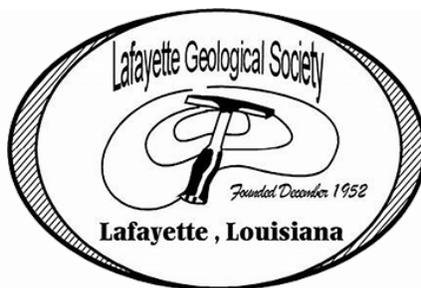


NCGS LOG

March 2026
Volume 66 No. 9



GEOGULF2026
BATON ROUGE
23-25 MARCH 2026
75 YEARS OF ADVANCING GULF COAST GEOSCIENCE



On the Cover

GeoGulf2026, Baton Rouge, LA, March 23-25 2026



Premier Ballroom, Crowne Plaza Executive Center Baton Rouge - 4728 Constitution Avenue

The First Annual Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies (GCAGS) Meeting was held in New Orleans in 1951 and now our 75th anniversary conference will be celebrated as GeoGulf2026 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, co-hosted by the New Orleans, Lafayette, and Baton Rouge Geological Societies. The conference will be held March 23-25, 2026, at the Crowne Plaza Executive Center Baton Rouge, 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 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."

On the Cover

GeoGulf2026, Baton Rouge, LA, March 23-25 2026



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The First Annual Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies (GCAGS) Meeting was held in New Orleans in 1951 and now our 75th anniversary conference will be celebrated as GeoGulf2026 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, co-hosted by the New Orleans, Lafayette, and Baton Rouge Geological Societies. The conference will be held March 23-25, 2026, at the Crowne Plaza Executive Center Baton Rouge, 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

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From the Editor

Hello again,

Thank you, Tad Loupe & Chris Means, Louisiana State Environmental Scientists, for your presentation "Funding Sources for Remediating Contaminated UST Sites" at the NOGS February luncheon and technical presentation.

In lieu of our March luncheon and technical presentation, NOGS will attend and support GeoGulf2026 at the Crowne Plaza Executive Center, Baton Rouge, Louisiana from March 23-25, 2026. Registration is now open for this the 75th anniversary of The Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies (GCAGS) annual meeting. Geogulf2026 will be co-hosted by New Orleans (NOGS), Lafayette (LGS) and Baton Rouge (BRGS) Geological Societies. This is an excellent volunteer opportunity as we are still in need of additional committee chairs, session chairs, judges, and sponsors. Make plans to attend and please consider volunteering some of your time and talents to make this NOGS sponsored event a success! In association with GeoGulf2026, three field trips will be offered on Sunday, March 22, 2026, originating and terminating at the convention hotel. Several Short Courses will also be offered on Monday March 23, 2026. Convention Registration is NOT required to take advantage of the field trip or short course offerings. Additional information on field trips, short courses, the technical program, accommodations and registration is available on the [Geogulf2026](#) website.

Early bird registration is now open for the 29th Annual Deepwater Technical Symposium to be held August 25th and 26th, 2026 at the Hilton Riverside, New Orleans LA. NOGS will again offer pre-symposium training courses. When course offerings are confirmed, descriptions and registration information will be posted on the NOGS website.

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 April....

Brian Bothner





A MESSAGE FROM THE 2025/2026 NOGS PRESIDENT

BRIAN DAVID

Dear NOGS Members and Friends,

Wow—it's hard to believe we're already in March, and by the end of this month, 25% of 2026 will already be behind us. I hope everyone had a chance to get out and enjoy their favorite Mardi Gras parade. Now we shift into spring break and St. Patrick's Day, so be sure to make time for family, have some fun, and maybe enjoy a little green beer too.

This year is shaping up to be a very active one for NOGS, with several exciting events planned for our members. Please mark your calendars for GeoGulf 2026, scheduled for March 2026 in Baton Rouge. NOGS is also seeking volunteers to serve as judges for poster and technical presentation sessions. Members interested in volunteering are encouraged to contact NOGS for additional information

The Deepwater Technical Symposium will be held August 25–26, 2026, at the Hilton Riverside in New Orleans. Early registration is now open. This year's conference is shaping up to be an outstanding event, featuring valuable training opportunities and a strong lineup of technical presentations. Vendor and sponsorship opportunities are still available.

The NOGS Board is currently planning a Spring Social to be held on the Northshore following Mardi Gras. We are actively seeking venue suggestions, and members with recommendations are encouraged to reach out to us. If any member would like to help sponsor our social, then please reach out the sponsorship will go towards paying for geology students tickets. Stay tuned for more information including the event date and venue.

BOEM is wrapping up the Big Beautiful Gulf 1 (BBG1) Oil and Gas Lease Sale and are presenting final closeout presentations to upper management on rejected blocks and other pertinent events. In addition, the Big Beautiful Gulf 2 Oil and Gas Lease Sale is scheduled to take place on March 11, 2026.

The March 2026 luncheon has been canceled in preparation of GeoGulf 2026. Please support this wonderful event. Please stay tuned for details on our April luncheon.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

75th Anniversary GEOGULF 2026

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Hosted by:



Mark Wojna

Celebrating 75 Years of Gulf Coast Geology

March 23 - 25, 2026

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 March 23-25, 2026, at the Crowne Plaza Executive Center Baton Rouge, 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.



GEOGULF2026

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GeoGulf 2026 Short Course 1

Convention registration is NOT required to attend short courses.

Recent Developments in Gulf of Mexico Salt Tectonics

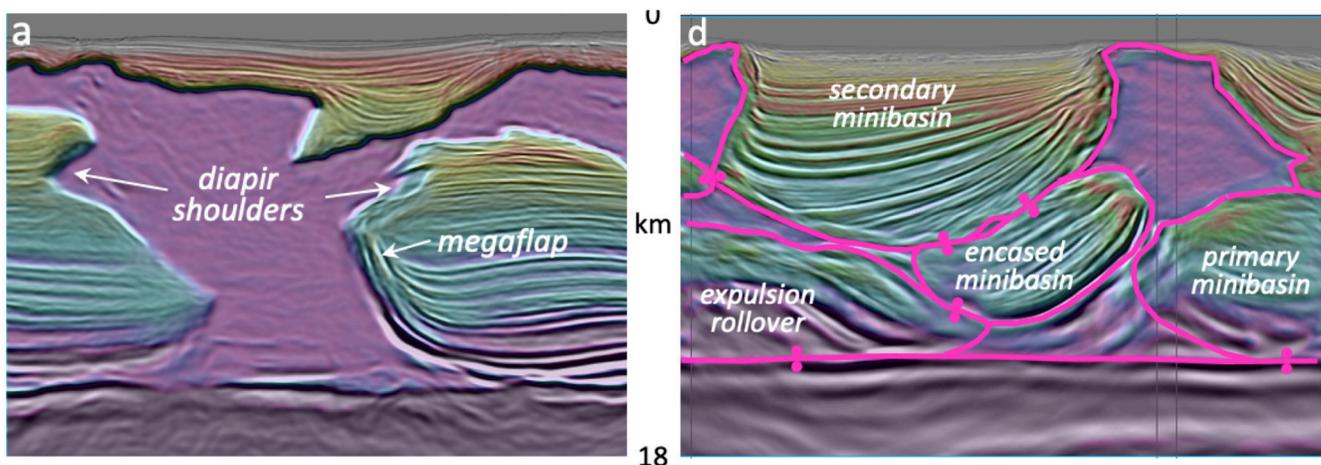
23 March 2026—All Day

MarkG. Rowan
Rowan Consulting, Inc.



This one-day short course is intended for those who want an update on aspects of salt tectonics relevant to the GoM. A familiarity with the basic concepts of salt movement, diapirism, and canopy development is assumed. Topics covered include: (i) the crustal architecture and evolution of the GoM; (ii) the age, distribution, and stratigraphy of the Louann salt; (iii) the triggers and drivers for salt movement in the Mesozoic; (iv) Cenozoic gravitational failure and associated extensional, contractional, and strike-slip deformation; (v) styles and distributions of feeder diapirs, canopies, and associated minibasins; and (vi) small-scale deformation adjacent to diapirs and beneath salt sheets.

Cost: \$175, includes lunch.



Ultralong-offset sparse OBN data with elastic FWI (from SLB Exploration Data, in Rowan & Lyons, 2025)



GeoGulf 2026 Short Course 2

Convention registration is NOT required to attend short courses.

Quantitative Interpretation of Seismic Data for Rock/Fluid Properties

23 March 2026—All Day

John Castagna
University of Houston



This course discusses methods for determination of rock and fluid properties from post-stack and pre-stack seismic data. Topics include (1) Fundamentals, (2) Seismic Attributes, (3) Spectral and Phase Decomposition, (4) AVO, (5) Seismic Inversion, and (6) AI and Machine Learning in Reservoir Characterization.

Cost: \$175, includes lunch.

Biography: John Castagna received his PhD in exploration geophysics in 1981 from the University of Texas at Austin. He has since worked in a variety of capacities including 16 years in exploration and research for a major oil company. For the past 30 years, he has held endowed chairs in academia. He currently holds the Sheriff Chair in Geophysics at the University of Houston and is partial owner of Lumina Geophysical where he advises on technical matters.



GEOGULF2026

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GeoGulf 2026 Short Course 3

Convention registration is NOT required to attend short courses.

Preparation for the ASBOG Fundamental and Professional Geoscientist Testing, and Ethics for Geoscientists

23 March 2026—Half Day

William Schramm



Multiple states, including Louisiana and Texas, require that everyone practicing geoscience, as defined by respective statutes, must be licensed. One of the requirements to obtain your license is passing both exams offered by the National Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG). This course will provide instructions on registering for the exams, a discussion of exam construction and validation, and scoring. As preparation for the exam, we will discuss how to study, options for additional subject matter instructions from ASBOG, and practice using actual exam questions provided by ASBOG. In addition to discussion of the exams, I will also provide one Professional Development Hour of training on Professional Ethics for Geoscientists.

Cost: \$60, includes lunch.

Biography: Mr. Schramm received a BA in geology 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 attended USL for his MS. He then joined the LDEQ as a geologist working with state and federal agencies, industry, consultants and private citizens to investigate and/or remediated 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 on the staff of the Department of Geosciences at ULL and served on numerous Graduate Thesis Committees. Governor John Bell Edwards appointed him to the Louisiana Board of Professional Geoscientists in 2018. He held the Treasurer and Chairman positions and now serves as Compliance Committee Chairman. He is a Subject Matter Expert for the National Association of State Boards of Geologists and a Senior Geologist with Losonsky and Associates.



GEOGULF2026

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GeoGulf 2026 Field Trip 1

Convention registration is NOT required to attend field trip.

History, Geomorphology, and Stratigraphy of the Wax Lake Delta of the Atchafalaya River: A Pristine Friction-Dominated Shallow-Water Coastal River Delta

Sunday, 22 March 2026, 7:00 am–5:30 pm



Sam Bentley - Field Trip Leader
Ph.D., P.G., Louisiana State University

Participants will depart by bus from Baton Rouge and travel to the Wax Lake Outlet of the Atchafalaya River on US Hwy. 90 near Patterson, LA. From there we will travel in a group of small boats operated by the LSU Coastal Studies Institute to one of the larger islands in the delta that emerged from a deltaic distributary-mouth sandbar following the 1973 flood on the Mississippi and Atchafalaya rivers. Along the way we will pause in mid-stream to observe and discuss the crossing of the Intracoastal Waterway and Head of Passes for the delta.

We will then get out on (possibly) dry land to collect, split, and study a vibracore 5–6 m long, which should penetrate the entire Anthropocene deltaic sediment package, and illustrate the history of deltaic growth.

We will then return to the boat ramp, load into buses, and return to Baton Rouge by dinner time. Total travel hours approximately 7:00 am–5:30 pm door to door.

Cost: \$300/person

Start/End Location: Convention Hotel

Maximum: Enrollment likely limited to 25–30

participants, pending availability of boats.



GeoGulf 2026 Field Trip 2

Convention registration is NOT required to attend field trip.

Quaternary Activity of the Baton Rouge Fault Zone and Impacts on Coastal Landscape and Infrastructure

Sunday, 22 March 2026, 8:00 am–2:00 pm



Nancye Dawers - Field Trip Leader
Structural Geologist
Department of Earth and
Environmental Sciences at Tulane
University.

This field trip will visit key sites along the Baton Rouge Fault Zone that exhibit prominent late Quaternary scarps. Stops will focus on the highly segmented nature of the fault zone, slip rate variability, influence of faulting on alluvial channels, and impacts to infrastructure.

Departing from Crowne Plaza at 8:00 am and returning to Crowne Plaza by 2:00 pm

Cost: \$200/person

Start/End Location: Convention Hotel

Maximum: Enrollment likely limited to 25–30 participants.



GEOGULF2026

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GeoGulf 2026 Field Trip 3

Convention registration is NOT required to attend field trip.

Salt Domes of South Louisiana

Sunday, 22 March 2026, 7:00 am–5:30 pm



Chris McLindon - Field Trip Leader

Director of Energy Education and Outreach at the LSU Center for Energy Studies.

Participants will depart by bus from Baton Rouge and travel to Avery and Jefferson Island salt domes. A field trip guidebook covers the geologic origins of Louisiana salt domes, the geology of cap rock, the history of salt mining and the relationships between salt domes and oil and gas exploration and production. The topographic surface expressions of both domes support beautiful elevated grounds surrounded by marsh. The grounds include botanical gardens that are havens for wildlife with walking trails. Avery Island is also the site of the original factory for Tabasco Pepper Sauce where museum tours are available.

Brian Lock, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, University of Louisiana at Lafayette is the Field Trip Guidebook Author but is unable to attend

Cost: \$200/person

Start/End Location: Convention Hotel

Maximum: Enrollment likely limited to 25–30 participants.



GEOGULF2026

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GeoGOLF Tournament



Greystone Country Club
9461 St. Andrews Ct.
Denham Springs, LA
70726

(15 miles from Crowne Plaza)

Thursday, March 26
10:00 am—4:00 pm

FORMAT:

- 4-person scramble
- Bogey is your friend
- First Tee Time: 10:27 am (staggered tee times @ 9 min)

INCLUDES:

- 18 holes of golf
- Carts
- Range balls
- Post-round meal and drinks
- Door prizes and best score/longest drive/closest to hole prizes

COST:

- \$125 per individual; \$450 per team
- Convention registration is NOT required to participate
- \$20 for a mulligan; \$30 for two

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

- Ace, \$1500 (includes 1 team entry plus GeoGulf 2026 Bronze sponsorship and benefits thereof)
- Eagle, \$1000 (includes 2 individual entries plus GeoGulf 2026 Copper sponsorship and benefits thereof)
- Birdie, \$500 (includes 1 individual entry plus GeoGulf 2026 Patron sponsorship and benefits thereof).
- Par, \$150 (includes GeoGulf 2026 Friend sponsorship and benefits thereof).



Contact Chris Murley at crmurley@gmail.com for more information.

Payment can be made via <https://geogulf.org/Golf.Tournament/Golf.Tournament.html>.



