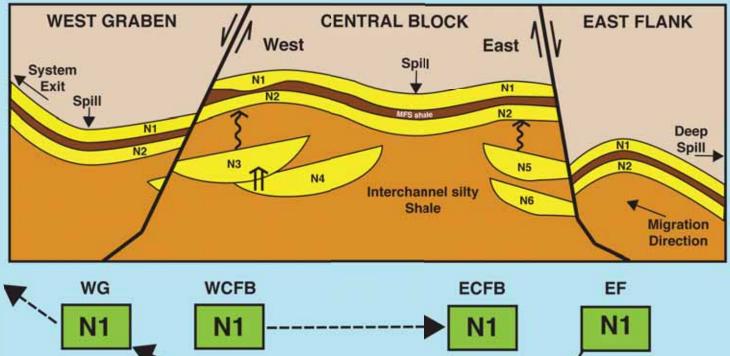
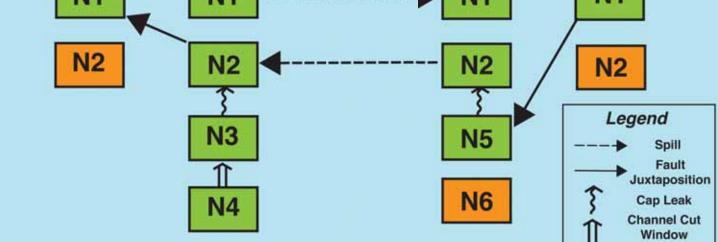


Volume 55, Number 2





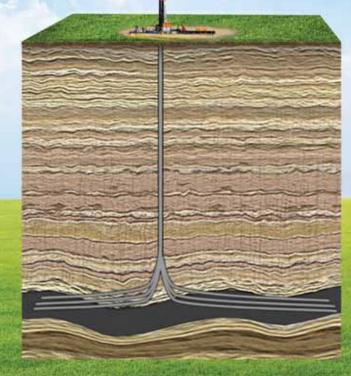
AUGUST 5 - 18TH ANNUAL GOM DEEPWATER TECHNICAL SYMPOSIUM & EXHIBITION INAUGURAL OPENING SEMINAR Presentation: Gulf of Mexico Exploration and Reservoir Connectivity Analysis of Large Oil and Gas Field Development, Gulf of Mexico Deepwater and Other Basins Speaker: John W. Snedden, Ph.D. • The University of Texas at Austin • Austin, Texas

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Published monthly by the New Orleans Geological Society. This issue was sent to press on July 24, 2014.

Interested in contributing to the NOGS LOG? Please submit items by the 1st Friday of the month to nogseditor@gmail.com. Advertising requests should contact the NOGS office at info@nogs.org.

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on the cover

Cover illustration by John Snedden, Ph.D.

A schematic of various reservoir connectivity scenarios by John Snedden.

Learn how this fits together at the Deep Water Symposium day-long seminar, "Gulf of Mexico Exploration and Reservoir Connectivity Analysis of Large Oil and Gas Field Development, Gulf of Mexico Deepwater and Other Basins."

Seminar details and registration information available on page 28 and 29 of the *NOGS LOG*.

From the Editor

This past month has been a very active month for NOGS. As you will see in our centerfold, Tom Bergeon and his volunteers proudly led our education efforts in promoting women in science and STEM education with the Girl Scouts. From the looks of the pictures, the girls and volunteers enjoyed the event and took away a greater appreciation of geoscience.

As we move into August, our efforts will focus on the Deepwater Technical Symposium and the short course offered by Dr. John Snedden. Please look at pages 28 & 29 for the overview of the meeting and course. Also just around the corner, we will have the Rock-n-Bowl NOGS Social. See page 22 for more information on this event. If you have submissions for cover art or interesting information shares for the info tidbits, please send your submissions to nogseditor@gmail.com.

Jania L. Pronhet - NOGS LOG Editor

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<u>From the</u> President

August comes with many exciting events, especially for the geoscientists. For starters, we have the Deepwater Technical Symposium from August 5-7th. The options are bountiful depending on your interest, but you have a seminar, daily lunches with keynote speakers, technical presentations on a variety of topics, panel discussions, evening social events, and my personal favorites are the student presentations and posters. It's wonderful to see a mix of professionals from

industry, academia, and consulting along with the students who will be looking to enter the professional arena soon.

And speaking of students, those who are currently pursuing your degrees in geoscience will be looking to make your way back to the classroom to continue your endeavors this month. As a former professional student, according to my parents, August was exciting because it was the beginning of a fresh semester with new and interesting classes. There might be one class we're not so thrilled about (which for me was a geomorphology course taught by a geographer with a dislike for geologists...and not liking geologists is similar to not liking the Earth), but knowing other geos would be in it with me at least made it bearable.

Students, the Society wishes you the best for this semester and year! Learning, however, doesn't end with college. We all should look to continue the education and understanding of our dynamic field. That is why we host and attend conferences, seminars, and meetings. That is why we engage in organizations like NOGS, to stimulate thinking and ideas. We should all be evergreen learners and take advantage of the opportunities to learn new techniques and schools of thought.

