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Coal Age

FEATURE ARTICLES

- 22 Coal Transportation Costs Could Hinder Resurgence of Coal Generation
- 24 Prep Plants Hold Steady in Uncertain Market
While the overall population stayed the same, the number of plants listed as idled has increased
- 32 The Central Control Room: Improving Mine Operating Performance
Emerging technologies enable producers to apply new software systems in an integrated approach that provides useable mine- and plant-related information — not just data
- 36 Curing the Crowded Cab: Research for a Unified Shovel Operator Interface
- 38 Ultra-thick Seam Longwall Mining in China
More Chinese mines are cutting from ultra-thick seams in one conventional pass as an alternate to top-coal caving techniques

COAL IN THE NEWS

- 4 Assault on coal under way with first-ever carbon limits
- 4 CoalBlue Project Democrats call on president to accelerate development of sustainable coal
- 5 IPCC Report fans the flames
- 6 Patriot Coal secures financing, settlements
- 6 Arch Coal acquires met reserves; settles potential dispute with Patriot
- 8 James River Coal lays off 525 in Appalachia
- 8 MSHA settles with engineering firm over Crandall Canyon
- 10 Patriot Coal to idle Logan County Thermal Coal Complex
- 12 Dynegy rejects Foresight's offer to finance scrubber
- 16 AEP will close Tanners Creek
- 18 Alliance to increase production at Gibson North
- 18 Lily Group seeks funding to keep Landree mine open

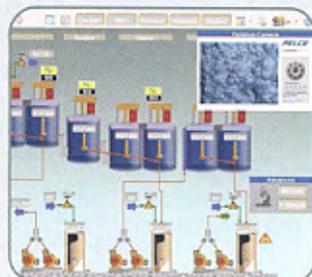
WORLD NEWS

- 5 World Coal Association launches the Warsaw Communiqué
NWR assesses its options
- 6 Indonesia's Berau to invest in overland conveyor and power plant
BHP sees risks to South African coal supply in draft mining law
- 8 Chinese to build massive coal gasification project in Xinjiang
Queensland treasurer opens Kestrel mine expansion

U.S. PREP PLANT CENSUS 2013/24



PLANT DESIGN/32



SURFACE MINING/36



CHINA LONGWALL MINING/38



THIS ISSUE

This month Coal Age provides an overview of the coal prep sector with its 2013 Prep Plant Census. On the cover, a bank of spirals are installed at a recent plant expansion.

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NOV 08 2013
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DEPARTMENTS

- 2 Editorial
- 4 Coal in the News
- 5 World News
- 10 People
- 12 Dateline Washington
- 14 Calendar
- 16 Awards
- 22 Transport Tips
- 44 Operating Ideas
- 48 Suppliers News
- 50 Product News
- 53 Classified
- 56 Legally Speaking

OUR PLANET, OUR STORIES

26 A DIFFERENT TAKE ON THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Traditionally EARTH published a "Highlights of the Last Year" issue every December. This year, we decided to ask our staff and some frequent contributors to write a short commentary. It could be on what has struck them in the geosciences in 2013 — or anything else that they've been itching to write about. What we ended up with is a collection of extremely varied, often very personal insights into how the planet impacted each individual.



BAILING THROUGH THE BOULDER FLOOD:
ONE NEIGHBORHOOD'S EXPERIENCE

Sara E. Pratt

29 ONCE A DIGGER, ALWAYS A DIGGER, OR, HOW I LEARNED TO STOP RESEARCHING AND LOVE DEADLINES

Timothy Oleson



A PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT:
IMPROVE GEOLOGIC LITERACY, STARTING ON THE HOME FRONT

Megan Sever

32 WORLD WAR G:
ZOMBIES, ENERGY AND THE GEOSCIENCES

Michael E. Webber

34 LOOKING TO THE STARS IN 2013 AND BEYOND

Jacob Haqq-Misra

35 SCIENCE DENIALISM:
THE PROBLEM THAT JUST WON'T GO AWAY

Callan Bentley

37 A LETTER FROM PITTSBURGH:
REFLECTIONS ON THE U.S. SHALE GAS REVOLUTION

Rasoul Sorkhabi



38 WITNESSING GEOLOGY IN ACTION:

A ROCKFALL IN THE GARDEN OF THE GODS

Mary Caperton Morton

TRAVELS IN GEOLOGY

40 THE BAY OF KOTOR: EUROPE'S SOUTHERNMOST "FJORD"

With its stunning backdrop of steep, imposing carbonate cliffs that plummet to a narrow inlet of the sparkling Adriatic Sea, Montenegro's Bay of Kotor is often called Europe's southernmost "fjord." Although that's a geographic misnomer, visitors won't care when viewing ancient Roman mosaics, sipping local wine, eating gelato and hiking medieval fortifications in this beautiful place.

