JUNE 2016

Volume 56, Number 12



Presentation: Microseismicity in Oklahoma vs Microseismicity Risks in Louisiana Guest Speaker: Dr. G. R. "Randy" Keller Oklahoma University • Norman, Oklahoma PAST PRESIDENTS' LUNCHEON FROM 1955 TO 2017



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

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on the cover

Cover Photo by Tom Klekamp

(scanned from 35mm Kodachrome)

Breton Sound — St. Bernard Delta, Louisiana

Circa 1980, after sunrise over the subsiding remnants of the St. Bernard Delta. I was heading out to a logging run over the Breton Sound-Main Pass area and captured the photo from the helicopter window.

The St. Bernard Delta formed 4,000 to 2,000 years ago following an avulsion that caused the Mississippi River's relocation to the east of present-day New Orleans. It covered half of the Cocodrie Delta and extended just beyond the present-day site of the Chandeleur Islands. This wonderful, large delta grew for some 550 years before a crevasse occurred again near present-day Donaldsonville.

Once a delta is abandoned by the river, it is affected by many forces that cause it to deteriorate to some extent. This is why the old front of the St. Bernard Delta, the Chandeleur Islands, is now separated from the mainland by the expansive, shallow Breton Sound.

From the Editor

Laura Sorey will take over as Editor at the NOGS Board meeting in June; you've been reading her articles in our 'On the Rocks' column (which replaced 'Info Tidbits'). Her prose received several compliments, and you should be seeing some changes in the LOG. Besides Laura, I thank Ed Picou, for his diligent fact checking and proof reading. Our other superb editors and grammarians include Sheri Richardson, Bryan Banks, Tavia Prouhet, and Jessica Wold. (I hope you're available for Laura.) Arthur Christensen's eye/camera contributed many of our photographs. Peggy Rogers was our NOGA reporter. Special thanks to Al Baker, Carlo Cristina and Kevin Trosclair for keeping Drill Bits going amid the plummeting Louisiana and OCS rig counts. President Dave Reiter gave 'matrix' through his monthly columns. Tom Bergeon sent "eye-candy" cover photos and was invaluable in our centerfold layouts. Annette Hudson maintained our Funds reports, an important component in our NOGS mission to geoscience education and outreach. Kristee Brown, our publisher, brought her artistry, layout skills, and kept ideas flowing that none of us would imagine. Finally, our advertisers who keep the NOGS LOG going—you stay with us through this downturn-thank you!

Tom Klekamp, Editor



2016 ADVERTISING RATES

The New Orleans Geological Society was formed in 1941, with an initial membership of only 55. It has always been an active professional society and presently has a membership of 500.

AD SIZE	2015 RATE	NEW 2016 RATE!
Full Page (7.5"x10")	\$3500	\$1750
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Twelfth Page (3.75"x1.65")	\$375	\$188
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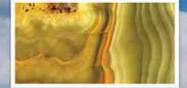
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From the President

Well, we've come to the end of another perfectly good NOGS fiscal year. Despite the recent steep downturn in the petroleum industry. NOGS is still in good financial shape and continues to be one of the most active members of the GCAGS. We've achieved a number of important accomplishments this year, most notably the initiation of the ten year monetary commitment to help build two new area children's museums, the sponsorship of a new technical project, the Atlas of Recent Gulf Coast Faults, and the completion of two new traveling rock kits for NOGS members to use in elementary and secondary school presentations. And thanks to many NOGS volunteers, all of our social, educational and fund raising events this year were wildly successful, especially Super Saurus Saturday, the NOGS/PLANO Golf Tournament, and the annual NOGS Christmas Partv.

When I was first asked to be NOGS President, I thought the job would be enormously difficult and time consuming, and I was unsure of my ability to lead such a vibrant professional organization. But with the help of the NOGS Board of Directors, the task was much easier and smoother than I ever thought possible. Many thanks go to all of our Board members: President-Elect and Entertainment Chairman Al Melillo for organizing all of our social events this year, Vice President Kathy Haggar for arranging our monthly luncheon speaker program, Treasurer Rhonda Roederer for keeping the books and helping with establishing this year's budget, Secretary Andrew Thorne for keeping meticulous notes during monthly board meetings, and Editor Tom Klekamp and Editor-Elect Laura Sorey for continuing to make the NOGS LOG one of the finest monthly society publications in the GCAGS. Thanks also go to NOGS Directors

Jim Zotkiewicz, David Cope, and Brenda Reilly for keeping up with and reporting the activities of the many NOGS committees and for imparting sage advice at all of our NOGS Board meetings. And of course, our Society can't accomplish much of anything without the herculean efforts of our NOGS office administrator Annette Hudson. She is truly the glue that holds our organization together and makes all of us Board members look like we actually know what we're doing.

This coming year, NOGS will celebrate its diamond anniversary, 75 years of continuing to fulfill its stated purpose of "facilitating the development of the profession and science of Geology, with specific emphasis to exploration and production of petroleum and natural gas." The first meeting was held on October 6, 1941 in the now nonexistent St. Charles Hotel in downtown New Orleans. The Society has grown and diversified steadily, with up to 1500 members in the late 1980's and adding the NOGS Memorial Foundation in 1978 (formerly NOGS Scholarship Fund). Even though our membership has slipped to around 500 today, our members continue make our Society tremendously successful by volunteering for many educational and social events, as well as serving on committees and NOGS Board positions. I am enormously proud to have been a part of this 75 year history of NOGS and I consider serving as your president this year as one of the most enjoyable pinnacles of my professional career. Thanks again to all of you who helped me achieve this goal, and please help our incoming President Al Melillo and his new Board of Directors this year as they begin their term of office in July.

