

Volume 65

No. 1

September 2016



FALL BBQ

MISSISSIPPI GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY: A Brief History

MDEQ OFFICE OF GEOLOGY SURFACE GEOLOGY MAPPING PROGRAM Dr. David T. Dockery, RPG, Office of Geology



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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Craigin Knox



I'd like to welcome all of our members to this year's MGS activities. It will begin with the fall BBQ to be held at the Jackson Yacht Club Thursday, September 8. I hope to see many of you there.

I am looking forward to a great year and want to continue gathering unique and original content for the bulletin and website. We need to develop more inclusion and activity for and by the environmental/engineering geologist, the government geologist, and academia. Our society needs to cast our net as board as possible within the world of geology. I encourage you to submit news, articles, job/internship openings or simply just congratulations for a job well done.

Many thanks to our officers, editor, webmaster, and members for their time, efforts, and support this year.

Best,

Craigin Knox

President

2016-2017 MGS MEETING SCHEDULE		
When	What/Who	Where
September 8, 2016	Fall BBQ	Jackson Yacht Club- 5:30pm
October 13, 2016	TBD	River Hills – 11:30am
November 10, 2016	TBD	River Hills – 11:30am
TBD	MAPL Christmas Party and Dance	TBD
January 12, 2017	TBD	River Hills – 11:30am
February 9, 2017	TBD	River Hills – 11:30am
March 9, 2017	TBD	River Hills – 11:30am
April 13, 2017	Boland Scholarship Awards	River Hills – 11:30am
May 11, 2017	Spring Fling	Jackson Yacht Club– 5:30pm



OFFICERS MEETINGS September 6, 2015

October 11, 2015

November 8, 2015

January 10, 2016

February 7, 2016

March 7, 2016

April 11, 2016

May 9, 2016

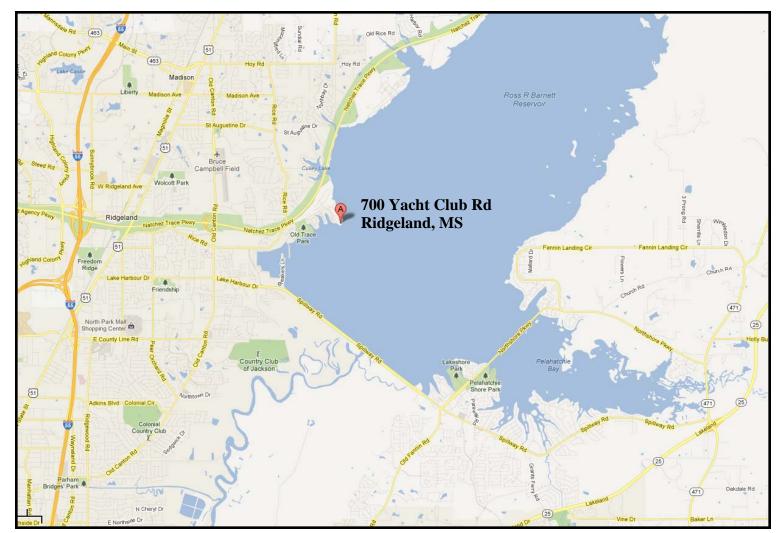


FALL BBQ

Jackson Yacht Club

Come join the Mississippi Geological Society to kick off 2016 at our annual Fall BBQ!!!!!!

Thursday September 8th at the Jackson Yacht Club





MISSISSIPPI GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

A Brief History



The Mississippi Geological Society was founded on November 28, 1939 by 38 of the 57 petroleum geologists then employed in Jackson, Mississippi. The state had just emerged as a significant oil and gas province following the discovery of large (200+ MMBO) oil reserves in Tinsley Field earlier in the year. The Society was organized with the stated purpose of "the stimulation of interest in geology and related sciences..., the encouragement of scientific research among members..., and the discussion and dissemination of geological information".

From its inception, the Society has pursued the attainment of its goals and stated purpose through the continued sponsorship of field trips, technical presentations, publications, and involvement in community affairs.

Throughout the years, the Society has sponsored twenty field trips, each with an accompanying guidebook. Copies of several of the more popular field trip guidebooks are available via the Society's Publications department. Some of the more recent field trips have been undertaken in conjunction with a seminar covering the subject of the trip.

