MISSISSIPPI GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

eBULLETIN

Volume 64 No. 1 September 2015

FALL BBQ

MISSISSIPPI GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY:
A Brief History

MDEQ's CORE & SAMPLE LIBRARY

BEFORE & AFTER
FRISCO CITY FIELD

www.missgeo.com

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Jack Moody

I'd like to welcome all of our members to this year's MGS activities. It will begin with the fall BBQ to be held at the Jackson Yacht Club Thursday, September 10. I hope to see many of you there.

Business cycles occur in nearly every industry and the oil and gas exploration business is no exception. As of this writing oil futures were at $46.50, hard to believe this reflects an upward trend from the recent past. For those in the industry it means difficult adjustments and perhaps hard choices. For most people in the country it means low gas prices which they celebrate each time they fill-up at the pump. I've always wished that our industry could operate in that seldom achieved middle ground where we and the general public could have steady prices that both could live with but the pendulum continues to swing. For the near graduation geology majors the down turn certainly limits the job opportunities but there are options and rewarding career paths for such scientist. I do hope to recruit several of our more time tested geologist to pass on to the young aspiring geology majors some of their lessons learned through the years both in the profession and in life.

Among last year's accomplishments under president Ezat Heydari were the student poster sessions at the spring fling and awarding Stan King the contract to scan the MGS historical files. Stan is actively engaged in that project and the student posters will hopefully become an on going event.

This year I hope to develop a system of gathering unique and original content development of oil and gas information for the bulletin and website. Our society needs to create value to the outside world if we are to remain relevant. I think one way to do so is to have our members share enough information in these information sites to make outside exploration people exploring in the SE US feel the need to belong to our society. I've begun making such request and am glad to say our folks are stepping up to the task.

Another effort this year will be to develop more inclusion and activity for and by the environmental/engineering geologist, the government geologist, and academia. Our society needs to cast our net as board as possible within the world of geology.

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

Jack moody

2015-2016 MGS MEETING SCHEDULE

When	What/Who	Where
September 10, 2015	Fall BBQ	Jackson Yacht Club-5:30pm
October 8, 2015	Jim Williams WTRG-Global & Regional Economic Impact on Oil Prices	River Hills – 11:30am
November 12, 2015	TBD	River Hills – 11:30am
TBD	MAPL Christmas Party and Dance	TBD
January 7, 2016	TBD	River Hills – 11:30am
February 11, 2016	TBD	River Hills – 11:30am
March 10, 2016	TBD	River Hills – 11:30am
April 7, 2016	Boland Scholarship Awards	River Hills – 11:30am
May 12, 2016	Spring Fling	Jackson Yacht Club– 5:30pm

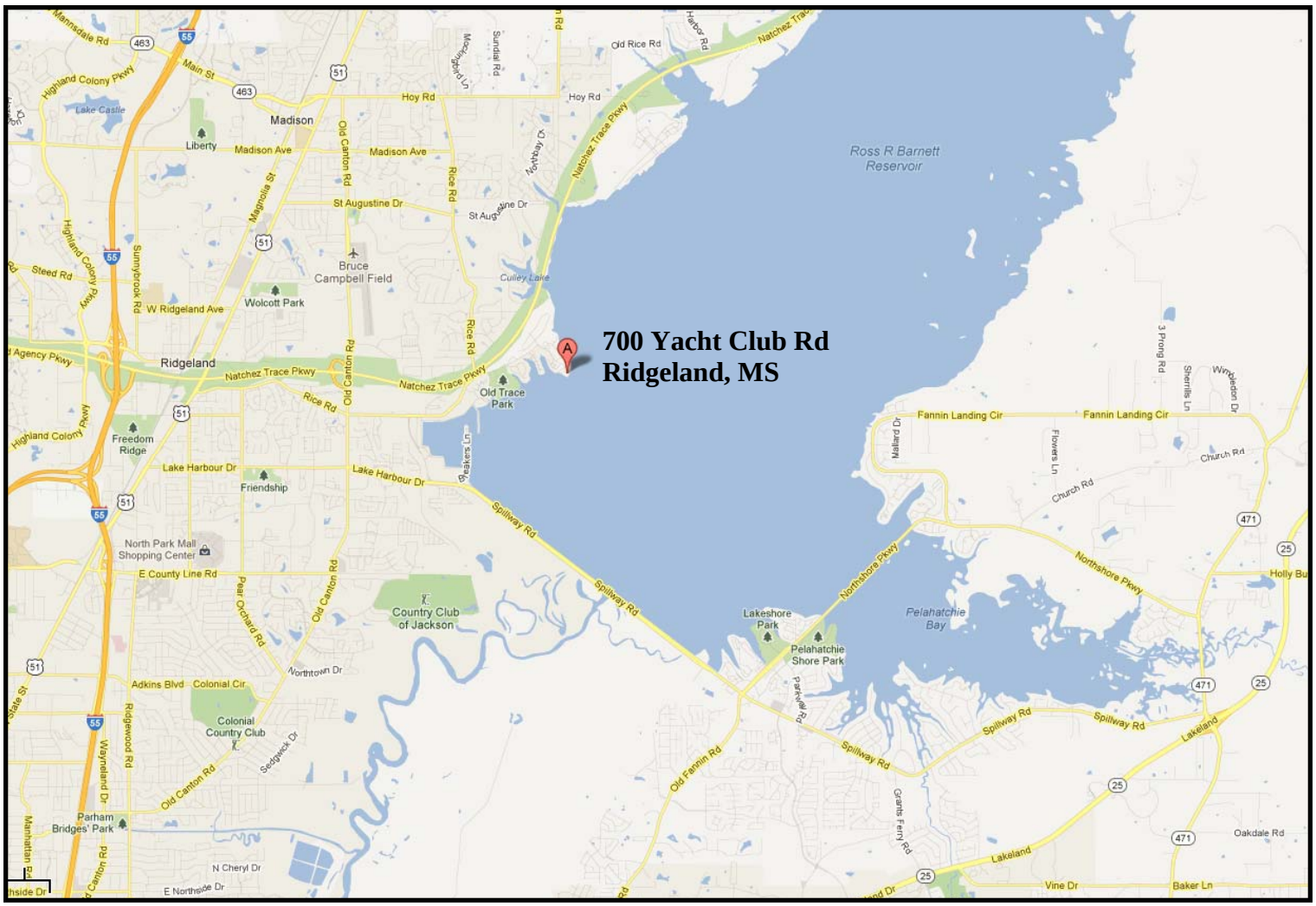
OFFICERS MEETINGS
September 8, 2015
October 6, 2015
November 10, 2015
January 5, 2016
February 9, 2016
March 8, 2016
April 5, 2016
May 10, 2016

