

MISSISSIPPI GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

eBULLETIN

Volume 63

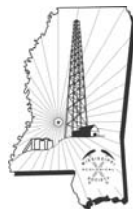
No. 2

October 2014

MGS OCTOBER SPEAKER
John Allen - Thesis: Tuscaloosa Marine Shale

MGS ACTIVITIES:
Fall BBQ & Poster Session

MONTHLY COLUMN
Winter of 2014-2015



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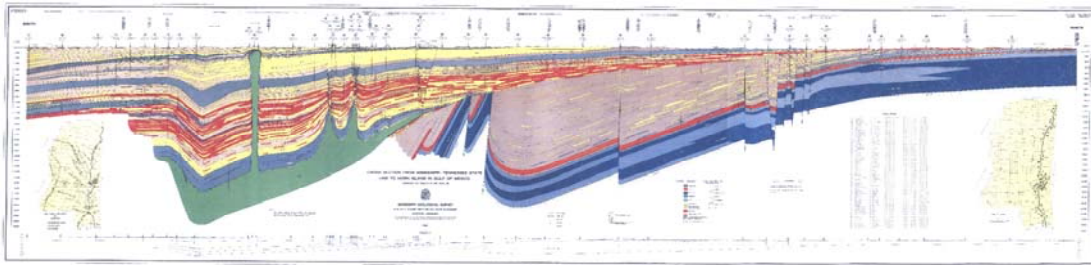
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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Ezat Heydari



MGS Members,

Years of hard work by scientists and engineers in our State's agencies, by professors and researchers in our academic institutions, and by explorationists in our petroleum industry have shown the beauty and the complexity of the geological history of the state of Mississippi. Nearly 30,000 feet of undeformed sedimentary rocks provide an unparalleled source of information about Mesozoic and Cenozoic history including changes in lithology, sea-level, bioto, air, and water over the past 250 million years. This interval is a natural laboratory to examine and test many scientific concepts. An experiment has been in progress at different temperatures and pressures for nearly 250 million years. One can check the results. In addition to the wealth of scientific information to be gathered and studied, these strata hold two of our most valuable resources: ground water and petroleum.

Just as Impressive, but nearly untapped, is the folded and faulted rocks that underlies the Mesozoic - Cenozoic section. The full potential of Paleozoic strata is yet to be determined. With so much geological wealth, our greatest progress in Geological Sciences is still ahead of us.

Our get together at the Fall BBQ clearly showed a fraction of our rich and diverse human resources. Our collective efforts needs to be directed toward finding a path to improve Geological Sciences in the State and its impact on educational and economical status on its residence. One avenue to unleash this potent is a system that shows the path to the information about the Geology of Mississippi. This system needs to be sufficiently simple that a person with little to no background in Geological Sciences can find what he/she is looking for.

