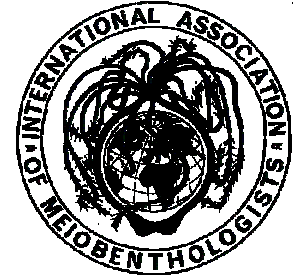


# PSAMMONALIA

The Newsletter of the  
**International Association of Meiobenthologists**

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What me, worry? I have flood insurance!

**The International Association of Meiobenthologists**  
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<b>Lara Arroyo</b>	Department of Zoology, The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD UK
<b>.....OPEN.....</b>	

## Editorial

A popular advertisement for Heineken in the US has a stock-boy dropping a case of beer on the floor and while the bottles break the camera pans to people kilometers away expectantly looking up at the sky frowning or withdrawing from all contact or welling up with tears. Another score for the ad-gurus seeking to hock product, but the sharing of grief across distances may be more real than Marketing VP's could have anticipated. The end of the summer 2005 saw an entire US city disappear under seven meters of water, and the collective memories of the good times past many of us associate with The Big Easy makes the loss even more poignant. Whether a Phoenix-like resurrection, tinged with a little jazz, is possible or not only time will tell. Tropical Storms 2, Coastal Living 0.

The loss of New Orleans raises questions of persistence and the strength of external forces and the folly of struggling against the inevitable. Are we in IAM vainly struggling against forces less physically tangible but just as real? Is there room for IAM in the future (after all, our critters take up very little space) or are the scientific storm waters tearing at the very fabric of the loosely formed "group of friends." Is there a reason for IAM anymore? Societies exist for more general (e.g., ecology in the Ecological Society of America, comparative biology in the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology) and more restrictive mandates (e.g., copepods in the World Association of Copepodologists, biting flies in the North American Dipteran Society). In

fact, the World Association of Copepodologists began with a 1979 suggestion in Psammonalia, so why has WAC membership swelled to >900 while IAM languishes at maybe 200? Shouldn't most of the 900 WAC members also be members of IAM? What about members of the Society of Nematologists? Is there reason to combine meetings such as the 10<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Tardigrada announced in the last issue of Psammie with IAM's conferences? Are these questions we want to ask?

Cheers,  
Keith

PS: We are still looking for a few good Board of Correspondents volunteers!

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## News & Views

### Australian Meiofauna Researchers

Would IAM members who have a past, present or ongoing interest in Australian meiofauna like to get together by email and establish an informal network within the Association? This would establish better communication between members in Australia and enable us to swap information and resources, e.g. regarding sampling gear and lab equipment. Our present meiobenthology research publications could be consolidated to better identify future collaborations etc. If there is sufficient interest I suggest we arrange an Australian meiofauna workshop down the track.

If you would like to be part of the Aussie

meiofauna network please contact Janet Gwyther (janet.gwyther@deakin.edu.au) and let me know your contact details, ideas and any suggestions on this. If you can include your particular meiofauna research interests, project title or brief details, location of study and the name of your university etc then I can compile a list for everyone's information. I would like to compile a database of Australian meiofauna publications if enough members respond. Finally, if such a group already exists in Australia will someone send details about how to join, to Psammonalia?



Antipodal meiofauna?

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## New Members

Ashleigh B. Smythe  
Smithsonian Institution  
NMNH, Dept. of Invert. Zool.  
MRC 163, PO Box 37012  
Washington, D.C. 20013-7012

Ashleigh specializes in marine nematodes, evolution, and phylogeny. BS in biology from Univ. of Vermont, MS from SE Louisiana Univ (fish trematodes), PhD from Univ. California Davis (molecular phylogenetics of free-living soil nematodes). Currently Post-doctoral Fellow with Duane Hope in the

National Museum of Natural History, Dept. of Invertebrate Zoology., studying molecular and morphological phylogenetics of marine nematodes in the order Enoplida.

Karl. J. Starzinger  
6343 E. Amity St.  
Inverness, Florida 34452 USA

Karl is a retired NOAA fisheries employee who recently moved to a lake district in central Florida. As a hobby he is looking at freshwater invertebrates, presumably including meiofauna.

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## New Addresses

Ryan Fisher PhD  
Biology Department  
Salem State College  
352 Lafayette Street  
Salem MA 01970  
Tel: 978-542 6841

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**DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN IAM!**  
**THE APPLICATION CAN BE FOUND AT:**  
<http://www.meiofauna.org/appform.html>