# PETROLEUM Bits Bytes

VOL. LI No. 2

Second Quarter 2021

## A Look at Life from Space



The Petroleum Museum, through the support of the **Abell-Hanger Foundation**, will welcome NASA Astronaut **Colonel Terry Virts** on Thursday, September 23, at 7 p.m. Colonel Virts will share his fascinating story as the Museum's next *Arlen Edgar Distinguished Lecture* speaker.

Colonel Virts served as a U.S. Air Force test fighter pilot and is a NASA veteran of two spaceflights. He is a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and Harvard Business School.

Virts is a celebrated thought leader, speaker, and author of two books: *How to Astronaut, an Insider's Guide to Leaving Planet Earth* in which he shares how even the most mundane tasks and training shaped his per-

spective on life, careers, and relationships on Earth. The book gives the often untold side of space travel and Virts, a born storyteller, adds a dose of science made simple. *View From Above*, his first book for National Geographic, combines his best photography with stories about spaceflight alongside his perspectives about life on earth and our place in the cosmos.

During his seven months in space, he piloted the Space Shuttle, commanded the International Space Station, performed three spacewalks, and worked on scientific experiments, all while working closely with multiple international partners. On his first spacewalk, Virts spent almost seven hours outside the International Space Station. During his two spaceflights he took more than 300,000 photos, more than any other space mission has taken. These images are an integral component of the National Geographic IMAX film, *A Beautiful Planet*, in which Virts stars and also filmed.

Join us as we welcome Colonel Terry Virts to the Permian Basin and the Petroleum Museum. Tickets are free for this event, but please register online at **www.pbpetro.org** or call the Museum at 432-683-4403 for reservations.



Virts took more than 300,000 photos while in space.





NASA Astronaut Colonel Terry Virts Arlen Edgar Distinguished Lecturer 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 23



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Permian Basin Petroleum Museum, Library and Hall of Fame ...exploration, innovations and legends...

### Groundbreaking Coming for STEM Center

Things are about to get even more exciting at the Petroleum Museum! Groundbreaking for the new STEM Education Center is almost here. This addition to the grounds of the Museum will provide much needed classroom space, storage areas, and an exciting outdoor area with a covered patio, a Harmony Park and Building Blocks. Look for more information to come this summer!

## Leading the Way for Science Education

It is quite interesting to witness the work of individuals who participate in the process of guiding curriculum taught to Texas students. The Texas Energy Council (TEC), a nonprofit, nonpartisan organi-

zation of professional and educational societies dedicated to serving the energy industry in Texas, realized that the earth sci-



ences and the oil and gas energy industry in particular, have suffered significantly in the Texas K-12 curriculum. To address these issues, last fall the TEC formed an Education Committee specifically to participate in the once-a-decade revision to Texas' Kindergarten-12th grade science Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS).

The State Board of Education (SBOE) and Texas Education Agency's TEKS revision process sets up workgroups of qualified volunteers, intended to represent a diverse cross-section of the 15 SBOE districts as well as stakeholders, including educators and the industry. TEC recruited 17 volunteers who

shared its vision of ensuring that oil and gas is portrayed in a balanced fashion as a critical contribution to the Texas, U.S. and worldwide energy mix. These applicants represented six SBOE districts and included science educators and industry professionals, geoscientists, engineers, energy leaders, university professors, attorneys, and museum directors.

Included in the three individuals selected from the 17 was the Museum's Executive Director, **Kathy Shannon.** Each volunteer contributed over 64 hours to the Texas Education Agency workgroup sessions during the review process. Work of the TEC and the volunteers is important for the education of Texas students. Science is a critical component to students' success and the state's future workforce. We are proud to be a part of the process of guiding balanced science education for Texas students.

## **Speed Festival to Honor Jim Hall**

The American Speed Festival aims to be a major car event in Pontiac, Michigan and we are proud that two of the Museum's Chaparral race cars will be there! This event will be held September 30-October 3 and is paired with another new event called the Woodward Dream Show, which debuts this August. Both events will be coordinated under the umbrella of the Pontiac Motorsports Exposition. They will be modeled after the Goodwood Festival of Speed and Goodwood Revival, England's world-renowned motoring exhibitions.



