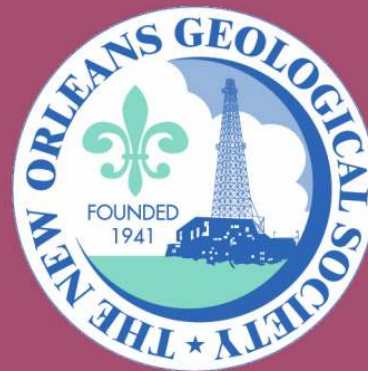


NOGS LOG

June 2008

Volume 48, Number 12



Upcoming Events and Activities

June 2 - NOGS Luncheon

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

Free validated parking in hotel garage

Second Annual **Technomania** will take the place of a technical speaker.

(See Page 7)

HOLIDAY INN DOWNTOWN SUPERDOME ADMISSION:

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front desk for location

Lunch served at 11:30am

with reservation \$30.00

without reservation \$35.00

Student Member with reservation Free

July 14 - NOGS Luncheon

Guest speaker and topic were not available at time of publication.

Please check www.nogs.org for updates.

July 18 - 2008 Flood Protection Geological Symposium

In New Orleans. See announcement and call for papers on page 8.

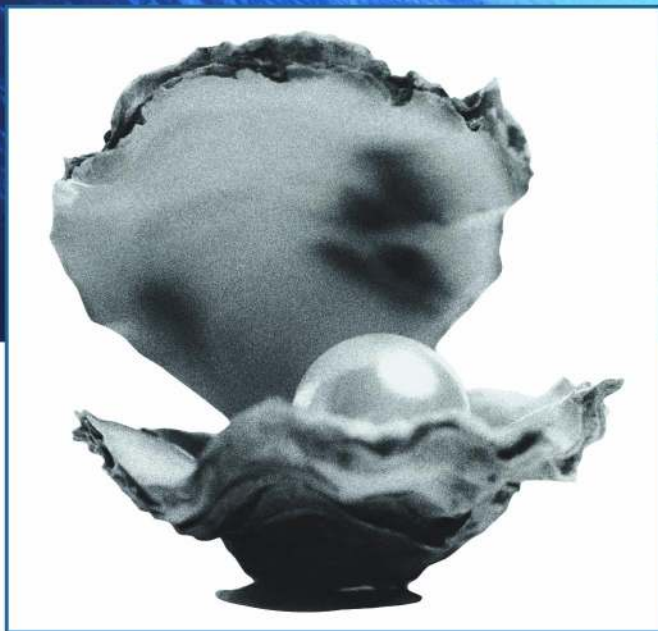
Technomania

Monday

June 2

see page 7

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E-mail: info@nogs.org □ Website: www.nogs.org

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

Sent to press on May 21, 2008.

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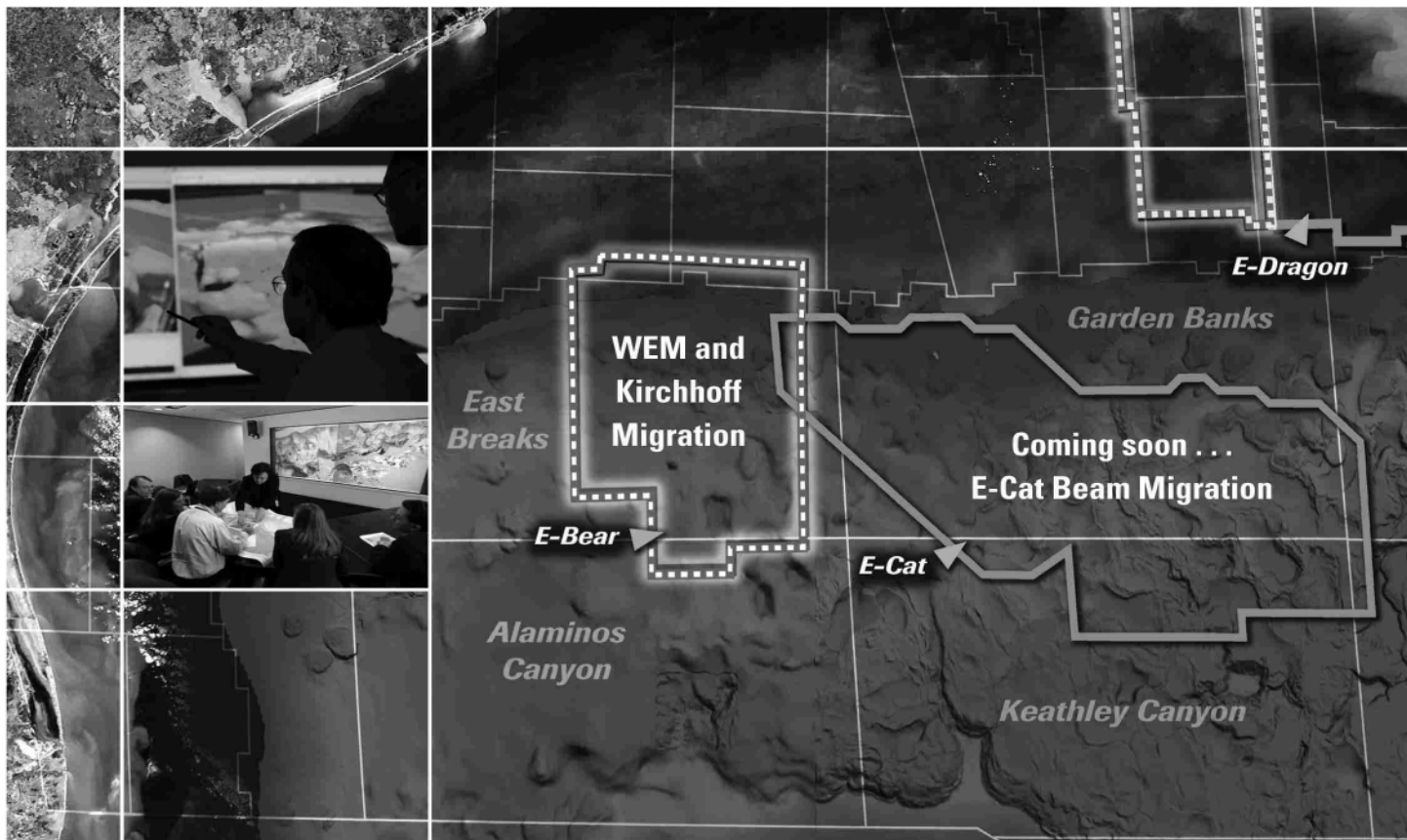
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from the President

