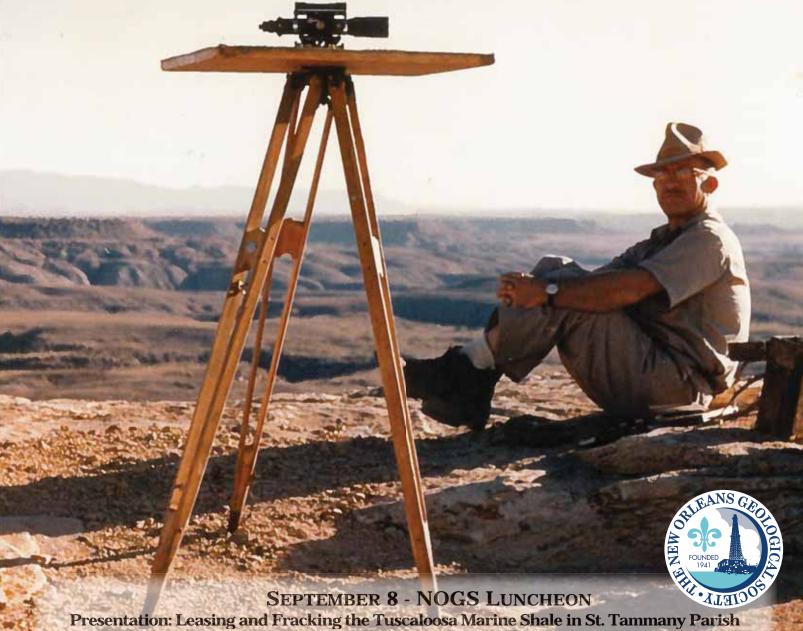


Volume 55, Number 3



Presentation: Leasing and Fracking the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale in St. Tammany Parish Guest Speaker: Wilma Subra

Subra Company • New Iberia, Louisiana

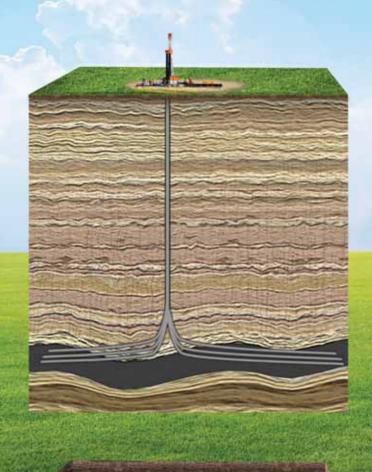
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*Interested in contributing to the NOGS LOG?* Please submit items by the 1st Friday of the month to no gseditor@gmail.com. Advertising requests should contact the NOGS office at info@nogs.org.

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# on the cover

### Cover Photo and Description by Bob Douglass

October 1954. Bob Breitenstein sits atop a high rim above the San Juan River; in the distance – Arizona and the Chuska Mountains. The photo shows the plane-table and alidade used in surveying during the discovery of the Aneth Field and the opening of the Paradox Basin, San Juan County, Utah, and the Navajo Nation.

Continued on page 24.



9-11-01 We will never forget!

# From the Editor

Many people consider geologists as creative and innovative artists that also happen to be scientists. When our scientific data and artistic ability blend together to connect dots great discovery often follows. The cover chosen this month illustrates one such discovery. Please read Bob Douglass' fascinating story behind this photo, above, "On the Cover" continued on page 24.

Early August began with an explosion of energy around the 18th Annual GOM Deepwater Technical Symposium (DWTS). Dr. John Snedden's workshop was a sell out with 101 registrants. The next two days of the technical and social events for the DWTS were also well attended. Check out the centerfold pictures highlighting some of the activity of the Symposium.

As the school year resumes and football begins, we can also look forward to the NOGS Fall Kick Off party. This year's event will be October 4th, 4:30-7:30, at Rock N' Bowl. The event is free to all current NOGS members and one guest, hope to see you there! Jana L. Prowhet-NOGS LOG Editor

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# From the President

As I struggled to come up with a topic of interest to pen for this month's *NOGS LOG*, I looked for inspiration in past newsletters and even draft pages for this current issue. *Eureka...*I found it! The Editor's Letter this month by Tavia touched on "discovery."

I recall discovering my love for rocks at a very early age when I asked my parents for a rock tumbler for Christmas. It was glorious. The tumbler came with different stones and grits that would ultimately polish the

rough rocks into glossy gems. It was exciting to discover the different characteristics revealed in the stones during the various stages of polishing. I couldn't wait for the last stage to be over and have the final product. The gems were smooth and colorful and ultimately used for making jewelry, key chains, magnets, etc.

