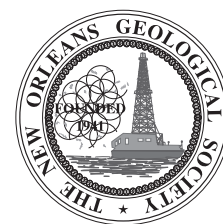


NOGS LOG

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Official Publication of the New Orleans Geological Society, Inc.

September 2007

Volume 48, Number 3

SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER ACTIVITIES

NOGS Events

September 10 - NOGS Luncheon

Dr. Ernest A. Mancini, Distinguished Research Professor in Petroleum Geology & Stratigraphy, and Director for the Center for Sedimentary Basin Studies, University of Alabama, will present "Upper Jurassic Thrombolite Buildups and Associated Facies, Onshore Northeastern Gulf of Mexico Area."

(See Page 7 for Abstract and Biography)

LE PAVILLON HOTEL

Check with concierge or
front desk for location

Lunch served at 11:30am

ADMISSION:

with reservation \$30.00

without reservation \$35.00

Student Member with reservation Free

September 21 - NOGS Fall Kick Off Party

At the Contemporary Arts Center, 900 Camp St., 6:30-9:30 P.M.

\$45 per person. Open to members and guests of NOGS, SGS, SIPES, PLANO, Desk and Derrick. See announcement on page 11. Contact the NOGS office for reservations.

October 1 - NOGS Continuing Education Fall Seminar

Topic and time TBA. Location: One Shell Square Annex, 701 Poydras

October 8 - NOGS Luncheon

Tom Kratochvil, Senior Staff Geophysicist, and Jeff Scheibal, Senior Staff Petrophysical Engineer, both with Shell Exploration & Production Company, Inc., will present: "Greater Auger Area Case Study: The Relationship Between Pore Pressure, Seismic Stratigraphy and Biostratigraphy."

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25 months and 30 days ago this well hit TD
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GOM New Release Data

Beginning August 1st, A2D Technologies will be the sole provider of Gulf of Mexico New Release digital LAS well log data resulting from its contract with the Minerals Management Service. Every well drilled in the Gulf of Mexico will be available immediately online the day it is released.

For more information, visit www.a2d.com/newrelease/



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NOGS Office

Office Manager: Annette Hudson

Office Hours: 8:30am – 3:30pm on Monday-Wednesday-Friday

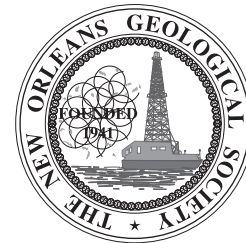
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The office is located at Suite 300, 810 Union Street, New Orleans, LA 70112.

Correspondence and all luncheon reservations should be sent to the above address.

Sent to press on August 27, 2007.

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Sponsorship-New Orleans	Leslie Broussard	Diversified Well Logging	504-352-4612	sales@dwl-usa.com
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--- NOGS Contact List continued on page 20 ---

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from the President

First things first: Our Fall Kick-Off Party will be at the Contemporary Arts Center (900 Camp Street) on September 21, from 6:30 to 9:30 PM. Bill Whiting has done a great job pulling this together and we appreciate the assistance of the Auxiliary. This looks to be a very special event that you won't want to miss.

Thoughts on the July Symposium

On July 20, NOGS, the Louisiana Geological Survey, and the Southeast Flood Protection Authority-West sponsored a technical symposium "Geologic Facts of Life for Flood Protection". The primary purpose of the symposium was to provide critical geologic knowledge about southeast Louisiana as it affects planning and decisions related to flood protection. Commissioners of both the East and West Flood Protection Districts were invited, along with the general public, and about 100 people attended. Ed Picou, Mike Merritt and Chako John did a terrific job putting the symposium together and Annette Hudson provided the support needed to make it a success.

The speakers were uniformly excellent. All have spoken at our luncheons over the past few years and their presentations at the symposium were on the mark. Woody Gagliano laid out the regional setting and the effect deep-seated faults have on surface features, including levees. Steve Nelson presented the near-surface geology and showed how the Katrina levee failures were related to specific geologic factors at each of the failure sites. John Lopez and Ivor Van Heerden spoke of the need for multiple lines of defense including stronger levees, other engineered barriers, and restored wetlands. Van Heerden cited examples from the Netherlands. Roy Dokka presented the results of his geodetic data that show the errors in benchmark elevations that underlie many assumptions and plans for flood protection. The errors arose from a lack of understanding of the dynamic nature of our local geology.

While there were some disagreements between the five panelists, there was a remarkable degree of unity in their presentations, with the overall theme being the need for a comprehensive approach to hurricane protection, rather than the piecemeal solutions that have been the norm. All of the components of flood protection (better levees around populated areas, other barriers, and increased sediment supply to wetlands) will need to consider the dynamics of the underlying geology.

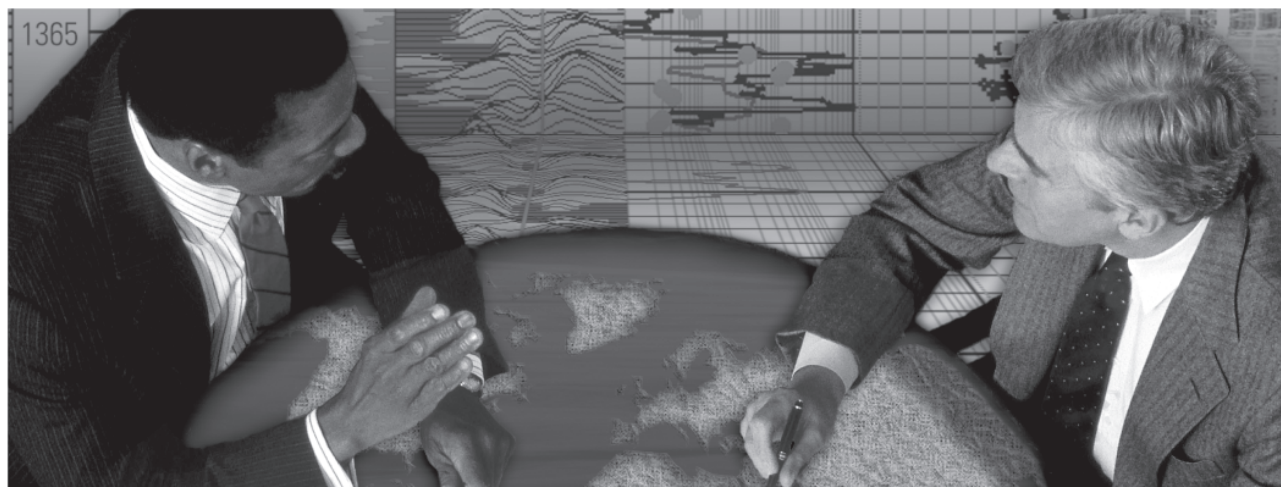
My concern as the symposium was drawing to a close was about whether the levee commissioners present grasped what had been said: Did they "Get It"? At this point it is hard to say. The piecemeal approach to flood protection is very deeply ingrained and what the speakers called for is a paradigm shift in how flood protection is envisioned. In response to a question during the final Q&A about what they had learned that day, one of the commissioners responded by citing a number of specific levee projects being undertaken. Although that answer seems to imply that the main point of the symposium was missed, I still consider the symposium to have been a success, representing a solid first step in the long process of making sure that consideration of the dynamic geology of Southeast Louisiana is included in future flood protection plans.

School Outreach

Our school outreach program is moving forward and I hope that many NOGS members will get involved. Using a grant from GCAGS we have purchased copies of the USGS map "The Tapestry of Time and Terrain", a map of the U.S. that combines geology and topography. The map is 40" by 56" and comes with a student/teacher guide. Our intent is that you leave the map and guide when you visit a classroom. The goal is to "plant the seeds of geologic curiosity" by encouraging an interest in science in general and geology in particular. I believe this map can help do that. We have a lot of fossils, rocks, and minerals that can be used in presentations; along with some notes on presenting to various age groups. All that we need are some volunteers to take some time for school visits.

