

# NCS LOG

June 2025  
Volume 65 No. 12

hello  
SUMMER



# On the Cover

## ***Saint Mary Falls: Glacier National Park, Montana, USA***

A section of the Grinnell Formation is exposed by the Saint Mary River at Saint Mary Falls in Glacier National Park, Montana. The Grinnell Formation is a member of the Belt Super Group which crops out at the surface in western Montana, Idaho, eastern Washington and southern Alberta, Canada. Deposited in a Mesoproterozoic intracratonic shallow sea, the composition of the super group formations define the opening and closing of the inland sea connection to open ocean. The sedimentary package is massive. Kilometers thick and 300 kilometers at it's maximum width. The Belt terrane rocks are predominately sedimentary or low grade meta-sedimentary with the exception of a dark band of igneous rocks of the Purcell Sill. The Precambrian age of the units predates most life on earth leaving well preserved sedimentary structures such as mud cracks, rip-up clasts, ripples, and even raindrop impressions undisturbed by bioturbation, however, stromatolites, one of the few indications of early life, are abundant in the carbonate formations of the Belt Supergroup. Ripples can be found in many of the Belt formations but are most prominent in the Grinnell formation and the overlying Empire formation. The Grinnell Formation is 530 to 790 meters thick and is composed of bright red argillite and quartzite. Although the Grinnell and underlying Appekunny Formation are similar in thickness, composition, and importantly, contain identical proportions of iron, less than 3%, the Appekunny Formation is a green argillite indicating deposition in a reduction environment as opposed to the oxidizing environment during Grinnell deposition. This oxidizing environment may have been produced by atmospheric oxygen accumulation from stromatolite "waste".



Photo: Carol Avery, 2024

Prior to the Laramide Orogeny the Belt Supergroup was buried by a thick sequence of Paleozoic through Mesozoic deposits. During the Laramide Orogeny the thick sedimentary package of the Belt Supergroup were thrust over the Cretaceous strata along the Lewis Thrust Fault. Subsequent uplift facilitated the erosion of overlying Paleozoic, Mesozoic, and Cenozoic deposits exposing the Proterozoic rocks of the Belt Supergroup.

Resources: <https://opengeology.org/historicalgeology/virtual-field-experiences-vfes/vfe-glacier-national-park-montana/stratigraphy/>; <https://www.usgs.gov/geology-and-ecology-of-national-parks/geology-glacier-national-park>

# *From the Editor*

Hello again,

Thank you Dr. Carol A. Wilson, Associate Professor, LSU for the May technical presentation: "The underlying architecture of the Mid- Barataria Diversion receiving basin, and implications for modern-day marshes of the Mississippi delta". Photos of Dr. Wilson's presentation are in this issue of the NOGS Log. Come join us virtually June 25th or at Zea's in Covington for a delicious lunch, engaging conversation and a presentation entitled "Unraveling the stratigraphic complexity of the Upper Miocene slope-channel systems at MP313, Gulf of Mexico Shelf: Leveraging reprocessed seismic to establish a new trend within a mature field." by Stephanie Frelinger and Luke Pierce of Cantium.

Registration is now open for the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Deepwater Technical Symposium to be held at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside, New Orleans Louisiana July 15<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> 2025. This event is co-sponsored by American Association of Drilling Engineers (AADE) New Orleans Chapter, New Orleans Geological Society (NOGS), and Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) Delta Section. In addition, NOGS will offer Geology short courses on Tuesday July 15, 2025. Additional information, detailed course descriptions and discount course registration fees are available to NOGS members through the NOGS website. This is a major NOGS sponsored event and an exciting volunteer opportunity for NOGS Members. Please volunteer, attend and take advantage of the continuing education Geology short course opportunities

Nominations for Board of Directors of the New Orleans Geological society are currently open. Please consider filling one of the open board position. We appreciate the donation of your time and talents to the growth and health of our organization.

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

Until July....

