

NCGS LOG

JUNE 2022
Volume 62 No. 12





A MESSAGE FROM 2021/2022 NOGS PRESIDENT

HILLARY SLETTEN

To members and friends of the New Orleans Geological Society:

Summer is officially just around the corner, but for some of members and friends, they kicked it off early on May 23rd at our Annual Golf Tournament held this year at Beau Chene Country Club. This event was co-sponsored by PLANO and SPWLA and had 60 golfers and 16 sponsors. I think considering that this was the first year back after having taken a hiatus in 2021 due to the pandemic, this was a big win for all of the organizations involved. It takes a lot of planning and time to make these events happen, and so hats off to the organizing committee, volunteers, participants, and sponsors for helping to raise money for the local children museums. A special thanks to Diversified for catering the lunch.

In June we are happy to welcome Dr. Brooks Ellwood to give a virtual talk about the LSU Campus Mounds. New age data indicate that one of the mounds is the oldest intact man-made structure in North America – quite a lofty status! This talk will delve into the field of geoarchaeology showcasing how various dating techniques, palynology, archaeology, and paleoclimatology all blend together to tell a very local and meaningful history. In addition to Dr. Ellwood, we will also be welcoming Lauren Ejiaga, a rising senior at Benjamin Franklin High School in New Orleans. Lauren is the winner of the 2022 Science Fair and she will be presenting her analysis of the impacts of ocean acidification on coastal shelled organisms and how restoring aquatic vegetation can help curb these impacts. Please show your support for Dr. Ellwood and Lauren by joining the NOGS community on June 6th online for these presentations and discussion.

Later this month you will see some emails go out to the NOGS organization asking for your response to a survey the board is conducting. Please take the time to open one of these emails and fill out the survey. It will only take a handful of minutes and is important information the board will use to help make your experience better. We would like to know how you feel about how the society is doing with the speaker series, frequency of meetings, and other various topics. We understand that it has been rough sailing over the past few years for many people and organizations, and NOGS is right there with them. Hopefully you have not felt too much of the impact, but every month the board is making tough decisions about where or when to hold events, making contingency plans, reviewing budgets as membership fluxes, and so forth.

I also personally feel there is a lot of untapped energy right now amongst our members, and that we all need to reflect on how to revitalize the mission and purpose of NOGS. Our constitution states: "This Society was organized on October 3, 1941, as a non-profit organization for the express purpose of facilitating the development of the profession and science of Geology with specific emphasis on its relationship to the exploration for and production of petroleum and natural gas. Secondary related objectives include encouraging the adoption of improved methods of exploration and exploitation; the dissemination of pertinent geological and technological data; and the maintenance of a high standard of professional conduct on the part of its members." It's been over 80 years now. Is this still the mission? Are we still driving towards the same goals? How do other geological disciplines fit into this, and what about the energy transition, example? Please let us hear your voice and where you'd like to see NOGS go over the next 5-10 years. Please help us by filling out the survey.

Happy summering,

Hillary Sletten

2021-2022 NOGS President

On the Cover

Fumaroles or “boiling mud pots” in the Hverir Geothermal Area in northern Iceland near Lake Mýtan. The fumaroles emit steam along with sulfur which form multicolored sulfur crystals around them and emit a strong egg smell.

Photo Credit: Anjosa (@sonjpetrov73)



From the Editor...

I am always encouraged when the solution to an important problem is being actively worked on by researchers from multiple scientific disciplines. Oftentimes, the vastly different methods produce discoveries that are as fascinating as they are promising. An example that appears in this month's issue of the LOG in Recent Oil Industry Headlines, is a very clever way to capture and sequester CO₂ by combining it with gallium at the source of CO₂ emission.

An equally brilliant and efficient method that uses photoreduction of CO₂ to convert it into formic acid which sequesters carbon and provides energy via combustion whose only by product is water.

