

NOGS LOG

MAY 2019

Volume 59, Number 11



MAY 6 - NOGS LUNCHEON PRESENTATION

**"LSU Mounds (16BTR6): Striking New Discoveries from the LSU Mounds,
Now Dated as the Oldest Man-Made Extant Structures in the Western Hemisphere"**

Guest Speaker: Dr. Brooks B. Ellwood

LSU Department of Geology and Geophysics • Baton Rouge, Louisiana

NOGS - PLANO - SPWLA



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ON THE COVER

Cover photo credit: www.urbanicity.com

Devil's Punch Bowl — Devil's Millhopper Geologic State Park, Oregon

Devil's Millhopper is a National Natural Landmark that has attracted tourists since the 1880s. The park's crown jewel is a bowl-shaped cavity 120 feet deep and 500 feet wide that leads down to a miniature rain forest. The wide sinkhole got its name from its similar appearance to the hopper of a mill, along with the bones found at the bottom, suggesting animals entered it on their way to meet the devil.

This significant geological formation has enabled researchers to get a better picture of Florida's natural history. The large sinkhole has limestone sides that provide an easily visible geological record of the area. Twelve springs, some more visible than others, feed the pond in the sinkhole. In the summer, the bottom of the sinkhole is dramatically cooler than the air at the surface due to the depth and shade from the canopy above. Significant fossil deposits include shark teeth, marine shells, and the fossilized remains of extinct land animals.

At this time, the stairs to the bottom of the sinkhole leading to the viewing platform are closed due to damage from Hurricane Irma in 2017. Also, I found out in my research that in the event of a zombie apocalypse, Devil's Millhopper Geologic State Park is one of the last places you want to be. Although the park boasts natural springs, abundant wildlife, and lush vegetation, the terrain is extremely unfavorable.



Insert photo credit: www.tripadvisor.com

Information was sourced from Wikipedia, atlasobscura, and ufzombie.

From the Editor

In late March, New Orleans mayor, Laytoya Cantrell, filed a lawsuit against oil and gas companies over coastal erosion. The lawsuit claims that pipeline structures and canals caused damage to the wetlands allowing increased risk of damage to the city from hurricanes and flooding. NOGS president, Chris McLindon, was the author of a guest editorial in the Advocate newspaper on April 16th. This article is reprinted as the President's column on p. 4 in this *NOGS LOG*. On April 22nd, there was a rebuttal by John M. Barry citing that other studies indicate that the sites of oil and gas pipelines and canals were "the overwhelming cause" of land loss. This serious problem gives us all something to think about. New Orleans will probably be the first major city lost from rising water levels in coastal areas around the world.

During my research for the cover picture, Devil's Millhopper Geological Park, I discovered something appalling. The major sinkhole in the park is called "The Devil's Punchbowl." I found that there are many deep pools and sinkholes in the US that are likewise named. I also found that there was a time in our post-Civil War history when the Devil's Punch Bowl was a type of concentration camp where newly emancipated slaves were held. The location of the camp was in Natchez, Mississippi. Union soldiers were not happy with the mass exodus of the freed slaves and their families. It is estimated that 20,000 people, including women and children, were killed at this location. With all the turmoil in our country today, we can be grateful that we are not subject to this kind of inhumanity now.

Fran
Fran Wiselady,
NOGS LOG Editor



FROM THE
PRESIDENT
CHRIS MCLINDON

Current sea level rise projections present substantial challenges, and the world is watching New Orleans. On March 29, the city took a step in the wrong direction by choosing litigation as the best path forward. Perched on one of the world's great river deltas, New Orleans experiences natural rates of subsidence that are two to three times the rate of global sea level rise. This means that New Orleans will experience the relative impacts of sea level rise before almost anyone else does. New Orleans has the task of showing the way.

For the last decade, New Orleans has performed admirably at this task. About \$14 billion has been invested in flood protection, and the Greater New Orleans Urban Water Plan is incorporating an intelligent approach to managing water within that infrastructure. The biggest advances have been in the application of science to the challenges ahead. The Departments of Earth and Environmental Sciences at UNO and Tulane, along with the Coastal Research Laboratory at UNO and the ByWater Institute and its River and Coastal Center at Tulane, are world-class institutions leading the study of coastal processes — and how best to face the challenges of subsidence and rising sea level.

