

# THE COAL GEOLOGIST

Newsletter of the Coal Geology Division of the Geological Society of America

Fall 2003

Volume 29, Number 1

## FROM THE DESK OF THE DIVISION CHAIR STEPHEN F. GREB

First off, I'd like to welcome our new members. As one of the smaller divisions in GSA, it's always nice to have new members. The national meeting in Seattle is just around the corner. Although the Division does not have a technical session this year, we do have a general session and awards celebration, including presentation of this year's Cady award. Thanks to the various awards committees for their work this year. Please show your support for the Division by attending the general session and awards presentations. Also, it's not too late to start thinking about next year in Denver. Gretchen Hoffman, your incoming First Vice-Chair has already begun organizing the program, and I encourage your active participation. For more information about the meeting, go to the Division's website <http://www.isgs.uiuc.edu/coalsec/GSA/>. Aside from the meetings, there are several topics I want to discuss, starting with the most important, a revision to the Division's bylaws.

### Revising the Division's Bylaws

At last year's business meeting, the members of the executive committee who attended the meeting, as well as several past chairs, discussed a revision of the Division's bylaws. Throughout the spring, this committee continued to work together to reach a common draft. The committee's draft was then reviewed by your current executive board during the summer. We now have a version that can be reviewed by the membership at large. Hard copies of the revision will be available at this year's business meeting in Seattle. Pending any last-minute changes, I will propose that the revision be put on the Division's website so that the membership can see the suggested changes. The revision will show all changes that are being suggested to the existing bylaws, as well as the reason for the changes. Two months after the revision is put on the website, there will be a vote by the membership to accept or reject the redrafted bylaws as per Article VIII-1 of the existing bylaws, which states that "...bylaws may only be adopted, rescinded, or amended by majority vote of the voting

affiliates of the division. A ballot vote proposing a change of the bylaws shall be held if favored by a majority of the management board or if petitioned by ten percent of the voting affiliates of the division. Such a vote shall be supervised by the Society and held in accordance with the procedures of the Society."

### Reasons for Revision

The revision of the bylaws does not indicate any major shift in the Division's goals or activities. Rather, it acknowledges the broader membership and research interests of the Division's membership, addresses outdated language or redundancy within (continued on Page 2)

### Coal Geology Division Management Board

**Chair:** Steven Greb, Kentucky Geological Survey, Lexington, KY; greb@uky.edu

**First Vice-Chair:** R. Marc Bustin, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia; mbustin@eos.ubc.edu

**Second Vice-Chair:** Gretchen Hoffman, New Mexico Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources, Socorro NM; gretchen@gis.nmt.edu

**Past Chair:** Peter Warwick, United States Geological Survey, Reston VA; pwarwick@usgs.gov

**Secretary-Treasurer:** Thomas D. Demchuk, ConocoPhillips, Houston TX; thomas.d.demchuk@conocophillips.com

**Member-at-Large:** Russell Jacobson, Illinois Geological Survey, Champaign IL; jacobson@isgs.uiuc.edu

**Coal Geology Division Website:**  
<http://www.isgs.uiuc.edu/coalsec/GSA/>

the existing bylaws, clarifies the responsibilities of board members and committees, and updates technical aspects of the bylaws that were in need of change because of changes in GSA. For example, many deadlines and dates within the existing bylaws have changed since the original bylaws were written, simply because GSA has moved up the deadlines. The existing bylaws do not mention the Member-at-Large position, which has existed for more than a decade. The existing bylaws also do not mention the Best Paper, Best Poster, or Service awards, which we have given out at the national meeting for many years. Likewise, the existing bylaws contain monetary amounts for student awards that are well under what has been granted in the past few years (and are well under amounts that are reasonable to allow a student to attend a GSA meeting). For these reasons, a committee of past chairs and the existing executive board began the lengthy process of revising the bylaws. I am grateful to the help of the present board and past chairs who participated in the revision, and hope that the membership appreciates their efforts on your behalf. I encourage the membership to reward their efforts by reviewing the suggested changes and participating in the vote.

#### Other Issues

The Division's website could use some help. This is our most visible connection to the membership and the public. Undoubtedly, some of you have ideas for how we could improve the existing site. I will be working with Russ Jacobson (your Member-at-Large and volunteered Division webmaster) to make the website more useful to the Division's membership. There are three main things I would like to see changed. The first thing, which we have already begun, is to correct content and grammatical errors in the existing text. Photos and images with poor quality will be replaced with higher quality images. Second, I think we can change the links page to something with topical links for easier access to different types of coal-related information. Currently we just list organizations and businesses. I have begun the process of listing various coal-related topics and having links under each topic.

