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KANSAS GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

# BULLETIN

Volume 84 Number 3

May—June 2009

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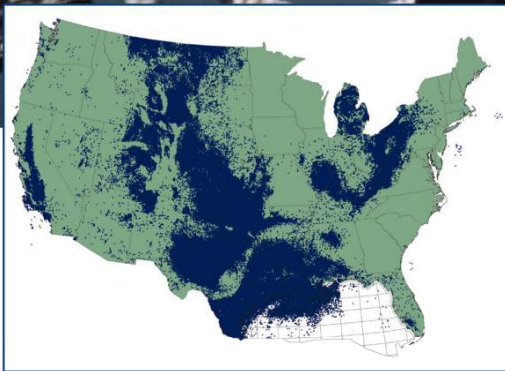
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*View to the west from New Paltz, New York of Shawangunk Mountain with its steep escarpment of the light-colored, Silurian Shawangunk Conglomerate. Read more about this area in Geo-Scenes on page 14.*

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## CALL FOR PAPERS

The Kansas Geological Society Bulletin, which is published bimonthly both in hard-copy and electronic format, seeks short papers dealing with any aspect of Kansas geology, including petroleum geology, studies of producing oil or gas fields, and outcrop or conceptual studies. Maximum printed length of papers is 5 pages as they appear in the Bulletin, including text, references, figures and/or tables, and figure/table captions. Inquiries regarding manuscripts should be sent to Technical Editor Dr. Sal Mazzullo at [salvatore.mazzullo@wichita.edu](mailto:salvatore.mazzullo@wichita.edu), whose mailing address is Department of Geology, Wichita State University, Wichita, Kansas 67260. Specific guidelines for manuscript submission appear in each issue of the Bulletin, which can also be accessed on-line at the Kansas Geological Society web site at <http://www.kgslibrary.com>

# SOCIETY Technical Meetings

*SPRING 2009*

*May 5— Dr. Raef— “CO2 Sequestration & Production Enhancement in KS”*

*May 19—John Lorenz, President-Elect, AAPG*

*May 26— Dr. George Clark, Kansas State University*

*There will be no technical meetings over the summer months of June, July & August. Schedule will resume in September.*

## *Location for Technical Meetings*

*All KGS technical presentations are held at 12:30 p.m. at the **Wichita Bar Association**, located at **225 N. Market**, ground floor conference room, unless otherwise noted.*

*Note: For those geologists who need 30 points to renew their licenses, there will be a sign-in sheet at each presentation and also a certificate of attendance.*



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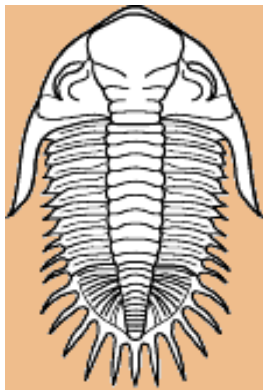
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Yes—Frank Mize guessed it again—here's a new one!

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# President's Letter

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Greetings from Lawrence.

The first quarter of 2009 will be memorable if it isn't already. As I write the official rig count in Kansas has fallen from 52 in January to 17 in March (*Independent Oil and Gas Service, iogsi.com*). Oil and gas exploration is down 50% nationwide. Alternative energy companies have also similarly felt the impact of this international economic crash with investments plummeting. In a rare occurrence, no energy sector has been left untouched.

While the icy economy appears to be thawing a little as we go into spring, a proposed 2010 federal budget could remove tax incentives and add taxes for the oil and gas industry. Scott Tinker, speaking as AAPG President, summarizes the issues in the April '09 *AAPG Explorer*,

*"In an effort to wean the American people from foreign oil, the President has asked Congress to remove vital tax incentives for high-risk exploration and add additional taxes onto the oil and gas industry. Compounded with crushingly low energy prices, tight capital markets and lack of drilling access, this new "policy" likely will put many independent producers out of business, causing jobs to fall faster than oil rigs, accelerate U.S. production decline, decrease the federal tax base, expose U.S. resources to purchase by foreign interests and make the United States even more dependent on foreign sources of oil and natural gas further risking national security. Low energy prices will eventually help the economy recover. Recovering economies need energy, which will be in even shorter supply if we pursue the proposed energy policies, and cause oil price to bounce up once again – likely way up. Extreme highs and extreme lows are extremely unhealthy. Wise policy should work to mitigate volatility, not enhance it."*

