

MARCH 2023

Volume 63 No. 9

NCGS LOG



LOUISIANA STORY
(NOTRE LOUISIANE)
un film de Robert FLANERTY

On the Cover

The March cover is a painting from accomplished artist Becca Spencer, who is the daughter of current GCAGS Historian Jeff Spencer.

Here is a brief bio of the artist:

Becca Spencer is a 2019 graduate of the University of Texas at Austin, Cockrell School of Engineering with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. She lives in Arlington, VA and is employed with FTI Consulting. Recent projects have included consulting with multi-national petrochemical companies. From an early age Becca competed in art contests; with her work chosen for T-shirts, phone book covers, and winning ribbons at the local county fair. With her dad's interest in oil field history and oil field movies, Becca painted Louisiana Story, based on an actual French movie poster and presented it to Jeff one Christmas.



From the Editor...

Greetings Everyone,

This month's *NOGS LOG* includes a call for papers for the Petroleum History Institute annual symposium and field trip being held in New Harmony, Indiana on May 11 – 13. The announcement was submitted by GCAGS Historian Jeff Spencer who also included a short technical article and DVD cover image about a 1948 film entitled "Louisiana Story". This movie was filmed in southern Louisiana and is available on DVD and several streaming services. Please read his incredibly interesting article about this film and consider submitting a paper to the Petroleum History Institute annual symposium. Jeff's daughter, Becca Spencer, is an accomplished artist and she sent a photo for this month's *NOGS LOG* cover of her vibrant and highly stylized painting based on this film. We on the *NOGS LOG* editorial board would like to thank Jeff and Becca for their wonderful inclusions to this month's edition. We also invite any of you to submit to 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 Lenten season.



David

David Reiter

2022/2023 NOGS LOG Editor



A MESSAGE FROM 2022/2023 NOGS PRESIDENT

DOUGLAS BRADFORD

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

Mardi Gras season this year was SUPER! It was such a great change from last year's parades and crowds that were reduced by Covid. The weather was nice, most of the floats and crews were back, with large crowds of spectators shouting "HEY MISTER, THROW ME SOMETHING". I think a good time was had by all.

The NOGS January meeting held at Zea's Restaurant in Covington was well attended. The presentation topic was "A REGULATORY PERSPECTIVE ON INJECTION WELLS AND THE LOUISIANA ENERGY TRANSITION" and the speakers were Laura Sorey and Matt Aranyosi from Louisiana Department of Natural Resources. Laura is a geology supervisor for LDNR's Injection and Mining Division and works with the permitting and oversight of Class I, II, and V injection wells and the development of Louisiana's Class VI geologic sequestration program. Matt, also with the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, is a salt cavern engineer and Manager of the Engineering Section in the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources - Injection and Mining Division. Their presentation was very informative and provided a high-level overview of the regulatory considerations for Class V gas storage cavern wells and Class VI geologic sequestration wells required to ensure protection of the underground source of drinking water (USDW) in Louisiana.

A NOGS outreach event upcoming is the STEM NOLA event at the Saints Training Camp Saturday morning on March fourth. 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

MARCH NOGS MEETING

MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2023 11:30 AM
ZEA'S NORTH SHORE & ONLINE



BOB JACOBSEN, PE

Bob holds two master's degrees from LSU concentrating in Environmental Policy and Environmental Engineering. He has worked in hydrological risk—environmental and flood—for over 40 years, specializing in advanced studies of the complex challenges facing southeast Louisiana. Bob served as a consultant on storm surge hazard analysis and risk reduction to the SLFPA-E and CPRA during the post-Katrina construction of the HSDRRS and as a flood risk consultant to the Amite River Basin Commission for close to twenty years. Bob is a past-president of the American Society of Civil Engineers Baton Rouge Branch and the Louisiana Section.

THE PROPERTY-SPECIFIC FLOOD RE\$ILIENCY REVOLUTION.

ABSTRACT

Bob will discuss his recent article *The Property-Specific Flood Re\$iliency Revolution* for the *LOUISIANA CIVIL ENGINEER*, which addresses many of our pressing flood topics in southeast Louisiana. In addition, he will describe the recent development of *The High-Definition Flood Inundation Map* for the August 2016 Flood for the Amite River Basin.