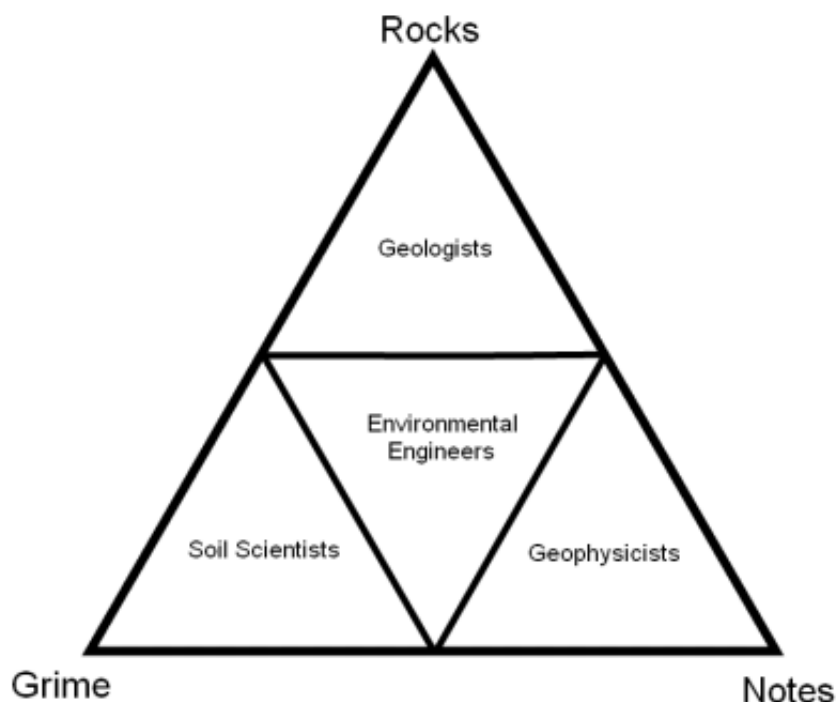
Regards,

Ezat

2013-2014 MGS MEETING SCHEDULE

When	What/Who	Where
September 11, 2014	Fall BBQ	Jackson Yacht Club-5:30pm
October 9, 2014	John Allen Tuscaloosa Marine Shale	River Hills – 11:30am
November 13, 2014	Carl Fiduk Tectonics and Depositional Episodes of the GOM	River Hills – 11:30am
TBD	MAPL Christmas Party and Dance	TBD
January 8, 2015	TBD	River Hills – 11:30am
February 12, 2015	TBD	River Hills – 11:30am
March 12, 2015	TBD	River Hills – 11:30am
April 9, 2015	Boland Scholarship Awards	River Hills – 11:30am
May 14, 2015	Spring Fling	Jackson Yacht Club– 5:30pm

Collected on Field Trips



OFFICERS MEETINGS

September 4, 2014
October 7, 2014
November 11, 2014
January 6, 2015
February 10, 2015
March 10, 2015
April 7, 2015
May 12, 2015



MGS OCTOBER SPEAKER

John Allen



John Allen received his B.S. and M.S. in geology from the University of Southern Mississippi in 2010 and 2013, respectively. While attending graduate school, John worked full time as a geologist for Skylla Engineering where he mapped the ocean floor for the Navy. John currently works for Tesla Offshore where he performs geohazard assessments for offshore oil and gas operations. John is a Registered Professional Geologist with the Mississippi State Board of Registered Professional Geologists and is an active member of the American Association of Petroleum Geologist and the Society of Exploration Geophysicists.

ABSTRACT

The Tuscaloosa Marine Shale formation has been rapidly gaining interest throughout the petroleum industry and the availability of published data concerning the reservoir is insufficient to meet industry needs. The purpose of this study was to investigate the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale Trend within southwestern Mississippi using electric logs and IHS's Petra[®] mapping software to document its structure, stratigraphy, and hydrocarbon distribution.

A total of 178 electric logs, 14 mudlogs, numerous core and sidewall core descriptions, scout ticket data, and existing studies were utilized to complete this study. Structure contour maps, isopach maps, and regional cross-sections were generated to define the geologic character of the area and a net pay map was generated to determine the hydrocarbon distribution. The resistive, hydrocarbon-bearing section of the basal Tuscaloosa Marine Shale generally thickens with depth throughout southwestern Mississippi. Mudlogs indicate that gas volume and pressure also increase with depth. The areas of thickest high resistivity are located within the southern portion of Wilkinson County where thicknesses reach 210 feet. The only caveat is that the resistive section lies directly above the potentially water-bearing Lower Tuscaloosa sands within these areas which could lead to increased hydraulic fracturing risks. These sands are located between 0 and 170 feet below the base of the Marine Shale throughout the study area. This study identifies areas favorable for commercial hydrocarbon production while indicating areas potentially hazardous to hydraulic fracturing.

John's recent work can be seen in AAPG Explorer:

<http://www.aapg.org/publications/news/explorer/details/articleid/11790/resistivity-for-determining-hydrocarbon-distribution>

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MGS ACTIVITIES

Fall BBQ & Poster Session

Last month's Fall BBQ and Poster Session was a huge success. Thank you to generous sponsors, everyone who attended and thank you to Kayla Calhoun and Michael Brooke for presenting your outstanding work.





MGS ACTIVITIES

Fall BBQ & Poster Session





MGS ACTIVITIES

Fall BBQ & Poster Session





FALL BBQ POSTER SESSION

Kayla Calhoun & Michael Brooke

Parent Source Material of Calcium Bentonite in Smith County, Mississippi

Calhoun¹, Kayla; Schmitz², Darrel, Kirkland², Brenda; May², James, *Pickering Firm Inc.*¹, *Mississippi State University*²

