

June 2006

There are no
MGS Luncheon
Meetings Scheduled
for June 2006

Friday, August 18,

Mark Your Calendars -
MGS/MAPL Gary
Kabeary Memorial Golf
Tournament at Laurel
Golf Club. Registration
forms to be mailed in
July.

President's letter...

By the time this newsletter is distributed, hopefully everyone will have registered for the AAPG-RMS conference scheduled for June 11-13, 2006. If not, you are still welcome to attend. We anticipate hundreds of geologists from all over the region to join us in Billings. Highlights of the conference are in the May 2006 Newsletter. Thanks to the hard work of the MGS members working on the conference committee, everything is on schedule and coming together. While we all are anticipating the field trips, talks, short courses, and other planned activities, I often equally enjoy the unplanned activities that are bound to happen. Meeting old friends and past co-workers can often be the highlights of such gatherings.

This conference will put MGS in the limelight for several days and hopefully we can instill some additional excitement in our organization, as well as increase our membership. The MGS Board is thinking past the conference and has several ideas on ways to keep MGS a vital and important part of our member's lives. Some of our plans include field trips, short courses, seminars, and possibly having more, and more diverse speakers at our noon luncheons. One major goal is to add value to membership in the MGS. In the same way we offer a discount to MGS members to attend the AAPG-RMS conference, we hope to offer member discounts to field trips and short courses. The MGS Board is always open to suggestions, therefore if you have any ideas that you think would be of interest to MGS, please bring it up to a Board member.

I recently attended the graduation ceremony at the University of Montana. Although I wasn't focusing on the Geology graduates, it was hard not to notice the number of Doctorates in Geology that were presented. At least 5 Geology PhD's graduated. I hope this is a reflection in the demand for new graduates in the workforce. Unfortunately, I did not note the number of MS or BS graduates. With all the activity in the traditional businesses that hire young geologists, the demand must be high. Young geologists seem to be a rarity around here these days, but the MGS encourages and invites all students and new graduates to join our organization. I think you will benefit from the knowledge of some of the older members and we will gain from your new ideas and enthusiasm.

I hope all MGS members have a good and productive summer. For some reason this summer season is starting off with a lot of conferences. I should be attending 4 conferences in the first two weeks of June, but I will only make it to 2. Although schedules and plans made long ago are part of the reason for these conferences, the increased interest in natural resources is also a major factor. Energy prices and the demand for natural resources whether they are hydrocarbons, water, forests, or agricultural products are all important to our economy and well being. Geologists continue to play important roles in all of these endeavors and I anticipate even more need for our unique expertise in the future.

TO RSVP FOR MEETINGS:
Call Colleen Duffy ,
406-252-7921.

MGS HOME PAGE:
<http://www.montanags.org>

MGS EMAIL: mgs@wtp.net

Jon Reiten
MGS President

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

June 28

On this date in 1967, Exeter Drilling Company completed the #33-1 Federal-McCarrel (NE/NE Sec. 33, T8S-R54E), which was the discovery well for the Bell Creek Oil Field, Powder River County, Montana. The discovery well was completed in the Rozet member of the Lower Cretaceous Muddy Formation flowing 240 BOPD with a 10% water-cut.

Originally interpreted as a barrier island or off-shore bar, the Muddy reservoir at Bell Creek is now believed to be an erosional remnant of a shoreface deposit; making it, in effect, an unconformity trap similar to Amos Draw and other fields in Campbell County, Wyoming (*see References*).

Ultimately over 500 oil wells were completed in Bell Creek Field. The first pilot water-flood was initiated in 1970 and the field, which is now operated by Encore, is currently undergoing tertiary recovery. According to State records Bell Creek has produced 133,659,634 barrels of oil, making it the third largest field in Montana, behind Cut Bank and the Cedar Creek Anticline.