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Your Seat Today!](#)

MARCH NOGS MEETING

MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2023 11:30 AM
ZEA'S NORTH SHORE & ONLINE

THE PROPERTY-SPECIFIC FLOOD RESILIENCY REVOLUTION

EXPERTS: RAIN EVENT MIMICKED YOUNG HURRICANE

BY JEFF ADELSON
jadelson@theadvocate.com

The flooding that has devastated Baton Rouge and the surrounding parishes was caused by a rare weather phenomenon that could become increasingly common, analysts say.

It was largely the product of extremely warm, moist air in the Gulf of Mexico colliding with a slow-moving storm system, which drenched a swath of Louisiana over a several-day stretch.

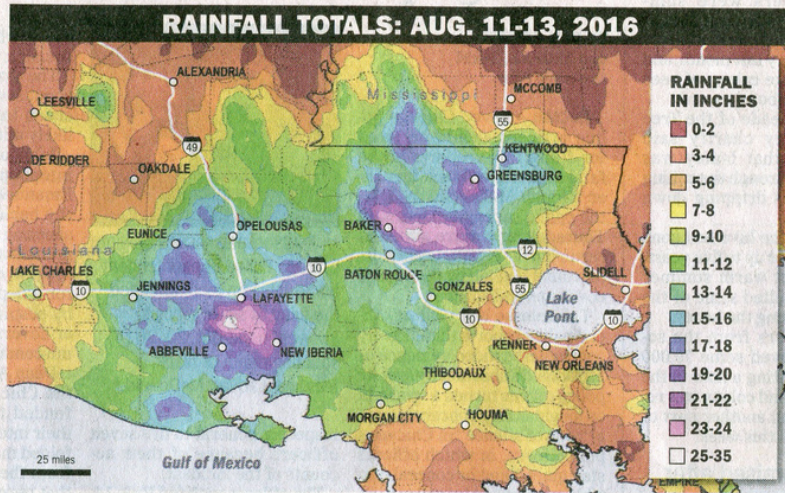
In a way, it resembled a hurricane, even if it didn't have a name or the battering winds usually associated with one, said Barry Keim, the state

ONLINE



► For continuing coverage and more photos, visit theadvocate.com.

