

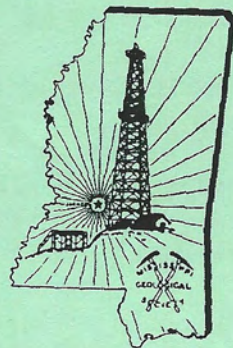
Volume 52

No. 1

September 2003

MISSISSIPPI  
GEOLOGICAL  
SOCIETY  
BULLETIN

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## ~ PRESIDENT'S LETTER ~

By John Cox

Let me begin by saying "thank you" for the opportunity to serve as our Society's President for the upcoming year. Aaron will definitely be a tough act to follow. . . But we are all fortunate (especially *moi*) that he has agreed to serve on the Board in the capacity of secretary for this year. To Aaron, Karl, Alvin, Jo and Lindsey: Thanks for your time and leadership during the past year.

To quote a good friend of mine, "busy is never a problem." I know that all of you would agree that these days are unlike any that we have every experienced in our respective professions. Abundant opportunities, each having its share of challenges, constantly vie for our time and resources. And yesterday is never soon enough.

There is one important note, and I would like to recruit everyone's assistance in getting the word out. Our October noon meeting will not be held on the usual second Tuesday of the month. **The October noon meeting will be held on the 7<sup>th</sup>**, and not the 14<sup>th</sup>, at the Capitol Club. We are making this schedule change so as not to compete with the U.S. Oil and Gas Association 2003 Oil and Gas Forum / 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting that is being held October 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> in Point Clear, Alabama, at Marriot's Grand Hotel. Our own Karl Kaufmann will be representing the MGS and discussing the "state of the union" of Mississippi exploration activity. Thanks, Karl! You can register by using the form on the last page of this newsletter. For more information, contact USOGA in Jackson at (601) 948-8903, or via email, [usoil@usoga.com](mailto:usoil@usoga.com).

The annual meeting of the GCAGS will be held in Baton Rouge, LA, this year. The convention dates are October 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>, 2003. For convention information, you can log onto [www.brgsj-la.org/gcags.htm](http://www.brgsj-la.org/gcags.htm).

The MGS has a very professional website with much thanks to Steve Walkinshaw. Steve is always looking for material to place on the site, so keep that in mind.

We will not have a noon luncheon meeting this month, but please make plans to attend the Annual MGS Fall BBQ. The festivities will be held at the Masonic Lodge on the grounds of the Mississippi Ag and Forestry Museum. The date is September 18<sup>th</sup>. The BBQ will begin around 4:00 p.m., beverages at 5:00 p.m., and Chimneyville Smokehouse "eats" at 6:00 p.m. James Starnes is displaying a collection of rock and mineral specimens that he has gathered during his surface mapping endeavors throughout the State. Please come, and bring your friends and significant others.

I would like to close by introducing the Society's other officers for the year:

James Starnes	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-President
Larry Baria	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-President
Aaron Lasker	Secretary
Todd Bertolet	Treasurer
Jo Everett	Editor

See you at the BBQ . . .

John

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Washington Post Style Invitational  
US Oil & Gas Forum Registration Form

MGS MEETING SCHEDULE		
When	What	Where
September 18th, 2003	Fall BBQ	Masonic Lodge MS Agricultural Museum
October 7th, 2003	Speaker: Marco J. Giardino "Geoarcheology & Remote Sensing"	Capitol Club
November 11th, 2003	TBA	Capitol Club
TBA	Christmas Party	TBA
January 13th, 2004	TBA	Capitol Club
February 10th, 2004	TBA	Capitol Club
March 9th, 2004	TBA	Capitol Club
April 13th, 2004	TBA	Capitol Club
TBA	Spring Fling	MS Agricultural Museum



Make a note of this —

The October MGS luncheon meeting will be on the first Tuesday of the month, instead of the second.  
That's October 7th.

Don't forget!

#### OFFICERS MEETINGS

September 2, 2003

October 6, 2003

November 4, 2003

December 2, 2003

January 6, 2004

February 3, 2004

March 2, 2004

April 6, 2004

May 4, 2004



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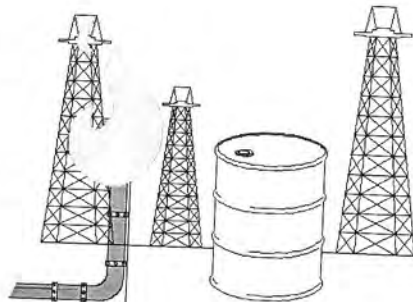
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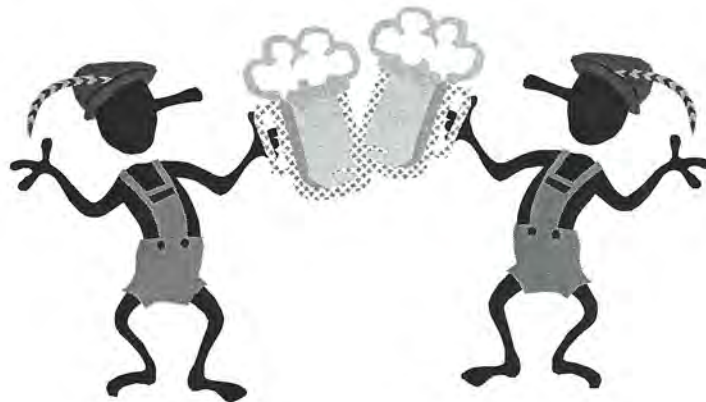
# Fall Bar-B-Q



Thursday, September 18th  
MS Agriculture & Forestry Museum  
Masonic Lodge

4:00 PM (Dinner at 6:00)  
\$15/Person

Join Us!



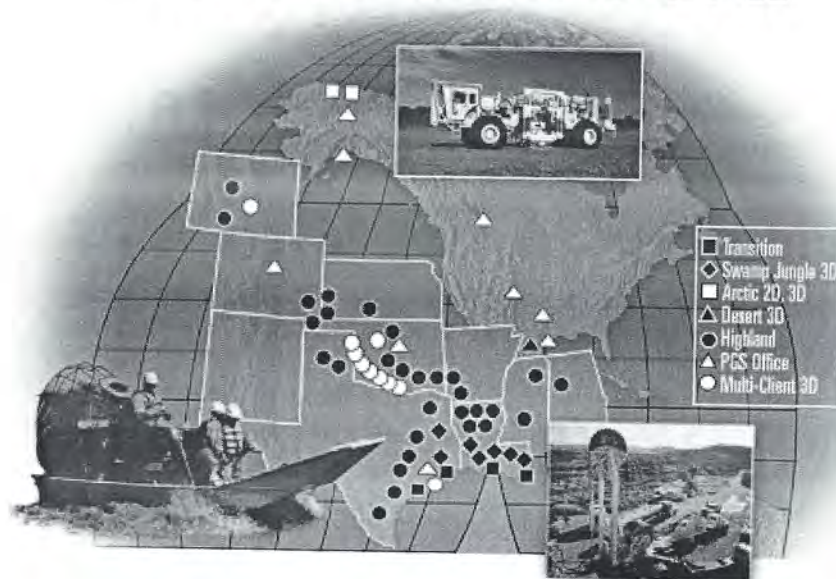
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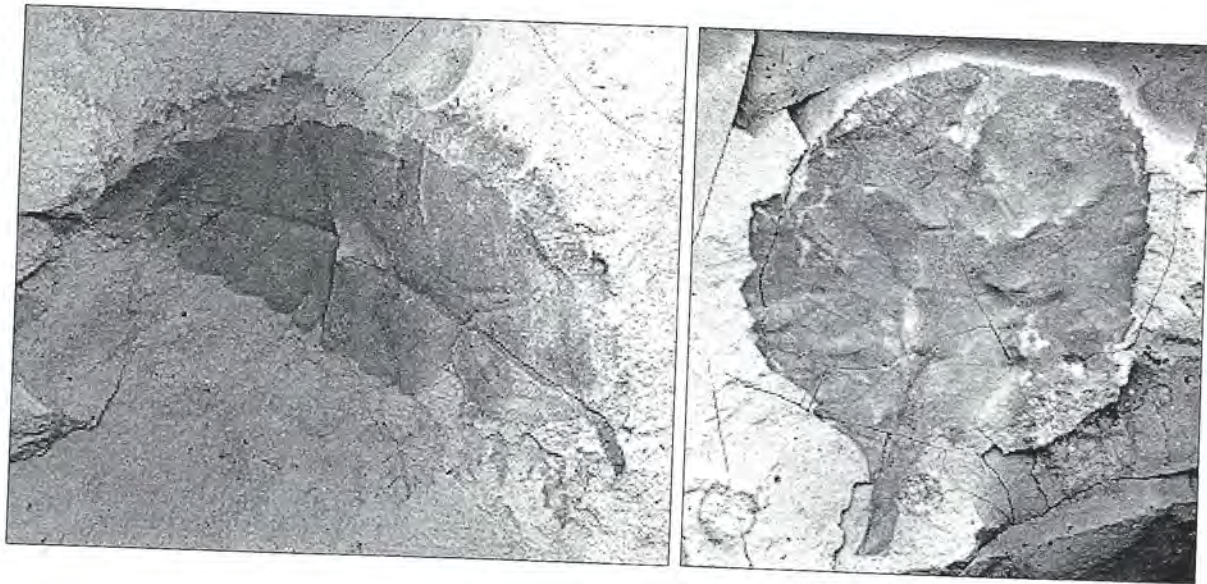
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### Miocene Terrestrial Fossil Locality

Where the Citronelle has been deeply dissected by streams or removed completely by erosion, many exposures of the underlying Miocene formations can be found in South Mississippi. These exposures cover a variety of lithologies and a complexity of environments from fluvial-deltaic to estuarine. Outcrops that contain excellently preserved bedding structures, as well as those that exhibit a varying degree of chemical and physical diagenesis, are quite common. Other than zones containing isolated silicified logs and an occasional fossil palm trunk, fossil localities over much of the Miocene outcrop belt are rare.

One such locality is on a bluff overlooking the southern bank of Big Sand Creek in irregular Section 17, Township 13 North, Range 5 East, in southwestern Hinds County. At this outcrop, above the slippery clay that makes up the lowest exposed strata in the creek, is a four-foot section of tan siltstone. This layer of fissile siltstone is interlaminated with fine sand, and a diversity of well-preserved fossil flora impressions can be found along these partings. Much of the fossil plant material that is encountered by splitting the partings at this locality is leaf hash. However, with a little diligence and a careful touch, one can find a variety of intact leaf specimens displaying delicate, well-preserved vein structure. A paleontological study of this fossil locality could help in the understanding of the Miocene climate and depositional environment of this stratum.



Miocene deciduous broadleaf fossils from the Big Sand Creek locality in southwestern Hinds County.

## **Millsaps Student Honored With "Best Student Presentation" Award From MGS At Mississippi Academy of Sciences**

One of the good things that our Society is involved in is the encouragement of geology majors to seek their careers in the field of geology. The Boland Scholarship is the longest running such effort and has enjoyed long success. Last year saw the renewal of another effort to promote the study and research of geology by our state's geology majors. The Mississippi Academy of Sciences is the largest science organization in the state, and it has had a long history of bringing together the many fields of science at its annual meeting. The Division of Geology and Geography at the Academy has been the best opportunity existing for students and faculty to meet with other geologists in the state and present the results of their research. Several years ago MGS saw this gathering as an opportunity to step up once more to the opportunity of encouraging student development in geology. At this meeting the students present their research results before their professional peers just as their professors and other geologists present their investigations at professional meetings. For most of the students this is their first exposure to the world of research presentation and it is a joy to see how well they perform. As mentioned above, some few years ago MGS sponsored an award for the best student paper. We gave a plaque and \$100 to Jennifer Oltman. She was later hired by the Office of Geology where she worked until her husband's career took them to Washington state. The participation by MGS was not continued for several years, but last year Aaron Lasker and John Cox championed the cause and once more had MGS sponsoring the best student paper. For this first year of the sponsorship renewal, one award was given to the best overall student paper rather than breaking it into the under graduate and graduate categories that we hope to develop. Although the award goes to the student, we need to look behind the student to the professors who encourage and help develop these geologists of tomorrow. Each year we sponsor this activity we will report on the winning students and their sponsor.

The February, 2003 meeting was held in Hattiesburg and the winner was Jeannie Bryson, a senior from Millsaps College. The following is a quote from the latest Journal of the Mississippi Academy of Sciences, "We were so delighted to have the Mississippi Geological Society (MGS) sponsor a "Best Student Presentation Award." Seven student papers were given and Jeannie Bryson of Millsaps College won with her paper entitled "An Investigation of the Origin and Extent of a Perched Wetland, Millsaps College, Jackson, Mississippi." With the guidance of Dr. Stan Galicki, Jeannie took a multidisciplinary approach to her defined problem and resolved the study issues. She was an undergraduate who is now pursuing graduate study at the University of Arizona. Dr Galicki is now inspiring the next class of aspiring geology students to equal levels of success and beyond. The MGS will be sponsoring best paper awards for undergraduate and graduate students at the Biloxi meeting. We greatly appreciate the support of these students and professors by such a fine professional organization as MGS."

I asked Dr Galicki to send me a little information on Jeannie and I'd pass them on to MGS. Jeannie Bryson is now attending the University of Arizona where she plans on earning an M.S. in Hydrology. Following summer research in Turkey after her freshmen year, I was fortunate to place Jeannie in an internship with the USGS Water Resource Division in Pearl, MS. She did an outstanding job and worked for the agency throughout her undergraduate career. Her dedication not only resulted in acceptance to a fine school but also earned her a position with the USGS in Phoenix. She was the recipient of the Boland Scholarship and a Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies Grant for research related to her Honors Project.

Dr. Stan Galicki is one of us. Those of us who first met Stan in his early days remember him as a geologist with Union of California. As a result of the industry downturn and resulting realignments Stan took to the academic world and pursued his Ph.D. While working on his dissertation he worked as an instructor at Millsaps College. Now that he is Dr. Stan Galicki he is an active member of the faculty in the Department of Geology at Millsaps. The geology program at Millsaps offers the undergraduate three options under the B.S. degree. Majors have some freedom to design their course work to reflect concentrations in Classical Geology, Geophysics, or Environmental Geology, based on what they plan to do after graduation. The faculty is deeply committed and provides research opportunities for their students whether as assistants on faculty research, through internships, senior honors projects, or senior thesis projects. Jeannie is a product of the dedicated work of the Millsaps faculty. We in the Mississippi Geological Society wish to recognize the outstanding work of people like Dr. Galicki as seen through the accomplishments of their students. Next time you see Stan let him know you are aware of this good work and encourage him. Admiration for your work by your peers is about as good as it gets in the working world.



Dr. Stan Galicki and Jeannie Bryson

## TREASURER'S REPORT — FISCAL YEAR 2003

EXPENSES		REVENUES	
From FY 2002	\$69.20	Membership Dues	\$2,760.00
Monthly Luncheons:		Advertising	\$5,615.00
Capitol Club	\$3,494.44	Monthly Luncheons	\$3,120.00
Name Tags	\$18.16	Fall BBQ	\$510.00
Speaker Plaques	\$139.56	BBQ Sponsors	\$800.00
Bulletin:		Christmas Party	\$925.00
Printing Supplies	\$2,150.97	Christmas Sponsors	\$800.00
Postage	\$1,233.41	Spring Fling	\$630.00
Ex. Com. Meetings	\$355.36	Spring Fling Sponsors	\$350.00
Fall BBQ	\$860.05	Publications	\$150.00
Christmas Party	\$2,200.00	Field Trips (Symp.)	\$200.00
Spring Fling	\$933.52		
Miscellaneous:		<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$15,660.00</b>
MGS Award	\$940.00		
Bank Charge	\$5.29		
MS Water Res. Conf.	\$193.12		
Donations	\$760.51		
Tax Preparation	\$150.00		
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$13,503.59</b>	<b>Net Change</b>	<b>+\$2,156.41</b>

CHECKING ACCOUNT		MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT	
Beginning Balance	\$21,713.84	Beginning Balance	\$15,831.92
Deposits	\$15,660.00	Interest	\$106.05
Withdrawals	\$13,503.59		
<b>Ending Balance (5/31/03)</b>	<b>\$23,870.25</b>	<b>Ending Balance (5/31/03)</b>	<b>\$15,937.97</b>
<b><u>Total Reserves</u></b>	<b><u>\$39,808.22</u></b>		



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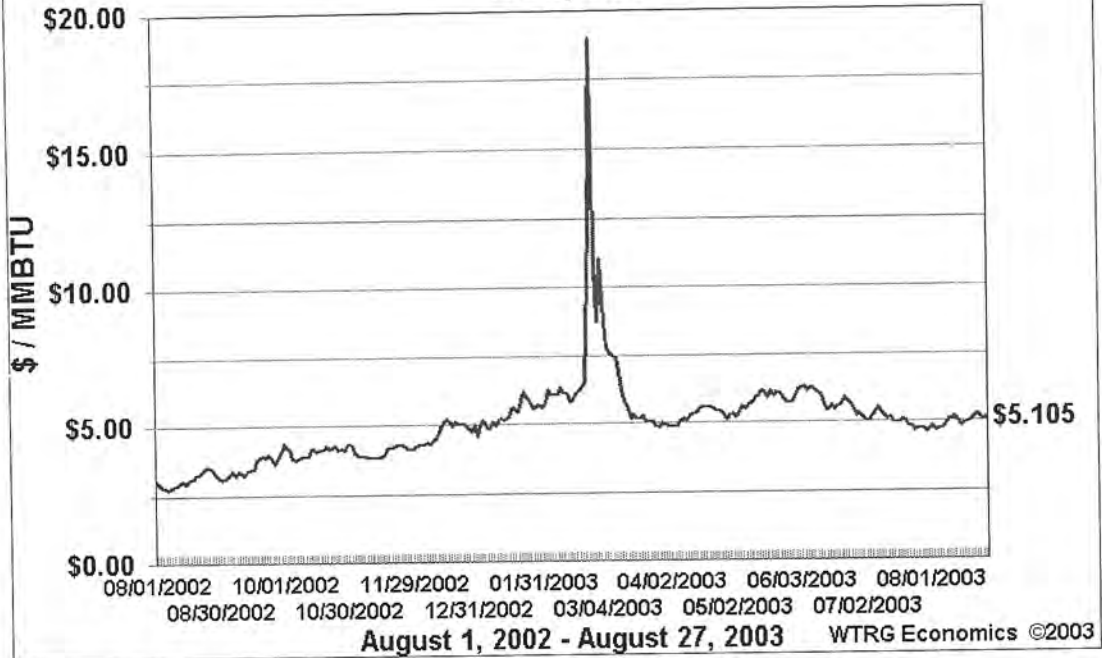
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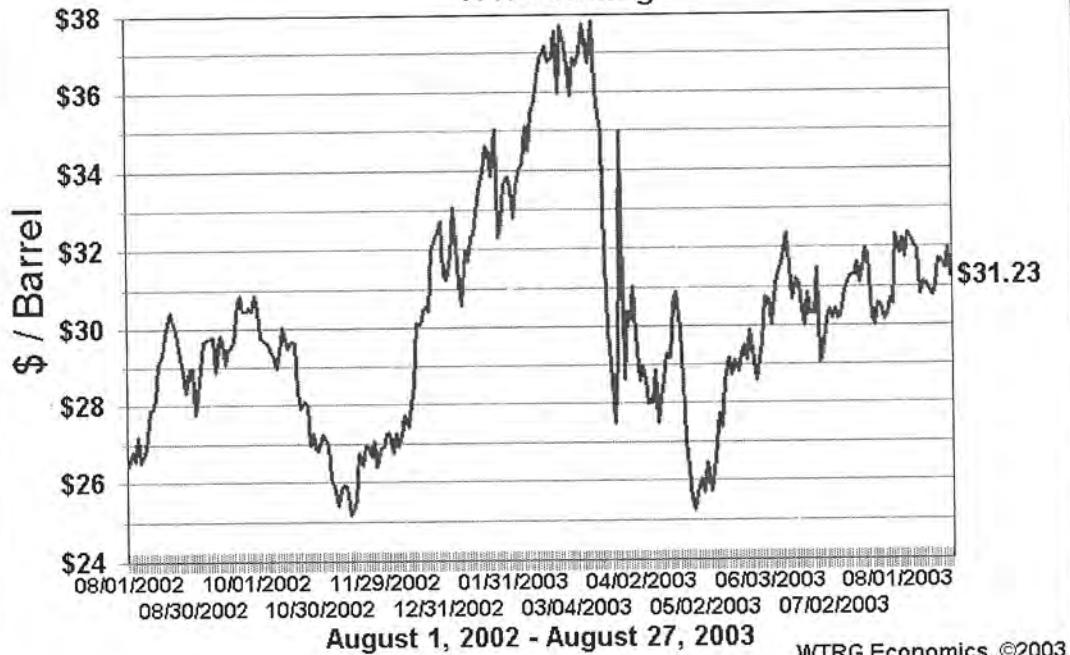
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## Washington Post Style Invitational

(Take any word from the dictionary & alter it by adding, subtracting or deleting one letter, and supply a new definition)

**Intaxication:** Euphoria at getting a tax refund, which lasts until you realize it was your money to start with.

**Reintarnation:** Coming back to life as a hillbilly.

**Bozone:** The substance surrounding stupid people that stops bright ideas from penetrating. The bozone layer, unfortunately, shows little sign of breaking down in the near future.

**Foreploy:** Any misrepresentation about yourself for the purpose of getting laid.

**Cashtration:** The act of buying a house, which renders the subject financially impotent for an indefinite period.

**Giraffiti:** Vandalism spray-painted very, very high.

**Sarchasm:** The gulf between the author of sarcastic wit and the person who doesn't get it.

**Inoculatte:** To take coffee intravenously when you are running late.

**Hipatitis:** Terminal coolness.

**Osteopornosis:** A degenerate disease. (This one got extra credit.)

**Karmageddon:** It's like, when everybody is sending off all these really bad vibes, right? And then, like, the Earth explodes and it's like a serious bummer.

**Decafalon:** The grueling event of getting through the day consuming only things that are good for you.

**Glibido:** All talk and no action.

**Dopeler effect:** The tendency of stupid ideas to seem smarter when they come at you rapidly.

**Arachnoleptic fit:** The frantic dance performed just after you've accidentally walked through a spider web.

**Beelzebug:** Satan in the form of a mosquito that gets into your bedroom at three in the morning and cannot be cast out.

**Caterpallor:** The color you turn after finding half a grub in the fruit you're eating.

And the pick of the literature:

**Ignoranus:** A person who's both stupid and an asshole.

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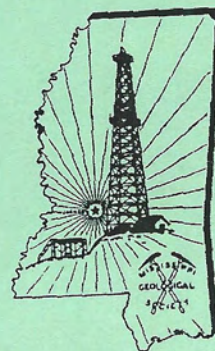
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## ~ PRESIDENT'S LETTER ~

By John Cox

What a great turnout our Society had for the Annual Fall BBQ. Good food, good weather and great company. We missed those of our faithful regulars that were unable to attend. Several "thanks" are in order: first, to all of you that did attend, especially our out-of-town guests, we very much appreciate your support; secondly, to the event's sponsors (please note the sponsor list below); and finally, to James Starnes. James coordinated the event for us and also provided the show and tell exhibit of Mississippi rock specimens.

October is a very busy month for our profession with abundant opportunities to learn and mingle. Remember (as promised, every chance I get), this month's MGS noon luncheon will not be held on the customary second Tuesday of the month. Our meeting date is October 7 at the Capital Club. Our speaker will be Dr. Marco Giardino, and the title of his talk is "Geoarcheology and Remote Sensing: A Case Study from Coastal Mississippi". He will report on the use of airborne and satellite imagery from NASA's suborbital fleet and from orbiting sensors in developing a model that predicts where archaeological sites would be located along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Dr. Giardino is currently with the NASA Earth Science Applications Directorate located at the Stennis Space Center. Please make your plans to attend.

The PTTC is sponsoring a technology workshop entitled "AVO Method" to be held October 9<sup>th</sup> at the Capital Club in Jackson. Brian Russell (of Hampson-Russell fame) will be the workshop speaker. This one-day course will present an overview of the AVO method from basic theory through to modeling and real data examples. Steve has placed a direct link on our Society webpage. You can also register on-line at <http://egrpttc.geo.ua.edu>.

The US Oil and Gas Association is holding its 2003 Oil and Gas Forum/Annual Meeting on October 13<sup>th</sup> thru the 15<sup>th</sup> in Point Clear, Alabama. Karl Kaufmann will be representing the MGS at the Forum, discussing Mississippi oil and gas trends and activity. For further information, you can call the US Oil and Gas office in Jackson at 601-948-8903, or go online at [usoil@usoga.com](mailto:usoil@usoga.com).

And finally, the annual meeting of the GCAGS will be held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana on October 22<sup>nd</sup> thru the 24<sup>th</sup>. Again, for further information, log on to [www.brgs-la.org/gcags.htm](http://www.brgs-la.org/gcags.htm). (This Internet thing might really catch on).

I look forward to seeing all of you at the noon luncheon (the October 7<sup>th</sup> noon luncheon).

---

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Meeting Schedule & Speaker Biography  
North American Rig Counts  
"The Million Dollar Map"  
September Oil & Gas Spot Market Graphs  
"A Rare Play of Colors"  
MGS Advertising Notice

## MGS MEETING SCHEDULE

When	What	Where
September 18th, 2003	Fall BBQ	Masonic Lodge MS Agricultural Museum
<b><u>October 7th, 2003</u></b>	Speaker: Marco J. Giardino "Geoarcheology & Remote Sensing"	Capitol Club
November 11th, 2003	TBA	Capitol Club
TBA	Christmas Party	TBA
January 13th, 2004	TBA	Capitol Club
February 10th, 2004	TBA	Capitol Club
March 9th, 2004	TBA	Capitol Club
April 13th, 2004	TBA	Capitol Club
TBA	Spring Fling	MS Agricultural Museum

Marco J. Giardino, Ph.D.

Dr. Giardino is currently with the NASA Earth Science Applications Directorate located at the Stennis Space Center in Mississippi. Dr. Giardino is an archaeologist who utilizes remote sensing to identify pre-historic sites, reconstruct past environments, and study how climate change affects human settlement and subsistence. Among his current archaeology applications projects are the use of remote sensing in identifying sites from the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery, working with the Corps of Engineers in the Louisiana marshes to locate cultural resources, and conducting remote sensing research at the Gainesville site, ancient county seat of Hancock County, MS. He has also conducted archaeological fieldwork in Europe, North America, and Mexico. Marco uses imagery collected from satellites, aircraft, and radiometers operating in both the laboratory and the field. He specializes in Southeastern American Indian prehistory and early Colonial history. His other research interests include archaeological surveys using remotely sensed data, color analysis of prehistoric artifacts, and paleoecology of estuarine and coastal systems. Marco was born in Rome, Italy, and received his Ph.D. from Tulane University in New Orleans.

### OFFICERS MEETINGS

September 2, 2003

October 6, 2003

November 4, 2003

December 2, 2003

January 6, 2004

February 3, 2004

March 2, 2004

April 6, 2004

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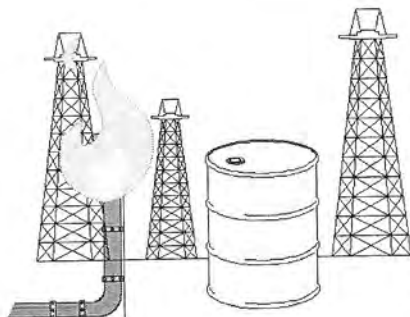
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## North American Rotary Rig Counts

The U.S. rotary rig count was up 3 rigs to 1,095 for the week of September 26, 2003.

The number of rotary rigs drilling for oil slipped 4 to 148. Oil drilling is 17 rigs above last year's level of activity. Rigs drilling for currently oil represent 13.5 percent of total drilling activity.

Rigs directed toward natural gas increased 7 to 943. The number of rigs currently drilling for gas is 202 greater than last year's level of 741.

The year over year increase in oil exploration in the U.S. is 13.0 percent. Gas exploration is up 30.1 percent. The weekly average of crude oil spot prices is 10 percent lower than last year and natural gas spot prices are higher by 18 percent.

