

# NOGS LOG

Official Publication of the New Orleans Geological Society, Inc.

May 2006  
Volume 46, Number 7

## MAY AND JUNE ACTIVITIES

### NOGS Events

#### 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"  
(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

#### June 5 - NOGS Luncheon

Alfred C. Naomi, Project Manager of the U.S. Army Corps. of Engineers, New Orleans District,  
will give a program of the Corps plan for storm surge protection for the area.

#### June 9 - NOGS Hurricane Season Gris-Gris Party

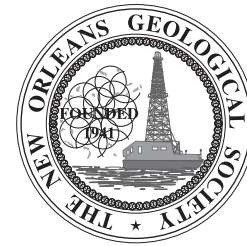
New Orleans Ladies Ballroom in Gretna  
(See Page 15 for Announcement)

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**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 April 11, 2006.



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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**NOGS AUXILIARY**

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Treasurer	Peggy Rogers	504-392-6323	Ann Gilbert	2007	504-889-2104
Parliamentarian	Carol Andrews	504-887-3432	Dolores Murphy	2007	504-393-0878
Member-at-Large	Pam Heffner	337-828-5055			

--- NOGS Contact List continued on page 8---



## *from the President*

A full house! I didn't think I'd be saying that so soon; but that's what NOGS had at the April 3<sup>rd</sup> luncheon meeting. What a significant statement about the future of NOGS and New Orleans. I would like to thank everyone who attended the meeting and enjoyed good food, and a terrific talk by Larry Zarra of Chevron. Let's all get together like that every month. I'll see you at the Le Pavllion on May 8<sup>th</sup>.

• • •

Amendments to the NOGS Constitution “may be proposed to the Society by a resolution of the Board of Directors, by a Constitutional Committee appointed by the President, or by a written petition signed by twenty voting members of the society.” A ballot to vote on two proposed amendments to the Constitution will be mailed to you with your dues notice next month. Before Hurricane Katrina, the NOGS Board had initiated a review of the Constitution and Bylaws to assess whether any changes needed to be made in the documents to bring them up-to-date with the day-to-day workings of the society. An Ad Hoc Committee was appointed that consisted of Chairman Charlie Corona, Nathan Kuhle, Ed Picou, and Bill Whiting. The committee met several times to review the documents and consulted with other members of the society. I would like to thank the members of the Ad Hoc Committee for all of their hard work last year. The outcome of their review was a proposed constitutional change regarding the duties of the Treasurer, as well as several proposed changes to the Bylaws. The Board of Directors has also proposed, by resolution, a second constitutional change that it feels is necessary to ensure a smooth transition from one year to the next for the position of NOGS Treasurer.

The procedure for approving an amendment to the NOGS Constitution takes several steps. After being approved by the Board, the proposed amendments must be submitted to the membership at the next regularly scheduled NOGS meeting with opportunity afforded for discussion, the President must cause a written explanation of the proposed changes to be mailed to all members, and a ballot must be mailed to all Voting Members. Approval requires a two-thirds affirmative vote of all ballots returned within thirty days of the mailing date. At the April meeting, I read the two proposed constitutional amendments to the attendees, and offered the opportunity for discussion. In this issue of the NOGS Log, I will provide a written explanation of the proposed amendments, and as stated previously, a ballot will be mailed with the dues notices for the membership to use to vote on the proposed changes.

The first proposed constitutional change (in **bold and underlined**) is:

### Article IV – Officers and Directors – Section A - Government

1. The officers of the Society shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, an Editor, a President-Elect, and an Editor-Elect. The officers shall serve for a term of one administrative year and shall not succeed themselves in their respective offices. **The Treasurer will serve an additional three months in an advisory capacity immediately following the end of the administrative year to facilitate the transition with the newly elected Treasurer. During these three months, the outgoing Treasurer will not serve as a member of the Executive Committee.** Together, the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary, the

--- continued on page 12 ---

## May 8 Luncheon Presentation

# Mechanisms for the distribution of Plio-Pleistocene volcanic ash beds in the Gulf of Mexico

presented by

**Matthew W. Totten, Ph.D.**

Department of Geology, Kansas State University

Department of Geology and Geophysics, University of New Orleans

### ABSTRACT

Deep-water sedimentary beds, rich in volcanic ash, have been confirmed in the late Miocene to Pleistocene section of numerous offshore wells in the Gulf of Mexico (GoM). We have identified several silica-rich ashes, ranging between 10-30 meters thick deposited during the last 12 million years. Several huge eruptions have been reported from the Snake River/Yellowstone hotspot over this time period, all of which would have directed ash-fall into the Mississippi River drainage basin, and ultimately to the GoM. Based upon their proximity in time, and similar shard morphology and chemistry, we believe these eruptions are the most likely sources for the ashes found in the GoM.

