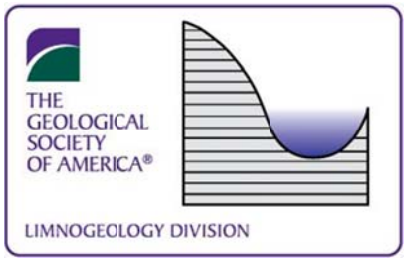
Geological Society of America

Limnogeology Division Newsletter

Volume 10, Number 1
October 2012



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From the Editor

Peter Drzewiecki
Storrs, CT

Greetings!

Welcome to the Fall 2012 edition of the Limnogeology Newsletter!

This edition of the Newsletter begins by highlighting the changes in division leadership. It also contains a list of events at the Annual GSA Meeting in Charlotte, North Carolina, and other informational items including:

- A message from your out-going division chair,
- An update from Laurel Stratton (last year's Kelt's winner), and
- A list of upcoming limnogeology-related meetings

Finally, this will be the last edition of the Newsletter that I edit, as I am stepping down as Secretary and Newsletter Editor of the Limnogeology Division. It has been my honor to serve you and all the division officers over the last 6 years. Hopefully I have been able to provide you with a little enjoyable reading over that time!

Cover Photo: Pine Acres Lake, Hampton, CT (photograph by Peter Drzewiecki)

Message from the Chair

Daniel Deocampo
Atlanta, GA

The upcoming meeting in November is sure to be another hit for the Limnogeology community. Join us for our traditional joint annual awards ceremony and party (dare I call it a “Business Meeting”?) with the GSA Sedimentary Geology Division and SEPM on Tuesday night at the GSA meeting in Charlotte! It is a great opportunity to meet this year’s Kerry Kelts Student Award winner, as well as the I.C. Russell Award winner. Lots of students usually turn out, so it’s also a great chance to meet some faces of the future of our discipline.

In Charlotte we will have 134 abstracts being presented in 12 oral and/or poster sessions that we are sponsoring or co-sponsoring, with presentations every day of the meeting. Once again limnogeologists are coming out in strength to present cutting-edge research on everything from arid-land hydrology to lacustrine microbialiates to ostracode geochemistry. It is sure to be a great meeting!

This is my last newsletter as chair, and I want to applaud the work of the Limnogeology Division and the community over the last couple years. Even though our numbers are fairly stable at ~200, I think our scientific impact is growing. We are co-sponsoring more sessions across the disciplines, especially hydrogeology and Quaternary geology, and we are fielding more abstracts and more sessions. We have had a number of proposed sessions cancelled because they did not draw enough abstracts, but I believe this is

Dan Deocampo at Hutton's section in the Salisbury Crags in Edinburgh, where a dolerite sill is intruded in a Mississippian sandstone.

simply because we have proposed more sessions. By combining sessions at the end of the abstract submission period, I think we have generally prevented topical groups of abstracts from getting dispersed. Even though some sessions might not have had enough abstracts to fly, I believe this approach has generated more interest, abstracts, and sessions overall. There are other ways to manage session proposals and abstract submissions, however, and I hope the community will engage with the Division management board to discuss these issues and continue to move us all forward.

It has been wonderful over the last two years to see the community continue their support of the Kelts Student Award. The Kelts Fund is now over $28,000, which is a great number. This is allowing us some flexibility this year, such as awarding two students some financial support instead of just one. This is happening because of your quiet and kind generosity – on behalf of the students that this benefits, THANK YOU! And keep it coming – there are many ideas on the table (increasing the award amount, increasing the number of students supported, paying for travel to GSA meetings), and any of them will take more money. Many of our institutions have been hit hard by budget cuts, and it is gratifying to see the community support this work in the face of that.

For the next two years the Division will be led by Amy Myrbo (UMN/LacCore) – it is a fantastic opportunity for the Division to continue to benefit from her wealth of experience at LacCore and her many community connections. I am also thrilled to welcome two others to the Management Board – Joop Varekamp (Wesleyan) who is stepping up as Vice Chair, and Michelle Goman (Sonoma State), who is stepping up as Secretary. David Finkelstein (UMass Amherst) continues to serve as Treasurer as he has apparently signed up for a 100 year term, and David Warburton (FAU) is generously continuing to help us as webmaster. I'm confident this talented team will lead the Division to greater heights in the coming years – starting with our 10 Year Anniversary next year! Please meet your management board at the party, and share your ideas for the future of our Division!

I also want to send a special thank you to Peter Drzewiecki (Eastern Conn.) for his many years of supporting the Division as Secretary, and for putting together all these whiz-bang newsletters. Thanks, Peter!

To the whole community, thank you for all you do to make GSA a special home for the geosciences, and for all your work in advancing Science, Stewardship, and Service. I wish you another successful and rewarding year in limnogeology and in everything else in life – see you in Charlotte!

Dan Deocampo
Limnogeology Division Chair

New Management

Peter Drzewiecki
Storrs, CT

At the GSA Meeting in early November, there will be a transition in the Limnogeology Division Leadership. Thanks to all who ran for positions, and who are stepping down from service to the Division.

Congratulations to the new Limnogeology Division Officers!

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Diatoms as Proxies for Hydrographic Variability in a Small, Subalpine Lake, Sierra Nevada Mountains, Northern California

Laurel E. Stratton
Graduate Program of Hydrologic Sciences, University of Nevada, Reno.

