President’s Column

Happy New Year!! I suppose it would be a little happier for some of us if NYMEX Crude Oil wasn’t down another $7 from last month—currently hovering around $35/bbl. Do you remember when $35/bbl was considered a high oil price? Of course, that was prior to 2005. Alas, how quickly the memory of $147/bbl oil is fading…

As you know, George W. Bush recently announced a homecoming visit to Midland next Tuesday, and rather than risk having the Midland Center shut down by the Secret Service, we decided to cancel the January meeting. Our next regular meeting will be on February 17th with special guest speaker Dr. Merlynd Nestell from U.T. Arlington. David Sivils, our speaker for January, has graciously agreed to be rescheduled to our March 17th meeting.

The PBS-SEPM New Hire Field trip scheduled for March 5-8th is coming together smoothly (overview of the trip is found on page 6). Be sure to sign-up early for that excellent interdisciplinary training opportunity, as last summer we had to turn several away due to space limitations.

PBS-SEPM elections are just around the corner, and it’s time to start thinking about how YOU can serve PBS-SEPM for the betterment of our geologic community. If you are interested in running for a position on the Executive Board, please contact either myself or previous PBS-SEPM President, Dave Entzminger. Even if you aren’t considering serving on the Executive Board, I would ask that you consider serving on one of our many committees (see page 2 for listing). If you are interested in serving in that capacity next year, please contact anyone on the Executive Board and we would be happy to accommodate you.

As I introduced in last month’s Newsletter, the resolution for the creation of the Robert L. Read, Jr., Distinguished Lecturer Memorial Fund has been completed and is ready for Executive Board approval. Once it is adopted by the Executive Board, I will include a copy of the resolution in this Newsletter for our membership to peruse.

On April 25th, PBS-SEPM is sponsoring a day-long core workshop in association with the SW Section AAPG meeting here in Midland. Dr. Steve Ruppel, and his colleagues at the Bureau of Economic Geology have outdone themselves—they will showcase over 2100 feet of Permian Basin core in 12 different presentations on horizons ranging from the Ellenburger to the Yates. Make note of the date, and plan on attending!!

In closing, independent of falling or rising oil prices I do wish you and your family a truly Happy New Year!

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

Mark Your Calendars!

JANUARY
- 20: PBS-SEPM Luncheon CANCELLED (George W. Bush homecoming)

FEBRUARY
- 17: PBS-SEPM Luncheon: Merlynd Nestell, Ph.D., “Late Middle Permian Biostratigraphy of the NW

MARCH
- 5-8: PBS-SEPM New Hire Field Trip (Guad. Mtns.)
- 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
- 25: All-Day Core Workshop! (Dr. Steve Ruppel)
PBS-SEPM Executive Board (2008-2009)

President: Cory L. Hoffman  choffman@stmaryland.com
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First Vice President: Hollie Lamb  h.lamb@eaglerockenergy.com
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Executive Director: Paula Mitchell  wrgs@wtgs.org

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!

Corporate Sponsorships (2008-2009)

If you are interested in a sponsorship opportunity, please call Paula Mitchell for more details at (432) 683-1573.
PBS-SEPM Luncheon Talk: February 17th

TITLE: Late Middle Permian Biostratigraphy of the Northwestern Apache Mountains, West Texas

SPEAKER: Merlynd K. Nestell, Ph.D. (Professor, University of Texas at Arlington; Arlington, TX)

ABSTRACT: (pending)

BIOGRAPHY: Merlynd K. Nestell, Ph.D.

Ph.D., 1966, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon

For the past 30 years, Dr. Nestell has held a joint appointment in the Earth and Environmental Sciences and Mathematics departments at The University of Texas at Arlington. His mathematical interest centers on integral equations and their applications and his geological interest has focused primarily on the biostratigraphy of accreted terranes in the Pacific Northwest with emphasis on the distribution of conodonts and fusulinids. For the past 12 years, Dr. Nestell has been working with Dr. Galina Pronina Nestell on Middle and Late Permian foraminifer faunas from the Crimea, Greece, North Caucasus, and West Texas. As a team, they have been working on the integration of the biostratigraphic data concerning the distribution of foraminifers, conodonts, and radiolarians in strata of the Bell Canyon Formation (late Middle Permian) and its stratigraphic equivalents in the Guadalupe and Apache mountains. A monograph on the conodont biostratigraphy of the Lower Permian of Kansas with Darwin Boardman (Oklahoma State) and Bruce Wardlaw (USGS) (Sequence stratigraphy and conodont taxonomy and biostratigraphy of Late Carboniferous and Early Permian strata in Mid-Continent North America) is in press at the Kansas Geological Survey for publication as Bulletin 255. Many of his former graduate students have worked on stratigraphic problems relating to the Middle-Upper Pennsylvanian and Lower Permian strata in north-central Texas. Currently (2009), Dr. Nestell’s students are working on Permian rocks in the Apache Mountains in West Texas and Pennsylvanian (Missourian/Virgilian) rocks in North Central Texas.

WHEN: Tuesday, February 17, 2009
WHERE: Midland Center
TIME: 11:30-1:00 PM
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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Please send registration and payment information: PBS-SEPM, P.O. Box 1595, Midland, Texas 79702
For additional information contact: PBS-SEPM office (432) 683-1573.
PBS-SEPM ‘West Texas’ 2009 Calendar

PBS-SEPM ‘West Texas’ 2009 Calendar
PRE-ORDER FORM

This is our second year to offer this stunning 8.5x11” (folds out to 11x17”) calendar, and we have taken your suggestions and improved upon this popular item. Professionally printed with heavier paper and vibrant colors are but a few of the enhancements, and yet you can purchase these calendars for the same bargain price of $15 each! We are even offering a special volume discount of ‘buy 5 calendars, get 1 free!’ Why wait?

Featuring breathtaking West Texas scenery, icons of the oil patch, fossils, and minerals, this calendar is sure to be attractive hanging in your home or office. Keep them for yourself or give them away as gifts to your valued customers, partners, and employees! Available for pickup TODAY.

Not only does each calendar purchase support the educational programs of PBS-SEPM, a non-profit organization, but a percentage of the calendar sales is dedicated to provide financial aid to full-time college students (geoscience majors) wanting to attend PBS-SEPM sponsored events. So each dollar spent not only helps PBS-SEPM continue to serve the professional geologic community with excellence, but also is an investment in the lives of future geosciences professionals as well.

Fill out the form below to pre-order your PBS-SEPM ‘West Texas’ 2009 Calendars today!

Pre-Order Your PBS-SEPM ‘West Texas’ 2009 Calendar:
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Make checks payable to PBS-SEPM.
Credit card orders may be faxed to (432) 686-7827.
Order forms/payment may be mailed to: PBS-SEPM, P.O. Box 1595, Midland, Texas 79702. Phone (432) 683-1573.
2009 PBS-SEPM New Hire Field Trip

2009 PBS-SEPM New Hire Field Trip (March 5th—8th)
REGISTRATION FORM

The Permian Basin Section of SEPM is planning a four-day field trip to the Guadalupe Mountains for engineering, land, and geology new hires in March 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 March 5th 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 January 2009.

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

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