



NEWSLETTER

INTERNATIONAL HUMIC SUBSTANCES SOCIETY

Number 21

Summer, 1998

IN MEMORIAM

It is with great sadness that I inform the IHSS membership of the passing of a friend and colleague. Dr. Ronald Malcolm succumbed to a long illness on July 24, 1998 at his home in Morrison, Colorado. Ron is survived by his wife, Mollie, four children and their families, and his sister Gwenlyn Marshall and her family.

Ron was a founding father of the IHSS and its first president. He was an untiring supporter of humic substances research and an activist for bringing young scientist into this fascinating area of study. A more detailed account of Ron's contributions and works for the IHSS, science in general and mankind will be published in the next IHSS Newsletter as well as in other appropriate sources. I can only say at this point that he will be greatly missed by many.

The IHSS has established The Dr. Ronald Malcolm Scholarship Fund in Ron's honor. The family has requested that friends and colleagues wishing to make memorial contributions to that fund address them to the fund, c/o Dr. J.J. Alberts, University of Georgia Marine Institute, Sapelo Island, GA 31327, USA.

Jim Alberts
President, IHSS

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

it is really unfortunate I had to open this issue of the IHSS Newsletter with this very sad news. Ron is not more with us. I am sure most of you had known Ron and will miss him. Ron was a great man and a very good friend. His enthusiasm and his tireless activity were contagious especially for younger scientists to whom Ron had always gladly devoted time and energies. Ron has been very close to me in many steps of my career. I met him at the real beginning and worked with him in many occasions in the following years. I do not want to mention all the work he has done in humic substances research, the research project in which has been involved, the numerous countries he visited or the number of friends, scientists, researchers he invited to participate to his various adventurous research activities. A large part of our history is gone with Ron and I will miss all of that. A big hug, Ron.

Teddy Miano

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International Humic Substances Society on the World Wide Web

!!!!!!! The Web page address has changed !!!!!!!

Visit our home page at:

<http://www.ihss.gatech.edu>

Prof. E.M. Perdue coordinates the development of the IHSS WEB page. Progresses toward this goal may be followed at the above WEB site which resides on a server located at the Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, USA.

Suggestions and comments regarding the content and organization of the WEB pages are actively requested from all IHSS members.

E-mail Dr. E.M. Perdue at michael.perdue@eas.gatech.edu for more information.

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MEMBERSHIP DUES (1998)

20 US \$ / year (10 US \$ for students):

- Argentina (10 US \$)
- Australia-New Zealand
- Brazil
- Canada
- European Union (including Norway)
- Indonesia
- Israel
- Japan
- Malaysia
- Mexico
- Philippines
- South Africa
- Switzerland
- United States
- Venezuela

5 US \$ / year (2 US \$ for students):

- Caribbean Countries
- Croatia
- Czech R.
- Hungary
- Poland
- Slovakia R.
- Slovenia
- Developing countries in Africa, Asia and Central and South America

1 US \$ / year:

- former USSR countries, including Baltic republics
- Bulgaria
- Romania
- Albania
- P.R. China

National Coordinators should collect the fees from members of their chapters in local currencies, deduct 20-25 % out of the fees (postage, copying, etc.), and then send the balance in US \$ to the Treasurer, Dr. C.E. Clapp, Univ. Minnesota, St. Paul, MN, USA.

Coordinators from 5\$-group chapters are invited to collect dues for two years (\$10, and save converting to US \$ not so often) and are allowed to keep up to 50% of the fee. Coordinators from 1\$-group chapters can keep the entire fee.

IHSS Members are reminded that membership dues are payable at the beginning of each year directly to their National Coordinators.

