Newsletter

of the

International Association of GeoChemistry

Number 50, May 2009

Mel Gascoyne, Newsletter Editor

NEWS FROM THE ASSOCIATION

- **Recent awards**
- **This is the 50th Newsletter !**
- **Obituary: Bjørn Bølviken**
- ***IAGS 2009* in New Brunswick**

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Russell Harmon, President

IAGC continues to be a healthy and growing society. Membership is steadily increasing as a consequence of the new meeting sponsorship policy implemented by Council..

The new slate of Officers and Council Members (listed on the last page of this Newsletter), elected for the 4-year term from 2008-2012, assumed their duties last August at the 33rd International Geological Congress in Oslo, Norway and have been working on behalf of the membership since that time. Please bring any questions or concerns you might have about the Association or its operations to any Officer or Council Member.

The selection processes for the 2009 IAGC Awards and Student Research Grants have been completed and are announced in this Newsletter. Congratulations are extended to all award and grant recipients on behalf of the Association. The formal announcement and presentation of this year's awards will be made on the evening of Wednesday 3 June during the IAGS 2009 Awards Ceremony and Banquet. Not that long from now, we will begin the process to select the 2010 awards, which will include the Vernadsky Medel and Ebelmen Award, so please start thinking about suitable candidates for these most prestigious Association awards and then submit a nomination once the call is issued later this year. Also, if you are a university academic and advisor of geochemistry PhD students, please bring the IAGC Student Research Grant program to their attention, as we would like to see a larger pool of applicants and have students from more countries join the competition.

IAGC has joined with the Association of Applied Geochemists and International Association of GeoAnalysts (IAG) in organizing and conducting the *2009 International Applied Geochemistry Symposium*, which will be held from 1-4 June 2009 in Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada. This will be the major IAGC event for 2009. IAGC is responsible for co-organizing and co-chairing several technical sessions and the Ingerson International Lecture will be delivered as the keynote presentation of the IAGC-sponsored session "Sources, Transport, and Fate of Trace and Toxic Elements in the Environment". IAGC members are encouraged to participate in this conference (http://www.unb.ca/conferences/IAGS2009/).

The IAGC Working Group on Applied Isotope Geochemistry will conduct the *8th Symposium on Applied Isotope Geochemistry* from 30 August – 4 September in La Malbaie in Quebec, Canada. Led by Martine Savard of the Geological Survey of Canada, this meeting will take place at the Manior Richelieu, a site located in a rural area about a 1.5-hour drive from Quebec City. The registration fee for this meeting will be $675, $775, and $375 (CAN) for early registration, late registration, and student registration, respectively. Further information can be obtained from Martine Savard (msavard@nrcan.gc.ca) or the conference web site (http://www/.cgq-qgc.ca/aig8/).

IAGC will continue its presence and involvement in the Geological Society of America Annual Meeting (http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/2009/). The IAGC Business Office has had a booth at the Geological Society of America Annual Meeting each year since 2004, and will do so again at this year's 18-21 October meeting in Portland, OR. Please stop by and visit with Mel and Sim Gascoyne, if you will be coming to the meeting. Volunteers to help staff the booth for an hour or two during the GSA meeting are always needed, so please let Mel know (gascoyne@granite.mb.ca) if you are willing to help and when. The recipients of the 2009 IAGC Awards will be showcased in the Affiliated Societies gallery during the course of the meeting. During the meeting, IAGC will sponsor the topical session on *Sources, Transport, Fate and Toxicology of Trace Elements in the Environment,* co-chaired by LeeAnn Munk, Dave Long, and Berry Lyons.

Newsletter #50

The Newsletter is has reached maturity! This is its 50th issue. Past editors are listed below:

Issues	Period	Editor
1-4	July 71 – Mar 74	R.Perhac
5-6	Sep 76 – Feb 77	E. Ingerson(?)
7-12*	Sep 77 – Apr 80	G. Anderson
12-17	Dec 80 – Feb 84	S. Deutsch
18-25	Jan 86 – Sep 92	B. Hitchon
26–31	Nov 93 – Jul 98	M. Gascoyne
32-38	Mar 99 – Oct 02	G. Faure
39-50	Oct 03 – May 09	M. Gascoyne

*There were two issues of #12

2009 IAGC Awards Announced

IAGC is proud to announce the recipients of its society awards for 2009. The official announcement and presentation of the awards will occur during the 2009 International Applied Geochemistry Symposium Awards Banquet on Wednesday evening 3 June. Since IAGC is an associated society of the Geological Society of America, the IAGC awards also will publicised during the GSA Annual Meeting in Portland, Oregon from 18-21 October 2009.

The IAGC Distinguished Service Award is bestowed on **Yousif Kharaka** of the US Geological Survey for service to the professional community by an IAGC member that greatly exceeds the normal expectations of voluntary service.

The honorary title of IAGC Fellow is bestowed on **Karl-Hans Wedepohl** of Göttingen University and **Stephen Moorbath** of Oxford University.

