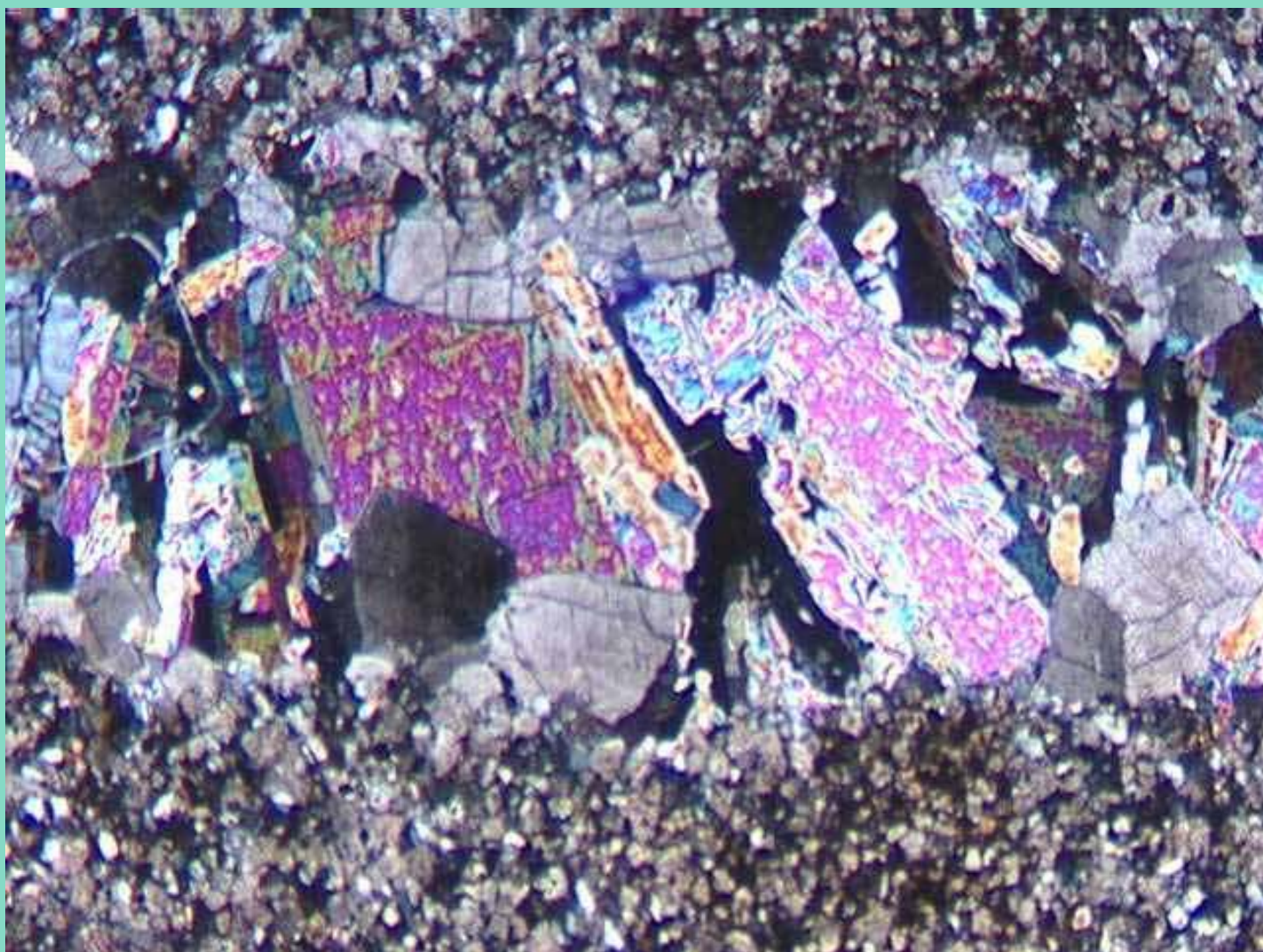
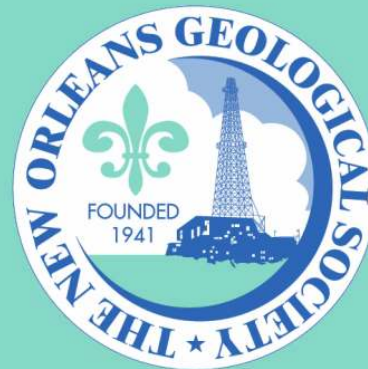


# NOGS LOG

February 2012

Volume 52, Number 8



## **February 6 - NOGS Luncheon**

Presentation: Fighting the largest recorded flood in the Mississippi River's  
history: The story of the 2011 Flood Fight

Guest speaker: Mike Stack, Jr., P.E., Chief, Emergency Management,  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New Orleans District



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# NOGS LOG

Published monthly by the New Orleans Geological Society. This issue was sent to press on January 17, 2012.

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## ON THE COVER

Cover Photo Author: Chloe Alexandre

Location: Bakken Formation, Elm Coulee Field, Richland County, Montana. The picture is a sample from the middle Bakken (a silty dolomite) and shows a fracture that has first been lined with saddle/baroque dolomite and then has been later filled with anhydrite cement.

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## FROM THE EDITOR

Hello Fellow NOGS Members! We had a great turnout for our joint NOGS-SEG meeting for the month of January. I also wanted to thank Chloe Alexandre for submitting a great cover photo. I encourage other members to do the same. I also am searching for some industry pictures, specifically onshore or offshore drilling operations located in Louisiana. There is a lot of drilling activity currently in Louisiana, and this is a good opportunity to showcase the work.

I wanted to recognize former NOGS President Brenda Reilly for her Participation in P.I.P.E. (Petroleum Industry Promoting Education). On November 5, 2011, ten oil industry societies/organizations sponsored the First Annual Core Element Strike for S.T.E.M. Fundraiser. Sponsorship included participating in the bowling competition with 9 other teams. The PIPE team consisted of representatives from contributing organizations. Team participants were: Bernadette Alaniz, Jan Catalano, Courtney Echols, Angie Gobert, Colleen Jarrott, Jim and Kay Orth, and Brenda Reilly. I also would like to mention that NOGS was a major donor to the event.

