

# TEN-YEAR UPDATE

## HISTORIES OF GCAGS MEMBER SOCIETIES, GULF COAST SECTION SEPM, AND THE NEW MEXICAN ASSOCIATION OF PETROLEUM GEOLOGISTS

DAVID E. POPE



*GCAGS Historian*  
*Louisiana Geological Survey*  
*Louisiana State University*  
*Baton Rouge, LA 70803*

### ABSTRACT

The Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies was founded May 15, 1951. The first annual meeting was held in New Orleans, November 15-17, 1951 with seven member societies participating: Corpus Christi, East Texas, Houston, Mississippi, New Orleans, Shreveport, and South Louisiana. In 1952 the original Baton Rouge society was added; in 1953 Lafayette joined; in 1954 the Southeastern and the South Texas societies were added; in 1956 Beaumont joined. Baton Rouge folded in 1958; South Louisiana expired in 1962; in 1966 Alabama joined; Beaumont folded in 1971; in 1974 Austin was added; and in 1980 the present Baton Rouge society joined, bringing the Association membership to twelve. No further changes occurred until 2002 when the Mexican Association

of Petroleum Geologists was added as a member society.

The Gulf Coast Section of SEPM was founded in 1953 and has participated in all annual meetings since 1954.

Here is the order of the founding of the Gulf Coast societies:

- \* 1919—Shreveport originally organized as a section of the Southwestern Geological Society; was renamed the Shreveport Geological Society in 1924.
- \* 1923—Houston Geological Society; there had been informal meetings as early as 1920 or before.
- \* 1929—San Antonio Geological Society; was renamed the South Texas Geological Society in 1939.
- \* 1931—East Texas Geological Society; headquarters in Tyler.
- \* 1934—South Louisiana Geological Society, included both Lake Charles and Lafayette until 1952 when Lafayette split away; SLGS expired in Lake Charles in 1962.
- \* 1939—Mississippi Geological Society; headquartered in Jackson.
- \* 1941—New Orleans Geological Survey
- \* 1942—Corpus Christi Geological Society; members had met with the San Antonio/South Texas group prior to this.
- \* 1944—Southeastern Geological Society; now centered in Florida.
- \* 1949—Mexican Association of Petroleum Geologists; with eight regions.
- \* 1952—Lafayette Geological Society; split from the South Louisiana Society.
- \* 1952—Baton Rouge Geological Society; this group disbanded in 1958.
- \* 1955—Beaumont Geological Society; folded in 1971.
- \* 1963—Alabama Geological Society; has members throughout the state.
- \* 1965—Austin Geological Society; some activity as early as 1919.
- \* 1979—Present Baton Rouge Geological Society, Inc.; a new organization with only a very few members of the 1952-1958 group.

The GCAGS became a section of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists in 1967. We are unique in that we are the only AAPG section consisting of member societies. All other sections consist of individual geologists.

The original histories were published in the 1993 *Transactions*, p. 313-324. See p. 318 for information on the former South Louisiana and Beaumont societies.

### INTRODUCTION

What city can claim to have the first and longest continuously active geological society in the Gulf Coast? Is it Houston? New Orleans? San Antonio? No, it is Shreveport, Louisiana. In 1919,

21 founding members activated the society, electing J.Y. Snyder (in absentia) as Chairman of the Shreveport Section of the Southwestern Geological Society (note: originally the AAPG was known as the Southwestern Association of Petroleum Geologists). Austin was a section of SWGS from 1921 to 1924, and Dallas was also a section at about that time. Shreveport hosted the first AAPG convention in the Gulf Coast in 1923, and in 1924 renamed itself as the Shreveport Geological Society. Houston formally organized their geological society in 1923 and hosted the AAPG Convention in 1924. In 1929 the San Antonio Geological Society was formed, changing its name in 1939 to the South Texas Geological Society, to reflect membership from Corpus Christi, Beeville, etc. Corpus Christi split away in 1942, largely due to war-time gas rationing and has had a good ride since then.

In 1931 the East Texas Geological Society appeared on the scene, with headquarters in Tyler. In 1934 the South Louisiana Geological Society was organized in Lake Charles, with some members in Lafayette. Meetings were alternated between the two cities until 1952, by which time membership in Lafayette had surpassed that of Lake Charles, so Lafayette then established its own society. The South Louisiana Society survived in Lake Charles until 1962 when it withered away. In 1939 the Mississippi Geological Society was organized in Jackson where a majority of its members are located.

In 1941 the New Orleans Geological Society was formed, and in 1942, as previously mentioned, Corpus Christi split away from the South Texas Society. In 1944 the Southeastern Geological Society was established in Tallahassee, with members also in Alabama and Georgia; now membership is mainly centered in Florida. In 1949 the Mexican Association of Petroleum Geologists was organized. It has about 700 members in eight regions, with its national board in Villahermosa, Tabasco.

In 1952 the Lafayette group split from the South Louisiana Society. Also in 1952 the original Baton Rouge Geological Society was formed, disbanding in 1958. In 1955 the Beaumont Geological Society was organized, but folded in 1971. In 1963, the Alabama Geological Society was established with headquarters in Tuscaloosa, with members throughout the state. In 1965 the Austin Geological Society became a permanent organization. It was a section of the Southwestern Geological Society from 1921 to 1924 (see Shreveport), and there was some activity from 1951 to 1953. In 1979 the present Baton Rouge Geological Society, Inc. was chartered with some, but very few, of the 1952-1958 group participating.

Our most recent member society, the Mexican Association of Petroleum Geologist (Asociacion Mexana de Geologos Petroleros or AMGP) joined GCAGS in 2002. We are most happy to welcome this new group to our ranks!

## MEXICAN ASSOCIATION OF PETROLEUM GEOLOGISTS

The Mexican Association of Petroleum Geologists (AMGP) was founded on November 23, 1949 by Manuel Rodriguez Aguilar, Manuel Álvarez Jr., Alfonso Barnette G., Guillermo P. Salas, Ezequiel Ordoñez. There were 71 charter members, including 32 non-Mexican geologists, who organized with the intent of forming a professional association to support Mexican petroleum geologists in finding solutions for their technical problems; to engender research, knowledge, and new concepts to promote sound natural gas and oil technologies, and improving exploration and production methodologies.

When the AMGP was founded, Mexican petroleum industry had been expropriated eleven years earlier, and the PEMEX Exploration Department had been in existence for seven years. Mexican oil reserves reached 1,506 MMBCOE, with 1,800 barrels being produced daily. The gas generating provinces of Burgos and Macuspana had been discovered; PEMEX had drilled the first oil well at the Gulf of Mexico Continental Shelf, and the "fifty-fifty deal" was considered the newest negotiation scheme.

Now, 53 years after its founding, AMGP has 701 members in eight regions, and is coordinated by the National Board, in Villahermosa, Tabasco. The AMGP today defines its mission as: "Being a professional association for Petroleum Geology Divulcation, for promoting the scientific spirit, integral development and brotherhood among its members; and having the goal of being recognized in Mexico and abroad as a dynamic professional association on the basis of technical and scientific accomplishments in the oil industry, and promoting geoscience understanding along the whole value chain".

AMGP now maintains active relationships and working agreements with several professional domestic and international associations: Mexican Geological Society (SGM), Mexican College of Geological Engineers (CIG), Mexican Association of Exploration Geophysicist, (AMGE), Mexican Association of Petroleum Engineers (AIPM), Mexican Association of Mining Metallurgists and Geological Engineers (AMIME), Mexican Union of Engineering Associations (UMAI), and the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG). Affiliation with GCAGS was recently accomplished by Javier Meneses, immediate past president of the National Board.

The AMGP (solely) has conducted three National Conventions, in 1953, 1958, and 1961; The 20<sup>th</sup> International Geological Congress in 1956; and The 7<sup>th</sup> World Oil Congress in 1967. It has also conducted yearly National Organizational and Administration Board Meetings, and held AMGP delegations monthly meetings.

In 1998 AMGP, its National Board headed by Alfredo Guzmán, became formally affiliated with

AAPG, the original relationship having begun in 1934.

Joint ventures include:

- \* 1<sup>st</sup> AMGP-AAPG Joint International Conference (1995), *Geological Aspects of Petroleum Systems*
- \* 2<sup>nd</sup> AMGP-AAPG Joint International Conference (1997), *Thrust and Fold Belts Oil and Gas E & P*
- \* 3<sup>rd</sup> AMGP-AAPG Joint International Conference (1999), *Revitalization of Mature Hydrocarbon Province*
- \* 4<sup>th</sup> AMGP-AAPG Joint International Conference (2001), *Exploration and Development of Gas Plays*.

Due to AMGP's improvement trend, the 8<sup>th</sup> Legislature of the Mexican Union Congress gave AMGP a special mention because of its extensive list of published technical reports which were designated as "Cultural Mexican National Inheritance." And in June 2002, it was recognized by the Mexican National Council of Science and Technology as a Scientific and Technologic Enterprise.