Art Johnson

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September 10 Luncheon Presentation

Upper Jurassic Thrombolite Buildups and Associated Facies, Onshore Northeastern Gulf of Mexico Area

presented by

Dr. Ernest A. Mancini

Distinguished Research Professor in Petroleum Geology & Stratigraphy
and Director for the Center for Sedimentary Basin Studies, University of Alabama

ABSTRACT

In the onshore northeastern Gulf of Mexico area, Upper Jurassic Smackover inner ramp (shallow water) thrombolite buildups typically developed on paleotopographic features (Paleozoic basement paleohighs or Jurassic salt anticlines and ridges). These thrombolites attained a thickness of 58 m and covered an area of up to 12 km². Although these buildups have been exploration targets for some 30 years, new field discoveries, such as Little Cedar Creek Field in southwest Alabama, continue to be made in this region, indicating that the development of these organosedimentary deposits is not completely understood. By studying Upper Jurassic thrombolite bioherms and reefs as preserved in outcrop, the geometries, areal extents, and facies relationships of thrombolites can be better characterized, and this characterization is useful in designing an effective exploration strategy for delineating thrombolite buildups in the subsurface. Thrombolites were best developed on a hard substrate during a rise in sea level under initial zero

to low background sedimentation rates in low energy paleoenvironments, and their occurrence was not restricted by water depth, salinity, light penetration, oxygen content, or nutrient supply. The keys to drilling a successful wildcat well in the onshore northeastern Gulf of Mexico area include: 1) the use of three-dimensional seismic reflection technology to find a paleohigh and to determine whether potential thrombolite reservoir facies occur on the crest and/or flanks of the feature and are above the oil-water contact, 2) the use of the characteristics of thrombolite bioherms and reefs as observed in outcrop to develop a three-dimensional geologic model to reconstruct the growth of thrombolite buildups for improved targeting of the preferred growth facies for reservoir enhancement, and 3) the use of a diagenetic model that includes dissolution and/or dolomitization to develop secondary porosity, including intercrystalline dolomite, moldic and/or vuggy pores.

BIOGRAPHY

Ernest A. Mancini (B.S., Albright College, Reading, PA, 1969; M.S., Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, 1972; Ph.D., Texas A&M University, 1974) joined the faculty of the University of Alabama in 1976 accepting dual appointments as an Assistant Professor with the Department of Geology and as a petroleum research geologist with the Mineral Resources Institute.

Prior to arriving at the University of Alabama, he taught earth science at North Greene High School in White Hall, Illinois (1969-71) and worked as a petroleum exploration geologist preparing for offshore lease sales in Federal waters off California and Alaska for Cities Service

--- continued on page 12 ---

THE LUNCHEON RESERVATION DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 5, SO CALL THE NOGS OFFICE - TODAY!

"And Looking Ahead..."

The next NOGS luncheon will be October 8. Tom Kratochvil, Senior Staff Geophysicist, and Jeff Scheibal, Senior Staff Petrophysical Engineer, both with Shell Exploration & Production Company, Inc., will present: "Greater Auger Area Case Study: The Relationship Between Pore Pressure, Seismic Stratigraphy and Biostratigraphy." Contact the NOGS office at 561-8980 or use the e-link on the NOGS website (www.nogs.org) to make your reservation.



August luncheon speaker Dick Fillon (left) receives his "piece of the rock" from Vice-President Robert Rooney.

LSU Honors Ed Picou

Edward B. Picou has been honored by his alma mater with induction into the Louisiana State University College of Basic Sciences Hall of Distinction, where he joins three AAPG past presidents and fellow AAPG Foundation trustee associates Robey Clark, Frank Harrison and Grover Murray. Picou, a micropaleontology consultant, past AAPG treasurer, and AAPG Honorary Member, resides in New Orleans.

The Dean of the College of Basic Science, Kevin R. Carman, presented the above honor to Ed Picou. With the Dean's permission his remarks follow:

Edward Beauregard Picou, Jr., was born in Baton Rouge where he attended Louisiana State University, graduating with a degree in geology in 1955. Immediately after graduation he received a commission in the US Army and served two years, including 18 months in Korea.

Ed joined Shell Oil Company in 1957 where he became a leader in the use of micropaleontology to correlate sedimentary layers as well as to understand the environment of deposition. He helped develop many techniques and procedures in biostratigraphy and was an important scientist and manager in Shell's efforts to explore and exploit oil and gas resources in south Louisiana and the Gulf of Mexico. In 1989 he was promoted to Exploration Consultant, Shell's highest technical rank. He retired from Shell in 1991. Ed is credited with the mentoring and development of a whole generation of younger paleontologists that worked with him at Shell during his career.

Ed's professional career is remarkable in its own right, but what truly impresses me is his unwavering commitment to scholarship. Ed has published a number of important papers and books. He is particularly well known for the paper "Gulf Coast Cenozoic: A Model for the Application of Stratigraphic Concepts to Exploration of Passive Margins" which is highly cited and has garnered several awards.

His 1999 book "Gulf of Mexico Basin Biostratigraphic Index Fossils" has been characterized as a "rosetta stone" for scientists trying to understand the 60 million years of sedimentary record of the southern US that had for many years been tied up as proprietary company information. Ed's fine career has been recognized in many ways, including his election as a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). He has also received the Distinguished Service Medal from the American Association of Petroleum Geologists.

Ed has been of tremendous service to the profession of geology. He was an early member of the New Orleans Geological Society, and was elected president in 1992 and director of the board in 1996. He served as president of the Society of Sedimentary Geology. The American Association of Petroleum Geologists, over 30,000 strong, elected Ed as their Treasurer in 2002. For many years Ed served on the Board of Trustees of the Paleontological Research Institution and is now a Trustee Emeritus of this important international organization. He is also a member of the Paleontological Society and the American Petroleum Institute.

Ed has done tremendous service for LSU. He was a charter member of the LSU Geology Alumni Advisory Council, and served as its chair for many years. This successful group has been active in promoting the Department of Geology and raising funds to support scholarships, professorships, chairs, and most recently a major endowment for the Colorado Field Trip Camp.

He has served on the College of Business Sciences Development Council, and has chaired the Executive Committee for the past two years. He is also involved in organizing a group of LSU alumni to promote a new museum of natural science on the LSU campus.

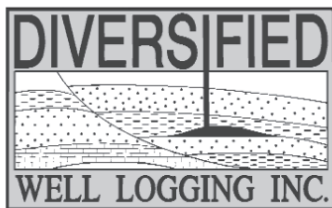
Ed Picou is the kind of person that every organization needs. He unselfishly gives of his time to provide leadership, and to mentor young scientists. If he has a fault, it is that he can't say no. For most of us this would lead to a dilution of effort, but for Ed it has just led to contributions throughout the geological sciences, his home state of Louisiana, and to LSU. Ed's most recent financial contribution to the college was a gift that provided funds to endow the Office of the Dean in the College of Basic Sciences. I'm very proud to have Ed's name permanently associated with the dean's office, and I'm exceptionally pleased to welcome Ed to the College of Basic Sciences Hall of Distinction.