*Brian Bothner*



**Brian Bothner**  
**2024/2025 NOGS Log Editor**



**JARED BULLOCK**

## **A MESSAGE FROM THE 2024/2025 NOGS PRESIDENT**

Greetings everyone,

It's hard to believe summer is here already, and that means a new NOGS Board of Directors will soon take over. We are lucky to have several members of this year's board return as candidates for next year. These individuals have not only brought fresh ideas to the table consistently, but they have also delivered in implementing changes that are appropriate for NOGS to stay relevant for years to come. It's been a wonderful year serving alongside such dedicated individuals, and they should be proud of the standard they've set for what NOGS can achieve as a society today. Be on the lookout for the list of candidates that have been nominated to serve on the 2025-2026 NOGS Board of Directors. If you are interested or would like to nominate someone to serve on the NOGS Board of Directors, please reach out to us. The candidates will be voted on in June and the new board will begin their term in July.

As mentioned in the previous NOGS LOG, GeoGulf26 will be co-hosted by NOGS alongside the Lafayette and Baton Rouge Geological Societies. It will be held in Baton Rouge on March 23-25 2026, and it will be GeoGulf's 75<sup>th</sup> year anniversary. In addition, Mark Wonja, NOGS previous-president, will be the conference Chairman and is already months into planning efforts for the GeoGulf26 conference. If you would like to volunteer on behalf of NOGS please reach out to us ([admin@nogs.org](mailto:admin@nogs.org)). There are several different types of positions available including conference Board Member positions, session chairs, and technical judges among others.

Our next monthly luncheon will be Wednesday, June 25<sup>th</sup> at Zea's in Covington. The speakers will be Stephanie Frelinger and Luke Pierce from Cantium presenting "Unraveling the Stratigraphic Complexity of the Upper Miocene Slope-Channel Systems at MP 313, Gulf of Mexico Shelf: Leveraging Reprocessed Seismic to Establish a New Trend within a Mature Field". The luncheon begins informally at 11:30a with networking followed by announcements and the presentation at 12p noon. We hope to see everyone there or online.

As a reminder, NOGS will be co-hosting a golf tournament with PLANO and SPWLA in October. The tournament will be October 6, 2025 at Bayou Oaks City Park New Orleans. If you would like to volunteer in any capacity for the Golf Tournament please reach out to [admin@nogs.org](mailto:admin@nogs.org) or Charlie Miller. Check out the NOGS website for more details.

Until next time, stay cool!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jared". The signature is stylized with a large, flowing 'J' and a cursive 'Bullock'.

Jared Bullock  
NOGS 2024-2025 President



# Promoting NOGS

*Brittany George, NOGS Secretary*

From May 20<sup>th</sup> through the 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025, NOGS board members Brian David, Carol Avery and I attended the State of the Coast conference in New Orleans to promote NOGS membership to attending geoscientists.

STATE OF  
THE COAST  
MAY 20-22, 2025



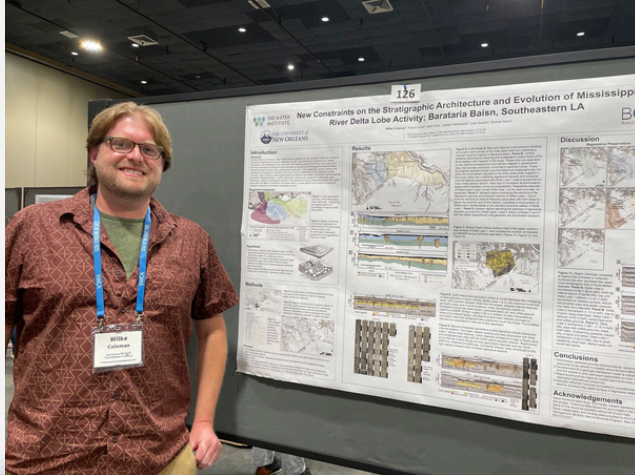
The conference featured many concurrent oral presentations and several plenary sessions. Each day, we were fortunate to attend the lunch plenary session.





# Promoting NOGS

*Brittany George; NOGS Secretary*



A student poster session was one of the conferences evening events, where I was able to catch up with two former classmates from UNO, including, Wilke Coleman (pictured above) one of the NOGS Foundation 2024 UNO Scholarship recipients.

