



LSU'S JEFF NUNN TALKS ABOUT THE ASCENSION PARISH SINKHOLE



Chairman's Column

Last month approximately 20 of our members attended the joint API luncheon downtown at the Roosevelt Hotel. Tommy Beaudreau, Director of BOEM and Don Briggs, President of the LA Oil and Gas Association, jointly addressed the group. Without going into details, Briggs' talk was far and away the most interesting and informative. A bizarre twist to the end of the meeting was when a group of anti oil and gas protestors entered the rear of the meeting room and began to chant their usual "clap trap". Hopefully they all got back to their bikes and pedaled safely back to wherever they came from!

This month is our annual "no speaker" meeting, back at Andrea's on Tuesday, December 18. Bring your jokes, gripes, suggestions, etc.

The meeting dates for next year are: January 15, February 19, March 19, April 16 and May 21 (evening) We will adjust dates if there is a conflict with any other significant events. All of the meetings will be at Andrea's. We have submitted a membership application for L. W. "Dick" Paxton for approval.

Reese recently sent out e-mail notices to members with unpaid dues; while the response has been good a few are still outstanding. Check to make sure you are not delinquent!

Since this is our last newsletter for this year, I want to take this opportunity, on behalf of your officers and committee chairmen, to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Louis E. Lemarié
Chairman

At the end of May 2012, methane bubbles were first observed in Bayou Corne in northeast Assumption Parish, LA. Geochemical analysis revealed that the methane was thermogenic rather than biogenic. Additional sites of methane bubbling in Bayou Corne and nearby Grand Bayou have developed over time. Bayou Corne and Grand Bayou flow above the Napoleonville salt dome which has been an active area for oil and gas exploration since the 1920s. In addition, the dome is a site of dissolution salt mining which has produced numerous large caverns with diameters of up to 300 ft and heights of 2000 ft. Some old caverns are used for storage of millions of barrels of LNG and Butane. In addition, there are gas pipelines in the region. In mid-July, some local residents felt tremors. Microseismic activity was confirmed by the USGS at the Earthscope seismic station in White Castle, LA. The USGS set up seismic stations in the area which recorded more than 60 microseismic events in late July and the first couple of days of August, 2012. These microseismic events were located on the western side of the dome. Estimated focal depths place the events just above the top of salt. In the first week of August, 2012, a sinkhole approximately 400 ft in diameter and more than 400 ft deep at its center developed overnight just to the northwest of a plugged and abandoned brine filled cavern. The sinkhole continues to grow in size due to slumping and has consumed a pipeline right of way. Microseismic activity stopped for several weeks following the formation of the sinkhole. A relief well drilled into the abandoned cavern found that the bottom 2/3 of the cavern is now filled with sediment. A 2007 seismic survey suggests that the bottom of the abandon cavern breached the edge of the salt dome allowing direct contact with permeable formations. Recently, microseismic events have reoccurred but less frequently than before formation of the sinkhole. Geophysical logging of shallow wells has found gas in the Mississippi River Alluvial Aquifer on the western side of the Napoleonville dome.

Tuesday, January 15th
Andrea's - Metairie

Registration & Networking - 11:30 AM Program - Noon
Reservations and guests: Carol St. Germain - 504-267-3466

JEFF NUNN - BIO



Jeffrey A. Nunn is the Ernest and Alice Neal Professor of Geology and Pereboom Professor of Science at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. He received his Ph.D. from Northwestern University working on the Thermal-Mechanical Evolution of the Michigan Basin under the supervision of Norman H. Sleep and Lawrence L. Sloss. He has been a faculty member at Louisiana State University since 1981. His research interests include: geodynamics of sedimentary basins, thermal and pore pressure history of sediments in the Gulf of Mexico and Alaska, and subsurface fluid flow with associated heat and solute transport especially along faults/fracture networks and salt structures.