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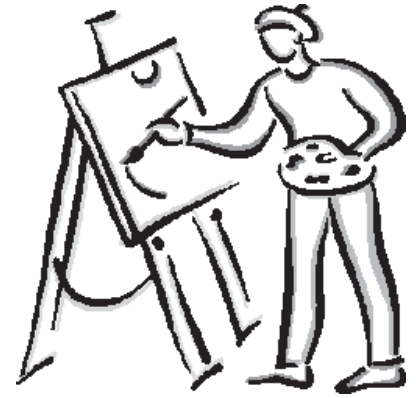


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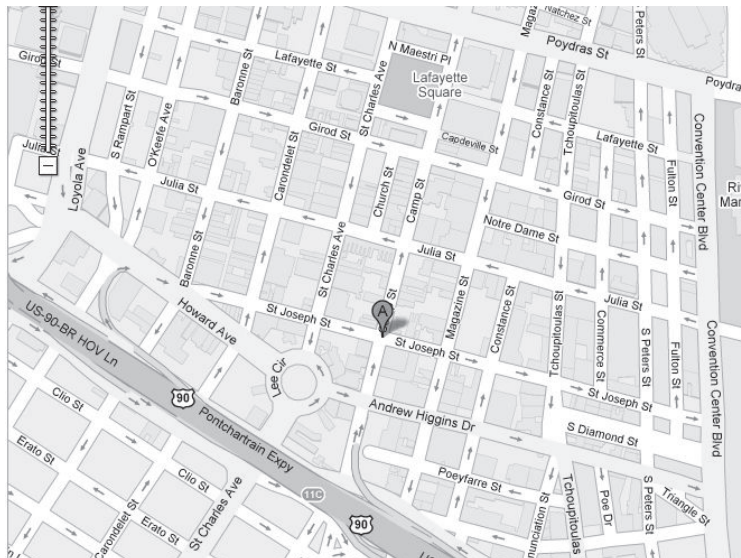


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NOGS FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2006-2007

NOGS finances are tracked through the Office Operations checking account and four investment accounts.

1. Publications:

Funds from sale of publications after postage expenses, refunds and amounts that are due HGS are paid. This account pays to the operations checking account \$300.00 per quarter for office overhead, etc.

2. FONO:

Funds from donations to the Friends of NOGS Office Fund (FONO). There are no expenses credited to this account and the interest from this account is to be used for office operations as needed.

3. Operations Investment Account:

Cash in excess is transferred to the Operations Investment Account.

4. Hibernia Homestead Checking Account. This account is used for the day to day operation of NOGS administration.

The following are the balances on NOGS accounts:

Hibernia Homestead Checking Account as of June 30, 2007: \$6,680.78

Citigroup Smith Barney Publications Account as of June 30, 2007: \$95,546.12 up \$10,555.08 from June 30 2006.

Citigroup Smith Barney FONO Account as of June 30, 2007: \$186,608.81 up \$17,155.02 from June 30 2006.

Citigroup Smith Barney Operations Account as of June 30, 2007: \$187,324.86 up \$45,711.61 from June 30, 2006.

2006-2007 Operations Income – Expenses (excludes Smith Barney Accounts and Memorial Fund)

2006-2007 Income	\$143,109.41
2006-2007 Expenses	\$148,487.35
Net Decrease	(\$5,377.94)

Totals: Sum of All Accounts as of June 30, 2006:	\$445,959.93
Sum of All Accounts as of June 30, 2007:	\$476,160.57
Appreciation:	\$30,200.64

Reino F. Clark, Treasurer 2006-2007

September Luncheon Guest Speaker's Biography, continued from page 7

Oil Company in Denver, Colorado (1974-76). At the University of Alabama, he was appointed Associate Professor in 1980, Professor in 1984, and Distinguished Research Professor in 2005 by the Board of Trustees of the University of Alabama System. He served as State Geologist and Oil & Gas Supervisor for Alabama from 1982-96 (appointed by the President of the University of Alabama and Governor) and as Interim Director of the School of Mines and Energy Development at the University from 1988-89 (appointed by the President of the University of Alabama). He was appointed as the Regional Director for the Eastern Gulf Region of the Petroleum Technology Transfer Council, an oil and gas technology and information transfer organization, in 1995 and was appointed as the Director for the Center for Sedimentary Basin Studies, comprehensive sedimentary geology and petroleum geoscience research center, in 1998 (approved by the Board of Trustees of the University of Alabama System).

Dr. Mancini has received the following honors: AGI Ian Campbell Medal (2004), AAPG Distinguished Educator Award (2000), GCAGS Outstanding Educator Award (1998), GSA Fellow (1995), AAPG Haas-Pratt Distinguished Lecturer (1987-88), AAPG-GCAGS Levorsen Petroleum Geology Award (1980), elected Honorary Member of the Association of American State Geologists (1996), Gulf Coast Section-SEPM (1991), and GCAGS (2003), and awarded 5 Best Paper Awards from GCAGS/GCS-SEPM (1980-82, 1985, and 2001). Mancini has served as president/chair of the following professional organizations: AGI President (2005-06), Association of American State Geologists President (1990-91), Gulf Coast Section-SEPM President (1984-85), Alabama Geological Society President (1980-81), Southeastern Section-Paleontological Society President (1989-90), Southeastern Section-GSA Chair (1997-98), North American Commission on Stratigraphic Nomenclature Chair (1999-2000), and Mineral and Energy Resources Section-National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges Chair (1999-2001). He has served on the Board of Natural Resources for the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges (1999-2001); the University Advisory Board for the Center for Legislative Energy and Environmental Research (1995-97); the US Department of Interior Outer Continental Shelf Advisory Board Committee (1983-96, chair from 1987-89, received Resolution for Outstanding Contributions in Public Policy in 1996); on the Editorial Boards for the Journal of Stratigraphy (2005-) and Environmental Geology and Water Sciences Journal (1991-92); as Elected Editor for AAPG (2004-07); and as a Trustee for the AGI Foundation (2006-). He was appointed by the Governor as an Alabama Natural Resource Trustee (1988-96) and as the State's representative to the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission. He has served as a member of the Alabama Legislative Permanent Oil and Gas Study Committee (1984-1996).

NOGS MEMORIAL FOUNDATION YEARLY REPORT 2006-2007

GENERAL FUND

Income:

Interest	\$13,800.36
Qualified Dividends	4,377.35
Other Dividends	8,959.61
Capital Gains LT	3,853.69
Capital Gains ST	55.06
Money Fund Earnings	1,289.56
Contributions	35,398.50
TOTAL	\$67,734.13

Expenses:

Scholarships	\$23,000.00
Board Insurance	723.00
Accountant Fees	650.00
Scholarship Luncheon	325.00
Miscellaneous	5.00
TOTAL	\$24,703.00

SMITH BARNEY ACCOUNT

Value of Investments June 19, 2007	\$ 689,343.85
Value of Investments June 30, 2006	\$ 599,691.63

The scholarships were presented at the October and November 2006 NOGS luncheon meetings.

Net Increase(decrease)	\$ 89,652.22
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VANGUARD ACCOUNT

Value of Investments June 30, 2007	\$140,353.58
Value of Investments June 30, 2006	\$119,284.47

Net Increase(decrease)	\$ 21,069.11
------------------------	--------------

Total Net Increase(decrease)	\$ 110,721.33
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In February, the LSU College of Basic Sciences hosted a Scholarship Recognition Breakfast which was attended by Jack Langford, representing the NOGS Memorial Foundation. The Memorial Foundation was recognized at this breakfast for awarding its annual scholarships for a longer continuous period than any other organization – since 1979 – 28 years. The Foundation was also recognized for awarding more individual scholarship dollars per year than any other organization.

