

NCGS LOG



July 2024
Volume 65 No. 1



HAPPY
★ 4TH ★
OF JULY

IN THIS ISSUE

On the Cover

An Afternoon Rainbow off Okaloosa Island, Fort Walton Beach Florida USA

On Florida's "Emerald Coast" Summer showers often form over the Gulf of Mexico but by-pass the beach to bring rain inland. These showers also produce spectacular cloud patterns, particularly in the evening as the sun sets. On occasion beautiful rainbows, like the one pictured on the cover, are briefly on display



From the Editor...

Hello everyone,

Thank you, Brittany George, for your work as editor of the NOGS Log and your continued contributions to the New Orleans Geological Society. Thank you, Leslie Broussard, Don Dubose, Nicholas Myer and Mark Wojna for your contributions to NOGS as 2023-2024 Board Members. Welcome to new Board members Lee Hyson and Chase Cromwell, the contribution of you time and talents is sincerely appreciated. Thank you, Carol Avery, Brian David, Emmitt Lockard and Charlie Miller for your continued contribution and providing continuity to the Board of Directors.

I'm looking forward to a safe relaxing summer! Vacation season is upon us and as usual there is no shortage of things to do in our fair City of New Orleans, with "Go 4th on the River" fireworks display on the downtown riverfront kicking off the summer festivities, happy Fourth of July!

NOGS will take a summer break from monthly meetings, but lunch and technical presentations will resume in September. Don't forget to register or renew your NOGS Membership and receive a \$50 discount when you register for the Deepwater Technical Symposium through NOGS. This year's symposium has a robust offering of Geological continuing education topics including carbon capture, seismic interpretation and environmental regulations designed for technical professionals, managers and executives. A preparatory course for the Professional Geoscientist Exam (ASBOG) is also available. The LSU Center for Energy Studies is offering two one-week short courses on energy and energy markets beginning July 8th

I encourage professionals, academics and graduate students to share your research and grow your network. Become an active NOGS Member, consider writing a short article in the NOGS Log or, better yet, provide a short lunch time presentation at a monthly meeting. Volunteer to work NOGS events or offer you services as a Board Member.

Finally, stay safe! Enjoy the summer sunshine but respect the heat! Stay hydrated (include electrolytes) and continuously apply sunscreen.

Have a safe relaxing summer!



Brian Bothner
2025/2025 NOGS Log Editor



JARED BULLOCK

A MESSAGE FROM THE 2024/2025 NOGS PRESIDENT

Greetings to all NOGS members & NOGS LOG readers!

I'm excited to begin another year serving NOGS, and this time around I'll be serving as the 2024-2025 President. It has been a successful & busy 2023-2024 year for NOGS with rotating Northshore/Southshore monthly luncheons, socials, educational outreach events, the annual Deepwater Technical Symposium, and NOGS Golf Tournament. We owe a special thanks to our outgoing President, Mark Wonja, for his dedication to NOGS over the past two years & steering the society in a great direction as President.

I've been involved with NOGS since 2017 - the year I moved to New Orleans to begin graduate school at the University of New Orleans working under Dr. Mark Kulp in the Earth & Environmental Sciences department. As a student & now as a professional NOGS has been instrumental in my early career as a geologist. Through NOGS I've made many connections, developed technically, and been given the opportunity to volunteer at various educational outreach events. It is a special organization that has given me and many others so much. This is why I didn't hesitate to step in mid-term as Treasurer of NOGS in 2022. I was subsequently elected Treasurer for the 2022-2023 term followed by the President-elect position for the 2023-2024 term.

