. A highly readable and thought-provoking account.

Carroll, Sean B. 2005. Endless Forms Most Beautiful: the New Science of Evo Devo and the Making of the Animal Kingdom. W.W. Norton, New York, NY. 288 pp. Hardcover, \$32.00 (ISBN 0393060160). – A revealing examination of embryology and its relationship to the evolution of organisms: evolutionary development, or as the subject is more popularly known, "evo devo". Carroll describes how a deeper appreciation of developmental biology clears up many enigmas of evolution. Overall, a most impressive and important work.

Casey, Susan. 2005. The Devil's Teeth: A True Story of Survival and Obsession Among America's Great White Sharks. Henry Holt, New York, NY. 304 pp. Hardcover, \$32.95 (ISBN 080507581X). – A riveting account of a study of Great White Sharks in the Farallon Islands, an archipelago 27 miles west of San Francisco, from September to November when the sharks are most abundant feeding on the elephant seals, sea lions, and other prey that breed there.

Domm, Kristin. 2005. Atlantic Puffin: Little Brother of the North. Nimbus Publishing, Halifax, NS. 32 pp. Softcover, \$8.95 (ISBN 1551095181). – A delightful little book about the puffin's life at sea through the year and its association with the land during the summer breeding season in Newfoundland. Although aimed at young readers, the informative text and striking illustrations by the author's husband contain something for everyone.

Gallagher, Tim. 2005. The Grail Bird: Hot on the Trail of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker. Houghton Mifflin, New York, NY. 288 pp. Hardcover, \$34.95 (ISBN 0618456937). – This book tells the story of the quest to find a living Ivory-billed Woodpecker, a species thought to have become extinct in the late 1940s owing to over hunting by collectors and extensive habitat destruction through the 19th century. A follow-up by Gallagher of a report in February 2004 of a strange woodpecker in eastern Arkansas resulted in finding a living Ivory-billed Woodpecker. The discovery allows us one final chance to save this species and the swamp forests it requires to sur-

vive. An incredible story, one of learning and hope.

Henderson, Bruce. 2005. True North: Peary, Cook, and the race to the Pole. W.W. Norton, New York, NY. 288 pp. Hardcover, \$36.00 (ISBN 0393057917). – Who reached the North Pole first: Robert E. Peary or Frederick A. Cook? Henderson re-examines these explorers' bitter rivalry, chronicling their expeditions and questioning the evidence for Peary's "official" triumph.

Johns, Linda. 2005. Birds of a Feather: Tales of a Wild Bird Haven. Goose Lane Editions, Fredericton, NB. 260 pp. Softcover, \$19.95 (ISBN 0864924305). – The author's latest book about her experiences over an 8-month period with observing and caring for domestic and wild animals on her 60 acres of woodland near Antigonish. A delightful chronicle that entertains, informs and stimulates the reader beyond all expectations.

Matsen, Bradford. 2005. Descent: The Heroic Discovery of the Abyss. Pantheon, New York, NY. 245 pp. Hardcover, \$35.00 (ISBN 0375422587). – An account of the record-setting feat performed by William Beebe and Otis Barton in summer 1930: the descent to 1,300 feet beneath the Atlantic in a cramped, tethered bathysphere of their own design. Matsen recounts 19 plunges made by the pair into the 'abyss', and succeeds in conveying the technical limitations of the day and the ecstasy they felt at being the first to witness the strange forms that glow in the deep! A wonderful read of oceanographic exploration at its best.

Prim, Captain Joe and Michael McCarthy. 2005. Men Against the Sea: Ships Lost in the Newfoundland Foreign Trade. Flanker Press, St. John's, NL. 210 pp. Softcover, \$16.95 (ISBN 1894463560). – A collection of over 30 stories from the days of sail that pays tribute to the intrepid men of Newfoundland and Labrador who plied the Atlantic selling dried salt cod from 1869 to 1940. These harrowing and tragic accounts bring the nature of the trade into clear focus for all.

