

September 2025
Volume 66 No. 3

NCGS LOG



On the Cover

Madison Limestone Formation

Wind Cave National Park SD



Photo: Chase Cromwell 7/5/2021

Wind Cave formed in the Madison Limestone (locally known as the Pahaspa (Black Hills) Formation) deposited in a shallow sea 350 million years ago during the Mississippian epoch. Episodes of arid conditions during deposition produced localized evaporite sequences. Bodies of unstable gypsum absorbed and expelled sea water during subsequent flooding events producing pressure fractures in the gypsum and surrounding limestone. The water saturated gypsum expanded into the limestone fractures. When the seas receded naturally acidic fresh water reacted with the gypsum bodies producing calcite (calcium carbonate), the boxwork (limonite), and sulfuric acid which dissolved the limestone to form the first passageways and eventually forming caves approximately 320 million years ago. Wind Cave is one of the oldest caves on earth. This process repeated over the area for the next 240 million years. Slow seeping water produced the popcorn and frost-work texture on the cave ceilings and walls as well as exposing the crystal fins of the boxwork. There is more boxwork in Wind cave than in all other known caves on earth combined! Uplift of the Black Hills 40 to 60 million years ago opened additional fractures allowing more caves to form. The dry climate and semipermeable overlying rock limits water infiltration and the development of flow structures such as stalactites and stalagmites. This cave is very large and extremely complex with over 167 miles of known cave in an area of 1.25 square miles.

From the Editor

Hello again,

I am extremely grateful and extend my heartfelt thanks to Al Baker and Kevin Trosclair for fifteen years of “Drill Bits” article contributions to the NOGS Log. Al and Kevin have decided to discontinue authoring this article as of the August edition. I would greatly appreciate a volunteer to continue this article. Historically our organization has been singularly focused on the oil and gas industry. The Drill Bits article is a bellwether for the industry, an early indicator of prosperity or hard times!

Fairly recently 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. It is my sincere hope that Drill Bits will not only continue, but inspire NOGS members to author additional articles to highlight events and share their experiences in their chosen profession for the benefit of our entire organization. It would be interesting to read monthly updates in geology, geophysics, coastal impact studies, coastal restoration, subsurface energy storage, renewable energy, water management, waste management, and Government agencies. Although I greatly appreciate Al and Kevin's fifteen years of monthly commitment, and I encourage others to commit to a monthly article, quarterly and one-time articles would also be appreciated!

Our NOGS monthly luncheon and technical presentation will be held September 17th at Zea's North-shore. Mark Morford of Lumina Geophysical will present “Extracting more information from your seismic using spectral and phase decomposition”. Planning is also underway for special events during the upcoming holiday season, so STAY TUNNED!

In July NOGS co-sponsored the highly successful 2025 Deepwater Technical Symposium and pre-symposium training classes along with the American Association of Drilling Engineers (AADE) New Orleans Chapter, and the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) Delta Section. The Deepwater Technical Symposium 2026 will be held in August, again at the New Orleans Hilton Riverside. It's not too early to plan to attend, or better yet, volunteer to help plan and execute next year's event!

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.

Until October....



Brian Bothner
2025/2026 NOGS Log Editor



A MESSAGE FROM THE 2025/2026 NOGS PRESIDENT

BRIAN DAVID

Dear NOGS Members and Friends,

I hope everyone is doing well and had an amazing summer filled with wonderful experiences and opportunities! On a personal note, I had the incredible opportunity to visit Europe, exploring much of England, as well as Glasgow, Edinburgh, and Ireland. It was an unforgettable trip, and I'm excited to hopefully share some of the geological experiences and insights I gained along the way in a future article in NOGS LOG.

Speaking of the NOGS LOG, it has come to my attention that Al Baker has decided to step away from writing the monthly Drill Bits column. Al has faithfully written this column for the past 15 years, and we owe him a tremendous debt of gratitude for his dedication and commitment over such a long period of time. Al, there are not enough ways to say thank you that could fully express our sincere appreciation for all your hard work, insight, and contributions. Your presence in the NOGS LOG will be deeply missed. Thank you very much AL!!!

September is upon us, and the board is hard at work organizing events for our members. We're excited to kick off the year with our first luncheon event on September 17, 2025 and will be held on the North Shore at Zea's from 11:30 - 1:00 pm and remember we also have online viewing options.

We're pleased to welcome Mark Morford of Lumina Geophysical, who will be presenting a talk on how to extract more information from seismic data using spectral and phase decomposition. This promises to be an engaging and insightful presentation, and we hope to see many of you there!

