

NOGS LOG

JANUARY 2018

Volume 58, Number 7



JANUARY 8 - NOGS LUNCHEON PRESENTATION
Myths and Misunderstandings of Reservoir Engineering
Guest Speaker: Dwayne Purvis, P.E.
Dwayne Purvis, P.E. • New Orleans, Louisiana

Judge Mike Fein with Earth Science Division winner, Ashely Seiser



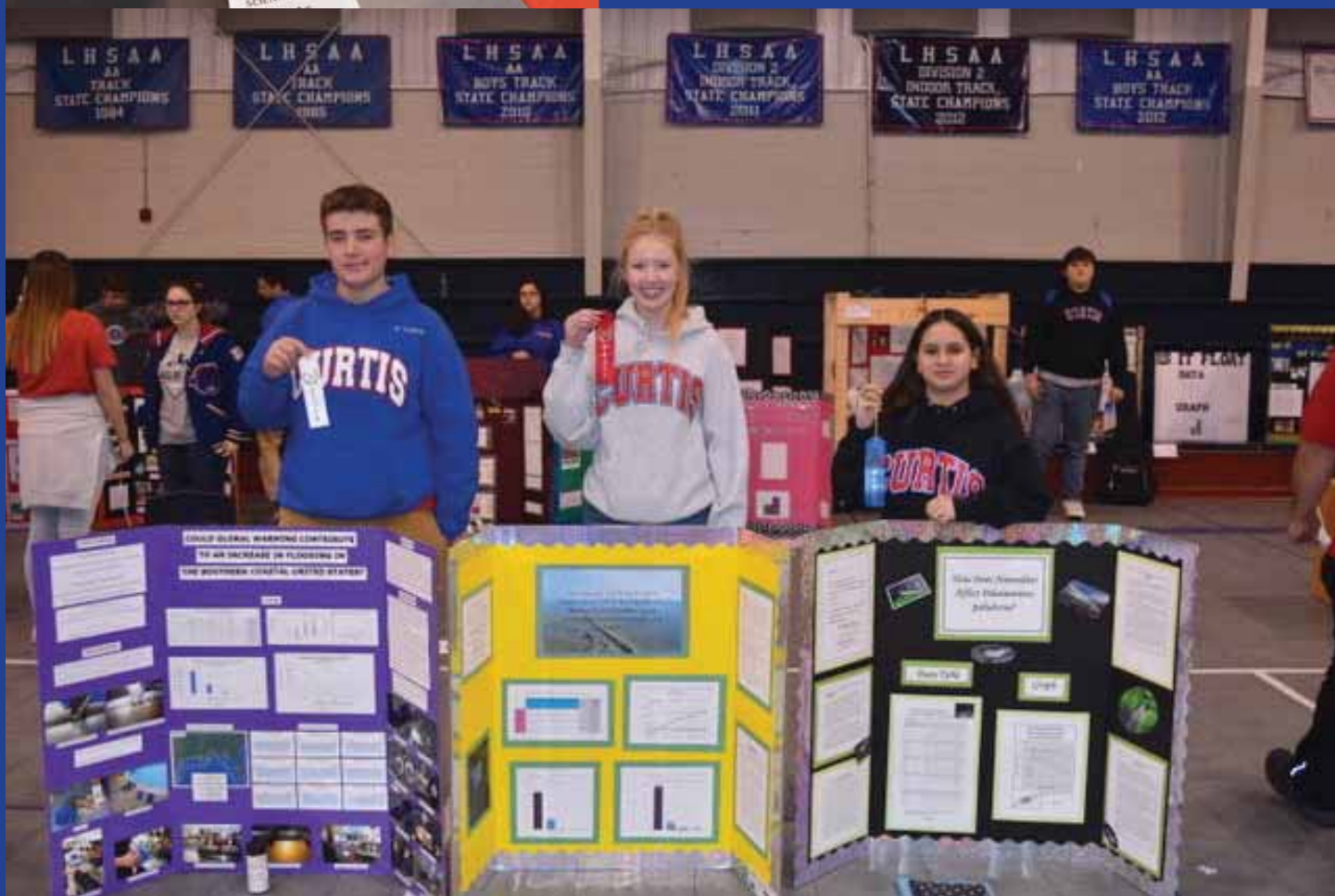
JOHN CURTIS
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

SCIENCE FAIR

December 12, 2017

On December 12th, **John Curtis Christian School** held its annual science fair. NOGS was well represented with member **Mike Fein** serving as judge and John Curtis teacher and NOGS honorary life member **Cathy Boucvalt** providing valuable guidance to students.