See you at the next NOGS Luncheon. And remember, NOGS Matters.

David Reiter

T UU E

NOGS Office

Office Manager: Annette Hudson

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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.



17/11							
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	Manahan at I ana	M XX7-141	504 202 0222				

504-392-9332

Mary Walther

Member-at-Large





June 6 • NOGS Luncheon

Holiday Inn Downtown Superdome

\$3.00 validated parking in hotel garage

Presentation.

Microseismicity in Oklahoma vs Microseismicity Risks in Louisiana

Guest Speaker:

Dr. G. R. "Randy" Keller
Professor Emeritus • Oklahoma University • Norman, OK See page 8 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

June 19-20

AAPG Annual Convention and Exhibition BMO Centre at Stampede Park • Calgary, Alberta, Canada For more information, http://ace.aapg.org/2016

July 11

NOGS Luncheon

11:30 am - Holiday Inn Superdome • New Orleans, LA John Dribus - Schlumberger (New Orleans)

"Recent Deepwater Discoveries and the Look Forward for Deepwater Exploration" For reservations, www.nogs.org or annette@nogs.org

August 17-18

20th Annual Gulf of Mexico Deepwater Technical Symposium Downtown New Orleans Marriott • New Orleans, LA "Innovation is Our Future" For more information, www.deepwaternola.org

September 18-20

GCAGS Convention

American Bank Center • Corpus Christi, TX For more information, http://www.gcags2016.com/

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Continued from previous page

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Tisha StCyr	Student	UNO	504-399-0962	tmbutle1@uno.edu

June 6 NOGS Luncheon Presentation

☆ ☆ ☆ at the Holiday Inn Superdome ☆ ☆ ☆

Microseismicity in Oklahoma vs Microseismicity Risks in Louisiana



Presented by

Dr. G. R. "Randy" Keller

Professor Emeritus

Oklahoma University

Norman, Oklahoma

ABSTRACT

There has been a great deal of recent interest (and in some cases concern) about earthquakes that have been interpreted to be induced by human activity of one kind or another. Many of man's activities have, on rare occasions, triggered earthquakes, and filling of lakes by new dams, large-scale mining operations, and injection of large volumes wastewater in deep wells under high pressure are examples. Northeastern Louisiana can be interpreted to be in the New Madrid seismic zone that was the site of a series of large (~7 Magnitude) earthquakes in late 1811 and early 1812. This area remains active today. However, in the

past 100 years, only 16 earthquakes have been recorded in or very near Louisiana. The largest was located about 60 miles west of New Orleans and occurred on October 19, 1930. Historical records indicate that minor earthquakes occurred in this area in 1843 and 1882. In this presentation, I will discuss examples of clearly induced seismicity, examples of seismicity that have been interpreted to be induced, seismic hazard assessment, "best practices" for wastewater injection, and how scientists can best inform the public and media about seismic hazards and causes of seismicity.

