



Pittsburgh Petroleum Section

SPE Pittsburgh Petroleum January/February Section Meeting

Please join us for the next Section meeting of the Pittsburgh Petroleum Section of the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE).

When: February 2, 2010, 5:00pm – registration/networking, 6:00pm – dinner, 7:00pm – speaker

Where: Cefalo's Restaurant, Carnegie, PA (www.clubcefalo.com)

Speaker/Topic: Nathan Bennett, Sr. Geologic Scientist, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), Bureau of Forestry-Minerals Section, will present "Pennsylvania State Forests: Our Role in Basin Exploration and Development."

Cost: \$35.00 (7-day advance), \$40.00 at the door

Program Overview

Nathan Bennett will present a historic review of oil and gas production of fields beneath Pennsylvania State Forest lands. He will highlight findings from some key exploration wells and their inflation-adjusted economic impact. He will also discuss present-day conditions including Marcellus Shale development and potential impact for State Forest lands and DCNR.

Pennsylvania State Forests: Our Role in Basin Exploration and Development

Exploration and production of oil and natural gas on Pennsylvania State Forest lands began in 1945. Historically, a majority of the 1,400 wells drilled on State Forest land have targeted shallow, Upper Devonian gas reservoirs. However, notable production from moderately deep formations (e.g., 6,000–10,000 feet) has also occurred. Although somewhat limited in geographic extent, production from the Grugan Field, which lies almost entirely beneath State Forest land, continues to play a vital role in shaping natural gas production throughout Pennsylvania. If the past is any indication of the future, Pennsylvania's State Forests will continue to be a key component in Appalachian exploration and development.

This study serves to provide a historical look into the oil and gas program administered by the Minerals Section of the Bureau of Forestry. This comprehensive look at natural gas production will seek to establish not only certain production volume(s) but also an inflation adjusted economic look into what natural gas production has provided to Pennsylvania conservation efforts. Additionally, production will be delineated by gas field to better establish where the most significant activity has occurred in relation to sub-surface geologic structures as well as what producing formation(s) have been the most prolific across State Forest lands. Lastly, the future of oil and gas development on State Forest lands will be examined with specific focus placed on exploration trends and how these trends may affect upcoming lease sales.

Speaker Biography

Nathan Bennett is a Senior Geologic Scientist with the Pennsylvania DCNR-Bureau of Forestry-Minerals Section. In his fifth year of service with the Commonwealth, Nathan's job duties include administering DCNR's oil and gas leasing program, technical reviews and analyses, subsurface ownership issues, and various mapping, assessment, and modeling projects.

Nathan is an avid fly-fisherman and enjoys the outdoors. Born and raised in Erie, Nathan and his wife Heather currently reside in Harrisburg.