



# Tree-Ring Society Newsletter

October 2020

The year 2020 has been...well lets just say a challenge. The global pandemic has radically changed how many of us work, interact, and conduct our lives. Needless to say, some of the impacts from COVID-19 have been deeply negative, both personally and professionally. It has also pushed us to reconsider how we present our work, particularly in conferences where we connect and share our passion for our science. In 2020, we saw many of these conferences change to a virtual format, leveling the playing field and allowing for greater participation. Some conferences have been postponed, such as AmeriDendro, which was scheduled for 2020 and will now take place in 2022 .

The year 2020 has seen continued momentum in the #MeToo movement, as well as massive global protests over racism and inequality. The tree-ring sciences are no exception. A thread on the international dendrochronology discussion forum in August brought up the harassment and inequities that many in our field have faced. These discussions, and the painful disclosures some of our colleagues revealed about our field, inspired the Tree-Ring Society to take a hard look at ethical conduct policy and diversity, equity and inclusion in our Society. This led to the development of a proposed new elected position on the TRS board for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI).

All through the arguably annus horribilis that 2020 has been, there has never been a better time to study trees and their beautiful rings - to relish in their grandeur and steadfastness. If you have not already, go hug a tree before the year is out!

## AMERIDENRO 2022!

The TRS is thrilled to announce that AmeriDendro 2022 meeting will be in Montreal, Quebec Canada in late June 2022! Stay tuned for the organizing committee to make more detailed announcements this fall/winter!

## The Tree-Ring Society Develops Code of Ethics

The TRS executive committee is committed to creating the most inclusive, safe, and accountable society that we can. As part of this ongoing process we have recently developed a Code of Ethics that outlines the Professional and Ethical Conduct we expect all of our members to adhere to. The objective of this Code of Ethics (<https://www.treeringsociety.org/Code-of-Ethics>) is to provide a set of principles and practices intended to guide professional behavior regarding the practice, learning, training, publishing, and communication of science, and governs all TRS members, staff, volunteers, and non-members participating in TRS-sponsored programs and activities. This code is an addition to our existing Code of Conduct on Bullying, Harassment and Sexual Harassment (<https://www.treeringsociety.org/Code-of-Conduct>).

## Elections for the Tree-Ring Society Executive Committee

The TRS holds elections for positions on the Executive Committee every three years for a suite of positions, all of which have a three year term. TRS members in good standing (i.e., membership dues up-to-date) at *all career stages* are encouraged to nominate themselves or be nominated. If you are nominating someone for an executive committee role please have a conversation with them first to ensure they are willing to stand for election and serve the Society in that role. Please submit a short statement about the nominee (<150 words) and their interest in the position to: [trslori@gmail.com](mailto:trslori@gmail.com)

Nominations are open from **October 9 - October 31st**  
Voting is held from **November 1st - December 1st**

The new executive committee (descriptions of positions below) will begin their three-year terms on **January 1st 2021**.

### Executive Committee Position Descriptions

**President:** Shall be the presiding officer at all meetings of the Society and of the Executive Council. The President shall see that all undertakings authorized by the Executive Council are properly carried out. Acting on advice and consent of the Executive Council, the President shall appoint all necessary committees and define their duties. The President shall have the power to make appointments to fill vacancies in the Executive Council, subject to a vote of approval by a majority of the Council.

**Vice-President:** Will be the point of contact and coordinator of the topical sections. In the absence of the President, the Vice-President shall perform the President's duties as outlined above.

**Treasurer:** Working with the President and the Editor, the Treasurer will a.) develop the Society's annual budget and present it to the Council for approval; administer the finances of the Society, ensuring that the financial records are maintained as appropriate for non-profit organizations and according to budgetary regulations approved by the Executive Council; and be responsible for Society funds, spending them as authorized by the Executive Council, b.) ensure that the membership list is maintained; dues collected, and provide for the care and sale of surplus copies of publications, and c.) provide a financial report to the Council at least quarterly and provide an annual report of the Society's financial condition, so it may be posted annually on the Society website.

**Secretary:** Shall record minutes of Executive Council meetings as well as record developed and passed via email; ensure that activities of the Council and membership are conducted according to Society policies; conduct (or delegate conduct of) Society elections; and develop a summary of Council activities and decisions to be posted at least annually on the Society website.

**Communications:** Working with the President and Council, the Communications member will promote and coordinate communications with the membership, other dendrochronological societies, professional organizations, and the public. Responsible for maintaining and disseminating information on the website, Facebook, Twitter, and other social media tools.

**Editor:** the Society publication, Tree-Ring Research, is the immediate responsibility of the Editor.

**Student Representative:** Shall be a Society student member and registered as a student at the time of elections. The Student Representative will have full voting rights on the Council and function as the point of contact for student interests and activities.

