

# NCS LOC

May 2024  
Volume 64 No. 11





## On the Cover

### *Coastline of Santorini, Greece*

Volcanic outcrops on the coast of Santorini, Greece, in the Aegean Sea. The crescent shaped island of Santorini, known locally as Thira, formed 3600 years ago with the violent explosion and collapse of a caldera. Deep pumice deposits from this eruption buried pre-historic settlements and may have give rise to the myth of Atlantis. Volcanic activity continues into the present resulting in the formation of two small islands, Palea and Nea Kameni, within the caldera.



## *From the Editor...*

Hello everyone,

My name is Brian Bothner and I'm the NOGS editor elect. Brittany is currently unavailable and I will attempt to replicate her skill as an editor. (*Brittany, hurry back!*)

In May while most people look forward to celebrating Mother's Day and Memorial Day, we in New Orleans also celebrate Jazz Fest, Cinco de Mayo, Bayou Boogaloo and round out the month with Greek Fest! One of the charms of this area is the fact that there is always something to celebrate.

In this issue of the NOGS Log you will find information about the NOGS Board of Directors and how you can be a part of the leadership team. My personal experiences on the NOGS Foundation Board and now the NOGS Board have been extremely rewarding. It is true, the more you contribute, the more you receive!

The NOGS May meeting featuring guest speaker Toddy Guidry from Core Laboratories will be held on Wednesday, May 15th at Zea's in Coventon LA. Also take advantage of technical siminars offered during the The Deepwater Symposium. Registration is now open for this event scheduled for mid-August. (Register through the NOGS website to receive a \$50 discount).

May is also the time to renew your NOGS Membership. Keep an eye on your e-mail or logon to the NOGS website and renew your membership today!

*Brian Bothner*



**Brittany George**  
2023/2024 NOGS Log Editor



**MARK WOJNA**

# **A MESSAGE FROM THE 2023/2024 NOGS PRESIDENT**

Happy Jazz Fest y'all! I'm looking forward to the second weekend when the Rolling Stones make their first appearance at Jazz Fest. The Stones are proof that if you enjoy what you do, you can remain creative and productive well into your 80's. I guess there's still hope for me since I'm only in my mid 60's and I've lived a cleaner lifestyle than Mick and Keith.

I want to thank all the NOGS members and guests who braved the weather this week and played in the 2024 NOGS Golf Tournament. After a brief rain delay, all 14 teams were able to get 18 holes of golf in. Congratulations to Cantium's team for winning the tournament. The afternoon was finished with a tasty crawfish boil. The tournament would not have happened without the hard work, planning and organization of Leslie Broussard, Don Dubose and Christy Himel. I also want to acknowledge all of the volunteers who helped make the tournament a success. And finally, NOGS is very grateful for the financial support of our sponsors: Diversified Well Logging, Seismic Exchange, USA PetroStrat, Ikon Science, William Whiting, OCSBBS, Geophysical Pursuit, Gaia Earth Sciences, Fairfield and Stratagraph, who supplied everyone with golf balls.

I attended the Geogulf 2024 Convention in San Antonio this past month. As NOGS President, I presented a status report on NOGS to the other 12 Gulf Coast Geological Societies. Even though our membership has shrunk to 220 active members, NOGS remains financially strong. With Morgan Stanley managing our investments, NOGS recent balance is at \$480,000. The NOGS Memorial Foundation account balance is approximately \$1,900,000. These amounts are a testament to all of those geologists who came before us and helped build NOGS and to the current members who continue to support NOGS.

GCAGS published a memoriam for Ed Picou in the Geogulf 2024 Transactions. Typically, a complimentary copy of the Transactions is presented to a surviving spouse/partner or family member. As NOGS President it was my honor to accept the award on behalf of Ed's lifelong partner Dan Armstrong. After the ceremony, a number of people from throughout the Gulf Coast came up to me to express their love and admiration of Ed Picou. Ed left a lasting legacy in our profession. Charles Sternbach, former President of GCAGS shared an interview with Ed Picou on Youtube with me and asked me to pass it along to our membership. Here is the link to the interview [Ed Picou Talks about the Value of AAPG Membership \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EdPicouTalks).

