

December 2019



# MONTANA GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Vol 64 No. 2

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Our President discusses  
& reflects on MGS  
membership over  
the years.



### **P4 / NEW OFFICER**

Meet the newest  
member of the MGS  
Officer team, now  
serving as MGS  
Treasurer, Jim Suydam.



### **P4 / IN THE NEWS**

Read on for more of  
one of the latest  
worldwide geologic  
discoveries found  
online in ScienceDaily.



### **P6 / SCHOLARSHIP**

With the deadline for entry  
quickly approaching, don't  
forget to send in  
applications for this year's  
annual MGS scholarship.

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PO Box 844  
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# President's Letter

Dear MGS Membership,

By the time this is published, the Oilies Party will have happened and I'm sure much fun will have been had. I always enjoy the chance to get together with old friends and acquaintances and meet new ones.

We need to take all the opportunities we can to get together these days! As many of our members are employed in the Oil & Gas industry, I guess it won't surprise many of you to hear that our membership is shrinking as we stay in the low oil price conditions since the bottom dropped out of the market (again) at the end of 2014. I got curious how our membership numbers have trended so I pulled up our database and started investigating. We've actually been trending downward since 2011, to the point where our membership count has been cut in half since I moved back to Montana in 2010.

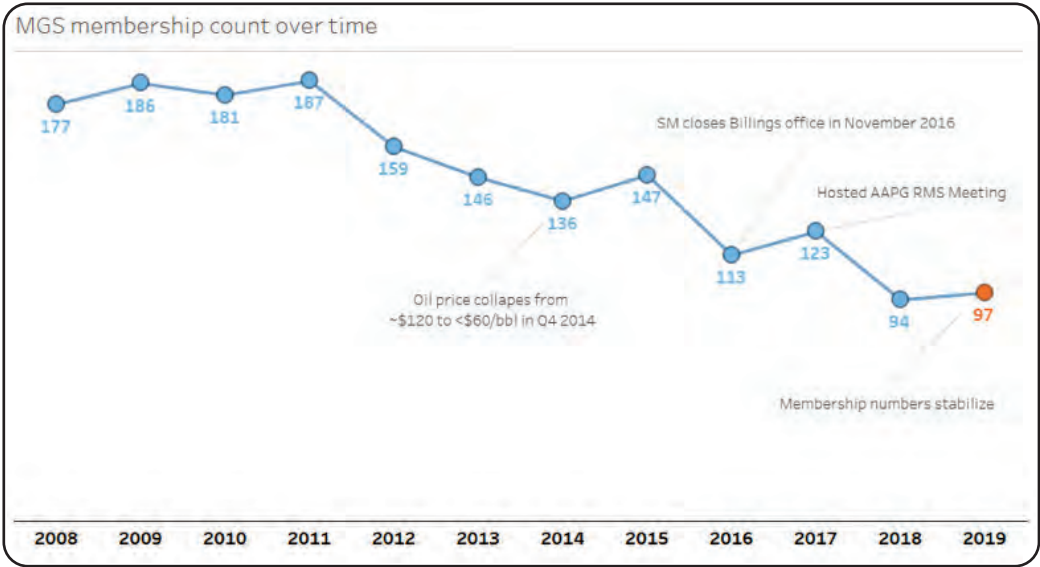
Despite what you might be thinking after reading all of the above, this isn't meant to be a "doom and gloom" letter! It looks like we've stabilized at around 100 members and we still have a decent cash reserve from hosting the AAPG Rocky Mountain Section meeting in 2017, so we expect to be in business for a while yet. As I mentioned last month, we will be working on the big ticket item of putting on a field conference next year, and we will continue to contribute to scholarships and other geoscience causes in Montana in the meantime.

Happy holidays to you all!

