

NOGS LOG

DECEMBER 2015

Volume 56, Number 6



DECEMBER 7 - NOGS LUNCHEON

Presentation: The Status of Unconventional Exploration in Europe

Guest Speaker: Mr. Jim Hill

CalTerra Energy, LLC • Camarillo, California

NOGS

Christmas Holiday Party

Saturday, December 19, 2015

7:00-10:00 pm

**At the home of Ed Picou
in the Marseilles Condominiums
232 Lake Marina Ave., Apt. 14C
Across from the New Orleans Yacht Harbor**

**Please Note: Do not park in the Yacht Harbor area.
There is an open lot adjacent to the Marseilles
where parking is allowed.**

Offline Networking

Open Bar

Buffet Dinner

**Send a check to the NOGS office or
pay online at www.nogs.org/payment-center
and use the Special Events Category**

Buffet Dinner & Open Bar

Members \$35 • Students \$25

**Reservations must be made by
Thursday, December 10, 2015**





Published monthly by the New Orleans Geological Society.
This issue was sent to press on November 20, 2015.

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 Photo Submitted by Tom Bergeon

Mount Hood — Oregon

Mount Hood at 11,250 feet is the largest peak in Oregon and forms the fourth largest stratovolcano in the Pacific Northwest.

The summit consists of several andesitic lava domes. Mount Hood has seen many periods of volcanic activity and collapse including an active period 1,500 years ago.

The volcano was then dormant until the last small-scale eruptive event occurred in 1780 when pyroclastic flows and lahars (mud flows) occurred without coinciding major explosive eruptions.

The mountain is geothermally active but shows no signs of imminent volcanic activity. Glaciers, which are extensive above 7,000 feet, may be a source of potentially dangerous lahars during the next volcanic event.

This photo was taken from the Timberline Lodge, a Depression Era grand destination, which was featured in the exterior scenes in the Stanley Kubrick film *The Shining*.



*In this holiday season,
our thoughts and prayers
are with our brothers and sisters
in Paris, France.*

Vive la France!

From the Editor

Our NOGS Fault Atlas of South Louisiana moves ahead. New Orleans Fox 8's John Snell learned of what Chris McLindon had been saying to groups around our area and decided it needed airing on their station. The result is a 7-minute film that was shown during the second week of November.

<http://www.fox8live.com/story/30487155/underground-map-of-la-to-help-fight-coastal-loss-at-sea-level>

If you missed Snell's segment; share it with your local and State politicians; a single letter to a politician is a powerful instrument!

Dave Reiter writes about our Atlas Project in his President's Letter. The NOGS Proposal is now online at our website under Links. The Proposal is long; reading it is a primer on the geology of south Louisiana and Chris McLindon has done masterful work compiling the references and diagrams. Your NOGS Board is also writing on a one-page version.

Have a great Christmas, Hanukkah and holiday season.

Tom
Tom Klekamp, Editor

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Outside my office window in downtown New Orleans, construction of another high rise building is just getting started. The slow rhythmic staccato of pounding concrete piles into the clayey muck that underlies much of New Orleans is quite noticeable above the normal din of the CBD. This is a common sound in the greater New Orleans area because design engineers and construction contractors know quite well that good solid footing is required to build anything on top of the pervasive southern Louisiana "Gulf Coast mudpile." Most new construction requires a thorough understanding not only of soil and sediment strength but also knowledge of natural geological processes that may continually alter that strength. These processes include dewatering and subsequent compaction of soft sediments and the slow and steady movement of active growth faults that extend from great depths to the surface.

There's another type of very important "construction" about to commence in southern Louisiana. Several governmental agencies are planning multibillion dollar coastal restoration projects to rebuild new marshland in several areas within the Louisiana coastal zone. They plan to divert billions of gallons of heavily sediment-laden Mississippi River water into various open bays to rebuild land lost to coastal submergence in the last hundred years or so. These sediments will immediately be subject to the same geologic processes that have been active in the Mississippi River deltaic zone for millions of years, that is, dewatering, compaction and active growth faulting. Although these restoration projects have been targeted for areas of greatest land loss, most of the projects are planned for areas where all of these geologic processes are very active. Have the government designers and contractors for these projects fully taken into account a complete understanding of the underlying geology upon which they are constructing these new "land buildings?" Will these billions of tons of sediments actually build new marshland or will they simply submerge and disappear due to those naturally occurring processes? Unlike the new building going up outside my office window, there won't be any pilings underneath these sediments to help keep them stable.

Recently, one of our NOGS members, Chris McLindon, has written a proposal to study active surface faults and predictive patterns of subsidence along the Louisiana coast. The study will use seismic data donated to various university departments to be used by students and faculty to thoroughly investigate geologic processes in the coastal zone, i.e., active surface fault movement and how this affects distribution, compaction, and preservation of sediments. The NOGS Board voted to endorse this study and to help in any way we can to implement the project. Our hope is to eventually collate the results into an Atlas of Active Surface Faults that will be available to the general public, as well as any governmental agency that desires to use the information in planning coastal restoration projects. The project proposal is a rather long but well-researched document that provides a thorough explanation of geologic processes in the coastal zone and how the study should be implemented. The proposal and several related technical articles regarding coastal restoration have been posted on the NOGS website, www.nogs.org, under the Links tab. The ultimate goal is a better understanding by the general public and government agencies of the importance of including a complete understanding of both near surface and deeper subsurface geology when planning the building of anything in southern Louisiana. Ultimately, Geology Matters.

As we move towards the end of year Holiday season, our thoughts immediately turn towards when and where is this year's NOGS Christmas Holiday Party. Our Entertainment Chairman (and President-Elect) Al Melillo and members of NOGA have planned a truly festive holiday party at the lakefront home of long- time NOGS member Ed Picou. The party starts at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday December 19 and admission is only \$35 for members and \$25 for students. What a deal! Please visit www.nogs.org or see the flyer in this *NOGS LOG* for more party information and how to register by December 10th.

Our NOGS December luncheon is planned for Monday, December 7, and will feature a presentation by James Hill, Sr. of CalTerra Energy regarding "The Status of Unconventional Exploration in Europe." Please make your reservation early and please try to honor those reservations to mitigate luncheon "no shows." Also, please note that next month's luncheon will not take place on the first Monday of January, rather, it will be a joint meeting with SGS on Thursday, January 14. Details on this meeting will be posted soon on the NOGS website and in the next *NOGS LOG*.

I hope all of you have a happy and healthy Holiday season, and I hope each of you receive a shiny new rock hammer for Christmas.

See you at the next meeting.

David Reiter

NOGS Office

Office Manager: Annette Hudson

Phone: 504-561-8980 • Email: info@nogs.org • Website: www.nogs.org

The office is located at 810 Union Street, Suite 300, New Orleans, LA 70112.

Correspondence and all luncheon reservations should be sent to the above address.

