

NOGS LOG

SEPTEMBER 2015

Volume 56, Number 3



SEPTEMBER 14 - NOGS LUNCHEON

**Presentation: 40 Years of Evolving Gulf of Mexico Exploration Geology:
Play Concepts, Prospecting Tools, and Risk Assessment Through Time**

Guest Speaker: Tom Bergeon

Century Exploration New Orleans, LLC • Metairie, Louisiana

Women Geoscientist Role Model Volunteers Needed!

3 Hour Shifts Needed



B.I.G. - Believe in Girls Event



Saturday, September 12th
Southeastern University • Hammond
9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.



Contact Tom Bergeon for details • Tom.bergeon@centuryx.com



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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

Multnomah Falls — Columbia River Gorge, Oregon

Multnomah Falls measures 620 feet, the second highest continuously flowing waterfall in the nation. The falls consists of a 542 foot upper drop and the lower tier is 69 feet.

The falls is located 30 miles east of downtown Portland along the southern edge of the Columbia River George. The rocks exposed at Multnomah Falls are part of the Grande Ronde Basalt formation which is Lower to Middle Miocene in age.

The cliff face exposure consists of a less-erosive intrusive columnar jointed layer overlaying pillow basalts. Six lava flows are visible in the cliff face. In 1806 Merriweather Lewis recorded seeing a 300 foot waterfall as the Lewis and Clark Expedition made their way down the Columbia River Gorge towards the Pacific.

9-11-01

We will never forget!

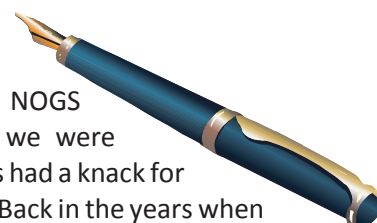


From the Editor



For September I want to spotlight Arthur Christensen, our NOGS Photographer. I've known Arthur since the early 70's when we were geologists with Shell's Offshore Division. Even back then he always had a knack for photography and once won Shell's company-wide photo contest. Back in the years when NOGS published a photo directory, it was Arthur who brought a photo studio to our monthly meetings and skillfully posed each member before and after the luncheon. Not only does Arthur volunteer his camera and photo skills for NOGS monthly meetings, but also our Golf Tournament. Bring your smile to the September 26th Kickoff Party, as he'll be roving with his lens. In addition to

NOGS, he also manages to cover the Southeastern Geophysical Society, the Deep Water Symposium, and he'll photograph the GCAGS again this year in Houston, including the annual GCAGS and GCSSEPM awards ceremonies. Photographing an awards ceremony is something akin to wedding photography; a job for the pros. Arthur brings cheerfulness to his work. When he's not photographing, Arthur breeds horses on his Shalimar Farms near Abita Springs. He's intent on learning Spanish and engages the wait staff with his language skills at Lago's Mexican Restaurant in Mandeville. Hats off to a good friend and colleague.



Tom

Tom Klekamp, Editor

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From the President

This seemingly endless hot summer is slowly coming to an end as parents and students finish their last minute trip to that special vacation spot. They make their way back to the long fall schedule of work and school in anticipation of end of year holiday festivities. Summer interns are finishing their projects, nervously giving their final presentations, and returning to college to finish course work towards that truly wonderful degree in geology. Once they finish their degree, they will view the world in a way completely different than anyone else. Their future summer vacation trips will be filled with beautiful mountains, streams, highway road cuts and beaches that become objects of instant geological analysis, even at highway speeds. Is that outcrop over there igneous, sedimentary, or metamorphic? How did last year's hurricane change this beach I'm standing on? What combination of tectonic forces and geomorphic processes created that distant mountain range? Is there a place I can pull over and collect rocks or fossils of geological significance? Did I remember to bring my rock hammer on this trip? Since I finished my geology degree many years ago, vacation trips have become much more interesting and fulfilling because of this desire to see the world in a geologic light. Now my house and garage are filled with collected rocks and minerals and fossils, some of them quite pretty, others kind of ugly, but all of them geologically memorable. So, next time you plan a trip, dig out that old rock hammer, collect a few rocks or fossils along the way, and then tell your family, friends and colleagues about what you've discovered. Isn't it great being a geologist?

Speaking of great geologists, our September NOGS Luncheon speaker will be our own Tom Bergeon with Century Exploration who will present "40 Years of Evolving Gulf of Mexico Exploration Geology: Concepts, Tools and Risk Assessment." PLEASE NOTE, this month's meeting will be a week later than usual, on September 14, due to the first Monday being Labor Day Holiday. At this meeting, NOGS will be presenting checks totaling \$5000 as part of our ten year commitment of \$50,000 donation to the new St. Tammany Parish Children's Museum. This new learning center will be located on the Tchefuncte River just north of I-12 between Covington and Mandeville and is scheduled to begin construction sometime next year. Looking ahead, make sure you put October 5th on your calendar for the NOGS Luncheon presentation by Christy Gresham with Core Laboratories. She will present an interesting talk about core analysis entitled "Using Petrographic Analysis in Formation Damage Evaluation."

Don't forget to register for the 65th Annual GCAGS Convention being held September 20–22 in Houston. The convention features several short courses, field trips, social events, and two days of technical presentations. After you come back from the convention, plan on attending the NOGS Fall Kickoff Party and Membership Drive on Saturday, September 26, 4:30 to 7:00 pm, at Rock 'n Bowl in Mid City. Admission is free for NOGS members and your spouse or partner. Non-members can join in the festivities by joining NOGS with the \$25 NOGS membership annual dues. There will be lots of finger food, "beverages," comradery with fellow NOGS members, and plenty of gutter balls. Hope to see you all there.

David Reiter

NOGS Office

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



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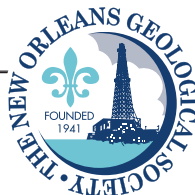
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September 14 • NOGS Luncheon

Holiday Inn Downtown Superdome

\$3.00 validated parking in hotel garage

Presentation:

***40 Years of Evolution in Gulf of Mexico Exploration Geology:
Play Concepts, Prospecting Tools, and Risk Assessment Through Time***

Guest Speaker:

Tom Bergeon

Century Exploration New Orleans, LLC • Metairie, Louisiana

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

September 12

BIG - Believe In Girls Event

Southeastern Louisiana University • Hammond, LA

For more information, see inside cover of this issue.