FALL BBQ

Jackson Yacht Club

Come join the Mississippi Geological Society to kick off 2015 at our annual Fall BBQ!!!!!!

Thursday September 10th
at the
Jackson Yacht Club



MISSISSIPPI GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

A Brief History

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

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

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

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

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

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

MISSISSIPPI GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

A Brief History

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

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

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

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

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

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

MISSISSIPPI GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

USGS-Tuscaloosa Marine Shale

ATTENTION!

The United States Geological Survey needs YOUR help.

Paul Hackley of the USGS is doing a study of the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale and is looking for oil samples.

If you can help please contact the editor.

Thank You

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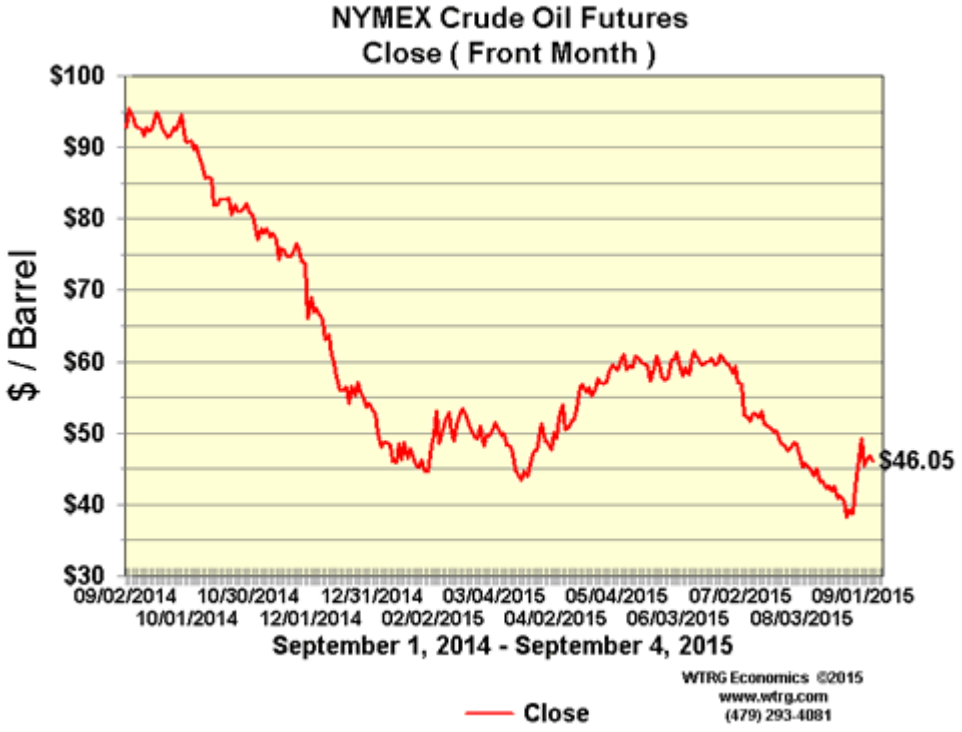
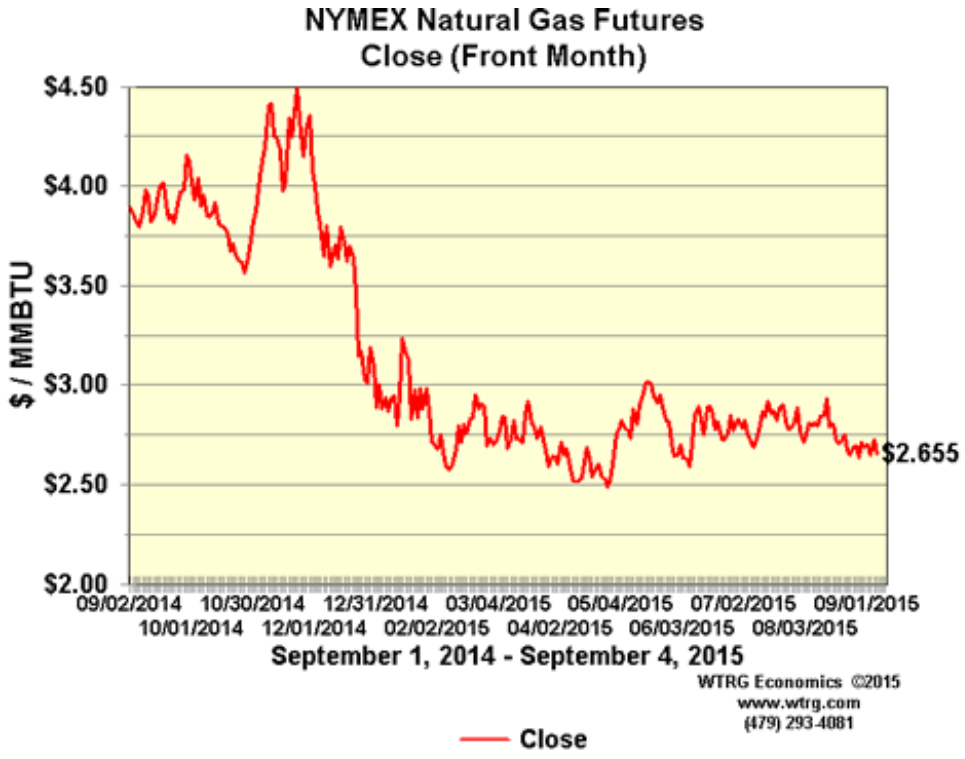