Last but not least, August brings us another beginning. COLLEGE FOOTBALL!! So let's bust out our alma mater swag, gather with friends, and do what geologists do best...cheer on our team! WDE

Kill Jack

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2014-16	504-466-4483
2014-16	504-861-3179



UPCOMING Events & Activities

August 5-7 • 18th Annual GOM Deepwater Technical Symposium & Exhibition "Working in the World of Tomorrow"

The Hilton New Orleans Riverside Hotel

SESSIONS:



Delta Section

Geoscience • HS&E / Regulatory • Production Systems Drilling Technology • Reservoir & Economics • Marine Emerging Technology • Completions & Interventions Pipelines/Subsea Infrastructure • Soft Skills Development Student Papers • Concluding Plenary Session

For more information: www.deepwaternola.org

CHAPTER AUGUST 5 Dr. John W. Snedden 8:30 am - 3:00 pm • Hilton Riverside • New Orleans, LA See page 28 & 29 for details!

August 20-22 Summer NAPE George R. Brown Convention Center • Houston, TX For more information, www.napeexpo.com

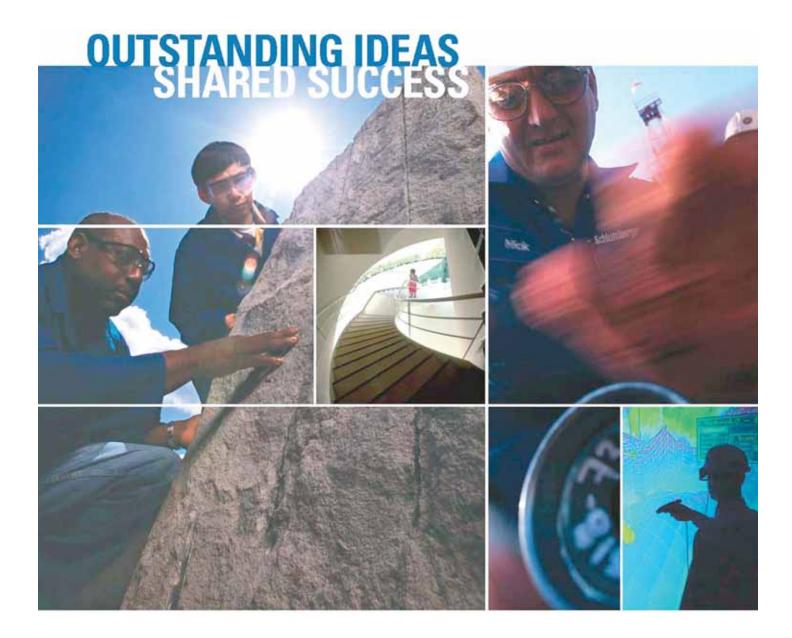
August 25-27 URTeC Colorado Convention Center • Denver, CO For more information, www.urtec.org

September 8 NOGS Luncheon Holiday Inn Superdome • New Orleans, LA For more information, www.nogs.org/calendar

NOGS will not have an August luncheon due to the one-day seminar on August 5 - see page 28 & 29 for details.

NOCE CONTACT LIE

		Continued from previous page		
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	Student	UNO		npoole@uno.edu
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Submitted by Tom Klekamp

Lee Day joined NOGS as an active member in June. Lee is a Senior Geologist with Toxicological & Environmental Associates in Baton Rouge. He holds a B.S. in Geology from Mississippi State University (1983) and a M.S. in Geology from the University of Southern Mississippi (1987). Lee is married to Denny; they reside in Baton Rouge. Welcome Lee!

We welcome **Nicholas Poole**, a student member at the University of New Orleans. He earned an A.S. in Geology from Austin Community College in 2013. Nick is a student member of AAPG. He resides in the Lakeview area of New Orleans. Originally from New Orleans, Nick grew up in Austin, then it was back to UNO to finish his B.S. degree. He's an outdoorsman which includes fly fishing, backpacking, mountain biking, and fossil hunting. "As much as I love being back in New Orleans I really miss the rocks of the Texas Hill Country," he reported.

Charles Sternbach (Active), with 27 years in the oil and gas business is well known to many in NOGS. He is President of Star Creek Energy in Houston. Charles is a past President of the HGS. In 2006, he was Convention Chairman of the AAPG Convention and an Honorary Member of the AAPG. He received a B.A. in Geology from Columbia in 1980. In 1981, he received an M.S. in Geology and, in 1984, a Ph.D. in Geology from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Charles was both an editor and contributor to AAPG Memoir 98 – The Great American Carbonate Bank: The Geology and Economic Resources of the Cambrian-Ordovician Sauk Megasequence of Laurentia, published in 2013. You can find out more about Charles and his geologist wife, Linda Sternbach at http://www.starcreekenergy.com/charles-sternbach.php. Both Charles and Linda have been very active in the geoscience community.

