

# Bernard Pelletier Arctic Fossil Forest



Pictured above is Dr. Pelletier along with CSS Hudson Bos'un Joe Avery in Resolute Bay, Nunavut, placing a commemorative plaque celebrating the HUDSON '70 circumnavigation of the Americas.

The establishment of the Bernard Pelletier Arctic Fossil Forest and the dedication of three trees in this "forest" to prominent BIO scientists are in celebration of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the BIO Oceans Association in 2018.

The Bedford Institute of Oceanography (BIO) Oceans Association (OA) was formed in 1998 by a group of retired public servants previously involved in Ocean Sciences and Hydrography who share an interest in BIO. In addition to social activities, the OA is concerned with the history of BIO and with enhancing public knowledge about the oceans. Membership is open to anyone who shares their goals.

## About Bernard Pelletier



The Bedford Institute of Oceanography Arctic Fossil Forest is named after one of BIO's original scientists who worked here in the early 1960s.

Bern, as his friends called him, moved to BIO as head of Marine Geology in 1963. Pelletier's specialty was studying ocean and lake sediments — especially how they are eroded and transported, and what that tells us about ocean processes.

He used state-of-the-art tools of the time such as submersibles to explore the ocean bottom. He also did research on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, but one of his proudest accomplishments

was being Chief Scientist for an Arctic leg aboard *CSS Hudson* on her famed 'HUDSON '70 Expedition'. Individual scientists worked separate legs of the voyage, and Dr. Pelletier came on board as Chief Scientist for the Victoria, British Columbia to Resolute Bay, Nunavut (then District of Franklin of the Northwest Territories) leg of the voyage. Pelletier recounted in the Bedford Institute of Oceanographic newsletter: "HUDSON '70 was the project that really lifted Canadian oceanographic research and the world into the 20<sup>th</sup> century". This expedition aboard the *CSS Hudson*, from November 1969 to November 1970, was the first circumnavigation of North and South America in a single trip.

Bern Pelletier survived two years of war in Europe. He fought at battles at Ortona and Monte Cassino. Then as a civilian, he went on to join the last great wave of exploration in Canada with the Geological Survey of Canada. Here he survived two Arctic aircraft crashes — one in a helicopter and one in a small airplane that broke through thin ice. The challenges of doing research in Canada's North was business as usual for the adventurous Bern Pelletier.

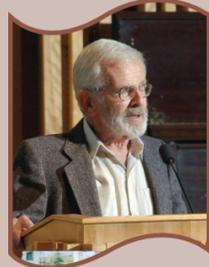
Bern passed away May 20, 2013 in Ottawa at the age of 89.

It is in remembering Bernard's adventurous and fearless spirit, along with his work in the Arctic and his efforts to help paleontologists find Triassic fossils that BIO names this "fossil forest" after him.

More info about Bern Pelletier can be found at <http://www.bio-oa.ca/>

**Bernard Pelletier was one of the original group of federal scientists at the founding of Bedford Institute of Oceanography in 1962. He was a pioneer in Arctic scientific research, leading some of the earliest investigations of Canadian Arctic geology, notably geophysical studies in the Beaufort Sea during the year-long HUDSON '70 circumnavigation of the Americas. The miniature reproduction here of the surprising geological discovery of fossil tree remains in the High Arctic, is an appropriate commemoration of Dr. Pelletier's Arctic scientific achievements.**

## Tree dedications



### Lloyd M. Dickie

We dedicate to him a *Ginkgo biloba* (Maidenhair tree) in recognition of his exceptional contributions. Founding director of the Marine Ecology Laboratory at BIO in 1965.

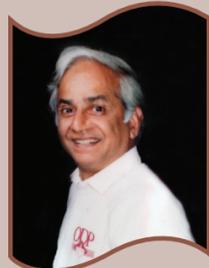
2018



### Donald Gordon

We dedicate to him a *Taxodium distichum* (Bald cypress) in recognition of the outstanding lifetime contributions to marine science and BIO.