When I was in scouting (many, many years ago) we had a saying: If you ever find a turtle sitting on top of a fence post you can be pretty sure it had some help getting there. As I come to the end of my term as president of NOGS, I feel a bit like that turtle and am profoundly aware of the support I have received from a great many people over the past year. The officers and directors I worked with this year have done a terrific job, especially in suggesting many improvements in how our meetings are run - and in offering many suggestions that have helped me do my job. As you might guess, Annette Hudson has been my life saver on numerous occasions. Her diligence in support of NOGS is beyond price. It is also worth noting that she was having a house built throughout the year, but never missed a step with NOGS.

Last July I set a theme of "Outreach" for the year and NOGS members responded positively in many ways. We co-sponsored the geohazards symposium last summer (with another scheduled for July 18). We helped prepare City Park for "Celebration in the Oaks". We were a key part of Super Science Saturday in April and have judged science fairs. In addition, NOGS members have visited dozens of classrooms.

As I write this I don't yet know the results of the election, but I am very pleased by the quality of the slate of candidates and am very confident that the new officers will continue to strengthen our society. A lot of groundwork has been laid over the past year, yet challenges remain. The movement of many of earth science jobs from downtown New Orleans to Houston and the North Shore is perhaps the greatest challenge, and one that we are trying to at least partially address through electronic meeting technology. I look forward to the ideas and creativity that the new officers will

bring to this issue. We still need to improve our website, and I will work with the incoming officers to see this task through.

Most of all, I have great confidence in Bill Whiting, who will start his term as President in July. Bill's dedication to NOGS and his willingness to try new things has been most obvious in his role as Entertainment Chairman this year, and I look forward to seeing where he takes us in the next twelve months. I have especially appreciated Bill's planning and attention to detail. To give one example, he locked in the price and date for the 2008 Christmas Party last January.

A final word to all of you: There are many opportunities to serve NOGS and our community. All of our committees need help, and I am sure that most of you could find a way to get more involved. We are hosting the 2010 AAPG Convention and Tom Hudson has stepped to take the lead on this event, but NOGS needs everyone to find their role to play. In the broader community, more school visits are needed. If you are nervous about what to say or do, give me a call. We have put together some presentations that you can adapt and the fossils you can borrow are always a big hit. We have a supply of the USGS map "Tapestry of Time and Terrain" that are to be given to schools, and if you want to give them framed and ready to mount on a school wall, that can be arranged. In addition, AAPG is finalizing a handbook for geologists making school visits. We should have some copies later this year. I hope you will make time to share the joy and excitement of our profession.

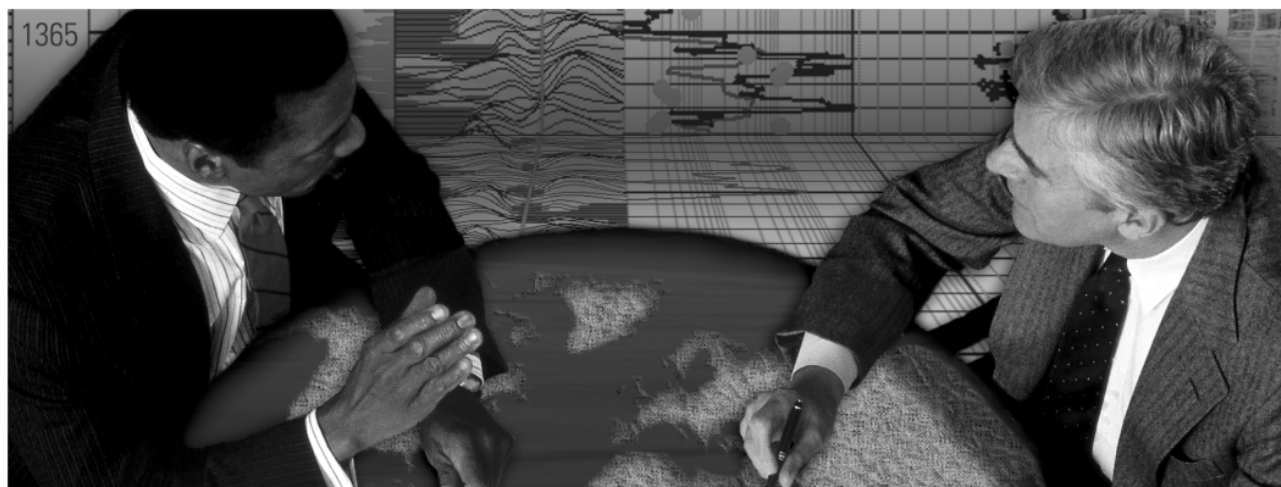
Again, thank you for a wonderful year.

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“And Looking Ahead...”

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2008 Flood Protection Geological Symposium

Geologic Facts of Life for Flood Protection in Coastal Louisiana

July 18, 2008

New Orleans, Louisiana

Abstract Submission Protocol:

The unique purpose of this conference is to convene public agencies and provide the officials in charge, and the public, with the latest geological research affecting flood protection efforts in the Gulf of Mexico Coast region. Again this year, the Flood Protection Geological Symposium Committee invites up to five (5) PowerPoint lectures approximately 45 minutes in length representing diverse earth science topics such as paleotempestology, unstable topography, geology of active structures, public policy and coastal restoration, soil science characteristics and other relevant topics.

The Abstract Submission Deadline is June 2, 2008.

