

THE WILDCATTER

MICHAEL LATE BENEDUM CHAPTER

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL LANDMEN

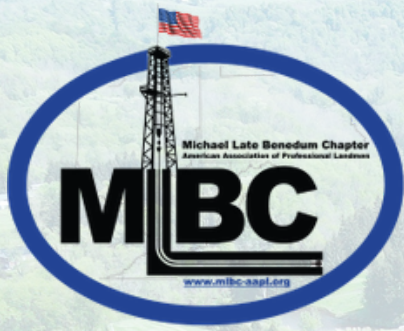


A special thank you to our Executive Committee for all of their continued efforts!

Vol. 2 Issue 3 | June 2021

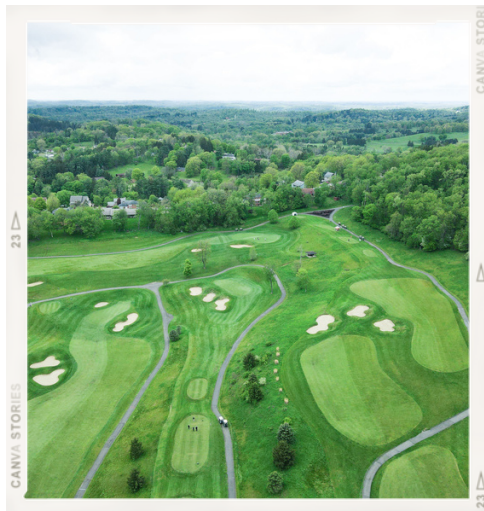
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2021 Spring Charity Golf Outing and May Social at Tropics



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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Let There Be Light

There is no doubt that the past year has been tough on our country and tough on our industry, but there seems to be a glistening light at the end of what has been a dark tunnel. Let's face it, not only did COVID crush the US economy, but in the early days it was scary! There was a lot of conflicting guidance and information thrown at us daily via social media and news outlets which caused serious confusion around who to trust, or even how serious the virus was. I can't tell you how glad I am that I was quarantined in the comfort of my own home instead of being trapped on a cruise ship for the first month. I'm looking forward to the documentaries that will come of this when it is all over and, perhaps, there will be some truth in some of them. For anyone that was affected or had a family member affected by the virus I am truly sorry, and I hope you find comfort in knowing the MLBC membership and board is here for you.

Back to the light. As my term comes to an end, so do mask mandates. Just in time for the summer heat! Advancements with the vaccine have given the general public a new comfort level when it comes to going out in public and traveling. Regardless of your viewpoint on the virus or politics, which if you're wondering-I don't care for either, I am thrilled to get back to some sense of normalcy in life. For us this means two things; in person meetings and higher gas demand. Keep an eye out on the upcoming schedule for opportunities to meet in person for networking and education. After talking with Rob Greiner, incoming President, he has a lot of exciting things planned for us in the coming year. With the notion of more people getting out and about, this means more commercial demand for natural gas and hydrocarbons.

"IT HAS BEEN A TRUE HONOR TO SERVE THE MLBC'S MEMBERS AND NAMESAKE."



MLBC PRESIDENT, ANTHONY ROMEO

Higher demand means future prices show signs to steadily increase, increased prices means operators will become more active; and when operators become more active it means more jobs for us. I look to see a gradual uptick in pricing over the course of the next year and I'm excited to see our members become more active and find employment as this happens.

Like the title says, "Let There Be Light" and let natural gas be the fuel that keeps the flame alive.

This past year as president wasn't really what I had in mind, being virtual and all, though I hope that you found value in the free educational opportunities we were able to provide. Last Thursday was the first and only in person event during the 2020/2021 year, and those that were able to make it to the (free) social had a blast! We shook hands, talked face to face with people we haven't seen in over a year and enjoyed great food, beverages, and live music. We hope to see you at the upcoming Awards Dinner and New Officer Induction at the Erickson Alumni Center in Morgantown on June 16. At this event we'll be honoring and recognizing the folks that have dedicated their time and effort toward making this organization first in class. We'll recognize the award recipients from both the 2019/2020 and the 2020/2021 term. Also, we'll welcome our new slate of officers to the board. I hope to see all of you there!

It has been a true honor to serve the MLBC's members and namesake. I thank you all for the vote of confidence.

2021

MLBC CORPORATE SPONSORS

PLATINUM

Babst | Calland
Attorneys at Law

SJ STEPTOE
& JOHNSON
P.L.L.C.

GOLD


Cabot Oil & Gas

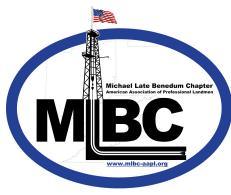
Halo
Land Management

SILVER


KIEFABER & OLIVA
LLP

BRONZE

 Cassidy Anderson
& Kane



2021 CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

PLATINUM: \$5,000 PER YEAR

Benefits of Platinum Sponsor:

- Logo on the corporate sponsor board at every meeting along with the meeting sponsor board (virtually or in person).
- Logo in every edition of The Wildcatter 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 in The Wildcatter per year.
- Receive one free Half Page advertising ad in The Wildcatter 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 (virtually or in person).
- Logo in every edition of The Wildcatter and the bottom of every membership email.
- Receive one free Half Page advertising ad in The Wildcatter 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 (virtually or in person)
- Logo in every edition of The Wildcatter and the bottom of every membership email.
- Receive one free Half Page advertising ad in The Wildcatter per year.

