



**MONTANA GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

# NEWSLETTER

**JUNE 2008**

MGS Vol. 52 No. 6

**No MGS meetings are  
scheduled for June.**

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## **MGS PRESIDENT'S LETTER –**

Back on May 16 the MGS was lucky enough to have David Lopez lead a group of about thirty individuals, including six non-MGS members, on an afternoon field trip in and around Billings. Stops included everything from landslides and ancient riverbed terrace gravels, to the Cretaceous bedrock of the South Hills. The weather was perfect and from all of the reports I have received everyone had a splendid time. Things went off so well that there is now talk of a second half-day trip perhaps later this year, which will focus specifically on Upper Cretaceous rocks.

Speaking of field trips, don't forget about the next MGS foray into the Beartooth Mountains. This trip will again be led by Ennis Geraghty and it will take place on Saturday, September 13. Since we do not publish a newsletter in July or August, watch for an email reminder or check the MGS website for details.

As noted above, this is the last newsletter you will receive until September. So allow me to wish everyone a happy summer filled with lots of field work and mapping, and drilling programs galore. If perchance, you need something to do while you wile away those happy hours waiting for a wormy rig crew to fish a logging tool or monkey wrench out of a well you are sitting, I hereby offer you my suggested summer reading list for your amusement and edification.

(Continued on page 2.)

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(President's letter continued from page 1.)

It's my list and it is nowhere near complete, but I have read them all and just thought I'd share, just in case you find yourself desperate for something to read. So here goes ...

### Twilight in the Desert Matthew Simmons (2006)

What is the truth about Saudi oil reserves? By gleaning data from SPE papers, Simmons puts together the argument that Saudi production is at or beyond its peak. Therefore, there is no meaningful surplus capacity remaining within OPEC. What does this portend for the future? (see below)

### The Long Emergency James Kunstler (2006)

Ex-Rolling Stone editor Kunstler starts out with some interesting and provocative ideas about possible societal changes precipitated by the end of the hydrocarbon age; but sadly the book digresses into a rant against modern civilization. Read the first half and then return it to the library !

### Before the Dawn Nicholas Wade (2006)

What do genetics tell us about human evolution and history? It's a good read, although there are a few chapters that seem to get bogged down in a bit too much detail.

### Krakatoa Simon Winchester (2005)

The history of colonial Indonesia up through the most famous volcanic eruption of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. I don't think it's his best writing, but it's good.

### The Smartest Guys in the Room McLean & Elkind (2003)

An in-depth look at the Enron debacle. You'll be amazed, but keep an accounting text book nearby for reference.

### The Map that Changed the World Simon Winchester (2001)

We all learned something about William Smith in Geology 101, but there's a lot more to the story and it's all pretty amazing.

### The Satanic Gases Patrick J. Michaels and Robert C. Balling, Jr. (2000)

Two climatologists review the status of our understanding of global warming (circa 2000). They do not attempt to refute the evidence for warming, but they do supply evidence that it will not bring about the catastrophic changes predicted by many.

### In Suspect Terrain John McPhee (1982)

An oldie, but goodie. If you have never read a geology book by McPhee this might be a good place to start. If nothing else, you might learn something about golf course design or maybe even plate tectonics.

### The Origin Irving Stone (1982)

The life and times of Charles Robert Darwin; a historical novel and a great read. A great book to take along if you are planning to spend the summer on the beach in "St. Somewhere" or are planning to make a quick trip to Shrewsbury, England, where Darwin was born. (If you go call me, I know of a couple of good pubs there).

### The Map Makers John Noble Wilford (1981)

You've got to love maps to love this one. I do and I did. This book contains some amazing stories about exploration and how maps were made back before GPS.

### Basin and Range John McPhee (1980)

Another oldie, but goodie by McPhee. Stories about Nevada, the title is self-explanatory.

