

# ALABAMA BOARD OF LICENSURE FOR PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS



# THE ALABAMA GEOLOGIST

FALL 2010 EDITION

FIRST ELECTRONIC VERSION

## ABLPG

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## ASBOG Annual Meeting in Alabama

The 2009 ASBOG Annual Meeting was held in Birmingham, Alabama beginning November 2 through November 7, 2009. The meeting was held at the Tutwiler Hotel in downtown Birmingham and was a great success. I would like to commend Southern Company and the Geological Survey of Alabama for organizing and sponsoring an outstanding field trip on the concluding day of the meeting. Jack Pashin and Richard Carroll did an outstanding job leading the field trip. I received many complimentary e-mails and telephone calls regarding the great field trip and on our beautiful state as a whole.

As you probably know, ASBOG exists to develop, maintain and administer examinations to geologists to obtain their professional licensure from states with licensure programs and that are members of the organization. This organization meets biannually to review examination questions, results and other pertinent comments received from candidates to maintain a valid and fair examination of the geological profession. There are Subject Matter Experts (SME) that serve on the Council of Examiners (COE) that are comprised of geologists from all over the United States. There was an impressive increase in the participation in the COE held during the meeting in Birmingham, but there is always room for one more. If anyone is ever interested in representing your state or your geologic discipline on the COE, please do contact the Board Office for further information.

## ~ Headline Suggestions ~

### Do you have a suggestion for an article?

Please send your comments and articles to us at

[geology@warrenandco.com](mailto:geology@warrenandco.com)

Please include your name and telephone number, should we have any questions and need to contact you. Thank you.



[WWW.ALGEOBD.ALABAMA.GOV](http://WWW.ALGEOBD.ALABAMA.GOV)

## BOARD MEETINGS

10:00 a.m. - Thursdays

Board Conference Room

610 S. McDonough Street, Montgomery AL

Check web site for any changes in schedule

[www.algeobd.alabama.gov](http://www.algeobd.alabama.gov)

## 2011 Calendar Year

JANUARY 13TH

APRIL 14TH

JULY 14TH

OCTOBER 13TH

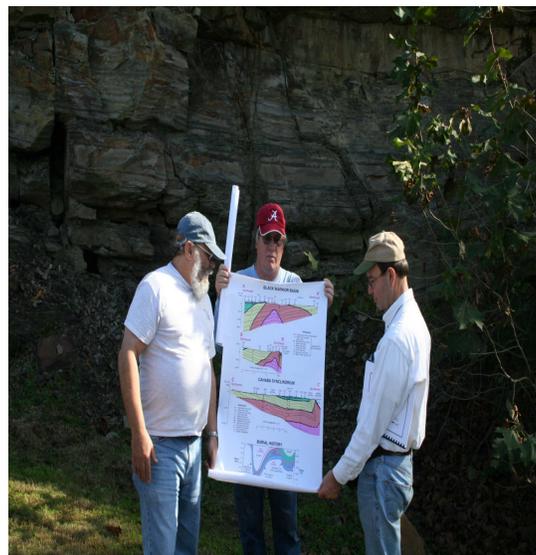
## 2009 ALABAMA STATE BOARDS OF GEOLOGIST

### Field Trip

The 2009 ASBOG Annual Meeting was held last November 5-8, 2009 in Birmingham, Alabama. Did our guests know, at that time, that the State would boast a 2009 National BCS championship football team? We didn't, but we would like to exercise our bragging rights as long as we're on the topic! The tradition is for the home-team Geology Board to arrange a field trip to show off the unique geology of the host state. The field trip was held on Sunday, November 8, 2009.

The field trip was organized and sponsored by Southern Company and was led by the Geological Survey of Alabama. Jack Pashin and Richard Carroll (Energy Investigations Program) led the field trip, which consisted of a roadside tour of the Cahaba Coalfield. Jack and Richard preached to us convincingly with the type of fire-and-brimstone sermon that could only come from a pair of experienced research geologists, complete with maps, cross sections, charts, and graphs. Outcrops made during the construction of roads and shopping centers revealed the basic stratigraphic, sedimentologic, and tectonic characteristics of the Cahaba Basin. The Basin is part of a thrust sheet in the Valley and Ridge Physiographic Province of the Appalachian Mountains and contains exceptional exposures of the Pennsylvanian-age strata of the Pottsville Formation.

The Cahaba Coalfield is the southernmost coalfield of the Appalachian foreland thrust belt and contains coal resources exceeding 2.7 billion short tons and coalbed methane resources of nearly 2 trillion cubic feet. Coal and coalbed methane resources are in the Lower Pennsylvanian Pottsville Formation, which is locally thicker than 8,500 feet and contains the thickest succession of Lower Pennsylvanian strata in the Appalachian region. The Pottsville was deposited in a spectrum of environments ranging from tide-dominated deltas to braided streams. The stratigraphy of the coalfield is unique in Alabama and reveals a progression from marginal-marine to alluvial-plain strata.