Two of our fellow NOGS members, Paul Lawless and Ryan Weber authored a paper on the Cretaceous boundary in Louisiana for the Geogulf 2024 convention. Hopefully, Paul will present the talk again at an upcoming NOGS luncheon meeting this fall. As NOGS President, I appointed Paul Lawless as an AAPG Delegate to fill a vacant seat for NOGS in the AAPG House of Delegates through June 2025. Our other AAPG Delegate is William Whiting. Bill has served NOGS as an AAPG Delegate for 15 years. His term ends next month. AAPG has asked NOGS to provide two candidates in order to hold an election to fill Bill's seat. Brian David has graciously stepped forward as a candidate. If anyone else is interested, please contact me as soon as possible. You need to be an active, paid member of AAPG in good standing with oil and gas experience preferred.

With the school year coming to an end and graduations going on through the month of May, please be careful out there.

# 2023/24 NOGS Board

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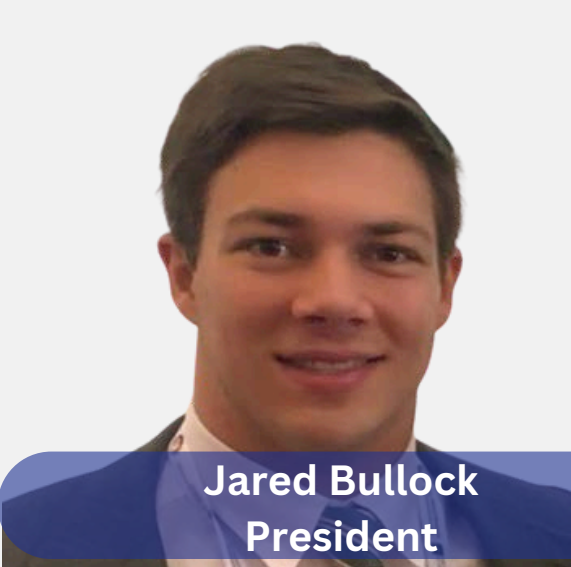
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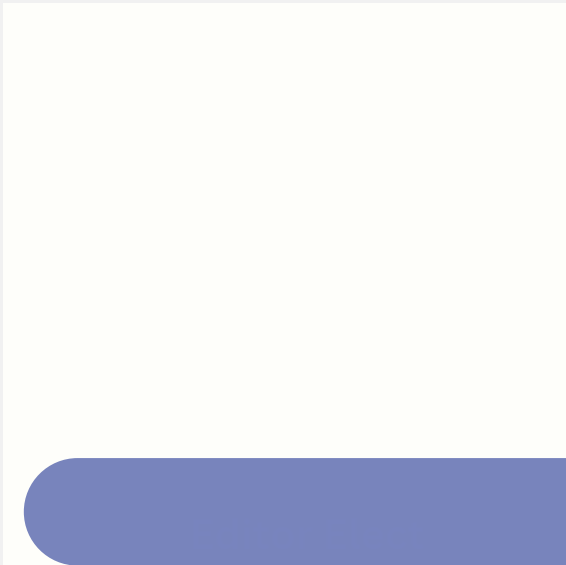
DIRECTOR C



