

IN THIS ISSUE

Greeting	1
Special Thanks to Sponsors	1
Additions to the CBTH Research Team	1
Meet Our Company Contacts	1
CBTH Software Support	2
Past Meetings	2
Progress and Upcoming Events	3
Data Distribution	3
Working with Sponsors	4
Upcoming Meetings	4
Reminder for September 2006	5
First Year Data Rates to Increase	5
Contact Information	5

GREETING

In this third CBTH Newsletter, we provide an update on our completed activities from January 2006 and add an overview of our activities leading up to the year-end meeting on September 1, 2006, in Austin, Texas. We hope over the past four months you have become more familiar with the GIS database and website. We are very happy to have learned that many of you are using the GIS and accessing the website.

If you are not a member and are interested in participating in the CBTH consortium, we encourage you to take a minute to review our website (www.ig.utexas.edu/research/projects/cbth) where you may also download our project proposal. Please feel free to contact us at cbth@ig.utexas.edu.

SPECIAL THANKS TO SPONSORS

A special thanks to our sponsors who participated in our luncheon at the AAPG meeting in April.

Carlos Rodrigues and **Marlon Delia** at Petrobras

Daniel Truempy at Shell

Dewi Jones and **Alejandro Franco** at Repsol YPF

Craig Davis and **Andrew Thomas** at Newfield Exploration

Jaime Buitrago at ExxonMobil

David Risch at BHP Billiton

We know that many of our sponsor representatives were unable to attend the AAPG meeting, but we look forward to seeing everyone assembled in September at our year-end meeting in Austin.

ADDITIONS TO THE CBTH RESEARCH TEAM

Thanks to the funding support of our sponsors, the CBTH research team is growing.

Bjorn Schey, (UTIG Undergraduate Research Assistant), is a Hydrogeology undergraduate at UT. He has been working on the compilation of the literature and images for the CBTH website. He is scouring both the web and traditional hard copies of library books, journals and theses to provide you with a synthesis of all key materials for the area of northern South America.

Chase Hudson (UTIG Undergraduate Research Assistant) is a Biology undergraduate at UT. He has been working on the organization and compilation of the literature references for the CBTH website. His next project will be to link the cited references to their corresponding pages in the website.

We are sad to see **Joey Breeland** leave after working for us for almost six months. As an undergraduate, his classes and studies are very important and his schedule could no longer allow him to work with us.

We still hope to add one UT post-doctoral researcher and another graduate student over the remainder of the first year. Since we are part of The University of Texas, some of the most significant research “products” that you are supporting with your annual payments are trained geoscientists at levels ranging from undergraduate through post-doctoral. Please let us know if you would like to support any of our personnel as summer interns or permanent employees at your company.

MEET OUR COMPANY CONTACTS

The following people have volunteered to serve as our main contacts for CBTH. All data generated by CBTH is provided to the sponsoring companies through these individuals. Please let us know if your company representative changes over the three-year course of this study. In order to avoid any confusion, in the case that

the contact was to change during the course of the study, we send an invoice with all data shipments. The contact signs and returns the invoice to us by fax or mail. That way, there is documentation of the recipient and time that data is received at the company. The contact person also acts to disseminate our products to other people in their respective companies along with representing the company at our annual meetings. We greatly appreciate all the extra efforts of the contacts for the project!

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CBTH SOFTWARE SUPPORT

Landmark Graphics

Connie Johnson
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Landmark Graphics is kindly providing our interpretative software. We have just completed our second three-year software agreement.

IVS3D

Bill McKernan
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CBTH uses an exciting visualization package called Fledermaus from IVS3D. The software creates interactive "flyovers" that combine topography, bathymetry, surface geology and seismic reflection profiles. One sample flyover from the Maracaibo basin appear on the website and on the front cover of the April 2006 special issue of *AAPG Bulletin*. We plan to release a flyover for the Trinidad area by the end of the consortium year.

PAST MEETINGS

Integrated Ocean Drilling Program (IODP):

Dates: March 30-April 1, 2006

Where: Austin, Texas

From March 30 to April 1, 2006, we convened for an IODP workshop of the Caribbean region in Austin, Texas held by UTIG. The topic of the workshop was "Tectonics, Circulation and Climate in the Caribbean Gateway" (convenors; Paul Mann, UTIG; Larry Peterson, University of Miami; and Andre Droxler, Rice University).