BRONZE: \$750 PER YEAR

Benefits of Bronze Sponsor:

- Logo on the corporate sponsor board at three meetings (in person or virtually).
- Logo in every edition of The Wildcatter.

ADVERTISING IN THE WILDCATTER:

Full Page Ad
\$500.00/month

Half Page Ad
\$250.00/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

2021 MLBC VETERANS CHARITY SPORTING CLAYS



FRIDAY
OCTOBER 1, 2021

9:00AM check-in, 10:00AM start

**LOCATION: Hunting Hills
Shooting Preserve, Dilliner, PA**



Steak Lunch! Door Prizes! Top Gun Trophy! Refreshments!

benefitting:

WVULAW

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

***Available* Key Sponsor- \$7,500** - Three four-person teams, logo banner at lodge, logo on sponsorship board at entry, 2021 Veterans Charity Clay Shoot Polo shirts for 12 team members.

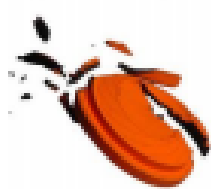
***Available* Platinum Sponsor- \$2,500** - Two four-person teams, logo on sponsorship board at entry, 2021 Veterans Charity Clay Shoot Polo shirts for 8 team members, one station sponsorship.

***Available* Gold Sponsor- \$1,500** - One four-person team, logo on sponsorship board at entry, 2021 Veterans Charity Clay Shoot Polo shirts for 4 team members, one station sponsorship.

***Available* Silver Sponsor- \$500** - Logo on sponsorship board at entry, one station sponsorship.

**** All sponsorship levels are welcome to set up a hospitality tent in designated areas on-course or next to the lodge.**

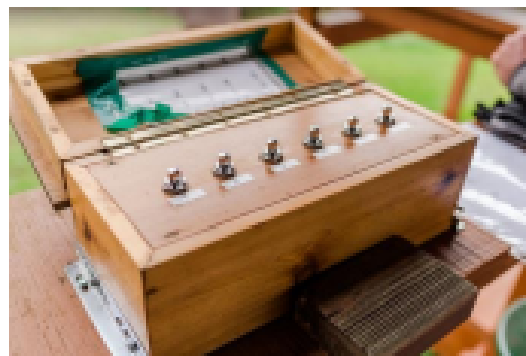
Please contact Joe Cunningham at jcunningham@nne-llc.com or Chuck Dornetto at cdornetto@nne-llc.com for sponsorship opportunities.



FLASHBACK!



Past MLBC Veterans Charity Clay Shoots





FLASHBACK!



Past MLBC Veterans Charity Clay Shoots



About the WVU Law Veterans Advocacy Law Clinic

There are approximately 170,000 veterans that currently reside in West Virginia, many with acute and unique legal needs related to their military service or return to civilian life. In the clinic, law students have the opportunity to represent the West Virginia veterans in litigation before administrative agencies and courts on benefits, discharge upgrades, employment claims and other civil matters. In addition, students can represent local and national organizations in non-litigation matters relating to the legal needs of veterans, including regulatory and legislative reform efforts, media advocacy, and strategic planning.

For more information, visit:

<https://www.law.wvu.edu/clinical-law/clinics/veterans-advocacy>

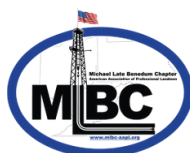
2021 MLBC/NALA SPRING CHARITY GOLF OUTING

OGLEBAY RESORT, WV - FRIDAY, MAY 7, 2021

AS GOLFERS ARRIVED FOR THE ANNUAL SPRING GOLF OUTING ON MAY 7TH, THEY HAD TO BELIEVE IT WAS EARLY APRIL AND NOT EARLY MAY. THE DAY WAS MOSTLY COLD AND RAINY FOR THE 16 TEAMS THAT BRAVED THE CONDITIONS TO TEE IT OFF TO BENEFIT THE WVU CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL AND THE MAGEE-WOMEN'S RESEARCH INSTITUTE. THE MLBC TEAMED UP WITH NALA THIS YEAR TO PUT ON THE EVENT. THERE WERE CERTAINLY LOWER NUMBERS THAN PAST EVENTS DUE TO THE INDUSTRY DOWNTURN, BUT ALL IN ATTENDANCE THAT I SPOKE TO THAT DAY EXPRESSED THAT BEING ABLE TO HANG OUT WITH THEIR FELLOW INDUSTRY COLLEAGUES WAS A BIG PLUS EVEN IF THE WEATHER WAS LESS THAN IDEAL. THANKS TO ALL THE SPONSORS THAT MADE THIS EVENT POSSIBLE AND A HUGE THANK YOU TO THE ORGANIZERS FROM MLBC AND NALA THAT COORDINATED THE DAY. ENJOY SOME PICTURES FROM THE EVENT!

