

History of the Changelings.

Wallace S. Broecker

Mike Hall, the administrator of NOAA's Global Change program, asked Mark Cane, Peter Schlosser, and me to convene a group of scientists charging them with looking into the causes and future implications of the large abrupt climate global changes which punctuated glacial time. The idea was to bring together both people versed in the operation of the Earth's atmosphere and ocean and people versed in the records kept in polar ice, ocean sediments, mountain moraines, etc.

The first meeting of this group of 12 took place in March 27-28, 1999 in Key West Florida. Since then we have had eight meetings. Two of these were held in places where the group could observe for ourselves glacial deposits representing the LGM, the YD and the LIA. One of these trips was conducted in the Swiss Alps and the other in the New Zealand Alps. Except for our most recent meeting (March 2004) which was devoted to a discussion among ourselves concerning scenarios designed to account for the large magnitude and special reach of the events, we have brought in three or so experts in the specific area chosen for that meeting's discussion.

Concerned about a coming financial squeeze, NOAA's Ken Mooney, under whose aegis our group has been funded, informed us that our March 2004 meeting would bring to a close NOAA's sponsorship. Gary Comer has kindly offered to adopt the group. We will hold our next meeting in October 2004 at his Wisconsin farm. The topic will be Do the changes taking place in the Arctic and northern Atlantic represent the leading edge of global warming?

The current members of the group are as follows:

Richard Alley, The Pennsylvania State University

David Archer, University of Chicago

David Battisti, University of Washington

Wally Broecker, Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University

Mark Cane, Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University

George Denton, University of Maine

Ray Pierrehumbert, University of Chicago

Stefan Rahmstorf, PIK Potsdam

Peter Schlosser, Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University

Jeff Severinghaus, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California San Diego

John Shepherd, Southampton Oceanography Centre at the University of Southampton