

## **Don G. Bebout (1931-2018)**

Don Gray Bebout, scientist, teacher, mentor, artist, husband, father, and grandfather, was born on January 23, 1931, in Monesson, Pennsylvania, in the Pittsburgh area where he grew up before attending Mount Union College, in Alliance, Ohio. While at Mount Union, he met his future wife Lois J. Heinzerling, whom he married in Lorain, Ohio, on February 2, 1952. Don and Lois completed their undergraduate degrees at Mount Union in 1952 then moved to the University of Wisconsin for graduate studies. Don completed a M.S. degree in 1954 working on the "Conemaugh Corals from Ohio." After two years serving in the Army, Don continued his graduate studies and was awarded a Ph.D. degree in Geology from the University of Kansas in 1961 for his research on "Desmoinesian Fusulinids of Missouri." He then moved his young family to Houston, Texas, where he began work at Esso Production Research Company (EPR; now ExxonMobil Upstream Research Company).

During his time at EPR, from 1960 to 1972, he studied carbonate rocks from many areas around the world, and he led annual carbonate workshops to the Bahamas to examine modern carbonate depositional environments. In 1970, Don was awarded the Medal of Merit by the Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists for his co-authorship of a paper entitled, "Classification of Anhydrite; a Practical Approach." Soon after that, in 1972, he moved to Austin to become a Research Scientist at the Bureau of Economic Geology (BEG), University of Texas, where he was responsible for studies of carbonates and evaporites and played a key role in a geothermal energy project leading to the drilling of the first geopressured geothermal test wells in Texas. His research on carbonates and carbonate rocks was published in many highly regarded papers on carbonate stratal architecture and depositional systems, relationship of lithofacies to porosity and reservoir quality, and regional-scale investigations of Lower Cretaceous carbonates in Texas and Mexico.

Don's reputation in the academic realm led to his being selected as an American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG) Distinguished Lecturer in 1979-80. In 1979, he moved to LSU as a Professor and Director of Research of the Louisiana Geological Survey, and he was Vice President of the First Annual Gulf Coast Research Conference. He later (1983-84) served as the president of the Gulf Coast Section of the Society for Sedimentary Geology (GCS-SEPM). In 1987, he was selected as an honorary member of the GCS-SEPM. Don returned to the BEG in 1982, as a Senior Research Scientist, and he remained there until his retirement in 1994. He appeared as an author in various publications as late as in 2001, when he co-authored a BEG publication on deposition and diagenesis of the Graysburg Formation in West Texas. Don's 150 publications include the classic, highly-cited AAPG Memoir 33 ("Carbonate Depositional Environments") and the BEG publications "Atlas of Major Central and Eastern Gulf Coast Gas Reservoirs" and "Guide to the Permian Reef Geology Trail, McKittrick Canyon, Guadalupe Mountains National Park, West Texas." In 2017, Don was named a Distinguished Alumnus by the Department of Geoscience at one of his alma maters, the University of Wisconsin. During his career as a geologist, Don impacted the careers and lives of many students and professional

colleagues who treasured their time working with him. He was a real gentleman and a great mentor, and his legacy includes inspiring the careers of many young scientists who are now leaders in their fields in industry and academia.

After retiring from the BEG, Don embarked on a rich, nearly twenty-year second career as a potter, selling his high-quality, functional pieces at arts and crafts shows and in galleries mostly in the Austin area. Many will cherish and enjoy the beautiful and distinctive pottery that he made and those close to him will remember how truly happy he was during this second career. After retiring from this pottery career, he moved on to painting with watercolors, and in this painting he continued to express his interest in the Pecos River Native American cave paintings, among other themes.

Don Bebout, who passed away on June 16, 2018, is survived by his wife of sixty-six years, Lois Joan Bebout, his three children, Beth Ann Bebout, Gray Edward Bebout, and Martin Earl Bebout, and his two grandchildren, Alan Don Bebout and Julia Ann Bebout.