

Dept. of Geog. & Geol.  
Western Kentucky Univ.  
1906 College Heights Blvd.  
#31066  
Bowling Green, KY  
42101-1066  
Phone (270) 745-4555  
(department office) or  
745-5976 (Wulff)  
Fax (270) 745-6410

## 2008 officers

President: Dave Williams  
(williams@uky.edu)  
President-elect:  
Past-president: Andrew Wulff (andrew.wulff@wku.edu)  
Secretary/treasurer:  
Fred Siewers (fred.siewers@wku.edu)  
Councilor-at-large:  
Richard Smath (rsmath@uky.edu)  
Councilor-at-large: Ken Kuehn (kenneth.kuehn@wku.edu)  
Editor: Meg Smath (msmath@uky.edu)

**KSPG Web site**  
www.kspg.org

## Message from the president

I'm busy. That's a true statement. My mind has been focused on other things. Mike May really had to pump up my ego to get me to take on being president for the second time, and frankly, I should not have let him sweet talk me into it. I did not foresee that I would be a co-principal investigator on a major KGS project when I took on the responsibilities of the society, like a field trip and annual meeting. So, frankly, I have been focused on drilling a deep hole in western Kentucky for testing carbon dioxide sequestration as per House Bill 1 and not on my duties as president of KSPG. On top of that, I have to follow a whole roast hog barbeque that they had at the last field conference. I have given some thought to what it is that I need to do. I have outlined a field trip agenda that would fill in a gap left between two of our past trips. I've considered making the exposure of the Rough Creek Fault at milepost 53 on the Green River Parkway a distinguished geologic site, but I must admit that I have not been much of a force as the leader. So the newsletter is late, the Web page needs attention, KSPG needs to have an election, and I'm just

now getting to this "Letter from Your President."

So my thoughts are that our fall field conference will be along the Western Kentucky Parkway between Caneyville and Elizabethtown. The trip will give the society a chance to tie in the region between field trips that focused on the Western Kentucky Coal Field and the Blue Grass Parkway. The route has lots of interesting outcrops, such as a large paleo-landslide, the termination of the Rough Creek Fault, tar-sand exposures, coal, the Pennsylvanian-Mississippian contact, the lower Chesterian stratigraphy, rockhouse development, and significant changes in geomorphology. Do I have you interested? And by the way, does anybody know how to cook a pig?

I understand that we have money in the treasury; that last year was a good financial year for us. Do we spend it on a big party or student support, or just sit on it?

I am going to remain busy, but I will obligate myself to fulfill my duties to you. There are of course others who work much more



diligently than I and their efforts are much appreciated. The crew at Western Kentucky University have been the lifeblood of the Executive Committee for some time now. We also have Meg Smath, our editor, and Richard Smath, who very quietly works behind the scenes to see that things get done. I do think that it is time for younger members to step up to executive leadership. I was 30-something the first time that I went through the leadership positions. Accepting leadership in our local societies such as KY-AIPG and KSPG is a great way to develop professional relationships that will last your entire career, like the one that I have today, and, frankly, KSPG needs the energy of youth to succeed.

