

November 2025

Volume 66 No. 5

NCS LOC



*Happy
Thanksgiving*

On the Cover

Morrison Formation, (Late Jurassic)

Camarasaurus, Bob Simon,

in Red Canyon Creek Quarry near Shell Wyoming

The Late Jurassic Morrison Formation was deposited in the Midwestern United States 145 to 164 million years ago. The lowest portion of the formation contains some marine sediment, but the majority of the formation was deposited in a vast inland basin that developed east of the rising Western Cordillera. The depositional system included river channel and flood plain deposits producing cross bedded sandstones interbedded with siltstones and mudstones overlain by multicolor siltstones and mudstones. There are also numerous volcanic ash beds which were used for radiometric dating. The formation covers approximately 600,000 square miles, much of it buried under prairie land or eroded during the formation of the Rocky Mountains, but outcroppings across the Front Range give paleontologists access to the rich, diverse fossil remains from the Late Jurassic of North America.



Photo: Courtesy of Bob Simon 2007

In 2007 geologist Bob Simon, discovered fossilized remains of an adult Camarasaurus pictured on the cover. The Camarasaurus is the most abundant sauropod fossil found in North America, but this rare find is unique because the skeleton is articulated, almost complete and in a classic "death position". This Camarasaurus specimen is now on permanent display at the Fukui Prefectural Dinosaur Museum in Japan. In addition to the standing fossil display the museum constructed a life size representation of the dinosaur in the ground at the dig site. Two additional sauropod dinosaur fossils were excavated at this site: a Diplodocus and an Apatosaurus (2008). A more detailed story of Bob's adventures hunting dinosaur in Wyoming is featured in the [NOGS Log April 2016](#) issue.

Resources: <https://www.paleogallery.com/the-camarasaurus>; <https://www.geowyo.com/shell-dinosaur-bone-beds.html>; <https://www.fossilera.com/fossils/9-2-fossil-sauropod-camarasaurus-metacarpal-hand-bone-wyoming>; http://www.geotimes.org/sept07/article.html?id=nn_wyoming.html; <https://www.nps.gov/dino/learn/nature/morrison-formation.htm>

From the Editor



Hello again,

Thank you, Eric Fischer, of, Marine Geoscience Consulting LLC for your presentation “*Site Characterization Surveys - A Key Part of Successful Offshore Projects*” at the NOGS October luncheon and technical presentation. Our November luncheon and technical presentation will be held on the 19th at Zea's Northshore. William Schramm will present “*Wyoming Uranium Roll Front Deposits: How I Learned to Love and Mine Them*”. NOGS will also be collecting contributions for the Marine Corps Toys for Tots program at this meeting, so bring a toy or consider making a cash donation to this worthy cause.

This month NOGS will host Super Saurus Saturday at the Louisiana Children's Museum in City Park coupled with a Member Social and Membership Drive. Please register to attend today and bring the whole family! Planning is also underway for a NOGS sponsored Lease Sale event in December and other special events during the upcoming holiday season, so STAY TUNED to the NOGS website for additional information and registration information!

The opportunities in the earth sciences have expanded beyond oil and gas into numerous industries. The New Orleans Geological Society is expanding to include these applications of the earth science profession. Recent issues of the NOGS Log included articles about Neptune Pass/Mississippi river diversion, and Louisiana's primacy, issuing the first Carbon Capture and Sequestration (CCS) permit. I have put together the monthly U.S. rig count by State and the Gulf of America as well as a map indicating new drill permits issued in the Gulf. This isn't near the level of detail provided by the Drill Bits article in past issues, but an attempt to keep the article active. It is my sincere hope that articles like these will not only continue but inspire NOGS members to author additional articles that highlight events and share their experiences in their chosen profession for the benefit of our entire organization. I would encourage anyone who is interested in the science, engineering, and politics involved with the practice of geology as a profession, in government or the private sector, to provide a monthly update on current events in the NOGS Log. It would be interesting to read monthly geology, geophysics, coastal impact studies, coastal restoration, subsurface energy storage, renewable energy, water management, waste management, and Government agency articles. Please consider contributing to the NOGS Log in your area of expertise or interest.

Next year will be the 75th anniversary of The Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies (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. This is an excellent volunteer opportunity as we are still in need of additional committee chairs, session chairs, judges, and sponsors. Please consider volunteering some of your time and talents to make this NOGS sponsored event a success! 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.



Brian Bothner
2025/2026 NOGS Log
Editor

Until December.....

Brian Bothner





A MESSAGE FROM THE 2025/2026 NOGS PRESIDENT

BRIAN DAVID

Dear NOGS Members and Friends,

We blink our eyes and once again the holiday season is upon us! On that note, I want to wish everyone a very **Happy Thanksgiving** filled with good food, good company, and gratitude. With Thanksgiving also comes the end of the regular college football season — I hope your team has fared well this year! Here's to an exciting bowl season and a thrilling college football playoff.

