

NYSCPG

NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL OF PROFESSIONAL
GEOLOGISTS SEPTEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

NYSCPG.COM



Executive Director's Message

As we begin September, we see the kids going back to school and the summer vacations coming to a close. It is time to wrap up those outdoor projects and begin to progress towards the colder weather. There are numerous things in the works at NYSCPG as we wrap up 2026 and I would like to share them with you as well as highlight some important information.

Over the last several months, I have heard from multiple people who received the licenses but are now looking at retirement or missed their renewal dates. These included people who did not receive their reminder from NYSED because they changed employers or moved. Please make sure that you update your contact information with NYSED within 30 days of moving or switching companies if using your professional address for contact. You are still responsible for making sure you renew your registration triennially. If you are looking to step back from work due to retirement or some other life situation, make sure that you request inactive status for your registration. If you do not renew your registration, it may fall under professional misconduct after a period of time.

Voting for the 2027 NYSCPG Board of Directors will begin at the end of September. Please watch for a ballot link to be shared with members via email. You will have until October 31st to vote on the slate of candidates. If you are interested in serving on the Board in the future, please reach out to any of the officers or myself to discuss. The Board is currently working on a handbook to allow people to see the expectations for each position. We will add this to the website once it is completed. NYSCPG will be hosting the annual Geology Days in Saratoga Springs, NY, November 11 - 13, 2026. Please note that this year will be held on a Wednesday to Friday schedule to allow easier travel for our downstate participants on the holiday and for people interested in spending a weekend in Saratoga Springs after the event. Registration is filling up fast and we expect to sell out by the end of October. Make sure to register as soon as possible [on this form](#) to guarantee you a spot.

Limited space is still available for the Wednesday Short Course, and both field trips are currently full. If you would like to join the waitlist for one or both trips, please reach out to support@nyscpq.com. We also have a few sponsorship spots left if your company is interested in supporting the event. Please see the specific details on page 6.

On the Legislative front, we are still waiting for the 12-year ladder bill (A5622/S6482) to reach the Governor's desk for her review and potential signature. All other bills will be reintroduced to both houses of the Legislature in early January 2027. Please see the article on page 13 from Campbell Wallace regarding other Legislative items.

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



John Nadeau, P.G.
NYSCPG Executive Director



President's Message

Greetings, Fellow Colleagues!

It's remarkable how quickly we are moving through 2026. Summer is drawing to a close, college semesters resume and the kids go back to school. The coming cool air of Fall always prompts the desire to hike and see some new formations/rocks/fossils (and probably bring something home...)! The NYSCPG's strong and active committees never slowed down this Summer, rather their dedication drove them to keep chugging forward with our mission. The remainder of 2026 will continue to be a busy time for each of our Committee Chairs.

Outreach remains a top priority for our organization. In partnership with the NYS Education Department (SED), we have already hosted several joint live online events. We seek to strengthen engagement with, and support from Earth Science department heads and professors at colleges and universities, as well as professional organizations for science teachers and guidance counselors across New York to help us connect with students at both the collegiate and high school levels. We have transitioned from Outreach planning to action, NYSCPG Board Members intend to initiate additional in-person and online presentations at as many academic institutions as possible throughout the remainder of 2026 and into 2027. Both the online and in-person sessions 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. By availing ourselves to students and sharing information about the significant 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.

Preparations for the fifth annual Geology Days 2026 (11–13 November) are nearly complete. We have full menu of exciting abstracts on diverse topics that have been accepted. We also have two field trips and a short-course planned. 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 look forward to the combined efforts of the Geology Days Event Committee, the Continuing Education team, and our Executive Director once again delivering a high-quality event that should not be missed. As we are full-up on presentations, please consider contributing as a conference sponsor. Registration has sold out in past years, so if you have not yet registered, you best *giddyap*. Visit [NYSPG.com](https://nyscpg.com) for more details about the event.

The NYSCPG continues to seek volunteers from across our membership to help support our mission. We truly want to expand membership on our various committees. We need your help and encourage participation in event planning, outreach, fundraising, contributions as speakers for the Geo Insights Quarterly Webinar series, and submissions of articles for the Quarterly Newsletter. With your continued engagement, we can continue to 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 Geology Days 2026!