Over the past five years, the New Orleans Geological Society has worked with UNO, Tulane and the University of Louisiana at Lafayette to provide access to oil and gas industry seismic data to study the geological processes associated with subsidence. Since 2014, more than \$350 million in industry seismic information has been made available for academic research in this field. The first published study to use industry seismic data came from a cooperative research project between Tulane and the University of Texas at Austin. This study used a 500-square mile, 3D survey in Plaquemines Parish to map 28 geological faults. The study found that most of these faults extended to the surface, and several of them “correspond to abrupt shifts from emergent

wetlands to fully submerged areas of open water.” In other words, movement on the faults is causing the wetlands to submerge. The research at the universities since the publication of this study is showing that many, if not most, of the hot spots of wetlands loss are directly associated with geological faults.

The role that NOGS is playing to coordinate sharing the oil and gas industry seismic data with the universities is exactly what is called for by the National Academies of Science report on the future of the Gulf Coast published last year. The study specifically recommended efforts to remove “barriers to communication between the energy industry and other stakeholders” and to find ways to “engage more effectively to facilitate information sharing.”

The lawsuit filed by the City of New Orleans against a group of oil and gas companies tears at the fabric of this cooperative relationship. It couldn't have come at a worse time. The March 20 Board of Directors Meeting of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) featured a presentation by Krista Jankowski, a CPRA geologist and Tulane graduate. She gave an overview of the science and research that is going into the development of the 2023 Master Plan. It featured the research partnerships that CPRA has with Dr. Mark Kulp at UNO and Dr. Nancye Dawers at Tulane, and it showed the trace of the Ironton fault that is projected to cross near to the site of the proposed Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. The research collaboration among CPRA, UNO and Tulane is based almost entirely on the use of oil and gas industry seismic data to study faulting and subsidence. The critical study of the Ironton fault and other faults across coastal Louisiana will require an expansion of that cooperative relationship.

In direct contradiction to the cooperative efforts among the oil and gas industry, the local universities and CPRA to bring the best available science to the development of the 2023 Master Plan, the city's lawsuit is not based on any scientific study of the causes of wetlands loss. The contentions of the lawsuit are not supported by any active university research, and they are not reflected in any way in the development of the Master Plan. The City of New Orleans needs to reverse this misstep and get back on track to showing the rest of the world the way forward by working cooperatively with all stakeholders in the coastal zone, including the oil and gas industry.

Originally published as a guest editorial in Baton Rouge's *The Advocate* on April 16th, 2019.

Reprinted in the May 2019 issue of the *NOGS LOG*.

Picture From Our Past...

by Ed Picou - Chairman, Historical Committee

2000 NOGS Golf Tournament - Diversified "Chefs" Ready Grill Steaks



Photo submitted by Ed Picou

23rd Annual Gulf of Mexico

Deepwater

Technical Symposium

August 26-28 2019

**New Orleans Downtown Marriott
at the Convention Center**

www.deepwaterola.org





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May 6 • NOGS Luncheon Presentation

Holiday Inn Downtown Superdome

\$3.00 validated parking in hotel garage

Presentation:

LSU Mounds (16BTR6): Striking New Discoveries from the LSU Mounds, Now Dated as the Oldest Man-Made Extant Structures in the Western Hemisphere

Guest Speaker:

Dr. Brooks B. Ellwood

LSU Department of Geology and Geophysics • Baton Rouge, Louisiana

See page 8 for Abstract and Biography

HOLIDAY INN DOWNTOWN SUPERDOME

Check with concierge or
front desk for location.
Lunch served at 11:30 am

ADMISSION:

With reservation..... \$30.00
Without reservation \$35.00
Student Member with reservations..... FREE

May 3

NOGS-PLANO-SPWLA Golf Tournament

Bayou Oaks at City Park • New Orleans, Louisiana
4-Player Scramble • Shotgun Start at 8:30 a.m.
See page 27 for more details or www.nogs.org

May 19-22

AAPG Annual Convention

Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center • San Antonio, Texas
For more information: <https://ace.aapg.org/2019>

