# MARCH 2017



Volume 57, Number 9

MARCH 6 - NOGS LUNCHEON

Presentation: Predicting Delta Morphology on a Global Scale
Guest Speaker: Jaap H. Nienhuis
Tulane University • New Orleans, Louisiana





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 2017 Annual Golf Tournament

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

# Money Hill Golf and Country Club Abita Springs, LA Monday • May 1, 2017

Registration Form on page 23 of this issuel

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

A portion of your tournament participation fee will be tax deductible under the NOGS Memorial Foundation 501(c)3.

#### 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!



Published monthly by the New Orleans Geological Society. This issue was sent to press on February 22, 2017.

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 Roorda (Northwestern Territories, Inc.) Courtesy of the USGS

#### Mouth of the Elwah River, Washington

This month's cover image of an aerial shot of the Elwha River near Port Angeles, WA, captures the results of the largest damremoval project in history and a dedicated effort to return the river to its natural state. Located on the Olympic Peninsula with almost 83% of its watershed encompassed in the bounds of Olympic National Park, the Elwha was historically noted as one of the richest sources of salmon and trout in the Pacific Northwest supporting the local ecosystem and the nearby Lower Elwha Klallam tribe. However, the construction of the Elwha Dam and Glines Canyon Dam in the early part of the 20th century introduced physical obstructions to the migratory paths of the anadromous fish populations and interrupted fluvial deposition into the Strait of Juan de Fuca. In light of the detrimental impact to the regional ecosystem, the recognition of fishing rights for Native American tribes, increased coastal erosion in the absence of an active Elwha River delta, and the limited energy contribution from the two hydroelectric dams, Congress passed the Elwha River Ecosystem and Fisheries Restoration Act in 1992 and began a nearly two-decade process to remove the dams and restore the river to its natural state. Finally completed in August of 2014, the project will enable the revitalization of migratory fish populations and has already begun to dramatically alter the geomorphology of the entire fluvial system.

## From the Editor

Most of the catastrophic earth processes we encounter in Louisiana are generally events we can predict or anticipate with some degree of accuracy. Flooding, hurricanes, and coastal land loss bring chaos and destruction, but in terms of recurrence intervals and time scale we usually see them coming. But as for the tornado that struck our city on February 7, what warning did the people of New Orleans East have? Though victims of the storm were fortunate to experience no fatalities in the destruction wrought by the 150 mph winds, hundreds of New Orleanians struggled to find housing after the tornado damaged over 600 homes as it tracked alongside Chef Menteur Highway for almost ten miles. Though my earth science expertise bears little strength in the realm of storm meteorology, my inability to pontificate on the process of cyclonic development does not detract from my intimate familiarity with the fear and uncertainty that well up with the rising wail of a tornado siren. I suspect many NOGS members not native to south Louisiana share this familiarity. So I encourage you to remember the New Orleans East tornado as more than as some storm that hit someone else's neighborhood. Take time to support a local non-profit, like Second Harvest Food Bank or the Greater New Orleans Foundation, that provides assistance to many affected by the storm as recovery continues several weeks out from the storm. It deserves our attention for longer than the duration of a newspaper headline. ₋aura

Laura Sorey, Editor



### 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.

AD SIZE	2015 RATE	<b>NEW 2017 RATE!</b>
Full Page (7.5"x10")	\$3500	<b>\$1750</b>
Half Page (3.75"x10" or 7.5"x5"	\$1850	<b>\$925</b>
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	<b>\$188</b>
Note Size (3.75"x.75")	\$120	\$60



#### **PREMIUM LOCATIONS**

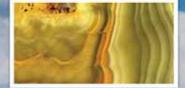
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Our mission is to protect the public health, safety, and welfare and to guard the state's natural resources with regard to environmental and civil projects where a geoscientific review and evaluation is required in the making of recommendations of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



# From the President

We've all heard about the big news in the Permian Basin. Apache made a huge gas discovery they are calling Alpine High that is thought to contain as much as 8 billion BOEG. Also, the USGS estimates that the Wolfcamp Shale area in that basin has a 50% chance of having 20 billion barrels of oil and 1.6 billion barrels of natural gas that are technically recoverable. Of course, prices will dictate when these resources will be produced. But the most interesting part to me is that all this new oil and gas has been found in a very mature basin, one very much like the Gulf of Mexico.

The Gulf underwent a similar resurgence with the advent of exploration in the Deepwater province. In that case, it involved a paradigm shift from thinking that sand was confined to the shelf and that deep water contained only shales, to one in which there were mechanisms for transporting reservoir quality sand from the shelf into deepwater. Many other advances were obviously required before we could successfully image and then drill deepwater prospects, but they eventually came. I'm confident that there will be another paradigm shift that will reinvigorate the Gulf, and it may well be focused on the shelf. The old adage, "The best place to find oil is where it has already been found" is true. The Gulf of Mexico shelf is a world-class hydrocarbon system and almost certainly contains significant volumes of oil and gas still to be found. I think this is obvious to most petroleum geoscientists, but unfortunately it is the bean counters who now determine what portion of a company's portfolio will be retained. As a result, the majors are essentially abandoning the Shelf in order to finance their Deepwater and overseas programs. I'm not sure what the next paradigm shift will be for exploration in the shallow water Gulf, but I think that as in the case of the Permian Basin, it will start with a small to mid-size company that is willing to try something new. The exodus of the majors from the Shelf will open up lots of acreage to be evaluated, especially in the

context of innovative thinking. The challenge for petroleum geologists now is to stay around long enough for this downturn to end and the next cycle of prosperity to begin.

The next few months will be very busy for NOGS members. April 2-5 is the AAPG Annual Convention in Houston. The 11th Annual Groundwater, Surface Water, and Water Resources Symposium will be at LSU on April 11-12. Go to http://lwrri.lsu.edu/lawater-2017 for details. Super Science Saturday, my favorite event, will be held on April 15 from 11:00 am-3:00 pm at the Louisiana Children's Museum in New Orleans. If you have never volunteered before, you should give this a try; seeing the smiles on the children's faces who are handling actual dinosaur fossils is amazingly rewarding. If you would like to volunteer for one of the two-hour shifts, contact Tom Bergeon at tom.bergeon@upstreamexp.com.