Chris W. Wenczel, P.G.
NYSCPG President



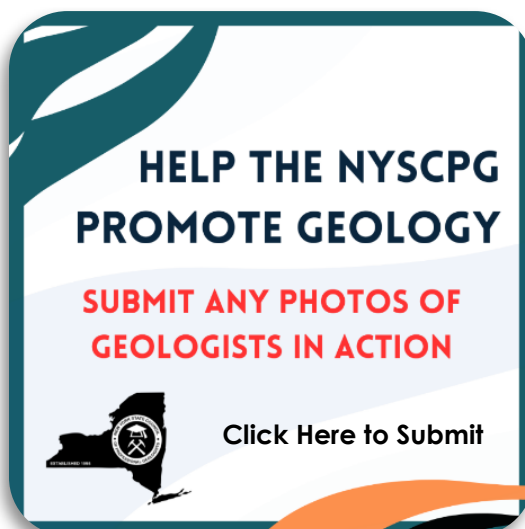
The Quarterly Schedule of the NYSCPG Newsletter has been planned for the following weeks:

Week of December 9th, with submissions due November 20th

Week of March 10th, with submissions due February 26th

Week of June 9th, with submissions due May 28th

Week of 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 – Gene Florentino, P.G.

Director – Steven Muller, P.G.

Director – Calvin K. Prothro, P.G.

Director – Mark A. Williams, P.G.

Committee Chairs

Continuing Education Co.- Gene Florentino, P.G., PMP

Continuing Education Co. – Robert Garfield, P.G.

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

Fundraising Co.- Cheryl Neary, P.G.

Outreach – Kerry A. Maloney, P.G.

Legislative - Mark Williams, P.G.

Membership – Chris W. Wenczel, P.G.

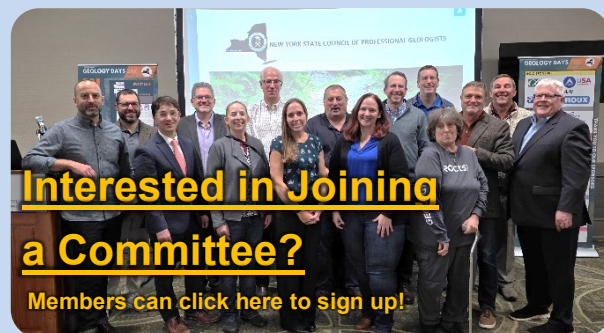
Geology Days – Kerry A. Maloney, P.G.

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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

Events List

Sep 17th – LIAPG

LIAPG's Q3 Panel Discussion

Sep 23rd – BAPG

Catheryn Ryan, Ph.D., University at Buffalo – A Song of Ice and Fire (and some Rock): Field and Experimental Explorations of Glaciovulcanism

Oct 2nd – NE-AIPG

Annual Fall Dinner Meeting – Herkimer Diamond Research & Field Trip – [view more details online](#)

Oct 5th – 9th – NCKRI

2026 Sinkhole Conference – [view more details online](#)

Oct 7th – CNYAPG

Molly Patterson, Ph.D., Binghamton University – “The Sensitivity of the West Antarctic Ice Sheet to 2°C: Keep cool and Cray On”

Nov 4th – CNYAPG

Allie Thompson, Ph.D. Candidate, Syracuse University – Topic TBA

Nov 11th – 13th – NYSCPG

5th Annual Geology Days 2026 Conference – [view more details online](#)

Dec 2nd – CNYAPG

Richard Smith, Ph.D. and Stella Woodward, Ph.D., Global Aquatic Research, LLC – Topic TBA

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

Registration Closes November 1st

[Register at nyscp.org/geology-days-2026-registration](https://nyscp.org/geology-days-2026-registration)

TENTATIVE

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Wednesday, November 11th

9:30 am - 2:00 pm	Optional Short Course <i>Separate Registration Required</i>
2:30 pm - 4:30 pm	Annual Member Meeting
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Ice Breaker Reception

Thursday, November 12th

7:00 am - 8:00 am	Breakfast
7:30 am - 12:00 pm	Field Trip <i>Separate Registration Required</i>
8:00 am - 5:00 pm	Technical Presentations

Friday, November 13th

7:00 am - 8:00 am	Breakfast
7:30 am - 12:00 pm	Field Trip <i>Separate Registration Required</i>
8:00 am - 5:00 pm	Technical Presentations



CONTACT US

Email John Nadeau at Jnadeau@nyscp.org, Matt Pugliano at support@nyscp.org, or call 518-579-6580 for questions or general matters.

OPTIONAL SHORT COURSE

Borehole Geophysics and Hydrogeologic Characterization for Multilevel Well Design and Construction

Seats are filling fast! Registration for this course is available together or separately from Geology Days, and is approved to provide 4 PDH. Participation without credit is available for a reduced rate.

