

# THE WILDCATTER

MICHAEL LATE BENEDUM CHAPTER

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL LANDMEN



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*Celebrating 60 years*

INSIDE THE

# DECEMBER ISSUE



3	LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT
4	CORPORATE SPONSORS
5	SPONSORSHIP LEVELS
6	MICHAEL BENEDUM ARTICLE
11	MARIETTA STUDENTS SPEAK
13	MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS
16	MLBC 60TH CELEBRATION
21	NOVEMBER MEETING
22	JUD BYRD
23	APPALACHIAN LAND INSTITUTE
24	WOMEN OF THE MLBC
25	LEG & REG UPDATE
27	AAPL NEWS
28	UPCOMING EVENTS
29	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
30	COMMITTEE CHAIRS
31	NEW MEMBERS & CERTIFICATIONS
32	MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

As we close out this year that has been 2019, I write this article with many different thoughts. As this year began, while many were still ringing in the new year on January 1st, a small spacecraft about the size of a minivan was reaching the outer limits of our solar system. With little fanfare, the spacecraft named New Horizons blew by the farthest object ever photographed – Ultima Thule— at a speed of around 32,000 mph. New Horizons had been launched in 2006 and, being about 4 billion miles from Earth, no one knew if the flyby would even be a success. Turns out, it was. The data coming in from the flyby will continue to trickle in for well over a year, and scientists will continue to learn more about the far reaches of the universe.

Why do I bring this up? One, because it started the year and two, because there is always work being accomplished of which we are not aware. Good things are being done with little fanfare. My last article touched on the MLBC Foundation, which now is a full-fledged 501c3 charitable foundation. Many volunteer hours went into the creation of this foundation, most of which were spent by people other than myself, but I can tell you today that it is finally up and running. This is something for which our whole organization should be proud. I know that our namesake, Michael Late Benedum, would be.

As we know, Michael Late Benedum was called “The Great Wildcatter”. However, his story is not one of simply drilling wells in unproven areas and reaping great rewards. He had failures as well. He had periods of time where things looked bleak. He persevered, though. With his strong work ethic and good character, he established himself as a legend in our profession. One of his hallmarks was his charitable spirit, and that is why it gives us great pride and pleasure to be able to establish the MLBC Foundation. More details about the MLBC Foundation and how it can benefit you will be in upcoming communications in 2020.

In keeping with the theme of our namesake, it also gives us great pride to rename our organization’s newsletter, which for many years has been fittingly called “The Take Off”. Moving forward; however, the newsletter for the MLBC will be entitled “The Wildcatter” in his honor, beginning with this last edition of 2019. The newsletter committee suggested this idea, and it was met with resounding approval.

On October 11th, the MLBC held its 60th Anniversary Celebration. A great time was had by all in attendance and it was one of the larger turnouts we’ve had at an event in a good while. I think everyone realized what a monumental occasion it was. Unless someone can prove me wrong, I’m going to say that it was the largest concentration of past MLBC Presidents in one place – ever! I would like to personally thank each of you for making the arrangements to be there. As the current President, it is certainly not lost on me what a privilege it is to be in this position for such a milestone.

As we move in to 2020, times are uncertain. It is no secret that our industry is experiencing a significant

"What 2020 holds for our industry, we don't know for sure. What we do know is that the demand for energy isn't going anywhere."



MLBC President, Jeremy White

downturn. Many of our friends are searching for work and some are even contemplating switching careers. In this downturn, the MLBC is committed to creating value for our members. We are committed to doing what we can, within our power, to assist our members. As a local organization and in conjunction with the AAPL, we are exploring ways to offer more diverse educational programs, training clinics, lower event costs, and more. As I mentioned at our luncheon in Bridgeport on November 14th, as the MLBC Board, we want to hear from our members. Please reach out and let us know what we can do to create the most value for our membership. Please keep an eye out in 2020 for events and programs that will help us all in our careers, our employability, and our ability to weather the storm.

As I close this article out, I'd like to circle back to the New Horizons point I was making earlier. Work is happening. You and I may not be aware, but it is happening. If you are still employed, what work is being accomplished at your company, at your brokerage, at your client's, of which you are not aware? Learn what that is. Ask questions. Take in as much knowledge as you can – maybe that's division orders, maybe that's surveying, GIS, construction, title review, accounts payable, or anything else. The more diverse our knowledge base, the better it will be for us. If you are currently looking for your next opportunity, what work is being done that you should know more about? Is it renewables? Is it more surface/ROW related? Perhaps you need to know more about due diligence as there will be continued M&A activity? Continue to diversify your skillset and knowledge base.

What 2020 holds for our industry, we don't know for sure. What we do know is that the demand for energy isn't going anywhere. As landmen, we can supply the skills necessary to provide the work product to keep that energy flowing. By the way, I call dibs on the first lease on Ultima Thule. As we wind down 2019, my thoughts are with all my fellow landmen and I wish everyone a safe, happy, and successful 2020.

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

# MLBC CORPORATE SPONSORS 2019

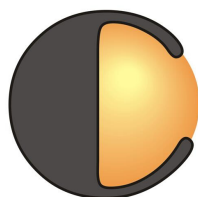
## PLATINUM



**ARSENAL**  
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# 2019-2020 CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

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## PLATINUM: \$5,000 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 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 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.

## SILVER: \$1,500 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 free Half Page ad in the Takeoff per year.

## BRONZE: \$750 PER YEAR

### Benefits of Bronze Sponsor

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

## Dinner Meeting Sponsorship

Cost \$250 per meeting. Companies will receive advertising at the dinner meeting as well as their logo displayed on MLBC website for the month of the meeting sponsored. Contact Harry Heinbaugh for more information.

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To secure a corporate sponsorship, advertise in The Take-Off, or if you have questions, please contact Abby Veigel at [abbyveigel@mlbc-aapl.org](mailto:abbyveigel@mlbc-aapl.org). Please contact Harry Heinbaugh at [Harry.Heinbaugh@percheronllc.com](mailto:Harry.Heinbaugh@percheronllc.com) for dinner meeting sponsorships.



**The following pages contain  
an excerpt from the  
January/February 2005 issue  
of Landman Magazine**

Permission has been granted by  
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Enjoy!

# Wildcatter Michael L. Benedum Left His Mark in the Industry and in History

*As part of his legacy, one of AAPL's affiliated local associations is named after this legendary oilman*

By Jim Fisher



By all accounts, Bridgeport native Michael Late Benedum was among the richest men in the country when he died in 1959 at the age of 90. By those same accounts, he also was one of the least known multi-millionaires, at least outside West Virginia, Pittsburgh and the oil industry. Benedum's story truly is one of perseverance, resilience and fortitude. A chance encounter on a train when he was just 21 years old set in motion one of the greatest success stories of the early 20th century. In his lifelong pursuit of oil, Benedum traveled the world. Aside from his commercial ventures, in 1920 Benedum undertook a secret mission from President Woodrow Wilson to find oil for naval reserves. He made oil strikes all over the country and across the globe, amassing a fortune he would later essentially leave to the people of West Virginia and west-

ern Pennsylvania. Although he lived most of his life outside West Virginia, Benedum never forgot the life lessons learned at his father's knee, the respect for hard work, the value of a handshake and the people of his native state. Benedum was born in Bridgeport in 1869, the son of Emmanuel and Caroline Benedum. Benedum's father owned a farm and operated the local general store, in addition to being the town's mayor and justice of the peace. Emmanuel Benedum also was famous as a so-called "cracker-barrel debater" and was referred to as a "frontier Socrates" by *Fortune* magazine in a two-part article about Benedum in the 1940s. Benedum probably got his excellent oration and interpersonal skills from his father, who kept track of debate victories first with notches then thumbtacks on his omnipresent cane. Legend holds that Emmanuel Benedum owned



*Photos courtesy of the Michael Late Benedum collection at the Bridgeport Civic Center*



Michael Benedum, right, and an unidentified man stand in front of Benedum's plane "The Wildcatter."