NOGS is also going to have a repeat of our very successful field trip "Geological Facts of Life for Flood Protection" Field Trip on April 29 to learn about the flood protection systems on the West Bank, featuring NOGS member and SLFPA-West Commissioner Mike Merritt as our field trip guide. We filled all thirty-two available seats when we first ran it in October, and everyone agreed that it was a great trip.

On Monday, May 1 NOGS and PLANO will cohost our annual Golf Tournament at Money Hill Golf and Country Club in Abita Springs. This is a fundraising event for the Louisiana Children's Museum in New Orleans and the Children's Museum of St. Tammany. All proceeds will go to support these two organizations. Even if, like me, you are not a golfer, come out and serve as a volunteer. The event will be a lot of fun and no matter how well you play, there will be a delicious steak dinner at the end of the tournament provided by Diversified Well Logging.

Al Melillo

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#### **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.



17/11										
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#### March 6 • NOGS Luncheon

#### **Holiday Inn Downtown Superdome**

\$3.00 validated parking in hotel garage

#### Presentation:

#### Predicting Delta Morphology on a Global Scale

#### Guest Speaker.

#### Jaap H. Nienhuis

Tulane University • New Orleans, Louisiana

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	
Student Member with reservations	FREE

#### April 2-5

#### **AAPG Annual Convention & Exhibition**

George R. Brown Convention Center • Houston, Texas For more information: http://ace.aapg.org/2017

#### **April 11-12**

LA Groundwater, Surface Water & Water Resources Symposium

LSU - ECE Building • Baton Rouge, Louisiana For more information: http://lwrri.lsu.edu/lawater-2017/

#### April 15

SuperSaurus Saturday

Louisiana Children's Museum • New Orleans, Louisiana For more information: tom.bergeon@upstream.com

#### May 1

#### **NOGS Annual Golf Tournament**

Money Hill Golf Course • Abita Springs, Louisiana For more information: annette@nogs.org or 504-561-8980

#### **ABSTRACT DEADLINES:**

#### March 1

11th Annual LA Groundwater, Surface Water, and Water Resources Symposium

For more information: http://lwrri.lsu.edu/lawater-2017/

#### March 31

Petroleum History Institute Symposium For more information: http://petroleumhistory.org

#### NOGS CONTACT LIST

Continued from previous page

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# March 6 NOGS Luncheon Presentation

☆ ☆ ☆ at the Holiday Inn Superdome ☆ ☆ ☆



# Predicting Delta Morphology on a Global Scale

Presented by

Jaap H. Nienhuis

Tulane University • New Orleans, Louisiana

#### **ABSTRACT**

Delta morphology varies tremendously between different environments, from coarsegrained alluvial fans, to sandy strandplains, to muddy alluvial estuaries. Here I will show quantitatively how waves, tides, and fluvial sediment supply affect delta morphology and explain a significant portion of this global variability. Simple parameterizations and the availability of global wave, tide, and fluvial sediment data have allowed us to use these relationships and make morphologic predictions for Earth's deltas (n~14000). This analysis can be used to study modern day delta variability and delta change in response to climate and land use changes. This general theory can also help paleo environmental reconstructions of observed ancient deltas in poorly constrained settings.

#### **BIOGRAPHY**



Jaap Nienhuis
is a postdoctoral
fellow in Earth
and Environmental
Sciences at Tulane
University working
with Torbjörn
Törnqvist. He
obtained his BS
and MS in civil
engineering
from Twente
University in the

Netherlands and his PhD in marine geology from MIT-WHOI. His experience includes morphologic modelling of coastal sedimentary environments.

#### THE MARCH LUNCHEON RESERVATION DEADLINE IS MARCH 3RD. CONTACT THE NOGS OFFICE

#### "And Looking Ahead . . . "

The next luncheon will be held on April 10th. Our guest speaker will be announced later this month. Contact the NOGS office at 504-561-8980 or use the PayPal link at www.nogs.org to make your reservation.





#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS: MARCH — APRIL 2017

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.

2016	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT / INFO
1 Mar	Abstracts Deadline for 11th Annual Louisiana Groundwater, Surface Water, and Water Resources Symposium		http://lwrri.lsu.edu/lawater-2017/
3 Mar	Tulane Lecture Series John Dribus "An Examination of the Geology of the Deep Water Plays in the Gulf of Mexico" Schlumberger	Noon Room 108 - Jones Hall	http://www2.tulane.edu/sse/eens/ events-and-seminars/ seminars/index.cfm
6 Mar	NOGS Luncheon Jaap H. Nienhuis "Predicting Delta Morphology on a Global Scale" Tulane University • New Orleans, Louisiana	Holiday Inn Superdome	annette@nogs.org or 504-561-8980
10 Mar	LSU Lecture Series Joe Levy "Going, Going, Gone! Antarctica's Vanishing Ground Ice" UTIG	LSU Baton Rouge - E137 Howe-Russell-Kniffen	http://www.lsu.edu/science/geology/ seminars/item72050.php
10 Mar	BRGS Luncheon	Baton Rouge Mike Anderson's Seafood	lisapultz@cox.net
10 Mar	Tulane Lecture Series Irina Overeem "Wetlands, Delta" University of Colorado • Boulder, Colorado	Noon Room 108 - Jones Hall	http://www2.tulane.edu/sse/eens/ events-and-seminars/ seminars/index.cfm
17 Mar	St. Patrick's Day		
21 Mar	SIPES Luncheon Speaker: TBA	Metairie Andrea's Restaurant	Carol St. Germain 504-267-3466
31 Mar	LSU Lecture Series Thomas Demchuk "The Continuing Role of Biostratigraphy as a Foundational Discipline in Energy Exploration and Development"	LSU Baton Rouge - E137 Howe-Russell-Kniffen	http://www.lsu.edu/science/geology/ seminars/item72050.php
31 Mar	Abstracts Deadline for Petroleum History Institute Symposium		http://petroleumhistory.org/
2-5 Apr	AAPG 2017 Annual Convention & Exhibition	Houston, Texas	http://ace.aapg.org/2017
9 Apr	PIPE Family Fun Eat and Run	City Park	See announcement on page 16
10 Apr	NOGS Luncheon Speaker: TBA	Holiday Inn Superdome	annette@nogs.org or 504-561-8980
11-12 Apr	11th Annual Louisiana Groundwater, Surface Water, and Water Resources Symposium	LSU Baton Rouge ECE Building	http://lwrri.lsu.edu/lawater-2017/
15 Apr	SuperScience Saturday	Louisiana Children's Museum	tom.bergeon@upstreamexp.com
18 Apr	SIPES Crawfish Boil	The Harbor Bar & Grill	eric@northcoastoil.com http://sipesneworleans.org/
29 Apr	NOGS Geological Facts of Life for Flood Protection Field Trip		See page 21 for more information
1 May	NOGS Annual Golf Tournament	Money Hill Golf Course Abita Springs, LA	annette@nogs.org or 504-561-8980



