

NCGS LOG

MAY 2022
Volume 62 No. 11





A MESSAGE FROM 2021/2022 NOGS PRESIDENT

HILLARY SLETTEN

To members and friends of the New Orleans Geological Society:

I am so very pleased that we are hosting this month a Professional Ethics session for geoscientists and engineers by William Schramm and George Losonsky from Losonsky and Associates. This is a great opportunity to remind professionals in these fields about conducting ethical business practices and is a service to our community by providing a required training to maintain professional licenses. Thank you to our speakers and to our speaker coordinator and VP, Nancye Dawers, for organizing this talk and all the others we have had over the past year. We look forward to seeing you live and in-person at The Cannery on May 9.

Also, a nod of gratitude to our April speaker, Dr. Clare Falcon, who gave a transparent and thorough run-down of the current state of the Louisiana Geological Survey (LGS). If you were unable to attend, Dr. Falcon shared that the survey continues to be underfunded, is extremely out of date with respect to technologies and facilities, has a very large collection of materials (including paper well logs) that need to be digitized for better public access, and has a core facility that is in complete disrepair and unsafe to use. Dr. Falcon and her team have made great progress over the past six months since she has been on seat, but there is still much more to be done. She is asking all those with interest to please contact her about the needs of geoscience industry across the state and how those needs can be incorporated into future plans. With clear goals and tangible projects, more funding can be requested to support the maintenance and improvement of the LGS. Dr. Falcon can be reach by email at cfalcon@lsu.edu and you can learn more about the LGS at <https://www.lsu.edu/lgs/>.

Nominations are open for the 2022/2023 NOGS Board of Directors. We are actively recruiting nominees for next month's election. I encourage people who are interested in running for election to the Board to contact the Nominations Chair, Chuck Holman at charleswholman@bellsouth.net.

Finally, if you are a golfer, know a golfer, wish to become a golfer – please consider signing up for our May 23rd Beau Chene golf tournament in Mandeville. This event is co-sponsored by NOGS, PLANO and SPWLA with all proceeds benefiting the Louisiana Children's Museum and the Children's Museum of St. Tammany. There's still time to claim a spot on the green or sponsor a hole. It should be a fun day with great people, good food, snazzy prizes, and lots of golfing - of course! Please register at <https://www.nogs.org/events>.

Wishing you all a wonderful May (hopefully with some Jazz Festing)!!

Cheers,
Hillary Sletten
2021-2022 NOGS President

On the Cover

View of Manly Beacon in the foreground with the Panamint Mountains in the background from Zabriskie Point in Death Valley National Park.

Manly Beacon reaches a height of 823 feet and is named for one of the early gold rush pioneers in California. Dr. Darwin French, a trained physician, soldier and silver prospector in California, used the term Panamint in 1860 for the Panamint Mountains. Zabriskie Point is named in honor of Christian Zabriskie of the Pacific Coast Borax Company.



Photo Credit: National Park Service



From the Editor...

The beginning of the new normal for the New Orleans Geological Society is underway and it's an exciting time for the Society. Our monthly luncheon meetings are in-person now. We are participating in community outreach and social activities again!

I want to encourage everyone to participate in Society functions and don't worry if the social isolation during the pandemic has left you feeling awkward, seeing a familiar face wearing a smile will put you at ease. If you are at a loss for words, I suggest that you talk about the weather, seasonal allergies and then pivot to how pollen preserved in the fossil record is studied for evidence of climate stress. [Read about it here.](#)



Emmitt Lockard
2021/2022 NOGS LOG Editor

N O G S M A Y 2 0 2 2 M E E T I N G

NEW DATE! MONDAY, MAY 9, 2022 **NEW DATE!**

11:30 AM - THE CANNERY- IN PERSON

PROFESSIONAL ETHICS FOR GEOSCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS

Presented by:

**William H. Schramm and George Losonsky
of Losonsky and Associates**

Ethics has many definitions; it is a study of the rules of human behavior, the standards of right and wrong, that part of science and philosophy dealing with moral conduct, duty, and judgment, the voluntary actions specifically taken by an individual with sufficient knowledge of the options available. The development of these “rules” depends on the formative influences on the individual. They derive from the social structure, ethnic culture, predominant religion, educational philosophies and personal life experiences.

Professional ethics incorporates and expands on these societal rules for a well-defined group of specialized, highly trained and educated persons in a specific career field. The ethics for professionals are particularly developed to address issues peculiar to that field. Examples are: medical, legal, police, military, science, and business, and in our case today, geoscience!

