

Volume 60

No. 7

March 2012

# MISSISSIPPI GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

*eBulletin*

[missgeo.com](http://missgeo.com)



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# MGS MEETING SCHEDULE

When	What/Who	Where
September 8, 2011	Fall BBQ	Jackson Yacht Club-5:30pm
October 13, 2011	<b>Gas Hydrate: A Huge Emerging Energy Resource</b> Art Johnson: Hydrate Energy International	River Hills – 11:30am
November 9, 2011	<b>The Jurassic Norphlet Formation of the Deep Water Eastern Gulf of Mexico: A Revisit of the Sedimentology of Aeolian Systems &amp; Comparisons to both the Modern Namib Desert and Ancient Cedar Mesa Analogues: John B. Wagner*</b>	River Hills – 11:30am
December , 2011	Christmas Party and Dance	Colonial Country Club
January 12, 2012	<b>Oil and Gas Finders Unite!</b> New exploitation techniques in resource plays benefit geologists, engineers, and geophysicists alike	River Hills – 11:30am
February 9, 2012	<b>Geology and the Vicksburg Campaign of the American Civil War</b>	River Hills – 11:30am
March 8, 2012	<b>Sub-aerial Basins Below Sea Level Provide Unexpected Reservoirs</b>	River Hills – 11:30am
April 12, 2012	Boland Scholarship Awards	River Hills – 11:30am
May 10, 2012	Spring Fling	Jackson Yacht Club– 5:30pm

## OFFICERS MEETINGS

August 4, 2011

September 1, 2011

October 6, 2011

November 3, 2011

December 1, 2011

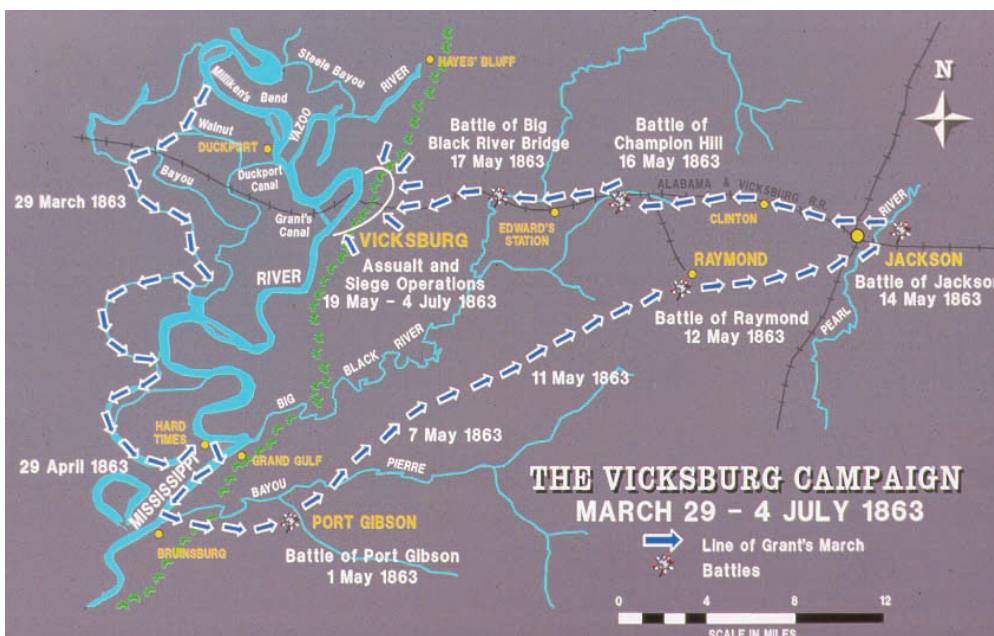
January 5, 2012

February 2, 2012

March 1, 2012

April 5, 2012

May 3, 2012



# **MGS LUNCHEON SPEAKER:**

## ***Sub-aerial Basins Below Sea Level Provide Unexpected Reservoirs***

Cassidy, Martin M., Burke, Kevin  
Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences  
University of Houston, Houston, Texas 77204-5007  
[mcassidy@uh.edu](mailto:mcassidy@uh.edu)