All preliminary working ideas, lecture titles, and suggested topics must be submitted for consideration by this date. A detailed e-mail with attachments of key illustrations will suffice.

Extended Abstract Deadline is June 18, 2008

Final versions of digital or written abstracts for accepted lectures must be submitted by this deadline.

Please note: All presenters customarily remain after their lecture and participate in a concluding panel discussion during the sixth time slot. Proceedings of the conference are to be published digitally. Presenters will please provide a digital summary of the key points and illustrations in the lecture for sponsors to post in press releases beforehand and in the public domain on their web sites afterwards. Consideration of proposals will commence as submissions are received and Symposium Co-Chairs may promptly move to accept outstanding work on key topics before the final deadline.

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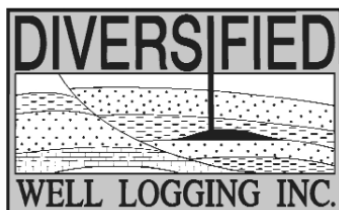
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The purchase price of the DVD is \$250.00, but for holders of the old CD set, a major discount is available if the DVD is purchased through Datapages (note – special discount NOT available through the Bureau of Economic Geology). If you send in a 1998 or 2001 Master Disc, your cost for the DVD is \$75.00. If you had the latest version of the CD set, send in the 2003 Master Disc and the DVD is free!

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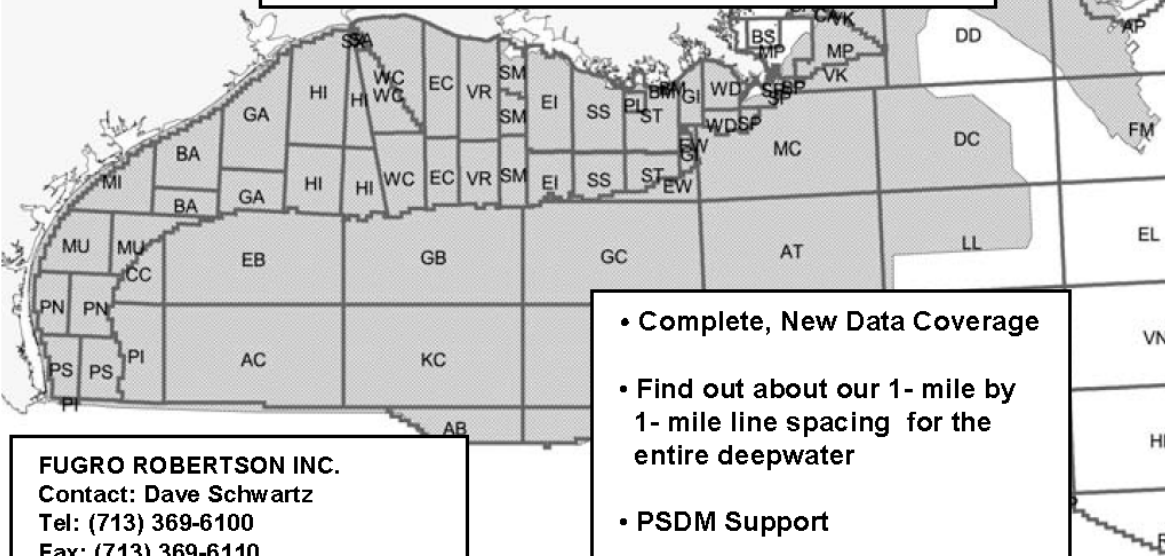
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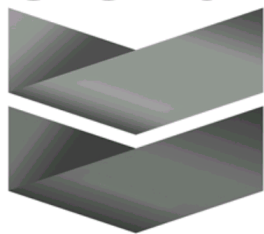
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**2008 Geological Society Of America
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The Mississippi River Delta As A Natural Laboratory For Evaluating Coastal Response To Relative Sea-Level Rise And Innovations In Transgressive Coastal Management: Shea Penland Memorial Session

5-9 OCTOBER 2008, HOUSTON, TEXAS

Relative sea level rise rates are so high for the Mississippi River delta plain (locally ~1 cm/yr) that historical maps and nautical charts can be used to clearly capture and document the regional geomorphic evolution. Thus, stratigraphic architecture can be directly related to observed processes and the changing form of the coastal zone enabling the development of process-response models that can be used to better understand the framework and formation of both recent and ancient transgressive deposits. Robust monitoring programs and scientific research have allowed many of the processes and forcing mechanisms to be identified and quantified. This information merged with observed coastal evolution provides the basis for the development of conceptual and numerical models with the overall goal of formulating effective, science-based coastal management plans. Much of the science has been applied to develop a framework for coastal erosion mitigation and transgression management in Louisiana and with recent predictions of continued and possibly accelerated rates of global sea-level rise over the next century, the science produced from work in the Mississippi River delta plain can be applied to other coastal areas around the world. Results from intensive monitoring and scientific studies providing new insight on transgressive drivers, processes, and form as well as science-based management strategies will be featured in this session.

Dr. Shea Penland devoted his life to understanding the dynamics of the Mississippi River delta plain and advocated increased scientific knowledge for applications to large-scale transgressive coastal management. He worked tirelessly to educate scientists, engineers, policy makers, and the general public on the Mississippi River delta plain, its response to rapid sea-level rise, and best-practice management strategies. In 1995, he delivered the keynote symposium lecture at the GSA Annual Meeting titled "The Mississippi River - Control and Consequences." Shea had agreed to be the opening speaker for this session, but his untimely death in March 2008 prevented that. Many of the efforts highlighted in the above paragraph are inspirations, direct products, and influences of his efforts and vision.

Sponsored by: U.S. Geological Survey; Louisiana Department of Natural Resources; Pontchartrain Institute for Environmental Sciences; New Orleans Geological Society; GSA Sedimentary Geology Division; Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies.

To submit an abstract online go to <http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/2008/sessions/topical.asp> and select the SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT TO THIS SESSION link under session T7.

