

KENTUCKY GEOLOGIST

SUMMER 1995

Comments from your President: Kenneth W. Kuehn

Well, there's 'hot', and then there's 'HOT!' I think it's quite 'HOT' this summer, but then I'm no igneous petrologist! Now igneous petrologists, they know 'HOT', or so I'm told! One of my colleagues, a militant hard-rocker, delights in berating my penchant for the soft rocks. She claims that sedimentary rocks comprise only about 5% of Earth's crust and that most of them are merely weathered rubble; shadows of their once glorious, crystalline selves. She says these scraps were deposited on the surface for the sole purpose of obscuring the really good rocks beneath! Can you imagine? I was compelled to respond. "Why not join us on **September 29-30** for the **Fall Field Conference?**", I asked. We'll meet in Hazard, KY to view some classic clastics and uncommon coals, and you'll be convinced by the experts' telling of a torrid tale of petrogenesis! The spirit of 'Strata' Smith will fill you and your plutonic demons will be cast out! And folks...I can assure a similar positive result for everyone who attends this year's Field Conference! Please plan to participate in this important event! If not life-shaping, we'll at least enjoy some fine fellowship and a great learning experience. And, I hope, somewhat cooler weather!

Annual Dues

Are you a member in good standing? The GSK needs your continued support to maintain its activities! If you haven't yet paid your 1995 dues, please take a minute and do it now! We need and appreciate your support!

Society Update

I am grateful for all the comments from the membership concerning expanding the role of GSK to serve the more than 2,000 registered professional geologists in Kentucky. The Executive Committee met with State Geologist Dr. Don Haney at the Spring Picnic, where we discussed some of your ideas in detail. Specifically, possible new names for the Society; continuing education opportunities; frequent, regional meetings; and legislative interaction were all mentioned and discussed. Again, if you have any ideas, or opinions on how we might expand our Society, please let me know of them! Presently, I am reviewing existing documents from similar groups such as the Kentucky Society of Professional Engineers and the Indiana Society for Professional Geologists. I will report progress to you during the business meeting at the upcoming Field

Conference. Your attendance at the business meeting is a great way to support the GSK and to have your opinions heard by all. This is an exciting time for geology in Kentucky! I hope to see you in September!

Kentucky Geological Survey 35th Annual Seminar

The Kentucky Geological Survey held its 35th annual meeting on May 19 at the Mining and Mineral Resources Building on the UK campus. The program consisted of various presentations of on-going research activities and recent developments related to Kentucky's geology and mineral and water resources. The seminar was open to the public and the geologic community. Research presentations this year were on water quality in agricultural areas, effects of coal mining on water resources, coal investigations in the Eastern and Western Kentucky Coal Field and basin analysis / regional geology of the Rome Trough and Rough Creek Graben.

World Class Fossil Discoveries

Of particular note was the 'informal' announcement by GSK Western Vice-President Dave Williams of two significant fossil finds by the Tradewater Working Group (IBC) in western Kentucky. The first discovery (initially thought to have been a vertebrate) was a portion of a millipede from the Tradewater Formation (lower Pennsylvanian). The second fossil was a partial skeleton of a large Mississippian-age amphibian, the first tetrapod skeleton from the Carboniferous in Kentucky. A press release will be forthcoming when the finds have been formally identified.

Special Recognition Geologist Award

Also of interest was the first Special Recognition Geologist Award presented to Mr. Royal Belding with Pike-Letcher Land Company of Myra, Kentucky by State Geologist Dr. Don Haney. This award was initiated to recognize the efforts of geologists working in industry who through their companies have supported research and survey programs. Mr. Belding has worked in the Kentucky coal industry since the early 1980's and cooperated in research projects by providing access to data, mines and samples. He has also supported a number of student geologists with research funds and summer and full-time employment. The Survey was pleased to acknowledge his service to the state.

Annual Spring Picnic Recap

The Second Annual Spring Picnic was held Saturday, June 17 at Fort Boonesboro State Park near Richmond. The affair was excellently catered with barbecue and fixings from Lexington's Red, White and Blue Restaurant. Although approximately 50 members, families and guests registered for the event, fewer than 25 people attended. It has been suggested that a change back to a Spring / Summer Banquet coinciding with the Kentucky Geological Survey's Annual Meeting would be instrumental in increasing participation with the membership-at-large. Society members interested in making such a change or having suggestions that would increase the participation should contact any of the current officers.

Membership Update

GSK member Terence Hamilton-Smith will soon be leaving the Kentucky Geological Survey. After September 1, he will be available as a geological consultant at Applied Earth Science, 535 Fairfield Drive, Lexington, KY 40503, (606) 277-4813.

University Update

University of Kentucky, Lexington

Dr. Frank Ettensohn recently returned from instructing a 6-week summer field course in the Gunnison and Crested Butte area of western Colorado. Attending field camp with Dr. Ettensohn were 16 students and two teaching assistants. Besides mapping the area in Colorado the group spent a week reviewing the regional framework traveling through several of the national parks and monuments such as Dinosaur NM, Arches NP, Natural Bridges NM, Mesa Verde NP and Monument Valley area. Frank reports that the weather was cold, wet and rainy! In fact, there was as much as 5" of snow on the ground as late as July 4! Summer didn't arrive until about mid-July. (Frank, why didn't you bring back some of that weather back with you?)