[Read more about it here.](#)



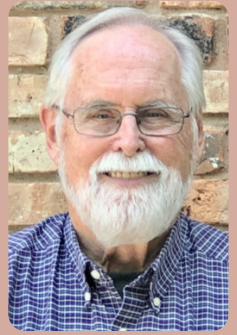
Emmitt Lockard
2021/2022 NOGS LOG Editor

N O G S J U N E 2 0 2 2 M E E T I N G

MONDAY, JUNE 6, 2022

11:30 AM - VIRTUAL PRESENTATION

THE LSU CAMPUS MOUNDS, WITH CONSTRUCTION BEGINNING AT ~11,000 BP, ARE THE OLDEST KNOWN EXTANT MAN- MADE STRUCTURES IN NORTH AMERICA



Presented by:
Dr. Brooks B. Ellwood

ABSTRACT: Radiocarbon dating of the two LSU Campus Mounds (16EBR6) indicates that the construction of one, Mound B, began at ~11,000 BP, making Mound B the oldest known and intact manmade structure in North America. The age analyses to be presented are based on 31 ¹⁴C dates. The older (deeper) parts of both of the LSU Campus Mounds contain many thin, burned ash lenses, suggesting that the Mounds may have been used for ceremonial or cremation purposes. These ash layers are composed mainly of phytoliths, bio-silicate (SiO₂) structural compounds in plants that remained after burning of these plants. Analysis of the abundant ash lenses indicates that the plants burned were mainly C4 hydrophilic grasses that are dominated by 90-98% reed and cane plants. The ash layers also contain microscopic fragments of burned, large mammal osteons (bone). The layers of reed and cane phytoliths, containing very small numbers of osteons, are indicative of very hot fires. This finding supports the argument that the fires were used for ceremonials or cremations. No ash beds later than 5,000 BP are known from either LSU Campus Mound A or B, although at ~800 calBP, a wooden post (now charcoal) was planted and burned on the top of Mound B. It appears that construction of Mound B began during the climate amelioration that followed the Younger Dryas climate event, which ended at ~11,700 BP. LSU Campus Mound B shows a hiatus when climate deteriorated during the 8200 Climate Event, which defined the end of the Holocene Greenlandian Stage and the beginning of the Northgrippian Stage. Usage began again at ~7,500 BP, and both mounds were used until ~6,000 BP.

BIOGRAPHY: Dr. Brooks B. Ellwood is a Professor Emeritus in the Department of Geology and Geophysics and an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Geography and Anthropology at Louisiana State University, and he is also an Emeritus Professor at the University of Texas in Arlington.

Dr. Ellwood began his academic career after he was discharged from the Army. He obtained an Associate in Arts degree from Daytona Beach Community College, a Bachelor of Science from Florida State, a Master of Science and Ph.D. in geophysics and oceanography from the University of Rhode Island and completed a Post Doctorate at The Ohio State University.

During his career, Dr. Ellwood has been an Associate Professor at the University of Georgia and a Professor at the University of Texas at Arlington.

His research interests include new applications in stratigraphy that allow regional and global correlation using paleoclimate proxies. He has done research projects in all the oceans, except for the Arctic, and on all the continents, except for Antarctica and South America.

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PICTURE FROM THE PAST



Tom Bergeon, NOGS Outreach Chairman, presenting a lecture on Dinosaurs at St. Anna's School, December 13, 1997 – Note: For about 30 years Tom has visited local schools giving talks on fossils and geology, as well as organizing Super Science Saturday events. He also represents NOGS at the Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil and Jewelry Show with a booth for children.

*Submitted by
Ed Picou, Chairman - Historical Committee*

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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.

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 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

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Candidates for 2022/2023

NOGS Board of Directors



President - Douglas Bradford

Doug is an experienced geologist whose career focus has been in environmental and petroleum geology. In his environmental consulting practice, Doug has managed and performed projects for soil and groundwater remediation, drilling and monitoring water and hazardous waste injection wells. Regulatory compliance projects in this practice have included permitting Department of the Army Permit Applications for Modification, Closure and Post-Closure plans. In his oil and gas industry practice, Doug has experience in oil and gas field operations and exploration and production geology.

Doug received a B.S. in Geology from the University of Southern Mississippi and took graduate geology courses at LSU for professional development.

Doug is a Licensed Professional Geoscientist in Louisiana and a Professional Earth Scientist in the Society of Independent Professional Earth Scientists. He is also a member of the New Orleans, Baton Rouge and Philadelphia Geological Societies.