As I write this message, our nation still remains in the midst of an active government shutdown with no immediate end in sight. In addition, our oil and gas industry continues to face significant workforce reductions and realignments. I ask that you keep in your thoughts all those who have been affected by these difficult circumstances. Let's remain hopeful that the shutdown will come to an end soon and that our oil and gas industry finds renewed stability and growth in 2026.

Chase Cromwell (NOGS Director B), in collaboration with the Louisiana Board of Professional Geoscientists, recently gave an engaging presentation to the University of New Orleans (UNO) geology students on the process of becoming a Licensed Professional Geologist in the State of Louisiana. The presentation was extremely well received, with several students signing up to take the Fundamentals of Geology Exam in March 2026. A huge thank you to Chase and the Board for taking time out of their busy schedules to support and guide the next generation of geoscientists. We'd also like to extend our gratitude to UNO for graciously hosting the event. Plans are already underway to bring this presentation to Tulane University in the near future!

On Saturday, November 8, 2025, from 11:00 AM – 4:30 PM, join us at the Children's Museum in City Park for Supersaurus Saturday, hosted by Tom Bergeon. NOGS is excited to be co-hosting our Fall Social in conjunction with this fun-filled event. Bring your family and friends for an afternoon of discovery, laughter, and community connection. We can't wait to see everyone at Supersaurus Saturday! A huge thank you to Cantium and Diversified Well Logging for sponsoring this event.

We're excited for our November Luncheon, scheduled for Wednesday, November 19th at 11:30 AM at Zea's on the North Shore! We're especially pleased to welcome the **Marines** from the **Toys for Tots** organization, who will be on hand to collect toys for their annual holiday drive. This is a wonderful opportunity for NOGS members to give back and spread some holiday cheer to children in need. Please visit the NOGS website for details about our featured speaker. As always, an online viewing option will be available for those who can't attend in person. If you're unable to join us, you can still make a difference by donating directly to the Toys for Tots organization through our website. We look forward to seeing everyone there and kicking off the holiday season together!

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian".

Brian David
President, NOGS 2025–2026



Join us as we **KICK OFF** NOGS NEW YEAR



**We are planning a Dino-Mite Day of
Networking and Family Fun!**

Bring your kids, grandkids, and friends for a one-of-a-kind Membership Kickoff at the Louisiana Children's Museum during the Super Saurus Saturday celebration!

Dinosaurs will be roaming the museum and the excitement will be everywhere — from exhibits to outdoor fun. Special Room with Food & Beverages exclusive for NOGS Members.

Current members can join for just \$10 per person or \$20 per family of four, and new members attend free with membership!

**November 8, 2025
11:00 am - 4:30 pm**

Sponsored by:



Elementally Qualified



**SUPER SAURUS
SATURDAY**

**EVENT SIMULTANEOUSLY
DINOSAURS 11-3**



SUPER SAURUS SATURDAY



**The dinosaurs will roam the
Louisiana Children's Museum
in City Park.**

Join in on this fun-filled event!

November 8, 2025

11:00 am - 3:00 pm



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flyer for
Teachers,
Schools, Friends,
and neighbors!!**



University of New Orleans Mineral Auction

Raffles · Live & Silent Auctions · Minerals for Sale



November 14th, 2025, 6-10pm

Homer Hitt Center

Free entry under 21

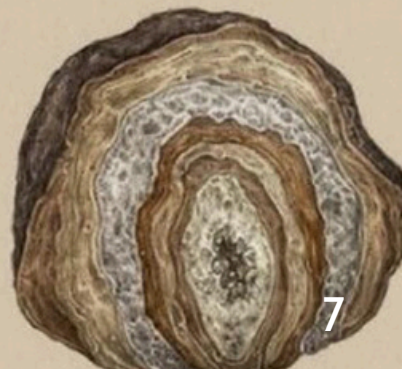
GA - \$10

GA + SEES Glassware - \$20

GA + SEES Glassware + Raffle Ticket - \$25

entry includes food, drinks, wristband,
and auction paddle!

Mineralogie



NOGS MEETING

November

Wyoming Uranium Roll Front Deposits: How I Learned to Love and Mine Them

It isn't everyday you hear someone talk about where we get uranium. I will provide a little background on where and how the ore body formed and a little geochemistry of the ore itself. I'll give you a short story of my years at the EXXON Highland mine as a grade control geologist, how we delineated the ore body and how we mined it. I'll discuss the three types of mining (with pictures) and how it is processed.