May 14

Hands-On STEM Day

Core Element and the New Orleans Baby Cakes

Shrine on Airline Ballpark • Metairie, Louisiana
For more information: <https://core4kids.org/team-view/hands-on-stem-day/>

June 3

NOGS Luncheon Presentation

Speaker: Ryan Weber - PaleoData, Inc.
Holiday Inn Superdome • New Orleans, Louisiana

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Continued from previous page

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May 6 NOGS Luncheon Presentation

☆☆☆ at the Holiday Inn Superdome ☆☆☆

LSU Mounds (16BTR6):

Striking New Discoveries from the LSU Mounds, Now Dated as the Oldest Man-Made Extant Structures in the Western Hemisphere

Presented by

Dr. Brooks B. Ellwood

Chair - LSU Dept. of Geology and Geophysics • Baton Rouge, Louisiana

ABSTRACT

For many years there has been some minor research investigating the two Native American mounds on the LSU campus, Mound A to the north, and Mound B to the south. Early research included coring and minor excavations around the margins of the mounds, required when LSU built small brick walls to prevent people from driving their cars over the mounds, something that occasionally happened until a student was run over in 1984 and killed while sunbathing on Mound A. These remedial excavations found very few artifacts and charcoal dates produced calibrated ages in the 5-6,000 BP range. Results from the cores were generally inconclusive, although it was determined that the two mounds were built from very different sediment sources.

During the last 10 years, our group has employed a number of geophysical imaging techniques, including electrical resistivity, cesium vapor magnetometer gradiometer, and ground penetrating radar measurements to investigate these mounds, and a large magnetic anomaly found on Mound A led to a proposal to take a core from both mounds in 2009, and to an excavation over the Mound A anomaly in 2012. Class projects in Geoarchaeology continued to study the mounds over the years, and in 2018, while the class was running, permission was granted to excavate on the top of Mound B. It was during this excavation that in-depth analysis of the 2009 cores from the mounds discovered ash beds containing burned bone, and these were then dated. Dates from the lower parts of each core produced a mean ^{14}C calibrated age of ~9,000 BP ($N=8$). This date makes the LSU mounds the oldest man-made structure that is still in existence in the Western Hemisphere, and some of the oldest structures on Earth. In the upper parts of each core, a mean calibrated age of ~6,000 BP ($N=5$) was determined, indicating a two-phase mound building event. The methods used and the results of this research will be reported.

BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Brooks Ellwood is the Chair of the L.S.U. Department of Geology and Geophysics. Dr. Ellwood received his B.S. in Geology from Florida State University in 1970, his M.S. in Geological Oceanography from the University of Rhode Island in 1974, and his Ph.D. in Geophysics from Ohio State University in 1976. Dr. Ellwood held Assistant and Associate Professorships at the University of Georgia between 1977 and 1983, and Associate and Full Professorships at University of Texas at Arlington (U.T.A.) between 1983 and 1988. He was Acting Chair of the Department of Geology at U.T.A. between 1989 and 1992. Dr. Ellwood joined the faculty at L.S.U. as a Professor of Geology and an Adjunct Professor of Geography and Anthropology.



Dr. Ellwood's interests are the relatively new applications in stratigraphy that allow regional and global correlation using paleoclimate proxies. Tied to biostratigraphic and geochemical data sets, magnetostratigraphy susceptibility can be used for high-resolution correlation and interpretation of marine sedimentary sequences from around the world. Published and active research includes samples throughout the Phanerozoic from a number of sites from North America, Europe, Africa and Asia.

**THE MAY LUNCHEON RESERVATION
DEADLINE IS MAY 3.**

"And Looking Ahead . . ."

The next luncheon will be held on June 3rd. Our guest speaker will be Ryan Weber with PaleoData, Inc. Reservations online at www.nogs.org or by email at admin@nogs.org or call 504-348-3500.