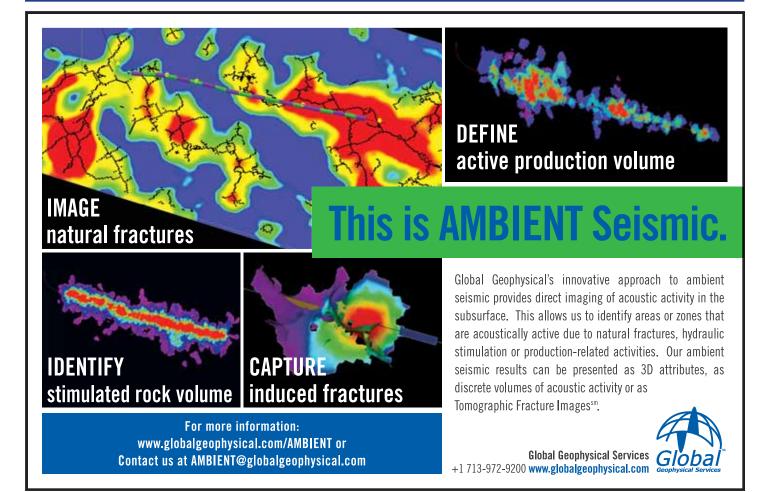
BIOGRAPHY

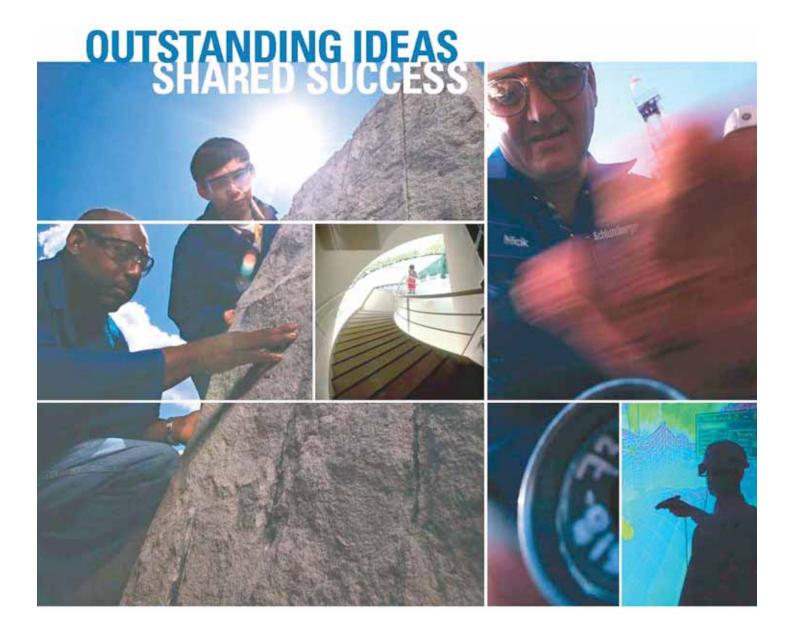
G. Randy Keller is a Professor Emeritus in the School of Geology and Geophysics at the University of Oklahoma and former holder of the Edward Lamb McCollough Chair in Geophysics. He also served as the Director of the Oklahoma Geological Survey and State Geologist. He was also Department Chair and L.A. Nelson Professor at the University of CIETY Texas at El Paso. He is retired but does some consulting and is the North America representative for Seismik s.r.o. His research interest stress the geological applications of geophysics and span a variety of techniques at a variety of scales. He, his students, and colleagues have conducted many studies of the structure and evolution of the crust using gravity, magnetic, remote sensing, and seismic measurements integrated with geological data, often as part of large international cooperative efforts. He, his students, and colleagues have also regularly used geophysical methods to study issues such as ground water resources, earthquake hazards, the geometry of specific geologic structures, and site characterization. He has also been very involved in the Geoinformatics initiative and is interested in the development of databases, techniques that foster data integration, software tools, and web services that have proven useful to both academic and industry groups. His international research has focused on East Africa, North Africa, Central Europe, and China.

THE LUNCHEON RESERVATION DEADLINE IS JUNE 3 - CONTACT THE NOGS OFFICE

"And Looking Ahead . . . "

The next luncheon will be held on July 11. Our guest speaker, John R. Dribus, Schlumberger (New Orleans), will present "Recent Deepwater Discoveries and the Look Forward for Deepwater Exploration." 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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CALENDAR OF EVENTS: JUNE — SEPTEMBER 2016

2016	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT / INFO
3 June	Deadline for July NOGS LOG		nogseditor@gmail.com
6 June	NOGS Luncheon Dr. G.R. "Randy" Keller Professor Emeritus at OU "Microseismicity in OK vs Microseismicity Risks in LA"	Holiday Inn Superdome	annette@nogs.org or 504-561-8980
9 June	SGS Luncehon	Holiday Inn Superdome	Louis.Sturgess@shell.com 504-425-7636
10 June	Baton Rouge GS Luncheon	Mike Anderson's 1031 W Lee Dr, Baton Rouge	Lisa Pultz at lisapultz@cox.net or http://www.brgs-la.org/
16 June	SPWLA Luncheon	Holiday Inn Superdome	https://www.spwla.org/ chapters/new-orleans
20 June	NOGS Transition Board Meeting The Changing of the Guard	NOGS Office	annette@nogs.org or 504-561-8980
19-22 Jun	AAPG ACE 2016	Calgary, AB	http://ace.aapg.org/2016
1 July	Deadline for August NOGS LOG		nogseditor@gmail.com
4 July	Independence Day		
8 July	Baton Rouge GS Luncheon	Mike Anderson's 1031 W Lee Dr, Baton Rouge	Lisa Pultz at lisapultz@cox.net or http://www.brgs-la.org/
11 July	NOGS Luncheon John R. Dribus Schlumberger (New Orleans) "Recent Deepwater Discoveries and the Look Forward for Deepwater Exploration"	Holiday Inn Superdome	annette@nogs.org or 504-561-8980
1-3 Aug	URTeC - Unconventional Resources Technology Conference (AAPG, SEG, SPE)	San Antonio, TX	http://urtec.org/2016
10-11 Aug	2016 Summer NAPE	Geo. Brown Conv. Center, Houston	http://napeexpo.com/shows/ about-the-show/houston
16 Aug	DWS Short Course - Dr. Mark Rowan "Structure and Salt Tectonics of the Gulf of Mexico"	Downtown N.O. Mariott	www.deepwaternola.org
17-18 Aug	2016 Deepwater Technical Symposium	Downtown N.O. Mariott	www.deepwaternola.org
18-20 Sep	GCAGS Convention	Corpus Christi, TX	http://www.gcags2016.com

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."

On April 16th the Geological Auxiliary had a lot of luck weather-wise celebrating a wonderful Spring Soireé with members and guests enjoying a perfect evening at the home of Jean Jones. Judy Lemarié and Alma Dunlap saw to all the party details. Caterer Peggy Fisk presented the guests with many delightful dishes. The NOGS Board was represented by President-Elect Al Mellilo, Brenda Reilly and Jim Zotkiewicz. Also seen visiting with old friend and enjoying the dinner were Joan and Bob Sylvester, Margie and Will Conatser and Elizabeth and Bill Furlong. Don't miss out next year's event when the New Orleans Auxiliary will be promising another delightful spring outing. President Trudy Corona took the opportunity of the gathered friends to present Beverly Christina with the Lifetime Member Award. Only four other members have been so honored. Congratulations to Beverly who certainly deserves this award.

