

NOGS LOG

MARCH 2016

Volume 56, Number 9



MARCH 7 - NOGS LUNCHEON

Presentation: Using Fault Kinematics to Evaluate the Relationship Between Cenozoic Fault Activity, Sedimentation Rates and Salt Movement in the Gulf of Mexico

Guest Speaker: Mr. Abah Omale

LSU Department of Geology and Geophysics • Baton Rouge, Louisiana

FETCH! SUPER SAURUS SATURDAY



April 16, 2016

11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

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on the cover

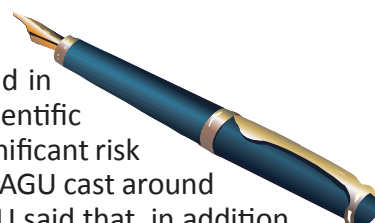
Cover Photo Submitted by Cyril Lobo

Lower Falls and Grand Canyon — Yellowstone River, Wyoming

Yellowstone National Park is famous for its active geysers, hot springs, fumaroles, and mud volcanoes. It also has spectacular scenic views like the Lower Falls and Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone River. The falls have a height of 308 feet and a width of 70 feet as the river goes over the falls. The canyon is an erosional feature cut through rhyolite lava flows which were hydrothermally altered by heat and chemical action in the geyser basin. Photo was taken from Inspiration Point east of the falls.

From the Editor

For nearly 50 years, the American Geophysical Union's Fall Meeting has been held in San Francisco, and during that time it has become one of the most well-regarded scientific meetings in the world. Currently, the Moscone Center's renovation plans pose a significant risk to AGU's ability to deliver a successful scientific program at their Fall Meeting. The AGU cast around for viable alternative venues. **For 2017, New Orleans emerged as the top city.** AGU said that, in addition to having the entire meeting under one roof, New Orleans offers a great deal of convenience to its attendees (e.g., the number of hotel rooms within one mile), and the city was able to accommodate our preferred dates at low cost and provide abundant amenities (e.g., proximity of restaurants and entertainment). Washington DC will be the AGU Fall Meeting venue for 2018; New Orleans was not chosen for 2018 because we are already hosting other meetings during AGU's preferred dates. At this point NOGS and the other geoscience organizations don't know how we will fit in with AGU's planning. If successful, New Orleans might become a recurrent host AGU's Annual Meeting!



Tom
Tom Klekamp, Editor



Contact:
Annette Hudson
info@nogs.org

2016 ADVERTISING RATES

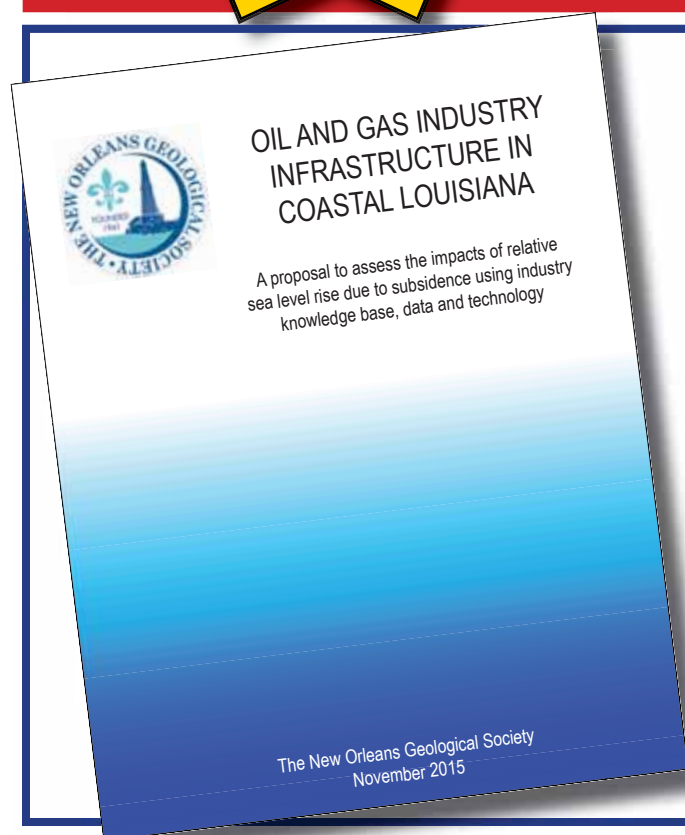
The New Orleans Geological Society was formed in 1941, with an initial membership of only 55. It has always been an active professional society and presently has a membership of 500.

AD SIZE	2015 RATE	NEW 2016 RATE!
Full Page (7.5"x10")	\$3500	\$1750
Half Page (3.75"x10" or 7.5"x5")	\$1850	\$925
Quarter Page (3.75"x5" or 7.5"x2.5")	\$1000	\$500
Eighth Page (3.75"x2.5")	\$600	\$300
Twelfth Page (3.75"x1.65")	\$375	\$188
Note Size (3.75"x.75")	\$120	\$60



PREMIUM LOCATIONS

Inside Front Cover.....	+30%
Opposite President's Page.....	+20%
Opposite Oral Abstract.....	+20%
Inside Back Cover	+30%
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NOGS PROPOSAL: OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY INFRASTRUCTURE IN COASTAL LOUISIANA

Published now on NOGS' website:

***[http://www.nogs.org/Content/pdf/NOGS-Faulting
%20and%20Subsidence%20in%20
Coastal%20Louisiana.pdf](http://www.nogs.org/Content/pdf/NOGS-Faulting%20and%20Subsidence%20in%20Coastal%20Louisiana.pdf)***

The proposal is for the oil and gas industry to promote university research projects to assess the impacts of relative sea level rise due to subsidence on the coastal infrastructure using industry knowledge base, data and technology. The proposal has been in development for some time, and we currently have projects in various stages of development at UNO, Tulane and LSU. We are working to expand the effort and are in discussions with UT Austin, USM and LUMCON about future projects.

If you know of any areas or specific projects that would benefit from the type of evaluation envisioned by this proposal, please let us know, and we will work to get it done.