Terri Cook



Clockwise from top left: Sara E. Pratt; Megan Sever; Mary Caperton Morton; Terri Cook and Lon Abbott

NEWS

- 12 OLD PHOTOS HELP SCIENTISTS RELOCATE 1906
SAN FRANCISCO QUAKE RUPTURE POINT



- 13 DEADLY BAT FUNGUS GETS A NEW FAMILY TREE
- 14 GIANT QUAKE SLOSHED FJORDS
HALF A WORLD AWAY
- 15 SILICA GEL MAKES FAULTS SLIP AND SLIDE
- 16 GREEK VOLCANO THREATENS MARINE,
TERRESTRIAL LIFE
- 17 OCEAN EDDIES LEAVE IMPRINT ON SKY ABOVE
- 18 ATLANTIC METHANE SEEPS COULD
BE WIDESPREAD
- 19 THREE "SPECIES" OF BEAKED DINO COMBINED
INTO ONE

- 20 NEW ANTARCTIC ICE CORE ANSWERS
QUESTIONS ABOUT LAST ICE AGE
- 21 EVEN SMALL GLACIAL FLOODS
CAUSE BIG CHANGES
- 22 MEGA-QUAKES SINK VOLCANOES IN CHILE
AND JAPAN
- 23 MODERN AND PRECAMBRIAN PROTEINS HAVE A
LOT IN COMMON
- 23 NEW FOSSIL REVEALS SECRETS OF EARLY
MAMMAL'S SUCCESS



- 24 SATELLITES DETECT RAPIDLY FORMING DEAD
SEA SINKHOLES: A MODEL FOR FLORIDA?
- 25 MARS MONTHLY
- 25 VOLCANIC INFRASOUND AKIN TO
JET ENGINE CRACKLE

VIEWS

- 8 **A COMMENT**
TEACHING DIGITAL NATIVES REQUIRES NEW TOOLS:
HOW GIS CAN BE USED IN GEOSCIENCE EDUCATION

As educators grapple with how to teach geoscience to digital natives, Geographic Information Systems has something to offer as a powerful "blended learning" experience.

Kurtz K. Miller

- 64 **GEOLOGIC COLUMN**
BEER'S SECRET INGREDIENT:
GEOLOGY

When it comes to making good beer, water — and what's in the water, courtesy of the geology through which it percolates — makes all the difference in the end product.

Lisa A. Rossbacher

DEPARTMENTS

- 4 FROM THE EDITOR
- 6 LETTERS: PERSPECTIVES FROM READERS
- 10 EARTH EXPOSURES
SANDIA MOUNTAINS, NEW MEXICO
Michael Collier
- 48 GEOMEDIA
GIFTS: HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE
- 52 CROSS-SECTION: A PUZZLE
- 53 WHERE ON EARTH?

- 54 MINERAL RESOURCE
OF THE MONTH:
PHOSPHATE ROCK



- 55 BENCHMARKS
DECEMBER 27, 1888:
THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA IS FOUNDED
- 58 DOWN TO EARTH WITH
PAST AMERICAN GEOSCIENCES INSTITUTE
CONGRESSIONAL GEOSCIENCE FELLOWS
- 60 CLASSIFIEDS: CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

FEATURES

Iron Ore Market Review: Creeping Toward Equilibrium

The authors predict that the world iron ore market will be characterized by tight conditions in the short term, but prices will decline as new production gradually comes on stream30

On the Move: Two Russian Producers Turn to Diesel Rigs

Electric rotary drills were the workhorses of the fleet at these vastly different surface mines for years, but diesel rotary and DTH rigs now offer the mobility and performance needed for future mine development.....36

BelAZ Builds the World's Largest Haul Truck

Belarusian OEM believes this is the best time to introduce new ideas and has made a substantial investment in its production facilities.....46

The Pump-makers' Perspective

Pumps play an essential role in mining and mineral processing. E&MJ sought the views of two of the world's major manufacturers on how the technology is developing.50

Pump Performance is Key in Nevada Mine Dewatering Operation

System efficiently moves sump slurry from deep underground to the surface, where the solids are processed for additional gold recovery56

Electrolytic Technology Targets Residual Metal Values in Tailings

An innovative process offers a cost-effective approach to harvest new profits from old material60

Rochester Reloads

A U.S. silver mine processes valuable leftovers from its 27 years of operation to boost productivity—and profitability64

Oyu Tolgoi: A Nation Changer

After a long journey, a world-class copper operation begins production68

2014 Buyers Guide74

Special Report: Mining in Québec, Newfoundland and Labrador

Québec's mining tradition carries the sector through the storm as Newfoundland and Labrador charts new mining territory89

LEADING DEVELOPMENTS

Norilsk's Capital Spending Targets Russian Assets4

Former Xstrata CEO Mick Davis Heads New Company4

SEC Probe of Gold Fields May Spawn More Corruption Investigations5

The Direct Economic Impact of Gold5

AROUND THE WORLD

U.S. & Canada: Nevada Copper Eyes 70,000-st/d Open-pit for Pumpkin Hollow...8

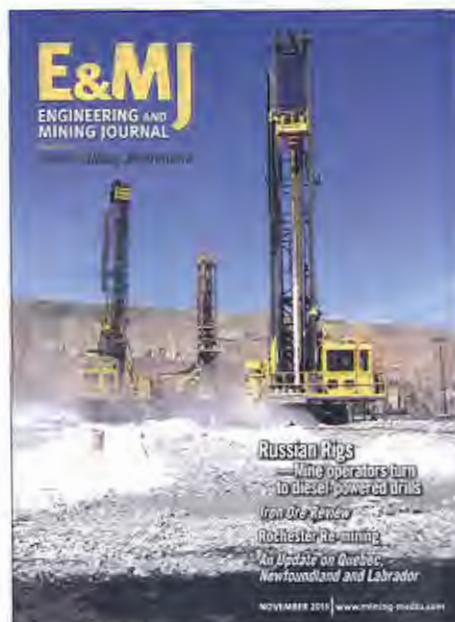
Latin America: Sierra Mojada has 18-year Potential14

