



Michael Late Benedum Chapter

American Association of Professional Landmen

The Take-Off

December 2016

MLBC
P.O. Box 955
Bridgeport, WV 26330

THANK YOU

The MLBC would like to take this opportunity to thank its members for another successful year! From its humble beginnings in downtown Pittsburgh nearly 60 years ago, the MLBC remains the largest and strongest organization of land professionals in the eastern United States. Despite the downturn in the industry, the MLBC has been able to continue offering quality education and networking events to our members in Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. We owe it all to our members and sponsors. A special thank you goes out to the corporate sponsors who are largely responsible for us being able to continue at the pace that we do. In addition to the education and networking opportunities, we are very proud of the success of our charitable fundraising efforts. The executive committee, committee chairs, members and friends of the MLBC have shown their support to the communities we live in by contributing to these events.

All signs point to an uptick in activity for 2017. As the year closes, we should each take time to reflect on our successes and failures of the year and what we have learned from each. Don't stop there – ask yourself what changes would I like to make for the upcoming year?

In looking forward to next year, the MLBC welcomes your nominations for members of the 2017-2018 Executive Committee. The current bylaws state that “each presiding officer shall be automatically nominated to the next higher office for the following year. Additional nominations for all offices, except that of the President, shall be in writing and submitted to the Nominating Committee Chairman on or before February 15 of the election year”. Please send any nominations you have to Tara White at twhite@mlbc-aapl.org by the deadline.

MLBC Executive Committee

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Upcoming events

*February Dinner Meeting
Parkersburg, WV
February 9, 2017*

Registration Available Soon!

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Shawn Grushecky



Shawn Grushecky is currently an Assistant Professor and Coordinator for the Energy Land Management Program in the School of Natural Resources at West Virginia University. One of 12 programs accredited by the AAPL, the WVU ELM program has seen tremendous growth over the last two years. Shawn is currently a member of the AAPL as well as the MLBC and NALA.

Shawn received his BS degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Resources from WVU as well as a MS and PhD in Forest Resources Science from what is now the School of Natural Resources at WVU. “While at WVU, most of my work had focused on research and outreach in the area of natural resource and related energy development. When given the opportunity to lead the development of the ELM program, I ran with it and have not looked back”. Shawn has grown to love the interaction with students and currently advises over 100 undergraduates. “We work really hard in the ELM program at WVU to get the students engaged and to take an active role in their education”. Part of the engagement includes providing plenty of volunteer opportunities for the students. “Over the last year the students have really stepped up and have volunteered their time at numerous events, which I think is very important.” Shawn actively participates in many of these opportunities as well as serving on the board of the WV Botanic Garden located near Morgantown, WV.

Shawn grew up on a farm in Northwestern Pennsylvania, not far from Coronel Edwin Drakes well in Titusville, PA. “Growing up in school, Drake’s well was on the field trip rotation about every other year, I still have the bottles of crude they sold in the gift shop after all these years”. Shawn’s family also operated a large sawmill as well as drilled and operated many wells in the area. “I spent a lot of time with my Grandfather either stacking lumber or checking wells, I owe a lot to him – my work ethic developed at a very young age due to these experiences!”

Shawn currently lives in Morgantown, WV with his wife Jennifer and two children Jack (13) and Isabel (10). “Both of our kids are active, seems like we are non-stop chasing them around the Soccer, Football, Volleyball, Basketball, and Lacrosse fields. Truthfully, we enjoy every minute of it”. In their spare time, Jack and Shawn love to be archery hunting for deer on their farm in Greene County, PA. “We also do a lot of habitat management; you can never have enough pear trees or thickets when you are trying to grow deer!”

Shawn is very happy to be a member of the MLBC chapter of the AAPL. “Since the start of our program the MLBC chapter has been very supportive of me and the program at WVU. This includes being available for guest lectures, opening meetings to students, and providing plenty of learning opportunities. I have met a lot of people through the MLBC, many of which have become good friends.”