**Ongoing and Future Projects:** At the present, AMGP is led by Mr. Adan Oviedo who is heading its 27<sup>th</sup> National Board and supported by the eight Regional Board Directors, and is committed to the following:

- \* The publication of the final three (of a series of four) special bulletins:
  - \* Source Rocks (already published)
  - \* Reservoir Rocks
  - \* Seals and Traps
  - \* Timing and Migration
- \* Modest financial support of the Humphrey & Diaz Manuscript publication
- \* Publication of an special thematic report on "Evaluation Process & Value Chain within Pemex Exploration & Production"
- \* A course program on Quality Assurance, two short courses for updating exploration methodologies, and several technology courses & workshops for oil & gas, earth sciences and other related branches
- \* Collaboration for organizing posters sessions for the AMGP-AAPG International Earth Sciences Conference in 2003
- \* Organization and promotion for the next AMGP-AAPG Joint International Conference (2004) in Cancún, Quintana Roo
- \* Producing the History of Mexican Petroleum Exploration

### ALABAMA GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

This year marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Alabama Geological Society and thus offers an excellent opportunity to reflect on the society's history. The AGS was formally established on April 24, 1963 during a meeting of 33 to 35 geologists in a meeting at the Geological Survey of Alabama library in Tuscaloosa. The first officers

were President Douglas E. Jones, then Chairman of the Department of Geology and Geography at the University of Alabama, Vice President John S. Winefordner of Alabama Power Company, and Jack E. Morris of U.S. Pipe and Foundry Companies, Secretary / Treasurer.

The first constitution was adopted in October 1963 and states that the purpose of the society is to "promote geology as a profession and as a science; to encourage friendship and cooperation among all members and branches of the profession; to foster high standards of education and professionalism among the membership of the society; to accumulate and make available geologic knowledge; and to encourage public appreciation of the utility and application of geologic science." This first constitution was written by Dr. William A. Thomas with help from other geologists. On November 1, 1964, the Alabama Geological Society was incorporated with the Articles of Incorporation and entered at the Tuscaloosa County Probate Office. The society became an affiliate of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists and a member society of the Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies in 1966.

Annual field trips with conferences were started in 1964 and continue today. The first field trip was a one-day excursion using cars and a bus from Birmingham Southern College to look at the Pottsville Formation in the Black Warrior basin. Stops included outcrops of sandstone and fossiliferous marine shale, to demonstrate the idea that the Pottsville Formation was cyclic and contained more marine strata than previously thought. This was the first of 25 field trips with guidebooks characterizing the Paleozoic sedimentary units of the Appalachian Plateau and the Valley and Ridge Province. The Piedmont has been examined in detail through 14 field trips, and 15 field trips have focused on the Alabama Coastal Plain. Some of these excursions were presented in conjunction with other geological societies, including sectional meetings of the Geological Society of America and the annual meeting of the Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies.

During the early years, money was generated for society functions by dues (initially \$5 for professionals, \$2 for affiliates, and \$1 for juniors) and the sale of hand lenses. Later, the guidebook series was printed for sale after field trips were conducted. Money generated from these sources maintained the society, and it had been hoped that the interest earned from the savings would be enough for scholarships for students. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, the society was able to sell its guidebooks at various geological meetings, and the income generated became sufficient to sponsor student scholarships. During the spring of 1990, two well-known charter members of the society passed away, and shortly thereafter significant scholarships were established in their names. The John S. Winefordner Scholarship provides \$1,000

and the John G. Newton Scholarship provides \$600 annually to help college students defray the cost of education and research.

In July 1964, the first newsletter series was distributed to members and was called the "Quarterly Bulletin." Dr. William A. Thomas was the first editor. The bulletin contained information of members, as well as articles and abstracts on geology. This version of the newsletter was last printed in 1970. In the fall of 1987, a second newsletter series called the "Alabama Geological Society Newsletter" was initiated, and the newsletter continues today to be an important source of information for Alabama's geological community.

In 1989, the Alabama Geological Society instituted a mentoring program for K-12 students. A hallmark of this program is the presentation of awards to the best Junior High and Senior High School Earth Science projects at the State Science and Engineering Fair.

At the annual spring meeting on March 3, 1989, the 25<sup>th</sup> Silver Anniversary Banquet was held at the University Club. President Dorothy Raymond and Historian Tom Simpson put together a great celebration for the members. Charter members Doug Jones, Bill Thomas, Gary Hooks, Charles Copeland, John Newton, and Tom Joiner gave reminiscent talks—all containing some humor. Eighteen charter members were present.

In the early 1990s an effort for licensing of professional geologists in Alabama was led by Thornton L. Neathery. Twenty-four states had passed licensing acts since the Society had been formed. The society, in its newsletter, presented drafts of the licensing act, articles about the act, and notified members of upcoming meetings to discuss the licensing of Alabama geologists. The licensing of geologists was passed by the Alabama Legislature in regular session in 1995, and a board was formed to implement the licensing which began in 1996. This information was reported to the society members in its newsletter.

Continuing education requirements to maintain licensure fostered a new and vital role for the Alabama Geological Society. On November 9, 1996 a series of seminars, workshops, and one-day field trips was begun with the coordination of then Vice President Tom Bruner. The first trip was to Alabama Power Company's Logan Martin Dam and was led by Ron Robinson, Barry Gilliam, and David Frings. President Charles Smith was also able to help get several conferences organized so that for members could obtain continuing education credits. Continuing education remains a vital function of the Alabama Geological Society today.

In 1996, a committee led by Dr. Mark Puckett simplified the society's constitution. The constitution was reduced from seven to two and one-half pages and was presented to the membership for vote. The results were reported in the November 1, 1996 newsletter, and more than eighty percent of the membership voted for the condensed constitution.

The society has many members who have contributed significantly to the science of geology and to benefit of the society. The Distinguished Service Award has been developed to honor individuals who have made such contributions. At the April 15, 1997 spring slide show, Charles Copeland was awarded the first Distinguished Service Award. Charles C. Smith was presented the second award on October 31, 2000, and Lewis Dean was the recipient of third award on April 12, 2002.

With members scattered across the state, some members are not able to attend all of the activities of the society. It had long been hoped that some meetings could be held in a location more centralized to their area of state. The first of these was held on September 18, 2001 with the development of the Southwestern Section, in Mobile. A total of 22 people attended this first meeting.

Our society has produced a very productive forty years for its members, the geology of Alabama, the universities, students, and the public. The future looks bright for the society, with a membership that has grown to almost three hundred, new programs being planned, and the completion of the 39<sup>th</sup> annual field trip in December 2002.

#### AUSTIN GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

In 1951, a group of geologists met to form the first definitely known Austin society. No records of this group could be located; they disbanded in 1953. According to U.T. Professor Sam Ellison, a second Austin society may have formed and disappeared during another short period, before formal documentation began in 1965. There is also very sketchy evidence if an Austin society from about 1919 to 1924 (See Shreveport Geological Society).

On April 12, 1965, nine geologists met to discuss the need for a geological society in the Austin area. At that meeting, Stephen E. Clabaugh, John W. Dietrich, Robert K. Fahnstock, Peter T. Flawn, Harold D. Holoway, Lesoie G. McMillion, James W. Sansome Jr., Alan J. Scott, and Allen G. Winslow outlined objectives for the society and proposed a constitution and bylaws. These people were from the University of Texas Department of Geology, The University of Texas Bureau of Economic Geology, the Texas Water Commission, and the U.S. Geological Survey.

The present AGS was founded on April 22, 1965 in the Geology Building of the University of Texas at Austin and had a membership of 33 in its first year. The first officers were President P.T. Flawn, Vice President H.D. Holoway, Secretary J.W. Sansome Jr., and Treasurer Ernest T. Baker Jr. Three years later, membership had grown to 109. At that time the society met twice monthly, once at noon and once in the evening.

Membership reached a high of approximately 300 members in the mid-1980s, and is currently

about 120. Publication of the newsletter began in 1965, but was sporadic until 1968 when it became a regular monthly issue. At about that time, the meeting frequency also was changed to once a month. Current membership continues to reflect a wide range of geoscientists, including environmental, mineral industry, and petroleum consultants, as well as federal, state, and university geologists and hydrologists.

AGS hosted the GCAGS/GCS-SEPM annual convention in 1977, 1985, 1994, and 2002. The society joined GCAGS in 1974, and has been sending delegates to AAPG at least since 1966.

In 1985, the constitution was changed to add the office of president-elect to the aforementioned offices, and elections are held at the May meeting.

In 1999 AGS granted its first annual student scholarships, one award each for an undergraduate and a graduate student at the Department of Geological Sciences of the University of Texas at Austin. This scholarship is granted from an endowment fund established by AGS.

