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MISSISSIPPI GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

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~ PRESIDENT'S LETTER ~ Bob Schneeflock

Society Brethren,

I took this job for the same reason that I suspect many MGS past presidents took it; I was shamed into it. Beware, most organizations I've been an officer in either went broke, got sold or merged. But this time I've a strong board to keep my ox out of the ditch (see previous page).

My intentions are to finish what Todd Hines and his board started, to bring MGS into the new millennium. Most MGS members have email, and so this summer we started a drive to gather as many member email addresses as possible. This will enable us to begin a MGS e-bulletin and an e-directory. The reasons for an e-bulletin are; 1) its faster, 2) its much cheaper, 3) it will be in color, 4) it can be forwarded to prospective members and 5) it will have links to advertiser websites, presentations, and email. (Dues paying members not moving into the new millennium will still be able to receive a paper bulletin).

Email reminders can also be sent out to all emembers the day before and the morning of MGS meetings.

MGS is long overdue for a new membership directory. Steve Walkinshaw set up the MGS web site to collect information for the e-directory and I am happy to report that information on more than 100 members and prospective members have been collected. When finished, the e-directory can be easily kept up to date by incorporating new members and existing members can change their phone numbers or addresses should they move.

Jack Moody is spearheading an MGS "low resistivity pay" contest. Karl Kaufman has already corralled several top-notch speakers for this year. And Joe Johnson has set up electronic banking for our treasury for faster and more efficient transfer of funds. Hopefully, by next fall, some of us can pay

our dues online.

MGS is moving its monthly meetings to River Hills Country Club (see enclosed map) because most members have moved out of downtown Jackson. Also, the Capitol Club is 15 minutes from downtown (I timed it, drive up to 7th floor parking, wait on elevator to lobby, wait on elevator to club = 15 minutes). And besides, it ain't The Petroleum Club anymore.

I urge you to visit www.missgeo.com.

'til next month, bs

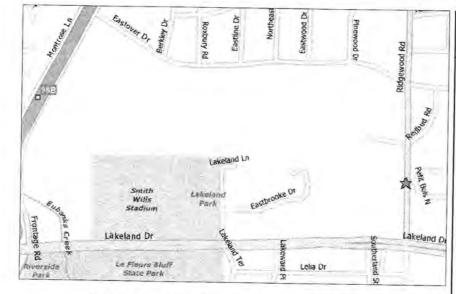
Meeting Schedule

In This Issue:

"How Low Can You Go"
Barbecue Sponsors
The French Connection
GCAGS Announcement
Rig Count
Oil & Gas Spot Market Graphs
MGS Membership Application
MGS Advertising Notice



MGS MEETING SCHEDULE			
When	What	Where	
September 14,	Fall BBQ	Jackson Yacht Club	
October 19, 2005	David Scott & Lisa Ivshin, MS O&G Board	River Hills	
November 1, 2005	Ernie Mancini, University of AL	River Hills	
December 9, 2005	MAPL/MGS Christmas Party	Colonial Country Club	
January 11, 2006	TBA	River Hills	
February 8, 2006	ТВА	River Hills	
March 8, 2006	TBA	River Hills	
April 12, 2006	TBA	River Hills	
May 10, 2007	Spring Fling	Jackson Yacht Club	



MAPQUEST Map to River Hills Club

0	FFICERS MEET- INGS
	September 6, 2006
	October 3, 2006
	November 7, 2006
	None in December
	January 2, 20067
	February 6, 2007
	March 6, 2007
	April 3, 2007
	May 1, 2007

MISSISSIPPI GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The Mississippi Geological Society (MGS) requests your participation in a contest whose end design is to help find more oil and gas in the Mississippi-Alabama-Florida region. Entitled "How Low Can You Go" this contest, with prizes, seeks to build a library of information regarding low resistivity pays.

This year's contest will focus on oil (liquids) production from the Eutaw and the Cotton Valley Formations. With an eye toward commercial production, we would like to have wells submitted that have produced around and over 50,000 bbls from the zone showing low resistivity. Next year may focus on gas production but we are starting with the liquid side. If a well has made around 50,000 bbls of gas liquids with a ton of gas it qualifies this year due to the liquids.

To make this work, the MGS needs your participation. Many of you remember wells with such pays and we would like you to contribute that knowledge to a collection that will help everyone. If MGS gets good support on this it will end up with a resource for its "members only" which will show the lowest resistivity pays for each of our producing formations. Our members, by and large, have been around for a long time and have seen a lot. We need those guys to pass that experience on to the next generation of explorationist.

It is a contest and we will have prizes. We will award a very nice mineral or fossil to the lowest resistivity pay for each of the formations, the Eutaw and the Cotton Valley. We will also have a few free memberships for some close runners up.

When you submit a well, please send the well header and a shot of the resistivity log, hopefully five inch, but best available will do. Please, also, furnish the cumulative production for the zone.

With the help of our members, MGS can build a number of assets; low resistivity pays being one, for exploration in our part of the world. If we succeed in doing that, explorationists will join MGS in order to have access to helpful information and MGS will thrive beyond our years.

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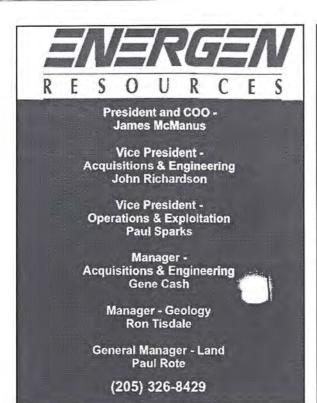
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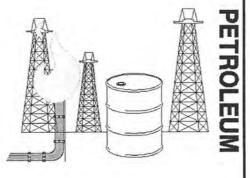
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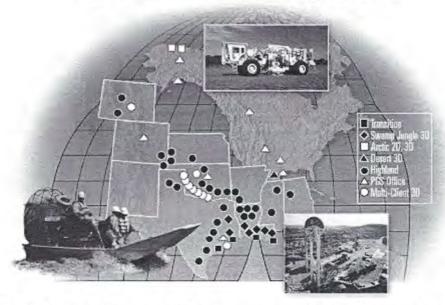
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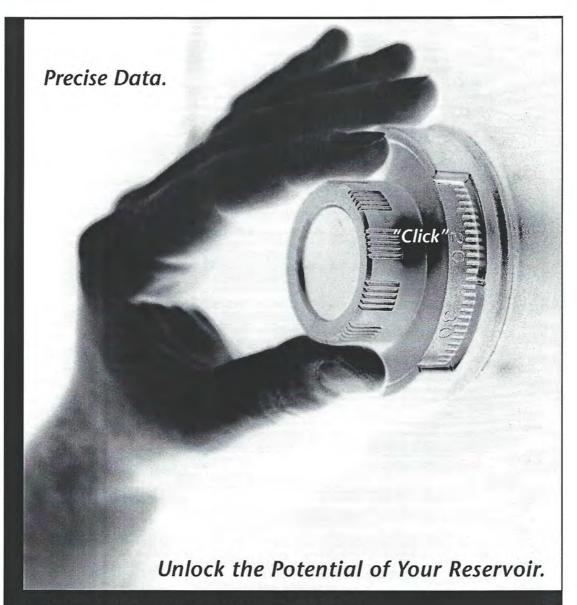
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MISSISSIPPI PALEOGENE, THE FRENCH (AND ENGLISH) CONNECTION

David T. Dockery III

Sir Charles Lyell visited fossil localities in Mississippi in March of 1846, including exposures of the Vicksburg Group on the Mississippi River at Vicksburg and the Jackson Group on Town Creek in Jackson. He immediately recognized the age of the Jackson beds as Eocene and placed the Vicksburg beds above those of the Jackson Group. At this time only the Eocene, Miocene, and Pliocene had been named (by Lyell) as epochs of the Tertiary Period. Following his own Tertiary time scale, Lyell placed the Vicksburg beds as upper Eocene in age. How did Lyell so easily determine the age of the Vicksburg and Jackson beds? Because fossil mollusks were abundant in the Vicksburg and Jackson sections, and these were the guide fossils used to determine the Tertiary ages of Europe. The Jackson beds contained planicostate venericard clams, guide fossils of the Eocene; the Vicksburg beds did not, but contained no Miocene guide fossils. The following pictures compare closely related molluscan species of Eocene and Oligocene age across the Atlantic.

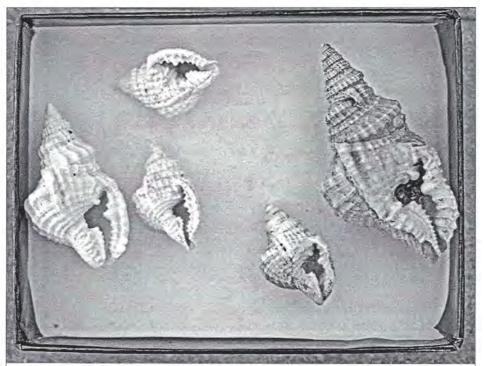


Figure 000. Distorsio tortuosa (three at left) from the Early Oligocene (Stampian) at Gaas in the Aquitaine Basin of southwestern France and Distorsio crassidens (two at right) from the Early Oligocene Byram Formation on the Big Black River at Edwards, Mississippi. Picture (slide 316-16) taken on August 12, 1999.



Figure 000. Cornulina minax (left and bottom) from the Eocene Barton Beds at Barton Cliffs in Hampshire, United Kingdom. Cornulina minax compressa (right) from the Eocene Hatchetigbee Formation at Hatchetigbee Bluff on the Tombigbee River, Alabama. Picture (slide 318-4) taken on August 16, 1999.

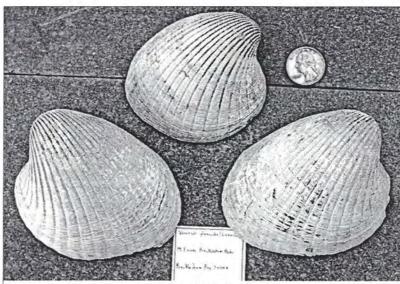


Figure 000. Venericardia (Venericor) claiboplata (top) from the Eocene Gosport Sand at Little Stave Creek, Clarke County, Alabama, and Venericardia (Venericor) planicosta (bottom) from the Eocene Bracklesham Beds at Bracklesham Bay, Sussex, United Kingdom. Picture (slide 318-7) taken on August 16, 1999.



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North American Rotary Rig Counts

The U.S. rotary rig count was up 15 rigs to 1,487 for the week of January 27, 2006 and is 18.4 percent higher than last year.

The number of rotary rigs drilling for oil was down 10 at 237. The number of rigs targeting oil is 52 rigs higher than last year's level of activity. Rigs currently drilling for oil represent 28.1% percent of total drilling activity.

Rigs directed toward natural gas were up 25 at 1,247. The number of rigs currently drilling for gas is 178 greater than last year's level of 1,069.

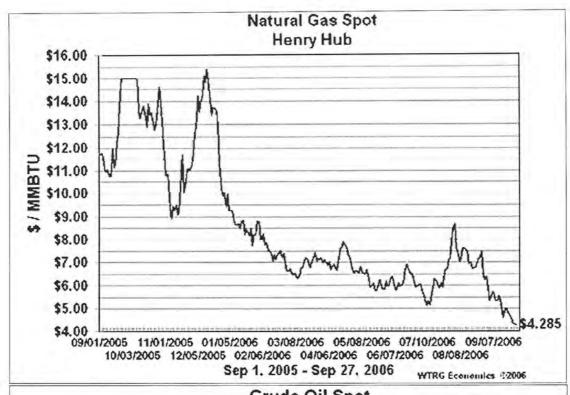
Year-over-year oil exploration in the US is up 28.1 percent. Gas exploration is up 16.7 percent. The weekly average of crude oil spot prices is 36.3 percent higher than last year and natural gas spot prices are up 29.0 percent.

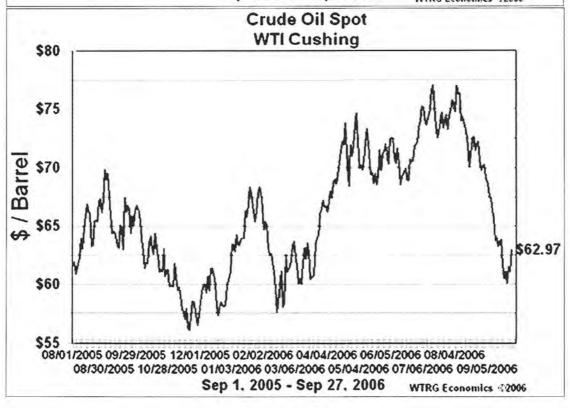
Canadian rig activity* was up 23 at 698 for the week of January 27, 2006 and is 104 rigs higher than last year's rig count. Canadian drilling falls rapidly in the spring to avoid environmental damage during the spring thaw and rainy season.

*The Canadian drilling industry experiences wide seasonal swings and even year over year comparisons can lead to incorrect conclusions.

North American Rig Count

				Cha	inge	Percent	Change
	01/27/06	01/20/06	01/28/05	Weekly	Annual	Weekly	Annual
Total U.S.	1487	1472	1256	15	231	1.0%	18.4%
Offshore	72	76	102	-4	-30	-5.3%	-29.4%
Land	1415	1396	1154	19	261	1.4%	22.6%
Inland Waters	20	20	24	0	-4	0.0%	-16.7%
Oil	237	247	185	-10	52	-4.0%	28.1%
Percent	15.9%	16.8%	14.7%	-0.8%	1.2%		
Gas	1247	1222	1069	25	178	2.0%	16.7%
Percent	83.9%	83.0%	85.1%	0.8%	-1.3%		
Directional	368	362	331	6	37	1.7%	11.2%
Horizontal	233	234	135	-1	98	-0.4%	72.6%
Gulf of Mexico	69	73	95	-4	-26	-5.5%	-27.4%
Gulf Oil	37	38	7	-1	30	-2.6%	428.6%
Percent	53.6%	52.1%	7.4%	1.6%	46.3%		
Gulf Gas	32	35	88	-3	-56	-8.6%	-63.6%
Percent	46.4%	47.9%	92.6%	-1.6%	-46.3%		
Canada	698	675	594	23	104	3.4%	17,5%
North America	2185	2147	1850	38	335	1.8%	18.1%





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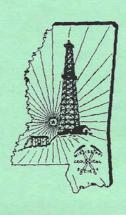
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November 2006

MISSISSIPPI GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

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~ PRESIDENT'S LETTER ~ Bob Schneeflock

Society Brethren,

Many thanks to the brethren who braved a driving rainstorm to attend our 1st meeting of the '06 – '07 term. We had a really good turnout in spite of the weather.

If you're a petroleum geologist and you missed the October 9th meeting, you just plain screwed up. David Scott, Chairman of the Mississippi State Oil and Gas Board, and Lisa Ivshin, Mississippi State Oil and Gas Board Supervisor, were our speakers/guests. These guys are really getting the Board's act together. I've never seen a question and answer session take longer than the speech (and it wasn't a short speech). Thanks Karl.

Our next meeting will again be at River Hills Country Club (see enclosed map) on November 1st. Our speaker will be Dr. Ernie Mancini from the University of Alabama speaking on "Exploration strategies for thrombolite and associated facies, eastern Gulf Coastal Plain." (see enclosed abstract). Ernie has truly distinguished himself over the past 35 years by his contributions to research in Eastern Gulf Coast geology and oil and gas exploration. Thru PTTC and his own efforts, Ernie has been our best source of continuing education. Ernie is retiring in '08, so let's try to give him a really good audience.

The enclosed article is an interview by Baron's of Charles Maxwell for his very educated opinion of what the future holds for oil and gas prices. (Kinda like what Dudley Hughes predicted over four years ago in his keynote address at the MGS Symposium).

In your last bulletin, on behalf of the MGS Board, Jack Moody put forth a contest for low resistivity pays ("how low can you go"). Eventually we hope to publish a bulletin of low resistivity pays for our area.

The fossil or mineral prize will be in the \$500 range, so it's worth your time to do a little remembering.

And I urge you to visit www.missgeo.com.

'til next time, bs

In This Issue:

Meeting Schedule Speaker's Abstract Interview with Charles Maxwell MS Academy of Science Meeting Oil & Gas Spot Market Graphs MGS Membership Application MGS Advertising Notice



MGS MEETING SCHEDULE			
When	What	Where	
September 14,	Fall BBQ	Jackson Yacht Club	
October 19, 2005	David Scott & Lisa Ivshin, MS O&G Board	River Hills	
November 1, 2005	Ernie Mancini, University of AL	River Hills	
December 9, 2005	MAPL/MGS Christmas Party	Colonial Country Club	
January 11, 2006	TBA	River Hills	
February 8, 2006	TBA	River Hills	
March 8, 2006	TBA	River Hills	
April 12, 2006	TBA	River Hills	
May 10, 2007	Spring Fling	Jackson Yacht Club	



MAPQUEST Map to River Hills Club

OFFICERS	MEET-
INGS	

September 6, 2006

October 3, 2006

November 7, 2006

None in December

January 2, 20067

February 6, 2007

March 6, 2007

April 3, 2007

May 1, 2007

Exploration strategies for thrombolite and associated facies, eastern Gulf Coastal Plain

Ernest A. Mancini, Center for Sedimentary Basin Studies and Department of Geological Sciences, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35487

Abstract

In the eastern Gulf Coastal Plain, Upper Jurassic Smackover inner ramp (shallow water) thrombolite buildups have been documented as developing on paleotopographic features (Paleozoic basement paleohighs or Jurassic salt anticlines and ridges). Thrombolites dominated by calcimicrobes grew in the eastern part of the Mississippi Interior Salt Basin, the Manila Subbasin and the Conecuh Subbasin. These thrombolites attained a thickness of 58 m and are present in an area of up to 6.2 square km. Although these buildups have been exploration targets for some 30 years, new field discoveries continue to be made in this area indicating that the development of these organosedimentary deposits is not completely understood. Recent hydrocarbon drilling in Little Cedar Creek Field, Conecuh County, southwest Alabama has revealed that the productive reservoir rocks are thrombolite boundstone and associated nearshore grainstone and packstone that occur near the depositional updip limit of the Upper Jurassic Smackover Formation. These thrombolite buildups do not directly overlie Paleozoic basement paleohighs. By studying Upper Jurassic thrombolite bioherms and reefs as preserved in outcrop, the geometries, areal extents, and facies relationships of thrombolites can be better characterized, and this characterized zation is useful in designing an effective exploration strategy for delineating thrombolite buildups in the subsurface. Thrombolites were best developed on a hard substrate during a rise in sea level under initial zero to low background sedimentation rates in low energy paleoenvironments, and their occurrence was not restricted by water depth, salinity, temperature, light penetration, oxygen content, or nutrient supply. The keys to drilling a successful wildcat well in the thrombolite reservoir play prior to the discovery of Little Cedar Creek Field were to: 1) utilize three-dimensional seismic reflection technology to find a paleohigh and to determine whether potential thrombolite reservoir facies occur on the crest and/or flanks of the feature and are above the oil-water contact, 2) use the characteristics of thrombolite bioherms and reefs as observed in outcrop to develop a three-dimensional geologic model to reconstruct the growth of thrombolite buildups on paleohighs for improved targeting of the preferred dendroidal and chaotic thrombolite reservoir facies, and 3) utilize the evaporative pumping mechanism, rather than the seepage reflux or mixing zone models, as a means for assessing potential dolomitization of the thrombolite boundstone. The operative Smackover petroleum system at Little Cedar Creek has shown that the current thrombolite exploration strategy requires revision to include: consideration of a basin center petroleum source in addition to a local source, the development of potential reservoir facies in a broader array of paleobathymetric settings other than restricted to inner to middle ramp, inclusion of moldic and vuggy pore types to intercrystalline dolomite pore types for a productive reservoir, lime mudstone and shale as vertical and lateral seal rocks rather than anhydrite, and stratigraphic traps in addition to combination structural and stratigraphic traps.

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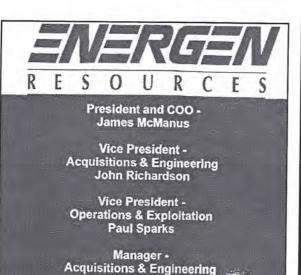
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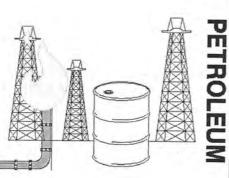
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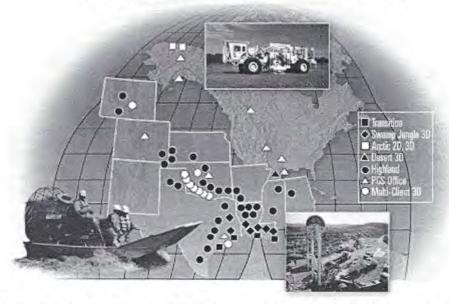
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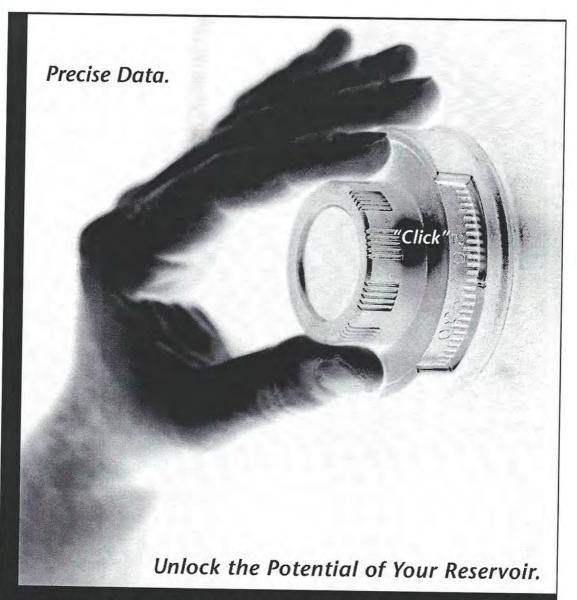
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Interview with Charles Maxwell Senior oil analyst, Weeden & Co.

(Reprinted from Rigzone.com, October 16)

You want an independent and informed appraisal of the outlook for energy? Then Charley Maxwell's your man. For almost 50 years, Maxwell in one way or another has been involved in the oil and gas industry: from when he started working for Mobil in 1957 to when he moved to Wall Street in 1968 and was routinely lauded as the No. 1 oil analyst throughout the 'Seventies and 'Eighties. For more than 20 years, he's belonged to an elite group of industry executives and OPEC members that meets at Oxford University twice a year to assess trends. We dialed him up last week at Weeden & Co., the institutional trading company in Greenwich, Conn., that he's called home since 1999. Here are Maxwell's thoughts on the current energy scene.

Barron's: Did somebody say energy crisis?

Maxwell: We often say there are not a lot of advantages to getting old except that we have seen it all before. After a big move upward, there is always some counterreaction. We saw it during the 1973-74 crisis, in the '79 to '86 crisis and then in the two wars with Iraq. These crises were manipulations of the oil market by human beings. War, economic problems, but particularly military considerations, were creating, as they say, facts on the ground that worked into shortages that were real, but they were shortages created by the actions of man not nature. It is terribly important to differentiate between past periods and now.

Q: How is that?

A: There are four huge impediments to expanding production in a world in which we need to do this. Hubbert's Peak, the theory that says oil production will peak on a global basis, is a natural impediment. It is not yet the predominant factor but as these crises continue it is the one growing exponentially and by, say, 2015 or 2020 I expect it will dominate the outlook.

Q: What then is the biggest problem now?

A: About three-quarters of the world's production of oil today is lifted by national oil companies. Companies like Saudi Aramco, Petrobras, the Iran national oil company, the Iraq national oil company, the national companies that operate in Algeria and Libya, produce conservatively 75% of the world supply. Most of them were nationalized in the '70s and early '80s and they have real structural problems today. They bring in a lot of money but most of it goes to support the national Treasuries and the various political constituencies that are in favor in the various countries, whether it's the army or a host of other bureaucratic ministries. In the end, in the political battle for budgetary support the national oil companies tend to be a constituency with little or no political influence. All in all, the national oil companies have been shortchanged and held on a poverty diet for a long time.

Q: What are the other structural challenges they face?

A: What came out of the 1986-1987 collapse in prices was a huge overcapacity of about 20% in the world's oil production system. The international oil companies began to adjust their capital spending quickly to adapt to that and they more or less serviced a 1% increase in demand each year. The capacity surplus began to come down naturally. We have now had 20 years and taken that surplus down to about 2% to 3%. For efficiency in the energy industry, given the weather factors and political factors and so on, we need something in the 7% to 8% range of excess capacity in order to cover the mountains and the plains of demand and weather and political events. But when the surplus got down to those levels between 1997 and 2000, the companies didn't add to capacity at a fast enough rate.

Q: Bring this back to your point about the national oil companies.

A: The national oil companies didn't react at all. At least the big international oil companies were producing the 1% to 2% each year that was required, but the national oil companies just tooled along on the backs of the surplus while it got smaller and smaller. The big international oil companies saw all this and didn't prepare for possible future tightening. One reason the NOCs, as the national oil companies are called, didn't respond was lack of money. Also, the NOCs, because of political patronage, have a shortage of skilled workers and experienced managers. Only Saudi Aramco is quite efficient and they are doubling and redoubling their efforts to find oil in the peninsula. They've gone from 10 rigs to 100 rigs and are headed to 125 rigs. They are modern and up to date. They've got a core of around 3,000 expatriates that are well paid and doing a helluva job. But this is unusual.

O: Where does this lead?

