MISSISSIPPI GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

BULLETINE BULLETINE

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www.missgeo.com



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2015-2016 MGS MEETING SCHEDULE					
When	What/Who	Where			
September 10, 2015	Fall BBQ	Jackson Yacht Club-5:30pm			
October 8, 2015	Todd Keifer Energy & Power in MS	River Hills – 11:30am			
November 12, 2015	Danny Harrelson Canals & River Cutoffs as a tactic during Vicksburg Campaign of American Civil War	River Hills – 11:30am			
TBD	MAPL Christmas Party and Dance	TBD			
January 7, 2016	TBD	River Hills – 11:30am			
February 11, 2016	TBD	River Hills – 11:30am			
March 10, 2016	TBD	River Hills – 11:30am			
April 7, 2016	Boland Scholarship Awards	River Hills – 11:30am			
May 12, 2016	Spring Fling	Jackson Yacht Club- 5:30pm			



OFFICERS MEETINGS
September 8, 2015
October 6, 2015
November 10, 2015
January 5, 2016
February 9, 2016
March 8, 2016
April 5, 2016
May 10, 2016



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Jack Moody



As prices for oil hang around the \$45/bbl mark and natural gas flirts with \$2.25/MCF, the domestic industry continues to make the painful adjustments that will bring exploration and production cost in line. When that process is completed, we'll get back to some level of drilling activity. Even now I know prospects are being developed based on \$45/bbl oil. As these prospects hit the market it will be interesting to see if the deal buyers are ready to explore, assuming the quality of the prospect idea is good. Speaking of painful adjustments, I know that our members and corporate sponsors who are part of the oil industry are having to cut costs where ever they can. Yet many have continued to support MGS and that makes what they contribute that much more appreciated. The oil and gas industry is familiar with the boom/bust nature of the business. During this down turn there will be survivors and hopefully some thrivers. There will be a brighter day for the surviving domestic oil business when the OPEC Cartel achieves its desired goal.

On a more pleasant note, I recently made a trip to Miss. State with Neil Barnes who was the guest speaker at the Geosciences Department's brown bag lunch lecture. It was refreshing to be around the up and coming geologist who are eager to find their place among the geologically employed. Also hats off to the MSU faculty and student team that entered AAPG's Imperial Barrel Competition. This year I hope to get the chance to visit Ole Miss and USM as well.

For our environmental/engineering members, the up and coming world meeting this December in Paris, France could hold all sorts of possible business outcomes. Many of the world's nations will assemble to combat global climate change which they believe is caused or amplified by man's burning of fossil fuels. This is President Obama's number one perceived threat to future generations so he is "all in" on the fix. He has already demonstrated his ability to commit the US into controversial agreements such as the Iranian nuclear agreement, so it seems reasonable to think he'll be ready, willing, and able to engage with this subject as well.

I recently happened to overhear Joe Johnson and Matt Caton, past and present editors of the MGS bulletin, discussing some of their experiences at the task of bringing the monthly bulletin. We all should thank them for their willingness to shoulder that ever pressing responsibility. MGS is wanting to publish interesting information, articles, theses, research abstracts or papers about Mississippi or by Mississippi's students and research professors. MGS will host a student poster session at the Spring Fling meeting and would like to publish the participating students work. Please contact Matt Caton or myself regarding such publishing. Many thanks to Dr. David Dockery for his generous and on-going contributions to the bulletin.

Jack Moody

MGS President



OCTOBER SPEAKER

Danny Harrelson



Danny W. Harrelson received his B.S. 1976 and M.S. 1982 degrees in geology (Igneous Petrography) from the University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, Ms. He has over 38 years of experience working for state and federal government, private industry and consulting firms working in Albania, Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Hawaii, Italy, Micronesia, Norway, Portugal, South Korea, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. Mr. Harrelson has authored or co-authored more than 115 papers and abstracts on a variety of geologic subjects, published in numerous professional journals. Currently, he is employed as a research geologist for the U. S. Army Engineer Research Development Center, Vicksburg, Mississippi and is an adjunct instructor of Geology at Mississippi College and Hinds Community College.



