



# American Institute of Professional Geologists Michigan Section

October 2010

## From the President's Desk

It's hard to believe that 2010 is almost over and that my tenure as Section President will end shortly. What is even harder to imagine is that I have been on the executive board for four years. Time certainly flies when you are having fun. I have enjoyed my time on the board and would strongly encourage members who are considering a contribution to the Section to run for the open Secretary position that will be voted on at the December 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. The time commitment is minimal, but the rewards are huge. You'll make new friends, network with your peers, and more importantly, help shape the Section for future members. Take the plunge; you won't regret it. On a personal note, I intend to continue to advise/contribute to the Section in any way possible as "past president" in 2011 and beyond. I challenge you to do the same.

I would also like to remind everyone that there are numerous awards available for the membership and those in the geosciences profession. Details of the awards program can be found on the Section Website. Also available on the website are the forms to apply for one of the Section's Educational Grants, so if you have children in an earth science class or know a teacher in the earth sciences, pass along the form.

2010 has been a tough year for Michigan, and by extension, many of us. We all know members that have lost jobs, taken pay cuts or simply left the profession in search of a brighter future. The experts say the recession is over and we are in a recovery. I am not so sure that I believe them, but I do know a brighter future is coming. I believe that through the leadership of the current and past executive boards, and more importantly, the overall commitment of the membership that the Michigan Section is in a solid position financially and is positioned for growth. Lynelle Marolf (Chief of the MDNRE RD) was the keynote speaker at our last meeting and provided a great overview of pending regulatory changes. One of the takeaways is that the pending passage of PA201 reforms will increase

the relevance of having a CPG certification and/or PG license in the future, which can provide a vehicle for our growth. In addition, as a Section we continue to see steady, if not growing, participation of students at our functions. They are the future, support them.

Jason Lagowski, CPG – 2010 Michigan Section President

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## Section Officers Reports

President: Information presented in the "From the President's Desk" article above.

Vice President: As the current Vice President of the AIPG - Michigan Section, last month I attended and represented the Section at the AIPG National Annual Meeting held in Orlando. The organization's business meeting was conducted on the first day. This included reports from each attending section on the state of their respective sections and the election of members to the National Advisory Board.

The Michigan Section's report to the National Advisory Board summarized our recent accomplishments, plans and issues. This included discussing our actions to raise funds and distribute educational grants as well as our attempts to get professional licensing legislation passed, and the near death experience encountered by the Geology Department at MSU. I found that our colleagues in other states share many of our issues and challenges.

A reoccurring topic was the need to improve outreach to students, the public and law makers. Ideas and experiences were offered on how to generate more interest in geology within school systems and the mentoring of college geology students who represent the future of our profession. A critical component to be successful is the education of decision makers on the importance of our science and our profession.

Specific ideas on raising funds, awarding grants, continuing education and outreach to students have been shared with the executive meeting and will be

considered in the future. However, as always, if anyone has specific interest or ideas on these or other matters related to the Section, please share the idea, voice your interest and help our section improve.

One challenge that some sections continue to face that the Michigan Section has not, is the participation level of the membership on the local Executive Committee. Certain sections have only a few people who continuously serve on their respective committees. Not only is this burdensome to those few serving, it does not help foster fresh ideas and energy. The Michigan Section has been well served by its membership with a continuous source of new blood working its way through the committee. I believe that this is good for the committee, good for those individuals willing to participate and most importantly good for the Section. The Section is still looking for someone to run for the Executive Committee position that starts as Secretary in 2011.

Attending the national meeting is worthwhile. Next year's meeting in the Chicago suburb of Bloomingdale represents a great opportunity for many to attend. I encourage you to do so. I want to thank the Section for sending me to and allowing me to represent them.

Treasurer: Our account balance is good going into the Fourth Quarter of 2010. We currently have a balance of ~\$16K. We are on track to continue offering our educational advancement awards for K-12 teachers. Please remember to pay your AIPG dues prior to January 1, 2011. A percentage of your dues comes back to our section.

Secretary: AIPG-Michigan Section Executive Committee met on September 23, 2010 at Guerrazzi's, Lansing, MI. Meeting attendees included: Jason Lagowski, Don Conway, Dawn Prell, Sarah Pearson, and John Barkach (Secretary). Adam Heft participated for part of the meeting via conference call. During the meeting we discussed the annual Section field trip in July, the Treasury's report, the National AIPG Meeting, educational grants, and an upcoming opportunity to pursue licensure in Michigan in conjunction with the Part 201 amendments. With respect to the upcoming Section meeting, Jason Lagowski has been in communication with Bill Harrison's office and indicated that he is willing to be the speaker at our December meeting.

