Tuesday, May 18. 2010

Crowne Plaza Hotel - Greenspoint (former Sofitel)
425 North Sam Houston Pkwy E

Social 11:15 AM, Luncheon 11:30 AM

Cost: $31 pre-registered members; $35 for non-members & walk-ups.

To guarantee a seat, you must pre-register on the HGS website and pre-pay with a credit card.
Pre-registration without payment will not be accepted.
You may still walk up and pay at the door, if extra seats are available.

Harris Cander
BP America
Houston, Texas

2009-10 AAPG Distinguished Lecture

Granite to Grass Roots: Understanding the Geologic History of Unconventional Resource Basins from Bottom to Top

The competition for unconventional resources in North America has resulted, in some cases, in the acquisition of acreage prior to obtaining an understanding of subsurface technical risks or identification of fairway boundaries and sweet spots. Indeed, the term "resource play" implies to some that subsurface risks are either minimized or irreducible. As well, the term "unconventional gas" connotes that little is to be gained from application of conventional principles of basin evolution and petroleum generation, migration, and entrapment. Under these circumstances, the value of regional geologic understanding of an entire basin prior to acreage capture can be overlooked and the focus turned to completions technology and post-well analysis.

This lecture will discuss the importance of understanding a basin from basement to surface – granite to grass roots – in the search for unconventional fairways. The lecture will include a holistic integration of data and interpretations from basin modeling, petroleum migration modeling, gas isotope data, pressure history, seismic, and reservoir quality. Linkages will be made from microscopic scale observations to tectonic-scale processes. Examples will be given from various North American basins that illustrate how mega-scale features, such as basement architecture and Precambrian rift history, have a first order and transcendent effect on the evolution and occurrence of unconventional resource fairways, including a strong influence on petroleum generation and entrapment as well as changes in reservoir rock during post-orogenic uplift. ■

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Biographical Sketch

Harris Cander works in BP America's Exploration and Technology Group and has focused the past few years on global and domestic exploration for unconventional resources. Since joining BP (Amoco) in 1991, Harris has worked in a variety of international and domestic exploration, production, and commercial roles as well as carbon dioxide sequestration projects.

Harris is the current co-chairman of the AAPG Unconventional Research Group and a past co-chairman of the AAPG Carbonates Research Group. He has published on unconventional resources, over pressure and hydrocarbon occurrence in offshore Trinidad, exploration in central Europe, and carbonate diagenesis. His talk on carbonate porosity evolution won the award for best presentation at the 1992 SEPM annual meeting. Harris received his Ph.D. in geology from the University of Texas at Austin in 1991 and MBA from Rice University in 2002. He lives in West University Place, Texas, with his wife, Chris, and children, Sasha and Joshua.