

MARCH | 2026

NYSCPG

NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL OF PROFESSIONAL
GEOLOGISTS MARCH 2026 NEWSLETTER

NYSCPG.COM



Executive Director's Message

As we quickly pass through March, we will be entering Spring and watching field season begin. This has been a long, cold, and snowy winter for most of New York, and I expect most people are looking forward to it ending sooner rather than later. NYSCPG has been working on plans for the year during these cold, dark months and we are happy to share some of these throughout this newsletter.

NYSCPG is pleased to announce that Geology Days is scheduled for November 11-13, 2026. The event will once again be hosted at the Holiday Inn Saratoga Springs. Please see the [Call for Abstracts](#) for information about submitting abstracts before April 10th. More information regarding the event will be available over the next couple of months.

NYSCPG is adjusting the format for Geology Rocks this year and joining forces with the NYC Brownfield Partnership at their 17th Annual NYC Big Apple Brownfield Awards during the second week of June. Please join us at the Racket NYC venue at 431 West 16th Street in New York City for an exciting evening. The event will start with drinks and light fare, followed by the awards ceremony, and the evening will be capped with the music that has made Geology Rocks. Sponsorships and ticket sales will be available on the NYSCPG website by April 6th at www.nyscp.org/geology-rocks-2026. We look forward to seeing you there!

Please see the President's Message on Page 3 for more information regarding upcoming events this spring. NYSCPG is hosting three webinars between April and May with the intent on continuing to provide value to membership. Midwest Geoscience is hosting two courses at Vassar College and graciously offered to let NYSCPG co-host the event. May 13th will be the one-day course *Improving Soil Boring Logs and Rock Core Logs* followed by the two-day course *Contaminant Fate and Transport in Fractured Rock* on May 14th-15th. More information about the two course can be found [Here](#) and [Here](#), respectively.

NYSCPG introduced a new website on March 3rd. An article providing some details on the new site can be found on Page 16. The site will allow for multi-year membership and auto-renewals, some improvements to event registrations, and to the members only sections. As we move forward, we will look at ways to add more items to the member's section. Please feel free to reach to myself or support@nyscp.org if you have any questions or troubles regarding the new site.

As part of the transition to the new web site, new invoices were sent out to individuals and sustaining members with unpaid dues. Your support helps to continue to grow the organization that represents the licensed professional geologist in New York. If you have not renewed, I ask you to consider

renewing or please let me or any of our Board members know if there are specific things we could do better to keep you as a member.

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) issued a Pre-Proposal Draft Express Terms for Future Mined Land Reclamation Rule Making for the 6 NYCRR 420 Series: Mined Land Reclamation and 6 NYCRR Part 481: Program Fees. The proposed changes to the section can be found at <https://dec.ny.gov/regulatory/regulations/proposed-emergency-and-recently-adopted-regulations/mineral-resources#mlreg> and the site includes a series of questions for stakeholders to respond to as appropriate. There will be two public information webinars on April 14 at 1 pm and April 15 at 6 pm to provide an overview of the proposed changes. Any comments on these proposals can be submitted to the DEC prior to May 17, 2026. NYSCPG will review the documents and prepare responses based on the Board's review.

The 2026 Legislative session began in early February and NYSCPG's Lobbyist Campbell Wallace and the Legislative Committee continue to monitor numerous bills. These include the 12-year ladder bill ([A05622/S06482](#)) which passed the Senate on March 16th and was laid aside in the Assembly on February 24th. NYSCPG is working to have the bill placed on a calendar in the Assembly in the near future.

The grandfather geology bill ([A2571/S620](#)), passed the Senate on February 5th of this year. Campbell has been meeting regularly with Assembly stakeholders to get the bill on the Higher Education Committee calendar.

Campbell and I met with Senator Fahy's office in February, and we are expecting a bill to be introduced in the near future to define the State Geologic Survey in state law. We will be working to identify an Assembly sponsor for the bill. More information will be provided once the bill is active in the Legislature.

The NYSCPG Fundraising Committee is currently seeking input from membership as to what activities or events are of interest. Fundraising is necessary to help the NYSCPG to continue to provide benefits and opportunity to our members. Please take a moment to access [this form](#) to provide your opinion, or to sign up to participate as a Committee member.

As always, please reach out to me with any questions or comments via email at jnadeau@nyscpge.com or by phone at 518-579-6580.