[Register for the course only at nyscp.org/short-course-gd26](https://nyscp.org/short-course-gd26)

CONFERENCE ROOM BLOCK

The room block at the Holiday Inn Saratoga Springs has sold out. Alternative Options:

The AC Hotel Saratoga Springs

176 South Broadway Saratoga Springs,
New York, USA, 12866

NYSCPG Room Rate: \$152 per night

[Book the NYSCPG rate at the AC Hotel at this link](#)

The Inn at Saratoga

31 Broadway, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

Call [518-583-1890](tel:518-583-1890) and reference the conference for pricing or to make a reservation.

NYS PDH, CT LEP, & NJ LSRP Credit

NYSCPG will be submitting Geology Days courses for both [CT LEP](#) and [NJ LSRP credit](#). Mark interest in receiving Continuing Education credit in CT and NJ on the [registration form](#).



Branded apparel can be preordered from this form: [NYSCPG.Com/Shop](https://nyscpq.com/shop)

The period to submit pre-orders for branded apparel has been extended through October 5th! Items will have limited availability on site and shipping options are not available.

The NYSCPG is working diligently on preparations for Geology Days 2026. Friday, September 18th, is the final day signups for Conference Sponsorship will be accepted through the online form. If your organization is still interested in supporting the event, please sign up on our [Sponsor form here](#), or reach out to support@nyscpq.com with any questions.

Geology Days 2026 Registration is open until October 31st [on this form](#). Registration after October 31st, if space is available, will incur a \$75 late fee.

For any questions about the event, please contact jnadeau@nyscpq.com, support@nyscpq.com, or call us at 518-579-6580.

Thank you to our Geology Days 2026 Sponsors!

Gold Sponsors - [Alpha Geological Services, D.P.C.](#) | [Langan Engineering, Environmental, Surveying, L.A. & Geology, D.P.C.](#) | [Posillico, Inc.](#) | [Roux, Inc.](#)

Silver Sponsors - [HDR, Inc.](#) | [Pine Environmental Services, LLC.](#) | [Specto Technology](#)

Bronze Sponsors - [ALS USA Environmental](#) | [AST Environmental, Inc.](#) | [Battelle](#) | [Clean Globe Environmental](#) | [Eco-Rental Solutions](#) | [Eurofins Environment Testing Northeast, LLC](#) | [GEI Consultants, Inc.](#) | [Hager-Richter Geoscience, Inc.](#) | [J.C. Broderick & Associates, Inc.](#) | [Midwest GeoSciences Group](#) | [Matrix Environmental Technologies Inc.](#) | [Pace Analytical Services](#) | [REGENESIS Remediation Solutions](#) | [SGS North America, Inc.](#) | [SUNY Potsdam](#) | [Terracon Consultants, Inc.](#) | [TerraTherm, Inc. - A Cascade Company](#) | [TREC Environmental, Inc.](#)

Lunch Sponsors - [EA Engineering, Science, and Technology, Inc.](#) | [Haley & Aldrich](#)

Break Sponsors - [AKRF, Inc.](#) | [C.T. Male Associates](#) | [Parratt-Wolff, Inc.](#) | [Preferred Environmental Services, Inc.](#) | [Sterling Environmental Engineering, P.C.](#)

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

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, in addition to educational, mentoring and networking opportunities and resources that support competence, integrity, and ethical practices. While your professional license establishes your credentials to practice, AIPG membership (<https://aipg.org/>) shows your commitment to ethical standards and professionalism and connects you to a large community of professional peers 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 professional geologists in the region by addressing their interests and needs. The NE-AIPG also provides opportunities for students and awards the annual Angelo Tagliacozzo Memorial Geological Scholarship (ATMGS) to selected junior and senior geology students. The ATMGS application opens in September so spread this opportunity to geology students in your network.

We look forward to our Friday, October 2nd Annual Fall Meeting with a field trip and a dinner meeting in the Herkimer area where FM National President Bill Stephens, PG and Director David Tibbits, PhD Candidate at Rutgers University, both also directors of the Herkimer Diamond Research Institute (HDRI) will lead a field trip to Fonda Mountain and Treasure Mountain in the Herkimer Quartz Crystal District of East-Central New York. The field trip will focus on high accuracy mapping, structural Geology and the stratigraphy of the Little Falls Dolostone and its quartz bearing zones. The dinner meeting will include a social hour, dinner and a technical talk that will continue the discussions from the field trip. Members and non-members are welcome to attend. Starting in late fall, we're planning webinars to enjoy during the colder months. We are also working on plans for outreach initiatives, and for collaborating with regional organizations on events and opportunities. For more information, visit <http://www.ne-aipg.org/>, and if you're a NE-AIPG member, keep an eye on your emails.

