# AUGUST 2012

Volume 53, Number 2

AUGUST 6 - NOGS LUNCHEON Presentation: Geophysical Monitoring of Artificial Earthen Levees Guest Speaker: Juan Lorenzo, Ph.D. - Geology and Geophysics Dept. • LSU - Baton Rouge, LA

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## ON THE COVER:

#### Cover Photo Submitted by: Dr. Juan Lorenzo

LSU graduate student James Crane places a string of 100-Hz vertical-component geophones (left) and 30-Hz horizontal component geophones (right) at 15-cm intervals, along an east-west section of levee just east of the Lake Villa Pump Station (Surburban Canal), Metairie, Louisiana. Four surface impact sources spaced 3.6 m apart were applied on either side of the strings to sample a zone of seepage. Seeps had been located by the Southeast Flood Protection Authority-East and US Army Corps of Engineers. No significant changes in velocity structure were detected and seeps were attributed to a hanging aquifer within the floodprotection levee. Student field work for geophysical levee monitoring is provided to UNO and LSU by the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authorities-East and -West, The New Orleans Geological Society, the Southeastern Geophysical Society, and the American Petroleum Institute, New Orleans Chapter.



Hello again fellow NOGS members! I want to start off by thanking those of you who provided feedback on the new look of the LOG. It sounds like the general consensus is the color formatting and modern style are an overwhelming success. Significant credit for this improvement goes to our new formatter and publisher, Kristee Brown, and our previous editor, David Tatum. In addition to the new look of our monthly publication, we also look forward to bringing you additional features in the LOG that I think you will all enjoy. Some of those enhancements are the "NOGS Welcomes" feature, which introduces our new members to the rest of our Society, as well as the "NOGS Member Updates," which will give you the chance to provide a personal update to our fellow members regarding any life or career events you want to share.

I also want to make special note of the upcoming Deepwater Technical Symposium at the Hilton Riverside on August 15th and 16th. These events are always great networking opportunities and are especially rich in technical learning opportunities, especially for those of us who work in the Deepwater, myself included. Next month's Luncheon speaker will be Dr. Juan Lorenzo, a former professor of mine in the LSU Department of Geology and Geophysics, and he will be talking about utilizing geophysical methods to investigate levee integrity in the New Orleans area, a topic of interest for many who call this area home. And finally I want to recognize the newly elected NOGS officers for the 2012-2013 year. Congratulations to you all and I look forward to working with you during this upcoming year.

> Thanks. Jordan Heltz - NOGS LOG Editor

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The New Orleans Geological Society could not exist without the dedication and service of volunteers. These individuals maintain the books, organize luncheon speakers and events, and keep the best interests of NOGS members at heart. Thank you to all who ran for office and congratulations to those who won. This year's board is diverse with respect to the different geological disciplines

in today's industry. I am excited to have the unique opportunity of working with this enthusiastic and talented group of professionals.

One person in particular has helped NOGS make great strides as a professional organization continuously for the last 20 years. She runs the office of NOGS like a well-oiled machine and keeps the board in check. Without her assistance, being an officer may feel like a full-time job. Thank you, Annette Hudson for all the hard work you have put in for us.

A quick reminder about the Deepwater Technical Symposium which will be held August 15-16 at the Riverside Hilton Hotel, where deepwater offshore Mexico, the Wilcox play, and 4-D seismic are just a few topics available. Many NOGS members had a hand in organizing this event, so it is sure to be fascinating with an incorporation of multiple geological elements.

Last month, Carlo Christina reported a deficit in membership with respect to last year's numbers. One of our goals this year is to increase our membership through social events and creating an environment attractive to all geological disciplines.

I hope to see you all at this month's luncheon, on August 6th, when Dr. Juan Lorenzo of the G&G department at LSU will present "Geophysical Monitoring of Artificial Earthen Levees." This is a topic that, as a New Orleanian, I am very interested in: flood protection. We have had great turnouts for our last few luncheon meetings, and I anticipate us continuing the tradition.

One last note, if you haven't noticed, last month we had our very first full color version of the *NOGS LOG*. I applaud the editors and staff that put the time and effort into making this happen. I am very pleased with how it turned out.

Will Jorgensen

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## UPCOMING

**Events & Activities** 

#### August 6 • NOGS Luncheon

Holiday Inn Downtown Superdome

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#### **Presentation**:

Geophysical Monitoring of Artificial Earthen Levees

#### **Guest Speaker**:

Juan M. Lorenzo, Ph.D.

Department of Geology and Geophysics • Louisiana State University – Baton Rouge, LA See page 9 for Abstract and Biography

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#### August 15-16

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**August 6 NOGS Luncheon Presentation** 

 $\Rightarrow$   $\Rightarrow$   $\Rightarrow$  at the Holiday Inn Superdome  $\Rightarrow$   $\Rightarrow$   $\Rightarrow$ 



#### Geophysical Monitoring of Artificial Earthen Levees



presented by

Juan M. Lorenzo, Ph.D. Department of Geology and Geophysics Louisiana State University Baton Rouge, LA

#### ABSTRACT

A growing societal need exists for scientific involvement in the study of flood protection systems, addressable by near-surface seismic methods. Both deep- and near-surface hydro-geologic processes can contribute to the structural failure of artificial flood protection embankments, dikes, or artificial levees. Recently, seismic geophysical methods have attempted to develop a proxy for engineering shear strength, by mapping changes in the transmission velocity of shear waves through artificial levees. In the absence of electromagnetic methods VP/VS ratios can be used as good indicators of variations in the fluid (water, and air or gas) saturation.

