Spring 2020 Sponsorships
SMRI is happy to accept sponsorships and appreciates financial support of our conference activities and expenses. SMRI’s 2020 sponsorship information is available online or you may contact Dawn Langlinais for more information. No commercial advertising will be accepted, but SMRI will acknowledge contributions of all sponsors.

We thank these sponsors of the Spring Detroit 2020 SMRI Conference:

DIAMOND: LANE Power & Energy; Sonic Surveys; WSP USA
PLATINUM: Opportunity Available
GOLD: Geostock Sandia
SILVER: RESPEC, Cavern Solutions
BRONZE: SOCON Sonar Well Services, Ratigan Engineering & Consulting, LLC; Seal-Tite International; Lonquist & Co., LLC

Additional sponsorship opportunities available. Contact Dawn Langlinais for more information.

Schedule for Spring Conference
(Conference announcement will be distributed late January)

Friday 17 January  Author abstracts due
Tuesday 18 February  Registration for members starts
Monday 9 March  Author final papers due
Tuesday 17 March  Registration for non-members starts
Tuesday 7 April  Registration ends
Sunday 26 April  Technical Class, “Technical Aspects and Considerations for Cavern Abandonment,” (optional, class will be repeated in Fall 2020—Krakow)
Monday 27 April  Members only business meeting
Oral Research Report(s)
Technical Papers Session
Tuesday 28 April  Technical Papers Session
Wednesday 29 April  Technical Field Trips (3 choices, tentative, optional)

Registration
About 250-275 technical delegates are expected to attend the conference. This Call for Papers is tentative, and details are subject to change. The official conference announcement will be e-mailed to members and posted on the SMRI website around 21 January 2020.

Member online registration starts 18 February
Non-member registration starts 17 March
Registration ends (last day) 7 April

Hotel Information

Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center
400 Renaissance Dr W, Detroit, MI 48243

Each SMRI participant is responsible for making their own hotel reservations. SMRI room rate is $159.00 only until our room block is sold out (does not include tax).

Right on the Detroit River, and offering stunning views, direct access to the People Mover and on-site dining, the non-smoking Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center is a popular choice.

Please use the pass key link to make reservations: https://book.passkey.com/go/SMRISpring2020Conference
Call for Papers for Technical Sessions

Important Dates and Deadlines for Authors:

17 January 2020  Abstracts of papers due; email directly to Program Chair
27 January 2020  Speakers will be notified of acceptance; speaker/author guidelines
9 March 2020    Final copy of the paper due; email to Program Chair

Papers are solicited on all aspects of solution mining and the use of caverns. Suggested topics include:

DISCIPLINES:
- Geology
- Geophysics (pertaining to top- and edge-of-salt deposit imaging and verification)
- Geochemistry
- Health, safety, and environmental
- Rock mechanics and subsidence
- Drilling and well completion
- Solution mining (rock salt, potash, trona, and other salts)
- Cavern construction, monitoring, and operation
- Surface facility design, construction and operation

TECHNOLOGIES:
- Cavern testing and monitoring (Mechanical Integrity Test, sonar, etc.)
- Cavern sealing and abandonment
- Cavern utilization for energy storage

APPLICATIONS:
- Brine production of salt, potash, trona, or other water soluble minerals
- Liquid hydrocarbon storage
- Natural gas, hydrogen, and other gases storage
- Renewable energy storage (compressed air and hydrogen)
- Regulatory affairs and best practice standards

Speakers must email the proposed title with 200 to 500 word abstract to Andreas Reitze, 2020 Program Chair, by 17 January 2020. The abstract must clearly describe the paper subject and have a concise, descriptive title. Approximately 20 papers will be selected for presentation at the conference.

In appreciation, technical session speakers (one person per paper) will be SMRI’s guest for the Monday evening dinner/event. For further technical program or author information, or subject questions, please contact:

Program Chair 2020
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Research Presentation

Depending on research project estimated completion dates, it is likely there will be one or two oral research reports presented at this conference. More information will follow in the Conference Announcement.

Technical Field Trips

(Optional)

All field trips will be Wednesday 29 April 2020, each will be full-day plus. In the conference announcement, there will be additional information describing requirements and suggested safety gear to wear/bring, and limitations on participants. SMRI reserves final right to limit participants to those passing security checks and screening, if required. Passports will be required for all field trips.

Field Trip #1—Oil Museum of Canada, Oil Springs, Canada,

Explore living history of the first commercial oil well, the first oil gusher and operating oil wells with wooden casings. Museum features international history. Tour led by Charlie Fairbanks, 4th generation family still operating 100s of wells from 1800s. Trip also includes a stop by one of the salt cavern storage facilities in Sarnia petrochemical refinery area.

Field Trip #2—K+S Windsor Salt’s Ojibway Mine

The operation extracts rock salt by using the room and pillar method 975 ft. below the surface. Salt is mined from a 25 ft. thick unit of Salina formation from the Silurian age. The deposit is exceptionally pure, containing less than 2% impurities.

Field Trip #3—K+S Windsor Evaporation Plant

K+S operates the Windsor Evaporation Plant, a brine processing, packaging and distribution facility, in Windsor, Canada. The group will tour the production facility and well field followed by lunch and a visit to a car assembly factory.

Icebreaker

Sunday, 26 April — 6:30 pm–8:30 pm

To open the conference, SMRI invites all participants (including spouses and friends) to this informal reception. Attendance is free for delegates and their first guest ($50 for each additional guest), so come, relax, and enjoy an evening of light appetizers and the camaraderie of friends and colleagues to officially begin the conference.

Monday Night Dinner

Monday, 27 April — 6:30 pm–10:00 pm (Optional)

The Henry Ford Museum – Experience one of the largest collections of its kind ever assembled and learn about the breakthroughs big and small that have made our world what it is today. Fabulous displays of innovation created over many decades. Strolling cocktails and viewing from 7-8pm. Strolling dinner and viewing from 8-9:30pm

Spouses/Friends Program

Monday and Tuesday, 27 and 28 April (Optional)

Spouses and friends are always welcome at SMRI conferences. Friends will not be technical delegates. Plans include two spouses/friends’ local tours, tentatively:

Monday – Best of Downtown Walking Tour

See all the major landmarks, new developments and some of the great historical spots from an Insider’s perspective plus explore some of the great contributions of both prolific architects and emerging artists. Highlights include: Campus Martius Park, Spirit of Detroit, Guardian Building, Capitol Park/Woodward Avenue, Developments Theater and Stadium District, The Z-Garage and Belt, Greektown

Tuesday – Ultimate Detroit Art & Culture Experience

During this one-of-a-kind experience you’ll go behind the scenes of some of Detroit’s most innovative and creative businesses, get your toes tapping at the Motown Museum, make your very own one-of-kind hand printed postcard and get to experience Detroit’s current renaissance through wonderful food, unique shops and outdoor art galleries. Highlights include: Motown Museum, North Cass Retail District and lunch, Eastern Market, and the Heidelberg Project

Conference Executives

For SMRI Membership Issues:

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Future Conferences

Fall 2020

SMRI European Conference—Krakow, Poland
20-23 September

Spring 2021

SMRI Conference—Rapid City, South Dakota, USA
24-28 April

Fall 2021

SMRI European Conference—Chester, United Kingdom
26-29 September