



# h RPG News h

The Official Publication of the Mississippi State Board of Registered Professional Geologists

Protecting the Public's Health, Safety, and Welfare

Spring, 2008

Members of the Board: Everett J. Ferris, President (Government); Darrel W. Schmitz, Vice President (Academia); W. Lester Aultman, (Mining - Mineral Extraction); Maureen K. Corcoran, (At Large); and John W. Green, (Geotechnical - Environmental)

## *For Your Information*

*From the Director,*

*Rick Ericksen*

So what is new with the MSBRPG this year? First, as noted on the Board's web site and later in this newsletter, we are reporting disciplinary actions that have been taken by the Board. The Board, in the recent past, announced on its web site that it would be more proactive in one of its several missions, specifically enforcement and disciplinary proceedings. When you read on, that increased activity has most recently yielded one (1) Agreed Order and five (5) letters of admonition. Other investigative and disciplinary matters are currently ongoing at the current time. The Board remains serious about any transgressions contrary to the RPG law and it will continue to pursue enforcement/disciplinary actions against those who choose to not comply with the law.

It is unfortunate but reports indicate that infractions related to the public practice of geology in this state by those who are not registered with this Board appear to have been ongoing — perhaps even with the knowledge of some of our registrants who are not reporting these transgressions. Again, if you suspect unlicensed practice simply call the Board and the Board will conduct an investigation if it is warranted.

Elsewhere in this issue of the RPG News is the result of the opinion poll taken by the Board during the renewal process, information on the upcoming ASBOG® examinations, a report of the activities of the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee by its Chairman, Michael Wright, and an announcement by the Lower Mississippi Valley Section of the Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists concerning the AEG's Annual Meeting to be held in New Orleans this coming fall.

Vast numbers of Mississippi RPGs have asked for a simplified version of how and what documents need to be stamped/embossed and signed. That stamping/embossing procedure is as follows:

## **EMBOSSING/STAMPING AND SIGNING** **THE SIMPLIFIED VERSION**

1) Emboss/Stamp all documents (maps, cross-sections, reports, sample descriptions, borehole lithology logs, etc.) that you author or co-author that include or that are related in any manner to geologic interpretation(s) or geologic matters;

and,

2) After embossing/stamping that document, sign and date it with the current date.

If you have any questions concerning embossing/stamping documents, maps, etc. you may refer to the Board's web site, Board Rule 10, and Board Guidance Document 2007-01 for further, detailed information ([www.msbrpg.state.ms](http://www.msbrpg.state.ms)). Also, feel free to contact the Board at 601/354-6370 or e-mail at: [geology@msbrpg.state.ms](mailto:geology@msbrpg.state.ms) if you still have questions concerning embossing/stamping and signing protocols.

Until next time,  
Rick L. Ericksen, RPG, CPG  
Executive Director

## **THE OPINION QUESTION RESULTS ARE IN!**

When you renewed earlier this year or near the end of last year everyone also received a "Demographic Sheet" so that you could update information that may have become incorrect, e.g. home mailing address, company affiliation, etc., whether you were available for consulting, and the following question that was asked so that the Board, when asked by legislators, would have a collective opinion of its registrants. The question was: "...Would you be in favor of changing the RPG law to remove the exemption of petroleum geologists who are publicly practicing petroleum geology? (Note: Those working for companies would still be exempt provided that they do not sell oil and gas prospects directly to the public).  
\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No..."