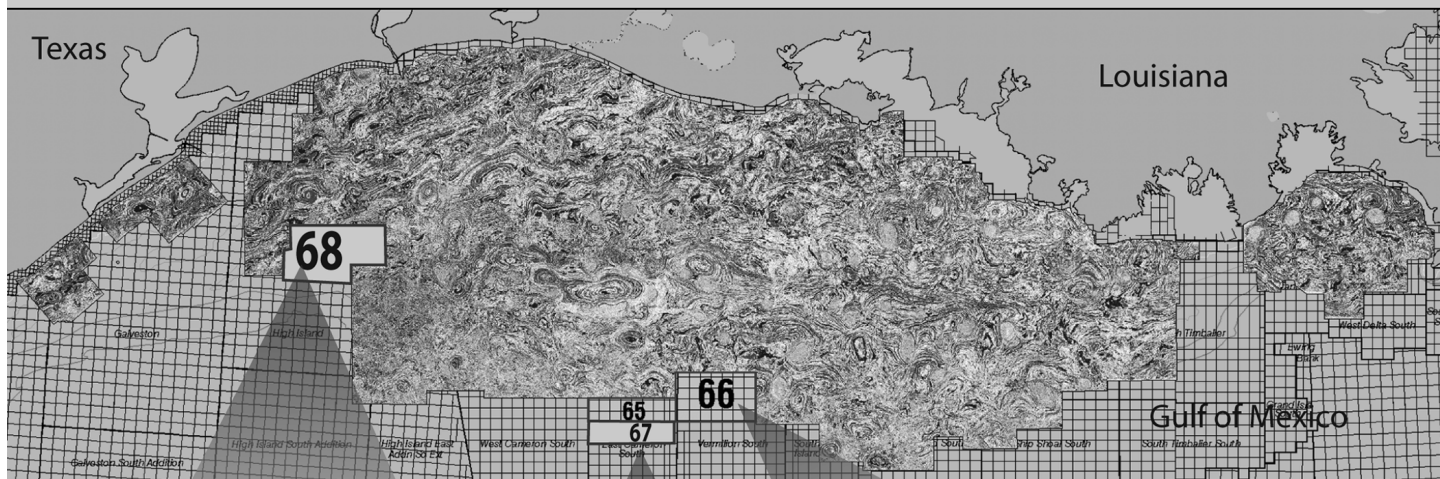
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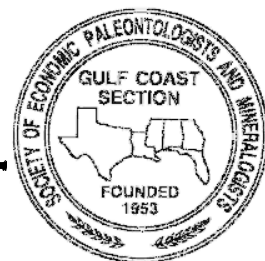


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— **CALL FOR PAPERS** —

**58th Annual Convention
October 6th – 7th, 2008
Houston, Texas**

HOSTED BY THE HOUSTON GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The Houston Geological Society is proud to host the 2008 Joint Annual Meeting for GSA/SSSA/ASA/CSSA/GCAGS/GCSSEPM. This joint meeting, which will run from October 5th-9th, 2008, will include GCAGS sessions on Monday October 6th and Tuesday October 7th. GCAGS needs your assistance to continue our long tradition of presenting the best in geoscience from the Gulf Coast and then publishing these materials in the "GCAGS Transactions". We want you to be part of this tradition by submitting a contribution to our technical program and the "2008 GCAGS Transactions"

TECHNICAL SESSIONS (Oral & Poster)

Energy Budgets & the Global Markets

Applied Micropaleontology

Shale Gas

Hydrates and Shallow Gas

Integrated Pore Pressure Predictions: Case Studies

Geology of the Gulf Coastal Plain: Insights into Offshore Exploration

Faults: Friend and Foe

Allochthonous Salt: Impact from Exploration to Production

Visualization of Depositional Systems

Predictive Models for Deep-Water Reservoir Distributions: The Subsalt Challenge

Old Fields-New Life: How New Technologies or New Ideas Have Made a Difference

Advances in Seismic Imaging-Impact on Exploration through Production: Case Studies

Depositional Systems: Insights from Outcrops, Shallow Seismic, or Coastal Studies

Uncertainty Assessment & Its Impact on Decision Making


Gulf of Mexico Coastal Plain Paleontology


Environmental Geology & Hydrology

HOW AND WHEN TO SUBMIT:

Abstracts for oral and poster presentations should be submitted by June 3rd, 2008 to www.acsmeetings.org/2008. The required accompanying paper, which will be published in the "2008 GCAGS Transactions", is due by June 24th. Contact information for the technical session chairs, as well as "2008 GCAGS Transactions" instructions for authors, can be found at the GCAGS website www.gcags2008.org. Due to the compressed time lines for this year's joint meeting, we ask you to submit abstracts ASAP, as well as contact the individual session chairs listed on the GCAGS website to notify them of your interest and reserve a spot in the technical program. Manuscript submissions prior to the June 24th deadline would be much appreciated by the "2008 GCAGS Transactions" editors. For general questions on the technical program please contact Dr. Art Donovan, the 2008 GCAGS Technical Program Chair. He can be contacted via e-mail at: art.donovan@bp.com.

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Ninth Annual Super Science Saturday

The New Orleans Geological Society hosted our ninth annual Super Science Saturday on April 5th at the Louisiana Children's Museum. The event was co-sponsored with the Southeastern Geophysical Society and Century Exploration - New Orleans Inc. Volunteers also included members of The New Orleans and West Bank Desk and Derrick chapters and Tulane Geology Students under the guidance of Dean Moosavi.

The event was heavily attended and children of all ages were able to learn that science is fun. Students were able to get a hands on view of dinosaur bones, develop their wildcatting skills in the oil finder game and create their own seismic earthquake.

