

NOGS LOG

DECEMBER 2017

Volume 58, Number 6



DECEMBER 4 - NOGS LUNCHEON & POSTER PRESENTATION

Elephants? In the U.S. Atlantic? • Guest Speaker: Paul Post

US Dept. of the Interior • Bureau of Land Management • New Orleans, Louisiana

Poster: A Fluid Pressure-Based Assessment of Vertical and Lateral Hydraulic Connectivity of the Wilcox Formation in the St. Malo Structure and Surrounding Area of Central Walker Ridge, Northern Gulf of Mexico

Ryan P. Jones and William F. Morrison

Dept. of Earth and Environmental Science • UNO • New Orleans, Louisiana



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Published monthly by the New Orleans Geological Society. This issue was sent to press on Nov. 30, 2017.

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on the cover

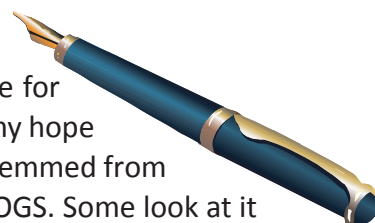
Cover photo by Jacob W. Frank / National Park Service

Tree covered in rime ice — Palette Spring, Wyoming Mammoth Hot Springs, Yellowstone National Park

This month's cover photo comes from Palette Spring within the Mammoth Hot Springs at Yellowstone National Park. While the nuances of different categories of naturally occurring ice is probably lost on most Louisianans, this image is striking due the dramatic appearance of rime ice clinging to the tree atop the ridge. Rime occurs when the water within fog rapidly freezes on the surface of various surfaces, typically under windy conditions. Thanks to its tendency to accumulate on the windward sides of objects like trees or structures, rime also poses a threat to human activities such as flying. Under favorable meteorological conditions, it can build up along the fuselage or leading edge of wings and propellers on planes and impact lift, drag, and weight.

From the Editor

I went through about four rewrites trying to craft a "From the Editor" appropriate for this time of year. I'm sorry to say they were all pretty sorry attempts at conveying my hope that everyone will have a peaceful and joyful holiday season. I think my difficulty stemmed from the knowledge that Christmas means different things to different people across NOGS. Some look at it as a time to gather with friends and family. Some likely have more complicated feelings towards the holiday for a variety of reasons. Whatever your personal experience or faith or cultural relationship to this time of year, I sincerely hope you find that previously referenced peace and joy in whatever form of celebration you may seek out. Whether its stealing chocolate from the dates to come in the Advent calendar, trying to fry latkes without starting a grease fire, incessantly quoting "Fra-gee-lay. Must be Italian," or simply gathering together with friends, I wish you all Happy Holidays.



Laura
Laura Sorey, Editor



FROM THE PRESIDENT **CHRIS MCLINDON**

A reasonable argument can be made that Charles Darwin's *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection, or the Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life* is the most important scientific work of the last 200 years. The fundamental concepts of evolution derived from his work have application across a wide range of scientific disciplines including biology, ecology, immunology, psychology, and sociology. Interestingly, it is probably earth science that played the most important role in the formulation and ultimate acceptance of this work. This underscores the importance of earth science as a foundational element of all natural sciences. The biggest challenge to the acceptance of Darwin's theory has always been the principle of creationism. Understanding creationism in the context of earth science is really what opened the door for Darwin.

The essence of the scientific problem with creationism was captured in the exchange in which Clarence Darrow examined William Jennings Bryan in the 1925 Scopes Trial. In that exchange Bryan explained how in 1650 Irish bishop James Ussher had determined that the earth was created at midday on October 23, 4004 B.C. Modern science recognizes that the earth is approximately 4.6 billion years old, and Ussher's calculation that the earth is only 6,000 years old is often attributed strictly to religious dogma. However, noted evolutionary biologist Stephen Jay Gould famously came to Ussher's defense in his 1991 essay "*The Fall of the House of Ussher*." Gould contended that Ussher had used "the best of scholarship in his time. He was part of a substantial research tradition, a large community of intellectuals working toward a common goal under an accepted methodology." Ussher's findings

were likely not based solely on religious belief. Gould noted that many cultures have had creation stories that invoke a very similar timeframe. It is likely that the 6,000-year period of creationism is the result of a basic limitation of human beings to perceive the span of geologic time. In much the same way that humans are only capable of seeing a narrow window of the electromagnetic spectrum that we call "visible light," it is likely that we are only inherently capable of conceiving of a narrow span of time equivalent to the 6,000 years that we commonly call "recorded human history." Technology has allowed for us to devise ways to "see" wavelengths in the infrared and ultraviolet portions of the spectrum, and we have similarly developed analogs and metaphors that help us to understand the scope of geologic time, such as the "football field geologic time scale." It appears likely however, that creationism exposes a basic human tendency to limit our perception of the world to the last 6,000 years. That is in fact the principal challenge that creationism poses to science literacy.

