



International Association of Geochemistry

www.iagc-society.org

BIOGEOMON 2012

The lovely Point Lookout Resort in Northport, Maine, USA, was the ideal setting for the 7th International Symposium on Ecosystem Behavior (BIOGEOMON 2012), held July 15–20, 2012. This symposium was the proud continuation of the tradition of the BIOGEOMON series of meetings, which was started by the Czech Geological Survey (Prague) in 1987 as GEOMON. The meeting was renamed BIOGEOMON in 1992 to emphasize the biogeochemical scope and research that was represented. There have been well attended BIOGEOMON symposia in both North America and Europe since that time, and most recently the IAGC has formed a new Working Group on Biogeochemistry, with the BIOGEOMON symposium as its focus. Supporting the Working Group on Biogeochemistry is an exciting new direction for IAGC.

BIOGEOMON 2012 hosted over 200 scientists from 18 countries. The week included 20 invited speakers, more than 120 contributed talks, and 90 poster presentations. The six conference plenaries emphasized the use of time-series data, either empirical, experimental, or modeled, to define the trajectory of our past environments and project ecosystem behavior into the future. Conference research themes included: long-term integrated monitoring and modeling; biosphere–atmosphere interactions and exchanges: gases and aerosols; the role of extreme events in ecosystem biogeochemistry; linkages among biogeochemical cycles; critical unknowns in nitrogen dynamics and reactive N; biogeochemistry of peat lands; carbon cycling in well-drained forested soils; carbon cycling in poorly drained soils; experimental manipulations of ecosystems; trace element biogeochemistry and ecosystem impact; applications of isotopes and tracers; bioenergy-production impacts in forested systems; the role of biogeochemistry in ecosystem restoration and rehabilitation; and ecosystem management and ecosystem services.

Other highlights of the week included a copious lobster banquet, where participants were serenaded by Noel Paul Stookey (of Peter,



Participants on a field trip to Acadia National Park, with conference organizer Steve Norton (front, center, in blue shirt)



Senator George J. Mitchell delivering a moving closing keynote address

Paul and Mary fame), and a midweek day of field trips in the stunning Penobscot Bay region. In addition, attendees were honored to hear an inspiring closing keynote address by Senator George J. Mitchell, the former United States Senate majority leader from Maine who was instrumental in the reauthorization of the U.S. Clean Air Act in 1990 and played a leading role in peace negotiations in both Northern Ireland and the Middle East. Overall the week provided an excellent opportunity to be challenged by presentations on cutting-edge ecosystem science, to connect and reconnect with friends and colleagues in this highly international community, and to enjoy the beauty and hospitality of coastal Maine. This highly successful event was skillfully organized by an energetic team led by Steven Norton, Ivan Fernandez, and Tiffany Wilson from the University of Maine. Plans are already underway to hold the next BIOGEOMON in Bayreuth, Germany.

GSA ANNUAL MEETING

The Geological Society of America annual meeting will be held on 4–7 November in Charlotte, North Carolina. Please stop by the IAGC booth (#804) in the exhibit hall, or better yet, stay for a couple of hours to help recruit new members. The IAGC is also cosponsoring 6 sessions this year:

- **T1. Sources, Transport, Fate, and Toxicology of Trace Elements and Organics in the Environment** (Co-chairs: David T. Long, W. B. Lyons, LeeAnn Munk)
- **T7. Progress in Forensic Geochemistry** (Co-chairs: Russell Harmon, Jose R. Almirall)
- **T8. Hydrochemistry and Biogeochemistry of Tropical Mountainous Rivers and Estuaries** (Co-chairs: Steven Goldsmith, Russell Harmon, Ryan Moyer)
- **T9. Geochemistry of Urban Environments** (Co-chairs: W. B. Lyons, David T. Long, Russell Harmon)
- **T67. Innovative Classroom Approaches to Teaching Biogeochemistry** (Co-chairs: Steven Goldsmith, Sarah K. Fortner, Stephen Levas)
- **T129. Advances in Spectroscopy for Geological and Mineralogical Analysis** (Co-chairs: Thomas Tague, Sheila Seaman)

PHD STUDENT RESEARCH GRANTS

The IAGC PhD Student Research Grants help cover the cost of the analytical needs of PhD students in geochemistry. Up to three PhD Student Research Grants of up to US\$3000 may be awarded annually.

Applications for Student Research Grants for 2013 will be accepted through 1 December 2012. Funds will be distributed to winning applicants before 1 May 2013. For application instructions and to download the necessary forms, please visit www.iagc-society.org/phd_grants.html.

CALL FOR 2013 AWARDS

Now is the time for the 2013 IAGC award nominations! Awards to be bestowed in 2013 are the Ebelman Award, the Distinguished Service Award, the IAGC Fellow award, and the IAGC Certificate of Recognition. For a summary of the awards and instructions on how to submit your nomination, visit www.iagc-society.org/awards.html. Deadline for submission is December 1.



BIOGEOMON 2012 attendees