



AIPG GEORGIA SECTION

Ron Wallace, President
Eric Lowe, Vice President
Glen Faulkner, Treasurer
Hanna Hill – West Georgia student chapter
Rebecca Pickering – Georgia State student chapter
Don Osborne – Columbus State student chapter
John Harper and Patti Northcutt – University of Georgia student chapter

December 2012

NEXT MEETING

DRILLING DEMONSTRATION, SOIL DESCRIPTION, AND SAMPLING

When: Monday, February 11, 2013

Where: Berry College, Rome, Georgia

AIPG Members and guests call or email by Monday February 4, 2013, if you plan to attend
[Call Ron Wallace (404) 362-2589 or ronald.wallace@dnr.state.ga.us]

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

This year has gone by fast but our section has been very active. We had two field trips to Cherokee Mine in Franklin, NC and Providence Canyon. Eric and I participated in a science fair in Cobb County. We had a career talk at West Georgia and I gave a career talk recently at the University of Georgia. I visited all six departments and gave out our section's six scholarships and three national scholarships. We had our fourth conference with a great turnout and our last event for the year was attending GSA and having a session with 14 speakers talking about different aspects of a geology career.

GSA in Charlotte, NC was a lot of fun and I saw some of our former section students and a number of our current students. We had a good turnout of students and faculty that visited our AIPG booth. I was able to participate in AGI's mentoring lunch. So many students and I enjoyed their enthusiasm.

We are already making plans for 2013. I've received names of three students that will receive our section scholarships. We have drilling planned at Berry College. The time will be announced later. We may do additional drilling at other universities, if we can make arrangements. Our UST program has two new large remediation systems in Athens and we plan to have students visit them. We have a few other ideas in the Atlanta area that we hope we can do. We wish everyone a happy holiday and new year.

One of the projects we completed for the 50th anniversary of AIPG next year was a history of our section. Below is what we submitted to National.

AIPG Georgia Section History 1981-2012

The Georgia Section was formed and the by-laws approved on October 14, 1981. The four original members included: Earl Hoover, Robert Dickerson, Serge Gonzales, and Charles Spiers. Their first meeting was held on January 29, 1982, which included the selection of officers for 1982. Earl Hoover was the Interim President and elected as the first Georgia Section President. By April of 1982 the membership had grown to 14 members. During the first year they had joint meetings with Southeastern Section of AEG and AIME. For the next two decades the section president would generally serve from two to three years and included: Charles Spiers, Serge Gonzales, Kenneth Nelson, Charles Thomas, Anthony Roberts, Sam Pickering, Harold Gill, and L.T. Gregg.

Dr. Serge Gonzales was the first section member to be appointed to an AIPG National committee as chairman of the Education Affairs Committee. At the 1986 national meeting he received AIPG Presidential Certificate of Merit. He was also the first Georgia Section member to be elected to National Secretary for 1988-1989. The section's second national officer was Dr. Thomas Jones, who was elected as National Editor from 1991-1992.

The section for many years would plan to have two meetings per year generally around a field trip followed by a business meeting at a restaurant. Many of these meetings would be visits to different types of open pit mines or landfills. In 1993 the section was visited by AIPG Executive Director Bill Knight.

In 2002 Ron Wallace was elected as section president. A few years later Eric Lowe became vice-president and the two have held the positions or switched. Glen Faulkner has been section secretary-treasurer since 1994. During most of this time, the section planned four meetings per year, mostly around field trips. In 2003 the section started giving a student membership plaque initially to four of the universities that offered geology degrees. By 2007 the section annually awarded a plaque at all six universities that grant geology degrees. Starting in 2010, each of the six students receive a \$250.00 scholarship along with the membership plaque.

In response from a request from student members in 2005, a student chapter was formed at Georgia State University. This was followed by another student chapter at University of West Georgia in 2010. An additional two student chapters were formed in 2011, one at Columbus State University and the other at the University of Georgia.

To support the activities of the section, a day and a half environmental remediation conference was organized in 2008. Since then there have been three additional conferences that have been expanded to two full days. In 2011 Ron Wallace was elected to National President-elect. The membership has grown over the years from the section beginning with four members to a total membership in 2012 of over 270.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Our section continues to grow. Please welcome the following new Professional Members and Students.

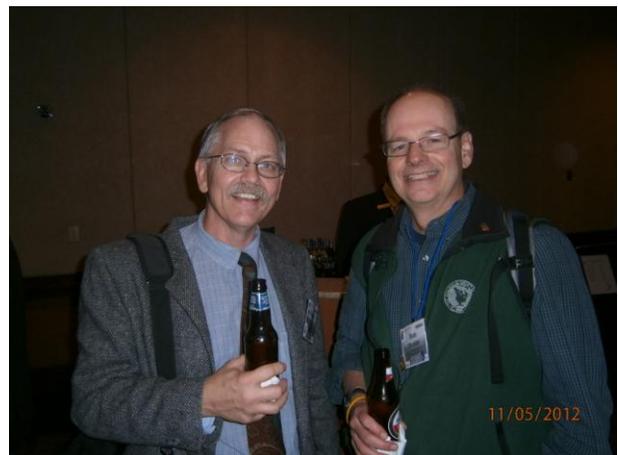
Lee Roberts, Mike Tuohy, Albert Connolly, John Hood, Buffy Cook, Benjamin Youngblood, Veronica Fay, Jan Paul Acevedo, Wenonah Patrick, Wondwosen Seyoum, and Arthur Machado.