It would be almost another decade before I entered college as a business major. As I changed majors from computer information systems to accounting, mostly because I couldn't program at a very entry-level computer class and I liked math, it was soon discovered that business wasn't the major for me. I finally convinced my parents to let me change to a degree that I felt passionate and excited about as I entered my senior year. My mom kept asking me, "Kelli, what are you going to do with a geology degree?" adding, "You're looking at an uncertain future!" My dad thought it was cool. Both blamed the rock tumbler.

Finished with my degrees and currently employed with ERM as a geologist for six years, my family couldn't be more excited that I went the geology route. They love hearing about my varied projects and clients, as well as asking me about NOGS and those who make up our organization. They get to discover the diversity within geology and our profession. Now my parents take credit for my becoming a geologist, a direct result of the loud rock tumbler that was kept in the basement and terrified the cat.

Although I discovered my passion for geology at an early age, it's the dynamics and diversity of our field that continues to drive my curiosity. Hopefully that will always be the case.

What have you discovered about yourself or about geology since taking it on as a study and profession? Feel free to share your story by sending me an e-mail, especially if it tops the rock tumbler.

Kell Hander

# T H E

Member-at-Large

Jean Jones

## **NOGS Office**

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# UPGOMING Events & Activities



# **September 8 • NOGS Luncheon**

## **Holiday Inn Downtown Superdome**

\$3.00 validated parking in hotel garage

## Presentation:

# Leasing and Fracking the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale in St. Tammany Parish

## Guest Speaker:

## Wilma Subra

Subra Company and Louisiana Environmental Action Network • New Iberia, Louisiana

See page 9 for Abstract and Biography

#### HOLIDAY INN DOWNTOWN SUPERDOME

Check with concierge or front desk for location.

Lunch served at 11:30 am

#### ADMISSION:

# October 4 NOGS Kick Off Party

Rock-n-Bowl • New Orleans, LA For more information, see page 21

# October 5-7

GCAGS Convention

Cajundome Convention Center • Lafayette, LA For more information, www.gcags2014.com

# October 10 UNO Mineral Auction

University of New Orleans • New Orleans, LA For more information, www.nogs.org/calendar/

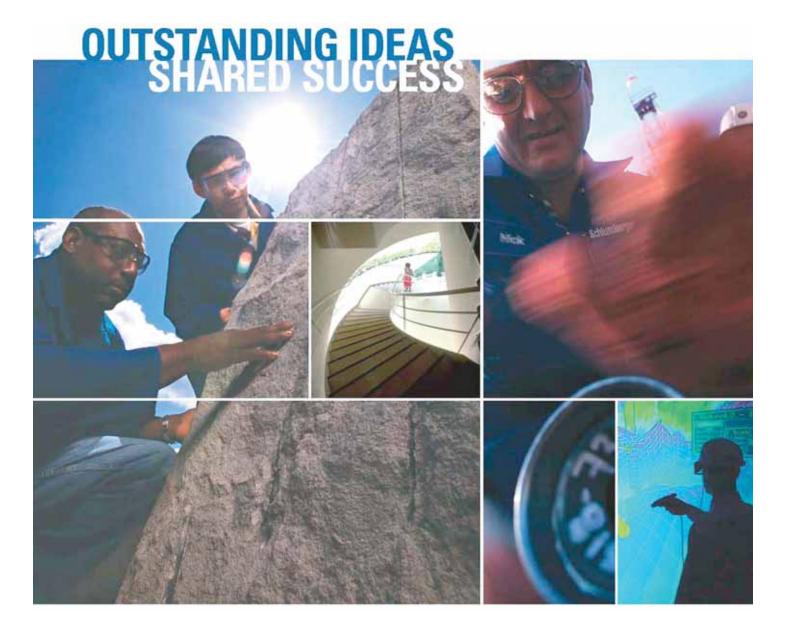
## October 13 NOGS Luncheon

Holiday Inn Downtown Superdome • New Orleans, LA For more information, www.nogs.org/calendar

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# Sept. 8 NOGS Luncheon Presentation

☆ ☆ ☆ at the Holiday Inn Superdome ☆ ☆ ☆



# Leasing and Fracking the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale in St. Tammany Parish

Presented by

# Wilma Subra

Subra Company and Louisiana Environmental Action Network New Iberia, Louisiana



©Dubinsky Photography

#### **ABSTRACT**

The Tuscaloosa Marine Shale (TMS) extends under central Louisiana, the Florida parishes and into several Mississippi counties. Using hydraulic fracturing, it is producing natural gas, condensate and crude oil. The TMS underlies approximately three-fourths of St. Tammany Parish.

In St. Tammany Parish, Helis Oil and Gas Company has leased or has options on 60,000 acres, where, to date, there has been no production from the TMS.

The company contracted for wetland evaluations on four potential drill locations in St. Tammany before acquiring the leases. Three of the four were identified by Helis and confirmed by the Corps of Engineers as having wetlands. The fourth location evaluated by the Helis consultant found no wetlands; however, the Corps determined, through field investigations, that wetlands exist at the location.

A Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit was applied for from the Corps for the fourth location, a 10.55-acre well pad site consisting of 9.46 acres of wetlands. The Corps subsequently requested sites less environmentally damaging.

Helis applied to the Office of Conservation to form a single 960-acre unit in the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale. This unit contained the site of the Helis application for the 404 Permit. A unitization hearing has been conducted on the application, with no decisions rendered.

This talk details the chemical components of fracking fluids, flowback water, produced water, as well as dangers to the environment and human health.

#### **BIOGRAPHY**

By combining technical research and evaluation, **Wilma Subra** provides assistance to environmentally concerned communities and citizens, across the U.S. and some foreign countries.

Wilma Subra started the Subra Company, in New Iberia, Louisiana, in 1981. Through Subra, community needs are identified, then translated into policy changes at the state and Federal levels through service on multi-stake holder committees.

Ms. Subra has worked on and chaired several government councils for the Environmental Protection Agency. In 2011, she chaired the EPA Hydraulic Fracturing Study on Chemical and Analytical Methods; participated in the 2012 EPA Shale Technical Roundtables on Water Acquisition, Chemical Mixing, and Well Injection; and co-chaired the 2013 EPA Shale Analytical Chemical Methods Workshop. She currently serves as chair of the STRONGER\* Air Guidelines Work Group.

Ms. Subra currently focuses on the impacts of shale hydraulic fracturing, and how specific units and activities impact human health. Through the STRONGER process of creating guidelines for the regulation of state programs dealing with shale development, she helps develop appropriate parameters for monitoring ground water and surface water resources to detect impacts of shale development.

Ms. Subra holds degrees in microbiology and chemistry from the University of Southwestern Louisiana. She received a MacArthur Fellowship "Genius" Award from the MacArthur Foundation in 1999 and in 2011 was the Domestic Human Rights Honoree from the Global Exchange.

\*STRONGER: State Review of Oil & Gas Environmental Regulations

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

# "And Looking Ahead . . . "

The next luncheon will be held on October 13. Our guest speaker, Chuck Holman, of Saratoga Resources Inc., Covington, Louisiana, will present "Field Study in Grand Bay, Offshore Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana." 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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# September 2014

| Sunday | Monday         | Tuesday                | Wednesday    | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|----------------|------------------------|--------------|----------|--------|----------|
|        | 1<br>Labor Day | 2                      | 3            | 4        | 5      | 6        |
| 7      | 8 Luncheon     | 9                      | 10           | 11       | 12     | 13       |
| 14     | 15 AAPG ICE    | 16<br>Istanbul, Turkey | 17 Board Mtg | 18       | 19     | 20       |
| 21     | 22             | 23                     | 24           | 25       | 26     | 27       |
| 28     | 29             | 30                     |              |          |        |          |

Sept 8th: NOGS Luncheon Holiday Inn Superdome 330 Loyola Ave. @ 11:30 am Admission \$30.— Parking \$3 Guest Speaker: Wilma Subra - Subra Company - New Iberia, Louisiana Will Present: "Leasing and Fracking the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale in St Tammany Parish"

# October 2014

| Sunday                               | Monday   | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday          | Saturday              |
|--------------------------------------|--|---------|-----------|----------|-----------------|-----------------------|
|                                      |  |         | 1         | 2        | 3               | 4<br>NOGS<br>Kick Off |
| 5                                    | 6  | 7       | 8         | 9        | 10              | 11                    |
| GCA                                  | AGS, Lafayette, I<br>I                             | _A      |           |          | Mineral Auction |                       |
| 12                                   | 13   | 14      | 15        | 16       | 17              | 18                    |
|                                      | Luncheon   |         | Board Mtg |          |                 |                       |
| 19                                   | 20   | 21      | 22        | 23       | 24              | 25                    |
| GSA Convention Vancouver, BC, Canada |  |         |           |          |                 |                       |
| 26                                   | 27   | 28      | 29        | 30       | 31              |                       |
|                                      | SEG International Exposition & Meeting, Denver, CO |         |           |          |                 |                       |
|                                      | 1  |         |           |          |                 |                       |

October 13th: NOGS Luncheon Holiday Inn Superdome 330 Loyola Ave. @ 11:30 am Admission \$30.— Parking \$3 *Guest Speaker:* Chuck Holman of Saratoga Resources Inc. — Covington, Louisiana *Will Present:* "Field Study in Grand Bay, Offshore Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana"

# 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."



# Celebrating 60 Y ears! 😭



Our 60th anniversary is well on the way to being a very wonderful and exciting year. New NOGA officers and committee members are busy making plans for good times in the 2014-2015 year.

