

NOGS LOG

FEBRUARY 2016

Volume 56, Number 8



FEBRUARY 1 - NOGS LUNCHEON
Presentation: The 40th Anniversary of South Louisiana's Lower Tuscaloosa
Trend — Recollections and Early Media Coverage
Guest Speaker: Mr. Jeff A. Spencer
Amromco Energy • Houston, Texas



CALL FOR PAPERS

66th GCAGS Convention
September 18-20, 2016
Corpus Christi, Texas
Deadline Extended to
February 20, 2016



We're Building Sessions in these Themes

- The Gulf of Mexico Systems
- Conventional Carbonates & Clastics
- Tight Gas Plays
- Understanding the Resource Plays
- The Changing Coastal Landscape
- Mexico and Latin America
- Advances in Geophysical Technologies
- Enhanced and Secondary Recovery
- Reservoir Prediction and Quality
- Climate from Multiple Perspectives
- Protecting and Stewarding Water Resources
- Other Sessions Developed from Submissions

And We're Planning Field Trips & Short Courses, Too.

Want to Help? Have Ideas? Need Information? Contact Dawn Bissell, Convention Chairman, chair@gcags2016.com

Join the 2016 GCAGS Convention with an Oral or Poster presentation!

Please submit a 250-word abstract or summary of your planned paper or poster before **February 20, 2016** to our Technical Program Chairs, **Bob Critchlow** or **Rick Paige** at techprogramchair@gcags2016.com. Authors of accepted papers and posters will be notified **February 29, 2016**. Final extended abstracts, with or without figures, and full papers for publication in the *GCAGS Transactions* will be due by **March 21, 2016** to the *GCAGS Transactions* Editor, **Jennifer Smith-Engle**. Full information, instructions, size limitations, and helpful hints for abstracts, summaries, extended abstracts, and full papers can be found on

www.gcags2016.com

Thank you for your participation!

If you'd like to publish in the *GCAGS Journal* -

The Peer-Reviewed Journal of Gulf Coast Geoscience

Submit an extended abstract of at least 600 words, including 1-2 representative figures, to the *GCAGS Journal* Editor, **Barry Katz** at barrykatz@chevron.com by **December 15, 2015**. Once accepted for publication, a full manuscript should be submitted before **March 21, 2016**. Full instructions for manuscript submissions will be posted online at **www.gcags2016.com**. Convention presentations of Journal submissions are encouraged, but not required.



Published monthly by the New Orleans Geological Society. This issue was sent to press on January 20, 2016.

Interested in contributing to the NOGS LOG? Please submit items by the 1st Friday of the month to nogseditor@gmail.com. Advertising requests should contact the NOGS office at info@nogs.org.

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on the cover

Cover Photo Submitted by Frank Sheppard

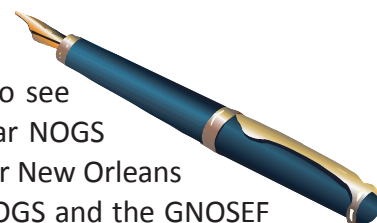
Amoco No. 5 Parlange Well — Judge Digby Field

The Amoco No. 5 Parlange was the first Amoco-operated well drilled at Judge Digby field, after a 1995 3D seismic survey. The well was completed on 10/31/1996 from perforations of 21,348-510 (OA) at a rate of 525 BCPD and 18 MMCFGD.



New Orleans Mardi Gras Indians

From the Editor



Have you ever judged a science fair? When is the last time you took the time to see a science fair? When you were in school did you enter a science fair? Every year NOGS awards prizes to the best exhibitors in the junior and senior divisions at the Greater New Orleans Science and Engineering Fair. Mike Fein has served as the point man between NOGS and the GNOSEF for the past 16 years, and he's always looking for volunteers. The sight of all those students and their exhibits can be overwhelming the first time you serve as a judge. The main idea is to approach each student as a fellow scientist; your questions and conversations with these students could launch them on a career in science. They're doing science, hypothesizing, testing, collecting data, and drawing conclusions. In the past I have been both humbled and enjoyed looking at the earth science exhibits as well as those outside my ken. If you want to be a judge, contact Mike Fein (see our Calendar for February 24). Or you can wander by between 9:30 and noon the following day.

Tom
Tom Klekamp, Editor



Contact:
Annette Hudson
info@nogs.org

2016 ADVERTISING RATES

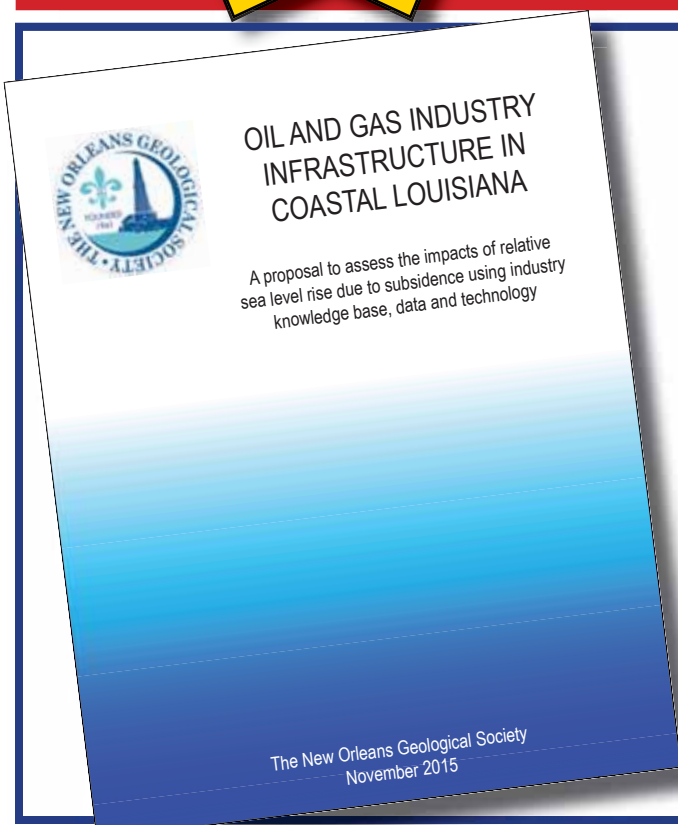
The New Orleans Geological Society was formed in 1941, with an initial membership of only 55. It has always been an active professional society and presently has a membership of 500.

AD SIZE	2015 RATE	NEW 2016 RATE!
Full Page (7.5"x10")	\$3500	\$1750
Half Page (3.75"x10" or 7.5"x5")	\$1850	\$925
Quarter Page (3.75"x5" or 7.5"x2.5")	\$1000	\$500
Eighth Page (3.75"x2.5")	\$600	\$300
Twelfth Page (3.75"x1.65")	\$375	\$188
Note Size (3.75"x.75")	\$120	\$60



PREMIUM LOCATIONS

Inside Front Cover.....	+30%
Opposite President's Page.....	+20%
Opposite Oral Abstract.....	+20%
Inside Back Cover.....	+30%
Outside Back Cover.....	+40%



NOGS PROPOSAL: OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY INFRASTRUCTURE IN COASTAL LOUISIANA

Published now on NOGS' website:

***[http://www.nogs.org/Content/pdf/NOGS-Faulting
%20and%20Subsidence%20in%20
Coastal%20Louisiana.pdf](http://www.nogs.org/Content/pdf/NOGS-Faulting%20and%20Subsidence%20in%20Coastal%20Louisiana.pdf)***

The proposal is for the oil and gas industry to promote university research projects to assess the impacts of relative sea level rise due to subsidence on the coastal infrastructure using industry knowledge base, data and technology. The proposal has been in development for some time, and we currently have projects in various stages of development at UNO, Tulane and LSU. We are working to expand the effort and are in discussions with UT Austin, USM and LUMCON about future projects.