CONGRATULATIONS

It is a great pleasure to announce that Dr. H. B. M. Hayes has been elected an **Honorary Member** of the International Humic Substances Society. Mike joins only four other recipients of this honor and is truly deserving. Mike has a long history of research in the field of humic substances, which will be detailed in a subsequent newsletter, and served as the fourth president of our society. His dedication to the society and the study of humic substances is well known, and his leprechaun smile and way of pointing out the crux of many intricate studies can not be forgotten by anyone who has been in the audience. Please join me in wishing Mike a heartfelt congratulations and if possible join us at the IHSS 9th International Meeting Dinner in Adelaide, Australia, where Mike will be officially honored by the Society.

Jim Alberts
President, IHSS

FROM THE PRESIDENT

MEMBER SURVEY RESULTS

To date, 186 members of the IHSS have responded to the membership survey that was distributed earlier this year. I have attached the summary statistics of those responding for your consideration. I have not attempted to do any analyses of the survey results at this time, nor have I attempted to include the many comments that were returned with the forms. Both the numerical data and the comments will be discussed at length during the Board Meeting at the IHSS 9th International Meeting in Adelaide, Australia. Actions resulting from those discussions will be published in the newsletter. However, please remember that this is not a finished exercise. It is my intention to continue to solicit member opinions. You as members should feel free to contact me or any of the Officers and Board Members to express your feelings.

Hope to see you in Adelaide,

Jim Alberts
President, IHSS

SURVEY RESPONSES OF IHSS MEMBERS, 1998

1. *Should the International Humic Substances Society continue to exist ?*

YES	185
NO	0
UNCERTAIN / NO RESPONSE	1

2. *If yes, would you be willing to serve as a Committee or Board member or Society Officer ?*

YES	76
NO	93
UNCERTAIN / NO RESPONSE	17

3. *Currently, members are informed of Society business, pay dues and receive the IHSS Newsletter through their National Coordinators.*

3a. *Do you favor keeping the current system of National/Regional Coordinators ?*

YES	139
NO	36
UNCERTAIN / NO RESPONSE	11

3b. *Do you feel that the position of National/Regional Coordinators should be eliminated and all Society business conducted directly with the members ?*

YES	40
NO	131
UNCERTAIN / NO RESPONSE	15

3c. *If you feel that the current system should be retained, would you be willing to act as a National or Regional Coordinator ?*

YES	49
NO	105
UNCERTAIN / NO RESPONSE	32

4. *Currently, the IHSS International Meeting is held every two (2) years.*

4a. *Do you feel that this meeting schedule should be retained ?*

YES	108
NO	69
UNCERTAIN / NO RESPONSE	9

4b. *Would you favor changing the International Meeting to every three (3) years ?*

YES	64
NO	95
UNCERTAIN / NO RESPONSE	27

4c. *Every four (4) years ?*

YES	29
NO	122
UNCERTAIN / NO RESPONSE	35

4d. *Should the International Meeting continue without concurrent sessions ?*

YES	91
NO	56
UNCERTAIN / NO RESPONSE	39

4e. *Should the Society hold the International Meeting with other,*

YES	78
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larger societies ?

NO	85
UNCERTAIN / NO RESPONSE	23

5. The Society currently sponsors bursaries to support student travel to the International Meetings. These bursaries are competitive and are currently funded by interest derived from the Society's Standard and Reference Collection accounts.

5a. Do you favor continuing these bursaries ?

YES	163
NO	16
UNCERTAIN / NO RESPONSE	7

5b. Would you be in favor of increasing the membership fees by \$1 US to increase the number of bursaries ?

YES	130
NO	39
UNCERTAIN / NO RESPONSE	17

5c. Since an increase of \$1 US would only increase the number of potential bursaries by 1 or 2, would you favor increasing memberships dues by \$5 US for members currently paying \$20 US membership and \$1 US for all others to allow for a greater number of bursaries to be offered ?

YES	113
NO	62
UNCERTAIN / NO RESPONSE	11

6. A point of discussion for several years has been the need/desire for the Society to have its own journal.

6a. Should the Society publish a journal specifically for the study of humic substances ?