From the President

It seems that every time I attend a NOGS Luncheon or some other industry event, I hear of another friend or colleague that has been adversely affected by the current downturn in the oil and gas industry. Almost daily, another petroleum company announces plans for massive layoffs or even bankruptcy to help improve their short term bottom line. Many of these companies were ill-prepared for such a sudden and sharp decrease in commodity prices last year and didn't have enough cash or have long-term oil and gas hedge contracts in place to weather today's economic maelstrom. I've survived a number of these downturns but none as suddenly severe as this one. In the mid 1980's and throughout much of the 1990's, many petroleum companies merged, went bankrupt, or simply closed while laying off many thousands of skilled and innovative geologists and geophysicists. These down cycles also affected enrollment in university geoscience programs, and several closed their degree programs permanently. Ultimately, this created a tremendous loss of talent because many G&G professionals and future students simply gave up on the oil and gas industry and changed careers—never to return. Are we currently headed for another big "brain drain" of innovative G&G professionals because companies want to quickly improve their bottom lines by the use of seemingly indiscriminant layoffs of thousands of employees? I hope that most companies take the longer cyclical view of the petroleum industry and realize that when commodity prices do recover (soon, I hope), skilled and experienced professionals will be needed to quickly return to a high level of prosperity. Indeed, the word "company" itself suggests that talented workers and their ideas are at the heart of any business enterprise. It is a combination of two Latin words "com" and "pani," meaning literally, "with bread." Roman soldiers, after a hard fought battle, would sit around a campfire and share bread while celebrating the day's victory or commiserating about their losses, but always coming up with new ways to improve their techniques for the next battle. Nowadays, smart companies most likely to prosper in the future keep their experienced staffs intact so they can continue to innovate and come

up with new ideas to win the battle of income over expenses. I sincerely hope that all of you survive this horrible downturn and that you don't give up on the petroleum industry as a long term career. Best of Luck!

It's not too early to place a couple of NOGS-sponsored events on your professional calendar. The annual FETCH! Super Saurus Saturday is scheduled for April 16 at the Louisiana Children's Museum in downtown New Orleans. And, the NOGS Entertainment Committee has recently made definitive plans to join PLANO for this year's NOGS Golf Tournament, to be held on Monday, April 25 at Money Hill Golf & Country Club near Abita Springs. Both of these events benefit children's education in the geosciences and as usual NOGS will need volunteers to make the events successful. I will have much more on these events and the importance to NOGS of children's geoscience education in next month's President's Letter.

Our next NOGS luncheon is scheduled for Monday, March 7, 11:30 am, at the Holiday Inn Downtown. The speaker, **Abah Philip Omale**, is currently a doctoral student at LSU and will present the results of his recently published LSU Master's thesis. His talk is entitled "Using Fault Kinematics to Evaluate the Relationship between Cenozoic Fault Activity, Sedimentation Rates and Salt Movement in the Gulf of Mexico: A Comparison between Southwestern and Southeastern Louisiana." This talk should be of interest to both onshore and offshore GOM professionals. At this same meeting, the slate of candidates for the 2016-2017 Board will be announced. Thanks to **Bill Whiting** for putting together a strong slate of new NOGS Board nominees. As in past years, these candidates will be running unopposed. If you think you would like to run for NOGS Board membership, please attend the next NOGS luncheon and place your name in nomination for any of the Board positions. Serving on the NOGS Board is a truly wonderful and fulfilling experience.

See you at the next NOGS Luncheon.

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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School Outreach	Thomas C. Bergeon	Century Exploration	504-832-3772	Tom.bergeon@centuryx.com
Special Projects	TBD			

NOGS LOG STAFF

Editor	Tom Klekamp	Amber Resources, LLC	985-630-2480	ekle1959@gmail.com
Editor-Elect	Laura Sorey	Chevron	985-773-1870	laura.sorey@chevron.com
Auxiliary	Peggy Rogers	NOGA	504-392-6323	lrogers79@cox.net
Drill Bits	Al Baker	Beacon Exploration, LLC	504-836-2710	ABaker1006@aol.com
Drill Bits	Carlo C. Christina	Retired (C & R Expl. Inc.)		carlocc398@aol.com
Drill Bits	Kevin Trosclair		504-202-7997	kevintrosclair@gmail.com
Staff Photographer	Arthur Christensen	Shalimar Consulting	985-893-2013	arthur_shalimar@yahoo.com
Layout / Printing	Kristee Brown	Creative Graphics & Printing, LLC	985-626-5223	kpbrown@bellsouth.net
Webmaster	Charles Miller	OCSBBS Website	504-439-3164	cmiller@ocsbbs.com

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March 7 • NOGS Luncheon

Holiday Inn Downtown Superdome

\$3.00 validated parking in hotel garage

Presentation:

Using Fault Kinematics to Evaluate the Relationship Between Cenozoic Fault Activity, Sedimentation Rates and Salt Movement in the Gulf of Mexico

Guest Speaker:

Abah Omale

LSU Dept. of Geology and Geophysics • Baton Rouge, 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

March 10

SGS Luncheon

Gene Sparkman

What Can We Get From Phase Decomposition?

March 24-25

10th Annual Louisiana Groundwater, Surface Water
& Water Resources Symposium

Energy, Coast and Environmental Center, LSU • Baton Rouge, LA

http://www.brgs-la.org/web-content/conferences/Announcement_2016_LA_Water_Symposium.pdf

April 16

Super Science Saturday

Louisiana Children's Museum • New Orleans, LA

Contact Tom Bergeon 504-832-3772 or tom.bergeon@upstreamexp.com

April 25

NOGS / PLANO Golf Tournament

Money Hill Golf and Country Club • Abita Springs, LA

Call NOGS office for information on hole sponsorship, 504-561-8980

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Continued from previous page

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Phone

504-831-6700
504-593-3623
504-947-8495
504-220-6208
504-214-6754
985-630-2480
504-975-6735
504-836-2710

E-mail

kelli.hardesty@erm.com
reiterde@stoneenergy.com
bootscon@aol.com
artjohnson51@hotmail.com
greatmre@aol.com
ekle1959@gmail.com
charleswholman@bellsouth.net
abaker1006@aol.com

McMoRan Exploration Company
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504-582-4510
504-425-6214
504-220-6208
504-947-8495
985-773-6725
985-630-6898

elizabeth_mcdade@fmi.com
gregory.janevski@shell.com
artjohnson51@hotmail.com
bootscon@aol.com
dbalcer@chevron.com
earlcumming@bellsouth.net

BOPCO, LP

504-836-7200

spboudreaux@basspet.com



March 7 NOGS Luncheon Presentation

☆☆☆ at the Holiday Inn Superdome ☆☆☆

Using Fault Kinematics to Evaluate the Relationship Between Cenozoic Fault Activity, Sedimentation Rates and Salt Movement in the Gulf of Mexico — A Comparison Between Southwestern and Southeastern Louisiana

Presented by

Abah Omale

LSU Dept. of Geology and Geophysics
Baton Rouge, Louisiana



ABSTRACT

Fault initiation and reactivation across south Louisiana during the Cenozoic was driven by either clastic sediment progradation mobilizing underlying salt or by sediment progradation inducing tensional bending stresses during lithospheric flexure. Climate and tectonics within the North American continent during the Cenozoic created differences in the source location, amount of sediments transported, as well as the spatial and temporal distribution of sediments transported into the Gulf of Mexico.