AGS has 22 field trip guidebook publications. Recent topics include:

- ✦ The Hill County Appellation: A Geologic Tour of Selected Vineyards and Wineries of Central Texas. 56 p. AGS Guidebook 18, 1998.
- ✦ Rocks, Resources, and Recollections; A Geologic Tour of the "Forty Acres"—The University of Texas at Austin Campus: C.M. Woodruff Jr., and Brenda L. Kirkland, Coordinators. Ten articles on the geology and architecture of the main campus and a walking tour. 62 p. AGS Guidebook 19, 1999.
- ✦ Geology and Historical Mining, Llano Uplift Region, Central Texas: J. Richard Kyle, Editor; Chris Caran, Mark Helper, and Richard Kyle, Leaders. Six articles on Spanish colonial mining, mineral deposits, and geology of the eastern Llano uplift. Includes road log and four stops. 111 p. AGS Guidebook 20, 2001.
- ✦ Austin, Texas, and Beyond—Geology and Environment: A Field Excursion in Memory of L. Edwin Garner: C.M. Woodruff Jr., and E.W. Collins, Coordinators. 120 p. AGS Guidebook 21, 2001.
- ✦ Time, Land, and Barton Creek—An Excursion to Shield Ranch, Travis and Hays Counties, Texas: C.M. Woodruff Jr., and Edward W. Collins, Trip Coordinators. 71 p. AGS Guidebook 22, 2003.

#### BATON ROUGE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

The original Baton Rouge Geological Society was founded in 1952 and expired in 1958. During those six years, membership varied from a high of 75 (1953) to 35 in 1957. There was a large Shell Oil division office, several smaller company representatives present during that time. Shell and most of the others moved out and the society folded in 1958. Monthly meetings had been held usually with a speaker, at a popular restaurant, Bob and

Jake's. The last official act of the original society was to liquidate the treasury with a farewell party at the restaurant. Those who had held office or served as representatives were H.V. Andersen, Mike S. Cannon, G.O. Coignet, John Huner Jr., J.B. Kennedy, J.K. Larsen, Percy Lyons, John E. McDougall, W.W. Ogden, C.B. Pennington Jr., William A. Romans, Walter Rose, A. R. Stern, William M. Tonkin, and Felix Webster. The first representatives to GCAGS in 1952 were Rose and Larsen. The original society included the then State Geologist, Leo. W. Hough and a former State Geologist, John Huner. It also included two who would become AAPG honorary members and Powers medalists, Professors Henry V. Howe and Grover E. Murray. Howe founded the precursor of the present Louisiana State University Department of Geology and Geophysics, in 1934. In the mid-to-late twenties, he rode the train weekly to Shreveport to teach geology courses at Centenary College for the students and local industry members there. He is also responsible for establishing the Louisiana Geological Society, in 1934. Murray is the only person to serve as president of both the AAPG and the national SEPM. He also served successively as vice president of LSU, and president of Texas Tech and Texas Tech Medical School, in addition to receiving numerous other honors from the geological profession.

The present BRGS was founded in 1979 at the suggestion of Harry L. Roland Jr. and David E. Pope. It was incorporated that year and became affiliated with both AAPG and GCAGS in 1980. We hold monthly luncheon meetings, September through May each season, and the society has run a number of field trips. Some of the most popular ones have been to Avery Island salt dome, near New Iberia, and to the rugged Tunica Hills north of Baton Rouge where waterfalls are found in Clark Creek.

BRGS co-sponsored, with Louisiana State University, a student chapter of AAPG in 1980. Professor Ray E. Ferrell Jr. was the faculty representative and David Pope was the society liaison. In several of the recent years the chapter had the highest membership in the U.S. The society assists the students in offering low membership dues for BRGS and half-price admission at our monthly luncheons.

BRGS assisted in the formation its Auxiliary, in 1982. Maxine (Mrs. Bobby L.) Jones and Ouida (Mrs. David D.) Tettleton were the prime movers in its founding. The auxiliary holds several functions each year and invites spouses to two of them. The ladies were very helpful when Baton Rouge hosted the 1986 and 1995 GCAGS/GCSEPM conventions, and they are now assisting us with the 2003 convention to be held in Baton Rouge.

BRGS began in 1979 with about 50 members; we now have about 150. We are growing slowly, with the environmental segment of the industry

increasing over time. Other members are drawn from consultants, state and federal agencies, LSU, and the oil and gas industry.

The first officers (1979-80) were President Harry Roland, VP/President-elect David Pope, Secretary Lewis G. Nichols, Treasurer Michael W. Killeen, and Directors Charles G. Groat and Lloyd T. Leake. We now have six honorary members: H.V. Andersen, George T. Cardwell, William G. Haag, Donald H. Kupfer, Joseph D. Martinez, and D.E. Pope. Eight Louisiana State University professors have been named Outstanding Educators by GCAGS: James M. Coleman, Arnold H. Bouma, Clyde H. Moore, Harry H. Roberts, Jeffrey S. Hanor, Donald H. Kupfer, Judith A. Schiebout, and Banun Sen Gupta. Coleman has received the SEPM Shepard Award, was named (the first) executive vice-chairman of LSU in 1989, and was elected to membership in the National Academy of Engineering in 1990. He was appointed to the President's Commission on Ocean Policy in July of 2001. Bouma was editor-in-chief of the international journal, *Geo-Marine Letters*, has received the Shepard Award, and has published more papers in the *Transactions* than any other author. He has also served as president of the National SEPM. C.G. "Chip" Groat has served as State Geologist and Director of the Louisiana Geological Survey, Executive Director of the American Geological Institute, Executive Director of the LSU Center for Coastal Energy and Environmental Resources, and is now Director of the U.S. Geological Survey. William E. Marsalis, was State Geologist and Director of the Louisiana Geological Survey, and Chief Geologist of the State Mineral Board. Chacko J. John is State Geologist and Director of the Louisiana Geological Survey. He is the current President of AAPG's Energy Minerals Division and also President of GCAGS. Andersen, Coleman, Howe, and Pope are honorary members of GCSSEPM, Andersen is a past president, and Pope has also served as president of that organization as well as GCAGS. Several BRGS members have received outstanding paper awards. Charles R. Kolb and Jack R. Van Lopik have placed first in the GCAGS papers; Donald H. Kupfer has placed first and received the Levorsen Award; Coleman has won the Levorsen Award as has Roberts. John Suter, Harry Roberts, and Elizabeth Kusters have placed first in various GCSSEPM competition; Suter has won the AAPG Jules Braunstein Memorial Poster Award. Eight Baton Rouge geologists, all LSU professors, have had six volumes of the *Transactions* dedicated to them: 1957, H.V. Howe; 1966, G.E. Murray; ; 1970, C.O. Durham; 1986, H.V. Andersen; 1995, H.N. Fisk; and 2003, A.H. Bouma, J.M. Coleman, and H.H. Roberts.

#### CORPUS CHRISTI GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

In 1936, geologists in the area joined together to advance the science of geology. They affiliated with the San Antonio Geological Society, which

was organized March 24, 1929 and first hosted the Annual AAPG Convention in 1931. After Corpus Christi and other south Texas geologists joined the San Antonio Geological Society, the name was changed to the South Texas Geological Society in 1939, and meetings were held in both Corpus Christi and San Antonio. Geologists from Beeville, Pleasanton, Laredo, and other Texas cities were part of this society.

In 1942, World War II had started, gasoline and tires were rationed, and it became difficult for geologist to travel between Corpus Christi and San Antonio. Geologists from the Corpus Christi area decided to start their own society. The Corpus Christi Geological Society began in 1942 with 42 charter members. The late W. Armstrong Price was elected the first president. The South Texas Geological Society continues in San Antonio. W. Carlton "Tubby" Weaver is thought to be the sole surviving charter member of both the South Texas and the Corpus Christi geological Societies.

In 1950, the secretary-treasurer position was divided. Membership in the society grew during 1950-51, with weekly meetings held during this period. Known surviving charter members at this writing are Jimmy Burke and Tubby Weaver in Corpus Christi, and O.G. McClain in Houston.

To help maintain continuity of leadership in the society, the position of first vice president was changed to president-elect in 1986. The duties included finding committee chairmen. In the 1950s, meetings were changed from weekly to monthly, except during the summer months when no meetings are held. Membership in the society had grown to 475 members in 1967 to 880 members in 1981.

Caroline Duffield was a long time aid to the Corpus Christi Geological Society. She started working for the society years ago and continued until her death. Her dedication to the Corpus Christi Society was unequalled. Another individual who younger geologists will never have the privilege of knowing was Jeff Jeffries, founder and part owner of Nixon Blue Print Company. He had a phenomenal memory of South Texas electric logs which was most helpful to geologists. Both Caroline and Jeff were given special recognition by the society.

The objective of the Corpus Christi Geological Society has always been to promote the science of geology, particularly as it relates to the geology of South Texas. To accomplish this objective, the society has undertaken a variety of projects. Speakers at our meetings been both members and guests. The bulletin has grown from a newsletter-type publication to a magazine with technical articles, news of members, and activities of the society. Field trips are sponsored by the society to help members interpret what they may suspect in the subsurface. Type logs of certain fields are published to help in establishing a consistency of terminology. Field studies and a Rwa catalog have

been published. Cross sections showing general geology of the Gulf Coast are available from the society. The society regularly offers continuing education courses for all geologists. As new ideas and concepts are developed, the society presents them to the membership.

The Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies was formed in 1951. The first meeting of the GCAGS was in New Orleans, Louisiana in 1951, and the second was in Corpus Christi in 1952. W.M. Chaddick Jr., who was president of the Corpus Christi Geological Society in 1951, was the second president of the GCAGS. That meeting drew over 1,000 geologists and their spouses to Corpus Christi with 800 of the attendees from outside of the city. Corpus Christi held the GCAGS convention again in 1958 with E.A. Lohse as president and R.C. Wilshusen as convention chairman. The convention returned in 1964 with Earl Knott as president and Byron Dyer as convention chairman. Don Boyd was president when it returned in 1972 and Jerry Sides was convention chairman. Paul Strunk was president of the 1981 convention and Wilson Humphrey chairman. The 1989 convention had Bill Payne as president and Gerry Heinzleman as chairman. The most recent GCAGS convention held in Corpus Christi was the 1998 meeting with Bob Travis as president and Gloria Sprague as convention chairman. Paul Strunk and Don Boyd are honorary members of GCAGS.

At the 2000 meeting of GCAGS, the Don R., Boyd Medal for Excellence in Gulf Coast Geology was established, to be awarded for: (1) excellence in research, (2) professional leadership, and (3) oil and gas exploration. It is the highest award given by GCAGS. Don Boyd has served as secretary of AAPG, on the Advisory Council, and other committees. He has twice been nominated for president of AAPG. Don was made an honorary member of AAPG at the 1989 convention. Paul Strunk has served as treasurer of AAPG, on the Advisory Council, and other committees. Paul was made an honorary member of AAPG, April 11, 1999, at the convention in San Antonio. Fred Dix, who retired as Executive Director of AAPG, was once a member of the Corpus Christi Geological Society.

Members of the society have held national or state offices in both the American Institute of Professional Geologist (AIPG) and the Society of Independent Earth Scientists (SIPES). The late Fred Thompson was an officer in the society and served several positions in the national SIPES organization, including president. The late Dick Peterson was a long-time member of CCGS and served as president of the SIPES Foundation. Robert Owen is now vice president, natural resources, for SIPES. Jack Sulik, Paul Strunk, and Charles Lundberg are, or have been, directors of the national SIPES organization. Curtis Mayo, who recently moved to Corpus Christi, was president

of the Texas section of AIPG. Paul Strunk has also served as president of the Texas Section of AIPG.

The Corpus Christi Geological Society has bestowed honorary membership on nine of its members. Dale Benson was an early president of the society and represented Corpus Christi when it was part of the South Texas Geological Society. Carroll "C.C." Miller was an officer in the South Texas Geological Society and remained active in the local society for many years. W. Armstrong Price was the first president of the Corpus Christi Geological Society and remained active until shortly before his death in 1987 at the age of 98. Frith Owen was the second president of the society. Cleo Buck was a president of the society and remained office shortly before his death. O.G. McClain was a charter member of the Corpus Christi Geological Society, held several offices, and is still a member, although he now lives in Houston. He recently contributed an article to the bulletin. Paul Strunk and Owen Hopkins are honorary members who are still active in the society.

In 1991, the society started honoring members with a designation of "Distinguished Geologists." Joe Uri, W. Carlton Weaver, Bill Colson, Joe McCullough, Dick White, Bill Volk, Jay Endicott, Frank Cornish, John Vreeland, Lawrence Hoover, Louie Sebring Jr., and Bill Carl received this honor. Joe Uri, Louie Sebring Jr., and Bill Colson are now deceased.

The society has several avenues for serving the community and the membership in addition to meetings and courses. Speakers are provided to schools and other organizations requesting information on geology or the oil industry. Members work with the Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History and local universities and colleges. A booth is sponsored at the annual Bay Fest which provided an avenue for the younger segment of the population to become familiar with geology. The society sponsors a blood drive twice a year which provides for not only the membership but also the community. Scholarships are made available to local college students and many in the society provide part time employment for some of these students. Our geologists also assist Boy Scouts in obtaining merit badges in geology and science.

#### **EAST TEXAS GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

The East Texas Geological Society was organized in September 1931 and accepted as an AAPG affiliate in 1932. Prior to September 1931, informal meetings of geologists were held in Tyler and nearby cities on an irregular basis, for the purposes of information exchange and scouting the local petroleum industry. Although important fields such as Corsicana and Van were already producing, the discovery of the giant East Texas Woodbine Field in 1930 by Dad Joiner caused many companies and individuals to move into the

area. Tyler, being centrally located in the basin, became the operating headquarters for a robust petroleum industry.

The influx of geologists prompted the early leaders to form a more structural geological society. Founding officers included President E.A. Wendlandt, Vice President W.C. Thompson, Secretary-Treasurer E.R. Rice, and Executive Committee members H.S. Clark and A.C. Wright. There were originally about 65 members. By the early 1980s membership had grown to 350 and is now approximately 250, since the withdrawal of nearly all major oil companies from Tyler. ETGS was a charter member of GCAGS in 1951.

ETGS has sponsored four publications on the geology of East Texas, most are studies on the occurrence of hydrocarbons in region. At this writing, three of these are still available in hardcopy: *Occurrence of Oil and Gas in Northeast Texas (1989)*, *The Jurassic of East Texas (1984)*, and *The Occurrence of Oil and Gas in Northeast Texas (1964)*. ETGS also offers for sale a searchable CD which includes all ETGS publications, including those now out of print. Another CD-based publication is now in progress, expected to be released in 2003.

For years, ETGS has strongly supported Earth Science Day in area schools with the distribution of Earth Science Day kits for AGI and speakers where needed, and has vigorously sought and rewarded Earth Science Teacher Award nominees. In 2002, ETGS increased its emphasis on supporting earth science studies in area schools, children camps, and museums.

ETGS is now preparing for its fourth annual Technology and Prospect Expo in Tyler. The Expo now averages about 60 exhibitors and 300-400 attendees. Except for the month of the Expo, ETGS holds monthly luncheon meetings featuring technical speakers. Evening social events are scheduled at various times, and also a fall golf tournament is sponsored annually.

General society information, phone numbers, meeting information, publications, and more can be found on the ETGS website at [www.tyler.net/etgs](http://www.tyler.net/etgs).

#### HOUSTON GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

As the petroleum industry began in earnest, so did its partnership with Houston, from the first geologic exploration group founded in 1897 for the Southern Pacific Railroad — by the great pioneer geologist Dr. Edwin T. Dumble — to becoming the international Mecca for petroleum expertise and technology it is today.

The Texas oil boon began with the discovery of Spindletop near Beaumont on January 10, 1901, and the geologists of Houston were there to follow through. There was an initial attempt to organize Houston geologists in January of 1920, but the regular monthly lunch meetings did not begin until the summer of 1923. This was at the invitation of Donald C. Barton of the Rycade Oil Corporation.

In 1924 the ninth annual meeting of American Association of Petroleum geologists was held in Houston at the suggestion of Alexander Deussen and Wallace E. Pratt, both past presidents of AAPG. Since a viable professional organization was necessary to prepare for this meeting, the Houston Geological Society was formally chartered on August 8, 1923, with John R. Suman as president and David Donoghue as secretary-treasurer.

Membership in the new society accounted for 74 geologists located in or near Houston and all were elected charter members of the society. On April 15, 1975, the society was incorporated under the laws of the State of Texas with 2,217 active and honorary members. Membership today is near 4,500 members.

The objectives of the Houston Geological Society are as follows: (1) to stimulate interest and promote advancement in geology for the Houston area; (2) to disseminate and facilitate discussions of geological information; and (3) to aid and encourage academic training in the science of geology. The Society strives to achieve these goals through regularly scheduled technical meetings, a monthly publication (the *Bulletin*), a continuing education program, field trips, the publication of books, and two student scholarship funds.

Designed by Walter J. Osterhoudt, the official insignia of the Society was adopted in January 29, 1949 at the advice of Phil Martyn. The HGS emblem is best described by Mr. Osterhoudt, "The oil derrick stands for success to members of the Society. The derrick is firmly established upon the Gulf Coast plain overlooking Galveston Bay, through which passes much of the oil to the markets of the world. Beyond Galveston Bay is the Gulf of Mexico, a new province, which challenges geologists and geophysics to almost unlimited new reserves. Under the oil derrick is a cross section of a typical Gulf Coast salt dome. The words 'Houston Geological Society' are arranged upon a circle, which is symbolical of the world, because our geologists come from and travel to all places on the earth in search of oil and other minerals. The five points of the design area pleasant reminder that we, the members of the Society, are privileged to live in Texas. The date, 1923 is the year in which the Society was organized."

Through its publication efforts, the society has rendered a service to its members, the geological profession, and occasionally to the entire community with books of general interest. The publication *Houston Area Environmental Geology: Surface Faulting, Ground Subsidence, Hazard Liability* is a significant contribution to both the professional and nonprofessional geologic communities. Four important volumes on the geology of deltas, that favored habitat for petroleum accumulation, have been published. Two of these, *Deltas-Models for Exploration* and *Deltas in Their Geologic Framework* have been reprinted due to demand. The eleventh

edition of *Directory of Oil Company Name Changes* was printed in 1997. Two recent publications, *Exploration and Exploitation of Coastal Salt basin Diapiric Structures in the Lower Pliocene through Eocene Trends: Geology and Techniques*, a joint effort with the New Orleans Geological Society, and *Productive Low Resistivity Well Logs of the Offshore Gulf of Mexico* are valuable additions to the geological literature.

