

# DEG Spheres of Influence June 2017

June 2017

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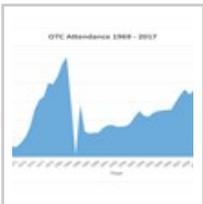
### Division of Environmental Geosciences Mission Statement and Purpose

What is the DEG? Get a refresher of the mission statement and purpose of the Division of Environmental Geosciences.



### 2017 DEG Honors and Awards

The Division of Environmental Geosciences announces the winners of their 2017 honors and awards.



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Since 1969, Houston has hosted the annual Offshore Technology Conference with the goal to "advance scientific and technical knowledge for offshore resources and environmental matters."



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Lake Erie - not just a favorite vacation spot but a fascinating geologic location!

# Division of Environmental Geosciences Mission Statement and Purpose

*February 2017*

- **Educating** the membership of AAPG and the general public about important issues that affect petroleum energy minerals exploration and production.
- **Communicating** to the general public and government agencies the Association's commitment to protect the environment while developing the world's natural resources in a responsible manner.
- **Applying** the expertise developed in the petroleum/energy minerals industries and hydrogeology to resolve environmental problems.
- **Promoting** environmental self-regulation within the petroleum/energy minerals industries.
- **Providing** relevant educational opportunities and services for professional development of the AAPG membership through seminars and conferences in environmental geosciences, hydrogeology and related fields.

# 2017 DEG Honors and Awards

June 2017 | By Barbara Kutchko

The Division of Environmental Geosciences announces the winners of their 2017 honors and awards.

## DEG Teaching Award

For excellence and dedication in the field of teaching environmental geology and/or related subjects to all levels of academic instruction.

**Dr. Rachel O'Brien**, associate professor and department chair, Department of Geology, Allegheny College, Meadville, Pa.



Rachel O'Brien, Teaching Award

## DEG Research Award

For contributions and achievements in the field of environmental and/or environmental research.

**Angela Goodman**, Technical Portfolio Lead, National Energy Technology Laboratory

**Christopher Lombardi (posthumously)**, graduate student, Rutgers University

## Best Poster at the Annual Meeting

**Nathan D. Webb**, Illinois State Geological Survey

(*"The Mississippian Thick Cypress Sandstone: A Nonconventional CO<sub>2</sub>-EOR Target in the Illinois Basin"*)

## Bruno M. Hanson Excellence of Presentation

For Best Oral Presentation at the Annual Meeting

**A. Wendt, Z. Li, C. You, M. Gonzales, F. Wu and S. Brantley**, Pennsylvania State University

(*"Data Mining Techniques Applied to Marcellus Shale Gas Development Northeastern Pennsylvania"*)

## DEG Certificate of Merit

For outstanding contribution to and meritorious service for the betterment of the Division and its membership.

**Francois Marechal**, independent, Calgary, Canada

## DEG Public Outreach Award

For efforts and accomplishments in projecting, promoting and presenting environmental concerns and subjects to the public-at-large.

**Stephen M. Testa**, Goldrush LLC (former executive officer, California State Mining and Geology Board),

Mokelumne Hill, Calif.

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## DEG Honorary Membership

For those who have distinguished themselves by their service and devotion to the science and profession of environmental geoscience, and to the Division.

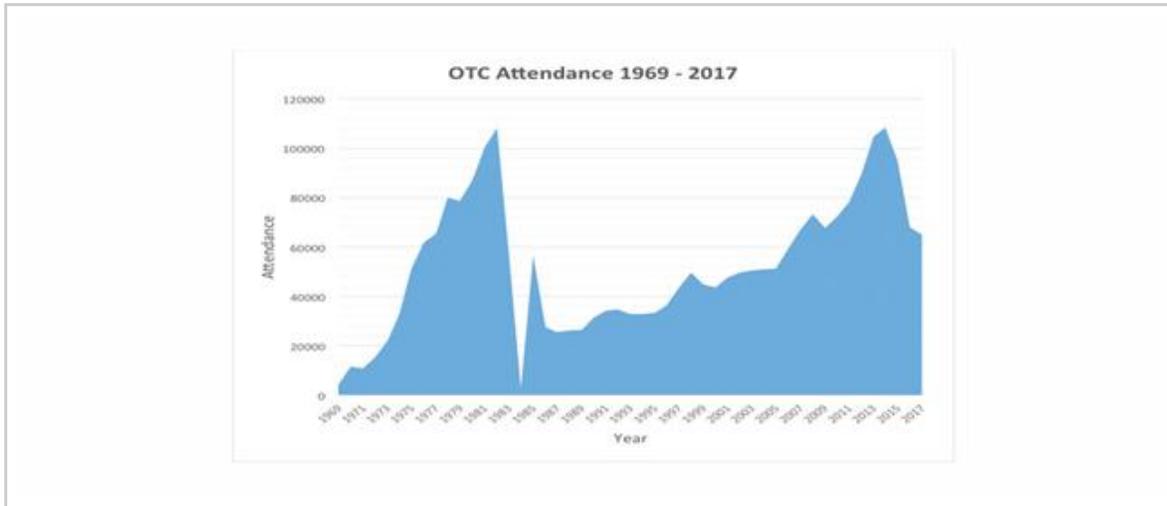
**N.J. “Anne” Fix**, Richland, Wash.