The year 2015-2016 will have had its last event by the time you read this *NOGS LOG* entry. Ormond Plantation Restaurant Installation Luncheon was the final event rounding up a lot of good times and camaraderie among the wives of NOGS members. If you are a wife of a NOGS member and would like to join this group, please fill out the application at the bottom of the page. Officers and committees are already working to see that 2016-2017 will be just as enjoyable and informative as last year. New people, new ideas are welcome.

Peggy Rogers, NOGS LOG



Committee Member Judy Lemarié, Hostess: Jean Jones, President: Trudy Corona, Committee Member: Alma Dunlap



President Trudy Corona presenting Lifetime Member Award to Beverly Christina



NOGS representatives: Director Jim Zotkiewicz, Director Brenda Reilly, President-elect Al Melillo

New Orleans Geological Auxiliary Membership Application

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

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Please mail to Judy Lemarié, Treasurer, #2 Yosemite Dr., New Orleans, LA 70131



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APRIL 16, 2016

On April 16th, over 900 children and their families descended on the Louisiana Children's Museum for Super Saurus Saturday. This was our biggest year yet with 50 volunteers and an expanded series of stations and a few new bones for good measure. The big hit items unvealed were a 6 foot tall cast of an Apatosaurus femur, a Triceratops femur cast with many T-Rex bites, and an expanded "how an oil field forms" set of stations. This year we stepped up our game with the new SSS raptors volunteer shirt designed by our NOGS LOG publisher and graphic artist extraordinaire Kristee Brown. As always the Southeastern Geophysical Society joined in on the fun with their table thumping seismograph station. We had a great group of volunteers who were very engaging with the kids. Thank you so much!

College students are always a big part of our event and LSU, Southeastern,

Tulane, and UNO were all well represented. LSU volunteers were Cameron Gernant and Elizabeth Melillo. Our Southeastern students from Hammond were Madison Paulus, Haley Bruch, Mickey Maher,

Sarah Blattenberger, Sara Temple,
Elizabeth Crain, Briana Reeves, Kayla
Migliore, Sarah Winner, Sarah Fryoux,
Cody Pollard, Taylor Damare, Yolanda

Farlough and Hanna Weiskopf. Tulane volunteers were Jordan Adams, Rosalyn Rael, Michael Hopkins, Travis Hong, Daniel Culling, Bobola Akintomide, and Jon Bridgeman. Our UNO faithful were Rachel Gaspard, Daniel Atienzar, and Joshua Flathers.