GEOGULF2026

BATON ROUGE
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Sponsorship Opportunities

Diamond
\$20,000

Premier recognition as a Diamond Sponsor. Opportunity to speak during the opening session. 7 complimentary conference registrations. Inside Front Cover advertisement in *Transactions* and Program (first come, first served) OR 2-pg. composite landscape advertisement, full color with bleed. Logo featured on the conference website, program, convention screens and signage, and all promotional materials.

Platinum
\$10,000

Major recognition as a Platinum Sponsor. 5 complimentary conference registrations. Inside Back Cover ad or logo in *Transactions* (first come, first served) OR 1-pg. portrait advertisement, full color with bleed. Logo featured on the conference website, convention screens and signage, and all promotional materials.

Gold
\$5,000

Prominent recognition as a Gold Sponsor. 3 complimentary conference registrations. Full-page ad or logo with margins in *Transactions* and Program. Logo featured on the conference website, convention screens and signage, and promotional materials.

Silver
\$2,500

Recognition as a Silver Sponsor. 2 complimentary conference registrations. Half-page landscape ad or logo with margins in *Transactions* and Program. Logo featured on the conference website and convention screens and signage.

Bronze
\$1,000

Recognition as a Bronze Sponsor. 1 complimentary conference registration. Quarter-page portrait ad or logo with margins in *Transactions* and Program. Logo featured on the conference website and convention screens and signage.

Copper
\$500

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

Patron
\$250

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

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:
<https://geogulf.org>

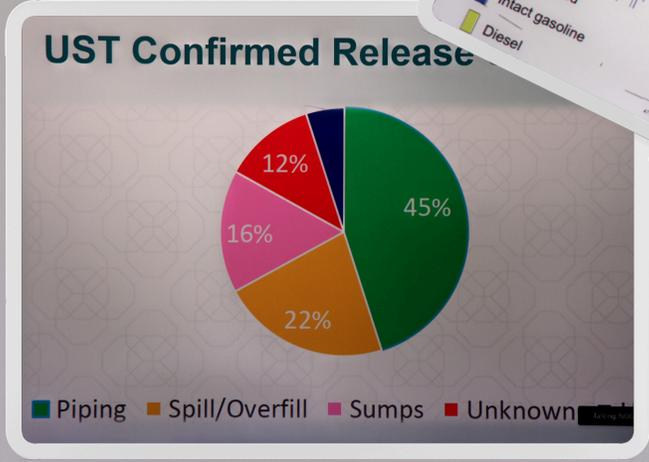
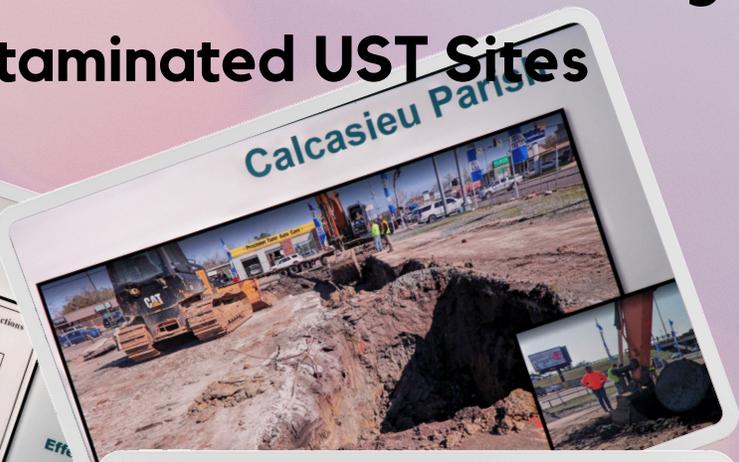
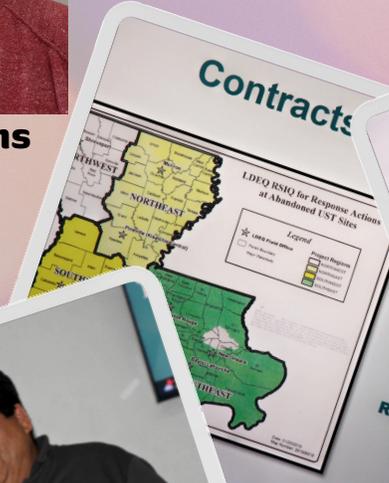
Or contact Mark Wojna:
markw@llox.com

NOGS MEETING *February Lookback*



**Tad Loupe & Chris Means
Louisiana DEQ**

Funding Sources for Remediating Contaminated UST Sites





PROMOTE YOUR BUSINESS OR SERVICE

Why Sponsor?

- Logo recognition on all meeting promotional emails and marketing materials
- Three minute presentation to highlight your company, product, or service before the program begins
- Opportunity to introduce the guest speaker at the meeting
- Direct exposure to NOGS members, industry professionals, and decision-makers in the Gulf Coast energy community



Display Table at the luncheon to showcase your company, products, or services.



Your Logo Featured on all meeting announcements via email and the NOGS website.



3-Minute Presentation to introduce your business to all attendees. Two Event Tickets for you and a guest.

RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY - \$300!

