

NYSCPG

NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL OF PROFESSIONAL
GEOLOGISTS DECEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

NYSCPG.COM



Executive Director's Message

On behalf of the NYSCPG Board of Directors, I would like to wish everyone a Happy Holiday season. We hope that as the year quickly comes to an end, you get some time to spend with friends and loved ones. NYSCPG appreciates your continued support and involvement in this organization. We are looking forward to what is on the horizon for the new year and continue to work to bring the membership value.

Thank you to all of you that attended Geology Days 2025. It is hard to believe we have been hosting the event for four years and NYSCPG is grateful for those who attend each year. I would also like to thank the volunteers who made the event run smoothly, the speakers for their effort in preparing their presentations, and of course the sponsors who allowed us to keep the costs low for attendees. Please take the time and read the Geology Days summary included in this newsletter on page 10. Participants earned continuing education credits for New York by attending the talks or joining one of the two field trips. The continuing education certificates were emailed to attendees in November. Please contact Matt (support@nyscpge.com) if you did not receive yours or note any modifications. Geology Days participants are asked to complete the survey at <https://forms.gle/bwCawyaJWsbGxVgq6> to help plan future events. We hope to announce the 2026 dates and location in early January.

NYSCPG's Membership Meeting was held on November 11th as part of the Geology Days event. The meeting serves as the transition of Board members, and I would like to introduce the 2026 Officer Class:

- President – Christopher Wenczel (P.W. Grosser),
- Vice-President – Robert Garfield (HRGS),
- Secretary – Michael Grifasi (Ramboll),
- Treasurer – Erik Gustafson (US Army Corps of Engineers), and
- Immediate Past President – Greg Wyka (Langan).

Incoming Directors beginning a two-year term (2025-2027) include Frank R. Clougherty (GEI), Gene Florentino (Stantec), Steven Muller (J.C. Broderick & Associates), Calvin Prothro, and Mark Williams (C.T. Male). The meeting also served as an opportunity for NYSCPG Committee Chairs to update members on plans for 2026. As part of those plans, there is a need for additional volunteers on each of the committees. You are encouraged to read each

committee's update in the newsletter and reach out to the chairperson if you are interested in participating.

Membership dues renewals went out in November. Reach out to me or Matt (support@nyscp.org) if you did not get your renewal or need to change your membership classification. Companies with multiple geologists can take advantage of the Sustaining Member levels. Your membership dollars continue to support the organization that works to represent the profession. Members also get discounts on various events throughout the year, and we continue to look for new ways to bring members value for your dues. Thanks to all the members for your continued support.

The Legislative Committee, including our lobbyist Campbell Wallace, is working on plans for the 2026 Legislative session. This session will be the second year of the two-year legislative cycle, and all bills will be carried over from the 2025 session. The Committee has been meeting with Legislative members after session concluded in June to discuss key bills. NYSCPG hopes to move some legislation toward passage during the 2026 session. Please see the Legislative Committee article on page 25 in this newsletter for more details on legislation initiatives.

NYSCPG is currently working on a new website that we hope will be beneficial for members. The site will have upgraded registration options for both members and events, a robust member-only section, and a streamlined look. The goal for a launch date is by late February, or earlier, if possible. We are excited regarding the potential new features that will be included. More information will be provided as we approach the launch date.

As always, please contact me with any questions or comments via email at jnadeau@nyscp.org or by phone at 518-579-6580. Thank you for your continued support of NYSCPG.



John Nadeau, P.G.
NYSCPG Executive Director



President's Message



As 2025 draws to a close and the holidays are upon us, I want to wish all of you that the holiday season bring only happiness and joy to you and your loved ones. Hopefully you will find some time to slow down, take a break for a few days, enjoy family and friends, and celebrate your successes and reflect on lessons learned to propel you into a prosperous New Year.

First, I want to recognize and sincerely thank Past-President Gregory C. Wyka, P.G. for his years of service and leadership as NYSCPG President, and all the time he puts into being a contributing member of the NYSCPG Board of Directors. I am honored to take on the role of President of an organization that I am so proud to be member of. The trust put in me by my peers is inspiring and I commit to giving the NYSCPG my best efforts to lead the organization and see that our initiatives for 2026 consistently move forward using all the talent of our entire Board of Directors and volunteers.

For those of you who don't know my background, I am currently a Senior Project Manager at P.W. Grosser Consulting Engineer & Hydrogeologist, D.P.C. (PWGC) and a NYS-PG. My academic degrees are a BS in Geology and an MS in Hydrogeology. I have over 39 years of experience investigating and remediating contaminated sites particularly in the realm of organic and inorganic contamination at Federal and NYS Superfund, and RCRA realms. Since 2017, I have been focused on developing myself into a PFAS subject matter expert. I am dedicated to our profession and serve as the Past- President and current Vice-President of the Long Island Association of Professional Geologists (LIAPG).

I would like to recognize and thank Director Mark Williams, PG for his herculean effort to lead and manage the event committee in the planning, development and performance of our recent fourth annual Geology Days 2025. I would also like to thank all those who attended, presented, and sponsored the event. It was a huge success attended by more than 350 individuals. This annual event brings together professionals from across the state to share expertise and experience and strengthen connections within our geoscience community in ways that didn't previously exist on this scale. I would also like to recognize and thank Director Kerry Maloney, PG for volunteering to lead and manage the executive event committee in the planning, development and performance of what will be our fifth annual Geology Days in 2026. I am certain she will also do an outstanding job and the team will support her with all the vigor we can muster.

Outreach will remain a top priority for our organization in 2026. With the support of the NYS Education Department (SED), we are working to strengthen engagement with geology departments at colleges and universities across New York and to connect with students in both high school and college. By sharing information about professional licensure and the importance of geology in protecting public health, safety, and the environment, we can inspire the next generation of geologists to pursue this rewarding career path.

As you read on in the newsletter you will hear about other top priority initiatives for 2026 including our Lobbyist Campbell Wallace, Esq. closely watching and reporting back to the BOD relevant developments and bills in the legislature that may affect our profession. The NYSCPG also intends to stay focused in the regulatory space, coordinating with ACEC New York to discuss changes to the states Superfund program, specifically changes to ECL 27-1323, and municipal liability for PFAS discharges. This coordination includes clarification of

implementation of the program with the New York State Department of Environmental conservation.

The NYSCPG continues to appeal for volunteers from our membership to help with our mission. We need active participation in event planning, speakers for our Geo Insights Quarterly Webinars, Geology Days, and meaningful articles for the Quarterly Newsletter. With your engagement, we can continue to grow as a community and ensure the profession remains strong and impactful for many years to come.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement. I look forward to seeing many of you at NYSCPG 2026 events!



Chris W. Wenczel, P.G.
NYSCPG President



Have any news?

We are accepting submissions to our newsletter by members about Geology in NY.

Contact support@nyscpg.org or call 518-579-6580 for more information

The Quarterly Schedule of the NYSCPG Newsletter has been updated to:

- March 11th, with submissions due February 27th**
- June 10th, with submissions due May 29th**
- September 9th, with submissions due August 28th**



Staff, Officers, and Directors

Executive Director - John Nadeau, P.G.

President – Chris W. Wenczel, P.G.

Vice President – Robert Garfield, P.G.

Treasurer – Erik Gustafson, P.G.

Secretary – Michael Grifasi, P.G.

Past President – Gregory C. Wyka, P.G., LEED AP ND

Directors (2025 – 2026)

Director – Josh Gowan, P.G.

Director – Jeffrey Frederick, P.G.

Director – Christopher Kelson, PhD, P.G.

Director – George M. Lukert, P.G.

Director – Kerry A. Maloney, P.G.

Director – Cheryl Neary, P.G.

Director – Kelly Weyer, P.G.