The first serious challenge to creationism came during the 18th century Scottish Enlightenment. James Hutton, who is often considered to be the father of geology, studied the rock outcrops around Edinburgh, and determined that the earth would have to be considerably older than 6,000 years to allow for all of the complexities that he was seeing in the rocks. Hutton proposed that the modern landscapes were not the result of a continuous, straight-line set of processes from creation to the present, as creationism held. He saw them as the result of innumerable cycles of building, destruction, and rebuilding. The creationism did not allow for the many repeated cycles of change that were recorded in the rocks. The development of Hutton's work was popularized by Charles Lyell. Lyell was a close friend of Darwin's, and Darwin carried a copy of Lyell's seminal work *Principles of Geology* on the HMS Beagle. There can be no doubt that Hutton's recognition of natural cycles and Lyell's focus on stratigraphy, paleontology and paleoanthropology heavily influenced Darwin in the development of his theory.

It is significant that the biggest challenge to Darwin's theory at the time of its publication also came from the earth science community. William

Thompson (Lord Kelvin) was widely recognized as one of the great scientific minds of the 19th century. It was his work in thermodynamics and heat conductivity that led him to conclude that the earth was not old enough to have allowed time for Darwin's model to have played out. Based on his largely correct calculations of heat flux, Kelvin concluded that the time span over which planet earth could support life could not exceed 400 million years, at which time it would succumb to "heat death." Kelvin was such a highly regarded scientist, his refutation of Darwin's theory shortly after its publication may have had lingering effects that carry through until today. Toward the end of his career Kelvin recognized that there were "two dark clouds" looming over the understanding of the dynamics of heat and light. In this regard he correctly predicted the scientific explosion

of the early 20th century, which brought about the theories of quantum mechanics, relativity and radioactivity. It turned out that radioactive heating was the heat source that Kelvin did not include in his calculations, and which explains how the planet has been able to sustain life for billions of years.

The interaction between earth science and Darwin's theory captures the true essence of science. It is not that Hutton, Lyell and Darwin were correct and Ussher and Kelvin were incorrect. It is that science is always in a continuous state of flux. It is as important to recognize the importance of Ussher's work as it is to recognize Darwin's work. Every aspect of scientific theory must always be subject to review and re-review. As soon as we say "the science is set" it ceases to be science.

Chris McLindon



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2017 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.

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December 4 • NOGS Luncheon

Holiday Inn Downtown Superdome

\$3.00 validated parking in hotel garage

Luncheon Presentation:

Elephants? In the U.S. Atlantic?

Guest Speaker:

Paul Post

US Dept. of the Interior • Bureau of Land Mgmt.
New Orleans, Louisiana

See page 8 for Abstract and Biography

Poster Presentation:

A Fluid Pressure-Based Assessment of Vertical and Lateral Hydraulic Connectivity of the Wilcox Formation in the St. Malo Structure and Surrounding Area of Central Walker Ridge, Northern Gulf of Mexico

Guest Speakers:

Ryan P. Jones & William F. Morrison

Dept. of Earth & Environmental Science • UNO
New Orleans, Louisiana

See page 9 for Abstract and Biographies

HOLIDAY INN DOWNTOWN SUPERDOME

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front desk for location.

Lunch served at 11:30 am

ADMISSION:

With reservation..... \$30.00

Without reservation \$35.00

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December 4

NOGS Luncheon & Poster Presentation

Holiday Inn Downtown Superdome • New Orleans, Louisiana

For more info: annette@nogs.org or 504-561-8980

December 11-15

American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting

Morial Convention Center • New Orleans, Louisiana

<https://fallmeeting.agu.org/2017/registration/>

December 9

NOGS Christmas Holiday Party

Home of Jack & Penny Bryant • 515 Northline St. • Metairie, LA

For more info, see our ad on the inside front cover of this issue.

January 8

NOGS Luncheon

Holiday Inn Downtown Superdome • New Orleans, Louisiana

For more info: annette@nogs.org or 504-561-8980

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Dec 4 NOGS Luncheon Presentation

☆☆☆ at the Holiday Inn Superdome ☆☆☆

Elephants? In the U.S. Atlantic?

Presented by

Paul Post

US Department of the Interior • Bureau of Land Management • New Orleans, Louisiana

ABSTRACT

"Elephant" size oil and gas fields have been discovered since 2001 in deep and ultra-deep waters offshore Northwest Africa (conjugate to the U.S. Atlantic Margin), the conjugate transform margins of West Africa and South America, and the East African Transform Margin. These discoveries have been used as analogs to upgrade the prospectivity and resource potential of similar settings in the underexplored U.S. Atlantic Margin. Resource volumes in these evolving analog areas are significant. The Northwest African Margin and West African Transform Margin discoveries have each been estimated to contain approximately 5.5 and 3.4 billion barrels of oil equivalent (BBOE). The East African Transform Margin analogs are considered to hold between 140 and 180 trillion cubic feet of gas (TCFG), approximately 20 – 30 BBOE.

Before these discoveries, the exploration histories of the Northwest African Margin (Mauritania-Senegal), the African (Côte d'Ivoire-Ghana) and East African Transform Margins (Tanzania-Mozambique), and the U.S. Atlantic Margin were eerily similar; characterized by "modest" discoveries and dry holes on the shallow water shelves of these areas.