LIMITED OPPORTUNITIES — FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED



Society of Petroleum Engineers

SPE Delta Section

**Friday, March 6, 2026,
SPE Delta Golf Tournament at Carter Plantation,
Springfield, LA
Matt Wandstrat, Coordinator.**



For more golf information contact Matt.Wandstrat@gmail.com



Society of Petroleum Engineers

SPE Delta Section

DELTA SECTION MARCH 2026 MEETINGS

MARCH 11, 2026, WEDNESDAY, GOA LEASE SALE WATCH EVENT AT LLOG OFFICE. 1001 OCHSNER BLVD, COVINGTON, LA 70433. IN PERSON ONLY. THERE WILL BE NO TEAMS PARTICIPATION.

Event schedule:

8:00am - Breakfast (Courtesy of Viking Engineering)

8:30am - Jay Cole, LLOG VP of Deepwater Exploration will speak about Lease Sales

9:00am - 11am+: Reading of the Bids and Real-time Map Projection

Parking on LLOG campus for no charge.

What makes this watch party special is that OCSbbs (Charlie Miller) will project areas of the GOA map in real time as the bids are opened. So, for instance, when blocks near an existing platform are opened, we will have context for the entities bidding on the block.

RSVP to Mary O'Neill at cyberbrat@msn.com or Kevin Landry at Klandry@expertep.com.

March 24, 2026, Tuesday, Scott Angelle, Angelle Partners: “From Energy Defense to Energy Offense”

Presentation available in person or via TEAMS. Light lunch is provided free of charge.

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.

Parking: 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.

Biography: Scott A. Angelle is the longest-serving Director of the United States Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE). In Louisiana, he has held key leadership roles including Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources, and Chairman of the Public Service Commission. As a result of his efforts at BSEE, Angelle was recognized by the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), a non-partisan, fact-based agency, for driving significant improvements in offshore safety and environmental compliance. He is the CEO and Lead Strategist of Angelle Partners and founder of USA Energy Workers. He also hosts the podcast Balancing the 3Es®: Environment, Energy, Economy, where he is the voice that elevates and celebrates energy workers across America.

Angelle brings extensive experience in strategic organization and change-management across planning, communication, and leadership. He consistently delivers results through focus, advocacy, analysis, measurement, and accountability. A high-integrity, energetic leader, he is known for his ability to envision and create successful outcomes in complex environments, with a proven track record of making organizations work smarter. Scott has been married to his wife, Dianne, for 39 years. They have five children and seven grandchildren, who affectionately call him “Pépère.” A proud Louisianan, he loves his home state, the Gulf Coast, star and stripes of the American flag, and his 1964 Ford Motor.

LSU GEOLOGY & GEOPHYSICS DEPARTMENT SPRING 2026 SEMINAR SERIES FEBRUARY EVENTS

Date	Speaker, Title or Topic
Mar 11	LSU Spring Break
Mar 18	<i>Prof. Peter Keleman, LDEO, Columbia University</i> Carbon Sequestration topic
	No seminars the last Wednesday of the month due to faculty meetings. <i>Updated 1/07/2026 (Profs. Barb Dutrow & Sophie Warny, organizers)</i>

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 E. Murray, & Marathon Oil Funds



College of
Science

Department of Geology
& Geophysics

Calling All Volunteers



The NOGS LOG invites short articles from industry professionals, academics, and graduate students on topics related to Gulf Coast geology, energy resources, and related disciplines.

Submissions may include technical summaries, case studies, research highlights, or industry perspectives.

If you are interested in contributing or have a topic idea, please contact the Editor or email admin@nogs.org.

Empowering Future Success In Deepwater

**EARLY BIRD TICKETS ARE NOW ON SALE FOR THE
29TH ANNUAL DEEPWATER TECHNICAL
SYMPOSIUM**

August 25-26, 2026

Hilton Riverside, New Orleans LA

NOGS MEMBER DISCOUNT CODE: [nogs2026](#)

[DWTS 2026 Tickets](#)

