2018 Colorado Section Annual Dinner

Doug Peters presenting his talk on environmental studies at three different sites. More photos on pages 8 and 9.

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The Board normally meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 AM; all members are invited to attend. Please contact a Board Member to confirm time and location.

Letters, articles, announcements, ads, etc. must be received by the Editor by the end of the fourth full week of the month preceding publication. Articles may be submitted via e-mail to the editor at: dmageol@msn.com

Call for Articles

The Colorado Section of AIPG newsletter welcomes submission of technical or informational articles for publication. Articles may be submitted via e-mail to the editor at: dmageol@msn.com

(Microsoft Word format is preferred.)

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Contact David at 303-394-0321 for additional information.

Change of email:
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(The National office maintains the address list for all Sections.)

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President’s Letter
Douglas Peters

Welcome to the first CPG issue of 2018! Hard to believe we already are halfway through February. Are we having fun (“time flies…”) or are we just getting older and our sense of time keeps getting more compressed by our mounting experience?

Let’s start with the Colorado Legislature. The 2018 session is in full swing and partisan battle lines are forming on many issues already submitted as bills for discussion and eventual voting. I heard a comment recently that it may be a good thing to have the two chambers (Senate and House) divided between the majority parties because then most proposed bills that are radical in potential effects, regardless of which party proposes them, tend to get halted or killed by one or the other chamber. For example, the effort is afoot again to increase O&G well setbacks from various features (e.g., schools, sensitive areas, residences, etc.) to 2,500 ft, which was shown in 2017 by the Colorado Geological Survey that such an increase WILL lead to nearly complete elimination of all drilling within Colorado due to all the overlap of these no-drill buffers. Presumably, the mutual acceptance process allows only the reasonable and best-interest bills to proceed to final acceptance by both chambers, with or without amendments, and ultimately to the Governor’s desk for signing. Would that that were true all the time, but we still hope for the best in the long run.

The Colorado Section will continue our review of bills, primarily through the efforts of Ron Pritchett, our Legislative-Regulatory (“Leg.-Reg.” for short) Chair, and Betsy Murray, our lobbyist. We also welcome the input of other members, some of whom have been active on legislative matters for many years, to this CO-AIPG process. We ALWAYS encourage members to have direct input to their legislators where possible to get as many informed opinions into the legislative process as we can.

In the latter part of 2017, a position statement on severance taxes and their use was put together by Ron and the section Executive Committee (ExCom). The statement was published in the Fall 2017 CPG (p. 8-10). This was provided to the current legislators just before the 2018 session. Whereas we have had little direct feedback on the matter, we are hoping that the statement at least got the issue into the forefront of the legislators’ thoughts as they entered the annual fray on the state budget.
Editor’s Remarks
David M. Abbott, Jr.

This issue of the Colorado Professional Geologist covers a variety of topics. The most important is a summary of bills submitted for consideration to the Colorado Legislator on the next page. Many of these bills reflect efforts to severely, if not totally, ban the oil and gas business in Colorado. Fortunately, several of them have already been indefinitely postponed, which effectively kills them.

From a differing perspective, HB18-1085, concerning research on the health effects of industrial wind energy turbines, would have required collection of research on the adverse effects of industrial wind turbines. That wind turbines kill birds of all types and can affect other animals is a poorly kept secret. But then anything that points out the negative aspects of alternative energy is politically unpopular and the bill was killed.

A more sensible bill, SB18-041, allowing the incidental use of groundwater by sand and gravel operations is an intelligent proposal to deal with the realities of sand and gravel along the South Platte River and elsewhere around the state where the aggregate pits intersect the water table. The uses allowed do not significantly change the quality of discharged water nor are they generally consumptive as the water is returned to the ground water system.