DANNY COOPER, NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE CHAIR

A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR SPONSORS!



2021 MLBC/NALA SPRING CHARITY GOLF OUTING



STEPHEN REPELLA, BRYAN HOLLIHAN, LARRY SKI AND JEREMY WHITE



SETH JARVIS, GABE GONZALEZ, DAVE RICHARDS AND CARLOS GARCIA



RYAN MATHER, NATHAN FAZIO, CURTIS NORMAN AND JARED DETWEILER



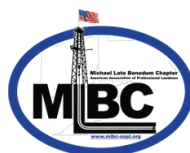
PEACOCK KELLER - AARON SMITH AND NATALIE JEFFERIS



MIKE ANNICHINE SR., MIKE ANNICHINE JR., KIM KANE AND RENEE ANDERSON



MARK A. O'NEAL & ASSOCIATES - JOHN BULLOCK AND BRIAN KRAUS



2021 MLBC/NALA SPRING CHARITY GOLF OUTING



JAY ALTER, MATT WHITE, SEAN MCGINTY AND BEN MCKINNEY



HALO LAND MANAGEMENT - DUSTIN GOLDSTON AND J.R. ROGERS



DUSTIN EMENHISER, ANDREW MCLAIN, SEAN JASINOWSKI AND IAN LANG



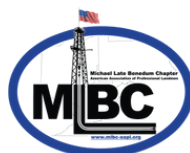
DERRICK BACHMAN, PHIL GRIFFITH, ANTHONY ROMEO AND COLE DELANCEY



CRIMSON RESOURCES - MARK THORNLEY AND RICK BELL



BLACKJACK AT CAMPBELL LAND DEVELOPMENT



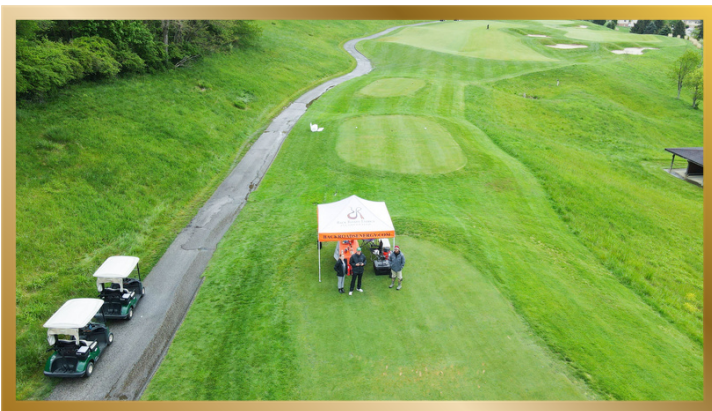
2021 MLBC/NALA SPRING CHARITY GOLF OUTING



BACK ROADS ENERGY -MARC W. ACREE, BEV JORDAN AND PERRY CUNNINGHAM



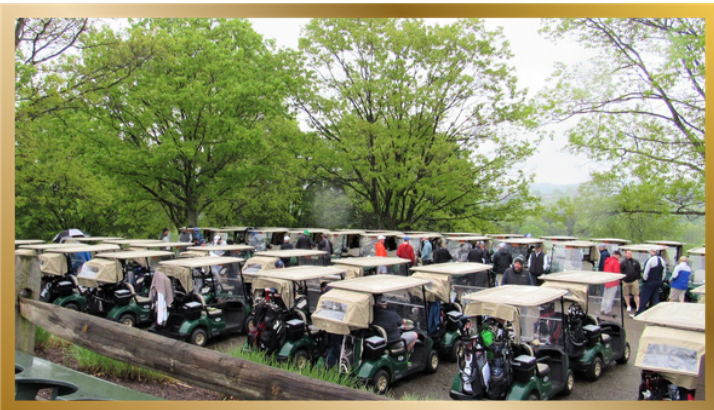
AARON YOST, JASON LUCAS, MIKE HOLLIDAY AND DAVID STOCKMAN



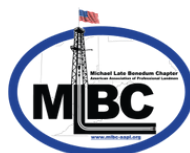
2021 MLBC/NALA SPRING CHARITY GOLF OUTING



ABBY VEIGEL SHOWING OFF A TOWEL GIVEN TO THE GOLFERS



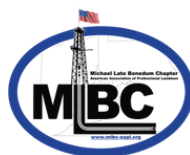
THE GOLFERS GETTING READY TO GO

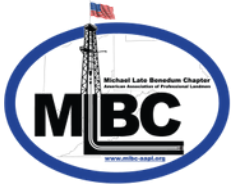


2021 MLBC/NALA SPRING CHARITY GOLF OUTING



AERIAL PHOTOS OF GOLF COURSE COURTESY OF PERRY CUNNINGHAM WITH BACK ROADS ENERGY





2021 MAY SOCIAL

I BELIEVE THAT EVERYONE THAT ATTENDED THE SOCIAL AT THE TROPICS RESTAURANT ON MAY 20TH WELCOMED BEING ABLE TO SEE THEIR INDUSTRY COLLEAGUES IN PERSON AFTER MANY MONTHS OF VIRTUAL EVENTS AND ONLINE SEMINARS. THERE WERE APPROXIMATELY 20 PEOPLE THAT MADE THE TREK OVER TO MORGANTOWN TO ENJOY SOME GOOD FOOD AND CONVERSATION. IT WAS A VERY NICE EVENING AND THE SPACIOUS DECK AREA AT TROPICS PROVIDED THE PERFECT VENUE FOR THE EVENT. HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL SOON AT THE AWARDS CEREMONY IN JUNE.