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#### **CALL FOR PAPERS**

ABSTRACT DEADLINE: March 31, 2017

#### PETROLEUM HISTORY INSTITUTE 2017 ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM



Findlay, Ohio
130 Year Oil & Gas Celebration (1887-2017)

July 13-15, 2017

**REGISTRATION AND EVENING RECEPTION**Thursday, July 13, 2017

PRESENTATIONS – ORAL AND POSTER Friday, July 14, 2017

Proceedings to be published in the 2017 volume of Oil-Industry History

#### FIELD TRIP

Saturday, July 15, 2017

For symposium details, see: www.petroleumhistory.org



#### ABSTRACTS BEING ACCEPTED

Please send abstracts to: Dr. William Brice - wbrice@pitt.edu or call Marilyn Black - 814-677-3152 ext. 105





Jackson School of Geosciences

#### PUBLIC NOTICE OF DEEP STRATIGRAPHIC TESTS FOR HYDRATE-BEARING SEDIMENTS

Gulf of Mexico Area

The University of Texas (UT Austin), as operator of a methane hydrate research program, is applying for federal permits to drill two deep stratigraphic test wells in the offshore U.S. Gulf of Mexico. UT Austin hereby invites all other interested parties to participate in this operation.

Two (2) proposed tests will be drilled in one (1) OCS location in the Gulf of Mexico for the sole purpose of obtaining scientific data and information. The purpose of drilling these holes is to acquire pressurized sediment cores and wireline log data. The planned commencement date of drilling operations is April 15, 2017. The drilling program is estimated to last 22 days and cost approximately \$11 million. The planned target depths for these wells are 1464-1724' BML, depending on the locations. No casing will be set. The drilling will be done riserless.

The applications for the permits to drill (APD) will request approval for Green Canyon 955.

Interested parties are invited to participate in the proposed operations and in acquiring the resulting data and information

on a shared cost basis. Any interested party may join the program as an original participant by committing, in writing, to the operator prior to 12:01 pm, Central Standard Time, April 15th, 2017, and thereby becoming obligated to bear its equal share with other participants of the cost, risk and expense to drill the stratigraphic test. Thereafter, a party may join as a late participant by committing to bear its share (along with the original participants) of the cost, risk and expense plus an additional amount in the maximum figure which is permitted to be charged to late participants as per 30 CFR Part 251.

Participation is available only on an individual or individual company basis. Participation as a representative of a group is not permitted.

Those interested in participating in the proposed test wells or obtaining further information thereof should contact Peter Flemings, Jackson School of Geosciences, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX 78712, (512) 475-9520 or pflemings@jsg.utexas.edu.

# 

#### **NOGS 75th Anniversary**

In honor of the 75th anniversary of the New Orleans Geological Society, we are releasing a series of office and personal mementos commemorating NOGS's seventy-five years of dedicated service to geology, professional development, and science education in New Orleans. If you're interested in purchasing any of these commemorative pieces, please contact Annette Hudson at info@nogs.com or 504-561-8980 for order details and exact pricing. ORLEANS GEOLOGICA

**4" Round Variegated Sandstone** 

\$13.00

Cork on back.



4" Round Slate

\$10.00

Rubber feet on back.



(pictured with optional stand)

\$25.00

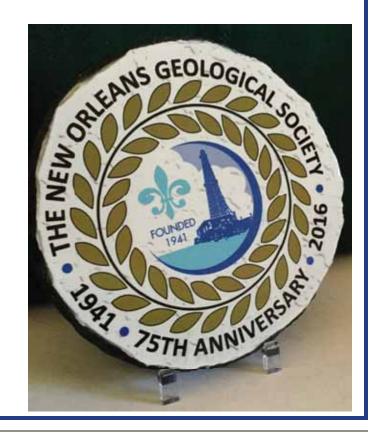
with order of 50 or more

**\$35.00** 

with order of less than 50

**Optional Acrylic Stand** 

(not pictured)



#### "Family Fun Eat & Run"

## 5K and 1/2 Mile Run/Walk Sunday, April 9, 2017 → City Park, New Orleans, La

City Park will be the location for a great family event on Sunday, April 9th that will benefit three area children's museums. The event starts with a 5K run at 8:30AM followed by an amazing array of food. Last year's food included hamburgers, hot dogs, pork chops, gumbo, jambalaya, BBQ Shrimp, white beans and rice, armadillo eggs (chicken thighs stuffed with jalapenos wrapped in bacon), mini-muffalettas, ham pistolettes, roast beef pistolettes, and more! Adult beverages included beer, Margaritas, Bloody Marys, and more!

This will definitely be a family friendly event. There will be a DJ with Karaoke, inflatable bounce houses, treats, toy prizes, and more! There will be special shorter races for the younger children.

The event will be held at the site of the future Louisiana Children's Museum Early Learning Village. All of the proceeds from the event will go to the Louisiana Children's Museum in New Orleans, the Children's Museum of St. Tammany on the Northshore, and the Bayou Country Children's Museum in Thibodaux. The event is sponsored by PIPE (Petroleum Industry Promoting Education).