John Nadeau, P.G.
NYSCPG Executive Director



President's Message

Greetings fellow colleagues,

We are emerging from the grip of winter and approaching the vernal equinox, which will mark the arrival of spring here in the Northeast. With the change in season comes an exciting year ahead for our organization, and we have many things to look forward to in 2026.

You should have seen the 3 March email announcement that the NYSCPG website has been redesigned as part of our transition to a new hosting platform. The updated site offers improved functionality, new features, and expanded membership options that will help us better serve our growing community.

Planning for the fifth annual Geology Days 2026 is well underway. The hotel in Saratoga Springs has been secured for 11–13 November, and the call for abstracts has just been released (due 10 April). This annual event brings together professionals from across New York State to share expertise, exchange ideas, and strengthen connections within our geoscience community in ways that did not previously exist on this scale. Each year we leave the event with a renewed sense of connection and pride in our profession. I am confident that the combined efforts of the Geology Days Event Committee, the Continuing Education team, and our Executive Director will once again deliver a high-quality event that should not be missed. Please consider contributing with a presentation and/or sponsorship. Registration has sold out in past years, so watch for announcements and be sure to take advantage of early-bird registration when it opens.

The next NYSCPG Geo Insights Quarterly Webinar will be held on 8 April and will feature a joint NYSDEC/NYSCPG ethics presentation. This course fulfills the ethics requirement that all Professional Geologists must complete once per triennial registration period. If you were unable to attend the presentation at Geology Days 2025, this is an excellent opportunity to complete this important requirement.

Outreach will remain a top priority for our organization in 2026. In partnership with the NYS Education Department (SED), we are launching several live events—both online and in person—to strengthen engagement with geology departments at colleges and universities across New York and to connect with students at both the high school and college levels. By sharing information about professional licensure and the important role geology plays in protecting public health, safety, and the environment, we hope to inspire the next generation of geologists to pursue this rewarding career path.

On 15 April, NYSED and NYSCPG will host a joint webinar to help guide applicants through the Professional Geologist licensing process. In addition, invitations have been sent to nearly 40 colleges and universities across New York for a NYSCPG student webinar on 6 May. This session will introduce students to the many roles geologists play in the geoscience and engineering fields and highlight the importance of professional licensure in New York State. These activities will be followed by in-person presentations from NYSCPG Board Members at as many academic institutions as possible throughout the remainder of 2026 and into 2027.

Midwest Geosciences Group has long been a dedicated supporter of NYSCPG, and we are pleased to announce another upcoming regional educational opportunity. Midwest Geosciences Group will offer two short courses at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, NY: Improving Soil Boring and Rock Coring Logs (13 May) and Contaminant Fate and Transport in Fractured Rock (14–15 May). As you continue reading this newsletter, you will also learn about other key initiatives for 2026. These include the work of our lobbyist, Campbell Wallace, Esq., who continues to monitor legislative developments and report to the Board of Directors on bills and policy matters that may affect our profession.

The NYSCPG continues to welcome volunteers from across our membership to help support our mission. We encourage participation in event planning, contributions as speakers for the Geo Insights Quarterly Webinar series or Geology Days, and submissions of articles for the Quarterly Newsletter. With your continued engagement, we can strengthen our professional and academic community and ensure that the profession of geology remains vibrant and impactful for years to come.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement. I look forward to seeing 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@nyscpge.org or call 518-579-6580 for more information

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

- June 10th, with submissions due May 29th
- September 9th, with submissions due August 28th
- December 9th, with submissions due November 20th

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

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Director – Christopher Kelson, PhD, P.G.

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Director – Kerry A. Maloney, P.G.

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

Directors (2026 – 2027)

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Director – Eugene Florentino, P.G.

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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.



Recent and Upcoming Events

Upcoming Events

Apr 1st – CNYAPG

Emily Baker, Ph.D., Hamilton University – “Comparing Regional Groundwater Travel Time Distributions: A Central Wisconsin Case Study”

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

Apr 16th – LIAPG

Andy Kozlowski, Ph.D., NYSM/USGS – “Mapping Moraines and Mastodons: New Developments in Understanding the Late Pleistocene Geology in Southeastern New York State”

May 6th – CNYAPG

Haejo Kim, Syracuse University – TBA

May 20th – HMPGA

HMPGA Monthly Meeting – More information TBA

2nd week of June – NYSCPG/ NYCBP

Geology Rocks 2026 at Racket, NYC

Jun 17th – HMPGA

HMPGA Field Trip and Summer Outing – More information TBA

Nov 11th – 13th – NYSCPG

5th Annual Geology Days 2026 Conference

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



THE NYSCPG PRESENTS

GEOLOGY DAYS

2026

SARATOGA SPRINGS
NOVEMBER 11 - 13



The NYSCPG is pleased to announce the Fifth- Annual Geology Days Conference, taking place in Saratoga Springs, NY from Wednesday November 11th through Friday November 13th, 2026!