We spoke with many of the attendees, including college students (LSU and Nichols State mostly), educators, and practicing professional geoscientists. Many people stopped by just to hear a quick fossil talk about the specimens Brian brought, with several non-geoscientists professing how much they enjoyed the few geology classes they attended in college. We were able to gather a full page of names and contact information of people interested in our Society, and we look forward to future contacts and, hopefully, welcoming many of them as members to our growing organization!

STATE OF  
THE COAST  
MAY 20-22, 2025



**For more information and a complete list of exhibitors visit the website:**

[www.stateofthecoast.org](http://www.stateofthecoast.org).





*Hosted by:*



## **Celebrating 75 Years of Gulf Coast Geology**

**March 23 - 25, 2026**

# **Mark Wojna**

The Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies (GCAGS) was formed in 1951. GCAGS consists of 13 geological societies in the Gulf Coast area and serves as the Gulf Coast Section of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG). The first GCAGS convention was held in New Orleans in 1951. Next year's conference will be the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of GCAGS. Geogulf2026 will be co-hosted by New Orleans (NOGS), Lafayette (LGS) and Baton Rouge (BRGS) Geological Societies in Baton Rouge from March 23-25, 2026. I will be serving as the General Chair for the convention, with Travis Helms, (Cantium) serving as Vice Chair. We're currently seeking additional committee chairs, session chairs, judges and volunteers and sponsors to make the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary Geogulf2026 a success. Several members have already stepped forward.

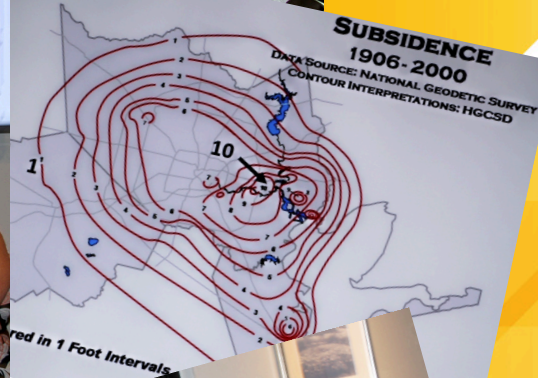
Sessions will include Regional Gulf Coast geology, South Louisiana-Geopressured Exploration, Salt Dome geology and storage, Deepwater Geology, Lithium Exploration, Coastal Processes-Diversions-Land Restoration, MAFLA (Mississippi, Alabama & Florida) energy resource activity. A session is also being planned for Louisiana Carbon Capture Underground Storage (CCUS). We anticipate all of the major earth science departments from Louisiana schools will participate. To all university faculty, Geogulf2026 presents a great opportunity for your students to share their research by presenting a talk or doing a poster sessions. More information on the conference will be coming out soon including a webpage. I'll be using LinkedIn to post additional information on the conference. If you would like to volunteer, sponsor, contribute a technical presentation to the conference or have any questions please contact me at [markw@llox.com](mailto:markw@llox.com). I look forward to seeing everyone next year in Baton Rouge.



May

# MEETING

## The underlying architecture of the Mid- Barataria Diversion receiving basin, and implications for modern-day marshes of the Mississippi delta





Lower H15 Sand  
Depth Structure Map w/ net sand isopore  
IDG Final KPDM w/ Ross Inversion

Distinct Lower H15 channel amalgamates dounip into expanded multichannel H10 section.

# STEFANIE FRELINGER AND LUKE PIERCE



**www.nogs.org**





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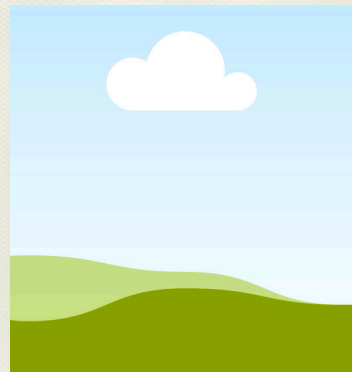




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# 2025/2026 NOGS BOARD SLATE





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## NOGS BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATE

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### ABOUT

## AKINBOBOLA AKINTOMIDE

Akinbobola Akintomide, widely known as Bobola, is an accomplished geologist with a strong and proven track record in geoscience and the oil industry. His technical expertise spans structural geology, salt tectonics, and reservoir characterization. Currently working as a geologist at the Louisiana Geological Survey, Bobola is spearheading the construction of a comprehensive 3D subsurface geologic model for the state of Louisiana, a project vital for energy, CCUS, and environmental initiatives. His prior industry experience includes roles as a wellsite geologist with Columbine Corporation on unconventional drilling projects in Midland, Texas, and as a geologist with BGI Resources and Canyon Creek Energy, where he contributed to oilfield development, reservoir characterization, and new opportunity identification in Texas and Oklahoma.