Recent exploration results in the analogs have shown that the probability of economic failure can be high. This is in part related to the lack of infrastructure and the level of exploration maturity in the analog areas requiring "material" discoveries with resources of 200 MMBbls or 5 TCFG to be the currently considered thresholds for stand-alone development. Similar volumes would likely be needed in the U.S. Atlantic Margin to qualify as economic discoveries that would be needed to anchor a production hub.

Geologic literature, corporate presentations, and other publications provide seismic and subsurface

data that depict and characterize the analog deep and ultra-deepwater African discoveries. These data can be used to identify potentially similar features on the pre-1988 2D seismic data from the U.S. Atlantic Margin that has been vectorized, post-stack enhanced, in some cases reprocessed from the field tapes, and all of which was subsequently depth-converted and time-migrated. Comparisons suggest the possibility that elephants may exist in the U.S. Atlantic.

BIOGRAPHY

Paul Post is currently a staff geologist with the U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) in New Orleans, LA. He has been a consultant, a Sr. Staff Geologist/Exploration Supervisor, and worked in other exploration and management positions for independents and major companies. Paul has diverse global exploration experience in more than 80 basins, exploring in hundreds of petroleum systems and plays in a wide range of structural and stratigraphic settings.

He has lead authored publications for BOEM, and has been lead and co-author of papers published by GCSSEPM, GCAGS, and AAPG. Paul was co-editor and lead author of the Geological Society of London's SP 369 "Conjugate Divergent Margins". He convened or co-convened three GCSSEPM Research Conferences. He has edited more than 300 papers for GCSSEPM, AAPG, and the Geological Society of London. He has a BS in geology from Virginia Tech.





Dec 4 NOGS Poster Presentation

☆☆☆ at the Holiday Inn Superdome ☆☆☆

A Fluid Pressure-Based Assessment of Vertical and Lateral Hydraulic Connectivity of the Wilcox Formation in the St. Malo Structure and Surrounding Area of Central Walker Ridge, Northern Gulf of Mexico

Presented by

Ryan P. Jones and William F. Morrison

Department of Earth and Environmental Science • UNO

New Orleans, Louisiana

ABSTRACT

In Walker Ridge the Wilcox formation is an approximately 2,000 ft. thick turbidite sand sequence of interbedded sands, silts, and shales with proven hydrocarbon resources. The vertical and lateral hydraulic connectivity of sandstones within the Wilcox Formation for St. Malo (WR 677 and 678) was assessed using fluid pressure measurements obtained from the Modular Formation Dynamic Tester. Fluid pressure gradients indicate the Wilcox is divided vertically into two hydraulic intervals, corresponding to the Upper and Lower Wilcox. Except where fault separated, the Upper Wilcox demonstrates excellent vertical and lateral hydraulic continuity. The upper portions of the Lower Wilcox also demonstrate excellent vertical and lateral hydraulic continuity. However, deeper in the interval some variability in hydraulic connectivity is observed, possibly due to internal shale seals and/or penetration of small, sealing faults on the crest of the anticline

Nearby Wilcox penetrations at Stones (WR 507 and 508), Tucker (WR 544), Das Bump (WR 724, and Jack (WR 758) show excellent vertical hydraulic connectivity in the Upper Wilcox and similar variable continuity in the Lower Wilcox. However, neither Upper or Lower Wilcox is in lateral hydraulic communication with these five adjacent structures. We hypothesize that somewhat higher temperatures

as well as higher vertical effecting stress in the connecting synclines between structures has lowered porosity and permeability and is limiting regional lateral hydraulic connectivity of the Wilcox.

BIOGRAPHIES

Will Morrison is a graduate student at The University of New Orleans. He is from New Roads, Louisiana. He acquired his bachelor's degree in geology from Tulane University. Before starting graduate school, he was employed as a field geologist in Tampa, Florida and an HSE technician for Shell in the Gulf of Mexico. His thesis research involves using geophysics to assess fluid distribution in deep-water Wilcox fields. Will was on the UNO IBA team that won the Gulf South in 2016.

Ryan Jones received his Bachelors in Earth and Environmental Science from the University of New Orleans in 2013. After working for a mobile app developer, he returned to UNO for a master's degree where he has been a teaching assistant for several courses and is the past UNO-AAPG Student Chapter president. His thesis research investigates paleoclimate of the Neogene Siwalik group, Nepalese Himalaya, using a multi-proxy isotopic study. Ryan was on the UNO IBA team that won the Gulf South in 2016.

"And Looking Ahead . . ."

**THE DECEMBER LUNCHEON RESERVATION DEADLINE IS DEC 1.
CONTACT THE NOGS OFFICE**

The next luncheon will be held on January 8. Our guest speaker will be Dwayne Purvis, P.E. Contact the NOGS office at 504-561-8980 or use the PayPal link at www.nogs.org to make your reservation.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS: DECEMBER 2017 - JANUARY 2018

If you know of upcoming seminars or academic events that may be of interest to our members, please email the event details to Laura Sorey at nogseditor@gmail.com to be included in the monthly calendar.