We had three younger repeat

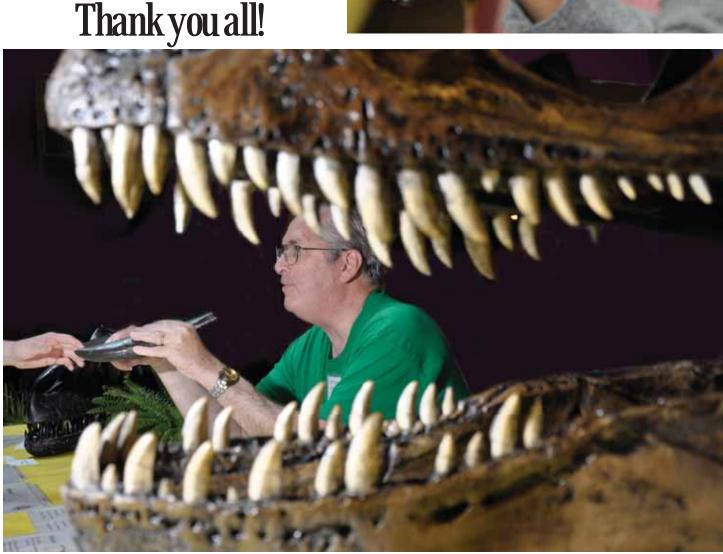
volunteers. It

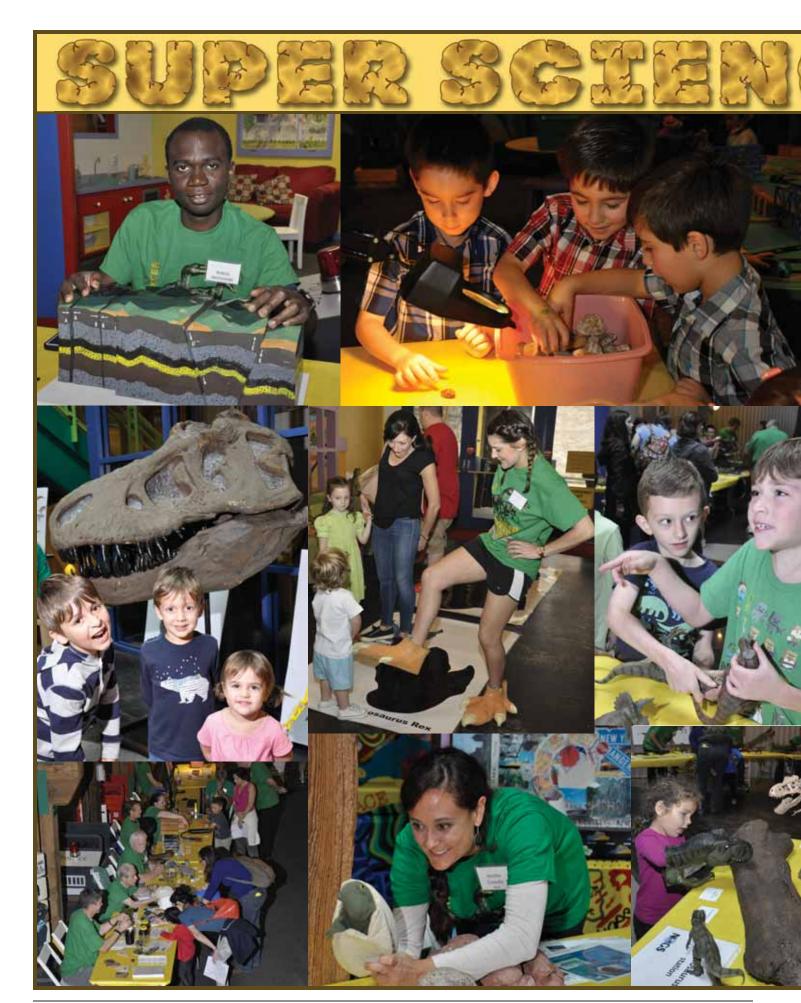
was great to see NOGS member Bob Hafner's daughter **Hillary** and her friend London Moore, who both participated from their early teens and are now both aspiring nursing students at Delgado Charity. This was the third year that our resident young dinosaur expert **Peyton Medere** helped running the stations and conveying a wealth of knowledge to kids and volunteers alike.



NOGS volunteers included Jennifer Connolly,
Connie and Emily Williams, Rachel Carter, Laura
Sorey, Jade Haug, Elise McKelvey, Andrew
Thorne, Bill Vollenwider, Bill Whiting, Chris
McLindon, Alex Janevski, Keith McVey, David
Reiter, Jon Mack, Mike and Opie Anderson,
Al Melillo, Lisa Kennedy, Dave Cope, and our
trainers Art Johnson and Bernie Regel.

Special thanks go out to **Tom Klekamp** and **Bernie Regel** for photographing all the action, **Dave Cope** for the 3d workstation and gravel samples, **Rachael Gaspard** and **Kraig Derstler** of UNO for bringing the T-Rex skull, **Kristee Brown** for the great new t-shirts, **Bruce Sherman** for recruiting all our great Southeastern volunteers, and **Kate Grueneberg** the **LCM Program Coordinator** for making this such a wonderful event.







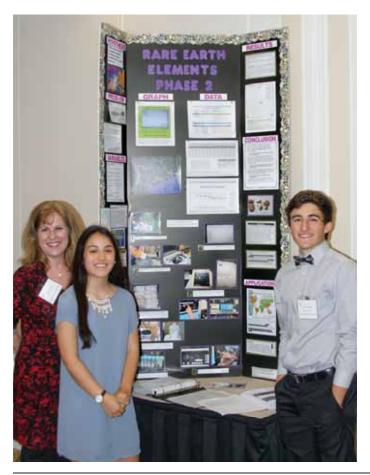
JUNE 2016 17 NOGS LOG

Region 9 Greater New Orleans Science and Engineering Fair at the University of New Orleans

Science Fair Report by Mike Fein

On February 24th, NOGS members judged Junior and Senior Earth Science exhibits at the Region 9 Greater New Orleans Science and Engineering Fair at UNO. My fellow judges were **George Hasseltine**, **Brenda Reilly**, and **Bill Whiting**. Thanks much!!

Seven students shared the \$450 in cash prizes. NOGS recused itself on the outstanding Rare Earth Elements work by **John Curtis Christian High School** students **Alexis Lang** and **Josh Hartley** because we partially funded this second phase of their project. Alexis and Josh were our May speakers; their exhibit was also on display at the May meeting.



Cave, who has innovated a method to study "Quantifying the Interactions Between Aldehydes (Propionaldehyde, Octanal, and Hexanol) and Bacterial Endophytes from the Deepwater Horizon." She was interested in determining what happened to the byproducts of the crude as it biodegrades. This year she built upon a previous study of that chemistry, and found bacteria that destroy the aldehyde by-products. The idea is to accelerate coastal biological restoration by eliminating the pollutant from the ecosystem. Keiana is a senior at Lusher Charter School, and her teacher is Stephen Collins.

The second place senior exhibit was done by **Hayden Waldvoge**l of **Holy Cross**. The title was "What is the Best Way to Clean Up Oil from an Oil Spill," which utilized various materials to soak up oil and caused a rejected hypothesis. His teacher was **David Westfall**.

The third place senior exhibit was done by **Blythe Broussard** of **John Curtis**, "How Does Saltwater Intrusion Affect Louisiana's Wetlands? – Measuring Chlorophyll Levels in Wetland Grasses." This was an innovative approach to looking at the saltwater intrusion problem. Her teacher was **Cathy Boucvalt**.

In the Junior Division, it was a repeat for **Isabella Pita**, who won for the second consecutive year, this time with "Are There Dangerous Levels of Lead in Local Soil with an Emphasis on the New Orleans Garden District." Her teacher was **Cathy Boucvalt**. Isabella's exhibited the project at the May NOGS meeting.

The second place Junior winner was **Finn Holmes**, a seventh grader at **Christian Brothers School**, who studied "Which
Material absorbs Motor Oil Best." His teach
is **Brother Lawrence Konersman**, who has
brought a number of first-place winners to
NOGS in the past.