Introduction

With the scientific community's advances in understanding broad-scale climate change and the impact of anthropogenic inputs, research focus is now shifting toward determining the specific responses of various ecosystems to climatic fluctuation at a local scale. Given the brevity and limitations of the historic climate record, however, these systems cannot be adequately characterized without high-quality paleoclimate records.

Of particular importance to understanding the Sierra Nevadan climate system is accurate characterization of long-term "mega-droughts," dry periods well beyond the scope of the historical record in the Sierra Nevada, California. Mega-droughts were first recognized based on evidence provided by *in-situ*, drowned stumps from Tenaya and Mono Lakes and a number of other Sierran localities that were dated to the 12th and 13th centuries CE, now referred to as the Medieval Climate Anomaly (MCA) (Stine 1994). While the MCA has been well documented, the precise timing, severity, and spatial variability of individual droughts remain poorly constrained (Lindström 1990, Stine 1994, Bensen et al. 2002, Cook et al. 2004; Mensing et al. 2004, Graham and Hughes 2007; Kleppe et al. 2011).

We are working to further constrain the MCA by using diatoms assemblages preserved in the sediment of Fallen Leaf Lake (FLL), a small subalpine lake in the Tahoe Basin (Figure 1). By using a previously documented Medieval lowstand as an independent calibration point (Kleppe 2011), we hope to calibrate the diatom record in FLL to the paleohydrographic variability in the Lake Tahoe watershed, which can then be used to interpret the remainder of the Holocene climate record preserved in FLL. Further evaluation of subalpine Sierran lakes should serve to provide valuable insight into watershed dynamics for the Sierra snowpack, a critical water source for California's growing population.

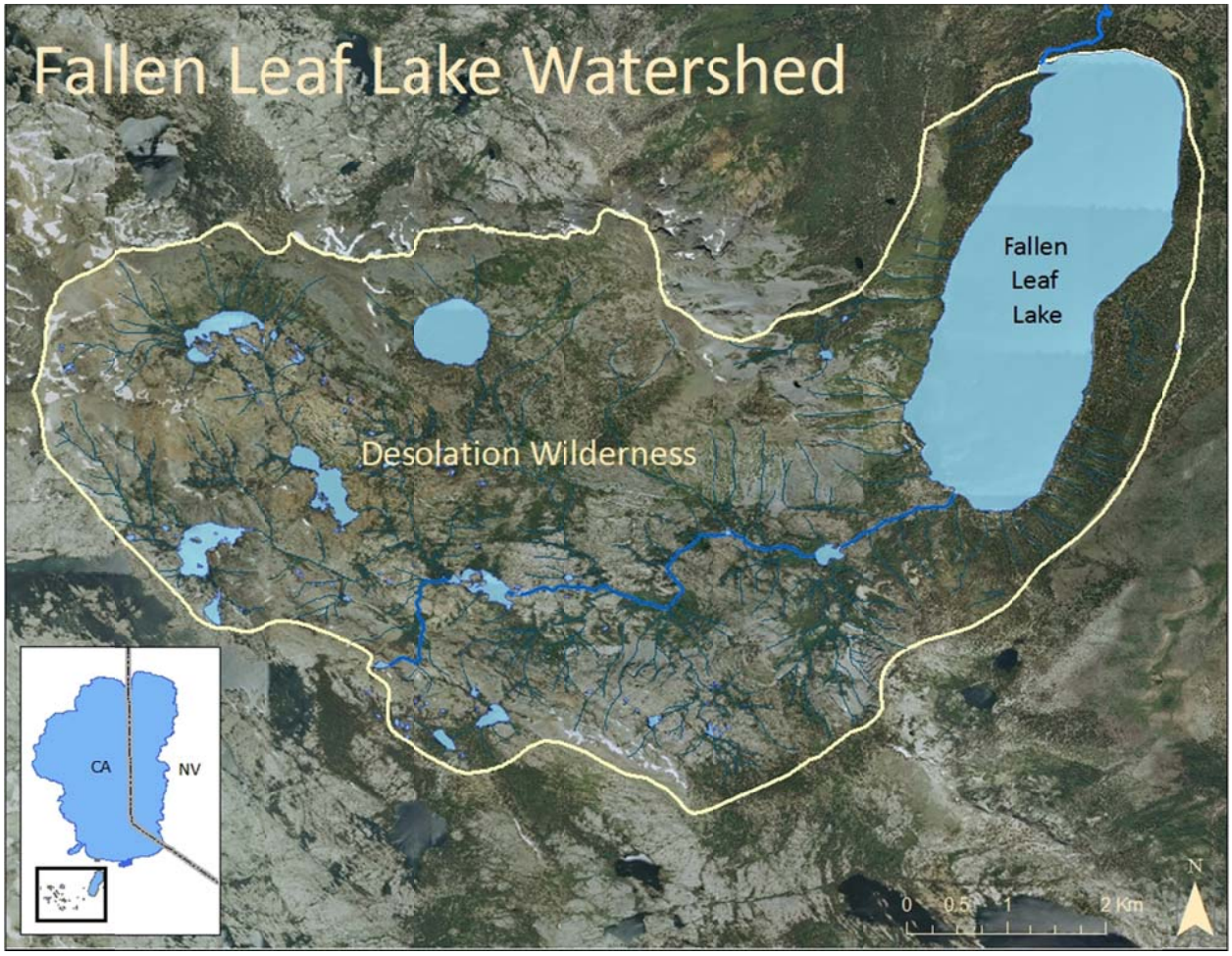

Figure 1. Location and extent of the Fallen Leaf Lake watershed, Tahoe Basin, northern California. The highlighted creek within the watershed is Glen Alpine, which is the primary inflow to the lake. Taylor Creek drains Fallen Leaf into Lake Tahoe. The Desolation Wilderness was extensively glaciated, leaving very little soil behind and creating a watershed that is only 30% forested (Hanes 1981). As a result, groundwater input to Fallen Leaf Lake is negligible and inflow to the lake is primarily snowmelt and thus tied closely to climate variability.