*Dave Williams*

## Committee chairs

**Revenue:** Greg Cornett  
(greg@kyriverprop.com)

**Legislative/Regulatory Oversight:** Doug Reynolds (dougjr1@prodigy.net)

**K-12 Earth Science Education:** Melissa Dieckmann (melissa.dieckmann@eku.edu)

**University Outreach:** Ken Kuehn (kenneth.kuehn@wku.edu)

**Geologist-In-Training:** David Jackson (davida.jackson@ky.gov)

**Scholarship/Awards:**

**Distinguished Geologic Sites:** Drew Andrews (wandrews@uky.edu)

**2008 Field Conference:** Dave Williams (williams@uky.edu)

**Membership/Member Benefits:** Patrick Gooding (gooding@uky.edu)

**Symposia/Professional Development:** Brandon Nuttall (bnuttall@uky.edu)

**KSPG 2013:** Ken Kuehn (kenneth.kuehn@wku.edu)

**Hospitality/Entertainment:** Ann Watson (watson@uky.edu)

**Communications (Web site/newsletter/publications):** Meg Smath (msmath@uky.edu)

## KSPG fall 2007 field conference

The fall field conference was effectively split into two trips, each centered on aspects of south-central Kentucky. The first day (Friday, Sept. 14) concentrated on Mississippian stratigraphy, geomorphologic features, and karst resources around Bowling Green. Included was a bit of the history of economic development of some of the region's resources, including oil and limestone (as aggregate and dimension stone), and a guided tour of a hot mix asphalt manufacturing and testing facility. Many thanks to Mike, Ken, and Fred from WKU for leading the two days of trips, and to Jared Nix of Scotty's Contracting and Stone for his fine tour. There was exceptionally high participation by undergraduate geology students from area universities. The banquet that night included remarks from Andrew Wulff (president of KSPG) and David Keeling (head of the Department of Geography and Geology at WKU).

The next day (Saturday, Sept. 15) included an extended trip to the Kyrock region to consider some of the fascinating history and future development of this area. Edmonson County hospitality was on display at the pig roast feast for lunch (see photos, page 3) and concluded with the recognition of Kyrock as the fourth Distinguished Geologic Site in Kentucky and presentation of commemorative plaques. Many thanks to Mike May for the nomination of the Kyrock region, and to Drew Andrew (chair of the KSPG Distinguished Site Committee) for his work in approving the nomination.

Thanks also to Mr. Larry "Butch" Carroll for access to the Carmichael home at Kyrock, and to Jim Ashley of Edmonson County for his vigorous support of the Kyrock region. The rest of the day centered on Mammoth Cave National Park, including a guided tour by Rick Toomey. The field guide will be online soon. Enjoy the photos!



*Scenes from last fall's field trip. Top: The tour of Scotty's quarry included a step-by-step tour through every aspect, including these dispensing hoppers. Middle: The group gets a great lecture/demonstration from Jared Nix on the finer points of different hot mix asphalt recipes and quality control. Bottom: Fred Siewers points out features in the Girkin Formation exposed along Ky. 185 just north of Bowling Green.*

## Outgoing president's message

Where did the year go? Each year seems to go faster (no news to anyone I suspect), especially when it starts with so many hopes and plans!! What about this slow geological time that we talk about? I am thankful for the year as president and look forward to continuing to contribute to the mission of KSPG. We were a part of a number of exciting events, and many persons contributed time and energy to move the KSPG forward. First of all, I would like to heartily congratulate all who were involved in and participated in the annual KSPG-AIPG field conference, this year coupled with the Eastern Section AAPG meeting. When we decided early on to contribute KSPG monies toward a successful collaboration with AAPG, we did so with some caution, as we traditionally have relatively low cash reserves. But, oh what a meeting!! Congratulations to Dave Harris, Jim Drahovzal, Tom Sparks, Steve Greb, Mike Lynch, Brandon Nuttall, and all others involved with the meeting for a great job! The KSPG field trip was quite well attended (see summary in this newsletter), and Ken Kuehn and Mike May contributed a yeoman effort to make every aspect of a success. The Kyrock area was approved as the fourth Distinguished Geologic Site in Kentucky, and there has already been much more interest in the development of this area in the future. I'm pleased that it will be recognized that KSPG early saw the past and future importance of this site. In large part due to the ES-AAPG meeting, this was a very successful year from a financial aspect. As a consequence, KSPG was able to contribute to several important causes (see Fred Siewers' treasurer's report in this newsletter for details).

This year we introduced the first online KSPG newsletter – which included having a massive overhaul of the KSPG membership files (thanks to Fred Siewers, Richard and Meg Smath). We are still working the bugs out – so, if you have suggestions, please feel free to e-mail me. Our hope is that we will be able to use the e-mail lists for timely reminders and some discussion on KSPG directions and priorities. Don't worry – it won't be a flood of more e-mails!