A: I don't know how we get around the problem of the NOCs. They control so much of the world's production and they are bloody helpless. They don't have enough money and they don't have prestige and they don't have professionalism. These are big factors, any one of which would have been a strike against them and with all three it is a difficult situation.

The multinationals have the money but they haven't been that willing to spend it.

That's another big issue: the problem for the oil companies is coming to grips with the size of the production problem.

Q: Can you elaborate on that.

A: The oil companies, as a group, seem to believe the future production potential of the world is very large, very wide open and yet their production numbers don't indicate this is so. ExxonMobil (ticker: XOM) took out an advertisement earlier this year saying oil is not peaking, nor is there any peak visible that's going to impinge on production in the next 20 to 30 years and claims there is no practical limit to the oil it can find and there are new supplies that are developable. They are not alone in this thinking, though Dave O'Reilly [Chairman and CEO] of Chevron (CVX) has come around. But John Browne [CEO] of BP [INTV-ANS](BP) [INTV-ANS] is in the Exxon camp as is industry consultant Cambridge Energy Research Associates.

Q: The technology-will-save-the-day camp.

A: I'm not downplaying technology at all. But technology will save General Motors, too, if you believe that. Technology can't do everything. I'll give you an example of the vision of the oil companies.

A: As we understand it, Exxon is not taking on any leases for deep-water drilling after 2008. They haven't leased anything. If you think deep-water leases are going to be very important, and the recent big discovery in the Gulf of Mexico suggests they will be, you would have contracted for the future use of rigs. But if you think the deep-water leases aren't going to be important because the oil found will be more expensive than the common garden-variety Texas oil from 6,000 foot down, and that you will have lots of oil coming from sources like that then you don't need these high-cost leases down the road. On the other hand, many major oil companies have taken these rigs to 2010 and 2012 and 2014 and are pre-empting Exxon's ability to get these rigs. Exxon is putting itself at a huge disadvantage if there should be a need for this type of deep oil. I find that remarkable.

Q: What's the gamble there?

A: The gamble is they won't need the deep-water leases because there will be big and lush supplies of oil spilling around at \$30 a barrel and people will relinquish the rig contracts they've signed. Then Exxon would have the choice of picking up some of these contracts at 50 cents on the dollar, or maybe they won't need to pick them up at all. I think they are dead wrong.

Exxon has gone out of its way to take out advertising and make speeches saying there'll be plenty of future supplies. It verges on the irresponsible because it says to the government there is no problem. It says to the media there is no problem. It says to the public there is no problem. So we are now likely to march with fife and drum, banners flying, into the maw of destruction without so much as a sideways glance because Exxon tells us that the problem is resolved.

Q: It has been suggested they benefit from talking down the price of oil.

A: There is all kind of speculation on that. Another obvious thought would be if they wanted to buy, say, Yukos, which they had hopes of two years ago, they certainly wouldn't want to indicate they thought that the price of oil was going to go much higher down the road because of shortages. Some people think Exxon is cynical. I don't. I really think they believe what they say. It's a lack of vision. Last year, they spent more money on share repurchases and dividends than they did on exploring and developing oil reserves. Most big oil companies tend to be backward looking. They were slow, for instance, in seeing that sulfur standards for gasoline and diesel would be required in this country and getting their refineries set up to meet them. That's why we've had these advances in gasoline prices in the summers of 2005 and 2006 — fear that the refining system in America and in Europe would be unable to handle these new standards. Oil companies will find it difficult to solve a tightening oil production problem if they don't recognize that it is tightening around their necks.

Q: That's the third impediment of four. What's left?

A: We as Americans think that because we want more oil these other countries should produce more oil. But there are increasing issues, brought on not just by President Bush and his policies, but also by a feeling that the developed world is imperialistic by nature and is intent on leaving the undeveloped world without resources. All these claims are greatly overdone, but nevertheless, it is a fact that if you live in Iraq you believe the oil companies, or the Americans, are there to get the oil. My point is the people in the Middle East are sophisticated enough to understand this could be Bedouin-to-Bedouin in Saudi Arabia in five generations.

Q: What do you mean by that?

A: Well two generations ago, many of these people were Bedouins. The majority of people working in the petroleum industry in Saudi Arabia today -- the supervisors and the drillers and so on -- had grandparents who were herding sheep or camels. They fear their great grandchildren could end up doing the same.

O: Because?

A: Because the oil will be all gone. The image we have in this country of tumbleweeds running down the streets of abandoned Western mining towns is now beginning to stalk the public consciousness in the Middle East. About three months ago, they realized the second largest oil field in the world, Burgan in Kuwait, had peaked. They didn't expect it and they couldn't believe it. The No. 1 field in the world, the Ghawar, is pretty close to peaking if it hasn't already. These are people who have long believed that Allah was bestowing these oil gifts on them in perpetuity and there would be infinite production. The concept of Hubbert's Peak has only penetrated the Middle East in the last five years in the same way that it has only penetrated Europe in the last five years.

The non-OPEC world, 175 countries, of which only 30 produce meaningful amounts of oil, will peak around 2010. Then we become dependent on OPEC for all future growth in barrel needs and that should put us in a pretty difficult situation and the price of oil will begin to rise a little faster.

Q: Are the non-OPEC countries that close to peaking?

A: Eleven of the non-OPEC countries have peaked already, representing 34.3% of non-OPEC production. There are three on the cusp of peaking, and one of them is Mexico which may have already peaked and represents 7.9% of production. China will probably peak this year, or next, or in 2008. But they are at flat production levels now so it doesn't matter and they contribute 8.5%. More than 50% of the non-OPEC production will therefore have peaked. There are all kinds of issues as to when the whole world peaks. I use a range from 2015 to 2020, which depends on when the rest of the world wakes up to the need to conserve, which could delay the peak.

Q: What about a peak in gas production?

A: That's much, much further out. There is a lot of what they call stranded natural gas, big discoveries that are not tied to any local needs, or any local distribution system, and they will be tapped and brought in, in liquefied form to our country and to Europe and to Asia. The peak of natural gas now roughly looks like it will be in 2035 to 2040. There is a finite supply that is being drawn down, but it hasn't been exploited nearly as much as oil. The run-up in natural gas prices in the past year or so was because production in this country has peaked, and natural gas is more expensive and difficult to move from one continent to another, and we don't really have the means to do that yet. We are getting there and the big liquefied natural gas expansion is starting, and soon we are going to have interchangeability between continents. When one continent is short we can move gas there, which will keep prices down.

Q: Where are oil prices headed?

A: We are now getting a reaction to the higher oil prices, It is translating into slower economic growth and, of course, it is allied with a rise in interest rates. Don't think that it is just that rising oil prices equal lower economic growth. It is a question of rising oil prices and less liquidity and higher rates that's a triple threat. The bottom could be in the high 40s, though that wouldn't be sustainable. On a yearly average, we will stay in the 60s, but we'll spend a lot of time in the 50s. Then they'll start up again in 2008-2009 and go up for some time. When we get to 130 or 150 there will be another pullback.

Q: How do you get to those numbers?

A: In 1930 we found 10 billion new barrels of oil in the world and we used 1.5 billion. We reached a peak in 1964 when we found 48 billion barrels and used approximately 12 billion. In 1988, we found 23 billion barrels and used 23 billion barrels. That was the crossover when we started finding less than we were using. In 2005, we found about 5 billion to 6 billion and we used 30 billion. These numbers are just overwhelming.

Q: How are you advising people when it comes to the oil stocks?

A: You want to buy companies that have long- life reserves and are developing them, it's as simple as that. The average oil company, because they are all in the non-OPEC world, will by definition peak around 2010 or thereabouts. I estimate Exxon will peak in 2011. BP will peak in 2012. Total (TOT) in 2012. ConocoPhillips (COP) in 2013. Marathon Oil (MRO) in 2009. Royal Dutch (RDS-B) in 2009 and Hess (HES) in 2010. But a company like Suncor Energy (SU), which operates in the Canadian tar sands, will peak around 2045. It is a completely different world. EnCana (ECA), the big Canadian gas and tar sands producer, will peak around 2020. Canadian Natural Resources (CNQ) is another. I also like Nexen (NXY), another Canadian tar sands producer, and Lukoil (LUKOY) of Russia. The only one I'm recommending at the moment is EnCana because it has a large component of natural gas. The gas market is at a bottom now, whereas I see the oil market bottoming in the spring or summer of 2007, or even early 2008 if we have a recession.

Q: Why Lukoil?

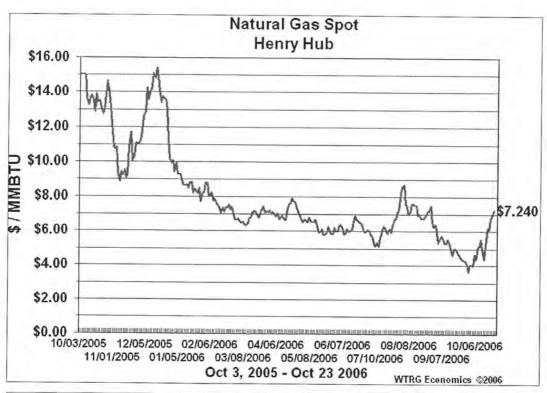
A: Lukoil isn't owned by the Russian government. They've adopted Western accounting standards because they want to be listed on the New York Stock Exchange and raise capital and become a regular oil company. Lukoil has about 20 billion barrels of reserves and Exxon is No. 1 in the world with 21 billion. But the capitalization of Lukoil is one-sixth that of Exxon. So you are getting a huge advantage in oil barrels per share for a lot less money.

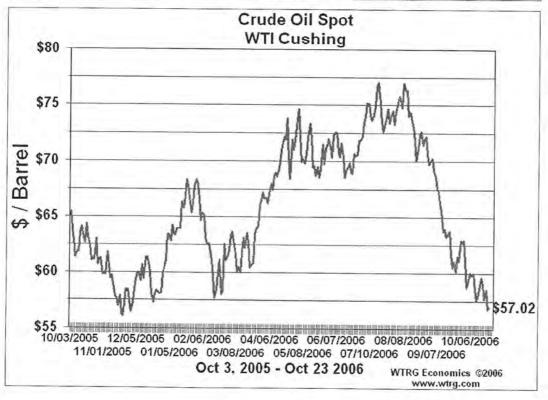
Thanks, Charley.

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~ PRESIDENT'S LETTER ~ Bob Schneeflock

Society Brethren,

55 of the MGS Society's Brethren were in attendance for the November 1st meeting. Stewart Welch was inducted into Honorary Membership of MGS. Congratulations Stew. And thanks to Ernie Mancini (and Les Aultman), we learned what a Thrombolite is and how to find them. It's easy, all you have to do is drill a lot of wells.

There are a lot of interesting wells being drilled in the mafla area at present. It's amazing what good oil and gas prices can bring about. Hopefully, some new plays will develop from this increase in exploration.

Maurice Birdwell is back in town and has agreed to be our AAPG delegate along with Rick Erickson. Glad to have you back in the fold Maurice.

The MGS Board of Directors wishes all of the MGS membership a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

'till next year bs

In This Issue:

Meeting Schedule

"How Low Can You Go"

Core Photography for "The Geology of MS"

50 Years Ago ~

"The Camping Trip" (Boudreaux)

MS Academy of Science Meeting

Rig Count

Oil & Gas Spot Market Graphs

MGS Membership Application

MGS Advertising Notice



MGS MEETING SCHEDULE			
When	What	Where	
September 14,	Fall BBQ	Jackson Yacht Club	
October 19, 2006	David Scott & Lisa Ivshin, MS O&G Board	River Hills	
November 1, 2006	Ernie Mancini, University of AL	River Hills	
December 9, 2006	MAPL/MGS Christmas Party	Colonial Country Club	
January 11, 2007	Puppet Show by Karl Kaufman	River Hills	
February 8, 2007	TBA	River Hills	
March 8, 2007	TBA	River Hills	
April 12, 2007	TBA	River Hills	
May 10, 2007	Spring Fling	Jackson Yacht Club	

Happy Holidays



OFFICERS MEETINGS

September 6, 2006

October 3, 2006

November 7, 2006

None in December

January 2, 2007

February 6, 2007

March 6, 2007

April 3, 2007

May 1, 2007

HOW LOW CAN YOU GO?

The Mississippi Geological Society (MGS) requests your participation in a contest whose end design is to help find more oil and gas in the Mississippi-Alabama-Florida region. Entitled "How Low Can You Go", this contest, with prizes, seeks to build a library of information regarding low resistivity pays.

This year's contest will focus on oil (liquids) production from the Eutaw and the Cotton Valley Formations. With an eye toward commercial production, we would like to have wells submitted that have produced around and over 50,000 bbls from the zone showing low resistivity. Next year may focus on gas production, but we are starting with the liquid side. If a well has made around 50,000 bbls of gas liquids with a ton of gas it qualifies this year due to the liquids.

To make this work, the MGS needs your participation. Many of you remember wells with such pays, and we would like you to contribute that knowledge to a collection that will help everyone. If MGS gets good support on this, it will end up with a resource for its "members only" which will show the lowest resistivity pays for each of our producing formations. Our members, by and large, have been around for a long time and have seen a lot. We need those guys to pass that experience on to the next generation of explorationists.

It is a contest, and we will have prizes. We will award a very nice mineral or fossil to the lowest resistivity pay for each of the formations, the Eutaw and the Cotton Valley. We will also have a few free memberships for some close runners up.

When you submit a well, please send the well header and a shot of the resistivity log, hopefully five-inch, but best available will do. Please, also, furnish the cumulative production for the zone.

With the help of our members, MGS can build a number of assets; low resistivity pays being one, for exploration in our part of the world. If we succeed in doing that, explorationists will join MGS in order to have access to helpful information, and MGS will thrive beyond our years.

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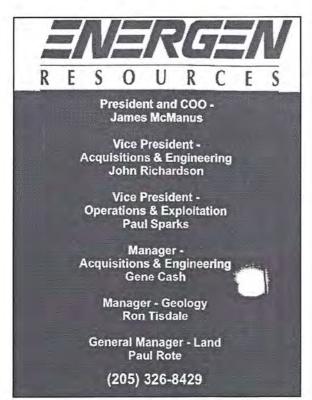
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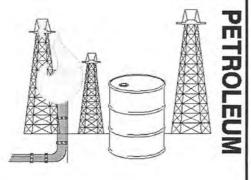
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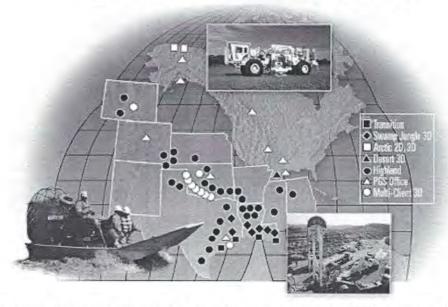
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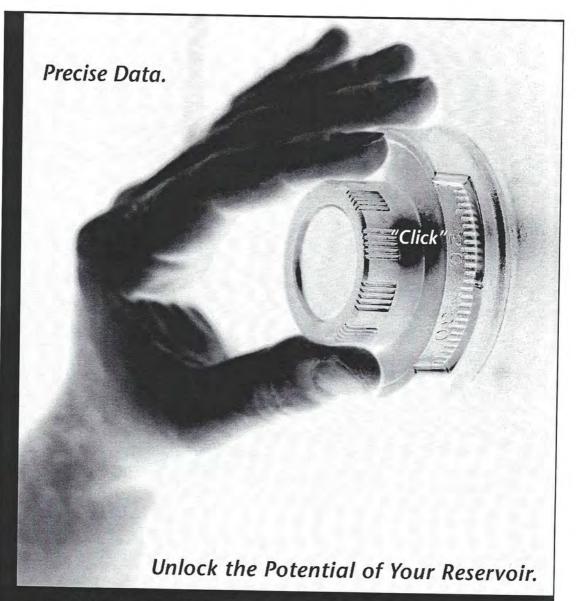
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Core Photography for "The Geology of Mississippi."

David T. Dockery III and James E. Starnes

Photographing core samples can be challenging if one wishes to get the picture just right. The core shown below was not photographed in the traditional way. James Starnes scanned this core on his flat-bed scanner (one with a broken cover, which he sets on top of what ever he scans) and produced a excellent picture. This picture is a one-to-one representation of the core without the distortion produced in conventional photography. While several cores have been illustrated for "The Geology of Mississippi," more are needed. If you have interesting core samples that would make good illustrations, please contact David Dockery at 601-961-5544. Cores of oil-water contacts would be useful.

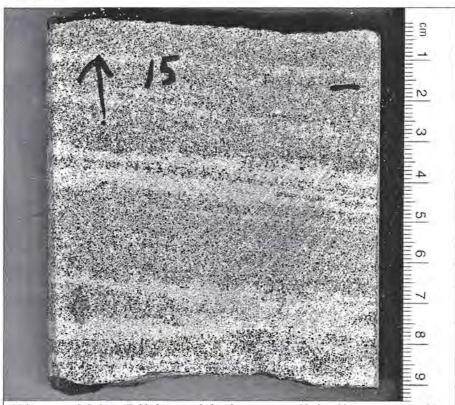


Figure 000. Oil in ooids in an oolitic limestone in the Smackover Formation at 15,486 feet in the Pruet & Hughes #1 Unit 14-10 in Section 14, T. 10 N., R. 8 W., Wayne County (MGS core box C-478.0).

Mississippi Braces for New Search

By Frank J. Gardner

From The Oil and Gas Journal, February 11, 1957

Southeastern oil operators for the past few years have been forging a chain of Lower Cretaceous oil fields across the waist of Mississippi. First and strongest link in the chain was Soso field, found in 1953. In 1954, an equally important strike was made at Bolton, and in 1955, the chain was firmly anchored at Citronelle, in southwestern Alabama.

A broad arc... The broad arc connecting Bolton and Citronelle sweeps through 150 miles of potential oil country. It's deep-drilling country, but the rewards are worth going after. Soso's 88 Lower Cretaceous wells are producing 12,000 bbl. a day from the Rodessa and Sligo-Bailey; Bolton has 26 wells producing 3,500 bbl. daily from Paluxy and Mooringsport, while Citronelle's 52 Rodessa wells are making 8,000 bbl. per day. Depth of production ranges from 10,000 ft. at Bolton to 11,900 ft. at Soso.

In November 1956, Amerada Petroleum Corp. et al added 30 more miles to the trend at its northwestern end. The discovery well at Valley Park field, the 1 Delta Wildlife & Forestry, Inc., pumped 71 bbl. per day from Mooringsport at 6,270 ft. The yield didn't hold up well, and by year's end, was down to 19 bbl. daily, but this strike did give Issaquena County its first field, and linked Mississippi's Lower Cretaceous trend with that of northern Louisiana.

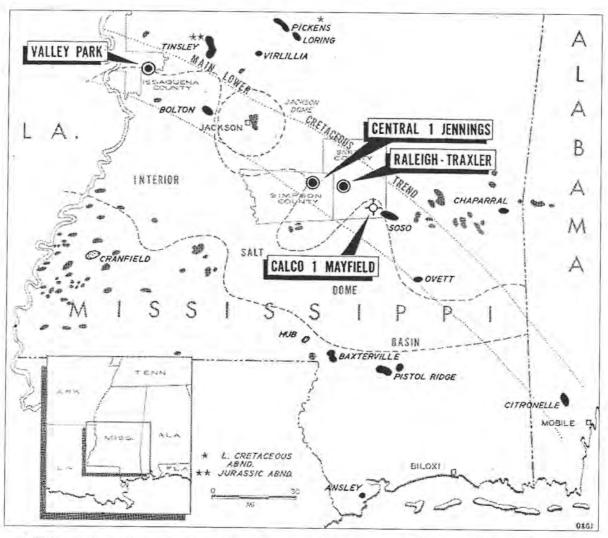
Adds two new fields . . . Now, 1957 has seen two important new fields discovered in the middle of the Mississippi trend. The first of these was The California Co.'s 1 Central Oil Co. "5," discovery well of Smith County's new Raleigh field (Section 33-2n-7e). Finished on Jauary 4, this one flowed 266 bbl. per day on 10/64-in. choke from Sligo-Bailey perforations at 11,692-11,703 ft. This is the principal pay zone at Soso, only 20 miles southeast.

The California Co.'s success at Raleigh was a hopeful follow-up to two 1956 dusters drilled 7 miles northwest of Soso field; these, the 1 Johnson (abandoned February 15) and the 1 Mayfield (abandoned June 7) both gave good shows and were exhaustively tested before they were given up. But the company was encouraged enough to try again at Raleigh.

Last week, the newest trend field was discovered in Simpson County, Mississippi. Central Oil Co. 1 Jennings, in Section 23-2n-5e, was shut in for storage after flowing 9 bbl. of 44°-gravity oil per hour through 9/64-in. choke from Sligo-Bailey perforations at 12,396-12,404 ft. Central found 24 ft. of Bailey sand in this well at 12,383-12,407 ft. This would make it the deepest horizon yet to be commercialized along the Lower Cretaceous arc.

These two new fields are the best evidence yet that this long belt of Lower Cretaceous hunting ground is an important target for future drilling. This year, and 1958, should produce at least 50 more wildcats between Citronelle and Valley Park. Every important discovery along the trend has set off a new burst of leasing activity; these two will be no exception, but the Citronelle play, the Soso play, and the Bolton play left little open acreage in between.

And should hide more... For many years, geologists have held that the deep Mesozoics of Mississippi and Alabama should hide many a good oil field. Not only the Lower Cretaceous, but the Jurassic rocks as well should be classed as major targets for oil finding. The Smackover and other Jurassics have been identified and have yielded oil and gas at several places in both states. The chief deterrents have been depth and difficulty of geophysical detection, but these are slowly being overcome, and the next 5 years should see the chain of fields extended and filled in.



Mississippi has two important new fields in the Lower Cretaceous trend that sweeps 150 miles from Valley Park in the northwest to Alabama's growing Citronelle field in the southeast.

The Camping Trip

Pierre and Boudreaux went on a camping trip.

After supper and several beers they both laid down for the night and went to sleep.

Some hours later, Boudreaux woke up and nudged Pierre.

Boudreaux says, "Pierre, look up at de sky and tell me whatchu see."

Pierre replies, "I see millions and millions of stars."

Boudreaux says, "What does dat tell you?"

Pierre ponders for a minute, then says, "Astronomically, it tells me dat dere are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets. Astrologically, I observe dat Saturn is in Leo. Horologically, I deduce dat de time is approximately a quarter past three. Theologically, I can see dat God is all powerful and dat we are small and insignificant. Meteorologically, I suspect dat we will have a beautiful day tomorrow."

Well, despite all of this amazing information coming from Pierre, Boudreaux is not impressed. He asks, "Mais Pierre, but what does dat tell you?"

Pierre is silent and puzzled, and doesn't answer.

Boudreaux slaps Pierre across the head and says, "Pierre, you idiot — somebody stole our damn tent!"

The Mississippi Academy of Sciences Annual Meeting

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For more information see our website @ http://www.msacad.org

North American Rotary Rig Counts

The U.S. rotary rig count was up 7 rigs to 1,724 for the week of December 8, 2006 and is 16.3 percent higher than last year.

The number of rotary rigs drilling for oil is down 7 at 282. The number of rigs targeting oil is 25 rigs higher than last year's level of activity. Rigs currently drilling for oil represent 16.4% percent of total drilling activity.

Rigs directed toward natural gas were up 14 at 1,437. The number of rigs currently drilling for gas is 215 greater than last year's level of 1,222.

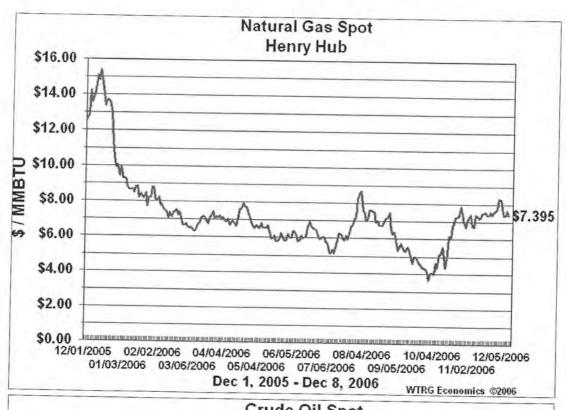
Year-over-year oil exploration in the US is up 9.7 percent. Gas exploration is up 17.6 percent. The weekly average of crude oil spot prices is 4.5 percent higher than last year and natural gas spot prices are 46.8 percent lower.

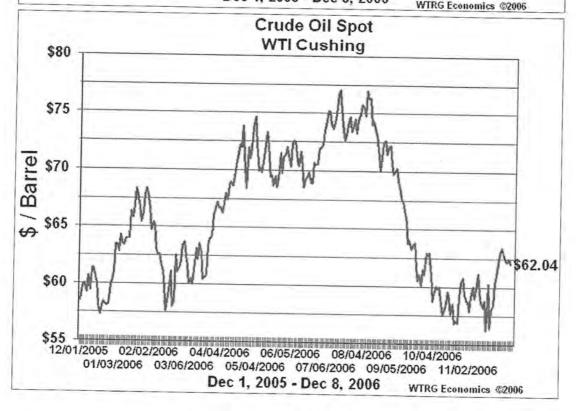
Canadian rig activity* was down 11 at 442 for the week of December 1, 2006 and is 211 lower than last year's rig count. Canadian drilling falls rapidly in the spring to avoid environmental damage during the spring thaw and rainy season.

*The Canadian drilling industry experiences wide seasonal swings and even year over year comparisons can lead to incorrect conclusions.