***"Technology Innovations for Resilient
Deepwater Energy"***

DRILL BITS

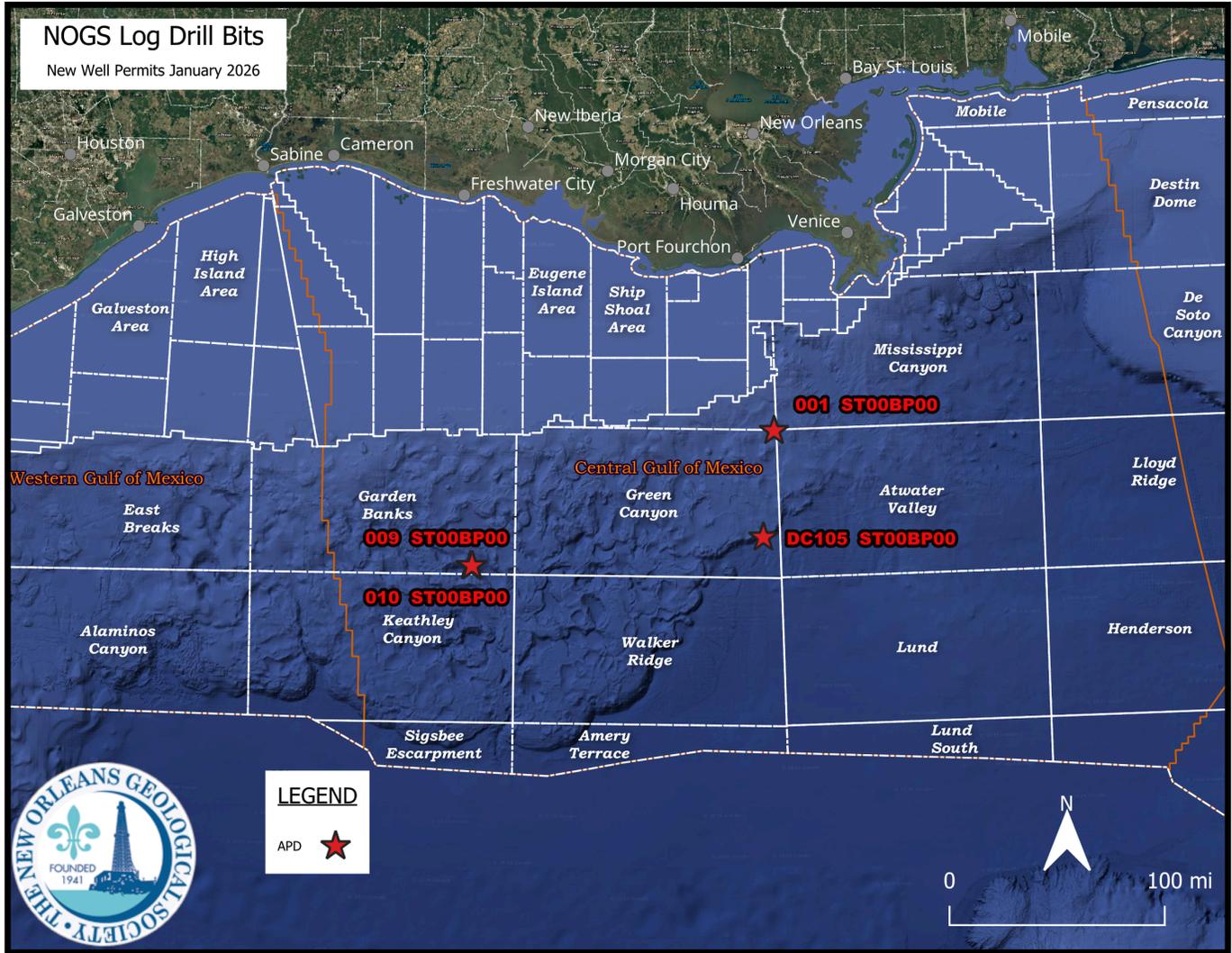
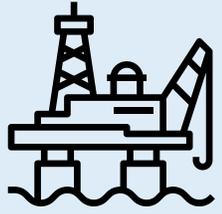
OFFSHORE GULF OF AMERICA SHELF AND
DEEPWATER ACTIVITIES
BY BRIAN BOTHNER



North America Rig Count Report December 2025					
North America:			544		
State/Province	Protraction Area		Rig Count Value	Change from Previous Month	
LOUISIANA	Eugene Island		0	0	
LOUISIANA	Green Canyon		3	1	
LOUISIANA	Mississippi Canyon		3	-3	
TEXAS	Alaminos Casnyon		2	0	
Gulf of America Total:			8	-2	
State	Rig Count	Change from Previous Month	State	Rig Count	Change from Previous Month
ALASKA	9	-1	NEW MEXICO	101	-2
ARKANSAS	0	0	NORTH DAKOTA	27	0
CALIFORNIA	8	0	OHIO	14	0
COLORADO	12	1	OKLAHOMA	44	2
LOUISIANA	33	-5	PENNSYLVANIA	18	-1
MICHIGAN	1	0	TEXAS	226	-10
MISSISSIPPI	0	0	UTAH	16	3
MONTANA	2	0	WEST VIRGINIA	7	0
NEVADA	2	0	WYOMING	16	1

DRILL BITS

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



API Well Number	Company Name	Block_Area	Surface Lease Number	Well Type	Well Name	Water Depth (feet)	Surface Lat	Surface Long	Rig Name
608074034000	Shell Offshore Inc.	GB 959	G30876	Expl	006 ST00BP00	4315	27.03	-92.24	T.O. DEEPWATER PONTUS
608074034100	Shell Offshore Inc.	GB 959	G30876	Expl	007 ST00BP00	4325	27.03	-92.23	T.O. DEEPWATER PONTUS
608074034200	Shell Offshore Inc.	GB 959	G30876	Expl	008 ST00BP00	4345	27.03	-92.23	T.O. DEEPWATER PONTUS
608074034300	Shell Offshore Inc.	GB 959	G30876	Expl	009 ST00BP00	4352	27.03	-92.23	T.O. DEEPWATER PONTUS
608074034400	Shell Offshore Inc.	GB 959	G30876	Expl	010 ST00BP00	4355	27.03	-92.23	T.O. DEEPWATER PONTUS
608074034500	Shell Offshore Inc.	GB 959	G30876	Expl	011 ST00BP00	4352	27.03	-92.23	T.O. DEEPWATER PONTUS
608114079700	Walter Oil&Gas Corp	GC 41	G37822	Expl	001 ST00BP00	2124	27.94	-89.94	Seadrill West Vela

