



The Antarctic Society

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“BY AND FOR ALL ANTARCTICANS”

www.antarctican.org

www.facebook.com/antarcticansociety

PRESIDENT

Liesl Scherthanner
P.O. Box 3307
Ketchum, ID 83340
antarctican.org.president@protonmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Mark Leinmiller
5849 Riverstone Circle
Atlanta, GA 30339
leinmiller@bellsouth.net

TREASURER

Thomas Henderson
35 Cherry Street #701
Burlington, VT 05401
webmaster@antarctican.org

SECRETARY

Joan Boothe
2435 Divisadero Street
San Francisco, CA 94115
hoodooskr@aol.com

DIRECTORS

Dale Andersen
J. Stephen Dibbern
Matthew Jordan
Valmar Kuroil
Michele Raney
Ron Thoreson
Stephen Wilson

WEBMASTER

Thomas Henderson
(address above)

ARCHIVIST

Charles Lagerbom
clagerbom@gmail.com

SOCIAL MEDIA DIR.

Lesley Urasky
yamcam@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Guy Guthridge
gguthrid@protonmail.com
703-258-4320

MEMBERSHIP

New members welcome!
\$13/yr, plus more for mailed newsletter. See ‘About Us’ on website to join.

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AMERICA, ANTARCTICA, AND DIPLOMACY

In the World in 2021 issue, *Economist* diplomatic editor Daniel Franklin says “America needs to start reinvesting in diplomacy.” Today’s more contested global landscape makes the United States the only nation capable of world leadership. China is rising and assertive but, he argues, not yet keen or able to take on the burden.

The United States set the moral tone during World War Two. “We come as conquerors, but not as oppressors,” went Dwight D. Eisenhower’s Proclamation No. 1, as Allies entered Germany in October 1944. The prosperous, democratic postwar friend is an American foreign policy success.

Antarctica is another diplomatic score. In 1924 Secretary of State Charles Evans Hughes, responding to a query, wrote that the United States does not own Wilkes Land. Discovery “does not support a valid claim of sovereignty unless the discovery is followed by an actual settlement of the discovered country.” Hughes’s doctrine, later directed at seven nations’ territorial claims, helped in developing the U.S. initiative for the Antarctic Treaty. At ratification in 1960, Senator Kenneth Keating (R-NY) said, “We have spoken for peace and for disarmament and for abandoning nuclear weapons. In Antarctica we can achieve that most effectively.” Today 54 nations – big and small, rich and poor – agree to the Treaty’s principles of environmental protection, no military fortification, and inspections to check adherence. The peace dividend (defense budgets being zero) paid for scientific understanding of the region.

In *Eagle Over the Ice: The U.S. in the Antarctic* (University Press of New England, 1997) Christopher C. Joyner and Ethel R. Theis write, “The United States is the chief architect of law and policy for the Antarctic.” We were the mightiest military power, but we used diplomacy, not force, to get that win with no losers.

The Economist cites reports from the Council on Foreign Relations and Harvard describing how to rebuild America’s diplomatic expertise. A step would involve “sweeping professionalization” of the ranks. The Antarctic is a case study for that.

Guy G. Guthridge

Website update

by Tom Henderson

The photos on the website's home page are new. These exquisite images were taken by photographer Lynn Teo Simarski. Lynn made a garage theater presentation on her work at the 2018 Gathering in Port Clyde (see the website page on that Gathering on the website, <https://www.antarctican.org/2018-gathering>). She also happens to be the wife of our Editor, Guy Guthridge. To see more of Lynn's work, including full photos of those on our website, go to <https://lynnteosimarski.com>.

On our site, a new section under Pack Ice is titled Webinars & Podcasts. One of the few benefits of the pandemic has been a variety of webinars and podcasts to keep us informed and entertained. Those who watched the recent webinars hosted by the Mystic Seaport Museum and the Thwaites Glacier Collaboration (BAS sponsored) may wish to see the presentations again or catch the ones they missed, or see them for the first time.

Now you can! All you have to do is go to the Webinars & Podcasts page and click on the link to the virtual events which are now archived for viewing.

2020 Treasurer's report

by Tom Henderson

This Treasurer's report will be an annual feature of the January newsletters. It summarizes the financial condition of the Society for the past year.

It appears in this report that the Society had more expenses than income for the year. This is due to the refunds of deposits for the cancelled Mystic Seaport Museum gathering, most of which were made in 2019.

I want to especially thank the donors to the Society in 2020: George Denton, William Fox, John Middaugh, and Michele Raney.

