



Society of Independent Professional Earth Scientists

Houston Chapter Newsletter

• January 2008 •

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January SIPES Luncheon Meeting

**Discovery and Development of the Lower Wilcox
Southwest Speaks Field; Lavaca County, Texas**

Speaker: Frank Cornish



Date: Jan. 17, 2008
Time: Social 11:15 am
Lunch 11:45 am
Place: Petroleum Club
800 Bell St.
Houston, TX

Texas Licensed Geoscientists,
a SIPES Lunch talk counts toward the 15
Professional Development Hours required
each year to maintain your license.

Hospitality Sponsor



Abstract

The United Oil and Minerals No. 1 Pilgreen discovery in January, 1996 opened up a significant Lower Wilcox play throughout Lavaca and Colorado counties, Texas. The play concept involved undrilled Lower Wilcox structures beneath Upper Wilcox dip-trending structural axes. At the Southwest Speaks prospect, a large shallow Upper Wilcox high-side fault trap had been drilled by three unsuccessful wells, all of which had tested gas from different Lower Wilcox sands. Adjacent downthrown Lower Wilcox production was non-commercial, and the primary target sands had never produced anywhere else in Lavaca or Colorado counties.

Production from Lower Wilcox sands at Southwest Speaks will exceed 230 BCFG from 10 different sands. The main pays are the Roeder (a misnomer), Rainbow, and Magnolia. The Eaves No. 1, the single best well, has produced 16 BCF from the Rainbow Sand, which is the best zone with over 84 BCFG produced through October, 2006. The Rainbow Sand trap includes two upthrown fault closures, the largest of which covers 1,490 acres with over 515 feet of column.

The original prospect was developed on 2D seismic data. Five wells were drilled before 3D seismic over the field was completed in 1997, finding the structural high in an unexpected area. The data was a

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Members and Affiliates who register by **12:00 Noon, Tuesday Jan. 15, 2007** pay only \$30. Guests, non-members, late registrations, or at-the-door pay \$35. **No-shows will be billed.** Call, fax, or e-mail your reservation to Mrs. B.K. Buongiorno at the SIPES address above. You can sign up for SIPES Meetings online at www.sipes-houston.org, but payment is still required by regular mail or at the door.



January Meeting *continued from page 1*

"The play concept involved undrilled Lower Wilcox structures beneath Upper Wilcox dip-trending structural axes."

combination of vibroseis and dynamite acquired at different times. Fault shadows caused sag and relative amplitude problems.

All wells required fracture treatment and some had second fracs, which prolonged their life. Lower Wilcox gas had varying amount of H²S and CO² requiring treatment for sales. Generally speaking, the highest wells are the best producers, with the best porosity and permeability, but there are off-structure "sweet spots" in the Rainbow and Simpson sands.

Regional geology prior to 1995 showed a lack of production along the Lower Wilcox Fault Trend between Dry Hollow Field and Provident City Field in Lavaca County. At Southwest Speaks, the best production came from Lower Wilcox sands that had not previously produced in the county. Explorationists should always be looking for new reservoirs and not be led only to those prospects with nearby look-alikes in the same target sands. ♦

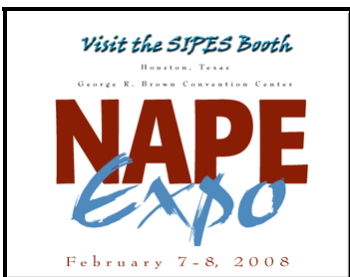
Professional Biography

Frank Cornish received a BS from Louisiana State University (1973) and a MA in geology from The University of Texas at Austin (1975). He began his career with the USGS in Colorado in 1973. After UT, he worked the Permian and Anadarko Basins for Getty Oil in

Midland and Oklahoma City. In 1978 he started with TXO in Oklahoma City and was transferred to Corpus Christi as a District Geologist. After TXO was sold in 1990, he worked for Suemaur Exploration, and Yuma Exploration. Since 2003 he has generated prospects for various industry partners under his company name of Imagine Resources, LLC.

Frank is the author of several technical and popular articles, including "Dinosaurs" in *Texas Highways*, 1988, and "Riches in the Heart of Texas" in *Texas Parks and Wildlife*, 1991. Mr. Cornish has studied and published papers about the Recent/Pleistocene sediments along the Nueces River with Dr. Jon Baskin of Texas A & M at Kingsville. Mr. Cornish is a co-chairman of the Academic Liaison Committee of the Corpus Christi Geological Society and received the Distinguished Member Award from CCGS in 1995. In 2007, he received the GCAGS Distinguished Service Award.

