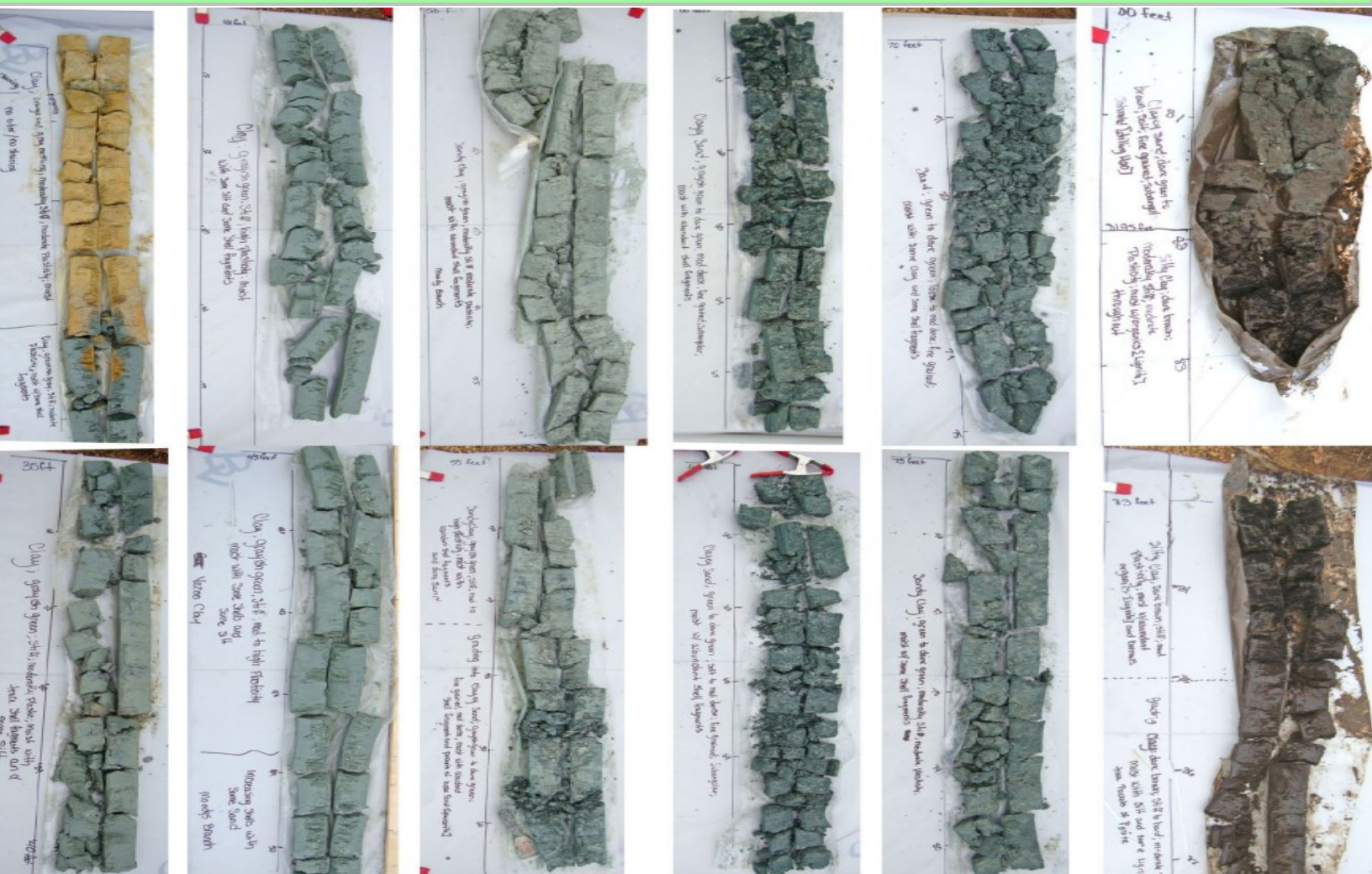


MISSISSIPPI GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

No. 9

May 2026



MAY SPEAKER

Chris Fletcher - US Coring

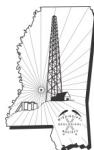
W. LESTER "LES" AULTMAN

1943 - 2026

2026 MGS SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNERS

INTERNS AND GEOLOGIC RESEARCH

Dr. David Dockery III, RPG



www.missgeo.com



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2025-2026 MGS MEETING SCHEDULE