# 2024/2025 NOGS BOARD OF DIRECTORS SLATE



# 2024/2025 NOGS BOARD OF DIRECTORS SLATE



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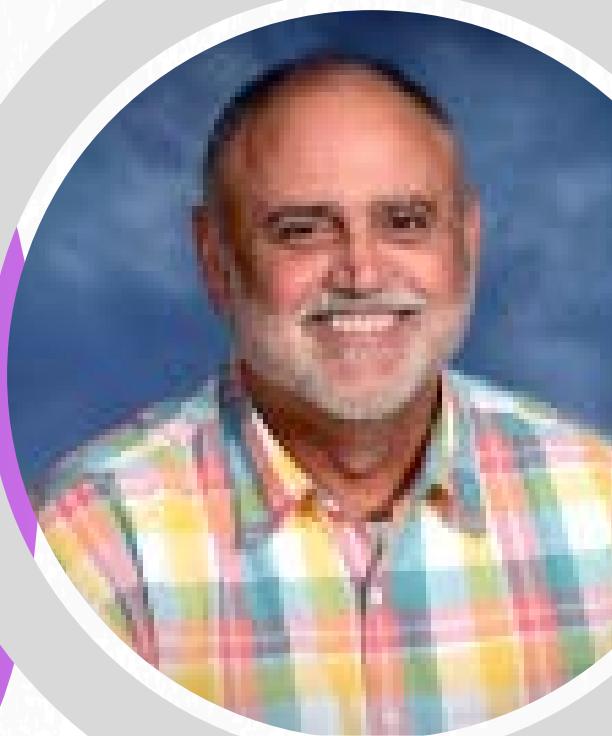
PAYING MEMBERS WILL BE  
SENT A BALLOT FOR THE  
2024/2025 BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS ELECTION



## MAY 2024 MEETING

# PLANNING THE ANALYTICS FOR CCUS, WASTE INJECTION AND WATER PRODUCTION/MONITORING WELLS

**TODDY GUIDRY**



'Non Oil and Gas Core Analysis' has moved to the forefront of our industry not only for ecological solutions but also an additional tool for enhanced production. CO2 sequestration, Water&Waste Disposal, Water Production and Monitoring Wells all require significant formation information and standard oil and gas core analysis techniques provide that info. Regulations are rightfully very strict and the analytical programs needed are very detailed and laborious. This presentation will provide an analytical outline to provide the datasets needed to obtain your 'non oil and gas' well permits!

Injectability/Extractability... Confinability... Compatibility

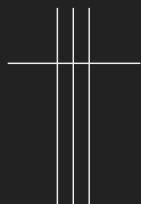
Toddy Guidry, Core Laboratories

Toddy is Sr. Technical Advisor for Core Labs and their North American SME for Reservoir Fluids, based in Lafayette La. He also oversees technical sales, support and corporate business development east of Texas. Toddy has a MS in Mathematics from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, and has been involved in the industry for over 40 years.

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2024**  
**ZEA NORTHSORE**  
**11:30 AM NETWORKING/12:00 NOON PROGRAM**



# In loving memory of James Yeldell



December 12, 1936 - March 15, 2024

James Willis Yeldell, Jr., affectionately known as Jim, passed away peacefully at home on March 15, 2024, after a three-year diagnosis of lung cancer. Born on December 12, 1936, in Haynesville, LA, he often recalled his birthdate as "a dozen, a dozen, three dozen," a playful reminder from his mother. Raised in Birmingham, AL, Jim attended Shades Cahaba Middle School, where he was named "Best All-Round" by his peers—a title that would aptly describe his entire life.

Jim, a Shades Valley High School graduate, went to the University of Alabama. There, he developed a passion for geology and met his future wife, Camille. The couple reconnected in New Orleans, where they began dating and married in 1964. They recently celebrated their 60th anniversary.

Jim began his career at Southern Natural Gas Company, echoing his father's professional path. After a stint with Vaughn Petroleum, he joined McWilliams-Moffett Corp. as the fifth employee. Instrumental of the expansion to McMoRan Oil & Gas, he opened offices in Calgary and Denver. His career soared there, staying through its evolution into Freeport McMoRan, a global natural resources corporation, having served as President of McMoRan Oil & Gas. This role included travel to Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Indonesia, and Japan. Upon retirement, Jim returned to exploration as a consultant with CLK.

