

DON R. BOYD MEDAL FOR EXCELLENCE IN GULF COAST GEOLOGY

Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies

THOMAS E. EWING

Citation: To Thomas E. Ewing, 2018 Don R. Boyd Medalist, for his exemplary and dedicated leadership in the Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies and its member societies, and for his outstanding achievements in geological research and petroleum exploration in the Gulf of Mexico Basin.

Recipients of the highest award bestowed by the Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies, the Don R. Boyd Medal for Excellence in Gulf Coast Geology, are selected on the basis of a distinguished standing in at least two of the following three areas: (1) Gulf Coast research geology, (2) Gulf Coast oil and gas exploration, and (3) professional leadership in the GCAGS and in at least one of its member societies. The 2018 Boyd Medalist, Dr. Thomas E. Ewing, far exceeds those standards, having achieved excellence in all three areas.

Tom's path toward becoming an outstanding researcher and prolific author no doubt began with his upbringing in an environment with a strong emphasis on academics and science. Tom was born in Elgin, Illinois, to Dr. Galen Ewing, a chemistry professor and author, and Alice Sipple Ewing. He lived with his parents and two older brothers, Martin and William, in Schenectady, New York, before the family moved to Las Vegas, New Mexico, where Tom attended grade school. Another family move took Tom to Orange, New Jersey, where he graduated in 1971 from the highly rated college preparatory school, Newark Academy, with recognition as a National Merit Scholar. Tom headed westward again for his college education and began developing his research skills. He earned a B.A. degree in Geology from the Colorado College in 1975, an M.S. degree in Geochemistry from the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology in 1977, and a Ph.D. in Geological Sciences from the University of British Columbia in 1981.

As he was completing his doctorate, Tom joined the Bureau of Economic Geology at The University of Texas at Austin. During the period from October 1980 through February 1985 at the BEG, Tom began his many contributions to the geology of Texas. His research projects included work on Gulf Coast Tertiary structural styles, Gulf Coast geopressured reservoirs, depositional systems of the Frio Hackberry, and compilation of the *Tectonic Map of Texas* and, with co-authors, the *Atlas of Texas Oil Reservoirs*. During a more recent period of contract work with the BEG during 2013 to 2015, Tom was the project chief and author for the highly popular *Texas Through Time*, a book and companion website explaining the geological history and character of Texas, a valuable resource for professional and general audiences alike.

Beyond the BEG projects and publications, Tom has independently continued over many years as a prolific researcher and author of over 90 articles, reports, book contributions, and field guides, many of them focused on the geology of the Gulf of Mexico Basin. He is perhaps most widely recognized as a master of regional studies, and many have praised his ability to assemble geological pieces into the "big picture". These studies have included work on the Yegua Trend of the Texas Gulf Coast, Late Jurassic depositional systems of the Northern Gulf of Mexico Basin, the South Texas heavy oil province, tectonic factors in the formation of the San Marcos Arch and Sabine Uplift, the Late Quaternary Rio Grande Delta system, Pliocene stratigraphy in southeastern Texas, and the peripheral graben system in Texas. Numerous professionals have credited Tom's published works for aiding in their own research, applications, and publications.

Tom has conveyed the results of his research to the rest of the geological community not only through his publications, but also through the many oral presentations he has given at conventions, society meetings, seminars, field trips, and short courses. The GCAGS and its member societies have been the beneficiaries of so much of Tom's shared research. In recognition of the quality and significance of his work, Tom has received several best paper awards from the GCAGS and other professional organizations, including the prestigious A. I. Levorsen Memorial Award three times for presentations at American Association of Petroleum Geologists Section meetings, two of which were GCAGS Annual Conventions in 1992 and 1998.

Following his initial time at the BEG, Tom moved to San Antonio and into the petroleum industry as a consultant, employee, partner, and owner. Since 1985, he has been a partner and then owner of Frontera Exploration Consultants, Inc., first serving as Geologist and Geophysicist, and currently as Senior Exploration Consultant. From 1985 to 2003, Tom consulted primarily to Venus Oil Company and then was employed as Senior Explorationist for Venus Exploration, Inc. Since 2007, he has also been a partner in Yegua Energy Associates, LLC in San Antonio.

Tom's work in oil and gas exploration has included projects in several different basins and trends, but his greatest achievements came during his association with the Venus group, when he played a significant role in the discovery of large gas condensate reserves in the Yegua Trend of the Texas Gulf Coast. The Venus prospects led to the discovery of Vidor Ames field (170 BCFE) in Orange County, as well as new pays in Constitution (175 BCFE) and Nome (116 BCFE) fields in Jefferson County, Shanghai field (20 BCFE) in Wharton County, and several other smaller fields.

In addition to his accomplishments in Gulf Coast research and petroleum exploration, Tom has met the third criterion of the Boyd Medal through his exceptional leadership in the GCAGS and member societies. He has served the GCAGS as President, Vice President, Annual Convention General Chair and General Vice Chair, Editor of the *Transactions*, Field Trip Chair, and Technical Program Co-Chair. He has also served two of the GCAGS member societies in leadership roles. For the South Texas Geological Society, he has served as President, President-Elect, Vice President, Director, Delegate to AAPG, and on various committees. He also served the Austin Geological Society as Secretary, Publications Chair, and Technical Programs Chair. As a Section of AAPG, the GCAGS has benefited additionally from Tom's substantial leadership roles in AAPG, for which he has served as Vice-President for Sections, Annual Convention General Vice Chair (currently), House of Delegates Vice Chair, He has served in two of AAPG's Divisions, serving as President of the Energy Minerals Division President and as Treasurer and President of the Division of Professional Affairs.

In recognition of his leadership and contributions to the geological profession, Tom has previously been honored by GCAGS, STGS and AAPG. He has received GCAGS Honorary Membership, the GCAGS Distinguished Service Award, STGS Honorary Membership, the AAPG Distinguished Service Award, AAPG EMD Honorary Membership, the AAPG EMD Distinguished Service Award, and AAPG DPA Life Membership. Now, let us recognize Tom Ewing for his excellence in Gulf Coast geology by awarding him the highly deserved 2018 Don R. Boyd Medal.

With greatest respect,

Bonnie Weise
Gene Ames, Jr.
Gene Ames III