

NCGS LOG

APRIL 2021
Volume 61 No. 10

*Happy
Easter*



UPCOMING NOGS MEETINGS

APRIL 2021

Dr. Sharon Cornelius

University of Houston

Geo-Pressure in the Gulf of Mexico



MAY 2021

Dr. John Snedden

University of Texas at Austin

The Gulf of Mexico Super Basin



JUNE 2021

Abdul Wahab , MS

Submarine Fan Architecture



Anyone who has a great technical talk that they would like to share with NOGS, or who knows of someone who we should invite to present please email us at admin@nogs.org

IN THIS ISSUE

On the Cover

Acadia National Park



Acadia National Park is a stunning New England national park on Maine's beautiful Atlantic coast. The park, mainly located on Mount Desert Island, is easily one of the best national parks in the USA if you want a coastal park. Think rocky beaches, beautiful forests, and granite mountains. There are, around, 57 miles of trails to explore here, too. Plus, if you fancy a swim, you can head to one of the safe swimming areas in the park at Sand Beach. Though, always stay safe around the sea!



From the Editor...

Thanks to all those who continue to contribute to the monthly LOG. If you have any suggestions for future issues or have an article/photo(s) to contribute, please email me at cmiller@ocsbbs.com. We would certainly love your input and any additional LOG content to be considered that may be of interest to NOGS members.

Charlie



Charles Miller III
NOGS LOG Editor





JOHN R. DRIBUS

A MESSAGE FROM NOGS PRESIDENT

To members and friends of the New Orleans Geological Society:

Hello all members and friends of NOGS! With the arrival of warmer temperatures and about 12% of Louisiana vaccinated (12% in St Tammany and 13.5% in New Orleans) for the Coronavirus, new cases are dropping and less people are being hospitalized for the virus. When I wrote last month's President's letter there were 715 Covid patients hospitalized across the state, and over 100 on ventilators. Today that number has notably dropped to 450 hospitalized and only 60 on ventilators! One month ago, Louisiana had about 850,000 doses of the vaccines administered, and almost 300,000 Louisiana residents had completed the series. Today 1,400,000 doses have been administered and 534,000 have completed the series. Progress is being made. We are still being cautioned to avoid large public meetings and to wear masks and socially distance, so we are planning to hold off on reinitiating our live NOGS luncheon program at least until mid-year. For more details on Covid in Louisiana, please visit the Louisiana Department of Health website at <http://ldh.la.gov/Coronavirus/>.

Our on-line monthly technical program continues with Dr. Sharon Cornelius speaking to us from the University of Houston on April 12, to share her work on pressure in the Gulf of Mexico, a talk that should be of interest to engineers as well as geoscientists. She will be followed on May 3 by Dr. John Snedden of the University of Texas at Austin who will talk about his work on the Gulf of Mexico Superbasin. We are very fortunate to have these two excellent research scientists sharing their current work with NOGS. We still have a couple of speaker slots available later in the year, so I invite you to contact Christy Himel, NOGS Administrator (admin@nogs.org), if you have an interesting technical talk that you would like to share, and we will put you on the calendar!

I also wanted you to know that the abstract submission deadline for the GCAGS GeoGulf 2021 convention in Austin, Texas, has been extended from March 15 to April 16th, so you still have time to submit a talk in one of the following themes: Future of Production, Geohazards, Sustainable Energy, or Technology in Geoscience. I also found a very nice on-line listing of international geoscience conferences at <https://waset.org/geology-conferences-in-2021>. They have all the geoscience meetings around the world including Rome, Venice, Cape Town, Lisbon, Paris, London, Tokyo, Istanbul, Amsterdam, Sydney, Vancouver, Berlin, Barcelona, Australia, Copenhagen, Montreal, Oslo, Dubai, Singapore, India and more!!! So, if you have developed cabin fever from Covid social distancing, there are many places in the world where you could listen to some great technical talks and see some fresh scenery.