Vice President - Chuck Holman

Chuck Holman received an MS in Geology and Geophysics from the University of Hawaii in 1982 and has worked in the oil industry since graduation as a geophysicist/geologist. He began his career with Mobil Oil in Dallas in 1982, upon completing training in 1983 he was transferred to Mobil in New Orleans, and in 1992 he transferred to Mobil in Dallas in to work in the New Ventures Latin America Team. After Mobil, Chuck consulted for SCA, Tecpetrol, Interactive Interpretation and Training, CGG, Avanti Consulting, Corelab, and Gaffney-Cline and Associates. Chuck returned to New Orleans in 2006 to work as a geophysicist for Dominion Exploration & Production Company, Eni, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE), and Saratoga Resources, and for BSEE again. He is now retired.

Chuck is a member of AAPG and SEG and has been a member of the local geophysical and geological societies wherever he has lived. Chuck rejoined NOGS in 2006 and since 2009, he has been an active part of NOGS operations: 2009-2010 Treasurer (2009-2010), 2010-2011 Auditor (2010-2011), Secretary (2011-2012), President-Elect (2012-2013), President (2013-2014), Memorial Foundation President (2014-2015), Memorial Foundation Trustee (2015-2018), NOGS Board Director (2018-2021).



Candidates for 2022/2023 NOGS Board of Directors



Treasurer - Jarred Bullock

Jared Bullock is a geologist at Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), Gulf of Mexico Regional Office in New Orleans, LA. He started with BOEM in the spring of 2021. Prior to joining BOEM, Jared completed a Master of Science in Geology at the University of New Orleans in 2020 and a Bachelor of Science in Geology at Millsaps College in 2017. During his time in school, he interned at LLOG and BP. Jared has been an active member in NOGS since moving to New Orleans in 2017. He has held previous leadership positions at UNO in the student chapters of AAPG and Sigma Gamma Epsilon - Earth Sciences Honors Society.

Secretary - Michael Merritt

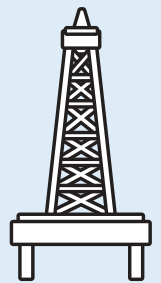
Mike Merritt is a native of the state of Oklahoma where he attended college and earned an A.S. degree from Northern Oklahoma College in Business and Pre-Engineering, a B.S. in Physics from Southwestern Oklahoma State University, a M.S. in Geology, and a M.B.A in Energy Management from the University of Oklahoma.

Mike's extensive professional career began in the oil and gas industry with Baroid where he was a Mud Logging Engineering Laboratory Operator. He later worked for Sun Production Co. as a Development Geologist, for Conoco Inc. as an exploration geologist, and for Halliburton Energy Services as Principal Geologist to the Algerian National Oil Company. Mike's environmental and regulatory compliance experience includes being the Oil and Gas Specialist for Environmental Investigations, and a Petroleum Geologist in the Oklahoma Corporation Commission, and a Revenue Examiner in the Oklahoma Tax Commission. He served as a Commissioner on the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-West Bank Board of Commissioners. Mike is an AAPG Certified Petroleum Geologist and Licensed Professional Geoscientist in the state of Louisiana.



DRILL BITS

OFFSHORE GULF OF MEXICO SHELF AND
DEEPWATER ACTIVITIES
BY AL BAKER



During April 2022, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) approved 61 Gulf of Mexico (GoM) drilling permits. Eleven of the permits were for shelf wells, and the remaining 50 permits were for deepwater wells. There were 7 new well permits were issued; all were in deepwater.

The seven new deepwater new well permits were for exploration wells. Shell Offshore was awarded 4 new well permits for their Mississippi Canyon 392 #IE-1, 802 #1, 898 #3 and 977 #1 wells. Eni US Operating Co. received a new well permit for their Green Canyon 297 #3 well. Chevron U.S.A. was granted a new well permit for their Mississippi Canyon 412 #1 well. BHP Billiton Petroleum (GOM) was issued a new well permit for their Green Canyon 564 #SJ-101 well.