September 23, 2010 Section Meeting Presentation and the Status of SB437. Ms. Lynelle Marolf, Director of the MDNRE Remediation Division discussed the status of Part 201 Amendments and funding. This presentation was attended by 47 AIPG members and guests.

Sara Pearson discussed the annual AIPG Michigan Section field trip. The field trip included visits to the

Kennecott Mine Core Facility, Humboldt Mine, Cliffs Shaft Mine Iron Museum, and Upper Peninsula Roadside Geology. The field trip ran from July 22-24. Thirty AIPG members and their guests attended the field trip.

Jason Lagowski discussed the education awards. The purpose of the education awards is to encourage students and educators regarding the earth sciences, and in particular, the study of geology. A notice of the Education Awards form will be contained in the upcoming AIPG-Michigan Section newsletter.

Dawn Prell reported on the Section account balance. The rollover of certificates of deposit (CDs) was discussed; a total five CDs roll over at one year intervals. Two awards are anticipated at this time, a \$500 education grant and a \$500 Technical Poster Award to be presented at the Annual Meeting.

Jason Lagowski discussed announcement of the availability of the Secretary position. This position was announced at the September 23 section meeting and will also be posted in the AIPG-Michigan section newsletter.

Sarah Pearson discussed the potential opportunity to pursue licensure in Michigan in conjunction with the Part 201 amendments. Currently, the Part 201 amendments contain a provision requiring that a RAP be prepared by either a Certified Professional Geologist or a Professional Engineer.

Don Conway discussed the National Meeting that was held in Orlando, Florida. Topics of discussion included: the decline of AIPG membership nationally, the closing of the geology departments at several major Universities (Kentucky and Florida State University), educating the public and government sector regarding the geology and earth science professions, and mentoring students. The National Meeting was hosted by the Florida Association of Professional Geologists in Orlando, Florida.

The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for December 2nd, at Western Michigan University. This meeting will be held in Kalamazoo in conjunction with the upcoming Michigan Section meeting.

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## Coming Events

**October 22-24, 2010:** The Central Michigan's 45th Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil, Lapidary & Jewelry Show is being held at the "Main Arena" at the Ingham County Fairgrounds in Mason, Michigan.

**November 10, 2010:** MBGS meeting, Michigan State University, Natural Science building, 7:00 pm, room 204. The speaker is Dr. William Harrison, Western Michigan University, presenting, "Geology of the Utica Shale and

Collingwood Member of the Trenton Formation in the Michigan Basin". There is no charge for this meeting.

**November 15-19, 2010:** Marietta College Petroleum Engineering and Geology Department is conducting a special Well Control training class that will be held on the Marietta College campus. Wild Well Control will be offering their Well Servicing Grand Slam Series... the IADC/API New Well/ Workover Well Servicing Course. For more information, please contact Laura Pytlik, at the Department of Petroleum Engineering for registration and payment arrangements (740.376.4775, or at [pytlik@marietta.edu](mailto:pytlik@marietta.edu)).

**December 2, 2010: AIPG Section Meeting:** "The New Shale Play (Collingwood)" by Dr. William B. Harrison III, PhD, Professor Emeritus of Western Michigan University and Curator of the MGREE.

Location: The Fetzer Center, Kalamazoo.

Dinner: Buffet style, with herb grilled chicken breast, six cheese ravioli, bow tie and penne pasta, Bolognese sauce, Alfredo sauce, Parmesan cheese, Chef's choice of vegetable, Caesar salad, Pesto pasta salad, Italian bread sticks, Assorted dessert table.

Schedule: Cash Bar 5:30-6:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM, and Speaker 7:30-9:00 PM.

Cost: Students free, Members \$35.00, Non-members \$40.00.

**RSVP by November 30, 2010:** RSVP to John Barkach at [jbarkach@glec-tc.com](mailto:jbarkach@glec-tc.com). Notice by e-mail is preferred, and please include AIPG in the subject line. John can also be reached at (248) 489-0900.