On Monday, October 6, 2025, NOGS, PLANO, and SPWLA will be hosting a joint golf tournament at Bayou Oaks Golf Course. The tournament will begin with a 9:00 AM shotgun start. This event promises to be a fun-filled day of golf, networking, and camaraderie with fellow members of the geoscience community. Whether you're an experienced golfer or just looking to enjoy a relaxing day on the course, we invite you to dust off your clubs and join us for a memorable experience. Registration is now open!!!

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Brian David
President, NOGS 2025-2026



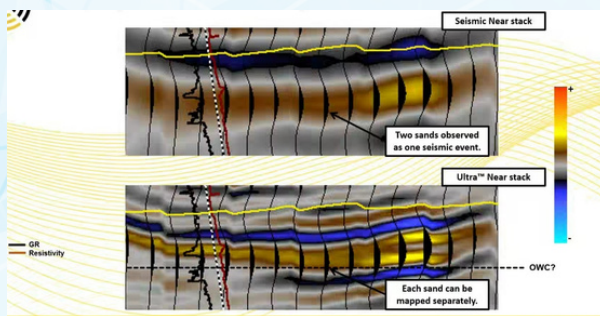
September

MEETING

**Extracting more information from your seismic
using spectral and phase decomposition**

MARK MORFORD

Lumina Geophysical



Seismic data contains information that is not always used in the interpretation and reservoir characterization. Using seismic spectral and phase analysis techniques as a foundation, it is possible to delve deep into seismic data, extracting valuable insights about subsurface structures and properties. This proves invaluable in oil and gas exploration, reservoir characterization, geologic modeling and well planning.

A brief explanation of several methods to extract more information from the seismic data will be discussed here as well as examples showing the techniques applied in various geological settings.

JOIN US



**SEPT 17
TH**



**11:30
AM**

ZEA'S NORTHSORE

NOGS Members \$30

Guests \$45

Reservations Required

www.nogs.org

SPE Delta Section

DELTA SECTION SEPTEMBER 2025 MEETING

'NEVER WASTE A CRISIS, Aliso Canyon (CA) Blowout & Recovery'

Alan Walker

Engineering Advisor, Energy & Geoscience Institute,
University of Utah, SPE Distinguished Lecturer

Abstract

On October 23, 2015, the largest methane leak from a natural gas storage facility in US history was discovered by Southern California Gas Company (SoCal Gas) at the SS-25 well in its Aliso Canyon Storage Facility near Los Angeles. The blowout continued for 111 days, and the well was permanently plugged and abandoned after emitting approximately 5 BCF of natural gas and extracting the failed casing to approximately 890 feet subsurface. The failure was the topic of lengthy reports by US DOE and DOT and Root Cause Analyses by Blade Energy and California state agencies.

Alan Walker was in his first week as a Supervising Petroleum Engineer of the Californian Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) when the leak was discovered and was selected to be DOGGR's emergency response technical lead. He provided regulatory oversight for seven kill attempts, relief well drilling, the Control-Cement-Confirm operation, requirements to return the facility to service, and developing storage operations regulations.

Alan will provide a frank discussion of the blowout and the five-year effort to improve integrity of underground storage. This talk has applicability for repurposing and retrofitting projects globally. Alan will motivate the audience to develop a safety culture including Management of Change, Root Cause Analysis, and to "Never Waste a Crisis."

Biography

Alan Walker is an Engineering Advisor at the Energy & Geoscience Institute (EGI), University of Utah. He counsels staff supporting geothermal, hydrocarbon, and carbon research. Alan's career spans forty years of E&P engineering, regulatory affairs, and natural gas supply and storage throughout western North America.

Alan served nine years in the US Army and is a retired Army Reserve Special Forces colonel with over thirty years' service. He served three combat tours in Afghanistan, the Philippines, and Iraq. Alan has a B.S. in military engineering from West Point, an MBA from Rensselaer, and an M.S. in Petroleum Engineering from Utah.

