

Atlanta Geological Society Newsletter

Next meeting of the Atlanta Geological Society is
January 27, 2009

Fernbank Museum of Natural History (Clifton Road)
Social begins at 6:30 pm – Meeting begins at 7:00 pm

President's Perspective...

January 2009

The Executive Committee of the Atlanta Geological Society completed our 2009 kick-off meeting January 13. I'd like to thank all of the Officers and Committee Chairs for attending this nearly three-hour long session. We spent a little over an hour just going through and commenting on our new webpage (more on that in this version of the Newsletter). I'd like to thank Kathaleen Bentkowski, with assistance from her son Chris and husband Ben, for taking on the task of completely re-designing our webpage. It looks fantastic and I trust that all of the Members will check it out as soon as possible. (see link to the right – Ed.)

The re-designed webpage was just step one of the Executive Committee's plan on re-invigorating our Society. With the improved communications that the webpage will offer, as well as some great ideas and follow-up action items to be implemented in the next few weeks, the Officers and Committee Chairs have a renewed confidence that the Society should not only improve in 2009, but grow as well. As such, step two efforts will unfold over the next several months and I'll keep all of you posted as progress is made.

We have a field trip coming up very soon and we need a good head count. Please look in the newsletter for the announcement and contact Josh Jenkins to get on the list.

Again, thanks to Kathaleen, Officers, and Committee Chairs. I'll see all of you on January 27th for our next Society meeting.

Nils Thompson
AGS President

REVISED AGS WEBSITE

www.atlantageologicalsociety.org is the new web address for the Society. The site has been revised and the name changed. Look for details in other locations in the newsletter and in months to come.
Editor

The January Meeting

Join us Tuesday, January 27, 2008 at the Fernbank Museum of Natural History, 760 Clifton Road NE, Atlanta GA

The pre meeting social starts at 6:30 pm and the meeting will start at 7 p.m. The evening's program will be provided by the Sustainability Director, Marcia Kinstler who is in Georgia Tech's Campus Environmental Stewardship Office. Georgia Tech is one of the largest water users in the city and a leader in the community. Please come hear about their water conservation efforts during the recent drought, and over the last decade, and their plans for water management in the future. For example, within the last year, Georgia Tech has received recognition as an Exemplary Green Campus by the Sustainable Endowment Institute, Princeton's Green Honor Roll and as a Campus Sustainability Leader from the National Wildlife. Please see Marcia Kinstler's biographical sketch on the next page.

January's Speaker is Marcia Kinstler

Marcia Kinstler is a Project Director at Georgia Tech focusing on Campus Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability. Ms. Kinstler joined the Georgia Tech staff in 2005; after a career at IBM, 2 startup companies, and Emory University. Her consulting work included process improvement, project management, and complex, cross enterprise technology implementations.

Beginning in 2005 she has had staff assignments for Georgia Tech's Administration and Finance Department management. She implemented a chemical management and tracking system in Tech's 1200 labs including 85,000 chemical containers campus wide. She served as Interim Assistant Vice President of Environmental Health and Safety, building several cross enterprise committees to prepare for Georgia Tech's expansion in biotechnology.

Since moving into Campus Environmental Stewardship, Marcia has been documenting and publicizing Georgia Tech's extensive sustainability efforts, successes, and integrating sustainability efforts across campus and the community. Since Marcia became the Sustainability Director at Georgia Tech, Georgia Tech has received recognition for its sustainability from these organizations:



Georgia Tech Recognition

Sustainable Endowment Institute Award
CAMPUS SUSTAINABILITY LEADER



National Wildlife Federation recognizes Georgia Tech
EXEMPLARY GREEN CAMPUS - Top 4%

- Ecology and Sustainability Education
- Interdisciplinary Programs
- Supporting Faculty, Green Personnel Orientation
- Environmental Goals
- Transportation Programs
- Landscaping, Conservation, Efficiency, Renewable Energy, etc.