A fervent Alabama football fan, Jim proudly displayed his "Roll Tide" spirit, much to the chagrin of his LSU neighbors. His joy for life extended to the golf course, enjoying camaraderie and red beans and rice with friends at Metairie Country Club, where he once scored a hole-in-one. In "The Pass," he cherished prime rib nights at PCYC and boating on the Bay of St. Louis. Porsche became his passion nearly four decades ago, offering thrilling rides to all brave enough to join him. Jim was also a member of various civic, cultural, and carnival organizations.

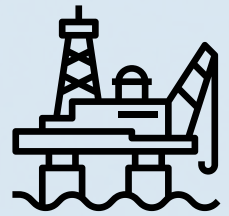
He leaves behind a loving family: his wife of 60 years, Camille; son, James Willis Yeldell, III (Will) (Michelle); daughter, Lynn Yeldell (Elizabeth Kvale); sister, Janis Yeldell Ruhl (Charles); brother, Charles Yeldell (Nancy); granddaughters, Stephanie Yeldell (Robbie Bruss) and Caroline Yeldell Sanders (Ben); grandson, James Willis Yeldell, IV (James) (Christen Odom); and great-granddaughter, Camille Yeldell.

Jim was often described as a 'legend', a 'gentle giant', and a man of 'big life, smiles, hugs, and height.' His presence was both commanding and comforting. Jim's journey through life was as remarkable as the man himself, leaving an indelible mark on the hearts of those he touched. His memory will forever be treasured.

Many people touched his life during his nearly three-year journey with cancer; the family would like to offer special thanks to Dr. Thomas Atkinson, Dr. Robert Miles, Jarrod Borne, Brandi Windham, Ruth Martinez, and the caregivers at Right at Home.

# DRILL BITS

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



During March 2024, the **Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE)** approved 75 Gulf of Mexico (GoM) drilling permits. Twelve of the permits were for a shelf wells, and the remaining 63 permits were for deepwater wells. There were 4 new well permits issued in deepwater.

The 4 deepwater new well permits were for 3 exploration wells and 1 well was classified as other. **Shell Offshore** was given a new exploration well permit for their Mississippi Canyon 809 #2 well and the classified other new well permit for their Mississippi Canyon 810 #UX-3 well. These wells are situated in Shell's Ursa Field. **Chevron U.S.A.** received 2 new well permit for their Mississippi Canyon 607 #BP-2 and #BP-3 wells in Ballymore Field.

On March 28th, **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 35 rigs, of which 29 were under contract. The marketed rig supply and the contracted rig supply were also the same as last month. The marketed contracted versus total rig supply utilization rate remained at 72.9%, and the marketed contracted versus marketed supply utilization rate remained at 82.9%. By comparison, the March 2023 total fleet utilization rate stood at 84.9% with 33 rigs under contract out of the 46 rigs in the fleet.

On March 28th, **Baker Hughes** reported that there are 18 active mobile offshore rigs in the GoM, which is the same as last month and 62.1% of the rigs under contract mentioned above. Currently, 3 rigs are drilling on the shelf, and 15 rigs are drilling in deepwater. The shelf rigs include 2 in the Eugene Island Area and 1 in the Main Pass Area. The deepwater rigs include 7 rigs in the Mississippi Canyon Area, 3 rigs in the Alaminos Canyon Area, 2 rigs in the Walker Ridge Area, and 1 rig each in the East Breaks, Keathley Canyon and Garden Banks Areas.

On March 28th, the **Baker Hughes** total U.S. rig count stood at 621 rigs, which is 5 less than reported at the end of February 2024. Of the 621 rigs, 506 (81.5%) are oil rigs and 112 (18%) are gas rigs. Three rigs are listed as miscellaneous. A year ago, there were 755 rigs working in the U.S. inferring that the 134 rig decline corresponds to a 17.7% decrease in rigs year over year. Nationally, Texas continues to have the largest number of rigs with 290, which is 46.7% of the total number of rigs in the U. S. Louisiana currently has a total of 41 rigs, which is the 4 less than last month. Louisiana ranks fourth behind New Mexico, which has 102 rigs and Oklahoma, which has 44 rigs..