September 20-22

GCAGS 65th Annual Convention

George R. Brown Convention Center • Houston, TX

For more information, www.gcagshouston.com

September 26

NOGS Kick-Off Party

Mid City Rock 'n Bowl • New Orleans, LA

For more information, see page 23 of this issue.

October 18-23

Society of Exploration Geophysicists International Exposition

Ernest N. Morial Convention Center • New Orleans, LA

For more information, www.seg.org/web/seg-new-orleans-2015/

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Continued from previous page

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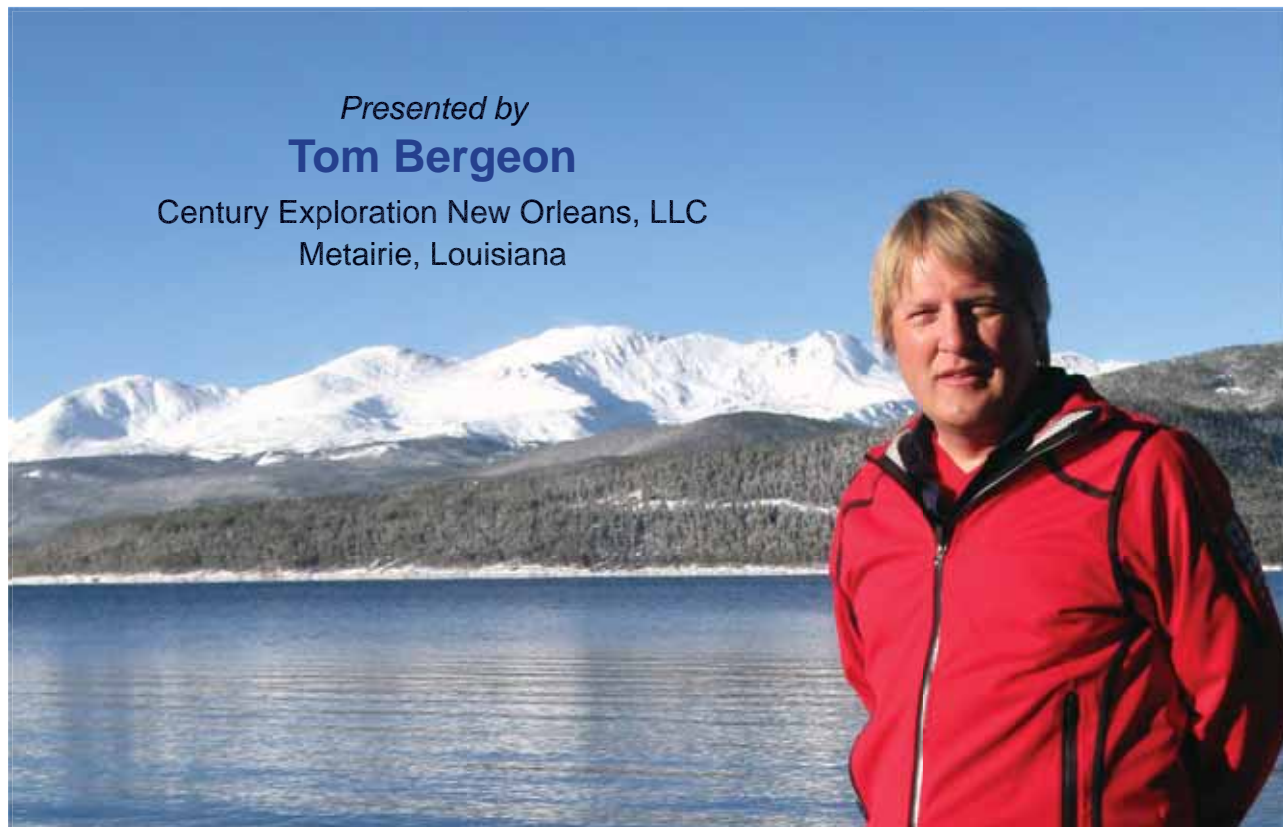
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Sept. 14 NOGS Luncheon Presentation

☆☆☆ at the Holiday Inn Superdome ☆☆☆

40 Years of Evolution in Gulf of Mexico
Exploration Geology: Play Concepts,
Prospecting Tools, and Risk Assessment Through Time



ABSTRACT

Exploration geology has seen many advances in technology, geologic concepts and resources available in the last forty years. Many new technological steps have been utilized to reduce risk and differentiate the ever-elusive oil discovery from the non-prospective dry hole. Despite our great technological advancements, in many cases the key risks may at times be reduced but not fully mitigated. The search for competitive advantages in prospecting drove many new technological breakthroughs.

This talk provides an overview for university geology students and those in the oil industry who have joined the exploration ranks since the last millennium. The seasoned geologists who lived through this evolution will enjoy a broad perspective on the Gulf of Mexico focusing on key play concepts, the application of technological advancements, insights from the companies "leading the pack" and placing this exploitation in a historical context. Key advances in geological concepts include deepwater turbidites, subsalt, Norphlet aeolian



dunes, non-amplitude deep Miocene and Wilcox and deeper plays on the shelf. The last 40 years saw the advancement of seismic data from 2D grids to 3D proprietary seismic over core company fields then evolving to extensive “spec” 3D surveys. Although many fields were already densely drilled prior to the 3D, re-interpretation has led to significant additional reserves. To many younger earth scientists it is hard to imagine a world in which seismic interpretation was not done on a workstation but atop a drafting table. There was a high reliance on well data, folded paper seismic lines, colored pencils, and 2-way times and dip arrows scribbled on a map. These 2D practices are still utilized in certain plays or by smaller independents.

The easier plays and prospects on the GOM shelf matured. Some companies were very successful prospecting in and around shelf fields; others branched out with new play concepts and into unexplored areas of the deep water. It was time for another phase of technological evolution. As wells went to deeper water depths and deeper objectives, technology was required to fully evaluate prospects, frame the risks and economics, and develop infrastructure to produce reserves. Technologies like amplitude anomalies, amplitude versus offset analysis, subsalt imaging, basin maturation models, and reservoir modeling have been key to advancing exploration and helping to predict the presence of hydrocarbons. Despite such advances the risk associated with discovering an oil field relies on four key factors all working: reservoir rock, trap, charge and seal. There are many uncertainties in predicting any one of these factors. As the basins and play concepts evolved, the large discoveries were typically found early with present day exploration focusing through time on more elusive and generally smaller targets.