Thanks, David Tatum - *NOGS LOG* Editor





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### *from the President*

Every work day, I am lucky enough to have a view of the mighty Mississippi River. Although I have become quite accustomed to the views, I still have to respect just how mighty this river is and what an important part it plays in all of our lives. Not only has it shaped the local geology, but it is also why most of us live here, in New Orleans, an international port city. The economic impact was estimated last year at \$295 million a day, by Gary LaGrange executive director of the port.

Historically, the River is why Europeans settled here and fought over the area. The historic seasonal flooding events throughout the Mississippi River Valley have formed thick layers of the river's silt deposits, producing one of the most fertile agricultural regions of the country. This is mostly due to the size of the drainage area, which is the 4th largest drainage basin in the world. The basin covers 1.25 million square miles, which is about 40% of the continental United States, covering 32 states and 2 Canadian provinces. Near my desk, I have a quote from *Life on the Mississippi* by Mark Twain, who captained a Mississippi river boat for many years, "Ten thousand river commissions, with the mines of the world at their back, cannot tame that lawless stream, cannot curb it or define it, cannot say to it 'Go here,' or Go there, and make it obey; cannot save ashore which it has sentenced; cannot bar its path with an obstruction which it will not tear down, dance over, and laugh at."

For now the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers has accomplished, what was thought impossible; they have imposed man's will and controlled the Mighty Mississippi River. Here in New Orleans, the flood stage is 17 feet. Last month the Mississippi River had already reached a stage of 13 feet at the Carrollton gauge, which is very high for the middle of the winter. This is related to the very warm weather this year, so more of the winter precipitation has been in the form of rain, which takes about 90 days to travel down the entire river course of approximately 2,500 miles. Last year's record-breaking flood events have switched local concern from Hurricane Protection to River Control, rightfully so if you ask me. This year's long term weather forecasts are calling for "a wetter than usual flood season." Combine this with the river's water levels remaining significantly above normal, and this flood season should be very exciting.

Until March, I hope everyone enjoys Mardi Gras, and that I see you ALL at a meeting soon.

*Daisy*

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# **Upcoming Events and Activities**

---

## **February 6 - NOGS Luncheon**

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

\$2.00 validated parking in hotel garage

Guest speaker: Mike Stack, Jr., P.E., Chief, Emergency Management,  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New Orleans District

Presentation: Fighting the largest recorded flood in the Mississippi River's  
history: The story of the 2011 Flood Fight

(See page 9 for Abstract and Biography)

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front desk for location

Lunch served at 11:30am

ADMISSION:

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---

## **February 20-21 - HGS: Applied Geoscience Mudrocks Conference**

The Westin Houston Hotel, Houston. Information: [www.hgs.org](http://www.hgs.org).

---

## **March 5 - NOGS Luncheon**

Holiday Inn Downtown Superdome

Guest speaker: Franz K. Hiebert, Ph.D., P.E., Environmental Resources Management in Metairie

Presentation: Integrated Water Management for E&P: Experience from the Texas Eagle  
Ford Shale and Potential Applications in Louisiana

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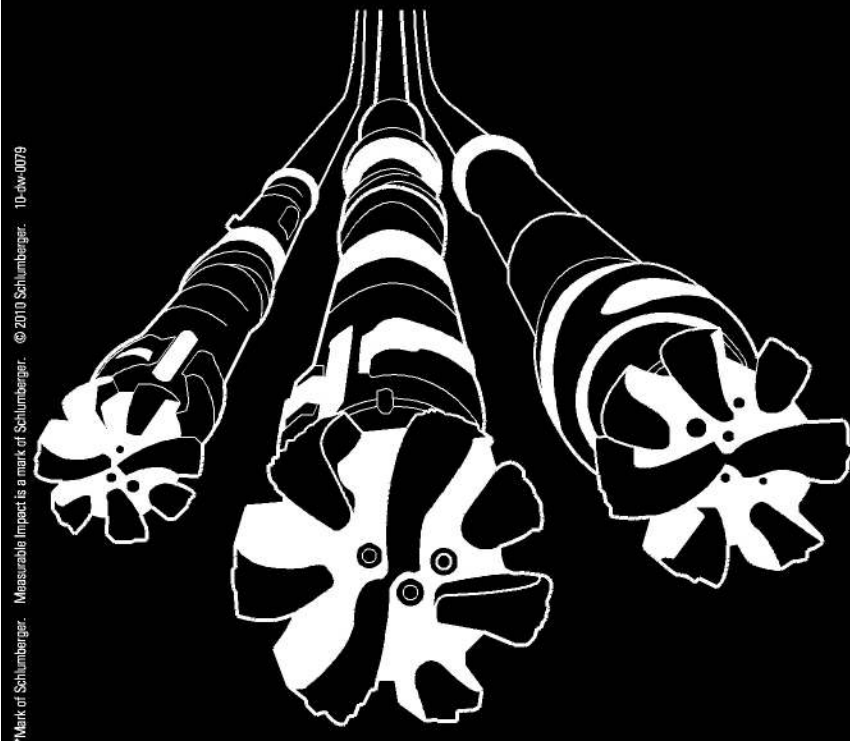
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## February 6 NOGS Luncheon Presentation

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

### Fighting the largest recorded flood in the Mississippi River's history: The story of the 2011 Flood Fight

presented by

**Mike Stack, Jr., P.E., Chief, Emergency Management  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New Orleans District**

#### ABSTRACT

Last spring's high water season reminded everyone of the Mississippi River's power and the threat posed if it were allowed to flow freely. As the river continued to rise, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in close concert with local, state and federal partners, sprung into action. In order to save lives and protect property, the Corps operated three floodways

simultaneously, including two in Louisiana, for the first time ever. At this meeting, you will hear Mr. Mike Stack Jr., Chief of Emergency Management for the New Orleans District, discuss the flood prevention actions that were taken, impacts of operating the flood control structures, challenges of fighting the flood, and lessons learned from this historic flood event.

#### BIOGRAPHY



**Mike Stack** currently serves as the Chief of Emergency Management for the New Orleans District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, where he is responsible for all natural disaster response and preparation as well as contingency planning and operations for the district. He directly oversees a five-person planning and management cell and is responsible for all emergency response training and coordination for a District of over 1,400 personnel.