DANNY COOPER - NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN



EVE LEOMBRUNO, KEVIN PIERSON AND ANTHONY ROMEO



HARRY HEINBAUGH, JONNY GARNER, SCOTT LEGG, ROB GREINER AND TYLER COMPSTON



SAVE THE DATE!



MLBC FALL CHARITY GOLF OUTING!

FRIDAY, AUGUST 27, 2021

REGISTRATION OPENS @ 7:30 AM

SHOTGUN START @ 9:00 AM

CEDARBROOK GOLF COURSE, BELLE VERNON, PA

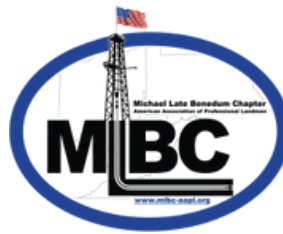


Mark your calendars for the MLBC Fall Charity Golf Outing! This year we'll be at Cedarbrook Golf Course on August 27th.

Cedarbrook offers two 18-hole championship courses as well as easy accessibility from I-70.

Registration and Sponsorship information to follow!

Please contact MLBC Fall Golf Chair Steve Carr (stevecarr@dudley-land.com) with any questions.



Member Spotlight: Robert Greiner

Tell us a little about yourself.

Born in Parkersburg, WV, my family moved a few times during my childhood and ultimately I landed in the northern panhandle of WV prior to heading to Morgantown, WV in 2000. In 2005, I returned home and met my then bride-to-be, Casey Ryan, a gal born and raised in Steubenville, Ohio. We married in 2007 and have since resided here in Jefferson County where we raise 2 boys, Camden (12) and Nolan (10). As a family, we enjoy the sport of baseball, traveling, and serving others throughout the various ministries that we participate in. I enjoy golfing, fishing, hunting, and cooking. There seems to never be a dull moment in the Greiner home as we almost always have a prank to pull or a joke to tell.

Who are you currently employed or contracted with?

My oil and gas work primarily runs through RKG Consulting Services. Renewables through Sustainable American Energy Resources "SAE".

How long have you worked in the oil and gas industry? What states do you have experience? Tell us about any other land organization you belong.

14 years and I have worked in NY, PA, Ohio, WV, TX, NM I'm also an active member of the AAPL

Tell us about your first position in the industry.

In the spring of 2007, I fished and golfed by day in the Finger Lake region of upstate NY and acquired leases by night. I was single and engaged to be married so this was what I refer to as, "the extended bachelor party". Who doesn't want to golf, fish, drink beer, and acquire leases during the spring and summer in upstate NY? In all seriousness, I reflect back on my first project and the longest drive away from home for work that I had ever taken. It was May of 2007, I was engaged to be married in October and here I go, a new career, miles from home. I'll forever be grateful for the encouragement to become a landman by my best bud Danny Cooper and grateful that Jason Dean gave me my first landman opportunity.

What areas of the industry do you have experience in?

Primarily acquisitions, both surface and minerals but in July of last year, I diversified into renewables. I have ran some title, conducted heirship research, handled curative work, conducted due diligence, owned and operated a land services company and a mineral buying brokerage, acquired lands for various surface usages including drilling and rights of way. A true mixed bag of landman experience.

Do you have a mentor in the industry? Can you provide details?

There have been numerous individuals in the industry that I have garnered experience from and consider my mentor and many that I have a great deal of respect for that have molded me into the professional landman that I consider myself to be today.

Danny Cooper – Best friend and individual that introduced me to the land business in early 2007.

Jason Dean – First project manager-gave me my first landman opportunity.

Asa Bowers (past MLBC president) – recognized that living on the road as a newly married man wasn't the best option and provided me a local opportunity so I could be home most nights. My new bride certainly appreciated the same!



Member Spotlight: Robert Greiner

Rich Robb (past MLBC president) – Taught me a plethora of information relevant to amending and modifying a lease and how to thoroughly enjoy field work and conversations with landowners.

Rick Corman – A project manager who said something to me when handing me a stack of newly assigned acquisition contacts. “Man, I’d love for someone to hand me a stack of contacts to go chase, I miss those days”. I never fully understood what he meant until the day came that I was behind the desk and no longer chasing leases. I have since returned to field work from time to time and must say, it’s one of my most favorite things to do as a landman.