North American Rig Count

			ilencan Kiç	A		_	
				·	inge		t Change
	12/08/06	12/01/06	12/09/05	Weekly	Annual	Weekly	Annual
Total U.S.	1,724	1,717	1,483	7	241	0.4%	16.3%
Offshore	85	86	75	(1)	10	-1.2%	13.3%
Land	1,639	1,631	1,408	8	231	0.5%	18.4%
Inland Waters	28	23	21	5	7	21.7%	33.3%
Oil	282	289	257	(7)	25	-2.4%	9.7%
Percent	16.4%	16.8%	17.3%	-0.5%	-1.0%		
Gas	1,437	1,423	1,222	14	215	1.0%	17.6%
Percent	83.4%	82.9%	82.4%	0.5%	1.0%		1-91
Directional	384	374	365	10	19	2.7%	5.2%
Horizontal	327	315	219	12	108	3.8%	49.3%
Gulf of Mexico	82	82	70	0	12	0.0%	17.1%
Gulf Oil	0	0	31	0	-31	n,a,	-100.0%
Percent	0.0%	0.0%	44.3%	0.0%	-44.3%		
Gulf Gas	82	82	39	0	43	0.0%	110.3%
Percent	100.0%	100.0%	55.7%	0.0%	44.3%		
Canada	463	442	679	21	(216)	4.8%	-31.8%
North America	2,187	2,159	2,162	28	25	1.3%	1.2%





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January 2007

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~ PRESIDENT'S LETTER ~ Bob Schneeflock

Society Brethren,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of MGS, I wish each of you a healthy and prosperous 2007.

Our speaker for January will be Dr. Berry H. "Nick" Tew, Jr., State Geologist of Alabama and State Oil & Gas Supervisor. Nick used to be a geologist here in Jackson with Cities Service and is a personal friend to many of us and a longtime friend to our society. He will bring us up to date on the modernization of the Alabama State Oil and Gas Board and the scope of information available through his agency.

This month, the MGS brethren who have given us email addresses will receive the first e bulletin of the Mississippi Geological Society (along with your regular paper bulletin).

The e bulletin is a work in progress and will be phased into full production throughout 2007. At present, it is black and white but will be phased into color as we learn to manage file sizes. Each month you will be sent a link to the MGS website where the .PDF file will be located. Adobe reader is free and can be downloaded at http://save-pdf-forms.com/?gclid=CJG0pJvXwokCFRiDGgodm1UVOA or just google adobe reader.

If you have any problems, just call Vaughan Watkins.

Many thanks to those who have paid their MGS dues for '06 – '07. In the February bulletin, we will publish a list of paid members with special thanks.

'till next time bs



Here's to a safe, healthy, and prosperous year for all of us.

In This Issue:

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New On-Shore Regulations Regarding

Mississippi Oil, Gas & Mineral Leases

Another Core Illustrated in "The Geology of MS"

The Ethanol Myth

MS Academy of Science Meeting

Rig Count

Oil & Gas Spot Market Graphs

MGS Membership Application

MGS Advertising Notice

	MGS MEETING SCHEDULE				
When	What	Where			
September 14, 2006	Fall BBQ	Jackson Yacht Club			
October 19, 2006	David Scott & Lisa Ivshin, MS O&G Board	River Hills			
November 1, 2006	Ernie Mancini, University of AL	River Hills			
December 9, 2006	MAPL/MGS Christmas Party	Colonial Country Club			
January 11, 2007	Berry H. "Nick" Tew, Jr., AL State Geologist	River Hills			
February 8, 2007	Chuck Segrest, GeoSystems – Petrophysical Evaluation of Gas-Shale Reservoirs	River Hills			
March 8, 2007	TBA	River Hills			
April 12, 2007	TBA	River Hills			
May 10, 2007	Spring Fling	Jackson Yacht Club			

January Speaker's Biography

Dr. Berry H. "Nick" Tew, Jr., a native Alabamian, was appointed State Geologist of Alabama in October 2002. Born in Mobile and raised in Sumter County, he has received BS, MS, and PhD degrees in Geology. As State Geologist, Dr. Tew also serves as State Oil & Gas Supervisor and Secretary of the Oil and Gas Board and is the 6th individual to serve in this position since the establishment of the Board in 1945. He has a comprehensive knowledge of Alabama's surface and subsurface geology through his 21 years of professional geological experience that includes petroleum exploration and development. He is a professional geologist licensed by the Alabama State Board of Licensure for Professional Geologists, a member of the Geological Society of America, and is a 21-year member of the American Association for Petroleum Geologists.

OFFICERS MEETINGS

September 6, 2006
October 3, 2006
November 7, 2006
None in December
January 2, 2007
February 6, 2007
March 6, 2007
April 3, 2007
May 1, 2007

New On-Shore Regulations Regarding Mississippi Oil, Gas & Mineral Leases

- 1. The rules recently adopted are essentially those that have served the state-owned minerals well for more than 60 years. The rules have been updated for the latest technology such as 3D seismic, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and newer, more rigorous environmental regulations and safe guards have been put in place.
- 2. The onshore and offshore rules and regulations have been separated. In the years before one set of rules and regulations served for both. The rules and regulations recently adopted pertain only to on-shore leasing and seismic permitting.
- 3. There has been no change in the rules regarding the way we approach our stewardship responsibilities concerning activity on state-owned lands. In the past, there have been no unsolvable problems in working out arrangements between companies and the state agencies regarding state-owned minerals in operationally or environmentally sensitive areas. Historically, there have always been solutions available that could resolve or work around any issues. The use of modern technologies will only improve the options and safety.
- 4. Although the mineral lease program does not enjoy a large oil and gas related income at present, one good discovery on state minerals will cause dramatic increases. From 1991 to 2003 the leasing and royalty income averaged about \$30,000/yr. These were slow years for oil and gas exploration activity.
- 5. The state does <u>not</u> own all or perhaps even most of the minerals under individual state parks and wildlife management areas. Oil and gas activities may take place on those lands where the State does not own the minerals. Restricting the state from leasing its minerals under state parks and wildlife management areas will not prevent oil and gas activities on those lands. It will, however, prevent the state from reaping the benefits of successful exploration and production.

To review the new rules & regulations for mineral leasing & seismic permitting, go to www. mississippi.org & look under Programs for Mineral Leases.

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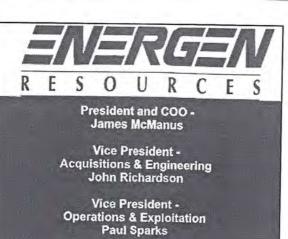
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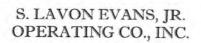


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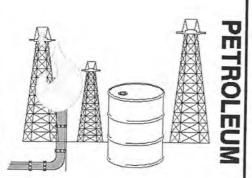
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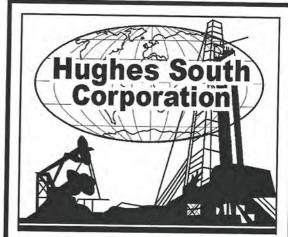


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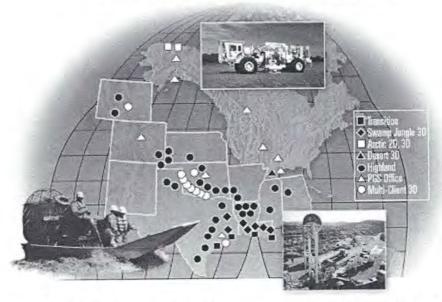
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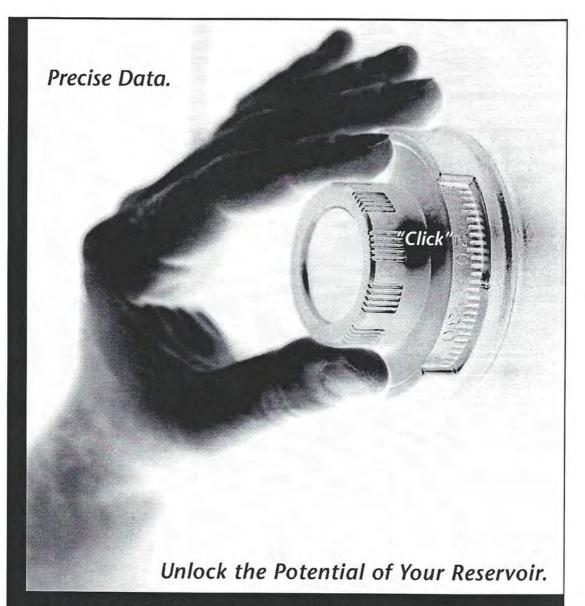
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Another Core Illustrated in "The Geology of Mississippi."

David T. Dockery III and James E. Starnes

The half core illustrated from the #1 Terry Bell well at a depth of 4,024 feet shows the contact of a 72-million-year-old phonolite intrusion against a deformed layered section of Smack-over Limestone. Similar intrusive rocks of about the same age occur in the volcanic complex beneath Jackson, Mississippi. A chill zone can be seen in the phonolite adjacent to the contact. This image was scanned on a flat-bed scanner. We are soliciting additional cores for photography and inclusion in "The Geology of Mississippi."

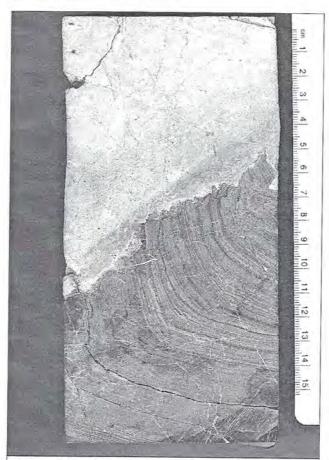


Figure 000. Deformed Smackover Limestone at the contact of a Phonolite (71.6 Ma) intrusion in the Mississippi Valley Gas #1 Terry Bell in Washington County at a depth of 4,024 feet (MGS core box C-49.6).

The Ethanol Myth

From *Consumerreports.org*, October, 2006 (Thanks to Maurice Birdwell for contributing this article)

Consumer Reports' E85 tests show that you'll get cleaner emissions but poorer fuel economy ... if you can find it.

The Bush administration has been pushing ethanol as a renewable, homegrown alternative to gasoline. Now, the auto industry is abuzz with the promise of its flexible-fuel vehicles (FFVs), which are designed to run on either gasoline or the blend of 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent gasoline called E85.

CR Quick Take

Despite the avid support of the Bush administration and major American car companies, E85 is unlikely to fill more than a small percentage of U.S. energy needs.

- E85, which is 85 percent ethanol, emits less smog-causing pollutants than gasoline, but provides fewer miles per gallon, costs more, and is hard to find outside the Midwest.
- Government support for flexible-fuel vehicles, which can run on E85, is indirectly causing more gasoline consumption rather than less.
- Most ethanol is being blended in a 10 percent mix to reduce smog-producing emissions and stretch gasoline supplies.

GM's advertising says, "Energy independence? The answer may be growing in our own backyard," and has coined the slogan "Live green, go yellow," referring to the corn from which most U.S. ethanol is made. DaimlerChrysler, Ford, and GM have said that they plan to double production of FFVs and other biofuel vehicles to 2 million by 2010. A recent Harris Interactive study of vehicle owners found that more than half were interested in purchasing an FFV, mostly for reduced dependency on petroleum and improved fuel economy.

But after putting a 2007 Chevrolet Tahoe FFV through an array of fuel economy, acceleration, and emissions tests, and interviewing more than 50 experts on ethanol fuel, *CR* determined that E85 will cost consumers more money than gasoline and that there are concerns about whether the government's support of FFVs is really helping the U.S. achieve energy independence. Among our findings:

- The fuel economy of the Tahoe dropped 27 percent when running on E85 compared with gasoline, from an already low 14 mpg overall to 10 mpg (rounded to the nearest mpg). This is the lowest fuel mileage we've gotten from any vehicle in recent years.
- With the retail pump price of E85 averaging \$2.91 per gallon in August, according to the Oil Price Information Service, which tracks petroleum and other fuel prices, a 27 percent fuel-economy penalty means drivers would have paid an average of \$3.99 for the energy equivalent of a gallon of gasoline.
- When we calculated the Tahoe's driving range, we found that it decreased to about 300 miles on a full tank of E85 compared with about 440 on gasoline. So you have to fill up more often with E85.
- The majority of FFVs are large vehicles like the Tahoe that get relatively poor fuel economy even on gasoline. So they will cost you a lot at the pump, no matter which fuel you use.
- Because E85 is primarily sold in the upper Midwest, most drivers in the country have no access to the fuel, even if they want it. For our Tahoe test, for example, we had to blend our own (see <u>The great E85 fuel hunt</u>).

The FFV surge is being motivated by generous fuel-economy credits that automakers get for every FFV they build, even if it never runs on E85. This allows them to pump out more gas-guzzling large SUVs and pickups, which is resulting in the consumption of many times more gallons of gasoline than E85 now replaces.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit our Guide to Stretching Your Fuel Dollars for gas-saving tips, a list of the most fuel-efficient cars, and a rundown of other alternative fuels.

"Success is the ability to go from one failure to another with no loss of enthusiasm"



This may come as a surprise to those of you not living in Las Vegas, but there are more Catholic churches than casinos.

Not surprisingly, some worshippers at Sunday services will give casino chips rather than cash when the basket is passed.

Since they get chips from many different casinos, the churches have devised a method to collect the offerings. The churches send all their collected chips to a nearby Franciscan monastery for sorting, and then the chips are taken to the casinos of origin and cashed in.

This is done by the chip monks.

You didn't even see that coming, did you - now keep that smile for the rest of the day!

The Mississippi Academy of Sciences Annual Meeting

February 22-23rd, 2007 Starkville, Mississippi

For more information see our website @ http://www.msacad.org

North American Rotary Rig Counts

The U.S. rotary rig count was down 13 rigs to 1,710 for the week of December 29, 2006 and is 16.2 percent higher than last year.

The number of rotary rigs drilling for oil is down 1 at 278. The number of rigs targeting oil is 43 rigs higher than last year's level of activity. Rigs currently drilling for oil represent 16.3% percent of total drilling activity.

Rigs directed toward natural gas were down 13 at 1,425. The number of rigs currently drilling for gas is 191 greater than last year's level of 1,234.

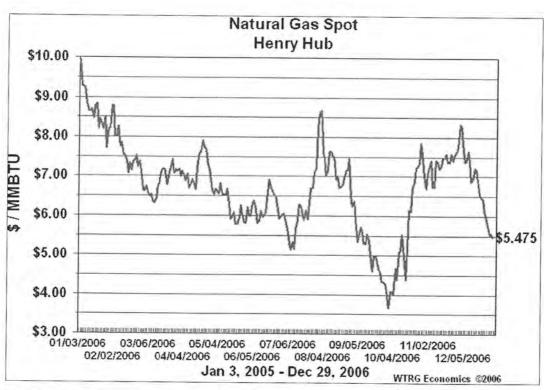
Year-over-year oil exploration in the US is up 18.3 percent. Gas exploration is up 15.5 percent. The weekly average of crude oil spot prices is 1.5 percent higher than last year and natural gas spot prices are 42.9 percent lower.

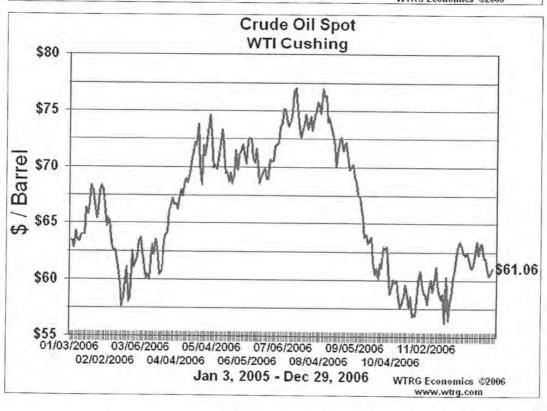
Canadian rig activity* was down 21 at 429 for the week of December 29, 2006 and is 65 higher than last year's rig count. Canadian drilling falls rapidly in the spring to avoid environmental damage during the spring thaw and rainy season.

*The Canadian drilling industry experiences wide seasonal swings and even year over year comparisons can lead to incorrect conclusions.

North American Rig Count

				Cha	nge	Percent	Change
	12/29/06	12/22/06	12/30/05	Weekly	Annual	Weekly	Annual
Total U.S.	1,710	1,723	1,471	(13)	239	-0.8%	16.2%
Offshore	84	84	80	0	4	0.0%	5.0%
Land	1,626	1,639	1,391	(13)	235	-0.8%	16.9%
Inland Waters	22	22	19	0	3	0.0%	15.8%
Oil	278	279	235	(1)	43	-0.4%	18.3%
Percent	16.3%	16.2%	16.0%	0.1%	0.3%		
Gas	1,425	1,438	1,234	(13)	191	-0.9%	15.5%
Percent	83.3%	83.5%	83.9%	-0.1%	-0.6%		
Directional	382	385	352	-3	30	-0.8%	8.5%
Horizontal	337	330	222	7	115	2.1%	51.8%
Gulf of Mexico	81	81	75	0	6	0.0%	8.0%
Gulf Oil	1	1	36	D	-35	0.0%	-97.2%
Percent	1.2%	1.2%	48.0%	0.0%	-46.8%		
Gulf Gas	80	80	39	0	41	0.0%	105.1%
Percent	98.8%	98.8%	52.0%	0.0%	46.8%		
Canada	429	450	364	(21)	65	-4.7%	17.9%
North America	2,139	2,173	1,835	(34)	304	-1.6%	16.6%





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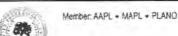
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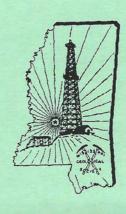
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No. 6

February 2007

MISSISSIPPI GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

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~ PRESIDENT'S LETTER ~ Bob Schneeflock

Society Brethren,

MGS now has a membership directory for the 1st time in over 25 years.

The bad news for some members is that it is an eDirectory. Those members without internet access will need to get someone with internet access to print them a copy. The good news though is that, unlike paper directories, an eDirectory can be cheaply and constantly updated to reflect additional members or changing phone #s, email addresses, employers, and/or physical addresses, etc.

The eDirectory can be accessed by the membership on the MGS website. A couple of members have expressed concern over publishing their email addresses to the web, so Steve Walkinshaw will password protect the eDirectory so that you won't collect additional spammers. The password is trilobite. Any self respecting geologist ought to be able to remember that one.

The eDirectory is a work in progress. A good number of telephone #s and email addresses are missing and some physical addresses and company affiliations have changed since we started collecting this information. Any updates or changes can be emailed to bsppc@bellsouth.net or sent to my attention at 230 Christopher Cove, Ridgeland, MS 39157.

The board of directors sincerely thanks those members who remembered to pay their dues for '06 - '07. A list of those members is posted in this bulletin and will be posted in future bulletins.

'till next time, bs

Happy Presidents Day Happy Valentines Day Happy Groundhog Day



In This Issue:

How Low Can You Go
Speaker's Abstract & Biography
2007 Carbonate Field Trip
"Facing the End of Oil"
2006-2007 Paid Membership List
Fishing?
MS Academy of Science Meeting
Oil & Gas Spot Market Graphs
MGS Membership Application
MGS Advertising Notice

Meeting Schedule

MGS MEETING SCHEDULE				
When	What	Where		
September 14, 2006	Fall BBQ	Jackson Yacht Club		
October 19, 2006	David Scott & Lisa Ivshin, MS O&G Board	River Hills		
November 1, 2006	Ernie Mancini, University of AL	River Hills		
December 9, 2006	MAPL/MGS Christmas Party	Colonial Country Club		
January 11, 2007	Berry H. "Nick" Tew, Jr., AL State Geologist	River Hills		
February 8, 2007	Chuck Segrest, GeoSystems – Petrophysical Evaluation of Gas-Shale Reservoirs	River Hills		
March 8, 2007	TBA	River Hills		
April 12, 2007	TBA	River Hills		
May 10, 2007	Spring Fling	Jackson Yacht Club		

How Low Can You Go?

Don't forget this year's contest on low resistivity production from the Eutaw and Cotton Valley Formations.

Prizes will be awarded.

For more information, contact:

Jack Moody at (601) 359-9278

or

Bob Schneeflock at (601) 853-0701

OFFICERS MEETINGS

September 6, 2006

October 3, 2006

November 7, 2006

None in December

January 2, 2007

February 6, 2007

March 6, 2007

April 3, 2007

May 1, 2007

Abstract - Petrophysical Evaluation of Gas-Shale Reservoirs

Typically, geologists and engineers work to develop a data set to define reservoir potential and establish a drilling strategy that will provide optimum results. The evaluation of shale reservoirs combines the evaluation of several important parameters and includes petrophysical (core and logs), petrographic, geochemical and mechanical property data. All data types are important in defining reservoir potential, targeting zones with the greatest potential and for comparing shale reservoirs from different provinces. Unless all key parameters are favorable, it is unlikely that economic production can be achieved.

This presentation will discuss each key element's importance in understanding productive potential and outline evaluation efforts necessary to properly characterize a gas-shale reservoir.

About the Speaker - Chuck Segrest

Chuck received his geology degree from Baylor University.

He has over 25 years industry experience in petrophysical evaluation of rock samples for the purposes of improved reservoir characterization.

He is a senior partner in the company GeoSystems, which is geological/petrophysics company specializing in the integration of multiple data sets for the purpose of improved reservoir characterization.

2007 CARBONATE FIELD TRIP

SOUTHERN BAHAMAS

In late May (17-22) 2007, Lawrence R. Baria, with the assistance of Drs. Rick Major and Ezat Heydari, will be leading another carbonate field trip to the Out Islands of the southern Bahamas. Participants will examine fringing reefs, patch reefs, oolite shoals, tidal flats, eolian dunes, beaches, supratidal, intertidal and subtidal stromatolites and many other styles of recent depositional environments and carbonate facies.

Certainly on a trip of this nature, spouses will also be invited to go along. While the participants are out swimming, wading and hiking each day, the spouses can enjoy beautiful pink sand beaches, island tours and laid back Out Island hospitality.

The anticipated cost of this six day trip including round trip airfare from Jackson to Great Exuma, Bahamas, hotel, meals, 3 days of boat rentals and land transportation will be \$2,000.00 per participant, based on double occupancy.

A detailed daily schedule of the proposed field trip can be obtained by calling Larry Baria at (601) 932-0002. Participation will be limited to twelve persons, so sign up as early as possible. A deposit of \$800.00 will be due on <u>April 17, 2007</u>, to guarantee air charters and rooms.

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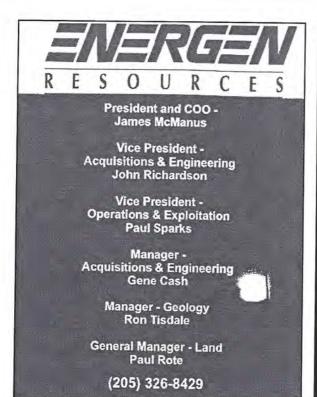
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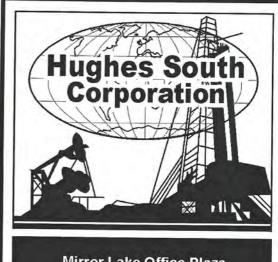
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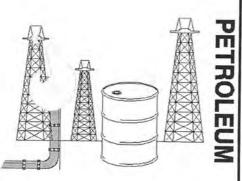
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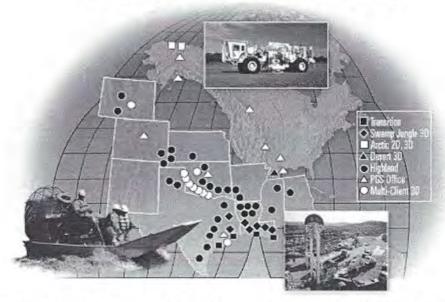
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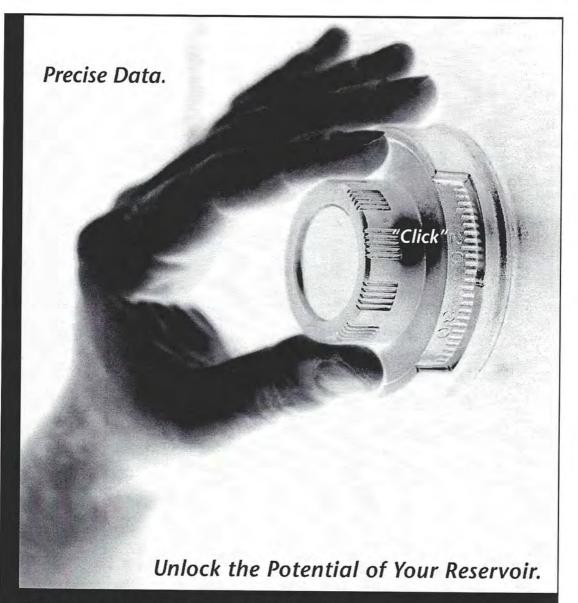
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Facing the End of Oil

By Cheryl Woodard Executive Editor, AskQuestions.org February 16, 2005

Are We There Yet?

The world's oil supplies could last 40 years or more, according to some projections. But serious trouble starts when ready supplies begin to decline, long before we get to the last drop. And many experts believe that we're already there.

