

Society of Independent Professional Earth Scientists

**62ND ANNUAL MEETING AND CONVENTION
GRAND JUNCTION, CO**

JUNE 8 - 11, 2026



**CO-HOSTED BY THE DENVER CHAPTER
AND THE SIPES NATIONAL ORGANIZATION**



**The INDEPENDENT'S Role
in a
CHANGING Energy World**

REGISTRATION BOOK



THUNDER EXPLORATION, INC.

Celebrating 45 years of prospect generation and exploration in the following Gulf Coast plays and trends.

Frio	San Miguel	Edwards
Jackson	Austin Chalk	Pearsall
Yegua	Eagle Ford	Sligo
Wilcox	Buda	Cotton Valley
Olmos	Georgetown	Smackover

Thunder continues to seek non-operated working interest participation in projects and prospects.

Thunder has participated in more than 100 new drills in the last seven years.

Walter S. Light Jr.
President/Geologist
713.823.8288
EMAIL: wthunderx@aol.com

Greetings from Colorful Colorado!

The SIPES Board of Directors, together with the Denver Chapter, look forward to welcoming you to the 62nd Annual Meeting and Convention in June. We are honored to host this year's gathering on Colorado's Western Slope, an exceptional setting for professional exchange, collaboration, and fellowship.

Our technical program will feature a distinguished group of speakers who will address the challenges and opportunities facing independents as the energy landscape continues to evolve. Discussions will span both emerging energy sources and traditional oil and gas operations. In addition to the formal program, ample time has been set aside to reconnect with colleagues, strengthen professional networks, and engage with fellow SIPES members.

Grand Junction and the surrounding region offer a wide range of activities for attendees and guests. The area is known for its vineyards, orchards, and remarkable geologic features, and we have arranged tours highlighting each of these. Wine tasting, orchard visits, and geologic excursions are available, along with time to explore on your own. Our post-convention field trip to Unaweep Canyon will provide an additional chance to experience the area's unique geology.

Situated at the confluence of the Colorado and Gunnison Rivers, Grand Junction is framed by the Colorado National Monument, the Book Cliffs, Mount Garfield, and the Grand Mesa. All meetings will be held at the downtown convention center, conveniently located adjacent to the convention hotels. The surrounding Main Street district offers an inviting, art-filled environment with a variety of restaurants, boutique shops, breweries, wine tasting rooms, distilleries, galleries, and museums. For those wishing to extend their visit, Arches National Park in Utah is only a short drive away.

We extend our sincere appreciation to our sponsors for their generous support, which plays a vital role in the success of this convention.

We look forward to welcoming you to Grand Junction and hope you will take full advantage of all that the Western Slope has to offer.

Gary Thompson
2026 Convention Chairman

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James Applegate
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Thunder has participated in more than 100 new drills in the last seven years.

Walter S. Light Jr.

President/Geologist

713.823.8288 EMAIL: wthunderx@aol.com

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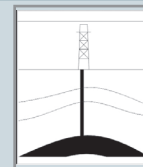
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No Hassle Raffle tickets can be purchased at the Awards Banquet
and at the Registration Desk during the covention.
\$10 each or 6 for \$50
Support Foundation Scholarships!

2026 SIPES CORNERSTONE GROUP

Many thanks to the members listed below
for their generous support of our Society.*



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* Donors as of March 20, 2026

**The SIPES Midland Chapter supports the 2026
SIPES national convention and hopes that
everyone has a great time in Grand Junction !**



SIPES - Midland Chapter

www.sipesmidland.org

***"The pre-eminent organization for furthering the professional
and business interests of independent earth scientists"***

Meetings held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month (except Feb. and Dec.)
Midland County Club - 11:15 AM

2026 Board Members

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Jack Bradley (Vice Chairman) 432-230-4949
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Hotel Information

Hampton Inn \$189/night
205 Main Street 970.243.3222

Tru by Hilton \$189/night
243 Colorado Ave. 970.256.1000

SpringHill Suites \$209/night
236 Main Street 970.424.5777

Fairfield Inn & Suites \$199/night
225 Main Street 970.242.2525

Breakfast is included in the rate at each hotel.