Aaron Yost (past MLBC president) – Provided me my first project management opportunity instilling a desire and drive to always work hard and succeed. This was my first client interaction and Aaron truly propelled me and helped me reach new heights that I’ll forever value.

Nick Paparodis and Al Macre – Past business partners that encouraged me to take the entrepreneurial leap of faith and own and operate MidWest Land Services, my first land services company. I learned a significant amount about managing land assets from Nick and gained a foundational financial understanding from Al, a CPA by trade. Furthermore, Al encouraged my involvement in the National Federation of Independent Business “NFIB” where I presently serve as the Vice Chair of our local Area Action Council here in Eastern Ohio.

Do you serve the MLBC, AAPL, or any other organizations in an executive capacity and/or serve as a committee chair? Are you a member of any committees?

I’m currently the Vice President of the MLBC and have served the MLBC over the years on various committees and as various committee chairs. In addition, as mentioned above, my involvement with the NFIB. I serve as a board member for our local little league baseball association. Lastly and most importantly to me, I serve as a deacon at the Follansbee Church of Christ.

According to Article IV, Item #5 of the By-laws of the MLBC, one of the organizational purposes of the MLBC chapter is “Providing members with opportunities for community service.” Have you ever initiated or participated in events or service projects within the community that achieve this purpose?

I have a passion for missions and ministries. I served on my first mission trip in 2000 and have been on various mission trips nationally and internationally throughout the USA, Canada, Mexico, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Croatia, and Slovenia. Locally, my wife, children, and I serve new mothers in the community through our cuddle bundle ministry that provides care items while encouraging mothers to choose life. Also, we often prepare and deliver meals through our meal ministry, a service that aims to provide encouragement through a meal.



HONORING THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE IN THE LAND PROFESSION

AAPL's Awards Program recognizes members and local associations for their service and achievements in the land profession. Each year, nominations are sent to the Award Committee chairman and the winners are selected by an anonymous committee. The awards will be presented at the 67th Annual Meeting in Arlington, Texas on June 24, 2021.

Please join us in congratulating all of our 2020-2021 award winners!

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

David W. Miller, CPL

Mississippi Association of Petroleum Landmen

LANDMAN OF THE YEAR

Jason T. Maloy, CPL

Dallas Association of Petroleum Landmen

PIONEER AWARD

Aubrey K. McClendon

Oklahoma City Association of Professional Landmen

LOCAL ASSOCIATION OF THE YEAR

Permian Basin Landmen's Association

FACE OF THE INDUSTRY AWARD

Pioneer Natural Resources Company

BEST AAPL DIRECTOR'S COMMUNICATION

Jason M. South, CPL

Permian Basin Landmen's Association

BEST MEMBER COMMUNICATION

Jeremy White, RPL

Michael Late Benedum Chapter

BEST NEWSLETTER BULLETIN COMMUNICATION - LARGE ASSOCIATION

Michael Late Benedum Chapter

"The Wildcatter" Vol. 1 Issue 5, August 2020

BEST NEWSLETTER BULLETIN - SMALL ASSOCIATION

Mississippi Association of Petroleum Landmen

MAPL October 2020 Newsletter

LARGEST GROWTH % OF AAPL MEMBERSHIP - LARGE ASSOCIATION

Dallas Association of Petroleum Landmen

LARGEST % OF AAPL MEMBERSHIP - LARGE ASSOCIATION

Dallas Association of Petroleum Landmen

LARGEST % OF AAPL MEMBERSHIP - MEDIUM ASSOCIATION

North Houston Association of Professional Landmen

LARGEST % OF AAPL MEMBERSHIP - SMALL ASSOCIATION

Tri-State Association of Professional Landmen

SPECIAL AWARD - EDUCATION

Amanda L. Van Deusen, CPL

Houston Association of Professional Landmen

SPECIAL AWARD - COMMUNITY SERVICE

Elizabeth B. Miller

Mississippi Association of Petroleum Landmen

SPECIAL AWARD

Joshua P. Gautreau, CPL

Houston Association of Professional Landmen

OUTSTANDING GRADUATE

Ellarie Sutton

Texas Tech University

[LEARN MORE & SEE PREVIOUS HONOREES](#)

HALO

LAND MANAGEMENT

SERVICES AND SOLUTIONS

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
|  Leasing |  Maintenance Scheduling |  Wind |
|  Abstracting |  Timber Resources |  Solar |
|  Right-of-Way |  Data Management |  Utilities |
|  Due Diligence |  Heirship/Reservation |  Regulatory |
|  Analysis |  Production Analysis |  Watershed |

Halo executes projects with the highest level of quality, excellence and unmatched productivity to exceed expectations and maintain accountability and professionalism with our clients and the communities in which we operate.

Scan below to visit our website and sign up for a prospective client event of your choice!



LEGISLATIVE & REGULATORY UPDATE

By Nikolas Tysiak, Legislative and Regulatory Chairman



And now: for your friendly, neighborhood leg/reg update from MLBC!