Food and drink are included with race entry. You can run if you want or just come out and have a great time! Register at nolarunning.com.





**DATE:** Sunday, April 9, 2017

#### TIME:

> 7:00 am: Race Day Registration and packet pickup opens

> 8:30 am: Start of 5K Run/Walk

> 9:30 am: Start of 1/2 Mile Kids Fun Run/Walk

#### **LOCATION:**

City Park, New Orleans

◆ Site of the new Louisiana Children's Museum ▶
 ( Intersection of Henry Thomas Drive & Palm Drive )

#### PROCEEDS BENEFIT AREA CHILDREN'S MUSEUMS

Support the Louisiana Children's Museum-New Orleans, the Bayou Country Children's Museum in Thibodaux or the Children's Museum of St. Tammany-Northshore.
Choose below to benefit one or all three Children's Museums.

**ENTRY FEES:** Checks Payable to: NORSI

#### ADULT (18 & OVER )

- > \$30.00 by March 20th
- > \$35.00 by April 4<sup>th</sup> & at pre-race day packet pickup
- > \$40.00 Day of Race (Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>)

#### **YOUTH:\*** Proof of age required at packet pickup

- > \$10.00 Age 11 to 17
- Free: Age 10-under

#### **HOW TO REGISTER:**

Online link posted at www.NOLArunning.com

➤ **BY MAIL TO:** \* Postmarked deadline March 29th NORSI, P. O .Box 2348, Kenner, La 70063

#### **PRE-REGISTER In Person** ( Available at the following locations)

- \*\* Payable by check to: NORSI
- > Varsity Sports New Orleans
- > GNO Cyclery New Orleans
- > Louisiana Running & Walking, New Orleans & Metairie
- > Elmwood Fitness Center, Harahan

Packet pickup: Date, Time, location (posted later on website)

#### **T-SHIRTS**:

Event T-Shirts given out on the day of race to pre-registered entrants first. All entrants registered day of race will receive t-shirt as supplies allow. In event of reorder, details will be announced and posted on event website. Please keep race number and t-shirt tab to claim your shirt.

#### **AWARDS:**

5K: 1<sup>st</sup> overall, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place age groups 10-under thru 75-over ½ Mile Kids Run/Walk: 1<sup>st</sup> overall, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> place ages 6-under, 7-9, 10-12. 13-15

Medallions to all ½ mile youth division finishers.

#### **POST RACE REFRESHMENTS ◆**

For our inaugural year's race we had this and more !

Pork chops, jambalaya, BBQ Shrimp, White beans & Rice, Gumbo, Hot dogs, Hamburgers, Mini-Muffalettas, Ham Pistolettes, Roast Beef Pistolettes.

For adults only (21 -over) Beer, Margarita's, Bloody Mary's, Hard Lemonade, Kentwood Spring Water

For the Kid's: DJ with Karaoke, Bounce Houses, Lemonade, Sno Balls, Funnel Cakes, Toy Prizes and more.

#### **RACE INFORMATON:**

- ❖ PRODUCED BY: New Orleans Running Systems, Inc. and PIPE
- ❖ WEBSITE: www.NOLArunning.com
- \* RACE DIRECTOR: Chuck George
- **❖ PHONE:** 504-884-7565

#### BENEFITING THREE AREA CHILDREN'S MUSEUMS







PLEASE READ the race details on the website before filling out and mailing this form.

#### "FAMILY FUN EAT & RUN"

5K & 1/2 Mile Run/Walk
Sunday, April 9, 2017 → City Park, New Orleans, La

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Cardholder  I know that running a road race is a potentially hazardous activity. I should not enter and run unless I am medically able and properly trained. I agree to abide by any decision of a race official relative to my ability to safely complete the run. I assume all the risks associated with running in this event but not limited to fall, contact with other participants, the effects of weather, including high heat and /or humidity, traffic and other conditions of the road, all such risks being known and appreciated by me. Having read this waiver and knowing those facts and in consideration of your accepting my entry. I for myself and anyone else entitled to act on my behalf, waive and release New Orleans Running Systems, Inc., PIPE and all sponsors, their representatives and successors from all claims in liabilities of any kind arising out if my participation in the event. I grant permission to all of the foregoing to use any photographs, motion picture recordings or any other record of this event for any legitimate purpose.																						
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#### South Louisiana and Offshore Gulf of Mexico Exploration and Production Activities

LAFAYETTE DISTRICT, ONSHORE AREA By Kevin J. Trosclair

The Baker-Hughes United States rig count for the week of January 27 was 712 rigs, up 54 rigs from the prior month. Rig activity in the U.S. continues to climb from a low of 404 rigs in May 2016. The Louisiana rig count (not including the OCS) averaged 30 rigs for the month of January. This is a slight increase from 27 rigs the prior month and down from 32 rigs one year ago.

North Louisiana Rigs:	24
South Louisiana Rigs:	6
Land	
Inland Waters	1

#### **NEW LOCATIONS**

The Louisiana Department of Conservation Lafayette District issued 26 permits to drill in South Louisiana in January 2017. This is significant increase from 2 permits last month and 9 permits issued in January 2016. New locations of interest and recent completions are detailed below.

In Plaqumines Parish, **East Cox Bay Field** (A), Upstream Exploration has permitted the #1 SL 21474; U3 RA SUD (SN 249997) in Sec. 26, 18S-16E to a proposed depth of 17,000 feet (14,000' TVD) targeting Uvig3 Sands. This location is 1.5 miles south of current Upstream Exploration Uvig3 production.

Upstream completed the East Cox Bay Field discovery well, #1 SL 21380; U3 RA SUB, (SN 248561), in December 2014. To date this well has produced 191,321 barrels of oil and 375,888 MCF of gas. Upstream recently reported the completion of a second East Cox Bay well, the #1 U-3 RA SUA;OLD (SN 249756), which encountered 64 feet of net oil pay from a 76 foot gross interval in a geopressured Middle Miocene age sand. Upstream owns a 100% working interest in the well and is the operator. See completion details below.