*Winners of the Earth Science division
are (below, left to right)
Zach LaBarre, Ashely Seiser, and Isabella Pita.*





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on the cover

Cover photo from the Bureau of Land Management

Vermillion Cliffs National Monument — Arizona

This month cover photo comes from the Bureau of Land Management and features the Vermillion Cliffs of Arizona. The 280,000 acre monument is located on the Colorado Plateau and makes up part of the Grand Staircase supersequence of sedimentary rocks that can be seen in exposures across nearby areas like the Grand Canyon. Consisting of silt and sandstone with some carbonates, the Vermillion cliffs gain their name thanks to coloration from iron oxide and manganese. The parks serves as a home to fauna like mountain lions, bighorn sheep, birds of prey, and even the California condor. Between 165 to 200 million years old, the stratigraphic rocks of these cliffs are relatively young compared other geologic sites across the United States, but their historic settlements, lack of spoilage, and striking color and prominence make them one of the quintessential sites of the American West.

From the Editor



Around this time last year, I remember joking with some friends that at least 2017 couldn't be any harder than 2016, so we didn't have anything to worry about. Time proved me wrong (at least partially) on that count. To paraphrase Queen Elizabeth II, this past year was not one that I will look back on with undiluted pleasure. Whether you were one of the many geologists in the job hunt, resisted the urge to throw a rock hammer at a TV during a news broadcast, or were just generally downhearted at the seemingly unending barrage of reports on painful events across the world, I think we all had our share of frustrations with the past twelve months. I'm not naïve enough to think that the matters of the world will suddenly take on a rosier tone with the advent of another new year, but I maintain my hope and expectation that the challenges of the coming months will be tempered by support networks like the one found within NOGS. A support network that I have come to respect and rely on as a vital part of my professional journey.

Laura

Laura Sorey, Editor



FROM THE PRESIDENT **CHRIS McLINDON**

At 2:00 on the morning of April 12, 1943, a fault ruptured the surface of the earth at a sugarcane plantation along the west bank of the Mississippi River near Vacherie, Louisiana. Given that it was spring, the river was at medium flood stage, and the north end of the fault was only about three-tenths of a mile from the levee, the New Orleans District of the Corps of Engineers dispatched Harold Fisk to investigate. He found that the surface rupture was comprised of a series of parallel open cracks arranged in an echelon pattern. Together they were over a mile long on an orientation of about 30 degrees west of north, and the western side of the fault was down-dropped relative to the eastern side. There was a maximum displacement of about eight inches near the center of the fault trace.

This episode brought together three seemingly disparate timeframes of geological history. The movement of the fault was an instantaneous geological event. In many ways this put it in the same category with episodes of fault movement that are associated with earthquakes, but no seismic activity was detected at the Loyola University seismography station, only 50 miles away. This would tend to suggest that movement experienced at the surface was not directly associated with deep tectonic movement. It was something different, and understanding the processes that caused a rupture in the earth's surface so close to the river may prove to be one of the more important areas of geological investigation that we are presented with today.

Fisk found that the surface rupture was also directly associated with a set of historical crevasses of the river that have occurred over a period of several centuries. The surface trace is nearly coincident with a historical distributary channel of the river whose natural levees form a topographic ridge that extends perpendicularly from the river into Lac Des Allemands. The relatively complex channel network of this crevasse feature suggests that it has been active a few times in the

past. The Corps sent a drilling rig to the site to collect a set borings across the fault displacement. Fisk's interpretation of a subsurface profile constructed from these borings showed that there was displacement of the strata throughout the Holocene epoch. The pattern of offset of these strata, and the fact that the offset of Pleistocene surface was about three feet at a depth of about 40 feet below the surface, suggests that the April 12 rupture was the latest in a series of episodic of fault movements. The coincidence of the fault with the main channel of the crevasse system indicates that previous episodes of fault movement may have caused crevasses of the river.

The longest of the three timeframes associated with the fault rupture is evidenced on Exhibit 3 of Docket No. 93-445 at the Geological Oil and Gas Division of the Louisiana Office of Conservation. A fault plane map submitted as evidence in a unitization proposal filed at Vacherie Field shows the contours of a fault that has over 500 feet of displacement at a depth of about 6,000 feet. The orientation of the fault plane contours suggest that they can be extrapolated to a surface coincidence with the 8 inches of offset that occurred instantaneously on April 12. This coincidence would mean that the fault has been moving episodically on the flanks of the Vacherie Salt Dome for about 20 million years.

Most people tend to think of geological processes in terms of things that happened over long periods of time in the distant past. It is not until the occurrence of an instantaneous event that we consider the implications of geology in the here and now. The importance of the Vacherie fault rupture is that it shows that studying geological processes in the distant past is the best way to predict the occurrence of instantaneous (and potentially catastrophic) events in the future. The Vacherie fault has been mapped as a part of the oil and gas industry knowledge base. That same knowledge base has the potential to map the locations of other faults along the river that extend to the surface and are coincident with the sites of historical crevasses. It appears likely that crevasses at Donaldsonville, Edgard, Killona, Sauve, Caenarvon, Fort St. Phillip, and the Jump near Venice may be associated with such faults. These are all areas that should be categorized as having higher probabilities for future events. The shortest and most effective route to fully investigate these areas will be through the cooperative engagement of the oil and gas industry with state and federal agencies that are responsible for the integrity of the river levee system.