SPE Delta Section

DELTA SECTION SEPTEMBER 2025 MEETING

WHAT: 'NEVER WASTE A CRISIS, Aliso Canyon (CA) Blowout & Recovery'

WHO: Alan Walker, Engineering Advisor, Energy & Geoscience Institute, University of Utah, SPE Distinguished Lecturer

WHEN: Monday, September 15, 2025, at 11am networking & lunch; 11:30am Presentation

WHERE: Viking Energy Office, 400 Magazine St, 4th floor (elevator available), Suite 400, downtown New

Orleans, LA 70130 and Expert E&P office, 101 Ashland Way, second floor, (elevator available),

Madisonville, LA, 70447

HOW: Alan Walker will speak in person at the Viking office downtown New Orleans. There will be a simultaneous Northshore meeting at Expert's office open to the Delta community with a large screen in a conference room showing Alan Walker's talk via TEAMS. In addition, members may participate as usual by their own TEAMS link.

FOOD: Light lunch at both locations

COST: FREE

RSVP to Mary O'Neill at cyberbrat@msn.com or Kevin Landry at Klandry@expertep.com. Please advise if you will be in person or via TEAMS. For in-person attendance, please advise whether you will participate at the Downtown New Orleans location or the Northshore location.

Regarding downtown parking, first try parking on the street which is \$6 for 2 hours (feed the meter which accepts credit cards) or use the Premium Parking lots at about \$16 for 2 hours and reservable. See website parkopedia.com (for street parking & lot parking) or premiumparking.com (for lot parking).

Regarding Expert parking, 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 SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Date	Speaker, Title or Topic	Dept. Host
Sept. 10	Dr. Emily Peterson, Occidental College “Slab-mantle interactions pace forearc rock uplift during subduction retreat”	Dr. Eirini Poulaki
Sept. 12 FRIDAY	Dr. Matthew Becker, 2024 Darcy Lecturer “How Groundwater Impacts the People and Ecosystems of the South Pacific Islands”	G&G/CE Dr. Clint Willson, CE
Sept. 17	Dr. Natalie Hinkel, LSU Dept. of Physics and Astronomy “Understanding the composition of stars and exoplanets in an interdisciplinary landscape”	Dr. Barb Dutrow

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

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November 8, 2025

11:00 am - 3:00 pm

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11:00 am - 3:00 pm



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To volunteer contact
Tom Bergeon

Tombergeon.geo@gmail.com





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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.



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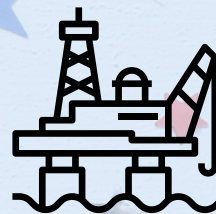
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DRILL BITS

OFFSHORE GULF OF MEXICO SHELF AND
DEEPWATER ACTIVITIES
BY BRIAN BOTHNER



On behalf of the NOGS Board of Directors and the entire membership of the New Orleans Geological Society I extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to Al Baker and Kevin Trosclair for ***fifteen years*** of “Drill Bits” article contributions to the NOGS Log.