The Huckleberry Ridge eruption, centered at Yellowstone, was one of the largest eruptions ever recorded. Volcanic ash was spread over a tremendous area of the United States, and has been recovered from the GoM, a wide variety of locations in the western US, the Great Plains, and the Pacific Ocean. We have identified Huckleberry Ridge derived ash

from multiple wells offshore Louisiana, and from several locations in Kansas. We propose a mechanism for its transport to, and deposition in, the GoM.

The ash outcrops in Kansas show evidence of a system overwhelmed with ash. Exotic boulders and large tree limbs are totally enclosed in ash, similar to recent deposits formed by the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo. These outcrops record a time when the Mississippi River drainage system was literally choked with ash. Within a short time period, this ash reached the depocenters in the GoM. Once the ash slug reached the GoM, ash accumulated on the shelf, before being finally deposited in deep water by turbidity flows. The glass shards were concentrated in the active channels, resulting in the thick, ash deposits reported in several wells. We have also observed a background level (<1%) of ash from shales of Huckleberry Ridge time, which record ash deposition in non-channel deposits. The model proposed for the Huckleberry Ridge ash is probably applicable to other significant Miocene-Pleistocene ashes in the GoM.

### BIOGRAPHY

**Dr. Matthew W. Totten** is currently an Associate Professor in Petroleum Geology at Kansas State University, and an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Geology and Geophysics at the University of New Orleans. He was a faculty member at UNO from 1992 until 2005. He received a B.S. in

Geology from the University of Kansas in 1977, and his M.S. in Geology from the University of Oklahoma in 1979. After ten years in industry, he returned to the University of Oklahoma, where he was awarded his Ph.D. in 1992.

**THE LUNCHEON RESERVATION DEADLINE IS MAY 3, SO CALL THE NOGS OFFICE - TODAY!**

### “And Looking Ahead...”

The next luncheon will be June 5. Alfred C. Naomi, Project Manager of the U.S. Army Corps. of Engineers, New Orleans District, will give a program of the Corps plan for storm surge protection for the area. This is an evolving issue of great concern and interest to all of us. The program will have the most up-to-date information available. Contact the NOGS office at 561-8980 or use the e-link on the NOGS website ([www.nogs.org](http://www.nogs.org)) to make your reservation.

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***NOGS CONTACT LIST***

--- continued from page 3 ---

**MEMORIAL FOUNDATION**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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2005-06 Trustee	David E. Reiter	Dominion E & P Inc	985-893-8072	david_e_reiter@dom.com
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2006-07 Trustee	Robert W. Sabate'	Energetix Petroleum LLC	504-861-4335	saboil@aol.com
2007-08 Trustee	TBA			
2007-08 Trustee	TBA			

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2006	Tom Klekamp	El-Can Exploration	985-626-5808	klekamp@bellsouth.net
2006	Robert G. Murphy	ORX Resources, Inc.	504-581-1806	bmurphy@orx.com
2006	Lisa Rhoades Goggin	Chevron	713-754-3604	LRhoades@Chevron.com
2006(a)	John Jurasin	Jurasin Oil & Gas	504-831-8874	JohnJurasin@jurasinoilgas.com
2006(a)	Brian J. O'Neill	Shell	504-728-4351	brian.oneill@shell.com
2007	Thomas C. Bergeon	Shell	504-728-6480	thomas.bergeon@shell.com
2007(a)	J. Stephen Tissue	Chevron	504-592-6030	stevetissue@Chevron.com
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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](http://www.nogs.org).

## President's Message - continued from page 5

Treasurer, the Editor, and the President-Elect shall constitute the Executive Committee of the Society. A quorum for the Executive Committee meetings shall be three members. The Executive Committee shall approve or disapprove applicants for membership, and shall see that the policies determined by the Board of Directors are implemented. The Executive Committee may hire a paid assistant in the event this is deemed necessary for the efficient operation of the Society.

