



## **Chris McLindon**

**Coastal Restoration in light of the geology of New Orleans and surrounding area.**



**Tuesday, May 20th**  
**Andrea's - Metairie**

**Social - 6:30 PM**  
**Seating - 7:15 PM**

**Reservations and guests: Carol St. Germain - 504-267-3466**

### **Chairman's Column**

At last month's meeting, speaker Kirk Barrell delivered a real seminar on the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale play to 37 members and guests.

Coincidentally, Kirk's talk came right about the time that Helis Oil announced plans to drill a TMS well in southern St. Tammany Parish, about four miles northeast of Mandeville. Helis' plan seems to have unleashed a fire storm of negative reaction, much of it from the media and the usual anti-industry sources. The people who could not spell fracking before the proposed well, have suddenly become experts in the process. At least one TV station showed a scene of a faucet spewing flames along with the water!

This month we will gather for the annual May dinner meeting on June 20th for members, spouses and guests.

Our speaker will be Chris McClindon with Stone Energy who will discuss "Natural Subsidence in South Louisiana". Chris will give this talk at the upcoming convention on Tuesday, June 10.

Next month, from June 9 – June 12, the national SIPES Convention will be held here in New Orleans, at the Omni Royal Orleans Hotel. Everyone is urged to register and participate in what promises to be an outstanding event.

As we approach the end of our meeting year, I would like to thank the officers and committee chairmen for their work during the year, along with Carol St. Germain, our administrative secretary.

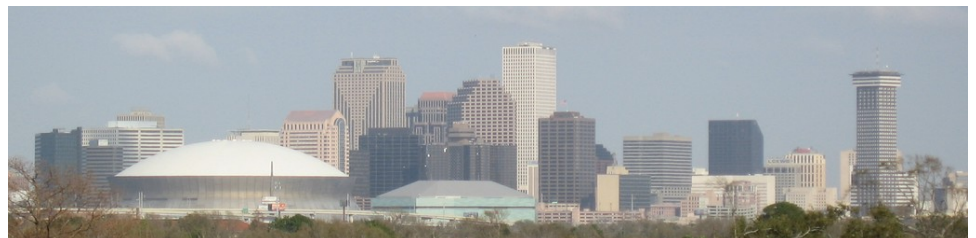
A special thanks to Charlie Corona, who took over the long vacant Vice Chairman's spot and did an outstanding job arranging speakers for our meetings. Charlie agreed to fill this office for one year, so we need someone else to take over for next session.

Also, thanks to Ken Huffman and his committee for their efforts in planning the upcoming convention.

After a three month break, we will resume our meeting schedule on September 16.

REGISTER AND SUPPORT  
THE CONVENTION!!

*Louis E. Lemarié*



### **Coastal Restoration in light of the geology of New Orleans and surrounding area.**

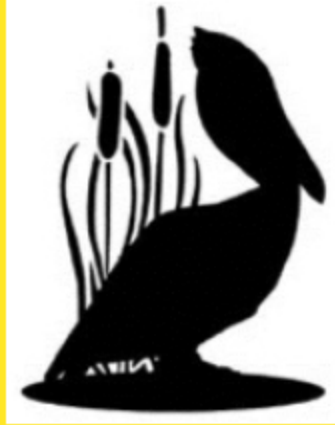
New Orleans is truly a unique American city. It may be argued that the city owes much of that uniqueness to its geologic setting. In a span of time less than 5,000 years, roughly the span of recorded human history, the site of the city of New Orleans has evolved from a chain of barrier islands, to a delta system with a network of distributary channels, to the river channel that built up the natural levees that support much of the city today. During this same time period the rest of the Louisiana coastal plain was undergoing similar transformations of its landscape. It is essential to an understanding of the current state of the wetlands of south Louisiana to also understand their geologic history. Over the past few decades there has been much public discourse about the conditions of the wetlands and the outlook for their future. The picture is generally painted of a coastline in ecological crisis, and of a city facing imminent doom. An examination of the geologic history of the area, and a review of the current state of the wetlands in that historical context, paints quite a different picture, and one that is worth considering.

The fundamental concepts underlying coastal restoration were formulated in the 1960's and 1970's as it became obvious that the total surface area of the wetlands of south Louisiana was decreasing at a measurable rate. The situation has been generally characterized as one in which the wetlands are being deteriorated by coastal erosion and the rate of land loss is unprecedented in human history. The causes of coastal erosion have been universally attributed to the activities of humans. Oil and gas drilling and pipeline canals have allowed saltwater intrusion to accelerate erosion, and the levee system along the Mississippi River has prevented a natural cycle of flooding that would replenish the marsh with freshwater and sediment. The solution to this crisis, and the foundation of coastal restoration, is that humans must intercede to reverse the rate of wetlands loss. These concepts have become the axiomatic truths of the coastal restoration movement, and they are rarely questioned. An examination of the science behind the formation of the coastal wetlands brings into question all of these fundamental concepts, along with the viability of human intercession.

#### **Newsletter Ad Rates**

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