The third place winner was the team of **Colton Kendrick** and **Justin Unger** of **John Curtis**, who studied "Can Last Year's Christmas Trees Help Rebuild Louisiana's Interior Wetlands?" Their teacher was **Lauren Young**.









South Louisiana and Offshore Gulf of Mexico Exploration and Production Activities

LAFAYETTE DISTRICT, ONSHORE AREA By Carlo C. Christina

The Baker-Hughes rig count for United States at the end of April was 415 rigs, down 479 rigs from a year ago. The April 29th rig count for Louisiana (not including the OCS) was 22 rigs, down from 40 rigs one year ago.

North Louisiana Rigs:14

South Louisiana Rigs:8 (4 Land - 4 Inland Waters)

The Office of Conservation, Lafayette District, Onshore Area, issued 11 permits to drill during the month of April, compared to 11 permits one year ago. There are five new location of interest to report this month:

NEW LOCATIONS

In Pointe Coupee Parish, **Bayou Latenache Field** (A), Pennington Operating Company will drill the #1 WX RB SUA; J S KEAN ETAL (SN 249587) in Sec. 19, 5S-7E to a proposed total depth of 15,207 feet. This well offsets older Wilcox production. The nearest producing well, (SN 247601), also drilled by Pennington Operating Company, is located 1.5 miles to the southeast and was completed as a gas well in the WX RA SUA on 9/04/2014. This well has produced 64,815 BBL of oil and 381,570 MCF of gas since September 2014.

In Jefferson Parish, Manila Village Field (B), LLOX, LLC will drill the #1 PURCELL ET.AL. (SN 249559) in Sec. 35, 18S-24E to a proposed depth of 14,000 feet (13,500 TVD). This directional well shares the same surface location as (SN 249555), a LLOX, LLC location that was permitted in March to 14,500 feet (12,900 TVD). The PBHL for these permitted wells offsets old Miocene production and a third LLOX well (SN 249335) drilled in November 2015, reported by SONRIS as "SHUT-IN DRY HOLE -FUTURE UTILITY." Two producing wells are located less than one mile north of this permitted location and have produced 271,048 BBL of oil and 356,562 MCF of gas from 9400 BIG T Sands (completed in 2012 and 2013).

In Acadia Parish, **South Bosco Field (C)**, Linder Oil Co. will drill the #1 OLIG RA SUA; MELBA BILLEAUD, (SN 249581) in Sec. 9, 9S-3E, to a proposed depth of 13,940 feet (13,500 TVD). The PBHL offsets several old wells that have produced 142,042 BBL oil and 10,894,633 MCF of gas from Nonion Struma and Klump P Sands.

In Iberville Parish, **Laurel Ridge Field** (**D**), Ponderosa Oil & Gas, LLC will drill the #1 CAM RB SUA; CANNONBURG PLTN

(SN 249585) in Sec. 4, 10S-14E, to a proposed depth of 11,000 feet targeting Camerina Sands. This well offsets a Ponderosa Oil & Gas well, (SN 248853), completed 8/10/15 as an oil well in the 10000 RA SUB (PERFS: 10,164-66') and has produced 10,388 BBL of oil and 141,322 MCF of gas.

In St. Landry Parish, **North Cankton Field (E)**, CX Operating Co. has permitted its #1 Cheuca (SN 249580) to re-enter an old well in Sec. 24, 8S-2E, and drill to a proposed depth of 8233 feet. The original well was drilled in 1985 and produced from 2 zones for 8 years, producing more than 95,600 barrels of oil.

COMPLETIONS

LLOX is preparing to plug and abandon the #1 Avery Island, Cris R (SN 249490) in **Southeast Avery Island Field** (**F**), Iberia Parish. The well was drilled to a total depth of 20,682 feet in Sec. 44, 13S-6E.

OFFSHORE GULF OF MEXICO SHELF AND DEEPWATER ACTIVITIES

by Al Baker

During April 2016, the BOEM approved 70 Gulf of Mexico drilling permits. Of these, 9 were for shelf wells, and 61 were for deepwater wells. Of the total number of permits, there were 8 new well permits issued consisting of 1 shelf permit and 7 deepwater permits.

The single new shelf well permit was issued to **Arena Offshore** for their **South Timbalier 131 #K-8** development well.

The seven new deepwater well permits included 5 exploration wells and 2 development wells. The



three exploration new well permits were awarded to Chevron U.S.A. for their Green Canyon 640 #PC-1, #PC-2 and #PC-4 wells. One exploration new well permit each was issued to LLOG Exploration Offshore for their Mississippi Canyon 257 #1 well and to Noble Energy for their Green Canyon 40 #2 well.

Walter Oil & Gas Corp. received two development well permits for their Ewing Bank 790 #A-2 and Mississippi Canyon #A-4 wells. These two wells will be drilled from their "A" Platform situated in Ewing Bank 834.

On April 29th, **IHS-Petrodata** reported that the Gulf of Mexico mobile offshore rig supply stood at **113**, which are **3** less than reported last month. The marketed rig supply consisted of **63** rigs, of which **45** were under contract. The marketed contracted versus total rig supply utilization rate is **39.8%**, while the marketed contracted versus marketed supply utilization rate stands at **71.4%**. The marketed rig supply number is **3** less than reported last month; the contracted rig supply number is **2** less than reported last month. In contrast, the April 2015 fleet utilization rate stood at 55.9% with 62 out of the 111 rigs under contract.