In Saint Landry Parish, **Beggs Fields (B)**, Kash Oil And Gas, Inc. has permitted the #1 BRIGNAC HEIRS (**SN 249961**) in Sec. 78, 4S-4E to a proposed total depth of 12,263 feet, (12,000' TVD) targeting Wilcox sands. This location offsets a dry hole drilled in

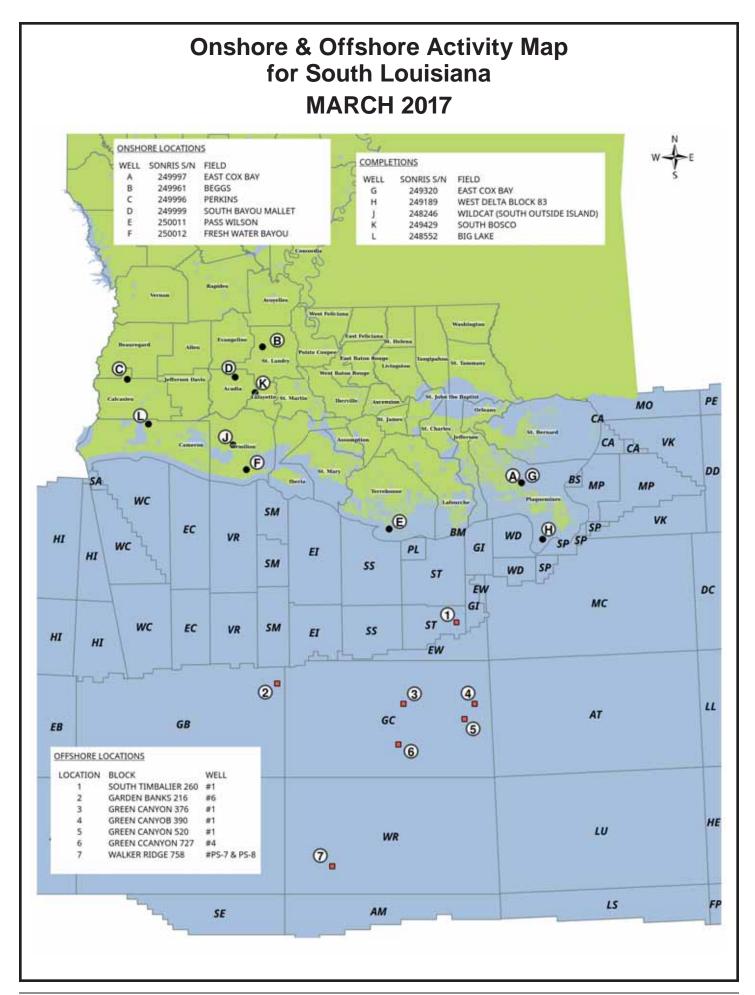
the 1960's and offsets old Wilcox gas production. There is currently no production in field.

In Calcasieu Parish, **Perkins Field** (**C**), Tri-C Resources, LLC permitted the #1 FORESTAR MIN LP 6; Y-2 RC SUA (**SN 249996**) in Sec.6, 8S-10W to a proposed depth of 11,500 feet. This location is one mile south of current production in Perkins Field and offsets old gas production at a similar depth.

In Acadia Parish, **South Bayou Mallet Field** (**D**) LLOX, L.L.C. spud (02/05/17) the #1 ANNE BELLARD LEGG; TW RE SUA (**SN 249999**) in Sec.27, 7S-1E with a proposed total depth of 11,390 feet (11,000' TVD) targeting Tex W Sands. This location offsets much shallower production in South Bayou Mallet Field. Tex W gas production is found in 2 wells more than 2 miles to the northeast in South Mallet and Eunice Fields.

In Terrebonne Parish, **Pass Wilson Field (E)**, Hilcorp Energy Company spud (02/02/17) the #1 LL&E; 8900 RA VUA (**SN 250011**) in Sec. 7, 23S-16E with a proposed total depth of 10,078 feet (9,550' TVD). This location offsets Hilcorp production from two wells completed in the 8600' and 8900' zones which have produced 884,910 BBL oil and 1,460,491 MCF of gas from July 2000 to May 2016.

In Vermilion Parish, **Fresh Water Bayou Field** (**F**), Hilcorp Energy Company permitted the #2 Exxon Mobil Corporation (**SN 250012**) in Sec. 28, 16S-2E to a proposed total depth of 15,200 feet (14,250' TVD) targeting the M36 A2. This



location offsets the #1 well approximately 1 mile east which has produced 98,785 BBL and 2,066,607 MCF from the M36 since July 2015.

#### **COMPLETIONS**

In Plaquemines Parish, **East Cox Bay Field (G),** Upstream Exploration completed #1 U-3 RA SUA;OLD (SN 249756) as an oil well in the U-3 RA SUA (UVIG 3) in Sec. 26, 18S-16E flowing 503 BOPD and 1,120 MCFD through perforations at 12,385-12,395 feet.

In Plaquemines Parish, West Delta Block 83 Field (H), Hilcorp Energy Company completed the #1 Mark Delesdernier Heirs etal (SN249631) in Sec. 47, 24S-30E as an oil well in the MQ Sand flowing 1,142 BOPD and 2,677 MCFD, through perforations at 13,858-13,928 feet.

In Vermilion Parish, **Wildcat (J)**, Hilcorp Energy Company has completed the #1 Exxon Mobil Fee (**SN 249752**) in Sec. 17, 14S-01E, 2 miles south of production in Outside Island Field as a gas well in the 11,800 RES, flowing 6,307 MCFD and 60 BCPD, through perforations at 13,583-13,604' & 13,608-13,616' & 13,641-13,645'. The operator has requested South Outside Island Field.

In Acadia Parish, **South Bosco Field (K)**, Linder Oil Company completed the #1MELBA BILLEAUD; OLIG RA SUA (**SN 249581**), in Sec. 9, 9S-3E as a gas well in the flowing 1,055 MCFD and 24 BCPD through perforations at 11,599-11,616 feet.

