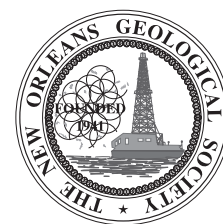


NOGS LOG

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Official Publication of the New Orleans Geological Society, Inc.

April 2007

Volume 47, Number 10

APRIL AND MAY ACTIVITIES

NOGS Events

April 7 - Super Science Saturday

11:00 - 3:00 at Louisiana Children's Museum. Announcement on page 18. To volunteer, contact: Thomas C. Bergeon - (504) 832-3772, tom.bergeon@centuryx.com

April 9 - NOGS Luncheon

John Lopez, President of Delta Science, LLC, and a Director for the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation, presents: "Status of Coastal Planning in Louisiana."
(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 \$25.00

without reservation \$30.00

Student Member with reservation Free

April 20 - Petroleum Geology for Non Geologists Course

8:30 am to 3:30 pm-Chevron Building. \$35.00 per participant-contact the NOGS office for reservations. See announcement on page 18.

April 21 - NOGS Wine Tasting Party

4:00-6:00 pm. Our first dual location social event: On the North Shore at Cru Wine Boutique Cellar in Mandeville, and on the South Shore at The Cellars of Cellars of River Ridge in Harahan See announcement on page 8.

May 3 - NOGS Annual Golf Outing

At Money Hill Golf & Country Club in Abita Springs.
See announcement on page 11.

May 7 - NOGS Luncheon

George Zemlicka of BHP Billiton will present "Depth Imaging of the Drake Structure in the Ultra-Deep Shelf Play of the Gulf of Mexico."

May 21 - Former Presidents Luncheon

Le Pavillon Hotel, \$35.00 per person. Cocktails on NOGS, Prime Rib for Lunch.
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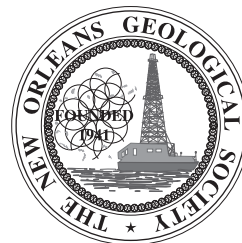
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Sent to press on March 25, 2007.

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from the President

Support

Yeah, I know, we have all done it. Sometimes we have been in a hurry, sometimes we expected it, and sometimes we were just lazy. How many times has your admin assistant or your tech done a bunch of work for you, and you grab it and run with it to that management meeting? How many of those times did you give credit to the individual who actually did the work?

We have come a long way from the days when I watched a vice-president berate a young secretary to tears. These days that kind of behavior would probably bring a lawsuit.

I have learned a lot in business about dealing with people, mostly by trial, and (more often) by error. For example, you can't treat people like garbage, or take them for granted, and expect a quality performance, especially when the life or death of a key project may be on the line. You cannot expect someone to jump through hoops for you, if you are not willing to do the same when they have a time-sensitive issue. You learn the phrase "I need it now" should only be used in an emergency; otherwise it loses its credibility. I have also learned that "now" is only as good as the management request that just trumped mine. These days, using the double entendre "Happy Sec's Day" is more likely to get you in trouble as it is to get a small giggle. And of course, it never hurts to bring some goodies around the office from time to time. Be careful that you don't try too hard; you don't want to insult a "titled" individual with the same goodies you are giving to staff! (Yeah, this actually happened also: "I am NOT a secretary!!!") And when you hear those six little words "Can I do anything to help?" never turn those words down. Find something if you can, sooner rather

than later, because that person may not ask you again. It may also be the start of a mutually beneficial relationship. That happened to me recently, and a temporary employee became permanent, partially as a result of those six little words.

Those of us who are involved in professional society work need to be extra careful with our support staff. We can't get all our regular work done, and tend to the volunteer stuff without them. In the course of our volunteer work, when we pass an assignment to a member of the support staff, it is an assignment nevertheless, to them. What are their priorities?

Nowadays, when we are contemplating an individual for a particular NOGS-related position, we try to ascertain whether he or she has the "resources" - the support staff - to get a particular job done.

I remember during the GCAGS 2005 planning, there was a particular individual who was performing at an extraordinary level on our behalf. We heard the comment, "yeah, he has a great secretary." Yet the secretaries never make it to the "thank you" luncheons.

The point is, we do not realize how valuable our support staff is until we do not have them anymore. They need to be credited and praised. They need to be allowed to expand their responsibilities by learning new aspects of the job, and how we may be better served by their working smarter, not harder. It adds not only to your business' bottom line, but also to what you can get done professionally as well.

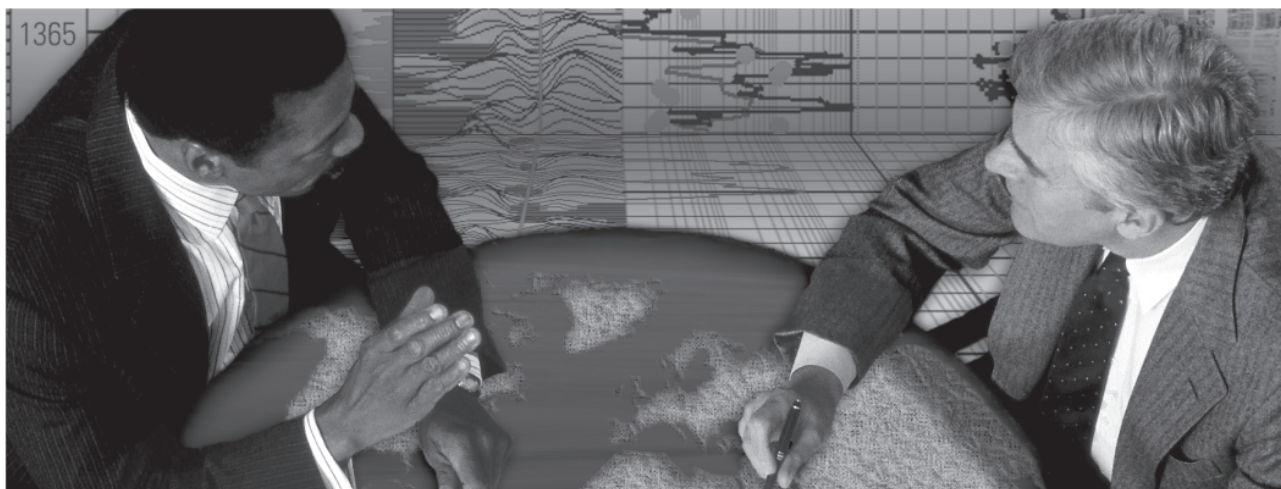
Oh yeah, and a BIG THANK YOU to Kimberly, Cindy, and Myeshia.

Michael Fein

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April 9 Luncheon Presentation

Status of Coastal Planning in Louisiana

presented by

John Lopez, Ph.D.

President of Delta Science, LLC, and a Director for the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation

ABSTRACT

Before Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, coast-wide planning in Louisiana primarily focused on restoration of coastal wetlands. The "Coast 2050 Plan" (1998) is a comprehensive restoration plan that became the basis for plan-formulation in the Corps' "Louisiana Coastal Area-Ecosystem Restoration Plan" (LCA, 2004). Both focused on wetland restoration only. These plans have largely been unfunded and therefore, the goals remain essentially unrealized.

In 2005, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita struck Louisiana, triggering widespread failures of levees and floodwalls in the hurricane protection system for metro New Orleans. Shortly after, coastal planning for Louisiana became broader in scope and more ambitious to implement. After Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the

scope of coastal planning includes both coastal restoration and flood protection. The essential argument for combining the goals is that flood protection will not be adequate in south Louisiana with "levees alone" construction or with a "coast buffer alone" restoration program. Success, as indicated by sustaining some measure of coastal ecosystem and human habitation, can therefore only be achieved by a hybrid landscape of coastal habitats and engineered flood protection features. This concept has been proposed as a "Multiple Lines of Defense Strategy" (Lopez, 2006). The completion deadline for the State's Master Plan is April 2007 and the Corps' coast wide plan is December 2007.

--- continued on page 12 ---

BIOGRAPHY

John Lopez is a resident of Louisiana who has lived in southeast Louisiana all his life except while attending college or on brief job assignments out of the state. John and his wife currently reside in Livingston Parish after losing their home in Slidell to Hurricane Katrina.

John is a coastal scientist with multi-disciplinary training in Geology, Engineering and Biological Sciences with a Doctorate in Engineering and Applied Sciences. After working in the oil industry for 20 years, and working in coastal restoration pro bono, he decided to work full time professionally in coastal restoration. He worked for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Project Management for the Coastal Restoration Branch. Project

assignments included CWPPRA and LCA. John is President of Delta Science, LLC., a coastal consulting firm, and also is currently Director of the Coastal Sustainability Program for the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation. John is also an Adjunct Professor at the University of New Orleans.

Starting in 2003, he chaired a team of scientists and engineers to develop a comprehensive restoration plan for the Lake Pontchartrain Basin. As an outgrowth of this work, he developed the Multiple Lines of Defense Strategy to integrate flood protection and coastal restoration. This concept was developed prior to

--- continued on page 12 ---

THE LUNCHEON RESERVATION DEADLINE IS APRIL 4, SO CALL THE NOGS OFFICE - TODAY!