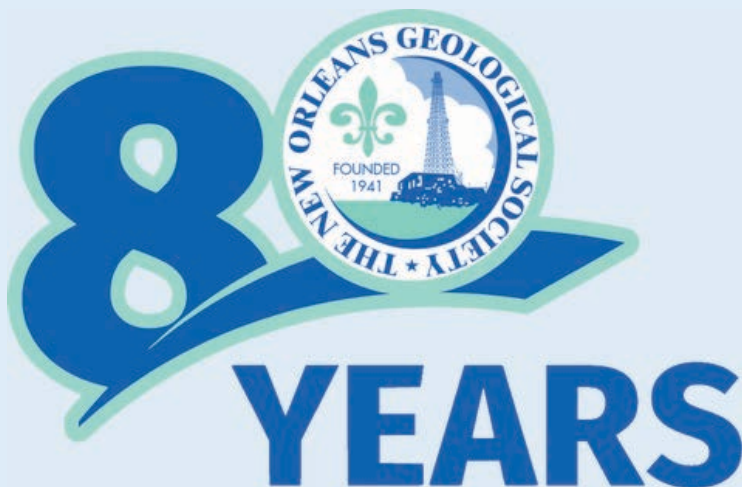
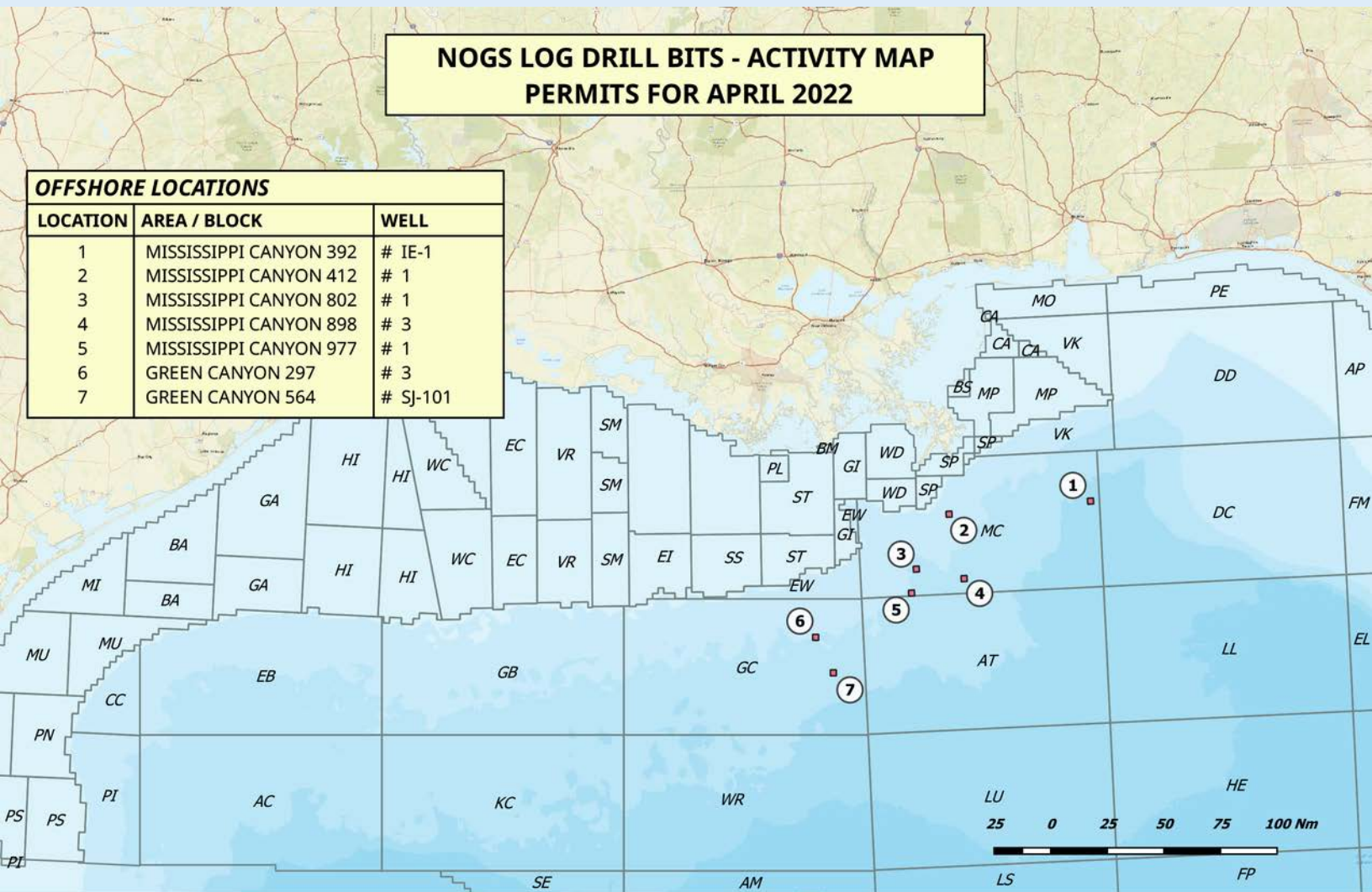
On April 22nd, IHS-Petrodata indicated that the GoM mobile offshore rig supply stood at 46, which is the same as last month. The marketed rig supply consisted of 34 rigs, of which 28 were under contract. The marketed rig supply and the contracted rig supply number were also the same as last month. The marketed contracted versus total rig supply utilization rate was 73.9%, and the marketed contracted versus marketed supply utilization rate was 82.4%. By comparison, the April 2021 total fleet utilization rate stood at 56.1% with 32 rigs under contract out of the 57 rigs in the fleet.