Australia/Oceania: Australia Streamlining Environmental Approvals Process16

Africa: African Minerals and Tewoo Sign Tonkolili Project MoU18

Asia: Kinross Reaches Commercial Production at Dvoinoye20

Exploration Roundup: Brigus Extends Black Fox Orebody at Depth22



Three Atlas Copco DM-M3 drills at work in the pit at the Karelskiy Okatysh (Karelian Pellet) mining operation in northwestern Russia. Karelskiy is one of two large iron-ore mining operations in the region that have benefited from improved overall drilling performance provided by diesel-powered rigs. (Photo: R. Carter)

DEPARTMENTS

Calendar28

Classified Advertisements142

CSR Watch129

Equipment Gallery139

From the Editor2

Hall of Fame24

Markets144

Operating Strategies134

People12

Processing Solutions136

Suppliers Report131

This Month in Coal26



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T A B L E O F C O N T E N T S

INVITED REVIEW ARTICLES

- 1635 **Environmental changes in the Late Ordovician-early Silurian: Review and new insights from black shales and nitrogen isotopes**
Michael J. Melchin, Charles E. Mitchell, Chris Holmden, and Petr Storch
- 1671 **On the origin of orogens**
R.A. Jamieson and C. Beaumont
- 1703 **Cyclostratigraphy and its revolutionizing applications in the earth and planetary sciences**
Linda A. Hinnov
- 1735 **Reconstructing pre-Pangean supercontinents**
David A.D. Evans

TECTONICS

- 1752 **Transensional rifting in the proto-Gulf of California near Bahía Kino, Sonora, México**
Scott E.K. Bennett, Michael E. Oskin, and Alexander Iriondo
- 1820 **Early exhumation of underthrust units near the toe of an ancient erosive subduction zone: A case study from the Northern Apennines of Italy**
Francesca Remitti, Maria Laura Balestrieri, Paola Vannucchi, and Giuseppe Bettelli
- 1930 **Geochemistry of Silurian-Devonian volcanic rocks in the Coastal Volcanic belt, Machias-Eastport area, Maine: Evidence for a pre-Acadian arc**
Aránzazu Piñán Llamas and J. Christopher Hepburn
- 1891 **Architecture of the Chugach accretionary complex as revealed by detrital zircon ages and lithologic variations: Evidence for Mesozoic subduction erosion in south-central Alaska**
Jeffrey M. Amato, Terry L. Pavlis, Peter D. Clift, Evan J. Kochelek, Joseph P. Hecker, Caleb M. Worthman, and Erik M. Day

GEOCHRONOLOGY

- 1783 **Likeness among detrital zircon populations—An approach to the comparison of age frequency data in time and space**
Aaron M. Satkoski, Bruce H. Wilkinson, Jack Hietpas, and Scott D. Samson

GEOCHEMISTRY

- 1800 **Geochemistry of Eocene high-Mg# adakitic rocks in the northern Qiangtang terrane, central Tibet: Implications for early uplift of the plateau**
JianLin Chen, JianBin Wu, JiFeng Xu, YanHui Dong, BaoDi Wang, and ZhiQiang Kong

PETROLOGY

- 1833 **Oceanic magmatism in sedimentary basins of the northern Gulf of California rift**
Axel K. Schmitt, Arturo Martin, Bodo Weber, Daniel F. Stockli, Haibo Zou, and Chuan-Chou Shen

QUATERNARY GEOLOGY

- 1851 **Landscape evolution, valley excavation, and terrace development following abrupt postglacial base-level fall**
Karen B. Gran, Noah Finnegan, Andrea L. Johnson, Patrick Belmont, Chad Wittkop, and Tammy Rittenour

PLANETARY GEOLOGY

- 1865 **Biological dissolution and activity of the Allende meteorite**
Javiera Cervini-Silva, Antonio Nieto-Camacho, Hilda Cornejo-Garrido, Paz del Angel, Noel Maya, Eduardo Palacios, José Ascención Montoya, Virginia Gómez-Vidales, and María Teresa Ramirez-Apan
- 1912 **Gravel-mantled megaripples of the Argentinean Puna: A model for their origin and growth with implications for Mars**
S.L. de Silva, M.G. Spagnuolo, N.T. Bridges, and J.R. Zimbelman

STRUCTURAL GEOLOGY

- 1874 **Geometry and controls on the development of igneous sill-related forced folds: A 2-D seismic reflection case study from offshore southern Australia**
Christopher A.L. Jackson, Nick Schofield, and Bogdan Golenkov

COMMENT-REPLY

- 1943 **Origin and lateral migration of linear dunes in the Qaidam Basin of NW China revealed by dune sediments, internal structures, and optically stimulated luminescence ages, with implications for linear dunes on Titan: Discussion**
D.M. Rubin and A.M. Rubin
- 1947 **Origin and lateral migration of linear dunes in the Qaidam Basin of NW China revealed by dune sediments, internal structures, and optically stimulated luminescence ages, with implications for linear dunes on Titan: Reply**
Jianxun Zhou, Ying Zhu, and Chongqian Yuan

AUTHOR INDEX

1950

VOL. 27, NO. 2

GOVERNING

11.2013

OSM Library
NOV 15 2013
Denver, CO

Workers are hurrying to finish a \$332 million renovation of the Kansas State Capitol by December.