Officers for 2014-2015 are: President Mary Walther; Vice-President Mary Ellis Hasseltine; Secretary Peggy Rogers; Treasurer Judy Lemarié; Parliamentarian Alma Dunlap; Member-At-Large Jean Jones;

Directors 2013-2015 Trudy Corona and Debra Fein; Directors 2014-2016 Susie Baker and Judy Sabaté. All members will continue to receive newsletters from Pat Williamson, included with invitations to events. Peggy Rogers will still report the Auxiliary news in the *NOGS LOG*.

At press time, exciting plans are underway for a luncheon at the home of Beverly Kastler. Linda Peirce and Peggy Rogers will be helping Beverly to make this a good start to our 60th year. The date is September 10th and details of the event will be in the next *NOGS LOG*.

The 60th year celebration will be November 12th at Ralph's on the Park. Alma Dunlap, Judy Sabaté, and Pat



NOGA Past Presidents attending the 45th Anniversary Luncheon at the Westin Hotel, 1999

Williamson are planning this gala event. Spouses and friends will join us for this celebration.

The NOGS Christmas Holiday Party will be held at the Metairie Country Club on December 12th.

New members are always welcome. The 60th year should be a year to remember.

Peggy Rogers, NOGS LOG

| New Orleans Geological Auxiliary Membership Application |               |  |  |  |
|---|---------------|--|--|--|
| ,,,,,,,,,,,,,,  |               |  |  |  |
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|   |               |  |  |  |
| Address   | Home Phone    |  |  |  |
|   |               |  |  |  |
| City, State, Zip  | Cell Phone    |  |  |  |
|   |               |  |  |  |
| Spouse's Company  | Email         |  |  |  |
| Dues: \$25 payable to New Orleans Geological Auxiliary  |               |  |  |  |

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With the aid of Robin Broussard of Shell, and Eric Zimmerman of LLOG, we obtained Schlumberger as a Title Sponsor.

I polled the Seminar attendees:

"How many of you are here from Houston?"
About half.

"How many of those of you from Houston are registered for DWTS?"

Nearly all.

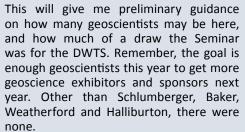
"How many of you are here from Lafayette?"
About fifteen.

"How many of you from Lafayette are registered for the DWTS?"

Seven.

"Of those of you remaining, how many of you are registered for the DWTS?"

About half.



So, because the Seminar is a draw, and we have a head count of over 60 DWS registrations, then we may be able to look at the total registration list and derive a percentage, once we know how many people are in our geoscience talks. I saw Wednesday crowds of 100-200+. Okay, that is sloppy logic, but you get the idea. Are we drawing? Are we keeping? Can we find enough evidence in the data to go after geoscience exhibitors next year? Yes.

The key is to continue to get more great speakers like this year's group.

Mike Fein



Photography by: Tom Klekamp and Arthur Christenser



# WORKING IN THE WORLD OF TOMORROW



18th Annual Gulf of Mexico

Deepwater
Technical Symposium

The 18th Annual Gulf of Mexico Deepwater Technical Symposium and Exhibition was hosted on August 5-7 by the Delta Section, along with the New Orleans Geological Society (NOGS) and the New Orleans Chapter of the American Association of Drilling Engineers (AADE).

This year we opened the event with a one day Geoscience Seminar by Dr. John Snedden, who presented the "Gulf of Mexico Exploration and Reservoir Connectivity Analysis of Large Oil and Gas Field Development, Gulf of Mexico Deepwater and Other Basins" to a packed house. The event was hosted by NOGS and the Southeastern Geophysical Society (SGS) and sponsored by Schlumberger. The seminar had sold out at 100 attendees a week before which was great for an inaugural event. Dr. Snedden's course was well done with nothing but good things to say by the attendees. We will definitely be holding another seminar next year and book a bigger room for the event. Special thanks to Mike Fein for the idea and putting this together. It is definitely a positive addition to the symposium.

After the seminar, AADE held the 19th Annual Fin Feather Fur Food Festival at Generations Hall down the street from the hotel. This is the second year that

the F5 Event was held in conjunction with the symposium. Over 1000 people attended the sold out festival where 32 teams cooked a wide range of dishes. Not a bad choice in the bunch. Special thanks to Sub Surface Tools for covering the beverages for the night. Christine Chatelain and her committee did an incredible job setting new records of attendees and money raised for the event.

The next day the symposium was in full force with five concurrent sessions where over the two days 73 presentations were given on all aspects of Deepwater exploration and production. On the first day Janice Schneider, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Land and Minerals Management, was the keynote speaker and shared her views on the future of exploration in the Gulf of Mexico. On Thursday Chris McLindon, Geologist, presented a very informative presentation on Louisiana Coastal Subsidence.

The symposium was concluded with its traditional plenary session, this year a Management Panel looking at Deepwater Going Forward: Four Points of View. The panel looked at leasing activity, current industry trends, strategies and business models in the Gulf of Mexico.