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## The 2010 Annual Meeting Was Great

The 2010 Annual Meeting was held in Orlando, Florida, and it was a good meeting to have attended. As usual, the National Executive Committee attended to business of the institute, and the Advisory Board meetings were a forum for the attending section delegates to provide information on their successes and struggles. As Don Conway has done a good job summarizing these meetings (see the Officer's report and the article about Larry Austin's award), I'll provide a quick summary on other aspects of the meeting, beginning with two of the field trips.

So... just sit right back, and you'll hear a tale, a tale of a fishing trip. Ok, ok, it wasn't a three-hour tour. It was a five-hour tour (once we got to the docks, which were near Cape Canaveral). And the boat wasn't the Minnow, it was the Canaveral Star. The fearless crew took the dozen of us out between 16 and 18 miles to do our deep sea fishing in about 80 feet of water. No, we weren't storm tossed; in fact, the sea was about as calm as it could be expected to be.

Once out to our first location, passing numerous pelicans and floating jellyfish to get there, we began fishing with pieces of small fish. In a short time, everyone began reeling in black sea bass or shark,

pretty much one after another. There were a few other fish caught as well, including a respectable red snapper, and a ribbon fish. We saw a king fish jumping about 1,000 feet off the stern, as well as other smaller fish, closer to us. We even had a few pods of dolphin playing in our wake on the way back.

Although it was hot, no one seemed to mind while the fish were jumping in the boat. Many of the fish were too small to keep, but there were quite a few that were brought back to the dock with us. In spite of the fact that two of the trip participants were from the Michigan Section, neither of us managed to win the fishing pool. Better luck next time.



The group's "catch of the day," which include two sharks, a parrot fish, and two sharks. Photograph courtesy of Adam Heft.

The second field trip I attended was to the phosphate mining district southwest of Orlando. This district has supplied about 75 percent of the phosphate needs of the US since mining began. We had the opportunity to see (and ride in) one of the large drag lines used to mine the phosphate deposits, and see how the ore is turned into a slurry using a large water cannon (about 300 psi and 13,000 gpm), and pumped to the processing plant.



The phosphate mining drag line with its 55 cubic yard "bucket" in action. Photograph courtesy of Adam Heft.

After viewing the mining operations, we had the opportunity to collect fossils, first in one of the spent slurry pits, and later at a location where the discarded material is stockpiled. Many bone fragments and shark teeth were found. This was an interesting area for fossil collecting, since it was possible to find fossils of both marine and terrestrial varieties in the same deposit.

In addition to the field trips, there were of course many good technical papers on a variety of subjects presented during the three days of technical sessions. The icebreaker event and the awards dinner were also well worth attending, particularly when someone you know and respect is receiving one of the awards – way to go, Larry!

The 2011 meeting will be held in Bloomington, Illinois and the 2012 meeting will be held in Rapid City, South Dakota. Since next year's meeting will be within reasonable driving distance from Michigan, you should plan to attend, even if only for a day or two, as the Annual Meetings are a good opportunity for networking.

As always, if anyone has any comments or concerns that they would like presented to the National Executive Committee, please feel free to send them to me, and I'll take them to the meetings. If you prefer, I can make the comments anonymous. Please speak up; this is your chance to provide input directly to the national executive committee. Both compliments and criticisms are welcome.

Adam Heft, CPG –Michigan Section Newsletter  
Editor and 2010-11 National Secretary

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## **Welcome New Members**

The Michigan Section is continuing to grow. Please welcome the following new CPGs, members, and students:

Thomas Hernick, and John Freeland.

To each of our new members, the Michigan Section Executive Committee would like to welcome you to our section, and encourage you to attend section meetings and other events. You are also welcome to provide information for the Member's Corner articles.

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## **Part 201 Amendments Pass the Senate and Await Decision in the House**

Long awaited amendments to Part 201 may soon become official. This message was reported to AIPG by Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment Remediation Division (MDNRE RD) Division Chief Lynelle Marolf at our September 23, 2010 meeting.

In fact, Division Chief Marolf had provided testimony the morning of the 23rd to the House New Economy and Quality of Life Committee. The following is a brief description of some of the major changes that are expected to be passed as early as November or December of this year and will take effect immediately.

The Baseline Environmental Assessment process will be based on the federal rule for All Appropriate Inquiry (AAI) with the addition of requirements for sufficient sampling to document facility status. The petitions and associated fees will no longer be part of the process.