ANOTHER SALT-RELATED SINKHOLE: Daisetta, Texas



Initial Daidsetta sinkhole

Daisetta, Texas sits on a salt dome. In 1969, 1981, and again in 2008, sinkholes formed

Newsletter Ad Rates

Sessions September - December (4 issues) and January - May (5 issues)

Business Card \$25 per session
1/4-page \$100 per session
1/2-page \$200 per session
Full page \$400 per session
Non-member Business Card \$50 per session

Send ad copy to Tom Klekamp, Editor
klekamp@bellsouth.net

Send payment to SIPES New Orleans Chapter
PO Box 50088
New Orleans LA 70150-0088

in the area. The 1981 sinkhole, which grew out of the smaller 1969 sinkhole, is thought to have formed from a collapse in the salt dome and is now a lake. The cause of the 2008 sinkhole is not yet known, but a collapse in the salt dome that Daisetta sits on is thought to be the cause and suspected to be caused by a company drilling oil out of the area. The 1981 sinkhole grew to 250 feet (75 m) wide and 30 feet (9 m) deep. By the evening of the day after the 2008 sinkhole formed, its growth had stabilized, but officials still saw it as a potential risk to the safety of city residents. With its length of 600×525 feet (180×160 m) and maximum depth of 150 feet (45 m), it was nicknamed the "Sinkhole de Mayo" by local residents (a pun on "Cinco de Mayo").



Daisetta sinkhole today

GAO: Oil, gas, NGLs provide bulk of federal mineral revenue

Crude oil, natural gas, and natural gas liquids provided the vast majority of federal mineral leasing revenue in fiscal 2011 and 2012, the Government Accountability Office reported.

Oil, gas, and NGLs produced \$10.1 billion—largely from royalties—of the \$11.3 billion received from federal mineral leases in 2010 and \$11.4 billion received in 2011, it said in a report that it publicly released on Dec. 12.

GAO said its analysts used data compiled by the US Department of the Interior's Office of Natural Resources Revenue. It showed that the government collected \$5.4 billion of royalties from 739 million bbl of crude produced from federal onshore, offshore, and Indian tribal leases in the 12 months ended Sept. 30, 2010, and \$6.6 billion from 645.6 million bbl of production in the same period a year later.

Federal gas royalties totaled \$2.8 billion on more than 5.4 bcf of production in 2010 and \$2.4 billion on nearly 4.9 bcf produced in 2011, according GAO. It said royalties from NGL production from federal leases totaled \$400 million on 4.8 billion gal in 2010 and \$600 million on 4.7 billion gal in 2011.



**LAFAYETTE
GEOLOGICAL
RESEARCH
CENTER, LLC**

201 Heymann Blvd., Suite 33 • Lafayette, LA 70503
Tel: 337-233-8197 • Fax: 337-233-8177

COVERAGE:

Louisiana / Federal / State Offshore

- *Multi State Geo Tech Services* • *Completion Data*
Production Data • *Well Logs* • *Maps*

~ MEMBERSHIPS AVAILABLE ~

The Industry's Premier • Well Data Center

orders@lafayettegrc.com

CALL OR EMAIL TODAY FOR MORE INFORMATION!

LaBay Exploration, L.L.C.

**111 Veterans Blvd. Suite 1550
Metairie, Louisiana 70005**

Office: 504-371-5967

Fax: 504-371-5969

www.labayexploration.com

Many sinkholes can be human-induced

New sinkholes have been correlated to land-use practices, especially from ground-water pumping and from construction and development practices. Sinkholes can also form when natural water-drainage patterns are changed and new water-diversion systems are developed. Some sinkholes form when the land surface is changed, such as when industrial and runoff-storage ponds are created. The substantial weight of the new material can trigger an underground collapse of supporting material, thus causing a sinkhole.



Shallow drilling rig collapsing in to sinkhole

The overburden sediments that cover buried cavities in the aquifer systems are delicately balanced by ground-water fluid pressure. The water below ground is actually helping to keep the surface soil in place. Ground-water pumping for urban water supply and for irrigation can produce new sinkholes in sinkhole-prone areas. If pumping results in a lowering of ground-water levels, then underground structural failure, and thus, sinkholes, can occur.

Roy Walther Petroleum Geologist

2421 Prancer Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70131

504-392-8513 phone/fax
504-392-9332

Richard Provensal

Apex Geophysical Services, Inc.

**3337 N. Hullen St., Ste. 201
Metairie, LA 70002**

504-779-5006

richard@apexgeophysical.com

ART JOHNSON

HYDRATE ENERGY
INTERNATIONAL, LLC

612 PETIT BERDOT DRIVE
KENNER, LOUISIANA 70065
504-220-6208

WILLIS CONATSER GEOLOGIST

SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA
ONSHORE PROSPECTS

WECONATSER@AOL.COM

HARBRIDGE PETROLEUM CORPORATION

JOHN P. HARLAN

P.O. BOX 7865
METAIRIE, LA 70010-7865
(504) 831-4693

(3200 Ridgelake Drive - Ste 207
Metairie, LA 70002)

ALPINE EXPLORATION COMPANIES. INC.