I echo his concerns and his call for an energy policy that promotes stability in the energy economy. The viability of the domestic petroleum industry is crucial to economic recovery, at least for the 16 or so major oil and gas producing states, and the ultimate goal of eliminating foreign oil. The ability of the petroleum industry to meet the demand forecasted for petroleum liquids and natural gas through 2030 by EIA-DOE, representing approximately 65% of our energy supply (EIA, <http://www.eia.doe.gov/oiaf/forecasting.html>), will certainly be challenged with the deliberate weakening of the domestic petroleum industry. The "carrot and stick" approach to realign energy sources ignores hard realities, and the capabilities and contributions of the existing domestic energy industry.

As a geological society, an important part of our mission is to promote and emphasize geoscience solutions and facilitate and encourage dissemination of technology. The success in employing these technologies in the exploration and development to produce more oil and gas depends on favorable and less volatile produce prices and costs. We can do our part to create a more positive dialog by being prepared everyday to convey what you and the petroleum industry are doing to contribute toward meeting current and future domestic energy needs. The dialog on energy policy should be inclusive of all the energy sectors working in concert.

Let me conclude on an affirmative note. The doors to the Kansas Geological Society Library and web access to the WDL are open and ready to serve you. The KGS is actively cooperating and partnering with local and national societies including AAPG national and Mid-Continent Section, PTTC, Kansas Geophysical Society, KIOGA, EKOGA, our own KGF, and other sister societies and energy libraries in other states. The electronic log initiative in Kansas involved a concerted effort among all of us. The Chase Group Field Trip led by Sal Mazzullo and Jim Chaplin in April is another example of this cooperation, organized in cooperation with the Oklahoma City Geological Society. Members are actively involved in our K-12 earth science education in Kansas including recent field trips and celebration of Earth Day. Realizing the risk of being repetitive, I continue to marvel at Bob Cowdery's energy and organization as he carries out one of the most active technology transfer venues in the country through his weekly (except those weeks that the board meets), well attended, technical programs with industry and academic speakers alike. Thanks to all of you who are contributing to this excellent program. Our Walter's Digital Library is undergoing a renewal from the inside out to provide members with improved services and new software features to meet future needs. The board is keenly interested in the viability of this critical aspect of our business.

The KGS social activities abound including the KGS fishing tournament at El Dorado Lake held April 24<sup>th</sup> and the upcoming Golf Tournament on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Go out, have fun, and celebrate Spring and the simple pleasures that continue to be plentiful in Kansas in spite of the rough economic conditions. My thanks to all of our volunteers and society library staff members for all that you do and to our members who participate in the activities.

Respectfully submitted,  
W. Lynn Watney

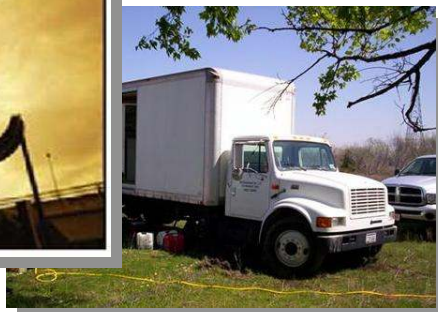




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# From The Manager

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Dear Members,

As we move through these wonderful Kansas spring months, the KGS library is seeing more members using the library, primarily because they are not out in the field. We hope things turn around soon for all of you and in the meantime, we keep adding the new data into our files for you.

If you are so inclined, since life in the oil patch is moving a little slowly lately, we are considering having a few “volunteer nights” to help get more data into our files. We quickly run out of room in our file cabinets with the larger suite of logs that many companies are running now and we need to do a complete file stretch in both East and West files. If I can spark enough interest, I would like to stay open late a few nights and would offer to provide some pizza or similar edible creation and of course, “beverages” to encourage some of you to come down and help! Let me know if you would be interested and what time frame would work for you.