The proposed change is the addition of the third and fourth sentence, printed in bold type and underlined, regarding the term of office of the Treasurer. The Board would like to add the sentences **“The Treasurer will serve an additional three months in an advisory capacity immediately following the end of the administrative year to facilitate the transition with the newly elected Treasurer. During these three months, the outgoing Treasurer will not serve as a member of the Executive Committee.”** As NOGS has grown through the years, the Treasurer's job has become much more complicated. NOGS has many different accounts and investments. The Treasurer has to keep up with, and report information and status of these to the Board on a monthly basis. If the newly elected Treasurer is new to the NOGS Board, having no experience in how NOGS operates, the Treasurer's position can be initially overwhelming while trying to understand the different accounts and investments, making the first few months of the transition difficult. Several different ways to address this issue were discussed by the Board. We finally settled on proposing a three-month extension at the end of the Treasurer's term in an advisory capacity to help facilitate this transition. The Board discussed trying to do this as a Bylaw change instead of a constitutional change; however, it was felt that since the Constitution was specific in stating that the terms of the officers were for “one administrative year”, then it was necessary to propose a change to the Constitution as the Constitution will always take precedent over the Bylaws.

The second proposed change to the NOGS Constitution is as follows:

### Article IV – Officer and Directors, Section B – Duties of Officers - Treasurer

5. Treasurer. The Treasurer and the President shall have charge of the financial affairs of the Society. In this connection, the Treasurer shall receive all funds of the Society and shall make all disbursements of funds under the supervision of the President and the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall submit ~~quarterly~~ **monthly** financial reports **to the Board**, and an annual report and inventory to the Society prior to leaving office. The Treasurer shall prepare **or cause to be prepared** all information returns and/or income tax returns with respect to the year of the Treasurer's term of office required by the United States Internal Revenue Service or State government. The Treasurer shall submit the Society's books to ~~an Auditing the Audit~~ Committee **appointed by the President**.

The proposed changes to the third, fourth, and fifth sentences are in bold type and underlined, with the deletions stricken through and the additions underlined. These changes are fairly self-explanatory and are mostly housekeeping required to bring the stated duties of the Treasurer up-to-date with the realities of the office today. The Treasurer currently gives monthly reports to the Board, rather than quarterly. This is necessary because of the complexity of the NOGS accounts. The addition of the phrase **“or cause to be prepared”** to the fourth sentence, addresses the fact it is not prudent or reasonable to expect the NOGS Treasurer to prepare the tax returns for the society. The final change to the fifth sentence is necessary to bring this sentence in line with one of the current Bylaw changes which was just adopted by the Board and will be discussed below.

The NOGS Board of Directors feels that, if approved, these two constitutional changes will bring the NOGS Constitution up-to-date regarding what is necessary for the Treasurer to perform his/her duties prudently and to ensure a smooth transition from one administration to the next.

The Ad Hoc Committee also proposed several Bylaw changes which have been approved by the Board of Directors, with some changes. Amendments to the Bylaws require a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors to pass and are then required to be announced in the NOGS Log and published on the NOGS website to take effect. The following amendments to the Bylaws have been approved by the NOGS Board of Directors:

#### Article IV – Committees and Councils – Section B – Business Council

##### **5. Finance and Audit Committee**

This committee shall consist of the President, the President-Elect, ~~the Chairman of the NOGS Memorial Foundation, the Treasurer and the immediate Past-Treasurer, and one appointee from the active NOGS membership. The President shall select the appointee for a one-year term.~~ The ~~immediate Past-Treasurer~~ President shall be chairman of this committee and call regularly scheduled meetings. ~~This committee shall be responsible for thoroughly researching and then making specific investment recommendations to both the NOGS Board of Directors and the NOGS Memorial Foundation's Board of Trustees. This committee shall be responsible for the monitoring of the FONO (Friends Of NOGS Office) Fund to be comprised of donations from the membership. The investment income from this fund will be transferred to the NOGS operating account yearly, as needed, to defer expenses incurred in maintaining the NOGS office. Investment income not needed for office operations in a given year shall be accumulated in the fund and be available when needed. The respective Boards have final fiduciary responsibility and investment direction for their money.~~ The immediate Past-Treasurer shall be responsible for conducting or causing to be conducted ~~quarterly~~ yearly audits of the Treasurer's reports and the Society's books, and submitting to the Board of Directors ~~a quarterly~~ an annual written report of the findings and recommendations (e.g., ~~The Treasurer from fiscal year 2003-2004 would audit the books of fiscal year 2004-2005 upon that year's closeout by the September Board of Directors meeting).~~

##### **10. Finance and Investment Committee**

**A. This committee shall consist of the President, President-Elect, Treasurer and one appointee from the active NOGS membership. The appointee shall serve a one-year term and be selected by the President. The Chairman shall be elected by the committee. This committee shall be responsible for monitoring investments within the Operations, Publications and FONO (Friends of NOGS Office) Fund accounts. The committee shall thoroughly research and then make specific investment recommendations to the NOGS Board of Directors. The Board shall have final responsibility for the investment of the funds of the Society.**

