



February 2007

# Los Angeles Basin Geological Society Newsletter

**February 22, 2007 Meeting: Dr. Gene Fritsche**

*Formerly with CSU-Northridge*

*Will speak on*

## **Into the Bowels of Hades: Investigating an Early Miocene Tilted Volcano in the Santa Monica Mountains**

### **Speaker Synopsis / Abstract**

The lower Miocene (Ar-Ar age: 16.3-17.1 Ma) Conejo Volcanics, exposed in and around the Santa Monica Mountains of southern California, offer a unique opportunity to study an exposed cross section of the interior of a volcano and its surrounding volcanic field. The volcanics extend east-west for 80 km from Griffith Park to the Oxnard Plain and north-south 35 km from Big Mountain to the Pacific Ocean. The thickness of the volcanics ranges from 0 m on the edge of the exposures to >9,000 m near the western end of the Santa Monica Mountains. Pillow lavas and incorporated oyster shells indicate a submarine origin for the base of the volcanic pile; spatter cones of bombs and lahar deposits containing petrified wood indicate subaerial accumulation by the end of the eruptive cycle. An isopach map of the volcanics shows that the volcanic field consisted of three separate cones. Fossil wood species in the lahars indicate an above-sea-level elevation of at least 1,500 m. After the volcanic cones became extinct, they were tilted northward during post-Miocene deformation of the Santa Monica Mountains and eroded so as to reveal the interior of the volcanic cones and lava field from the base against the underlying lower Miocene

Topanga Canyon Formation to its top against the overlying middle Miocene Calabasas Formation. Interior details revealed include overlap of volcanic flows onto the subjacent sedimentary rocks during growth of the volcanic cones, a lava tunnel, breakup of the cones into large blocks during intrusion of feeder dikes and sills, and intrusion of a volcanic neck through the underlying Topanga Canyon Formation and into and through the volcanic rocks.

*Dr. Gene Fritsche is a long time contributor to our understanding of California geology. At the National AAPG Convention in Long Beach in April he will be receiving the Grover E. Murray Memorial Distinguished Educator Award. A few of his other accomplishments are:*

*AB and PhD degrees in Geology from UCLA in 1958 and 1969.*

*Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, and Professor of Geology, California State University, Northridge, 1963-2000.*

*Leadership Award, Pacific Section, SEPM, 1979*

*Honorary Membership, Pacific Section, SEPM, 1982*

*Special Teaching Award, Pacific Section, AAPG, 1992*

*Distinguished Teaching Award, California State University, Northridge, 1997*

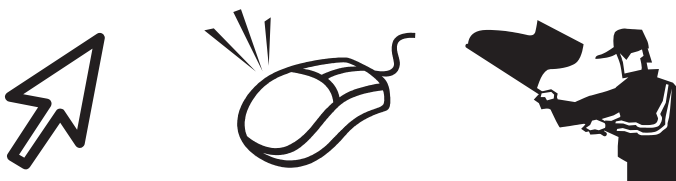
*George Lefevre Distinguished Faculty Research Award, Sigma Xi Chapter, California State University, Northridge, 1998*

*Lifetime Achievement Award, Pacific Section, SEPM, 2001*

*Volunteer Service Award, California State University, Northridge, 2004*

# POINT CLICK

# GO!



Point your browser to [www.aapg.org/longbeach](http://www.aapg.org/longbeach)  
Click to register. Go to the convention.

***Fewer hassles. Fewer lines.  
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**AAPG ANNUAL CONVENTION & EXHIBITION  
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**APRIL 1-4, 2007  LONG BEACH, CA**



**American Association of Petroleum Geologists**

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## Meeting Time, Place, Cost and Reservations

### Time:

**Thursday, February 22, 2007**

### Typical Meeting Agenda

**Lunch Served: 11:30 AM to 12:00PM**

**Announcements: 11:50 AM to 12:15 PM**

**Guest Speaker: 12:15 PM to 12:45 PM**

### Place:

**The Grand at Willow Street Conference Center** located at 4101 East Willow Street, Long Beach, CA. (562-426-0555). Take Lakewood Boulevard south from the San Diego Freeway (405), turn west onto Willow Street and turn right onto Grand Avenue at the sign for the Center. Park free in the garage structure.

### Cost:

**Lunch and Speaker: \$20.00 with reservations  
\$25.00 without reservations**

**Student: \$ 5.00 (Lunch and Speaker)**

### Meeting Reservations:

Make your reservations using our web site at [www.labgs.org](http://www.labgs.org), emailing [iaburto@breitburn.com](mailto:iaburto@breitburn.com) or calling Ivan Aburto at (213) 225-5900 ext. 234. **Reservations must be made prior to Tuesday** before the meeting, but walk-ons are always welcome.

## Upcoming 2007 Speaker Schedule

February 22, 2007 – The speaker will be Dr. Gene Fritsche speaking on “**Into the Bowels of Hades: Investigating an Early Miocene Tilted Volcano in the Santa Monica Mountains**”.