The University of Kentucky will have two new faculty joining the Department of Geological Sciences in August 1995. Dr. Ford Cochran (Ph.D., Yale, '95) will arrive to fill the position as an environmental geochemist and Dr. Allen Fryar (Univ. Alberta, '92) as a hydrogeologist. In addition, Dr. Henry Berry (Ph.D., U. Mass., Amherst, '89) joins the department as a full-time instructor.

Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond

Dr. Ralph A. Ewers reports that ECU is the recent recipient of an \$80,000, 2-year study on the relative ground water movement in the overburden and epikarst zone of karst aquifers. This study in karst hydrogeology will be expanded from a pilot study conducted on the University of Kentucky Farm near Versailles, Woodford Co.

Dr. James F. Quinlan -- in memoriam

The Society has learned of the unfortunate and untimely death of Dr. James F. Quinlan on Friday, July 21, 1995. Dr. Quinlan was adjunct professor at Eastern Kentucky University and other institutions. Dr. Quinlan was the first Park Research Geologist employed at Mammoth Cave National Park from 1973 to 1990 and had conducted between 300 to 400 dye traces in the Mammoth Cave area. His work in the Mammoth Cave area is considered one of the most comprehensive studies in karst topography (Quinlan and Ray, 1981, "Groundwater basins in the Mammoth Cave Region, Kentucky": Friends of the Karst, Occasional Publication 1). Dr. Quinlan had authored over 200 publications on karst-related hydrogeology and had been the 1986 co-recipient of the E. B. Burwell Award with Dr. Ralph Ewers in the 1985 paper, "Ground Water Flow in Limestone Terranes: Strategy, Rationale and Procedures for Reliable, Efficient Monitoring of Ground Water Quality in Karst Areas": Fifth National Symposium and Exposition on Aquifer Restoration and Ground Water Monitoring, N.W.W.A. He has greatly contributed to the study of Kentucky karst geology and hydrogeology. Dr. Quinlan will be greatly missed by his colleagues at ECU and throughout Kentucky.

GSK WILL SPONSOR FIVE STUDENT FIELD TRIP SCHOLARSHIPS

The Geological Society of Kentucky scholarship committee has finalized plans to award five (5) all-expense-paid field trip scholarships for the 1995 Fall Field Trip. In response to suggestions from the membership at the 1994 Field Trip Banquet in Bowling Green, the committee believes that these awards are the best way to promote the science of geology in Kentucky, and to generate new members for the Society.

Applicants must be full-time undergraduate or graduate students attending any college in Kentucky, and must be enrolled in a geology-related major. All applicants must turn in the application form enclosed in this newsletter to their academic advisor or department chair as soon as possible. The advisor or department chair is requested to complete a brief statement summarizing why the applicant(s) may be considered a good candidate for receiving the field trip scholarship, and to forward the application(s) to Richard Smath, GSK Secretary. Two weeks prior to the field trip, the scholarship committee will select and notify five students to receive the awards. Decisions of the scholarship committee are final. Upon notification and acceptance of the scholarships, the winners will be registered for the field trip, and their registration and boarding expenses will be paid. It will be the responsibility of the winners to reserve a room at the motel, although the cost will be borne by GSK.

The scholarship committee consists of Bart Davidson, Richard Smath and Warren Anderson. Suggestions on the GSK scholarship process are welcome, and should be forwarded to any of these individuals at the GSK address listed on this newsletter. If the response from students is good this year, the committee may suggest to the membership that more field trip scholarships be awarded during 1996. The total cost to GSK for 1995, providing all five scholarships are awarded, will be approximately 500 dollars.

Membership Report

Secretary Richard Smath reports that there are currently a total 326 members (including all active, inactive, honorary and student members). From this total 44 inactive members have been removed from the mailing list.

Please send in your 1995 dues so that we can keep you as a valued member! For those who have not done so yet, pay your \$10.00 dues by check made payable to the 'Geological Society of Kentucky' and send to Richard Smath, GSK Secretary at the postmarked address below.

Financial Report

As of July 17, 1995, GSK Treasurer John Mickelson reports that the Society has a balance of \$6,816.16 in an interest-bearing checking account.

Announcements of Professional Meetings

American Institute of Professional Geologists
October 1-5, 1995, Annual Meeting, Denver, CO

American Association of Petroleum Geologists Eastern Section
October 14-17, 1995, Schenectady, NY, Joint Annual Meeting AAPG Eastern Section and New York State Geological Association.

Geological Society of America
November 6-9, 1995, Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.

Note to Fall Field Trip Participants

Please note that there are two separate flyers pertaining to this year's **1995 Fall Field Conference Field Trip** attached to the inside of this newsletter.

One is for all participants (both professionals and students) who plan to attend, register and pay for the Field Trip. It's the same as we have used in the past.

The second is a new application form for students only who wish to apply for one of the five **1995 Fall Field Conference Field Trip Scholarships** to be awarded next month. To all students who definitely wish to attend this year's Field Trip, please fill out both forms and pay now. Scholarship winners who have prepaid will be reimbursed. Good luck, and maybe you will join us this September in Hazard!

Special Note to All Geology Department Heads

Please Post a copy of this Newsletter along with the **Fall Field Trip Registration** and **Scholarship Application Forms** on your bulletin board for your geology / geoscience majors. Please have them pay particular attention to the notice of this year's 1995 Field Trip Scholarship as announced on page 2 and above.

Geological Society of Kentucky
228 Mining and Mineral Resources Building
University of Kentucky
Lexington, KY 40506-0107

Address correction requested