### **Abstract:**

Throughout geologic history there have been large sub-aerial basins below sea level. There are two times in the plate tectonic cycle when such basins are likely to form: in rifting of cratons, examples being the Afar (- 410ft, below sea level) Southern North Sea (-750 ft.), and the South Atlantic basins; and when old basins are sealed off in collisions such as the Mediterranean during Messinian time (-10,000.ft.) the Black Sea (-550ft.), and the Gulf of Mexico (GOM) during deposition of the Norphlet sands in Jurassic and perhaps in the Paleocene Wilcox sands in basin depths (-6000ft.?) but in shallow water to subaerial.

Basins that were below sea level, but sub-aerial, influenced sedimentation and should influence interpretation of the tectonic history of the basins. Sub-aerial sediments do not necessarily mean basin uplift!

A desiccated sub-aerial basin below sea level may be the site of extensive desert deposits. Winds pouring across the lip and down into a subaerial basin below sea level are heated by compression as they descend leading to extreme desiccation evaporating brines to even deposit potassium salts. The same winds move sand dunes even into the deepest portions of the basin. Those potential reservoirs are not influenced by distance from shore, as are marine sands. The most significant event in a sub-aerial sub-sea basin is the sudden flooding upon entry of the sea. Unlike a marine transgression that reworks sediments on gradually submerged land, the sea fills the empty basin like filling a bathtub. The sea rises to flood the surface with little disturbance covering the terrain in a geologic moment. Sand dunes are drowned, preserving their shapes and cross bedding, as in Permian Rotliegend of the Southern North Sea. Porosity of sandstone may be preserved due to desert conditions leading to chlorite overgrowths on quartz, as is true of Norphlet Sandstone of the GOM.

Canyons cut to grade with the basin floor are distinctive of former sub-aerial sub-sea basins. They bring coarse clastics to the basin floor. Such buried canyons are found all around the Mediterranean and western Gulf of Mexico

After the flood mainly fine clay, carbonates, and organic matter settle out of the anoxic water. Rising H<sub>2</sub>S from rotting vegetation of the suddenly drowned landscape precipitates metals from the ocean water and may cause metal rich fine sediments such as the Kupferschiefer that overlies the sand dunes of the Rotliegend. The fines drape over the preexisting dunes like a blanket of snow, following the curves of the former landscape.

In a basin containing a drowned desert environment can be found reservoirs that might not be expected if a uniformly marine basin model is used in interpretation and exploration. Realization that one may be dealing with desert sedimentation can result in interpretations that extend successful oil and gas plays and predict locations of new ones.

## **Martin M. Cassidy**

### **Education:**

Ph.D. Geology 2005 University of Houston.  
M.S. Geology 1964 University of Oklahoma.  
B.A. Geology cum Laude 1955 Harvard University.

### **Experience:**

Dec.2005-Present Research Scientist, Dept. of Geology, University of Houston study of CO<sub>2</sub> and Consultant Petroleum Geologist.  
June 1994- 2005 Graduate student U. of H. and Consultant Petroleum Geologist.  
1991 – 1994 Amoco International New Ventures regional assessment.  
1988 - 1991 Amoco International New Ventures Indonesia.  
1986 – 1988 Amoco Production Technical Advisor New Orleans.  
1984 – 1986 Amoco (U.K.) Exploration Company Exploration Manager, London, England.  
1982 - 1984 Amoco (U.K.) Exploration Company Division Operations Supervisor  
1973 – 1982 Amoco International Exploration Company Various assignments including New Ventures in Middle East, Far East Exploration operations Manager.  
1969 – 1973 Pan American Libya oil Company Chief Geologist , Tripoli, Libya.  
1962 – 1969 Pan American Petroleum Company, Geologist, South Texas oil and gas and High Island sulfur exploration and development.  
1960 – 1962 Harvard University Teaching Fellow.  
1958 – 1960 M.S. University of Oklahoma.  
1956 – 1958 U.S. Air Force Ammunition Supply Officer, Korea. Denver.  
1955 – 1956 Standard of Texas, Geologist.

