

NOGS LOG

Official Publication of the New Orleans Geological Society, Inc.

April 2006

Volume 46, Number 6

APRIL AND MAY ACTIVITIES

NOGS Events

April 3 NOGS Luncheon

Larry Zarra, of Chevron, will present
"Wilcox Depositional Systems: Shelf to Deep Basin"
(See Page 7 for Abstract and Biography)

LE PAVILLON HOTEL

Check with concierge or
desk for location

Lunch served at 11:30am

ADMISSION:

with reservation\$25.00

without reservation\$30.00

Student Member with reservation Free

May 1 NOGS 2006 Golf Outing

Money Hill Golf & Country Club in Abita Springs
(See Page 11 for Announcement)

May 8 NOGS Luncheon

Dr. Matt Totten, of Kansas State University and UNO, will present
"Mechanisms for the distribution of Plio-Pleistocene volcanic ash beds in the Gulf of Mexico"

April 9-12

AAPG Annual Conference "Perfecting the Search"

George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston
Complete details are available online at
<http://www.aapg.org/houston/index.cfm>

NOGS Kick Off Party

More photos from the
NOGS Kick Off Party
can be found on pages
14, 15, 19 & 21. Color
versions of these photos
can be accessed on
NOGS' website -
www.nogs.org.



FROM THE EDITOR

Dear NOGS members
and advertisers,

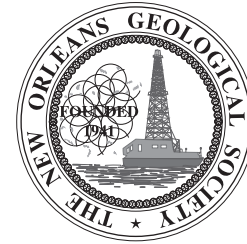


As with many things
in post-Katrina New Orleans, plans do not always
work out. We had hoped to have color advertisements
(where requested), color photos from the NOGS
Kickoff Party, and color for the graphics in Info Tidbits
in this, the first post-K hard copy NOGS Log.
Unfortunately, this issue had to be done in black
and white. Please accept our apology. We are working
towards getting these issues resolved, and where
possible, posting in color photos and images on the
NOGS website.

Paul Post
Editor *NOGS Log*
E-mail: log@nogs.org

NOGS Office

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 The office is located at Suite 300, 810 Union Street, New Orleans, LA 70112.
 Correspondence and all luncheon reservations should be sent to the above address.
 Sent to press on March 8, 2006.



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2007	504-889-2104
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--- NOGS Contact List continued on page 8---



from the President

I'd like to thank everyone who attended our February 6th luncheon meeting, our first since August. We had a great turnout of 64 members and guests to hear our speaker, Dr. Dale Bird, give a talk on "Jurassic Tectonics of the Gulf of Mexico". I would especially like to thank Diversified Well Logging, Inc. for sponsoring two tables at the luncheon. While the NOGS Board of Directors was planning this first luncheon after our forced hiatus, we had no idea how many members would be able to attend. Our initial estimates were for as few as 25, so an attendance of 64, while so many members have still not returned to the city, was a great success, and makes us very optimistic about the future of NOGS.

One of the first and probably most important items of business that the NOGS Board had to accomplish after returning to work was to adopt a budget for the society for the rest of this year. The Board had just about finalized a budget when Hurricane Katrina hit. After the hurricane, this budget had to be scrapped and re-worked to fit post-storm realities. It was very important that we understood the financial effects of the hurricane on our society. The NOGS Finance Committee, consisting of myself, our President-Elect Mike Fein, Treasurer Dave Balcer, and Doug Cristina, along with frequent consultations with Bret Hampton and Annette Hudson via speakerphone, met for several hours going over every line of expected income and expenses.