A distressed section of an artificial earthen levee, suitable for seismic investigation, lies ~15 km S of the city of New Orleans, Louisiana. A 100-m section of the crest shows continuous cracks which are as much as 10 cm wide, and 30 cm deep at their northern end. Between September 2007 and February 2008 we collected horizontally polarized shear and compressional wave data in pseudo-walk-away tests focusing on the natural soils (upper 30 m) of the protected (west) flank of the earthen levee 30 m away from the crest. Two profiles lie parallel and on either flank of the damaged levee crest and, for reference, two profiles sample undamaged portions of the protected levee flank. Cone-Penetration Tests (CPT) are spaced at 300 m intervals along the levee crest.

In the first 30 m (~100 feet) of sediment below the lower delta plain of the Greater New Orleans area, a complex and dynamic interaction of freshwater and marine sedimentary environments has juxtaposed a diverse set of facies. From the integration of VP and VS velocity maps (from body and Love Waves), surface facies maps, and laboratory-derived physical properties we interpret greater soil saturation on the protected side of the levee, adjacent to crestal cracks. Subsurface fluvial-deltaic facies are too variable to be predictable from physical properties at widely-spaced CPT sites alone. Future preventive, monitoring of flood-protection barriers stand to benefit from integration of geophysical profiles, calibrated to geotechnical information at point locations and integrated with geological and topographic information.

#### BIOGRAPHY

Juan Lorenzo became a geologist through the University of Barcelona in 1983. His interest in geophysics was kindled after a summer internship in Italy with Western Geophysical in 1982. The following year he came to the US as a Fulbright student where he concentrated on Marine Seismology for his graduate degrees at the Lamont-Doherty Observatory of Columbia University. For his Ph.D. he worked on the structure and mechanics of continental transform margins. He has participated in seven marine geophysical and drilling cruises in all the major oceans except the Arctic and has led two land-based seismic field surveys lasting several months to central and northern Chile: in 2001 and in 2007-8.

From 1993 until 1999 while at LSU he used marine seismic images to study the flexure and failure of northern Australia during collision with Indonesia. Since 1999 he turned to land-based seismic studies to look at shallow faulting in the Gulf Coast (0-500 m), microearthquake activity induced by hydraulic fracturing and soil saturation in a physical seismic modeling tank and in the field beneath New Orleans levees. Field work on the geophysical monitoring of levees forms part of a collaboration with the University of New Orleans and is funded by South-East Louisiana Flood Protection Authorities-West and East. Student scholarships for the work are supported by New Orleans Geological Society, Inc. and Memorial Foundation, Southeastern Geophysical Society and American Petroleum Institute Delta Chapter.

#### THE LUNCHEON RESERVATION DEADLINE IS JULY 31 - CONTACT THE NOGS OFFICE

#### "And Looking Ahead . . . "

The next luncheon will be held on September 10th. Our guest speakers will be Erik Scott and Richard Denne of Marathon Oil Company and they will present "Effect of the K/Pg Boundary Chicxulub Impact on the Northern Gulf of Mexico." Contact the NOGS office at 504-561-8980 or use the PayPal link on the NOGS website (www.nogs.org) to make your reservation.

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|        |   |         | 1   | 2   | 3      | 4        |  |
| 5      | 6<br>NOGS Luncheon<br>Holiday Inn<br>@ 11:30 A.M. | 7       | 8   | 9   | 10     | 11       |  |
| 12     | 13  | 14      | 15<br>GOM Deepwater<br>Technical<br>Symposium | 16<br>GOM Deepwater<br>Technical<br>Symposium | 17     | 18       |  |
| 19     | 20  | 21      | 22  | 23  | 24     | 25       |  |
| 26     | 27  | 28      | 29<br>NOGS Board<br>Meeting                   | 30  | 31     |          |  |

|        | September  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |
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| Sunday | Monday   | Tuesday | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday                                   | Saturday |  |  |  |
|        |  |         |  |  |  | 1        |  |  |  |
| 2      | 3<br>Labor Day                                     | 4       | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8        |  |  |  |
| 9      | 10<br>NOGS Luncheon<br>Holiday Inn<br>@ 11:30 A.M. | 11      | 12<br>NOGA Luncheon                                    | 13   | 14                                       | 15       |  |  |  |
| 16     | 17   | 18      | 19<br>NOGS Board<br>Meeting                            | 20   | 21<br>NOGS<br>"Kickoff Party"            | 22       |  |  |  |
| 23     | 24   | 25      | 26<br>LA Subsidence,<br>Land Loss,<br>Geology Symposia | 27<br>LA Subsidence,<br>Land Loss,<br>Geology Symposia | 28<br>Louisiana Oil and<br>Gas Symposium | 29       |  |  |  |
| 30     |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |



# In Remembrance Steve and Maríon Míllendorf

The media, newspapers and television have reminded us that, 30 years ago this month, Pam Am Flight #759 crashed on takeoff in Kenner, killing all on board plus 8 on the ground.