Mr. Schramm received a BA from UWM and started his professional career on the geology staff at UWM, researching extraterrestrial geology. He then mined uranium in Wyoming for EXXON and mud logged for Schlumberger in Louisiana. He received his MS in Geology from USL in 1984. He joined the LDEQ as a geologist working with many clients investigating and/or remediating over 3000 contaminated sites. He supervised a staff of 16 Geologists and Remediation Specialists in the Remediation Division, and retired after 28 years. From 2005 to 2016 he was an Adjunct Instructor in Geology at ULL and served on numerous Graduate Thesis Committees. Governor John Bell Edwards appointed him to the LBOPG in 2018. He held the Treasurer and Chairman positions and now serves as Compliance Committee Chairman. He is a Subject Matter Expert with the National Association of State Boards of Geologists and Senior Geologist with Losonsky and Associates.



WILLIAM SCHRAMM



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UNWRAPPED TOY TO THE
MEETING OR CONSIDER
MAKING A DONATION WITH
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**WED
19 NOV**



**11:30
AM**

ZEA'S NORTSHORE

NOGS Members \$30

Guests \$45

Reservations Required

www.nogs.org

NCGS MEETING

November

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TOY TO THE MEETING OR CONSIDER
MAKING A DONATION WITH YOUR
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**WED
19 NOV**



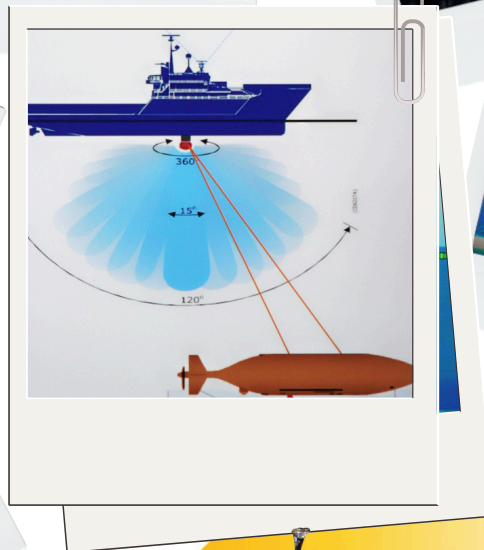
**11:30
AM**

NOCS *October* MEETING

Site Characterization Surveys - A Key Part of Successful Offshore Projects



ERIC FISCHER



JOIN US

DRAGO'S OF
METAIRIE

MON, OCT 6, 2025
BAYOU OAKS

New Orleans, LA

Thanks

GOLFER'S





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SPE Delta Section

DELTA SECTION NOVEMBER 2025 MEETING

"Persistent Bias in Probabilistic Production Forecasting and Simple Methods to Overcome It"

Reidar B Bratvold

University of Stavanger, and SPE Distinguished Lecturer

Abstract

I would like the members to take away one key idea: Unbiased probabilistic production forecasts are a crucial component in making value-creating investment decisions, but typical methods result in persistent, value-destroying biases. There are quick and easy ways to make accurate, unbiased forecasts.

Increased awareness of uncertainty combined with increasingly sophisticated tools and models for quantifying it, is causing a shift from deterministic to probabilistic production forecasting. For these forecasts to lead to better investment decisions (e.g. assessing how much it's worth paying to reduce uncertainty, or incorporating flexibility to manage it), they need to be an accurate (unbiased) representation of the uncertainty. However, our industry has a general history of overconfidence (ranges too narrow) and, more damaging for value-creation, optimism (consistent over-estimation).

A large dataset of historical probabilistic production forecasts was investigated for potential bias by comparing them with actual outcomes. They were found to be both optimistic and overconfident, bringing into question their usefulness for decision-making and the value of the sophisticated uncertainty modeling techniques that were used to generate them.

Fortunately, there are quick and easy methods for creating accurate probabilistic forecasts. We describe these and show that they would have produced accurate forecasts for our case study fields (they do not make use of knowing the actual outcomes').

Finally, preliminary results from a similar analysis of renewables projects indicate that the same problems exist. This could significantly impact government and company investment decisions and policy development in renewable projects.

Biography

Reidar Bratvold is a Professor of Investment & Decision Analysis at the University of Stavanger, specializing in decision analysis, data analytics, and behavioral challenges in decision-making. After 15 years of industry experience in technical and leadership roles, Reidar transitioned to academia, where he has contributed significantly to his fields of expertise. He co-authored 'Making Good Decisions,' has served as an SPE Distinguished Lecturer, and received the 2017 SPE Management & Information Award. A Fellow of the Society of Decision Professionals and the Norwegian Academy of Technological Sciences, Reidar earned his PhD in Engineering and MSc in Mathematics from Stanford University.

Tuesday, November 11, 2025, meeting 11am networking & lunch; 11:30am presentation on the Northshore at Expert E&P's Madisonville office' 101 Ashland Way in person at Expert's office or via TEAMS. Light lunch is free. Use the parking lot on the west side of the building and if full, park along Ashland Way. There is no cost for parking.