The society encourages and aids students through the Memorial Scholarship Fund for graduate students, and the undergraduate Scholarship Fund for undergraduates. The society also gives "outstanding geologist" Student Awards to Stephen F. Austin University, Lamar University, Texas A & M, University, the University of Texas at Austin, Rice University, the University of Houston, and Sam Houston University; and promotes participation in the Houston Engineering and Science Fair.

The Houston Geological Society has been affiliated with the American Association of Petroleum Geologists since 1932. Several Houston geologists helped to organize the AAPG and many members have served as officers, held important committee assignments, and been honored with significant awards. The national AAPG convention has been held in Houston ten times, including March 2002.

The Houston Geological Society has been actively involved with the Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies since its inception in 1951. Houston has hosted six annual GCAGS conventions, the last in October 2000.

Houston geologists have held important roles in the development of the Offshore Technology Conference since its first meeting in 1969. HGS generally assists AAPG, one of the sponsoring societies of OTC, with its committee responsibilities.

#### LAFAYETTE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The Lafayette Geological Society can trace its history back to the founding of the South Louisiana Geological Society in Lake Charles, Louisiana, late in 1934. At that time, there were approximately five geologists in the Lafayette area. For the next six years all meetings of the society were held in Lake Charles.

About 1940, the concentration of geologist increased in the Lafayette area and the South Louisiana Geological Society's meetings were alternated between Lafayette and Lake Charles, with an occasional meeting being held in Baton Rouge. By 1950, the geologists in Lafayette outnumbered those in Lake Charles.

On December 1, 1952, twenty-three Lafayette geologists met to organize the Lafayette Geological Society. Jesse L. George Jr., was designated temporary chairman, and Gene Whipp agreed to serve as acting secretary. On December 17, 1952 a second meeting was held at which time the

constitution and by-laws were approved. The society then had 110 members.

The society continued to grow and prosper, and in May 1953 became affiliated with the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, with Jay Wharton as the first AAPG representative. In September of that year, the society became a member of the GCAGS. In 1953, 215 members experienced three presidents that year—Jesse L. George Jr., the 1<sup>st</sup> President was transferred in April, and by September his replacement, George P. Walker Jr., was transferred to Houston, and Hugh F. Crain completed the term of office. The first speaker for LGS was James A Seglund, presenting a paper on West Cote Blanche Bay Field.

In 1954, the first amendment to the constitution was approved, in January, on the eligibility of holding office and the filling of office vacancies. Lafayette Geological Society's first contribution to local literature was the completion of the "Idealized Isometric Block Diagram of South Louisiana," showing the stratigraphy of the Miocene as projected on the subsea plane of 7500'.

In April 1955, the first LGS Bulletin was printed to give the membership timely information concerning business, meeting announcements, and personal items. In May, the first Subsurface Project Award was presented to Richard Carter, the outstanding senior student in Geology at Southwestern Louisiana Institute (now University of Louisiana at Lafayette).

In 1957, the first photo directory was completed under the guidance of Park Ogden Jr., Carol J. Seib, and J. Mack Barnes. About 1500 copies were circulated.

The Lafayette Geological Society was presented with a luncheon bell from the SLI Geological Society in 1958. A change in the By-laws resulted in an increase of dues to \$4.00

In 1959, a second photo directory was published under committeemen Ed V. Harrison, William R. Hessie Jr., and Claude A. Teel. The LGS, in keeping with the Public Information Committee of the AAPG, organized a series of lectures that were presented before the science teachers of the Lafayette Parish School System. This was accomplished under the guidance of Robert Copeland and Dr. John McCampbell.

The Lafayette Geological Society was incorporated in 1965, and the following year hosted its first GCAGS convention under the leadership of GCAGS President Allen M. Borland and General Chairman Robert Copeland. Over the next few years the society's membership gradually increased reaching a total of approximately 500 members in 1973. The society again hosted the GCAGS convention in 1974 with Scott J. Lysinger serving as GCAGS President and Frank W. Harrison Jr. as General Chairman.

In 1980, the GCAGS held its annual convention in Lafayette for the third time. One of the

society's most distinguished members, Frank W. Harrison Jr., served as GCAGS President that year, assisted by General Chairman Marvin A. Munchrath. Frank was subsequently elected AAPG President-elect in 1980-81 and was President in 1981-82. In 1990, the society hosted its fourth GCAGS convention with Peter G. Gray serving as President and Dr. Lock as General Chairman. The 1999 GCAGS convention held in Lafayette with Dr. Brian E. Lock as President and Tim Rynott as General Chairman. The GCAGS *Transactions* were dedicated to Pete Gray. Also honored that year was Bob Anderson, awarded with a GCAGS Honorary Membership. The 2002 GCAGS/GCSSEPM convention bestowed Distinguished Service Awards upon three members: Pete Gray, Tim Rynott, and Jim Dungan.

The Lafayette Geological Society, with a current membership of 370, is most proud of its publications of geology and its assistance to the students and faculty of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, the local schools, and the scouting community. The society established an endowment scholarship, honoring the late geology professor William R. Paine, which awards cash scholarships to deserving ULL geology students annually.

#### MISSISSIPPI GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Founded on November 28, 1939, the Mississippi Geological Society was begun for the purposes of "stimulation of interest in geology and related sciences..., the encouragement of scientific research among members..., and the discussion and dissemination of geological information..." From its inception, the society has remained steadfast in its goals and purposes through the sponsorship of field trips, technical presentations, seminars, publications, and involvement in community affairs.

The founding members were: Tom Anderson, R.M. Ashley, John N. Berg, Grant Blanchard, Walter M. Burress, Harry M. Cuchner, Jack R. Cooper, C.G. Dickinson, Edward G. Dobrick, E.H. Finch, E.L. Fipps, Edwin D. Gaby, David C. Harrell, Urban B. Hughes, Geoffrey Jeffreys, F.R. Kittredge, F.H. Leach Jr., C.L. Morgan, R.W. Mallory, O.B. Manes, J.R. Maxey, Pat Meholin, Frederic F. Mellen, J.S. Miller, H.M. Morse, Dr. W.C. Moore, Tom McGlothlin, L.R. McFarland, Lloyd S. Parker, H.B. Peacock, C.F. Scott, John D. Storm, Max R. Sartain, Harlan Taylor, Langdon S. Tennis, Wade W. Turnbull, Henry N. Toler, and Arthur Wedel.

One of the first committees formed in the new society was the Field Trip Committee. Beginning in December 1939, this committee had completed four field trips by the end of 1940. Through the years, the society has sponsored some twenty field trips, each with a guidebook.

In April 1941, the society became affiliated with AAPG, and in March 1951, joined the

GCAGS. In October 1946, MGS hosted its first AAPG sectional convention on the Gulf Coast, in Biloxi, with attendance of 587. Again in Biloxi in 1949, MGS co-hosted the AAPG sectional meeting. Biloxi was also the site in 1955 and 1960 as MGS hosted those GCAGS/GCSSEPM conventions. In 1968, MGS again hosted the GCAGS convention, this time in Jackson, and there again in 1975, 1983, and most recently in 1992. In May 2002, the MGS sponsored a two-day exploration symposium that attracted almost 300 participants.

Involvement in research and technical projects has always been a hallmark of MGS. In 1945, the MGS oversaw the assembly of data for and the completion of a new and revised geological map of the state. In order to assist geologists in their pursuits, the MGS Library was established in 1945. In 1947, the society instituted the Student Award Program for outstanding papers on geology from geology majors at the state's universities. In 1955, the society began awarding scholarships to senior high school winners in the science fair, sponsored by the Mississippi Academy of Science. The Lawrence Boland Memorial Scholarship Fund, begun in 1980, continues to award scholarships annually to one student from each of the four colleges and universities in the state which have a significant geology curriculum. The MGS Student Award Program and the Student Assistance Program continue to recognize outstanding students in geology in the state's colleges and universities.

From the early days to the present, publications have played a major role in attaining the purposes of the society, as set forth in its constitution. From the first field trip in 1939 to the latest in the spring of 2001, 20 guidebooks have been published, along with various composite and type logs, correlation sections, and stratigraphic and structural cross-sections. Additionally, the society published a compendium of Wilcox fields in 1952, beginning a continuing progression of publications of field maps and reservoir and production data. The Wilcox volume was updated in 1968, with volumes of the "Redbook" and its supplemental updates published in 1957, 1963, 1967, 1970, 1977, 1980, 1987, 1992, and 1995. The society also publishes a monthly *Bulletin*, which was begun in 1953.

From the original 38 in November 1937, membership grew to 108 within four months. From the late 1940s through the late 1950s, it ranged from 160 to 175. In 1962, it increased to 410, remaining at about that level until the late 1970s and early 1980s when it was consistently about 500. Since the mid-1980s membership has varied from 200 to 300; it is now near the lower end of that range.