When	What/Who	Where
September 10	Howard Duhom - Viking Engineering	River Hills - 11:30am
October 8	Ashley Little - IperionX	River Hills - 11:30am
November 12	SPE Sporting Clay Shoot	Providence Hill Farm
December 10	Randy Seright - Polymer Flooding - SPE	River Hills - 11:30am
January 14	Reza Fard - NOV Tuboscope	River Hills - 11:30am
February 11	Natalia Usachenko - Fossil Whales in Mississippi	River Hills – 11:30am
March 11	Alan Cockrell - Drilling Ahead	River Hills – 11:30am
April 8	Murtaza Ziauddin - Advances in Carbonate Stimulation	River Hills - 11:30am
May 13	Chris Fletcher - US Coring - Scholarships	River Hills - 11:30am
TBD	Spring Fling	TBD

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jmcduff@att.net

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Dear MGS Members,

I am pleased to announce this year's **Lawrence F. Boland Scholarship** award winners: **Hannah Baxter** (Mississippi State), **Reagan Manske** (Southern Mississippi), and **Hunter Parry** (Ole Miss). The **Dustin Johnson Memorial Award** was presented to **Jayden Parnell** of Mississippi State. I appreciate the committee and our university partners for supporting these awards. Your continued support through gifts and participation in the Society is always welcomed and deeply valued.

This spring, the geology programs report the following graduation numbers:

- **Southern Miss** — 4 (all undergraduate)
- **Jackson State** — 2 (all undergraduate)
- **Mississippi State** — 9 (4 undergraduate, 4 M.S., 1 Ph.D.)
- **Ole Miss** — 15 (2 geology, 7 geological engineering, 5 M.S., 1 Ph.D.)

Further, the **Honorary Committee** — **Vaughan Watkins**, **Bob Schneeflock**, and **Dave Cate** — will be nominating **two new honorary members** at the luncheon.

Lastly, I would like to welcome **George Arnold**, Senior Coring Representative with **US Coring**, to our May 12th, 2026 meeting, where he will speak on conventional coring operations.

This will be our **final meeting before the Society breaks for the summer**, and we look forward to reconvening in the fall.

Respectfully,

Tim Palmer

President, Mississippi Geological Society



MAY SPEAKER



Mississippi Section

CHRIS FLETCHER

US CORING

WEDNESDAY MAY 13, 2026

RIVER HILLS CC

11:30 am



Clovelly Oil Co. LLC

Joseph R. Johnson Jr.
Vice-President Exploration

Three Lakeway
Suite 3360
3838 N. Causeway Blvd.
Metairie, LA 70002

Office: (504)-522-7496
jjohnson@clovellyoil.com

Joe R. White, Jr.
Petroleum Geologist

8505 Dogwood Trail
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318-423-9828
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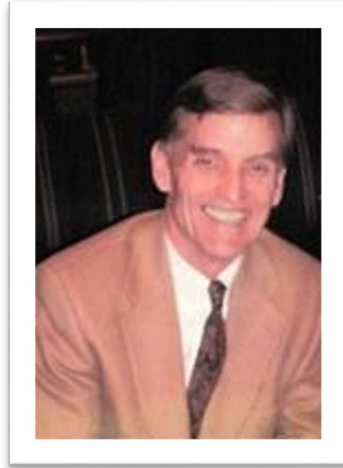
AAPG CPG #5580
MS RPG #0097
LA CPG #345

Available for Consulting



W. LESTER “LES” AULTMAN

March 3, 1943 - April 14, 2026



W. Lester Aultman, a longtime resident of Clinton, passed away at his home on April 14, 2026, after an extended illness. Born on March 3, 1943, in Hattiesburg, Mississippi to Wilmer and Elizabeth Daglish Aultman, Les grew up on the family farm in Seminary, Mississippi where he and his siblings enjoyed a childhood filled with many adventures, a variety of animals, Tom Sawyer type escapades, and working alongside his daddy helping with farm chores. He graduated from Seminary High School where he was an outstanding athlete. Known for his toughness, quickness, and speed, Les was an all-conference standout which resulted in his receiving a scholarship to play football and run track in college.