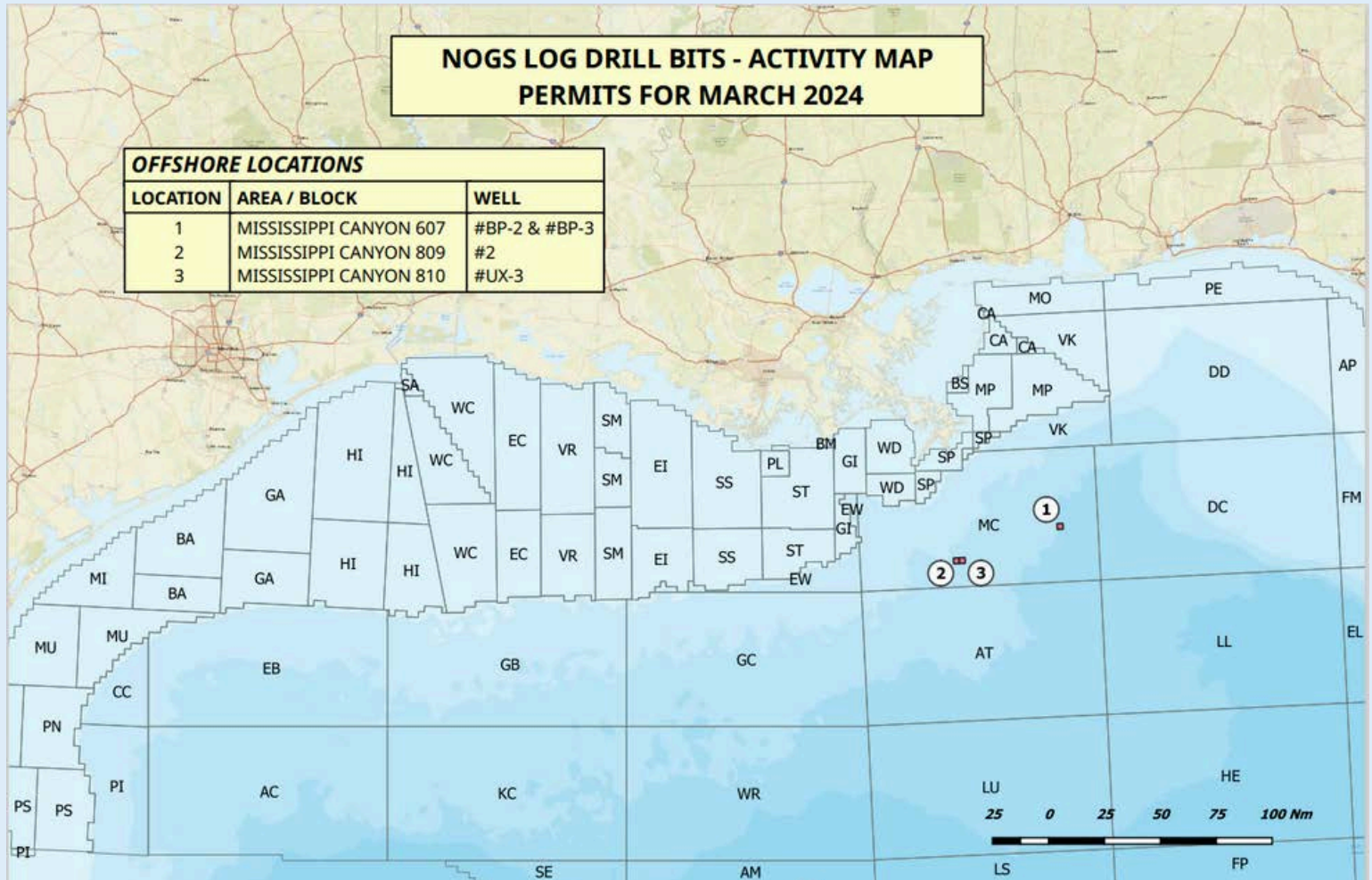
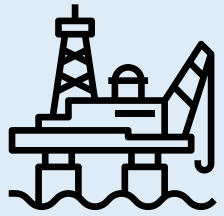
During March, the **Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)** completed its evaluation of the bids submitted at OCS Sale 261 that was held on December 20, 2023. A total of 299 bids were awarded, and 12 bids were rejected for being below the minimum fair market value. The total high bids accepted was \$372,460,408. The total high bids on the non-awarded tracts totaled \$9,708,099.

