



PBS-SEPM NEWSLETTER



April 2009

Special points of interest:

- All-Day Core Workshop (April 25th)
- Find that Core! **Help with the Permian Basin Core location project.**

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President's Column

I was feeling pretty good until I opened a fortune cookie after lunch. It read, "Enjoy your own company. If you don't, who will?" OUCH! [What are they trying to tell me?!]

Well, that might not have been a good fortune, but perhaps our collective fortunes are looking up. Crude oil has risen \$6 since last month, and is now hovering around \$50/bbl. Perhaps there is a light at the end of the tunnel (and, no, it's not from an on-coming train!).

Please don't forget about the full-day core workshop on Saturday, April 25th (8-5 PM; Midland Center). With ten different Permian Basin reservoir successions (2200+ of core!) and nine presenters from the Bureau of Economic Geology, the day promises to be packed with juicy information and eye-opening core. You know this is what you live for—so sign up today (page 4)!

With the unanimous approval of

the **Robert L. Read, Jr., Distinguished Lecture Series** and **Robert L. Read, Jr., Distinguished Lecturer Memorial Fund** (the resolution can be found on pages 8-9), each PBS-SEPM member needs to seriously consider his/her role in making this annual event everything it was meant to be. There are still two slots available on the Lecture Committee, and financial support for the lecture series is most welcome. My hope is that you will join me in making this unique annual event a special gift to the geologic community and general public.

I wanted to highlight a project that PBS-SEPM is carrying out under the leadership of David Orchard (ConocoPhillips), chairman of the Core Location Committee. David, Emily Stoudt (UTPB), and Andrew Parker (Whiting) have been working these past several months to identify and compile the location of all Permian Basin core. The ultimate goal is to

place all this information on the PBS-SEPM website in a searchable, online database, which will facilitate the leveraging of this unique and invaluable dataset.

For any of you that have ever been frustrated trying to locate core that your company has taken (much less core taken by another operator), you have wished that this kind of tool was available. And now it can be—if we can count on your help.

A description of the project, its goals, and its initial findings can be found on pages 6-7 of this newsletter. If you have information that can help us accomplish these goals, please don't hesitate to contact the Core Location Committee (page 7).

Have a blessed Easter, and I'll see you on April 21st at our next luncheon meeting!

Cory L. Hoffman, Ph.D., P.G.
President PBS-SEPM 2008-2009
<http://www.pbs-sepm.org>

Mark Your Calendars!

APRIL

- **10: Good Friday**
- **12: Easter**
- **21: PBS-SEPM Luncheon:** Peter Holterhoff, Ph.D., "Was the Permian Basin Controlled by Pulsed Deglaciation of Gondwana?" (Midland Center; 11:30-1:00 PM)

- **25: All-Day Permian Basin Core Workshop** led by the B.E.G. (Midland Center; 8-5 PM)
- **26-29: AAPG Southwest Section Meeting** (Midland Center)

MAY

- **15: PBS-SEPM election ballots due!**

- **19: PBS-SEPM Annual Meeting:** Katherine Giles, Ph.D., "Tracking the Migration of Salt Diapirs using Halokinetic Sequence Stratigraphy" (Midland Center; 11:30-1:00 PM)
- **27: Last day to register for Summer Intern / New-Hire Field Trip** (June 12-15)

PBS-SEPM Executive Board (2008-2009)

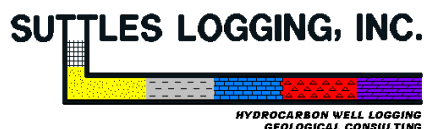
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Do you have an idea for an interesting luncheon talk? Have a core workshop you'd like to present? Have some suggestions on how PBS-SEPM can better serve the geologic community? Just click on the e-mail above and drop us a note—your PBS-SEPM Executive Board would love to hear from you!



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PBS-SEPM Luncheon Talk: April 21st

TITLE: Upper Wolfcampian-Leonardian Supersequence Architecture of the Eastern Shelf, Midland Basin: Was the Permian Basin Controlled by Pulsed Deglaciation of Gondwana?