BIOGRAPHY

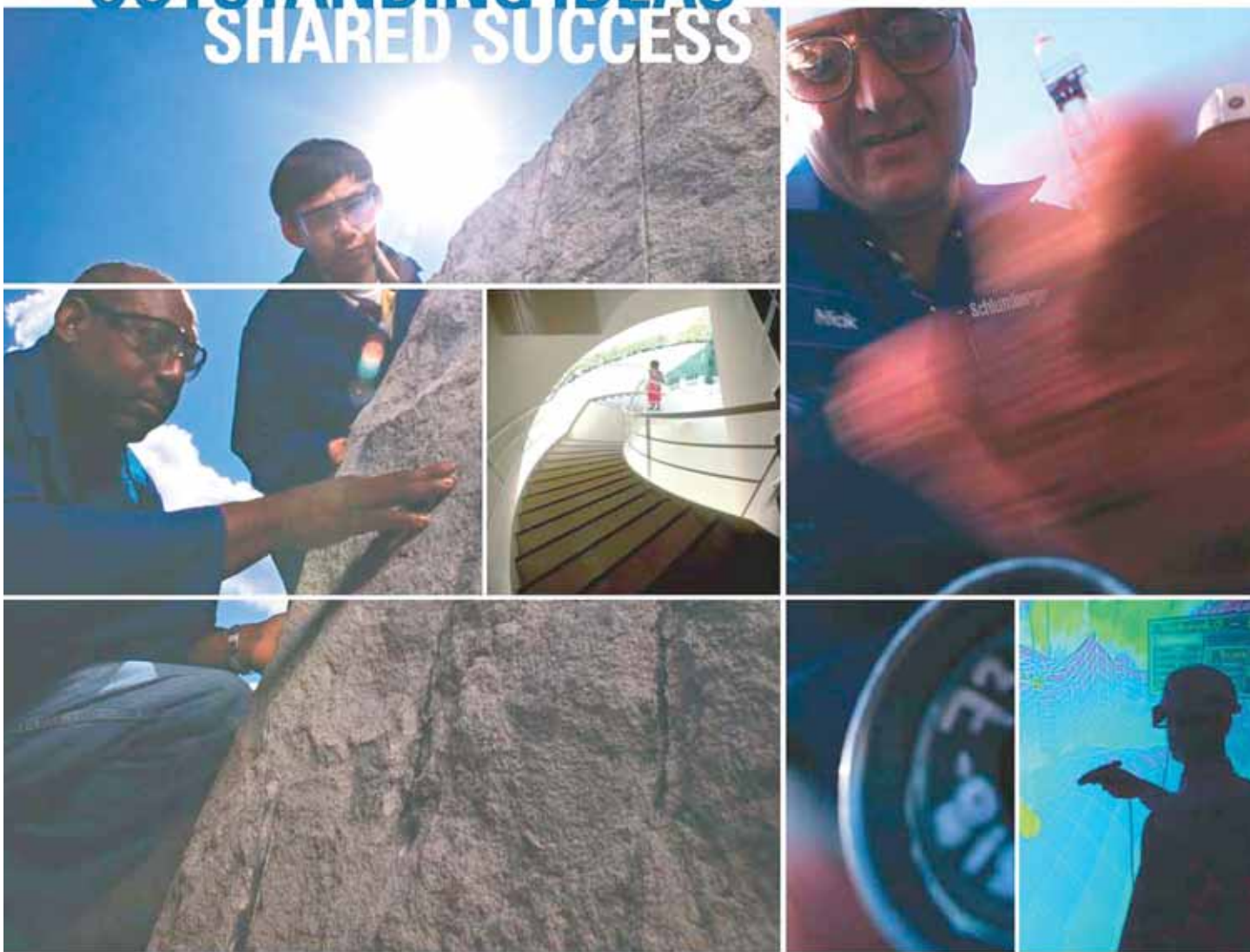
Tom Bergeon grew up in Michigan, but from the ages of seven to ten lived in Potomac, Maryland, 15 miles outside of Washington D.C. Dragging his parents to the Smithsonian to view moon rocks and dinosaurs, along with family weekend hikes in the Appalachians, sealed his fate as a geologist. Tom earned a B.S. in geology with a geophysics minor from Michigan State University (1984), and a Masters in geophysics from Colorado School of Mines (1986). He has worked 30 years in the oil industry including college intern summers at Mobil Oil in Dallas and Denver, and a thesis with Wintershall Oil, drilling carbonate algal mound seismic exploration targets in the Paradox Basin. Tom has worked a number of plays in the Gulf of Mexico and his forte is subsalt prospecting. Tom has lived in New Orleans since 1986 where he has worked with Chevron 1986–1997, Shell from 1997–2006, and Century Exploration New Orleans the past nine years. Tom’s interests include a wide range of music, travel, art, and hiking mountains.

THE LUNCHEON RESERVATION DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 11 - CONTACT THE NOGS OFFICE

"And Looking Ahead . . ."

The next luncheon will be held on October 5. Our guest speaker, Ms. Christy Gresham, Core Laboratories LP, PS-USA, will present "Using Petrographic Analysis in Formation Damage Evaluation." Contact the NOGS office at 504-561-8980 or use the PayPal link on the NOGS website (www.nogs.org) to make your reservation.

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7  Labor Day	8	9	10  SGS	11	12  Believe In Girls Event SLU Campus Hammond
13	14 Luncheon 	15 SIPES	16	17 SPWLA 	18	19
20	21 65 th Annual GCAGS - Houston		22	23	24	25
26	27	28 Board Mtg 	29	30		Kick-Off Party Sept 26 4-7 Rock-N-Bowl

September 14: NOGS Luncheon, Holiday Inn Superdome, 330 Loyola Ave. @11:30 am

Guest Speaker: Tom Bergeon, Century Exploration

Will Present: 40 Years of Evolving Gulf of Mexico Exploration Geology: Concepts, Tools and Risk Assessment

October 2015						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5 Luncheon 	6	7	8  SGS	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 SPWLA 	16	17
18	19 Board Mtg 	20 SIPES	21 85 th Annual SEG Meeting – New Orleans Oct 18-23		22	23
24						
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

October 5: NOGS Luncheon, Holiday Inn Superdome, 330 Loyola Ave. @11:30 am

Guest Speaker Christy Gresham, Core Laboratories LP, PS-USA

Will Present: Using Petrographic Analysis in Formation Damage Evaluation



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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."

President's Welcome

I hope that everyone had a wonderful summer and you are looking forward to fall, cooler weather and NOGA activities. It will be great to see everyone again and hear about their summer travels. For me personally, I have a lot of catching up to do since I have not seen most of you since our February luncheon.

