



Jamaican Geode

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Geological Society of Jamaica

ISSN 1016 - 1936

Volume 12, Number 3
December 2003

Rafi Ahmad Receives United Nations Award

Mr. Rafi Ahmad, Lecturer in the Department of Geography and Geology and fellow member of the Geological Society of Jamaica was honored by the United Nations for his work related to Natural Hazards in Jamaica. Mr. Ahmad was the recipient of a certificate of distinction at the presentation of the 2003 United Nations Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction. The presentation was made during the Second International Conference on Early Warnings on October 16th 2003 in Bonn, Germany.

Mr. Ahmad was nominated for this award by The Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM) for his contributions to natural hazards studies in Jamaica and the development of hazard maps.

Ms. Ester Tadzong of the Global Centre for Compliance, Hazard and Disaster Management in Cameroon is the 2003 UN Sasakawa Lauretate for Disaster Reduction for her efforts in raising awareness and promoting community involvement in preparing for imminent disasters.



Together with the WHO Sasakawa Health Prize and the UNEP Sasakawa Environment prize the UN Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction is one of three prestigious prizes established in 1986 by the Nippon Foundation. The Award is agreed upon by the UN Sasakawa Jury composed of representatives from five continents.



Mr. Ahmad (left) receiving his award from Mr. Jan Egeland, United Nations under-secretary-general for humanitarian affairs.

We congratulate Mr. Ahmad for this significant achievement.

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MEMBERS!!!

GSJ 2004/05

Annual General Meeting

9:00 am January 31st 2004

Registration 9-10:00am

Inter-Faculty Lecture Theater,
UWI Mona



OBITUARY



Jack Tyndale-Biscoe, 1918-2003

Tuesday September 30th witnessed the passing of Jack Tyndale-Biscoe, an unusually talented Jamaican who had had connections with the Department of Geography & Geology (and its separate forebears) and the Geological Society almost as long as they have existed. Jack started out in the 1930s as a mechanic, with motor vehicles and later, air conditioning units. At the end of the Second World War he got a job with the then-named Pan American Clipper Service, later Pan American Airways. He obtained his aircraft mechanics licence and later got his pilot's licence. With other Jamaicans he started a flying club in 1951 and, in the 1960s, after leaving Pan Am, set up an air charter service.

Jack's connection with the Department of Geography & Geology arose from his starting an aerial photography business, informally in the 1950s, and then much more formally as clients, including the Survey Department and particularly commercial developers, hired him to record their activities. The Department and the Society have used Jack's air photographs from the 1960s to the present day to illustrate numerous academic papers, field guidebooks and reports. Although he normally, and rightly, asked payment for the use of his photographs, Jack was generous in his dealings with us, and particularly with students who were short of money, often asking merely for recognition in the photo caption. This in fact was a characteristic of the man, always matter-of-fact and down-to-earth, willing to give help wherever it was needed. He was a person with many interests, including a love of music (he played the organ and bass). A visit to his office/photo lab was always something to remember. It was choc-a-bloc full of negatives and prints – thousands and thousands of them, the whole dominated by a large airplane propeller hung on the wall. Somehow Marjorie, his wife of 61 years, managed to run a filing system that worked.

Jack's thanksgiving service was held on October 9th and his ashes are scattered over the Blue Mountains. The Society extends its deepest sympathy to Marjorie, his children and grandchildren.

GSJ scholarship recipient 2003/04



The GSJ Scholarship winner for 2003 – 2004 is Miss Lorraine Richards, a final-year student at UWI majoring in Geology. Applicants were interviewed by a panel consisting of a representative of the GSJ, the Academic Staff of the Department of Geography and Geology, UWI, and a representative of the donor agencies. Miss Richards was selected from a field of three female candidates, and the award was presented in August 2003. The GSJ expresses sincere thanks to PCJ, ALPART, JAMALCO, WINDALCO and CCC for their contributions to the scholarship fund.

Last years recipient Ms Angela Munroe is currently pursuing a MSc. Degree in Water Resource Management at the UWI.

The GSJ welcomes short articles, technical information, reports, news items, old photos etc. which are suitable for inclusion in the Newsletter. Submissions should be made to the Geological Society of Jamaica newsletter c/o Department of Geography and Geology, University of the West Indies Mona, Kingston 7.



Field trip report –Great River Inlier, St. Ann

Field trips have been a tradition in the Geological Society of Jamaica from its inception and even though most members do not find the time to attend Saturday trips, there are still those who will spend the time in the field to examine new and old exposures while enjoying the outdoors. Occasionally, they find themselves in some part of the island never before visited which adds to the adventure and newness of a geology field trip. Such was the case on Saturday, October 25, 2003, when the Society organized a field trip to the St. Ann's Great River Inlier in the parish of St. Ann. Twenty persons, left the Department of Geography and Geology, UWI, at about 8:30 a.m. under the leadership of Simon Mitchell, Lecturer in Geology at UWI, and might I add, field enthusiast. The group consisting of GSJ members and members of the Natural History Society of Jamaica (NHSJ), journeyed to Cool Oasis, just outside of St. Ann's Bay, where they were joined by another seven persons from the St. Ann Environment Protection Agency (STAEPA) which included three youngsters.