The NE-AIPG is a sponsor of the field trips at the 2026 NYSCPG's Geology Days. We'll have an exhibitor's table, so make sure to stop by for AIPG swag, and for information about AIPG and the Northeast Section.

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 241 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.

Recent and Upcoming Events

17 July 2026: LIAPG Member Appreciation Event! LIAPG sponsored a member appreciation evening of fun and celebration with the Long Island Ducks to express this organization's gratitude to our members' dedication and support of this organization and our profession. LIAPG rented two suites at Fairfield Properties Ballpark which included food and non-alcoholic drinks, balcony seating, a climate controlled room, and access to the Duck Club restaurant and bar! The weather was terrific; Quaker Jack visited for photographs and great time was had by all!

27 August 2026: LIAPG Member Appreciation Event! LIAPG sponsored a member appreciation catered evening picnic at the oceanside Tiki Joe's, Smith Point Beach!!! Set against the backdrop of the Atlantic Ocean, it was the perfect setting to gather with fellow members and friends, enjoy great conversation, listen to live music, and celebrate another successful year of advancing the geoscience profession on Long Island.

17 September 2026: In-Person Dinner Meeting: The third quarter LIAPG dinner meeting will feature a fun panel discussion with five seasoned environmental and geological professionals sharing their perspectives from across the industry. Drawing on decades of combined field, regulatory, legal, and business experience, our panelists will discuss topics such as: important messages for the next generation of environmental and geological professionals, lessons learned from mistakes made early in their careers, geological oddities observed throughout their careers, how the industry has changed since Professional Geologist licensure, what makes Long Island's geology uniquely different, and where technology and AI are headed for the future of geologists. Watch for email announcements and check the website for registration details at liapg.org

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 and new corporate sponsors.
- Continue quarterly in-person dinner meetings and webinars offering PDH credits.
- Continue quarterly newsletter.
- Field trips and member appreciation events.
- 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!

We are always looking for help. If you would like to be a part of our featured webinars or quarterly dinner meeting speaker, have feature article content for the LIAPG newsletter, or if you have an interest in serving on a committee or potentially becoming a LIAPG board member, reach out to us at liapgpres@gmail.com!

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 and has added a student representative from SUNY Fredonia to pair with the University at Buffalo's representative. The next dinner meeting will be on September 16, 2026.

Benjamin King-Smith, P.G.
BAPG President

Hudson Mohawk Professional Geologists Association

The Hudson Mohawk Professional Geologists Association (HMPGA) consists of almost 200 Active members and 30 Corporate sponsors, with stable to increasing membership. HMPGA is kicking off an exciting 2026-2027 season. Some of highlights include;

- A great slate of talks this Fall including topics like: Bioremediation, GPR Surveys, and the Geology of the Catskills
- Collaborating with NYSCPG to support student participation at Geology Days and;
- Volunteering to help lead school field trips at the Cave House Museum of Mining and Geology (see more on the Cave House [Facebook Page](#)).

We have had an excellent slate of speakers this past season from the academic, governmental, and consulting sectors. The speakers covered topics ranging from geophysics, surficial mapping, exotic mineralogy, and underground mining to PFAS remediation, and in situ stabilization of contaminated soils.

HMPGA is excited for the coming year where we plan to continue our strong speaker program and grow our collaborations with local and regional organizations.

To register for the newsletter and/or future events, visit [HMPGA's Website](#).

Matthew Dupee, P.G.
HMPGA President

Congratulations to the latest NYS Professional Geologists!

Congratulations to the NYS Professional Geologists who have earned their license since August 2025, including:

Armitage, John L	Gannon, Patrick James	Rusk, Jack
Blackwell, James E.	Haji Omar, Khalid Majeed	Sbarra, Christopher Michael-John
Boswell, Timothy Brian	Hale, Jeffrey Roland	Schell, Lindsey Paige
Bottomley, James David	Hermiston, Michelle Hulewicz	Schilling, Derek M
Bowe, Joshua Warren	Johnston, Sarah Amanda	Scholar, Paul William
Canino, Mary Ann	Kulp, Thomas Richard	Sinton, Christopher Walter
Chambert, Julien	Kuzia-Carmel, Michael	Stefansky, Jasmine Nicole
Chandler, Dafydd Neville	Leroux, Elise Caroline	Tulich, Amanda Beth
Chlebica, Dariusz Wladyslaw	Mcintyre, Samuel Andrew	Tuskes, Katherine Marie
Czoer, Kenneth	Orefice, Michael Jennings	Wolfe, Oliver Maxwell
Doyle, Jessica Bronson	Rosado, Hayley	

We look forward to your future successes and contributions to the industry!