"He was the top guy in his profession at that time, and he's probably the most famous landman in the country."

scores of canes. One cane, marked as No. 501, is in the archives of the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation in Pittsburgh. Benedum is a legend in the circles of oil and gas men and even today, more than 40 years after his death, is an inspiration to those in the business. "It's just like every kid who plays baseball has their heroes ... as a landman, he's the guy," said Louis Ferrari of Exploration Partners LLC in Bridgeport. "He was the top guy in his profession at that time, and he's probably the most famous landman in the country." A landman researches land titles to negotiate leases for property where oil or gas is suspected. For the rest of the populace, Benedum's name is synonymous with philanthropy. The Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation, named in honor of Benedum's 20-year-old son who died of influenza in an Army camp during World War I, has given away millions of dollars in the half century since it was founded. The foundation initially was a way for Benedum and his wife, Sarah, to donate money. On Benedum's death in 1959, distributions from his estate brought the

foundation's total assets to \$66 million in 1969, according to the foundation's annual report. By the end of 2003, that figure had grown to more than \$333 million. The board of trustee's policy is to distribute at least five percent of the foundation's assets each year. Since it began in 1944, the foundation has given away more than \$265 million in almost 6,500 grants, according to the report. "His charity has meant a great deal to West Virginia. The Benedum Foundation is the most significant private philanthropy in the state," said Ralph Bean, a trustee of the foundation and a Clarksburg attorney. Bean also has a somewhat personal connection with Benedum, as he worked in the natural gas business for 22 years and lives in Bridgeport. Benedum's philanthropic vision not only has been carried on by the foundation, but has been expanded, Bean said. In the early days, grants focused primarily on higher education. But Benedum was a visionary; he understood that times change and the board needed some measure of latitude. Now, the foundation focuses on five main areas: education and the arts, health, human services, community improvement and economic development. "His philosophy was that philanthropy should be used to help people help themselves," Bean said. "I'm honored to do it; it feels like a privilege. The thing I enjoy the most is the grant-making. I think it is the most enjoyable charitable activity I engage in." The foundation's grants directly benefit Benedum's native and adopted homes of West Virginia and southwest Pennsylvania; two-thirds of the yearly grants go to the mountain state while the other one-third are donated to the greater Pittsburgh region. "He was that kind of person," said Bridgeport resident Dwight Fowler, who knew Benedum through the Methodist church Benedum built. "He remembered the town, he remembered the people. Of course, his sisters lived here and he would visit from time to time." In addition to the church, Benedum also set up a trust for the Bridgeport Cemetery and built the Bridgeport Civic Center, a scale replica of his birthplace on the home's site. It's tough to say whose name is more recognizable in West Virginia, Michael Late Benedum or Robert C. Byrd. Both

men's legacies grace buildings from the Northern Panhandle to the southern coal fields, Byrd's because of a lifetime of Senate appropriations, Benedum's from a commitment to benefit the people of his home. "Like all West Virginians, Michael Benedum had an abiding love of his home place. He lived nearly 60 of his 90 years in Pittsburgh and pursued a career which took him to the farthest reaches of the world in his quest for oil," wrote past president and trustee Paul R. Jenkins in the 1998 annual report. "But over and over again he returned to his native soil. Michael Benedum's entire career as The Great Wildcatter was marked by his independent, pioneering spirit and courage to take risks," Jenkins wrote. "These qualities epitomize West Virginians at their best — as do Mike Benedum's self-reliance, modesty, hard work, ethical behavior rooted in religious conviction (put in practice as one of the leading Methodist laymen in America) and, foremost, a genuine love of people." Benedum's path to riches began early. After a chance meeting with John Worthington, general superintendent of South Penn Oil Co., on a train between Clarksburg and Parkersburg, Benedum began his career as a landman. He hit the ground running; securing leases in highly competitive Tyler County after other landmen had been unable to do so. He advanced rapidly in the company until one fateful summer. With Worthington on vacation, Benedum began buying leases around Fish Creek in Wetzel County after a good well came in, according to a publication of the Michael Late Benedum Chapter of the American Association of Professional Landmen. But Worthington's supervisor in Pittsburgh was outraged at the exorbitant prices Benedum paid. In all, he purchased leases for about 1,500 scattered acres for \$7,500, a practically unheard-of price in 1895. The supervisor demanded Benedum pay the leases out of his own pocket. He managed to scrape together the money and a few months later, as activity increased, South Penn wanted to buy back the leases. In a move shrewdly beyond his 27 years, Benedum refused, instead selling the leases to Standard Oil for \$400,000. That would prove to be just the first of many lucrative

transactions in Benedum's career, which spanned 70 years and took him all across the world. In fact, when Benedum died in 1959 at the age of 90, Benedum was still searching for oil, this time in Alaska, according to "In the Company of Extraordinary People," a special report for the 50th anniversary of the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation. "The industry was booming at the time he came in," Ferrari said. "He basically just met someone, that may have been fate. But I suspect he was a high achiever and would've been as successful in any business as he was in the oil and gas industry. Along the way, he made his mark," Ferrari said. "A small-town boy from West Virginia, he made his mark all over the world." In 1897, Benedum teamed with Joseph Trees, an engineer and geologist. This pairing would eventually become one of the most successful outfits in the oil and gas business, opening new fields in places such as Illinois, Oklahoma, Kansas, Mexico, South America and China. Benedum and Trees' 47-year partnership ended in 1943 when Trees died of a heart attack in mid-sentence during a conversation with Benedum. He was 73. According to the foundation's 50th anniversary report, Benedum stayed with Trees' body for two hours until it was removed from their offices. Benedum then stayed with Trees' widow all night. According to the report, this was Benedum's response to praise for his support: "We must face these things and carry on. Every person should build up reserves — a reserve of physical strength to provide good health and to ward off disease; a reserve of courage so that when he encounters difficult problems he will not run like a coward; a reserve of money to ensure against want; a reserve of knowledge so that one's mental facilities may be kept keen and alert; and most important of all, a reserve of spiritual power to draw upon when one is tempted to do wrong." But the Benedum-Trees union is perhaps most well-known for three fields in particular. The duo is often credited with the famous Caddo Field in Louisiana, which was plagued with technical problems. Resilience and dedication, long the trademarks of Benedum's commitment, over-




Benedum, left, and engineer and geologist, Joseph Trees.

Michael  
Benedum's entire  
career as "The  
Great Wildcatter"  
was marked by  
his independent,  
pioneering spirit  
and courage to  
take risks.

came those problems and the field had produced nearly two billion barrels of oil by 1952 and was still yielding millions of barrels a year as late as 1992. In the early 1920s, Benedum and Trees drilled the first successful well in west Texas' Big Lake Field, which eventually opened the entire vast Permian Basin. Benedum's last big strike was perhaps his most difficult. It took six years to complete, was two miles deep and required the assistance of a second team, according to the foundation's 50th anniversary report. In a 1948 *Life* magazine article about the strike, Benedum was credited with keeping the project alive, by putting up the most personal stake and not quitting when it appeared the bleakest. Texas honored the 68-year-old Great Wildcatter by naming the strike Benedum Field, the first time he

had ever been so immortalized. "He was one of the great gamblers," said Dave McKain, president of the Oil and Gas Historical Association. "We didn't have many in this area. He not only went all around the state, he went all around the world, but then he came back here and he gave back." Benedum's business and personal dealings can be summed up with a simple phrase: Word is bond.

While working on what would eventually be the Yates Field in Texas in the mid-1920s, Benedum was ready to quit and come back east, McKain said. One of Benedum's subordinates had made a deal with the landowner, and told Benedum about it when the West Virginian announced plans to quit drilling. "He said, 'Then we drill,'" McKain said. "That really shows what kind of a man Mike Benedum

was." Although he was among the 100 wealthiest Americans during his lifetime, Benedum was never the kind of person driven by the need for wealth. *Fortune* magazine characterized him as using the money from one strike to help finance the next venture. According to the foundation's 50th anniversary report, he loved the thrill of the hunt for oil and waxed philosophical about wildcatting: "Once you've touched oil, once you've seen it come roarin' out of the ground, with the sound of a thousand locomotives, it becomes part of you, until it saturates." 

