

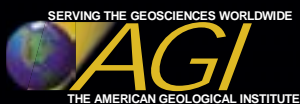
EARTH

SUPER-EARTHS

Searching
for
new worlds

PLUS:

- Kilauea's explosive past
- Primate fossil: missing link or major hype?
- The Anasazi: not easy being green
- Sands show signs of ancient tsunami?
- Re-examining the world's most important fossil site
- Creating social geologists



**ARKANSAS:
A DIAMOND IN
THE ROUGH**

August 2009
www.earthmagazine.org



FEATURE

SUPER-EARTHS: MIRRORS OF OUR WORLD?

Fifteen years ago, scientists discovered the first "exoplanet" circling stars outside our solar system. Just five years ago, scientists discovered the first "super-Earth," a possibly rocky planet that could be similar to Earth. Several more super-Earths have since been discovered, but some researchers think there are thousands more out there. Could one of them harbor life?

Carolyn Gramling



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FEATURE

PROTECTING PLANETS FROM US — AND US FROM THEM

Finding life in outer space has been a goal since humans first contemplated leaving our atmosphere. With ever-more nations sending probes to celestial bodies and even bringing samples back to Earth, it's time to take a closer look at planetary protection guidelines lest we contaminate other planets and moons — or unwittingly contaminate our own.

Barry E. DiGregorio



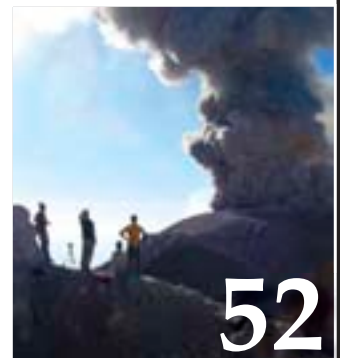
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GETTING A MASTER'S IN SOCIAL GEOLOGY

With the tools and abilities to help developing nations best mitigate dangers from natural hazards, geologists can and should get involved. Students share their experiences in one social geology program: the Peace Corps Master's International Program in Geohazards at Michigan Tech University.

Essa L. Gross



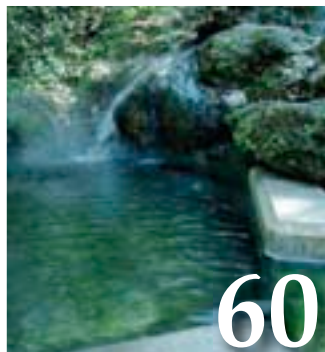
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TRAVELS IN GEOLOGY: ARKANSAS: A GEOLOGIC DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH

Ever hiked mountains, swum in pristine lakes, soaked in mineral hot springs fit for presidents, and then dug for diamonds all in one weekend? If not, head to western Arkansas for a geological feast that will indulge your senses.

Mary Caperton Morton



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TRENDS AND INNOVATIONS

RE-EXAMINING THE BURGESS SHALE

One hundred years ago this month, the Burgess Shale — arguably the world's most famous fossil site — was discovered. Recently, researchers have undertaken new efforts to learn more about the creatures that lived, died and were preserved 505 million years ago.

David B. Williams



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The Anasazi were once a sustainable and "green" society, yet their entire culture suddenly disappeared 850 years ago. What happened and what can we learn from them?
Lisa A. Rossbacher

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