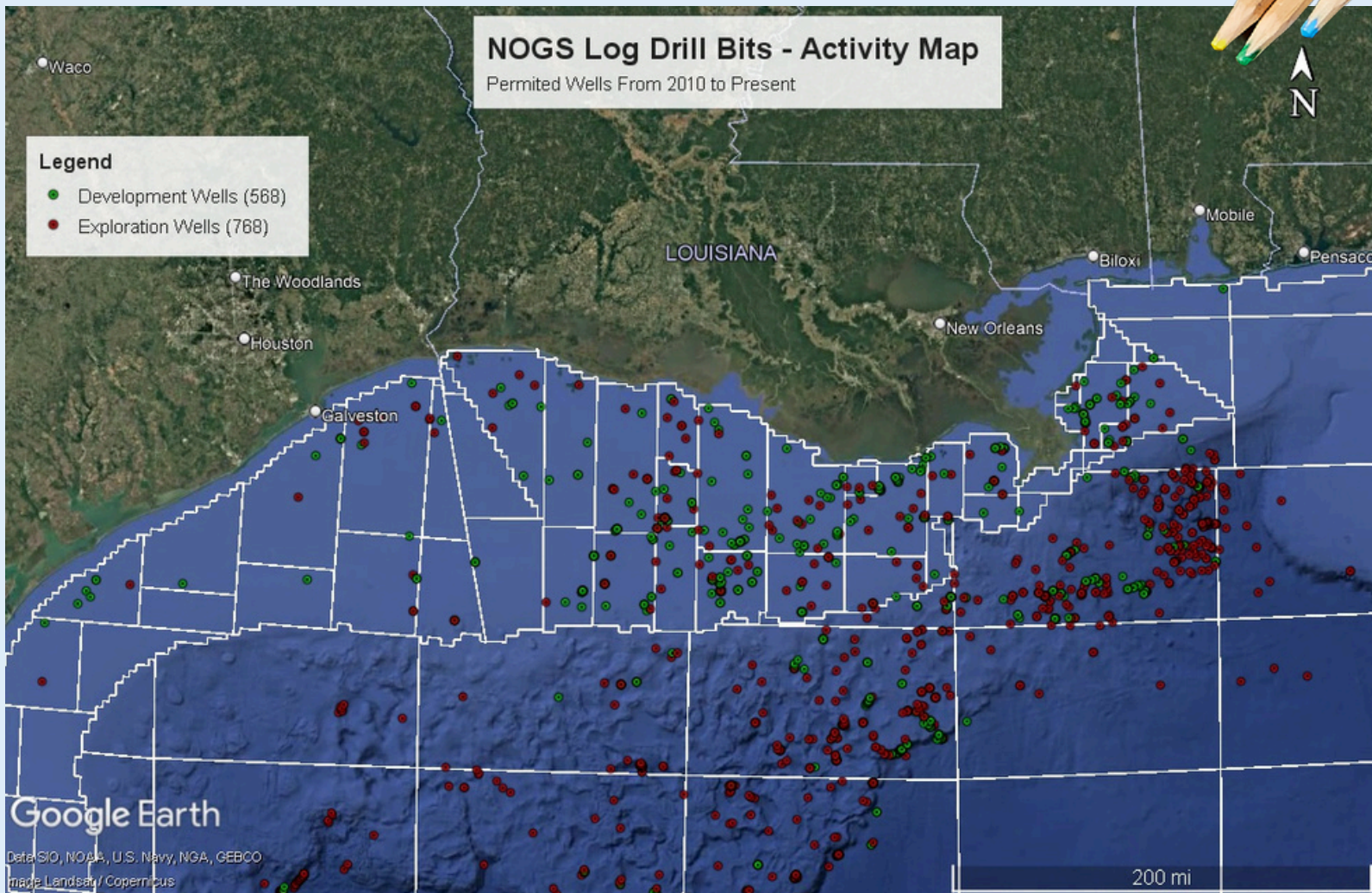
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DRILL BITS

NEW WELL PERMITS OFFSHORE GULF OF MEXICO
SHELF AND DEEPWATER ACTIVITIES MAP BY
BRIAN BOTHNER



Recent Energy Headlines

August 2025 Recap

8/25/2025 - USA Energy Demand Projected to Rise in 2025, 2026 - Total U.S. energy consumption is projected to rise in 2025 and 2026 in the U.S. Energy Information Administration's (EIA) latest short term energy outlook (STEO), which was released on August 12. According to this STEO, the EIA sees U.S. energy demand coming in at 95.50 quadrillion British thermal units (qBtu) this year and 95.52 qBtu next year. The EIA's August STEO highlighted that total U.S. energy consumption was 94.22 qBtu in 2024. [Read Full Article](#)

8/22/2025 - Occidental, Chevron Partner on Deepest Gulf of Mexico Well - Occidental Petroleum and Chevron are partnering to drill what is expected to be the deepest well to date in the Gulf of Mexico. The well, located in the Constitution Field, is part of a project highlighted by Westwood Global Energy Group as one of the most promising new extraction sites for 2H25. The well's planned depth will exceed 40,000ft, surpassing the current record held by the Ardennes well. The Ardennes well was drilled in 2013 by Cobalt International Energy. According to Jamie Collard, an exploration research manager at Westwood, previous drilling efforts in the Green Canyon exploration area have had a historical success rate of about 20%. The new well will be drilled in rocks from the Pliocene era. [Read Full Article](#)

8/20/2025 - Talos Energy confirms promising oil find at Daenerys in US Gulf of Mexico - Talos Energy's discovery in Walker Ridge is a promising development for the US Gulf of Mexico, potentially involving nearby assets like Oxy's Heidelberg. Talos Energy has discovered oil with its Daenerys exploration well in Walker Ridge blocks 106, 107, 150 and 151 in the US Gulf of America. The deepwater drillship West Vela drilled the well to a TVD of 33,228 ft, with the well delivering oil pay in multiple high-quality, sub-salt Miocene sands, according to an Aug. 19 Talos report. Drilling was completed 12 days ahead of schedule and about \$16 million below budget, with the well since temporarily suspended to preserve its integrity for future operations. [Read Full Article](#)