On the income side, advertising in the NOGS Log is our largest recurring source of revenue. This, the April issue of the NOGS Log, is the first we have been able to publish in hardcopy since the September issue. Tim Piwowar, the NOGS Advertising Chairman, has been in contact with our advertisers and has worked out a very fair plan to credit them for the months we were unable to publish. We are also anticipating a drop in membership from displaced members who are unable to return to the city. Fortunately, due to the foresight of the GCAGS Convention Committee and the generosity of many of the sponsors whom had signed up for the GCAGS Convention, NOGS will still receive a generous share of

monies from "the best convention that never was". I would also like to acknowledge a donation of \$3,000.00 from the GCSSEPM Foundation to the NOGS FONOFund specifically dedicated to office and meeting expenses. This is an extremely generous and timely gift and is much appreciated by NOGS. These two items allowed us to replace a significant part of the expected income we were forced to cut, and are key to our financial stability for the rest of this year.

On the expense side, even though NOGS had no income during the months immediately following the hurricane, we did have some monthly expenses. Now that we have returned to a normal course of business, many of our usual expenses, especially those associated with the monthly luncheons, have increased along with the cost of most everything else in the city following the hurricane. Fortunately, the combination of reduced expenses during our inactive period and a few cuts here and there, along with the income to be received from the GCAGS and the donation from GCSSEPM, we were able to present and adopt a balanced budget for this year without having to increase the cost of the luncheons. As we move forward, we hope that we will be able to continue avoid any increases.

When you have an opportunity, check out the newly re-designed NOGS website at www.nogs.org. Our NOGS Log Editor, Paul Post, has overseen a revamping of the website with the goal of making it more up-to-date, useful and informative. While still a work in progress, you can now access information about the society, upcoming events, current and past issues of the NOGS Logs on .pdf files, our advertisers ads and links to their websites or contacts, or just send us an email.

Finally, don't forget the AAPG Annual Convention to be held April 9-12 in Houston at the George R. Brown Convention Center, and the NOGS Golf Tournament, to be held May 1st at Money Hill. I hope to see you at both.

Scott Wainwright

April 3 Luncheon Presentation

Wilcox Depositional Systems: Shelf to Deep Basin

presented by
Larry Zarra
Chevron

ABSTRACT

The Wilcox has long been recognized as an important petroleum reservoir, producing from deltaic, fluvial, and shallow marine sandstones since the 1930's. Recent drilling in the Perdido Fold Belt (Alaminos Canyon OCS area) has confirmed a new exploration play in the deep basin component of the Wilcox depositional system, with significant discoveries in distal turbidite systems.

Deposition of the Wilcox Group in the Gulf of Mexico basin spanned much of the late Paleocene and early Eocene. In outcrop, the Wilcox is characterized by a variety of paralic and very shallow marine depositional settings, and is represented by interbedded sandstone and shale, and locally abundant lignite. Updip from the underlying Lower Cretaceous shelf margin, relatively dense, shallow, subsurface well control documents fluvial, deltaic, and open shelf depositional facies in Wilcox sequences. . Downdip from the Lower Cretaceous shelf margin, Wilcox sequences are comprised of delta front, open shelf, and prodelta depositional facies. Relatively sparse well control shows a mostly sand-poor section in the prodelta and shelf depositional systems. Downdip

from the shelf and prodelta, the next Wilcox well penetrations are 250 miles farther out in the basin, in southern Alaminos Canyon OCS area referred to as the Perdido Fold Belt (PFB) in the deepwater Gulf of Mexico.

Recently released drilling data sheds new light on play concepts and hydrocarbon potential of the PFB. Located in the southern Alaminos Canyon OCS area and extending into Mexican waters, the PFB consists of a series of large, northeast-southwest trending, salt-cored box folds containing Middle Jurassic to Holocene clastic and carbonate sequences. Based on regional correlations and seismic facies analysis, the initial exploratory targets consisted of fractured Mesozoic carbonates and Lower Tertiary turbidites. Given the absence of local stratigraphic control, the presence, distribution, and quality of the reservoir objectives were considered to be among the most significant risk elements for the trend. A key result of the BAHA wells (AC 600 #1 and AC 557 #1) was documenting a thick (>4000 ft) interval of Lower Tertiary siliciclastics, establishing the presence of extensive