FEATURES

- 26** **HARD TIMES**
Can tough love help reduce poverty? Kansas aims to find out.
By Alan Greenblatt
- 34** **PUBLIC. PRIVATE. PRACTICAL?**
Public-private partnerships have become a popular way to finance transportation projects. But there are big questions to ask before entering into a P3.
By Ryan Holeywell
- 42** **THINK**
Three new books say leaders go about making decisions in all the wrong ways. But it is possible to retrain your brain.
By John Buntin
- 48** **COLLEGE OF RESULTS**
Massachusetts is making a big bet on performance-based funding for its community colleges. Will that help close the state's job skills gap?
By Liz Farmer
- 52** **INSTAGOV**
Governments are using Instagram to connect with citizens.

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COVER ILLUSTRATION: MICHELLE HAMM; PHOTO: MOODBOARD/CORBIS

DEPARTMENTS

- 4 Publisher's Desk
- 6 Letters

OBSERVER

- 9 **A Tricky Spot**
The shutdown put Republican governors in a political pickle.
- 11 **The New 'Efficient'**
There's a new buzzword in government.
- 12 **One Office, Two Interests**
Oklahoma combined its offices of energy and environment.

POLITICS + POLICY

- 14 **Assessments**
Cincinnati is privatizing its parking meters.
- 16 **Dispatch**
Public officials and the Internet's cloak of anonymity.
- 18 **Potomac Chronicle**
After 50 years, a new states' rights movement has emerged.
- 19 **FedWatch**
Public officials have to decide who will pay the "Cadillac" tax.
- 20 **Health**
Is health reform the reason cities are cutting employee hours?
- 22 **Green Government**
Looking for new funding, the government turns to the public.
- 24 **Economic Engines**
Troubled cities need to look honestly at their trajectory.
- 25 **Urban Notebook**
Is state intervention ever good?



PROBLEM SOLVER

- 56 **Behind the Numbers**
Oil is fueling America's newest boomtown.
- 58 **Smart Management**
Can governments do anything about the loss of know-how when employees retire?
- 59 **Better Government**
One struggling city illustrates why the fundamentals of governance are so important.
- 60 **Tech Talk**
The first day of the health insurance exchanges was rocky, but not a failure.
- 62 **Public Money**
When a city is bankrupt, judges have a big say in whose bills will be paid.
- 64 **Last Look**
An iconic structure in West Texas is threatened.



24

62

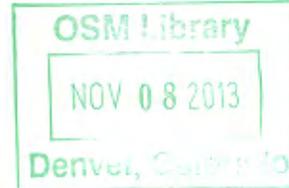




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CONTENTS

Review Article

- Climatic vs. tectonic controls on peat accretion in non-marine setting; an example from the Žacléř Formation (Yeadonian–Bolsovian) in the Intra-Sudetic Basin (Czech Republic)
S. Opluštil, N.A. Edress and I. Sýkorová 135

Research Papers

- Distribution of methane and carbon dioxide concentrations in the near-surface zone and their genetic characterization at the abandoned "Nowa Ruda" coal mine (Lower Silesian Coal Basin, SW Poland)
H. Sechman, M.J. Kotarba, J. Fiszer and M. Dzieniewicz 1
- Swelling and acoustic emission behaviour of unconfined and confined coal during sorption of CO₂
Z. Majewska, S. Majewski and J. Ziętek 17
- Pneumoconiosis and quartz content of respirable dusts in the coal mines in Zonguldak, Turkey
I. Erol, H. Aydin, V. Didari and S. Ural 26
- Petrographical, chemical and FT-IR properties of a suberinitic coal from Aydin–Germencik area, Western Turkey
E.C. Sutcu and S. Toprak 36
- Anthrinite bio-degradation by methanogenic consortia in Qinshui basin
D. Xiao, S. Peng, B. Wang and X. Yan 46
- Injecting pure N₂ and CO₂ to coal for enhanced coalbed methane: Experimental observations and numerical simulation
F. Zhou, F. Hussain and Y. Cinar 53
- Gaseous emissions and sublimates from the Truman Shepherd coal fire, Floyd County, Kentucky: A re-investigation following attempted mitigation of the fire
J.C. Hower, J.M.K. O'Keefe, K.R. Henke, N.J. Wagner, G. Copley, D.R. Blake, T. Garrison, M.L.S. Oliveira, R.M. Kautzmann and L.F.O. Silva 63
- Partitioning of mineralogical and inorganic geochemical components of coals from Santa Catarina, Brazil, by industrial beneficiation processes
M.L.S. Oliveira, C.R. Ward, C.H. Sampaio, X. Querol, C.M.N.L. Cutruneo, S.R. Taffarel and L.F.O. Silva 75
- Minerals and potentially hazardous trace elements in the Late Triassic coals from the Qiangtang Basin, China
X. Fu, J. Wang, F. Tan, X. Feng and S. Zeng 93
- A pressure and concentration dependence of CO₂ diffusion in two Australian bituminous coals
G. Staib, R. Sakurovs and E.M.A. Gray 106
- Deposition, floral composition and sequence stratigraphy of uppermost Triassic (Rhaetian) coastal coals, southern Sweden
H.I. Petersen, S. Lindström, J. Therkelsen and G.K. Pedersen 117
- Discrete element modelling of cutter roof failure in coal mine roadways
F. Gao and D. Stead 158
- Macrinite forms in Pennsylvanian coals
J.C. Hower, M. Misz-Keenan, J.M.K. O'Keefe, M. Mastalerz, C.F. Eble, T.M. Garrison, M.N. Johnston and J.D. Stucker 172