## **AND FINALLY MY FAVORITE NON-GEOLOGY, NON-SCIENTIFIC READ OF THE PAST FEW YEARS ...**

### Last Stand of the Tin Can Sailors James Hornfischer (2005)

A wonderfully detailed description of the Battle of Leyte Gulf in the Phillipine Islands during 1944. If you have any interest in WWII or maybe just history in general, this is a great read.

# **MGS Fall 2008 Field Trip**

## **Laramide Structural Features in the Stillwater Complex Portion of the Beartooth Mountains Front, Part II – the Stillwater River Canyon**

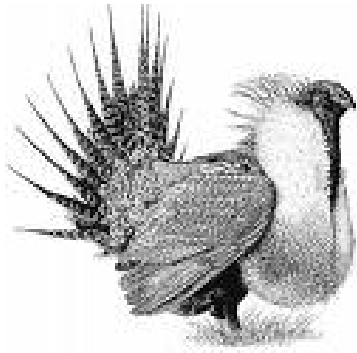
**Date: Saturday September 13, 8:00 a.m., depart from the Holiday Inn parking lot, travel by private vehicles, no limitation to participants.**

**Leader: Ennis Geraghty, Stillwater Mining Company**

This one-day field trip will examine exposures in the Stillwater River canyon from Nye, Montana to the # 2 Portal at the Mouat chrome mine (inactive). Some Phanerozoic stratigraphy is exposed on this route as well as the Archean Stillwater Complex and its associated metal zones. Laramide deformation has profoundly affected these rocks and we will examine evidence from deep drilling at Stillwater Mine for a blind floor thrust, associated link (fore) thrusts, and segmented backthrusts. This complex fault architecture forms a hinterland-dipping, basement duplex within an “evolved” triangle zone at the Beartooth Mountains front.

**Mark your calendars now  
so you won't miss this great field trip!**



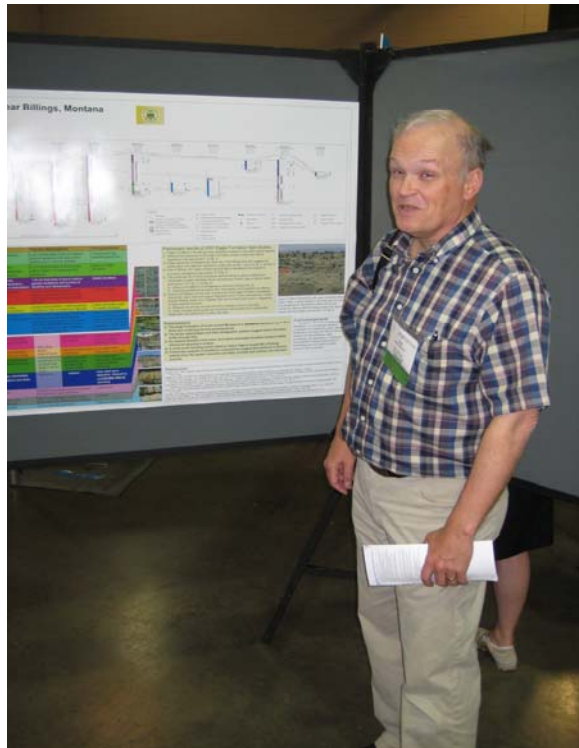


## **Greater Sage-Grouse Amendment**

The Department of the Interior intends to prepare an amendment to its Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the greater sage-grouse in the Powder River Basin. After reviewing new information available from recent inventories and scientific studies which indicate that BLM's current planning decisions may not be sufficient to prevent the greater sage-grouse in the Powder River Basin from becoming listed under the ESA, the BLM will look at all biologically important areas that consider all of the seasonal habitat requirements and are large enough to meet the landscape scale requirements of the greater sage-grouse. It is their intent to implement the adaptive management approach referred to in the 2003 Record of Decision, and preparation of the sage-grouse plan amendment is a key step in the adaptive management approach.