**AT LARGE SECTOR****JAMIE CRAWFORD - Jackson, Mississippi**

- 1) **Date of Birth:** 07/03/52
- 2) **Degree(s):**  
#B.S., Geology, 1983, Millsaps College  
#M.S., Geology, 1989, University of Southern Mississippi
- 3) **Work History:**  
#MDEQ/Office of Land and Water Resources, Assistant Director/Director, Jackson, MS, 2002 to present  
#MDEQ/Office of Pollution Control, Environmental Administrator (Hydrogeologist), Jackson, MS, 1993-03  
#MDEQ/Office of Land and Water Resources, Hydrogeologist, Jackson, MS, 1985-92
- 4) **Professional Publications:** 2
- 5) **Professional Memberships and Offices Held:**  
#Mississippi Geological Society  
#Ground Water Protection Council, Board of Directors, 2004 to present  
#The Underground Injection Practices Research Foundation, Board of Directors, 1998-00  
#MSBRPG Ad Hoc Advisory Committee, 2007 to present
- 6) **Professional Certifications, Registrations, and Licenses:** Mississippi RPG No. 0188
- 7) **RPG Related Activities:**  
#Member, MSBRPG Advisory Committee, 2007 to present

**CHARLES T. SWANN - Oxford, Mississippi**

- 1) **Date of Birth:** 05/27/54
- 2) **Degree(s):**  
#B.S., Geology, 1980, West Georgia College, Carrollton, GA  
#M.S., Geology, 1985, The University of Mississippi, University, MS
- 3) **Work History:**  
#Senior Staff Geologist, Mississippi Mineral Resources Institute, 1996 to present, University, MS  
#Staff Geologist, Mississippi Mineral Resources Institute, 1988-96, University, MS  
#Consulting Geologist, 1988, Oxford, MS  
#Nuclear Waste Staff, Mississippi Department of Energy and Transportation, 1987-88, Jackson, MS  
#Geohydrologist/Stratigrapher, Mississippi Mineral Resources, 1984-87, Oxford, MS  
#Consulting Geologist, 1982, Cuthbert, GA

#Geologist, Georgia Geologic Survey, 1976-81, Albany, GA

- 4) **Professional Publications:** 84 publications
- 5) **Professional Memberships:**  
#Mississippi Mineral Resources Association  
#Mississippi Academy of Sciences  
Sigma Xi
- 6) **Professional Certifications, Registrations and Licenses:**  
Registered Professional Geologist, Mississippi: RPG 0003
- 7) **RPG Related Activities:**  
#Member, Mississippi Geological Registration Task Force, 1995-97  
#Board Member, Mississippi State Board of Registered Professional Geologists, 1997-04  
#Board President, Mississippi State Board of Registered Professional Geologists, 1999-00; 2003-04  
#MSBRPG Advisory Committee, 2007 to present

**MICHAEL J. WRIGHT - Brandon, Mississippi**

- 1) **Date of Birth:** 07/05/59
- 2) **Degree(s):**  
#B.S. Geology, 1981, University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, MS  
#M.S. Geology, 1987, University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, MS
- 3) **Work History:**  
#Mississippi Department of Transportation, Geologist IV, 1985 to present, Jackson, MS  
#Michael J. Wright Geological Services, Geologist, 1987 to present, Jackson, MS  
#Colonial Exploration Co., Inc., V.P. & Geologist, 1983-85, Hattiesburg, MS
- 4) **Professional Publications:** five (5) publications
- 5) **Professional Memberships:**  
#American Association of Petroleum Geologists, 1981 to present;  
#Mississippi Geological Society, 2000 to present;  
Association of Environmental & Engineering Geologists
- 6) **Professional Certifications, Registrations and Licenses:**  
Registered Professional Geologist, Mississippi: RPG 0241
- 7) **RPG Related Activities:**  
#Member, MSBRPG Advisory Committee, 2002 to present (Secretary, 2003-04; Vice Chairman, 2004-06; Chairman, 2006-08)

## **GEOTECHNICAL/ENVIRONMENTAL SECTOR**

### **BRADLEY MARTIN - Flora, Mississippi**

**1) Date of Birth:** 08/25/73

**2) Degrees:**

- #B.S., Geological Engineering, 1995, The University of Mississippi, University, MS
- #M.S., Civil Engineering, 2002, Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS, 2002

**3) Work History:**

- #GeoScience Engineers, L.L.C., Associate Engineer, 1995-01
- #Aquaterra Engineering, L.L.C., Project Engineer, 2002-07
- #U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - 2007 to present