In the early part of 2022 and for following months, NOGS was still shaking off what I call a "COVID hangover": inconsistency in events due to COVID cancellations, some luncheons forced to be virtual, no social events on the calendar. However, through the last-minute in-person/virtual changes, venue changes, and all post-COVID challenges our monthly meeting attendance remained great and a sense of normalcy finally set back in. In fact, NOGS has become a greater society thanks to the COVID obstacles we faced. In the last year and a half, the NOGS constitution and bylaws were revised, high-end AV equipment was purchased to enhance the virtual attendees' experience, and many in-person events that were missed in recent years are back on the calendar. There has been a breath of fresh air blown our way and a huge thanks is owed to previous NOGS board members.

Looking ahead to the 2024-2025 year we will continue to expand our monthly luncheon topics to incorporate all geoscience related disciplines. We look forward to having our kickoff social events this fall and the potential of 1-2 other outreach/social events added to the upcoming year's calendar. The annual Deepwater Technical Symposium will be held August 14-16 in New Orleans, LA. Pre-conference training in all disciplines will be held on the 14th. The DWTS is supported by volunteers from NOGS, the American Association of Drilling Engineers (AADE) New Orleans Chapter, and the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) Delta Chapter. Registration is open! The timing of the DWTS will position NOGS to resume our monthly luncheon meeting just after Labor Day.

Lastly, I want to welcome our incoming 2024-2025 NOGS Board. There are new and old faces alike – all of which are eager to serve and are committed to enhancing NOGS. We look forward to another great year for the New Orleans Geological Society!

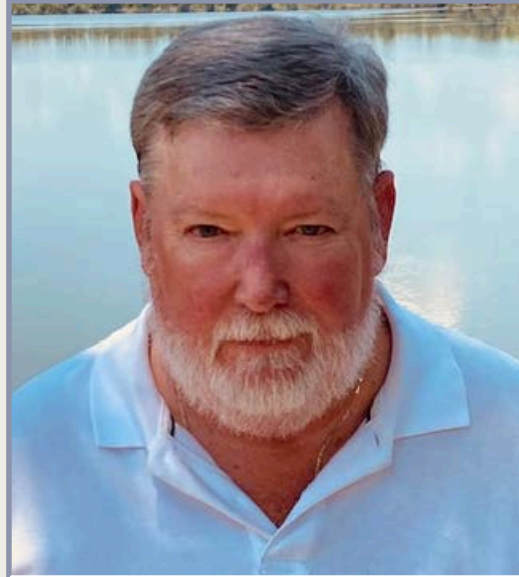
Thank you!

Jared Bullock
NOGS 2024-2025 President

OUR OUTGOING 2023/2024 BOARD MEMBERS



Mark Wojna



Don DuBose



Nicholas Myers



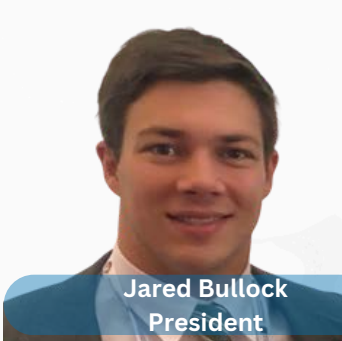
Leslie Broussard

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP!

Welcome



2024/2025 NOGS BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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President



President Elect
Brian David



Editor Elect



Director A
Emmitt Lockard



Lee Hyson
Vice President



Charles Miller
Treasurer



Director B
Carol Avery



Director C
Chase Cromwell



Brittany George
Secretary



Brian Bothner
Editor

**NOGS is taking a
Summer Break
Join us in August
for the**



**Monthly Lunch Meeting
will resume in
September**

MEMBER RENEWAL

ITS TIME TO RENEW YOUR NOGS MEMBERSHIP

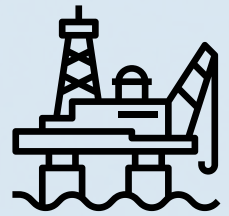


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PAYING MEMBERS WILL BE
SENT A BALLOT FOR THE
2024/2025 BOARD OF
DIRECTORS ELECTION

DRILL BITS

OFFSHORE GULF OF MEXICO SHELF AND DEEPWATER ACTIVITIES BY AL BAKER



During May 2024, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) approved 88 Gulf of Mexico (GoM) drilling permits. Twenty-one of the permits were for a shelf wells, and the remaining 67 permits were for deepwater wells. There were 2 new well permits issued on the shelf and 3 in deepwater.

