

Volume 59

No. 7

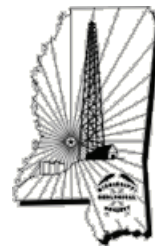
February 2011

MISSISSIPPI GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY *eBulletin*



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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Brian Sims

Fellow Members:

This month's speaker is Daniel Tearpock. Most of you will recognize his name from his consulting group, Subsurface Consultants & Associates. I am sure many of you have taken a class with his group or certainly read material from one of his publications. Daniel is currently President of AAPG's Division of Professional Affairs and will speak to us this month on Ethics. It will be a good talk on a topic that will serve any profession. Daniel is an excellent speaker who deserves your attendance.

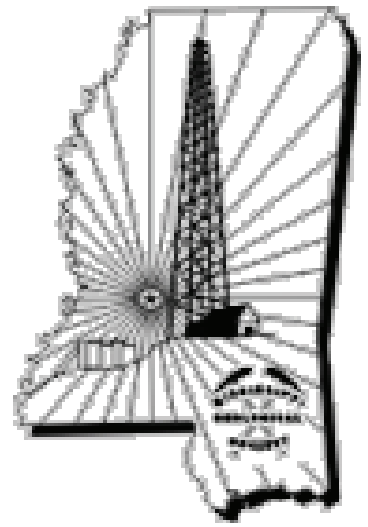
Reminder: The Boland Scholarship Awards and Honorary Member Induction will be held at the April luncheon not at the March luncheon. The March luncheon conflicted with spring break.

If anyone speaks at a school on the subject of geology/earth science, please let us know. We would like to recognize you for giving back to the community. If you know of a school looking for a speaker for an earth science course and you are unable to help, please give me a call and I will find someone that can assist. There are many students and adults too, who believe we can convert from a country run on fossil fuels to one run on alternative energy sources overnight. Many believe that the Oil Companies "cover up" all the new sources of fuel. We need to help educate today's students to the fact that our country will depend on fossil fuels for many years.

I have a few posters from the National Energy Foundation, one titled Oil and another titled Natural Gas. These are good teaching materials to leave with a geology or earth science class.

I look forward to seeing you next Wednesday February 10.

-Brian Sims



MGS

In This Issue:

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ROCKHAMMER CORNER

A Good Read

The Happy Mapper

Lower SMK Symposium

Oil & Gas Fields of S. LA.

MGS Membership

Application

Members in good standing.

MGS Advertising Notice

MGS Boland Scholarship

Fund

MGS Honorary Members



MGS MEETING SCHEDULE

When	What/Who	Where
September 9, 2010	Fall BBQ	Jackson Yacht Club
October 7, 2010	Art Johnson: RECENT DISCOVERIES IN SOUTH LOUISIANA FIELDS REJUVENATE PRODUCTION	River Hills – 11:30am
November 11, 2010	Kevin Macumber: CO2 EOR project a Raleigh Field in Smith Co., MS	River Hills – 11:30am
December 4, 2010	Christmas Party and Dance	Colonial Country Club
January 13, 2011	Jack C. Pashin: Shale Gas Plays of the Black Warrior basin and the Appalachian Thrust Belt of Alabama	River Hills – 11:30am
February 10, 2011	Dan Tearpock– President, Division of Profes- sional Affairs: Professionalism/Ethics	River Hills – 11:30am
March 10, 2011	Lawrence R. Baria: A Status Report on Little Cedar Creek Field, Conecuh County, Alabama: The Largest Smackover Field Dis- covered in the Last 40 Years.	River Hills – 11:30am
April 7, 2011	Boland Scholarship Awards	River Hills – 11:30am
May 13, 2011	Spring Fling	Jackson Yacht Club



OFFICERS MEETINGS

August 27, 2010

September 1, 2010

September 28, 2010

November 3, 2010

December 1, 2010

January 5, 2011

February 2, 2011

March 2, 2011

April 6, 2011

May 4, 2011

MGS FEBURARY SPEAKER:



Daniel J. Tearpock, Subsurface Consultants & Associates, L.L.C.

