

# NOGS LOC



**APRIL 2023**

**Volume 63 No. 10**



## On the Cover

Thunder Horse production platform, located 150 miles southeast of New Orleans in Mississippi Canyon Blocks 778/822, has recently experienced a resurgence of oil production. BP has doubled production in the last year to nearly 200,000 BOPD and is planning additional production enhancements at its Thunder Horse South platform. Thunderhorse Field produces from 3 main Miocene turbidite sand reservoirs approximately 6000m below mudline. The production platform has a nameplate capacity of 250,000 BOPD and 200 MMCFGD and is situated in 6050' water depth. BP's production improvements are an example of many current GOM projects that will be highlighted by our April NOGS Luncheon speaker.



## *From the Editor...*

Greetings Everyone,

In the last 15 years or so, the petroleum industry in the New Orleans area has undergone a tremendous downsizing with numerous companies either moving to Houston or being consolidated into other companies outside our area. As a result, NOGS has also shrunk to about 250 members, or about 20% of its peak in the 1980's. It is becoming increasingly difficult to find volunteers to serve on both the NOGS Board of Directors and on many of the committees that are mandated by the NOGS Bylaws and Constitution. In the last couple of years, John Dribus and I prepared a more streamlined set of NOGS Bylaws and Constitution to accommodate the recent changes in the Society membership and NOGS Committee participation. Earlier this year, the NOGS Board and several interested members got together to create a final revised set of NOGS Bylaws and Constitution. This document is undergoing final edits, and upon approval by the NOGS Board the document will be sent to the general NOGS membership for final approval (as an email vote). So, look for the new and improved NOGS Bylaws and Constitution in the next few months and feel free to let us know what you think. As always, we invite any of you to submit to [editor@nogs.org](mailto:editor@nogs.org) any technical articles, meeting announcements, educational events, or anything else that you think may be of interest to NOGS members and we will make sure it gets published.

Thanks, and have a wonderful Easter holiday.

*David*



**David Reiter**  
2022/2023 NOGS LOG Editor





**DOUGLAS BRADFORD**

# **A MESSAGE FROM 2022/2023 NOGS PRESIDENT**

To all members and friends of the New Orleans Geologic Society:

The STEM NOLA event at the Saints Training Camp on Saturday March fourth was a great event. STEM stands for SCIENCE • TECHNOLOGY • ENGINEERING • MATH. School age boys and girls in K-12 grades were at the event and had a hands on opportunity to learn about career opportunities in these different fields. NOGS was just one of the many that displayed STEM career opportunities. The NOGS portion had six tables and ten volunteers that enabled the boys and girls to learn about geology as a hands-on experience. Our thanks to Tom Bergeon and all the NOGS volunteers that shared their passion for geology with the girls and boys.

The NOGS March meeting was at Zea's Restaurant in Covington and had a very interesting presentation by Bob Jacobsen, an engineer specializing in advanced studies of the complex challenges facing southeast Louisiana, about the development of the High Definition Flood Inundation Map for the August 2016 Flood for the Amite River Basin.

The Deepwater Technical Symposium is scheduled for July 24-26 at the Sheraton Hotel in New Orleans. Registration is now open. The NOGS portion will be all day Monday July 24 and will feature Dr. Michael Hudec's presentation entitled "Introduction to Salt Tectonics". More information about the symposium and registration is available at <https://www.deepwaternola.org/>.

Watch on the NOGS website for announcements of other events. Volunteers are always needed.

As always, a reminder of dues renewal if you haven't already done so, \$35.00 for Regular membership and \$15 for Student membership. I encourage you to pay your dues and to give consideration to adding a special donation to the Memorial Foundation to help us continue our worthwhile local community, university, and education programs.

Thanks everyone, stay safe and well!

**Best regards,  
Doug Bradford  
2022-2023 NOGS President**

# APRIL NOGS MEETING

MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2023 11:30 AM  
ZEA'S NORTH SHORE & ONLINE



## GREGORY B. UPTON, JR.

Dr. Greg Upton is Associate Research Professor at the Louisiana State University Center for Energy Studies. Dr. Upton's research is at the intersection of energy and environmental economics. He has contributed to over 30 publications. He has presented to approximately 150 industry, governmental and academic audiences, including testifying in committees of the Louisiana Legislature. He is regularly interviewed on live talk radio and other local news outlets, and has been quoted or cited over 100 times in local and national media including the Wall Street Journal, USA Today, and NPR's Marketplace. He has taught classes in the Department of Economics, Environmental Sciences, and the Masters in Business Administration program at LSU. He is a program faculty member at Michigan State University's Institute of Public Utilities. Dr. Upton holds a Ph.D. in Economics from Louisiana State University where he also received both an M.A. in economics and a B.S. in economics with a concentration in empirical analysis.