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December 7 • NOGS Luncheon

Holiday Inn Downtown Superdome

\$3.00 validated parking in hotel garage

Presentation:

The Status of Unconventional Exploration in Europe

Guest Speaker:

Jim Hill

President • CalTerra Energy, LLC • Camarillo, California

See pages 8 and 9 for Abstract and Biography

HOLIDAY INN DOWNTOWN SUPERDOME

Check with concierge or
front desk for location.
Lunch served at 11:30 am

ADMISSION:

With reservation..... \$30.00
Without reservation \$35.00
Student Member with reservations..... FREE

December 13-16

2015 34th Annual GCSSEPM Foundation Perkins-Rose Research Conference

Production Systems in "Rift" Basins

OMNI Houston Westside • Houston, TX

For more information, http://www.gcssepm.org/conference/2015_conference.htm

January 14

SEG-NOGS Joint Luncheon

Holiday Inn Superdome • New Orleans, LA

Andrew Madof: "Integration of Seismic Stratigraphy Seismic Geomorphology
for Prediction of Lithology: Workflows and Applications"

December 19

NOGS Christmas Holiday Party

Home of Ed Picou • 232 Lake Marina Ave. Apt. 14C • New Orleans, LA

For more information, <http://www.nogs.org/Content/pdf/events/Christmas2015.pdf>
and page 2 (inside cover) of this NOGS LOG.

February 9-12 (2016)

NAPE Summit

George Brown Convention Center • Houston, Texas

For more information, <http://napeexpo.com/shows/about-the-show/summit>

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Continued from previous page

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Nov. 2 NOGS Luncheon Presentation

☆☆☆ at the Holiday Inn Superdome ☆☆☆

The Status of Unconventional Exploration in Europe

Presented by
James Hill, Sr.
President
CalTerra Energy, LLC
Camarillo, California



ABSTRACT

Exploration for unconventional resources in Europe has had several highs and lows over the past decades. Tight sands and coal bed methane have both been perused with some success and failure. Shale exploration was first attempted in Poland by Three Legs (Lane Energy) in 2008 with acquisition of concessions in the Baltic Basin of Poland. BNK Petroleum followed the next year with an offsetting position in the deeper part of the basin. The first Lane wells were drilled in 2010 with some initial encouragement, followed by BNK wells in 2011. These acquisitions spurred a land rush with over 100 shale gas concessions awarded over the next two years to both independents and major oil companies.

The land rush in Poland was accompanied by similar interest and concession acquisitions in Switzerland, Sweden, France, Germany, England, Spain, Bulgaria, Romania and the Netherlands. This initial rush was accompanied by a rise in public anti-fracking sentiment, possibly inspired by Gasprom, which led to fracking bans in many countries and a greatly restricted exploration environment. The current environment has not improved as an economic shale gas well has not yet been drilled in Europe.

To date less than 100 wells have been drilled in European basins with mixed and mostly discouraging results. A summary of drilling in the various countries with some of the more important results are reviewed and the primary targets identified. There have been a few areas where sweet spots have been located but are not yet developed.

BIOGRAPHY

James Hill, Sr. is currently President of CalTerra Energy, LLC located in Camarillo, California. CalTerra is a consulting and holding company specializing in conventional and unconventional hydrocarbon resources. He is retired Vice President of Exploration for BNK Petroleum, an international exploration and production company that focused on unconventional resources in the US and Europe. BNK was one of the first explorers to recognize the potential for unconventional resources in Europe and has aggressively pursued projects in Poland, Germany, Spain and the UK. BNK was awarded concession areas in Poland, Germany and Spain which totaled over 5 million acres. This position has been considerably reduced in the last year.

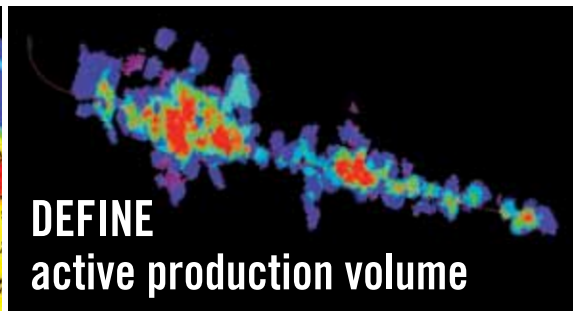
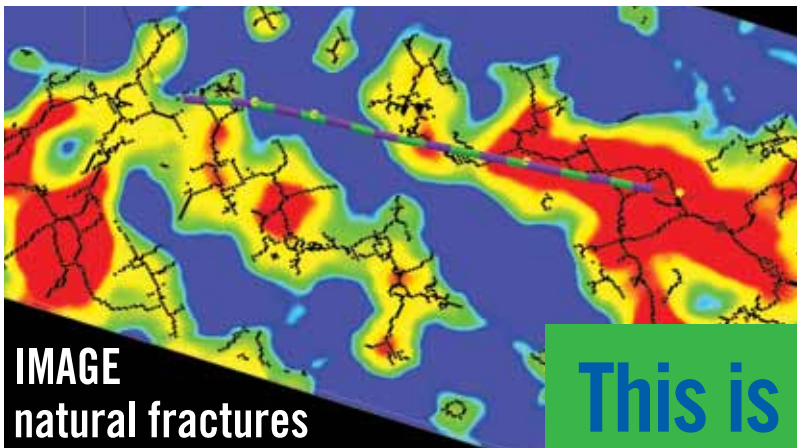
He has a Master's degree in Geology from San Jose State University in California and has authored several papers on the Monterey Shale in California. He is a Registered California Geologist, AAPG Certified Petroleum Geologist and Chartered Fellow of the London Geological Society.



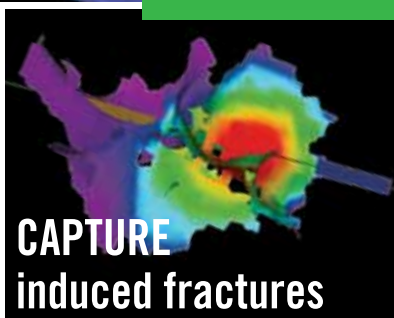
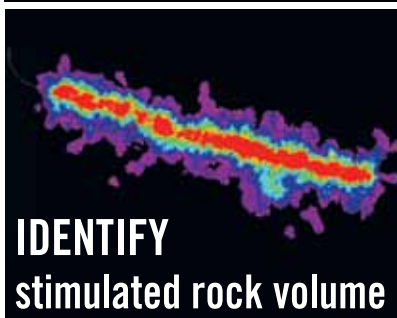
THE LUNCHEON RESERVATION DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 4 - CONTACT THE NOGS OFFICE

"And Looking Ahead . . ."

The next luncheon will be held on January 14 and is the SEG-NOGS Joint Luncheon. Our guest speaker, Andrew Madof, Chevron, will present "Integration of Seismic Stratigraphy Seismic Geomorphology for Prediction of Lithology: Workflows and Applications." Contact the NOGS office at 561-8980 or use the PayPal link on the NOGS website (www.nogs.org) to make your reservation.



This is AMBIENT Seismic.