This study analyzes 140 fault intercepts along 11 regional cross sections containing well log data in south Louisiana. Cumulative throw, incremental throw, and fault slip rates indicate fault activity punctuated by periods of fault inactivity in southwest and southeast Louisiana. Results show a correlation

between the timing of fault reactivation and the location of sediment depositional centers in the Cenozoic. In southwest Louisiana and southeast Louisiana faulting increases significantly in the Oligocene-Early Miocene and Early Miocene respectively during the emergence of new depositional centers in these areas. The pattern of fault activity correlates with the pattern of sediment deposition by showing a similar shift in major activity from southwest to southeast Louisiana through time. The Eocene period marks a time when most faults in southwest and southeast Louisiana were inactive, possibly because the sediment depositional center existed in central Louisiana. These data show that the timing of fault activity correlates with the timing of sediment loading and salt movement as opposed to lithospheric flexure in the Cenozoic.

BIOGRAPHY



Abah Philip Omale obtained a Bachelor's degree in Geology from the Federal University of Technology in Akure, Nigeria in 2009 where he worked on 'Predicting the Extinction of Lake Chad' for his senior thesis. In January 2013, he came to Louisiana State University for his Masters in Geology and graduated in August 2015. During his Master's program, he studied the interaction among fault activity, sediment deposition and salt movement in South Louisiana. He recently published his first paper in the *GCAGS Journal* 2015 (Vol. 4). He is now studying for a Ph.D in Geology at Louisiana State University since Spring 2016.

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

"And Looking Ahead . . ."

The next luncheon will be held on April 4. Our guest speaker, Dr. Sherwood "Woody" Gagliano, of Coastal Environments, Inc., will present "Geoarchaeology of Tectonic Events in South Louisiana." Contact the NOGS office at 561-8980 or use the PayPal link on the NOGS website (www.nogs.org) to make your reservation.

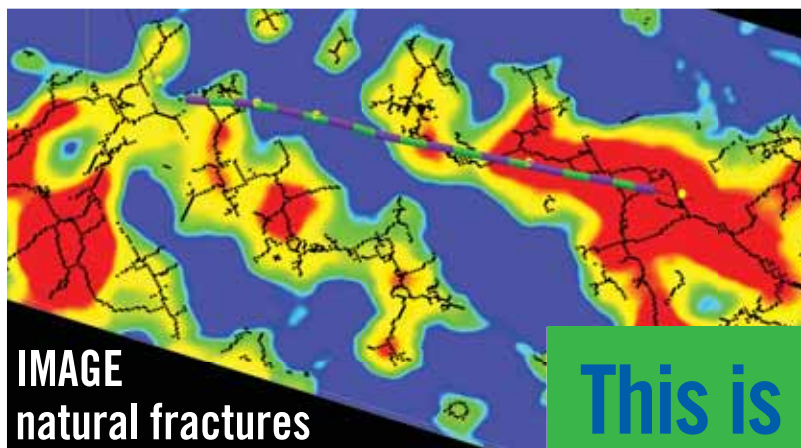
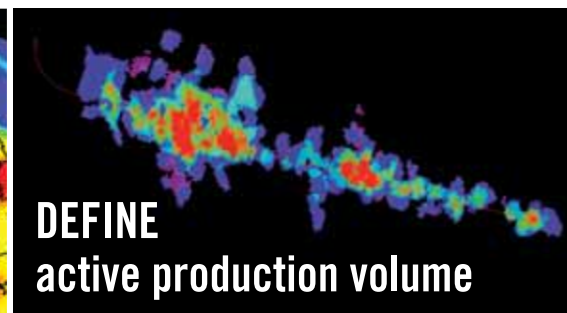
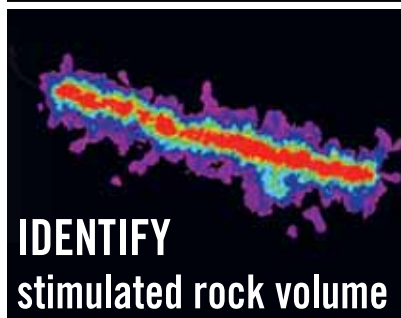