If you know of any areas or specific projects that would benefit from the type of evaluation envisioned by this proposal, please let us know, and we will work to get it done.



From the President

A record setting El Niño weather pattern has reared its ugly head this last fall with heavy rainfall in the upper Midwest. The swollen Mississippi has overtopped its levees and created crevasses in several places, flooding communities and thousands of acres of mostly farmland, despite the best efforts of local levee districts and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. In the last week this surge of flood water has reached the New Orleans area within 3 feet of the top of the levee. If El Niño continues to be active throughout this winter and spring, we may see levels never seen since the advent of modern artificial levees in the Lower Mississippi Valley. Let's hope and pray these Corps' controls prove effective. Laura Sorey writes more about this in her Info Tidbits column on page 23.

Despite this potential for impending doom, the people of the Greater New Orleans area have entered full Mardi Gras party mode. The seemingly endless string of social gatherings, parades, balls, and king cake gluttony give us the opportunity to generate enough sins to confess during the subsequent Lenten season. If you have never experienced French Quarter festivities on Mardi Gras day, it is definitely one for your bucket list. Have a safe and sinful Mardi Gras season.

And speaking of parties, the NOGS Christmas Holiday party last month was one of the best attended and most sumptuous social events in many years. Many thanks go to hosts Ed Picou and Dan Armstrong for allowing NOGS to use their beautiful lakefront apartment for the venue. Party organizers Al Mellilo, Susie Baker, Trudy Corona, and other NOGA members did a great job planning, setting up, and contracting a great caterer. Our

sponsors, Diversified Well Logging and Paleo-Data, helped keep this event financially in the black for the first time in several years. A great job by all involved.

The GCAGS has reset the deadline for abstract submittal for their fall Convention as January 15, 2016, to February 20th, so you have a few weeks more to get that abstract submitted for approval. The GCAGS Fall Convention is scheduled for September 18–20 in Corpus Christi.

It looks like the NOGS Atlas of Surface Faulting initiative is getting a great start. Many thanks go to Chris McLindon for coordinating this project on behalf of NOGS. The complete press release is in this February issue

Our next NOGS luncheon meeting will be Monday, February 1 and will feature a technical presentation by Jeff Spencer entitled "The 40th Anniversary of South Louisiana's Lower Tuscaloosa Trend — Recollections and Early Media Coverage." Please make your reservations by calling the NOGS office at 504-561-8980 or online at www.nogs.org. And please put Sunday, March 6th on your calendar for the annual fund raising event for the Children's Museum of St. Tammany Parish. Their "Celebration 2016" event will be held from 6 pm to 10 pm at the Castine Center near Mandeville. Proceeds go toward the construction of the new Childrens Museum of St. Tammany along the Tchefuncte River between Mandeville and Covington. Go to www.cmstkids.org for more information.

Happy Mardi Gras and try not to swallow the baby!

David Reiter

NOGS Office
 Office Manager: Annette Hudson
 Phone: 504-561-8980 • Email: info@nogs.org • Website: www.nogs.org
 The office is located at 810 Union Street, Suite 300, New Orleans, LA 70112.
 Correspondence and all luncheon reservations should be sent to the above address.



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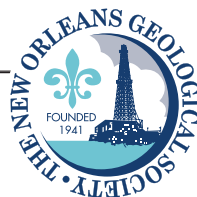
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February 1 • NOGS Luncheon

Holiday Inn Downtown Superdome

\$3.00 validated parking in hotel garage

Presentation:

The 40th Anniversary of South Louisiana's Lower Tuscaloosa Trend – Recollections and Early Media Coverage

Guest Speaker:

Jeff A. Spencer

Amromco Energy • Houston, Texas

See pages 8 and 9 for Abstract and Biography

HOLIDAY INN DOWNTOWN SUPERDOME

Check with concierge or front desk for location.
Lunch served at 11:30 am

ADMISSION:

With reservation..... \$30.00
Without reservation \$35.00
Student Member with reservations..... FREE

February 9-12
NAPE Summit

George Brown Convention Center • Houston, Texas
For more information, <http://napeexpo.com/shows/about-the-show/summit>

February 11
SGS Luncheon

Holiday Inn Superdome • New Orleans, LA
Dr. Barbara Radovich: "Mega-Regional View of Plays Around the Northern Gulf of Mexico from an Onshore, Offshore Composited PSDM Seismic Grid"
For more information, <http://www.sgs-neworleans.org/>

February 24

Judging for Greater New Orleans Science and Engineering Fair
Human Performance Center - UNO Lakefront Campus • New Orleans, LA
Feb 24: 3:30 to 5:30 and Feb 25: 9:30 to noon — Open to public for viewing
To apply to be a judge, contact Mike Fein: 504-717-6465

March 24-25

10th Annual Louisiana Groundwater, Surface Water & Water Resources Symposium
Energy, Coast and Environmental Center, LSU • Baton Rouge, LA
http://www.brgs-la.org/web-content/conferences/Announcement_2016_LA_Water_Symposium.pdf

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Continued from previous page

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Feb. 1 NOGS Luncheon Presentation

☆☆☆ at the Holiday Inn Superdome ☆☆☆

The 40th Anniversary of South Louisiana's Lower Tuscaloosa Trend - Recollections and Early Media Coverage

Presented by

Jeff A. Spencer

GCAGS Historian

Amromco Energy - Houston, Texas

spencerj320@gmail.com



ABSTRACT

On May 31, 1975, 15 miles northwest of Baton Rouge, the Chevron No. 1 Alma Plantation well was completed as the discovery well for the False River Field. Completed from perforations at 19,836–19,916 feet with a rate of 20 million cubic feet of gas per day (MMCFGD) and 80 barrels of condensate per day (BCPD), the well opened the prolific South Louisiana Lower Tuscaloosa Trend. Seven months later, the completion of the Chevron No. 1 State Lease 6646 well in Lake Borgne, 110 miles southeast of False River, suggested a significant new gas trend for the Gulf Coast. Initial optimism placed the trend's dimensions as 30 miles wide and 200 miles long, extending from the Texas/Louisiana state line eastward through Lake Pontchartrain.

Recollections from geoscientists, engineers, landmen, and landowners who worked the trend in the early years provide an oral history of the excitement, rapid development, well control events, and technical understanding of the trend. The trend's early development was covered in

many local and national newspapers, including the *Chicago Tribune* and *New York Times*, magazines *Time*, *Forbes*, *Ebony*, *Louisiana Life*, *Christian Science Monitor*, and trade journals. Several papers were presented at Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies (GCAGS) annual meetings, GCAGS member society luncheons, and the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG) annual meetings.

Early resource predictions for the trend varied greatly from 3 to 60 trillion cubic feet of gas equivalent (TCFGE). As more wells were drilled, the original size of the trend was reduced significantly, along with the resource size. A “sweet spot” centered in Pointe Coupee, Livingston, West Baton Rouge, and East Baton Rouge Parishes has produced approximately 4 TCFGE, which is still a significant and impressive trend for the Gulf Coast. Three fields (Port Hudson, 1,356 BCFGE; Judge Digby, 759 BCFGE; and Morganza, 559 BCFGE) account for 67% of the trend's production.