► See **STORM**, page 5A

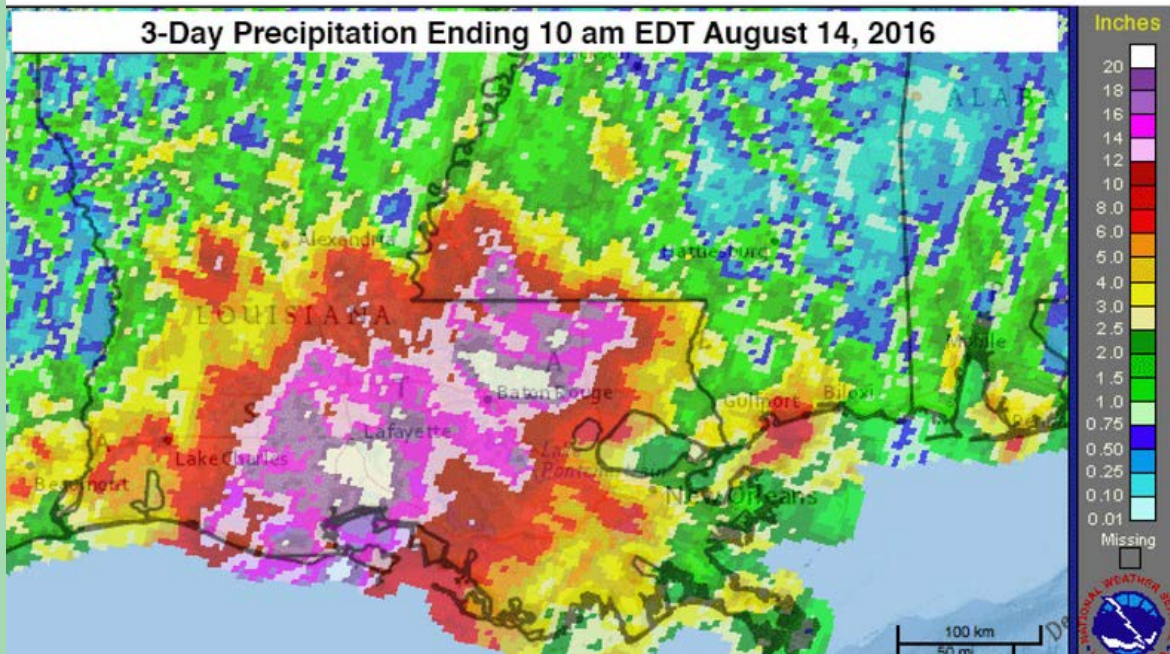


Sources: NOAA, National Weather Service

Advocate graphic

NO ADVOCATE AUG 19, 2016

2030-inches-of-rain



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PICTURE FROM THE PAST



A busy Exhibition Hall is a hallmark of a successful convention. Photo taken at the 1997 GCAGS Convention hosted by NOGS at the Canal Street Marriott Hotel.

*Submitted by
Ed Picou, Chairman - Historical Committee*

**Louisiana Story (1948) – Seventy-five years
of cinematic controversy.
Jeff Spencer, GCAGS Historian.**

An internet search of the 1948 movie, Louisiana Story, will yield a large variety of reviews and commentaries from throughout the seven plus decades since the documentary, docu-drama, or docu-fiction was filmed. As Standard Oil of New Jersey contributed funds toward the filming and distribution (sources show from \$125,000 to over \$200,000), it's no surprise that some of the most critical reviews of the film have come in the last twenty years. Several recent reviews branded the film as a propaganda piece, promoting Standard's drilling ventures in the Louisiana bayous while downplaying the encroachment on the lives of the Cajuns who lived there.

The black and white movie was filmed in the swamps of Vermilion, Iberia, and Lafayette Parishes and more specifically near the Avery Island and Weeks Island salt domes and along Bayou Petite Anse, which flows on the west side of Avery Island and into Vermilion Bay. The movie was directed and produced by Robert J. Flaherty (1884-1951). Flaherty and his wife Frances (1883-1972) were the film's co-writers. The movie was Robert Flaherty's final film. Flaherty, known as the "father of documentary film," experienced international success with his first film, Nanook of the North (1922). Successes followed with Moana (1926), Man of Aran (1934), and The Land (1942). The lead role in Louisiana Story, Alexander Napoleon Ulysses LaTour, was played by Joseph Carl (J.C.) Boudreaux. Boudreaux, who grew up on Monkey Island in southwestern Cameron Parish, screen-tested for the role at the age of thirteen.



He was paid \$25 a week and a \$3000 final bonus for his work in the film. Flaherty described him as "the perfect Huck Finn" (The Daily Advertiser, Lafayette, Jan. 31, 1988, p. 63). A one sentence summary of the movie: "The idyllic life of a young Cajun boy and his pet raccoon is disrupted when the tranquility of the bayou is broken by an oil well drilling near his home." (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0040550/>).

The movie premiered at the 1948 Edinburgh Festival with critical acclaim, largely due it is cinematographic images. The film was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Writing and won the 1949 Pulitzer Prize for Music, scored by Virgil Thomson. A historical marker about the movie is located in the town on Abbeville.

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.