"And Looking Ahead..."

The next luncheon will be May 7. George Zemlicka of BHP Billiton will present "Depth Imaging of the Drake Structure in the Ultra-Deep Shelf Play of the Gulf of Mexico." Contact the NOGS office at 561-8980 or use the e-link on the NOGS website (www.nogs.org) to make your reservation.



March's luncheon speaker, Dr. Stephen Nelson, is greeted by NOGS Vice President Bob Murphy at Le Pavillon.

BLAST FROM NOGS PAST

15 Years Ago (Apr. 1992): John Langford's President's column applauded new standards in attendance at recent monthly meetings with a running average of over 200 for the previous six months and a "record" high of 254 attendees at the January meeting.

25 Years Ago (Apr. 1982): In a special transportation note: "Arrangements have been made for a Charter Plane to be used for the Calgary (AAPG) Convention. This plane will seat either 102 or 147 passengers." Ah, the good old days!

45 years Ago (Apr. 1962): With the 12th annual GCAGS scheduled for the fall in New Orleans, the NOGS Log featured a call for needed papers with the deadline fast approaching. The theme of the meeting was "Basinward Limits of Production in the Gulf Coast Region." Wonder what those perceived limits were?

- *Tim Piwowar*



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Saturday, April 21

4:00-6:00 pm

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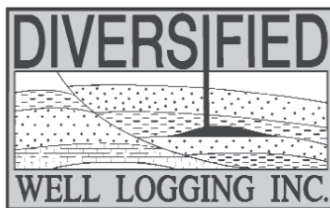
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April 9 Luncheon Presentation Abstract, continued from page 7

Comparison of the pre- and post-Katrina coastal documentation largely reflects this enlargement in scope of coastal planning to include an integration of flood protection, and coastal restoration; but, also reflects other changes in the formulation process and recommendations. The larger scope requires broader institutional support from state agencies that have responsibilities for flood protection and coastal restoration. This appears to have been at the expense of less involvement from federal natural resource agencies. This may indicate a diminished significance in planning for Louisiana's natural resources.

The recommendation for integrated planning is generally what might be expected, that is, traditional restoration techniques and traditional flood protection techniques are proposed. However, there is also emergence of non-traditional or innovative recommended features which are multi-functional. Concepts such as "leaky levees" are not described in detail and thus seem highly speculative and suspect. Also of concern is the planning of traditional features which typically are incompatible such as hydrologic management areas within an estuary. Hydrologic alterations and footprints of new levees are likely to be deleterious to remaining wetlands and jeopardize or offset future wetland restoration.

The stated goals in coastal planning for pre- and post-Hurricanes Katrina and Rita are surprisingly similar. What may be most significant, comparing the pre and post goals, is that the phrase "but for all the communities" is not in the current draft master plan document. Indeed, the new planning document suggests that community adjustments will need to be made and it describes goals of flood protection for areas closer to the coastline which are less than the goals for areas inland. The reality is that high levels of structural flood protection are not possible for all coastal communities or residents in Louisiana. Non-structural options are proposed, but the report implies that there may be continued local retreat from the coastline. The state's master plan (post-Katrina/Rita document) does not make any recommendations for organized relocations or retreat, but appears to have adjusted the goals and recommendations that might suggest a strict preservation of the status quo is no longer possible.

Post-Katrina and Rita, scientific or engineering debate has intensified regarding both coastal restoration and engineered flood protection. Coastal restoration scientists are divided on the dilemma of short-term mechanical restoration (artificial marsh creation) verses long-term riverine restoration (diversion delta building). Dispute regarding engineered flood protection centers principally on construction of a new outer levee alignment (barrier plan) verses enhancement of existing interior levee alignments (high level plan). The Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation has proposed a "Pontchartrain Coastal Lines of Defense Program" (see SaveOurLake.org) which prioritizes restoration projects that provide significant ecologic benefits and flood protection benefit. These ten project areas require an eclectic approach to restoration utilizing a mix of mechanical restoration and river diversions. In total, ten to fourteen river diversions are proposed in the Pontchartrain Basin (east of the Mississippi River) which would require over 100,000 cfs discharge of the Mississippi River. The decisions which result from these debates are profound and historical.

LITERATURE CITED

- Lopez, John A. 2006. *The Multiple Lines of Defense Strategy to Sustain Coastal Louisiana*, Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation, Metairie La. at SaveOurLake.org
- Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Task Force and the Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Authority. 1998. *Coast 2050: Toward a Sustainable Coastal Louisiana*. Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Louisiana Dept. of Natural Resources. 161pp.
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). 2004. *Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA), Louisiana - Ecosystem Restoration Study* - November 2004
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April 9 Luncheon Guest Speaker's Biography, continued from page 7

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. It was presented in August 2005 at the Coastal Zone 05 Conference in New Orleans, where John was awarded a national award for his coastal work. The Multiple Lines of Defense Strategy has recently been adopted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as a cornerstone to the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration planning process being developed jointly with the State of Louisiana.

Since release of the Multiple Lines of Defense Strategy, John has been asked to participate in several post-Katrina programs and has presented this concept in many venues including as an Invited Speaker at the 2nd Presidents Forum Meeting: Coastal Challenges - Safer Growth in Coastal Louisiana.

John has held board or chairmanship positions with the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana, the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation, the State Review of Oil and Natural Gas Regulations, the Pontchartrain Research Committee, the Comprehensive Habitat Management Plan Draft Committee, the Technical Advisory Committee and the Lake Pontchartrain Artificial Reef Working Group. He currently serves on the Navigation Engineering Committee for the American Society of Civil Engineers.

From the editor....

With only a few months remaining as editor, it is a good time to reflect on the past nine months and see how we have performed. When looking back, I gravitate toward one of our objectives that has not yet come to pass - that is increasing the number of online *Log* subscribers in order to help lower our *Log* operating expense by reducing postage and printing costs. The staff has invested time this past year in preparing a website version of the *Log* that is accessible at a mouse click through the NOGS website at www.nogs.org. In fact, our print shop downloads the final press version directly from the same location on the website. Some of our members have taken advantage of this option and enjoy the convenience of online access, but we still have a way to go. Perhaps the reason that this system has not yet caught on in a significant way with the membership is that I have failed to provide a clear and attainable goal. So, in an effort to communicate the goal more clearly, I have attached operational cost data for your review. We are projected to end the year about 8% over budget. A big factor in this increase has been post Katrina postage, and a general increase in the number of pages per issue. A simple analysis of the production cost elements indicates that if an additional 10% of the membership, which is about 65 members, elects to receive the online version of the *Log*; then the *Log* will be able to remain within its current budget range and will not have to increase the cost for production in 2007/08. This means more money to our beneficiaries for outreach, scholarships, and other programs. By downloading and printing the *Log*, it will still be complete with all of the advertisements and articles in the same format that you currently enjoy reading. Other geoscience societies, including AAPG, have adopted digital access to documents as a way of controlling costs and conserving resources. To receive the *Log* online, notify the NOGS office at (504) 561-8980, or email Annette Hudson at info@nogs.org, and visit the NOGS website at www.nogs.org and go to the NOGS *Log* link. By taking this one small step, you will enhance NOGS' role as an important contributor to our recovering region and local geoscience community.

We thank you for your help.

Robert Rooney
Editor - NOGS *Log*



NOGS LOG EXPENSES 2006/2007

Month	Total Cost	Prints	Pages Per Issue	Printed Pages	Cost Per Page
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Aug-06	\$ 2,977.35	672	36	24,192	\$ 0.123
Sep-06	\$ 3,139.65	700	36	25,200	\$ 0.125
Oct-06	\$ 2,835.83	570	36	20,520	\$ 0.138
Nov-06	\$ 3,273.56	585	36	21,060	\$ 0.155
Dec-06	\$ 2,923.30	600	32	19,200	\$ 0.152
Jan-07	\$ 3,406.16	600	36	21,600	\$ 0.158
Feb-07	\$ 3,159.59	620	36	22,320	\$ 0.142
Mar-07	\$ 3,292.23	650	36	23,400	\$ 0.141
Total YTD	\$ 28,424.92				