March 22, 2007 – The speaker will be AAPG Distinguished Lecturer Dr. Jacob Lowenstern speaking on “**The Yellowstone Caldera**”.

April 26, 2007 – The speaker will be Kristen Hepper speaking on “**The Evolution of Great Valley Group Hydrocarbons**”. Ms Hepper is a UC-Riverside student commended by the Pacific Section for her work on this subject.

*If you have a speaker suggestion, please mention it to a Board member !!*

# WE'LL BE THERE



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## LABGS and the 2007 AAPG National Convention field trips

The LABGS is leading/sponsoring three field trips in conjunction with the national meeting. We need help with some of the trip work. If you have an interest and experience in field trips in the SoCal area please contact an officer to inquire about our needs. Please contact us now. We are working on day-trips to these areas:

### **The Santa Monica Mts Geology Los Angeles Urban Oil Fields Palos Verde Peninsula Geology**

*A synopsis of each trip is included below. For more information see the AAPG website [www.aapg.org](http://www.aapg.org).*

#### **Santa Monica Mt. Outcrops – Deep Production from the Los Angeles Basin**

*Trip #6 Saturday 3/31 7:30 AM - 9 PM*

*Cost: \$165*

Visit some of the fields and outcrops that have made the Los Angeles Basin one of the world's most prolific basins. Deep marine to shallow marine productive zones crop out in the Santa Monica Mts. The participant will be able to see up close some of the stratigraphy and depositional character of these significant production units.

(continued)

**Urban Oil Fields of the Los Angeles Basin – Geology, History, Oil and Urban Living**

Trip #7 Sunday 4/1 7:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Cost \$125

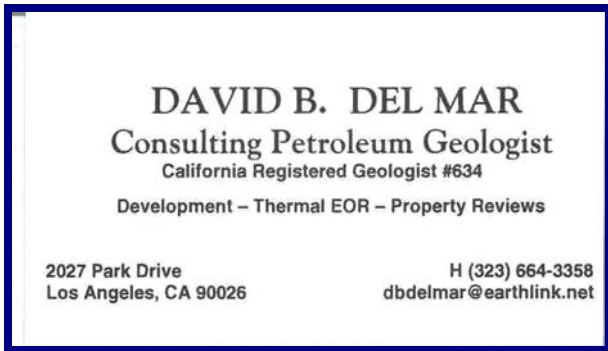
This trip visits some of the fields in the Los Angeles Basin that are along the Newport-Inglewood strike-slip and the Las Cienegas thrust fault trends. The journey will treat you to a sampling of the geology, environment, politics, energy, history and the future of the urban oil fields.

**Geology of the Palos Verdes Peninsula**

Trip #17 Thursday 4/5 7:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Cost: \$150

The Palos Verde Peninsula is a favorite location for field trips in the Los Angeles area for the many universities and college professors and their students and there is lots of geology to interested professional geologists as well. This trip will have stops at classic exposures, landslides, beautiful vistas and urban development, all mixed in with Cretaceous to present-day earth forces.



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**Advertising rates for a business card size ad is \$90 for one year (9 issues). These fees help offset our publishing costs. If interested please contact a Board member.**

**The LABGS Brunton Award**

The LABGS Brunton Award is given to a qualified undergraduate student attending a four-year LA Basin College or University currently pursuing a baccalaureate degree in Geology or the Earth Sciences.

*The Society is currently looking for qualified applicants for the 2007 award.*

SELECTION PROCESS

The above award winner was selected from candidates nominated by a faculty member. The winner was selected based on the following criteria:

- Grade point average in earth science classes.
- An enthusiastic or special recommendation from the college advisor, department chair, or mentor professor

**The Don Clarke Award**

The Don Clarke Brunton Award is given to a qualified student graduating from an LA Basin Community College with an Associate Degree, enrolled in a Geology or Earth Science curriculum with plans to pursue a baccalaureate degree in Geology or the Earth Sciences.

*The Society is currently looking for qualified applicants for the 2007 award.*

To qualify for this LABGS award, the student must meet the following criteria:

- Plan to graduate in 2006 with an Associate Degree from a Los Angeles Basin Area Community College.
- Complete a Geology or Earth Science curriculum.
- Must be pursuing plans to enroll in a four-year college or university with Geology, Geological Sciences, or Earth Science as their designated major.

**Fall Field Trip**

The LABGS field trip will not happen before the Long Beach convention. We are sorry and encourage you to participate in the Convention field trips. We will reorganize and plan for the trip later in the calendar year.

## Student Sponsorship

Both Halliburton and Schlumberger are defraying the cost to the Society of our students-at-the-monthly meetings program. *Students are free at all meetings.* Thank you.