The Hitchon Award for the most significant recent paper published in the IAGC journal, *Applied Geochemistry,* is awarded to **Juris J Djikstra, Hans A Van Der Sloot,** and **Rob N J Comans** for their paper 'The Leaching of Major and Trace Elements from MSWI Bottom Ash as a Function of pH and Time' (*Applied Geochemistry*, 21:335-351).

Daryl K. Nordstrom of the US Geological Survey was selected as the Ingerson International Lecturer for 2009. Dr. Nordstrom will deliver his lecture at the 2009 International Applied Geochemistry Symposium, which will be held during the first week of June in Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada.

A Certificate of Recognition for outstanding scientific accomplishment in a particular area of geochemistry, for excellence in teaching or public service, and/or to an IAGC member for meritorious service to the Association or the international scientific community, is awarded in 2009 to **Attila Demény**, Director of the Institute for Geochemical Research of the Hungarian Academy for Sciences.

2009 IAGC Student Research Grants Announced

For 2009, IAGC received Student Research Grant applications from 19 PhD students from the US (10), Canada (5), Ireland (1), Switzerland (1), China (1), and the Cameroon (1). The Committee had members from the US, UK, & China The following students have been selected to receive an IAGC Student Research Grant for 2009:

A grant of $2000(US) to **Kieran Craven** from the University of Dublin Trinity College in support of his PhD dissertation project "An Assessment of the Applicability of a Novel Geochemical Technique for Sea Level Reconstruction in Western Ireland";

A grant of $2000(US) to Taoi Sun of Louisiana State University in support of his PhD dissertation project "Multiple Sulfate Isotopic Evidence of the Formation of Oxide Copper Ore at Spence, Atacama Desert, Chile";

A grant of $1000(US) to Anastasia Iglen of the University of Alaska – Fairbanks in support of her PhD dissertation project "Controls on Antimony and Arsenic Speciation via Sorption

and Redox Chemistry at the Clay Mineral-Water Interface"

A grant of $1000(US) to David Vinson of Duke University in support of his PhD dissertation project "Concurrent Radon Mobilization Along Salinity and Redox Gradients";

A grant of $1000(US) to Rebecca Saunders of the Pennsylvania State University for her PhD dissertation project "Investigations of Clay Mineral Surface Reactivity via Solid State Nuclear Magnetic Resonance"; and

A grant of $1000(US) to Jordan Mayor of the University of Florida in support of his PhD dissertation project "Tracking Ecosystem Nitrogen Cycling in Black Spruce Forest with Novel $\delta^{15}N$ Measurements".

Applied Geochemistry

During 2008, issue 23 of Applied Geochemistry published 257 full papers plus 5 comments with replies. In all, these contributions resulted in a bumper volume running to 3856 journal pages. Of the papers, 79 were included in 5 special issues:-

Sulfide Oxidation: Insights from Experimental, Theoretical, Stable Isotope, and Predictive Studies in the Field and Laboratory, edited by R.R. Seal and W.C. Shanks.

Transport and Fate of Mercury in the Environment, edited by M.S. Gustin, A. Kolker and K. Gårdfeldt .

High-level Radioactive Waste Disposal in Sweden: Hydrogeochemical Characterisation and Modelling of two Potential Sites, edited by M. Gascoyne and M. Laaksoharju.

6th International Symposium on Applied Isotope Geochemistry (AIG 6), edited by M. Novak and R. Bindler.

Arsenic in Groundwaters of South-East Asia: With Emphasis on Cambodia and Vietnam, edited by D.A. Polya, M. Berg, A.G. Gault and Y. Takahashi.

I am grateful to these special issue editors for their hard work on behalf of the journal.

With regard to submissions, in 2008 a total of 324 manuscripts came through the electronic submission system with another 29 submitted in paper format. In addition, several papers have been received for the $3^1/_2$ special issues that are ongoing. It is perhaps worthy of note that in the period since electronic submission has been in operation, for manuscripts where decisions have been reached, the rejection rate is running at over 65%.

Over the course of the year, two of the Associate Editors, Dr. Rudolf Jaffé and Dr. Briant Kimball, resigned, having served the journal well for a number of years. I thank them very much for their assistance and wish them well in the future. I am pleased to report that 3 new Associate Editors, Dr. LeeAnn Munk, Dr. Kaye Savage and Dr. Bob Seal, have recently been appointed. I look forward to working with them on the journal.

With regard to the publishers, Elsevier, 2008 has seen some major changes in personnel responsible for Applied Geochemistry. In April, Ms. Caroline ten Wolde took over as the Publishing Editor and in November Olaf Meesters replaced Jack Visser as the Journal Manager. Finally at the end of the year Friso Veenstra, who was the Journal Publisher, was promoted, which ended his long association with the journal.

MEETINGS

IAGS (24th International Applied Geochemistry Symposium) 2009

June 1st to 4th, 2009
University of New Brunswick
Fredericton, New Brunswick CANADA

The IAGC's **Internation Ingerson Lecture** will be given this year at IAGS by **Kirk Nordstrom**.