Projection

Apr-07	\$ 3,340.00
May-07	\$ 3,340.00
Jun-07	\$ 3,340.00
Proj. Tot.	\$ 38,444.92

Budget \$ 35,600.00

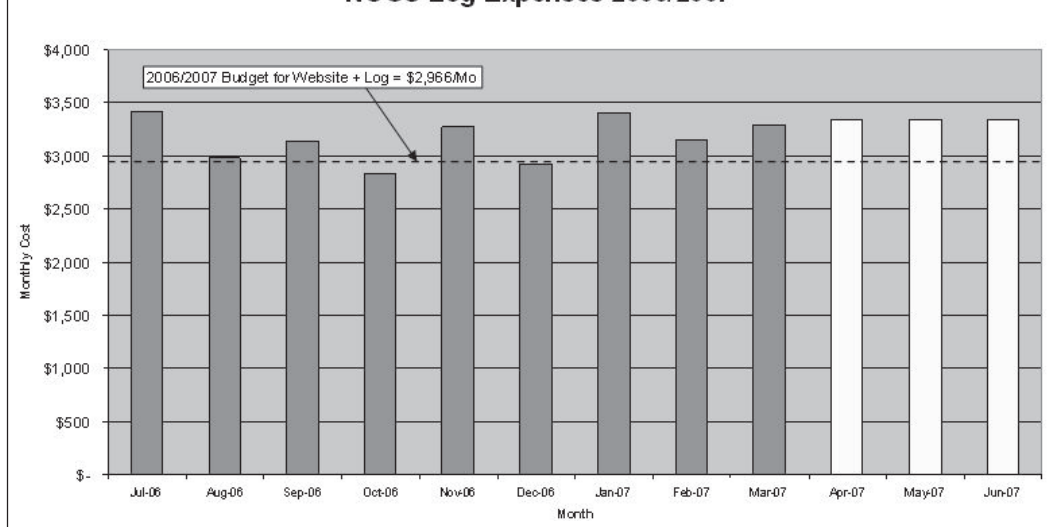
Projected Difference

2006/2007 **\$ (2,844.92)**

% of total by cost element

Website	2%
Postage	16%
Printing	45%
Layout	37%

NOGS Log Expenses 2006/2007



ROADSIDE GEOLOGY of LOUISIANA by Darwin Spearing



With the promise of a pleasant spring and its opportunities for “hitting the road” for quick weekend trips, you should consider taking along a copy of this fascinating and enlightening book — perhaps not so much for yourself, but for those in your traveling party who are not geologists, or for geologists not familiar with the geology of our fair State. Spearing has packed an enormous amount of information into this thin paperback volume of only 225 pages. It was originally published in 1995, with the second edition printed in January 2007. As he writes, the book is intended to explain the geology of Louisiana as seen from a car window. Also, he avoids the use of technical jargon and explains most things in plain, laymen’s language.

The author has divided the State into five regions and discusses each with a narrative associated with drives

along the State’s highways. About 2,600 miles are covered in the book. However, before he delves into these five regions, he presents a forty-four-page chapter as a geologic overview. Included are discussions of geologic time (a recurring and important theme throughout the book), geologic history of Louisiana (i.e. - the succession of the physical stratigraphy), the structure below the surface, salt domes, a discussion on oil and gas, other mineral deposits, a neat section on rivers in motion, a section on dynamic deltas, the Mississippi Fan, on how the Mississippi River grew, and a section on wetlands loss. This chapter alone has 53 illustrations! All are done with just two colors, black and red, and enhanced with shades of stippling. Believe it or not - all of the illustrations were re-drawn by the author for the book. Other chapters are equally well illustrated.

Spearing begins his regional trips with a chapter on “Southeast Louisiana *Uneasy Rivers, Marshes, and Deltas*” which embraces that area south of I-10 from Lafayette through Baton Rouge, to I-12 into Hammond and Slidell. His comments on the city of New Orleans include the statement “It would be hard to find a more difficult place to build a major city.” As my old mentor, Rufus LeBlanc, says anyone who builds a city on a delta is asking for trouble. Spearing elaborates on our struggle to stay “dry.” This section contains several excellent illustrations.

We next visit “Eastern Louisiana *Red Hills above Pontchartrain*” which are essentially the Florida parishes. The next chapter discusses the geology of “Southwest Louisiana *March to the Sea*” which includes that area south of I-10 from Lafayette to the Sabine River, essentially, Vermilion and Cameron parishes with their chenier plains. The chapter on “Central Louisiana *Great Rocks and Great Rivers*” includes the areas above I-10 to state highways from Many, Natchitoches, through Winnfield on to the Mississippi River at Ferriday. This chapter includes a good discussion of the Old River Control Structures we will visit on the NOGS-UNO Field Trip on April 12.

The final chapter “Northern Louisiana *Oldest Rocks, Highest Hills*” takes us to the Arkansas border

and has a discussion of the early days of the petroleum industry. Spearing points out that Louisianians were very brave in naming their highest elevation located just east of Shreveport “Driskill Mountain” even though it only rises to a lofty peak of 525 feet!

In addition to discussing the geology of the regions of the State, Spearing interweaves the role geomorphology plays in recognizing the dynamic processes that shaped the land. He is equally generous with discussions about Native American sites and activities. He concludes the book with an ample glossary, a list of references for additional information, and credits. Prominent among this list are individuals who have presented papers at NOGS luncheons: Whitney Autin, Jim Coleman, Woody Gagliano, Shea Penland, Harry Roberts, and H. Leighton Steward. Unfortunately, one of the primary references he suggests to those interested in the geology and geologic history of New Orleans is out of print, except on CD-ROM. This is the 1980 NOGS publication *Geology of Greater New Orleans* by J.O. Snowden, W.C. Ward, and J.R.J. Studlick.

Although the cover indicated this is a second edition, the inside front cover is more honest in stating that it is a reissue. The book had been out of print for over seven years and we are pleased to have it available once more. The only change is the addition of two pages concerning Hurricanes Katrina and Rita – one page of text and two maps.

Darwin Spearing is retired from Marathon Oil Company where he worked as an exploration manager and research geologist. In his retirement he has authored the *Roadside Geology of Texas* and the *Roadside Geology of Wyoming*. He has been a designer of museums as well as a national park ranger. His books are published by Mountain Press Publishing Company, P.O. Box 2399, Missoula, MT 59806. Tel: 406-728-1900 • 800-234-5308. The price of the book is \$20.00 with S&H charges of \$3.50.

Edward B. Picou, Jr.

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✂ **DNR clears way for state acreage to be available for leasing** (For Immediate Release: January 16, 2007; Map image links added: January 25, 2007) - 'The Department of Natural Resources' (DNR), Office of Mineral Resources announced today that it will be placing back on the market for mineral leasing approximately 46,000 acres in the next several weeks. The available acreage comes from parts of three existing state mineral leases which originated some 70 years ago.

According to DNR Secretary Scott Angelle, it was back in 1936, that the Mineral Board awarded State Leases 335, 340 and 341 to William Burton, who then, granted subleases to Texaco. While portions of these specific mineral leases are still viable, aggressive title and research work performed by the Office of Mineral Resources (OMR) has identified thousands of acres located in Vermillion, Iberia, St. Mary, and Terrebonne parishes to be cleared and released back to the state for future development and exploration. Angelle said, "This is a real big accomplishment, we stayed focused on obtaining the necessary documentation required in order to get further economic value from these old oil and gas fields."

The acreage includes approximately:

- 24,300 acres from the Lighthouse Point Field (from State Lease 340)
- 3,426 acres from the Mound Point Field (from State Lease 340)
- 5,156 acres from the Bayou Sale/Horseshoe Bayou Fields (from State Lease 340)
- 3,200 acres from the Rabbit Island Field (from State Lease 340)
- 3,782 acres from the West Cote Blanche Bay Field (from State Lease 340)
- 1,061 acres from the Bateman Lake Field (from State Lease 341)
- 5,500 acres from the Delacroix Island Field (from State Lease 335)

The State Mineral Board has the authority to advertise and grant leases on land and water bottoms that belong to the state. Secretary Angelle and State Mineral Board Secretary Marjorie McKeithen have worked together over many months now, and they give credit to the OMR staff of specialists for the coordinated effort. The state treasury would collect rental, royalties and bonuses from these newly released areas once lease awards are granted by the Board.

Louisiana Oil and Gas Association (LOGA) President Don Briggs said, "Knowing that opportunity is knocking at the door, is always a good thing for our members and for the state. I think the department has been real aggressive in looking for an edge for Louisiana's oil and gas industry. This is great."