Methods

In November of 2010, with the help of the crew from the Lacustrine Coring Lab at the University of Minnesota and an assortment of willing graduate students (and aboard the Kerry Kelts designed RV KRKII, no less! [Figure 2, 3]), our lab collected three piston cores from Fallen Leaf Lake with accompanying gravity cores; two from the main depocenter of the lake (in the southern sub-basin), and one from the northern sub-basin. Of the cores collected, Core BOLLY-FLL10-2D-1K-1 was determined to have the highest quality, most complete record (which may extend into Pleistocene sediments) and is the focus of our current calibration efforts.

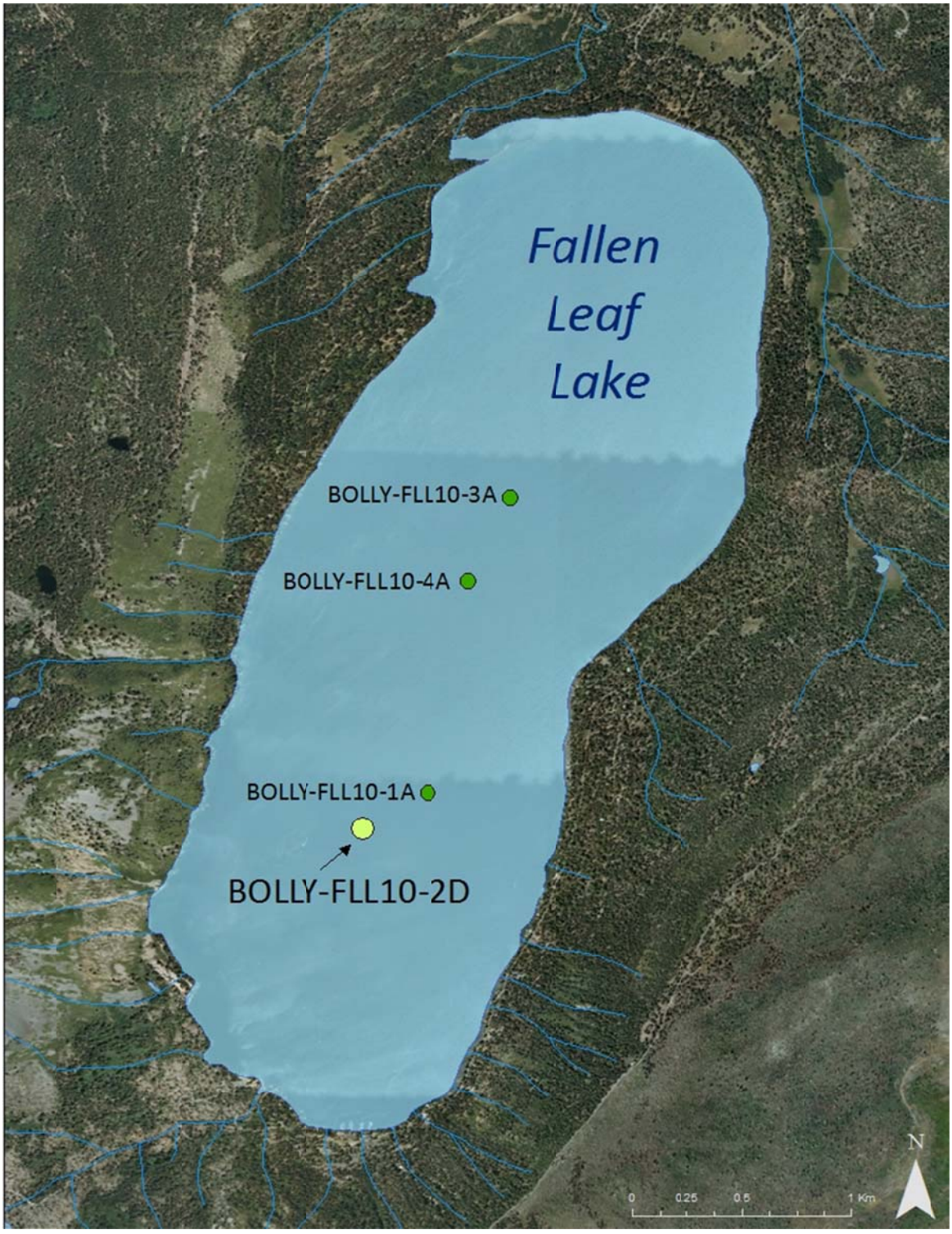

Figure 2. Location of piston cores collected from Fallen Leaf Lake. Accompanying gravity cores were collected adjacent to the piston cores. Core BOLLY-FLL10-2D was determined to be the highest quality core collected from the approximate depocenter of the lake and is the focus of our current work. We used the code "BOLLY" for our project because a Bollywood crew was filming on the Fallen Leaf dock at the same time we were setting up the coring platform—our two groups regarded each other with mutual wonder.

