



PLANO

Professional Landmen's Association of New Orleans

FEBRUARY, 2003

www.planoweb.org

PLANO BULLETIN #013

PLANO EVENTS

- Feb. 10 PLANO Luncheon - Royal Sonesta Hotel
- Feb. 27 PLANO Seminar (1/2 day) - N.O. Hilton Riverside
- Feb. 27 **PLANO Executive Night** -
N.O. Hilton Riverside
- Feb. 27 PLANO Sponsor Party - Royal Sonesta Hotel
- Mar. 10 PLANO Luncheon - Hotel Monteleone
Riverview Room
- Mar. 19 PLANO Lease Sale Breakfast -
Hyatt Regency Hotel
- Mar. 27 Joint Crawfish Boil - PLANO/API/SIPES -
Jaeger's Seafood
- Apr. 15 PLANO Luncheon - City Park Botanical Garden
- Apr. 25 PLANO Baseball Seminar, Zephyrs' Field
- Apr. 25 PLANO Night at Zephyrs' Field

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- Mar. 4 **MARDI GRAS DAY - Holiday**
- Mar. 8 HAPL Spring Saturday Seminar, CMI
- Mar. 13 HAPL Annual South Texas Social,
Firehouse Saloon
- Mar. 19 OCS Lease Sale, Central GOM,
Hyatt Regency Hotel, New Orleans, LA
- May 22 NOGS So. Louisiana Petroleum Exploration
Symposium

FEBRUARY LUNCHEON SPEAKER

JIM HENDERSON

WWL-TV Sports Director

From day to day sports coverage to deep-sea fishing, WWL-TV's Jim Henderson always keeps his eye on the game. Starting with his Little League days in his native Rochester, New York, Jim quickly learned that sports was his calling. After receiving his Bachelors Degree in English from the State University of New York at Cortland, Jim went on to get his Masters in Radio and Television from Syracuse University.

Jim began his sports reporting career with the Sports Director position at a Panama City station, then leapt to a major market as a Sports Report in Atlanta, GA. Jim joined Channel 4 in 1978, when he was offered the opportunity to follow in the footsteps of WWL-TV's sports-casting legend, Hap Glaudi.

Jim's work as a reporter for CBS Newspath takes him on a yearly basis to the Super Bowl, The Masters, and the Major League All-Star Baseball game.

When not covering sports, Jim enjoys fishing and tennis. He lives in Covington with his wife and two children.

At the PLANO Luncheon on Monday, February 10th, 11:30 a.m., Royal Sonesta Hotel, Bienville Suite, Jim will be speaking to us on the "State of Sports in New Orleans."



MESSAGE FROM THE PLANO PRESIDENT 2002-2003



LAISSEZ LE BON TEMPS ROULÉ . . .

The month of February will be an exciting month for all PLANO members. PLANO will host its premier event, Executive Night, on Thursday, February 27, 2003, at the New Orleans Riverside Hilton Hotel. This year's event promises to be one of the best ever. Frank Barber, our Vice President, has arranged to have J. Steven Griles, the Deputy Secretary for the U.S. Department of the Interior, as the guest speaker for this event.

A PLANO seminar is being held in conjunction with Executive Night. Jan van Loon, PLANO's Education Chairman, has organized a very informative and interesting seminar. If you have not yet purchased your Executive Night ticket or signed up for the seminar, please do so soon by contacting Margo Cameron at 504/593-7560 (she is handling the sale of Executive Night tickets) and Jan van Loon at 504/566-0600 (Jan is handling the seminar bookings).

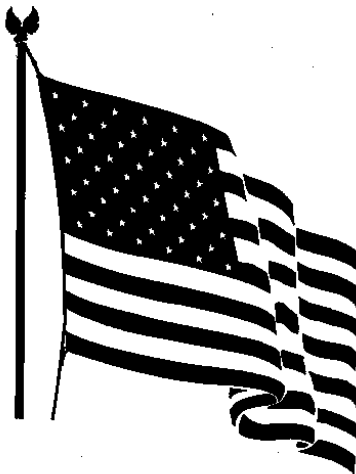
The February 10, 2003 membership luncheon meeting at the Royal Sonesta Hotel will feature local sportscaster and the voice of the New Orleans Saints, Jim Henderson. I am told Mr. Henderson delivers a great talk on the local sports scene. Even if you are not too interested in sports, you will be entertained. Please make your reservation now by calling Margo Cameron.