This is an area in which the membership at large can be of great help. If you have suggestions for topics and links that you find useful, please share them with the membership by sending me your links or topics and I'll compile them before giving them to Russ to load onto the site.

Third, I think we could do a lot better job with the Cady Award part of our website. Currently we simply list the awardees. Since this is our Division's highest

award, I think we can expand this in order to do justice to the awardees. Something as simple as adding the citations (biographies, selected references, etc.) of past awardees (where available) as well as images of past Cady award winners would be an improvement on what we have now, and would help visitors to the site see why we honored those we have. If there is anyone in the membership who would like to head up a committee to work on this part of the site, it would be greatly appreciated. Just give me a call or email.

Another (longer term) addition that might help to promote the Division's activities, would be some type of record of past Division field trips. Field trips have been some of our Division's most popular activities yet we have no listing of them on our site. Our Division has led field trips to coal basins and modern environments of deposition across North America. It would be nice to at least have a listing of past field trips and references to the guidebooks for those trips. Perhaps we could get some past field trip leaders or attendees to put together short summaries or "virtual" field trips of the trips they were involved with. In some cases, short text summaries, PDF's of guidebooks, or links to published papers could be included with images from the trips. In this way, hard-to-get references might be made more available to the membership. Also, many members undoubtedly have photos or slides that record outcrops, mines, or field areas that no longer exist. Archiving some of this material on a website in a "virtual field trip" might provide a useful reference to the membership. Optimally, these virtual trips could be housed on the contributors websites, and then linked to from the Division website. If this idea appeals to anyone (especially past attendees or leaders) give me a call or email, and we'll look into the best way to get the material into a format where we can use it on the website.

Thanks and I hope to see you in Seattle,  
Stephen Greb

**GSA COAL GEOLOGY DIVISION  
BUSINESS MEETING  
AND AWARDS RECEPTION**

**MONDAY NOVEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup>**

**5:45 - 7:15pm**

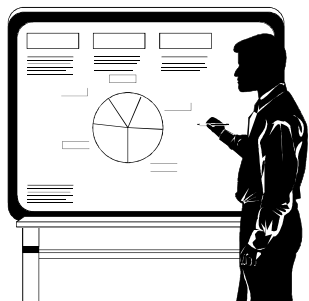
**WSCTC Room 210**

**Chair's Address**

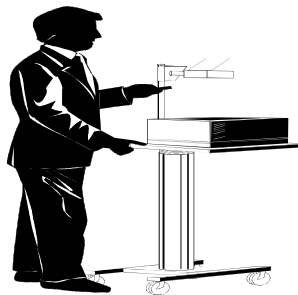
**Gilbert H. Cady Award Presentation**

**Cash Bar and Munchies**

**Other Business**



**COAL GEOLOGY  
POSTERS**  
Monday, November 3  
8:00AM - 12:00PM  
WSCTC Hall 4-F



**COAL GEOLOGY  
GENERAL SESSION**  
Monday, November 3  
3:30 - 5:30PM  
WSCTC Room 210

Presiding:  
Cortland Eble and R. Marc Bustin

**Booth #1** An Alternative Proposal to Coal Genesis in the Early Permian of the Parana Basin, Brazil. Begossi, Romana, Hower, J.C. and Eble, C.F.

**Booth #2** Availability of Coal Data on the Web at Kentucky Geological Survey. Overfield, Bethany J., Curl, D.C., Greb, S.F., Weisenfluh, G.A. and Eble, C.F.

**Booth #3** Coal Quality Characteristics of Tertiary Coals from Chile: A GIS-based Approach. Hackley, Paul C., Alfaro, G.H., Warwick, P.D., Finkelman, R.B. and Cuebas, R.M.

**Booth #4** Sorption Behavior of Helium and Nitrogen in Uncrushed Coal Cores Under Controlled Pressure and Temperature. Solano-Acosta, Wilfrido, Hawkes, L., Mastalerz, M. and Burruss, R.C.

**3:30PM** Coal Bed Methane Potential of the Western Kentucky Coal Field. Eble, Cortland F.

**3:45PM** Speciation and Mineral Associations of Trace Elements in Coal Combustion By-Product Wastes. Donahoe, Rona J., Graham, E.Y., Howell, J.R. and Schexnayder, J.

**4:00PM** Volumetric Swelling/Shrinkage Characteristics of Western Canadian Coals: Implications for Sequestration of Acid Gases. Chikatamarla, Laxminarayana and Bustin, R.M.