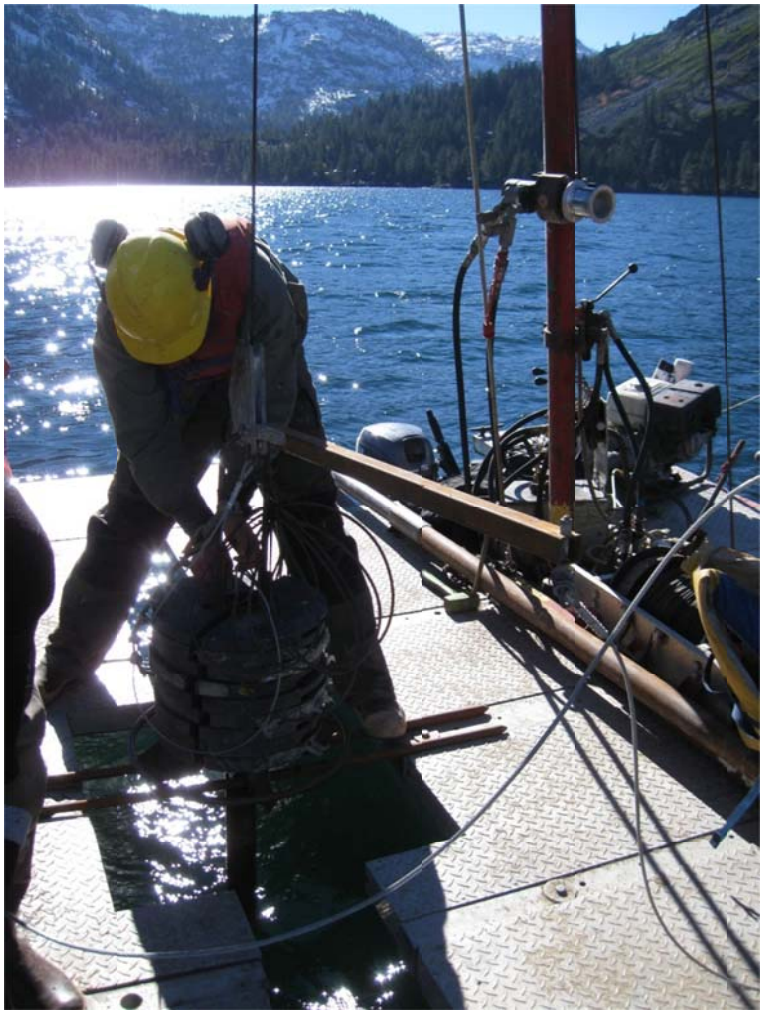

Figure 3. Prepping a piston core for deployment aboard the RV Kerry Kelts

We processed and subsampled the core segments at LacCore in January 2011 (Figure 4). As a first pass, we subsampled every 4 cm or at intervals of interest, with the intent to sample more closely in the future. Sedimentation rates throughout the cores were constrained using ^{210}Pb analysis and AMS radiocarbon analysis of organic matter collected down-core, which was analyzed for ^{14}C at Lawrence Livermore Laboratory to develop a down-core age model (Figure 5). Additionally, photographic and descriptive core logging and magnetic susceptibility show that the uppermost section of core is remarkably homogeneous, which provides supporting evidence for the linearity of the age model.

Most of our work to date has centered on the large task of determining the taxonomy of the diatom assemblages in the modern lake and in our cores to ensure accurate, consistent counting within the lab. We identified diatom species to the lowest taxonomic level possible using 1000x magnification with the use of a scanning electron microscope (SEM) for species confirmation, as was necessary. When possible, we favored the

geographically closest or most environmentally similar (i.e. subalpine environments) texts we could find; where this was not possible we expanded broader taxonomic texts. We grouped species according to habitat preference based on our own sampling of Fallen Leaf Lake and the lakes and streams of the upper watershed.

Figure 4. Splitting core in preparation for logging at the National Lacustrine Core Facility (LacCore)

Preliminary Results

Over 180 distinct species were identified in Core BOLLY-FLL10-2D-1K-1, many of which may be previously unidentified. Of the 180 named, only 11 species dominate (≥5% relative abundance) the down-core assemblages (Figure 6). These are mostly phytoplankton, including centric meroplankton (*Aulacosira subarctica Aulacoseira pusilla)*, euplankton (*Cyclotella rossii, Discostella stelligera, Asterionella formosa*) and several araphid pennates which may be tychoplanktonic or periphytic (*Pseudosaurosira brevistriata, Staurosirella pinnata, and Staurosira construens var. venter, Staurosira construens cf. var pumila*).