MONTHLY POST

Dr. David T. Dockery lll RPG

RECENT WORK AT MDEQ'S CORE AND SAMPLE LIBRARY

David T. Dockery III RPG, Office of Geology

The Tuscaloosa Marine Shale (TMS) is the object of oil exploration in southwestern Mississippi. Oil companies are hopeful that this formation might be as productive as the Eagle Ford Shale in southern Texas, a formation of similar age to the TMS. The Texas oil boom began in 2008 when geologist Gregg Robertson studied the cuttings of Eagle Ford Shale from an exploration well drilled in 1952. Those cutting samples were stored at a core and sample library in Austin, Texas. Analyses of the cuttings were promising for oil production and set off an oil boom that hit a fever pitch in 2012 (see the October 2013 issue of *Environmental News*, p. 23-24). Struggling Texas ranchers and farmers suddenly became millionaires. USA Today (January 15, 2014) featured the fortunes of Richard Dockery, a real estate and insurance broker in the small town of Three Rivers, Texas. Dockery had cobbled together small land deals for a retirement nest egg. Now at 47, he owns a new 2,400-square-foot home bought with cash and has his 23-year-old daughter's medical school bills paid for before her first class. Each month he received a six-figure royalty check plus others that added up to the annual salary of a midlevel NBA player. Nation Public Radio's Melissa Block (April 10, 2014) interviewed the manager of Cotulla City, Texas, Larry Dovalina, who told about a man who wanted to quickly deposit an oil lease check for $100,000 because it was making him nervous. When the bank clerk looked at the check he said, "It's not $100,000. It's $1 million."

MONTHLY POST

Dr. David T. Dockery lll RPG

Now Paul Hackley, Brett Valentine, and Celeste Lohr, with the U.S. Geological Survey, are studying the oil potential of well cutting samples from the TMS in Mississippi stored at MDEQ's (Office of Geology) Core and Sample Library at 2525 North West Street (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Paul Hackley (left), Brett Valentine (center), and Celeste Lohr of the U.S. Geological Survey examining samples at MDEQ's Core and Sample Library in Jackson on March 2, 2015.

Figure 2 shows a sample of the shale cuttings in a glass dish. These pictures were taken during their visit to the facility on March 2-4, 2015, when they collected 85 samples from the TMS and 10 samples from sands of the Lower Tuscaloosa.

Figure 2. Well cuttings of the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale from MDEQ's Core and Sample Library in Jackson as examined on March 2, 2015.