In Cameron Parish, **Big Lake Field (L)**, Cypress Production, Inc. completed the #1 MCDONALD FAMILY; 8700 RA SUA (**SN 249596**), in Sec. 18, 12S-18W as a gas well flowing 1,532 MCFD and 38 BCPD from perforations at 8,159-8,163 feet.

# OFFSHORE GULF OF MEXICO SHELF AND DEEPWATER ACTIVITIES

by Al Baker

During **January 2017**, the **BOEM** approved **60** Gulf of Mexico drilling permits. Of these, **8** were for shelf wells and **52** were for deepwater wells. Of the total number of permits, there was **1 new well permit** issued on the **shelf** and **7 new well permits** issued in **deepwater**.

This month, thanks to Kevin Trosclair, the monthly offshore new well permits are now being posted on an offshore extension to the South Louisiana Activity Map that, in the past, has displayed the onshore south Louisiana new locations and completions. Adding the geographical information to the offshore new well permit locations via map view provides a much needed improvement to this article.

The single new shelf well permit in January was for an **exploration well**. It was awarded to **Walter Oil & Gas** for their **South Timbalier 260 #1** well.

The seven new deepwater well permits were also for exploration wells. Chevron U.S.A. was granted two permits for their Walker Ridge 758 #PS-7 and #PS-8 wells. One permit was given to Hess Corporation for their Garden Banks 216 #1 well. Four permits were awarded in the Green Canyon Area: to Shell Offshore for their Green Canyon 376 #1 well, to LLOG Exploration Offshore for their Green Canyon 390 #1 well, to BHP Billiton Petroleum (GOM) for their Green Canyon 520 #1 well and to Anadarko Petroleum for their Green Canyon 727 #4 well.

A recap of 2016 offshore permitting activity shows that only 10 new well permits were issued on the shelf, whereas 62 new well permits were awarded in deepwater.

On January 27th, **IHS-Petrodata** reported that the Gulf of Mexico mobile offshore rig supply stood at **104**, which is one less than last month. The marketed rig supply consisted of **49** rigs, of which **36** were under contract. The marketed contracted versus total rig supply utilization rate is **34.6%**, while the marketed contracted versus marketed supply utilization rate stands at **73.5%**. The marketed rig supply number and the contracted rig supply number the same as last month. In contrast, the January 2016 fleet utilization rate stood at 67.1% (versus 47.1% today) with 73 out of the 124 rigs under contract.

As of January 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, **1** is located on the **shelf** and **19** are situated in **deepwater**. The current active rigs count compares to 28 active rigs during the same period last year, representing a **28.6%** decline (minus 8 rigs) in yearly rig activity.

As of January 27th, the **BakerHughes** total U.S. rig count stood at **712** rigs **down 63.1%** from the **September 26, 2014 high** of **1931** rigs, but up **308** rigs or **76.2%** from the **May 20, 2016 low** of **404** rigs. By comparison, the rig count stood at 619 rigs a year ago.

Of the current 712 rigs, **566** are **oil rigs** and **145** are **gas rigs**. Texas has the largest number of rigs with 351, which is almost half (49.3%) of the total number of rigs. Much of the current Texas drilling activity is occurring in the Permian Basin oil shales.

On January 4th, Cobalt International Energy announced that its North Platte #4 appraisal well encountered 650 feet of net high quality oil pay within Inboard Lower Tertiary Wilcox reservoirs on the eastern flank of their North Platte Field. Cobalt indicated that the well be sidetracked to further evaluate the eastern flank of the field. North Platte Field was discovered in December 2012 on Garden Banks Block 959. The initial well was drill to 34,500 feet total depth. The field is situated in 4,843 feet of water and now encompasses three blocks: Garden Banks Blocks 915,958 and 959. Cobalt is the operator with a 60% working interest; Total holds the remaining 40% working interest.

On January 6th and 26th, **W&T Offshore** provided details from their **Ship Shoal 359 #A-18** well in **Mahogany Field**. The well was drilled to a **total** 

vertical depth of 20,000 feet in a water depth of 372 feet. The well not only confirmed the presence of the oil-bearing "T" Sand on the western flank of the field, but during exploratory deepening of the well it also encountered an additional attractive oil pay in the "U" Sand. The well was also successfully designed to penetrate in an attic position the shallower "P" and "Q" field pay sands. In total, the well logged 149 feet of net oil pay in five reservoirs. The well was completed in the main objective "T" Sand and was brought on at an initial rate of 5.6 MMCFD and 3,275 BOPD with 9,000 psi flowing tubing pressure. W&T has budgeted to drill and complete three additional wells in Mahogany Field during 2017.

On December 23, 2016, The **BOEM** issued its final notice for upcoming **OCS Sale 247** in the **Central Gulf of Mexico.** The lease sale is scheduled for Wednesday, **March 22, 2017** in New Orleans. The venue will not be open to the general public, media, or industry. Instead, the bid opening will be available for public viewing on BOEM's website at www.boem.gov via live-streaming video beginning at 9:00 a.m. CST on the date of the sale.

#### **Geological Facts of Life for Flood Protection**

# Public Works Projects Located Upon the New Orleans West Bank: A Great Example Saturday, April 29, 2017

Trip Leader: Honorable Michael L. Merritt, LPG Founding Commissioner, Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-West

by Mike Merritt

This NOGS field trip will tour the Greater New Orleans West Bank to investigate delta stratigraphy, geotechnical properties of delta plain units and basic stratigraphic and structural elements. These factors (geologic facts of life) affect the balance of this geologically dynamic delta system and ultimately determine if flood protection projects will succeed or fail.

This field trip, scheduled for Saturday, April 29, 2017, will show participants examples of grossly inadequate, post Katrina and Rita, site geology characterizations prepared for recently built flood control structures. These inadequate geology reports were written either by unattributed or unlicensed authors. Participants will study the

geological complexity of building and maintaining huge public works projects when geo-hazards are unrecognized. Examples of subtle, geomorphologic warning signs indicating a relentless and robust transgressive event is underway will be pointed out.