BIOGRAPHY

Jeff Spencer is a geologist with Amromco Energy in Houston, Texas, working Eastern Europe. He received a B.S. in Geology from the University of Cincinnati and an M.S. in Earth Sciences from the University of New Orleans. Before joining Amromco, he worked primarily the onshore Gulf Coast and state waters with Midstates Petroleum Company (2010-2013), Black Pool Energy (2005-2010), Osprey Petroleum (2000-2005), Unocal (1998-2000), and Amoco Production Company (1981-1998). He has authored or co-authored more than 20 oil field history papers. He is co-author of the book *Ohio Oil and Gas* (2008) and he authored *Texas Oil and Gas* (2013); both books on oilfield history through photographs and postcards. Jeff is a Charter Member of the Petroleum History Institute and currently serves as the president. Jeff is also the Historian for the Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies. He is a 30+ year member of NOGS.



THE LUNCHEON RESERVATION DEADLINE IS JANUARY 29 - CONTACT THE NOGS OFFICE

"And Looking Ahead . . ."

The next luncheon will be held on March 7. Our guest speaker, Abah Omale, LSU Dept. of Geology and Geophysics, will present "Using Fault Kinematics to Evaluate the Relationship between Cenozoic Fault Activity, Sedimentation Rates and Salt Movement in the GOM." Contact the NOGS office at 561-8980 or use the PayPal link on the NOGS website (www.nogs.org) to make your reservation.

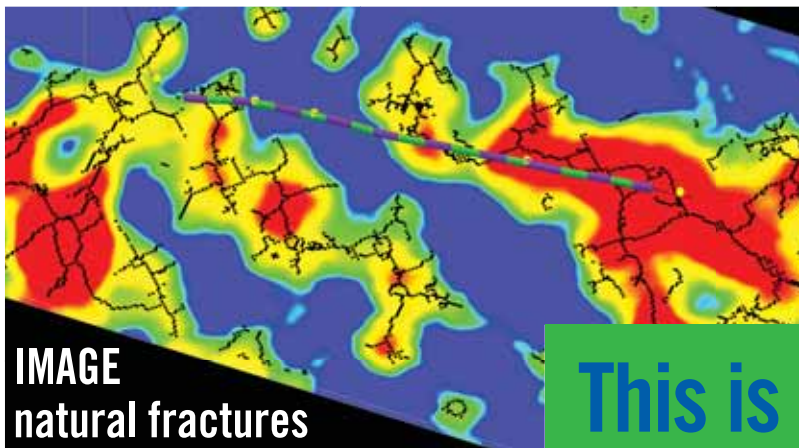
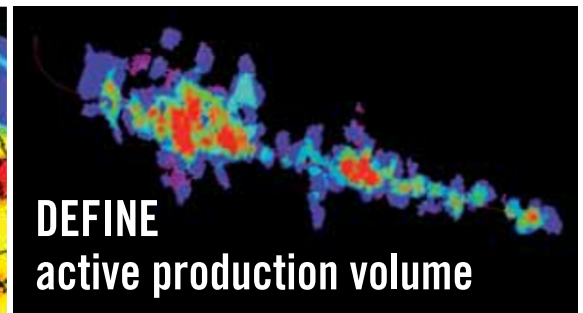
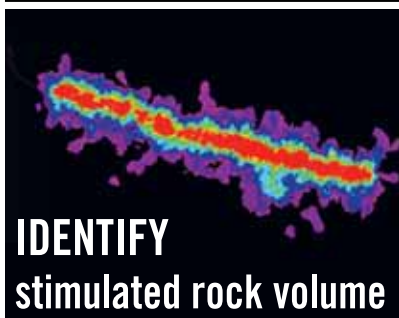


IMAGE
natural fractures

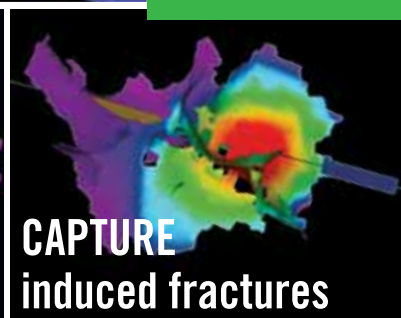


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stimulated rock volume



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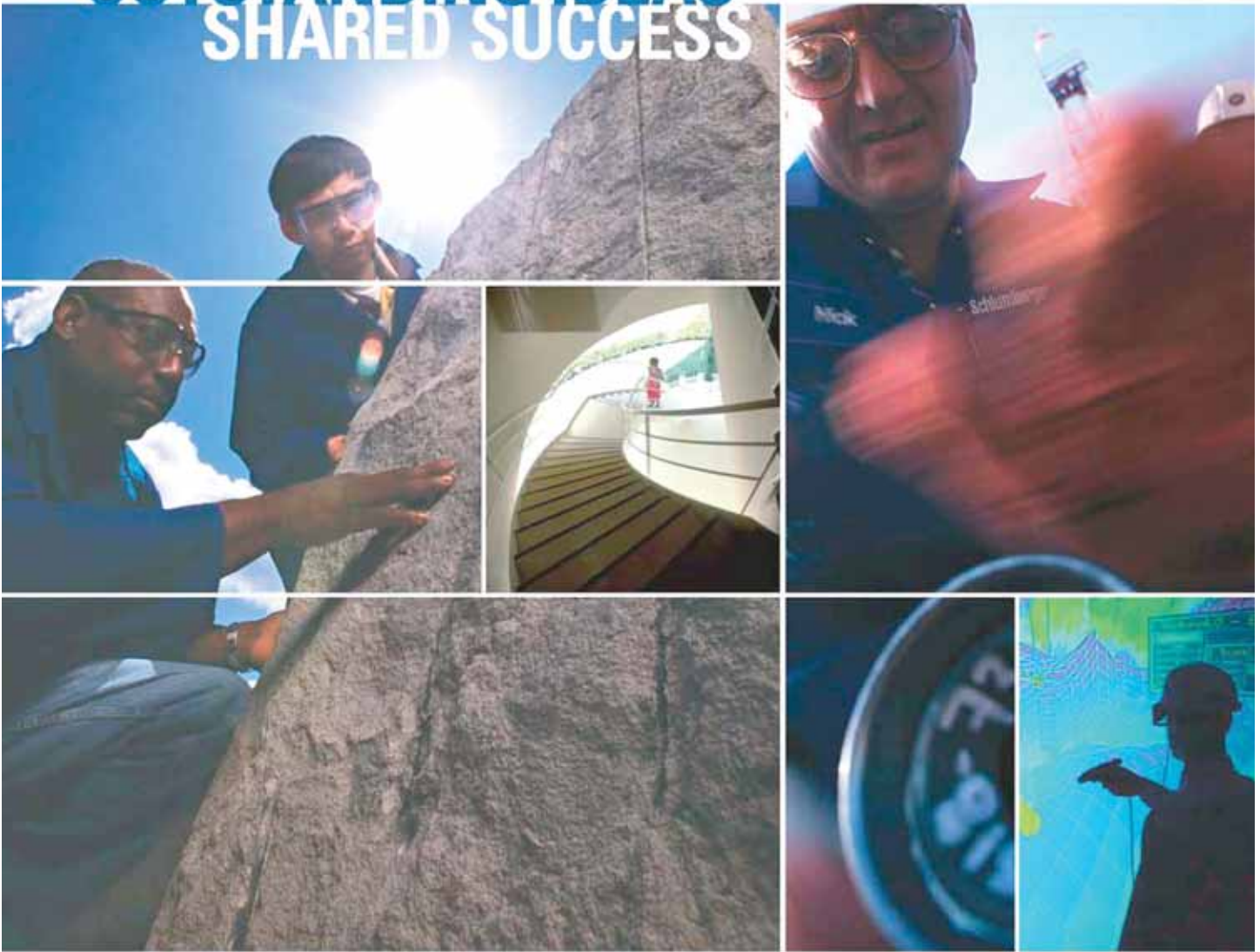
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS: FEBRUARY & MARCH 2016