**4) Professional Publications:** None

**5) Professional Memberships:** None

**6) Professional Licenses:**

- #Registered Professional Geologist, Mississippi, RPG 0673;
- #Registered Professional Engineer, Mississippi, PE 15148

**7) RPG Related Activities:** None

### **KEN RUCKSTUHL, Brandon, Mississippi**

**1) Date of Birth:** April 27, 1960

**2) Degree(s):** B.S. Geology 1982 LSU

**3) Work History:**

- #Environmental Management Services, Inc., Senior Geologist, 2004 to present, Brandon, MS,
- #Alpha Services, L.L.C., Owner/Principal Geologist, 2003-04, Brandon, MS
- #Malcolm Pirnie, Inc., Location Manager-Senior Project Manager, 1994-03, Jackson, MS
- #Aquaterra, Inc., Location Manager-Senior Geologist, 1992-94, Jackson, MS
- #Camp Dresser & McKee, Inc., Hazardous Waste Group Leader, 1988-92, Baton Rouge, LA
- #Geraghty & Miller, Inc., Staff Engineering Geologist, 1985-88, Baton Rouge, LA
- #GDC Engineering, Inc., Environmental Geologist, 1983-85, Baton Rouge, LA

**4) Professional Publications:** four (4)

**5) Professional Memberships and Offices Held:**

- #Mississippi Geological Society, Environmental Committee Chair 2006 to present
- #Mississippi Manufacturers Association, Environmental Committee

#Mississippi Water Environment Association, Newsletter Editor, 1997-02

#Association of Environmental & Engineering Geologists, LMVS Secretary & Annual Conference Committee Member 2006 to present

**6) Professional Certifications, Registrations, and Licenses:**

Registered Professional Geologist, Mississippi, RPG 0090; Registered Professional Geologist, Arkansas RPG 1242; Licensed Professional Geologist, Florida LPG 0000735

**7) RPG Related Activities:**

#Member, MSBRPG Advisory Committee, 1998 to present

### **MIKE SEAL - Clinton, Mississippi**

**1) Date of Birth:** 02/23/54

**2) Degree(s):**

- #B.S., Environmental Geology, 1979, University of Mississippi;
- #M.S., Engineering Science/Geological Engineering, 1988, University of Mississippi.

**3) Work History:**

- #U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Natural Resource/Environmental Management, Vicksburg, MS 1994-present.
- #Independent Consultant, Geology-Hydrogeology-Environmental, Jackson, MS, 1992-1994.
- #Riedel Peterson Environmental Services, Sr. Proj. Mgr., Jackson, MS. 1990-1992.
- #Michael Baker Engineers, Senior Hydrogeologist, Jackson, MS. 1989-1990.
- #Office of Land and Water Resources, Environmental Scientist, Jackson, MS 1988-1989.
- #MS Geological Survey/Bureau of Geology, Geologist/Environmental Scientist, 1979-1988.

**4) Professional Publications:** 10 publications

**5) Professional Memberships:**

- #Institute of Hazardous Materials Managers;
- #Association of Environmental & Engineering Geologists (LMVS Newsletter Editor)

**6) Professional Certifications, Registrations and Licenses:**

Registered Professional Geologist, Mississippi, RPG No. 0160; Registered Professional Geologist, Arkansas, RPG 242; Certified Hazardous Materials Manager (CHMM), Underground Storage Tank Closure (MS-DEQ)

**7) RPG Related Activities:**

#Member, MSBRPG Advisory Committee, 2007 to present



At the State Capitol during Legislative Day, from left to right, Howard Johnson, RPG; Ken Ruckstuhl, RPG; and Rick Ericksen, RPG, MSBRPG Executive Director

### **LOOKING FOR A NEW JOB OPPORTUNITY?**

The State Personnel Board is currently advertising for a Geologist. For additional information please visit their web site at: [www.spb.state.ms.us](http://www.spb.state.ms.us) and click the link titled "Active Recruitment List" and scroll down to the announced vacancy - Geologist I. This position, as currently offered, requires that you must be a Registered Professional Geologist.