YES	107
NO	73
UNCERTAIN / NO RESPONSE	6

6b. If yes, would you be willing to promptly and critically review 3-5 ? manuscripts a year

YES	81
NO	53
UNCERTAIN / NO RESPONSE	52

6c. Would you be willing to serve as Editor or on the Editorial Board of such a journal ?

YES	56
NO	92
UNCERTAIN / NO RESPONSE	38

7. The Society has recently changed its procedures for the Standards and Reference Collection.

7a. Have you ordered any standard or reference samples within the last 9 months ?

YES	17
NO	165
UNCERTAIN / NO RESPONSE	4

7b. If yes, were you satisfied with the service and product ?

YES	14
NO	1
UNCERTAIN / NO RESPONSE	171

IHSS VOLUMES (and related publications)

HUMIC SUBSTANCES IN TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS

Edited by Alessandro Piccolo. Elsevier, 1996 (675 pp). **ISBN 0-444-81516-3**

HUMIC SUBSTANCES IN SOIL AND WATER ENVIRONMENTS. *Characterization, Transformations and Interactions*. Proceedings 7th Int. Meeting of the IHSS. St. Augustine, Trinidad, 1994. 1996 (493 pp). Edited by C.E. Clapp, M.H.B. Hayes, N. Senesi, and S.M. Griffith and published by IHSS. **ISBN 1-889365-00-9**

HUMIC SUBSTANCES, PEATS AND SLUDGES: Health and Environmental Aspects. Edited by M.H.B. Hayes & W.S. Wilson. The Royal Society of Chemistry, Cambridge, 1997. Special Discount Price £38.68 (\$72.80). **ISBN 0-85404-699-2**

THE ROLE OF HUMIC SUBSTANCES IN THE ECOSYSTEMS AND IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. Selected Papers of the 8th Int. Meeting of the IHSS. Wroclaw, Poland, 1996. (1002 pp.). Edited by J. Drozd, S. Gonet, N. Senesi, and J. Weber. PTSH & Polish Chapter of IHSS, Wroclaw, 1997. **ISBN 83-906403-2-5**

IHSS STANDARD AND REFERENCE COLLECTION

News Concerning the IHSS Collection of Humic Materials

Changes in Prices of IHSS Humic and Fulvic Acids.

Prices of some samples will be changed effective 1 June, 1998 to better reflect their value to IHSS. The prices of the Suwannee River Humic Acid Standard will *increase* from \$150 to \$175 for 100 mg lots. For the Nordic Aquatic Humic Acid Reference the price will *increase* from \$100 to \$125. For the Suwannee River Fulvic Acid Standard the price will *decrease* from \$150 to \$125 and for the Suwannee River Fulvic acid Reference the price will *decrease* from \$100 to \$75 for 100 mg lots.

The Leonardite Humic Acid Standard will continue to be sold at \$5 for 100 mg lots but in addition we are offering 5 g lots at \$100. We have a large reserve of this material and want to offer it to soil, water, and plant scientists and engineers at a price that makes it attractive for conducting research or preliminary studies.

Suwannee River Humic Acid Reference Sample is No Longer Available. The supply of Suwannee River Humic Acid Reference was recently exhausted. This material will not be replaced.

New E-mail Address. Effective 1 June the e-mail address for communication concerning the collection will be IHSS@soils.umn.edu. E-mail is the preferred method of communication for ordering from the IHSS collection. For more details see the IHSS web site at www.ihss.gatech.edu.

MEETINGS

9th International Meeting of IHSS “**Humic Substances Downunder. Understanding and managing organic matter in soils, sediments and waters**”, Adelaide, Australia, 21-25 September 1998. The conference will be held at the University of Adelaide, Adelaide, Australia. This venue is in the city centre and offers modern conference facilities, surrounded by parklands and is close to all amenities. Adelaide is on the southern coast of Australia, and in September the average temperature is in the range 17-20 °C. The city is serviced by international airlines and has a wide range of interests for both national and international visitors. These include beautiful beaches, wineries, national parks, and cosmopolitan attractions.