I close my letter this month letting you know the good news that your NOGS, through the Memorial Foundation Fund, has sent significant donations this month in support of the Petroleum Geology and Geophysics programs at UNO, LSU, and Tulane. We also sent \$10,000.00 each to the Louisiana Children's Museum, and the Children's Museum of St. Tammany. Dues renewal will be coming up soon, so I want to encourage you to give consideration to adding a donation to the Foundation to help us continue these worthwhile local community and education programs. Stay well NOGS!

Regards,
John Dribus



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PICTURE FROM THE PAST



November 1998 – Attendees at the joint NOGS – University – Industry Conference at Chevron promoting careers in geosciences – Look for a follow-up photo next month.

***Submitted by
Ed Picou, Chairman - Historical Committee***

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The New Orleans Geological Society was organized on October 3, 1941, as a non-profit organization for the purpose of facilitating the development of the profession and science of Geology, with specific emphasis to exploration and production of petroleum and natural gas. Secondary related objectives include the dissemination of pertinent geological and environmental technological data, and the maintenance of a high standard of professional conduct of its members. The full history of the Society can be found at nogs.org.

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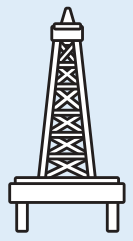
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DRILL BITS

OFFSHORE GULF OF MEXICO SHELF AND DEEPWATER ACTIVITIES

BY AL BAKER



During February 2021, the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) approved 64 Gulf of Mexico (GoM) drilling permits. Fifteen of the permits were for shelf wells, and the remaining 49 permits were for deepwater wells. Of the total number of permits, there were 2 new well permits issued on the shelf and none in deepwater.

The two shelf new well permits were for an exploration well and a development well. The exploration well permit was awarded to Contango Operators for their Eugene Island 298 #1 well. The development well permit was issued to Arena Offshore for their Eugene Island 252 #L-17 well.

On February 26th, IHS-Petrodata indicated that the GoM mobile offshore rig supply stood at 58, which is 1 less than last month. The marketed rig supply consisted of 32 rigs, of which 22 were under contract. The marketed rig supply number is 4 less than last month, and the contracted rig supply number is 1 less than as last month. The marketed contracted versus total rig supply utilization rate stood at 55.2%, and the marketed contracted versus marketed supply utilization rate stood at 68.8%. By comparison, the February 2020 total fleet utilization rate stood at 58.8% with 40 rigs under contract out of the 68 rigs in the fleet.

On February 26th, Baker Hughes reported that there are 17 active mobile offshore rigs in the GoM, which is 1 more than last month and 77.3% of the rigs under contract mentioned above. Currently, all 17 rigs are drilling in deepwater. They include 6 rigs in the Mississippi Canyon Area, 3 rigs in the Walker Ridge Area, 2 rigs each in the Green Canyon, Ewing Bank and Alaminos Canyon Areas, and 1 rig each in the Garden Banks and Keathley Canyon Areas.

On February 26th, the Baker Hughes total U.S. rig count stood at 402 rigs, which is 18 more rigs than reported at the end of January 2021. Of the 402 rigs, 309 (76.9%) are oil rigs and 92 (22.9%) are gas rigs. The remaining 1 rig is listed as miscellaneous. A year ago, there were 790 rigs working in the U.S. inferring that the current rig figure represents a 49.1% decline in rigs year over year. At present, Texas continues to have the largest number of rigs with 197, which is 49% of the total number of rigs in the U. S. Louisiana currently has a total of 47 rigs, which is the same as last month. Nationwide, Louisiana continues to rank third in the rotary rig count. New Mexico ranks second with 62 rigs.

On February 12th, the Bureau of Ocean Management (BOEM) Gulf of Mexico Region as directed by the Biden administration rescinded the Record of Decision for Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale OCS 257 that was originally scheduled for March 17, 2021.



