

# On the Rocks



*A Newsletter of the Michigan Basin Geological Society*  
E-mail version

2002-2003 Number 2

[www.mbgs.org](http://www.mbgs.org)

September 2002

## EVENTS

**September 8-10, 2002:** Rocky Mountain Section Meeting, Laramie, Wyoming on the University of Wyoming Campus. For more information visit: [www.aapg.org/meeting/rms02](http://www.aapg.org/meeting/rms02) or Cindy McPherrin at: [cindym@AAPG.org](mailto:cindym@AAPG.org) Phone: 888-945-2274. Pre registration deadline August 9, 2002.

**September 11, 2002:** First MBGS meeting of the 2002 – 2003 season. The presentation will be made by Dr. William Harrison of Western Michigan University and his topic is: "Oil and Gas Drilling under the Great Lakes and Environmental Politics".

**September 20–22, 2002:** Ontario Petroleum Institute Geological Field Trip to the Bruce Peninsula. SPACE is LIMITED. OPI website: <http://www.ontpet.com>.

**October 2-4, 2002:** 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Eastern Section meeting, Champaign, Illinois. The convention website is: [www.isgs.uiuc.edu/oilgas/eastaapg2002/index.htm](http://www.isgs.uiuc.edu/oilgas/eastaapg2002/index.htm).

**October 22-25, 2002:** 9th Annual International Petroleum Environmental Conference, in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

**May 11-14, 2003:** AAPG 88<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Salt Lake City, Utah. The theme is: "Energy-Our Monumental Task". Abstracts for the meeting are due September 18, 2002.

**November 4-6, 2002:** Joint Ontario – New York Oil & Gas Conference and Trade Show in Niagara Falls.

# **MBGS-SPE Meeting**

## **September 11, 2002**

Location: Mountain Jacks  
5800 W. Saginaw Highway, Lansing, Michigan

Schedule: 4:30-5:30 PM Executive Committee Meeting  
5:30-6:15 PM Cash Bar  
6:15-7:15 PM Dinner  
Presentation after Dinner

Cost \$25.00/member \$10.00 Student (includes dinner)

Topic: "Oil and Gas Drilling under the Great Lakes and Environmental  
Politics".

by Dr. William Harrison, Western Michigan University

### MBGS Dinner Meeting Reservation

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending \_\_\_\_\_ Society \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed Registration Fee \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check out to the MBGS by September 9, 2002 and send to:

Bruce Arndt  
508 W. Michigan Ave.  
P. O. Box 763  
Jackson, Michigan 49204  
Ph: 517-782-8206 Fax: 517-782-8205

# Dues

Dues for membership in the MBGS are \$25.00. The dues are payable by the end of September 2002 for the 2002-2003 season. *Remember to check your address Label on the Newsletter. If it reads (9-2002) on the last line then you will need to send in dues for the 2002-2003 season. Otherwise contact the Newsletter Editor or the Treasurer for your status.* Unless otherwise noted all members who receive the Newsletter by e-mail must pay dues for the 2002-2003 season.

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## Michigan Basin Geological Society Dues Notice

Please fill out this form when paying your dues for 2002-2003. Dues are \$25.00 for active member and \$10.00 for students.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Send Newsletter by e-mail \_\_\_\_\_@\_\_\_\_\_

or by US Mail at the above address

Make check payable to: MBGS

Send to: Tom Hoane  
1748 Danby Lane SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49506

## **2002-2003 MBGS Officers**

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## **Joint Ontario – New York Oil & Gas Conference and Trade Show**

Please mark your calendars for new dates for the Joint Ontario – New York Oil & Gas Conference and Trade Show - NOVEMBER 4, 5, 6, 2002 in Niagara Falls.

The last Joint Ontario - New York Conference was held in 1999 and was a resounding success. 2002 will be even bigger, with more presentations, more exhibitors, more delegates, and more networking opportunities.

A full slate of technical and business presentations are planned with over 25 speakers. All presentations have been set up with a minimum of overlap, so you won't miss a thing. New this year is our poster session in the registration foyer. We are also planning a pre-Conference geological tour of the prolific Niagara wine region, and a pre-Conference computer training seminar.

Our Trade Show is booking fast - this year we can handle 42 Exhibitors, in addition to our foyer displays and posters. Everything is conveniently located on one floor, and our receptions and coffee breaks will be held in the Trade Show area.

The Conference will kick-off with the traditional Welcoming Reception on Monday evening, followed by two days of presentations, our Trade Show, and a Luncheon with Keynote Speaker each day. We are also planning a Tuesday evening Reception extravaganza. We will leave plenty of time on Monday and Tuesday evening for dinner with friends, a tour of the city, or participation in one of the many hospitality suites. A Guest Program will also run on Tuesday.

The Sheraton-on-the-Falls all new Conference Centre is located right across the street from the famous Falls, and features six on-site restaurants (including Planet Hollywood, Rainforest Cafe and Hardrock Cafe), boutique shopping including Canada's only Hershey's store, and a direct link to Casino Niagara. Its the regions largest hotel, conference and restaurant complex.