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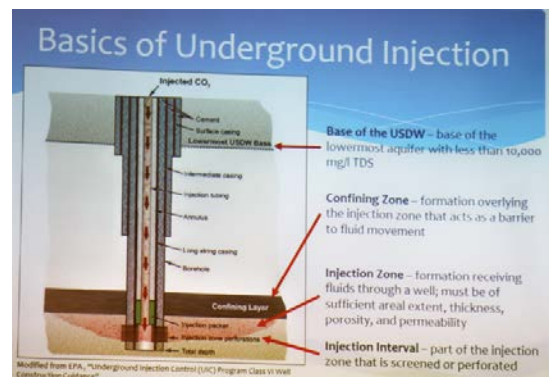
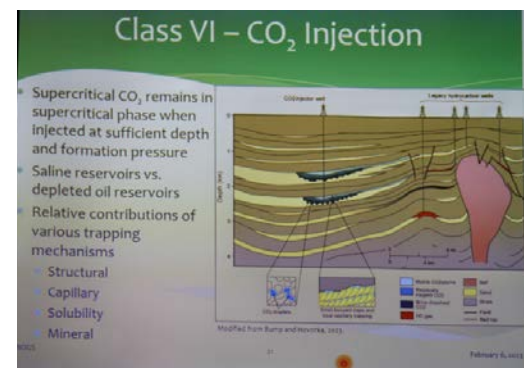
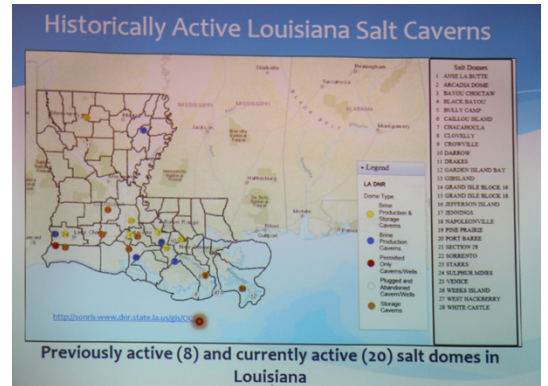


FEBRUARY NOGS MEETING

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2023 11:30 AM
ZEA'S NORTH SHORE

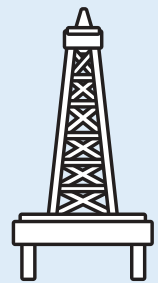


A REGULATORY PERSPECTIVE ON INJECTION WELLS AND THE LOUISIANA ENERGY TRANSITION



DRILL BITS

OFFSHORE GULF OF MEXICO SHELF AND DEEPWATER ACTIVITIES BY AL BAKER



During January 2023, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) approved 61 Gulf of Mexico (GoM) drilling permits. Eight of the permits were for shelf wells, and the remaining 53 permits were for deepwater wells. There were 5 new well permits issued; two were on the shelf, and 3 were in deepwater.

The two shelf new well permits were for development wells. Arena Offshore was granted both permits for their Main Pass 122 #A-7 and Main Pass 123 #A-8 wells.

Of the 3 deepwater new well permits, 2 were for exploration wells, and 1 was for a development well. Anadarko Petroleum received a permit for their Mississippi Canyon 80 #1 exploration well. BOE Exploration & Production obtained 1 exploration well permit for their Mississippi Canyon 759 #1 well. LLOG Exploration Offshore was awarded a permit for their Keathley Canyon 736 #1 development well located in their Castile (formerly Moccasin) Field.

On January 27th, IHS-Petrodata indicated that the GoM mobile offshore rig supply stood at 45, which is 1 less than last month. The marketed rig supply consisted of 32 rigs, of which 27 were under contract. The marketed rig supply was 2 less than last month, and the contracted rig supply number was 1 less than last month. The marketed contracted versus total rig supply utilization rate stood at 60%, and the marketed contracted versus marketed supply utilization rate stood at 84.4%. By comparison, the January 2022 total fleet utilization rate stood at 85.3% with 34 rigs under contract out of the 47 rigs in the fleet.

On January 27th, Baker Hughes reported that there are 13 active mobile offshore rigs in the GoM, which are 2 less than last month and 48.1% of the rigs under contract mentioned above. Currently, two rigs are drilling on the shelf, and 11 rigs are drilling in deepwater. The 2 shelf rigs are situated in the Main Pass Area. The deepwater rigs include 7 rigs in the Mississippi Canyon Area and 1 rig each in the Green Canyon, Garden Banks, Walker Ridge and Atwater Valley Areas.

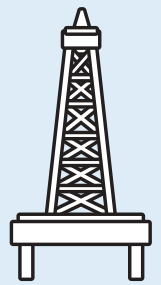
On January 27th, the Baker Hughes total U.S. rig count stood at 771 rigs, which is 8 less than reported at the end of December 2022. Of the 771 rigs, 609 (79%) are oil rigs and 160 (20.8%) are gas rigs. Two rigs are listed as miscellaneous. A year ago, there were 610 rigs working in the U.S. inferring that the current rig figure represents an 26.4% increase in rigs year over year. Presently, Texas continues to have the largest number of rigs with 380, which is 49.3% of the total number of rigs in the U. S. Louisiana currently has a total of 61 rigs, which is 7 less than last month. Louisiana ranks fourth behind New Mexico, which has 105 rigs, and Oklahoma, which has 64 rigs.

On January 5th, Talos Energy announced two deepwater GoM discoveries resulting from their fourth quarter 2022 drilling operations. The Lime Rock and Venice Prospects are located near the Talos-operated tension-leg platform (TLP) in Ram Powell Field (Viosca Knoll Block 956). The Lime Rock discovery found 78 feet of net hydrocarbon pay, and the Lime well encountered 72 feet of net hydrocarbon pay. Both discoveries will require subsea tiebacks to the Ram Powell facility.



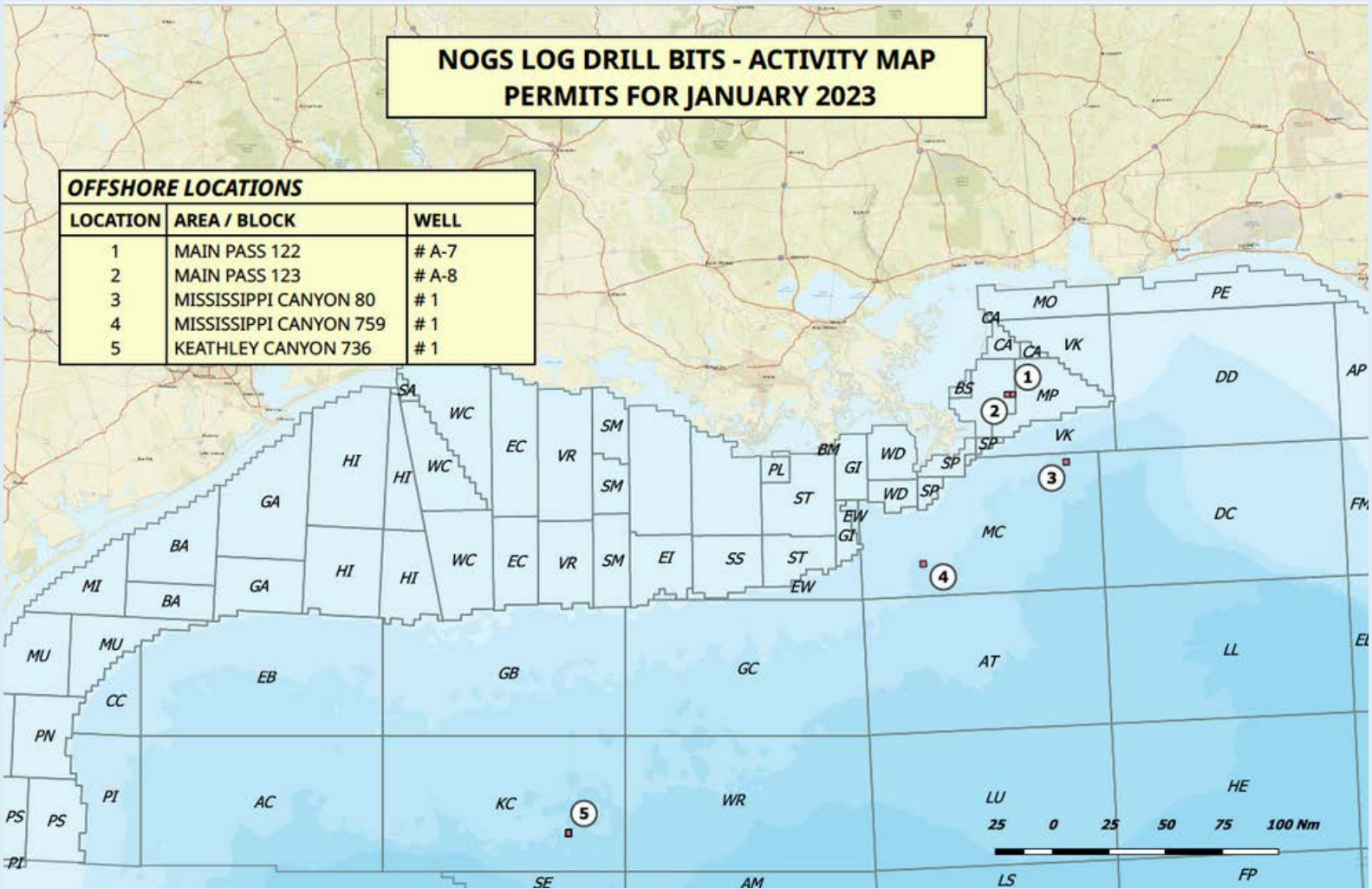
DRILL BITS

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



**NOGS LOG DRILL BITS - ACTIVITY MAP
PERMITS FOR JANUARY 2023**

OFFSHORE LOCATIONS		
LOCATION	AREA / BLOCK	WELL
1	MAIN PASS 122	# A-7
2	MAIN PASS 123	# A-8
3	MISSISSIPPI CANYON 80	# 1
4	MISSISSIPPI CANYON 759	# 1
5	KEATHLEY CANYON 736	# 1



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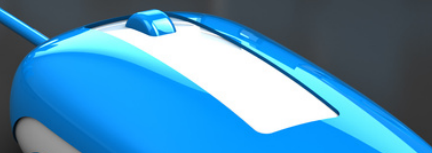
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Recent Energy Headlines...February 2023 Recap

2/16/2023 - Shell starts production at Vito in US Gulf of Mexico - Shell Offshore Inc., a subsidiary of Shell plc (Shell), announced that production has started at the Shell-operated Vito floating production facility in the US Gulf of Mexico (GoM). With an estimated peak production of 100,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day, Vito is the company's first deep-water platform in the GoM to employ a simplified, cost-efficient host design. [Read Full Article](#)

2/14/2023 - Biden to Sell 26MM More Barrels From Strategic Oil Reserve - The Biden administration plans to sell more crude oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, with deliveries estimated to happen between April and June. The non-emergency sale will amount to 26 million barrels of crude, according to people familiar with the matter, and is part the congressionally mandated sale lawmakers approved years ago for the current fiscal year. [Read Full Article](#)