Director – Victoria Russo Whelan, QEP, P.G.

Directors (2026 – 2027)

Director – Frank R. Clougherty, P.G.

Director – Eugene Florentino, P.G.

Director – Steven Muller, P.G.

Director – Calvin K. Prothro, P.G.

Director – Mark A. Williams, P.G.

Committee Chairs

Continuing Education - Eugene Florentino, P.G., PMP

Fundraising Co.- Gregory C. Wyka, P.G., LEED AP ND

Fundraising Co.- Cheryl Neary, P.G.

Outreach Co.- Kerry A. Maloney, P.G.

Outreach Co.- Victoria Russo Whelan, QEP, P.G.

Legislative - Mark Williams, P.G.

Membership – Chris W. Wenczel, P.G.

Geology Days – Kerry A. Maloney, P.G.

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Statement of Purpose

The NYSCPG strives to strengthen and advance the geologic sciences as a profession, promote the protection of public health and welfare and the environment through the professional practice of geologic sciences, and create high standards of ethical conduct among its members and within the profession of geology, as well as the legal standing of geologists and their ability to practice geology in New York State by promoting the licensing of geologists in New York State through statutory regulation.



The 2026 Officers and 2026-2027 Board of Directors

Officers



Officers (2026)

President: Chris W. Wenczel, P.G.



Chris Wenczel is a Senior Project Manager at P. W. Grosser Consulting and a NYS-licensed professional geologist with over 39 years of experience investigating and remediating contaminated sites particularly in the realm of organic and inorganic contamination at Federal and NYS Superfund, and RCRA realms. Mr. Wenczel's academic degrees are a BS in Geology and an MS in Hydrogeology. As an ERM PFAS subject matter expert, he has experience since 2017 developing remedial actions providing strategic advice, regulatory interface/negotiations, supporting outside counsel, off-site characterization, conceptual site model development, and remediation. Mr. Wenczel is past-President of LIAPG (current Vice-President) and Vice-President of the NYSCPG.

Vice President: Robert Garfield, P.G



Robert Garfield is an Owner and the Principal Borehole Geophysicist at Hager-Richter Geoscience, dba HR Geological Services in New York, (HRGS). Rob has nearly 25 years of experience in the geophysical profession at HRGS and is a licensed professional geologist in multiple states including New York. Rob specializes in high resolution borehole geophysical logging and serves on the committees of state, national, and international geologic and geoengineering organizations working to educate industry professionals and regulators on the use of surface and borehole geophysics for subsurface characterization as part of geoengineering and environmental investigations. Rob is currently an officer serving as secretary for New York State Council of Professional Geologists (NYSCPG).

Secretary: Michael Grifasi, P.G.



Michael G. Grifasi is a Senior Project Manager at Ramboll in Syracuse, NY who has been practicing geology for over 20 years. Prior to Ramboll, he was employed at FPM Remediations where he worked primarily on DoD contracts with agencies such as AFCEC, USACE, and ANG. There was also a brief moment in his life where he taught earth science to 8th graders in Queens, NY, as a NYC Teaching Fellow. He previously served on the Executive Committee of the Northeast Section AIPG as secretary, president-elect/president/past-president, and an at-large member. His other board experience involved a two-year stint as treasurer of the Ed Smith PTO, right here in Syracuse. He carries a professional geology license in NY and has been a CPG since 2011.

Treasurer: Erik Gustafson, P.G.



Erik Gustafson is a Project Manager at the United States Army Corp of Engineers (USACE), who is a NYS-licensed Professional Geologist and Certified Hazardous Materials Manager (CHMM). At USACE, Erik is leading remedial efforts at a FURAP site containing multiple uranium, nickel and tetrachloroethene groundwater plumes. Prior to joining USACE, Mr. Gustafson was in the environmental consulting industry for 26 years responsible for investigation and remediation of petroleum-, chlorinated- and inorganic-impacted sites. His academic degrees include a BS in Environmental Science and an MS in Environmental and Waste Management. Mr. Gustafson is the current Treasurer for NYSCPG.

Immediate Past President: Greg Wyka, P.G.



Greg grew up in Lincoln Park, NJ and spent most of his childhood summers in the Adirondacks, which he considers his second home. Greg graduated from Bowdoin College in 2008 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Geology and Environmental Studies and a Chemistry minor. Greg is a professional geologist with experience in regulatory government and environmental liability consulting and brownfield redevelopment services in New York. Previous employers include Tetra Tech EC, Inc., New York City Office of Environmental Remediation (NYCOER), The ELM Group, Inc., and Integral Consulting, Inc. Greg started his professional career in environmental consulting as a field geologist at Tetra Tech EC, Inc. in Morris Plains, NJ after graduating from Bowdoin and is now a senior project manager at Langan Engineering, Environmental, Surveying, Landscape Architecture and Geology, D.P.C in New York City. Greg manages construction projects and remediation projects in the New York State Brownfield Cleanup Program, New York State Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Site Program, New York State Spill Response Program, and the New York City E-Designation and Voluntary Cleanup Programs and provides technical, regulatory, logistical, and risk management guidance to developers, property owners, and environmental attorneys. Greg is a DIY-kind-of-guy and his interests/hobbies include hiking and backpacking (ADK46er #7228 and aspiring Winter 46er) skiing, running, gardening, and hunting and fishing. Greg lives in New Jersey with his wife Kathleen and daughter, Harper.

Board of Directors (2026-2027)

Gene Florentino, P.G.



Gene Florentino is a Senior Project Manager at Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. for both their Amherst and Rochester offices for the past 2 years. He previously worked for GHD Consulting Services, Inc for 5 years, and Ecology and Environment, Inc for 31 years. Gene is a PG in NYS since 2016 and PA and since 1995 and was crazy enough to take and pass both the FG and PG ASBOG exams in 2018. He served many years on the Board of Directors for BAPG, and was president in 1999; and has been on the NYSCPG Board since 2001, serving as President 2019 through 2021.



Calvin Prothro, P.G.



Calvin Prothro is an Emeritus Professor of Onondaga Community College where he taught for 18 years. He has also been an adjunct and visiting lecturer at SUNY Cortland, Cazenovia College, SUNY-ESF, Wells College, Ithaca College, and Tompkins-Cortland Community College, where he taught a variety of courses in the physical and environmental geosciences. Calvin is also, a past (2-term) president of the Central New York Association of Professional Geologists (CNYAPG) and is currently serving in his second term on the board of directors for the New York State Council of Professional Geologists (NYSCPG). He holds a BA from SUNY Geneseo in Geological Sciences and an MA in Physical Geography from Binghamton University. Calvin has 15 years of industry experience, working primarily in the fields of environmental site assessment, environmental site remediation, and hydrogeologic investigations. He is also currently licensed as a Professional Geologist in New York and Indiana and is certified by AIPG (The American Institute of Professional Geologists).

Mark Williams, P.G.



Mark Williams earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Geology from East Carolina University in 1986. Mr. Williams began his career as an environmental consultant with Dunn Geoscience Corporation at their corporate headquarters in Albany, New York. Over 36 years later, Mark is the Managing Geologist at C.T. Male Associates and is a licensed P.G. in NY and PA specializing in site characterization, PFAS investigations, aquifer testing, environmental permitting and compliance, groundwater remediation, environmental restoration, and vapor intrusion mitigation. Mark has been an active member of HMPGA since the 1990's and is one of their numerous past presidents and was a staunch advocate for the professional licensure of geologists in his previous role on the NYSCPG Board between 2005 and 2014 where he served multiple terms as President (2007 - 2009).

Steven Muller, P.G.



