

Midland Reporter-Telegram

WTGS Fall Symposium marks "A Decade of Shale"

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Organizers of the West Texas Geological Society's Fall Symposium luckily had a milestone anniversary for inspiration as they put together the annual event.

The theme for the fall gathering, set for Wednesday and Thursday at the Horseshoe, is "A Decade of Shale."

"It harks back to 2008 when, after a quick downturn, the Permian Basin focused on unconventional reservoirs: shale and low permeability tight rocks," said Judd Tudor, technical director of the symposium.

He said that since that time, the "focus here has switched from vertical conventional resources to horizontal unconventional resources. It's why the Permian Basin is doing so well" and why the region is experiencing the growing pains of high traffic, labor shortages and high housing costs.

There have been ups and downs over that decade and "an ugly 2015-2016, but the Permian is going full-steam," Tudor said.

Organizers did not seek presentations focused on the theme; instead, they sought talks focused on unconventional resources, he said.

"Our speakers are a mix of service companies, operators and consultants" who will offer good case studies and good technology, Tudor said.

The symposium opens Wednesday with a keynote address by Tim Dunn, chief executive officer of CrownQuest Operating. Presentations and poster sessions will follow. Also, vendors will be showcasing the latest in technology.

Thursday will be a half-day session that will conclude with an ethics luncheon featuring keynote speaker Judge Lynn Hughes. The afternoon will be comprised of a core workshop at which the Bureau of Economic Geology will show cores from the Midland Basin Wolfcamp formation.

The 50th annual West Texas Geological Society Rock Hound Classic golf tournament is set for Friday at Hogan Park, and the annual field trip to the Guadalupe Mountains will be Thursday through Sept. 30.

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