A Notice on NYSCPG Correspondence

With the recent influx of phishing and scam attempts nationwide, we would like to take a moment to express that the NYSCPG Board will not solicit members or contacts for arbitrary contact or payment information, or with emergent requests or offerings. NYSCPG will reach out to provide information about upcoming events, notifications about open renewal and event invoices, specific individual updates, or other necessary account-related correspondence from nyscpg.com domain addresses.

If you are ever uncertain if a message you have received from NYSCPG is genuine or fraudulent in nature, please reach out to us at support@nyscpg.com, or give us a call at 518-579-6580.

Matt Pugliano
NYSCPG Support

HONORING HEROS IN GEOLOGY: Alfred Wegener: The Visionary Behind Continental Drift

Alfred Wegener was one of the most consequential and controversial scientists of the early twentieth century. Although trained as a meteorologist and polar researcher rather than a geologist, Wegener fundamentally altered Earth science by proposing the theory of continental drift — the conceptual precursor to modern plate tectonics. His bold hypothesis challenged entrenched geological doctrine and ultimately reshaped our understanding of the planet's dynamic structure.

Born in Berlin in 1880, Wegener earned a doctorate in astronomy but soon focused his scientific career on atmospheric physics and Arctic exploration. His background outside traditional geology partly explains both the originality of his thinking and the skepticism he faced. Unlike many geologists of his era, Wegener was not constrained by prevailing assumptions that continents and ocean basins were permanent, immovable features of Earth.



Photo Source: <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Alfred-Wegener>

In 1912, Wegener introduced the idea that continents were once joined together in a single landmass that later fragmented and drifted apart. He formally developed this argument in his 1915 book *The Origin of Continents and Oceans*. In it, he proposed the supercontinent “Pangaea,” surrounded by a global ocean, which gradually broke into pieces that migrated to their present positions. This idea directly contradicted the dominant “fixist” view that continents and ocean basins had always existed in roughly their current locations.

Wegener marshaled an impressive range of interdisciplinary evidence. First, he pointed to the geometric fit between the coastlines of South America and Africa. While others had noted this similarity before, Wegener treated it as geological evidence rather than coincidence. Second, he identified identical fossil species — including the reptile *Mesosaurus* and the plant *Glossopteris* — found on continents now separated by vast oceans, suggesting they were once connected. Third, he correlated matching rock formations and mountain belts across the Atlantic, such as Appalachian structures aligning with those in Scotland and Scandinavia. Finally, he used paleoclimatic evidence, including glacial deposits in present-day tropical regions, to argue that continental positions had shifted dramatically over time.

Despite the strength of this circumstantial evidence, Wegener's theory was widely rejected. The principal weakness was his inability to provide a convincing physical mechanism for continental movement. He suggested that centrifugal forces from Earth's rotation and tidal forces from the Moon might drive drift, but physicists quickly demonstrated these were insufficient. Many geologists dismissed his ideas as speculative and lacking geophysical plausibility.

Nevertheless, Wegener refined his theory through multiple editions of his book during the 1920s. He continued Arctic expeditions to Greenland, conducting meteorological research while advocating for continental drift. Tragically, he died in 1930 during a Greenland expedition, long before his ideas gained acceptance. The turning point came in the 1950s and 1960s with discoveries in marine geology. Detailed mapping of the ocean floor revealed mid-ocean ridges, deep-sea trenches, and symmetrical magnetic striping patterns in basaltic crust. These findings led scientists such as Harry Hess and others to propose seafloor spreading, providing the missing mechanism that Wegener lacked. Continental drift was reborn within the broader, physically grounded framework of plate tectonics.

Today, Wegener is widely regarded as the intellectual father of plate tectonics. Though incomplete in mechanism, his synthesis of geological, paleontological, and climatic data demonstrated extraordinary scientific imagination and integrative reasoning. His work exemplifies how transformative ideas often precede the tools needed to prove them. By daring to argue that continents move, