

Volume 60

No. 9

May 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

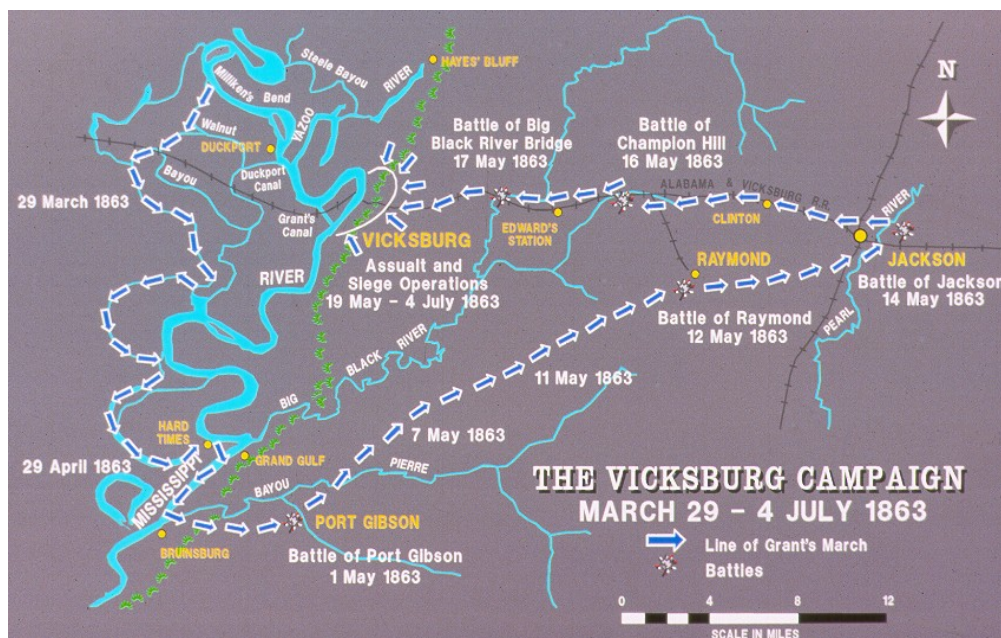
January 5, 2012

February 2, 2012

March 1, 2012

April 5, 2012

May 3, 2012



# **MGS LUNCHEON SPEAKER:**

**Spring Fling May 10th 2012 at the Jackson Yacht Club  
5:30pm-8:30 pm.**

## 2011- 2012 BOLAND SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The Mississippi Geological Society awarded its annual L. F. Boland Scholarship to four geoscience students at the April 12 meeting. This foursome makes a total of 117 to be honored by the Society for outstanding achievements in the geoscience field since the awards began in 1982-1983. Each student received \$1,000 and a framed certificate denoting her/his achievement.

**Laura Sorey – Millsaps College.** Laura is from Jackson, Mississippi and is a senior at Millsaps College with a GPA of 3.85. Laura will graduate in May, 2012 and has been accepted at Louisiana State University this coming fall where she will pursue her M. S. degree with a career interest in the petroleum industry. Laura has achieved the President's List at Millsaps, the Wendell B. Johnson Geology Award, the Millsaps Ford Fellowship, and has been a National Merit Finalist. She has been a USGS intern at the Mississippi Water Science Center researching water/land usage in the Yazoo River Basin. She currently tutors in the Millsaps Geology Department. Laura is member of the GSA, a student officer for the Association of Environmental and Exploration Geologists and the student VP for the SEG.

**Cary Lindsey – Mississippi State University.** Cary is from Plantersville, Mississippi and is a junior at Mississippi State University with a GPA of 3.85. She has previously obtained an Associate of Arts Degree from Itawamba Community College. Cary will graduate in May, 2013 after which she intends to pursue her M. S. degree with a career interest in the geothermal field. She has been a Shackouls Honor College recipient, a NASA Community College Scholar and a member of the All Mississippi Academic Team. She is doing an undergraduate research assessing the geothermal energy potential in the Black Warrior Basin. She has interned for the Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance in Atlanta, Georgia involving research energy efficiency programs in Mississippi. This summer, she has been accepted for studies by the National Geothermal Academy at the University of Nevada Reno.

**Amber Butler – University of Southern Mississippi.** Amber is from Ellisville, Mississippi and is a junior at USM with a GPA of 3.60. She is a Junior and will graduate in May, 2013 then pursue her M.S. degree with an interest in Paleontology and teaching on the college level. She has achieved the Dean's List at USM, the McCarty Scholarship, the Fidelia Scholarship, a Wal-Mart Scholarship and a NASA Scholarship. She is a research assistant to the USM faculty on a project funded by the National Science Foundation on floodplain sedimentation along the Lower Mississippi River. She assists in the Physical Geology classes and also volunteers at Petal Upper Elementary School. Amber is the current President of the Southern Geological Society.

**David Austen Cain – University of Mississippi.** Austen is from Ringgold, Georgia and is a senior at Ole Miss with a GPA of 3.75. He will graduate in May, 2012 with a B. S. in Geological Engineering and then pursue his M. S. degree with an interest in the petroleum exploration field. He has achieved the Dean's List, received the Brevard Engineering Scholarship, the Adler Engineering Scholarship, the National Assoc. of Geosciences Teachers Scholarship and the Geological Engineering Outstanding Student Award. He is a research assistant with the MMRI doing research concerning saline brines in MS, AL, and LA. Austen is a member of the BETA Club, Future Business Leaders of America, Engineers Without Borders, the Senior Class Council and he captains the Ole Miss Club Soccer Team.

## Congratulations!

# Gas-rich states lose fracking lottery

By Joan Gralla

May 14 (Reuters)

While Pennsylvania, northwestern Louisiana and gas-rich areas around the Gulf of Mexico are losing jobs and revenue as the fracking industry shrinks after a price collapse, oil-rich North Dakota and Texas are in the midst of a boom.

Other winners in the fracking lottery include central and southern Louisiana, Mississippi, Ohio and Wyoming, where the economy is expanding and revenues are climbing.

As oil prices are expected to stay around \$100 a barrel for at least a couple of years, the success of these states may last longer. But the high volatility of energy prices may give local economies a headache.

With natural gas prices touching 10-year lows three weeks ago, there could be more pain ahead for gas-rich communities and states where fracking was until recently a growth industry.

The forerunners in fracking natural gas are a case in point.

Parts of northwestern Louisiana, where the Haynesville shale is located, already have been hit as gas rigs left. In Bossier City-Parish, one of the communities in the Haynesville area, the rural district tax revenue fell 25 percent to \$2.5 million from January to April, according to tax administrator Ken Kirspele.

Economists warn that this type of reduction in local revenues could spread throughout Louisiana as natural gas output falls, cutting more jobs and revenue.

In the last two years, the oil and gas extraction industry added 36,000 jobs around the nation. Most of those jobs were in natural gas fracking, according to Dean Baker, an economist with the Center for Economic and Policy Research, in Washington, D.C.

Those jobs could move elsewhere, other experts said.

Fracking is a drilling technique that extracts oil and gas from shale by blasting it with water, sand and chemicals. Environmentalists have raised concerns about possible air and water pollution. Due to these concerns, Vermont is set to ban fracking, and New York has placed a moratorium on it.

How many jobs will be lost in gas production and gained in oil drilling is difficult to estimate, economists say, but local communities in gas-rich areas will feel the pain.

The estimated number of jobs lost could reach 72,000 - or double the jobs added during the fracking boom, said Baker of the Center for Economic and Policy Research. This assumes that each fracking job created one more job in related areas, such as trucking and steel manufacturing, and in other sectors, from hotels to shops, where oil and gas workers spend their wages.

## GOODBYE GAS, HELLO OIL

The decline in gas rigs happened swiftly in Louisiana's gas-rich Haynesville shale. The number of rigs has dropped to about 40 from over 140 over the past 18 months, said Don Briggs, president of the Louisiana Oil and Gas Association.

"These rigs are moving to Texas or other places to drill wells ... for oil instead of natural gas," he said.