SPEAKER: Peter Holterhoff, Ph.D. (Dept. of Geosciences, Texas Tech University)

ABSTRACT:

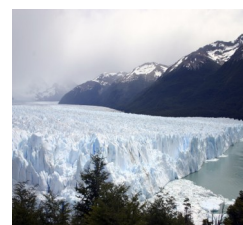
The Early Permian was a time of significant global climate change. The earliest Permian (Asselian and Sakmarian) was the acme of the Late Paleozoic icehouse, characterized by extensive glacial deposits across most of the Gondwanan sub-continent. Facies analysis and isotope data clearly indicate this icehouse interval gave way to an essentially ice-free Gondwana during the middle portion of the Early Permian (Artinskian). This non-glacial "subgreenhouse" climate regime was followed by a period of late Early Permian (Kungurian) glaciation in Australia and portions of Siberia that lingered into the Middle Permian, after which few glacial deposits are recognized.

It is reasonable to expect that large-scale build-up and collapse of Gondwanan ice centers would generate significant, long-term changes in sea level that should impact far field, tropical depositional systems. Indeed, these long-term changes in eustasy should have a direct impact on global accommodation trends. Theoretically, the waxing and waning of Gondwanan ice centers would then be the driver controlling regional supersequence architectures, including the Lower Permian succession of the Permian Basin.

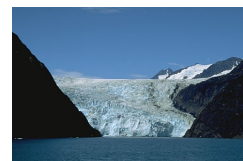
This talk will address the two major issues required to test the linkage of Gondwana glacial history and tropical supersequence architecture: 1) delineate the Early Permian (Wolfcampian – Leonardian) supersequences and composite sequence sets of the Permian Basin, 2) place this sequence framework within the global chronostratigraphic standard to assess the correlation of the transgressive, highstand, and lowstand sequence sets to the glacial record of Gondwana.

Three Permian supersequences are recognized in the Midland Basin. The upper Cisco Group is an extensive progradational package representing a complex highstand – lowstand sequence set spanning the Pennsylvanian – Permian boundary. The Cisco is overlain by the Albany Group, which is a transgressive sequence set displaying significant platform aggradation and coastal onlap. The overlying Clear Fork Group is a complex of platform top coastal plain and shelf margin progradation into the Midland Basin. The Albany and Clear Fork together compose the second Permian supersequence. The overlying San Angelo Formation represents a significant basinward shift in facies composing the platform top lowstand portion of the overlying third supersequence. The fluvial and coastal plain facies of the San Angelo grade upward into the aggradational inner platform dolomites and evaporites of the Blaine Formation.

Preliminary correlation of these units generally places the Albany – Clear Fork supersequence within the Artinskian window of ice-free conditions on Gondwana. The position of the San Angelo lowstand is consistent with the onset of Kungurian glaciation. However, significant uncertainty remains in the dating and correlation of both the glacial deposits of Gondwana and the supersequences of the Permian Basin.



"Theoretically, the waxing and waning of Gondwanan ice centers would then be the driver controlling regional supersequence architectures, including the Lower Permian succession of the Permian Basin."



BIOGRAPHY: Peter Holterhoff, Ph.D.

Pete Holterhoff is currently an assistant professor in the Department of Geosciences at Texas Tech University. His specialties are in sequence stratigraphy, carbonates, and Late Paleozoic geology. He is also expanding into mudrock geology, focusing on gamma ray spectrometry and geochemistry to characterize and interpret shales. Pete received his Ph.D. from the University of Cincinnati, his M.S. from the University of Nebraska, and his B.S. from Ohio University. After receiving his Ph.D., Pete was a Post-doctoral fellow at the University of Arizona for several years before leaving academia to join Exxon/ExxonMobil. While there he rotated through several exploration, development, and production assignments but spent most of his time at the Upstream Research Company working in the carbonate reservoir research group.

WHERE: Midland Center

TIME: 11:30-1:00 PM

2009 PBS-SEPM Core Workshop (April 25th)



2009 PBS-SEPM Core Workshop

Applications of Cores to Permian Basin Reservoir Characterization

Midland, TX (Midland Center) April 25, 2009 8-5 PM

REGISTRATION FORM

The Permian Basin Section of SEPM is planning a full day core workshop with 9 presenters and 10 reservoir successions (~2200' of core!). This event will be hosted in conjunction with the AAPG Southwest Section Meeting and held in the Midland Center. A tentative list of cores and presenters is:

- Lower Ordovician (Ellenburger) karst facies: *Bob Loucks*,
- Middle and Upper Paleozoic (Silurian, Permian) karst facies: *Bob Loucks*,
- Characterization of the Barnett Shale, Permian basin: *Walaa Ali*,
- Fracture characteristics of the Barnett Shale in the Permian basin: *Julia Gale*,
- Upper Clear Fork/Glorieta Platform Carbonate Systems: *Steve Ruppel*,
- Lower Clear Fork/Wichita/Abo Platform Carbonate Systems: *Steve Ruppel*,
- Wolfcamp platform carbonates: Facies and cyclicity: *Qilong Fu*,
- Proximal and Distal Bone Spring Facies and Architecture: *Seay Nance*,
- Spraberry Proximal slope/basin system: *Scott Hamlin*,
- Spraberry Distal basin system: *Scott Hamlin*,
- San Andres Facies and Cyclicity:
- Fullerton field: *Dana Helbert*,
- Yates Fm: proximal to distal trends in facies and mineralogy: *Seay Nance*.