2/13/2023 - Kennedy backs bill to return more offshore energy revenue to Louisiana, Gulf states - Sen. John Kennedy (R-La.), Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-La.) and Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.), along with a bicameral, bipartisan group of lawmakers, introduced the Reinvesting in Shoreline Economies & Ecosystems (RISEE) Act. This legislation would reform the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA) to lift a current revenue cap that unfairly penalizes Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi and Alabama. [Read Full Article](#)

2/9/2023 - Louisiana slams EPA over lack of urgency on carbon-project approvals - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is moving too slowly to allow states to permit and oversee carbon-reduction projects, according to Louisiana's governor, slowing millions of dollars in investments designed to tackle greenhouse gas reduction. Louisiana and other top oil-producing states say they can speed up permitting of carbon sequestration projects if allowed to handle decisions that currently fall under the EPA. There are dozens of these projects with multi-million dollar price tags proposed by energy firms around the United States. [Read Full Article](#)

2/7/2023 - Gulf of Mexico deepwater discoveries survey shows slight decline - Operators announced three new discoveries in the deepwater Gulf of Mexico over the past twelve months, representing a decrease as compared to the five deepwater discoveries reported in 2022. While that decrease may be seen as marginal, the overall number of deepwater discoveries is down significantly in recent years, as compared to the amount seen 20 years ago. In 2003, for example, there were 17 discoveries recorded in the deepwater Gulf of Mexico. That lower level has been driven no doubt by too low oil price shocks in recent years, which in turn has led to lower levels of investment and drilling. [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

