

Clearing a Path for Others to Follow

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NGEAO Connection
Publisher & Editor:
Jennifer Greenwell

I've been faking it for years. The confident stride through a room, the seemingly aloof attitude and calm demeanor are all part of a cover I've developed to camouflage my social ineptness. The truth is, most days, my head is awash with nonsensical insecurities and absurd worries about what others expect from me.

I've learned to take a deep breath and fake it until I can make it. Recognizing frailties and creating ways to cope are skills that are essential in the journey towards success.

Let's not take things too far. I'm not advocating faking your concern for others or being insincere in your actions. Rather, it's more about pretending and later believing that you will or have overcome the multiples of obstacles thrown in your path.

It's really a no-brainer, acknowledging weakness, recognizing strengths and putting a plan into action works in all aspects of our lives.

In regards to NGEAO's success, it's taken us a few years of looking hard at the weaknesses and working together to create an approach that will result in a

stronger, more vibrant organization.

During my term as president of NGEAO in 2008, it is my intent to take NGEAO farther along the path towards success. This includes continued growth and increased visibility within the energy industry.

I don't promise I'll always say the right thing at the right time or feel real comfortable with every part of the process, but I do pledge that the organization will be in a better place than I found it.

Admittedly, I'm a work in progress but to quote the words of Aaron Lewis of the rock group Staind, "I'm not ashamed to be the person that I am today".

NGEAO's first luncheon of 2008 featuring Bob Firth's presentation titled "Master Limited Partnerships, the Good, the Bad and the Ugly" is scheduled for Thursday, January 10, 2008 at the Renaissance Hotel in Tulsa. Please join us.

**"Life's like a movie, write your own ending. Keep believing, keep pretending."
– Kermit the Frog**

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Useful Links

Each month the newsletter offers web links that may help you do your job better. This month's picks are:

http://www.petrostrategies.org/Learning%20Center/Learning_Center.htm double-click on the headings, Exploration, Production, Gas Processing, Marketing, etc to learn oil and gas basics on these subjects
http://www.particledrilling.com/drilling_technology/presentation.html check out this newest technology using hardened steel particles similar to shotgun pellets. You'll have to first provide your email address and contact information.

Did You Know?

The country of Norway has been burying the carbon dioxide (CO₂) produced from their oil and gas exploration efforts under the North Sea floor for ten (10) years. The term is CO₂ sequestration.

The liquefied CO₂ is piped 7000 meters down and into the seabed.

The storage formation, comprised of sandstone, can hold the CO₂ for hundreds of years. Pressures from the sea keeps the CO₂ sequestered in the storage formation.

Click the link below for an audio of the story
<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=17332408>

NGEAO Supports Energy Management Program @ TU



Bryant Frihart, Ted Jacobs, Rick Fitzgerald and Gale Sullenberger, Tulsa University's Dean of the Business Administration College

Photo of presentation of NGEAO's donation to Tulsa University's Energy Management Program

Grocery Money

Thanks to our membership's generosity, the NGEAO was able to donate almost \$2,000 to local community food banks during 2007.

The money was raised through the sale of mulligans at the golf tournament and through the sale of raffle tickets for the chocolate baskets at the holiday meet and greet.

NGEAO's donation will provide the local food banks with roughly \$16K of groceries to feed the hungry. Thanks for doing your part!

3 Rules of Networking Podcast

Clicking on the link below will take you to the NGEAO website where you can either listen NOW to a discussion about the ever-evolving LNG market or you can right-click on the link provided on Platts' page and "Save Target As" to download the presentation to your PC for transfer to your .mp3 player and listen to the topic later.

<http://data.memberclicks.com/site/ngeao/JobDig - 3 Rules of Networking.mp3>

Behind The Energy

A Different Look at the People Who Make Up the Oklahoma Natural Gas Industry

Committed to following a legacy paved in stone, Julie Gray is back and firing up business in Oklahoma. After a 20 year absence, Julie Gray returned to NGEAO in 2007.

Gray is the Manager of Gas Marketing for the Rockies and Mid-Continent at St. Mary Land & Exploration Company located in Denver, Colorado. "I started out in life playing with rocks," Gray said. "Growing up in Tulsa, the energy business was a natural choice," she said. "My grandfather spent the majority of his career with Noble Drilling, my father was a geologist with Marathon in the 1960's and my mother now works for Samson Resources."

Gray's experience in the energy business began in 1984. "My first job was for David House working as a contract administrator at Samson Resources," she said. "David taught me several things over the few years I worked with him." "I consider him my mentor," Gray said.

Gray's reputation seems to precede her in business. Dave Whitcomb, Assistant Vice President of Marketing with St. Mary, said, "I called David House for a reference before hiring Julie and I remember him saying we would be crazy if we did to not hire her." "As it turns out, David was right," Whitcomb said. "Julie is a very valuable asset to the St. Mary team."