Chairman/CEO – Serves in the role of Chief Executive Officer of Subsurface Consultants & Associates, LLC (SCA), which is an international petroleum consultancy and training firm. SCA is a client-focused firm that offers specialized solutions in consulting and training. Our experienced, well-trained staff has worked in over 40 countries. From our headquarters in Houston, Texas, SCA’s expertise reaches around the world from Kazakhstan to Indonesia, from the Canadian Rockies to the southern regions of South America.

As a working geoscientist, Mr. Tearpock has generated numerous exploration and exploitation prospects, either as the sole generator or as part of an organized multidisciplinary team. He is the co-author of three textbooks, "Applied Subsurface Geological Mapping" (1991) ©, "Quick Look Techniques For Prospect Evaluations" (1994) © and “Applied Subsurface Geological Mapping With Structural Methods” (2003) ©, and numerous technical articles. Mr. Tearpock was a finalist in 1996 and 1998 for the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year program and in 1998 received the Distinguished Service Award from Bloomsburg University, Bloomsburg, PA. He holds a bachelors degree in Geology from Bloomsburg University, 1970; and a masters in Geology from Temple University, 1977. He is a (AAPG/DPA) Certified Petroleum Geologist No. 4114, State of Texas Licensed Geologist No.2660 and (SIPES) Certified Earth Scientist No. 3015.

Mr. Tearpock is a member of numerous associations including the AAPG, SPE, SIPES, SEG, GSA, HGS, EAGE, NOGS, LGS, IPA, SEAPEX & PESGB. He is currently President of the AAPG’s Division of Professional Affairs (10-11). He is a founding member and current Vice-Chairman (10-11) of the intersociety “Joint Committee on Reserves Evaluator Training” (JCRET). The member societies represented on JCRET include the AAPG, SPE, SPEE and WPC.

Professionalism as it Applies to Petroleum Geoscience “The Practical Application of Ethics” By Daniel J. Tearpock

ABSTRACT

Professionalism as it applies to petroleum geoscientists is a key and fundamental aspect of delivering on our promises and conducting ourselves in an ethical manner. Reliability in a geoscientists opinions and work product is the cornerstone to building trust and confidence, whether it is a seismic interpretation, prospect map, resources/reserves estimate or expert witness testimony to name a few. Reliability is increased when managers, companies and investors have the assurance that the information they are evaluating was professionally prepared.

This talk discusses “Professionalism” in petroleum geoscience and highlights the important factors such as educational background, experience, knowledge of recommended practices, the use of advanced technology, and last but not least, personal values – Ethics. There is, of course, always uncertainty and risk associated with the exploration or development of hydrocarbons. However, the proper use of technology, recommended practices, industry wide standards and **ethical/professional conduct** not only can reduce risk and uncertainty, but can also provide to companies and investors the confidence needed to move forward with an exploration or development plan or program.

In the end, Professionalism encompasses our use of technical practices and standards, and our character and moral consciousness that ultimately defines who we are and the reputation that will follow us through our professional career.