References

- Gustason, E.R., T.A. Ryer, and S.K. Odland, 1988, Stratigraphy and depositional environments of the Muddy Sandstone, northwestern Black Hills, Wyoming: Wyoming Geological Association Earth Science Bulletin, v. 20, p. 49-60.
- Martinsen, R. S., Z. S. Ziao, W. P. Iverson, and R. C. Surdam, 1994, Paleosols and sub-unconformity traps: Examples from the Muddy Sandstone, Powder River Basin, Wyoming, *in* J. Dolson, ed., Unconformity-Related Hydrocarbons in Sedimentary Sequences: Rocky Mountain Association of Geologists, P. 119-130.
- Odland, S.K., P.E. Patterson, and E.R. Gustason, 1988, Amos Draw Field: A diagenetic trap related to an intraformational unconformity in the Muddy Sandstone, Powder River Basin, Wyoming, *in* Diedrich, R.P., M.K. Dyka and W.R. Miller, eds., Eastern Powder River Basin – Black Hills, WGA 39th Field Conf. Guidebook, p. 147-160.
- Weimer, R.J., C.A. Rebne, and T.L. Davis, 1988, Geologic and seismic models, Muddy Sandstone, Lower Cretaceous, Bell Creek-Rocky Point Area, Powder River Basin, Montana and Wyoming, *in* Diedrich, R.P., M.K. Dyka and W.R. Miller, eds., Eastern Powder River Basin – Black Hills: Wyoming Geol. Assoc. 39th Field Conf. Guidebook, p. 161-177.

Errata

There was an error in the May Newsletter regarding the North Dakota Geological Survey website for their new publications. The word “state” was left out. The correct address is: www.state.nd.us/ndgs/

- The Corner for Continuing
and/or Remedial Education -
(The Word of the Month Club –
use it three times and it’s yours to keep!)

Definitions: metamorphic petrology

Porphyroblastic – Pertaining to the texture of a recrystallized metamorphic rock having large idioblasts of minerals possessing high *form energy* (e.g. garnet, andalusite) in a finer-grained crystalloblastic matrix.

Quote of the Month

“We live in a society exquisitely dependent on science and technology, in which hardly anyone knows anything about science and technology.”

~Carl Sagan (1934-1996)

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AAPG House of Delegates Meeting, Houston, Texas

Report on the AAPG House of Delegates Meeting, held April 9, in Houston. Richard Findley and Don French were in attendance representing the Montana Geological Society.

The items discussed below are not meant to be a comprehensive report. These are highlights of items of non-routine business. The meeting was well attended and lasted about 4 hours. The proposed changes to the constitution inspired to most debate.

> 113 delegates required for quorum, 183 voting delegates present.

> A report was delivered by a representative of the International Year of Planet Earth organization. The AAPG is one of the founding organizations. A UN proclamation has designated 2008 as the Year of Planet Earth. Activities in earth science and outreach will be scheduled and executed during 2007-2008. Proposals are being sought. Go to <http://www.yearofplanetearth.org/> for more information.

> The recently opened, AAPG-supported office in Washington, DC, has been successful and busy during the past year. The office is a source of E&P technical data for policy makers.

> The AAPG Foundation received, a few weeks ago, a \$10 million grant from the Estate of Austin Weeks. This increases the endowment to ~\$33 million.

> The House accepted a proposal to amend the AAPG Constitution to provide for 2 Vice Presidents. One VP is to represent the various US Sections; the other will represent international regions. The Bylaws were modified to accommodate the constitutional change. Findley and French voted for the changes in the constitution, which passed over ~70 nay votes. These will now be submitted to the membership for ratification later this year.