In our everyday lives we encounter many examples of ethical decisions, requiring us to establish a hierarchy or prioritization of decision making. We will investigate the conundrums of some of these situations, offer examples, and discuss the history and logic/science of ethical decision making.

[Click Here to Register](#)

William H. Schramm is a 28-year retired veteran of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality. As a Geologist he worked closely with industry, consultants, regulators, and private citizens, to investigate and remediated over 3000 contaminated sites. As Geologist Supervisor, he managed a staff of 16 Geologists, Environmental Specialists, and support personnel in the Remediation Division. Beginning in 2005 he was an Adjunct Instructor on the staff of the Department of Geology at the University of Louisiana-Lafayette and served on numerous Graduate Thesis Committees. Mr. Schramm retired from the State of Louisiana in 2017. Governor John Bel Edwards appointed Mr. Schramm to the Louisiana Board of Professional Geoscientists in 2018 where he was elected Secretary. He was subsequently elected to Chair the board in late 2021.

He holds a BA and MS in Geology and a Teaching Certification for K-12 in Science and Earth Science. He is a 30+ year member, past Director, and thrice Vice-President/President of the Baton Rouge Geological Society. Mr. Schramm served for 9 years as the BRGS Delegate to the AAPG. Beginning in the mid-1990s, he joined the Louisiana Environmental Health Association and was first elected Director for multiple years then President where he served for 8 years until 2021. He has participated in numerous conferences, conventions and seminars as organizer, committee chair, session chair, judge, presenter, and author/coauthor. He now consults part time as Senior Geologist with Losonsky and Associates.

George Losonsky, PhD, PG, Losonsky & Associates, Inc., Baton Rouge, LA

Dr. George Losonsky has practiced in the environmental and water resources fields for over 30 years as a hydrogeologist, groundwater modeler, and remediation design expert. He has worked on soil and groundwater remediation projects throughout the USA and worldwide. George completed his BS in Geology at Oberlin College and MS and PhD in Geology at the University of Cincinnati. He currently serves as President of the Baton Rouge Geological Society.



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PICTURES FROM THE PAST



At the April 11, 1994 Luncheon at the New Orleans Petroleum Club, Dr. Shea Penland of UNO Geology makes a point in his talk. Seated at the head table are (L-R) Irion Bordelon, Vice President, Paul Jurik, President and Scott Spradley, Secretary

*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.

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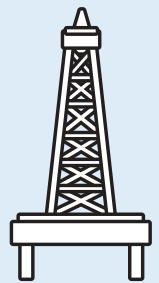
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DRILL BITS

OFFSHORE GULF OF MEXICO SHELF AND DEEPWATER ACTIVITIES BY AL BAKER



During March 2022, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) approved 62 Gulf of Mexico (GoM) drilling permits. Sixteen of the permits were for shelf wells, and the remaining 46 permits were for deepwater wells. There were 9 well permits were issued; four were on the shelf and five were in deepwater.

The four-shelf new well permits on the shelf were for development wells. Arena Offshore received two permits for their Eugene Island 324 #B-3 and 325 #B-2 wells. Bryon Energy obtained a permit for their South Marsh Island 58 #G-5 well. Cantium was granted a permit for their Main Pass 38 #8 well.