## ***Louisiana: Smackover Brown dense drilling progresses***

Southwestern Energy Co., Houston, is drilling its third well in the Jurassic Lower Smackover Brown dense play in southern Arkansas and northern Louisiana, in which it has acquired 520,619 net acres.

The BML 31-22 1-1H well is in Union Parish, La., was spudded in February 2012, the same month in which the company completed its first well in the play, the Roberson 18-19 1-15H, in Columbia County, Ark.

The Robertson well has a 3,600-ft lateral in the lower third of the target formation, and total depth is 9,369 ft measured depth. Core analysis indicated this section had some of the lowest permeability in the entire interval.

Southwestern said the well has been producing from eight of 11 fractured stimulated stages for 20 days of an expected 20 to 30-day clean-up period. Oil production began on the eighth day, and the company expressed encouragement with the highest 24-hr rates to date of 103 b/d of oil, 200 Mcfd of gas, and 1,009 b/d of water with 45% of load recovered.

The company's second well, the Garrett 7-23-5H 1 in Claiborne Parish, La., was drilled to a vertical depth in February 2012 at 10,863 ft with a 6,536-ft horizontal lateral steered into the top of the interval. It drilled faster and had better oil shows than the first well.

**Contributed by:**  
MGS Editor

Source: <http://www.ogj.com/articles/2012/02/louisiana-smackover-brown-dense-drilling-progresses.html?cmpid=EnIDailyMarch12012>

## ***Test your Historical Knowledge of the Mississippi Oil Patch!***

Match the old or original field name with the current/approved name:

- | Original name     | Current name   |
|-------------------|----------------|
| 1. Grubb Springs  | A. Pickens     |
| 2. Pickwick       | B. Carson      |
| 3. Lucas          | C. Hamilton    |
| 4. McLaurin       | D. Orange      |
| 5. Sharpsburg     | E. East Dexter |
| 6. Rose Hill      | F. Ralston     |
| 7. Antioch Church | G. Whitesand   |
8. What field was named for a community that once was known as ‘Grubtoe’?
9. The old design and format of the Mississippi Oil and Gas Board monthly production bulletins was originally found on publications of what volunteer entity?

**BONUS QUESTION:** After this date, a red stripe and red lettering appeared on Miss. Oil & Gas Board monthly publications; prior to this date the stripe was gray.

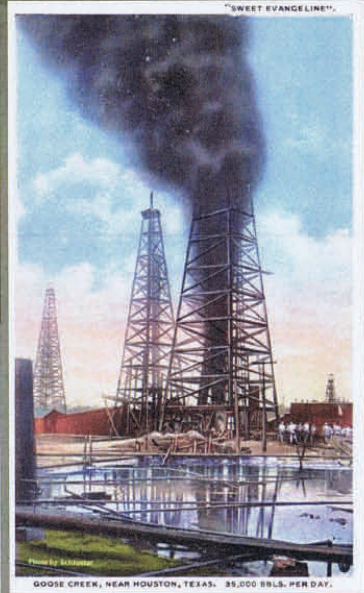
**ANSWERS IN NEXT MONTH’S MGS BULLETIN !!**



## 2012 Oil History Symposium

March 8-10  
Houston, TX

**CALL FOR ABSTRACTS**  
Oral presentations and posters  
**Deadline: January 15, 2012**  
[www.petroleumhistory.org](http://www.petroleumhistory.org)  
Submit abstracts to:  
[wbrice@pitt.edu](mailto:wbrice@pitt.edu)  
more information: [spencerj320@gmail.com](mailto:spencerj320@gmail.com)