2015	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT / INFO
1 Feb	NOGS Luncheon Jeff Spencer <i>"The 40th Anniversary of South Louisiana's Lower Tuscaloosa Trend — Recollections and Early Media Coverage"</i>	Holiday Inn Superdome	annette@nogs.org or 504-561-8980
4 Feb	PLANO Executive Seminar and Executive Night	Hilton NO Riverside	margaretcameron@charter.net or call 985-640-0352
5 Feb	Submissions due for March <i>NOGS LOG</i>		nogseditor@gmail.com
9 Feb	Mardi Gras		
11 Feb	SGS Luncheon Dr. Barbara J. Radovich "Mega-Regional View of Plays Around the Northern Gulf of Mexico from an Onshore, Offshore Composited PSDM Seismic Grid"	Holiday Inn Superdome	Louis.Sturgess@shell.com 504-425-7636
12 Feb	Baton Rouge GS Luncheon Topic: TBA	Mike Anderson's 1031 W. Lee Dr. Baton Rouge	Lisa Pultz at lisapultz@cox.net or http://www.brgs-la.org/
10-12 Feb	NAPE Summit - Houston	George Brown Convention Ctr	http://napeexpo.com/shows/about-the-show/summit
16 Feb	SIPES Luncheon	Andrea's Metairie	Reservations: Carol St. Germaine 504-267-3466
17 Feb	NOGA Luncheon Speaker: Jeff Couere of "Ringside Politics"	Metairie CC	Trudy Corona 504-737-6101
19 Feb	SPWLA Luncheon	Holiday Inn Superdome	https://www.spwla.org/chapters/new-orleans
24 Feb	GNO Science and Engineering Fair (Judging junior and senior divisions)	Human Performance Ctr UNO Lakefront	Mike Fein: 1feinm1@cox.net cell: 504-717-6465
4 Mar	Submissions due for April <i>NOGS LOG</i>		nogseditor@gmail.com
6 Mar	Children's Museum of St. Tammany Fundraiser	Castine Ctr Mandeville 6-10	http://www.cmstkids.org/celebration
7 Mar	NOGS Luncheon Abah Omale <i>"Using Fault Kinematics to Evaluate the Relationship Between Cenozoic Fault Activity, Sedimentation Rates and Salt Movement in the Gulf of Mexico"</i>	Holiday Inn Superdome	annette@nogs.org or 504-561-8980
10 Mar	SGS Luncheon Gene Sparkman "What Can We Get From Phase Decomposition?"	Holiday Inn Superdome	Louis.Sturgess@shell.com 504-425-7636
11 Mar	Baton Rouge GS Luncheon Topic: TBA	Mike Anderson's 1031 W. Lee Dr. Baton Rouge	Lisa Pultz at lisapultz@cox.net or http://www.brgs-la.org/
15 Mar	SIPES Luncheon	Andrea's Metairie	Reservations: Carol St. Germaine 504-267-3466
17 Mar	SPWLA Luncheon	Holiday Inn Superdome	https://www.spwla.org/chapters/new-orleans
24-25 Mar	10th Annual Louisiana Groundwater, Surface Water & Water Resources Symposium	Energy, Coast & Environmental Bldg. LSU Baton Rouge	http://www.brgs-la.org/web-content/Conferences/Announcement_2016_LA_Water_Symposium.pdf

New Orleans Geological Auxiliary News

"The objective of the Auxiliary is to promote fellowship among the wives of the members of the New Orleans Geological Society and to render assistance to NOGS upon request."

The NOGS Holiday Party was held on Saturday, December 19 at the home of Ed Picou and Dan Armstrong on the 14th floor of The Marseilles on the Lakefront. The NOGS committee assisted by Auxiliary members Susie Baker, Camille Yeldell and Trudy Corona, planned a delightful evening. There was delicious food, catered by Peggy Fisk, plenty to drink and holiday music played on the baby grand piano. Everyone enjoyed visiting with Ed and Dan to learn more about their wonderful art collection.



There was not a better place to be on that beautiful, clear, crisp evening as one could see cars travelling across Lake Pontchartrain on the Causeway and Twin Span bridges from one side of the apartment and the Mississippi River Bridge from the other. A sailboat in the harbor decorated with Christmas lights added to the view.

MaryEllis Hasseltine and Judy Sabaté are making plans for the next meeting of the Auxiliary at Metairie Country Club on Wednesday, February 18. The speaker that day will be Jeff Crouere, host of radio program Ringside Politics. Members are encouraged to invite spouses and guests to this luncheon.

NOGA would like to extend our deepest sympathy to Shannon and James Evans on the loss of their son in mid-December. Shannon is a former member of the Auxiliary.

Peggy Rogers, *NOGS LOG*



New Orleans Geological Auxiliary Membership Application

Name _____ Spouse's Name _____
Address _____ Home Phone _____
City, State, Zip _____ Cell Phone _____
Spouse's Company _____ Email _____

Dues: \$25 payable to New Orleans Geological Auxiliary
Please mail to Judy Lemarié, Treasurer, #2 Yosemite Dr., New Orleans, LA 70131



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WELCOMES

Submitted by Laura Sorey

Douglas Bradford is a returning NOGS member. A graduate of University of Southern Mississippi and Louisiana State University, Douglas has worked as a petroleum and environmental geologist with TRC Environmental, LDEQ, Amoco, and an independent oil operator.

Anna Farrugia is a new student member from Tulane.

Christine Gammans is a new member to NOGS from Chevron in Covington where she works as a development geologist. Prior to her move to Covington, she worked for Chevron in Houston as a technical geophysicist doing velocity and earth modeling. Christine is a 2011 graduate of Georgia Institute of Technology with a B.S. in Earth and Atmospheric Science and a 2013 graduate from University of Utah with an M.A. in Geophysics.

Beverly House joins NOGS from Shell where she works as an exploration geologist.

Christopher Young joins NOGS as a student member from Tulane University where he is working towards an M.S. in Geology. He studies fault interactions and relay ramps under Professor Nancye Dawers. Chris previously completed his B.S. in Geology from University of Arizona in 2015 and hails from Los Angeles, CA.

Using Oil and Gas Industry Data to Study Relative Sea Level Rise: The Atlas Project Has Been Initiated

The University of New Orleans' Coastal Research Laboratory within the Pontchartrain Institute for Environmental Sciences has been the recipient of donations of research funding, data and scholarships from several companies and professional societies affiliated with the oil and gas industry. The funding, data and scholarships will all be directly applied to coastal research projects under an initiative of the New Orleans Geological Society directed at using oil and gas industry data to study the impacts of relative sea level rise on coastal Louisiana.

Schlumberger Ltd. donated 353 square miles of 3-D seismic data covering Lake Borne to the University in the third quarter of 2015 and Geophysical Pursuit, Inc. donated 382 line miles of 2-D seismic data covering Lake Pontchartrain in the fourth quarter of 2015. The data will be used for graduate level research projects to map geologic structures and sedimentary layers below the surface of the lakes including geologic faults, and to study the potential for active fault movement as a cause of wetlands loss. The seismic data was originally acquired between 1990 and 2002 for use in oil and

gas exploration at an estimated cost of approximately \$25 million.