8/19/2025 - US to hold more than 30 offshore oil and gas auctions through 2040 - U.S. President Donald Trump's administration on Tuesday unveiled a comprehensive schedule to hold more than 30 offshore oil and gas lease sales in the Gulf of Mexico and Alaska's Cook Inlet over the next 15 years. The plan fulfills a directive in Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill Act, which passed last month, and is aligned with his administration's energy dominance agenda to boost domestic fossil fuel production. The schedule marks a significant departure from former President Joe Biden, whose administration had planned for a historically small number of drilling rights auctions as part of its efforts to address climate change. [Read Full Article](#)

8/7/2025 - Murphy Oil prepares for busy exploration schedule in US Gulf - Murphy Oil has completed the Samurai #3 and Khaleesi #2 workovers in the US Gulf of America (GoA), according to a presentation accompanying its latest financial results. Both wells are now back in production. Murphy's line-up for exploration going forward includes prospects close to its Delta House FPS1 platform. Cello #1 in Mississippi Canyon 385 should spud in September, followed by Banjo #1 in the same area in October. The company has contracted the Seadrill drillship Sevan Louisiana for a three-well program in the US GoA, which has just gotten underway. [Read Full Article](#)

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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.

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New Orleans, LA

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CORPORATE TEAM - \$700

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IT'S TIME TO *Swing into Action!*



We're now in the final week of August, which means registration fees and hole sponsorship prices for the October 6, 2025 **NOGS/PLANO/SPWLA Golf Tournament** increase after September 1.

This is the perfect week to ***swing into action***—whether by signing up your team, sponsoring a hole, donating a prize or encouraging your colleagues and contacts to join in.

Big thanks to our sponsors *Arena, LLOX and Beacon* for planning amazing food options for the day!

To make it even more fun, we've got some fantastic prizes lined up:

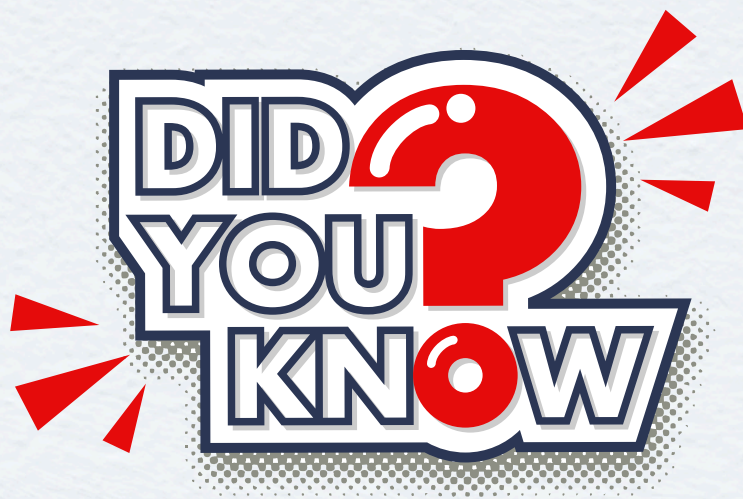
4 Saints suite tickets
4 Jazz Fest tickets
4 LSU football tickets


This tournament is a great way to network, have fun, and show strong support from the NOGS membership. Let's make sure we have a great showing for this joint tournament!

So, rally your team, secure your sponsorship, donate prizes and help us finish strong!

Contact Christy for details or more info: admin@nogs.org





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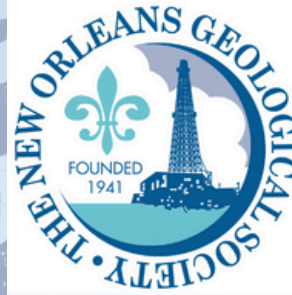
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Title	Author(s)	Publication Year ▼
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 Oil and Gas Fields of South Louisiana 2010. CD-ROM		2010
 Meander Belt Deposition, Plaquemine Point		1998
 Northeastern Gulf Coastal Plain Revisited		1997
 Geology of the Ouachita Core Area		1993
 Productive Low Resistivity Well Logs		1993
 Tour of Salt Dome Caprock Features, Winn Rock Quarry		1993
 Geological and Cultural Excursion, Jackson to Natchez, MS		1993
 Introduction to Central Gulf Coast Geology		1991
 Offshore Louisiana Oil and Gas Fields Vol. 2		1987
 Oil and Gas Fields of Southeast Louisiana Vol. 3 Supplement		1987
 A Tour Guide to the Building Stones of New Orleans		1982
 Tuscaloosa Trend of South Louisiana		1981
 Salt Domes of South Louisiana, Vol. 2		1962
 Tertiary and Upper Cretaceous Depositional Environments of Central Mississippi		
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