LSU GEOLOGY & GEOPHYSICS DEPARTMENT SEMINAR

FALL 2025 SERIES NOVEMBER EVENTS

Date	Speaker, Title or Topic	Dept. Host
Nov. 7 FRIDAY	<i>Dr. Yi Wang, Tulane University Tracking Global Ocean Oxygen with Thallium Isotopes</i>	Dr. Guangsheng Zhuang
Nov. 12 12:00 –1:30pm	<i>Geoclub Silent Mineral, Fossil and Gem Auction Support LSU Geoclub by bidding on your favorites HRK Atrium</i>	Geoclub
Nov. 19	<i>Alumni Frances Crawford, Agathe Carrier, and Patrick Baudoin, New Orleans Army Core of Engineers G&G Career Seminar</i>	Dr. Sam Bentley
No seminars the last Wednesday of the month due to faculty meetings. Updated 09/01/2025		
Holidays and End of semester		

Seminars now on Wednesdays! At 3:15 p.m., we begin with refreshments in the Clarence Cazalot Marathon Oil Atrium of Howe Russell Kniffen Geoscience Complex. Seminars begin at 3:30 p.m. in E137 Howe-Russell-Kniffen. Networking continues after the seminar in the Atrium

Thanks to our seminar series
sponsors: L.J Wilbert, Grover
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College of
Science

Department of Geology
& Geophysics

CALL *for* VOLUNTEERS



November 8, 2025

11:00 am - 3:00 pm



Volunteers needed for Super Saurus Saturday

November 8th 11 am -3 pm

The dinosaurs will roam the

Louisiana Children's Museum in City Park.

Join in on this fun-filled event!



To volunteer contact

Tom Bergeon

Tombergeon.geo@gmail.com



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DECEMBER 9, 2025, 5-7PM

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Celebrating 75 Years of Gulf Coast Geology

March 23 - 25, 2026

Mark Wojna

The Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies (GCAGS) serves as the Gulf Coast Section of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG) and consists of 13 Gulf Coast area geological societies located in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, and Mexico. The key event for GCAGS is the annual joint technical conference with the Gulf Coast Section of the Society of Economic Paleontologists and Mineralogists (Society for Sedimentary Geology) (GCSSEPM) and hosted by various geological member societies. The annual conference has been recently rebranded as GeoGulf. Papers presented at the annual conference are published in the Transactions, which forms a valuable resource of Gulf Coast geology.

Following is the mission statement for GCAGS: "Formerly the GCAGS Annual Conference, GeoGulf is dedicated to exploring the dynamic intersection of Gulf Coast geology and energy resources. Our mission is to bring together industry leaders, researchers, and professionals to share knowledge, foster innovation, and address the region's unique geological and energy challenges. By facilitating engaging discussions, workshops, and valuable networking opportunities, GeoGulf aims to drive the advancement of geological sciences and sustainable energy solutions, ensuring a thriving future for the Gulf Coast and beyond."

Our First Annual Meeting was held in New Orleans in 1951 and now our 75th anniversary conference will be celebrated as GeoGulf 2026 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, co-hosted by the New Orleans, Lafayette, and Baton Rouge Geological Societies. The conference will be held at the Crowne Plaza Executive Center Baton Rouge located at 4728 Constitution Avenue. GCAGS has always encouraged local university Earth Science programs to participate in the annual conference. GeoGulf 2025 was recently held on the campus of Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, TX.

GeoGulf 2026 presents the opportunity to shine a light on not only general Gulf Coast geology and community but also on the dynamic geology of South Louisiana. The GCAGS's South Louisiana member societies (NOGS, LGS, and BRGS), Louisiana university Earth Science programs, Louisiana Geological Survey, and various Louisiana state regulatory departments and agencies are all expected to participate. Technical sessions are being planned for Regional Gulf Coast Geology, South Louisiana—Geopressured Deep Exploration, Salt Domes, Deepwater Geology, MAFLA Geology and Activity (Mississippi, Alabama & Florida), Lithium, Paleontology/Biostratigraphy and Environmental Geology, Coastal Processes, Diversions, and Land Restorations. A special session is being planned for Louisiana's role in Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage (CCUS).

GeoGulf 2026 is an opportunity for researchers, university faculty, graduate students, and industry geologists to present and publish papers on Gulf Coast geology. Poster sessions play an important role at the conference. Industry service companies, state regulatory agencies and universities have an opportunity to promote themselves at the conference. The conference will also include short courses, field trips and a golf tournament. Sponsorship opportunities are available to support the non-profit GeoGulf 2026 Conference.