DRILL BITS

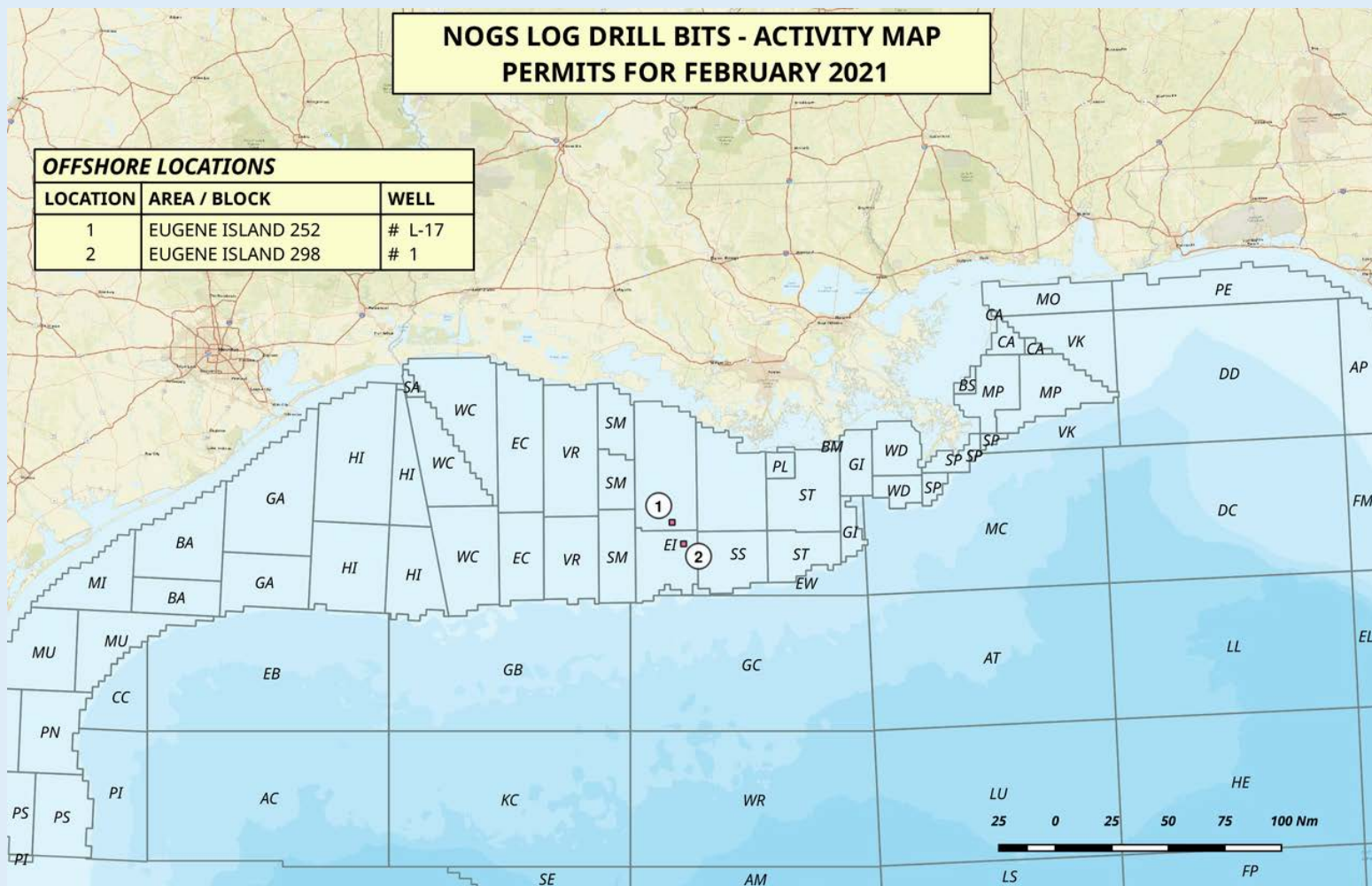
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