AIPG GEORGIA SECTION

December 2016

HAVE A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A GREAT 2017

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

At this time of year it's nice to reflect on what we have accomplished. Our section has had a very good year in that we awarded six $500.00 scholarships to six students. We had a drilling demonstration at Georgia Southwestern State University, we co-sponsored the 2nd SouthEastern States Vapor Intrusion Symposium, visited five of our chapters to present scholarships, had one student win an AIPG National scholarship, field trip to Tybee Island for the deep water-well project, two career talks, two technical talks on a remediation site, had a booth at GSA Southeastern in Columbia, SC, a caving field trip, sponsored lunch at Georgia Ground Water Association, and recently had two meetings with the officers from five of our chapters. We plan to award eight $500.00 scholarships for 2017and support our seven student chapters with the addition of our newest student chapter at Berry College.

I do want to remind everyone to pay their annual dues to AIPG National. Your dues are very important to the organization. Our section does not receive any money from National and it's through our conference and generosity of our members that we can award student scholarships and money to support our student chapters.

On March 30 - 31, 2017, we will have a booth at GSA Southeastern Conference in Richmond, VA. Mike Lawless from Virginia and past AIPG National President and I are co-chairing a session on "Geoscience Careers for New Geoscience Graduates". The deadline to submit an abstract is January 3, 2017, and we could use a few more speakers and this will make a difference for the students.

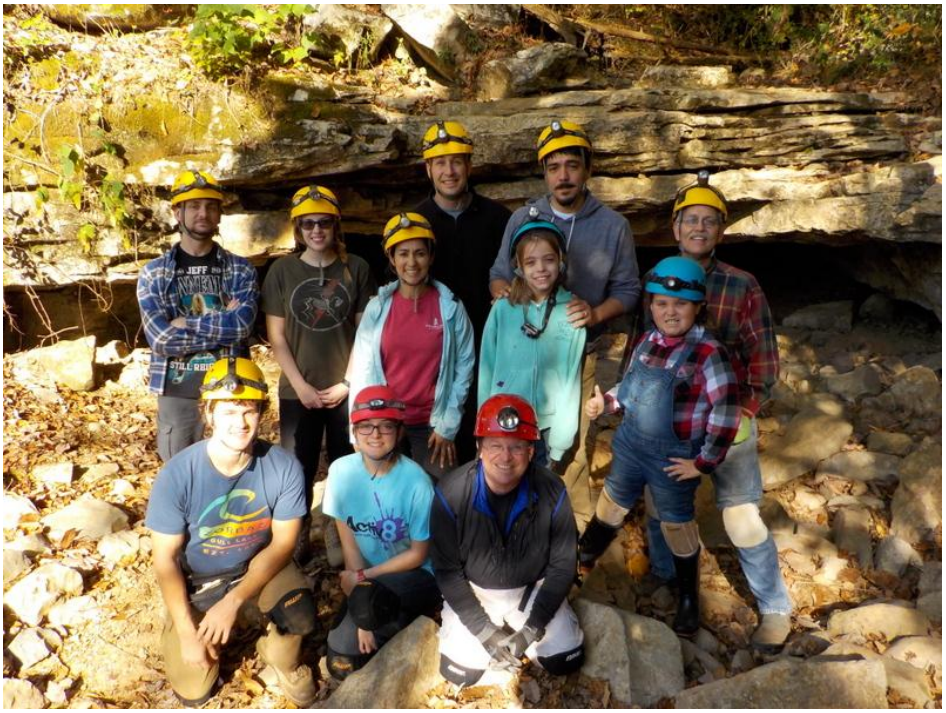
Our 7th Conference on: Innovative Environmental Assessment and Remediation Technology is scheduled for April 18-19, 2017. We are planning a session on interpreting Laser Induced Florence (LIF). We expect to have a few EPD talks to discuss all the new guidance documents for the UST Program and the new risked-based corrective action that will be implemented.

We are teaming with Georgia Ground Water Association and plan to have some luncheon talks. As we get further along in the planning you will hear more on this. The 2017 AIPG National Conference will be in Nashville, TN September 23-26, 2017.