During the spring of 2011, Stack led the New Orleans District's response efforts to the largest Mississippi River flood in recorded history. With over 600 personnel engaged in the response, he coordinated inspections and oversaw flood fighting efforts on approximately 1,000 miles of levees. He also coordinated operations at the District's major flood control structures including the Bonnet Carré Spillway, the Morganza Floodway, and the Old River Control Complex in response to the flood.

Stack previously served as a Project Manager in the New Orleans District's Protection and Restoration Office (PRO). He oversaw a multi-disciplinary project delivery team, which was responsible for the execution, planning, programming, design, environmental compliance and construction of the West Bank portion of the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System. During the response missions for Hurricanes Gustav and Ike, he coordinated all emergency preparation and response activities on the West Bank.


During the response missions for Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Stack served as the Chief of Maintenance Section within the New Orleans District's Operations Division. He coordinated sandbagging operations for plugging breaches at the 17th Street and London Avenue Canals and unwatering and debris removal at pump stations throughout southeast Louisiana.

Stack graduated from the University of New Orleans in 2002, where he received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering. He is also a licensed Professional Engineer.

**THE LUNCHEON RESERVATION DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 1 - CONTACT THE NOGS OFFICE**

#### “And Looking Ahead . . .”

The next luncheon will be held on March 5th. Guest speaker Franz K. Hiebert, Ph.D., P.E., Environmental Resources Management in Metairie, will present “Integrated Water Management for E&P: Experience from the Texas Eagle Ford Shale and Potential Applications in Louisiana.” Contact the NOGS office at 561-8980, or use the PayPal link on the NOGS website ([www.nogs.org](http://www.nogs.org)) to make your reservation.



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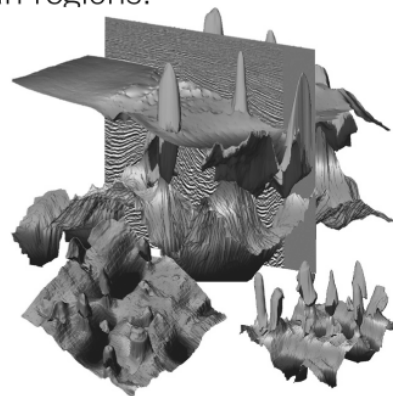
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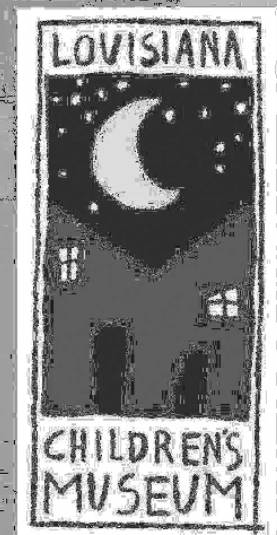


**March 24, 2012**

**11:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

**To volunteer contact: Tom Bergeon  
[tom.bergeon@centuryx.com](mailto:tom.bergeon@centuryx.com)**

**Louisiana Children's Museum  
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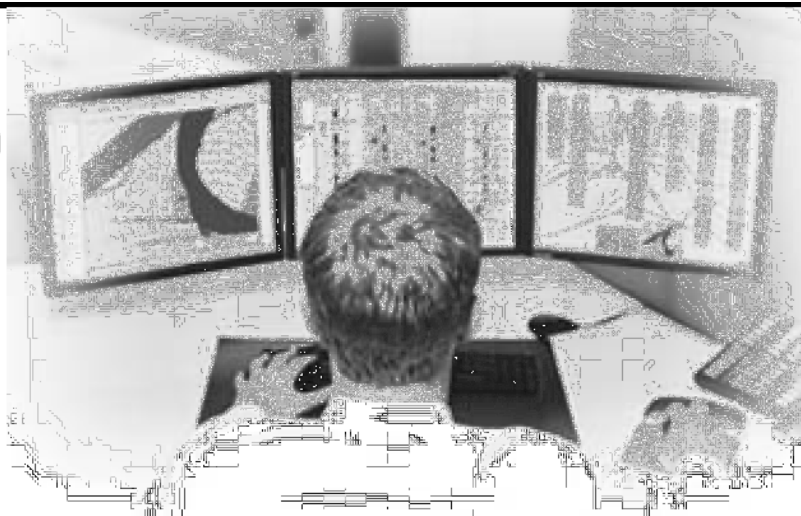


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# NOGS PRESENTS THE 2012 ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

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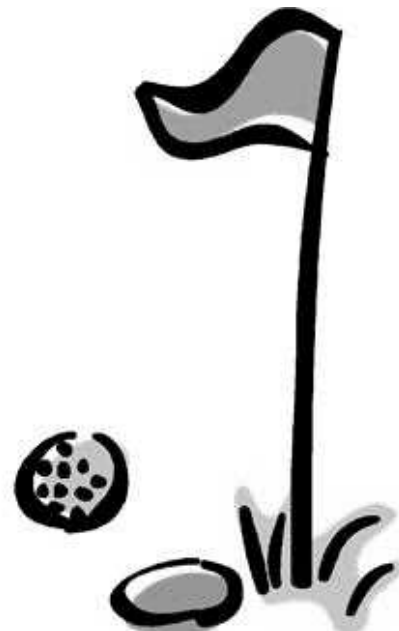
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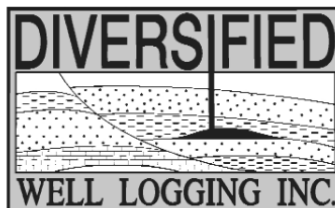
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# NEW ORLEANS GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY EVENT CALENDAR 2012

FEBRUARY						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29			
General Meetings are held on the First Monday of Each Month 2/6 - Mike Stack P.E. 3/5 - TBD		Non-NOGS Events 2/20 - 2/21 HGS Mud Rock Convention		Board of directors Meeting are held on Wednesdays in the middle of the Month		

MARCH						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31





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# 2011 Oil History Symposium – Marietta, Ohio