INCOME	
Antarctican Society Gathering Deposit	1,430.00
Donation By PayPal	427.00
Donations by check	550.00
Dues deposits by check	1,973.00
Dues deposits by PayPal	2,895.64
Interest Inc	1.33
Other Inc	0.25
TOTAL INCOME	7,277.22

EXPENSES	
Administrative Supplies	
Postage	468.00
TOTAL Administrative Supplies	468.00
Bank Charge	
Bank Fees	23.10
TOTAL Bank Charge	23.10
Gathering Expenses	0.00
Misc	213.00
Newsletter Expenses	1,017.81
PayPal Fees	183.56
Reimbursement	5,206.19
Services	
Printing and Distribution	1,271.99
TOTAL Services	1,271.99
Subscriptions	
Google GSuite	37.72
Zoom	132.45
TOTAL Subscriptions	170.17
Website Expenses	
Website Hosting	216.00
Website Security	34.65
TOTAL Website Expenses	250.65
TOTAL EXPENSES	8,804.47

OVERALL TOTAL	-2,199.25
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Bank Accounts	
Camden Bank AS Checking	0.00
Camden Bank Ruth Siple Fund	0.00
The Antarctic Society Checking VFCU	32,358.77
The Antarctic Society Savings	5.00
VFCU AS Club Account	0.00
TOTAL Bank Accounts	32,363.77

Cash Accounts	
PayPal Cash Account	74.53
TOTAL Cash Accounts	74.53

Liability Accounts	
Gathering registrations	-260.00
TOTAL Liability Accounts	-260.00

Investment Accounts	
Calvert Fund	49,106.06
TOTAL Investment Accounts	49,106.06

OVERALL TOTAL	81,284.36
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Update on nonprofit status

by Tom Henderson

With the passage of the new Bylaws, Articles of Incorporation, and Conflict of Interest Statement, the Society is now prepared to establish our nonprofit status.

The first step is to incorporate as a nonprofit in Vermont. That has now been accomplished, along with obtaining an EIN (Employer Identification Number) from the IRS. The next step is submission of Form 1023EZ to the IRS which, if approved, registers us as a federally recognized nonprofit. The processing of the 1023EZ could take as much as six months so perhaps we will have news by next summer.

I must include a big “thank you” to Michael Russell, the Vermont attorney who is guiding us through the 501(c)(3) process. Michael is experienced in incorporating nonprofits in Vermont and has been of great assistance. When I approached him about his fees, he simply said “give me a membership in the Society”! Michael and two brothers, members George and Ken, have a connection to Antarctica. Their grandfather, Joseph DeGanahl, was a dog driver and backup pilot on the 1928-30 Byrd Antarctic Expedition.

Achieving our nonprofit status will allow us to take advantage of benefits including deductibility of dues and donations by our members, reduced-cost liability insurance for the Society to cover board members and our events, and the ability to apply for grants. It will require annual reports by our Treasurer, not onerous for an organization of our size.

Stay tuned!

2020 new members

Fifty-five people became members of the Society in 2020. Welcome!

Karen Backer	California
Peter Barrett	New Zealand

Heather Boothe	Virginia
Norris Boothe	California
Eleanor Byrd	Virginia
Chris Callie	Pennsylvania
Kirsten Carlson	Military APO
Nancy Chabot	Maryland
Ted Cheeseman	California
Lawrence Cosgriff	Virginia
Kathy Covert	Colorado
Wendy Crowder	California
Fred Davey	New Zealand
Crispin Day	United Kingdom
Rick Dehmel	California
Kenneth Down	California
Donald Duncan	Washington
Lesley Ewing	California
William Fox	Nevada
Andrew Gerrard	New Jersey
Ellen Gilkerson	California
Sheridan Harvey	Washington, D.C.
James Haselman	Texas
David Hirzel	California
Elaine Hood	Colorado
Von & Jim Hurson	California
Karen Ireland	Washington
Gil Jeffer	New Jersey
Richard Jones	Hawaii
Matthew Jordan	New Zealand
Valentine Kass	Virginia
Hyomin Kim	New Jersey
Cheryl Leonard	California
Jerry Lewis	New Hampshire
Matt McArthur	Australia
William McLean, Jr.	South Carolina
Robert Melville	New Jersey
Rachel Morgan	United Kingdom
Michael Nayak	California
Matt Oesterle	California
Joe O’Farrell	Ireland
Rick Pearsall	Virginia
Jennifer Rehmman	Florida
Michael Rosove	California
Michael Russell	Vermont
Heidi Scherthanner	Idaho
Laurence Seaton	California
Starr Seesler	Arizona
Alan Smith	California

Andrew Stillinger	New Jersey
Patricia Suchy	Louisiana
Seamus Taaffe	Ireland
Sallie Thoreson	Colorado
Toby Travelsted	Colorado
Norbert Wu	Callifornia

December 2020 Board meeting

The Society's Board of Directors met via Zoom 12 December for a regular Board meeting. President Liesl Schernthanner called the meeting to order, after which Secretary Joan Boothe reported that 13 members of the Board, including all officers, were present, enough for a quorum. Two Society members who are not Board members participated as guests.