Roth, Hal. 2004. How to Sail Around the World: Advice and Ideas for Voyaging Under Sail. International Marine (McGraw Hill), Camden, ME. 464 pp. Hardcover, \$42.95 (ISBN 0071429514). – Want a short course in safe blue-water cruising in a small boat? Go no further than this book by sailing legend Hal Roth more than 20 years cruising the world with his wife in mostly 35-foot sloops. All the 'nuts-and-bolts' aspects of long-distance cruising are reviewed including an especially impressive section on storm tactics. Overall, a book with information to both study and absorb.

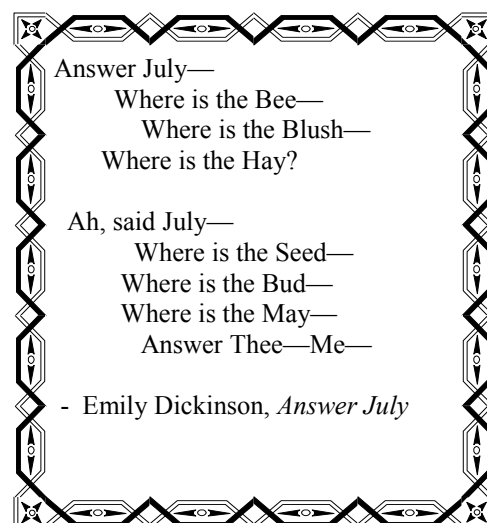
Ruse, Michael. 2005. The Evolution-Creation Struggle. Harvard University Press, Cambridge, MA. 336 pp. Hardcover, \$32.50 (ISBN 0674016874). – A thoughtful and stimulating review of the relationship between science and religion, and the age-old debate of "Fallen angels or risen apes?" Ruse provides a new perspective on the issue.

Savage, Candace. 2005. Curious by Nature: One Woman's Exploration of the Natural World. Douglas and McIntyre (Greystone Press), Vancouver, BC. 184 pp. Softcover, \$18.95 (ISBN 1553650921). – A selection of wildlife essays and magazine articles that the prolific Canadian natural history author has written over the past two decades. Her goal has always been "to raise greater awareness of the 'wild world' out there", an aim that she has attained with striking success as evidenced by this collection of entertaining and informative stories.

Stap, Don. 2005. Birdsong: A Natural History. Scribner, New York, NY. 272 pp. Hardcover, \$35.00 (ISBN 0743232747). – An introduction to avian bio-acoustics and one of its leading experts, Dr. Don Kroodsma, a U.S. ornithologist whose meticulous researches have excited other scientists in many different disciplines. The invaluable information contained in this book make it an absolute 'must-read' for those fascinated by birds and their songs.

Thomas, David. 2004. Frozen Oceans: The Floating World of Pack-Ice. Firefly Books, Buffalo, NY. 224 pp. Hardcover, \$45.00 (ISBN 1554070007). – A thorough review of scientific research directed at pack ice, that layer of frozen seawater floating on the polar oceans. Approaches taken by scientists to study its formation, growth, and support of living inhabitants – from tiny microbes within the ice to huge whales beneath the surface – are explored and explained. An intriguing expose.

Vitebsky, Piers. 2005. Reindeer People: Living with Animals and Spirits in Siberia. HarperCollins, New York, NY. 480 pp. Hardcover, \$38.95 (ISBN 0007133626). – An examination of the relationship of humans with other animals, and what can be learned of human culture from ancient times to the present. Anthropologist Vitebsky takes us on a journey to Siberia and exposes the reader to a world where people, land, animals and the seasons come together to form a hard and deeply spiritual existence.



Outside the Box

A
column of
feedback &
commentary

PLAN B: STEP BACK FROM THE HEAT & TAKE A DEEP BREATH

By Charles Schafer

Michael Crichton's "techno-thriller" novel *"State of Fear"* is a stark reminder that some scientific issues are not exactly what they seem to be at first glance, and that contemporary information dissemination by various media and governments is often spiced with a generous dose of "fear mongering" that some say has evolved to replace the rhetoric of the Cold War. Crichton uses the global warming controversy to explain his interpretation of what alternate agendas underlie this apparent crisis and also provides his readership with ample scientific data on which to form a more balanced perspective. Meanwhile, Patrick Michaels' non-fiction book (*"Meltdown"*) takes apart piece-by-piece the global warming predictions of one of the key establishment players, the UN International Panel on Climate Change, and reminds his readers about some of the more obvious oversights of the global warming prediction faction. For example, he

