



The 1159th meeting of the New England Botanical Club, Inc. will be held **Saturday, 2 April 2022, at 7:00 PM EST via Zoom.**



“Origins and Paleoconservation of Southeast Asian Rainforests”

By

Dr. Peter Wilf

Professor of Geosciences,

Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA

PLEASE READ:

- 1) **PRESENTATIONS & MEETINGS WILL CONTINUE TO BE VIRTUAL:** The link to join our Zoom Monthly Meetings will be reoccurring and is below. After this presentation, we invite attendees to stay on Zoom and participate in some “virtual visiting.” Feel free to provide your own refreshments!
- 2) **DR. PETER WILF’S ABSTRACT:** Southeast Asia's hyperdiverse, endangered tropical rainforests have assembled from multiple sources, reflecting the region's dynamic history and geological complexity. Our multinational paleobotanical team is working to advance biogeographic understanding of SE Asian rainforest origins, using fossil floras from Patagonia and Australia (Gondwana); India and Pakistan (Indian Plate); Vietnam, Yunnan, and Tibet (continental Eurasia); and Sumatra and Borneo (Malay Archipelago). Concurrently, we are developing a computer-vision application for fossil-leaf identification as a breakthrough tool for the project and general paleobotany. This seminar will spotlight our recent discovery of the first fossil-leaf floras from Brunei (northern Borneo), representing the first study of Cenozoic compression floras in the Malay Archipelago for ca. 100 years. Our two Pliocene sites are each dominated by remains of dipterocarps, the defining life form of SE Asian forests and an iconic group in SE Asian biogeography, ecology, forestry, and conservation. Strikingly, the rich pollen floras from the same strata as the leaves have almost no dipterocarp pollen, underscoring the significance of macrofossils for understanding the evolutionary history of dipterocarp-dominated ecosystems. Today, there are more than 160 endemic dipterocarp species in Borneo, of which more than 60% are threatened. Along with other discoveries from the new sites, our work shows that the principal structural, compositional, and environmental features of northern Borneo's lowland vegetation have changed little for at least 4–5 million years, raising the conservation significance of their highly threatened yet still strikingly diverse and ecologically foundational living analogs. The presentation will conclude with a look at how the austral components of the SE Asian flora, as known from Gondwanan fossils, inform conservation and illuminate the high-risk biogeography of Anthropocene SE Asia.
- 3) **VIDEOS of PAST PRESENTATIONS:** Please see [Past Meetings](#) for videos of past lectures, including the March presentation by Dr. Alan S. Weakley.
- 4) **UPCOMING EVENTS:** The next meeting via Zoom will be on Saturday, 7 May 2022, and will be announced on the [Upcoming Meetings](#) webpage. Summer activities will be announced on the [Upcoming Field Trips](#) webpage once details are finalized.

- 5) **EAGLE HILL INSTITUTE DISCOUNTS & NEBS STIPEND:** The [Eagle Hill Institute](#), Steuben, ME, is again offering NEBS members a 20% discount for their 2022 in-person summer week-long seminars. This discount is applied towards tuition and accommodations, but not meals or lab/microscope use fees. Also, NEBS will cover one stipend per year of \$150 towards costs for the next **ONE** NEBS member who wishes to register for a summer botany course. Contact the Association Manager Sara Helm-Wallace at nebc@rhodora.org for details and to apply. [Eagle Hill calendar](#).
- 6) **FREE RESOURCE – PRONUNCIATION OF PLANT NAMES OF NEW ENGLAND GENERA AND FAMILIES:** Ray Angelo has posted a pronunciation reference with sources for each pronunciation for more than 1300 genus and family plant names represented in the New England flora. It may be viewed or downloaded free from this [Internet Archive](#) link.

The newly elected Council will meet 6:00 – 8:00 PM on 30 March 2022 via Zoom.

ZOOM INVITATION FOR NEBC MONTHLY MEETINGS

Topic: NEBC Monthly Meeting

Date and Time: First Saturday of the month at 7:00 PM; Second Saturday in January.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/98845538584>

Meeting ID: 988 4553 8584

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,98845538584# US (New York)

+13017158592,,98845538584# US (Germantown)

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 988 4553 8584

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/adKxNNXCOj>

The New England Botanical Club

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NEBC WEB SITE: <http://www.rhodora.org/>
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