



Kenneth B. Nolen

Kenneth B. Nolen was born and raised on a rice farm in Eagle Lake, Texas. He attended Texas A&M College and graduated in 1957 with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering. Upon graduation, he joined Shell Oil Company as a Production Engineer and began his career-long passion of optimizing production from artificially lifted wells. Mr. Nolen's career was put on hold for three years while he served in the U.S. Air Force as a Weather Officer at Dow Air Force Base in Bangor, Maine. After serving, he returned to Shell, gaining more experience in artificial lift. In 1970, Nolen left Shell and teamed up with longtime partner and lifelong friend, Dr. Sam G. Gibbs. Together they formed Nabla Coporation and he served as Vice President. Initially, Nabla rendered well site diagnostic analyses under license from Shell, using truck-borne mini-computers. Nabla's product line grew quickly to include design and diagnosis of hydraulic and submersible pump systems. During its last 20 years, the company built digital dynamometers, pump-off controls and fluid level instruments. Nabla existed for 26 years until it was acquired by Lufkin Automation in 1997.

Mr. Nolen continued his career as Technical Coordinator for Lufkin until his first retirement in 2002. His retirement was short-lived, and he returned to an artificial lift consultant specializing in technical support and training. Nolen and Gibbs teamed up again in 2014 and formed GreenShot LLC, a company specializing in automated oil well fluid level technology. WellWorx Energy acquired GreenShot in 2018 with Nolen remaining as an R & D Advisor.

Mr. Nolen has been a key contributor to the art and science of artificial lift his entire career. He co-developed with Dr. Gibbs wellsite diagnostic methods including dynamometers, fluid level sounders and pump-off controllers for sucker rod pumping systems. These methods are widely used within the industry to remotely access data through automated continuously monitoring systems.

He has been active in SPE his entire career and is a registered professional engineer emeritus in both Colorado and New Mexico. He has eight patents and has written textbooks and technical papers on artificial lift. In the past 50 years, Nolen has taught more than 200 schools on artificial lift across the world.