MONTHLY POST

Dr. David T. Dockery lll RPG

We have recently enjoyed the pictures of Pluto sent back by the New Horizons spacecraft after a nine-year-long mission to our outermost planet (at least the ninth planet we learned in grade school). What new explorations are left for us? How about this: getting in a time capsule and traveling back millions of years to Earth's early history and studying ancient climates, habitats, and animals? That is exactly what scientists do routinely at MDEQ's Core and Sample Library as illustrated in the next two studies. The total cost of the New Horizons mission was about $700 million. The total replacement cost of the cores and samples in MDEQ's Core and Sample Library is about $13.548 billion (see the September 2013, p. 19, issue of *Environmental News*, p. 19, for the calculations), or more than 19 times the cost of the New Horizons mission.

Stuart Robinson and his Ph.D. graduate student Lauren O'Conner of the Department of Earth Sciences, University of Oxford, Oxford, England, sampled cores of Cretaceous chalk from Shuqualak, Mississippi, at the Core and Sample Library on April 27-May 1, 2015 (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Lauren O'Conner and Stuart Robinson of the University of Oxford sampling a Cretaceous chalk core from Shuqualak, Mississippi, at MDEQ's Core and Sample Library in Jackson on April 27, 2015.

MONTHLY POST

Dr. David T. Dockery lll RPG

An earlier study of these cores provided excellent data, and Robinson and O'Conner's visit was to sample the core at finer intervals. Using fossil molecules (TEX_{86}) of the distinct lipids of marine archaea bacteria as a proxy for seawater temperature, the cores showed a cooling trend during the Campanian Stage of the globally warm Late Cretaceous Period (Figure 4).

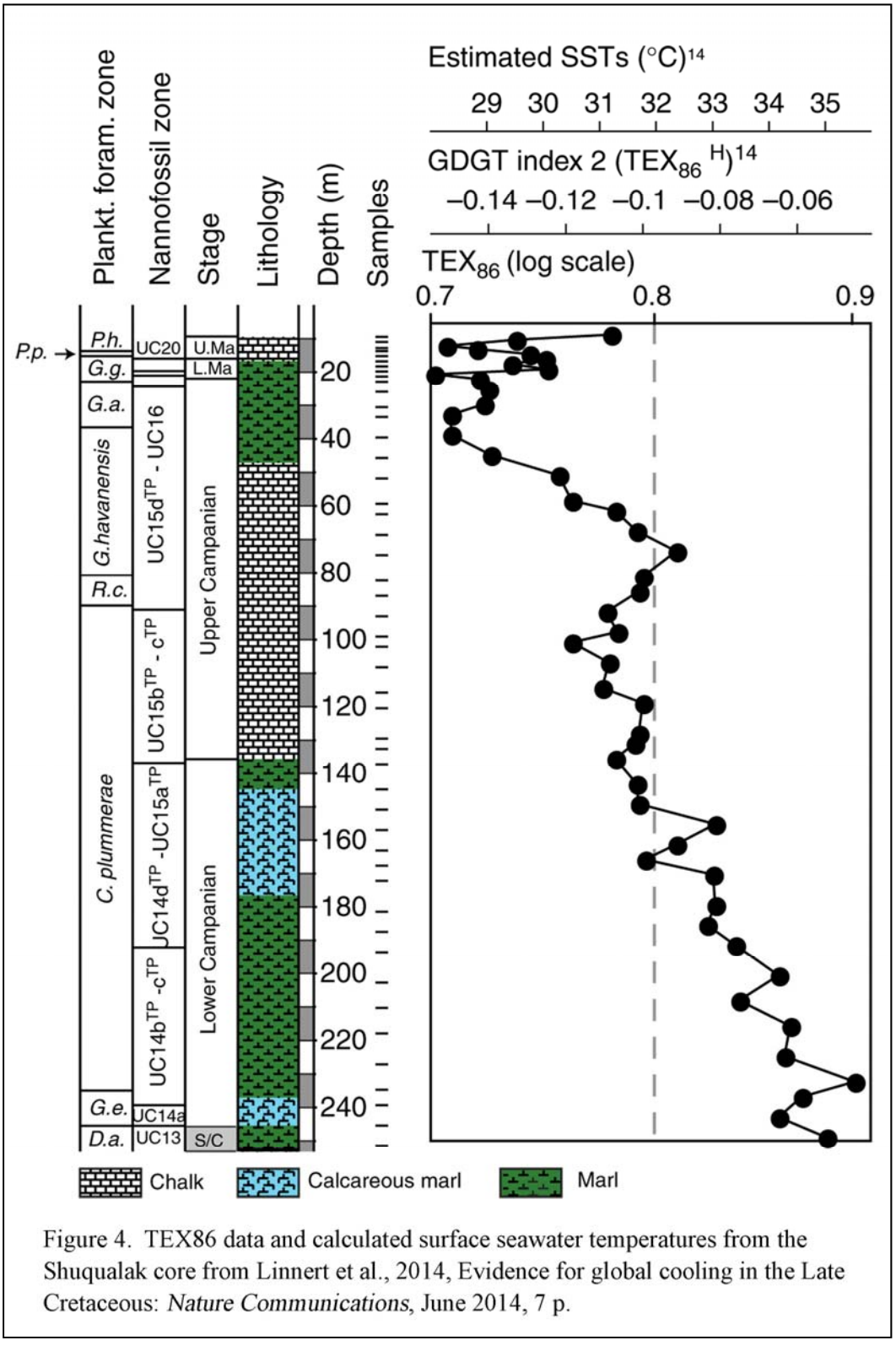


Figure 4. TEX86 data and calculated surface seawater temperatures from the Shuqualak core from Linnert et al., 2014, Evidence for global cooling in the Late Cretaceous: *Nature Communications*, June 2014, 7 p.

