

**DECEMBER 2021**  
**Volume 62 No. 6**

# NCGS LOG



**YEARS**



# IN THIS ISSUE



## On the Cover

El Capitan is Spanish for “The Captain” or “The Chief”. The Sierra Miwok, the native people of northern California, called the granite cliff “Totockahnoolah” (To-tock-ah-noo-lah).

El Capitan is in Yosemite National Park and is admired by visitors for its physical beauty and the formidable challenge it makes for climbers.

Top Elevation: 7,573 ft

Mountain Range: Sierra Nevada

Rock Type: Granite



## *From the Editor...*

Cool crisp and dry fall weather has finally arrived and so has in-person meetings of the New Orleans Geological Society (NOGS). In person monthly luncheons took longer to return than any of us wanted but they're back and now it's time to celebrate!

Our December NOGS Luncheon will include the presentation of the scholarship award winners and a celebration of NOGS' 80th anniversary! Our 80 year history is filled with an impressive list of accomplishments to advance the understanding of geological science to industry, state and local regulatory agencies and academic institutions. The generosity of NOGS members time, talent and treasure to community outreach, support of education from grade school to college and the advancement of science has been outstanding.

The Christmas and New Year holiday season is almost here so there's going to be a lot to talk about and if you are like me you don't have much to contribute to conversations recipes. This year you're in luck, you can inject some humor with a simple recipe for crust, the earth's first crust!

[Read about it here.](#)



**Emmitt Lockard**  
**2021/2022 NOGS LOG Editor**

JOIN US AS WE

*Celebrate*



**Join us as we gather in-person for the first time in many months! We will have a virtual option for those who are not comfortable gathering.**

**We will celebrate NOGS 80th Anniversary in a NEW Location  
The Cannery New Orleans**

**Complimentary Parking available across the street.**

**We are lucky to have a presentation from Microsoft's Gareth O'Brien who will discuss Leveraging Cloud Technology in the Geoscience Industry.**

- **NOGS Foundation will recognize the 2021/2022 Scholarship Recipients**
- **A virtual option will be available FREE to those who cannot attend in person. We are trying the technology for the first time and we cannot guarantee a quality presentation via Zoom/Teams/etc.**
- **For in-person attendees, the \$30/35 covers a buffet lunch**
- **and dessert to be served by staff**
- **Socially distanced seating will be available**

***Please join us and bring a guest to enjoy this event.***

# NOGS DECEMBER 2021 MEETING

MONDAY - DECEMBER 6, 2021  
IN PERSON MEETING WITH  
VIRTUAL OPTION

JOIN US AS WE



**Leveraging Cloud Technology in the Geoscience Industry**

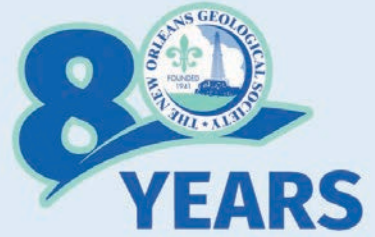
**Presented by: Gareth O'Brien**  
**Microsoft Principal Program Manager**

Gareth graduated with a Doctorate in Geophysics from the School of Earth Sciences, University College Dublin in 2002. After his primary degree (Trinity College Dublin 1997 B.A. (Hons) in Theoretical Physics) Gareth completed a M.Sc. in Geophysics from Durham University, UK, in 1998. From 2002- 2011, he was employed as a Research Fellow in the School of Earth Sciences, UCD. His research focused on Computational Seismology and Geophysical fluid dynamics. From 2011-2020 he worked for Tullow Oil as a Principal Geophysicist working on all aspects of subsurface exploration with his final role focusing on digitalisation on the subsurface workflow. In 2017, Gareth completed a M.Sc. in Business Analytics (Smurfit Business School) which focused on the impact of cutting-edge algorithms as applied to business decisions. He also holds Adjunct Professor positions in UCD and the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies. Gareth is now at Microsoft working for Azure Global Industry team as a Principal Program Manager helping expand Microsoft's portfolio across the energy sector. The role involves the adoption of technology and AI to increase work efficiencies. Gareth has worked on strategies to enhance analytic capabilities, utilizing modern architectures, HPC systems and algorithms to augment operations and enable new more efficient work practices in the energy sector.



# 80th Anniversary of NOGS

## Key History Highlights



- Although this is NOGS 80th Anniversary event, I want to start with mentioning that New Orleans has always been a favorite site for the annual convention of the AAPG. Even before NOGS was founded, AAPG has held their first New Orleans convention here in 1930 and again in 1938. After the 1938 convention, there was a twenty-seven-year hiatus until 1965. AAPG has held eight conventions in our city.
- NOGS was organized on October 3, 1941, just two months before the attack on Pearl Harbor by Japan.
- In 1950, the first NOGS membership roster was published in the new mimeographed newsletter.
- On November 15-17, 1951, the first GCAGS Convention was held at the Roosevelt Hotel with NOGS members playing a significant role with its membership now at 233. Over the years NOGS, assisted by NOGA, has hosted nine GCAGS conventions.
- On October 13, 1954, the New Orleans Geological Auxiliary held its first meeting at the Valencia Club.
- In 1959 NOGS established a Group Insurance policy for its members. This was later taken over by AAPG and is now the AAPG Geocare Insurance program.
- In 1960 the first of three Salt Dome volumes was published, and the NOGS LOG replaced the old, mimeographed version.
- Speaking of Publications — All our publications are now digitized. All oil and gas fields and salt dome volumes are on the original CD issued in 2002. Two additional CDs contain some fifty-six publications, such as field trip guidebooks and short course notes, were released in 2003. As of June 2021, AAPG Datapages has paid NOGS a cumulative total of \$55,990.87 in royalties for access to these digital publications. Additionally, the Texas Bureau of Economic Geology, who handles sales of our remaining hard copy publications, has consistently sent semi-annual royalty checks.
- In 1978 the NOGS Scholarship Fund was created, which morphed into the NOGS Memorial Foundation. In the initial year of 1978, three university students were awarded a total of \$1500, whereas in 2016, twelve students were awarded a total of \$30,000. Since its inception, a total of \$863,000.00 has been awarded to 411 university students.
- In 1988 NOGS Membership climbed to an all-time high of 1,500.
- In 1991, NOGS leased its first “permanent” office suite in the 234 Loyola Building and hired Annette Hudson as Office Manager.