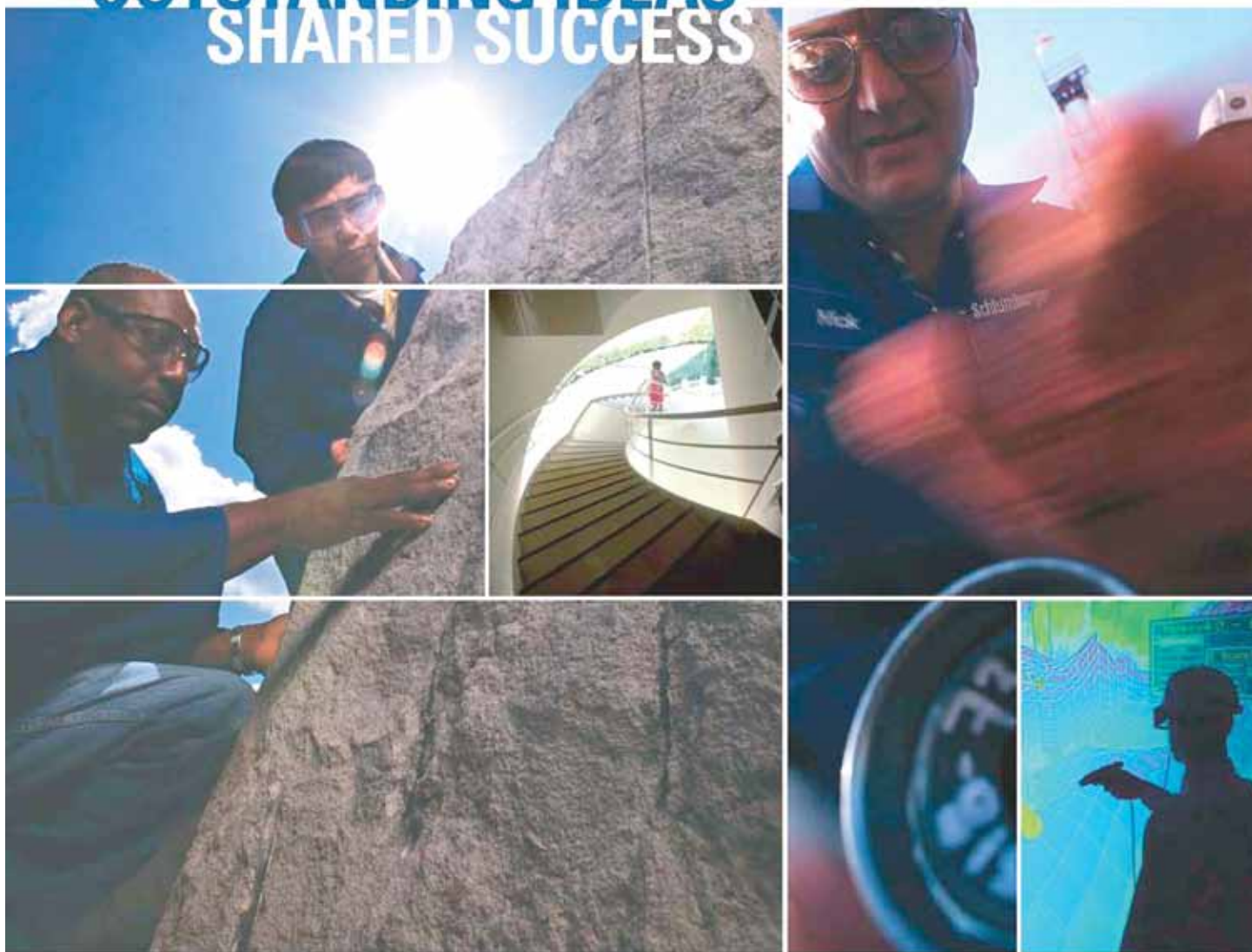
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS: DECEMBER 2015 & JANUARY 2016

2015	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT / INFO
4 Dec	NOGS LOG submissions due for January 2016 issue	Cyberspace	nogseditor@gmail.com or 985-630-2480
7 Dec	NOGS Monthly Luncheon Jim Hill, President CalTerra Energy <i>"The Status of Unconventional Exploration in Europe"</i>	NOGS Office	annette@nogs.org or 504-561-8980
10 Dec	SEG Luncheon	Holiday Inn SuperDome	http://www.sgs-neworleans.org/
13-16 Dec	34th Annual GCSSEPM Perkins-Rosen Research Conf. <i>"Petroleum Systems in "Rift" Basins"</i>	OMNI Houston Westside, Houston, Texas	http://www.gcssepm.org/conference/2015_conference.htm
14 Dec	NOGS Board Meeting	NOGS Office	annette@nogs.org or 504-561-8980
15 Dec	SIPES Luncheon (Open Mike)	Andrea's Metairie	Reservations: Carol St. Germaine 504-267-3466
14-18 Dec	American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting	San Francisco	http://fallmeeting.agu.org/2015/
17 Dec	SPWLA	Holiday Inn SuperDome	https://www.spwla.org/chapters/new-orleans
19 Dec	NOGS Christmas Holiday Party	Home of Ed Picou	annette@nogs.org or 504-561-8980
8 Jan	NOGS LOG submissions due for February 2016 issue	Cyberspace	nogseditor@gmail.com or 985-630-2480
14 Jan	SEG-NOGS Joint Luncheon Andrew Madof, Chevron <i>"Integration of Seismic Stratigraphy and Seismic Geomorphology for Prediction of Lithology: Workflows and Applications"</i>	Holiday Inn SuperDome	annette@nogs.org or 504-561-8980
19 Jan	SIPES Luncheon	Andrea's Metairie	Reservations: Carol St. Germaine 504-267-3466
21 Jan	SPWLA Luncheon	Holiday Inn SuperDome	https://www.spwla.org/chapters/new-orleans
10-12 Feb	NAPE - Houston	George Brown Convention Center	http://napeexpo.com/shows/about-the-show/summit



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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."



*Camille Yeldell, Earleen Rodan, Judy Sabate,
Trudy Corona and Pat Williamson
(Photography by Mary Walter)*

By the time this *NOGS LOG* appears in your house, the Auxiliary will have experienced a day at the Southern Yacht Club. I feel sure that all the rain and bad weather threats vanished, and I will have wonderful pictures of lovely ladies and beautiful sailboats to show you next month.

I do know that the Board continues to work to provide exciting events for all the upcoming months.

Note two more photos from the luncheon in September.

It was our turn to be the guests of NOGS at the Kick-Off party at Rock 'n Bowl. It was great fun and there was a very big crowd enjoying good food and a chance to show off their bowling skills. It seems

that Margie Conatser carried the flag for our ladies by bowling "either a strike or in the gutter" with her group. Also seen enjoying a chance to visit with old friends were Beverly and Everett Kastler, Joanne and George Severson, Jean Jones, Trudy and Charley Corona, Trez and Jim Zotkiewicz, new NOGA member Genny Melillo with husband Al, the NOGS President-elect. The *NOGS LOG* had a great centerfold spread of the evening in November. We are looking forward to another good time next fall.

December 19th will be the NOGS Christmas Holiday Party at the home of Ed Picou in the Marseilles Condominiums, 232 Lake Marina Avenue, Apt 14C, which overlooks the yacht harbor on Lake Pontchartrain. Ann Gilbert and Susie Baker will be the NOGA representatives assisting NOGS for this party. Peggy Fisk, whose catering was so delicious at the September luncheon, will provide the food for this event. This will be a wonderful Christmas Holiday Party to be enjoyed by many. Check the December *NOGS LOG* to RSVP.

