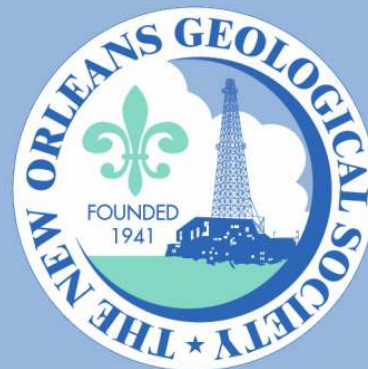


NOGS LOG



July 2008

Volume 49, Number 1

Upcoming Events and Activities

July 14 - NOGS Luncheon

*** At the Holiday Inn Downtown Superdome ***

Free validated parking in hotel garage

Guest speaker Dr. Mead Allison, Institute for Geophysics, University of Texas at Austin, will present: "Sediment Dynamics in the Tidal and Estuarine Reach of the Mississippi River: Controlling Processes and Sediment Availability for Coastal Restoration."

(See Page 7 for Abstract and Biography)

Guest poster presenter Bonnie McLindon, a student at St. Joseph's Academy in Baton Rouge, will present her poster on "Gulf Hypoxic Zones: Forecasting with Laboratory and Mathematical Simulations."

(See Page 8 for Abstract and Biography)

HOLIDAY INN DOWNTOWN SUPERDOME

ADMISSION:

Check with concierge or
front desk for location

Lunch served at 11:30am

with reservation \$30.00

without reservation \$35.00

Student Member with reservation Free

July 18 - 2008 Flood Protection Geological Symposium: Geologic Facts of Life for Flood Protection

9:30 a.m. - 12 noon, at Orleans Levee District Auditorium, 6500 Spanish Fort Blvd

Presenters include, Dr. Juan Lorenzo, Dr. Michael Miner, and Dr. Ivor van Heerden.

See page 14 for more information.

August 7-8 - Deepwater Technology Seminar

At the Hilton Riverside. See announcement on page 23.

August 11 - NOGS Luncheon

Luncheon guest speaker will be Roger Young, Petrophysicist and CTO of eSeis, Inc. who will present: "Relating Depositional Facies to the Seismic AVO Response."

August 12 - PTTC Seminar

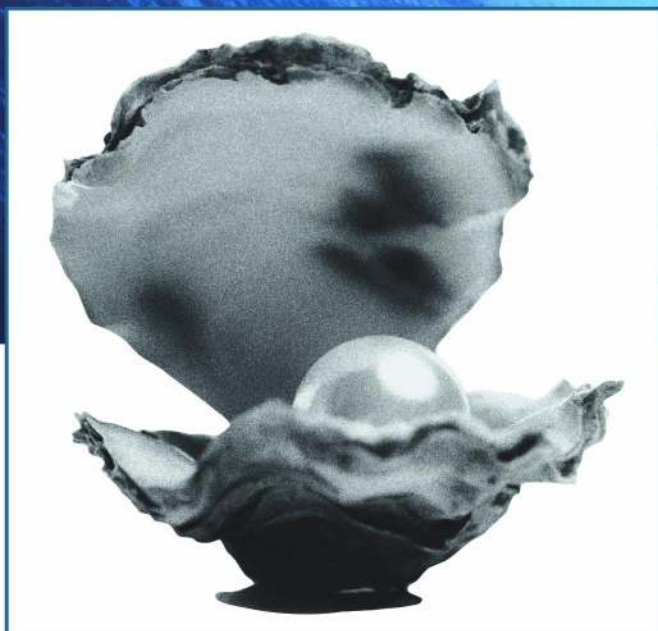
Dr. Ernie Mancini will present: "Sequence Stratigraphy and its application to petroleum exploration in onshore Mesozoic Salt Basins, Gulf Coastal Plain." See page 27 for more information.

September 19 - NOGS Kickoff Party

7-10:00pm at New City Grill in Metairie. \$35 per person, cash bar.

More information in the August LOG.

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

Sent to press on June 24, 2008.

