

### A SHORT BIOGRAPHY OF THE AUTHOR

Patricia G. Gensel is a professor in the Biology Department, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, having started there in 1975. She received her B.A. at Hope College, Holland, Michigan, then she worked as a research assistant in the Geology Department, King's College, Univ. of London, England, for Dr. John Richardson in the area of Devonian palynology. Patricia returned to the U.S.A. and embarked on graduate studies of fossil plants and their spores with Professor Henry Andrews at the University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT., where she earned a M.S. and then Ph.D. After a few years of post-doctoral work, again with H. N. Andrews, she joined the faculty of (initially) the Botany Department, and later, Biology Department, at UNC.

Patricia continued work on both Devonian (from U.S. and Canada) and Early Carboniferous plants (from US), studying both megafossils and where possible, in situ spores. She also had students who worked on Cretaceous fossils from North Carolina and prepared a field guide to Triassic Plants of the Deep River Basin, NC. She co-authored the book *Plant Life in the Devonian* with H.N. Andrews (1984), and co-edited a book of contributed chapters entitled *Plants Invade the Land* with Dianne Edwards (2001).



She has authored or co-authored at least 68 peer-reviewed publications, the majority on Devonian plants, but also some about in situ spores, spore ultrastructure, and Early Carboniferous plants, several book chapters, reviews or field guides. Patricia has organized many symposia, mostly about early land plant evolution, trained several MS students and a few PhD students. Her major interests center on producing a better understanding of the morphology, structure, evolutionary relationships or patterns of evolutionary change, and where possible ecology, of early land plants, mainly of Devonian and Early Carboniferous age. She continues her interest in palynology, especially in situ spores or spore ultrastructure, in terms of what they may contribute relative to systematics or phylogenies of early plants. Recent publications include a report of early wood from the very Early to Early Devonian of France and New Brunswick (Gerrienne et al., 2011, Gerrienne & Gensel, 2016, work in prep), a revision of sporangial morphology and attachment in the iconic zosterophyll *Sawdonia ornata* (Gensel & Berry, 2016) and paleoenvironmental interpretations of some of the major plant-bearing deposits in New Brunswick or early coal (Kennedy et al., 2012; Kennedy et al., 2013). Her on-going work focuses on elucidating anatomy and morphology of basal euphyllophytes (formerly trimerophytes), additional work on *Sawdonia* spp., and other Devonian or Carboniferous plants.

#### REFERENCES

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