The 2 shelf new well permits were for an exploration well and a development well. They were both given to Peregrine Oil & Gas II. Ship Shoal 231 #1 is the exploration test, and Ship Shoal 238 #C-4 is the development well.

The 3 deepwater new well permits were for 2 exploration wells and 1 development well. Anadarko Petroleum (Occidental) received the new development well permit for their Green Canyon 770 #2 well in Caesar Tonga Field. Murphy Exploration & Production Company obtained a new exploration well permit for their Green Canyon 478 #5 well in Mormont Field. Hess Corporation received a new exploration well permit for their Green Canyon 287 #1 well on their Vancouver Prospect.

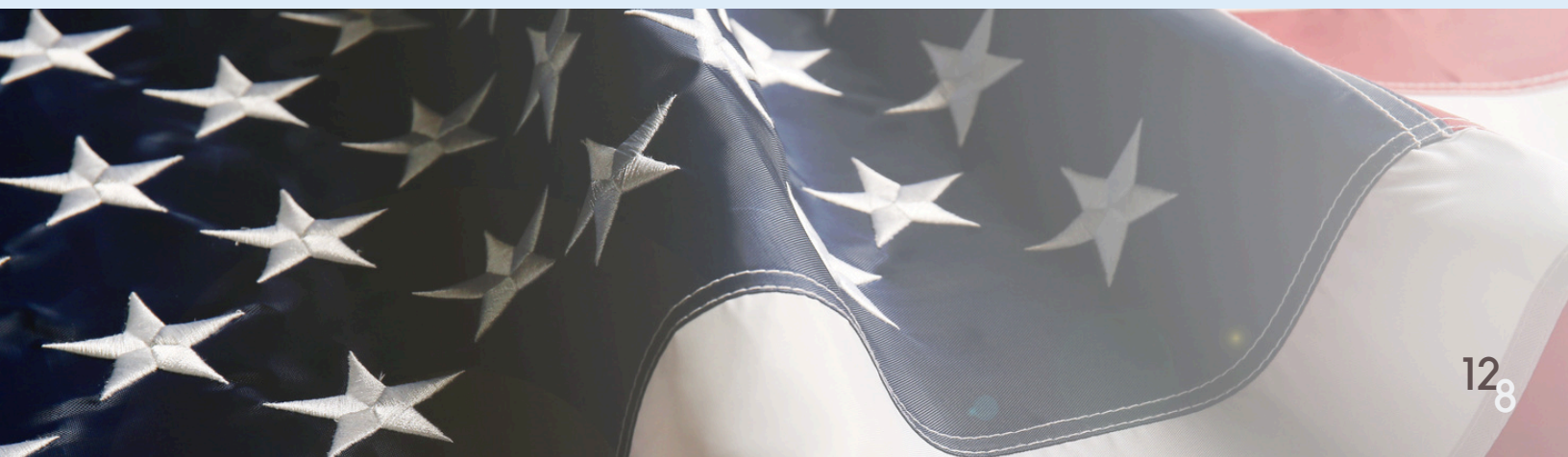