IMAGE
natural fractures

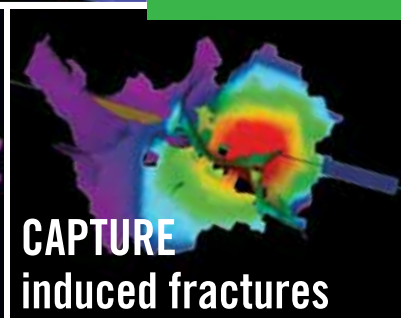


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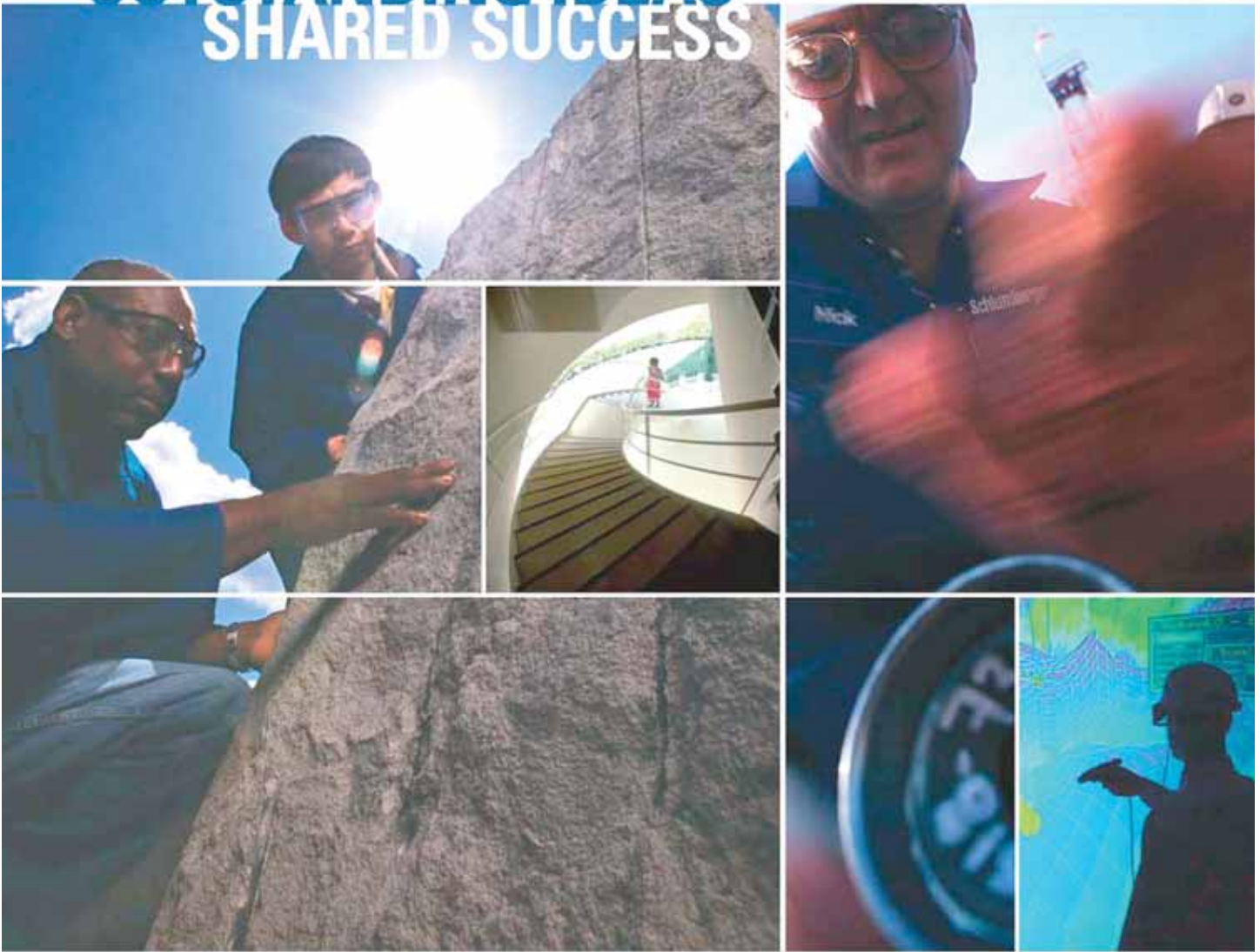
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS: MARCH & APRIL 2016

2016	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT / INFO
6 Mar	Children's Museum of St. Tammany Fundraiser 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.	Castine Ctr Mandeville	http://www.cmstkids.org/celebration
7 Mar	NOGS Luncheon Abah Omale "Using Fault Kinematics to Evaluate the Relationship Between Cenozoic Fault Activity, Sedimentation Rates and Salt Movement in the Gulf of Mexico"	Holiday Inn Superdome	annette@nogs.org or 504-561-8980
10 Mar	SGS Luncheon Gene Sparkman "What Can We Get From Phase Decomposition?"	Holiday Inn Superdome	Louis.Sturgess@shell.com 504-425-7636
11 Mar	NOGS Best paper Award to be Presented Noon - 1 pm Dr. Jacob Covault "Water Channel Compartmentalization and Evolution"	Tulane Room 201 Herbert Building	IMPORTANT! Email NOGS Office if you plan to attend. annette@nogs.org or 504-561-8980
11 Mar	GS Luncheon - Baton Rouge Topic: TBA	Mike Anderson's 1031 W. Lee Dr. Baton Rouge	Lisa Pultz at lisapultz@cox.net or http://www.brgs-la.org/
15 Mar	SIPES Luncheon - TBA	Andrea's Metairie	Reservations: Carol St. Germaine 504-267-3466
17 Mar	SPWLA Luncheon - TBA	Holiday Inn Superdome	https://www.spwla.org/chapters/new-orleans
21-22 Mar	Geological Society of America - Sectional Meeting	Hilton Baton Rouge Capitol Center	http://www.geosociety.org/Sections/sc/2016mtg/
24-25 Mar	10th Annual Louisiana Groundwater, Surface Water & Water Resources Symposium	Energy, Coast & Environmental Bldg. LSU Baton Rouge	http://www.brgs-la.org/web-content/Conferences/Announcement_2016_LA_Water_Symposium.pdf
4 Apr	NOGS Luncheon Dr. Sherwood "Woody" Gagliano "Geoarchaeology of Tectonic Events in South Louisiana"	Holiday Inn Superdome	annette@nogs.org or 504-561-8980
12 Apr	Petroleum Geology for Non Geologists 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.	Shell Annex Auditorium 701 Poydras St.	\$35 - Contact annette@nogs.org or 504-561-8980
15 Apr	SIPES Luncheon	Andrea's Metairie	Reservations: Carol St. Germaine 504-267-3466
16 Apr	Super Science Saturday 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	LA Children's Museum	Tom Bergeon, 504-832-3772 tom.bergeon@upstreamexp.com
21 Apr	SPWLA Luncheon - TBS	Holiday Inn Superdome	https://www.spwla.org/chapters/new-orleans
25 Apr	NOGS-PLANO Golf Tournament	Money Hill Golf & Country Club Abita Springs, LA	annette@nogs.org or 504-561-8980

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 Dunlap

As I write this, it is hard to believe we are just days away from Mardi Gras. Some of our members have been very involved in the celebrations this year. Alma Dunlap had two granddaughters, Emily and Camille Dunlap, presented as maids in the Caliphs of Cairo Ball. Debra and Mike Fein's daughter, Meryl, reigned as Empress of the Krewe of Caesar, and Trudy and Charley Corona's grandson, Blake Verdigets, was a prince in Caesar. Congratulations to all!



*Charley and Trudy Corona
with Blake Verdigets*



Debra and Meryl Fein



*Alma Dunlap
with Emily Dunlap*

The next meeting of the Auxiliary will be held on February 17 at Metairie Country Club. Mary Ellis Hasseltine and Judy Sabaté are planning this event. We are looking forward to hearing Jeff Crouere, host of "Ringside Politics" speak to us. He should have lots to talk about with the recent state and upcoming national elections. Write-up and photos will be in the next LOG.

Peggy Rogers, *NOGS LOG*

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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NOGS WELCOMES

Submitted by Laura Sorey

Stephen Boudreaux is a new member to NOGS from BOPCO, LP (formerly Bass) in Metairie. Steve began his O&G career with Gulf Oil as a field engineer in the Timbalier Bay area. He then transitioned to production engineer in the office and continued the same duties with Chevron in various GOM fields. Steve has been with BOPCO since 1999 working inland bay and land locations in Louisiana and south Texas. Steve is a mechanical engineering graduate of the University of New Orleans.