Also in the Shuqualak cores were fossil shells and biotite mica ash from the eruption of the Jackson Volcano some 75 million years ago (Figure 5).

Figure 5. Bedding planes in the Cretaceous chalk core from Shuqualak, Mississippi, in MDEQ's Core and Sample Library in Jackson. At left is the fossil pecten *Neithea quinquecostata* and at right are biotite crystals (black) from a volcanic eruption at Jackson 75 million years ago.

Guy Harrington (Figure 6) is getting to be an old friend of the Office of Geology, working with us on the geology of the Walmart site in Meridian and the Red Hills Lignite Mine in 2000. He recently left his job as a geology professor at the University of Birmingham, UK, to take a position as Senior Palynologist/Stratigrapher with PetroStrat of Wales, UK, and is assisting in the exploration for oil in the North Sea. Guy was first to discover the carbon isotope excursion event at the base of the Paleocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum (PETM) in the Harrell and Walmart cores in Lauderdale County, Mississippi (see the October 2009 issue of *Environmental News*, p. 13-18). The PETM was a 170,000-year-long warm spell that occurred 55.8 million years ago. It is the subject of considerable research as it provides the best past analog of global warming from massive carbon input to the ocean and the atmosphere. Harrington explained the importance (internationally) of the Harrell and Walmart cores in that they are the only cores with plant fossils that preserve the PETM in the Western Hemisphere between localities in Colombia, South America, and Wyoming, USA (Wing and Currano, 2013, Plant response to a global greenhouse event 56 million years ago: *American Journal of Botany*, v. 100, no. 7, p. 1234-1254). Harrington returned to MDEQ's Core and Sample Library on June 1-2, 2015, to take additional samples of the Harrell and Walmart cores.

MONTHLY POST

Dr. David T. Dockery lll RPG

Figure 6. Guy Harrington, Senior Palynologist/Stratigrapher with PetroStrat of Wales, United Kingdom, collecting samples from the Harrell core in Lauderdale County, Mississippi, at MDEQ's Core and Sample Library in Jackson on June 1, 2015.

MONTHLY POST

Dr. David T. Dockery lll RPG

Figure 7 is an analysis of the PETM in the Harrell core as published in A. Sluijs, L. van Roij, G. J. Harrington, S. Schouten, J. A. Sessa, L. J. LeVay, G.-J. Reichart, and C. P. Slomp, 2013, Extreme warming, photic zone euxinia and sea level rise during the Paleocene/Eocene Thermal Maximum on the Gulf of Mexico Coastal Plain; connecting marginal marine biotic signals, nutrient cycling and ocean deoxygenation: Climate Past Discussion, 9, 6459-6494 [figure2].

The research above follows the proverb: “For the want of a nail the shoe was lost; for want of the shoe the horse was lost; for want of a horse the rider was lost; for want of a rider the message was lost; for want of a message the battle was lost; for want of a battle the kingdom was lost.” What if Texas had no core and sample library, and someone had disposed of cutting samples from a dry hole drilled in 1952? What if Gregg Robertson had no samples to test the Eagle Ford Shale? What if the oil industry found it too risky to invest in an unconventional oil prospect without sound data from samples? The answer is: Many struggling Texas ranchers would still be struggling. Many unemployed Texans would still be unemployed. Texas State Government would have missed out on a tax windfall. The U.S. would have imported that amount of oil from foreign nations, increasing our trade deficit. Our position in the world would have been weaker because of dependence on foreign oil. We would all be negatively impacted in some way. Like the Texas facility, MDEQ’s Core and Sample Library is a valuable asset for Mississippi’s future.

