



Newsletter of the New Orleans Chapter

Society of Independent Professional Earth Scientists

Volume 12, Number 1

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Chairman's Message

At the pre-Christmas meeting on December 23, forty-one members and guests attended our "no speaker" event, enjoying several hours of socializing along with Chef Andrea's excellent lunch!



"Mama mia!" Chef Andrea describes his Ospite Tavolo at the December SIPES meeting

This month, we have something of a "double header" at the January 18 meeting. Our speaker will be John A. Lopez, Ph.D., the Director of the Coastal Sustainability Program for the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation. John has been an active advocate for the past 15 years for coastal science and the wetland crisis in South Louisiana. Since he began his career as a geologist and geophysicist in the oil and gas industry, he has a unique perspective into the subject.

Also joining us at the meeting will be the SIPES National directors, in town for the quarterly board meeting, along with Executive Director, Diane Finstrom.

As a reminder for your calendars, our meetings for the rest of the current session, which will be held at Andrea's, are:

- January 18
- February 15
- March 15
- April 19
- May 17 (evening banquet)

With the New Year comes another regular annoyance: Second half dues are now due!

Louis Lemarié

January Speaker: Dr. John Lopez Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation *"My perspective of the BP oil spill as a former local oilman now local environmentalist"*



Tuesday, January 18th
Andrea's Ristorante
Metairie
Social and cocktails 11:30 a.m.
Seating for luncheon 12 noon

John Lopez: Biographical Profile

John's career is distinguished by a penchant to cross professional boundaries often leading to innovation and successful collaboration. Born in 1954 in New Orleans, John holds a Masters degree in Geology from the University of Southern California and a PhD in Coastal Sciences of Biology, Coastal Engineering and Geology from the University of New Orleans where he worked with Dr. Shea Penland. He has over 35 publications ranging in topics from Spectral Coherence of Seismic Imaging to the Environmental History of Southeast Louisiana since 1718. While working in the oil industry for 20 years in the Gulf Coast, John was one of the first in the oil field to work professionally as both a geologist and geophysicist - leading to a major research role in applied science in oil exploration. He is an accomplished Gulf Coast geologist who first identified active geologic faults in Lake Pontchartrain and their seismicity.

Due to the coastal crisis in Louisiana and his passion for the wetlands, he decided in 1998 to work full time professionally in coastal science. He worked for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Project Management for the Coastal Restoration Branch includ-

ing assignments with the Coastal Wetlands, Planning Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) and the Louisiana Coastal Area Ecosystem Restoration Study (LCA). John is President of Delta Science, LLC., a coastal consulting firm, and is currently Director of the Coastal Sustainability Program for the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation.

He has chaired teams of scientists and engineers to develop a comprehensive environmental restoration plan for the Lake Pontchartrain Basin in Southeast Louisiana and a comprehensive plan of coastal restoration and flood protection recommendations for all of coastal Louisiana. As an outgrowth of this work, he developed the Multiple Lines of Defense Strategy to integrate flood protection and coastal restoration - prior to Hurricane Katrina. It was presented in August 2005 at the Coastal Zone 05 Conference in New Orleans, where John was awarded Orville T. Magoon Award for Service (NOAA) for his coastal work. The Multiple Lines of Defense Strategy has been adopted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Report (LACPR) and in Louisiana's State Master Plan which was unanimously approved by the legislature in 2007. He is currently organizing a new expert team to use systems engineering principles to evaluate the Corps' projects for 100 year level of hurricane protection around the New Orleans region.

John and his wife Sharon lost their home in Hurricane Katrina but have recently rebuilt and returned to their home site on the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain where they can once again enjoy boating and the outdoors with their four stray dogs.



OIL & GAS FIELDS OF SOUTH LOUISIANA 2010 AVAILABLE AT JANUARY MEETING!

by Carlo Christina

The New Orleans Geological Society announced last week that their long-awaited field studies volume, "Oil and Gas Fields of South Louisiana 2010" was complete and 600 copies are available for sale at \$75 per CD. CDs will be sold at the January SIPES meeting.

While NOGS is prepared to handle credit cards, personal or company checks are the preferred form of payment.



Charley Corona gives SIPES members a preview of the new volume



Eric Broadbridge examines the preview

*December Luncheon
John Petrocco, Ed Picou and Frank Rogers*

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*December Luncheon:
Phil Haerer performs
slight of hand geophys-
ical tricks for skeptical
Scott Wainwright and
Art Cerniglia.*

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December Luncheon

Clockwise from upper left

Will Conatser and Merle Duplantis;
Jim Evans, Carlo Christina, and Jeff Martin; Brenda
Reilly, Mike Fein, Jack Gross and Kevin McVey

More photos in this issue

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