

# NOGS LOG

AUGUST 2018

Volume 59, Number 2



**AUGUST 6 - NOGS LUNCHEON PRESENTATION**  
**Sedimentary Records from Another World:**  
**Exploring Gale Crater Basin with the Curiosity Rover**  
**Guest Speaker: Kirsten Siebach**  
**Rice University • Houston, Texas**



  
**girl scouts**  
louisiana east

*Women Geoscientist Role Model  
Volunteers Needed!*

3 Hour Shifts Needed



**Saturday  
September 29th**

**University of New Orleans  
New Orleans, LA**

**9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

Contact Tom Bergeon for additional details  
[Tom.bergeon@upstreamexp.com](mailto:Tom.bergeon@upstreamexp.com) or 504.832.3772





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***Interested in contributing to the NOGS LOG?***

Please submit items by the 1st Friday of the month to [nogseditor@gmail.com](mailto:nogseditor@gmail.com). Advertising requests should contact NOGS at [admin@nogs.org](mailto:admin@nogs.org).

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## on the cover

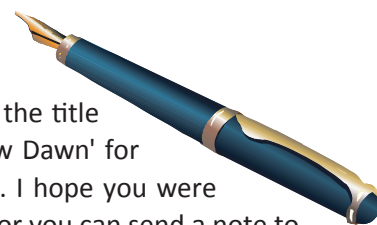
***Cover photo from Explore Louisiana website***

### Tunica Hills — Louisiana

Tunica Hills is located about 128 miles northwest of New Orleans. The driving time on I-10 is 2-1/2 hours. It is a very beautiful shady place with waterfalls and streams. Climate fluctuations during the Pleistocene time created the area. The interstadial times with warmer water and receding glaciers created a glacial flour consisting of fine-grained, silt sized particles of rock. This sediment was transported by the Mississippi River and deposited as hills in the Tunica area. Later water erosion cut through the hills and through fossil deposits from the Miocene, Pliocene, and Pleistocene epochs. Fossil collectors come to find macrofossils of plants and various creatures.

*Photo credit: <https://explorelouisiana.wordpress.com/2014/03/11/tunica-hills-clark-creek-natural-area/>*

# From the Editor



Our last luncheon meeting was very successful. The speaker was David Kosmitis and the title of the talk was “The Zama Discovery in Salina del Istomo Basin, Offshore Tobasco: 'New Dawn' for Offshore Mexico Exploration.” It was a packed house and the talk was very interesting. I hope you were there. If anyone hears of a good talk please let our vice president, Chris McLindon, know or you can send a note to me, at [nogseditor@gmail.com](mailto:nogseditor@gmail.com). Please remember to fill out the “Best Speaker” form, located on our website.

In the *NOGS LOG* on the Contact Information page you can see that there are several NOGS committees that need chairpersons. Please consider volunteering a bit of your time to help our organization. Encourage other geologists to join NOGS. There were several non-members at our last luncheon meeting.

Send any comments or corrections to [nogseditor@gmail.com](mailto:nogseditor@gmail.com).

*Fran*  
Fran Wiselady,  
NOGS LOG Editor



## FROM THE PRESIDENT **ALEX JANEVSKI**

What is your origin story? We all have one, a reason that we came to study earth science. Maybe your path was direct - you had a parent who was a geologist and set your interests early on. Or maybe you took a winding route, starting in another field, but then you took that one class in college that let you go on field trips and realize, "Hey, I can actually do this for a living."

My own story is a little of both, and largely begins with a high school teacher, Jim Shafer, who loved the science enough that he ensured my small, public high school had a geology class. I went to college as an engineer, but I did not know what an engineer did. I just heard it was the thing to do if you were good at math and science. It didn't take me long to realize I wanted something more out of college, and after some reflection I decided to switch my major to geology, before I had taken a class in the department. I knew I wanted to be a scientist, and I knew which subject I liked most.

I was helped out a little bit on my path by growing up traipsing through muddy streams around southwest Ohio (often ruining my new school shoes), where soft shale layers give way to fossiliferous Middle Ordovician limestones. When Mr. Shafer assigned our class a fossil collecting project, I already knew where to look. John McPhee wrote that "Cincinnati has produced an amazingly long list of American paleontologists...with profuse exceptional fossils in its Ordovician hills..." I didn't know that my neck of the woods was special for anything (I hadn't really been anywhere else). But I suppose that days spent poking sticks at brachiopod shells, running my fingers along the delicate molds they left behind, left an imprint on me. I went to graduate school to study geology with a focus on paleontology, even though I had no idea what graduate school was when I started collecting crinoid columns.

Science requires researchers and supporters, as I have learned from the volunteers I saw in natural history museums where I studied, and from the

scholarships and grants that paved my way. It also cannot exist without new thoughts and ideas, a pipeline of young blood to fill our pool of knowledge. During an internship with the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, I assisted with a high school mentorship program where two city students came to the museum. I taught them about geology and the fossils we were studying. A few years later I was visiting a prospective graduate school and walking through the halls of the geology department when I ran into one of the students. He was a freshman in college, taking a geology class, and considering it as a major. Before that moment I never knew the impact I could have.

As we move into the new fiscal year with NOGS, I encourage all of you to remember your origin stories, how you arrived at your career, and your influences on the way. And I want you to know your how important you are. Come participate in one of the many outreach activities that NOGS supports throughout the year, often led by our School Outreach committee chair, Tom Bergeon. If you cannot volunteer, then consider supporting NOGS or the Memorial Foundation in the new fiscal year, so that we can continue our missions of supporting future young scientists around New Orleans.

Speaking of which, in the July issue of the *NOGS LOG* you can see a photo spread for the 2018 NOGS/PLANO/SPWLA Golf Tournament held on May 18th, which raised nearly \$8,000 for our pledge to the new Children's Museums on the North and South Shores. It was a nice day out on the new South Course at City Park, and we would not have been able to do any of it without our generous sponsors and volunteers.

And along the way, be sure not to forget your own continuing education. For some of us this meant attending the Louisiana Coastal Geology Symposium, presented by the Louisiana Geological Survey and NOGS in July. Or it could mean attending the 22nd Annual Gulf of Mexico Deepwater Technical Symposium, which will kick off with the NOGS-sponsored Geoscience Opening Seminar - and geology is where petroleum always starts. Whether you are a student new to geology, or a long-time member who has been around for much of New Orleans Geological time, your impact matters.