Bobola holds a Ph.D. in Geology from Tulane University, where his research advanced the understanding of fault activity and its contribution to coastal wetland loss and subsidence in south Louisiana. His academic work also produced significant models explaining salt-fault interactions in the Gulf of America (Gulf of Mexico). He earned his Master of Science in Geoscience from the University of Tulsa, Oklahoma, and his Bachelor's degree in Applied Geology from the Federal University of Technology, Akure, Nigeria. Outside of his professional and academic pursuits, Bobola is an avid tennis player and enjoys hiking, combining his passion for the outdoors with his appreciation for geological landscapes.





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## NOGS BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATE

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### ABOUT

## JAMES DUNCAN

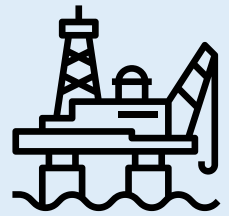
I am James Grimshaw Duncan, GIT. I am 29 years old and was born and raised in uptown New Orleans, Louisiana. I earned a High School Diploma From Lusher Charter High School in New Orleans, Louisiana in May 2014 and a Bachelor of Sciences in Environmental Geology from Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi in May 2020. I currently work (Feb. 2023 to present) as a GIS Analyst I in the Electronic Information Systems Department at Jefferson Parish Government where I utilize ESRI's ArcGIS Pro software to update the Parish's digital maps based on aerial imagery. I previously worked (Oct. 2021 to Aug 2022) as a GIS Analyst—NGA Project for Actalent, Inc./T-Kartor USA, Inc. performing remote mapping work for Maxar Technologies, Inc. where I generated and edited digital lithologic maps based on satellite data utilizing ArcGIS Pro and ERDAS Imagine software packages. I own a Geoscientist-in Training license (GIT 31) from the Louisiana Board of Professional Geoscientists in May 2021.





# DRILL BITS

OFFSHORE GULF OF MEXICO SHELF AND  
DEEPWATER ACTIVITIES  
BY AL BAKER



During April 2025, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) approved 66 Gulf of America (GoA) drilling permits. Sixteen of the permits were for a shelf wells, and the remaining 50 permits were for deepwater wells. There were 3 new well permits issued in deepwater.

The 3 new well deepwater permits were for 2 exploration wells and 1 development well. BP Exploration & Production received a permit for their Atwater Valley 47 #1 exploration well. Walter Oil & Gas obtained a permit for their Mississippi Canyon 796 #1 exploration well. BOE Exploration & Production was given a permit for their Green Canyon 944 #WB-1 development well in Winterfell Field.

On April 25<sup>th</sup>, S&P Global Petrodata indicated that the GoA mobile offshore rig supply stood at 44, which is the same last month. The marketed rig supply consisted of 33 rigs, of which 25 were under contract. The marketed rig supply was the same as month, and the contracted rig supply was 1 less than last month. The marketed contracted versus total rig supply utilization rate stood at 56.8%, and the marketed contracted versus marketed supply utilization rate stood at 75.8%. By comparison, the April 2024 total fleet utilization rate stood at 82.9% with 35 rigs in the marketed supply out of the 48 rigs in the fleet.

On April 25<sup>th</sup>, Baker Hughes reported that there are 11 active mobile offshore rigs in the GoA, which is 1 less than last month and 44% of the rigs under contract mentioned above. Currently, 1 rig is drilling on the shelf, and 10 rigs are drilling in deepwater. The single shelf rig is located in the Eugene Island Area. The deepwater rigs include 5 rigs in the Mississippi Canyon Area, 2 rigs each in the Green Canyon and Alaminos Canyon Areas, and 1 rig in the Garden Banks Area.