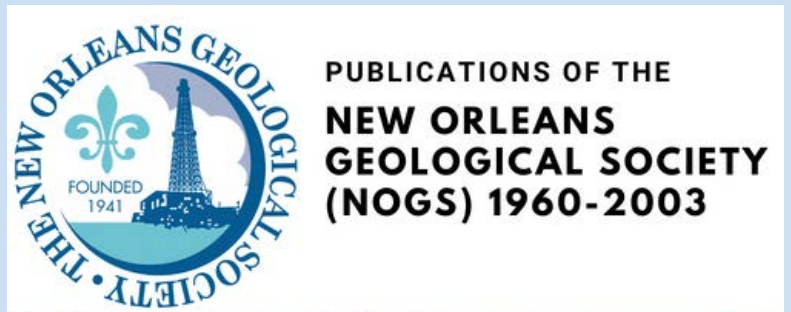
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<https://Pheedloop.com/Geogulf23/site/home/>
Info at www.geogulf2023.org



Welcome to an Immersive Gulf Coast Geoscience Conference!
Theme: "United We Explore the Gulf Coast and Beyond"
Charles A. Sternbach, General Chair

Don't Miss the **All-Convention Luncheon**
Monday, April 24 at the Norris Center
Harrison "Jack" Schmitt, Apollo 17 moonwalker, passes the rock hammer to Jessica Watkins, NASA Space Station Astronaut, in person.

Your paragraph text



- 100 Technical Talks on the Gulf of Mexico
- Three Concurrent Sessions, two full days
- 50 Professional/Student Posters, Exhibits
- Three short courses, four field trips
- Exhibitions, Book Signings, Icebreaker
- Receptions, Networking, Social Events
- IHGS Host Society 100th Anniversary
- Sponsorship Opportunities

Education Opportunities with Globally Renowned Experts

Short Courses!

Salt Tectonics of the Gulf of Mexico
Instructor: Mark Rowan, Two-Day Class
Saturday and Sunday, April 22-24, 2023

Gulf of Mexico Sedimentary Basin: Depositional Evolution and Petroleum Applications
Instructor: Dr. John W Snedden
All Day Saturday, April 22, 2023

Structural, Tectonic, Paleogeographic Evolution of the GOM, Caribbean, and North S. America
Instructor: Dr. Jim Findell, Tectonic Analysis, Rice U.
All day Sunday, April 23, 2023

Convention Registration is Required to Sign Up for Short Courses- Signup on the Pheedloop site.

Field Trips! Signup at www.geogulf23.org

NASA Space Center Houston with Apollo 17 Moonwalker Harrison "Jack" Schmitt and James F. Bailey, Jr NASA retired astronaut
All Day: Saturday, April 22, 2023

Historic Spindletop Museum in Beaumont, TX: Guided Tour of Museum and Geology
All Day: Wednesday, April 26, 2023
Field Trip Leader: Rosemary Laidacker

Texas Coastal Processes Brazos River Delta to Galveston Island
All Day Wednesday, April 26, 2023
Field Trip Leader: Kirk Scott, Rice

Texas Hill Country: Greatest Hits of TX Early Paleozoic Rocks and Structures
Three Days: Thursday, April 27 to Sunday, April 30.
Field Trip Leaders: Andy Roark and Jean Romito

Technical Program (in-person) Monday Morning, April 24

Opening Keynote:
Conventional GOM Giant Oil and Gas Fields, Lessons to Find More
Charles Sternbach and Dick Bishop

Advantaged Basins: Economic and Future Driven
Session Chair: Robert Fryklund, S&P Global
• Fryklund, Rob, S&P Global: Advantaged Basins: Robust Oil and Gas Fields and CCUS Management
• Panel Presentations with Industry Experts in Oil and Gas and CCUS

GOM Tectonics I: Regional Setting of the Gulf of Mexico and Guyana South America
Session Chair: James Findell et al
• Hart, Brian: Exploration Perspective of the GOM
• Ott, Bryan: Guyana Basin –Erich, Robert: Timing of igneous activity During Triassic-Jurassic Rifting
• AHS, Ahmed: Mesozoic Rifting, Surinam Basin, GOM

Geoscience Advances in CCUS, Energy Storage, Wind Energy
Session chair: Allen Bertagne
• Rogers, Harold: Salt Cavern Storage GOM –
• Bertagne, Allen: Subsurface CO2 Storage N. GOM
• Rollins, Gordon: Time Lapse Seismic for CCS Reservoir Monitoring
• Bala, Graham: CO2 Storage Potential in Louisiana
• Hill, Andy W: Offshore Wind: GeoscienceRole