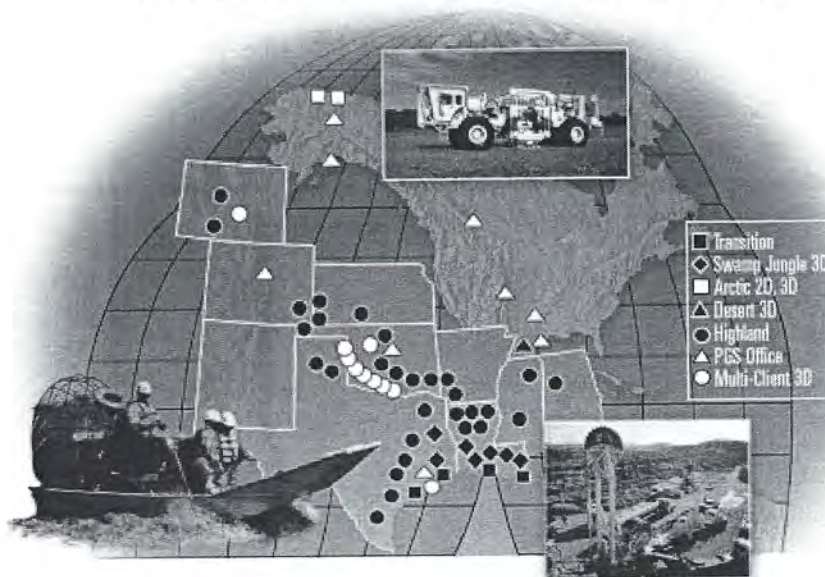
Canadian rig activity\* was down 30 rigs to 308 for the week of September 26, 2003 and is 71 rigs (30.0 percent) higher than last year's rig count of 237. Canadian drilling falls rapidly in the spring to avoid environmental damage during the spring thaw.

\*The Canadian drilling industry experiences wide seasonal swings and even year over year comparisons can lead to incorrect conclusions.

### North American Rig Count

	09/26/03	09/19/03	09/27/02	Change		Percent Change	
				Weekly	Annual	Weekly	Annual
Total U.S.	1095	1092	875	3	220	0.3%	25.1%
Offshore	105	110	114	-5	-9	-4.5%	-7.9%
Land	990	982	761	8	229	0.8%	30.1%
Inland Waters	17	18	16	-1	1	-5.6%	6.3%
Oil	148	152	131	-4	17	-2.6%	13.0%
Percent	13.5%	13.9%	15.0%	-0.4%	-1.5%		
Gas	943	936	741	7	202	0.7%	27.3%
Percent	86.1%	85.7%	84.7%	0.4%	1.4%		
Directional	284	285	232	-1	52	-0.4%	22.4%
Horizontal	90	91	64	-1	26	-1.1%	40.6%
Gulf of Mexico	102	107	112	-5	-10	-4.7%	-8.9%
Gulf Oil	12	13	8	-1	4	-7.7%	50.0%
Percent	11.8%	12.1%	7.1%	-0.4%	4.6%		
Gulf Gas	90	94	104	-4	-14	-4.3%	-13.5%
Percent	88.2%	87.9%	92.9%	0.4%	-4.6%		
Canada	308	338	237	-30	71	-8.9%	30.0%
North America	1403	1430	1112	-27	291	-1.9%	26.2%

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## The Million Dollar Map

By

Alan Cockrell

(This is a condensed story selected from the manuscript-in-progress entitled "Drilling Ahead: The Post-war Hunt for Oil in the Deep South." All rights are reserved, and it may not be otherwise published without the author's permission. The author welcomes comments and contributions.)

E-mail: [yakdriver@comcast.net](mailto:yakdriver@comcast.net)

Things had come to a standstill at Union Producing Company and Dudley Hughes was restless. Then a timely offer came. American Petrofina (more commonly known as "FINA"), a Belgian company, had just bought out American Liberty Oil Company, of Dallas. FINA offered Hughes a district geologist position and he accepted, opening an office for them in Jackson. Carroll Jones, a landman from Shreveport, joined Hughes.

Together the two developed prospects and drilled wells for FINA but were mostly confined to explore several thousand acres of lease inventory that FINA jointly owned with Larco. They delivered only one discovery. That was the Boykin Church Field in Smith County, Mississippi in 1958. Another discovery—Valley Park—proved non-commercial.

Despite a lackluster run with FINA, Hughes and Jones later received an invitation for financial backing in an independent venture from the Vaughey brothers. Hughes and his wife, Robbie, were busy establishing a family and had two young daughters, Vikki and Cindy. In a tough decision Robbie gave the idea her blessing, and Hughes took the plunge. He, Jones, and Beadie Noel—a toolpusher on FINA's company rig—formed Triad Oil and Gas Company, with Emmett and Bill Vaughey as silent partners. The Vaughey's agreed to put up a fixed overhead sum for two years amounting to about \$5,000 per month—big money in 1959.

Triad's first order of business was to find a drilling rig for Noel to run. But after several months with no success breaking into the drilling business the group changed their modus operandi and began promoting drilling deals. Hughes went to work mapping.

Using all available well logs, he built a structure map that spanned the Lower Cretaceous trend from Bolton to Citronelle. It would become known within the company as the "million dollar map."

The map and other studies associated with it produced some unexpected but welcome results for Triad. When the 1960 convention of the

Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies issued a 'call for papers,' Hughes responded. He shared his ideas with his peers in a technical paper entitled *Faulting Associated with Deep-seated Salt Domes in the Mississippi Salt Basin*. It won "Best Paper" award and Hughes was soon invited to present it at the 1961 convention of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG).

Suddenly, Hughes found himself in demand. The AAPG asked him to go on tour with his paper. He agreed and spent six weeks on a distinguished lecture tour with AAPG paying all his expenses. "I was given one airline ticket with 35 stops," he recalls. "I made the talk almost every day for six weeks to geologic societies and universities throughout the central U.S. and Calgary, Canada. It opened doors to help sell deals."



Triad — Dudley Hughes, Beadie Noel, and Carol Jones

Finally, their first deal was sold and drilled—a 5,000 foot Eutaw wildcat. It found nothing. Still, they worked on, undaunted, farming-in acreage from major companies. (Due to the Lower Cretaceous surge of the fifties, most of the trend was still under lease.)

On the second try they found the Traxler Field in Smith County, Mississippi in 1960 on a Chevron farmout. The well found good production from one Rodessa and three Paluxy sands. The partners' hopes soared but were short-lived. They drilled four dusters attempting to extend production. The new discovery turned out to be a dreaded one-well field.

The group shook off the disappointment and moved on to tackle another idea. Working strictly from subsurface well control, they mapped a graben closure south of Taylorsville, Mississippi, with oil shows in dry holes on its flanks—an ideal drilling target. They checked the land situation and found that the structure was leased by Pan American in three main tracts, and they had only two months left before expiration. The new partners of Triad would have to act very fast.

Bill Wooten, who then worked as a landman in Pan Am's Jackson office remembers the whirlwind that came through his door. "I was here in the Jackson office and Carroll Jones came in and wanted to get a farm-out on this block of acreage, much of which I had bought myself. And they were all about to expire. Carroll had the idea of creating a 40-acre unit by taking 10 acres out of four different sections. Essentially, that would have held the guts of that block. The leases were expiring and we didn't intend to do anything about them."

Wooten quickly secured permission from Pan Am's Oklahoma City office to grant the farm-out to Triad, retaining only an overriding royalty interest with no drilling obligation. "It was very unusual for a major company to move like that," Hughes observed. But Triad had only two months to sell the deal and get it spudded.

The partners lost no time, as Hughes recounts. "I worked up some maps and a report and hit the road with the deal. The deal was priced at around \$90,000 as drilling cost was around \$70,000 for a 12,000 foot well. He quickly sold the deal to a number of companies and investor groups. He had retained a minimal 1/8th interest for Triad, but upon returning to Jackson he discovered that Carroll Jones had traded 1/2 of Triad's interest to another party. This was a serious blow—it left Triad with a paltry 1/16th.

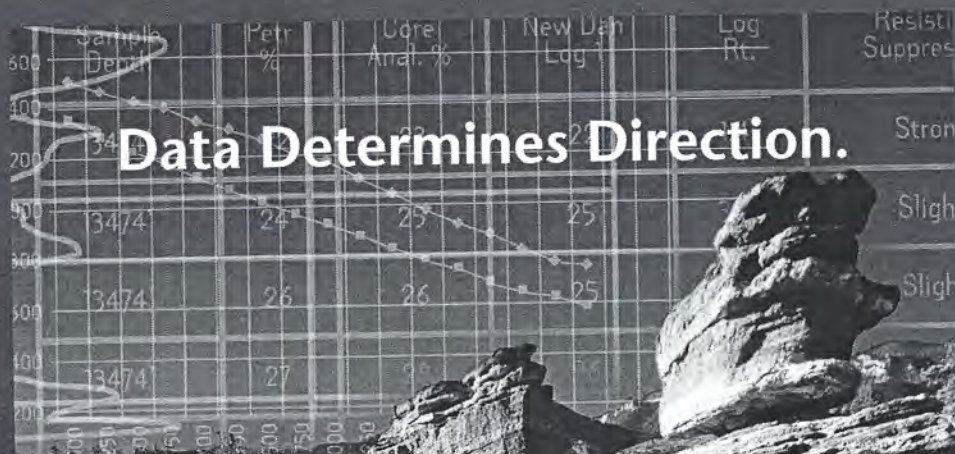
Compelled to hurry, Noel located a rig that could meet the deadline. Pan Am's land department worked into the night to give Triad a written assignment of their leases. Taxing their limited financial resources, Hughes chartered a plane and flew to Tulsa to pick up the assignment then went on to the county courthouses to record the leases. Jones filed for a permit with the Mississippi Oil and Gas Board for a 40-acre drilling unit which had a portion of each of the main tracts included and filed pooling notices in the Jones and Covington County courthouses. The rig moved in and spudded at 10 pm, beating the lease expiration by two hours.

The partners breathed a profound sigh of relief, but then braced themselves for the anxiety of watching the slow progress of the bit. As the hole inched downward the mudlogger recorded numerous shows in the sands of the Upper Tuscaloosa, Lower Tuscaloosa, Washita-Fredericksburg, and Paluxy, amounting to over 300 feet of mud log show. After electric logs were run the estimate was reduced to 150 feet of oil sand—still a phenomenal pay thickness. The smiling group ordered production pipe. The well—the discovery well of the Summerland Field—was completed flowing 250 BOPD with several lucrative sands still untested.

Even though Triad had ended up with only 1/16th interest, Jones was unwilling to borrow money to develop the offsets, as he was still gun-shy from the failed offsets at Traxler. Instead, he made a deal with the Vaughey brothers to finance Triad's development for ½ of its 1/16. Hughes was not happy with the move, and when he learned of it he went to the Vaugheys and convinced them to limit the earned ½ deal to only the first three offsets. After that, Triad would keep its full 1/16 in the rest of the acreage. It was a company-saving move.

Triad and its partners eventually drilled 20 wells and proved-up 20 million barrels. Some of the wells had an incredible 300 feet of pay. The strike established Triad as a serious contender among independent companies, as Hughes recounts. "We were the operator. Beadie became production manager and hired field personnel. We added an accounting department and soon had the nucleus of an efficient oil company underway. Even with our small interest it put us in the oil business as a recognized company...We hit the jackpot!"

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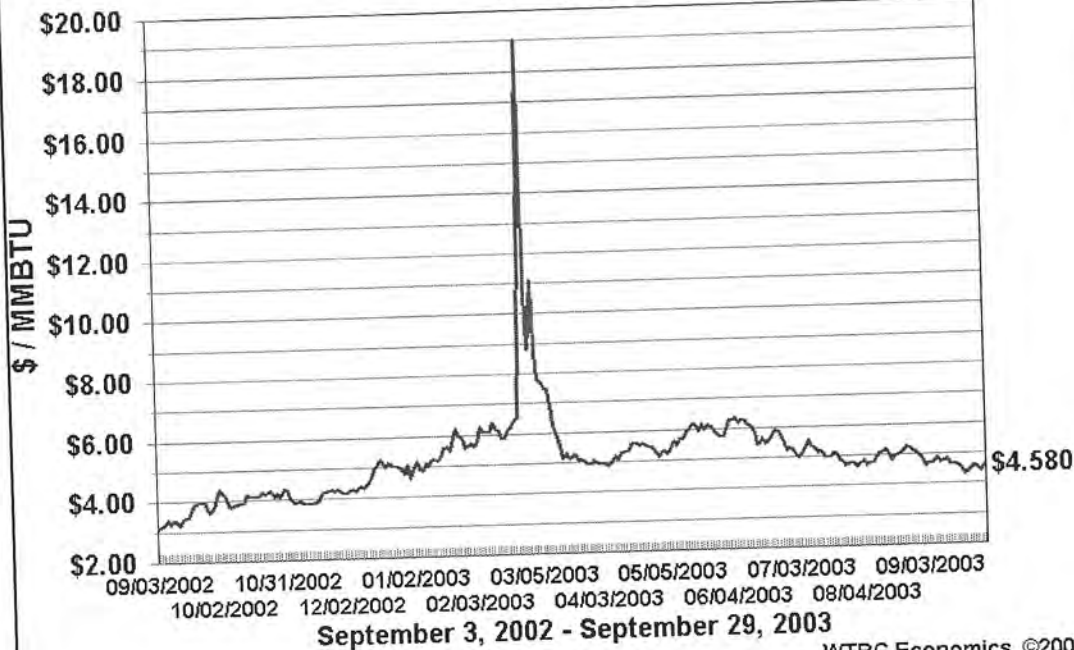
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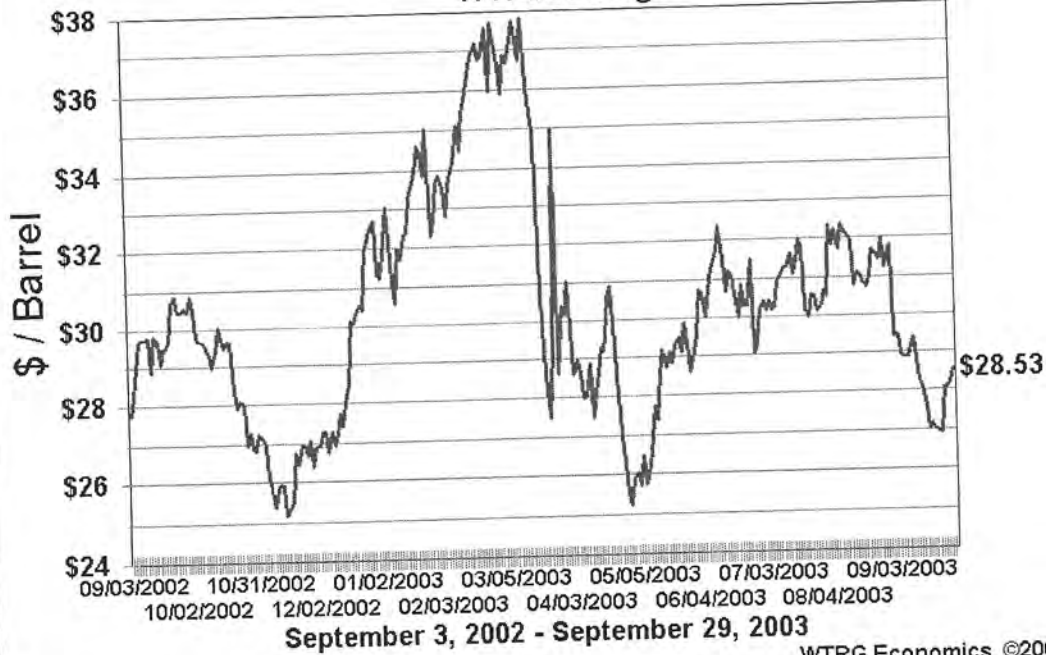
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## “A Rare Play of Colors”

### Mississippi Opal

By James E. Starnes, MS Office of Geology

Hydro silica (opal) is common in a number of Tertiary formations in Mississippi. It is likely present either from deposition of volcanic ash or biogenetically from siliceous tests. The occurrences, most notably, are as a cementing agent in the sands of the Eocene Tallahatta and Kosciusko Formations in central and eastern Mississippi that form hard ledges of quartzite. Also, the Miocene Catahoula and Hattiesburg Formations of south Mississippi contain an abundance of opal in a number of lithologies. Opal in the Miocene Catahoula and Hattiesburg Formations is dominantly a cementing agent in sands and siltstones, but also can be found as nodules or filling voids and fractures in clays, silts, and sands. In most cases, these occurrences are a near-surface, diagenetic leaching feature.

In our Miocene surface geology research at the Mississippi Office of Geology (MOG), we have observed a number of interesting outcrops and rock formations that owe their character to the abundance of diagenetic opal. Many hard quartzite and indurated sand and siltstone ledges form outstanding ridges, precipices, boulder piles, and waterfalls that are more reminiscent of mountainous regions than of the Gulf Coastal Plain. Often a few hard whacks with a rock hammer will expose the more friable fresh outcrop, or on the other hand, surprise one with a hammer resonating like a tuning fork as an orthoquartzitic zone is discovered. A recent field investigation to one of these typical Miocene exposures turned out something not so typical—opalescence.

Gem quality opal has been mined in the basal Flemming Formation of Vernon Parish, Louisiana, and sold as cut stones under the name *Louisiana Opal*. The first of this material was traded by local collectors with Tiffany's of New York for gold coins. As the Catahoula Formation in southwestern Mississippi contains much common opal and some opalescence in quartzite ledges, field geologists of the Surface Geology Division of the MOG have been on the lookout for gem quality opal in Mississippi. While mapping in Claiborne County, this new occurrence was discovered. The exposure is now being studied as part of a larger mapping effort to determine its stratigraphic position and its significance in relation to surrounding strata. In addition, making this outcrop even more interesting, prehistoric cultural material has been associated with this outcrop and will be reported on in the next annual Mississippi Academy of Sciences annual meeting. Pictures of the opalescence in the rock samples can be viewed on the MGS website.

#### References:

Stevens, Ben F., Louisiana Opal “The One That Dares to be Different, The Story & Facts”: Exquisite Stone and Creations, p. 4, 1999.



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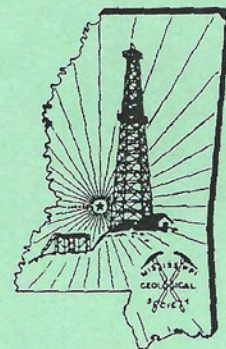
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## ~ PRESIDENT'S LETTER ~

By John Cox

I can hardly believe that I'm composing a letter to be placed in the November Bulletin. . . November, already!

Dr. Marco Giardino, our last month's speaker, provided an interesting and very informative discussion. Our thanks to Marco for traveling to Jackson last month in the midst of a busy schedule and uncooperative weather to share his research with the Society. Dr. Giardino is a great contact if you need assistance or advice on product availability, cost, etc. regarding remote sensing products. If you would like his business card, let Larry or myself know.

This month's speaker is no stranger to the MGS luncheon circuit. Dr. Ezat Heydari will speak on the "Deev Jahi Model of the Permian/Triassic Boundary (PTB) Mass Extinction." Dr. Heydari is currently an Assistant Professor at Jackson State University. He always provides entertaining and discussion-provoking theses, and he promises that this paper will continue to uphold this tradition. After our AVO seminar, with all of its associated differential calculus and matrix algebra equations, we will be ready for Ezat to throw all of the geochemistry he can at us. Dr. Heydari is presenting this very paper to the Geological Society of America in Seattle, Washington, the week before our noon meeting. We will be presenting the annual MGS Boland Scholarship awards at this meeting. Please make plans to attend on November 11th at the Capitol Club at 11:30 a.m.

The Board is presently conducting a Red Book "feasibility study". For the Society to publish an updated Red Book (the last version was published in 1986) is no small undertaking and will span several administrations. I just want to get all of you thinking about the project . . . any suggestions, offers of assistance, and topics for inclusion would be greatly appreciated. Please

feel free to contact me at [john\\_cox@bellsouth.net](mailto:john_cox@bellsouth.net). Also, now is the time of year to renew your membership. Make sure that we have your email address to ensure that you are included on the "mother of all email address lists" to get your reminders on geo-events of interest. Steve has posted some interesting photos courtesy of James Starnes on the MGS website. Check them out!

I look forward to seeing you at the luncheon.

John



### *Happy Thanksgiving!*

#### **In This Issue:**

Meeting Schedule & Speaker Biography

North American Rig Counts

"Recent Use of Tallahatta Sandstone on the Choctaw Reservation"

Important November Events

September Oil & Gas Spot Market Graphs

"English Signs Seen in Non-English Speaking Countries"

MGS Advertising Notice

## MGS MEETING SCHEDULE

When	What	Where
September 18th, 2003	Fall BBQ	Masonic Lodge MS Agricultural Museum
October 7th, 2003	Speaker: Marco J. Giardino – “Geoarcheology & Remote Sensing”	Capitol Club
November 11th, 2003	Speaker: Ezat Heydari – “Deev Jahi Model of the Permian/Triassic Boundary (PTB) Mass Extinction”	Capitol Club
TBA	Christmas Party	MS Museum of Art
January 13th, 2004	TBA	Capitol Club
February 10th, 2004	TBA	Capitol Club
March 9th, 2004	TBA	Capitol Club
April 13th, 2004	TBA	Capitol Club
TBA	Spring Fling	MS Agricultural Museum

Speaker: Ezat Heydari, Ph.D.

Ezat Heydari finished his undergraduate studies in geology at the University of Tehran in Iran. His graduate education in geology includes a Masters Degree from Pennsylvania State University and a Ph.D. from Louisiana State University. He has worked as a research scientist at LSU and at the Mississippi Office of Geology. He is currently an Assistant Professor at Jackson State University.

Dr. Heydari's specialties are in sedimentology, strataigraphy, petrography, and low-temperature geochemistry. His research is multidisciplinary, field-, subsurface-, and laboratory-oriented. He combines sedimentological and geochemical characteristics to resolve a variety of scientific issues related to global change, paleoclimatology, paleoceanography, depositional environments, reservoir quality, sequence stratigraphy, petroleum geology, diagenesis, mass extinction, and regional tectonics.

### OFFICERS MEETINGS

September 2, 2003

October 6, 2003

November 4, 2003

December 2, 2003

January 6, 2004

February 3, 2004

March 2, 2004

April 6, 2004

May 4, 2004



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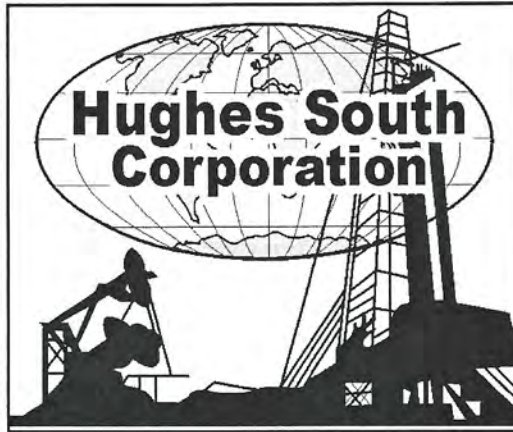
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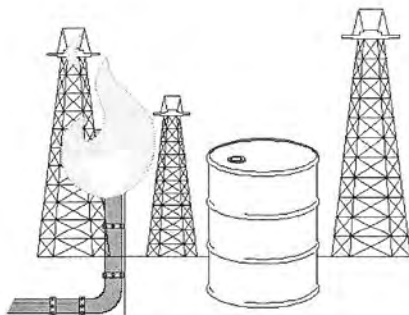
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## North American Rotary Rig Counts

The U.S. rotary rig count increased 17 rigs to 1,107 for the week of October 31, 2003.

The number of rotary rigs drilling for oil was up 3 at 161. Oil drilling is 3 rigs above last year's level of activity. Rigs drilling for currently oil represent 14.5 percent of total drilling activity.

Rigs directed toward natural gas were up 14 rigs to 944. The number of rigs currently drilling for gas is 252 greater than last year's level of 710.

The year over year increase in oil exploration in the U.S. is 1.9 percent. Gas exploration is up 36.4 percent. The weekly average of crude oil spot prices is 8 percent higher than last year and natural gas spot prices are higher by 7 percent.

Canadian rig activity\* was down 13 rigs to 376 for the week of October 31, 2003 and is 121 rigs (47.5 percent) higher than last year's rig count of 255. Canadian drilling falls rapidly in the spring to avoid environmental damage during the spring thaw.

\*The Canadian drilling industry experiences wide seasonal swings and even year over year comparisons can lead to incorrect conclusions.

### North American Rig Count

	10/31/03	10/24/03	11/01/02	Change		Percent Change	
				Weekly	Annual	Weekly	Annual
Total U.S.	1107	1090	854	17	253	1.6%	29.6%
Offshore	105	105	115	0	-10	0.0%	-8.7%
Land	1002	985	739	17	263	1.7%	35.6%
Inland Waters	19	15	21	4	-2	26.7%	-9.5%
Oil	161	158	158	3	3	1.9%	1.9%
Percent	14.5%	14.5%	18.5%	0.0%	-4.0%		
Gas	944	930	692	14	252	1.5%	36.4%
Percent	85.3%	85.3%	81.0%	-0.0%	4.2%		
Directional	258	253	219	5	39	2.0%	17.8%
Horizontal	97	93	63	4	34	4.3%	54.0%
Gulf of Mexico	101	101	112	0	-11	0.0%	-9.8%
Gulf Oil	9	9	18	0	-9	0.0%	-50.0%
Percent	8.9%	8.9%	16.1%	0.0%	-7.2%		
Gulf Gas	92	92	94	0	-2	0.0%	-2.1%
Percent	91.1%	91.1%	83.9%	0.0%	7.2%		
Canada	376	389	255	-13	121	-3.3%	47.5%
North America	1483	1479	1109	4	374	0.3%	33.7%

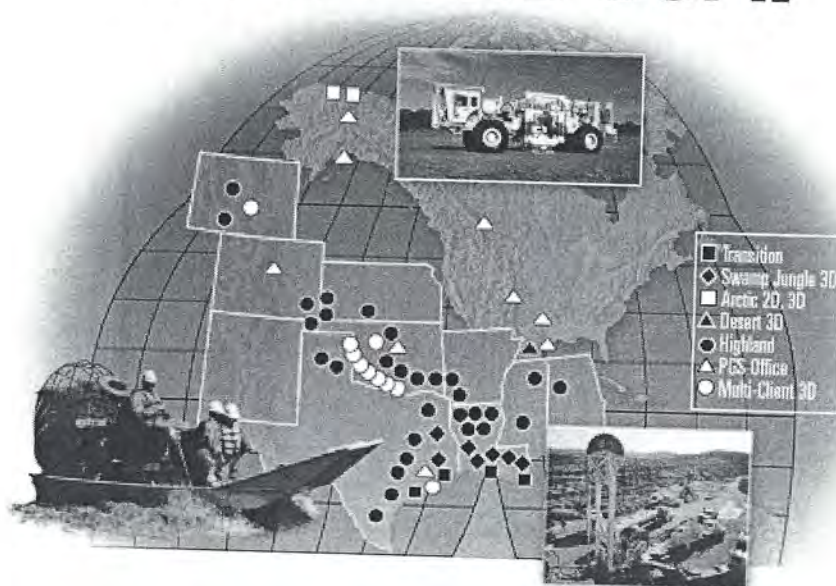
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Recent Use of Tallahatta Sandstone on the Choctaw Reservation  
Neshoba County, Mississippi

David T. Dockery III

Expansion of Highway 16 through the Choctaw Reservation in Neshoba County required the extra expense of rock removal in a section where hammer-ringing sandstones in the Tallahatta Formation were encountered along the highway right-of-way. In Figure 1, the foreground appears to be crushed concrete pavement, while in the background, on the other side of Highway 16 (just left of the speed-limit sign), a jackhammer on a track-hoe pounds away on another surface. What appears as concrete is actually a layer of Tallahatta sandstone. While this sandstone triples the cost of standard earth cut sections, it also offers possibilities as a source of native stone for construction and riprap.

The Tallahatta sandstone layer on Highway 16 was encountered just west of the Silver Star and Golden Moon casinos at station 218+00 and ran a total length of 800 feet in a cut of a hundred feet wide by four feet deep, or 11,852 cubic yards (Randall Copeland, personal communication). The cost of dirt removal depends on the length of the haul and the volume of material, and generally varies between \$1.50 and \$2.50 per cubic yard. If the cost of dirt removal on Highway 16 is estimated at \$1.75 per cubic yard, then the cost of rock removal for 11,852 cubic yards would be  $(3 \times \$1.75 = \$5.25) - \$1.75$  (cost for dirt) = \$3.50 (additional cost for rock)  $\times 11,852 = \$41,481$ . More rock may be encountered during construction.