On April 29th, Baker Hughes reported that there are 13 active mobile offshore rigs in the GoM, which is 1 less than last month and 46.4% of the rigs under contract mentioned above. Currently, 2 rigs are drilling on the shelf, and 11 rigs are drilling in deepwater. They include 7 rigs in the Green Canyon Area, 3 rigs in the Mississippi Canyon Area and 1 rig each in the Ewing Bank, Bay Marchand and Eugene Island Areas.

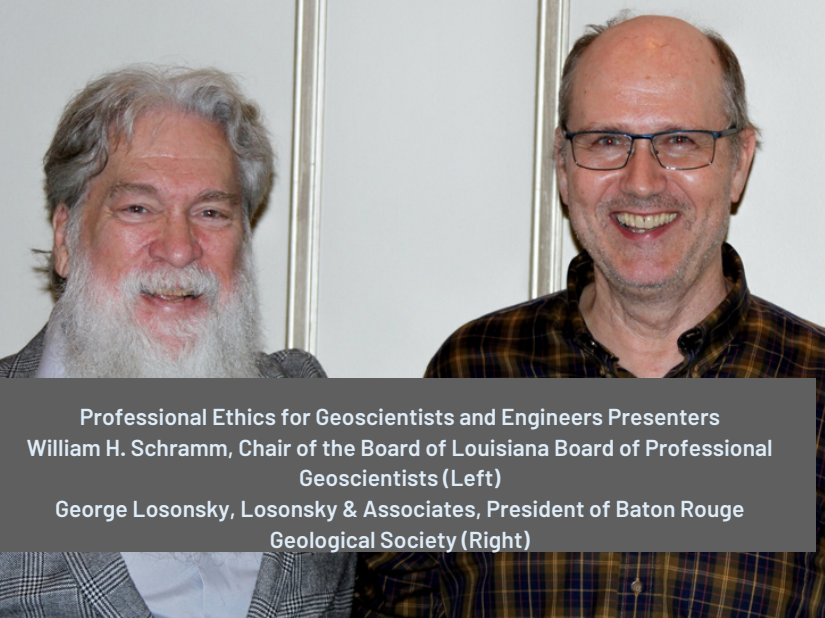
On April 29th, the Baker Hughes total U.S. rig count stood at 698 rigs, which are 18 more rigs than reported at the end of March 2022. Of the 698 rigs, 552 (79.1%) are oil rigs and 144 (20.6%) are gas rigs. Two rigs were listed as miscellaneous. A year ago, there were 440 rigs working in the U.S. inferring that the current rig figure represents an 58.6% increase in rigs year over year. Presently, Texas continues to have the largest number of rigs with 345, which is 49.4% of the total number of rigs in the U. S. Louisiana currently has a total of 58 rigs, which are 2 less than last month. Louisiana is ranked third behind New Mexico, which currently has 97 rigs.