The TRS is strongly committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) within our Society and the field of dendrochronology. To affirm our dedication to these values, we are **proposing** the addition of this new position **pending member vote**.

**Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI):** This newly created Executive Committee member position is intended to promote DEI values in the TRS, at sponsored events (e.g., conferences) and fieldweeks by ensuring that all members — especially those who have been historically underrepresented based on race/ethnicity, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, socioeconomic status, geography, citizenship status, or religion — are represented. It is the goal of the TRS that this position will help us build a more inclusive culture.

## **NEW Tree-Ring Research Journal website**

You can now find Tree-Ring Research at our new web platform: <https://meridian.allenpress.com/trr>. Contents and abstracts since 2015 are freely available there, as well as full papers designated open access. When you become a member of the Tree-Ring Society, you gain full access to all of the content, including articles in press. Don't forget, you can also find instructions there for submitting your paper to Tree-Ring Research!

## TRS Virtual Tree-Ring Symposium



The cancelation of the American Association of Geographers annual meeting in Denver this past April provided an opportunity for the Tree-Ring Society to host the first TRS Virtual Tree-Ring Symposium on May 29. Organized by Dr. Adam Csank of the University of Nevada, Reno and Dr. Christopher Gentry of Austin Peay State University, the virtual symposium included presentations by Dr. Csank, Ms. Kelsey Copes-Gerbitz from the University of British Columbia, Mrs. Savannah Collins-Key from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Dr. Clay Tucker from Louisiana State University, Dr. Bethany Coulthard from University of Nevada Las Vegas, and Mr. Mitchell Bonney from the University of Toronto Mississauga. At its peak there were 156 attendees from all across the globe, including individuals who joined us in the early morning hours from Asia. Following the symposium, the organizers hosted a social gathering and networking session that was attended by a number of attendees and presenters. We would like to extend our thanks to Dr. Csank for organizing the symposium and to all the presenters who volunteered their time to contribute to this unique event for our community. Links to a selection of the presentations can be found on this [YouTube playlist](#).

### About TRS members

The Tree-Ring Society began in 1934 and its members were primarily men in academic institutions in the Southwestern US. As dendrochronology has expanded in scope and geographical extent, so has the membership of the Tree-Ring Society and it encompasses the globe (Table 1). While most members are from North America, a growing number are from other regions, particularly Asia and Europe. Most members (Table 2) are affiliated with academic institutions, but the remainder are associated with governmental or non-profit research institutions or are commercial (e.g., consultants), indicating that dendrochronology has applications in both basic and applied research. Most members (Table 3) join or renew at the Individual level, but recently we began offering some discounted categories for students, retirees, and colleagues in developing countries, and we have been glad to see those membership categories grow. The Tree-Ring Society truly represents the growing discipline of dendrochronology, no matter how it's sliced.

**Table 1: Percent of Tree-Ring Society members by Geographic Region, in descending order.**

<b>REGION</b>	<b>PERCENT</b>	<b>COUNTRIES (in order of percent of membership)</b>
North America	62	USA, Canada, & Mexico
Europe	18	Switzerland, United Kingdom, France, Slovenia, Germany, Italy, Spain, Poland, Sweden, Austria, Belgium, Finland, Lithuania, Norway, Portugal, The Netherlands
Asia	14	China, India, Japan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Israel, Pakistan, Taiwan
South/Central America	3	Argentina, Brazil, Chile
Oceania	3	Australia, New Zealand, Fiji
Africa	<1	DR Congo, South Africa
Middle East	<1	Israel

**Table 2 and 3: Percent of Tree-Ring Society members by Affiliation and Membership Type, in descending order.**

<b>AFFILIATION TYPE</b>	<b>PERCENT</b>	<b>MEMBERSHIP TYPE</b>	<b>PERCENT</b>
Academic	71	Individual	58
Governmental/Non-Profit	23	Student	14
Commercial	4	Institutional	11
Unknown	2		

## Connect with TRS

Connect with other members of the tree-ring community! Please visit the TRS web pages ([treeringsociety.org](http://treeringsociety.org)), or connect with us on Twitter ([@treeringsociety](https://twitter.com/treeringsociety)) or Facebook ([facebook.com/treeringsociety](https://facebook.com/treeringsociety))

## Executive Committee

If you have specific questions about the Tree-Ring Society please feel free to contact any member of the current executive committee:

President:	Iain Robertson
Vice-President:	Jodi Axelson
Treasurer:	Elaine Kennedy Sutherland
Secretary:	Christopher Gentry
Communications:	Grant Harley
Editor:	Steve Leavitt
Student Representative:	Anabela Bonada
Associate Council Member:	Yu Liu

If you have any questions regarding your membership renewal or making payments, please contact our Administrator, Lori Wilson: [trslori@gmail.com](mailto:trslori@gmail.com)