Figure 1 – Jackhammered Tallahatta Sandstone, Highway 16

Rock layers in the Tallahatta have an ancient history of cultural use. Native Americans quarried quartzites in the Tallahatta Formation of Lauderdale County for projectile points and tools in a pre-pottery cultural period extending from the Early Archaic Period some 9,000 years ago to the late Archaic Period some 3,000 years ago, as illustrated by McGahey et al. (1992). The name Tallahatta comes from the formation's type locality in the Tallahatta Hills of southwestern Alabama in an area appropriately named Choctaw County. Tallahatta is an Indian word for "white rock." This "white rock" can be seen in the terraced highway cuts on Interstate 20 near the Lost Gap exit in Lauderdale County. Lost Gap is one of many gaps in a rocky ridge extending from southern Alabama north-westward to the intersection of Highway 8 and Interstate 55 at Grenada, Mississippi. At Grenada, a field of Tallahatta sandstone slabs can be seen along Highway 8 adjacent to the Super Wal-Mart parking lot, not far from where they were excavated.

With its Indian name and long history of Native American use, it is only fitting that the Tallahatta Formation should outcrop in the hills of the Neshoba County Choctaw Indian Reservation. Here the Choctaw Nation has stockpiled Tallahatta sandstone from recent construction projects along a ridge adjacent to a care home (Figs. 2 & 3) and have utilized large slabs of the sandstone in

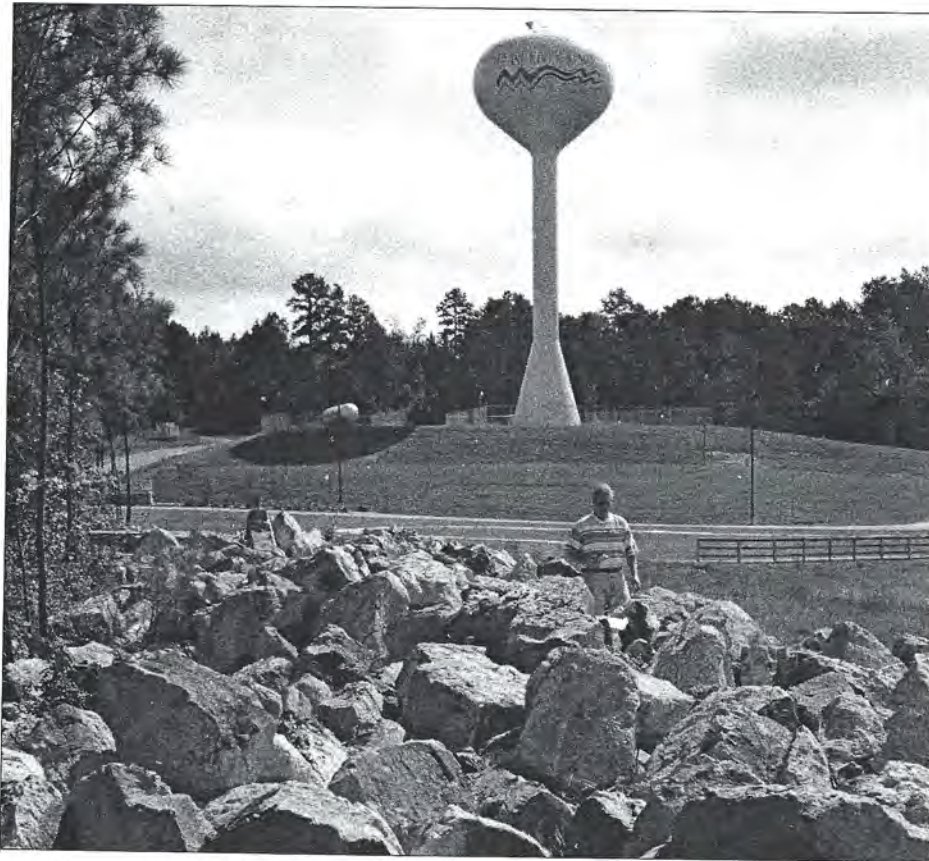


Figure 2 – Excavated Sandstone Moved to Tree Line

the construction of retainment walls (Fig. 4). This sandstone is mottled with the burrows of marine organisms and contains the imprints of the marine clam *Venericardia*. Photographs were taken on September 4, 2003.

Acknowledgment: Thanks to Randall Copeland, P.E., of the MS Department of Transportation (Philadelphia Office) for information on the cost of rock removal.

Reference:

McGahey, S., D. T. Dockery III, and S. L. Ingram, 1992, Indian Artifacts of Tallahatta Quartzite from Tallahatta Creek Site 22-LD-645, east-central Mississippi: *Mississippi Geology*, v. 13, no. 3, pp. 37-43.



Figure 3 – Tallahatta Sandstone on Ridge Line

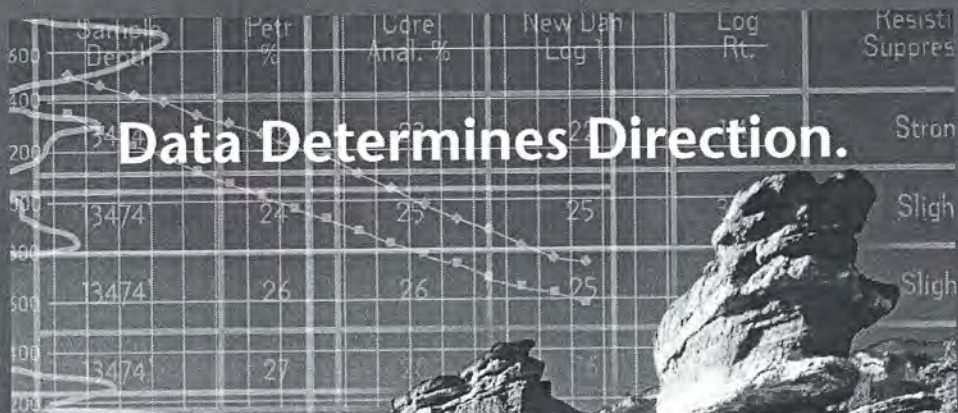


Figure 4 – David Thompson at Tallahatta Sandstone Retainment Wall

## IMPORTANT NOVEMBER EVENTS

(From World Book Millennium 2000)

- November 2, 1769 - A Spanish expedition led by Gaspar de Portola reached San Francisco Bay.
- November 2, 1889 - North and South Dakota became the 39th and 40th states.
- November 2, 1920 - First regular radio broadcasts began, over station KDKA in Pittsburgh.
- November 4, 1825 - Erie Canal formally opened in New York.
- November 4, 1979 - Iranian revolutionaries took over the U.S. Embassy in Teheran.
- November 6, 1869 - First intercollegiate football game in the U.S., Rutgers vs. Princeton, at Rutgers.
- November 8, 1889 - Montana became the 41st state.
- November 11, 1620 - Mayflower landed at the tip of Cape Cod.
- November 11, 1889 - Washington became the 42nd state.
- November 13, 1927 - Holland Tunnel opened in New York City.
- November 15, 1806 - Zebulon Pike sighted Pikes Peak.
- November 16, 1907 - Oklahoma became the 46th state.
- November 17, 1800 - Congress first met in Washington, D.C.
- November 18, 1883 - Standard time began in the United States.
- November 18, 1903 - U.S. and Panama signed the treaty ratifying the Panama Canal.
- November 19, 1863 - Abraham Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg Address.
- November 21, 1789 - North Carolina ratified the U.S. Constitution.
- November 22, 1935 - First transpacific air-mail flight began.
- November 22, 1963 - President John Kennedy assassinated.
- November 26, 1789 - First national Thanksgiving Day in U.S. proclaimed by President George Washington.
- November 29, 1929 - Commander Richard E. Byrd and crew of three became first to fly over the South Pole.



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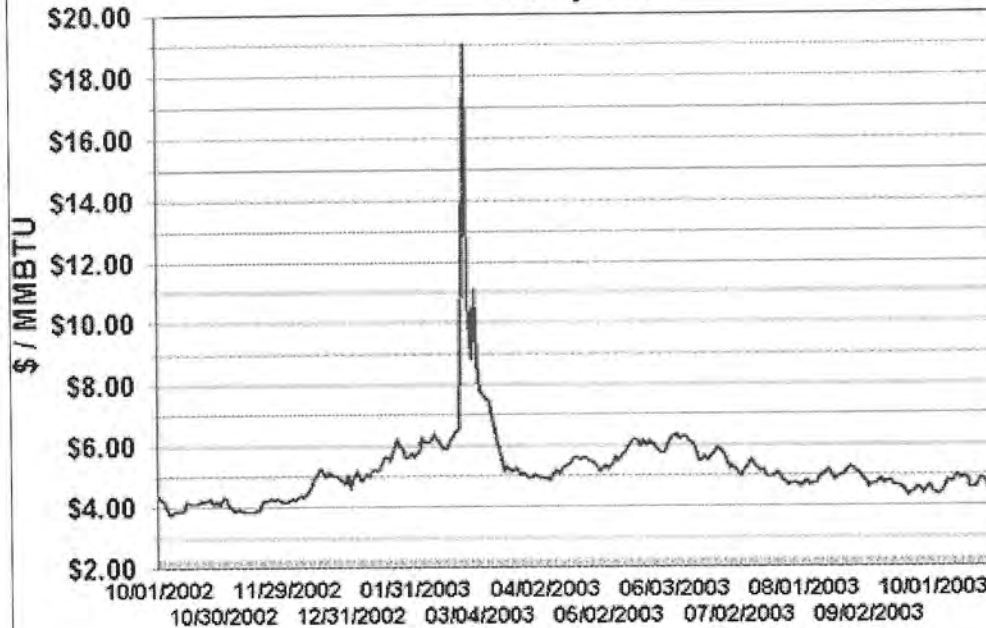
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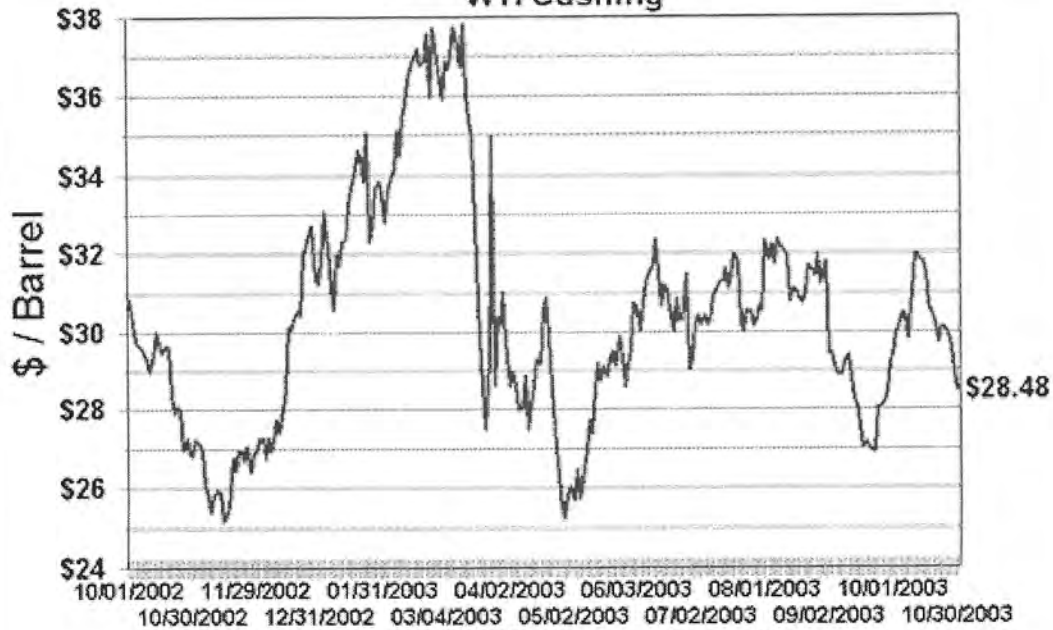
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- In a Leipzig elevator: Do not enter the lift backwards, and only when lit up.
- In a Belgrade hotel elevator: To move the cabin, push button for wishing floor. If the cabin should enter more persons, each one should press a number of wishing floor. Driving is then going alphabetically by national order.
- In an Athens hotel: Visitors are expected to complain at the office between the hours of 9 and 11 a.m. daily.
- In a Yugoslavian hotel: The flattening of underwear with pleasure is the job of the chambermaid.
- In a Moscow hotel across from a Russian Orthodox monastery: You are welcome to visit the cemetery where famous Russian and Soviet composers, artists, and writers are buried daily except Thursday.
- From the Soviet Weekly: There will be a Moscow Exhibition of Arts by 15,000 Soviet Republic painters and sculptors. These were executed over the past 2 years.
- On the menu of a Swiss restaurant: Our wines leave you nothing to hope for.
- In a Hong Kong supermarket: For your convenience, we recommend courteous, efficient self-service.
- In a Rhodes tailor shop: Order your summer suit. Because is big rush we will execute customers in strict rotation.
- In an East African newspaper: A new swimming pool is rapidly taking shape since the contractors have thrown in the bulk of their workers.
- On the box of a clockwork toy made in Hong Kong: Guaranteed to work throughout its useful life.
- In the window of a Swedish furrier: Fur coats made for ladies from their own skin.
- In an Acapulco hotel: The manager has personally passed all the water served here.
- Detour sign in Kyushu, Japan: Stop: Drive Sideways.
- At a Budapest zoo: Please do not feed the animals. If you have any suitable food, give it to the guard on duty.
- From a Majorcan shop entrance: English well talking. Here speaking American.

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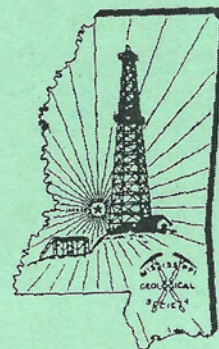
Volume 52

No. 4

December 2003

MISSISSIPPI  
GEOLOGICAL  
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## ~ PRESIDENT'S LETTER ~

By John Cox

By the time you receive this bulletin, Thanksgiving will be behind us. I trust that everyone had a wonderful turnkey (I mean turkey) weekend. As Christmas approaches, may the blessings of the Season be with you and yours.

A special thanks to Dr. Ezat Heydari for his entertaining and informative talk at last month's luncheon. The luncheon was well attended, and I think everyone will agree that we thoroughly enjoyed Ezat's presentation. Thanks for your support. Also, to Dave, John, Vern and Jerry, we extend our thanks and appreciation for all of your hard work in managing the Boland Scholarship. Congratulations to all of this year's recipients. Next month we will take a closer look at the Boland Scholarship, its present status, and requirements for growth.

Please remember that we will not be having a noon luncheon meeting for the month of December. But be sure to mark on your social calendars the evening of December 12th. The Mississippi Geological Society will be joining the Mississippi Association of Petroleum Landmen, the Mississippi Independent Producers and Royalty Owners Association, the Jackson Geophysical Society, and the Mississippi Oil and Gas Lawyers Association for a Christmas Gala. The event will start at 7:00 p.m. and will be held at the Mississippi Museum of Art. Food, adult beverages, door prizes, music.....let's all make plans to attend. Check the bulletin for ticket and sponsorship details.

I look forward to seeing you at the Christmas party. Happy Holidays.

John



## Merry Christmas!



### In This Issue:

Meeting Schedule

Christmas Gala Announcement  
and Ticket Order Form

"The Black Warrior Basin's Crown Jewel"

September Oil & Gas Spot Market Graphs

"New Employee Handbook"

MGS Advertising Notice

## MGS MEETING SCHEDULE

When	What	Where
September 18th, 2003	Fall BBQ	Masonic Lodge MS Agricultural Museum
October 7th, 2003	Speaker: Marco J. Giardino – “Geoarcheology & Remote Sensing”	Capitol Club
November 11th, 2003	Speaker: Ezat Heydari – “Deev Jahi Model of the Permian/Triassic Boundary (PTB) Mass Extinction”	Capitol Club
December 12th, 2003	Christmas Party	MS Museum of Art
January 13th, 2004	TBA	Capitol Club
February 10th, 2004	TBA	Capitol Club
March 9th, 2004	TBA	Capitol Club
April 13th, 2004	TBA	Capitol Club
TBA	Spring Fling	MS Agricultural Museum

**Y'all Come!**

**Christmas Gala**

**Friday, December 12  
7:00 p.m.**

**MS Museum of Art**

### OFFICERS MEETINGS

September 2, 2003  
October 6, 2003  
November 4, 2003  
December 2, 2003  
January 6, 2004  
February 3, 2004  
March 2, 2004  
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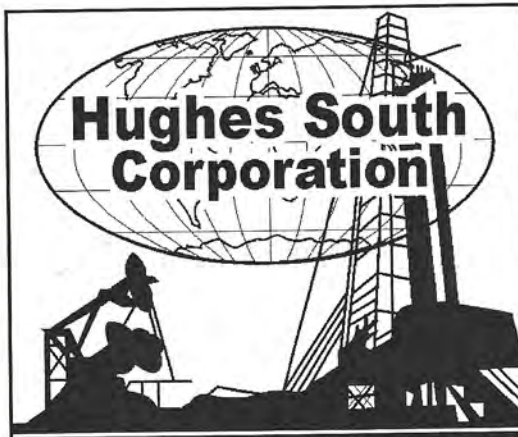
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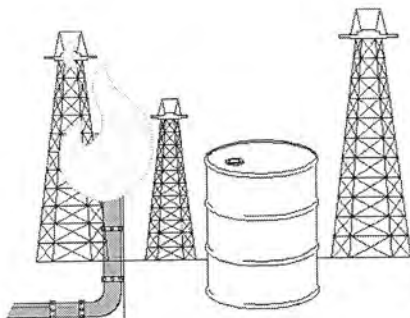
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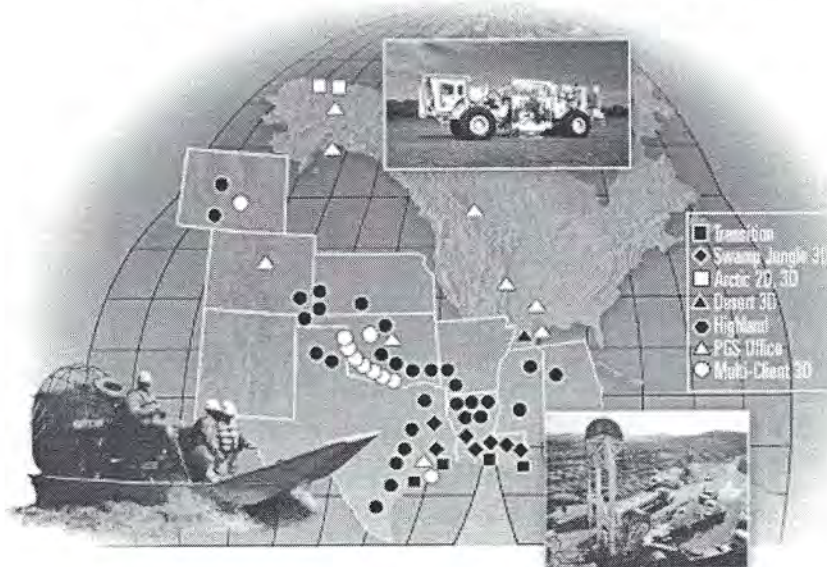
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## The Black Warrior Basin's Crown Jewel

By Alan Cockrell

(This is a condensed story selected from the manuscript-in-progress entitled "Drilling Ahead: The Post-war Hunt for Oil in the Deep south." All rights are reserved, and it may not be otherwise published without the author's permission. The author welcomes comments and contributions.)

E-mail: [yakdriver@comcast.net](mailto:yakdriver@comcast.net)

"That place is a graveyard!" Jim Stewart barked. "Nobody's made any money up there since Muldon!" That response didn't surprise independent geologist Hilton Ladner when he asked Stewart to go check out a lease at a spot in north Mississippi that had been beckoning him.

Arguably, Stewart was right. Little had been found in the Black Warrior since Howard Nason had blundered into the rip-snorting Sanders Sand at Muldon in 1952. Federal price controls were still in effect, keeping gas artificially cheap, and the intrastate market situation was shaky at best. In North Mississippi the Maben Field in Oktibbeha County was the only commercial find in recent years, and it was small. The one-well field produced a little over one billion cubic feet before abandonment.

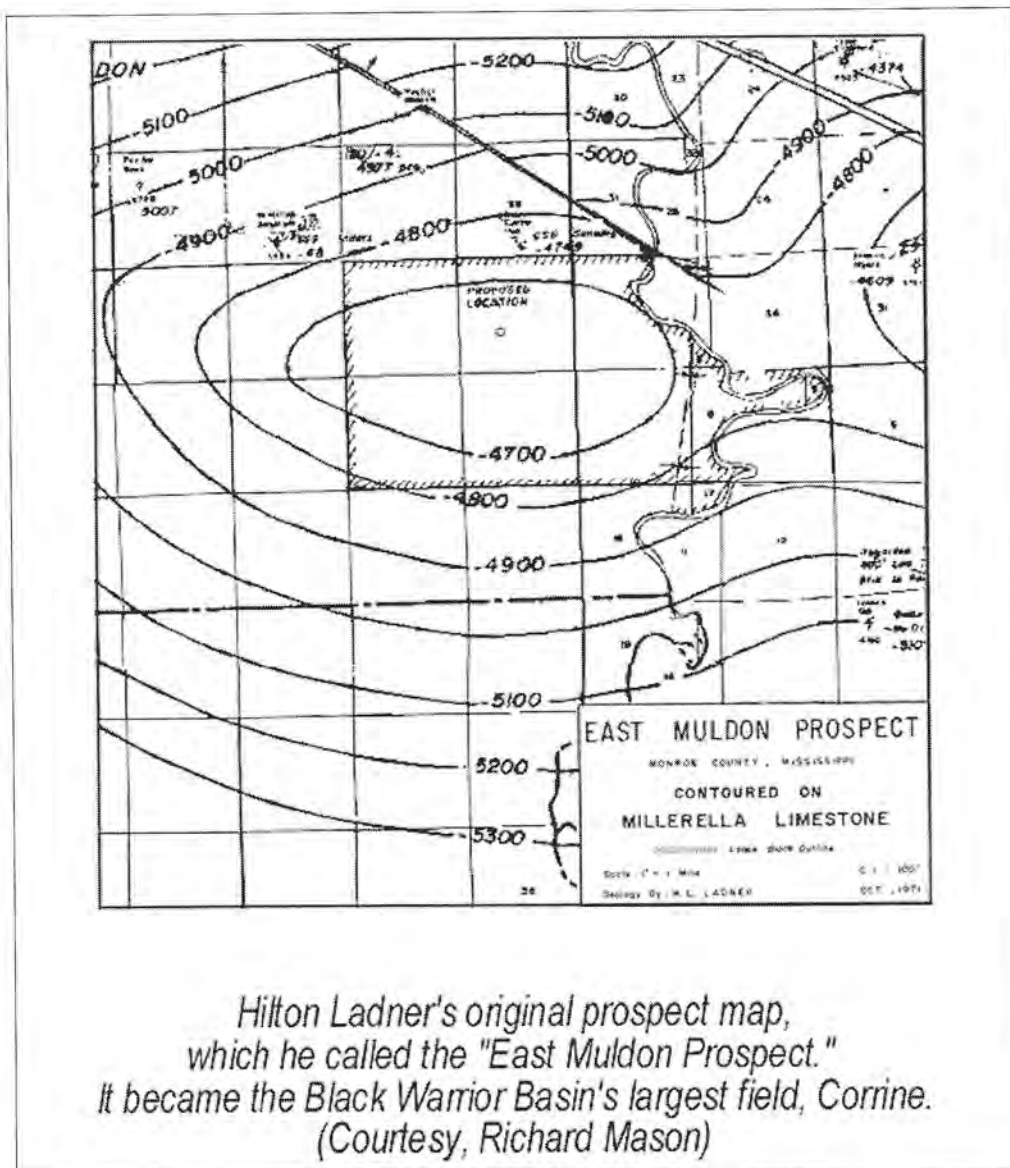
Still, Ladner would not be deterred. He kept contouring Monroe and Clay Counties with the scant well control and rough seismic that he had. But Ladner wasn't the only believer in the Black Warrior Basin's potential. Two partners out of El Dorado, Arkansas—Joe Baria and Richard Mason—were eyeing the basin, as well.

Their company, Gibraltar Energy, had garnered the financial backing of a New York oil and gas drilling fund. When Baria and Mason heard that Hilton Ladner was working the Black Warrior Basin they visited with him and struck a deal to assemble and drill a number of his ideas. Ladner had mapped a high area in Monroe, Lowndes, and Clay Counties, Mississippi, east of the old Muldon Field along the Tombigbee River. He called it the East Muldon Prospect. Well control in the area indicated the presence of a down-to-the-northeast fault with shows in flanking dry holes.

The group proceeded to put together several thousand acres on and around the prospect, which was eight miles southeast of Aberdeen. With the New York fund money behind them, the group—Ladner-Hildebrand-Gibraltar—spudded in early 1970, and in February they brought in the No. 1 T. A. Richardson. The well tested 2.3 MCF per day from the Sanders sand below 5,000 feet. It also tested 1.2 MCF from a Pennsylvanian sand at 2,800 feet. The operators named the shallow sand in honor of the man whose unrelenting efforts succeeded in opening Muldon's production twenty years earlier—Howard Nason. When they petitioned the Mississippi Oil and Gas Board for a special field rule, Hilton Ladner's East Muldon Prospect was christened the Corinne Field.

The operators knew they had logged a good discovery but didn't yet know what a tremendous prize they had found. They quickly drilled a confirmation north of the strike. That well came in 20 feet low, and the results were disappointing. The next location would be critical. Richard Mason recalls the third attempt: "After drilling the north offset, we decided to gut up and drill due east of the discovery. This was a make-or-break well for the field. I remember driving over to log the well and meeting Hilton out in a cotton patch near the well, where we laid the log out on the hood of the car. It was obvious the Sanders was loaded and we were high to the discovery well."

The Gibraltar group's potentially big discovery caused many heads to turn toward North Mississippi and bolstered the confidence of some who were there already. One of these was Bill Cleary, whose Cleary Petroleum Corporation had successfully worked the Anadarko Basin in Oklahoma for years. Cleary liked the Black Warrior Basin because of the similarity of the geology of the two basins. Like the Anadarko, the Black Warrior was primarily a stratigraphic play, and Cleary was comfortable with that. He also liked the fact that 10-year leases could still be obtained there; the landowners were not yet street-wise to the oil business. He had entered the Northeast Mississippi / Northwest Alabama area in the early seventies, acquiring between 80,000 and 100,000 acres.



The excitement at Corinne compelled Cleary Petroleum to expand their operations, and to do so quickly. They decided that acquisition was the most expedient route to take. But while negotiating with the Gibraltar group to buy them out, Cleary stopped the talks to wait for the results of a step-out, which was being spudded three miles south of the discovery. They were confident that the step-out would be dry and thus Gibraltar could be forced into a cheap sell.

The step-out was the work of R. I. Burns, one of the more colorful players in the oil business. "Dick Burns is quite an individual," said Richard Mason, who sold Burns the leases south of Corinne. They had taken a 30,000-acre lease package to Burns, and he committed to it before they had finished their pitch. Burns lived and worked in San Bernardino, California. "He was one of the greatest risk-takers I have ever run into in the oil business," Mason said.

Cleary watched anxiously as Burns' well bored toward the hard Mississippian sands, 5,500 feet below the Tombigbee River lowlands. Richard Mason summarized what Burns found. "This first Burns well drilled right into the middle of a major Sanders Sand channel. The Upper Carter, Lower Carter, Upper Sanders, and Lower Sanders all stacked up along with the Nason and Lewis sands. We had over 220 feet of net micro-log pay!"

Burns wanted the world to know about his big success. He immediately issued a press release to the New York Stock Exchange. NYSE tickers worldwide reported: *San Bernardino, CA: Burns Corp said it made a wildcat discovery which encountered four separate productive gas reservoirs in Clay County, Mississippi.*

*The company independent engineering analysis placed net reserves in the well at more than 17 billion cubic feet of gas...plus an undetermined amount of condensate.*

*Burns said the gas reserves are undedicated but estimated the intra-state market price would be more than \$1 million per billion cubic feet. The company owns 100% working interest in the discovery well and holds the same interest in 10,000 acres surrounding the well. The company also said rapid development of the area is planned.*

The bold news release put the Black Warrior Basin and particularly Corinne Field in the spotlight. Now Cleary's opportunity for a bargain acquisition deal was gone. "When we arrived on a price for our reserves," Mason said, "all units offsetting the Burns well were considered proved with a very high dollar figure on each." Nevertheless, Cleary anted-up. They wanted a piece of this unexpectedly big prize. They bought out Heidleburg, Hildebrand, Ladner, and Gibraltar's interest. Within the next two years Burns drilled two dozen wells in the south area while Cleary developed the north end. Development went at a slow pace because of low inter-state market prices.

