



Mining and Metallurgical Society of America

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President's Message
**Climate Change and
Earth Day**

By Michael D.S. Blois

On April 28th, Bret Stephens who was with the Wall Street Journal, wrote an opinion for the New York Times titled "Climate of Complete Certainty." He wrote "We live in a world in which data convey authority. But authority has a way of descending to certitude, and certitude begets hubris."

He also wrote "As Andrew Revkin wrote last year about his storied career as an environmental reporter at The Times, "I saw a widening gap between what scientists had been learning about global warming and what advocates were claiming as they pushed ever harder to pass climate legislation. The science was generally scrupulous. The boosters who claimed its authority weren't." Also "None of this is to deny climate change or the possible severity of its consequences. But ordinary citizens also have a right to be skeptical of an overweening scientism. They know — as all environmentalists should — that history is littered with the human wreckage of scientific errors married to political power."

I thought that this was a well argued article. However the column angered scores of environmentalists and climate change activists. Apparently many took



Michael D.S. Blois
MMSA President, 2017-2018

to social media with promises to cancel their subscriptions! Bret Stephens responded to the criticisms "I am by no means an expert in climate science, and I take it as fact that the earth is warming, perhaps dangerously so. Nor am I infallible: Human fallibility was my very point."

In my opinion, climate change is a real phenomenon comprised of naturally occurring (over geological eons) and recent man-made components. I cannot with Complete Certainty opine on the ratios between the two components but I do believe that the naturally occurring component is greater than most people realize. I also accept that there are others who likely do not agree with me. In a non-polarized society, different opinions lead to healthy and respectful debate with acceptance of the different opinions. I

would like to think that many members of the MMSA share similar opinions.

In April large crowds gathered in Washington D.C., Denver, in other US cities and in other countries. One of the organizing groups, the People’s Climate Movement, has called this week the Week of Action for Climate, Jobs and Justice. The Earth Day March for Science was organized by the Earth Day Network. Its website claimed that about 150,000 marched in Washington D.C. The People’s Climate Mobilization claimed an attendance of over 200,000 with 370 sister marches across the country.

According to Jeff Steir of the Heartland Institute: “The first Earth Day celebration was conceived by then-US senator Gaylord Nelson and held in 1970 as a ‘symbol of environmental responsibility and stewardship.’ In the spirit of the time, it was a touchy-feely, consciousness-

raising, New Age experience, and most activities were organized at the grassroots level.”

In recent years, Earth Day has been hijacked by the catastrophic climate change movement.

The Earth Day website states “Earth Day 2000 sent world leaders the loud and clear message that citizens around the world wanted quick and decisive action on global warming and clean energy.”

Much like 1970, Earth Day 2010 came at a time of great challenge for the environmental community. Climate change deniers, well-funded oil lobbyists, reticent politicians, a disinterested public, and a divided environmental community all contributed to the narrative—cynicism versus activism.

On April 21st the Denver Post reported that “There are a handful of local marches corresponding with the national March for Science day.

The march aims to defend the role of science in health, safety, economies and governments. Organizers of the D.C. march say the national event was spurred out of an alarming trend toward discrediting scientific consensus and restricting scientific discovering.”

So why am I sharing these press reports and numbers with the MMSA?

The Denver Post website on April 29th in posting about the Washington People’s Climate March quoted The Associated Press: “Participants in the Peoples Climate March say they’re objecting to Trump’s roll-back of restrictions on mining, oil drilling and greenhouse gas emissions at coal-fired power plants, among other things.” Note that the bold and underlining are mine and not from the AP. The mining industry always seems to be first in the cross-hairs.

Yet when the industry tries to put forward its point of view, we are told that we are in denial of the facts.

Many organizations of the global mining industry, such as the SME through its Move Mining competition have been and are attempting to change this negative perception of our industry.

I believe that the public’s perception of the mining industry is much worse than ever. The MMSA’s *Next Big Thing Committee*, under the chair of Susan Wager, is continuing to investigate where the MMSA can assist with “*Abandoned and Orphaned Mines*”. Discussions with the Colorado School of Mines have centered around the possibility of organizing a joint conference on the subject, as a follow up to the one that CSM arranged in late 2016. I think that we need to encourage all stakeholders to participate even if they may be environmentalists or NGOs.

Membership Applications

New Regular and QP Member Applications:

The following individual(s) have submitted membership applications and or changes to their membership status. They have either received approval of the Membership Committee as candidates or are currently under review:

If any member of MMSA has good cause to believe that any of the applicant(s) should not be granted Regular membership or QP membership, as appropriate, you are requested to make known your objections, in writing, to **Betty Gibbs**, Executive Director, within 30 days from issue of this Newsletter. In the absence of any objections and after receiving approval of the various committees, the candidate members and those members requesting a change of status will be confirmed as Regular Members or QP Members, as provided by the ByLaws.

Applicant

Endorsers

None

QP Applications

Endorsers

Area of Special Expertise

Ruth Carraher

Joe Kantor

Geology

Neil Prenn

Richard DeLong

Today, the Earth Day home page starts “Earth Day 2017’s Campaign is Environmental & Climate Literacy - Education is the foundation for progress. We need to build a global citizenry fluent in the concepts of climate change and aware of its unprecedented threat to our planet.

“We need to empower everyone with the knowledge to inspire action in defense of environmental protection. Environmental and climate literacy is the engine not only for creating green voters and advancing environmental and climate laws and policies but also for accelerating green technologies and jobs.”

