

KENTUCKY GEOLOGIST

Newsletter of the Geological Society of Kentucky

WINTER 1995

Comments from your President: Kenneth W. Kuehn

Tempus Fugit! Time truly does fly! As your 'outgoing' President for 1995, I am writing these lines both to recap our GSK activities and accomplishments for 1995, and briefly to look ahead into 1996. First, I wish to thank the entire 1995 Executive Committee for their active participation and support throughout the year. It has been a pleasure working with all of you! I wish to extend a special thanks to Kevin Wente of the Kentucky Geological Survey, who served as our Eastern Vice President. The outstanding success of our two formal events this past year was due in large part to Kevin's outstanding organizational skills!

1995 Recap:

1. The Spring Picnic was held on June 17th at Fort Boonesborough State Park. The park was wonderful, the weather variable, and the food excellent. Approximately 50 people registered for this event and all who attended enjoyed the informal atmosphere and comraderie. During the picnic, the Executive Committee held a business meeting and discussed future plans for the Society with Dr. Don Haney, State Geologist.

2. A GSK Scholarship Committee comprising Bart Davidson, Richard Smath, and Warren Anderson of the Kentucky Geological Survey established guidelines and solicited applications from full-time geology undergraduate and graduate students across the Commonwealth. With the stated goals of promoting the science of geology in Kentucky and generating new members for the Society, the Committee awarded all-expense-paid scholarships for the Fall Field Conference to seven very appreciative students from Western Kentucky University and the University of Kentucky.

3. Our 1995 Fall Field Conference, "Coal Geology of the Eastern Kentucky Coal Field" was held September 29-30, and was attended by approximately 40 people. The trip began and ended in Hazard, Kentucky and focused on two coal-producing intervals in the Breathitt Formation. Everyone was impressed by the radiometrically age-dated clay parting in the Fire Clay coal bed and the excellent exposures of this very important seam. Exciting new roadcuts, fine weather (once we vacuumed all the fog away), and outstanding leadership made this an extremely enjoyable and educational experience. Kudos to Cortland Eble and Steve Greb of the Kentucky Geological Survey, and Jim Hower of the UK Center for Applied Energy Research for leading this trip. They have also compiled a well written and illustrated guidebook for the 1995 Fall Field Conference. Plans are in the making for the work to be published by the Kentucky Geological Survey. Meanwhile, 23 guidebooks will be for sale by the Society for \$10.00 (Kentucky residents add 6% sales tax) plus \$3.25 for shipping. Contact Kevin Wente at the Kentucky Geological

Survey (606) 257-5500 to order a copy while they last.

On Target for 1996:

Brave New World?

A major effort by your Executive Committee this year was to develop ideas for a new, broader Society that could serve the more than 2,000 professional geologists who are now registered in Kentucky. I thank all of you who submitted ideas and expressed opinions toward this very important undertaking. At this time, I'm pleased to say that I have a document ready for circulation and discussion. It is my hope that the 1996 Executive Committee can meet early on with Dr. Haney and the Registration Board and we will adopt this document by our spring meeting.

1996 Fall Field Conference

We need your ideas for the Fall Field Conference. If you're aware of a timely topic, please let us know as soon as possible. If you're willing to become involved, even better! Anyone on the Executive Committee will be happy to talk to you about this event.

1996 Ballot and Annual Dues

Attached in this Newsletter is a **Confirmation Ballot** for the 1996 Executive Committee. Those listed on the ballot have already been contacted by the Nominations Committee and have agreed to serve the Society in the capacity indicated. Additional space is provided for write-in candidates at each position. Please review the candidates, mark your choices, and return the ballot by the date indicated.

At the same time, why not complete and return the attached **Annual Dues form** along with your check? Our dues are cheap, cheap, cheap, while our value is very high. You can enjoy this very high benefit-to-cost ratio all year long simply by being a paid member in good standing for 1996.

It's been a labor of love and genuine pleasure to have served you as President in 1995. I wish everyone the best for a healthy and prosperous New Year! I hope to see all of you at our 1996 Spring Meeting!