PLANO's 2003 Sponsorship Program is in full swing. If you, or your company, have not signed up to be a gold (\$1,500), Silver (\$1,000), or Bronze (\$500) sponsor, please decide quickly so that your, or your company's, name may be proudly displayed on the PLANO Sponsorship Banner at Executive Night. Once again, call Margo Cameron for information on the sponsorship program.

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, PLANO is also soliciting funds for the PLANO Scholarship Program. If you or your company is interested in participating, please contact me at 985/674-4443.

See you at the February 10th Membership Luncheon Meeting and Executive Night on February 27th.

David Briggs, PLANO President



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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Photographer for photo taking at PLANO events on an as-needed basis. Call Margo Cameron, PLANO Administrator, at (504) 593-7560, or e-mail to margo_cameron@dom.com.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

*Submitted by the
PLANO Newsletter Editor*

The art of being wise is the art
of knowing what to overlook.

ADVERTISERS NEEDED

PLANO is seeking advertisers for its monthly newsletter. Anyone interested in displaying an advertisement in the newsletter is asked to contact Margo Cameron at 504-593-7560 for further information.

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2003 PLANO SPONSOR PROGRAM

The PLANO 2003 Sponsor Program is currently under way. For those interested in becoming a PLANO Sponsor, you are urged to contact Harold J. Anderson at (504) 276-5858, or Margo Cameron at (504) 593-7560.

2003 PLANO DUES PAYMENTS

PLANO members are asked to take steps immediately to ensure that payment of their 2003 Dues are remitted to PLANO by the end of this month. Checks should be made payable to PLANO, and sent to P.O. Box 51123, New Orleans, Louisiana 70151-1123. Thank you.

HISTORY OF PLANO — Part 7

Submitted by Janet H. Aschaffenburg

Monthly socials during happy hour were begun in January, 1990, on a cash basis, in order that PLANO members might meet more often on an informal basis.

Executive Night, which had been tentatively scheduled for late October, was postponed until 1990 due to the inability to secure a “political” speaker. Henson Moore, the Deputy Secretary of the Department of Energy, was the speaker for Executive Night held on May 17, 1990, at the Fairmont Hotel.

The PLANO “\$1,000 Endowment Fund” was created in 1990 to benefit PLANO’s Community Relations Program. Under the program, donations up to \$1,000 were solicited from industry and matched dollar for dollar by PLANO. An initial contribution in the amount of \$250 was made by Amoco Production Company. Funds were to be used in support of charitable projects such as PLANO’s work with underprivileged children and battered women.

PLANO’s PEBLE program continued to be active, with approximately one presentation per month being made to area schools by PLANO members.

In January, 1990, PLANO sponsored its first 4-day seminar in Beaver Creek, Colorado. The seminar, dubbed “Rocky Mountain High,” attracted 90 members and 40 guests and earned over \$6,000 in revenue.

The PLANO By-Laws were amended in 1990 to grant voting rights to Associate Members and to permit their election to the Board of Directors. However, the office of President continued to be reserved for Active Members.

At the annual AAPL meeting held in San Antonio in June, 1990, the

PLANO auxiliary was recognized as the “Outstanding Ladies Auxiliary.”

The AAPL changed its name in 1990 from the American Association of Petroleum Landmen to the American Association of Professional Landmen, in order to correctly reflect the fact that hard rock landmen are also represented by AAPL. The idea that PLANO might also implement such a name change was broached and later implemented. Effective April 16, 2002, the Petroleum Landmen’s Association of New Orleans changed its name to the Professional Landmen’s Association of New Orleans.

NOTICE: The PLANO History Project is seeking PLANO records for the period of time from 1991 to present. The files provided for the project contain no records after 1990. Therefore, until additional records are located, the project cannot be completed. Please contact Ed DeWailly (Tel: 582-2378) or Janet Aschaffenburg (Tel: 585-7800) if you have any records that may assist in this effort. We thank you for your contribution.