Princeton Review Awards Georgia Tech Top Green Ranking
GREEN HONOR ROLL - Top 2% Colleges

- Campus quality of life that is healthy and sustainable,
- Prepare students live/work in world w environmental challenges
- Overall commitment to environmental issues



LEED Gold Certification - Klaus Building

RECYCLING - Paper - AFPA

- Outstanding College Program - NRC

GREEN CLEANING - American School & University

TREE CANOPY - Tree Campus USA

WATER CONSERVATION - FCCCE



American Forest & Paper Association



National Recycling Coalition



Book Review by L.T. Gregg: "Roadside Geology of Louisiana"

Darwin Spearing, 2007, "Roadside Geology of Louisiana," Mountain Press, Missoula, Montana, 223 p. ISBN 13: 978-0-87842-530-6. \$20.

Pam Gore's recent review of "Roadside Geology of Florida" inspired me to write this. I bought this little gem in May 2007 to supplement some research I was doing for an industrial mineral exploration project in the lower Mississippi-Atchafalaya River Basin, west of Baton Rouge. I had earlier acquired publications and maps from the Louisiana Geological Survey (on the LSU campus) during a visit there. This survey, by the way, is a top-notch outfit and the staff, including the Director who I met and talked with, is most accommodating and helpful.

This is the second edition; the first was published in 1995 (pre-Katrina). The author, who now lives in Colorado, was a research geologist and exploration manager in the oil/gas business in South Louisiana and also a museum designer and national park ranger (!!). As you might expect, the book has a good but not overwhelming oil/gas flavor and general review of Gulf Coast oil/gas geology. It is in black and white, but has abundant use of red to highlight key geologic/geomorphic features, plus a glossary, good references, and sources of additional information. A short but pithy section on Hurricanes Katrina and Rita was informative, particularly the levee breaks and canal/levee network from Lakes Ponchartrain and Borgne into and across greater New Orleans.

I lived and worked in Lafayette and New Orleans in the late 1950's and early 1960's so this was somewhat like old home week (me, I even do some a' dem Cajun talk, yeah). The road logs (around 2,600 miles of paved road), maps, and photographs are all well done and instructive (I had forgotten what Chenier Plains and crevasse splays are).

Following a basic review of Louisiana's geologic history (post-Triassic), the state is broken into five geographic regions – southeastern, eastern (north of Lake Ponchartrain), southwestern, central, and northern – and the text and road logs for each region are interesting, informative, and easy to follow, with liberal use of maps, cross-sections, and good quality photographs. Local tourist attractions like Avery Island, the birthplace of Tabasco sauce, are included. Because of my research interest, I was most fascinated by the ten to fifteen pages that covered the shifting course of the Mississippi/Atchafalaya River system over the last 7,500± years. Five different deltas over about 200± miles east to west! I found this explanation to be very helpful in interpreting more scholarly papers I had obtained from the Survey and the Army Corps of Engineers Vicksburg Waterways Station. Also of considerable interest was a discussion of the history of the flood control structure network above Morganza, near where the Mississippi, Atchafalaya, and Red Rivers converge, which the USACE constructed in the 1950's and which has resulted in both good things (maintaining industry and ports from New Orleans to Baton Rouge) and bad things (net wetlands loss of 35+ square miles per year along the coast) happening downstream all the way to the Gulf of Mexico.

I recommend this book to anyone who is working or plans to work on the geology of Louisiana or who may go there on vacation. You can get Mountain Press's catalog of publications (the complete Roadside Geology series) at www.mountain-press.com or telephone (406)728-1900. In the meantime, eat more crawfish and Laissez le Bon Temps Rouler!

Science News Stories

[China claims discovery of 7,600 dinosaur bone fossils in Zhucheng is world's biggest](#) (control click to follow link)

China claims to have found the world's biggest deposit of dinosaur bones in the old city of Zhucheng in Shandong province on the country's eastern coast. Workers digging along a 300 meter slope on the outskirts of the city unearthed a densely packed strata of fossils that could be more than 100m years old. The state news agency Xinhua said that 7,600 samples had now been discovered, mostly dating from the late Cretaceous period. **From eScience News 12/30/2008.**

From the **New York Times**, a story about Sedimentology from their Scientists at Work series. http://www.nytimes.com/2009/01/06/science/06prof.html?_r=1&emc=eta1

Did a Comet Hit Earth 12,000 Years Ago?