Since the Cretaceous, the Caribbean Sea has been a critical gateway between major ocean basins in both east-to-west (the Atlantic to Pacific connection) and north-to south (the North Atlantic to South Atlantic connection—including the Gulf Stream and Caribbean and Loop Currents) directions. As its complex tectonic history becomes better constrained, we can now begin to more critically evaluate the Caribbean's crucial role as an inter-seaway "valve" that controlled paleoceanography and paleoclimate on a regional and global scale.

This workshop discussed and planned potential scientific ocean drilling expeditions in the Caribbean Sea. The principal goals of this workshop were to formulate key scientific questions, evaluate existing geologic and geophysical data, use these data to identify and prioritize drilling sites, discuss drilling platform options, and to begin coordinating subsequent geophysical surveys, proposals, and multi-proxy analyses. Preliminary discussion results will be published at the end of the year in *EOS*.

American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG):

Annual Convention

Dates: April 9-12, 2006

Where: Houston, Texas

We gave a series of presentations and posters that summarize our work during last fall and this spring. We also showed visualization movies from the Caribbean region using Fledermaus (www.ivs3d.com) at the Jackson School of Geosciences booth and showed regional seismic transects of offshore northern

South America at the Escalona et al. poster. For more details on the posters and abstracts related to this meeting, please visit our website at: <http://www.ig.utexas.edu/research/projects/cbth/SponsorsOnly/POSTERS/AAPG/aapg.htm>

PROGRESS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Two graduate students supervised by Paul Mann—**Martin Hanzlik** and **Emilio Garciacaro**—completed their Masters' requirements on May 8, 2006. David Soto, another of our graduate students, will complete his Master's in December 2006. All of this information will be available to CBTH sponsors as pdfs and in hardcopy. Martin did his Master's thesis on the continental shelf of western Puerto Rico using high-resolution 2D seismic data and he will start working for ExxonMobil in Houston this August. Emilio's Master's thesis focused upon building the structural framework of the offshore Trinidad deepwater area by integrating regional 2D BOLIVAR and GULFEX seismic data with 3D seismic data. Emilio is currently working for the Apache Corporation in Houston.

We are pleased to announce the completion of a ten-paper, 236-page issue of the *AAPG Bulletin* on the Maracaibo area, *3-D Anatomy of a Supergiant, Maracaibo Basin, Venezuela* (v. 90, April 2006) co-edited by Paul Mann and Alejandro Escalona.

Alejandro Escalona is planning fieldwork on Margarita Island, offshore eastern Venezuela at the end of May. He plans to do preliminary recognition of outcrops and take samples of Eocene deep water turbidites that outcrop in the southeastern part of the island in order to provide input for deep water environment reservoir analogs in the Grenada and Tobago basins.

DATA DISTRIBUTION

Search Tool

We now have search capabilities for the passworded portion of the website. It's online and quite functional. You may have noticed that before we had a Google search bar on our webpages. However, Google and similar web crawlers cannot reach passworded portions of websites, so we were unable to use their search capabilities. Kevin Johnson in our IT department wrote the search tool that you can now access. See <http://www.ig.utexas.edu/research/projects/cbth/SponsorsOnly/cbth.htm>

Listed below are the new data that were added to the sponsor webpages May 15, 2006.

Posters

AAPG posters and presentations, presented in April, are now available for download at: <http://www.ig.utexas.edu/research/projects/cbth/SponsorsOnly/POSTERS/AAPG/aapg.htm>

D. Soto *et al.*—Structural and Stratigraphic Evidence for the Offshore Extension of the Central Range Fault Zone of Trinidad into the Eastern Offshore Region.

A. Escalona *et al.*—Multiphase Tectonic Evolution of Northwestern Venezuela and Its Offshore Area: Implications for the Distribution of Source and Reservoir Rocks.

P. Mann *et al.*—Neogene Tectonic Phases of Central and Southern Trinidad Based on Brittle Tectonic Analysis of Faults Exposed in Coastal Cliffs and Rock Quarries.

