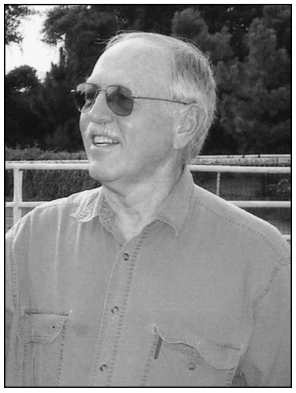
About the Editors



James R. (Jim) Derby is a consulting geologist who lives with his wife, Joan, on their 400-acre ranch near Leonard, Oklahoma, 23 miles south of Tulsa. Jim received his bachelor's degree from Yale University in 1958 and stayed at Yale for one year of graduate school. Virginia Tech offered Jim a half-time position as instructor, as well as the opportunity to pursue a master's degree. Upon completing his master's in 1961, he was offered a full-time faculty position and the opportunity to pursue a doctorate. His dissertation, "The Paleontology and Stratigraphy of the Nolichucky Formation in Virginia and Tennessee," was awarded Virginia Tech's Sigma Xi Outstanding Dissertation Award for 1966.

In 1964 Derby joined Pan American Petroleum (Amoco) at their Tulsa Research Center where he was their Cambrian and Ordovician biostratigrapher. His research focused on a biostratigraphic standard for the Arbuckle and Simpson Groups, based on a single continuous outcrop section, intended to be the reference section for a graphic correlation. The late Professor James Stitt was studying the same sequence for his dissertation. They agreed that Stitt would work the older formations and Derby would start at the top of the Arbuckle and work downward. Professor James Miller, conodont specialist on the Late Cambrian and Earliest Ordovician, joined this informal joint study, and together they developed detailed range charts and correlation cross-plots for the Cambrian-Ordovician boundary interval.

In 1978 Derby became a consultant to a variety of small companies, advising them on wildcats and field step-outs in the Red River (Upper Ordovician) and Mission Canyon (Mississippian) Formations in the Williston Basin, the Carter Sand in the Black Warrior Basin, and the western desert of Egypt.

From 1983 to 1987, Derby and his staff (Derby & Associates, Inc.) studied prospects in the Smackover Formation of northeastern Texas for Trend Exploration (now Adobe), McMoRan, and Viking (now defunct).

Starting in 1987 Derby consulted for A & M Engineering on a variety of tasks, including drilling water wells and designing water storage reservoirs, drilling exploration wells to define and remediate contaminant plumes, and drilling and developing replacement water wells for the town of Laverne.

In 2009, Derby joined the University of Tulsa as a visiting professor, teaching petroleum geology and creating a new course in subsurface mapping for advanced students.

Richard (Rick) Fritz is a native Oklahoman who spent much of his youth around the oil patch in Osage County, Oklahoma. His dad, granddad, great granddaddy, and many of his uncles worked as pumpers or roughnecks. Rick met a geologist for the first time when he was 11 years old. He was so impressed with the geologist's intelligence, cool clothes, and fancy car that he decided to become a geologist on the spot.

Currently, Rick is a senior exploration geologist for SM Energy in Tulsa. He is exploring for new oil and gas resource plays. SM Energy is a very progressive company exploring and developing petroleum plays in North America.

From 1999 to 2011 Rick was the executive director of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists. He was responsible for the management of AAPG headquarters in Tulsa, Oklahoma and for the oversight of numerous programs for AAPG's 35,000+ members. In November, 1999, Fritz also became the executive director of the AAPG Foundation and guided their fundraising program to reach their goal of more than $35 million dollars.

Rick started his career working for Exxon (now Exxon-Mobil) in development geology in south Texas and later, as an exploration geologist in the midcontinent. After leaving Exxon, Rick worked as a consultant and manager in the development of geological and geophysical studies in the midcontinent, east Texas, Gulf Coast, and Black Warrior Basins. In 1989, Rick became vice-president of Masera Corporation and supervised major exploration research projects in the U.S., Middle East, and Africa.

Before moving to AAPG, Rick was the President of MXC Corporation working as an independent explorationist in the Gulf Coast and midcontinent. He worked with a Houston-based group to develop a 100,000-acre Austin Chalk play.

Like many right-brained geologists, Rick is a somewhat-less-than-accomplished guitar picker and has rubbed shoulders with Ronnie Dunn and Gary Busey in their early years.

Rick bleeds orange, having graduated from Oklahoma State University in Stillwater in 1978. He is an active member of the OSU Geoscience Alumni Advisory Board and works with Boone Pickens to raise money for OSU's T. Boone Pickens School of Geology. Rick has a lot of stories to tell.

Susan A. Longacre lives in the Central Texas Hill Country, where her retirement is spent learning about the native flora and fauna of the Edwards Plateau, learning and teaching about native wildflowers, teaching carbonate geology of the Hill Country to classes of Master Naturalists, and striving to get geologic images into art quilts (wall hangings). With her over-filled days, she now says she doesn't know how she ever had time to work.

Susan received both her B.S. and Ph.D. in geology from The University of Texas at Austin, where her graduate studies concentrated on the biostratigraphy of trilobites from the Upper Cambrian Wilberns Formation, which later was published as a stand-alone monograph by the Paleontological Society.