Amy Laura Vanderhill (Active) has been a petroleum geologist since 1986 and is Senior Geologist with Freeport-McMoRan Oil & Gas in Houston. She has worked onshore, offshore and now the deepwater GoM with FMI. Amy earned a B.S. in Geological Sciences from the University of Texas at Austin in 1983. In 1986, she received an M.S. in Geology from Texas A&M University. Amy is an active member of the AAPG. She and her husband James live in the Bellaire area of Houston.

THE SEPT. LUNCHEON RESERVATION DEADLINE IS SEPT. 5 - CONTACT THE NOGS OFFICE

"And Looking Ahead . . . "

The next luncheon will be held on September 8. Our guest speaker, Wilma Subra, of Subra Company, New Iberia, Louisiana, will present "Leasing and Fracking the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale in St. Tammany Parish." Contact the NOGS office at 561-8980 or use the PayPal link on the NOGS website (www.nogs.org) to make your reservation.

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	August 2014					
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5 Short Course	6	7	8	9
		Deepwater	Technical Symposi	ium, NOLA		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 NOGS Board Meeting	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	Gulf of Mexico Exp Mexico Deepwater			lysis of Large Oil and	d Gas Field Developr	nent, Gulf of

	September 2014					
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 NOGS Luncheon Holiday Inn 11:30	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 NOGS Board Meeting	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	September NOGS Luncheon Guest Speaker: Wilma Subra - Subra Company - New Iberia, Louisiana will Present: "Leasing and Fracking the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale in St Tammany Parish"			

New Orleans Geological Auxiliary News

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



During his term as president of the New Orleans Geological Society, Mr. W. K. McWilliams appointed a committee to investigate the possibility of forming a ladies' auxiliary. He asked Mrs. D. D. Utterback and Mrs. C.A. Doh to serve as co-chairmen of that committee.

The meeting was held on October 13, 1954, for the purpose of organizing a ladies' auxiliary. At that meeting, Mr. E. M. Baysinger, then president of NOGS, noted that a need existed for an auxiliary to bring about better fellowship in the Society and to have an organization to support conventions and various social functions of the Society. There, it was decided that the name of the new organization would be New Orleans Geological Auxiliary (NOGA).

On November 17, 1954, a meeting was held at the Valencia Club with Mrs. D.D. Utterback presiding. NOGA adopted the constitution and bylaws. Following a recess, the attendees paid dues and signed the constitution; the meeting was called back to order and officers elected. The first president of the New Orleans Geological Auxiliary was Mrs. D. D. Utterback.

Today, 60 years later, NOGA continues to support the Society when asked. In 2013, we planned activities and hosted the Hospitality Room during the GCAGS Convention in New Orleans. This month we will be supporting the registration desk at the 18th Annual Gulf of Mexico Deepwater Technical Symposium. In December, we will help with the NOGS Christmas Party.

The Board of NOGA is planning activities to celebrate our 60th Anniversary. A special luncheon will be held in November at Ralph's on the Park. Please consider joining NOGA for this exciting anniversary year.

Mary Walther, President 2014-2015

New Orleans Geological Auxiliary Membership Application			
Name	Spouse's Name		
Address	Home Phone		
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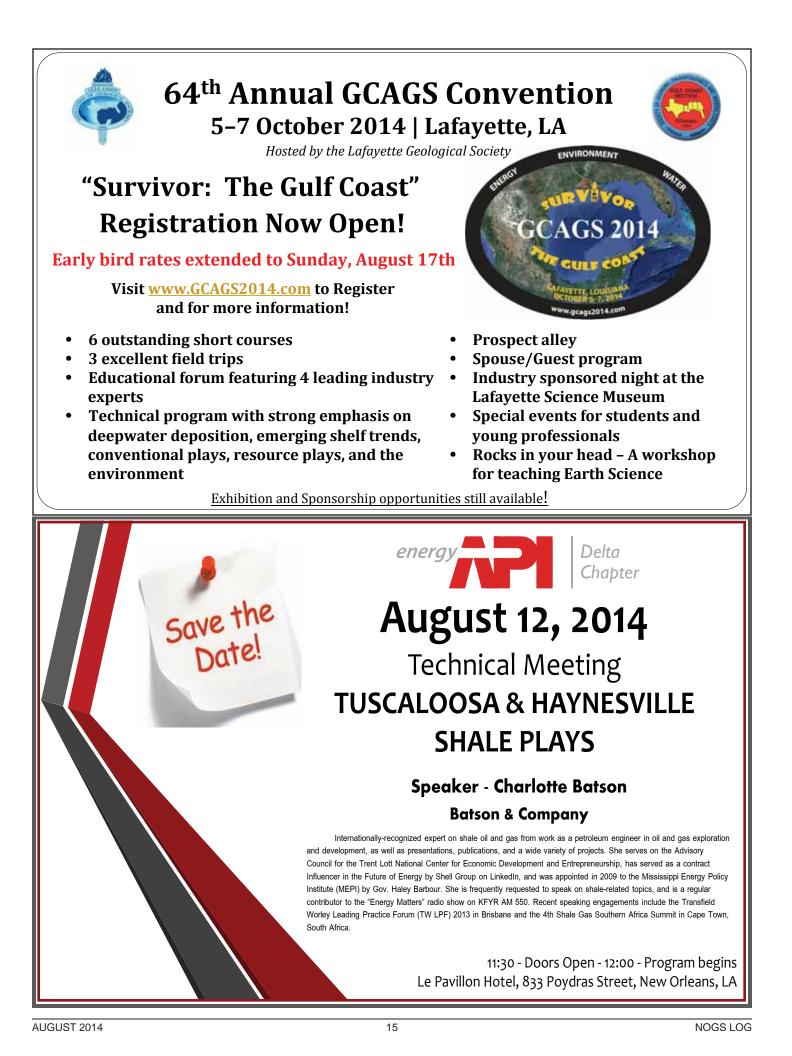
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Saturday, June 21st NOGS and the Southeastern Geophysical Society presented aspects of the oil industry to Girl Scouts of Louisiana East region at Dillard University. There were over 500 girl scouts from as far away as Houma and Baton Rouge. The girls who attended our stations were treated to hands on demonstrations on how oil is formed, it's properties in a reservoir, the development of structures, porosity experiments, the concept of oil migration and development of a trap, the SGS seismograph and the use of seismic data on a workstation. Our oil materials are available for NOGS members to give school talks.