On April 29th, **BakerHughes** indicated that there were **24** active mobile offshore rigs in the Gulf of Mexico, which is **53.3%** of the rigs under contract mentioned above. This active rigs number is **3** less than reported last month. The current active rigs count compares to 33 active rigs during

the same period last year, representing a **27.3%** drop (minus 9 rigs) in yearly rig activity.

As of April 29th, the **BakerHughes** total U.S. rig count stood at **420** rigs **down 78.2%** from the **September 26**, **2014 high of 1931** rigs. At this time a year ago, the rig count stood at 679 rigs. Of the current 420 rigs, **332** are **oil rigs** and **87** are **gas rigs**.

On April 20th and April 27th, Otto Energy announced that their operating partner, Byron Energy, had reached a total depth of 6,843 feet MD/6,477 feet TVD on a new discovery at their South Marsh Island 71 #1 well. Following wireline logging operations, Otto confirmed the presence of three oil sands in the wellbore. The I3 Sand, J Sand and D5 Sand contain 13 feet TVT, 24 feet TVT and 91 feet TVT net oil pay, respectively. Bryon Energy and Otto Energy will deepen the well approximately 600 feet to 7,452 feet MD/6,990 feet TVD to evaluate additional lobes of the D5 Sand package and the D6 Sand.

On April 11th, the **BOEM** announced that it had accepted **3 bids** on blocks in the **Phase I** evaluation for the **Central Gulf of Mexico OCS Sale 241** that was held on March 23, 2016. As of April 28th, a total of **12 bids** on blocks in the **Phase 2** evaluation period have also been approved. A total of **113 bids remain** that are pending acceptance by the BOEM.

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Trevor Bollmann is a Geotechnical Geophysicist with Chevron. He received his B.S. in Geology in 2009 from Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla; earned an M.S. in Geology from Northwestern University in Evanston, IL in 2012. He is currently finishing up his Ph.D. from Northwestern remotely and plans on defending soon.

Michael Murat is a Senior Geophysicist for Chevron in Covington on Chevron's Gulf of Mexico Technical Geophysics team. Mike has worked 25 years for Chevron focusing on reservoir properties from seismic, AVO, DHI risking and 4-D time-lapse analysis. Mike received a B.S. in Geophysics from Saint Louis University and a M.S. in Geophysics from Indiana University (1991). He studied at Warsaw University and the Polish Academy of Sciences on a Fulbright Fellowship. Mike is also an active member of SEG and SGS.

Tisha St.Cyr earned an A.S. from Delgado Community College. Currently she is working towards a bachelor's degree in Earth and Environmental Science (geoscience concentration) at the University of New Orleans. Her employment experience includes environmental lab technician as well as a cementing technician for an oil field services company.

Edward Washburn is a Development Geologist for Chevron in Covington. Previously Ed had been with Chevron in Bakersfield, CA from 2004-2012. He has a B.S. Geology, Illinois State University, and and M.S. Geology, University of Kansas. He was Editor-in-Chief of the AAPG Pacific Section from 2010-2012. His hobbies include climbing, hiking, running, and semi-retired trumpet player

Les ley Prochaska joins NOGS as an Active Member. She is an Environmental Geologist/Consultant for CH2M in New Orleans.

Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-West Bank Board of Commissioners (SLFPA-W) Encourages NOGS Surface Fault Atlas Project

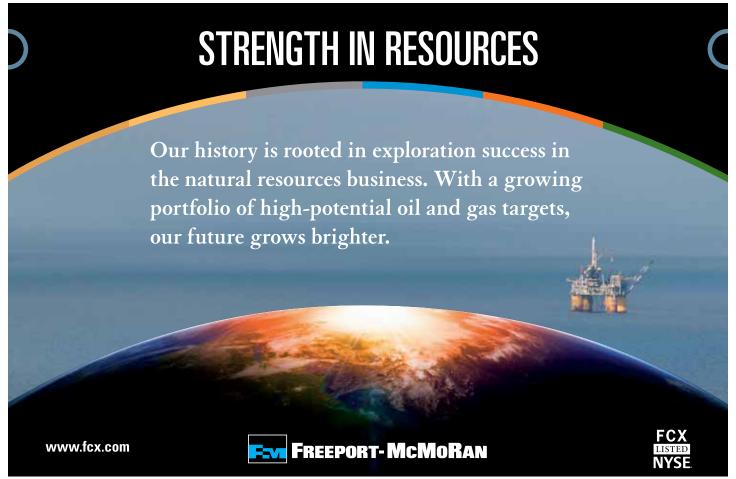
At their October 28, 2015 regularly scheduled monthly meeting, the West Bank flood authority commissioners approved of a resolution requesting that NOGS facilitate the production of basic physical geology research by going forward with the NOGS Surface Fault Atlas Project. SLFPA-W Resolution No. 102815-03 urges that surface faulting be defined near and underlying hurricane storm surge, and drainage and flood prevention facilities on the West Bank because this detailed geological research has not been done beneath about 80 miles of flood defenses including levee reaches, pump stations and flood gates.