About the Author

Janet H. Aschaffenburg (“Jan”) is a staff attorney with the Law firm of Schully, Roberts, Slattery, Jaubert & Marino. Jan’s primary areas of practice are mineral title examination and oil and gas transactional work. Jan received her Bachelor of Science degree from LSU and her Juris Doctor degree from Tulane University School of Law in 1990. She has been with Schully, Roberts, Slattery, Jaubert & Marino since 1992. Jan is a member of the Louisiana State Bar Association and PLANO.



**CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION
YOU SHOULD KNOW THIS**

Jan van Loon received the following e-mail from the Louisiana State Bar Association concerning Louisiana's Conversion to 60 Minute Credit Basis for MCLE:

"The Louisiana Supreme Court has approved a move to convert our credit hours from a 50 minute to a 60 minute basis. Effective January 1, 2003, we now require a total of 12.5 hours, including 1 hour of ethics and 1 hour of professionalism, to be earned annually by December 31. The total number of minutes required has not changed; it still remains 750. But the requirement for each of the ethics and professionalism segments is now a total minimum of 60 minutes in order to qualify as a full hour of credit.

Courses already held this year and those scheduled to be held before March 1 will have their ethics and professionalism credits grandfathered in to reflect a full 60 minutes of credit. Any courses scheduled beginning March 1, 2003, must have these credits adjusted to contain a full 60 minutes of instruction time or they will not be recognized for ethics or professionalism credit.

The Louisiana State Bar Association is also currently undergoing a conversion to a new computer system. The implementation date is set for the beginning of May. We will continue to record credits based on a 50 minute basis until that time, and then will acknowledge all new courses on a 60 minute basis once the new programming comes online. Any programs currently planned and approved on a 50 minute basis should continue as they are, with the exception of the ethics and professionalism hours, which should be adjusted. We will convert the already existing program credits in May to reflect the 60 minute basis for credit.

Application forms and course attendance cards have not yet been changed. There are additional recommendations before the Supreme Court which are still under review. When a decision has been made on these issues, we will notify everyone and supply the pertinent forms at that time.

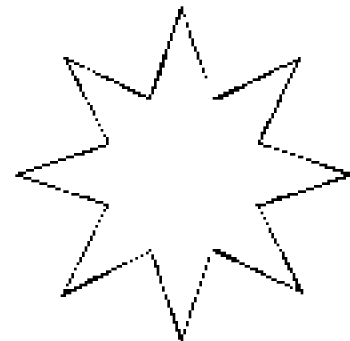
Members will be notified of the change, and their individual attendance transcripts will also be

adjusted online once the conversion is complete. Should you have any questions in this regard, please feel free to contact this office."

From: Kitty Hymel
MCLE Administrator
Louisiana State Bar Association
601 St. Charles Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70130
Tel: 1-800-421-5722, Ext. 140
1-504-619-0140
Fax: 1-504-528-9154

**PLANO SEMINAR
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2003**

Due to the overwhelming demand for reservations, this seminar which was to have been held in the Belle Chasse Room at the New Orleans Hilton Riverside Hotel, will now be held in the Port and Starboard rooms on the riverside of the hotel. Please endorse your calendars accordingly.



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OCS UPDATE
ENDANGERED SPECIAL ACT AND MARINE
MAMMAL PROTECTION ACT
ANOTHER PART OF THE STORY . . .

presented by J. Keith Couvillion
ChevronTexaco

In last month's newsletter, an attempt was made to explain the rationale behind the Minerals Management Service's (MMS) new "Protected Species" stipulations found in the most recent final and proposed offshore Gulf of Mexico Lease Sales notices. These new stipulations were created as a result of the enforceable provisions found in the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). The purpose of this article is to provide some additional information regarding both laws as they affect the oil and gas industry's operations in the Gulf of Mexico and to highlight some new interesting information derived from the recent MMS Information Transfer Meeting (ITM) held in Kenner, Louisiana.