GeoGulf 2026 Call for Papers

75th GCAGS/GCSSEPM Convention and Exposition
Crowne Plaza Executive Center Baton Rouge
23-25 March 2026 • Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Hosted by the New Orleans, Lafayette, and Baton Rouge Geological Societies

Potential GeoGulf 2026 Session Themes

- Gulf Coast Exploration and Production
- Salt (Onshore and Offshore)
- Deepwater
- Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning
- Lithium
- Geothermal
- Carbon Sequestration
- Regional or Local Gulf Coast Geology
- Coastal Geology
- Environmental Geology
- Faulting, South LA & Gulf Coast
- Mississippi-Alabama-Florida (MAFLA)
- Paleontology/Biostratigraphy
- And more—We are the place for Gulf Coast Geoactivities! We'll fit you in! Got an idea for a theme session, please let us know!

Professionals and Students: We welcome you to submit an abstract for consideration of oral or poster presentation of 250-300 words by December 1, 2025.

Early abstract submissions will be reviewed within a timely manner; you will receive notification of receipt as well as acceptance/rejection notification. Please send any queries to James Willis, Technical Program Chair, jjwillis11@hotmail.com.

Submit abstract via a Google Form at: <https://forms.gle/yrUYWKAHkanqG67n9>
(link can also be accessed at geogulf.org)

Although not required, we encourage that all accepted presenters submit an initial draft of a full technical paper or extended abstract for publication in the *GeoGulf Transactions* by January 12, 2026. For more information, please contact the *GeoGulf Transactions* Editor, James Willis, jjwillis11@hotmail.com. Submission details will follow after acceptance of initial abstract.



GEOGULF2026

BATON ROUGE
23 - 25 MARCH 2026
75 YEARS OF ADVANCING GULF COAST GEOSCIENCE



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Friend
\$100

Recognition as a Friend Sponsor. Name featured on the conference website, *Transactions*, Program, and convention screens and signage.

Note that all advertisements or logos will be published in full color for the digital version of the *Transactions* and Program. Bronze and higher-level sponsorships can be directed towards specific events dependent upon level of support.

GeoGulf 2026—75th GCAGS/GCSSEPM Conference,
23-25 March 2026, at the Crowne Plaza Executive
Center in Baton Rouge, LA.
Hosted by the New Orleans, Lafayette, and Baton
Rouge Geological Societies.

Donate online at:
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Or contact Mark Wojna:
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Deepwater
Technical Symposium

**Don't miss it in
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Empowering Future Success In Deepwater

*"Technology Innovations for Resilient
Deepwater Energy"*

**August 25-26, 2026
Hilton Riverside, New Orleans LA**

Dinosaur Safari

Brian Bothner

I first met Bob Simon in 1991. I was starting what would be my 30-year career at Chevron in New Orleans. Bob was easy to work with, smart, quiet, with a dry wit and a bit of sarcasm I found very entertaining. In 2001 Bob took advantage of one of Chevron's many downsizing/re-organizations to turn his summer vacations in Wyoming into a full-time adventure. He and his wife moved back home to Virginia where he set up shop to process fossils in the winter and summer in Wyoming for the "hunt".

Bob and I would make contact occasionally over the years and in 2007 he invited me to his dig site near Shell, Wyoming. At the time my son Stephen was finishing middle school transitioning to high school, a big step. So, Bob and I planned a dinosaur safari for Stephen's summer vacation. Shell, Wyoming, is a small town, population 83, in the north central part of the state. Stephen and I flew into Billings MT., rented a car and drove two and a half hours south to Shell WY. We rented a small cabin not far from Bob's summer lodgings. Bob picked us up in the morning for breakfast at the cafe and



then on to the dig site. I offered to just meet him at the site, but because of the rough roads he thought it best that he drive. He was right!! I was impressed by the way Bob piloted his suburban through a shallow ravine, up a very steep embankment on the other side and then a quick right to avoid another ravine. Yes, I'm sure I would have buried that rented Subaru Outback somewhere along this "road".



On our first day at the dig site Bob gave us the grand tour. Stephen listened intently while Bob and I discussed the environment of deposition and the possible chain of events that led to three of these huge animals being deposited in the same place and remaining undisturbed. However the animals died, their remains must have been rapidly transported during a high water, high energy fluvial event; probably trapped in an eddy current, and then rapidly buried as the flow energy decreased. Entombed in this fluvial deposit, protected from scavenging, these bones produced almost complete, amazingly articulated fossil skeletons.