Best Case Scenario: The 2004 British Petroleum Statistical Review of World Energy http://www.bp.com/subsection.do?categoryId=95&contentId=2006480 gave the most optimistic projection we could find, predicting that global oil reserves will be gone in 2045, based on known reserves and current rates of consumption, called the R/P ratio. By the same measure, US reserves will be exhausted in 2015. (download the BP spreadsheet, which shows a geographical breakdown, from our website at http://www.askquestions.org/articles/oil/BPRPRatios.xls)

Optimists sometimes extend the 41 years by including 'unconventional' oil supplies, like the oil tar sands in Canada, even though getting at that oil sometimes causes more trouble than it's worth. The US Department of Energy http://www.eia.doe.gov/cabs/canenv. html offers a fairly pessimistic assessment of Canadian oil supplies for instance, noting the Canadian political will to protect the environment, the inefficiency of extraction methods, and the hazards of extraction, "Oil sands projects are large, use considerable amounts of energy, particularly natural gas, and release both gaseous and particulate emissions into the atmosphere. Although the oil sands processes have become more efficient and have reduced greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions per unit of production, an increase in output could lead to an increase in total emissions. Other environmental challenges associated with oil sands processing are disposing of tailings, wastewater management, and land reclamation." We dare not count on Canadian oil sands to replace dwindling supplies in other parts of the world.

Forty-one years doesn't seem like a very long time before the world's oil completely runs out. And yet, outside of the oil industry, many believe the end will come much sooner.

The Peak Oil Case: The Oil Depletion Analysis Center, www.odac-info.org a British non-profit group independently studies the activities of oil producers and their reserves. Their November 2004 study reports that all of the major new oil-recovery projects scheduled to come on stream over the next six years are unlikely to boost supplies enough to meet the world's growing needs. The report says, "Even with relatively low demand growth, we see an unbridgeable supply/demand gap opening up after 2007." (download the report at http://www.askquestions.org/articles/oil/ODACReport.pdf).

Geologist Colin Campbell agrees that the peak will occur in 2007, according to data he published in February 2005 at www.peakoil.net. Working with other European scientists, Campbell founded the Association for the Study of Peak Oil and Gas (ASPO) and the group is proposing that the world community should develop an equitable 'soft landing' strategy to avoid conflicts as the oil runs out. Read their proposed international agreement here: http://www.peakoil.net/uhdsg/UppsalaProtocol. html.

Government Projections: The US Energy Department's Energy Information Administration data shows no foreseeable gap between supply and demand. See www.eia.doe.gov. But the most recent Oil Market Report from the International Energy Agency, www.iea.org (an international government group), reveals that world oil demand reached 85.6 million barrels per day (mb/d) in the fourth quarter of 2004, and global supplies averaged 84.4 mb/d that quarter. Technically, demand already outstripped supply last year, according to this IEA data.

What Now?

Some argue that the Oil Peak will lead to a new market equilibrium: prices will rise and consumers will cut back or switch to alternative energy sources. New technologies and investment for extraction will guarantee adequate oil supplies during that transition. See for example, one piece written for the Society of Petroleum Engineers last summer called, "Doomsday Rhetoric Ignores Signs of Growth in Global Production Capacity." http://www.spe.org/spe/jpt/jsp/jptmonthlysection/0,2440,1104_11038_2557364_2575696,00.html

The other side paints a different story. Caltech physics professor David Goodstein writes, "As we learned in 1973, the effects of an oil shortage can be immediate and drastic, and it may take years, perhaps decades, to replace the vast infrastructure that supports the manufacture, distribution, and consumption of the 20 million barrels of oil we Americans gobble up each day." In his book, *Out of Gas: The End of the Age of Oil*, Goodstein urges that we undertake a massive national commitment to developing alternative energy sources—comparable to the 1960's race to the moon—because "civilization as we know it will not survive unless we can find a way to live without fossil fuels."

Richard Heinberg, another Peak Oil writer notes that more than 60% of the world's remaining oil supplies are located in the Middle East - Iraq alone has 11% of the proved reserves – and predicts devastating 'resource wars' if the United States cannot immediately reduce our dependence on imported oil.

Can We Live Without It?

A recent National Geographic article, "The End of Cheap Oil," http://magma.nationalgeographic.com/ngm/0406/feature5/, warned that when oil prices rise, every transported product also becomes more expensive. Food, for example, travels an average of 1,300 miles from farm to plate. The article noted that it takes almost a gallon of oil to make one pound of beef, and nearly 7 gallons to make one tire. Oil is also used to make medical implants, computers, and fertilizers. And 90% of all organic chemicals come from oil (including cosmetics, pharmaceuticals and plastics). The 20 million barrels of oil per day consumed in the US goes for: transportation 68%, agriculture and industry

24%, Residential heat 4%, Commercial heat 2%, and Generating electricity 2%.

Who's Driving This Train?

Campbell, Goodstein, Heinberg and others warn that governments will not address the coming oil crisis until the energy train actually crashes. Their Peak Oil books, websites, and conferences aim to spark a public outcry that forces policy makers into timely action. And indeed, the media is beginning to pick up their story. You can google 'peak oil' and get dozens of contemporary articles. You can also find a handful of very good books. We list our favorites below.

Confronting the oil problems in the 1970's, President Jimmy Carter said, "We must face the prospect of changing our basic ways of living. This change will either be made on our own initiative in a planned way, or forced on us with chaos and suffering by the inexorable laws of nature."

Looking back, we can wonder if Carter's energy programs might have averted the present crisis had they not been aborted in the 1980s. But even with time running out, we can still make the right choices — better now than later. In the private realm, we can prepare to live comfortably with fewer resources, reduce our personal debts, shop locally, and conserve. On the national level we can urge our leaders to do all of the above, while also rebuilding or replacing our food systems, energy networks, and foreign policies.

Articles, Books and Websites

"The Oil We Eat" Harpers Magazine February 2004

http://www.findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m1111/is_1845_308/ai 112796599

"The End of Cheap Oil" National Geographic Magazine, June 2004

http://magma.nationalgeographic.com/ngm/0406/feature5/

"Over a Barrel" by Paul Roberts, Mother Jones magazine, November/December 2004

http://www.motherjones.com/news/feature/2004/11/10_401.html

The Party's Over: Oil, War and the Fate of Industrial Societies, by Richard Heinberg

The author has a website at http://www.museletter.com/

Out of Gas: The End of the Age of Oil, by David Goodstein.

The End of Oil: On the Edge of a Perilous New World, by Paul Roberts

Peak Oil websites: ASPO's website www.peakoil.net has links to other Peak Oil sites as well as news articles and the proceedings of their annual conferences. Another good site is www. hubbertpeak.com, named after the scientist who first conceived and predicted the problem.

Non-government websites: Oil Depletion Analysis Center www.odac-info.org and the

Post Carbon Institute www.postcarbon.org

Oil Industry sites: www.bp.com and American Petroleum Institute www.api-ec.api.org

www.askquestions.org

Government websites: www.eia.doe.gov and www.iea.org

AskQuestions.org is a public interest news site raising awareness about urgent popular issues that the media is not adequately addressing. The non-profit site is supported entirely through public donations, and we invite you to make a contribution if you find this article useful. We also invite you to visit the site, pose questions, see what others are asking, and use the process to bring important issues into the public agenda.

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One morning a husband returns to his lake cabin after several hours of fishing & decides to take a nap. Although not familiar with the lake, his wife decides to take the boat out. She motors out a short distance, anchors, & reads her book, enjoying the peace & quiet.

Along comes a game warden in his boat. He pulls up alongside the woman & says, "Good morning, Ma'am. What are you doing?"

"Reading a book," she replies (thinking "Isn't it obvious?").

"You're in a restricted fishing area," he informs her.

"I'm sorry, officer, but I'm not fishing, I'm reading."

"Yes, but you have all the equipment. For all I know you could start at any moment. I'll have to take you in & write you up."

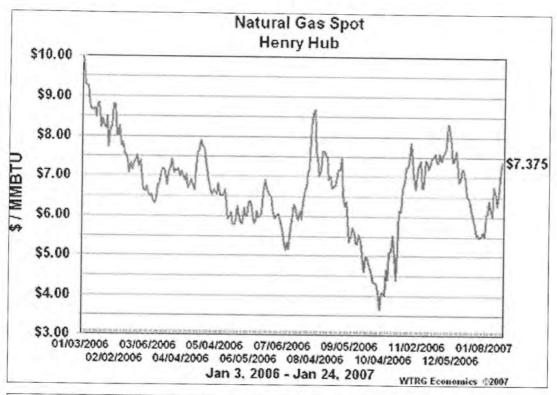
"If you do that, I'll have to charge you with sexual assault," says the woman.

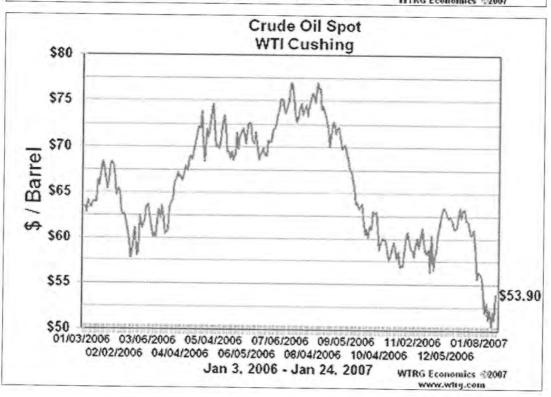
"But I haven't even touched you," says the game warden.

"That's true, but you have all the equipment. For all I know you could start at any moment."

"Have a nice day, ma'am," & he left.

MORAL: Never argue with a woman who reads. It's likely she can also think.





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~ PRESIDENT'S LETTER ~ Bob Schneeflock

Society Brethren,

The March meeting will be a little different from most in that there will be no speaker per se.

Instead of trying to cram the Boland Scholarship presentations and a speaker into one meeting, Dave Cate and Tony Stuart will now have time to do it right. The Boland Scholarship presentations will be followed by the induction of our newest Honorary Member.

Awards will also be presented to members who have given MGS over 5 continuous years of exemplary service in the most work-intensive positions the Society has.

Make an effort to come and honor those students and members for their hard work.

'til next month,

In This Issue:

Meeting Schedule

How Low Can You Go

2007 Carbonate Field Trip

Floyd Shale Potential in the Black

Warrior Basin

Elephant

Oil & Gas Spot Market Graphs

MGS Membership Application

MGS Advertising Notice

Boland Scholarship Fund

The Society's L. F. Boland Scholarship Fund is open to donations year round. This is a tax-deductible donation that helps the Society support and award deserving geoscience students from the four Mississippi colleges offering a geoscience degree. If you would like to contribute, please contact one of the Society officers or directly to Dave Cate at 601-718-9397.

The MS Geological Society gratefully acknowledges the following contributors to the L. F. Boland Scholarship Fund for 2006-07:

John Allen

Ben Byerly

Jim Furrh

Paul Gribas

Darrell Schmitz

Bob Schneeflock

Tony Stuart

Bill Tedesco

Vaughan Watkins – In memory of Marvin Oxley

(along with the other '06-'07 contributors)

It has been said that man is a rational animal. All my life I have been searching for evidence which could support this.

Bertrand Russell

MGS MEETING SCHEDULE		
When	What	Where
September 14, 2006	Fall BBQ	Jackson Yacht Club
October 19, 2006	David Scott & Lisa Ivshin, MS O&G Board	River Hills
November 1, 2006	Emie Mancini, University of AL	River Hills
December 9, 2006	MAPL/MGS Christmas Party	Colonial Country Club
January 11, 2007	Berry H. "Nick" Tew, Jr., AL State Geologist	River Hills
February 8, 2007	Chuck Segrest, GeoSystems – Petrophysical Evaluation of Gas-Shale Reservoirs	River Hills
March 8, 2007	Boland Scholarship, Honorary Membership, and Awards	River Hills
April 12, 2007	TBA	River Hills
May 10, 2007	Spring Fling	Jackson Yacht Club

How Low Can You Go?

Don't forget this year's contest on low resistivity production from the Eutaw and Cotton Valley Formations.

Prizes will be awarded.

For more information, contact:

Jack Moody at (601) 359-9278

or

Bob Schneeflock at (601) 853-0701

OFFICERS MEETINGS

September 6, 2006

October 3, 2006

November 7, 2006

None in December

January 2, 2007

February 6, 2007

March 6, 2007

April 3, 2007

May 1, 2007

March 8th, 2007 MGS Meeting

Boland Scholarship Awards

Top Students from Millsaps, Ole Miss, State, and Southern

Induction of our newest MGS Honorary Member

Awards to members for long standing Exemplary service to MGS

2007 CARBONATE FIELD TRIP

SOUTHERN BAHAMAS

In late May (17-22) 2007, Lawrence R. Baria, with the assistance of Drs. Rick Major and Ezat Heydari, will be leading another carbonate field trip to the Out Islands of the southern Bahamas. Participants will examine fringing reefs, patch reefs, oolite shoals, tidal flats, eolian dunes, beaches, supratidal, intertidal and subtidal stromatolites and many other styles of recent depositional environments and carbonate facies.

Certainly on a trip of this nature, spouses will also be invited to go along. While the participants are out swimming, wading and hiking each day, the spouses can enjoy beautiful pink sand beaches, island tours and laid back Out Island hospitality.

The anticipated cost of this six day trip including round trip airfare from Jackson to Great Exuma, Bahamas, hotel, meals, 3 days of boat rentals and land transportation will be \$2,000.00 per participant, based on double occupancy.

A detailed daily schedule of the proposed field trip can be obtained by calling Larry Baria at (601) 932-0002. Participation will be limited to twelve persons, so sign up as early as possible. A deposit of \$800.00 will be due on April 17, 2007, to guarantee air charters and rooms.

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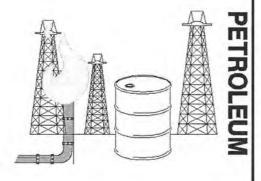
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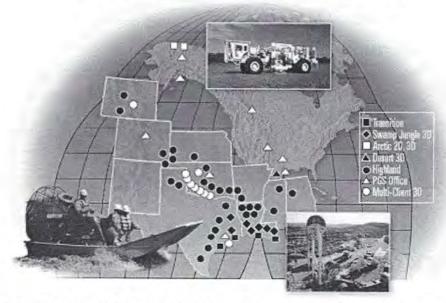
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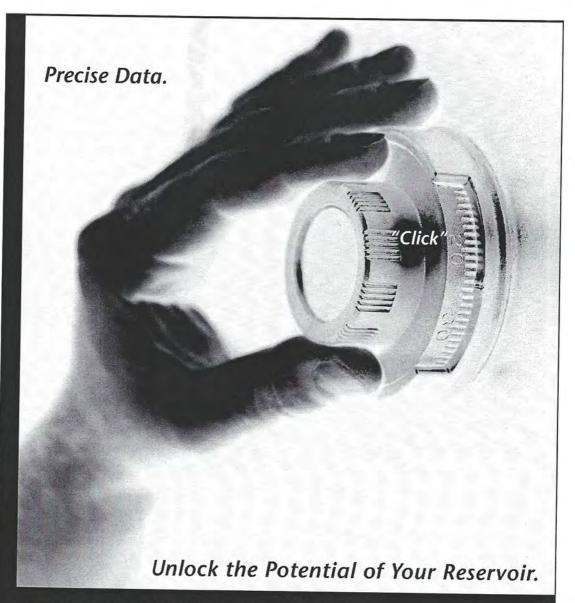
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Floyd Shale Potential in the Black Warrior Basin Executive Summary

(republished by permission of Wood Mackenzie/Upstream Insights)

The Mississippian Floyd and Neal shales of the Black Warrior Basin are known to be the main source rocks for the region's conventional reservoirs. Following the success of the Barnett Shale in Texas and a general heightened interest in unconventional plays, a number of operators have recently accumulated large acreage positions in this region.

The scramble to increase lease holdings in the Black Warrior's shales might suggest they could be the next big shale play in the Lower 48. However, the economic viability of emerging shale plays has yet to be proven, and many risks and uncertainties remain unsolved.

This report provides a technical and commercial review of the Floyd and Neal plays. We have identified the main players and the challenges they will likely face when trying to explore, develop, and commercialize these plays.

Black Warrior Shales

Following the success of the Barnett Shale in Texas, focus is now turning to other domestic shale plays. The commerciality of the Floyd and Neal shales has yet to be proven. A decline in CBM production from the Black Warrior Basin has left a number of operators looking for new ways to further monetise their acreage. These shales offer significant potential to existing land holders. New entrants have also been accumulating land in Alabama and Mississippi, where acreage is considered prone to shale gas (see map on next page).

The Floyd and Neal shales are found at depths of 1,400 to 2,700 meters (4,000-9,000 ft), and have a thickness of 30 to 150 meters (100-500 ft). Limestone and carbonate beds enclose the shales, thus providing them with an ideal seal and fracture barrier. The shales are also known to be source rocks for many of the conventional Black Warrior reservoirs. Operators are hoping that Black Warrior shales have similar geologic characteristics to the prolific Barnett Shale.

Current Activity

Leasing activity in the various shale plays in Alabama and Mississippi surged in 2006. Lease bonus payments rose from an average of US\$50 per acre in 2005 to as high as US\$1,000 per acre in 2006. Also, royalty rates jumped from an average of 15% to 25%, while the duration of a typical lease declined to three years.

Murphy Oil has accumulated one of the largest acreage positions in the play. The company partnered with Noble to drill five exploration wells in Pickens County, Alabama, during 2006. Energen and Chesapeake have a joint lease ownership amounting to 200,000 acres. Chesapeake entered the area by purchasing 50% of Energen's 200,000 net acres in Alabama for US\$75 million, equivalent to US \$750 per acre. Chesapeake has also committed to pay US\$15.0 million of Energen's initial drilling costs. Shell holds a sizable position, but is pursuing a sale of its holdings.

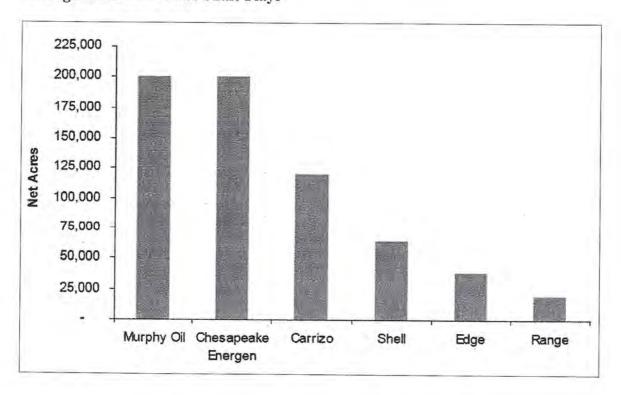
Among the smaller independents, Carrizo has more than 100,000 net acres. Also, Edge Petroleum and Range Resources have accumulated 40,000 and 20,000 net acres, respectively.

No wells have been drilled by these three companies, but each has announced plans to explore the shale play in 2007.

Two other companies, EOG and Denbury, have drilled wells in the shale play. However, their acreage position is unknown. Neither of the companies is reporting gas sales or giving guidance on their lease positions.

The following chart shows the net acreage position of the main operators in the Alabama and Mississippi shale plays.

Acreage in Black Warrior Shale Plays

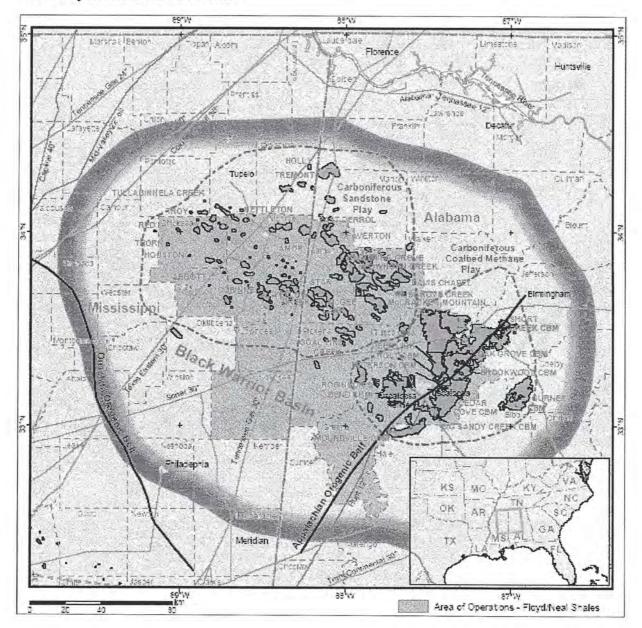


Challenges to the Play's Development

Wood Mackenzie has identified the major risks that are affecting the development of the Black Warrior Basin's shales.

These are a lack of well control, uncertain economics, and infrastructure constraints.

The Floyd/Neal Shale Counties



Well Control

Dominion, Energen, Carrizo, Chesapeake, Murphy, Denbury, Edge, and EOG are among the small number of operators which are known to be shooting seismic and drilling shale targeted wells in the Black Warrior Basin. The limited amount of data available means that the viability of the shales cannot be confirmed.

Horizontal wells costing up to US\$3.0 million are expected to be the preferred method of development. In the Barnett Shale, advancements in drilling and completion technologies have been key to recent successes. Also, operators have formed alliances with service companies to control costs and share knowledge. By working closely together in the Barnett, companies have managed to lower drill time and optimise completion design. We predict that companies exploring Black Warrior shales will face similar challenges to early Barnett Shale operators.

Economic Risk

The Barnett Shale is the most successful shale play in North America. In a previous Insight report (Shale Shines in the Lone Star State – October 2006), we suggested that the break-even gas price for the Barnett Shale is approximately US\$5.00/mcf. The Black Warrior's shales are generally of an inferior quality to the Barnett, both in terms of their thickness and gas yield. As a result, initial well production rates and reserves will generally be lower than in the Barnett Shale.

Indicatively, a well with initial production of 1.2 mmcfd and reserves of 0.9 bcf will have break-even economics of US\$7.00/mcf. This is significantly higher than the Barnett Shale, and at the upper end of many companies' view of the long term gas price.

Infrastructure

There currently is limited infrastructure in the basin. Without the construction of gathering and transmission pipelines, and the addition of gas processing and compression, a full-scale development programme remains unlikely. Any future commitment to building a large-scale midstream project will involve lengthy feasibility studies and a large capital commitment. This is unlikely to occur prior to companies becoming comfortable with the potential of the region.

Conclusion

In our opinion, the dash to secure leases in the shale gas plays of the Black Warrior Basin has peaked. Following a surge in leasing in 2005 and 2006, the resulting rise in costs is cooling activity in these plays. Up to now, companies have been acquiring leases on a largely speculative basis. The large lease bonuses were paid during a period of record commodity prices.

The Floyd and Neal shales have some favorable attributes. However, there is currently no commercial production from either of these plays, and none is imminent. We view these plays as being high-risk for investors, and their successful development will be dependent on a period of sustained high

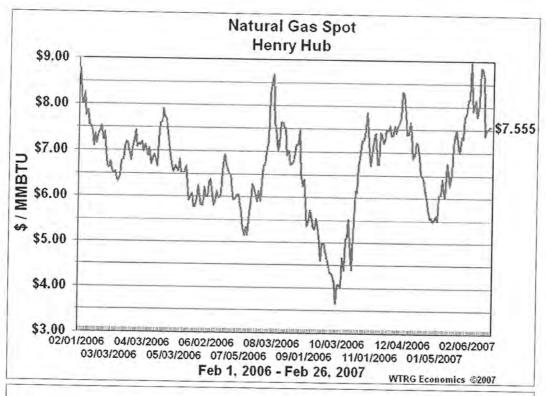
gas prices. More importantly, operators are waiting for well data which will support further investment. They are looking for confirmation that the geology is conducive to building a sustainable productive resource. Once companies become comfortable with the potential of these plays, then they may be more willing to divert capital into the development of the much needed infrastructure.

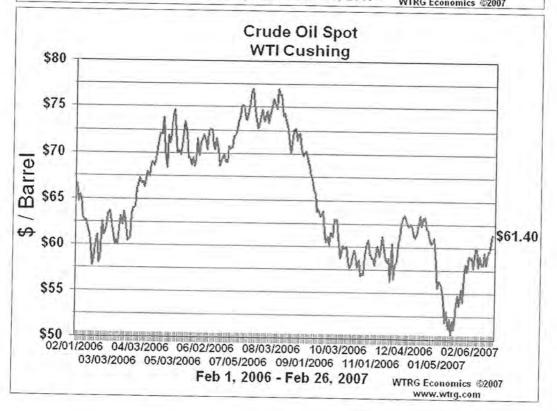
The play has many unknowns, and at this early stage in its development, operators have yet to laude its success. Considering the numerous challenges involved, these plays may remain on the margins of most company's portfolios. Investment in lower-risk, lower-cost opportunities may remain the order of the day in the Lower 48.

A truly honorable man helps a young elephant. Read on.

In 1986, Mkele Mbembe was on holiday in Kenya after graduating from Northwestern University.

On a hike through the bush, he came across a young bull elephant standing with one leg raised in the air. The elephant seemed distressed, so Mbembe approached it very carefully. He got down on one knee and inspected the elephant's foot, and found a large piece of wood deeply embedded in it. As carefully and as gently as he could, Mbembe worked the wood out with his hunting knife, after which the elephant gingerly put down its foot. The elephant turned to face the man, and with a rather curious look on its face, stared at him for several tense moments. Mbembe stood frozen, thinking of nothing else but being trampled. Eventually the elephant trumpeted loudly, turned, and walked away. Mbembe never forgot that elephant or the events of that day. Twenty years later, Mbembe was walking through the Chicago Zoo with his teenaged son. As they approached the elephant enclosure, one of the creatures turned and walked over to near where Mbembe and his son Tapu were standing. The large bull elephant stared at Mbembe, lifted its front foot off the ground, then put it down. The elephant did that several times then trumpeted loudly, all the while staring at the man. Remembering the encounter in 1986, Mbembe couldn't help wondering if this was the same elephant. Mbembe summoned up his courage, climbed over the railing and made his way into the enclosure. He walked right up to the elephant and stared back in wonder. The elephant trumpeted again, wrapped its trunk around one of Mbembe's legs and slammed him against the railing, killing him instantly. Probably wasn't the same elephant....





