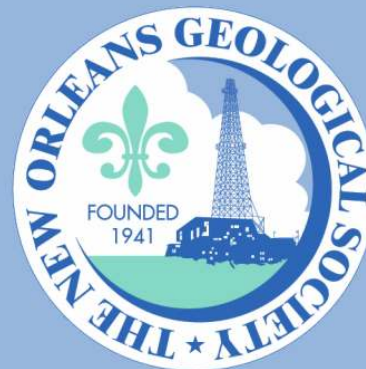


NOGS LOG



July 2009

Volume 50, Number 1

Upcoming Events and Activities

July 13 - NOGS Luncheon

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

\$2.00 validated parking in hotel garage

Guest speaker Dr. Sherwood M. Gagliano, Coastal Environments, Inc., will present
“The Third Delta Conveyance Channel: A New Branch for the Mississippi River.”

(See page 7 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 16 - 2009 Flood Protection Geological Symposium

See announcement on page 15.

August 3 - NOGS Luncheon

Guest speaker Melicie Desflots, AIR-Worldwide in Boston, will present
“Technological Advances in Hurricane Tracking”

November 12 - SGS Technical Symposium

“Exploration Offshore USA OCS: Opening the Next Frontier?” In New Orleans.

See announcement on page 30.

December 4 - NOGA-NOGS Christmas Holiday Party

At Metairie Country Club. More details in future *LOG* issues.

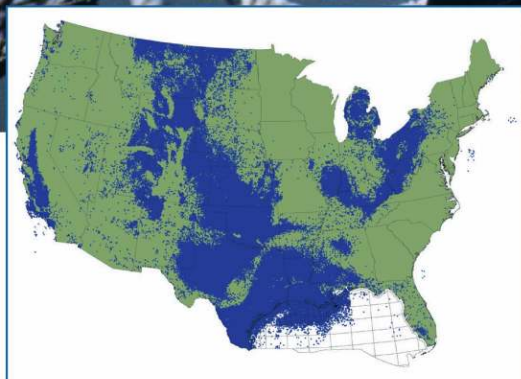
December 6-8 - 29th Annual GCSSEPM Foundation Bob F. Perkins Research Conference

“Unconventional Resources: Making the Unconventional Conventional.”

In Houston. See announcement on page 8.

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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 June 21, 2009.

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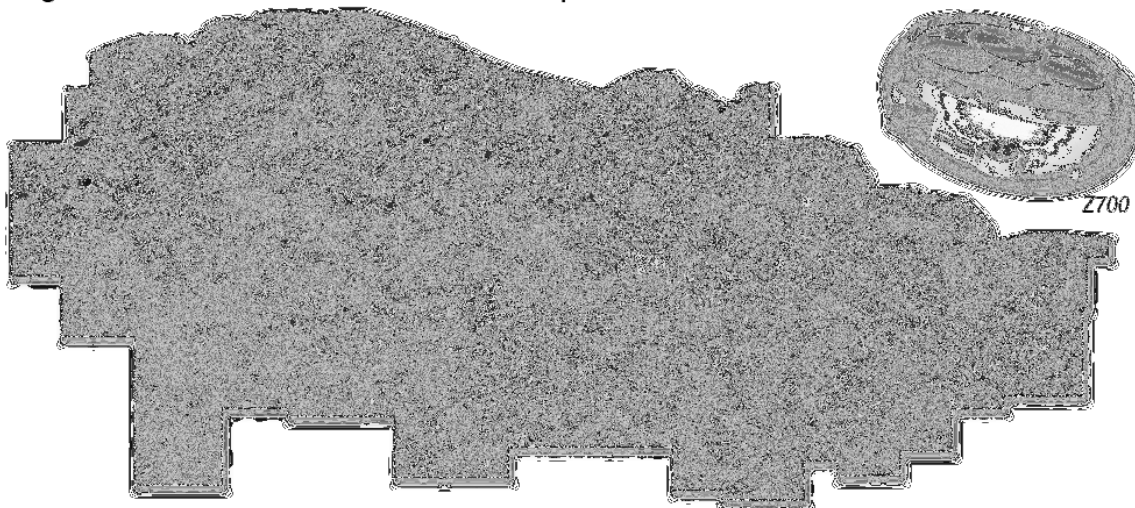
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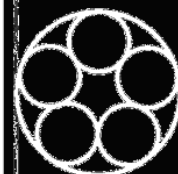
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from the President

I especially want to thank all of the members for your continuing support to NOGS. Coming into the position of president is humbling, considering the character and accomplishments of my predecessors. My immediate thanks go to Bill Whiting and Annette Hudson who guided and kept me on schedule for the past year. Bill accomplished much during that time, including the seminar with Dr. Gani, the Flood Symposium, and the Fall Field trip among others. I will continue to focus on those projects he initiated or inherited including publication of the guidebook from the 2008 field trip and Volume 4 of Oil and Gas Fields of South Louisiana. Tom Bergeron has headed the latter, and can use input from our members with knowledge of specific areas.

As Entertainment Chairman 2008-09, I want to thank all those who contributed to making our social events a success: the New Orleans Geological Auxiliary who proved essential to planning; Al Porter, Jeff Jendingian and the folks at Diversified Well Logging for our Golf Tournament; Tim Maciejewski for planning the SGS/NOGS Zephyr's Game. A stent job, coupled with eye surgery kept me from planning a spring event. Dave Reiter, our new President-elect, will be in charge of the entertainment this coming year. The December Holiday Party will be held at Metairie Country Club, thanks to the gracious invitation of Beverly and Carlo Cristina.