Wyoming Guidebooks

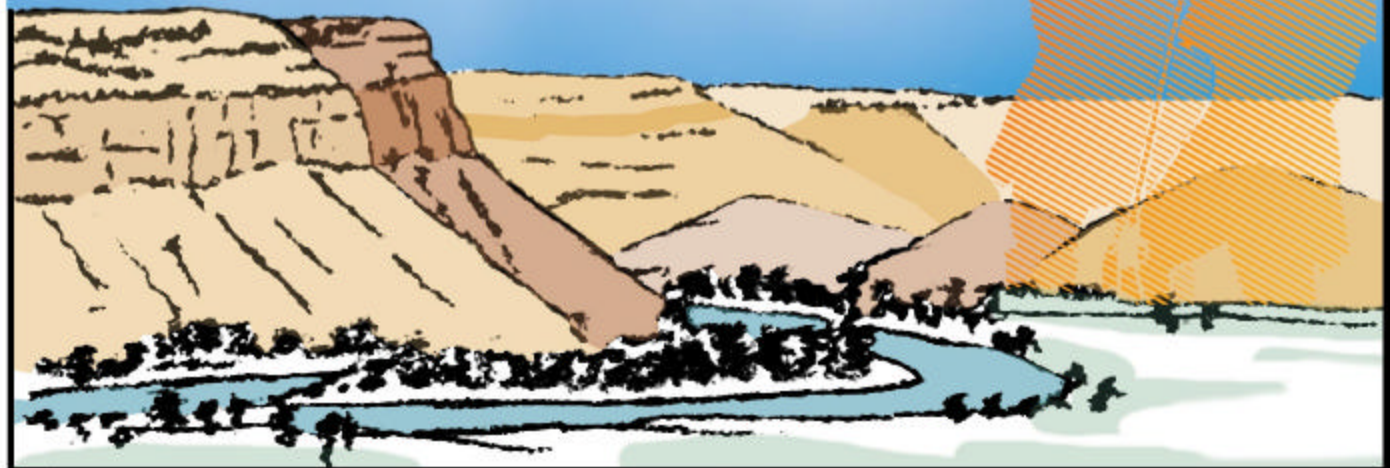
The Wyoming Geological Association in conjunction with the AAPG has had all of their publications scanned from 1946 to 2000. The cost of this DVD is \$ 200 for WGA members and \$ 250 for non-members. A publications list and order form are available at: <http://www.wyogeo.org>.

Happy Birthday Jim !

James Hutton, “the father of modern geology”, was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, on June 3, 1726.

UNDAUNTED EXPLORATION OF THE ROCKIES

**AAPG-RMS • June 11-13, 2006
Billings, Montana**



HELP WANTED !

PROJECT MANAGERS

Geologists with over 15 years of experience in the exploration for, evaluation of, and management of gold and/or ferrous metal programs from regional to local target generation, grassroots to feasibility stages. Experience in Precambrian terranes preferred, especially highly glaciated areas with BIF, sheeted vein/shear-hosted gold, and VMS deposits.

Daily tasks might include mapping, sampling, logging core, designing/supervising drilling programs, resource modeling, due diligence and environmental studies, plus NI 43-101 reporting. Must be able to integrate multiple disciplinary exploration methods such as geophysical, geochemical, geological mapping, and drilling surveys; manage personnel and budgets; and train local geologists in company methods.

The ideal candidate must be willing to travel to Northern Europe for extended periods and work in remote areas. They should enjoy different cultures, possess an international driving permit, and promote safety. Additionally, they should be highly motivated, well-organized, fast-learners, healthy and physically fit, able to work well independently or as a team player, familiar with "Minesite" computer software, capable communicators, motivators, able to problem solve, and to handle the demands of a rapidly expanding company. Proximity to Denver is desired. Starting date is in early June.

Application deadline is 5/26/06. For further information, phone Bruce Geller (303-237-2947). Resumes should be mailed to: 303-814-1539.

GEOLOGIST/MINING ENGINEER

Professional with over 5 years of experience in exploration, mine design, data organization and environmental management is being sought by a company with mining properties in Northern Europe to staff an exploration office in Castle Rock, CO. Work load is 40 hours/week.

Daily tasks might include data interpretation, managing environmental assessments, logistical support of field crews, identification of new exploration targets and feasibility study oversight. Occasional travel to the region is required to establish/maintain; "hands on" knowledge, interpersonal relationships and provide incremental support to exploration, environmental and design activities.

The successful candidate must have a B.S. degree and be able to work with other staff. They should be well-organized, familiar with "Minesite" computer software, and capable communicators. Those with geologic or engineering backgrounds are preferred. Proximity to Denver is desired. Starting date is ASAP. Application deadline is 5/26/06. For further information, phone Bruce Geller (303-237-2947). Resumes should be faxed to: 303-814-1539.