The registration cost includes the full day core workshop led by the BEG Staff from Austin, lunch at the Petroleum Club, and snacks throughout the day.

Participation limited to 100 attendees. Don't miss this opportunity – sign up today!!

COST (please mark appropriately): \$175.00 () \$75.00 Full Time Student ()[†]

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[†] Limited number of need-based scholarships available through PBS-SEPM for full time students. Contact Paula Mitchell (683-1573) for details.

2009 PBS-SEPM New Hire/Summer Intern Field Trip

2009 PBS-SEPM New Hire and Summer Intern Field Trip (June 12th—15th) REGISTRATION FORM

The Permian Basin Section of SEPM is planning a four-day field trip to the Guadalupe Mountains for engineering, land, and geology professionals in June 2009. This is an exceptional opportunity for companies to expose their interns and new hires to world-class outcrops that are direct analogues to producing fields in the Permian Basin. The trip will be led by Dr. Robert Trentham and Dr. Emily Stoudt from The University of Texas of the Permian Basin, who have a combined 55 years experience in research, exploration, and production in the basin. Morning outcrop studies will cover shelf to basin deposits, and will be supplemented with afternoon exercises on sequence stratigraphy, log correlation, seismic interpretation, and production data analysis. The goal of this field trip is to educate participants in combining outcrop data with industry exploration and production techniques from a multi-disciplinary perspective.

Participants will leave Midland on June 12th and will be staying at the Stevens Inn in Carlsbad, NM. Included in the costs: round trip transportation from Midland, three nights lodging, three breakfasts, three lunches, refreshments in the field, guidebook and handouts.

Registration forms will also be available on the PBS-SEPM website (www.pbs-sepm.org) in February 2009. **Registration deadline is May 27th.**

Limited space is available, so the first to register will be given priority!

COST (please mark appropriately): \$700.00 double () \$800.00 single ()

Discipline (Mark One): Geologist () Land Professional () Engineer ()

Name: _____

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PBS-SEPM Core Location Project

Help Us Help You Find That Core!

In mature petroleum provinces such as the Permian Basin, one of the most valuable and underutilized tools for enhanced reservoir characterization and additional hydrocarbon recovery is core from the producing interval. Most of us have encountered the very common problem of finding out that cores were taken from wells important to our projects, but having no idea whether these cores still exist, where they are located if they do exist, and who to contact about viewing them if they are found.

To address this problem, PBS-SEPM has formed a committee to identify core storage facilities, find out what individual operators have done with their cores, and compile search and access information for the various facilities and operators. We have made a start (see PORTALS TO INFORMATION next page, but now we need to ask your help.

These are our goals:

- Compile a list of public and commercial core storage facilities, as well as existing portals into core inventories
- Request that the Society's members contribute their knowledge about where cores are located, particularly if they know what the various operators have done with their cores
- Research all locations and operators for contact information, method of searching for specific cores at each site (online database, etc.), and some estimate of how much Permian Basin material is at each site.
- Publish the information and post it on the Society's website
- Cooperate with other efforts related to geologic data preservation, including AAPG's Preservation of Geoscience Data committee and the National Geological and Geophysical Data Preservation Program of the USGS.

— David Orchard, chairman PBS-SEPM Core Location Committee



***“Most... have
no idea whether
these cores still
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located if they
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found.”***



PBS-SEPM Core Location Project (Cont.)

The following lists of portals and storage facilities represent our first results (click on links).

PORTALS TO INFORMATION

PTTC has a portal to the holdings of several public repositories. You can sort by repository and display their holdings in map view. <http://inside.mines.edu/Research/PTTC/Core%20Locator/>

AGI has a list of repositories of various geologic data, including cores. It provides contact information and accesses data through a map interface. <http://www.agiweb.org/ngdrs/overview/datadirectory.html>

Tony Troutman's website <http://www.carbonates.us/cores.htm> has a list of storage sites, including several state repositories.