The American Speed Festival will sport its own automotive royalty this year as it honors **Jim Hall**, legendary race driver and entrepreneur who powered his 1960s Chaparral Can Am cars with Chevy engines. Hall will bring two of his priceless Chaparrals and will be honored with the festival's first **Master of Motorsports Award**. The Chaparrals will make a tour of the track between regular timed runs of international supercars. This will be a great event for race car fans across the country and we are proud to be a part of the festivities!



The Petroleum Museum is honored to participate in the **Blue Star Museums** program again this year. Blue Star Museums is a collaboration among the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense, and participating museums across America to offer FREE admission for active-duty military personnel and their families from Armed Forces Day through Labor Day. We are excited to see military families enjoying the Museum this summer and we are grateful for a way to say "thank you" for their service.

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## Impress Them At The Museum



Looking for a unique space to host your next meeting or event? Look no further than the Petroleum Museum. We have several unique indoor and outdoor spaces for any kind of gathering.

The conference room received an audiovisual upgrade thanks to the **Permian Basin Area Foundation (PBAF) and the Permian Historical Society General Fund of the PBAF.** The room now features the ability to host meetings that require audio and/or video conferencing. New features include a large format projector, a pan, tilt, zoom camera, and wireless tabletop speakers/microphones. Bring your laptop, and you will be ready to host a meeting that will impress your guests whether they are in the room with you or on the other side of the world.

Call today and ask for **Bryan Grant**, Director of Rentals, or email **bgrant@petroleummuseum.org**.

Museum Offers Numerous Options For Gatherings

## ASK Dr. Petro Check Out These Differences



Question: What is the difference between pyrite and gold? Answer: Pyrite is actually a compound mineral of iron and sulfur. Yet, to an inexperienced eye, pyrite looks nearly identical to the chemical element gold. There have been many stories throughout history of explorers being fooled by pyrite – earning it the title of "fools' gold".

#### How to Spot the Difference

Gold and pyrite may seem similar because of their appearance, but the reality could not be further from the truth. There are clear differences between gold and pyrite that are visible to the human eye. Some of the differences are in their density, color, and hardness. At first glance, spotting the differences between gold and pyrite can be challenging but with enough practice you will not be fooled by "fool's gold".

#### **Difference in Densities**

Early prospectors knew that gold and pyrite behaved differently in a sifting pan because of their densities. Gold in its purest form has a density of 19.3 grams per-cubic centimeter and will tend to settle at the bottom of a sifting pan full of sand. Pyrite is a compound of chemicals with a density of 4.8 grams per-cubic centimeters and will rattle around the pan more loosely than gold.

#### **Difference in Color**

While gold and pyrite both shimmer in the sun, pyrite takes on an exaggerated shine like polished brass because of its metallic luster. Gold also has a metallic luster, but it retains a solid color in direct light better than pyrite. In ideal conditions, pyrite will form crystals with equal sized faces. This allows for the mineral to shine better than gold, whose malleable form releases less shine.

#### **Difference in Hardness**

The most distinct difference between gold and pyrite is in their hardness. Gold is one of the most malleable and ductile metals on earth with a hardness of 3 on the Mohs scale. The mineral can take any shape when flattened and is easily scratched with a knife.

Pyrite is noticeably harder with a hardness of 6 on the Mohs scale. Pyrite is not easily scratched and will shatter like glass if struck by a hammer. In fact, if you take a piece of copper and scratch it with a piece of pyrite, it will leave a scratch on the copper. If you repeat the test with gold instead of pyrite, the gold will be scratched.

Next time you're digging for treasure and find a golden nugget, you'll be ready with the knowledge needed to tell the difference.



Pyrite, or "Fool's Gold" Collection of the Petroleum Museum

Visit the Museum's Mineral Gallery to enjoy exquisite examples of pyrite.

## Education

## Family Science Night: Coming In Person This Fall

#### Fall Schedule

Thursday, Aug. 26 Wild for Wildlife

Thursday, Oct. 28 Spooky Science Spectacular We are excited to announce that we will be resuming in-person Family Science Nights starting this fall! Be sure to mark your calendar for our upcoming science-packed nights of fun. Family Science Nights feature hands-on experiments, engaging demonstrations, and inventive projects all centered around different scientific themes.

Our first in-person Family Science Night will be themed **Wild for Wildlife**. It is scheduled for **August 26** from **6:30 to 8 p.m**.