— This article was previously published in *The Exponent Telegram* and is reprinted here with the permission of its author, Jim Fisher, metro editor of *The Exponent Telegram*.

## Following is the text of two historical markers along Texas highways honoring the life and achievements of Michael Late Benedum

### **Iraan (Pecos County) US 190 W at Marathon Oil Co. office; Marathon Oil Company Discovery Well**

Opening one of the greatest fields in the world, Marathon Oil Co. (then Ohio Oil Co.) brought in the I. G. Yates "A" No. 1 Well on Oct. 29, 1926. It was a gusher from a shallow depth of 1,004 feet. Previously oil men had said, "You won't find any oil west of the Pecos." This did not stop the work of Marathon Oil Co.'s predecessor firm and its partners in many ventures, the veteran wildcatters Michael L. Benedum and Joseph C. Trees, of Pittsburgh. Their strike was sensational. Within a year, the Yates field had more than 100 wells — two with even higher yields than Yates No. 1. Under the 20,000-acre Ira G. Yates ranch laid one of the largest oil reserves in the world. The many developers voluntarily adopted proration. Their plans for allocating and restricting Yates Field production were approved in 1928 by the Railroad Commission of Texas. This was the first complete proration of an oil field in the state — and an important milestone in petroleum conservation. The discovery well has since been deepened to 1,283 feet. It still has a potential daily flow of 77,760 barrels. The Yates Field now has 607 wells. (1966)

*Information from <http://oilgas.org>, the oil, gas and energy resources law section of the Texas State Bar.*

### **Rankin (Upton County) 7 mi. N on SH 349; The Benedum Oil Field and Benedum Townsite (About 9 mi. E)**

Field named in 1950 by Texas Railroad Commission in honor of Michael Late (Mike) Benedum, 1869-1959, who devoted 69 of his 90 years to the oil business, and won fortune and fame as "The Great Wildcatter." His work began in 1890. With a partner, Joe C. Trees, he discovered and developed oil fields in Illinois, West Virginia, Louisiana (the great Caddo Field); the Tuxpam in Mexico; de Mares in Colombia, South America; and in Texas, the Desdemona, Big Lake, Yates, East White Point, Susan Peak and Benavides. Discovery of Big Lake Field (1923) on University of Texas land tapped the great wealth of the Permian Basin, which opened in 1920 with a small discovery. Alford No. 1, the original well in Benedum Field (later reclassified as a gas field), was completed Jan. 4, 1948, at depth of 12,011 feet by Slick-Urschel Oil Co., under a partnership agreement. The field later benefited by dedication of Benedum Townsite. The "Great Wildcatter" was an oil pioneer whose worth enriched one of the world's large constitutional permanent university funds. Revenues from oil and gas operations give Texas the largest permanent public school fund in the world (1965.)

*Information from <http://oilgas.org>, the oil, gas and energy resources law section of the Texas State Bar.*



## MARIETTA COLLEGE LAND & ENERGY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Students enrolled in the Land & Energy Management program at Marietta College are immersed every day during the semester in learning about every facet of our industry. During the summer, they have the opportunity to have some hands-on learning. A few students wanted to share their experiences. On behalf of the MLBC, we wish them all the best in their future endeavors!

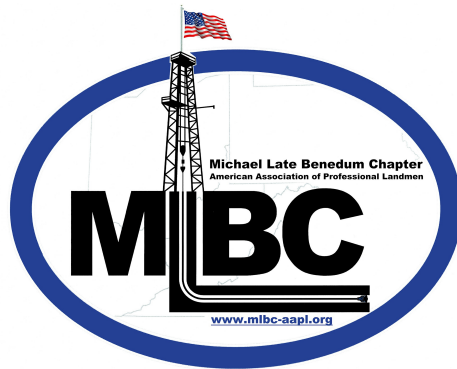
Bryce Hilverding  
Sophomore  
Waterford, OH

"This past summer I was able to intern for Knox Energy in Gratiot, Ohio working as a field intern. Coming off my freshman year, it was very exciting to have the opportunity. Being a Marietta College student, I was able to be prepared going into the summer knowing what to expect to be able to help the company I was working for as much as I could. Marietta offers classes that puts you ahead of the game to prepare you for an internship and I believe Marietta very well did that for me. Marietta also offers a career center that will offer assistance on a resume and also interviews, this feature was very helpful with me being able to get an internship by having a professional resume as well as being ready for an interview."

Skyler Secrest  
Senior  
Marietta, OH

"During the summer of 2019 I interned at the Washington County Courthouse in the tax maps office. During my time there I helped the public find their property on a tax map. I shadowed during deed transfers and title searching. I also assisted in checking survey descriptions. I was also in charge of modernizing the office by scanning and archiving old surveys and legal descriptions into the computer."

One of the classes we take at Marietta College called fundamentals of Land and Energy Management helped prepare me for this internship in many ways. We learn many terms and descriptions in the class, and I used a lot of them every day. Also, we do a project where we go to the courthouse and tour the auditors, recorders, tax maps, and treasurer's offices and are given a piece of property that we have to track back to the 1800s. We had to use each office to help aid our research and determine if we had a clean title or not. This project helped me understand what goes on in each of the offices and gave me a head start when I started my internship. My supervisor was surprised at how much I already knew about the offices in the courthouse and my understanding of the terminology they use."



## Marietta College Land & Energy Management Program

Aaron Peterman  
Sophomore  
Elizabeth, WV

"Over this past summer I worked for Artex Oil Company. I was able to acquire valuable knowledge and experience throughout the summer. However, prior to coming into work I had just completed my first year at Marietta and had only taken a couple of classes related to the oil and gas industry. As you could imagine I asked more than my shares worth of questions, but the people at Artex would take the time to answer any question that I asked. Throughout the summer some of my jobs included surveying strip mine ponds for frack water, completing marginals for a lease chain and organizing lease, well, and right of way files. I also was able to go out in the field with the landman to talk to landowners and experienced a well being drilled first hand. Through these experiences, I obtained knowledge about becoming a landman that a book and classroom could not teach."



IN HONOR OF  
OUR 60TH  
ANNIVERSARY

# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



THE MLBC RECOGNIZES  
PAST PRESIDENT  
BRITNEY  
CROOKSHANKS

# PAST PRESIDENT MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



## BRITNEY CROOKSHANKS

The MLBC is honored to share a brief conversation we had with our President Emeritus, Britney Crookshanks, CPL. Britney served as the MLBC's 59th president and has helped the MLBC grow over the past 12 years with her dedication and direction. Not only is Britney a valued contributor to our local association, but she also serves on the AAPL's Executive Committee as Secretary; in the past Britney also served as chairman of AAPL's Marketing Committee and member of the Education Committee. It is with great pleasure we feature our most recent president in the December edition Past President Member Spotlight, Britney Crookshanks, CPL.

### MLBC:

When were you President of our organization? What years did you serve in office?

### BRITNEY CROOKSHANKS:

I served as President last year being, 2018-2019.

### MLBC:

Are you still actively involved in our organization?

### BC:

Yes, I am still on the MLBC board and active in committee work.

### MLBC:

How has our organization changed over the years?

### BC:

I think the demographics of the organization has evolved and changed over the last 10-15 years. With the shale boom, MLBC saw an influx in younger less experienced landman. Since then, those landmen have created successful careers and are now some of the leaders of the industry! I have also seen an increase in the number of women in the oil and gas profession which is another exciting evolution!

### MLBC:

Tell us a little bit about your career, your current position, past positions and some of your land work experience.

### BC:

I started in the oil and gas industry as a summer job while I was in college trying to figure out what I wanted to study. I had changed my major numerous times and was struggling to find a good fit. My mom had hired me one summer break to be a runner at the courthouse collecting copies for her and coloring in maps according to leasehold. I enjoyed the summer working with her and decided the following summer I wanted to give being a landman a shot. So I applied for a job at a brokerage firm and started negotiating leases and learning how to understand and run title. When it was time to go back to college that fall, I decided I wanted to take a break from school and see where this Landman job was going to take me, I would eventually finish my undergrad but it wouldn't be for years. Thank goodness I took that leap of faith because 15 years later I am absolutely loving the decision to become a landman and I'm now chasing a dream in the oil and gas industry as a partner in a startup exploration company.