Jack Langford and Ed Picou have supplied me with a few very interesting facts on the history of the Memorial Foundation that are probably not known within the general NOGS membership. The idea for NOGS Scholarship Fund originated with Rudy Siegert in 1979, and the original fund was established by borrowing \$2000 from NOGS. The fund was registered as a 501C(3) tax-exempt organization. Five years later, after a review by the NOGS accountant, it was found that the organization needed to be re-structured and would have to get more donations from within the organization in order to keep its tax exempt status. In 1991, the NOGS Memorial Scholarship Fund received \$240,010 from the Olga Braunstein succession and a \$10,000 matching grant from the GCAGS. This prompted the name change to the NOGS Memorial Foundation.

Looking back over the years, NOGS has awarded a total of 171 scholarships to date. The numbers break out as follows:

71 awards to LSU for a total of	\$133,000
30 awards to Nicholls State for a total of	\$ 40,000
67 awards to Tulane for a total of	\$126,500
73 awards to UNO for a total of	\$135,500

for a grand total of \$435,000 in scholarships awarded.

The \$2000 borrowed from NOGS in 1979 has now grown into more than \$820,000.

Something to be very proud of.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Wainwright
Chairman
NOGS Memorial Foundation 2006-2007

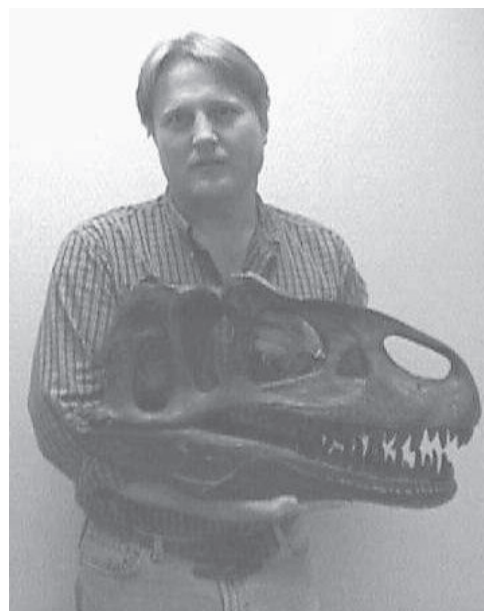
Tom Bergeon - NOGS Leader in Volunteering

By Ed Picou

There is no secret about how our Society works. It is all about volunteering. If possible, every member should seek out a committee that appeals to them and join in their efforts.

Tom Bergeon is perhaps the best example of a member who travels the extra mile to both help NOGS and better our community through his prodigious volunteer activities regarding School Outreach. Tom has been visiting schools in the New Orleans area since 1995, lecturing on many aspects of geology and paleontology. It was in this year that Tom and Bob Simon began building the NOGS fossil collection, under the support of then NOGS president Al Baker. Every year since then, except right after Hurricane Katrina when he was in Houston for nine months, Tom has made about 30 to 40 school presentations. He's not alone in this important effort, as other NOGS volunteers assist him in NOGS outreach efforts. Each year NOGS members quietly make an average of 80 presentations in science classes around the metropolitan area.

Bergeon was instrumental in organizing the first Super Science Saturday event at the Louisiana Children's Museum in 1999. These events have proven to be hugely successful, and more importantly, teach elementary and middle school students that "science is fun", and that there are interesting careers in the geosciences. Super Science Saturday has had as many as 1000 kids participating annually and Tom has even appeared on WWL's Eric and Sally Anne Morning Show with fossils in tow. Of course, the 2006 Super Science Saturday was canceled due to Katrina, as the museum had not reopened by the time for this spring-scheduled event. It is not uncommon for Tom to have at least 30 to 40 NOGS members, UNO, LSU and Tulane students and professors, along with SGS, some spouses and children, assisting in this big event. Kim McCall and Mary Ann Bazille of Shell's graphic arts department have given our



Tom at Super Science Saturday 2005

event that professional zeal – from tee shirts to promotions.

For eight years Shell Offshore Inc., Tom's supportive employer, provided convenient storage space for the ever-growing collection of fossils, rocks and minerals. However, space problems arose and the collections needed to be moved. Once again, Tom came to the rescue, and the NOGS collection is now housed in Tom's garage in convenient floor to ceiling storage shelves.

As the collection grew, Tom and his dedicated committee members (Bob Simon, Brian O'Neil, and Bernie Regal) organized the collection into "teaching kits" and developed containers for easy transport to schools by volunteer



Tom and the juvenile Allosaurus skull cast from the NOGS collection

“teachers”. Many NOGS member’s have checked out a NOGS kit and been “dinosaur” or “oil” man in their children’s classroom’s eyes. Even engineers have given successful geo talks!

Bob Simon, who took early retirement from Chevron and is now a professional fossil collector in Wyoming, shared his great knowledge, extensive collection, donations and made major efforts in getting many of the fossils in the NOGS collection (visit dinosaursafaris.com). Tom has actually purchased five larger “expensive” “gee wow” bones from Bob directly for his personal collection, which he graciously shares as they make an impact at NOGS outreach events. A number of people have donated fossils to NOGS including an extensive donation by Rich George several years ago. Tom’s only regret is that he has been too busy to build the proper school outreach website (anyone wants to assist in this venture?) Now that the collection is at his home, the digital camera may have to come out. Tom is also currently working on a subsidence/ Katrina/coastal erosion talk for NOGS members to use at area schools.

In the mid-1990s, NOGS made many rock and mineral sets for teachers in their science classes. Carol Avery, then at Chevron, headed up a major effort, and put over 100 mineral kits in teacher’s hands with the help of Bill Craig at UNO. Most of these sets are now depleted and need replacing. Tom is considering spearheading an effort to rebuild these useful teaching kits.

Tom’s volunteering doesn’t stop with the School Outreach Committee. In 2002-2003, Tom served NOGS as president where he and the board approved and supported the technically and financially successful SLOPES Onshore conference (great efforts by Mike Ledet, George Rhoades, Charley Corona and others), and in 1998-1999 he was NOGS treasurer. For his work on the School Outreach Committee, he received the Outstanding Member Award twice, in 1998-1999 and again in 2003-2004. Most recently, Bergeon served the GCAGS as its president in 2004-2005, the unfortunate year that Hurricane Katrina scuttled the annual convention planned for New Orleans (an excellent program

that Jim Zotkiewicz, Mike Ledet, Tom and other’s had worked tirelessly to develop). Currently, he is leading an effort to publish NOGS Fourth Field Studies volume on onshore and offshore fields. He says it has been 24 years since the last volume was published in 1983, that he knows many people who could contribute, and has found the volumes useful in his new independent position at Century Exploration. The need is urgent.

What NOGS needs is more Tom Bergeons. Each member should support the organization in some tangible way. If you feel you can’t volunteer by joining a committee, please make every effort to support the organization by attending our monthly luncheons and some of the social activities sponsored by NOGS.



Tom, Bob Simon and Stan the T-rex -
Which dinosaur is older or more intelligent?



Super Science Saturday 2002 - a packed house!

NOGS 2006-2007 Awards

The following awards were presented at the July 9th NOGS Luncheon at La Pavillon.

Honorary Life Member

Brenda Reilly

“For a lifetime of outstanding service to NOGS and her profession, NOGS 2006-07 Honorary Life Membership goes to Brenda E. Riley.”



Outstanding Members



Michael Gallagher

“For his outstanding efforts in assisting the University of New Orleans in commencing the restoration of Petroleum Geology to its curriculum, the NOGS Outstanding Member Award goes to Michael Gallagher.”

Jeanne Phelps

“For her outstanding efforts in Continuing Education and Technical Projects in addition to her exemplary work as NOGS Secretary, and her consistent dedication to her profession, the NOGS Outstanding Member Award goes to Jeanne Phelps.”