Due Care provisions will be expanded to align with the federal rule for Bona Fide Prospective Purchaser, which means that the new owner will need to cooperate with persons conducting cleaning, comply with restrictions, and not interfere with restrictions or response activities. The due care exemption for local governments that use, or invite the public to use, contaminated property owned by the local government will be eliminated. For example, if a formerly contaminated property is converted to a public park owned by the local government, the local government will no longer be exempt from exercising appropriate due care responsibilities.

The reports required under Part 201 will be referred to as Response Activity reports. Self-implementation is still allowed and encouraged except for specific situations, which are mostly unchanged from current requirements. The DNRE RD will still need to provide input and/or approvals for local ordinances, mixing zones, in-situ remedies, groundwater cleanup waivers, and calculation of site specific cleanup criteria. The timeframe for which the DNRE RD will have to review the reports will be reduced from 180 days to 150 days. If the review is not conducted within the timeframe, an approval will be granted by operation of law. The ability to appeal technical issues will be handled by a new Response Activity Review Panel that will be comprised of 15 technical professionals with only 5 members assigned to specific appeals based upon their technical expertise and the issue being appealed. A fee of \$3,500 will be charged for the appeals. The panel is advisory and makes recommendations to the director.

The new amendments also provide for No Further Action Reports. When all cleanup requirements have been satisfied, the party may submit a report to get a No Further Action determination. The reports will require affidavits from the submitter and the environmental professional. It allows for departure from standard and post closure plan requirements and is subject to the statutory review period and may be approved by operation of law if the timeframe is

exceeded. There are also provisions for reopening sites if conditions are not addressed, the remedy fails, etc... Appeals over technical issues in the No Further Action Report can be brought to the Response Activity Review Panel.

Another major change is the groundwater/surface water interface (GSI) implementation. There will be modifications to the rules related to site-specific monitoring points. The amendments also include a statement that Water Quality Standards are GSI Criteria.

For further details on the new amendments, refer to Senate Bills 437, 1345, 1346, 1347, 1348, and 1349. Links to the bills are provided on the AIPG Michigan Section website.

Watch for DNRE listserver notices and the website for updates and information as progress is made toward implementing the bills when they are passed.

Sara Pearson, CPG, MDNRE RD Senior Geologist, Michigan Section Past President

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## Larry Austin Honored by AIPG National

At the National Meeting in September, AIPG recognized our own Larry Austin with the "AIPG Honorary Membership" award. Since 1984, AIPG has conferred Honorary Membership to those who have an exemplary record of distinguished service to the profession and to the Institute. This without question describes what Larry has meant to AIPG, the Michigan Section, and our profession.



Larry Austin receiving the AIPG Honorary Membership award from 2010 President Mike Lawless at the Annual Meeting in Orlando. Photograph courtesy AIPG National website (Wendy Davidson).

Larry's commitment to the organization includes previously serving on the National Advisory Board and his ongoing role as chair of the AIPG's National Screening Committee. He has also participated in the Michigan Basin Geological Society, the National Groundwater Association and worked with the

Association of Engineering Geologists and the Michigan Well Driller's Association. We are fortunate to have Larry in our Section. When you see him, make sure to offer your congratulations on an award well deserved.

Don Conway, CPG, 2010 Michigan Section Vice President

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## Nominations for 2011 Section Secretary

It's time once again to be thinking about serving as a Section officer. The Executive Committee needs nominations for the Section Secretary position for 2011. The election will be held at the annual Section meeting in December.

The time commitment is relatively low; there are only four Section meetings per year. The duties of the Section officers are detailed on the Section website on the Section Officers page.

Please consider getting involved with the Section Executive Committee; it is a good way to network, and it also helps build your resume. Candidates should submit their name, bio, and a short statement of interest to the editor by November 15, 2010.

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## Newsletter Notice via E-mail

Please be sure that you continue to receive the Section newsletters and other announcements. Submit an updated e-mail address to Adam Heft at [heft@pbworld.com](mailto:heft@pbworld.com). If you move or change places of employment, don't forget to send your new contact information to both the Section and to National. If you are not receiving announcements directly from the editor, it is because your email address is not up to date.

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## Section Website Reminders

As you may have noticed, the Michigan Section is working on building a database of geologic photographs on our website. We would like to continue building this collection. Please submit your photographs that you are willing to share to Adam Heft at [heft@pbworld.com](mailto:heft@pbworld.com). Don't forget to include your name and a short explanation of what the photograph depicts. The photographs will be periodically uploaded to the website once several have been received.