### MLBC:

Do you have a favorite land story, project, area of interest in the oil and gas industry?

### BC:

When I think back over the last 15 years in this industry, my memories and different stories come flooding back. I am so fortunate I have been able to work in so many different facets of the land-world. I have been out flagging ROW, negotiating exploration documents, running title, managing crews of Landmen, working in-house ahead of a drill rig and everything in-between. With each new project or responsibility, I faced new challenges and new adventures which helped to build my experience and provided great material for story telling!

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT CONTINUED

Interview by:  
John T. Catsonis  
MLBC Marketing Committee

**MLBC:**

Are there any particularly memorable areas you have been able to visit due to your land career?

**BC:**

I have been so lucky to work in so many beautiful places throughout the Appalachian basin. I have worked in Kentucky, West Virginia, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

**MLBC:**

What do you see happening in the future of oil and gas and in the Appalachian Basin?

**BC:**

It is no secret that right now life can be viewed as being rough in the energy industry. However, it isn't always going to be so gloom. This industry is cyclical. There will be more ups and more downs as time marches on. Try to stay focused and positive and build your knowledgebase to keep an edge and keep busy through the downtimes.

**MLBC:**

If you could offer advice to a young land professional, or peer, what would you say?

**BC:**

Say yes! When your broker or company asks you if you can take a project or start a new challenge say yes! The more experience you get the more valuable you become to your own career and your future employers. There are so many moving parts to the energy industry and the industry is consistently changing. If you continue to diversify your expertise you will have a better understanding of the industry as a whole and you will be more flexible with the responsibilities and duties you can handle.

**MLBC:**

Are there any ways the MLBC can improve as an organization and offering service to our members?

**BC:**

Absolutely. Everyone and every organization can always improve. I think the MLBC needs to continue to grow and evolve as the members' needs change. I think as a member, it's our duty to speak up! If people have ideas or thoughts on how the association can improve, they need to speak up! It would be nice to have more members to volunteer and want to get involved. Keeping the association evolving and growing is a lot of work and in order to best service the membership, there needs to be membership involvement!

**MLBC:**

Who has been your biggest influence/mentor? Tell us about him or her.

**BC:**

I consider myself so lucky to have interacted with all of the different landmen and industry leaders I have had the honor to cross paths with. I don't think I would be able to narrow down just one influence or mentor I have had. I have learned from college students at WVU in the Land program, long time attorneys like Arnie Shulberg or longtime landmen like Greg Zerkel. I have worked for great leaders like Aaron Yost and alongside some of my best friends as landmen. So many people have been able to lend advice, direction, expertise or perspective that has had a profound impact on my career. If you are open to learning, you can learn from just about anyone in any situation.

**MLBC:**

How long have you been a member of the MLBC?

**BC:**

I have been attending MLBC meetings throughout the duration of my 15 year career. I have been involved with the MLBC board in some capacity for about 13 years now and I plan to continue to stay involved. I love this organization for the connections and education I continuously take away from the events and the publications.

**MLBC:**

What are your plans for the future?

**BC:**

If you would have explained to me when I first started as a landman I would have the opportunity to be where I am today, I don't know if I would have seen the path to get here. I hope that my future continues to surprise me, and I continue to have opportunities to expand my network of connections and make great memories along the way!

**MLBC:**

Is there anything additional you would like to share?

**BC:**

Thank you to the MLBC membership for making the organization as strong association and to continue to help it grow and evolve as Landmen!

## 60th Anniversary Celebration of Michael Late Benedum Chapter of AAPL

October 11, 2019

A wonderful time was had by all at the 60th Anniversary Celebration held at the Bettis Grill in Pittsburgh. Roughly 80 people gathered together to enjoy some food, drinks and great music from Justin Trawick and the Common Good. Many stories were shared, friendships rekindled and new memories made during the evening's events. A huge note of thanks goes out to the meeting planning committee and our President, Jeremy White, for making this evening a night to remember! Enjoy the pictures!



**Past Presidents in Attendance Pose for Group Picture**  
From Left: Jeff Keim ( 95-96), Asa Bowers (07-08), Rick Elswick (97-98), Jeff Brown (08-09), Rich Robb (12-13), Steve Perdue (94-95), Aaron Yost (15-16), Jeremy White (current president), and Marc Acree (11-12).



**Left:**  
Celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the MLBC with a signature cocktail in honor of our namesake, Michael Late Benedum

**Right:**  
Danny Cooper and Stephanie Cooper



# MLBC 60th Celebration



From Left:  
David Trzeciak and Melissa Brockett



MLBC President Jeremy White welcomed guests to the MLBC's 60th Anniversary at the Jerome Bettis Grill 36 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.



From the Left: Sheri Bowers, Tara White, Lori Naser



From the Left: William Wallace, Christopher Wallace,  
and Dan Rossi



# MLBC 60th Celebration



From the Left: Sheri Bowers, Asa Bowers, Jeremy White, Tara White, Rebekah Bowers



Everyone who attended received this custom made cutting board created by Modern Hicks Woodworks



Justin Trawick and the Common Good kept the crowd entertained with their amazing vocals and unique twists on all our favorite hits.

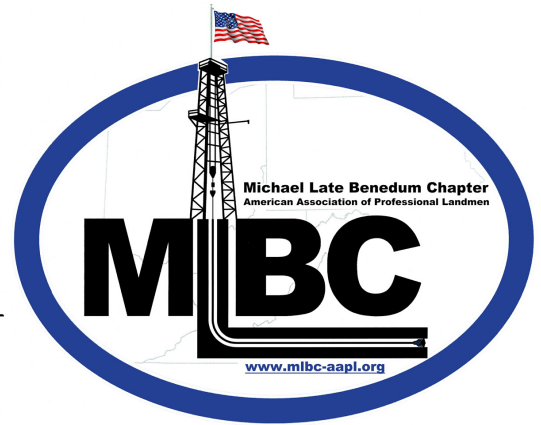


From Left: Ryan Heaster, Benjamin McKinney, John Catsonis



From Left: Rick Elswick and Michael Beckett

# 60th Anniversary Celebration of the Michael Late Benedum Chapter of AAPL



**The backdrop where many members and guests took their pictures at party was sponsored by McDonald Land Services. Pictured L to R are staff at McDonald Land Services:**

**Bruce Thomas, Justin Bartowick, Lauren Over, Kaitlynn Johnson, Megan Johnson and Aaron Carolla**



**A special shout out to the sponsors of this amazing event!**

**WHAT THINGS COST**

- Ford Class Stamp - \$0.06
- New House - \$15,894.00
- Gallon of Gas - \$0.39
- Avg. Rent/Yr. \$135.00

**IN THE NEWS...**

- Nell Armstrong and Edwin Ford indicate the first humans to set foot on the Moon.
- The Beatles record Abbey Road, their final album together.
- The US Air Force closed its Project Blue Book investigating alien visits no existence of UFOs.
- Sensory Stimuli debates on the National Educational Television network, an educational program for the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS).
- The US launches the earth orbiting satellite that sent US F-4 Phantom II weapons via

**US PRESIDENTS**

LINCOLN & JOHNSON  
REAR SEAT  
RICHARD NIXON  
FRONT SEAT  
**WORLD POPULATION**  
3.59 BILLION

**WHAT TO KNOW?**

Columbia's Plaza High has been in 1969. They know many money down intended to add a new dorm for every year but got for every year but had that was quickly scrapped as the transition grew costly.

