



Tree-Ring Society Newsletter

December 2018

A Message from the President

Welcome to the TRS newsletter. As a non-profit organisation, our primary goal is the promotion of tree-ring research and education. The modest annual membership fee entirely funds our activities. Since 1934, we have published the journal [Tree-ring Research](#) that now has a 5-year impact factor of 1.966, and members have free online access to this journal.

We support the main dendrochronology conferences (WorldDendro and AmeriDendro). The \$5000 contribution towards WorldDendro in Bhutan provided the infrastructure to enable the conference to proceed. To ensure transparency, TRS members vote upon the location of the conferences that we support. Without these funds, the major dendrochronology conferences simply wouldn't happen! We negotiate reduced conference fees for TRS members.

To encourage diversity, we recently launched the Florence Hawley Ellis Diversity Award that actively supports women, minorities, and others who identify as underrepresented in the field of dendrochronology. The inaugural winner of the award, [Dr Soumaya Belmecheri](#), was supported to present a keynote lecture at the recent WorldDendro Conference in Bhutan. We will not tolerate any forms of harassment or bullying. Based upon overwhelming evidence, Prof. Henri Grissino-Mayer was expelled from the society on 1 October 2018 and his Outstanding Service Award revoked.

We strongly support Dr Ricardo Villalba who has had unjust "abuse of authority" [allegations](#) made against his scientific integrity. Dr Villalba was the former director of the Argentinean Institute of Snow, Glacier and Environmental Research in Argentina. At WorldDendro, 116 international participants signed a petition to support him against these ridiculous claims. Please contact me about any aspects of our work. We're here to help you.



10th WorldDendro in Bhutan, 2nd-22nd June 2018



In June 2018, WorldDendro was held for the first time in a developing country. Approximately 180 delegates from 35 countries attended the conference at the Royal University of Bhutan in Thimphu. We were honoured to be supported by Yeshey Dorji, the Minister of Agriculture and Forests from the Royal Government of Bhutan.



As well as an extensive scientific programme including workshops and fieldtrips, there was an impressive presentation by the next generation of Bhutanese dendrochronologists. A common theme running throughout the conference was the impact of climate change upon mountain environments and the practical management of natural hazards. Tim Osborn gave a moving tribute to the work and life of Keith Briffa; a colleague and friend that will be missed by all. We were fortunate to have the Bhutanese premier of Clive Oppenheimer's film "*Into the Inferno*." To reduce our impact upon the environment, free water stations were provided and single-use plastic bottles were discouraged.



Our special thanks are due to Shacha Dorji at the Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environmental Research (UWICER), Ed Cook at Columbia University, Hans Linderholm from Gothenburg University and Paul J. Krusic from the [University of Cambridge](#).



Call for 4th AmeriDendro Proposals, 2020

The Tree-Ring Society (TRS) welcomes submissions for the **4th AmeriDendro** conference to be held in 2020. This meeting is held approximately every four years for individuals interested in topics related to dendrochronology. This meeting is sponsored by the TRS and designed to bring together researchers at all career stages. Previous AmeriDendro Meeting have been held in Vancouver (BC, Canada - 2008), Tucson (AZ, USA - 2013) and Mendoza (Argentina - 2016). The TRS is soliciting proposals for the 4th AmeriDendro Meeting to be held in 2020. Proposals submissions will be accepted until **January 30, 2019**. Go to the TRS website for the full [Call for Proposals](#).

Statement of Harassment and Bullying

The Tree-Ring Society is committed to promoting a safe, professional environment in all aspects of our discipline where individuals are treated with dignity and respect. TRS will not tolerate bullying, harassment, or discrimination of any kind. Members engaging in such inappropriate conduct, including that of a sexual nature, are subject to expulsion from the TRS and disclosure to appropriate authorities where applicable.

In light of the recent news stories ([Sept. 27, 2018](#) & [Oct. 3, 2018](#)) on the University of Tennessee Knoxville investigations of egregious behavior by Henri Grissino-Mayer, which resulted in their acceptance of his “resignation in lieu of termination”, the Tree-Ring Society has expelled Grissino-Mayer from TRS membership indefinitely. The Tree-Ring Society is currently drafting a policy on **Harassment and Bullying** that we will place on our website when it is complete.

A Professional Certification Program for Dendrochronology

The Tree-Ring Society desires to gauge interest among members for the establishment of a **Professional Certification Program for Dendrochronology**. The program is intended to recognize community members that have accomplished substantial levels of academic, professional, and/or technical achievements that support and further the science and practice of dendrochronological methods and theory. The goals of the program will be to formally identify dendrochronology as a vital academic and applied profession, to set standards of achievement for the preparation of future dendrochronologists, and to acknowledge significant levels of education, experience, and contributions of members of the dendrochronological community.

We propose to establish three levels of Professional Certification: Professional Dendrochronologist, Senior Professional Dendrochronologist, and Technical Professional Dendrochronologist. Required expertise in crossdating, education, experience, publications, and service will be defined for each Certification level. An applicant applying for Senior Professional Dendrochronologist will also have to have demonstrated substantial and lasting contribution to the discipline as recognized by her or his peers. Individuals applying for certification will provide documentation in an online application form. Applications will then be evaluated annually by a panel of at least four reviewers, which will include at least one member from the TRS board. Final approval for certification of each application will be voted on by the board. There will be a single deadline for application each calendar year, with submission of the application by September 1 and decisions announced by December 1. There will be a fee schedule for application, payable upon approval by the TRS board.

Please contact Peter Brown if you are interested in this proposal (pmb@rmtrr.org)

North American Dendroecological Fieldweek (NADEF)

We are pleased to announce that the TRS and NADEF have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The benefits of this agreement include formalizing the partnership and collaboration between us and enable individual members of the TRS to obtain a **\$100 discount** off the full fieldweek fees!

Photo: [28th Annual North American Dendroecological Fieldweek](#)



Donations!

We rely upon your support. For members within the USA you can still make **tax-deductible donations within the current US tax year** as the Tree-Ring Society is a 501(c)(3) USA nonprofit organization. Please specify if you would like this donation to be made towards the Florence Hawley Ellis Diversity Award. Thank you.

Connect with TRS

Connect with other members of the tree-ring community! Please visit the TRS web pages (treeringsociety.org), or connect with us on Twitter (@treeringsociety) or Facebook (search “Tree-Ring Society”)

Executive Committee

If you have specific questions about the Tree-Ring Society please feel free to contact any member of the executive committee on gmail at trs.council.comm or through our twitter page @treeringsociety:

President:	Iain Robertson
Vice-President:	Jodi Axelson
Treasurer:	Elaine Kennedy Sutherland
Secretary:	Christopher Gentry
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