The next offshore lease sale, OCS Sale 262, is scheduled to be held in 2025.



# DRILL BITS

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



# Recent Energy Headlines

## *April 2024 Recap*

**4/25/2024 - Biden's five-year offshore wind lease schedule underscores need for Gulf of Mexico oil and gas, NOIA says** - The National Ocean Industries Association (NOIA) President Erik Milito issued a statement after the U.S. Department of the Interior announced a new five-year offshore wind leasing schedule, which includes up to 12 potential offshore wind energy lease sales through 2028: "Consistent and predictable lease sales are crucial for maintaining a steady flow of energy production. The announcement of a five-year offshore wind leasing schedule is a positive development, but it reinforces the pressing need for more offshore oil and gas lease sales. With potentially only three oil and gas lease sales scheduled over the next five years, Interior may struggle to comply with the Inflation Reduction Act and conduct offshore wind lease sales annually as contemplated in the new schedule—a crucial factor for supporting renewable energy growth along America's coastlines. [Read Full Article](#)

**4/16/2024 - BOEM increases decommissioning financial assurance requirements** - Agency estimates that industry will be required to provide \$6.9 billion under new rule. The US Department of the Interior (DOI) has announced a final rule from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) that "substantially strengthens" financial assurance requirements for the offshore oil and gas industry operating on the US Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). The Interior Department says that the new rule is designed to protect taxpayers from covering costs that should be borne by the oil and gas industry when offshore platforms require decommissioning. The DOI cited a Government Accountability Office (GAO) report which found that previous practices did not effectively ensure that operators met decommissioning deadlines for offshore wells and platforms at the end of their useful lives; a situation that potentially left the costs to be borne by American taxpayers. [Read Full Article](#)

**4/14/2024 - EIR Says Oil Demand Will Not Peak Before 2030** - Global oil demand will not peak before 2030. That was one of the key takeaways from a new report published by Enverus Intelligence Research (EIR), the company highlighted in a statement sent to Rigzone. "EIR expects global oil demand to grow to approximately 108 million barrels per day by 2030," EIR noted in the statement. "Chief among their evidence is that fuel economy standards have underwhelmed their stated targets, while electric vehicle momentum appears to be slowing in the U.S.," the company added. [Read Full Article](#)

**4/4/2024 - LLOG Exploration-led JV to drill two exploration wells in Gulf of Mexico** - The joint venture (JV) will drill the Who Dat East appraisal and exploration well and the Who Dat South exploration well. The JV comprising LLOG Exploration, Karoon Energy and Westlawn has sanctioned the drilling of two new exploration wells in the Who Dat field in the US Gulf of Mexico (GOM). The decision marks a significant step in appraising and exploring the potential of the field, with an investment estimated between \$67m (A\$101.38m) and \$77m net to Karoon. The Who Dat field, a conventional deepwater oil and gas operation, is situated offshore Louisiana in approximately 2,625ft of water. [Read Full Article](#)





**NOGS Member \$50 Discount Code:**  
**nogs24**

# 27th Annual Gulf of Mexico Deepwater Technical Symposium

## GEOLOGY SEMINAR

### Carbon Capture and Storage: An Industry Primer

SAVE THE DATE

August 14, 2024

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

**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, CO<sub>2</sub> 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 CO<sub>2</sub>
- Sources of CO<sub>2</sub> 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  
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**Introduction to Western and Central Gulf  
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Course cost: \$200

**Professional Geoscientist Exam (ASBOG)  
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Course cost: \$125

**Observing Maturing Source Rocks on  
Seismic Data**

Course cost: \$125



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**Submit your topic and  
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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](http://nogs.org).