Reservations — Reservations can be made online at www.sipes.org/convention or by calling the hotel directly and mentioning that you are with the SIPES 2026 National Convention. Reservations must be secured with a credit card at time of booking. Early departure will result in a charge equal to one night's room and tax. There are no refunds for no shows, late arrivals or early departures. The hotel rates will be in effect until Friday, **May 15, 2026**. The convention rates are available June 6 - 12 and are based on availability at the time of booking. If you are interested in more dates, please inquire when making your reservation. Check-in time is 3.00 p.m.; check-out time is noon.

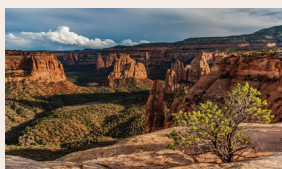
Parking — The hotels charge \$11.00/night for parking onsite. The convention center is offering free parking for SIPES convention attendees in their surface lot or underground parking. Parking lots are not secured.

The Hampton Inn is adjacent to the convention center where all technical sessions and meetings will be held. The SpringHill Suites and the Fairfield are across the street from the Hampton Inn. Tru by Hilton is behind the Hampton Inn. All properties and the convention center are at the west end of Main Street.

Grand Junction on your Own

Hiking - National monuments and National parks surround Grand Junction. Visit

www.nps.gov for a list of parks and to make any reservations.



Rafting - Raft the Colorado River - no rapids - just calm waters await.

Golfing - The area has municipal golf courses open to the public. Visit www.golfgrandjunction.net for tee times and fees.

Main Street - All the shopping and browsing and eating you need just outside your hotel.

Palisade, CO - Twenty minutes east of Grand Junction. Tour orchards and wineries and breweries. Oh my!

Enstrom's Candies - Just off 7th and Main. Watch toffee being made - then taste. Try the ice cream!

Information courtesy of Visit Grand Junction, www.visitgrandjunction.com.



Technical Program and Speakers

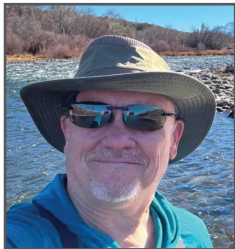
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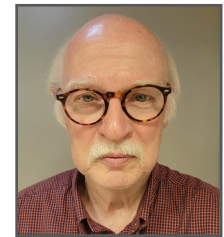
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*Financial Engineering for
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Speakers are listed alphabetically and are subject to change.
Please visit www.sipes.org for any updates.

Convention Activities

Entrance to Meeting Events

Entrance to all SIPES Convention events and tours is by convention name badge only. Please wear your name badge to all events. Tickets to purchased events will be in your registration packet.

All technical sessions and the Tuesday lunch, Foundation Seminar and the tax symposium will be at the Convention Center. The Monday night reception and the Awards Banquet will be at the Avalon Theatre on Main Street at Seventh Street.

SIPES Member, Associated Member, and Non-Member Registration include the following:

- Monday Welcome Reception
- Tuesday & Wednesday Technical Sessions
 - Tuesday All-Convention Luncheon
 - Tuesday Discovery Room
 - Wednesday tax symposium
- Ability to register for all optional tours and events

Spouse/Guest Registration includes the following:

- Monday Welcome Reception
- Ability to register for all optional tours and events

Extra fees are required for the SIPES Foundation Seminar, the Awards Banquet and the Post-Convention Field Trip as well as all optional tours and events. Fees for all events increase after May 15, 2026. You are encouraged to register for all tours and events in advance. Some events may still be available to purchase at a higher rate onsite at the registration desk. The tours have limited space based on the tour operator or facility.

If you are not able to attend an event for which you have registered, please notify the registration desk.

Welcome Reception

Monday, June 8 5.00 - 7.00 p.m.

What all members and guests look forward to! Reconnect with friends and colleagues and enjoy hors d'oeuvres and drinks. Each registrant will receive two complimentary drink tickets. A cash bar will also be available. The cash bar prices average \$10/drink.

Convention registration is required to attend this event.