NOGS members who volunteered included Tom Klekamp, Mike Fein, Penne Rappold, Jim, Meredith and Claire Zotkweicz, David Lynch, David and Adam Moore, Scott Frank, Duncan Goldthwaite, Brenda Reilly, David and Darby Reiter, Louis Willhoit, Bill Whiting, Art Johnson, Ed Picou, Dave Cope, Bob and Helen Hafner, Debbie Arthur, Al Melillo, and Bernie Regel. SGS members included Gerard Soto, Lisa Kennedy and Richard Mongan. Desk and Derrick members included Johanna Lae, Karen and Theresa Ohlsson, and Deanka Davis. Our professional volunteers were assisted by an enthusiastic group of Tulane students: Emily Couvillon, Krystal Pennuto, Morgan Furtado, Melissa Hew, Paul Burgess, Rayne Housey, Adnan Suleiman, Andrew Kohler, Gillian Faircloth, Josie Nevett, Ben Flatau, Vytas Kapacinskas, Andrea Meier, Aaron Giambattista, David Denhoff, Keeley Briggs.

Thanks to all our wonderful volunteers for making this event possible! Additional thanks to Dean Moosavi for recruiting and coordinating the Tulane student volunteers and to Century Exploration – New Orleans, Inc. for providing our volunteer T-shirts.

Photos by Gerard Soto and Tom Bergeon









South Louisiana and Offshore

Exploration and Production Activity

- **U.S. upstream oil and gas merger and acquisition (M&A)** total transaction value in 2007 reached \$49.2 billion on 145 significant deals, both record highs, according to the 2008 Global Upstream M&A Review prepared by John S. Herold Inc, an IHS Inc company, and Harrison Lovegrove & Co Ltd, a Standard Chartered group company. The U.S. accounted for 32% of the total global upstream transaction value, about 5% higher than the five-year average.

A record number of asset deals propelled U.S. deal count and transaction value to new heights for the second consecutive year, according to the report. Acquired proved gas reserves rose 55%, to more than 11 trillion cu ft - 71% of total reserves transacted -- amidst a continued focus on emerging tight-gas plays. Transacted proved reserve volumes in 2007 increased more than 35% over 2006, almost reaching the five-year record set in 2004 during consolidation of Rocky Mountain producers.

Dampened by volatile gas prices and purchases of longer-lived reserves, U.S. deal pricing slumped slightly, the report indicated, with average and median proved reserve implied values hovering around \$13.75/BOE. Strong crude prices drove implied proved reserve values for oil-weighted transactions more than \$4.00/BOE higher, to over \$17.00/BOE, a significant premium to gas-focused deals (\$12.78/BOE) and a reversal of the relationship in 2006.

With many companies still digesting large acquisitions made in 2004-2006, and strong commodity prices lifting share prices of potential targets, the corporate deal count was cut in half, according to the report. Only two U.S. corporate transactions greater than \$1 billion were completed during the year. Strong blended commodity prices and prospective high sector returns also attracted nontraditional buyers such as private equity firms to the U.S. upstream M&A market, but only one firm based outside North America was among the top 10 buyers of U.S. assets. An influx of master limited partnership (MLP) asset buyers, primarily through July 2007 before a credit squeeze emerged, helped augment U.S. total acquisition spending.

Transactions involving assets in two or more regions (multi-region) accounted for over 35% of the total U.S. transactions. Proved reserve implied values in the GoM topped \$22.00/BOE, the highest of any region as oil accounted for half of the proved reserves transacted. Transaction value and deal count reached record highs in the Mid-Continent. However, proved reserve deal pricing remained the second-lowest of any U.S. region due to the increasing weighting toward long-lived tight-gas plays. Transaction value also reached a five-year high in the Gulf Coast region, while proved reserve deal pricing remained the second-highest at \$15.17/BOE. Transaction value fell by more than 50% in the Rocky Mountain region, where the level of deal activity has been closely tied to movements in gas differentials.

In 2007, North America represented 62% of worldwide transaction value, a record high in the five-year study period, and a substantial increase over 55% the prior year. Canadian deal count and transaction value soared to record highs, according to the report, while transacted proved reserve volumes nearly doubled due to a five-fold increase in oil sands reserves. Proved reserve implied value declined slightly, to \$28.61/BOE, but remained the highest in the world and a significant premium to U.S. pricing. Oil sands deals and royalty trust consolidation accounted for 40% and 30%, respectively, of region transaction value.



- **McMoRan** on April 17 announced that continued positive results from the Flatrock field at South Marsh Island Block 212 in the OCS 310/Louisiana SL 340 area indicate a major discovery:

Flatrock No. 1 discovery well commenced production on January 28, 2008. Gross production currently approximates 50 MMCFG/D.

Flatrock No. 2 encountered 8 pay sands totaling 289 net feet of pay confirmed by wireline logs in January 2008. A production test in April 2008 flowed at a gross rate of 114 MMCFG/D. First production expected in mid-2008.

Flatrock No. 3 encountered 3 pay sands totaling 126 net feet of pay confirmed by wireline logs in February 2008. The well has been sidetracked to 17,100' and has a proposed total depth of 18,800'.

Flatrock No. 4 well commenced drilling on April 9, and as of April 17 was being drilled below 3,500' to proposed total depth of 18,500'.

Additional wells are planned in the Flatrock area.

The Mound Point East exploratory well on Louisiana SL 340 commenced drilling on 31 March 31, and as of April 17 was being drilled below 7,800' to a PTD of 18,050'.

The ultra-deep exploratory well at ST 168 (Blackbeard West #1) was re-entered on March 18 and was being drilled below 30,145' on April 17 towards a PDT of 31,267'. The objective is to evaluate potentially significant Miocene targets. McMoRan operates the well and owns a 32.3% WI. Partners are Plains Exploration & Production Company (35% WI) and Energy XXI (20% WI).

- Paul Post

Blast From NOGS Past

FROM THE EDITOR



As I close out my term as editor of the NOGS Log, I wanted to express my gratitude to the NOGS board for their support of what many might classify as significant changes to the Log over the past year. From the beginning, my aspiration was to make the NOGS Log more colorful, which we did in January. In order to accomplish this, we had to redesign the NOGS logo beyond the old black and white hand-drawn image. In addition, advertising rates had to be increased to cover the higher printing costs, but the increase was less than 10% and the first one in 10 years.