Recent Energy Headlines

February 2026 Recap

BOEM Advances Second OBBBA Offshore Lease Sales on March 11, 2026

BOEM, 2/4/2026

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management today announced another major step toward expanding offshore energy development pursuant to the One Big Beautiful Bill Act. BOEM released the Final Notice of Sale for Lease Sale Big Beautiful Gulf 2 (BBG2), the second of 30 Gulf of America lease sales required by the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (Public Law No: 119-21).

“Lease Sale BBG2 is a key step in advancing BOEM’s offshore oil and gas program in the Gulf of America,” said BOEM Acting Director Matt Giacona. “Following the strong industry response to Lease Sale BBG1, this proposed sale aims to ensure continued investment in the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf and support American energy independence.”

BOEM will again invite lease sale bidders to attend the live bid reading, per BOEM instructions, on March 11, 2026, starting at 9 a.m. Central Time. The general public can view the live bid opening via live stream at 2. The lease sale directly supports Executive Order 14154, “Unleashing American Energy,” which directs federal agencies to accelerate offshore oil and gas development to lower energy costs, reinforce national energy security and enhance America’s global competitiveness.

Lease Sale BBG2 proposes to offer approximately 15,066 unleased blocks covering about 80.4 million acres on the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf in the Gulf of America. The blocks are located 3 to 231 miles offshore, spanning water depths from 9 feet to more than 11,100 feet. The Gulf of America Outer Continental Shelf spans approximately 160 million acres and is estimated to contain 29.59 billion barrels of undiscovered, technically recoverable oil and 54.84 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

Certain areas will be excluded from the sale, including blocks subject to the Sept. 8, 2020, presidential withdrawal; blocks adjacent to or beyond the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone in the Eastern Gap; blocks within the boundaries of the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary; any block which received a bid in Lease Sale BBG1.

Economic & Strategic Benefits

Offshore oil and gas leasing on the Outer Continental Shelf generates billions in revenue through lease sales, rental fees, and royalties. These funds are distributed to the U.S. Treasury and to states via revenue-sharing programs that support coastal restoration, hurricane protection, and other public services and conservation efforts.

The General Fund of the U.S. Treasury receives the largest portion of offshore revenues, helping to finance the daily operations of the federal government. In addition, these key revenues generated by OCS development create high-quality jobs, funds infrastructure and education, and contributes to local economies.

American Energy Dominance is a cornerstone of U.S. economic strength, national security, and global stability. President Trump’s dedication to expanding domestic offshore energy capabilities ensures affordable energy for U.S. consumers, further strengthens the United States’s position in the global energy market, and reduces our reliance on foreign sources.

Next Steps

The Final Notice of Sale will be published in the Federal Register on Feb. 5, 2026, satisfying the requirement for the Notice to publish at least 30-days prior to the scheduled lease sale date on March 11, 2026. More information, including the FNOS package and a detailed map of the proposed lease sale area, is available at <https://www.boem.gov/oil-gas-energy/leasing/big-beautiful-gulf-2-bbg2-oil-gas-lease-sale>.

Recent Energy Headlines

February 2026 Recap

2/24/2026 - BOEM Issues Record of Decision for Gulf Lease Sales 259 and 261 - The Bureau of Ocean Energy today announced a Record of Decision reaffirming its prior decisions regarding Gulf of America's Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Lease Sales 259 and 261. This ROD supports BOEM's continued commitment to responsible offshore energy development while strengthening environmental safeguards and legal compliance. This decision follows the August 29, 2025, publication of the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Gulf of America Regional OCS Oil and Gas Lease Sales and Post-Lease Activities. The Programmatic EIS provides a comprehensive framework for future environmental review of post-lease plans, permits, and site-specific activities. [Read Full Article](#)

2/22/2026 - Big Beautiful Gulf 3 (BBG3) Oil & Gas Lease Sale - This sale is the third of thirty Gulf of America oil and gas lease sales required by the One Big Beautiful Bill Act. By committing to a predictable sale schedule, the Department is delivering on President Trump's promise to expand American energy production and strengthen U.S. energy dominance. On Feb. 19, 2025, BOEM announced a Proposed Notice of Sale for the third offshore oil and gas lease sale under the One Big Beautiful Bill Act. The proposed lease sale, known as "Big Beautiful Gulf 3," is scheduled for Aug. 12, 2026. BOEM proposes to offer approximately 15,066 unleased blocks covering about 80.4 million acres on the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf in the Gulf of America. [Read Full Article](#)

2/16/2026 - BP sanctions Tiber-Guadalupe oil development in the U.S. Gulf of America - BP has undoubtedly become one of the largest energy majors on Earth, and has big plans to expand its operations in the United States over the coming years. The iconic British energy company recently took a Final Investment Decision on the Tiber-Guadalupe project, located in the prolific and lucrative U.S. Gulf of Mexico. The decision represents BP's commitment to expand its upstream operations in the US this year, and opens the door to a plethora of new development opportunities for the company. [Read Full Article](#)