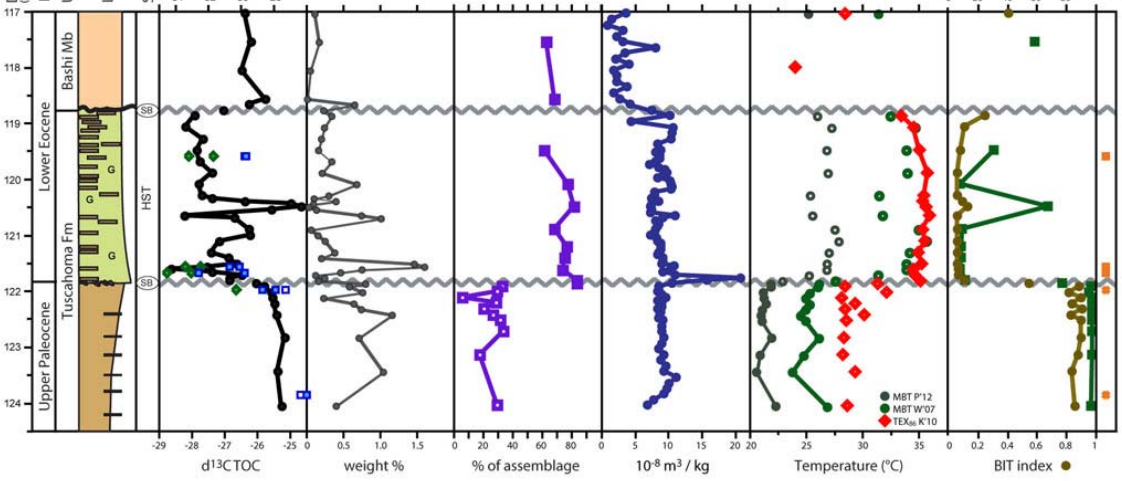


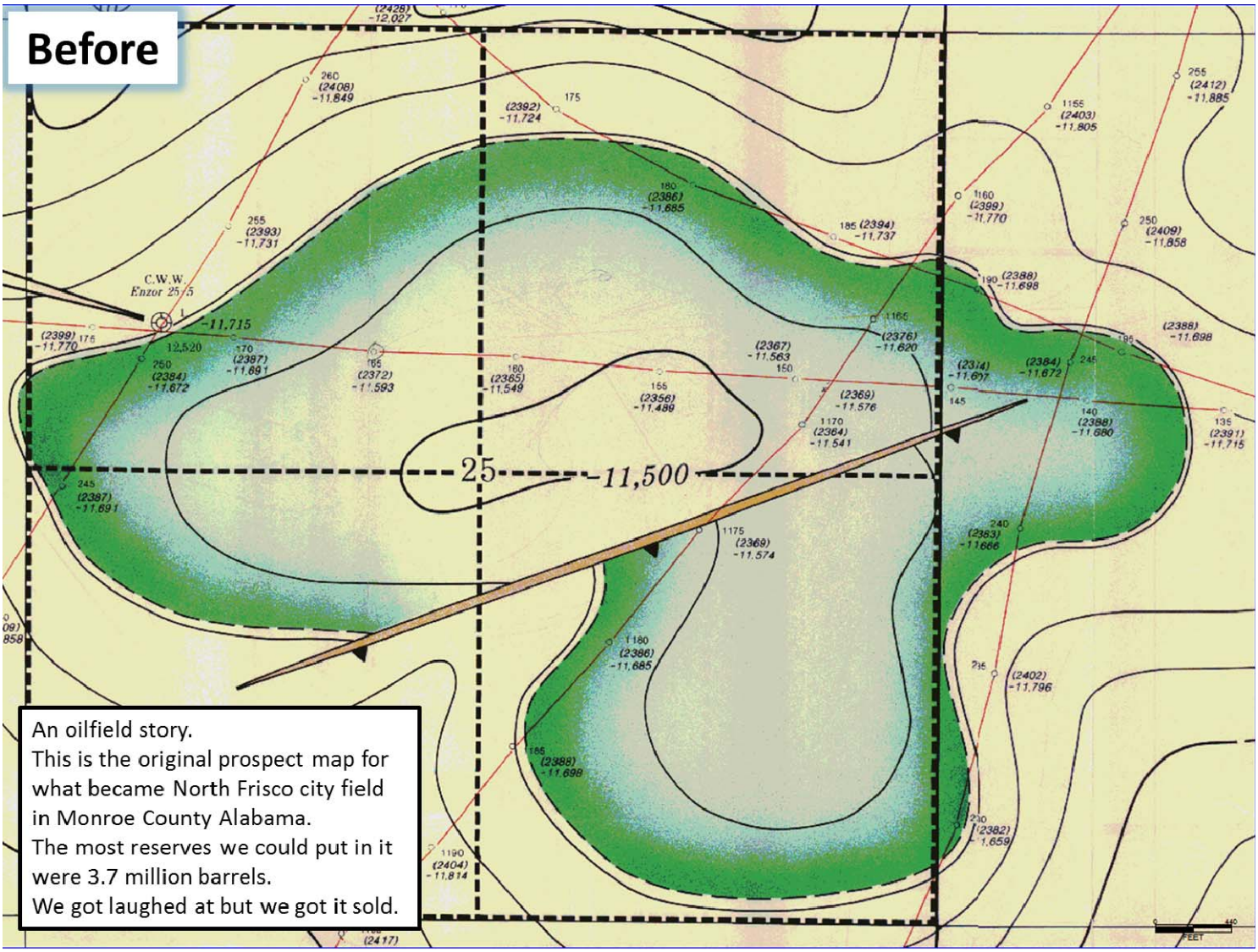
Figure 7. Analyses of the PETM in the Harrell core from Lauderdale County, Mississippi, as published in Sluijs et al., 2013, Extreme warming, photic zone euxinia and sea level rise during the Paleocene/Eocene Thermal Maximum on the Gulf of Mexico Coastal Plain; connecting marginal marine biotic signals, nutrient cycling and ocean deoxygenation: Climate Past Discussion, 9, 6459-6494, fig. 2.