## GULF COAST ENERGY OUTLOOK 2023



### ABSTRACT

On November 16, 2022, the LSU Center for Energy Studies released the 2023 edition of the Gulf Coast Energy Outlook (GCEO). As in previous years, this sixth edition of the GCEO provides a comprehensive overview of the Gulf Coast region's energy industry outlook for the upcoming year. David E. Dismukes, executive director and professor, and Greg Upton, associate professor, LSU Center for Energy Studies, authored the report.

Last year's GCEO addressed post-pandemic operational adjustments implemented by industry, as well as impacts of the 2020 and 2021 hurricane seasons. The 2023 GCEO addresses implications of the Russo-Ukrainian war on global energy markets and energy security. The impacts of decarbonization policies and the Inflation Reduction Act on corporate strategies are also considered.

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# PICTURE FROM THE PAST



**Four players displaying different emotions before hitting  
the course!**

**NOGS-PLANO-SPWLA Golf Tournament October 12, 2020  
at Beau Chene Country Club in Mandeville**

*Submitted by  
Ed Picou, Chairman - Historical Committee*



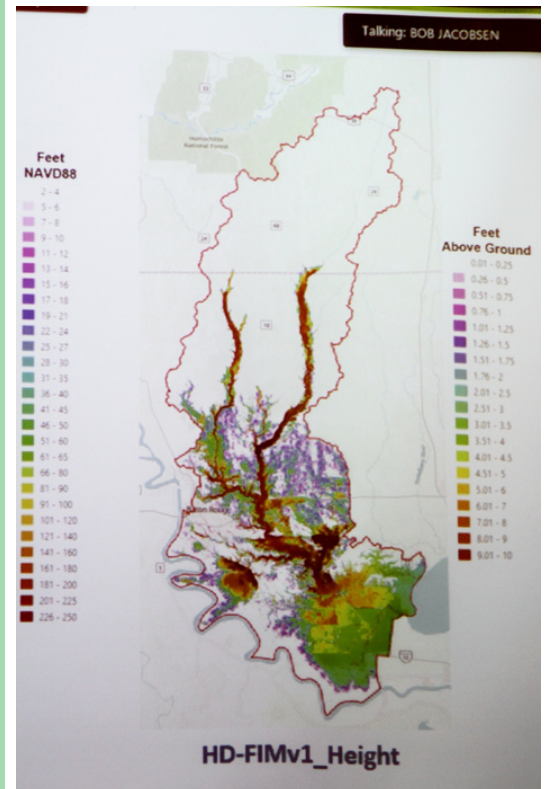
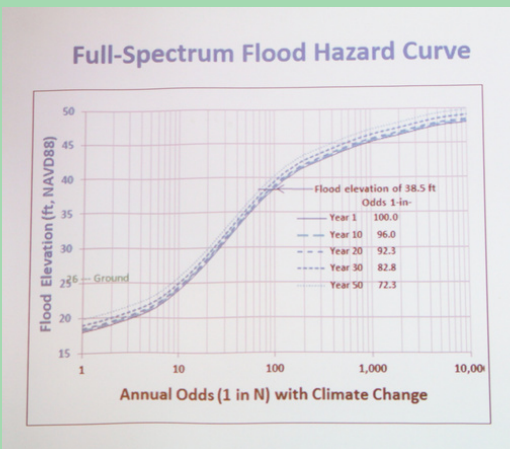
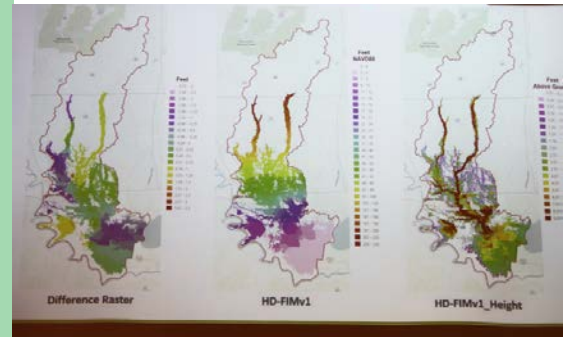
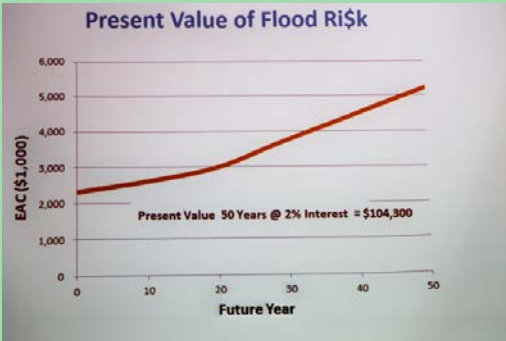
# MARCH NOGS MEETING

## THE PROPERTY-SPECIFIC FLOOD RESILIENCY REVOLUTION



### The Property-Specific Flood Resiliency Revolution

Bob Jacobsen PE





# 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).

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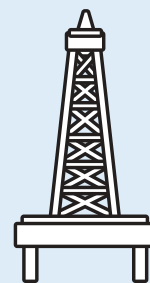
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# DRILL BITS

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



During February 2023, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) approved 86 Gulf of Mexico (GoM) drilling permits. Seventeen of the permits were for shelf wells, and the remaining 69 permits were for deepwater wells. There were 5 new well permits issued; one was on the shelf, and 4 were in deepwater.