**B. The FONO Fund shall be comprised of contributions collected for the express purpose of defraying expenses incurred in maintaining the NOGS Office. The investment income from this fund will be transferred to the NOGS operating account at the end of each fiscal year to help defray expenses incurred in maintaining the NOGS Office.**

**C. NOGS shall maintain a Checking account for regular business transactions.**

The change in Paragraph 5 from the **Finance and Audit Committee** to the **Audit Committee** serves a couple of purposes. The Ad Hoc Committee and the Board felt it was necessary to completely separate the management of the society finances and the management of the NOGS Memorial Foundation. The creation of a specific **Audit Committee** further insures the fiscal responsibility of the Board by setting up a committee and mechanism to audit the books of the society every year. The addition of Paragraph 10, sections A, B and C, replaces and clarifies many of the deletions from

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## President's Message - continued from page 13

Paragraph 5, which dealt with the management of the society's funds. The creation of the **Finance and Investment Committee**, as defined by **Section A**, creates an advisory board to assist the Treasurer in monitoring the society's accounts and making of sound investment decisions necessary for the prudent stewardship of the society's funds. **Section B** defines the FONO Fund and states that the investment income from this fund should now be transferred yearly to the NOGS operating account for the specific purpose of defraying the expenses incurred in maintaining the NOGS office. It was the unanimous feeling of the Board that the corpus of this Fund has grown to the point that the investment income from the Fund should now be used on a yearly basis. **Section C** is self-explanatory and brings the Bylaws into agreement with the current practice of the society.

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As I write this column, many of you are in Houston enjoying the AAPG Annual Convention. My ongoing effort to return to my house in Metairie kept me from attending the convention this year, but I hope that NOGS is well represented and I look forward to hearing about the convention from those of you who were able to go.

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Finally, don't forget the NOGS Golf Tournament, to be held May 1<sup>st</sup> at Money Hill, and the "Put the Gris-Gris on the Hurricane Season" that Entertainment Chairman Mike Fein is planning for June 8<sup>th</sup> at the New Orleans Ladies Ballroom, 1771 Stumpf Blvd. in Gretna. Both events should be lots of fun, and I hope to see you at them.

*Scott Wainwright*

### **A2D Technologies Returns to New Orleans Office**

A2D Technologies, the Houston-based well log data provider, re-opened its New Orleans office on April 3. Returning to their original space in the Central Business District, the New Orleans branch will once again manage operations for the company's contract with the Minerals Management Service, and resume other services to the private sector that were previously handled by the office. The staff returned from Houston, where they stayed for the duration of their absence.

"Our New Orleans facility are an integral part of A2D's overall operations," said Dave Kotowych, President A2D Technologies. "Re-opening this office is a key milestone in our post Katrina plan. While we have enjoyed the time spent with our New Orleans colleagues, we wish them all the best as they return home."

A2D Technologies, a TGS-NOPEC Company, provides well log data to industry users worldwide. The company has a global collection of more than four million well logs which are accessible via LOG-LINE Plus!, a browser-based search tool on the company's website, [www.a2d.com](http://www.a2d.com).

**Join NOGS in putting the  
Gris-Gris on Hurricane Season**



NOGS is hosting a Party

**Friday, June 9th  
7:30-10:30 PM**

At the New Orleans Ladies Ballroom  
1771 Stumpf Blvd, Gretna LA

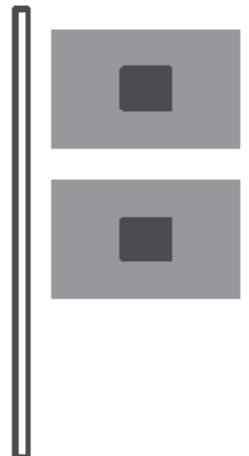
Enjoy a Grand Buffet

with Shrimp Pasta Alfredo, Seafood Gumbo, Creole Jambalaya; Fruit and From age; Vegetable  
Crudités; Hot Dips; Large Selection of Hot and Cold Hors D'oeuvres, and

OPEN BAR

There will be music to ring in the hurricane season!  
Lots of surprises! Large well-lit parking!

All this for only \$35 per person!  
Call the NOGS office for reservations, 561-8980  
or e-mail [info@nogs.net](mailto:info@nogs.net)



# NOGS 2006-2007 CANDIDATES

---

For **PRESIDENT-ELECT**

**JOHNSON**



**Art Johnson** is President and Chief of Exploration for Hydrate Energy International and has been a NOGS member since 1977. He earned a B.S. degree in Geology from Humboldt State University in 1974, with additional graduate work in Geology and Geochemistry at Louisiana State University. Prior to forming HEI in 2002, Art held a variety of positions at Gulf Oil and Chevron during a 25-year career. Art has served NOGS through the Membership and Continuing Education Committees and is currently co-chair of the AAPG/EMD Gas Hydrate Committee. He chairs the Methane Hydrate Advisory Committee for the U.S. Secretary of Energy and has advised Congress and the White House on energy issues. Among his recent publications are two books, "Economic Geology of Gas Hydrates" published by Springer, and "Alternative Energy and Fuels Technology", published by the Catalyst Group.