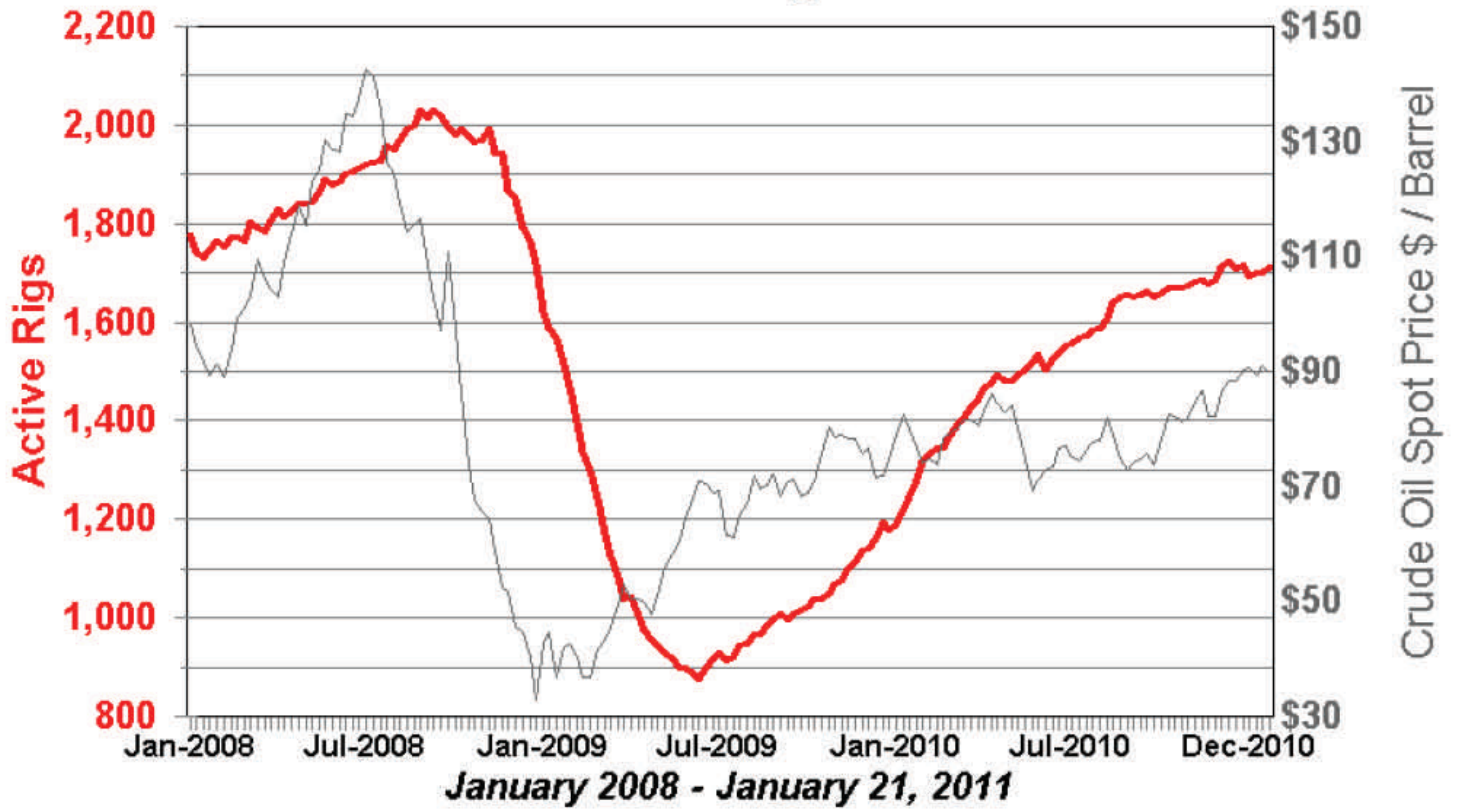
From our January 13th Luncheon.

Thanks goes out to Jack Pashin for his excellent presentation and to all that joined us.



**Shale Gas Plays of the Black Warrior basin and the Appalachian Thrust Belt of Alabama
Jack C. Pashin, Geological Survey of Alabama**