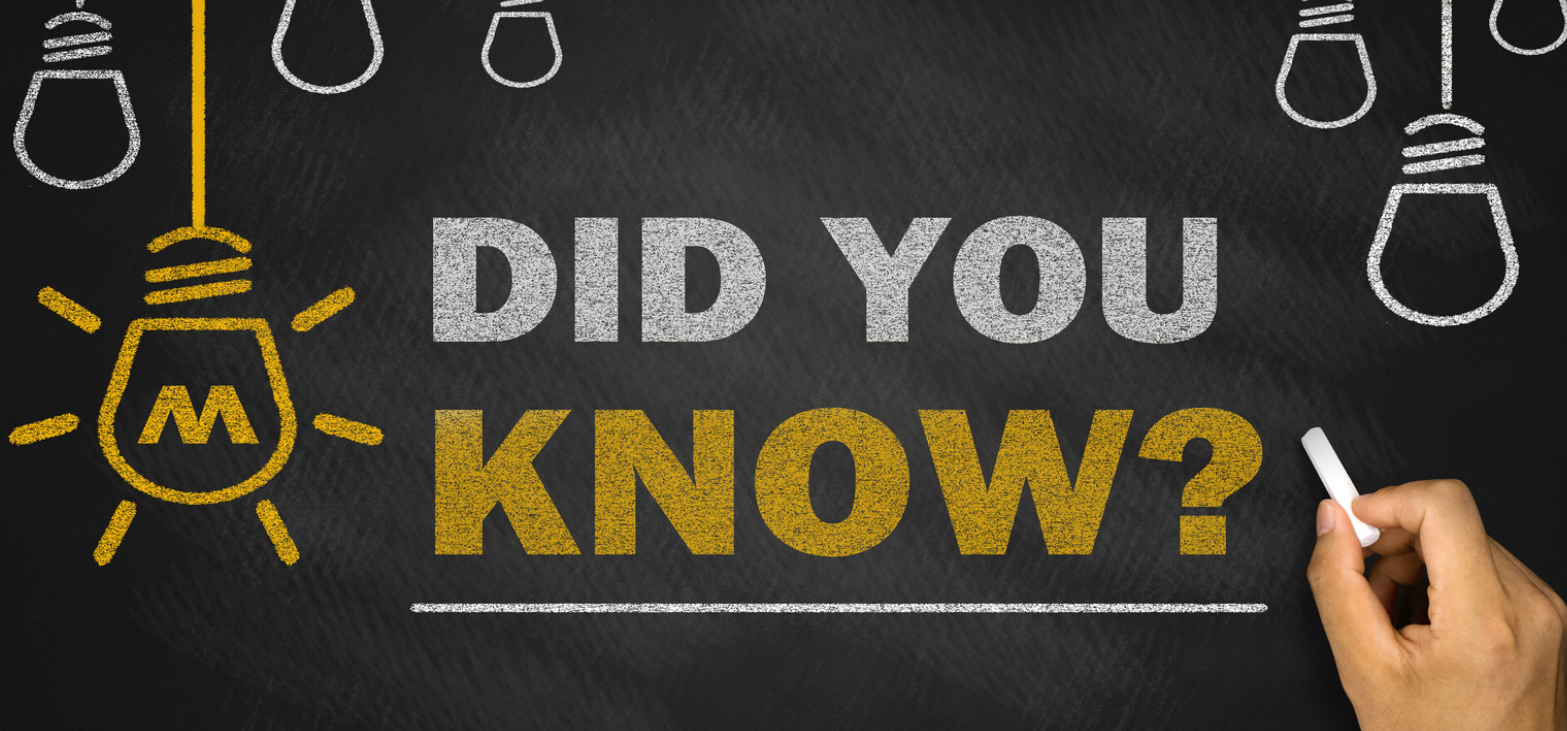
NOGS LOG DRILL BITS - ACTIVITY MAP PERMITS FOR FEBRUARY 2021