By David Biello in Scientific American magazine

Nanodiamonds found across North America suggest that major climate change could have been cosmically instigated. Teaser: Did this comet change the climate enough to cause the end of the Clovis people?

<http://www.sciam.com/article.cfm?id=did-a-comet-hit-earth-12900-years-ago&SID=mail&sc=emailfriend>

Mystery Of Hexagonal Column Formations Such As Giant's Causeway Solved With Kitchen Materials <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/12/081216104325.htm>

From Science Daily: Physicists have cracked the mystery behind the strange and uncannily well-ordered hexagonal columns found at such popular tourist sites as Northern Ireland's Giant's Causeway and California's Devil's Postpile. Using a combination of field observation, experiments and mathematical theory, they have solved the problem of what decides the size of the columns.

Ancient insect imprint found in Massachusetts

From Reuters: <http://www.reuters.com/article/email/idUSTRE4B17CY20081202>

By Gene Emery - NORTH ATTLEBORO, Massachusetts (Reuters) - U.S. researchers say they have discovered what appears to be the oldest imprint of a prehistoric insect, made while the dragonfly-like creature was still alive.

AGS Members...The Professional Registration Committee Needs YOU...

If you are an AGS member and would like to contribute to the Professional Registration Committee by leading a lecture on one of the subjects listed below, then please contact me either by e-mail or at the monthly AGS meetings. The lecture should be for one hour followed by a Q&A session. We need different speakers for each workshop. Your volunteering to teach on one of these subjects is essential to the success of the Professional Registration Committee – we need more widespread participation by the AGS membership. Speakers can be compensated for expenses and will receive certificates to acknowledge their participation.

The following content domains are covered in the Georgia Professional Geologist exams:

- | | |
|--|---|
| A. General Geology | B. Mineralogy, Petrology, & Petrography |
| C. Sedimentology, Stratigraphy, & Paleontology | D. Economic Geology & Energy Resources |
| E. Structure, Tectonics, & Seismology | F. Hydrology & Environmental Geochemistry |
| G. Engineering Geology | H. Quaternary Geology, Geomorphology, & Surficial Processes |

We do not "teach the test" our aim is to review fundamental concepts of the earth sciences and acquaint candidates with industry specific information not easily obtainable from the literature. Please inform anyone who might be interested in becoming a professional geologist of our workshop. Please consider joining us even if you are not a P.G. candidate. The workshops are interesting and informative.