U. S. Rotary Rig Count Total Active Rigs



WTRG Economics ©2011

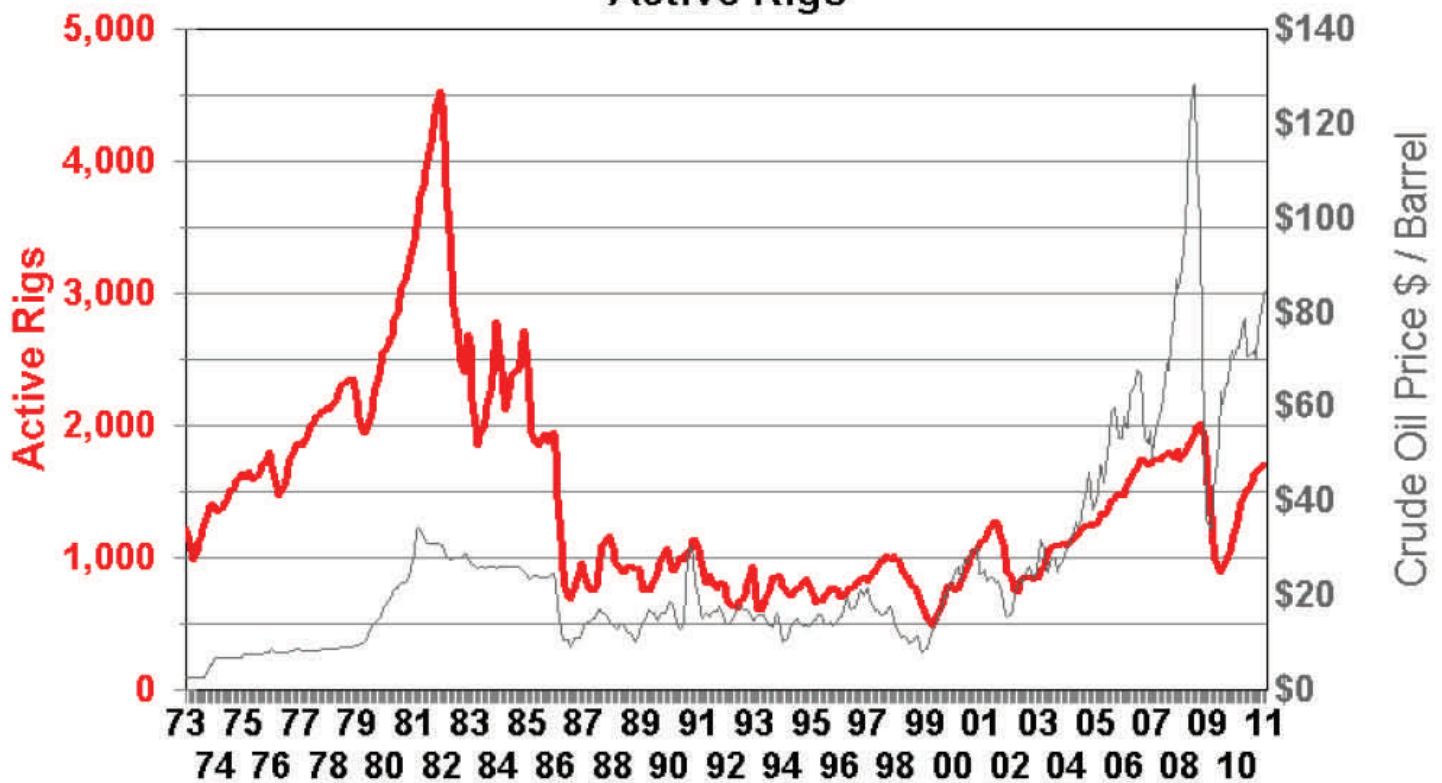
Sources: Baker-Hughes, Energy
Information Administration (DOE),
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TURN IT TO THE RIGHT!