**FAMOUS PEOPLE BORN**

- Jennifer Lopez
- Janet Jackson
- James Stinson
- Ethan Phillips

**POPULAR SONGS**

"Get Back" - The Beatles  
"Bridge Over Troubled Water" - Simon & Garfunkel  
"In the Year 2525" - The Isley Brothers  
"Hotel California" - Eagles  
"The Smokey Mountain Blues" - Elton Presley

**1969'S PLANG**

To make an A  
Use your cool - get angry, mad  
Lose your mind - money  
drop a dime - no income or little  
Mute - a chance, awkward person  
over the hill - too old

**POPULAR FILMS**

The Wild Search  
Midnight Cowboy  
Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid

**Guatemala Business Revolution**  
Marcus Vinicius, M.D.  
The Lincoln Initiative

# BACK IN 1979

DOUGLAS RICHARDS WAS PRESIDENT OF THE MLBC

## WHAT TIMES COST

First Class Stamp - \$0.15  
Gallon Gas - \$55.100.00  
Nine Gallons of Gas - \$0.90  
Loaf of bread - \$0.40

## IN THE NEWS...

Michael Jackson releases his breakthrough album "Off the Wall" on August 10th.

The ESPN (Entertainment and Sports Programming Network) television network is launched.

YMCA uses the Village People for libel because of their song of the same name.

Margaret Thatcher became the first female prime minister with a 44-seat majority in the House of Commons.

Sony introduces the Sony Walkman costing \$200.00.

Voyager 1 photo reveals Jupiter's rings.

## U.S. PRESIDENT

Jimmy Carter

## WORLD POPULATION

4.31 BILLION



## FAMOUS PEOPLE

### BORN

Audrey Hepburn  
Katie Hudson  
Jennifer Love Hewitt  
Kourtney Kardashian  
Chris Pratt  
Kevin Hart

## POPULAR SONGS

Head of Glass - Blondie  
I Will Survive - Gloria Gaynor  
Le Freak - Chic  
Tragedy - Bee Gees  
Hot Stuff - Donna Summer  
My Sharona - The Knack

## 1970'S SLANG

to history - defunct, gone, finished  
Benjamin - a one-hundred dollar bill  
candy - a weak, indecisive person  
hangs - bad, of poor quality  
headbanger - the person in charge  
No way, Jose! - absolutely not!

## U.S. PRESIDENT

Jimmy Carter

## WORLD POPULATION

4.31 BILLION



## DID YOU KNOW...

In 1979, you can call a 1-800-number and listen to messages from Star Wars' characters Luke Skywalker, Princess Leia, C-3PO and Darth Vader.

An LA man received thousands of parking tickets due to DMV computers matching tickets for cars without plates to his custom "NO PLATE" license plate.

## POPULAR FILMS

Apocalypse Now  
Alien  
Caddyshack  
Mad Max



Mark & Mandy  
There's Company  
Happy Days  
M\*A\*S\*H  
The Dukes of Hazard

# BACK IN 1999

## "BO" RANSON WAS PRESIDENT OF THE MLB

### WHAT THINGS COST

First Class Stamp ~ \$0.33  
New House ~ \$131,750.00  
Gallon of Gas ~ \$1.22  
Oven Eggs ~ \$0.69

### IN THE NEWS...

The United States Senate acquits President Bill Clinton of perjury and 12<sup>th</sup>.

The number of internet users worldwide reaches 150 million by the beginning of 1999. Over 50% are from the United States.

The Melissa and Cherylmy viruses attack computers worldwide, forcing several large corporations to shut down their e-mail servers.

Ford acquires Volvo.

The popular children's cartoon show "SpongeBob SquarePants" premieres on the Nickelodeon cable network.

### U.S. PRESIDENT

Bill Clinton

### WORLD POPULATION

5.99 BILLION

### FAMOUS QUOTES

"That's your final answer!"  
— Regis Philbin on Who Wants to Be A Millionaire?

"I see dead people!"  
— The Sixth Sense

### FAMOUS PEOPLE BORN

James Charles  
Ethan Dolan  
Sabrina Carpenter  
Tanner Fox  
Grayson Dole  
Tessa Brooks

### POPULAR SONGS

Baby One More Time - Britney Spears  
Livin' on a Prayer - Rickie Martin  
Smooth - No. 1 Thomas & Santana  
No Scrubs - TLC  
Mambo No. 9 - Lou Bega

### 1990'S SLANG

babushka - fake  
block baller - big time dealer  
butter - something excellent, outstanding  
chillax - spend time with talking  
gimmick - a fun thing to do  
moby - exceptionally large

### POPULAR FILMS

Eyes Wide Shut  
The Matrix  
American Pie  
10 Things I Hate About You

### DID YOU KNOW...?

In 1999, Billy Mitchell was the first person to achieve a perfect score in "Pac-Man." He played Pac-Man for 6 hours and 10 minutes to reach 256-screen and achieve a score of 3,323,360. His ability to reach the end of the game even stunned "Pac-Man" creators and designers, who named him the "video game player of the century."

# BACON 2009

RICHARD DAILEY WAS PRESIDENT OF THE MLE

## WHAT THINGS COST

First Class Stamp - \$0.42  
New House - \$232,880.00  
Gallon of Gas - \$2.73  
Loaf of Bread - \$1.77

## IN THE NEWS...

Barack Obama is inaugurated as the 44th President of the United States and becomes the United States' first African-American president.

An ongoing financial crisis and recession is hurting hard in late 2007 continues with many calling it worst financial crisis since the Great Depression.

Michael Jackson dies in strange circumstances and brings worldwide outpourings of grief.


Quarterback Tom Brady throws five second quarter touchdowns against the Tennessee Titans, an NFL record for touchdown passes in one quarter.

## US PRESIDENT

GEORGE W. BUSH  
- UNTIL JANUARY 20  
BARACK OBAMA  
- FROM JANUARY 20

### WORLD POPULATION

6.78 BILLION



## FAMOUS QUOTE

"I'm really happy for you, I'mma let you finish, but Beyonce had all time of the best videos of all time."  
- Musician Kanye West

## FAMOUS PEOPLE BORN

Tsunami  
Betsy Norris  
Clara Lukaski  
Shaylen Dwyer  
Mamon Dúick  
Julie Franke

## POPULAR SONGS

Poker Face - Lady Gaga  
I Gotta Feeling - The Black Eyed Peas  
Bad Romance - Lady Gaga  
Sexy Chick - David Guetta & Akon  
Right Round - Flo Rida

## 2009'S SLANG

bouyal - an interjection of triumph  
peep - person  
Scooby does - good shoes  
ink - a tattooing  
bromance - friendship between males  
cowboy up - to get strong, tough

## POPULAR FILMS

Avatar  
Zombieland  
X-Men Origins: Wolverine

# 2008

## WHAT THINGS COST

First Class Stamp — \$0.55  
New House — \$376,000.00  
Gallon of Gas — \$2.86  
Loaf of Bread — \$2.48

*Color of the Year*  
**PANTONE**

## TECHNOLOGY ...

Google shuts down  
Google+. The platform was  
launched in 2011, but  
failed despite the  
company's effort to push it.  
On April 12, Disney  
announced it will launch its  
long-awaited streaming  
service sometime in  
November. This timeframe  
is due to Disney's fight to  
get back some rights it sold  
to other streaming  
services.

**Games of Thrones**  
**Stranger Things**  
**The Big Bang Theory**  
**This Good Place**  
**This Is Us**

## IN THE NEWS...

Nancy Pelosi regained her power as House Speaker after Democrats regained control.

On January 14, more than 32,000 teachers began their strike, leaving 600 teachers behind their classroom.

The Department of Justice announced that over 50 people have been arrested in connection with a college admissions scheme.

President Trump declared a national emergency in an attempt to protect computer networks.

It was revealed that homelessness in LA had increased by 12% in the past year. The increase is due to lack of available, affordable homes.

## POPULAR SONGS

Motivation — Normani  
Boyz n da Bar — Ariana Grande & Social House  
Love Like That — Shag Aigle  
Looking For America — Lela Del Rey  
Bad Guy — Billie Eilish

## 2010's SLANG

keep it 100 — keep it real  
Yassas! — showing off  
flax — showing off  
Gucci — good or cool  
spilling the tea — gossiping  
on fleek — fashionable

## U.S. PRESIDENT

Donald Trump

## WORLD POPULATION

7.7 BILLION

**DID YOU KNOW...**

On March 28, Walt Disney Co announced that starting May 1, all parks will have large smoking, vaping and large strollers. The restriction is in preparation for the crowds that are expected at the new Star Wars exhibit.