Paleodata, Inc. donated paleontological data to the University to be used in the research projects to help determine the geological ages of the sedimentary layers being mapped below the surface.

The Southeastern Geophysical Society made a \$2500 cash donation to the Coastal Research Laboratory to be used to fund research projects that will utilize the seismic data. The New Orleans chapter of the Society of Independent Professional Earth Scientists also awarded two, \$2500 scholarship donations to M.S. candidates Joe Frank and Rachel Gaspard who are conducting their research with these data.

Dr. Mark Kulp, Director of the Coastal Research Laboratory, said "We are extremely grateful for these donations of data and funding. The opportunity to use industry seismic data to image below the surface will significantly enhance our ability to understand process that are occurring on the surface of the wetlands today including relative sea level rise."

~ In Memorium ~



Gerald "Jerry" Markowitz passed away January 2, 2016, at the age of 61 in his home in Bush, LA. He graduated from Queens College (BS in Geology) and from the University of Kentucky (MS in Geology). Upon graduation, he began work in the oil industry as a petroleum geologist for Texaco and

later with Chevron upon its merger with Texaco. He was planning on retiring in the summer of 2016 but leaves his work early with 36½ years of service.

Jerry was most well-known for his strong technical proficiency, out-of-the-box thinking, mentoring and calm attack to any problem. He was one of the first Earth Scientists to step forward and volunteer to help create a revised GOM Geology Overview Class for new Geologists and Engineers at Chevron. His sections on Development Geology, Geologic Mapping, and Seismic Interpretation received high praise, and he enjoyed interjecting humor into the class by sharing a cartoon (see below) displaying how geologists, geophysicists, and engineers might interpret the same dataset quite differently (unknown original source).

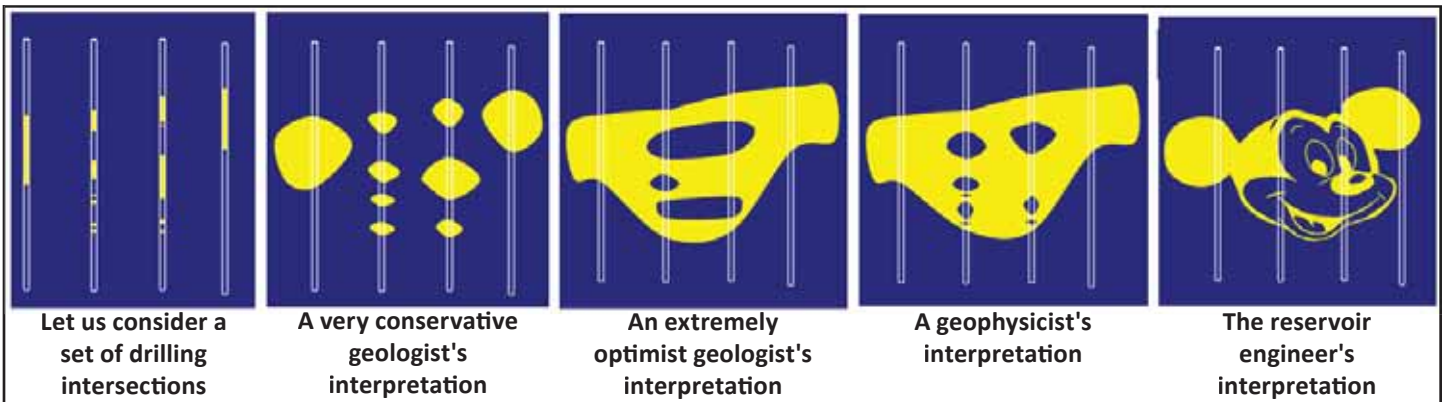
Jerry has had articles published in *The Leading Edge* (3-D Visualization and Imaging the salt/sediment interface, Vermilion Bay field, Louisiana), *World Oil* (Integrating technology for improved reservoir characterization) and *SPE* (High-Resolution VSP Imaging To Locate Additional Reserves In Producing Fields). He co-authored a paper that was presented at *EAGE*

(Integrated technology for improved reservoir characterization in a mature south Louisiana salt dome field). Jerry was invited to present his *Leading Edge* paper at a SIPES symposium in Houston.

Jerry was awarded Texaco's Star Quality Ambassador Award for leading a highly successful drilling program on the Rabbit Island Development Team. Jerry understood risk evaluation of prospecting, having been a founding member of Texaco's Eastern Exploration - Risk Evaluation Assessment Team in the early 90's, responsible for the review of over 75 prospects. Most recently, Jerry has been a member of the Bay Marchand team leading development drills.



Jerry's favorite hobbies were rock and mineral collecting and wood working — especially wood turning. He was a founding and lifetime member of the Bayou Wood Turners Club. He was also very active in the St. Tammany Woodworkers Guild. He volunteered each year at the Madisonville Boat Fest Build-A-Boat tent. Jerry leaves behind his wife of 31 years and best friend, Lila Salvatore. See more at: <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/theneworleansadvocate/obituary.aspx?n=gerald-markowitz-jerry&pid=177156920&fhid=24244#sthash.HYfRDPla.dpuf>





NOGS 2015 Christmas



Christmas Holiday Party



Photos courtesy of Arthur Christensen

South Louisiana and Offshore Gulf of Mexico Exploration and Production Activities

LAFAYETTE DISTRICT, ONSHORE AREA

By Kevin Trosclair and Carlo C. Christina

The most recent rig count (Baker-Hughes) for the United States is 664 rigs, down from 709 rigs four weeks ago. By comparison the total rig count for Louisiana (not including the OCS) is 36 rigs, down from 57 rigs one year ago.

*North Louisiana Rigs:26
South Louisiana Rigs:10
Land Rigs:8
Inland Waters:.....2*

The Office of Conservation, Lafayette District, Onshore Area, issued 13 permits to drill during the month of December, compared to 25 permits one year ago. Of these two are expired permits that have been re-issued. The following are the most interesting locations:

NEW LOCATIONS

In Cameron Parish, **High Island Field (A)**, Walter Oil & Gas will drill the #1 Miami Corp 32 (SN 249468) in Sec. 32, 13S-7W, which offsets current production in the field. The well will be drilled to a proposed depth of 16,537 feet.

The first well in High Island Field was drilled in 1959 targeting Planulina and shallower sands. In 1983, deeper tests found gas production in Camerina sands. Currently three wells are still producing in the field, two from Camerina sands and one from Planulina sands. Well (SN 198734) has been producing for 29 years totaling 4.1 BCF of gas and 101 MBO while well (SN 226293) has produced over 11.5 BCF of gas over the past 15 yrs, both producing from the deeper sands. The third well (SN 228628) produces from shallow Camerina sands between 10,300 and 11,000 feet and has produced 467 MBO.

In Plaquemines Parish, **Main Pass Block 21 (B)**, Mack Energy Company will drill the #1 SL 21379 (SN 249465) in the Main Pass Area. There are no producing wells in the field. The proposed well is located approximately 1.6 miles west of production in Breton Sound Block 32. The well will be drilled to a depth of 13,500 feet.