20th Annual Gulf of Mexico
Deepwater
Technical Symposium

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Our mission is to protect the public health, safety, and welfare and to guard the state's natural resources with regard to environmental and civil projects where a geoscientific review and evaluation is required in the making of recommendations of any geoscientific components of said projects.

More Sporcle Games!

Below are few more Sporcle game links for your use, as a general trivia pleasure or a geology refresher. The first two games are clickable quickies! The next four require filling in missing words or provide answers from hints.

www.sporcle.com/games/Geo1/clicking-geology-time
www.sporcle.com/games/cfxlspo/clickable-world-capitals
www.sporcle.com/games/cfxlspo/missing-word-about-houston
www.sporcle.com/games/cfxlspo/ology-science-terms
www.sporcle.com/games/cfxlspo/five-longest-rivers-by-continent
www.sporcle.com/games/markassonne/find-the-tectonic-plates

Good Luck! Cyril Lobo

PETROLEUM GEOLOGY FOR NON-GEOLOGISTS

Sponsored by

The New Orleans Geological Society

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

8:30 am to 3:30 pm

Shell Auditorium Annex in the Shell Building

One Shell Square, 701 Poydras Street, New Orleans

COST: \$35.00 per participant

Course notes and mid-morning refreshments will be provided.

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN:

- Introduction to Basic Geology
- Review of how oil and gas are formed,
- How oil and gas are concentrated in reservoirs
- Geological and geophysical methods used in exploration
- Review of drilling and completion practices

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Anyone who works with geologists and geological data
- Secretaries
- Landmen and land personnel
- Lease analysts
- Attorneys and Paralegals
- Draftsmen
- Engineers
- Technicians
- IT people, programmers and processors



YOUR INSTRUCTORS AND FACILITATORS:

Duncan Goldthwaite, consulting geologist

Bill Haworth, Chevron (retired)

Bruce Robertson, consulting geologist and geology professor, University of Southern Mississippi

HOW TO REGISTER:

1. PayPal using the NOGS Website www.nogs.org Payment Center. Scroll down to NOGS Special Events. Payments for multiple attendees can be made, and should be listed under the Instructions to Merchant section.
2. By check for \$35.00, payable to the New Orleans Geological Society and mailed to: New Orleans Geological Society, 810 Union St., Ste. 300, New Orleans LA 70112

When registering, please give your name, work or home mailing address, e-mail, telephone number and company affiliation, if any.



The combined profit from this event
will benefit the
Children's Museum Initiative
on the north and south shores.

This year NOGS and PLANO are joining forces for the
2016 Annual Golf Tournament

Please register early! We are limited to only 120 players.

Money Hill Golf and Country Club
Abita Springs, LA
Monday, April 25th

Format: 4-person scramble
with shotgun start at High Noon.

**Post tournament dinner sponsored by
Diversified Well Logging**

Registration opens at 10:00 a.m.
with Brunch served until tee time.

Price includes green fees, cart, range balls, food & drinks, flight, and prizes.
What else could you possibly ask for?

Costs:

\$140/individual • \$650/corporate • Hole sponsors are \$125

We need volunteers!

If you can help out, you will be treated to a day of fun, food, and be eligible for some door prizes.

Donations of any kind are welcome!

TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION APPLICATION ON FOLLOWING PAGE

FIRST CALL FOR PAPERS AND POSTER PRESENTATIONS

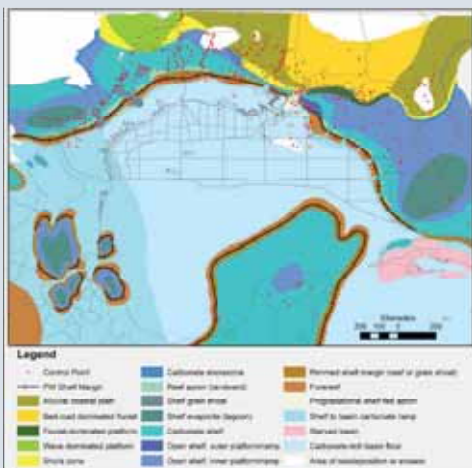
Mesozoic of the Gulf Rim and Beyond:

New Progress in Science and Exploration of the Gulf of Mexico Basin

35th Annual GCSSEPM Foundation Perkins-Rosen Research Conference

DECEMBER 4-6, 2016 • OMNI HOUSTON WESTSIDE • HOUSTON, TEXAS

The 2016 Perkins-Rosen Research Conference will focus upon the Mesozoic of the Gulf Basin, from mountain source terrain to deep-water abyssal plain. A significant portion of the program will be devoted to the Mesozoic of Mexico and its potential for international exploration. A highlight will be a special SEPM-sponsored research symposium on Mesozoic source to sink: provenance and process led by Mike Blum (U. Kansas).



Other Topical sessions

- Mesozoic depositional models, onshore to offshore
- Pre-salt basin paleogeographic reconstruction
- Emerging Mesozoic Plays in USA and Mexico
- The KPg impact event and sedimentary effects
- Mexico's Mesozoic reservoirs and future potential

Field Trip to the Eagle Ford Outcrops of West Texas

Friday Dec. 2 – Sunday Dec. 4

Optional Core Workshop, December 7th, 2016

Technical Program Committee Leaders

John W. Snedden, UT-Austin; Mike Blum, U. Kansas, and Chris Lowery, UT-Austin

2000-character abstract due January 15, 2016 • Full papers and extended abstracts due May 15, 2016

Send to cmowery@utexas.edu

NOGS/PLANO 2016 Annual Golf Tournament Registration

Please register early! We hope this event will fill up, and we are limited to only 120 players.

Remember you are not registered until NOGS has received payment and you are confirmed by Annette.

Make sure you supply your handicap or a score that typifies a set of rounds of golf.

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South Louisiana and Offshore Gulf of Mexico Exploration and Production Activities

LAFAYETTE DISTRICT, ONSHORE AREA

By Kevin Trosclair and Carlo C. Christina

The rig count at the end of January (Baker-Hughes) for the United States is 619 rigs, down from 1543 rigs year ago. The total rig count for Louisiana (not including the OCS) was 32 rigs, down from 36 rigs one year ago.