Chris McLindon



BEST PAPER AWARD

On December 11, NOGS President-Elect Alex Janevski presented the award for 2017 Best Paper Award to Dr. Terry Wallace, Principal Associate Director for Global Security at Los Alamos National Laboratory, for his outstanding contribution to the NOGS luncheon series.

NOGS had the pleasure of inviting Dr. Wallace to lunch at the famous Bywater restaurant, The Joint, to receive his award after a technical session at the AGU conference held at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center.



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2018 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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January 8 • NOGS Luncheon

Holiday Inn Downtown Superdome

\$3.00 validated parking in hotel garage



Presentation:

Myths and Misunderstandings of Reservoir Engineering

Guest Speaker:

Dwayne Purvis, P.E.

Dwayne Purvis, P.E. • 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 \$35.00

Student Member with reservations..... FREE

February 5

Joint NOGS/SGS Luncheon

Holiday Inn Downtown Superdome • New Orleans, Louisiana

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

February 21

New Orleans Geological Auxilliary (NOGA) Luncheon

Walnut Room, Lakefront Airport • New Orleans, Louisiana

Invitation Only - Spouses and Guests Welcomed

February 5-9

NAPE Summit Week 2018

George R. Brown Convention Center • Houston, Texas

For more info: <http://napeexpo.com/summit>

February 20

SIPES Luncheon

Andrea's • Metairie, Louisiana

For more info: Carol St. Germain, 504-267-3466

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Jan 8 NOGS Luncheon Presentation

☆☆☆ at the Holiday Inn Superdome ☆☆☆

Myths and Misunderstandings of Reservoir Engineering

Presented by

Dwayne Purvis, P.E.

Dwayne Purvis, P.E.
New Orleans, Louisiana

ABSTRACT

Armed with a better fundamental understanding of reservoir dynamics, engineers and the geologists who work with them are better able to interpret and predict future behaviors.

This presentation takes aim at some of the most common and intransigent engineering fallacies - even among reservoir engineers. The wide-ranging discussion addresses concepts like drainage area maps, the concepts of depletion and interference and how they differ between millidarcy and nanodarcy reservoirs. It detours into tilted oil-water contacts before returning to the concepts of transient and boundary-dominated flow, the use of a constant b-factor, the utility of daily production data and how those relate to reserves categories.

BIOGRAPHY

Dwayne Purvis, P.E. has spent over two decades in reservoir engineering and executive leadership as a consultant and operator. He has led or participated in hundreds of field



studies and reserve analyses over dozens of basins in the United States and abroad. He has also participated in the sale or acquisition of projects valued from tens of thousands to billions of dollars. Before starting

his own consulting practice in 2015, he served Jetta Operating Company as Reservoir Engineering Manager and Reserves Manager. Prior roles include founder and Executive Vice President of the consulting firm The Strickland Group, and partner at Cawley, Gillespie & Associates. Mr. Purvis has published on issues of reserves, risk analysis and shale reservoirs. He is a registered professional engineer in the state of Texas, member of SPEE, AAPG, SEG and a 25-year member of SPE.

"And Looking Ahead . . ."

**THE JANUARY LUNCHEON RESERVATION DEADLINE IS JAN. 5.
CONTACT THE NOGS OFFICE**

The next luncheon will be the Joint NOGS/SGS Luncheon held on February 5. Our guest speakers will be Michael Murat and Trevor Bollmann of Chevron. Contact the NOGS office at 504-561-8980 or use the PayPal link at www.nogs.org to make your reservation.



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS: JANUARY - FEBRUARY 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.

2018	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT / INFO
1 Jan	New Years Day		
1 Jan	Registration Open 12th Annual Louisiana Water Conference	LSU Baton Rouge	http://lwrii.lsu.edu/lawater-2017/
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
15 Jan	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day		
16 Jan	SIPES Luncheon	Andrea's - Metairie	Carol St. Germain, 504-561-8980
5 Feb	Joint NOGS/SGS Luncheon Presentation Speakers: Michael Murat and Trevor Bollmann Chevron	Holiday Inn Superdome	annette@nogs.org or 504-561-8980
5-9 Feb	NAPE Summit Week	George R Brown Convention Center Houston, Texas	http://napeexpo.com/summit
13 Feb	Mardi Gras		
20 Feb	SIPES Luncheon	Andrea's - Metairie	Carol St. Germain, 504-561-8980

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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 and the NOGS Christmas Holiday Party

The wintry weather on December 9 really had everyone in a holiday mood for the NOGS Christmas Holiday Party. Candles on the steps added to the lighting the entrance to the lovely home of Penny and Jack Bryant. Everyone enjoyed the evening, and there was lots of talk about the snow that fell in south Louisiana and even a little in New Orleans on the day before. The dining room table held an abundance of hearty appetizers, pork tenderloin, shrimp and grits, while drinks and assorted desserts were available in the kitchen area. Martin Wine Cellar was the caterer. Auxiliary members Camille Yeldell and Alma Dunlap chaired the night for NOGS, and Penny and Jack were most gracious hosts. Thanks to all!