Warhorse Oil & Gas has re-permitted two wells in **Fordoche Field (C & D)**, in Point Coupee Parish. Both wells are located in Sec. 95, 6S-9E. The # 7 Holloway Property (SN 249471) is targeting Wilcox sands and offsets two

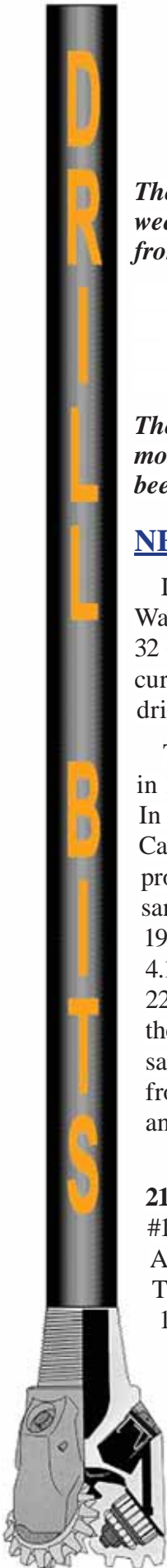
wells currently producing from the Wilcox. The #8 Holloway Property (SN 249472) is a directional well targeting Cockfield sands. Both wells were reported in the August 2015 Drill Bits.

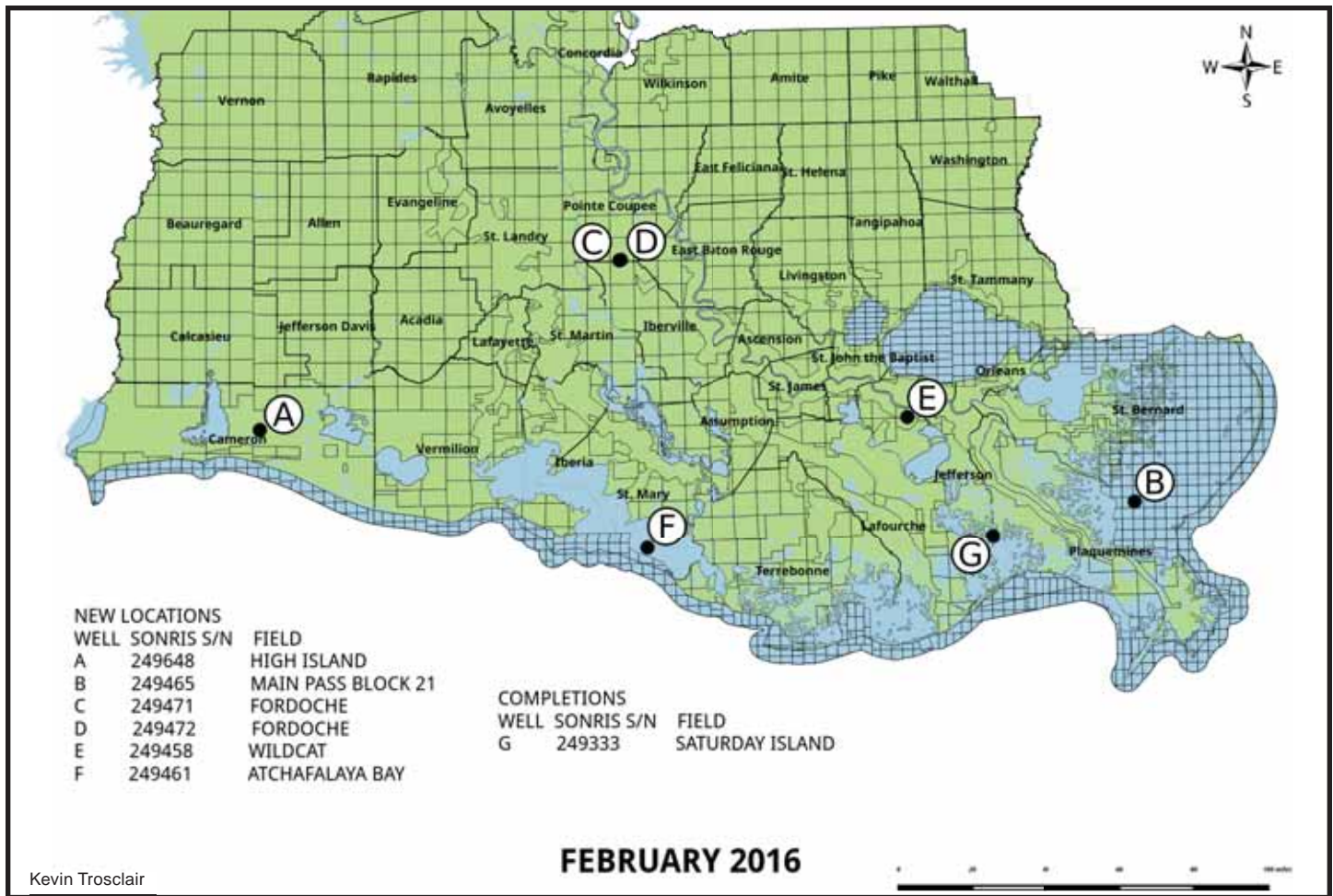
In St. Charles Parish, **Wildcat (E)**, Houston Energy will drill the #1 Rathborne Land Company (SN 249458). This well will be drilled as a directional well to a PTD of 13,250 feet (11,500 TVD). The PBHL is in Sec. 43, 13S-21E, 6699 feet from the surface location in Sec. 3, 14S-21E. The closest production is more than 3 miles to the Southwest in Boutte Field.

In St. Mary Parish, **Atchafalaya Bay Field (F)**, Texas Petroleum Investment Company will drill the #6 VUA; SL 20035 (SN 249461) to a PTD of 19,500 feet. This well offsets the #2 and #3 wells in the field. Atchafalaya Bay Field has been reported many times in Drill Bits as a recent discovery has placed it among largest gas producing fields for onshore South Louisiana. In 2015, Atchafalaya Bay Field topped the list producing 38 BCF of gas.

COMPLETIONS

Hilcorp Energy Company completed the #1 SL 21495 (SN 249333) in **Saturday Island Field (G)**, Sec. 12, 19S-24E, as a gas well in the 29 Sand flowing 157 MCFD and 436 BWPD through perforations at 12,330 to 12,476 feet. The well was drilled to a total depth of 13,083 feet (11,878 TVD).





OFFSHORE GULF OF MEXICO SHELF AND DEEPWATER ACTIVITIES

by Al Baker

During **December 2015**, the **BOEM** approved **60** Gulf of Mexico drilling permits. Of these, **5** were for shelf wells, and **55** were for deepwater wells. Of the total number of permits, there were **5 new well permits** issued consisting of **1 shelf** permit and **4 deepwater** permits.

The single new shelf well permit was issued to **Arena Offshore** for their **South Timbalier 131 #K-4** development well.

The four new deepwater well permits were all for exploration wells. The new well permits were awarded to **Chevron** for their **Keathley Canyon 96 #2** well, to **Union Oil Company of California (Chevron)** for their **Keathley Canyon 770 #1** well, to **Energy Resource Technology GOM (Talos Energy)** for their **Green Canyon 281 #1**, and to **Noble Energy** for their **Mississippi Canyon 338 #1** well.

Over the past twelve months, there have been only **10** new wells permitted on the Gulf of Mexico **shelf**,

whereas there have been **69** new well permits issued in **deepwater**. During the year companies such as **Chevron** and **Eni Petroleum** have been selling their shelf producing properties to independent operators like **Fieldwood Energy** and **Arena Energy**. The abandonment of the shelf by the larger companies in favor of the deepwater regions will continue into 2016, as well.