In April 1941, the Society became affiliated with the American Association Of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG). Ten years later (1951), the Society joined the Gulf Coast Association Of Geological Societies (GCAGS). MGS hosted the AAPG sectional conventions in 1946 and 1949, and GCAGS/GCS-SEPM conventions in 1955, 1960, 1968, 1975, 1983, and 1992.

Involvement in research and technical projects has always been a hallmark of the Society. In 1945, MGS was instrumental in the oversight and assembly of data for the new and revised Geological Map of Mississippi. Similarly, the Society also established the MGS Library in 1945 in order to assist geologists and students in the pursuit of their research. The Student Award Program was instituted by the Society in 1947 to recognize outstanding geologic papers originated by students majoring in geologic disciplines at the state's colleges and universities.

In 1954, the Society embarked upon the first of many financial assistance programs with the establishment of its Student Loan Program, which was designed to provide support to selected college students majoring in geology throughout the state. This was followed in 1955 with the Society's awarding of scholarships to deserving high school winners in the Science Fair that was sponsored by the Mississippi Academy Of Science. More recently, the Lawrence Boland Memorial Scholarship Fund, established by the Society in 1980, has celebrated over twenty years of annual scholarship awards to one student from each of the four colleges and universities in the state that support a significant geology curriculum. Finally, the MGS Student Award Program and the MGS Student Assistance Program continue to recognize and provide assistance to outstanding students in the field of geology throughout the state's educational system.



MISSISSIPPI GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY A Brief History

From the early days of the Society to the present, publications have played a major role in the attainment of the purpose of the Society as set forth in its Constitution. Besides the field trip guidebooks already mentioned, other MGS publications include a number of composite and basin type logs, correlation sections, and structural / stratigraphic cross-sections. More importantly, the Society has published a series of field studies since 1952, when it first released a compendium of Wilcox oil fields, including field maps, reservoir information, and production data. The Society followed its Wilcox volume with the release of its original "Redbook" - focusing on producing fields throughout the rest of the state - in 1957. Since that time, the Society has updated its Wilcox volume and released eight successive updates to the popular Redbook, with the last having been released in 1995. In addition, MGS publishes a monthly Bulletin that is distributed to all members during the Society's active months. Finally, this website has been created in order to enable the Society to utilize the internet in distributing relevant news, geologic articles, and other materials of interest to its members and the public at large.

Technical programs and seminars have been sponsored by the Society since its inception. Recent seminars have focused on the Cambro-Ordovician Knox Gas Play in the Black Warrior Basin of Northeast Mississippi, salt tectonics, local sequence stratigraphy and relationship to outcrops, and the Cotton Valley Gas Play within the Mississippi Interior Salt Basin. MGS also hosts monthly luncheon meetings, held from September through May of each year, where a variety of speakers give technical presentations on topics and issues of interest to the Society's members.

Currently, the Society's membership is approximately 250-300. During the late 1970's and early 1980's, when oil and gas exploration and production peaked in the state, membership rose to its highest level with approximately 500 members. The Society has made a special effort in recent years to encourage membership and participation by non-petroleum geologists, and currently counts a significant number of environmental, hydrological, and governmental professionals among its members. Emphasis on water quality and sensitive environmental issues, as well as the preservation of subsurface data throughout the state, have been and will continue to be important focus issues for the Society.