Now if you want to make a thirteen-year-old boy truly happy tell him to dig and get as dirty and muddy as possible. Stephen took to fossil hunting, well, like a duckling to water. In no time he found two dinosaur teeth and a portion of a vertebrae. Bob gave him some instructions and showed Stephen how to carefully remove the rock matrix from the fossil. At the time of our visit the fossilized bones of the Camarasaurus were carefully being extracted from the Morrison Formation, stabilized in plaster, and secured to forklift pallets for transport. Bob continued to oversee



what looked more like a heavy construction site than a fossil dig. Who uses a backhoe to pick up a fossil? Bob Simon and anyone else who finds fossils that weigh 500 pounds! Stephen and I wandered around the edge of the quarry looking for fossils and staying safely away from the “construction” and heavy equipment. We had some success, finding some pieces of vertebrae and rib and quite a few fragments Bob referred to as “UDOs” (Unidentifiable Dinosaur Objects)



Later in the day some curious visitors arrived at the dig site quarry. Apparently, some of the town's people of Shell told these tourists about “Dr. Bob” and his amazing dinosaur find. (I couldn't resist ribbing Bob, so I asked him “when did you complete your Ph.D?”) Now I knew Bob well enough to realize he was a bit nervous, even though his outward demeanor appeared calm. Bob explained his concerns. Inexperienced people wandering around this truly rare fossil while these delicate but heavy bones were being moved around, as well as stopping work to satisfy the curiosity of the visitors could impact the short summer timeline to remove the fossils. Without any prompting

from us, Stephen offered to give our visitors a tour. He led them on a short hike around the periphery of the dig site to the top of the quarry wall where they had a panoramic view of the dinosaur remains, and more importantly, far from the fossils and out of the way! At this point we can hear Stephen reprising the discussion Bob and I had earlier about the environment of deposition and preservation of the fossils. We were impressed, and I think if Stephen had been a little older Bob might have hired him to do public relations. On two additional occasions that week curious tourists came to the dig site. Bob would just call out to Stephen, “hey, we have customers” and Stephen would greet them and repeat his “tour”.



By mid-week we continued to find bone fragments at the quarry, and I think Stephen concluded Bob had found all the cool fossils at the site and he wanted to expand his search and add some diversity to his collection. So, Bob gave us directions to some outcroppings of the underlying Sundance Formation, a sequence of Middle Jurassic marine sediments. Bob said the Sundance in this area contained layers that were so fossiliferous even I could find fossils!! (Gee, thanks Bob!) So off Stephen and I hiked, into the thick brush of the modern-day Big Horn Basin, on a quest for new and exciting fossil treasure! Stephen quickly learned that like all treasure hunting you couldn't just dig anywhere. You need a map with clues. I was a bit concerned that we lacked a map, but Bob gave us good directions and a description of the Sundance formation, a.k.a. clues. I don't think Stephen realized how much he was learning, and I'm fairly sure he never had this much fun in school. So, we hiked along and recited Bob's outcrop descriptions and voila', the fabled Sundance formation. And, yes Bob, even I found the fossils.



"Devils Toenail" *Molusca Bivalvia*
(*Gryphaea arcuata*)



"Belemnite" *Molusca Cephalopoda*
(*Squid Guard or Rostrum*)

Some of the layers could be described as a coquina, full of the extinct mollusks, an oyster *Gryphaea arcuata*, or Devils Toenail and the fossilized rostrum or guard of extinct squid referred to as Belemnites. Just drag the pick of the rock hammer along the outcrop and fossils rained at your feet. We took out time extracting clumps of formation and selecting the best samples. By late afternoon I realized I had to find the way back to the quarry, so Stephen and I bagged up our treasure and hiked back to meet Bob.

Now the Big Horn Basin is a long way from New Orleans, and by the time you read this Bob Simon may have found all the dinosaurs in Wyoming! But every year at the New Orleans Children's Museum in City Park the New Orleans Geological Society sponsors Super Saurus Saturday organized by my good friend Tom Bergen and his company of able-bodied volunteers. Bob Simon was a huge force behind the creation of this event, and I can't think of a better way for the whole family to enjoy their own dinosaur safari!

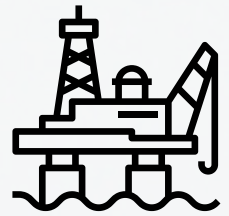
Even though our stay was short, it was long enough for Stephen to investigate the local fauna, befriend the “camp dogs” at our cabin, and finally meet a pancake at the local diner he couldn't finish in one sitting. I was amazed by the magnificent geologic structures visible at almost every turn. Wyoming is absolutely beautiful! Stephen went on to high school, and then college. He earned a Minor in Math, a B.S. in Computer Science, and yes, a B.S. in Geology! Our family went on many vacations over the years including the Emerald Coast beaches of Florida and even Disney World. But some of my fondest memories are from the time he and I spent doing geology and digging fossils on our dinosaur safari in Wyoming.