We have our annual Golf Tournament coming up on Monday, June 22nd and we will hope for a bright sunny day this year. We kind of got partially rained out last year but you golfers, you are a special breed because you stuck it out! David Barker is chairing this event again this year so if Dave calls you for a donation or help, please chip in. Registration form is included in the printed edition of this Bulletin but if you read on-line, look under “Events” tab and you will find a registration form to print out.

Prior to the June Golf Tournament, the KGS/KGF/WDL will have a booth at the Annual AAPG Convention in Denver, Colorado. That convention runs June 7–10 and we will be in booth 457. Please stop by the booth if you are attending the convention. I hope to see several of you Colorado members there.

The KGS and the OCGS co-sponsored a field trip this past month and thanks to the Oklahoma group, we have some photos of that weekend trip — look on pages 11 & 12. Sal Mazzullo (Wichita State University) and Jim Chaplin (Oklahoma Geological Survey) led this field trip to look at the Chase Group in SE Kansas and NE Oklahoma and I have heard very good comments by some of those who attended.

Also, you will notice some photos from the Grand Canyon throughout this issue (like the one on the opposing page). These are from Bob Bayer, who took a hiking trip earlier this spring. If you are out on any interesting treks this summer, be sure to share your photos with us.

Enjoy the spring!

***Rebecca Radford***





This is the profile of a member who spent a number of years working in Wichita and recently received his 50-year member pin awarded by the Kansas Geological Society.

F. Judson Hipps was born March 8, 1929 in Ashville, NC and since has returned to his “roots:”, now residing in Brevard, NC near Ashville. His father was a lifelong resident of North Carolina working for Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company. His mother, after the death of her first husband, attended Western Carolina University where she obtained a Teacher’s Certificate and later taught English.

Jud had five siblings: Phoebe Creasman Hall, Ralph Dixon Creasman, Floyd Russell Creasman, Rosemary Carolyn Brosius and Nancy June Green. Nancy is the only one still living.

Shortly after his birth in 1929, the infamous crash occurred and the family lost their farm and moved to rural Haywood County in the shadow of Cold Mountain. In retrospect, Jud says that he lived a boyhood of poverty, but his boyhood was enriched by the guidance and books of his mother. He started school at Bethel Elementary, but during the third grade his father obtained steady employment and the family moved to West Ashville, NC. He then attended Aycock Elementary, Hall Fletcher Junior High and Lee H. Edwards, which is now Ashville High School. Jud was student body president at all of these schools and he played football in high school.

Jud attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, N.C. and graduated with a BS degree in Geology in 1951. None of his classmates are members of the KGS, in fact, very few graduates from UNC ever worked in the “oil patch.” He attributes his decision to be a geologist to: a need to juggle schedules, Divine guidance and complete fascination with Historical Geology. Following graduation he obtained employment with the Oceanographic arm of the John Hopkins University known as Chesapeake Bay Institute.

In 1950, he married Dottie Sorrells and Jud says that they lived a great life together until her death in 2004. Jud and Dottie had three children: Vickie Sheedy who resides in Santee, SC, Alan Hipps who lives in Little Rock, Ark and Lisa Lacy who resides in Lenexa, KS.

After a couple of years with the Chesapeake Bay Institute, Jud realized that his call was to be an oil seeker. He ac-

cepted an offer from Cities Service Oil Company and began his employment with that company in 1953. At various times, he was stationed in Springfield, CO; Amarillo, TX, Bartlesville, OK; Wichita, KS; and Oklahoma City, OK. In Oklahoma City, he was Regional Exploration Geologist for the Mid-Continent Region. Jud says he has the only 14 ½ year service pin ever issued by CSO which was issued at his request. During his tenure with CSO there were many KGS members that he worked with, but his longest association with any of them was with his best friend, Dan Bowles.

While employed at CSO, Jud had the most interesting experience of his career. It was in Bartlesville, home office of CSO at that time, where Jud mapped the regional sub-crop of Devonian aged Hunton under the tutelage of CSO geologists, Mabry Hoover and Murray Wells. CSO decided to make a play in non-productive Northeast Kansas. CSO at the time that they were Indian Territory Illuminating Oil Company was among the first companies to map structure of outcropping rocks. Jud says that he believes he and Dan Bowles were among the last. They did the work that resulted in the discovery of the Yeage field in Riley County, Kansas. When oil was found, they thought they could repeat it 12 to 15 times. Jud says not another drop of oil from the Hunton was encountered on that play.

