



U.S. Permafrost Association 2022 Summary Report

End of the year membership in the Association totaled 263 members that includes 159 regular and sustaining members, 69 students, 15 Lifetime and 20 corporate and institutional members. These include: United States 236, Canada 19, Germany 4, and four other countries with one each. A total of 33 States are represented, with States having more than 10 members are: Alaska (74); Colorado (18), and Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Texas with 10 each. States with 5 or more members are: Arizona, California, Illinois, Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Virginia. An estimated 60 members are also members of the Permafrost Young Research Network (PYRN).

During Fall 2022, a book of 255 abstracts was published from the October 2021 Regional Conference on Permafrost (RCOP) and 19th International Conference on Cold Regions Engineering (ICCRE), Editors: T.A. Douglas, K. Schaefer and A. Liljedahl):
<https://www.uspermafrost.org/conference-proceedings>

The main activities for the year focused on the preparation for and the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the U.S. Permafrost Association (2002-2022) and included:

1. A Permafrost Science-Engineering Workshop in Anchorage and organized by John Thornley and Ed Yarmak (November 4, 2022)
2. A virtual presentation to the Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee (IARPC) Permafrost Collaboration Team (November 10, 2022)
<https://www.iarpccollaborations.org/members/events/22701>
3. Week-long activities at the American Geophysical Union (AGU) Fall Meeting in Chicago (December 12-16, 2022)
4. Preparation of a draft history report that documents the 20-year activities and accomplishments of the Association.

The day-long Anchorage workshop brought together some 40 engineers and researchers to review past and current problems and approaches associated with permafrost under a warming climate.

The IARPC presentation was organized by Michael Lilly, Chair, USPA Communication Committee and its Ad hoc 20th Anniversary Subcommittee and the Student Team members. The

presentation included an introduction by Larry Hinzman, who recounted the early activities of the USPA that led up to the 2008 ICOP in Fairbanks.

A final series of USPA commemorative activities took place the week of December 12, 2022, at the AGU Fall Meeting in Chicago. These included, in addition to the final 2022 USPA Board meeting:

1. A USPA booth, organized by Lilly, that was well-attended throughout the week and displayed a number of current and past Association activities. The booth provided complimentary and saleable memorabilia.



Left to right: Ming Xiao, John Thornley, Ed Yarmak, and Anna Wagner; and seated Elizabeth Kubacki (photograph by Michael Lilly).

The Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony and social event took place on the evening of December 13 and was attended by 125 members and guests. Thirteen USPA Permafrost Young Research's Network Education Fund (UPEF), Permafrost Engineering Education Program (PEEP) and Andrew Slater student awards totaling \$10,000 were presented to the following individuals: Joel Eklof, Ahman Tourei, Soumitra Sakhalkar, Lingcao Huang, Katie Braun, Kristina Levine, Nicole Guinn, Brad Gay, Vasily Tolmanov, Anna Lekso, Sean Schaefer, Zena Robert, and Josie Arcuri.



Group photograph of the recipients of the 2022 student awards (photograph by Emma Stockton).

Results of the 2022 Board election were announced during the Annual Meeting by the USPA President John Thornley and included the following newly elected members: Ming Xiao, President-elect (Penn State University); Katherine Schexneider, Secretary (retired U.S. Navy); Jessica Ernakovich, Board Member, re-elected for a second term (University of New Hampshire); and Melissa Ward Jones, Board Member (University of Alaska, Fairbanks).

3. The week culminated with an AGU session (December 16) on Alaskan permafrost and infrastructure organized by Anna Wagner, Jerry Brown and Emma Lathrop. The session included 29 in-person and online oral and poster presentations, with the in-person, oral session attended by over an estimated 100 participants. In addition, a DEI Committee mentoring lunch included 21 participants (10 mentees and 11 mentors). As a result of the AGU activities we estimate 13 new members joined; 10 of whom were students.

Schedules of these AGU events and abstracts of the 417 permafrost-related presentations are contained in the USPA AGU Fall 2022 Permafrost Guide prepared by student member Kristina Levine (<https://www.uspermafrost.org/agu-permafrost-guides>).