Geology Days is the NYSCPG's annual conference, consisting of over a dozen Continuing Education opportunities, focused networking at both the Icebreaker and throughout the event, topical Field Trips, and a chance to catch up with both friends and other professionals involved with the Design Professions.



The [Call for Abstracts](#) is available now; If you have interest in submitting an abstract, please review the abstract and submission guidelines. All 200-to 500-word submissions are due by April 10th to jnadeau@nyspg.com and Speakers will be notified of their acceptance by May 15th.

Sponsorship Opportunities are available now through September 11th, and Early Bird registration will open June 17th. A Hotel Reservation link with the event group code will be posted on the [Geology Days 2026 Event Page](#) within the next few weeks. For news and updates regarding the event, please keep track of the event page on NYSCPG.com and follow us on [LinkedIn](#).

We can't wait to see you in November!



News Around New York

The Northeast AIPG

The American Institute of Professional Geologists (AIPG) is a national organization, with an international network, dedicated to advancing Geology as a Profession. AIPG provides professional certifications, education, mentoring, networking, and other resources and opportunities that support competence, integrity, and ethical practices. 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 geologists across eight states (CT, NH, NJ, NY, MA, ME, RI, and VT) and focuses on connecting and supporting northeast professional geologists by addressing their interests and needs. NE-AIPG also provides opportunities for students and awards the annual Angelo Tagliacozzo Memorial Geological Scholarships to selected junior and senior geology students, which will be awarded to several selected students after results are finalized this March.

On February 11th, NE-AIPG hosted a webinar on Geohazards, presented by Martin Derby that had a successful turnout with great feedback. Looking ahead, NE-AIPG will co-host a Spring Meeting and Student Expo with the Hudson-Mohawk Professional Geologist Association (HMPGA) on April 15th. The event will include a geothermal-focused field trip and after dinner technical talk, with a student poster session and opportunities for networking and socializing. Sponsors and exhibitors interested in engaging with professional geologists and soon to be graduates are also expected to participate. Additional webinars and a Fall meeting planned for October are being developed. For updates and information, visit <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

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.

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 199 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.

22 January 2026 Webinar: We had an excellent webinar presentation titled "Return Performance about Mars Geology – What are we learning from rocks of Jerezo Crater?" by Caitlin Ahrens, Ph.D. - Planetary Geology, Geophysics & Geochemistry Lab, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center. Dr. Ahrens has been an LIAPG feature speaker before and brings her enthusiasm, love of geology, and the space sciences to the audience without fail. The webinar was well attended by approximately 50 persons.

Upcoming Events & Other Things to Watch For

18 March 2026 In-person Dinner Meeting

We are excited and looking forward to our next in-person dinner meeting where Fred Stumm PG, Ph.D. of the United States Geological Survey will make a presentation entitled: "Hydrogeologic Framework and Extent of Saltwater Intrusion in Suffolk County, Long Island, New York". This is part of a larger ongoing project (2016-2028) that so far has resulted in 6 miles of drilling in 48 boreholes from Brooklyn to Montauk that has yielded over 1,200 core samples, over 22 miles of geophysical logs, and mapping three new hydrogeologic units.

16 April 2026 Webinar

We are excited and looking forward to our next webinar where Andy Kozlowski, PhD. of the New York State Museum/Geological Survey will make a presentation entitled: " Mapping, Moraines and Mastodons: New developments in understanding the Late Pleistocene Geology in southeastern New York State". Further details will soon be posted on the LIAPG website, watch for announcements!

May Webinar or Field Trip: To be determined – always looking for presenters, watch for announcements!

June In-person Dinner Meeting: To be determined – always looking for presenters, watch for announcements!

Summer 2026: Planning for another LIAPG Member Appreciation Long Island Ducks Game/Fireworks Night, and other events such as a possible picnic. Watch for announcements!