Bentonite deposits of the Glendon and Bucatunna formations (Luper, 1972) of the Oligocene Vicksburg Group located in Smith County, Mississippi were examined to determine the depositional environment, diagenetic history and origin of the bentonite. The Mississippi bentonite deposits consist of calcium montmorillonite, a smectite clay with an aluminum silicate and calcium structure. A widely accepted theory is that calcium bentonite deposits formed as a result of weathering of volcanic ash deposits. The hypothesis tested is that the Glendon and Bucatunna formations bentonite deposits are not a result of weathered volcanic ash, but are a result of weathered marl. Core samples were drilled from the Chisholm bentonite mine near Raleigh in Smith County. Samples studied by X-ray diffraction (XRD), scanning electron microscopy (SEM), and the petrographic microscopy revealed zones of poorly sorted angular quartz grains, glauconite, pyrite, organic matter, marine fossils (coccoliths, echinoderm fragments, benthic and planktonic foraminifera), abundant bacteria, micrite, and evidence of extreme diagenesis resulting in significant microporosity (max 24%). Abundant bacteria (filamentous, coccus and bacillus) along with nanometer-scale organic textures are consistently associated with bentonite, illite, and/or smectite. To date, no evidence of volcanic ash has been found. It appears that the clays in the Glendon and Bucatunna formations of Smith County, Mississippi formed from the weathering, including bacterial activity, of glauconite-bearing marl.

Geologic Analysis of the Upper Jurassic Lower Cotton Valley Shale in Jefferson County, Mississippi

BROOKE, JAMES M.. Mississippi State University

While the limestone, sand and shale formations of the Cotton Valley Group have historically been productive in Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas, little is known about production potential of the Lower Cotton Valley Shale in southwest Mississippi. In Jefferson County, Mississippi the Lower Cotton Valley Shale is in excess of 20,000 feet (7000 m) deep and has until recently been viewed as a source rock for shallower formations or as a seal for deeper formations. Using horizontal drilling and multi-stage fracturing techniques, development of hydrocarbon-bearing shale formations such as the Lower Cotton Valley Shale has become economically profitable. This study seeks to gain a more thorough understanding of the nature of the Lower Cotton Valley Shale and compares the Lower Cotton Valley Shale to the Bossier and Haynesville Shale Formations. The Bossier Formation is a time-equivalent (Tithonian age) formation that is productive in regional depocenters in Louisiana. The Haynesville Formation is an older (Kimmeridgian age) formation that is productive in Texas and Louisiana.

The Tithonian age Lower Cotton Valley Shale in Jefferson County, Mississippi is an organic-poor, carbonate-rich mudrock with siliciclastic intervals. Abundant clay minerals consist of illite and smectite. Examination of cuttings by petrographic, metallurgic and scanning electron microscopy revealed abundant microfractures that have been filled by calcite and pore-filling pyrite. Limited porosity exists within and around pyrite framboids, in unfilled fractures and within pelloid grains. Insufficient organic matter is present for the Lower Cotton Valley to be self-sourcing in the study area; Total Organic Carbon (TOC) values are low (0.86-1.1% TOC) compared to productive Haynesville Shale Formations (approx. 2.8% TOC). Porosity of the Lower Cotton Valley Shale is low (2.5-4.2%) compared to productive Haynesville Shale Formations (8-12%). With current technology and gas prices, the Lower Cotton Valley Shale in Jefferson County, Mississippi does not have commercial production potential.

Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies
and Gulf Coast Section of SEPM

64th Annual Convention

October 5–7, 2014—Lafayette, Louisiana

ANNOUNCEMENT





MGS MONTHLY COLUMN

David T. Dockery III, RPG

WINTER OF 2014-2015

David T. Dockery III, RPG

With the scientific watch on climate change, I have a file for the winter of 2013-2014, which continued (at least the cold did) into mid-June with snow in the Northern Rockies (nine inches of snow in Alta, Utah, on June 17) and three cold fronts coming through Mississippi in July 2014 and a record low temperature on July 30 of 59 degrees F in Jackson (Figure 1 shows a temperature of 57 degree in Clinton).



Figure 1. Top: Record low temperature in Mississippi on June 30, 2014. Bottom; Morning low temperature recorded at Mississippi College in Clinton on June 30, 2014.