Over 700 attendees participated in the symposium, including over 100 students whose registration fees are covered by the organizing societies. Students are welcomed as our guests to network and engage in the discussion of these technical topics.

Special thanks to Joe Leimkuhler and Matt Wandstrat both from LLOG Exploration for Co-Chairing the event again this year.

Last but not least Wednesday Night the Young Professionals of the SPE Delta Section hosted the 5th Annual Casino Games and Silent Auction Gala. Not to be out done, Christina Kost and her committee broke attendance and fund raising records of their own. As in the past, all proceeds of the event benefit Core Element: The Greater New Orleans STEM Initiative. Special thanks to Baker Hughes for sponsoring the event.

This year's symposium was a great success; we tried some new things and they all seemed to work out well. Thanks to Delta Section for your support! Contact Matt Wandstrat mattw@llog.com if you would like to get involved with any of these great events next year.









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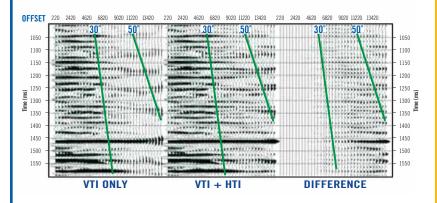
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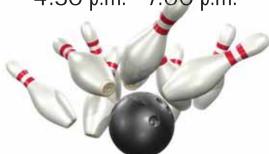
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# South Louisiana and Offshore Gulf of Mexico Exploration and Production Activities

LAFAYETTE DISTRICT, ONSHORE AREA By Carlo C. Christina

During the month of July, 25 permits to drill were issued by the Office of Conservation, Lafayette District, Onshore Area. Following are the most significant and interesting locations and completions:

## **NEW LOCATIONS**

In Lafourche Parish, **Southwest Lake Boeuf Field**, (A), Shoreline Southeast LLC will drill the #1 ROBU SU A, LL&E in Sec. 72, 16S-17E to a proposed depth of 15,999 feet. This well will test the Rob L sand which is producing 4000 feet to the northwest in the Dominion #1 Grand Coteau. It was completed in the Rob L-2 Sand flowing 768 BOPD, and had produced **505,331 barrels of oil.** It was recently re-completed by Shoreline in an upper member of the Rob L sand **flowing 995 BOPD**. (248209)

Southwest Lake Boeuf Field was discovered in 1959 but was not fully developed until a 3-D seismic survey was conducted in 1993. The field produces from multiple sands ranging in age from Cibicides opima through Operculinoides with several sands having more than 60 feet of net pay.

I suggest that you review the NOGS publication, "Oil and Gas Fields of South Louisiana 2010," for a complete discussion of the history, geology, and post-3-D exploration of the field. This presentation contains structure maps, a type log, a cross section and copies of electric logs showing pay sections of various wells. I believe you will be impressed with this presentation.

Tri-C Resources is drilling its #1 Cooper in **Skinner Lakes Field**, (B), Beauregard Parish, in Sec. 2, 6S-13W, to test Upper Wilcox sands. The well is located 2 miles northeast of nearest production and will be drilled to 10,660 feet. (248012)

Will-Drill Production Company has been very active during the past 2 years with the completion of 8 oil wells in the field in Upper Wilcox sands. These completions have been in sands found between 9,600 feet and 9,990 feet, having excellent flow rates ranging from 175 BOPD to 504 BOPD. Total oil production since 2012 is 278,655 barrels.

In Cameron Parish, Shoreline Southeast LLC will drill the #13 Lacassine B in **Lacassine Refuge Field,** (C), to a depth of 18,700 feet to test the deep Myogyp sands. The well is located in Sec. 18, 12S-5W approximately 1 mile south of Marg howei sands at 13,500 feet. (248246)

Note: this well is also located 2 miles southwest of the McMoRan subsalt well which will be drilled to a proposed depth of 24,000 feet.

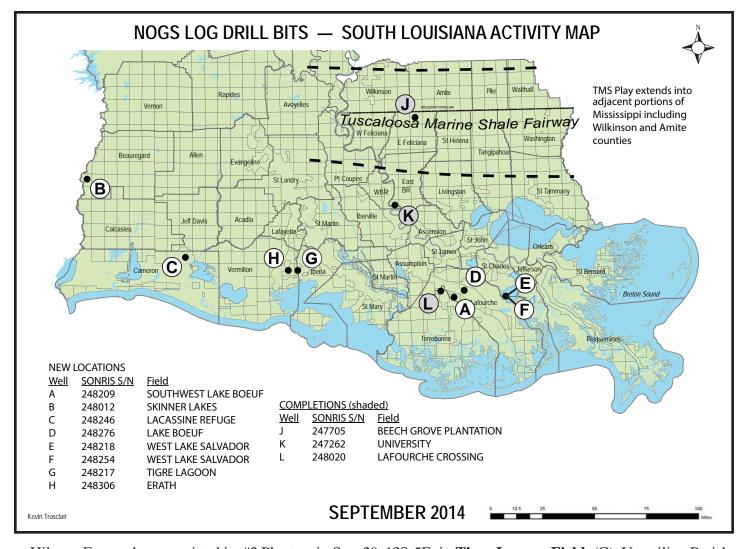
CX Operating Co. will drill the #1 Bowie Lumber in **Lake Boeuf Field**, (D), Lafourche Parish in Sec. 116, 15S-18E. The well will be drilled to 13,000, or a true vertical depth of 12,500 feet, to test the N sand. The proposed bottom hole location is approximately 2,000 feet from a depleted well which tested the N sand flowing 835 BOPD, and produced more than 39,000 barrels of oil in 2 years. (248276)