MMPA is designed to protect all marine mammals by seeking to maintain species at their optimum sustainable populations. MMPA imposes a complete moratorium on all "takes" of marine mammals. What that means is that it is unlawful for anyone to harass, hunt, capture, or kill, or attempt to harass, hunt, capture or kill any marine mammal. Harassment includes activities with the potential to injure or disturb a marine mammal. Disturbances can include disruptions of behavioral patterns including migration, feeding, and breeding habits. Authorization can be granted to allow a small number of "takes" of these mammals. There are civil and criminal penalties associated with failing to comply with the law.

The ESA provides for the conservation of species (plants and animals) that are in danger of extinction or species whose natural habitat is in danger of being significantly or totally lost. ESA builds on MMPA by extending additional protections to certain species in danger of extinction. Under this particular statute, it is unlawful to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture or collect, or attempt to engage in any such conduct. Similar to MMPA, authorization can be granted to allow for a small num-

ber of "takes" of various endangered or threatened species under certain circumstances. There are civil and criminal penalties associated with failing to comply with ESA.

The Gulf of Mexico marine mammal population consists of 28 species of cetaceans (whales and dolphins), the West Indian manatee, the California sea lion and the Caribbean monk seal (which may be extinct). Out of this mammal population the northern right whale, fin whale, blue whale, sei whale, humpback whale, sperm whale, West Indian manatee and Caribbean monk seal are considered endangered. There are also five species of sea turtles (reptiles) found in the Gulf which are classified as endangered. They are the leatherback, green, hawksbill, Kemp's ridley and loggerhead. The Gulf sturgeon is the only fish classified as endangered. MMPA applies to all marine mammals whether they are found on the endangered or threatened species list. ESA applies to only "listed" species such as mammals, reptiles and fish.

As was reported earlier, in terms of ESA and MMPA, the primary concern of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) and MMS at this point in time is noise in the water generated from Gulf of Mexico oil and gas activity, specifically noise caused by seismic operations and explosives used in platform removal. Research has been ongoing regarding various noise sources and the effect these noises has on certain marine mammals. The one mammal receiving most attention to date is the sperm whale. While other whales are present but rarely seen in the Gulf of Mexico, the sperm whale population has grown significantly. It is estimated there are between 300 and 1,000 sperm whales in the Gulf. Due to the fact the population of sperm whales is fairly significant as compared to the other endangered species of whales living in the northern portion of the Gulf of Mexico, considerable research has been dedicated to studying these animals. Various components of the

About the Author

J. Keith Couvillion is a Land Consultant with ChevronTexaco's New Orleans Exploration and Production operations in the Gulf of Mexico and onshore south Louisiana. Prior to the merger between Texaco and Chevron, Keith was Texaco's Offshore Land Manager for the Gulf of Mexico. Besides his ChevronTexaco responsibilities, Keith is active in various industry associations including API, AAPL, NOIA and others. He has been involved in the oil and gas industry for 23 years, working the last 17 years offshore.



"Protected Species" lease stipulations deal with the protection of these sperm whales. It appears sperm whales are the species of choice for study by the government and academia at this point in time.

During the recent MMS ITM held January 14-16, 2003, reports were given on research conducted on sperm whales. Some of the most interesting talks centered around the effects of seismic air gun noise on sperm whale behavior. MMS presented the initial results from the first year of a three-year study it is conducting on the effects of offshore seismic surveys on sperm whales (Sperm Whale Seismic Study - SWSS). No conclusions have been reached from the preliminary data collected to date, but analysis of the data thus far indicates seismic activity does not interfere with the behavior of sperm whales. This was reinforced by research from Norway conducted on sperm whales living in the North Sea. Preliminary analysis of the North Sea data reached the same conclusion as seen in the SWSS study. Both research groups were very

cautious about reaching any conclusions regarding the data gathered thus far. They stated additional research was needed before any definitive conclusions could be reached.