If you qualify and have an interest in this position, contact the State Personnel Board for instructions on how to apply. Closing date for this position is April 30, 2008 - so act quickly.

### **MSBRPG AD HOC ADVISORY COMMITTEE NEWS - 4TH ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE DAY AT THE CAPITOL AND 50TH ANNUAL GEM AND MINERAL SHOW**

**O**n January 26, 2008 the Advisory Committee to the Mississippi Board of Registered Professional Geologists and members of the Association of Environmental & Engineering Geologists, Lower Mississippi Valley Section (AEG-LMVS) met with Legislators for the fourth consecutive year. The Advisory Committee and AEG-LMVS set up a booth, courtesy of Environmental Management Services, Inc., in the Rotunda of the State Capital as a means to promote and increase awareness of practice of professional geology.

The Advisory Committee and the AEG-LMVS members were introduced as distinguished guests at the opening of the day's sessions in the House of Representatives by the Honorable John Read and Honorable Preston Sullivan and by the Honorable Bob Dearing in the Senate. As a token of our appreciation, the Advisory Committee and the AEG-LMVS presented to each Legislator a packet containing a card listing many of the activities of Registered Professional Geologists and a fresh Subway cookie courtesy of URS Corporation. This activity is but one way that geologist can promote the practice of geology, educate the public on exactly what geologists do, and the importance of their work with respect to the safety and well being of the general public.

Currently, legislation is pending in the Mississippi Legislature related to the On Site Waste Water law that has been proposed to include professional geologists during the site evaluation stage of determining the feasibility of waste water disposal in residential areas and varied surficial geologic settings across the state. With that said, the Advisory Committee believes that it is important to continue to spread knowledge about the profession of geology. Interacting with Legislators is but one of many ways that this is accomplished.

On February 23 and 24, 2008 the Advisory Committee to the Mississippi Board of Registered Professional Geologists and members of the AEG-LMVS sponsored a booth at the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Gem and Mineral Show at the Trade Mart in Jackson. As always, it was fun to share our love of geology with the general public. This was a completely different twist from the more formal setting at the capital; however, it was clear to all who participated that almost everyone has some natural curiosity about the wonders of this great earth that we live on.

Never a dull moment sums up the show. Stories varying from great fossil sites to the fossils and rocks found in driveways varied from amazing to amusing. Seeing the fascination, pride, and excitement on each of their faces was nothing but priceless. It was a pleasure to share these experiences and knowledge about our Great State of Mississippi with its wonderful citizens.

Come and join us next year at both of these events. You will be glad you did!

Submitted by:  
Michael J. Wright, RPG  
Chairman, MSBRPG Ad Hoc Advisory Committee



The 2008 Mississippi Gem and Mineral Show and the Advisory Committee's exhibit (standing in back, Ron Tarbutton, RPG, Adv. Cmte. and Jay Ferris, RPG, Board President. In front, unidentified visitor and Dr. James May, RPG, Adv. Cmte.).

***Please notify the Board if you have recently moved or changed employment with your new information!***



**ASSOCIATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS, LOWER MISSISSIPPI VALLEY SECTION**

The LMV Section will be sponsoring the 51<sup>st</sup> AEG Annual Meeting in New Orleans, LA in September, 2008 at the Marriott Hotel. The successful operation of an annual meeting of this magnitude requires a great deal of planning, organization, and coordination. The Meeting Planning Committee's activities include the following areas: Field Trips, Outstanding Environmental Engineering Geology Project, Poster Sessions, Publicity, Short Courses, Sponsors, Spouse Activities/Hospitality Room, Student Coordination, Engineering and Environmental Symposia, Teacher Workshops, and Technical Sessions. Your assistance is welcome if you would like to participate in this event. Drs. Darrell Schmitz and James May, both of which are past presidents of the AEG are co-chairing this meeting. If you have any questions or wish to volunteer to help with the 2008 Annual Meeting or wish to join the AEG-LMVS please

contact the LMV Section Chair, Jay Ferris at: [jferris@earthcon.net](mailto:jferris@earthcon.net) or 601/853-2134.