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SUPER SCI

This year's event went off with a bang! The highlight being a Brontosaurus Brass Band second lining through the museum. Seventy-five enthusiastic volunteers, including students from five universities, staffed the stations giving kids the opportunity for hands-on experiences with dinosaur and oil industry topics. **Southeastern Louisiana University's Professor Bruce Sherman's Geology 101 classes** lead the way with **Robin Henderson, Lauren Gorman, Melody Ainsworth, Myra Christophe, Amanda Johnson, Aubree Weldon,**

It's rare that you can recollect what you were doing exactly 20 years ago. In 1999 NOGS was running our first Super Science Saturday! Over the years, 1,200 volunteers have made this event a reality and we would like to thank all of you so much for your involvement. This year's event was held for the last time at the Children's Museum in the Warehouse District on Julia Street. NOGS has already been asked by popular demand to repeat the event on October 12th shortly after the Labor Day opening of the new Children's Museum in City Park.



SCIENCE SATURDAY

APRIL 6, 2019

Chase Falgout, Emma Higgins, Jade Jones, Tamara Welch, Albert Bailey, Burak Kandil, Abbie Petitto, Stephanie Harris, Heather Mankel, Carolyn Beth Preston, Riley Bourg, Kechaunta Wilson, Kaylan Arcediano, Mckay Rayborn, Brayden Reeves, Seth Diaz, Gant Gautreaux, David Zapchenk, Taylor Narcisse, Taylor White, Grace Butzman, Chase Damate, Meagan Ross, Amelia Durham, Chasity Kyzar, Gianna Nastasi, Allyson Houeye, Mary Miller,

Feron Boudreaux, Deranda Griffin, Kelsin Franklin and Hailey Cunningham.

UNO students included Jared Bullock, Jarrett Levesh, Danielle Mangipano, Nelsy Osorio, Sarah Sheppard, and Libby Henderson. The LSU contingent consisted of Rafael Villanueva, Joe Honings, and Caroline Mierzejewski. Tulane's volunteers were Betina Brockamp and Bobola Akintomide. Loyola's volunteers were Michael Estrada, Maddie Sanders

and trainer extraordinaire Anthony Rizzi. We would not be able to hold this event without the great volunteer effort of such terrific college students.

NOGS members were key in interacting with the kids and sharing their experiences with the college students. Participating in the event were Christy Himel, Brenda Reilly, Lisa Kennedy, Dave Cope, Bill Vollenweider, Dianne Lynne, Doug Bradford, Al Melillo, Regan French, Claire Renault, Elizabeth Cornell, Ronald Bourgeois, Anna Strimas and daughter Lilly, Phillip Richardson and son Adam, Reino Clark, Beth Strickland, Rhonda Roederer, Peyton Madere, and our photographers Jim Brooks and Bernie Regel.



Lynn and Eddie Tate of the Harrison County Gem and Mineral Society gave out dinosaur bone fragments to those who completed their scavenger hunt. Major thanks to Charles Leche for additional photographs, Jared Bullock and Kraig Derstler for walking the T.-rex skull down to the museum and Emily Barnitz, the LCM Early Learning Manager, who made everything possible.

Tom Bergeon



Photography by Jim Brooks, Bernie Regel and Charles Leche





CALENDAR OF EVENTS: MAY - OCT 2019

If you know of upcoming seminars or academic events that may be of interest to our members, please email the event details to Fran Wiseman at nogseditor@gmail.com to be included in the monthly calendar.

2019	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT / INFO
3 May	NOGS - PLANO - SPWLA Golf Tournament	Bayou Oaks at City Park New Orleans, LA	Reservations: www.nogs.org Email: admin@nogs.org Call: 504-348-3500
6 May	NOGS Luncheon Presentation Speaker: Dr. Brooks Ellwood Topic: LSU Campus Mound Excavations	Holiday Inn Superdome	Reservations: www.nogs.org Email: admin@nogs.org Call: 504-348-3500
14 May	Hands-On STEM Day Core Element and the New Orleans Baby Cakes	Shrine on Airline Ballpark Metairie, Louisiana	https://core4kids.org/team-view/hands-on-stem-day/
19-22 May	AAPG 2019 Annual Convention & Exhibition Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center	San Antonio, Texas	https://ace.aapg.org/2019
3 Jun	NOGS Luncheon Presentation Speaker: Ryan Weber • PaleoData, Inc. "Microbiotic Response to Opening of the Gulf of Mexico Norphlet, Smackover, Haynesville"	Holiday Inn Superdome	Reservations: www.nogs.org Email: admin@nogs.org Call: 504-348-3500
27-29 Jun	Oil History Symposium and Field Trip in New Brunswick, Canada	New Brunswick, Canada	www.petroleumhistory.org
26-28 Aug	23rd Annual Gulf of Mexico Deepwater Technical Symposium	N.O. Downtown Marriott Convention Center	http://www.deepwaternola.org/
12 Oct	Energy Day	LA Children's Museum	Tom Bereon • 504-832-3772 tom.bergeon@upstreamexp.com
20 Oct	New Orleans Pelicans and New Orleans Saints Chevron STEM Fest Benefiting Core Element	10 am - 2 pm Mercedes-Benz Superdome	https://core4kids.org/team-view/join-core-element-the-n-o-pelicans-saints-for-stem-fest-presented-by-chevron-october-20



