



FALL GENERAL MEETING

THE OLD JAMESTOWN ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

FALL GENERAL MEETING

7:30 P.M., Thursday, Nov. 7, 2019

Black Jack Fire Protection District, 5675 North Highway 67

Welcome & Announcements—President Ellen Lutzow

Neighborhood Policing Officer L. Kidson—Area Updates

NoCo 2020 Census Complete Count

THE KARST IN OLD JAMESTOWN

Presented by Allen G. Minks and Dale Smith

The OJA is pleased to welcome two noted experts on the karst topography found in our area—**Allen G. Minks and Dale Smith.**

Both of our speakers have a long association with the karst topography found in the Old Jamestown area.

Mr. **Dale Smith** is the son of our past OJA

President, Mr. Ken Smith. He grew up in this area. He will talk about how this experience influenced his career.

Mr. **Allen G. Minks** attended St. Louis Community College early in his career and came to know Ken Smith. He credits Ken for his guidance in choosing a career in

this field of study. Mr. Allen Minks has done professional work in the OJA area.



OJA UPCOMING HISTORY EVENTS

We are concluding a history speaker series hosted by the Jamestown Bluff Branch of the St. Louis County Library, 4153 North Hwy. 67.

On Wednesday, Oct. 30, 2019, 6:30 p.m. Cindy Winkler will speak on the

Slavery and Civil War connections in Old Jamestown

Also, on Saturday, Oct. 26, 2019, from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. the Old Jamestown Association History Committee will again participate in the St. Louis County Library “Local History Expo” at

the SLCL Main Branch, 1640 South Lindbergh Blvd. The OJA is scheduled to give a brief talk at 11:50 a.m. that day.

Learn more about Old Jamestown history at these events.



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TELL YOUR NEIGHBORS ABOUT OUR OLD JAMESTOWN ASSOCIATION.

INVITE A NEIGHBOR TO JOIN YOU FOR OUR PUBLIC EVENTS.

Our Featured Presentation — The Karst in Old Jamestown

Our Old Jamestown area is home to sinkholes and karst topography. Do you know that the Florissant Karst is an environmentally unique area in north St. Louis County? The Karst in Old Jamestown is protected by specific legislation in St. Louis County to preserve the natural drainage system of the sinkholes for future generations. The Karst Preservation Zoning District is found entirely within the boundaries of the Old Jamestown area.

We are going to hear from two noted experts - Allen G. Minks and Dale Smith about their association with our karst area and its unique features. Some points to be covered:

- ◆ What are the factors that lead to sinkholes and karst topography and

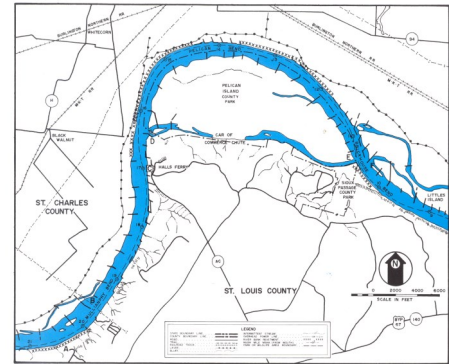
– why here?

- ◆ Typical karst landforms in OJA
- ◆ Geologic setting
- ◆ Groundwater
- ◆ Proximity to the Missouri River

If you own land in the area where the sinkholes are a part of the landscape, what do you need to know about the land? What are some concerns?

Where can you learn more about the Karst or Karst Preservation?

Questions and Discussion with our speakers is planned.



A Note from the OJA President

We are celebrating our past – 200 years! – and looking to our future!

There are plans now in place to move forward on Jamestown Mall. We have heard from our St. Louis County representatives that plans are taking shape. Although we do not have a specific timeline, we are encouraged that there is movement to address the problem of this blight on our landscape.

The OJA recognized The Pallottine Re-

newal Center as our Citizen of the Year as they celebrated their 50th Anniversary in Old Jamestown.