Morning shift, left to right: Cathy McCrae, Laura Dalton, Jessica Lopez, Lisa Kennedy, Tonya Richardson

The girls that attended really came away with a greater understanding of oil exploration and possible careers.

We had a great crew of women volunteers who were excellent role models for the girls. Rosie the Riveter eat your heart out!

Volunteering for the first shift were Jessica Lopez and Tonya Richardson from Chevron, Cathy McCrae from Shell, Laura Dalton from BOEM, and Lisa Kennedy also from BOEM bringing the SGS seismic station. In the afternoon Shara Clark, Rachel Carter, and Leah Grassi from UNO,



Afternoon shift, left to right: Elinor Gregory, Jordan Adams, Rachel Carter, Leah Grassi, Shara Clark

Jordan Adams from Tulane and Elinor Gregory who is retired from Chevron. Everyone was so enthusiastic and really related to the girls. Leah will be joining Chevron in July and as an added bonus was able to meet her new co-workers Jessica and Tonya, a pleasant surprise.

Special thanks go to **Kevin Shipp** the Program Coordinator for Girl Scouts East, **Dave Cope** who initiated our Girl Scout involvement last year, **Al Falster** at **UNO** for lending us the sand compression box, and **Tavia Prouhet** for helping coordinate the event.

Thanks to all of you for giving of your time and making this an ideal learning event!



girl scouts

0





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Outgoing President Charles "Chuck" Holman presented awards to the members of his 2013-14 NOGS Board of Directors.

Vice-President – Frances Wiseman Secretary – Margaret McKinney Treasurer – Robert Clark Editor – Sheri Richardson Director (2011-14) – Mike Fein

Our new President, Kelli Hardesty presented **Chuck Holman** with the **NOGS President's Plaque**, with detachable gavel for his service as President to the Society and its Board of Directors.

The Edward B. Picou Outstanding Service Award was presented to Thomas C. Bergeon for his countless hours in serving our educational outreach programs, including Super Science Saturdays at the Louisiana Children's Museum.

The Honorary Life Member Award was presented to Paul Weimer. "In recognition of his many outstanding contributions to the society, the profession of geology and to the development of the petroleum industry in general"

Ion Geophysical will receive the **Corporate Award** at a future meeting, for their assistance to the Society throughout the year.

The following members were presented with the President's Award 2013-14

Margaret McKinney, for exemplary service to NOGS and the Board in several capacities.

Sheri Richardson, for her diligence to the *NOGS LOG*.

Arthur Christensen, for serving NOGS as photographer at many functions through the years.

Tavia Prouhet,

for volunteer coordination efforts and coordination of the NOGS Northshore social.

Rachel Carter,

served as a liaison from the AAPG Student chapter, and organized assistance for events such as Childrens Museum.

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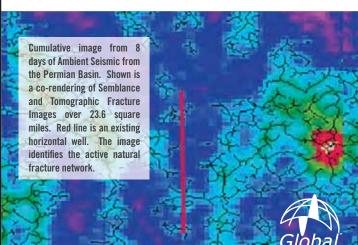
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South Louisiana and Offshore Gulf of Mexico Exploration and Production Activities

LAFAYETTE DISTRICT, ONSHORE AREA By Carlo C. Christina

During the month of June 28 permits to drill were issued by the Office of Conservation, Lafayette District, Onshore Area. Following are the most significant locations and completions:

BREAKING NEWS

Petroquest Energy has announced that it has entered into a joint venture agreement with Midstates Petroleum to acquire a 50% working interest in 30,000 acres in the Fleetwood Project in Point Coupee, West Baton Rouge and Iberville Parishes. Petroquest will pay Midstates \$10 million in cash and \$14 million in future exploration drilling expenses, and will operate the properties.