Jud was then employed by Pickrell Drilling, where he renewed his association with Dan Bowles who had become the Lead Geologist after Jerry Pike resigned. Jud and Dan had four good years together at Pickrell and then Jud joined Chuck Mayfield at Thunderbird Drilling. After a couple of years there, he worked he worked with Bob Beren along with KGS members, Don Beauchamp, Max Houston, and John James. Then he found his niche with A. Scott Ritchie. He says they really had a good run together until 1982. Jud says that Scott was the fellow geologist that exerted the most influence in that he taught him to become an “oilman” in a much more complete manner than only a petroleum geologist.

Jud believes that being a geologist was the best possible work to enjoy, be excited by and also rewarded. He says that the next time around, he would be happy to do it all over again. In his career as a geologist, just as many of his fellow geologists, he believes that the biggest character he encountered was V. Richard Hoover.

Jud is a lifelong member of and has been very active in the Episcopal church where he currently serves as a Lay Reader, Chalice Bearer, and as an assistant at the weekly healing service. Another service to his community has been his work for the past 25 years with the Habitat for Humanity in constructing houses. He also has done needed renovation of homes in Brevard. Jud, over the years, has enjoyed outdoor activity of all kinds, particularly fly fishing for local trout and fishing with his son in Arkansas and Alaska. He feels blessed to have a super new friend, Vonnie Heinkamp to travel with and enjoy the opportunities that life presents.

Jud as previously indicated, has maintained a 50 year relationship with the KGS. He is also a member of the Kansas Geological Foundation and the AAPG.

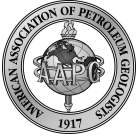
He has set as goals: “to live a long time without getting old” and to continue enjoying life with Vonnie. This has been a remarkable career for one of our 50-year members.

## Field Trip Photos

On April 18th & 19th, the Kansas Geological Society and the Oklahoma City Geological Society conducted a joint field trip to view the Chase Group (Permian, Wolfcampian) in southeastern Kansas and northern Oklahoma. This trip was led by Sal Mazzullo, Wichita State University Geology Department and Jim Chaplin from the Oklahoma Geological Survey. See the following photos on this page and the next, for a good view of what the group saw on this two day excursion. (More photos on next page)







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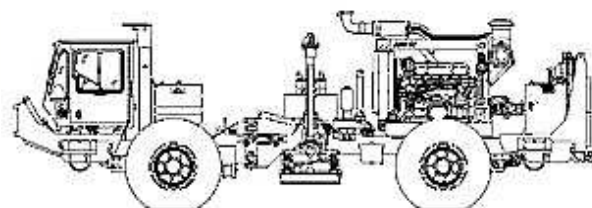
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# Geo Scenes

## Flysch, Plate Collision, and Molasse

In this issue of the *KGS Bulletin* I'm taking a slight detour from my usual *Geo-Scenes* contributions, most of which have featured Kansas geology. Instead, this note focuses on some fantastic geology that we “mid-continent geological types” rarely get a chance to see up-close and personal. The present contribution was hatched over last Thanksgiving, when we (my wife Chellie and I) went to visit relatives in southern upstate New York near New Paltz, in the lower Hudson River Valley. This area was one of my favorite geological hunting grounds when I was a young, aspiring college student. In addition to visiting relatives, and of course, educating (boring?) them about the geology of the area in which they lived, I fleshed out the geology of the terrain around us for this contribution.



Figure 1—view to the west from New Paltz, New York of Shawangunk Mountain with its steep escarpment of the light-colored, Silurian Shawangunk Conglomerate. The conglomerates are underlain by the Upper Ordovician Normanskill Group.