## Plans for 2012 - Houston

The Petroleum History Institute (PHI), in collaboration with the Ohio Oil and Gas Energy Education Program, held its 2011 annual symposium and field trip at historic Marietta, Ohio, on the banks of the Ohio River. Participants were treated to a wide variety of talks and poster presentations ranging from the history of oil and gas in Ohio to the many contributions to the industry from Baku. On the field trip, the group visited the Thorla-McKee Well, a salt water well drilled in 1814 that produced the first commercial oil in Ohio as well as seeing an old, but still operating, natural gas engine attached to a very large band wheel driving several pump-jacks (shackle line) – still producing Ohio crude after about 100 years, and a wonderful stop at the Parkersburg Oil and Gas Museum in Parkersburg, West Virginia. The trip ended with a tour of the Petroleum Engineering Department at Marietta College. **The next Oil History Symposium and Field Trip will be held in Houston, Texas, March 8-10, 2012.**

In the past, we have held the symposium in Oil City, PA, Long Beach, CA, Wichita, KS, Shreveport, LA, Lafayette, LA., Oil Springs, Ontario, and in WV.

**Mission of PHI:** To pursue the history, heritage, and development of the modern oil industry from its 1859 inception in Oil Creek Valley, Pennsylvania, to its early roots in other regions in North American and the subsequent spread throughout the world to its current global status. See the following web site for more information: [www.petroleumhistory.org](http://www.petroleumhistory.org).

PHI also publishes a yearly journal, *Oil-Industry History*. Our membership includes geoscientists, engineers, historians, museum curators, authors, etc.

We look forward to another stimulating symposium next year at the Houston meeting, March 8-10, 2012. The abstract deadline is January 15, 2012, so start thinking about your subject and send the abstract to Bill Brice, [wbrice@pitt.edu](mailto:wbrice@pitt.edu). For more information contact Jeff Spencer ([spencerj320@gmail.com](mailto:spencerj320@gmail.com)). Plans are to hold a meeting soon for those interested in serving on the 2012 oil history symposium committee.

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# *NOGS & SPE Delta Chapter Christmas Dinner Party*



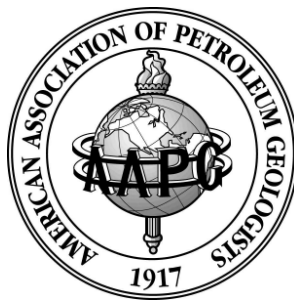
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## Norphlet Aeolian Sand Fairway Established in the Deep Water Gulf of Mexico

Godo, Theodore J.<sup>1</sup>; Chuparova, Ellie<sup>2</sup>; McKinney, Daniel E.<sup>2</sup>

(1) Shell Exploration and Production Company, Houston, TX.

(2) Shell International Exploration and Production Inc., Houston, TX.

Exploration for Norphlet aeolian sands in the deepwater Gulf of Mexico saw the first well drilled in Desoto Canyon 269 (Prospect Shiloh). Following this initial Norphlet oil discovery, a second Norphlet exploratory prospect (Vicksburg) was drilled in Desoto Canyon 353; some 15 miles southwest in hopes of establishing a wider aerial extend of a Norphlet erg. The Vicksburg well found an 850-foot thick Norphlet section dominated by aeolian dune and sandsheet facies. Five large-scale depositional intervals are recognized. They are from bottom to top 1) interbedded lacustrine red-brown mudrocks with some silty/sandy units, 2) stacked aeolian sheetsand or sheetflood facies with minor barchan dune deposits, 3 and 4) two sequences of large-scale drying upward barchanoid dunes with both sinuous and strait-crested forms based on the integration of whole core and OBMI log data, 5) mixed coastal sand sheet with some waterlain sabkha facies. The well reached a total depth after drilling 140 feet of Louann salt below the base Norphlet with very little trace of Pine Hill anhydrite. A whole core was taken just below the top Norphlet and recovered 329 feet. The oil-water contact was also cored. Oil was found filled to a level that was near the mid-range structural contact in the pre-drill estimate. Average log porosity for the cored interval is 17% and for the entire aeolian sand sequence, it is 20 percent. Porosity is preserved by the presence of chlorite clays, which coat sand grains. Illite is also found in the sandstone. Solid hydrocarbons appear largely immovable and are so abundant in the oil column, that both porosity and especially permeability are reduced to a point that it is likely non-productive rock. The distributions of solid hydrocarbons exist throughout the oil column and should be discounted for flow. Solid hydrocarbons tend to be found in the porosity of the originally better quality, coarser grained rock.

The structural style of Vicksburg is set in a compressional regime between several thrust faults. Vicksburg is a three-way closure against a thrust fault. The thrust faults formed in late Oxfordian soon after deposition of the Norphlet and Smackover formations. The couplet of Norphlet and Smackover formations broke and rafted into position down the slope of the large paleo-high of the Middle Ground Arch. The Norphlet sand erg appears to be large with favorable structural traps. Solid hydrocarbons in the reservoir remain a concern.

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# Oil & Gas Fields of South Louisiana 2010

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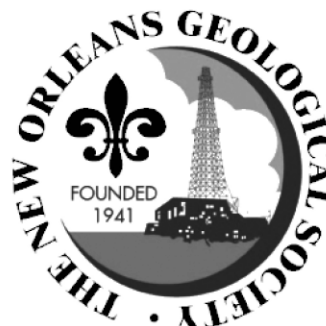
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# South Louisiana and Offshore Gulf of Mexico Exploration and Production Activities

LOUISIANA DISTRICT, ONSHORE AREA

By Carlo C. Christina

## **DEEP WILCOX DRILLING REVIEW**

Deep Wilcox exploration has attracted many new wells in the last few months. A review of some of the most interesting activity follows.