*Alex Janevski*

### References

McPhee JA. 1999. *Annals of the Former World*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, New York, N.Y. p. 297



# SAVE THE DATE!

22nd Annual Gulf of Mexico

# Deepwater

Technical Symposium

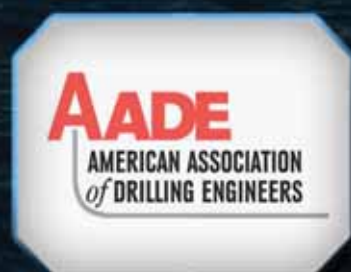


## August 27-29

## 2018

***New Orleans Downtown Marriott  
at the Convention Center***

[www.deepwaternola.org](http://www.deepwaternola.org)





## NOGS Contact Information

Email: admin@nogs.org • Website: www.nogs.org

P.O. Box 58108 • New Orleans, LA 70158.

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

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504-554-0319
985-264-1677
504-460-0319
504-615-5170
504-425-6411
504-593-3623
504-975-6735

## E-mail

gregory.janevski@shell.com
chris.mclindon@Upstreamexp.com
shara.gremillion@usm.edu
dculpepper@theculpeppergroup.com
robmrooney@aol.com
snowde.fran@gmail.com
jennifer.connolly@shell.com
david.reiter@talosenergy.com
charleswholman@bellsouth.net

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Consultant
LSU
Tulane University
UNO

504-947-8495
281-705-3254
504-952-6437

bootscon@aol.com
sshul2@lsu.edu
tbishnoi@tulane.edu
jrflathe@uno.edu

Upstream Exploration LLC
The Culpepper Group, LLC
Chevron
Robert M. Rooney Inc.

504-756-2003
504-717-6465
985-264-1677
832-854-6431
504-460-0319

chris.mclindon@Upstreamexp.com
lfeinmn1@cox.net
dculpepper@theculpeppergroup.com
bay.salmeron@chevron.com
robmrooney@aol.com

Louisiana Geological Survey
TGS
Retired - Shell

225-931-6622
504-524-3450
504-975-3096

hammer@lsu.edu
margaret.mckinney@tgs.com
epicou@bellsouth.net

Consultant
Upstream Exploration LLC
Retired - Shell
Upstream Exploration

913-710-8021
504-430-4240
504-887-4377
504-756-2003
504-975-3096
504-832-3772

r_carter@me.com
brendaerilly@hotmail.com
DGldthwt@aol.com
chris.mclindon@Upstreamexp.com
epicou@bellsouth.net
tom.bergeon@upstreamexp.com

## NOGS LOG STAFF

Editor	Fran Wiseman
Editor-Elect	Grant Black
Auxiliary	NOGA Officers and Directors
Drill Bits	Al Baker
Drill Bits	Carlo C. Christina
Drill Bits	Kevin Trosclair
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Beacon Exploration, LLC
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504-615-1570
918-906-4485
504-836-2710
504-202-7997
985-893-2013
985-626-5223

snowde.fran@gmail.com
gblack@chevron.com
ABaker1006@aol.com
carlocc398@aol.com
kevintriosclair@gmail.com
arthur_shalimar@yahoo.com
kpbrown@bellsouth.net

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504-451-3472
504-393-8659
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# August 6 • NOGS Luncheon

**Holiday Inn Downtown Superdome**

\$3.00 validated parking in hotel garage

Presentation:

***Sedimentary Records from Another World:  
Exploring Gale Crater Basin with the Curiosity Rover***

Guest Speaker:

**Kirsten Siebach**

Dept. of Earth, Environmental, and Planetary Sciences • Rice University • Houston, Texas

*See page 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**

**August 27**

**Geoscience Opening Seminar**

**22nd Annual Gulf of Mexico Deepwater Technical Symposium**

N.O. Downtown Marriott Convention Center • New Orleans, Louisiana

For more information: [www.deepwatermola.org](http://www.deepwatermola.org)

**VOLUNTEERS  
NEEDED!**

**September 22**

**Energy Day**

11 am - 3 pm • Louisiana Children's Museum

For more info, Tom Bergeon at [tom.bergeon@upstreamexp.com](mailto:tom.bergeon@upstreamexp.com)

**August 28-29**

**22nd Annual Gulf of Mexico Deepwater Technical Symposium**

N.O. Downtown Marriott Convention Center • New Orleans, Louisiana

For more information: [www.deepwatermola.org](http://www.deepwatermola.org)

**September 29**

**Girl Scouts B.I.G. Event**

9:30 am - 2 pm • University of New Orleans • New Orleans, Louisiana

For more info, [info@stratigraphyhelp.com](mailto:info@stratigraphyhelp.com) or 720-434-3864

**VOLUNTEERS  
NEEDED!**

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504-425-6214
504-846-9245
504-947-8495
504-593-3623

#### **E-mail**

<a href="mailto:chris.mclindon@Upstreamexp.com">chris.mclindon@Upstreamexp.com</a>
<a href="mailto:gregory.janevski@shell.com">gregory.janevski@shell.com</a>
<a href="mailto:kelli.hardesty@erm.com">kelli.hardesty@erm.com</a>
<a href="mailto:bootscon@aol.com">bootscon@aol.com</a>
<a href="mailto:david.reiter@talosenergy.com">david.reiter@talosenergy.com</a>

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985-630-6898
504-947-8495

<a href="mailto:earlcumming@bellsouth.net">earlcumming@bellsouth.net</a>
<a href="mailto:bootscon@aol.com">bootscon@aol.com</a>
<a href="mailto:balcer@bellsouth.net">balcer@bellsouth.net</a>
<a href="mailto:elizabeth_mcdade@fmi.com">elizabeth_mcdade@fmi.com</a>
<a href="mailto:gregory.janevski@shell.com">gregory.janevski@shell.com</a>

Shell
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504-425-6214
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# August 6 NOGS Luncheon Presentation

☆☆☆ at the Holiday Inn Superdome ☆☆☆

## Sedimentary Records from Another World: Exploring Gale Crater Basin with the Curiosity Rover

*Presented by*

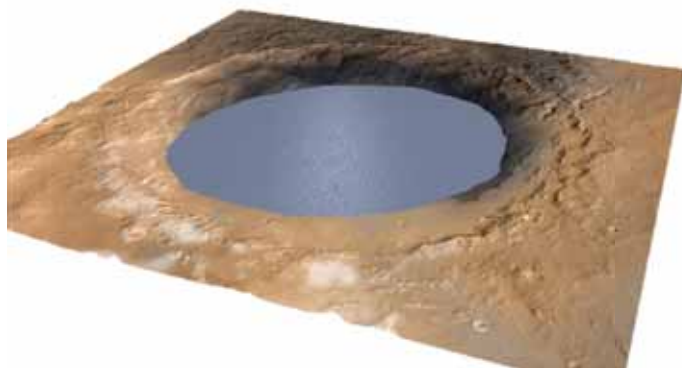
**Kirsten Siebach**

Dept. of Earth, Environmental, and Planetary Sciences • Rice University  
Houston, Texas