Minutes of the meeting have been posted in the Members section of the website. Topics discussed:

- 1) The President's Report about work by Board Committees, including work to finalize the Society Documents and develop a Society Mission Statement
- 2) The Treasurer's Report of the Society financial position, progress on the work to regain our non-profit status, current Society membership numbers, website status and possible update options, and information on options and cost to obtain Directors and Officers Insurance for the Society
- 3) Society Documents Committee Report concerning revisions to the Bylaws, Articles of Incorporation, and Conflict of Interest Document, all necessary to obtain Non-profit status
- 4) Outreach Committee Report, including discussion of the new Brochure
- 5) Report of Newsletter Working Group
- 6) Need for and role of Finance and Administrative Policy Committee
- 7) Virtual Gatherings in the future
- 8) Update on Archives
- 9) Discussion of a Paul Dalrymple Memorial was once again deferred

The next Board meeting will be on 13 March 2021. Society members wishing to participate – you are cordially welcome to do so – should notify any member of the Board so the Zoom meeting number and password can be provided. You'll need a computer with an internet connection.

Jerry Marty moves on, but not away

Antarctican Society Director Jerry Marty, who has served on the Board on and off since 2002, has stepped down as a director in order to write his memoirs, which will include his long "living the dream" career with the U.S. Antarctic Program.

"It has been an honor," he writes, "to be part of such a distinguished and dedicated group of people over the years. Elena and I will continue to be Society members and look forward to seeing everyone at the next reunion."

Barry Lopez and the Antarctic

The world, and Antarctica, have lost a major voice.

After writing *Arctic Dreams: Imagination and Desire in a Northern Landscape* (496 p., Penguin Random House, 1986, National Book Award winner), author Barry Lopez turned his attention to the Antarctic, traveling there in 1987 and 1988 – his first of several trips – with support from the National Science Foundation (Antarctic Artists and Writers Program).

A 1,500-word essay in the 27 March 1988 *Washington Post* was the first published result:

Barry was concerned that the looming question of mining in the Antarctic might be decided in favor of commercial interests. He wrote, "it is a shift in the perception of its usefulness to human beings . . . that makes Antarctica, suddenly, so relevant. It's the driving force behind the circulation of both the planet's atmosphere and its oceans. Its ice

sheets have had a profound effect on global climate. All this, and the record of peaceful coexistence under the provisions of its treaty, make Antarctica, perhaps, the continent of the 21st century.”



Author Barry Lopez 1992
(courtesy of literary-arts.com)

The essay signals an interest in the region that lasted the rest of his life, which ended at the age of 75 on 25 December 2020. *The Guardian* (26 December) says he was “an award-winning American writer who tried to tighten the bonds between people and place.” Kim Stafford, former Oregon poet laureate, said Lopez’s 20 books “are landmarks that define a region, a time, a cause. He also exemplifies a life of devotion to craft and learning, to being humble in the face of wisdom of all kinds.”

The *New York Times* wrote on 26 December, “his books, essays and short stories explored the kinship of nature and human cul-

ture. . . . Mr. Lopez embraced landscapes and literature with humanitarian, environmental, and spiritual sensibilities that some critics likened to those of Thoreau and John Muir.”

“He went to the Arctic – as to the Antarctic, the Pacific northwest, Australia, the Galapagos, Africa – with the mental preparation of a scientist,” writes *The Economist* (2 January 2021).

Barry’s second Antarctic article, “Informed by indifference – a walk in Antarctica,” grew out of a week in the McMurdo Dry Valleys (*Harper’s Magazine*, May 1988). “I took several long walks in the Wright and adjacent Taylor valleys. I did not feel insignificant on these journeys, dwarfed or shrugged off by the land, but superfluous. It is a difficult landscape to enter, to develop a rapport with. It is not inimical or hostile, but indifferent, utterly remote, even as you stand in it. The light itself is aloof. . . . If you returned it would be to pay your respects, for not being welcomed.”

“Our frail planet in cold, clear view – the South Pole as global laboratory” is in the May 1989 *Harper’s*. Seven pages, it gives an Antarctic panorama – scientific, geographic, political – from the perspective of Barry and three glaciologists digging and sampling snow at a tent camp 20 miles upwind of South Pole Station. “The line where sky met snow, a thin bead of molten silver trembling under the pressure of the light, was so vivid it seemed the edge of creation.”

Barry Lopez next visited Antarctica because NSF wanted him back. At McMurdo, construction was done on the Albert P. Crary Science and Engineering Laboratory, increasing dramatically the ability to do original science in the Antarctic. Barry agreed to give the keynote address at the 5 November 1991 dedication. The talk became “The gift of good land,” in the June 1992 *Antarctic Journal of the United States*: “Antarctica—where there is no war, no famine, no inflation, no polluting industry, no dictator, no bunkered ghetto—allows us to think hard, and with little distrac-

tion, upon our biology. To confront the tenuousness of it.”

Barry went back to the Antarctic aboard NSF’s new research icebreaker *Nathaniel B. Palmer* on its maiden voyage in 1992 from Port Fourchon, Louisiana, to the Weddell Sea. “Into the Ice” is in the 15 January 1993 *American Way*, the American Airlines magazine. “Along with a sprinter’s thick legs, she had the leanness of a long-distance runner,” he wrote. A longer version is in the Winter 1994 *Orion*: “On several nights I’ve walked away from the ship with a few companions. . . . The snow chirps beneath the scuff of our boots. We probe for weak ice and struggle over wind-crusting drifts. From a distance, the *Palmer* seems like a locomotive idling in a desert.”