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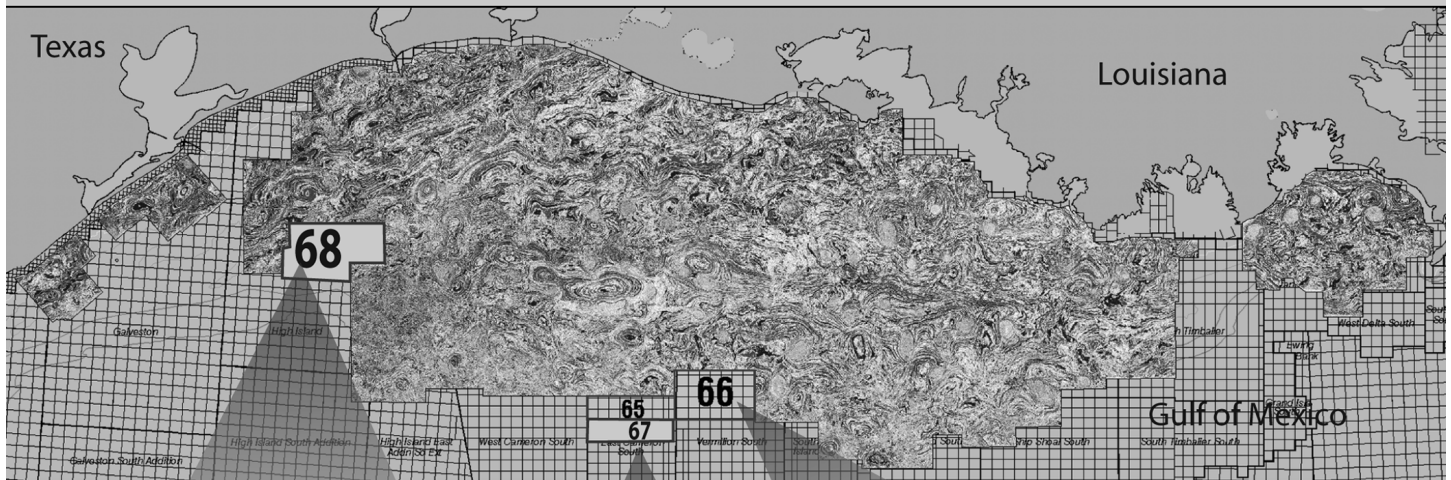
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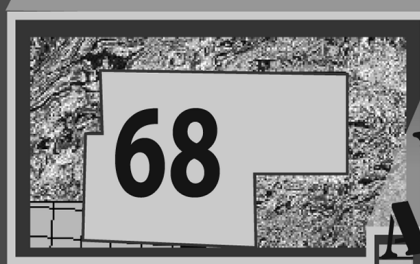
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from the President

A new fiscal year for NOGS has begun. Still as the outgoing President-elect and Chairman of the Entertainment and one-time-only Chairman of Nominations, I would like to thank our committee members with special thanks to NOGA (in particular, Susie Baker) for their help with the "Kick Off" and Holiday Parties. Acknowledgements to Al Porter, Jeff Jandegian, and Annette Hudson for our most successful Golf Tournament since Katrina, plus the 22 volunteers, and especially Diversified Logging and Halliburton. Thanks again to Annette and Tim Maciejewski for assistance with our fun outing at Zephyr's Stadium.

The members of the Nominations Committee (Al, Ed, Carlos, and Dave) again did an outstanding job this year. I personally found it difficult to mark my ballot, the choices were all good. We also had an excellent slate of candidates for the AAPG House of Delegates. It was an honor to have two of our members receive the API's Meritorious Service Awards-Duncan Goldthwaite and Mike Fein.

The new NOGS Board has been elected. Tom Klekamp is already in pursuit of the entertainment calendar for the coming year and is investigating possible Field Trips. Allan Melillo is working on this year's speakers program. Jim Swaney and Fran Wiseman are experienced hands currently working for the MMS and it is good to have some new faces on the Board. Dr. Clare Falcon, incoming editor-elect, has been involved with several newsletters and publications in the past. Scott Wainwright is a Past President, Past Chairman of the Board of Trustees and has served on several committees. His experience and

advice will be appreciated during the coming three years as a Director. Dr. Mike Miner as Editor-elect has been preparing all year to replace our exceptional editor Tim Piwowar.

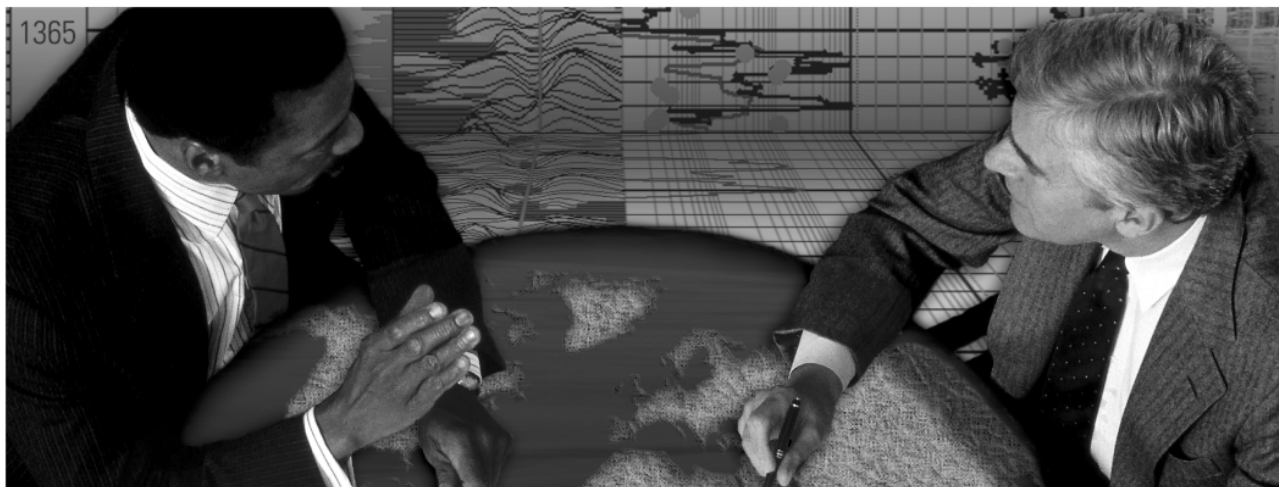
Special thanks to Art whose enthusiasm, expertise, and energy have represented us so well to many societies and outreach groups. Also special thanks to our outgoing Board and all the committee heads.