Erratum

- Errata: "Notes on the origin of inertinite macerals in coals: Funginite associations with cutinite and suberinite" and "Notes on the origin of inertinite macerals in coal: Evidence for fungal and arthropod transformations of degraded macerals"
J.C. Hower, J.M.K. O'Keefe and C.F. Eble 182

The Joint 64th ICCP and 29th TSOP meeting: Advances in Coal Geology, Organic Petrology, and Organic Geochemistry

- Preface
S. Dai, K. Jin and Y. Tang 183

Research papers

- Distribution and origin of minerals in high-rank coals of the South Walker Creek area, Bowen Basin, Australia
A.K. Permana, C.R. Ward, Z. Li and L.W. Gurba 185

| | |
|--|-----|
| Mineralogical composition of Late Permian coal seams in the Songzao Coalfield, southwestern China L. Zhao, C.R. Ward, D. French and I.T. Graham | 208 |
| Influence of surface area properties on mercury capture behaviour of coal fly ashes from some Bulgarian power plants I. Kostova, C. Vassileva, S. Dai, J.C. Hower and D. Apostolova | 227 |
| Petrographic composition of Polish lignite and its possible use in a fluidized bed gasification process B. Bielowicz | 236 |
| Gaseous compounds and efflorescences generated in self-heating coal-waste dumps – A case study from the Upper and Lower Silesian Coal Basins (Poland) M.J. Fabiańska, J. Ciesielczuk, Ł. Kruszewski, M. Misz-Kennan, D.R. Blake, G. Stracher and I. Moszumańska | 247 |
| Aggregate structure evolution of low-rank coals during pyrolysis by <i>in-situ</i> X-ray diffraction M. Li, F. Zeng, H. Chang, B. Xu and W. Wang | 262 |
| Biomarkers as paleoclimate proxies in peatlands in coastal high plains in Asturias, N Spain V. López-Días, U. Urbanczyk, C.G. Blanco and A.G. Borrego | 270 |
| Organic geochemistry of semianthracite from the Gequan Mine, Xingtai Coalfield, China Y. Sun, S. Qin, C. Zhao, Y. Li, H. Yu and Y. Zhang | 281 |
| Comparative study of stable carbon and hydrogen isotopes of alkane gases sourced from the Longtan and Xujiache coal-bearing measures in the Sichuan Basin, China G. Hu, C. Yu, Y. Ni, S. Huang and X. Tian | 293 |
| Stable hydrogen and carbon isotopic ratios of coal-derived and oil-derived gases: A case study in the Tarim basin, NW China Y. Ni, J. Dai, G. Zhu, S. Zhang, D. Zhang, J. Su, X. Tao, F. Liao, W. Wu, D. Gong and Q. Liu | 302 |

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF COAL GEOLOGY
Vol. 116/117 (September 1, 2013)
Page 2 of 2



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Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

International Journal of Coal Geology

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/ijcoalgeo

CONTENTS

Review Article

- Coal more than a resource: Critical data for understanding a variety of earth-science concepts
S.F. Greb 15
- On the fundamental difference between coal rank and coal type
J.M.K. O'Keefe, A. Bechtel, K. Christanis, S. Dai, W.A. DiMichele, C.F. Eble, J.S. Esterle, M. Mastalerz, A.L. Raymond, B.V. Valentim,
N.J. Wagner, C.R. Ward and J.C. Hower 58

Research Papers

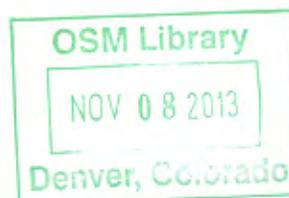
- Molecular indicators of the Oligocene Bobov Dol coal organic matter composition from bitumen analysis and preparative off-line
thermochemolysis
M. Stefanova 1
- Influence of coke particle size on pore structural determination by optical microscopy
M.S. Nyathi, M. Mastalerz and R. Kruse 8
- Estimation of methane content in coal mines using supplementary physical measurements and multivariable geostatistics
J. Zawadzki, P. Fabijańczyk and H. Badura 33
- High-pressure CH₄ and CO₂ sorption isotherms as a function of coal maturity and the influence of moisture
Y. Gensterblum, A. Merkel, A. Busch and B.M. Krooss 45