Petroquest will have license to 3-D seismic data over a 200 square mile area. Supported by this seismic Petroquest will drill 2 exploration wells within the next 6 months, the Widgeon and Mallard prospects, and has identified more than 12 additional prospects in the area. The main objectives are Cockfield and Upper and Lower Wilcox sands. Current plans are to drill vertical and horizontal wells, some with fracking procedures.

Several years ago Midstates Petroleum conducted a similar program in Beauregard, Allen and Evangeline Parishes. This program was highly successful with Midstates drilling more than 150 wells in 8 fields within the area.

NEW LOCATIONS

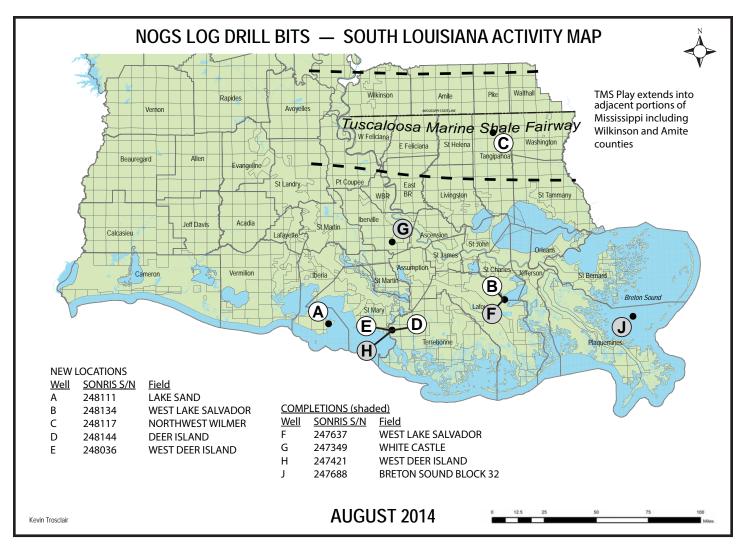
Hilcorp Energy will drill an interesting well in **Lake Sand Field**, (A), Iberia Parish. The #28 SL 1706 will be drilled to a proposed depth of 17,364 feet in 17S-7E to test the Operc Sand which is new production, located 2½ miles to the southwest of the proposed new location. (248111)

Lake Sand Field was discovered in 1949 and has had a total of 139 wells drilled in the field. Production has declined and only 10 wells remain on production. Within the past 5 years, 6 new wells have been drilled. The most recent completion, the Hilcorp #1 SL 3498, is significant for many reasons. The well was completed in the Operc Sand flowing 7157 MCFD and 209 BCPD through perforations 15,614 to 15,640 feet. **New production** was found **65 years after the field was discovered.** This well has produced an average of 10,300 MCFD and 248 BCPD since placed on production 11 months ago. (245473)

In St. Charles Parish, **West Lake Salvador Field**, (B), Tri-C Resources will drill its #1 SL 21183, located 1 mile north of production in the field. The well will be drilled in 16S-21E, to a proposed depth of 14,000 feet. (248134)

Drilling activity in the **Tuscaloosa Marine Shale** continues to increase with the location of the Goodrich Petroleum #1 Kent 41 H, in **Northwest Wilmer Field**, (C), Tangipahoa Parish. The well is located in Sec. 41, 2S-8E, approximately 1 mile southwest of the recently completed Goodrich #1 Blades 33 H, an excellent oil well flowing 1250 BOPD and 115 MCFD. Goodrich will drill the #1 Kent to a proposed depth of 19,500 feet, in a 7100 foot lateral. (248117)

Walter Oil & Gas will drill the #24 CL&F well in **Deer Island Field**, (D), Terrebonne Parish, located in Sec. 24, 18S-12E. The well is offsetting a depleted well which had produced from 3 sands above 10,000 feet, and is also located 1 mile north of nearest Tex production. It will be drilled to 13,191 feet to test the Tex W sands. (248144)



Also in Terrebonne Parish, **West Deer Island Field**, (E), Castex Energy will drill the #7 CL&F to test the Lower Tex W sands at a projected total depth of 14,594 feet. The well is located in Sec. 20, 18S-12E, offsetting 4 producing oil wells. (248036)

COMPLETIONS

In St. Charles Parish, 16S-21E, Square Mile Energy has completed its #1 SL 20644 in **West Lake Salvador Field**, (F). It was drilled to 13,414 feet and completed as an oil well in the Cris I sand flowing 240 BOPD and 120 MCFD through perforations 12,808 to 12,813 feet. As previously reported, the well was drilled as a southerly extension to the field, which now has 16 producing wells. (247637)

Anglo-Dutch Energy has completed the #1 Wilbert in **White Castle Field**, (G), Iberville Parish, as an oil well sand flowing 270 BOPD and 1464 MCFD in the Cib Haz sand through perforations 13,561 to 13,590 feet. The well was drilled to 13,800 feet in Sec. 1, 11S-12E, located on the north flank of the field approximately 1 mile southwest of nearest production. (247349)

In Terrebonne Parish, **West Deer Island Field**, (H), Castex Energy has completed an excellent oil well flowing 648 BOPB and 1211 MCFD through perforations 13,213 to 13,282 feet in the Tex W sand. The #5 CL&F was drilled to 13,297 feet in Sec 20, 18S-12E. (247421)