The e-mail accessibility and increase in financial assets means that we should start a conversation about future directions for KSPG and uses for the monies. Some suggestions already proffered include: (1) provide funding (scholarships for students, stipends for instructors) for the ASBOG preparation courses at regular intervals across the state, (2) provide financial support to help with the arduous task of keeping the Web site current, (3) partially support workshops, forums, or demonstrations as professional development opportunities in different locations, (4) revive the KSPG merchandise (hats, T-shirts, etc.), (5) provide a new sign for the Pound Gap Distinguished Geologic Site, and (6) provide support for additional water monitoring wells similar to those KSPG supported near the KGS Henderson office. These wells could be used for educational and research purposes, in accord with the hope of establishing a set of short courses and workshops on practical aspects of professional geology. I appreciate these suggestions and encourage you to take an active role in your society by sending me your thoughts and suggestions about the direction(s) you would like KSPG to move.

The future of KSPG and geologists in Kentucky is dependent upon the current geology majors at our fine universities and colleges. One use for KSPG funds might be to offer free membership to all geology majors in the commonwealth, stressing the benefits of early familiarity with the profession in addition to offering workshops and field conferences. Membership in a professional society is a "resume builder" because of the implication of increased knowledge and familiarity with the profession and its practices and priorities. We can do more to make KSPG membership a real benefit to students and active professionals alike.

A number of events have helped to increase interest in geology in Kentucky: the April 18 earthquake (M5.2) in southern Illinois; recent media attention focusing on the Kyrock region, coal gasification, increased development of geothermal energy. These and many others have focused on the role of geologists in research, education, resources, and hazards. I have received inquiries concerning professional reciprocity with other states as interest in Kentucky energy resources increases. The earthquake sent all of us at WKU into the community to deal with the media interest, as well as concerns from emergency preparedness groups, and the exciting teaching opportunity for the schools. We've even had a challenge to the



rights for our Web site name!! It is certainly a ripe time to consider the charge of KSPG as a professional society and step up as leaders in the development of Kentucky!

*Andrew Wulff*

## Treasurer's report

KSPG currently has total assets of \$20,085.27, up significantly from the approximately \$7,000 in the bank through mid-2007. The marked increase in society funds is the result of dollars received from the Eastern Section AAPG meeting held in Lexington during September 2007. For its collaboration and participatory role in leading this meeting, KSPG received 100 percent of the proceeds from the workshops and field trips and half of the proceeds

from the general meeting for a total of \$14,812.64. KSPG sincerely appreciates this financial boost, and congratulates the organizers of the ES-AAPG meeting for convening a highly successful meeting.

The society received 118 membership renewals during 2007. Revenues from those memberships – which included membership renewals from as far back at 2005 (thank you!) – amounted to \$3,510. The society's

primary expenditures during 2007 were the fall field trip to the Mammoth Cave/Nolin River Gorge area (held jointly with the ES-AAPG) and the accompanying annual banquet, which this year was held in Bowling Green. The society also contributed to the publication of the second edition of Dr. Paul Potter's book, *Exploring the Geology of the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Region* and to the construction of three groundwater

monitoring wells at the KGS Henderson office.

Membership renewals for 2008 can be sent to me, Dr. Fred Siewers, Department of Geography and Geology, 1906 College Heights Blvd., Bowling Green, KY 42101. Dues are \$20 for full professional members and \$10 for student/associate members. The membership renewal form can be found on the KPSG Web site ([www.kspg.org/pdf/KSPGapplication.pdf](http://www.kspg.org/pdf/KSPGapplication.pdf)). Thank you for your continued support.

*Fred Siewers*



*KSPG President Andrew Wulff presents a plaque commemorating Kyrock as the fourth Distinguished Geologic Site in Kentucky to Mr. Larry "Butch" Carroll, Edmonson County Clerk.*

### KSPG

Dept. of Geology & Geography  
Western Kentucky University  
#31066  
Bowling Green, KY 42101-1066  
Phone: (270) 745-4555 or  
745-6891  
Fax: (270) 745-6410  
[www.kspg.org](http://www.kspg.org)

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*This newsletter is made available to all members of the Kentucky Society of Professional Geologists on the KSPG Web site ([www.kspg.org](http://www.kspg.org)). Send newsletter items to Newsletter Editor Meg Smath, Kentucky Geological Survey, 228 MMRB, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40506-0107. Phone (859) 257-5500 x 168. Fax: (859) 257-1147. E-mail: [m-smath@uky.edu](mailto:m-smath@uky.edu).*