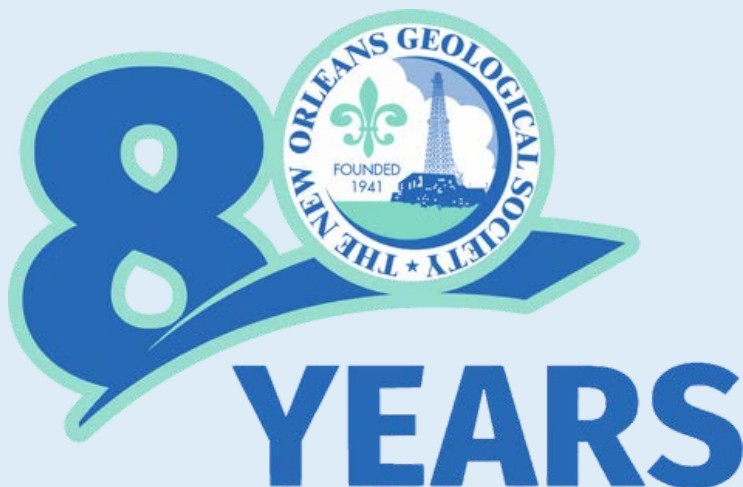
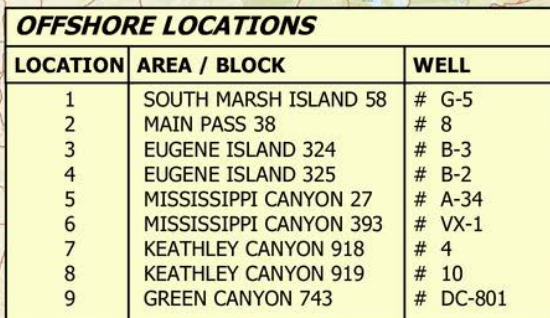
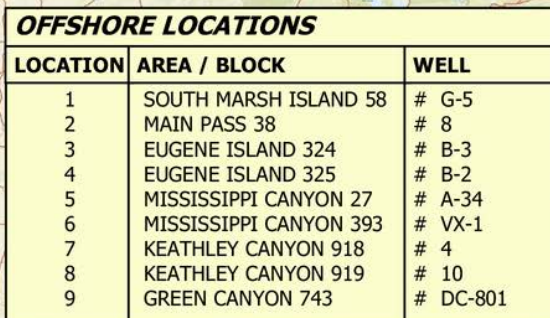
The five new well permits in deepwater were for 3 exploration wells and 2 development wells. Anadarko Petroleum was awarded 2 new well permits for exploration wells Keathley Canyon 918 #4 and 919 #10. Shell Offshore received a new well permit for their exploration well, Mississippi Canyon 393 #VX-1. BP Exploration & Production was granted a new well permit for their development well, Green Canyon 746 #DC-802. Talos Petroleum obtained a new well permit for their development well, Mississippi Canyon 27 #A-34 well.

On March 25th, IHS-Petrodata reported that the mobile offshore rig supply in the GoM stood at 46, which is 1 less than 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 each 1 less than 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 March 2021 total fleet utilization rate stood at 55.2% with 32 rigs under contract out of the 58 rigs in the fleet.

On March 25th, Baker Hughes reported that there are 14 active mobile offshore rigs in the GoM, which are more than last month and 41.2% of the rigs under contract mentioned above. Currently, 2 rigs are drilling on the shelf, and 12 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 Alaminos Canyon, Walker Ridge, Bay Marchand and Eugene Island Areas.

On March 25th, the Baker Hughes total U.S. rig count stood at 670 rigs, which are 0 more rigs than reported at the end of February 2022. Of the 670 rigs, 531 (79.3%) are oil rigs and 137 (20.4%) are gas rigs. Two rigs were listed as miscellaneous. A year ago, there were 417 rigs working in the U.S. inferring that the current rig figure represents a 60.7% increase in rigs year over year. Presently, Texas continues to have the largest number of rigs at 326, which is 48.7% of the total number of rigs in the U. S. Louisiana currently has a total of 60 rigs, which are 6 more than last month. Louisiana is ranked third behind New Mexico, which currently has 96 rigs.

According to the Department of the Interior, the next GOM 5-year Leasing Plan, which is due for release on July 1, 2022, will be delayed by the department's analysis of the social cost of carbon on climate change that is related to greenhouse gas emissions from the future extraction and usage of oil and gas. Industry experts believe that the next offshore lease might not occur through at least October 2023.



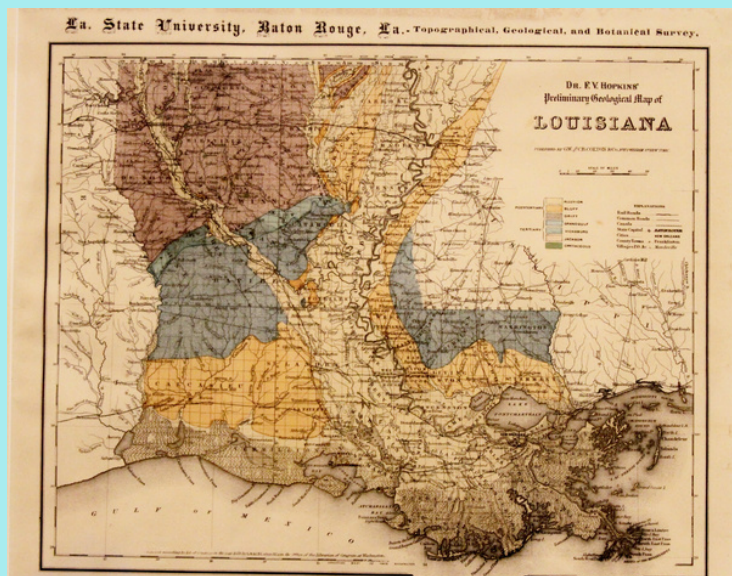
NOGS APRIL 2022 MEETING

LOUISIANA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY - PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