2018 Annual Meeting
Planning for the 2018 AIPG Annual Meeting in Colorado Springs, September 8th through the 11th is going well. The guest and field trips are pretty well set. Now is the time to submit your abstracts for your presentations. It is also time for you to look around the house for those treasures that you can donate to the Silent Auction. Because the meeting is in Colorado, this is a great time to donate heavy and bulky items like rock and mineral samples. Many of us have entered or will soon enter, the downsizing phase of life. Donating to the Silent Auction is preferable to sending these items to the landfill.

2018 Annual Section Dinner
The Colorado Section’s annual dinner was held February 9th at The Lobby. A good mix of older and student members attended. Professor Bill Hoyt brought a number of students down from UNC who had a chance to meet with actively practicing geoscientists. Some of them even took notes during Doug Peters’ presentation on the environmental study of different sites in Colorado, Utah, and Idaho. Special thanks go to Jessica Davey for organizing the dinner on fairly short notice.

New Editor Needed
I’ve been the CPG Editor for a couple of years now and I’m frankly ready to retire. If you’re interested in taking over as editor, please let me know.

Support AIPG: Click on the Advertisers in the AIPG eNews
AIPG receives income from the advertisers in the AIPG eNews that is based on the number times an ad is clicked. Help increase AIPG’s non-dues income by clicking on the eNews advertiser’s ads. You may or may not choose to read the ads.
HB18-1038: Concerning establishing a continuing education requirement for professional land surveyors: While geologists are not licensed in Colorado, this bill reflects a growing national trend to require minimum amount of continuing education for licensed professions.

HB18-1069: Concerning the regulation of oil and gas operations in a manner consistent with the protection of public safety. This bill could be used as an excuse to ban oil and gas activities in Colorado because they possibly might affect health, safety, environmental effects, etc. It passed the 3rd reading in the House with no amendments.

HB18-1071: Concerning water districts’ ability to enter into contracts regarding their water-related assets. This bill can be viewed as making it easier for water districts to conduct business.

HB18-1085: Concerning research on the health effects of industrial wind energy turbines. This bill would require the Depart of Public Health and Environment to research and compile information on the health effects of noise and stray voltage from industrial wind turbines on humans and animals. This bill has been postponed indefinitely, that is killed.

HB18-1150: Concerning a requirement that a local government that interferes with oil and gas operations compensate persons damaged by the interference. An interesting idea that is unlikely to pass the House.

HB18-1157: Concerning increased reporting of oil and gas incidents. This bill specifies additional reporting of oil and gas incidents defined as both major and minor. There are a number of specifics in the bill.

SB18-003: Concerning the Colorado Energy Office. This bill makes a variety of changes, eliminating some existing duties and adding others.

SB18-041: Concerning the ability of operators of sand and gravel mines to use water incidental to sand and gravel mining operations to mitigate the impacts of mining. This bill permits sand and gravel operations to use water incidental to open pit mining for processing and washing the sand and gravel, dust suppression, mined land reclamation, production of concrete and other aggregate-based construction materials, dewatering, and the mitigation of the impacts from mining and dewatering. This bill looks like something the Colorado Section could support.

SB18-048: Concerning the ability of a local government to exercise land use authority over oil and gas facilities used in oil and gas operations in a manner analogous to the siting of other industrial facilities, and, in connection therewith, enacting the “Protect Act.” This bill begins by listing all the reasons oil and gas activities potentially harm health and grant local governments the ability to regulate oil and gas activities within their jurisdiction. The list of potential harms is an alarmist’s dream list. Fortunately, the bill has been postponed indefinitely.

SB18-063: Concerning increased requirements for oil and gas operators, and, in connection therewith, adding financial assurance and reclamation requirements. This bill has been postponed indefinitely.

SB18-064: Concerning an update to the renewable energy standard to require that all electric utilities derive their energy from one hundred percent renewable sources by 2035. This bill has been postponed indefinitely.