1 - In Cameron Parish, (1), Armstrong Louisiana, LLC has reached total depth of 25,505 feet in the #1 BPAPC, located in Sec. 21, 15S-14W, and has shut down waiting on a larger rig to drill deeper. The well was permitted to 26,000 feet was spudded on December 8, 2010. Six strings of pipe have been set in the well with a 7-5/8" liner set to total depth. It is not known at this time the new projected total depth. It has been reported that Chevron U. S. A. and Stone Energy are working interest partners in this well. (242221)

2 - Also in Cameron Parish, (2), Chevron U. S. A. has permitted the #1 SL 20571 to a projected depth of **29,000 feet**, located in Sec. 19, 15S-4W. The operator has assembled a large block of acreage, including 5 state leases covering 11,264 acres, with bonus considerations of \$4,600,000. It is "rumored" that McMoRan Exploration has a working interest in the well, which was spudded on December 31, 2011. (244039)

3 - In St. Martin Parish, (3), R&D Exploration has drilled the #1 Kennison, located in Sec. 19, 8S-9E, to a depth of 18,600 feet in search of deep Wilcox sands. A 5" liner has been set to total depth, with "rumored" plans to frack the Wilcox sands. (243344)

4 - In Beauregard Parish, (4), Midstates has drilled the #1 AKS Properties 5 H in Sec. 5, 7S-9W to a depth of 16,695 feet. This well is the first horizontal well to test the Upper Wilcox sands in a 2700 foot horizontal leg. The operator has set a 4 1/2" liner to total depth and is waiting on a completion rig. (244018)

5 - In Evangeline Parish, (5), Ventex Operating has drilled the #1 Goodwin in Sec. 36, 3S-2W, to a depth of 17,500 feet, and is now waiting on orders. The well is located 3 miles west of Pine Prairie Field, where deep Wilcox sands have been found. (243862)

In the past 8 months, 42 wells have been permitted as deep Wilcox wells, primarily in Beauregard Parish and Allen Parish. Many wells were drilled in old shallow fields producing from Frio and Cockfield sands. Of the 42 permitted wells, 8 have been completed as oil wells, 4 completed as gas wells, 10 are waiting on completion rigs, and 19 are actively drilling or preparing locations. One permit has expired.

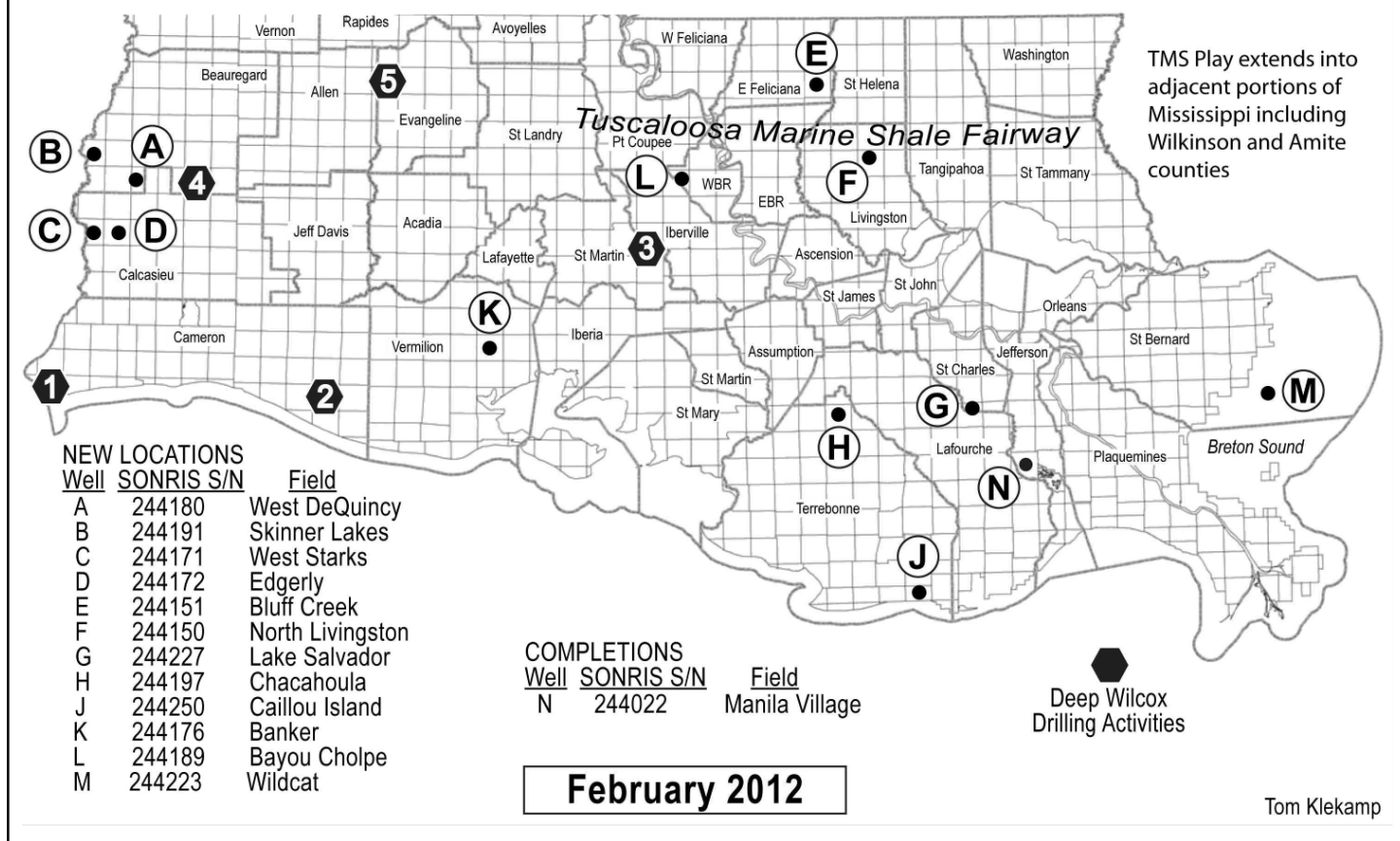
Most wells are drilled to depths ranging between 14,000 feet and 16,000 feet, with the exception of the 2 active wells in Cameron Parish. One well has reached a depth of 25,505 feet and is preparing to drill deeper, and the other well is permitted to 29,000 feet.

Many successful wells were completed in vertical holes, with perforated intervals ranging from 600 feet to 1200 feet or more. It will be interesting to observe the results of the first horizontal Wilcox well, the Midstates #1 AKS Properties, as reported above. (244018)

Midstates Petroleum Company and El Paso E & P Company have been the most active and successful operators in this new search for deep Wilcox production.