# **80th Anniversary of NOGS**

## **Key History Highlights**

- In 1992, NOGS celebrated its 50th year on May 30th with an Anniversary Birthday Bash that was attended by a large crowd.
- In 1995 NOGS membership requirements were expanded to include geoscientists working in environmental and geotechnical services fields.
- In 1997 NOGS launched its first website and established e-mail capabilities.
- Faced with \$11.00 oil in 1999, corporate downsizing and relocations hit the industry and dealt NOGS a heavy blow. The Employment Counseling Committee arranged many social coffees and talks designed as network opportunities for displaced members.
- In 2003, NOGS presented the South Louisiana Onshore Petroleum Exploration Symposium (SLOPES) on May 22nd at the Marriott Hotel. Twenty-seven papers were presented in two concurrent sessions for 332 attendees.
- In 2005 Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans on August 29 causing the cancellation of the NOGS hosted 55th Annual GCAGS Convention. Thankfully, NOGS had a cancellation policy!
- The aftermath of Hurricane Katrina prompted NOGS to host a series of four (2007-2010) symposia titled "Geologic Facts of Life for Flood Protection." All four symposia were well-attended.
- In 2010 NOGS published "Oil and Gas Fields of South Louisiana 2010." This digital volume contains data on 26 fields, all of which were chosen due to significant added reserves established with 3-D seismic.
- In 2015 NOGS and the Memorial Foundation agreed to fund the Louisiana Children's Museum and the St. Tammany Children's Museum, each \$50,000, to be paid over a ten-year period. The first checks were presented at the August and September luncheon meeting. In 2020, NOGS paid out the remaining amount.

**Notice:** For a comprehensive history of NOGS activities over the past 80 years, go to the **ABOUT US** page on the website. Chronicled there are all yearly events including SuperSaurus Saturday, Golf Tournaments, etc. Don't forget to take a look at the **GALLERIES** for photos of past NOGS events.



**Ed Picou**  
**Chairman Historical Committee**



**HILLARY SLETTEN**

# **A MESSAGE FROM 2021/2022 NOGS PRESIDENT-ELECT**

**To members and friends of the New Orleans Geological Society:**

The weather has finally turned cooler, and the end of the year is near in sight. We recognize that it has been another challenging year amidst the pandemic, scattered returns to places of work and school, impacts from the hurricane season, and personal circumstances. NOGS members have not been exempted from any of these factors, and so we again thank you for your continued support this past year and hope that you will engage more and more with the Society as activities begin to pick-up in the coming months.

To initiate this progression back to in-person events, we are excited to host our December speaker, Gareth O'Brien, who is a Principal Program Manager at Microsoft. He will be speaking on "Leveraging Cloud Technology in the Geoscience Industry." Mr. O'Brien brings a wealth of knowledge and experience from his time in academia and research, blending the core applications of the geosciences with the ever-increasing demand for integrating digitalization into our analytical capabilities. Although Mr. O'Brien cannot attend in-person due to his location, it will still be great to gather and listen to him speak as a group. I know I am certainly looking forward to hearing his insights, and how Microsoft is working to move the needle in our profession.

At this event we will also be celebrating 80 years of tradition, community outreach, career development and comradery that NOGS has provided for its members, friends, and greater New Orleans community. Since its founding in October 1941, NOGS brings geoscientists from all backgrounds together to share common goals such as learning about new research through our excellent speaker series and helping expose young people to the world of geology at events like SuperSaurusSaturday. We also have held numerous fundraising events over the years such as the annual NOGS-PLANO Golf Tournament which helps raise funds for the Louisiana Children's Museum. The Society has so much to be proud of and I hope you are able to join us to take a moment, reflect on all that this group has achieved, and enjoy time celebrating these efforts with one another.

Last but not least, we will be awarding our 2021 Scholarship Recipients from Tulane University, LSU and The University of New Orleans at the December luncheon. This year a diverse group of 12 graduate and undergraduate students received research funds from one of 5 scholarship funds totaling \$30,000 in awards. We congratulate all of these students for their excellent research and wish them the best on their continued academic and professional journeys.

So, hopefully that is enough of a sway to get you to join us on Monday, December 6 at The Cannery in New Orleans! Socially distanced seating will be provided, and the staff will be serving a hot buffet lunch. For those who are unable to join in-person, we will also have a free online option. Just bear in mind this will be our first attempt to present a speaker event from a group venue. Please register no later than Friday, December 3. Look forward to seeing you there!

**Wishing you all a wonderful holiday season!**

**Hillary Sletten**





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# PICTURES FROM THE PAST



**Harrison L. Townes (R) AAPG President Elect presents to Harluf C. (Pete) Peterson (C) NOGS's third President (1943-1944) AAPG's Recognition of Achievement Award to the Society on its 50th Anniversary at the June 1, 1992, Luncheon Meeting. President John C. (Jack) Langford is at left.**

**Note: This framed photo with caption hung in the NOGS Office until it was closed in May 2018. It is stored with the NOGS banner in our storage unit.**



**A view of the very busy dance floor at the NOGS Christmas Party and Dance at the Petroleum Club in 1994. Without a doubt, the event was a huge success.**



**NOGS Christmas Party Dance at the Roosevelt Hotel in the early 1970's. Seated on the left front are Olga and Jules Braunstein, whose estate legacy donation catapulted the Memorial Foundation to establish six scholarship in their manes.**

***Submitted by  
Ed Picou, Chairman - Historical Committee***



# advertising rates

The New Orleans Geological Society was organized on October 3, 1941, as a non-profit organization for the purpose of facilitating the development of the profession and science of Geology, with specific emphasis to exploration and production of petroleum and natural gas. Secondary related objectives include the dissemination of pertinent geological and environmental technological data, and the maintenance of a high standard of professional conduct of its members. The full history of the Society can be found at [nogs.org](http://nogs.org).

The NOGS LOG is now a digital magazine with live links to your site to reach NOGS Members and support your Society. Please contact Christy Himel [admin@nogs.org](mailto:admin@nogs.org) for placement availability. Full page NOGS LOG advertisers will have their Company LOGO posted on the NOGS Website front page. All advertisers are included on the Society's monthly PowerPoint and listed on the website with a link to their home page. Please check out our website [www.nogs.org](http://www.nogs.org)

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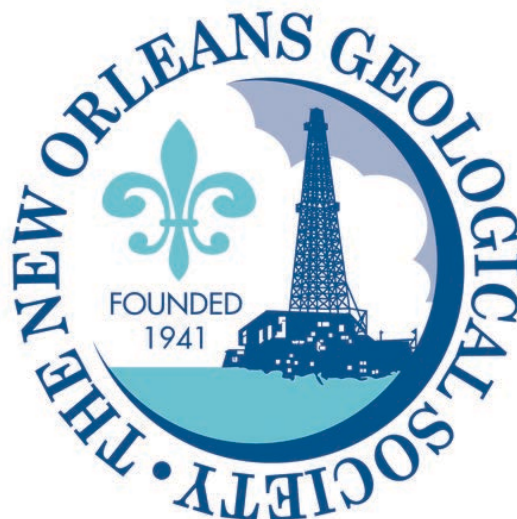
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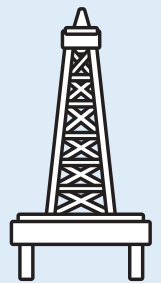


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# DRILL BITS

## OFFSHORE GULF OF MEXICO SHELF AND DEEPWATER ACTIVITIES BY AL BAKER



During September 2021, the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) approved 40 Gulf of Mexico (GoM) drilling permits. Ten of the permits were for shelf wells, and the remaining 30 permits were for deepwater wells. Of the total number of permits, there were 2 new well permits issued, 1 on the shelf and 1 in deepwater.

The single new well shelf permit was awarded to Cantium, LLC for their Main Pass 299 #BB-11 development well.

The single deepwater new well permit was granted to BHP Billiton Petroleum (Deepwater) for their Green Canyon 124 #1 exploration well.

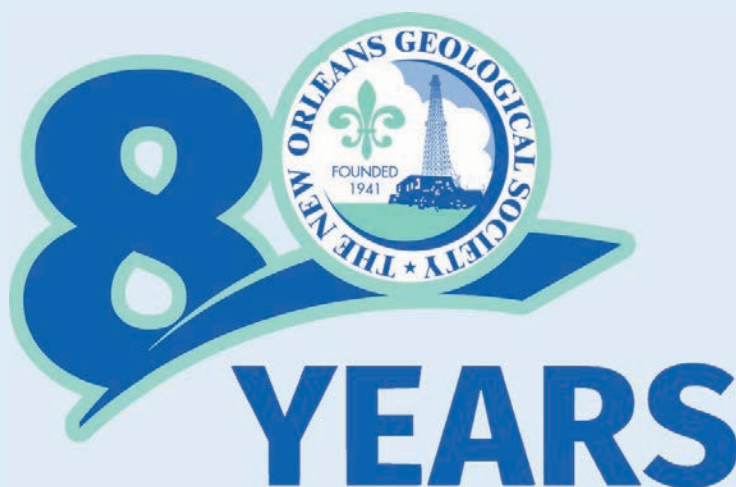
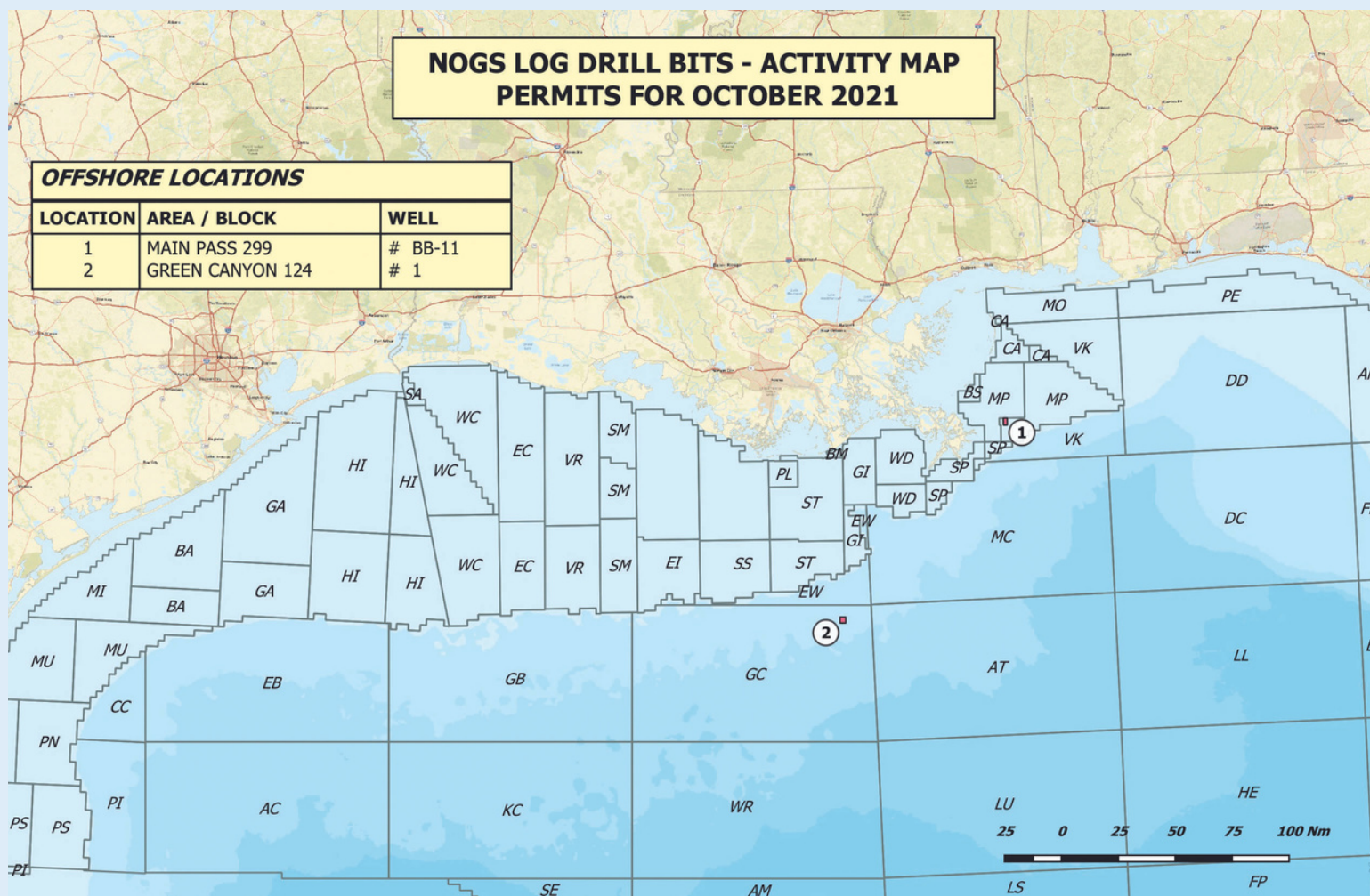
The single deepwater new well permit was given to BOE Exploration & Production for their Green Canyon 943 #1 well.

On September 24th, IHS-Petrodata indicated that the GoM mobile offshore rig supply stood at 45, which are 7 less than last month. The marketed rig supply consisted of 30 rigs, of which 24 were under contract. The marketed rig and contracted rig supply numbers are 4 greater than last month. The marketed contracted versus total rig supply utilization rate was 66.7%, and the marketed contracted versus marketed supply utilization rate was 83.3%. By comparison, the September 2020 total fleet utilization rate stood at 56.5% with 35 rigs under contract out of the 62 rigs in the fleet.

On September 24th, Baker Hughes reported that there are 8 active mobile offshore rigs in the GoM, which is 6 less than last month and 33.3% of the rigs under contract mentioned above. Currently, 2 rigs are drilling on the shelf, and 6 rigs are drilling in deepwater. They include 2 rigs in the Mississippi Canyon Area and 1 rig each in the Alaminos Canyon, Keathley Canyon, Green Canyon, Viosca Knoll, Eugene Island and Main Pass Areas.