MGS President  
Tom Hewett

## 2019-2020 MGS Officers

President	Tom Hewett	406-281-8203
Vice President/Speaker Coordinator	Spenser Kuhn	406-696-0268
Treasurer	Jim Suydam	406-259-4124
Secretary	Sarah Friedman	406-896-5931
Past President	Sarah Friedman	



## Who's Who of the MGS

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Foundation: Rob Diedrich 303-830-5875

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Field Trips:  
Gary Hughes 861-2072

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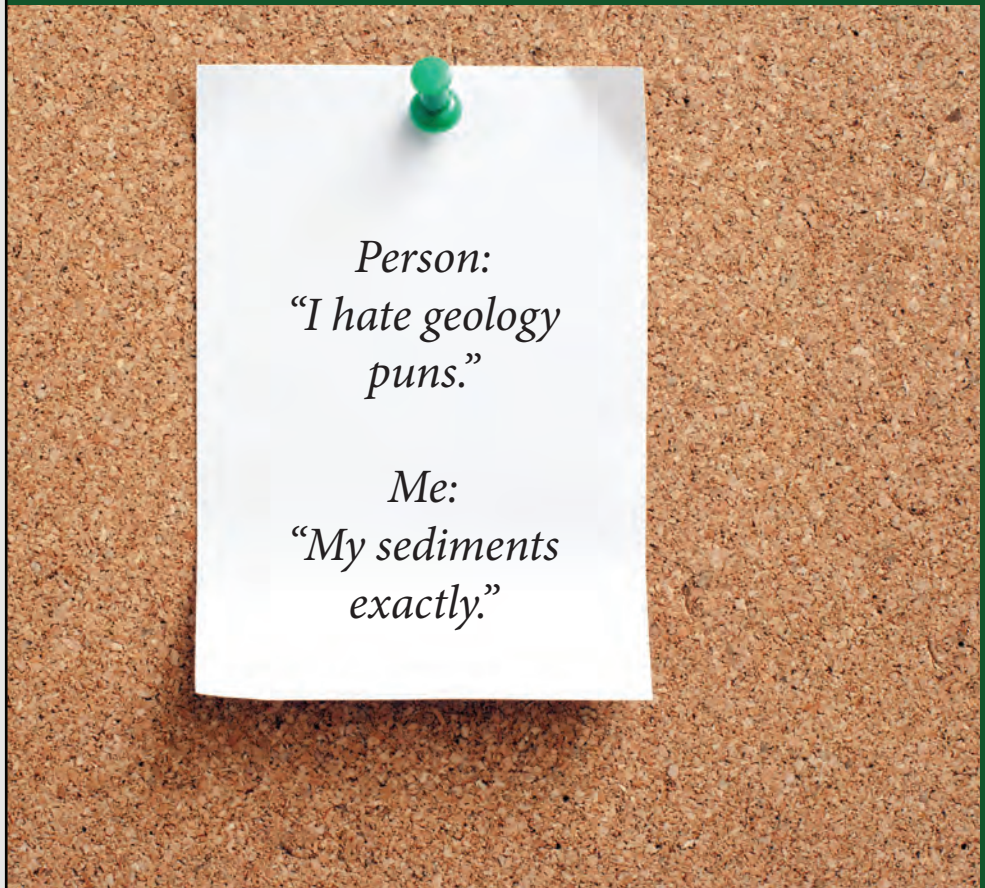
Publications:  
Duncan McBane 252-3170  
Montana Oil & Gas Fields Update:  
Jim Halvorson 656-0040

### PUBLICATION SALES

Doretta Brush 259-8790

### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Jessica Renstrom 208-2504



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Contact the Newsletter Editor for more information.



