

Energy Minerals Division

The Mission of the Energy Minerals Division is "to advance the science of geology especially as it relates to the exploring for, finding, and producing mineral resources and subsurface fluids (other than conventional oil and gas) for energy purposes; to foster the spirit of scientific research; to disseminate information relating to the geology and associated technology of energy mineral resources; and to advance the professional well-being of its members."

Activities of the Energy Minerals Division during the 1998–1999 fiscal year have been building on the success and project starts of previous years while developing a stronger Division. EMD serves AAPG by supporting professionals in the major energy areas of coal, coalbed methane, geothermal, oil shale, tar sands, nuclear minerals, and gas hydrates. In addition, EMD has active committees in remote sensing and energy economics and technology. That scientific expertise in these nine areas is the main reason for the existence of EMD and its importance to AAPG and the scientific community.

At the end of May 1999, EMD had 1730 members (a decrease of 33 members from the same period in 1998); this represents 5.5% of AAPG membership. Within the Division, the section with the most members is the Gulf Coast Section (22%), followed by the Eastern (18%), Rocky Mountain (14%), Southwest (9%), Pacific (8%), and the Mid-Continent (7%) sections. Members not assigned to a specific section (primarily representing countries outside the U.S.) make up 22% of the division.

At the annual EMD Honors and Awards luncheon in San Antonio, the first EMD Honorary Membership was presented to Loyd A. Carlson. This honor was conferred for his service as chairman of the original AAPG Energy Minerals Committee, his efforts in helping found the Energy Minerals Division in 1977, and serving as the first president of the Division. Also presented at the luncheon was the EMD Certificate of Merit to Phillip Michael Wright for his efforts representing EMD at the Salt Lake City meeting. Wright served as the EMD vice chairman on the 1998 AAPG Convention Coordinating Committee. The EMD Certificate of Merit was also presented to James C. Hower,

Alexander R. Papp, and Douglas C. Peters for their efforts as editors of the EMD-TSOP-sponsored *Atlas of Coal Geology* CD-ROM (AAPG Studies in Geology 45.) The EMD Past Presidents Award was presented to Margaret Anne Rogers for her dedicated service as EMD president during the 1997–1998 year.

For technical presentations at the Salt Lake City convention, the EMD Best Paper Award was presented to Richard G. Allis for his paper titled "Kawerau Field, New Zealand: 40 years of Development and Still Underdeveloped." The EMD President's Certificate of Excellence of Presentation was awarded to Phillip M. Wright and K. Gawell for their geothermal paper and presented to Matthew J. Mavor and Jack E. Vaughn for their coalbed methane paper. Both technical papers were oral presentations at the 1998 Salt Lake City meeting.

New developments for EMD during the 1999 fiscal year were highlighted by the release of the *Atlas of Coal Geology* (AAPG Studies in Geology 45) using a CD-ROM format. This major publication was edited by A. R. Papp, J. C. Hower, and D. C. Peters, with M. A. Rogers facilitating the production efforts. The *Coal Atlas* is the first all-digital, interactive major publication to be produced by AAPG. A joint effort by EMD and The Society for Organic Petrology (TSOP), an International Associated Society of AAPG, the atlas contains two volumes on one CD-ROM. The *Coal Geology* volume includes nearly 400 images while the *Coal Petrology* volume has 275 images. Supporting text for the two volumes is equivalent to 200 printed pages. This new atlas is an important reference on coal for all levels of experience from student to professional.

Several important changes were made in the EMD bylaws during early 1998, and those changes are presently being implemented. Perhaps most important among those changes is the "EMD Business Plan" to be developed for the following fiscal year by the EMD president-elect. A business plan, although previously prepared for the Division by several presidents during their terms, was first developed as a major planning document during January 1999, as a response to the new EMD bylaws and at the request of the AAPG Executive Committee. Also completed during this fiscal year was an EMD Procedures Manual that provides

guidance and review of the duties and responsibilities of the EMD officers, councilors, and committee chairs. This manual was primarily compiled and edited by Brian J. Cardott, but with significant input from Samuel A. Friedman, Thomas E. Ewing, James C. Hower, and several other members of the EMD Leadership Council.

Important to the AAPG and EMD membership is the EMD Web site that is under construction at <http://www.emdaapg.org/>. EMD is building this Web site on a server of the host society, Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners Association (TIPRO). It is planned that an EMD "members only" section will soon be available that will greatly expand our ability to provide specific information to EMD members similar to newsletters used by EMD in the past. Continued development of the Web site can be attributed mainly to Andrew R. Scott, Margaret Anne Rogers, Dallas Dunlap, and Web master Harold H. Rogers III.

At the San Antonio AAPG meeting, EMD was active with short courses, symposia, and field trips. These efforts were led by Thomas E. Ewing, who served as the EMD vice chairman on the Convention Coordinating Committee, and Andrew R. Scott, who served as the EMD Technical Program chairman. One EMD short course was presented on the emerging energy field of gas hydrates, while the second short course discussed basement structures—their detection and relation to hydrocarbon plays. Two field trips were conducted, the longer field trip emphasizing Tertiary coals in south Texas, and a second field trip for one day offered general geology and remote sensing of the San Antonio area.

Sessions on the technical program presented by EMD or cooperatively with AAPG and other AAPG divisions included topics on gas hydrates, unconventional resources, remote sensing and GIS, electric energy restructuring, energy economics, and environmental topics. The variety of these special courses, field trips, and special topics at the San Antonio meeting show the breadth and detail of commodities and disciplines covered by EMD.