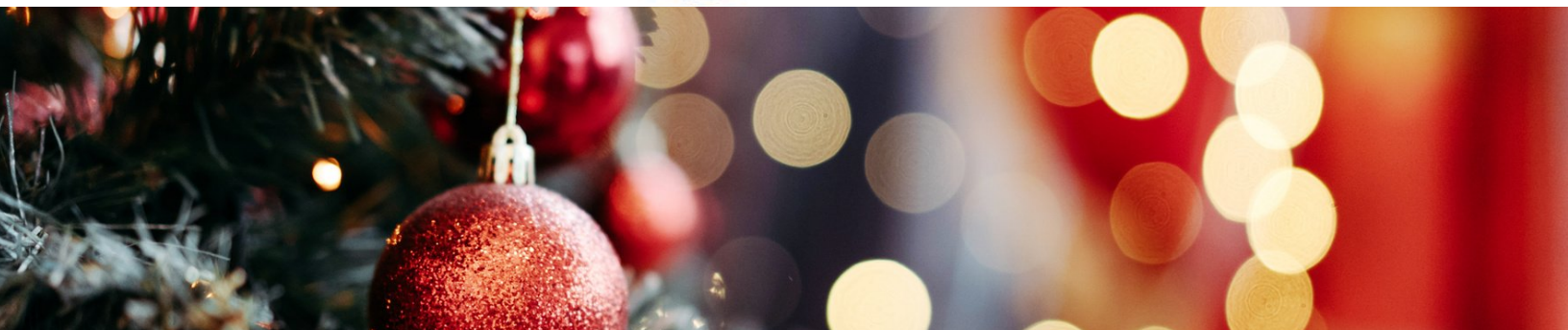
On September 24th, the Baker Hughes total U.S. rig count stood at 521 rigs, which is 13 more rigs than reported at the end of August 2021. Of the 521 rigs, 421 (80.8%) are oil rigs, 99 (19%) are gas rigs and 1 miscellaneous rig. A year ago, there were 261 rigs working in the U.S. inferring that the current rig figure represents a 99.6% increase in rigs year over year. Presently, Texas continues to have the largest number of rigs with 242, which is 46.4% of the total number of rigs in the U. S. Louisiana currently has a total of 43 rigs, which is 6 less than last month. Nationwide, Louisiana continues to rank third in the rotary rig count. New Mexico ranks second with 84 rigs.

On October 1st, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) announced that it would hold OCS Sale 257 this fall. The sale had been originally scheduled for March 17, 2021 but was delayed by the Biden administration and the Department of the Interior. The new sale date has been set for November 17, 2021.





# NOGS



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REMEMBERING

## REUBEN JOSEPH KLIBERT, JR.

**Our Society notes the passing of longtime NOGS member Rueben Klibert. Although Reuben never held an office or chaired a committee, he and his company Diversified Well Logging were generous supporters for many years. In the years prior to the pandemic, Diversified sponsored (i.e. paid for) a table at every NOGS Luncheon. Diversified always sponsored a full-page ad in the NOGS LOG and continues to this day by advertising on the homepage of our website. He and the company were yearly supporters for the Annual Golf Tournament and provided wonderful barbecue dinners for all golfers. Although Rueben has been in retirement since 2012, he maintained his membership in NOGS – a real testimony of his attachment and devotion to our Society.**

**Rueben died on November 15, 2021 at the age of 74. The Society extends its collective sympathy to his family.**





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Founded March 14, 1978, the mission of the New Orleans Geological Society Memorial Foundation is to promote earth science related or scientific purpose by granting of scholarships to outstanding Geology students at the universities in Southeast Louisiana having a comprehensive curriculum and offering a degree in Geology. The Bill Craig Memorial Fund provides for any earth science related educational or scientific purpose that is a direct benefit to grades K-12 teacher or teachers within the Greater New Orleans Area. This area is defined as the area encompassing New Orleans, Jefferson, Plaquemines, St. Bernard and St. Tammany Parishes.

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# Recent Oil Industry Headlines ...November 2021

11/10/2021 - Offshore Drillers Noble and Maersk Drilling to Merge - Denmark's Maersk Drilling and U.S. rival Noble Corp merge in a \$3.4 billion deal to form one of the world's largest offshore oil drilling rig companies. The combined company is expected to reap annual cost savings of \$125 million and it will take Noble Corporation's name and be headquartered in Houston, Texas, with ownership split roughly 50-50 between the two companies' existing shareholders. [Read Full Article](#)

11/5/2021 - Shell resumes oil exports at Mars and Ursa in the Gulf of Mexico - Shell Offshore Inc., a subsidiary of Royal Dutch Shell plc, has safely and successfully re-started production at its Mars and Ursa platforms in the US Gulf of Mexico exporting oil and gas through the West Delta-143 (WD-143) "A" facility. [Read Full Article](#)

11/4/2021 - OPEC ignores Biden's plea, formalizes December oil output plan - OPEC and its allies will stick to their slow pace of oil-production increases, disregarding U.S. President Joe Biden's demand to go faster. After a brief meeting on Thursday, the group approved a 400,000 barrel-a-day production hike for December, delegates said. That's a pace that major consumers say is too slow to sustain the post-Covid economic recovery, with the U.S. asking for as much as double that amount. [Read Full Article](#)

11/3/2021 - Analysts Upgrade Oil Price Forecasts - Fitch Solutions Country Risk & Industry Research has upgraded its Brent oil price forecasts in its latest oil price outlook report, which they sent to Rigzone late Tuesday. Analysts at the company now expect Brent prices to average \$71.5 per barrel this year, \$72 per barrel in 2022, \$73 per barrel in 2023, \$75 per barrel in 2024 and \$78 per barrel in 2025. Fitch Solutions' previous oil price forecast saw Brent prices averaging \$70 per barrel in 2021, \$67 per barrel in 2022, \$68 per barrel in 2023, \$70 per barrel in 2024 and \$73 per barrel in 2025. [Read Full Article](#)

11/1/2021 - Petrobras to Divest Its Stake in the GOM - Petrobras recently commenced the opportunity disclosure stage of divesting the 20% stake held by its unit Petrobras America Inc. (PAI) in the Texas-based firm MP Gulf of Mexico, LLC, which was formed in October 2018 as a joint venture with Murphy Oil Corporation. Murphy holds 80% of the interest in the JV while Petrobras owns the remaining stake through its PAI subsidiary. [Read Full Article](#)

11/1/2021 - Louisiana to play major role in lower-emissions energy - Over the past few decades, the oil and gas industry has invested significant amounts of money in the development of technology to reduce emissions as part of its commitment to develop solutions to address climate change. With this ongoing investment, Louisiana is uniquely positioned with another opportunity to be a global leader as a hub for innovative solutions. In 2020, Gov. John Bel Edwards established Louisiana's Climate Initiatives Task Force (CTF) to provide recommendations that balance economic development and emissions reductions. CTF is committed to an "all of the above" approach to evaluating climate solutions through multiple lenses. [Read Full Article](#)



# TOP 10 REASONS TO JOIN NOGS

1

## **Proclaim your professionalism**

With an 80 year history and over 300 active members, NOGS is the premier professional organization for geologists in New Orleans. Adding your name to the ranks declares your pride in the profession you have chosen.