SIPES Foundation Seminar

The Uintah Railway, the Gilsonite Route

Monday, June 8 2.30 - 4.00 p.m.

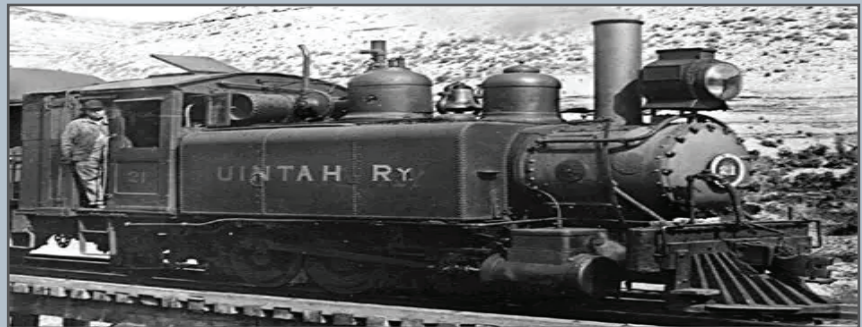
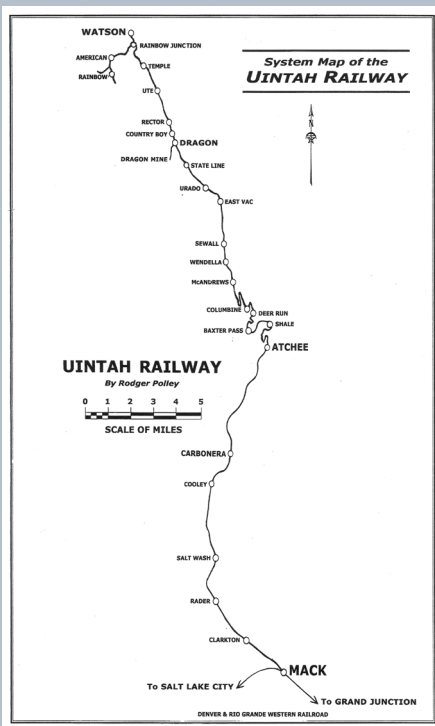
\$50 for all attendees before 5/15/26

\$65 for all attendees after 5/15/26

All Proceeds Benefit SIPES Foundation Scholarships



The Uintah Railway operated from 1904 - 1939, running from Mack, CO to Dragon and Watson, UT. It's main haul was Gilsonite, a rare solid hydrocarbon. Using unique motive power, the Uintah Railway ran through a remote high desert country of the Uintah Basin. It was the steepest, most crooked narrow-gauge railroad in the United States.



Matt Darling is the curator of Cross Orchards Historic Site. He studied Colorado railroad history most of his life and began building scale-model trains at age 6. Matt is a native Coloradoan and has lived in Grand Junction since 1981. He holds a BS in U.S. history from Mesa State College. Matt is an avid hiker and loves to explore the Colorado mountains.



SIPES Foundation Contributions

(donations listed were made from December 1, 2025 - March 20, 2026)

\$3500

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Scholarship Fund

\$1000

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Awards Banquet

Tuesday, June 9 6.30 - 9.00 p.m.

\$100 per person (\$125 after 5/15/26)
includes hors d'oeuvres and dinner buffet
cash bar available

Make plans to attend the Awards Banquet to honor:



Dawn S. Bissell, #3095
with the Outstanding Service Award
for her continued service and leadership
to SIPES National and the Corpus Christi Chapter.

Jeff Lund, #3024,
will receive
the Honorary Membership Award
for his dedication to the Maps In Schools program
on behalf of the Houston Chapter.



All-Convention Luncheon & Business Meeting*

Tuesday, June 9 12.00 - 1.15 p.m.

\$85 for guests before 5/15/26, \$110 after 5/15/26
**included with full registration*

The All-Convention luncheon is where the SIPES President provides updates on the current status of the Society and where the slate of officers for the next Executive Board of Directors is presented.

At the time of printing, there is not a confirmed featured speaker for the lunch. Check the SIPES website for updates.