The Board has been working hard this summer preparing for the 2015-2016 year. We hope that you will join us for all of the events.

On August 19th and 20th, we were able to assist in registering over 500 attendees at the 19th Annual Gulf of Mexico Deepwater Technical Symposium.

Camille Yeldell has volunteered to host us at her home on September 16 with Mary Walther as her co-chair. As always, prospective members are our guests for this event. NOGA members, if you know someone whose spouse is a member of NOGS, please invite her and let Camille or Mary know.

Southern Yacht Club will be the location of our November 11 luncheon. Thanks to Alma Dunlap for securing a sponsor. Pat Williamson and Alma are the chairs.

Mark your calendar for the NOGS Christmas Holiday Party on Saturday, December 19 with Ed Picou as our host. A fun night for all will be planned.

On February 17, we will enjoy lunch at Metairie Country Club. Thanks to Camille Yeldell for sponsoring us and to Judy Sabaté and Mary Ellis Hasseltine for planning our day. Spouses will be invited to dine with us.

Our Spring Social will be held at the home of Jean Jones on April 16. Judy Lemarié and Alma Dunlap will be planning a great evening for us.

We will close the year and install officers with lunch at Ormond Plantation on May 11. Linda Peirce and Peggy Rogers are the chairs.

I would be remiss if I did not thank Margie Conatser, Vice President, for all of her hard work in scheduling these venues. It was a difficult job, and she accomplished it with ease. My sincere thanks to everyone who has agreed to chair an event or committee. Without their help we would be unable to exist.

Trudy Corona, President 2015-2016

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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



PHOTOGRAPHY BY ARTHUR CHRISTENSEN

19th Annual Gulf of Mexico

Deepwater

Technical Symposium

CREATING & DELIVERING

VALUE

AUGUST
18th, 19th & 20th
2015

The Hilton New Orleans
Riverside Hotel

www.deepwatermola.org





PHOTOGRAPHY BY ARTHUR CHRISTENSEN



Submitted by Laura Sorey

Sherry Callaway is a new member from Limitless Vistas, Inc. in New Orleans where she serves as Executive Director. Prior to her current role, she completed her M.S. in geology with an emphasis in hydrogeology from Western Michigan University and has worked as a field geologist up through management.

Elizabeth Cornell joins us from Limitless Vistas, Inc. Currently a senior crew leader and instructor at Limitless Vistas, Elizabeth previously worked for almost twenty years in environmental consulting as a field geologist and eventually a senior geologist and project manager. A 1989 graduate of Tulane's geology program, she is also a past recipient of a NOGS scholarship from her time as a student.

Mary Grace Moran is sophomore geology major at LSU and recently completed an internship with LaBay Exploration this past summer. She's excited to combine her love for science with such an exciting industry after growing up and seeing her dad's enthusiasm for the business.

Brian Blackstone joins NOGS from Chevron in Covington where he works in Gulf of Mexico exploration. Growing up in Casper, Wyoming, he developed a love for the outdoors and the physical processes which formed it. He received a B.S. in geology from the University of Wyoming in 2006 and worked for a geologic consulting firm, correlating productive intervals of the Powder River Basin and mudlogging on conventional oil rigs. After receiving a master's degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2009, Brian accepted a job with Chevron in the heavy oil fields of California, drilling wells in fluvial, deltaic and diatomite reservoirs. His wife and three daughters love the southern charm and easy going, Mardi Gras culture of the Gulf Coast.

Craig Zimmerman is new member from PathFinder, a Schlumberger company. He graduated from LSU with a B.S. in geology in 2013 and is currently pursuing a second B.S. in petroleum engineering also from LSU.

Joe Ponthier joins NOGS from Chevron in Covington.

Christine Chatelain is a new member from Shell in New Orleans.

Matt Hebbard joins us from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management in New Orleans.

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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 the Office of Conservation, Lafayette District, Onshore Area, issued 18 permits to drill.

NEW LOCATIONS

On November 18, **1997**, Edwin Epstein, Jr., received a permit to drill the #1 SL 14838 in **North Sabine Lake Field**, (A), Cameron Parish, 12S-14W. The well, serial number 221428, was permitted to 13,500 feet to test Lower Hackberry sands. It was drilled to a total depth of 3,025 feet with surface casing set at that depth. No additional work was performed and the well was **declared an orphan well** in May **1998** and the state lease was released.

In July **2015**, Southwest Energy Partners applied to amend the operator from Edwin Epstein, Jr., to Southwest Energy, and **to amend the well name to the #1 SL 21279**, under a new lease which was acquired in October 2013. **The old well has been re-entered** and is currently drilling below 6,613 feet toward the proposed depth of 13,500 feet, under the original serial number. (221428)

The well is truly a wildcat, located 3 miles east of old wells in North Sabine Lake Field, and 2 miles northwest of the nearest production in Marceaux Island Field.

Old prospects never die.

In **Golden Meadow Field**, (B), Lafourche Parish, LLOX will drill the #1 LL&E to test Big Hum sands at a depth of 15,310 feet. The well is located in Sec. 64, 19S-21E, on the north flank of the prolific Golden Meadow Field, offsetting excellent Tex W and Big Hum production. (249189)

Helis Oil & Gas has permitted the #1 SL 21434 to be drilled in **West Black Bay Field**, (C), Plaquemines Parish to a depth of 14,000 feet to test Big Hum sands. The well will be drilled in a directional hole with the bottom hole location 3481 feet south of the surface location. The nearest production is 1 mile to the southeast. (249203)

A new player has entered the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale play in St. Helena Parish. Paloma Resources will drill **2 wells** in **Day Branch Field**, (D & E), from the **same surface location** in Sec. 9, 1S-6E. The #1 Denkmann 9-3 will be drilled with a bottom hole located in Sec. 3, a distance of 8,344 feet northeast of the surface location. (249184)

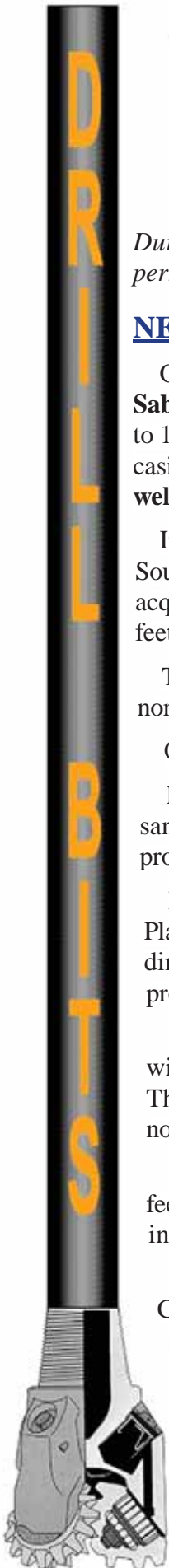
The #1 Denkmann 9-16 will be drilled with a bottom hole located in Sec. 16, a distance of 8,000 feet southwest of the surface location. These wells are wildcats located 10 miles west of production in Little Silver Creek Field.

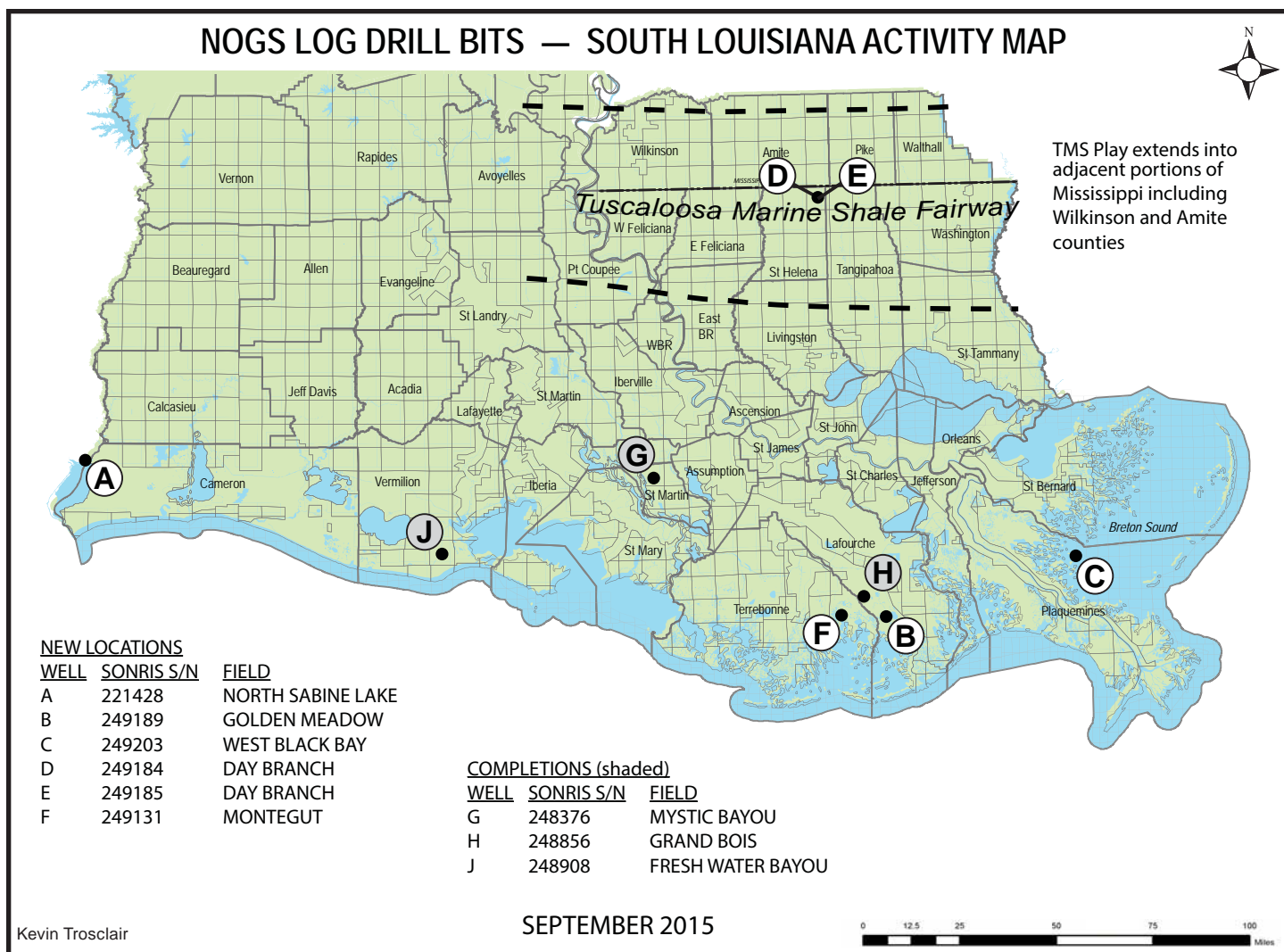
Paloma Resources, a private oil and gas company based in Houston, was founded by its President Chris O'Sullivan in 2004. It is also active with production in the Eagleford Shale, and in the Barnett Shale, and holds acreage in the Utica Shale and in the Haynesville Shale. (249185)

BTA Oil Producers is drilling below 11,321 feet in the #1 ExxonMobil as an extension to **Montegut Field**, (F), Terrebonne Parish. The well is located in Sec. 17, 19S-19E, one mile south of nearest production. It will be drilled to a depth of 14,100 feet to test Big Hum sands. (249131)

COMPLETIONS

In St. Martin Parish, **Mystic Bayou Field**, (G), White Oak Operating Co. has completed an excellent gas well flowing 6000 MCFD and 750 BCPD through perforations 16,970 to 17,020





feet. The #2 ALT Williams Inc. was drilled to a depth of 17,226 feet in Sec. 35, 13S-11E, as an alternate well for the #1 Williams, 16,700 Sand Unit, **which was completed in 1974** by Chevron. It has produced more than 17.4 billion cubic feet of gas and 1.5 million barrels of oil. (248376)

Knight Resources has plugged and abandoned its deep test, the #1 ALM in **Grand Bois Field**, (H), Lafourche Parish. The well was drilled to a depth of 17,432 feet to test the Cris I sands in Sec. 19, 18S-20E. The field has produced from Tex W sands between 11,600 feet and 12,700 feet. (248856)

Hilcorp Energy has completed its #1 ExxonMobil in **Fresh Water Bayou Field**, (J), Vermilion Parish, located in Sec. 21, 16S-2E. The well was drilled to a total depth of 15,185 feet and was completed flowing 5613 MCFD and 327 BCPD through perforations 14,856 to 14,884 feet, overall. Although permitted in Fresh Water Bayou Field the well is located 2 miles northwest of production in the field and 2 miles southwest of production in North Fresh Water Bayou Field. (248908)

OFFSHORE GULF OF MEXICO SHELF AND DEEPWATER ACTIVITIES

by Al Baker

During **July 2015**, the BOEM approved **78** Gulf of Mexico drilling permits. Of these, **17** were for shelf wells, and **61** were for deepwater wells. Of the total number of permits, there were **7 new well permits** issued, **all** in deepwater.

The six of the seven new well permits were for deepwater exploration wells. These permits were awarded to **Anadarko Petroleum** for their **Green Canyon 683 #3** well, to **Shell Offshore** for their **Walker Ridge 508 #9**

and #10 wells, to **Deep Gulf Energy III** for their **Mississippi Canyon 521 #1** well, to **Statoil USA E & P** for their **Mississippi Canyon 942 #4** well and to **LLOG Exploration Offshore** for their **Mississippi Canyon 794 #1** well. The other new well permit was granted to **BP Exploration & Production** for their **Green Canyon 743 #DC-801** well.

Over the past seven months, there have only been **8** new wells permitted on the Gulf of Mexico **shelf**, whereas there have been **37** new well permits issued in **deepwater**. The major oil companies have essentially abandoned the shelf region to the few remaining active independent players, which include Arena Offshore, Energy XXI, Talos Energy and Castex Offshore.

On July 31st, **IHS-Petrodata** reported that the Gulf of Mexico mobile offshore rig supply stood at **110**, which is 1 more rig than last month. The marketed rig supply consisted of **74** rigs, of which **58** were under contract. The contracted versus total rig supply utilization rate is **52.7%**, while the marketed contracted versus marketed supply utilization rate stands at **78.4%**. The marketed rig supply number is **1** more than reported last month, whereas the contracted rig supply number is **2** less than reported last month. In contrast, the July 2014 fleet utilization rate stood at 69.6% with 80 out of the 115 rigs under contract.

On July 31st, **Baker Hughes** indicated that there were **34** active mobile offshore rigs in the Gulf, which is **58.6%** 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 58 active rigs during the same period last year, representing a **41.4%** decline in yearly rig activity.

On July 7th, **Stone Energy** provided a drilling and production update. They reported that their **Cardona #6 development well**, located in **Mississippi Canyon Block 29**, encountered **288 feet of net oil pay in two intervals**. Completion operations are currently underway. The well will be tied into the existing Cardona subsea infrastructure that flows to their Pompano platform. Stone expects that by late September the gross production from the lower zone will flow approximately 5,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day. Stone also plans to complete and tie back their **Amethyst discovery well** in **Mississippi Canyon Block 26**. Initial production from this well is anticipated during the early part of the 2016 first quarter. Following the Amethyst completion, the rig is scheduled to drill the **Cardona #7 development well** and the **Lamprey deepwater exploration prospect**.

In Memorium



We sadly note the passing of one of our members, Jaser Nicola Rafidi, on August 19th of this year. He was the beloved husband of Widad Izzat Rafidi. Jaser was born on January 20, 1927, in El Bireh, Palestine, and came to the United States in 1948. He put himself through college working odd jobs. He earned a BS in petroleum engineering from LSU. After earning his MS in geological engineering from LSU, he became a geologist with Shell Oil Company, later with Brock Exploration and in 1980 opened Rafidi Oil and Gas, Inc. His love for geology had him drilling oil wells close until his passing. Besides NOGS, he was a member of AAPG and SIPES. Services were held August 25, 2015, with interment in All Saints Mausoleum, Metairie, LA. Memorials may be made to the American Diabetes Association and the American Heart Society.



Thank You...

...to the New Orleans
Geological Society
for the plaque
for volunteering as the
Secretary for the Board
2014-2015.

It was a pleasure serving
this great group of geologists.

I sure miss all of you!

I look forward to helping with
the *NOGS LOG*
and staying in touch.

Bryan Banks
NOGS Secretary
2014-2015



Save the Date!

NOGS Kick-Off Party

September 26, 2015

4:30-7:00 pm

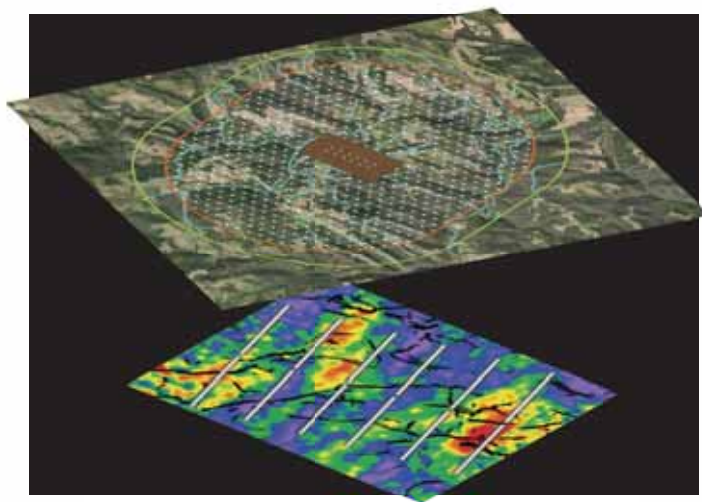
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GNOESF Winners Joshua Hartley and Alexis Lang - Summer Field Season

by Cathy Boucvalt



Al Faster, Alexis Lang, Joshua Hartley

Alexis Lang (10th) and Joshua Hartley (11th) from John Curtis Christian High School had the opportunity of a lifetime to work in Maine this summer to determine if there was correlation between radioactivity and the presence of Rare Earth Elements (REE). Through a very generous donation from NOGS, the two students and their teacher, Cathy Boucvalt, worked with Al Faster (former geochemistry professor at UNO), a research technologist at the Maine Mineral and Gem Museum in Bethel, Maine. Their project objective was to determine if Geiger counters could provide an inexpensive method for determining the mining potential for REEs in former mining areas. Pegmatites and surrounding rocks from six different quarries were collected from Oxford, Sagadahoc, and Knox counties, Maine.

They used a Geiger counter and measured the mR/hr in the field and then brought back samples and spent hours milling the samples into a fine powder. Hydrofluoric acid



was added to the powders to dissolve the silicates and then ran through a Direct Coupled Plasma spectrometer (DCP) to determine the REE (ppb from each location for REE). They learned

that the DCP provided a highly quantitative measurement and is classified as a destructive method of testing. DCP atomic emission spectrometry allows rapid and precise determinations of most petrologically and geochemically significant elements in igneous rocks. Comparisons between the correlation between radioactivity readings and actual REE amounts will be analyzed to determine if the less expensive Geiger counter can be used to determine the better places to mine for REEs.

When asked why they used a Geiger Counter, Alexis and Josh stated, "Since thorium and uranium are commonly associated with REEs and they are radioactive, we thought that a Geiger counter could provide a quick and simple method to help determine where to start mining for REEs. The Geiger counter can easily be brought to a site/mining area to check different locations or specific pegmatites for radioactivity levels."



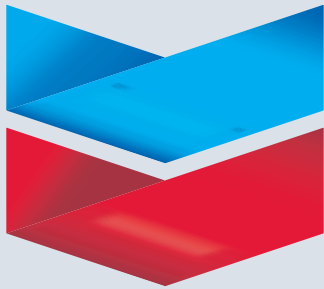
Alexis Lang running the DCP

They also wanted to thank NOGS for their financial help and encouragement for helping them conduct and DO REAL SCIENCE and continue their exploration into learning about pegmatites and REEs.



Cathy Boucvalt teaches science at John Curtis Christian School. She has mentored award-winning science fair contestants for over 15 years. In July 2015 Cathy was awarded Honorary Life Membership by the New Orleans Geological Society in recognition of her outstanding dedication to teaching science.

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Submitted by Laura Sorey

Dr. Strangelove Comes to Mississippi

Most native Mississippians, myself included, would concede that our fair state is associated with a variety stereotypes and bizarre historical incidents. However, many would be more than a little shocked to learn that aside from playing host to such prestigious events as the World Catfish Festival, Mississippi is also the site of the only nuclear weapon detonation on this side of the Mississippi River. After the advent of nuclear weapons during World War II, the United States and the Soviet Union engaged in the infamous arms race that would be a central tenet of US foreign policy for several decades. However, after international concern over the potential repercussions of unregulated nuclear weapons tests, the USSR signed a Partial Test Ban Treaty with the US and United Kingdom in 1963. The treaty prohibited atmospheric detonations and underwater testing but did not include regulations on underground testing.

In response to this, the US government began to investigate whether underground detonations could be detected using seismology equipment and if signatories to the partial test ban would be able to circumvent detections measures. To that end, the Atomic Energy Commission (a forerunner to the Department of Energy) selected the Tatum Salt Dome in Lamar County, Mississippi, as a testing ground for a 5.3 kiloton device in 1964. With approximately one third of the blast energy of the Little Boy bomb, the device would be detonated about 2700 feet below the surface within the Jurassic age salt formation itself. The experiment was designed on the premise that blasts conducted in solid rock formations like the salt dome would be more readily detectible on seismographs than tests that might take place in subsurface voids like caverns.

Codenamed Project Salmon, the investigation required evacuations of about 400 residents from the small community near Hattiesburg in south Mississippi. Locals within the potential blast zone (five miles downwind and approximately half that distance in other directions) were compensated for their time at the price of \$10 for each adult and \$5 for each child. The initial detonation would take place within the rock formation itself so that a void would be created by the explosion and would serve as location for the testing of a second device. Two detonations were planned in order to compare the seismic detectability of an explosion in the rock versus one conducted in air surrounded by rock, since other nations might ostensibly cheat the ban by conducting tests in caves where the air pocket might dampen seismic transmissions. The initial blast took place on October 22, 1964, after which residents reported experiences similar to that of a small magnitude earthquake with items knocked off shelves and some instances of burst water pipes along with damaged masonry.

The second blast in 1966, a part of Project Sterling, took place in the cavity in the salt dome created by the 1964 blast approximately 1200 feet below the cap of the salt dome. The second test confirmed investigators' hypothesis that the detonation in an air filled void would attenuate resulting seismic waves, thus making a subsurface nuclear test more difficult to discern via seismic monitoring. Some of the radioactive materials generated by the tests are fully contained in the blast void and surrounding salt formation. Some of the liquid waste from the Salmon detonation was injected into a deep brine aquifer while material from the emplacement of the Sterling device was buried at the nuclear facility in Oak Ridge, TN. While there were some unconfirmed reports of isolated sickness allegedly related to the Tatum testing, officials maintain there is no inherent health risk resultant from the testing due in large part to the salt dome's role as an effective low permeability barrier to any radioactive materials generated by the tests.

Sources: "Nuclear Blasts in Mississippi". Stephen Creswell. *Mississippi History Now*. <http://mshistorynow.mdah.state.ms.us/articles/293/nuclear-blasts-in-mississippi>

"Salmon, Mississippi, Site Fact Sheet". U.S. Department of Energy.



Location of nuclear tests site in Mississippi. Map courtesy the U.S. Department of Energy.



Henry G. Vermillion, office of information director, U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, indicates evacuation area for the 1964 nuclear test site. Moncrief Photograph Collection, Item #180, Mississippi Department of Archives and History.



Horace Burge, who lived about two miles from the site, came home after the Salmon test to find shattered dishes, and a damaged fireplace and chimney. Moncrief Photograph Collection, Item #261, Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

August 17, 2015



Dear NOGS Members,

Our professional profile has been raised by the Licensing of Geologists in LA. It has long been noticed by geologists that there is a general lack of understanding on the geologic processes that affect our south Louisiana homes and livelihoods. Regional structural geology is overlooked, or not well understood, by most levee board stakeholders. Those with the responsibility to help keep us safe from flooding due to high river events, hurricanes, and even tropical storms need our help. The levee boards are populated by citizens who are well educated and many have technical engineering backgrounds, however, few have any geological training. Understanding the threats of subsidence, sea level rise, faulting, and the methods used to evaluate them is largely within the expertise and comfort zone of professional geologists. Having this expertise on these boards as voting members or perhaps as technical geological resources to the boards could help. A better awareness of structural geology and the evaluation tools of our trade could make a difference to the board. Encouraging the boards to evaluate and identify potential zones of weakness and encourage new design approaches for construction in those levee reaches impacted by faults could greatly improve our chances of surviving the storms of the future.

NOGS is providing this information to members who may be interested in learning about the function of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority (SLFPA-W). However, there are still numerous other levee boards in south Louisiana that could benefit from geological/geophysical expertise. The state nominating boards are still looking for board members to fill seats that will be vacant in the very near future. If you or someone you know is interested in serving as a board member, this information will be useful.

With kind regards,

Kathy Haggar — NOGS, VP

Cell: 225.953.1076 • Email: kathy_riparian@bellsouth.net

From the Office of the Governor – Coastal Activities
1051 North Third Street, Ste., 138
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

NOTE: Deadline for submitting apps was August 07, 2015. Sometimes the Nominating Committee will extend these deadlines, but that will not be determined until August 20, 2015, when the committee meets.

<http://www.lacpra.org/assets/docs/FPA%20Application.pdf>

SLFPAW Board Requirements link: <http://slfpaw.org/resources/board-requirements/>

Subject: Board Requirements | Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority West Board Requirements

1. The SLFPA—West Board must consist of no more or no less than two (2) members from each parish (Orleans and Jefferson) on the West Bank.
2. The board must have two (2) at-large members.
3. Three (3) members who shall either be an engineer or a professional in a related field, such as geotechnical, hydrological, or environmental science.
4. Two (2) members who shall be a professional in a discipline other than that occurring in #3 above, with at least 10 years of professional experience in that discipline.
5. A Nominating Committee shall recommend one name for those members listed in #3 above, and two names for those listed in #2 and #4 above for each board position to the Governor.
6. The Governor shall appoint from the list of nominations.
7. Senate Confirmation is required.
8. Members serve staggered terms.

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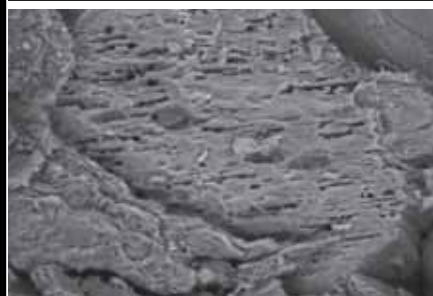
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POSSIBLE PARKING ISSUE

Our Monday, October 5th Luncheon follows
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The Holiday Inn Superdome parking garage
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Be prepared to park elsewhere.

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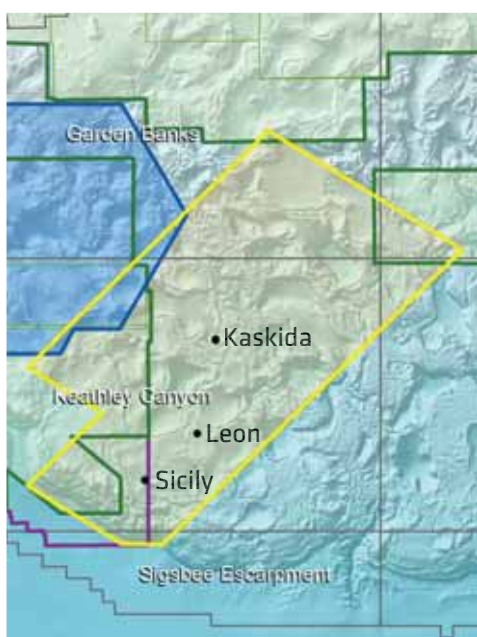
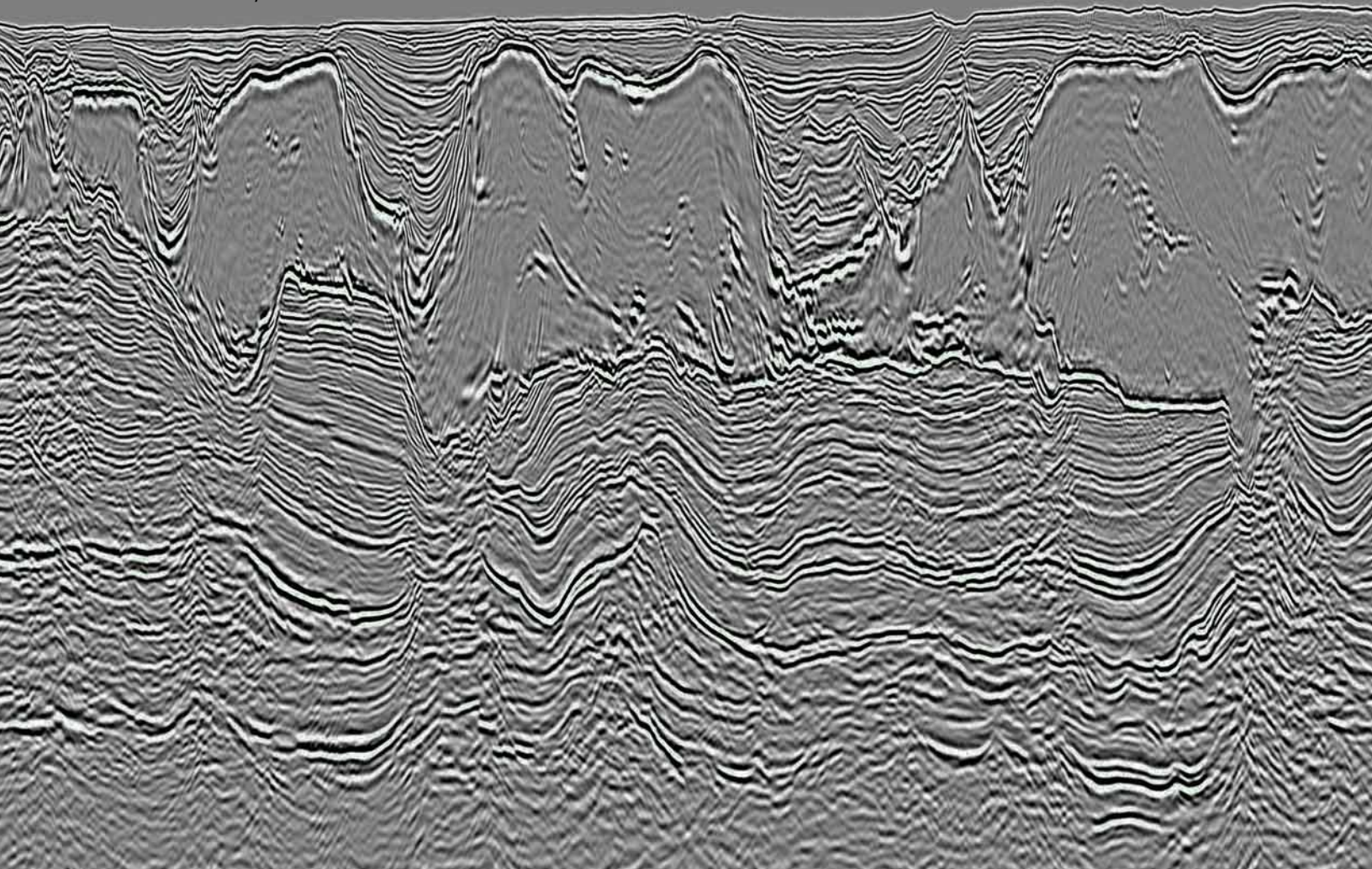


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