2/16/2026 - EIA: US natural gas production to hit record highs in 2026-27 - An expected increase in US natural gas production will be driven by mainly by Appalachia, Haynesville, and Permian regions. US natural gas marketed production is expected to rise 2% to average 120.8 bcf/d in 2026, then increase further to a record 122.3 bcf/d in 2027, according to the US Energy Information Administration (EIA)'s latest Short-Term Energy Outlook (STEO). About 69% of total forecast output over the next 2 years will come from the Appalachia, Haynesville, and Permian regions. [Read Full Article](#)

2/4/2026 - Blackstone weighs \$5 billion sale of Beacon Offshore, source says - Blackstone, opens new tab is in talks to sell its Beacon Offshore Energy, which operates oil and gas assets in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico, for more than \$5 billion, a source familiar with the matter said on Tuesday. Earlier in the day, Bloomberg News reported that Blackstone has begun early discussions with investment banks about a potential initial public offering of the Houston-based company as soon as the first quarter. [Read Full Article](#)

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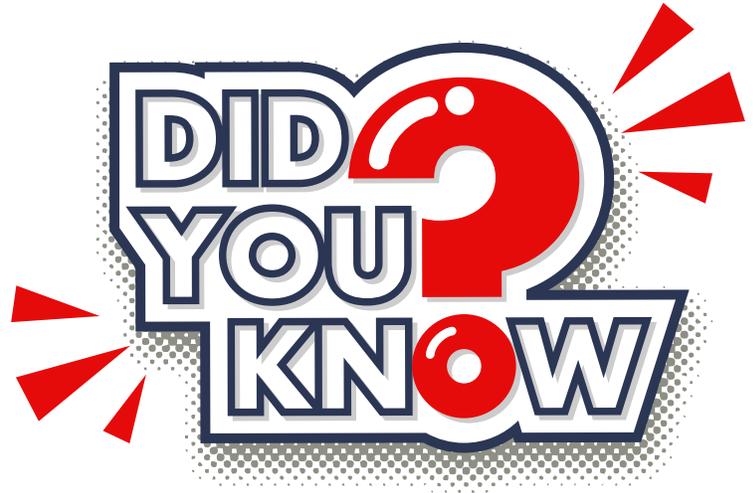
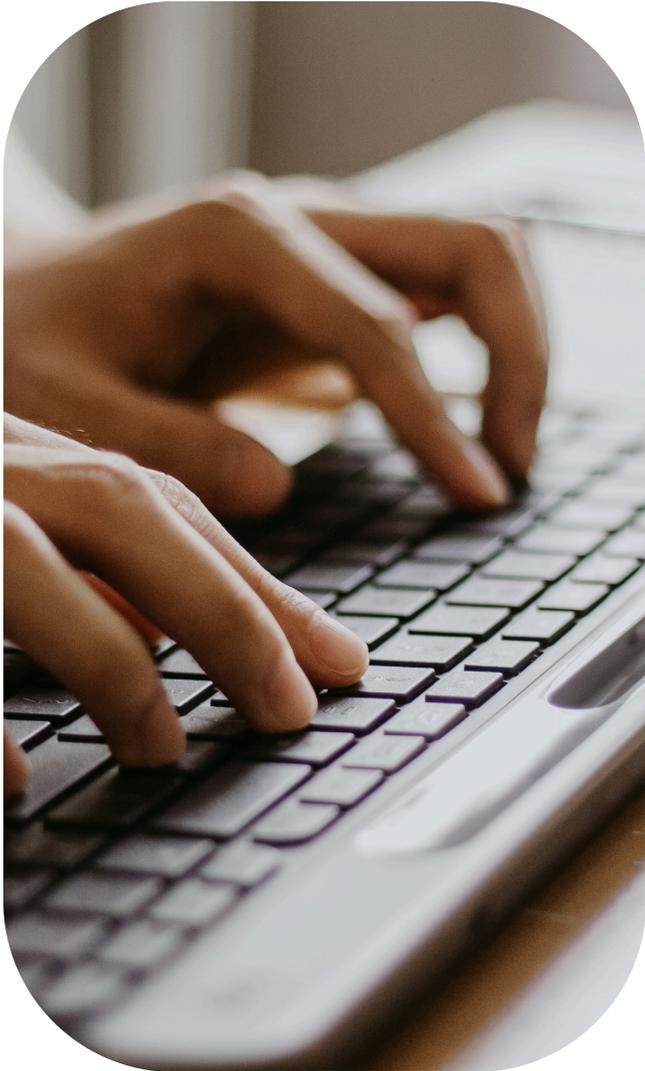
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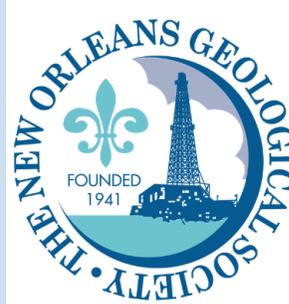
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