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BIOGRAPHY

Larry Zarra has a B.A. degree (1979) from Rutgers College and a M.S. degree (1988) from the University of Delaware, both in geology. He worked for The Academy of Natural Science in Philadelphia, the North Carolina Geological Survey, and Exxon, before joining Chevron in 1991. At Exxon and early on at Chevron, Larry focused on Texas Gulf Coast foraminiferal biostratigraphy and sequence stratigraphy. He is a member of AAPG and GCSSEPM, and has recently co-authored talks and

abstracts at AAPG and the 2003 GCSSEPM Perkins Research Conference, and World Oil. Larry is currently a stratigrapher and regional geologist for Chevron's deep-water Gulf of Mexico Exploration Team. His primary interests include integrating sequence stratigraphy, seismic geomorphology, sedimentology, image logs, and cores to better understand and predict depositional processes and systems for deepwater exploration and appraisal projects.

THE LUNCHEON RESERVATION DEADLINE IS MARCH 29, SO CALL THE NOGS OFFICE - TODAY!

“And Looking Ahead...”

The next luncheon will be May 8. Dr. Matt Totten, of Kansas State University and UNO, "Mechanisms for the distribution of Plio-Pleistocene volcanic ash beds in the Gulf of Mexico," rescheduled from our September 2005 Luncheon. Contact the NOGS office at 561-8980 or use the e-link on the NOGS website (www.nogs.org) to make your reservation.

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--- continued from page 3 ---

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2007-08 Trustee	TBA			

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2008(a)	James Cearley III	Chevron	504-592-6661	james.cearley@chevrontexaco.com
2008(a)	Arthur T. Cerniglia	CIG Exploration	504-780-0097	cigexploration@yahoo.com

NOGS PRESENTS THE 2006 ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

Our annual event will still be held this year on **Monday May 1** at **Money Hill Golf & Country Club** in Abita Springs. The format is yet to be determined depending on the amount of players. We will still plan on a shotgun start at **12:00 noon**, so get your 4-somes together. Registration will start at **10:00 AM**.

A brunch will again be served before play. Diversified Logging has committed to serve their usual fare and Halliburton will supply the drinks. This year we are not soliciting any hole sponsors or donations, however if you or your company are willing to contribute to the event please contact Jeff Jandegian. Your efforts would be appreciated. Two-thirds of the golf committee has been displaced, and we have decided to trim down the venue. Door prizes will be limited if any. There will be no betting or contest holes. Hopefully everything else will remain the same. We are sure you all will understand. Next year we should be back to normal.

COST: \$120 PER PLAYER includes golf, practice range use, cart, food, drinks, and flight prizes. Again if you can donate some door prizes let me know.

If you have any questions, suggestions, or wish to donate prizes contact
Jeff Jandegian @ 504-522-7496

To register contact Annette Hudson @ the NOGS office 810 Union St. Ste. 300 NOLA 70112 (504)-561-8980. Cash, check (payable to NOGS), and all major credit cards are accepted.

Profit from the Tournament will go to **The Memorial Fund in memory of Bill Craig***.

Name: _____

Company: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Names of others in your group:

Number of Mulligans @ \$5.00ea. _____

V MC Disc Am Ex # _____

Exp Date _____ Total Paid _____

* Information concerning **The Bill Craig Memorial Fund** is available at www.nogs.org.

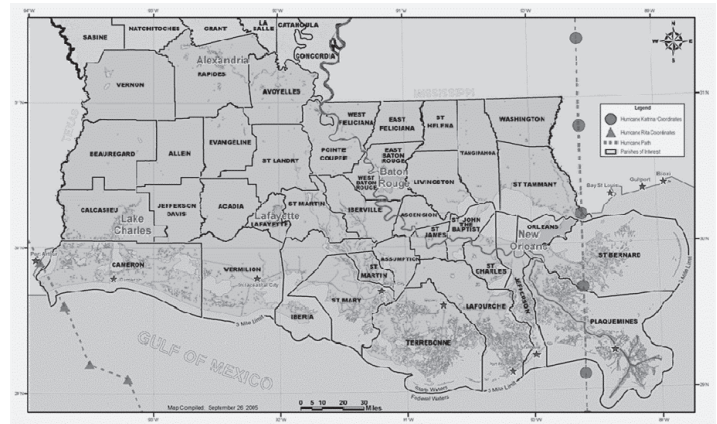
☞ **Louisiana In-State Production Status Update:** In an attempt to assess the effects of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita on oil and gas production, the Office of Conservation is providing the reported production information in a thirty-eight (38) parish region. The survey does not include information on federal wells in the Outer Continental Shelf -Gulf (OCS-G) region.