KWK

Special Note of Interest

Large Intact Gypsum Crystal Goes on Display at UK

A one-ton specimen of gypsum crystal discovered at a Jessamine County limestone mine went on permanent display last December in the first floor lobby of the University of Kentucky's Mining and Mineral Resources Building (site of the Kentucky Geological Survey). The specimen measures six feet long, three feet high and three feet deep, weighs about 2,000 pounds and is comprised of a mass of large interlocking selenite gypsum crystals. Survey

geologist Warren Anderson was told about the discovery by officials of the Lexington Quarry Co., which uncovered the specimen in a limestone mine just north of Nicholasville. Alex Boone, part-owner of the mine said the mine superintendent, Sam Van, discovered the crystal while mining for limestone to be used for construction aggregate. Mr. Van used a small amount of explosives to gain access to the cavern where the gypsum specimen was found. The officials then called the Survey to inform them of their unique discovery. Warren said the specimen is probably one of the 10 largest intact gypsum crystals on display in the U.S. and that "it's definitely the largest in Kentucky."

A Late Life Job Change--North to South America (Part II)

by Paul Edwin Potter

Earlier we talked about life in Rio Claro and its physical setting in the interior of Sao Paulo State about 100 miles north of the megacity of Sao Paulo of some 17,000,000.

Now what about the decision itself -- to seek a new job in a different county when you are 60 plus?

For me it would seem to be the easiest decision in the world--unmarried, many prior visits to Latin America, many friends and acquaintances there, a modest ability in foreign languages and able to afford taking a chance. Yet the decision was still a hard one for me to make and I procrastinated until the very last day to apply for early retirement starting in August 1992! And what finally made me do it was this thought, "Paul, if you can't do this, if you don't have the courage to step out of your present job, how will you ever live with yourself in the years to come?"

And sitting in the airplane flying to Rio Claro in Brazil in early 1993, believe me, I was still filled with doubt. Probably one of the most disquieting trips of my life! But the benefits have been many. Below I describe them and offer a few suggestions on how you can also make a late life job change.

First, consider the question, "What motivated me to make this change?"

Many years ago talking to Francis Pettijohn, he mentioned to me, "Paul, moving from Chicago to Hopkins was the best professional move I ever made in my life. And I really should have done it much sooner. For a geologist, Paul, moving every ten years is good--new faces, new ideas, and above all, new geology--forces one to think in totally new dimensions--and nothing is better for a geologist, especially one over 50." So after 21 years at Cincinnati, and a professional life since 1952 mostly here in Kentucky and in the eastern Midwest in Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, I knew the change would be good for me. Gondwanaland would replace cratonic North America, tropical weathering and landforms instead of till plains and the interior low plateau of Kentucky, rivers that dwarf most of ours, easy access to

the spectacular coastal features of Brazil's long passive margin, an opportunity to learn about the opening of the South Atlantic and proximity to the Southern Andes. In short, the replacement of one lifelong problem set with another very different one. One could be sure that such a change will be rich in ideas.

And to all this add the human dimension -- learning more Portuguese, enjoying the warmth and sincerity of the inhabitants of a Brazilian small town, appreciating the significance of the phrase [momentchina] "a little moment" that can be as long as five or more minutes. Not to mention the pleasure of talking to a wide range of society--from laborers to farm owners to students and professors to bus drivers and doctors and engineers or going on field trips with geology students, who given a chance, love nothing better than go dancing in the evening. Or visiting a coastal town that was established in 1531 and is still only a small, out-of-the-way place.

Let's suppose now that such a late life job change appeals to you. How does one go about it?

This can be done in many ways--through organizations such as Partners in the Americas, perhaps your church or club or you can do it yourself. And the time span can be a few weeks a year, a few months each year, or possibly several years or longer.

If you want a semi-permanent association with a place, and I think this is the best, the first rule is to start early--at least in your fifties--and visit some of the less well developed countries that you might enjoy. Latin America offers much here because while it is different from Kentucky, it is not as totally different as is say Pakistan, Thailand or Indonesia. So what you need to do is go there, meet your counterparts, be helpful in a discrete way, and show your contacts that you are both interested and have something to offer. Plan ahead so that you will be known and have contacts and friends--so that there will be people there who want you to come and work with them. And remember in Latin America and in much of the world, a letter is a nice start, but don't expect it to be answered--to communicate effectively you need to go there so you can be seen and judged. And when you are there simply ask these questions, "Could I come here and teach part time at the University? Could I come here and work with a church group in community service. Could we perhaps form an informal liaison between your company and mine?" Whatever it is, you will find that throughout much of Latin America, the United States and its citizens are admired for their hard work, their discipline and for their open society and democracy. So to sum it up, "A good ambassador can always find a niche." And so can you--and be enormously satisfied as a result.