On December 31st, **IHS-Petrodata** reported that the Gulf of Mexico mobile offshore rig supply stood at **123**, which is **1** more than reported last month. The marketed rig supply consisted of **75** rigs, of which **55** were under contract. The contracted versus total rig supply utilization rate is **44.7%**, while the marketed contracted versus marketed supply utilization rate stands at **73.3%**. The marketed rig supply number is **1** more than reported last month, and the contracted rig supply number is **1** less than reported last month. In contrast, the December 2014 fleet utilization rate stood at 61.9% with 73 out of the 118 rigs under contract.

On December 25th, **BakerHughes** indicated that there were **24** active mobile offshore rigs in the Gulf of Mexico, which is **43.6%** of the rigs under contract mentioned above. This active rigs number is **6** less than reported last month. The current active rigs count compares to 58 active rigs during the same period last year, representing a **58.6%** drop (minus 34 rigs) in yearly rig activity.

On December 3rd, **Murphy Oil Corporation** updated its Gulf of Mexico drilling results. Their non-operated **Solomon exploration well** in **Walker Ridge Block 225** reached a **total depth of approximately 34,600 feet**. The targeted **Lower Tertiary Wilcox** was found **non-productive**, and the well was **plugged and abandoned**. Murphy holds a 20 percent working interest in the well that was operated by Marathon Oil.

Additionally, Murphy announced that it's operated **Thunder Bird sidetrack well** in **Mississippi Canyon Block 819** reached a **total depth of approximately 21,900 feet**. The targeted **Middle Miocene** was found productive with roughly **75 feet of pay**. However, due to low oil prices, a decision was made to **plug and abandon** the well. Murphy's working interest percentage in the well is 87.5 percent.

On December 4th, **Walter Oil & Gas Corporation** announced the installation of its **Coelacanth Platform** on **Ewing Bank Block 834**. The 1,312-foot tall, conventional four-legged, nine-slot platform is the third largest of its kind in the Gulf of Mexico. The **Coelacanth Field** is situated in approximately 1,200 feet of water and extends across four blocks: **Ewing Bank Blocks 834, 835, 790** and **Mississippi Canyon Block 793**. The Field will produce from two geopressured reservoirs situated below 20,000 feet on the north flank of a salt structure. The platform is designed to process 30,000 BOPD and 60 MMCFPD.

On December 15th, **W&T Offshore** announced a significant new deepwater discovery at its **Ewing Banks Block 954 #A-8** well. The well represents the second discovery in a two-well drilling program from the company's Ewing Banks Block 910 Platform. W&T is operator of the field and owns a 50 percent working interest in the well. The **#A-8** well found a total of **150 feet of measured depth pay in two sands**. W&T anticipates that a dual completion will result in gross initial production rate of approximately 2,300 BOEPD. First production is expected during the first quarter of 2016.

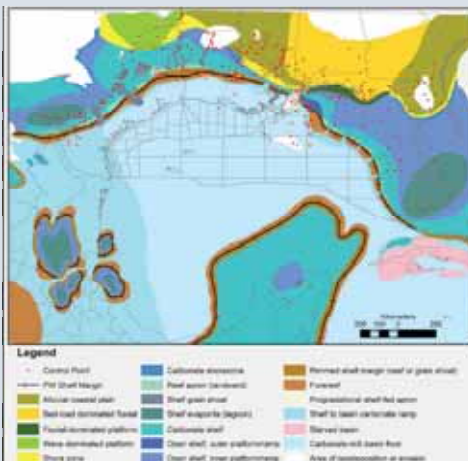
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Other Topical sessions

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- Pre-salt basin paleogeographic reconstruction
- Emerging Mesozoic Plays in USA and Mexico
- The KPg impact event and sedimentary effects
- Mexico's Mesozoic reservoirs and future potential

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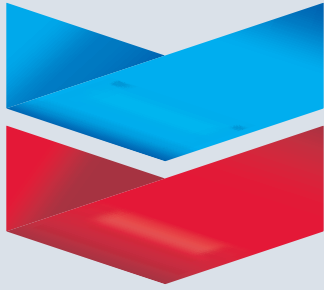
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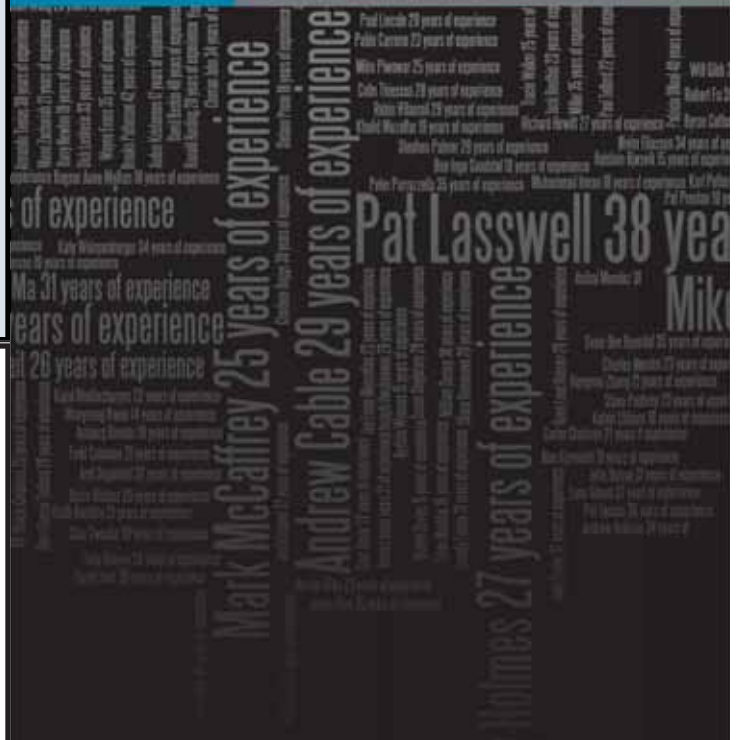
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Thus far the 2016 season has proven to be an eventful Mardi Gras for New Orleans. Between the early onset of Fat Tuesday, the revelation that Haydel's king cakes can now be delivered via Uber, and the promise of frigid temperatures for parade revelers, it should come as no surprise that the Mississippi River itself decided it would like to join in on the fun. At 10:00 A.M. on January 9, the Corps of Engineers opened Bonnet Carré Spillway for the eleventh time since its construction in 1931 allowing the waters of the Mississippi to rush along a corridor of wetlands and push into Lake Pontchartrain underneath the tires of I-10 travelers. A product of Congress's 1928 Flood Control Act, the Bonnet Carré was one of many feats of engineering along the Lower Mississippi designed to do battle with the surging waters of an ancient river that continually threatens to inundate human constructs that rely on the river for survival.

When compared to the larger structures of the Old River Control and the Morganza Spillway, the Bonnet Carré seems almost bush league, but it serves a vital role in protecting New Orleans from the spring floods that herald the arrival of drainage from nearly 1.2 million square miles of North America. The first manmade spillway built along the Mississippi, the Bonnet Carré was designed in response to the 1927 flood that devastated the Mississippi River Valley and is located near a historical natural levee crevasse. After the 1927 waters dispersed, the Corps of Engineers began to calculate a "doomsday" discharge where the maximum inputs to river would generate a flow of three million ft³ per second of flow by the time the Mississippi reached south Louisiana. With this number in mind, a figure that exceeded the 1927 crest by almost 25%, the Corps began to plan for the so-called Project Flood. Aside from the levee system, the Bonnet Carré represents the first line of defense for New Orleans. It is a concrete weir that extends for about a mile and half along the eastern bank of the river thirty miles upstream from New Orleans near Norco. It consists of 350 bays that are obstructed by over 7000 8"x12" wooden beams that can be removed by a small crane that runs along a set of tracks that top the structure and is designed to divert up to 8.5% of the Project Flood capacity. When the river crest approaches the 17-foot flood stage for New Orleans,



beams are removed from the Bonnet Carré so that flow is redirected along the waterway into Lake Pontchartrain ensuring that the river flow at New Orleans does not exceed 1.5 million ft³ per second. An amount that, according to the *Times-Picayune*, would completely fill the Superdome in one second.