OFFSHORE LOCATIONS

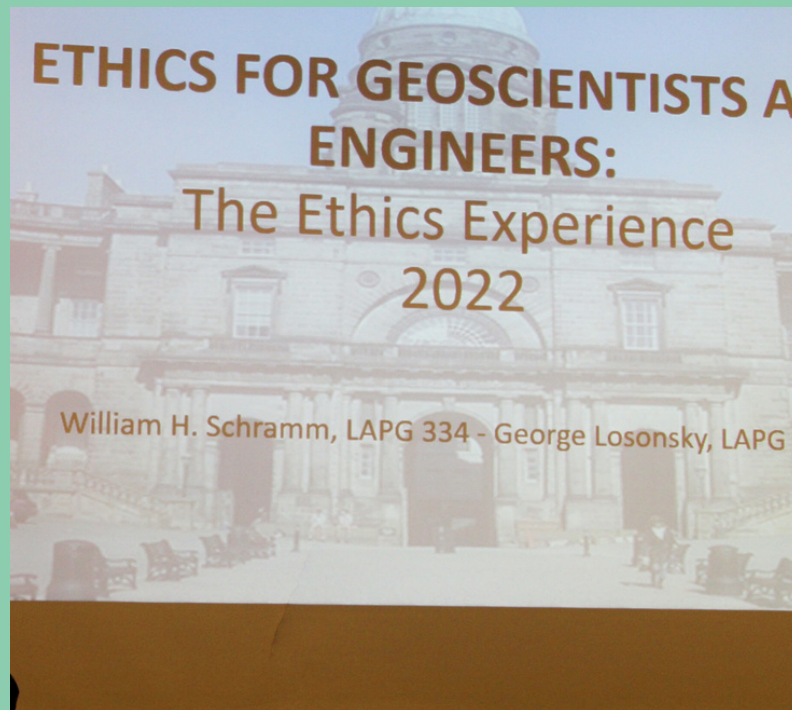
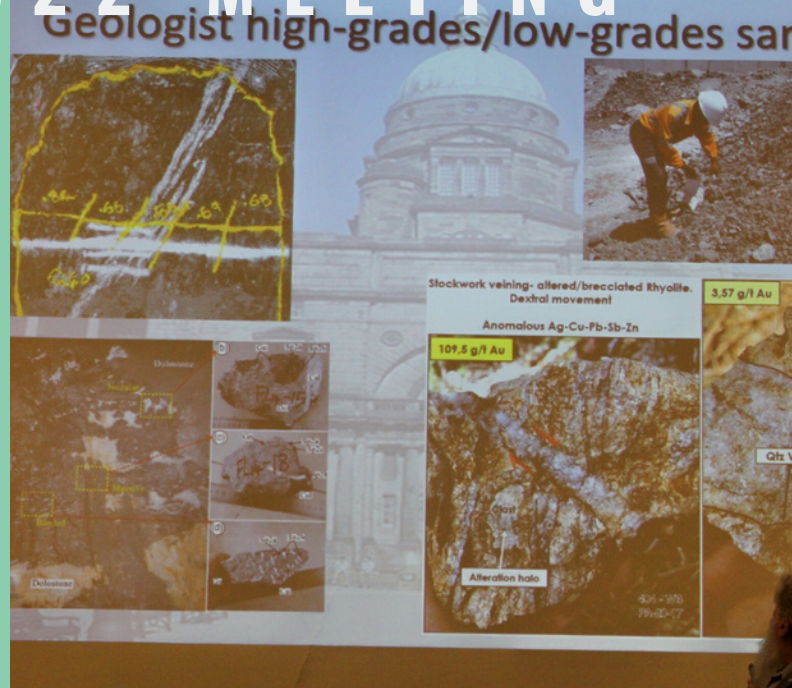
LOCATION	AREA / BLOCK	WELL
1	MISSISSIPPI CANYON 392	# IE-1
2	MISSISSIPPI CANYON 412	# 1
3	MISSISSIPPI CANYON 802	# 1
4	MISSISSIPPI CANYON 898	# 3
5	MISSISSIPPI CANYON 977	# 1
6	GREEN CANYON 297	# 3
7	GREEN CANYON 564	# SJ-101



NOGS MAY 2022 MEETING



Professional Ethics for Geoscientists and Engineers Presenters
William H. Schramm, Chair of the Board of Louisiana Board of Professional Geoscientists (Left)
George Losonsky, Losonsky & Associates, President of Baton Rouge Geological Society (Right)



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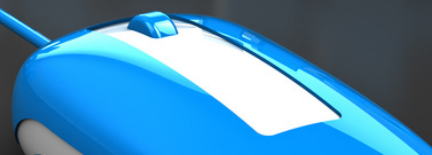
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Thomas Watson
Stephanie Martin
Monte Shallet
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David Cope
Louis Willhoit

On April 23rd, Southeastern University was the host to 450 girls from Girl Scout troops from the Southeast Louisiana Region. The girls came from 23 Parishes with troops from Slidell to Lafayette, Houma to St. Francisville and all points in between.