GEOLOGY POST

FRISCO CITY FIELD: Before & After

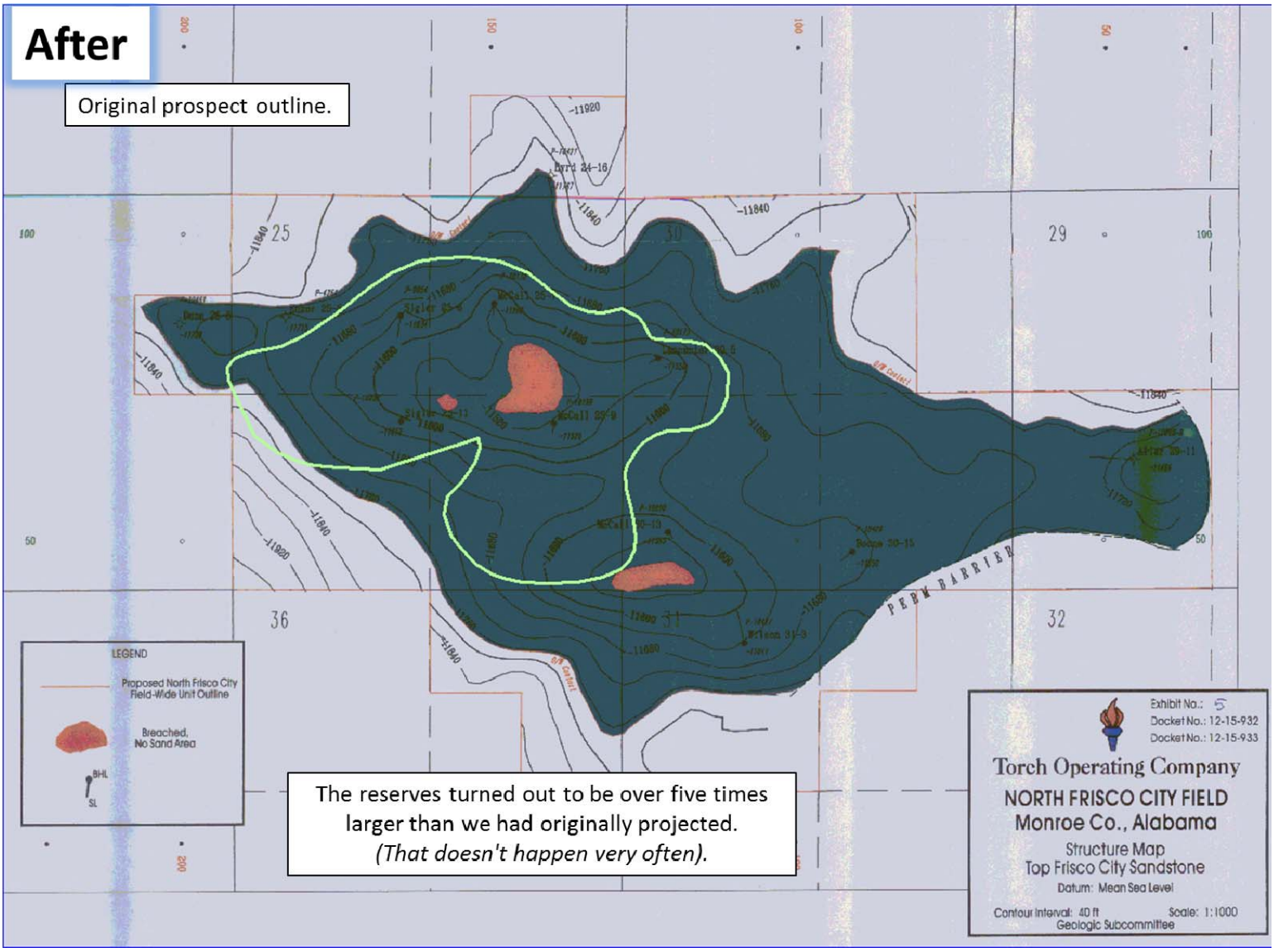
Thanks to Bob Schneeflock

The MGS would like to thank Bob Schneeflock for helping us start this effort to build content for the bulletin and website. His company's prospect success was one of those truly significant discoveries. We hope with time MGS will be able to display prospect maps of successful and unsuccessful drilling ventures. The unsuccessful prospect helps illustrate how good ideas come face to face with the inherent risk that attends oil and gas exploration. Keep in mind that these unsuccessful prospects were professionally evaluated and deemed worth the risk by the people putting up the exploration capital. For this reason some dry hole prospects are worthy of review. Bob Schneeflock once told me about a prospect he had that he considered one of the best looking prospects he had ever seen. He then said if he had 10 such prospects he'd probably have a nice discovery. That said I hope MGS will be able to display some of these good prospect ideas that didn't drill out as well as those that did. The MGS ask its members to be ready and willing to make contributions to this content effort.



