



NMGS NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 11, NO. 1 SUMMER, 2008

Photo Contest

Maureen Wilks, our publications chair, is in the process of designing a brochure advertising NMGS. She is looking for a photograph for the cover, preferably in portrait format, of people enjoying a fall field conference or one of our other NMGS activities. If you have such a photograph or if you take a picture during the upcoming Fall Field Conference in Silver City, please send it to Maureen (mwilks@gis.nmt.edu) for consideration. If your photo is chosen, you will win a gift certificate good for \$50 worth of NMGS publications. (2 entries per person)

Sad News

We just learned that Fred Trauger, a long-time member of NMGS, passed away. His life will be celebrated in a tribute in this fall's guidebook.

Marilyn Huff, our treasurer, is moving to Edmonton, Canada. Her husband, Rick, has taken a job with the Geological Survey of Alberta, so Marilyn and her family are leaving for the north country in August. We thank Marilyn for her dedicated service during the last two years and wish her the best.

What Does It Take to Run NMGS?

Shari Kelley

What does it take to make NMGS the vibrant society that it is now? Volunteers! Most of our functions, from organizing the Spring Meeting and Fall Field Conference to serving on the Foundation Board, the Executive Committee, and on other committees (publications, scholarship), are in the capable hands of hard-working volunteers. We hope that when you are asked to serve NMGS, you will say "Yes!"

What else is needed to run NMGS? Money! Most of our considerable assets are in the scholarship endowment, invested in training future geologists for the State of New Mexico; however, we still need operational funds to provide services to you, our membership. After much discussion, we have decided that we need to raise the membership dues from \$7 to \$15. Although this is a rather dramatic increase, consider the expense of your membership dues for AAPG, GSA, or AGU, and you will soon realize that NMGS dues are still a bargain. Barry Kues, upon inspection of our records, learned that regular membership dues in 1984 were \$10, and student dues \$6; the former is equivalent to \$26 in 2008 dollars; thus raising dues to \$15 does not bring our dues to 1984 levels, when adjusted for inflation.

Where does your money go? Many functional places! Our own Maureen Wilks and Kitty Pokorny calculated whether the \$7 we were charging covered the cost of the mailings that we do each year (ballots, newsletters, meeting announcements) and it did, just barely. We've been able to keep those costs down by mailing information to only those members without email and sending the rest of the information electronically, either by email or using the web page.

There are other costs involved in this equation. Unlike most state geological societies, our organization has no permanent home of its own. We are associated, in good standing, with the New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources. We currently pay the Bureau for Kitty's and Connie's time in handling registration for the Spring Meeting and Fall Field Conference. We also pay postage, fax, and copying expenses to the Bureau. Currently, 40% of our annual

publication sales go to the Bureau in exchange for space in their facility. Obviously, that \$7 does not cover these costs.

Wait, there's more. We have a web page now, capable of informing our membership of many events and handling online registration. Did you know there is a credit card fee that we have to pay associated with each registration transaction? I'll bet you did. We need to factor transactions fees into our expenses.

Now, let's go back to our volunteers. There are volunteers and there are those volunteers who go beyond the call of duty. Long ago, folks realized that the managing editor of the guidebook puts in extraordinary amounts of time and that person is compensated. Our publications chair, Maureen Wilks, and our webmaster, Adam Read, have put in untold uncompensated hours, and it might be time to reward our above-and-beyond volunteers with a small token of our appreciation.

This brings us to our new consideration, an idea suggested to us by Peter Scholle, director of the Bureau. NMGS might want to think about hiring a part-time person to take on the responsibilities currently covered by Bureau staff and some of our volunteers. An NMGS employee would:

- 1) manage registration for our two annual events,
- 2) inform our membership of upcoming events via the web and mailings,
- 3) develop a marketing strategy for our publications,
- 4) develop new publications,
- 5) promote membership in the Society,
- and
- 6) help with field trip logistics.

With experience, an NMGS employee could serve as the corporate memory of the organization, thus helping the volunteers who cycle through the executive committee positions. We think this is an interesting idea and we are exploring ways to establish a reasonable salary and benefits. Increasing the membership dues helps, but the additional \$8/person/year is not enough to support such an endeavor. We likely will have to raise our dues gradually over the course of the next few years just to cover our basic operating costs. Additional funding will be required to hire an employee.