Today, despite the ups and downs that have affected the geological professional, the same concepts stated in the opening paragraph continue to motivate and propel the society into the future,

due to the strong foundation of a committed membership and adaptation to changing conditions in the profession.

### NEW ORLEANS GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The New Orleans Geological Society celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on May 30, 1992 with a well-attended birthday party. The society published in this year a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Membership Directory which included ten pages of vintage photographs of members and society functions through the years. The directory also contained brief historical notes of society activities, organized by decades. The directory was mailed to 1,108 members of record. This historical document could not have been produced without the diligent and creative efforts of John C. "Jack" Langford.

In January 1993 the joint Houston Geological Society-NOGS publication *Productive Low Resistivity Well Logs of the Offshore Gulf of Mexico* was published. By midyear almost a thousand copies were sold, thereby necessitating a reprinting of this valuable resource book. Also in this year, the society hosted the 77<sup>th</sup> Annual AAPG Convention with a total registration of 5,444. Robert W. Sabaté was the General Chairman of this very successful convention. In August, the School Information Committee distributed fifty Rock and Minerals Sets to area high schools. Monthly luncheons attendance declined to an average of 130, reflecting the downturn of the domestic petroleum industry. The "Friends of the NOGS Office Fund" was created in 1994 for the purpose of assuring funds would always be available for maintaining the business office. Roy Walther was instrumental in providing the initial effort for the creation of the fund. In 1995 requirements for NOGS membership were expanded to include geoscientists working in environmental and geotechnical services. A new publication, *Salt Tectonic Map of the Gulf of Mexico*, was released. John Lopez played the pivotal role in its construction and in affecting its release from Amoco. Also published in 1995 was the joint HGS-NOGS book titled, *Exploration of Coastal Salt basin Diapiric Structures in the Lower Pliocene through Eocene Trends: Geology and Techniques*. A very successful short course based on this publication was held on April 18, 1996, with approximately 60 attendees. The July 1996 monthly meeting featured a "Poster Extravaganza" with the presentation of four poster papers. Sue Waters, vice president and program chairman, conceived this format which was a huge success.

The major event for the society in 1997 was hosting the 48<sup>th</sup> Annual GCAGS Convention. The *Transactions* volume was dedicated to Thomas H. Philpott. A total of 2,035 registered for the event, including 1,341 professionals. The convention effort was ably led by General Chairman John C. "Jack" Langford, who was supported by a hundred or more NOGS members and members of the

New Orleans Geological Auxiliary. That was also the year the NOGS business office initiated Internet availability and the launching of the society's homepage on the World Wide Web. Michael M. Ledet spearheaded these efforts which have become essential to the functioning of the society. In 1998 the upswing in the petroleum industry was responsible for increasing attendance at the monthly luncheons to an average of 168. However, 1999 was a different story. Faced with \$11.00 per barrel oil, corporate downsizing and relocation, the NOGS budget was responsibly reduced to maintain fiscal control. The Employment Counseling Committee was active arranging numerous functions designed for networking opportunities for displaced geoscientists in the New Orleans area. Average attendance at monthly meeting fell to 120. A positive activity for the year was the assistance by a number of NOGS members for the creation of a 3-D seismic workstation laboratory at the University of New Orleans. 1999 was also the first year the society cosponsored with the Society of petroleum Engineers and the American Association of Drilling Engineers, the *Third Annual Deep Water Gulf of Mexico Symposium*. NOGS continues to participate in this yearly event and is responsible for organizing the Geoscience Technical Session at the symposium.

The society's main event for 2000 was hosting the 85<sup>th</sup> Annual AAPG Convention. Erik Mason ably served as General Chairman. The convention drew 6,856 attendees, the second largest since 1988. Also, through the efforts of Bob Sabaté, a special NOGS lapel pin was designed and manufactured and placed on sale for members to show support of the society. In January 2000 the site of the monthly luncheon relocated from the City Energy Club to the Hyatt Regency Hotel, and once again to the Fairmont Hotel with the January 2001 luncheon. The NOGS business office relocated to Suite 300, 810 Union Street, from the 234 Loyola Avenue location it had occupied since 1991. Part of the funds received from AAPG for hosting the 2000 convention helped establish the Bill Craig Memorial Fund within the Memorial Foundation. Two constitutional changes were approved by the membership. First, the fiscal year calendar was changed to run from July 1 to June 30. The second was to elevate the NOGS LOG Editor to a board position, thereby reflecting the importance of the editor. Another change was to create an editor-elect position. Candidates for the position would be voted on by the membership. NOGS formed the New Geologists of New Orleans group, modeling it after the successful "NeoGeos" of the Houston Geological Society.

In 2002 all NOGS oil and gas fields and salt domes volumes, including the Tuscaloosa Trend of South Louisiana volume, were released for sale by AAPG/Datapages on CD-ROM in March at the AAPG convention in Houston. The CD contains information on 324 fields. Hard copies of these

publications, and all other publications, are being sold through the Texas Bureau of Economic Geology. Once these copies are exhausted, the publications will be available only on CD-ROM. AAPG/Datapages digitized all remaining publication, including many now out-of-print, and these were issued on tow Cd-ROMs in 2003. On May 15<sup>th</sup> NOGS presented its Petroleum Geology for Non-geologists short course. Instructors were Duncan Goldthwaite, Robert Branson, Clifford Cuffey, Penne Rappold, Devi Subramaniam and Frank Hall. On June 13<sup>th</sup> NOGS sponsored the short course "Applied Biostratigraphy for Geologist, geophysicists, and Engineers." Instructors included Brian O'Neill, Rome Lytton, Bruce Robertson, and Garry Jones. Emboldened by the success of a symposium on exploration activities in the Interior Salt Basin sponsored by the Mississippi Geological Society in 2002, NOGS presented a successful symposium on may 22, 2003, titled *South Louisiana Onshore Petroleum Exploration Symposium: New Discoveries Point to a Bright Future*. George Rhoads served as general chairman.

Annually, the NOGS Memorial Foundation, Inc. grants scholarships to geology graduates and undergraduates students at LSU, Tulane, and UNO. These scholarships total, on average, \$25,500 per year. The Foundation also supports other specific educational requests as they arise.

In the past decade the GCAGS has recognized many NOGS members for their outstanding contributions to the geosciences and to professional organizations. GCAGS Outstanding Educator Awards were presented to William W. Craig (93), William C. Ward (97), M. Gordon Frey (99), George B. Flowers (01), and to Patrick Shea Penland (03). Distinguished Service Awards were received by Duncan Goldthwaite (95), Carlo C. Christina (96), M.R. "Bob" Douglass (97), John C. "Jack" Langford (97), Richard W. Boebel (98), George E. Smith III (99), Robert B. Branson (01), Richard A. Edmund (02), Mark J. Gallagher (02), and Robert J. Ingram (02). Honorary Membership Awards were presented to M. Gordon Frey (93), Edward B. Picou Jr., (95), George D. Severson (96), Carlo C. Christina (97), Dan L. Smith (97), John C. "Jack" Langford (98), H. Grady Collier Jr. (00), Claude C. Baker (01), Charles J. Corona (02), Robert W. Sabaté (02), and M.R. "Bob" Douglass (03). GCAGS' most prestigious award, the Don R. Boyd Medal for Excellence in Gulf Coast Geology, was awarded to Thomas H. Philpott in 2003. Of the seven "founding fathers" of GCAGS, Tom Philpott is the sole survivor.

NOGS members receiving Distinguished Service Awards from AAPG in the past decade include George D. Severson (93), Dan L. Smith (97), Edward B. Picou Jr. (99), and Robert C. Shoup (00). James C. Neiman received the AAPG Jules Braunstein Award in 1997. Edward B. Picou Jr. was awarded AAPG Honorary membership in 2002. Members holding elected offices in the DPA of

AAPG include Peter G. Gray (President 93-94), Robert W. Sabaté (President 99-00), and Robert C. Shoup (Vice President 99-00 and President-elect 02-03). Edward B. Picou Jr. served as AAPG Treasurer 2000-2002.

The Gulf Section of SEPM awarded Distinguished Service Awards to Arthur S. Waterman (95), Edward B. Picou Jr. (97), and to Paul Weimer (01).

NOGS continues with a full program of activities through its 25 committees. Main activities include monthly luncheons, monthly publication of the NOGS LOG, school outreach programs, short courses, field trips, and several yearly social functions. NOGS is directly involved in assisting The Louisiana Nature Center, the Louisiana Children's museum, The Greater New Orleans Science and Engineering Fair, and geology projects in several schools. Our outreach program has grown tremendously under the chairmanship of Tom Bergeon.

In 1993 the Society had 1,108 members of record. With the continuing shrinkage of the petroleum industry in the New Orleans area, the paid membership has fallen to 700 in 2003. Even with this reduction of members, the society maintains its vibrancy and looks to the future with confidence.