For **VICE-PRESIDENT**

**MURPHY**



**Robert Murphy** is currently the President of Terrascan Company, Inc. (a Florida Corporation), and under a consulting agreement to ORX Resources in New Orleans. He received his B.S. in Geology from Brooklyn College of the City University of New York in 1974. He has held various positions in Exploration and Development Geology, as well as certain management positions with Placid Oil Company, Brock Exploration, Ladd Petroleum, Rafidi Oil and Gas, Wacker Oil Inc, WO Production, NCX Company, and Energy Partners.

Bob became a NOGS member in 1975. Since then, he has served NOGS as Continuing Employment Committee Chair (1991-92), Geological Registration Committee Chair (1992-94), and Treasurer (1999-2000), and is currently serving as a Delegate to the AAPG House of Delegates.

Bob is also an active member of AAPG, AAPG DPA (#2597), AAPG Environmental Division, and SIPES (#1863). Bob is also a Certified Professional Geologist in Florida (PG1605) and Texas (#2078). As a SIPES member Bob has served as Vice-Chairman (2001-03), Chairman (2003-04).

For **SECRETARY**

**PHELPS**



**Jeanne S. F. Phelps** is a consulting geoscientist specializing in 3D seismic interpretation and integration of geological data. She has over 25 years of exploration and production experience in the Gulf of Mexico Basin. She has worked locally for Mobil (1980-96) and Exxon (1998-99), and consulted for CEI (1996) and Amoco (1996-97). Jeanne has been an AAPG Certified Petroleum Geologist (#4426) since 1990, and a SIPES member (#2509) since 1996. She received her B.S. in Biology and Geology from Sophie Newcomb in 1978, and her M.S. in Geology from Tulane University in 1981.

Jeanne is active in the NOGS and has served as the Employment Chair, NOGS Secretary (1998-99), and as an alternative delegate to AAPG. She is presently NOGS Technical Projects Chair, and Continuing Education Chair. She received the NOGS' Presidents award for both 1998 and 1999. She was the GCAGS Employment Chairman in 1997, the AAPG 2000 Employment Chairman, and the GCAGS Entertainment chair in 2005. In addition she has been very active in SIPES – NO as Continuing Education Chair, Vice Chair 2000-01 and the Chair (2001-02). She is also the New Orleans SIPES National Representative on the SIPES National Board.

# NOGS 2006-2007 CANDIDATES

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For **TREASURER**

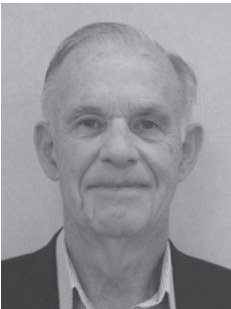
**CLARK**



**Reino Clark** grew up in Northern New Mexico and Southern Colorado, and completed a B.S. in Geology in 1980 at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado. After taking an M.S. in Geology at the Colorado School of Mines in Golden, Colorado, he went to work for Union Oil Company of California in their Oklahoma City office. After working for ten years exploring in the Anadarko and Arkoma Basins, he worked for three years in Unocal's Environmental Group in Beaumont Texas. In 1995, he moved to Lafayette, Louisiana and worked the onshore and offshore Gulf of Mexico for Spirit Energy until 2000. In that year he took a position with Subsurface Consultants & Associates, LLC and moved to New Orleans to work at the ExxonMobil office for two years. In 2002, he went to work for the Minerals Management Service in New Orleans, where he works today. Reino is an AAPG Certified Petroleum Geologist and a licensed Texas Professional Geoscientist. He lives in Mandeville where he and his wife Wendy have two children in Fontainebleau High School.

For **DIRECTOR**

**CONATSER**



**Will Conatser** began his career in the petroleum industry with The California Company (Chevron) in 1959. After working for several smaller oil companies, he turned to consulting and selling prospect ideas in 1975. Will continues prospecting in the onshore area of southeast Louisiana. In past years, Will has served as President and Vice President of NOGS. He is a member of the AAPG. He earned degrees in geology from the University of Cincinnati and Tulane University.

For **EDITOR-ELECT**

**PIWOWAR**



**Tim Piwowar** is a Senior Geologist with Shell Exploration and Production Co., currently focusing on building reservoir models for various deepwater assets.