Ed Picou has taken the moribund NOGS website and fashioned it into something truly useful and visually attractive. For Ed, starting from "cyber-scratch," this was a huge accomplishment.

Rapidly approaching events include the Flood Symposium July 16, followed by the Deepwater Symposium August 27-28. The Deepwater Symposium returns a huge amount of technology, management technique and geoscience. "Pocket-sized" and dirt cheap, you can't get more information transfer for your buck. NOGS needs volunteers to man the registration, take photos, and run the NOGS kiosk (See the ad in this LOG.)

Our "Prime Focus" for the year is the AAPG Annual Convention in April 11-15, 2010. Tom Hudson is General Chair of the AAPG Annual Convention and from what I have observed he has mastered a herculean challenge. The AAPG's Advanced Convention and Exhibition people have

made several trips in the past two months and report that NOGS is progressing ahead of schedule. Tom says session co-chairs are still needed. Co-chairs are out there and sometimes need some encouragement to serve.

The geography of NOGS needs addressing. The only members teleconferencing our monthly meetings are at Chevron in Covington. Yet there are probably many more Northshore members who are missing out on some great talks. Penne Rappold, our Membership Chair, is completing interesting statistics showing where our members work and reside. Penne will refine her numbers as the latest renewals trickle into the NOGS office and present her results at the June Board meeting. The numbers may have bearing on where and how we hold our socials and meetings. SGS already recognizes that a significant part of their membership works on the Northshore and plans to hold some of their meetings on that side of the Lake.

I look forward to working with your new Board. Besides Dave Reiter whom I mentioned above, Bob Hafner will serve as Vice-president, Chuck Holman as Treasurer; Jennifer Connolly will be our Secretary; Liz Petro, Editor and Fran Wiseman, Editor-elect. Directors are Art Johnson, Mike Ledet, and Scott Wainwright (all NOGS presidents). Having worked with most of these people before, I feel this is a well-rounded, capable Board with a high degree of depth and scope.

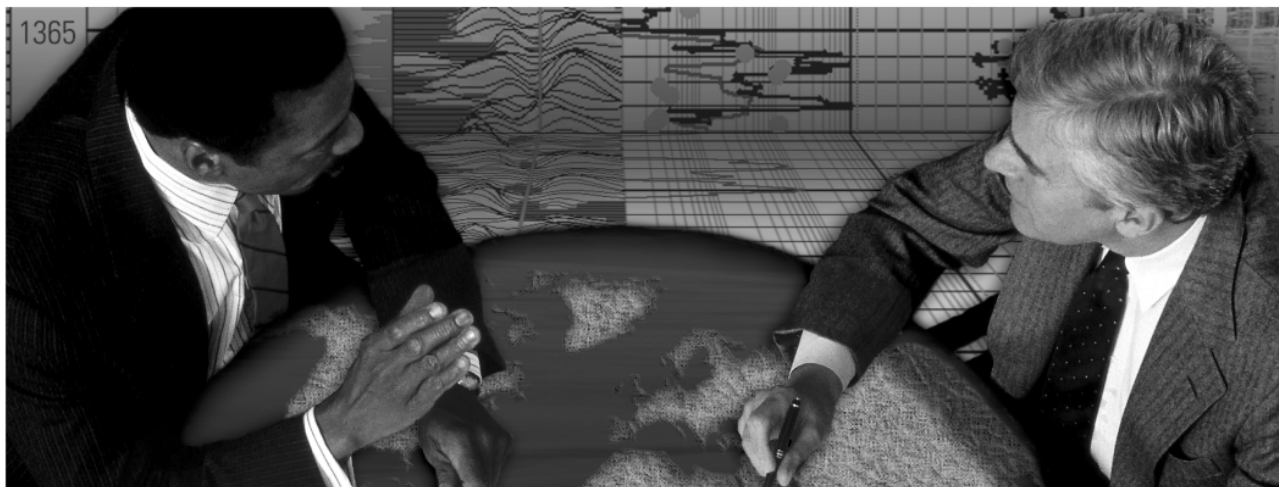
Finally, this week my wife and I attended our grandson's graduation at Clear Creek High School, close to NASA's Johnson Space Center. As diplomas and honors were handed out, NASA Flight Engineer Mike Barrett was aboard ISS Expedition 20 and watching his son Joe Barrett graduate from Clear Creek High. It caused me to reflect; exactly 50 years ago I graduated from Cincinnati's Purcell High School. In 1959 the sole space satellite was the menacing Sputnik. The Soviets proved their mettle in science and shocked the U.S. into reenergizing engineering, science and math education. At NOGS we will continue to foster public outreach in science and technology education, programs that our past presidents and board have strongly promoted.

Tom

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July 13 NOGS Luncheon Presentation
*** at the Holiday Inn Downtown Superdome ***

**The Third Delta Conveyance Channel:
A New Branch for the Mississippi River**

presented by

Sherwood M. Gagliano, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer of Coastal Environments, Inc.