LIAPG First Ever Scholarship Program Launch: We are finalizing the details and requirements for eligibility for the Gil Hanson Memorial Geosciences Scholarship for the 2026-2027 academic year. Further details will soon be posted on the LIAPG website, watch for announcements!

LIAPG Key Goals, Plans & Events for 2026!

- Grow membership to include more NYS PGs in our footprint that includes adding several additional corporate sponsors.
- Continue quarterly in-person dinner meetings and 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!

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. A 3-year affiliate agreement was 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 176 Active members and 38 Corporate sponsors, with stable to increasing membership. HMPGA has had a great 2025-2026 season so far, with speakers ranging from the consultants and state survey geologists to academics.

HMPGA is working hard on outreach and philanthropic efforts including working with land stewardship and other volunteer organizations to preserve and promote areas of important geologic interest, particularly the The Cave House Museum of Mining and Geology. The Cave House is a non-profit educational institution located at the historic 1865 Cave House hotel in Howes Cave, New York. This unique museum preserves the original natural entrance to the Schoharie County cave system and showcases the rich history of local limestone mining and the regional Portland cement industry. Many HMPGA volunteers help lead educational field trips for regional schools, getting kids to learn a little geology while having fun exploring cave.

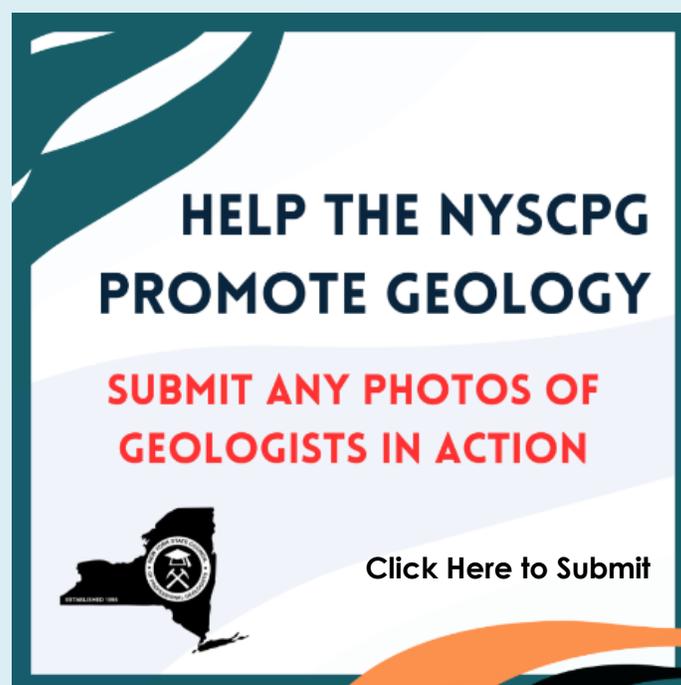
They plan to continue offering their monthly meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, and to add additional field trips to their yearly schedule.

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



A New Platform for the NYSCPG

The NYSCPG has launched a new website platform that is still accessible at NYSCPG.com. The previous platform served us well for over ten years, but the Board felt it was time for an upgrade. Our goal is to provide better access to information for current members, potential members, and future professionals.

The new platform will allow updated renewal options that include multi-year membership periods, optional automatic renewal, and a renewal date based on your initial membership date rather than the calendar. The multi-year membership of either a three-year or five-year option will come with a discounted Full Member rate of \$125 per year and \$100 per year, respectively, versus the \$150 annual rate. The automatic renewal will allow the site to bill your card on file at the time of renewal, and members will get a reminder that allows you to opt out prior to the charges. These options are available when filling out the member application and annual renewal form, or you can reach out to us at support@nyscpq.com to update your current membership at any time.

The platform provides updated, robust forms, allowing more flexibility and options as we roll into Geology Days registration. These changes allow us to provide additional information and make registration more accessible compared to the previous platform. We have also made previous NYSCPG Newsletters and Legislative Updates available for Members to give context on how we have arrived where we are today, over 30 years after the council was initially created. We encourage members to take a look, but to also recognize that these articles have been added for historical purposes and may contain disconnected or potentially incorrect links and contact information.

Any renewals or event registrations that we received through February 28th were migrated to the new platform. Please contact support@nyscpq.com if you do not see a registration attached to your profile that you had completed on the previous site and we can investigate. We strongly recommend reviewing and updating your new profile to keep your information current. Please take the time to explore the new changes that have been made to the site.