## Future Meetings of Selected Earth Science Organizations

EVENT	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
AAPG Annual Convention & Exhibition (ACE)	10–13 April Houston, TX	22–25 April Long Beach, CA	19–22 May Pittsburgh, PA	6–9 April Houston, TX	31 May–3 June Denver, CO
AAPG International Conference & Exhibition (ICE)	23–26 October Milan, Italy	September Singapore	8–11 September Cartagena, Colombia		
AAPG Prospect & Property Expo-London (APPEX)	1–3 March London, UK	6–8 March London, UK			
AAPG Annual Leadership Conference	12–14 August Boulder, CO				
AAPG Foundation Trustee Associates	7–11 September Lake Tahoe, CA	28 Oct–1 Nov Scottsdale, AZ			
AAPG European Region Conference					
AAPG Eastern Section	25–27 September Washington, D.C.	22–26 September Cleveland, OH			
AAPG Gulf Coast Section (GCAGS)	16–19 October Veracruz, Mexico	21–23 October Austin, TX	Sept–Oct TBD New Orleans, LA	Sept–Oct TBD Lafayette, LA	Sept–Oct TBD Houston, TX
AAPG Mid-Continent Section	1–4 October Oklahoma City, OK				
AAPG Pacific Section	9–11 May Anchorage, AK	22–25 April Long Beach, CA			
AAPG Rocky Mountain Section (RMS)	26–29 June Cheyenne, WY	9–12 September Grand Junction, CO	TBD Salt Lake City, UT	TBD Denver, CO	
AAPG Southwest Section	5–7 June Ruidoso, NM	19–22 May Ft. Worth, TX			
AAPG Polar Petroleum Potential (3P)	30 Aug–2 Sept Halifax, Nova Scotia				
American Association of Petroleum Landmen (AAPL) Annual Meeting	8–11 June Boston, MA				
Arctic Technology Conference (OTC) <i>New!</i>	7–9 February Houston, TX	3–5 December Houston, TX			
Asia Pacific Oil & Gas Conference (SPE)	20–22 September Jakarta, Indonesia	22–24 October Perth, Australia			
Association of Environmental & Engineering Geologists (AEG)	19–24 September Anchorage, AK	TBD Salt Lake City, UT	TBD Seattle, WA		
Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists (CSPG), Canadian Society of Exploration Geoscientists (CSEG), & Canadian Well Logging Society (CWLS)	9–13 May Calgary, AB, Canada				
European Assoc. of Geoscientists and Engineers (EAGE)	23–26 May Vienna, Austria	4–7 June Copenhagen, Denmark	9–14 June London, UK		
GEO India — South Asian Geosciences Conference & Exhibition	12–14 January New Delhi, India	Not Held			
GEO Middle East Geosciences Conference and Exhibition	Not Held	4–7 March Bahrain	Not Held		
Geological Assoc. of Canada/ Mineralogical Assoc. of Canada Annual Meeting	25–27 May Ottawa, ON, Canada	27–29 May St. John's, NL, Canada	22–24 May Winnipeg, MB, Canada		
Geological Society of America (GSA)	9–12 October Minneapolis, MN	4–7 November Charlotte, NC	27–30 October Denver, CO		
IPTC – International Petroleum Technology Conference (AAPG/EAGE/SEG/SPE)	15–17 November Bangkok, Thailand	5–7 December Beijing, China	2–4 December Doha, Qatar	TBD Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	
National Association of Black Geologists & Geophysicist (NABGG)	7–10 September San Francisco, CA				
NAPE – North American Prospect Expo (AAPL) – Winter	16–18 February Houston, TX	22–24 February Houston, TX			
NAPE – North American Prospect Expo (AAPL) – Summer	17–19 August Houston, TX				
OTC – Offshore Technology Conference (SPE)	2–5 May Houston, TX	30 April–3 May Houston, TX	6–9 May Houston, TX	5–8 May Houston, TX	
PETEX (PESGB)	Not Held				
Society of Exploration Geophysicists (SEG)	18–23 September San Antonio, TX	4–9 November Las Vegas, NV	22–27 September Houston, TX	26–31 October Denver, CO	
Society of Independent Earth Scientists (SIPES)	20–23 June Jackson Hole, WY				
Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE)	30 Oct–2 Nov Denver, CO	8–10 October San Antonio, TX	30 Sept–2 Oct New Orleans, LA		
Society of Professional Well Log Analysts (SPWLA)	14–18 May Colorado Springs, CO				