When deregulation sent wellhead prices up, W. R. Grace got in the act. They needed wholesale gas for their fertilizer plants in Memphis. Grace bought out Cleary in 1978 and continued Cleary's development and acquisition programs, but never used the gas for their plants.

By the early 80's Corinne operators had accumulated enough data to postulate with confidence that the structure extended southeasterly underneath Columbus Air Force Base. Richard Mason wrote, "...several companies tried to get it [the air force base] to be put up for bid. They [the government] refused until a certain oilman with very good Republican connections got them to put up the base. I suspect that was Chesley Pruet. I don't know for certain." Grace Petroleum's politically powerful owner, Peter Grace, may also have been involved.

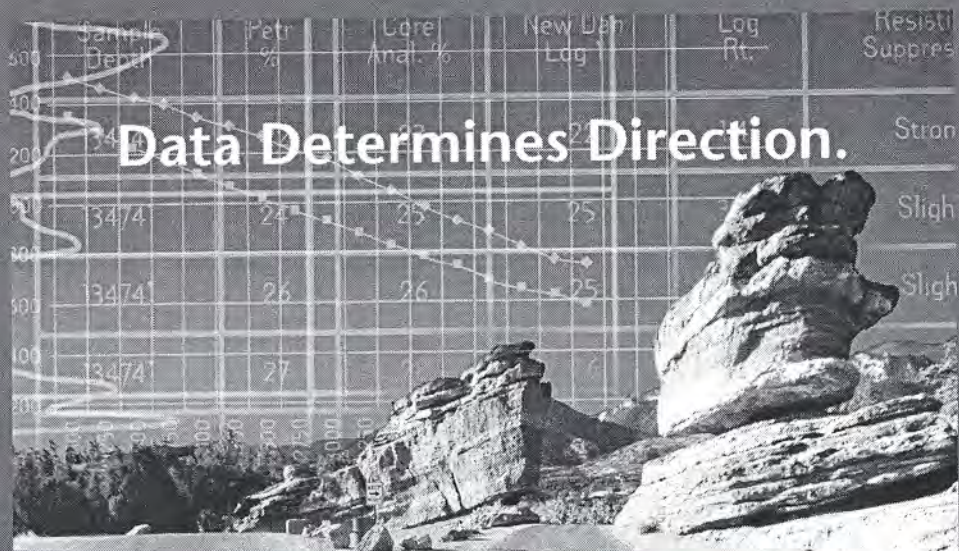
A vast bidding war then erupted in which Thomson-Monteith, a Black Warrior Basin newcomer, won by a huge margin. Proceeding under very strict environmental and operational restrictions, the company directionally drilled some very good wells underneath the base's runways.

As reservoir data came in from the development work, the operators estimated that Corinne's reserves would exceed 200 billion cubic feet, which it did in 1997. It became the basin's crown jewel. "Corinne Field made my partner and me a lot of money," Mason said.

The Black Warrior Basin's Mississippian and Pennsylvanian sections have not surrendered a rival to Corinne. That honor may yet go to the Ordovician. But the honor for Corinne goes to Hilton Ladner.



Hilton Ladner



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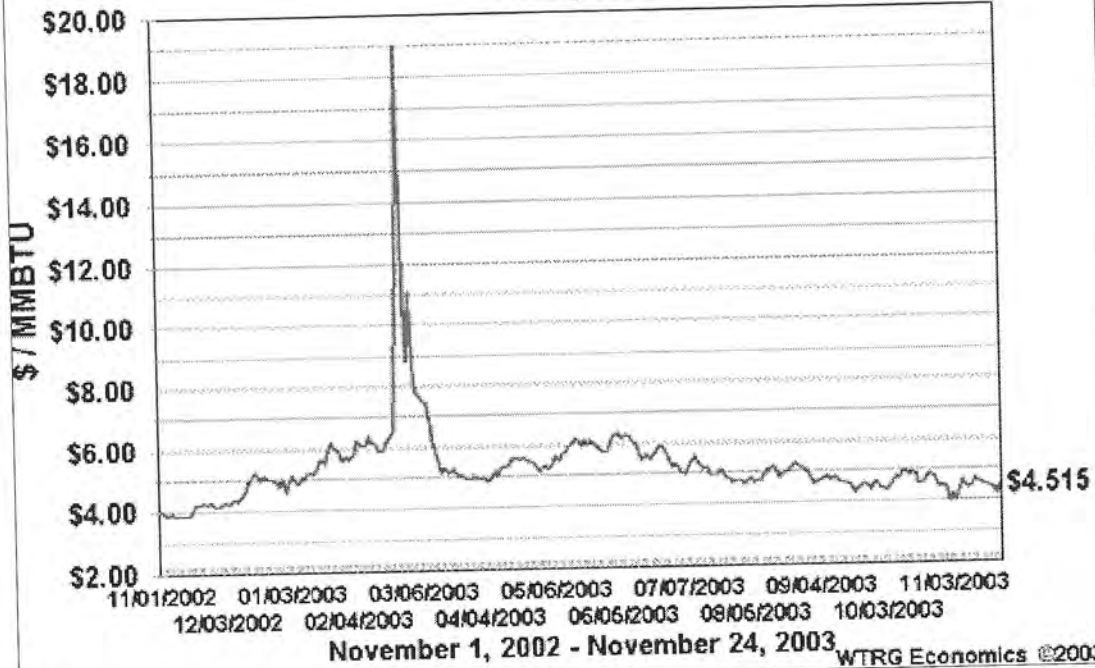
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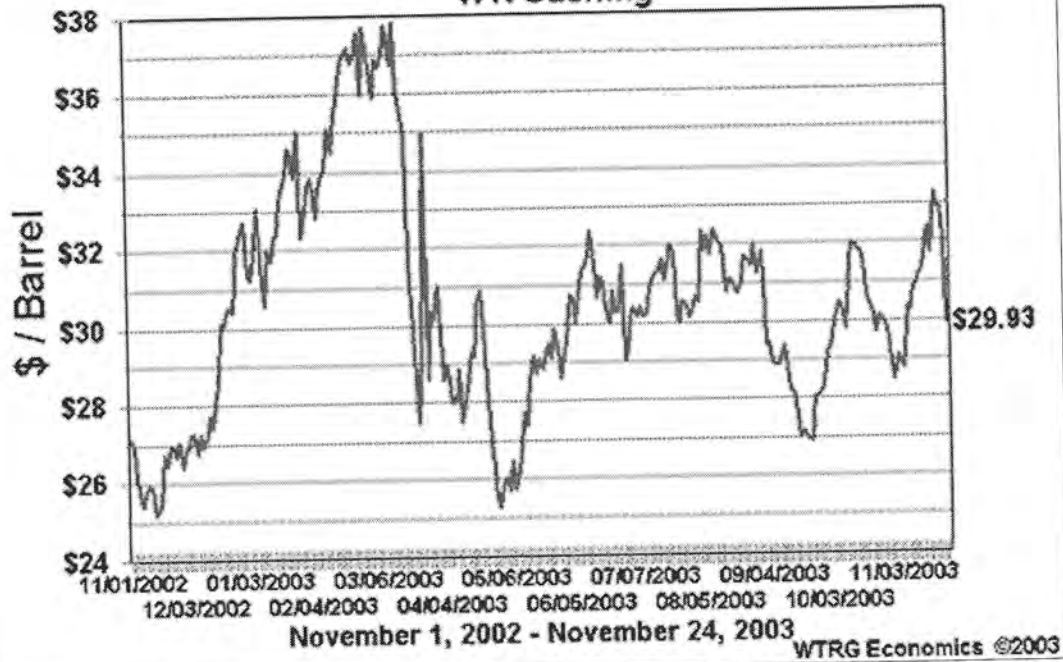
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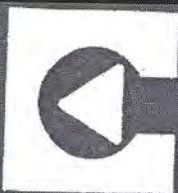
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### SICK DAYS:

We will no longer accept a doctor's statement as proof of sickness. If you are able to go to the doctor, you are able to come to work.

### SURGERY:

Operations are now banned. As long as you are an employee here, you need all your organs. You should not consider removing anything. We hired you intact. To have something removed constitutes a breach of employment.

### PERSONAL DAYS:

Each employee will receive 104 personal days a year. They are called Saturday and Sunday.

### VACATION DAYS:

All employees will take their vacations at the same time every year. The vacation days are as follows: Jan. 1, July 4, & Dec. 25.

### BEREAVEMENT LEAVE:

This is no excuse for missing work. There is nothing you can do for dead friends, relatives or coworkers. Every effort should be made to have non-employees attend to the arrangements. In rare cases where employee involvement is necessary, the funeral should be scheduled in the late afternoon. We will be glad to allow you to work through your lunch hour and leave one hour early, provided your share of the work is done.

### ABSENCE DUE TO YOUR OWN DEATH:

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Management

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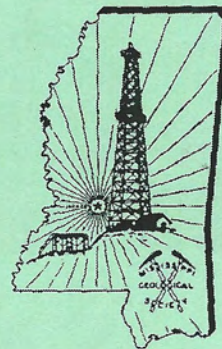
Volume 52

No. 5

January 2004

MISSISSIPPI  
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## ~ PRESIDENT'S LETTER ~

By John Cox

I trust that everyone had a memorable Holiday Season with family and friends. May the New Year bring personal and business enjoyment, contentment and peace. The MGS-MAPL Christmas Party was a wonderful occasion to celebrate the Season with our industry brethren.... Thanks to all attendees and those who gave their support. Special thanks to Tellus Operating Co., Blair and Bondurant, and O'Malley Core Labs for their Christmas Party sponsorships. I think we have started an annual event that has benefited all.

This month's noon meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 13, 2004, at the Capitol Club, downtown Jackson. Our speaker will be Dr. David Ufnar, who is currently an assistant professor of geology at the University of Southern Mississippi. Dr. Ufnar will be speaking on Cretaceous Exposure Surfaces and Paleosoles. Included in his discussion are soil-related diagenesis and cementation, which could be a factor in the development of unconformity traps and seals. Larry Baria offers that, although the case studies presented by Dr. Ufnar come from the Western Interior Basin, the findings are applicable to our own Mississippi hydrocarbon plays and potential reservoir compartmentalization and seals. Please make plans to support our Society with your attendance.

The Boland Scholarship remains in my opinion the "signature hole" of the Mississippi Geological Society's community enrichment and service. The Board, in cooperation with Dave Cate, is looking into ways of generating additional monetary donations specifically earmarked for the Scholarship. As most of you are aware, the principal that was originally established for the Fund cannot be used, and the scholarships that are presented to the students

represent the interest earned on the principal for that year. Needless to say, with investment interest of the low-risk sort that the Scholarship is invested in being as low as it is in today's economic climate, we have seen the award amount steadily decline over the past several years. For those of you who might be inclined to donate to the Fund, please contact Dave for further details. We plan on reminding everyone and provide an opportunity to be generous with the paying of annual dues. Your support will not go unrecognized or unappreciated. Speaking of dues, a reminder that 2004 is here.... Is your membership renewal (and check)?

I look forward to seeing everyone at our noon meeting. Happy New Year!

### In This Issue:

Meeting Schedule & Speaker Biography  
Boland Scholarship  
"Making A Case for Rapid Climate Change"  
"Faith and Fossils"  
Rig Count  
Oil & Gas Spot Market Graphs  
Meeting Announcement  
MGS Advertising Notice

**Happy**

**New**

**Year!!!**

## MGS MEETING SCHEDULE

When	What	Where
September 18th, 2003	Fall BBQ	Masonic Lodge MS Agricultural Museum
October 7th, 2003	Speaker: Marco J. Giardino – “Geoarcheology & Remote Sensing”	Capitol Club
November 11th, 2003	Speaker: Ezat Heydari – “Deev Jahi Model of the Permian/Triassic Boundary (PTB) Mass Extinction”	Capitol Club
December 12th, 2003	Christmas Party	MS Museum of Art
January 13th, 2004	Speaker: David F. Ufnar – “Cretaceous Exposure Surfaces and Paleosoles”	Capitol Club
February 10th, 2004	TBA	Capitol Club
March 9th, 2004	TBA	Capitol Club
April 13th, 2004	TBA	Capitol Club
TBA	Spring Fling	MS Agricultural Museum

### David F. Ufnar, PhD

Dr. Ufnar received his BS in Geology from Allegheny College in Pennsylvania in 1992, his MS in Geology from Vanderbilt University in 1994, and his PhD from the University of Iowa in 2002. His graduate studies encompassed various aspects of paleo-climatology, stratigraphy, and geomorphic exposed surfaces and paleosoles.

Dr. Ufnar is currently an assistant professor of geology at the University of Southern Mississippi. Dr. Ufnar has published numerous papers in the *Geologic Society of America* and the *Journal of Sedimentary Research*.

### OFFICERS MEETINGS

September 2, 2003

October 6, 2003

November 4, 2003

December 2, 2003

January 6, 2004

February 3, 2004

March 2, 2004

April 6, 2004

May 4, 2004



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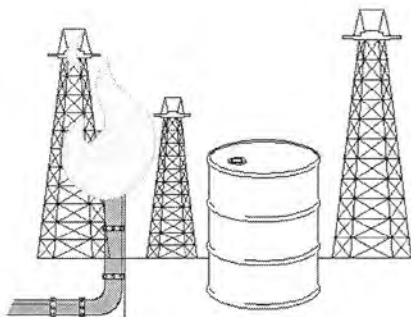
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## Boland Scholarship Fund

By David Cate  
Secretary-Treasurer, Boland Scholarship Fund

The Lawrence F. Boland Memorial Scholarship Fund, Inc., was incorporated on April 25, 1980, by the Mississippi Geological Society to recognize and reward outstanding students majoring in geology at the four Mississippi schools that offer the degree: Millsaps College, Mississippi State University, University of Mississippi, and University of Southern Mississippi.

The scholarship was named in honor of the late Larry Boland, a long-time and well-known geologist in Mississippi. The initial Board of Directors consisted of Marshall Kern, Phillip Reeves, Vaughn Watkins, Jr., Jerry Zoble, and Bill Moore. Since 1980, about 96 geology students have received the award.

The monetary award to each student comes from yearly interest and dividends earned on the invested principal, which was initially donated by many generous individuals and companies involved in Mississippi geology. Through the years, however, the principal amount has not increased significantly, although there have been sporadic donations.

Recognition by the Boland Scholarship Fund is a distinct honor that each student will have throughout her or his career. The Mississippi Geological Society is proud to sponsor the award and is equally proud to be a part in the development of future geologists. Therefore, if you wish to donate to a worthy cause, please consider a tax-deductible contribution to help grow the Boland Fund. It will definitely be appreciated.



2003 Boland Winners & Professors: Mr. Steve Ingram & Natalie Rose (UM), Crystal Wilson & Dr. Del Gann (Millsaps), Dr. Gail Russell & Thomas White (USM), and Dr. Darrell Schmidt & Jonathan Culpepper (MSU).

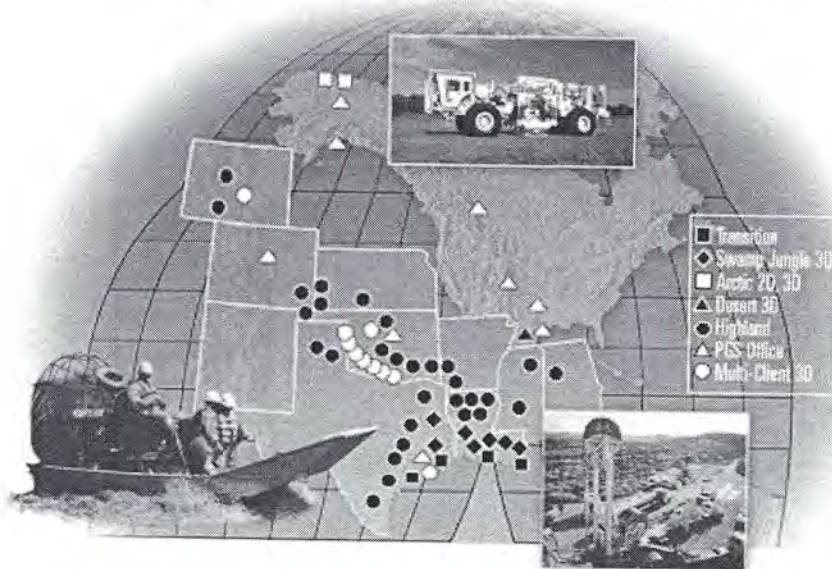
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## Making a Case for Rapid Climate Change

By Jack Moody

Some of you may remember that several years ago the MGS had the pleasure of hearing Dr. Joan Fitzpatrick of the USGS present the history of climate change as seen through the ice core records. Even though this was not an oil and gas talk, it captured the minds and imaginations of our audience. I must admit that I was fascinated by such a relevant use of geology toward the then relatively new debate on climate change and its causes. Not only did I enjoy the presentation, Dr. Fitzpatrick's depth of knowledge on the subject blew me away. I remember a number of people firing Pleistocene questions left and right, and she never flinched. It was like a contest to see how deep the well was, and they never got close to the bottom. It really turned out to be a wonderful pleasure to hear someone so knowledgeable on such an interesting subject. And I had many others tell me how much they enjoyed her presentation.

I want to extend an invitation to MGS members to come and participate in a mini symposium being held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Mississippi Academy of Sciences in Biloxi. I am chairman of the Geology and Geography Division, and Stan Galicki is vice chairman. We are putting on this 3-hour symposium as a part of our annual meeting activities. The Academy has agreed to allow us to open the symposium to non-academy members at no charge. It will be held from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. February 19, 2004, at the Broadwater Tower Hotel, Gulf Hall on Hwy 90.

I've gotten ahead of myself due to my enthusiasm about this geologic event. When I became chairman I, of course, wanted to do something special, and I thought of Joan Fitzpatrick. When I called her, she suggested that I try to get Dr. Richard Alley at Penn State. She is a good friend of his, and she assured me that Richard was tops in this field of study and an excellent speaker that she could listen to all day long. I was very familiar with his name since he is very prolific in publishing his research efforts. Yet, I knew Joan and somehow convinced her that she would be my choice if I could have it. Well, she gave in and agreed to come. Within 10 seconds of her accepting, I asked her if she would like to have Richard join her and work a joint presentation. I knew they were friends and colleagues of the ice and thought they might enjoy the opportunity to work together again. We decided to let her approach Richard on the idea, and he agreed! I was beside myself. I think we have the makings of one whale of a meeting. I sincerely believe that this will be a world class presentation on "making a case for rapid climate change." Joan assures me that Richard is a better presenter than herself, and she is the best I've ever heard. Folks, this is going to be the best opportunity any of us will probably ever have to hear and consider the science behind this topic of popular interest. The world is awash in research on our changing climate and we'll have the best presenting the ever-unfolding evidence of climates past and what could be ahead of us.

I feel so strongly about this opportunity of learning from such eminently qualified people that I've planned three presentations. Joan and Richard will address a plenary session for the entire academy. Then we'll have them present our mini-symposium to what I hope will be professionals and students. We will invite you, other interested professionals and college students. We'll be contacting all of our geology departments and encouraging them to bring their students. We also are making arrangements for yet another presentation on Thursday night which is targeted for science teachers and the interested public. We'll have this last presentation from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at the J. L. Scott Marine Center in Biloxi.

For those of you who still enjoy learning, I invite you to join us for the symposium and/or the J. S. Scott Marine Center talk. You can drive down to Biloxi Thursday morning, take in the symposium, go out to eat, take in the marine center lecture and see the aquariums, spend the night, head home Friday. Sounds like a great outing to me. I am hoping to bring my wife so she can hear what Joan and Richard have to say.

This is timely, this is important, and geology has a lot to say on the subject. Come join us.

If you do decide to participate, it would be of some help if you would let me know. I'd like to get as good a handle on the turnout as I can. Call me at 601-961-5522. Please leave a message if I am out of pocket.

## Faith and Fossils

By David T. Dockery III

Creationist is a poorly-chosen name used by those who believe the Earth is only 6,000 years old. It implies that those who hold the scientific line that the Earth is truly ancient (4.5 billion years old) do not believe that it was created by God. Not so! Fossils play a pivotal role in any debate about the age of the Earth, as they are used to correlate geologic ages worldwide. At one time it was even suggested that fossils were planted on Earth by the Devil to confuse the faithful. To argue the opposite, I offer the following account of an Engineer who found faith in his first view of microscopic fossil mollusks from the Vicksburg Group at Vicksburg.

In September of 1984, a gentleman in his seventies with a long, flowing, white beard came into my office at the Mississippi Bureau of Geology, requesting to see some fossils from the Mint Spring Formation. This formation is a relatively thin marine strata of about ten feet in thickness that can be traced across central Mississippi from east of Waynesboro to north of Vicksburg. South of this narrow exposure, it is encountered in the subsurface by well drilling.

The gentleman seeking fossils from this formation was Mr. George L. Lemon of Jackson, Mississippi. He looked more like a Biblical prophet than a fossil enthusiast, so it was with much curiosity that I inquired of his interests. I was even more intrigued to find that a previous State Geologist, Fred Mellen, introduced Mr. Lemon to microscopic fossils, and that these fossils played a role in George's spiritual pilgrimage. The following is his story.

George Lemon was born in Gulfport on October 7, 1907, the oldest of nine children in a "spiritual family." This family would later be featured in the tabloid news after the first five children of the family remained with the same spouse to celebrate their fiftieth wedding anniversaries. One object in the Lemon house that held George's attention as a child was a large conch shell that served as a doorstep. It was one of the large *Strombus* shells, which can be seen piled in heaps at shell shops along the Gulf Coast. Its tip was cut away so the shell could be blown as a trumpet. George cut his teeth on this shell.

In 1913 the Lemon family moved to Ocean Springs, where they attended the Presbyterian Church. George was given a Bible by his Sunday school teacher, Clotile Bailey. The date of the gift is recorded inside as January 1, 1918. George read this Bible but never really understood it.

George went to college at what is now Mississippi State University where, in 1930, he completed a degree in engineering. Upon graduation, he went to work for the American Bridge Company in Pennsylvania, serving as a draftsman until his plant closed. In 1932 he began work with the Mississippi Highway Department as a draftsman and shop inspector for the fabrication of structural steel.

During the Second World War George was an ROTC volunteer and, in September of 1940, was called up for active duty to help with camp construction. After five years on the west coast during World War II, George doubted the very existence of God. By October of 1945, he was "out on points." At this time, he could have stayed with the Air Force, worked in land development in Arizona, or worked as a civil engineer in Colorado. Instead, he chose to return to the Mississippi Highway Department, "like a martin to his gourd."

The Mississippi Highway Department was in shambles (a mere shadow of its former state) on George's return and badly in need of engineers. His first project was a bridge north of Vicksburg. During the winter and spring of 1946, slides on the east bank of the Yazoo River destroyed the approach spans of the U.S. Highway 61 bridge at Redwood. This was an old wooden high-level bridge

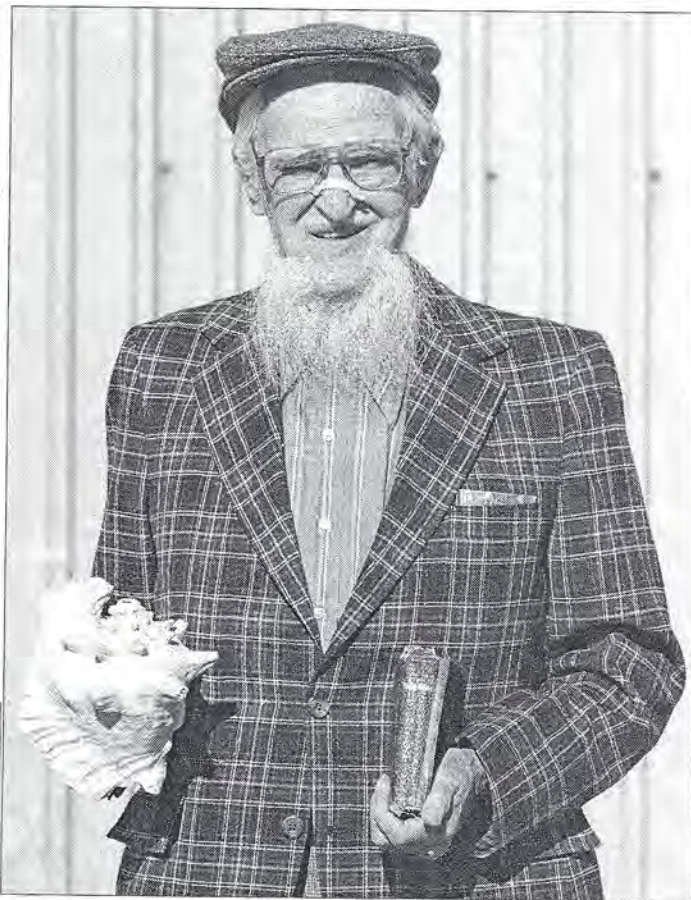
on the old site of Fort St. Peter. Excavations there showed the positions of posts and turned up artifacts. It was here that an army unit had erected a Bailey bridge to span the gap on the failed east approach. This structure was only a temporary fix, and the bridge needed immediate attention.

George designed permanent steel pile bents (supports) and supervised the construction by Spense Construction, the low bidder. In March of 1946, concern over additional slides led the Highway Department to contract with the Army Corps of Engineers drill crew and with State Geologist Fred Mellen to check the bridge site for faults. George was to serve as the Highway Department's observer. He felt some ties with the State Geologist, as Fred's father had taught him at Mississippi State and George was present when Fred's brother died in a motorcycle accident on the State College campus. The two were "on the same wavelength" even though they had just met.

Fred Mellen made regular examinations of test-hole cuttings. Studying the sediments under a ten-power hand lens. After the drill rig had penetrated limestone, Fred found a sample of the Mint Spring Formation of particular interest. He held the hand lens for George to see. The Mint Spring sediment was a fine, clean white sand. It felt as sharp as needles in George's fingers.

When George examined the sand under magnification, he was awestruck to see perfectly formed, minute, translucent conch shells. These were as well formed as the large conch he remembered as a child. It was "as if a light turned on," and George thought, "There is a God!" There was no other way to explain the existence of such minute perfection.

Some fifty years after the fact, George sees the providence of God in the timing of his 1946 Highway Department job, his encounter with Fred Mellen, his examination of tiny fossil shells, and his subsequent faith. At 96 years old, he is ever ready to tell the story of the time he met Fred Mellen and saw the tiny fossil shells from the Mint Spring Formation.



George L. Lemon holding the conch shell from his family home and the Bible given to him in 1918. Picture was taken in February 1998 at the Mississippi Geologic Survey building on North West Street in Jackson, MS.

## North American Rotary Rig Counts

The U.S. rotary rig count increased 2 rigs to 1,114 for the week of December 26, 2003.

The number of rotary rigs drilling for oil was down 1 at 153. Oil drilling is 17 rigs above last year's level of activity. Rigs drilling for currently oil represent 13.7 percent of total drilling activity.

Rigs directed toward natural gas were up 3 at 959. The number of rigs currently drilling for gas is 237 greater than last year's level of 722.

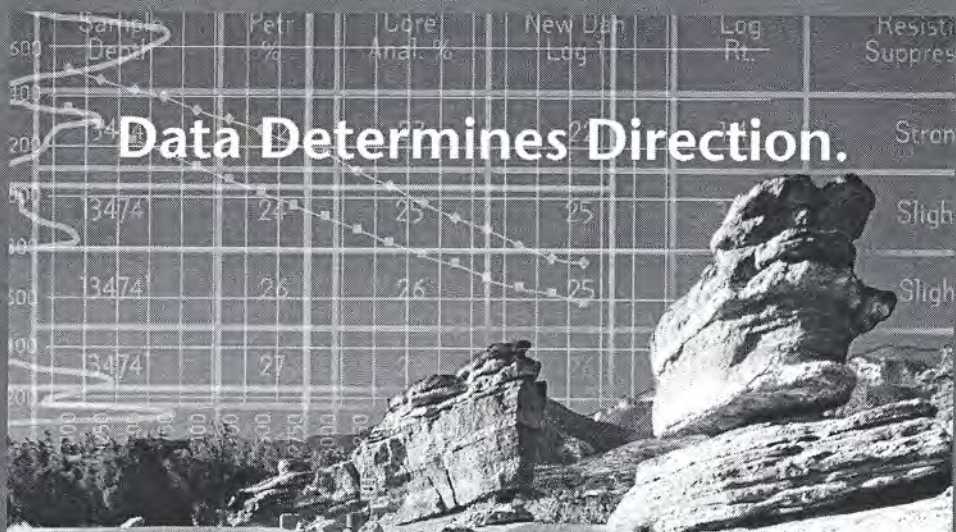
The year over year increase in oil exploration in the U.S. is 12.5 percent. Gas exploration is up 32.8 percent. The weekly average of crude oil spot prices is virtually the same as last year and natural gas spot prices are higher by 18 percent.