After attending Jones Junior College, Les graduated from Mississippi College with a Bachelor of Science degree. He coached football for five years before making a major career change. Returning to college, he completed a Bachelor of Science degree and a Masters degree in Geology from the University of Southern Mississippi. Les began his second career with Gulf Oil Company in Jackson. Shortly thereafter he received what he considered his biggest and most significant professional opportunity when he began working with Dudley Hughes and Harry Spooner at the Pruet and Hughes Company, in Jackson. Harry Spooner became a mentor and friend, and Les was deeply grateful for his influence. For the next thirty-five years, Les was active in the oil and gas industry across the southeast. Much of that time was spent as an independent consulting geologist. Known for his strong work ethic and his attention to detail, Les was described by one of his colleagues “as one of the sharpest and brightest geologists in the industry. He can be proud of his very successful career in the oil and gas industry.”



W. LESTER “LES” AULTMAN

March 3, 1943 - April 14, 2026

As long as his health allowed, he continued his athletic interests, playing racquet ball and being an active cyclist. For many years he and his brother canoed and kayaked the whitewater rivers throughout the Southeast. They fulfilled a boyhood dream when the two of them began a canoe journey on the Okatoma River, which adjoined their farm, and completed their trek a week later in Pascagoula at the mouth of the Gulf of Mexico. One of his fondest memories was spending a week with his son-in-law hiking and rafting through the Grand Canyon.

Always active in professional organizations, Les served as President of Mississippi Geological Society, was a member of Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies, and the American Association of Professional Geologists. He was instrumental in the formation of the Mississippi State Board of Registered Professional Geologists, and served on the Board of Directors for a number of years. A devoted Southern Miss fan, he was a member of the University of Southern Mississippi Foundation Honor Club, a life member of the Southern Miss Alumni Association, and the Eagle Club.

Les began his Christian journey at Seminary Baptist Church where he accepted Jesus as his Savior, and his Christian faith became the guiding principle in his life. He was a member of First Baptist Church in Clinton, where he served as a deacon and taught a Sunday School Class. He was a kind and generous donor to a number of organizations; his favorite being French Camp Academy. A man of many interests, he enjoyed working on the family farm, reading, and listening to opera and classical music were his favorite pastimes. However, his passion was building reproduction Queen Anne furniture in his workshop which he designed and constructed himself to match the family's colonial style house. He never used a stock design, instead he drew the plans for each piece of furniture he built. His creations provide elegance and grace to the family's home and are priceless treasures.

A devoted husband and father, Les is survived by his wife, Rosemary Gibens Aultman; two daughters, Paige Aultman Hurley and husband Bill, and Erin Aultman Johnston and husband Troy, all of Ridgeland, Mississippi. He is survived by four granddaughters; Mary Aultman Hurley Weldon and husband Jacob, Anna Claire Hurley, Caroline Johnston, and Margaret Johnston; and two great grandsons, Henry and Shepherd Weldon. He is also survived by his brother, Dr. Isaac Aultman and his wife Rachel of Flowood; and a sister, Diane Lafferty of Gulfport. He is preceded in death by his parents; a sister, Betty Jean Bell; and brothers-in-law, Ronny Gibens, Mike Lafferty, and Tom Bell.



CURRENT PRICES

Market Watch

Crude Oil WTI (NYM \$/bbl) Front Month

[+ WATCHLIST](#)

☀ OPEN

Last Updated: May 12, 2026 at 4:03 p.m. EDT - Delayed quote

\$ **102.37**

▲ 2.83 2.84%

SETTLEMENT PRICE 05/11/2026

\$0.00

< ADVANCED CHARTING 1M ▼ \$ % VOL



Natural Gas Continuous Contract

[+ WATCHLIST](#)

☀ OPEN

Last Updated: May 12, 2026 at 4:04 p.m. EDT - Delayed quote

\$ **2.834**

▼ -0.076 -2.61%

SETTLEMENT PRICE 05/11/2026

\$2.910

< ADVANCED CHARTING 1M ▼ \$ % VOL





SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

2026 Mississippi Geological Society Scholarships The Lawrence F. Boland Scholarship

The Boland Memorial Scholarship Fund was formed in the honor of the late Lawrence F. Boland, a highly respected Jackson area "oil finder" - petroleum geologist. The fund was incorporated by Marshall K. Kern, H. Vaughan Watkins, Jr., and Jerry E. Zoble and was resolved as being established by the Mississippi Geological Society, Inc. on January 8, 1980 on a motion by William H. Moore, a second to the motion by Harold E. Karges, and carried by unanimous voice vote of members of the MGS.