Shaded boxes indicate that all aspects of meeting are managed by the American Association of Petroleum Geologists  
Global Development and Conventions Department  
P.O. Box 979, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74101-0979 USA +1 918 560 2679  
Updated 14 July 2011 / Dates are subject to change

# GEO LINK POST

**USGS TAPESTRY OF TIME AND TERRAIN** <http://tapestry.usgs.gov> The CCGS is donating to all of the 5th and 6th grade schools in the Coastal Bend. Check it out—it is a spectacular map. You might want a framed one for your own office. The one in my office has glass and a metal frame, and it cost \$400 and it does not look as good as the ones we are giving to the schools. Call Owen 510-6224 if you want one for your office for \$150. Duncan, Mike, Chris, Dave, Bob Randy, Seb., Kevin, Ken, Craig, Patrick, Robert.

**FREE TEXAS TOPO'S** <http://www.tnris.state.tx.us/digital.htm> these are TIFF files from your state government that can be downloaded and printed. You can add them to SMT by converting them first in Globalmapper. Other digital data as well.

**FREE NATIONAL TOPO'S** [http://store.usgs.gov/b2c\\_usgs/b2c/start/\(xcm=r3standardpitrex\\_prd\)/.do](http://store.usgs.gov/b2c_usgs/b2c/start/(xcm=r3standardpitrex_prd)/.do) go to this webpage and look on the extreme right side to the box titled TOPO MAPS DOWNLOAD TOPO MAPS FREE.

<http://www.geographynetwork.com/> Go here and try their top 5 map services. My favorite is 'USGS Elevation Date.' Zoom in on your favorite places and see great shaded relief images. One of my favorites is the Great Sand Dunes National Park in south central Colorado. Nice Dunes.

<http://antwrp.gsfc.nasa.gov/apod/astropix.html> Astronomy picture of the day — awesome. I click this page everyday.

<http://www.spacimaging.com/gallery/ioweek/iow.htm> Amazing satellite images. Check out the gallery.

<http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/seg/topo/globegal.shtml> More great maps to share with kids and students.

[www.geo.org](http://www.geo.org) Don't forget we have our own web page.

<http://micro.magneet.fsu.edu/primer/java/scienceoptiscu/owersof10/>

<http://asterweb.jpl.nasa.gov/galery/default.htm> Great satellite images of volcanoes

<http://terra.nasa.gov/gallery/> More here

[www.ermapper.com](http://www.ermapper.com) They have a great free downloadable viewer for TIFF and other graphic files called ER Viewer.

[www.drillinginfo.com](http://www.drillinginfo.com) This is an incredible (subscription) well and completion data service for independents. Can be demo'ed for free.

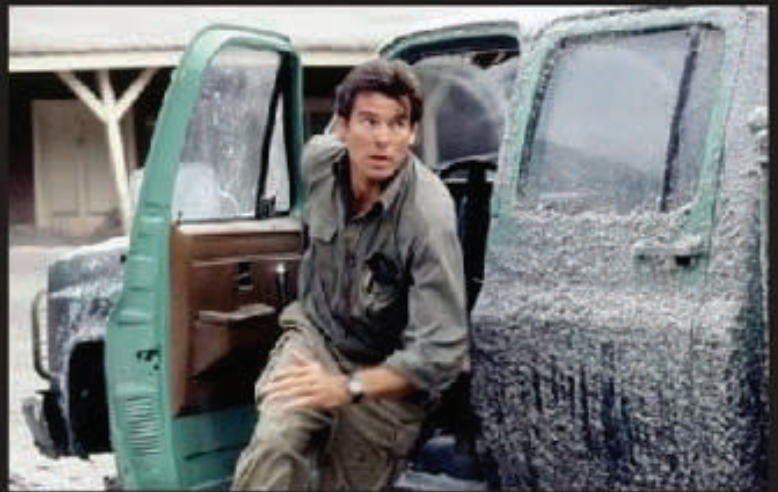
<http://terrasrver.com/> Go here to download free aerial photo images that can be plotted under your digital land and well data. Images down to 1 meter resolution, searchable by Lat Long coordinate. Useful for resolving well location questions.