2017	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT / INFO
4 Dec	NOGS Luncheon & Poster Presentation Speaker: Paul Post, BOEM "Elephants? In the Atlantic?" Poster Presentation: Ryan P. Jones and William F. Morrison Department of Earth and Environmental Science, UNO "A Fluid Pressure-Based Assessment of Vertical and Lateral Hydraulic Connectivity of the Wilcox Formation in the St. Malo Structure and Surrounding Area of Central Walker Ridge, Northern Gulf Of Mexico."	Holiday Inn Superdome	annette@nogs.org or 504-561-8980
4-5 Dec	36th Annual GCSSEPM Foundation Perkins-Rosen Research Conference "Sequence Stratigraphy: The Future Defined"	Marathon Conference Ctr. Houston, Texas	http://www.sepm.org/Forms.aspx?pageID=457
9 Dec	NOGS Christmas Holiday Party	Home of Jack & Penny Bryant 515 Northline St. • Metairie	For more info, see inside front cover
11-15 Dec	American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting	Morial Convention Center New Orleans, Louisiana	https://fallmeeting.agu.org/2017/registration/
25 Dec	Christmas Day		
1 Jan	New Years Day		
1 Jan	Registration Open 12th Annual Louisiana Water Conference	LSU Baton Rouge	https://easychair.org/cfp/lawater_2018
8 Jan	NOGS Luncheon Presentation Speaker: Dwayne Purvis, P.E. "Myths and Misunderstandings of Petroleum Engineering"	Holiday Inn Superdome	annette@nogs.org or 504-561-8980

2018 ASBOG Exam Information



The Louisiana Board of Professional Geoscientists will proctor the ASBOG Fundamentals of Geology and Practice of Geology exams on March 16, 2018.

LBPOG must receive your application (including transcript and references) for GIT certificate or PG license and the LBOPG Proctoring/Verification Application and Fee for approval by the Board prior to December 31, 2017.

Note: you must submit application for a GIT certificate or PG license along with relevant fees or already have an application pending in order to submit the application for proctoring.

See www.lbopg.org for more info.



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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."

NOGA Fall Luncheon

On Wednesday, November 8, twenty members of the Auxiliary gathered for their fall luncheon at Heritage Grill Metairie. They feasted on a lovely salad, choice of pork or redfish and all was followed by a melt-in-your-mouth creole bread pudding. The committee in charge of the day included Jean Jones, Diane Black and Pat Williamson. Table decorations of fall floral arrangements in vases made of wood bark were given away at the end of the meal, and everyone went away with a gift of chocolate peanut butter candy by Pat Williamson.

Some of those in attendance were Trez Zotkiewicz, just back from an African safari with Jim, Diane Black recuperating from knee surgery and Arleen Falchook with Martin. The members were also delighted that President Margie Conatser was in attendance. Much of the conversation was about members' plans for Thanksgiving with families and looking forward to the NOGS Christmas Party on December 9 at the home of Penny and Jack Bryant.

The Auxiliary will be hosting its next luncheon on February 21, 2018, at the Walnut Room at the Lakefront Airport. The committee for that event is Linda Peirce, Trez Zotkiewicz, and Ann Duffy. Spouses are invited to join us at that time.

Mary Walther, NOGA Director



Committee: Jean Jones, Diane Black, Pat Williamson



Trudy Corona, Alma Dunlap



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New Orleans Geological Auxiliary Membership Application

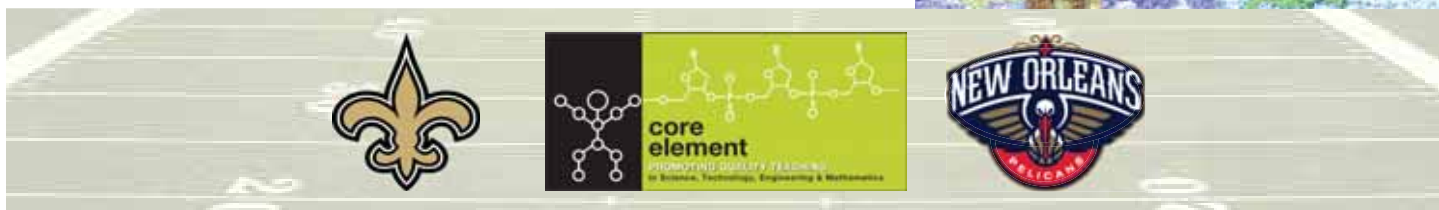
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Dues: \$25 payable to New Orleans Geological Auxiliary
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SAINTS STEM FEST 2017

On September 30th the Saints training facility was host to 43 science based organizations. **NOGS** took the field with 8 stations and the ever-popular oil finder game. Volunteers included **UNO** students **Frances Crawford** and **Jared Bullock** and **LSU SPE** students **Brittany Van Landingham**, **Cameron Ryan**, and **Farzad Sunavala**. **NOGS** members participating were **Brenda Reilly**, **Jade Haug**, **Bill Vollenwider**, **Monte Shalett**, **Tom George**, **Mike Anderson** and his wife **Opie Lee**, **Lisa Kennedy** with **SGS**, **Dave Cope** with the 3D workstation and **Bernie Regel** who also photographed the event. Children were taught how an oil field forms and parents both joined in on the teaching and learned a lot also. The highlight of the event was the augmented reality topographic sandbox. **Haley** and **Mark Rae** of **Reactive Digital Systems** brought their museum quality model to the event. Children were able to interact creating landforms and simulate rain on a topographic surface. **NOGS** is looking to help raise funds to place a topo box in the one of the emerging local Children's Museums.

