
MEETINGS & CONFERENCES

North Dakota Academy of Science Meeting

By Ann Fritz

Karen Mitchell, John Hoganson, Ed Murphy, Julie LeFever and I attended the 91st Annual Meeting of the North Dakota Academy of Science that was held April 15 and 16, 1999 in Grand Forks. There were two symposia of particular interest at the meeting, "An Update on the Flooding of the Red River of the North and Devils Lake Basins - Developing Comprehensive Water Strategy," and "The Paleontologic and Geologic Record of North Dakota - Important Sites and Current Interpretations."

The "An Update on the Flooding of the Red River of the North and Devils Lake Basins" symposium presented the views of a variety of organizations, including the State Water Commission, the National Weather Service, the Bureau of Reclamation, the Corps of Engineers, Ramsey County, and the Cities of Grand Forks and Fargo. The symposium began with an overview of water management issues facing the Red River Valley region, with emphasis on the multiple political jurisdictions (city, county, state, federal and provincial) in the region. The symposium concluded with a series of presentations about climatic factors and their effect on flooding, and recent predictions of global circulation models.

The presentations in the "Paleontologic and Geologic Record of North Dakota" symposium consisted of a well-organized series of talks that led the listener through the geologic and paleontologic record of North Dakota. In the introduction to the symposium, Joe Hartman, of the Energy and Environmental Research Center, University of North Dakota, stated that "the symposium has two goals - to educate on matters of science, and to inform specifically about the geological sciences." The papers were designed to provide a history of geologic thought in North Dakota, and educate the public on matters of geology.

If you would like to obtain a copy of the Proceedings volume, please contact the Office of the Secretary - Treasurer, North Dakota Academy of Science, P.O. Box 7081, Grand Forks, ND 58202.

Project Food, Land, and People

By Ann Fritz

What are the most basic things in life? Food? Land? Project Food, Land, and People (FLP) is an interdisciplinary series of lessons for students age K-12 to learn about the interdependence of agriculture, people, and the environment. In April, I attended a 16-hour facilitator training course on

Project Food, Land and People, in Carrington, North Dakota. As one of 40 trained facilitators in the state of North Dakota, I am now qualified to offer workshops for teachers interested in obtaining and using the FLP curriculum.

The FLP curriculum provides hands-on activities for students to learn about soil, food safety, and water quality, to name just a few. My favorite activity was called "Perc through the Pores." In this activity we pretended we were different sized soil particles to demonstrate how water moves through the soil. The workshop also provided me with some valuable insight and strategies on how to effectively teach earth science concepts to various aged groups.

For more information about Project FLP, please contact me at (701) 328-8000 or contact Jill Vigessa, the State FLP Coordinator, at (701) 652-2551 ext 5.

Digital Mapping Techniques Workshop

By Ann Fritz

Wednesday, May 19 through Saturday, May 24, Karen Mitchell, Ryan Waldkirch, and I attended the Digital Mapping Techniques Workshop in Madison, Wisconsin. "The workshop was definitely worth the 12-hour drive," says Karen Mitchell. At the meeting we presented a poster, entitled "Evolution of Digital Geologic Mapping at the North Dakota Geological Survey."

The workshop, sponsored by the Association of American State Geologists and the U.S. Geological Survey and hosted by the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey, provided an opportunity for the U.S. Geological Survey, state geological surveys, GIS vendors and map publication software vendors to share information and provide strategies for digital mapping techniques and production. Presentation and poster topics included data collection using GPS, techniques for using ArcView 3.1 software to streamline geologic map creation and production, and developing a geologic data model. Attendees were also provided a sneak preview of the soon-to-be released ARCINFO version 8.0 and the ArcView update. ARCINFO and ArcView are GIS software developed by ESRI. Both programs are the standard in the geologic mapping community.

Perhaps the most beneficial aspect of attending the meeting was the informal conversation with geologic mappers, GIS managers, and cartographers at other state geological surveys and with the U.S. Geological Survey. Problems were solved, information was shared, and new contacts were made. For more information about the workshop, please visit the website at <http://www.uwex.edu/wgnhs/dmt.htm>.