The aim of this international conference is to advance the field of humic substance and organic matter research by providing a forum for the sharing of current expertise between researchers in these disciplines and to enhance the communication and collaboration of researchers in Australia with those from other parts of the world. Topics: 1. *Characterisation* - Size, structure and functional group content; 2. *Origin and fate* - Bio-markers, C-cycling, degradation, adsorption; 3. *Aquatic systems* -Transport, pollutants, transformation, sediments; 4. *Soil systems* - Interactions, amelioration, pollutants and transport; 5. *Geochemical systems* - Coal and petroleum industry, mineralprocessing; 6. *Water treatment* - Removal or transformation, disinfection products

The Conference Organization is being carried under the direction of the National Chapter of the IHSS in Australia. The chairman of this committee is **Dr Roger Swift**, a Past President of the IHSS. If you are interested in receiving further information about the conference, please contact Dr Kaye Spark, IHSS-9 Conference Secretary, CRC for Water Quality and Treatment, PMB 3, Salisbury, SA 5108, AUSTRALIA. Ph: +61 8 8259 0347. Fax: +61 8 82590228.

E-mail: IHSS-9@sawater.sa.gov.au. **internet:** <http://www.clw.csiro.au/conferences/ihss9/>

MEETINGS (cont'd)

The 4th **National Meeting of the Italian Chapter** of the IHSS will be held in Sassari/Alghero, Sardinia, Italy, next June **1999**. The Meeting will be organized by **Prof. Salvatore DEIANA**, Professor of Soil Chemistry and Director at the Institute of Agricultural Chemistry of the University of Sassari, Sardinia, Italy. The Annual General Assembly of the Italian Chapter of the IHSS, which counts now approximately 120 members, will also be held during the Meeting.

Northeastern Seminar on Humic Substances III, Boston, USA, 26-27 March, **1999**. The Seminar will be held at the Northeastern University (first-class facilities; 5 miles from Logan Airport (pick-up available); great historical location; hub of Northeast, downtown, museums and many sites nearby). Geoff Davies and Elham Ghabbour, Barnett Institute, 341 Mugar Hall, Northeastern University, Boston, MA 02115, USA: +1.617.3734818; fax: +1.617.3732855; e-mail: pmitzman@lynx.neu.edu. **See you there!**

IHSS TRAVEL BURSARIES AWARDEES

Six Travel Bursaries providing partial support to young researchers and students for attendance at the 9th Meeting of the IHSS in Adelaide, Australia, have been assigned by an "ad hoc" Committee of the IHSS in the 1998. The Chairman of the Committee, Dr. James J. Alberts, received a total of 18 applications within the deadline of April 15, 1998.

IHSS Bursary Awardees 1998

Ms. Vanessa Bailey <i>University of Alberta, Canada</i>	"Transformations of model organic contaminant- ¹⁴ C into humic-C and humin-C in two hydrocarbon contaminated soils"
Mr. Claudio Cocozza <i>University of Bari, Italy</i>	"Spectroscopic investigation of a Swiss peat bog profile"
Ms. Maria Jerzykiewicz <i>Wroclaw University, Poland</i>	"Electron paramagnetic resonance (EPR) studies on compost maturation and the stable radicals in humic acids from compost, soil and soft brown coal"
Ms. Cornelia Rumpel <i>Brandenburg Technical University of Cottbus, Germany</i>	"Wet chemical and spectroscopic characterization of the organic matter of lignite-rich mine soils"
Mr. Andre Simpson <i>Univ. of Birmingham, England</i>	"Interpretations of heteronuclear and multidimensional NMR spectroscopy as applied to humic substances."
Ms. Marcy Vozzella <i>Northeastern University, USA</i>	"Supercritical CO ₂ drying of peat and soil derived humic acid gels."