This presentation has just been awarded the Thomas A. Philpott Excellence of Presentation Award, and has also received third place for the Grover E. Murray Best Published Paper for the 2007 GCAGS Transactions. Today's presentation is an extended version of that paper. Frank is a member of AAPG, SEG, SIPES, CCGS, CBGS, and Rotary. ♦



A Call for Volunteers

The Board of Directors is seeking volunteers to form a committee to encourage young earth scientists.

If you are interested in joining this effort, please contact Jim Norris at (713) 376-9361.

December Chapter Board of Directors Meeting

Discussions at the December 20, 2007 Chapter Board Meeting included the following:

- Even though the Petroleum Club will increase the price of Lunch, the Board decided to not change the price of luncheons or SIPES Houston Chapter Dues.
- Larry Rairden made a motion that the Houston Chapter make a \$1000 donation to the SIPES Foundation in memory of Dr. Fred Stricklin and Lucius Geer.
- The next SIPES National Director's meeting will be in Corpus Christi in January.
- Jeff Lund spoke with current and future HGS presidents and others regarding a partnership between SIPES-Houston and HGS for maps in schools. ♦

A reminder – Houston Chapter dues are due March 3rd this year, National dues are due March 31st.



December Luncheon Meeting

Submitted by Jim Norris

The last luncheon of 2007 was held at the Petroleum Club on December 20, 2007, with Lawrence Bruno of Core Laboratories as guest speaker. His discussion was titled "Drilling Mud Tracers for Formation Evaluation".



If you don't know at least three people in this picture – you're not coming to the luncheons often enough.

Mr. Bruno stated that drilling mud tracers used in water-based mud in conjunction with conventional coring can result in more accurate water and hydrocarbon saturations of the formation, a more accurate determination of R_w in a reservoir that produces no water, a validation or adjustment of the petrophysical parameters used in the log-calculated S_w model, and overall, more confidence in reserve calculations. Some of the characteristics of high quality mud tracers are that they are not naturally occurring in the reservoir, they must be soluble in the mud filtrate, they must be biologically and chemically stable and they must be able to be accurately detected in low concentrations in the laboratory.

Tritium (tritiated water) is the optimum water-based mud tracer. It does not occur naturally in formation water, can be detected at extremely low concentrations and is safe to use without the need for protective gloves or clothing when used in drilling mud.

For the best attainable results when using drilling mud tracers during coring operations, Mr. Bruno stated that tight controls should be placed on the drilling mud design, with mud monitoring and sampling occurring during coring operations. He also said that low fluid loss and a low invasion bit design are recommended in order to obtain optimum mud cake buildup, and that coring rates of 80-120 ft. per hour are preferred to minimize invasion. ♦



Mark O'Koren (left) and Speaker Larry Bruno enjoy some wine before the meal and the talk.



Steve Hartzell selling Jim Grubb a deal.



BK Buongiorno (left) and Larry Rairden met you at the door, with downtown Houston as the back-drop.



New Members at the December Luncheon

Five new SIPES members (below) received their certificates at the December Luncheon.



New members (left to right) Charles Bukowski, Walter Wornardt, Gerrit Wind, Bruce Houff, and Robert Baillo

Upcoming SIPES Events

- February 7-8, 2008** **North American Prospect Expo**, George R. Brown Convention Center
- February 21, 2008** **SIPES Luncheon at Petroleum Club**, speaker Dr. Fred Hilterman, GeoKinetics, on *"New Interpretation Techniques for Predicting Pore Fluid, Lithology and Sw from Seismic AVO"*
- March 15-25, 2008** **SIPES Southern Caribbean Cruise & Carbonate Trip** aboard the M.S. Maasdam (Holland America). Depart Fort Lauderdale with stops in St. Maarten, St. Lucia, Barbados, Martinique, Tortola and Bahamas
- May 12-15, 2008** **SIPES 45th Annual Meeting: "Oil & Gas Prospecting - The Good, the Bad, and the Possible"**. Omni Royal Orleans, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Upcoming HGS Events

- January 14, 2008** **HGS Legends Night**, Westchase Hilton, 5:30 pm.
- January 15, 2008** **Northsiders Luncheon**, Crown Plaza Hotel, Greenspoint, 11:30 pm.
- January 21, 2008** **International Exploration Dinner**, Westchase Hilton, 5:30 pm.
- January 28, 2008 -** **North American Exploration Dinner**, Westchase Hilton, 5:30 pm.
- January 30, 2008 -** **HGS General Luncheon**, Petroleum Club, 11:30 am.