Seventh International Williston Basin Horizontal Well Workshop Held in Regina, Saskatchewan

By Paul Diehl

With the generous financial support of faithful oil industry firms, the Seventh International Williston Basin Horizontal Well Workshop was held April 25 through 27 at the Delta Regina Hotel in Regina, Saskatchewan. As in the past, the workshop was hosted and organized by the North Dakota Geological Survey and the Saskatchewan Energy and Mines. The recent severe economic conditions in the oil industry were evident in this year's reduced Workshop attendance (Figure 1). The 313 Workshop participants came from seven states and four Canadian provinces (Figure 2). "Thank you" to all those who gave their support and participation to make this an interesting and informative workshop for those who could attend.

A pre-workshop short course on Nuclear Magnetic Resonance logs was held on Sunday afternoon prior to the workshop's "kickoff" icebreaker. Mr. Brian Stambaugh, president of NMR Petrophysics, presented an introduction to NMR tool theory and design, log applications, log examples, and interpretation leading to possible direct detection of hydrocarbons. Several logs run in horizontal laterals drilled in North Dakota were examined and discussed.

After His Worship, Mayor Doug Archer welcomed the participants to Regina, the technical sessions began with the customary updates of horizontal well activity of the states and provinces within the Williston Basin. The updates were followed by oral presentations of twenty-seven technical papers pertaining to horizontal drilling and completion, as well as to the geology and engineering characteristics of reservoirs into which horizontal wells have been drilled. In addition, approximately 40 commercial and educational displays were available for viewing and discussion throughout the three-day workshop.

A 350-page workshop volume containing the workshop agenda, plus an outline, abstract, or paper of each oral presentation was provided to all registrants. The workshop volume can be purchased from the Saskatchewan Energy and Mines for \$20 US (\$25 Canadian). Please make checks payable to Horizontal Workshop and mail to: Horizontal Well Workshop, Attn. Nancy Feniuk, Saskatchewan Energy and Mines, Financial Building, 2101 Scarth Street, Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada S4P 3V7. Nancy can be reached at (306) 787-7662 or fax (306) 787-2333.

For those of you who plan ahead, the Eighth International Williston Basin Horizontal Well Workshop is scheduled for May 7 through 9, 2000 in Bismarck, North Dakota. We hope to see many of you there in a much-improved economic climate.

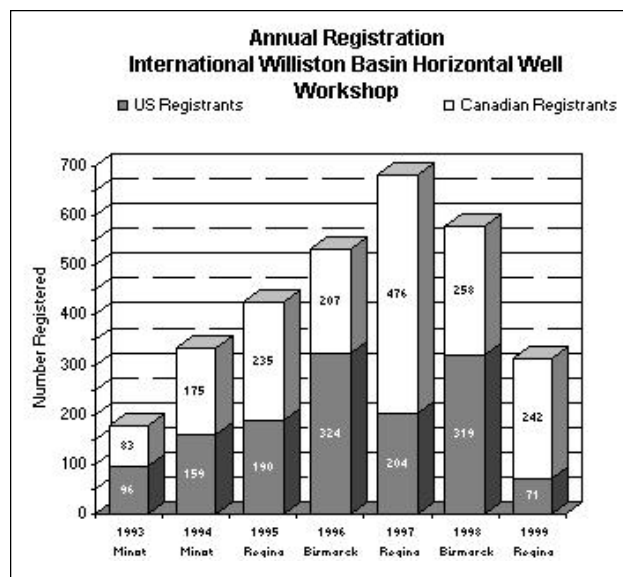


Figure 1

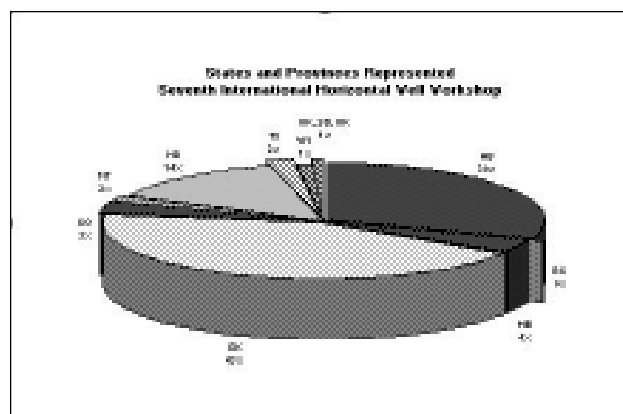


Figure 2