NYSCPG understands that the transition to the new site may take some getting used to for some members. We have provided a few help guides to navigate the new site. These can be found at the bottom of your member profile page that is displayed upon login. We do want to point that the new provider uses the term Prospect for what our old site would call a Contact. This title is similar to our Prospector member category at first glance, and we have a couple of questions regarding this already. The Prospect category is a non-member and does not give you all of the member privileges.

We welcome you to provide any feedback or questions you may have to support@nyscpq.com, and we will do our best to improve your experience.

Thank you for your patience and support, and we look forward to what this new platform can provide for you.

Matthew Pugliano
NYSCPG Support

HONORING HEROS IN GEOLOGY: Charles Lyell: Architect of Deep Time and Geological Uniformity

Charles Lyell was one of the most influential geologists of the nineteenth century and a central figure in shaping the scientific understanding of Earth's deep history. Best known for advancing the principle of Uniformitarianism, Lyell argued that the slow, observable processes shaping the Earth today—erosion, sedimentation, volcanic activity, and tectonic uplift—also operated in the past over immense spans of time. His work helped replace earlier theories that relied on sudden catastrophic events to explain the planet's geological features.

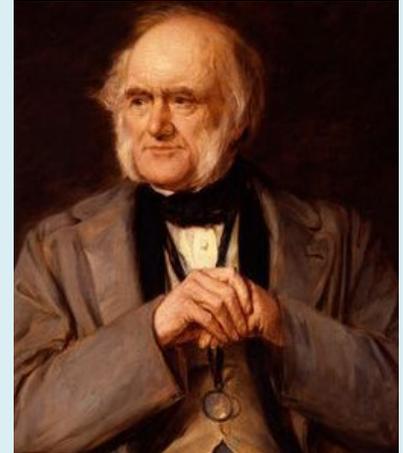


Image: <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Charles-Lyell>

Lyell was born in Kinnordy, UK in 1797 and was educated at University of Oxford, where he initially studied law. While at Oxford, however, he developed a deep interest in natural science, particularly geology. Influenced by earlier thinkers such as James Hutton, Lyell began to question traditional geological interpretations that attributed mountains, valleys, and other landforms to brief episodes of catastrophic upheaval. Instead, he became convinced that everyday processes acting over vast timescales could explain the Earth's structure.

Lyell's most significant contribution came with the publication of his landmark book *Principles of Geology*, first released in 1830 and expanded through multiple editions over several decades. In this work, Lyell systematically argued that geological change occurs gradually through continuous natural processes. Rivers carve valleys through persistent erosion, sediments accumulate slowly to form rock layers, and volcanic activity builds landforms incrementally. By emphasizing gradual change over immense periods, Lyell provided a powerful framework for interpreting the geological record. This concept of uniformitarianism carried profound implications. If geological processes operate slowly but continuously, then the Earth must be extraordinarily old—far older than many nineteenth-century scholars had previously believed. Although Lyell initially hesitated to assign specific ages to geological formations, his work strongly supported the emerging concept of “deep time.” This recognition allowed geologists to interpret rock strata, fossils, and landforms within a vast temporal framework.

Lyell was a meticulous field observer. Throughout his career he traveled extensively across Europe and North America, studying volcanoes, sedimentary formations, and fossil-bearing strata. His fieldwork reinforced his belief that small-scale processes observed in the present could explain large geological structures seen in the past. These observations strengthened the scientific credibility of his arguments and made his work persuasive to other researchers. Lyell's influence extended far beyond geology itself. His writings had a profound impact on the young naturalist Charles Darwin, who read *Principles of Geology* during his voyage aboard the HMS Beagle. Lyell's emphasis on gradual change over long timescales helped shape Darwin's thinking about biological evolution and the development of species through natural selection. In this way, Lyell's geological insights indirectly contributed to one of the most transformative ideas in the history of science.

Over time Lyell became one of the most respected scientific figures of his era. He served as president of the Geological Society of London, received numerous honors, and was eventually knighted for his contributions to science. His writings remained widely read throughout the nineteenth century and helped establish geology as a rigorous scientific discipline grounded in observation, evidence, and careful reasoning.