What the results of the preliminary sperm whale data means to the oil and gas industry is uncertain at this point. Additional supporting evidence to support the preliminary findings will not be available for another couple of years. Until then it is uncertain whether or not NOAA Fisheries will update their Biological Opinions to reflect the results seen to date from the sperm whale studies. Without updating the Biological Opinions, and modifying the non-discretionary requirements MMS must address in protecting endangered or threatened species in the Gulf of Mexico, industry will continue to be faced with the "Protected Species" stipulation and the subsequently issued Notice to Lessees to ensure the oil and gas industry activities have minimal effect on the endangered and threatened species located in the Gulf of Mexico.



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PLANO LUNCHEON MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2003

A capacity crowd attended PLANO's January luncheon at Muriel's on Jackson Square. Our own Larry Benedetto of Howard Weil, a division of Legg Mason Wood Walker, Inc., gave a most interesting account of reasons for the "Quiet Oil Industry, and Why there Is So Little Drilling Activity?" The audience was left with much to think about after listening to what Larry had to say and viewing the excellent slide presentation given by him during his speech. Anyone wishing to obtain a copy of the slides may contact Larry by e-mail to larryb@howardweil.com.



L. to R. - David Briggs, PLANO President
(Legacy Resources Co., L.P.)
and
Frank D. Barber, III, PLANO Vice President
(Taylor Energy Company)



L. to R. - Larry Benedetto
Howard Weil,
a division of Legg Mason Wood Walker, Inc.
and
Robert J. ("Bob") Martin
Watson Energy, L.L.C.



L. to R. - Charles E. Arnold,
PLANO's AAPL Director
(ExxonMobil Production Company)
and
Larry Benedetto,
Howard Weil,
a division of Legg Mason Wood Walker, Inc.

GOLF TALK ITEMS FOR YOUR CALENDAR

The PLANO Spring Golf and Tennis Tournament has been scheduled for Monday, May 12th, at Beau Chene Country Club, Mandeville, LA.

Additionally, the PLANO Fall Golf Tournament has been scheduled for Monday, October 13th, at Money Hill Golf and Country Club, Abita Springs, LA.

Nearer the dates of these events, flyers will be issued giving full information to PLANO members.

2003 PLANO SPONSORS

(Contributions received as of January 29, 2003)

The Professional Landmen's Association of New Orleans would like to thank the following parties for their participation in PLANO's sponsorship program.
The dedication and support given by these sponsors of PLANO is greatly appreciated.

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NOTE: The PLANO 2003 Sponsor Program is ongoing. For those who wish to become a sponsor, please call Harold J. Anderson @ 504-276-5858, or Margo Cameron @ 504-593-7560. Sponsors are added to this list as and when checks are received.



**PROFESSIONAL LANDMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF NEW ORLEANS
("THE KREWE OF PLANO")
PROUDLY ANNOUNCES ITS ANNUAL
EXECUTIVE NIGHT**

J. STEVEN GRILES, Guest Speaker
Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior

Topic:
"DEVELOPMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES ON PUBLIC LANDS"

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2003

5:30 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.

(THE THURSDAY BEFORE MARDI GRAS)

NEW ORLEANS HILTON RIVERSIDE AND TOWERS

Versailles & Napoleon Ballrooms
Poydras Street at the Mississippi River, New Orleans, Louisiana

TICKETS \$60.00

Open to members of all industry associations and oil and gas industry executives

Program Format

Opening Reception - 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Presentation of Colors by U.S. Marine Corps Color Guard

"America The Beautiful" sung by Ketasha Jackson

Speaker - 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Buffet & Cocktails - 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Music by: Tim Laughlin Jazz Band

Tickets must be purchased on or before Wednesday, February 19, 2003, to ensure industry executives' names are included in the program. Call Margo Cameron at (504) 593-7560, or any of the PLANO Board Members named below. Tickets WILL NOT be available at the door.

**Special PLANO room rates available on a limited basis at
the New Orleans Hilton and Riverside (504-584-3999) (reserve by February 7th)
and at the Royal Sonesta, 300 Bourbon Street, New Orleans (504-586-0300) (reserve by January 25th).**

Ticket Sales Committee Chairman:

Wm. David Briggs, Legacy Resources Co., L.P. (1405 W. Causeway Approach, Mandeville)(985) 674-4443
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