The Blast from NOGS Past column began two years ago when I became editor-elect and hopefully the right mix of professional nostalgia and humor was achieved over that time. For my final column, I'm printing a selection of past NOGS Log covers to show how our publication has evolved since the first issue in November 1960. I'd also like to wish Mike Miner the best as incoming editor.

Thank you,
Tim Piwowar



NOGS LOG

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 7

MAY, 1963



Distinguished Lecturer To Address Society On May 7

Dr. Crowell to Speak on "Wrench Faults" at Petroleum Club

The next meeting of the New Orleans Geological Society will be held on Tuesday, May 7, at 5 p. m. at the Petroleum Club. The meeting will start at 5 p. m. with a cocktail party preceding the dinner and speaker. Dinner will be served at 7 p. m.



DR. J. C. CROWELL

Dr. John C. Crowell is Professor of Geology at the University of California, Los Angeles. He received his formal education at the University of Texas where he received his B.S. in Geology in 1939 and then undertook graduate work at UCLA. He next accepted employment with Shell Oil. After 15 months with Shell, he joined the Air Force and was trained as an oceanographic meteorologist at UCLA from where he went to England and became a part of the force which was to forecast the sea, surf, and swell conditions at the invasion of Normandy. At the end of the war he was in Manila where he was preparing to organize the surf forecasting for the anticipated invasion of Japan. Upon discharge as Captain, with the Bronze Star Medal, he returned to UCLA and acquired his M.A. degree in oceanographic meteorology in 1946 and his Ph.D. in Geology in 1947. Since that time he has been associated with UCLA and was Chairman of the Department of Geology from 1957-60.

"The Investigation of Wrench Faults"

ABSTRACT

Wrench faults, defined as high-angle and extensive faults with predominant strike slip, are recognized in many regions of the world. Evidence from several approaches converges to suggest that when faults are investigated, the possibility of significant strike slip needs wider appreciation. Detailed geological studies in complex regions, as well as first motions on earthquakes, the movement of bench marks in some tectonically active areas and offset land-forms, indicate that many faults possess strike-slip components which vastly exceed dip-slip components. It is therefore desirable to examine known wrench faults in order to ascertain their characteristics and in particular to discuss problems faced in their investigation.

(Continued on Page 2)

SPRING DANCE SUCCESS IN ALL RESPECTS

Bearded artists, barefoot beatniks and a house painter or two were among the participants in the "Artists Ball" Friday, May 9th, at the Shrine Temple. One hundred and ten couples almost filled the hall intent it appeared on establishing a new NOGS record for beer consumption. Besides the usual enjoyment of rubbing elbows with old friends and bending elbows with new ones, the evening's entertainment was highlighted by a sketching contest designed to determine who among the many authentic-looking artists had the real talent. Felt pens and sketch pads were the tools used for the drawings. Each individual entered his or her "work of art" into one of three categories: Realistic, Humorous or Abstract. Prizes were awarded the best three sketches in each category, and the three worst pictures overall. We have yet to determine whether the prize for the "first worst" was given to actually the worst sketch (i.e., dead last) or the third worst sketch. This would depend on whether the "third worst" prize was meant for the third from worst or the truly worst sketch... or whatever we said. Anyway we feel rather assured that the person receiving the "second worst" prize really drew the second lousiest sketch.

Prizes were also awarded for the best three beer mugs at the occasion. The winner was an heirloom which dated back to 1805. Humar was the theme for the second place winner—a beer bottle sporting a baby nipple and a chest plate. (An appropriate sub-title here might be "Bedtime Boozing.") A copper ale tankard took third, the well-used condition markedly demonstrating the sporting blood of the owner.

Thanks are due to Earl Tingley and his committee composed of Ed Davis, Phil Beron, Bill Wagner, and Hugh MacMillan who contributed generously of their time in helping to make the dance a tremendous success.

Without the help of the Auxiliary, the dance would not have been the "BALL" that it was. Joan Sawyer and her committee contributed long hours in the preparation of the table and wall decorations which added to the atmosphere of the occasion.

All in all it was a great night for berets and beer mugs—one to be well-remembered by the NOGS members and friends who attended.

NOGS CALENDAR

MAY 7	—MONTHLY MEETING S. F. M. PETROLEUM CLUB
JUNE	—MONTHLY MEETING NOMINATION OF OFFICERS 1963-64
JUNE	—NOGS GOLF TOURNAMENT

Cover style for *LOG* issues from
November 1960 through March 1964



VOLUME 18 NUMBER 8

JUNE 1978

JUNE 5th NOGS TOPIC —

UNCONFORMITIES (GONE, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN?)

Luncheoners at NOGS' monthly noon meeting, Monday, June 5, will hear James A. Baird, Sun Oil Company Geologist, address the Society on "Unconformities - Neglected Oil Finder's Tool." Baird expands on his recent presentation at the Convention of the Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies.

James A. Baird, an AAPG & APGS certified petroleum geologist, was brought up at Chillicothe, Ohio on the edge of the Pleistocene glacial boundary. Growing up in the outdoors along the Scioto River, he developed a natural interest in sedimentation and collecting glacial erratics and fossils.

He graduated from Ohio State in 1949 with a degree in economics, majoring in Production Management. After two years as an instructor in the Signal Corps, he returned to Ohio State and obtained a degree in geology. During this time, he worked for the Ohio Geological Survey and on the Greenland ice-cap for the University of Denver Research Foundation. Mr. Baird has worked for Citgo as an exploration geologist for Scurlock Oil as Chief Geologist, and as a working interest partner with Newton and Nelms. He has been employed as an exploration and production geologist with the Sun Oil Company for 15 years in the Gulf Coast Province both onshore and offshore.

Aside from his many hobbies in natural science from treasure hunting to lapidary work, his special interest is in unconformities and the depositional environment of sand depopods as they relate to tectonics. Mr. Baird has several technical publications to his credit and has been active in both the Houston and Lafayette Geological Societies.