Major thanks for all those who volunteered and made Saints STEM Fest such a success!



Museums *on the Move*

A lot of exciting activity is going on behind the scenes with our area Children's Museums. The Louisiana Children's Museum hosted Energy Day September 16th. This was a very successful program and it showed children all types of energy and the critical role oil and gas exploration play.

LCM has quietly been setting the foundation for the new Children's Museum in City Park which plans to open in 2019. Take a pleasant drive north from the Museum of Modern Art to see the progress.

The Children's Museum of St. Tammany hosted STEM QUEST November 11th. The event was at Kids Town, CMST's smaller springboard location on The Trace in Mandeville. Kids Town is set to open in December. STEM Quest had 15 science related exhibitors including NASA, NOGS and Chevron. Reactive Digital Systems brought their topo sandbox which will be an ideal addition to the museum. More details will follow on the event in the January *NOGS LOG*.

For more details, visit the websites below:

<http://www.cmstkids.org/>

<http://lcm.org/lcm-in-the-news>

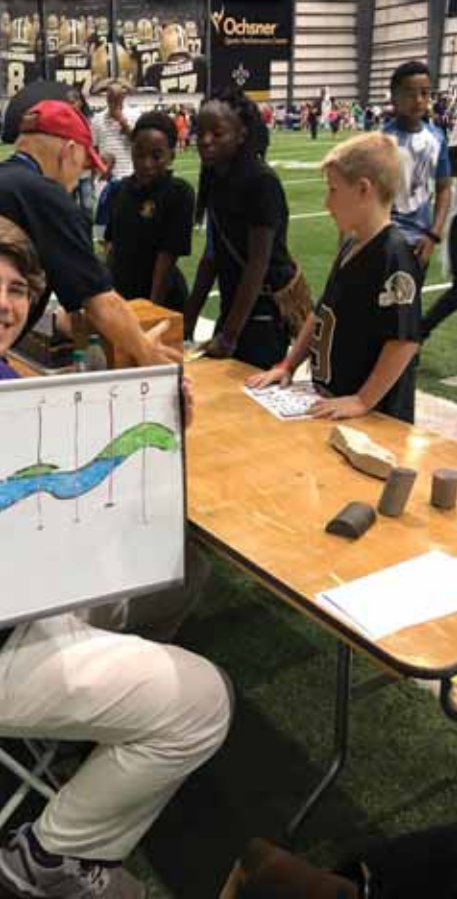




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IN MEMORIAM

Willis Eugene Conatser

Willis Eugene Conatser, PhD, beloved husband of Marjorie Reed Conatser passed away on October 24, 2017 at Ochsner Hospital. He was the loving father of son, Kelly (wife, Dr. Leslie Blake), and daughters, Dr. Tracy Hale (husband Tim), and Dr. Shannon Pickens (husband, Richard). His grandchildren, James and Clara Conatser and Lainey, Jessie, and Ricky Pickens were the lights of his life. He cherished his brother, Ken Conatser of Youngstown, Ohio. He was predeceased by his mother, Virginia Conatser Dean and his father Dillard Conatser.

Will grew up in Cincinnati, Ohio, and was an avid athlete. He pitched the winning State Championship game for his high school and played football there as well. He was inducted into the Price Hill, Cincinnati Hall of Fame for baseball and into the Western Hills High School Athletic Hall of Fame in Cincinnati. He entered the University of Cincinnati on a full football scholarship under coach Sid Gillman, setting a number of records, and graduated cum laude with a B.S in Geology. He served as a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps from 1955 to 1957, playing football for the Marine Corps as well. He then returned to the University of Cincinnati for his Masters Degree in Geology. He was hired by The California Company (later Chevron) as a geologist and moved to New Orleans. During his



tenure at the company he earned his Ph.D. from Tulane University. He worked at several other companies as well and then formed his own company, W E Conatser, Inc.

He was a member of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists. He served as President of the New Orleans Geological Society from 1997-1998.

Will was an avid tennis player and continued to play in his later years. He enjoyed the comradery of his partners as much as he enjoyed the game. He played in his last match on the Saturday

before his death. He loved nothing more than to attend the various musical performances, athletic events, and other activities in which his grandchildren were engaged. He was an enthusiastic traveler in his younger years and enjoyed many trips to Europe and throughout the United States. A memorial service was held at Leitz-Eagan Funeral Home, 4747 Veterans Memorial Boulevard, on Wednesday, November 1, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. with visitation prior to that from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, please donate to your favorite charity or to the New Orleans Geological Society.

An online guestbook is available at
www.leitzeaganfuneralhome.com.