Listed below is the actual reported production information for November 2005:

The restored oil production is 138,710 BOPD. This restored oil production is equivalent to 68.3% of the daily oil production capacity of the thirty-eight (38) parish region, which is currently approximately 203,139 BOPD*.

The restored gas production is 1,814.5 MMCFPD. This restored gas production is equivalent to 81.2% of the daily gas production capacity of the thirty-eight (38) parish region, which is currently approximately 2,235 MMCFPD*.

*Production capacity for the thirty-eight (38) parish region is estimated using the average production reported to the Office of Conservation for the period January 2005 to May 2005.



Special Note: Louisiana has jurisdiction over oil and gas properties and rights out to three miles as a result of a U.S. Supreme Court decision in 1976. For oil and gas production data and information beyond the state line, see the federal government's Minerals Management Services Web site, www.mms.gov.

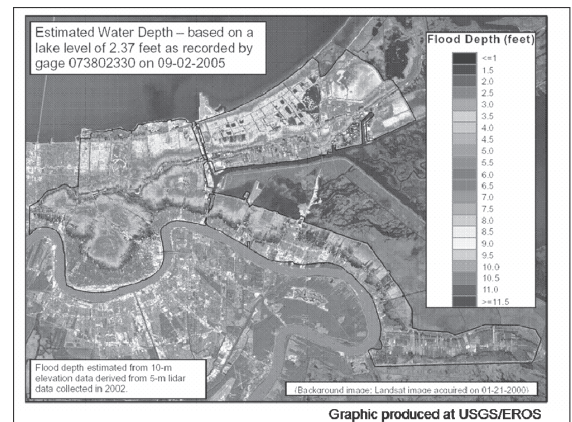
Source: The Louisiana Department of Natural Resources www.dnr.louisiana.gov

☞ **USGS Scientists Investigate New Orleans Levees Broken by Hurricane Katrina:** USGS Scientists Robert Kayen and Brian Collins of the USGS Western Coastal and Marine Geology Team were asked to participate on a National Science Foundation sponsored team, at the request of the Corps of Engineers, along with the American Society of Civil Engineers. Kayen and Collins were in New Orleans from October 9 to 14, and utilized a ground-based terrestrial laser-mapping system to perform light detection and ranging (lidar) data collection.

The objective of their study was to acquire precise ground surface measurements to map

- Soil displacements at each levee site
- The non-uniformity of levee heights
- The depth of erosion where scour occurred, and
- Distress in structures that were on the verge of failure when flood waters receded.

The findings were presented to Congress in Early November as part of a joint NSF-ASCE report entitled Preliminary Report on the Performance of the New Orleans Levee Systems in Hurricane Katrina on August 29, 2005. The entire report can be downloaded from http://hsgac.senate.gov/_files/Katrina/Preliminary_Report.pdf.



Source: From the article by Robert Kayen Bryan Collins, and Helen Gibbons, Sound Waves Monthly Newsletter, Coastal Science & Research News from Across the USGS, Dec. 2005/Jan. 2006. The entire article can be accessed at <http://soundwaves.usgs.gov/2006/01/>.

For more information on how lidar data were used to estimate flood water volume, visit the URL <http://eros.usgs.gov/katrina/science.html> Follow the link to Topography-Based Analysis of Hurricane Katrina Inundation of New Orleans.

☞ **Looking for Louisiana well logs?** The Louisiana Geological Society has about 60,000 well logs on file - mostly from Louisiana. The logs are grouped by Parish and are available to the general public. The list of available logs can be viewed at <http://www.lgs.lsu.edu/pubs/logs.html>. For more information contact Pat O'Neill at (225)578-8590.