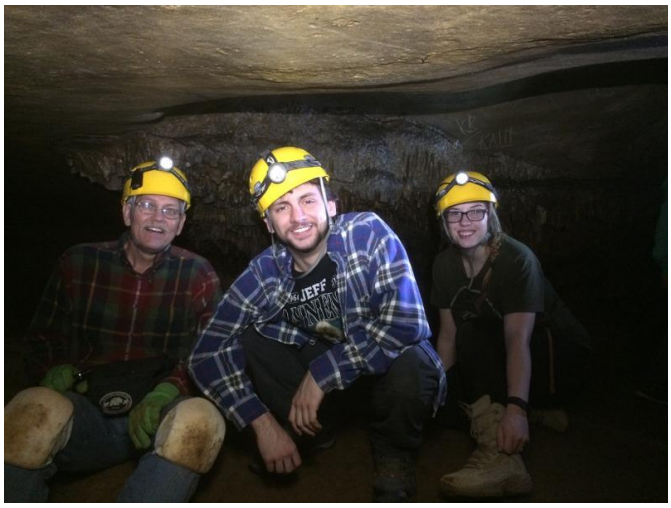
LAST MEETING

On November 5, 2016, we drove up to the northwest part of Georgia to crawl around Ordovician-age limestone of Lookout Valley located between Sand and Lookout Mountains near Trenton, Georgia. I have been there a few times before but I had forgotten how much stooping, crawling on your knees, and belly

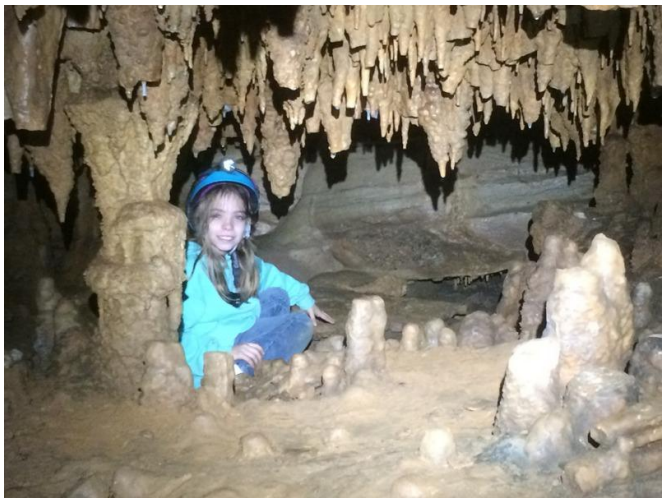
dragging you had to do. We had a fun group mostly from Columbus State to go on the trip and Cal Johnson was a great leader in his discussions in the cave on the geology and geomorphology.



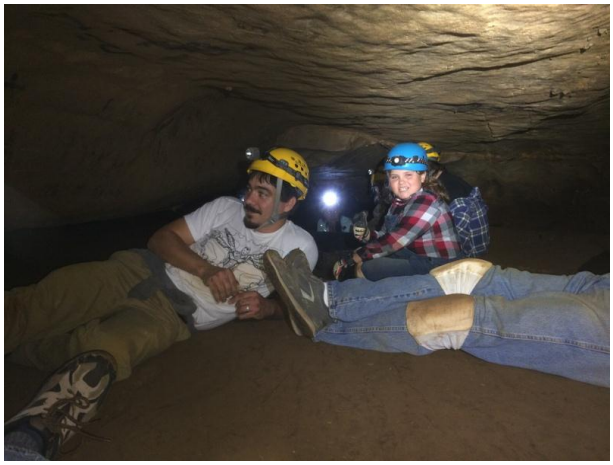
Before we enter the cave



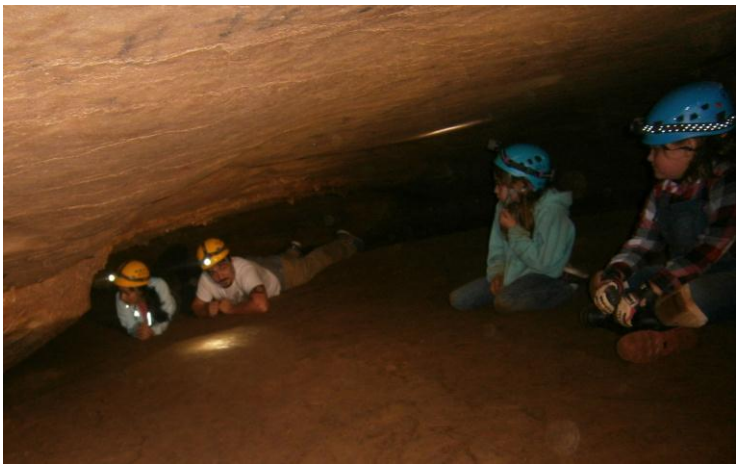
Early in the trip



Stalactites and stalagmites



Low roof



Lots of belly crawling

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Our section continues to grow. We have one new Certified Professional Geologist Ms. Maria Pijnenburg. Please welcome the following new Professional Members and Student Members that joined as of November 2, 2016.