Gray has worked on all sides of the energy business. Before coming to St. Mary, Gray was a trader for Yankee Resources in Ohio, ran Mercado Gas Services in Austin, Texas and was a buyer for Southern Union Gas. "Julie brings a lot to the table with her broad range of experience," Whitcomb said. "She is also exceptionally bright, very dedicated and on top of all that she has a fabulous personality and is a delight to work with." Gray earned a Bachelor's of Science and a Master's of Business Administration from Tulsa University. "When I started out in the energy industry, gas pricing was regulated and free market conditions were basically non-existent," Gray said. No futures market existed and the business wasn't as fluid." "The people in this industry have always been great, it is a good community to be involved with," she said.

Outside of work, Gray is "addicted to kickboxing." Also, during the winter I spend most weekends up in the mountains skiing with my kids," she said. Gray has two wonderful children, Mason and Tait and is married to Brad Gray. Gray's life experience does not end with the energy business. "I took a few years off in the mid 1990s when my first son was born and moved to Sao Paulo Brazil with my family," she said. "During those years, my only involvement in the gas business was trying to figure out how to read my gas bill in Portuguese and pay it in Brazilian Reais," Gray said.

Gray is excited to be part of the NGEAO. "It is important to try and strike a good balance between having fun in this business and getting the job done," Gray said. *Welcome back to Oklahoma Julie Gray, we are glad to have you on board with the NGEAO.*

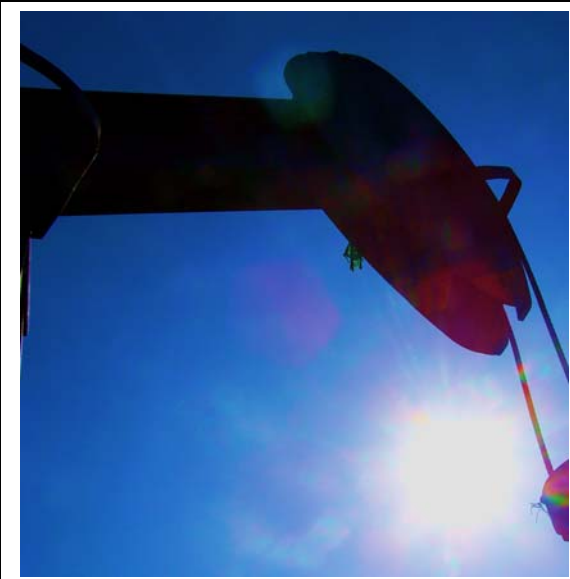
Contributing writer – Andrew Williams

Look at that Profile!

If you've changed jobs or received a promotion lately, you might want to revise your contact information. After all, we're using the NGEAO database each time we print name tags, include a list of attendees on the announcements, etc.

1. log on to www.ngeao.org
2. Click on "NGEAO Members - Log In Here" at the top left side of the page
3. Log in using your Username and your Password
4. Click on "My Profile" at the top of the page
5. Your NGEAO profile will show on the next page
6. Click on "Edit" at the right side of the page
7. Make the necessary changes
8. Click on "Save" at the bottom of the page

Don't know your Username and/or Password? Log on to www.ngeao.org and



Please Note: The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are strictly those of the author(s) and in no way represent those of the Natural Gas and Energy Association of Oklahoma.

Now Hiring

We have a few new committees for 2008:

New Membership – The NGEAO continues to add new members each month. Contact [Caleb Johnson](#) for more information.

Monthly Meetings – New incoming committee members will be planning the events for the remainder of 2008. Contact committee Chairmen [Josh Baskett](#).

Education – Yearly scholarship funding selection, continuing education credits, seminar topics, etc Committee Chairman is [Rick Fitzgerald](#)

Sports Tournament – actively participate in all phases of the annual event including planning and working the event Committee Chairmen are Teresa Hardesty, [Diana Cox](#) and [Mary Beasley](#)

Website – Participate in managing the website, provide content, update periodically Committee Chairman is [Jennifer Greenwell](#)

Newsletter – Author industry related articles, provide web links or photos, etc Committee Chairman is [Jennifer Greenwell](#)

Membership Directory – Assist in creation of a membership directory. Committee Chairman is [Mary Beasley](#).

Communications and Public Relations – Create press releases, add events to industry calendars, advertising, etc Committee Chairman is [Jennifer Greenwell](#)

Volunteers – Coordinate with those interested in becoming more active in NGEAO. Committee Chairman is [Kristin Brown](#)

Clayshoot Tournament – Assist in the planning of our annual clay tournament. Committee Co-Chairmen are [Josh Baskett](#) and [Andrew Williams](#)

Holiday Meet & Greet – Help make arrangements for the 2008 holiday meet and greet. Committee Chairman is [Jennifer Greenwell](#)

Contact the committee chair of the area you are interested in working and get started!