



President's Welcome – and Goodbye!

A year ago at this time I was more than a little apprehensive as the beginning of my term as EMD President drew near. I was concerned with the amount of time that would be required to give this organization the effort that it deserves, and wondered where – or if – I could find the time. Fortunately, I found more than time – I also found a dedicated, hard-working group of volunteers on the Executive Committee and within the EMD leadership that shared the burden as we attempted to move EMD forward throughout the year.

Three of those volunteers are Donna Balin, Mike Wiley and Amy Sullivan, who teamed up to organize an unprecedented number of EMD technical sessions, poster sessions, workshops and a field trip at the annual domestic AAPG meeting in San Antonio. We kicked off the San Antonio meeting with a well-attended annual business meeting – please read the minutes on our website – then added the technical components, and capped it off with an enjoyable EMD awards luncheon featuring a highly interesting keynote speaker on Wednesday.

With this performance, EMD Vice Chair Donna Balin and her team issued a clear challenge for organizers of the 2009 meeting in Denver, but EMD Vice Chair Laura Wray and her volunteers have accepted the challenge and will attempt to match, or perhaps exceed the EMD exposure we enjoyed in San Antonio.

Recruiting EMD Vice Chairs for future technical meetings was one of six major goals in the EMD business plan for 2007-08. Other goals were to: enhance the EMD website for each commodity area; increase EMD visibility in the Sections (and Regions); advance EMD projects further toward publication; increase EMD membership; and appoint new Councilors for International Regions.

I hope that all of you visit the EMD website often and while doing so have recognized the improvement in the site over the course of the year. EMD Committee Chairs and Councilors have embraced the new guidelines created by Website Chair Creties Jenkins to standardize report content and material to be posted. Also, Councilors and Committee Chairs established a grass-roots network of volunteers at the affiliated Society level to provide them with resource extraction data and information on current activity. Consequently,

significant new material was added to the members-only section.

Other EMD volunteers worked to bring their projects closer to completion. The EMD/DEG Publication, “Carbon Dioxide Sequestration in Geological Media - State of the Art,” originally scheduled for completion in 2007, hopefully will be completed by the end of 2008. Progress continued on the second edition of the “Atlas of Coal Geology” (AAPG Studies in Geology 45), co-sponsored by The Society for Organic Petrology. Progress also continued on “Gas Hydrates: Energy Resource Potential and Associated Geologic Hazards,” edited by Art Johnson and Tim Collett. Work has been suspended on the CD-ROM publication “Geospatial Technology Applications for Exploration and Production of Petroleum” with Samuel Limerick as editor. Instead, our focus has shifted to a new project to create a Comprehensive EMD Geospatial Database. A series of six tasks have been defined for compilation of geospatial data for each of the energy mineral commodities under EMD’s purview. Finally, due largely to the efforts of Douglas Peters and Peter Warwick, EMD published a series of comprehensive energy mineral reports in the *Natural Resources Research* journal, all provided by EMD commodity committee chairs, and EMD columns on geothermal, energy economics, coal bed methane and EMD activities at the 2008 AAPG Annual Convention were written for the AAPG *Explorer*.

I would like to thank all of these volunteers for their dedication and willingness to share their time and expertise with fellow EMD members.

During the past 15 months, EMD has expanded its international presence by appointing Barry Goldstein as the new Councilor for the Asian/Pacific region; Abelardo Sanchez Araiza for the Mexican, Central American and South American region; John Dolson for the European Region; and Jeff Aldrich for the African Region. A By-laws amendment was written to reflect EMD’s desire to have all regions and sections represented on EMD’s Leadership Council. The proposed amendment was approved by the EMD Executive Committee and current Councilors before being presented to the membership at the annual EMD business meeting in San Antonio for final approval.

Our membership is on the rise, and financially we remain quite strong. EMD membership as of March 1, 2008 was up 64 members from the same date last year,

bringing total membership to 1,407. Our bank balance at the end of FY2007 was \$173,681, an increase of \$15,842 from the fund balance at the end of the previous fiscal year. We are well situated to continue to expand our activities in the coming years.

In closing, I would like to thank all of you who worked so hard and helped me so much during the year. The list is long, and includes the Executive Committee members, Section and Region Councilors, Commodity and other Committee Chairs, and, of course, Norma

Newby, who constantly bailed me out from her Tulsa office; my thanks to all of you.

Now, keep reading, and remember – it is never too late to become more actively involved in this dynamic organization that will continue to grow as the unconventional continues to become conventional.

Sincerely,

Douglas G. Patchen,
EMD President, 2007-08

EMD Election Results

Congratulations to the following candidates who will begin their terms of office on July 1: Frank E. Walles, President-Elect; Andrea A. Reynolds, Vice President; Amy E. Sullivan, Secretary; Charles M. Boyer II, Eastern Section Councilor; K. David Newell, Mid-Continent Section Councilor; Genevieve Young, Rocky Mountain Section

Councilor; and James G. Clough, Pacific Section Councilor.

And, a special welcome to Mike Party, our new Councilor for the Southwest Section, who volunteered to fill a vacancy created when Jeff Levine moved “full time” to his new role on AAPG’s new Global Climate Change Committee.

Also, let’s extend a special thank you to the outgoing members

of the Executive Committee - Vice President Larry Knox and Secretary Betsy Campen – and former Southwest Section Councilor Jeffrey Levine. They have served us well.