NOGS particularly felt that tragedy in that NOGS members Steve and Marion Millendorf were passengers on that flight. We deeply miss them, and at the same time, we are greatly appreciative that the Gibbet Hill Foundation bestowed a most generous donation to our Memorial Scholarship fund in their memory.

It is gratifying and impressive to think of how many geology students have benefitted, and how many more will continue to benefit from this scholarship fund.

> Many thanks, Duncan Goldthwaite (NOGS President 1982-1983)

#### **Results of the Recent NOGS Elections**

An election was held in May for the NOGS officers for the 2012-2013 year. The results of the election are as follows:

| President-Elect | Bay Salmeron    | Treasurer            | Kelli Hardesty        |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Vice President  | Kevin McVey     | Editor-Elect         | Sheri Richardson      |
| Secretary       | Bruce Bahlinger | Director (2012-2015) | . Irion Bordelon, Jr. |

NOGS would like to give a special thanks to all of the dedicated members who agreed to be candidates for office this year.

#### NOGS Member Updates: NOGS LOG wants you!

Share the latest information about your life, career or anything else of interest to have it published in an upcoming NOGS LOG.

Send an email to nogseditor@gmail.com or mail your news to: "NOGS Member News" • 810 Union Street • Suite 300 • New Orleans, LA 70112

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# <image>

At the July 9th NOGS luncheon, the Board gave out awards to outgoing officers and for exceptional service to the NOGS organization. Mike Fein, NOGS Director and Awards Chairman, presented the following awards:

Frances Wiseman for volunteering as Vice President after Daisy Pate assumed the Presidency

Charles Holman for his work as Secretary

Bay Salmeron for his work as Treasurer

David Tatum for his work as Editor

Art Johnson for his role as director for 2009-2012

Daisy Pate for her work as President after taking over the role when Bob Hafner moved to Houston

**Tom Klekamp** was awarded **Honorary Life Membership** for his long-time work as committee member and chair, President, Chairman of the Memorial Foundation, and President of GCAGS.

**The President's Award** was presented to the following three individuals; **Leslie Broussard** for her support of NOGS and for all her help with the NOGS Golf Tournament; **Kelli Hardesty** for presenting, bringing in a presenter, bringing in new members, volunteering at Super Saurus Saturday, and running successfully for Treasurer; and, **Will Jorgensen** who as President-Elect put on a great kickoff party and Christmas party, which succeeded in attracting younger members of the organization.

A special award was presented to **Jannette Sturm-Mexic** as a thank you for her many years of service on the *NOGS LOG*.

In celebration of **Annette Hudson's** 20th anniversary with NOGS, Jack Langford, who hired Annette in 1992, presented her with a Citation, four tickets to the Louisiana Philharmonic, and a silver locket inscribed with her initials, NOGS, and 20 years.

Mike also announced that the NOGS Outstanding Service Award would now be named **The Edward B. Picou Outstanding Service Award**. It will be given to a member who embodies Ed's spirit of giving to his company, his profession, his alma mater, and mankind in general. The first recipient of this special award was **David Tatum**. David was responsible for not only saving NOGS considerable money with the *NOGS LOG*, but also upgraded it to full color.

NOGS appreciates the work of all its volunteers, members, and especially its advertisers and sponsors.



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**Hunter C. Berch,** a geoscience intern at Chevron ES, is working on his MS degree in Geology at LSU with an interest in unconventional petroleum systems. His Master's thesis is titled "Determination of the Lateral Continuity and Hydrocarbon Potential of the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale in the North Louisiana Salt Basin Using the Modified Passey Log Overlay Method to Characterize Spatial Variations in Total Organic Content." Hunter, a native of Starkville, MS, received his BS (2011) in geology from Millsaps College in Jackson, MS. He is a new student member of NOGS and is LSU's AAPG Student Chapter representative to NOGS this year.

**Charles P. Chaisson,** a native of New Orleans, is attending the University of Louisiana at Lafayette as a MS candidate in geology. He is also working as a geologist for Covington Exploration in Covington where he is generating prospects by subsurface mapping and interpreting 3D seismic. Charles graduated from UNO with a BS (2011) in Geology and was a 2010-2011 recipient of the Jules & Olga Braunstein Memorial Scholarship. He currently resides in Madisonville.

**Martin Owen Miller II** is a native New Orleanian. As an attorney and land co-owner in Cameron and Vermilion Parishes, he works with geologists and geophysicists, negotiates leases/trades and prepares lease documents to have prospects drilled and, as he hopes, developed. M. O. earned his BBA in Finance (1962) from the University of Notre Dame and his JD (1969) from Tulane University School of Law. He is a member of Professional Landmen's Association of New Orleans (PLANO), LA State Bar Association, ABA and other professional organizations. He and his wife, Diane, have been married for 45 years.

**Ashley B. Scriber,** a mineral owner and organizer with Scriber Land Company, has been employed in Equities Sales at Johnson Rice since 2007. He previously was employed at Howard Weil also in Equities Sales. He is a native of Pine Bluff, AR and received both a BA (1994) in economics and a MBA (2000) from Tulane University. Ashley is interested in both the Non-Technical Education and the Scouts committees of NOGS. Ashley and his wife, Anina, have three children and reside in New Orleans.