### ABSTRACT

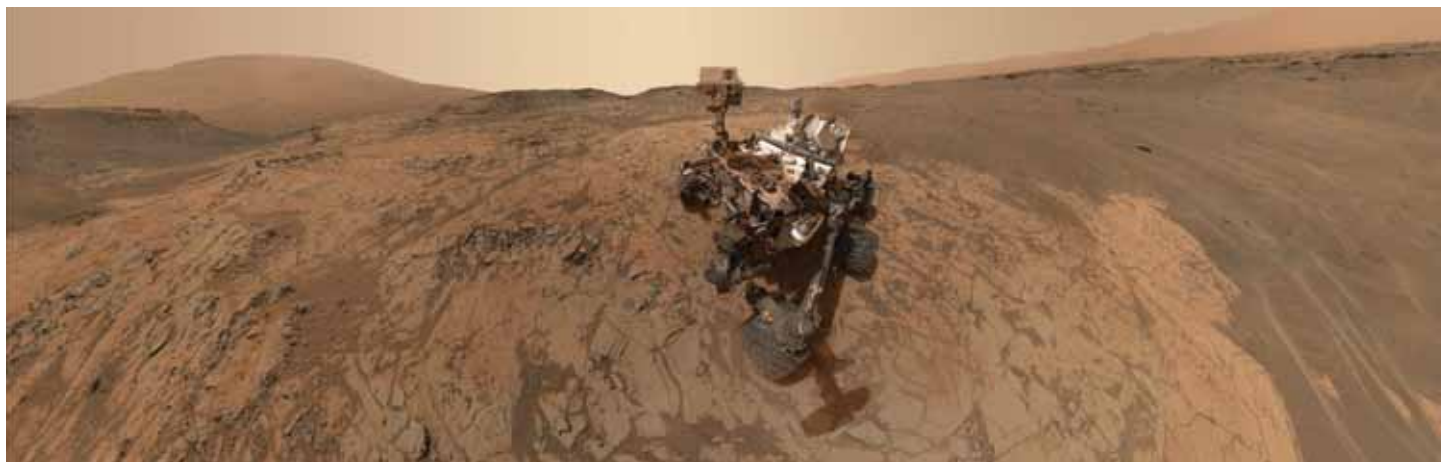
The Mars Science Laboratory rover, Curiosity, landed on the floor of Gale crater, Mars, on August 5, 2012. In the last 5.5 years, Curiosity has traversed over 11 miles (18 km) to explore 1200 ft (370 m) of basin-fill stratigraphy exposed as layered sediments preserved around the craters' central peak, a 16,000 ft (5 km) tall stack of sediments dubbed Mount Sharp.

Along this traverse, Curiosity has not only collected tens of thousands of images of the Martian surface, but has also collected 500,000 laser shot-based chemistry analyses, 600 bulk chemistry analyses, and 15 drilled samples observed with both a mass spectrometer and an x-ray diffractometer, sending the data back to Earth on a daily basis. The instrument suite onboard Curiosity has enabled the highest resolution ever achieved in in-situ imaging of planetary surface samples, the first age date on another planet, ongoing chemostratigraphy based on multiple scales of compositional measurements, and ten robotic Martian selfies.



*Simulation of lake in Gale crater [NASA/JPL].*

Far beyond the numbers, Curiosity's findings have revolutionized our understanding of Mars. Whereas it was once thought that Mars may have only had intermittent short-lived periods of relatively clement atmospheric conditions, Curiosity has investigated over 300 m of mudstone deposited in a lake of liquid water that would have had habitable conditions for life ~3.5 billion years ago, which seem to have been sustained for at least 3 million years. These lake (and associated fluvial and deltaic) sediments underwent multiple episodes of diagenesis, showing that groundwater



*Selfie taken by Curiosity 1941 sols (Martian days) after landing, with sand dunes and Mount Sharp [NASA/JPL/MSSS].*



was present for even longer durations. Furthermore, the presence of cemented sedimentary rocks above angular unconformities show that significant fractions of the 152-km-diameter crater were filled with water-cemented sediments and then largely evacuated by wind at least twice prior to ~3 billion years ago.

Curiosity has also shown that early Mars had more igneous diversity than previously predicted, that eolian bedforms with distinct wavelengths form under different atmospheric conditions, and that Mars today has active sand dunes and seasonal variations in atmospheric methane.

Professor Siebach will present the developing story of the history of the Gale crater basin, and the basin analysis work she has done to understand source-to-sink processes by separating chemical effects from source rock diversity, sediment transport, and diagenetic influences for multiple sedimentary cycles.

## BIOGRAPHY

**Kirsten Siebach** is an Assistant Professor in the Rice University Department of Earth, Environmental, and Planetary Sciences. Her work focuses on understanding the history of water interacting with sediments on Mars and early Earth through analysis of sedimentary rock textures and chemistry. She is currently a member of the Science and Operations Teams for the Mars Exploration Rovers and the Mars Science Laboratory. Kirsten completed her PhD in Geology



at Caltech with Professor John Grotzinger with a dissertation titled “Formation and Diagenesis of Sedimentary Rocks in Gale Crater, Mars”, and then did postdoctoral research in geochemistry of Martian sediments with Professor Scott McLennan at Stony Brook University. Prior to Caltech, she attended Washington University in St. Louis, where she graduated summa cum laude with a B.A. in Earth & Planetary Science and Chemistry.

She is also actively engaged in promoting education and outreach related to Earth and Planetary science and regularly presents at schools and outreach events. Outside of professional interests, she loves travel and photography (on Earth as well as Mars), and enjoys swimming, hiking, and social dancing.