Tim was born and raised in Uniontown, Pennsylvania, received a B.S. in Geological Engineering from the Colorado School of Mines in 1994 and an M.S. in Geological Sciences from Cornell University in 1997. He joined Shell's shelf exploration team in New Orleans in 1997. He has also worked as a development and production geologist on several deepwater subsea projects, as well as production geologist for the Auger TLP.

Tim has been an active member of NOGS for the past 9 years and has served as Advertising Committee Chair for the NOGS Log from 2003 to the present. He is also an active member of AAPG.

✎ **Louisiana Coal Fact:** Louisiana ranks near the bottom of states in the US in terms of its demonstrated coal reserve base, with between .316 to 1 billion short tons of recoverable reserves (estimates vary depending on the source). This makes up less than 1 percent of the total US estimated recoverable coal reserves. Louisiana's coal production comes from lignite deposits at two sites in northwestern Louisiana in De Soto and Red River Parishes. These lignite seams occur on the Sabine Uplift, in the Wilcox Group of the Paleocene-Eocene epochs, and were deposited as delta plain peat. Under burial and dewatering, peat can be compressed to 1/10th of its original volume. At an accumulation rate of about 1 foot per 300 years, it takes stable conditions, relatively undisturbed by levee sedimentation, to form significant lignite deposits. The Paleocene-Eocene peat was formed by a depositional process similar to recent Mississippi River delta plain sedimentation.