Canadian rig activity was down 187 rigs to 308 for the week of December 26, 2003 and is 31 rigs (11.2 percent) higher than last year's rig count of 277. This week's dramatic drop was due to the Christmas holiday. Canadian drilling falls rapidly in the spring to avoid environmental damage during the spring thaw.

\*The Canadian drilling industry experiences wide seasonal swings and even year over year comparisons can lead to incorrect conclusions.

### North American Rig Count

				Change		Percent Change	
				Weekly	Annual	Weekly	Annual
	12/26/03	12/19/03	12/27/02				
Total U.S.	1114	1112	862	2	252	0.2%	29.2%
Offshore	104	108	111	-2	-7	-1.9%	-6.3%
Land	1010	1006	751	4	259	0.4%	34.5%
Inland Waters	17	18	23	-1	-6	-5.6%	-26.1%
Oil	153	154	136	-1	17	-0.6%	12.5%
Percent	13.7%	13.8%	15.8%	-0.1%	-2.0%		
Gas	959	956	722	3	237	0.3%	32.8%
Percent	86.1%	86.0%	83.8%	0.1%	2.3%		
Directional	265	269	225	-4	40	-1.5%	17.8%
Horizontal	98	99	58	-1	40	-1.0%	69.0%
Gulf of Mexico	101	103	108	-2	-7	-1.9%	-6.5%
Gulf Oil	7	7	9	0	-2	0.0%	-22.2%
Percent	6.9%	6.8%	8.3%	0.1%	-1.4%		
Gulf Gas	94	96	99	-2	-5	-2.1%	-5.1%
Percent	93.1%	93.2%	91.7%	-0.1%	1.4%		
Canada	308	495	277	-187	31	-37.8%	11.2%
North America	1422	1607	1139	-185	283	-11.5%	24.8%



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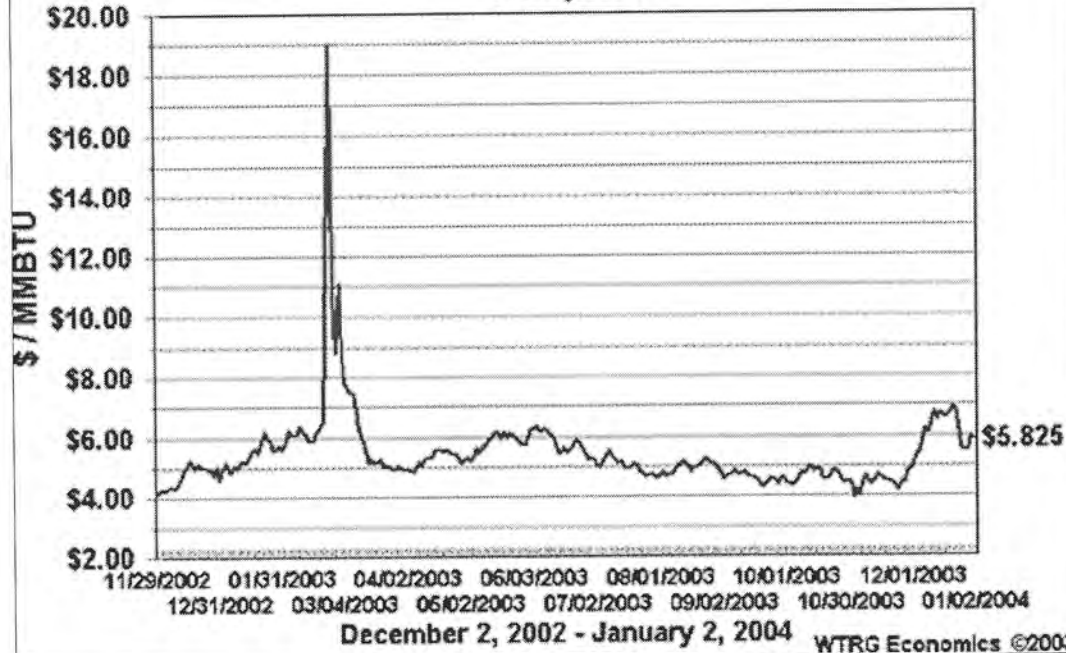
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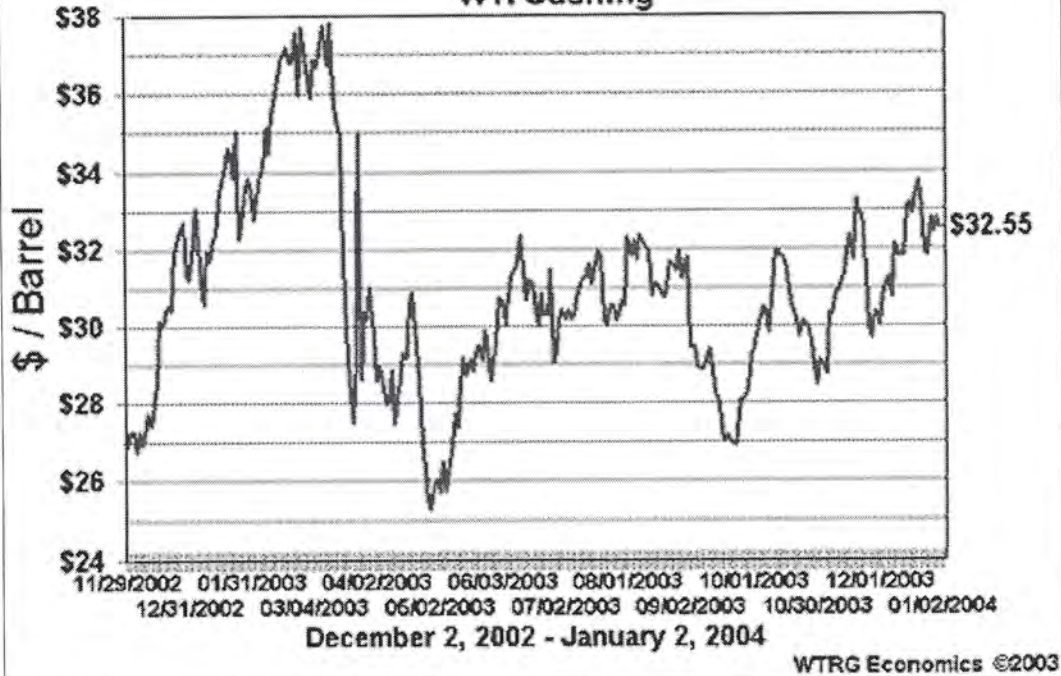
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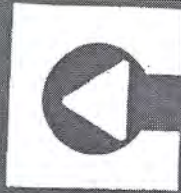
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## **Meeting Announcement**

### **Professional Geologic Practice in Mississippi and the U. S. A Status Report on Public Practices Issues**

**January 20, 2004  
11:30 a.m. — 12:30 p.m.**

**Jackson Enterprise Center  
931 Highway 80 West  
2nd Floor Conference Room**

**Speaker  
Rick Ericksen, Ex. Director  
MS State Board of Registered Professional Geologists**

#### **Topics to be presented:**

- ◆ Implementation of portions of the National Council of Examiners and Surveyors model law into the currently existing Engineer and Land Surveyor Law of Mississippi during this legislative session;
- ◆ Current Mississippi law which does not allow geologists/geological consulting firms to be exempted from the purview of the State's Contract Review Board;
- ◆ Current status of the Geologic Licensure Model Law effort;
- ◆ Inclusion of the MSBRPG on the Department of Health's Waste Water Advisory Committee and a synopsis of matters being worked on;
- ◆ Inclusion of the MSBRPG on the Remote Sensing-Geographic Information Systems Coordinating Council and a brief recap concerning that agency;
- ◆ Update on revisions to the existing Underground Storage Tank regulations and other areas of future suggested regulation revisions by the MSBRPG;
- ◆ Recommendations recently made by the MSBRPG to the Governor, Lt. Governor, and State Legislature related to geologists.

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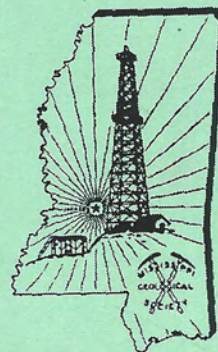
Volume 52

No. 6

February 2004

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## ~ PRESIDENT'S LETTER ~

By John Cox

As I struggle to write this note, everyone that I know in Jackson is preparing to travel to Houston for NAPE. Every year I seem to run into several Jackson friends that I go all the way to Houston to see. I look forward to seeing you there. I was not able to attend the noon luncheon at last month's meeting (thanks, James, for covering for me). Even with the competition of Governor Barbour's inauguration festivities, I understand we had a solid turnout and that everyone thoroughly enjoyed Dr. Ufnar's presentation. Thanks for your support.

This month's noon meeting will be held on February 10th. Our speaker will be Dr. Donald Goddard. The subject of Dr. Goddard's talk is "Southeastern Louisiana's Shallow Gas Potential: E & P Opportunities for the Independent Operator". Dr. Goddard is an Associate Professor at LSU's Center For Energy Studies, and also serves as the Coordinator of the Central Gulf Region, Petroleum Technology Transfer Council (CGR/PTTC).

Also, please mark on your calendars the dates of March 30th and 31st. Larry has coordinated an incredible continuing education opportunity for the MGS and friends. Dr. Robert Hand-

ford will be hosting a two-day seminar entitled "Practical Introduction to sequence Stratigraphy Using Seismic and Well Log Data: New Ways to Find Oil and Gas". This short course will include both clastic and carbonate sequences. Dr. Handford has an impressive resume of academic and industry excellence. The event will be sponsored by the MGS, with thanks to the PTTC for their support and assistance. Details will be forthcoming as they develop. Be prepared to help get the word out.

See everyone at this month's noon meeting.

John

### In This Issue:

Meeting Schedule & Speaker Biography  
Speaker's Abstract  
"Making A Case for Rapid Climate Change"  
"The Glendon Regolith"  
Rig Count  
Oil & Gas Spot Market Graphs  
Why Men Are Happier People  
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## MGS MEETING SCHEDULE

When	What	Where
September 18th, 2003	Fall BBQ	MS Agricultural Museum
October 7th, 2003	Speaker: Marco J. Giardino – “Geoarcheology & Remote Sensing”	Capitol Club
November 11th, 2003	Speaker: Ezat Heydari – “Deev Jahi Model of the Permian/Triassic Boundary (PTB) Mass Extinction”	Capitol Club
December 12th, 2003	Christmas Party	MS Museum of Art
January 13th, 2004	Speaker: David F. Ufnar – “Cretaceous Exposure Surfaces and Paleosoles”	Capitol Club
February 10th, 2004	Speaker: Donald Goddard—”Southeastern Shallow Gas Potential: E&P Opportunities for the Independent Operator”	Capitol Club
March 9th, 2004	TBA	Capitol Club
April 13th, 2004	TBA	Capitol Club
TBA	Spring Fling	MS Agricultural Museum

Donald Goddard, PhD.

Dr. Donald Goddard began his career in 1965 as a subsurface geologist with Gulf Oil Co. in Eastern Venezuela. He worked for the PDVSA affiliate, Maraven, in exploration and production in the Maracaibo Basin from 1979 to 1990. He moved to the USA and in 1991 became Assistant Professor-Research at LSU’s Basin Research Institute. He researched the Tertiary reservoirs in Central Louisiana and participated in basin analysis of the Gulf Coast Region. In 2000, Dr. Goddard was promoted to Associate Professor at LSU’s Center for Energy Studies, and he serves as the Coordinator of the Central Gulf Region, Petroleum Technology Transfer Council. Dr. Goddard has over 25 years of petroleum industry experience, both in exploration geophysics and production geology.

He has a BS in geology from Florida State University, MS and PhD degrees in marine geology and geophysics from the University of London, and a geological engineering degree from the Universidad Central de Venezuela. He is a member of AAPG, SPE, the Baton Rouge Geological Society, and the Venezuela Geological Soci-

### OFFICERS MEETINGS

September 2, 2003

October 6, 2003

November 4, 2003

December 2, 2003

January 6, 2004

February 3, 2004

March 2, 2004

April 6, 2004

May 4, 2004



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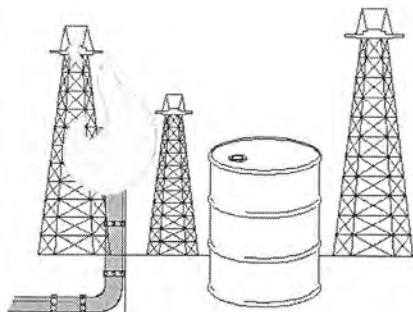
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## **Southeastern Louisiana's Shallow Gas Potential: E&P Opportunities for the Independent Operator**

Donald A. Goddard & Ronald K. Zimmermann  
Louisiana State University

### **Abstract**

In the Louisiana coastal areas south of Lake Pontchartrain and in the offshore waters to the east, deep Miocene-Oligocene sands have been prolific producers of hydrocarbons. Also, the subsurface of southeastern Louisiana's "Florida Parishes" area north of Lake Pontchartrain and east of the Mississippi River is known for its Upper Cretaceous (Tuscaloosa) production. However, little attention has been given to the gas potential of the Miocene interval located beneath the thick (2000-3500 feet or 610-1067 meters) Plio-Pleistocene fresh water aquifer and above the Oligocene *Heterostegina* limestone and Frio interval.

Preliminary regional mapping of the Miocene interval shows that it thickens to 4000 feet (1220 meters) in a southerly direction. The interval, consisting mostly of fluvio-deltaic, stacked distributary channels, has a high sand/shale ratio (>60%). By applying standard log correlation techniques, the Miocene sequence is divided into 4 correlatable units each of which contains gas reservoir sands. The underlying Oligocene Frio interval consists mostly of shallow water marine deposits, and its uppermost sand is a gas reservoir. Both Miocene and Upper Oligocene gas appear to be biogenic methane similar to that found up-dip in Mississippi and coastal Alabama. The methane source is from interbedded lignites located within this interval. Reported production from the sands has ranged between 100 and 600 thousand cubic feet per day (3-18 thousand cubic meters per day). The overall geologic framework is presented with particular emphasis placed on illustrating the depositional environments and trapping mechanisms associated with these shallow gas reservoirs. These mechanisms are mainly stratigraphic in nature with a minor structural component in some areas.

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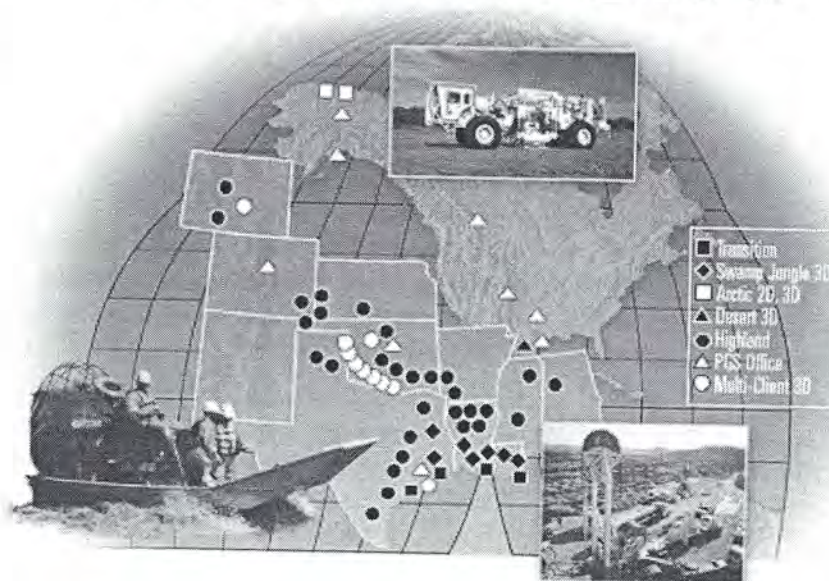
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Biloxi, MS

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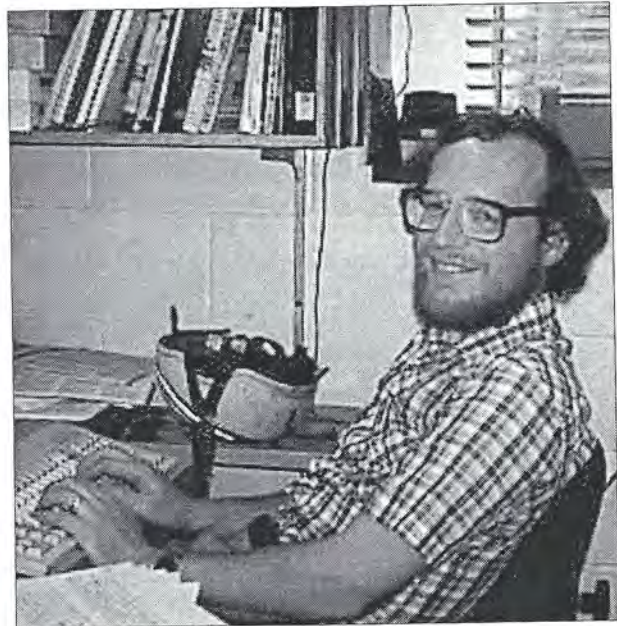
### Mini-symposium — “Making the Case for Rapid Climate Change”

The academy is opening up two events to interested people outside of the academy. The first of these will be a mini-symposium on Thursday, February 19. The event will be held in the Gulf Hall at the President Casino Broadwater Towers, 2060 Beach Blvd. (Highway 90) in Biloxi. This mini-symposium will run from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and is free of charge. We'll offer refreshment and we believe the best 3 hours you've ever had on this subject.

Another event will take place at the J. L. Scott Marine Center, located next to the Isle of Capri Casino in Biloxi. On Thursday evening at 6:30, the doors will open and we'll begin the presentation at 7:00 p.m. and end at 8:30. This climate change presentation is targeted toward Mississippi science teachers and the interested public.



Dr. Joan Fitzpatrick



Dr. Richard Alley

## The Glendon Regolith

By David T. Dockery III

An article in the January 21, 2004, issue of the Rankin County News, Page 3A, was given the damning headline “Yazoo Clay Found on Brandon High School Site.” The article by Tom Hill went on to explain: “A vein of Yazoo clay near the surface of the ground has been uncovered in the middle of the site where the new Brandon High School will be built.” The site was in the SE/4, NW/4, SE/4 of Section 27, T. 5 N., R. 3 E., in Rankin County in the limestone belt of the Vicksburg Group and far south of the Yazoo Clay outcrop. Upon a visit to the site on January 29, 2004, it was determined that smectitic clay of the weathered Glendon regolith was the material confused with the Yazoo Clay. Well logs indicated the top of the Yazoo Clay to be 150 feet below the surface. According to the newspaper article, 33,000 cubic yards of this material needed to be removed and replaced with fill dirt at a cost of \$17.86 per yard for a total supplemental cost of \$589,380.

The grade on top of the clay layer during the site visit was 346 feet above sea level, with the white tops of residual pinnacles of Glendon Limestone visible at several spots. A backhoe dug up one limestone pinnacle, which proved to be a substantial block. This block continued downward into what looked like softer Marianna Limestone. None of this stratigraphy was encountered in the eight soil borings on the site, as these borings were placed on the ridge slopes and surrounding terrace/alluvial surface and not the ridge crest. So, not only will the supposed “Yazoo Clay” need to be removed, but also big chunks of rather hard Glendon Limestone.

The Glendon Limestone is also weathered to a smectitic clay at Sand Hill, northwest of Jackson, Mississippi, and where Interstate 20 crosses the outcrop belt west of Clinton, Mississippi. The Sand Hill section was exposed in the walls of a landfill on the hilltop, where it contained large limestone boulders in a clay matrix. Similar large limestone blocks weathering out of the hill’s north slope were used as foundation stones for the vertical supports of the old Lee house in the SW/4, SE/4 of Section 31, T. 7 N., R. 1 W., Hinds County, a building featured as the Logan home in the 1978 movie *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* (with limestone blocks jutting from beneath the front porch). In the Bruenburg Development west of Clinton, giant Glendon Limestone boulders excavated on site from the clay regolith were used as landscape rocks at the entrance and elsewhere.



Glendon foundation stones at the Lee house (NW Hinds Co.) featured in *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*.



Glendon Limestone as landscape art at Bruenburg, west of Clinton, MS.



Glendon Limestone boulder excavated from residual clay at the new Brandon High School .

## North American Rotary Rig Counts

The U.S. rotary rig count was down 3 rigs to 1,084 for the week of January 30, 2004.

The number of rotary rigs drilling for oil was up 5 at 142. Oil drilling is the same as last year's level of activity. Rigs drilling for currently oil represent 12.6 percent of total drilling activity.

Rigs directed toward natural gas were dropped 8 to 938. The number of rigs currently drilling for gas is 210 greater than last year's level.

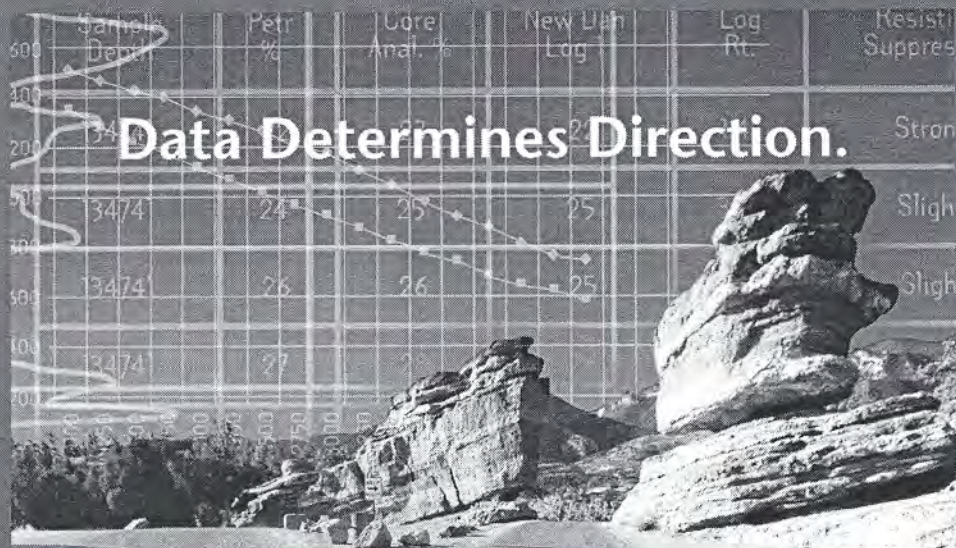
The year over year oil exploration in the U.S. is unchanged. Gas exploration is up 28.8 percent. The weekly average of crude oil spot prices is 3.1 percent higher than last year and natural gas spot prices are higher by 2.7 percent.

Canadian rig activity\* was up 9 rigs to 585 for the week of January 30, 2004 and is 33 rigs (6.0 percent) higher than last year's rig count of 552. Canadian drilling falls rapidly in the spring to avoid environmental damage during the spring thaw.

\*The Canadian drilling industry experiences wide seasonal swings and even year over year comparisons can lead to incorrect conclusions.

### North American Rig Count

				Change		Percent Change	
				Weekly	Annual	Weekly	Annual
	01/30/04	01/23/04	01/31/03				
Total U.S.	1084	1087	873	-3	211	-0.3%	24.2%
Offshore	96	99	110	-3	-14	-3.0%	-12.7%
Land	988	988	763	0	225	0.0%	29.5%
Inland Waters	15	17	18	-2	-3	-11.8%	-16.7%
Oil	142	137	142	5	0	3.6%	0.0%
Percent	13.1%	12.6%	16.3%	0.5%	-3.2%		
Gas	938	946	small/	-8	210	-0.8%	28.8%
Percent	86.5%	87.0%	83.4%	-0.5%	3.1%		
Directional	268	267	236	1	32	0.4%	13.6%
Horizontal	94	96	58	-2	36	-2.1%	62.1%
Gulf of Mexico	95	98	106	-3	-11	-3.1%	-10.4%
Gulf Oil	3	3	11	0	-8	0.0%	-72.7%
Percent	3.2%	3.1%	10.4%	0.1%	-7.2%		
Gulf Gas	92	95	95	-3	-3	-3.2%	-3.2%
Percent	96.8%	96.9%	89.6%	-0.1%	7.2%		
Canada	585	576	552	9	33	1.6%	6.0%
North America	1669	1663	1425	6	244	0.4%	17.1%



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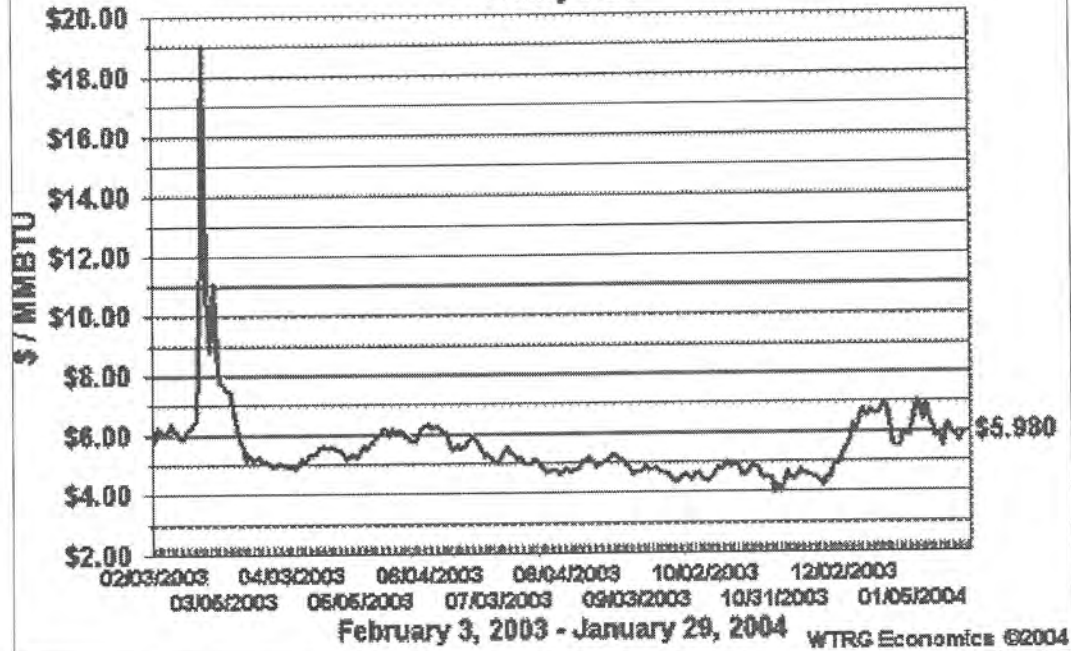
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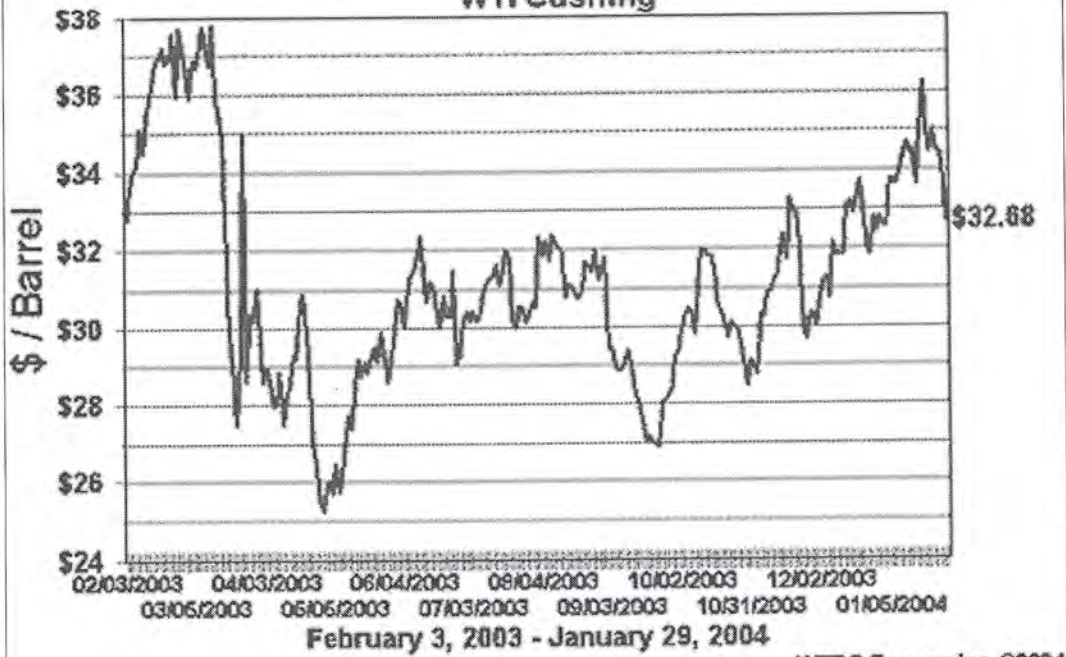
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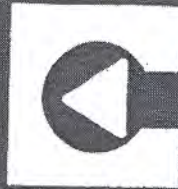
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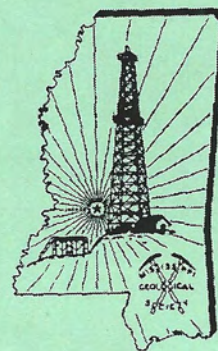
Volume 52

No. 7

March 2004

MISSISSIPPI  
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~ PRESIDENT'S LETTER ~

By John Cox

I think last month's attendance to hear Dr. Goddard from LSU was a record turnout for the year... even with the heavy rains. Thanks to Dr. Goddard for an informative talk and thanks to the membership for supporting the Society. This spring will be a busy one for all of us.

