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WTGS symposium to center on 'the next barrel'

By Mella Mcewen, Midland Reporter-Telegram, Texas The Tribune Content Agency

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Members of the West Texas Geological Society will gather for their annual Fall Symposium, set for the Bush Convention Center Sept. 17-18.

The theme this fall is Inventory and Interpretation: Unlocking the Next Barrel, a topic on everyone's mind, said Judd Tudor, symposium chair.

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This year, the organization is leaning into panel discussions with a keynote panel discussion set for opening day Sept. 17 and a second panel on Sept. 18 moderated by Troy Tittlemier from PBE. Panelists include Dave Egan from Occidental, Kristi Faith from Upcurve, Tim McMahon from the Bureau of Economic Geology and Jim Geitgey with Terra Nova.

The panelists will discuss "Up, Down, Sideways or Just Squeeze the Rock Harder: Unlocking the Next Barrel."

With top Tier 1 acreage almost completely drilled, producers are seeking Tier 2 and Tier 3 acreage that can moved into that top position. The question is, as the panel theme implies, do they step out, step up, step down or focus on infill drilling?

"There's not one answer," said Tudor. "It's a question of acreage, technical experience and expertise."

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The panel discussions, other presentations and poster sessions are designed to provide geologists with innovative thinking and collaborative science to find untapped resources and shape the next chapter.

"The industry has always had engineers. The geologists guide the engineers," said Tudor.

Organizers will also be offering a sneak preview of next year's celebration of the society's 100th anniversary. Some University of Texas Permian Basin students have been hired to research WTGS archives and help update its history and will offer some of their findings.

"Our history has been updated to 1967," Tudor noted.

The symposium itself will be preceded by the annual field trip September 12-14 to the southwestern Delaware Basin. Leader Michael H. Gardner, a semi-retired geologist from Bozeman, Montana, will take participants to see world class Brushy Canyon outcrops. He has secured access to a private ranch near Van Horn overlooking the Blue Origin launch site.

Also preceding the symposium will be two half-day short courses September 16 presented by Terry Daigle with GeoMark Research. He will focus on reservoir fluid analysis.

Bill Keffer, professor of energy law at Texas Tech will speak at the ethics luncheon on Sept. 17. On Sept. 18, Alan Whittington, geology professor at the University of Texas San Antonio will speak on "Molasses and Magma: Experimental Studies of Food and Volcanoes."

The traditional core workshop has doubled to 2,600 feet of cores from a number of contributors, Tudor said.

Tudor said WTGS has not raised its prices for the events over 2024 levels. He said livestreaming will also be available.



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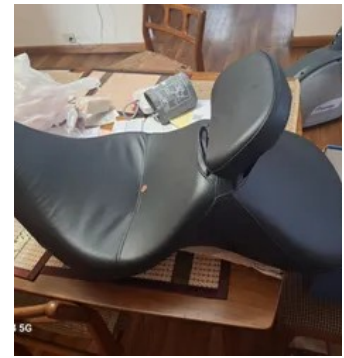
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