

April 9, 2020

Dear Changelings,

Wally often led the charge on the big problems we have yet to solve and what topic to tackle during our Changelings meetings. It was difficult to have this discussion without him last year, yet it was with his spirit that we had an incredibly inspiring dialogue on oxygenation of the glacial ocean.

We made an important decision to set aside dedicated time at the Farm to reflect and re-commit as Changelings to attend the Comer Climate Conference annually, remaining actively engaged to carry on honoring Gary Comer and Wally Broecker's vision to answer our climate's toughest questions.

We need all of us, the Changelings, to "come home" so we can bring our collective brain trust and visions together, while also continuing to nurture our next generation of scientists.

2020 CHANGELING MEETING: Oct 2-4, 2020

While we hope to meet in person, we are exploring a virtual meeting in light of the unpredictability of COVID-19 in the Fall. We ask that each Changeling share a commitment by attending and engaging in our work. We need to use our time together to make a difference and serve as catalysts to inspire young scientists to improve our understanding of abrupt climate change. As a step toward doing this, we'll dedicate our 2020 Fall Changeling meeting to defining our future direction. **Please prepare a short 15-minute presentation on the biggest questions on abrupt climate change we have yet to answer.** Be sure to cover your "area", but branch out as necessary (we know many of you cover MANY areas!). *To allow ample time for dialogue and to include as many of us as possible, we will not extend invitations to additional guest speakers for 2020.*

Attached is a memo that outlines our structure and commitment to push forward, as defined in the 2019 Changelings Meeting. **Please review this document and [reply here using this simple form](#), or, if you prefer, email Richard and Mary that you are committed to our mission and will join us for the meeting starting Friday evening, October 2nd and continuing through late afternoon, Sunday October 4th, 2020 in Leeward Farm, Wisconsin.**

The Science Conference will follow immediately thereafter, and we'd love to have some of you (4-8 people, say) stay on with us until the morning of Wednesday, October 7th (Not everyone, since we need most of bed space for the students and other participants, but please know that we also rely on the wisdom and experience of the Changelings for presentations, discussions, and general interactions that enrich the experience for our junior colleagues).

We are excited to see what you share with us!

Richard, George, Jerry, Aaron and Jeff

-----Memo-----

CHANGELINGS and SCIENCE CONFERENCE

Defining our Mission: To pool our collective vision and our interdisciplinary resources in order to help answer the toughest questions about abrupt climate change; to catalyze new research and field work in basic science by leveraging paleo climate problems to inform and guide current climate science, and to empower and mentor the next generation of climate scientists.

Changelings Membership: Membership is limited to 24 scientists, with one vacancy at present (see Appendix for current roster). Ongoing engagement is critical to our success, including attendance at our Annual Conference when a topic of relevancy surfaces. Not all members need to attend each year, since there is limited space and we value the continued opportunity to invite external expert guests. A balance of gender, racial and ethnic diversity of our membership and our students is important to us.

Changeling Meeting Structure:

- Held Friday evening thru Sunday afternoon, early Fall, usually early Oct., at Leeward Farm, WI.
- 'Sub-sessions' of focused topics have proven especially useful for success and progress as a group. One or a small number of Changelings will lead the identification of guests to join our meeting and guide the ensuing presentations and discussions, while also allowing time for updates from individual Changelings on current and exciting work.
- 1.5 hours should be dedicated at the end of each meeting to discuss "What should we be doing/Big Questions to solve."
- Sunday afternoons will be reserved for a closed Changeling meeting, to discuss business, membership and future session topics.

Science Meeting Structure:

- Held Sunday evening through Tuesday evening, following Changeling Meeting, early Fall at Leeward Farm, WI.
- Attendees are Post Docs, PhD, graduate and undergraduate students associated with or suggested by all Changelings, with priority given to those whose work was recently funded. As always, please nominate the most promising among them!
- As noted above. we encourage at 4-8 Changelings to attend this conference!
- A rotation of new and long-time students is important to maintain the vibrancy of the group.
- Nominations of your students or others should be sent to [Mary Pounder](#) for prioritization & coordination in May/June.

Global Climate Change Fund:

- **The Board of Directors:** George Denton (President), Richard Alley (Vice President), Jerry McManus (Secretary), Jeff Severinghaus and Aaron Putnam.
- **Fund Balance:** Wally graciously left over \$1.2 million to the fund, bringing the total Fund to \$1.680M.
- **Grants:**
 - **Priorities:** The Board welcomes recommendations from Changeling membership for post-doc and graduate research grants to further our collective commitment to climate science. While traditionally we've funded field work, we welcome all recommendations with priority on areas that typically are underfunded, or that might lead additional NSF or other funding related to abrupt climate change and noted as a priority in our "big questions" dialogue

Changelings Membership 2020

(23/34 positions)

Jess	Adkins
Richard	Alley
Bob	Anderson
David	Battisti
Ed	Brook
John	Chiang
George	Denton
Larry	Edwards
Sidney	Hemming
Gideon	Henderson
Peter	Huybers
Dennis	Kent
Charles	Langmuir
Jean	Lynch-Stieglitz
David	McGee
Jerry	McManus
Ray	Pierrehumbert
Aaron	Putnam
Ros	Rickaby
Joellen	Russell
Jeff	Severinghaus
Danny	Sigman
Robbie	Toggweiler