

APRIL 2008

Friday April 4th
AAPG Distinguished
Lecturer Dr. Gary Karner
will present “Accuracy of
Eustatic Amplitude
Estimates: Challenges in
Flexurally Backstripping
Continental Margins.”

Wednesday April 9th
Susan Vuke from the
MBMG will present
the new Montana
Geological Map Project.

Tuesday April 29th
Ed Deal, Director of
MBMG, will present the
“Study of Mafic Layered
Intrusions, Bushveld
Complex, South Africa.”

All MGS meetings are
held at the Billings
Petroleum Club at
11:45 a.m. unless
otherwise noted.
Members who do
not receive an
e-mail reminder
can RSVP by calling
Doretta Brush at
Ballard Petroleum
(406) 259-8790.

MGS HOME PAGE:
www.montanags.org
MGS EMAIL:
mgs@wtp.net



A geologist out standing in his field!

April 2008 – MGS President’s Letter

As I mentioned a couple of months back, the MGS is planning to host at least two one-day field trips later this year. Ennis Geraghty, Stillwater Mining Company, has agreed to lead a trip along the Beartooth Mountain front, probably in late August or early September (exact date to be determined). This trip will follow the Stillwater River visiting various metal zones in the Stillwater Complex while investigating surface exposures of Laramide structures. There will also be discussions of some of the deep drilling the mining company has done in this area. The MGS is also planning a one-day trip sometime this summer to investigate outcrops in the vicinity of Billings. This trip will be led by David Lopez, MBMG. Watch this space for more information once we get a final date set for each of these trips.

If you missed the trip Ennis Geraghty led last year to the Benbow Mine, or just had so much fun you want to do it again, Ennis will be reprising that trip for the Tobacco Root Geological Society meeting in Red Lodge (July 31 – Aug. 3). For more information visit the Tobacco Root Society’s website at: www.trgs.org.

This being April, it’s time for the AAPG’s Annual Convention. This year the meeting is being held in San Antonio and your humble correspondent/president will be attending as one of the two Rocky Mountain representatives for the Division of Professional Affairs. This is the political/policy setting division of the AAPG, as well as being the vehicle for becoming a Certified Petroleum Geologist. If any MGS/AAPG members have thoughts or opinions they would like expressed at the DPA meeting please let me know.
(continued on page 2)

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(President's Letter continued from page 1.)

Additionally, Jack Warne and Don French will be representing the MGS at the annual House of Delegates meeting, and Don has also agreed to be the MGS representative at the annual Rocky Mountain Section meeting as well. So if you have opinions about the proposed by-laws changes and other things that will be voted on in San Antonio, let Jack or Don know. They ARE the society's representatives, so let them know what you think. On another topic, Duncan McBane is feverishly collecting two copies of all known MGS publications to be sent to AAPG Datapages for eventual sale via the internet. Elsewhere in this newsletter is a list of publications he is still missing. If you can help Duncan out by donating a volume from your personal library please let him know.

Finally, Jim Halvorson, at the Montana Board of Oil and Gas, shared some interesting information with me concerning geologists that he gleaned from an online source called the "Uncyclopedia" (isn't the internet a great thing?). And I quote,

"Geologists are 'scientists' with an unnatural obsession with rocks and alcohol. Often too intelligent to do monotonous sciences likes biology, chemistry, or physics, geologists devote their time to mud-worrying, volcano spotting, fault poking, bouldering, dust-collecting, and high-risk colouring.

One of the main difficulties in communicating with geologists is their belief that a million years is a short amount of time and their heads are harder than rocks. Consequently, such abstract concepts as "Tuesday Morning" and Lunchtime are completely beyond their comprehension."

More on all of this later !

Earth Science Week

AGI is pleased to announce the theme of Earth Science Week 2008: "No Child Left Inside." Being held October 12-18, Earth Science Week 2008 will encourage young people to learn about the geosciences by getting away from the television, off the computer, and out of doors.

AGI hosts Earth Science Week in cooperation with sponsors as a service to the public and the geoscience community. Each year, local groups, educators, and interested individuals organize celebratory events. Earth Science Week offers opportunities to discover the Earth sciences and engage in responsible stewardship of the Earth.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the first Earth Science Week, held in 1998. The program is supported by the U.S. Geological Survey, NASA, the AAPG Foundation, and other major geoscience groups. To learn more about Earth Science Week, related resources, and ways to participate, go to <http://www.earthsciweek.org>.