**Andrew M. Thorne** is a geologist with Northwind Energy in New Orleans. Andrew graduated from George Mason University, in Virginia, with a BS (1988) in geology. In 1992 he earned a MS in Geology from LSU. While working as a geologist at Texaco, Andrew received his MBA from Tulane University in 1999. Andrew has been reinstated into NOGS and is an associate member in AAPG with an active membership pending. He is married to Judith and they reside in New Orleans with their two young children.

**Scott R. Tipple** is a student in the MS program at LSU where he recently participated in the Imperial Barrel competition. Scott's thesis title is "A 2-D, Variable-Density Numerical Model of Carbonate Subsurface Fluid Flow through the Edwards Aquifer, New Braunfels, TX: Mechanisms Inhibiting Flow Across the Freshwater/Saline-Water Interface." For the past two summers he has been a teaching assistant for LSU at their Senior Geology Field Camp in Colorado Springs, CO. This summer he is a geoscience intern at Chesapeake Energy. He is a member of AAPG Student Chapter in which he served as president for 2011-2012 and was the LSU Student Chapter representative to NOGS last year. Scott also received his BS (2009) in geology from LSU.

**Torbjörn E. Törnqvist,** PhD. is a professor in the Quaternary research group in the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at Tulane University where he has been employed since 2005. He is a native of Uppsala, Sweden. Torbjörn majored in physical geography and earned both his MS (1988) and his PhD (1993) at Utrecht University in The Netherlands. For his PhD, Torbjörn researched the Holocene evolution of the fluvial part of the Rhine-Meuse Delta. Some of Torbjörn's research interests include Quaternary geology, sea-level change, and fluvial and deltaic sedimentology. He is a member of AGU, GSA, SEPM, and IAS.

**Phillip G. Gregory,** a geologist with Shell E&P, has thirty years of experience as a geoscientist in the oil and gas industry. He was employed with Texaco in New Orleans from 1981-2001 and has been with Shell in Houston since 2002. However, he is looking forward to moving back to New Orleans soon and working with Shell's Eastern GOM Deepwater team. Phillip was born in Birmingham, AL but calls Memphis, TN home since moving there during high school. He received both his BS (1979) and MS (1981) in geology from Memphis State University. He is married to Elinor, a fellow NOGS member, who is from New Orleans and is a geophysicist at Chevron in Houston. Phillip is an active member of AAPG and HGS, and has been reinstated into NOGS.

**Mark A. Margason,** CEO of Haland Energy Partners in Chicago, is an oil and gas investor. Haland Energy is a private exploration and development company drilling wells in the Wilcox trend and Miocene sands of South Louisiana. Mark received his BS/BA in Business and MBA in 1979 from the University of Denver. He and his wife, Cheryl, live in Hinsdale, Illinois.

**Todd C. Meyer** is employed as a seismic source at Geokinetics, an independent, international land and shallow water geophysical service company based in Houston. Todd received his degree in media arts in 2003 from Tulane University. He has worked in the seismic industry for ten years and has developed a great passion for geology and geophysics. Todd is interested in the Historical, Photography, School Outreach and Technical Projects committees. Todd is also an associate member of SEG. He currently resides in Slidell.

**Dean E. Wolcott** is a program manager for Thompson Consulting Services in New Orleans. He has twenty years of experience in environmental consulting, site investigations and natural resource management. Dean earned his BS (1986) in geology from Tulane University. As a new member of the NOGS community he is interested in the Environmental committee.

#### South Louisiana and Offshore Gulf of Mexico Exploration and Production Activities

#### LAFAYETTE DISTRICT, ONSHORE AREA By Carlo C. Christina

During the month of June, the Office of Conservation issued 55 permits to drill new wells in the Lafayette District, Onshore Area.

#### **NEW LOCATIONS**

In Allen Parish, Midstates will drill a deep field extension to **North Bel Field**, (A), in Sec. 16, 6S-7W. The #1 Bel Minerals will be drilled to 16,000 feet to test deep Wilcox sands in the field which have been penetrated only to 12,300 feet. The field was discovered in 1978, but produced only 15,712 barrels of oil over a 5 year period. Nearest production is 11/2 miles to the southwest in Clear Creek Field, which is producing from a Wilcox sand at 11,900 feet. (245047)

Midstates will also drill a **Wilcox horizontal well** in **Cowards Gully Field**, (B), Beauregard Parish in Sec. 8, 7S-11W. The #1 Musser-Davis 8 H will be drilled to 15,055 feet to test the Upper Wilcox section at 11,800 feet and then drilled in a 3250' horizontal leg. The proposed well is also located offsetting 3 recently completed vertical Wilcox completions. (244983)

Midstates continues its aggressive drilling program in **South Bear Head Creek Field**, (C), in Beauregard Parish, with another **Wilcox horizontal well.** The #1 Musser-Davis 28 H will be drilled to 14,500 feet to test the Upper Wilcox section at 10,900 feet in a 3191' horizontal leg. The location in Sec. 28, 6S-11W is offsetting 4 Lower Wilcox vertical completions which produced more than 1,220,000 barrels of oil and 5 billion cubic feet of gas last year. (245065)

In Cameron Parish, **South Grand Cheniere Field**, (D), Square Mile Energy has permitted the #1 Doland 14,600 RC SUA in Sec. 7, 15S-5W. The well is located 2 miles northwest of the nearest production, which is in Crab Lake Field. (245063)