An interim management strategy and plan will be put into effect initially. The two primary areas that will be impacted by the interim management are the oil and gas and grazing programs. At this time, the BLM is considering limiting the activities that will be authorized by its office while the plan amendment is being prepared over the next 2-3 years. These could include limiting oil and gas permits, right-of-way grants and changes in grazing leases or range improvement project in the areas of high quality sage-grouse habitat.

For more information about the interim management strategy and plan, contact Chris Hanson, BLM Field Manager at 307-684-1100.



**Don French, AAPG Delegate, representing our society at the 2008 national convention.**



**David Lopez describing the geology of the Billings area on MGS's May field trip.**

# **5<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GARY KABEARY MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT**

(Formerly known as MGS/MAPL Golf Tournament)

**WHEN:** Friday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 P.M. (Shotgun start)

**WHERE:** Laurel Country Club

**FORMAT:** Modified Scramble - "A", "B", "C" and "D" players play their own ball on the top 5, 5, 4 and 4 handicap holes respectively, remaining team members play a 3-man scramble on all holes. Team cards both scores.

**COST:** \$90

Price covers green fees, cart, steak dinner; two drink coupons, six pack of preferred beverage, and raffle ticket used for several drawings at the dinner following the round. The grand prize raffled will be a set of custom golf clubs donated by Steve Durrett. Flag prizes will be awarded on every hole. Each player may purchase up to two mulligans (\$5/mulligan).

This is the 9<sup>th</sup> year that MAPL (Montana Association of Petroleum Landmen) and MGS have co-sponsored this event. MGS involvement has increased every year and last year we raised over \$800 for the society. It is a great opportunity to enjoy a beautiful private golf course, spend time with friends and colleagues all while benefiting the MGS. Hope to see you there.

In addition, we are soliciting sponsors for flag prizes (\$50/Flag). If you are interested in sponsoring a flag prize, please complete and return the sponsor form.

## **Registration Deadline for Tournament and Flag Prize Sponsorship is Friday, July 18<sup>th</sup>.**

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### **2008 MGS/MAPL GOLF TOURNAMENT ENTRY FORM**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ WORK PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ Handicap or Avg. 18 hole Score: \_\_\_\_\_

PREFERRED PARTNERS: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Note: Tournament directors reserve right to disassemble stacked teams.)

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### **2008 MGS/MAPL GOLF TOURNAMENT FLAG PRIZE SPONSOR FORM**

SPONSOR NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DONATION: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip

**Thank you for your support and sponsorship! The MGS and MAPL truly appreciate it.**

**For additional information regarding tournament or sponsorships, please contact:  
Keven Reinschmidt 259-8790 or 670-3027 (C)**

**Please send checks payable to "MAPL" and send them with completed forms to:  
Keven Reinschmidt  
MGS/MAPL Golf  
C/O Ballard Petroleum Holdings LLC  
845 12<sup>th</sup> St. West  
Billings, MT 59102**

## REMINDERS

- June 16-18**            **MPA Planning Meeting**, River Rock Lodge, Big Sky, Montana
- July 9-11**             **RMS-AAPG/COGA Meeting**, Denver, CO
- September 13**       **MGS Stillwater River Canyon Field Trip**, Montana
- 

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**Submission deadline for the MGS Newsletter is the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month. Submit requests to Brad Thompson, Editor, [bthompson@stmaryland.com](mailto:bthompson@stmaryland.com) Or 245-6248**

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## MGS PUBLICATIONS

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MGS - NRGDC Northwestern Geologic Service Sample Logs (MT, ND, SD) -----	\$2500.00
Over 2500 sample logs on CD-ROM, regional sets also available	
2000 Guidebook: Northern Montana & the Montana-Alberta Thrust Belt (2 Vol. Set) -----	\$125.00
50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Symposium	
1998 8 <sup>th</sup> International Williston Basin Symposium -----	\$55.00
1998 Core Workshop Guide for Williston Basin Symposium -----	\$30.00
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1991 Field Trip Guides: Beartooth Mountains -----	\$7.50
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1971 Catalog of Stratigraphic Names -----	\$10.00
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