UNCONFORMITIES - NEGLECTED OIL

FINDER'S TOOL

by JAMES A. BAIRD

— Abstract —

Unconformities in the Gulf Coast Province too often have been regarded only as a vague concept and are seldom used as an exploration tool. Their identification and reconstruction can be used to locate relic local and regional structures and to determine past and present locations for hydrocarbons and their economic potential. Late structural deformation can cause secondary migration and/or alter dip rate and dip direction, thus concealing the present locations of trapped hydrocarbons. Structural-stratigraphic relationships can be fault systems, piercement domes and younger unconformities which may intersect older unconformities. The present locations of trapped hydrocarbons can be found on an original buried relic structure or on a later structure, or both, depending upon the nature of the trap and subsequent structural movement and migratory history of the hydrocarbons. Structure and stratigraphy related to this time of movement, as dated by unconformities and paleontology, can be used on a regional and local basis to find embayments, pro-delta fronts, wedges, turbidite deposits and relic structures.

By constructing paleogeomorphic maps on each significant horizon, and superimposing maps of successively younger units on those of older units, it is possible to reconstruct the sequence of deposition, structural uplift, erosion and burial. North Chacaboula Field, Lafourche Parish, Louisiana, is an example to which these techniques can be applied. Paleogeomorphic maps and stratigraphic cross-sections reveal that six periods of emergence and erosion occurred on top of a tectonic structure which since has been buried. During and after each period of erosion, structural movement tilted the unconformities. The net result is that unconformities intersect each other where earlier unconformities became exposed to later surfaces of erosion, and the unconformities climb in the section away from the axis of the relic structure.

Michael P. Prescott at June 3 Luncheon

**THE MAURICE FIELD: NEW GAS RESERVES FROM BURIED
STRUCTURE ALONG THE OLIGOCENE TREND OF
SOUTHWESTERN LOUISIANA**

Abstract

Significant new gas reserves have recently been discovered in the *Marginulina texana* sands along the Oligocene trend at the Maurice field. Detailed subsurface maps and seismic data are presented to exhibit the extent and nature of this local buried structure and to demonstrate future opportunities along the Oligocene trend.

Since discovery in 1988, the MARG. TEX. RESERVOIR C has extended the Maurice field one half mile south and has established 200 feet of *Marginulina texana* pay. Estimated reserves are in the order of 160 billion cubic feet of gas with limits of the reservoir still undefined. This reserve addition would increase the estimated ultimate of the Maurice field by over 70 percent from 220 billion cubic feet of gas to 380 billion cubic feet of gas. Cross sections across the field depict the new reservoir trap as a buried upthrown fault closure with an anticipated gas column of 720 feet.

Interpretation of the origin of this local structure is that of a buried rotated fault block within an overall larger depositional structure. Detailed subsurface maps at the

(Abstract continued on page 3)

Biography



Mike has been an independent geophysicist/geologist since 1984. During this time he founded Big M Exploration, Inc., which specializes in prospect and play generation in south Louisiana.

Prior experience includes positions of Consulting Geophysicist, R. Brewer & Co., and Exploration Geophysicist for Getty Oil

Co., and Gulf Oil Corp.

Mike received his B.S. in Geophysics and an M.B.A. in Management Engineering from the University of Tulsa. He received the 1988 Best Paper Award from the GCAGS for the article "South Lake Arthur Field and Occurrence of Buried Structures Along the Oligocene Trend of Southwestern Louisiana." Most recently his paper entitled "The Maurice Field: New Gas Reserves from Buried Structure Along the Oligocene Trend of Southwestern Louisiana," received the 1990 GCAGS Best Paper Award and, in addition was named for the 1990 AAPG A. I. Levenson Award. He is a member of the AAPG, SEG, HGS and GSH.

Current projects included studies of buried trap geometries and low resistivity pays in south Louisiana.

Meeting: 38th Floor, Energy Centre, Monday, June 3.
Bar open 11:15 AM; Buffet 11:30 AM
For reservations, phone 561-8980 prior to
3 PM FRIDAY before the meeting.

**JULY 1
MEETING**

SPEAKER:

H. Leighton Steward
Chairman, CEO & President
Louisiana Land and Exploration Company
LOSS OF LOUISIANA WETLANDS

Cover style for *LOG* issues from
June 1992 through September 1997

G.M. GASKINS AT JUNE 7 LUNCHEON
3-D SEISMIC BENEFITS FROM EXPLORATION THROUGH DEVELOPMENT,
AN EXXON PERSPECTIVE
M.G. JOHNSON, G.M. GASKINS and M. GREENLEE

ABSTRACT

Exxon has participated in over 370 3-D seismic surveys in 13 countries, since the late-1970's. The worldwide distribution of our experience is led by western Europe, the Gulf of Mexico and Canada. These surveys have added significant value to our upstream operations and we consider 3-D seismic to be the single most important technology to ensure the effective and cost-efficient exploration and development of our oil and gas fields.

Exxon is applying 3-D seismic technology in established exploration trends, the early phases of field delineation, development decision making, as well as field exploitation. Our use of 3-D seismic surveys has led to the addition of new reserves, drilling of fewer dry or marginal exploration wells, and optimization of the number and placement of delineation, development, and secondary recovery wells. These benefits are a result of superior structural definition, more detailed reservoir descriptions, reservoir fluid content characterizations, and quantitative interpretation methods.

Although 3-D seismic surveys are expensive, when balanced against potential investments in non-productive acreage, a costly dry hole or two, a misplaced platform, incorrect assumptions on reservoir extent and geometry, or maybe even premature field abandonment—3-D seismic surveys in most areas are money well spent.

BIOGRAPHY



G.M. (Mike) Gaskins is a Senior Exploration Geologist, supporting the Office of the President of Exxon Exploration Company.

Mr. Gaskins is a native of Beggs, Oklahoma. He joined Exxon USA in 1980 after graduating from Oklahoma State University. His initial assignments were in the Oklahoma City District of the Mid-Continent Production Division in Oklahoma City.