OFFSHORE LOCATIONS

LOCATION	AREA / BLOCK	WELL
1	EUGENE ISLAND 252	# L-17
2	EUGENE ISLAND 298	# 1



HAPPY
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- NOGS Website is a wealth of information at your fingertips! Once you log in you can update your profile. Recently moved or changed jobs? Log in and update your information-add your photo too! Looking for contact information for a fellow NOGS Member? Log in and search the member directory.
- NOGS Calendars are on sale for only \$10 - we have a few left and would love to sell the last of these items. Click here to order yours today!
- NOGS Membership renewal is coming soon for the 2021/2022 year. Renewal notices will be sent in the beginning of April.
- Registration is open for the NOGS April Meeting - Sharon Cornelius, PhD will present Overpressure Sources in the Western and Central Deepwater Gulf of Mexico. Click here to register

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NOGS 2021 Wall Calendar

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Bill Craig Memorial Fund provides for any earth science related educational or scientific purpose that is a direct benefit to grades K-12 teacher or teachers within the Greater New Orleans Area. This area is defined as the area encompassing New Orleans, Jefferson, Plaquemines, St. Bernard and St. Tammany Parishes.

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Edward B. Picou - *In Memory of
Robert "Bob" Branson, Thomas Klekamp,
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Duncan Goldthwaite, John D. Silvernail*

Al Melillo

Recent Oil Industry HeadlinesApril 2021

3/17/2021 - EIA: OPEC+ Cuts to Lift Oil Prices Through April - Oil prices will likely remain at the current high levels in March and April, with Brent Crude prices averaging between \$65 and \$70 per barrel, after the OPEC+ group unexpectedly decided to maintain their production cuts into April, the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) said on Wednesday. In its Short-Term Energy Outlook (STEO) for March, the EIA expects Brent prices to average \$65 to \$70 per barrel in March and April, more than \$10 a barrel above the forecast from February, primarily due to OPEC+ keeping a tight rein on production in April.

3/17/2021 - IEA Rejects Oil Supercycle Concerns - Oil markets aren't on the verge of a new price supercycle as plentiful supplies mean any concerns of a shortfall are misguided, the International Energy Agency said. Crude rallied to a 14-month high last week after Saudi Arabia and its allies stunned traders with plans to keep a tight grip on output. Wall Street banks such as Goldman Sachs Group Inc. have called the beginning of a bull market as demand outstrips supply.

3/15/2021 - Mexico's Pemex Boasts Billion-Barrel Oil Discovery - Mexico's Pemex has discovered a gigantic oilfield in the state of Tabasco that could hold as much as one billion barrels of oil, Octavio Romero Oropeza, chief executive of the state oil firm, said in an interview with the Mexican state broadcaster on Sunday. Pemex, the most heavily indebted oil company in the world, has been struggling to reverse the decline in its oil production, even after leftist nationalist Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador came to power in 2018, offering increased support to the state oil firm and promising increased production for a Mexican 'energy independence.'

3/12/2021 - Federal Legislation Would Hike Onshore Royalty Rate - U.S. Sens. Jacky Rosen, D-Nev., and Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, this week introduced legislation that would increase the royalty rate for oil and gas production on federal lands by 50%. The proposed "Fair Returns for Public Lands Act" (S.624) would raise the federal onshore royalty rate from 12.5% to 18.75%.

3/11/2021 - Coastal authority backs proposal to boost Louisiana's share of offshore oil, gas revenue - A planned U.S. Senate bill to increase the amount of federal offshore oil revenue shared with Louisiana and other Gulf Coast states, and to set up a similar revenue sharing program for wind energy generated in federal waters, got a vote of support from the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority.

3/3/2021 - Rystad: Offshore project commitments set to hit record, deepwater to have top growth - Offshore project commitments are expected to not only recover but reach a new record—cumulatively almost 600 projects in the 5-year period toward 2025—according to Rystad Energy. Deepwater commitments will see the largest growth as costs have become much more competitive against greenfield continental shelf reserves.

3/1/2021 - Chevron Launches \$300 Million Fund for Energy Transition Technology - Chevron Corp. launched a new \$300 million fund on Feb. 25 aimed to address challenges facing the oil and gas industry in the so-called energy transition through investments in low-carbon technologies. The U.S. oil major hopes to build on the success of its previous fund, Future Energy Fund, which has already invested in more than 10 companies focused on innovations in carbon capture, emerging mobility and energy storage.