Our challenges this year are great-keeping contact with our members on the move (even if only to the North Shore), buyouts, the fluctuations in the marketplace, keeping our members informed, and having access to the best data and continuing education. Our outreach programs are expanding and we need VOLUNTEERS, VOLUNTEERS, AND MORE VOLUNTEERS.

With Crude at \$123, 133, and 127, I'm reminded of an event shortly after the Chevron/Gulf merger. It was annual review time and I had nothing in the file on a former Gulf hand, so I placed a call to his former supervisor who was then in London. His assistant answered the phone and in the distance I heard a shuffling and running of feet. "Sorry Bill," an out-of-breath harried supervisor exclaimed, "Brent Crude just dropped to \$10 a barrel and were keeping a 'tight pucker' around here!"

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July 14 Luncheon Presentation

See page 8 for Luncheon Poster Presentation Abstract and Biography

*** at the Holiday Inn Downtown Superdome ***

Sediment Dynamics in the Tidal and Estuarine Reach of the Mississippi River: Controlling Processes and Sediment Availability for Coastal Restoration

presented by

Dr. Mead Allison

Institute for Geophysics, University of Texas at Austin

ABSTRACT

A series of studies of sediment transport in the lowermost Mississippi River channel conducted by my research group since 1999 have been focused upon understanding suspended and bedload sediment transport. The lower river can be divided into three zones with distinct sediment transport regimes: an estuarine zone of salt wedge penetration, which is typically limited to below Venice, but historically has extended to New Orleans; a tidal, freshwater zone that can extend between Baton Rouge and New Orleans; and a the river-dominated zone further upriver. The tidal zone is a reach where at least 10% of the river's annual suspended sediment budget is stored at lower discharges in shallow reaches. Estuarine trapping of a similar portion of the suspended muds also takes place in the mainstem in this discharge phase. The muds from both areas are remobilized on the rising discharge limb, significantly altering the timing of sediment supply to the shelf over what is predicted from non-tidal gauging stations upriver.

Repeat multi-beam bathymetric mapping methodologies we developed for measuring bedload sand transport in the lower river have shown much lower transport rates than previously thought: at least 90% of the sand flux to the Gulf in the lower river is in suspension, focused during high discharge. There is also a complex spatial aspect, where sand fields (bars) are limited to straight reaches and sand leaps the high energy bends in suspension. A downriver survey from English Turn to Head of Passes reveals that as much as 30% of the river bed has no modern sediment cover: it is floored by relict fluvio-deltaic strata, which classifies the lower Mississippi as a "mixed alluvial-bedrock" channel type. All of these observed processes have implications for mining channel sediment for coastal restoration using dredged pipeline conveyance or large sediment diversions. Fully quantifying processes and sinks for sediments in the lower river is a critical aspect for managing and apportioning this resource for land building/restoration in coastal Louisiana.

BIOGRAPHY

Mead Allison has a Ph.D. in Coastal Oceanography from the State University of New York (Stony Brook). He is presently Senior Research Scientist at the Institute for Geophysics, University of Texas at Austin, where he re-located in the summer of 2007. Prior to that he was in the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at Tulane University, where he achieved the rank of Full Professor. Mead's interests are in the sedimentology of the upper continental margin environments, focusing on Quaternary geologic evolution and

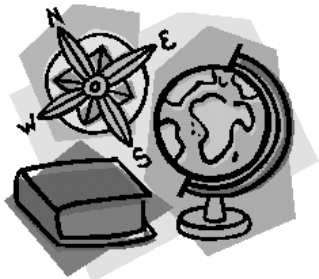
sedimentary processes of river-dominated continental margins. Since 1999, he has been involved in studies of the lower (tidal and estuarine) section of the Mississippi River aimed at understanding the processes of sediment storage and ultimate discharge to the shelf. These studies have also been directed toward developing an understanding of sediment resources in the lower river available for coastal restoration in South Louisiana.

THE LUNCHEON RESERVATION DEADLINE IS JULY 9, SO CALL THE NOGS OFFICE - TODAY!

“And Looking Ahead...”

The next NOGS Luncheon will be August 11 at the Holiday Inn Downtown Superdome. The guestspeaker will be Roger Young, Petrophysicist and CTO of eSeis, Inc. who will present: "Relating Depositional Facies to the Seismic AVO Response." Contact the NOGS office to make your reservation.