Published in TheNewOrleansAdvocate.com from Oct. 27, 2017 to Nov. 1, 2017



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South Louisiana and Offshore Gulf of Mexico Exploration and Production Activities

LAFAYETTE DISTRICT, ONSHORE AREA

By Kevin J. Trosclair and Carlo C. Christina

During the month of October the Louisiana Department of Conservation issued 9 permits to drill for oil and gas in the Lafayette District. The wells of interest are as follows:

NEW LOCATIONS

Fontainebleau Operating will drill the #2-ALT Steve Barrow in Bear Field, in Beauregard Parish, to test Wilcox sands at a depth of 11,650 feet. The well is located in Sec. 20, 6S-9W, approximately 1½ miles from production on the northwest flank of the field. (SN 250557)

Castex Energy will drill the #1 Carter Trust in Jeanerette Field, St. Mary Parish. The well is located in Sec. 39, 13S-9E, one-half mile from nearest production. It will be drilled to a total depth of 15,071 feet, (14,000 feet, TVD). (SN 250518)

In Beauregard Parish, Neale Field, PIE LA Operating will drill the #1 Mineral Resources Development D to a proposed depth of 7,000 feet in Sec. 30, 3S-11W. The well is located 1½ miles northwest of current production, (SN 250556)

S2 Energy will drill the #1-ALT Kirchoff Land in Lapeyrouse Field, Terrebonne Parish, to a proposed depth of 13,500 feet. It is located in Sec. 71-18S-20E. (250584)

COMPLETIONS

In Jefferson Parish, Westwego Field, Grand Operating has completes the #1 CIB O RB SUA; MARRERO LAND flowing 1092 MCFD and 2.4 BCPD through perforations 9708 to 9712. The well was drilled to a total depth of 11,223 feet, located in Sec. 24, 13S-23E. (SN 250058)

Yuma E & P has plugged and abandoned its Wildcat, the #1 Weyerhaeuser in Livingston Parish, at a depth of 15,088 feet where casing was set to total depth. The well was perforated in the interval 14,543 to 14,550 feet with no test information available at this time. The well was drilled in Sec. 14, 5S-5E. (SN 250327)

OFFSHORE GULF OF MEXICO SHELF AND DEEPWATER ACTIVITIES

by Al Baker

During October 2017, the BOEM approved 55 Gulf of Mexico drilling permits. Eight of these were for shelf wells, and 47 were for deepwater wells. Of the total number of permits, there were 8 new well permits, 3 on the shelf and 5 in deepwater.

The three shelf new well permits were for 2 exploration wells and one development well. W&T Offshore received the two exploration well permits for their South Timbalier 224 #1 and Main Pass 286 #1 wells. Byron Energy obtained the other shelf permit for their South Marsh Island 71 #F-2 development well.

All five deepwater new well permits were for exploration wells. Anadarko Petroleum received two permits for their East Breaks 646 #12 and Green Canyon 726 #3 wells. Shell Offshore received three permits for their Mississippi Canyon 812 #3 and #4 wells and their Alaminos Canyon 728 #1 well.

On October 27th, IHS-Petrodata reported that the Gulf of Mexico mobile offshore rig supply stood at 94, which is the same as last month. The marketed rig supply consisted of 53 rigs, of which 36 were under contract. The marketed rig supply number remained the same, while the contracted rig supply number increased by 1 compared to the previous month. The marketed contracted versus total rig supply utilization rate stands at 38.3%, and the marketed contracted versus marketed supply utilization rate stands at 67.9%. By comparison, the October 2016 total fleet utilization rate stood at 47.1% (versus 56.4% today) with 49 out of the 104 rigs under contract.

As of October 27th, BakerHughes indicated that there were 20 active mobile offshore rigs in the Gulf of Mexico, which is 55.6% of the rigs under contract mentioned above. This active rigs number is 2 less than reported last month. Of the



20 rigs, 2 are located on the shelf, and 18 are situated in deepwater. At the same time last year, there were 21 mobile offshore rigs operating in the Gulf of Mexico.

As of October 27th, the BakerHughes total U.S. rig count stood at 909 rigs, which is 31 fewer rigs than at the end of September. Of the 909 rigs, 737 are oil rigs and 172 are gas rigs. A year ago, there were 557 rigs working in the U.S. Therefore, the current rig figure represents a 63.2% increase year over year. Texas still has the largest number of rigs with 441, which is slightly less than half (48.5%) of the total number of rigs in the U.S.

On October 26th, the BOEM indicated that 56 bids submitted at OCS Sale 249 were deemed acceptable during the Phase 2 evaluation period. A total of 34 tracts remain to be evaluated. The BOEM has 90 days from the August 16, 2017 sale date to determine if the high bids are sufficient.

In October, the BOEM also announced that OCS Sale 250 will be held in New Orleans during March 2018. This will be an area-wide Gulf of Mexico lease sale similar to OCS Sale 249. OCS Sale 250 will be the first of two Gulf of Mexico lease sale offerings conducted by the BOEM in 2018.

Giving & Geology: The NOGS Memorial Foundation

Stewardship solicitations from a non-profit rank right up there with NPR pledge drives in terms of financial entreaties that we gamely smile through while mentally searching for ways to make a polite but hasty exit from the conversation. Having noted that, I encourage you to briefly refrain from that impulse to learn a bit about the NOGS Memorial Foundation and the vital role it plays in the betterment of geology students in Louisiana.

The NOGS Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in 1978 under the leadership of Rudolph B. "Rudy" Seigert and his Board. Known as the NOGS Memorial Foundation after 1991, the Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit formed for exclusively charitable, educational, and scientific purposes in accordance with the aims of the New Orleans Geological Society as a whole. It consists of two separate funds that enable charitable giving through NOGS: the General Fund and the Bill Craig Memorial Fund.