Figure 1 is a view looking west from New Paltz toward Shawangunk Mountain. In the foreground are the beautiful fall colors of the trees (see cover photo), and in the background is the prominent resistant escarpment held up by the Silurian Shawangunk Conglomerate. Along the base of the escarpment, and elsewhere throughout the area, are many outcrops of, and some quarries in, the Upper Ordovician Normanskill Group, which underlies the rocks comprising Shawangunk Mountain. Figure 2 shows the typical disposition of the Normanskill strata in the southern Hudson River Valley – that is, they are complexly folded and faulted, and nearly vertical at this locality. The Normanskill Group, which is as much as 5 miles thick, comprises dominantly black, typically graptolite-bearing shales interbedded with thick turbidite sandstones. These rocks were deposited as “*flysch*” – that is, they are deep-water deposits laid down to the immediate west of a volcanic island arc-subduction zone complex that existed seaward (eastward) of the carbonate-dominated North American craton in this area of New York State (Figure 3). The sandstones in the Normanskill Group contain abundant igneous rock fragments and interparticle clays, and they are referred to as being mineralogically immature. They would not make good hydrocarbon reservoirs in the subsurface because of poor porosity development. The deep seaway in which the Normanskill was deposited is referred to as the western Iapetus Ocean, and it existed during the Cambrian and Ordovician between North America and Europe. The Normanskill Group was thrust westward onto the North American craton, and was complexly deformed, when westward subduction along a plate boundary resulted in collision of the island arc with the North American continent in latest Ordovician time. The suture zone of the two involved plates subsequently became a highland area of igneous and metamorphic rocks to the immediate east of the southern Hudson River Valley (Figure 3).

Coarse, quartz-pebble gravels were shed westward from the crystalline-rock highland, and in this part of New York were deposited during the Early Silurian as the Shawangunk Conglomerate (Figure 4). Maximum thickness of these rocks is approximately 1700 ft. Insofar as these Silurian rocks are post-orogenic deposits, they are referred to as “*molasse*”. There is very little porosity in these rocks because the component quartz gravels and sands are tightly cemented by interparticle quartz. The Shawangunk was deposited as braided stream deposits and debris-flow deposits on broad alluvial fans, and they are variously massive bedded to cross-stratified (Figure 5).



Figure 2—Quarry along the base of Shawangunk Mountain exposing nearly vertically-disposed black shales in the Upper Ordovician Normanskill Formation. Chellie Mazzullo for scale.

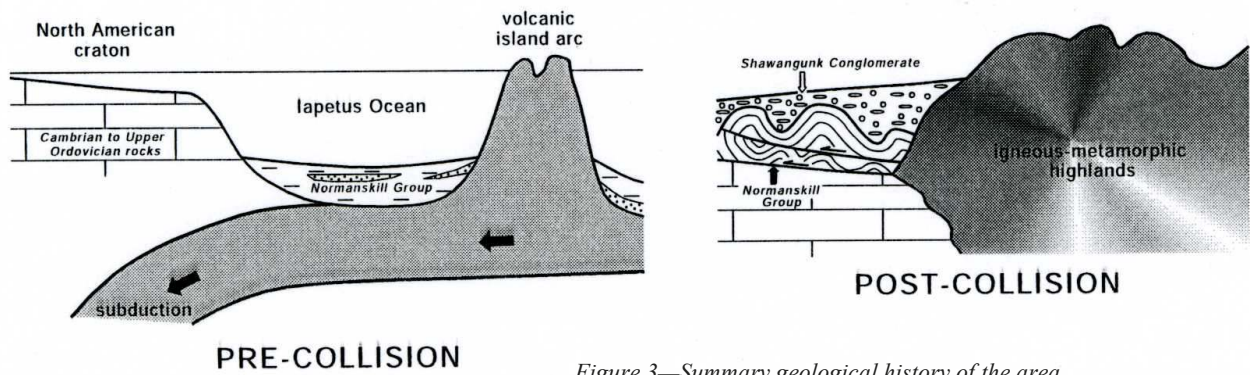


Figure 3—Summary geological history of the area.



Figure 4—Sample of the gravelly Shawangunk Conglomerate. Pen for scale.