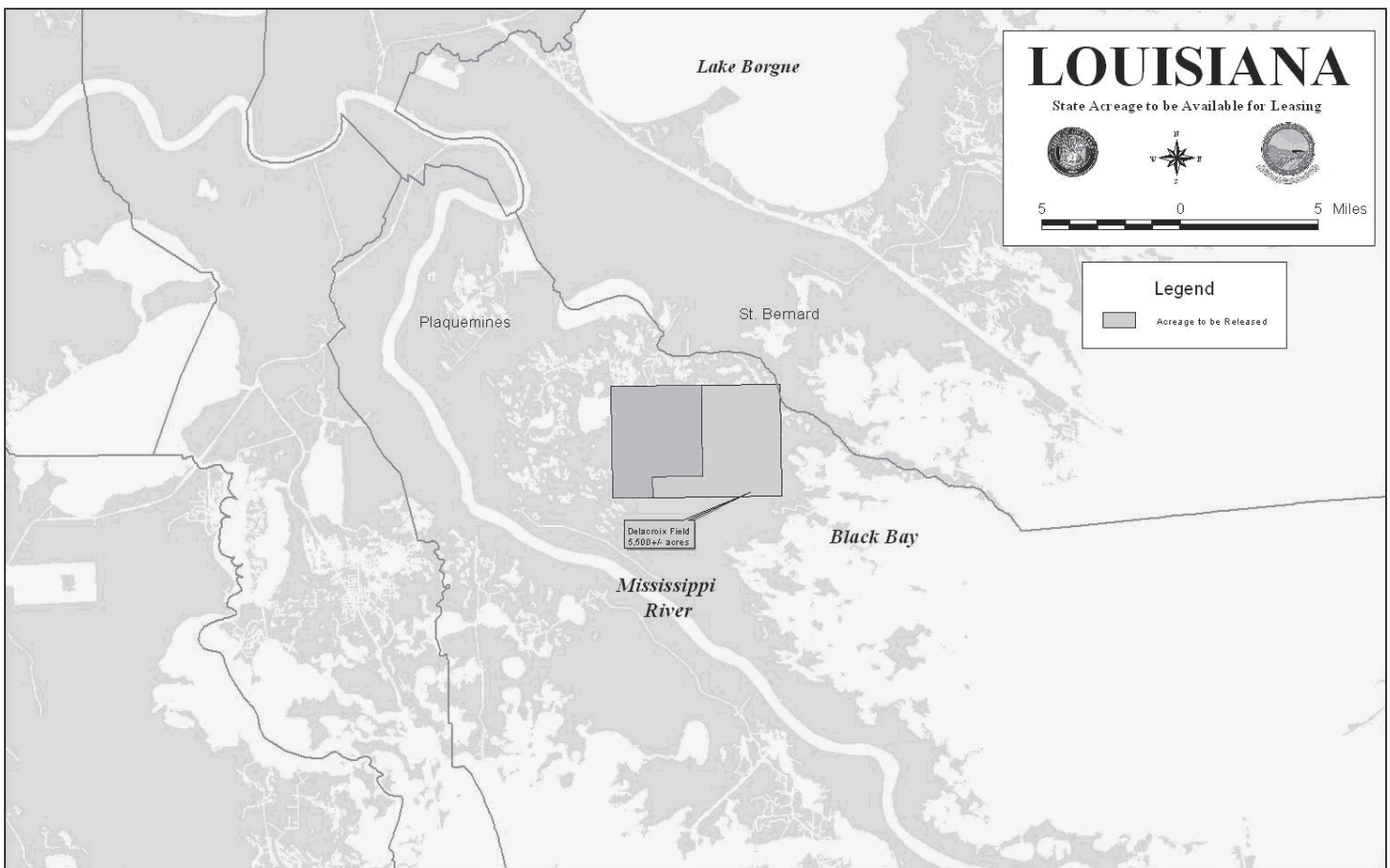
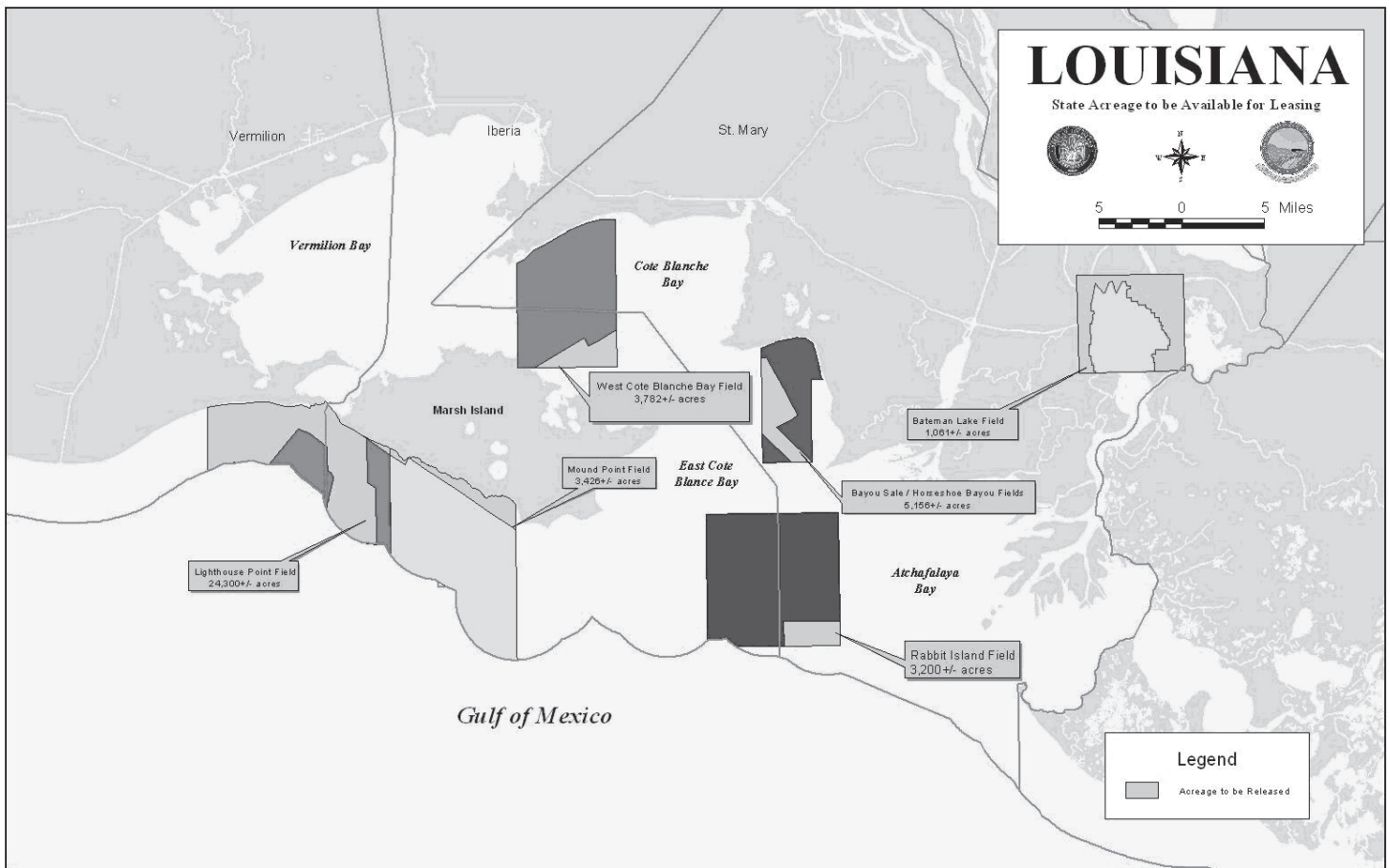
McKeithen noted, "This is a momentous occasion in Louisiana's oil and gas history, and I am proud to be part of it. In the course of our work here at DNR, we will remain vigilant in ways to broaden our economic opportunities, while we do things in an environmentally responsible way."

Source: <http://dnr.louisiana.gov/sec/execdiv/pubinfo/newsr/2007/0116min-acreage-leasing.ssi>

For more information, please contact the DNR Public Information Office Phyllis Darensbourg or OMR Assistant Secretary Marjorie McKeithen at 225-342-8955.

Robert Rooney





PETROLEUM GEOLOGY FOR NON GEOLOGISTS

**Friday April 20, 2007
8:30AM to 3:30PM
Chevron Building
935 Gravier Street - Rm 1149**

The New Orleans Geological Society is presenting a one day course on "Petroleum Geology for Non Geologists". The course will consist of a brief introduction to Basic Geology, followed by a review of how oil and gas are formed, how they are concentrated into reservoirs, the geological and geophysical methods used in exploration, and an overview of drilling and completion practices.

This course should be of significant benefit and interest to anyone who in one way or another works with geologists and geological data, such as land personnel, secretaries, draftsmen and computer programmers and processors.

Instructors will be: Duncan Goldthwaite, Consulting Geologist; Robert Branson, Consultant Geologist; Bruce Robertson, Consultant Geologist; and Devi Subramaniam, Drill Site Manager, Chevron.

Cost is \$35.00 per participant. Course notes and refreshments provided.

Make check out to the New Orleans Geological Society and mail to the address below, or call the NOGS office to give credit card information.

Mailing Address:
New Orleans Geological Society
Ste 300
810 Union St
New Orleans, LA 70112
(504) 561-8980
Email: info@nogs.org

When registering, please give your name, your work or home address and telephone number and company affiliation.

Volunteers are needed for Super Science Saturday April 7th 11a.m. -3 p.m.

