



# Atlanta Geological Society Newsletter

Next meeting of the Atlanta Geological Society is  
January 26, 2010  
Fernbank Museum of Natural History (Clifton Road)  
Social begins at 6:30 pm – Meeting begins at 7:00 pm

## December 2009

### Newsletter Notes

This is an abbreviated edition of the Atlanta Geological Society newsletter. Usually, I produce a newsletter when we are having a meeting but a couple of newsworthy items have occurred. At the November we had office elections and we have three new officers. Nils Thompson will continue to serve as president but the new offices are:

- Cassidy Evans, VP
- Rob White, Secretary
- Stacy Durden, Treasurer

We all owe a debt of gratitude to our three outgoing office for their years of service; Alison Keefer, vice president; Dr. Jim Kennedy, secretary; and Ken Bechley, treasurer. I've been assured that this will be a smooth transition with no 'dirty tricks'. All kidding aside, there will be an Executive Committee meeting in early January that will act as the formal transition point.

Also included in this newsletter are a treasurer's report and a job announcement for three positions at Arcadis.

I wish everyone a wonderful holiday season and I'll be back in touch next year!

Ben Bentkowski, Newsletter Editor  
[www.atlantageologicalsociety.org](http://www.atlantageologicalsociety.org)

### JOB OPENINGS

ARCADIS has the following open positions for their Atlanta office:

- 1-3 year geologists (drilling, sampling, etc.)
- 5-8 year geologist (field work supervisor/coordinator, more difficult drilling, geophysical and aquifer testing supervision and data collection, test data analyses, light report writing)
- 10-15 year geologist (complex report and proposal writing, client relations, data reduction, work planning, financial project reviews, limited field work, hydrogeologic test data reduction, modeling support, PM support with aspirations of project management).

Jennifer Skellie is Arcadis' environmental recruiter out of Albany NY. Her phone is 518-452-7826. Please submit resumes to her email at [Jennifer.Skellie@arcadis-us.com](mailto:Jennifer.Skellie@arcadis-us.com) A local contact for these positions is AGS member David M. Wilderman, PG, a senior hydrogeologist in the Atlanta Arcadis office located at 2849 Paces Ferry Road, Suite 400, Atlanta, GA 30339. You may submit your resumes to him at [david.wilderman@arcadis-us.com](mailto:david.wilderman@arcadis-us.com) and learn more about the company at their website; [www.arcadis-us.com](http://www.arcadis-us.com)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE TREASURER

### 2010 Membership Dues

AGS operates on a calendar year, and your 2010 dues will be due in January 2010. The AGS Treasurer is accepting 2010 payments now. 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 Stacy Durden 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**  
**AGS 2009 Treasurer**

### **AGS Treasurer Report – November 2009**

- **Account Balance as of November 13, 2009 - \$3,704.83**

Membership Dues Payment Status:

	<u>Professional</u>	<u>Student</u>	<u>Corporate</u>	<u>Complimentary</u>
2009	94	37	26	
Delinquent*	54	-	-	0

\*Members >2 years delinquent.

## SWISS GEOLOGIST ON TRIAL FOR CAUSING EARTHQUAKES

"BBC reports that Markus Haering's company had been working with the authorities in Basel, Switzerland to try to convert the heat in deep-seated rocks into electricity, but the project was suspended in 2006 when [drilling triggered earthquakes, one of them with a magnitude of 3.4](#), leading Haering's company to pay out \$9M in damages. Haering's team planned to drill a series of holes penetrating up to 3 miles (4.8 km) underground with water being pumped onto rocks with a temperature of more than 195C. Basel's location on top of a fault line – the upper Rhine trench – had been deliberately chosen because the heat was closer to the Earth's surface. A risk assessment has since shown that the prospect of further quakes is too high to continue drilling in the city. Haering faces up to five years in prison if the judge finds he intentionally damaged property. Haering has admitted the 3.4 magnitude earthquake was stronger than he had expected and that his team 'had very little knowledge of seismicity' before starting to drill, but [called the quakes 'a learning process for everyone involved.'](#) Despite Haering's trial, the Swiss appetite for geothermal projects has not diminished. Engineers are beginning preliminary drilling in Zurich to see whether that area was suitable for a similar scheme, and St. Gallen, in eastern Switzerland, plans to start work on its own geothermal project next year. Drilling efforts are being closely watched in the US, where the [energy department is sponsoring more than 120 geothermal energy projects](#) in several states." [http://news.slashdot.org/story/09/12/15/2037250/Swiss-Geologist-On-Trial-For-Causing-Earthquakes?from=rss&utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+Slashdot%2Fslashdot+%28Slashdot%29](http://news.slashdot.org/story/09/12/15/2037250/Swiss-Geologist-On-Trial-For-Causing-Earthquakes?from=rss&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+Slashdot%2Fslashdot+%28Slashdot%29)