July 14 Luncheon Poster Presentation



Gulf Hypoxic Zones: Forecasting with Laboratory and Mathematical Simulations

presented by

Bonnie McLindon

Student, St. Joseph's Academy, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

ABSTRACT

The annual process of the formation of hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico was simulated in a laboratory microcosm to develop a laboratory protocol for predicting the magnitude of a hypoxic zone based on projected amounts of nutrients in Mississippi River runoff. For the first stage, the addition of nitrogen and phosphorus to pond water caused high algal growth and oxygen production. In the second step, high dissolved oxygen levels showed continued proliferation of algae. In the third step, sunlight for photosynthesis was removed from the microcosm. A source of atmospheric oxygen was removed as well through the placement of sealing wax. After five days in the 'no sunlight + no atmosphere' conditions, the water had become representative of the hypoxic hypolimnion. Whether used together or individually, nitrogen or phosphorus caused hypoxic conditions of the natural waters by a factor of two to five times. The laboratory microcosm or mathematical model:

$$A \times KR [C^{**}-CE] = A \times KT [CE-CH] + KRX \times VH \times CH$$

can be used to forecast the magnitude and extent of the toxicity of a hypoxic zone based on the projected addition of nutrients, temperature of the water, or lowest life sustaining level of dissolved oxygen in the hypolimnion. This mathematical model is a Lavoisier oxygen mass balances describing the rate and amount of oxygen diffusion through the water column and decomposing in the hypolimnion. The model does not account for the production of oxygen by algae in the epilimnion, therefore the C^{**} value is an immeasurable value which accounts for this production.

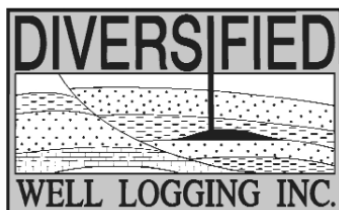
BIOGRAPHY

Bonnie McLindon, age 16 from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, attends St. Joseph's Academy in Baton Rouge, and will be a junior this fall. She competed at the school, regional, and state level in Louisiana Science and Engineering Fairs (LSEF) and was selected to attend the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) in Atlanta, Georgia this spring. At the state level, McLindon placed third overall, first in category, and received the NOAA, Navy, Air Force, Association for Women Geoscientists, and Marine Technology Society Awards. After a week of competition in Atlanta, McLindon received the Association for Women Geoscientists Award First Place at the international level, as well as first place in the category of Earth and Planetary Scientists. She was also chosen as one of the top 16 projects for the Best in Category Award. Bonnie plans to continue her research project for next year's competition.



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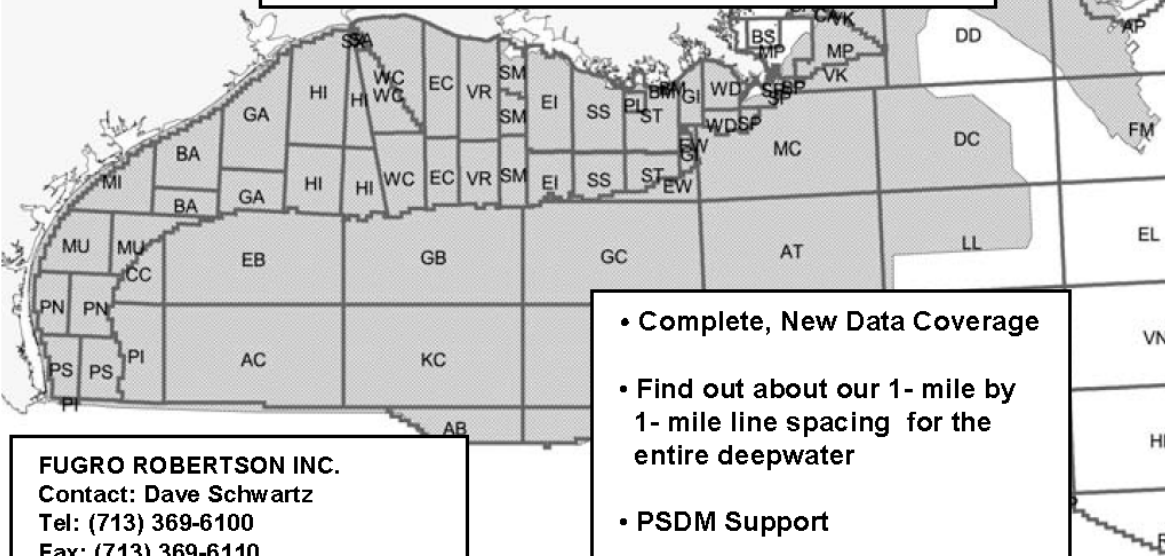
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Geological Facts of Life for Flood Protection in Coastal Louisiana – A Symposium

Date: Friday, July 18, 2008

Time: 9:30 a.m. – 12 noon

**Location: Orleans Levee District Meeting Room
6500 Spanish Fort Blvd.**

Presentations by:

Dr. Juan Lorenzo – LSU

Dr. Michael Miner – UNO

Dr. Ivor van Heerden – LSU

Please note that the Symposium is free and open to all

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Southeast Flood Protection Authority – West

For Information call: 504-561-8980

The Graying of Petroleum Historians

Jeff Spencer

(jspencer@blackpoolenergy.com)

The International Oil Symposium was held May 7-10th in Sarnia and Petrolia, Ontario, Canada. The Petroleum History Institute and the Petroleum History Society sponsored the event, which was hosted by the Ontario Petroleum Institute. “Oil Springs, Ontario

150 Years Back to the Future” was the theme of the symposium, which included two days of oral and poster presentations, followed by an oil heritage tour throughout Lambton County, Ontario. One of the many highlights of the tour was visiting the oil producing properties of Fairbank Oil, a fourth generation family operation, currently run by Charles Fairbank III (Charlie). Here, Charlie “pumped oil in the same place using the same technology” as his great-grandfather.