Peggy Rogers, *NOGS LOG*



*Joan Sylvester and Mary Collier
(Photography by Mary Walter)*

New Orleans Geological Auxiliary Membership Application

Name _____ Spouse's Name _____
Address _____ Home Phone _____
City, State, Zip _____ Cell Phone _____
Spouse's Company _____ Email _____

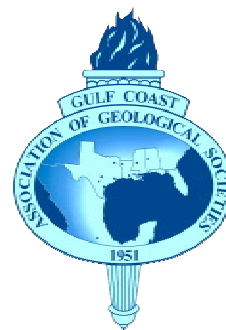
Dues: \$25 payable to New Orleans Geological Auxiliary
Please mail to Judy Lemarié, Treasurer, #2 Yosemite Dr., New Orleans, LA 70131



CALL FOR PAPERS

**66th GCAGS Convention
September 18-20, 2016**

**American Bank Center
Bayfront Convention Hall
Corpus Christi, Texas**



We're Building Sessions in these Themes

- The Gulf of Mexico Systems
- Conventional Carbonates & Clastics
- Tight Gas Plays
- Understanding the Resource Plays
- The Changing Coastal Landscape
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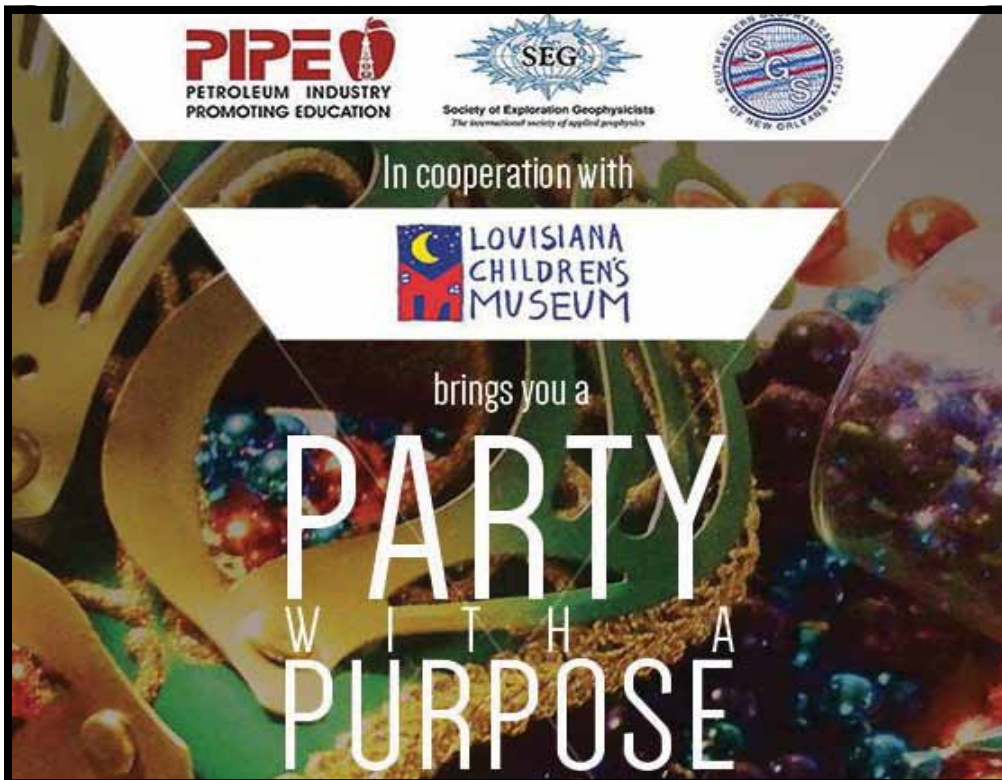
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South Louisiana and Offshore Gulf of Mexico Exploration and Production Activities

LAFAYETTE DISTRICT, ONSHORE AREA

By Carlo C. Christina

During the month of October, only 7 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 East Baton Rouge Parish, **University Field**, (A), University Field Management LLC will drill 2 interesting wells in Sec. 65, 7S-1W, **less than 2 miles from Leonard Fournette's most recent touchdown in Tiger Stadium**. The # 11 Duplantier will be drilled to 10,145 feet, or to a true vertical depth of 9,980 feet, to test the 9700 Sand. (249355).

The #12 Duplantier, (B), will also be located in Sec. 65, 7S-1W and will be drilled to 7500 feet to test the 7400 Sand. (249356)

University Field, a very old field, was discovered in 1938 with 217 wells drilled in the field to date. Cumulative oil production is estimated to be more than 50 million barrels of oil. Only 4 wells are currently producing less than 75 barrels per day. The most recent well was drilled and completed by Pennington Operating Company, extending production 1½ miles to the south. The #1 Board of Supervisors was completed in the Bol mex sand through perforations 9844 to 9864. The well has produced 26,653 barrels of oil and 26,687 MCF gas since completion 13 months ago.

In Beauregard Parish, **North Singer Field**, (C), C.T.R. Oil will drill its #1 Doornbos well in Sec. 8, 4S-10W to test Wilcox sands at a depth of 7300 feet. Although the well is permitted in North Singer Field it is a wildcat, located 2 miles north of nearest production in the field. (249359)

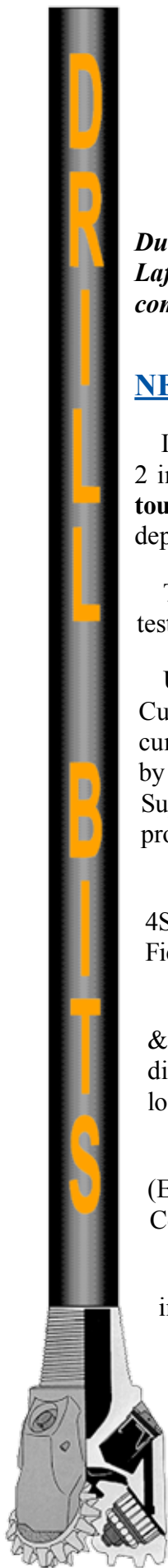
Also in Beauregard Parish, Firststrike Energy will drill a **wildcat**, (D), the #1 Columbia Land & Timber to test Yegua sands in Sec. 4, 7S-13W. The well will be drilled to 10,700 feet as a long directional hole, with the bottom hole located in Section 8, 5,000 feet southwest of the surface location. (249362)