Ken Simonton, P.G., Chair
Professional Registration Committee

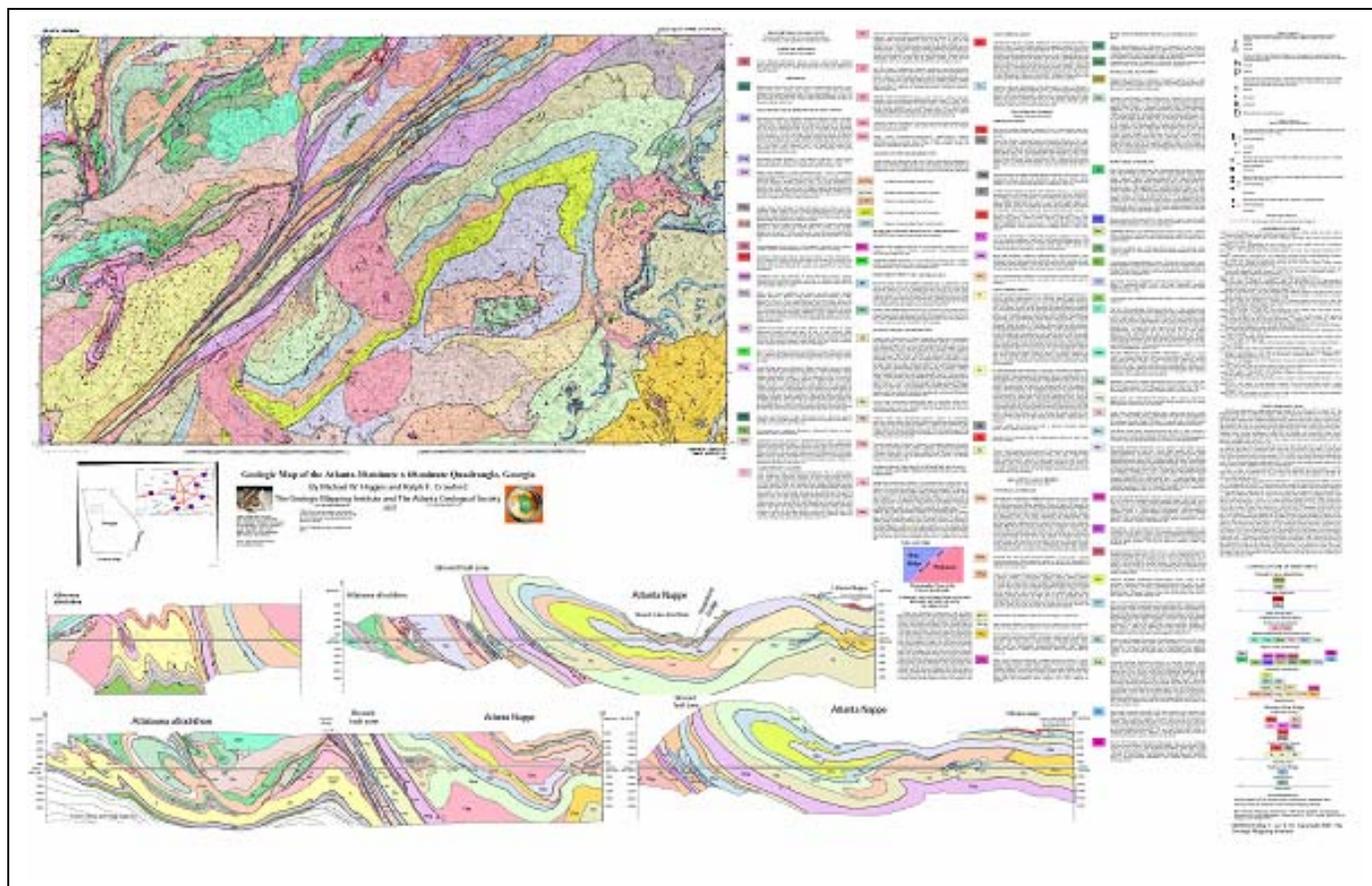
Editor's note about the Revised AGS Website and the Newsletter

As Nils mentioned in his letter on the first page, the AGS website has been revised. Perhaps the most important change is the change of the URL. Please use this link to get to the website and don't forget to bookmark as it is a bit long to type: <http://www.atlantageologicalsociety.org/> The old site was not easy to update and it had gotten very out of date. Certainly the new website has a new look including a calendar but much of the old content was transferred over after being edited for current information. We are still working on the format a bit, making sure information and links are correct, etc.

There is a bit of streamlining in the organization of the website and newsletter. The new Web Master is Kathaleen Bentkowski. She is responsible (along with Chris Bentkowski) for the operation of the website; the hosting, posting new content, even down to the font size. She will receive content for the website from the Editor, me. By having this 'All in the Family' as it were, we will have more streamlined management of the website and newsletter.

As to the Newsletter, I enjoy working on it and assembling the content. However, some of the static content of the newsletter will be switched to the website in coming months. I think it is important to maintain the newsletter as a regular contact for the members and a source of information but it will evolve. For both publications, I believe it is all about informative content. I have appreciated your feedback about the recent newsletters and welcome any feedback on either the website or the newsletter. My goal is that these publications are part of the public face of the AGS and that they encourage the vitality and growth of the AGS.