Mr. Gaskins progressed through various Production and Exploration Department assignments in the Mid-Continent, Rocky Mountains, and Gulf Coast.

In 1990, Mr. Gaskins accepted an assignment in Exxon Co. USA's Upstream Planning and Analysis. With the formation of Exxon Exploration Company in January 1992, he was assigned to the Office of the President.

Mr. Gaskins is a member of the Society of Exploration Geophysicists (SEG) and the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG), achieving status as a Certified Petroleum Geologist. Mr. Gaskins is an Executive Committee member of the Advisory Council to the School of Geology at Oklahoma State University.

NOTICE - The last chance to have your photo taken for the Photo Directory will be at the June 7 Luncheon !!

ACTIVITIES THIS MONTH

- June 1 NOGS Luncheon Meeting** *Reservation Deadline is May 27*
11:30AM, City Energy Club
Oral Presentation:
Cenozoic Structural Evolution & Tectono-Stratigraphic Framework of the Northern Gulf Coast Continental Margin
Speaker: **Fred Diegel**
See page 5 for full Abstract
- Poster Presentation:
Trap Analysis and Allan Diagram: Case Studies and Statistics From the Gulf of Mexico
Presenter: **Steve Naruk**
See page 7 for full Poster Abstract

- June 6 "Splendors of Versailles" Exhibit**
Mississippi Arts Pavilion
One-day bus trip to Jackson, Miss.

- June 25 NOGS Resumé Writing & Interviewing Skills Workshop**
Location: Engineering Personnel Consultants
210 Baronne St, Suite 922

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NOGS 1998 Golf Tournament Photo Gallery Page 13



Cover style for LOG issues from
October 1997 through August 2006

NOGS LOG

Official Publication of the New Orleans Geological Society, Inc.

WWW.NOGS.ORG



May 2007
Volume 47, Number 11

MAY AND JUNE ACTIVITIES

NOGS Events

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."
(See Page 7 for Abstract and Biography)

Le Pavillon Hotel	ADMISSION
Check with concierge or front desk for location	with reservation \$25.00 without reservation \$30.00
Lunch served at 11:30am	Student Member with reservation Free

May 21 - Former Presidents Luncheon

Le Pavillon Hotel, \$35.00 per person. Cocktails on NOGS, Prime Rib for Lunch.
Contact the NOGS office for reservations

June 4 - NOGS Luncheon

NOGS will host "Technomania" in place of a speaker presentation. Technomania will be NOGS' first exhibit hall function in celebration of our sponsors and advertisers.

Cover style for LOG issues from
September 2006 through December 2007

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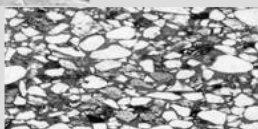
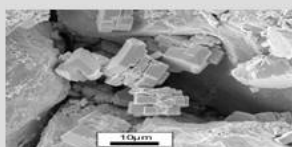
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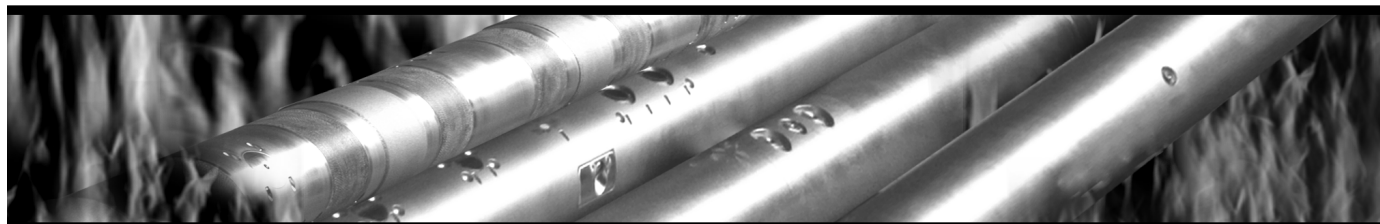
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- **Subsidence in Staufen, Germany:** Much of the town of Staufen in southwest Germany has recently been subsiding at a rate of approximately 1 mm/week. Early investigations point toward drilling operations for geothermal energy resources that were conducted in late 2007. Seven wells were drilled (maximum depth 460 ft) to install geothermal probes for heating of the town hall that was built in 1546. The project was proudly touted by the town as an "eco-friendly" renewable energy program. Shortly after drilling, cracks appeared in the town hall plaster and in over 60 neighboring structures, some which are over 600 years old. Geotechnical investigations revealed that during well installation a confined aquifer had been penetrated, and although the boreholes were cased, enough water was released to decrease pore pressure causing subsidence at the surface.

Source: Geoprac.net

- **Io's Tides:** Io, Jupiter's third largest of 16 moons is the most geologically active body in our solar system and holds the solar system record for most volcanoes, largest landslide, and highest temperatures (excluding the sun's surface). The moon is similar in size to Earth's moon but is devoid of impact craters. Io is instead covered with calderas, sulfurous lakes, and lava flows. Extremely violent volcanic ejections often reach heights of 500 km into space (there is no atmosphere). The constantly volcanic activity on Io is not driven by internal heat produced by radioactive decay like volcanism on Earth. The friction generated by Jupiter's gravitational pull as Io rotates creates bulges on the crust, similar to ocean tides on Earth. The bulges can reach 100 m in height and migrate as the moon spins. In response to the friction produced by this extremely dynamic crustal flexure, much of Io's interior is 10 times hotter than Earth's core, a process termed "tidal heating." Infrared measurements show that lava on Io reaches temperatures in excess of 1,700 degrees Celsius. Surprisingly, as this superheated lava is violently ejected, frigid surface temperatures (due to the absence of an atmosphere and distance from the sun) result in instant "freezing" and clouds of snowflake-like ash spew vertically into outer space.

From: Morton, M.C., 2008, Geotimes, May 2008, www.geotimes.org

For a more in-depth account of Io's tidal heating, snow storms, and landslides read the full article on the Geotimes website: http://www.geotimes.org/may08/article.html?id=feature_io.html

- **Mike Miner**

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