OCTOBER SPEAKER

Danny Harrelson

Canals and River Cutoffs as a Tactic during the Vicksburg Campaign of the American Civil War

Danny W. Harrelson and Amber L. Tillotson, USACE Engineer Research and Development Center, 3909 Halls Ferry Road, Vicksburg, MS 39180,

Grant and Duckport canals were two unsuccessful attempts by the Union to bypass Vicksburg, Mississippi and thereby eliminate the need for a potentially prolonged campaign to take the city which was the last major Confederate stronghold on the Mississippi River. Brigadier General Thomas Williams began the initial canal work on June 27, 1862, but by July 24, it was stopped and Williams' forces withdrew downstream. The Confederates realized in 1862 that they would have to defend Vicksburg, but their strategists incorrectly assumed that an attack would come upriver rather than downriver. They also erroneously believed that shoaling at the mouth of the Mississippi River and pointbar deposits (sandbars) on the inside of meander loops would prevent attack by deep draft vessels in the Union's fleet.

In January 1863, work on the canal was resumed by troops under the command of Major General Ulysses S. Grant and the project became known as "Grant's Canal." Digging continued into spring, but on March 5th, a rise in the river broke the cofferdam at the head of the canal and flooded the excavation which caused the canal to immediately silt up despite the efforts of two steam-driven dipper dredges put to work clearing the channel. The dredges were exposed to Confederate artillery fire from the bluffs at Vicksburg and forced to work only at night until they were finally driven away by March 24th.

The Union's second attempt at building the canal began in April 1863, when Grant ordered his troops to explore Walnut Bayou. Grant then ordered a canal to be cut at Duckport and the Mississippi River at Walnut Bayou. This canal was not an attempt to divert the Mississippi River but was designed to reenter the Mississippi River 20 miles south of Vicksburg and thereby be used as a supply route.

Work began on April 10 and by the 22nd, four dredges and 3,500 workers were involved in the efforts; however, by the end of April, 1863 it was apparent that Duckport Canal would not be completed. The Mississippi River rapidly fell to the point where the dredges could not operate. Water depth in the canal was less than a foot deep in places so boats using this route ran aground and were trapped between Duckport and New Carthage.

Although the Union had a great idea, both canal projects failed because of a lack of understanding river geomorphology including proper canal design (elevation and shape) to effectively use the river's erosive power to deepen the excavations. Ironically, nature later accomplished what Grant could not; on April 26, 1876, the Mississippi River flooded across De Soto Point forming Centennial Cutoff and isolating the city of Vicksburg from the Mississippi River.



IMPERIAL BARREL AWARD

Open Registration

ATTENTION!

Dear GCAGS Society Presidents,

Please pass the below information on to your society's members via your website, bulletin, newsletter, e-mail blast or whatever method is best for your society.

Registration for the **2016 Imperial Barrel Award** is now open. Encourage the graduate schools in your area to participate. Please visit the **new website at http://iba.aapg.org/program** to find out more about this prestigious competition for geoscience graduate departments.

If you would like to **sponsor the competition** please visit http://iba.aapg.org/sponsorship (be sure to **designate your contribution to the Gulf Coast Section**) or contact Tom Bulling or Janice Gregory-Sloan for more information (bullintp@bp.com or jgregorysloan@gmail.com)

Regards,

Kate Kipper 512-925-1200



PAST & PRESENT PROSPECTS

Apollo Prospect

The Apollo Prospect

Hancock County, Mississippi

The Apollo Prospect was initially conceived as the result of the shallow seismic character seen on an old 2-D line and a near-by conventional core through a Het patch reef (with excellent porosity and good gas show). The seismic line had such a strong classic porous reef signature that the prospect was readily accepted by several renowned carbonate geologists and companies who were traditional reef players. It was not until the prospect was drilled and a sonic log converted to a synthetic seismogram before we realized that the Het Lime was two reflectors off of the mapped "reef horizon". The seismic anomaly turned out to be a 30 foot thick Miocene Amph B sand bar with 35% porosity, 5 darcies of permeability, and an unusually high gas saturation (97%).

The discovery well for Mariner Field eventually produced roughly 4 BCF gas from a depth of 4000 feet.