About This Life: Journeys on the Threshold of Memory (Penguin Random House, 288 p., 1999), by Barry Lopez, has a chapter about Antarctica.

Forty days with meteorite hunters at a camp in the Transantarctic Mountains resulted in Barry’s “Polar light – searching for the solar system’s origins at the end of the Earth,” in the January 2019 *Harper’s Magazine*. It’s long, with detail and sense of place. Selecting an excerpt is tricky: to read Barry Lopez, read the whole thing.

Orion Magazine published 25 Barry Lopez articles. “The Life and Loss of Barry Lopez” on its homepage highlights works, including an online interview by Bill Moyers.

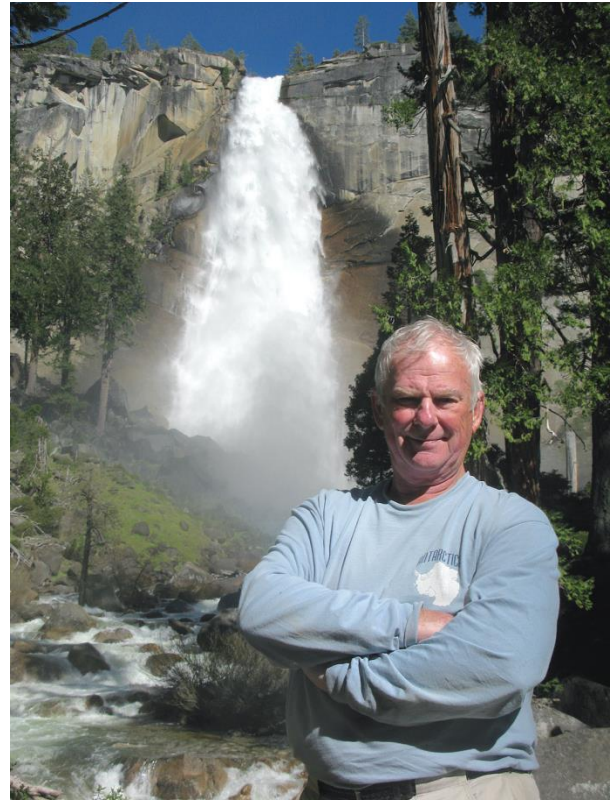
Horizon (Alfred A. Knopf, 572 p., 2019) is Barry’s last book. The first sentence: “*Horizon* is an autobiographical reflection on many years of travel and research, in Antarctica and in more than 70 countries.” Antarctica, he writes near the end of the book, “was like a great island, separated in so many ways from the world of our everyday lives.”

Politics & Prose Books in Washington, D.C., hosted a standing room only talk by Barry Lopez about *Horizon* on 4 April 2019. Lila Stiff said “nature writer” conveys an author’s integrity, probing mind, compassion.

She introduced Barry as the best American nature writer of his generation and “one of the greatest *writers* of our time, period.” *Horizon*, she said, is a life of travels across continents, oceans, ice floes, and time.

Jody Forster, 1948-2020

by P.A. Nisbet



**Jody Forster in Yosemite
(courtesy of Peter Nisbet)**

Joseph Morelle Forster, II (known to all as "Jody") unexpectedly passed away on 23 December 2020 from complications following heart surgery. He was born in Chicago in 1948, the son of famed WWII P-38 fighter Ace Joe Forster. He received his fine arts degree from Cal State, L.A., where he studied photography with the respected master Oliver Gagliani. Following a commission in the Air Force, Forster began to devote himself to photography, attending Ansel Adams’s Yosemite photographic workshop. Forster’s work as an 8" x 10" black and white format

artist was strongly influenced by the images of Ansel Adams with whom he has often been compared. It was Adams's concentration on the effects of light in nature that shaped Forster's art for the remainder of his life. After 1976 he moved to Arizona to concentrate on photographing in the Sonoran Desert, the Pinacate Mountains of Mexico, and the Superstition Wilderness near Phoenix.

Ever restless for new landscapes Forster, in 1984, joined the American expedition to climb Mt. Himalchuli in the Himalayas. Although not a professional climber, he packed in 80 pounds of large format camera equipment and worked at 16,000 to 18,000 feet. During his nine months in Asia he hiked 500 miles, climbed 150,000 vertical feet, and covered three mountain ranges: the Annapurnas, the Gorkas, and the Khumbu. Forster was the first large format photographer to work in the high reaches of the Himalaya since Vittorio Sella made similar history in 1909.

In 1992 Forster was selected by the National Science Foundation as part of the Antarctic Artists and Writers Program to photograph Antarctica's marine landscapes around Palmer Station. During that three-month stay he created spectacular images of icebergs and mountains that are a mainstay of his photographic legacy. He returned to McMurdo Station in 1995 to work during the austral summer. With the assistance of significant air support from Airdevron 6 Hercules aircraft (LC-130) and station helicopters, he found inspiration in areas such as Shackleton Glacier, the Barne Glacier, Cape Evans, Beacon Valley, and the South Pole.