Al Porretto and
Merle Duplantis, Vice-President, Geology
5910 N Central Xway, Ste 270
Dallas, Texas 75206
www.alpineexci.com
ap@alpinexci.com md@alpinexci.com
Dallas #s
214-692-0070 Fax: 214-692-0071
Merle's Mobile: 504-236-4650
Al's Mobile 504-452-4020

SEEK PRODUCTION

Petroleum Engineering and
Geologic Consultants.

Over 30 years of large & small company experience

Brian Evans **William Geen, Jr.**
Sr. Petroleum Engineer Geology & Geophysics
Houston and Greater New Orleans Areas

Louisiana 601-799-5925
Texas 281-710-7034

email: williamgeen@bellsouth.net
website: seekproductionllc.com

SEISOX, LLC

Seismic Opportunity Exploration

Seismic Interpretation
2D/3D

Map - Generate - Evaluate
Geoquest - SMT - Landmark

Philip Haerer
Consulting Geophysicist

504-885-9238
cell 504-250-0451
phaerer@bellsouth.net

CHAPTER CONTACTS

Chairman
Louis Lemarié 504-393-8659,
lemarie6@cox.net,

Vice-Chairman - TBA

Treasurer, Reese Pinney
504-566-9802 X-121
rbpinney@bellsouth.net

Secretary,
Historical & Remembrances
Art Johnson 504-220-6208
artjohnson51@hotmail.com

Membership, Tony Carollo
504-885-0004
tcarollo@bellsouth.net

Website, Dave Broadbridge
david@kimsuoil.com

Editor, Tom Klekamp
985-630-2480
klekamp@bellsouth.net

Administrative Secretary
and Reservations
Carol St. Germain 504-267-3466
CarolA.StGermain@gmail.com

National SIPES Board
Chapter Representative
Jim Evans III
337-828-1955
jpe3@cox.net

BEACON EXPLORATION

Al Baker, Jr., Senior Explorationist
Abaker1006@aol.com

Hank E. Ecroyd, Senior Explorationist
hecroyd@aol.com

3636 N. Causeway Blvd., Suite 210
Metairie, LA 70002

Office: 504-836-2710
Fax: 504-836-2709

Mark Your Calendars!
**2013 New Orleans Chapter
Luncheon Meetings**
January 15 - Jeff Nunn
February 19 - Carlo Christina
March 19 - tba
April 16 - tba
May 21 - evening dinner
June 17-20 - Santa Fe SIPES

BRUNET FINANCIAL GROUP

RANDY BRUNET, CPA, PFS
*Securities offered through
HD Vest Investment Services, Mbr SIPC
Advisory services offered through
HD Vest Advisory Services*

446 Rosa Avenue
Metairie, Louisiana 70005
504-838-0227 Fax 504-833-5217
eltonfan@bfg.nocoxmail.com

Brunet Financial Group is a not a registered broker/dealer
nor independent investment advisory firm

GEO-DRAFT, INC.

A Professional Drafting and Graphics Firm
Geological, Geophysical & Land Drafting
Courtroom & Legal Graphics

Anthony Catalanotto, President

3349 Ridgelake Drive, Suite 202
Metairie, Louisiana 70002

Office 504-836-2882 Cellular 504-481-7291
Fax 504-836-2877 Home 504-464-5737

www.geodraftinc.com
geodraft@bellsouth.

Louis Gilbert and Associates, Inc.

Consulting Geologists

LOUIS F. GILBERT

3636 N. Causeway Blvd. Suite 204
Metairie, LA 70002-7216
(504) 834-8112
FAX (504) 834-1736
louis@louisgilbert.com

BOB DOUGLASS EXPLORATION CO.