The purpose of the Scholarship Fund is to provide scholarships to select students at the four colleges and universities in the State of Mississippi which offer degrees in geology. The Board of Directors and Committee of Trustees are charged with the responsibility of determining the amount of the awards (which is derived from earnings and interest from the fund) and which students, if any, are eligible to receive the honor of the Boland scholarship. The students may be selected by the Boland committee using at least the minimum of the following criteria:

The student shall possess the minimum of the following:

- 1) Be a junior or senior geology major;
- 2) Have an academic average of 3.0 on a 4.0 grade point system;
- 3) Possess geological curiosity;
- 4) Be responsible, dependable, and of good ethical character;
- 5) Have the ability to communicate; and
- 6) Have the need of financial assistance.

As a matter of procedure, each of the four schools offering degrees in geology are contacted by letter and recommendations are requested of the faculty of each department as to which students they would like to have considered as potential Boland Scholarship awardees. After each school's geology department makes their recommendations, the candidates so recommended are interviewed by the Committee. After the interviews are conducted the Board then convenes to discuss the credentials and circumstances of each of the potential candidates. Generally, all four schools receive one scholarship award, but it is of importance to note that historically there have been instances when the Boland Scholarship did not give an award to a particular institution for various, qualifying reasons.

Remember, the Boland Scholarship Fund derives its award monies from gifts. Please consider a contribution to the Fund - it is a most worthy cause, and it is tax deductible.



SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Mississippi State University – Ms. Hannah Baxter



Tim Palmer (Left), Hannah Baxter (Center), Dr. Jonathan Leard (Right)

Ms. Hannah Baxter is a Geoscience major at Mississippi State University and is on track to graduate in December 2026. She comes highly recommended by her professors for the Boland Award, supported by a 3.86 overall GPA and a 4.0 major GPA. Her undergraduate research focuses on methane seeps, where she processes and interprets multibeam geophysical data to identify gas-escape features. She has presented her work at the American Geophysical Union and the Mississippi Academy of Sciences, earning second place for her undergraduate oral presentation at the latter. Beyond her academic achievements, Ms. Baxter serves as a Chemistry and Physics tutor, is the vice president of the Geosciences Club, and works as a recruiting ambassador for the College of Arts and Sciences. The Boland Committee is pleased to recognize Ms. Baxter's accomplishments and is excited to present her with this award.



SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The University of Southern Mississippi – Mr. Reagan Manske



Tim Palmer (Left), Reagan Manske (Center), and Ginger Trocheset (Right)

Mr. Reagan Manske, Southern Miss geology major, has been selected to be a 2026 recipient of the Lawrence F. Boland Memorial Scholarship because of his outstanding grades, geological curiosity, research interests, and post-graduate geological plans. Reagan has an overall GPA of 3.93 and a geology major GPA of 3.878. He is in the Honors College, and he is writing his undergraduate honors thesis with Dr. Heitmuller, examining changes in the geomorphology of Horn Island since Hurricane Katrina. Following his graduation from the University of Southern Mississippi in either Fall 2026 or Spring 2027, Reagan plans to attend UT Austin for his master's degree. His interests and aspirations for his future career are in the fields of coastal geomorphology and petroleum geology. Reagan was very impressive in his interview and is a wonderful example of a Boland Scholar.



SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The University of Mississippi – Mr. Hunter Parry



Tim Palmer (Left), Hunter Perry (Center), Paul Parrish (Right)

Mr. Hunter Parry is a junior Geological Engineering major at the Ole Miss from Houston, Tx. Hunter loves anything that has to do with working in the field and hopes one day to have his geological office in the field. Outside of the classroom, Hunter enjoys the wonders of nature through backpacking, hiking, and snowboarding. Hunter has a 3.94 GPA and wants to go to the Colorado School of Mines for graduate school for the purpose of pursuing either a career in mining or oil and gas. Hunter was very professional and passionate about geology. Hunter's favorite class was structural geology and is an avid Toronto Blue Jays fan.