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No. 8

April 2007

MISSISSIPPI GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

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~ PRESIDENT'S LETTER ~ Bob Schneeflock

Society Brethren,

Congratulations to Charlie Williams, the latest member to be inducted into Honorary Membership of the Mississippi Geological Society. I should have pointed out at the presentation that Charlie, who is the longtime chairman of the Honorary Membership Committee, did not nominate himself. The nomination came from a unanimous vote of the Board of Directors without his knowledge. His induction is well deserved and long overdue.

Also congratulations to the Boland Scholarship recipients who are listed on page 6 and photographed with their professors. All of this year's winners are planning careers in the energy industry as geophysicists.

Other well deserved awards were given to Jo Everett, Lindsey Stewart, Steve Walkinshaw, and Karl Kaufmann for longstanding exemplary service to the society.

Our speaker for the April meeting will be our own very brave Ken Ruckstuhl. Ken will speak on the controversial subject of Global Warming. We've asked the club not to serve tomatoes for that meeting.

'til next month,

bs

"Every time you think television has hit its lowest ebb, a new program comes along to make you wonder where you thought the ebb was."

Art Buchwald

Boland Scholarship Fund

The Society's L. F. Boland Scholarship Fund is open to donations (tax deductible) year round. If you would like to contribute, please contact one of the Society officers or directly to Dave Cate at 601-718-9397.

The MS Geological Society gratefully acknowledges the following contributors to the L. F. Boland Scholarship Fund for 2006-07:

John Allen
Ben Byerly
Jim Furrh
Paul Gribas
Darrell Schmitz
Bob Schneeflock
Tony Stuart
Bill Tedesco
Vaughan Watkins – In memory of
Marvin Oxley

(along with the other '06-'07 contributors)

In This Issue:

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Boland Scholarship Winners
Rig Count
Oil & Gas Spot Market Graphs
MGS Membership Application

MGS Membership Applicati MGS Advertising Notice

MGS MEETING SCHEDULE				
When	What	Where		
September 14, 2006	Fall BBQ	Jackson Yacht Club		
October 19, 2006	David Scott & Lisa Ivshin, MS O&G Board	River Hills		
November 1, 2006	Ernie Mancini, University of AL	River Hills		
December 9, 2006	MAPL/MGS Christmas Party	Colonial Country Club		
January 11, 2007	Berry H. "Nick" Tew, Jr., AL State Geologist	River Hills		
February 8, 2007	Chuck Segrest, GeoSystems – Petrophysical Evaluation of Gas-Shale Reservoirs	River Hills		
March 8, 2007	Boland Scholarship, Honorary Membership, and Awards	River Hills		
April 12, 2007	Ken Ruckstuhl - The Global Warming Controversy	River Hills		
May 10, 2007	Spring Fling	Jackson Yacht Club		

How Low Can You Go?

This year's contest on low resistivity production from the Eutaw and Cotton Valley Formations is finally over. This hotly contested and sometimes brutal battle had to be decided by a team of consultants from Ryder Scott, Netherland Sewell, Cawley Gellespie, and S. A. Holdich.

The winner of the Cotton Valley contest is Harry Spooner with the Spooner #1 Soterra in Section 12, 1N-11E, Waldrup Field in Jasper County, Mississippi.

The winner of the Eutaw contest is Steve Walkinshaw with the Carter #3 Rex Alman in Section 4, 10N-3W, Gilbertown Field, Choctaw County, Alabama.

Prizes will be awarded at the Spring Fling and the examples will be posted to the website.

o	FFICERS MEETINGS
ĺ	September 6, 2006
	October 3, 2006
	November 7, 2006
	None in December
	January 2, 2007
	February 6, 2007
	March 6, 2007
	April 3, 2007
	May 1, 2007

The Global Warming Controversy

The hype and fear associated with the global warming issue has become a driving force behind many aspects of our daily life and work. Government officials at all levels are making decisions that affect business, environmental controls, international treaties, taxes, political campaigns, and social policies based on "global warming". The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has just released the 2007 update of its "Physical Science Basis Summary for Policy Makers".

Amid the hype, news agencies are using the issue to create headlines designed to cause alarm (and boost ratings). Yet, is the science sound? Is there consensus that human activities are causing global climate change? Is there an underlying agenda? What if the doomsayers are right? What if they are wrong?

These are all questions that we as geoscientists are likely asking ourselves. Yet, anyone who tries to figure out the answers may quickly become overwhelmed with the flood of information available on the internet or elsewhere in print. Because of all the hype and distortion, it is difficult to get down to a simple evaluation of the scientific facts.

This presentation attempts to provide a reasoned and balanced evaluation of the issue from a geologist's perspective. The presenter believes that geologists are uniquely qualified to understand and lead the debate on the global climate change issue, and it is our duty as earth science professionals to be involved in advancing the public understanding of the issue.

Ken Ruckstuhl is a graduate of LSU and is a registered professional geologist. He works in the Jackson office of Environmental Management Services, Inc. He has worked in the environmental consulting field for 25 years. He serves on the Advisory Committee to the Board.

2007 CARBONATE FIELD TRIP

SOUTHERN BAHAMAS

In late May (17-22) 2007, Lawrence R. Baria, with the assistance of Drs. Rick Major and Ezat Heydari, will be leading another carbonate field trip to the Out Islands of the southern Bahamas. Participants will examine fringing reefs, patch reefs, oolite shoals, tidal flats, eolian dunes, beaches, supratidal, intertidal and subtidal stromatolites and many other styles of recent depositional environments and carbonate facies.

Certainly on a trip of this nature, spouses will also be invited to go along. While the participants are out swimming, wading and hiking each day, the spouses can enjoy beautiful pink sand beaches, island tours and laid back Out Island hospitality.

The anticipated cost of this six day trip including round trip airfare from Jackson to Great Exuma, Bahamas, hotel, meals, 3 days of boat rentals and land transportation will be \$2,000.00 per participant, based on double occupancy.

A detailed daily schedule of the proposed field trip can be obtained by calling Larry Baria at (601) 932-0002. Participation will be limited to twelve persons, so sign up as early as possible. A deposit of \$800.00 will be due on <u>April 17, 2007</u>, to guarantee air charters and rooms.

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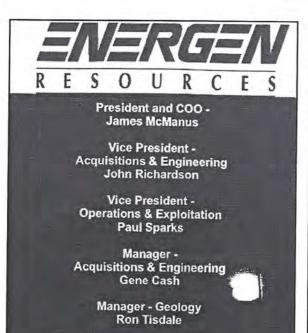
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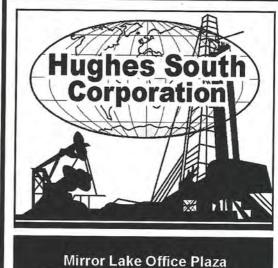
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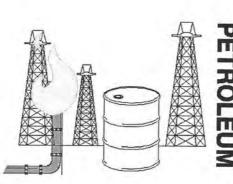
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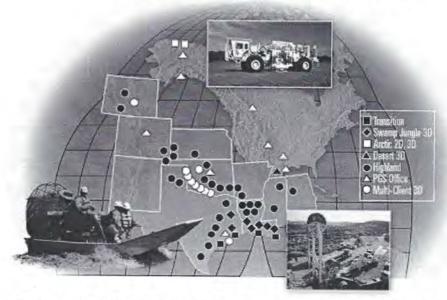
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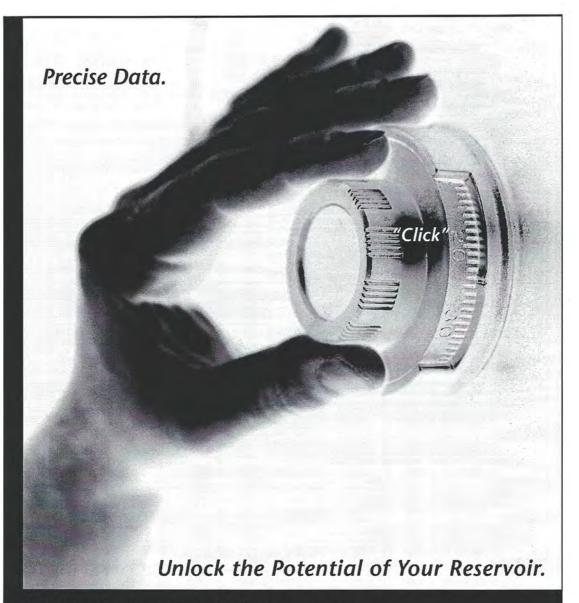
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2006-2007 Boland Scholarship Winners

From left to right:

Gail Russell - USM

Greg Easson - UM

Lance Wilson - USM

Jon Sumrall - MSU

Darrell Schmitz - MSU

Daniel Rice - Millsaps

Stan Galicki – Millsaps

Jamie Harris - Millsaps

Not shown:

Shannon Wilson - UM

Honorary Membership Presentation By Dudley J. Hughes

Charles H. Williams, Jr.

I'm going to start by telling how I first met Charlie -

In the summer of 1953, I came to Jackson working as a geologist for Union Producing Company. Our office was in the old Deposit Guaranty Bank Building downtown. All of the big oil companies had offices in Mississippi with lots of employees. Union Producing had seven geologists. At that time, there were 200 geologists in the Mississippi Geological Society.

There was a pretty young girl working in the geological department of Union Producing Company by the name of Vivian Shortridge. The geologists teased her a lot...especially about her boyfriend who was majoring in geology at Millsaps College. We warned her to watch out for him – you can't trust those boys from Millsaps.

She brought him to the office one day, and we met Charlie. He turned out to be a nice guy after all. He received his BS degree in geology at Millsaps in 1955, and he and Vivian were married the same year.

They moved to Texas where he entered the graduate school at Texas University, but he was called into military service a year later in 1956. He served two years on active duty – mostly in Germany with the 11th Armored Cavalry.

After being released from active duty in 1958, Charlie was hired as a geologist by Monsanto in their Lion Oil Division and was stationed in Albuquerque, NM. His first job was surface mapping in northern Arizona in the Black Mesa Basin. This included the Navajo and Hopi Indian Reservations.

His work led the company to participate in one of the earliest oil discoveries in Arizona. He was the first geologist to delineate a new productive Gallup Sand trend in the San Juan Basin of New Mexico.

In 1959, Monsanto transferred him to Midland, Texas, for a four-year period working in the Permian Basin.

While there, Charlie mapped a prospect which led his company to drill an Abo Reef oil discovery. He received a letter of thanks from the company president for his geology work which led to the discovery.

Monsanto next transferred him to Oklahoma City in 1963 where he worked in the Anadarko Basin where he had discoveries in the Red Fork Formation.

Despite his eight-year success as an oil finder with Monsanto, Charlie and Vivian were homesick for Mississippi. When he received an offer in 1966 to become a staff geologist with the Mississippi Geological Survey, he resigned from Monsanto and moved back to Mississippi.

With the Mississippi Geological Survey, his geology included mapping mineral resources in the state along with oil. Also, Charlie became the author of several geological publications including:

- o Subsurface Structure of Claiborne County, Mississippi, and
- o Geology and Mineral Resources of George County, Mississippi.

But his most popular publication was a N-S cross-section of Mississippi showing the subsurface layers of the Black Warrior Basin and the Mississippi Salt Basin as to how they related to oil and gas.

Charlie and Marvin Oxley privately published an executive color-coded map setting out the producing reservoirs in all the Wilcox Fields in Mississippi, which was very popular.

After three years with the Mississippi Geological Survey, he resigned in 1969 to become Exploration Manager for Champex exploring for Wilcox oil in Mississippi and Louisiana.

Charlie's greatest contribution to the Mississippi petroleum industry began just one year later. He left Champex to become President of Mid-Continent Oil & Gas Association, Mississippi-Alabama Division (this is now the US Oil & Gas Association).

His responsibility was mainly representing the industry's positions in the legislative sessions of Alabama, Mississippi and in Washington, D.C.

During his watch, the industry fared very well legislatively in both states, and many bills sponsored by the industry were enacted. These included a workable fieldwide unitization statute and a force pooling statute.

His biggest challenge came in 1981. Newly elected Governor William Winter announced his intention to fund his campaign promises for education solely with an increase in severance taxes on oil and gas. The 1982 legislative special session was called for the specific purpose to enact the tax increase. Charlie was instrumental in resolving the issue in favor of the oil companies, with no increase (summarized).

In December 1986, after 16 years of service, Charlie left the Mid-Continent Oil & Gas Association to join Vaughey & Vaughey as General Manager where he serves today. Vaughey & Vaughey included legendary oil men Emmett and Bill Vaughey and Blackie Blackburn in Denver, all of whom have passed on.

Vaughey & Vaughey has production in nine states and Canada, which is managed by Charlie for the families. He also established several successful partnerships to explore for oil and gas and to purchase producing properties.

Charlie remains active in petroleum organizations. He was President of the Capital City Club in 1979 and Chairman of the U.S. Oil & Gas Association for Mississippi and Alabama from 1997-1998. He serves on the Board of Directors and Executive Committee of the U.S. Oil & Gas Association in Washington, D.C. and for the Mississippi-Alabama Division.

A 40-year member of the Mississippi Geological Society, Charlie served as President from 1983-1984. He was the editor of the Mississippi Geological Survey's publication on the Wilcox Fields of Southwest Mississippi. He served as Convention Chairman for the Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies in 1975.

Charlie has been a 50-year member of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists and now has Emeritus member status. In 1967 and 1968, Charlie chaired the Geology and Engineering Section of the Mississippi Academy of Science. With the Interstate Oil & Gas Compact Commission, he was the Mississippi Representative in 1981, and he currently serves as the Mississippi Associate Representative and is a member of the Energy Resources Committee.

Charlie has served on various civic boards including the Advisory Board of the Salvation Army. He served on the Board of the 100 Club of Jackson and is a charter member and Vice President of the 100 Club of Madison-Ridgeland.

His wife Vivian has also been busy these 51 years as the mother of four children.

2006-2007 BOLAND SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

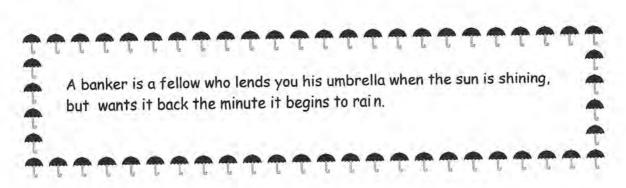
The Mississippi Geological Society awarded its annual L. F. Boland Scholarship to four students at the March 8th meeting. This group makes a total of 108 students to be honored by the Society for outstanding achievements in the geosciences since the awards began in 1980. Each student was awarded \$1,000 plus an elaborate framed certificate denoting their achievement.

Shannon Wilson, University of Mississippi. Shannon is from Fairfax Station, Virginia and is a junior at Ole Miss with a 3.6 GPA. After graduating next year with a B.S. major in geological engineering and a minor in mathematics, she plans to seek a M.S. degree preparatory for as career in the petroleum industry. Shannon is the current captain of the varsity rifle team at Ole Miss and she has earned several honors in collegiate and Olympic matches, both in competitions at home and abroad.

Daniel Rice, Millsaps College. Daniel is from Kimberly, Alabama and is a senior majoring in geology/geophysics with a physics minor at Millsaps. He maintains a 3.73 GPA in his major coursework. Daniel has been accepted into the Master's program at the University of Kansas where he intends to concentrate on geophysical studies for a career in the petroleum industry. He is a three-year letterman on Millsaps' golf team and is this year's captain.

Lance Wilson, University of Southern Mississippi. Lance is from Meridian, Mississippi and a Senior at USM with a 3.9 GPA in his major coursework. He will graduate with a B.S. degree in geology from USM and then enter graduate school for his M.S. degree. After that, he plans to seek a career in the petroleum industry, possibly as a geophysicist. Lance has a taste for the oil business already having worked a year on an offshore drilling rig.

Jon Sumrall, Mississippi State University. Jon is from Biloxi, Mississippi and a senior at Mississippi State with a 4.) GPA in his major coursework. He will graduate this summer with a B.S. in geology after which he plans to enter graduate school for his M.S. degree. He is also looking toward a career in the petroleum industry, possibly as a geophysicist since that is his favorite area of study.



North American Rotary Rig Counts

The U.S. rotary rig count was up 4 rigs to 1,749 for the week of March 30, 2007 and is 11.0 percent higher than last year.

The number of rotary rigs drilling for oil is down 10 at 271. The number of rigs targeting oil is 18 rigs higher than last year's level of activity. Rigs currently drilling for oil represent 15.5% percent of total drilling activity.

Rigs directed toward natural gas were up 13 at 1,472. The number of rigs currently drilling for gas is 151 greater than last year's level of 1,321.

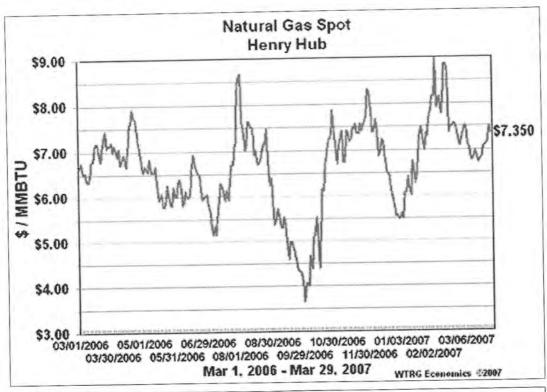
Year-over-year oil exploration in the US is up 7.1 percent. Gas exploration is up 11.4 percent. The weekly average of crude oil spot prices is 3.2 percent lower than last year and natural gas spot prices are 2.4 percent higher.

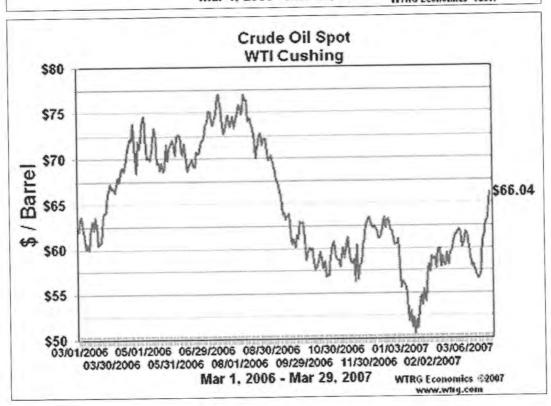
Canadian rig activity* was down 97 at 149 for the week of March 30, 2007 and is 276 lower than last year's rig count. Canadian drilling falls rapidly in the spring to avoid environmental damage during the spring thaw and rainy season.

*The Canadian drilling industry experiences wide seasonal swings and even year over year comparisons can lead to incorrect conclusions.

North American Rig Count

	-			Change		Percent	Change
	03/30/07	03/23/07	03/31/06	Weekly	Annual	Weekly	Annual
Total U.S.	1,749	1,745	1,576	4	173	0.2%	11.0%
Offshore	73	74	91	(1)	(18)	-1.4%	-19.8%
Land	1,676	1,671	1,485	5	191	0.3%	12.9%
Inland Waters	26	27	22	(1)	4	-3.7%	18.2%
Oil	271	281	253	(10)	18	-3.6%	7.1%
Percent	15.5%	16.1%	16.1%	-0.6%	-0.6%		
Gas	1,472	1,459	1,321	13	151	0.9%	11.4%
Percent	84.2%	83.6%	83.8%	0.6%	0.3%		
Directional	407	394	363	13	44	3.3%	12.1%
Horizontal	346	341	257	5	89	1.5%	34.6%
Gulf of Mexico	72	73	86	-1	-14	-1.4%	-16.3%
Gulf Oil	0	0	4	0	-4	n.a.	-100.0%
Percent	0.0%	0.0%	4.7%	0.0%	-4.7%		
Gulf Gas	72	73	82	-1	-10	-1.4%	-12.2%
Percent	100.0%	100.0%	95.3%	0.0%	4.7%		
Canada	149	246	425	(97)	(276)	-39.4%	-64.9%
North America	1,898	1,991	2,001	(93)	(103)	-4.7%	-5.1%





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~ PRESIDENT'S LETTER ~ Bob Schneeflock

Society Brethren,

This being my last letter, I want to thank the people on the preceding page for the service they have provided to the society this year. They pitched in and made my job a lot easier.

If you missed the April 12 meeting and Ken Ruckstuhl's talk on global warming, you missed a really good presentation. You could play catch-up by linking to http://westernstandard.blogs.com/shotgun/2007/03/more_about_the_.html. This is an 8 part documentary that pretty much debunks the Al Gore alarmist movement.

In the latest very close runoff, here are the newly and duly elected MGS officers for next year:

President - Tony Stuart

1st VP – Lisa Ivshin

2nd VP - Joe Johnson

Secretary - Matt Caton

Treasurer - Maurice Birdwell

Hope to see y'all at the Spring Fling on May 10th.

I'm outta here! bs

In This Issue:

Meeting Schedule
Spring Fling Announcement
How China is Winning the Oil Race
Workshop Announcement
Spring Fling Sponsor List
Oil & Gas Spot Market Graphs
MGS Membership Application
MGS Advertising Notice

Boland Scholarship Fund

The Society's L. F. Boland Scholarship Fund is open to donations (tax deductible) year round. If you would like to contribute, please contact one of the Society officers or directly to Dave Cate at 601-718-9397.

The MS Geological Society gratefully acknowledges the following contributors to the L. F. Boland Scholarship Fund for 2006-07:

John Allen
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Tony Stuart
Bill Tedesco
Vaughan Watkins – In memory of
Marvin Oxley
(along with the other '06-'07 contributors)

Boudreaux at the revival

Boudreaux goes to the revival and listens to the preacher. After a while, the preacher asks anyone with needs to come forward and be prayed over.

Boudreaux gets in line and when it's his turn the preacher says, "Boudreaux, what you want me to pray about?" Boudreaux says, "Preacher, I need you to pray for my hearing." So the preacher puts one finger in Boudreaux's ear and the other hand on top of his head and prays a while. After a few minutes, he removes his hands and says, "Boudreaux, how's your hearing now?" Boudreaux says, "I don't know preacher, it's not until next Wednesday in Opelousas."

MGS MEETING SCHEDULE				
When	What	Where		
September 14, 2006	Fall BBQ	Jackson Yacht Club		
October 19, 2006	David Scott & Lisa Ivshin, MS O&G Board	River Hills		
November 1, 2006	Ernie Mancini, University of AL	River Hills		
December 9, 2006	MAPL/MGS Christmas Party	Colonial Country Club		
January 11, 2007	Berry H. "Nick" Tew, Jr., AL State Geologist	River Hills		
February 8, 2007	Chuck Segrest, GeoSystems – Petrophysical Evaluation of Gas-Shale Reservoirs	River Hills		
March 8, 2007	Boland Scholarship, Honorary Membership, and Awards	River Hills		
April 12, 2007	Ken Ruckstuhl - The Global Warming Controversy	River Hills		
May 10, 2007	Spring Fling	Jackson Yacht Club		

A gushy reporter told Phil Michelson,

"You are spectacular, your name is synonymous with the game of golf. You really know your way around the course. What's your secret?"

Michelson replied, "The holes are numbered".

OFFICERS MEETINGS

September 6, 2006
October 3, 2006
November 7, 2006
None in December
January 2, 2007
February 6, 2007
March 6, 2007
April 3, 2007
May 1, 2007

2007 MGS Spring Fling

Thursday, May 10th 5:30 PM – 8:30pm

Catfish & Trimmings Keg & Cash Bar \$15 per person (Students \$5) Floyd (Neal) Shale Core on display

Join Us

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Exit I-55 at Natchez Trace Parkway (exit #105A) and continue to stop sign, turn onto Parkway at stop sign to Tupelo (east), continue to Madison/Ridgeland/Ross Barnett Reservoir exit (2.0 miles), exit right and continue to stop sign, turn right (south) at stop sign onto Old Canton Road, continue to traffic light (0.2 mile), turn left (east) at traffic light on Rice Road, continue (1.3 miles) to Post Road (3 way stop), turn right (east) at 3 way stop sign and continue to Yacht Club Road (0.7 mile), turn right (south) on Yacht Club Road and continue to end of road.

Jackson YC is located on the southwest shore of Ross Barnett Reservoir in Madison County Mississippi.