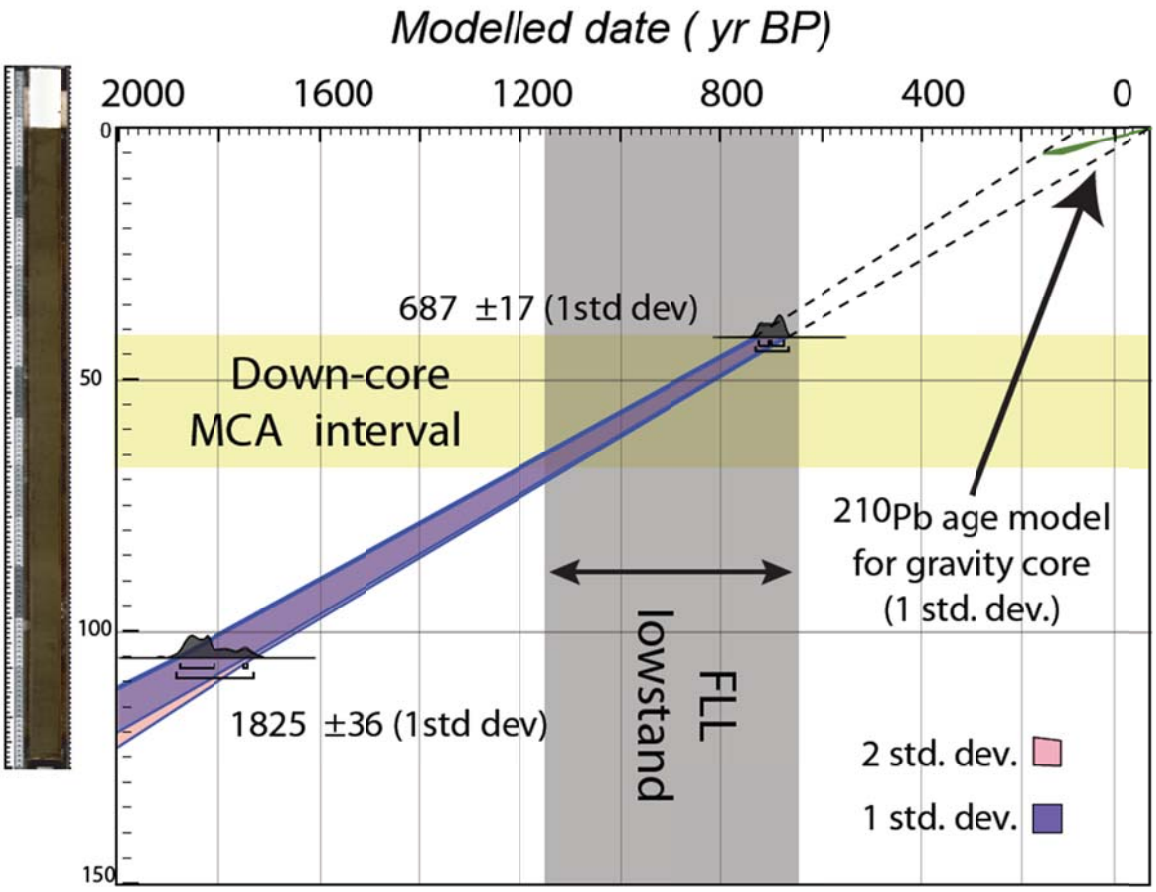

Figure 5. Age model for Core BOLLY-FLL10-2D-1K-1. Model developed using ^{14}C dates from plant fragments collected down-core, calibrated using OxCal v4.0.5 Bronk Ramsey (2007); r:5 IntCal04 atmospheric curve (Reimer et al 2004). The light purple shaded area represents the FLL lowstand as interpreted by Kleppe (2012). The MCA period down-core extends from approximately 53 to 77 cm below lake surface (median).

Preliminary stratigraphic plots of the data and principal component analysis suggest that, while there is indeed variability in the lake and the diatom record is highly responsive, the signal is more complex than we initially believed. Of our 11 most prominent species with other species grouped by genera or habitat preference, the two most responsive species appear to be *A. subarctica*, which is the most prominent meroplankton living in the lake, and *D. stelligera*, which currently is prominent in the upper watershed but has not been sampled live from Fallen Leaf Lake. While these species, particularly *A. subarctica*, show significant variability, the timing does not correlate clearly with the MCA drought events as interpreted by others (Stine 1994, Bensen et al. 2002, Cook et al. 2004; Mensing et al. 2004, Graham and Hughes 2007; Kleppe et al. 2011). Good consistency between cluster analysis produced-dendrograms of ungrouped and grouped assemblages suggest that our habitat-based