*North Louisiana Rigs:24
South Louisiana Rigs:8
Land Rigs:7
Inland Waters:.....1*

The Office of Conservation, Lafayette District, Onshore Area, issued 9 permits to drill during the month of January, compared to 20 permits one year ago. With such a large decrease in the number of new permits, we took a quick look-back on the new locations reported in Drill Bits since August 2015 to gain some insight as to how these operators are performing. Of the 23 locations that were reported 4 were completed as gas or oil wells, 5 were dry holes, 6 permits have expired and 8 are being carried as locations with no work performed to date. There is only one new location of interest to report this month:

NEW LOCATIONS

In Iberia parish, **Southeast Avery Island Field (A)**, LLOX, L.L.C. will drill the #1 Cris R Ra Sua; Avery Island Inc. (SN 249490) in Sec. 44, 13S-6E to a proposed total depth of 21,000 feet (20,000 TVD).

The first well in Southeast Avery Island Field was drilled in 1970 and multiple wells have produced from Planulina and Siphonina davisii Sands. This proposed well is a directional well with the PBHL 3,493 feet northwest of the surface location and is targeting deeper Cris R sands. The nearest production in the field is more than 1 mile to the southeast.

COMPLETIONS

In Cameron Parish, **Chalkley Field (B)**, Hilcorp Energy Company completed the #13 Sweet Lake Land & Oil Co Inc. (SN 249320) in Sec. 14, 12S-7W, as a gas well in the Camerina C Reservoir flowing 8,015 MCFD and 800 BCPD through perforations at 12,834-12,852, 12,864-12,872 and 12,878-12,886 feet. The well was drilled to a total depth of 13,083 feet (11,878 TVD).

Hilcorp Energy Company has a strong presence in South Louisiana.

According to the SONRIS database, Hilcorp operates 3411 wells in the Lafayette district and was South Louisiana's largest oil producer in 2015 with 664 oil wells. In the past year Hilcorp has drilled 10 producers and 2 dry holes.

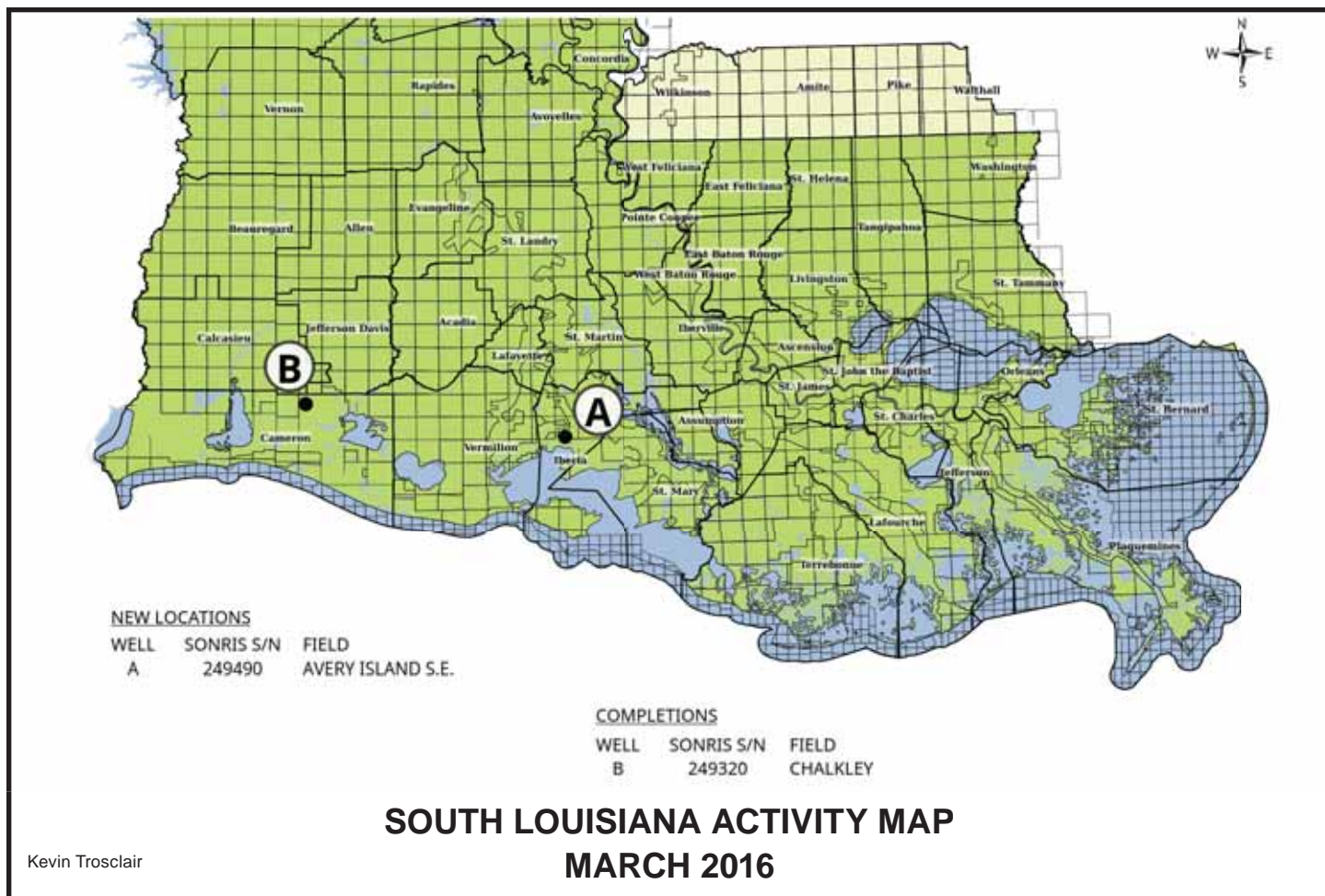
OFFSHORE GULF OF MEXICO SHELF AND DEEPWATER ACTIVITIES

by Al Baker

During **January 2016**, the BOEM approved **69** Gulf of Mexico drilling permits. Of these, **8** were for shelf wells, and **61** were for deepwater wells. Of the total number of permits, there were **10 new well permits** issued consisting of **2 shelf** permits and **8 deepwater** permits.

The two shelf new well permit were issued to **Arena Offshore** for their **South Timbalier 131 #K-5** development well and to **Byron Energy** for their **South Marsh Island 6 #2** exploration well.

The eight new deepwater well permits were for 6 exploration wells and 2 development wells. Three of the new exploration well permits were awarded to **Chevron** for their **Keathley Canyon 102 #2**, **Green Canyon 640 #PC-3** and **Green Canyon 806 #1** wells. **Shell Offshore** received



two of the new exploration well permits for their **Garden Banks 559 #OR-4** and **Mississippi Canyon 475 #1** wells. **Anadarko Petroleum** obtained one exploration well permit for their **Keathley Canyon 875 #7** well.