On August 24, the first US death linked to vaping was reported as an individual contracted a severe respiratory disease. The CDC has announced that there could be another possible 153 deaths in the next 22 states, all possibly related to e-cigarettes.

## POPULAR FILMS

0000  
Toy Story 4  
Avenge: Endgame  
John Wick: Chapter 3 — Parabellum



# Luncheon Meeting Bridgeport Country Club November 14, 2019

By Daniel Cooper, Newsletter Committee Chairman

Approximately 50 MLBC members gathered at the Bridgeport Country Club for the final meeting of 2019. A new segment going forward in our business meetings will be a short presentation provided by the Legislative Committee. Allison Farrell, who is a member of the committee, kicked off this new segment by speaking to the attendees about the upcoming West Virginia Legislative session in 2020 and what bills may come up through the legislative body concerning oil and gas development. Allison provided the Newsletter Committee with the following quote for publication:

*"The industry has several priorities heading into the 2020 Legislative session, which are likely to include creating an expediting permitting process for well permits, updating the spacing requirements for deep wells, and possibly lease integration legislation. Industry leaders are also considering legislation to create a shallow (i.e. Marcellus) well regulatory process for unitization. The priorities are still being developed, but the goal in advancing these potential issues is to bring more predictably and efficiency to oil and gas development in West Virginia."*

The 2020 Legislative Session gets underway January 8, 2020 in Charleston. For more information, please contact Allison Farrell at [ajf@jenkinsfenstermaker.com](mailto:ajf@jenkinsfenstermaker.com).

The luncheon speaker was Evan Conard from the Charleston office of Bowles Rice. He provided a wonderful presentation on case law concerning surface use issues in oil and gas development, pooling rights and lease interpretation, and on deductible operating expenses and ad valorem assessments.

Kudos to Chuck Saffer and the Education Committee for lining up great educational content for all our meetings in 2019!

Also, thank you to our meeting sponsor, Steptoe & Johnson. Their steadfast support of our membership is greatly appreciated!



Allison Farrell provides a brief legislative update to those in attendance



Lunch speaker Evan Conard addresses the group



The lunch meeting was well attended



Thanks to our meeting sponsor Steptoe & Johnson



# Thanks to All!

By Jud Byrd, MLBC President 1996-1997

As my retirement date draws near, I feel compelled to write one more article for the Take Off. This surprised me as it was a responsibility I dreaded each month during my term as President of the MLBC. A sincere thanks to Barb Johnson, who was constantly reminding me of my deadline, and to my good friend Fred Kent, who was stellar for so many years arranging for the MLBC's meeting venue, dinners (always with hand-carved beef) and speakers.

With 40 plus years as a Landman under my belt, I can pass on some great advice. At the top of that list, I value most professionalism, leaving a trail for the next person and, no matter what your title may be ...do what it takes to protect the interests of your company, partners and participants. Too many of us get hung up on our position (title) and seem to forget that we have a simple goal. That goal may be hard to accomplish but knowing that when you drill, you can be certain that your company has the oil and gas leased and it is unencumbered by a previous lease or reservation or otherwise. Many other things may matter, but in my opinion, nothing is more important.

Technology has changed our industry (not speaking of technology related to drilling and completion) and I am not sure that change is for the best. I grew up in the industry when we negotiated our deals person-to-person. These days, it seems email has replaced that personal contact. Relationships and trust were established, but more importantly, friendships were made. You could look each other in the eye, respect each other's opinions and trust that a deal could be agreed upon. Our superiors entrusted us with enough responsibility and authority to act, and with all due respect to my attorney friends, we could accomplish our tasks so much easier without worrying whether we used "shall" or "will" in a document we were creating. Our intent was clear and we did our best to live up to it, rather than trying to find ways to avoid, cancel or terminate what we had negotiated. Many a well has been drilled in Ohio on a hand shake or a deal written on a napkin. The pioneers of the oil and gas industry understood the importance of their word and nothing else really mattered.

To my fellow Landmen, I urge you to get to know each other, network and as previously mentioned...leave a trail. There's nothing as important as developing friendships with the people in your profession. At any time, someone should be able to pick up a file, know what you did and why. Even if it may not always be correct, at the very least, they will understand how and why you arrived at your conclusion.

One of my pet peeves, (as those who have worked for me will attest) are phones, hats, camo or sandals in the Recorder's office. Remember to be respectful of those around you. Running title on-line is wonderful but it will never replace working the "books" and solving the many mysteries. Anyone can learn to run marginals, but the test is doing more...marginals are for convenience.

I owe a debt of gratitude to my Dad; I was working for a bank when he told me that Stocker and Sitler were looking for a Landman. At the time, I was open to a new opportunity, and although I didn't know what a Landman was, I soon learned that it is a wonderful profession. Over the years, it became apparent to me that it is not always understood or appreciated. Many thanks for the opportunity to be employed as a Landman in companies dedicated to exploring and finding oil and gas, including Stocker & Sitler, CGAS Exploration and EnerVest. I can honestly say without hesitation that when the opportunity presented itself to accept a position at Artex, I was thrilled due to their reputation of good business management and their expertise in finding and producing oil and gas.

In closing, I would like to thank the many friendships I have been lucky enough to make over the years; forgive me if I forget many. Sincere thanks to...Danny Haight, Dean Williams, Jim Taylor, Kathy Watson, Brad Byrd, Fred Kent, Greg Zerkel, Mike Rawlings, Mark Acree, Ethan Bonnette, Lucas Pattison, Rod Winters, John Keller, Richard Elswick, Bob Erhard, Bruce Turner, Greg Sellers, Tim Roberts, Chris Wallace, Louie Seidensticker, Dan McVey, Dan Pottmeyer, Jim Rose, Rudi Seidensticker, Bruce Turner, Dave Aman, Greg Cunningham, Mark Van Tyne, John Gordon, Tim BeVier, Aaron Yost, Terry Hatcher, Bill Grubaugh, Amy Lang, John Forman, Don Huck, Joe Haas, Chad Spence, Steve Fleischer and all the other great Landmen and industry professionals I have had the pleasure to work with.

For those of you who continue to work, give your best every day and for those of "us" who are "now" retired, I wish you all the best! Have fun and remember to occasionally reflect on what a great opportunity and adventure it was to be employed in this profession.

God Bless!

Jud



John Kimbelton, 2016-2017 MLBC President presents Jud Byrd with the J.W. Findley Lifetime Achievement Award on June 1, 2017

# 2019 Appalachian Land Institute Summary

By Chuck Saffer  
Education Committee Chairman

The 2019 Appalachian Land Institute was held at the Pittsburgh Airport Marriott on October 3 and 4th. A dinner featuring a speech by AAPL President, Jay W. Beavers III, was held the evening of the 3rd. The ALI program began with an entertaining and informative presentation from Justine Kasznica on the use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (ie Drones) which discussed current and future uses for the technology and regulatory challenges. Jason Little provided candy and an informative presentation on the history of oil and gas development focused primarily on the middle east. At lunch time, attendees received some good insider perspective from a longtime HR professional on the hiring process including how certain AI programs treat resumes and cover letters. There was a spirited discussion about the differences between old school and new school hiring processes during the question and answer session. Renee Anderson provided an informative and historical analysis of contracting with minors and other individuals who may be incompetent under the law. A late afternoon panel provided insight on the interaction between land and legal departments at various sized companies. The evening dinner featured an informative speech from current AAPL President, Jay W. Beavers III, which stressed the AAPL motto that land is the source of all wealth. On day two, Kelly O'Bryan da Mota provided a worthwhile dose of ethics.