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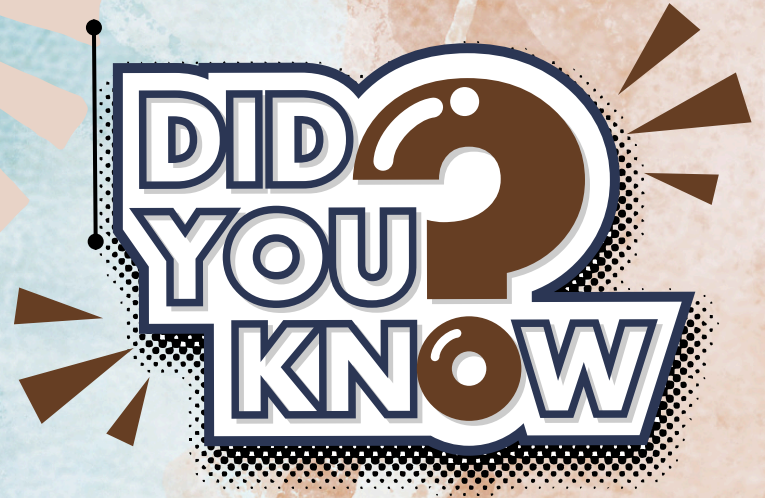


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# Whitewater rafting in the Grand Canyon

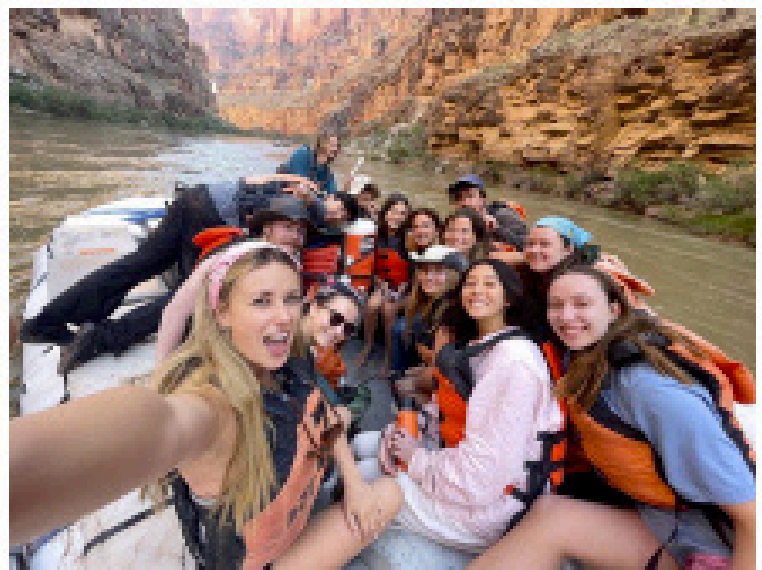
Class meets here



**READY FOR THE ADVENTURE OF A LIFETIME?** Join us this May for the 50<sup>th</sup> **GRAND CANYON TRIP** organized by the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at Tulane University. Come explore the geology, biology, and anthropology of the southwest on this unique whitewater rafting trip through the Grand Canyon. The raft trip involves 188 miles of spectacular scenery along the Colorado River from Lee's Ferry to Whitmore Wash, hikes up side canyons to spectacular waterfalls, and ends with a helicopter ride out of the canyon and plane ride back to Las Vegas.

**Trip: May 26<sup>th</sup>-June 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**Cost: \$3930**

For more information, contact Jeff Agnew  
[jagnew@tulane.edu](mailto:jagnew@tulane.edu)





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