Contact NOGS at:
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2019 ADVERTISING RATES

The New Orleans Geological Society was formed in 1941, with an initial membership of only 55. It has always been an active professional society and presently has a membership of 500.

AD SIZE	2015 RATE	NEW 2019 RATE!
Full Page (7.5"x10")	\$3500	\$1750
Half Page (3.75"x10" or 7.5"x5")	\$1850	\$925
Quarter Page (3.75"x5" or 7.5"x2.5")	\$1000	\$500
Eighth Page (3.75"x2.5")	\$600	\$300
Twelfth Page (3.75"x1.65")	\$375	\$188
Note Size (3.75"x.75")	\$120	\$60

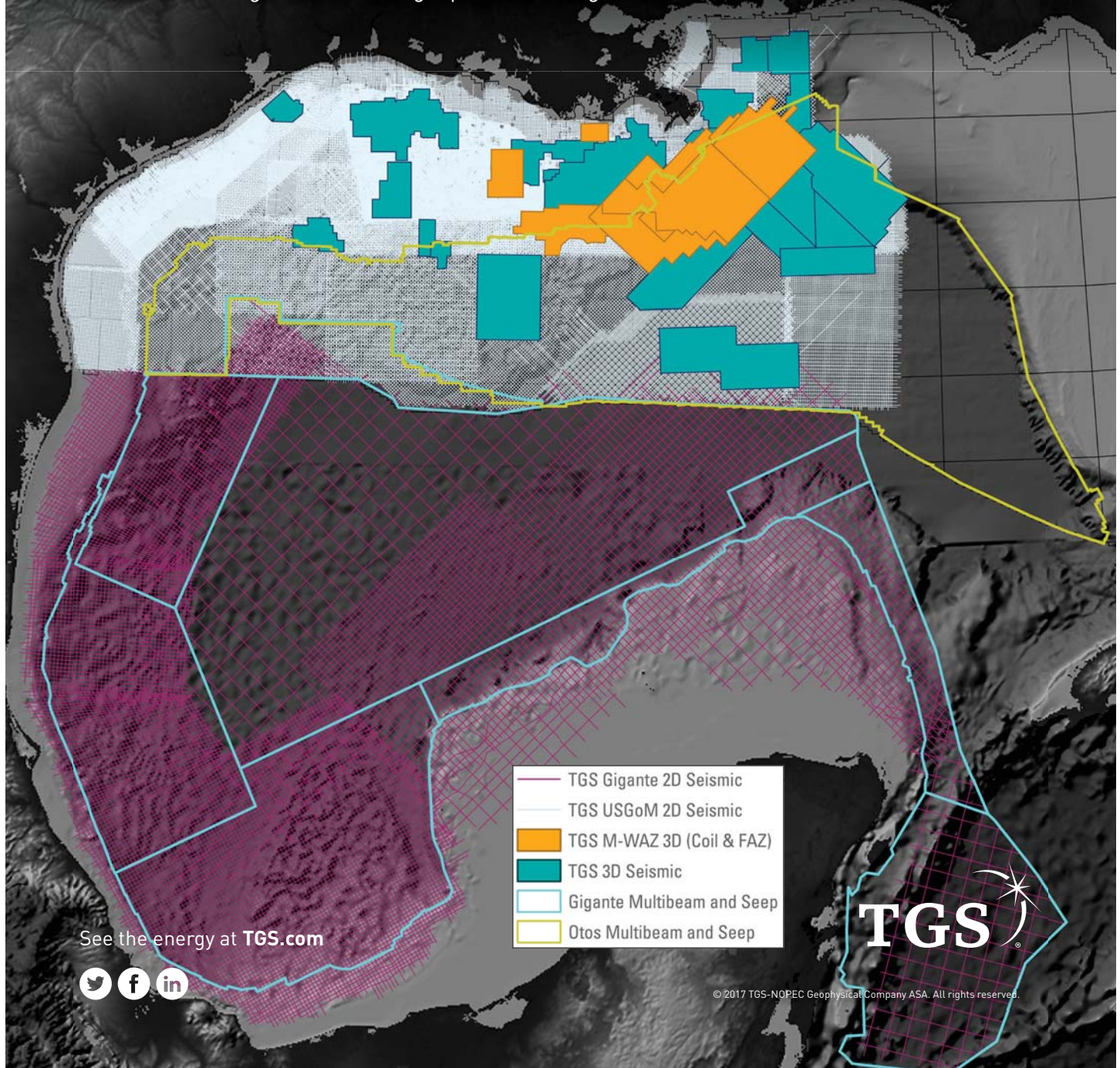


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OFFSHORE GULF OF MEXICO - SHELF AND DEEPWATER ACTIVITIES

by Al Baker

During March 2019, the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) approved 90 Gulf of Mexico (GoM) drilling permits. Twenty of these were for shelf wells, and 70 were for deepwater wells. Of the total number of permits, there were 13 new well permits; two were issued on the shelf and 11 in deepwater.

The two shelf new well permits were for development wells. One was issued to Arena Offshore for Eugene Island 275 #K-2, and the other to Cantium for Grand Isle 26 #1.