ABSTRACT

It is proposed that a branch of the Mississippi River be established to convey 200,000 cubic feet per second bank full discharge of sediment charged water into the Lafourche-Terrebonne area of southeastern Louisiana, an area cut off from river flow since 1904. The delta-built land of the area has subsided and eroded at a catastrophic rate since the 1960s and is being encroached upon by the Gulf of Mexico. The primary cause of deterioration has been natural geological processes, including Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005, and Gustav and Ike in 2008 but has been impacted by human acts.

The area constitutes a significant part of the Mississippi Deltaic Plain, one of the most ecologically productive natural systems on earth, and serves as a strategically located platform for the production and importation of oil and gas. Populated areas and infrastructure are located primarily on low-lying distributary natural levee ridges.

Comprehensive plans for coastal restoration and storm protection for the region developed by both the State of Louisiana and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers continues to evolve. Landform restoration is a vital

component of the programs, and small diversions and land building utilizing pipeline delivered slurry dredge material are currently favored over large diversions. While land building with dredge material is a valuable tool for coastal restoration, large controlled diversions have an advantage, they: 1) build sub deltas, 2) are driven by gravity flow, 3) mimic nature, 4) capture bed load during floods, 5) provide renewable resources and ecological services, and 6) have flood control benefits. In contrast, building landforms with dredge material is energy dependent, and while it may initially build land faster it is ultimately more expensive and less sustainable than controlled open channel diversions.

The proposed diversion site near Donaldsonville would provide a new floodway with capacity comparable to the existing Bonnet Carré Floodway, also located upstream of the Greater New Orleans (GNO) area. Considering that the lower Mississippi River flood control system almost failed during the 1973 flood, which was only one-half the magnitude of the project design flood, and the uncertainty of flooding during the present interval of climatic change, the Donaldsonville site would provide a major flood control advantage over river diversions below the GNO area.

BIOGRAPHY

Sherwood M. Gagliano is a native of New Orleans and along with his wife Betty Huxen Gagliano is a long-time resident of Baton Rouge.

Dr. Gagliano earned his BS in geology from LSU in 1959, his MS in geography in 1963 and his PhD in geography in 1967. He is the Chief Executive Officer of Coastal Environments, Inc. (CEI). He founded CEI, an applied science and planning firm, in 1973 after serving for 12 years on the faculty of the Coastal Studies Institute and the Departments of Geography and Marine Sciences

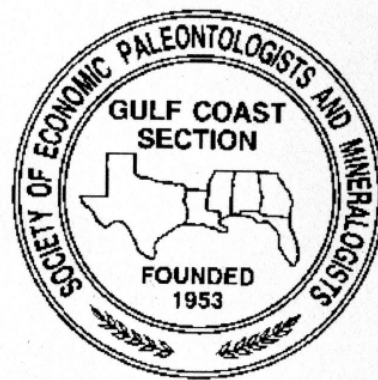
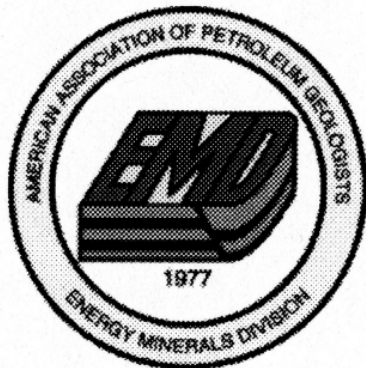
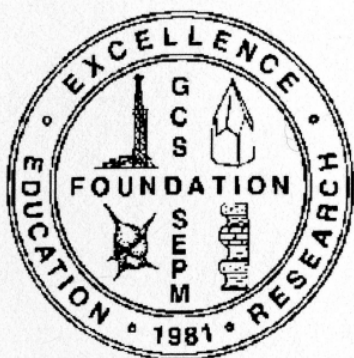
at LSU. He has over 50 years of research experience in the environmental sciences, planning, geography, geology and archaeology. He has served as Principal Investigator for innumerable projects conducted for Federal, State and local government agencies as well as for private sector clients. He has conducted fieldwork along the U. S. Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic coasts as well as along the coasts of Australia, Malaysia, Mexico, Brazil, Peru, and Nicaragua.

--- continued on page 11---

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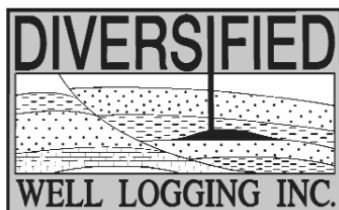
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July 13 Luncheon Spreaker Biography, continued from page 7

He has been at the leading edge of research and program development for coastal zone management and restoration in Louisiana since 1969 and has been a consultant to the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources in developing their coastal management and culture heritage programs for ten years. He has worked with elected and appointed officials at all levels of government in Louisiana and has assisted in the formulation and passage of legislation creating a number of programs including Louisiana's Coastal Management Program, the Coastal Wetlands Preservation Planning and Protection Act (CWPPRA), and the creation of the Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge. He participated in developing the CWPPRA program, worked toward closure of the MR-GO, and was one of the principal authors of Louisiana's Coast 2050 restoration plan.

Dr. Gagliano is a member of the Geological Society of America, the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, Society for Sedimentary Geology, Society of American Archaeology, Society of Sigma Xi, the Southeastern Archaeological Conference. He is a former Vice President of the Louisiana Intracoastal Seaways Association, and was founding president of the Louisiana Archaeological Society. He is the author of over 150 papers and articles.