Together, these results demonstrate that shipboard MBES seep inventories likely underestimate total seep abundance and associated methane flux on the USAM. The new high-resolution AUV MBES dataset provides an unprecedented view of the fine-scale morphology and spatial organization of methane seepage sites, advancing understanding of the geologic controls on fluid transport and discharge along the U.S. Atlantic Margin.



SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The Dustin Johnson Memorial Award

In addition to the Boland Scholarship Awards, the MGS has established another award to be given each year to recognize a student for extraordinary achievements and determined efforts in the pursuit of a Geoscience career outside the strict Boland Scholarship scholastic requirements. This award is to be known as The Dustin Johnson Memorial Award in honor of Dustin Johnson, a Geoscience major at Mississippi State University, who lost his life in 2013 just short of receiving his degree.

The University of Mississippi – Ms. Jayden Parnell



Tim Palmer (Left), Jayden Parnell (Center), Paul Parrish (Right)

Ms. Jayden Parnell is a sophomore Geological Engineering major at Ole Miss from Olive Branch. Ms. Parnell's goal is to combine her engineering background with a passion for paleontology to one day become a professional in the field. Jayden's favorite class so far has been mineralogy and petrology. After graduation, Jayden is open to exploring industry and / or graduate school. Jayden was very professional and humble during her interview.



MISSISSIPPI OFFICE OF GEOLOGY

New Publications

The Mississippi Office of Geology is pleased to announce the publication of the following maps for the month of December

[OF-356 Geologic Map of the Bovina Quadrangle Hinds and Warren Counties, Mississippi](#)

[Native Lithic Materials of Mississippi](#)

[OF-349 Geologic Map of the Sharon Southeast Quadrangle Rankin, Madison, and Scott Counties, Mississippi](#)

[OF-348 Geologic Map of the Shoccoe Quadrangle Madison and Rankin Counties, Mississippi](#)

[OF-347 Geologic Map of the Canton Quadrangle Madison County, Mississippi](#)





MONTHLY POST

Dr. David Dockery III RPG

INTERNS AND GEOLOGIC RESEARCH

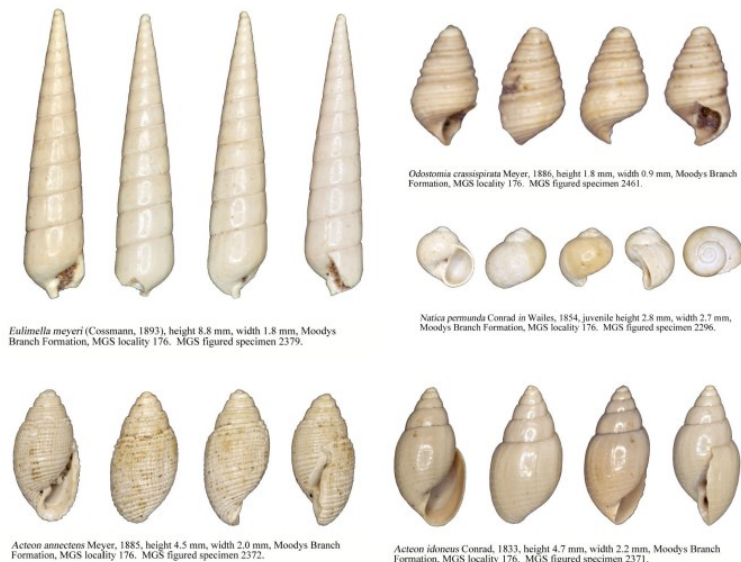
David T. Dockery III, RPG

MDEQ Office of Geology does not have a budget for intern salaries, but we did have an intern who worked one summer as a volunteer. Emily Welch, a Mississippi State University geology student, offered to work for us without pay to include the work experience on her resume. We had two uncontaminated cores from EPA contractors working at a Superfund Site in Canton, Mississippi, which had the thickest known section (25-foot thick) of the Moodys Branch Formation. Also, the cores were far from any recorded outcrops of the formation. The core we chose to study was one that was bagged in two-foot intervals without labels as to depth. Subsequently the samples were placed in order from top to bottom based on their physical attributes. Emily's job was to sieve the core for fossil mollusks and identify and catalogue her finds. Though she did not get paid for her work, she did get a publication as the fruit of her labor, MDEQ Office of Geology, Open File Report OF-304, *The Moodys Branch Formation Molluscan Fauna from a Core Drilled on the Southwestern Wood Preserving Superfund Site in Canton, Mississippi*. The cover page of this report is shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1