The two development new well permits were issued to **BHP Billiton Petroleum (GOM)** for their **Green Canyon 654 #WI-1** well and to **BP Exploration & Production** for their **Green Canyon 825 #1** well.

On January 29th, **IHS-Petrodata** reported that the Gulf of Mexico mobile offshore rig supply stood at **124**, which is **1** more than reported last month. The marketed rig supply consisted of **73** rigs, of which **49** were under contract. The contracted versus total rig supply utilization rate is **39.5%**, while the marketed contracted versus marketed supply utilization rate stands at **67.1%**. The marketed rig supply number is **2** less than reported last month, and the contracted rig supply number is **6** less than reported last month. In contrast, the January 2015 fleet utilization rate stood at 55.8% with 67 out of the 120 rigs under contract.

On January 29th, **BakerHughes** indicated that there were **28** active mobile offshore rigs in the Gulf of Mexico, which is **57.1%** of the rigs under contract

mentioned above. This active rigs number is **4** more than reported last month. The current active rigs count compares to 49 active rigs during the same period last year, representing a **42.9%** drop (minus 21 rigs) in yearly rig activity.

As of January 29th, the **BakerHughes** total U.S. rig count stood at **619** rigs. This number is **down 59.9%** from a year ago when the total rig count was at **1543** rigs, and it is also **down 69% from the October 10, 2014 peak**. Of the 619 rigs, **497** were oil rigs, which is the **lowest number since March 2010**. The remaining **122** rigs are gas rigs, which is the **lowest number in the BakerHughes dataset that extends back to 1987**.

On January 20th, **Petsec Energy** announced that a platform will be installed over their jointly-owned **Main Pass Block 270#3 ST-1** well on their **Hummer Prospect**. The exploration well was drilled to a total depth of **14,342 feet MD/14,300 feet TVD** and subsequently mudline suspended in **215 feet of water**. The operator of the well, **Castex Energy**, sidetracked the original hole due to a stuck wireline formation test tool. Testing of the sidetrack well will commence in 6 to 7 months following the fabrication and installation of the platform.

CALL FOR PAPERS

ABSTRACT DEADLINE: April 15, 2016

PETROLEUM HISTORY INSTITUTE 2016 ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM



GATEWAY TO THE OIL FIELDS, CASPER, WYO.

Casper, Wyoming “The Oil City” July 28-31, 2016

REGISTRATION AND EVENING RECEPTION

Thursday, July 28th, 2016

PRESENTATIONS – ORAL AND POSTER

Friday, July 29th, 2016

Symposium Headquarters: the *Ramkota Hotel and Conference Center*, Casper

Proceedings to be published in the 2016 volume of *Oil-Industry History*

FIELD TRIP

Saturday July, 30th, 2016

Stops will include Teapot Dome, site of the 1920's Presidential scandal,
and the giant Salt Creek Field, discovered 1889

For symposium details, see: www.petroleumhistory.org

ABSTRACTS BEING ACCEPTED NOW

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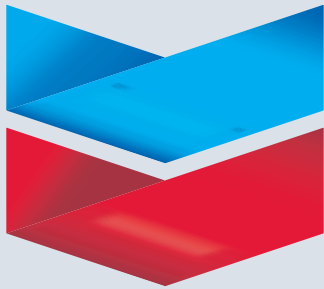
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L-R: Our hostess, **Aisha Ashiru**, of The Islamic School of New Orleans; **Dr. Nancy Hopkins**, Tulane University and whom we know from Region 9 Science Fair; **Dr. Mostafa Elaasar**, Southern University of New Orleans; **Cathy Boucvalt**, John Curtis Christian School and NOGS Honorary Member; **Art Johnson**, President, Hydrate International, Inc.; **Bill Watson**, Avondale Shipyard (retired); **Mitchell Hartley**, UNO, International Studies student; **Dr. Syed Muniruzzaman**, Xavier University; **Mike Fein**, NOGS Awards Chairman



World Enough and Time

Intermittent cataclysmic events notwithstanding, the study of geologic time largely consists of broad spans of history that are organized retroactively based on human definitions of changes or shifts within the geologic record. In short, we are the literary critics arguing bitterly over what Shakespeare meant by a particular monologue, and geology is King Lear. So we venture into uncharted territory as research scientists now contend that not only has Earth transitioned into a new time epoch but that humanity itself is the impetus for this new geologic age. Though a topic of informal discussion within geologic circles for several years, a recent article by the Anthropocene Working Group in *Nature* makes the formal case that modern materials ranging from plastics to nuclear test byproducts have significantly altered the nature of the sediment record related to the Holocene epoch of the modern Cenozoic era.

Researchers with the AWG, a panel associated with the International Commission on Stratigraphy, argue that the introduction of radioactive elements from thermonuclear weapons, modern materials such as plastic or building materials, black carbon from fossil fuel combustion, and other traces of human activity are ubiquitous enough so that they will be preserved within the sediment record on a global scale. Dr. Colin Waters served as an author on the paper and discussed the findings with *The Guardian* explaining that, "What this paper does is to say the changes are as big as those that happened at the end of the last ice age. This is a big deal."

He goes on to enumerate some of the myriad ways in which human industry has altered the environment increased rates of atmospheric CO₂ and methane accumulation as well as materials like concrete and plastic. But one of the most meaningful and pervasive pieces of evidence that we entered a new epoch in the 20th century is the inclusion of radioactive elements into sediment and ice records across the globe. This phenomenon of the incorporation of post-bomb nuclear material into the environment has already been marked and exploited with the use of tritium as an aqueous tracer after the 1950's. So it stands to reason that there would be widespread incorporation of tritium and other components of post-bomb chemistry into aspects of the water and sediment systems. The post-bomb period also serves as the focal point for discussions around the formalization of the start

date of the proposed Anthropocene. According to a recent BBC report on the panel's findings, the 1950's mark the beginning of "Great Acceleration" when human society's population, technology, and consumption abruptly began to evolve at rates and magnitudes not seen in previous millennia. Based on this understanding, the commencement of the Anthropocene could be argued to coincide with this shift in human behavior. However, the panel's findings do not represent a final conclusion on the discussion but rather provides the information necessary for the next level of decision making regarding the characterization of geologic time.