Plans are well under way for EMD to present short courses, technical sessions, and field trips at the AAPG Annual Convention in New Orleans in April 2000. The EMD vice chairman for the New Orleans meeting is Chacko J.

John, with Richard P. McCulloh serving as the EMD Technical Program chairman. A short course is again planned on gas hydrates, with a second short course involving a remote-sensing workshop.

Early planning has started for the Denver 2001 AAPG meeting, with Thomas D. Fouch appointed as the EMD vice chairman for that meeting.

An agreement was reached in 1999 between EMD and the International Association for Mathematical Geology (IAMG), an Associated Society of AAPG, in supporting the scientific quarterly journal *Natural Resources Research*. Started eight years ago by the

IMAG, the journal is published by the Plenum Publishing Company, New York. This journal will provide new opportunities for EMD members for information and submission of scientific papers on topics of interest to our members. Daniel F. Merriam (IMAG) is editor-in-chief, while Douglas C. Peters representing EMD, will be the deputy editor.

A new book on coalbed methane is in the early preparation stages, with Andrew R. Scott, Walter B. Ayers, Jr., Roger Tyler, and perhaps other EMD members preparing this book in cooperation with AAPG Publications. An international conference on specific

energy mineral topics from exploration to reclamation is in the planning stages for the Denver area in August 2000. Co-chairs for this major conference are Douglas C. Peters, and D. Keith Murray.

In summary, EMD continues to be very active in providing important expertise on energy-related disciplines to AAPG and the scientific community. This fiscal year was important in continuing to build a stronger division to represent the energy minerals areas of AAPG.

Lawrence L. Brady, President

Reports of the Sections

Eastern Section

The 27th annual meeting of the Eastern Section was held October 7–10, 1998, in Columbus, Ohio, with a theme of "Search for New Horizons" chosen to highlight new exploration plays and to emphasize using new ideas in old plays.

Kathryn Sullivan, three-time NASA space shuttle astronaut, gave the keynote address. The meeting featured 49 oral and 14 poster technical presentations in 11 sessions. Additionally, a K–12 earth science teachers' workshop and a seismic seminar were offered as part of the meeting. Thirty-nine teachers attended the workshop and 50 registered for the seismic seminar, both of which received very high marks from the attendees. The exhibit area was sold out with 23 commercial and nonprofit exhibitors. Five prospect generators offered their prospects in two deal rooms. Two field trips were run on Saturday with a total of 56 participants. Total registration was 309 professionals, students, and exhibitors, plus 21 spouses for the AAPG meeting and 39 teachers for the K–12 workshop, for a total attendance of 369. Financial sponsorship was received from 34 companies and individuals for the overall meeting and was a key factor in the economic success of the meeting. The meeting was both a technical and financial success, establishing a record profit for the Eastern Section and the Ohio Geological Society.

Honors and awards conferred at the 1998 Eastern Section annual meeting

included the following:

- John T. Galey Memorial Award: Robert R. Jordan
- Honorary Membership: William L. MacQuown
- Distinguished Service: Kenneth C. Ashton, Kenneth G. Johnson, and Jesse A. Shell
- George V. Cohee Public Service Award: Arie Janssens
- Outstanding Educator Award: William B. Harrison III and Ronald L. Martino
- Gordon H. Wood, Jr. Memorial Award (Eastern Section EMD): James C. Cobb
- Division of Environmental Geology (Eastern Section) Meritorious Contributions Award: John E. Sanders
- Eastern Section Presidential Award: Wayne A. Pryor (Posthumous)
- Levorsen Memorial Award (best paper): Marc R. Bustin
- Margaret Hawn Mirabile Memorial Award (best student paper): John C. Hohman and Brian D. Keith
- Vincent E. Nelson Memorial Award (best poster): Robert M. Cluff, Suzanne G. Cluff, and Catherine M. Murphy
- Division of Environmental Geosciences Best Paper Award: R. Stephen Fisher
- Division of Environmental Geosciences Best Poster Award: None awarded
- Ralph L. Miller Memorial Best EMD Paper Award: Harold Gluskoter
- Energy Minerals Division Best Poster Award: Gayle H. McCulloch, Jr.,

Craig Neidig, Nick Fedorko, Edwin Maki, Robert Holliday, and Chetan Desai

Officers elected by meeting attendees for fiscal year 1998–1999 were Lawrence H. Wickstrom, president; Katharine Lee Avary, vice president; Larry J. Cavallo, secretary; and John L. Forman, treasurer.

Educational Outreach

The Eastern Section Outreach Committee met and charted a course to evaluate requests for financial contributions to educational activities and scholarships. It has established several subcommittees that are actively working toward the goal of expanding the Eastern Section's contributions to Educational Outreach. Each active member received a letter asking for a contribution to support the Earth Science Outreach Program (ESOP), and corporate solicitations are underway to assist in funding the program. The "Rocks in Your Head" program will be held in conjunction with the 1999 AAPG Annual Meeting.

1999 Eastern Section Annual Meeting

The 1999 Eastern Section Annual Meeting was held in Indianapolis, Indiana, September 19–21, co-hosted by the Professional Geologists of Indiana, Center for Earth and Environmental Science at Indiana University–Purdue University at Indianapolis, and the Indiana Geological Survey.

Future Annual Meetings

Confirmed future meeting sites