Robert Rooney

DRILL BITS

South Louisiana and Offshore Exploration and Production Activity

This month saw little new in the way of announced success from drilling. However, recent discoveries are coming on-line.

- On February 21, Kerr-McGee Corp. announced the Ticonderoga field in the deepwater Gulf of Mexico achieved first production on Feb. 16, nearly two months ahead of schedule. Ticonderoga, located on Green Canyon block 768 in 5,250 feet of water, consists of two subsea wells tied back to Kerr-McGee's 100%-owned Constitution spar located on Green Canyon block 680. Kerr-McGee operates Ticonderoga with a 50% working interest. Noble Energy, Inc. owns the remaining 50% working interest. Ticonderoga has an estimated resource range of 30 million to 50 million barrels of oil equivalent and has reached peak production volumes of approximately 20 thousand barrels of oil per day and 15 million cubic feet of natural gas per day. First production from the Constitution field is expected in the second quarter of 2006. The Constitution truss spar, a floating production facility, was originally modeled after Kerr-McGee's Gunnison spar located on Garden Banks block 668; however, following the discovery of Ticonderoga in April 2004, Constitution's capacity was expanded to accommodate the additional production. As a result, Constitution currently has the capacity to process 70,000 barrels of oil per day and 200 million cubic feet of natural gas per day - an increase in oil capacity of approximately 75% from its initial design. The spar is located in nearly 5,000 feet of water approximately 190 miles south of New Orleans, La.

The commitment to deep and ultra-deepwater drilling appears very strong.

- Transocean, Inc., the world's largest offshore oil and natural gas drilling contractor, said February 27 that it had signed a three-year contract extension with a unit of BP at a rig rate that set a U.S. industry record. The extension, for the Discoverer Enterprise drill ship, is expected to start in 2007 and generate revenue of \$569 million. The drillship is currently in the Gulf of Mexico. The contract is worth almost \$520,000 a day, surpassing the \$475,000 Anadarko agreed last year to pay for another Transocean rig.
- On March 1, 2006, Chevron announced that it has awarded Transocean, Inc. a deepwater drilling contract for the construction of a new state-of-the-art drillship that will be dedicated exclusively to Chevron for five years. The contract for the new drillship is expected to commence during the second quarter of 2009. The dynamically positioned, double-hull drillship is scheduled to be built at the Daewoo Shipbuilding and Marine Engineering Yard Co., Ltd., in Okpo, South Korea, over a 30-month period for an estimated total capital expenditure of approximately \$650 million. Following sea trials, it will be mobilized to the U.S. Gulf of Mexico for Chevron's acceptance of the ship. The new drillship, the Discoverer Clear Leader, will include the most advanced drilling capabilities in the offshore drilling industry. It will feature a patented dual-activity drilling technology process that utilizes two drilling systems in a single derrick, allowing for parallel drilling operations designed to save time and money in deepwater well construction, compared with conventional rigs. In addition, the top drive will be larger, stronger and more efficient than existing top drives. There also will be an expanded high-pressure mud-pump system, expanded completions capabilities and other unique features of the drillship that target drilling wells up to 40,000 feet of total depth. The drillship will have a variable deckload of more than 20,000 metric tons, and will be capable of drilling in water depths of up to 12,000 feet. It will be an enhanced version of Transocean's three predecessor Enterprise-Class drillships, which have set deepwater drilling records in recent years, including the world water-depth drilling record of 10,011 feet. Chevron also exercised a final one-year option on Transocean's deepwater drillship Discoverer Deep Seas, which is expected to commence in or near January 2008, and awarded a two-year contract extension for the rig with an expected commencement date of January 2009. Chevron has also extended its contract for Transocean's Cajun Express semisubmersible rig. The two-and-a-half year contract extension has an expected commencement date near July 2007, following the rig's current contract assignment with Chevron in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico. Together, these three agreements total approximately \$1.7 billion.