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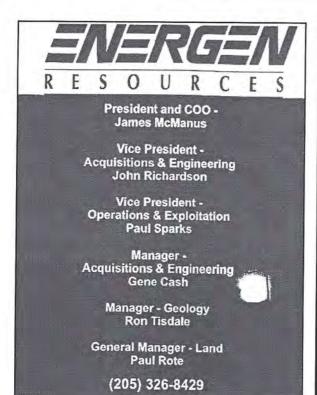
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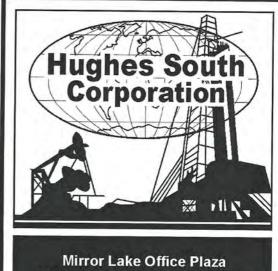
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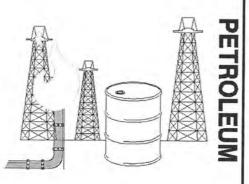
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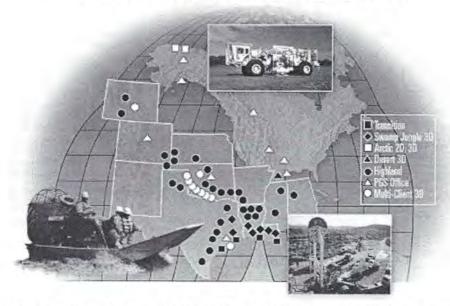
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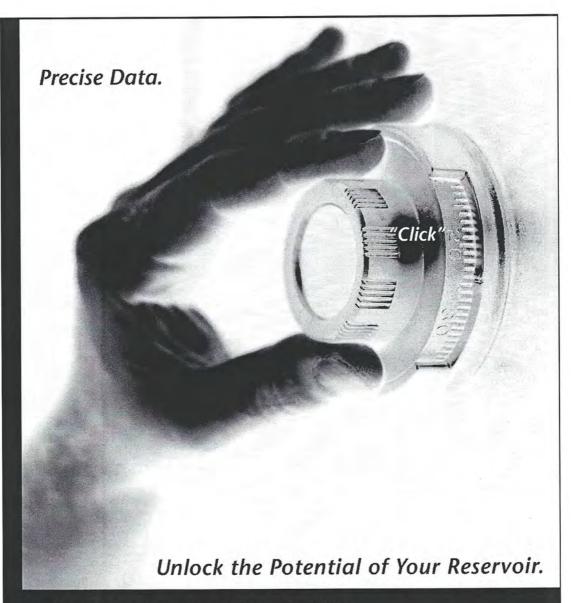
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How China Is Winning the Oil Race

As Americans pay more for gas, China gobbles up deals for new supplies of oil and other critical resources -- often from rogue regimes in Africa, South America and the Middle East.

By Jon D. Markman

Is America too ethical to have cheap gasoline?

That is the inescapable question presented to U.S. investors and policy makers as pump prices soar following a state visit by Chinese President Hu Jintao.

The United States is the world's greatest consumer of energy at present, but China is the world's fastest-growing consumer. That puts us in direct competition for any new sources of crude oil, natural gas, coal and uranium that materialize through exploration and discovery, not to mention any current sources that profit-seeking producers decide to put up for grabs.

Increasingly, new energy sources that China is acquiring are in countries that Americans find distasteful. Many of them are in Africa, in countries with horrific human-rights records such as Sudan, Chad and the Republic of the Congo. And much of the energy is controlled by rapacious despots in the Central Asian republic of Kazakhstan and in Southeast Asia's Myanmar.

Energy acquisition is a zero-sum game in which there are winners and losers. Any new energy that China obtains for its fast-growing economy is unavailable to us forever. So you just have to wonder whether the United States' antipathy for dealing with the worst of the world's rogue states has led inexorably to \$4-a-gallon gasoline this spring.

The new colonial power

Dan Zhou, chief analyst at CEB Monitor Group in Beijing, points out that China has emerged as an attractive partner in Africa and Central Asia in four ways: Its intensifying demand drives up prices for their products, which are largely raw materials such as oil, zinc and copper. It sets virtually no standards for political transparency or economic reform to get deals done. It ignores internal human-rights abuses as an impediment to deal-making. And it is a one-stop shop, offering not just investment, trade, skilled workers and military weapons, but also diplomatic protection in the form of its United Nations Security Council veto.

China's hunt for oil in Africa has made it essentially the new colonial superpower in the region, surpassing the memories of prior imperial forces like Belgium, Italy, the Netherlands, Great Britain and France. And it has achieved that status in record time. Trade between China and Africa, which totaled \$10 billion in 2000, soared to \$39.7 billion in 2005. According to research by CEB Monitor, here is a guidebook of China's assets in the region:

• Sudan. China has a \$4 billion investment in the country widely believed to have the largest untapped oil reserves in Africa. The China National Petroleum Corp. has a 40% stake in Greater Nile Petroleum, which owns oil fields, a pipeline, a large refinery and a port. Last year, China purchased more than half of Sudan's oil exports. Conversely, Sudan accounted for 6% of China's oil imports, about 200,000-plus barrels a day.

- Angola. Offshore wells have made this Africa's second-largest oil producer. Through February of this year, Angola accounted for 13% of all oil imports to China -- making it the country's main supplier. China has committed at least \$3 billion in loans to Angola for additional oil rights, and has supplied engineers and trained workers to develop fields. China is now Angola's largest aid donor as well.
- Nigeria. This is Africa's largest oil producer, and until recently has not been a major supplier to China. However, China's largest publicly held oil company, CNOOC (CEO, news, msgs), bought a 45% stake in a Nigerian oil-and-gas field for \$2.27 billion last month and has also bought 35% of an exploration license in the Niger Delta for \$60 million.
- Elsewhere in Africa. CNOOC has been active in Equatorial Guinea, Chad and Gabon; made investments of \$170 million in the mines of Zambia; and become a major weapons supplier and trading partner of Zimbabwe, run with unbounded corruption by global outcast Robert Mugabe.

A less meddlesome buyer

In Latin America, the story is much the same: China is increasingly becoming the partner of choice for repressive, paranoid or regionally ambitious regimes that want to buy guns and tanks with their oil and ore revenues.

According to The Los Angeles Times, the Bush administration held talks with the Chinese to encourage them to curb their role in training and advising forces in our southern hemisphere. This is getting to be a problem, as the region -- fabulously rich in metal, energy and agricultural resources -- is increasingly run by ideologues willing to snub traditional U.S. interests and seek less meddlesome buyers.

China is now Latin America's second-largest trading partner, surpassing Europe. From 2001 to 2006, exports from the region to China rose more than 500%. In 2004 alone, Hu signed letters of intent worth \$100 billion over the next 10 years, according to published reports. Here are the key developments by country, according to CEB Monitor:

- Brazil: The largest South American country exports iron ore, soybeans, cotton, oil and sugar to China and jointly develops satellites and aerospace equipment. China has promised \$10 billion in additional investment in the short term.
- Argentina: China has signed agreements offering \$20 billion in investment over 10 years. CNOOC is developing an offshore oil field.
- Venezuela: This is the third most important source of foreign oil to the United States, but political and social disputes have led strongman Hugo Chavez to seek alternative partners. He plans to double oil exports to China to 300,000 barrels a day, about a fifth of the 1.5 million barrels a day that are sent to the United States. The Chinese are buying stakes in several oil fields, making their output unavailable to U.S. consumers.
- Ecuador: This country is a top-three producer of oil for the West Coast of the United States. The Chinese just purchased one oil field and are in negotiations for more.

Meanwhile, in the Middle East, Hu has found in Saudi Arabia another repressive regime that wishes to ease away from a highly dependent relationship with the United States. He visited in

January, and turned around and visited again this month on his way home from Washington, with weapons sales and technology transfer high on the discussion list. China gets an eighth of its oil imports from the Saudis, and trade has increased ninefold since 2000 to \$14 billion.

As you might expect, Iran is China's fastest rising partner in the region. There have been unconfirmed reports that Hu has committed to spend \$70 billion to \$100 billion to develop a single large oil field in Iran, about a fifth of which involves a \$20 billion order to purchase liquefied natural gas over the next 25 years. Zhou says that one Chinese company is expanding Tehran subways, another is building out the city's fiber-optic networks, and others are setting up auto and electronics factories. It probably won't be long before Iran becomes China's largest source of imported oil, which will put their economic and political interests directly opposed to U.S. politicians and consumers.

Neighbors: theirs and ours

And finally we get to Central Asia republics, which formerly belonged to the Soviet Union, all nestled up against China's back door. They deliver almost 500,000 barrels of oil a day through pipelines and tankers. This has been a boon to the commissars of Kazakhstan, where gross domestic product has reached \$56 billion due to the development of its robust energy fields by U.S., European and Russian explorers. The country shares a border with the gigantic Xinjian province of China and has developed fast-expanding bilateral trade, not just in oil and gas, but also cement and small manufactured goods.

Of course, the Chinese have not left democratic countries' resources off its shopping list. A couple of years ago, it bought a big stake in the big Canadian miner Noranda, and it has dozens of supply relationships with individual Alberta and Saskatchewan oil, gas and coal producers. No rock is left unturned, so to speak; a venture capitalist in my Seattle office building has helped Chinese entrepreneurs acquire privately held coal, gold and silver mining interests throughout the western United States.

For stone-cold U.S. investors, the obvious play here is to simply tag along by taking positions in foreign and domestic companies supplying the Chinese juggernaut, whether they are base metal producer Falconbridge (FAL) in Canada; a producer of Turkish energy like Toreador Resources (TRGL) of Texas; a producer of Venezuelan oil and gas like Harvest Natural Resources (HNR); or the two big Chinese energy companies CNOOC or China Petroleum & Chemical (SNP).

For consumers, outraged indignation is about the best you can do, along with new personal choices about limiting the use of fossil fuel. China has no incentive to bend to U.S. demands to force change on its repressive foreign energy partners. And our politicians are unlikely yet to ease up on rules preventing U.S. companies from participating in the sort of bribery and weapons brokerage that has become de riguer for doing business in the equatorial zone where most new energy sources are being discovered.

So this really is just another case of joining 'em when you can't beat 'em. Shake your fist at the Chinese if you must, but also continue to buy global miners and drillers on dips in this bull market for commodities; sell your SUV; move closer to work; install solar energy panels; and make peace with nuclear energy.

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The Petroleum Technology Transfer Council Eastern Gulf Region (PTTC-EGR) in the Center for Sedimentary Basin Studies at the University of Alabama, Mississippi State Board of Registered Professional Geologists and American Association of Petroleum Geologists Professional Affairs Division invite oil and gas producing and related companies operating in the Gulf Coastal Plain to participate in a technology workshop, "Carbonate Reservoir Characterization: Case Study of Womack Hill Field, Southwest Alabama." The purpose of this workshop is to transfer recent research advances in the use of an integrated geoscience and engineering approach to improve oil recovery from mature fields producing from Upper Jurassic Smackover carbonate reservoirs in Gulf Coastal Plain. This research has been funded by the National Energy Technology Laboratory of the Office of Fossil Energy, U.S. Department of Energy.

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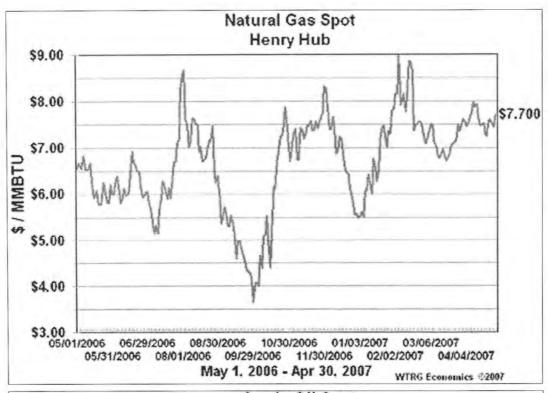
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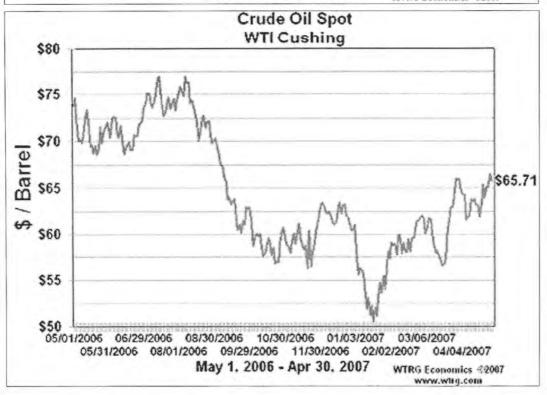
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~ PRESIDENT'S LETTER ~ Bob Schneeflock

Society Brethren,

The March meeting will be a little different than most in that there will be no speaker per se.

Instead of trying to cram the Boland Scholarship presentations and a speaker into one meeting, Dave Cate and Tony Stuart will now have time to do it right.

The Boland Scholarship presentations will be followed by the induction of our newest Honorary Member.

SPIDER

That's right! No huffing and puffing for 30 minutes on the treadmill. We've developed a new stress test that is faster and more accurate."

Awards will also be presented to members who have given MGS over 5 continuous years of exemplary service in the most work intensive positions the society has.

Make an effort to come and honor those students and members for their hard work.

til next month

In This Issue:

- Meeting Schedule
- How Low Can You Go
- 2007 Carbonate Field Trip
- Floyd Shale Potential
- 2006-2007 Paid Membership List
- Elephant
- MS Academy of Science Meeting
 - Oil & Gas Spot Market Graphs
- MGS Membership Application

MGS MEETING SCHEDULE				
When	What	Where		
September 14, 2006	Fall BBQ	Jackson Yacht Club		
October 19, 2006	David Scott & Lisa Ivshin, MS O&G Board	River Hills		
November 1, 2006	Ernie Mancini, University of AL	River Hills		
December 9, 2006	MAPL/MGS Christmas Party	Colonial Country Club		
January 11, 2007	Nick Tew, Ala Geol Survey	River Hills		
February 8, 2007	Chuck Segrest – Petrophysical Evaluation of Gas Shale Reservoirs	River Hills		
March 8, 2007	Boland Scholarship, Honorary Membership, and Awards	River Hills		
April 12, 2007	TBA	River Hills		
May 10, 2007	Spring Fling	Jackson Yacht Club		

How Low Can You Go?

Don't forget this year's contest on low resistivity production from the Eutaw and Cotton Valley Formations.

Very nice prizes will be awarded.

For more information, contact:

Jack Moody at (601) 359-9278

 \mathbf{or}

Bob Schneeflock at (601) 853-0701

OFFICERS MEETINGS

September 6, 2006

October 3, 2006

November 7, 2006

None in December

January 2, 2007

February 6, 2007

March 6, 2007

April 3, 2007

May 1, 2007

March 8th, 2007 MGS Meeting

Boland Scholarship Awards
Top Students from Millsaps, Ole Miss, State, and Southern

Induction of our newest MGS Honorary Member

Awards to members for long standing exemplary service to MGS.

2007 CARBONATE FIELD TRIP SOUTHERN BAHAMAS

In late May (17-22) 2007, Lawrence R. Baria, with the assistance of Drs. Rick Major and Ezat Heydari, will be leading another carbonate field trip to the Out Islands of the southern Bahamas. Participants will examine fringing reefs, patch reefs, oolite shoals, tidal flats, eolian dunes, beaches, supratidal, intertidal and subtidal stromatolites and many other styles of recent depositional environments and carbonate facies.

Certainly on a trip of this nature, spouses will also be invited to go along. While the participants are out swimming, wading and hiking each day, the spouses can enjoy beautiful pink sand beaches, island tours and laid back Out Island hospitality.

The anticipated cost of this six day trip including round trip airfare from Jackson to Great Exuma, Bahamas, hotel, meals, 3 days of boat rentals and land transportation will be \$2,000.00 per participant, based on double occupancy.

A detailed daily schedule of the proposed field trip can be obtained by calling Larry Baria at (601) 932-0002. Participation will be limited to twelve persons, so sign up as early as possible. A deposit of \$800.00 will be due on April 17, 2007, to guarantee air charters and rooms.

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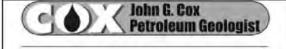
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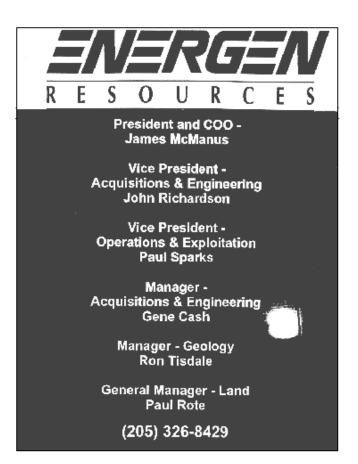
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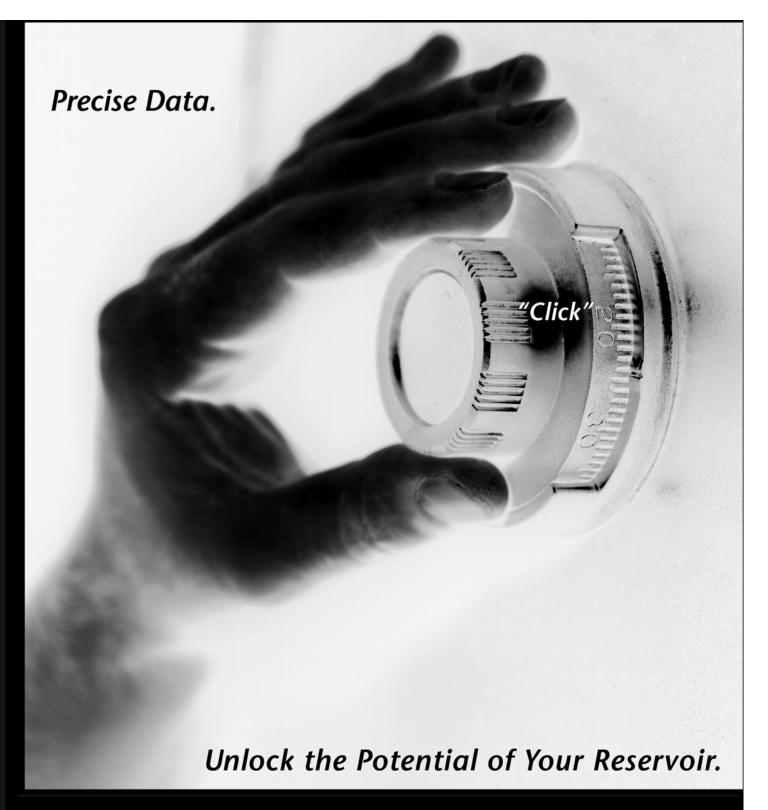
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Marvin Oxley

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Floyd Shale Potential in the Black Warrior Basin Executive Summary

(republished by permission of Wood Mackenzie/Upstream Insights)

The Mississippian Floyd and Neal shales of the Black Warrior Basin are known to be the main source rocks for the region's conventional reservoirs. Following the success of the Barnett Shale in Texas and a general heightened interest in unconventional plays, a number of operators have recently accumulated large acreage positions in this region.

The scramble to increase lease holdings in the Black Warrior's shales might suggest they could be the next big shale play in the Lower 48. However, the economic viability of emerging shale plays has yet to be proven, and many risks and uncertainties remain unsolved.

This report provides a technical and commercial review of the Floyd and Neal plays. We have identified the main players and the challenges they will likely face when trying to explore, develop, and commercialize these plays.

Black Warrior Shales

Following the success of the Barnett Shale in Texas, focus is now turning to other domestic shale plays. The commerciality of the Floyd and Neal shales has yet to be proven. A decline in CBM production from the Black Warrior Basin has left a number of operators looking for new ways to further monetise their acreage. These shales offer significant potential to existing land holders. New entrants have also been accumulating land in Alabama and Mississippi, where acreage is considered prone to shale gas (see map on next page).

The Floyd and Neal shales are found at depths of 1,400 to 2,700 meters (4,000-9,000 ft), and have a thickness of 30 to 150 meters (100-500 ft). Limestone and carbonate beds enclose the shales, thus providing them with an ideal seal and fracture barrier. The shales are also known to be source rocks for many of the conventional Black Warrior reservoirs. Operators are hoping that Black Warrior shales have similar geologic characteristics to the prolific Barnett Shale.

Current Activity

Leasing activity in the various shale plays in Alabama and Mississippi surged in 2006. Lease bonus payments rose from an average of US\$50 per acre in 2005 to as high as US\$1,000 per acre in 2006. Also, royalty rates jumped from an average of 15% to 25%, while the duration of a typical lease declined to three years.

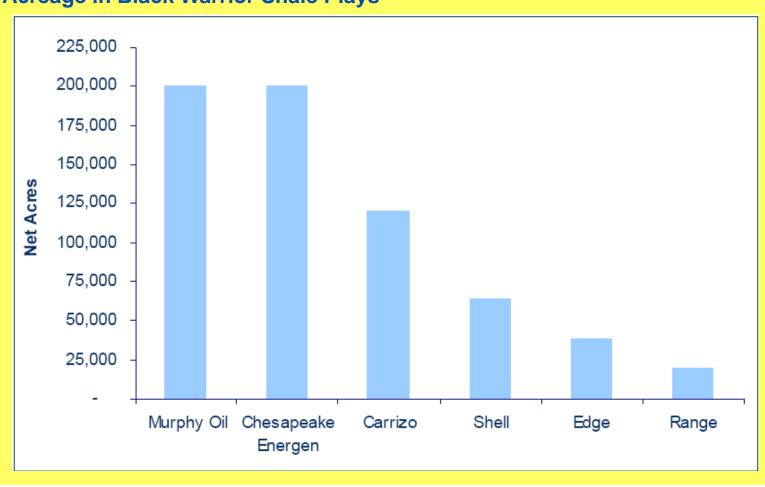
Murphy Oil has accumulated one of the largest acreage positions in the play. The company partnered with Noble to drill five exploration wells in Pickens County, Alabama, during 2006. Energen and Chesapeake have a joint lease ownership amounting to 200,000 acres. Chesapeake entered the area by purchasing 50% of Energen's 200,000 net acres in Alabama for US\$75 million, equivalent to US\$750 per acre. Chesapeake has also committed to pay US\$15.0 million of Energen's initial drilling costs. Shell holds a sizable position, but is pursuing a sale of its holdings.

Among the smaller independents, Carrizo has more than 100,000 net acres. Also, Edge Petroleum and Range Resources have accumulated 40,000 and 20,000 net acres, respectively. No wells have been drilled by these three companies, but each has announced plans to explore the shale play in 2007.

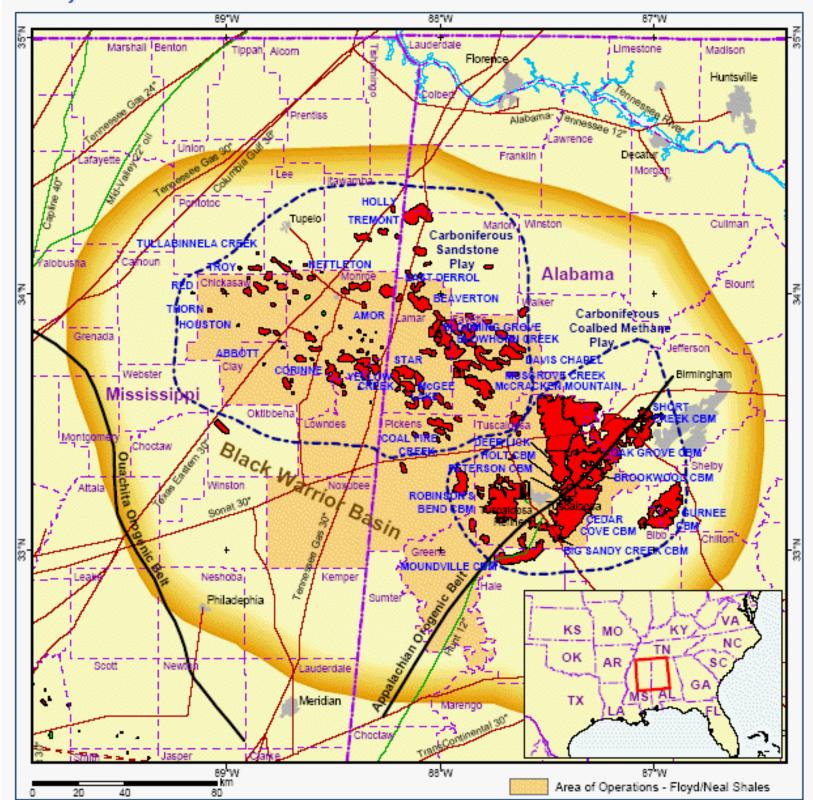
Two other companies, EOG and Denbury, have drilled wells in the shale play. However, their acreage position is unknown. Neither of the companies is reporting gas sales or giving guidance on their lease positions.

The following chart shows the net acreage position of the main operators in the Alabama and Mississippi shale plays.

Acreage in Black Warrior Shale Plays



The Floyd/Neal Shale Counties



Challenges to the Play's Development

Wood Mackenzie has identified the major risks that are affecting the development of the Black Warrior Basin's shales.

These are a lack of well control, uncertain economics, and infrastructure constraints.

Well Control

Dominion, Energen, Carrizo, Chesapeake, Murphy, Denbury, Edge, and EOG are among the small number of operators which are known to be shooting seismic and drilling shale targeted wells in the Black Warrior Basin. The limited amount of data available means that the viability of the shales cannot be confirmed.

Horizontal wells costing up to US\$3.0 million are expected to be the preferred method of development. In the Barnett Shale, advancements in drilling and completion technologies have been key to recent successes. Also, operators have formed alliances with service companies to control costs and share knowledge. By working closely together in the Barnett, companies have managed to lower drill time and optimise completion design. We predict that companies exploring Black Warrior shales will face similar challenges to early Barnett Shale operators.

Economic Risk

The Barnett Shale is the most successful shale play in North America. In a previous Insight report (Shale Shines in the Lone Star State – October 2006), we suggested that the break-even gas price for the Barnett Shale is approximately US\$5.00/mcf. The Black Warrior's shales are generally of an inferior quality to the Barnett, both in terms of their thickness and gas yield. As a result, initial well production rates and reserves will generally be lower than in the Barnett Shale.

Indicatively, a well with initial production of 1.2 mmcfd and reserves of 0.9 bcf will have break-even economics of US\$7.00/mcf. This is significantly higher than the Barnett Shale, and at the upper end of many companies' view of the long term gas price.

Infrastructure

There currently is limited infrastructure in the basin. Without the construction of gathering and transmission pipelines,

and the addition of gas processing and compression, a full-scale development programme remains unlikely. Any future

commitment to building a large-scale midstream project will involve lengthy feasibility studies and a large capital

commitment. This is unlikely to occur prior to companies becoming comfortable with the potential of the region.