In Breton Sound Block 32 Field, (J), Plaquemines Parish, Lobo Operating has completed the #29 SL 1227 flowing 1,531 BOPD in a horizontal lateral through perforations 6445 to 7178 feet in the 5800 Miocene sand. (247688)

OFFSHORE GULF OF MEXICO SHELF AND DEEPWATER ACTIVITIES

by Al Baker

During June 2014, the BOEM approved **83** Gulf of Mexico drilling permits. Of these, **34** were for shelf wells, and **49** were for deepwater wells. Of the total number of permits, there were **10 new well permits** issued. These included **8 shelf** (1 exploratory and 7 development), and **2 deepwater** (1 exploratory and 1 development) **new well permits**.

On the shelf, 3 development new well permits were granted to Chevron U.S.A. for their Vermilion 245 #H-5 and #H-6 wells and their South Marsh Island 217 #235 well. In addition, development new well permits were awarded to the following operators: Fieldwood Energy for their East Cameron 172 #2 well, Arena Offshore for their Eugene Island 338 #K-12 well, W&T Offshore for their Ship Shoal 359 #A-16 well, and Rooster Petroleum for their High Island A-494 # B-5 well. EPL Oil & Gas obtained one exploratory new well permit for their South Timbalier 125 #1 well.

In deepwater, 1 exploratory new well permit and 1 development new well permit were awarded to **BP Exploration** & **Production** for their **Green Canyon 627 #1** and their **Mississippi Canyon 776 #6** wells, respectively.

On June 27th, IHS-Petrodata reported that the Gulf of Mexico mobile offshore rig supply stood at **113**. The marketed rig supply consisted of **87** rigs, of which **79** were under contract. The contracted versus total rig supply utilization rate is **69.9%**, while the marketed contracted versus marketed supply utilization rate stands at **90.8%**. The total and marketed rig supply figures reflect a decrease of 2 rigs each compared to those figures reported last month, while the contracted rig supply number decreased by 3 rigs. In contrast, the June 2013 fleet utilization rate stood at 71.0% with 76 out of the 107 rigs under contract.

On June 27th, BakerHughes indicated that there were **54** active mobile offshore rigs in the Gulf, which is **68.4%** of the rigs under contract mentioned above. This active rigs number is **5** less than reported last month. The current active rigs count compares to 55 active rigs during the same period last year, representing a **1.8%** decrease in yearly activity.

On June 16th, **Noble Energy** announced that it will acquire a **50 percent interest** in **17 Gulf of Mexico leases** from **BP**. Noble Energy did not announce how much it will pay for its stake in the leases, nor did BP. The deal includes BP's **Bright Prospect**, which is currently drilling in a water depth of 5,600 feet. Noble Energy estimates that the prospect could have 90 to 350 million barrels of oil equivalent.

On June 25th, the **BOEM** reported the final results of **Central Gulf of Mexico OCS Sale 231.** Following extensive economic analysis, the BOEM awarded **320** leases out of the **326** tracts receiving high bids. Seventeen tracts were awarded leases during Phase 1 of the evaluation period, whereas 303 were awarded in Phase 2 of the 90-day bidding analysis period. The **accepted high bids** totaled **\$845,892,132.**

TO ALL MEMBERS AND FELLOW GEOLOGISTS:

House Bill 167 by Representative Hunter Greene and pertaining to Professional Geoscientist licensing has been passed by the Louisiana Legislature and signed by Governor Jindal. This bill is effective immediately and extends the grandfather period for licensing until January 1, 2015. This is an extension of one year beyond the previous end of the grandfathering (January 1, 2014).

Qualified individuals with at least five years of experience by the end of 2014 can apply for PG licensing with grandfathered status. Grandfathered status allows you to be licensed without having examination (ASBOG exams).

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Dr. John W. Snedden Project Leader, Gulf Basin Depositional Synthesis Project

Ph.D., Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 1985 M.S., Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 1979 B.A., Trinity University, San Antonio, TX, 1977

Dr. John W. Snedden, project leader of the Gulf of Mexico Basin Depositional Synthesis (GBDS) Project, has over 25 years of industry experience with Mobil and ExxonMobil, including 11 years in research. John's technical specialties include sequence and seismic stratigraphy, sedimentology, reservoir characterization, reservoir connectivity analysis, and unconventional resource evaluation. He has worked in a number of basins, including the U.S. Gulf Coast, West Texas Midland Basin, North Sea, Mid-Norway, Barents Sea, Papua New Guinea, Arkoma Basin, Niger Delta, Sarawak (Malaysia), Mahakam Delta (Indonesia), US Atlantic Shelf, Northwest Shelf-Australia, Pannonian Basin (Hungary), South Caspian Sea (Azerbaijan-Turkmenistan), China, Norwegian Sea, Gulf of Mexico shelf and slope, North Caspian Basin (Kazakhstan), Lower Saxony and Ruhr - Muensterland Basins, Germany (unconventional, CBM, Shale Gas, Light Tight Oil).