Mr. Muller is a Professional Geologist, licensed in New York and Texas. He has over 39 years' experience consulting in the environmental space, with a focus & expertise in groundwater contamination & remediation. Throughout his career, he has performed countless subsurface site investigations and contaminate remediations, working closely & developing relationships with the NYSDEC, major oil companies, municipalities, and corporate clients. Mr. Muller is the Director of the Subsurface Division at J.C. Broderick & Associates, Inc. In addition to his managerial responsibilities, he enjoys mentoring and educating the staff in all areas of environmental investigations, design, and implementation of remedial strategies. Mr. Muller is a current Director at NYSCPG and participates in several committees. Mr. Muller studied Geology at Hofstra University and earned credits in Hydrogeology at SUNY Stony

Brook. He was a member of the NYSDEC Risk-Based Corrective Action (RBCA) for Petroleum - Impacted Sites Advisory Group Committee and Sub Workgroup 3 – Natural Attenuation, Fate and Transport Member, and has been a supporting member of the NYSCPG since 1997. Outside of work he is an avid cyclist, hiker, sailor, and autocross racer. Married for 32 years, he loves travelling with his wife and spending time with their two adult children.

Frank R. Clougherty, P.G. (New Board Member)



Frank R. Clougherty, G.I.T. is a Project Geologist/ Manager at GEI Consultants. Mr. Clougherty was born in Niagara Falls, New York, and currently resides in Youngstown, New York. Mr. Clougherty earned an A.S. in Engineering and Applied Sciences from Niagara County Community College, however, a curious mind to better understand the “big picture” led him to pursue and complete a B.S. in Geological Sciences from the State University of New York at Buffalo. Mr. Clougherty has over 5 years’ experience in various projects involving geotechnical, geoenvironmental, environmental, geological, and civil engineering. His professional experience includes subsurface exploration, hydrogeologic studies, construction management/monitoring, landfill operations, regulatory compliance, foundation design and construction, soil and groundwater sampling, and remedial investigations/monitoring. Mr. Clougherty currently serves on the board of directors for the Buffalo Association of Professional Geologists (BAPG) and acts as a liaison with the Air and Waste Management Association (A&WMA) Niagara frontier section. Mr. Clougherty's personal interests include spending time with his family, hiking, fishing, running, mowing the lawn, playing hockey, and golfing.



Recent and Upcoming Events

Upcoming Events

Jan 7th – CNYAPG

Christopher Kelson, Ph.D., P.G., Atlantic Testing Laboratories – “Pyrite and Pyrrhotite in Shale, Fill Material, and Aggregate – Potential Geotechnical Concern

Jan 21st – HMPGA

January Monthly Meeting – More information TBA

Jan 22nd – LIAPG

Caitlin Ahrens, Ph.D., NASA Goddard Space Flight Center – Webinar: “Return Performance about Mars Geology – What are we learning from rocks of Jerezo Crater?”

Feb 4th – CNYAPG

Pat Gannon, EA Engineering and Geology, PC – “A Tale of Two Discrete Fractured Networks: CVOC Impacted Bedrock Aquifers in Upstate New York”

Feb 4th – NYSCPG

Continuing Education PDH Evaluator Training

Feb 18th – HMPGA

February Monthly Meeting – More information TBA

Mar 4th – CNYAPG

Robert Moucha, Syracuse University – More information TBA

Mar 19th – LIAPG

Frederick Stumm, P.G., PhD., USGS – “An Updated Hydrogeologic Framework and Extent of Saltwater Intrusion in Kings, Queens, Nassau Counties & Suffolk, Long Island, New York - Results of Recent Exploration Drilling”

Apr 8th – NYSCPG/ NYSED

John Nadeau, P.G., NYSCPG, Eric Greppo, P.E., NYSED – “The New York State Professional Geologist’s Role & Responsibility. Ethical Practice in Professional Geology”

Apr 15th – NYSCPG / NYSED

Virtual course for prospective professional Geologists

Apr 15th – HMPGA / NE-AIPG

Spring Meeting, Student Expo, and Career Fair – More information TBA

Take a look at other upcoming events with the NYSCPG, or our affiliated organizations, by clicking the images below



NYSCPG.com



Central New York Association
of Professional Geologists
cnyapg.org



Liapg.org



Ne-aipg.org



Bapg.org



Hmpga.wildapricot.org



Nysga-online.org

THE NYSCPG PRESENTS

GEOLOGY DAYS

2025

SARATOGA SPRINGS
NOVEMBER 11 - 13



Thank you again to all who attended the Fourth Annual Geology Days Conference from November 11-13, 2025 in Saratoga Springs, New York. We appreciate the participation of the nearly 400 attendees, presenters, exhibitors, and to our sponsors for helping to keep costs manageable for those attending. We are especially thankful for the flexibility of all who participated in light of the Government shutdown and the delays that it caused in distributing information. It was great to see so many new and familiar faces for our largest event yet.

The conference allowed professional geologists, engineers, and sponsors to interact and network, while providing continuing education credit to design professionals. **Certain conference sessions have been submitted for approval by the Connecticut board for Licensed Environmental Professionals, and interested attendees can contact support@nyscpge.com for more information.**



Attendees took part in the Membership meeting on Tuesday which provided an update of NYSCPG's activities in 2025 and the planned direction for the future. The meeting was followed by the ice-breaker event that evening that allowed everyone to catch up with colleagues. Wednesday and Thursday offered the options of thirty presentations to earn professional development hours (PDH). The keynote dinner on Tuesday was presented by William Ottaway, P.G. of the NYSDEC and was co-sponsored by the Hudson Mohawk Professional Geologists Association.



Conference participants were able to get out of the hotel and enjoy the crisp November air while earning PDHs on two field trips. The NYSCPG appreciates the support of the Northeast Section of the American Institute of Professional Geologists for sponsoring both of these excursions. Wednesday's trip was led by Bob O'Neill, P.G. of Brown and Caldwell. The trip gave the participants historical geologic context of the lower Mohawk River gorge and surrounding area. Thursday's trip to Moreau Lake was led by Paul M. Heisig, P.G. of USGS (emeritus). The Trip provided

hydrogeological explanation of the Lake water level, and guidance about nearby areas of geologic interest.

The NYSCPG Board appreciates the staff and volunteers who helped coordinate and run the event. The volunteers included a student from SUNY Binghamton who helped with registration and checking in attendees during presentations. We would also like to take the opportunity to thank our sponsors again who keep the event costs low for attendees. We had over twenty exhibitors displaying their organizations during the week and it was good to see participants interacting during the breaks.

Finally, thank you to all the attendees for making the trip to Saratoga to take part in the event. NYSCPG is already planning the fifth annual event! We welcome those who attended to participate in this [brief survey](#) to provide feedback that will be utilized for planning Geology Days 2026. Look for an announcement in the coming weeks for the 2026 date and venue.



Thank you to our Geology Days 2025 Sponsors:

Gold Sponsors: [Alpha Geoscience](#) | [ALS USA Environmental](#) | [Langan Engineering, Environmental, Surveying, L.A. & Geology, D.P.C.](#) | [Posillico, Inc.](#) | [Roux, Inc.](#)

Silver Sponsors: [Long Island Association of Professional Geologists](#) | [Pace Analytical Services](#) | [Pine Environmental](#) | [Specto Technology](#)

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Field Trip Sponsor: [NE-AIPG](#)

Presentation of Awards at Geology Days

At the Keynote dinner hosted at Geology Days 2025, the NYSCPG Board of Directors was pleased to honor Past-President Gregory C. Wyka for his service to the organization over the past 3 years. We are grateful for his leadership and impact on the council, with the creation of the Geology Days conference and Geology Rocks concert series, the hiring of NYSCPG Lobbyist Campbell Wallace, Esq. and of Executive Director John Nadeau, and the development of the Quarterly Geo Insights webinar series. We are grateful to have his presence remain on the Board of Directors and appreciate his continued guidance and contribution to the council.



