



Changes in the coast of Louisiana have been documented over time. This aerial photo of a well at Hewes Point shows an example of coastal erosion. (Photo courtesy of LGS)

News from the Bayou State

LBOPG Launches New Online Payment Portal

On September 1, 2017, LBOPG officially launched its online payment portal, which provides applicants and licensees with a convenient option to pay fees online. The online option allows payment for license applications, Geoscientist-In-Training (GIT) certifications, license renewals, and a variety of other services. A convenience fee of \$5 will be added to each transaction to defray the administrative cost of offering this option. Currently, the portal will accept all major credit cards, including American Express, Discover, MasterCard, and VISA.

Those licensees who renew online do not need to return the acknowledgment letter that verifies their compliance with the LBOPG continuing education requirements because the portal includes a digital component that records those acknowledgments during the checkout process.

Reminders and Updates

- **ASBOG exam deadlines:** Applicants who plan to take one or both of the ASBOG exams in March 2018 must have completed their applications and submitted them for review by the board no later than December 31, 2017. Approved candidates will be notified by the board in early January and will receive an examination request form that must be sent directly to ASBOG with payment for the requested exam(s) by January 30, 2018.
- **License renewals:** Acknowledgment letters are sent to licensees approximately six weeks prior to the license expiration date. If you do not receive a letter, please contact us at 225-505-3766 or apply@lbopg.org. While we would prefer to receive your renewal *before* the license expires, we understand that extenuating circumstances do arise. The license renewal expiration, therefore, has a 60-day grace period built into the official rules.
- **Changes in LBOPG meeting schedule:** In late 2016, the board voted to change its meeting dates so that meetings are held every other month. In 2017, regular board meetings have been and will be held in even-number months: February, April, June, August, October, and December. In 2018, to avoid the necessity of holding special meetings in January and July to approve ASBOG applications, the board will instead meet in odd-number months: January, March, May, July, September, and November. All regular meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month unless otherwise noted on our website (LBOPG.org). We welcome anyone who is interested in licensing issues to attend these meetings.
- **Application reviews:** All applications are reviewed by a committee of board members, which then makes its recommendations to the full board at regular meetings. Because the board is now on a reduced schedule of meetings, license approvals are made only every two months. If you know someone who is applying – whether for full license or for GIT certification – please encourage that person to get all application materials to the board prior to the regular meeting date.



Remembrance of Art Johnson, LBOPG Board Member and Treasurer



Sadly, LBOPG board member Arthur Johnson passed away on August 9, 2017. As with everything else he undertook, Art played an active role on the board, serving first as both secretary and treasurer, and when that office was split into two offices, continued as treasurer until his death. He also set the standard for application review, always providing an even-handed, compassionate, and fair reading of every application he was given. To know Art was to love and admire him – he had that effect on everyone. Chris McLindon, president of the New Orleans Geological Society (NOGS), wrote the following eloquent remembrance of Art for the September 2017 issue of the *NOGS Log* and has graciously agreed to allow us to

reprint it here:

“The NOGS family is deeply saddened by the loss of one our outstanding members. Art Johnson passed away on the morning of August 9. His passing leaves a hole in our organization, and in the broader community of professional geologists, that will not be easy to fill. He left us, however, with a working model of how to go about trying to fill that hole. Art took on life with what seemed to be boundless enthusiasm. He had an amazing sense of generosity that spanned not only his time and energy, but also an intellectual generosity. He was willing to freely share his own ideas and knowledge; he was also willing to understand and consider the ideas of others. Art also appreciated the importance of maintaining the highest levels of academic rigor and ethical standards in a discipline that is often characterized as being a ‘soft science.’

“Art was an active member of NOGS since 1977, the year he joined Gulf Oil Company. He received the NOGS 2004-2005 Distinguished Service Award in recognition of his contributions as the Co-Chairman of the Continuing Education Committee (2002-2005) and the Chairman of the Membership Committee (2003-2005). He also served as the President of the Society for the 2007-2008 term and then as Chairman of the NOGS Memorial Foundation. He was an active member on the GCAGS Imperial Barrel Award Committee, which in 2009 successfully raised a surplus of industry funding to support graduate student teams from five Gulf Coast universities. Art served as the Publicity Chairman for the 55th Annual GCAGS Convention that was scheduled in New Orleans but was disrupted by Hurricane Katrina. He then served as the General Chairman of the 2013 GCAGS Convention. Art was also a member of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG), the Society of Independent Professional Earth Scientists (SIPES), the Society of Exploration Geophysicists (SEG), the Society of Economic Paleontologists and

Mineralogists (SEPM), the American Geophysical Union (AGU), the Geological Society of America (GSA), the Houston Geological Society (HGS), and the Southeastern Geophysical Society (SGS). He was also a founding and continuing member on the Louisiana Board of Professional Geoscientists.

“Art continued his career with Chevron after the merger with Gulf Oil. He became Division Geologist for the Gulf of Mexico and then New Trends Team Leader, which led him to study natural gas hydrates as a potential new source of energy. This in turn led to new career in the field of gas hydrates. Art served as an advisor on energy issues to the U.S. Congress and White House beginning in 1997. He was also an adjunct research professor at Tulane University and played an ongoing role in coordinating the research efforts of industry, universities and government agencies. Upon his retirement from Chevron in 2001, Art formed Hydrate Energy International, LLC (HEI), where he was President and Chief of Exploration. He was a member of the Department of Energy Methane Hydrate Advisory Committee for which he served as Chairman from 2001 to 2006. Art served as the Gas Hydrate Lead Analyst for the "Global Energy Assessment", an international project undertaken by the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) of Vienna, Austria, and supported by the World Bank, UN organizations, and national governments. He was Chair of the Gas Hydrate Committee of the Energy Minerals Division of the AAPG, was Co-convenor for the 2004 AAPG Hedberg Research Conference on Gas Hydrates, and Member of the JOIDES, Program Planning Group, 1998-1999.

“Art has written over 100 papers and articles, as well as several books including *Exploration and Production of Oceanic Natural Gas Hydrate*, *Economic Geology of Natural Gas Hydrate*, *Alternative Energy and Fuels Technology*, and AAPG Memoir 89: *Natural Gas Hydrates*. He made numerous technical presentations to local professional societies including NOGS, SIPES, SGS, the American Petroleum Institute (API), the American Association of Drilling Engineers (AADE), and the Gulf of Mexico Deepwater Symposium, where he also worked tirelessly as a technical program coordinator. Art also took his presentation skills to the local school system and the Vacation Bible School at his own Munholland United Methodist Church. He was known to use the USGS “Tapestry of Time and Terrain” Map as a teaching tool for K-12 students.

“On a personal note, I was struck by my last conversation with Art Johnson at the August 7 NOGS Luncheon just two days before his death. At the end of the luncheon Art was talking to UNO grad student Jarrett Levesh and me about the upcoming technical session at the Deepwater Symposium. He was convincing Jarrett to attend the NOGS Geoscience Seminar. Art’s energy and enthusiasm reminded me exactly of a presentation I had seen him make at Gulf Oil in 1982. With all of five years of experience, Art was selling the Vice President of Exploration on an offshore lease sale prospect, telling him “this is the best

prospect I have seen in my career.” I think it was that enthusiasm that carried Art throughout his career and made him beloved to so many people. We would all do well to follow Art’s lead.”