This will be the biggest event in the region this year - please mark your calendars.

Steve Fletcher  
Executive Director  
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Phone: 519-680-1620 Fax: 519-680-1621

OPI website: <http://www.ontpet.com>

Oil, Gas & Salt Resources Library website: <http://www.ogsrlibrary.com>

**The Michigan Basin Geological Society Website is now live at: <http://www.mbgs.org>.**

**Planning a trip? Check out the Roadside Geology Series (22 states and Yellowstone Country) from Mountain Press Publishing Company at: [www.mountain-press.com](http://www.mountain-press.com).**

## **Biography**

William B. Harrison, III  
Department of Geosciences  
Professor of Geosciences  
Director, Michigan Basin Core Research Laboratory  
Western Michigan University Kalamazoo, MI 49008 (269) 387-5488

## **Academic Degrees**

Ph.D. - University of Cincinnati - 1974 - Geology, Paleontology, Sedimentology  
M.A. - University of South Florida - 1969 - Geology, Sedimentology  
B.A. - University of South Florida - 1968 - Geology, minor in Biology

## **Professional Experience**

1998 – present - Director, Michigan Center, Midwest Region, Petroleum Technology Transfer Council  
1983 – present - Director of Michigan Basin Core Research Laboratory, Department of Geology, Western Michigan University.  
1990 – present - Professor of Geology, Western Michigan University.  
1982 – 1990 - Associate Professor of Geology, Western Michigan University  
1973 – 1982 - Assistant Professor of Geology, Western Michigan University

## **Professional Affiliations.**

American Association of Petroleum Geologists  
Eastern Section of American Association of Petroleum Geologists  
Earth Science Outreach Program ESAAPG  
Paleontological Society  
North-Central Section of Paleontological Society  
Society for Sedimentary Geology (SEPM)  
Great Lakes Section of Society for Sedimentary Geology (SEPM)  
Michigan Basin Geological Society

## **Oil and Gas Drilling under the Great Lakes and Environmental Politics**

**By**

**Dr. William B. Harrison, III  
Professor of Geosciences and Director, Michigan Basin Core Research Laboratory  
Western Michigan University  
Kalamazoo, Michigan**

Directional drilling for oil and gas from land-based surface locations in Michigan to bottom hole locations beneath the Great Lakes has recently been banned by an Act of the Michigan legislature. Despite recommendations to permit this type of directional drilling by a select panel of the Michigan Environmental Science Review Board and the Natural Resources Commission, Michigan legislators overwhelmingly passed the ban. Interestingly, the new law has no effect on vertical wells drilled near the shoreline or on directional wells that do not bottom beneath Great Lakes waters.

It is instructive to review the technical issues and arguments associated with this type of directional drilling and to observe how politics played a role in the final decision. Actions and arguments of environmental activist groups are examined. The concept of risk is central throughout the entire debate. Different parties developed widely divergent evaluations of risk assessment. Levels of acceptable risk were also highly debated. Eventually political decision-making superseded technical/scientific arguments.

## 2002 Eastern Section Meeting American Association of Petroleum Geologists 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting

Hosted by the Illinois Geological Society and the Illinois State Geological Survey, convention theme is "Energy Opportunities and Environmental Solutions". The meeting will take place at the Chancellor Hotel 1501 S. Neil Street, Champaign, Illinois from October 2 to 4, 2002. The pre-registration date is September 20, 2002 and the deadline for hotel reservations is September 1, 2002.

The opening session begins at 2:30 PM on October 2, 2002 and ends at 4:45 PM with the John T. Galey Memorial Address. The technical program begins at 8:30 AM on October 3 and 4, 2002. Two field trips are scheduled for October 5, 2002: "Sequence Stratigraphy and Reservoir Distribution in Chesterian Ste. Genevieve to Glen Dean Formations, Illinois Basin" and the "Silurian and Devonian Rocks of the Tuscola Quarry".

Check out the details at the convention website:  
[www.isgs.uiuc.edu/oilgas/eastaapg2002/index.htm](http://www.isgs.uiuc.edu/oilgas/eastaapg2002/index.htm).