*Figure 5—Cross-stratified Shawangunk sandy conglomerate deposited in a braided stream on an alluvial fan. Scale on lower right is 6" in length.*

Of course, the setting of Kansas during the Early Paleozoic was completely unlike that of southern New York in that the Kansas instead was located in the more stable interior of the North American craton. Hence, there are no beds analogous to the deep-water flysch of the Normanskill Group here. In Kansas and the surrounding mid-continent area, however, there are molasse-type deposits analogous in terms of their post-orogenic origin to the Shawangunk Formation in New York. Around the Central Kansas Uplift, for example, there are Cherokee-age, coarse conglomerates and associated sandstones derived from erosion of the uplift. Likewise, outcrops in the Arbuckle Mountains of Oklahoma include similar coarse, alluvial fan and graben-fill conglomerates and some sandstones (the lower Pennsylvanian Collings Ranch Conglomerate) in matrices of red shale. These rocks were eroded from the uplifted Arbuckles during the Early Pennsylvanian. The Cherokee conglomerates and sands in the subsurface of Kansas locally are important hydrocarbon reservoirs.

submitted by Sal Mazzullo



VACATION photos courtesy of Bob Bayer  
 Look for more throughout this issue



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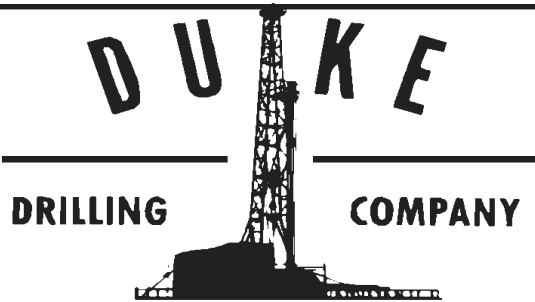
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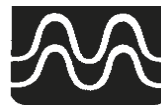
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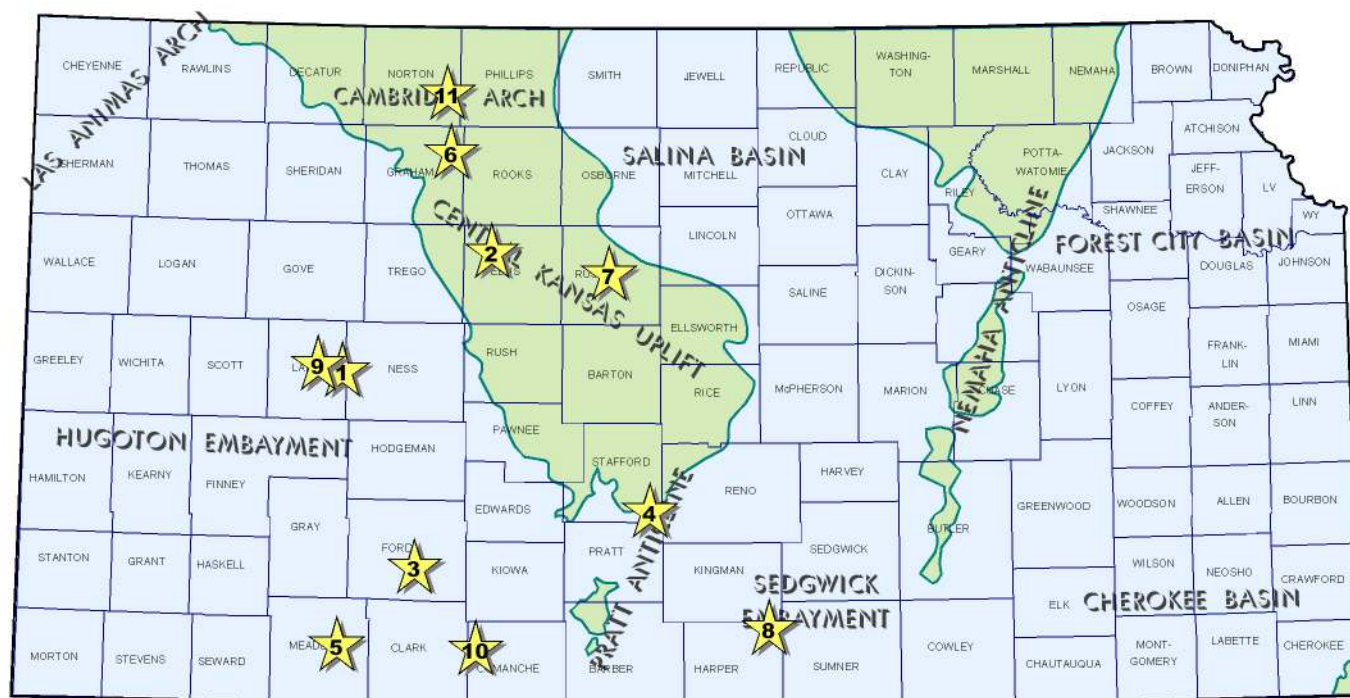
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# Exploration Highlights