Above: Field trip participants

After a brief exchange of greetings, it was on to the first stop for the day which was only five minutes away. Here we examined a phenomenon rarely seen, yet quite remarkable. Natural methane gas was seen bubbling from the Windsor Spring, possibly escaping from a hydrocarbon reservoir in the underlying Cretaceous rocks. This certainly was a sight to behold, especially for nearly half the group who were non-geologists. This notable feature sparked quite an interesting discussion among participants about geology and natural resources while cameras were clicking away.

Not to be outdone, a resident of the area, no doubt a self-appointed tour guide, presented himself to explain this phenomena, which he called sulfur.



Above: Fire on water. Natural gas seep lit by a resident of the area.

He was not about to accept the field leader's suggestion that it was natural 'gas' and attempted to prove his point by lighting it several times. After a while it dawned on us that he thought we meant 'gasoline'. We did not bother to argue it out with him and he was not quite pleased about that either.

The fact that no one entertained his suggestion for a 'donation' towards keeping this 'tourist attraction' alive did not make him any more ecstatic.

We then proceeded to the second stop, an exposure of the Windsor Formation in the Great River. A great deal of time was spent here as the field leader explained the deposition of this limestone and shale sequence. The search for fossils began, and although most persons were unlucky, the youngsters in the group had a ball hammering away at the rocks to unearth their treasures. These guys will make great geologists!

From this location the group returned to Cool Oasis for refreshments and then it was on to the Lime Hall area where we went off the road, following a track to a small bridge over the Great River.

A little way downstream from the bridge was the third stop, an exposure of the Cascade Conglomerate.



Participants were not so much interested in the rocks as they were taken in by the spectacular waterfalls from which the formation got its name. Here the youngsters in the group competed with other youngsters from the area to see who could make the most spectacular dives from the natural water slide into the pools of water.



Above: Cascades from which the conglomerate exposure got its name

It was quite entertaining and breathtaking all at the same time. Participants had to be drawn away to get to the final stop.

A short walk back towards the bridge brought us to the final stop, an exposure of the Lime Hall Limestone. All the fossil enthusiasts went searching for rudists and gastropods. They were not too disappointed. However, it seemed at this point that nearly half the group was missing. Where were they? Well, some persons liked the waterfalls so much they did not leave. It is field trips like these that inspire you about the natural world. What better way to make geology interesting to the non-geologist. We thank Simon for another well executed field trip and we look forward to many more. It was great having the members of NHSJ and STAEPJA joining us and we hope to see much more of them. Let us support them as they support us.

Ian C. Brown

TREMORS

The Geological Society of Jamaica would like to express our sincere condolences at the passing of Trina MacGillvray wife of Professor Stephen K. Donovan in December 2003.

New council members, Ms. Tracey Powell, Mr. Ryan Ramsook and Professor Edward Robinson were co-opted to council to fill posts made vacant by the early departure of Ms Anna Shlakowski, Ms. Sherene James and Mr. Brian Richardson. Dr Thomas Stemann has filled the post of vice president vacated by Ms. Norlene Martin.

Coming Events

- *January - Annual General meeting January 31st 2004. 10 am Inter-faculty lecture theater, UWI Mona*
- *February— Field Trip to north Eastern Jamaica on February 14th 2004*

CONGRATS!!

Congratulations to Garth & Caro Nunes on the Birth of their Son Xavier Nathaniel and to Kenneth & Margaret Aratram on the birth of their daughter Brianna.

Congratulations to Margaret Wiggins-Grandison who recently received her Ph.D.

Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Trevor McCain on their recent nuptials



GSI Barbeque Highlights

(Right) Trying to get the barbeque going



(Left) The chef has got it

(Right) The barbeque is in full swing





ISSN 1016 - 1936

Editor: Shakira Khan
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* Demitted office September 2003

G SJ MEMBERSHIP FORM 2004 – 05

PREFERRED TITLE: Ms. / Mrs. / Mr. / Dr. / Prof. / Sir

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At which address would you like to receive mail?

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MEMBERSHIP FEES (Indicate your status with an asterisk (**))

STATUS	ANNUAL FEE (J\$)
Institutional	3,000.00
Professional	500.00
Associate	200.00
Student	100.00

Areas of Interest: _____

Membership in the Society is open to all persons with an interest in Geology and all related earth sciences. Application for Membership may be submitted to the Secretary/Treasurer, Geological Society of Jamaica. c/o Department of Geography & Geology, University of the West Indies, Mona, Kingston 7, Jamaica. **ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING EACH YEAR OR BY THE 31ST OF JANUARY.**