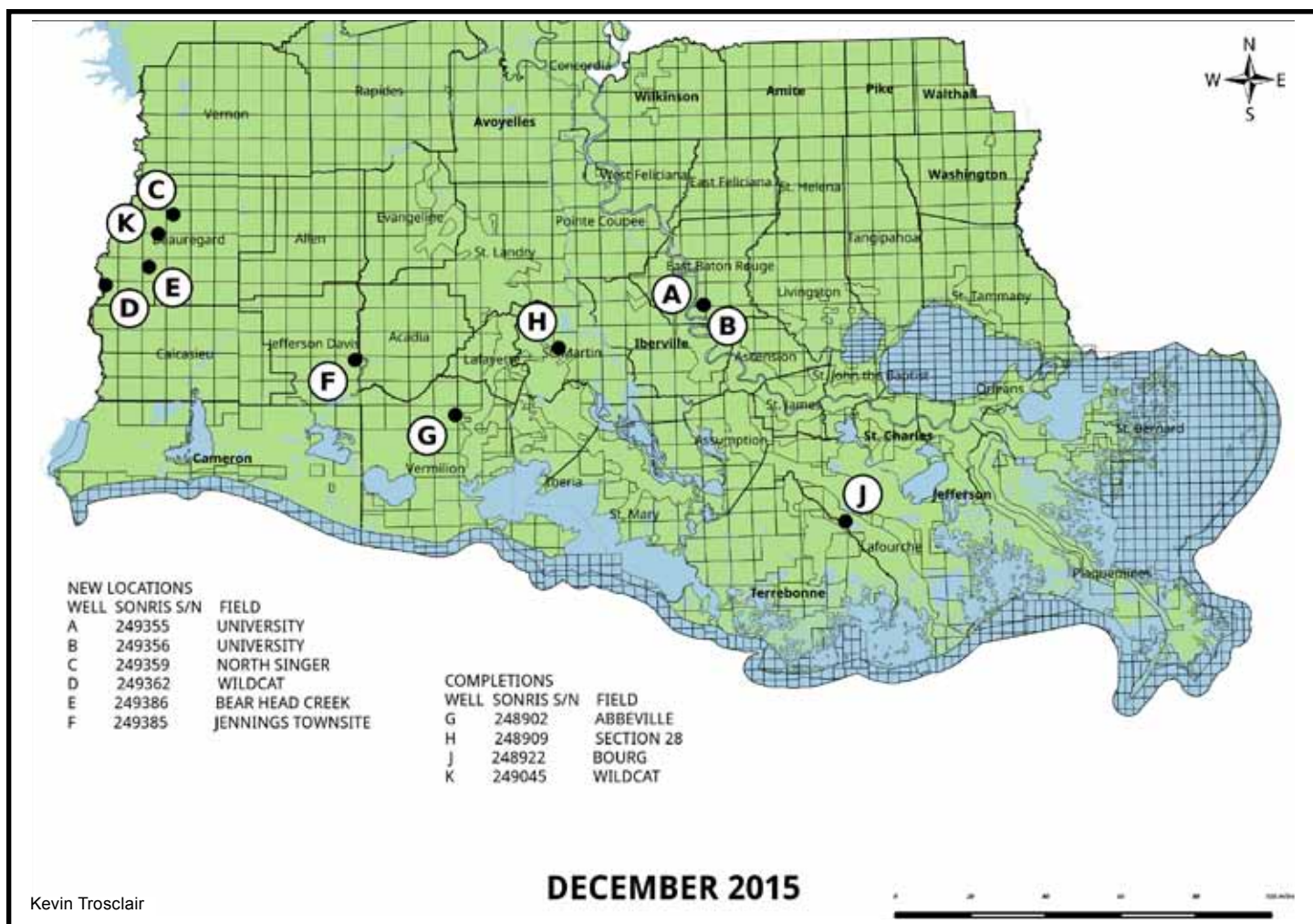
Warhorse Oil & Gas has permitted the #1 Olympia Minerals 17 in **Bear Head Creek Field**, (E), Beauregard Parish. The well will be drilled to a depth of 8600 feet in Sec. 17, 6S-11W to test Cockfield sands. It is also located 1 mile north of Wilcox production. (249386)

Texas Petroleum Investment Co. will drill the #5 Amoco Fee in **Jennings Townsite Field**, (F), in Jefferson Davis Field in Sec. 2, 10S-3W. The well will be drilled to 14,000 feet to test Nonion struma sands which have produced in wells 1½ miles to the northwest. The well is also located offsetting wells producing from Camerina sands at 10,700 feet. (249385)

COMPLETIONS

Square Mile Energy has drilled its #1 Mouton in **Abbeville Field**, (G), Vermilion Parish, to a depth of 16,489 feet and **plugged and abandoned it as a dry hole**. The well was drilled in Sec. 13, 12S-2E, to test Camerina sands 2 miles west of production. (248902)





In St. Martin Parish, **Section 28 Field**, (H), The Termo Company has completed the #1 Stuart Heirs as an oil well in the lower Bol mex sand. It was drilled to 11,186 feet, located in Sec. 20, 9S-7E, and was completed flowing 50 BOPD through perforations 11,158 to 11,186 feet. (248909)

Square Mile Energy has plugged and abandoned the #1 SL 20940 in **Bourg Field**, (J), Lafourche Parish. The well was located 1 mile from nearest production in Sec. 48, 17S-18E and was drilled to a depth of 15,907 feet in search of Cris I sands. (248922)

In Beauregard Parish, Magnum Producing has plugged and abandoned its #1 Rice Land, a **rank wildcat**, (K), located in Sec. 34, 4S-11W, with no well control within 1 mile of the well. It was drilled to a depth of 9600 feet seeking Upper Wilcox production. (249045)

OFFSHORE GULF OF MEXICO SHELF AND DEEPWATER ACTIVITIES

by Al Baker

During **October 2015**, the **BOEM** approved **67** Gulf of Mexico drilling permits. Of these, **6** were for shelf wells, and **61** were for deepwater wells. Of the total number of permits, there were **8 new well permits** issued, **all** in deepwater.

The eight new deepwater well permits were for **5** exploration wells and **3** development wells. The exploration well permits were awarded to **Freeport McMoRan Oil & Gas** for their **Mississippi Canyon 84 #SS-7** and **Green Canyon 643 #SS-4** wells, to **LLOG Exploration Offshore** for their **Mississippi Canyon 471 #1** well, to **Cobalt**

International Energy for their **Garden Banks 1003 #1** well and to **BP Exploration & Production** for their **Green Canyon 627 #2** well. The development well permits were issued to **Union Oil Company of California (Chevron)** for their **Walker Ridge 634 #PN-7** well, to **Shell Offshore** for their **Mississippi Canyon 657 #C-4** well and to **Stone Energy** for their **Mississippi Canyon 29 #7** well.

Over the past ten months, there have been only **8** new wells permitted on the Gulf of Mexico **shelf**, whereas there have been **58** new well permits issued in **deepwater**. The shelf has not had a new well permit issued since June of this year and is averaging less than one new well permit per month. This recent (lack of) shelf permitting phenomenon offers added meaning to the phrase “Gulf of Mexico dead zone”.

On October 30th, **IHS-Petrodata** reported that the Gulf of Mexico mobile offshore rig supply stood at **118**, which is the same as reported last month. The marketed rig supply consisted of **71** rigs, of which **58** were under contract. The contracted versus total rig supply utilization rate is **49.2%**, while the marketed contracted versus marketed supply utilization rate stands at **81.7%**. The marketed rig supply number is **4** less than reported last month, and the contracted rig supply number is **4** more than reported last month. In contrast, the October 2014 fleet utilization rate stood at 61.5% with 72 out of the 117 rigs under contract.

On October 30th, **BakerHughes** indicated that there were **33** active mobile offshore rigs in the Gulf of Mexico, which is **56.9%** of the rigs under contract mentioned above. This active rigs number is **2** less than reported last month. The current active rigs count compares to 53 active rigs during the same period last year, representing a **37.7%** drop (minus 20 rigs) in yearly rig activity.

On October 22nd, the **BOEM** announced that it had accepted a total of **16** bids in the **Phase 2** evaluation period of **OCS Sale 246**, which was held in the **Western Gulf of Mexico** planning area on August 19, 2015. A total of 11 bids remain in the Phase 2 evaluation period. The BOEM has 90 days following the date of the lease sale (or until November 17, 2015) to either accept or reject the bids received.