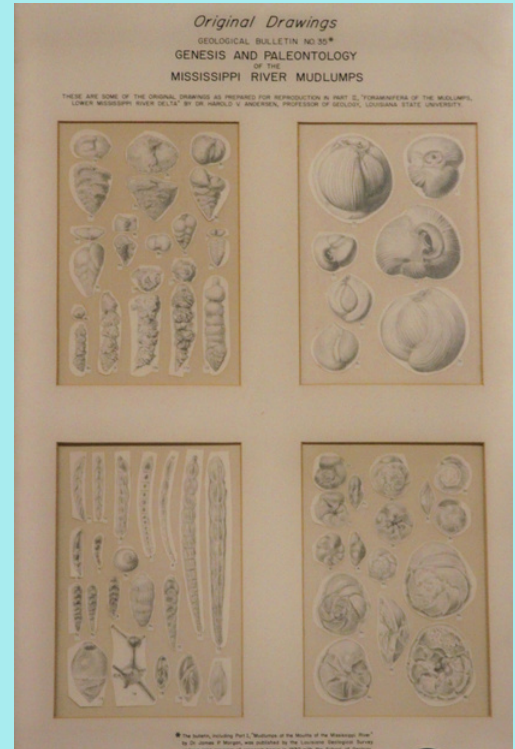
Presented by: Dr. Clare Falcon, Louisiana Geological Survey



State Geologist, Dr. Clare Falcon



Framed original of the "Preliminary Geological Map of Louisiana: Topographical, Geological and Botanical Survey" from 1870 by Dr. F. V. Hopkin



Original drawings for Part II of Louisiana Geological Survey Bulletin No. 35, "Foraminifera of the Mudlumps, Lower Mississippi River Delta" by Dr. Harold V. Andersen, Professor of Geology at Louisiana State University.



State Geologist, Dr. Clare Falcon and Ed Picou

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Recent Oil Industry Headlines... April 2022

4/19/2022 - Federal onshore royalty rates to jump to 18.75% for new leases, Interior says - New oil and gas leases for onshore federal lands will carry an 18.75% royalty rate, up from the current standard of 12.5%, the Interior Department said April 15. In addition, the acreage offered in the new round of sales will be cut by 80% from previously nominated acreage. [Read Full Article](#)

3/21/2022 - EIA projects that oil and gas will remain dominant in the US through 2050 - In its Annual Energy Outlook 2022 (AEO2022) Reference case, the US Energy Information Administration (EIA) projects that US energy consumption will grow through 2050, primarily driven by population and economic growth. In this case, the EIA says that renewable energy will be the fastest-growing energy source through 2050, but that petroleum will have the largest share of energy consumption throughout that period, followed by natural gas. [Read Full Article](#)

4/12/2022 - Murphy cheers first oil from giant new platform in Gulf of Mexico - Houston-based oil and gas company Murphy Oil has achieved the first oil from the Khaleesi, Mormont, and Samurai field development project in the deepwater Gulf of Mexico, as production has begun flowing through the Murphy-operated King's Quay floating production system (King's Quay FPS) [Read Full Article](#)

4/1/2022 - The US will emerge as the world's largest natural-gas exporter this year, a top energy market historian says - The US will emerge as the world's top exporter of liquified natural gas as the West scrambles to slash Russian shipments and find other alternatives, according to energy expert Dan Yergin. As a result of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the European Union is looking to cut its dependency on imports of the country's gas by two-thirds and end fossil-fuel imports by 2027. [Read Full Article](#)

4/1/2022 - US to release largest-ever oil reserve supply - The Biden administration announced Mar. 31 the largest-ever release of oil from the US Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR). The move is an effort to lower crude prices as Russia's invasion of Ukraine has sent oil and gasoline prices soaring. [Read Full Article](#)

4/1/2022 - USA Government Comments on Gulf of Mexico Lease Program - The U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) is actively developing its five-year program for leasing in the Gulf of Mexico, a DOI spokesperson has outlined in a statement sent to Rigzone. "In the meantime, of the more than 11 million acres of offshore federal waters already under lease, more than three-quarters (75.58 percent or 8.29 million acres) are non-producing," the spokesperson added in the statement. [Read Full Article](#)

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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

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