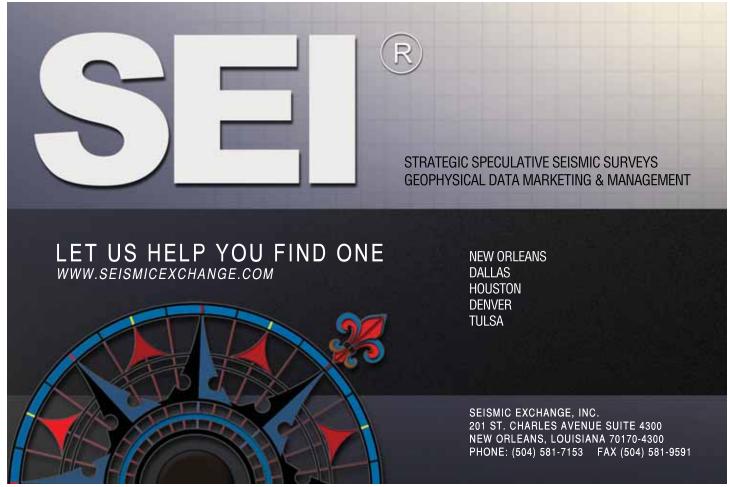
The resolution noted the benefit of defining geohazards, if any, near the West Closure Complex

pump station (one of the largest in the world) and flood gate (one of the largest in North America) and to manage risk of subsiding levees.

Commissioner Mike Merritt moved adoption of Resolution No. 102815-03 and after Commissioner Paul Dauphin seconded the motion, Commissioners Camnetar, Gaddy, Julien, Maclay and Wilkinson voted unanimously to approve and urge NOGS to endeavor to begin and continue its great work of coordinating and facilitating a series of independent scientific mapping projects to be compiled by NOGS producing a Surface Fault Atlas.

The Commissioners ordered a copy of their resolution be sent to the NOGS office and the document is an open record available to the public.







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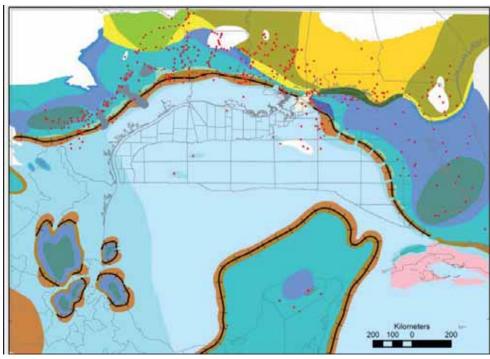
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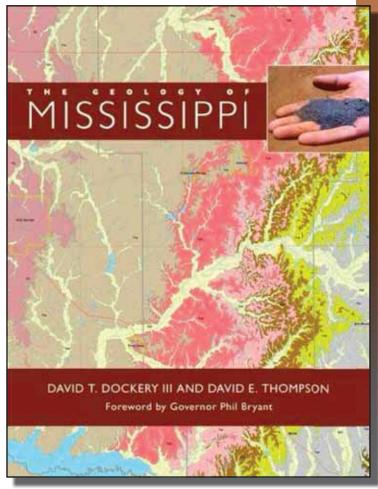
The Geology of Mississippi...Such as It Is

Even as trained geologist and a native daughter of Mississippi, if you were to ask me to describe the geology of my fair state my first response would probably be, "Subtle." It's mostly a joking response but is not altogether far from the apparent truth that Mississippi remains low on the list of the geologic wonders on the continental United States. We have no true mountains (there is little you could say to convince me that 806 ft. peak Mount Woodall actually counts) and unless you know where to look in the countryside, there are few well known examples of the vistas and topographic relief that we typically associate with regional geology. But those familiar with the region and with the nature of coastal plain geology know better and recognize how the modern environment of Mississippi has shaped our view of geologic processes and how the surface and subsurface geology relate to our understanding of the past and our plans for the future.

Nowhere else is the arc of Mississippi's geologic history captured so effectively than in David Dockery and David Thomas' recent publication, The Geology of Mississippi. This tome is one of the first comprehensive works to focus on the full breadth of Mississippi geology from countless fossil discoveries to characterization of the prolific groundwater aquifers to the distribution of various natural resources. Organized by geologic age, the book navigates the geologic story of Mississippi with a plethora of well documented maps, photographs, and sample illustrations from public, personal, and academic sources that is supported a robust text that draws on previous publication as well as field experience to create a rich tapestry of encyclopedic detail. Though the copy in my possession is actually an earlier addition from the editing stage. I find it to be a valuable resource and a must have for anyone with a personal or professional interest in Mississippi geology. Copublished by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality and the University Press of Mississippi in April 2016, The

Geology of Mississippi is available through Amazon.com and through direct order from the University Press of Mississippi.

I was fortunate enough to encounter *The* Geology Mississippi in the nascent stages of its development when Dr. Dockery offered a class on the subject while serving as an adjunct professor at Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi during the spring of 2011. Our course textbook was a preliminary edition of the final copy now available for sale, a copy of which remains a well-worn volume on my bookshelf. Among the many things I learned that semester of my junior year, one of the most the most important is that Mississippi geology is far from subtle. The stories of the rock beneath the surface there are as complex and varied as the stories of the people above the surface. Mississippi is many things, but subtle is not one of them.





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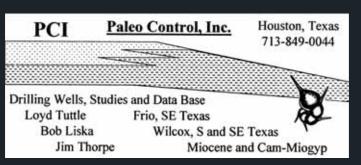


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