**4:15PM** Characteristics of Coalbed Gas Composition Shifts: From Field Well Productions to Field and Laboratory Desorption Tests - A Numerical Investigation. Ciu, Xiaojun and Bustin, R.M.

**4:30PM** Petrology of Appalachian Coking Coals. Simmers, Richard C., and Crelling, J.C.

**4:45PM** Assessment of Mineable Coal in Robinson Forest, Eastern Kentucky. Hosey, Kieren T., Weisenfluh, G.A. and Greb, S.F.

**5:00PM** Factors Controlling Trace Elements of Environmental Concerns for Powder River Basin Coal, Wyoming. Stricker, Gary D., and Flores, R.D.

**5:15PM** Paleofracture and Structural Influences on the Accumulation of the Stockton Coal (Bolsovian), Four Corners Formation, Eastern Kentucky Coal Field, USA. Greb, Stephen F., Eble, C.F. and Hower, J.C.

### International Journal of Coal Geology

As we all know, coal mining has been and continues to be a dangerous occupation. In the US, federal and state authorities work with the philosophy that one death in a mine is too many. Of course, this goal has not been met in the US or elsewhere where mining of coal takes place.

With this in mind, I am calling for papers for a special issue of *International Journal of Coal Geology* dedicated to **“Geologic hazards in coal mining: Prediction and prevention.”** Many topics, such as, but not limited to: roof, rib, and floor control; mine gases; and flooding from old mine works would easily fit in the scope of the call for papers.

If there is someone else in your organization who should know about this call for papers, please forward the message. If at all possible, I would like to receive papers by 31 May 2004. As always, please follow the guide for authors <http://authors.elsevier.com/GuideForAuthors.html?PubID=503337> in preparing a manuscript.

Manuscripts should be submitted directly to Jim Hower [hower@caer.uky.edu](mailto:hower@caer.uky.edu). If possible, please let me know if you are interested in contributing a paper so that I can make better plans for the volume.

Article Submitted by Jim Hower  
Editor, International Journal of Coal Geology

### To the General CGD Membership

I realize that I have not been overly forthcoming with newsletters over the past few years, and I offer my sincerest apologies to the Management Board and to the general CGD membership. With my newfound skills at desktop publishing, I'm hoping I can produce more issues of the **COAL GEOLOGIST** at regular, more frequent intervals. **BUT I NEED YOUR HELP!** I need the general membership to provide timely and interesting articles which I can publish as part of the Newsletter. Send me anything you believe may be of interest to the coal community. In the meantime, I'd like to hear from all of you concerning the Newsletter in general. Please feel free to contact me at [thomas.d.demchuk@conocophillips.com](mailto:thomas.d.demchuk@conocophillips.com). Hopefully I'll see you at a GSA meeting sometime in the near future. In the meantime, I hope you enjoy this issue of the Newsletter.

Sincerely submitted,  
Thomas D. Demchuk, GSA-CGD Secretary-Treasurer

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#### **More International Journal of Coal Geology**

Elsevier and *International Journal of Coal Geology* have introduced some new options in their publications.

First, color can now be used in the internet (ScienceDirect) version of papers at no cost to the author. This means that a black & white version of a figure can be used in the printed text and a color version in the on-line paper. Printed color figures will still be charged at the rate of \$350 for the first page and \$175 for each additional page in a paper (the rates are always subject to change, these are the last numbers I have).

Second, multimedia files can now be linked to the ScienceDirect version (see "artwork instructions", then "multimedia files" under <http://authors.elsevier.com/> for details concerning file types possible). This now means that such items as oversized charts and maps can be published. In addition, movies or other animations can be linked, opening up a wide range of possibilities.

Article submitted by Jim C. Hower  
Editor, International Journal of Coal Geology

#### **Upcoming Meetings**

2003 12th International Conference on Coal Science  
November 2-6, 2003 Cairns, Queensland, Australia

2004 American Association of Petroleum Geologists  
Annual Meeting, April 18-21, 2004 Dallas, TX

2004 International Palynological Congress (with the  
American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists),  
July 4-9, 2004 Grenada, Spain

2004 International Geological Congress (IGC),  
August 20-28, 2004 Florence, Italy

2004 The Society of Organic Petrology (TSOP) Annual  
Meeting, September 27-October 1, 2004 Sydney,  
Australia "Organic Matter Down Under"

2004 Geological Society of America Annual Meeting,  
November 7-10, 2004 Denver, CO

2005 Geological Society of America Annual Meeting,  
October 16-19, 2005 Salt Lake City, UT

2006 Geological Society of America Annual Meeting,  
October 22-25, 2006 Philadelphia, PA