Ben Bentkowski,
Newsletter Editor & Website Editor



GEOLOGIC MAP OF THE ATLANTA 1-DEGREE X 30-MINUTE QUADRANGLE, GEORGIA

By Higgins, M.W. and Crawford, R.F. (2006)

The Geologic Mapping Institute

(\$25.00 – Contact Allison Keefer [(404) 675-8642] for more details)

The Atlanta quadrangle, roughly centered on the City of Atlanta, spans from the Valley and Ridge province in its northwestern corner across the Blue Ridge and into the inner Piedmont. The Brevard zone crosses the quadrangle diagonally. The Blue Ridge in western Georgia and Alabama consists of a pile of nappes made up of folded thrust sheets. In the Villa Rica nappe Chilhowee Group rocks are both above and below the core of Great Smoky Group rocks. Southwest of the Brevard zone is the Atlanta nappe, which preserves a klippe of the Lake Russell allochthon, Carolina superterrane, at Soapstone Ridge. Carolina superterrane rocks (Paulding Complex) are also found northwest of the Brevard. Mylonites along the S.E. edge of the Brevard zone dip under the Atlanta nappe. These mylonites also dip under the N.E. end of the nappe, where they belong to the Dacula shear zone. East of the Atlanta nappe the Lithonia Gneiss consists of a granitoid phase and the Mount Arabia Migmatite. The migmatite occurs mostly around the edges of the granitoid phase and was probably formed when the Ordovician granitoid phase intruded Stonewall biotite gneiss, which occurs around the edges of the Lithonia and locally as roof pendants on/in the granitoid phase. Atop the Lithonia, the Stonewall Gneiss and units of the Allatoona allochthon are the aluminous schist and Chattahoochee Palisades Quartzite of the Sandy Springs Group that have been thrust upon the underlying rocks. The Lithonia and its country rock, the Stonewall Gneiss constitutes a mantled gneiss dome assemblage. Sandy Springs Group rocks emerge from beneath the Brevard and form an outcrop belt along its N.W. side. Northwest of the Sandy Springs outcrop belt the Allatoona allochthon occupies the upper synformal limb of the Talladega nappe and is arched over the Dog River window to expose western Blue Ridge rocks of the Great Smoky and Chilhowee Groups. Northwest of the Allatoona allochthon Great Smoky Group and Chilhowee Group rocks emerge from beneath the allochthon and are part of the Talladega belt. Ordovician granitoids have intruded the Great Smoky rocks, providing evidence that the Emuckfaw/Lay Dam/Bill Arp rocks are older than Ordovician.

Fernbank Museum of Natural History
Upcoming Public Programs and Events
(All programs require reservations, including free programs)

**Fernbank
Museum of Natural History**

767 Clifton Rd, NE Atlanta, GA (404) 929-6400
 For tickets and details on exhibits, films, and events,
 please visit our website at
www.fernbankmuseum.org

On Exhibit:

- New Permanent Exhibit: *Conveyed in Clay: Stories from St Catherine's Island*
- New Permanent Gallery: *Curators Corner: Highlights from the Permanent Collection*
- Coming February 14: *Dinosaurs: Ancient Fossils, New Discoveries and new IMAX movie – Dinosaurs Alive*

Upcoming Public Programs:

- **January 31** - Archeology Open house
- **February 8** - Make and Take Workshop for Rain Barrels

Now Showing in IMAX: (Check our website for special screenings)

- **Mystic India** through February 13, 2009
- **The Greatest Places** through March 30, 2009
- **Journey of Man, Cirque de Soleil** through February 28, 2009
- **Martinis and IMAX:** Friday evenings, 5:30 p.m. – 10 p.m. M&I returned on Friday, January 4, 2009. And again on Jan 23, Feb 13

January Meeting Sponsor

Carus Remediation Technologies, a leader in the manufacturing of environmental products for air, water and soil for over 90 years, offers products for in situ chemical oxidation (ISCO), bioremediation (BIO) and in situ biogeochemical stabilization (ISBS). Our RemOx[®] brand of potassium and sodium permanganate reagents for ISCO, have certified per order the lowest metal signature in the industry. Our CAP 18[®], and StimulOX[™] brands of aerobic and anaerobic bioremediation products provide technical and economical advantages over competing technologies. Our RemOx EC Stabilization Reagent for micro encapsulation of contaminants is a cutting edge technology designed for treatment of secondary source areas.

