

- +Archives

- Issue Archives
- President's Column
- Director's Corner
- Geophysical Corner
- Policy Watch
- Historical Highlights
- Regions/Sections
- Foundation Update
- DPA Column
- EMD Column
- DEG Column
- ProTracks
- Making a Difference
- Spotlight On
- A Look Back
- Business Side of Geology
- Wildcat Recollections
- Advertise
- Search
- [aapg.org](https://aapg.org)



Sign up to receive the Explorer newsletter, summarizing the top stories from print, sent every Thursday.

Email \*

**SIGN UP**



## Extended reading



### Sponsored: Registration Now Open

Save Up to \$200 by  
21 January

## Geoscience in the Airwaves

Juli Hennings: 2024 AAPG Geoscience in the Media Award winner

November 2024 | Barry Friedman, Explorer Correspondent

**W**hen Juli Hennings, this year's AAPG's Geosciences in Media Award winner, thinks about all the factors that brought her to this moment in her professional life, there are two that stand out. The first was in Texas at a meeting at the Bureau of Economic Geology at the University of Texas at Austin's Jackson School of Geosciences.

The second was in the Republic of the Congo.

First to the Lone Star state.

In late 2016, her husband Peter, a BEG project manager, heard Scott Tinker, past AAPG president and then-director of BEG, address an all-staff meeting to express his desire to bring a greater understanding of the planet to more listeners and viewers. When her husband relayed this to her, the bells went off.

“I had always been a fan of StarDate, a daily two-minute broadcast from UT’s McDonald Observatory, and had often wondered why there wasn’t a similar science radio show focused specifically on our amazing planet,” she said.

To hear her tell it, the next day, she called Tinker. He laughed and said, “Great minds!” as the StarDate concept and name “EarthDate” had taken shape in early summer 2016. Tinker was thrilled to have heard from Juli, a geologist he had known and respected for many years.

“Looking back,” said Tinker, “EarthDate would not be what it is today, and may not have even made it, without Juli. Her scientific depth, curiosity, creativity, attention to detail, program management talent ... make her unique in so many ways.”

With Harry Lynch from Arcos Studios, BEG Assistant Director of External Affairs Mark Blount and many other talented BEG and UT folks, they put together a program that would, in fact, expose more people to more of the inner and outer workings of the planet.

EarthDate is a public service radio program, whose mission is to engage listeners in Earth science topics with the goal of reconnecting them to the wonders of their world.

Since its inception in 2017, EarthDate, which Tinker narrates, has covered show topics like “Precious Water,” “The Day Earth Shook,” “Magnetic Storms,” “The Many Facets of Salt,” and “Big Bend National Park is 80.”



**Sponsored:  
Connect with  
Your Clients  
and Customers  
at U...**

Book Exhibit Space  
and Sponsorships



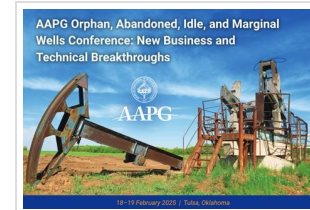
**Sponsored:  
Call for  
Abstracts  
Opening Soon**

IMAGE 2025

## Translating the Enthusiasm

Hennings, whose experience includes being manager of geoscience excellence at ConocoPhillips, a job that included recruiting, training and knowledge sharing, said, "I heard many stories from students we were recruiting about what first attracted them to science."

What struck them, she said -- and hence, what struck her -- was that their stories always involved engagement with a specific enthusiastic adult who could explain scientific concepts and aspects of the natural world in language they could understand.



### **Sponsored: Register Now**

AAPG Orphan,  
Abandoned, Idle,  
and Marginal Wells  
Conference