**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](http://www.fernbankmuseum.org)

**On Exhibit: Gold**

On view through January 3, 2010

**Georgia's Heart of Gold**

On view through January 3, 2010

**My Favorite Things: Objects from Fernbank's  
 Permanent Collections**

On view through February 1, 2010

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

- *Van Gogh, Brush with Genius*
- *Wild Safari*
- ***Martinis and IMAX:*** Friday evenings,  
 5:30 p.m. – 10 p.m.

**Opens October 2, 2009 in the  
 Fernbank IMAX movie theater:**

(Check our website for special screenings)

***Van Gogh: Brush With Genius***

Follow in Van Gogh's footsteps, traveling from the Netherlands to Auvers-sur-Oise and passing through Arles, Saint-Rémy and Paris, during the short 9-year period of the artist's career during which he created more than 900 paintings. From the dazzling yellow of the artist's famous cornfields, to the deep blue of his famous night sky, audiences will discover the source of some of the most important works in art history. *Through December 31, 2010*

***Wild Safari*** Take your family on the adventure of a lifetime. ***Wild Safari*** puts you in the passenger seat of an open vehicle South African safari, on a quest for the continent's "Big Five"—the elephant, the Cape buffalo, the rhino, the leopard and the lion. Stunning IMAX® cinematography immerses you in the action along this 3,000 mile journey from the lush grasslands of the Southern Cape to the arid desert of the Kalahari. Family travel has never been this exciting! *Through Feb 5, 2010*

**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 Committees

### 2009 AGS Officers

**President:** Nils Thompson  
[nils.thompson@lbgatlanta.com](mailto:nils.thompson@lbgatlanta.com)  
 Phone (678) 594-9893, Ext. 202

**Vice-President:** Allison Keefer  
[allison\\_keefer@dnr.state.ga.us](mailto:allison_keefer@dnr.state.ga.us)  
 Phone (404) 657-8642

**Secretary:** Jim Kennedy  
[jim\\_kennedy@dnr.state.ga.us](mailto:jim_kennedy@dnr.state.ga.us)  
 Phone (404) 463-0679

**Treasurer:** Ken Bechely  
[ken.bechely@aecom.com](mailto:ken.bechely@aecom.com)  
 Phone (770) 965-9624

Check for the new officer's contact info in the January Newsletter.

### AGS 2010 Meeting Dates

Listed below are the planned meeting dates for 2010. Please mark your calendar and make plans to attend.

January 26, 2010 Speaker TBD

The remainder of the dates will be set in January and published in the January 2010 newsletter. Generally, the meetings are the last Tuesday of the month.

**AGS Publications:** Allison Keefer  
 Phone (404) 657-8642  
[allison\\_keefer@dnr.state.ga.us](mailto:allison_keefer@dnr.state.ga.us)

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

**Continuing Education:** Currently Open

**Fernbank Liaison:** Chris Bean  
 Phone (404) 929-6313  
[Chris.bean@fernbankmuseum.org](mailto:Chris.bean@fernbankmuseum.org)

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

**Georgia PG Registration:** Ken Simonton  
 Phone: 404-825-3439  
[kws876@yahoo.com](mailto:kws876@yahoo.com)

**Teacher Grants:** Bill Waggener  
 Phone (404) 355-7377  
[wgwaggenerii@bellsouth.net](mailto:wgwaggenerii@bellsouth.net)

**Hospitality:** Tom Watson  
 Phone (678) 358-6943  
[twatson@mindspring.com](mailto:twatson@mindspring.com)

**Newsletter Editor and Membership**  
 Ben Bentkowski  
 Phone (404) 562-8507  
[bentkowski.ben@epa.gov](mailto:bentkowski.ben@epa.gov)

**Web Master :** Kathaleen Bentkowski  
[kathaleen770@gmail.com](mailto:kathaleen770@gmail.com)

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

## 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@aecom.com](mailto:ken.bechely@aecom.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.