DRILL BITS

OFFSHORE GULF OF MEXICO SHELF AND
DEEPWATER ACTIVITIES
BY BRIAN BOTHNER



North America Rig Count Report September 2025

North America: 539

State/Province	Protraction Area	Rig Count Value	Change from Previous Month
LOUISIANA	MISSISSIPPI CANYON	1	0
LOUISIANA	GREEN CANYON	2	0
LOUISIANA	MISSISSIPPI CANYON	6	0
TEXAS	ALAMINOS CANYON	1	0

Gulf of America Total: 10

State	Rig Count	Change from Previous Month	State	Rig Count	Change from Previous Month
ALASKA	9	0	NEW MEXICO	94	-1
ARKANSAS	1	0	NORTH DAKOTA	27	-1
CALIFORNIA	7	0	OHIO	12	1
COLORADO	13	1	OKLAHOMA	42	-1
LOUISIANA	37	1	PENNSYLVANIA	18	0
MICHIGAN	1	0	TEXAS	243	1
MISSISSIPPI	1	0	UTAH	10	0
MONTANA	2	0	WEST VIRGINIA	7	0
NEVADA	2	0	WYOMING	14	0

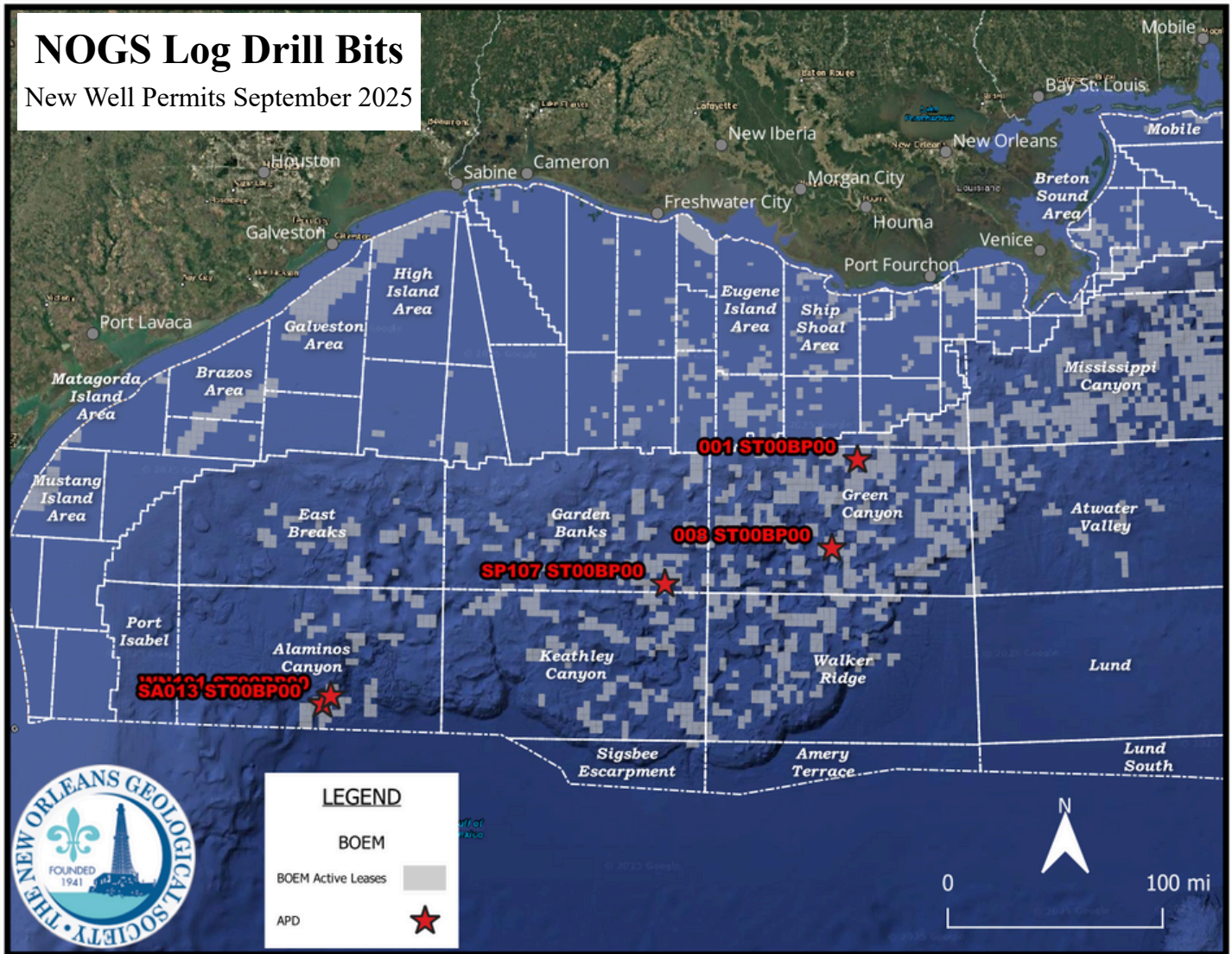
DRILL BITS

NEW WELL PERMITS OFFSHORE GULF OF MEXICO
SHELF AND DEEPWATER ACTIVITIES
MAP BY ERIC FISCHER



NOGS Log Drill Bits

New Well Permits September 2025



API Well Number	Company Name	Block_Area	Surface Lease Number	Well Type	Well Name	Water Depth (feet)	Surface Lat	Surface Long	Rig Name
608114079400	Anadarko Petroleum Corporation	GC 680	G22987	Expl	008 ST00BP00	5019	27.27518944	-90.9696175	VALARIS DS-16 (ROWAN RESOLUTE)
608114079500	Walter O&G Corp.	GC 111	G37825	Expl	001 ST00BP00	1483	27.87216556	-90.77370028	SEADRILL SEVAN LOUISIANA
608054011600	Shell Offshore Inc.	AC 815	G19409	Expl	SA013 ST00BP00	8954	26.1743275	-94.78832028	T.O. DEEPWATER PONTUS
608054011700	Shell Offshore Inc.	AC 815	G19409	Dev	SA010 ST00BP00	8938	26.17482667	-94.78846861	T.O. DEEPWATER PONTUS
608054011800	Shell Offshore Inc.	AC 728	G31195	Expl	WN101 ST00BP00	8666	26.230055	-94.72843944	T.O. DEEPWATER POSEIDON
608074033900	Shell Offshore Inc.	GB 959	G30876	Expl	SP107 ST00BP00	4362	27.0302516	-92.2310091	STENA EVOLUTION



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October 2025 Recap

10/27/2025 - NOIA depicts Gulf of America as anchor of US energy independence and maritime strength - A new report by NOIA, has painted the Gulf of America as one of the world's most valuable and dynamic offshore energy regions, spotlighting it as a critical engine of innovation, economic strength, and national security. [Read Full Article](#)