We'll begin next Tuesday at our noon luncheon, March 9th, to listen to our own David Dockery. Dr. Dockery's talk is entitled: "The Chiwapa Sandstone at the Highway 76 Bypass at Pontotoc, Mississippi: A \$1,200,000 Supplemental Rock Removal Expense". This is a classic story of getting the cart ahead of the horse that we geologist should very much appreciate. Be sure to thank David for graciously and unhesitatingly offering to speak to the Society on very short notice, after Larry had some last-minute cancellations.

The MGS is hosting a two-day seminar on March 30th and 31st (Tuesday and Wednesday) at the Capitol Club, beginning at 9:00 a.m. and ending around 4:00 p.m. each day. Dr. Robert Handford is teaching "A Practical Introduction to

Sequence Stratigraphy Using Seismic and Well Log Data". The course will not only review the basic concepts of sequence stratigraphy, but will also place emphasis on practical applications with numerous Gulf Coast examples. Dr. Handford has an impressive industry and academic resume that includes being the 1995-1996 AAPG Distinguished Lecturer on carbonate stratigraphy. There will be a \$50 fee to attend the course, payable that first morning of registration. Contact me at 601-978-1763 or [john\\_cox@bellsouth.net](mailto:john_cox@bellsouth.net) to reserve your seat. This really is a unique opportunity for the Society and friends to hear one of the experts in the field of sequence stratigraphy.

The AAPG Annual Convention is being held this year in Dallas on April 18th through the 21st. You can check the AAPG website for details. The MGS also plans on combining our Spring Fling with the Jackson Geophysical Society's annual golf tournament this year, so be working on your game.

See you at our noon meeting.

John

**HAPPY**



**ST. PATRICK'S DAY !**

**In This Issue:**

Meeting Schedule & Speaker Biography

Speaker's Abstract

"The Chiwapa Sandstone at Hwy 76 Bypass, Pontotoc, MS: A \$1.2 Million Supplemental Rock Removal Expense"

"Oil All Over Everywhere!"

Oil & Gas Spot Market Graphs

Short Course Announcement

MGS Advertising Notice

## MGS MEETING SCHEDULE

When	What	Where
September 18th, 2003	Fall BBQ	MS Agricultural Museum
October 7th, 2003	Speaker: Marco J. Giardino – “Geoarcheology & Remote Sensing”	Capitol Club
November 11th, 2003	Speaker: Ezat Heydari – “Deev Jahi Model of the Permian/Triassic Boundary (PTB) Mass Extinction”	Capitol Club
December 12th, 2003	Christmas Party	MS Museum of Art
January 13th, 2004	Speaker: David F. Ufnar – “Cretaceous Ex- posure Surfaces and Paleosoles”	Capitol Club
February 10th, 2004	Speaker: Donald Goddard—”Southeastern Shallow Gas Potential: E&P Opportunities for the Independent Operator”	Capitol Club
March 9th, 2004	Speaker: David Dockery – “A \$1.2 Million Supplemental Rock Removal Expense”	Capitol Club
April 13th, 2004	Speaker: Bill Lyons – “Using GeoGraphix In Coalbed Methane Exploration and Devel- opment Projects”	Capitol Club
TBA	Spring Fling	MS Agricultural Museum

### Anonymous Silly Quotes (From quoteland.com):

Some drink at the fountain of knowledge. . .others just gargle.  
 If you aren't a part of the solution, you're a precipitate.  
 A leading authority is someone lucky who guessed right.  
 If at first you don't succeed, destroy all evidence that you tried.  
 Taxation WITH representation isn't so hot, either.  
 Moderation is good, but boring.  
 Drag the Joneses down to your level. It's cheaper.  
 The problem with the gene pool is that there is no lifeguard.  
 No job is so simple that it can't be done wrong.  
 Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.  
 Complex problems have simple, easy-to-understand wrong answers.  
 Good generally conquers evil. Unless, of course, good is stupid.  
 Fool-proof implies a finite number of fools.

### OFFICERS MEETINGS

September 2, 2003  
 October 6, 2003  
 November 4, 2003  
 December 2, 2003  
 January 6, 2004  
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 March 2, 2004  
 April 6, 2004  
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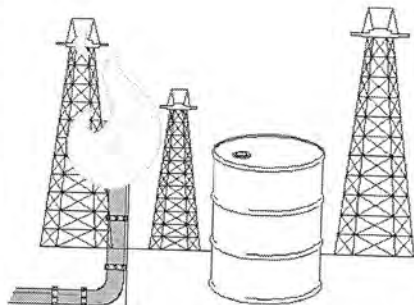
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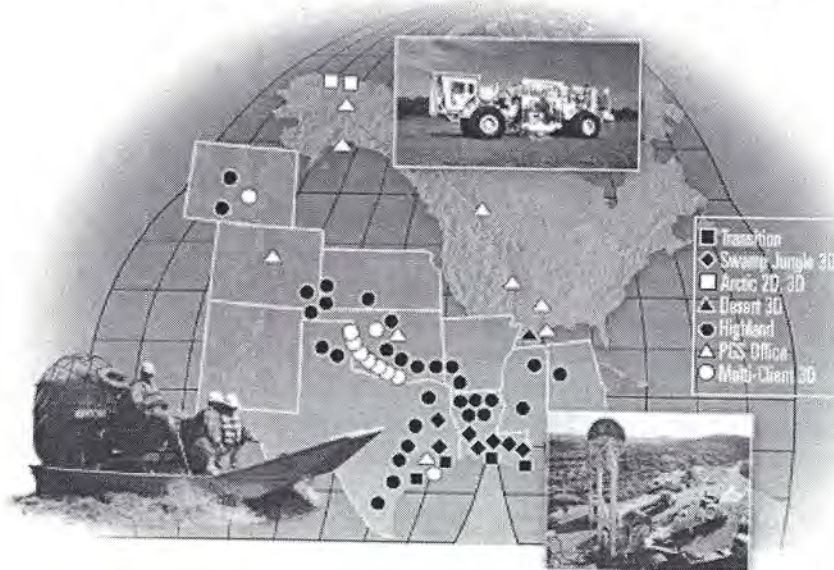
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## The Chiwapa Sandstone at the Highway 76 Bypass, Pontotoc, Mississippi: A \$1.2 Million Supplemental Rock Removal Expense

By David T. Dockery III

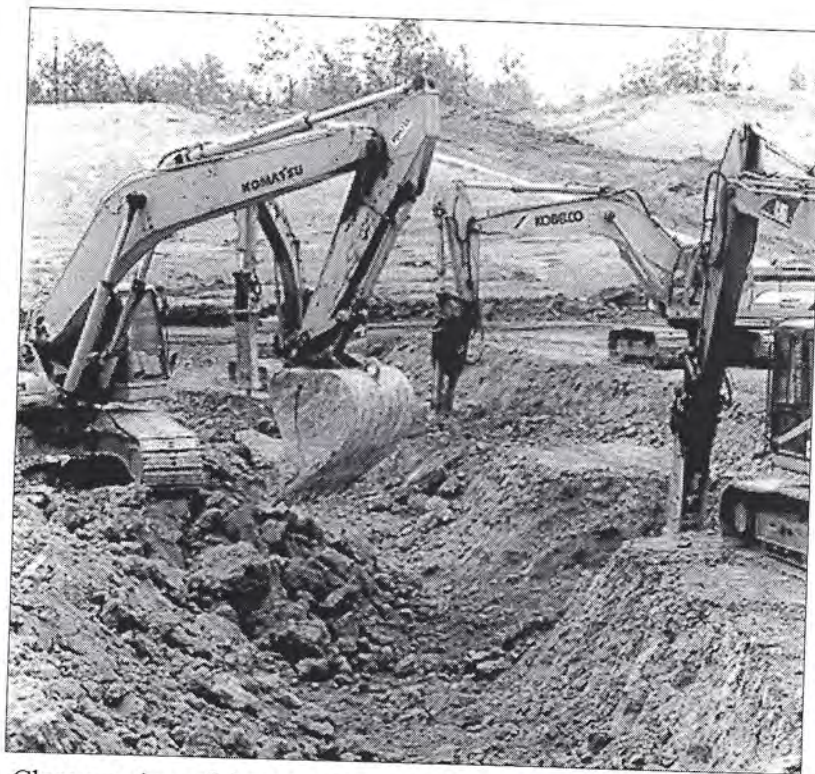
A tip from the Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society concerning fossils at the Highway 76 bypass cut at Pontotoc, Mississippi, was followed up on June 28, 2003, with the help of local rock collectors (Bill and Floy Hawkins). The Pontotoc County geology bulletin and geologic map showed the sandstone of the upper Ripley Formation, later named the Chiwapa Sandstone, to outcrop in the area below an elevation of 450 feet above sea level. Upon arrival at the site, rock removal was ongoing at a hurried pace. The local collectors were told by the truck drivers that each truckload was a supplemental cost of \$105, and there were lots of loads leaving the site. Large ammonites with nice suture patterns (*Sphenodiscus*) were common at the site, as were the sea biscuit (echinoid) *Hardouina*, some of which were selling at \$25 apiece on Ebay. Even the construction workers were into the fossil collecting business, with loads of ammonites and buckets of echinoids in their trucks.

Rock removal was not included in the Highway 76 construction bid, and the supplemental cost agreed upon when the contractors found rock on the site was \$7.45 per cubic yard. The Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) estimated the volume of rock to be removed to be 6 feet over an area of 30,000 square yards for a total of 60,000 cubic yards. However, the Pontotoc County geology bulletin gave the thickness as 12.6 to 18.4 feet, based on thicknesses seen in the high walls of an adjacent bentonite pit. MDOT estimated the supplemental cost as \$7.50 per yard, less \$1.45 per yard for unconsolidated sand removal, or \$6.00 per yard x 60,000 cubic yards = \$360,000. Highway cross sections from soil borings placed the top of the sandstone as varying from 447.6 to 450.1 feet above sea level between stations 136 and 146, with an average elevation over that 1,000-foot tract of 448.5 feet.

The final bill for rock removal was \$1,228,475 for the true cost of \$7.50 per yard (as unconsolidated sand would have served as highway fill) for 164,896 cubic yards. The additional volume encountered indicated an average thickness over the estimated 30,000 square yards of 16.5 feet, vindicating the original thickness reported by Priddy in 1943 in the Pontotoc County geology bulletin. The value of the Pontotoc County geologic map in calculating the cost of the Highway 76 construction can be compared to the cost of rock removal reported in the November 2003 issue of the MGS Bulletin for rock removal on Highway 16 at the Choctaw Reservation, where the occurrence of rock was known before bidding. The cost of 11,852 cubic yards of rock at \$41,481 was not added as a supplemental cost, but was spread out in the competitive bid as the cost of doing business.



*Sphenodiscus*, a common ammonite in the upper Chiwapa Sandstone at the Highway 76 bypass cut at Pontotoc.



Close-up view of three track hoes with jackhammers and one with bucket breaking through the Chiwapa Sandstone.



Ridge-top view of track hoes with buckets, track hoes with jackhammers, and a haul truck removing the Chiwapa Sandstone from the Highway 76 cut.

## Oil All Over Everywhere!

By Alan Cockrell

(This is a condensed story selected from the manuscript-in-progress entitled "Drilling Ahead: The Post-war Hunt for Oil in the Deep South". All rights are reserved, and it may not be otherwise published without the author's permission. The author welcomes comments and contributions.)

E-mail: [yakdriver@comcast.net](mailto:yakdriver@comcast.net)

Dale Myers believed in south Alabama's Lower Tuscaloosa potential. The heavy, gummy oil that Humble had found in 1950 at South Carlton in southern Clarke County didn't daunt him. He knew South Carlton was a domal feature located well south of the Pickens-Gilbertown fault zone, but he thought that the best places to hunt for the Lower Tusc sands would be along the faults.

Since 1948 he had sifted through the dry hole data, test core information, and gravity and magnetometer surveys. The data had strongly suggested that the fault system extended southeasterly into Escambia County, Alabama. He focused his attention on an area eight miles southeast of Brewton, where he believed was a closure against a fault down-thrown to the north. He had convinced his company, Stanolind Oil and Gas Company, of Oklahoma City, to shoot a seismic reconnaissance program across the prospect. Satisfied that Myers' concept was correct, Stanolind bought 1,500 acres. Myers picked a location near the old Wolf Log Bridge across the Little Escambia River. In August 1951 Stanolind began operations on the No. 1 F. A. Stewart.

Confidentiality in this unexplored area was very difficult. Newspapermen and townspeople alike flocked alongside the drilling rig as it was raised above the pines. The *Brewton Standard* kept a daily score card for its readers on Stanolind's well. It explained oil field terms to them and described costs and processes of drilling and evaluation. The paper quoted one of the oilmen as saying, "You can see that this is a game where they play with nothing but blue chips." Then it pointed out the irony of the amazingly low cost of refined products, after taxes are factored out. At that time a quart of motor oil cost 40 cents, "of which a fair percentage is taxes," it said. Finally, the August 30, 1951 issue of the paper heralded the news Brewtonians had waited for: "Promising Show of Oil is Discovered."

Myers knew he had cut his hoped-for fault above the Eutaw, but his only good show occurred in the Lower Tuscaloosa. He halted drilling at almost 6,000 feet and sent for a coring crew. The core recovered 40 feet of porous sand in the Lower Tuscaloosa, the top 10 feet of which appeared to be oil bearing. The soft-spoken, reserved Myers was forced to reveal the core's results, telling the newspaper reporter, "This is more encouraging and we have more hopes than we had yesterday. After we run tests for pressure and get other information, we will know if it is a producer." He then ordered a DST.

As the test progressed, the citizens pressing against the fences around the location saw it and smelled it—oil! But along with the oil came much saltwater. The paper reported that Myers' hopes had fallen. Nevertheless, he remained optimistic, saying, "Well, this won't be the last well drilled

around here. There will be others, whether we (Stanolind) drill them, or not." Even as he made that statement, "others" were moving into action. Humble, who had contributed a small amount of dry hole money to Stanolind, prepared to drill nearby.

Soon after Stanolind plugged its No. 1 Stewart, Humble sprang into action and began drilling core holes to more accurately define the location and orientation of the fault Myers had found. They concluded that Stanolind's exploratory well had been drilled too far from the fault, and thus had been too low at the Lower Tuscaloosa horizon. Possibly, Myers had done this purposefully with the hope of finding oil trapped in the shallower Eutaw, such as had been found at Gilberttown in 1944. But his compromise had put him too far away from the fault at the Lower Tuscaloosa.

Humble's chosen location was one mile east of Stanolind on A. W. Moye's farm. On January 3, 1952, they cored the Lower Tuscaloosa sand at a depth of 6,000 feet. It would come to be known locally as the Moye Sand. They found good shows in the core and commenced a DST. Within 24 minutes of opening the packer, oil reached the surface and spewed 100 feet into the air. It continued to spray onto the drill floor as pipe was slowly pulled from the hole, providing a marvelous show for the crowd of onlookers.

A. W. Moye was in Atmore on business when his wife called saying, "This thing is spewing oil all over everywhere!" Moye sped to the farm, trying to be careful not to crash his truck. "I sure wanted to live to see it," he told the newspaper.

Despite attempts by the Alabama Highway Patrol to control the crowds, Moye found his fences knocked down and his cotton trampled by thousands of gawkers and curiosity-seekers—many of whom were his own neighbors. But he didn't care; the cotton was ruined anyway by that black slimy stuff that shot up over the derrick and wafted in the wind across his field. He looked up at it with a great grin.

Humble's engineers ordered production casing. They tested the well at 315 barrels per day. Of even greater excitement to Humble was the fact that the oil was a light 33 degree gravity, not the syrup-like stuff they had found at South Carlton and feared would prevail across the region.



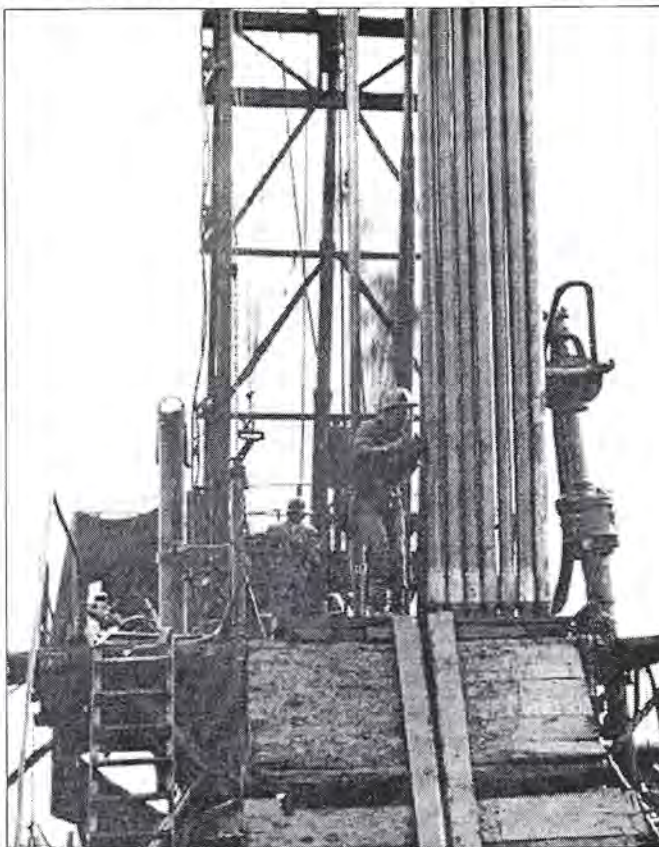
Dale Myers

In the week that followed, local hotels were forced to turn away the oilmen pouring in. Excitement swelled. Speculation abounded. A *Brewton Standard* columnist had fun with the new language of oil that was being spread along the streets. “Well, just what is an oil play?” he wrote. “I never saw one when Miller High took on Neal. Or, maybe that’s what beat Alabama!” He was obviously an Auburn fan, but the people of Escambia County didn’t need a definition of “oil play”. They intuitively knew it as they watched lease bonuses leap 100% and saw mineral rights and royalties being courted with fistfuls of dollars by eager speculators from the oily regions further west.

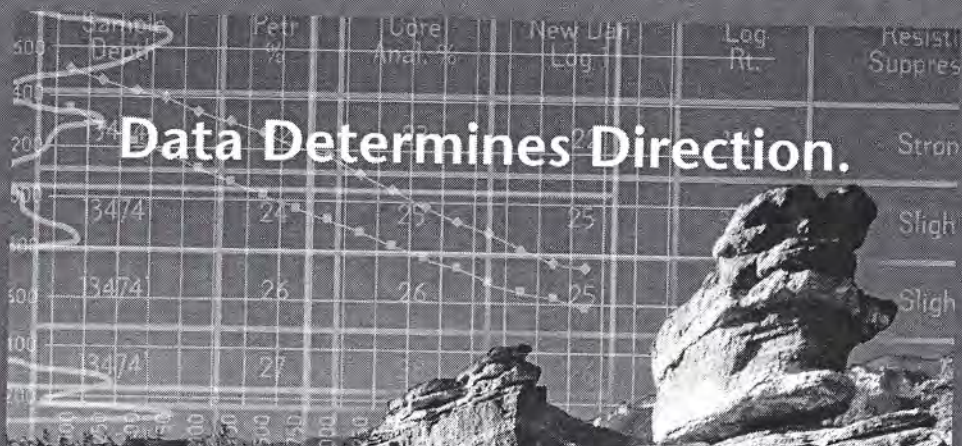
The Alabama Oil and Gas Board named the exciting new strike Pollard Field. It eventually grew to 38 wells and added more pools in the Pilot and Massive sands. The field would eventually produce over 13 million barrels—not a lot by Mississippi or Texas standards but important because it was Alabama’s first truly significant find.

State Geologist Dr. Walter B. Jones had been touring south Alabama for years, talking to the citizens and the oil companies, promoting the area’s petroleum potential. The new discovery made him beam with satisfaction. The late H. Gene White, staff engineer at the Oil and Gas Board, said, “I went all over the place with Dr. Jones to make speeches to Kiwanis Clubs and the like, and he would say, ‘Now, this Pollard is just the splinter. We need to look for the log.’ I thought, ‘How tacky can you get?’ But he was exactly right. Those people understood that.” Unfortunately, 18 frustrating years would pass for explorers along the southern tier of Alabama counties before the log would be found.

*Dale Myers, and others at Stanolind, deserve a share of the credit in the Pollard discovery—they pointed the way. But Myers wasn’t finished. Some 40 years later, he and partner Loyd Spivey, Jr., would score another Lower Tuscaloosa strike just north of Pollard, which would be named Osaka Field.*



No. 1 Moye-Edley Franklin. From *The Petroleum Engineer*, April 1952.



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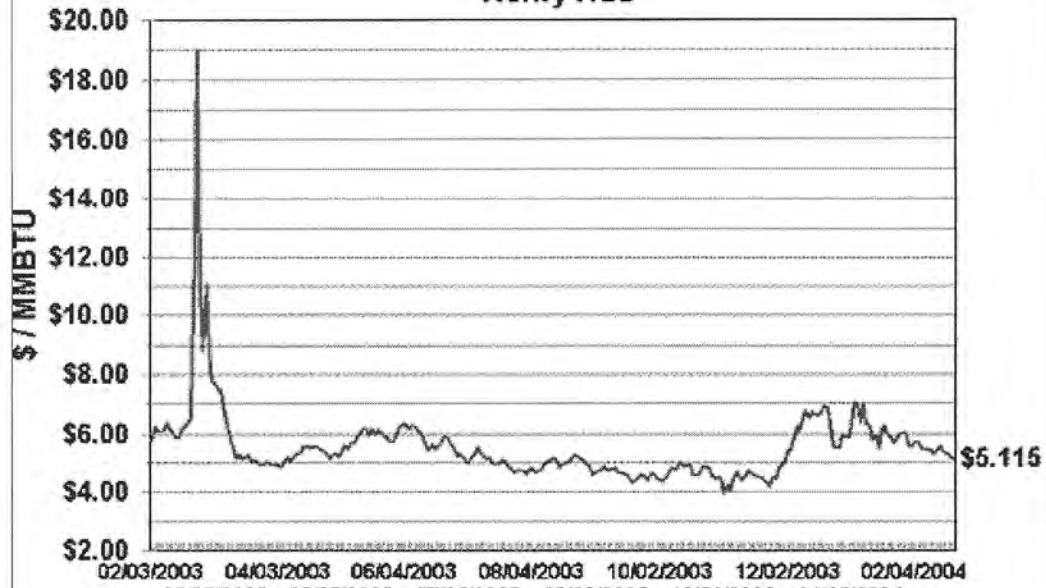
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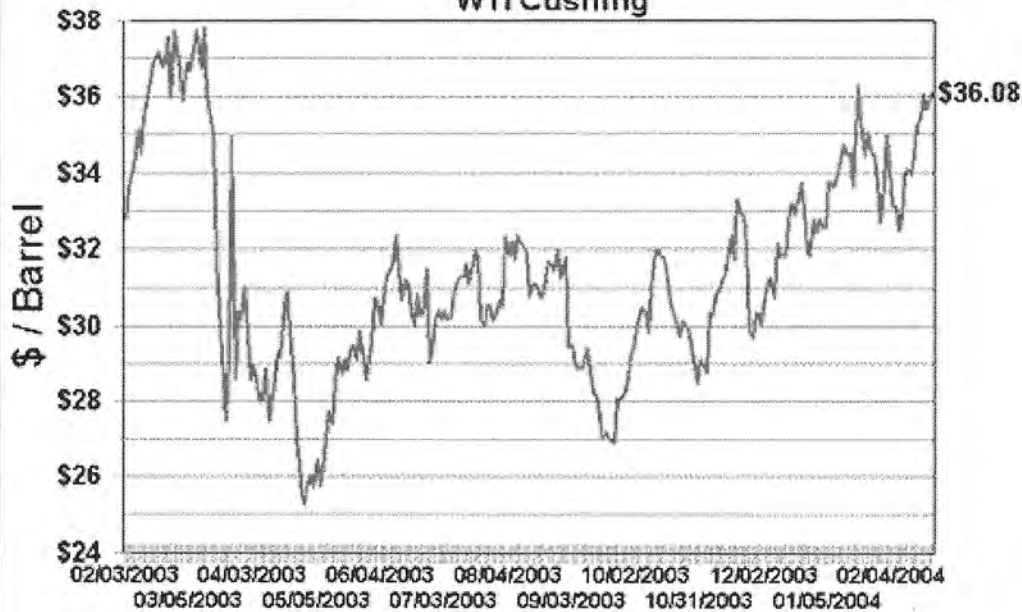
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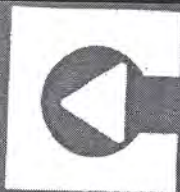
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### *“A Practical Introduction to Sequence Stratigraphy Using Seismic and Well Log Data”*

*Instructor: Dr. C. Robertson Handford*

Capitol Club      Tuesday and Wednesday, March 30-31, 2004      Jackson, MS  
Smackover Room      9:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

The Mississippi Geological Society invites your participation in a two-day seminar entitled: **“A Practical Introduction to Sequence Stratigraphy Using Seismic and Well Log Data”**. This course is designed for geologists and geophysicists who wish to learn the basic principles, methodology and applications of sequence stratigraphy to exploration and production. The course will not only review the basic concepts of sequence stratigraphy, but will also place emphasis on the practical application of sequence stratigraphy through numerous Gulf Coast examples and exercises using seismic and well-log data. The course will cover siliclastic and carbonate facies deposited in nonmarine to deep-marine settings. The participants will learn how to recognize sequences, to subdivide them into systems tracts and parasequences, and we will investigate some of the sequence stratigraphic aspects of stratigraphic traps and migration pathways.

Dr. C. Robertson Handford received his Ph.D. in geology from Louisiana State University in 1976. Since then he has spent most of his professional career in petroleum industry research, chiefly within the field of sedimentology and stratigraphy. He has worked for the Texas Bureau of Economic Geology, and the research laboratories of Unocal, Amoco and Arco. In addition, he taught geology at the University of Arkansas for two years. He is currently a consulting sedimentologist and stratigrapher and president of Strata-Search, LLC, based in Austin, Texas. His experience base ranges from North America, Central America, and South America, to Africa, Europe, the Middle East, and Southeast Asia. Dr. Handford was selected as AAPG Distinguished Lecturer for 1995-1996 on carbonate stratigraphy.

Due to limited seating, registration is limited to 60 people, so be sure to register early.

Please contact John Cox to reserve your seat: [john\\_cox@bellsouth.net](mailto:john_cox@bellsouth.net), or 601-978-1763.

There will be a \$50.00 fee to attend the short-course, payable by check to the Mississippi Geological Society on March 30, 2004 at check-in. See you there.

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Please make checks payable to the Mississippi Geological Society. If you have any questions, contact Lindsey Stewart at (601) 961-5264 or lindsey\_stewart@deq.state.ms.us, or Steve Jennings at (601) 961-5205 or steve\_jennings@deq.state.ms.us.