EXPLORATION GEOLOGIST

Hunsaker Inc. an Elko, Nevada based business providing consulting services to the mining industry is looking for an exploration geologist to work on a wide variety of grass-roots to mid-stage exploration projects. We are looking for an early- to mid-level geologist with basic geologic skills needed by a field mapper. These include general alteration, structural, and lithologic relationships of mineralizing systems as well as the ability to develop a regional, conceptual geologic view of the Great Basin. A working knowledge of GIS applications and digital organization are essential.

In addition to geologic mapping work responsibilities will include drill rig and project supervision, claim-staking, and geochemical sampling.

This position is not client dependent but will help to provide services to a variety of projects. The position requires the ability to interact and communicate with numerous professionals in the mining industry. Compensation and participation is competitive with industry standards depending upon experience.

Contact:

E.L. "Buster" Hunsaker III

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REMINDERS

- June 2-4** **12th Annual Symposium on Paleontology and Geology** – Track-ways and trace fossils, Tate Museum, Casper, Wyoming – contact: David Brown, (307) 268-2447.
- June 6** **State of Montana – Oil and Gas Lease Sale**, Scott Hart Auditorium, 303 N. Roberts, Helena, Montana, 9:00 am, for information call - (406) 444-2074.
- June 11-13** **AAPG Rocky Mountain Section Meeting**, Billings, Montana, detailed information and registration is available at <http://www.montanags.org>.
- June 21-24** **SIPES Annual Meeting**, South Lake Tahoe, Nevada, detailed information and registration is available at <http://www.sipes.org>
- June 28-29** **Montana Petroleum Association Planning Meeting**, Rock Creek Resort, Red Lodge, Montana, for information contact the MPA at: <http://montanapetroleum.org>
- July 11-13** **SEPM Joint Research Conference**, Snowbird, Utah, information is available at: <http://www.sepm.org>
- July 18-24** **Nevada Petroleum Society**, The Great Field Trip, Reno, Nevada, for information contact: Jon Price (775) 784-6691
- July 20-22** **52nd Annual Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Institute**, Santa Fe, New Mexico, information is available at: <http://www.rmmlf.org>
- July 25** **BLM – Federal Oil and Gas Lease Sale** (Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota), Billings, Montana, 9:00 am, for more information contact – Tessie (406) 896-5091.
- August 3-6** **Tobacco Root Geological Society**, 31st Annual Field Conference, Libby, Montana, information is available at: <http://trgs.org>
- August 7-9** **RMAG – COGA Joint Meeting**, Revisiting Rocky Mountain Gas Reservoirs, Denver, Colorado, detailed information and registration is available at: <http://www.naturalgasconference.com>
- August 18** **MGS – MAPL Golf Tournament**, Laurel, Montana, contact: Keven Reinschmidt (406) 259-8790 and/or Donna Heisler (406) 247-8726.
- August 23-24** **Summer NAPE**, George R. Brown Convention Center, Houston, Texas, detailed information and registration is available at: <http://www.napeonline.com> or call (817) 847-7700

The Editor needs a break ...

This is the last MGS Newsletter you will receive until September when Pat Lemke will take over as editor-in-chief. For that reason the *Reminders* column has been expanded to include events through August, including the ever popular joint MGS-MAPL Gary Kabeary Memorial Golf Tourney, scheduled for August 18th. A reminder and registration form for the tournament will be mailed in early July.

THE ROUGHNECK'S CORNER

You have all seen the T-shirts and bumper stickers proclaiming “Oil Field Trash and Proud of it.” Well, you know what? Anybody can buy that stuff. I mean, you see a guy walking around in a “trash” T-shirt and for all you know he could be a bank president, a tennis pro or who knows what.

Well, something had to be done to eliminate these imposters, so a simple 10 question test was devised to determine who really qualifies as Oil Field Trash.

Take it at your own risk.