H. Castellanos *et al.*—Tectonic and stratigraphic controls on the Orinoco heavy oil belt, eastern Venezuela foreland basin.

A. Escalona and P. Mann—Oil and Gas Prospects in the Venezuelan Offshore Area Identified Using a Regional Grid of 2D Seismic Lines.

P. Mann *et al.*—(BOLIVAR study) Plumbing the Depths of the Caribbean-South American Arc-Continent Collisional Zone Using Long Seismic Reflection and Refraction Transects.

P. Mann *et al.*—Tectonic Setting of 31 Giant Oil & Gas Fields Discovered from 2000-2005: Implications for Future Discovery Trends.

Masters' Theses

Emilio Garciacaró's and Martin Hanzlik's Master of Sciences theses are available for download at: http://www.ig.utexas.edu/research/projects/cbth/SponsorsOnly/thes_diss.htm

References

A working directory of the references used in the consortium thus far is available at: <http://www.ig.utexas.edu/research/projects/cbth/SponsorsOnly/References/ref.htm>

This directory is in html format and Endnote 8.

WORKING WITH SPONSORS

BHP Billiton Petroleum, Inc. requested some consulting work to be performed by our team members outside of the CBTH project. With some time spent outside of normal business hours, we were able to release to them the products they requested in less than three months.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Keep an eye on our website for updates and more information for these upcoming events: www.ig.utexas.edu/research/projects/cbth/links.htm

CBTH Phase I First Year-end Meeting

Date: September 1, 2006

Where: Austin, Texas

Paid sponsors welcome. Please let us know the number of participants your company will be sending by August 1, 2006. Presentations will include:

- CBTH Phase I Future Goals and Past Accomplishments—Paul Mann
- 3D Visualization of Maracaibo basin and Trinidad and Tobago (September 2005 and September 2006 release areas)—Alejandro Escalona
- Geologic setting of Maracaibo basin and Trinidad and Tobago (September 2005 and September 2006 release areas)—Paul Mann and Alejandro Escalona
- Familiarizing users with the GIS database and the website—Lisa Bingham
- Gathering, maintaining and organizing data and its preparation for the GIS database—Bjorn Schey
- Creating and maintaining the reference lists—Chase Hudson

Gulf of Mexico-Caribbean Shortcourse

Dates: September 11-13, 2006

Where: Houston, Texas

September 11-13, 2006, UTIG researchers (W. Galloway, P. Mann, and A. Escalona) will be teaching a

Gulf of Mexico-Caribbean shortcourse at the AAPG fall training course in Houston. We will be sending more information about this shortcourse in the coming months.

Northern South America Shortcourse

Date: TBA

Where: Houston, Texas

Please contact Paul Mann or Alejandro Escalona if you are interested in having this shortcourse presented at your company. If you have new hires or transfers with the group, these courses provide a quick way to get them "up to speed." You may download an overview of the shortcourse at http://www.ig.utexas.edu/research/projects/cbth/documents/Venezuela_course_outline.pdf

Field trip to Falcon Basin, northwestern Venezuela

Tentative Date: November 2006 or January-February 2007

Where: Venezuela

We are organizing a field trip for our consortium members in Venezuela in the Falcon Basin, led by Peter Bartok (a field geologist with much experience in the area), Paul Mann, and Alejandro Escalona. We want members' input regarding this event as your participation is very important to us. Please email us your thoughts (cbth@ig.utexas.edu) and we can discuss the field trip in detail at the year-end meeting.

American Geophysical Union—Annual Fall Meeting

Date: December, 2006

Where: San Francisco, California

REMINDER FOR SEPTEMBER 2006

Please be aware that on September 1, 2006, passwords will change for each company. To ensure that your access is uninterrupted and that your deliverables are provided to you during the year-end meeting, please send your 2006 payments so they are received no later than September 1, 2006. Early and prompt payments are greatly appreciated and allow the project to continue uninterrupted.

FIRST YEAR DATA RATES TO INCREASE

If your company is interested in joining the CBTH consortium, there is no time like the present! Beginning September 1, 2006, any company which has not paid for the first year will be charged at 150% for the first year's data.

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