We are encouraged by the activity of our new neighbor, the St. Louis Zoo - North Campus. We know the timeline for the new facility is still in the works. The St. Louis Zoo is very actively engaged with our Old Jamestown community in discus-

sions of future educational programs.

We look for a future that can be as boastful as Phineas James when his advertisement of land for sale in James' Town first appeared on June 16, 1819 in the Missouri Gazette, the St. Louis area's first newspaper. Happy 200th Birthday, Old Jamestown! ... Ellen Lutzow

“We are celebrating our past – 200 years! – and looking to our future!”

Winter Farmer's Market

As the weather begins to turn, backyard vegetable patches close down for the winter. Not so the Farmers' Market in Ferguson!! Some of us have been enjoying the farm fresh fruits and vegetable shelves, the cooked food tables, the craft tables, guest musicians and the special events, such as the

recent Eco Fair, visiting alpacas, even a Bi-State bus paint-by-the-numbers!!! The outdoor weekly market continues through October, but starting in November through April, it moves inside St Stephen's Episcopal Church, 33 N. Clay! Every third Saturday of each month, from 9 AM to Noon, you can still find

farm fresh produce!!



Our Guest Speakers

ALLEN G. MINKS, P.E.

Allen Minks is a graduate of Missouri S&T, with BS (1981) and MS (1983) degrees, and spent one semester towards a PhD before leaving school to begin his geotechnical career. Prior to transferring to Missouri S&T, he spent 3½ years attending St. Louis Community College at Florissant Valley, earning two Associate Degrees, the first one in Civil Engineering Technology under the guidance of Mr. Ken Smith. Mr. Smith was instrumental in Allen's career choice and the success he has experienced in his career.

Mr. Minks previously served as Geotechnical Department Manager in Terracon's St. Louis, Missouri office before transitioning into a Senior Consultant position. He has over 35 years of experience in a wide variety of geotechnical studies.

During high school, he worked on his uncle's 1,000 acre farm near Waterloo, Illinois. His uncle also farmed another 1,000 acres. After the wheat was harvested and the fall crops were planted, Allen would spend the remainder of the summer running a bulldozer making ponds and lakes, and clearing wooded areas to allow for additional farm fields. It was during this time that he gained an interest in construction, and it was Mr. Smith who convinced him to go into Civil Engineering, so he could have a construction-related career.

The section of Waterloo where he worked has numerous sinkholes. The farm fields extended to the limits of the sinkholes. During his time on the farm, some of the sinkholes were filled to allow for additional farming, and some were made into ponds that didn't always hold water. In 1977, four spelunkers were trapped for three days in one of the sinkhole related caves on his uncle's property. There was snow on the ground, and as the snow melted and drained into the sinkholes, the water level in the cave rose, trapping them. Allen's uncle was on national news during the rescue operations. Thankfully, all of the spelunkers were safely rescued.

Mr. Minks has worked on two projects in the Old Jamestown area. The first was for a new home where borings were drilled to check for a potential sinkhole before the house was built. The second was for a solar array that was constructed and had to meet St. Louis County requirements. He

also worked on a project in Spanish Lake where there were 12 sinkholes on a 10-acre site that was developed with seven new houses.

He is a member of the Missouri S&T Academy of Civil Engineers and currently serves on the Planning & Zoning Commission in Florissant, Missouri, a position he has had for the past six years.

He has coached over 30 soccer, baseball, and hockey teams, and played hockey until he was 57 years old. He still rides a dirt bike and hunts and fishes whenever he can. He has been married for 37 years, and has three grown sons and seven grandchildren.

Dale M. Smith, P.E., F.ASCE

Dale is the Geotechnical Manager of the South Region of Geotechnology Inc., currently based in Memphis, Tennessee. Dale manages staff, geotechnical investigations, and design projects. He has extensive experience in geotechnical engineering investigation and foundation design related to construction of roads and highway/railroad bridges. In addition, he has experience in foundation investigation and design for existing dams and levees, stormwater/sewage systems, buildings, and industrial oil/gas facilities. Dale's work project locations are in varied terrain and potential geologic hazards in California, Nevada, Arizona, Washington, Texas, Alaska, Illinois, Wisconsin, Missouri, Kansas, Kentucky, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Tennessee.

