



# AAPG

## Eastern Section

June 13, 2016

Dear ES-AAPG Member,

It is just a week away from the start of the 2016 annual AAPG Annual Convention and Exhibition (ACE). We will be celebrating AAPG's 99th birthday, only to be eclipsed next year in Houston, TX by the BIG ONE. This year's ACE will be held in Calgary AB, one of Canada's most beautiful and interesting cities, and certainly the petroleum capital of our northern neighbor. Like Denver, it lies at the westernmost edge of the Great Plains, and in the shadow of the spectacular front range of the Rockies.

Wow, what a contrast to our home here in the Eastern Section. As easterners, we are accustomed to the rolling but rugged, forested, and so very green mountains that define the folded and thrustured Appalachian mountain belt from Maine to Georgia. Multiple orogenies have built the landscape with which we are so familiar and have studied for so much of our lives. As geologists we can appreciate the fact that it has taken hundreds of millions of years to painstakingly wear down this once enormous range of jagged mountain peaks to the carpeted green beauties that we enjoy today. All of us here have spent endless hours in search of scarce rock exposures which reveal the geology beneath the dense cover of vegetation. Yes, there are frequent road and river cuts which have not yet been overtaken by crown vetch, underbrush, or heaven forbid if you live further south, Kudzu, but really good exposures are mostly limited to where recent roads, rails, and highways have been built. Each of these scarce outcrops can be helpful in revealing another jigsaw piece in what eastern field geologists rely on for mapping what lies beneath.

In some places, such as the Presidential range in the Whites of New Hampshire, or Maine's Katahdin you can walk for many miles while above tree line where all the rock is laid bare. However these occurrences are rare and we don't often get to experience much of the underlying geology here in the East. In contrast, consider those blatant exposures seen in the Canadian Rocky Mountains.



Folds in Canadian Rockies, south of Banff, Canada

Permanent URL: [http://serc.carleton.edu/download/images/39192/folds\\_kananaskis\\_valley\\_albert.jpg](http://serc.carleton.edu/download/images/39192/folds_kananaskis_valley_albert.jpg)

There you can stand back and see perfectly unobstructed views of all the thrusts and folded structure responsible for the mountains as we see them today. While gazing at these majestic geologic wonders it is easy to imagine the long periods of orogenic activity which created the incredible structure before you. Wildly famous resorts such as Banff Springs or Lake Louise were built because of their proximity to these surrounding wonders of nature. There is so much to see in this amazing part of our continent, but there are so many other reasons to be in Calgary next week.

Our very own Karen Waterbury from Mt. Carmel, Illinois has been selected as this year's Teacher of the year, and she will be honored at the All Convention Luncheon. Dr. Paul Potter from University of Cincinnati will be accepting the Sidney Powers Memorial Award, the highest honor that can be bestowed upon an AAPG member. First place Eastern Section IBA team Penn State will again be competing this coming weekend for the chance to win it all at the international level. DPA and EMD luncheons will be hosted by Division Presidents, Mike Canich (DPA) and Bob Trevail (EMD), both from Eastern Section. A tremendous selection of field trips (15) and short courses (16) surround the three days of compelling technical presentations (300) and poster sessions (450). A record number of abstracts were received for this ACE, so there will be an incredible diversity of cutting edge science presented and discussed over the course of next week. There are of course many activities focused on Students and YPs throughout the week. A brief glance at the program will give you an idea of what is in store, or what you will be missing if you stay at home.

So I hope to see many of you next week for yet another great national meeting.

And by the way, don't forget your hiking boots.

Regards,



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