In **West Lake Salvador Field,** (E), St. Charles Parish, Tri-C Resources will attempt to extend production to the west with the #2 SL 20936, located in 16S-21E. It will be drilled to a proposed total depth of 15,091 feet to test the Cris I sands. (248218)

As previously, reported the field was discovered in 2011 and is one of the most significant new discoveries in South Louisiana in recent years. Today, there are 13 producing wells and 4 wells drilling or permitted.

Also in **West Lake Salvador Field**, (F), Castex Energy will drill a deep Cris I test on the north flank of the field. The #3-ALT SL 20850 will be drilled to a depth of 16,000 feet, or 2,000 feet deeper than any previous well in the field. (248254)





Hilcorp Energy has permitted its #3 Planters in Sec. 29, 13S-5E, in **Tigre Lagoon Field**, (G), Vermilion Parish. The well will be drilled to 15,500 feet to test Planulina sands which are productive 1½ miles to the south. (248217)

This well is also located 2 miles northeast of the Petroquest #1 Hulin which is now drilling to test massive Cris R sands at a depth of 27,000 feet. As previously reported in my April Drill Bits report, Petroquest completed its #1 Thibodeau in Bayou Hebert Field in Cris R sands having 248 feet of net gas.

Hilcorp will also drill the #11 Adelaide in **Erath Field**, (H), Vermilion Parish, to a total depth of 20,500 feet in Sec. 28, 13S-4E. The well will also test Cris R sands which are producing 1 mile to the south at a depth of 18,300 feet. (248306)

# **COMPLETIONS**

Goodrich Petroleum has completed another **Tuscaloosa Marine Shale** well in **Beech Grove Plantation Field**, (J), East Feliciana Parish. The #1 Beech Grove 94 H was drilled to 19,771 feet and completed flowing 640 BOPD and 412 MCFD through perforations 13,952 to 19,653 feet. It is located 2 miles south of the #74 H which has produced more than 70,000 barrels of oil in 24 months. (247705)

In East Baton Rouge Parish, **University Field**, (K), Pennington Operating Co. has completed the #1 Board of Supervisors flowing 160 BOPD and 134 MCFD in the Bol mex sand through perforations 9,844 to 9,864 feet. The well was drilled to a depth of 11,542 feet, at a location 2 miles north of nearest production. (247262)

Square Mile Energy has plugged its #/2 Plater-Acadia in **Lafourche Crossing Field**, (L), Terrebonne Parish, at a total depth of 15,024 feet. The well was drilled in Sec. 97, 15S-16E to test Rob L sands which are prolific producing sands in the area. (248020)

# OFFSHORE GULF OF MEXICO SHELF AND DEEPWATER ACTIVITIES

by Al Baker

During July 2014, the BOEM approved **110** Gulf of Mexico drilling permits. Of these, **50** were for shelf wells, and **60** were for deepwater wells. Of the total number of permits, there were **16 new well permits** issued. These included **6 shelf** (1 exploratory and 5 development), and **10 deepwater** (8 exploratory and 2 development) **new well permits**.

On the shelf, five operators received development new well permits. These included: **ANKOR Energy** for their **Vermilion 379** #**A-8** well, **Chevron U.S.A.** for their **Main Pass 43** #**I-16** well, **Energy XXI GOM** for their **Main Pass 61** #**B-9** well, **EPL Oil & Gas** for their **West Delta 29** #**J-3** well and **Tana Exploration Company** for their **Matagorda Island 654** #**J-1** well. **Castex Offshore** obtained the one exploratory new well permit for their **High Island 131** #**1** well.

In deepwater, 8 exploratory new well permits were awarded to the following 5 operators: Freeport-McMoRan Oil & Gas for their Green Canyon 643 #SS-1 and Green Canyon 733 #1 wells, Shell Offshore for their Desoto Canyon 398 #1 (Gettysburg) and Walker Ridge 508 #6 wells, Anadarko Petroleum for their Green Canyon 903 #5 and #6 wells, Murphy Exploration and Production Company-USA for their Mississippi Canyon 697 #1 well and SandRidge Energy Offshore for their Green Canyon 64 #A-26 well in Bullwinkle Field. The 2 development new well permits were issued to Energy Resource Technology GOM (Talos Energy) for their Green Canyon 236 #2 and 237 #6 wells.