SB18-117: Concerning the collection of greenhouse gas emissions data. This bill extends current greenhouse gas date collection requirements and extends them to an economy-wide basis. Greenhouse gases are defined as CO₂, CH₄, N₂O, HFCs, PFCs, SF₆, and NF₃.

SB18-143: Memorializing Congress to eliminate subsidies for energy industries. This bill defines “subsidies” to the energy industry as the deductibility of the costs of exploration and development, depletion allowances, For everyone else, these “subsidies” are normally deductible business expenses. This bill has been postponed indefinitely.
The Governor’s Office of Boards and Commissions is looking for applicants for the Board of Examiners of Water Well Construction and Pump Installation Contractors to fill a term expiring June 30, 2018.

The candidate must be an engineer or geologist with a minimum of ten years' experience in water supply and well construction preceding their appointment.

All members are appointed for four-year terms, but no member will be reappointed to or serve more than two consecutive four-year terms. Members serve without compensation but will be reimbursed for actual expenses necessarily incurred in their official business. The Board meets at least once every three months (the first Monday in February, May, August, and November) and at such other times as it deems necessary or advisable. Meetings are held in Room 814, 1313 Sherman Street, Denver, CO 80203.

Please view this document to see the duties of the Board, http://water.state.co.us/DWRIPub/Documents/duties.pdf. Additional information regarding the Board of Examiners can be found on the Division of Water Resources website, http://water.state.co.us/groundwater/BOE. To apply, please fill out an online application on the Governor’s Office of Boards and Commissions webpage, https://www.colorado.gov/governor/boards-commissions-application. Although applications will be considered until the position has been filled, applicants are encouraged to submit their applications by June 1, 2018. For additional information please visit, https://www.colorado.gov/governor/boards-commissions

Job Opening—Chair, UNC
Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences

The University of Northern Colorado has authorized the external chair search for the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences: https://careers.unco.edu/postings/2071

Screening of applications will begin on March 2, 2018 and will continue until the position is filled. Interested persons should apply online at https://careers.unco.edu and select “View/Apply for Faculty Positions” then choose “Department Chair – Earth and Atmospheric Science.”

Application documents to be submitted online are a letter of application/cover letter, a curriculum vitae, a statement of teaching philosophy and research interests, a list of references, and unofficial transcripts. A statement of leadership philosophy also should be submitted via the online application process in the “Other Document” category. Recommendation providers will be contacted once application is complete, and they will be asked to upload their letter for your application. Three letters of recommendation are required.

For inquiries, please contact: Dr. Cindy Shellito, Search Committee Chair, Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, University of Northern Colorado, Campus Box 100, 501 20th Street, Greeley, CO 80639.

Applied Volcanology 14-day Field course in Italy

A Rare Applied Volcanology 14-day Field course in Italy this Summer with a 4-day addendum trip looking at a NS transect through the Swiss Alps. A few slots are available for a maximum of 14 participants.


Course leader: Dr. Uwe Kackstaetter, MSUD
Volunteer to judge at the Colorado Science & Engineering Fair

The Colorado Section is again participating in the Colorado Science and Engineering Fair (CS&E). Judging will be held Thursday, April 5th, from Noon to 5 PM at Colorado State University’s Lory Student Center. As in the past, the Colorado Section will award a first and second place award in both the Junior Division (grades 6-8) and the Senior Division (grades 9-12).

Tom Van Arsdale will again lead the Colorado Section judging group. Please contact Tom at tomvangarsdale@gmail.com or 901-268-3323 to sign up and obtain more detailed information. Tom wrote the following article about being a CS&E judge.

Hope Ain’t Dead—The Colorado State Science and Engineering Fair
Tom Van Arsdale
Executive Director-Denver Earth Resources Library

“If it bleeds, it leads.” Sorrowfully, that is today’s mantra of both the visual and print media. Ed Morrow is, indeed, dead. What is never discussed logically is that, at a minimum, 1% of a given human population creates people that have brains that just don’t click right. Considering that statistic, in a country such as the US, with over 350 million people, that calculates to 70,000 nut-jobs per state. Of course there will be mayhem and debauchery! Simply put, that’s why we have prisons, and I’m glad we have them; nut-jobs are nut-jobs.