*A portion of Mount Sharp, the preserved mound of sedimentary rocks in Gale crater [NASA/JPL/MSSS]*

**THE JUNE LUNCHEON RESERVATION DEADLINE IS AUGUST 3.**

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

*The next luncheon will be held on September 10. Our guest speaker, Dr. Gregory Upton from Louisiana State University, will present "Gulf Coast Energy Outlook." Contact NOGS at [admin@nogs.org](mailto:admin@nogs.org) or use the PayPal link at [www.nogs.org](http://www.nogs.org) to make your reservation.*



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS: AUGUST - OCTOBER 2018

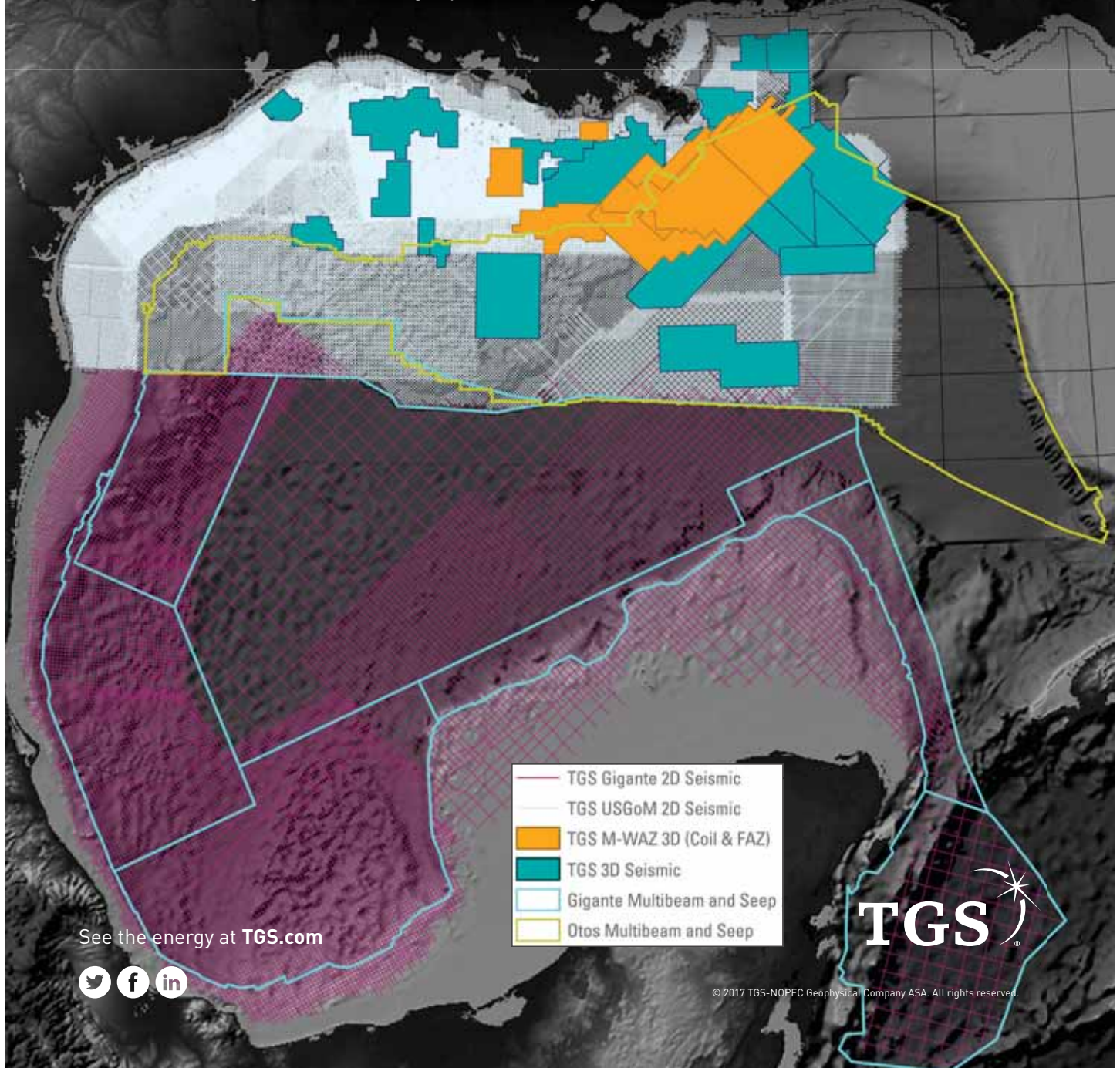
*If you know of upcoming seminars or academic events that may be of interest to our members, please email the event details to Fran Wiseman at [nogseditor@gmail.com](mailto:nogseditor@gmail.com) to be included in the monthly calendar.*

2018	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT / INFO
6 Aug	<b>NOGS Luncheon Presentation</b> <b>"Sedimentary Records from Another World: Exploring Gale Crater Basin with the Curiosity Rover"</b> <b>Speaker: Kirsten Siebach</b> <b>Rice University</b>	Holiday Inn Superdome	<a href="mailto:admin@nogs.org">admin@nogs.org</a> or 504-561-8980
27-29 Aug	Geoscience Opening Seminar and the 22nd Annual Gulf of Mexico Deepwater Technical Symposium	N.O. Downtown Marriott Convention Center	<a href="http://www.deepwaternola.org/">http://www.deepwaternola.org/</a>
3 Sep	Labor Day		
10 Sep	<b>NOGS Luncheon Presentation</b> <b>"Gulf Coast Energy Outlook"</b> <b>Speaker: Gregory B. Upton</b> <b>LSU Center for Energy Studies</b>	Holiday Inn Superdome	<a href="mailto:admin@nogs.org">admin@nogs.org</a> or 504-561-8980
17-21 Sep	Applied Stratigraphix "Halokinesis and Sequence Stratigraphy of Salt Plays"		<a href="mailto:info@stratigraphyhelp.com">info@stratigraphyhelp.com</a> 720-434-3864
22 Sep	Energy Day	11 am - 3 pm LA Children's Museum	Tom Bereon • 504-832-3772 <a href="mailto:tom.bergeon@upstreamexp.com">tom.bergeon@upstreamexp.com</a>
29 Sep	Girl Scouts B.I.G. Believe in GIRLS Event	9:30 am - 2 pm UNO • New Orleans, LA	Tom Bereon • 504-832-3772 <a href="mailto:tom.bergeon@upstreamexp.com">tom.bergeon@upstreamexp.com</a>
Sep 30 -Oct 2	68th Annual GCAGS-GSSEPM Convention	Shreveport, LA	<a href="http://www.gcags2018.org">www.gcags2018.org</a>
1 Oct	<b>NOGS Luncheon Presentation</b> <b>"Insights from Elevation Surveys of Faulted Bridge Structures in Lake Pontchartrain Suggest a New Methodology for Quantifying Subsidence in South Louisiana"</b> <b>Speaker: Michael Hopkins</b> <b>Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation</b>	Holiday Inn Superdome	<a href="mailto:admin@nogs.org">admin@nogs.org</a> or 504-561-8980



# Set your sights. **Gulf of Mexico**

TGS provides industry-leading offshore seismic data using an innovative mix of technologies and unmatched imaging capabilities. Through strategic partnerships, we provide a comprehensive collection of advanced marine acquisition technologies for enhanced reservoir delineation, characterization and monitoring. TGS delivers the E&P industry unlimited potential with our collection of advanced offshore data including **Declaration M-WAZ 3D** survey, **Fusion M-WAZ 3D**, **Otos Multibeam and Seep** and **Gigante 2D Multibeam and Seep** programs. Explore the Gulf of Mexico with the right data, in the right place, at the right time.