Convention Schedule

Monday, June 8

8.30 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.	Registration
9.00 - 10.00 a.m.	Chapter Chairmen's Meeting
9.00 - 10.00 a.m.	SIPES Presidents' Council Meeting
10.00 a.m. - 12.00 p.m.	SIPES BOD Meeting
12.00 - 1.00 p.m.	Lunch for Board of Directors, Chapter Chairmen & Past Presidents
1.15 - 2.15 p.m.	SIPES Foundation BOD Meeting
2.30 - 4.00 p.m.	SIPES Foundation Seminar
5.00 - 7.00 p.m.	Welcome reception

Tuesday, June 9

8.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.	Registration
8.30 - 11.45 a.m.	Technical Sessions
10.30 a.m - 12.00 p.m.	Creative District Tour (Main Street)
12.00 - 1.15 p.m.	All-Convention Luncheon & Annual Business Meeting
1.30 - 4.30 p.m.	Palisade winery tour
2.00 - 4.00 p.m.	Discovery Room
2.00 - 5.00 p.m.	Distillery tour and tasting
6.30 - 9.00 p.m.	Awards Banquet

Please note: The SIPES Registration Desk will close at 4:00 p.m. Monday. If you are arriving at the hotel after that time, please advise the SIPES office before Thursday, June 4 and we will have your registration packet at the welcome reception.

Wednesday, June 10

8.00 a.m. - 12.00 p.m.....Registration
8.30 - 11.05 a.m..... Technical Sessions
11.15 a.m. - 12.15 p.m..... Tax & Investment Planning Symposium
12.30 - 3.30 p.m.....Palisade winery tour
1.00 p.m. - 4.30 p.m. Tour of Colorado National Monument
6.00 p.m. - 9.00 p.m. Cornerstone Dinner
(by invitation only)

Thursday, June 11

8.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m..... Post-Convention Field Trip


SIPES Discovery Room

Tuesday, June 9 2.00 - 4.00 p.m.

Registered convention attendees are encouraged to visit the Discovery Room. This is where SIPES members can showcase and share active projects with other SIPES members. If you are selling a deal, looking for guidance or simply want to share best practices of a project already in the books - this is the place to be. Exchange exploration concepts, ideas and experiences - and get some business done!



Tables to present are first-come, first serve. Every presenter must be a SIPES member.



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Walter S. Light Jr.
President/Geologist
713.823.8288 **EMAIL:** wthunderx@aol.com
Production Now in 7 States.

Thank you to our
tote bag sponsor,
Walter S. Light, Jr., #3265
THUNDER EXPLORATION, INC.

Convention Tours - Tuesday

You must be a registered meeting attendee in order to sign up for the tours. All tours depart from the convention center at the time listed as the start of the tour.

There will be no refunds after May 15, 2026.

Advance registration is recommended. All tours are limited in size set by the vendor.

Creative District Tour 10.30 a.m. - 12.00 p.m.
\$30/per person \$45 after May 15

Take a guided walking tour of Downtown Grand Junction! Named one of USA Today's Best Main Streets in America, Downtown is a unique blend of Western history and architecture, a robust public art program, beautifully landscaped streets, and an entirely locally owned retail and restaurant district. You'll learn about Grand Junction's history, the iconic Art on the Corner program, and visit local galleries featuring work from Western Colorado artists.



Fee includes guided tour and a donation to Downtown Grand Junction.



Palisade winery tour 1.30 - 4.30 p.m.
\$200/per person \$235 after May 15



Enjoy an informative, custom-designed wine tour based on the likes (or dislikes) of the group. You'll visit wineries in Palisade, CO - the wine region of Colorado where the wineries grow their own grapes.

Fee includes transportation, guide, winery tastings in Palisade, CO, and gratuities.



Distillery tour & tasting 2.00 - 5.00 p.m.
\$200/per person \$235 after May 15

Tour distilleries and breweries in Palisade and sample a variety of spirits. Learn how local orchards and the climate create unique flavors of bourbon, beer, vodka and more!

Fee includes transportation, guide, tastings in Palisade, CO, and gratuities.