2

## **Advance your career**

NOGS members enjoy educational opportunities and top speakers designed to increase knowledge and keep up with the newest trends in geoscience, both on the national and local levels.

3

## **Advertise your integrity**

NOGS has a reputation of over 75 years for upholding high standards. Align yourself with like-minded geologists and related fields.

4

## **Further your cause**

NOGS was organized for the purpose of facilitating the development of the profession and science of Geology, at the time with a focus on production of oil and gas. Since Hurricane Katrina our objectives expanded to include the dissemination of the geological facts of flood control, engineering and environmental geoscience.

5

## **Network with others who do what you do**

Making connections, between people and ideas, is an important part of any scientific endeavor. Meet others who can help you make those connections.

6

## **Advocate for your profession**

Serious-minded professionals know that serving the profession means responding to calls for action from those who represent the profession. NOGS monitors trends in geoscience education, regulation, and practice standards and periodically advises members on required action.

7

## **Serve your profession and community**

Opportunities for individuals to serve on NOGS committees that work on a variety of issues from building educational programs to sharing knowledge with others to providing scholarships to young geologists in our area.

8

## **Don't reinvent the wheel ... use available resources**

NOGS members can provide you with the resources you need to do your job well. Long-time members remain active and are happy to share their knowledge and best practices.

9

## **Play a part in elevating the status of geosciences.**

Your membership in NOGS and your dedication to geoscience elevates the entire profession.

10

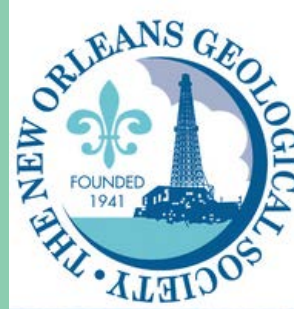
## **Do it for YOURSELF!**

It's all about YOU! NOGS' educational, networking, and career planning programs will take you where you want to go!



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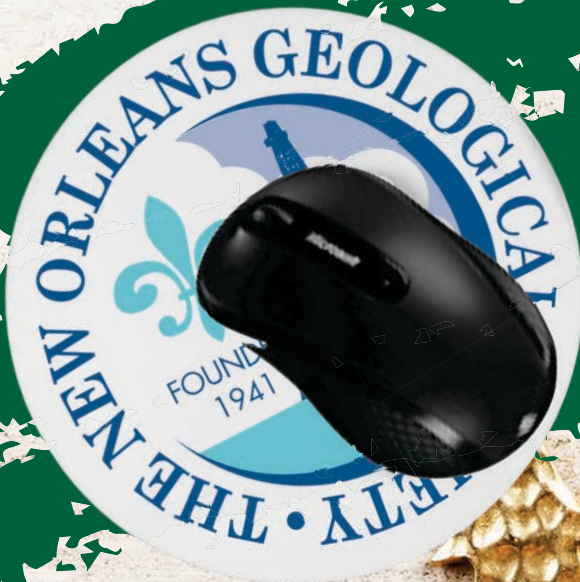
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# NOGS NOVEMBER MEETING

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2021 11:30 AM  
ZOOM MEETING