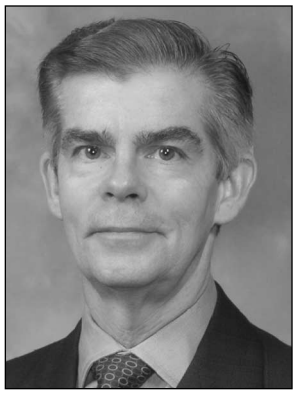
In her professional career, Susan has been with two oil company research organizations: she joined Getty Oil Company in Houston in 1969, and remained with the new organization when Getty merged with Texaco in 1984. Since the merger of Texaco and Chevron, Susan continued as a consultant to Chevron. As an emeritus member of the Chevron Fellows, Susan continues active involvement in their group-mentoring program for high potential technical leaders of the future.

Most of Susan's 32 year geological career was spent in applied research in carbonate reservoirs—studying their stratigraphy, depositional systems, diagenesis, reservoir architecture, porosity systems, and flow characteristics. Her projects were located in the Permian Basin of west Texas and New Mexico, in Ireland, Middle East, offshore U.S. east coast, and in Kazakhstan; two notable detours into siliciclastics were Alaska's North Slope and California's Kern River field. For many years, Susan relished the opportunity to share what she knew about stratigraphy and sedimentology via teaching in-house seminars and leading field trips to carbonate outcrops.

Susan has been a Fellow of the Geological Society of America and a member of SEPM, the Houston Geological Society, the Permian Basin Section of SEPM, and the West Texas Geological Society. Over the years, Susan served her fellow members of AAPG through participation in the Publications and Research Committees, chairing conferences and technical sessions at meetings (local, national and international), and guiding their scientific publications by serving as AAPG's Elected Editor from 1989–1993, during which time she also served as a member of the Executive Committee.

Susan has served upon committees of the National Science Foundation and the Petroleum Research Fund. She served as a commissioner on the North American Commission on Stratigraphic Nomenclature for nearly 20 years. Since 1992, Susan serves the Jackson School of Geological Sciences at the University of Texas Austin as a member of the Advisory Council of their Geology Foundation, a position she continues in today as a Chevron representative.

Susan's most notable points of recognition from outside of her companies include being a 1983 Honoree of the Federation of Houston Professional Women, as nominated by the Association for Women Geoscientists; being the Houston Y.W.C.A.'s Outstanding Woman in Science and Technology for 1989; and receiving AAPG's Distinguished Service Award in 1994, after completion of the four-year term as Elected Editor.



William A. (Bill) Morgan is a Geoscience Fellow with ConocoPhillips. He received B.S. and M.S. degrees in geology from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Since then, he has been employed for 35 years by ConocoPhillips, holding a variety of positions in research, exploration, and development. His primary technical interests lie in the stratigraphy, sedimentology, and diagenesis of hydrocarbon reservoirs and, in particular, those in carbonate successions. He has applied those interests to integrating core, well-log, and seismic data, and developing sequence stratigraphic and reservoir frameworks in many areas of the world.

Bill has been active in several professional societies and has published several peer-reviewed articles, edited several books, and chaired or co-chaired several conferences, including the AAPG Hedberg Research Conference on Carbonate Microbial Reservoirs in 2012. He has been an associate editor of the AAPG Bulletin and was awarded AAPG Certificates of Merit for his committee work and for co-chairing AAPG Summits on Committees. In 2002 he received the Robert H. Dott, Sr. Memorial Award for Best AAPG Special Publication as coeditor of Petroleum Provinces of the Twenty-first Century. In 2012 he received AAPG's Distinguished Service Award.

Morgan served as secretary-treasurer (2002) and as president (2005–2006) of the Society for Sedimentary Geology (SEPM), and was awarded honorary membership in that society in 2009. Morgan also has been active in the Council of Scientific Society Presidents, where he served as treasurer in 2006.

Charles A. Sternbach led his first field trip with Professor Gerald M. Friedman to the great American carbonate bank (GACB) Beekmantown Group 30 years ago Rennselaer Polythecnic Institute M.S. 1981, Ph.D. 1984; B.A. Columbia University 1980. Charles worked as a staff geologist at Shell (1984–1997); ten of these years he explored for oil and gas in GACB reservoirs. He also led field trips with Dr. James Lee Wilson for Shell geologists in the 1990s. Charles explored for carbonate reservoirs and reefs with Tom Jordan (1997–2004). As an independent geologist (President, First Place Energy and Star Creek Energy 2004-present) his company is currently produce oil and gas from GACB reservoirs in several U.S. basins.

The Houston Geological Society (HGS) and AAPG have awarded Charles honorary membership. He served as HGS president from 1999 to 2000. He has been recognized for creating and organizing: Legends panels for HGS and Discovery Thinking forums at AAPG Conventions. He founded the AAPG 100th Anniversary committee to celebrate AAPG's big anniversary in 2017 (chairman 2004–2010). He will also be president of the AAPG Division Professional Affairs (2012–2013 term).

Charles married Linda Sternbach in 1983. Linda's M.S. thesis was on the Knox Group in Alabama, and their first date was a field trip to the Hoyt Limestone (GACB in NY).