OHIO

On March 8, in *Eaton v. Ascent Resources-Utica LLC* (Case No. 2:19-cv-3412), the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio addressed a dispute involving lessors' claims that the deduction of post-production costs from their royalties, itemized as "compression, processing, treating, transportation, fuel marketing, gathering, and other costs," violated their lease agreements. At a prior stage in the litigation, the Court disagreed, holding that the "at-the-well" rule applied to the royalty because the provision referred to "the market value at the well," even if the gas was not actually sold at the wellhead and reiterating that the at-the-well rule requires that post-production costs be shared proportionately between a lessor and lessee. Here, the lessors argued that the at-the-well rule had been interpreted incorrectly, but the Court concluded that "Cunningham ignores the plain text and attempts to create ambiguities relying on extrinsic evidence in contravention of Ohio law." Further, the Court explained that the "plain text of the royalty provision unambiguously references the value of the gas at the wellhead - not the value of the gas at the well only if the gas is sold there." In sum, the Court held there "is no plain-text support for Cunningham's assertion that the wellhead price refers only to oil and gas actually sold at the wellhead." On a fraud claim, the Court did not rule because as the Court stated, the case was still at a motion-to-dismiss stage due to an amended consolidated class action complaint filed, and discovery was still ongoing but left the door open for the lessees to seek dismissal under a different procedural motion.

On March 16, the Ohio Supreme Court clarified the exception to the Marketable Title Act (MTA). In *Erickson v. Morrison* (Case No. 2021-Ohio-746), the Court specifically addressed "the question of whether a reference to a reservation of mineral rights in a surface landowner's root of title and in subsequently recorded title transactions is sufficiently specific to preserve the reservation of the mineral rights under Ohio's Marketable Title Act, R.C. 5301.47 et seq., when the reference does not include the name the record owner of those rights." Here, the surface owners argued that the severed interest was extinguished under the MTA because references to the interest in their root of title and subsequently filed deeds were not specific under the MTA. The successors to the interest however claimed that the references in the deeds, despite not identifying the owner of the severed interest, "were specific and thus prevented the extinguishment of the Severed Interest under the MTA." The Court agreed with the successors and held that the severed interest reference in the deeds was specific, and therefore the interest was not extinguished.

On March 31, the Ohio Court of Appeals, Seventh Appellate District, addressed a dispute involving the Marketable Title Act (MTA) in *O'Kelley, Jr. v. Rothenbuhler* (Case No. 2021-ohio-1167). The case centered on the interpretation of a 1969 deed reference, for which the court determined that "the language was not sufficiently specific to save a severed mineral interest for extinguishment under Ohio's Marketable Title Act." At issue was the question of whether the language in the deed that was the root of the title which stated "and also accepting the oil and gas minerals..." Was sufficiently specific under the MTA. The trial court granted summary judgment in favor of the defendants-appellees, holding that it was not specific and, thus, was extinguished by the MTA. Here, the Seventh District appellate court agreed.

LEGISLATIVE & REGULATORY UPDATE (CONTINUED)

By Nikolas Tysiak, Legislative and Regulatory Chairman

On April 2, in *Tomechko v. Garrett* (Case No. 2021-Ohio-1377), the Ohio Court of Appeals, Seventh District, addressed a case involving mineral reservations and co-tenancy and whether the appellants adversely possessed the appellees' oil and gas when they entered into an oil and gas lease in 1989. Here the Court held that the appellants adversely possessed the appellees' oil and gas "because they leased and produced the appellees' oil and gas and the lessee paid the appellants for such production." Further, "although the two wells drilled on the appellants' property were only producing from shallow formations, the Court held that the deep formations" because "[a]dverse possession of the deep rights should follow the shallow rights due to the alteration of the surface and subsurface from drilling and removing the oil and gas." In sum, the appellants adversely possessed the deep formations based on their "adverse possession of the shallow rights, the permeating nature of the drilling and production of oil and gas, and the lease with Trans Atlantic which provides for drilling to all strata."

WEST VIRGINIA

On March 19, Governor Jim Justice signed SB272, which simplifies the criteria used to define independent contractors and impose objective standards on the differentiation of independent contractors from employees. On March 27, Justice signed SB 404, creating a statutory fee for modifying permits from the Department of Environmental Protection. On March 30, Justice signed SB 469, allowing personal appearance by video technology for notarial purposes, effective June 17, 2021.

PENNSYLVANIA

On March 24, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, in *Pennsylvania v. Chesapeake Energy Corp.* (Case No. 81 MAP 2019), concluded that the state attorney general may not bring claims under the state's Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law (UTCPL) on behalf of private landowners against a lessee for alleged unfair deceptive practices in acquiring natural gas leases from the landowners. The Court held that the UTCPL regulates the conduct of sellers, does not provide a remedy for sellers against buyers, and that landowners signing oil and gas leases act as sellers. Therefore, the landowners had no rights to bring a lawsuit under the UTCPL.

FEDERAL

The Biden administration Department of Labor issued a final rule on May 6, titled "Independent Contractor Status Under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA): Withdrawal" (86 Fed. Reg. 24303), which completely withdraws a prior rule that never took effect. The new rule will rely on a longstanding multi-factor test established by judicial precedent. The prior rule, which never took effect, sought to "make it easier for businesses to classify workers as independent contractors" and "adopt a simpler, shorter test for when a worker may be legally classified as an independent contractor rather than an employee."