The Auxiliary will meet next on February 21, for lunch in the Walnut Room at the Lakefront Airport. Spouses and guests are always included in this event. We are hoping to have David Hammer, Investigative Reporter for WWL-TV, as our speaker. Invitations will be in the mail shortly. We look forward to seeing everyone there.

Mary Walther, NOGA Director



New Orleans Geological Auxiliary Membership Application

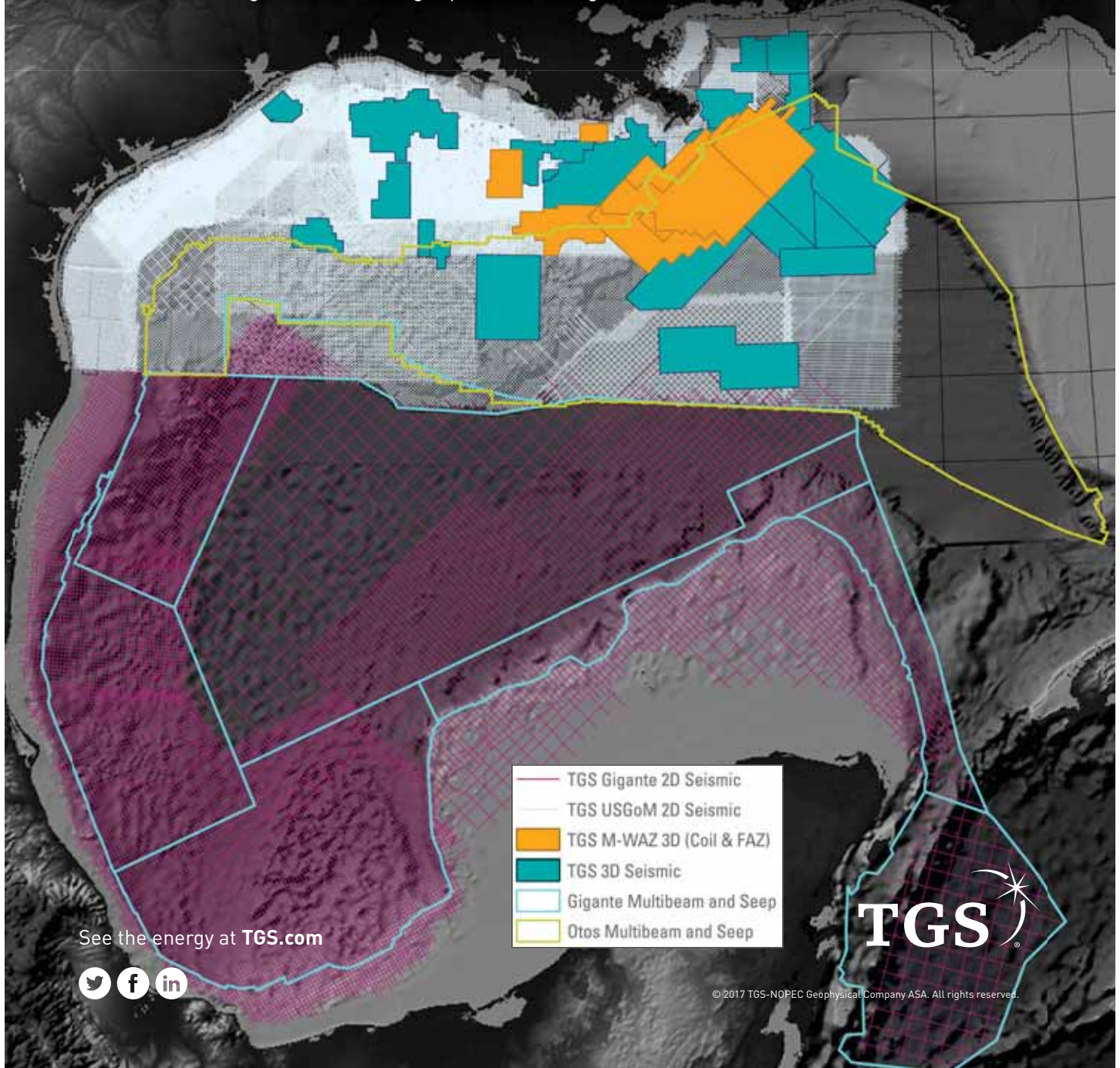
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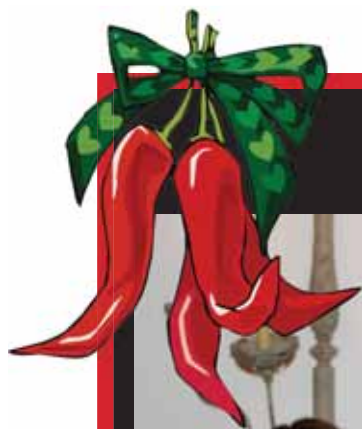
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NOGS 2017 Chris



Christmas Holiday Party



PHOTOGRAPHY BY TOM BERGEON

South Louisiana and Offshore Gulf of Mexico Exploration and Production Activities

LAFAYETTE DISTRICT, ONSHORE AREA

By Carlo C. Christina and Kevin J. Trosclair

The Baker-Hughes United States rig count for the month of November averaged 910 rigs, down 30 rigs from the prior month's average. The Louisiana rig count (not including the OCS) averaged 43 rigs for the month of November.