Dr. D. Kirk Nordstrom is a Senior Hydrogeochemist of 30 years experience with the US Geological Survey. He has a B.A. in Chemistry (Southern Illinois University, 1969), an M.S. in Geology (University of Colorado, 1971) and a Ph.D. in Geochemistry (Stanford University, 1977). Dr. Nordstrom is recognized internationally for his research on acid mine drainage, radioactive waste disposal, geothermal chemistry, geomicrobiology, analytical chemistry, and geochemical modeling and has published 200 papers in these fields.



His research accomplishments include the measurement of negative pH in mine waters, evaluation and compilation of thermodynamic properties for speciation computations, arsenic geochemistry, and inferring natural-background water quality at mined sites. Dr. Nordstrom served on the Board of Radioactive Waste Management for the National Research Council, chaired the Hydrogeochemical Group of the International Stripa Project, served as managing editor for geochemistry for Earth-Science Reviews, awarded fellow of the Geological Society of America and the Mineralogical Society of America, and is a member of American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Geochemical Society, and the International Association of Geochemists and Cosmochemists. He received the 1996 Birdsall-Dreiss Distinguished Lectureship Award from the Geological Society of America, the US Department of Interior Meritorious Service and Cooperative Conservation Awards.

AIG-8

Isotope specialists from around the world are invited to meet in Eastern Canada, Quebec Province, in 2009 for the 8th Symposium on Applied Isotope Geochemistry (AIG-8).

The AIG-8 meeting is held under the International Association of GeoChemistry stewardship. The AIG-8 organizing and scientific committees are aiming at maintaining AIG's reputation of providing a relaxed atmosphere conducive to extended discussion and building of scientific collaborations. To that end, we have selected the world-class resort Le Manoir Richelieu in La Malbaie as the meeting place. This venue which will allow participants to reside in a single building, in the beautiful Charlevoix region, where the Laurentian Mountains meet the magnificent St.Lawrence River. During the pre and mid-conference fieldtrips, participants will want to admire two World Heritage sites: Old Québec,

a fortified city and the cradle of French culture in North America, and Charlevoix, with its rural landscapes and alpine tundra.

AIG 8 is your opportunity to experience the "joie de vivre" and the many charms of the greater Québec area.
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GSA

IAGC will continue its presence and involvement in the Geological Society of America Annual Meeting. at the 2009 GSA Annual Meeting in Portland, Oregon, by sponsoring a topical session at the meeting: "*Sources, Transport, Fate and Toxicology of Trace Elements in the Environment"* co-chaired by LeeAnn Munk, Dave Long, and Berry Lyons. Your flying the IAGC flag at the GSA meeting is appreciated. More information on the GSA and its meetings can be found at http://www.geosociety.org/aboutus/logo_usage.htm>

Obituary: Bjørn Bølviken

Bjørn Bølviken, formerly division director at the Geological Survey of Norway (NGU) and Professor II at the Norwegian Technical University in Trondheim (NTNU), died on Jan. 19, 2009 aged almost 81. Bjørn Bølviken played an important role in the development of regional and applied geochemistry. The death of Prof. Bølviken is especially poignant to the IAGC because he was the recipient of the IAGC's Vernadsky Medal just last year.



Curiosity was the driving force behind Bjørn's scientific career. He was a pioneer in establishing medical geology in Norway. Looking at his career is like studying the history of applied geochemistry. He had an important impact on the development of regional geochemical mapping as an aid to understand natural processes driving the distribution of chemical elements in the terrestrial environment. Natural lead poisoning, electrochemistry and fractal geometry are some important landmarks along that way. Bølviken's ability to see possibilities led him into quite different fields of science and he established cooperation with medical doctors, physicists, statisticians, geographers and botanists. That led to a scientific production that was both, substantial and innovative. Bjørn was an extraordinary and demanded lecturer for both the general public and his scientific peers. In 2008 the International Association of GeoChemistry honoured Bjørn's scientific impact on applied geochemistry with the Vernadsky Medal.

For his students and young scientists Bjørn was an outstanding mentor because of his ability to generate a creative atmosphere. His colleagues will never forget the person, his humour, his drive and his enormous curiosity in all that is geochemistry. We wish to thank Bjørn for all that he has taught us. We feel that with Bjørn's death an epoch in geochemistry ends. Our thoughts are with his family.

Rolf Tore Ottesen, Tore Volden, Amund Rein, Clemens Reimann, NGU

Elements: The current issue !



Please see the announcement concerning the 24th International Association of Geochemistry Symposium (IAGS2009), which will be held in Fredericton, New Brunswick, during June 1-4, 2009. Your participation in this important IAGC initiative is encouraged.

How to Contact Us:

To join or renew your IAGC membership, subscribe to or track down errant issues of *Applied Geochemistry* or *Elements,* or to send in comments, etc., contact:
IAGC Business Office, Box 501, Pinawa, Manitoba R0E 1L0, Canada. Or use the membership form on our web site at www.iagc.ca

Applied Geochemistry – Are you missing any issues?

The IAGC Business Office is willing to mail out missing issues of AG, volumes 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 & 23 to fill in the gaps of members' collections, free of charge! Let us know if you are missing an issue.

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