On October 29th, **Chevron** announced a successful appraisal of their **Anchor** discovery well located in **Green Canyon Block 807**. The appraisal drilling, which began in June 2015, resulted in finding **694 feet of net oil pay** in the **Lower Tertiary Wilcox reservoirs**. The new well established a hydrocarbon column of at least 1,800 feet. The Anchor Prospect is situated approximately 140 miles offshore Louisiana in 5,180 feet of water. Additional delineation drilling and will be required to determine the limits of the field, which has the potential to be of deepwater “hub-class” scale.

On October 29th, **Noble Energy** also announced that its **Big Bend** oil development in the deepwater Gulf of Mexico **commenced production on October 26, 2015**. The single-well field is anticipated to reach a maximum production rate of **20,000 BOEPD** over the next several weeks. In addition, Noble continues to accelerate its **Dantzler** development from which it expects first production in early November. The Big Bend and Dantzler wells are located in **Mississippi Canyon Blocks 698 and 782**, respectively. Both are subsea tiebacks to the third party **Thunder Hawk** production facility.

Sadly and ironically at the same time as the above news items were reported, both Chevron and Noble Energy each announced a second round of **layoffs** that will take place before yearend. Chevron will cut up to 7,000 jobs (roughly 10% of its workforce) that include the 1,500 jobs that have been terminated thus far this year. Noble Energy has not indicated how many jobs that they plan to cut but will begin notifying employees in mid-November of this year about their future employment with the company. Previously, Noble Energy released 10% of their workforce in April of this year amounting to 230 jobs.

On October 29th, **ConocoPhillips** announced that they will **exit deepwater exploration** by 2017 and indicated that it intends to sell its offshore leases that are not slated for drilling. The move will free up roughly \$800 million in capital that the company had budgeted for next year. The decision is part of the company’s greater plan to sell \$1 to \$2 billion of assets a year as it braces for lower for longer oil prices.

NOGS WELCOMES

Submitted by Laura Sorey

Dawn Bissell joins us from Advent Geoscience Consulting LLC in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Jan Cavalier is a new member and is with Shell in New Orleans.

Edward Graham is a retiree of Chevron Texaco and currently lives in Luddington, Michigan.

Cheikh Sidi Elmoctar is a new member at NOGS and joins us from Jindal Steel & Power where he is currently a Senior Geologist consultant working in iron ore exploration. He holds a B.S. in geology and has over eight years of experience in mineral exploration.

Mason Stevenson is a reinstated member of NOGS. He holds a B.S. in geology from LSU (1985) and works with Aerostar SES in Metairie.



SOCIETY OF EXPLORATION GEOPHYSICISTS 2015 NEW ORLEANS CONVENTION



~ In Memorium ~



Philip Beron, Jr. passed on October 22, 2015 at the age of 83 in New Orleans. He was a graduate of Jesuit High School (1951) and Louisiana State University (1955) where he majored in geology and earned two varsity football letters playing guard on the football team. Following graduation, he worked as

an exploration geologist in Lafayette, New Orleans, The Hague, London, and Paris before returning to New Orleans in 1979.

Phil served eighteen years as an officer in the U.S. Army Reserve in the United States and in Europe. His passion was 20th century military history. Family vacations in Europe always included visits to WWI and WWII battlefields. In retirement, he organized and led tours to many of those same battlefields, including friends and family, especially in Normandy. He enthusiastically served as one of the first docents at the National World War II Museum, making many friends that shared his passion for military history. However, he enjoyed nothing so much as attending performances and athletic contests featuring his sons and granddaughter.

He is survived by his wife Elise, sons Gregory, Lawrence, and Thomas (and his wife, Wendy), and his grand-daughter, Scout. The Beron Family held a private service and a celebration of his life will be held at a future date. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that donations in his name be made to Jesuit High School in New Orleans.

Rudolf B "Rudy" Siegert passed on October 14, 2015. Rudy graduated from the University of Illinois in 1956 where he



played varsity football for four years and served as captain of his team. He was also a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity at U of I. He served as 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army before attending graduate school at Texas A & M where he received his M.S. in petroleum geology in 1961.

Rudy worked in the oil and gas industry for more than 54 years.

He started with Texaco, soon became an independent geologist for 45 years. The New Orleans Geological Society honored him with the Life Membership Award in 1986 in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the society, the profession of geology and to the development of the petroleum industry in general. He was past president (77-78) and past vice-president (72-73) of NOGS. He founded the NOGS Memorial Scholarship Fund during his term as president. He was also a member of the Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies (GCAGS) where he was recognized with the Distinguished Service Award for his outstanding contributions to the oil and

gas industry. Additionally, Rudy was a valued and esteemed member of AAPG, LOGA, SGS and SIPES serving on many boards throughout the years.

Rudy had a real passion for the outdoors; from hunting and fishing to working in the yard and watching birds. He also greatly enjoyed sports and was a voracious reader. Rudy lived a full and happy life both personally and professionally.

The Siegert family is requesting that donations be made in his memory to: New Orleans Geological Society's Memorial Foundation, 810 Union Street, Suite 300, New Orleans, Louisiana 70112 or to the Pana Community Hospital Foundation - Siegert Endowment Fund - 101 E 9th Street, Pana, Illinois 62557. Services were held October 24, 2015 at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, with internment at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Slidell, Louisiana.

A good teacher is a rare and precious thing. **Raymond W. Stephens, Jr.** was the "type section" of a great teacher. Ask a



fellow geologist what made him decide on the earth as a career and you will hear one of the following: I have collected rocks and minerals since I was a child; I have always been fascinated by mountains and dinosaurs; I took Dr. Stephens' freshman geology class as an elective.

Teaching was second nature for Ray. He was born April 20, 1928 in Marietta, Georgia, the

only child of Alice and Raymond Stephens. His mother was a school teacher and his father was a principal and coach. His parents instilled in him a love of education, sports and hard work.

Upon graduation from high school, Ray enrolled at the University of Georgia. After two quarters, he left college to enlist in the Navy at the age of seventeen. He served during the tail end of WWII in the Bureau of Naval Personnel, Washington, D.C. After serving in the Navy, Ray returned to college at the University of Georgia and graduated in 1951 with a B.S. in Geology. Ray was then called to serve in the Korean War. Before reporting for duty, Ray married his college sweetheart, Julia Ellen Askew, the daughter of a University of Georgia professor. He served in the U.S. Air Force as the commanding Officer of an Early Warning Radar Base in Alaska.

Ray fulfilled his second round of military duty and enrolled as a Master of Science candidate in the Geology Department at Louisiana State University. He received his M.S. in 1956 and Ph.D. in 1960, both in Geology. During his stay at LSU, Ray studied under some of the finest geological minds in the academic world. His mentors were Dr. Heinie Howe and Dr. Grover Murray. He also received his first exposure to teaching

when he was instructor/manager of the LSU geology field camp for numerous sessions from 1954 to 1958.

Shell Oil Company was Ray's first employer after graduating from LSU. His six years at Shell were a time of personal and professional growth. He joined Pubco Petroleum as a District Geologist in 1966, but the lure of the academic world came calling. Ray joined the faculty of the young Louisiana State University in New Orleans Geology Department in 1969. Ray rose through the ranks to become Professor and served two years as Assistant Dean of the College of Sciences.

It was during his teaching days at the University of New Orleans that Ray developed an innovative course in Subsurface Geological Methods. This course enabled students to apply the academic principles of geology to the real world problems of oil and gas exploration. More than any geology class, Ray's Subsurface Geological Methods prepared college students for immediate employment in the oil and gas industry. In every class he taught, Ray brought a special blend of technical expertise coupled with an engaging personality of wit and charm.