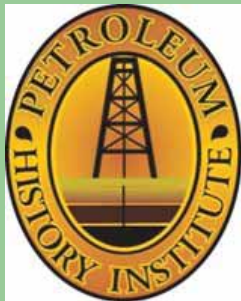
Income from the General Fund goes exclusively towards the \$30,000 worth of cash scholarships the Foundation awards to undergraduate and graduate geology students at LSU, Tulane, and UNO. With all twelve scholarships awarded each year based on scholastic ability, high moral and ethical conduct, and need the NOGS Memorial Foundation serve as vital source of direct funding for promising geology students across southeast Louisiana.

The Bill Craig Memorial Fund provides for broader earth science related educational purposes and supports K-12 teachers within the Greater New Orleans Area. These purposes vary depending on the needs of the community and the nature of NOGS charitable commitments each year. This money supports endeavors such as NOGS's pledge to donate \$50,000 a piece to the Louisiana Children's Museum and the St. Tammany Children's Museum over the span of ten years, funding for Imperial Barrel Awards teams from local universities, and other educational opportunities.

Giving to the NOGS Memorial Foundation is more important than ever. With oil prices still in recovery and ongoing funding challenges to higher education in Louisiana, NOGS scholarships have the potential for tremendous impact to university students. Whether you donate \$20 or \$20,000, every contribution better enables us to support earth science education opportunities and allows the Foundation to continue operations as a 501(c)(3) so that we can effectively serve the community. As a 501(c)(3), the Foundation is required to have a certain percentage of its yearly income be derived from public donations. Among other financial difficulties of the oil downturn, the Foundation faces a challenge in meeting that threshold percentage in 2017.

If you feel compelled to cut a check for \$50,000 for the Memorial Foundation, far be it from us to dissuade you, but there are other ways you can help. Even if you donate just \$30, it makes a difference. All NOGS Memorial Foundation donations are tax deductible and eligible for corporate matching programs.

Give today so that we can support the geologists of tomorrow.



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Saturday only includes field trip/lunch.

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ACCOMMODATIONS: PHI has arranged for rooms at Symposium Headquarters:

Marriott Research Park Hotel: 480 S. Wakara Way, Salt Lake City, UT 84108; Tel. 801-581-1000;

Limited rooms in PHI block; \$109.00 + tax/night. **Room rates held until March 1, 2018.**

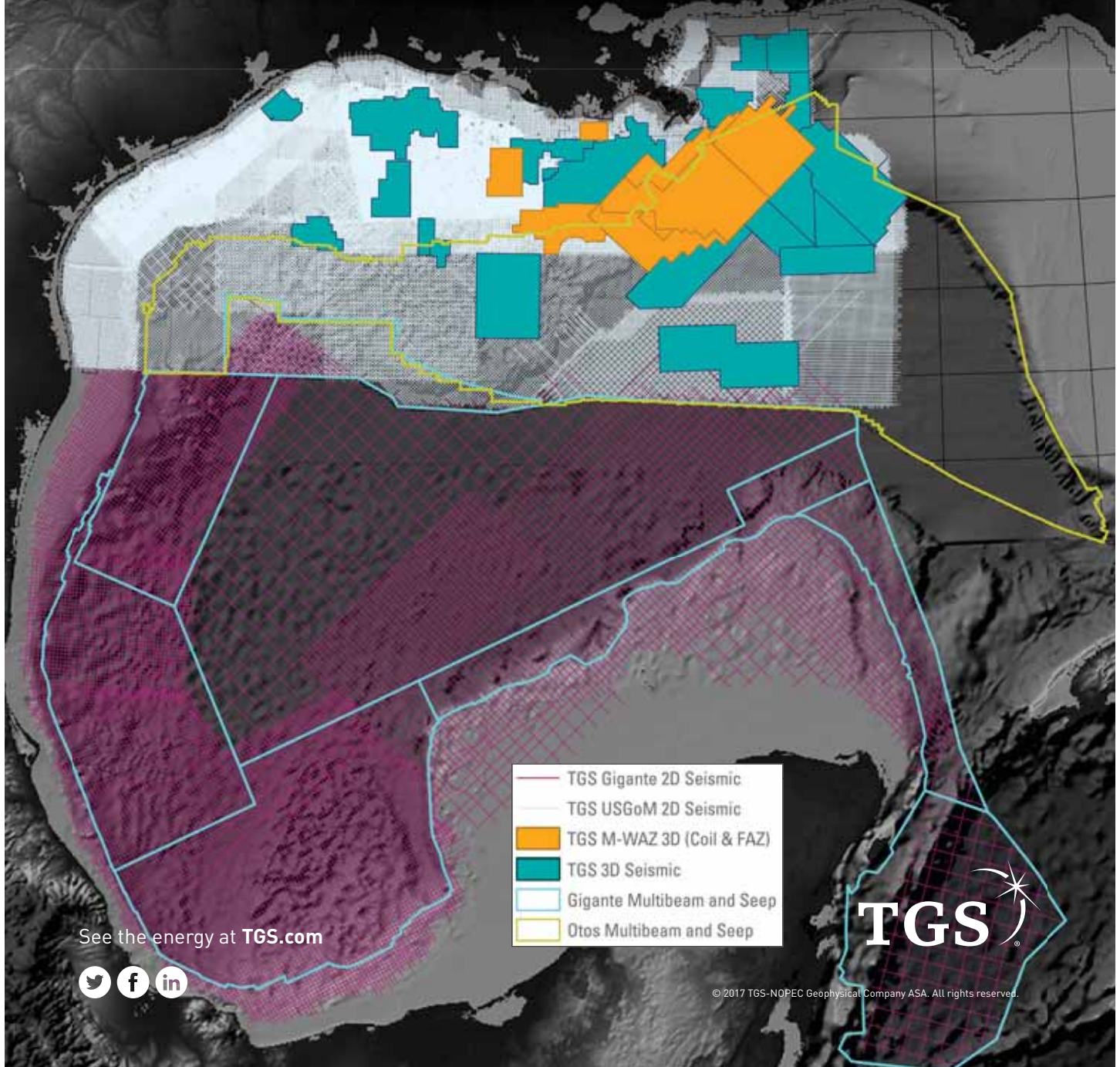
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Tis the Season...for Giving!