From Left to Right, Director Rick Watt, P.G., Immediate Past-President, Gregory C. Wyka, P.G., New Professional Geologists Chris Wood, P.G. and Nolan Lescalleet, P.G., NYSGS Karl Backhaus, P.G., NYSED Eric Greppo, P.E.

Welcoming of Newly Licensed Professional Geologists

The NYSCPG Board of Directors welcomed the most recent individuals to earn their Professional Geologist License at this ceremony. The council is proud to support the growth of the profession, and are committed to providing resources, opportunity, and assistance to professionals in their pursuit of success. The NYSCPG wishes the best for all newly licensed individuals, and hopes for their continued participation in the organization.



A Closer Look at the Geology Days 2025 Field Trips

For the third year in a row, NYSCPG hosted two field trips as part of the Annual Geology Days Conference. One trip took place on each day of the conference (Wednesday 11/12 and Thursday 11/13), concurrent to the Geology Days' morning technical sessions. The trips were designed with the intent of highlighting the geology local to the conference and to provide attendees with continuing education credits needed for professional license renewals.

This year's sold out field trips were led by Bob O'Neil, P.G. (Brown and Caldwell) and Paul Heisig, P.G. (emeritus USGS), who are both extremely knowledgeable in the regional geology and the material presented. Many thanks are extended to both presenters for their time and effort in creating these fantastic informative trips, and to the sponsorship of the NE-AIPG for their assistance in bringing these trips to fruition.

Bob O'Neill's trip titled "Deformation of Foreland Basin Deposits During the Taconic Orogeny In New York's Capital District Area, and an Overview of the Geomorphology of the Lower Mohawk River and Cohoes Falls" took place on Wednesday 11/12. For the deformation discussion, the field trip stops followed a generally west-to-east transect across a belt of rocks deformed during the Taconic Orogeny, with deformation increasing to the east as the stops advanced closer to the frontal thrust of the Taconic thrust sheet complex. To take advantage of the location of the outcrops along the Mohawk River, the trip included discussions of the geomorphology and recent geologic history of the lower Mohawk River gorge, including a discussion at Cohoes Falls.



Paul Heisig's trip titled "The Moreau Lake Kame Terrace -Hydrogeology and Hydrologic Controls on Kettle Lake Water Levels" took place on Thursday 11/13 and included four stops within Moreau Lake State Park. The discussions were centered on a study that began with concerns about lake level declines during 2015 - 2016 at Moreau Lake, a large kettle lake. The field trip's presentation recounted the hydrogeology study conducted by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), in which lake and local groundwater levels were measured and analyzed between 2016 to 2021 to investigate for the

contributing factors of local lake level fluctuations. The stops included monitoring sites, and adjacent sites of geologic and hydrologic interest.

Kelly A. Weyer, P.G.
Director NYSCPG / NE-AIPG President



News Around New York

The Northeast AIPG

The American Institute of Professional Geologists (AIPG) is a national organization, with an international network, dedicated to promoting Geology as a Profession and emphasizes Competence, Integrity, and Ethics. AIPG aims to provide resources, professional certifications, education, networking, mentoring opportunities, and more. Your professional license gives you credentials to practice, and your AIPG Membership (<https://aipg.org/>) shows your commitment to ethical practices and integrity in your work and offers to you a professional community and support.

The Northeast Section of AIPG (NE-AIPG) represents an eight-state region (CT, NH, NJ, NY, MA, ME, RI, and VT) and focuses on supporting Northeast geologists by understanding their interests and needs and facilitating connections and opportunities for professional geologists. NE-AIPG also provides opportunities for students and awards the annual Angelo Tagliacozzo Memorial Geological Scholarships to selected junior and senior geology students.

NE-AIPG had a successful 2025, with spring webinars, the annual Spring Meeting and Student Expo held in April in collaboration with the Hudson-Mohawk Professional Geologist Association (HMPGA), and our annual Fall Meeting in October, where Dr. Alexander Gates (Rutgers-Newark) led us on a field trip and gave an evening talk on Current Seismicity and Active Faulting in the NY/NJ Area. NE-AIPG was involved with the NYSCPG's Annual Geology Days Conference as a field trip sponsor with an exhibitor table, and members involved thought it was a great event to interact with the professional geology community in NY between the informative talks, field trips, and networking opportunities that fill the two-day conference. We look forward to a successful 2026, so watch our website <http://www.ne-aipg.org/>, and if you're a NE-AIPG member watch your emails!

Kelly A. Weyer, P.G.

NE-AIPG President / NYSCPG Director



Have any news?

**We are accepting submissions to
our newsletter by members
about Geology in NY.**

**Contact support@nyscpge.org
or call 518-579-6580
for more Information**

The Quarterly Schedule of the NYSCPG Newsletter has
been updated to:

March 11th, with submissions due February 27th

June 10th, with submissions due May 29th

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The Long Island Association of Professional Geologists

The Long Island Association of Professional Geologists, Inc. (LIAPG) is a (501 (c) (6)) Not-For-Profit professional organization dedicated to the professional and business needs of geologists located in the Long Island / Metro New York area. LIAPG is a diverse, inclusive, and equitable organization where all members, whatever their gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, age, sexual orientation or identity, education or disability, feel valued and respected. LIAPG's current membership stands at 205 Active Members & 19 Corporate Sponsors from Nassau & Suffolk Counties, Boroughs of Queens & Brooklyn. This footprint includes 176 PGs or 29% of 598 NYS-based NYS Professional Geologists.

New LIAPG Board Members: During Fall 2025 LIAPG strengthened our relationships with regional academic institutions. Dr. Lars Ehm from the SUNY Stony Brook Department of Geosciences and Dr. Brett Bennington, Chair of the Hofstra University Department of Geology, Environment and Sustainability joined the LIAPG Board of Directors (BOD). Their participation enhances the complexion of our BOD and more directly connects the LIAPG to the Long Island earth science student community providing new opportunities for more effective outreach to our future generation of geologists and environmental scientists. Dr. Bennington and Dr. Ehm assertively dug right in taking lead advisement roles in developing the Gil Hanson Memorial Geosciences Scholarship for 2026-2027 academic year. We are excited to see the impacts their contributions will have in 2026!

LIAPG's Fall In-person Dinner Meeting – 30 October 2025: “Hot Rocks, Frozen Ice and Things In Between”

Dr. Weisen Shen, SUNY Stony Brook Department of Geosciences made an excellent presentation regarding seismic monitoring methods to understand accelerated ice mass loss that have been observed in multiple glaciers of Antarctica. Monitoring its movement and mass balance, as well as predicting its behavior in the future decades, is at the central position to maintain the sustainability of human society. Dr. Shen presented some of the basic observations of the Antarctic Ice Sheet and its dynamics, and introduce a key parameter, the Earth's geothermal heat flux (generated from heat sources such as radioactive heating elements in the crust), to help the science community make better predictions of the Ice Sheet movement. This heat flux is hard to measure directly but can be assessed by using the traveling energy of seismic waves. Dr. Shen has been developing instruments to make such seismic observations in Antarctica, quantifying the conductance of heat from deep within the Earth into the ice sheet is now possible and can be used to better predict the ice behavior in the future. Dr. Shen then brought the conversation closer to home discussing how seismic monitoring can be used to develop higher resolution mapping of bedrock basin extents across North America.