Charles Lyell died in 1875, but his legacy endures in the fundamental principles that guide modern geological thought. By demonstrating that the Earth's landscapes could be explained through ordinary processes acting over extraordinary spans of time, Lyell transformed geology from a largely descriptive pursuit into a powerful interpretive science capable of revealing the dynamic history of the planet.

Chris Wenczel, P.G.
NYSCPG President

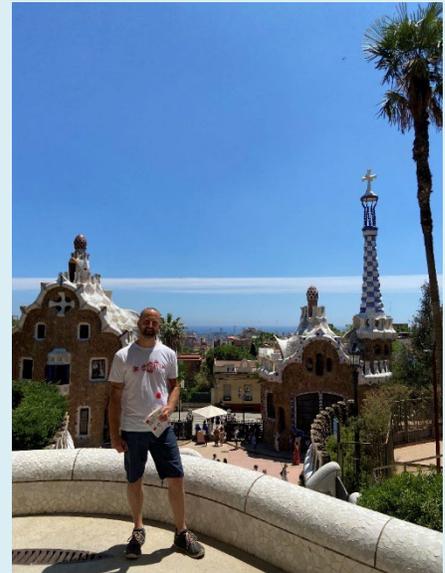
The Geology of Park Guell

Last year, when my wife booked a two week long production job in Barcelona, the obvious choice was to tag along, sans children, and capitalize on the swank accommodations generously provided by her client. I had been to Barcelona briefly in 2005 on my way to Milan and had always joked that it didn't count because a) I was there for less than 24 hours and b) I was a vegetarian. Even though I'm still mostly vegetarian, I'm quite certain that you can't fully experience Spain if you don't eat a little Jamón ibérico or some marinated anchovy filets. I did both many times last summer and, turns out, I was right.

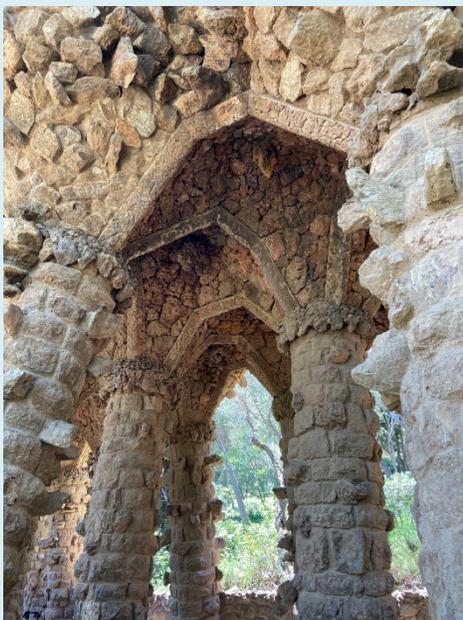
In 2005, my trip to Parc Güell felt a lot like the CliffsNotes version if read by an Olympic race walker. Naturally, with more time available during this trip, I was determined to spend an entire day sitting in the park and taking it all in.

History time. Antoni Gaudi began his life in the middle of the 19th century. As an architect, he's known as a champion of Catalan Modernism – essentially a modernist movement centered around the culture of Catalonia (a region of Spain with a pretty sizeable population interested in independence). It was in 1883 when Gaudi became Eusebi Güell's architect and the two proceeded to collaborate on architectural projects spanning the next three decades. One such collaboration was the design and construction of Parc Güell which began in 1900, completed in 1914, and opened to the masses in 1926.

Gaudi was fascinated with the organic form and went to great lengths to incorporate those forms into the park – both in the shape and design of elements of the park (no straight lines!) and the hand's off approach to modifying the natural topography during construction. While construction materials were imported to the park in a number of cases, the three viaducts known as the Pont de Baix, the Pont del Mig and the Pont de Dalt are suspended on sloping columns and vaults made up of stones sourced from the park itself.

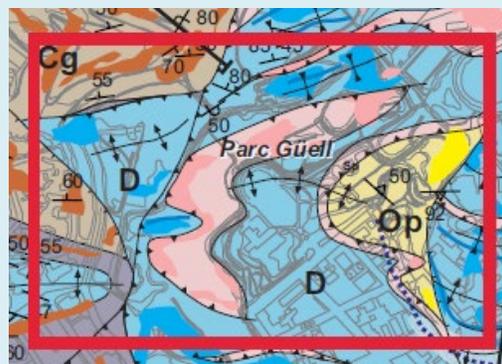


Author preparing to take it all in. Casa del Guarda on left.