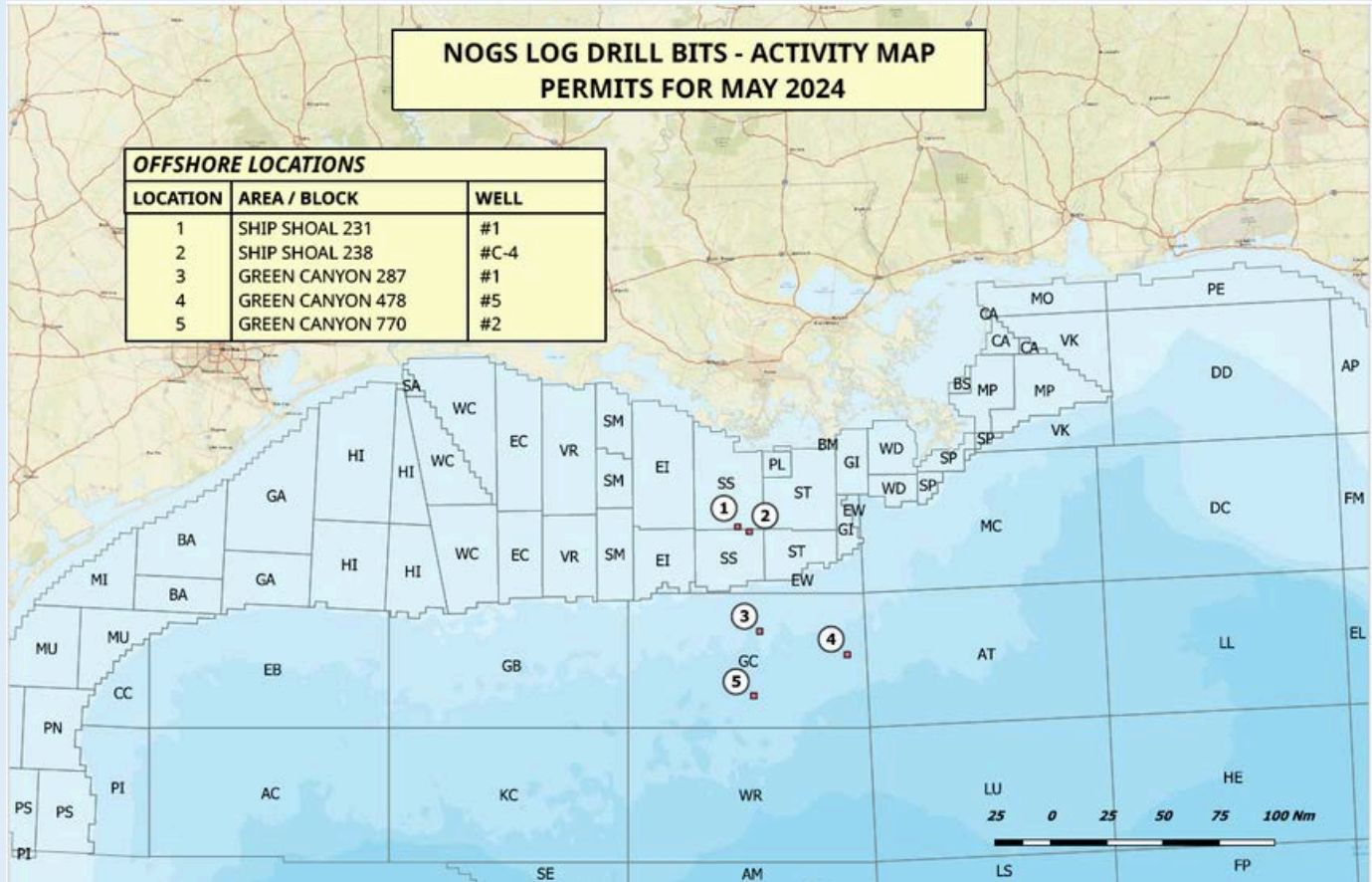
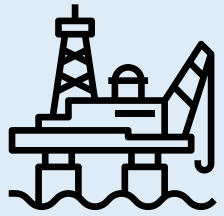
On May 31st, S&P Global Petrodata indicated that the GoM mobile offshore rig supply stood at 48, which is the same as last month. The marketed rig supply consisted of 32 rigs, of which 26 were under contract. The marketed rig supply and the contracted rig supply were both 3 rigs less than the previous month. The marketed contracted versus total rig supply utilization rate stood at 66.7%, and the marketed contracted versus marketed supply utilization rate remained at 81.3%. By comparison, the May 2023 total fleet utilization rate stood at 85.3% with 34 rigs in the marketed supply out of the 47 rigs in the fleet.

