



# PBS-SEPM NEWSLETTER



DECEMBER 2008

## Special points of interest:

- Robert L. Read, Jr., Distinguished Lecture Series (President's Column)

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## President's Column

As I write this column, NYMEX Crude Oil is down another \$19 from last month—hovering around \$42/bbl. It's incredible to think that just a few short months ago we were enjoying a record high of \$140/bbl! I must admit I don't understand the reasons behind such a drop (other than it doesn't seem to have any correlation to supply and demand), but have learned to be flexible and adjust to its cyclic nature. And a slower pace certainly has some advantages—including allowing one the time to 'sharpen the saw' and take advantage of the upcoming training opportunities PBS-SEPM has to offer in 2009.

I wanted to take a moment to recognize Pat Blackwell. Pat is retiring this month after 20 years of dedicated service as a member of the PBS-SEPM / WTGS office staff. She will be missed, but we're excited for her as she enters into this next phase of her life. Please join us in wishing her a joyful (and restful) retirement. Thank you, Pat, for your life of service!!

Christmas is a treasured time for many reasons, and it certainly has become synonymous with giving—a time to show kindness not just to family and friends, but to our community as well. As such, this is the appropriate season to announce to our membership a gift and a kindness that promises to bless both you and your community year after year. I'm referring to the creation of the **Robert L. Read, Jr., Distinguished Lecture Series**.

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. And today, your PBS-SEPM Executive Board is in the final stages of establishing 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. [More details to come!]

While the resolution defining the Robert L. Read, Jr., Distinguished Lecture Series nears completion and final approval by the Executive Board, I wanted 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.

On behalf of the PBS-SEPM family, we hope each of you has a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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

## Mark Your Calendars!

### DECEMBER

- 22: WTGS Office Closed
- 25: CHRISTMAS!

### JANUARY

- 2: WTGS Office Open
- 20: 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)

### FEBRUARY

- 17: PBS-SEPM Luncheon:

TBA (Midland Center; 11:30-1:00 PM)

### MARCH

- 5-8: PBS-SEPM New Hire Field Trip (Guad. Mtns.)
- 17: PBS-SEPM Luncheon: TBA (Midland Center; 11:30-1:00 PM)

## PBS-SEPM Executive Board (2008-2009)

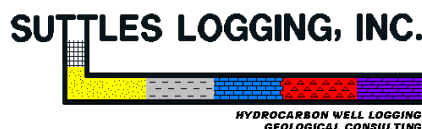
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<b>President Elect:</b>	Fred Behnken	<a href="mailto:Fred_Behnken@kindermorgan.com">Fred_Behnken@kindermorgan.com</a>
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<b>Executive Director:</b>	Paula Mitchell	<a href="mailto:wtgs@wtgs.org">wtgs@wtgs.org</a>

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.



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**PBS-SEPM is grateful for the generosity of these fine corporate sponsors !**

## PBS-SEPM Luncheon Talk: January 20th

**TITLE:** 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 shrank, 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 assumptions regarding well completion techniques.

### **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.

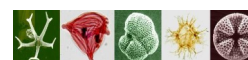
**WHEN:** Tuesday, January 20, 2009

**WHERE:** Midland Center

**TIME:** 11:30-1:00 PM



***“Without the additional information provided by biostratigraphic analysis, the true nature of the stratigraphic relationships in this well would have remained inconclusive.”***



## PBS-SEPM Digital Publication Project



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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:

Member/Non-Member Price: **\$15.00** plus \$3.00 shipping and handling per calendar

Special Volume Discount: **'Buy 5, get 1 free'** [6 calendars for \$75.00 plus \$4.00 shipping & handling per bundle of 6]

QUANTITY: \_\_\_\_\_ **Will pick up calendar(s) at WTGS Office (Y/N)?** \_\_\_\_\_

Sub-Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

SHIPPING: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ [N/A if picking up at WTGS office; otherwise \$3.00 per calendar or \$4.00 per bundle of 6]

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## 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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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## 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](http://www.pbs-sepm.org)) to learn more about us, download a membership form, and learn how to get involved.**

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