

particulate remained sufficiently suspended to be carried to the Gulf of Mexico, much of it settled out in low gradient lowlands and floodplain areas where water moved slowly. These sediment accretion areas, called drainageway flats, salt flats, and salt scars also contain layers of dense and entrained petroleum hydrocarbons.

In 1958 producers were given five years to cease discharging oilfield saltwater into surface waters. Natural revegetation assisted by ample rainfall and adequate drainage became increasingly evident in the uplands after this time. Although some progress is evident, natural revegetation of the drainageways and lowland areas has been much slower to develop. Fortunately, there has been sufficient interest by public agencies, oil companies, private landowners, and the community to fund vegetative restoration efforts in these lowland areas using economically useful salt loving plants. Wildlife aficionados are especially excited about the increasing number of deer foraging on the halophyte forages.

### **GILBERT D. HARRIS (1864-1952); CORNELL PROFESSOR, LOUISIANA STATE GEOLOGIST, AND LONG DISTANT OIL CONSULTANT**

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Gilbert Dennison Harris, a native of Jamestown, New York, was State Geologist for Louisiana from 1899 until 1909, while on the faculty at Cornell University. He spent each winter in Louisiana and fall and summer teaching at Cornell; an arrangement which provided students from Cornell and Louisiana State University the opportunity to gain work experience. The oil industry in this part of the world was just starting when Harris began his work with the Louisiana survey, and what he and his survey teams did, not the least of which was the recognition of dome structures in the state, provided a geological foundation for later discoveries.

Harris found that he was constantly receiving requests for assistance with various drilling projects and considered becoming a private consultant. When the Survey lost its funding in 1909, Harris was free to pursue his role as a private consultant while still maintaining his faculty position at Cornell. During his time in New York, of course, the drilling would continue in Louisiana and Harris would do his consulting by telegram and letter. He would receive letters directly from a well, along with actual well cuttings and their depths, asking what to do next. After examining the cuttings, Harris would telegraph or mail his instructions back to the driller. One wonders how much “down time” there was on the rig while the crew waited for the mail to be delivered. But this method was successful and he remained a consultant for many years.