On May 31st, Baker Hughes reported that there are 21 active mobile offshore rigs in the GoM, which is 6 more than last month and 72.4% of the rigs under contract mentioned above. Currently, 5 rigs are drilling on the shelf, and 16 rigs are drilling in deepwater. The shelf rigs include 3 in the Eugene Island Area and 1 each in the South Timbalier and Main Pass Areas. The deepwater rigs include 8 rigs in the Mississippi Canyon Area, 2 rigs in the Alaminos Canyon, Walker Ridge and Green Canyon Areas and 1 rig each in the Keathley Canyon and Garden Banks Areas.

On May 31st, the Baker Hughes total U.S. rig count stood at 600 rigs, which is 13 less than reported at the end of April 2024. Of the 600 rigs, 496 (82.7%) are oil rigs and 100 (16.7%) are gas rigs. Four rigs are listed as miscellaneous. Of the 600 wells being drilled, 536 (89.3%) are horizontal and 20 (3.3%) are vertical. A year ago, there were 696 rigs working in the U.S. inferring that the current 96 rig decline corresponds to an 13.8% decrease in rigs year over year. Nationally, Texas has the largest number of rigs with 287, which is 47.8% of the total number of rigs in the U. S. Louisiana currently has a total of 42 rigs, which is the 6 more than last month. Louisiana ranks third behind New Mexico, which has 107 rigs.

DRILL BITS

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



Recent Energy Headlines

June 2024 Recap

6/26/2024 - US states sue government over forcing companies to pay for dismantling old equipment - Three southern states have filed a lawsuit against the Biden administration's proposed rule requiring oil companies to cough up billions of dollars. Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi filed a lawsuit on Monday against the US Government to stop the Biden administration's proposed rule forcing the offshore oil and gas industry to pay almost \$7bn in financial assurances to cover the expense of dismantling old infrastructure. The lawsuit was filed against BOEM, which has stated that the regulation could impact around three-quarters of Gulf of Mexico operators. [Read Full Article](#)

6/18/2024 - API Bares Campaign Expectations as Biden, Trump Face Off - The American Petroleum Institute (API) said Monday it wanted both the Democratic and Republican sides to support oil and gas-anchored energy security in their campaign platforms for the presidential vote. "Ahead of the first presidential debate, API is calling both candidates, as well as policymakers on both sides of the aisle, to leverage America's energy resources to help protect consumers and cement U.S. energy leadership", the lobby group said. [Read Full Article](#)

6/14/2024 - US oil refining capacity rises for second year in a row - U.S. crude oil refining capacity rose 1.5% to 18.38 million barrels per day (bpd) this year, a government report showed on Friday as a major new expansion in Texas boosted capacity. The Energy Information Administration (EIA) said the figures indicate capacity online as of Jan. 1, which reflected for the first time the startup last year of an about 250,000 bpd expansion to Exxon Mobil's, opens new tab Beaumont, Texas, refinery. The gain was a second year in a row of increases due to expansions at existing operations. Still, processing capacity at the start of 2024 remained more than 500,000 bpd below the 2019 peak of 18.98 million bpd, which came before a wave of plant closures and conversions during the COVID-19 pandemic. [Read Full Article](#)

6/11/2024 - Further GOM hydrocarbon upside potential on the horizon as initial drilling ops show promise - While the intermediate logging of an exploration/appraisal well in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico is said to have confirmed high-quality, hydrocarbon-bearing sands in upper target sections, the U.S.-headquartered oil and gas exploration and production player, LLOG Exploration, still has several deeper targets to spud. Following LLOG's approval of the drilling operations at the Who Dat East appraisal/exploration well in the GOM, the MC 509-1 well was spudded at the end of April 2024, with Noble Corporation's Noble Valiant drillship. The Who Dat East joint venture (JV) participants are LLOG, Karoon, and Westlawn. [Read Full Article](#)