# Meet your new MGS Officer

## Jim Suydam

### Jim Suydam - Treasurer

Geologist and President, Sunburst Consulting

I was raised in the oil industry, moving every few years between oil towns from Alberta to the Gulf Coast. A love for the Rocky Mountain region led me to the University of Wyoming where I received a BS in geology in 1986 and then an MS from Montana State University in 1988. Summers were spent “getting oil on my shoes” as an intern with National Oil Company and Mobil Exploration & Production in Denver. Refusing to re-enter society, I pursued doctoral studies at Washington State University, graduating with a PhD in Geology in 1994. Fresh out of school but coming into an industry slump I consulted on several small projects on the Sweetgrass Arch while pulling duty as a stay-at-home dad. In a twist of circumstance, I spent the next 10 years in retail management for Kinko’s in Billings, Montana. In 2004 I returned to my true vocational love and joined Sunburst Consulting as a contract well site geologist, working wells in the Williston Basin, Utah and Nevada. In 2006 I became a managing partner, helping the company grow rapidly with the evolving Bakken Play and in 2014 succeeded Wayne Freisatz, retiring founding member, as President of the company.



I feel fortunate to live halfway down the Yellowstone River in Billings, Montana. In my spare time I enjoy casting a fly, playing golf, sampling craft beer, travelling and spending time with family. I hold active membership in AAPG, GSA, RMAG, MGS and WGA.

## Geology: *In the News*

**“Earth was stressed before dinosaur extinction:  
Fossilized seashells show signs of global warming,  
ocean acidification leading up to asteroid impact”**

*“By measuring the chemistry of fossilized seashells collected in Antarctica, researchers discovered that Earth was already experiencing carbon cycle instability before the asteroid impact that wiped out the dinosaurs.”*

To read the article, please visit:

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/12/191211145632.htm>



# The Oilies

**Thanks to all who came to the Oilies;  
we hope you all had a great time!**



***Happy Holidays  
from the MGS!***





## Montana Geological Society 2019-2020 Annual Research Scholarships

### Purpose

The Montana Geological Society (MGS) is a non-profit organization created in 1949 "...to promote interest and research in geology and allied sciences and their practical application, and to encourage fellowship and cooperation among the members." This annual award supports these goals by providing financial assistance for up to two student dissertation, thesis, or senior projects involving Montana geology and by providing a venue for students to present their work to geology professionals in Montana.

### Award

Up to two scholarships, one for \$2,000, and one for \$1,000, may be awarded each year to the most qualified applicants. The successful applicants agree to present their research results at a luncheon meeting of the MGS in Billings, MT, and will receive reimbursement for travel expenses to and from Billings in addition to the scholarship amount.

### Basis of Award

All projects will be reviewed by a committee composed of Officers and Board Members of the MGS. The award will be made based on project merit, difficulty, and innovation appropriate for the applicant's educational level. Projects in the early to middle stages of research will receive preferential consideration over those at or near completion. The awards will only be made to fully qualified and deserving applicants, if any, as determined by the committee.

### Eligibility

Scholarships are available only to full-time students working toward a BA, BS, MS, or Ph. D degree in an accredited geology or earth science program at a Montana college or university. The research area must be based at least partially in the state of Montana.

### Application Packet

Applicants must submit **1.)** a **brief** cover letter that summarizes the applicant's educational background, current student status (B.S., M.S., Ph. D), anticipated graduation date, and research interests. Include name, mailing address, email address, and phone number, **2.)** a **short** (300 words or less), **concise** summary of their approved or proposed project that includes study area, purpose, and applicability of research to Montana geology, along with an advisor's signature, **3.)** a work flow timeline, and **4.)** an estimated itemized annual budget which specifies how the funds from this award will be used. The budget must include the amount and source of all other project funding.

### Deadlines

Applications can be emailed (preferred) or mailed. Emailed applications (as attached file(s) in any standard format) must be sent to [montanageologicalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:montanageologicalsociety@gmail.com) no later than 11:59 p.m., **January 31<sup>st</sup>**. Mailed applications must be post marked no later than **February 1<sup>st</sup>**, and should be addressed to: Montana Geological Society, PO Box 844, Billings, MT 59103. Awards will be announced and payment made in the form of a check to the successful applicant no later than **April 1<sup>st</sup>**.