In 1981, Ray returned to the oil industry full time, and in 1982 he formed a consulting partnership with former student, Jack Thorson. The Stephens and Thorson geological partnership remained active for 33 years. Ray successfully managed a dual career of independent geologist and consulting professor until he retired from UNO in 1990, when he was named Professor Emeritus.

In 1988, Ray joined Governor Roemer's Cabinet as Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources in Baton Rouge. He also was elected Chairman of the Mineral Board, the first person in Louisiana to serve in this dual role. In a unique career, Ray was successfully involved in three different aspects of the geology profession: industry; academia; and government.

Ray joined the New Orleans Geological Society in 1966 and became First Vice President of NOGS in 1969, Program Chairman of the Annual Meeting of the Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies in 1971, President of NOGS in 1973, and President of GCAGS in 1977-78. Ray was awarded the Distinguished Service Award by GCAGS in 1985, GCAGS Honorary Membership in 1998 and was made an Honorary Life Member of NOGS in 1990. He joined AAPG in 1965 and was actively involved as a delegate, section officer and committee member. Ray was also a member of the Society of Independent Professional Earth Scientists.

Family was always the most important part of his life. After his first wife, Julia Ellen, died in 1975, he raised his two children, Steve and Amy, and at the same time managed a diverse and demanding career. Ray and Loretto M. (Retta) Babst were married in 1982. Retta added the stability that comes from a wonderful partner and she and Ray spent 33 remarkable years together.

The example Ray has set for us all is possibly his greatest teaching accomplishment. He led a life of unsurpassed personal character and professional integrity.

Staying Alert!

As a retiree, I start my day with a 'daily dose' of Sporcle games. It is a free website, www.sporcle.com/games, with a variety of trivia quizzes on diverse topics including geology, geography, etc., which users have a set time limit to name all the items within a given subject.

Since 2011, I have taken over 4300 quizzes and since August 2014, I have contributed sixty-five. NOGS members with time to spare may enjoy taking some for pleasure or a classic geology refresher.

Below are links to a few geology games. Some require filling missing words, whereas others are clickable and quick! You don't have to login to Sporcle or become a member to try the games!

www.sporcle.com/games/cfxlspo/geology-minerals-a-to-z

www.sporcle.com/games/cfxlspo/geology-a-to-z-quiz

www.sporcle.com/games/cfxlspo/geology-rock-classification

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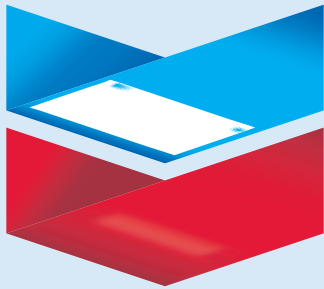
www.sporcle.com/games/cfxlspo/mohs-scale-minerals-1

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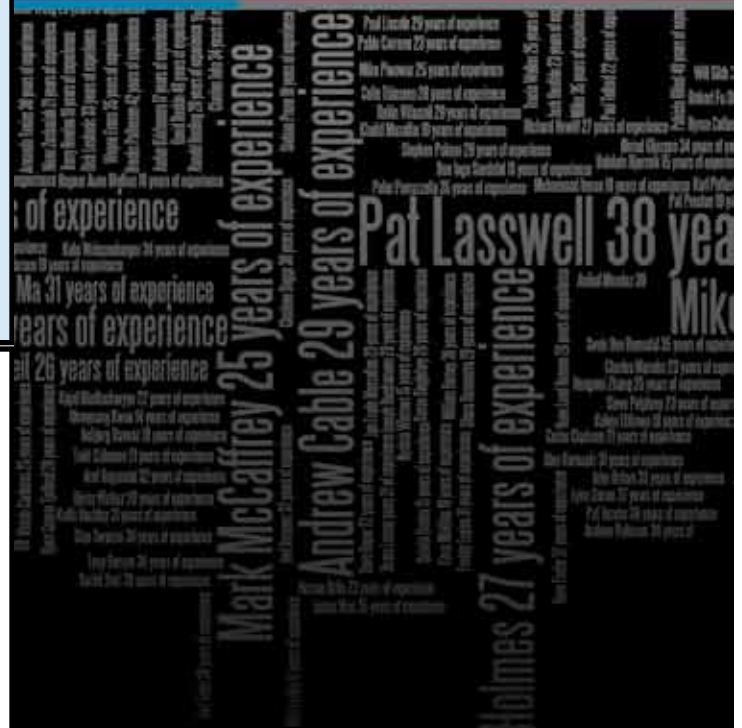
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Back to the Future 4: The Oil Edition

October 26, 2015, marked a momentous occasion for those lovers of the classic Michael J. Fox *Back to the Future* time travel film trilogy. In the second installment of the series, his character Marty McFly time travels from 1985 to October 26, 2015, and experiences the technology and culture of the future as imagined by Hollywood screenwriters. While there were countless social media posts and satire headlines lamenting the lack of hoverboard development or self-lacing Nikes on the auspicious day, there was a dearth of Snapchats sent regarding another parallel between the 1980's and today: plummeting oil prices. Just as Marty McFly was taken aback at the marvels of the future and stymied by the older world of 1955 that he visited in the first movie, many young geologists and members of industry are unsure how to take the developments of the current oil glut.

I graduated with my masters almost a year exactly from the day you're likely to receive this *NOGS LOG* and had only been a part of the oil industry for a short time prior to my departure from school. So my exposure to the oil surplus of the 1980's was initially limited to the musings and recollections from team members and former professors. There's very little analysis or insight that I as neither an economist nor a geopolitical expert could provide on the recent glut that you couldn't see more ably written and researched in qualified publications. But what can my peers and I learn about the how and why of the previous oil surplus?

While the effects of the two gluts are similar (decreased rig counts, workforce reductions, etc.) the impetus for the 1980 surplus developed largely as result of the preceding 1970's energy crisis. Fully explored in rich detail in Daniel Yergin's *The Prize*, the 1973 oil embargo in response to the Israeli-Arab Yom Kippur War and the 1979/1980 shock to production after the Iranian Revolution and Iran-Iraq War helped trigger an international recession. The astronomical oil prices and "stagflation" of economic malaise instigated a decrease in American oil demand. From the installation of a wood-burning stove into the White House to the implementation of natural gas for Caterpillar tractors to increased fuel economy in Detroit-made cars, Americans reduced energy usage wherever possible. As the economic pendulum swung backwards to create space for increased domestic production in Texas, Louisiana, and Alaska, it also induced favorable conditions for heightened production from international oil interests outside the Middle East.

But as the artifacts of the Crisis began to dissipate, the lingering depressed economic output and lack of energy demand coincided with the surplus of oil from non-Middle East countries and Reagan-era deregulation of artificial price controls. Another influx of oil came from the Saudi producers who sought to impose discipline on OPEC member countries that cheated on or completely ignored OPEC production quotas in order to increase sales profits during the Oil Crisis. As a result of these factors, global prices collapsed. With prices in freefall, almost a 48% drop at its most extreme, large producing economies took a strong hit while oil companies faced layoffs on a scale then unheard of in industry history. The widely adopted energy saving policies developed during the Crisis and depressed economies in consumer countries meant that global demand was unable to immediately rebound to match the vast oversupply of available oil. While prices began to equilibrate with some economic recovery and intermittently spiked during the First Gulf War, it wasn't until the early 2000's that production rates began to trail increased demand from Asian markets and the strengthened global market place according.

I have neither the scope of experience nor the personal inclination to make any sort of prediction regarding the full impact of the current glut or when we can expect to see price recoveries. But for those of us both within and outside the industry, we find geology to be an appropriate analog for global economics. Now as always, the past is the key to the present.

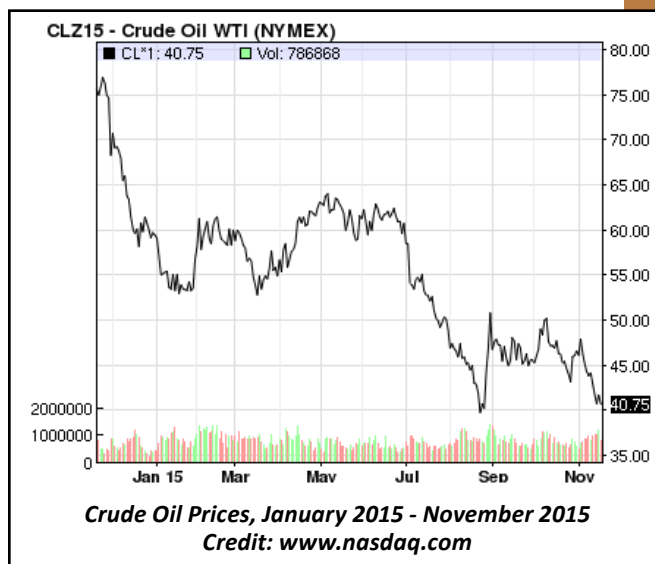
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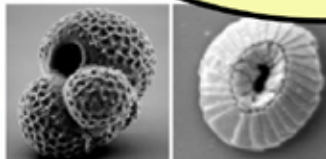
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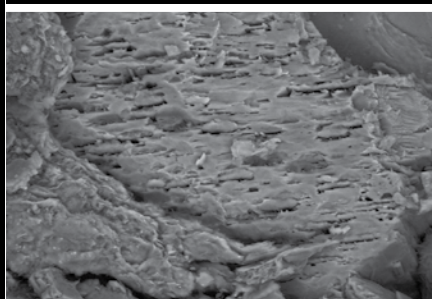
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*From the NOGS LOG staff,
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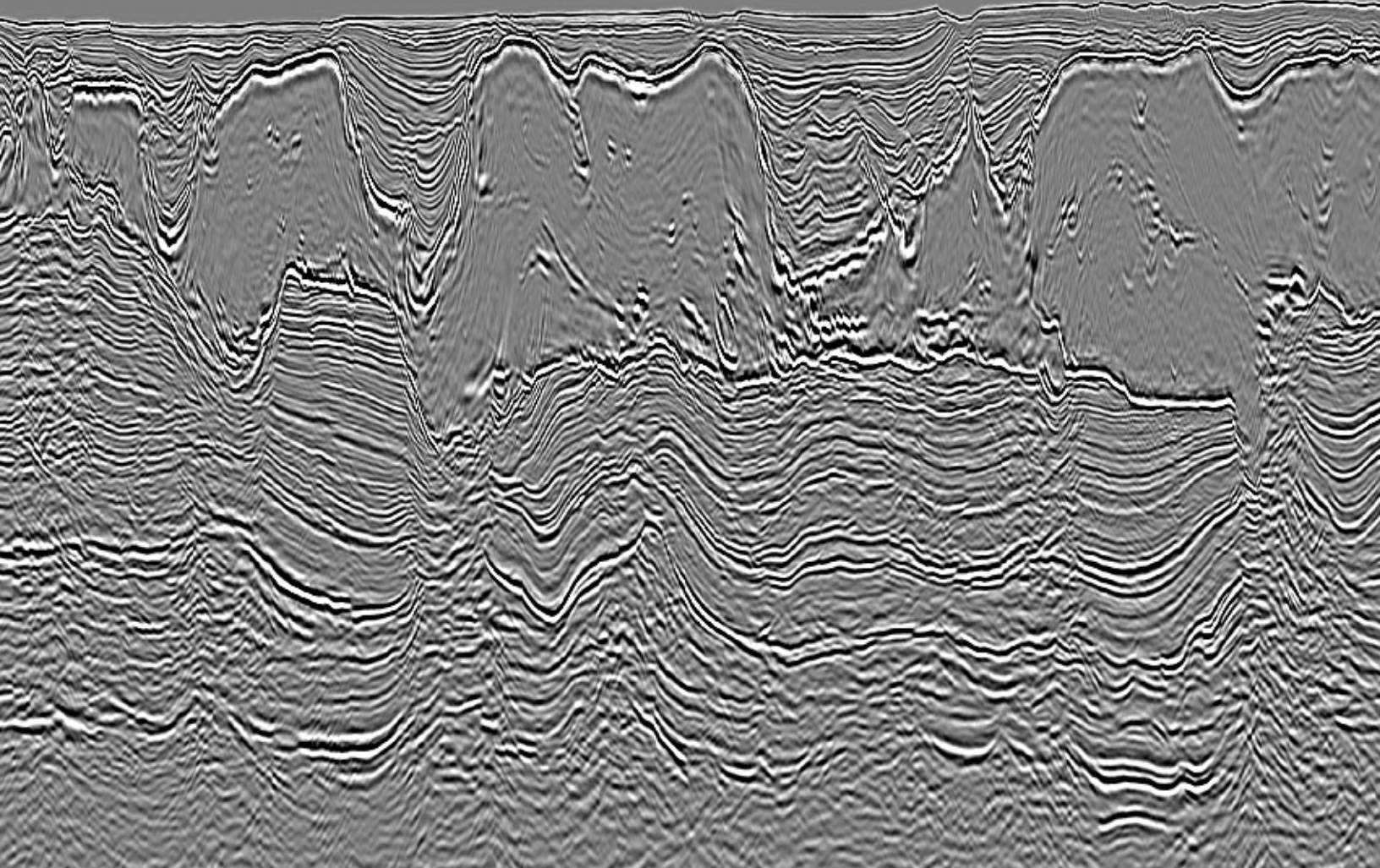


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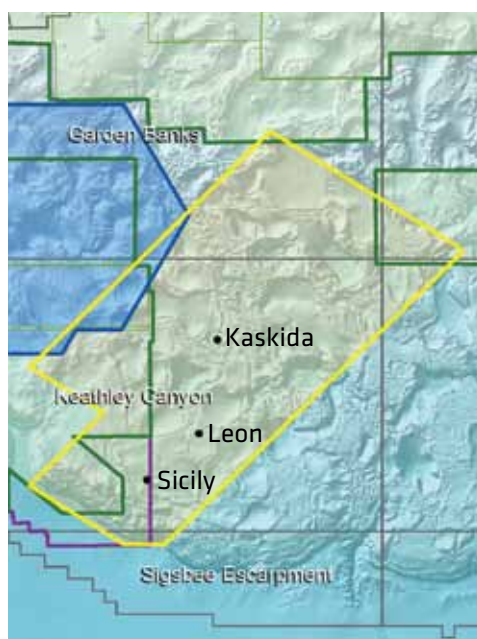
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