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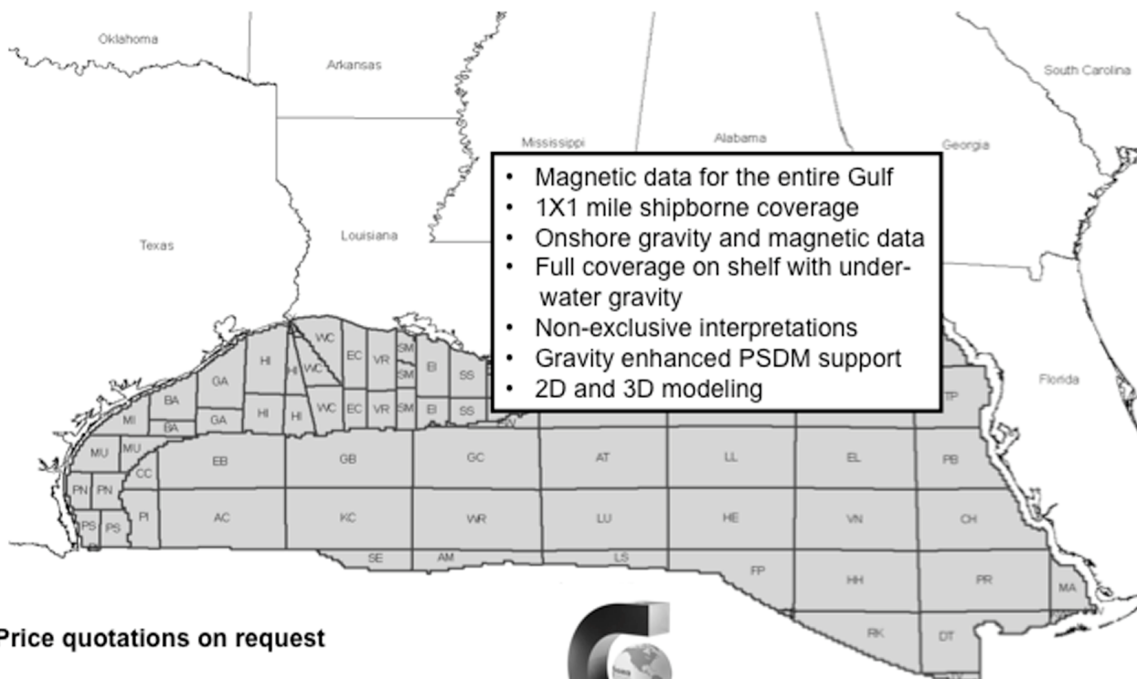
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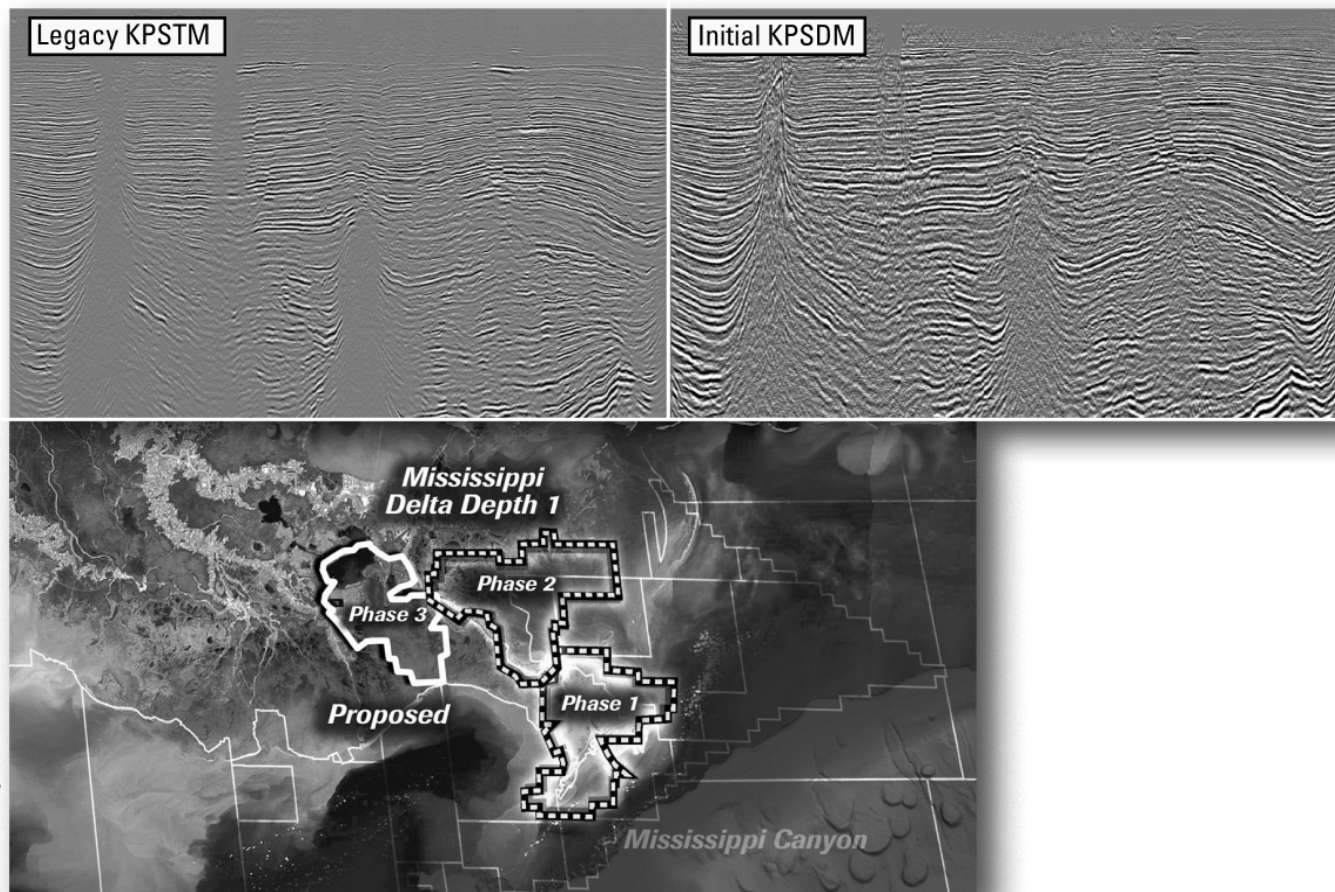
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Geologic Facts of Life for Flood Protection in Coastal Louisiana – A Symposium