# Beach Safety: Know Your Flags!

Many of us go to the beach during the summer and often see the warning flags out. We're all familiar with red, yellow, and green flags, but most people don't realize there is a purple flag too. This flag signals that there may be dangerous sea life in the water such as jellyfish, stingrays, and (eeeeek!) sharks. Whenever you see a purple flag flying, you should proceed with caution. Most of the time, jellyfish are all you have to worry about, but you don't want to accidentally meet a shark face-to-face!

In the case of jellyfish stings, most stings aren't serious. If you're stung, get out of the water and rinse the affected area with vinegar to remove the stingers and ease the burning. Use a mild hydrocortisone cream or an oral antihistamine to relieve itching and swelling. (Yes, I know what you're thinking, but urine is NOT a good idea. It can actually aggravate the stingers still left in your skin to release more venom.) If you do not have any vinegar on hand, gently rubbing the affected area with sand (to remove the stingers) and rinsing the area with warm water also seems to help. Jellyfish can also sting you even when they're dead, so be careful not to step on any that have washed up on the sand.



## Halokinesis and Sequence Stratigraphy of Salt Plays

Sept 17-21, 2018

### WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- Geologists
- Geophysicists
- Petrophysicists
- Engineers

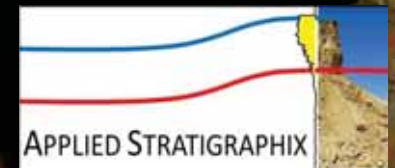
This course is meant for all who are working on mobile substrate basins, especially the GOM, Angola and Brazil

### YOU WILL LEARN HOW TO:

- Relate seismic facies to reservoir and non-reservoir rocks
- Interpret salt-related plays on seismic data
- Determine timing of deposition vs salt movement
- Describe mixed evaporite-carbonate-siliciclastic successions

### TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- Chartered flight over structures produced by salt tectonics
- Seismic-scale diapirs
- Minibasins in outcrop
- Core workshop on salt-encased reservoir sandstone



[www.stratigraphyhelp.com](http://www.stratigraphyhelp.com)

**\$4250/person** – this price includes tuition, course manuals, exercise materials, hotels, all meals, transportation and pick-and-drop from the airport, and 1-hour long overflight. To register e-mail us: [info@stratigraphyhelp.com](mailto:info@stratigraphyhelp.com) or call (720) 434-3864





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Technical Symposium



Geoscience Opening Seminar  
Monday August 27, 2018

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John Dribus



Ravi Chhibber

John Dribus and Ravi Chhibber of Schlumberger will lead a guided tour through the future of exploration in a "digitized world", covering a wide range of topics including:

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The journey into the digital future will look at how the nature of exploration will change and how people, processes and technology will transform into a new way of working.

Registration

\$100 for seminar only  
pay under NOGS Seminar and Symposiums



# NOGS AWARD PRESENTATIONS

NOGS held its annual awards presentation at the July 9th luncheon meeting. Outgoing editor, **Laura Sorey** was not present to receive her service plaque (well-deserved for serving two straight years as editor). Special awards were presented to **Al Melillo**, and **Tom Bergeon**. NOGS also recognized the family of the late **Art Johnson** with a Lifetime Achievement Award, in respected and admired memory of a husband, father, servant, leader, colleague, and friend.

Award pictures as well as the pictures for the Louisiana Coastal Geology Symposium were courtesy of Art Christensen. Additional pictures can be found on the NOGS website.



Top: Chris McLindon presents outgoing treasurer Margaret McKinney with a Service Award.

2nd row, left to right: Outgoing Vice President Robert Rooney receives a Service Award.

Leslie Brousard accepting the President's Award.

3rd row, left to right: Alex Janevski is awarded the President's Award.

Al Melillo receives the Honorary Lifetime Membership award.

Tom Bergeon awarded the Ed Picou Outstanding Service Award.

4th row, left to right: Outgoing Director Brenda Reilly receives a Service Award.

Emily and Alice Johnson accepting a Lifetime Achievement Award for the late Art Johnson.

Outgoing President Chris McLindon receives his gavel plaque.



# South Louisiana and Offshore Gulf of Mexico Exploration and Production Activities

LAFAYETTE DISTRICT, ONSHORE AREA

*By Carlo C. Christina and Kevin J. Trosclair*

During the month of June, the Office of Conservation, Lafayette District, issued a total of 14 permits to drill in the Lafayette District. The following are the most significant and interesting locations:

## NEW LOCATIONS

Will-Drill Production Co. has permitted the #1 WX RA SUA;B H TIMBER to 12,000 feet to test **Lower Wilcox** sands in Sec. 8, 5S-6W in **Bundick Creek Field, (A)**, Beauregard Parish. This well is located approximately 2500 feet southeast of Will-Drill's #1 Miller which was completed in a **Cockfield** sand having **25 feet of net oil**. It was completed in February 2015 through perforations **8465 to 8468** and has produced **60,078 barrels of oil** and **759,189 MCF gas**. It is also located one-half mile west of a well which was drilled in 1956 and found the same sand but was plugged abandoned without testing. (SN 251114)

In Calcasieu Parish, **Holmwood Field, (B)**, C6 Operating, will drill the #1 Excalibur Land in Sec. 26, 10S-7W, approximately 1½ miles from nearest production. It will be drilled to a proposed total depth of 11,560 feet to test Cib haz sands. (SN 251068)

Key Operating Company will re-enter a well in **Profit Island Field, (C)**, Pointe Coupee Parish, attempting to establish production in the **Austin Chalk**. The well was drilled by BP AMERICA Production Company in Sec 101, 5S-10E, and completed in December 2005 in a **Lower Tuscaloosa** sand through perforations 19,083 to 19,098. It was later re-completed through perforations 18,990 to 18,996 and 19,083 to 19,098. The well produced less than 1 year and was plugged and abandoned in May 2009. (SN 251104)