Please Contact:

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<http://www.caruscorporation.com/>

Martinis & IMAX[®] is presented at the Fernbank Museum of Natural History every Friday evening, January through November; from 5:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. Enjoy no cover charge when you visit us between 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. This event includes a wine bar, where featured wines can be purchased by the glass and by the bottle. Dinner is also served in the Dining Room, where smaller parties can order chef-prepared dishes-from gourmet pizzas to prime entrées-and dine together in a more intimate and sophisticated setting. Desserts and coffee are available as well.

As always, a full cash bar is offered in the Great Hall where patrons can enjoy a lively atmosphere and musical performances by some of Atlanta's best jazz artists. Bands perform live from 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. IMAX[®] film tickets are \$10. For those who wish to enjoy the atmosphere of Martinis & IMAX[®] without attending a film presentation, there is a \$5 cover charge after 6:30 p.m. The cover charge is waived for members and patrons who purchase an IMAX[®] ticket. To purchase tickets in advance, call 404.929.6400.

AGS Treasurer Report

DUES ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE TREASURER

Get a Jump on 2009. Since AGS operates on a calendar year, your 2009 dues will be due in January 2009. The AGS Treasurer has started accepting 2009 dues and Carl Froede was the first AGS Member to pay for 2009. So take Carl's lead and pay early. If you cannot attend a meeting then please consider mailing your dues to the AGS Treasurer along with the completed last page of this newsletter. Also, please make sure that we have your most current e-mail address.

Please contact Ken Bechely if you are unsure of your membership status. If you know of a member that no longer is receiving the newsletter notification, have them contact the Treasurer.

Ken Bechely, Treasurer

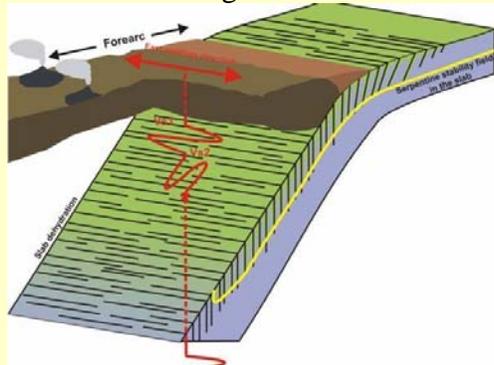
ken.bechely@earthtech.com

Phone (770) 990-1415

P.G. Education Class for January 31, 2009

Due to a recent personal event, the proposed speaker for the January 31st P.G. training course to be held at the Fernbank Science Center, has had to reschedule. The new speaker has not yet been confirmed. Once the details are worked out, you may expect a prompt email alert with all the latest details.

From Nature Magazine and Science Daily



ScienceDaily (Dec. 11, 2008) — Seismic waves generated by earthquakes pass through the earth. Changes in their direction or velocity indicate variations in the materials through which they pass. ETH Zurich geophysicists have now been able to show in a model exactly what happens at zones where crustal plates subduct below one another.

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/11/081129173952.htm>

Upcoming Speakers

We have some very interesting speakers in coming months. Next month, Dave Jenkins will regale and inform us with great photos from his pre-Olympics trip to China. In March, Dr. Jim Kennedy, the State Geologist, will speak on Water Issues in Georgia.

In April, we will have a special joint meeting with the Association of Engineering Geologists and the American Institute of Professional Geologists where we will be hosting the AEG's 2009 Jahns Distinguished Speaker, Dr. Edmond Medley. (see the link on the next page) About 10 years ago I attended one of these lectures about a dam collapse and it was one of the best talks I ever attended. Do make plans to attend. Ed.

AGS Officers

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ken.bechely@earthtech.com
 Phone (770) 990-1415

AGS 2009 Meeting Dates

Listed below are the planned meeting dates for 2009. Please mark your calendar and make plans to attend.

January 27 – Marcia Kinstler,
 Environmental stewardship at Georgia
 Tech

February 24 – Dave Jenkins, Tour of China

March 31 – Dr. Jim Kennedy, Water Issues
 in Georgia.