Date: Thursday, July 16, 2009
Time: 12:45 PM – 4:00 PM
Location: Jefferson Parish Council Chambers
Joseph Yenni Building
1221 Elmwood Park Blvd.
Jefferson, LA 70123

Presentations by:

Dr. Mark Kulp – UNO
Dr. Torbjörn Törnqvist – Tulane
Dr. Juan Lorenzo – LSU
Dr. Alexander Kolker - LUMCON

Julie Baxter – Symposium Moderator

Please note that the Symposium is free and open to all

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For information call: 504-561-8980 or e-mail epicou@bellsouth.net
For presentation titles and abstracts go to www.nogs.org



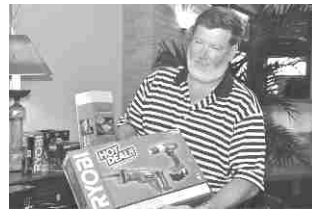
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South Louisiana and Offshore Exploration and Production Activity

DRILL BITS

- It is time for change. I have written Drill Bits since July of 2006.

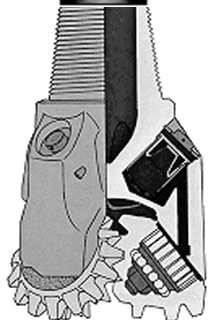
Consequently, rather than my usual column containing information I hope is of interest, I decided to provide my views and insights (for whatever they may be worth...you may want to stop reading now if you don't want to read them), and pose some questions regarding the future of the South Louisiana and the offshore part of the northern GOM.

In South Louisiana, as exploration continues much of it is attempting to expand field areas. Production enhancement drilling continues to dominate. I am aware of only a few "significant" discoveries during the past three years.

The roller coaster of natural gas prices and the damage from hurricanes significantly impacts shallow shelf producers. Regarding prices, what will be the effect of increased LNG imports (which in certain cases is somewhat price insensitive because of associated NGLs and retrograde condensate) and low-risk shale gas resource plays on U.S. nat gas supply? In addition, with U.S. basic industrial demand decimated by the current economy, what are the short-term drivers for increased U.S. natural gas demand and therefore prices? Hurricane-related production and transportation disruptions are now a fact-of-life. How can a company predict its cash flow when its production could be shut-in for months? This is a risk we ignore at our own peril because it is now a significant "business risk" for operators in the offshore and parts of the onshore northern GOM. Obviously all these factors impact exploration and production budgets and spending plans with potentially significant negative impact.

While efforts to find and develop deeper gas-bearing reservoirs in the shallow waters of the GOM have generally been moderately successful: what is the real potential of deeper reservoirs on the shelf? From Release #: 3012, dated 19-November 2003, "According to MMS officials, new data, and a better understanding of the deep gas potential due to recent discoveries have led them to increase their resource estimate to up to 55 trillion cubic feet (TCF) of gas. The number is up from the previous estimate of up to 20 TCF." Have drilling results since these estimates provided a confidence level that a high case of 55 TCF is still a reasonable expectation? Drilling/completion efforts in the Blackbeard/West Blackbeard area and deep exploration drilling throughout other parts of the region will prove interesting and hopefully provide answers.

In the deeper waters of the GOM, the Miocene sub-salt plays have benefited from better structural/stratigraphic interpretation due to improved seismic acquisition, processing, imaging, and illumination techniques. While the number of deep-water discoveries has remained reasonably high, discovery rates for large fields (>250 MMBOE) appear to have declined. The "conveyor belt model" of mega-projects; i.e., those which will produce 100,000 BOEPD or greater, is still reasonably full so that GoM production is, and will be maintained. Monitoring the backlog of those projects and new discoveries is important to the future of the GOM. If the number of new discoveries capable of hitting those production rates declines: review the new field wildcat success rate. Is it dropping? Consider the total exploration effort companies are devoting to the GOM in their deployment of exploration capital (financial and personnel). While GOM lease blocks are miniscule on a global scale, where else can operators hold even these



small lease areas for 10 year lease terms without exploration commitments? In the U.S., we are predisposed to think that companies are giving U.S. exploration a fair shot...are they? Again, watch the exploration statistics.