Symposium attendees represented museums and other historical groups, as well as several authors, trying to preserve our oil heritage and document its history. It was not a large group, and certainly not a young group, but it was a passionate group! It was also a concerned group. Discussions included not only the “graying” of petroleum historians, but also the lack of interest in our oil heritage, not just by the general public, but also by much of our own industry. Local historians are clearly doing much of the historical research with little financial support from the industry, or co-operation in making industry archives available for research.

In 2009, our industry celebrates the 150th anniversary of the Drake well. The annual Oil Symposium will take place in Titusville, PA from May 14-16. The following month (June 7-10), AAPG’s Annual Convention will take place in Denver. Several members of AAPG’s history committee are also members of the Petroleum History Institute. Plans are to work together to include oil history/heritage as part of the 2009 Convention.

“Celebrating the Story – Progress from Petroleum” is the theme of Oil 150, a group from the oil region of Pennsylvania (www.Oil150.com). This group hopes “to enhance the American public’s troubled image of the U.S. petroleum industry by focusing on the historical achievements of early oil pioneers and the men and women who followed in later decades.” Representatives from Oil 150 attended the 2008 Symposium and will be very much involved in the 2009 Symposium.

Several excellent websites contain information about North America’s petroleum heritage, including:

www.albertasource.ca/petroleum,

www.petroleumhistory.org,

www.petroleumhistory.ca, and

www.aoghs.org.



2008 Joint Annual Meeting

Celebrating the International Year of Planet Earth

5 - 9 October 2008 | Houston, Texas, USA | George R. Brown Convention Center

Registration is now open for GCAGS/GCSSEPM 2008

Register as a GCAGS member to receive a free copy of the GCAGS Transactions.

Consider these numbers:

More than 5,500 poster and oral papers... 10 overarching plenary sessions on the most important topics impacting our sciences today, featuring top leaders in our fields... a full schedule with over 450 sessions of programming for five different societies... Sound intriguing?

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Think about nearly 10,000 scientists and students coming together in an unprecedented joint technical program featuring papers from all geological disciplines and the soil, agronomic, and crop sciences. This should prove to be the largest gathering of geoscientists this year

This adds up to one singular opportunity for you.

Come to Houston, Texas, 5-9 October 2008, to celebrate the International Year of Planet Earth. Professionals, students, and media from all over the world will find useful and valuable information at this unprecedented Joint Annual Meeting, held at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston, Texas, USA.

The Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies with the Gulf Coast Section of SEPM, the Geological Society of America, the Soil Science Society of America, the American Society of Agronomy, and the Crop Science Society of America have joined together to highlight and stimulate discussions in areas of common interest across the diversity of disciplines and organizations represented by our members. Areas of mutual interest include energy, water resources, education, and earth systems, to name a few. The meeting is hosted by the Houston Geological Society.

The GCAGS president's reception has been expanded this year and it is a ticketed event to get a good head count. However, the cost is modest and the benefits are great.

Important Links found on <https://www.acsm meetings.org/>:

Online Meeting Registration
Online Housing Form
Joint Events
Field Trips
Tours
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International Travel


Important Dates & Deadlines


Early Bird Registration
closes 14 July 2008


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2008 NOGS Golf Outing









South Louisiana and Offshore Exploration and Production Activity

DRILLBITS

- **McMoRan** on 7-May announced that the ST 168 #1 exploratory well had been deepened to 30,964 feet. Wireline logs indicated that the well had encountered a potential hydrocarbon bearing zone which will be further evaluated after the well is drilled deeper.

The well, formerly known as Blackbeard West #1, was drilled to 30,067 feet and temporarily abandoned at that depth by its original operator and partners after failing to reach its PTD. A thin, gas-bearing sand was encountered below 30,000 feet.

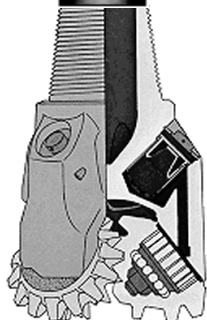
As of 7-May, McMoRan (32.3% WI and operator) with partners Plains Exploration & Production Company (35% WI) and Energy XXI (20% WI) were re-permitting the well to a revised PTD of 33,000 feet to evaluate additional objectives.

- Covington, Louisiana-based **Gulf Production Co.** on 22-May announced the completion of SL 19064 #1 (SE 7-12S-18E) in False Mouth Bay of eastern St. Bernard Parish. The well was tested at a rate of 846 MMCFG/D from perforations in the *Textularia* at 5,416-5,422 feet. FTP and SITP were reportedly 2050 psi and 2100 psi respectively on an 11/63" ck.
- **Shell** appears to be continuing its Norphlet (Jurassic) exploration program, permitting another probable Norphlet NFW in DC 486. The well will be drilled in the NE part of the block in ~7,800 ft of water. Shell (80% and operator) and Nexen (20% WI) acquired Blocks 486 and 487 for \$516,521 and \$793,521 respectively at OCS Sale 189 in December 2003. The proposed location is ~10 miles south-southeast of DC 353 where Shell announced its "Vicksburg" discovery (TD ~25,400 feet, water depth ~7,500 feet) with a hydrocarbon column of ~300 feet earlier in the year. Partners in the discovery were Shell (51.5% and operator), Nexen (25% WI), and Plains E & P (17.5% WI).
- **Bayou Bend Petroleum Ltd.** announced on 27-May that it had committed to Hercules for their rig #49 to drill the Haystack Prospect in the company's Marsh Island Project Area.