The single shelf new well permit was for an exploration well. Walter Oil & Gas was granted permit for their South Timbalier 320 #1 well.

Of the 4 deepwater new well permits, 3 were for exploration wells, and 1 was for a development well. Shell Offshore received 3 exploration well permits for their Mississippi Canyon 802 #3 well, Alaminos Canyon 735 #1 well and Garden Banks 958 #5 well in their North Platt Field. BP Exploration & Production obtained 1 development well permit for their Green Canyon 743 #DC-228 well in their Atlantis Field.

On February 28th, IHS-Petrodata indicated that the GoM mobile offshore rig supply stood at 45, which is the same as last month. The marketed rig supply consisted of 32 rigs, of which 27 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 remained at 60%, and the marketed contracted versus marketed supply utilization rate remained at 84.4%. By comparison, the February 2022 total fleet utilization rate stood at 82.9% with 35 rigs under contract out of the 47 rigs in the fleet.

On February 28th, Baker Hughes reported that there are 17 active mobile offshore rigs in the GoM, which are 4 more than last month and 63% of the rigs under contract mentioned above. Currently, three rigs are drilling on the shelf, and 14 rigs are drilling in deepwater. The 3 shelf rigs are comprised of 2 the Main Pass Area and 1 in the South Timbalier. The deepwater rigs include 6 rigs in the Mississippi Canyon Area, 2 in the Garden Banks Area, and 1 rig each in the Green Canyon, Alaminos Canyon, Ewing Bank, Keathley Canyon, Walker Ridge and Atwater Valley Areas.

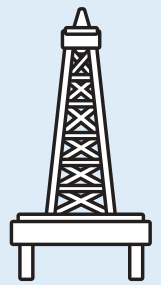
On February 28th, the Baker Hughes total U.S. rig count stood at 753 rigs, which is the 18 less than reported at the end of January 2023. Of the 753 rigs, 600 (79.7%) are oil rigs and 151 (20.1%) are gas rigs. Two rigs are listed as miscellaneous. A year ago, there were 650 rigs working in the U.S. inferring that the current rig figure represents an 15.8% increase in rigs year over year. Presently, Texas continues to have the largest number of rigs with 370, which is 49.1% of the total number of rigs in the U. S. Louisiana currently has a total of 64 rigs, which are 3 more than last month. Louisiana ranks third behind New Mexico, which has 106 rigs.

On February 24th, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) announced that it will hold GOM Oil and Gas Lease Sale 259 on March 29, 2023 as mandated by the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). It will include approximately 13,600 blocks on 73.3 million acres in the western, Central and Eastern Planning Areas on the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf. This is the first scheduled offshore GOM lease sale since OCS Sale 257, which was held on November 17, 2021. The Biden Administration has still not given final approval to the next 5-Year Leasing Program that was by law due on July 1, 2022. Furthermore, it has not offered an expected future date for the approval.