The New Orleans Geological Society (NOGS) was joined by 60 other STEM organization for the 9th Annual Believe in Girls event. NASA, Audubon Zoo, Lego Robotics, Entergy and Tulane University's Engineering Department were just a few of the groups sharing information about careers in science with the girls in attendance.

NOGS along with our partner, the Southeastern Geophysical Society, presented our "How an Oil Field Forms" model and the girls learned about the properties of oil, porosity, reservoir/seal pairs and where the structure would form a trap. These junior explorationists then tried their hand at creating 3 component seismic waves.

Major thanks go out to all our shining star volunteers: Anna and Lily Strimas, Lisa Kennedy, Christy Gautre, and Doug Bradford.

If you would like to learn more about Girl Scouts Louisiana East, go to their Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/GSLEcouncil>

Special thanks go to Kevin Shipp the Girl Scout BIG organizer.

Tom Bergeon



Recent Energy HeadlinesMay 2022 Recap

5/2/2022 - BP Sees GOM as Vital to Energy Transition - The US Gulf of Mexico (GOM) will remain a vital, low-emissions oil and gas arena for both important domestic production and continued wildcat and near-field exploration throughout the energy transition for supermajor BP. Speaking at the 2022 Offshore Technology Conference in Houston, BP's Senior Vice President for Gulf of Mexico and Canada Starlee Sykes told attendees that oil and gas, especially the lower-carbon-intensity barrels coming from the GOM, will be not only key to meeting the current increased energy demand trend but also important throughout the company's energy transition roadmap. [Read Full Article](#)

5/4/2022 - LLOG to Develop Two Deepwater GoM Discoveries Using Refurbished Offshore Platform - U.S. GOM-focused LLOG on Wednesday announced the planned development of the Salamanca floating production facility to be used to develop two offshore discoveries in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico. The company said that the Salamanca is comprised of a "uniquely" designed Floating Production Unit ("FPU") that will be created from the refurbishment of a former GOM production facility that was previously decommissioned. [Read Full Article](#)

5/9/2022 - Gallium Turns CO2 into Solid - Most methods for pulling carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere and keeping it out are costly and energy intensive. But now researchers at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology have managed to turn the gas into a solid—simply by letting it bubble through liquid metal. The technique could put a stopper on the flow of CO2 into the air, likely at the point of entry: industrial emissions. [Read Full Article](#)

5/12/2022 - Biden Scraps Offshore Oil Auctions - Biden is scrapping planned auctions of drilling rights in the Gulf of Mexico and Alaska's Cook Inlet -- a move that deepens uncertainty over the future of the US government's offshore oil leasing program. [Read Full Article](#)

5/17/2022 - Chevron Sanctions Ballymore Gulf Of Mexico Project - U.S. oil and gas supermajor Chevron has sanctioned the Ballymore project in the deepwater U.S. Gulf of Mexico. Chevron said that the project, with a design capacity of 75,000 barrels of crude oil per day, would be developed as a three-mile subsea tieback to the existing Chevron-operated Blind Faith platform. [Read Full Article](#)

5/18/2022 - Gas prices will surpass \$6 nationwide by August, JPMorgan says - The average national retail price for a gallon of regular gasoline is projected to surpass \$6 by the of summer, according to a recent JPMorgan research note. On Wednesday, the national average hit another record, reaching \$4.56 per gallon, according to AAA. That's already up nearly 50 cents from a month ago, and \$1.52 from this time last year. [Read Full Article](#)

5/20/2022 - Guest column: The energy transition will happen offshore, but not without drilling - The offshore oil and natural gas industry is the lifeblood of coastal Louisiana's economy. The industry has a \$73 billion impact on our state, supports nearly 250,000 jobs, and pays \$4.5 billion in state and local taxes. These benefits are a product of Louisiana's vibrant ecosystem of small- and medium-sized businesses and contractors who provide goods and services for energy development in the Gulf of Mexico. [Read Full Article](#)



NEW ORLEANS
GEOLOGICAL
SOCIETY
Auxiliary



New Orleans Geological Auxiliary's gathered at Porter and Luke's Restaurant in Metairie for their monthly luncheon on May 25, 2022. Those attending were (standing from left to right): Trudy and Charley Corona, Jack and Penny Bryant; (seated from let to right): Alma Dunlap, Dan Armstrong, Ed Picou, Camile and Jim Yeldell

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!

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