*Presented by:*

***Dr. Rebecca L. Totten***

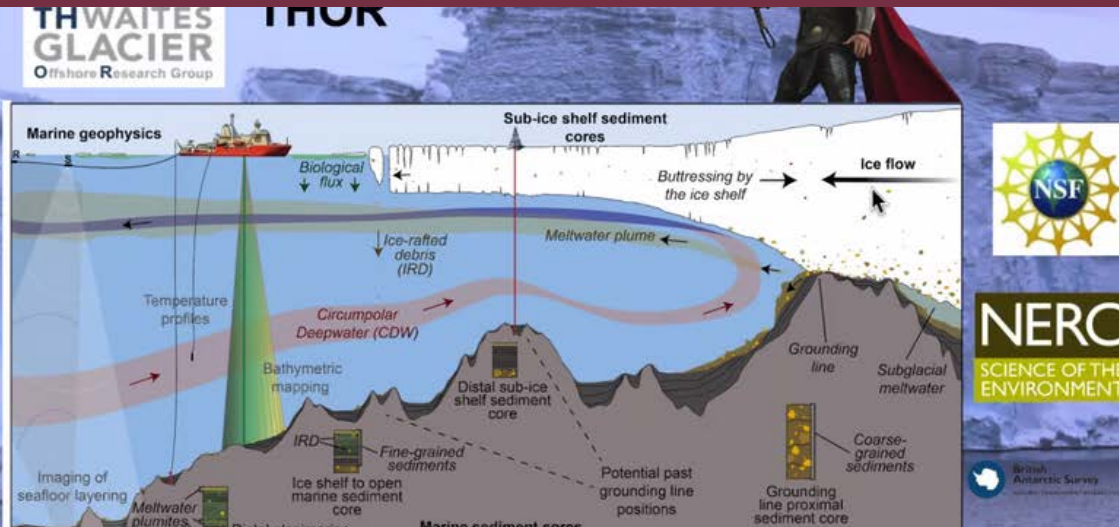
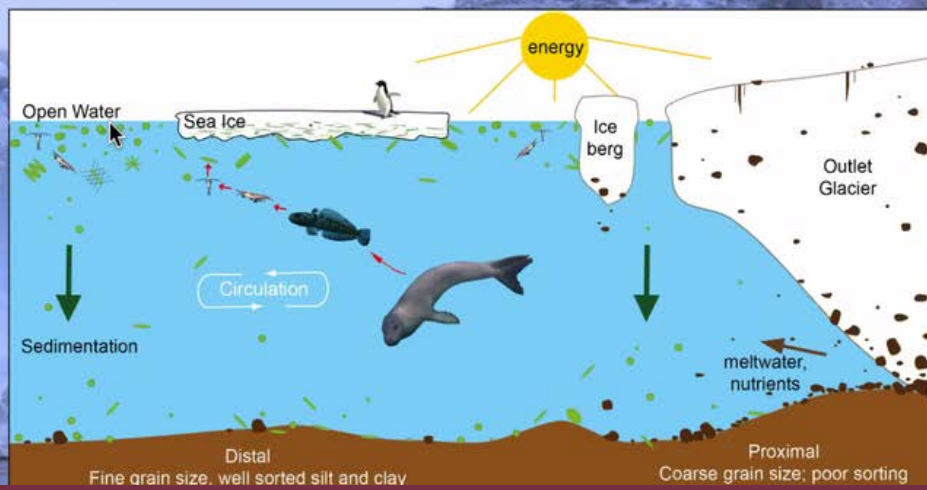
***What microfossils on the  
seafloor can tell us about the  
fate of the “Doomsday Glacier”  
and Antarctica’s contribution  
to sea-level (and what that  
means for the Gulf Coast)***

As a native of New Orleans, I developed a practical awareness of extreme weather and sea-level impacts early on. Not surprisingly, my research is driven by the impacts of historic climate change; I strive to better understand recent observations within a long-term, geologic context to better inform predictions of climate change, sea level, and coupled human impacts.

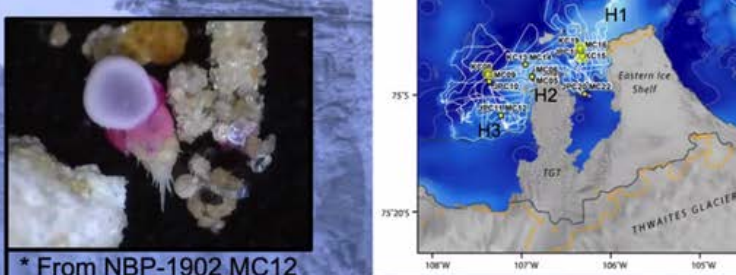
I specialize in paleoclimatology, using tools from sedimentology, stratigraphy, micropaleontology, and geochemistry to reconstruct past climate, glacial, and ocean changes. My field areas are based in Antarctica and the northern Gulf of Mexico. I joined the Alabama Crimson Tide in 2016 and began studying Thwaites Glacier, dubbed Antarctica’s “Doomsday Glacier,” which a major contributor to global sea-level. At the same time, I began applying sediment-based techniques to our backyard along the Gulf Coast. I am currently researching flooding and environmental history in Mobile and Weeks bays, as well as coastal evolution of paleo-valleys offshore Mississippi for the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.

I studied at the University of New Orleans from 2004-2005 in Geology and Geophysics. I moved to Kansas and received my B.S. in Geology and Geophysics from the University of Kansas in 2009, with a Goldwater Award for my work on the geochemistry of extinct swimming lizards of the Cretaceous Western Interior Seaway. Eager to explore icehouse climates, I earned my PhD in 2015 on Antarctica’s glacial response to the last 14,000 years of climate change. Key to understanding and predicting ongoing changes in the glacial landscape is awareness of forcings on glacial behavior. I tackled this problem by interrogating marine seismic, sediment cores, and fossil plankton assemblages to reconstruct glacier and ocean changes at the sub-centennial scale in over a dozen fjords. Before joining UA, I worked at Shell Exploration and Production Co. in the deepwater Gulf of Mexico, exploring Norphlet and Wilcox plays.