# DRILL BITS

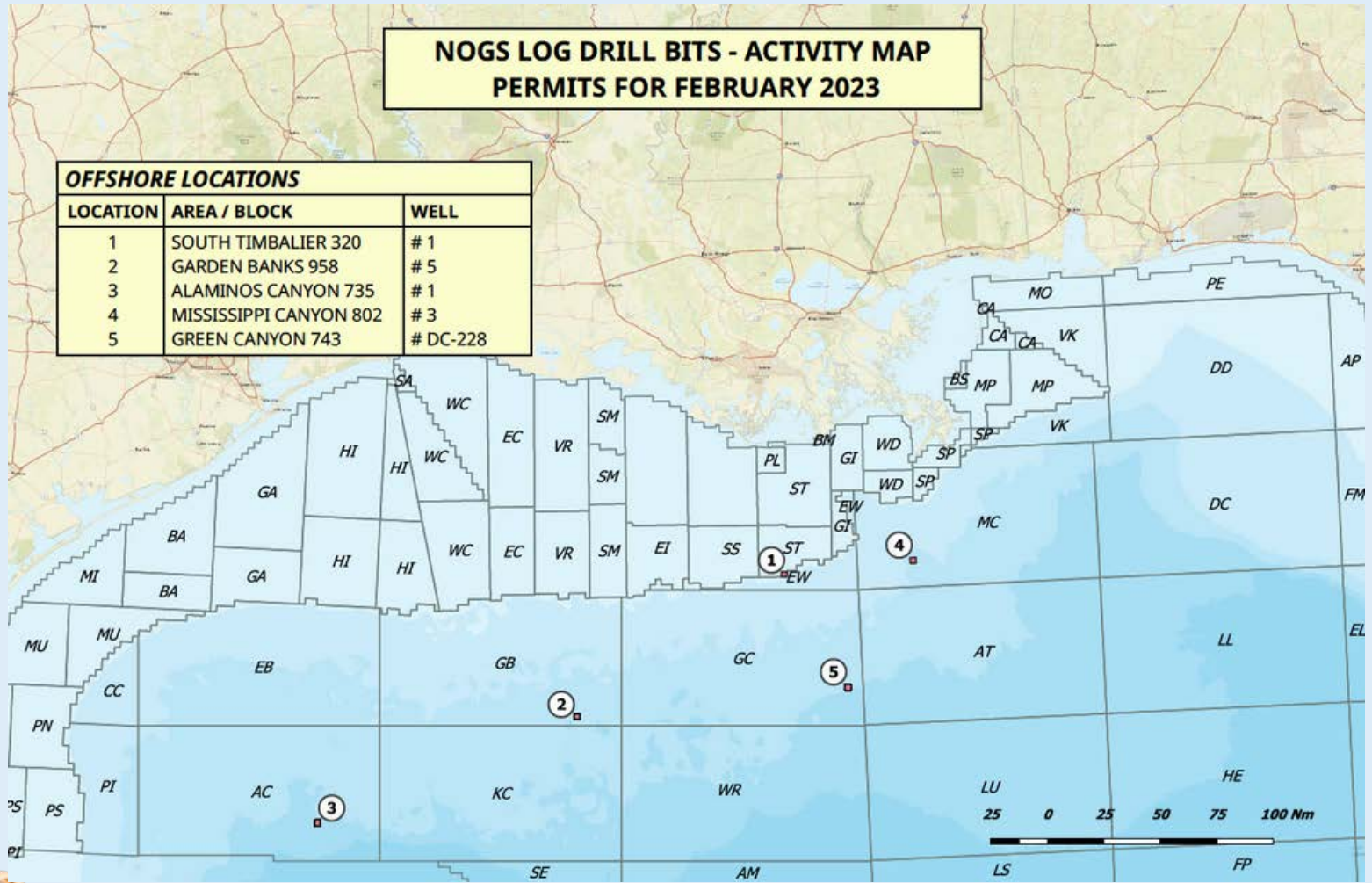
NEW WELL PERMITS OFFSHORE GULF OF MEXICO  
SHELF AND DEEPWATER ACTIVITIES MAP BY  
KEVIN TROSCLAIR



## NOGS LOG DRILL BITS - ACTIVITY MAP PERMITS FOR FEBRUARY 2023

### OFFSHORE LOCATIONS

LOCATION	AREA / BLOCK	WELL
1	SOUTH TIMBALIER 320	# 1
2	GARDEN BANKS 958	# 5
3	ALAMINOS CANYON 735	# 1
4	MISSISSIPPI CANYON 802	# 3
5	GREEN CANYON 743	# DC-228





# NOGS



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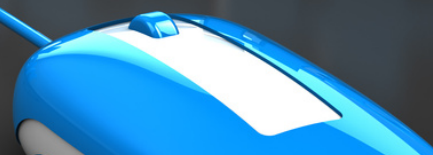
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# Recent Energy Headlines...February 2023 Recap

**3/17/2023 - Biden Is In No Rush to Fill Petroleum Reserve** - The US is committed to replenishing the Strategic Petroleum Reserve but won't rush to do so immediately despite the recent decline in oil prices, a top Biden administration official said. "Why don't we take this one day at a time," Special Presidential Coordinator for Global Infrastructure and Energy Security Amos Hochstein said in an interview on Bloomberg Television's "Balance of Power." [Read Full Article](#)

**3/17/2023 - ING Slashes 2023 Brent Oil Price Forecast To \$90** - Softer oil market fundamentals than previously expected prompted ING on Friday to slash its Brent Crude forecast for this year to \$90 per barrel from \$98, as a larger current surplus is likely to leave the market in a better position to handle an expected deficit in the second half of 2023. ING now sees Brent Crude prices averaging \$100 a barrel in the fourth quarter, down from a previous projection of \$110, Warren Patterson, Head of Commodities Strategy at ING, wrote in a note today. [Read Full Article](#)

**3/16/2023 - US oil production will remain at 'historically high volumes' through 2050: New government report** - Despite his campaign rhetoric of ending fossil fuels, President Biden acknowledged in his recent State of the Union address that "we're going to need oil for at least another decade." But a new report released Thursday by an independent agency of Biden's own government projects it will even be much much longer than that. In fact, the 2023 Annual Energy Outlook from the Energy Information Administration (EIA) finds that U.S. oil production may even increase between now and 2050 even as clean energy sources like wind and solar power increase dramatically as well. [Read Full Article](#)