Production from several fields/facilities never reached or maintained either stated optimum or design capacity for more than a year. Are we as geologists/geophysicists/engineers unjustifiably overconfident in our ability to delineate reservoir extent and performance? Or, to achieve payout of the large expenditures necessary in these deep-water ventures and to drive economics, are reservoirs being produced at excessive rates?

Will the promise of the Paleogene (*aka* Early or Lower Tertiary, or "Wilcox") generally low permeability reservoirs be realized? What reservoir complexities will we eventually find in these units? What is the future of this play? BHP Billiton monetized its interest in the Cascade and Chinook discoveries, which Petrobras et al. are developing with the first FPSO in the GoM. Development costs and options are being explored by other interest owners; e.g., in their 6-May conference call on 1st Quarter 2009 earnings, Devon chairman and chief executive Larry Nichols said, "We believe that it is prudent not only for current budget considerations but for future years as well to limit our capital allocation to these long-term projects. Accordingly, we're announcing today a plan to pursue a partner to participate in the Lower Tertiary projects in the Gulf of Mexico. We are one of the larger independent acreage holders in the play and in fact our average interest in the exploration blocks is over 50%. The benefits to a potential partner would be to obtain an interest in four significant oil discoveries (*NOTE: Devon's Lower Tertiary interests include a 25% WI in both Jack and St. Malo; a 50% WI with Petrobras at Cascade; and a 30% WI in BP's Kaskida.*) plus a share of our exploration prospect and lease inventories. Our share of the four discoveries alone represents up to 100 million barrels of net resource...So, this is a very valuable package. We believe that this opportunity will have appeal to large companies around the world. For Devon, our share of the ongoing capital commitments would be reduced, while we would of course maintain and keep a meaningful interest in the play. We expect to open a data room to potential partners within the next several weeks and we will see what kind of interest that generates. Fortunately, we are under no pressure to execute a transaction and will not part with these valuable assets in any kind of a discount."

So...what's next: Cretaceous or Jurassic plays in deep and ultra-deep waters? Will the Shell-Nexen Norphlet discoveries, *aka* the "String of Pearls Concept" in the West Florida salt basin become commercial?

Lots of questions: it will be interesting watching the answers evolve. The GoM, written off as "The Dead Sea" several times in the past, probably isn't: at least not yet.

Paul Post

FROM THE EDITOR

The staff at NOGS Log would like to thank Paul Post for his years of service writing the Drill Bits column. The value it added to the Log was important and appreciated. Any parties interested in contributing to this column should contact Liz Petro at nogseditor@gmail.com.



New Orleans Geological Auxiliary News

Here's wishing everyone a happy and safe 4th of July. Before we know it, we will be celebrating Labor Day along with our September Coffee.

I am pleased to report the Planning Committee has met, and we believe, have secured excellent venues for our 2009-10 Luncheons and Socials. Our "Pres" Linda Peirce hosted this meeting, along with Beverly Kastler, Judy LeMarie', Jean Jones, and myself. Joan Sylvester has offered her home for our September Coffee. Thanks Joan! Jean Jones, Ruth Ingram and Dorothy Jean Hill have agreed to Co-Chair this event on 9-9-09. How can anyone forget this date? Following the Joint Board Meeting and receiving the Board's approval, the remainder of the functions will be published in next month's NOGS LOG, so stay tuned.

For those who missed the May Installation Luncheon, my condolences to you. Josie Markey and June Perret put together a luncheon to remember. The food was outstanding; the beautiful weather provided a background for super snapshots, and for those who were lucky enough to win the unique planter table decorations/door prizes, congrats. Thanks so much June and Josie, you did a terrific job.

For those who did attend, I am sure you noticed the utter surprise and shock on my face as well as Peggy Rogers. We were the recipients of the Service and Loyalty Awards (respectively). My very special gift, a gorgeous Crystal Trifle Bowl, will be cherished always. In addition, Peggy Rogers deservingly received the Loyalty Award; a Frank Lloyd Wright Clock was presented to Peggy. With grateful hearts, thank you to the Awards Committee for honoring us.

This column is also an invitation to any spouse who has not joined us. Please come to our Coffee in September and meet us. I promise that you will never meet a group of more welcoming ladies whose spouses have been discovering oil and gas for years! Some of our ladies have lived in various cities throughout their spouses careers, and all have many interesting stories to share. This leads to great conversations and helps to forge relationships along the way.

In closing, much appreciation goes to those who have willingly agreed to, or offered to Chair and Co-Chair our future Luncheons and Socials and to those assisting with the NOGS Kick-Off and Christmas Party. Didn't someone once say "it takes a village!" We thank you all for your continued support.