LIAPG's Winter In-person Dinner Meeting 17 December 2025: “The Geology of NYC and the Potential for Geothermal Systems”

Paul K. Boyce, PE, PG/P.W. Grosser Consulting Engineer & Hydrogeologist, D.P.C, made an outstanding presentation providing an overview of geothermal energy applications within New York City's diverse geological settings. The presentation highlighted various project



examples, demonstrating the successful implementation of both Vertical Closed Loop and Standing Column Geothermal Systems. Key projects Mr. Boyce explored included:

- Snug Harbor Cultural Center (Staten Island, NY): A Vertical Closed Loop system with 32 loops drilled to 500 ft, encountering sands overlying rock.
- Weeksville Heritage Center (Brooklyn, NY): A Vertical Closed Loop system with 48 loops drilled to 470 ft, primarily through sands, silts, and clays.
- Cornell University NYTECH Campus (Roosevelt Island, NY): A Vertical Closed Loop/Un-grouted Borehole Annulus system with 80 loops drilled to 400 ft, through unconsolidated overburden materials overlying gneiss.
- St. Patrick's Cathedral (Manhattan, NY): A Standing Column Geothermal System featuring 10 wells varying from 800 ft to over 2,200 ft deep, primarily through schist (metamorphic rock).

The presentation delved into the geological conditions, system design, installation processes, thermal conductivity testing, and operational aspects of these projects. It underscored the importance of understanding subsurface geologic conditions and tailoring geothermal solutions to specific site requirements, showcasing PWGC's expertise in delivering sustainable energy infrastructure in complex urban environments.

Upcoming Events

22 January 2026 Webinar "Return Performance about Mars Geology – What are we learning from rocks of Jerezo Crater?" Presented: by Caitlin Ahrens, Ph.D. - Planetary Geology, Geophysics & Geochemistry Lab, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

19 March 2026 Dinner Meeting "An Updated Hydrogeologic Framework and Extent of Saltwater Intrusion in Kings, Queens, Nassau Counties & Suffolk, Long Island, New York - Results of Recent Exploration Drilling" Presented By: Frederick Stumm PG, Ph.D., United States Geological Survey

LIAPG Key Goals, Plans & Events for 2026?

- Launch the Gil Hanson Memorial Geosciences Scholarship for 2026-2027 academic year.
- Grow membership to include more NYS PGs in our footprint that includes adding several additional corporate sponsors.
- Continue quarterly in-person dinner meetings offering PDH credit.
- Continue webinars offering PDH credit.
- Continue quarterly newsletter.
- 2-3 field trips, 1 summer outing, and 1 members appreciation event.



- Remain relevant to our membership and meet their needs for PDH credit and communicate concerns/issues to NYSCPG.
- Provide commentary on relevant proposed regulations.
- Leverage our improved academic connections to better serve our student community
- Continue to be adaptive and expand our support of the NYSCPG including local college/university outreach!
- Develop a scholarship program.

Chris Wenczel, P.G.

NYSCPG President /LIAPG Vice-President

Buffalo Association of Professional Geologists

The BAPG has continued its mission to foster the transfer of geological knowledge and to interact with professional geologists and related professionals since 1985. Represented by 94 active members, the BAPG hosts 8 dinner meetings annually, field trips, and co-hosts events with ASCE, A&WMA, the Buffalo Geological Society, the University at Buffalo, and the Buffalo Museum of Science. Recently, a 3-year affiliate agreement has been signed with the Buffalo Museum of Science, and since the start of 2025, the organization has been working to increase student participation with the addition of two professors from UB as members of the BAPG board of directors.

James Schuetz, P.G.

BAPG President



Hudson Mohawk Professional Geologists Association

The Hudson Mohawk Professional Geologists Association (HMPGA) consists of 175 Active members and 29 Corporate sponsors, with stable to increasing membership. HMPGA has had a busy start to the 2025-2026 season, including co-hosting the dinner event that took place at the NYSCPG fourth annual Geology Days conference, presented by Bill Ottaway of the NYSDEC. They plan to continue offering their monthly meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, and to add additional field trips to their yearly schedule.

Upcoming events to keep an eye out for:

- April 15, 2026, the annual Student Poster session, Career Networking Event, and Field Trip. Hosted jointly with NE-AIPG.

To register for future events, visit [HMPGA's Website](#).

Matthew Dupee, P.G.
HMPGA President



Central New York Association of Professional Geologists

CNYAPG has 132 active members, and hosts 9 dinner meetings both in-person and virtually each year. CNYAPG supports Syracuse University's Earth Science Student Symposium and awards a grant to undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students in Earth Science Student Research. CNYAPG held a Rock Quarry Field Trip in September of 2025 for continuing education was attended by 35 geologists.

A promotional graphic for the NYSCPG. It features a dark teal background with a white and light blue wave pattern. The text reads: "HELP THE NYSCPG PROMOTE GEOLOGY" in dark blue, "SUBMIT ANY PHOTOS OF GEOLOGISTS IN ACTION" in red, and "Click Here to Submit" in black. There is a small logo of the NYSCPG and a map of New York State.

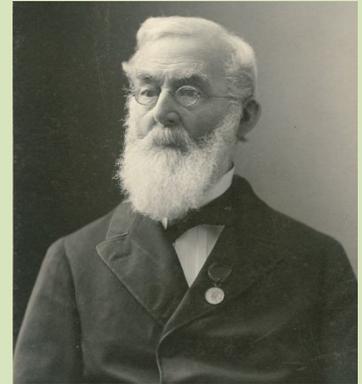


HONORING HEROS IN GEOLOGY: James Hall: Life, Role, Contributions, and Influence

Submitted By Chris Wenczel, P.G.

Early Life and Education

James Hall (1811–1898), New York's first State Geologist and eventually its first State Paleontologist, emerged as one of the most influential scientific figures of the 19th century. Born in Hingham, Massachusetts, he later moved with his family to New York and in 1830 enrolled at the newly established Rensselaer School (now RPI). Under the guidance of Amos Eaton — a pioneer of American scientific education — Hall absorbed a rigorous, field-centered approach to geology. After graduating in 1832 as part of a small class, he stayed on as librarian and assistant chemistry instructor, beginning the mineral and fossil collections that would shape his professional identity.



Entry into the New York Geological Survey

Hall's major career turning point arrived when the New York State Legislature launched an ambitious statewide geological survey in 1834. Backed by influential patron Stephen Van Rensselaer III, Hall secured the role of Geologist for the Fourth District, beginning work in 1836. His field investigations took him across central and western New York — including the Finger Lakes region, the shores of Lake Ontario, and the rugged Genesee River valley. There he uncovered extensive Paleozoic fossils, demonstrating that much of New York had once been submerged beneath a broad inland sea. Hall quickly became one of the most influential geologists in North America, especially known for his pioneering work in stratigraphy, paleontology, and the development of the first comprehensive geologic maps and fossil reports for New York State. Over time — due to his extraordinary output, fossil work, and national reputation — Hall effectively became recognized as the State Geologist and later the State Paleontologist, a title he held officially and functionally for decades. Many historical accounts shorthand this and refer to him as New York's "first State Geologist," because he became the central scientific authority of the survey and produced its defining work.



Scientific Breakthroughs and Contributions

Among Hall's most important discoveries were red sandstone deposits containing the fossil fish *Holoptychius*. Through detailed comparison with European rock formations, he demonstrated that New York's "Old Red Sandstone" deposits were the same age as Europe's classic Devonian sequences — a breakthrough in global stratigraphic correlation. This work helped synchronize American and European geological time scales, significantly advancing comparative stratigraphy.

In his influential 1843 Fourth District Report, Hall challenged the then-dominant catastrophist view, arguing instead for the gradual and continuous development of life and Earth systems. His perspective helped shift American geology toward more modern, evolution-consistent interpretations that would soon align with the work of Charles Darwin.

Publications and Lasting Legacy

Hall became New York's first State Paleontologist in 1843, and between 1847 and 1894 produced his monumental thirteen-volume *Paleontology of New York*. These richly illustrated volumes documented thousands of fossils and set an international standard for scientific

accuracy, technical illustration, and systematic description.