In Plaquemines Parish, **Empire Field, (D)**, Lavaca River Operating Company will drill the #1 UVIG 3 RA SUA;ENCALADE to a proposed total depth of 15,086 feet, (13,134 feet, true vertical depth), to test Uvigerina

3 sands, which are productive approximately 6 miles to the northeast in East Cox Bay Field. The well will be drilled from a surface location in Sec. 1, 20S-28E, on the west bank of the Mississippi River. The proposed bottom hole is N 34 E 6,606 feet from the surface location in Sec. 17, 19S-16E, on the East bank of the Mississippi River. Note that the well will be spudded on the West bank, and then drilled under the Mississippi river, to a total depth on the East bank. (SN 251078)

## COMPLETIONS

In St. Charles Parish, LLOX has completed two wells in **Bayou Couba Field, (E)**, The #1 EMC Fee was completed as a gas well flowing 2231 MCFD and 96 BCPD through perforations 12,236 to 12,266 in a Cib op sand. The well was drilled in Sec.2, 15S-21E to a depth of 12,505 feet from a surface location in Sec. 34, 14S-21E. (SN 250903)

Also, in **Bayou Couba Field, (F)**, the #2 EMC was completed as a gas well in a Cib op sand through perforations 13,578 to 13619 feet flowing 2052 MCFD and 75 BCPD. It was drilled to a total depth of 13,852 feet, in Sec.2, 15S-21E. (SN 250965)

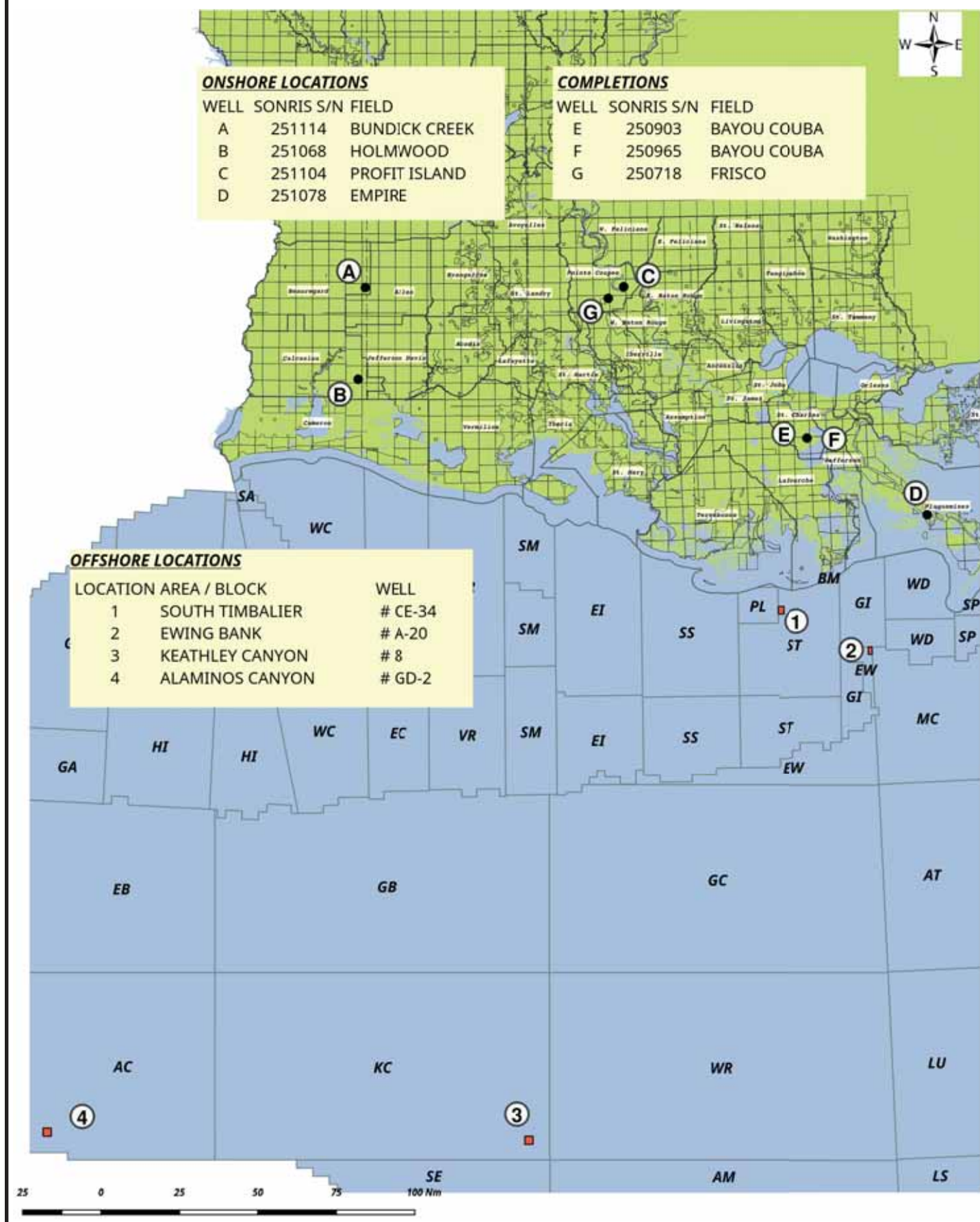
In Pointe Coupee Parish, **Frisco Field, (G)**, Will-Drill Production Co. drilled the #1 Exxon Fee to a total depth of 12,323 feet and completed it as an oil well in the Upper Wilcox sand. It flowed 20 BOPD through perforations 11,786 to 11,793 and 11,835 to 11,840 feet. The intervals were fracked with 20,000 gallons of treated water, 27,700 gallons of gel and 50,000 pounds of sand. It was drilled in Sec. 5, 6S-9E, offsetting Will-Drill's #1 Smith, which was also fracked, and completed flowing 190 BOPD. (SN 250718)





# Onshore & Offshore Activity Map for South Louisiana

## AUGUST 2018



# OFFSHORE GULF OF MEXICO SHELF AND DEEPWATER ACTIVITIES

by Al Baker

During **June 2018**, the **BOEM** approved **87** Gulf of Mexico drilling permits. **Twenty-one** of these were for shelf wells, and **66** were for deepwater wells. Of the total number of permits, there were **4 new well permits**; **2** were issued on the **shelf** and **2** in **deepwater**.

The 2 shelf new well permits were for development wells. **Arena Offshore** was granted a permit for their **South Timbalier 51 #CE-34** well, and **Talos Energy Offshore** received a permit for their **Ewing Bank 306 #A-20** well.