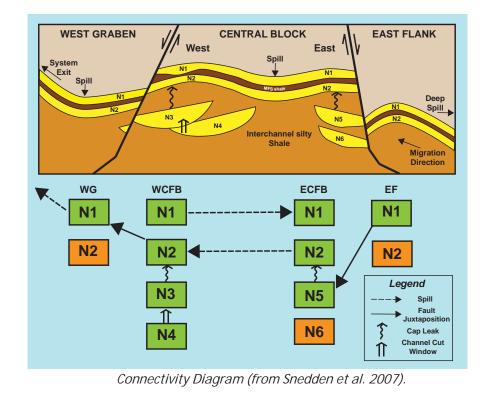
John has published over 30 scientific papers; he is the first author on 23 of these. John has a history of leadership in technical societies such as SEPM and the Gulf-Coast Section of SEPM. He has also served as technical chair of several large AAPG conventions.

Outline of One-day Seminar

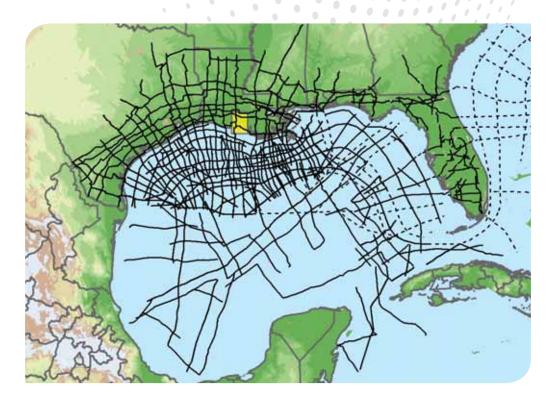
- I. Morning Session: Gulf of Mexico Exploration
 - A. Exploration success and failure: lessons learned
 - a. Established Gulf of Mexico slope and deepwater plays (Wilcox, Miocene)
 - b. Emerging New Mesozoic Plays (Norphlet, Tuscaloosa)
 - c. Diversity of Subsalt trap types
 - B. The role of technology and its effect upon exploration play success
 - a. New process concepts (new deepwater reservoir models)
 - b. New seismic imaging approaches
 - c. Source to sink paleogeographic mapping

II. Afternoon Session: Reservoir connectivity analysis in support of large oil and gas field development, Gulf of Mexico Deep-water and other basins

- C. Uncertainty after Discovery
 - a. The Good, the Bad, the Ugly (connectivity)
- D. Definitions: compartments and connections
- E. Static Connectivity
 - a. Topologic controls on original fluid contacts in channelized deepwater systems
 - b. Shale barriers and baffles: 1D versus 2D distributions
 - c. Fault Connectivity: when it hurts, when it helps
- F. Dynamic Connectivity
 - a. The role of channel-based scours
 - b. Comparative pressure declines, Channel-levee vs. Amalgamated channel complex reservoirs
 - c. Construction of Reservoir Connectivity Scenarios



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Submitted by Tom Klekamp

Guess who's coming to dinner!

Geologist and science writer **Nina Morgan** sympathizes with the geological wives *Geoscientist*, **Geological Society of London**, June 2014 issue

Full story at http://www.geolsoc.org.uk/Geoscientist/June-2014/Guess-whos-coming-to-dinner

The important intellectual role played by women in geology during the 19th Century is now increasingly celebrated. But often these achievements went unrecognized at the time. The credit given by the geologist and paleontologist John Phillips (1800-1873) to his sister Anne in his 1848 Geological Survey Memoir on the Malverns, highlighting her discovery of a crucial piece of evidence about the origin of the Hills is a rare example of credit being given where it was due. More usually, the behind-the-scenes social and diplomatic skills of loyal wives, sisters and daughters in bringing together scientists and providing the favorable environment for discoveries to take place is hinted at only in posthumously published 'Lives and Letters', but not in scientific publications of the time.



Emma Darwin, wife of Charles Darwin, by George Richmond, 1840 (image public domain, Wikipedia)

In letters written on 29 March and 2 April 1839 to her sister Elizabeth Wedgwood, Emma Darwin (pictured), then just two months into her marriage to geologist and biologist Charles Darwin (1809-

1882) reveals the difficulties of dealing with socially inept scientists, including geologists, Adam Sedgwick (1785-18730), Charles Lyell (1797-1875) and W H Fitton (1780-1858).

Hydrate petroleum system approach to natural gas hydrate exploration

NOGS' own Art Johnson co-authors a paper in major petroleum journal.