**3/8/2023 - Guest commentary from Former Director of BSEE: Continued need for oil and gas – unleash USA Energy workers** - Not once but twice President Biden went off script during his State of the Union speech to acknowledge that the need for oil and gas will continue "for at least another decade and beyond that." Regarding the comments, Bloomberg reported, "Biden's comments offered only partial comfort to some oil industry representatives who have insisted they need more encouraging signals from Washington about the enduring need for fossil fuels in order to lure more capital and drive investments that take decades to pay off." The major signal needed from Washington is a new 5-Year Leasing Program. A return to consistent and trustworthy oil and gas leasing on federal lands and waters is a must. The next 5-Year Leasing Program, vital to the continuance of federal leasing, is being slow-walked by the current administration. Statutory deadlines are at risk of not being met, thus, causing further uncertainty in the domestic energy supplies. [Read Full Article](#)

**3/15/2023 - Shell Greenlights Development of Dover Offshore Oil Field in U.S. Gulf of Mexico** - Oil major Shell has sanctioned the development of the Dover offshore oil field in the Gulf of Mexico. Shell plans to develop the Dover project as a subsea tieback to the Shell-operated Appomattox offshore production platform, with two production wells produced through a 17.5-mile flowline and riser. The Dover field is expected to start production in late 2024-early 2025 and produce up to 21,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day (boe/d) at peak rates. [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!**

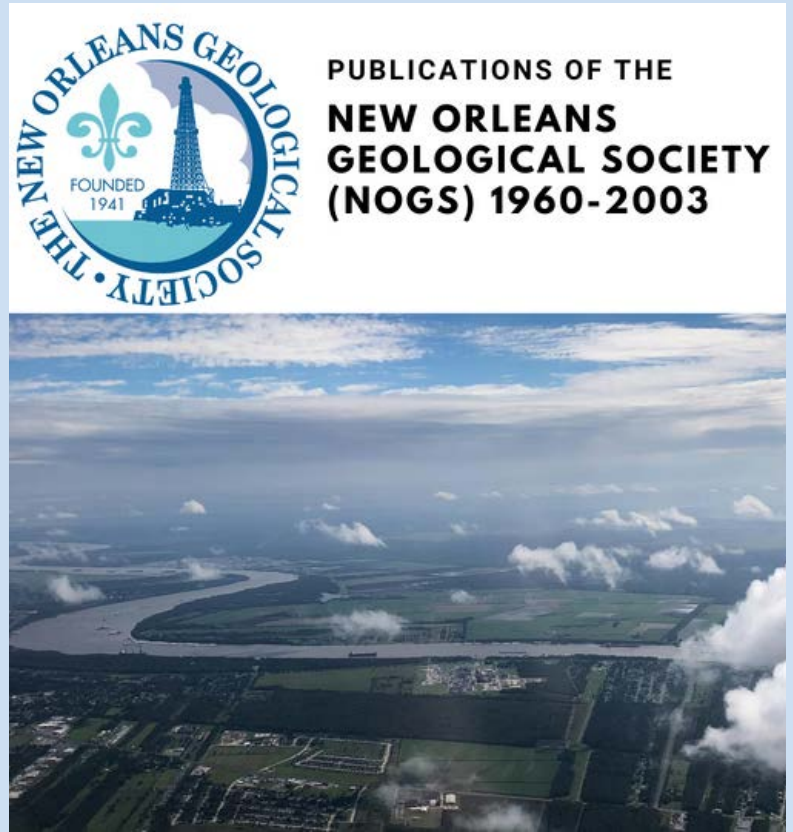
It's all about YOU! NOGS' educational, networking, and career planning programs will take you where you want to go!





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Apollo 17 geologist Harrison "Jack" Schmitt  
AND Jessica Watkins, ISS NASA Astronaut.



#### Field Trips

April 21- Spindletop Top Museum  
April 22- NASA Space Center  
with Jack Schmitt Apollo 17  
April 26- Galveston and Brazos River  
April 27-30 -Trip to the Austin Hill  
County, Enchanted Rock. Check the  
HGS web event page for info and links

#### Convention Short Courses

SC-1 Salt Tectonics of the Gulf of  
Mexico- Two-Day Course  
Mark Rowan (Saturday and Sunday)

SC-2: Gulf of Mexico Sedimentary Basin:  
Depositional Evolution and Petroleum  
Applications  
John W. Snedden (Saturday 4.22.23)

SC-3: Structural, Tectonic, and  
Paleogeographic Evolution of the GOM,  
Caribbean, and South America  
Jim Pindell (Sunday 4.23.23)



# NOGS TAKES THE FIELD AT NOLA STEM SAINTS CELEBRATION



On March 4th NOGS volunteers were active teaching kids and their families about the elements of how an oil field forms and turning them loose on the ever-popular oil finder game. The event run by STEM NOLA comprised of 32 STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Math) organizations including among many NASA, New Orleans Crime Lab, Team Robotics and Audubon Society. Our exhibits stretched over the corner of the training facility endzone. Over 2,000 people attended the event.