To each of our new members the officers of the Georgia Section welcome you to our section and encourage you to attend our field trips and other activities.

GSA in Charlotte, NC



Vickie Hill with students at AIPG booth



Ron and Dr. Robert Shuster, roommates in grad school

AIPG National Scholarship Program

Purpose

To assist students with college education costs and to promote student participation in the American Institute of Professional Geologists (AIPG). Up to four scholarships will be awarded to declared undergraduate geological sciences majors who are at least sophomores. Details for applying for these scholarships are provided below.

Scholarship Awards

Scholarship awards in the amount of \$1,000.00 each will be made to eligible students attending a college or university in the U.S. Scholarships are intended to be used to support tuition and/or room and board.

Eligibility Requirements

Any student who is majoring in geology (or earth science), is at least a sophomore, and is attending a four-year accredited college or university in the U.S. can apply. Also, the student must be either a student member of AIPG or must have applied for student membership at the time the application for the scholarship is submitted.

Each student who is awarded a scholarship agrees, by accepting the scholarship, to prepare a 600 to 800 word article for publication in *The Professional Geologist*. The subject of the article must be related to a timely professional issue.

Application Process

Applicants must submit: a letter of interest with name, mail and email addresses, and telephone number; proof of enrollment in an eligible geological sciences program, transcripts; an original one-page essay on why the applicant wants to become a geologist; and a letter of support from a faculty member familiar with the applicant's academic work. The application packet should be submitted to:

American Institute of Professional Geologists
Attn: Education Committee Chr.
12000 Washington St., Suite 285
Thornton, Colorado 80241-3134

Questions regarding the application process can be directed to either
William Siok or Vickie Hill by telephone
(303) 412-6205 or e-mail: aipg@aipg.org.

Application Deadline and Award Date

Applications must be received by February 15th

Awarded the month of September

Basis of Awards

Awards will be based on the content and creativity of the essays as judged by the Education Committee. The decisions of the Education Committee are final.

Miscellaneous

Application requirements for student membership to AIPG: Student must be currently enrolled in a geological science degree program (as defined by the American Geosciences Institute).

AIPG student membership applications can be obtained from:

American Institute of Professional Geologists
12000 Washington St., Suite 285, Thornton, Colorado 80241-3134
(Application forms are also available on the AIPG website <http://www.aipg.org>)

Join Online! Student Membership is Free!

To contact Eric Lowe:
678-244-5043
elowe@smeinc.com

To contact Ron Wallace:
404-362-2589
ronald.wallace@dnr.state.ga.us

FEDERAL DOCUMENTS

BILL INTRODUCED TO FUND DOE OIL SHALE ENERGY R&D PROGRAM

The House Science, Space and Technology Committee Chairman Ralph Hall (R-TX) introduced a bill, the Tapping America's Energy Potential through Research and Development Act of 2012 (H.R. 6603), to authorize \$111 million to the Department of Energy to research and develop oil shale energy extraction. The bill focuses on funding research and development (R&D) for extracting methods and reducing environmental impacts.

The bill authorizes support for R&D in oil and share resource characterizations, modeling and simulation of oil shale exploration and production technologies, minimization and re-use of water, efficient use of energy in exploration and production activities, and methods which reduce potential environmental impacts. If the bill is not passed in the lame duck session, it must be reintroduced in the 113th Congress.

held a hearing on this bill on November 30. A summary of the hearing can be found on AGI's The Science Committee energy policy hearing web site.

BILL PASSES CONGRESS TO BLOCK E.U. EMISSION TRADING REGULATIONS

On November 27, the President signed European Union Emissions Trading Scheme Prohibition Act of 2011 (P.L. 112-200) law, preventing the European Union (E.U.) from requiring U.S. airlines participate in trading carbon emissions emitted from flights to and from European countries.

The E.U Emission Trading System (ETS) is a cap and trade system and is expected to cost an additional \$3 per passenger per flight. While the ETS was scheduled to include flights to and from Europe on January 1, 2013, the European Commission may postpone implementation until after the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) meets in September 2013 to buy more time to negotiate a global deal.

JAPAN GIVES NOAA \$5 MILLION FOR TSUNAMI MARINE DEBRIS RESEARCH

On November 30, the Government of Japan announced a \$5 million gift to the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to support response efforts for the marine debris created by the March 2011 tsunami in Japan, which has crossed the Pacific Ocean and is now washing ashore in the U.S. The fund will go to NOAA's Marine Debris Program and will be used to support response efforts such as removal of debris, disposal fees, cleanup supplies, detection and monitoring.