On April 25<sup>th</sup>, the Baker Hughes total U.S. rig count stood at 587 rigs, which are 5 less rigs than last month. Of the 587 rigs, 483 (89.8%) are oil rigs and 99 (16.9%) are gas rigs. Five rigs are listed as miscellaneous. Of the 587 wells being drilled, 527 (89.8%) are horizontal and 15 (2.6%) are vertical. A year ago, there were 613 rigs working in the U.S. inferring that the current 26 rig decline corresponds to an 4.2% decrease in rigs year over year. Nationally, Texas has the largest number of rigs with 274, which is 46.7% of the total number of rigs in the U. S. Louisiana currently has a total of 30 rigs, which is 1 more than last month. Louisiana is ranked fifth behind New Mexico, Oklahoma and North Dakota, which have 100, 55 and 32 rigs, respectively.

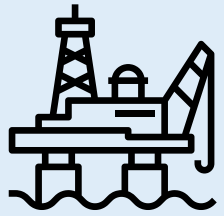
On April 14<sup>th</sup>, BP reported an oil discovery at its Far South Prospect located in Green Canyon Block 584. The discovery well was drilled in 4,092 feet of water to a total depth of 23,830 feet. No other details were given.

The Department of the Interior has announced a new lease sale in the GoA. The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) anticipates publishing a proposed notice of sale in June 2025.



# DRILLBITS

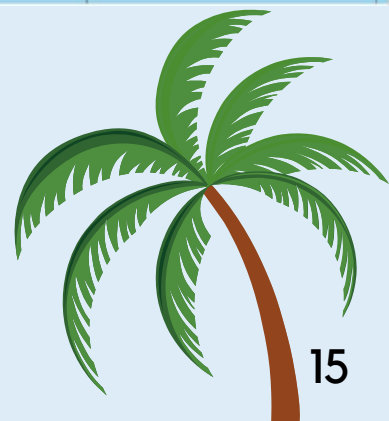
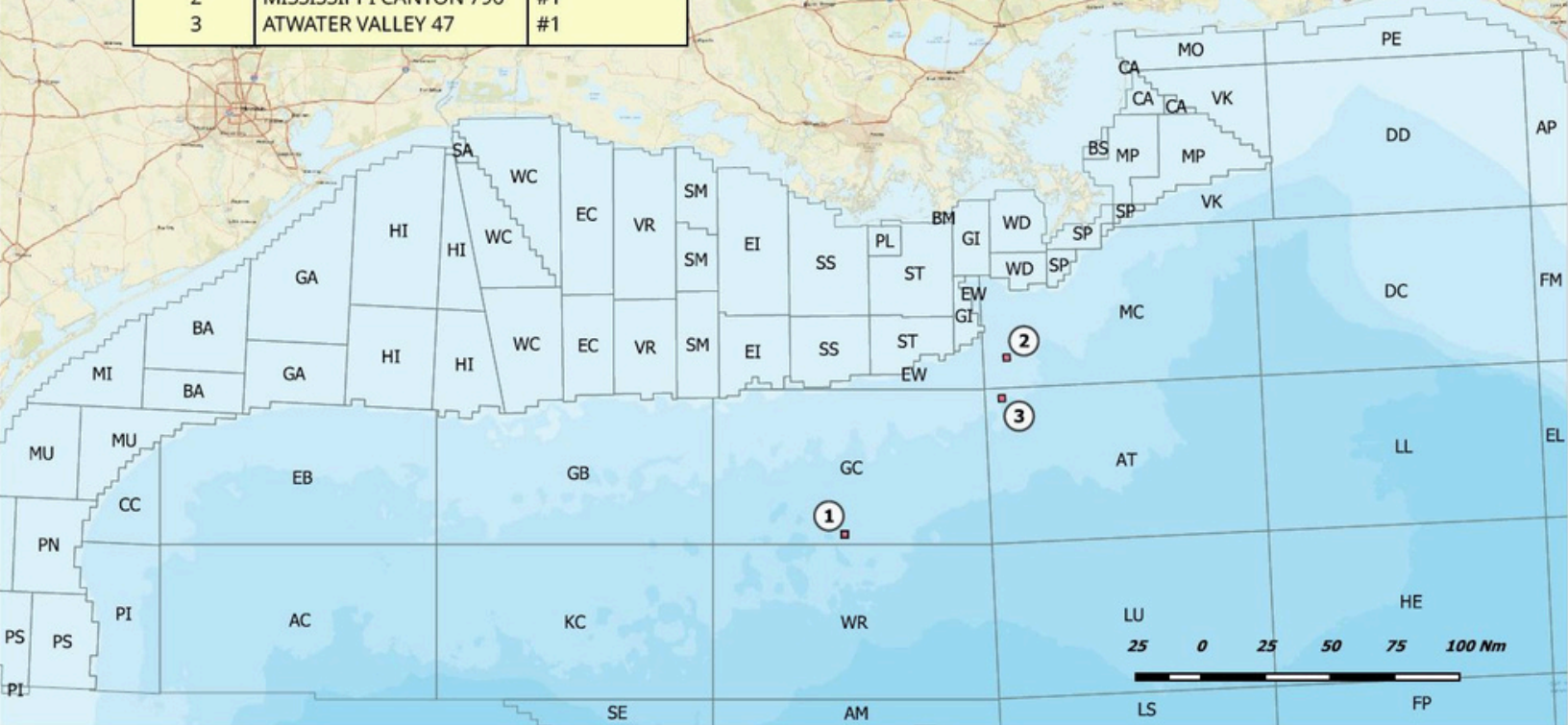
NEW WELL PERMITS OFFSHORE GULF OF MEXICO  
SHELF AND DEEPWATER ACTIVITIES MAP BY  
KEVIN TROSCLAIR