The next Family Science Night will take place on **Thursday, October 28.** Wear your costume and join us for a **Spooky Science Spectacular** from 6:30 to 8 p.m.



Museum members always enjoy the added bonus of early admission from 6 to 6:30 p.m. Thank you to **Chevron** for making these free science-filled nights possible.





## JUMP Into Summer Classes

Summer 2021 is in full swing at the Museum with STEAM Sprouts Mini Camps opening the season. This program will continue into the fall with six-week sessions into the world of Fairy Tale STEAM. STEAM Sprouts is generously sponsored by **SM Energy.** 

June and July will offer Movie Maker Mondays with youngsters enjoying popcorn, a movie and hands-on engineering challenges. These are scheduled for the second and fourth Mondays.

Summer Science Camps are designed for two age groups. Students ages 6-8 will find challenges that include art with engineering and imaginative projects.

Older students, ages 8 to 12, can delve into LEGOS and 3D Adventures. They will experiment with 3D pens and 3D printing.

Go to **www.pbpetro.org** to check availability, schedules and fees.

## Book Now for Fall Fun

Book a tour or outreach program for hands-on learning.





The Petroleum Museum's Education Staff visited several schools in Big Spring to bring our outreach programs to students. Campuses included Moss Elementary (grades K-2), Marcy Elementary (grades K-2), and Big Spring Intermediate (grades 5 and 6). Students in Kindergarten through 2nd grade, as well as 5th grade students, enjoyed the portable planetarium programs that covered topics such as day and night, moon phases, and the solar system. Students at Big Spring Intermediate got up close and personal with several of the Museum's live animals, discovered the wonders of geology, and learned about the world of coding through our hands-on robotics program featuring Ozobots and Osmo Coding Kits.

\*Our Education Department is currently booking for the 2021 – 2022 school year. If you are interested in scheduling a tour, a class and tour package, or an outreach program, please contact the Education Department as our fall & spring calendars fill up quickly. Visit our website at **www.pbpetro.org** or contact our Education Department at 432-683-4403 or **education@petroleummuseum.org.** 

### Time on Your Hands? We Have A Solution

Calling all Legacy Scholar volunteers! The Petroleum Museum is an approved Legacy agency which means you can earn your Legacy Scholarship volunteer hours by helping at the Museum. Join us for Summer Science Camps, Movie Maker Mondays, Robotics & Engineering Funlabs, Family Science Nights, and more to complete your required hours while helping to engage the young minds of our community in the world of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math). No previous experience is required. Be sure to check out our volunteer needs on the MSS Connections website at **www.mssconnections.org** to sign up to volunteer today!





Honorees were, from left, Fred M. Newman, Frank M. Late represented by his daughter Jan Late McMillan and her husband Richard McMillan, and Paul L. Morris.

#### Wildcatter

ConocoPhillips Richard & Jan McMillan In memory of Frank M. Late The Newman Family Scharbauer Foundation, Inc. In memory of Clarence Scharbauer

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#### Contributions

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## **Evening Honors 3 Inductees**

On April 29 we honored the 2021 Petroleum Hall of Fame inductees: Frank M. Late, Paul L. Morris, and Fred M. Newman.

The induction ceremony and dinner was held at the Bush Convention Center in Midland.

It was a memorable evening celebrating the historic accomplishments of these individuals who have distinguished themselves as leaders in the petroleum industry. Each inductee has upheld the tradition of triumphs in the petroleum industry that will be remembered and beliefs that will serve to inspire. The Petroleum Hall of Fame is dedicated to those who cherished the freedom to dare, and whose work and service helped develop the Permian Basin. Thank you to the following donors who helped make the 2021 Petroleum Hall of Fame an exceptional event:

**Epic Permian Operating LLC** David & Allison Eyler Marion & Bob Frazier In honor of Fred M. Newman Mr. & Mrs. William R. Granberry Elizabeth A. Greaves Jerry & Allyson Groner In honor of Paul L. Morris In memory of Clayton Williams, Jr. Stacie & Wesley Hanna In memory of Dr. Sam G. Gibbs James C. Henderson In honor of Fred M. Newman Anne Herbig In honor of Fred M. Newman Landry Holeman Retha & Jim Hunnicutt In memory of Frank M. Late Mr. & Mrs. Bert G. Johnson Jean S. Jones Sue Marshall In memory of William S. Marshall Marshall & Winston, Inc. In memory of William S. Marshall Jeannie & Taylor Mayne Richard & Jan McMillan In memory of Frank M. Late Steve Melzer Mineral Technologies, Inc. Paul L. Payne, Jr., Paul L. Payne, Sr., Stephen R. Payne formerly Producing Royalties, Inc. Paul Robertson Jim Rodman Helen & Bob Shelton Mr. & Mrs. Buddy Sipes In honor of Paul L. Morris Shelley & Chip Smith In honor of Fred M. Newman **Trevor Stribling Carroll & Georgia Thomas** Luanne & Randy Thornton

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#### Thanks to Vendors!