In **Pine Prairie Field**, (E), Evangeline Parish, Midstates will drill a deep test on the north flank of the field in Sec. 26, 3S-1W. The #1 Crowell will be drilled to a proposed depth of 14,200 feet to test deep Wilcox sands. (245043)

Luca Operation, LLC will drill a Camerina test in **Laurel Grove Field**, (F), in Sec. 10, 10S-13E. The #1 Belle Plantation will be drilled to a depth of 12,900 feet, and is located 1 mile west of production in the field. (245111)

In Lafourche Parish Walter Oil & Gas will re-enter the old Exxon #1 Bowie which was drilled in Lake Boeuf Field, (G), and plugged in 1967. The well is located in Sec. 116, 15S-18E, 1 mile north of Rob L production, and will be drilled to 14,100 feet. (245046)

#### **COMPLETIONS**

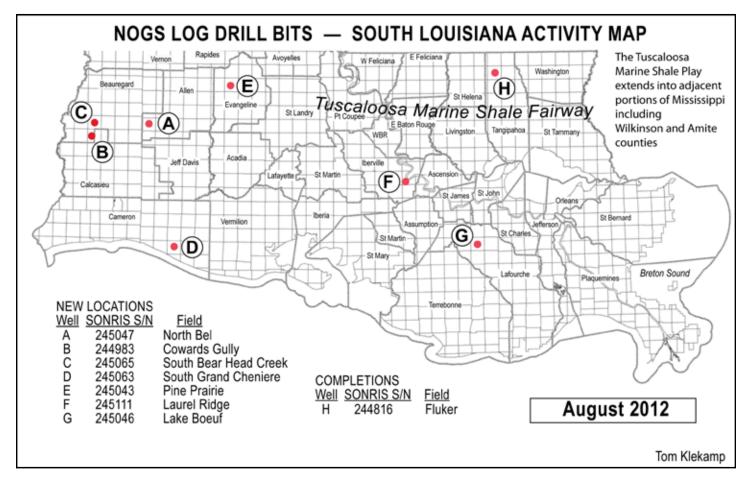
Sanchez Oil & Gas has drilled and completed the #3 Denkman as an oil well in **Fluker Field**, (H), in Tangipohoa Parish. The shallow Wilcox completion was drilled to 6700 feet in Sec. 31, 2S-7E and completed through perforations 6497 to 6501, overall, flowing 25 BOPD. (244816)

#### OFFSHORE GULF OF MEXICO SHELF AND DEEPWATER ACTIVITIES

#### by Al Baker

During June, the BOEM approved 69 drilling permits, 35 of which were for Gulf of Mexico shelf wells and 34 were for Gulf of Mexico deepwater wells. There were 2 shelf (1 exploratory and 1 development) and 9 deepwater (5 exploratory and 4 development) new well permits granted. On the shelf, Stone Energy was awarded a permit for the **Ship Shoal 93 #E-2** development well, and Hall-Houston was awarded a permit for the **Ship Shoal 238 #7** exploratory well. In deepwater, BP received 4 development well permits for the **Green Canyon 743 #DC-321, #DC-322, #DC-323,** and **#DC-324** wells. Deepwater exploratory well permits were granted for the following wells: Chevron **Keathley Canyon 829 #1,** BHP Billiton **Green Canyon 507 #2,** Shell **Walker Ridge 508 #1** (Stones Field), Hess **Mississippi Canyon 726 #6** and Eni **Lloyd Ridge 411 #1.** 

Between January 1st and May 31st, there have been a total of 160 drilling permits granted. Of these, 91 were for wells located in the Offshore Louisiana shelf, none in the Offshore Texas shelf and 69 in the deepwater or the Northern Gulf. This compares to 89 Offshore Louisiana wells, 6 Offshore Texas wells and 13 Northern Gulf wells for a total of 108 wells during the same period during 2011. The Northern Gulf activity has increased dramatically, whereas drilling activity in Offshore Texas has been abruptly curtailed since last year. The catalyst for the increase in Northern Gulf activity is the current high oil price, and the deterrent for Offshore Texas drilling is the low price of natural gas. Of the 2012 Offshore Louisiana shelf



permits, 17 were for new field wildcats, and 74 were for development wells. The 2012 Northern Gulf permits included 21 new field wildcats and 48 development wells.

On June 29th, IHS-Petrodata stated that the Gulf of Mexico rig supply had decreased by 2 to 112, while the contracted rig count had fallen by 1 to 75. This impacted the region's fleet utilization rate by increasing it to 67.0%. This compares to 65 out of the 122 rigs available during the same period in 2011. Even though the contracted rigs have increased by 13.7% since last year, the overall fleet is now 10 rigs fewer than this time last year. The majority of the available but unused rigs are cold-stacked and not marketed for contract.

Additionally, there were 24 platform rigs under contract out of the 52 total in the fleet for a fleet utilization rate of 46.2%. The current number of platform rigs under contract in the Gulf is one more than that reported last month.

On June 29th, the BakerHughes Rig Counts indicated that there were 48 active mobile offshore rigs in the Gulf, which represents 64.0% of the total mobile rigs under contract. All of the drilling remains in Offshore Louisiana and the deepwater Northern Gulf. The current active rig count compares to 29 active rigs during the same period last year. This represents a 60.4% increase in the active rig fleet on a year-to-year basis. Additionally, of the 24 platform rigs that are under contract, only 5 (or 20.8%) are currently working.