## NOGS LOG DRILL BITS - ACTIVITY MAP PERMITS FOR APRIL 2025

### OFFSHORE LOCATIONS

LOCATION	AREA / BLOCK	WELL
1	GREEN CANYON 944	#WB-1
2	MISSISSIPPI CANYON 796	#1
3	ATWATER VALLEY 47	#1





# Recent Energy Headlines

## May 2025 Recap

**5/23/2025 - Offshore Oil Production Expected to Increase with Advanced Technology and Faster Permitting** - The U.S. offshore area shows great promise for increasing oil and gas production, with the Gulf of Mexico (America) expected to increase production from 1.8 million barrels per day to 2.4 million barrels per day. Under Biden, the 5-year OCS plan calls for three lease sales — the fewest in history, but the Trump administration is supplementing it with its own plan. [Read Full Article](#)

**5/14/2025 - Shell brings first well online as part of US Gulf growth expansion project** - Two more wells for Perdido expansion set for operation by end of 2025. Shell has brought online the first of three wells planned to expand production at its Perdido host in the US Gulf, the UK operator confirmed to Upstream. The first well began production in March, according to Shell. Meanwhile, two more wells as part of the phased growth effort are still scheduled to come online by the end of 2025. [Read Full Article](#)

**5/5/2025 - Shell enlarges its stake in US deepwater oil assets with \$735M buy** - Shell Offshore and Shell Pipeline Company (SPLC), subsidiaries of the UK-headquartered energy giant Shell, have acquired the interests ConocoPhillips, a U.S. oil major, held in its assets in the Gulf of America (GoA), formerly known as the U.S. Gulf of Mexico (GoM). Following the confirmation of a deal with ConocoPhillips in February 2025, Shell has brought into its fold the U.S. oil major's interests in the Ursa and Europa assets, including Ursa Oil Pipeline Company and an overriding royalty interest in the Ursa field, for \$735 million. [Read Full Article](#)

**5/2/2025 - Interior Department to Update Offshore Financial Assurance Rule to Support Future Energy Development** - The U.S. Department of the Interior today announced its intent to revise the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's 2024 Risk Management and Financial Assurance for OCS Lease and Grant Obligations Rule and proceed with development of a new rule that is consistent with the Trump administration's 2020 proposed regulatory framework. The revised measure leveraging the 2020 proposed rule will massively cut costs and red tape related to the current Biden process and free up billions of dollars for American producers to use to lease, explore, drill, and produce oil and gas in the Gulf of America while protecting American taxpayers against high-risk decommission liabilities. [Read Full Article](#)