President's Awards

Paul Post (not pictured)

"For outstanding work in supplying the NOGS LOG with 2-4 pages per issue of his "Drill Bits" column, for chairing the Employment Counseling Committee, and for supplying the President with a valuable perspective regarding NOGS and Industry issues, the NOGS President's Award goes to Paul Post."



Penne Rappold

"For outstanding work in bringing NOGS membership to pre-Katrina levels, the NOGS President's Award goes to Penne Rappold."

Leslie Broussard

"For creating and successfully innovating a sponsorship plan which would not only help NOGS balance its books, but also reward the sponsors at every NOGS event, the NOGS President's Award goes to Leslie Broussard."

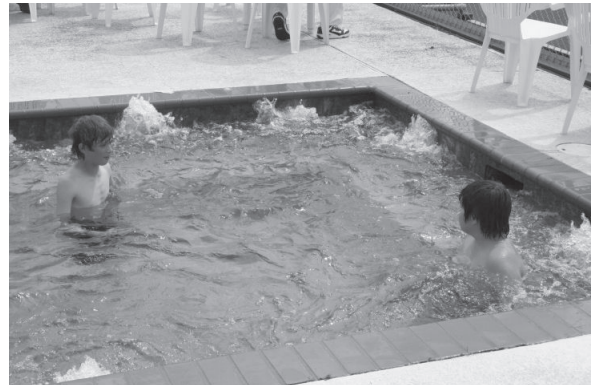


Kimberly Smith

"For two years of outstanding efforts above and beyond her duties in support of the NOGS Entertainment Committee, the NOGS President's Award goes to Kimberly Smith."

NOGS Members Enjoy Zephyrs Game

NOGS and SGS continued their long-standing cooperation by organizing a outing to see the New Orleans Zephyrs in action on June 17, Father's Day. The private party area just beyond the rightfield wall provided an excellent view of the game with food and beverages aplenty as well as the ever-popular smimming pool. The event came up on short notice, but was well attended by members of both organizations. Those in attendance got to enjoy a great game highlighted by a 4-0 Zephyrs shutout victory in which they allowed only three hits to the visiting Oklahoma RedHawks.







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--- continued from page 3 ---

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AAPG DELEGATES

Term Ends

2007	Thomas C. Bergeon
2007(a)	J. Stephen Tissue
2008	Irion Bordelon, Jr.
2008	Carol Rooney
2008(a)	James Cearley III
2008(a)	Arthur T. Cerniglia
2009	David E. Balcer
2009	William Whiting
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david.cooke@mms.gov

Blast From NOGS Past

10 Years Ago (Sept. 1997): NOGS membership totaled 1080 according to President Al Baker.

20 Years Ago (Sept. 1987): The NOGS Log included a registration form for the Trilobite Trot, an upcoming 5K race and one-mile fun run beginning at Shelter #10 in Audubon Park.

30 Years Ago (Sept. 1977): Shelby W. Smith's President's Column encouraged members to "send in \$65 now, and you can become a Permanent Life Member at one-half-price" based on the expected passing of a constitutional revision that had been in the works.

This month we are including a photo of the 1963-64 NOGS Board of Directors that was published in the Times-Picayune. Then President Don Andrews served his term longer ago than any of our current Past-Presidents.



1963-64 NOGS Officers

Back Row L-R: A.T. Green,Jr., Treasurer; *Lyle Harvey, Director; *D.D. Utterback, Director

Front Row L-R: *Jack C. Stipe, Vice President; Donald I. Andrews, President; *Dwight L. McCray, Secretary

*Deceased

- *Tim Piwowar*

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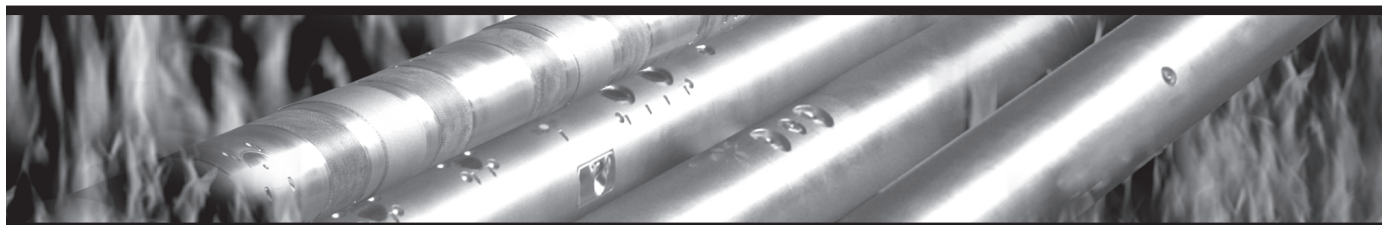
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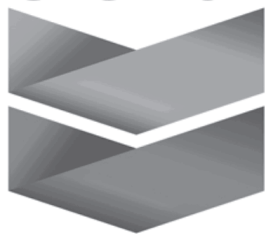
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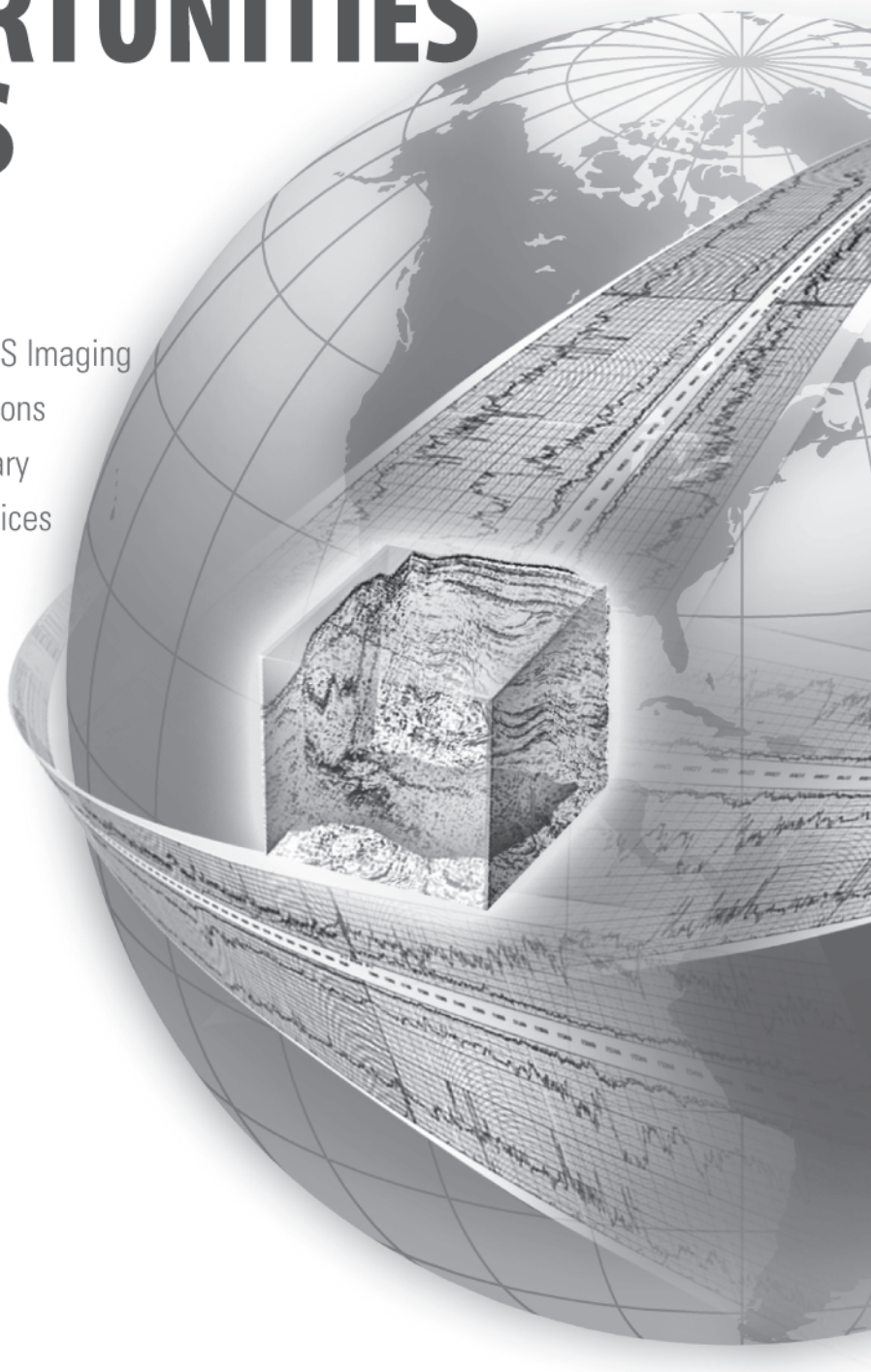
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South Louisiana and Offshore Exploration and Production Activity