**Coal-Bearing Areas of the United States**

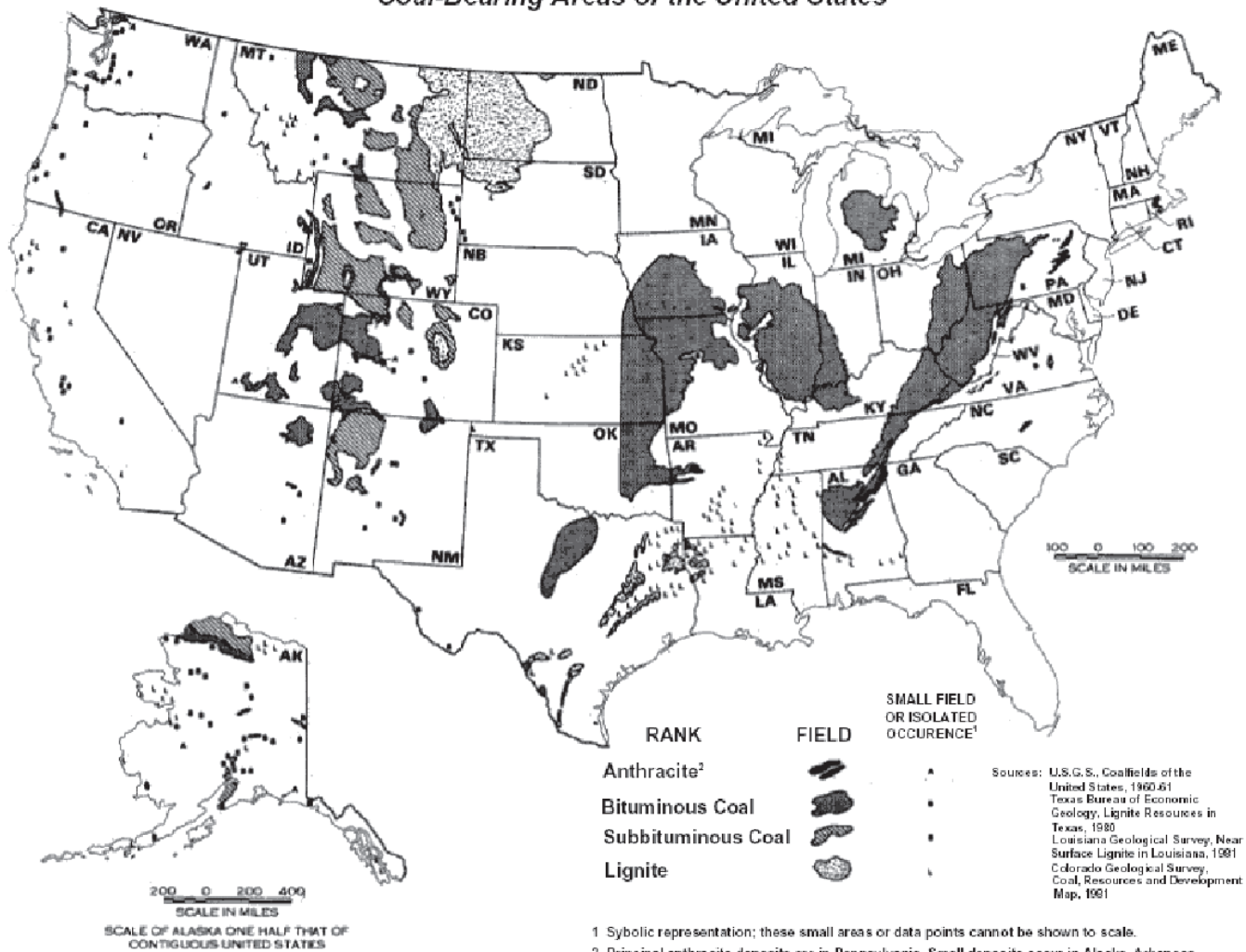




Figure 1. Map showing the location of Dolet Hills and Oxbow Mines, Sabine Uplift and other structures (modified from Roland et al. 1976).

Sources:  
 Lignite Resources in Louisiana,  
 Louisiana Geological Survey, Public  
 Information Series No. 5, June 2000,  
 also located at: <http://www.lgs.lsu.edu/pubs/5lignite.pdf>

National Mining Association  
 website: <http://www.nma.org/>

☞ **NASA Adds Moon Crashing Probes to LRO Mission:** NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter intends to crash its spent fuel stage and impactor probe into the south pole of the moon in an attempt to stir up water ice on the lunar surface. Set to launch in October 2008, the mission is needed to answer key questions as to how and if man can live off of the lunar surface in future manned lunar visits. The Lunar Crater Observation and Sensing Satellite (LCROSS) will use cameras and spectrometers to watch its upper stage, which is about the size of an SUV, slam into the surface of the moon at about 5600 miles per hour. The sensors will determine the composition of the debris cloud created as the vehicle slams into the hydrogen rich Shackleton Crater. The crash is expected to make a crater 16 feet deep and 100 feet across, and will eject over 2 million pounds of lunar material.

From the article NASA Adds Moon Crashing Probes to LRO Mission, by Tariq Malik, Staff Writer, April 10, 2006

Full text from Space.com can be found at: [http://www.space.com/missionlaunches/060410\\_lro\\_moon\\_crash.html](http://www.space.com/missionlaunches/060410_lro_moon_crash.html)

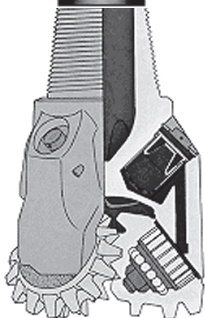
☞ **Revenge of the Lowly Penny:** Thanks to a run-up in commodity prices, including an all-time high for copper that in April, 2006 topped \$2.70 per pound (avoirdupois); the pre-1982 copper penny has easily surpassed its face value. Prior to 1982, the composition of the penny was 95% copper and 5% tin and zinc with a total weight of 3.11 grams. In mid-1982, the US Mint changed the composition to 97.5% zinc and 2.5% copper with a total weight of 2.5 grams. Therefore, it takes 153.5 pre-1982 pennies to make up one pound of copper. This makes the pre-1982 copper penny worth 1.76 cents - the value of its copper content. Imagine mining your spare change for a 76% return! The post-1982, low-copper penny would take \$72.58 to make up a pound of copper - that's 40 pounds of pennies. In 2002, The House of Representatives, in House Resolution 433, recognized the United States Mint for an estimated \$833,000,000 in material savings due to the 1982 conversion to the copper-plated zinc penny.