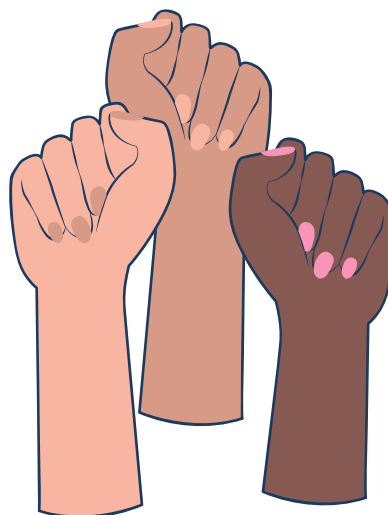
Jay Beavers, AAPL President, center, takes a group photo after dinner with Robert Greiner, Christa Dotson, Justin Nixon, Jeremy White, Kevin Pierson and Stacy Tichy



Jay Beavers, AAPL President, strikes an imposing silhouette prior to speaking to the MLBC members gathered at the Appalachian Land Institute

# WOMEN OF THE MLBC COMMITTEE UPDATE

By Amber Buric, Chairman



Without question, 2019 has been a year of change for the oil and gas industry. That said, with change comes opportunity. As the industry continues to evolve, the WMLBC remains fully committed to our mission: (i) fostering a positive, supportive space for women of the oil and gas industry to come together for networking, education and community outreach; and (ii) creating opportunities for all of our membership to come together to celebrate the rich and diverse achievements of women within the oil and gas industry. Over the last year, the WMLBC has heard from many folks with ideas, suggestions and thoughts for ways to bring unique content and activities to our members. Many of those suggestions crystalized into a beautiful gala in May that raised \$28,000 for Habitat for Humanity. As we go into 2020, we hope you will keep sending us emails, calling us, and stopping to chat with us at monthly meetings. Your suggestions and ideas continue to inspire us to examine developing panel discussions and events that speak to the challenges and triumphs for women working in Appalachian oil and gas. We thank you for the continued support of the WMLBC. If you're interested in getting more involved with event planning or serving on the committee, please don't hesitate to contact either Abby Veigel or me. And, on behalf of the WMLBC, we are wishing you all a joyous holiday season.





# LEGISLATIVE & REGULATORY UPDATE

By Nikolas Tysiak  
Legislative and Regulatory Chairman

Amid the excitement and clamor of a Presidential visit to Pittsburgh in late October, there have been some interesting developments in the legislative, regulatory and legal realms that may affect MLBC members. In Pennsylvania, Senate Bill No. 694 was signed into law on November 7, 2019, by Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf allowing operators to utilize cross unit drilling for unconventional wells. A cross unit well (also known as an allocation well) is a lateral wellbore that crosses a unit boundary where multiple leased tracts have been unitized.

The bill amended the Act of July 20, 1979 (P.L. 183, No. 60) by adding Section 2.2 to expressly permit cross unit drilling. The bill allows an operator to drill a cross unit well if the operator reasonably allocates production from the well to or among each unit and if the well is not expressly prohibited by the terms of a lease. Additionally, the bill mandates that the 330-foot spacing requirement of the Oil and Gas Conservation Law (the Act of July 25, 1961 – P.L. 825, No. 359) shall not apply for unit lines traversed by a cross unit well. The drafters of the bill hope this legislation maximizes the benefits of recent advances in natural gas drilling technology and practices.

Ohio's Seventh District Court of Appeals recently ruled that Ohio's Marketable Title Act (the "MTA") does not conflict with the Dormant Mineral Act ("DMA"), and that both statutes can be utilized by a surface owner to claim ownership of severed minerals. *W. v. Bode*, 2019-Ohio-4092 (Ct. App.). The Monroe County trial court found that the DMA irreconcilably conflicted with the MTA and that the surface owners were limited to the process set forth in the DMA to claim ownership of a severed royalty interest. However, the Seventh District reversed and determined that, although the DMA provides a separate procedure, both the MTA and the DMA are available to surface owners attempting to claim ownership of a severed mineral interest.

Following up on the *Bode* decision, in *Senterra Ltd. v. Winland*, Case No. 18 BE 0051 (Oh. Ct. App. Oct. 11, 2019), the Ohio Seventh District Court of Appeals confirmed that both the MTA and the DMA are available to surface owners claiming ownership of severed oil and gas interests. That court held that the MTA remains available for surface owners even after availing themselves to the DMA process. The court also determined that the reference, "excepting all the oil and gas rights underlying said described premises" is considered a general reference under Ohio law due to the reference failing to identify the party reserving the interest.

In addition to expanding on whether a reference is specific or general, the Seventh District's analysis rendered the date determining marketability under the MTA as irrelevant. That date controls what instrument operates as the root of title, being the most recent instrument of record at least 40 years prior. Because the MTA statute (O.R.C. 5301.47, et. seq.) fails to define which date should be used to determine marketability, courts have previously used the following dates to begin its MTA analysis: (1) trial/summary judgment; (2) summons; or (3) a severed mineral holder filing a notice of preservation. In *Senterra*, the Seventh District determined that regardless of using the date of summons or the date of the trial court's determination, a 1971 deed in the chain of title operated as the root of title for a portion of the land at issue. However, in looking at the time period between 1971 and 2011 (the 40-year period required by the MTA), the record indicated an unspecified event occurred on July 14, 2000, which may have preserved the interest for its holder. Therefore, the court looked to the previous deed in the chain of title, being a 1954 deed, and conducted its analysis using this deed as the root of title. In determining that the surface owner had an unbroken chain of title from 1954 through 1994 with the mineral owner failing to preserve their interest during that time, the court held that the 1954 deed qualified as the root of title purporting to create the interest claimed by the surface owner and extinguished the interest of the mineral owner. Therefore, regardless of what initial date is used in determining marketability, a proper analysis will step through each deed in order to determine if a 40-year unbroken chain of title has occurred. Between *Bode* and *Senterra*, the determination of oil and gas ownership in Ohio has been called into significant question, and will likely result in significant changes to title examination processes in Ohio (particularly the oil and gas producing counties).



## Call for 2020-2021 AAPL Officer Nominations

Once again, it's time to begin planning for AAPL's next leadership team. This important process begins with the selection of the 2020-2021 slate of officers. After it is vetted and approved, that slate will be submitted to the entire membership for affirmation, and then that officer team will lead our organization for the 2020-2021 term, starting July 1, 2020.

David Miller is the Nominating Subcommittee chairman and has formed a committee of your peers — representing various regions of our association across the country — to create AAPL's 2020-2021 slate of officers.

New this year, nominations may be submitted online or by mail. Visit the [Officer Nominations](#) section of our website to review the criteria and submit your nomination.

Your voice matters, and your association is depending on you to help assemble the next officer team to continue leading us toward a bright future for all members.

The current first vice president will be nominated as president; therefore, we request your recommendations and nominations for the following positions:

- First Vice President
- Second Vice President
- Third Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer

**All nominations must be received by January 10, 2020.**

REVIEW CRITERIA AND SUBMIT A NOMINATION

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### CONTACT US

AAPL  
817.847.7700  
[landman.org](http://landman.org)  
[aapl@landman.org](mailto:aapl@landman.org)

### GET CONNECTED





# MEMBER NEWS



## Please welcome AAPL's new EVP

The American Association of Professional Landmen is pleased to announce Greta Zeimetz, CAE, as its new executive vice president.

Zeimetz has more than 20 years of nonprofit leadership experience and has taught undergraduate and graduate level courses in management and leadership for over 17 years. She holds a bachelor's degree in communications, a master's degree in management and organizational behavior, and a doctorate in business administration.

Zeimetz is a member of the American Society of Association Executives and a third-term member of its Executive Management Section Council. She also is a past member of ASAE's Professional Development Council and has volunteered for ASAE and local charities in various capacities.

Prior to joining AAPL, Zeimetz was the CEO of the National Association of Legal Assistants in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

*"I'm honored to join the team to support AAPL in furthering its mission to promote the highest standards of performance for all land professionals, to advance their stature and to encourage sound and ethical stewardship of energy and mineral resources," she said. "AAPL has been powering the profession since 1955, and it will continue to be a trusted resource for all land professionals."*

## CONTACT US

AAPL  
817.847.7700  
[landman.org](http://landman.org)  
[aapl@landman.org](mailto:aapl@landman.org)

## GET CONNECTED



# *Upcoming Events*

January 16, 2020

Dinner Meeting

Hilton Garden Inn

Canonsburg, PA

March 26, 2020

All Day Seminar

Bridgeport Conference Center

Bridgeport, WV

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## STAY CONNECTED!