Since the tsunami, NOAA has been leading a response effort with the federal, state and local partners to organize for data collection, debris assessment, and reducing environmental impacts of the marine debris.

U.S. AND MEXICO SIGN COLORADO RIVER AGREEMENT

On November 19, officials from the U.S. and Mexico signed an updated agreement on managing Colorado River water resources.

The U.S. and Mexico have agreed to plan for future drought by allowing Mexico to store water in Lake Mead during times of water surplus in return for tapping less water from the River during dry periods. Under the five-year agreement, Mexico will receive \$21 million for repairs to irrigation canals and other infrastructure damaged by an earthquake in 2010. Such repairs will allow agricultural production to resume on thousands of acres of farmland which has dried up.

Arizona, California and Nevada, the three lower basin states, will purchase about 100,000 acre-feet of water from Mexico, which would provide water for 200,000 homes for a year. The U.S. pledged to buy additional water to support restoration of the Colorado River Delta. Over the decades, areas of the delta have dried up due to diversions downstream causing agricultural lands to become unfertile as well.

FIRST ARTIC CROSSING ATTEMPT BY LNG TANKER

The *Ob River*, a liquid natural gas (LNG) tanker set sail from Norway in November and arrived in Japan in early December after crossing the Arctic. This is the first ship of its kind to attempt the crossing, which has been made possible by melting in the Arctic region and spurred on by the U.S. shale gas revolution and increase in demand from Asia.

Ob River, chartered by Russian energy company, Gazprom from Dynagas Ltd, can carry 5.3 million cubic feet of gas and has a 40-person crew. For much of the journey *Ob River* was accompanied by a Russian nuclear-powered icebreaker. Crossing the Arctic shortens the voyage from Norway to Japan by about three weeks compared to travelling through the Mediterranean Sea and Suez Canal before proceeding around Asia.

A major driver of utilizing the Arctic for such a crossing is the potential to access and export the wealth of energy resources available in the Arctic. Another major driver is the boom in shale gas production in the U.S., which has decreased LNG imports to the U.S., making the trek a more profitable venture. Finally, concerns over nuclear power in Japan after the March 2011 tsunami have increased the demand for natural gas.

ALTERNATIVES FOR MANAGING THE NATION'S COMPLEX CONTAMINATED GROUNDWATER SITES

The National Research Council has released a report, which makes recommendations for hazardous waste sites considered complex, meaning restoration is unlikely in the next 50 to 100 years owing to technological limitations.

Despite 40 years of effort, thousands of hazardous waste sites across the U.S. are contaminated with chemicals causing the underlying groundwater to have contaminant levels above drinking water standards. This includes Superfund sites as well as other sites where hazardous waste is exposed including numerous military facilities, and active and inactive dry cleaners. While many sites have been closed, remaining sites are often more difficult to address because the contamination and subsurface conditions complicate remediation.

The report concludes that at least 126,000 sites across the U.S. have contaminated groundwater and will cost a minimum of \$110 billion to \$127 billion to close. About 10 percent of these sites are complex. For sites where contaminant concentrations have leveled-off at levels surpassing cleanup goals, the report recommends evaluating whether the site should transition to being managed over the long-term.

PREPARING FOR THE THIRD DECADE (CYCLE 3) OF THE NATIONAL WATER-QUALITY ASSESSMENT (NAWQA) PROGRAM (2012)

The National Academies have released a report, which reflects on the first two decades of the U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS) National Water Quality Assessment (NAWQA) Program and discusses the next decade of NAWQA.

The report concludes that NAWQA has been successful in assessing U.S. water-quality conditions, how they have changed over time, and how natural features and human activities have affected water-quality.

In the third cycle of NAWQA, challenges include maintaining NAWQA as a national program in the current economy, sustaining new activities in addition to long-term studies, preserving focus in the face of multiple competing stakeholder demands. The report emphasizes the need for collaboration with other USGS, sector as well as other external programs, and with other federal agencies, state and local governments, the private sector as well as other external programs.

SCIENCE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION: THE ROAD AHEAD

In this report, the National Research Council assessed the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) capabilities to develop, obtain and utilize the best available science, technology and tools to address the persistent, emerging and future operations and opportunities.

The report found that tensions inherent to the structure of how the EPA handles their work contributes to the ongoing challenges faced by the agency. Meeting those challenges will require a more deliberate, interdisciplinary, "systems thinking" approach in developing cutting-edge scientific methods, tools and technologies, the report says.

Outlined in the report is a framework for providing environmental protection through the next 10 years. The report calls for enhanced leadership capacity to strengthen the EPA's ability to address current and future environmental challenges in addition to utilize new tools and technologies to address them.

The report concludes that the EPA science foundation is strong but the agency address these challenges to maintain science leadership and meet future obligations.