Addressing these geological issues and improving the effectiveness of flood control efforts is vital to prevent imminent danger to life, health and property and protect the U.S. economy from commercial disruptions triggered by hurricanes and tropical storms defeating flood defenses unable to perform up to their design estimates due to overlooked, underlying geological conditions. See the NOGS website for registration information.





# NOGS/PLANO 2017 Annual Golf Tournament REGISTRATION

#### Please register early! Tournament is May 1st!

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.

## FOR REGISTRATION, DONATIONS, OR TO VOLUNTEER, CONTACT: Annette Hudson: 504-561-8980 or annette@nogs.org

Send cash or check (payable to NOGS): NOGS Office • 810 Union St. Suite 300 • New Orleans, LA 70112





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The tax deductible portion of your tournament participation fees is \$65 under the NOGS Memorial fundation 501(c)3 IRS status.

# FLICK PICKS

#### Oilfield Movies and Louisiana's Thunder Bay

Jeff A. Spencer

spencerj320@gmail.com • https://petroleumhistoryblog.com/

#### Introduction

Since the early days of the film industry, the quest for oil has provided storyline. Movies have portrayed the growth of the petroleum industry in North America, including the boomtowns, the rags-to-riches stories, and even the greed and corruption that often follows sudden wealth. As *Forbes* staff writer Christopher Helman wrote (3/08/2010), "Oil makes good drama" and "There's not many industries that can turn a roughneck into a millionaire overnight." Gushers, oilfield fires, a good brawl, women, and villains are all the ingredients for an oilfield movie.

Arguably, the 1956 movie *Giant* is the most well-known Hollywood depiction of early North American oil booms, but many "A" and "B" movies share the search for oil as a primary theme. *Giant* was nominated for ten Academy Awards, winning one for Best Director. The 1948 black and white docu-fiction *Louisiana Story* about a young Cajun boy and oil drilling in a Louisiana swamp was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Writing and won a Pulitzer Prize for its score. Many well-known Hollywood actors and actresses starred in oilfield movies. *War of the Wildcats* (1943), originally released as *In Old Oklahoma*, was an early movie in

John Wayne's career. In 1969, his role as Chance Buckman in *Hellfighters* was patterned after the reallife oilfield firefighter Paul "Red" Adair (1915-2004). The Burkburnett, TX oil boom was the inspiration for the 1940 movie Boom Town, which starred Clark Gable, Spencer Tracy, Hedy Lamar, and Claudette Colbert (https://petroleumhistoryblog.com/). Gary Cooper and Barbara Stanwyck starred in the 1953 movie Blowing Wila. James Stewart searched for oil in offshore Louisiana in *Thunder Bay* (1953). The cast of Giant (1956) included James Dean, Elizabeth Taylor, and Rock Hudson. Jack Nicholson starred in the 1970 movie Five Easy Pieces which received four Academy Award nominations. Strong-willed women in the oilfields were portrayed by Susan Hayward (starring with Robert Preston) in Tulsa (1949), Faye Dunaway (starring with George C. Scott) in Oklahoma Crude (1973), and Jane Wyman (starring with Charleton Heston) in Lucy Gallant (1955), which was later rereleased as Oil Town (1961).

Lesser known oilfield movies, some of which probably fall into the "B" category, include *The Oil Raider* (1934), *Burning Gola* (1936), *Wildcat* (1942), *Sin* 

Iown (1942), Strike it Rich (1948), Double Deal (1950), The Big Gusher (1951), The Houston Story (1956), The Magnificent Roughnecks (1956), and Maracaibo (1958) (https:// petroleumhistoryblog.com/). Even Superman found himself in the oilfields in Superman and the Molemen (1951) in which an oil well drills into the subterranean home of small human-like creatures. Black Gold, a silent film from 1928 with an all-black cast, was one of the earliest oilfield movies. This movie title was used for oilfield movies again in 1936, 1947, and 1962. The



FIGURE 1



FIGURE 2

Rex Beach screenplay and novel *Flowing Gola* set in the Ranger oil field of Texas was the basis for the movie of the same name (1940) (Spencer, 2012).

#### Thunder Bay

Thunder Bay (1953) brought offshore drilling for oil to the big screen, the very big screen, as the movie was the first first wide-screen format film for Universal Pictures. The movie also premiered with a new threespeaker stereophonic sound system (http://www.tcm. com/this-month/article/99364%7C0/Thunder-Bay. html). The plot involves two ex-Navy buddies, Steve Martin (James Stewart) and Johnny Gambi (Dan Duryea), trying to be the first to strike oil in offshore Louisiana (1946) and the resistance from the local shrimpers. The cast included Joanne Dru, Gilbert Roland, Marcia Henderson, and Robert Monet. Monet, a New Orleans nightclub singer, made his movie debut in *Thunder Bay* (The Times, Shreveport, LA 9/11/1952). Many locals had parts in the film, including "a junior college youth" in "a credible love scene with leading lady Joanne Dru" (*The Times*, Shreveport, LA 7/19/1953).

The movie was filmed on location near Patterson and Morgan City, LA, using the fictional town name of Port Felicity. Filming also took place on an oil barge thirty miles offshore, and a few scenes were shot in New Orleans. Louisiana newspapers covered the filming of the movie during the fall of 1952. James Stewart (1908-1997), a strong supporter of the Boy Scouts, invited some Scouts to watch the filming of the movie

near Patterson (Daily World, Opelousas, LA 10/15/1952). Stewart had described Thunder Bay as a Western with boats and oil instead of horses and guns. During the filming of the movie, co-star Dan Duryea (1907-1968) took a fall from the roof of a tugboat wheelhouse, resulting in bruises, contusions, and a broken rib (The Times, Shreveport, LA 10/17/1952). The Town Talk (10/13/1952) reported that, "The cast of the movie 'Thunder Bay' was left high and dry this week at Morgan City, La [sic]. The movie is being filmed by Universal-International. The film studio had rented a fleet of boats to film a sequence. But shrimpers had gotten wind of a bonanza catch in the Gulf. So they lit out for the high seas."