points out that although there has been some increase in temperature evidenced in the "North Polar Region" since 1955 (about 2.6 ° C per 100 years), the rise appears to be, for the most part, a winter season phenomenon i.e., it occurs at a time when daily temperatures are still just too cold to allow any melting of sea ice to occur. Summer season data from the same polar region (60 to 90 degrees North Latitude) show no significant trend and even the aforementioned winter warming trend varies from place to place. Michaels' book also deals specifically with hurricane frequency, population-adjusted daily mortality and sea level change. These topics have all been used to paint an ominous and foreboding picture of a world that will soon heat itself into a very different state. In one part of his book, he tackles the alleged incestuous relationship between governments that have a monopoly on research funding, the energy industry lobby and the scientific community. He offers a number of solutions aimed at reversing what he - and many other global warming prediction skeptics - interpret as the politicizing of the science. As Michaels sees it, the distortion arises, in part, from contemporary "scientific paradigms [that must] compete with each other for a finite outlay of taxpayer funding." Some critics muse that the global warming threat campaign is the leading edge of a form of almost militant environmentalism that goes far beyond mere pollution control by indicting the global economy for its machines, its agribusinesses, its massive transportation networks, and above all, its growing population.

Among the knowledge worth keeping in mind as we individually try to process the current flux of biased reporting is that:

- Much of the earth was warmer

than now only 700 years ago during parts of the medieval Warm Period (MWP) between 800 and 1300 AD. The greenhouse gas CO₂ (carbon dioxide) is voiced by many as the major culprit in the global warming crisis but it was obviously not available in today's concentrations during the MWP. Consequently, it could not have been responsible for the warming witnessed during those centuries.

- The 20th century represents a time of recovery from climate conditions that persisted during much of the Little Ice Age (LIA) which existed between about 1450 and 1880 AD. Much of the post-LIA warming occurred in the early part of the 20th century (and at a faster rate than the contemporary warming trend) long before the build-up of CO₂ had become an issue. In fact, at this point in the research, there is not a very good correlation between historic CO₂ levels and past climates. Solar activity (e.g., the Saros, Schwabe and Gleissberg cycles), as you might expect, appeared to have had a lot to do in modulating longer-term climate trends. Furthermore, while anthropogenically-generated CO₂ was on the rise, there was a concurrent post WW II cooling taking place. Michaels reminds us that in 1974, the U.S. Natural Science Board, observing a 30 year-long decline in world temperature between the 1940's and 1970's, suggested that this trend might be heralding the dawning of the next ice age. Reduced agricultural productivity was among the predicted impacts that the Board mentioned. In August of 2001, a meeting in Halifax (**1st International Conference on global Warming and the Next ice Age**) featured a bold initiative by our local scientific community to bring skeptics and global warming proponents together in an attempt to separate the wheat from the chaff. I do not re-

call a clear winner emerging from that particular debate but it did remind those of us in attendance that the human-driven part of the greater global warming prediction issue was still very much at the theoretical level at that time.

Those of us lucky enough to be residents of Canada need to be reminded continuously that many of the studies centered on the global warming prediction for our country also speak about potential positive impacts such as better crop yields over larger areas, longer growing seasons, milder winters, and decreasing heating costs in colder latitudes. Once the scientific community - in the broadest sense - has placed the global warming prediction issue in a more realis-

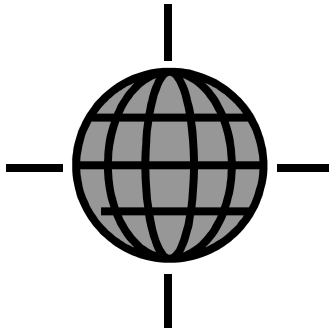
tic conservative context, it might be constructive for all of us rejuvenated critical thinkers to take a second look at global-scale debates such as the war on terrorism and other looming crises to ascertain how they being promoted and exploited by various governments and special interest groups throughout the *free* world. In effect, those topics feature some of the same sorts of biased reporting and "scaremongering" that has been driving global warming prediction issues for more than a decade. In the meantime, I have an ideal for a really neat vacation resort on the southeastern coast of Greenland that I think would make some Vikings drool. Unfortunately, when I *step back* and take a closer look at the prospects for the success of that ven-

ture, I encounter reports that temperatures in Greenland have been rising rapidly during the last decade (great!), but that the rise only restores them to *what they were in the 1930's 40's and 50's*. Perhaps if I were to provide each guest room with two video gambling machines and a gift certificate for an unlimited supply of pizza? Hmmm?