10/25/2025 - BP unlocking more US oil & gas with go-ahead for \$5 billion Gulf of America project - UK-based energy heavyweight BP has decided to move forward with its second production platform in the Gulf of America (the U.S. Gulf of Mexico) in less than two years to augment its upstream business by making a final investment decision (FID) for one of its eight to ten major projects expected to start up globally between 2028 and 2030. [Read Full Article](#)

10/22/2025 - Talos Energy hits oil in the Daenerys prospect deepwater US Gulf of America - Talos Energy discovered hydrocarbons in the Daenerys exploration well in the deepwater US Gulf of America and is planning an appraisal well to further define the discovered resource. As part of its second-quarter 2025 earnings report, Talos said the then-prospect, which lies in Walker Ridge blocks 106, 107, 150, and 151, held pre-drill estimated gross resource potential of 100–300 MMboe. [Read Full Article](#)

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10/18/2025 - U.S. Oil Growth Shifts from Shale to Gulf of America - For over a decade, the shale patch has been the engine behind U.S. oil production growth. Now, the pattern is shifting to offshore oil amid tech advances and maturing shale reservoirs—with the help of a pro-oil federal government. Earlier this year, the Energy Information Administration said it expected oil output from Gulf of Mexico fields to rise from 1.8 million barrels daily at the moment to 2.4 million barrels daily as early as 2027. BOEM had the same estimate. [Read Full Article](#)

10/8/2025 - Chevron expects Hess acquisition to outperform targets, CEO tells employees - CEO Mike Wirth told employees that he believes the company will outperform publicly stated financial targets after the acquisition of Hess. Chevron closed its \$55 billion purchase of Hess in July after triumphing in a lengthy arbitration battle against larger rival Exxon Mobil, opens new tab. Upon closing the deal, Chevron said it expected \$1 billion in synergies and raised its free cash flow guidance for 2026 to \$12.5 billion from \$10 billion. [Read Full Article](#)

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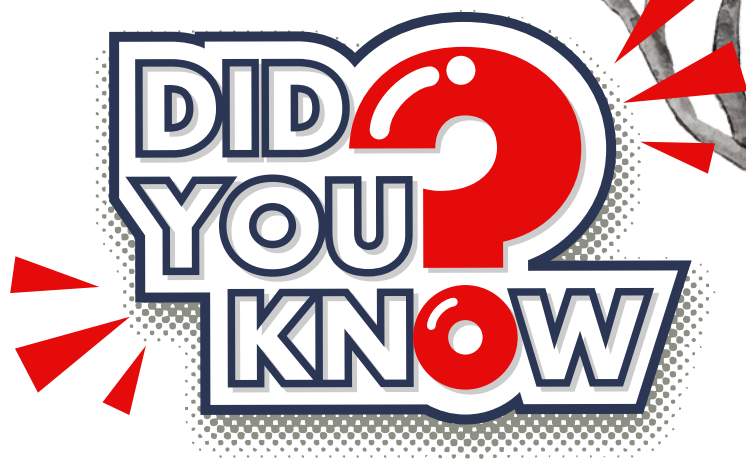
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