Daniel Germain
MLBC Marketing Chair



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CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

AAPL offers three certifications that are proven to enhance a member's credibility in the industry and to increase earning potential for landmen.

Certified Professional Landman (CPL) – The highest designation offered in the energy management industry, CPL certification is the standard by which landmen demonstrate their comprehensive competence, proficiency and professionalism in the landman field.

Registered Professional Landman (RPL) – The mid-level designation offered by AAPL, RPL certification distinguishes a landman as knowledgeable, experienced and professional.

Registered Landman (RL) – The initial level of certification, RL certification signifies a fundamental knowledge of the land industry as well as a landman's commitment to furthering their education.

For more information on why becoming a [certified landman is important, click here.](#)

MLBC New Members

October

First Name	Last Name	Employer	Member Type
Bryce	Morrison	Honor Resources Company	Active
Steve	Haught	Honor Resources Company	Associate
Anthony	Judice	Gordon & Rees LLP	Active
TJ	Book	Honor Resources Company	Associate
Cheryl	Sickles	Honor Resources Company	Active
Corey	Poling	Honor Resources Company	Associate
John	Owens	Honor Resources Company	Associate
Phillip	Hanna	Honor Resources Company	Active
William	Ferrell	Honor Resources Company	Active
Michael	Webb	RM Webb Inc.	Active
Robert	Stone	Sean Cassidy and Associates, P.C.	Associate

November

First Name	Last Name	Employer	Member Type
Fred	Jankowiak		Active
Justin	Black	Chevron	Active
Patrick	Champlin	Chevron	Active
Gerald	Spedding	Honor Resources Company	Associate
Brandon	Black	Honor Resources Company	Associate
Daniel	Knickerbocker	Honor Resources Company	Active
Matthew	Oakes	Honor Resources Company	Associate
Christopher	Wilcox	Shale Land Services	Active
Michael	Yates	Southwestern Energy	Active

November Dinner Meeting Sponsors

Steptoe & Johnson

Seneca Technologies

Thank you for your sponsorship!



PA Supreme Court Strikes Down Additional Provisions of Act 13

Posted By [Lawrence H. Baumiller](#)

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court declared the last remaining challenged sections of Act 13 of 2012 to be invalid in an opinion issued September 28, 2016 in the *Robinson Township v. Commonwealth* line of cases. Read more about it in our [Administrative Watch](#).

As published on Babst Calland's ShaleEnergyLawBlog.com on October 6, 2016. Shale Energy Law Blog provides timely legal and business information on issues impacting the energy industry and specifically natural gas development, as well as articles published by the attorneys of Babst Calland.

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Administrative Watch: PADEP's Chapter 78a Rulemaking Goes into Effect for Unconventional Operations in Pennsylvania

Posted By [Jean M. Mosites](#)

On Saturday October 8, 2016, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's new Chapter 78a regulations associated with unconventional wells went into effect when they were published in the [Pennsylvania Bulletin](#). For unconventional well operators, there are substantial changes from prior law affecting operations over the entire life of the well, from permitting to site construction, waste handling, impoundments, pipelines, site restoration and spill remediation. For more information, check out our [Administrative Watch](#).

As published on Babst Calland's ShaleEnergyLawBlog.com on October 12, 2016. Shale Energy Law Blog provides timely legal and business information on issues impacting the energy industry and specifically natural gas development, as well as articles published by the attorneys of Babst Calland.

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Dear Morgan,

I am a landman and my company wants to buy some property to use as a buffer piece near our well pad. The landowner is a man who wants to do a “1031.” Do you know what this is and how to handle it? Ed.