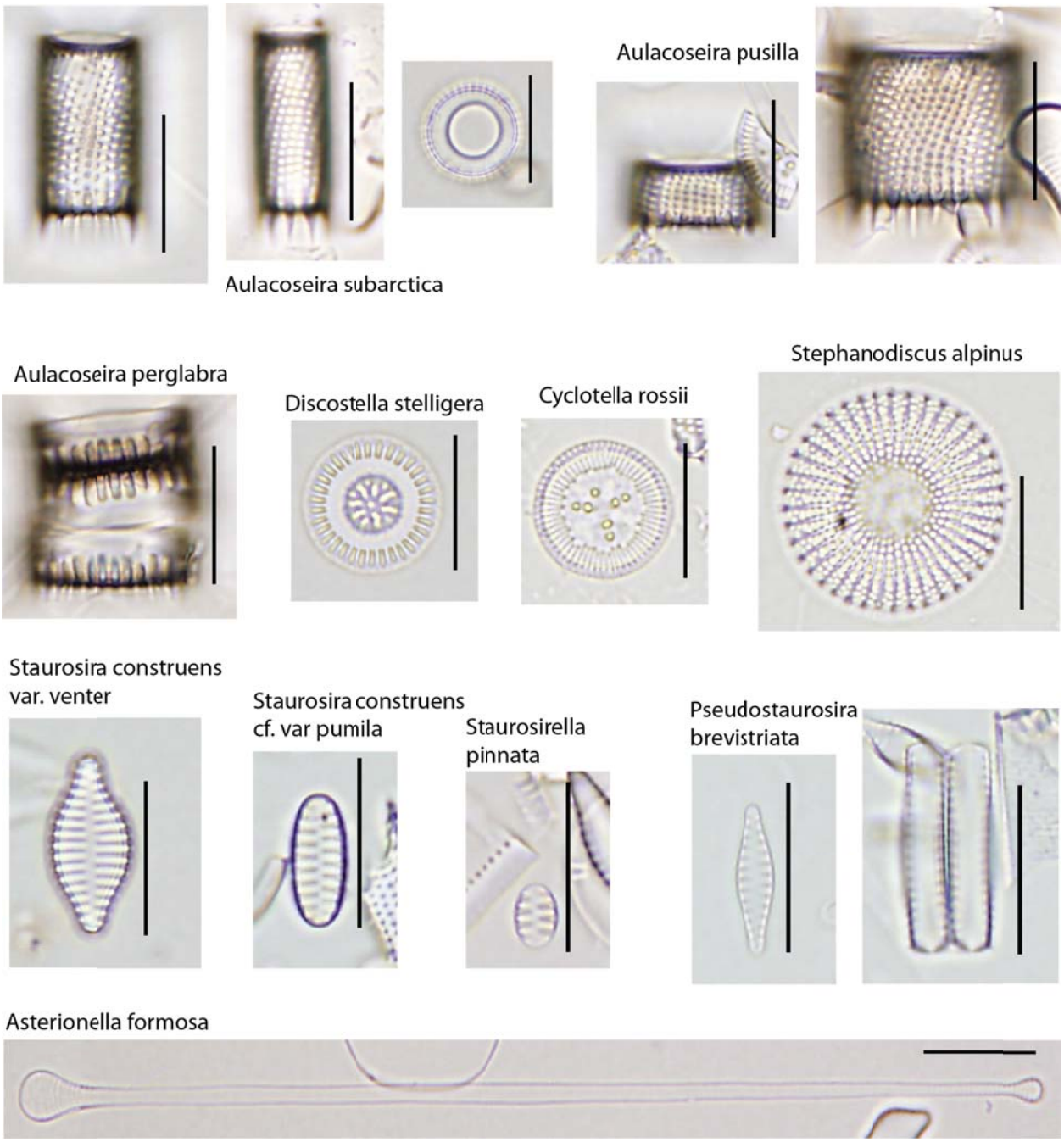

Figure 6. Overall, 180 distinct species were identified in down-core sediments; the eleven species pictured are the most prominent (relative abundance ≥5%) from core BOLLY-FLL10-2D-1K-1. Scale bar is 10 µm.

groupings are meaningful; our task now is to determine what signal the diatoms are responding to most strongly.

Future Work

Future work will focus on continued statistical analysis to try to determine the strongest signal in the down-core diatom assemblage. Additionally, to help our interpretations, we are developing a three-dimensional bathymetric model of the lake to determine relative changes in habitat availability with change in lake depth, which we will use in conjunction with thermal modeling to understand the changes in stratification with changing lake depth. This should give added insight into the behavior of the diatom assemblage, particularly *A. subarctica,* is highly influenced by thermal structure of the lake due to its heavy, meroplanktonic nature.

Acknowledgements

Many thanks to the Limnogeology Division of GSA for awarding me the Kerry Kelts Research Award in 2011. As well as being a great honor, it helped to cover some of the cost of core processing and analysis. My adviser, Paula Noble, has been invaluable throughout the project. Shane Smith worked up the age model. Susan Zimmerman graciously allowed us the use of her lab for ^{14}C dating. Anders Noren and Kristina Brady of LacCore and my many willing graduate student friends were invaluable to field work. I also thank Graham Kent, Michael Rosen, Douglas Boyle, Bob Karlin, and Briana Johnson for their help in various stages of the project.

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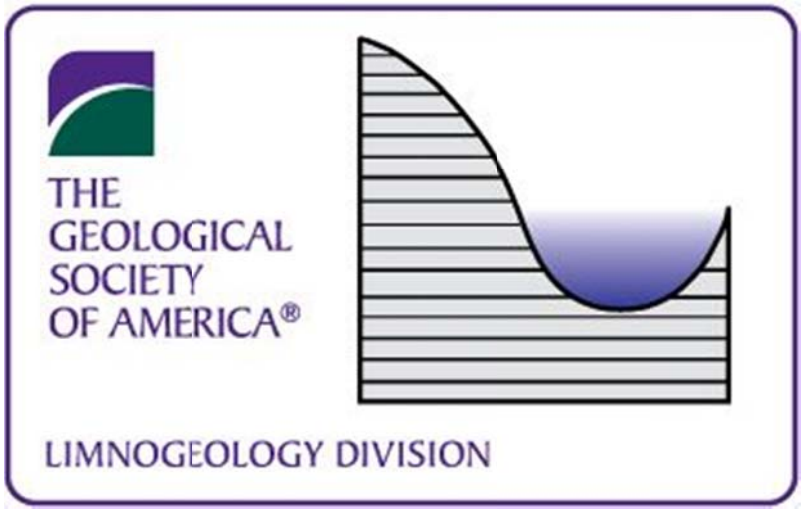

2012 Kerry Kelts Award

The 2012 Kerry Kelts Student Research Awardee is Elizabeth Thomas, from the Department of Geological Sciences at Brown University. Her project is titled **"Generating a quantitative record of Holocene terrestrial climate on Western Greenland to decipher mechanisms controlling ice sheet discharge and sea level rise"**.

Elizabeth will be presented with this award at the annual Division Business Meeting on Nov. 6. Congratulations, Elizabeth!

An Honorable Mention is extended to Christina Pondell (Virginia Institute of Marine Science) for her proposal on examining the organic carbon record in severely altered reservoirs.

2012 Israel C. Russell Award

The 2012 Israel C. Russell Award winner will be announced at the annual Division Business Meeting on Nov. 6. We hope to see you there!

ILIC 6

Sixth International Limnogeology Congress

Photo by Michael Marfell from Beautiful Places to Visit.