MGS MONTHLY COLUMN

David T. Dockery III, RPG

WINTER OF 2014-2015

David T. Dockery III, RPG

Another low temperature came with a record minimum high temperature on September 13 of just 72 degrees F at Jackson around the noon hour. This cold spell was preceded by record snow in the Northern Rockies on September 9-12, with 7 inches of snow at Mount Rushmore (Figure 2)

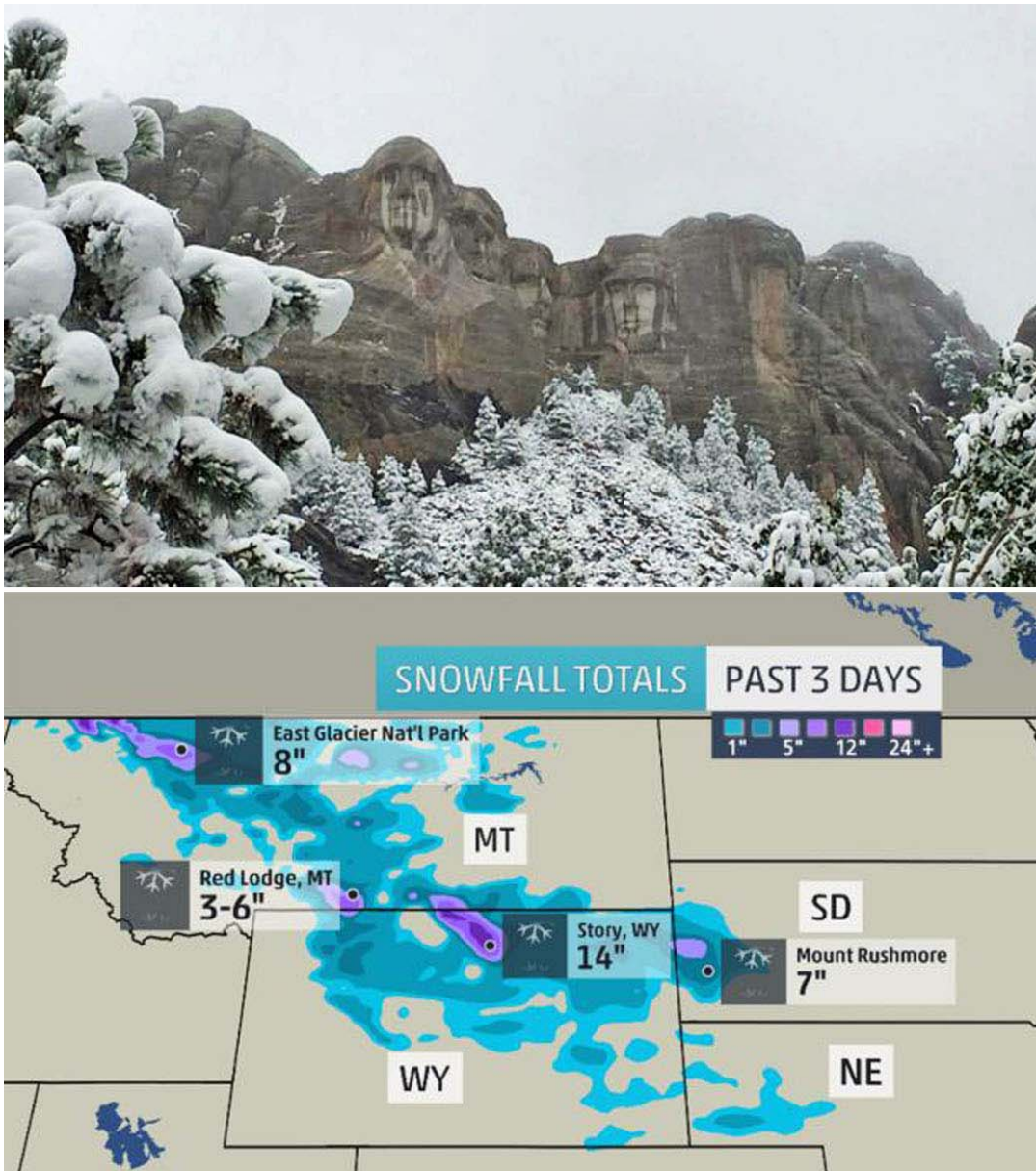


Figure 2. Top: Snow at Mt. Rushmore National Memorial on September 11, 2014. Bottom: Three-day snowfall totals from September 9-12, 2014, in the Northern Rockies and High Plains.



MGS MONTHLY COLUMN

David T. Dockery III, RPG

WINTER OF 2014-2015

David T. Dockery III, RPG

So, the summer heat wave was restricted to August and early September. Rapid City, South Dakota, has now had two of its three all-time heaviest snowstorms and its earliest snowfall within a span of 19 months since early April 2013 (The Weather Channel, September 13, 2014). The Great Lakes were finally declared ice-free on June 7, 2014, but the declaration missed some large ice bergs on Lake Superior as photographed the next day (Figure 3).