<http://www.fs.fed.us/gpnf/volcanocams/msh/> This is a live cam of Mt. St. Helens refreshed every 5 minutes. At the bottom are old videos of past eruptions in this cycle. It is worth a watch especially now.

# GEOLOGY



What I think I do



What society thinks  
I do

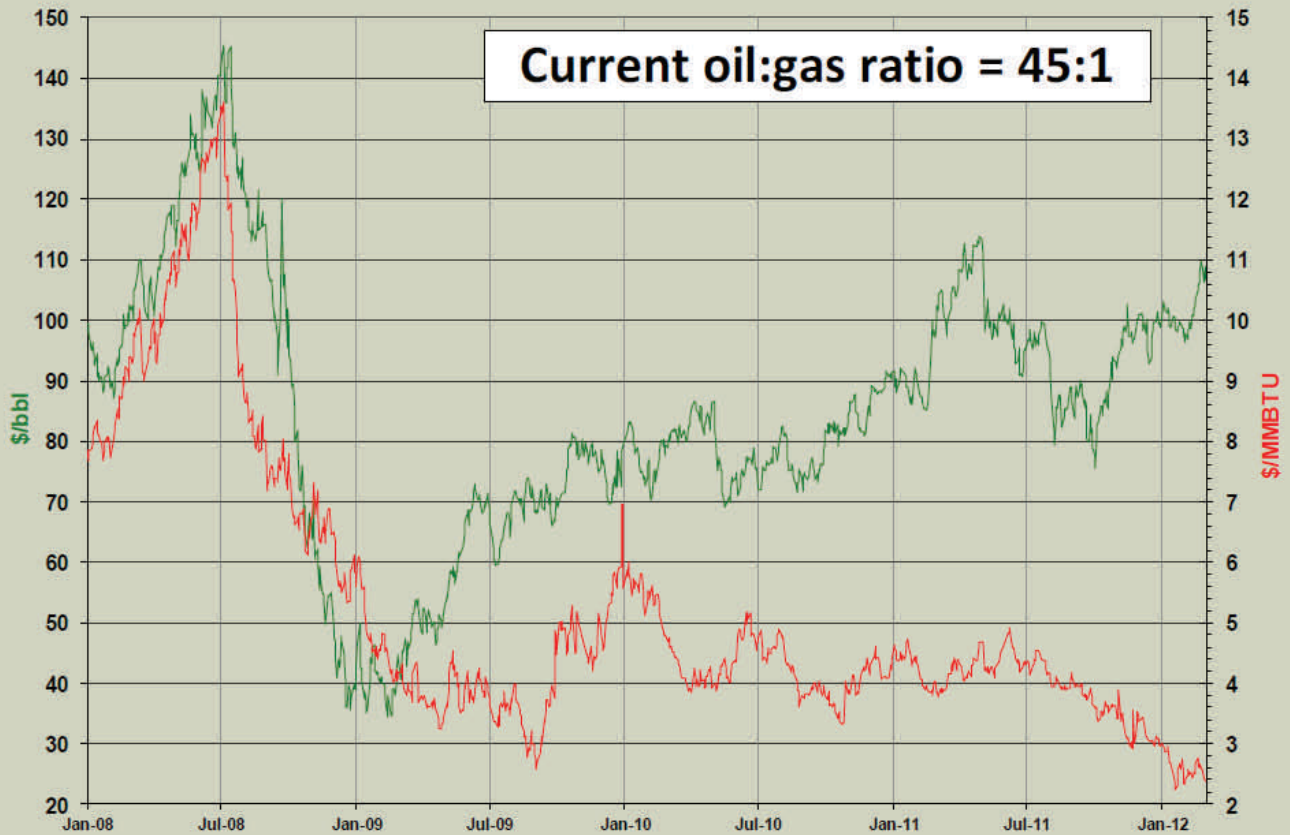


What my friends  
think I do



What I actually do

# NYMEX DAILY SPOT



Current Oil & Gas Prices	OIL	GAS	OIL-12-Mo Strip	GAS-12-Mo Strip
NYMEX Close Friday 3/2/12	\$ 106.70	\$ 2.38	\$ 107.55	\$ 3.44
ICE* current(3/5 @ 7:23 AM)	\$ 106.80	\$ 2.39	*Intercontinental Commodities Exchange	

**SOURCE: Oil & Gas Asset Clearinghouse**

**TURN IT TO THE RIGHT!**



**Do you have any articles that you want to share with the MGS membership?**

Something you read online or something you wrote.