# NOGS LOG DRILL BITS — SOUTH LOUISIANA ACTIVITY MAP



The Office of Conservation has issued 37 permits to drill in the Lafayette District between November 26 and December 28, 2011. The most interesting wells are listed below.

## NEW LOCATIONS

El Paso will drill the #3 Olympia in Beauregard Parish, **West DeQuincy Field**, (A), in Sec. 20, 7S-11W to 15,000 feet. It will be drilled to evaluate the Lower Wilcox sands and is offsetting the #1 Olympia which was completed as a gas well flowing 3292 MCFD and 328 BCD in the U Wx Sand through perforations 12,890 to 13,620 feet. (244180)

In **Skinner Lakes Field**, (B), Beauregard Parish, Century Exploration will drill the #1 Columbia Land & Timber in Sec. 9, 6S-13W to a projected depth of 14,500 feet. The well will test deep Wilcox sands on the north flank of the field. (244191.)

In Calcasieu Parish, **West Starks Field**, (C), Samson Contour Energy will drill the #1 Hankameter in Sec. 4, 9S-13W. The well is located 1 mile southeast of production and will be drilled to 14,300 feet. (244171)

Samson Contour Energy has also permitted the #1 Labokay in **Edgerly Field**, (D), Calcasieu Parish, to a depth of 13,675 feet. The well is located in Sec. 2, 9S-12W, and although permitted in Edgerly Field, it is located 4 miles northwest of shallow production in the field. Interestingly, the permitted well is offsetting the Samedan #1 Labokay, which was drilled to 14,157 in 1990 after sticking drill pipe at that depth. Samedan had re-entered the Exxon #1 Labokay which had been plugged in 1986. Is it possible that Wilcox sands were overlooked at that time, and now, with new technology, are considered to be productive? We will follow the progress of this well. (244172)

--- continued on next page ---

## **Drill Bits** (continued from previous page)

In East Feliciana Parish, **Bluff Creek Field**, (E), Vaquero Resources will drill the #1 Joyce Rapier in Sec. 70, 3S-3E to a proposed depth of 9990 feet. There are no producing wells within 10 miles of the proposed location. (244151)

Yuma E & P Co. will drill in Livingston Parish, **North Livingston Field**, (F), the #1 Blackwell in Sec. 39, 6S-5E to a proposed depth of 10,500 feet to test Wilcox sands which are productive 4 miles to the southwest in Livingston Field. (244150)

In St. Charles Parish Tri-C Resources has applied for a permit to dually complete the #1 SL 20626 in **Lake Salvador Field**, (G), in 16S-21E. (244227). The well was is located 3 miles west of production in the field and was drilled to 12,700 feet with a 5" liner set at total depth, and is waiting on a completion rig. (243931)

In Terrebonne Parish, Brammer Engineering has permitted the #1 Steve Judy in **Chacahoula Field**, (H), in Sec. 46, 16S-16E. The well is located 3 miles southeast of production in the field and will be drilled to 14,467 feet to test the Cib op-Rob section. (244197)

Hilcorp Energy will drill a deep test on the extreme west flank of **Caillou Island Field**, (J), in Terrebonne Parish, 23S-19E. The # 12 SL 2856 is permitted to 20,500 feet and is located 1 mile south of the nearest producing well which was completed in 1965 through perforations 18,590 to 18,710 overall. (244250)

In **Banker Field**, (K), Vermilion Parish, Walter Oil & Gas is drilling the #1 Perrin in Sec. 22, 13S-3E and will be drilled to 17,500 feet to evaluate the Het section. The well is located 1 mile southeast of the nearest production, the Manti #1 Boudreaux, which is producing from perforations 13,137 to 13,146 feet. (244176)

In West Baton Rouge Parish, **Bayou Cholpe Field**, (L), Park Exploration is drilling the #2 Dupont in Sec. 96, 7S-10E. The well is located 1 mile southwest of production and will be drilled to 12,250 feet. (244189)

Apache Corporation will drill a **wildcat in Main Pass Block 8**. (M). The #1 SL 20549 will be drilled to a projected depth of 13,000 feet and is located 2 ½ miles west of production. (244223)

## **COMPLETIONS**

Castex Energy has plugged and abandoned the #1 LL&E in **Manila Village Field**, (N), 18S-23E, in Jefferson Parish. The well was drilled to 15,400 feet and was plugged on December 19, 2011. (244022)

## **OFFSHORE GULF OF MEXICO SHELF AND DEEPWATER ACTIVITES**

By Al Baker

Between December 1st and December 30th, the BOEM issued 71 drilling permits, of which 43 were for Gulf of Mexico shelf wells and 28 were for Gulf of Mexico deepwater wells. Five of the above permits are for new wells; 2 permits are in shallow water, and 3 permits are in deepwater.

The shelf new well permits are for 2 development wells. The shelf development activity includes one well by Hall-Houston (West Delta 89 #D-3) and one well by Apache (Main Pass 308 #A-2).

The deepwater new well permits are for 3 exploratory wells. Chevron will drill 2 of the exploratory wells in the Walker Ridge Area. Their exploration tests include the Walker Ridge 29 #A-4 and #A-12. Cobalt Energy will drill the other exploratory well (#1) on Green Canyon 814.

According to ODS-Petrodata, as of December 30th, there were 71 mobile offshore drilling rigs under contract out of the 118 rigs available in the Gulf of Mexico, which equals a 60.2% fleet utilization rate. In addition, there



were 23 platform rigs under contract out of the 50 total in the fleet for a contracted fleet utilization rate of 46.0%. On December 30th, the BakerHughes Rig Counts indicated that there were 42 active mobile offshore rigs in the Gulf, which represents 59.2% of the total rigs under contract. The 42 active rigs compares to 24 active rigs during the same period last year. This represents a 75.0% increase in the active rig fleet on a year-to-year basis. Of the 23 platform rigs that are under contract, 15 (or 65.2 %) are currently working.