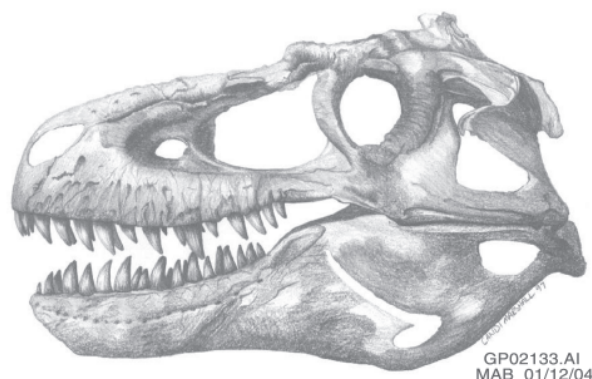
We are three weeks away from Super Science Saturday and need more volunteers to man the various stations. We will have hands on displays of fossils, an oil finder game, and other interesting activities.

Please pass this along to other earth scientists in your organization who may not be NOGS members. We are looking for people to do 2 hour shifts 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. and 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

The stations are attention grabbing and easy to learn. See the announcement on page 23 for more details.

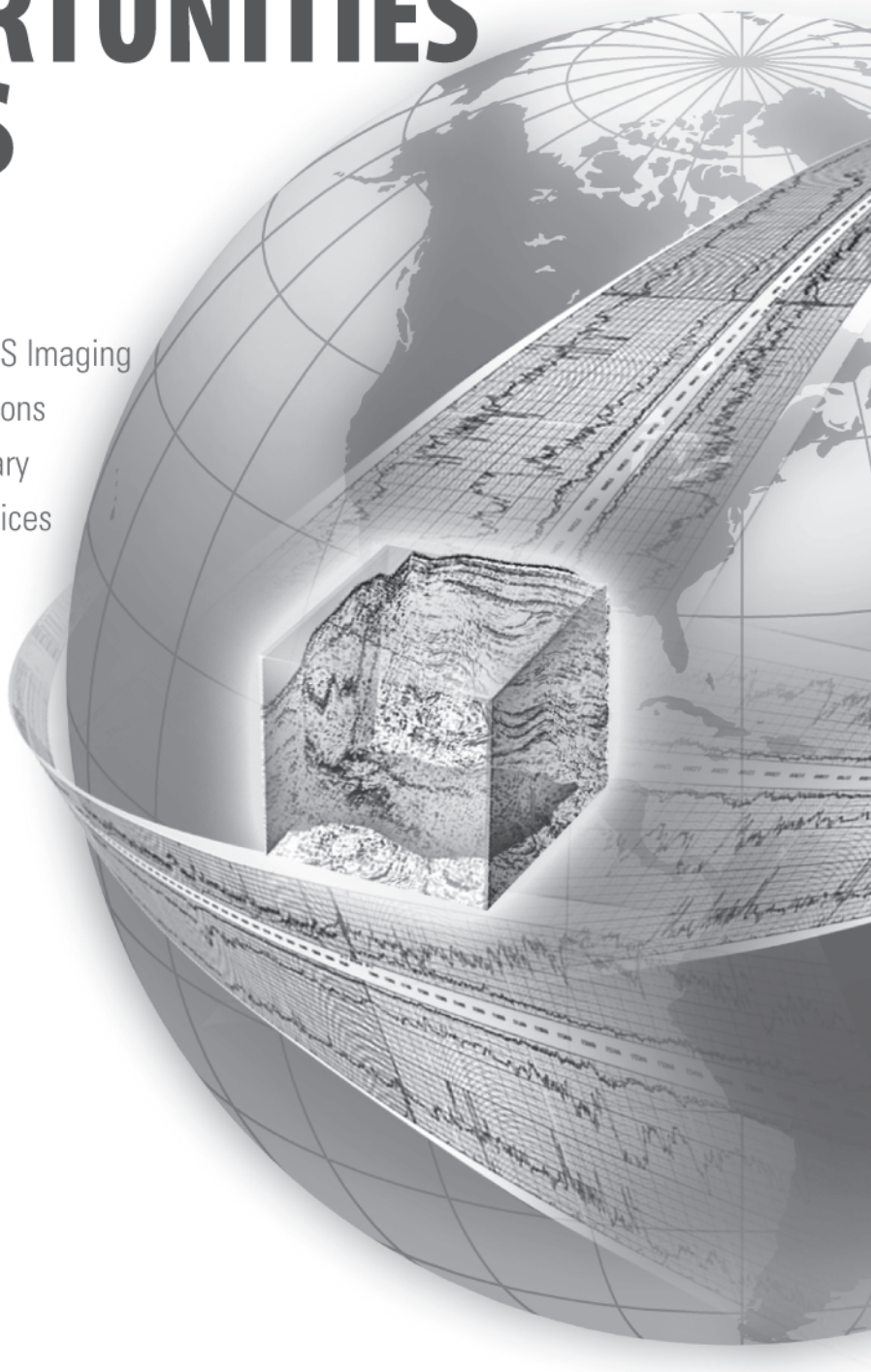
Please respond to Tom Bergeon via email at tom.bergeon@centuryx.com to volunteer.

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--- continued from page 3 ---

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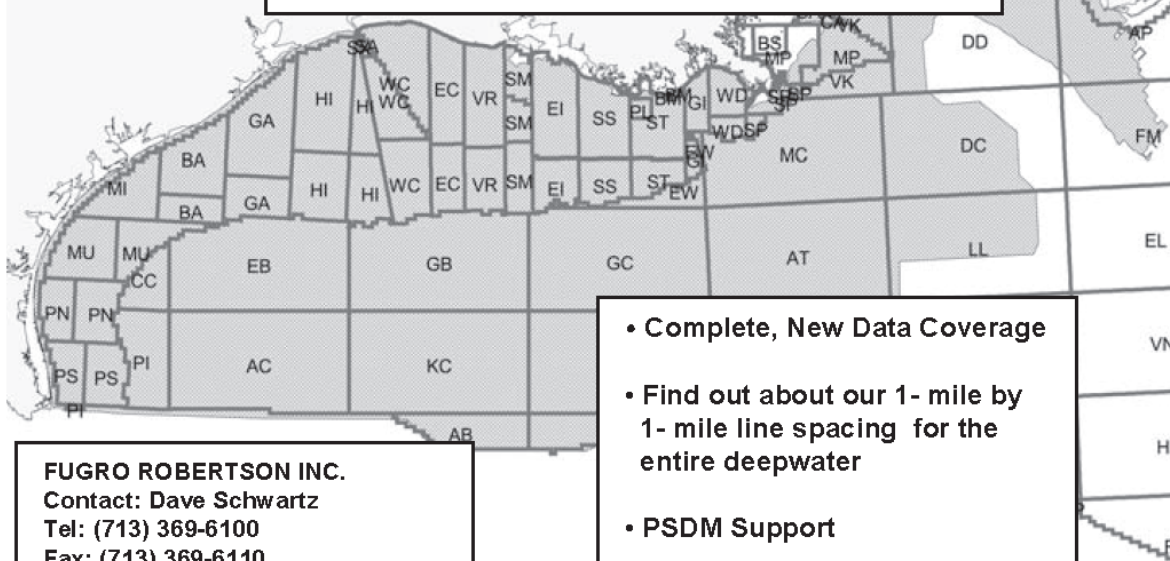
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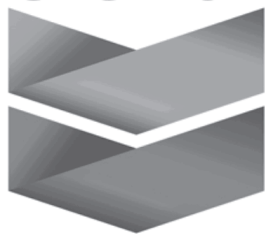
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South Louisiana and Offshore Exploration and Production Activity

- Wood Mackenzie on 1-Feb-07 completed a review of deepwater exploration activity in the Gulf of Mexico in its latest report entitled 'Treasures of the Deep - A Review of 2006 Exploration'. Wood Mackenzie's analysis picks out the key themes of 2006, examines the top discoveries and looks at the main players in the regions.

Zoe Sutherland, Gulf of Mexico Analyst for Wood Mackenzie, said: "2006 was an exceptional year for exploration in the Deepwater Gulf of Mexico, indicating a return to form for the region which has seen disappointing reserve additions in the last 2 years".

Wood Mackenzie's report finds the success rate for 2006 is on a par with recent years with early reserve estimates suggesting total reserves in the region of 1.5 billion barrels of oil equivalent. Actual reserves numbers, yet to be booked by the companies, could prove to be smaller, WoodMac noted. This is exceptional when compared to 2004 and 2005 when estimates fell below one billion barrels, although over the last 10 years, oil and gas reserves in the deepwater GoM averaged 1.2 billion boe/year.

The key highlights of 2006, say Wood Mackenzie, are the two major discoveries by BP at Kaskida, which could prove to be one of the most significant recent discoveries in the region, and Hess at Pony. Together, these two fields account for over half the reserves discovered in the region during the year.

Sutherland said; "The successes of 2006 shows that there is still the potential for big finds to be made in the Gulf of Mexico and it remains one of the top deepwater hunting grounds in the world".

The report says that while the number of wells drilled in 2006 improved only marginally on 2005, the number of days spent drilling increased by nearly 30%. Wood Mackenzie recognizes this as a reflection of the growing trend towards deeper and more complex drilling. This has led to an average drill time for an exploration well in the deep water reaching over 100 days.