Obituary - James A. Peterson, PhD (1915-2008)

Dr. James A. Peterson, a distinguished petroleum geologist and retired geology professor at the University of Montana, died peacefully in his sleep on Tuesday, February 19 at the age of 92. Dr. Peterson authored more than 150 professional papers and articles in journals and guidebooks, and was the recipient of numerous awards and honors for his work, including an Outstanding Achievement Award from the University of Minnesota (his Ph.D. alma mater) in 1996, the Outstanding Scientist Award from the Rocky Mountain Association of Geologists in 1987, the Distinguished Service Award from the American Association of Petroleum Geologists in 1992, and the Silver Medallion Award from Montana Tech in 2005. He was very active with many professional organizations, and was the editor of the *Journal of Sedimentary Petrology* in 1976 and 1977. After leaving the university in 1976, he worked for many years for the United States Geological Survey (USGS), where he contributed his skills to such important projects as the World Energy Resources Program, which assessed worldwide petroleum reserves.

In his early years as an employee of Shell Oil Company, Dr. Peterson was actively involved with a number of significant oil discoveries in Wyoming and Montana, as well as a wildcat well in 1954 in Nevada that was the first oil strike in that state. Reminiscing later about those years, he said, "I thought all you ever did was find oil." In 2004 he was the keynote speaker at an event in Reno, Nevada that commemorated 50th anniversary of the Nevada discovery.

Dr. Peterson was also a beloved teacher and mentor at the University of Montana, guiding numerous students into successful careers. One of his proudest moments happened in 1965, when he became the faculty advisor to a young student named Jack Horner. Horner had already flunked out of the university due to very bad grades, but Dr. Peterson saw something in the young man—an enthusiasm and intelligence that seemed very promising—so he wrote letters on Horner's behalf to school officials. These letters were the main reason why Horner was able to stay in school. As it turned out, Horner was severely dyslexic—a fact not discovered until years later. Horner went on to become one of the most famous paleontologists in history—the man who revolutionized our ideas about the nature of dinosaurs, and on whom the Jurassic Park movies were loosely based. "Fortunately I had an advisor named James Peterson who believed I wasn't lazy or retarded, and he wrote letters of support for my quarterly returns to school," said Horner in an autobiographical essay. "He had to write five such letters."

Dr. Peterson was born in 1915 on a farm in southwestern Michigan, and later moved to Greencastle, Indiana, where his family ran a small-fruit farm that failed during the Depression years. He finished high school in Indiana, but turned down a full college scholarship so he could help his family, who had moved to the Chicago area. He worked as a butcher for many years before enrolling at Northwestern University in 1941. He spent the war years as a meteorologist in the Army Air Corps, receiving his training at Chanute Field, Illinois. On a blind date he met a journalism student from the University of Illinois named Gladys Pearson, and they were married in 1944 at Blytheville, Arkansas, where he was stationed.

After the war he received his Bachelor's Degree in Geophysics from Saint Louis University, and was granted a Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota in 1952. He taught briefly at Washington State University in Pullman, and worked for the USGS before taking the position with Shell, where he eventually became Division Stratigrapher and Senior Geologist.

He moved to Missoula, Montana in 1965 to teach at the University of Montana, and lived in Missoula for over 42 years. He and his wife, Gladys Peterson, were also the creators and principal authors of *Bonner: A Grass Roots Tribute*, the 1976 history of Bonner, Montana. Dr. Peterson was active with many Missoula organizations, and especially loved the Bitterroot Mountains, where he spent countless happy hours fishing and backpacking. In his retirement years he was also a distinguished supplier of tomato plants to the discerning tomato growers of Missoula. Each spring he carefully planted more than 500 tomato seeds, using old milk cartons in his home-made greenhouse. He transplanted the seedlings, labeled each one with its future home, and delivered them personally. In January the Petersons moved to Arizona to be near their son James D. Peterson.

In addition to his elder son James, Dr. Peterson is survived by his wife Gladys and his younger son Brian H. Peterson (his daughter, Wendy A. Metzger, MD, passed away in 2004), as well as four grandchildren (Brian J. Peterson, Daniel Peterson, Anne Metzger, and Kathryn Metzger) and a sister and brother (Ruth Graves and Richard Peterson). Contributions in his memory may be made to The James A. Peterson Memorial Scholarship Fund, c/o The University of Montana Geosciences Department, 32 Campus Drive #1296, Missoula, MT 59812. A memorial service will be planned for a later date in Missoula, MT. Friends and colleagues of Dr. Peterson who wish to share reflections and reminiscences with the family may send email messages to BHPHPM@COMCAST.NET.