A view from the underside of a viaduct.

History time, part II – Geologic History. Reviewing a geologic map of the area, Parc Güell sits within a handful of reverse faults, an anticline running through the Nature Square Terrace, and a series of smaller synclines and anticlines on the park's north side. General rock types found in the park, all of which can be viewed in outcrop as you meander through the property, consist of upper Ordovician shales, quartzites, and greywackes, Silurian shales (dark) and black chert, and Silurian to Devonian limestones and shales.



| Legend | | |
|----------------------|--|----|
| QUATERNARY | Gravel, sand, clay and silt | Q |
| TRIASSIC | Conglomerates and sandstones | B |
| | Sandstones, shales and conglomerates (Culm Facies) | Cg |
| CARBONIFEROUS | Shales, black chert and limestones | C |
| | Limestones and shales | D |
| SILURIAN to DEVONIAN | Dark shales and black chert | Sp |
| UPPER ORDOVICIAN | Shales, quartzites and greywackes | Op |
| | Granodiorite | G |
| | Granitic porphyries | GP |

Geologic map excerpt and associated legend (Santanach, Casas, Gratacos, Liesa, Munoz, Sabat, 2011).

A bit of extra information, written by someone other than this author, to make this article worthy of a newsletter centered on the study and practice of the geological sciences:

The limestones observed at Parc Güell are nodular with red shale partings and beds giving a griotte aspect to the rock. They may be partially dolomitized, rubbing out the previous bedding. The dolomites are rich in pyrite, chalcopyrite, siderite and iron oxide and they present distinctive karst dissolution features. On top of these massive limestones lies a varied lithological unit known as the Olorda Formation which consists of a pink shale layer followed by alternating yellow limestones and red shales in layers between 5 and 10 cm thick. A series of marls and nodular yellow limestones with discontinuous shale layers crop out over this alternance. The top of the Olorda Formation is made up of a thin layer of well stratified limestones followed by brown-green shales containing brachiopoda (Santanach, Casas, Gratacos, Liesa, Munoz, Sabat, 2011).

A major thrust, termed the Parc Güell thrust, can be observed in outcrop at the western entrance of the park representing an up to 15 m thick fault zone with breccias and gouges. Overall, the Parc Güell thrust trends NE-SW in the north, NNE-SSW in the middle (in vicinity of park – as shown in geologic map above extending top to bottom of image, left of “Parc Güell” lettering) and NW-SE in the south. The Parc Güell thrust dips towards the ESE or is subvertical and throws up the eastern block with the result that, in most cases, the rocks of the eastern limb thrust over the Carboniferous rocks in the core of the synclinorium (Santanach, Casas, Gratacos, Liesa, Munoz, Sabat, 2011). A bit of added interpretation from this author - as per the Law of Superposition, the Parc Güell thrust gained its name after the park was constructed (or, at least, after it was named).

One last bit of geologic history worth mentioning is that, when the park began construction in 1900, the remains of several Pleistocene animals were found which now reside at the Museum of Natural Sciences of Barcelona. Those animals are said to include rhinoceros, elephants and deer. Confession: while I spent several days wandering Barcelona and taking in many, many museums, this particular museum was not on the list and, as I write this article, I regret missing it.

I’m going to quickly jump back to the earlier part of this article where I stated my intention of really taking the park in. A bit of a spoiler, I did just that. Truth is, I had several days in town and for that entire time my wife was working 12 to 14 hour days. On my first full day in town, I took the Metro from our hotel to the L3 Line, Vallcarca exit (I’m proud to say that I spent several days in Barcelona relying solely and intentionally on public transportation – a surprisingly easy and well-oiled system for getting anywhere you can think to go in this city) and walked the steep series of residential streets to one of the many park entrances.

Within the park, I slowly found my way to the “Serpentine Bench”, one of the most iconic settings in Barcelona. You can look up photos if you’re curious. For me, it was an exercise in patience. I had my book, some cool water, and a shady spot. Being of Sicilian blood, I don’t have the temperament for people most of the time. This was one of those times. Fortunately, the northern viaduct has gorgeous benches built into the sidewalls and I was able to tuck in and finish my book. And, because the viaducts aren’t covered in wondrously colored mosaic tiles, I was virtually alone.