I wonder what it would take for the Earth Day Network to realize that the mining industry has some similar goals. If only “advancing environmental and climate laws and policies” could be interpreted to mean supporting and enacting some form of Good Samaritan legislation. Those

willing to initiate the clean up of “Abandoned and Orphaned Mines” could do so with protection against unreasonable requirements and liabilities.

During a recent address to the CMA, the Colorado Attorney General suggested that the MMSA should write to the two Colorado Senators, Bennett and Gardner. I will be preparing a draft letter.

We, as an industry, cannot afford to have a repeat of the Gold King Mine disaster, even if the immediate responsibility was with the EPA! As we all know there are hundreds of additional “Abandoned and Orphaned Mines” in the American West. Given proactive mitigation, we are hopeful that further disasters like the Gold King can be avoided.

On another note, I would like to thank Terry McNulty for his response to my February President’s Message. I appreciate his thoughts and positive feedback. Climate Change, the subject of this Newsletter, generates a wide variety of opinions. I am sure the membership of the MMSA has a range of opinions and I look forward to feedback comments.

Quality Membership Committee—The committee is discussing how MMSA can address the need to improve technical report writing; how to support educational opportunities for QP members; and what is needed to qualify for a Senior QP. The function of a Senior QP and qualifications for the designation are being developed.

Next Big Thing Committee—The committee is developing ideas about a conference on Mine Closure as a sequel to the Colorado School of Mines event last fall. Information is being collected about Good Samaritan legislation and how MMSA can help promote the ideas. CSM is planning a meeting for early November with a theme of “Abandoned Mines in the USA”. The committee is researching ways MMSA can participate in the conference.

Continuing Professional Development—A CPD Audit Committee has been assembled and will soon begin to audit submitted logs. QP members are required to keep a log of their qualifying activities. Logs do not have to be submitted until requested. When a CPD log is requested, the QP must be prepared to submit logs for the most recent three years. QPs will be requested to submit a log at least once every seven years.

We are still in the ramp-up phase of establishing CPD requirements for QP members, so until January 2019, the requirement to submit logs for 3 years is still flexible.

More information about the CPD program and a sample log can be downloaded from the main page of the MMSA Web site.

Membership Update

The following changes in membership have taken place since the last newsletter, with the authority of the respective membership committees.

Regular Member Additions:

None

QP Members Confirmed:

Michael Nees, Metallurgy/Processing

Membership Deletions:

Gordon R Parker, Resigned

MMSA presently has a total of **346** members, **2 in process**. Currently, **198** members are QP members

Additions, deletions and routine changes to the Society’s data base and member biographies are accessible through the Members Only page in our web site, at www.mmsa.net This data base is the best source for information on any particular member.

MMSA News

Committee Reports -

QP Enhancement—Two additional QP categories are being discussed. The committee is working on titles for the categories, the qualifications, and how to implement the new categories. Discussions will continue for the next several months with the goal to have a solid recommendation by the time of the October Council Retreat.

**WANTED
NEW MEMBERS**

Membership Drive—MMSA membership has been declining in recent months with deaths and resignations. Do you know colleagues who you would invite as members? Let them know about MMSA and help them find membership applications. Membership information is on the Web site.

New Blacksmithing and Western Coal Exhibit

The Colorado Mining Exhibit Foundation of Lakewood has set up a new display in the **Western Museum of Mining and Industry** in Colorado Springs. The project is an example of how mineral industry outreach groups can cooperate to maximize impact on target audiences - in this case civic minded people who visit museums (and tend to be

voters), plus hundreds of teachers and thousands of students.

The exhibit uses posters and graphics in the museum’s blacksmith shop to highlight the fact that the quality western hard coal made for good blacksmithing results. This is part of the Foundation’s program to tell the story of The Importance of Mining and Minerals to a Strong America.



CMEF is always working to expand partnerships with mineral industry groups and science teacher organizations such as NSTA and STEM projects. If you would like to help with funds, displays, large mineral samples, and/or volunteer time, contact: Guy Johnson, Exhibit Coordinator,

Colorado Mining Exhibit Foundation, 568 South Carr Street Lakewood, CO 80226 (303) 969 - 0365 or GPJ222@aol.com

The Mineral Maniacs and the Magic Hardhat

This is the first book of a series targeted to 8-12 year olds. Three best friends with the guidance of their detention teacher, Ms Pebbles, uncover the magical underground world of the Paxterras, a people made entirely of stone. The magic hardhat takes each of the three young heros—Marabel, Victor, and Herbie—to many parts of the world to prevent a rogue stone named Sulfur from trying to steal a mystery mineral from the human and Paxterra worlds.

The kids learn about safety, learn to problem-solve and use their unique gifts to connect the clues to identify the mineral and keep Sulfur from stealing all of it. Of course, the cliff-hanger at the end leads to the next book in the series.

The heros are given clues about the mineral, how it is found, how it is mined, and what it is used for.

The Digging Deeper section at the end pulls together all the information the kids learn.

This project was one of the finalists in the SME Move Mining competition.

More info: <http://www.TheMineralManiacs.com>

QP seals are available from MMSA.

The seal comes as a self-inking rubber stamp and the stamp is about 1 high by 2.6 inches wide. The stamp has the MMSA logo, member name, and member number. The cost is \$35, including shipping. To order a QP seal, contact the MMSA office or order directly from the MMSA Web site (www.mmsa.net/payments). The QP seal is in the Products category.

2008 MMSA Centennial Medallions are available for the great price of \$40. The coin has 1 oz of silver and 24 carat gold plating.