PAST & PRESENT PROSPECTS

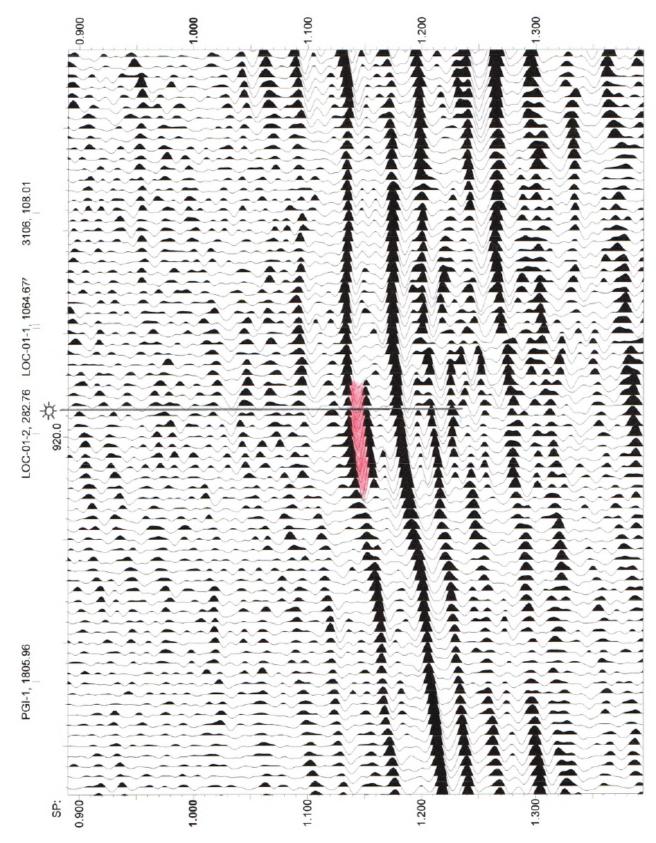
Apollo Prospect

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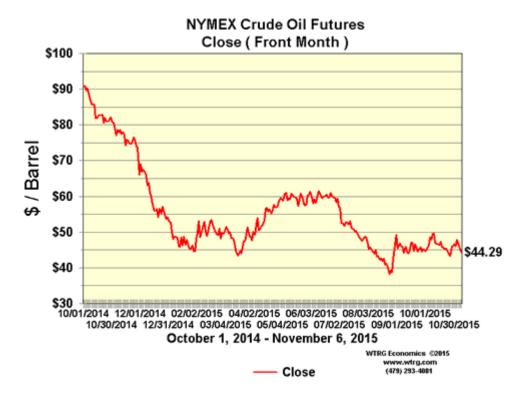
PAST & PRESENT PROSPECTS

Apollo Prospect





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CALL FOR PAPERS

66th GCAGS Convention
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We're Building Sessions in these Themes

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- Tight Gas Plays
- Understanding the Resource Plays
- The Changing Coastal Landscape
- Mexico and Latin America
- Advances in Geophysical Technologies
- Enhanced and Secondary Recovery
- · Reservoir Prediction and Quality
- Climate from Multiple Perspectives
- · Protecting and Stewarding Water Resources
- · Other Sessions Developed from Submissions

And We're Planning Field Trips & Short Courses, Too.

Want to Help? Have Ideas? Need Information? Contact Dawn Bissell, Convention Chairman, chair@gcags2016.com

Join the 2016 GCAGS Convention with an Oral or Poster presentation!

Please submit a 250-word abstract or summary of your planned paper or poster before

<u>December 15, 2015</u> to our Technical Program Chairs, **Bob Critchlow** or **Rick Paige** at

<u>techprogramchair@gcags2016.com</u>. Authors of accepted papers and posters will be notified

<u>late January 2016</u>. Final extended abstracts, with or without figures, and full papers for publication in the

<u>GCAGS Transactions</u> will be due by <u>March 21, 2016</u> to the *CGAGS Transactions* Editor, **Jennifer Smith**-

Engle. Full information, instructions, size limitations, and helpful hints for abstracts, summaries, extended abstracts, and full papers can be found on

www.gcags2016.com

Thank you for your participation!

If you'd like to publish in the GCAGS Journal -

The Peer-Reviewed Journal of Gulf Coast Geoscience

Submit an extended abstract of at least 600 words, including 1-2 representative figures, to the GCAGS Journal Editor, Barry Katz at bearry-katz@chevron.com by December 15, 2015. Once accepted for publication, a full manuscript should be submitted before March 21, 2016. Full instructions for manuscript submissions

will be posted online at www.gcags2016.com

Convention presentations of Journal submissions are encouraged, but not required.