The Sixth International Limnogeology Congress (ILIC 6) sponsored by the International Association of Limnogeology will be held in the summer of 2015 along the shores of Lake Tahoe, Nevada, USA. Dr. Michael Rosen (USGS) is the meeting chair.

Mark your calendars!

32nd Congress of International Society of Limnology (SIL)

(August 4-9,2013)

The 32nd Congress of the International Society of limnology will take place in Budapest, Hungary from August 4-9, 2013. There are 33 topical sessions currently being planned that fall into several broad categories:

- Biodiversity
- Ecology of main groups of animals and plants
- Physical and chemical topics
- Main aquatic ecosystems
- Monitoring, modelling, intervention
- And more …

Important dates:	
Closing date for abstract submission	February 28, 2013
All applicants will be notified of the outcome of the call for papers reviewing process	March/April 2013
Final date for registration fee payment with accepted presentations	May 31, 2013
Preliminary Program	June, 2013

More information can be found at: http://www.sil2013.hu/

Limnogeology at the Upcoming EGU Meeting
(April 7-12, 2013)

Vienna, Austria is the host of the 2013 European Geosciences Union General Assembly. This year, there will be a limnogeology session convened by Hendrik Vogel, Marc De Batist, Martin Melles, and Daniel Ariztegui.

Limnogeology - reading the geological record of lakes (co-sponsored by the IAS)

During the past decades numerous sediment records have become available from lakes and paleolakes through shallow and (ICDP) deep drilling. These records have proven to be valuable archives of past environmental conditions and geological events. We invite contributions emphasizing quantitative and spatial assessments of rates of change, causes and consequences of long- and short-term climate variability, impact, magnitude, and frequency of tectonic and volcanic activity as deduced from sedimentological, geochemical, biological, and chronological tools.

More information can be found at:
http://meetingorganizer.copernicus.org/EGU2013/session/12460

Announcement for the 2012 GSA Annual Meeting

Geosciences: Investing in the Future

(http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/)

The 2012 annual meeting of the Geological Society of America will take place from November 4-7, 2011, in Charlotte, North Carolina. The theme for the conference is *Geosciences: Investing in the Future*. The meeting website is:

http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/2012/

There are a number of technical sessions (some sponsored by the Limnogeology Division) that may be of interest to limnogeologists. These include:

T16. Cenozoic Ostracode Research: Developments in Paleoclimatology, Paleohydrology, Paleoecology, and Phylogenetics
GSA Quaternary Geology and Geomorphology Division; Paleontological Society; GSA Limnogeology Division
Sunday, 4 November 2012: 8:00 AM-12:00 PM
Charlotte Convention Center 203B
Alison J. Smith, Dave Horne and B. Brandon Curry

T87. Building Capacity for Hydrologic Science in Water-Stressed Regions of the World - posters
GSA Hydrogeology Division; GSA Environmental and Engineering Geology Division; GSA Geology and Health Division; GSA Geology and Society Division; GSA Geoscience Education Division; International Association of Hydrogeologists, U.S. National Chapter; National Ground Water Association;

Consortium of Universities for the Advancement of Hydrologic Science Inc.; GSA Limnogeology Division
Sunday, 4 November 2012: 9:00 AM-6:30 PM
Charlotte Convention Center Hall B
Alan E. Fryar, Adam Milewski and Mohamed I. Sultan

T108. Modern and Ancient Saline Lakes – oral
GSA Limnogeology Division
Monday, 5 November 2012: 8:00 AM-9:30 AM
Charlotte Convention Center 219AB
Daniel Deocampo, Cynthia M. Liutkus

T109. Wetlands: Form, Function and History I - oral
GSA Limnogeology Division; GSA Quaternary Geology and Geomorphology Division; GSA Hydrogeology Division
Tuesday, 6 November 2012: 8:00 AM-12:00 PM
Charlotte Convention Center 219AB
Michelle F. Goman, Gail M. Ashley

T109. Wetlands: Form, Function and History II - oral
GSA Limnogeology Division; GSA Quaternary Geology and Geomorphology Division; GSA Hydrogeology Division
Tuesday, 6 November 2012: 1:30 PM-5:30 PM
Charlotte Convention Center 219AB
Michelle F. Goman, Gail M. Ashley

T109. Wetlands: Form, Function and History - posters
GSA Limnogeology Division; GSA Quaternary Geology and Geomorphology Division; GSA Hydrogeology Division
Wednesday, 7 November 2012: 9:00 AM-6:00 PM
Charlotte Convention Center Hall B
Michelle F. Goman, Gail M. Ashley

T111. Lake Systems Through Space and Time - oral
GSA Limnogeology Division; SEPM (Society for Sedimentary Geology); GSA Sedimentary Geology Division
Monday, 5 November 2012: 1:30 PM-5:30 PM
Charlotte Convention Center 219AB
Elizabeth H. Gierlowski-Kordesch

T111. Lake Systems Through Space and Time - posters
GSA Limnogeology Division; SEPM (Society for Sedimentary Geology); GSA Sedimentary Geology Division
Tuesday, 6 November 2012: 9:00 AM-6:00 PM
Charlotte Convention Center Hall B
Elizabeth H. Gierlowski-Kordesch

T112. Lacustrine Microbialites Past and Present: Hydrology, Water Chemistry, Sedimentology, and Stratigraphy - oral
GSA Limnogeology Division
Monday, 5 November 2012: 9:45 AM-12:00 PM
Charlotte Convention Center 219AB
H. Paul Buchheim

