

Q. What does the Oklahoma Geological Survey do?

A. The Oklahoma Geological Survey, a research and public-service agency of the State of Oklahoma, was authorized in the State constitution and implemented by action of the first State legislature. The Survey's charter, paraphrased from the language of the enabling legislation, is to investigate the land, water, mineral, and energy resources of our State and to disseminate the results of these investigations to encourage the wise use of our natural resources.

To fulfill its charter responsibilities, the Survey engages in a wide variety of field investigations throughout Oklahoma and performs a broad range of laboratory analysis on materials collected in the conduct of these field studies. Research is undertaken either independently or in concert with other state and federal agencies and encompasses virtually every aspect the State's non-biological natural environment. The results of these studies are made widely available in the form of various publications, including books, maps, and open-file reports.

Charles J. Mankin, *Director*
Oklahoma Geological Survey

Q. Can you survey my land?

A. No, the Oklahoma Geological Survey does not survey land. Commercial survey companies are listed in the yellow pages under "Surveyors—Land."

Introduction

Oklahoma Geological Survey (OGS) geologists and staff members study Oklahoma's geology and natural resources and answer questions from people throughout Oklahoma and the rest of the country. Questions come from individuals ranging from professional geologists with technical problems to school children seeking general information for science projects. Others come from homeowners, teachers, consultants, rock hounds, Scout leaders, university students, petroleum engineers, and government officials.

The range of questions is equally broad. Many deal with aspects of geology unique to Oklahoma, whereas others relate to geology in general. Some questions don't apply to Oklahoma, and some don't even apply to geology!

In 1998, Governor Frank Keating proclaimed the second week in October as Earth Sciences Week in the State of Oklahoma.

October 8–14, 2000, marked the third annual celebration. As a contribution to this event, the Oklahoma Geological Survey answers in this publication a few dozen of the most frequently asked questions we receive from the public.

Acknowledgments

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