Key References

State of Fear (2004) ISBN 0-06-621413-0

Meltdown (2004) ISBN 1-930865-59-7



THE MEMBER'S CORNER:

35 YEARS FULL OF EXCITEMENT

BOSKO LONCAREVIC IN CONVERSATION WITH KEVIN ROBERTSON (AT BIO 1966 – 2001)

I ask Kevin about the famous water fight and he is amused that I still remember that incident.

"I joined BIO in 1966. It was a fabulous place to work for. All the techs were under 25 and the place was full of even younger students. The fight started when somebody was accidentally sprayed with water in the lab and retaliated. It escalated over the next few days with ever larger quantities of water being tossed around. At one point, we even had a 'water cannon' that could shoot down the length of the 4th floor corridor. It was great fun while it lasted, but it ended abruptly when a planned ambush hit the wrong target. We sneaked

into the men's washroom and dumped a bucket of water over a closed cubicle. There was a senior management person sitting there, not one of our 'enemies'."

A native of Halifax and a graduate of SMU, Kevin jumped at an opportunity to join BIO as a support person in the geochemistry lab.

"My first supervisor was Lew King, and he was a wonderful person to work for. He gave me tremendous latitude in pursuing things that interested me. After Lew's interest switched to surficial geology, I worked for Dr. Rashid. He was extremely hard working, often labouring in the lab till 4 a.m. when

finishing a paper. He used to say: "Kevin, you work as hard as I do but get only half the pay. This world is not a fair place".

Kevin was one of 14 qualified divers at AGC and thus was involved in field work from St. Lucia in the Caribbean to the Arctic. Under Grant Bartlett, Jim Marlowe, and Charlie Schafer, he participated in many projects, doing things for the first time and making exciting discoveries.

"It was an exciting time and I loved it. I could not think of a better or more satisfying career. I would not want to change it one bit." Reflecting on his first decade at BIO,

Kevin wonders what made it such a magical time. I suggest that being 30 years younger had something to do with it.

In the early 1970's, Kevin started helping Dale Buckley to prepare budgets and that led to ever more involvement in Administration. "We used to have a huge sheet on the lab table and, every time a figure changed in one of the columns, the whole sheet had to be corrected." That was, of course, before spreadsheet programs came along. From this modest start, administration of Marine Geology developed into an almost full time job, though Kevin always tried to keep a hand in the lab projects.

Kevin was always a "people person", knew everybody and got along with everybody at BIO. He networked effectively well before the term was popularized. A former ADM related that whenever he couldn't reach a senior manager on the east coast after two attempts, he

would call Kevin who always seemed to be there and never failed to get him the information he required. His only regret might be that he may have put too much personal commitment in Health and Safety as a management representative for over 30 years.

We talk next about life after BIO. "I built a house with my sister at East River, Mahone Bay, and it is our dream house. My bedroom window is 50 feet from the shoreline and 18 feet above the sea level. I have discovered all the different seabirds that live along the shore and the ever changing seascape of waves and clouds."

He is excited telling me about his new-found connection with nature. "I have a Welsh Terrier dog who has to be taken out for a walk, four times a day, in every kind of weather. On our walks we are close to nature and see things that one normally misses. And... one gets to know all the

neighbours."

For six months of the year, his main occupation is his power boat built to his specifications in Newfoundland. Between puttering around Mahone Bay, golf several times a week, bridge, and gourmet cooking, the time goes by quickly.

Kevin is at peace with himself having achieved all his post-retirement objectives, except one. He is serious about bringing his weight down and only has a plain salad for lunch.

"I do not go to the Institute very often; it was wonderful while it lasted but it is over now. When I go there, once or twice a year, I like to talk to younger people to catch their enthusiasm. And, of course, I go to contribute to our Loto 6/49 pool. A dozen of us started it some 20 years ago and intend to keep it going as long as we can, or until we win."

