

To attend this meeting you can register online at www.sipes-houston.org, call (713 651-1639), fax (713 951-9659), e-mail (bkspee@aol.com), or mail your reservation to Mrs. B.K. Buongiorno (1001 McKinney, Suite 801, Houston, TX 77002) by Tuesday July 17, 2007. Payment is required by regular mail or pay at the door with check or cash. Members and Affiliates who register by that date pay \$30. The cost is \$35 for guests and new registrations at the door. No-shows will be billed.

by Ray Thomasson

Global Climate Change—A Geologic Perspective What Does The Data Tell Us?

There has been an exponential increase in research into global climate change and in particular “global warming” since the early 1980s. Two basic types of research are being conducted. One is being conducted by physicists, astrophysicists, thermodynamicists, geologists, chemists, climatologists and allied scientists in an attempt to understand fundamental scientific principles and is based on global climate history recorded in the geologic record. The second, and by far the most abundantly funded research, is being conducted by a significant body of scientists assisted by computer modelers using global circulation models. These models are based on data and assumptions of how temperature relates to various past, present and future parameters. The latter research is focused on CO₂ as a climate driver. This talk is designed to discuss the first data based body of research in some detail and the second model based body of research in summary.

We will discuss the makeup of the atmosphere, the global climate system and how the carbon cycle works. The history of the earth’s atmosphere and temperature through geologic time is an important context in which to describe the most recent CO₂–temperature relationship. Significant conclusions are possible with the use of isotopic data derived from extensive ice cores and the results from deep-sea cores acquired in the recent past.

Fundamental data on thermodynamics suggests limits to the effect CO₂ can have on temperature. Much research has now been done on solar irradiance, earth-sun variations, sunspots and solar flares relative to temperature variations. Variations in cosmic ray intensity can be shown to be directly related to historical temperature changes. In addition, “greenhouse gases” play an important role in temperature control. A review of all these data helps explain the causes for both temperature and CO₂ rises in

both the past and present. We will also discuss some related climate elements such as hurricanes, etc.

Out of the facts it is possible to state more clearly what is known from science and what is speculation. ■

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Biographical Sketch

DR. THOMASSON received a BS and an MS from Missouri University and a PhD in geology from the University of Wisconsin. Ray Thomasson previously was with Shell Oil Company for seventeen years where he worked as both a geologist and a geophysicist. Positions during that time included senior geologist, staff geophysicist, Manager of Geologic Research for Shell Development Company, Manager of the Texas, Louisiana and Atlantic Offshore Division, Manager (for Shell Oil USA) of

Forecasting, Planning and Economics, and Head, Strategic Planning for Shell International Petroleum Corporation, London, England. His last position with Shell was as Chief Geologist for Shell Oil USA where he was responsible for the technical quality of Shell’s geological exploration.



Other positions included Vice President of Exploration for McCormick Oil and Gas, Inc., President of Spectrum Oil and Gas, Inc., President of Pend Oreille Oil and Gas, Inc. and President of his current company, which he founded in 1991, Thomasson Partner Associates, Inc. TPA has activity and projects in seventeen states from New York to Alabama to Nevada to Idaho. Its raison d’être is to create and promote to industry large potential exploration projects.

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Ray Thomasson is on the Board of Trustees and is a past Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the American Geological Institute Foundation, gives lectures yearly at various universities in the United States and was a 1987–1988 distinguished lecturer on stratigraphic geophysics in carbonates for the American Association of Petroleum Geologists. In 1995 he received the distinguished service award from AAPG and in 2003 received

Honorary Membership in AAPG. He has received the Distinguished Alumnae Award from the University of Missouri and the Distinguished Alumnae Award from the Geology and Geophysics Department of the University of Wisconsin. He is past president of both AAPG and the American Geological Institute.

HGS Directory of Oil Company Name Changes New Edition

The updated 18th Edition (April 2007) of the *HGS Directory of Oil Company Name Changes* is now available.

This publication is a cross-referenced list of oil and gas exploration and production companies that have merged, been acquired, bought or sold major assets, or otherwise changed their names. The purpose of this publication is to assist geoscientists in their pursuit of logs, paleo, production histories, well files and other data whose location may be obscured by company name changes.

The *HGS Directory Of Oil Company Name Changes* is available for \$13.50 plus shipping and handling and 8.25% Texas sales tax if shipped to a Texas address. Prepayment is required, preferably by credit card.

The *Directory of Oil Company Name Changes* can be obtained from the Bureau of Economic Geology in Austin. The Bureau's Web site is located at www.beg.utexas.edu, the email address is pubsales@beg.utexas.edu, or you can contact them by phone at 1-888-839-4365 (USA only) or 512-471-7144. Orders may be faxed to the Bureau at 1-888-839-6277 or 512-471-0140. ■

Remembrance

Laura Nymberg Ullrich

LAURA NYMBERG ULLRICH passed away April 11, 2007 in Houston, TX, after a long battle against cancer. Laura was born on October 31, 1954 in Detroit, MI, to Raymond and Mary Nymberg. After graduating first in her class from La Salle High School in South Bend Indiana in 1973, she attended the University of Notre Dame, where she was a part of the first freshmen class that admitted women. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in geology in 1977. She continued her education to receive a Master's degree in geophysics from the University of Michigan in 1979. It was at Notre Dame that she met and married her husband Mark. Mark and Laura moved to Texas for her job in the oil industry where they remained except for a 4-year assignment overseas in London. After returning from England, they moved to The Woodlands, where she became active in the church choir at St. Anthony of Padua and with The Woodlands Symphony Chorus. She also enjoyed facilitating scientific research as a Judge at the local Science Fair and chaperoning several of her children's high school trips. She is survived by her father, Raymond Nymberg Jr.; her four sisters, Marie Broyles, Vicki Richey, Patricia Sisk and Paula Hughel; her brother Raymond Nymberg II, her husband of 30 years Mark, and her two sons, Paul and Jeffrey. Visitation was held on Tuesday, April 17, 2007, at the Forest Park Funeral Home in The Woodlands, Texas. The funeral mass was held at on Wednesday, April 18, at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, The Woodlands, Texas. ■