Undoubtedly spurred by the success of the Lower Tertiary in more remote areas of the Gulf, 2006 saw operators extend the search for the play into waters closer to shore. BP drilled its Tamara prospect in Garden Banks, north of Keathley Canyon and Hess spudded a well at Jack Hays in Port Isabel, the most westerly test of the play so far.

Wood Mackenzie say that, in terms of discovered reserves, the independent Hess comes out a winner thanks to its 100% interest in Pony and that BP tops the ranks of the supermajors following the Kaskida discovery.

- Dominion E & P sale update. On 13-February, Reuters reported that Dominion Resources Inc. is pursuing the sale of its oil and gas exploration business in parts after offers for the entire group of assets failed to meet its expectations, sources familiar with the situation said.

Dominion was seeking more than \$15 billion for the assets, a figure that proved to be too high for the private equity consortiums that had initially shown some interest, sources said.

The company's advisors recently began seeking buyers for smaller groups of assets, sources said. A Dominion spokesman declined to comment. Dominion had wanted to sell the assets in one process to simplify the sale. However, sources also said that it would consider selling it in parts. Dominion said it planned to start a formal auction in mid-February.

Last month, two private equity dominated consortiums looked at buying the E & P business as a group of assets. Sources said Dominion had actually helped put together those consortiums.

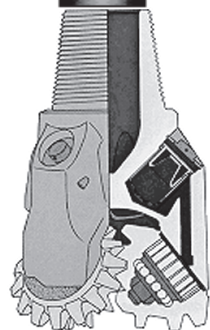
However, Blackstone, part of one of the private equity consortiums, cooled on the deal early, sources said, and that group lost momentum. The other, which included Morgan Stanley and Goldman Sachs Group as well as several private equity firms, was put off by the price, sources said.

That latter consortium abandoned its effort when its offer - which sources said was worth up to \$13 billion - was deemed too low. At least three oil and gas companies also were unable to come up with high enough prices, sources said.

The properties include the deepwater Gulf of Mexico, West Texas, the mid-continent and the Rockies as well as the Western Canadian sedimentary basin. It can be difficult to sell a diverse package of exploration and production assets, sources said. Consequently, the assets are now being marketed as four packages, one source familiar with the situation said, with packages of eastern U.S. properties, western U.S. properties, offshore properties and Canadian properties.

The company is still looking for at least \$15 billion based on the prices for each asset, the source said.

"Their (Dominion's) value expectations are way too high," the source said.



- Maersk Oil, via subsidiaries, entered into a joint venture exploration agreement with ExxonMobil in the deep water US Gulf of Mexico on 14-February. Under the agreement, Maersk acquired a 50% share in ExxonMobil's interests in 37 leases in the central Gulf of Mexico. The leases cover a total area of some 213,000 acres, in water depths ranging from 4,500 - 7,900 ft. The joint venture agreement does not change the operatorship in any of the affected leases. The assignment of interests to Maersk Oil is subject to approval by the US Department of Interior's Minerals Management Service (MMS). The joint venture partnership will embark on an exploration program, with the first well due to be drilled shortly. This represents a further activity for A. P. Moller - Maersk in the deep water US Gulf of Mexico following its earlier entry into a similar exploration joint venture agreement with Hess Corporation. Maersk Oil has established an office in Houston, Texas, for the purpose of its US business.

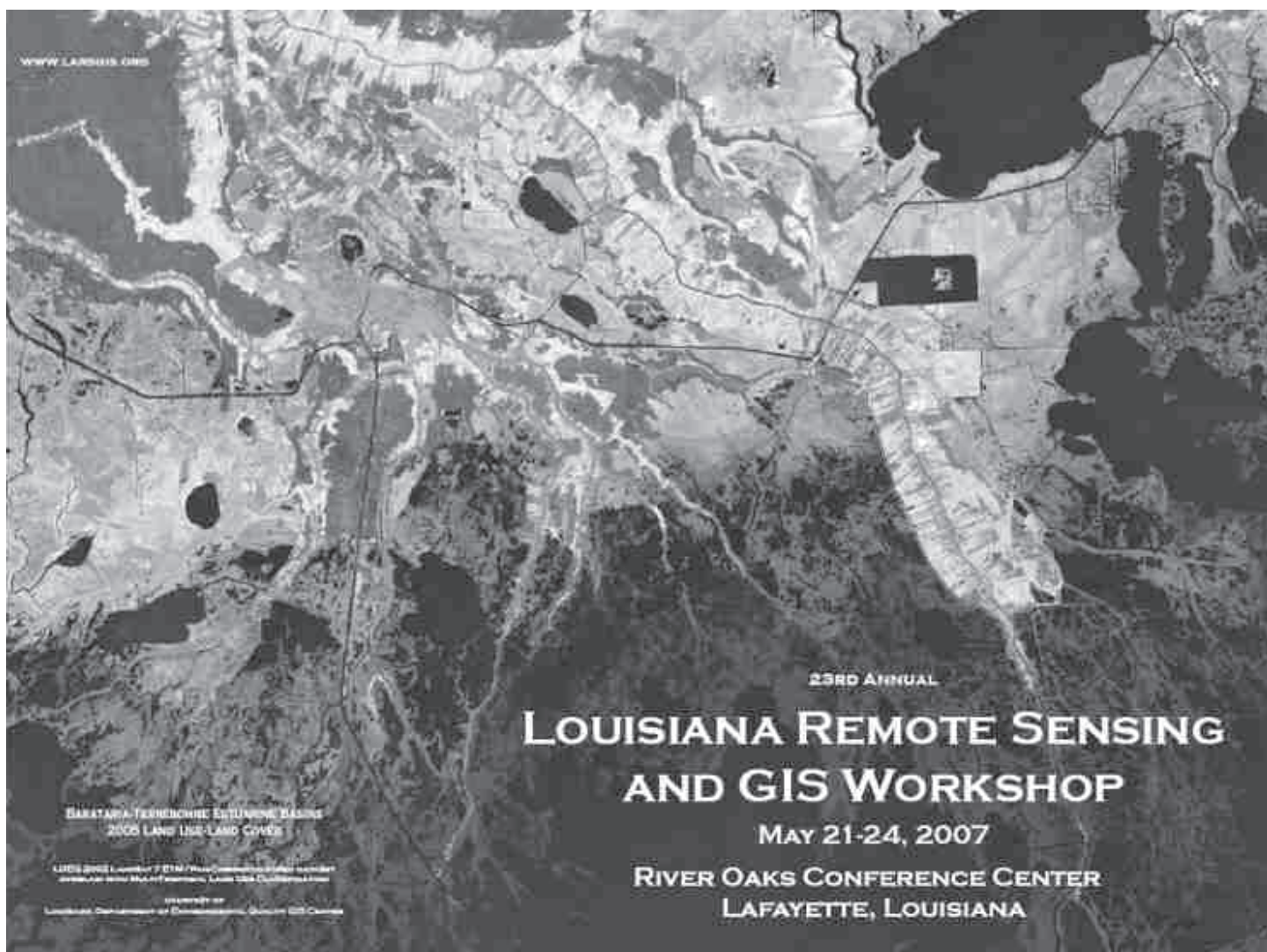
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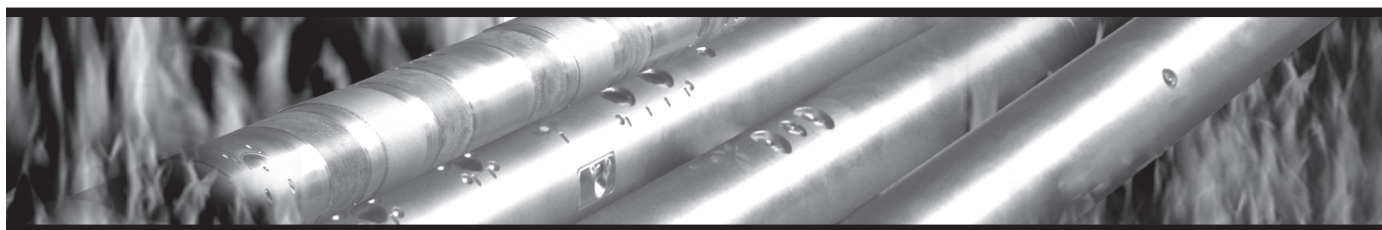
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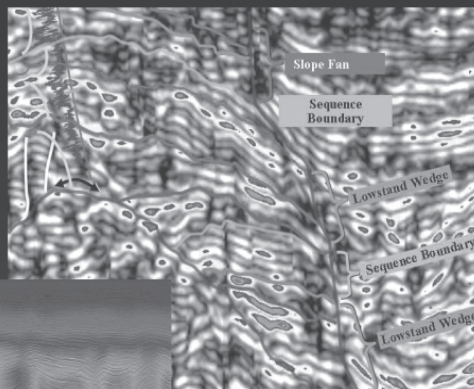
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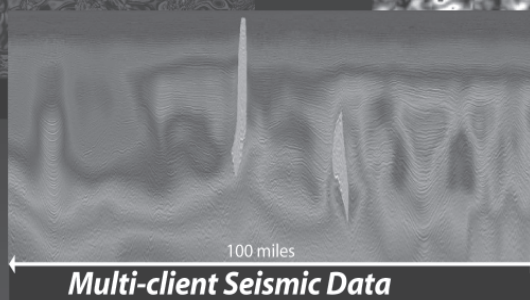
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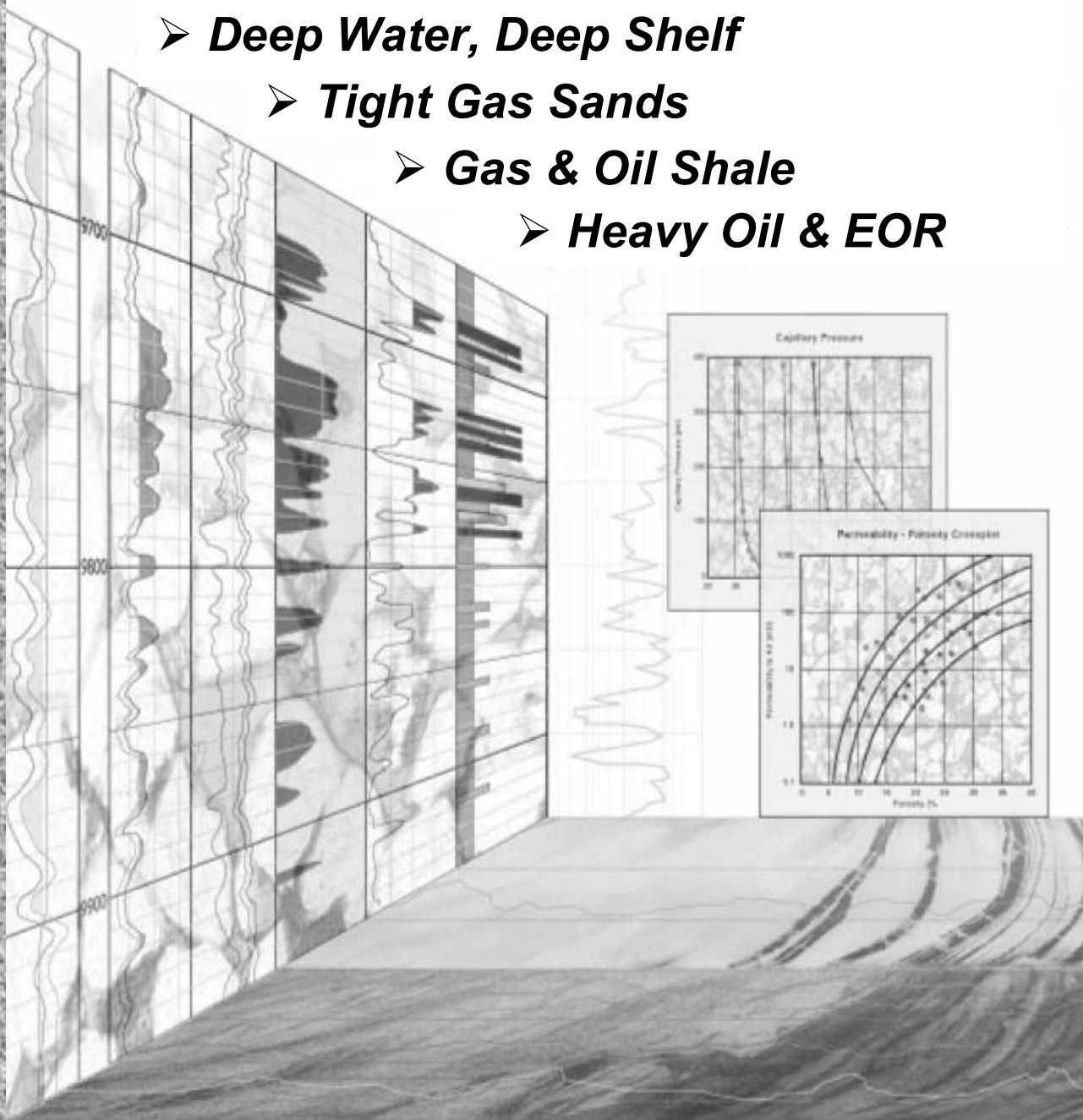
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Geological Auxiliary News