Convention Tours - Wednesday

You must be a registered meeting attendee in order to sign up for the tours. All tours depart from the convention center at the time listed as the start of the tour.

There will be no refunds after May 15, 2026.

Advance registration is recommended. All tours are limited in size set by the vendor.

Palisade winery tour 12.30 - 3.30 p.m.
\$200/per person \$235 after May 15

Did you miss the Tuesday wine tour in Palisade or want to go again? This trip will be different from Tuesday's tour, based on the likes (or dislikes) of the group. Visit three wineries with a trusted guide to learn about the wine-producing region of Colorado.



Fee includes transportation, guide, wine tastings, all taxes and gratuities.



Colorado National Monument tour 1.00 - 4.30 p.m.
\$75/per person \$110 after May 15



Join former Volunteer-in-Park geologist Dr. Bill Hood for a sightseeing trip to view the remarkable hanging canyons of Colorado National Monument. The tour will follow Rim Rock Road across the monument to some of the scenic overlooks on the 19-mile drive along the canyon rims. Bill will explain how this spectacular landscape developed through important stories that the rocks and scenery tell. Toward the end of the trip, you'll stop at the visitor center to shop and see the exhibits.

Fee includes transportation, guide, park entrance fees, and water.

Post-Convention Field Trip

Thursday, June 11 8.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.

GEOLOGY OF UNAWEEP CANYON AND GATEWAY AREA

Field trip: \$200 (\$250 after 5/15/26)

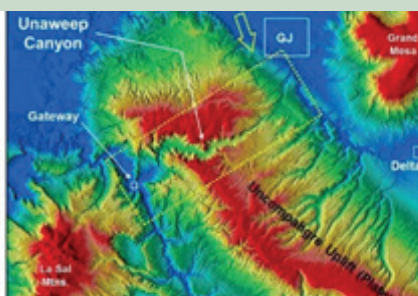
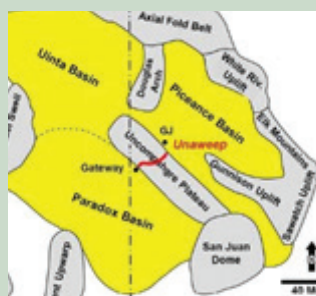
Led by:

Andres Aslan (Colorado Mesa University); William Hood (Consulting Geologist); Rex Cole (Consulting Geologist); Tom Oesleby (Consulting Geologist); Ned Sterne and Rolf Ganahl (Geologist).

South of downtown Grand Junction, cutting diagonally across the long axis of the Uncompahgre Plateau, Unaweep Canyon is one of the most spectacular geologic features in North America. It was first studied by geologists during the Hayden Survey of 1875, and has received the attention of many geoscientists. The name originates from the indigenous Ute Indians and roughly translates into a “Canyon with Two Mouths” or “The Parting of the Waters.”

On topographic maps by the U.S. Geological Survey, the greater Unaweep Canyon stretches from near Whitewater to Gateway, over a distance of approximately 37 road miles along Colorado Highway 141. Today, the canyon is drained by two small streams (East and West Creeks) that flow in opposite directions from a broad topographic crest called Unaweep Divide. The central part of Unaweep Canyon (without the post-abandonment fill), is wider and deeper than the Black Canyon of the Gunnison, the Royal Gorge, and Lodore Canyon.

Abandonment of greater Unaweep Canyon probably occurred in stages, between about 1.4 and 0.8 million years ago. There are three basic hypotheses about why and how the Colorado and Gunnison Rivers abandoned Unaweep Canyon. New insight and modifications for these concepts will be presented at five stops on the field trip route.



Trip fee includes guides, transportation, lunch, and bottled water. Be sure to bring a hat, sunscreen and your own water bottle.

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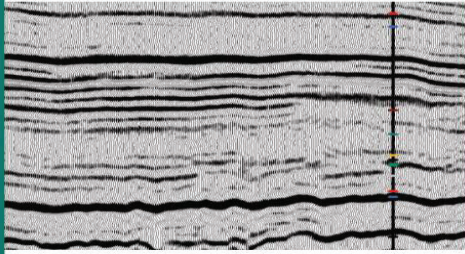
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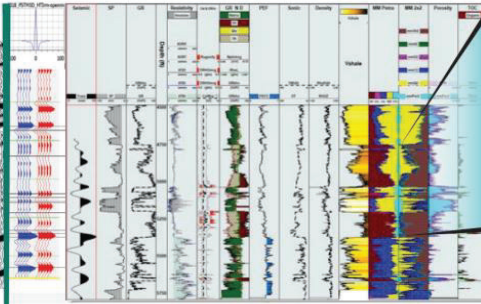
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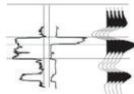
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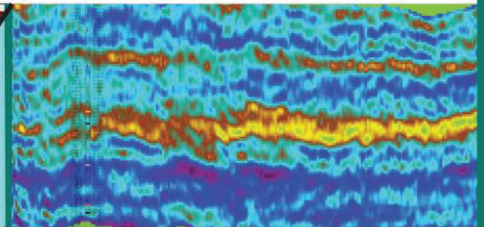
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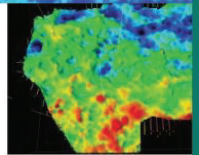