The next few days were centered on museum visits and the search for decent Spanish craft beers. While the museums were aplenty (the Joan Miro Foundation being my absolute favorite), the craft scene was a bit lacking. With the help of a State-side friend, I did find the Belgian-style taproom Lambicus Bar and managed to score a couple small batch Belgian sours I’ll likely never see again.

It wasn’t until my second to last day in Barcelona, suffering from museum and super-fresh-and-delicious-olive fatigue, that I decided to return to Parc Güell. But this time to spend a little more time with the geology of the area. However,



Western portion of Park. Possibly a breccia associated with the Parc Güell thrust

I should confess that at the time I hadn't done much research on the local geology and am basing these descriptions on research I conducted after the fact. Because science is a collaborative practice, I'm open to ideas and opinions from any reader interested in providing some.



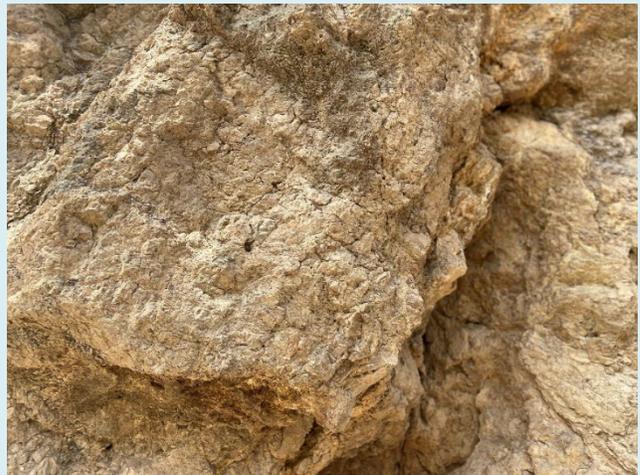
A nice contact. Overlying is likely Silurian black chert and dark shales.



Shales, potentially phyllitic

The city of Barcelona is a wonderful place full of great history, food, and, most of all, people. Gaudi's contribution to the architecture of Barcelona is visible all throughout the city – from an old door to a lamppost to a hotel or apartment building. If ever the right time arises, try it out for yourself.

Michael Grifasi, P.G.
NYSCPG Secretary



Nodular griotte limestones?

References:

P. Santanach, J.M. Casas, O. Gratacos, M. Liesa, J.A. Munoz, F. Sabat. Variscan and Alpine structure of the hills of Barcelona: geology in an urban area. *Journal of Iberian Geology*. September 29, 2011.

<https://www.parkguell-tickets.com/park-guell-barcelona/>

<https://parkguell.barcelona/en/park-guell>

Committees

Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee has been making progress and is in a good position for some “boots on the ground” outreach to students in the upcoming semester and school year. We have finalized the student brochure and have sent it to various universities and student groups. We have also informed the universities of upcoming NYSCPG presentations which may be helpful for students to attend.

As always, 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.

We will be looking for additional volunteers to participate in this outreach, so please let us know if you are interested in helping out! Please reach out to Kerry Maloney, Victoria Whelan, or Executive Director John Nadeau for more information or to volunteer.

Kerry Maloney, P.G.

Director NYSCPG/ Outreach Committee Co-Chair

Victoria Whelan, P.G.

Director NYSCPG/ Outreach Committee Co-Chair

Geology Days Committee

It seems like Geology Days 2025 just ended, but work is well underway planning for Geology Days 2026! We have confirmed November 11-13, 2026 for the conference and have a signed contract from the Holiday Inn in Saratoga. The request for abstracts has recently been issued, so please consider presenting at the conference.

It takes a lot of work to put on this event, and we can always use more volunteers. If you are interested in helping with the planning leading up to the conference or can volunteer during the event, please reach out to Kerry Maloney or Executive Director John Nadeau to volunteer.

Kerry Maloney, P.G.

Director NYSCPG/ Geology Days 2026 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 held another training course again in January for the 5 new recruits as well a refresher for our current team, and 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. 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 were 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 happy to have implemented some exciting changes for 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 [Homepage](#) slider 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.

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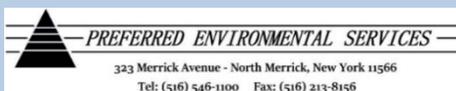
Laurel Environmental Services | Huntington Station, NY



LIAPG | Long Island, NY



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Preferred Environmental Services | North Merrick, NY



Sterling Environmental Engineering | Latham, NY



Tectonic Engineering Consultants | Latham, NY

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