
About the Editors



Dr. Robert Merrill has more than forty years of oil and gas industry experience in domestic and international exploration and staff positions for a range of companies, including American Stratigraphic Company, Cities Service Company, Occidental, Unocal, and Samson. In these positions he explored a variety of onshore and offshore basins around the world, including extensional basins, fold and thrust belts, and foreland basins both from a regional context as well as prospect generation. Countries in which he has exploration and acquisition experience outside North America include Australia, Argentina, Brazil, and Colombia in South America; Thailand, Malaysia, and Indonesia in Southeast Asia; Russia, Kazakhstan, and Azerbaijan in Central Asia; the North Sea; and central Europe. In 2005 Dr. Merrill formed Catheart Energy Inc., an independent exploration and consulting company, to actively pursue conventional and unconventional oil and gas opportunities. He also maintains a consulting practice focused on evaluating exploration portfolios. Dr. Merrill has his Ph.D. and M.S. from Arizona State University and his B.A. in Geology from Colby College.

Dr. Merrill has experience generating and evaluating prospects in both conventional and unconventional clastic reservoirs, including fractured reservoirs, tight gas sands, and carbonates. He utilizes probabilistic methods for prospect evaluation and reserves estimation and uses this information for comprehensive portfolio management. He has published papers covering a diverse range of subjects, including risk analysis in oil and gas, deep-overpressured gas in the Green River Basin and origin and migration of oils, the Wyoming/Utah/Idaho Overthrust belt and geothermal exploration and development.

He has volunteered with the International YMCA building schools in Vietnam and is a co-author of "Hydrology and Human Health: An Intersection for Nutrition Research in Bangladesh," which explores the health consequences of iron in the groundwater in the Gaibanda Area, Bangladesh. He currently serves on the Society of Exploration Geophysicists Geoscientists Without Borders Committee.

Dr. Merrill is a Fellow of the Geological Society of America, is a Chartered Geologist with the Geological Society, and has served on committees for the American Geological Institute and on the board of the Houston Geological Society. He served as both Secretary and President of the American Institute of Professional Geologists and is active in the American Association of Petroleum Geologists where he co-edited the *Giant Fields of the Decade, 1990–2000* Memoir and edited *Source and Migration Processes and Techniques for Evaluation* Memoir in 1991.



Charles A. Sternbach has explored for and discovered energy resources in the U.S. and around the globe for 35 years. He was Staff Geologist for Shell Oil Company, Exploration Manager for Tom Jordan (Jordan Oil and Gas), and President of First Place Energy (international frontier exploration) and is currently President of Star Creek Energy. Charles has a Ph.D. (and M.S.) in Geology from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and a B.A. in Geology from Columbia University.

Charles has focused his efforts on exploration creativity. He has studied how explorers and their teams find giant fields and new exploration and production resources. He created and leads popular AAPG Discovery Thinking Forums that have been standing room only events at annual AAPG conventions in North America (ACE) and around the world (ICE). Charles also created the AAPG Playmaker Forums. These are one-day forums on exploration creativity.

These programs integrate geology, geophysics, and engineering into case studies of business success. There have been 15 Discovery Thinking Forums since 2008 with about 8000 attendees.

There have been 8 Playmaker Forums in the U.S., Canada, and Europe since 2012 with about 1000 attendees. About 100 speakers from both programs have posted their talks on the AAPG Search and Discovery web site with 40,000 viewings. More of these high-impact programs are planned for the future.

Charles is honored to be a co-editor with Dr. Robert Merrill on this fifth installment of the AAPG Memoir series *Giant Fields of the Decade, 2000–2010*. Along with his mentor, Michel T. Halbouty, Charles believes it is important to "think big." That is why we study giant fields like those in this and previous AAPG Memoirs. Thanks to all who strive to find oil and gas. They are a

special breed contributing to the prosperity of society. Rare among this breed are the giant field finders. Their success represents the pinnacle of our profession, which rests on the broad base of those who came before. Thank you to all who leave our heritage better than they found it, like the authors in this book.

Charles resides in Houston, Texas. His wife Linda is a distinguished geophysical advisor. Charles is a leader in the global geological community. He will be president of AAPG 2017–2018 at the dawn of AAPG's second century. He is an Honorary Member of AAPG, the Houston Geological Society, and AAPG's Division of Professional Affairs.