2018



### Surat P. (Shiri) Srivastava

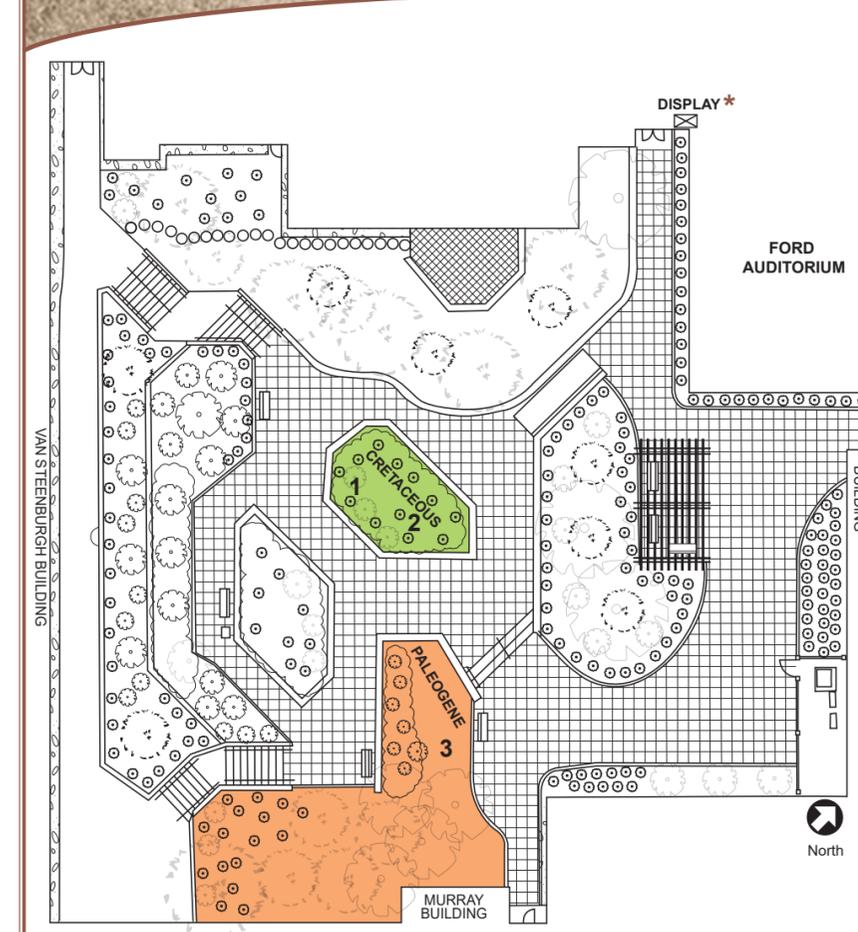
We dedicate to him a *Metasequoia glyptostroboides* (Dawn redwood) to honour an outstanding lifetime contribution to marine geophysics and the development of the theory of plate tectonics.

2018



For more information see display\*

## Bernard Pelletier Arctic Fossil Forest Map

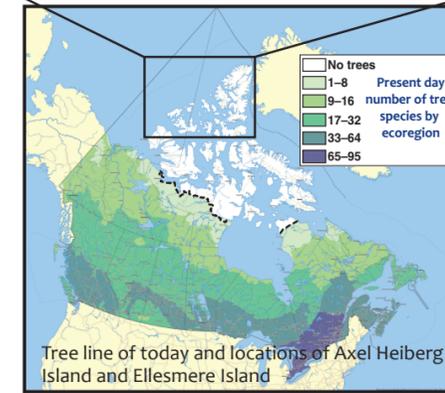
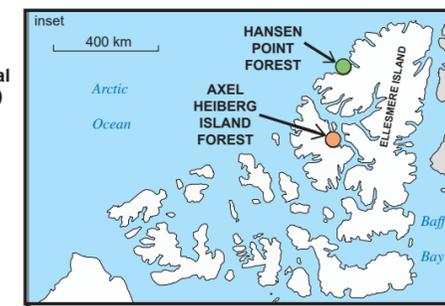
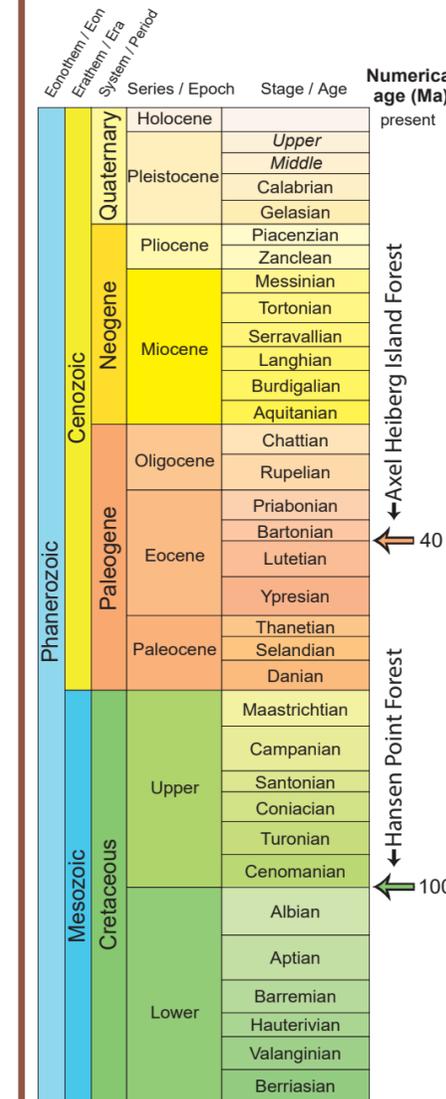


### Tree Dedications

- 1 Lloyd M. Dickie - *Ginkgo biloba* (Maidenhair tree)
- 2 Donald Gordon - *Taxodium distichum* (Bald cypress)
- 3 Surat P. (Shiri) Srivastava - *Metasequoia glyptostroboides* (Dawn redwood)



## Time scale and location map



Bernard Pelletier and the CSS Hudson in 2009