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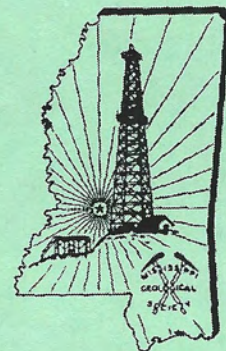
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April 2004

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GEOLOGICAL  
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## ~ PRESIDENT'S LETTER ~

By John Cox

Hi Everyone —

The continuing and constant war on terrorism, high oil prices, budget cuts, presidential campaigns. . . there is certainly no shortage of serious issues that affect all of us as Americans in general, and geo-scientists in particular, on a day-to-day basis. I encourage all to become informed and involved.

We just completed our two-day Sequence Stratigraphy short-course hosted by Dr. Robert Handford. Attendance was strong, and the reviews have been excellent. Those of you who were unable to attend really missed a treat. The Mississippi science community unfortunately does not often have the opportunity to “commune” with the likes of Dr. Handford, so please give Larry (along with Carolyn and Kell) an extra well-done for their efforts. Dr. David (Dockery, of course), again, you saved us, man. We appreciate your time and excellent talk last month. Not bad for what, two days notice?

Spring is here, albeit with temperatures flirting with a record low this morning, which means that the Society is about to wrap up another year. Our last noon luncheon will be held on April 13 at 12:00 at the Capital Club. Our speaker will be Mr. Bill Lyons, and the title of his talk is “Using GeoGraphix In Coalbed Methane Exploration and Development Projects.”

The Mississippi Mineral Resources Institute (MMRI) has accepted membership in the Gulf States Coal Seam Natural Gas Consortium. The Consortium is one of three national consortia pursuing coal bed methane research in the nation. Research will provide geologic, chemical, and economic information that will aid industry in developing the nation's CBM resources. MMR is now seeking additional industry partners interested in exploring Mississippi's CBM potential.

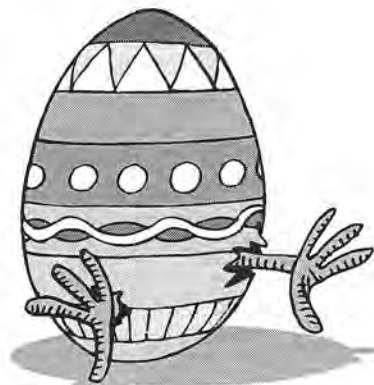
Contact Steve Ingram, Energy Program Coordinator, at 662-915-5234, or [sli@olemiss.edu](mailto:sli@olemiss.edu) for details.

Mark your calendars for the Spring Fling on May 20th. Catfish with all the trimmings' and good friends will make for an enjoyable evening. We'll get all the details to you as they develop.

James is beginning to think about the selection of Society officers for next year. Please consider keeping the Society a strong and viable entity with your service, or if you know someone that might be interested in serving, help us in the recruitment effort.

Look forward to seeing you next week at the noon luncheon.

John



### In This Issue:

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Cajun Humor

MGS Advertising Notice

## MGS MEETING SCHEDULE

When	What	Where
September 18th, 2003	Fall BBQ	MS Agricultural Museum
October 7th, 2003	Speaker: Marco J. Giardino – “Geoarcheology & Remote Sensing”	Capitol Club
November 11th, 2003	Speaker: Ezat Heydari – “Deev Jahi Model of the Permian/Triassic Boundary (PTB) Mass Extinction”	Capitol Club
December 12th, 2003	Christmas Party	MS Museum of Art
January 13th, 2004	Speaker: David F. Ufnar – “Cretaceous Ex- posure Surfaces and Paleosoles”	Capitol Club
February 10th, 2004	Speaker: Donald Goddard—”Southeastern Shallow Gas Potential: E&P Opportunities for the Independent Operator”	Capitol Club
March 9th, 2004	Speaker: David Dockery – “A \$1.2 Million Supplemental Rock Removal Expense”	Capitol Club
April 13th, 2004	Speaker: Bill Lyons – “Using GeoGraphix In Coalbed Methane Exploration and Devel- opment Projects”	Capitol Club
May 20th, 2004	Spring Fling	MS Agricultural Museum

### Bill Lyons

#### Education:

Bachelor of Science in Geology from Radford University,  
SW Virginia, 1980.

Master of Science in Geology from University of Louisiana  
at Lafayette, 1983.

#### Professional Experience:

20 years as an exploration-exploitation geologist & geophysical inter-  
preter with Texaco until March 2002.

Long term assignments have been in the San Juan Basin, Anadarko  
Basin, and the Permian Basin, providing both geological & geophysical  
interpretation on a wide variety of stratigraphic & structural plays.

Extensive CBM exploration & development experience in the Fruit-  
land coals of the San Juan Basin & the Ferron CBM Play of Utah.

Manager of geological applications at GeoGraphix since March 2002.

### OFFICERS MEETINGS

September 2, 2003

October 6, 2003

November 4, 2003

December 2, 2003

January 6, 2004

February 3, 2004

March 2, 2004

April 6, 2004

May 4, 2004



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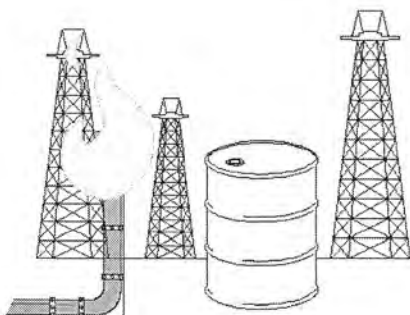
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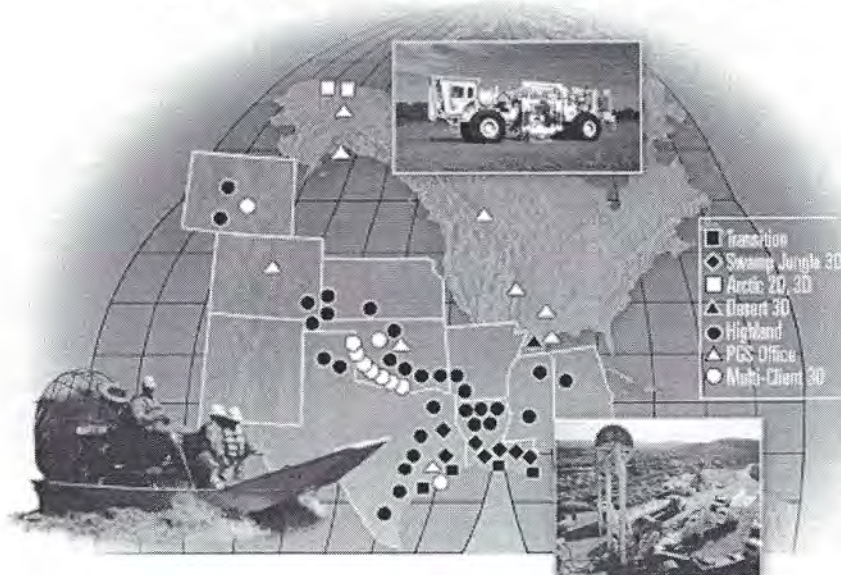
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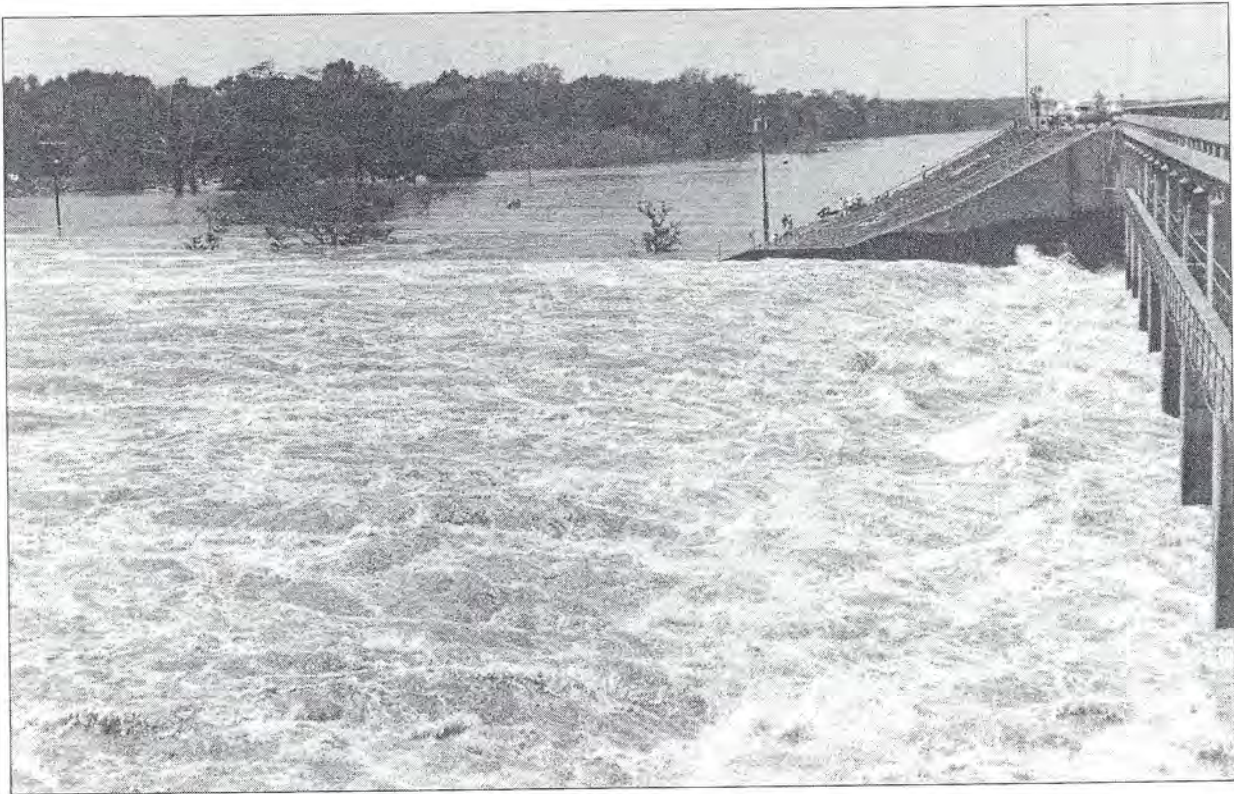
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## The 25th Anniversary of the Easter Flood of 1979 On the Pearl River at Jackson, Mississippi

By MGS Editorial Staff

January 17, 1979, after heavy rains, the Pearl River at Jackson rises to its highest recorded flood crest ever, at 35.80 feet. April 10, 1979, Jacksonians turned on their evening news to hear reports of tornadoes, death, and destruction in Wichita Falls, Texas, and parts of Oklahoma, from a storm system sweeping eastward. April 11, rain began to fall in torrents over Arkansas and Mississippi. Central Mississippi was hardest hit, as rains sent rivers into towns and flood waters covered the Natchez Trace Parkway at Kosciusko. April 13, a flood emergency was declared for Jackson, and on April 14 water began turning Jackson into a seascape. The flood cost was over \$200 million to restore 1,677 homes and 443 businesses (Robert Ourlian, Clarion-Ledger, 3/6/1983). Other estimates placed the total cost at \$500 million. The following pictures chronicle the Jackson flood from Sunday, April 15, to the crest on Tuesday, April 17.



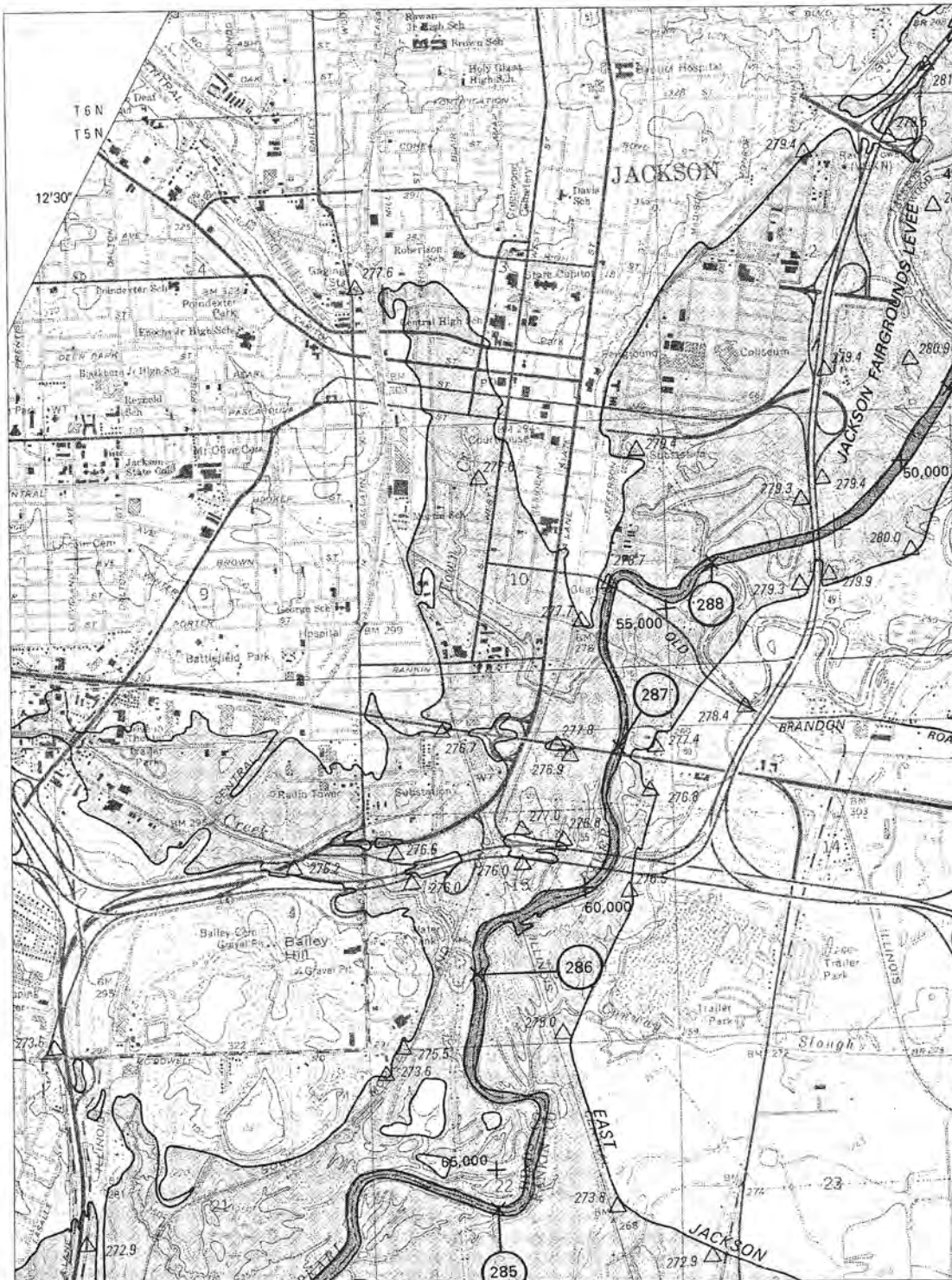
April 15 — The Ross Barnett Reservoir spillway is fully opened in an effort to prevent the flood crest from topping the dam.



April 15 - Mobile homes below the dam are flooded.



April 15 - Flood waters back up Hanging Moss Creek to flood Ridgewood Road in Northeast Jackson.



USGS Map Showing Extent of 1979 Flood in Jackson.



April 15 - Walking the southern end of the Jackson levee becomes a risk as waters inch toward the levee road.



April 15 - Flood waters first top the Jackson levee at the Interstate 55 Exit 31 ramp at Fortification Street and flow down the interstate into the fairgrounds.



April 15 - Flood waters back up Town Creek to flood South State Street.



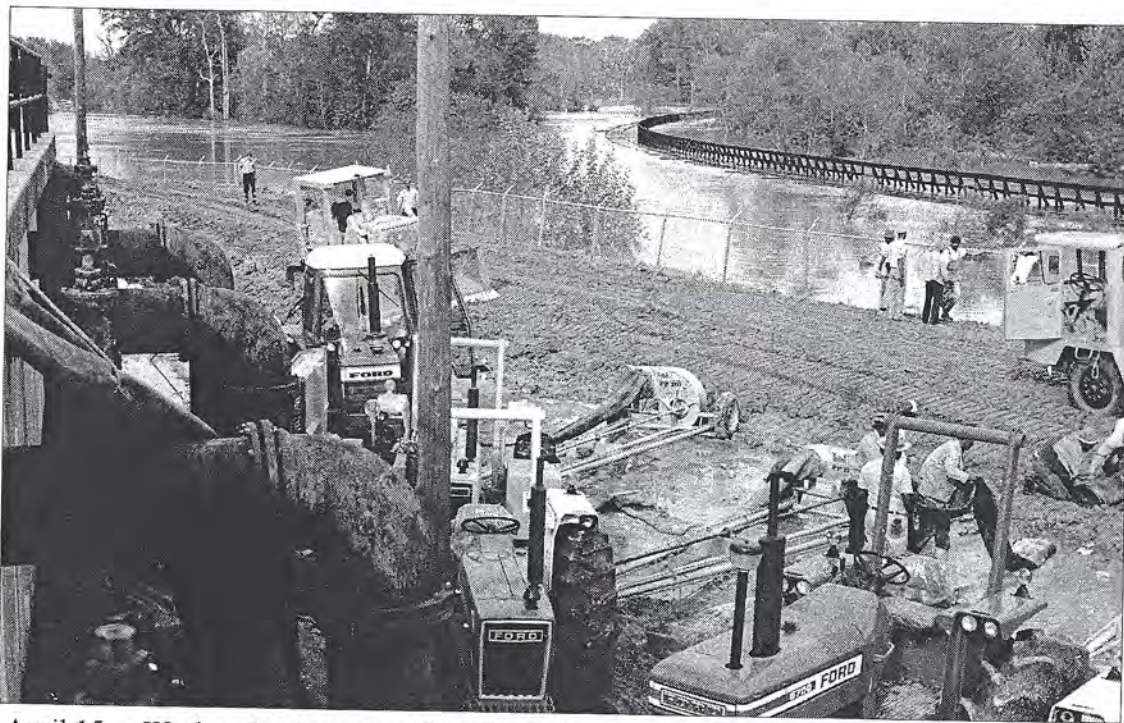
April 15 - Flood waters continue up Town Creek into downtown Jackson (Pearl St.).



April 15 - Flood waters top the Illinois Central Gulf Railroad bridge over the Pearl River north of the Highway 80 bridge. Tires and debris wash onto tracks. The northern ICG bridge over the Pearl River east of the Jackson Waterworks caused an additional 6" rise in flood waters in northeast Jackson. Any river-widening plan must consider that water can flow downstream only as fast as it can flow under this railroad bridge, the one to the north, Lakeland Drive, I-55, Highway 80, I-20, the new airport road, and a railroad bridge to the south.



April 17 - The record flood crest reaches Jackson at 43.25 feet. Interstate 55 at Fortification Street becomes a river as water continues to flood the fairgrounds.



April 15 - Workers battle to save the Jackson Waterworks. Tractors run continually with their power takeoffs turning water pumps.



April 17 - Water lines carry flood seepage over a make-shift levee at the Jackson Waterworks.



# **“Geology of the Vicksburg Civil War Campaign”**

## **Spring Conference**

### **Lower MS Valley Section of the Association of Engineering Geologists**

**Saturday, April 24, 2004  
Warren County Public Library  
Vicksburg, MS**

#### **Schedule**

**9:30**        **D**oors open – welcoming remarks/announcements  
**10:00-12:15** **P**resentations  
**12:15-1:00** **L**unch – Box lunch from Heavenly Ham  
**1:30-4:30** **N**ational Park Service Movie (20 min.) followed by a car caravan  
tour of the Vicksburg National Military Park

**Registration Free — \$10 fee for box lunch  
Park Entrance Fee \$5  
Registration Deadline April 20**

Mail registration to:  
AEG, Bob Larson  
408 Ridgewood Drive, Vicksburg, MS 39180  
(Information: 601-634-3201 or [workwell@netdoor.com](mailto:workwell@netdoor.com))

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## North American Rotary Rig Counts

The U.S. rotary rig count was up 10 rigs to 1,160 for the week of April 2, 2004.

The number of rotary rigs drilling for oil was down 8 to 157. Rigs targeting oil drilling are 30 rigs below last year's level of activity. Rigs drilling for currently oil represent 13.5 percent of total drilling activity.

Rigs directed toward natural gas were up 18 to 1000. The number of rigs currently drilling for gas is 218 greater than last year's level of 781.

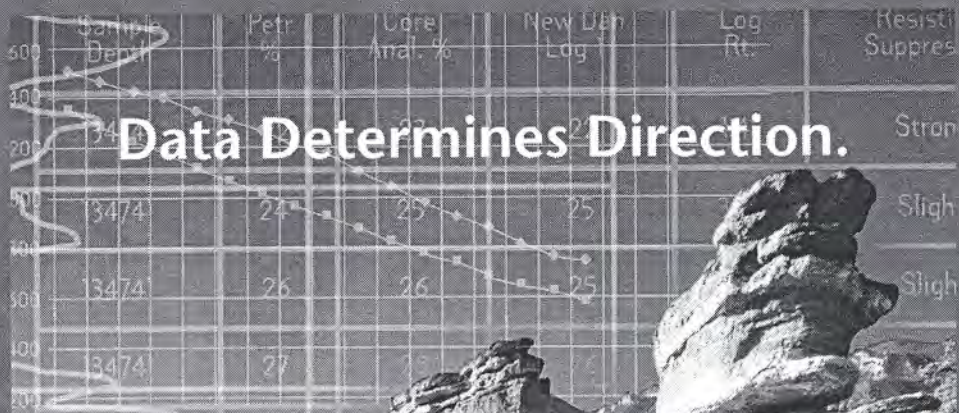
Year over year oil exploration in the U.S. is lower by 16.0 percent. Gas exploration is up 27.9 percent. The weekly average of crude oil spot prices is 20.5 percent higher than last year and natural gas spot prices are up 9.4 percent.

Canadian rig activity\* was down 116 rigs to 194 for the week of April 2, 2004 and is 27 rigs lower than last year's rig count. Canadian drilling falls rapidly in the spring to avoid environmental damage during the spring thaw.

\*The Canadian drilling industry experiences wide seasonal swings and even year over year comparisons can lead to incorrect conclusions.

### North American Rig Count

	04/02/04	03/26/04	04/04/03	Change		Percent Change	
				Weekly	Annual	Weekly	Annual
Total U.S.	1160	1150	972	10	188	0.9%	19.3%
Offshore	91	90	102	1	-11	1.1%	-10.8%
Land	1069	1060	870	9	199	0.8%	22.9%
Inland Waters	14	14	14	0	0	0.0%	0.0%
Oil	157	165	187	-8	-30	-4.8%	-16.0%
Percent	13.5%	14.3%	19.2%	-0.8%	-5.7%		
Gas	1000	982	782	18	218	1.8%	27.9%
Percent	86.2%	85.4%	80.5%	0.8%	5.8%		
Directional	303	289	238	14	65	4.8%	27.3%
Horizontal	96	103	66	-7	30	-6.8%	45.5%
Gulf of Mexico	89	88	97	1	-8	1.1%	-8.2%
Gulf Oil	2	4	7	-2	-5	-50.0%	-71.4%
Percent	2.2%	4.5%	7.2%	-2.3%	-5.0%		
Gulf Gas	87	84	90	3	-3	3.6%	-3.3%
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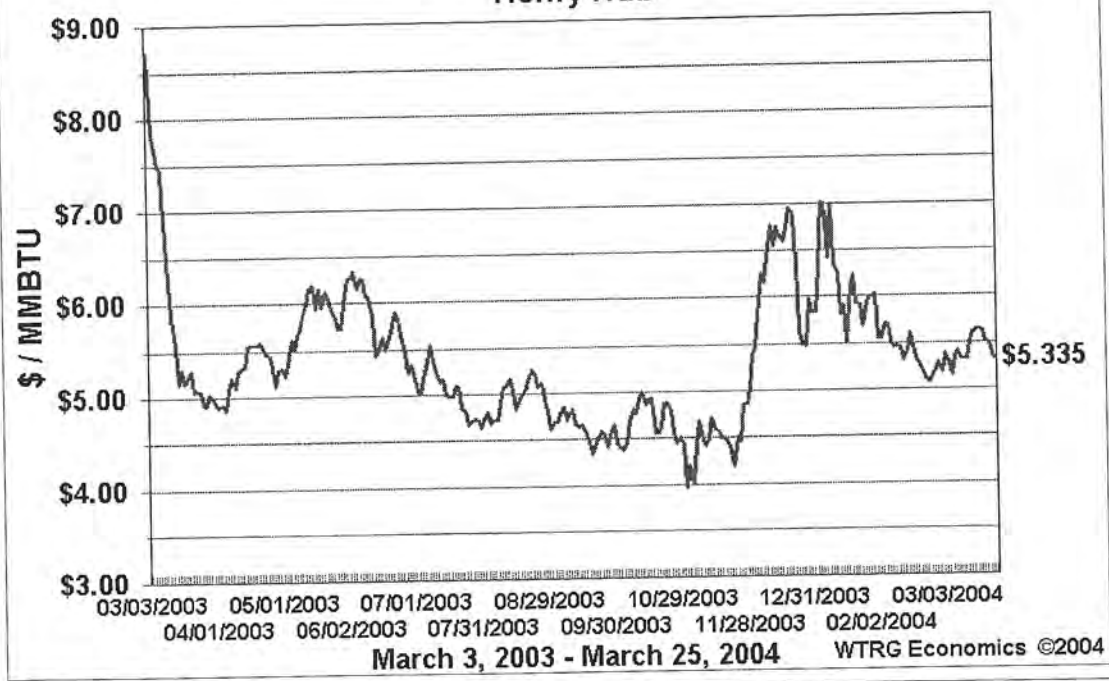
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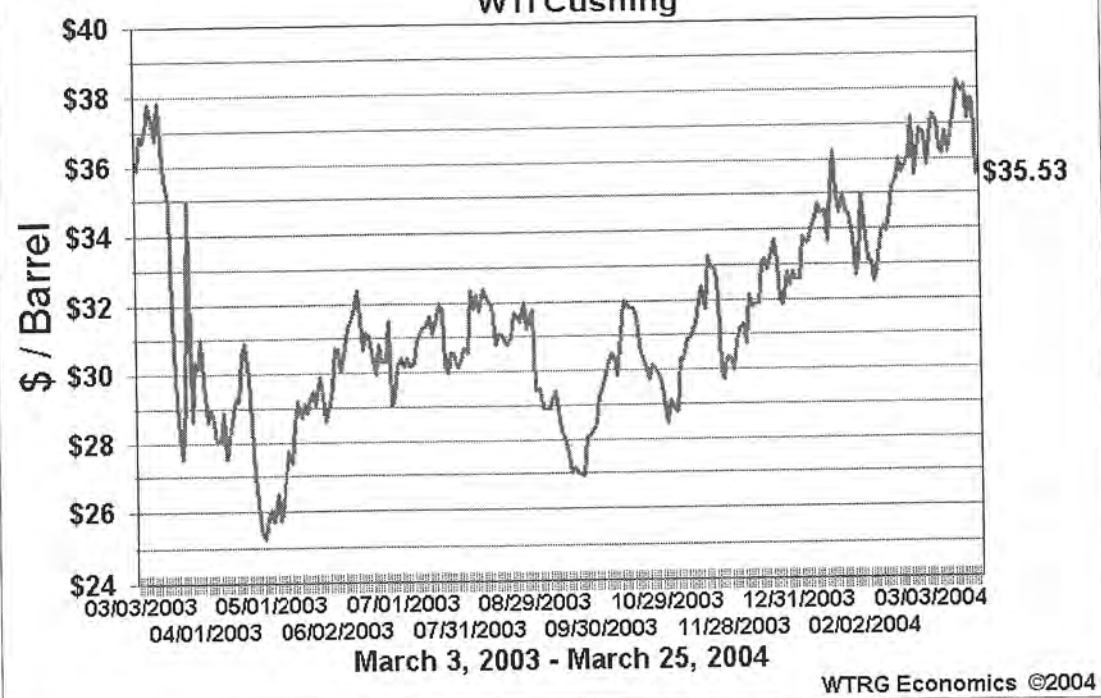
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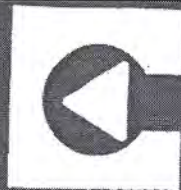
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## Cajun Humor

Visiting Ireland, Boudreaux walked into a bar in Dublin, ordered three pints of Guinness & sat in the back of the room, drinking a sip out of each one in turn. When he finished, he came back to the bar and ordered 3 more.