MONTHLY POST

Dr. David T. Dockery lll RPG

COOLIT

David T. Dockery III, RPG

"Cool It" were the words overlying Planet Earth on the cover of the November 2015 issue (The Climate Issue) of National Geographic. The introductory article was entitled "This year could be the turning point," a quote from France's Climate Ambassador Laurence Tubiana. According to the article, Tubiana was charged with: "the greatest cat-herding project in history. For the past year and a half she has been traveling the world, meeting with negotiators from 195 countries, trying to ensure the global climate confab in Paris this December will be a success..." Such government "cat-herding" was the reason France's top weatherman Philippe Verdier lost his job after releasing a book accusing top climatologists of "taking the world hostage" with misleading data. Verdier reported that the French Foreign Minister "summoned the country's main weather presenters and urged them to mention 'climate chaos' in their forecasts."

I am a great fan of the National Geographic Magazine and have issues going back to 1950. As such, I remember a similar subject in the June 2004 issue of the magazine with the cover title "The End of Cheap Oil." The feature article made this statement: "It's inevitable. But just how soon will the vital fuel become so scarce and expensive that we're forced to make hard choices about how we live?" The National Geographic Channel also has a "World without Oil" Aftermath series. These predictions seemed reasonable at the time, but then came fracking of shale gas and fracking for oil in the Bakken in North Dakota, the Eagle Ford of Texas, and elsewhere.

In the November 5, 2015, edition of the CBS Evening News, John Blackstone said that the annual "State of the Climate" report for 2014, "studied 28 extreme weather events around the world last year. Fourteen of those – including devastating floods in Australia and New Zealand – were found to be made worse in part by climate change. But the impact of human activity can be complex, the report says. In the United States, record snowfall in the Northeast and Midwest was not a result of climate change – rather, just cyclical weather patterns. However, the study says severe wildfires in California are becoming more likely because of global warming." This reinforces my feelings about the party line: "When the summer is hot, that's climate change. When the winter is cold, that's weather." So, here are a few weather items of interest from last winter, the winter of 2014-2015.

On August 25, 2014, The Farmers' Almanac hit the shelves with the prediction that the
winter of 2014-2015 would see below normal temperatures for about three-quarters of the
nation. The new winter outlook also predicted that the Northern Plains and the Great
Lakes regions of the U.S. would be hardest hit. A snowy winter was predicted for the
eastern coastal part of the country. According to Anthony Artusa, a meteorologist with
NOAA, the Almanac's predictions could be wrong; Artusa said that they were not seeing
those climate conditions.



MONTHLY POST

Dr. David T. Dockery lll RPG

- On November 12, 2014, Denver cold shattered two records. The city's 6-degree high on Wednesday shattered a 98-year-old record, and that evening a -5 degrees was a new record low over the previous record set in 1882.
- 3. On November 12, 2014, Casper, Wyoming, dipped to -27 at 11:59 p.m., shattering their all-time November record low of -21 in 1985.
- 4. On November 17, 2014, more than 50% of the contiguous U.S. was covered in snow, the largest area for November in at least a decade.
- On November 19, 2014, a 141 year old cold weather record fell in Jacksonville, Florida.
 The 24 degree F temperature broke the old record of 30 degrees set in 1873.
- 6. On November 19, 2014, Buffalo, New York, had up to 60 inches of snow.
- 7. On November 21, 2014, Great Lakes ice cover developed at the earliest time in over 40 years.
- 8. On January 27, 2015, snow plows worked during a blizzard to move snow from the streets of Boston, creating a snow mound 75-feet in height.
- 9. February 23, 2015, cars remain buried in snow on Boston streets in the snowiest year on record going back to 1872.
- On March 16, 2015, 2.9 inches of snow in Boston broke the record for total snowfall.
 The new record for the winter of 2014-2015 was 108.6 inches.
- 11. On April 8, 2015, a fleet of icebreakers worked to open shipping channels in the eastern end of Lake Superior, where 18 freighters were stuck in 8-foot-thick ice.
- 12. On May 10, 2015, almost 2 feet of snow buried the Black Hills of South Dakota, with 13.5 inches in Rapid City, 18 inches in Lead, and 17 inches in Deerfield.
- 13. On July 8, 2015, Boston still had a 12-foot-thick snow pile. Bostonians bet on when the 12-foot ice mound would finally melt.
- 14. On July 29, 2015, there was an uncommonly late snowfall in the northern Rocky Mountains in parts of Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho, with several inches of snow above 8,000 feet in elevation.