Respectively,

Susie Baker

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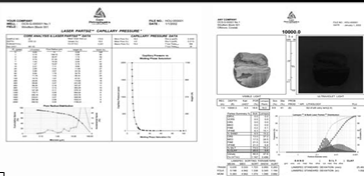
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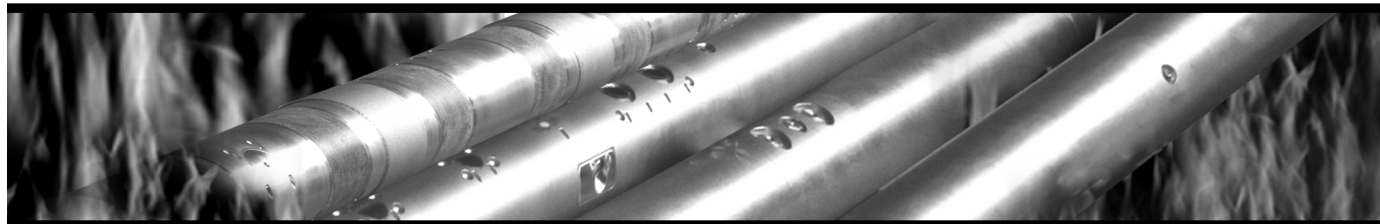
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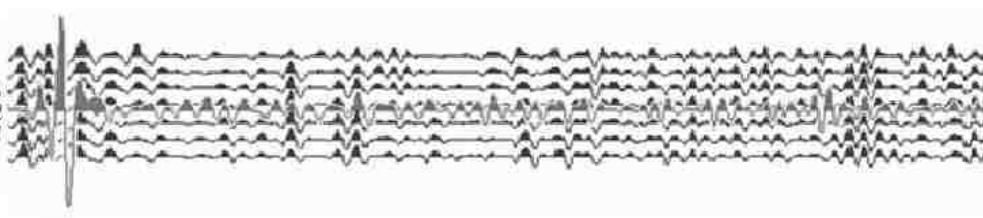
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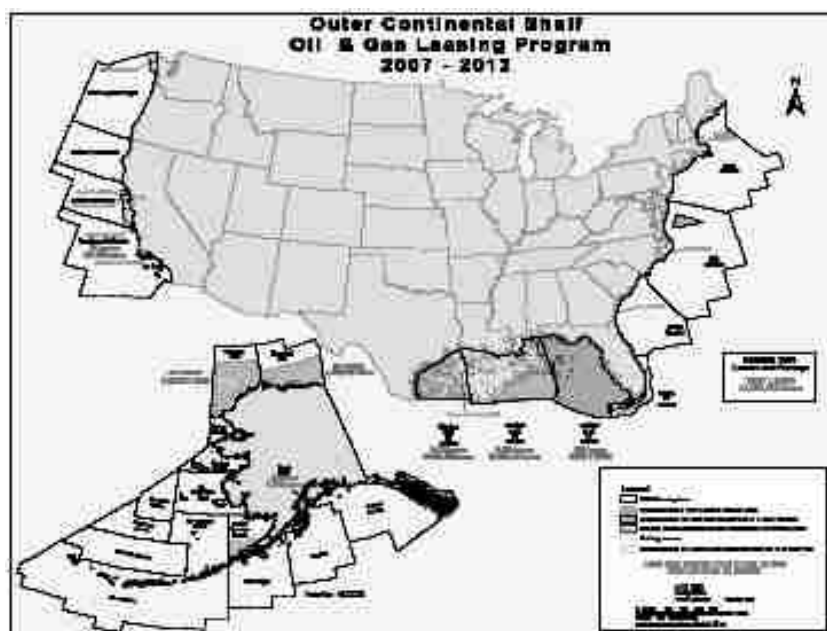