## Elections

The time is fast approaching for two different election needs. Elections will be held in the spring:

- The LABGS needs individuals interested in being Secretary, Treasurer, Program Chair and President. This is a real issue, your elected officers have been in office for close to 4 years. Although the tasks are not great, the need for help is. Please volunteer or nominate somebody.
- We are searching for candidates for the House of Delegates positions. Although we do not have an open spot now I would like to have some staggering of terms. Names would be appreciated.

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## Contact Us – The LABGS Board

President: Jon Kuespert (213) 225-5900  
[jkuespert@breitburn.com](mailto:jkuespert@breitburn.com)

Program Chair: currently vacant

Treasurer: Steve Zigan, (949) 355-4467  
[szigan@eri-us.com](mailto:szigan@eri-us.com)

Secretary: currently vacant

**OUR WEB SITE ADDRESS IS:**  
[www.labgs.org](http://www.labgs.org)

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## President's Note

To all our members,

This month's talk will be by Dr. Gene Fritsche on **"Into the Bowels of Hades: Investigating an Early Miocene Tilted Volcano in the Santa Monica Mountains"**. Dr. Fritsche has many years of experience and should provide us with lots of information on volcanics in our back yard. Should be a great talk!!

Next month AAPG Distinguished Lecturer Dr. Jacob Lowenstern will be talking about the Yellowstone Caldera. This should be an interesting 1-2 punch and I hope that you can attend both Feb and March talks.

I spent last weekend at the AAPG Leadership Conference in Tulsa, Oklahoma. It was a great experience and the California contingent was well represented. I attended several sessions on leadership, creativity and the status of the geoscientist population. Several items came out:

- The Global Warming debate continues to grow in importance. The National AAPG posts a current "position" statement on their website, [www.aapg.org](http://www.aapg.org). Please look at it and feel free to email me with support/concerns/etc. Next month we will place the entire statement in this newsletter.
- The decline in AAPG geologists will only accelerate as the late '70s hiring peak passes into early retirement. Related to this is the need to encourage student participation to be the next generation of geologists.
- The National AAPG is doing some great things to access their large geologic database (*see the AAPG website for a way to GIS search the Bulletin and then put audio readings of the abstracts in an MP3 format*).
- There is a great concern about the quality of geo-workers being produced by U.S. programs. The representatives from BP-Amoco, Exxon-Mobil, and Schlumberger all stated the need to find workers that will contribute new ideas and knowledge to their culture and environment and not just be "Nintendo™" geologists (from the BP rep!). Computers can store data and give us "stock" answers, but they cannot be creative! Too many inexperienced workers believe that everything is on the Net, it is NOT!

And the Convention is almost here!! See the ad on the last page. This year the National AAPG Convention, is to be held ~April 2-4 in Long Beach, CA . . . our backyard! **Register now!** This will be the most-sponsored and one of the best attended conventions ever in California.

Thanks!

Jon



# Los Angeles Basin Geological Society Membership Form

Join the LABGS and become a member of the Pacific Section AAPG all for one low price of \$12.00 per year - 2 West Coast Geoscience Organizations for the price of one



## Membership Benefits

- LABGS Membership
- Monthly Luncheon Meetings with Strong Technical Programs
- Pacific Section AAPG Membership
- Pacific Section AAPG Bi-Monthly Newsletter
- Discounts for PSAAPG Bookstore Publications
- Bi-Annual West Coast Geoscience Directory - *next edition 6/03*
- Networking and Social Opportunities with Fellow Geoscientists

### Current Annual LABGS/PSAAPG Dues

1 Year Option = \$12.00	\$	_____
3 Year Option = \$36.00	\$	_____

### Extended E-Mail Announcement List Fees

To receive meeting notices from SJGS and CGS

1 Year Option = \$12.00	\$	_____
3 Year Option = \$36.00	\$	_____

### PSAAPG Foundation Contributions

B. Hacker Publication Fund	\$	_____
Martin Van Couvering Fund	\$	_____
Dibble Map Foundation	\$	_____
California Well Sample Repository	\$	_____
John Kilkenny Scholarship Fund	\$	_____
PSAAPG Foundation Trust Fund	\$	_____

### TOTAL PAYMENT

Total Amount Enclosed	\$	_____
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### Essential Member Information

Last Name	_____
First Name	_____
Middle Initial	_____
E-Mail Address	_____
Mail Address	_____
Res or Bus ?	_____
	_____

### Additional Directory Information

Employer	_____
Position / Title	_____
Bus Phone #	_____
Res Phone #	_____
Fax Phone #	_____
Spouse's Name	_____
Education	<i>Highest Degree</i> _____ <i>Year</i> _____
School	_____

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

*Annual membership is handled through PSAAPG and runs from July 1, through June 30. If you are already a current member of PSAAPG and you selected LABGS affiliation you are already a member of the LABGS.*

**Please Make Checks out to PSAAPG and mail along with member form to:  
PSAAPG P.O. Box 1072, Bakersfield, CA 93302**