Towards the end of this deployment he focused almost exclusively on aerial imagery of the Antarctic continent utilizing the special viewing ports of LC-130s to capture the abstract patterning of glaciers and mountains from aloft. Forster's untimely passing cut short his desire to return to the Ice one more time to winter over at McMurdo. Jody Forster's work

in Antarctica will certainly stand with his earlier mountain photographs as a prominent part of his legacy. He also will be remembered as friend and supporter of other photographic artists who ventured into the Antarctic.

Watch <https://vimeo.com/496468017>, a 27-minute video about Jody made and narrated by his nephew, Pi Ware, who has five Emmy nominations and one Emmy award for film editing.

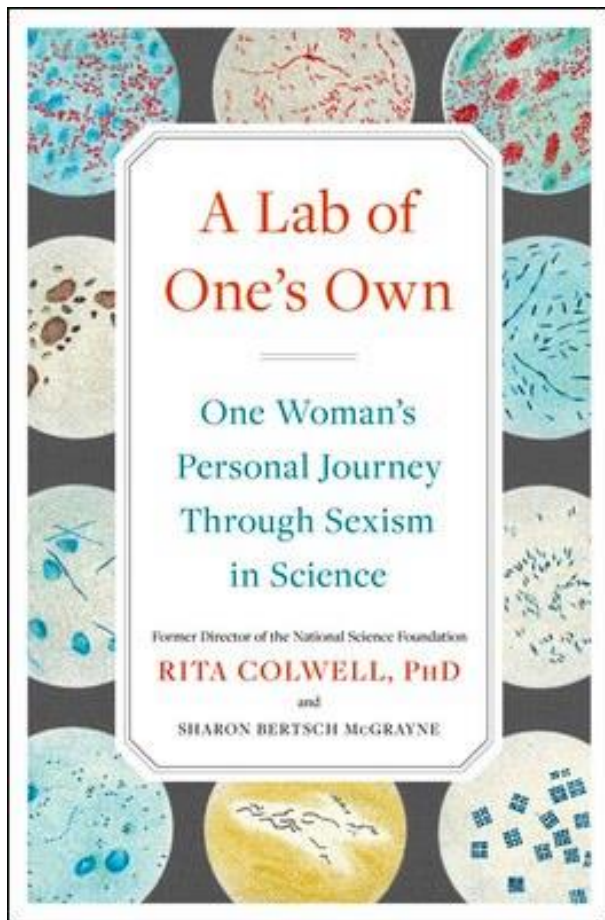
Peter A. Nisbet is a landscape painter based in the American Southwest. He and Jody Forster worked out of McMurdo in 1995 as a photographer-painter team.

Rita Colwell and the Antarctic

Dr. Rita R. Colwell – then a microbiologist at the University of Maryland – already was shaping the U.S. Antarctic Program six years before she started as director of the National Science Foundation (1998-2004). In 1986 and 1987, a committee she chaired produced the 57-page *Role of the National Science Foundation in Polar Regions* (NSB-87-128). The first of 15 recommendations was that science requirements should drive operational capability, not the other way around as sometimes happened. A research vessel with icebreaking capability was needed, they said; 5 years later, NSF had the *Nathaniel B. Palmer* (still in service). The committee said NSF should keep shifting operational support from military to contractors, a transition that had started but then picked up. The group said NSF should double its funding of polar research.

NSF's National Science Board sponsored the study. It saw the rising prominence of polar research, especially in global change, and wanted to sharpen the NSF role. NSF digested the report's premise that "polar research merits a higher place among National priorities than it previously has been accorded."

This polar groundwork plus her international research as a microbiologist came in handy shortly after she was sworn in as NSF director. NSF had won time aboard a U.S. Navy nuclear submarine to fund scientific mapping of the Arctic seafloor. “But there was a problem,” she writes in her [new book](#) *A Lab of One’s Own: One Woman’s Personal Journey Through Sexism in Science* (Simon & Schuster, 269 p., 2020). The chief scientist for the cruise was a woman. Women, an admiral explained, weren’t allowed on U.S. submarines. “Well, I said, no woman, no money.” They worked a compromise, and Associate Professor Margo H. Edwards, University of Hawaii, deployed.



***A Lab of One’s Own* by Rita Colwell**

Six months later the media were in a frenzy over Jerry Nielsen, wintering at South Pole as physician, who developed breast cancer and required an emergency evacuation

– coldest-ever landing at Pole. The Air Force demanded she be interviewed on her way home; Jerry did not want that at all. A call by Dr. Colwell to an Air Force general quieted the matter. Jerry Nielsen told her story later in a book she wrote.

At NSF, someone briefing the new director said life (aside from humans at the station) does not exist at the South Pole. Dr. Colwell asked, “How do you know?” Um. Edward J. Carpenter (SUNY Stony Brook) and two others collected snow samples in the 1999-2000 season. Large populations of bacteria were found, and evidence was that the organisms were metabolizing at ambient subzero temperatures (“Bacterial activity in South Pole snow,” *Applied and Environmental Microbiology*, June 2000).