Figure 3. Iceberg floating on Lake Superior near Madeline Island. Picture was taken on June 8, 2014, one day after the Great Lakes were declared ice free on June 7.



MGS MONTHLY COLUMN

David T. Dockery III, RPG

WINTER OF 2014-2015

David T. Dockery III, RPG

At this time we're cold on both top and bottom as Antarctic sea ice is at the greatest extent on record (Figure 4).

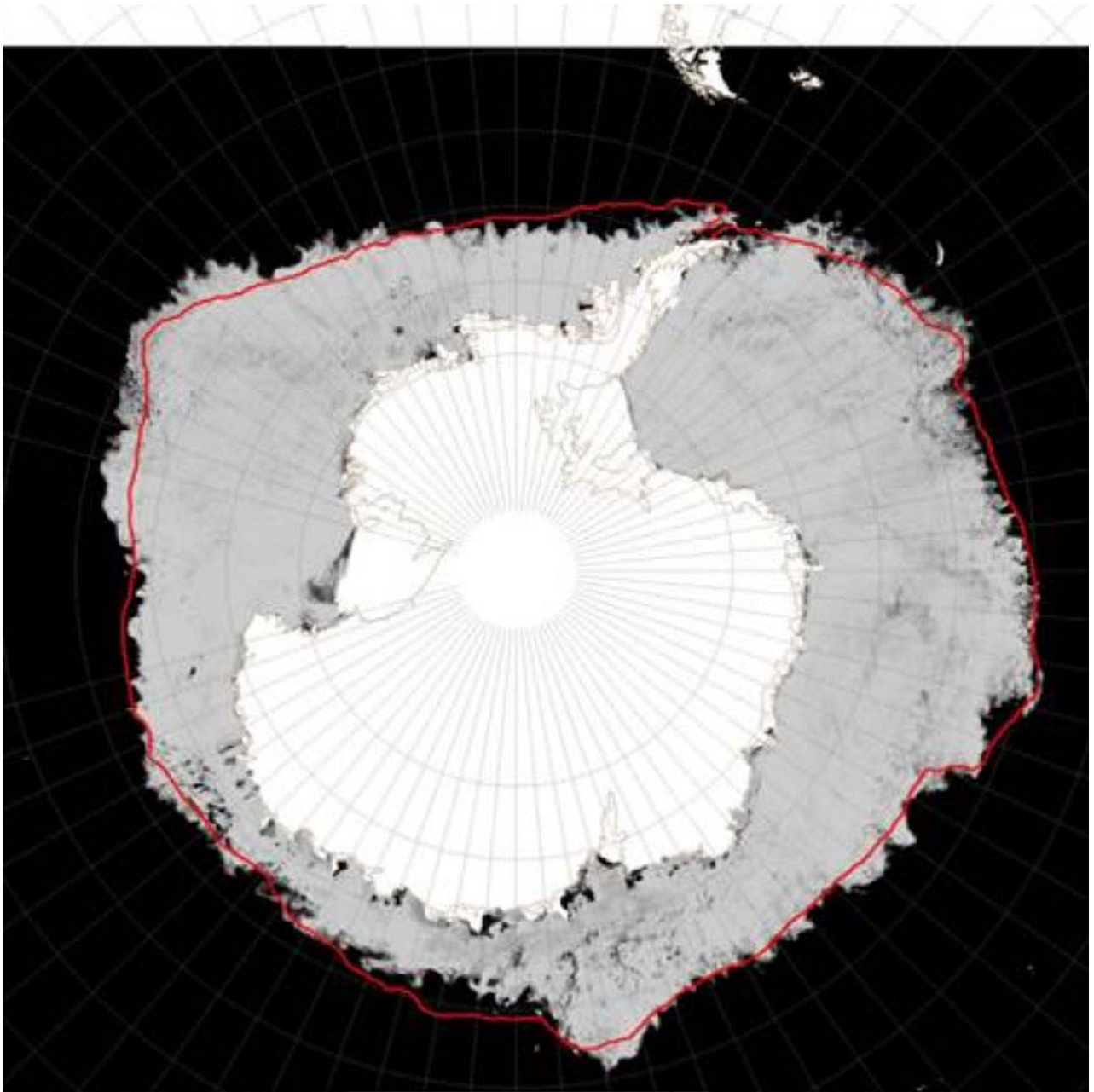


Figure 4. Antarctic sea ice reaches record levels. Satellite imagery reveals 20 million square kilometers covered by sea ice around Antarctica, doubling the size of the Antarctic continent (ABC News, posted September 17, 2014).