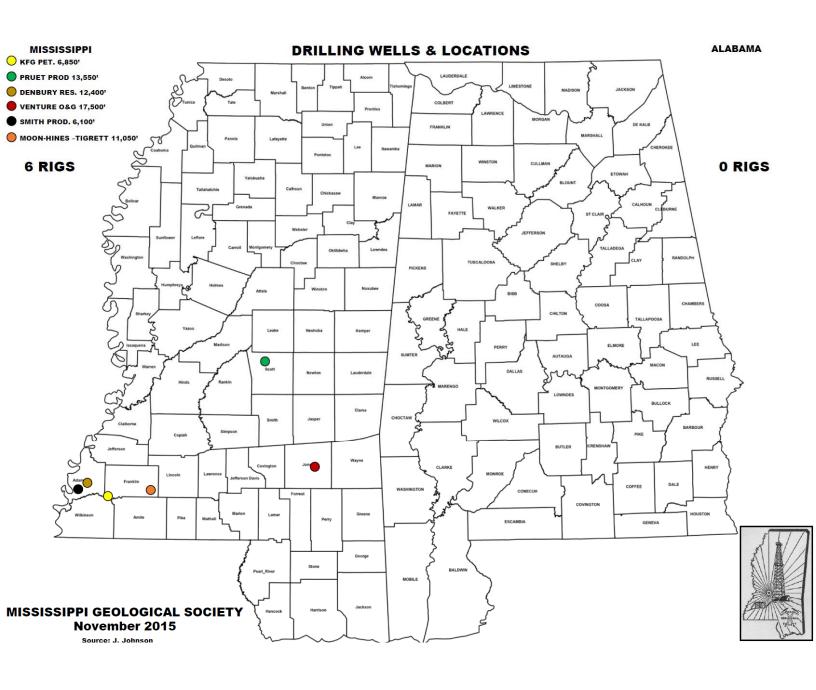


Seven feet of snow in West Seneca, New York, a suburb of Buffalo, November 19, 2015



MONTHLY DRILLING REPORT

Mississippi & Alabama



	Rotary Rig 11/6/20				KER UGHES
Location	Week	+/-	Week Ago	+/-	Year Ago
Land	734	-4	738	-1125	1859
Inland Waters	5	1	4	-8	13
Offshore	32	-1	33	-21	53
United States Total	771	-4	775	-1154	1925
Gulf Of Mexico	32	0	32	-19	51
Canada	185	-6	191	-225	410
North America	956	-10	966	-1379	2335
U.S. Breakout Information	This Week	+/-	Last Week	+/-	Year Ago
Oil	572	-6	578	-996	1568
Gas	199	2	197	-157	356
Miscellaneous	0	0	0	-1	1
Directional	81	-5	86	-122	203
Horizontal	585	8	577	-777	1362
Vertical	105	-7	112	-255	360
Canada Breakout Information	This Week	+/-	Last Week	+/-	Year Ago
Oil	79	-5	84	-146	225
Gas	106	-1	107	-79	185
Miscellaneous	0	0	0	0	0
Major State Variances	This Week	+/-	Last Week	+/-	Year Ago
Alaska	13	0	13	6	7
Arkansas	4	0	4	-8	12
California	12	-2	14	-34	46
Colorado	33	3	30	-42	75
Kansas	10	1	9	-18	28
Louisiana	70	-1	71	-39	109
New Mexico	37	-5	42	-59	96
North Dakota	63	1	62	-118	181
Ohio	20	0	20	-21	41
Oklahoma	83	-1	84	-125	208
Pennsylvania -	28	0	28	-28	56
Texas Utah	340 5	1 0	339 5	-566 -17	906
Vest Virginia	16	0	16	-17	22 31
Wyoming	24	-2	26	-37	61
Major Basin Variances	This Week	+/-	Last Week	+/-	Year Ago
Ardmore Woodford	2	0	2	-3	5
Arkoma Woodford	10	2	8	4	6
Barnett	5	-1	6	-18	23
Cana Woodford	32	-4	36	-7	39
DJ-Niobrara	27	0	27	-35	62
Eagle Ford	72	-3	75	-140	212
Fayetteville	4	0	4	-5	9
Granite Wash	14	1	13	-43	57
Haynesville	25	0	25	-16	41
Marcellus	43	0	43	-39	82
Mississippian	13	1	12	-63	76
Permian	232	3	229	-335	567
Utica Williston	21 64	0 1	21 63	-24 -129	45 193