Our wonderfully enthusiastic volunteers included the oil finder crew of Opie Lee Anderson, Eric Zimmerman's daughter Julia, Addie Anderson, and Lily and Mary Strimas. Those running the oil field concept stations were Anna Strimas, Stephen Kennedy, Bernie Regel, Brian David, Jared Bullock, Mike Anderson, and Doug Bradford. The NOGS oil field stations were on full display and covered the origin of oil, oil properties, geochemical composition of hydrocarbons, structural traps, sand and shale porosity, and migration into an oil field trap. Lisa Kennedy of SGS provided a seismographic station for demonstrating seismic wave generation. The kids gravitated to pounding the table to generate their own shear and p wave earthquakes.

Major thanks to all who contributed. This was a great learning experience.

Tom Bergeon



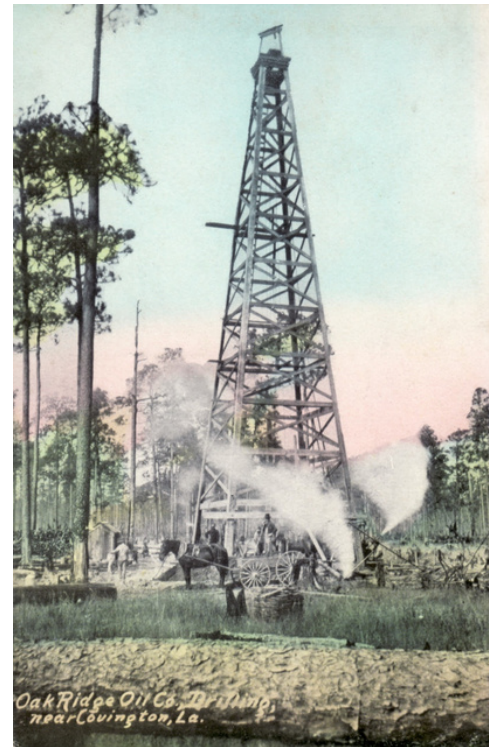


# Oak Ridge Oil & Mineral Company

## Covington, Louisiana (1909-1911)

This early Louisiana postcard is captioned, "Oak Ridge Oil Co. Drilling near Covington, La." and is postmarked September 14, 1910. The postcard documents one of the two wells drilled by this short-lived Louisiana oil company.

The Oak Ridge Oil and Mineral Company was chartered on August 26, 1909, with its domicile in Covington, Louisiana and the issuance of 12,000 shares of stock at one dollar per share (St. Tammany Farmer, October 16, 1909, p. 1). The October 23, 1909, edition (p. 3) of The Shreveport Journal reported that the company would drill a well approximately 12 miles northwest of Covington and that a test southeast of Covington two years prior drilled to 2,400 feet. By late November, the derrick had been completed and the first carload of pipe had arrived. The St. Tammany Farmer (January 15, 1910, p. 5) reported that gas had been struck at 40 feet but the "principal cause of elation seems to be the constantly increasing indications favorable to the discovery of oil." The St. Tammany Farmer (June 25, 1910, p. 4) reported, "the Oak Ridge Oil Co. of St. Tammany Parish stands in reverse position to Spindle Top [sic]. With every indication of oil, and confidence at such a pitch that stock could no longer be bought, a gusher of water was reached at 1800 feet that prevented further operations. The oil-bearing sands from this well give positive indications that oil exists, and it is said that some oil actually came from the well. Be that as it may, experts are confident that this field will produce oil, and with the exact knowledge which experience has given them of the depth at which casings will have to be put in, it is believed the next well will be a success. It is proposed to sink it a short distance from the abandoned well." Le Meschacebe (July 9, 1910, p. 2) reported that the well was "sunk 30 feet into oil sand at a depth of 2,200 feet," with a good showing of oil and gas, but "an accident to the packer made it impossible to case off a heavy flow of artesian water. It was decided to abandon this hole and sink another well." A week later, the company called for a meeting of stockholders to discuss drilling a second well.



By November 1910, the second well was drilling at 2,056 feet with a heavy flow of gas. "Several oil experts visited this section and one who is said to represent the Standard Oil Company, stated that the prospects were good" (The Town Talk, November 1, 1910, p. 8). By mid-January 1911, the well was drilling at 2,150 feet with plans to drill at least 500 feet further (The Times-Democrat, January 12, 1911, p. 6). February brought bad news. The well had reached a depth of 2,252 feet with no indications of oil and "a number of stockholders are in favor of giving up" (The Times-Democrat, February 10, 1911, p. 8). A new drilling company, the St. Tammany Drilling Company, purchased the equipment of the Covington Oil and Mineral Company (St. Tammany Farmer, February 25, 1911, p. 9). The May 6, 1911 (p. 6) edition of the New Orleans Times-Democrat stated that "the rig and drilling machinery of the Oak Ridge Oil and Mineral Company of this place, which was used in sinking two wells on the Bossier tract near here, has been leased by the St. Tammany Drilling Company to the Pascagoula Development Company of Mississippi."