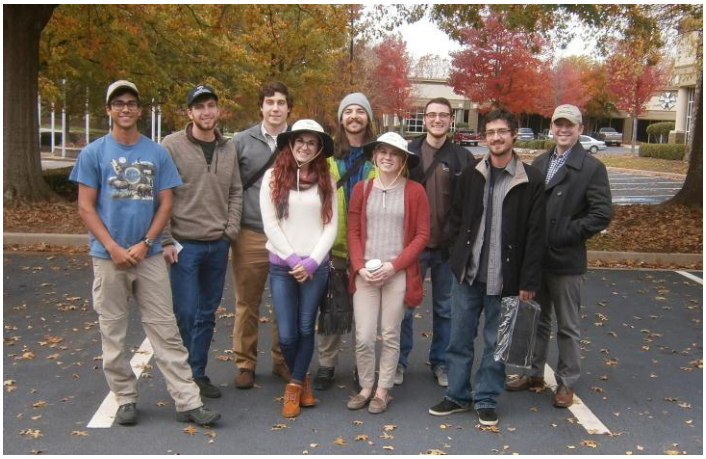
Ms. Margaret F. Highsmith, Mr. William Keith Rice, Mr. John Schwaller, Mr. Adam Stevens Acker, Mr. Robert White Aiken, Mr. Erik C. Alberts, Ms. Jessica Anderson, Mr. Aaron Wolfgang Ashley, Mr. Fatai Olabanji Balogun, Mr. Matthew Bentley, Ms. Elizabeth Diane Birge, Ms. Donata Borsos, Mr. Shad L. Brooks, Miss. Emma J Cook, Ms. Candice M. Crigler, Mr. Michael S. Dibble, Mr. Matthew C. Dietel, Mr. MacKenzie Richmond Duffey, Ms. Shannon Fuller, Mr. John Patrick Gammans, Mrs. Vada Garbutt, Mrs. Stephanie Gatlin, Mr. David Gilbert, Mr. Ouzal Arne Hinz, Ms. April Marie Holloway, Mr. Jessie Hughes, Mr. Robert Jackson, Ms. Emily Jean Larrimore, Mr. Jacob Lindsey, Mr. Russell Clayton Madden, Mr. Ethan Milam, Mr. Justyn Patterson, Ms. Mallory Paulk, Ms. Emily Purcell, Mr. Jacob Phillip Sanders, Mr. Steven Ryan Smith, Mr. Clayton Steven Watts, Mr. Zachary Marcus Wells, Miss. Shadae Myrtle Ann Williams, Mr. John Timothy Williams, Miss. Mary E Winsor, Ms. Sarah N. Wright, and Mr. Ian Van Wynn

To each of our new members the officers of the Georgia Section welcome you to our section and encourage you to attend our field trips and other activities.

RECENT MEETING WITH STUDENT OFFICERS

On two Saturdays this fall we had meetings with student officers from five of our student chapters. The purpose was to introduce them to AIPG and what the organization at National level and in Georgia can offer them. We gave each student a flash drive that had one of our conference's abstracts and presentations, student application, student brochure, scholarship program, student chapter of the year, getting a job article, and why become a member. The students enjoyed meeting each other and were very interested in having joint meetings. We received some great ideas from the students and told them some of the activities we were planning for 2017. We gave them some AIPG gifts and afterwards went to lunch for further discussions and just enjoying talking to fellow geologists.

Columbus State and Berry College



University of Georgia, Georgia State, and University of North Georgia

FEDERAL DOCUMENTS

World Energy Council releases 2016 World Energy Resources Report

The World Energy Council, a United Nations-accredited global energy consortium, released its 2016 World Energy Resources Report on October 12. Since its inception in 2010, the report has shown a global trend toward a more diversified global energy portfolio. The report provides a comparative analysis of global primary energy sources over the last fifteen years.