That said, there is another side to the coin, which the media seem to ignore. I am statistically confident that the sun will rise in the east tomorrow, and that leads me to my upcoming and fourth experience as a CO-Section, AIPG judge with the Colorado State Science and Engineering Fair (CSEF).

Every year, I am reassured, and fortified, that the world isn’t coming to an end. The work of these kids is outstanding, and I can attest to you all, you’re in good hands. The Junior category of CSEF kids (grades 6-8) are striving to be decent human beings, and they are using science/engineering to achieve their goals—as Joseph Campbell stressed, “Follow your bliss.”—and they are; and it’s a blast to witness!

And then there’s the Senior category (grades 9–12). These young adults are producing work, that at times, I cannot comprehend. I’m serious! Every year, Fairview High School, in Boulder, and Cherry Creek (both must have some terrific science teachers) produce such fascinating work, and research, that it simply blows-me-away. EVERY YEAR! Without hesitation, I tip my hat to those teachers (and students).

Finding your State Senator and State Representative

Go to: https://leg.colorado.gov/find-my-legislator; this brings up a map of Colorado. Either enter your address in box in the upper left part of the map or zoom into your address. Then the names and contact information for your State Senator and State Representative are provided. Clicking on the *Detailed House or Senate District Information hyperlinks under your Senator’s or Representative’s name brings up some demographic information about each district.
2018 Annual Meeting Updates

Annual Meeting Short Courses Being Planned

Two short courses are being planned for the 2018 AIPG Annual Meeting, a course on the use of RockWorks and a course on how to create a webinar for the AIPG/AGI Geoscience Online Learning Initiative (GOLI) program.

The RockWorks short course will be held on Saturday, September 8th from 9 AM to 4 PM. The course will be taught by Jim Reed, Rockware’s Director of Research and Development. The topics to be covered will be selected by participants from among the various parts of RockWorks.

Students will supply their own laptops and will be able to download a fully functional but time-limited copy of RockWorks if they do not already have a licensed copy.

The course on the GOLI webinar program sponsored by AIPG and AGI will be presented on Monday, September 10th by Heather Houlton of AGI and David Abbott. The course will cover the creation of a webinar, its live presentation, and conversion for posting on the GOLI website. A variety of webinars are currently available at https://goli.americangeosciences.org/courses. The GOLI program is a method of providing quality continuing professional development programs that can be accessed from anywhere with internet access and at any convenient time. Abbott’s courses are on professional ethics.

Annual Meeting Presentations: Start Planning Yours Now

If you would like to attend the 2018 AIPG Annual Meeting next September and you would like your employer to give you the time to attend and maybe pay your registration fee and other expenses, consider giving a presentation at the meeting on an interesting project you are working on. Such presentations let others know something about the type of work you and your employer do. So start planning your presentation now.

Would you like to put together a topical session of 3 presentations? Your proposal will be welcomed. Please send your proposal to Doug Peters and/or Ron Pritchett at dcpeters@tuveraexploration.com and/or pritchett61@msn.com.

Jessica Davey, Betsy Murray, & Tom Van Arsdale at the Colorado Section’s annual dinner.
The annual meeting will feature a silent auction to benefit the AIPG Foundation. This is an opportunity to downsize your ever-growing collection of geology-related stuff: rock and mineral specimens, fossils, books, maps, old hammers, stereoscopes, etc. Since the meeting is in Colorado Springs, shipping weight is not an issue for donors. At the 2013 annual meeting, I donated my copy of the RMAG Atlas, that huge red book. This year I’m donating a 1939 dynamite box I got from Steve Zahoney. You also can deduct the value of your donation from your income tax in the charitable donation category.