

Tribute to Susan Loiseaux-de Goërs

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Susan and her twin brother John were born on 5 August 1938 in Caterham, Surrey, England. They spent the following years in Welwyn Garden City, Herts, and Susan still has wonderful memories of the natural history teaching in the primary school there. Her sister Anne was born in 1943. Their father Alan Saunders worked as a chartered accountant in London for many years. Their mother Monique Vautrain was French-born and a professional artist, but spent most of her adult life as a housewife. Susan was a small child during the war years and has distinct memories of the many German bombing raids, especially those during the London Blitz, never knowing whether the family would see the next day.

In 1946 the family relocated to France, where Alan continued working as

an accountant for British companies. For the first year they lived in the small village of L'Isle-Adam, near the Oise River about 30 km from Paris, but after that they moved to central Paris. They also obtained a small holiday house in the Vallée de Chevreuse at Le Pommier, which was built in the 1600s and was surrounded by fields, woods and marshes, providing endless hours of natural history exploration for the children.

In 1964 her brother John died tragically in a car accident while working for a French communications company in Florida, U.S.A. Susan married Jean-Marie Loiseaux in 1962. They have three children: Claire, born in May, 1964, Pascale, born in December 1966 and Emmanuel, born in May 1968. Susan and the family enjoyed a year in Berkeley, California, during a post-doctoral visit (September 1968-September 1969), attending the International Botanical Congress in Seattle, Washington, visiting the California and Arizona deserts in their spring glory, visiting Gulf of California in Mexico and collecting many interesting Myrionemataceae on the California coast. This was also a time of great excitement and social unrest in California with many protests and riots around the university campus, which provided a grand opportunity to see and hear the burst in social freedom and musical innovation. Returning to France the family settled in Paris for two years before moving to Grenoble.

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Susan retired in October 2001 and the occasion was marked by a ceremony and lecture series at Station Biologique. She continues to live in Roscoff, enjoying the beauty of the coastal scenery and teaching natural history to her grandchildren. She pursues her interest in phycology, working on the brown algal section of the marine algal flora of the north Brittany region, which includes species names, descriptions, illustrations, distribution, and molecular phylogeny data.

Education

- 1958 — *Baccalauréat 'Sciences Expérimentales'*, *Lycée 'Jules Ferry'*.
 1961 — Licence ès Sciences. University of Paris, Faculty of Sciences. (Physics, chemistry, general biology).
 1961-1962 — Specialized in cryptogamic botany, followed by a *Thèse de Troisième cycle (Algologie [Phycology])* in Professor Jean Feldmann's lab at the University of Paris and at the *Station Biologique* in Roscoff,
 1968 — *Doctorat d'État ès Sciences naturelles*, University of Paris: *Recherches sur les cycles de développement des Myrionématacées*, and a second subject imposed by the university: Apospory and apogamy of Pteridophytes.

Professional Positions

- 1963-2001 — Research positions with the CNRS.
 1968-1969 — NATO Post-doctoral Fellow, Botany, University of California, Berkeley.
 1969-1971 — University of Paris, Laboratoire de Biologie Végétale Marine.
 1971-1989 — University of Grenoble, Plant Physiology (now Plant Molecular Biology)
 1989-2001 — Centre d'Études Océanographiques et de Biologie Marine, (CNRS and Paris University) better known as Station Biologique, Roscoff.

Major Contributions

Her early work on the culture, life histories and morphology of the Myriophyllum was pioneering in the field of microscopic brown algal biology. In the past 20 years her research has focused on the molecular genetics of brown algae. While at Grenoble she pioneered work on the axenic culture of *Pylaiella littoralis* and the mitochondrial genome. Most recently her work has been beautifully illustrated on the cover of the European Journal of Phycology for 2002, which shows the complete mitochondrial genomes of *Pylaiella littoralis* and *Laminaria digitata*.

Six PhD Students have been supervised by Susan

Yves Markowitz, Thèse de l'Université de Grenoble, 1986. Now at the University of Grenoble.

Nour-Eddine Assali, Thèse de l'Université de Grenoble et de Rabat, 1990. Now at the Institut Agronomique et Vétérinaire Hassan II, Rabat, Maroc.

Catherine Leblanc, Thèse de l'École Nationale Supérieure d'Agronomie de Rennes, 1995. Now CNRS Researcher in Roscoff.

Jean-Marc Fontaine, Thèse de l'Université de Paris VI, 1996. Now at the Dept of Cell and Developmental Biology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, U.S.A.

Pulchérie Guénéau, Thèse de l'Université de Paris VI, 1998. Now at IVIC, Caracas, Venezuela.

Marie-Pierre Oudot, Thèse de l'Université de Rennes 1, 2000. Now at the University of Groningen, Netherlands.

In addition Susan has trained many other students and colleagues in molecular genetics.

Publications

1964

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1966

LOISEAUX S., 1966 — Sur le cycle de développement de l'*Ascocyclus hispanicus* (Phéophycées Myrionématacées) et la formation en culture de stades coccoïdes. *Comptes-Rendus de l'Académie des Sciences*, Paris, Sér. D, 262: 68-71.

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LOISEAUX S., 1969 — Sur une espèce de *Myriotrichia* obtenue en culture à partir des zoïdes d'*Hecatonema maculans* Sauv. *Phycologia* 8: 11-15.

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LOISEAUX S., 1970 — Notes on several Myrionemataceae from California using culture studies. *Journal of Phycology* 6: 248-260.

LOISEAUX S. & WEST J., 1970 — A. Brown algal mastigonemes: comparative ultrastructure. *Transactions of the American Microscopical Society* 89: 524-532.

1972

MACHE R. & LOISEAUX S., 1972 — Action of rifampicin on the liverwort *Marchantia polymorpha*. *Journal of Cell Science* 10: 821-831.

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MACHE R. & LOISEAUX S., 1973 — Light saturation of growth and photosynthesis of the shade plant *Marchantia polymorpha*. *Journal of Cell Science* 12: 391-401.

MACHE R., ROZIER C., LOISEAUX S. & VIAL A.M., 1973 — Synchronous division of plastids during the greening of cut leaves of Maize. *Nature, New Biology* 242: 158-160.

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1978

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