By John H. Morrison, III  
Independent Oil & Gas Service



(1) In Lane county, Pintail Petroleum LTD has established a new unnamed oil field with the completion of the #1-2 Mauch (JL). Located in the NW/4 of section 2- T18s- R27W, the wildcat well is on pump at an undisclosed rate about ten miles northeast of Dighton, Kansas. Operator found the new reserves over three-quarters mile west of Lansing-Kansas City oil production in the Delos Southwest oil field in sections 1 and 2. Marmaton and Mississippian production is also present in other nearby fields. Producing formation at the Mauch well is not available. The new field has not been named.

(2) Tomlinson Operating, LLC produced an average of 16 barrels oil per day on pump tests taken in November 2008 at the #1 Pfeifer Farms, spotted in the SW/4 of section 31- T12s- R19W, Ellis county. The wildcat well is producing crude from undisclosed perforations in the Lansing-Kansas City formation. L.D. drilling tools bottomed the well at a total depth of 3901 ft. The new unnamed pool opener lies over one-half mile north of the multipay Schoenthaler Southwest oil field, about four miles northeast of Ellis, Kansas. A field name has not been given to the new discovery at this time.

(3) A new Morrow gas field has been discovered in southern Ford county by Vincent Oil Corporation. The firm's Hitz #1-35 was completed in November last year at site located in the SW/4 of section 35- T28s- R23W. No flow rate is available. Operator drilled the well to a total depth of 5437 ft. using VAL Energy rig

#1. The new unnamed field is located over two and one-half miles from Pennsylvanian Conglomerate and Mississippian gas production in the Great Mogul Canyon field in section 22. Closest Morrow production lies over six miles from the Hitz lease.

(4) Reif Oil & Gas Company, LLC is producing an unknown amount of oil from the Arbuckle formation at the Zink #1, SW/4 of section 20- T25s- R11W, Stafford county. The new unnamed oil field is located three-quarters mile north of the AJT oil field that was opened in 1993 and has produced over 23,000 barrels of oil from the Mississippian and over 267 MM cuft gas from both the Mississippian and Viola zones. The Zink discovery was placed on pump on February 25, 2009.

(5) EOG Resources is producing on average 350 barrels of oil per day, no water, plus 1,518 Mcf gas per day, at the #27-3 Central Plains in Stevens county. The 6,000 foot deep well is a northeasterly stepout of the Renee field, which lies to the west in Morton county. The field was established by EOG Resources in early 2008. The Central Plains well has produced over 28,000 barrels of crude during the first three months on production, as well as over 116 MMcf of gas. Production formation is the Morrow. Drill site is located in the SW/4 of section 27- T33s- R39W, about thirteen miles southwest of the city of Hugoton, Kansas.

Continued on page 22

(6) Keith F. Walker Oil & Gas Co., LLC has discovered Mississippian gas reserves at the Possum #9-1 well in Meade County. The wildcat test establishes the new Possum field in the NE/4 of section 9- T32s- R27W, about four miles east of Meade, Kansas. Operator placed the well on production in mid November last year. Unknown production volume of natural gas is being produced from the Mississippian Chester formation. Rotary total depth is 5,850 ft. The new source of supply lies over two miles east of gas production in the Meade field.

(7) Independent producer John O. Farmer, Inc. has found new oil deposits in an undisclosed formation at the Frasca #1, located in the NE/4 of section 29- T7s- R21W, Graham county. The wildcat well started producing oil in December last year. The Lansing-Kansas City and Arbuckle zones were primary objectives. Operator used WW Drilling tools to drill the well to a total depth of 3,643 ft. The new unnamed field lies about a mile northeast of closest known production in the Holsman field, SE/4 of section 30, which John Farmer also discovered in October, 2007. The Holsman field produces oil from the Shawnee, LKC and Arbuckle zones.

