On the Cover: 2021 Photo Contest Scenic Wonder Winner: A Hoodoo Landscape. Pedestals and balanced rocks or hoodoos form spectacular erosional features in the Paleocene Fort Union Formation at Makoshika State Park in eastern Montana.

The sandstones were deposited as fillings in channels cut in underlying less-resistant silty sediments. Subsequent uplift and erosion caused the resistant sandstones to provide a cap over less-resistant silty rocks shielding them from further erosion. Thus, a column forms as surrounding unprotected rocks are weathered away. These pillar-like formations litter the landscape at Makoshika. Also called hoodoos, an African term, due to their resemblance to animal shapes and possible embodied evil spirits.

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The Professional Geologist (USPS 590-810 and ISSN 0279-0521) is published quarterly by the American Institute of Professional Geologists, 1333 W. 120th Avenue, Suite 211, Westminster, CO 80234-2710. Periodicals Postage Paid at Denver, Colorado and additional mailing offices.

Subscriptions for all Members and Adjuncts in good standing are included in annual membership dues. Subscription prices are $20.00 a year for Members’ additional subscriptions and $30.00 a year for non-members for 4 issues (for postage outside of the U.S. add $10.00). Single copy price is $5.00 for Members and $8.00 for non-members. Claims for nonreceipt or for damaged copies are honored for three months.

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Printed in U.S.A. by Modern Litho-Print Company in Jefferson City, Missouri. For AIPG news and activities go to www.aipg.org.