#### SHREVEPORT GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The first formal association of Shreveport geologists was organized on December 5, 1919 as the Shreveport Section of the Southwestern Geological Society (not to be confused with the Southwestern Association of Petroleum Geologists, which became the AAPG). Chester A. Hamill was the main proponent of the organizational effort, supported by John R. Roberts, Julius Segall, S.S. Raymond, and J.W. Bostick. The 21 founding members attending that meeting elected Mr. J.Y. Snyder as Chairman. Snyder was not recorded as being in attendance, confirming the inadvisability of missing Society meetings! Hamill was elected Secretary.

In 1923, Shreveport hosted the AAPG Annual Convention and conducted its first field trip. Forty-two geologists, including Sidney Powers from Houston, inspected Upper Cretaceous outcrops and the Murfreesboro diamond mine in southwest Arkansas. The field trip was quite an event, and the newspapers of the time were fascinated with these men who drove all over the countryside knocking on rocks. Nineteen annual field trips were conducted without interruption from 1923 through 1941. In 1951, Walter H. Spears of Shreveport served as general chairman for the AAPG Convention in St. Louis.

On October 3, 1924, the Shreveport Section withdrew from the Southwestern Geological Society (which also included the Austin and Dallas sections), and reorganized as the Shreveport Geological Society. Twenty-five members were present at the first official meeting of the society

On October 17, 1924. The first officers were W.E. Topper, president; W.C. Spooner, vice president; and H.G. Schneider, secretary-treasurer. The society became affiliated with the AAPG eight years later, in 1932.

During the 1930s and 40s, several major oil companies were formed and, by the late 40s and early 50s, thirty firms had offices in Shreveport, including several corporate headquarters. Membership increased steadily from 25 in 1924 to 104 in 1940 and reached approximately 500 by 1958. Great strides were made of numerous nationally-known geologists located in Shreveport. These included Roy T. Hazzard, B. W. Blanpied, Thomas L. Philpott, W.C. Spooner, Jules Braustein, Warren Weeks, and Clarence L. Moody. These men developed the early stratigraphic nomenclature and correlations which are, for the most part, still used today.

The society recognized early in its history the benefit of sharing geologic information through publications. Beginning with the 1939 publication of the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Field Trip Guidebook *Upper and Lower Cretaceous of Southwest Arkansas*, the society has emphasized this aspect of its endeavors. In 1946, SGS published the first two volumes of *References reports on Certain Oil and Gas Fields in North Louisiana, South Arkansas, Mississippi, and Alabama*. They were unprecedented at the time and became examples for other geologists societies to follow in the future. Volumes III through VII have continued to provide new information for geologists interested in the Ark-La-Tex area.

In June 1950, Thomas H. Philpott represented the SGS in meetings with the New Orleans Geological Society and the South Louisiana Geological Society which led to the formation of the GCAGS in 1951, with Shreveport as a charter member. The society hosted the GCAGS annual convention for the first time in October 1953, and thereafter in 1963, 1976, 1984, 1993, and 2001.

By the time Shreveport hosted the convention in 1963, the exodus of major companies from Shreveport had begun. The resulting decline in membership continued into the early 1970s when fewer than 300 members remained. This was a difficult period for SGS as it was necessary to continuously replace officers and committee members due to transfers. Although other GCAGS societies suffered and one disbanded, the independents and consultants who remained in Shreveport were determined to survive. This commitment was demonstrated in January 1967 when the SGS was one of the local geological societies to host the first AAPG sponsored Continuing Education course. Dr. Lloyd C. Pray lectured on "Concepts on Carbonates for Petroleum Geologists."

In the mid 1970s and early 1980s, the society had cause for optimism. Natural gas was a short supply, and oil prices increased steadily as a result of OPEC policies. Geologists were in demand and membership in SGS rose to over 700 in 1983-84.

Amid the exuberance and optimism of the period, only a few began to notice the storm clouds on the horizon.

The changes in federal tax laws, an oversupply of natural gas, and ultimately, the crash of oil prices in 1986 had a dramatic effect on the society. As companies went out of business or downsized in response to changing economics, SGS members faced dwindling employment opportunities. Many members were forced to seek employment outside the oil and gas industry resulting in a sharp decline in membership. At the close of 1992, society membership stood at 331 and as of March 2003 the number was 261 as a result of attrition and lack of entry-level geologists.

Despite the loss of members, SGS has remained resolute in its commitment to the objectives under which it was founded in 1924... "the increase of knowledge, especially of Louisiana, Southern Arkansas, and East Texas, and the promotion of fellowship among geologists in this area." The monthly meeting has continued to be the major focus of society activity, providing an opportunity for both education and fellowship. Normally scheduled on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, September through May, the meetings have been held at the Shreveport Petroleum Club since 1975. Continuing education courses are also sponsored on a regular basis.

The society has also demonstrated its concern for our community and the science of geology beyond the limits of the oil and gas industry. Over the years, many geology students have received society scholarships at area colleges and universities. In 1986, through the efforts of Lane Sartor, the W. & Tweatie Scarborough Baird Scholarship Trust was established. This perpetual trust, in the amount of \$100,000, will continue to provide funds for worthy geology majors indefinitely. Besides scholarships, SGS promotes the study of geology through active involvement at the elementary, middle, and high-school level. Each year numerous members volunteer their services as in-class resources and science fair judges, giving students the opportunity to meet and interact with geologists first hand. The society also began supporting the Louisiana Region I Science and Engineering Fair through various age level and category awards in 1987. For the younger set, the society sponsors a mock geological "dig" each year in conjunction with the community sponsored Red River Revel. Nothing captures a child's imagination like dirt and the allure of hidden "treasures" (fossils and minerals).

In 1997 the SGS formed an Environmental Committee to address sensitive issues concerning preservation of our natural resources. From 1998 through 2000, the SGS donated a total of \$10,000 to Sci-Port which is a local scientific wonderland of exhibits that include a geological display created by the SGS.

In January of 2000 the SGS assembled a geological school kit used to present "show and

tell" presentations to local schools. In 2001 the SGS created its website in conjunction with the East Texas Geological Society and in the same year put its Volume I through Volume VII of field papers on CD.

Last but not least, SGS members have always shared good times of fun and fellowship. The annual golf tournament dates back to the 1950s and continues to be a popular event. The social calendar has been expanded to include fishing and tennis tournaments and a 5K run.

Through the years, society members have given unselfishly of their time and talents to work on society and civic projects. Some have gained national prominence for their contributions to geology and their leadership in the oil and gas industry. All have benefitted from the opportunity for service, continuing education, and friendship which the society provides.

#### **SOUTHEASTERN GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

The Southwestern Geological Society was founded in 1944. At that time, the SEGS was truly the southeastern society since its membership covered Alabama, Georgia, and Florida. However since the early 1970s, the SEGS membership has been derived mainly from Florida, with about 15 percent of its members now residing outside of the state.

Society founders and first year officers included President Herman Gunter, the State Geologist of Florida; Vice President Robert Campbell, a Consulting Geologist; and Secretary E.W. Scott, a geologist with Union Oil of California. During 1944, two field trips were run. The first trip visited southwestern Alabama and the second trip visited southwestern Georgia.

SEGS became affiliated with AAPG in 1944, and the GCAGS accepted the SEGS as a member in 1954. Although there is only limited historical data on the SEGS and its early activities, a nearly complete listing of the officers from 1944 to the present has been compiled. Reading through this listing reveals the names of many of the widely recognized geologists. During the first 20 years of the SEGS, this list included Herman Gunter, Paul Applin, Eleanor Caldwell, Robert Vernon, Milton Hruby, Louise Jordan, James Calver, Nevin Hoy, B.F. Buie, Harbans Puri, Don Gorsline, William Reeves, H. Grant Goodell, H.K. Brooks, Joseph Banks, E.C. Pirkle, Howard Cramer, and Steve Windham. The list of officers from 1964 to the present include many geologists still very active in the geologic profession in the southeastern United States. Although the number of original SEGS members is unknown, the membership is now about 160, including those from the mining industry, academia, environmental and geological consulting, water resource professionals, and government geologic surveys.

Through its history, the SEGS has organized and conducted numerous field trips. Most of the

field trips have had published guide books, while others simply have used handouts. Visited localities have included active mining operations such as phosphate, limestone, shell, and heavy minerals, as well as springs, rivers, sinkholes, beach and coastal areas, caves, and carbonate reefs. SEGS maintains its own publication series of field trips guidebooks. To date, there have been 40 guidebooks published and many of these are available through the SEGS at P.O. Box 1634, Tallahassee, FL 32302.

SEGS hosted the national 1964 meeting of the Geological Society of America at Miami Beach and the 1969 GCAGS/GCSSEPM convention also at that location. It also organized and hosted the 1980 symposium on the Miocene of the Southeastern United States. SEGS assisted with the hosting of the 1983 and the 1993 Southeastern Section meetings of GSA in Tallahassee and the 1985 national GSA meeting in Orlando.

SEGS continues its tradition of providing Florida's geological community with an opportunity to meet other geologists, discuss projects and research, present and hear technical papers, and enjoy geological excursions. Dinner meetings with speakers are held throughout the state, and one or more field trips are undertaken annually.