GEOLOGY POST

FRISCO CITY FIELD



Courtesy of Bob Schneeflock.
Thanks Bob!

BOLAND SCHOLARSHIP WATCH

Faculty & Students,

This is a new year and the Mississippi Geological Society along with the Boland Scholarship Fund would like to remind you that we want to honor the most out-standing overall students for the 2015-2016 year.

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

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

Best Regards,

Matt Caton
Editor

GEOLOGY POST

ARTICLES, PAPERS or NEWS?

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

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

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

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

mcaton@tellusoperating.com

Thanks & Regards,

Matt Caton
Editor

GEO LINK POST

USGS TAPESTRY OF TIME AND TERRAIN http://tapestry.usgs.gov The CCGS is donating to all of the 5th and 6th grade schools in the Coastal Bend. Check it out—it is a spectacular map. You might want a framed one for your own office. The one in my office has glass and a metal frame, and it cost $400 and it does not look as good as the ones we are giving to the schools. Call Owen 510-6224 if you want one for your office for $150. Duncan, Mike, Chris, Dave, Bob Randy, Seb., Kevin, Ken, Craig, Patrick, Robert.

FREE TEXAS TOPO'S http://www.tnris.state.tx.us/digital.htm these are TIFF files from your state government that can be downloaded and printed. You can add them to SMT by converting them first in Globalmapper. Other digital data as well.

FREE NATIONAL TOPO'S http://store.usgs.gov/b2c_usgs/b2c/start/(xcm=r3standardpitrex_prd)/.do go to this webpage and look on the extreme right side to the box titled TOPO MAPS DOWNLOAD TOPO MAPS FREE.

http://www.geographynetwork.com/ Go here and try their top 5 map services. My favorite is 'USGS Elevation Date.' Zoom in on your favorite places and see great shaded relief images. One of my favorites is the Great Sand Dunes National Park in south central Colorado. Nice Dunes.

http://antwrp.gsfc.nasa.gov/apod/astropix.html Astronomy picture of the day — awesome. I click this page everyday.

http://www.spacimaging.com/gallery/ioweek/iow.htm Amazing satellite images. Check out the gallery.

http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/seg/topo/globegal.shtml More great maps to share with kids and students.

www.geo.org Don't forget we have our own web page.

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

http://asterweb.jpl.nasa.gov/galery/default.htm Great satellite images of volcanoes

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

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

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

http://terrasrver.com/ Go here to download free aerial photo images that can be plotted under your digital land and well data. Images down to 1 meter resolution, searchable by Lat Long coordinate. Useful for resolving well location questions.

http://www.fs.fed.us/gpnf/volcanocams/msh/ This is a live cam of Mt. St. Helens refreshed every 5 minutes. At the bottom are old videos of past eruptions in this cycle. It is worth a watch especially now.

MGS HONORARY MEMBERS

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David C. Harrell*	**Oleta R. Harrell***	**Ralph Hines**
Dudley J. Hughes	**Urban B. Hughes***	**Wendell B. Johnson ***
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Henry Toler*	**H. Vaughn Watkins**	**Stewart W. Welch***
Charles H. Williams	**Jerry Zoble**	**Julius Ridgeway**
David Cate		

*** deceased**

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

MISSISSIPPI GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

2015-2016

Membership year is June through May

New Membership ($20/yr)____ Renewal ($20/yr)____ Student (FREE)____ Associate ($20/yr)____

Boland Scholarship Fund Donation $_____ Total Amount Enclosed $_____

Last Name:_____ First:_____ MI:_____

Mailing Address:_____

Office Phone:_____ Home Phone:_____ FAX:_____

E-mail Address: _____

College/University Attended: _____

Degree(s) Obtained and Year(s) Awarded: _____

Professional Associations, Certifications, & Licenses: _____

2015-2016 MGS MEMBERS

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Joe White
Charlie Williams
Mark Wyatt
Jerry Zoble

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

MGS ADVERTISING ORDER FORM

September 2015 – May 2016

I. Bulletin Advertisements:

Size	Rate/Year	Amt. Remitted
Full Page Ad (6” x 8”)	$500	$_____
1/2 Page Ad (6” x 4”)	$300	$_____
1/4 Page Ad (3” x 4”)	$200	$_____
Business Card Ad (1 1/2” x 3”)	$100	$_____
Professional Listing (1/2” x 3”)	$ 50	$_____

II. Web Page Advertisements (www.missgeo.com):

Type of Web Page Ad	Rate/Year	Amt. Remitted
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