**Robert Rooney**

## South Louisiana and Offshore Exploration and Production Activity

- On March 7, Dominion Exploration and Production announced first production from the Rigel and Seventeen Hands fields, located about 120 miles southeast of New Orleans in Mississippi Canyon Blocks 296 and 299, respectively. Water depths are 5,200 feet at Rigel and 5,800 feet at Seventeen Hands field. Both fields employ subsea tiebacks to pre-existing infrastructure owned by Chevron. The combined design rate for the two fields is 160 MMCFGPD. Dominion operates both fields and owns 53 percent of Rigel and 38 percent of Seventeen Hands. Dominion's partners in Rigel are Mariner Energy and Newfield Exploration. Seventeen Hands partners are Murphy Oil Corporation and Hydro Gulf of Mexico LLC.
- The Central Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale 198 was held in New Orleans on March 15. High bids from 82 companies totaled \$588,309,791 on 405 of the 707 tracts offered. The total of all bids was \$978,310,887. This represents a 38 percent increase over last year's Central Gulf Sale. Non-majors dominated the sale with only BP among the top five companies by number of high bids, and no major among the top five companies by amount of high bids. Relevant data and tables can be found at the MMS website at <http://www.gomr.mms.gov/homepg/lseale/198/cgom198.html>.
- After the lease sale, on March 21, Nexen announced that drilling and logging operations on the sidetrack confirmation well at the Knotty Head discovery on Green Canyon 512 were concluded. The Knotty Head discovery well was drilled in 2005 to a total depth of 34,189 feet and encountered approximately 600 feet of net oil pay in multiple zones. The sidetrack well was drilled down dip to a total depth of 32,986 feet, with a bottom-hole location approximately 4,500 feet to the south of the original wellbore. The sidetrack encountered all reservoirs seen in the discovery well with approximately 400 feet of net oil pay logged. Nexen's pre-drill estimate for the field was 350 million to 1 billion barrels. Based on the results of the current drilling, the Nexen resource estimate for the field is now 200 to 500 million barrels of oil equivalent, the majority of which are located on their leasehold. The field is located in approximately 3,500 feet of water. Nexen is the operator of the block with a 25% working interest. Other owners in the block include Anadarko Petroleum Corporation (25%), BHP Billiton (25%) and Chevron (25%).
- Kerr-McGee Corp. on March 30 reported that its 100%-owned Constitution field began production on March 27 from the field's first dry-tree well. Located in Green Canyon blocks 679 and 680 in approximately 5,000 feet of water, the field is being developed with six dry-tree wells, which are processed through the Constitution truss spar floating production facility located in Green Canyon block 680. The initial well is expected to ramp up to a production rate of approximately 15,000 BOPD and 12 MMCFGPD. The field has estimated resources of approximately 110 million barrels of oil equivalent. Kerr-McGee expects to reach peak production volumes of approximately 40,000 BOPD and 75 MMCFGPD from all six dry-tree wells by year-end 2006. The Constitution truss spar was expanded during fabrication to accommodate the additional production from the nearby Ticonderoga field, which was discovered after Constitution was sanctioned. The spar currently has processing capacity of 70,000 BOPD and 200 MMCFPD. Kerr-McGee started production from two subsea wells in Ticonderoga during February 2006. Ticonderoga currently is producing at a peak rate of approximately 22,000 BOPD and 19 MMCFGPD. Kerr-McGee is the operator of the Ticonderoga field with a 50% working interest. Noble Energy owns the remaining 50% working interest.

*Paul Post*





## 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](mailto:log@nogs.org).*

### Website Additions

Have you visited NOGS' new website recently? In addition to upcoming events and recent *LOG* issues, you'll find party photos, employment opportunities, and links to professional organizations. Go to [www.nogs.org](http://www.nogs.org) to check out our latest additions.



Larry Zarra,  
April NOGS  
Luncheon  
speaker

## Members who have passed on...

**Robert E. 'Bob' Eggerton** passed away on December 15, 2005 at his residence in Slidell. He graduated from Tulane University, served as a Sergeant in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Korean War and returned to earn his Masters Degree from the L.S.U. School of Geology. Starting his career with Magnolia (Mobil) Oil Co. in Midland, Texas in 1954, he also worked in Durango, CO, and was then transferred back to New Orleans in 1963. In 1968 he left Mobil to become an Independent Geologist for the remainder of his career, officing for years in the Pere Marquette Building in New Orleans. He actively pursued his profession, moving his office to Slidell when he and his wife Marian (who survives him) relocated in 1990. At the time of his death, Bob was restoring his home office and workroom after Hurricane Katrina. He was a member of the AAPG, NOGS, and SIPES. Bob claimed that his vocation was also his avocation - he 'lived' Earth science and talked about it with anyone who showed an interest.

**Shelby W. Smith** passed away on Monday, March 27, 2006. He was a native of Fort Worth, TX, and a resident of Metairie for the past 50 years. He joined NOGS in 1953, was an honorary life member and a past-president (1976) of the society. Shelby provided papers on Lighthouse Point, Rabbit Island, and Tiger Shoal fields for the NOGS "Offshore Louisiana Oil and Gas Fields, Volume 2" (1988). He also wrote the "Drilling and Testing" section of the NOGS "Introduction to Central Gulf Coast Geology" in 1991, and a paper for SPWLA. After a long career, Shelby retired from Texaco in New Orleans.



# THE NEW ORLEANS GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY MEMORIAL FOUNDATION, INC.

September 1, 2004 through March 31, 2006

The Memorial Foundation is an IRS Tax Exempt Code #501 (c)(3) organization. The Federal I.D. is: 72-1220999. Please consider making your donation prior to the close of this year's fiscal cycle which is September 30, 2006. Your individual support in any amount will help meet the IRS Guidelines for our Foundation. *Thanks!*

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