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## Membership Gives Perks All Year Long

No time like the present to join or renew your membership! Museum membership has many perks beginning with free admission and store discounts. To become a member, log on to our secure website at **www.pbpetro.org** or contact Luanne Thornton at 432-683-4403.

Welcome to our newest and renewed members as of February 11 to May 24, 2021:

#### Contributing Family

Carla Archibeque Jennifer & Bryan Ball Robert Barfield Rachel & Rhett Biggerstaff Tiffany Bradley Ben Breyman Beth Brugger Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Byerley

Melinda & Justin Carlile Dr. Michele Harmon Cobb & Joe Cobb Lauren Cullen Amy & Ryan Edwards Laura & Dillon Ferguson Sarah Furtado Jennifer & Nathan Garcia Andrea Giese **Marques Griffin** Mr. & Mrs. Quillan Harris James C. Henderson Stacey & Parker Hewitt **Kendall Heyen** Ashley & Kevin Holdt Alyson Howlett Amy Hughes **Carson Hughes** Kristin & Jeff Hughes Premila & Christopher Johnson Ami & Adam Jones Gina & Josh Laub Tricia & David Lavenson Lorrenda & Michael Lechtenberg

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Diamondback Energy Mr. & Mrs. Joe Gifford PBEX, LLC

## **Community GIVES For Lasting Impact**



*Permian Basin Gives* on May 18 was a one-day event encouraging people to create a meaningful unified impact through the nonprofits that serve our communities. There is power in numbers, and area nonprofits used *Permian Basin Gives* as an opportunity to encourage donors to make a bigger impact by giving together. The Permian Basin

is known for its strength and resilience. More than \$1.2 million was raised for over 100 nonprofits in the Permian Basin!

"Thank you" to all those who gave to the Petroleum Museum!

## Partnering with Area Food Bank

The Museum recently formed a partnership with the West Texas Food Bank for a series of mobile food outreach opportunities. The Food Bank will be setting up a mobile food distribution site in the Museum's west parking lot on the **second Wednesday of each month from 5 to 7 p.m.** At the first mobile outreach the Food Bank distributed groceries to 97 local families. We are excited about our continued partnership with West Texas Food Bank in finding new ways to serve our community in the Permian Basin.



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## **Memorials**

Memorial contributions to the Petroleum Museum are deposited in the permanent endowment fund, unless donor advised, to provide ongoing tribute to the individuals recognized in bold. Donors are listed below the honoree. Contributors from February 10 to May 24, 2021, were:

IN MEMORY OF... Bob Bonner Rick Bonner LaJuana Rathjen Sheila Morrow Stan Brosig Stacie & Wesley Hanna Tom Hyde Mr. & Mrs. John Kimberly Jimmie Reed Keith, Charlotte & Tiara Doucet Joe David Williams, Jr. Arlen Edgar

## **Notable Dates**

#### JUNE June 2-3 STEAM Sprouts Mini Camp: "Goes Camping" 9:30 to 11 a.m. OR 12:30 to 2 p.m. Ages 4-5 Museum members \$40; Non-members \$50 Pre-registration required. For more information or to register online, visit www.pbpetro.org. Sponsor: SM Energy June 9-11 Summer Science Camp: "Full STEAM Ahead!" 9 a.m. to 12 noon; ages 6-8 Museum members \$60; Non-members \$75 Pre-registration required. For more information or to register online, visit www.pbpetro.org. June 10 Brown Bag Lunch & Lecture Series Speaker: Bo Farris, Facilities Engineer Fasken Oil & Ranch Topic: "Permian Water Operations" 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Free admission. Drinks & dessert provided. Sponsors: Norma J. McGrew & Hahl Proctor Charitable Trust, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee June 14 Movie Maker Monday: "The Croods: A New Age" 1:00 to 5 p.m. Museum members \$10; Non-members \$15 Ages 6-12. Pre-registration required. For more information or to register online, visit www.pbpetro.org.