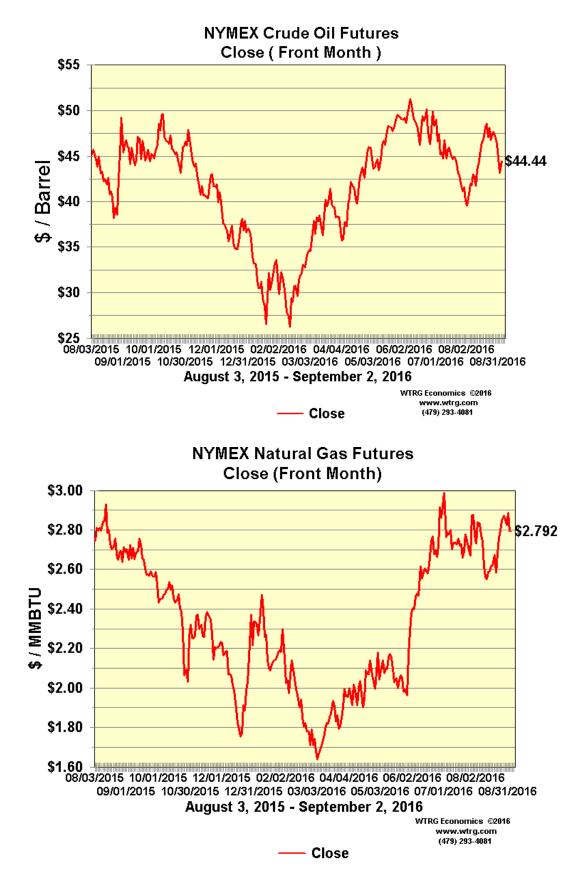
In the summer of 1985, the Society sponsored a field trip of historical significance when Fred Mellen led a group of MGS members on foot to traverse the very hillsides of Yazoo County that he had mapped 47 years previously in his discovery of the large surface anticline that later became the giant Tinsley Field. Four years later, the Society and other petroleum-related organizations in Mississippi sponsored a celebration of the 50-year anniversary of the discovery of Tinsley - the state's first commercial oil field - and the subsequent founding of the Society. Sadly, Fred Mellen is no longer with us, but his legacy - like that of so many other prominent MGS members - will endure.

Today, despite the cyclical nature of the oil and gas business and the continuing evolution of the other equally important geologic professions within the state of Mississippi, the same purpose and vision that originated the Society continues to propel it into the future, due to the strong foundation of a committed membership and adaptation to changing conditions in a remarkably diverse geological field.

⁻ Stanley King, MGS Historian, with contributions from Steve Walkinshaw



CURRENT PRICES







MDEQ OFFICE OF GEOLOGY SURFACE GEOLOGY MAPPING PROGRAM

David T. Dockery, RPG, Office of Geology

MDEQ Office of Geology Surface Geology Division is responsible for the state's Surface Geology Mapping Program and the various spinoffs associated with that program. It would not be appropriate for me to brag about a program I direct, so I will do so by bragging about the staff behind the program, beginning in this issue with James Starnes.

Since James Starnes joined the Surface Geology Division of the Office of Geology in September 2000, he has published 57 geologic quadrangle maps (7.5-minute, scale 1:24,000), drilled 96 test holes, published 45 journal articles and abstracts, participated in a large number of outreach projects, helped with MDEQ's immediate response to Hurricane Katrina, helped with MDEQ's preparation and response to the Great Mississippi River Flood of 2011, and served as a forensic geologist assisting archaeologists in finding the bedrock source of stone tool artifacts. That sentence may be a little long, but it leaves a lot unsaid. James has volunteered for so many extra duties, disasters, outreach programs, assisting outside agencies, and such, that his supervisors have worked hard to teach him to say NO! At home he has a wife and two daughters involved in school and swim meets; his older daughter is crushing the competition on the #1 swim team in the state (Figure 1). While all this takes discipline, James + his two daughters = party time, a party that trickles to work in the form of party items and apps.



Figure 1. Swim team champions. Left, James Starnes with daughters Abby (left) and Gracie (right). Right, Sunkist state swim team champions, from left to right, Abby and Gracie Starnes and Nicholas and Noah Derrick. Pictures taken at the Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society's Annual Rock Show on February 23, 2014.



The most interesting talent of James is his knack for finding things. Once while on my in-laws' property he picked up square nails and a small aluminum button where an old two-story farm house once stood. He then proceeded to tell me when the house was built and the relative wealth of the family that once lived there. James finds Native American artifacts at most of his test hole sites. Recently, while in the field with David Thompson, he found an ancient quartzite tool-making quarry in Tallahatta Formation bedrock, with associated debitage (flaked material produced in chipping stone tools). The site is now on the state's archaeological registry. The following are examples of things discovered by James.

We have known for some time that gem quality opal was present in Miocene sandstones in western Louisiana near the Texas border. This stone was sold to Tiffany's in New York around 1900 for a two and a half dollar gold piece for every kitchen matchbox filled with opal. Today it is marketed as Louisiana Opal by Exquisite Stone in Natalbany, Louisiana. James Starnes was first to find precious opal in Mississippi while mapping geology in west-central Mississippi in 2002 (Figure 2).