Between January 1st and May 31st, there were a total of 114 wells spudded in the Gulf of Mexico. This compares to 82 wells initiated during the same timeframe of 2011. In 2012, there were 77 wells started in Offshore Louisiana, no wells in Offshore Texas and 37 wells in the Northern Gulf. As a comparison, the 2011 starts included 58 wells in Offshore Louisiana, 8 wells in Offshore Texas and 16 wells in the Northern Gulf.

The BOEM held OCS Sale 216/222 on June 20, 2012 in New Orleans. This was the first Central Gulf lease sale held since March 2010. The Obama Administration had postponed OCS Sale 216, originally scheduled for March 2011, due to the BP/Macondo oil spill resulting in the later combination of that sale with OCS Sale 222. The recent sale attracted \$1,704,500, 995 in high bids, which was nearly double the \$949.3 million in high bids received in the previous lease sale. In terms of money spent, OCS Sale 216/222 was the fourth highest in central Gulf leasing history. However, one disturbing fact that has been underreported was that there were 27.3% fewer companies participating in this sale when compared to the March 2010 sale. In 2010, there were 77 companies involved versus 56 companies this year or a 21-company reduction. One has to wonder if perhaps this decrease might be related to today's higher operating costs in the Gulf and the increase in regulatory oversight resulting from the BP/Macondo oil spill.

The 56 participating companies posted 593 bids on 454 tracts, which were 7.6% fewer bids on 3.1% fewer tracts in comparison to March 2010. There were 193 bids on tracts in less than 200 meters of water, 115 bids on tracts between 200 and 1600 meters of water and 146 bids on tracts in greater than 1600 meters of water. The highest bid in the sale was submitted by Statoil, which spent \$157.1 million for **Mississippi Canyon 718**. This is a deepwater tract situated immediately north of Shell's prolific Mars Field. Statoil was high bidder on 26 tracts spending a total of \$333,259,056. However, they came in second place to Shell, which spent \$406,594,560 on 24 tracts. Among the independent companies, Apache Deepwater was also active with 29 high bids totaling \$72,150,373. Apache Corp. also submitted 61 high bids, the highest number of total bids submitted by all participants.

#### New Orleans Geological Auxiliary News

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

Our members meet four times during the year for luncheons in restaurants or in the homes of members. Sometimes we have speakers and, if it is one that we think will appeal to the spouses, they are invited to attend. We also have an evening social in the spring at the home of one of our members which includes spouses and significant others.

This year the Board of NOGA has planned a variety of events. We will begin the year with a luncheon at the home of Duncan and Margaret Goldthwaite in September. In November, we will be going to Vincent's Restaurant in Metairie. Virginia Barkley, owner of "Let's Get it Straight" will speak to us about getting organized and reducing clutter in our lives. After Mardi Gras, we will head to Metairie Country Club and, at that time, we will hear from Ronald Drez, historian and author. Ron has published several books on World War II and is currently working on a history of New Orleans. Our spring social will be held at the home of Jim and Trez Zotkiewicz who have graciously hosted this event in the past. We will end the year in May, with the installation of the new officers at Zea's on St. Charles Avenue.

Please take a minute to complete the membership application below and join us for some of these events in the coming year.



Mary Walther, President

#### NOGA Past Presidents gathered at Metairie Country Club in May

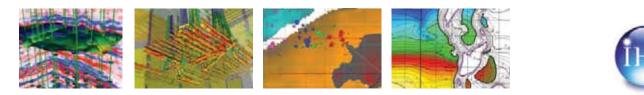
Seated: Linda Peirce, Earleen Rodan, Susie Baker and Jean Jones - Immediate Past President Standing: Mary Walther, Beverly Kastler, Camille Yeldell, Pat Williamson, Peggy Rogers, Judy Lemairié, Judy Sabaté, Beverly Christina, Alma Dunlap and June Perret

| New Orleans Geological Auxiliary Membership Application  |               |  |  |  |  |
|--|---------------|--|--|--|--|
| Name   | Spouse's Name |  |  |  |  |
| Address  | Home Phone    |  |  |  |  |
| City, State, Zip   | Email         |  |  |  |  |
| Spouse's Company DUES: \$25.00   |               |  |  |  |  |
| Please send \$25 check payable to NOGA to Judy Lamarié Treasurer #2 Yosemite Dr. New Orleans 1 A 70131 |               |  |  |  |  |