North Louisiana Rigs:	39
South Louisiana Rigs:	4
Land	3
Inland Waters	1

During the month of November the Louisiana Department of Conservation issued 12 permits to drill for oil and gas in the Lafayette District, of which, many were relatively shallow or in-field development wells. Following are the wells of interest:

NEW LOCATIONS

In Beauregard Parish, **North Skinner Lakes Field, (A)**, Firststrike Energy is drilling below 1400 feet in the #1 Columbia Land and Timber. The well will test the Cockfield section at a depth of 8,000 feet. It is located in Sec. 33, 5S-13W, approximately 1 mile north of production in the Upper Wilcox sands. (SN 250642)

In Pointe Coupee Parish, **Fordoche Field, (B)**, Cypress Operating will drill the #1 Cynthia Beauvais in Sec. 119, 6S-9E, to a depth of 9900 feet to test Cockfield sands in the area. The well is located approximately 1 mile east of an oil well which has been producing **more than 26 years**. North Central Oil drilled and completed the #1 Picard through perforations 9838 to 9855 in 1991 flowing 168 BOPD. It was placed on production at that time, and has continued to produce every month since then, with **cumulative production of 249,642 barrels of oil**. Most importantly, the electric log indicates a sand having **less than 8 feet of pay**. Cockfield sands are unpredictable that way. (SN 250647)

PIE Operating will drill the #1 Mineral Resources G on the northwest flank of **Neale Field, (C)**, Beauregard Parish. It will be drilled to a total depth of 10,800 feet in Sec. 29, 3S-11W. (SN 250629)

Also in Beauregard Parish, **West Cowpen Creek Field, (D)**. BHP Billiton has permitted the #1 WX A RA SUC; MINERAL in Sec. 21, 6S-10W, to test Wilcox sands at 11,550

feet. The well is located approximately 1 mile west of recent production in the field. (SN 250654)

COMPLETIONS

Hilcorp Energy has completed its #1 Sweet Lake Land as a gas well in **Chalkley Field, (E)**, Cameron Parish, flowing 2173 MCFD and 192 BCPD, through perforations 12,932 to 12,998 feet. The well was drilled to a total depth of 13,260 feet in Sec 14, 12S-7W. (SN 250396)

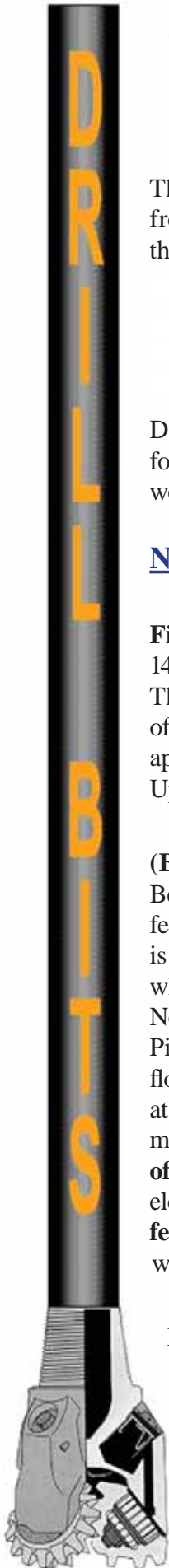
OFFSHORE GULF OF MEXICO SHELF AND DEEPWATER ACTIVITIES