April 28 – Special Joint meeting with AEG
 and AIPG presenting Dr. Edmund Medley, the
 2009 Jahns Distinguished speaker presenting
 the Sea Cliffs Forensic Investigation
<http://www.aegweb.org/files/public/MedleyJahns2009.pdf>

May 26 - Alan Sanders, New Environmental
 Technologies

June 30 – Annual Social

AGS Committees

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allison_keefer@dnr.state.ga.us

Career Networking/Advertising: Todd Roach
 Phone (770) 242-9040, Fax (770) 242-8388
tdr@piedmontdrilling.com

Continuing Education: Currently Open

Fernbank Liaison: Chris Bean
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Chris.bean@fernbankmuseum.org
 (after Feb 1 the .edu email will no longer function)
chris.bean@fernbank.edu

Field Trips: Josh Jenkins
 Phone (770) 421-3412
jljenkins@mactec.com

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 Chris Bentkowski
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**Titled: Washington County field trip to focus on water and power issues.
Field Trip Leader Wm. Hovey Smith
Date: February 7th**

Rain Date: TBD

Washington County, located in the middle of the state just south of the Fall Line, has long been known as a kaolin-producing county; but has recently assumed new importance as the site for a power generation from coal-fired, biomass, solar and natural gas generating facilities which may each play a part in meeting the state's expanding energy needs. Although only peak-period generation by natural gas from two facilities are presently on-line, the other facilities are in the process of being permitted.

Proposed water supplies for the coal-fired plant are to be derived from the Oconee River on the western part of the county as well as from the county's complex aquifer systems which may be called upon to supply up to 16 million gallons per day during the river's low-flow periods. Issues which will be examined on the trip will include inspection of the general geology, an understanding of the complexities of predicting drilling results in a complex system of coalescing, superimposed deltas and possible fossil barrier island formation.

Wm. Hovey Smith, who is a Professional Geologist, and native of Washington County will lead the trip which will begin in Milledgeville with stops at Plant Branch on Lake Sinclair, the river at Milledgeville and other stops to be arranged. Smith holds a B.S. Degree from the University of Georgia, a M.S. from the University of Alaska and did post-graduate work at the University of Arizona and the University of Arkansas. He is also an author who has published some 13 books including "Kaolin Deposits of Central Georgia" which is a now-outdated, but traditional, overview of the industry. His work experience includes geochemical exploration throughout North America and a five-year employment in the local kaolin industry as an Information Scientist. His most recent titles are in the outdoor press including Practical Bowfishing (Stoeger, 2004) and Crossbow Hunting (Stackpole, 2006). Smith's views as a geologist with a strong environmental interest whose home is located only four miles from the proposed coal-fired plant will provide an interesting outlook on the development of these new power resources.

The trip will conclude at the author's historic plantation home with refreshments and the opportunity to sample some wild game dishes. Handouts will be provided to registered participants.

We will plan to meet at the Cracker Barrel in Conyers @ 8 am sharp to carpool to the area. A headcount will be required no later than Jan. 30, 2009 so that guidebooks can be produced. There will be 5 pdhs available.

Address: Cracker Barrel

I-20 , Exit# 82
I-20 & State Route 138
1182 Dogwood Drive
Conyers, GA 30094
Located off I-20 .

For more information contact: Josh Jenkins
Phone (770) 421-3412
jljenkins@mactec.com

Join the Atlanta Geological Society

Membership Application/Information Update Form

Annual membership dues for the Atlanta Geological Society are \$25 for professional membership, **\$5 for students (new reduced rate)**, and \$100 for corporate sponsorship (which includes up to 4 professional memberships). For further details, contact the AGS Treasurer:

Ken Bechely

Phone: 770-990-1415

Email: ken.bechely@earthtech.com

Make checks payable to the "Atlanta Geological Society" and remit with the completed form to:

Atlanta Geological Society

Ken Bechely, Treasurer
1455 Old Alabama Rd., Ste. 170
Roswell, GA 30076

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: (Work) _____ (Home) _____ (Cell) _____

Fax: _____

Email 1: _____

Email 2: _____

Ready to Serve the Society?

Remember that although we have officers and various standing committees, it is ultimately the membership that keeps the Atlanta Geological Society active and growing. We have a world of experience within our membership. Please consider volunteering. Your Atlanta Geological Society needs you.