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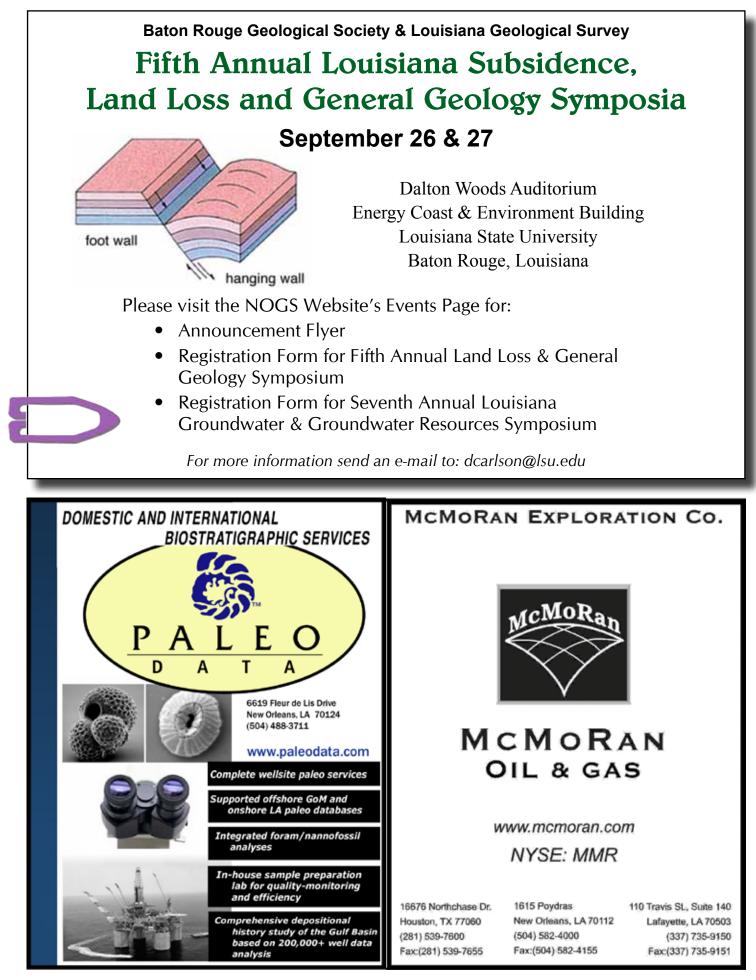
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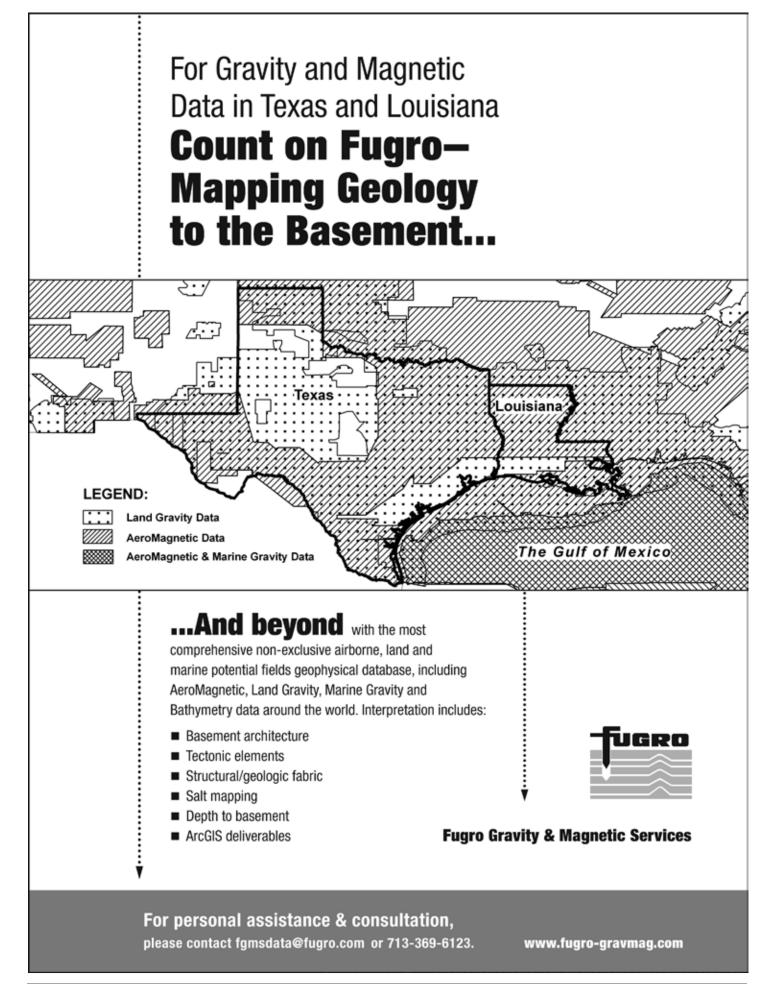
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#### Submitted by Jordan Heltz

Dow Jones Newswires – Laurence Iliff - "Pemex Finds Natural Gas Reserves in Deep-Water Gulf" July 3rd, 2012 http://www.rigzone.com/news/oil gas/a/119086/Pemex Finds Natural Gas Reserves in DeepWater Gulf

Mexico's state-owned oil company Petroleos Mexicanos, or Pemex, said Tuesday that it had discovered as much as two billion cubic feet of natural gas reserves in the deep waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

Pemex said that the Kunah-1 well at a water depth of 2,157 meters was the firm's most productive well in deep waters during exploratory tests. The well allowed Pemex to identify five wet gas deposits at different drilling levels.

The find at Kunah-1, located 125 kilometers northeast of the port of Veracruz, has allowed the oil monopoly to estimate that it can certify reserves between 1.5 trillion and two trillion cubic feet of gas using the proven, possible and probable, or 3P, measurement of reserves.

The five fields discovered had depths between 2,845 and 4,103 meters and had superior temperatures and pressures than had been expected, the oil firm said. Production tests reached 34 million cubic feet a day of wet gas, and 110 barrels of liquids, Pemex said.