On December 29th, Northstar Offshore Energy Partners announced that it sold its portfolio of offshore properties to a Korean consortium led by ANKOR E&P Holdings for \$201 million. ANKOR will have a 67% stake in the assets, which are comprised of 81 producing wells (18 producing fields) and 38 offshore blocks. The deal was effective October 1, 2011. The current production output is 4,700 barrels per day, and the estimated reserves are 10.8 million barrels. The Korean state-owned oil and gas company and Samsung Corp. initially entered the Gulf of Mexico market with the \$1 billion purchase of Taylor Energy in 2008. Northstar, which formed in 2008, is an oil and gas production company focused on purchasing and developing assets in the Gulf of Mexico. Northstar President, S. Glynn Roberts, said a new Northstar entity would be announced in February 2012.

Apache has staked a deep Norphlet well offshore Alabama's Baldwin County. Their #2 well, which has a proposed total depth of 25,000 feet, is located in Mobile Block 830. In 2009, previous operator, Devon Energy drilled their #1 discovery well to 22,500 feet in the Norphlet approximately 1.75 miles to the southeast of the proposed Apache #2 well. The #1 well was perforated and tested gas from perforations at 21,897-21,987 feet. A sidetrack was drilled to approximately 24,000 feet and completed in March 2010. However, no production has been reported to date.

McMoran is planning more ultra-deep drilling in the Blackbeard area. The BOEM recently approved McMoRan's permit application to drill their #3 well to 26,000 feet in Ship Shoal Block 188. The #3 well will evaluate the Miocene-age sands seen in the nearby Blackbeard East prospect above 25,000 feet on South Timbalier Block 144. McMoran is currently drilling a bypass on Block 144. The bypass hole is currently drilling below 32,000 feet for the Eocene objectives found in the original well prior to encountering a mechanical issue.

In deep water, Shell Oil set a world water depth record for subsea production at its Perdido Development. The well, situated at 9627 feet below sea level, is located in the Tobago Field approximately 200 miles southwest of Houston. The Tobago Field is jointly owned by Shell, Chevron and Nexen, and is one of three fields producing through the Perdido drilling and production spar platform.



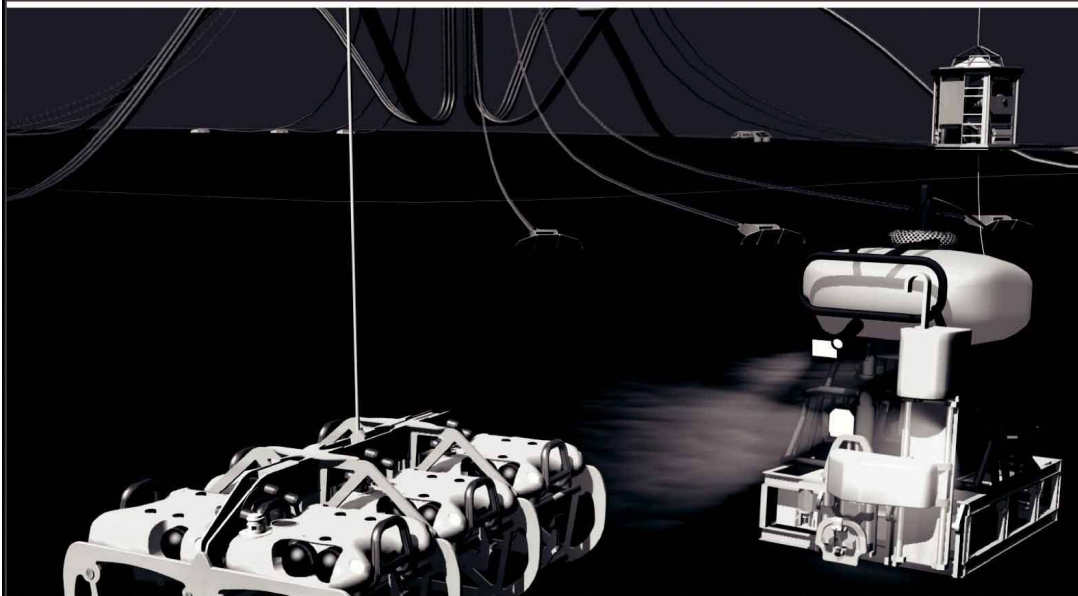
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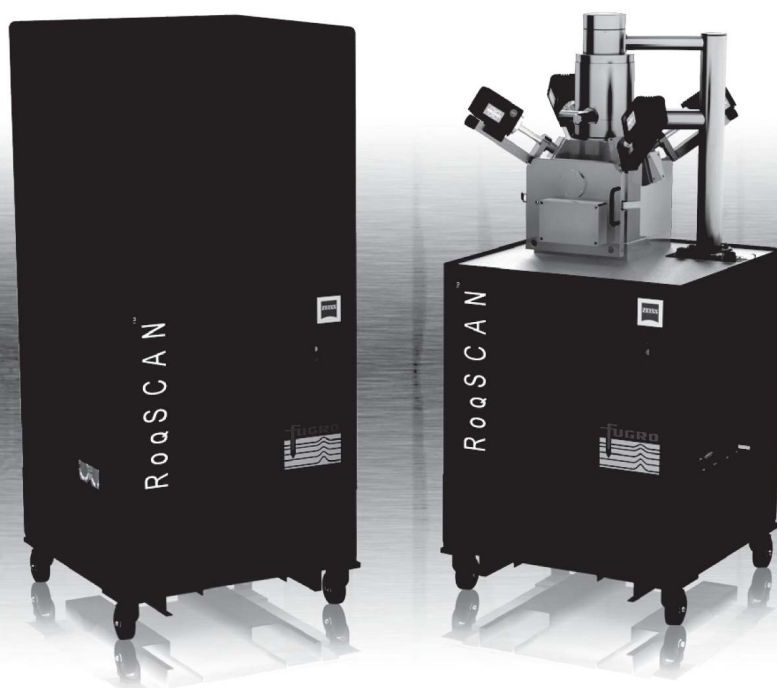
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*Gulf of Mexico, Louisiana Oil & Gas Association- “Gulf Oil Drilling Moratorium, ‘Permitorium’ to Cost Nation \$24B, Industry Says”*  
<http://loga.la/oil-gas-news/?p=6388>

*A moratorium on drilling in the Gulf of Mexico after the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill plus a longer offshore oil and natural gas permitting processes will cost the U.S. more than \$24 billion in lost oil and natural gas investment over the next several years, according to a report commissioned by the American Petroleum Institute.*