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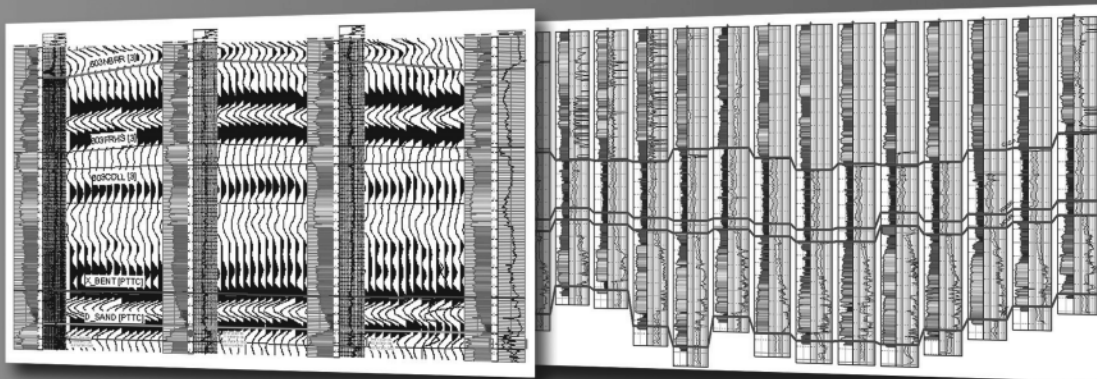
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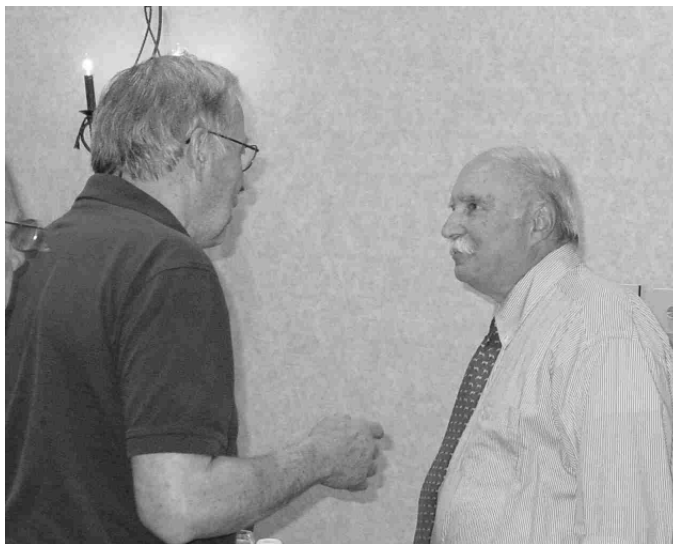
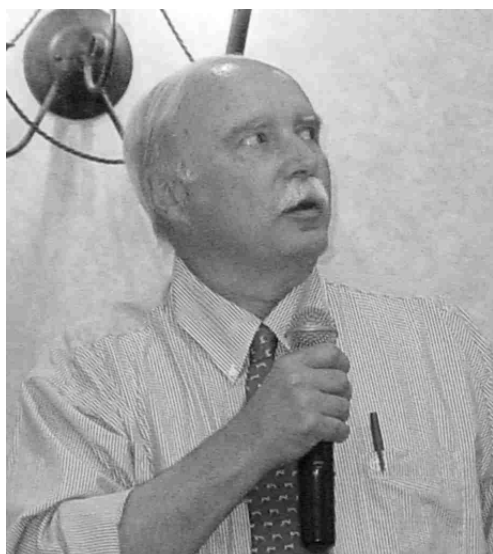
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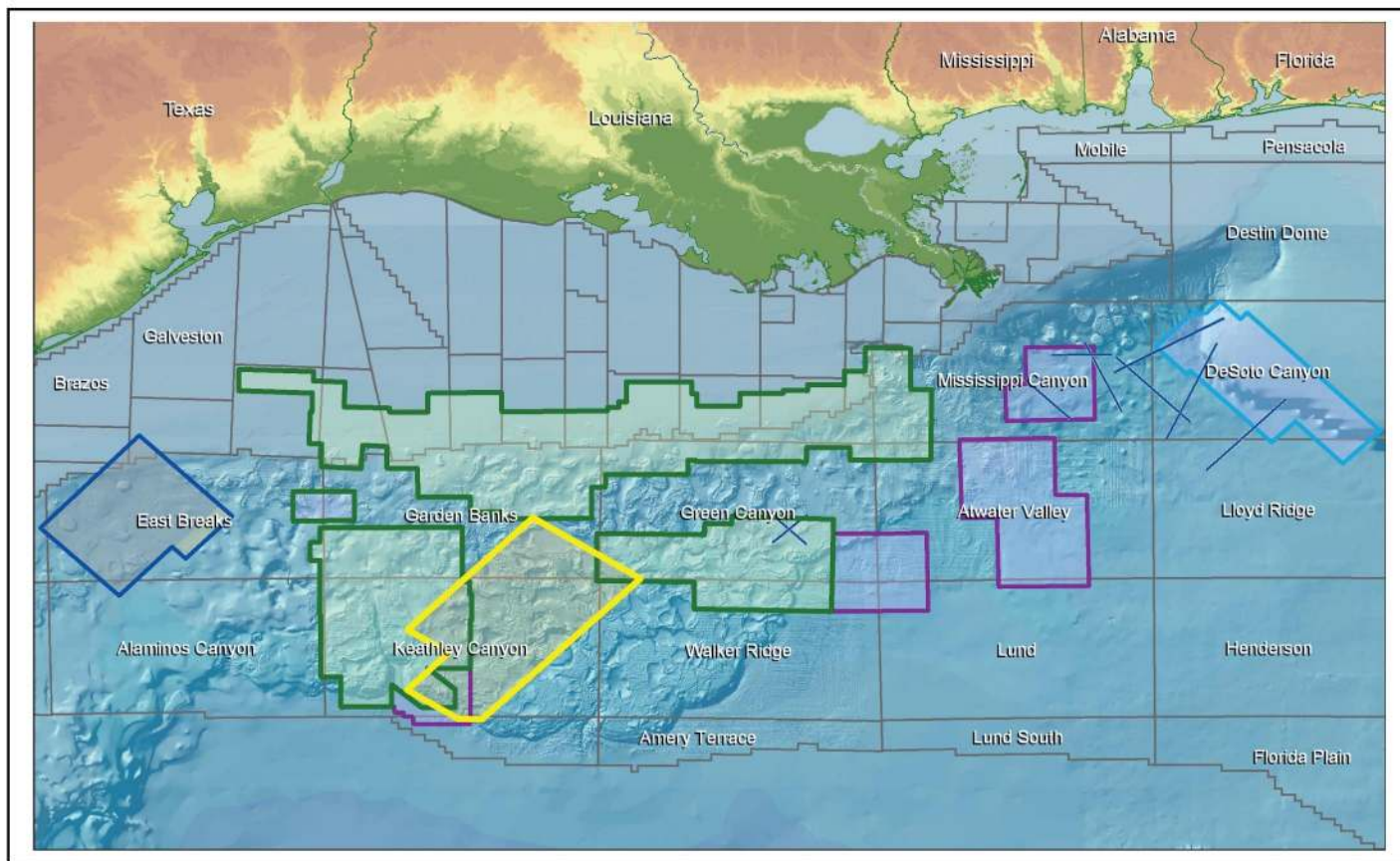
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