## CALL FOR PAPERS

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Friday, May 12, 2023

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For group rate, mention “**Petroleum History Institute**”

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**Deadline: April 7, 2023**

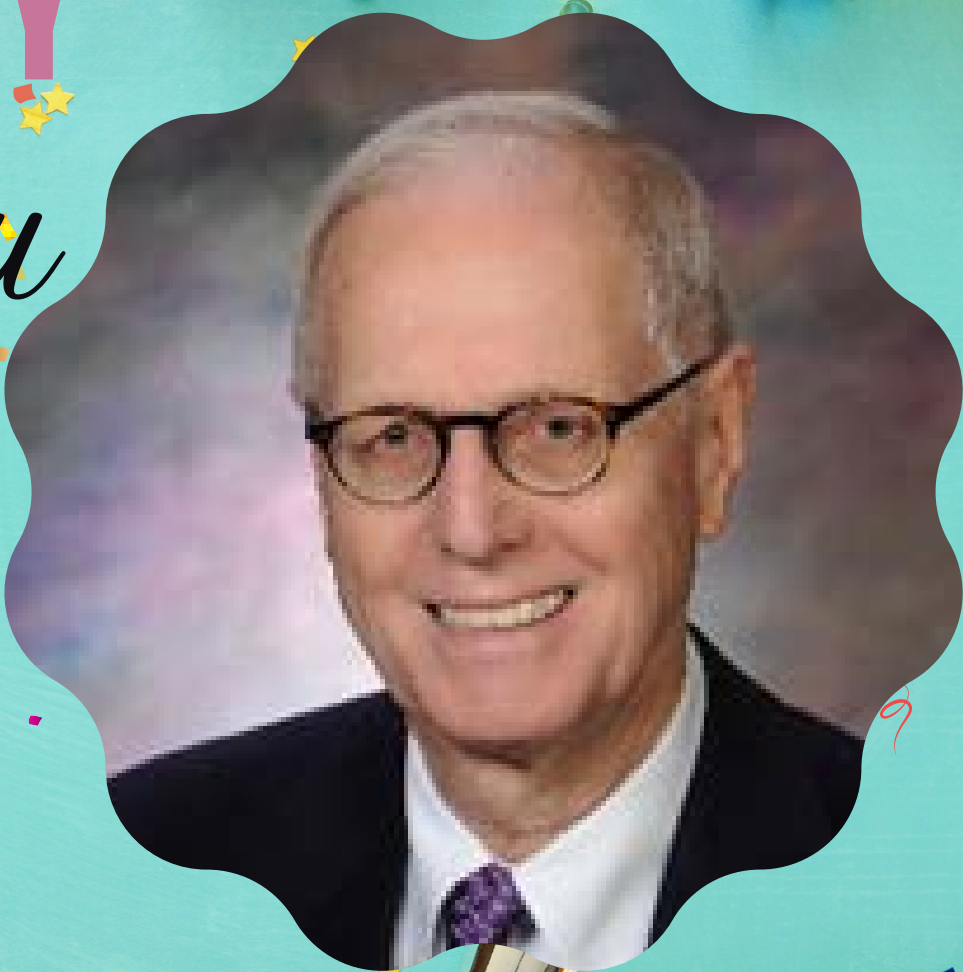
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Or contact Event Chair, Jeff Spencer; (281) 731-5823; [spencerj320@gmail.com](mailto:spencerj320@gmail.com)  
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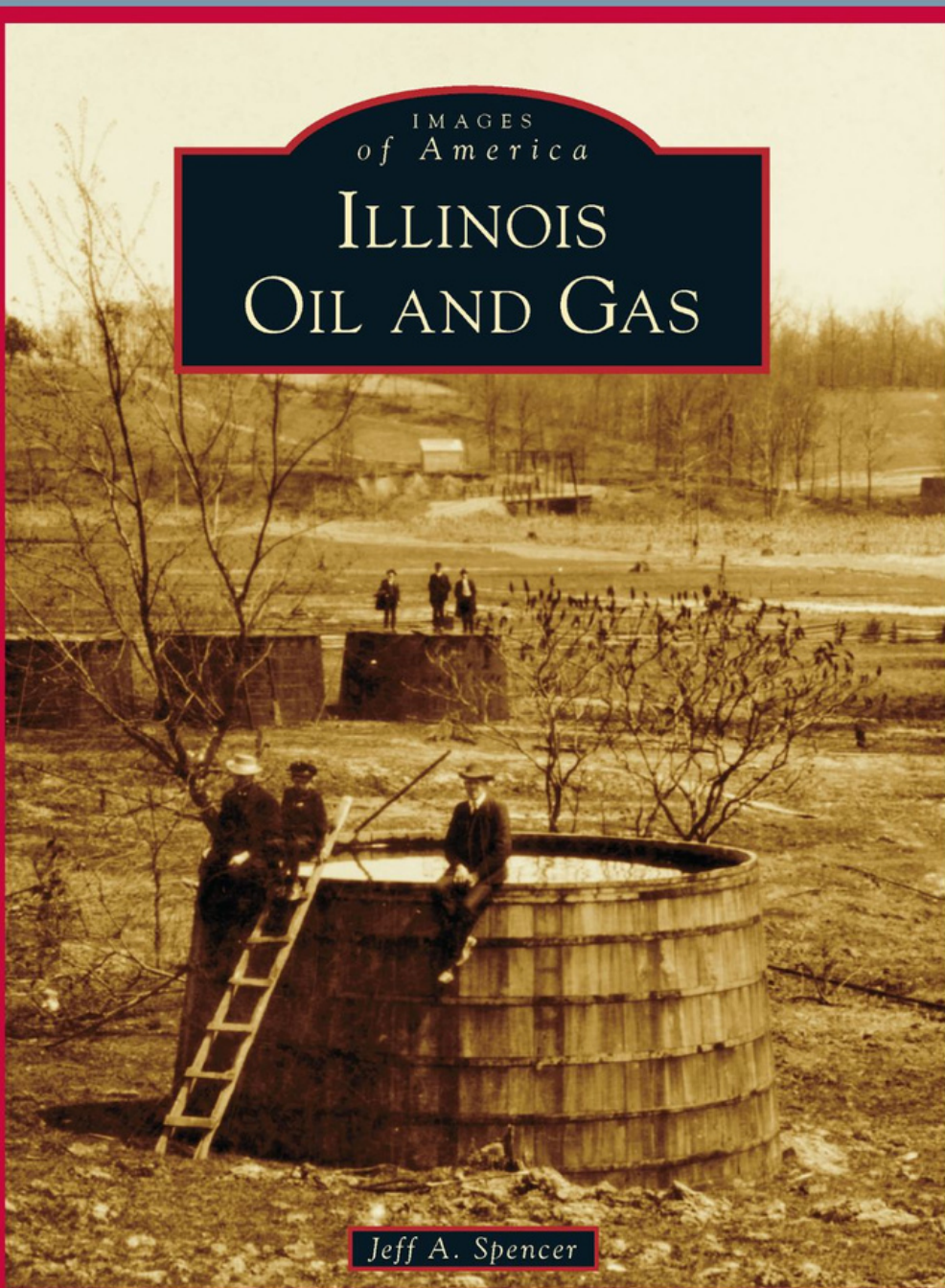
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IMAGES  
of America