The 29th Annual International Pittsburgh Coal Conference

- Preface 88

Research Papers

- Comparison of high-pressure CO₂ sorption isotherms on Central Appalachian and San Juan Basin coals
V.N. Romanov, T.-B. Hur, J.J. Fazio, B.H. Howard and G.A. Irdi 89
- Potential for enhanced gas recovery and CO₂ storage in the Marcellus Shale in the Eastern United States
M. Godec, G. Koperna, R. Petrusak and A. Oudinot 95
- Selection of monitoring techniques for a carbon storage and enhanced coalbed methane recovery pilot test in the Central Appalachian Basin
E.S. Gilliland, N. Ripepi, M. Conrad, M.J. Miller and M. Karmis 105





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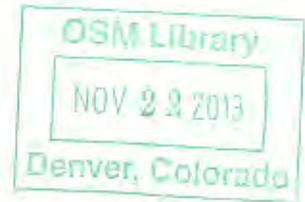
International Journal of Coal Geology

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/ijcoalgeo

Special Issue

Dunkard Group Geology

edited by

C. Blaine Cecil, William A. DiMichele, Nick Fedorko and Viktoras Skema


CONTENTS

| | |
|--|-----|
| Preface | |
| C.B. Cecil, W.A. DiMichele, N. Fedorko and V. Skema | 1 |
| A review of the stratigraphy and stratigraphic nomenclature of the Dunkard Group in West Virginia and Pennsylvania, USA | |
| N. Fedorko and V. Skema | 2 |
| An overview and interpretation of autocyclic and allocyclic processes and the accumulation of strata during the Pennsylvanian–Permian transition in the central Appalachian Basin, USA | |
| C.B. Cecil | 21 |
| Dunkard Group coal beds: Palynology, coal petrography and geochemistry | |
| C.F. Eble, W.C. Grady and B.M. Blake | 32 |
| Paleoenvironmental clues archived in non-marine Pennsylvanian–lower Permian limestones of the Central Appalachian Basin, USA | |
| I.P. Montañez and C.B. Cecil | 41 |
| Callipterid peltasperms of the Dunkard Group, Central Appalachian Basin | |
| W.A. DiMichele, H. Kerp, R. Sirmans, N. Fedorko, V. Skema, B.M. Blake Jr. and C.B. Cecil | 56 |
| Vertebrate biostratigraphy and biochronology of the upper Paleozoic Dunkard Group, Pennsylvania–West Virginia–Ohio, USA | |
| S.G. Lucas | 79 |
| The Early Permian age of the Dunkard Group, Appalachian basin, U.S.A., based on spiroblattinid insect biostratigraphy | |
| J.W. Schneider, S.G. Lucas and J.E. Barrick | 88 |
| Temporal and spatial distribution of ostracodes across the Pennsylvanian–Permian boundary interval in eastern North America | |
| N.E. Tibert, M.C. Rygel, S.C. Sanders, S.D. Elrick and J. Nelson | 93 |
| The Carboniferous–Permian transition on the North China microcontinent – Oceanic climate in the tropics | |
| J. Wang and H.W. Pfefferkorn | 106 |
| Climatic and biotic changes around the Carboniferous/Permian boundary recorded in the continental basins of the Czech Republic | |
| S. Opluštil, Z. Šimunek, J. Zajíc and V. Mencl | 114 |
| Permian outliers in Western Kentucky | |
| W.J. Nelson, S. Elrick and D.A. Williams | 152 |
| Late Pennsylvanian–Early Permian vegetational transition in Oklahoma: Palynological record | |
| R. Lupia and J.L. Armitage | 165 |
| Late Paleozoic continental warming of a cold tropical basin and floristic change in western Pangea | |
| N.J. Tabor, W.A. DiMichele, I.P. Montañez and D.S. Chaney | 177 |

Table of Contents

A SECTION

FEATURES

- 141A** **Grass-shed: Place and process for catalyzing perennial grass bioeconomies and their potential multiple benefits**

Carol L. Williams, Paul Charland, Gary Radloff, David Sample, and Randall D. Jackson

- 147A** **Agricultural irrigation in China**

Xiufang Zhu, Yizhan Li, Muyi Li, Yaozhong Pan, and Peijun Shi

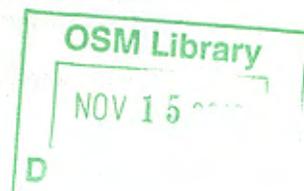
VIEWPOINTS

- 155A** **A certain wholeness: The dividends of conservation**

Clark Gantzer

- 159A** **Have conservation measures improved Yellow River health?**

Guangju Zhao, Xingmin Mu, Peng Tian, Juying Jiao, and Fei Wang



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Old grey barn.
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RESEARCH SECTION