He further shaped American science by establishing a brick laboratory in Albany in 1852. This institution became a training ground for some of the era's most influential geologists and paleontologists, including Charles Doolittle Walcott (discoverer of the Burgess Shale), Josiah Whitney, Charles Beecher, and Fielding Meek. Internationally renowned figures — most notably Sir Charles Lyell — sought out Hall, traveled with him, and praised New York's rock record as a global benchmark for Paleozoic geology.

Later Career and Final Years

Hall served as president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (1856). In 1870, "The New York State Museum of Natural History" was established and James Hall, who held the title of both State Geologist and State Paleontologist, was appointed as the Museum's first director. In 1894, Hall published a comprehensive geological map of New York State, which was considered one of the finest and most detailed state geological maps of its time. It incorporated decades of field surveys, fossil correlations, and stratigraphic insights. This map is often cited as a landmark achievement because it represented the culmination of Hall's lifetime of geological work in New York. Even in old age, he remained scientifically active, attending international congresses and publishing influential papers. He died in 1898 at age 86, leaving behind a legacy that shaped the foundations of North American geology. James Hall is buried in Lot 93, Section 1 at Albany Rural Cemetery.

A great further read: <https://www.newyorkalmanack.com/2022/12/james-hall-new-yorks-first-state-geologist-paleontologist/>

Chris Wenczel, P.G.
NYSCPG President



**Help your organization
realize its full potential.**

Post on the NYSCPG Job Board!
<https://nyscpge.jobboard.net/jobs>

NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL OF PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS

Connecting the Space – Red Rock Canyon to Joshua Tree National Park (Part 2)

Submitted By Michael Grifasi, P.G.

This article was previously published in two parts by the NE AIPG in their Winter 2024 and Spring 2025 Newsletters



Wilson Cliffs Thrust/Bonanza King Formation Rocks in the distance. Stops 2 and 3 (fast forward to the following Monday) *(Continued from September Newsletter)*

To contemporize the processes leading to the formation of the Aztec Sandstone, the Kelso Dunes tell a more modern tale (within the last 5 million to 2 million years modern). The story begins on the desert planet Tatooine – I'm kidding. But yes, the Kelso Dunes were used to film scenes of Tatooine from the original Star Wars film. I'll try again – The story begins with the



Kelso Dunes in the distance.

Mojave River pulling sediments (predominantly quartz and feldspar) from the San Bernardino mountains (located to the west) eastward into the then 93 square mile prehistoric Lake Manix. The draining of Lake Manix about 25,000 years ago lead to the formation of Afton Canyon and, ultimately, the formation of Silver Lake and Soda Lake (known as Lake Mojave). Thousands of years-worth of evaporation exposed these lake sediments to wind which deposited them near the Granite and Providence Mountains, where they became the Kelso Dunes (2,400 to 9,000 years ago).

As the photo suggests, I didn't get too close to the Kelso Dunes. I did, however, make a mental note to spend more time there the next time I make it out to Vegas. Similarly, I did not drive all the way to the Amboy Crater itself. It was getting to be early afternoon and I was determined to maximize my time at Joshua Tree while also managing a 6:30 pm arrival in LA. What I did do was pull over on the side of the road and hike a portion of the lava field. Then I made another mental note.

Amboy Crater in the distance. Basaltic "scoria" close up.

The Amboy Crater is exactly what it looks like – a cinder cone. It dates back to the Pleistocene and is considered to be part of one of the youngest volcanic fields in the United States (most recent eruption approximately 10,000 years ago). This volcanic field sits to the southwest of the Keystone thrust system and



immediately northeast of a series of strike-slip faults, including the well-known San Andreas Fault. A collapse of a portion of the crater led to the creation of a 24 square mile area comprised of lava lakes, collapsed lava tubes and sinks, spatter cones, and, of course, a very large basalt flow. I suggest a quick peak of this crater in Google Earth to get a better feel for the area impacted.

As you drive south of the Amboy Crater you immediately begin to see evidence of calcium chloride "mining" in an area known as the "Amboy Salt Flats" – part of a dry lakebed known

as Bristol Lake. Signs in the area declare this land to be owned by the National Chloride Company of America – land that is comprised of acres and acres of staged excavation spoils and, as pictured, dug trenches that expose water and, eventually, the calcium carbonate precipitate for extraction. I eventually found a spot to grab a photo of a chloride trench while doing my best (and, in my opinion, succeeding) to not trespass. It's not that I'm a stickler for the rules, actually quite the opposite. But it was desert country and I've seen enough television to know not to mess much with desert-folk.

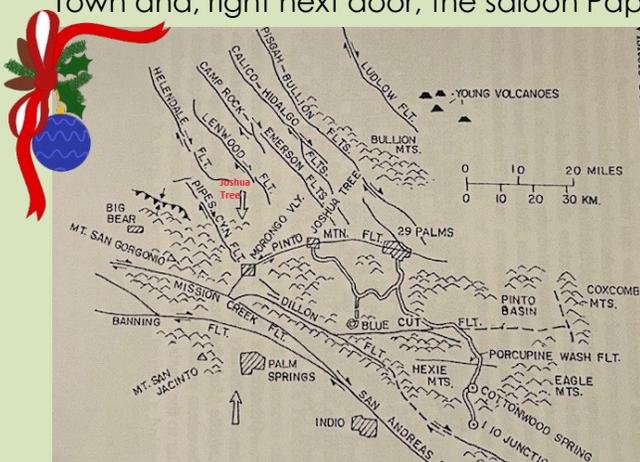


Chloride Trench

Stop 4: Joshua Tree National Park

From Amboy, I drove south to Wonder Valley and on into Twentynine Palms. Wonder Valley is that desert town that has you asking yourself how people manage to survive it all. It's beautiful but sparse and the homes are eclectic or otherwise boarded up and waiting for the land to take it back. It is a place of fortune tellers and junk artists, stucco and sand, austerity and ambience. I would guess, outside of Roswell, NM, Wonder Valley sits at the top of the list, per capita, of residents with passionate and quasi-believable alien abduction stories. And I'd live there in a heartbeat.

Then there's Twentynine Palms and Joshua Tree - places I frequented as a child that are not the same today. Word is the pandemic had coastal Californians moving inland for space and escape and the preponderance of chain stores and beautiful modern construction confirms it. Not that the search for affordable land in California originated with the pandemic – the pandemic just pushed our tolerance for a more “rugged” lifestyle. Note: when in Joshua Tree, two places that have served as a time capsule to my childhood are Pioneer Town and, right next door, the saloon Pappy & Harriet's. Both worth the stop.



Position of Joshua Tree National Park amongst area faults. Note “Young Volcanoes” location of Amboy Crater (Eggers, 2004)

Main entrances to Joshua Tree National Park (subsequently referred to as “the Park”) are located in Twentynine Palms and Joshua Tree and the trip through the park is largely a journey between the two towns. I have never had an issue here with accessing the Park but would guess that things get pretty busy during desert wildflower season. Something to consider depending on the time of year you plan to visit.