Caddo Parish, which enjoyed the fracking boom, is getting squeezed now. Sales tax revenue fell 18 percent in 2011, and has kept slipping this year, said Erica Bryant, director of finance. "We will have to monitor the situation to determine its effect on our operations."

Some of the economic damage comes from the lost payments that landowners hoped to get from drilling companies.

Suzanne Stinson, the court administrator for Bossier Parish, said a company that leased property from her family for three years has not renewed the contract.

Source: <http://mobile.reuters.com/article/>

It didn't come as a surprise to us," she said, noting other landowners had the same experience.

The metropolitan area around Shreveport, a Haynesville drilling hub, had 6,800 mining and logging workers in March 2012, down from a year-ago peak of 7,200, according to the Louisiana Workforce Commission.

The state's severance tax, its natural resource levy, has yet to recover from the Great Recession. It only produced \$764 million in 2011 versus a 2008 peak of \$1.047 billion. The state's budget last year was about \$25 billion.

Natural gas drilling could remain depressed for a couple of years, economists say, because that is how long it could take to work off the oversupply created by fracking.

The price of natural gas has fallen to about \$2.50 per million British thermal units from around \$13.70 in July 2008. Output fell in February, and the decline was the bigger of two monthly drops in 12 months..

Drillers have reacted. The number of gas rigs fell last week to 598, the lowest in a decade. Yet the total number of oil rigs rose to 1,372, a 25-year high..

Pennsylvania, which opened its doors to fracking, has started to see gas rigs leave the state. The number last week fell to 95 from 108 a year ago.

"I think Pennsylvania will see some moderation and there probably will be some short-term adverse effects on jobs," said Eric Smith, a professor at the Tulane Energy Institute, in New Orleans.

The state, whose oil and gas revenue leaped to \$419 million in 2011 from \$176 million in 2006, could see that windfall shrink as more rigs leave, economists said. To put that figure in perspective, the state's budget last year totaled \$27 billion, with gambling alone producing \$1.4 billion in 2011 tax revenues.

## NORTH DAKOTA'S OIL RUSH

Many rigs have moved to North Dakota because of its oil-rich Bakken shale formation.

Its mining and logging sector rose to 21,000 workers in March 2012 from 15,500 in December 2007, and its oil output topped California's in January. Economists expect more gains.

North Dakota's oil production in January averaged 546,284 barrels a day and "I think it's very realistic to assume this becomes a million barrels-a-day production," said John Harju, associate director for research at the University of North Dakota's Energy & Environmental Research Center in Grand Forks.

The state's 3 percent jobless rate could fall further, and might even be lower in a few drilling hotbeds, like Williston.

"There's no unemployment here, everybody's home values have gone up, but at the same time, there is a lot more traffic," said Tom Rolfstad, the town's economic development director.

North Dakota's oil tax revenue - which totaled \$1.027 billion from July 1, 2011 to March 3, 2012 - is expected to keep rising. Its budget is about \$4.2 billion.

The state is aiding its booming localities, planning to send them about \$1.2 billion by the time its two-year budget ends on June 30.

"They certainly have been our Big Brother through this whole thing ... but it is kind of hard to keep up," Rolfstad said.



## **FROM THE EDITOR:**

This will be the last bulletin for my term as your society editor. It has been my privilege to serve in this position and others for the past 6 years. This society can not function without leaders and membership involvement. Please attend luncheons and meetings as much as possible. Without membership participation relevancy is lost.

Thanks,  
Joe Johnson

## 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

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# 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