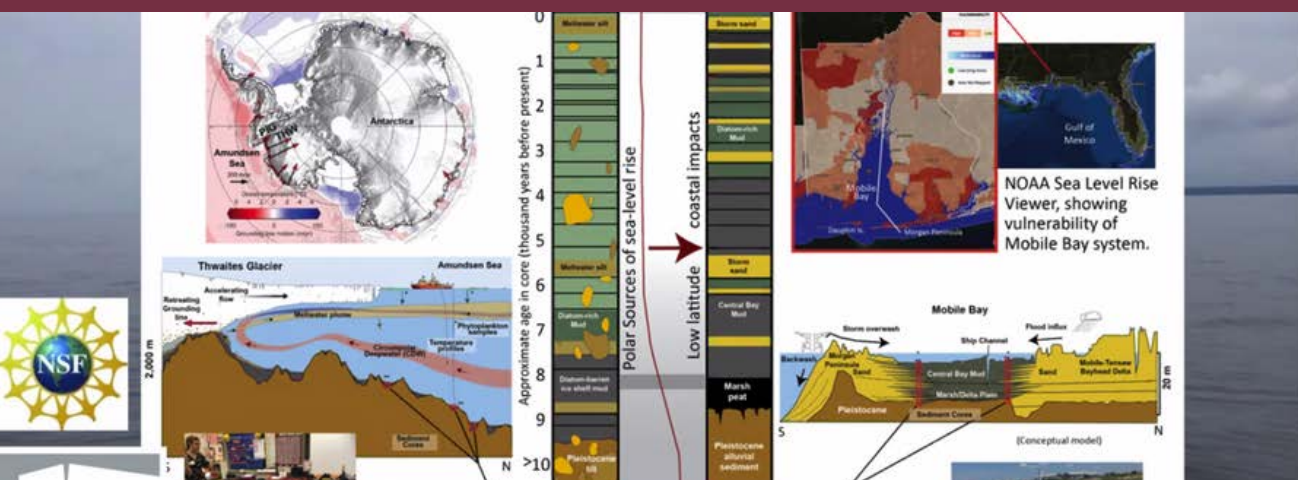
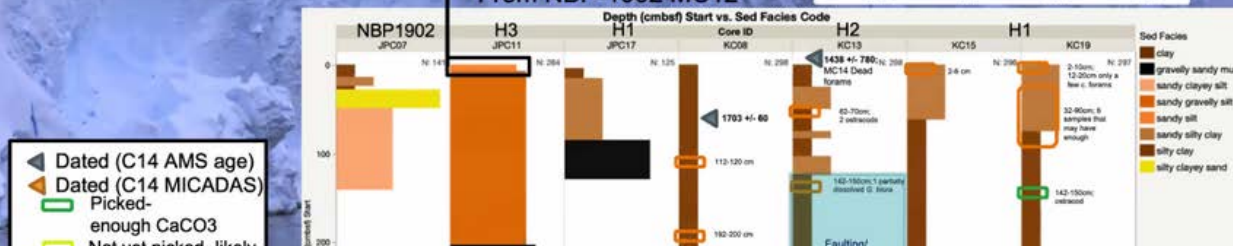




Modern foraminifera populations will help us interpret the paleo assemblages



\* From NBP-1902 MC12

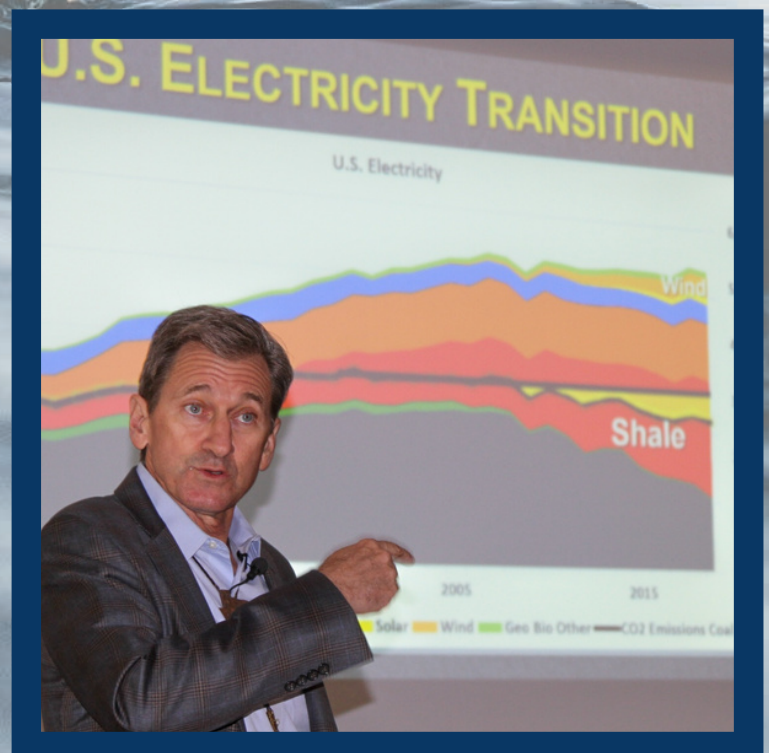






**John Dribus receives the Thomas A. Philpott Excellence of Presentation Award for his talk at the 2020 GEOGULF Convention in Lafayette**

**Dr. Scott Tinker, Director of Switch Energy and the Bureau of Economic Geology at the University of Texas at Austin and Texas State Geologist, drives home a critical point regarding energy transition during convention luncheon presentation.**





# GEOGULF2021

A U S T I N  
October 27–29, 2021




**Dr. John Snedden receives the Gulf Coast Section of the SEPM highest award, the Doris Malkin Curtis Award, during the Opening Session from President Nathan Wilkens.**





# UPCOMING EVENTS

*LGS Christmas Social*  
Wed. Dec. 15th | 5-7pm  
Lafayette Science Museum  
433 Jefferson St., Lafayette



Enjoy a private tour of the new exhibit "Natural Born Killers" at the Geology Museum guided by Dr. Jennifer Hargrave

Refreshments offered by the AAPG student chapter

## #AGU21: Science is Society

AGU Fall Meeting is the primary gathering for Earth and space scientists, students, and those in affiliated fields to share scientific findings and identify innovative solutions. With in-person and worldwide online participation, attendees will have numerous opportunities to network with government regulators, scientific visionaries, and industry thought-leaders. Join our diverse community in New Orleans and Online Everywhere 13 - 17 December 2021.

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*Christmas*

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LOVE AND JOY





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