Dear Ed:

It has been said that no matter what people are talking about, they are talking about money. In this case, your landowner is talking about capital gain tax because he wants to do a “like-kind exchange,” which is a special kind of transaction that is authorized by Section 1031 of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code, so that he won’t have any capital gain tax when he sells the land to you. Rather, he will be able to defer that payment to some point in time in the future. Ordinarily, if you sell land, and you sold it for more than you paid for it, you must pay tax on the money you made, but, with a 1031 exchange, you sell the land and then immediately invest that money by buying another asset, and you don’t pay any tax on that money at this time. Instead, you pay tax in the future when you sell the asset and don’t use the money for another exchange. Of course, you won’t be surprised to learn that the Internal Revenue Service has plenty of rules for this kind of transaction since the seller is getting special tax treatment. Don’t be surprised if your seller needs to involve a third party in the sale (it is common in 1031 exchanges for the seller to use a middleman who takes the proceeds from the sale and then buys the replacement asset) or if he is worried about the timing of the sale (the replacement asset must be purchased within 180 days of the sale). If you have specific questions, you should probably consult with your company’s counsel for real estate or tax matters.

Dear Morgan,

What is an ALTA survey and how is it different from a non-ALTA survey? Megan

Dear Megan:

An ALTA survey is a survey that has been conducted in accordance with specifications set out by the American Land Title Association (ALTA), which is a trade association for the title insurance industry. Title insurance is widely used across the country to protect the interests of owners, and perhaps more importantly, lenders against losses related to defects in title. If you have ever purchased a home, your bank purchased title insurance to protect its loan to you against the possibility that your ownership in the real estate would fail because of some kind of problem with the title. As you can probably imagine, problems related to boundary lines can give rise to problems with the title. As a result, title insurance companies insist upon very accurate surveys, which they use when considering whether to issue their insurance policies. These surveys are conducted according to the specifications laid down by ALTA. Such surveys require significant title research on the part of the surveyor and only allow for very minor errors (for every mile surveyed, an ALTA survey cannot be off by more than a foot). An ALTA survey does not just locate the boundaries; it must also locate all of the buildings and the easements on the surveyed tract. Such surveys can be time-consuming and expensive. You might think of an ALTA survey as the gold standard for surveys. But not all surveys are required to be ALTA surveys. Oftentimes, it is acceptable that a survey simply locate the boundaries of a tract of land.

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT CAREER FAIR

Three members of the Michael Late Benedum Chapter (MLBC) of the American Association of Professional Landman (AAPL) participated in the Junior Achievement (JA) of Western Pennsylvania Inspire Career Fair held at the Monroeville Convention Center (Pittsburgh area) on December 1, 2016. The JA Career Fair was an opportunity for high school and elementary students (5th grade) to meet representatives of various companies, non-profit and trade associations to explore a variety of career and educational opportunities in western Pennsylvania. Representatives of the participating companies, non-profits and trade associations shared about their careers, the skills and training required for their jobs and how they got into the business. Approximately 1,300 students from schools in the western Pennsylvania region participated in the event.

MLBC members Barry Dewitt, RPL, of Noble Energy, Danny Germain of Complete Title Solutions and Mark Acree, CPL, of Three Rivers Resources (also a Junior Achievement of Western Pennsylvania board member) were on hand to discuss what is a Landman, how Landmen are integral to the energy industry and how students can work towards a career as a land professional. The MLBC and AAPL provided a number of promotional items, and AAPL provided copies of the Landman Survival Guide and US Onshore Ambassador Toolkit which provided a lot of educational information to the students. While occasionally difficult for some students to understand what a Landman is and does, the students were interested and certainly took away many interesting opportunities for a conversation with their teachers and parents about our profession and the energy industry. If nothing else, we certainly challenged their opinions of the energy industry.

Junior Achievement of Western Pennsylvania's vision is "to be recognized by businesses, educators, and policy makers as the thought leader and deliverer of relevant, responsive and innovative programs which build young people's capacity to spur economic development and contribute to America's global competitiveness". Junior Achievement programs are generally established to teach financial literacy and entrepreneurship to elementary, middle and high school students. Junior Achievement of Western Pennsylvania, in partnership with the Marcellus Shale Coalition, developed the first JA Careers in Energy Program and rolled it out in 2011. Since this program's inception, MSC member companies have provided more than \$1.1 million in financial support for the development and implantation of the program. Many companies working in western Pennsylvania have also contributed time, money and volunteers to the efforts of Junior Achievement.