- **McMoRan Exploration Co.** on July 3 updated its exploration and development activities, including positive drilling results at Flatrock, Cottonwood Point, Cas, Mound Point South, and Blueberry Hill. Subsequently, on July 12, they announced a discovery at Flatrock.

The Flatrock exploratory prospect in SMI 212 was spudded on March 27. On July 12 McMoRan announced that the well had been drilled to 16,500' MD and logged with wireline logs that indicated the well had encountered a total of 189' net hydrocarbon bearing sands in five zones over a combined 364' gross interval. The pay zones were located in the Rob-L section, the most significant zone having 120' net hydrocarbon bearing sands over a 238' gross interval. After setting a completion liner, the Flatrock well will be drilled to a PTD of 19,000' to evaluate the Operc section. Production from the well is expected to commence quickly using existing infrastructure in the area. McMoRan intends to develop the opportunities in this area aggressively and is currently permitting three offset locations to provide further options for the development of the multiple reservoirs found in the Rob-L section and to evaluate the Operc section further.

Flatrock is the first well drilled in the OCS 310/Louisiana SL 340 area by McMoRan or others to encounter multiple apparent hydrocarbon bearing sands in the Rob-L section, several of which are above the well's primary objective. The Flatrock prospect is three miles north and downdip of the Hurricane discovery in SMI 217, indicating that the Flatrock Rob-L hydrocarbon bearing zones must be structurally or stratigraphically separated from the updip Hurricane Rob-L production. This information has significant implications in the area.

McMoRan has a 25% WI and an 18.8% NRI in the well. Plains E & P has a 30% WI. Flatrock is McMoRan's eighth successful well in the OCS 310/Louisiana SL 340 area.

The Cottonwood Point exploratory prospect at VR Block 31 was spudded on March 1. It is currently being drilled below 14,400' towards a PTD of 21,000'. LWD tools have indicated approximately 60' net of resistivity in three sands, indicating the presence of potential hydrocarbons. The well will be drilled to its next casing point and logged with wireline tools to evaluate these potentially productive zones. McMoRan has a 15% WI and an 11.3% NRI in the well.

The Cas exploratory well at ST 70 was spudded on January 30 and is being drilled ahead to a PTD of 25,000'. The prospect is located in ~65' of water. McMoRan has rights to 5,000 gross acres in this area. It has a 15% WI and a 12.4% NRI in the well.

The Mound Point South exploratory prospect at Louisiana SL 340 was spudded April 12. It is currently being drilled below 16,000' towards a PTD of 20,000'. McMoRan has an 18.3% WI and a 14.5% NRI in the well.

McMoRan also announced that it elected to sidetrack the Blueberry Hill well at Louisiana SL 340. Attempts to clear the blockage above the perforated interval were unsuccessful during June 2007. The sidetrack is targeting Gyro sands in a downdip position where they are believed to be better developed than the sands seen in the original well. The well encountered four potentially productive hydrocarbon bearing sands below 22,200' in February 2005. Testing of this well commenced in the fourth quarter of 2006 following the receipt of special tubulars and casing for the high pressure well.

- **Helix Energy Solutions** on July 17 announced a second discovery in GB 506. Wireline logs and repeat formation tests confirm the presence of high-quality oil in a single sand body in the 100% owned and operated "Danny" exploratory well. Preliminary analysis indicates reserve potential of around 50 BCFE. The well is located in 2,700' of water. The well will be completed and developed in conjunction with the Noonan reservoir, via a subsea tie back system to Helix' owned and operated EC 381 platform located approximately 31 miles to the north in 370' of water. First production from Danny is expected in the second half of 2008.

- The **Atwater Valley Producers Group** (Anadarko Petroleum Corporation, Devon Energy Corporation, Eni, and Hydro; along with the owners of the Independence Hub, Enterprise Products Partners L.P. and Helix Energy Solutions Group, Inc.) on July 23 announced first production from the record-setting Independence Hub project has been achieved on schedule and within budget.

Located in 8,000' of water on MC 920, Independence Hub is the deepest production platform ever installed, and also is the world's largest offshore natural gas processing facility.

Natural gas production through the Hub began on July 19, 2007 from the first of 15 subsea wells located in 10 anchor fields. The producers expect to ramp up production toward the Hub's capacity of 1



BCF/D by late 2007. To put this in perspective, total estimated GoM gas production for 2006 was ~7.9 BCF/D; consisting of ~4.2 BCF/D from shallow water "shallow" reservoir, 0.7 BCF/D from shallow water "deep" reservoirs, and ~3.0 BCF/D from deep water reservoirs (source: OCS Report - MMS 2007-20). Independence Hub is anticipated to slow and stabilize the decline in GoM gas production volumes.

First sales were received from Atlas #1, on LR 50. The well is expected to ramp up to a rate of approximately 50 MMCF/D over the next week. The block was awarded as a result of Lease Sale 181 in 2001, which opened a new area of the eastern Gulf of Mexico to exploration. Most of the other 14 wells have been completed and flow-tested, the majority demonstrating flow rates above 50 MMCF/D. They will be brought on stream one at a time during 2007.

Independence Hub is a 105-foot, deep-draft, semi-submersible platform with a two-level production deck. Natural gas processed through the Hub when operating at full capacity represents an increase of more than 10% in supplies from the Gulf of Mexico. The platform is operated by Anadarko and is owned 80% by Enterprise and 20% by Helix. Anadarko has reserved ~61% of the capacity on the Hub, Eni ~20%, Hydro 12.5% and Devon 6.5%.




Independence Trail pipeline, 100% owned and operated by Enterprise, connects the Hub to onshore markets via an interconnect with the Tennessee Gas Pipeline at Enterprise's WD 68 shallow-water manifold platform. The pipeline is approximately 134 miles long, 24" in diameter, and has the capacity to transport up to 1 BCF/D.