Dr. Colwell saw that McMurdo Station, the largest settlement in the Antarctic, did not treat its sewage before discharging it into McMurdo Sound. Why not? The standard of macerating and discharge met the legal requirement of the Antarctic Treaty, she learned. “We shouldn’t discharge introduced microorganisms into the environment,” she said. By 2004 McMurdo had a \$6-million wastewater treatment plant. “The goal now is to treat the wastewater to the same levels expected in the United States,” said the supervisor of the new plant.

What about that doubled budget? “In the end, I couldn’t double the NSF’s budget,” she writes. “I did manage to get it increased by 63 percent. . . . I had hoped to do more, but as of this writing, this was nevertheless the greatest period of growth in the NSF’s fifty-year history.”

NSF, the U.S. Antarctic Program, and women in science have benefited notably from Rita Colwell’s career, her directorship at NSF, and, now, from lessons and tales compellingly told in her new book, which is “wonderfully readable for scientists and nonscientists alike,” writes Dr. Hilary Lappin-Scott, Society for General Microbiology.

Your editor found the book highly interesting because of both Dr. Colwell's amazing scientific achievements and her commitment to enabling women scientists. I grew up with no near model of women who had been suppressed in their careers. One aunt was an Army major in charge of German POW camps, another co-owned a furniture store, and a third was a Member of Congress. This book raised my empathy for persons whose potentials are suppressed by powers that be.

Artifacts returned to heritage trust

New Zealand's Antarctic Heritage Trust is celebrating the return of a set of Salter scales that Seabee Captain James Douglas, U.S. Navy, souvenired from Robert Falcon Scott's Discovery Hut in Antarctica.

Capt. Douglas was a distinguished engineer and officer in charge of construction of eight U.S. bases in Antarctica in the 1950s.

Before he passed away, Cap. Douglas gave the scales to his daughter Susanna Marquette.

"He told me that they'd come from Scott's Discovery Hut where they'd been used to weigh meat for the dogs. I was very, very honored that he had passed them on to me," says Susanna. "I was only six when my Dad went to Antarctica and remember getting postcards from him with pictures he'd drawn of penguins and of himself with a beard."

The scales hung in Susanna's Idaho log cabin for 15 years before she learned about the work New Zealand's Antarctic Heritage Trust had done to conserve Discovery Hut and the artifacts in it.

She approached the Trust, and the scales were returned to New Zealand.

The Trust's program manager for artifacts, Lizzie Meek, says "These scales are more than a hundred years old but despite their age and travels are in pristine condition. Captain Douglas and Susanna had taken incredible care of them."



The Salter scale back in the hut

"They're an important artifact and were likely used by the heroic age Antarctic explorers to weigh items ahead of sledging expeditions, to ensure supply levels were accurate and the sled was as light as it could be.

"It was not uncommon, in the 1950s and 60s for those who visited the huts to take a souvenir home with them. We've had a number of these returned over the years including skis, clothing, and items of food,

and we welcome the opportunity to be able to repatriate them,” says Lizzie.

After conservation assessment, the scale details were added to the database, which contains thousands of artifacts from the five expedition bases cared for by the Trust as part of the Ross Sea Heritage Restoration Project.

“We’ve now taken the scales back to Antarctica, and they add something really special to the ambience of Discovery Hut,” says Lizzie.

A photograph of the scales back in the hut was sent to Susanna. “I had the biggest smile on my face when I saw it. I know Dad would be excited that they’re back where they belong too – times have changed.”

Lizzie Meek has a message for families in possession of similar souvenirs. “Get in touch. We’d love to be able to help repatriate such items. We have the cold-climate conservation expertise to ensure these artifacts are returned to where they belong and are well cared for in generations to come.”

Salter is a U.K. company manufacturing kitchen scales since 1760.

People removing artifacts from the huts today are subject to prosecution.

The Trust was supported in Antarctica by crown entity Antarctica New Zealand and was permitted to undertake conservation activity at the huts by New Zealand’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

For information contact Jack Loader, Great Scott (a communications firm based in Christchurch), jack@greatpr.co.nz.

Spotlight: John Spletstoesser

by Charles Lagerbom

Paul Dalrymple once cut short one of our regular lunch meetings at the local Rockland Dennys when he said he needed to go check on a friend recuperating from a helicopter crash in the Arctic.

It was John Spletstoesser. ‘Spletts’ became a mentor and friend to me and opened

doors within the polar community. A geologist by training, he had a varied polar career which culminated in him becoming a sought-after guest lecturer on polar cruises. He had great stories and seemed to know just about anybody involved in polar work and science.

Spletts was a good motivator. He got me into guest lecturing on polar cruise and expedition ships, talked me into becoming the American Polar Society membership chair for a dozen years, started me on editing an index of the first years of APS’s publication *The Polar Times*, recruited me as a polar book reviewer, and kept me up to date on all things Arctic and Antarctic.