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Memorial for John Silvernail



Our Society lost perhaps our longest serving member with the death of John Silvernail. His membership extended over six decades and witnessed the rise of the oil business in the city, including the huge growth of NOGS. During his long span as a member, he served as Treasurer in 1969-70 and on many committees. About two years ago, he published in the AAPG EXPLORER a great article about his experiences while well-sitting in Cuba not long before the revolution. John had a photographic memory that always astounded his colleagues. He was truly a professional through and through and his reputation as a consultant was exemplary.

The following is modified from his obituary published in the New Orleans Advocate | Times-Picayune:

John Drew Silvernail, age 91, died at home in New Berlin, WI on March, 14, 2021. He was born in New York City in 1929 to Frank G. and Ruth D. Silvernail. He was raised in and around New York City. He earned an A.B. degree from Hamilton College in 1951 and did graduate studies in geology at The University of Texas in Austin, TX. He went to work for Kerr-McGee Oil Company and worked in several states and in Cuba. Kerr-McGee transferred him to New Orleans in 1955 and he lived there for about fifty years. After leaving Kerr-McGee he worked both for small oil companies and as an independent consulting geologist. His clients ranged from major to small oil companies as well as individuals. In addition to the gulf-coast area he worked in The Netherlands and in Ras-al-Khaima (UAE). He was on a panel of special masters in a suit in condemnation (US vs Petit Bois) in Biloxi, MS, in 1988. He was a member of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (Life Member), the Society of Independent Professional Earth Scientists, the Shreveport Geological Society and the New Orleans Geological Society. He married Shirley Poteet in 1975. John and Shirley evacuated from New Orleans in 2005 just ahead of Katrina. The flood caused by the failure of the levees severely damaged their home - they never lived in it again. They moved to Shreveport in 2006 into a home on high ground. His wife died in 2015. He subsequently moved to Wisconsin to be near his daughter. A memorial service was held at Schmidt and Bartelt Funeral Home at 10121 W. North Ave in Wauwatosa, WI on Saturday, March 20, 2021.

Edward B. Picou, Jr. - Chairman NOGS Historical Committee



NOGS FINDS WINNERS AT THE 2021 REGION 9 SCIENCE & ENGINEERING FAIR

During the week of February 22nd, NOGS members virtually judged Junior Division and Senior Division Earth Science exhibits at the Region 9 Greater New Orleans Science and Engineering Fair. My fellow judges were Eric Broadbridge, Fran Wiseman, and Jim McCarty. Thanks so much to all of you for great ideas and deliberations.

Four projects shared the \$200 in cash prizes. We awarded only a second and a third prize in each division because we felt the exhibit quality did not measure up to the standards NOGS members expect to see.

Winners, included students from Lake Forest Charter, The International School of Louisiana, and Kenner Discovery Charter.

During the year, the NOGS Board reviewed recommendations to adjust award criteria and the value of each award. Senior projects remained at previous levels of \$100/\$75/\$50 for first thru third place; Junior level projects were respectively lowered to \$75/\$50/\$25.

Many years ago, when the State of Louisiana began to remove the study of Geology from the primary and high school curriculums, NOGS warned that the effects would be devastating to the public. Now, decades later, we see the fulfillment of that prophecy.

This year, there was not a single project that dealt with crystals, rocks, minerals, glaciers, vulcanology, or any other of the "Geology 101" projects we have been used to seeing. The little bit of geology we see is contained largely in buzz-phrases, and weak flooding projects. This is what happens when the teachers are not taught, and all the kids have is basically the nightly news.

Sure there may be some rock and mineral kits still in circulation, and Tom Bergeon and his team will still be bringing geology talks into to the schools; yes, we will again be active at the Children's Museum. But how do we re-kindle basic ground-up interest in geology here again?

A small group of us think that if we create a financial incentive for the teachers to promote geological projects at school science fairs, maybe we can get young scientists interested in following up in geology. Maybe we can get teachers to ask for more geological training.

To that end we will be developing a teacher incentive plan, an outline of geological projects, and will put together an online program designed to boost awareness of a series of Fair categories that are under-represented.

If this is a project on which you would like to assist, a committee on which you can provide input, please let me know.

Mike Fein