#### **SOUTH TEXAS GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

The San Antonio Geological Society held its first meeting March 4, 1929 in response to Ray F. "Schoolie" Schoolfield's invitation to all South Texas AAPG members. This first meeting attracted 35 geologists, from 23 oil companies, 1 geophysical company and 11 were independents. The society changed its name to the South Texas Geological Society in 1929 and became affiliated with AAPG that year. It became a member of GCAGS in 1954.

The 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the South Texas Geological Society will be celebrated March 4, 2004 with a great deal of pride. The society has had many honored members. Since 1993 we have had three AAPG officers, three members have been honored with Distinguished Service Awards, one Honorary Member, one Special Service Award, and a Sidney Powers medalist, the late Edgar W. Owen, who was also a past president and honorary member of AAPG. We have many AAPG Emeritus Members, with 50 years or more of membership. Since 1993 we have also been honored by GCAGS with five Distinguished Service Awards, four Honorary Memberships and two other awards. Edward C. Roy, M.O. Turner, and Don F. Tobin have received numerous honors from the AAPG and GCAGS and from other sources.

The South Texas Geological Society has hosted or helped host the SIPES 1993 convention, 1996 GCAGS Convention, 1995 SEG Convention and the AAPG Convention in 1999. We are preparing to host the 2004 GCAGS Convention.

The society has conducted many highly successful programs. Since 1993 we have given

student scholarships in the amount of \$66,000. These scholarships range from three Chairman Awards to local Universities (UT-San Antonio, Trinity University, and St. Mary's University), the Herald Herndon Award to a Trinity University Student, and several Field Camp Scholarships. In addition to the Field Camp Scholarship, we also annually give the Bill Doyle Memorial Hand Lens. Our current Foundation has assets in excess of \$180,000. This scholarship fund began in 1976 with an initial donation of 50 shares of Standard Oil Company of Indiana common stock, with a market value of \$2,225.00. By 1993 the fund had grown to \$150,000. From this fund we also give a Research Grant to a deserving graduate student. The 2003 research Grant has been given a new name in honor of two of our very distinguished members who contributed to student education. It will be named the STGS Jones-Amsbury Research Grant. Since 1993 we have given eight grants in the amount of \$7,000. The students are required to provide STGS with a paper from their thesis research. The scholarships awarded in the last 10 years have been from Texas schools: TCU, Texas A&M, Baylor, and UT-Dallas.

Since students are an important focus for STGS, we have had programs in area primary and secondary schools to inspire prospective geologists of the future. E. Wayne Gordon is the current leader of this endeavor. He conducts programs showing the students that Texas geology is ever present, and he also takes them on field trips.

The STGS publishes nine monthly bulletins each year. Each issue has an original article, interesting editorials and information on upcoming events, and we adopted colorful illustrations this year.

The society has conducted 15 or more short courses in the last ten years, designed for the independent geoscientist and kept at a reasonable cost. We have also run at least a dozen field trips to area geological points of interest. Our first research symposium was held in the spring of 2003, with great success. It was entitled "Structure and Stratigraphy of South Texas and Northeast Mexico: Applications to Exploration", and co-hosted with GCSSEPM. It was composed of sessions that included fourteen oral presentations, seven posters, and two core displays. Following this was a Saturday field trip to the Hill Country. We hope to continue a similar format in future years. The seminar was well attended with nearly 200 registrants and the field trip was sold out.

The South Texas Geological Society is rich in history, culture, and energy. We will continue in the future to do what we do best, hosting conventions, and seminars, producing publications, and serving our membership with new events. Our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary will be marked with great fanfare and much pride.

## 50 YEARS OF GULF COAST SECTION SEPM

In 2003 the GCSSEPM celebrates the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding. The section was established for the purpose of "promoting the science of stratigraphy in the Gulf Coast states through research in paleontology and sedimentary petrology, especially as it relates to petroleum geology." The Gulf Coast Section is the largest section of SEPM and is likely the most active.

The first Executive Council, the governing body of the section, included President Stuart A. Levinson, Vice President Grover E. Murray, Secretary William H. Akers, and Treasurer Frank V. Stevenson. Since its inception in 1953, the GCSSEPM has fostered the science of stratigraphy in a number of ways: through co-sponsoring the Annual Convention and its published *Transactions* with GCAGS; in sponsoring field trips; by publishing field guides and special research reports; and importantly, in producing the Annual GCSSEPM Research Conferences and Conference *Proceedings* volumes.

Two significant events in the history of the section occurred during 1980-81: the initiation of the Annual Research Conferences and the establishment of the GCSSEPM Foundation. Then, Past President Gene B. Martin and President Bob F. Perkins conceived the idea of annual GCSSEPM-sponsored research conferences. Under their leadership, the First Annual Research Conference was held in December of 1980 in Houston and was titled *Geology of the Woodbine and Tuscaloosa Formations*. This first effort was fully subscribed to with over 300 registrants. Since then, 22 additional conferences have been convened, carrying forward the initial success and building a heritage of excellence. From these conferences comes some of the section's most popular publications, including: *Salt, Sediment and Hydrocarbons; Innovative Biostratigraphic Approaches to Sequence Analysis—New Exploration Opportunities; Deep-Water Reservoirs of the World; Submarine Fans and Turbidite Systems—Sequence Stratigraphy, Reservoir Architecture and Production Characteristics, Gulf of Mexico and International; and Sequence Stratigraphy as an Exploration Tool—Concepts and Practices in the Gulf Coast*.

The most popular conference to date has been *Sequence Stratigraphy as an Exploration Tool*. The initial presentation of this conference in December 1990 was so popular that it was offered a second time in June 1991 in order to accommodate all of those who wished to participate. The total registration for the original and encore presentation was 973.

The 2003 GCSSEPM Foundation Research Conference *Shelf margin Deltas and Linked Down Slope Depositional Systems: Global Significance and*

*Future Exploration Potential* will be held this December 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>. The 2004 and 2005 conferences are currently in the advanced planning stages.

The GCSSEPM Foundation was established in 1981 as a trust for sponsorship of research and research-related activities, including research grants, seminars, conferences, symposia, publications, and programs of continuing education in stratigraphy and the related sciences of paleontology and sedimentary petrology. The Foundation supports these activities through tax-exempt donations from corporations and individual patrons and through fees from conference registrations, and the sale of publications. The first three Trustees of the Foundation were John B. Dunlap, Claude M. Quigley, and Doris M. Curtis. Largely as a result of the efforts of Bob Perkins, Executive Director of the Foundation from the date of its establishment to the time of his death in 1999, the trust has been able to continue to fulfill the promise of "excellence in education and research". In 1999, the Trustees posthumously honored Bob Perkins deciding to name future conferences in the series after him. In 2002, the Foundation began awarding the first *Fellowship Grants for Graduate Studies in Earth Science*, and these carry the name of Honorary and Distinguished Member, Edward B. Picou Jr.

On this 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary section, membership is 487, an approximate number that has been relatively stable for decades despite downturns in

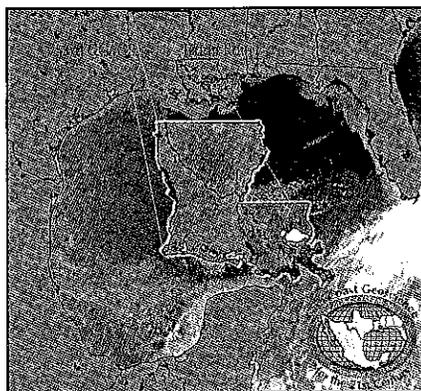
petroleum employment. At its peak in the early 1980s, we had more than 600 members. Through primarily drawing from the Gulf Coast region, the section has members from across the United States and 25 from other countries. The geographic distribution of our membership is testament that the section has earned recognition for service of scientific excellence from a community of petroleum industry geoscientists and university faculty and students that now extends worldwide.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The following have submitted the histories that appear in this report: Mexican Association of Petroleum Geologists, Efrain Mendez Hernandez; Alabama, Jack Pashin; Austin, Craig Caldwell; Baton Rouge, David E. Pope; Corpus Christi, Ray Govett; East Texas, Raymond Woodard; Houston, Don Bonnet; Lafayette, Jim Dungan; Mississippi, Stanley King; New Orleans, Edward B. Picou Jr.; Shreveport, Tim Marshall; Southeastern, Tom Scott and Kirk S. Davis; South Texas, Michelle M. Debus; Gulf Coast Section of SEPM, Sheila C. Barnette and Ron F. Waszcak. Ann Tircuit of the Louisiana Geological Survey typed the manuscript with help from Jeanne Johnson.

#### REFERENCE CITED

Pope, D.E., 1993. Histories of member societies of the Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies and the Gulf Coast Section of SEPM: *GCAGS Transactions*, v. 43, p. 312-324.



.....

#### Please Note:

*The figures appearing in the following papers are only as clear as the originals provided. Figures provided as inline graphics or in another unsupported format may not appear as clearly as those in supported formats.*

*High-quality graphics will be readable whether large or small.*

*As stated in the Author's Manuscript Preparation Guidelines for this volume of the Transactions, the quality of the printed artwork in a particular paper will only be as good as the original artwork supplied.*

*Figure quality was adjusted when possible to enhance both CD and print formats of this volume of the Transactions.*