Paul Post

New Orleans Geological Auxiliary News



Our world has seen so many changes since my last column of August, 2005. All of our many plans and bright future events have dimmed these past six months; however, NOGA is back and active again and ready to face the future. We'd like to thank the ladies who had volunteered to work on committees for the September and November events. We look forward to doing those things another time.

The NOGA ladies enjoyed a wonderful luncheon at Barreca's on February 8th. With many thanks to the hard work of Joan Sylvester, Ruth Ingram, and Elizabeth Furlong, forty-six of us gathered to swap stories and check on the well-being of each other. It was so good to see everyone there. After a delicious lunch, we were entertained with a great presentation on "Protocol and Etiquette" by our speaker Judy Anderson. Judy is a delightful lady who gave us information on how to put our best foot forward both here and abroad. At the end of the luncheon, several lucky ladies won lovely door prizes with Fleur de Lis themes.

The next NOGA event, our annual Spring Social, is set for Saturday, March 18 at the home of TrezMarie and Jim Zotkiewicz. We know this will be an extra special party. Thanks, Trez and Jim, for offering your beautiful home. Chairman Peggy Rogers, and committee members Josie Markey and Linda Peirce, have put a lot of effort into making this a party to remember.

The NOGA ballot for new officers should, hopefully, have reached your mailboxes by now. The Nominating Committee has submitted an excellent list for 2006-2007. These candidates include: President - Susie Baker; 1st Vice-President - Linda Peirce; 2nd Vice-President - Jean Jones; Treasurer - Peggy Rogers; Secretary - Judy Lemarie'; and three Directors for 2006 -2008 - Carol Andrews, Alma Dunlap, and Earleen Rodan. Please return your ballot and \$15.00 dues to Peggy Rogers as soon as possible.

Mark your calendars for our Installation luncheon on May 10, 2006. This luncheon will be held at Cannon's Restaurant on St. Charles Avenue. We hope to see all of you there.

Beverly Kastler
NOGA President



NOGA Application Form

Dues: \$15.00

Name _____

Home Address _____

Home phone _____

Husband's Name _____

Husband's Company _____

Please make check payable to New Orleans Geological Auxiliary and mail with application to: Peggy Rogers
2580 Valentine Ct
New Orleans LA 70131

NOGA Members at the NOGS Kick Off Party





NOGS Membership News & Information

This is your page. We would like to fill it with your news. In addition to professional news from our members; e.g., promotions, transfers, moves, new employer, etc., we also welcome your success stories. Please e-mail items to log@nogs.org.

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April 3 Luncheon Abstract (continued from page 7)

Wilcox turbidites located greater than 250 miles downdip from their fluvial and deltaic equivalents. Sand character and distribution interpreted from wireline logs and seismic data demonstrate a systematic progression from regional basin-floor fans to distal turbidite channel/levee systems.

Since the deep test at BAHA in 2001, six additional wildcats testing the Wilcox have been drilled in the PFB, resulting in discoveries at Trident (AC 903 #1) in 2001, Great White (AC 857) in 2002, followed by Tiger (AC 818) and Tobago (AC 859) in 2004. Additional wildcat wells testing the Wilcox in the PFB include a non-commercial discovery at Toledo (AC 951) in 2004, and Diamondback (AC 739) in 2005, the status of which remains undisclosed by the operator.

Success in the PFB also promoted extension of the Wilcox trend 200 miles to the east, in the Mississippi Fan Fold Belt in the Walker Ridge protraction area. Wildcat discoveries in Walker Ridge Wilcox trend include Cascade (WR 206) in 2002, Chinook (WR 425) and St. Malo (WR 678) in 2003, and Jack (WR 759) in 2004. Additional wildcat wells in this region include Sardinia (KC 681), Hadrian (KC 919), Das Bump (WR 724), and Stones (WR 508), among others.

With continued exploration and appraisal success, the entire deep-water Wilcox trend has become an increasingly important exploration and development play in the Gulf of Mexico.