Conclusion

In our opinion, the dash to secure leases in the shale gas plays of the Black Warrior Basin has peaked. Following a surge in leasing in 2005 and 2006, the resulting rise in costs is cooling activity in these plays. Up to now, companies have been acquiring leases on a largely speculative basis. The large lease bonuses were paid during a period of record commodity prices.

The Floyd and Neal shales have some favorable attributes. However, there is currently no commercial production from either of these plays, and none is imminent. We view these plays as being high-risk for investors, and their successful development will be dependent on a period of sustained high gas prices. More importantly, operators are waiting for well data which will support further investment. They are looking for confirmation that the geology is conducive to building a sustainable productive resource. Once companies become comfortable with the potential of these plays, then they may be more willing to divert capital into the development of the much needed infrastructure.

The play has many unknowns, and at this early stage in its development, operators have yet to laude its success. Considering the numerous challenges involved, these plays may remain on the margins of most company's portfolios. Investment in lower-risk, lower-cost opportunities may remain the order of the day in the Lower 48.

A truly honorable man helps a young elephant, Read on,

In 1986, Mkele Mbembe was on holiday in Kenya after graduating from Northwestern University. On a hike through the bush, he came across a young bull elephant standing with one leg raised in the air. The elephant seemed distressed, so Mbembe approached it very carefully. He got down on one knee and inspected the elephant's foot, and found a large piece of wood deeply embedded in it. As carefully and as gently as he could, Mbembe worked the wood out with his hunting knife, after which the elephant gingerly put down its foot. The elephant turned to face the man, and with a rather curious look on its face, stared at him for several tense moments. Mbembe stood frozen, thinking of nothing else but being trampled. Eventually the elephant trumpeted loudly, turned, and walked away. Mbembe never forgot that elephant or the events of that day.

Twenty years later, Mbembe was walking through the Chicago Zoo with his teenaged son.

As they approached the elephant enclosure, one of the creatures turned and walked over to near where Mbembe and his son Tapu were standing. The large bull elephant stared at Mbembe, lifted its front foot off the ground, then put it down. The elephant did that several times then trumpeted loudly, all the while staring at the man. Remembering the encounter in 1986, Mbembe couldn't help wondering if this was the same elephant. Mbembe summoned up his courage, climbed over the railing and made his way into the enclosure. He walked right up to the elephant and stared back in wonder. The elephant trumpeted again, wrapped its trunk around one of Mbembe's legs and slammed him against the railing, killing him instantly.

Probably wasn't the same elephant.....

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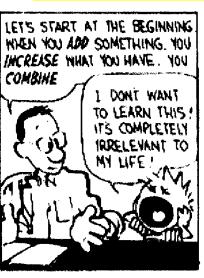
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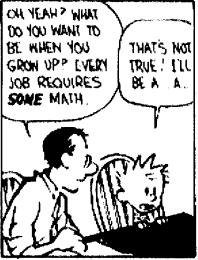
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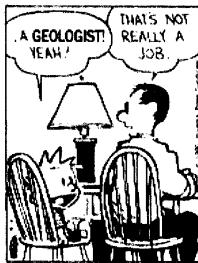
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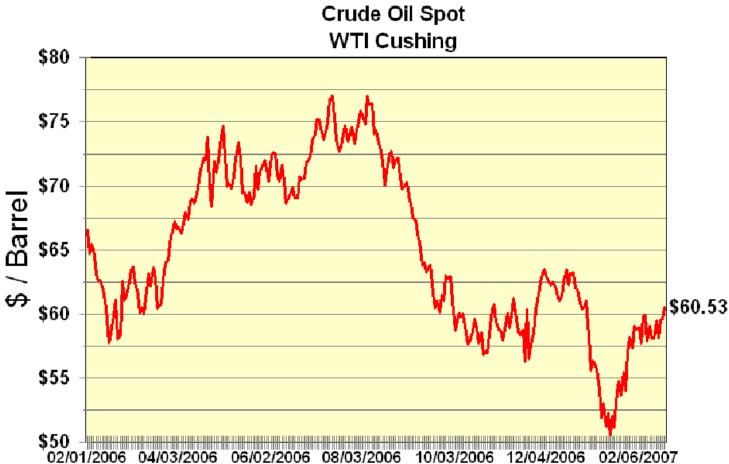




While shopping for vacation clothes, Earl & Louise passed a display of bathing suits. It had been at least ten years and twenty pounds since Louise considered buying a bathing suit, so she sought Earl's advice.

"What do you think?" she asked "Should I got a hikini or on all in one?"

"What do you think?" she asked. "Should I get a bikini or an all-in-one?" "Better get a bikini," Earl replied. "You'd never get it all in one."



03/03/2006 05/03/2006 07/05/2006 09/01/2006 11/01/2006 01/05/2007 Feb 1, 2006 - Feb 23, 2007 WTRG Economics ©2007

Natural Gas Spot



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North American Rotary Rig Counts

The U.S. rotary rig count was up 15 rigs to 1,746 for the week of February 16, 2007 and is 13.0 percent higher than last year.

The number of rotary rigs drilling for oil is up 15 at 267. The number of rigs targeting oil is 52 rigs higher than last year's level of activity. Rigs currently drilling for oil represent 15.3% percent of total drilling activity.

Rigs directed toward natural gas were unchanged at 1,473. The number of rigs currently drilling for gas is 146 greater than last year's level of 1,327.

Year-over-year oil exploration in the US is up 24.2 percent. Gas exploration is up 11.0 percent. The weekly average of crude oil spot prices is 1.75 percent lower than last year and natural gas spot prices are 13.4 percent higher. Daily crude oil and natural gas futures and spot prices are available on our site.

Canadian rig activity* was down 5 at 635 for the week of February 16, 2007 and is 82 lower than last year's rig count. Canadian drilling falls rapidly in the spring to avoid environmental damage during the spring thaw and rainy season.

*The Canadian drilling industry experiences wide seasonal swings and even year over year comparisons can lead to incorrect conclusions.

North American Rig Count

				Change		Percent Change	
	02/16/07	02/09/07	02/17/06	Weekly	Annual	Weekly	Annual
Total U.S.	1,746	1,731	1,545	15	201	0.9%	13.0%
Offshore	88	83	79	5	9	6.0%	11.4%
Land	1,658	1,648	1,466	10	192	0.6%	13.1%
Inland Waters	26	26	21	0	5	0.0%	23.8%
Oil	267	254	215	13	52	5.1%	24.2%
Percent	15.3%	14.7%	13.9%	0.6%	1.4%		
Gas	1,473	1,473	1,327	0	146	0.0%	11.0%
Percent	84.4%	85.1%	85.9%	-0.7%	-1.5%		
Directional	369	361	363	8	6	2.2%	1.7%
Horizontal	345	346	255	-1	90	-0.3%	35.3%
Gulf of Mexico	84	80	78	4	6	5.0%	7.7%
Gulf Oil	3	3	8	0	-5	0.0%	-62.5%
Percent	3.6%	3.8%	10.3%	-0.2%	-6.7%		
Gulf Gas	81	77	70	4	11	5.2%	15.7%
Percent	96.4%	96.3%	89.7%	0.2%	6.7%		
Canada	636	641	718	(5)	(82)	-0.8%	-11.4%
North America	2,382	2,372	2,263	10	119	0.4%	5.3%



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2006-2007

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September 2006 – May 2007

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Size	Rate/Year	Amt. Remitted
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1/2 Page Ad (6" x 4")	\$300	\$
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Professional Listing (1/2" x 3")	\$ 50	\$

II. Web Page Advertisements (www.missgeo.com):

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(Note: Please contact Steve Walkinshaw at (601) 607-3227 or mail@visionexploration.com for details concerning placing your ad on the MGS web site.)

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Please make checks payable to the Mississippi Geological Society. If you have any questions, contact Lindsey Stewart at (601) 961-5264 or lindsey_stewart@deq.state.ms.us.



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~ PRESIDENT'S LETTER ~

Bob Schneeflock

Society Brethren,

Congratulations to Charlie Williams, the latest member to be inducted into Honorary Membership of the Mississippi Geological Society. I should have pointed out at the presentation that Charlie, who is the longtime chairman of the Honorary Membership Committee, did not nominate

The latest telephone poll taken by the office of the Governor of Mississippi asked whether people who live in Mississippi think illegal immigration is a serious problem.

- A) 55% of respondents answered: "Yes, it is a serious problem."
- B) 45% of respondents answered: "No es una problema serio."

himself. The nomination came from a unanimous vote of the Board of Directors without his knowledge. His induction is well deserved and long overdue.

Also congratulations to the Boland Scholarship recipients who are listed on page 6 and photographed with their professors. All of this years winners are planning careers in the energy industry as geophysicists.

Other well deserved awards were given to Jo Everett, Lindsey Stewart, Steve Walkinshaw, and Karl Kaufmann for longstanding exemplary service to the society.

In This Issue:

- Meeting Schedule
- Boland Scholarship Winners
- "How Low Can You Go" Winners
- 2007 Carbonate Field Trip
- 2006-2007 Paid Membership List
- Ventriloquist
- Oil & Gas Spot Market Graphs
- MGS Membership Application
- MGS Advertising Notice

Our speaker for the April meeting will be our own very brave Ken Ruckstuhl. Ken will speak on the controversial subject of Global Warming. We've asked the club not to serve tomatoes for this meeting.

'till next month, bs

MGS MEETING SCHEDULE				
When	What	Where		
September 14, 2006	Fall BBQ	Jackson Yacht Club		
October 19, 2006	David Scott & Lisa Ivshin, MS O&G Board	River Hills		
November 1, 2006	Ernie Mancini, University of AL	River Hills		
December 9, 2006	MAPL/MGS Christmas Party	Colonial Country Club		
January 11, 2007	Nick Tew, Ala Geol Survey	River Hills		
February 8, 2007	Chuck Segrest – Petrophysical Evaluation of Gas Shale Reservoirs	River Hills		
March 8, 2007	Boland Scholarship, Honorary Membership, and Awards	River Hills		
April 12, 2007	Ken Ruckstuh – The Global Warming Controversy	River Hills		
May 10, 2007	Spring Fling	Jackson Yacht Club		

How Low Can You Go?

This year's contest on low resistivity production from the Eutaw and Cotton Valley Formations is finally over. This hotly contested and sometimes brutal battle had to be decided by a team of consultants from Ryder Scott, Netherland Sewell, Cawley Gellespie, and S. A. Holdich.

The winner of the Cotton Valley contest is Harry Spooner with the Spooner #1 Soterra in section 12, 1N-11E, Waldrup Field in Jasper County, Mississippi.

The winner of the Eutaw contest is Steve Walkinshaw with the Carter #3 Rex Alman in Section 4, 10N-3W, Gilbertown Field, Choctaw County, Alabama.

Prizes will be awarded at the Spring Fling and the examples will be posted to the website.

OFFICERS MEETINGS

September 6, 2006

October 3, 2006

November 7, 2006

None in December

January 2, 2007

February 6, 2007

March 6, 2007

April 3, 2007

May 1, 2007

The Global Warming Controversy

The hype and fear associated with the global warming issue has become a driving force behind many aspects of our daily life and work. Government officials at all levels are making decisions that affect business, environmental controls, international treaties, taxes, political campaigns, and social policies based on "global warming". The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has just released the 2007 update of its "Physical Science Basis Summary for Policy Makers"

Amid the hype, news agencies are using the issue to create headlines designed to cause alarm (and boost ratings). Yet, is the science sound? Is there consensus that human activities are causing global climate change? Is there an underlying agenda? What if the doomsayers are right? What if they are wrong?

These are all questions that we as geoscientists are likely asking ourselves. Yet, anyone who tries to figure out the answers may quickly become overwhelmed with the flood of information available on the internet or elsewhere in print. Because of all the hype and distortion, it is difficult to get down to a simple evaluation of the scientific facts.

This presentation attempts to provide a reasoned and balanced evaluation of the issue from a geologist's perspective. The presenter believes that geologists are uniquely qualified to understand and lead the debate on the global climate change issue, and it is our duty as earth science professionals to be involved in advancing the public understanding of the issue.

Ken Ruckstuhl is a graduate of LSU and is a registered professional geologist. He works in the Jackson office of Environmental Management Services, Inc. He has worked in the environmental consulting field for 25 years. He serves on the Advisory Committee to the Board

2007 CARBONATE FIELD TRIP

SOUTHERN BAHAMAS

In late May (17-22) 2007, Lawrence R. Baria, with the assistance of Drs. Rick Major and Ezat Heydari, will be leading another carbonate field trip to the Out Islands of the southern Bahamas. Participants will examine fringing reefs, patch reefs, oolite shoals, tidal flats, eolian dunes, beaches, supratidal, intertidal and subtidal stromatolites and many other styles of recent depositional environments and carbonate facies.

Certainly on a trip of this nature, spouses will also be invited to go along. While the participants are out swimming, wading and hiking each day, the spouses can enjoy beautiful pink sand beaches, island tours and laid back Out Island hospitality.

The anticipated cost of this six day trip including round trip airfare from Jackson to Great Exuma, Bahamas, hotel, meals, 3 days of boat rentals and land transportation will be \$2,000.00 per participant, based on double occupancy.

A detailed daily schedule of the proposed field trip can be obtained by calling Larry Baria at (601) 932-0002. Participation will be limited to twelve persons, so sign up as early as possible.

A deposit of \$800.00 will be due on April 17, 2007, to guarantee air charters and rooms.



06 - '07 Boland Scholarship Awards

From left to right:

Gail Russell -USM,
Greg Easson -UM,
Lance Wilson -USM,
Jon Sumrall -MS St,
Darrell Schmitz -MS St,
Daniel Rice -Millsaps,
Stan Galicki -Millsaps,
Jamie Harris -Millsaps,
Shannon Wilson - UM (not shown)

2006-2007 BOLAND SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The Mississippi Geological Society awarded its annual L. F. Boland Scholarship to four students at the March 8th meeting. This group makes a total of 108 students to be honored by the Society for outstanding achievements in the geosciences since the awards began in 1980. Each student was awarded \$1,000 plus an elaborate framed certificate denoting their achievement.

Shannon Wilson, University of Mississippi. Shannon is from Fairfax Station, Virgina and is a junior at Ole Miss with a 3.6 GPA. After graduating next year with a B.S. major in geological engineering and a minor in mathematics, she plans to seek a M.S. degree preparatory for as career in the petroleum industry. Shannon is the current captin of the varsity rifle team at Ole Miss and she has earned several honors in collegiate and Olympic matches, both in competitions at home and abroad.

Daniel Rice, Millsaps College. Daniel is from Kimberly, Alabama and is a senior majoring in geology/geophysics with a physics minor at Millsaps. He maintains a 3.73 GPA in his major coursework. Daniel has been accepted into the Master's program at the University of Kansas where he intends to concentrate on geophysical studies for a career in the petroleum industry. He is a three-year letterman on Millsap's golf team and is this year's captin.

Lance Wilson, University of Southern Mississippi. Lance is from Meridian, Mississippi and a Senior at USM with a 3.9 GPA in his major coursework. He will graduate with a B.S. degree in geology from USM and then enter graduate school for his M.S. degree. After that, he plans to seek a career in the petroleum industry, possibly as a geophysicist. Lance has a taste for the oil business already having worked a year on an offshore drilling rig.

Jon Summrall, Mississippi State University. Jon is from Biloxi, Mississippi and a senior at Mississippi State with a 4.) GPA in his major coursework. He will graduate this summer with a B.S. in geology after which he plans to enter graduate school for his M.S. degree. He is also looking toward a career in the petroleum industry, possibly as a geophysicist since that is his favorite area of study.

Honorary Membership Presentation By Dudley J. Hughes

Charles H. Williams, Jr.

I'm going to start by telling how I first met Charlie -

In the summer of 1953, I came to Jackson working as a geologist for Union Producing Company. Our office was in the old Deposit Guaranty Bank Building downtown. All of the big oil companies had offices in Mississippi with lots of employees. Union Producing had seven geologists. At that time, there were 200 geologists in the Mississippi Geological Society.

There was a pretty young girl working in the geological department of Union Producing Company by the name of Vivian Shortridge. The geologists teased her a lot...especially about her boyfriend who was majoring in geology at Millsaps College. We warned her to watch out for him - you can't trust those boys from Millsaps.

She brought him to the office one day, and we met Charlie. He turned out to be a nice guy after all. He received his BS degree in geology at Millsaps in 1955, and he and Vivian were married the same year.

They moved to Texas where he entered the graduate school at Texas University, but he was called into military service a year later in 1956. He served two years on active duty - mostly in Germany with the 11^{th} Armored Cavalry.

After being released from active duty in 1958, Charlie was hired as a geologist by Monsanto, in their Lion Oil Division and was stationed in Albuquerque, NM. His first job was surface mapping in northern Arizona in the Black Mesa Basin. This included the Navajo and Hope Indian Reservations.

His work led the company to participate in one of the earliest oil discoveries in Arizona. He was the first geologist to delineate a new productive Gallop Sand trend in the San Juan Basin of New Mexico.

In 1959, Monsanto transferred him to Midland, Texas, for a four-year period working in the Permian Basin.

While there, Charlie mapped a prospect which led his company to drill an Abo Reef oil discovery. He received a letter of thanks from the company President for his geology work which led to the discovery.

Monsanto next transferred him to Oklahoma City in 1963 where he worked in the Anadarko Basin where he had discoveries in the Red Fork Formation.

Despite his eight year success as an oil finder with Monsanto, Charlie and Vivian were home-sick for Mississippi. When he received an offer in 1966 to become a Staff Geologist with the Mississippi Geological Survey, he resigned from Monsanto and moved back to Mississippi. With the Mississippi Geological Survey, his geology included mapping mineral resources in the state along with oil. Also, Charlie became the author of several geological publications including:

- o Subsurface Structure of Claiborne County, Mississippi, and
- o Geology and Mineral Resources of George County, Mississippi.

But his most popular publication was a N-S Cross-Section of Mississippi showing the subsurface layers of the Black Warrior Basin and the Mississippi Salt Basic as how they related to oil and gas.

Charlie and Marvin Oxley privately published an executive color-coded map setting out the producing reservoirs in all the Wilcox Fields in Mississippi which was very popular.

After three years with the Mississippi Geological Survey, he resigned in 1969 to become Exploration Manager for Champex exploring for Wilcox oil in Mississippi and Louisiana.

Charlie's greatest contribution to Mississippi petroleum industry began just one year later. He left Champex to become President of Mid-Continent Oil & Gas Association, Mississippi-Alabama Division (this is now the US Oil & Gas Association).

His responsibility was mainly representing the industry's positions in the legislative sessions of Alabama, Mississippi and in Washington, D.C.

During his watch, the industry faired very well legislatively in both states and many bills sponsored by the industry were enacted. These included a workable Fieldwide Unitization Statute and a Force Pooling statute.

His biggest challenge came in 1981. Newly elected Governor William Winter announced his intention to fund his campaign promises for education solely with an increase in severance taxes on oil and gas. The 1982 legislative special session was called for the specific purpose to enact the tax increase.

Governor Winter proposed a 50% increase in oil and gas severance tax.

Charlie organized all segments of the industry including -- major oil companies, independents, oil service companies, refineries, marketers, geologists, geophysicists, engineers, land men, attorneys, accountants, land and royalty owners to oppose the legislation.

The oil industry was pitted against a very popular governor who was supported by the media. The Governor aroused the public with the slogan, "Oil against education in Mississippi." Many hearings were held – even I had to testify once.

The conflict drew nationwide attention and resulted with Charlie appearing on national television on 20-20 to defend the oil and gas producer's position.

The funding brawl plagued the legislature for two years before the severance tax issue was finally settled in favor of the oil companies with no increase. From that time in 1982 to present, severance taxes paid by the industry in Mississippi has amounted to \$1 billion, 100 million dollars. With the Governor's proposed increase, this would have taken an additional $\frac{1}{2}$ billion dollars out of the pockets of oil and gas producers resulting in less wells being drilled for the benefit of the state. Incidentally, Billy Mounger in his book - Amidst the Fray - wrote a poem named "Williams the Conqueror" which tells of this episode written as if Charlie and Governor Winter were two knights charging each other with lances. The final verse reads:

Now hear you thus that we all concur, That Sir William-of-Winter is an awful cur, However, our champion, we do prefer, Sir Charles-of-Williams the Conqueror! In December 1986, after 16 years of service, Charlie left the Mid-Continent Oil & Gas Association to join Vaughey & Vaughey as General Manager where he serves today. Vaughey & Vaughey included legendary oil men Emmett and Bill Vaughey and Blackie Blackburn in Denver, all of whom have passed on.

Vaughey & Vaughey has production in nine states and Canada, which is managed by Charlie for the families. He also established several successful partnerships to explore for oil and gas and to purchase producing properties.

Charlie remains active in petroleum organizations. He was President of the Capital City Club in 1979 and Chairman of the U.S. Oil & Gas Association for Mississippi and Alabama from 1997-1998. He serves on the Board of Directors and Executive Committee of the U.S. Oil & Gas Association in Washington, D.C. and for the Mississippi-Alabama Division.

A 40-year member of the Mississippi Geological Society, Charlie served as President from 1983-1984. He was the editor of the Mississippi Geological Survey's publication on the Wilcox Fields of Southwest Mississippi. He served as Convention Chairman for the Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies in 1975.

Charlie has been a 50-year member of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists and now has Emeritus member status. In 1967 and 1968, Charlie chaired the Geology and Engineering Section of the Mississippi Academy of Science. With the Interstate Oil & Gas Compact Commission, he was the Mississippi Representative in 1981, and he currently serves as the Mississippi Associate Representative and is a member of the Energy Resources Committee.

Charlie has served on various civic boards including the Advisory Board of the Salvation Army. He served on the Board of the 100 Club of Jackson and is a charter member and Vice President of the 100 Club of Madison-Ridgeland.

His wife, Vivian has also been busy these 51 years as the mother of four children.

I could probably go on and on, but it is my pleasure to introduce the latest Honorary Member of the Mississippi Geological Society, Charles H. Williams, Jr.

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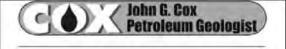
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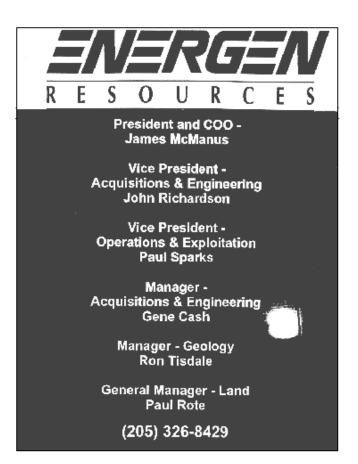
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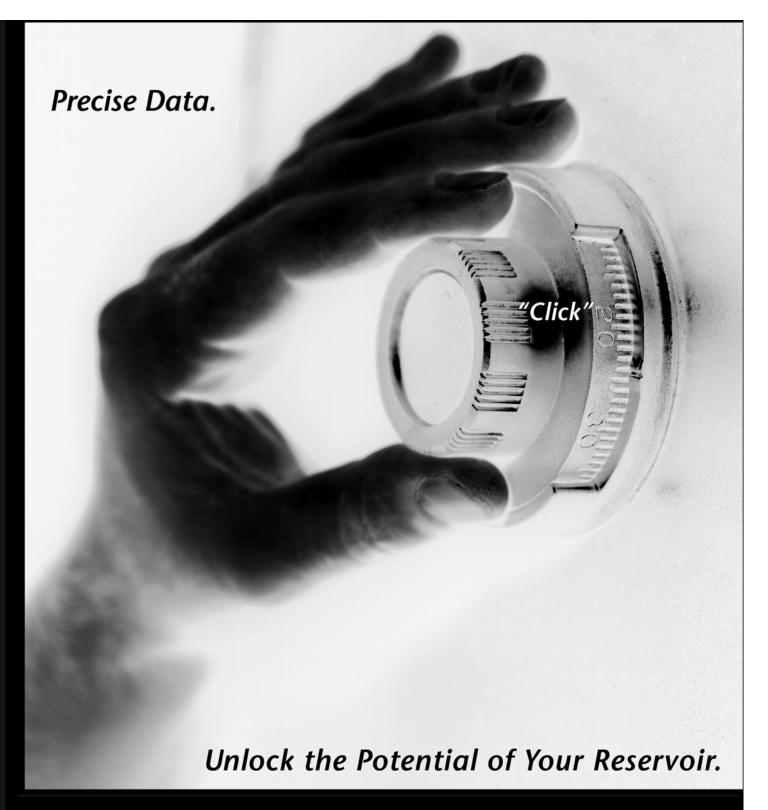
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A young ventriloquist was touring the clubs and stops to entertain at a bar in a small town. He was going through his usual run of stupid blonde jokes, when a big blonde woman in the fourth row stood up on her chair and said:

Ron Tisdale

"I've heard just about enough of your denigrating blonde jokes, Jerk! What makes you think you can stereotype women that way? What does a person's physical attributes have to do with their worth as a human being? It's guys like you who keep women like me from being respected at work and in my community, of reaching my full potential as a person ... because you and your kind continue to perpetuate discrimination against not only blondes but women at large ... all in the name of humor."

