President’s Column

As I begin to write this column, I am delighted to see that crude oil is hovering around $44/bbl. That is slightly up from the $40/bbl average we saw last month. [Hey, I’ll take whatever encouragement I can get!]

Please don’t forget to sign-up for the full-day core workshop on Saturday, April 25th (8-5 PM; Midland Center). The workshop will cover ten different Permian Basin reservoir successions (2100+ of core!) led by nine presenters from the Bureau of Economic Geology. More details (and a registration form) can be found on page 4.

I am excited to announce that the resolution for the creation of the Robert L. Read, Jr., Distinguished Lecture Series and Robert L. Read, Jr., Distinguished Lecturer Memorial Fund has been approved by both the Executive Board and the Robert L. Read, Sr., family on February 17th. A copy of this document detailing this annual event is found on pages 6-7 for your review.

Robert L. Read, Jr., was a young geologist active in the UTPB Geology Club, PBS-SEPM, and WTGS before his untimely passing in 2005. In early 2008, an anonymous donor approached me about establishing a fund for a PBS-SEPM event that would honor Robert’s life and passion for learning, as well as help fulfill our society’s charge with disseminating scientific information and promoting science within the community. Excited about the idea, I then approached the Read family and received their input and approval to proceed. After a year of work, we finalized and signed the resolution that establishes an annual dinner lecture event in his name that will bring speakers of renown to Midland to educate the geologic community and general public— the Robert L. Read, Jr., Distinguished Lecture Series.

You can help make this annual event a reality in three important ways. First, I want to encourage each of you to consider designating a portion of your PBS-SEPM donations to the Robert L. Read, Jr., Distinguished Lecturer Memorial Fund, which will be used to underwrite this annual event. By design, this annual event is not funded by the PBS-SEPM operating budget and relies primarily upon the generous donations of private donors who share its vision. Second, I would ask that you consider volunteering for one of the three slots on the Lecture Committee, whose purpose is to select an appropriate speaker for this annual dinner event. And third, I ask that you honor Robert L. Read’s memory and support PBS-SEPM by attending these annual events.

I hope to see each of you at our luncheon meeting on March 17th!


Mark Your Calendars!

MARCH

- 17: St. Patrick’s Day
- 17: PBS-SEPM Luncheon: David Sivils, Ph.D., “A Shale’s Tale – Exploring for Shale Gas in Far West Texas and Why Biostratigraphy Still Matters” (Midland Center; 11:30-1:00 PM)

APRIL

- 21: PBS-SEPM Luncheon: Peter Holterhoff, Ph.D., TBA (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

- 19: PBS-SEPM Luncheon: Katherine Giles, Ph.D., “Tracking the Migration of Salt Diapirs using Halokinetic Sequence Stratigraphy” (Midland Center; 11:30-1:00 PM)
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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If you are interested in a sponsorship opportunity, please call Paula Mitchell for more details at (432) 683-1573.

PBS-SEPM is grateful for the generosity of these fine corporate sponsors!
A Shale’s Tale — Exploring for Shale Gas in Far West Texas and Why Biostratigraphy Still Matters

SPEAKER: David J. Sivils, Ph.D. (Senior Geologist, Denbury Resources, Plano, TX)

ABSTRACT
Over the past several years, one of the hottest exploration plays in the continental United States has been the Barnett and Woodford shales in the Delaware Basin. This play evolved from rank exploration to one that defined a large region rich with potential in unconventional resources. The initial efforts focused in the northern and northwestern parts of the Delaware Basin and resulted in a surge of leasing and drilling activity. As the play expanded throughout the basin and open acreage shrunk, efforts were made in locating additional areas with shale gas potential. Key elements included shale maturity, shallower drilling depths, and significant open acreage. This opened the door to the far southwestern region of the Permian Basin. Maps of shale thickness, thermal maturity, and structure indicated this area was prospective for shale exploration and resulted in the accumulation of 68,000 acres in eastern Brewster County. Detailed isopach mapping of the shale section across the prospect area combined with structural information from sparse well control and vintage 2D seismic lines were used for selecting an initial drilling location.

Drilling of the initial well confirmed that the key shale section was present. However, examination of the open-hole logs suggested that more than one interpretation of the shale section was possible. It was determined that the shale penetrated could be divided into two shale packages. One interpretation of the section represents a remnant of Barnett Shale and Miss Lime in correct stratigraphic position above the Woodford Shale. An alternative interpretation is the upper shale section is a Pennsylvanian aged black shale deposited unconformably on the Woodford Shale. Based on these two interpretations it became apparent that further data were needed for resolving the stratigraphic relationships and for making appropriate choices for successfully completing the well.

The operator elected biostratigraphy as the best tool for determining the ages of the shale sections. Drill cuttings across the shale intervals were sampled and sent out for biostratigraphic analysis. Once completed, the results of the biostratigraphic analysis favored neither interpretation. What these data did show is that both the upper and lower shale sections are Woodford Shale. The cherty section separating them is interpreted as a novaculitic member of the Woodford. Without the additional information provided through biostratigraphic analysis, the true nature of the stratigraphic relationships in this well would have remained inconclusive and possibly led to incorrect correlations and bad

BIOGRAPHY: David J. Sivils, Ph.D.

David Sivils holds a position as senior geologist with Denbury Resources LLC, located in Plano, Texas. He holds B.S. and M.S. degrees in geology from U. T. El Paso, and a Ph.D in geology from New Mexico Tech. His areas of expertise include carbonate and shale exploration and development. He has worked unconventional resource exploration and development in the Delaware and Fort Worth basins. Currently he is working enhanced oil recovery projects in Southwestern Mississippi for Denbury.

David is a member of AAPG, SEG, WTGS, PBS-SEPM, PBGS, and DGS.

WHEN: Tuesday, March 17, 2009
WHERE: Midland Center
TIME: 11:30-1:00 PM
The Permian Basin Section of SEPM is planning a full day core workshop with 9 presenters and 10 reservoir successes. 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: ________________________________________________________________

Company/Affiliation: ___________________________________________________

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Order forms/payment may be mailed to: PBS-SEPM, P.O. Box 1595, Midland, Texas 79702. Phone (432) 683-1573.
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.)
This is your opportunity to have the entire PBS-SEPM publication library (1955 – 2007) at your finger tips. There is a fully searchable Table of Contents—find a topic or author just by typing in the word(s). All publications are in Adobe PDF with all major articles being bookmarked, and all the figures are linked in the text for quick reference. Those areas that are off limits to geologists like the Glass Mountains or Sierra Diablos have been written up in these publications. Numerous out-of-print publications and figures and/or plates not published in the original guidebooks are now available in this library.

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