This is the first operated well by Bayou Bend in the Marsh Island Project Area in 2008. Anticipated spud is prior to mid June. Bayou Bend has a 35.5809% WI in the well, and will be the operator. PTD for the deviated well will be 10,800 feet TVD.

The Haystack Prospect, located on SL #19149, is a stratigraphic trap in the locally productive *Tex W* section in Block EI 2 of the Marsh Island Area. The play represents a possible extension of the single well, EI 2 *Tex W* Field that has produced from a smaller structural-stratigraphic combination trap at the objective sand. The prospect will be tested with a deviated well to a depth of 10,800' TVD.

- Paul Post



12th Annual Gulf of Mexico Deepwater Technical Symposium

“Resources to Reserves”

August 7 & 8, Hilton New Orleans Riverside

Registration \$200 (NOGS members) <http://deepwaternola.org>

Includes technical presentations, exhibit hall, keynote speakers, management panel discussion, student posters, luncheons both days and a reception Thursday afternoon.

Featured keynote speaker: John Dribus, Schlumberger's Global Geoscience Training Curriculum Director, will present “A Brief Overview of the Geologic History of the Gulf of Mexico with Focus on the Paleogene Deepwater Play “

Geoscience

- Wilcox Structural Variations in Walker Ridge and Keathley Canyon
- Turning the lights on at Deimos
- 4D (Time Lapse) Seismic: Chevron Deepwater Gulf of Mexico Examples for a Value-Added Reservoir Management Tool
- The Great Pliocene Salt Squirt - Mechanics of Folding along the down-Dip Limit of Salt, Gulf of Mexico
- Geophysical Pressure Prediction For Ultra-Deep Wells: When The Reservoir Becomes The Enemy
- Deepwater Analogs

Emerging Technologies

- MMS regulatory perspectives on new technology
- Wide Azimuth Towed Streamer seismic at Mad Dog Field: A Success Story
- Gas Hydrate Production - How Much and How Soon?
- The flexible pipe technology in ultra deep water

Reservoir & Economics

- Jack Well Test: Characterization of the Reservoir Through Pressure Transient Testing
- The Impact of China and India on Oil and Strategic Metal Prices
- The Changing Landscape in Deepwater Gulf of Mexico
- Learnings from the Mars Waterflood
- Petronius A3 Sidetrack - Evaluation of an Infill Drilling Opportunity Using a Multi-Disciplinary Approach
- PVT Calculations and Correlations for Extreme Environments

Drilling

- Recovering Existing Slots and Drilling Challenge on Auger TLP
- Wellbore Strengthening
- Deepwater Challenge drives the Total Systems Approach
- Practices and Results of Drilling Below a Single Skin Production Riser at the Magnolia TLP

Completion

- Next Generation Frac Packing Fluid Technology
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Production Systems

- Test Protocol for Low Dosage Hydrate Inhibitors
- Subsea Production Tie-Back Design
- Fluid Flow Modeling Deepwater Pipeline Infrastructure
- Monitoring Surface Separation Equipment Effectiveness

HSE / Regulatory

- MMS Overview of Deepwater Activities
- The LA1 Project – Securing Access to the Deepwater GOM
- Deepwater Operations Plans and Riser Verifications: A Pipeline Perspective
- Gulf SERPENT: An innovative industrial-academic partnership to explore marine life in the deep waters of the Gulf of Mexico

2008 Technomania





New Orleans Geological Auxiliary News

As my second year term as President comes to an end, I would like to profoundly thank all those wonderful women who served on the Board, offered their homes for events and chaired and assisted in all of our functions. So many people and such a small space to name everyone! From yearbook, newsletter, hospitality, membership, publicity and so on, your input has been much valued and appreciated. NOGA has become a "Ya-Ya Sisterhood" of sorts...from Carol Andrews to Trez Zotkiewicz, thank you all.

The Installation Luncheon at Bacco's was the best! Great food, friends, and favors were given to all. Those especially lucky received the table decorations and Josie Markey received a beautiful handmade necklace, by our own in-house jeweler – Judy Sabaté. I am still sure that little piece of paper had Susie Baker written on it! Our sincere gratitude is extended to Beverly Kastler, Peggy Campbell, and Judy Sabaté for planning this well- attended Luncheon.

Speaking of "Installation", we are all looking forward to the next year under the direction of our new President Linda (Never-Say-Never) Peirce! What an asset we have in all the new Board Members and Directors. I could go on and on about these special, unique, wonderful and giving ladies, but you all know how I feel! I just want to say "Thanks" for all your encouragement, advice, and friendship these past two years.

Wishing everyone a safe and Happy July 4th.