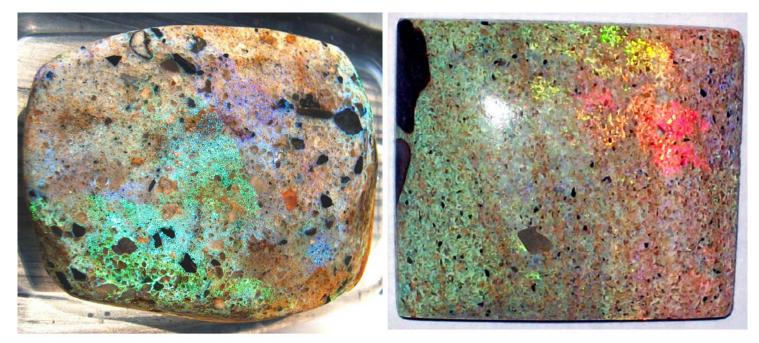


Figure 2. Opal in the Catahoula Sandstone from west-central Mississippi; polished cabochon on right.



Mapping geology in west-central Mississippi requires walking a lot of creeks though the Loess Hills and pre-loess gravel deposits at the base of the loess section. These gravels were deposited by the ancient courses of the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers before these rivers cut their present valleys at a lower elevation. The relative age of these perched river deposits is that of the Pleistocene Epoch (the Ice Age), but exactly how old was not known. James recognized a purple quartzite, which was often banded and found as large cobbles or even boulders, as similar to the Precambrian Baraboo Quartzite of Wisconsin. On further examination, it was decided that this guartzite more closely resembled the Precambrian Sioux Quartzite derived from bedrock in southwestern Minnesota at the intersection of South Dakota and Iowa (Figure 3). About 700,000 years ago, glacial ice sheets blocked the upper Missouri River from flowing to Hudson Bay, Canada. The glaciers also ground the Sioux Quartzite bedrock of Minnesota and deposited it as glacial till in Kansas. The newly routed Missouri River, now connected with the Mississippi River, carried glacial ice with Sioux Quartzite boulders and cobbles south until the ice melted in Mississippi and dropped its load of rocks. So, the pre-loess terrace deposits of Mississippi are no older than 700,000 years. James has also helped to identify the bedrock source of other rocks in Mississippi gravel deposits as published in MDEQ's Office of Geology Circular 7 at: https://www.deq.state.ms.us/MDEQ.nsf/page/Geology_Circular-RocksAndFossilsFoundInMississippisGravelDeposits?OpenDocument



Figure 3. Left, Cross-bedding in Sioux Quartzite, Blue Mounds State Park, Minnesota (Wikipedia). Right, Sioux Quartzite cobble from the pre-loess gravel in Clear Creek north of Bovina, Warren County.



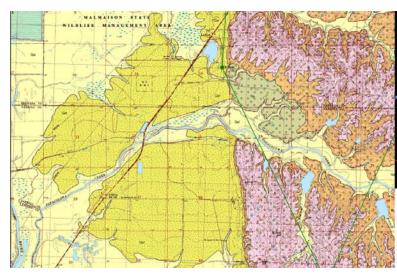
When I (Dockery) worked as a summer-time driller's helper for the Mississippi Geological Survey in 1972 during work on the Wayne County Geology Bulletin, the chief geologist, James May, had the great hope of finding a correlation between the *Heterostegina* Limestone of oil and gas significance in Texas, Louisiana, and southern Mississippi with the upper Oligocene formations of Wayne County. This was not accomplished until James Starnes drilled into a fossiliferous zone in the upper Catahoula Formation in Covington County and specimens of *Heterostegina* were found in the cutting samples. This interval was later cored (Figure 4). The age of much of the Catahoula Formation was once thought to be Miocene, but now we know that at least the lower two thirds of the formation is upper Oligocene.



Figure 4. Left, left to right, James Starnes, Jonathan McKinnon, Trey Magee, and Archie McKenzie preparing to extrude a core from the Plum Creek #5 Covington core hole. Right, first core to contain the *Heterostegina* marine interval in the Catahoula Formation in Covington County.



One of the questions on the chapter test for deserts I give to Physical Geology students is this: In which area would surface water best infiltrate into the local groundwater system. The answer is: Streams flowing on the numerous channels of an alluvial fan. Mississippi is the opposite of a desert, but the state does have alluvial fans where streams flowing through the Loess Hills enter the Mississippi River Alluvial Plain. Mississippi alluvial fans rise above flood levels in the Delta and contain many of the Native American sites studied by James. James Starnes, David Thompson, and Pat Mason have also mapped alluvial fans in Mississippi and given papers on the subject. Test hole drilling has shown at least one alluvial fan to have deep enough sandy roots to be in connection with the Mississippi River alluvial aquifer (Figure 5). James has walked alluvial fan streams at low flow and found the flow to disappear on the fan. This added another important element to our understanding of recharge sources for the Mississippi River alluvial aquifer.