The 11 deepwater new well permits were for one exploration well and 10 development wells. The exploration new well permit was awarded to Chevron U.S.A. for Walker Ridge 758 #PS-3. BP Exploration & Production received 8 new development well permits for their Mad Dog North drilling program in Green Canyon Block 825. The permits were for wells # 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15s. Additional new development well permits were issued to W&T Offshore for Mississippi Canyon 800 #2 and to Fieldwood Energy Offshore for Green Canyon 200 #A-11.

On March 29th, IHS-Petrodata reported that the GoM mobile offshore rig supply stood at 71, which is 1 more than last month. The marketed rig supply consisted of 41 rigs, of which 33 were under contract. The marketed rig supply number was 1 more than last month, and the contracted rig supply was 2 more than the previous month. The marketed contracted versus total rig supply utilization rate stood at 57.7%, and the marketed contracted versus marketed supply utilization rate stood at 80.5%. By comparison, the March

2018 total fleet utilization rate stood at 42.9% (versus 46.5% today) with 36 out of the 84 rigs under contract.

As of March 29th, Baker Hughes indicated that there were 23 active mobile offshore rigs in the GoM, which is 69.7% of the rigs under contract mentioned above. This active rigs number is 4 more than as reported last month. Of the 23 rigs, 6 are located on the shelf, and 17 are in deepwater. At the same time last year, there were 12 mobile offshore rigs operating in the GoM or a 91.7% increase.