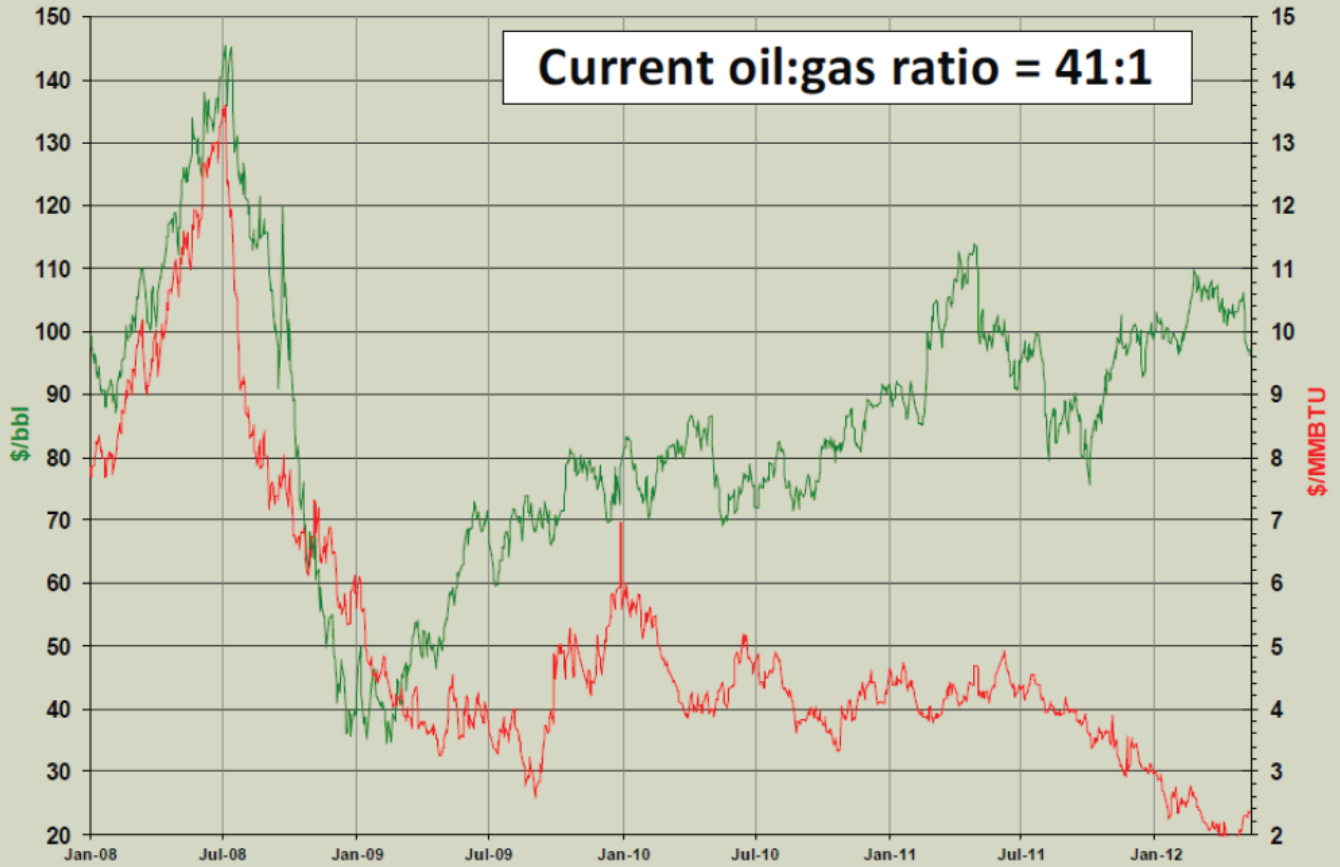
[www.ermapper.com](http://www.ermapper.com) They have a great free downloadable viewer for TIFF and other graphic files called ER Viewer.

[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.

# NYMEX DAILY SPOT



Current Oil & Gas Prices	OIL	GAS	OIL-12-Mo Strip	GAS-12-Mo Strip
NYMEX Close Friday 5/11/12	\$ 96.13	\$ 2.36	\$ 97.25	\$ 3.80
ICE* current(5/14 @ 7:34 AM)	\$ 94.34	\$ 2.50	<i>*Intercontinental Commodities Exchange</i>	

**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	Glen Clark
Chris Franks	Joe Mcduff	The Boland Family
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Stewart & Jane Welch- “**In Memory of Fleming Browning, Dee Layman and Jim Furrh**”

Frank Perkins Family- “**In Memory of Marcial Forrester**”



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**MISSISSIPPI GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

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

**2011-2012**

Membership year is June through May

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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	\$ _____
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