Sincerely,
Susie Baker
Member-at-Large

NOGA Application Form

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Announce a Technology Workshop

“Sequence Stratigraphy and Its Application to Petroleum Exploration in Onshore Mesozoic Salt Basins, Gulf Coastal Plain”

**Shell Auditorium, One Shell Square
701 Poydras St., New Orleans, LA**

**August 12, 2008
9:00 AM–3:00 PM**

Workshop Description

The formulation of a chronostratigraphic framework is fundamental to the correlation of strata, for the interpretation of the geologic history of a region, and in the development of a petroleum exploration strategy for a sedimentary basin. Third-order (1 to 10 million years in duration), unconformity-bounded depositional sequences as recognized in seismic reflection sections are generally utilized to provide the sequence stratigraphic component in establishing such a framework. These depositional sequences have provided a reliable means to perform stratigraphic analysis and to correlate marine facies deposited in shelf environments (transgressive and highstand systems tracts deposits) with those that accumulated in slope and abyssal plain environments (lowstand systems tract deposits). In studying Upper Jurassic and Cretaceous strata from shelfal areas of the Gulf Coastal Plain that are characterized by Mesozoic non-marine to marine siliciclastic and carbonate deposition and in which stratal patterns are driven by low-frequency, tectonic-eustatic events associated with post-rift, passive margin conditions, a stratigraphic analysis based on transgressive-regressive (T-R) sequences integrated with biostratigraphy has utility as a method for establishing a chronostratigraphic framework for petroleum exploration in the interior salt basins of the Gulf Coastal Plain. The purpose of this workshop is to demonstrate the utility of employing a T-R sequence stratigraphic methodology in exploring for oil and gas in the Mesozoic basins of the Gulf Coastal Plain. This is accomplished through examination of case studies for Upper Jurassic, Lower Cretaceous and Upper Cretaceous strata. The workshop will be conducted by Ernest A. Mancini, University of Alabama.

It is essential that we have an accurate accounting of those who plan to attend the workshop. Therefore we request a reply no later than August 8, 2008. Please send in the attached form with payment to PTTC or email at the address below confirming your interest to attend.

**Attn. Versa Stickle : LSU Center for Energy Studies,
Energy, Coast & Environment Bldg. Nicholson
Extension, Baton Rouge, LA 70803**

Email: vstickle@lsu.edu; Phone 225 578 4546

Workshop Registration Form— August 12, 2008
(Please type or print requested information and provide complete mailing address.)

Name		
(Last)	(First)	(Middle)
Affiliation		
Mailing Address		
City	State	Zip Code
Telephone	Fax	E-mail
Preferred Name on Badge		

There is a \$100 registration fee to attend the workshop. Please make your check payable to: PTTC. We look forward to your participation.

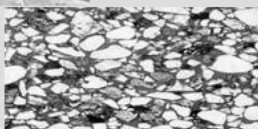
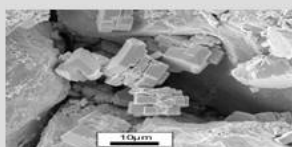
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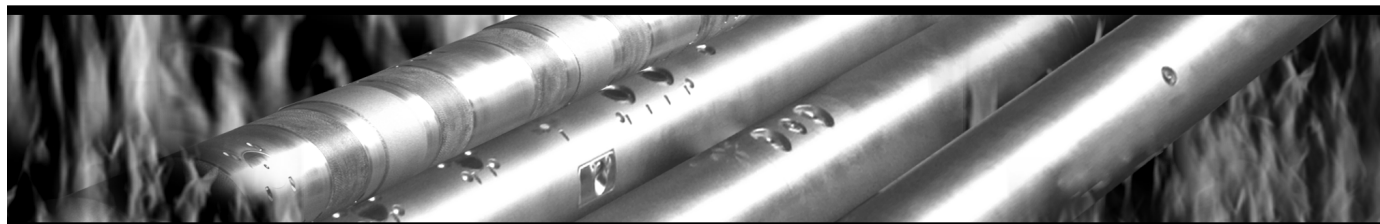
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- **National Archives to Include Earth Imagery:** The US Geological Survey (USGS) and National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) have developed a partnership focused on ensuring the preservation and accessibility of the massive archive of Earth imagery and geospatial data currently housed at the USGS Earth Resources Observation and Science (EROS) data center in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The database contains aerial photographs dating from the 1930's and satellite images dating from the 1960's which supply objective reference points that can be employed to document landscape change during the past 75 years and better understand mechanisms that force landscape evolution including: climate change, sea-level rise, and urban development. Professor Allen Weinstein, Archivist of the United States and Dr. Mark Myers, Director of the USGS signed a cooperative agreement that lays out the framework for how the two federal agencies will best manage the largest civilian archive of such data in the United States, occupying over 40,000 square feet and totaling nearly three petabytes (3000 terabytes) of electronic storage space.

Visit the NARA website for more information: www.archives.gov/

Summarized from: Nelson, J. and Holm, T., 2008, URL: <http://www.usgs.gov/newsroom/article.asp?ID=1960>

- **International Mission Studying Sun to Conclude:** Ulysses, a joint NASA and European Space Agency (ESA) program set out to study the sun on October 6, 1990. After more than 17 years of nearly continuous data collection, upon which numerous benchmark solar scientific studies were produced, the spacecraft is set to cease operations on or about July 1.