THE MOODYS BRANCH FORMATION MOLLUSCAN FAUNA FROM A CORE
DRILLED ON THE SOUTHWESTERN WOOD PRESERVING SUPERFUND SITE IN
CANTON, MISSISSIPPI

Emily Welch and David T. Dockery III, RPG





MONTHLY POST

Dr. David Dockery III RPG

Figure 2 is page 4 of Emily's report and shows from top to bottom the EPA contractor's Sonic drilling rig coring at the Southeastern Wood Preserving Superfund Site (Figure 4 of the report), the core laid out from top to bottom (Figure 5 of the report), and Emily sieving the cores for fossil shells (Figure 6 of the report). The pile of shells and cuttings of the formation at right in the bottom row of pictures is from the base of the Moodys Branch Formation with chips of lignite from the underlying Cockfield Formation.

Figure 2



Figure 4. Sonic drilling rig coring at the Southeastern Wood Preserving Superfund Site on June 19, 2017, in stormy and fair weather.



Figure 5. The core, from left to right, penetrated the brown weathered Yazoo Clay, the gray unweathered Yazoo Clay (frame 1), the sandy Moodys Branch Formation (2-4), and the Cockfield Formation (4-5) with a lignite seam at the top (4, last core at right).



Figure 6. Emily Welch in frames 1 and 2 holding sieves with lignite from the top of the Cockfield Formation and fossil shells from the base of the Moodys Branch Formation (frame 3).

The cores containing the Moodys Branch Formation (collected on a #35 sieve) were weighed individually. Samples were then sorted for fossil groups, and the fossil mollusks were identified, using MDEQ Office of Geology fossil website on a smart phone. Figure 7 shows a fractions of coarse, medium, and fine drill rig and core taken on January 8, 2013.



MONTHLY POST

Dr. David Dockery III RPG

The tabulation of molluscan species from the core included 51 species of gastropods and 29 species of bivalves. This summer we plan to have a new intern to process the second core from the Southeastern Wood Preserving Superfund Site. Kaitlyn Burkhalter, a geology student at the University of Southern Mississippi, will take on this job. Figure 3 is the layout of the core from the lower Yazoo Clay, the Moodys Branch Formation, to the upper Cockfield Formation.