U. S. Rotary Rig Count Active Rigs

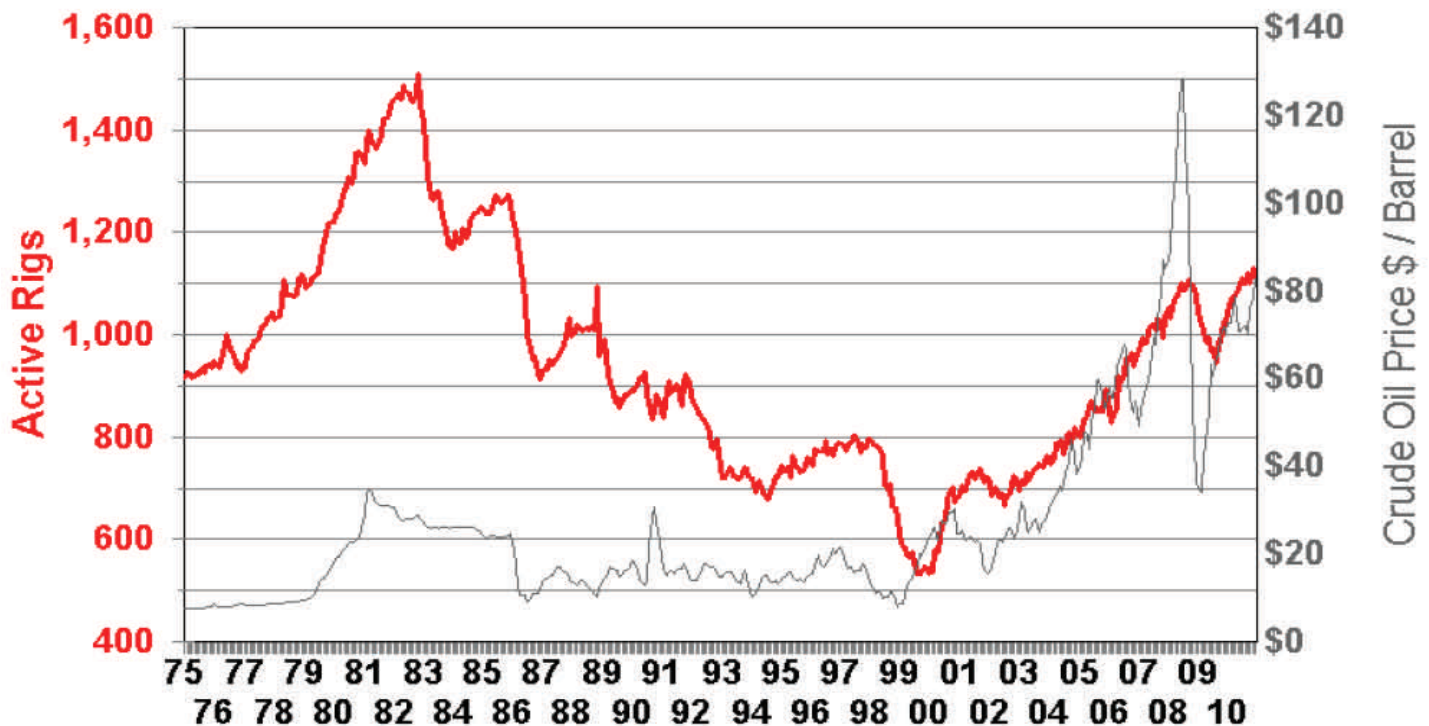


January 1973 - January 21, 2011

Sources: Baker-Hughes, Energy
Information Administration (DOE),
WTRG Economics

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Foreign Rotary Rig Count

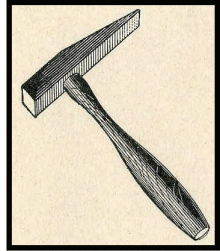


January 1975 - Dec. 2010

Sources: Baker-Hughes, Energy
Information Administration (DOE),
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ROCKHAMMER CORNER:



Geotechnical Engineer Recognition

You are probably a soils geologist if you:

- *look at excavations instead of shops
- *can convert gpm to l/s without a calculator
- *start counting "1-2-3.." when a pile driver starts up
- *tell your beach partner whether the sand is fine, medium or coarse
- *and can also explain why it dries out under your feet
- *get upset in cinemas when somebody disappears completely into quicksand
- *object to geologists calling clay "soft shale"
- *have seen the movie "Armageddon" more than once
- *associate "centrifuge" with soils research rather than the kitchen
- *suspect liquefaction when you drop a bag of flour onto the kitchen floor
- *and mutter "thixotropy" when you shake tomato ketchup
- *can explain why the Tower of Pisa leans - and what they are doing to fix it
- *jump on the ground to feel whether it's clay or peat
- *think of a deep pit in the ground when hearing a discussion about "block sampling"
- *suspect the variability of the soil layers when you hit a bump in the road
- *worry about future cracks in your house when planting a tree in your garden
- *want to pick up a lump of clay and squeeze it through your fingers
- *UU, CPT, CAUC, CAUE, DSS really mean something to you
- *insist on Ticino sand for your children's playground
- *associate PMT with in-situ soil testing rather than female distress
- *think the equation $\sigma' = \sigma - u$ (or $\sigma = \sigma' + u$ for FEA) is really cool
- *think of sand rather than hair loss when someone says "Baldi"
- *sniff dirt and say "Hmmm" or "Ah Ha"
- *know how many kPa you exert when standing on one foot
- *explain the cause of various pavement failures to the passengers in your car
- *once took a hand auger home to see what was in your back yard
- *get upset when people use "silt" or "mud" for any soil on the seabed
- *think that others are interested in our explanations about suction and sandcastles
- *think that you are cooler than a structural engineer, because your materials are "always different" - when in fact to the rest of the world we are just as boring
- *think that the most exciting thing on a trip to Scandinavia is not the blonde girls but "quick clay"
- *spend 30 euros a month on broadband to download CRISP
- *have designed an offshore foundation using a number derived from rolling out a lump of mud and a bucket-load of correlations.



**STOP CONTINENTAL DRIFT!
IT IS DESTROYING THE OZONE LAYER,
CAUSING GLOBAL WARMING, AND RUINING
U.S. POLITICS!**

“Kiss goodbye” to Cancun CO2 goals, says IEA chief economist

By Peter C Glover

Posted on Jan. 24, 2011



It is “virtually impossible” for the world to keep CO2 emissions within the “safe” limits agreed by world governments just weeks ago in Cancun. Speaking what for climate alarmists is ‘the unspeakable’, Dr Fatih Birol, Chief Economist at the International Energy Agency, was addressing an audience at London’s Imperial College on January 19. And Dr Birol was unequivocal that the world can “kiss goodbye” to its CO2 emissions peaking target set for 2020.

Dr Birol said that the Cancun agreement, just weeks old, stands little chance of achieving the goal of keeping the world’s temperature from rising by 2 degrees C. He cited two main reasons. First, the key emitting nations are not serious about cutting CO2 growth. Second, the shale gas revolution threatens the viability of renewable energy projects worldwide.

EU efforts

Dr Birol’s comments were made within the framework of the European debate and current EU efforts to achieve CO2 emission cuts of 20 or 30 percent by 2020 against 1990 levels. Once again, Dr Birol was stingingly forthright in making the comparison that the EU’s carbon cutting targets goals were “equivalent to just two weeks of China’s emissions”. In a surprising show of negativity about the state of the world’s war on carbon, Dr Birol said, “We would need to double decarbonisation efforts, then double them again to keep emissions within 450 parts per million”. He added, “The bulk of the effort needs to take place in countries where climate change is not high on the policy agenda. We have to be realistic.”

Dr Birol went out of his way to make it clear that he did not blame China because emissions per capita and car ownership were both low and he also urged the EU and the UK to continue to show global “climate leadership”. But given the bleak global carbon war scenario Birol paints, the question must surely be: why bother when it’s game over? The admission from the IEA’s own chief economist is to say the least a damning one given the billions of dollars of public money being poured into a carbon war in which, so it seems, we can have such an insignificant impact. As grave as that message must be to climate alarmists the world over, the problems don’t end there however. There’s a new kind on the block. And he’s moving in fast.

The impact of shale gas

Dr Birol warned his audience that the “world revolution in unconventional gas sources” was already playing a substantial role – by threatening to negatively impact future investment in global renewable energy projects. He informed the audience that the new shale gas boom in the United States had already led to a 50 percent fall in investment in renewable energy.