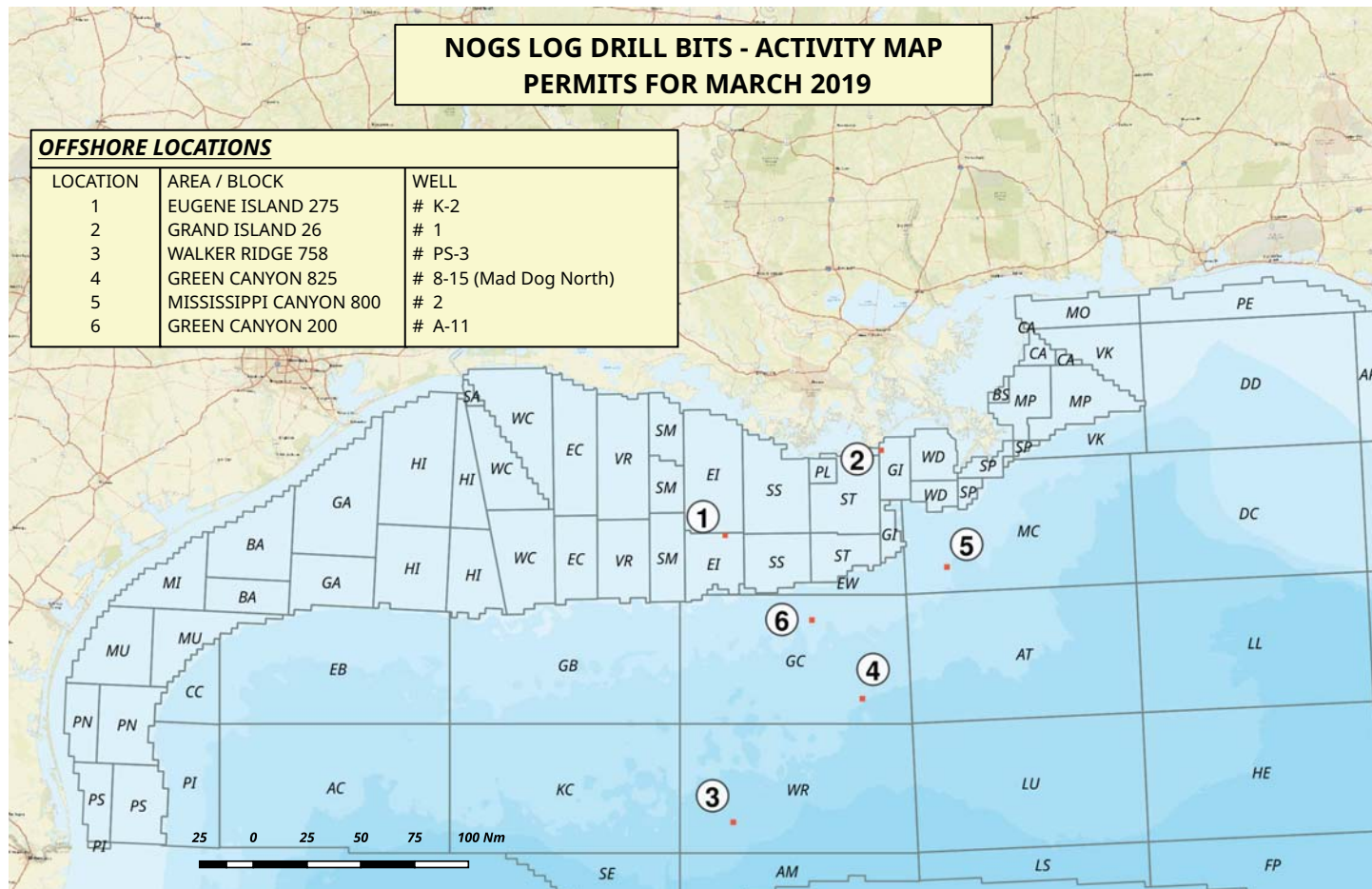
The Baker Hughes total U.S. rig count on March 29 stood at 1006 rigs, which is 41 fewer rigs than reported at the end of February 2018. Of the 1006 rigs, 816 (81.1%) are oil rigs and 190 (18.9%) are gas rigs. A year ago, there were 993 rigs working in the U.S. Thus, the current rig figure represents a 1.3% increase in rigs. Texas had the largest number of rigs with 491, which is slightly under half (48.8%) of the total number of rigs in the U.S. Louisiana had a total of 65 rigs, up 1 rig from last month.

On March 20th, the U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Ocean Energy (BOEM) held OCS Sale 252 in New Orleans. A total of 30 companies participated in the lease sale submitting 257 bids on 227 blocks. There were 20 bids for shelf blocks and 207 bids for deepwater tracts. The sum of the high bids was approximately \$244.3 million. Shell Offshore was the top bidder exposing \$84.8 million on 87 blocks. The highest bid in the sale was \$24,495,776 for Mississippi Canyon Block 801, which was submitted by Equinor Gulf of Mexico LLC. Equinor outbid three other companies for this tract.