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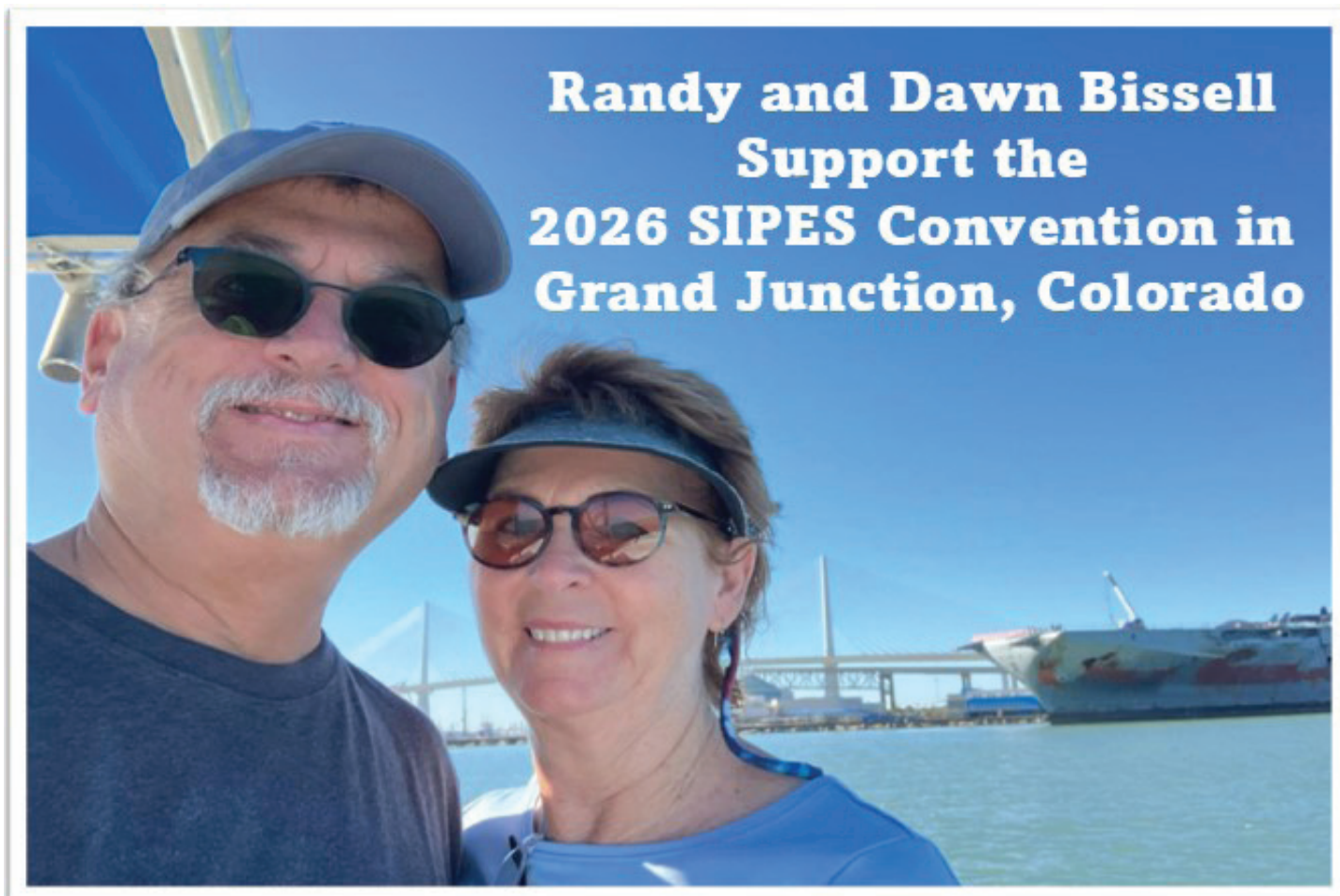
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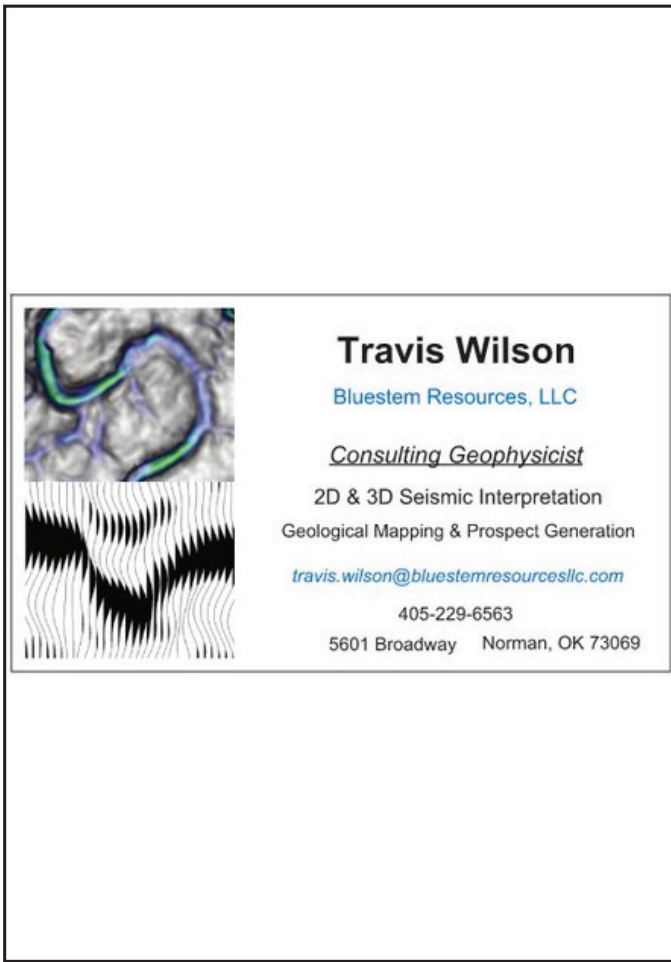
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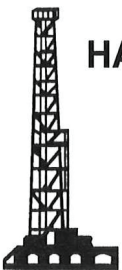
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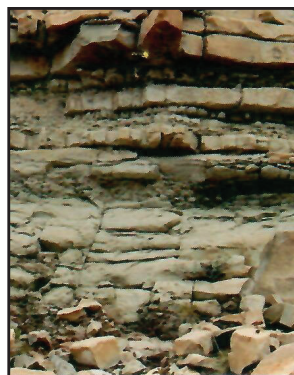