Offshore Technology Internationl – Zarina de Ruiter - "Pacific Drilling awarded five-year contract by Chevron for the Pacific Sharav" June 26th, 2012 http://www.offshore-publication.com/index.php/subsea/241-pacific-sharav

Pacific Drilling S.A. has announced that its ultra-deepwater drillship, the Pacific Sharav, has been awarded a five-year contract by Chevron U.S.A. Inc for operations in the United States Gulf of Mexico.

Estimated maximum contract revenue, including mobilization and client requested modifications, is expected to be approximately \$1,076 million, bringing Pacific Drilling's total contract backlog as of June 22, 2012, to approximately \$3.2 billion.

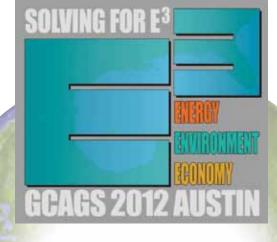
Pacific Drilling CEO Chris Beckett stated: "We are proud to announce the expansion of our relationship with Chevron to include a third drillship. This contract exemplifies our strategic commitment to building strong customer relationships and allows us to leverage the operations support infrastructure which we have already developed in the region."

Pacific Sharav is scheduled for delivery by Samsung Heavy Industries in Korea in the fourth quarter of 2013, upon completion of construction and client requested modifications. The drillship will be capable of operating in water depths of up to 12,000 feet and drilling wells up to 40,000 feet deep.

Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies and Gulf Coast Section of SEPM 62nd Annual Convention

October 21–24, 2012—Austin, Texas

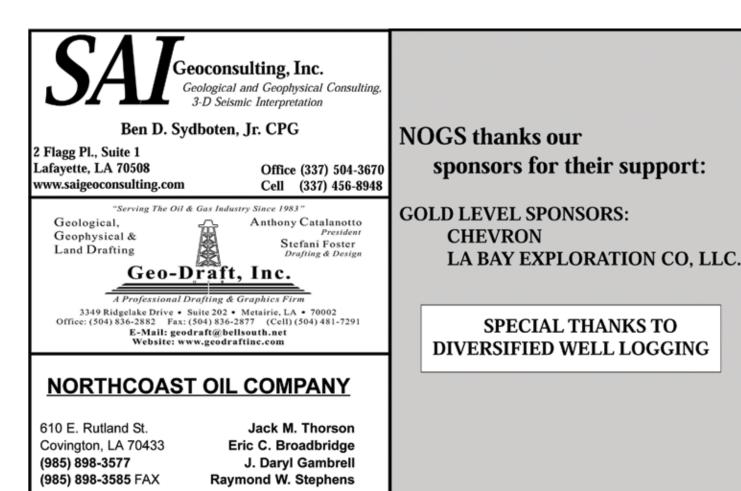
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- Announcement Flyer
- Registration Form for Third Annual Louisiana O&G Symposium

For more information, contact symposium chairman, John Johnson III at hammer@lsu.edu

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#### \$500

Mr. Richard G. Klibert Mr. Foster E. Voelker In Memory of Gene Rogas

#### Mr. James S. Classen In Memory of Jack Dunlap, Louis L. McCormick, Jr. and James P. Raymond, Jr.

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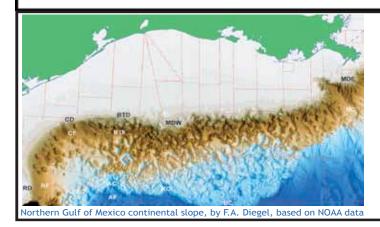
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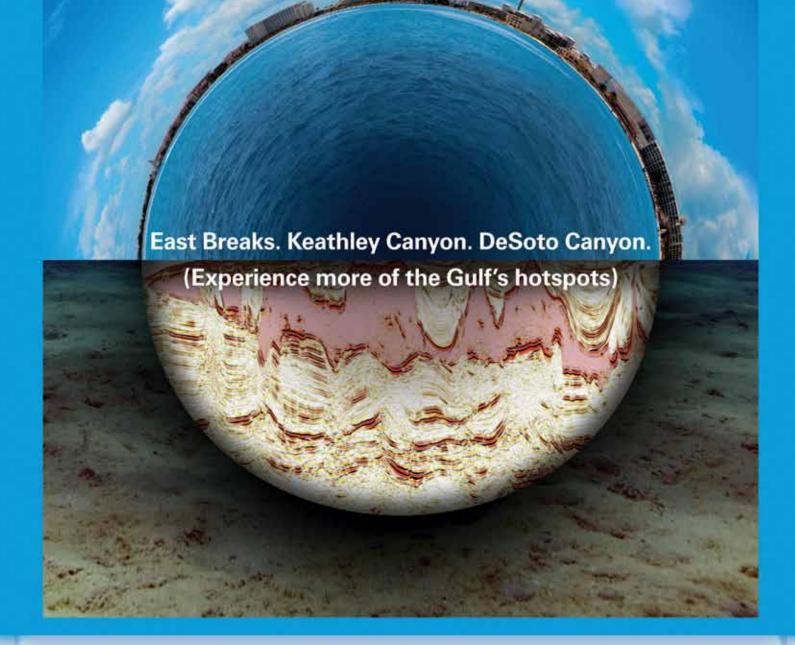
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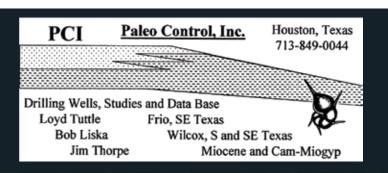


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