BLM Resource Advisory Council Nominations

The Bureau of Land Management is seeking nominations for positions on its Resource Advisory Councils in western Montana, central Montana, and eastern Montana.

Nominations should be submitted to the appropriate BLM field manager by April 14.

A completed background information form (including specification of nomination category) and letter of reference from represented interests or organizations must be included for each nominee. The background information form is available on the internet at www.blm.gov/mt/st/en.html.

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act directs the Secretary of the Interior to involve the public in the planning and management of the public lands administered by the BLM. The Department of the Interior established the RACs in 1995. "The RACs are very effective partners in helping resolve public lands issues that affect Montanans' quality of life," said Montana State Director Gene Terland.

Each council has 15 members who serve staggered three-year terms. The terms of five members from each RAC expire in September 2008. Council membership must reflect a balanced representation of the various interests and users of the public lands.

These include persons who represent the following categories:

Category 1 - holders of federal grazing permits; energy and mineral development; timber industry; transportation or rights-of-way; off-highway vehicle use; or commercial recreation;

Category 2 – nationally or regionally recognized environmental organizations; dispersed recreation; archeological and historic interests; or wild horse and burro groups; and

Category 3 - elected state, county or local government; employees of state agencies responsible for management of natural resources; Native American tribes; academicians involved in natural sciences; and the public-at-large.

Following are the categories for which the BLM is seeking nominations, by field area, for three-year terms beginning September 21, 2008. Nominations should be mailed to the appropriate field manager.

Western Montana: One opening in Category 1; two openings in Category 2; and two openings in Category 3. There is also an opening for a two-year term in Category 1. Rick Hotaling, Butte Field Manager, 106 N. Parkmont, Butte, MT, 59701, 406/533-7600.

Central Montana: Two openings in Category 1; one opening in Category 2; and two openings in Category 3. Lewistown Field Manager, 920 NE Main Street, Lewistown, MT, 59457, 406/538-1900.

Eastern Montana: Two openings in Category 1; one opening in Category 2; and two openings in Category 3. There is also an opening for a one-year term in Category 2.

Elaine Raper, Miles City Field Manager, 111 Garryowen Road, Miles City, MT, 59301, 406/233-2800.

Nominees will be evaluated based on their education, training, experience, and knowledge of the issues and the geographical area of the council. Nominees should have demonstrated a commitment to collaborative resource decision making.

There are two positions open in the Eastern region, two in the Central Region and one in the western region that energy producers are eligible to fill. Colby Branch and Chuck Hauptman are on the eastern RAC now, and it is my understanding that they will both be done in 2009. It is important to ensure that we have oil and gas industry professionals on these committees.

Regards,
Dave Gall

The MGS is looking for a few good books!

Specifically, we're collecting two copies of each MGS publication to send to the AAPG sponsored Data Pages group in Tulsa who will digitize the books. The digital data will be marketed by AAPG and MGS. The books will not be returned.

If you would like to donate a publication, call the Publication Committee editor collecting for that year:

Jay Shearer:	406-671-1282	jshearer@mt.gov	1950-1959
Gary Hughes:	406-248-8966	ghughes@imt.net	1960-1969
Jon Reiten:	406-657-2630	jreiten@mtech.edu	1970-1979
Joe Carlisle:	406-294-6222	jcarlisle@180.com	1980-1989

We need the following publications:

Copies

Needed	Year	Title
1	1951	Billings-Lewistown Area
1	1952	Black Hills-Williston Basin
1	1953	Little Rocky Mountains-Montana, Southwestern Saskatchewan
1	1954	Pryor Mountains-Northern Bighorn Basin, Montana
1	1955	Sweetgrass Arch-Disturbed Belt, Montana
1	1956	Judith Mountains-Central Montana
1	1956	1st International Williston Basin Symposium
2	1957	Crazy Mountain Basin
2	1958	Beartooth Uplift and Sunlight Basin
2	1958	2nd International Williston Basin Symposium
1	1959	Sawtooth-Disturbed Belt Area
1	1960	West Yellowstone-Earthquake Area
2	1961	Float Trip-Big Horn River from Kane, Wyoming to Yellowtail Dam Site
1	1962	Three Forks-Belt Mountains Area and Symposium
2	1963	First Joint Field Conference-Northern Powder River Basin
1	1964	3rd International Williston Basin Symposium
2	1965	Geology of the Flint Creek Range, Montana
2	1966	Symposium-Jurassic & Cretaceous Stratigraphic Traps, Sweetgrass Arch
1	1967	Centennial Basin of Southwest Montana
2	1968	Kibby Formation: By WW Ballard. Special Pub #18
2	1968	Reserve Field by VE Ames. Special Pub #19
1	1972	Crazy Mountains Basin
2	1975	Energy Resources of Montana
2	1975	A Geology Road Log Along Interstate 90 by Robert Chadwick
2	1975	Using Published Wyoming Coal Analysis by Gary B. Glass
2	1976	Billings, Montana to Belle Fourche, S.D.: A geologic road log along Interstate 90 and US 212
2	1979	Sun River Canyon - Teton Canyon, Montana Disturbed Belt: 30th Anniversary Field Conf
2	1981	Southwest Montana: Field Conference & Symposium Guide Book
2	1982	4th International Williston Basin Symposium
2	1982	Petroleum Reservoir Behavior and Oil and Gas Reserve Estimates: by John Lee
2	1984	Guidebook to Northwest Montana and Adjacent Canada
2	1987	5th International Williston Basin Symposium

REQUEST FOR HELP IN LOCATING FAMILY MEMBERS

I am trying to find information on my half brother, we shared a father, and I have been searching Ancestry.com and found your link. I do know he has passed away, but I am trying to find any information on him as we never got the chance to meet and I am hoping to find his children.

His name is John Francis Connor, our father was Raymond Connor, and I have found that he lived and I presume died in Plains, Montana in 1997. I have found the Mont. Geol. Society index number of 6231, which I am hoping will give me some information in my search. I know he was born in Galena, Kansas in October 1929 and died, per the SS# death index in Aug. 1997.

I am Linda (Connor) Ellis and would appreciate any help you can give me. If you need any more info about me or any other information I have, I will be glad to provide it.

Thank you.

Linda S. Ellis
4223 Alpine Street
Boise, Idaho 83705
208-336-9030




EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Curtis Ditzell is interested in locating a Geological Consultant based in Billings for Oil and Gas Commission work. For more information contact Curtis at cditzell@billbarrettcorp.com.

REMINDERS

- April 4** MGS Luncheon, AAPG Distinguished Lecturer, Billings
- April 9** MGS Luncheon, Montana Map Project, Billings
- April 20-23** AAPG Annual Convention, San Antonio, TX
- April 29** MGS Luncheon, Study of Mafic Layered Intrusions, Billings
- May 4-6** IOGCC Mid-Year Meeting, Calgary
- June 16-18** MPA Planning Meeting, River Rock Lodge, Big Sky, Montana
- July 9-11** RMS-AAPG/COGA Meeting, Denver, CO
-

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2000 Guidebook: Northern Montana & the Montana-Alberta Thrust Belt (2 Vol. Set) ----- 50 th Anniversary Symposium	\$125.00
1998 8 th International Williston Basin Symposium -----	\$55.00
1998 Core Workshop Guide for Williston Basin Symposium -----	\$30.00
1997 Bighorn Symposium Guidebook -----	\$50.00
1997 MGS-TRGS Field Conference Guide -----	\$25.00
<i>"The Edge of the Crazies: Where the Mountains Meet the Plains"</i>	
1996 AAPG Rocky Mountain Section Meeting Expanded Abstracts Volume -----	\$25.00
1995 Guidebook: Seventh International Williston Basin Symposium -----	\$100.00
1993 Guidebook: Energy and Mineral Resources of Central Montana -----	\$54.00
1991 6 th International Williston Basin Symposium -----	\$55.00
1991 Guidebook: Geology and Horizontal Drilling of the Bakken Formation -----	\$50.00
1991 Field Trip Guides: Beartooth Mountains ----- Sequence Stratigraphy of the Eagle Sandstone at Billings -----	\$7.50 \$7.50
1989 Guidebook: Geologic Resources of Montana -----	\$80.00
1986 Guidebook: Geology of the Beartooth Uplift and Adjacent Basins -----	\$45.00
1985 Symposium: Montana Oil and Gas Fields -----	\$55.00
1978 Economic Geology of the Williston Basin -----	\$100.00
1971 Catalog of Stratigraphic Names -----	\$10.00
1969 Guidebook: Economic Geology of Montana -----	\$8.50
1951 BGS 2 nd Annual Central Montana Field Conference -----	\$12.50
1950 BGS 1 st Annual Field Conference -----	\$12.50

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