On July 25th, IHS-Petrodata reported that the Gulf of Mexico mobile offshore rig supply stood at **115**. The marketed rig supply consisted of **89** rigs, of which **80** were under contract. The contracted versus total rig supply utilization rate is **77.4%**, while the marketed contracted versus marketed supply utilization rate stands at **89.9%**. The total and marketed rig supply figures reflect an increase of 2 rigs each compared to those figures reported last month, while the contracted rig supply number also increased by 1 rig. In contrast, the July 2013 fleet utilization rate stood at 70.4% with 76 out of the 108 rigs under contract.

On July 25th, BakerHughes indicated that there were **60** active mobile offshore rigs in the Gulf, which is **75.0%** of the rigs under contract mentioned above. This active rigs number is **6** more than reported last month. The current active rigs count compares to **53** active rigs during the same period last year, representing a **13.2%** increase in yearly rig activity.

In a July 15th press release, **Shell Offshore** announced its third major discovery within the **Norphlet** play in the deep waters of the Gulf of Mexico. The **Rydberg** exploration well is located approximately **75 miles offshore** in **Mississippi Canyon Block 525.** The well, which is situated in **7,479 feet of water**, was drilled to a **total depth of 26,371 feet** and found over **400 feet of net oil pay.** The Rydberg well is located within 10 miles of the Appomattox Development area, which has seen more than 10 years of exploration activities by Shell. Shell expects that the Rydberg discovery well will add approximately 100 million barrels of oil equivalent to the planned development of the Appomattox and Vicksburg discoveries. This latest discovery brings the total potential of the three combined discoveries to over 700 million barrels of oil equivalent. Shell is now planning an additional exploratory well at its **Gettysburg** prospect, located in **Desoto Canyon Block 398.** 

# on the cover (from page 3)

Fresh from U. Kansas, with two geology degrees, and mentored by "The Boss" Raymond Moore, I was hired by Texaco and arrived in Farmington, New Mexico, to work for a well-seasoned field geologist, Bob Breitenstein. Our assignment was to find a drillable location on 32 sections of expiring Navajo leases. Bob and I lived in an 18-foot Travelite trailer for several months. As a team, Bob carried the stadia rod looking for geological points of interest while I took measurements with the alidade and spotted points on the map. We traversed the whole lease block during the wonderful fall weather for which the area is famous.

We had finished field mapping in late November, just as the snows arrived and moved the work into a warm office. There, I laid out an air photo grid so that Bob could locate his geology points on our map. I computed elevations for each of the geological points taken with the alidade, resulting in a structure map. Bob never let me see the completed map, but I knew it contained a large closure. Kansas' reputation for geology field training stood me in stead – my elevation was within 6 feet of the surveyed depth of the discovery well – The Texas Company Superior Oil 1-C Navajo (IP 1704 BOPD, SITP 2170# from 5828-74). The Aneth Field has since produced 471,058,403 BO and in 2013 produced 4,236,402 BO.

The real story is how this affected the Bike'yah (the Navajo). Prior to the discovery, the reservation was 27,000 square miles of poverty, and the only paved roads were the US highways. After the discovery well there were four rigs drilling and new, bigger wells were coming fast. The oil had to be trucked out over dirt roads, about which the Navajo expressed great concern. Subsequently, the Navajo royalty was increased from 1/8th to 3/16th. The Navajo people quickly learned how to use their newfound oil savvy by improving the reservation with paved roads, industry, and services. The Bike'vah are much better for all of this.

You can read more about Aneth Field and the Navajo at http://historytogo.utah.gov/utah\_chapters/utah\_today/anethoilfield.html

**James Baker,** a new active member, is a log analyst with TGS in New Orleans. James has over thirty years of experience in the oil and gas industry; including experience with Schlumberger and Wipro. James earned a degree in Computer Science in 1982 from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Welcome James!

NOGS welcomes back **Darren Chevis** as an active member. Darren was a student member of NOGS while at Tulane where he earned a B.S. in Geology in 2005. This year he completed a Ph.D. in Earth and Environmental Sciences from Tulane which focused on geochemistry and hydrogeology. Darren has worked for Zot Oil & Gas and Minerals Management Service (now BOEM). He is a member of the GSA and the Geochemical Society.