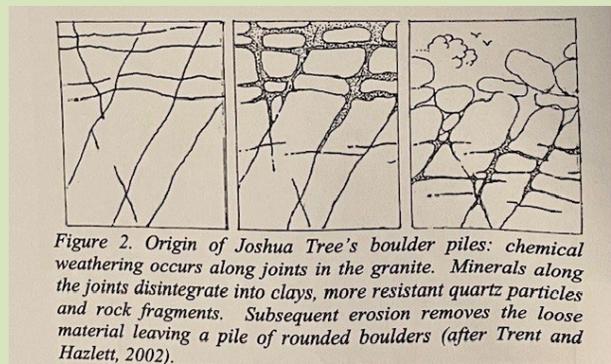
My main focus are always the White Tank monzogranites that form the granitic monoliths/ineslbergs throughout the Park. These granites are one of five major plutons intruding within the Precambrian/Proterozoic

metamorphics (remnants of the breakup [800 million years ago] landmass Rodinia [mountain formation dating back to 1.87 to 1.65 billion years ago]). A quick overview of the rocks in the Park associated with Rodinian landmass include the Joshua Tree augen gneiss (granitic augen gneiss), uncoformably overlain by the metasedimentary suite of Placer Canyon (quartzite and dolomite), the Monument Mountain augen gneiss (porphyritic granodiorite-

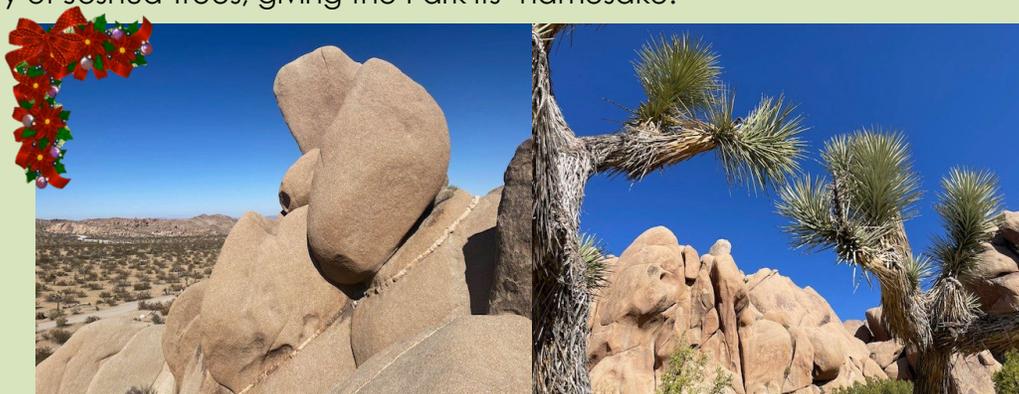
monzogranite), and the metasedimentary suite of Pinkham Canyon (quartzite, schist, fine-grained granofels, and dolomite).

Older magmatic episodes date back to the Proterozoic (1.78, 1.75, and 1.69 to 1.675 billion years ago) and included foliated hornblende meta-gabbro, diorite and amphibolite, laminated orthogneiss, and leucocratic granite orthogneiss. More recent magmatic episodes took place in the Triassic through Cretaceous which include the White Tank monzogranites mentioned above (similar to Queen Mountain monzogranite discussed below but finer-grained with biotite/muscovite and lacking hornblende) as well as the Twentynine palms megacrystic quartz monzonite (fine-grained matrix surrounding large potassium feldspar phenocrysts; oldest of the Mesozoic plutons), the Queen Mountain monzogranite (coarse-grained quartz and potassium feldspar, biotite, and hornblende), the Gold Park diorite (smaller dark plutons cut by felsite, aplite, pegmatite, andesite, and diorite dikes), and, the youngest, the Oasis Monzogranite (garnetiferous and muscovite-bearing).

All those words aside, what makes the Park the place to be has everything to do with the granitic rocks existing in the regional tectonic environment having undergone the right type of erosional process. You have your typical compressional conjugate jointing (60/120) as well as some other joint patterns (differences throughout the Park making each boulder outcrop different from the other) that lead to horizontal and vertical jointing and just about everything in between. Prior to major climatic changes, chemical weathering occurred along these joint surfaces and, over time, these gaps widen to what you see at the Park today. On approach to these granitic outcrops, you'll traverse an overburden sea of coarse quartz sand left over from this process. You'll also see plenty of Joshua Trees, giving the Park its' namesake.



Erosional process of Joshua Tree National Park granitic inselbergs (Eggers, 2004)



Monzogranite boulders of the Hidden Valley outcrop and Joshua Trees

At this point in the trip, I had roughly four hours to travel the park and scramble as many outcrops as I could. From a distance, a lot of these outcrops look simple to climb but, the reality is, you're not going to get to the top without some risky jumps, padless bouldering, and some tight crevice squeezes (many of which force you to leave your backpack and water behind). I will say, the coarse texture of these boulders, plus chalk, do make a bouldering route a lot less slippery.



Up close to the White Tank mozogranite. In some cases, weathering allows for just enough space for a geologist to barely crawl through

In the end, I didn't spend as much time at the Park as I had initially hoped to (I say the exact same thing regardless of how long I stay). Although, I did end up making it to LA before 6:30 pm. The final bonus was a quick stop to the Cabazon dinosaurs – another place I have driven by many times throughout my life but have never stopped. If you've seen the 1985 film "Pee-wees Big Adventure" (Tim Burton's directorial debut!), you've seen the dinosaurs. And now you know where they are!

What follows is a week full of old friends, family, breweries, SoCal Mexican food, oysters, tacos, more breweries, and even more tacos. Unfortunately (or, depending on your perspective, fortunately), you'll have to find my food and beer blog to get those details. And yes, the desert lung eventually subsided.

Safe travels!

Michael G. Grifasi, PG
NYSCPG Director



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Joseph V. Tingley, Becky W. Purkey, Ernest M. Duebendorfer, Eugene I. Smith, Jonathan G. Price, and Stephen B. Castor. *Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology Special Publication 16: Geologic Tours in the Las Vegas Area*. 2008.

Kelso Dunes geologic details/information:

<https://www.nps.gov/moja/kelso-dunes.htm>

Amboy Crater and chloride mining geologic details/information:

<https://www.blm.gov/visit/amboy-crater-national-natural-landmark>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amboy_Crater

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Joshua Tree National Park geologic details/information:

Margaret R. Eggers, Ph.D. (Editor). *Mining History and Geology of Joshua Tree National Park*. San Diego Association of Geologists. 2004.

Committees

Legislative Update

Early December 2025 marks the end of this year's legislative session where bills not yet acted on by the governor receive attention and planning begins for the upcoming 2026 legislative session.

The 2026 Session will commence on January 7, and the Governor will give the State of the State address on January 13. This year's legislative calendar has been released and can be seen [here](#).

A host of bills tracked by NYS CPG were sent to the governor on December 1, including three vetoed on December 5.

[A 4725-B](#) which prohibits the use of drilling fluids, brine and flowback water from gas or oil wells, pools, or fields on any highway for any purpose including but not limited to de-icing or dust suppression. This bill was vetoed (Veto #66) on the grounds that the provisions of the bill would have unintended consequences, as the State uses brine as a road deicing agent as a way to reduce the application of road salt.

[A5254A](#) which enacts the "New York open water data act"; directs certain agencies, under the leadership of conveners, to identify and integrate key water data sets; provides duties and an annual plan for data to be researched and reported. This bill's veto (Veto #68) was one of many included in the omnibus veto message.

[SB 1126](#) which directs the Department of Environmental Conservation to conduct a study of ecological restoration needs of Jamaica Bay; imposes a five-year moratorium on placing sediment or fill in the borrow pits in Jamaica Bay. This bill, vetoed in past years, was vetoed again this year (veto #68) and included in the omnibus veto message. The message notes that these bills (among others) seek to require the State to establish various commissions and taskforces imposing unbudgeted expenditures on the State, and which would be better implemented through the budget process.

[S5379](#) was sent to the Governor on December 8, with action due by December 19. This bill requires certain brownfield remediation site work requirements under private contract to be eligible for the tangible property tax credit associated with brownfield redevelopment. This bill was vetoed last year, and was vetoed again this year (veto #114).

NYSCPG Continues working on priority legislation including the grandfather geology clarification bill, the elimination of the experience only pathway bill, and new legislation to create the office of the state geologist. Early fall, NYS CPG and legislative counsel met with the sponsors offices for both of these bills to strategize for next session and coordinate efforts. NYS CPG also attended the annual joint design professions meeting where all design professions (Professional Geologists, Professional Engineers, Architects, Land Surveyors, and



Landscape Architects) and their representatives met to review last year's progress, identify opportunities, discuss the political landscape and review strategies for next session.