by Al Baker

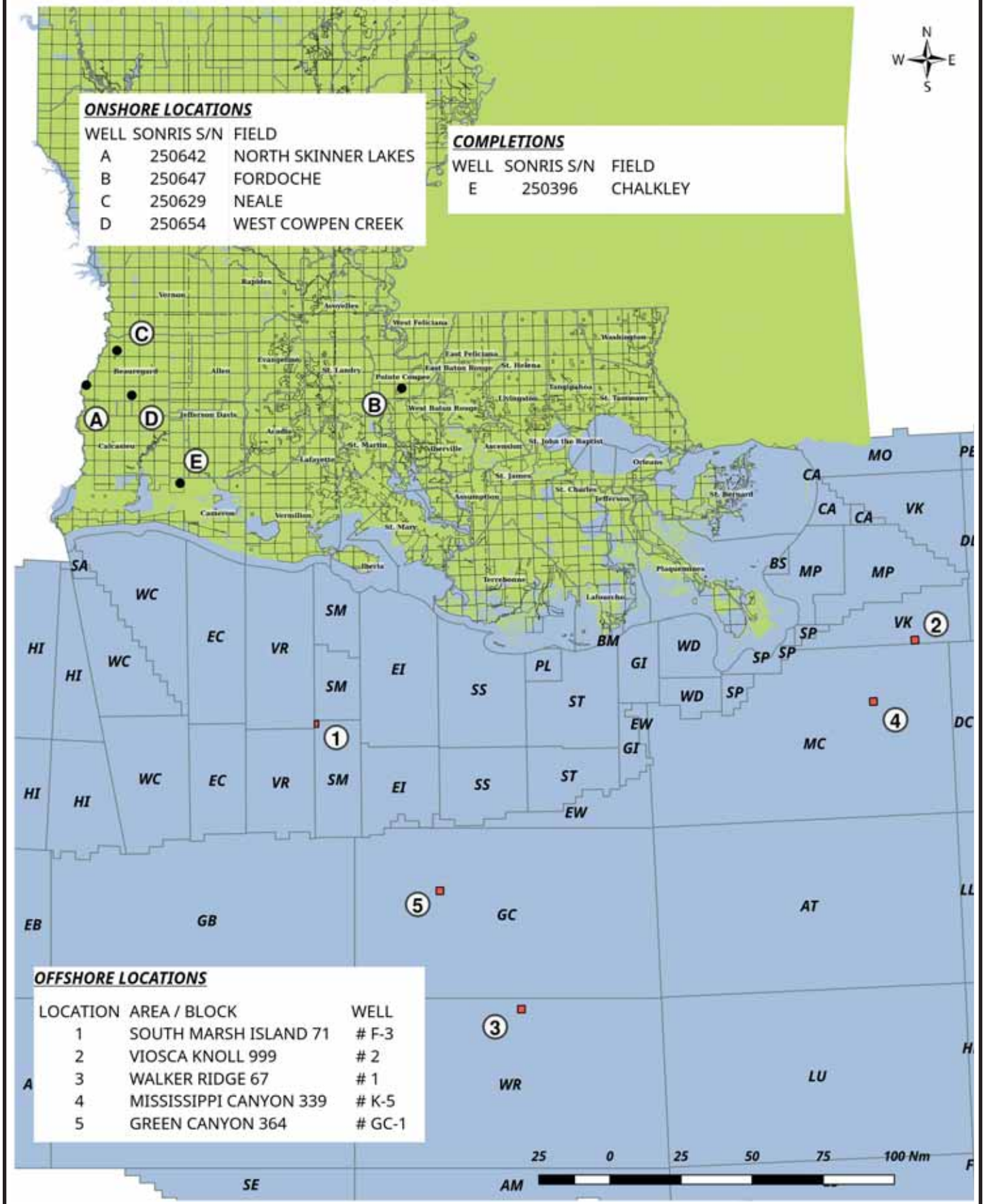
During **November 2017**, the **BOEM** approved **76** Gulf of Mexico drilling permits. **Twenty** of these were for shelf wells, and **56** were for deepwater wells. Of the total number of permits, there were **5 new well permits**, **1** on the shelf and **4** in deepwater.

The single shelf new well permit was for the **Byron Energy, South Marsh Island 71 #F-3 development well**.

The four deepwater new well permits were for **exploration wells**. **LLOG Exploration Offshore** received two permits for their **Viosca Knoll 999 #2** and **Walker Ridge 67 #1** wells. **BP Exploration & Production** received one permit for their



Onshore & Offshore Activity Map for South Louisiana JANUARY 2018



Mississippi Canyon 339 #K-5 well, and **ExxonMobil** obtained a permit for their **Green Canyon 364 #GC-1** well.

On November 22nd, **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 **35** were under contract. The marketed rig supply number remained the same, while the contracted rig supply number decreased by **1** compared to the previous month. The marketed contracted versus total rig supply utilization rate stands at **37.2%**, and the marketed contracted versus marketed supply utilization rate stands at **66%**. By comparison, the November 2016 total fleet utilization rate stood at 46.2% (versus 56.4% today) with 48 out of the 104 rigs under contract.

As of November 22nd, **BakerHughes** indicated that there were **22** active mobile offshore rigs in the Gulf of Mexico, which is **62.9%** of the rigs under contract mentioned above. This active rigs number is **2** greater than reported last month. Of the 22 rigs, **4** are located

on the **shelf**, and **18** are situated in **deepwater**. At the same time last year, there were 23 mobile offshore rigs operating in the Gulf of Mexico.