NOGS LOG DRILL BITS - ACTIVITY MAP PERMITS FOR MARCH 2019

OFFSHORE LOCATIONS

LOCATION	AREA / BLOCK	WELL
1	EUGENE ISLAND 275	# K-2
2	GRAND ISLAND 26	# 1
3	WALKER RIDGE 758	# PS-3
4	GREEN CANYON 825	# 8-15 (Mad Dog North)
5	MISSISSIPPI CANYON 800	# 2
6	GREEN CANYON 200	# A-11



THE BOOKSHELF

LOUISIANA PINEY WOODS OIL BOOM

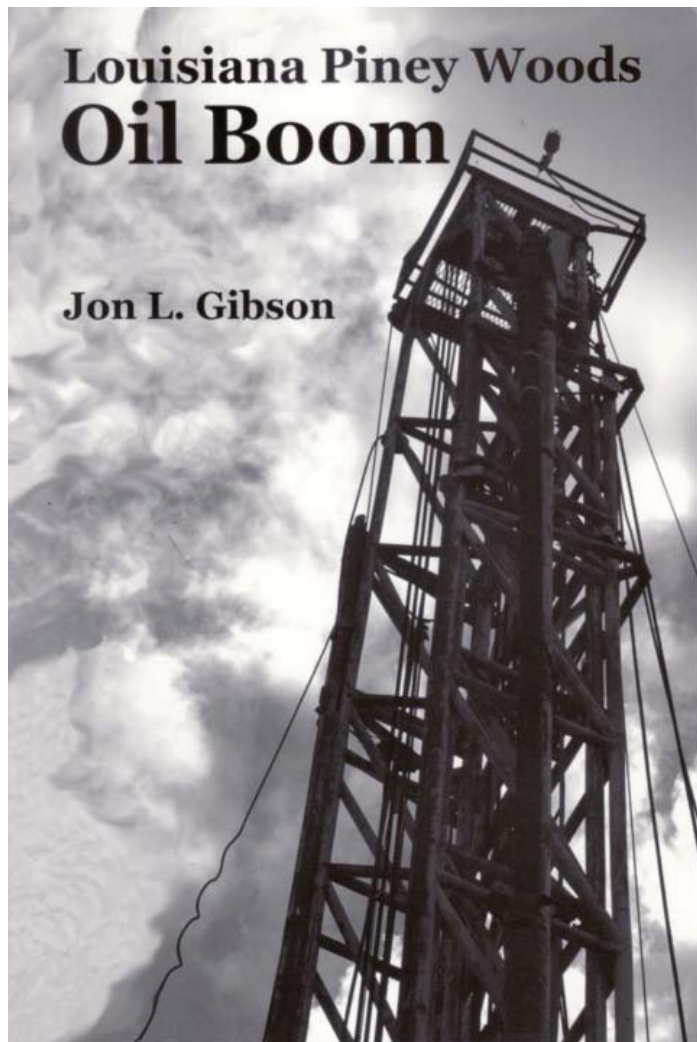
Jon L. Gibson, Author

Reviewed by Jeff Spencer, GCAGS Historian

There has been little published on the history of early oil and gas development in north-central Louisiana, so Louisiana Piney Woods Oil Boom is a welcome addition to the history of the state's petroleum industry. Gibson mixes detailed discussions of the discovery of the Tullos-Urania field (1925) and the Olla field (1940) with excerpts from tape-recorded interviews (1983, 1993, and 1994) of oil field workers. There is a nice assortment of black and white photographs, both from the early days of development and more recent scenes photographed by the author. The rapid growth of Tullos and the accompanying typical early boomtown troubles are described in detail, including the tent towns, hijacking, gambling, prostitution, and bootlegging. Being the only "wet" town in LaSalle Parish didn't help matters!

The book includes sections on drilling and completing wells, transporting crude oil, and summaries of some of the early oil operators, including H.L. Hunt who was an early very successful operator in the area. Gibson's discussion of the geology of these shallow Wilcox fields is excellent and understandable for most readers. The author is also an accomplished artist, including his sketches of fossils and oil rig parts. He

provides detailed information, often from SONRIS, on early wells' drilling and completion, even including serial numbers. There is a short, but excellent, oilfield glossary included (p. 143–48).



Louisiana Piney Woods Oil Boom

Jon L. Gibson, Author

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www.gcagshouston.com



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