BIO – OA MEMBERS INVITED TO THE SILVER JUBILEE OF THE A.G. HUNTSMAN AWARD AND TO DINNER

By Alain Vézina, Chair of the Huntsman Foundation



I am delighted to extend an open invitation to all BIO – OA members to participate in the celebrations of the 25th anniversary of the Huntsman medal that will take place right after Labour Day. Below are some of the details of this exciting event. Complete details on the program can be found at www.bio.gc.ca/huntsman/huntsman25-e.html.

The Huntsman Award was created in 1980 under the leadership of scientists at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography (BIO). The award is intended to recognize excellence in science in the major oceanographic disciplines and is known as a major international prize. The 25th Huntsman medal ceremony will take place Septem-

ber 6 and 7, 2005, in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. For this special occasion, medals will be awarded to:

- Dr. Robert F. Anderson of the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University, for his innovative contributions in the fields of biochemical cycles, ocean sedimentation and climate variability, through his development and use of pioneering radioisotope tracers and his scientific leadership in multidisciplinary programs.
- Dr. Sallie (Penny) W. Chisholm of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), for her insightful and lasting contributions to the fields of biological oceanography and microbial ecology which have funda-

mentally changed our perspective of the nature of life in the sea.

- Dr. Edouard Bard of the Université d'Aix-Marseille and Collège de France, for his significant contributions to isotopic dating and proxy thermometry techniques and their application to studies of the Earth's paleoclimate and, in particular, its ice-age climate and sea level dynamics.

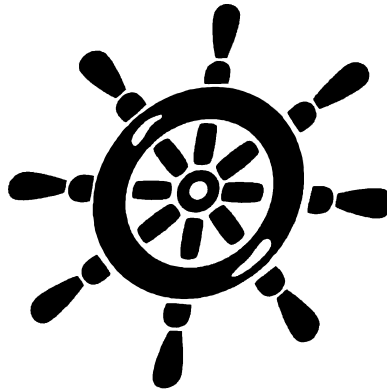
Dr. Trevor J. McDougall, of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO) in Australia, for his leading role in developing a practical understanding of important thermodynamic and dynamic processes in the ocean, which are a key to the determination of the mixing motions that so strongly influence ocean circulation and heat transport.

The medals will be presented in a special ceremony that will be held on Tuesday, September 6 at Dalhousie University. This will be followed by a celebratory banquet, also at Dalhousie University, featuring a guest speaker. Public lectures will be held Wednesday, September 7 at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography. The event will feature award presentations by distinguished representatives of the government, academic and private sectors, testimonials by leading national and international scientists, a keynote address on science and sustainable seas, and public lectures on the role of oceans in climate change and planetary maintenance and on ocean mixing. The Huntsman Foundation encourages all interested in marine sciences to participate in this unique event.

The Foundation expresses its profound gratitude to the 16 government and university scientists who volunteered their time to review the nominations as well as to all those who wrote and submitted nominations. The Foundation also wishes to acknowledge the sponsors of the 25th anniversary: Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Dalhousie University, Natural Resources Canada, the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Marathon Oil Ltd., Jacques Whitford Ltd., Satlantic, Clearwater Fine Foods, the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, and the Seafood Producers Association of Nova Scotia.



The Huntsman Medal will be presented on September 6-7, 2005, to (clockwise from the top left): Dr. Edouard Bard, Dr. Robert F. Anderson, Dr. Sallie (Penny) W. Chisholm, and Dr. Trevor J. McDougall.



ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION

The Bedford Institute of Oceanography Oceans Association was established in 1998 to foster the continued fellowship of its members; to help preserve, in cooperation with the Institute's managers and staff, BIO's history and spirit;

and to support efforts to increase public understanding of the oceans and ocean science. Membership is open to all those who share our objectives. Most current members are present or past employees of BIO or of the federal departments of

Environment, Fisheries and Oceans, and Natural Resources (or their predecessors) located in the Halifax Regional Municipality. Membership is \$5.00 per year, \$25.00 per half decade, or \$100.00 for a lifetime membership.

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