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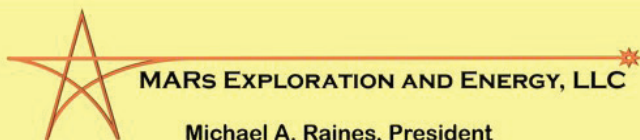
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Non-Member	\$450	\$500	Welcome reception, technical sessions, Wednesday tax symposium, Tuesday luncheon & breaks		
Spouse/Guest	\$100	\$150	Welcome reception and ability to register for optional tours & events		

Optional Events

Event	Dates/Times	Before May 15	After May 15	Number	Total Cost
SIPES Foundation Seminar	Monday, June 8 2.30 - 4.00 p.m.	\$50	\$65		
All-Convention Luncheon (for registered spouse/guest)	Tuesday, June 9 12.00 - 1.15 p.m.	\$85	\$110		
Awards Banquet	Tuesday, June 9 6.30 - 9.00 p.m.	\$100	\$125		
Post-Convention Field Trip	Thursday, June 11 8.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.	\$200	\$250		

Optional Tours

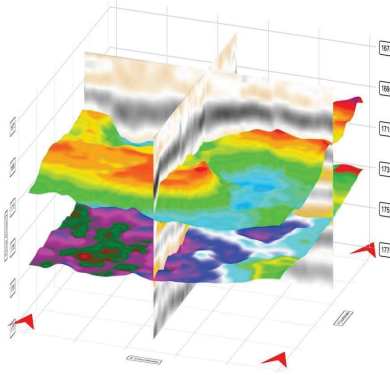
Event	Dates/Times	Before May 15	After May 15	Number	Total Cost
Creative District Tour (Main Street)	Tuesday, 10.30 a.m. - 12.00 p.m.	\$30	\$45		
Palisade Winery Tour	Tuesday, 1.30 - 4.30 p.m.	\$200	\$235		
Distillery Tour & Tasting	Tuesday, 2.00 - 5.00 p.m.	\$200	\$235		
Palisade Winery Tour	Wednesday, 12.30 - 3.30 p.m.	\$200	\$235		
CO National Monument Tour	Wednesday, 1.00 - 4.30 p.m.	\$75	\$110		

Will you be attending the Tuesday luncheon? Yes No

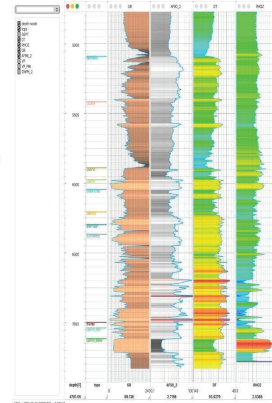
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Do you plan to attend the Wednesday morning tax symposium? Yes No

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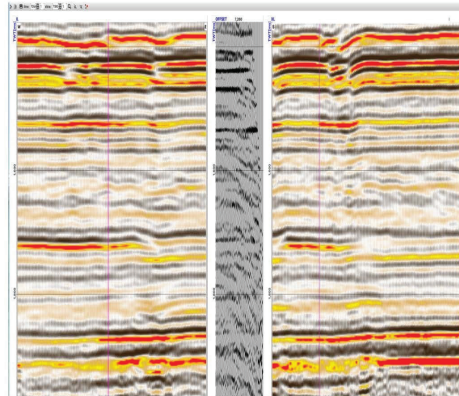


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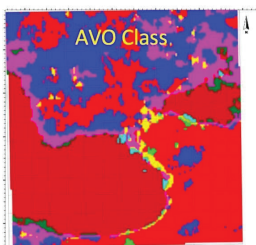
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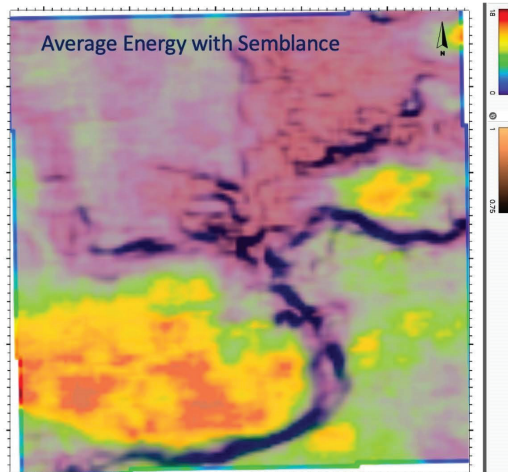
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