The transformation of the US domestic gas industry, directly attributable to the impact from shale gas, had brought US global gas prices down, he said. “It’s cheaper than it was and the supply is more assured. And it’s only half as polluting as coal.” Dr Birol predicted what this would mean. “There will be strong debates between energy and climate and finance ministries round the world,” he said, “about whether investment should continue to support renewables when the situation on gas has so radically changed.”

He further pointed out that companies like Shell – which recently stated it would be producing more gas than oil by 2013 – saw no reason why they should not bid for the same carbon capture and storage subsidies for gas-fired power stations as those currently on offer to renewables projects. Birol also said that gas prices could fall even further if purchasing countries chose to separate gas price rises from oil prices as in the U.S. While Dr Birol noted that “this debate hasn’t started in earnest in the UK” as yet “it surely will”. In fact, all the signs are it may be under way.

Just last week two Lords peers expressed surprise that the government’s Revised Draft National Policy Statements, Britain’s national energy blueprint to 2050, didn’t even mention significant shale gas discoveries in the north of England. As Lord Reay pointed out, “There is the possibility that potentially abundant supplies of unconventional gas will result in considerably lower gas prices.” Another peer, Lord Kenkin, echoed the concern wanting to know why, since shale’s potential contribution was known to the Government last November, the report omitted any mention.

Last Autumn saw gas prices surge in Europe. Across the Atlantic, however, the shale gas glut responsible for flat-lining the US gas price meant that by the end of 2010 Americans were paying half as much for their heating fuel as their shivering British and northern European counterparts.

At the “Prospects for Shale Gas in Britain” gas shale forum in Berlin in mid-January, Professor Mike Stephenson, Head of Science (Energy) at the British Geological Survey, echoed his concern at the lack of interest of the British government in a potential domestic gas bonanza. Citing India, where they are already building huge power stations powered by gas, Stephenson said that he didn’t think the British government was “thinking enough about shale”. He went on to say, in typically British under-stated language, that Tony Blair’s commitment for 15 percent of the country’s energy to come from renewable sources in a desperate bid to meet EU carbon cutting targets was proving “a bit of a bind”. It seems that Dr Birol is wrong then about one thing: shale gas has *already* shifted the CO2 debate off the back-burner in Britain.

SOURCE: <http://www.energytribune.com/articles.cfm/6390/Kiss-goodbye-to-Cancun-CO2-goals-says-IEA-chief-economist->

Longhorn Mountain near Meers, Oklahoma
Late September 1983 – Field Notes.

I am so sick of the damn rattlesnakes. It is 9 a.m. and I am sitting on the ridgeline at the top of Longhorn Mountain eating my lunch just to calm my nerves. I am supposed to be mapping out contacts on this Ordovician rock pile. In the distance far below me, I can see the refuge of my car. I have already encountered four rattlesnakes during the half-hour hike to my perch. At least back home in Mississippi, the snakes played by the rules. There is a smell to the cottonmouth, especially the big ones. I remember my parents and grandparents sniffing the air and speaking of an area as “snakey.” Growing up, I don’t ever remember being surprised by a water moccasin. But these western rattlesnakes - they *love* surprises. Yes, they rattle, but sometimes after they’ve made the first strike. And then there is that buzzing of the rattle itself – so high pitched, so startling, so loud, that quite often there is absolutely no sense of the direction of the imminent danger. A strike-ready, coiled rattler that’s buzzing has stopped moving, except for that devilish little tail. Miss that detail and the victim is just as prone to leap onto the snake as away from it.

A strike-ready, coiled rattler that’s buzzing has stopped moving, except for that devilish little tail. Miss that detail and the victim is just as prone to leap onto the snake as away from it.