M.R. (Bob) Douglass
Consulting Petroleum Geologist

P.O. Box 1059
Destrehan, LA 70047

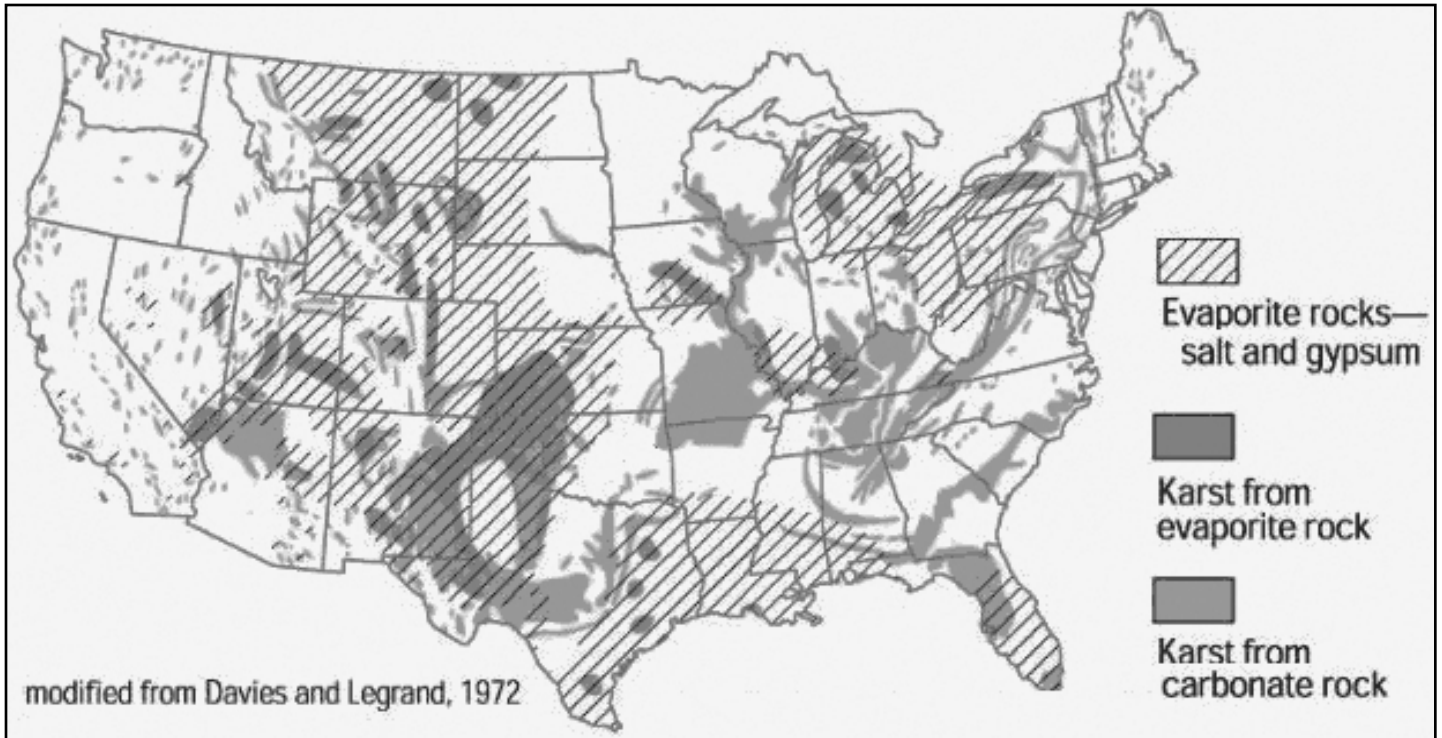
bobdouglass@cox.net
985-764-7463
Cell 225-247-0600
Fax 985-764-0955

Visit our SIPES New Orleans Chapter Website

<http://www.sipesneworleans.org/>

**Past Newsletters Calendar Photos Links
Consultants and Advertisers**

**David Broadbridge, Webmaster
david@kimsuoil.com**



The map below shows areas of the United States where certain rock types that are susceptible to dissolution in water occur. In these areas the formation of underground cavities can form and catastrophic sinkholes can happen. These rock types are evaporites (salt, gypsum, and anhydrite) and carbonates (limestone and dolomite). Evaporite rocks underlie about 35 to 40 percent of the United States, though in many areas they are buried at great depths.

SOCIETY OF INDEPENDENT PROFESSIONAL EARTH SCIENTISTS
 NEW ORLEANS CHAPTER - NEWSLETTER
 P.O. BOX 50088
 NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70150-0088

FIRST CLASS MAIL