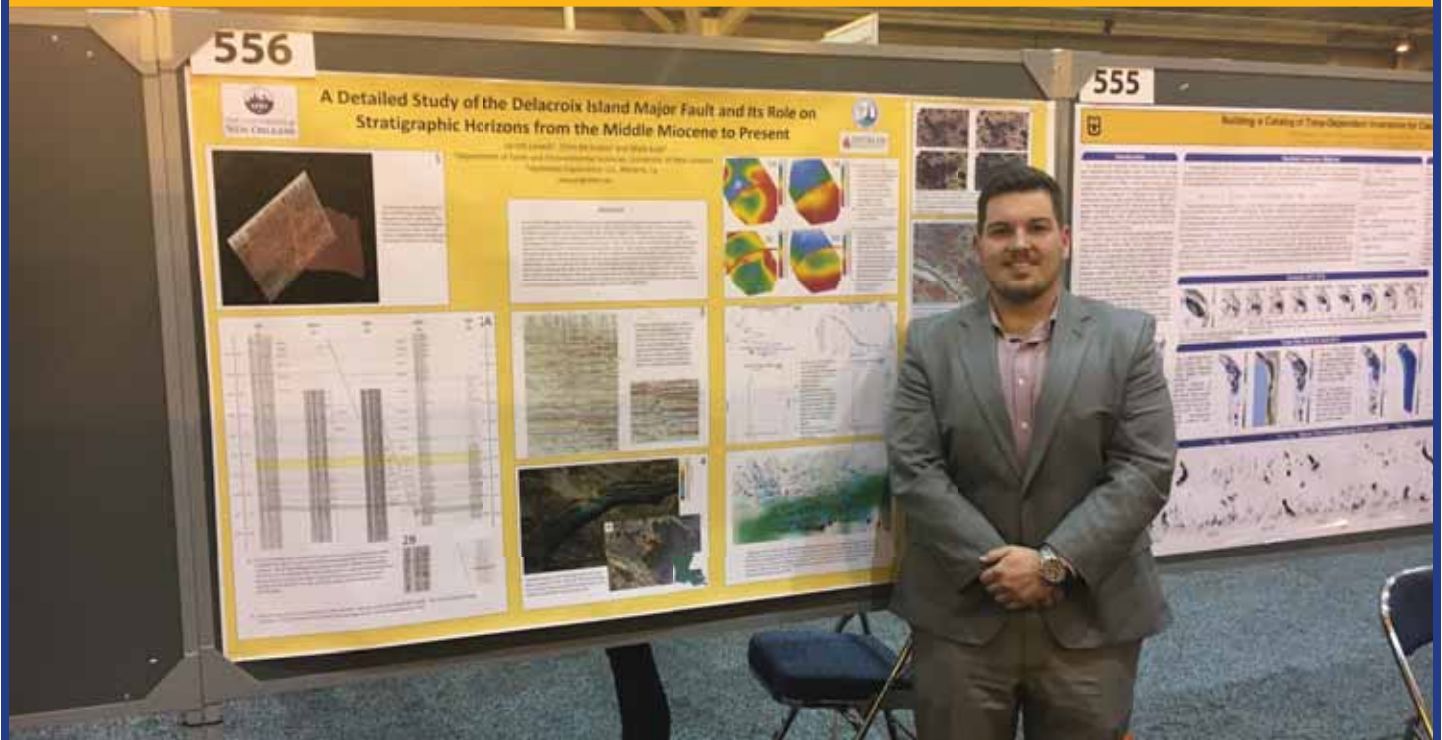
As of November 22nd, the **BakerHughes** total U.S. rig count stood at **923** rigs, which is **24 more** rigs than at the end of October. Of the 923 rigs, **747 (80.9%)** are oil rigs and **176 (19.1%)** are gas rigs. A year ago, there were 593 rigs working in the U.S. Thus, the current rig figure represents a **55.6% increase** year over year. Texas still has the largest number of rigs with 450, which is slightly less than half (48.8%) of the total number of rigs in the U. S.

On November 29th, the **BOEM** issued the **final results** for bids submitted in March 2017 at **OCS Sale 249**. A total of **83** bids were deemed acceptable and **7** bids were rejected as insufficient. All of the rejected bids were for deepwater tracts.

The next offshore lease sale is **OCS Sale 250**, which will be held in New Orleans in **March 2018**. OCS Sale 250 will be the first of two area-wide Gulf of Mexico lease sale offerings that the BOEM has planned for 2018.

AGU FALL MEETING

NOGS was well represented the AGU Fall Meeting held in New Orleans during December. In addition to numerous members who attended the conference, several **NOGS** members presented at poster sessions and talks. Jarrett Levesh, a grad student at UNO, presented research made possible by the **NOGS Fault Atlas** research initiative. Bobola Akintomide and Nancye Dawers from Tulane and Amanda Johnston from UL at Lafayette also presented results from projects supported by the **NOGS** initiative.