- 429 **Effects of drainage water management on crop yields in North Carolina**
C.A. Poole, R.W. Skaggs, G.M. Cheschier, M.A. Youssef, and C.R. Crozier
- 438 **On-farm environmental assessment of corn silage production systems receiving liquid dairy manure**
E.S. Krueger, J.M. Baker, T.E. Ochsner, C.D. Wentz, G.W. Feyereisen, and D.C. Reicosky
- 450 **Assessment of phosphorus retention in irrigation laterals**
J.A. Ippolito and N.O. Nelson
- 460 **Modeling and mapping soil resistance to penetration and rutting using LiDAR-derived digital elevation data**
D.M.H. Campbell, B. White, and P.A. Arp
- 474 **Runoff under natural rainfall from small tall fescue catchments in the Georgia Piedmont, United States**
D.M. Endale, A.J. Franzluebbers, J.A. Stuedemann, D.S. Seman, D.H. Franklin, and H.H. Schomberg
- 487 **Curve numbers for long-term no-till corn and agricultural practices with high watershed infiltration**
J.V. Bonta and M.J. Shipitalo
- 501 **Why do farmers adopt conservation tillage? An experimental investigation of framing effects**
A.C. Andrews, R.A. Clawson, B.M. Gramig, and L. Raymond
- 512 **Application of a rangeland soil erosion model using National Resources Inventory data in southeastern Arizona**
M. Hernandez, M.A. Nearing, J.J. Stone, F.B. Pierson, H. Wei, K.E. Spaeth, P. Heilman, M.A. Weltz, and D.C. Goodrich

JOURNAL OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION
Vol. 68, no. 6 (November/December 2013)
Page 2 of 2

JOURNAL OF SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION
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Go to www.jswconline.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

- 1487 Self-Plagiarism in Publishing
R. J. Gutiérrez and Bill Block

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

- 1489 The Politics of Ignorance
Leonard F. Ruggiero

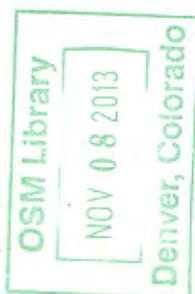
REVIEW

- 1490 How to Overcome Genotyping Errors in Non-Invasive Genetic Mark-Recapture Population Size Estimation—A Review of Available Methods Illustrated by a Case Study
Simone Lampa, Klaus Henle, Reinhard Klenke, Marion Hoehn, and Bernd Gruber

RESEARCH ARTICLES

POPULATION ECOLOGY

- 1512 Wolf Kill Rates Across Winter in a Low-Density Moose System in Alaska
Bryce C. Lake, Mark R. Bertram, Nikki Guldager, Jason R. Caikoski, and Robert O. Stephenson
- 1523 Evaluating River Otter Demography Using Noninvasive Genetic Methods
Kristin E. Brzeski, Micaela Szykman Gunther, and Jeffrey M. Black
- 1532 A Hybrid Double-Observer Sightability Model for Aerial Surveys
Paul C. Griffin, Bruce C. Lubow, Kurt J. Jenkins, David J. Vales, Barbara J. Moeller, Mason Reid, Patricia J. Happe, Scott M. McCorquodale, Michelle J. Tirhi, Jim P. Schaberl, and Katherine Beirne
- 1545 Identifying Hidden Sinks in Growing Populations From Individual Fates and Movements: The Feral Horses of Sable Island
Adrienne L. Contasti, Floris M. Van Beest, Eric Vander Wal, and Philip D. McLoughlin
- 1553 Translocation History and Genetic Diversity in Reintroduced Bighorn Sheep
Zachary H. Olson, Donald G. Whittaker, and Olin E. Rhodes Jr.
- 1564 A Multi-Scale Occupancy Model for the Grasshopper Sparrow in the Mid-Atlantic
Eric Irvin, Kenneth R. Duren, Jeffrey J. Buler, William Jones, Anthony T. Gonzon, and Christopher K. Williams
- 1572 Combined Use of Mark-Recapture and Genetic Analyses Reveals Response of a Black Bear Population to Changes in Food Productivity
Barbara S. McCall, Michael S. Mitchell, Michael K. Schwartz, Jim Hayden, Samuel A. Cushman, Pete Zager, and Wayne F. Kasworm



- 1583 Annual Male Lek Attendance Influences Count-Based Population Indices of Greater Sage-Grouse
Erik J. Blomberg, James S. Sedinger, Daniel V. Nonne, and Michael T. Atamian

- 1593 Greater Sage-Grouse Sex Ratios in Utah: Implications for Reporting Population Trends
Michael R. Guttery, Terry A. Messmer, Eric T. Thacker, Natasha Gruber, and C. Mae Culumber

MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION

- 1598 Evaluating Greater Sage-Grouse Seasonal Space Use Relative to Leaks: Implications for Surface Use Designations in Sagebrush Ecosystems
Peter S. Coates, Michael L. Casazza, Erik J. Blomberg, Scott C. Gardner, Shawn P. Espinosa, Julie L. Yee, Lief Wiechman, and Brian J. Halstead
- 1610 Experimental Test of a Conservation Intervention for a Highly Threatened Waterbird
Hugh L. Wright, Nigel J. Collar, Iain R. Lake, Net Norin, Rours Vann, Sok Ko, Sum Phearun, and Paul M. Dolman
- 1618 Response of Nesting Northern Goshawks to Logging Truck Noise in Northern Arizona
Teryl G. Grubb, Larry L. Pater, Angela E. Gatto, and David K. Delaney
- 1626 Effects of Water-Level Management on Nesting Success of Common Loons
Steve K. Windels, Erik A. Beever, James D. Paruk, Aleya R. Brinkman, Jennifer E. Fox, Cory C. Macnulty, David C. Evers, Lori S. Siegel, and Douglas C. Osborne
- 1639 Using GIS-Based, Regional Extent Habitat Suitability Modeling to Identify Conservation Priority Areas: A Case Study of the Louisiana Black Bear in East Texas
Dan J. Kaminski, Christopher E. Comer, Nathan P. Garner, I-Kuai Hung, and Gary E. Calkins
- 1650 Short-Term Responses of Small Mammals to Timber Harvest in the United States Central Hardwood Forest Region
Kenneth F. Kellner, Natasha A. Urban, and Robert K. Swihart
- 1664 A Long-Term Assessment of the Effect of Winter Severity on the Food Habits of White-Tailed Deer
Glenn D. DelGiudice, Barry A. Sampson, and John H. Giudice

BOOK REVIEW

- 1676 Wildlife Science: Connecting Research with Management
Mark C. Romanski

ERRATUM

- 1678 Erratum



Feature Articles

- 30** **The first five years in operations:
A young engineer's journey into a career in mining**
Matthew T. Mowry
- 37** **Mining Foundation of the Southwest
to host 31st annual banquet**
- 43** **Fortescue Metals Group moving forward
with autonomous mining plans**

OSM Library
NOV 15 2013
Denver, Colorado



37



30

Technical Papers (peer-reviewed and approved)

- 44** **Openpit limit optimization through databases:
an open source for data analysis and reporting services**
R. Benito
- 54** **Determination of volumetric changes from laser
scanning at an underground limestone mine**
B.A. Slaker, E.C. Westman, B.P. Fahrman and M. Luxbacher

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CONTENTS

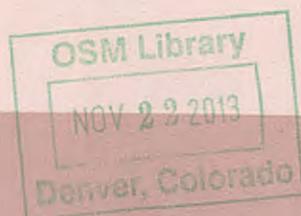
Articles

- Microdistributional variability of larval caddisflies in Mediterranean-climate streams in northern California Joseph R. Holomuzki, Paula C. Furey, Rex L. Lowe, and Mary E. Power **261**
- Tolerance values and effects of selected environmental determinants on caddisfly (Trichoptera) distribution in northwest and north central Washington, USA Dean W. Blinn and David E. Ruitter **270**
- Milnesium lagniappe*, a new species of water bear (Tardigrada, Eutardigrada, Apochela, Milnesiidae) from the southern United States Harry A. Meyer, Juliana G. Hinton, and Maria C. Dupré **295**
- Dynamics of phytoplankton distribution in relation to stratification and winter precipitation, Fallen Leaf Lake, California Paula J. Noble, Sudeep Chandra, and David K. Kreamer **302**
- Distribution and movement of Big Spring spinedace (*Lepidomeda mollispinis pratensis*) in Condor Canyon, Meadow Valley Wash, Nevada Ian G. Jezorek and Patrick J. Connolly **323**
- An assessment of permanent and nonpermanent plots in riparian vegetation monitoring Caroline M. Laine, Karin M. Kettenring, and Brett B. Roper **337**
- Spatial ecology of female mule deer in an area proposed for wind energy development Stephen L. Webb, Matthew R. Dzialak, Dean Houchen, Karl L. Kosciuch, and Jeffrey B. Winstead **347**
- Factors influencing mortality associated with the translocation of northern river otters (*Lontra canadensis*) in Utah Casey C. Day, Matthew D. Westover, and Brock R. McMillan **357**
- Ringtail (*Bassariscus astutus*) noninvasive survey methods, density, and occupancy in central New Mexico, USA Robert L. Harrison **365**
- Pollination biology of *Astragalus phoenix* (Fabaceae) with notes on the natural history of its pollinator, *Anthophora porterae* (Hymenoptera: Apidae) David A. Tanner, Catherine Clark, and James P. Pitts **373**

Notes

- Eastern fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger*): new threat to pecan orchards in Far West Texas Jennifer K. Frey, Jaime Iglesias, and Krysta Herman **382**
- Evidence of hantavirus exposure in rodents from north Texas Richard M. Pitts, Matthew R. Mauldin, Cody W. Thompson, and Jerry R. Choate **386**

(Continued on page 400)



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WESTERN NORTH AMERICAN NATURALIST
Vol. 73, no. 3 (November 2013)
Page 2 of 2

CONTENTS

Continued from back cover

| | |
|--|-----|
| Rediscovery of the snake <i>Chersodromus rubriventris</i> (Squamata: Colubridae) in cloud forest of the Sierra Madre Oriental, México Aurelio Ramírez-Bautista, Christian Berriozabal-Islas, Raciél Cruz-Elizalde, Uriel Hernández-Salinas, and Luis Badillo-Saldaña | 392 |
| Nomenclatural change of <i>Chaetodipus dalquesti</i> Evelyn Ríos and Sergio Ticul Álvarez-Castañeda | 399 |