#### June 16-18

Summer Science Class "To Infinity & Beyond!" 9 a.m. to 12 noon Ages 6-8 Museum members \$60; Non-members \$75 Pre-registration required. For more information or to register online, visit **www.pbpetro.org.** 

#### June 23-25

Summer Science Camp: "Splash Into Science" 9 a.m. to 12 noon; ages 6-8 Museum members \$60; Non-members \$75 Pre-registration required. For more information or to register online, visit **www.pbpetro.org.** 

June 28

Movie Maker Monday: "Onward" 1:00 to 5 p.m. Museum members \$10; Non-members \$15 Ages 6-12. Pre-registration required. For more information or to register online, visit **www.pbpetro.org.** 

July 5-8 Summer Science Camp: "LEGO Mini Masters: Dream Park" 8 a.m. to 12 noon; ages 8-12 Museum members \$80; Non-members \$100 Pre-registration required. For more information or to register online, visit **www.pbpetro.org.** 

JULY

#### July '

July

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Sep

12	
	Movie Maker Monday: "Trolls World Tour"
	1:00 to 5 p.m.
	Museum members \$10; Non-members \$15
	Ages 6-12. Pre-registration required. For more information
	or to register online, visit <b>www.pbpetro.org.</b>
19-22	
	Summer Science Camp: "3D Adventurers"
	8 a.m. to 12 noon; ages 8-12
	Museum members \$80; Non-members \$100 Pre-registration required. For more information or to
	register online, visit <b>www.pbpetro.org.</b>
26	
20	Movie Maker Monday: "Scoob!"
	1:00 to 5 p.m.
	Museum members \$10; Non-members \$15
	Ages 6-12. Pre-registration required. For more information
	or to register online, visit www.pbpetro.org.
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AUGUST	
ust 12	
	Brown Bag Lunch & Lecture Series
	Speaker: Laura Lewis, author & artist
	Topic: "At Home on the Great Plains of Texas"
	11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
	Free admission. Drinks & dessert provided.
	Sponsors: Norma J. McGrew & Hahl Proctor Charitable
Trust, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee ust 26	
151 2	o Family Science Night
	"Wild for Wildlife"
	6:30 to 8 p.m.
	6 p.m. Early Admission for MEMBERS ONLY
	Hands-on Science Experiments & Activities
	Free Admission
	Sponsor: Chevron
<u>SEPTEMBER</u>	
rember 9	
	Brown Bag Lunch & Lecture Series
	Speaker: John Trischitti
	11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Free admission. Drinks & dessert provided. Sponsors: **Norma J. McGrew & Hahl Proctor Charitable Trust, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee** 

#### September 23

Arlen Edgar Distinguished Lecture Series Speaker: Astronaut Colonel Terry Verts 7 p.m. Free ticketed event. Call for reservations or go online to **www.pbpetro.org** Sponsor: **Abell-Hanger Foundation** 

For more information about any of these programs or events, contact the Petroleum Museum at 432-683-4403 or www.pbpetro.org.

### APPLAUSE, APPLAUSE

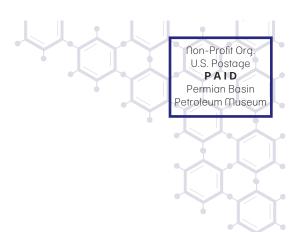
We want to give a round of applause to the following friends, companies and businesses. Their in-kind contributions of time, assistance or services are appreciated:

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Museum Bit & Bytes is published quarterlyby the Petroleum Museum. For more infor-mation call 432-683-4403 or visit the web-site at pbpetro.org.6/21

## The Museum Store



**MINERAL MANIA ROCKS AT THE MUSUEM STORE!** We have something for everyone! Whether you love jewelry, art, or just want to learn more about the amazing world of geology, you will find it at the Museum Store. Plus, know that your purchase supports the Museum! Museum Members always receive **15 percent off** purchases. We are open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 2 to 5 p.m. on Sunday. Or, shop online at **pbpetro.org/shop anytime.** 

Our Mission: We will share the petroleum and energy story and its impact on our lives.