**5/5/2025 - US Gulf oil output could rise to 2.4 million barrels per day, industry leaders say** - Oil output from the U.S. Gulf of Mexico can continue growing despite market uncertainty created by the most geopolitical volatility in decades, oil and gas industry leaders said on Monday. U.S. President Donald Trump's global tariff announcements since last month have contributed to a decline in oil prices and fears of an economic downturn. This will make it harder for oil producers to follow his call of "drill, baby, drill." [Read Full Article](#)

**5/1/2025 - BP, the oil company that once aimed to lead the shift to renewable energy, is now on board with President Trump's mantra of "drill, baby, drill,"** The Wall Street Journal writes. The London-based energy company announced Tuesday it was aiming to boost its U.S. production of oil and gas by more than 50% by the end of the decade. The announcement to boost production comes as BP has cut its green spending while repivoting toward fossil fuel investments. [Read Full Article](#)



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).

The NOGS LOG is now a digital magazine with live links to your site to reach NOGS Members and support your Society. Please contact Christy Himel [admin@nogs.org](mailto:admin@nogs.org) for placement availability. Full page NOGS LOG advertisers will have their Company LOGO posted on the NOGS Website front page. All advertisers are included on the Society's monthly PowerPoint and listed on the website with a link to their home page. Please check out our website [www.nogs.org](http://www.nogs.org)

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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](#)**





# Energy Fundamentals



## June 23-27 & July 7-11

Registration is now open for the annual [LSU Energy Fundamentals](#) course. Energy Fundamentals is designed to provide an overview of the U.S. 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.

This is a week-long course offered in two sessions, one June and a second in July covering all aspects of current energy markets. Two days on "Molecules" (oil, gas, coal, uranium, lithium, hydrogen and biomass), two days on electricity (how markets work, rates are set and future outlook) and one day on government policy moderated by former congressman Garret Graves. The congressman is working one lining up some impressive participants to talk about policy.

The event will take place in the Energy Information Center Dalton J. Woods Auditorium located in the [Energy Coast & Environment Building](#), 93 S. Quad Drive Louisiana State University Baton Rouge, LA 70802.

Short field trips are being planned to the LSU Cogeneration Plant and the Petroleum Engineering Research, Training, & Testing Lab on the LSU campus.

CPD and MCLE hours will be available. **Each day will have six hours of possible credit hours.**

For questions, contact us at [ces@lsu.edu](mailto:ces@lsu.edu).