The bartender said, "You know, Boudreaux, a pint goes flat after I pour it. Wouldn't you rather I pour fresh pints for you, one at a time?" Boudreaux replies, "Well, you see sha, I have two brothers. One is now in Nova Scotia & the other is in France, & me, mais, I'm from Louisiana. When we all left home, we promised we'd drink this way to remember the days when we drank together." The bartender admitted that this was a nice custom & left it there.

Boudreaux became a regular in the bar & always drank the same way: He ordered 3 pints & drank them in turn. One day he came in & ordered 2 pints. All the regulars noticed & fell silent, speculating about what might have happened to one of the absent brothers.

When Boudreaux went back to the bar for a second round, the bartender said, "Hey, Boudreaux, I don't want to intrude on your grief, but I wanted to offer my condolences on your great loss."

Boudreaux looked confused for a moment & then a light dawned in his eyes, & he laughed & said, "Oh, no, no, everybody's fine. I've just given up beer for Lent!"

~~~~~

After he was dead, Boudreaux discovered himself in Hell. He looked around awhile, then went right to work shoveling brimstone. The devil came up to him & said, "How you like it here, my friend? It's hard work & it's hot, yeah?"

Boudreaux just smiled & answered, "It not so bad. The work is steady. I got no problem with steady work. And it ain't so hot. Man, I'm from south Louisiana —It hot there, my fren! This ain't nothin'." He just laughed & went back to work, singing & having a high old time.

Satan, being a former Texan, did not like Cajuns. He said to himself, "I'll get him. So he don't mind the heat, huh?" Satan waved a hand & the whole place was suddenly ice & snow, solid. And he said to himself, "That'll fix that fool!"

When he went back to check on Boudreaux, he found him jumping up & yelling & laughing & clapping & dancing. So Satan said, "Man, what's wrong with you?!"

Boudreaux smiled real big & replied, "The Saints done won the Super Bowl!"

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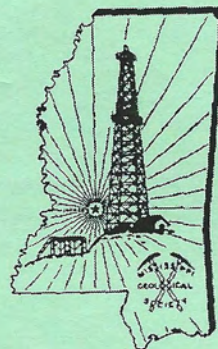
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May 2004

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## ~ PRESIDENT'S LETTER ~

By John Cox

Let me begin by saying that it has been a privilege to serve as the Society's President for the past year. To James, Larry, Todd, Aaron, Jo, and Lindsey, "thanks". Thanks from the Society for your selfless service, and thanks from "moi" for all the help, advice, and friendship.

I thought last month's collectors addition MGS Bulletin was great. Jo and Lindsey (et al) brought back lots of soggy memories with the pictorial portfolio (nice alliteration, huh?) of the 1979 Easter Flood. We had a well-attended noon luncheon last month to hear all about geologic workflows in coalbed methane exploration and development. Thanks to Mr. Bill Lyons for the informative presentation.

There will not be a monthly noon luncheon in May. Our last event for the present administration will be the Spring Fling on Thursday evening, May 20th at the Masonic Lodge (Agricultural Museum on Lakeland Drive). Aaron was successful in getting us a new Alabama Smackover conventional core to peruse. Thanks to Mr. Robin Smith with Midroc Operating Company in allowing us to look at the No. 2 Landford 5-10, a recent completion in the North Wallers Creek Field, Monroe County, Alabama. There will be 60 feet of core, logs, and thin sections; the whole works. Core viewing will start around 4:00 p.m., with cold beverages, live music (just kidding!), and catfish and chicken plus accessories au plenty to follow. Bring a friend, significant other or both.... it should be a relaxing evening with good food and good friends. We will also be holding elections for next year's officers at this meeting.

Thanks again for the opportunity to serve. Next year will undoubtedly be a great year for the Society with James at the helm. I look forward to eating some fish with you,

John



**Don't  
Forget ~**

**Spring**

**Fling!!**

### In This Issue:

Spring Fling Announcement

"May Is —"

"Geo-Archaeology"

Rig Count

Oil & Gas Spot Market Graphs

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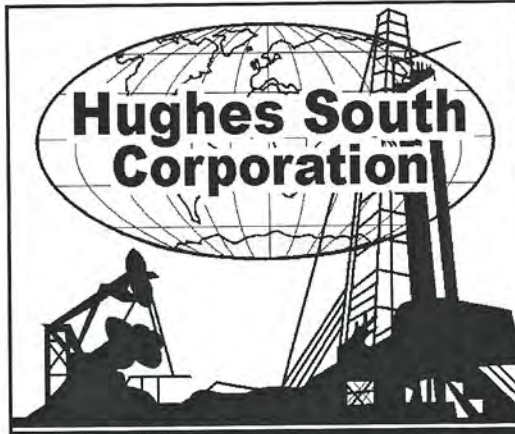
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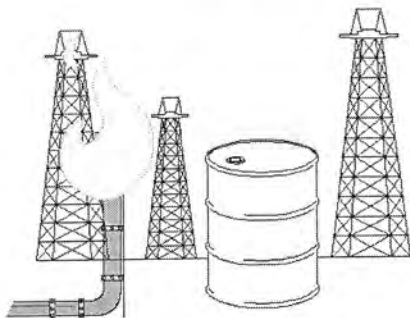
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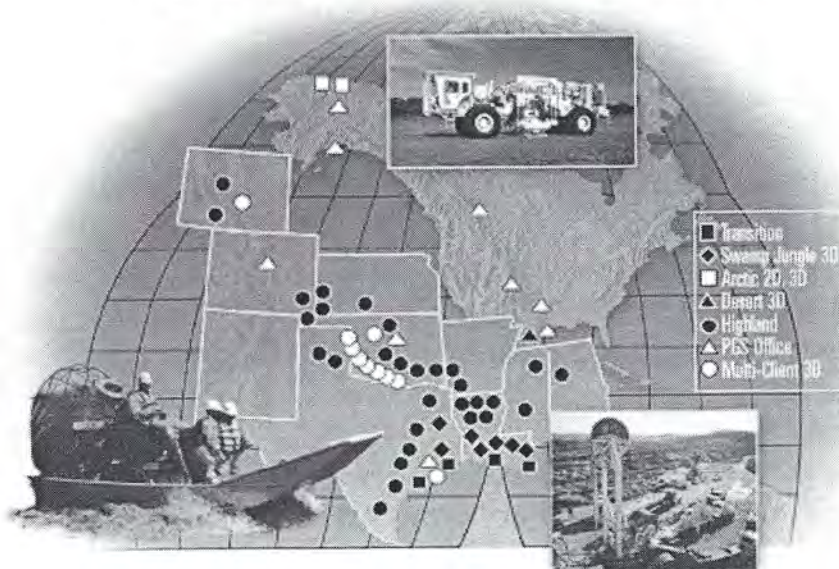
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# May is —

National Hamburger Month  
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National Business Awareness Month  
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Egg Month  
Family Support Month  
Modern Dance Month  
Breathe Easy Month  
Better Sleep Month  
Strike Out Strokes Month  
National Arthritis Month  
Salad Month  
Older Persons Month  
National Salsa Month

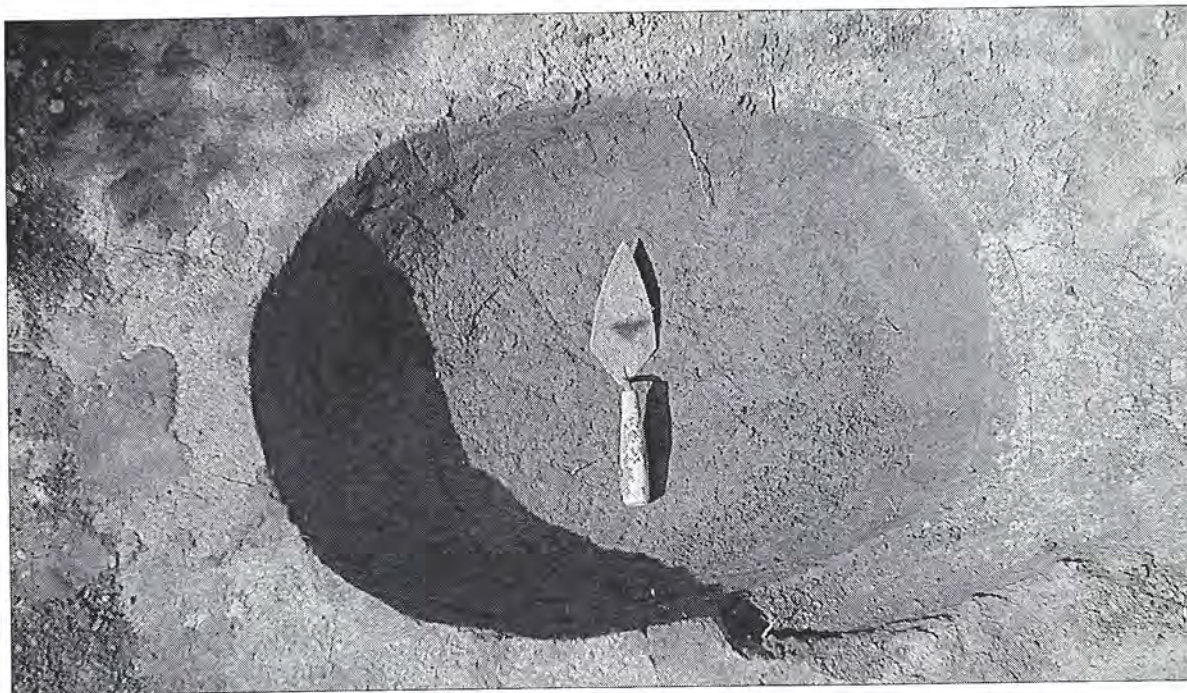
May 01 - International Labor Day, May Day, Rhino Day, School Principal's Day  
May 02 - Day Of Prayer, Sibling Appreciation Day  
May 04 - Relationship Renewal Day, National Teacher Day, Youth Day  
May 05 - Cartoonists Day, Cinco De Mayo, Lobster Race & Oyster Parade Day  
May 06 - Nurses Day, No Diet Day  
May 07 - International Tuba Day, Beaufort Scale Day, Paste-Up Day  
May 08 - Lost Socks Day, Stinky Feet Day, World Red Cross Day  
May 09 - Receptionists Day, Kite Day  
May 10 - Small Business Day, Trust Your Intuition Day  
May 11 - Eat What You Want Day  
May 12 - Olympic Torch Day, Windmill Day  
May 13 - Kite Day, Mothers Day, Tulip Day  
May 16 - Be A Millionaire Day, Biographers Day, Employee Health & Fitness Day  
May 17 - Merry-Go-Round Birthday, World Telecommunications Day  
May 18 - Bike to Work Day, Visit Your Relatives Day  
May 19 - Armed Forces Day, Frog Jump Day, Circus Day  
May 20 - Neighbor Day, Lindbergh Flight Anniversary, Eliza Doolittle Day  
May 23 - Turtle Day  
May 26 - Jazz Day, Independence Restoration Day  
May 27 - Ancestor Honor Day  
May 28 - Memorial Day  
May 30 - Spelling Bee Day

## Geo-Archaeology

By James E. Starnes, MS Office of Geology

The geological record crosses over into the archaeological record in Mississippi probably around 13,500 years ago, and “pre-history” begins. Aboriginal man underwent five major differentiable cultural changes spanning three environmental changes (starting in the late Pleistocene) before the written record could document the details of his existence. It is difficult to study geology in the field in Mississippi without stumbling across bits of chipped stone, pottery fragments, and an occasional projectile point—the only record pre-historic man had left behind. Therefore, it is not surprising that geologists, such as the Mississippi Geological Survey’s own Calvin S. Brown, were some of the first scientists in Mississippi to show an interest in documenting this more recent chapter of the geological record.

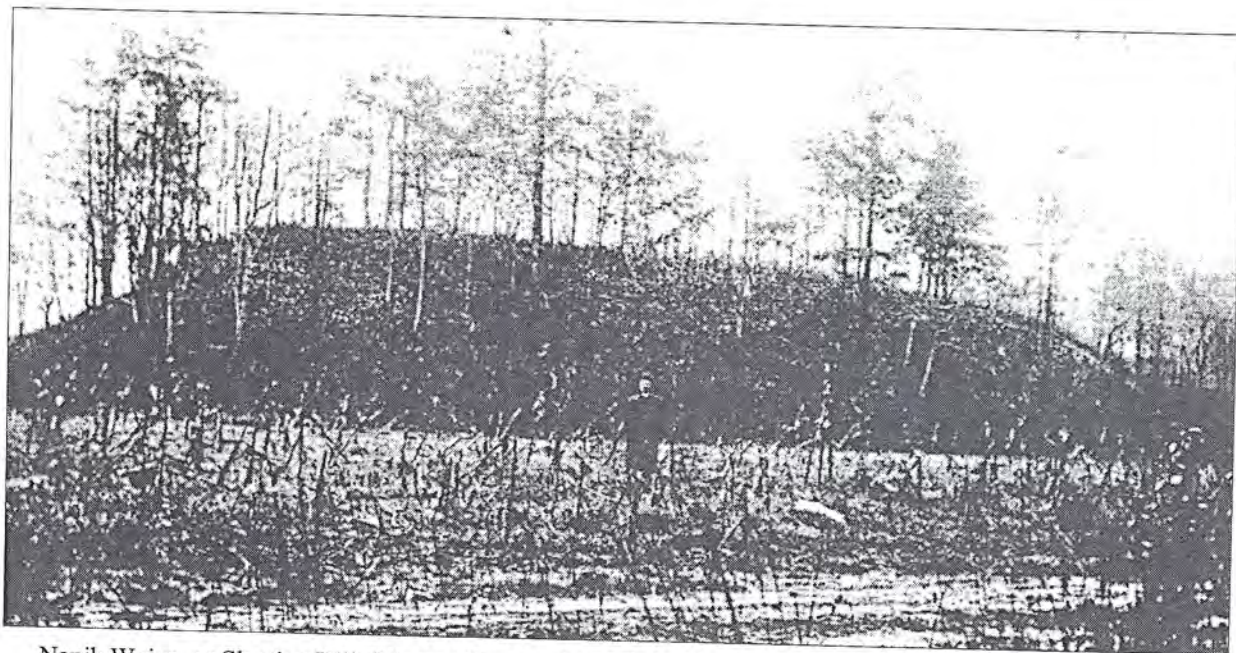
Archaeologists are cultural scientists that ponder and debate anthropological theory based chiefly on the worked stone objects and fired clay left behind by pre-historic man. Today thousands of pre-historic sites have been identified in Mississippi. Some have been preserved or excavated for study by archaeologists. Sadly, though, many others have been destroyed by looters, and the information contained in them is lost forever.



Excavation of this 1,500-year-old fire pit from an archaeological site in Rankin Co., MS revealed rock fragments of quartzite from both Eocene Tallahatta Fm. and the Miocene Catahoula Fm.



A nice projectile point made of chert containing well-preserved fossils of fusulinids.

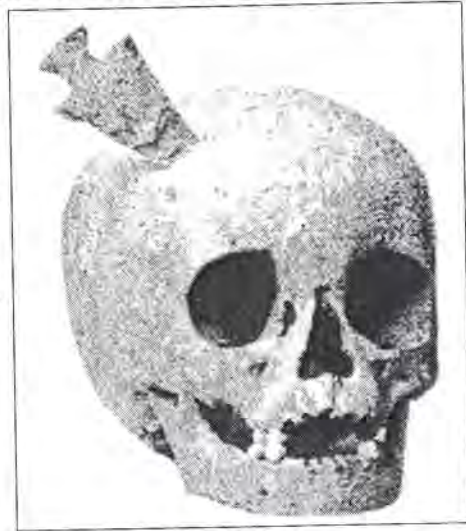


Nanih Waiya, or Slanting Hill, Winston Co., height 22 feet. Photo by B. N. Powell, from *Archeology of Mississippi*.



An archaeologist can get a partial picture of what man was doing at a particular site by studying artifacts and their stratigraphic relationship. This picture of ancient man's relationship with his environment can be greatly enhanced when these artifacts are placed in the hands of a qualified geologist. A geologist can identify the source and availability of the raw materials found on the sites, even if the artifacts are in a badly weathered state. Also, an understanding of the local geology and geomorphology is essential to making assessments of the depositional environment, preservation, and post-depositional forces affecting a site.

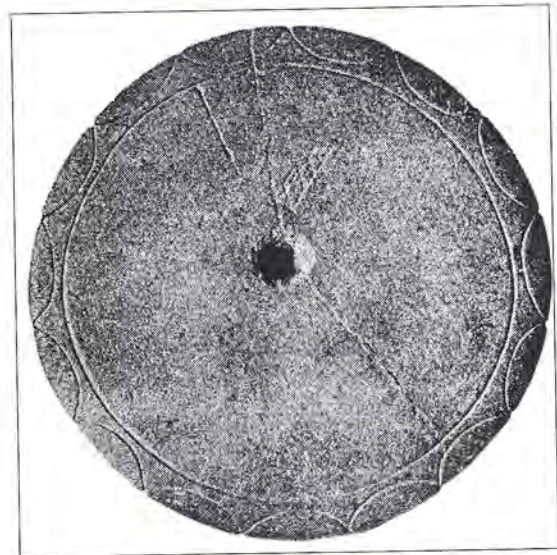
This is just another interesting example of how geology is such a diversified interdisciplinary science. In the same way geologists study the outcrops today to understand our natural resources, archaeologists need geologists to help understand the details of how ancient man used his environment and how that record survived through time.



Human skull with embedded arrowpoint, Natchez.



Feathered rattlesnake tablet from Issaquena Co. From drawing by Holmes, Amer. Anthropologist, 1906.



Reverse surface of tablet. The mortise & markings near the center are not original features.

## North American Rotary Rig Counts

The U.S. rotary rig count was down 4 rigs to 1,146 for the week of April 23, 2004.

The number of rotary rigs drilling for oil was down 7 to 149. Rigs targeting oil drilling are 30 rigs below last year's level of activity. Rigs drilling for oil currently represent 13.0 percent of total drilling activity.

Rigs directed toward natural gas were up 4 to 996. The number of rigs currently drilling for gas is 192 greater than last year's level of 805.

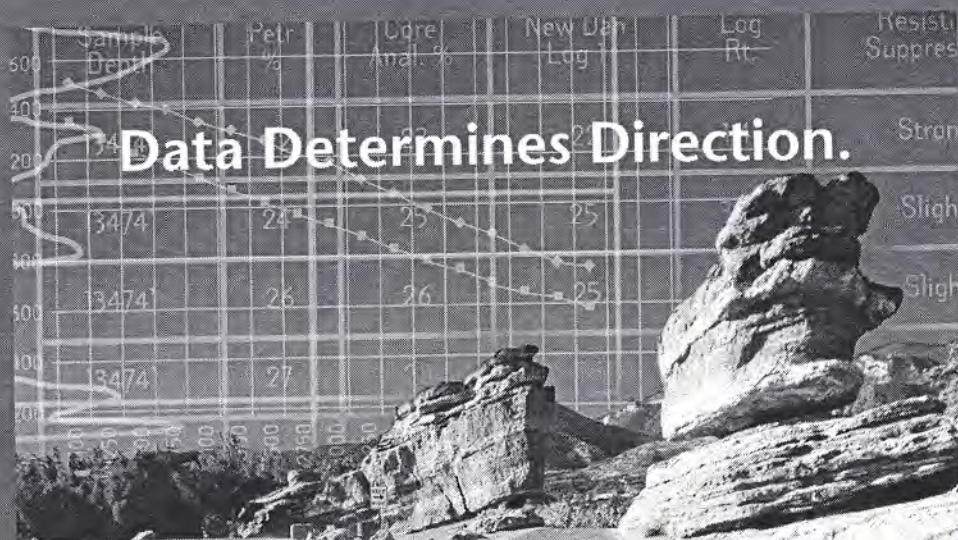
Year over year oil exploration in the U.S. is lower by 16.8 percent. Gas exploration is up 23.9 percent. The weekly average of crude oil spot prices is 30.5 percent higher than last year and natural gas spot prices are up 0.7 percent.

Canadian rig activity\* was down 4 rigs to 137 for the week of April 16, 2004 and is 28 rigs higher than last year's rig count. Canadian drilling falls rapidly in the spring to avoid environmental damage during the spring thaw.

\*The Canadian drilling industry experiences wide seasonal swings and even year over year comparisons can lead to incorrect conclusions.

### North American Rig Count

|                |          |          |          | Change |        | Percent Change |        |
|----------------|----------|----------|----------|--------|--------|----------------|--------|
|                | 04/23/04 | 04/16/04 | 04/25/03 | Weekly | Annual | Weekly         | Annual |
| Total U.S.     | 1146     | 1150     | 986      | -4     | 160    | -0.3%          | 16.2%  |
| Offshore       | 95       | 91       | 109      | 4      | -14    | 4.4%           | -12.8% |
| Land           | 1051     | 1059     | 877      | -8     | 174    | -0.8%          | 19.8%  |
| Inland Waters  | 16       | 16       | 16       | 0      | 0      | 0.0%           | 0.0%   |
| Oil            | 149      | 156      | 179      | -7     | -30    | -4.5%          | -16.8% |
| Percent        | 13.0%    | 13.6%    | 18.2%    | -0.6%  | -5.2%  |                |        |
| Gas            | 996      | 992      | 804      | 4      | 192    | 0.4%           | 23.9%  |
| Percent        | 86.9%    | 86.3%    | 81.5%    | 0.7%   | 5.4%   |                |        |
| Directional    | 283      | 289      | 251      | -6     | 32     | -2.1%          | 12.7%  |
| Horizontal     | 108      | 106      | 67       | 2      | 41     | 1.9%           | 61.2%  |
| Gulf of Mexico | 93       | 89       | 104      | 4      | -11    | 4.5%           | -10.6% |
| Gulf Oil       | 3        | 3        | 6        | 0      | -3     | 0.0%           | -50.0% |
| Percent        | 3.2%     | 3.4%     | 5.8%     | -0.1%  | -2.5%  |                |        |
| Gulf Gas       | 90       | 86       | 98       | 4      | -8     | 4.7%           | -8.2%  |
| Percent        | 96.8%    | 96.6%    | 94.2%    | 0.1%   | 2.5%   |                |        |
| Canada         | 130      | 137      | 98       | 7      | 32     | -5.1%          | 32.7%  |
| North America  | 1283     | 1287     | 1084     | -4     | 199    | -0.3%          | 18.4%  |



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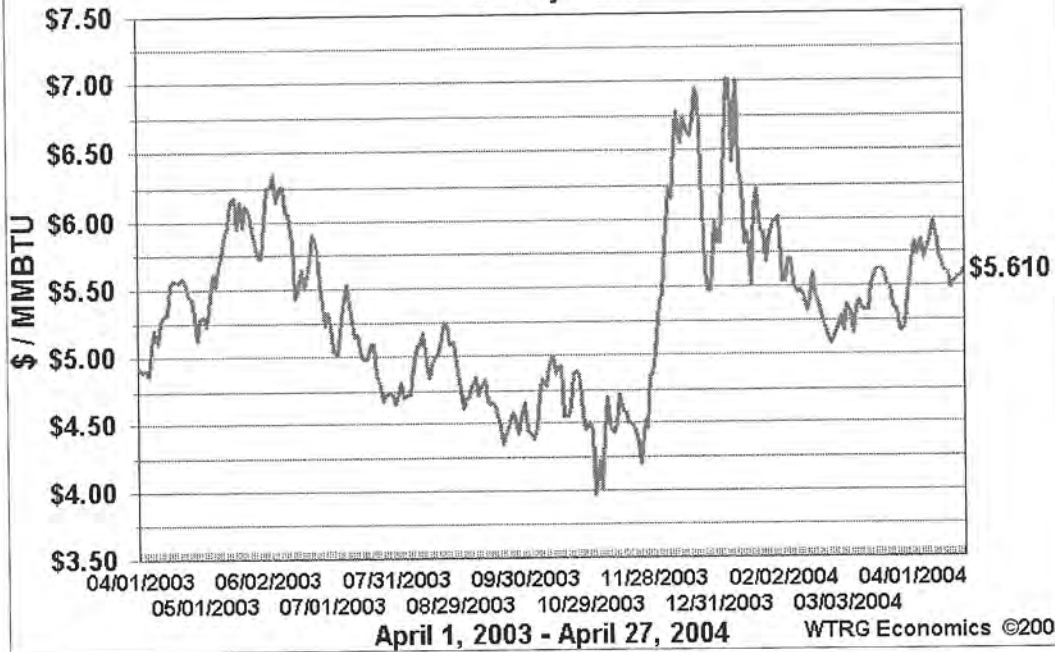
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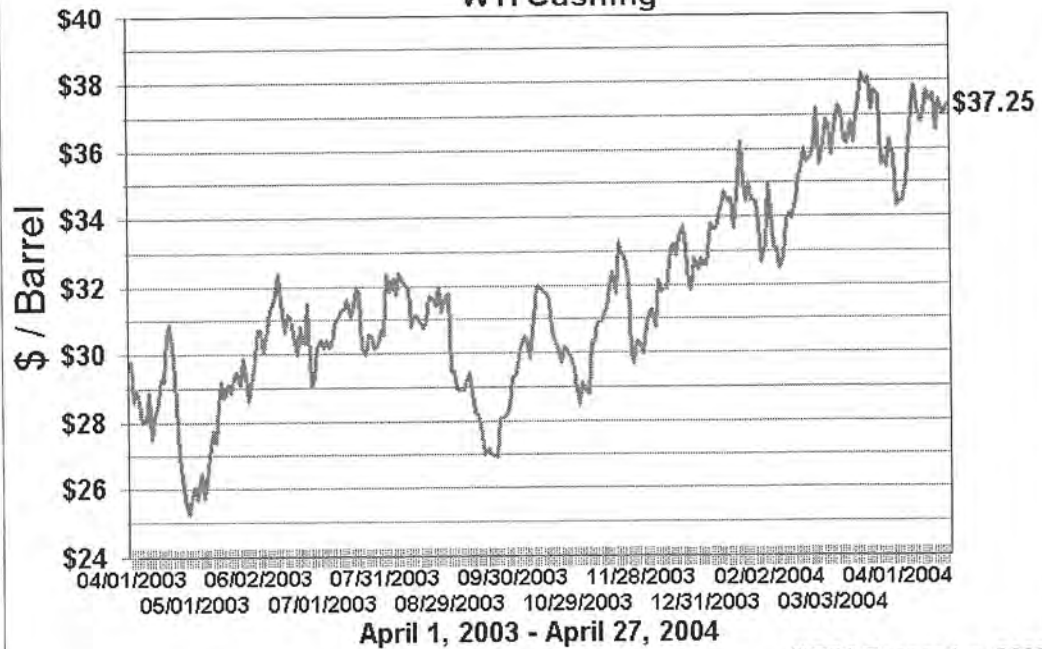
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## Cajun Humor

Boudreaux decided to go play a game of golf with his good friends Thibodeaux and Guidry one morning. He promised Marie that he would be home in time for lunch. Well, lunchtime came and went, and no Boudreaux.

Mid afternoon came and went, still no Boudreaux.

Suppertime passed, and Boudreaux finally showed up about an hour later. Marie is, of course, just a little bit mad. "Boudreaux, where have you been? You say you gonna be home by lunch, and here it is dark time, and you jus' now getting' home!"

Boudreaux says, "Marie, don' get on my case. My good fren, Guidry, died on de golf course dis mornin'."

Marie says, "Oh, Boudreaux, I'm so sorry. I can understan' now; makin' funeral arrangements for your fren, an' all. I understan' why you late."

Boudreaux says, "Funeral arrangements - what funeral arrangements? It was 'Hit de ball, drag Guidry. Hit de ball, drag Guidry. It took me and Thibodeaux all day to finish de game!"

~~~~~

Boudreaux and Marie were speeding along the Interstate 10 high rise bridge over Whisky Bay, when Boudreaux saw the red light flashing in the rearview mirror.

Boudreaux pulled over as well as he could to the side of the bridge. The State Trooper walked up to the window with his clipboard in hand.

He asked, "Did you know that you were going 80 miles an hour and the speed limit on this bridge is 60?"

Boudreaux looked at the carpet of the truck for the cigarette he dropped. He said, "Nope. I was goin' 60."

The Trooper sounded fed up as he looked at his clipboard and said, "Nope. I clocked you at 80." He looked over at Marie, who was staring out of the passenger window at the cypress trees in the water.

The Trooper said, "Ma'am, I clocked the man at 80. He said he was doing 60. Now you tell me, was he going 60 or 80?"

Marie said, "I never argue with Boudreaux when he's been drinkin'."

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