As always, feel free to reach out to the legislative and regulatory committee with any questions, concerns, comments, or criticisms.

Nik Tysiak
Chair - MLBC Legislative and Regulatory Committee



**DRAKE WELL
MUSEUM AND PARK**
Titusville, PA • 1859



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Drake Well Museum and Park located in Titusville, PA, is looking for artifacts from the petroleum companies historically linked to Pennsylvania. If any companies would be willing to donate historical artifacts from company archives related to their ties to Pennsylvania's petroleum, please reach out to Jean Riddle (contact information below). Many companies have a deep history in the PA oil fields and the museum would love to add them to the collection.

Researchers from all over the world use the Museums archives. Ron Chernow used the archives to write his book, "Titan, The Life of John D. Rockefeller, Sr. Among the Museum's prized archives are the papers of Colon Edward Drake and those of Ida Tarbell.

Jean is also attempting to secure items from the racing world showing sponsorships by such companies as Quaker State, Pennzoil, Wolf's Head and others.

Please keep in mind, that if you ever need a speaker, Drake Well Museum and Park does have individuals that do speaking engagements.

For information on the Museum and Park please visit:
<https://www.drakewell.org/about-us>

Thanks for any help you can provide!

Jean Riddle
724-295-0125
jiriddle@zoominternet.net



UPCOMING EVENTS



2021 ANNUAL AWARDS/ SCHOLARSHIP DINNER



EVENT DATE: 6/16/2021

EVENT TIME: 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM EASTERN

LOCATION: THE ERICKSON ALUMNI CENTER

ONE ALUMNI DRIVE, MORGANTOWN, WV 26504

CONTACT PERSON: ABBY VEIGEL - PHONE: 304-476-2240

Join us at our first "In-person" meeting since early 2020 as we celebrate our 2019/2020 Award Winners and our 2020/2021 winners as well. We are excited to see all of you!

We will also be inducting the 2021/2022 Executive Board and recognizing our current board members for their effort and dedication to the association. We hope you can join us.

2021 MLBC VETERANS CHARITY SPORTING CLAY!



EVENT DATE: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2021

EVENT TIME: 9:00 AM CHECK-IN. 10:AM START

LOCATION: HUNTING HILLS SHOOTING PRESERVE, DILLINER, PA

CONTACT PERSON: JOE CUNNINGHAM JCUNNINGHAM@NNE-LLC.COM OR

CHUCK DORNETTO CDORNETTO@NNE-LLC.COM

2021 MLBC FALL CHARITY GOLF OUTING



EVENT DATE: FRIDAY, AUGUST 27, 2021

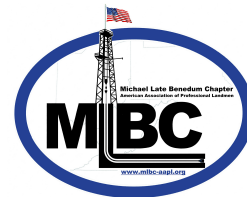
EVENT TIME: REGISTRATION OPENS AT 7:30

LOCATION: CEDARBROOK GOLF COURSE, BELLE VERNON, PA

CONTACT PERSON: STEVE CARR STVEECARR@DUDLEY-LAND.COM

NEW MEMBERS & CERTIFICATIONS

JUNE 2021



First Name	Last Name	Employer	Member Type	Sponsoring Member
Duncan	Troy		Associate	Shawn Grushecky



SHOUT OUT!

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

Christopher O. Carlson, CPL

Matthew Gorby, RL

Andrew Barker, RL

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@mibc-aapl.org

Total Members: 570

Active: 360

Active PP: 29

Honorary: 10

Total Active: 389

% Active: 69.25%

Associate : 88

Student: 83

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STAY CONNECTED!

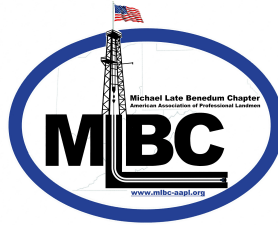
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[Michael Late Benedum
Chapter of AAPL](#)



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For oil and gas operations across Ohio, West Virginia and Pennsylvania, you can count on Kiefaber & Oliva LLP for straight-forward legal guidance to help manage risk, address critical challenges, and strengthen business objectives – whether they are event-driven or part of a long-term strategy.

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- contract review and negotiation;
- drilling, division order and supplemental title opinions;
- oil and gas litigation;
- mineral receiverships and royalty interpleader actions;
- mineral transactions; and
- regulatory matters.