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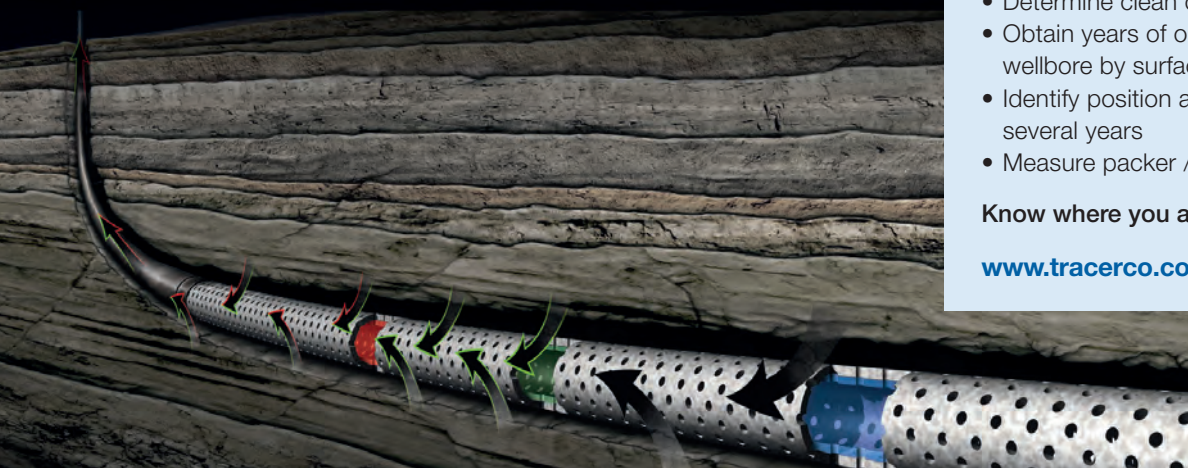
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**P.O. Box 844**

**Billings, MT 59103**

**Membership Renewal**

**Last Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**First Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Middle Initial** \_\_\_\_\_

**ANNUAL DUES:**

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**AAPG Member (please circle) YES NO**

**Education (School, Degree, Year)**

**Degree #1** \_\_\_\_\_

**Degree #2** \_\_\_\_\_

**Degree #3** \_\_\_\_\_

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2006 Montana Oil & Gas Fields CD		\$65.00	
2006 AAPG Datapages - MGS Publications DVD		\$180.00	
2006 AAPG Datapages - MGS Publications DVD (MGS Member price)		\$150.00	
2000 50th Anniversary Symposium		\$20.00	
1999 Thrust Systems of the Helena Salient		\$20.00	
1998 8th Int'l Williston Basin Symposium		\$20.00	
1998 8th Int'l Williston Basin Symposium Core Workshop		\$20.00	
1997 Big Horn Basin Symposium		\$20.00	
1997 MGS-TRGS: The Edge of the Crazies		\$20.00	
1997 AAPG - Rocky Mtn. Section Meeting / Abstract Volume		\$10.00	
1996 AAPG - Rocky Mtn. Section Meeting / Abstract Volume		\$10.00	
1993 Energy and Mineral Resources of Montana		\$20.00	
1991 6th International Williston Basin Symposium		\$20.00	
1991 Geology & Horizontal Drilling of the Bakken		\$20.00	
1991 AAPG - RMS Field Trip: Beartooth Mountains		\$7.50	
1991 AAPG - RMS Field Trip: Eagle Sandstone, Billings		\$7.50	
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1991 Sequence Stratigraphy of Eagle Sandstone		\$7.50	
1990 Bakken Workshop Short Course Study Notes #1		\$10.00	
1989 Geologic Resources of Montana		\$20.00	
1986 Geology of the Beartooth Uplift		\$20.00	
1985 Montana Oil & Gas Fields		\$20.00	
1971 Stratigraphic Names of Montana		\$10.00	
1969 Economic Geology of Montana		\$20.00	
<b>Shipping and Handling charges - \$5.00 per CD/DVD \$8.00 per book</b>			
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