MGS MONTHLY COLUMN

David T. Dockery III, RPG

WINTER OF 2014-2015

David T. Dockery III, RPG

Am I scarring you? Well, the winter of 2014-2015 may be a chiller. According to MDEQ meteorologist Rodney Cuevas, we are still in the same pattern as last winter with a persistent long wave troughing over the eastern two thirds of the US. This upper level troughing helps bring bouts of cold to lower latitudes on long range models. Figure 5 is a map of 2 meter temperature anomalies for January 2015.

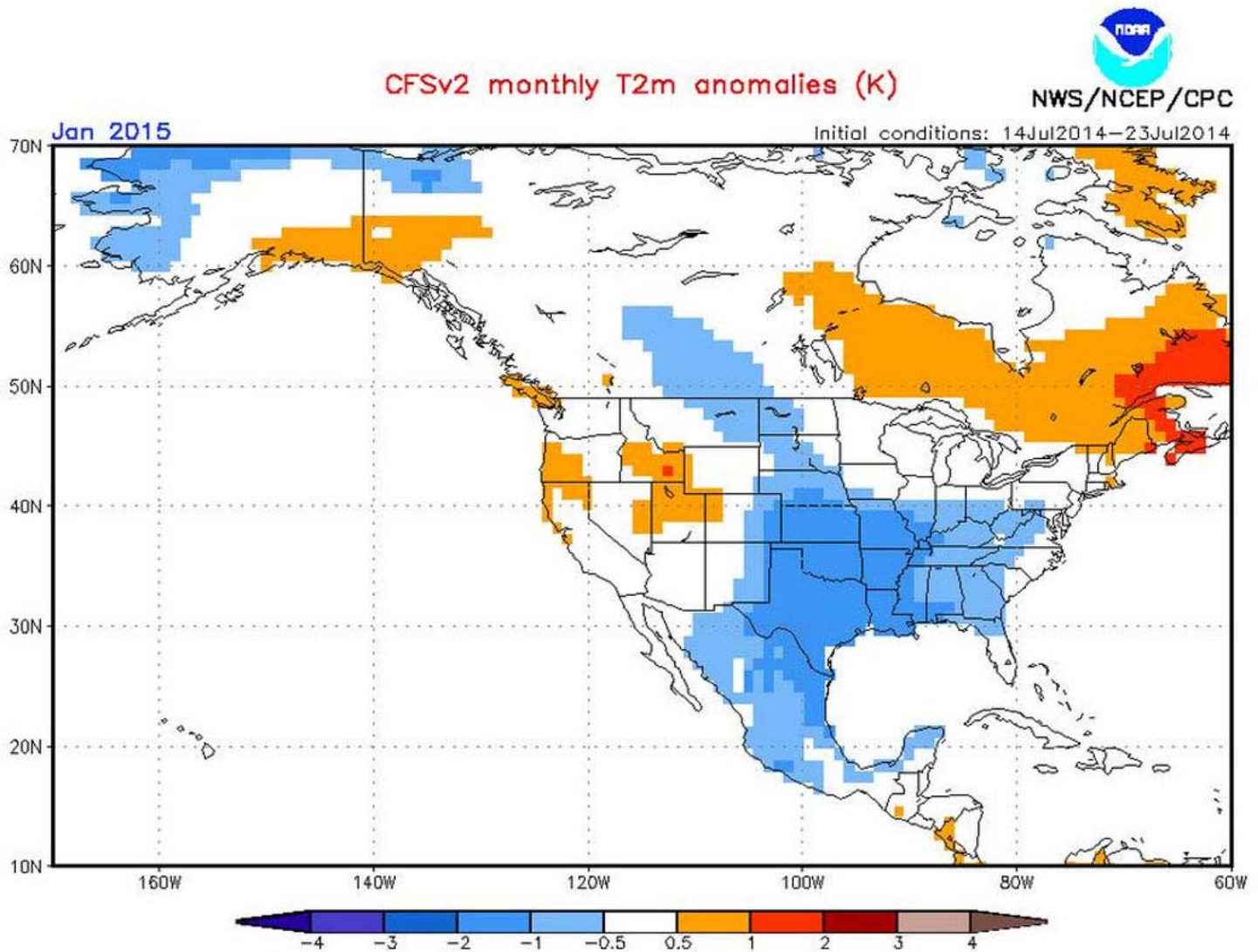
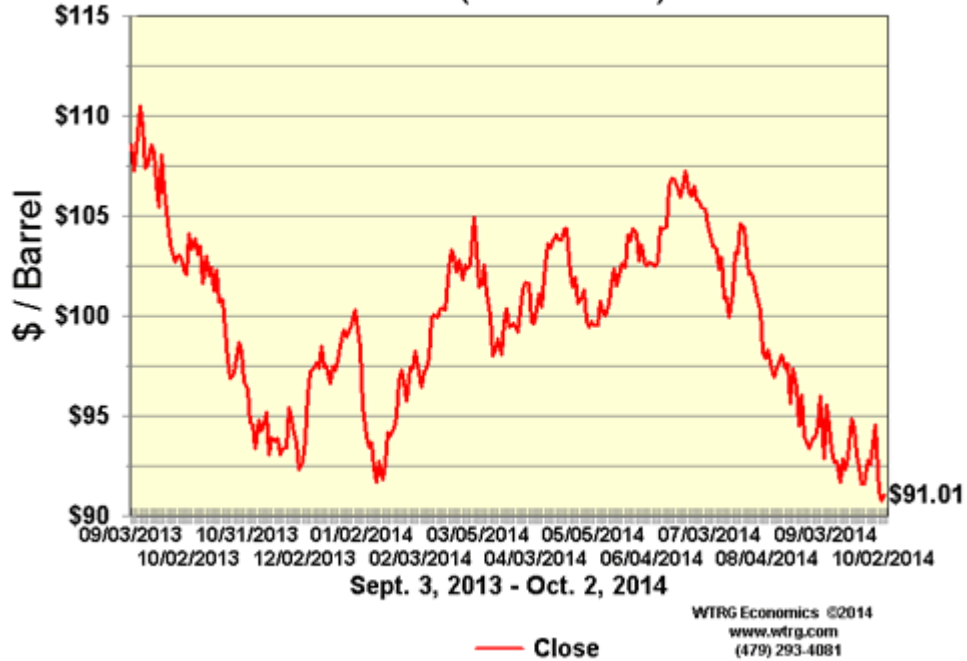