You will also note that the Section website now has a history page. Currently it includes information on Douglas Houghton, Michigan's first State Geologist. We will be including information on the Section's officers in the near future. If you have suggestions on other items that should be included on this page, please let a member of the Section Executive Committee know.

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## Member's Corner

*The Member's Corner includes information about the Section's membership. This is your chance to provide information on where you are and what you are doing. Simply send the information to the Editor for inclusion in this section.*

*The Member's Corner submission for this edition of the newsletter is from Sara Pearson, a regular contributor to the newsletter, and Michigan Section Past President.*

I have been a Senior Geologist in the MDNRE (formerly DEQ) Grand Rapids District office since 2004 working on a variety of 213 and 201 projects. I am also chairperson of the MDNRE RD's In-Situ Review Team. Prior to working for the State, I worked as a consulting hydrogeologist and project manager for Superior Environmental Corp. for 12 years working on and handling major accounts for petroleum companies.

I have been a member of AIPG since 1998, and recently, enjoyed serving on the executive committee. I am the current Past President, and I would like to encourage anyone who is thinking about serving on the committee to do so. It really doesn't take up that much time, and I found it very rewarding and fun getting to know more of our members. I also really, really, really liked going to the annual meeting at the Grand Canyon!

I hold a M.S. Degree in Environmental Earth Science from Western Michigan University and a B.S. degree from Aquinas College in Physical Geography, Environmental Studies, and Political Science. Glacial geology is my favorite.

I think the best part about being a hydrogeologist is being an investigator and putting the pieces of the puzzle together in determining where contaminants are moving in the glacially deposited subsurface, figuring out the fate and transport of plumes, and identifying ways to remediate them.

I always have a camera with me, as photography is almost an obsession. Not only am I a geologist, I'm almost an artist. This is why I think geology field trips are so great with so much to photograph. There is so much to appreciate in geology, even for the non-geologists, but knowing how and why our world looks the way it does makes it that much better.

My husband Tim and I have one daughter, Hanna – age 14. They both have learned to put up with my rock collecting and insistence on stopping along the roadside, not to just collect rocks, but to take pictures too.

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## Employment Opportunities

*To serve our members, and provide added value, the Michigan Section Executive Committee has decided to allow ads for employment opportunities to be posted in the Section newsletters. Employment ads will run for one edition unless renewed. Send your employment opportunities to the editor.*



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Dawn Prell, CPG at 248-324-5288



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- (2) VacMaster 1000 (Air Knives)

**Michigan Chapter  
American Institute of Professional Geologists  
MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT**

**December 2, 2010**

**THE NEW SHALE PLAY (COLLINGWOOD)**

Featured Speaker:

**Dr. William B. Harrison III**

**Professor Emeritus of Western Michigan University and Curator of the MGREE**

**Location:** The Fetzer Center, Kalamazoo, MI (Map attached)

**Cost:** Students Free, Members \$35.00, Non-members \$40.00 **Registration is payable at the door by cash or check; however, prepayment is preferred and speeds up the check-in process at the door.**  
*Please note: Cancellations made within 24 hours of the meeting and/or "No Shows" will be charged and expected to pay the registration fee.*

**Dinner:** Buffet style, with herb grilled chicken breast, six cheese ravioli, bow tie and penne pasta, Bolognese sauce, Alfredo sauce, Parmesan cheese, Chef's choice of vegetable, Caesar salad, Pesto pasta salad, Italian bread sticks, Assorted dessert table.

**Time:** Cash Bar 5:30-6:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM, and Speaker 7:30-8:30 PM

**RSVP:** John Barkach, at [jbarkach@glec-tc.com](mailto:jbarkach@glec-tc.com) no later than November 30, 2010. Please include AIPG in the subject line. Checks may be mailed to John at this address: c/o GLEC, 33045 Hamilton Ct., Suite W106, Farmington Hills, MI 48334. Payment may also be made at the door.

**Dr. Harrison** is the Director of the MGREE Michigan Basin Core Research Laboratory. As Director of the Michigan Basin Core Research Laboratory since its inception in 1982, I maintain an ongoing interest in Stratigraphy, Sedimentology and Petroleum Geology of strata in the Michigan Basin. Current research activities are focused on reservoir characterization of old Devonian carbonate oil reservoirs in Michigan, with the principal aim of their redevelopment for additional oil recovery.

# AIPG Section Meeting December 2, 2010

Fetzer Center, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo



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