



Gulf of Mexico Region Virtual Book Club
Gulf: The Making of an American Sea by Jack E. Davis
7:00 PM CT/8:00 PM ET on May 2nd, 2022

Meeting Schedule

Parts	Chapters	Date	# of pages
Part Three: Preludes to the Future	Chapter Nine: From Bayside to Beachside	2-May	112
	Chapter Ten: Oil and the Texas Toe Dip		
	Chapter Eleven: Oil and the Louisiana Plunge		
	Chapter Twelve: Islands, Shifting Sands of Time		
	Chapter Thirteen: Wind and Water		
Part Four: Saturation and Loss: Post-1945	Chapter Fourteen: The Growth Coast	16-May	134
	Chapter Fifteen: Florida Worry, Texas Slurry		
	Chapter Sixteen: Rivers of Stuff		
	Chapter Seventeen: Runoff, and Runaway		
	Chapter Eighteen: Sand in the Hourglass		
	Chapter Nineteen: Losing the Edge		
	Epilogue: A Success Story Amid So Much Else		

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Chapter Nine: From Bayside to Beachside

1. Why doesn't Louisiana have world-famous beaches?
2. What did mosquitos bring to New Orleans in the 1800s and what was the impact?
3. How did authors and artists bring the tourists to the gulf?
4. What was a "Tin Can Tourist"?

Chapter Ten: Oil and the Texas Toe Dip

1. Had you ever thought about the dinosaur logo for Sinclair or the scallop-shell logo for Shell? What do many feel the Innocent Dino was a precursor to?
2. Discuss Salt Domes...the massive size of the one on Avery Island for example.
3. What is the story of offshore oil being found in Texas? Is it substantiated or more a tale?

Chapter Eleven: Oil and the Louisiana Plunge

1. In the movie *Thunder Bay* what did the offshore job site represent? In hindsight what did it represent ecologically?

2. What was gained by the Swamp Land Acts of 1849, 1850, and 1860?
3. Discuss Robert J. Flaherty's film, *Louisiana Story*, and how the Louisiana experience differed from Texas

Chapter Twelve: Islands, Shifting Sands of Time

1. What did archeologist Cheryl Ward mean when she said, "you just can't argue with a barrier island...It's going to go where it's going to go."?
2. Discuss [Walter Anderson's](#) Art and "wonder & surprise".
3. What were the benefits of turning Texas barrier islands into cattle pastures?

Chapter Thirteen: Wind and Water

1. Discuss Nash Roberts and his role in predicting weather in the Gulf.
2. What is one consistent fact about the Gulf society after hurricanes?