What is Sclerochronology?

Sclerochronology is the study of physical and chemical variations in the accretionary hard tissues of organisms, and the temporal context in which they formed. Sclerochronology focuses primarily upon growth patterns reflecting annual, monthly, fortnightly, tidal, daily, and sub-daily increments of time entrained by a host of environmental and astronomical pacemakers. Familiar examples include daily banding in reef coral skeletons or annual growth rings in mollusk shells. Sclerochronology is analogous to dendrochronology, the study of annual rings in trees, and equally seeks to deduce organismal life history traits as well as to reconstruct records of environmental and climatic change through space and time.

Who Should Attend?

Anyone interested in and working on the formation and interpretation of growth increments in accretionary hard parts of invertebrate and vertebrate organisms should attend this conference. You should plan to attend if you wish to increase your knowledge and understanding of state-of-the-art sclerochronological research, if you desire to present your research in a forum of like-minded scientists, or if you want to learn of the many realized and potential applications of this exciting field of study.

- Paleontologists
- Geologists
- Ecologists
- Geochemists
- Archaeologists
- Biologists
- Environmental scientists
- and others

Conference Overview

It has been over 25 years since publication of the definitive “Skeletal Growth of Aquatic Organisms” and there have been many exciting developments in the field of sclerochronology since that time. Methodological advances have been considerable, the range of species being included in sclerochronological research has expanded, and the applications are more diverse than ever. However, sclerochronology is a multi-disciplinary pursuit, and because of that the lines of communication among the diversity of researchers in this field are not well-established. We are convening the 2007 International Sclerochronology Conference as a venue to foster enduring lines of communication and bringing to light the many recent advances in this field of study.
Conference Structure & Themes

The conference themes include such topics as biomineralization and vital effects, methodological state-of-the-art, modeling and statistical analyses, and the diverse applications of these techniques. The conference themes will provide a strong foundation upon which to establish and enhance lines of communication and to build collaborations that will be a springboard for future research. The meeting format, a single forum with no concurrent sessions, has been chosen to maximize opportunities for interaction. Thus, the number of oral presentations will be limited although poster presentations are welcome and will be emphasized in their own session. Those presentations focusing on cutting edge methodologies, technologies, and applications will be featured in the oral sessions.

Call for Abstracts

Potential conference participants are invited to submit abstracts for oral and poster presentations. All approved abstracts will be published in an abstract book to be distributed at the conference and on the conference web site. Abstracts will be accepted ONLINE no later than March 15, 2007. Detailed Submission Guidelines are available on the Conference website located at: http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/sclerochronology

Registration

The registration fee, combined with funds contributed by our generous sponsors, provides full participation in the conference, conference materials, an abstract book, a customized conference portfolio and canvas tote, and a conference t-shirt, along with a daily continental breakfast and mid-morning refreshments, the Tuesday evening early bird social, the Wednesday evening welcome reception, the Thursday afternoon poster session social, and the Saturday awards luncheon.

Registration Fees - All figures are presented in US dollars ($).

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*Student attendees must fax a copy of their Student ID to Office of Conferences and Institutes at: 352-392-9734 to register.

Detailed registration information is available on the Conference website located at: http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/sclerochronology
Tentative Agenda

TUESDAY, JULY 17, 2007
(Arrival and check-in)
4:00pm-6:00pm  Registration Opens & Early Bird Social

WEDNESDAY, JULY 18, 2007
7:00am-5:00pm  Conference Registration Opens
7:30am-8:30am  Continental Breakfast
9:00am-10:00am Introductory remarks and historical context
10:00am-10:30am Break
10:30am-12:30pm General Session - Contributed papers
12:30pm-2:00pm Lunch on your own
2:00pm-4:00pm General Session - Contributed Papers
5:00pm-7:00pm Welcome Reception

THURSDAY, JULY 19, 2007
7:00am-5:00pm  Conference Registration
7:00am-8:00am  Continental Breakfast
8:00am-10:00am General Session - Contributed Papers
10:00am-10:30am Break
10:30am-12:30pm General Session - Contributed Papers
12:30pm-2:00pm Lunch on own
2:00pm-4:00pm General Session - Contributed Papers
4:00pm-6:00pm Poster Session Social
6:00pm  Dinner on own

FRIDAY, JULY 20, 2007
7:00am-5:00pm  Conference Registration
7:00am-8:00am  Continental Breakfast
8:00am-10:00am General Session - Contributed Papers
10:00am-10:30am Break
10:30am-12:30pm General Session - Contributed Papers
12:30pm-2:00pm Lunch on own
2:00pm-4:00pm General Session - Contributed Papers
3:30pm-4:00pm Break
4:00pm-5:00pm General Session - Contributed Papers
6:00pm  Dinner on own

SATURDAY, JULY 21, 2007
8:30am-10:30am Conference Registration
8:00am-9:00am Continental Breakfast
9:00am-10:00am General Session - Contributed Papers
10:00am-10:30am Break and Remove Posters
10:30am-12:00pm Closing Session & Meeting Summary
12:00pm-2:00pm Awards Luncheon
2:00pm  Conference Concludes

Conference Location

THE HILTON ST. PETERSBURG

The Hilton St. Petersburg located at 333 First Street South, St. Petersburg, Florida, is offering participants of the 1st International Sclerochronology Conference a special guest room rate of $109 per night plus 12% tax, single or double occupancy (honored three days prior and three days following the conference, based on availability.) Contact the hotel at 1-888-843-6929 or contact the National Reservations Office at 1-800-HILTONS. Be sure to identify yourself as being with the International Sclerochronology Conference.

All reservations require a guarantee with a credit card or a one (1) night advance payment on or before June 1. (This is non-refundable if the guest does not arrive as scheduled, or changes or cancels the reservation less than 48 hours prior to arrival).

After June 1, guest rooms for Sclerchronology participants will no longer be on hold and the discounted group rate may not be available. Visit the Conference website at http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/sclerochronology for details on check-in and parking.

Organizing Committee

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Questions

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