Whether you celebrate faith-based holidays such as Christmas or Hanukkah or simply cherish the holiday season as a time for family and friends, NOGS encourages our members to take the time to remember those less fortunate than ourselves as we enter the holiday season. Many of us have charities or ministries here in New Orleans that we keep close to our heart and support through our presence, our gifts, and our service. If you are looking for a way to support the local community over the coming weeks, here are a few ways to get involved and to hopefully make someone else's holiday a little bit brighter.

Second Harvest Food Bank

no-hunger.org

With one in six people in Louisiana at risk for hunger, Second Harvest plans to support families across south Louisiana this holiday season by raising \$40,000 between now and December 31 as part of their mission to prevent hunger by providing food access, advocacy, education, and disaster response.

Catholic Charities of New Orleans

ccano.org/holiday/

Catholic Charities serves those who are vulnerable and in need across the Diocese of New Orleans regardless of religion, race, ethnicity or economic status. Consider adopting a family or individual or a family through their Christmas Adoption Program where you provide recipients in need with food baskets, gifts and clothing.

Covenant House

covenanthouse.org/homeless-charity/new-orleans

The Covenant House in the French Quarter provides shelter and a variety of services to homeless, runaway, and at-risk youth under the age of 22. Having aided almost 20,000 kids with vital services, Covenant House reaches out to one of the most vulnerable populations in our nation with absolute respect and unconditional love.

Junior League of New Orleans Diaper Bank

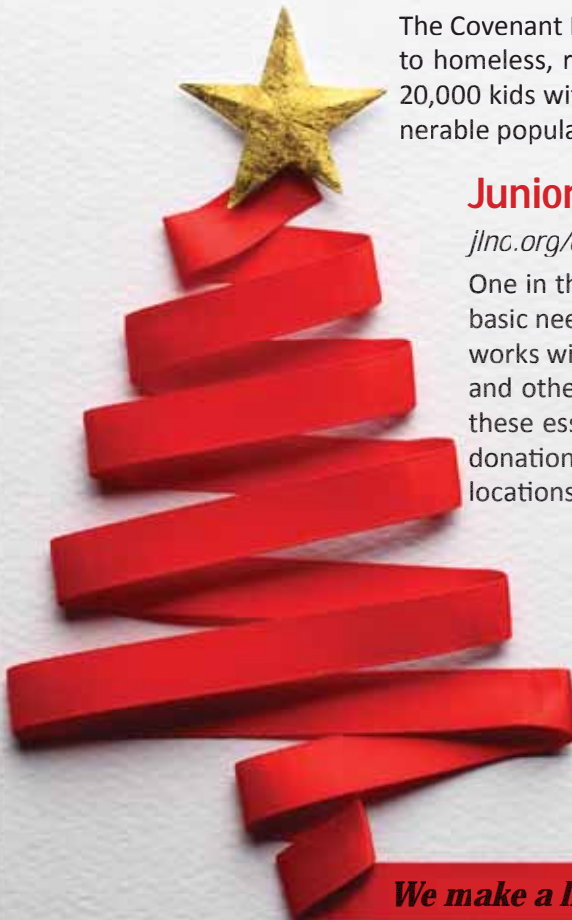
jlnco.org/community/diaper-bank/

One in three mothers in the United States faces a daily challenge of filling the basic need of clean diapers for her children. The Junior League of New Orleans works with partner distributors across the metro area to provide clean diapers and other supplies from the JLNO Diaper Bank to support families in-need of these essential child care supplies. You can contribute by making a monetary donation or by donating unused, disposable diapers at any of their drop off locations.

Toys for Tots

new-orleans-la.toysfortots.org/local-coordinator-sites/lco-sites/default.aspx

Operated by the United States Marine Corps Reserve, Toys for Tots remains one of the most well-known charitable operations of the holiday season. They collect new, unwrapped toys and distribute those toys as Christmas gifts to less fortunate children in the community with drop-off sites across the city of New Orleans.



We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.

Winston Churchill



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