I had been leaping aplenty that Saturday morning and I was done for the day. So I sat for far too long. I pondered the beauty of the area and the many other Ordovician limestone hills jutting up from the prairie. I remembered the distant tornado I’d seen from that very spot. I thought about how to hike back to the car. I anticipated the enormous hamburgers served at the Meers eatery. Far to the south, there was the quiet safety of my campsite in the Wichita Wildlife Refuge. Tonight...now more likely, this afternoon...I would enjoy the solitude of the campground oft invaded with buffalo. Hopefully, nearby Fort Sill won’t be conducting tank and artillery practice into the wee hours. And on Sunday morning, I will awaken to the gentle sounds of Kate Smith crooning hymns over the loudspeakers of Holy City...until next time...

The Happy Mapper

Shreveport Geological Society



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LOWER SMACKOVER SYMPOSIUM AND PANEL DISCUSSION

March 24, 2011
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Petroleum Club of Shreveport
15th Floor

**This one day program will focus on the Lower Smackover
of South Arkansas and North Louisiana.**

Ezat Heydari, "Everything You Wanted to Know About the Lower Smackover and
Were Afraid to Ask"

Roger Sassen, "The Smackover Environment of Deposition: Key to Source Rock
Richness in the greater Gulf of Mexico Salt Basin"

Larry Baria, "The Prolific Lower Smackover Reservoirs of Alabama; Will They Extend
into the ArkLaTex?"

A question and answer/panel discussion time will follow the talks.

Registration fee of \$75.00 includes continental breakfast, lunch, and handouts.

Attendance will be limited to the first 100 paid registrations.

Registration

Name: _____

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Please your completed registration and check made out to the Shreveport Geological Society to Shreveport Geological Society, P.O. Box 750, Shreveport, LA 71162.



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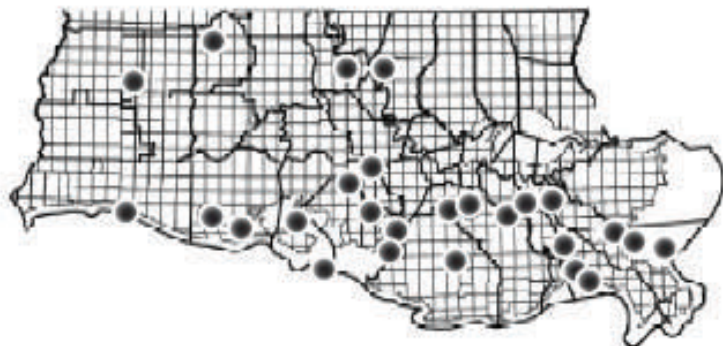
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FRESHWATER BAYOU
JUDGE DIGBY
KENT BAYOU (ETOUFFEE)
LAC BLANC
LAKE BOEUF SOUTHWEST
LAKE BOUDREAUX
LAKE SALVADOR
LAKE WASHINGTON
MANILA VILLAGE SOUTHEAST
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Point of contact:

Danny W. Harrelson, *Research Geologist*

3909 Halls Ferry Road

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Phone: 601-634-2685

Fax: 601-634-3153

Danny.W.Harrelson@erdc.usace.army.mil

GCAGS website (www.gcags.org)

Submit all applications by February 28, 2011

MGS BOLAND SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Society's L. F. Boland Scholarship Fund is open to donations (tax deductible) year round. Your contribution will help the Society recognize and reward outstanding earth science students at its annual Honors Day meeting on April 7th, 2011.

Since inception in 1980, the Society has honored 104 students with the Boland Award. If you would like to contribute, please contact Dave Cate at 601-718-9397 or mail your check (L. F. Boland Scholarship Fund) to him at 217 W. Capitol St., Jackson, MS 39201.

The MGS gratefully acknowledges the following contributors to the L. F. Boland Scholarship Fund for the 2010-2011 year.

Maurice Birdwell Chris Franks
Jim Furrh James Libiez
Maurice Meylan Donnie Lambert
Julius Ridgway Tony Stuart
Jim Michael
Stewart Welch
Dave Cate
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P.O. BOX 422, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39205-0422

2009-2010

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