According to the report, wind and solar energy have increased their share of the global energy portfolio by 0.81 percent and 0.39 percent, respectively; and although oil is still recognized as the primary energy source, its contribution to the global energy portfolio has declined 0.55 percent since 2010.

The report also identifies challenges for future growth of the renewable energy sector. For example, the unstable supply of rare earth elements, which are key components in clean energy technology such as solar panels and electric cars, is listed as a potential limiting factor to growth.

The World Energy Resources report was released just after the official ratification of the international Paris Climate Agreement. The report states that progress toward a more renewable-dependent global energy portfolio is too slow to meet emissions targets within the Paris Agreement, and that public acceptance of renewable energy sources remains a challenge.

Five federal agencies take action to improve water and energy efficiency

Five federal agencies are working to increase consumers' awareness of the benefits of switching to water- and energy-efficient fixtures and building codes.

The U.S. Departments of Agriculture, Veterans Affairs, and Housing and Urban Development (HUD) have released statements encouraging homeowners to install WaterSense-certified fixtures in their homes and providing relevant consumer information about their benefits. The EPA's WaterSense program labels products that have a "potential for significant water savings on a national level" and has saved the U.S. upwards of 1.5 trillion gallons of water since its introduction in 2006. HUD has also announced that they will begin collecting data on 2.2 million multi-family homes to determine how much energy and water they use. These data will help inform consumers, create benchmarks for home efficiency, and improve future HUD programs.

The Department of Energy also recently commissioned an analysis from the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory to assess the benefits of keeping up to date on the latest building energy codes. The analysis is yet to be released, but if consistently employed, the White House estimates that the codes could decrease national carbon emissions by more than 800 million metric tons over the next 25 years.

The White House will also do its part to increase its water- and energy-efficiency: it plans to seek $2 billion in energy performance contracts within the next three years and to save 2 billion gallons of water.

The current status of the Paris Climate Agreement

The Paris Climate Agreement reached the minimum requirements necessary to enter into force this October, four years earlier than the previously anticipated 2020 target. At least 55 nations representing at least 55 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions have ratified the agreement, which encourages participating nations to implement practices that ensure global temperatures will not rise more than 2 degrees Celsius over 1850-1900 preindustrial levels.

The latest nations to enter into the agreement are India and the European Union (EU). India ratified the Paris Agreement on October 2 on Mahatma Gandhi's birthday. The country's leaders were originally hesitant to join the Paris Agreement over concerns that rapidly cutting carbon emissions would hurt India's coal-centered economy. According to the World Resources Institute, India contributes 4.1 percent of total global emissions. The EU voted jointly in favor of the agreement on October 4, but each member nation is responsible for its own contribution under the agreement.

The United States and China each ratified the Agreement just before the G20 Summit in Hangzhou, China, on September 3. Because the agreement is non-binding, it does not require ratification by a two-thirds vote in the U.S. Senate. Instead, the Obama administration is treating it as an executive agreement.

Specific actions to achieve the Paris Agreement's goals vary by country and will be discussed at the upcoming 22nd Conference of Parties (COP 22) in Marrakesh in November 2016.

United States and United Kingdom fund research on Thwaites Glacier, Antarctica

The National Science Foundation (NSF) and the U.K.-based Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) are partnering to fund $25 million in scientific research to study the Thwaites Glacier in West Antarctica. The research will attempt to shed light on the glacier's accelerated ice loss and how melting glaciers may impact future sea level rise.

The Thwaites Glacier is a marine-terminating glacier, which has been losing ice at double its normal rate for the last six years. The partnership includes a joint program solicitation that will award continuing federal grants for scientific research on the Thwaites Glacier and Amundsen Sea Region. There will be an initial field research staging season from October 2018 through February 2019 and a specific research reason to study the Thwaites Glacier from October 2019 through February 2020. An ad-hoc panel composed of NSF and NERC reviewers will assess the grant proposals.

NERC also announced a series of research objectives to be carried out with U.K. funding alone. These include airborne geophysical surveys and oceanographic monitoring of the Amundsen Sea, ice-sheet layer radar chronology of the Thwaites Glacier basin, ice-velocity mapping, and updating the U.K. Earth System Model (UKESM) that will study enhanced ice-ocean interactions.

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