The ladies of the Auxiliary enjoyed a delicious luncheon at Longbranch Restaurant in Abita Springs on February 7th. Ann Dale, a gemologist and jewelry designer in Mandeville, gave a very interesting presentation on gemstones and jewelry. Everyone enjoyed a delightful day and a chance to get together on the Northshore. Many thanks to Chairman Mary Walther and her committee of Amber Klekamp and Trez Zotkiewicz for a wonderful job in planning a great day!

The NOGA Nominating Committee, consisting of Beverly Christina, June Perret, Ruth Ingram, Trez Zotkiewicz and Beverly Kastler has asked the present officers and board to remain in their positions for one additional year. Several of the ladies had shortened terms last year due to Hurricane Katrina. They have all graciously agreed to stay on the board and we all appreciate the great job they are doing to keep the auxiliary active. We hope that everyone has been able to take part in some of our events this year! We are asking for a change in the NOGA By-Laws, Article V - Officers and Directors. It presently reads, "No officer shall serve more than two (2) consecutive terms." We would like to make an addition to that to also read "unless unusual circumstances warrant an extension, which must be approved by the board." Hopefully, we won't experience another Katrina, but this gives the board the option to extend an officer's term of service, if necessary.

The Auxiliary extends deepest sympathy to Susan Danielson and her family on the loss of her husband, Daryl. We always enjoyed seeing Dan at the many NOGS and NOGA events and will miss his smiling face. Our thoughts and prayers are with their family.

President Susie Baker will soon be mailing the ballot and dues letter to members. We hope that you will consider serving on a committee this next year. Many people do say yes when asked, but we would really appreciate it if you would volunteer! We are also looking for suggestions of places for luncheons and speakers for our events, and also volunteers for homes for our September luncheon and Spring Social! Don't be shy! Please step up and volunteer!

Our next event is our Spring Social, which will be held on Saturday, March 31 at the beautiful Metairie home of Ann and Louis Gilbert. This is the one time during the year when our spouses or special guest are invited to join us for a festive evening. Committee Chairmen Carol Andrews, June Perret and Jean Jones have been hard at work planning a special night for us. We hope that all of you will make an extra effort to join in the fun!