Figure 5. Persistent long wave trough extended over the eastern two thirds of the US, bringing cold air to the lower latitudes on long range models.

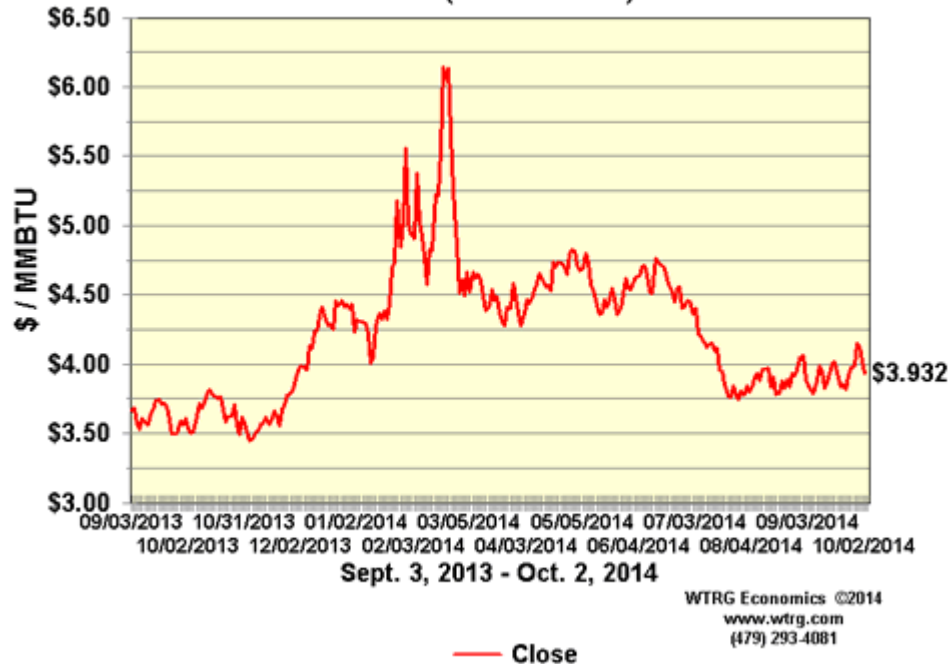


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To participate in the 2015 GCAGS Convention
Oral and Poster presentations

An abstract of up to 250 words should be submitted no later than **December 13, 2014** to Technical Program Chair, Linda Sternbach (linda.sternbach@gmail.com).