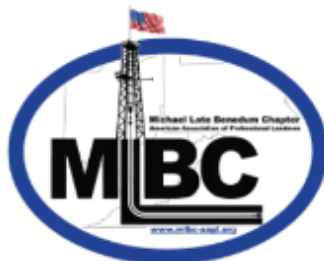
## Follow us on Social Media



@mlbc-aapl



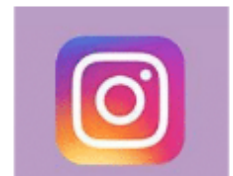
Michael Late  
Benedum  
Chapter  
of AAPL



[www.mlbc-aapl.org](http://www.mlbc-aapl.org)



@mlbc-aapl



@mlbc\_aapl

2019-2020  
**Executive Committee**



**President**

Jeremy White, RPL  
EQT  
jwhite@eqt.com



**Vice President**

Anthony Romeo, CPL  
Northeast Natural Energy  
aromeo@nne-llc.com



**National Director**

Christa Dotson, RPL  
Northeast Natural Energy  
cdotson@nne-llc.com



**Secretary**

Robert Greiner, RPL  
Jericho Land Resources  
rgreiner@jericho.email



**Treasurer**

Justin Nixon, CPL  
Northeast Natural Energy  
jnixon@nne-llc.com



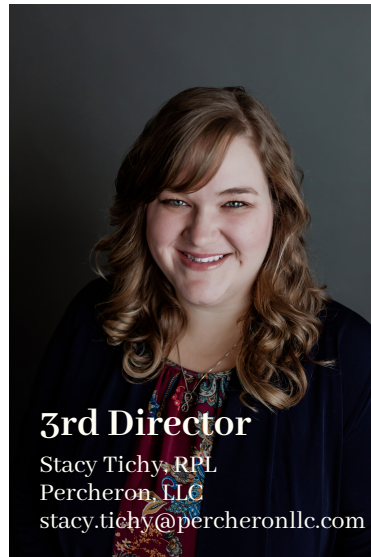
**1st Director**

Kevin Pierson  
Bryson Kuba, L.P.  
kp@bklpland.com



**2nd Director**

John Catsonis  
Apex Land Corporation  
jcatsonis@apexlandcorp.com



**3rd Director**

Stacy Tichy, RPL  
Percheron, LLC  
stacy.tichy@percheronllc.com



**Sergeant-At-Arms**

Lhag Bowers, RPL  
Percheron, LLC  
lhag.bowers@percheronllc.com



**President Emeritus**

Britney Crookshanks, CPL  
Infinity Natural Resources  
bcrookshanks@infinitynr.com



**Executive Assistant**

Abby Veigel  
MLBC  
abbyveigel@mlbc-aapl.org

# Committee Chairs

2019-2020



Awards  
& Technology:  
Jeremy Preston  
jpreston@eqt.com



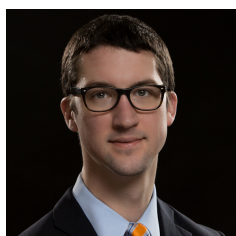
Education:  
Chuck Saffer  
morgan@cswlegalgroup.com



Ethics:  
Justin Nixon  
jnixon@nne-llc.com



Fall Golf:  
Steve Carr  
SteveCarr@dudley-land.com



Spring Golf:  
Jeff Junstrom  
junstrom@cassidy.com



Historian:  
David Aman  
David.W.Aman@dominionenergy.com



Legislative:  
Nikolas Tysiak  
ntysiak@babstcalland.com



Marketing:  
John Catsonis  
jcatsonis@apexlandcorp.com



Meeting Planning:  
Stacy Tichy  
stacy.tichy@percheronllc.com



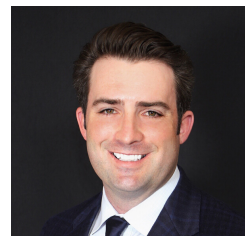
Newsletter Committee:  
Daniel Cooper  
daniel.cooper82@gmail.com



Membership:  
Ben McKinney  
ben.mckinney@steptoe-johnson.com



AAPL Director:  
Christa Dotson  
cdotson@nne-llc.com



Scholarship & University Liason:  
Kevin Pierson  
kp@bklpland.com



Clay Shoot Committee:  
Anthony Romeo  
aromeo@nne-llc.com



Women of the MLBC:  
Amber Buric  
ABuric@babstcalland.com



Sponsorship:  
Harry Heinbaugh  
harry.heinbaugh@percheronllc.com



Finance:  
Robert Greiner  
rgreiner@jericho.email

# NEW MEMBERS

## and CERTIFICATIONS

### November 2019

First Name	Last Name	Employer	Member Type	Sponsoring Member
Anna	Campbell	Campbell Development LLC	Active	Campbell, Caleb
Ryan	White	Honor Resources	Active	Griwatz, Darryl
Laura	Evantz	Arsenal Resources	Active	Brandon, Coty
Samuel	Christensen	Chevron	Active	Alchier, William
Jeffrey	Barnyak	Equitrans Midstream	Active	Stone, CJ
Kacie	Lawson	Purple Land Management	Active	Baker, Carly
Dorraine	Allen	Victory Resources and Land Management, LLC	Active	Powell, Travis

New members are approved on a monthly basis. If the need arises to move along membership approval (ex. Ohio Landman Registration), please email Abby Veigel - [abbyveigel@mlbc-aapl.org](mailto:abbyveigel@mlbc-aapl.org)

## SHOUT OUT!

Congratulations to the following members recently gaining their Certification through the AAPL:

### RPL

Tyler Murray

### RL

Chase McClung

Samuel Nesbitt

**Total Members: 1,036**

Active: 693  
 Active PP: 29  
 Honorary: 10

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**Total Active: 722**  
**% Active: 69.69%**

Associate : 219  
 Student: 85

# MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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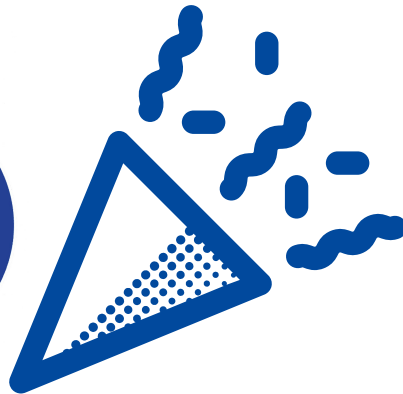
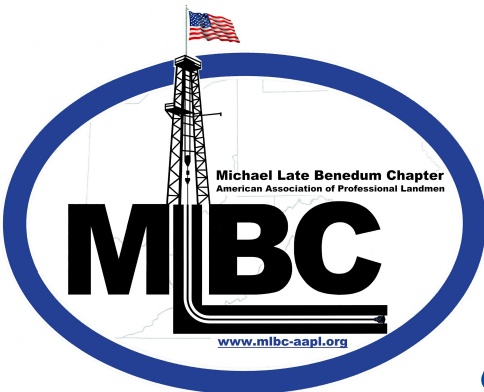
The MLBC membership application is located on the website at [www.mlbc-aapl.org](http://www.mlbc-aapl.org). Please check your information on the website prior to submitting your renewal. The MLBC website has an updated version of the membership listing. Please use this resource if you cannot find yours or others information in the directory. Please report any errors or omissions to Abby Veigel at [abbyveigel@mlbc-aapl.org](mailto:abbyveigel@mlbc-aapl.org).



**Michael Late Benedum**  
**"The Great Wildcatter"**

Notice of the application(s) of all potential Chapter members shall be published in the next regularly scheduled Chapter newsletter, "The Wildcatter." 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.



**Celebrating 60  
years as an  
organization**