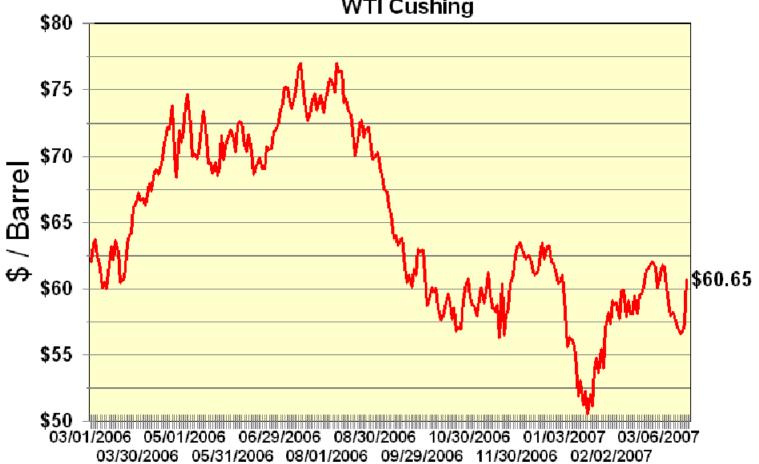
Flustered, the ventriloquist tried to apologize, when the blonde piped up, and screamed at him,

"You stay out of this, Mister. I'm talking to that little creep on your knee"!

^{**} honorary members

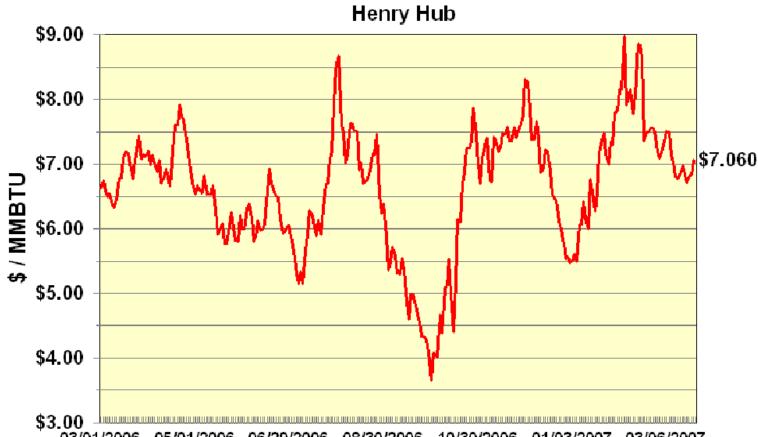
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Mar 1, 2006 - Mar 22, 2007

Natural Gas Spot



10/30/2006 03/30/2006 05/31/2006 08/01/2006 09/29/2006 11/30/2006

Mar 1, 2006 - Mar 22, 2007

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North American Rotary Rig Counts The U.S. rotary rig count was up 5 rigs to 1,745 for the week of March 23, 2007 and is 11.1 percent higher than last year. The number of rotary rigs drilling for oil is down 1 at 281. The number of rigs targeting oil is 26 rigs higher than last year's level of activity. Rigs currently drilling for oil represent 16.1% percent of total drilling activity. Rigs directed toward natural gas were up 6 at 1,459. The number of rigs currently drilling for gas is 145 greater than last year's level of 1,314. Year-over-year oil exploration in the US is up 10.2 percent. Gas exploration is up 11.0 percent. The weekly average of crude oil spot prices is 8.0 percent lower than last year and natural gas spot prices are 4.4 percent lower. Daily crude oil and natural gas futures and spot prices are available on our site. Canadian rig activity* was down 163 at 246 for the week of March 23, 2007 and is 393 lower than last year's rig count. Canadian drilling falls rapidly in the spring to avoid environmental damage during the spring thaw and rainy season.

*The Canadian drilling industry experiences wide seasonal swings and even year over year comparisons can lead to incorrect conclusions.

				Change		Percent	
						Change	
	03/23/07	03/16/07	03/24/06	Weekly	Annual	Weekly	Annual
Total U.S.	1,745	1,740	1,571	5	174	0.3%	11.1%
Offshore	74	76	87	(2)	(13)	-2.6%	-14.9%
Land	1,671	1,664	1,484	7	187	0.4%	12.6%
Inland Waters	27	26	21	1	6	3.8%	28.6%
Oil	281	282	255	(1)	26	-0.4%	10.2%
Percent	16.1%	16.2%	16.2%	-0.1%	-0.1%		
Gas	1,459	1,453	1,314	6	145	0.4%	11.0%
Percent	83.6%	83.5%	83.6%	0.1%	-0.0%		
Directional	394	384	363	10	31	2.6%	8.5%
Horizontal	341	336	250	5	91	1.5%	36.4%
Gulf of Mexico	73	74	82	-1	-9	-1.4%	-11.0%
Gulf Oil	0	0	5	0	-5	n.a.	-100.0%
Percent	0.0%	0.0%	6.1%	0.0%	-6.1%		
Gulf Gas	73	74	77	-1	-4	-1.4%	-5.2%
Percent	100.0%	100.0%	93.9%	0.0%	6.1%		
Canada	246	409	639	(163)	(393)	-39.9%	-61.5%
North America	1,991	2,149	2,210	(158)	(219)	-7.4%	-9.9%



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Bob Schneeflock

Society Brethren,

This being my last letter, I want to thank the people on the preceeding page for the service they have provided to the society this year. They pitched in and made my job a lot easier.

If you missed the
April 12 meeting and
Ken Ruckstuhl's talk on
global warming, you
missed a really good
presentation. You
could play catchup by

2007 MGS Spring Fling



linking to http://westernstandard.blogs.com/shotgun/2007/03/more_about_the_.html.
This is an 8 part doumentary that pretty much debunks the Al Gore alarmist movement.

In the latest very close runoff, here are the newly and duly elected MGS officers for next year:

President - Tony Stuart 1st VP - Lisa Ivshin 2nd VP - Joe Johnson Secretary - Matt Caton

Treasurer - Maurice Birdwell

Hope to see ya'll at the Spring Fling on May 10th.

I'm outta here! bs

In This Issue:

- Meeting Schedule
- Spring Fling
- PTTC
- How China is winning the oil race
- Boudreaux
- 2006-2007 Paid Membership List
- Oil & Gas Spot Market Graphs
- MGS Membership Application
- MGS Advertising Notice

MGS MEETING SCHEDULE				
When	What	Where		
September 14, 2006	Fall BBQ	Jackson Yacht Club		
October 19, 2006	David Scott & Lisa Ivshin, MS O&G Board	River Hills		
November 1, 2006	Ernie Mancini, University of AL	River Hills		
December 9, 2006	MAPL/MGS Christmas Party	Colonial Country Club		
January 11, 2007	Nick Tew, Ala Geol Survey	River Hills		
February 8, 2007	Chuck Segrest – Petrophysical Evaluation of Gas Shale Reservoirs	River Hills		
March 8, 2007	Boland Scholarship, Honorary Membership, and Awards	River Hills		
April 12, 2007	Ken Ruckstuh – The Global Warming Controversy	River Hills		
May 10, 2007	Spring Fling	Jackson Yacht Club		

A gushy reporter told Phil Michelson,
"You are spectacular, your name is synonymous with the game of golf.
You really know your way around the course.
What's your secret?"

Michelson replied, "The holes are numbered"

OFFICERS MEETINGS

September 6, 2006

October 3, 2006

November 7, 2006

None in December

January 2, 2007

February 6, 2007

March 6, 2007

April 3, 2007

May 1, 2007







> Jackson Yacht Club

2007 MGS Spring Fling

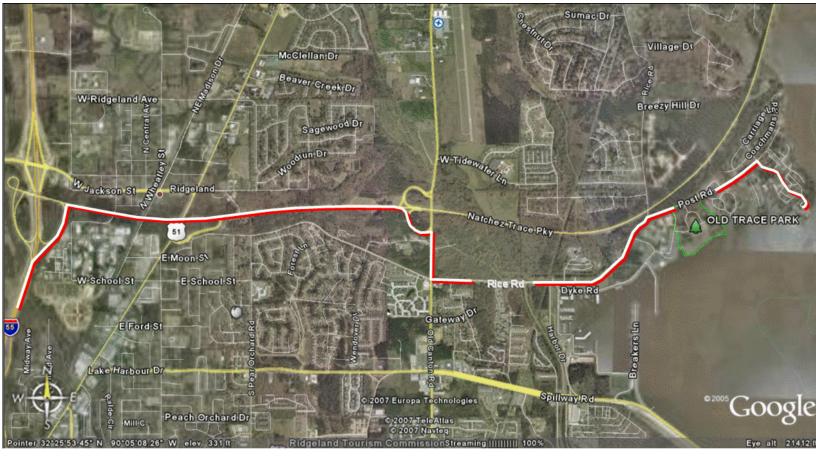
Thursday, May 10th 5:30 PM - 8:30pm

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"Carbonate Reservoir Characterization: Case Study of Womack Hill Field, Southwest Alabama"

Thursday, June 7, 2007
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University of Alabama
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487
201 7th Avenue, - Bevill Bldg. Room 101
Telephone: (205) 348-1880

The Petroleum Technology Transfer Council Eastern Gulf Region (PTTC-EGR) in the Center for Sedimentary Basin Studies at the University of Alabama, Mississippi State Board of Registered Professional Geologists and American Association of Petroleum Geologists Professional Affairs Division invite oil and gas producing and related companies operating in the Gulf Coastal Plain to participate in a technology workshop, "Carbonate Reservoir Characterization: Case Study of Womack

Hill Field, Southwest Alabama." The purpose of this workshop is to transfer recent research advances in the use of an integrated geoscience and engineering approach to improve oil recovery from mature fields producing from Upper Jurassic Smackover carbonate reservoirs in Gulf Coastal Plain. This research has been funded by the National Energy Technology Laboratory of the Office of Fossil Energy, U.S. Department of Energy.

How China Is Winning the Oil Race

As Americans pay more for gas, China gobbles up deals for new supplies of oil and other critical resources -- often from rogue regimes in Africa, South America and the Middle East.

By Jon D. Markman

Is America too ethical to have cheap gasoline?

That is the inescapable question presented to U.S. investors and policy makers as pump prices soar following a state visit by Chinese President Hu Jintao.

The United States is the world's greatest consumer of energy at present, but China is the world's fastest-growing consumer. That puts us in direct competition for any new sources of crude oil, natural gas, coal and uranium that materialize through exploration and discovery, not to mention any current sources that profit-seeking producers decide to put up for grabs.

Increasingly, new energy sources that China is acquiring are in countries that Americans find distasteful. Many of them are in Africa, in countries with horrific human-rights records such as Sudan, Chad and the Republic of the Congo. And much of the energy is controlled by rapacious despots in the Central Asian republic of Kazakhstan and in Southeast Asia's Myanmar.

Energy acquisition is a zero-sum game in which there are winners and losers. Any new energy that China obtains for its fast-growing economy is unavailable to us forever. So you just have to wonder whether the United States' antipathy for dealing with the worst of the world's rogue states has led inexorably to \$4-a-gallon gasoline this spring.

The new colonial power

Dan Zhou, chief analyst at CEB Monitor Group in Beijing, points out that China has emerged as an attractive partner in Africa and Central Asia in four ways: Its intensifying demand drives up prices for their products, which are largely raw materials such as oil, zinc and copper. It sets virtually no standards for political transparency or economic reform to get deals done. It ignores internal human-rights abuses as an impediment to deal-making. And it is a one-stop shop, offering not just investment, trade, skilled workers and military weapons, but also diplomatic protection in the form of its United Nations Security Council veto.

China's hunt for oil in Africa has made it essentially the new colonial superpower in the region, surpassing the memories of prior imperial forces like Belgium, Italy, the Netherlands, Great Britain and France. And it has achieved that status in record time. Trade between China and Africa, which totaled \$10 billion in 2000, soared to \$39.7 billion in 2005. According to research by CEB Monitor, here is a guidebook of China's assets in the region:

· Sudan. China has a \$4 billion investment in the country widely believed to have the largest untapped oil reserves in Africa. The China National Petroleum Corp. has a 40% stake in Greater Nile Petroleum, which owns oil fields, a pipeline, a large refinery and a port. Last year, China purchased more than half of Sudan's oil exports. Conversely, Sudan accounted for 6% of China's oil imports, about 200,000-plus barrels a day.

Angola. Offshore wells have made this Africa's second-largest oil producer. Through February of this year, Angola accounted for 13% of all oil imports to China -- making it the country's main supplier. China has committed at least \$3 billion in loans to Angola for additional oil rights, and has supplied engineers and trained workers to develop fields. China is now Angola's largest aid donor as well.

- · Nigeria. This is Africa's largest oil producer, and until recently has not been a major supplier to China. However, China's largest publicly held oil company, CNOOC (CEO, news, msgs), bought a 45% stake in a Nigerian oil-and-gas field for \$2.27 billion last month and has also bought 35% of an exploration license in the Niger Delta for \$60 million.
- · Elsewhere in Africa. CNOOC has been active in Equatorial Guinea, Chad and Gabon; made investments of \$170 million in the mines of Zambia; and become a major weapons supplier and trading partner of Zimbabwe, run with unbounded corruption by global outcast Robert Mugabe.

A less meddlesome buyer

In Latin America, the story is much the same: China is increasingly becoming the partner of choice for repressive, paranoid or regionally ambitious regimes that want to buy guns and tanks with their oil and ore revenues.

According to The Los Angeles Times, the Bush administration held talks with the Chinese to encourage them to curb their role in training and advising forces in our southern hemisphere. This is getting to be a problem, as the region -- fabulously rich in metal, energy and agricultural resources -- is increasingly run by ideologues willing to snub traditional U.S. interests and seek less meddlesome buyers.

China is now Latin America's second-largest trading partner, surpassing Europe. From 2001 to 2006, exports from the region to China rose more than 500%. In 2004 alone, Hu signed letters of intent worth \$100 billion over the next 10 years, according to published reports. Here are the key developments by country, according to CEB Monitor:

- · Brazil: The largest South American country exports iron ore, soybeans, cotton, oil and sugar to China and jointly develops satellites and aerospace equipment. China has promised \$10 billion in additional investment in the short term.
- · Argentina: China has signed agreements offering \$20 billion in investment over 10 years. CNOOC is developing an offshore oil field.
- · Venezuela: This is the third most important source of foreign oil to the United States, but political and social disputes have led strongman Hugo Chavez to seek alternative partners. He plans to double oil exports to China to 300,000 barrels a day, about a fifth of the 1.5 million barrels a day that are sent to the United States. The Chinese are buying stakes in several oil fields, making their output unavailable to U.S. consumers.
- Ecuador: This country is a top-three producer of oil for the West Coast of the United States. The Chinese just purchased one oil field and are in negotiations for more.

Meanwhile, in the Middle East, Hu has found in Saudi Arabia another repressive regime that wishes to ease away from a highly dependent relationship with the United States. He visited in January, and turned around and visited again this month on his way home from Washington, with weapons sales and

technology transfer high on the discussion list. China gets an eighth of its oil imports from the Saudis, and trade has increased ninefold since 2000 to \$14 billion.

As you might expect, Iran is China's fastest rising partner in the region. There have been unconfirmed reports that Hu has committed to spend \$70 billion to \$100 billion to develop a single large oil field in Iran, about a fifth of which involves a \$20 billion order to purchase liquefied natural gas over the next 25 years. Zhou says that one Chinese company is expanding Tehran subways, another is building out the city's fiber-optic networks, and others are setting up auto and electronics factories. It probably won't be long before Iran becomes China's largest source of imported oil, which will put their economic and political interests directly opposed to U.S. politicians and consumers.

Neighbors: theirs and ours

And finally we get to Central Asia republics, which formerly belonged to the Soviet Union, all nestled up against China's back door. They deliver almost 500,000 barrels of oil a day through pipelines and tankers. This has been a boon to the commissars of Kazakhstan, where gross domestic product has reached \$56 billion due to the development of its robust energy fields by U.S., European and Russian explorers. The country shares a border with the gigantic Xinjian province of China and has developed fast-expanding bilateral trade, not just in oil and gas, but also cement and small manufactured goods.

Of course, the Chinese have not left democratic countries' resources off its shopping list. A couple of years ago, it bought a big stake in the big Canadian miner Noranda, and it has dozens of supply relationships with individual Alberta and Saskatchewan oil, gas and coal producers. No rock is left unturned, so to speak; a venture capitalist in my Seattle office building has helped Chinese entrepreneurs acquire privately held coal, gold and silver mining interests throughout the western United States.

For stone-cold U.S. investors, the obvious play here is to simply tag along by taking positions in foreign and domestic companies supplying the Chinese juggernaut, whether they are base metal producer Falconbridge (FAL) in Canada; a producer of Turkish energy like Toreador Resources (TRGL) of Texas; a producer of Venezuelan oil and gas like Harvest Natural Resources (HNR); or the two big Chinese energy companies CNOOC or China Petroleum & Chemical (SNP).

For consumers, outraged indignation is about the best you can do, along with new personal choices about limiting the use of fossil fuel. China has no incentive to bend to U.S. demands to force change on its repressive foreign energy partners. And our politicians are unlikely yet to ease up on rules preventing U.S. companies from participating in the sort of bribery and weapons brokerage that has become de riguer for doing business in the equatorial zone where most new energy sources are being discovered.

So this really is just another case of joining 'em when you can't beat 'em. Shake your fist at the Chinese if you must, but also continue to buy global miners and drillers on dips in this bull market for commodities; sell your SUV; move closer to work; install solar energy panels; and make peace with nuclear energy.

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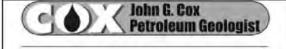
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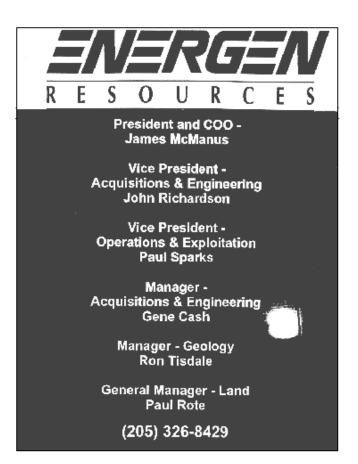
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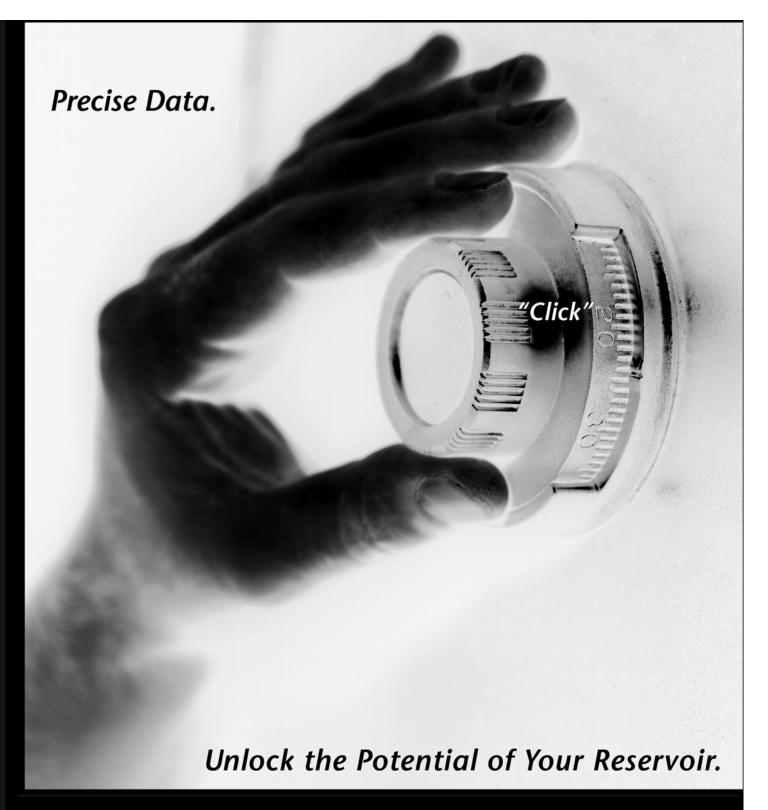
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If you would like to contribute, please contact Dave Cate at 601-718-9397 or one of the Society officers.



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Boudreaux at the revival

Boudreaux goes to the revival and listens to the preacher. After a while, the preacher asks anyone with needs to come forward and be prayed over.

Ron Tisdale

Boudreaux gets in line and when it's his turn the preacher says, "Boudreaux, what you want me to pray about?" Boudreaux says, "Preacher, I need you to pray for my hearing." So the preacher puts one finger in Boudreaux's ear and the other hand on top of his head and prays a while.

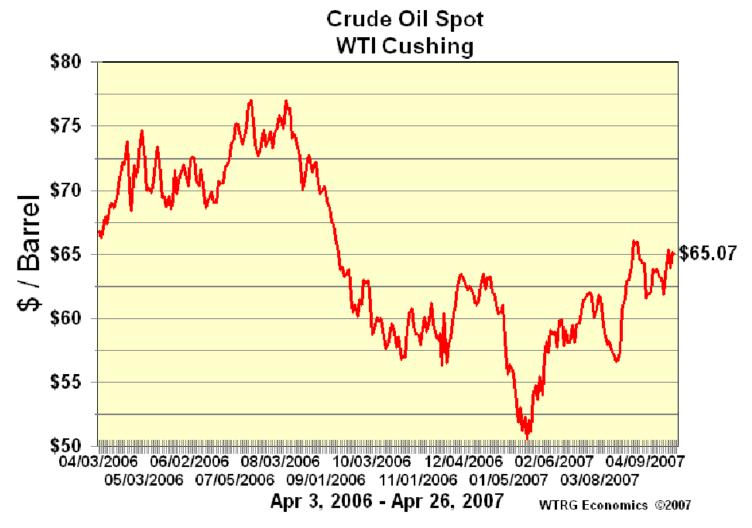
After a few minutes, he removes his hands and says, "Boudreaux, how's your hearing now?"

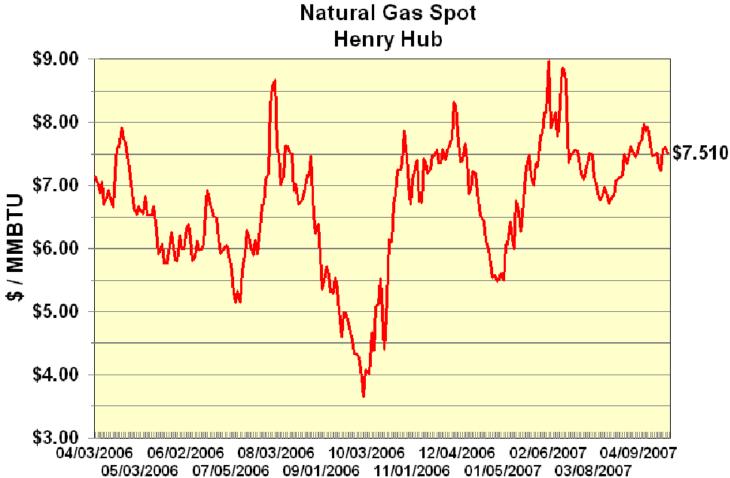
Boudreaux says, "I don't know preacher, it's not until next Wednesday in

Opelousas."

^{**} honorary members

^{*} board members





Apr 3, 2006 - Apr 26, 2007

WTRG Economics @2007

North American Rotary Rig Counts

The U.S. rotary rig count was down 22 rigs to 1,747 for the week of April 27, 2007 and is 8.6 percent higher than last year.

The number of rotary rigs drilling for oil is down 9 at 283. The number of rigs targeting oil is 29 rigs higher than last year's level of activity. Rigs currently drilling for oil represent 16.2% percent of total drilling activity.

Rigs directed toward natural gas were down 13 at 1,460. The number of rigs currently drilling for gas is 107 greater than last year's level of 1,353.

Year-over-year oil exploration in the US is up 11.4 percent. Gas exploration is up 7.9 percent. The weekly average of crude oil spot prices is 8.3% percent lower than last year and natural gas spot prices are 4.5 percent higher. Daily crude oil and natural gas futures and spot prices are available on our site.

Canadian rig activity* was down 19 at 79 for the week of April 27, 2007 and is 71 lower than last year's rig count. Canadian drilling falls rapidly in the spring to avoid environmental damage during the spring thaw and rainy season.

*The Canadian drilling industry experiences wide seasonal swings and even year over year comparisons can lead to incorrect conclusions.

				Change		Percent Change	
	04/27/07	04/20/07	04/28/06	Weekly	Annual	Weekly	Annual
Total U.S.	1,747	1,769	1,608	(22)	139	-1.2%	8.6%
Offshore	73	76	96	(3)	(23)	-3.9%	-24.0%
Land	1,674	1,693	1,512	(19)	162	-1.1%	10.7%
Inland Waters	31	31	25	0	6	0.0%	24.0%
Oil	283	292	254	(9)	29	-3.1%	11.4%
Percent	16.2%	16.5%	15.8%	-0.3%	0.4%		
Gas	1,460	1,473	1,353	(13)	107	-0.9%	7.9%
Percent	83.6%	83.3%	84.1%	0.3%	-0.6%		
Directional	382	404	397	-22	-15	-5.4%	-3.8%
Horizontal	358	361	259	-3	99	-0.8%	38.2%
Gulf of Mexico	72	75	90	-3	-18	-4.0%	-20.0%
Gulf Oil	0	0	0	0	0	n.a.	n.a.
Percent	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%		
Gulf Gas	72	75	90	-3	-18	-4.0%	-20.0%
Percent	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%		
Canada	79	98	150	(19)	(71)	-19.4%	-47.3%
North America	1,826	1,867	1,758	(41)	68	-2.2%	3.9%



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