The part of John’s slide collection that came to the Antarctic Society numbers nearly 600 images, no doubt a fraction of what he had accumulated from his work in polar regions. Many were slides for his popular shipboard talks, back when lecturers traveled with slide carousels (and always a spare projector bulb!)

A meticulous editor and an endless font of knowledge, John had a great laugh and a hearty sense of humor. We were pretty much in daily contact when he suddenly passed away in January 2016. I made the trek with a few others from the Society to his memorial service in Minnesota. It has been almost 5 years now, and I still miss him. It was an honor to digitize his slides and add them to the society’s image collection.

Spletts was a true Antarctic.



Spletts at sign outside of Byrd Station



Spletts and resupply helo, Beardmore Glacier



Spletts at Shackleton landing site, S. Georgia

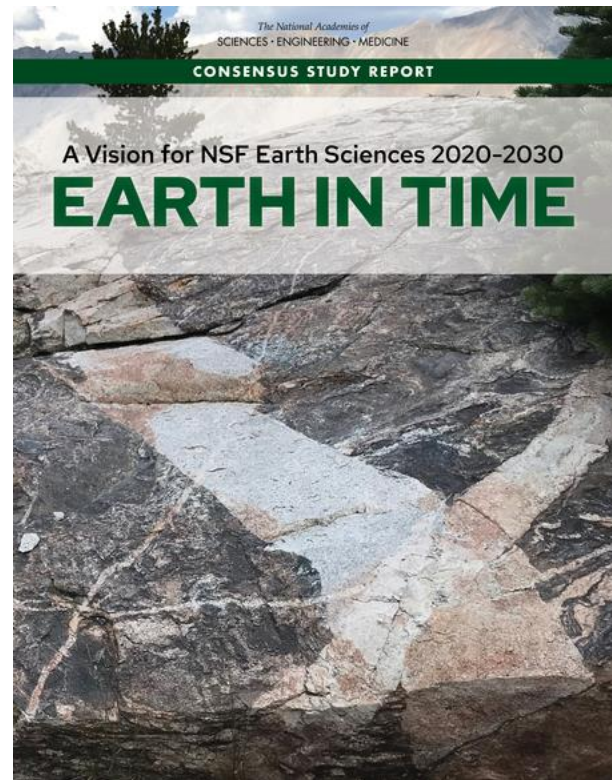


Spletts in the Ellsworth Mountains 1960-61



Spletts, 1981 Christmas dinner at Victoria Land

Deep time and today



Earth in Time, NAS

Earth in Time – a rundown of some of the science NSF should fund in the next decade – was a popular download at the National Academies in 2020.

Question Eight, of a dozen with priority, asks what Earth’s past reveals about climate. “Humans have become geologic agents,” it says, so “longer records and observations outside of human experience are needed to accurately infer the impacts of ongoing change.” An example: Earth took 6,000 years to raise atmospheric carbon dioxide 80 ppm; we’ve done the same over the last ~50 years. “Climate models tend to underestimate the magnitude of polar amplification (the higher rate of temperature rise in polar versus temperate and tropical regions). Paleoclimate archives and models are integral to addressing this deficiency and will be key to generating more confident projections in rates of environmental change at high latitudes.”

Antarctic scientists can be pleased that since beginning their continuous programs in the 1950s they've demonstrated the region's role in global processes. This new book gives the other perspective: what the global earth science community still wants from the Antarctic. Free download: <https://www.nap.edu/download/25761>.

AAWC: a real group and a virtual exhibition

by Kirsten Carlson

No matter your location on the planet, on Thursday 28 January 2021 I invite you to the opening reception of *Adequate Earth: Artists and Writers in Antarctica*. It's the launch of an online exhibition of past participants from the National Science Foundation's Antarctic Artists and Writers Program (AAWP), organized by the Antarctic Artists and Writers Collective (AAWC). I'm co-chair of AAWC, in addition to being a new Antarctic Society member.

Adequate Earth is the Collective's first public initiative. The exhibition takes its title from a book of poetry written by Donald Finkel, who went to Antarctica with support of the National Science Foundation in 1968. The exhibition presents projects from the 13 founding members of AAWC. Organized in four thematic sections and presenting works ranging from graphic arts to sculpture, photography, illustration, poetry, performance, and music, the exhibition introduces innovative works with a multi-faceted portrayal of present-day Antarctica. Many of these projects have continued to develop long after their authors' return from Antarctica and have encouraged far-reaching conversations about the meaning of the continent in the past, the present, and the future.

The Collective was founded in 2020 to inspire and educate the public about Antarctica and to advocate for the region's vital role in understanding the world we live

in. The 70 members all are past participants of the AAWP. Nurtured by fellow Antarctic Guy Guthridge, over 120 artists, performers, and writers have traveled to the seventh continent through the program, using their creative talents to tell the story of this largely unexplored place through art, music, writing, and performance. The AAWC brings those talents together and shares the work with the public.