1. Do you have a drinking problem?
2. Have you ever had more than five W-2 forms in one year?
3. Are there people in Cut Bank (or Shelby or Havre) who owe you money?
4. Do you know what a wet trip is?
5. Has your boss ever lied to you?
6. Have you ever had a worm bite?
7. Do you know what no relief means?
8. Do you know a Tiger Mike story?
9. Do you know what “wait on cement” means?
10. Are 30 percent of your friends missing at least part of one finger?

If you answered yes to eight or more, you are hard core Oil Field Trash, 4 to 7 yes answers and you are Oil Field Trash, 1 to 3 yes answers and you're a geologist, and if you answered no to all ten questions, you're probably a shoe salesman (*which wouldn't necessarily mean, given the current boom, that you couldn't have a profitable and fulfilling career in the oil patch – ed.*).

Wall Street Journal Article

For anyone who might have missed it, there was a great article about MGS member Dick Findley in the April 5, 2006, edition of the Wall Street Journal. Sadly if you are not a subscriber, the Journal charges \$ 4.95 to purchase past articles. So if you don't have a friend who saves old Wall Street Journals, maybe the best bet is to try the library!

Larry W. Geisler Certified Petroleum Geologist

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NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS

Larry Kellison

After a brief hiatus, Larry is a returning member. Larry is the Chief Operating Officer for Eden Energy and lives in Littleton, Colorado. He has a Bachelor of Science from the University of Mississippi and a Master of Science degree from the University of Nebraska. He is a Certified Petroleum Geologist, and a member of the AAPG and SEPM.

Robert Ray

Robert is a senior geologist with Plains Exploration and Production in Houston, Texas. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in geology from Arkansas Tech University. He is a Certified Petroleum Geologist, a Texas Professional Geoscientist, and a member of AAPG and RMAG.

John C. Worley

John is a returning member with homes in both Rockport, Texas and Bozeman. He is an independent geologist and a member of AAPG and SIPES. He has a Bachelor degree from Wooster College and a Masters degree from the University of Pittsburgh.



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DUES: \$20 regular members, \$7.50 students

Please fill out form and return with dues to:

Montana Geological Society Box 844, Billings, MT 59103

MGS PUBLICATIONS

MGS - NRGDC Northwestern Geologic Service Sample Logs (MT,ND, SD) <i>Over 2500 sample logs on CD-ROM (regional sets also available)</i>	\$2500.00
2000 Guidebook: <i>Northern Montana & the Montana/Alberta Thrust Belt</i> (2 vol. set) <i>50th Anniversary Symposium</i>	125.00
1998 <i>8th International Williston Basin Symposium</i>	55.00
1998 <i>Core Workshop guide for Williston Basin Symposium</i>	30.00
1997 <i>Big Horn Symposium Guidebook</i>	50.00
1997 MGS-TRGS Field Conference Guide: <i>The Edge of the Crazyes: Where the Mountains Meet the Plains</i>	25.00
1996 AAPG Rocky Mountain Section Meeting <i>Expanded Abstracts Volume</i>	25.00
1995 Guidebook: <i>Seventh International Williston Basin Symposium</i>	100.00
1993 Guidebook: <i>Energy & Mineral Resources of Central Montana</i>	54.00
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1991 Guidebook: <i>Geology & Horizontal Drilling of the Bakken Formation</i>	50.00
1991 Field Trip Guides; <i>Beartooth Mountains</i> <i>Sequence Stratigraphy of the Eagle ss at Billings</i>	7.50
1989 Guidebook: <i>Geologic Resources of Montana</i>	80.00
1986 Guidebook: <i>Geology of the Beartooth Uplift and Adjacent Basins</i>	45.00
1985 Symposium: <i>Montana Oil & Gas Fields</i>	55.00
1978 <i>Economic Geology of the Williston Basin</i>	100.00
1971 <i>Catalog of Stratigraphic Names</i>	10.00
1969 Guidebook: <i>Economic Geology of Montana</i>	8.50
1951 <i>BGS 2nd Annual Central Montana Field Conference</i>	12.50
1950 <i>BGS 1st Annual Field Conference</i>	12.50

PHONE ORDERS: Doretta Brush (406) 259-8790

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