While this paper is unaccompanied by the public fascination that heralded the International Astronomical Union's declassification of Pluto as a planet in 2006, this statement by the AWG represents a meaningful shift in how we view the influence of modern humanity on the environment. Scientists arguing for the change maintain that the new epoch would demonstrate the significance of humanity's impact on nature. Though, some scientists who agree with the research and publically advocate climate change evidence question whether the discussion is better suited for cultural rather than geologic purposes. There also appears to be a knee-jerk reaction among some who question the veracity of anthropogenic climate change when they say that something like this is silly or unnecessary or to write it off as politically driven research. Quite frankly, it's difficult even for the most experienced of scientists to conceptualize that humanity is capability of fundamentally changing the planet itself. The scientific community continues to bitterly debate topics like the drivers and magnitude of climate change, the feasibility of alternative energy, or how to respond to crippling resource shortages. In light of these perceived chasms, does it actually matter what we call something as arbitrary as a time division? Yes, it matters. Of course it matters. To either write a scientific investigation off because it makes you uncomfortable or to mindlessly accept a hypothesis simply because it aligns with what you want to be confirmed presents a treacherous path. Agree, disagree, adopt it, or throw the proposal out the window. As scientists we have to be able to first identify a phenomenon if we ever hope to be able to understand and challenge it. Otherwise it is not science, and we are not scientists.

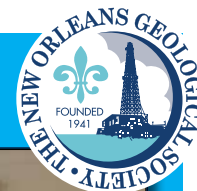


JANUARY 2016 SGS-NOGS LUNCHEON



Dr. Andrew Madof receives speaker's gift from SGS 1st Vice-President, Scott Glassman

FEBRUARY 2016 NOGS LUNCHEON



Carlo Christina, special guests Kathy Beauford and Gertie Marie Beauford, with Jeff Spencer (speaker)



Cincinnati geology alums: Mike Fein, Jeff Spencer, and Tom Klekamp



Kathy Haggard presents Jeff Spencer with speaker's memento



**Louisiana Geological Survey
&
Louisiana Water Resources Research Institute**

*Tenth Annual Louisiana
Groundwater, Surface Water
& Water Resources Symposium*



March 24 & 25, 2016

**Dalton Woods Auditorium, Energy, Coast, &
Environmental Building
Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana**

IMPORTANT DATES:

**Titles due February 11, 2016
Abstracts due February 25, 2016
Extended Abstracts due March 10, 2016
Symposium Day, March 24 & 25, 2016**

Registration Form

Procedure for early registration

- 1) Fill out the below registration form
- 2) Write out a check to Louisiana Geological Survey to cover costs
- 3) Mail check and this form to Louisiana Geological Survey at the below address:

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Louisiana Geological Survey
3079 Energy, Coast & Environment Building
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, LA 70801-0001

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If you are registering as a student, state academic major and university you are attending

Major: _____ University: _____

Signature of advisor: _____

Joint LGS/LWRI

Registration for Groundwater, Surface Water & Water Resources Symposium

Post marked on or before March 10 after March 10

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The Origins of St. Patrick's Day

St. Patrick's Day celebrates the Roman Catholic feast day of the patron saint of Ireland. Patrick's birthname was Maewyn. He was born in Roman Britain. He was kidnapped into slavery and brought to Ireland. He escaped to a monastery in Gaul (France) and converted to Christianity. He went back to Ireland in 432 as a missionary. While Christianity had already taken hold in the country, tradition has it that Patrick confronted the Druids at Tara and abolished their pagan rites, making Christianity more widespread. According to legend St. Patrick used the three leaf clover (or shamrock) to explain the Trinity.

Patrick became a bishop and after his death on March 17, 461, he was named Ireland's patron saint. When the Irish emigrated to the U.S., they created the bigger celebrations and parades known today. The celebrations became a way for the Irish to connect with their roots after they moved to America.

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*In Memory of Steve Widdicombe
and Carl Grieshaber*

Mr. James W. Yeldell, Jr.

In Memory of Raymond W. "Ray" Stephens, Jr.

Contributions for both funds through February 5, 2015.
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St. Patrick's Day Parades & Events



- Friday, March 11, 2016 • Molly's at the Market Irish Parade - 6:00 p.m.
- Saturday, March 12 & Thursday, March 17, 2016 • Parasol's Block Party 10 am-8 pm
- Saturday, March 12 & Thursday, March 17, 2016 • Tracy's Block Party 11 am-'til
- Saturday, March 12, 2016 • Irish Channel Parade - 1 pm
- Sunday, March 13, 2016 • St. Patrick's Day Parade on Metairie Rd. - 12 Noon
- Thursday, March 17, 2016 • Downtown Irish Club Parade - 6:00 pm
- Saturday, March 19, 2016 • Italian-American St. Joseph's Parade - 6 pm
- Sunday, March 20, 2016 • Louisiana Irish-Italian Parade (Metairie) - 12 Noon
- Saturday, April 16, 2016 • St. Bernard Irish-Italian Islenos Parade - 11 am



50th ANNUAL MEETING

March 21-22, 2016

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

<http://www.geosociety.org/sections/sc/2016mtg/>

Celebrating the Section's Golden Anniversary

This meeting of the South-Central Section, which is hosted by Louisiana State University and the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, will celebrate its Golden Anniversary by meeting at the Hilton Baton Rouge Capital Center, located in the state capital of Louisiana, Baton Rouge.

THE LOCATION

Founded in 1719, Baton Rouge is located on the banks of the Mississippi River just upstream from the world-famous delta that is building out into the Gulf of Mexico. The region is a classic area for the study of fluvial sedimentology, coastal geology, and hydrocarbon systems and salt tectonics. Geology underlies much of the economy of the region, which is also challenged by such issues as coastal land loss, including fragile wetlands, as a result of rising sea levels and subsidence. The region is also strongly affected by hurricane systems from the Gulf of Mexico.

- Extensive Technical Program
- Field trips to classic coastal and fluvial geology locales
- Prizes for student presenters
- Enjoy delicious crawfish at the height of the season

The meeting will be held in downtown Baton Rouge and specially priced accommodation options are available. Downtown is also noted for variety of restaurants in which to sample the well-known local cuisine, such as Po-boy and muffaletta sandwiches, jambalaya, and gumbo. There are a number of places to enjoy coffee, as well as bars for a tasty local microbrew beer or cocktail. Some venues provide the opportunity to listen to local music, such as the world-famous site Zydeco, and may afford a view of the Mississippi River, which is one block from the Hilton Hotel where the meeting is headquartered.



Skyline on the
Mississippi River



Old State Capitol
Rotunda



Horace Wilkison
Bridge



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