(8) In Russell county, about four and one-half miles northwest of the town of Bunker Hill, John O. Farmer, Inc. has discovered new oil deposits on the Dauber lease in the SW/4 of section 1- T13s- R13W. The #1-A well was completed in December last year for an undisclosed production rate. Producing zone is also unknown. Total depth is 3,375 ft. Lansing-Kansas City limestones were designated zones of interest. Site is located over three miles from the Waldo field which produces oil from the LKC zones. The new field has been named Backwater.

(9) Murfin Drilling Company is producing an unknown amount of oil at their Helen #1-21, located in approximately C N/2 NW SW in section 21- T31s- R5W, Harper county. The Gerber North pool opener was drilled to a rotary total depth of 4,810 ft., and had targeted the Lansing-Kansas City, Simpson and Arbuckle formations as primary zones of interest. Well site is located nearly one and one-half miles northwest of production in the Gerber field, where the LKC and Simpson Sand produces oil. The new unnamed field lies about eight miles northeast of Harper, Kansas.

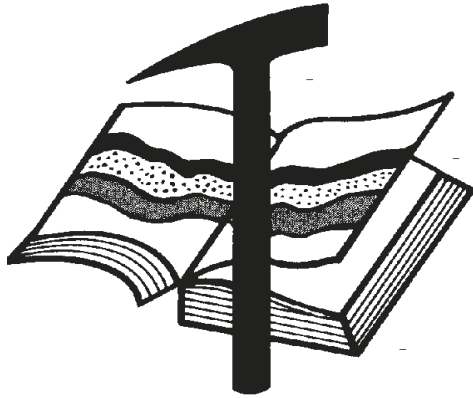
(10) The Middle Stan oil field has been discovered in eastern Lane county by Mull Drilling Company. The firm's Kent #1-7, spotted in the SE/4 of section 7- T18s- R27W, is pumping crude at an undisclosed rate. Well site is located almost three-quarters mile southeast of established Lansing-Kansas City and Marmaton oil production in the Stan Northwest field, which was discovered by L. D. Drilling in 2004. Operator drilled the Kent well to a total depth of 4,650 ft. The new unnamed field lies about three miles northwest of Alamota, Kansas.

(11) John O. Farmer, Inc. has discovered Morrow Sand gas reserves over one and one half miles southeast of the multipay

## Vacation Photos

KGS member Bob Bayer went on a hiking trip in the Grand Canyon this spring & has shared all of his photos with us. Look throughout this issue for several and look forward to seeing some more this summer. Kind of makes you want to plan a road trip, doesn't it? View these on-line to really appreciate the colors!





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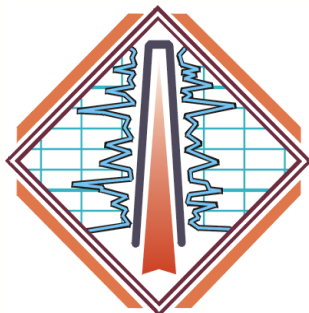
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Comanche oil and gas field in Comanche county. The Herd #1 -A, spotted in the SW/4 of section 20- T32s- R20W, was drilled to a total depth of 5,250 ft., in the Mississippian formation. Operator completed the wildcat well late last year for an unknown amount of production. The newly named River Bend field is situated about two and one-half miles northwest of Protection, Kansas.

(12) Bach Oil Production is pumping 60 barrels of oil and 50 barrels of water per day from three zones within the Lansing-Kansas City formation at their Adee #1, spotted in the SW/4 of section 14- T4s- R21W, Norton county. The wildcat well found oil deposits in the LKC 'A', 'C' and 'D' zones from perforated depths of 3448 to 3450, 3479 to 3484 and 3496 to 3498 ft. respectively. All zones were given a 300 gallon acid job. Anderson Drilling tools were used to bottom the well to a rotary total depth of 3,724 ft in the Granite formation. Field area lies three-quarters mile southeast of the Hewitt Southwest field, about six miles northeast of Densmore, Kansas. The new field been given the name Big Dutchman East.



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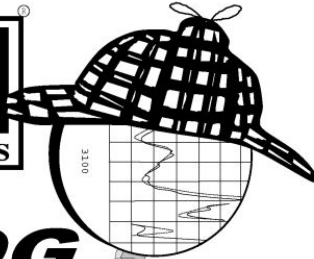
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KGS BULLETIN  
 May—June 2009

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