# ILLINOIS OIL AND GAS



*Jeff A. Spencer*

**COMING SOON**  
**04 24 23**

#### About the Author :

Jeff A. Spencer is a petroleum geologist, oil field historian, and oil field ephemera collector. He is the past president of the Petroleum History Institute and is the coauthor of Arcadia Publishing's Images of America: Ohio Oil and Gas and author of Postcard History: Texas Oil and Gas. Most of the images in Illinois Oil and Gas are from the author's personal collection.

#### About the Book :

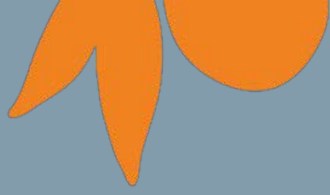
The search for petroleum in Illinois occurred years before the boom days of the early 1900s. Wells were first drilled in 1865 near the town of Casey and then in other areas within the state for the next 40 years with very limited success. Renewed interest in the Casey area resulted in an oil discovery in 1905, followed by significant discoveries in Crawford and Lawrence Counties in 1906, pushing the state's oil production that year to 4.4 million barrels. Towns near the oil fields, such as Oblong, Robinson, Casey, Lawrenceville, and Bridgeport, experienced rapid population growth. Oil refineries near Chicago and St. Louis and in southeastern Illinois provided additional employment. The discovery of the Salem oil field in Marion County in 1938 initiated a major oil boom. By 1940, Illinois ranked third in the nation in oil production, providing a boost to the Allied forces' effort in Europe. Illinois continues to contribute to the petroleum industry of the United States, ranking fourth in crude oil refining and 16th in oil production.





**The Southeastern Geophysical Society (SGS) has served the New Orleans geophysical community for almost 70 years. Unfortunately, present-day realities have made it increasingly difficult for the society to exist in its present form. The current officers have been in their present positions for multiple years and feel that the time is right to use the existing assets for the benefit of others. So, in January 2023, the SGS donated \$50,000 to the University of New Orleans (UNO) Foundation to support the establishment of the Southeastern Geophysical Society Endowed Scholarship in Earth and Environmental Sciences. The scholarship is designed to target needs-based undergraduate and graduate students who are in good standing and majoring in Earth and Environmental Sciences at the University of New Orleans. The establishment of the scholarship is in keeping with the society's long-standing goal to support the earth sciences in the New Orleans area.**

**As per the bylaws, the society is following orderly dissolution with first, the state of Louisiana and finally the federal government, through the legally defined process. After ensuring that any outstanding debts are paid and legal dissolution is underway, the remaining SGS funds will be contributed to the same UNO scholarship account, with a target date of mid-2023. It is our hope that these funds will assist many students as they pursue their degrees and career goals for years to come.**



# GIVENOLA DAY 2023 IS MAY 2

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