Well, after this discussion, **we hope that you will take the time to fill out the attached survey**. The executive committee seeks your reaction to the topics mentioned in this article and guidance from you in designing a five-year plan for the Society. We value your input.

NMGS Spring Meeting

The NMGS Spring Meeting was held in Socorro on Friday, April 18 at the Best Western Convention Center. For many years, this annual event has been held at the Macey Center on the New Mexico Tech campus. The Best Western Convention Center was built a couple of years ago, so we decided to try something different and explore expanded catering possibilities in this new venue. We are grateful to Mike Timmons and Kate Zeigler for taking on the challenge of organizing the meeting in a new setting!

The theme sessions highlighting research in the Rio Grande rift attracted many speakers who gave significant talks summarizing decades of work. Other speakers in the rift sessions reported on important new observations about the basins of the Rio Grande rift. The non-theme and poster sessions included many excellent presentations on a variety of geologic topics. We thank invited speakers Paul Bauer, Gary Smith, Sean Connell, and Greg Mack for setting the stage for the Rio Grande rift sessions, and session chairs Dan Koning, Jim Fassett, Sean Connell, and Dave Love for keeping the conference on schedule. John Shomaker, the keynote speaker, gave an interesting, and sobering, assessment of the water situation in the

Albuquerque Basin. Kitty Pokorny and Connie Apache cheerfully handled the meeting registration and Maureen Wilks ran the publications booth. We really appreciate all the hard work of J. Michael Timmons and Kate Zeigler. Thanks for setting up the meeting, producing the abstract volume, and graciously dealing with all the little things that came up during the meeting.

Congratulations to the winners of the best student presentation awards! Each student received \$100 from the NMGS Foundation. Thank you to the many volunteers who served as judges.

Best oral presentation (tied):

Justin Spielmann (New Mexico Tech) - Triassic stratigraphy south of Lamy, New Mexico.
Armand Dichosa (University of New Mexico) - The biogenicity of desert varnish and cave ferromanganese deposits.

Best poster presentation:

Andrew Fargo (New Mexico Tech) - $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$ geochronological analysis of Minna Bluff, Antarctica: evidence for past glacial events within the Antarctic cryosphere.

The NMGS Frank E. Kottowski Research Award, Grant-in-Aid, and Lucille H. Pipkin Award winners were announced at the Spring Meeting. **Benjamin Swanson** from the University of New Mexico earned the \$2500 Kottowski Research Award this year. His project is entitled "The influence of clast size and sediment load on main-stem river morphology at tributary confluences, Rio Chama, NM." Other winners and a brief description of their projects are included in the table below. Bob Myers, Kate Zeigler, and Shari Kelley served on the scholarship committee this year. Thanks to the NMGS Foundation for their support of the scholarship program.

Graduate Awards

| Student | University | Project |
|----------------------|------------|--|
| Benjamin Swanson | UNM | River morphology of Rio Chama between El Vado and Abiquiu |
| Hugo Gutierrez | NMT | Quantifying arid landscapes |
| Meridith Durr | NMSU | Analysis of Permian Triassic record, SE NM west TX |
| Jaron Andrews | NMT | Use of zeolite/iron pellets to get rid of arsenic in drinking water |
| Ashley Edelman | UNM | Deposition in a rift basin filled with volcanic rocks, Jemez Mtns. |
| Gary Michelfelder | NMSU | Was the 49 Ma Cuchillo intrusion emplaced in an extensional setting? |
| Mark Tyra | UNM | Conodonts and climate in the Ordovician Montoya Group |
| Amy Jo Williams | UNM | Water quality data across the central Rio Grande rift |
| Scott Causey | NMSU | Tectonic setting of Florida Mountains in Cambrian time |
| Kendra Mitchell | UNM | Analysis of microbes in hot springs of NM |
| Linda Donohoo-Hurley | UNM | Magnetic minerals in VC3 drillhole, Jemez Mountains |

Undergraduate Awards

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|-------------------|------|--|
| Brittani Thompson | NMSU | Test bond strength using LIBS (Laser Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy) |
| Matthew Dawkins | NMSU | Correlation of ash flow tuff using LIBS |
| Tim Sadler | NMSU | Oil maturity using LIBS |
| Carlos Montoya | NMSU | Oil chemistry using LIBS |
| Brandon Dixon | UNM | Proterozoic rocks in the Defiance uplift |

Upcoming Events

2008 Fall Field Conference - Silver City area

October 23-25, 2008

Field trip Chairs: Greg Mack, NMSU; Jim Witcher, Witcher and Associates

Watch the NMGS web page for details!