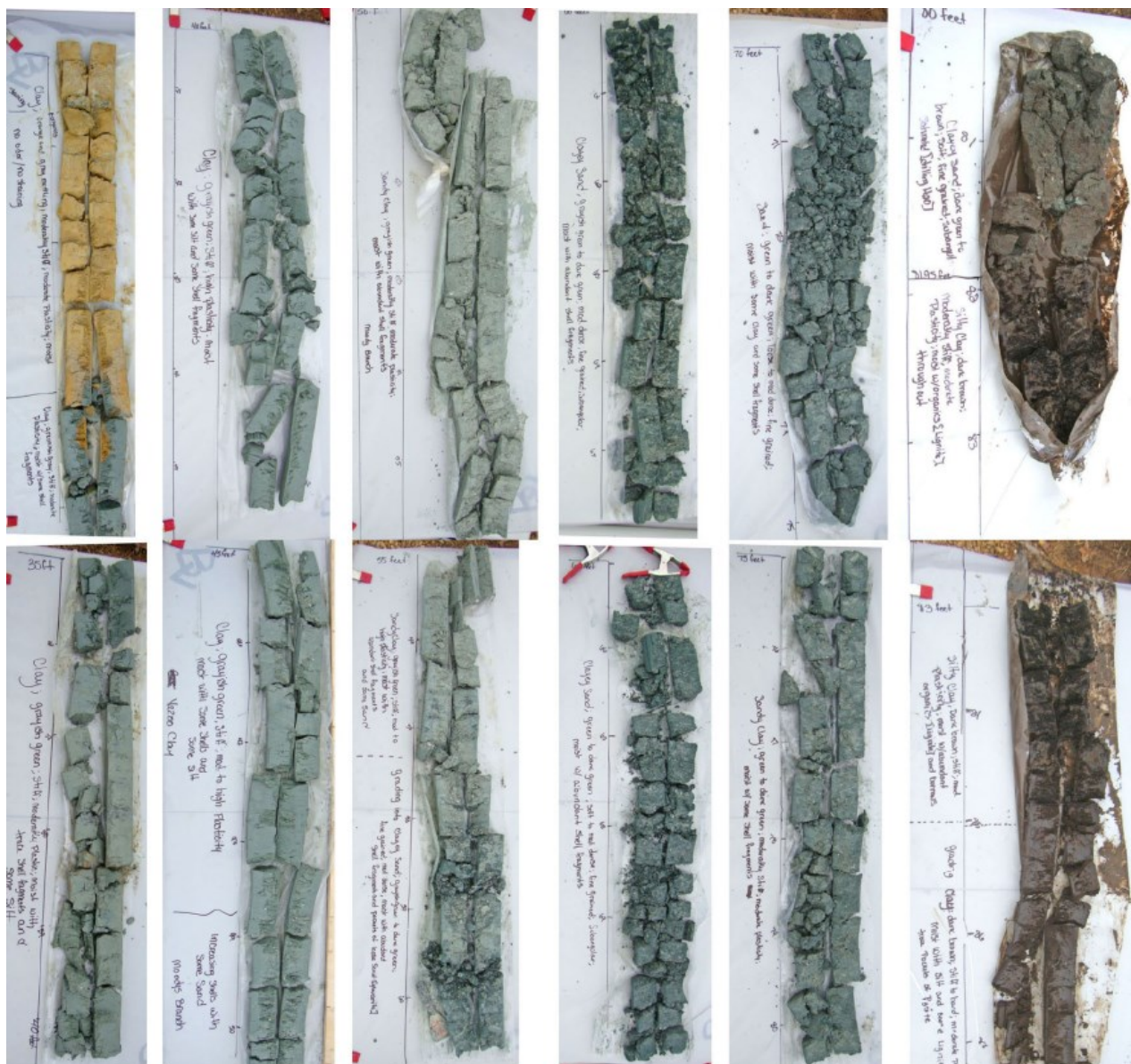


Figure 3. Sixty-foot interval of core, containing the Yazoo Clay from 30 to 57.3 feet, Moodys Branch Formation from 57.3 to 81.9 feet, and Cockfield Formation from 81.9 to 90 feet (the bottom of the acquired interval).



GEOLOGY POST

ARTICLES, PAPERS or NEWS?

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

I am looking for 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:

mcaton13@yahoo.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](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/owersofl0/>

<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://terraserver.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/gpnmf/volcanocams/msh/> This is a live cam of Mt. St. Helens refreshed every 5 minutes. At the bottom are old videos of past eruptions in this cycle. It is worth a watch especially now.



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MISSISSIPPI GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

2025-2026

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Boland Scholarship Fund Donation \$ _____ Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

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September 2025 – May 2026

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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):

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Second Page Banner Ad	\$250	\$ _____
Professional Listing/Link	\$100	\$ _____

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

Total Remitted \$ _____

Please make checks payable to the Mississippi Geological Society. If you have any questions, contact Matt Caton at (601) 898-7444 or mcaton@tellusoperating.com



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1962-1963	Robert B. Ross	2003-2004	John G. Cox
1963-1964	William A. Skees /Marvin Oxley	2004-2005	James E. Starnes
1964-1965	James F. Bollman	2005-2006	Todd Hines
1965-1966	Sankey L. Blanton	2006-2007	Bob Schneeflock
1966-1967	Alan Jackson	2007-2008	Tony Stuart
1967-1968	Julius M. Ridgway	2008-2009	Lisa Ivshin
1968-1969	Edward D. Minihan	2009-2010	Joe Johnson
1969-1970	Kevin E. Cahill	2010-2011	Brian Sims
1970-1971	John Lancaster	2011-2012	Stanley King
1971-1972	Larry Boland	2012-2013	Jim Files
1972-1973	Charles Barton	2013-2014	Neil Barnes
1973-1974	Larry Walter	2014-2015	Ezat Heydari
1974-1975	W. E. "Gene" Taylor	2015-2016	Jack Moody
1975-1976	Jerry E. Zoble	2016-2017	Cragin Knox
1976-1977	P. David Cate	2017-2018	David Hancock
1977-1978	Sarah Childress	2018-2019	Dr. David Dockery
1978-1979	Les Aultman	2019-2020	James O. Sparks
1979-1980	Philip R. Reeves	2020-2023	David Snodgrass
		2023-2025	Jonathan Leard