The 2 deepwater new well permits included an exploration well and a development well. **Anadarko Petroleum** received the exploration well permit for their **Keathley Canyon 919 #8** well. **Shell Offshore** obtained the development well permit for their **Alaminos Canyon #GD-2** well.

On June 29th, **IHS-Petrodata** reported that the Gulf of Mexico mobile offshore rig supply stood at **78**, which is **7 less** than last month and **17 less** than last year. The marketed rig supply consisted of **45** rigs, of which **34** were under contract. The marketed rig supply number was **1 less** than reported last month, and the contracted rig supply was the same as the previous month. The marketed contracted versus total rig supply utilization rate stands at **57.7%**, and the marketed contracted

versus marketed supply utilization rate stands at **75.6%**. By comparison, the June 2017 total fleet utilization rate stood at 34.7% (**versus 43.6% today**) with 33 out of the 95 rigs under contract.

As of June 29th, **BakerHughes** indicated that there were **18** active mobile offshore rigs in the Gulf of Mexico, which is **52.9%** of the rigs under contract mentioned above. This active rigs number is **the same** as reported last month. Of the 18 rigs, **5** are located on the **shelf**, and **13** are situated in **deepwater**. At the same time last year, there were 21 mobile offshore rigs operating in the Gulf of Mexico suggesting that there has been a 14.3% decline in mobile offshore rig activity year over year.

As of June 29th, the **BakerHughes** total U.S. rig count stood at **1047** rigs, which is **12 less** rigs than at the end of May 2018. Of the 1047 rigs, **858 (81.9%)** are **oil rigs** and **187 (17.9%)** are **gas rigs**. A year ago, there were 940 rigs working in the U.S. Thus, the current rig figure represents an **11.4% increase** in rigs year over year. **Texas** still has the largest number of rigs with **530**, which is slightly more than half (50.6%) of the total number of rigs in the U.S. **Louisiana** has a total of **55** rigs.

On June 18th, the **BOEM** concluded their evaluation of all the high bids that it received in **OCS Sale 250** on March 21, 2018. A total of **139** bids were deemed **acceptable** out of the 148 bids submitted. **Nine bids** were **rejected** – **1 shelf** bid and **8 deepwater** bids.

There is no recent drilling news of significance to report during the month of June.



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The 2018 GCAGS-GCSSEPM Convention Logo's background image is used with permission of the Shreveport Geological Society.





*Giant aquatic sculptures made from plastic pollution are at the Audubon Aquarium.*

# Washed Ashore: Art to Save the Sea

Audubon Aquarium of the Americas

**July 27, 2018 - April 30, 2019**

This limited-time special exhibition features larger-than-life aquatic animal sculptures crafted from plastic trash collected from beaches. The exhibit is spread throughout the Aquarium and designed to educate a global audience about the threat that plastic pollution poses for the world's oceans and waterways.

Made entirely of debris removed from Pacific Coast beaches, the "Washed Ashore" traveling exhibit offers visitors a powerful, visual reality of the proliferation of pollution in the world's waterways through marine animal representations that use thousands of pieces of plastic in every color of the rainbow. Examples include sculptures of a 10-foot Sea Jelly, a 10-foot-long leaping Marlin, and a 1,500-pound Great White Shark.

Washed Ashore is included with a general admission ticket to Audubon Aquarium of the Americas.

*Reprinted with permission by Audubon Aquarium of the Americas*



# Louisiana Coastal Geology Symposium 2018

## July 10-11, 2018

*Presented by: Louisiana Geological Survey and New Orleans Geological Society*

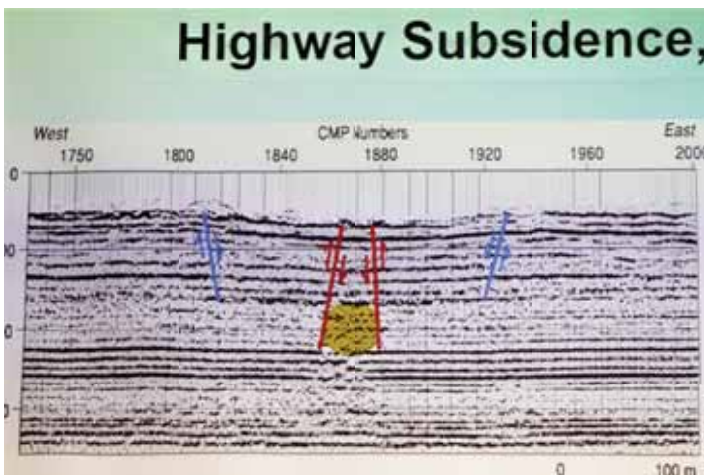
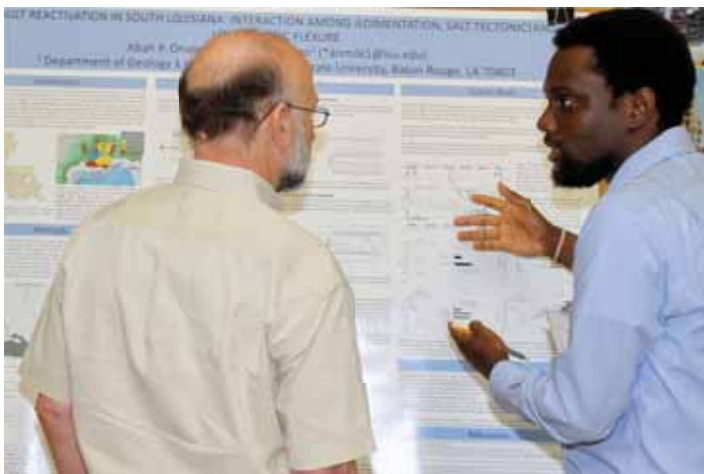
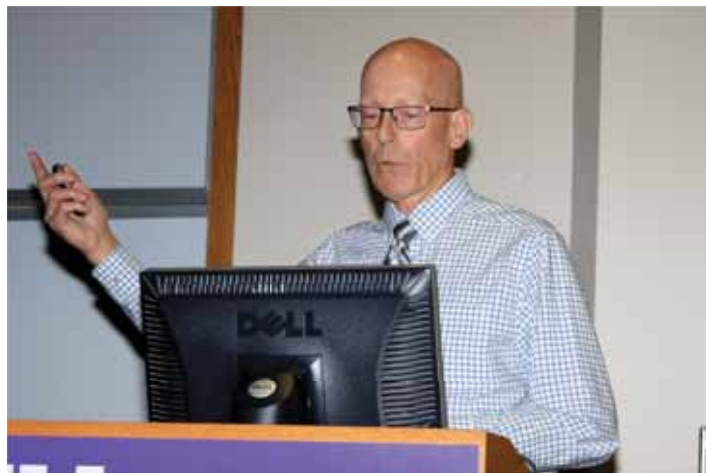
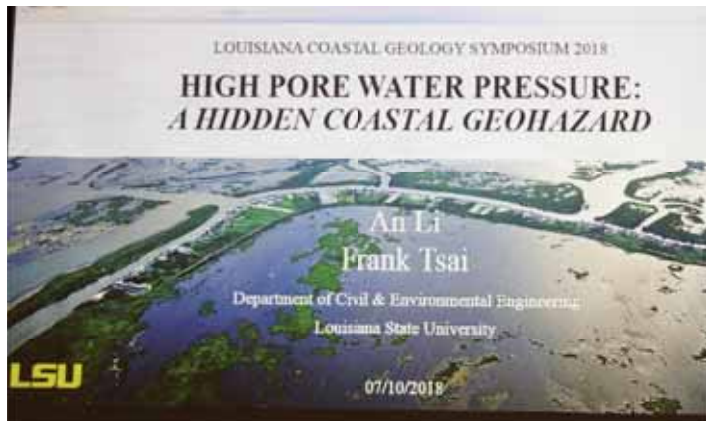
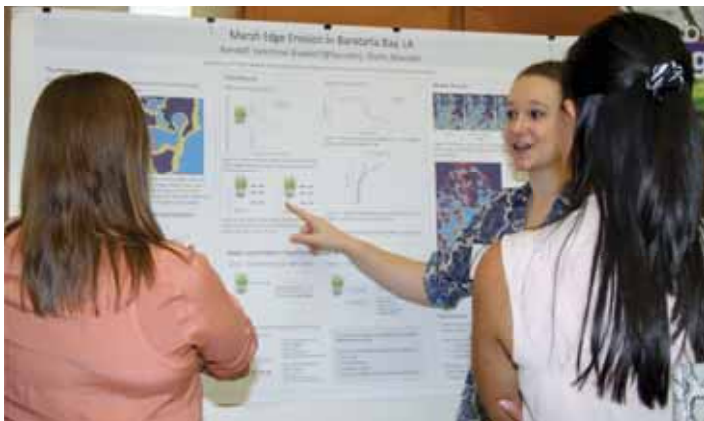
The Louisiana Geological Survey and the New Orleans Geological Society presented the Louisiana Geological Survey Coastal Geology Symposium. It was held at the Dalton J. Woods Auditorium in the Energy, Coast & Environment Building on the LSU campus on July 11 and 12, 2018. There were 97 total attendees representing LSU, UNO, Tulane, ULL, USM, USGS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program, and multiple environmental and engineering firms.