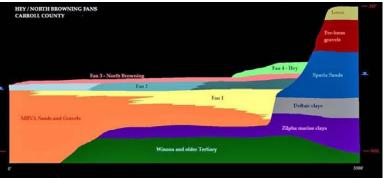


Figure 5. Left, alluvial fan on the Geologic Map of the Avalon Quadrangle in Grenada and Carroll counties, Office of Geology, Open-File Report OF-233 by David Thompson. Right, a compound alluvial fan along the bluffline in Carroll County, Mississippi. Tertiary bedrock formations are on the right (east) side; the Mississippi River Alluvial aquifer sands and gravels are on the left (west) side, and the alluvial fan components interfinger in the middle (from Pat Mason).



Before retiring from MDEQ (Surface Geology Division, OG), David Thompson made a start of scanning and placing online the office's many publications. The bulk of this work was done and largely finished by James. Now anyone can send copies of maps, bulletins, circulars, and such to anyone anywhere in the world by attaching a link to an email (i.e., the link above).



Oops, did I forget the Emmy Award Nomination? (Figure 6).

Figure 6. James Starnes George Phillips, and Libby Hartfield at the Southeastern Emmy Awards for the film *Simply Science*.



That can be found in the July 2009 issue of *Environmental News*. Or, how about the Native American pot found by James Starnes in a channel of an alluvial fan and valued at \$11,000 (Figure 7). Instead of cashing it in, he donated (!!!) it to the MDAH collections.



Figure 7. Native American pot found by James Starnes and donated to MDAH.



BOLAND SCHOLARSHIP WATCH

Faculty & Students,

This is a new year and the Mississippi Geological Society along with the Boland Scholarship Fund would like to remind you that we want to honor the most outstanding overall students for the 2016-2017 year.

Each year, the Boland Scholarship awards 1 student from each institution a check that rewards students for their hard work and dedication to the Geosciences and their community.

We look forward to a great year and hope to see you at our monthly meetings.

Best Regards,

Matt Caton Editor











GEOLOGY POST

ARTICLES, PAPERS or NEWS?

ATTENTION!!!!! Industry, Professors and Students:

I am adding a dedicated section that includes more content from the industry and our schools.

Submissions can include anything from professional papers, thesis abstracts, job opportunities to pictures. Anything!!!!

If you have any information or news you would like to share with the Society **PLEASE** email them to the MGS Editor at:

mcaton@tellusoperating.com

Thanks & Regards,

Matt Caton Editor



2016-2017 BOLAND FUND DONATIONS

Maurice Birdwell Joe White Kaci Myers & Family

Thanks for your generous donations to the 2016-2017 Boland Fund

GEO LINK POST

USGS TAPESTRY OF TIME AND TERRAIN <u>http://tapestry.usgs.gov</u> 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 <u>http://www.tnris.state.tx.us/digital.htm</u> 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 <u>http://store.usgs.gov/b2c_usgs/b2c/start/(xcm=r3standardpitrex_prd)/.do</u> go to this webpage and look on the extreme right side to the box titled TOPO MAPS <u>DOWNLOAD</u> TOPO MAPS FREE.

<u>http://www.geographynetwork.com/</u> 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.

<u>http://antwrp.gsfc.nasa.gov/apod/astropix.html</u> 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 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

<u>www.ermapper.com</u> They have a great free downloadable viewer for TIFF and other graphic files called ER Viewer.

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

<u>http://terrasrver.com/</u> 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.

<u>http://www.fs.fed.us/gpnf/volcanocams/msh/</u> 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.



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2016-2017

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September 2016 – May 2017

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Size	Rate/Year	Amt. Remitted
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):

Type of Web Page Ad	Rate/Year	Amt. Remitted
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(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

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This list is updated monthly. Please contact Bill Bagnall if you have questions.

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Managing Partner AAPG Certified Petroleum Geologist Ark. La. Miss. Tex Reg. Prof. Geol.

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