To learn more about how to become a member and membership benefits of the AEG you may also go to the national web site at: <http://www.aegweb.org>

**NEWS ABOUT OTHER PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

In upcoming RPG newsletters, and also on the MSBRPG's web site, we will be publishing information related to professional organizations who have a presence in and around Mississippi and the southeastern U.S. It appears that many geologists who are registered with this agency may be interested in participating in the activities of some of these organizations. Noted in this issue of the RPG News is the announcement of the Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists and their upcoming Annual Meeting in September, 2008.

**NEXT OFFERING OF THE ASBOG® EXAMINATIONS**

The fall ASBOG® exam date is set for Friday, October 3, 2008 with Tuesday, August 12, 2008 as the deadline for payment of examination fees. Please be aware that you may only take one examination, i.e. the Fundamentals of Geology (FG) or the Practice of Geology (PG) examination during a scheduled exam offering. Before you can place an order for either examination you must have a complete application on file with the Board. Failure to have the necessary information on file will disallow you from sitting for either exam. If you have any questions contact the Board! If you are taking the FG exam as an "exit" exam with the University of Mississippi, Mississippi State University, the University of Southern Mississippi, or Millsaps College, the requirement for the Board's receipt of an application as an enrollee (GIT) is waived.

**REMEMBER - DEADLINE FOR EXAM ORDERS IS TUESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2008!** Please visit the Board's web site or call for additional information.

**COST SAVINGS REALIZED!**

At the beginning of 2007 the MSBRPG began phasing in the change from biennial/quarterly to annual renewals for registration and enrollment. As a result of this change, that was fully implemented at the beginning of this year, **a cost savings of over \$18,000 has been realized that translates as an 83% reduction in the costs incurred by the Board associated with processing renewals.**

PLEASE INDICATE YOUR CHOICE BELOW - VOTE BY CHECKING ONE NOMINEE PER SECTOR  
**RETURN THIS SECTION TO THE BOARD AT: MSBRPG, PO BOX 22742, JACKSON, MS 39225-2742**

**REPORT RPG LAW VIOLATIONS, IT'S YOUR OBLIGATION AS A RPG!**

\*\*\*\*\*DO NOT COPY\*\*\*\*\*  
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**ENVIRONMENTAL/GEOTECHNICAL SECTOR (VOTE FOR ONLY ONE BELOW)**

\*\*\*\*\*DO NOT COPY\*\*\*\*\*  
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**AT LARGE SECTOR (VOTE FOR ONLY ONE BELOW)**

**VOID VOID VOID VOID VOID VOID VOID**

**VOID VOID VOID VOID VOID VOID VOID**

\_\_\_ BRADLEY MARTIN

\_\_\_ JAMIE CRAWFORD

\_\_\_ KEN RUCKSTUHL

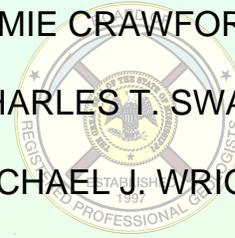
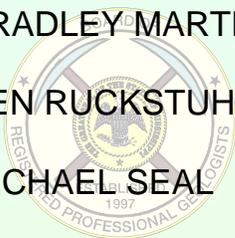
\_\_\_ CHARLES T. SWANN

\_\_\_ MICHAEL SEAL

\_\_\_ MICHAEL J. WRIGHT

**BALLOTS POSTMARKED AFTER APRIL 15, 2008 WILL NOT BE COUNTED**

**BALLOTS POSTMARKED AFTER APRIL 15, 2008 WILL NOT BE COUNTED**





MSBRPG  
P.O. Box 22742  
Jackson, MS 39225-2742

In This Issue.... From the Director, Simplified Stamping and Signing Guidance Document, Disciplinary Actions, MSBRPG-AEG Host Fourth Annual State Capitol Legislative Day, Voting for New Board Members, Cost Savings Realized etc.