OIL & GAS HISTORY

Barrels

Back in the day, like way back, a few years after the first oil discovery in 1859, some of America's earliest oil and gas producers in Pennsylvania decided that a barrel of oil should be set at 42 gallons. Forty-two gallons seemed like the most reasonable size for transportation and for floating down the Allegheny River. At the time, Titusville, Pennsylvania led the entire world in oil production.

A 42-gallon barrel weighed 300 pounds when filled with oil. At that time, men, wagons, horses and boats and barrels moved the area's oil. Pipelines wouldn't come into play until later. Three-hundred pounds was about as much weight as a man would handle. Twenty would fit on a typical barge or railroad flatcar. Anything bigger was unmanageable, anything smaller was less profitable.

In that day, watertight tierce was a standard container for shipping fish, soap, butter, molasses, wine and whale oil. The 42-gallon barrels were quite familiar for commodity traders before the oil guys claimed it.

Just as a side note, for comparison sake, of course, a normal wine cask back in the day held 84 gallons. Today, wine cask capacity depends on the varietal.

Before the oil guys deemed a 42-gallon barrel their vessel of standard choice, they used wooden tierces, whiskey barrels, casks and barrels of all sizes.

In 1872, the 42-gallon standard was officially adopted by the Petroleum Producers Association, and by the U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Bureau of Mines in 1882.

The industry soon struggled with finding 42 gallon barrels after the decision was made, so Standard Oil Company began making the 42 gallon oil barrels, which they painted blue. Well, that's the rumor anyway.

It wasn't long before people in the oil and gas industry started referring to the barrels as blue barrels, and thus the abbreviation BBLS came into play.

About that rumor: Ida Tarbell's controversial "1904 History of Standard Oil Company" claims that the "holy blue barrel," and the "bbl" abbreviation had been in use before the 1859 birth of the petroleum industry.

Today, the oil and gas industry refers to a 42-gallon barrel of any color as a "BBL."

Sources:

"Oil and Gas Production in Nontechnical Language". PennWell Publishing

"History of the 42-Gallon Oil Barrel". American Oil & Gas Historical Society.

Retrieved 27 October 2015.



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 2015-2016 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











BOLAND SCHOLARSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS

Thank you for your generous contributions to the Boland Scholarship Fund

I. Meade Hufford
Alvin Byrd
Maurice Birdwell
Joe White
Tom McMillan
Chris Franks
Geodigital Consulting, LLC
Rick Ericksen
William & Liz Boland
Dave Cate

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

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 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.

<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

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/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.



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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

MISSISSIPPI GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY P.O. BOX 422, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39205-0422

2015-2016

Membership year is June through May

New Membership (\$20/yr)	Renewal (\$20/yr)	Student (FREE)	Associate (\$20/yr)
Boland Scholarship Fund	Donation \$	Total Amount Enclo	osed \$
Last Name:	First:_		MI:
Mailing Address:			
Office Phone:	Home Phone:	FA	X:
E-mail Address:			
College/University Attended:			
Degree(s) Obtained and Year((s) Awarded:		
Professional Associations, Cer	rtifications, & Licenses:		



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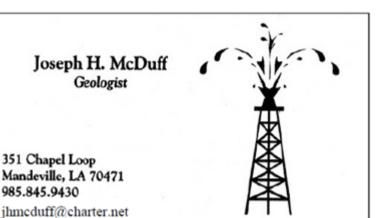
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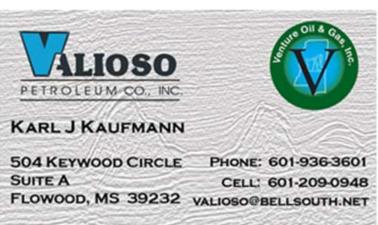
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