Independence project set numerous world records during its construction and installation, which include:

- * The world's deepest platform in approximately 8,000' of water
- * The world's deepest subsea production tree in 9,000' of water at the Cheyenne field
- * The world's deepest steel catenary riser (SCR) installation
- * The world's deepest export pipeline and SCR, originating in approximately 8,000' of water

- Information release, especially in deepwater, has recently slowed. This may be due to the possible impact of recent drilling on blocks that will be available in the upcoming Western Gulf Lease Sale 204 scheduled for August 22 (3,338 blocks offered), and the Central Gulf Lease Sale 205 of October 3 that will feature 5,000 unleased blocks.
- GoM jackup demand ranged between 80 and 90 rigs during 2003-2005, leading up to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Currently, GoM jackup demand is 63 rigs. The last time there was a comparably low level of activity in the GoM was 1992. Since 2000, there has been a net departure of 55 jackups from the GoM. More significantly, close to 90% of the net departures have been premium jackups (49 rigs); i.e., rigs rated for at least 250' water depth. The profile of the Gulf fleet today is much different from 2000 in terms of size and capability. Today, there are only 14 rigs capable of drilling in 350' or greater water depths and six capable of drilling in water depths of 400' or more. Contrast this with the 33 high-end rigs that were in the GoM in December 2000. This degradation of fleet capability comes at a time when drilling applications in terms of well depths and pressure are becoming more rigorous.
As of July 23, there were 38 deepwater rigs working in the GoM. You can keep up with deepwater activity via the MMS website, <http://www.gomr.mms.gov/homepg/offshore/deepwtr.html>.

- Paul Post



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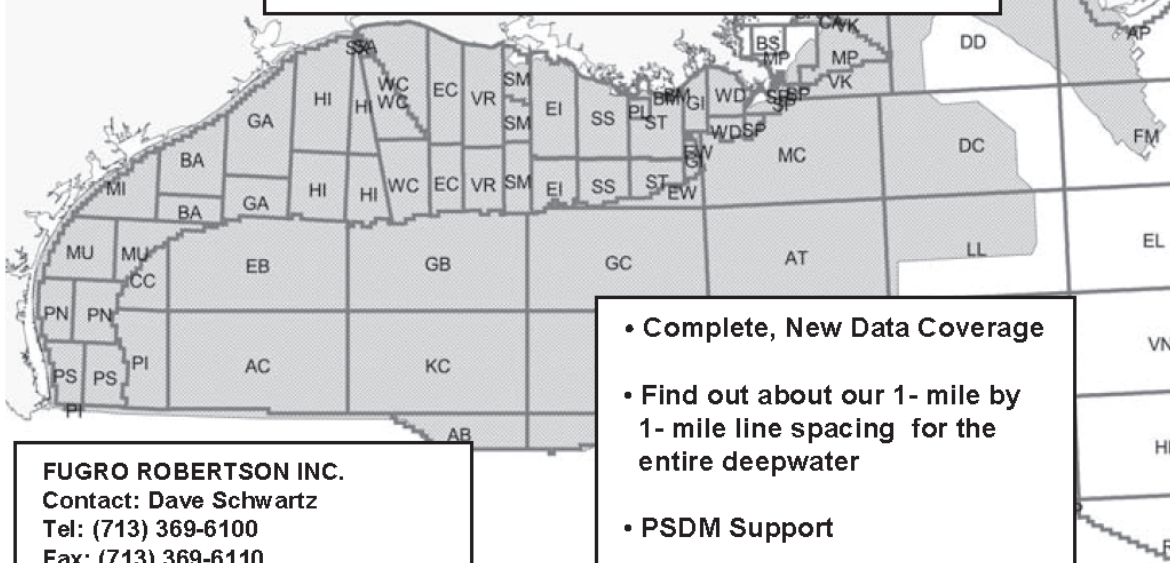
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NOGS Membership News & Information

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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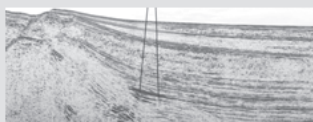
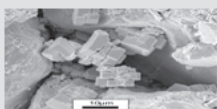
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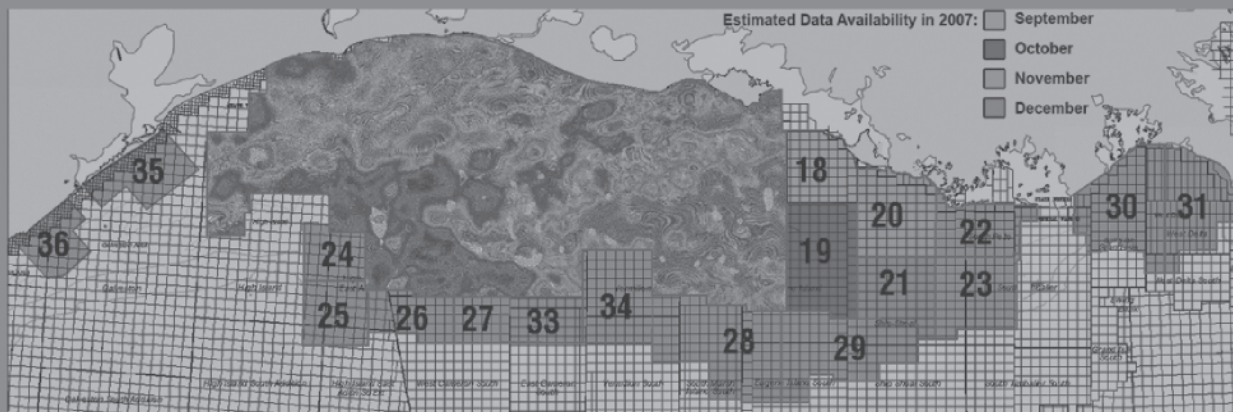
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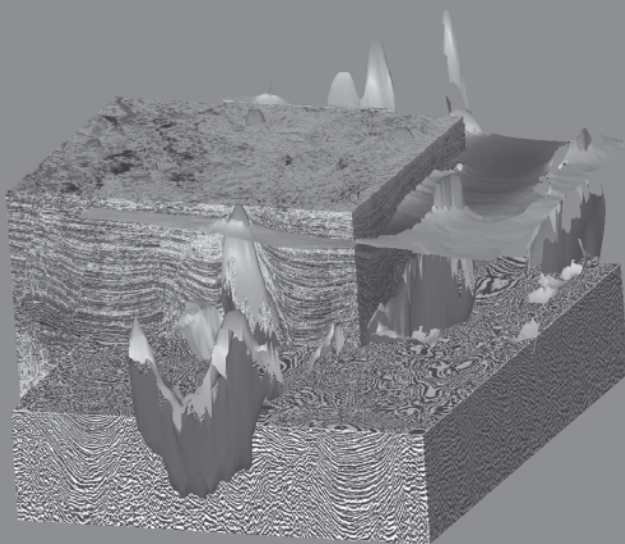
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- 🦋 **Louisiana is first state to get federal completeness review for CIAP:** Officials with the U.S. Minerals Management Service (MMS) have given a stamp of approval on the "completeness review" of the state's Coastal Impact Assistance Plan (CIAP). Louisiana and five other oil and gas producing states are required to submit CIAP plans to the federal government in order to receive federal dollars from offshore oil and gas operations, as provided in the U.S. Energy Policy Act of 2005. The CIAP program allocations for FY 2007 and 2008 have been determined to be approximately \$127.6 million a year. The four-year program is based on calculations by the MMS on Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) oil and gas revenues. Based on the July 6, 2007 rig count, the Louisiana OCS is home to 88% of U.S. offshore rigs. The federal funding will be used for conservation, restoration, and infrastructure projects to mitigate onshore impacts of OCS oil and gas exploration and production activities. From <http://dnr.louisiana.gov/>
- 🦋 **IPET Website:** In light of the 2 yr. anniversary of Hurricane Katrina and the recent NOGS/LGS-sponsored "Geologic Facts of Life for Flood Protection" symposium, data available on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Interagency Performance Evaluation Taskforce (IPET) website is both interesting and useful in understanding southeast Louisiana's hurricane protection system. A valuable resource for us as local geologists attempting to better communicate with flood control authorities the importance of understanding the shallow stratigraphy and dynamic geology of the Mississippi River delta plain. The left column on the main page of the website has two folders marked Post-Katrina and Pre-Katrina. These files, previously unavailable to the public, contain a vast amount of information regarding New Orleans area flood protection and navigation projects. Contents include, design reports with detailed geologic cross-sections, approval letters and agreements, environmental impact statements, contracts, surveys, analyses performed on floodwall failure, aerial and ground photographs, and damage survey reports. While IPET issued their own final report in March 2007 (also available on the website), the original files available here tell a much more in-depth and geologically interesting story of levee design failures. From <https://ipet.wes.army.mil/>
- 🦋 **Phoenix Mars Mission:** On August 4, NASA launched the Delta II Rocket carrying the Phoenix Mars Lander on a 10-month voyage to the red planet. The four main goals for the first phase of the mission are to: 1) determine whether life ever arose on Mars, 2) characterize the climate of Mars, 3) characterize the geology of Mars, and 4) prepare for human exploration. Phoenix is outfitted with a robotic arm used for trench digging, soil and ice sampling, and delivery of samples to analytical instruments. Instrumentation aboard the Phoenix includes a surface stereo imager, high temperature furnace, mass spectrometer, a microscope for petrographic analysis, an electrochemistry and conductivity analyzer, and a meteorological station. Details can be found at <http://phoenix.lpl.arizona.edu/science05.php>.