There were 33 oral presentations and 14 poster presentations. There were a wide range of oral presentations covering topics from salt dome dissolution to mass wasting at the Mississippi Delta front to saltwater encroachment at the Baton Rouge aquifer. Members of the Coastal Geohazards Atlas team laid out the foundation for the project in a series of presentations covering each of the major components. There were several presentations by NOGS members including Liz McDade, Mike Merritt, Chris McLindon, John Johnston, John Lopez, and student members Jarrett Levesh, Shara Gremillion and Bobola Akintomide. Feedback from attendees was very positive. This will very likely become an annual event.

Chris McLindon







## NOTICE FOR POTENTIAL CANDIDATES TO APPLY FOR VACANCIES ON THE SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY EAST AND WEST LEVEE BOARDS.

The State contact person is Ms. Stephanie Aymond at [Stephanie.Aymond@LA.GOV](mailto:Stephanie.Aymond@LA.GOV). Applicants need to complete the official application, which can be found at the following link: <http://www.coastal.louisiana.gov/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/SLFPAApplication1.pdf>. Applicants are needed to fill the following Board vacancies:

The Nominating Committee will be seeking applicants for this year to fill the following vacancies for their term beginning in 2019 and ending in 2023.

### A. Non-Resident:

1. SLFPA –East Board: One (1) Vacancy. A Non-Resident for the East Board means anyone who resides in the State of Louisiana or the United States; but, does not reside in either Jefferson or Orleans Parish in that respective portion of these Parishes that is located on the East side of the Mississippi River or anyone who resides in St. Bernard or Tangipahoa Parishes.
2. SLFPA-West Board: One (1) Vacancy. A Non-Resident for the West Board means anyone who resides in the State of Louisiana or the United States; but, does not reside in either Jefferson or Orleans Parish in that respective portion of these Parishes that is located on the West side of the Mississippi River.

A Non-Resident applicant can apply to both Board's or may choose to apply for only the East or West Board's, subject to the residency requirements.

### B. Resident:

1. SLFPA-East Board Tangipahoa Parish Resident: One (1) Vacancy. The applicant for this vacancy must reside within the boundaries of Tangipahoa Parish.
2. SLFPA-West Board Orleans Parish West Resident: One (1) Vacancy. The applicant for this vacancy must reside in that portion of Orleans Parish that is located on the West side of the Mississippi River.



Contact NOGS at:  
[admin@nogs.org](mailto:admin@nogs.org)

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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 2018 RATE!
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Note Size (3.75"x.75")	\$120	\$60

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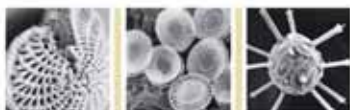
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at the Louisiana Children's Museum

*Dedicated to the memory of Art Johnson who gave so much to science education.*

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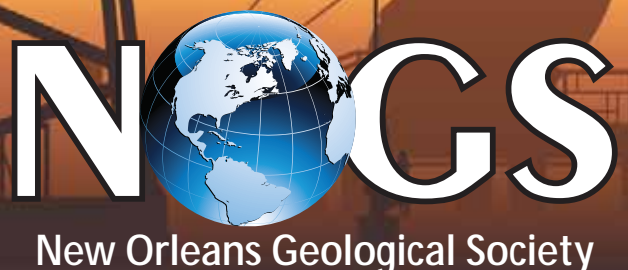
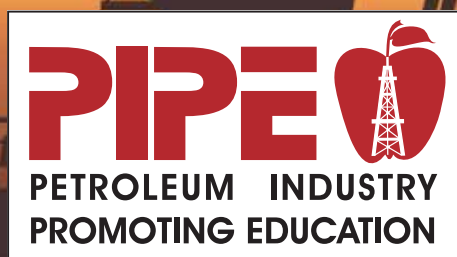
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