After notification of acceptance on **January 20, 2015**, authors submit extended abstracts (1-2 pages) or full papers up to 12 pages to the GCAGS Transactions by **February 20, 2015** to GCAGS Transactions Editor, Steve Levine.

Full instructions for manuscript submissions will be posted online at www.gcags2015.com.

Publish your work in the upcoming GCAGS Journal !!
(a new peer-reviewed journal of Gulf Coast Geoscience).

Instructions: An extended abstract of at least 600 words, including 1–2 representative figures, Should be submitted by **December 2, 2014** to Journal Editor, Barry Katz (BarryKatz@chevron.com).

After acceptance, a full manuscript must be submitted by **March 24, 2015**.

Full instructions for manuscript submissions will be posted online at www.gcags2015.com.



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 2014-2015 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



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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



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* This list is updated on a monthly basis.
Please contact Bill Bagnall if you have any questions.

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.

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<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 Don't forget we have our own web page.

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

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

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

www.ermapper.com 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.

<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/gpnl/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.



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2014-2015

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

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MGS PAST PRESIDENTS

1939-1940	Henry N. Toler	1973-1974	Larry Walter
1940-1941	Urban B. Hughes	1974-1975	W. E. "Gene" Taylor
1941-1942	J. Tom McGlothlin	1975-1976	Jerry E. Zoble
1942-1943	Dave C. Harrell	1976-1977	P. David Cate
1943-1944	K. K. "Bob" Spooner	1977-1978	Sarah Childress
1944-1945	L. R. McFarland	1978-1979	Les Aultman
1945-1946	J. B. Story	1979-1980	Philip R. Reeves
1946-1947	Frederic F. Mellen	1980-1981	Marshall Kern
1947-1948	H. Lee Spyres	1981-1982	Stephen Oivanki
	Robert D. Sprague	1982- 1983	James W. "Buddy" Twiner
1948-1949	Robert D. Sprague	1983- 1984	Charles H. Williams
1949-1950	E. T. "'Mike" Monsour	1984- 1985	C. Kip Ferns
1950-1951	J. Tate Clark	1985-1986	Steven S. Walkinshaw
	Charles E. Buck	1986-1987	J. R. "'Bob" White
1951-1952	George W. Field	1987-1988	Harry Spooner
1952-1953	James L. Md11in, Jr.	1988-1989	Stanley King
1953-1954	Wilbur H. Knight	1989-1990	Stan Galicki
1954-1955	A. Ed Blanton	1990-1991	E. James Files, Jr.
1955-1956	Gilbert A. Talley	1991-1992	Stephen L. Ingram, Sr.
1956-1957	Ben Ploch	1992-1993	Michael Noone/Stanley King
1957-1958	Emil Monsour	1993-1994	Brian Sims
1958-1959	Charles Brown	1994-1995	C. W. "Neil" Barnes
1959-1960	M. F. Kirby	1995-1996	Lester Aultman
1960-1961	Rudy Ewing	1996-1997	Jack S. Moody
1961-1962	Xavier M. Franscogna	1997-1998	George B. Vockroth
1962-1963	Robert B. Ross	1998-1999	Rick L. Ericksen
1963-1964	William A. Skees	1999-2000	Stanley King
	Marvin Oxley	2000-2001	John C. Marble
1964-1965	James F. Bollman	2001-2002	Andrew T. Sylte
1965-1966	Sankey L. Blanton	2002-2003	Aaron Lasker
1966-1967	Alan Jackson	2003-2004	John G. Cox
1967-1968	Julius M. Ridgway	2004-2005	James E. Starnes
1968-1969	Edward D. Minihan	2005-2006	Todd Hines
1969-1970	Kevin E. Cahill	2006-2007	Bob Schneeflock
1970-1971	John Lancaster	2007-2008	Tony Stuart
1971-1972	Larry Boland	2008-2009	Lisa Ivshin
1972-1973	Charles Barton	2009-2010	Joe Johnson
		2010-2011	Brian Sims
		2011-2012	Stanley King
		2012-2013	Jim Files
		2013-2014	Neil Barnes