6/10/2024 - Op-Ed: Gov. Landry's comments on Louisiana energy 'encouraging' - Louisiana Gov. Jeff Landry recently did something that American energy advocates have been waiting for: he spoke up. In a coordinated, collective, clear press event with several other pro-energy governors, Landry blasted the Biden administration's executive actions for costing jobs and fueling higher prices nationwide. That is indisputable. Since taking office in 2021, Biden has signed countless executive orders and issued regulatory actions at the Departments of Energy, Interior and the Environmental Protection Agency, and we are all living with the result. Utility bills and food prices are higher. The cost of all goods and services are higher. Inflation is up nearly 20% since Biden took office. [Read Full Article](#)



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27th Annual Gulf of Mexico Deepwater Technical Symposium

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GEOLOGY SEMINAR

Carbon Capture and Storage: An Industry Primer

Dr Tip Meckel - Gulf Coast Carbon Center,
Bureau of Economic Geology (USA)
Dr Trey Meckel - Monteverde Energy (Australia)

SAVE THE DATE

August 14, 2024

This one-day short course provides technical professionals, managers, and executives at various stages in their career an in-depth overview of Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS), one of the most rapidly emerging sectors in the energy industry and a critically necessary component of all credible low emissions and decarbonization scenarios and plans.

CCS is a safe, reliable, and proven method to safely and effectively remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Under the right conditions, CO₂ stored in subsurface geologic formations is permanently isolated.

Many of the aspects of CCS that we will cover as topics and themes on the course will be familiar to participants with experience in oil and gas, but we will focus on how to leverage skills and experience to maximum benefit.

- CCS in the context of Net Zero and the Energy Transition
- Existing and emerging technologies to capture, transport, store, and monitor injected CO₂
- Sources of CO₂ emissions
- Distribution networks: Pipelines and flow assurance

- Characterizing and selecting potential storage sites
 - Onshore vs offshore
 - Depleted fields and saline aquifers
 - A forensic look at seal integrity
- Risk and uncertainty
- Reservoir surveillance
 - Migration
 - Measuring, monitoring, and verifying
- Permitting, Regulatory, and Policy issues
- Establishing and building successful partnerships
- Project management
- Financing, incentives and cost considerations
- Stakeholder engagement
- Critical success factors for technical and commercial viability

Course cost: \$200

The course will draw on the instructors' decades of first-hand experience on successful (and not so successful) USA and International commercial and technology research projects, including their learnings from applied case studies, a review of the status of current and planned global projects, projections for future growth, and thoughts on how to build a sustainable and rewarding career in the 21st century energy industry.

27th Annual Gulf of Mexico
Deepwater
Technical Symposium

**Sign up for these other
NOGS-sponsored courses!**

**Introduction to Western and Central Gulf
of Mexico Environmental Regulations**

Course cost: \$200

**Professional Geoscientist Exam (ASBOG)
Preparatory Course**

Course cost: \$125

**Observing Maturing Source Rocks on
Seismic Data**

Course cost: \$125

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Energy Fundamentals



July 8-12 & 15-19

Registration Now Open

These two one-week short courses on **energy and energy markets** are designed for

- early career professionals,
- professionals transitioning into energy, or
- those seeking advancement within their career paths in industry or government.

Energy Fundamentals will provide an overview and introduction to the energy sector, with a focus on Louisiana and the Gulf Coast region. Participants will be exposed to the history, science, and economics of producing and consuming energy.

Week 1, “Molecules,” will cover energy derived from coal, oil and gas, biomass, uranium, and hydrogen, as well as critical materials relevant to the energy transition.