In the study of contradictions that is Mississippi River flood control, in New Orleans we desperately want the river to do two things. First, don't overflow the banks and instigate another natural disaster along the scale of the 1927 flood that changed the face of America as we know it. Second, don't desert us for the infinitely more appealing fluvial route of the Atchafalaya Basin and leave us high and dry without a functioning port and sufficient water for all of our vast industrial needs. Finally, please don't respond to all of our engineering measures by spitting your sediment out into the Gulf of Mexico without depositing it in the rapidly receding wetlands. In other words, we want the river to do exactly what rivers have no interest in doing. And we usually rely on the Army Corps of Engineers to impose our collective will upon the Mississippi River. Most Louisianans entertain a strong opinion regarding the Corps of Engineers that may range from "soldiers doing a difficult but thankless job" to some that are decidedly less empathetic. But John McPhee provided some insight in the Corps role in south Louisiana in his book, *The Control of Nature*. "The Corps is not about to give up this battle, or so much as imagine impending defeat... Southern Louisiana may be a house of cards, but, as General Sands suggested virtually no one would be living in it if not for the Corps. There is no going back, as Woody Gagliano says--not without going away. And there will be no retreat without a struggle." He concludes the discussion with this quote from Albert Cowdrey, "Society required artifice to survive in a region where nature might reasonably have asked a few more eons to finish a work of creation that was incomplete."

**Louisiana Geological Survey
&
Louisiana Water Resources Research Institute**

*Tenth Annual Louisiana
Groundwater, Surface Water
& Water Resources Symposium*



March 24 & 25, 2016

Dalton Woods Auditorium, Energy, Coast, &
Environmental Building
Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

IMPORTANT DATES:

Titles due February 11, 2016
Abstracts due February 25, 2016
Extended Abstracts due March 10, 2016
Symposium Day, March 24 & 25, 2016

Instructions for Abstract Submission:

- Submit paper title **by 11:59 pm on February 11, 2016**
- Submit abstract as a Microsoft Word file **by 11:59 pm on February 25, 2016**
- For the title, use Times New Roman font, size of font 16 in bold, capitalize only first letter in first word and any proper nouns.
- For list of authors and contact addresses and email address, use Times New Roman font, size 14. Bold the name of the presenting author in the list of abstracts.
- For the body of text, use Times New Roman font, size of font 12.
- Length of Abstracts: one page or less
- At bottom of the abstract, list 4 key words, and state preference of poster or oral presentation or no preference.

Send abstract to dcarlson@lsu.edu as a word file attachment. If you have any questions about abstracts or the conference, please email dcarlson@lsu.edu.

Below is an example for the typical abstract layout:

Subsidence impact on Louisiana coast symposium is new forum to present technical, policy or historical information on subsidence of Louisiana coastal areas and various causes for this subsidence on historical and geological time scales.

Name of 1st author, full mailing address, city, LA, 5 digit zip code, johndoe@esu.edu

Name of 2nd author, full mailing address, city, LA, 5 digit zip code, janedoe@esu.edu

Name of last author, full mailing address, city, LA, 5 digit zip code, billybob@esu.edu

For start of each paragraph within the abstract, indent at least 5 spaces. There is single spacing between lines within the abstract. Except for the start of a paragraph, all other lines are left-justified. If you use abbreviations within the abstract, write out fully what the abbreviation is. For example: as soon as possible (ASAP). If you use a symbol or Greek letter, write out fully what word(s) the symbol or Greek letter is replacing. For example: intrinsic permeability (k), angle of azimuth (θ). for units, use either metric unit or English unit with metric unit in brackets following the English value. For example: 35 feet (11 meters). Do not include any references, tables or figures within your abstract.

Key words: units, spacing, abbreviations, symbols

We will reply that we have received your email and abstract within approximately two weeks. If you do not receive a reply (an email) in two weeks, then resubmit. **Abstracts will be published as submitted, so check for any typing, spelling or grammar, etc. errors to avoid any errors appearing within published set of abstracts.** If you want to modify your abstract, submit a new version of the abstract and state clearly you want to replace previously submitted abstract. **Deadline for replacement abstract is March 10, 2016.**

Copies of notices will appear at the host website:

Louisiana Water Resources Research Institute

<http://lwrri.lsu.edu/>

Directions to Louisiana State University (LSU) and Energy, Coast & Environment Building (ECE)



Route 1 Exit at Nicholson Drive /Highland Road (Exit 155A). Take Highland Rd. to Dairymple Drive. (About 1.4 miles)

Route 2 Exit at Dairymple Drive (Exit 156B). Both eastbound and westbound traffic will take a right onto Dairymple Drive from the off-ramp. Take Dairymple Drive to Highland Rd. (0.5 mile).

Route 3 Exit at Acadia Thruway (Exit 157B). If exiting from the eastbound off-ramp you will take a right onto Acadian Thruway; if exiting from the westbound off-ramp you will take a left onto Acadia Thruway. Take Acadia Thruway (which turns into Stanford Avenue and then into LSU Avenue) to Highland Rd. Take a right onto Highland Rd. Take Highland Rd. To Dairymple Dr. (About 1.8 miles)

Energy, Coast & Environment Building is in the center of the red box



View of Energy, Coast & Environment Building from Nicholson Drive Extension

Registration Form

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- 1) Fill out the below registration form
- 2) Write out a check to Louisiana Geological Survey to cover costs
- 3) Mail check and this form to Louisiana Geological Survey at the below address:

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Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, LA 70801-0001

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Major: _____ University: _____

Signature of advisor: _____

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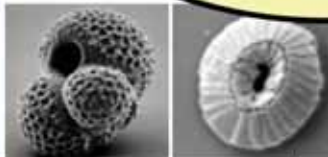
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Conference

The SMU Geothermal Lab is hosting our 8th international energy conference and workshop, Power Plays: Geothermal Energy in Oil and Gas Fields, April 25-26, 2016 on the SMU Campus in Dallas, Texas.

Over 200 individuals in field operations, project development, technology, finance, engineering and resource assessment from the geothermal, oil, gas and renewable energy sectors are expected to attend.

The conference goal is to connect attendees with the knowledge, technical expertise and equipment options they need to successfully transition an existing oil or gas field into an electricity-generating system. To that end, speaker presentations are delivered in a plenary session format with several breaks designed for networking.

Workshop

A pre-conference workshop on April 25th, A Primer on Geothermal Energy Resources, provides a focused introduction for those new to the geothermal and energy communities. The workshop is limited to 50 registrants to provide a classroom atmosphere with ample time for questions and answers. Four Continuing Education Credits given.

Speakers and Posters

We are accepting abstracts for speakers and poster presentations. Abstracts are due by February 5, 2016.

Registration

Registration will open soon for the 2016 Power Plays conference and workshop.

Contact Us

Contact Maria Richards at mrichard@smu.edu or 214-768-1975 for more information, or with questions, comments and suggestions. Additional contact information is available [here](#).

SMU Geothermal Lab

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