PUBLIC AND COMMERCIAL STORAGE FACILITIES

The **USGS** has a storage facility in Denver that has Permian Basin material. Their collection can be searched online at <http://geology.cr.usgs.gov/crc/>. 303-202-4851.

The **Bureau of Economic Geology (BEG)** holds Permian Basin cores in their Midland, Houston, and Austin facilities. See <http://www.beg.utexas.edu/facilities.php> for information and contacts. Their catalog is called **IGOR** which has a link on above address. IGOR will be replaced soon by a more advanced database.

New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources has Permian Basin cores in Socorro. Request a list of the collection at <http://geoinfo.nmt.edu/libraries/subsurface/home.html>

CEED (Center for Energy and Economic Diversification) at **UT Permian Basin** (<http://ceed.utpb.edu/>) has Texas and New Mexico cores. 432-552-2020.

The **International Sample Library at Midland** has cores and core chips. Their collection is not in a database and must be searched through index cards. 707 Connell St, Midland, TX , 79701. 432-682-2682.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Now we need your help. What do you do when you need to find a core? Do you know of any repositories that aren't in the above list? Do you know what your employer or other operators have done with their core?

Please contribute any such information to this effort by contacting the committee: David M. Orchard, Chair, david.m.orchard@conocophillips.com, 832-486-2314; Dr. Emily Stoudt, stoudt_e@utpb.edu, 432-552-2244; and Andrew Parker, andrew.parker@whiting.com, 432-686-6784 office.

Permian Basin Section-SEPM
RESOLUTION

INTRODUCED BY: Cory L. Hoffman, President PBS-SEPM 2008-2009

SUBJECT: Establishment of **Robert L. Read, Jr., Distinguished Lecture Series** and **Robert L. Read, Jr., Distinguished Lecturer Memorial Fund**

WHEREAS, The Permian Basin Section-SEPM is charged in part with promoting the science of geology and disseminating scientific information to the geologic community and general public; and

WHEREAS, The Permian Basin Section-SEPM has no dedicated funds to offset the costs associated with bringing a distinguished lecturer to Midland for the purpose of educating the geologic community and general public on topics of interest; and

WHEREAS, The Permian Basin Section-SEPM is desirous of honoring and memorializing the life, spirit, and contributions of one of its dedicated young members, the late Robert L. Read, Jr., a promising geologist whose life was cut tragically short; and

WHEREAS, The Permian Basin Section-SEPM has discussed this resolution with and received approval from Robert Read, Sr., the representative of the Read family; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Executive Committee of the Permian Basin Section-SEPM shall appoint a Robert L. Read, Jr., Distinguished Lecture Series Committee (hereafter 'Lecture Committee') consisting of three members in good standing, for the purpose of:

1. SELECTING an appropriate distinguished lecturer candidate to come to Midland to speak at the annual Robert L. Read, Jr., Distinguished Lecture Series (hereafter 'Lecture Series') for that year.
2. RECOMMENDING that candidate to the Executive Committee for approval by majority vote.
3. BOOKING the distinguished lecturer candidate approved by the Executive Committee.
4. PROVIDING a proper venue for the distinguished lecturer and target audience.
5. DETERMINING the admission fee for members, their spouses, and non-member adult guests to attend the event, subject to Executive Committee approval by majority vote.
6. INVITING surviving members of the Robert Read, Sr., family as special guests of honor.
7. ADVERTISING the annual Lecture Series to the Permian Basin Section-SEPM membership and the general public.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Lecture Committee follow these guidelines when selecting a distinguished lecturer:

1. The distinguished lecturer is to be an entertaining and engaging speaker who can reach out to a broad audience (i.e., has a wide appeal).
2. While it is preferable that the distinguished lecturer speak on a topic related to the natural sciences, this is not required.
3. The distinguished lecturer is to speak on a topic appropriate for an adult audience.
4. The goal is to bring in a professional, high-quality, potentially nationally-recognized, informative and exciting speaker that is typically unattainable without paying speaking fees.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Robert L. Read, Jr., Distinguished Lecturer Memorial Fund (hereafter 'Memorial Fund') be established as a separate money market account or similar low risk, interest-bearing account to be used in the following manner:

1. The Memorial Fund will be used by the appointed Lecture Committee with oversight by the Executive Committee solely for the purpose of covering the following costs associated with this educational event: (1) travel expenses, hotel, speaking fees, and per diem of the distinguished lecturer, (2) room rentals for the event, (3) catering costs, (4) advertising costs, and (5) any other fees or expenses directly associated with this event that the Lecture Committee deems applicable.
2. The Memorial Fund alone will be used to cover all expenses associated with this event, thus protecting the Permian Basin Section-SEPM operating budget from bearing any costs associated with this event.
3. The Memorial Fund need not maintain any minimum balance save that required by the financial institution where it resides.
4. Should the Executive Committee and/or Lecture Committee deem that there are not sufficient funds in the account to properly honor the purpose and spirit of this annual event, the Executive Committee may vote to disband the Lecture Committee and temporarily postpone the Robert L. Read, Jr., Distinguished Lecture Series to the following year in order to accumulate appropriate funding in this account.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Lecture Committee follow these guidelines when planning and implementing the annual Lecture Series:

1. An invitation will be extended to the Robert Read, Sr., family at no cost to them.
2. All other attendees (with the exception of the distinguished lecturer) will be charged an admission fee as determined by the Lecture Committee and approved by the Executive Committee by majority vote.
 - a. It is suggested that the cost of admission be discounted for Permian Basin Section-SEPM members and their spouses.
3. All members of the Robert Read, Sr., family who wish to attend will be seated at a table of honor along with the distinguished lecturer and any other special guests as deemed appropriate by the Lecture Committee.
4. The Permian Basin Section-SEPM current President, current President Elect, or former President will open the event by explaining the purpose of the Lecture Series, providing a brief history of the Lecture Series, giving a short speech commemorating Robert L. Read, Jr., recognizing any members of the Robert Read, Sr., family in attendance, and introducing the distinguished lecturer.
5. It is suggested that this event be used as a fund-raiser for the Permian Basin Section-SEPM.
 - a. All, none, or a portion of the proceeds can be placed back into the Memorial Fund at the discretion of the Executive Committee with the remainder going directly towards the operating budget for the Permian Basin Section-SEPM.
6. A suggested timeframe for this event is in the Fall or Winter in order to avoid competing with other scheduled local events.
7. A suggested venue would be an evening dinner for members, their spouses, and other adult guests.
8. A special gift commemorating the event for the guest lecturer is suggested.
9. At the discretion of the Executive Committee, this event may also include the presentation of the Permian Basin Section-SEPM awards.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any revision of this resolution must be authorized and approved by the Executive Committee of the Permian Basin Section-SEPM and a representative of the Robert Read, Sr., family. In the event that a representative of the Robert Read, Sr., family cannot be reached despite a good faith effort to do so, the Executive Committee of the Permian Basin Section-SEPM will represent the interests of the Robert Read, Sr., family regarding any revision of this resolution.

WE, the Executive Committee of the Permian Basin Section-SEPM, do hereby certify that the resolution, a copy of which is above set out, was duly adopted and passed by this Executive Committee at a meeting held in Midland, Texas, on the 3rd day of February, 2009.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto signed our names, on this 17th day of February, 2009.

[SIGNED BY THE FOLLOWING:]

PRESIDENT (Cory L. Hoffman)
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT (Hollie Lamb)
SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT (Teri McGuigan)
SECRETARY (James Hawkins)
TREASURER (Debrah S. Gann)
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (Paula Mitchell)
REPRESENTATIVE OF ROBERT READ, SR., FAMILY (Robert L. Read, Sr.)

PBS-SEPM Digital Publication Project



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This includes all publications, even the special publications and coveted core workshops. Can you imagine the hidden treasures you might find? Here is your chance to uncover them in this special three (3) DVD set. *Buy one or all.*

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For additional information **contact:** PBS-SEPM office (432) 683-1573.



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We're on the Web!
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Society for Sedimentary Geology

PBS-SEPM is the Permian Basin Section of SEPM—the Society for Sedimentary Geology. However, you do not need to be a SEPM member or a geologist to join PBS-SEPM.

Our non-profit society relies upon the efforts of dedicated volunteers to serve the geological community—primarily through educational events. These events include monthly luncheon talks, core workshops, annual field trips, and special geological publications. Additionally, we are involved on the college campuses—reaching out to future earth scientists through scholarships, discounted memberships, and offering full-time geology students the ability to participate in professional-grade field trips at little to no cost.

If you would like to join PBS-SEPM, you may visit our website (www.pbs-sepm.org) to learn more about us, download a membership form, and learn how to get involved.

Individual Sponsors of PBS-SEPM (2008-2009)

Individual sponsors are advertised on the PBS-SEPM website and each Newsletter. Cost is \$85/year. If you are interested in an individual sponsorship opportunity, please call Paula Mitchell for more details at (432) 683-1573.



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