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Submitted by Tom Klekamp

The US Geological Survey's Military Geology Unit in World War II: 'the Army's pet prophets' By C. M. Nelson and E. P. F. Rose

Quarterly Journal of Engineering Geology and Hydrogeology, Geol. Soc. London, May 2014, Vol. 47, No. 2, pp. 349-367.

http://qjegh.geoscienceworld.org/content/45/3/349.abstract

(Abstract) In 1942 the US Geological Survey formed a Military Geology Unit (MGU) at Washington, DC of in-house and other earth scientists and engineers to gather terrain and related strategic intelligence. MGU compiled reports containing data about regions outside the USA as tables, text and maps for use by Allied forces, especially American and British. Benefiting to some extent from both Allied and German geological experience in World War I, MGU developed into by far the largest geology-based intelligence unit. This intelligence was used to help guide Allied planning and operations in World War II. About 50 'Strategic Engineering Studies' were completed in 1942, and at least 50 more in 1943. MGU products contributed significantly to the Allied campaigns in Sicily and Italy from 1943, and complemented British geotechnical work associated with Normandy and the NW Europe Campaign in 1944–1945. In 1944–1945, MGU deployed teams from Washington to US Army theatre headquarters in Europe, and more substantially to the SW Pacific and Pacific Ocean areas, principally to provide intelligence for strategic and tactical planning, and advice to and (in the Pacific) participation in combat operations. After 1945, MGU developed into a Military Geology Branch, responding to demands of wars cold and hot until 1972.

#### **Rosetta Arrives at Comet Destination**

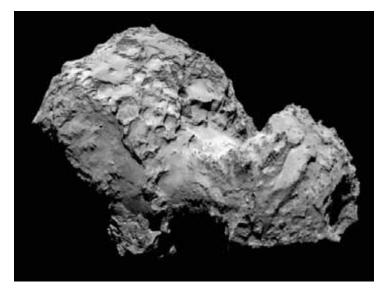
http://www.esa.int/Our\_Activities/Space\_Science/Rosetta/Rosetta\_arrives\_at\_comet\_destination

6 August 2014. After a decade-long journey chasing its target, European Space Agency's Rosetta has today become the first spacecraft to rendezvous with a comet, opening a new chapter in Solar System exploration.

Comet 67P/Churyumov—Gerasimenko and Rosetta now lie 405 million kilometers from Earth, about half way between the orbits of Jupiter and Mars, rushing towards the inner Solar System at nearly 55, 000 kilometers per hour.

The comet is in an elliptical 6.5-year orbit that takes it from beyond Jupiter at its furthest point, to between the orbits of Mars and Earth at its closest to the Sun. Rosetta will accompany it for over a year as they swing around the Sun and back out towards Jupiter again.

Comets are considered to be primitive building blocks of the Solar System and may have helped to 'seed' Earth with water, perhaps even the ingredients for life. But many fundamental questions about these enigmatic objects remain, and through a comprehensive, in situ study of the comet, Rosetta aims to unlock the secrets within.





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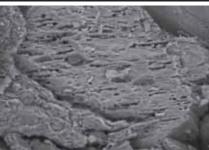
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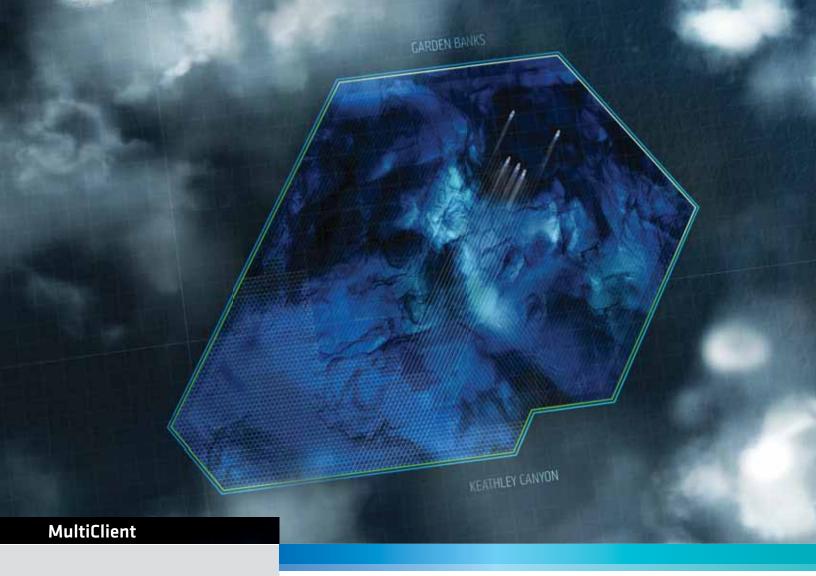


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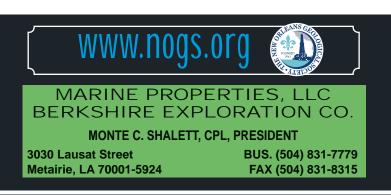
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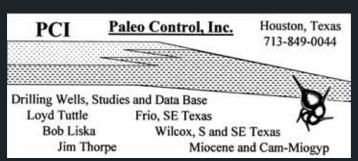
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