The bill to create the office of the state geologist was proposed to the New York State division of the budget, for inclusion in the upcoming proposed budget's Article VII language, through which policy proposals are implemented through the budget process. NYS CPG is also preparing for the concurrent introduction of the measure in the legislature in the event it is not included in the budget proposal.

NYSCPG remains active in the regulatory space also, coordinating with ACEC New York to discuss changes to the states Superfund program, specifically changes to ECL 27-1323, and municipal liability for PFAS discharges. This coordination includes clarification of implementation of the program with the New York State Department of Environmental conservation.

Campbell Wallace, Esq.

Pastel Rosen & Wallace, LLP / NYSCPG Lobbyist



Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee produced an updated student brochure, letting students know NYSCPG is a helpful resource for them and aimed at providing students with the information they need as they get ready to enter the profession as newly minted geologists. We debuted the brochure at Geology Days. You can download it from the NYSCPG Website [here](#).

Our next step in our student outreach plan is to reach out to the various geology programs at colleges and send them a packet of information, including the brochure. We will also offer to meet with the administration and their students to answer questions about the profession. We will be looking for additional volunteers to participate in this outreach, so please let us know if you are interested in helping out!

Along those lines, if you are aware of any student events coming up in the next year that you think it would be beneficial for the Council to participate in (career fairs, school-based professional activities, etc.) please let us know as soon as possible. The sooner we can get those events on our schedule, the easier it is to find volunteers to attend.

Second, we are working on updating our brochure aimed at professionals already working in the field. Similar to the student brochure, it will highlight the benefits of becoming a member of the Council, the resources we can provide, and provide information on licensure in NYS. Our plan is to have that ready to print by mid-January.

As with all committees, we welcome you to join our merry band. Members can log in to respond to the [NYSCPG Committee Poll](#), or reach out to Kerry Maloney, Victoria Whelan, or Executive Director John Nadeau for more information or to volunteer.

Kerry Maloney, P.G.
Director NYSCPG



Fundraising Committee

The fundraising committee (Gregory Wyka [chair] and Cheryl Neary [co-chair]) are actively exploring new fundraising opportunities for the NYSCPG. Our quarterly PDH webinar series, *Quarterly Geo Insights*, continues and we are actively looking for speakers and presentations for 2026.

We have also begun planning efforts for our sixth annual Geology Rocks event for May 7th, 2026 with 80's rock performed by Tubbs & Crockett. This event will take place at the Coliseum in White Plains, New York. Keep an eye on our [website](#) and [LinkedIn](#) for Geology Rocks details and other event updates and information!

Gregory C. Wyka, P.G., LEED AP ND
NYSCPG Past President, Fundraising Committee Chair

Continuing Education Committee

As many of you already know, Continuing Education Requirements have been in effect since January 1, 2022. NYSCPG received approval from SED to be Continuing Education Sponsor for Professional Geology on September 20, 2021. Since then, our review team has reviewed over 250 courses since inception (January 2022), including 67 to-date this year. Our review team consist of 19 Subject Matter Experts. We are planning another training course again in January 2026 for the 5 new recruits (you know who you are) as well a refresher for our current team, or any other new recruits that wish to join the team!

As part of the annual meeting, the following FAQs were presented. This is a short list of pertinent issues taken from SED's website
<https://www.op.nysed.gov/professions/geology/continuing-education-for-geology-q-a>

– **Q: What is a CEU/PDH?**

A: 1 CEU/PDH = 60 min of instructional time (50 min of instruction plus 10 min of Q & A)



– **Q: Can CEUs be carried over?**

A: Yes, a max of 6 CEUs completed during one triennial period may be transferred to a subsequent triennial period.

– **Q: Am I required to complete a certain # of CEUs each year?**

A: No. You can complete the hours (36) any time during the triennial registration period.

– **Q: How many ethics CEUs are required and what is acceptable?**

A: 1 Ethics CEU per triennial period, must increase the geologist's knowledge of ethical standards for the practice of their profession

– **Q: Can I study on my own?**

A: No

– **Q: What records do I need and how long do I have to keep them?**

A: Sponsors must provide a Certificate of Completion, and you must keep them for 6 years

Also always, if you have any questions, please contact us!

Gene Florentino, P.G., PMP

NYSCPG Director / Continuing Education Committee Co-Chair

Robert Garfield, P.G.

NYSCPG Vice President / Continuing Education Committee Co-Chair



Membership Committee

The NYSCPG wishes to express our sincere gratitude to all our loyal individual and sustaining members for their continued support. As you can see from the content of this newsletter, NYSCPG has a lot going on. We hope you continue to see the tangible value in your membership and remain dedicated members for years to come! 2026 renewals have been sent, and are due on January 1st. Please encourage your colleagues (professionals, regulators, students and retirees) whom are not yet members or past members who have not yet renewed membership to consider joining or re-joining NYSCPG.

We are working through the details of some exciting changes we have in the works for future membership that include;

- Discounted 3-year & 5-year options;
- Rolling renewal date based on when membership renewal occurs in lieu of all being on 1 January
- An automatic renewal option; and
- Membership for state and federal regulators pending verification.

The following pages recognize our current sustaining members by proudly displaying logos/localities around New York State and provide information on pricing and benefits.

Chris W. Wenczel, P.G.

NYSCPG President / Membership Committee Chair

Sustaining Member Information and Pricing

Any corporation or organization whose activities and/or interests concern the science of Geology and the advancement of the mission of the Council can sponsor members through a Sustaining Membership. Acceptance of these Corporate Sponsorship is contingent upon a professional interest in the science of geology and payment of Sustaining Membership dues. The support of Sustaining Members has been crucial to NYSCPG throughout the years and we appreciate the continued support.

Sustaining Members receive special recognition on the NYSCPG website on both the [Home](#) and the [Sustaining Members](#) pages, on social media, and at various events throughout the year Sustaining Members may access the Member Resources center. Sustaining Memberships include one or more yearly membership level pricing is as follows:

Bronze - \$300.00 for one Member

Silver - \$500.00 for two Members

Gold - \$1,000 for five Members

Platinum - \$2,000 for 10 Members

Diamond- \$4,000 for 20 Members

Please consider supporting the profession by having your company included as a Sustaining Member. Any questions can be directed to the Executive Director, John Nadeau, at (518) 579-6580.

Sustaining Membership

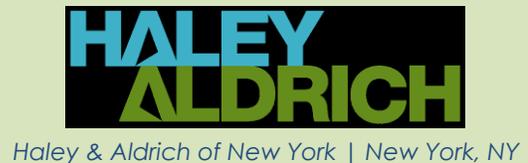
College/ University Members



Diamond Sustaining Members



Platinum Sustaining Members



Gold Sustaining Members



Sustaining Membership Cont.

Silver Sustaining Members



Associated Environmental Services, Ltd. | Hauppauge, NY



Brookside Environmental | Copiague, NY



HK Engineering & Geology, D.P.C. | Union, NJ



Island Pump & Tank Corp., East Northport, NY



J.C. Broderick & Associates, Inc | Hauppauge, NY



Laurel Environmental Services
Huntington Station, NY



LIAPG
Long Island, NY



Miller Environmental Group
Glenmont, NY



Pace Analytical
Tonawanda, NY



Preferred Environmental Services
North Merrick, NY



Sterling Environmental Engineering
Latham, NY

Bronze Sustaining Members



Campbell Geological Services
New York, New York



C.T. Male Associates | Latham, NY

Fox Professional Geology, PLLC



Fox Professional Geology, PLLC | Syracuse, NY



JLW Environmental | Hauppauge, NY



Tectonic Engineering Consultants | Latham, NY



WMB D.P.C. | Waverly, NY