Dale grew up in the Old Jamestown area exploring sinkholes and caves, observing loess and limestone outcrops, and hiking along the Missouri River. A Grand Canyon geology field trip while a student at Florissant Valley Community College led Dale to consider geology and he then chose Geotechnical Engineering as a career. In a 1980 geomorphology class at Missouri University of Science and Technology (nee UMR), he listened to lectures on karst topography/features and formations. Those observations and memories now connected with the geologic formations of highly erodible loess,* sinkhole landforms, caves, and the water in the caves and springs along the Missouri River.

Dale has been active in ASCE throughout his career and is a past president of the St. Louis Section. He has been with Geotechnology since 1995 and transferred with his wife Jean

from St. Louis to Memphis in 2017. Their daughter is a social worker in St. Louis and their son is an engineering science graduate student.

* deposits of windblown sediment which occur in eastern China and the American Midwest.

First time 'James Town' in print – 200 years ago, June 16, 1819

.....JAMES' TOWN Is situated on a beautiful bluff, on the southern bank of the Missouri River, six miles above its confluence with the Mississippi. Being situated on a bluff, it has the advantage of a firm rock shore, along which there are a number of the safest harbors for boats that I presume any other town on these waters can boast of; also, several seats for mills that so large a water course can form. Near the public square, there is a cave through which passes a large body of cold, sweet lucid water which I think could, without much expense, be raised and conveyed to every part of the town. The earth after removing the virgin soil is admirably calculated for brick, and the rock along the river, which can be easily procured, is of the best quality, either for building or manufacturing into lime; sand for making brick and mortar can be procured without much trouble or expense. Behind this desirable situation lays the rich and flourishing country of Florissant or St. Ferdinand and in front (beyond that majestic river that sweep[s] along its base) is to be seen that fertile bottom that intercepts the communication of those two splendid rivers (Mississippi and Missouri) which not only offers to the fancy a rich harvest of charms, but also to the town an abundant harvest of advantages. The situation of this town is so lofty and noble as never to offend by noxious fumes of putrid sickly air; and the eye has always presented to it, a beautiful and grand variety....

CELEBRATING 200 YEARS IN OLD JAMESTOWN



The Old Jamestown Association researches and shares with residents, students, and others the area's history, unique geological features, events, landmarks, and population; and facilitates communications between residents and the St. Louis County government and neighboring communities

Interested in membership?

Membership is open to all who are interested in supporting the Old Jamestown Association's efforts.

Dues are currently \$15.00 per family (includes all adult household members) or \$10.00 per individual. To join the Old Jamestown Association...send your dues, address, phone number, and e-mail address to OJA at the address shown below:

www.oldjamestownassn.org
[www.facebook.com/Old
Jamestown Association](https://www.facebook.com/OldJamestownAssociation)

Old Jamestown Association
P.O. Box 2223
Florissant, MO 63032

Our Landscape

The Old Jamestown Area is bounded by natural waterways on the north and south. The Missouri River was the route of the Lewis and Clark expedition and Coldwater Creek was a clear, free flowing stream used by the early American Indians. The roads bounding the east and west begin in the City of St. Louis and extend from the Halls Ferry Circle to the Missouri River. They were used by early settlers to transport farm produce and merchandise to and from St. Louis.

The Missouri River can be seen at the northern end of New Halls Ferry Road and from the Lewis



Photo of Sioux Passage Park

Bridge which carries U.S. Route 67 across the Missouri between St. Louis County and St. Charles County.

In Sioux Passage Park, the river

can be seen up close from the boat ramp area. Glimpses of the Illinois bluffs across the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers are available at various locations in the area.