# REGISTER TODAY

JULY 15-17, 2025

HILTON RIVERSIDE NEW ORLEANS

*Featuring Keynote Speakers:*



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PRE-SYMPOSIUM TRAINING  
JULY 15, 2025  
STUDENT FORUM

STUDENTS ATTEND FREE





# NOGS GEOLOGY COURSES 2025



28th Annual Gulf of Mexico  
**Deepwater**  
Technical Symposium

## Tuesday, July 15, 2025

## Hilton Riverside New Orleans

**Deepwater  
Sedimentary Systems:  
Science, Discovery  
and Applications**

**Jon Rotzien, Ph.D.**

**Course Duration: Full Day**

**Professional Development  
Hours (PDH) = 6**

**Cost: \$250.00  
(NOGS Members \$200)**

**Introduction to  
Geothermal and CCS  
Well Design**

**Parveen Sachdeva,  
Ph.D.**

**Course Duration: ½ Day**

**Professional Development  
Hours (PDH) = 3**

**Cost: \$150.00  
(NOGS Members \$100)**

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

**Brian Boyer  
Jerry Landry  
Lincoln Stroh**

**Course Duration: Full Day**

**Professional Development  
Hours (PDH) = 6**

**Cost: \$250.00  
(NOGS Members \$200)**

**[Click Here for Full Course Descriptions](#)**

# *Let's Play* **GOLF**

**MON, OCT 6, 2025**  
**BAYOU OAKS**

New Orleans, LA

**All Proceeds Will Benefit  
Local Charities**

**9:00 AM SHOTGUN START**

**INDIVIDUALS - \$175**

**CORPORATE TEAM - \$700**

**4 MULLIGANS - \$20**

**HOLE SPONSORS - \$150**

**PRICE INCREASE AFTER 9/1/25**

**INDIVIDUAL \$200**

**CORPORATE TEAM \$800**

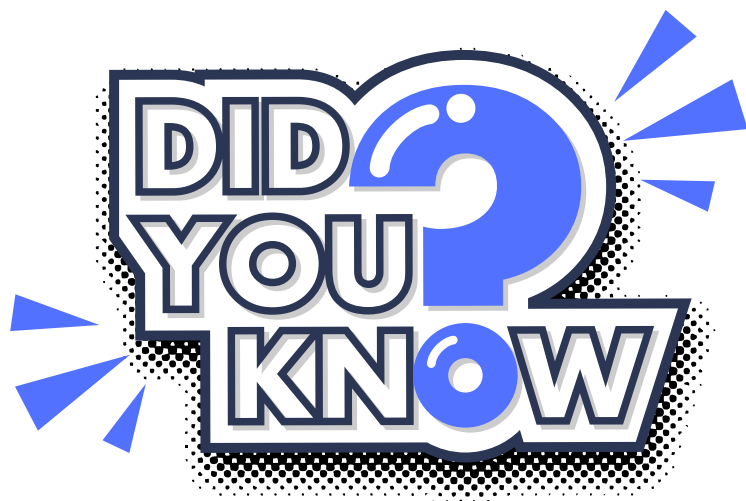
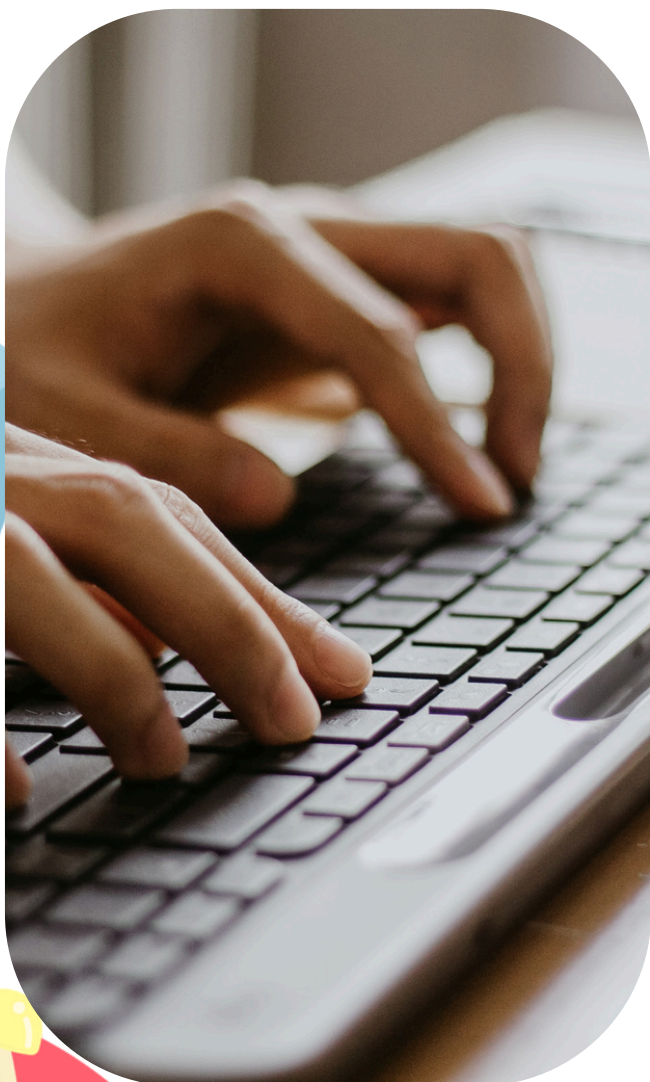
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*Volunteers  
Needed!*



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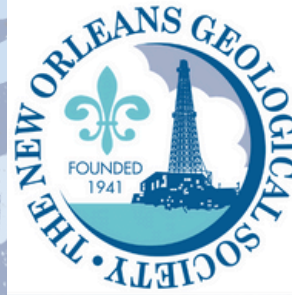
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