T127. Terrestrial proxies of Paleoclimate and Paleoenvironment in Deep Time – oral
GSA Sedimentary Geology Division; SEPM (Society for Sedimentary Geology); Geochemical Society; GSA Limnogeology Division
Tuesday, 6 November 2012: 8:00 AM-12:00 PM
Charlotte Convention Center 202AB
Lauren A. Michel, Jennifer M. Cotton and Ethan Hyland

T127. Terrestrial proxies of Paleoclimate and Paleoenvironment in Deep Time – posters
GSA Sedimentary Geology Division; SEPM (Society for Sedimentary Geology); Geochemical Society; GSA Limnogeology Division
Wednesday, 7 November 2012: 9:00 AM-6:00 PM
Charlotte Convention Center Hall B
Lauren A. Michel, Jennifer M. Cotton and Ethan Hyland

Do not forget the…

Joint Annual Awards Ceremony and Party with GSA Sedimentary Geology Division

Cosponsored by Society for Sedimentary Geology (SEPM)

6 Nov., 5:45-8:45 p.m.,

Charlotte Convention Center, 219AB

Upcoming Meetings

Geological Society of America (GSA) Annual Convention

November 4-7, 2012

The **Geological Society of America** will hold its Annual Meeting in Charlotte, North Carolina, USA. The conference theme is Geosciences: Investing in the Future. Abstract Deadline was August 14, 2012.

The meeting website is: http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/2012/

Future Meetings are scheduled for:
2013 - Denver, Colorado, USA: 27–30 October
2014 - Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada: 19–22 October
2015 - Baltimore, Maryland: 1–4 November

International Association of Theoretical and Applied Limnology (SIL)

August 4-9, 2013

The **32nd Congress of the International Society of Limnology** will take place in Budapest, Hungary in 2013. The 33rd congress will be held in Turin, Italy, in 2016. For more information about these meetings, see the SIL website.

The conference website is: http://www.sil2013.hu/

North American Lake Management Society (NALMS)

November 7-9, 2012

The **32st International Symposium of the North American Lake Management Society** will take place in Madison, Wisconsin, USA. The Abstract Deadline was June 1, 2012

The website is: http://www.nalms.org/home/conferences-and-events/2012-nalms-symposium/nalms-symposium.cmsx

International Lake Environment Committee (ILEC)

Information on the next conference is not yet available

The **14th World Lakes Conference (WLC)** took place in Austin, Texas (USA) in 2011. No information is available about the next conference, which occurs every two years.

The ILEC website is: http://www.ilec.or.jp/eg/index.html

International Paleolimnology Association (IPA)

August, 2015

The **14th International Paleolimnology Symposium** of the International Paleolimnology Association is rumored to be taking place in China in August of 2015. While it would be unethical to report my source for this rumor, please ask Elizabeth Gierlowski-Kordesch if you have any questions (or look to future Newsletters).

The past IPA Symposium website is: http://www.paleolim.org/index.php/symposia/

American Society of Limnology and Oceanography (ASLO)

2014 ASLO Summer Conference (May 18-23, 2014)
The summer conference of the American Society of Limnology and Oceanography will be held in Portland, OR. Abstract deadline: Not published yet.

2014 ASLO Ocean Sciences Meeting (Feb 23-28, 2014)
The Ocean Sciences Meeting of the American Society of Limnology and Oceanography will be held in Honolulu, HI, 2014. Abstract deadline: Not published yet.

The website listing all these conferences is:
http://www.aslo.org/meetings/aslomeetings.html

American Association of Petroleum Geologists Annual Conference and Exhibition

May 19-22, 2013

The **2013 Annual Conference and Exhibition of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists** will take place in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania from May 19-22, 2013.

The conference *website is:* www.aapg.org/pittsburgh2013/

Desert Symposium 2012

Was April 20-23, 2012

The **26th Annual Desert Symposium** will take place in the Desert Studies Center, Zzyzx, California. The theme for the 2012 meeting is "Life in the Desert: Adaptations to Environmental Extremes". No information is available about the 27th symposia.

The conference website for the 26th symposia is:
http://biology.fullerton.edu/dsc/school/symposium.html

6th International Limnogeology Congress

July, 2015

The 6th **International Limnogeology Congress (ILIC6)** will be held at Lake Tahoe, Nevada/California, USA. Stay tuned for details. Michael Rosen, from the organizing committee, is seeking volunteers to help organize the conference and field trips. Please contact him (below) if interested.

For information contact Dr. Michael Rosen (USGS): mrosen@usgs.gov

International Association for Great Lakes Research (IAGLR)

June 2-6, 2013

The **56th Annual Conference of the International Association for Great Lakes Research (IAGLR)** will take place in West Lafayette, IN. The theme of the meeting is "Great Lakes Restoration and Resiliency".

The conference website is: http://www.iaglr.org/iaglr2013/

International Society for Salt Lake Research (ISSLR)

Was May 8-16, 2011

The 11th International Conference on Salt Lake Research (ISSLR) took place in Miramar, Cordoba, Argentina, on May 8-16, 2011. No information about a future meeting is available. Check the website below in the future to learn about future meetings.

ISSLR's website is: http://www.isslr.org/

Go to the Limnogeology Division website at:

http://rock.geosociety.org/limno/index.html

To get the latest information on other Limnogeology meetings and workshops…

David Warburton, Webmaster

If you don't have access to our website, please contact a Division officer for a list of meetings.

If you have any news you would like to be sent out to the division, please submit it to Michelle Goman at goman@sonoma.edu