In a few short months we will put together a slate of candidates for the 2009 elections. If you would like to serve, or know someone who would like to be a candidate, please contact Doug Patchen at doug.patchen@mail.wvu.edu.

EMD Presentation Winners in San Antonio

Judging Chair Creties Jenkins has announced the results of the judging for best EMD paper and poster presented at the San Antonio meeting. These awards will be given at the EMD luncheon in Denver next June.

The **Best EMD Paper Award** goes to B. Rostron and S. Whittaker for their talk “Geological Characterization for the IEA GHG Weyburn-Midale CO2 Monitoring and Storage Project: Past Successes and Future Challenges.”

In addition, **President's Certificates for Excellence in Presentation (oral)** will be awarded to T. Engelder and G. Lash for “Crosscutting and Abutting Joints: A Reflection of Joint Normal Effective Stress,” and to J. Schieber for “Deposition and Sequence Stratigraphic Framework of Late Devonian Black Shales in the Eastern U.S.”

The **Best EMD Poster Award** will be given to M.S. Cameron, F.E. Walles and D.M. Jarvie for “Quantification of Thermal Maturity Indices and Relationships to Predicted Shale Gas Producibility: Gate-way Visualization and Attribute Technique.”

And finally, **President's Certificates for Excellence in Presentation (poster)** go to R. Loucks and S Ruppel for “Shell and Grain Layers in the Barnett Shale; Event Deposition of In-Situ Accumulations?” and D. Streit, C. Dacre, E. Wemmelmann and C. Joyce for “GIS and Remote Sensing for “Crade to Grave” Hurricane Impact Assessment.”

Congratulations to all of the above; see you in Denver in June '09!

National Honors and Awards; Officer Nominations

Those of us in EMD should be proud that one of our own, Douglas Peters, was recognized in San Antonio for his long-term service to AAPG, for which he received AAPG’s Distinguished Service Award.

Doug certainly is deserving of this award, and we suspect that others in EMD also deserve to be recognized in various categories, and should be nominated, using forms available on the AAPG website. Please take a few minutes to read over the criteria for the various awards, and then nominate someone you know who meets the criteria.

And remember, if you do submit a nomination form, be sure to notify incoming President Creties Jenkins, who will represent EMD on the Advisory Council, so that he can be fully prepared to champion your nominee at the upcoming meeting of the AC's Honors & Awards Committee.

A little later in the year, Creties will represent EMD at the AC's Nominations Committee meeting. The procedure for nominating someone for AAPG office is essentially the same: go to the website, find the forms for the various offices, review the criteria, match the criteria to a qualified EMD member, fill out and submit the forms, and then notify President Jenkins so once again he can champion our cause.

Windfall Profits are in the News: What Should We Do With Ours?

EMD Treasurer Neil Fishman has brought the following to our attention. "EMD currently has a substantial amount in our saving account and we are looking to find the best use for these funds. Possibilities include funding more publications, subsidizing events such as workshops and short courses not associated with the annual convention, providing additional discounts on EMD activities to our members, and increasing the number of scholarships for students. The EMD leadership would be very interested in your ideas about how to best use these funds. Please send your suggestions to President-elect Creties Jenkins (cjenkins@demac.com) and Treasurer Neil Fishman (nfishman@usgs.gov)."

Joint EMD-GCSSEPM Technical Meeting on Unconventional Resources

Norman C. Rosen, Executive Director of the Gulf Coast Section of SEPM, on behalf of the Trustees of the Gulf Coast Society for Economic Paleontologists and Mineralogists Foundation, has extended an invitation to EMD to be a co-sponsor of their 2009 Bob F. Perkins Conference on Unconventional Resources. The conference will be held in early December 2009 in Houston.

Tim Carr, an EMD member, is the Technical Chair of the convention, and deserves credit for approaching

EMD with this opportunity. But, as Tim pointed out, it seemed only natural for him to do so, because nearly all of the volunteers on his Steering Committee are active EMD members.

EMD's Executive Committee and Leadership heartily endorsed our participation in this event. Please consider submitting an abstract in any of the unconventional areas to be part of the technical program, including shale gas, tight sands, tar sands, gas hydrates and oil shale.

Designated "EMD Day" in Cape Town

Jeff Aldrich, EMD Councilor for the African Region and General Vice Chair of the Organizing Committee for the AAPG International Conference in Cape Town, South Africa has unofficially designated Wednesday, October 29 as "EMD Day." Jeff and Bill Ambrose, Past EMD President, have organized two EMD poster sessions in the morning and two oral sessions in the afternoon of that day.

Seven posters will be presented in the morning session on "EMD Gas Hydrates" and another four will be available in the session on "EMD Coal, CBM, Uranium: Fuel for the Future." These sessions will run concurrently.

In the afternoon, five talks will be presented in the session on "EMD Oil Shale and Shale Gas Deposits as Global Resources" and four talks will be presented in the session on "EMD Coal and Non-Traditional Energy Resources" which follows.

Following the conference, former EMD President Andrew Scott will present a two-day short course on "Coalbed Methane Exploration and Development Strategies" on Thursday and Friday, October 30 and 31, and the following week, on November 3 to 6, an EMD-related field trip will be run to observe "The Karoo Basin Coal Fields: Stratigraphy, Sedimentology and Economic Geology."

The pre-registration deadline is August 12; EMD members can register on line.