Jurassic Smackover Reservoirs, Norphlet Sands
Session Chair: Ted Gado
• The Smackover-Norphlet Petroleum System: Comparisons of US Gulf Coast and Deepwater with Mexico's Surinam Basin
• Walkinshaw, Steven: Low-Permeability Oil, Gas and Carbon Dioxide in The MARA Region GOM
• Erlich, Robert: Norphlet Formation and the Loupville Salt in Southwest Texas: Regional Implications for the Gulf

GOM Tectonics 2: Dynamic Rift and Salt Deposition Models GOM and Mexico
Session Chair: James Findell et al
• Findell, James, Hejn, Teank: Reconstructing Syn-Rift, Sag, and Salt Paleogeography, and the Role of Syn-Rift Dynamic Elevation and Dissipation, Gulf of Mexico –
• How Deep Was the Pre-Salt Depositional Depression in the Gulf of Mexico, and What Are the Implications
• Findell, James: Late Cretaceous–Geozoic Evolution of the North America–Caribbean Plate Boundary

Geoscientists Will Be Exploring the Moon and Mars in the Next Decade
Session Chair: Bill Ambrose et al
• Ambrose, Bill: Water-ice Resources on the Moon
• Bailey, J, James F: The Martian Field Geologist
• Cook, Doug: The Search for Life on Mars
• Wyatt, Doug, NASA: Exploring for Lunar Volatiles

Networking Social Event "United We Celebrate!"

Moore Hotel, Mon. 6:00-10:00 PM
Pinecote Bar, outside patio, Texas steak
Co-Hosted with SIPES Houston Chapter: Meet Successful Entrepreneurs, Independents, Young Professionals



An Immersive Conference Taking Gulf Coast Geoscience to Greater Heights



Join the New Orleans Saints and Pelicans for

NOLA STEM FEST

Saturday, March 4, 2023

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Ochsner Sports Performance Center

Families Welcome!

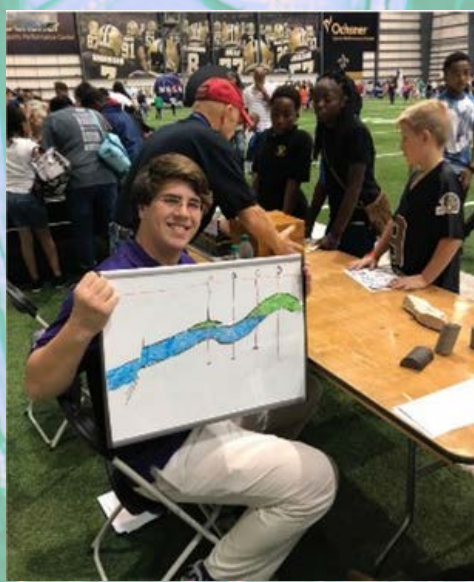
NOGS volunteers will demonstrate

“How an Oil Field Forms”

and

“Teach Kids to be Oil Finders”

Save the date and sign up to join the fun



Save the date and contact Tom to join in the fun

Tombergeon.geo@gmail.com



CALL FOR PAPERS

PETROLEUM HISTORY INSTITUTE 2023 Annual Symposium and Field Trip Illinois Basin

May 11-13, 2023

REGISTRATION AND EVENING RECEPTION

Thursday, May 11, 2023

FIELD TRIP

Friday, May 12, 2023

PRESENTATIONS-ORAL AND POSTER – Saturday, May 13, 2023

Proceedings to be published in the 2023 Volume of *Oil-Industry History*



HEADQUARTERS HOTEL – New Harmony Inn, 504 North Street, New Harmony, Indiana 47631

newharmonyinn.com or (812) 682-4431

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

REGISTRATION DETAILS TO FOLLOW

ABSTRACTS BEING ACCEPTED NOW

Deadline: April 7, 2023

Please send abstracts to: Dr. William Brice - wbrice@pitt.edu
Or contact Event Chair, Jeff Spencer; (281) 731-5823; spencerj320@gmail.com
Or Marilyn Black – 814-671-2058; marilynblack@windstream.net