N.J. Anne Fix, Honorary Membership

# The Good, the Bad and the Ugly - OTC Recap

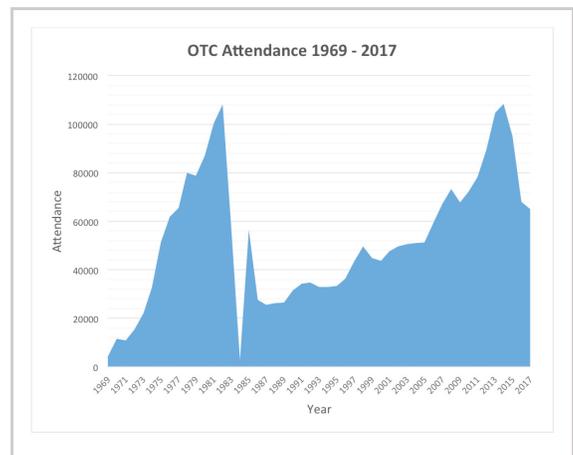
June 2017 | By Barbara Kutchko



The Offshore Technology Conference (OTC) was started in 1969 and is held annually in Houston. It is considered the largest oil and gas industry event in the world and is one of the largest trade shows held annually in the United States.

In fact, OTC is among the 10 largest meetings in the United States in terms of attendance. More than 100 countries are represented each year. The goal of OTC is to “advance scientific and technical knowledge for offshore resources and environmental matters.”

OTC is an amazing combination of exhibitions and technical sessions. This year, OTC featured 44 technical sessions, offered nearly 3,580 technical papers and had 2,470 companies exhibiting – and the exhibits are nothing short of amazing. Two-story exhibits are not uncommon. In the mornings, baristas can often be found serving coffee to clients and in the afternoons it is not uncommon to see bartenders serving cocktails while bands play live music as each exhibit work to attract clients to their “booth.” Clients can get comfortable on couches, sip coffee (or beer) and watch flat screen TVs while presentations are given that rival any technical talk are featured.



Speaking of technical talks, one can hear a presentation on a wide range of innovations regarding science, technology and safety. With technical sessions such as “Well Cementing,” “Reservoir Monitoring and Characterization,” “Recent Advances in Offshore Geotechnics,” “Big Data and Data Analytics,” “Subsea Processing, Intervention, Abandonment and Decommissioning,” “Well Logging,” and many, many others, there is more than enough to satisfy everybody’s thirst for knowledge.

The recession in the oil and gas industry has certainly impacted the attendance at OTC over the years. OTC had about 65,000 attendees this year. That total was down from around 68,000 last year, and considerably lower than the record-breaking number of 108,000 in 2014.

However, if history is any indication, expect a bounce back in the near future.

# Beauty in Geology

June 2017 | By Barbara Kutchko



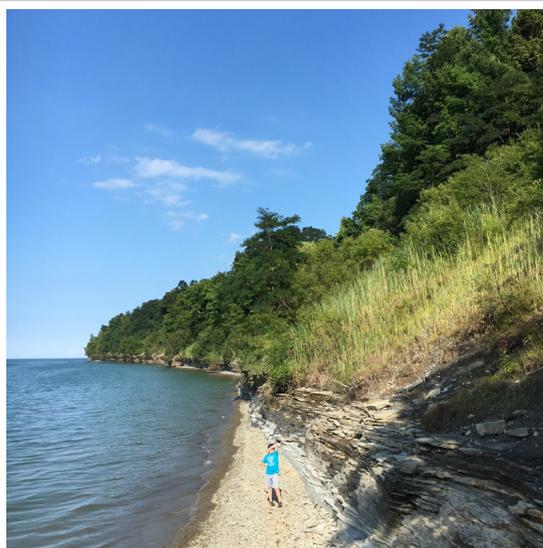
From the sandy beaches of Presque Isle, to the numerous vineyards and lake cut bluffs along the shore, Lake Erie is a favorite vacation spot, especially for families that live in the four states (New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Michigan) and one Canadian province (Ontario) that border it.

Lake Erie not only has a fascinating geologic history in that it was carved by glacial ice, it also plays an important role in the present — it provides drinking water to over 11 million people.

**A fun fact:** Lake Erie is the fourth-largest Great Lake and the world's twelfth largest freshwater lake. [More Lake Erie Fun Facts](#)



The shores of Presque Isle mimic an ocean beach – complete with waves breaking on large sandy beaches



A long climb down to the shore of Lake Erie was worth the view.  
A lot of erosion can be seen along the cut bluffs.