By M. D. Max and A. H. Johnson

Petroleum Geoscience, May 2014, v. 20, no. 2

http://pg.lyellcollection.org/content/20/2/187.abstract

(Abstract)

Natural gas hydrate (NGH) is a solid crystalline material composed of water and natural gas (primarily methane) that is stable under conditions of moderately high pressure and moderately low temperature found in permafrost and continental margin sediments. A NGH petroleum system is different in a number of important ways from conventional petroleum systems related to large concentrations of gas and petroleum. The critical elements of the NGH petroleum system are: (1) a gas hydrate stability zone (GHSZ) in which pressure and temperature lie within the field of hydrate stability, creating a thermodynamic trap of suitable thickness for NGH concentrations to form; (2) recent and modern gas flux into the GHSZ along migration pathways; and (3) suitable sediment host sands within the GHSZ. These elements have to be active now and in the recent geological past. Exploration in continental margin sediments includes basin analysis to identify source and host sediment likelihood and disposition, potential reservoir localization using existing seismic analysis tools for locating turbidite sands and estimating NGH saturation, and deposit characterization using drilling and logging. Drilling has validated first-order seismic analysis techniques for identifying NGH using rock physics mechanical models.

Oil Boom Produces Jobs Bonanza for Archaeologists

Stop drilling! - they've kicked over a shard.

By Josh Wood, AP

New Orleans Advocate, June 29, 2014,

Full story at http://www.theneworleansadvocate.com/home/9433012-172/oil-boom-produces-jobs-bonanza

(Excerpted)

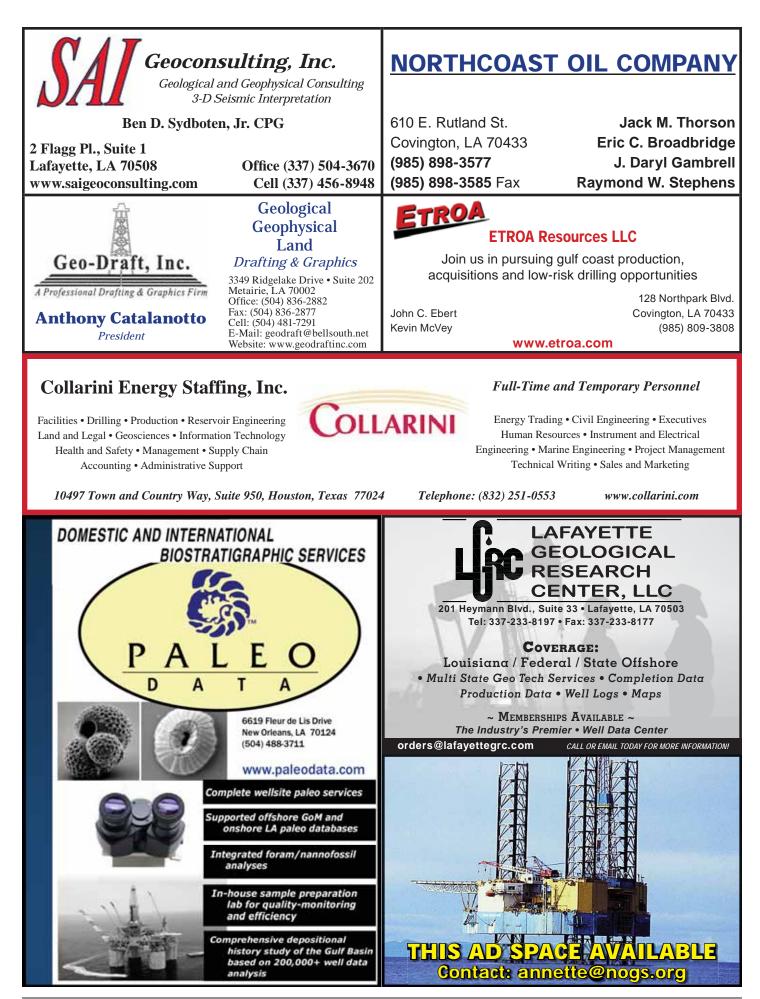
TIOGA, N.D. ... Across the oil fields of North Dakota, [drilling crews] often must wait for another team known for slow, meticulous study — archaeologists, whose job is to survey the land before a single spade of dirt can be turned. The routine surveys have produced a rare jobs bonanza in American archaeology, a field in which many highly educated professionals hop from project to project around the world and still struggle to make a living. The positions also come with a constant tension: The archaeologists are trained to find evidence of the past, but the companies that pay them would prefer not to turn up anything that gets in the way of profits. Archaeological surveys ... are a mandate for most federal drilling permits.

The work involves inspecting a site for any artifacts or evidence of past human habitation and cataloging the effort. If significant discoveries emerge, most oil companies will change their plans to avoid the hassle of drilling in a sensitive area.

At the heart of the work is a natural friction between the experts doing [the] surveys and the companies that hire them.

"While I'm out there looking for things, I know if I find them, it's a problem for the person who signs my paycheck. And there's a tension there."

"I think we all try to be professional," he added. "But I think it would be naive to ignore that."



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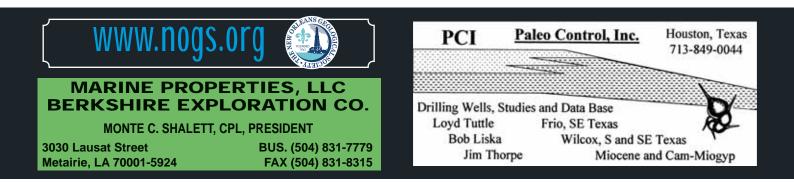
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