girl scouts louisiana east



On Saturday October 21, 1,200 Girl Scouts attended the annual STEM BIG “Believe in Girls” event to learn about many careers in science, technology, engineering, and math. This was the 5th year that **NOGS** has been active at this great learning event. Most of the girls were between the ages of 10-16. They were exposed to demonstrations about the properties of oil, the geologic setting, and how geologists look for oil and gas fields. The girls really looked up to the women geologists, who were perfect role models. This year’s volunteer contingent came from the local universities, NOGS, and environmental geologists. **Tulane** volunteers were **Professor Cindy Ebinger** and **Sarah Oliva**. Our **LSU** geology students were **Mary Grace Moran**, **Natalie Helm**, **Elise Exnicios**, and **Kate Gutterman**. **Taylor Lee** and alumni **Rachel Carter** represented **UNO**. Our other wonderful volunteers were **Liz McDade**, **Claire Renault**, **Audrey Wong**, **Kristen Camp**, **Dom Smith**, and **Anna Strimas** and her girl scout daughter **Lily**. **Dave Cope** brought his 3D workstation for the girls to see how geologists map for oil and gas. The girls had no problem visualizing how to oversaturate a porous sandstone with troops armed with eye droppers.



*Major thanks to all
our enthusiastic volunteers!*









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*Have a Safe and Happy New Year's!
From the staff of the NOGS LOG*



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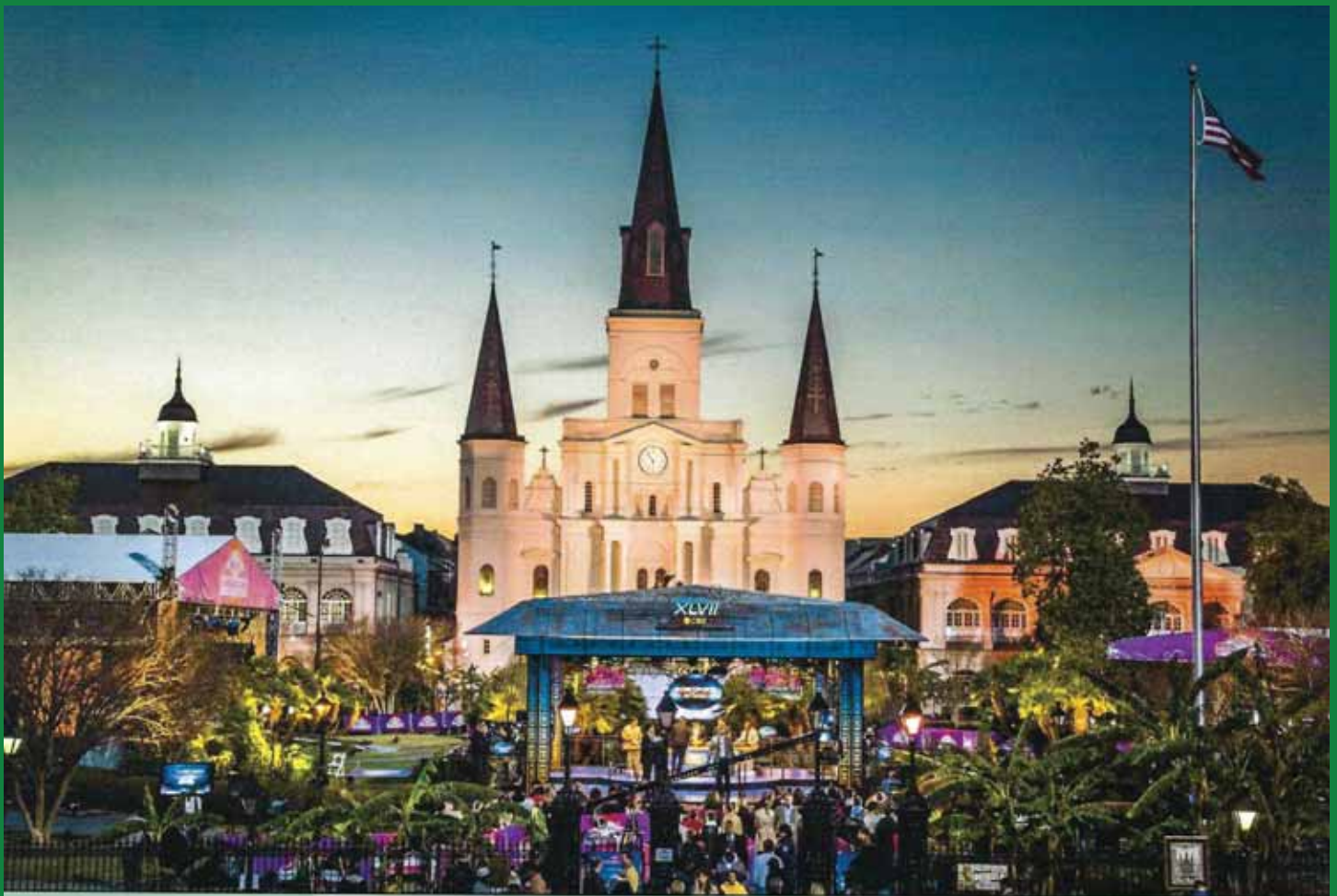
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