The movie premiered at Lowe's State Theater, New York City, on May 19, 1953

on a new 43 feet x 24.5 feet, curved screen (Figure 1). The many varieties of movie posters, lobby cards (Figure 2), and advertisements for the movie show oil rig scenes, often with catchy captions such as, "The mighty story of the man who fought for the biggest bonanza of them all," "The hard-hitting story of the adventurers who seek oil under the sea" (Figure 3), and "A hurricane's fury before him, a hate-crazed mob at his back and a bayou woman in his blood." Several movie trailers and film clips of *Thunder Bay* can be found on YouTube.

Spencer, Jeff A., 2012, Oilfield movies: theater posters, lobby cards and other promotional material – selections from pre-1975, *Oil-Industry History*, v. 13, p. 193-198.



FIGURE 3

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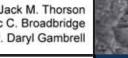
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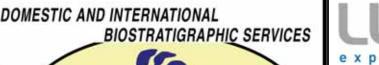
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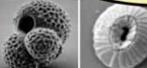












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# THE BOOKSHELF

#### To Engineer is Human...and to Err Every Now and Then is Also Engineer

By Laura Sorey

As far as boring books go, one could assume (and quite fairly, I might say) that a written discourse on the failures and successes of engineering through a humanist lens would take the cake for dullest and most tedious tome. However, Henry Petroski's 1985 book, *To Engineer is Human: The Role of Failure in Successful Design*,

defies this simplistic expectation by engaging in a sophisticated yet accessible analysis of the paradoxes and challenges of modern engineering that only briefly strays into the esoteric. Petroski initially frames the arc of his narrative around well-known engineering failures like the catastrophic failure of the walkways at the Kansas City Hyatt Regency in 1981 and the collapse of the bucking roadbeds on the Tacoma Narrows Bridge in 1940. However, rather than merely devolving into a case study of these two incidents, Petroski's account leads off with several chapters on the philosophy and human component behind engineering as a profession and as an everyday activity for each of us. Though many geologists would undoubtedly scoff at accusations of secretly being an engineer, Petroski

speaks more to the system of thought that enables us to unconsciously assess risk, consequences, and the limits of structural design around us.

For example, it doesn't take an PE to see a fraying rope swing dangling over exposed cypress knees alongside the Vermillion River at low-water conditions and recognize the limits of design (an old rope exposed to elements isn't meant to hold up under the rotational force of drunk Cajuns), risk (falling from said rope onto the cypress knees), and consequences (injury and possible death of said Cajuns). The author's example employs Goldilocks, but the point stands. Petroski's choices for case studies and examples throughout the book are always relevant and generally instructive as to his larger theme. Though the discussion on the

relationship between metallurgy, brittle fracture, and fatigue cracks in nuclear reactor piping (thankfully limited to only one chapter) stands out as a particularly challenging and dry interlude in what is largely an engaging look at the nature of design failure in a variety of environments.

In his examination of specific instances of failures and successes in engineering, Petroski makes the argument that the design process of structural engineering is as much a human endeavor as a scientific one. Firstly, engineers must honor a paradox of sufficiently fortifying their designs against failure in a certain lifespan under a range of conditions without risking overdesign that can inflate costs, interfere with operation, and damper innovation. Secondly, failures often result from relatively simple oversights that seem apparent in retrospect and ostensibly could have been

prevented had every possible route to design failure been investigated. These form the central component of Petroski's observation that structural success induces daring while potentially innovation overconfidence engendering in existing designs, and that structural failure, whether human informs mechanical. the conceptual framework for the next successful design and pathway for innovation. It is much to Petroski's credit that he can directly address the need for analysis of lessons learned from these often tragic failures without seeming cold or detached from the all too frequent impact on human life. Engineering tempered with empathy, as it were.

The paradoxical relationship between failure and success

in engineering and the need for open discourse on that paradox is perhaps best captured by Petroski's citation of Barry LaPatner's argument made before a Congressional subcommittee regarding the release of technical records related to structural failures.

"Good judgement is usually the result of experience. And experience is frequently the result of bad judgment. But to learn from the experience of others requires those who have the experience to share the knowledge with those who follow."

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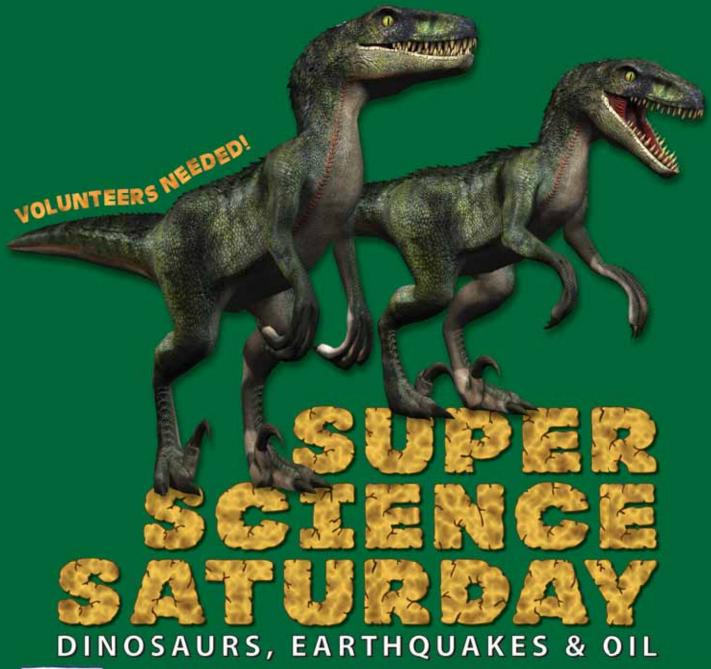
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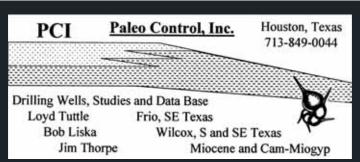
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