GSK Awards 7 Field Trip Scholarships for 1995

The Geological Society of Kentucky was pleased to award seven all-expense-paid field trip scholarships to the 1995 Fall Field Trip. Applicants were required to be enrolled in a geology-related undergraduate or graduate degree, and to obtain an endorsement from either their department chair or advisor. We extend congratulations to the following field trip scholarship recipients:

Western Kentucky University:

Mr. Victor L. Humble
Mr. Andrei Kerpan
Mr. Michael Lewis
Mr. Jason T. Wells

University of Kentucky:

Ms. Penny L. Alano
Mr. William M. Andrews
Mr. Hugh D. Liles

In 1996, we hope to have a goal of ten scholarships. Since all of the applicants in 1995 were deserving students, and the number of applicants is expected to increase in 1996, we plan to have a drawing for scholarship winners next year. This method will provide a fair means of selecting winners, as well as reduce the scholarship committee's burden of picking a few winners from many deserving applicants. We will require a signature from each applicant's department chair or advisor to show that the student is in good standing with his/her department.

**CONFIRMATION BALLOT
1996 GSK EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

President:

___ Kevin Wentz. Kevin is a hydrogeologist with the KGS and served as eastern vice-president of GSK in 1995. He graduated from the Univ. of Ky with a B.S. in Geology in December 1993. For the past three years Kevin has worked in the Petroleum & Stratigraphy, and Water Sections; and presently assists in the Ground-Water Data Repository providing a public service.

_____. Write-in Candidate

Eastern Vice President:

___ James C. Cobb. Dr. Cobb is the Assistant State Geologist and has been with the Kentucky Geological Survey for 15 years specializing in coal geology.

_____. Write-in Candidate

Western Vice President:

___ Elizabeth McClellan. Dr. McClellan is an assistant professor of geology at WKU, where she has been employed for three years. She earned her Ph.D. at Tennessee under Bob Hatcher doing mapping and petrogenesis studies of tectonic terrains in Norway. She has initiated structural studies in the western Kentucky fluorspar district.

_____. Write in Candidate.

Secretary:

___ Kenneth W. Kuehn. Dr. Kuehn is professor of geology at WKU and is completing his term as 1995 GSK President. He wishes to serve in this capacity in order to continue his work on proposed changes to the GSK for 1996.

_____. Write-in Candidate

Please complete the ballot and mail by February 9, 1996 to:

Richard Smath, 'GSK Secretary'
Geological Society of Kentucky
228 Mining and Mineral Resources Building
University of Kentucky
Lexington, KY 40506-0107

Special Upcoming Events in northern Kentucky and southern Ohio in Spring Fossil Festival set for April 1996

In celebration of Cincinnati's rich fossil heritage, the Cincinnati Museum Center, along with area amateur and professional paleontologists, are proud to host the first ever Cincinnati Fossil Festival, April 20 and April 21, 1996.

Organized by a group of local fossil enthusiasts, in cooperation with the Museum of Natural History & Science, a division of the Cincinnati Museum Center, the event not only aims to strengthen the link between amateur and professional paleontologists, but also strives to increase the general public's awareness of the importance of Cincinnati as a center of exceptional fossil wealth. Other sponsors are the Paleontological Society, the University of Cincinnati, and the Dry Dredgers (Cincinnati's local club for fossil collectors).

Activities on Saturday, April 20, will include presentations by leading scientists on the life and times of Cincinnati 450 million years ago and general discussions led by both amateur and professional paleontologists. Visitors will have a chance to see private fossil collections on display in the Museum and are invited to bring their own collections for identification by local experts.

Also, there will be an exhibition of the "Spineless Wonder" artwork by Cincinnati school students who enter the Museum's art competition. The Tri-City Paleontology Conference, a meeting aimed at area graduate students, will take place concurrently on April 20 at the Museum Center.

On Sunday, April 21, there will be a "drive yourself" field excursion to various sites in the area, providing participants with hands-on experience of field paleontology, the chance to work with professionals and the opportunity to collect fossils for themselves.

The Museum of Natural History & science is located at the Cincinnati Museum Center at Union Terminal, 1301 Western Avenue. For more information regarding this event, call 513-345-8500.

(Information provided by the staff of the Cincinnati Museum Center).

Special Reminder to all Members

Please send in your **1996 dues** along with the enclosed **ballot** (previous page) so that we can keep you as a valued member! Please pay your \$10.00 dues by check made payable to the 'Geological Society of Kentucky' and send to

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

If you or someone you know wishes to apply for membership with the GSK please contact the Secretary at the same address.

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

Address correction requested