*The study by the energy industry trade group also found that, because of the moratorium and longer permitting process, capital and operating expenditures fell over the last two years by \$18.3 billion.*

*The region saw \$8.9 billion and \$146 billion in investments in crude oil and natural gas, respectively — about 6 percent of global investment dollars. But that figure would have been closer to 12 percent for 2011 had the drilling moratorium not been put in place, the report said.*

*“As a result of decreases in investment due to the moratorium, total U.S. employment is estimated to have been reduced by 72,000 jobs in 2010 and approximately 90,000 jobs in 2011,” the report said.*

*Since April 2010, 11 drilling rigs left the Gulf for Brazil, Egypt or Angola, generating more than an estimated \$21 billion in investments in those countries.*

*More than 130 offshore drilling projects have been delayed by almost a year and half, since the moratorium, compared with 46 projects being delayed pre-moratorium.*

*“A regulatory environment that eliminates unnecessary permitting delays and maintains competitiveness with development opportunities in other regions of the world would provide a first step to revitalizing the offshore oil and gas industry,” the report said.*

*“Additional access to offshore areas currently off-limits remains a key missing component of U.S. energy policy, and would provide substantial additional gains to the nation in terms of energy security, employment and government revenue.”*

*Melissa Schwartz, a spokeswoman with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement, said the report published this week “distorts the data and ignores the facts.”*

*She said since the reformed regulations have been implemented in February of last year, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement approved 290 permits for deepwater operations, on top of the 98 shallow water permits the bureau previously approved.*

*“We will continue to take steps to expand responsible production, and the numbers speak for themselves,” Schwartz said.*

*API President and CEO Jack Gerard used the study to renew his call for a shift in the nation’s energy policy.*

*“We’re not doing what we should be doing to help meet our nation’s energy needs, deliver revenue to our government, and create jobs,” Gerard said in a statement. “This is not just hurting people in the Gulf, it’s hurting people across the country.”*



*The report comes as the Department of the Interior announced this week that onshore oil and natural gas lease sales generated about \$256 million in revenue for American taxpayers in the last year, a 20 percent increase over the 2010 level.*

*On Dec. 14, the Department of the Interior also conducted the first new lease sale in the Gulf of Mexico, which generated \$712.7 million for the Treasury.*

by Tennille Tracy- Dow Jones Newswires -“US Officials to Propose Changes to Onshore Oil Royalty Rates”

January 11th, 2011 [http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a\\_id=114104&hmpn=1](http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=114104&hmpn=1)

*The Obama administration is close to proposing changes to the royalty rate it charges oil and natural-gas companies operating on federal lands, a top Interior Department official said Tuesday. Such a move is expected to lead to higher royalty rates for energy companies and more revenue for the federal government.*

*Speaking at a Platts Energy Podium event, Interior Deputy Secretary David Hayes said U.S. officials want “to make sure the American taxpayer is getting appropriate value for oil and gas development on our public lands.”*

*The U.S. charges a lower royalty rate for oil and gas on federal land than on federal waters. The rate for onshore development is 12.5%, while offshore development is close to 19%, Hayes said. Hayes said his department is examining the royalty rates charged by state governments and private land owners who lease their land to oil and natural gas companies. In many cases, states and private landowners charge higher rates than the federal government.*

*“It’s not a trivial exercise, obviously, to identify what potential royalty rates might make sense,” he said.*

*The American Petroleum Institute, a group that serves as the main lobbying arm for the oil and natural gas industry, said an increase to onshore royalty rates will hit smaller producers particularly hard.*

*“Any increase in royalty rates is inevitably going to drive away new investment,” Erik Milito, director of API’s upstream operations, said.*

*The Interior Department also announced Tuesday it would hold 32 auctions for oil and gas leases on federal land in 2012. It will offer up parcels of land in California, Colorado, New Mexico and Wyoming, among others.*

*In 2011, the department collected about \$250 million from auctioning off onshore leases, up from about \$210 million in the previous year.*

# THE NEW ORLEANS GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

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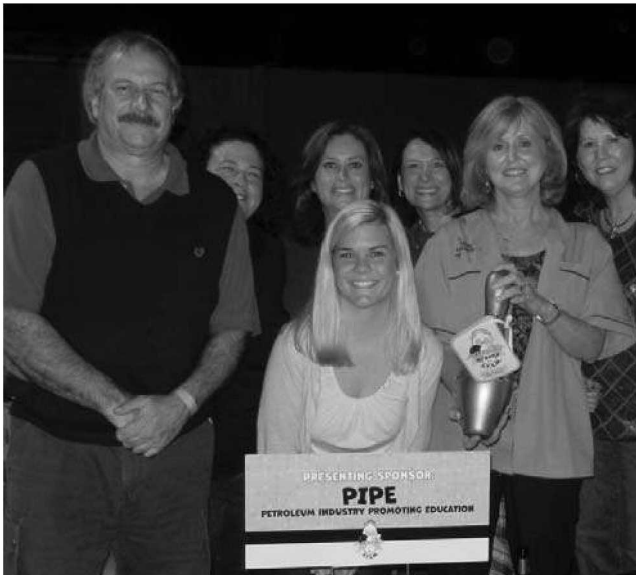
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# PIPE and Core Element Strike a WIN!

On November 5, 2011, ten oil industry societies/organizations under the name of PIPE (Petroleum Industry Promoting Education) sponsored the First Annual Core Element Strike for S.T.E.M. Fundraiser. By pooling efforts, \$10,000 was raised allowing PIPE to be the premiere sponsor of this charity event.

Sponsorship included participating in the bowling competition with 9 other teams. The PIPE team consisted of representatives from contributing organizations. CONGRATULATIONS go to the PIPE team for winning the bowling competition! Team participants were: Bernadette Alaniz, Jan Catalano, Courtney Echols, Angie Gobert, Colleen Jarrott, Jim and Kay Orth, and Brenda Riley.



## PIPE Team Wins Bowling Competition!

The big winner of the event was Core Element. Core Element cleared over \$13,500. Over one hundred people attended the Rock N Bowl event to listen to the Boogie Men, be entertained by the 610 Stompers, bowl, and enjoy hours of food and beverages.



*Much thanks and appreciation goes to participating societies/organizations:*



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