- *Mike Miner*

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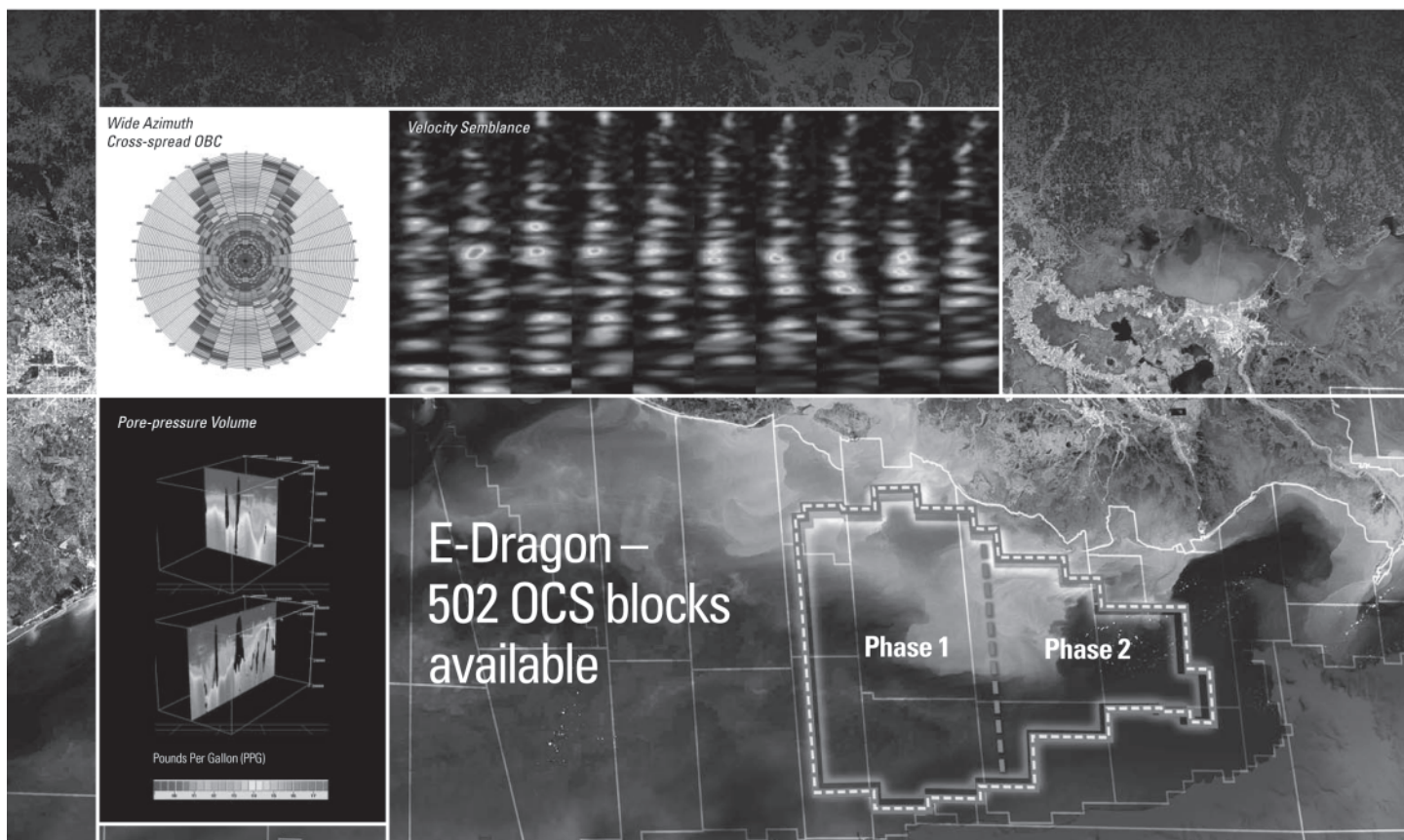
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NOGS Website Contest

August's website trivia question was, "What was William Smith's nickname?" Excerpts from an editorial review posted on Amazon.com for the book *The Map That Changed the World: William Smith and the Birth of Modern Geology* by Simon Winchester: While working as surveyor in a coal mine, Smith [1769-1839] noticed the abrupt changes in the layers of rock as he was lowered into the depths. He came to understand that the different layers--in part as revealed by the fossils they contained--always appeared in the same order, no matter where they were found. He also realized that geology required a three-dimensional approach. Smith spent the next 20 some years traveling throughout Britain, observing the land, gathering data, and chattering away about his theories to those he met along the way, thus acquiring the nickname "Strata Smith." In 1815 he published his masterpiece: an 8.5- by 6-foot, hand-tinted map revealing "A Delineation of the Strata of England and Wales."

Despite this triumph, Smith's road remained more rocky than smooth. Snubbed by the gentlemanly Geological Society, Smith complained that "the theory of geology is in the possession of one class of men, the practice in another." Indeed, some members of the society went further than mere ostracism--they stole Smith's work. These cartographic plagiarists produced their own map, remarkably similar to Smith's, in 1819. Meanwhile the chronically cash-strapped Smith had been forced to sell his prized fossil collection and was eventually consigned to debtor's prison.

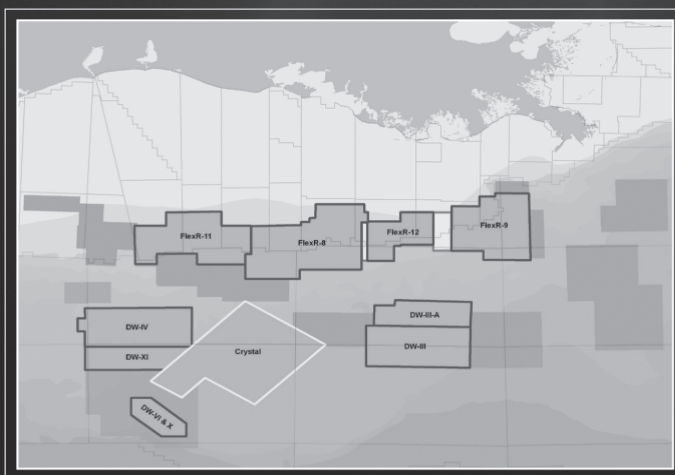


Editor's Note: We hope you have had a lot of fun with our website trivia questions over the last year. Unfortunately, August was the final month for this contest. Feel free to email any other interesting trivia you would like us to publish in the *LOG*.

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