Future Fall Field Conferences

Commitments for field conferences are now outlined for the next three years. The field-conference venues and names of organizers are listed below. All members are encouraged to volunteer assistance to the organizers or to contribute to the guidebooks. If you live near or are involved with the geology in the vicinity of the future conference sites, please consider contacting one of the organizers. We are interested in hearing ideas for field conferences in 2012 and beyond. It's never too soon to start planning!

2009 Fall Field Conference - Chupadera Mesa - Socorro area

Field Trip Chairs: Virgil Lueth, NMBGMR; Spencer Lucas, New Mexico Museum of Natural History; Richard Chamberlin, NMBGMR

2010 Fall Field Conference - Four Corners region

Field Trip Chairs: Jim Fassett, USGS (retired); Kate Zeigler

2011 Fall Field Conference - Tusas Mountains

Field Trip Chairs: Dan Koning, Shari Kelley, Scott Aby, Kirt Kempter, and Karl Karlstrom

NMGS Publication Sales

Check out the new, improved NMGS web site! All NMGS publications are now available for purchase through our website. There is a 35% discount for student members on all publications. Publications include the Geologic Highway Map, the Special Publication "Geology of New Mexico", and all of the Field Conference Guidebooks. Visit <http://nmgs.nmt.edu/publications/home.cfm> for prices and ordering information.

Executive Committee

| | |
|----------------|--------------|
| President | Shari Kelley |
| Vice President | Kate Zeigler |
| Treasurer | Marilyn Huff |
| Secretary | Barry Kues |
| Past President | Lewis Land |

Publications Committee

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|-----------------|---------------|
| Chair | Maureen Wilks |
| Webmaster | Adam Read |
| Managing Editor | Virgil Lueth |
| Member | Spencer Lucas |
| Member | Barry Kues |

Scholarship Committee

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|--------|--------------|
| Chair | Bob Myers |
| Member | Shari Kelley |
| Member | Kate Zeigler |

NMGS Foundation Board:

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|-----------------|---------------|
| President | Virgil Lueth |
| Vice President | John Shomaker |
| Treasurer | Laura Crossey |
| Secretary | Tim Lawton |
| Society Liaison | Kate Zeigler |

NMGS Membership Survey

The Executive Committee would like your comments on a number of issues facing the New Mexico Geological Society. We value your input! You can send written responses to our mailing address or you can email comments to sakelley@ix.netcom.com. Don't feel compelled to answer every question, but please provide information on the topics that are most meaningful to you. Thanks!

Our mailing address is: Executive Committee
 New Mexico Geological Society
 New Mexico Tech
 801 Leroy Place
 Socorro, NM 87801

- We would appreciate your feedback on the 2008 Spring Meeting in Socorro. What did you think of:
 - The new venue at the Best Western.
 - Relevance of the conference theme.
 - Quality of speakers.
 - Poster session.
 - Catered lunch and beverages.

 - Any other comments or suggestions?

- Do you have suggestions concerning the Fall Field Conferences, either in terms of location or in the way they are run? Do you have any comments about the guidebook, particularly the new spiral-bound roadlog version of the guidebook?

- Would you be in favor of including job postings and advertising on the NMGS website? Please elaborate.

- Do you have suggestions for improving the web site?

- In addition to our annual Fall Field Conference Guidebooks, the Society periodically publishes special volumes, such as the 2004 Geologic History of New Mexico. Do you have suggestions for any other types of publications the Society might develop (e.g., a geologic overview of New Mexico for non-scientists, or pubs on special topics such as hot springs or seismology)?

- The Spring Meetings and Fall Field Conferences are the two main events for NMGS every year. Are there any other projects or activities that you feel the Society should be developing?

- Would you be interested in serving as a guest speaker at community events for NMGS on topical issues such as climate change or energy resources? Venues for such talks might include the New Mexico Museum of Natural History, Rotary Clubs, or state parks.

- Any other comments?