Jack Pashin and Richard Carroll (Geological Survey of Alabama) detailing the different geological facies and leading the field trip for the Alabama ASBOG gathering.



Ball and pillow structure (soft sediment deformation) in Pottsville Formation in a roadside outcrop.

Participants on this field trip viewed an array of sedimentologic and biologic structures in many of the best exposures of coal-bearing strata in Alabama. Highlights included thick successions of quartzose sandstone deposited in tidal sand banks and beach-barrier systems, delta-front deposits with large ball-and-pillow structures, tidal rhythmites that accumulated in deltaic and estuarine settings, and fluvial sandstone and conglomerate containing an array of sedimentary, igneous, and metamorphic lithoclasts. The basal Pottsville is dominated by quartzarenite; the middle part contains mudstone, litharenite, and coal beds; and the upper part includes thick, extraformational conglomerate units. Many of the facies are unique to the area and contrast sharply with coal-bearing strata in the Black Warrior Basin only 6 miles to the northwest.

## ASBOG Field Trip—Continued

### November 8, 2009

The field trip is actually very well established, having started up as a part of the 1993 International Coalbed Methane Symposium, which is held each year by the College of Continuing Studies at the University of Alabama. The area surrounding Birmingham is one of the very few locations in the United States where the three components needed to make steel are all found in close proximity to each other — coal, iron ore, and limestone. This is why Birmingham was such a key hub of the U.S. steel industry during the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and was instrumental in fundamental technological advances, such as coke making (Bessemer Process) and establishment of the first coalbed methane fields. The Cahaba is also the oldest coal mining region in Alabama and is the site of the first underground mine in the state, which was established in 1857.

Diverse sedimentology (sandstone, shale, siltstone and mudstone) of the Pottsville Formation is shown in this roadside outcrop near downtown Birmingham (picture to right) > > >



ASBOG provided box lunches and beverages and we had lunch underneath a massive outcrop located behind a Wal-Mart supermarket (formally a Winn-Dixie) in a local shopping center. We all wanted to go to the Toys”R”Us outcrop to play some games with the Chestnut Sandstone, but we just didn’t have time. We were, however, able to see some very new outcrops made during the recent construction of a flyover built to improve access to the Galleria Shopping Center (the largest shopping center in Alabama). I guess just like wildlife, geology and geologists will just have to learn to adapt to our expanding urban surroundings which, incidentally, include some pretty tasty restaurants. Did somebody say something about a BCS football championship? In retrospect, these are just a few - *Notes from the Field* - through the eyes of a geologist.

By: Richard A. Esposito  
Principal Research Geologist, Research & Technology Mng.,  
Southern Company

**REMINDER**

### Have You Moved or Has Your E-mail Changed Recently?

If you have moved or your e-mail address has changed,

please E-mail or call Hope Paulene:

E-mail: [geology@warrenandco.com](mailto:geology@warrenandco.com) OR Call: 334-269-9990 (x214)

**CONGRATULATIONS!!!****To Our Newest PGs!**

Stan Carpenter—PG #1261	Jeffrey L. Binder—PG #1271	Benjamin R. Black—PG #1281
Maura E. Maloney—PG #1262	Samuel Johnson—PG #1272	Kevin R. Bogdan—PG #1282
William Grady Noland, III—PG #1263	David H. Pominski—PG #1273	Karen D. Dawson—PG #1283
Andrew D. Smits—PG #1264	Ben Clabaugh—PG #1274	Thomas M. Kirkpatrick—PG #1284
Sam Jack Smith—PG #1265	Michael C. Alfieri—PG #1275	Rickard R. Railsback—PG #1285
Robert M. Lanning—PG #1266	Victor M. Augspurger—PG #1276	Nancy J. Rose—PG #1286
James D. Cole—PG #1267	Brandon Coates—PG #1277	Samuel A. Smith—PG #1287
John F. Salvino—PG #1268	Karl P. Hopfensperger—PG #1278	Damon Waresback—PG #1288
Tracy L. Walker—PG #1269	James N. Mosely, III—PG #1279	Henry M. Wise—PG #1289
Christopher A. Bryant—PG #1270	Kendall A. Rich—PG #1280	Melany Larenas—PG #1290

**Passed the ASBOG Exam*****Practice of Geology***

J. Ryan Bailey	Marc Langlois
Kevin R. Bodgan	William Trey Noland
Christopher Bryant	David Pominski
Brandon Coates	Kendall Rich
Karen Dawson	Samuel A. Smith
Trenton Myles Godwin	

***Fundamentals of Geology***

Jeremy Ryan Bailey
Kevin R. Bodgan
Christopher Bryant
Karen Dawson
David Pominski
Kenneth Michael Smith, II



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