Please email them to the MGS Editor at [mgs@treetop.us.com](mailto:mgs@treetop.us.com).

We would like to add more content from the membership.

Attention MGS Members:

**June 2012** will be the last month the MGS Bulletin will be printed and mailed out. From that point on the only version will be in digital .PDF file format.



## MGS BOLAND SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Society's L. F. Boland Scholarship Fund is open to donations (tax deductible) year round. Your contribution will help the Society recognize and reward outstanding earth science students at its annual Honors Day meeting on April 12th, 2012.

Since inception in 1982, the Society has honored 112 students with the Boland Award. If you would like to contribute, please contact Dave Cate at 601-718-9397 or mail your check (L. F. Boland Scholarship Fund) to him at 217 W. Capitol St., Jackson, MS 39201.

The MGS gratefully acknowledges the following contributors to the L. F. Boland Scholarship Fund for the 2011-2012 year.

Maurice Birdwell	Kieth Gourges	Tony Stuart
Maurice Meylan	Philip Reeves	Terry Bryant
Julius Ridgway	Dave Cate	Stewart & Jane Welch- "In Memory of Fleming Browning, Dee Layman and Jim Furrh"
Chris Franks	Joe McDuff	
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Vaughan Watkins	Jak Douglas	

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\* deceased

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**MISSISSIPPI GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

**P.O. BOX 422, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39205-0422**

**2011-2012**

Membership year is June through May

New Membership (\$20/yr)\_\_\_\_\_ Renewal (\$20/yr)\_\_\_\_\_ Student (FREE)\_\_\_\_\_ Associate (\$20/yr)\_\_\_\_\_

Boland Scholarship Fund Donation \$\_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount Enclosed \$\_\_\_\_\_

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E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

College/University Attended: \_\_\_\_\_

Degree(s) Obtained and Year(s) Awarded: \_\_\_\_\_

Professional Associations, Certifications, & Licenses: \_\_\_\_\_



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Johnny Holifield	Drew Sills	
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James (Jim) Johnson		
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Fred Katzenmeyer		

## MGS ADVERTISING ORDER FORM

September 2010 – May 2011

### I. Bulletin Advertisements:

<u>Size</u>	<u>Rate/Year</u>	<u>Amt. Remitted</u>
Full Page Ad (6" x 8")	\$500	\$ _____
1/2 Page Ad (6" x 4")	\$300	\$ _____
1/4 Page Ad (3" x 4")	\$200	\$ _____
Business Card Ad (1 1/2" x 3")	\$100	\$ _____
Professional Listing (1/2" x 3")	\$ 50	\$ _____

### II. Web Page Advertisements (www.missgeo.com):

<u>Type of Web Page Ad</u>	<u>Rate/Year</u>	<u>Amt. Remitted</u>
Front Page Sponsor (Banner Ad – limit of 5)	\$500	\$ _____
Second Page Banner Ad	\$250	\$ _____
Professional Listing/Link	\$100	\$ _____

(Note: Please contact Steve Walkinshaw at (601) 607-3227 or mail@visionexploration.com for details concerning placing your ad on the MGS web site.)

**Total Remitted** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to the Mississippi Geological Society. If you have any questions, contact Matt Caton at (601) 898-7444 or mcaton@tellusoperating.com

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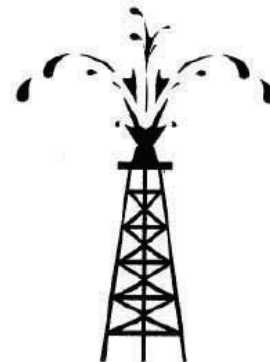
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