Beverly Kastler
NOGA Member-at-Large

NOGA Application Form

Dues: \$15.00

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Home phone _____

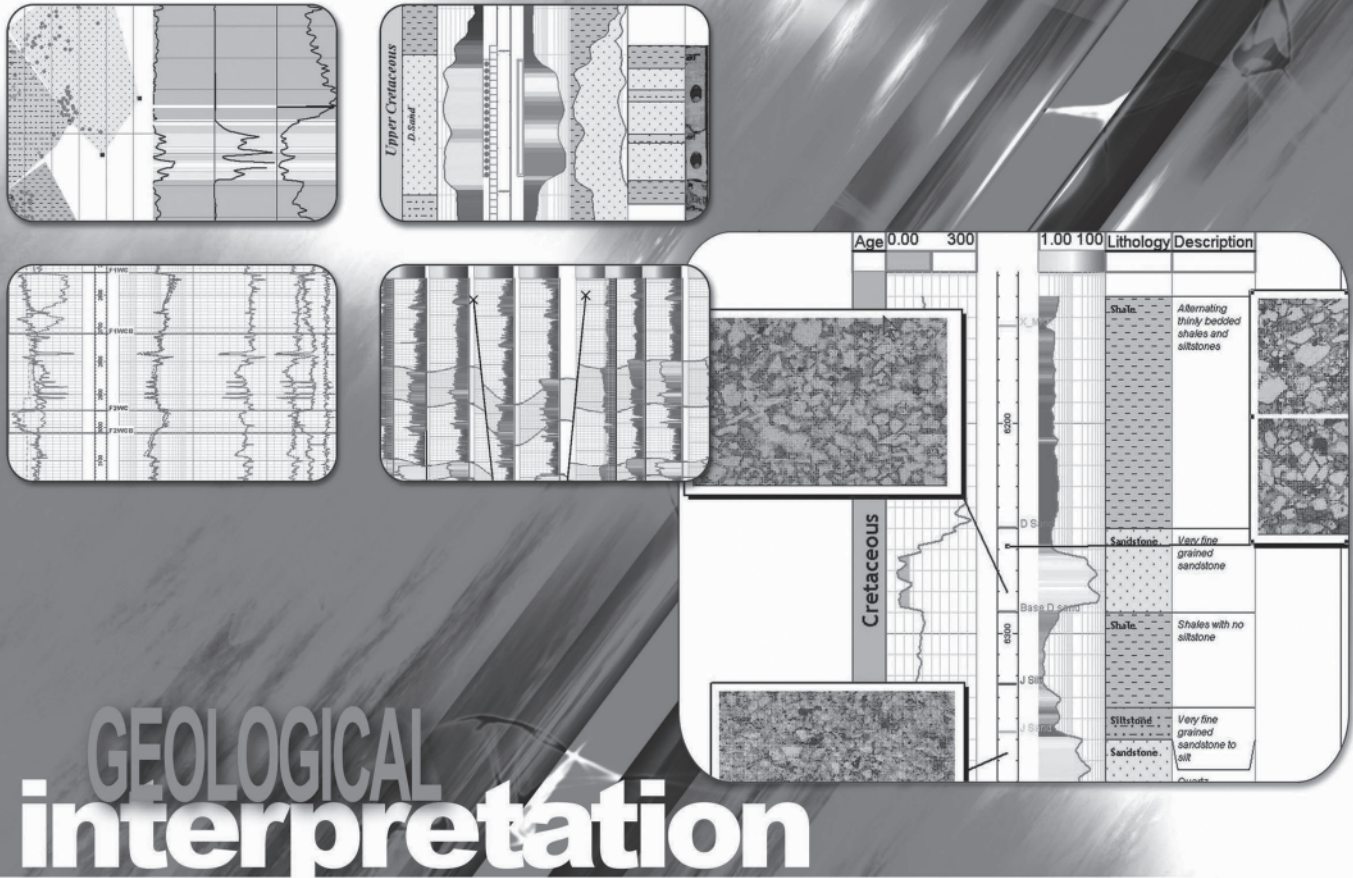
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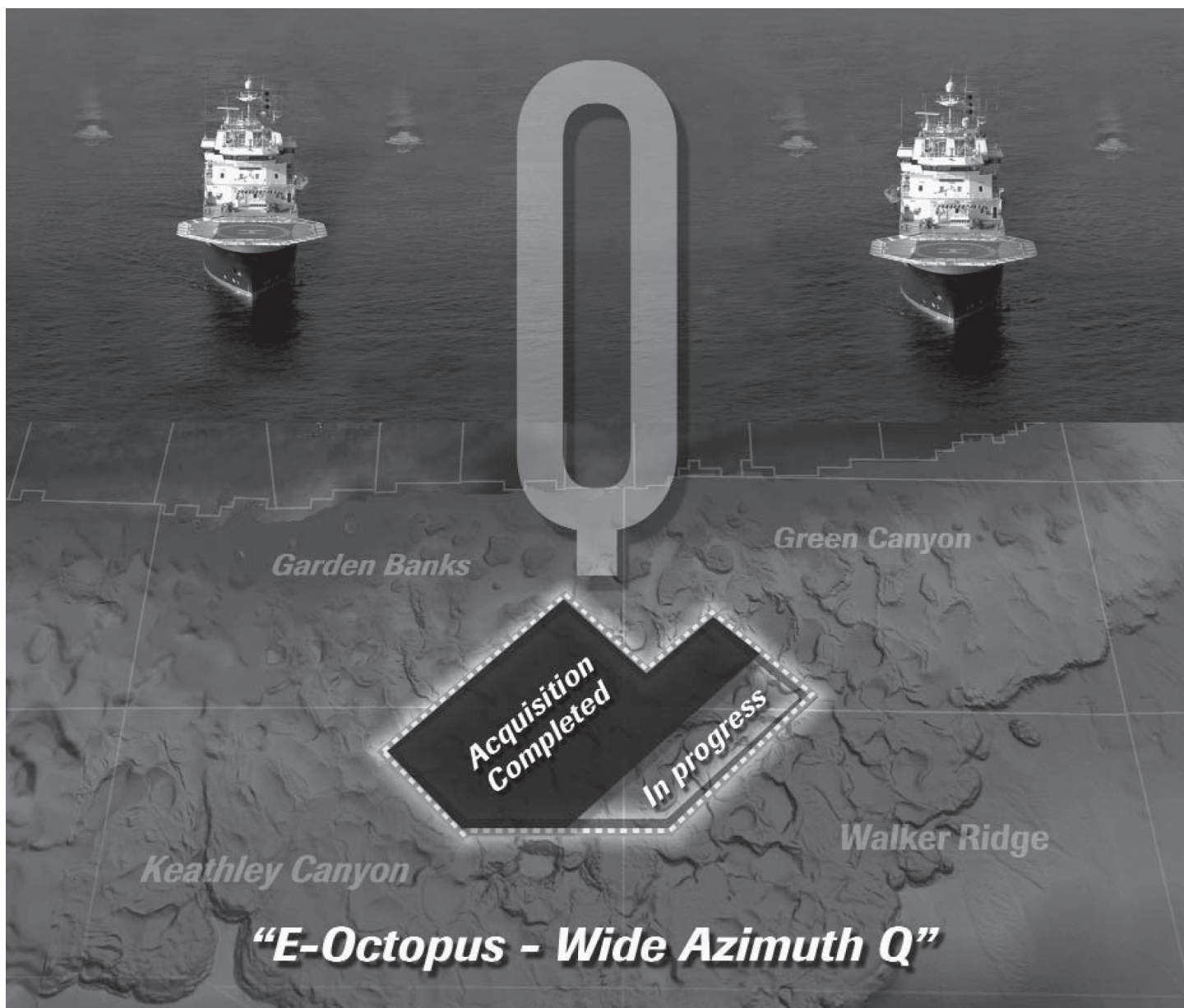
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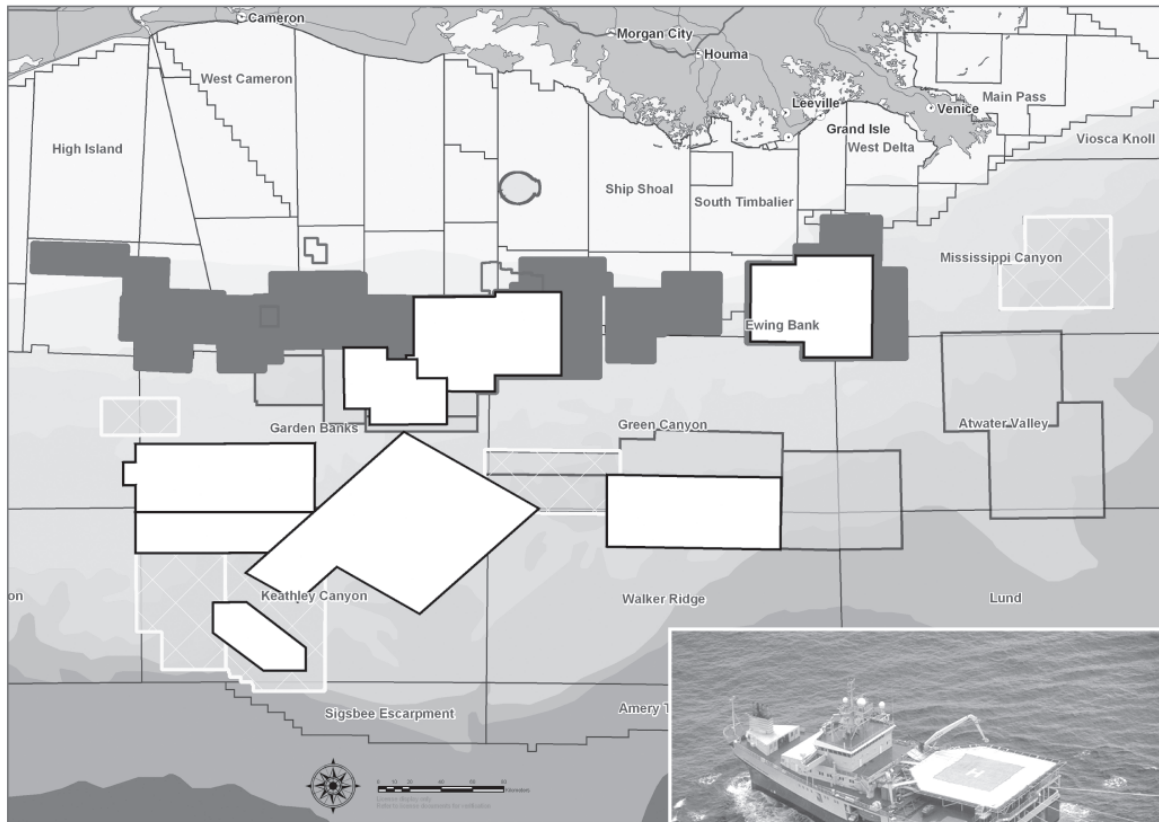
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Did you endlessly search the NOGS website last month to find the trivia question? Sorry but due to a technical error, the question was not there to be found. Start searching again as this month's trivia question is waiting for you to answer! You can be one of this month's lucky winners, so don't delay.



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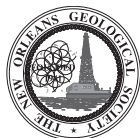
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