Week 2, “Electrons,” will cover the electric utility industry and the electricity supply chain, including generation, transmission, and distribution. Emerging technologies, electricity market regulation, wholesale markets, cost-of-service-based regulation, and industry growth opportunities and challenges will also be presented.

[CLICK FOR REGISTRATION INFO](#)

Subject-matter experts, including LSU faculty and staff and representatives from the energy industry and government agencies, will provide instruction.

CPD and **MCLE** hours will be available. Each day will include **six** hours of possible continuing education/professional development credit.

Lectures will take place in the **Energy Information Center located in the Energy, Coast & Environment Building on LSU’s campus**. Short field trips to energy-related sites on campus and at the LSU Center for River Studies facility are in the works.

CALL FOR SPEAKERS!

**Have a great topic that you
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Members at a Monthly
Meeting?**

**Submit your topic and
presentation for our Program
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[CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT](#)



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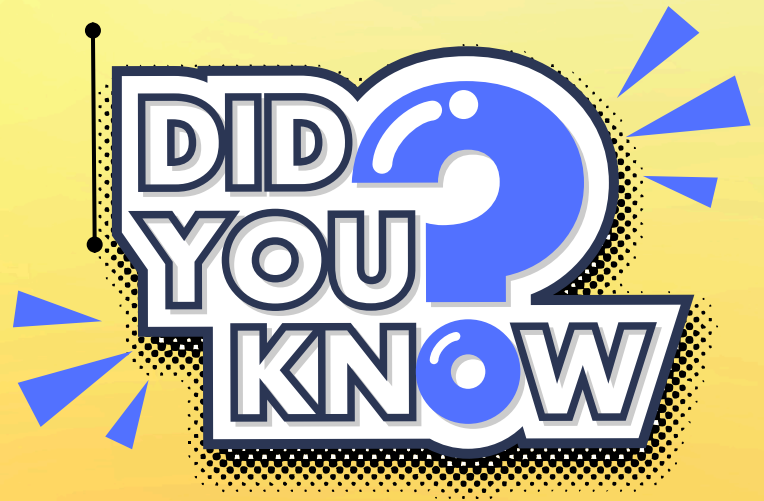
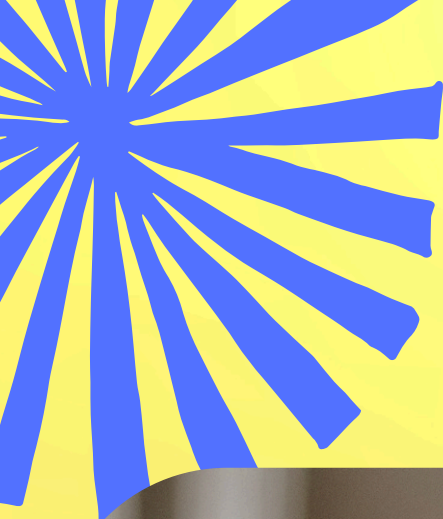
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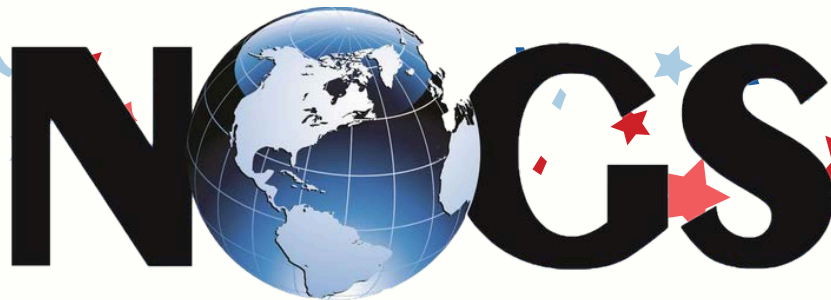
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Founded March 14, 1978, the mission of the New Orleans Geological Society Memorial Foundation is to promote earth-science related educational or scientific purpose by granting of scholarships to outstanding Geology students at the universities in Southeast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

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