Mark Acree, CPL
MLBC University Liaison



CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

Platinum \$5,000.00 per year

Benefits of Platinum Sponsor

- Logo on the corporate sponsor board at every meeting along with the meeting sponsor board.
- Logo on the back of every Takeoff and the bottom of every membership email.
- Receive three meeting/dinner passes for each meeting for one year.
- Receive one free Full Page advertising ad.
- Receive free Half Page ad in the takeoff per year.
- Logo on Golf Outing sponsorship boards.



Gold \$2,500.00 per year

Benefits of Gold Sponsor

- Logo on the corporate sponsor board at every meeting.
- Logo on the back of every Takeoff and the bottom of every membership email.
- Receive one free Half Page advertising ad in the Takeoff per year.
- Logo on Golf Outing sponsorship boards.



Silver \$1,500.00 per year

Benefits of Silver Sponsor

- Logo on the corporate sponsor board at six meetings.
- Logo on the back of every Takeoff and the bottom of every membership email.
- Receive one free Half Page advertising ad in the Takeoff per year.



Bronze \$750.00 per year

Benefits of Bronze Sponsor

- Logo on the corporate sponsor board at three meetings.
- Logo on the back of every Takeoff.



Advertising in The TakeOff

Full page ad \$500.00 per month

Half page ad \$250.00 per month

Dinner Meeting Sponsorship

Cost \$250.00 per meeting. Companies will receive advertising at the dinner meeting as well as your logo displayed on our website for the month of the meeting you sponsor.

To secure a corporate sponsorship, advertise in the Take-Off, or if you have any questions please contact Tara White at twhite@mlbc-aapl.org. Please contact Jeremy White at jwhite@eqt.com for dinner meeting sponsorships.

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2016—2017 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Awards	Christa Dotson	cdotson@eqt.com
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University Liaison	Mark Acree, CPL	macree1959@yahoo.com

MLBC SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
February 9, 2016 Luncheon	Blennerhassett Hotel Parkersburg WV	TBD
March 9, 2017	Bridgeport Conference Center Bridgeport, WV	Full Day Seminar
May 12, 2017	Oglebay Resort Wheeling, WV	Spring Golf Outing
June 1, 2017	Lakeview Resort Morgantown, WV	Awards Ceremony, Officer Induction

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Michael Late Benedum



“The Great Wildcatter”

The MLBC membership application is located on the website at www.mlbc-aapl.org. Please check your information on the website prior to submitting your renewal. The MLBC website has an updated version of the membership listing. Please use this resource if you can not find yours or others information in the directory. Please report any errors or omissions to Tara White at twhite@mlbc-aapl.org.

Notice of the application(s) of all potential Chapter members shall be published in the next regularly scheduled monthly Chapter “Takeoff” newsletter. Active members shall have the opportunity during a period of thirty (30) days following the first publication to object to the potential members’ application. Such objections to membership approval may be submitted to any member of the Executive Committee and shall be in

writing. The Executive Committee shall take any such objection under counsel in the next regularly scheduled monthly Executive Committee meeting. A decision to accept or reject the membership application shall be determined by a majority vote at such meeting. The Executive Committee shall notify the applicant in writing of rejection.

Application for membership in the Chapter shall be subject to the approval by a majority vote of the Executive Committee at a regularly scheduled meeting, after the aforementioned thirty (30) day newsletter publication period, and shall require the signed approval by the acting President of the Executive Committee, as evidence of the Committee’s approval. Names of any and all newly approved members shall be read at the following regularly scheduled general meeting of the Chapter.



MLBC WEBSITE

If you experience any problems using the website or if you have any suggestions, please contact Jeremy Preston via e-mail at JPreston@eqt.com.



JOB BANK

The direct link for MLBC Job Bank is www.mlbcjobbank.com. If you have any questions, please contact Jeremy Preston via e-mail at JPreston@eqt.com.



PHOTO ALBUM

We would like to share our Photo Album with you to show you what MLBC has been doing throughout the year. The direct link for MLBC Photo Album is www.mlbc-aapl.org/VPhoto.php.