Upon deployment from Space Shuttle Discovery, Ulysses was propelled out of Earth's orbit toward Jupiter by solid-fuel rocket motors. On February 8, 1992, the giant planet's gravity field began to bend the spacecraft's flight path downward to place the spacecraft into orbit around the sun. The orbit was planned so that the spacecraft would cross the sun's north and south poles. Ulysses continued to collect and transmit data to Earth during its 8.6 billion kilometer journey (5.4 billion miles), nearly four times longer than the expected lifespan. This month, the spacecraft will cease operations due to a decreased ability for onboard generators to produce the necessary power requirements for data collection and transmission.

The main objective of the Ulysses mission was to fully document the heliosphere, a vast zone in space produced by solar winds. A major finding was that the sun's magnetic field is much weaker than had been previously observed, possibly indicating a weaker upcoming solar maximum period than those in recent history. The results showed that the sun's magnetic field is transmitted into the solar system in a more complicated manner than previously assumed. Ulysses also documented that dust flowing into the solar system from deep space was 30 times more abundant than suspected.

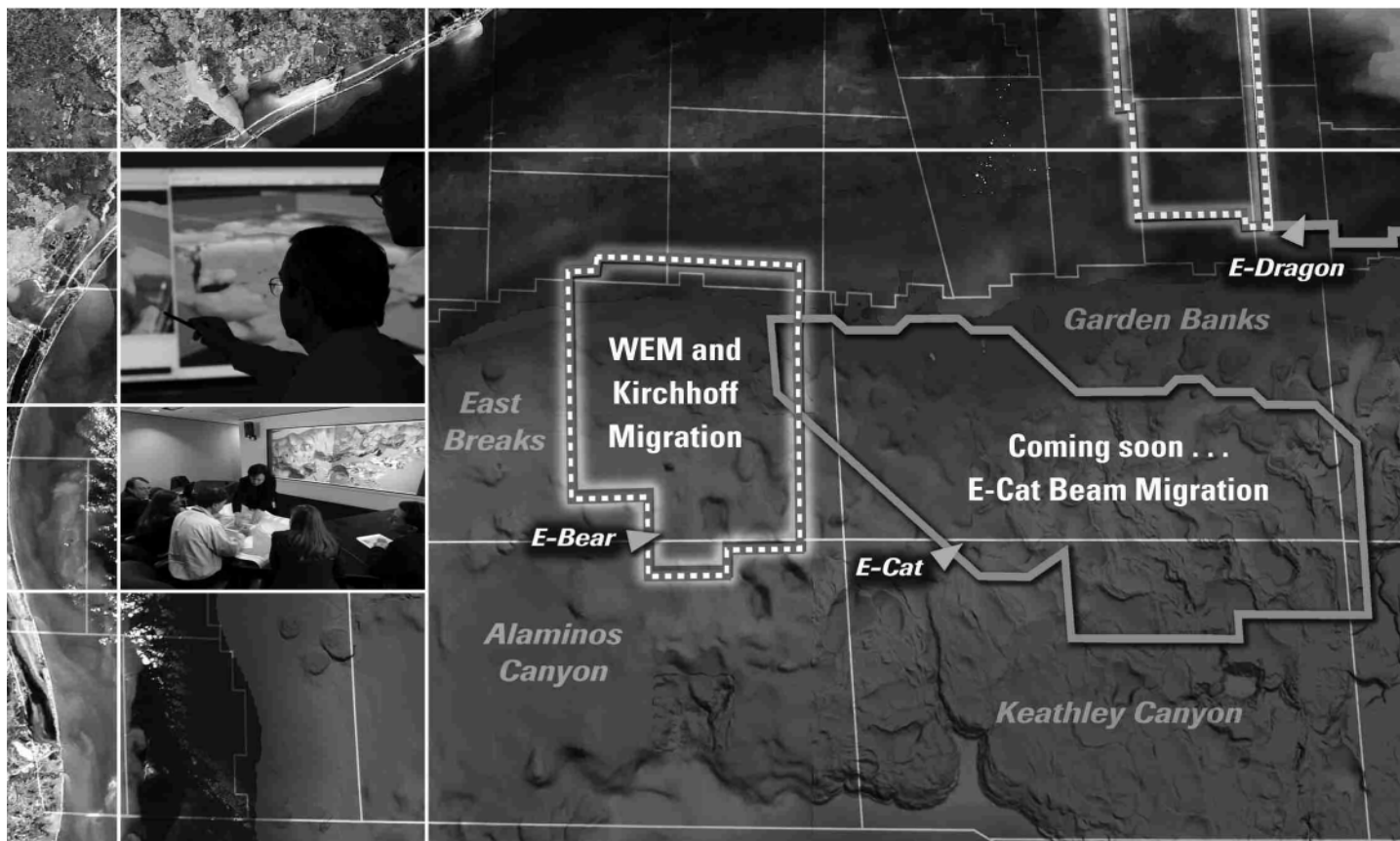
The Ulysses mission leaves behind a legacy that will be unparalleled in solar science for decades to come, both in regard to the longevity of data collection and the contribution to a better understanding of sun-space interactions, solar processes, and the sun's influence on the planets of our solar system.

More information about the joint NASA/ESA Ulysses mission is available at <http://ulysses.jpl.nasa.gov>

Summarized from Brown, D., 2008, URL: http://www.esa.int/esaSC/SEMPEQUG3HF_index_0_ov.html

- *Clare Falcon*

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