## MSU ALUMNI/GEOLOGY CLUB

### DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES FALL SEMESTER, 2002

Sept. 12 Thursday	Dr. Karen Wayland Legislative Fellow for US Senator Reid	<i>"A Scientist in The Senate: A Year as AGU's Congressional Science Fellow"</i>
Sept. 19 Thursday	Dr. Alan Arbogast Geography Department, Michigan State University	<i>"New Understandings About The Evolution of Coastal Dunes Along The Southeastern Shore of Lake Michigan"</i>
Sept. 26 Thursday	Dr. Jim Stimac Geoscience Coordinator, Philippine Geothermal, Inc.	<i>"Evolution of The Mount Pinatubo Crater Lake in The Decade After Formation"</i>
Oct. 17 Thursday	Dr. William Cambray Michigan State University	<i>"To Be Announced"</i>
Oct. 24 Thursday	Geological Sciences Department Michigan State University	<i>"To Be Announced"</i>
Nov. 7 Thursday	Dr. Thomas C. Voice Environmental Engineer, Michigan State University	<i>"Environmental and Geologic Factors in The Occurrence of Balkan Endemic Nephropathy"</i>
Nov. 14 Thursday	Dr. Jonathan M. Lees Dept. of Geological Sciences, University of North Carolina	<i>"Implications of Slab Tear on Geodynamics, Seismology and Volcano Geochemistry"</i>
<u>Brown-Bag Seminar</u> Nov. 15 Friday		<i>"Molten Rock, Singing Fire: Volcano Explosion Symphony"</i>
Nov. 21 Thursday	Dr. Samuel B. Mukasa Dept. of Geological Sciences, University of Michigan	<i>"Magma Chamber Processes Revealed by an Isotopic and Trace Element Study of The Dufek Layered Mafic Intrusion, Antarctica"</i>

Coffee will be served at 3:30 in Room 207 Natural Science Building.  
 All lectures will be at 4:00 P.M in room 204 Natural Science Building.  
Brown-Bag Seminar will be at Noon in room 207 Natural Science Building.

# Geological Field Trip to the Bruce Peninsula

## **September 20 - 22, 2002**

The Bruce Peninsula lies between Lake Huron and Georgian Bay in southern Ontario and is underlain by rocks of Ordovician and Silurian age. The Silurian strata exposed on the peninsula are roughly equivalent to hydrocarbon producing strata in the western and southern Michigan Basin and are the focus of this field trip. The purpose of this field trip is to examine the Silurian outcrop belt of the Bruce Peninsula. This succession is considered to be the shelfward equivalent of the hydrocarbon producing horizon, commonly termed the "Niagaran Play," in the subsurface of northern and southern Michigan and southwestern Ontario. This ongoing play has been one of the most successful onshore North American exploration and development ventures of the past 4 decades. This two day field trip begins in the town of Owen Sound and consists essentially of a round trip to Tobermory at the northwest tip of the Bruce Peninsula. A boat cruise out of Tobermory is planned (weather permitting), which will provide an excellent overview for the trip, with almost continuous exposure of the entire Silurian succession in the Niagara Escarpment as it trends along the north shore and plunges into Lake Huron at Tobermory.

**Cost:** \$385 + 7% gst per person

### **What's Included:**

Bus from London to Owen Sound to Tobermory and return.  
Two nights accommodation.  
Two breakfasts, two boxed lunches, dinner on Saturday evening.  
Boat cruise out of Tobermory, weather permitting.  
Printed field guide.

### **Itinerary:**

#### **Friday, September 20**

4:00 pm Depart London for Owen Sound  
7:00 pm Arrive Owen Sound Days Inn  
Dinner on your own (many restaurants are nearby)

#### **Day 1 – Saturday September 21**

7:30 am Continental Breakfast, Days Inn Restaurant  
8:15 am Inglis Falls and road cut: overview of the escarpment, walk to road cut, Amabel/Fossil Hill/Cabot Head; unconformity between FH/CH.  
10:30 am Big Bay road cut: Queenston Fm, with gypsum and limestone beds.  
12:30 pm Box Lunch at Bluewater Park, Wiarton  
1:00 pm Wiarton road cut: Amabel and Guelph (Eramosa)  
3:00 pm Boat Cruise along the north shore and around Flowerpot Island. Spectacular look at Niagaran reef and interreef carbonates. Weather permitting. If Saturday afternoon looks stormy, we will add stops that afternoon and re-book the cruise first thing Sunday morning.  
7:00 pm Check in, Grandview/Bruce Anchor Motels, Tobermory  
8:30 pm Reception and Dinner, Grandview Restaurant

#### **Day 2 – Sunday September 22**

7:30 am Continental breakfast, Grandview Restaurant  
8:30 am Tobermory Church bioherm (Guelph)  
10:00 am Marc's Reef (Hwy 6): Guelph reef complex  
11:30 am NW Bioherms (Hwy 6): lower Guelph or Amabel bioherms.  
12:00 pm Box Lunch at Hope Bay shoreline – view NW trending ridges in escarpment face (Amabel Fm).  
Alternate lunch stop at Lion's Head shoreline  
1:15 pm Adair Quarry: dimension stone quarry in Amabel Fm.  
2:30 pm OSL Wiarton Quarry: building stone (Eramosa)  
Alternate stop: Sky Lake road cut: upper Eramosa (fossiliferous)  
End of tour.  
Trip Leaders: Derek Armstrong, Ontario Geological Service; Dr. Mario Coniglio, University of Waterloo.

## Registration Geological Field Trip to the Bruce Peninsula

Company: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City Province Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Cheque for \$411.95 Cdn per person enclosed ✎ Call to pay by VISA  
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