Contact



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Lead Attorney – Columbus Office
jabrams@kolawllp.com • 614-349-4525
Licensed to practice in OH, WV and PA

2020-2021
**Executive
Committee**



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



Vice President
Robert Greiner, RPL
RKG Consulting Services, LLC
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Secretary
Justin Nixon, CPL
Northeast Natural Energy
jnixon@nne-llc.com



Treasurer
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lhag.bowers@percheronllc.com



Sergeant of Arms
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RHDK Oil and Gas
jcatsonis@kimblecompanies.com



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Bryson Kuba, L.P.
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Local Director
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Percheron, LLC
stacy.tichy@percheronllc.com



Local Director
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Steptoe and Johnson
ben.mckinney@steptoe-johnson.com



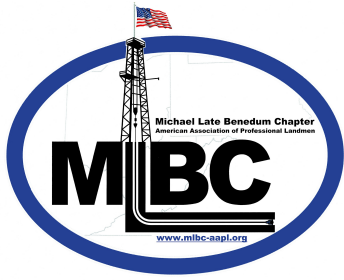
National Director
Jeremy Preston, RPL
EQT
jpreston@eqt.com



President Emeritus
Jeremy White, RPL
EQT
jwhite@eqt.com



Executive Assistant
Abby Veigel
MLBC
abbyveigel@mlbc-aapl.org



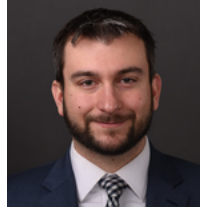
2021 Committee Chairs



TECHNOLOGY:
JEREMY PRESTON
JPRESTON@EQT.COM



HISTORIAN:
DAVID AMAN
DAVID.W.AMAN@DOMINIONENERGY.COM



SPRING GOLF CHAIRMAN:
JIM KANE
JKANE@CASSIDYPC.COM



SCHOLARSHIP/UNIVERSITY LIASON:
SETH JARVIS
SRJARVIS89@GMAIL.COM



AWARDS:
PATRICK MCQUIGGAN
PMCQUIGGAN@GMCOUNSEL.COM



EDUCATION:
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LEGISLATIVE:
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MEMBERSHIP:
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AAPL DIRECTOR:
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JPRESTON@EQT.COM



CLAY SHOOT:
TYLER MURRAY
TYLERMURRAY.LAND@GMAIL.COM



ETHICS + WOTMLBC CHAIRMAN:
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BCROOKSHANKS@INFINITYNR.COM



MARKETING:
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KDAMOTA@CIMMARONLAND.COM



SCHOLARSHIP/UNIVERSITY LIASON:
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FINANCE:
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NEWSLETTER:
DANIEL COOPER
DANIEL.COOPER82@GMAIL.COM

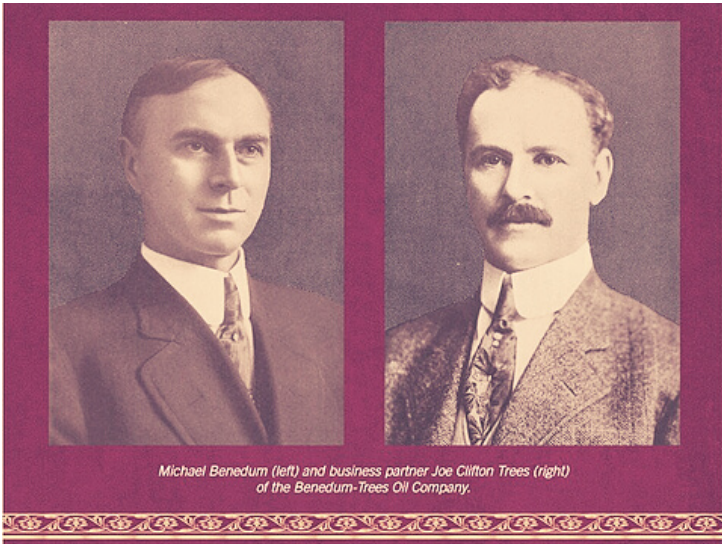
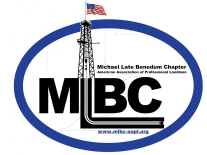


FALL GOLF CHAIRMAN
STEVE CARR
STVEECARR@DUDLEY-LAND.COM



SPONSORSHIP:
HARRY HEINBAUGH
HARRY.HEINBAUGH@PERCHERONLLC.COM

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION



Michael Benedum (left) and business partner Joe Clifton Trees (right) of the Benedum-Trees Oil Company.

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

Application for membership in the Association shall be subject to the approval by a majority vote of the Executive Committee at a regularly scheduled meeting and shall require the signed approval by the acting President of the Executive Committee, as evidence of the Committee's approval.

Notice of the approved application(s) of all potential Association member(s) shall be printed in the next regularly scheduled publication of the Association. Members shall have the opportunity for a period of thirty (30) days following the publication to object to the potential member's application.

Thank you to our Executive Committee!

Our cover photo this month is a collage of the entire Executive Committee that serves the MLBC. This past year has likely been one of the most challenging years we may ever experience as an industry at large. With the downturn in the industry being magnified by the challenges arising from the pandemic, it would have certainly been excused if the MLBC was not completely connected with its membership. However, the Executive Committee was determined not to let this happen and rose to the occasion. We commend them for their efforts in providing an excellent slate of virtual events including the Appalachian Land Institute this past February that kept the membership informed and connected. Please take a minute to reach out to your Executive Committee to thank them for their exemplary efforts in leading this organization through some difficult times.

The Newsletter Committee