Original thirteen founders of AAWC

Antarctic Society members Kirsten Carlson and Cheryl E. Leonard are in the exhibition. It also features works from Susan Fox Rogers, Helen Glazer, Henry Kaiser, Glenn McClure, Greg Neri, Shaun O'Boyle, Michelle Schwengel-Regala, Oona Stern, Patricia A. Suchy, Vince LiCata, and Karen Romano Young. Ulrike Heine is the curator.

The eight free virtual events are organized in partnership with SUNY Cobleskill, the Center for Art and Environment at the Nevada Museum of Art, and the Museum of Making Music. The events include artists presentations and panel discussions, a screening of the restored version of Herbert Ponting's *The Great White Silence*, and a mini-symposium hosted by William L. Fox at the Center for Art and Environment at the Nevada Museum of Art.

The AAWC's mission is to inspire and educate the public about Antarctica and its scientific exploration through collaborations in the arts. More information about the online exhibition and accompanying virtual events plus a directory of members and projects can

be found at the Collective's website:
<http://www.aawcollective.com>.

John Dawson Dies at 85

By Marge Dawson



Dr. John A. Dawson

John Alexander Dawson, 85, of Bala Cynwyd, a lifelong adventurer, transportation planner, and scientist whose early research took him to a frozen outpost in Antarctica, died Friday, Dec. 11, of pneumonia at Lankenau Medical Center.

Dr. Dawson was born to George and Carolyn Dawson in South Amboy, N.J. He graduated from Highland Park High School and Rutgers University with a bachelor's degree in physics.

He earned a master of science degree from Lehigh University and a Ph.D. from the Geophysical Institute of the University of Alaska Fairbanks. His thesis was on geomagnetic micropulsations, or fluctuations in the Earth's magnetic field caused by variations in solar wind.

His first job was as a scientist observing the aurora australis, the southern cousin to the aurora borealis, at the Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station in 1957 and 1958. Just being there demanded toughness: As winter approached, a two-day twilight yielded to six months of continuous darkness.

It was so cold in the rudimentary buildings that Dr. Dawson had to chip ice

from the corners of his quarters. The scientists also shoveled snow to melt for drinking and bathing.

Dr. Dawson met the explorers Sir Edmund Hillary and Sir Vivian Fuchs at the South Pole base. Hillary and Sherpa Tenzing Norgay were the first confirmed climbers to summit Mount Everest. Fuchs' expeditionary team completed the first overland crossing of Antarctica in 1958.

Later, the Advisory Committee on Antarctic Names named a 6,800-foot mountain in the Queen Elizabeth Range after Dr. Dawson. It's now known as Dawson Peak, to mark his contributions to the understanding of the aurora australis through his work at the South Pole Station.

In the early 1960s, Dr. Dawson and a friend kayaked down the Alsek River, which flows from Yukon into Northern British Columbia in Canada, and to Alaska, entering the Gulf of Alaska at Dry Bay. They are believed to be the first Westerners to traverse the full course of the 240-mile river, through uncharted wilderness.

"At the end of their journey, they spotted a fishing cabin near Dry Bay," his family said in a statement. "They knocked at the door and startled the inhabitant, who said that in his two decades spending summers there, no one had ever knocked at his door before."

Starting in 1963, Dr. Dawson was a scientist at a U.S. Commerce Department laboratory in Boulder, Colorado.

From 1966 to 1972, he taught physics at Ahmadu Bello University in Zaria, Nigeria. While based there, he traveled throughout Africa and Europe. He and his wife, Margaret McLaren Dawson, whom he married in 1966, climbed Mount Cameroon, the highest point in sub-Saharan western Africa.

From 1973 to 1978, he worked as a scientist at the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington. From 1978 to 1985, he was a consultant with R.L. Banks & Associates, a

firm in Arlington, Va., specializing in the economics of transportation.

Stand and deliver

The 1988 movie aside, highwaymen used to command their victims to hand over their valuables by saying, “Stand and deliver.”

But this is no stickup. Your Society wants you to give it something that, the giving done, you’ll still have.

We mean an article, written by you about an aspect of your interesting life or something else you think will be of value to your fellow members. Your editor knows you have those great stories because he’s heard you tell a few. Put your fingers to the keyboard and give us a 500- to 1,000 word article. It won’t make you rich, but you’ll be famous.

Peter Espenshied Passes

Antarctican Society member Peter Espenshied passed away in his home on September 7, 2020 at age 83. An astronomer and bookseller, he was deeply involved in DC politics and community issues for more than 50 years. His life had taken him all over the world, from deserts of Mauritania to the nunataks of Antarctica. He is survived by his sons, Jonathan and Jared, his sister Joan and grandsons Tobias and Samson.

Did you know Oscar Del Rivero Martinez?

Oscar Del Rivero Martinez was the first citizen of Mexico to set foot at the geographic South Pole. In 1970, he was a reporter for El Universal newspaper and was invited to the South Pole by the U.S. Navy. His granddaughter Katia wants to surprise him on the 51st anniversary of his time there. Contacts from that time would be a good way to do this. If you knew him and want to wish him well, please contact Tom Henderson at webmaster@antarctican.org.



Oscar at the Ceremonial South Pole 1971

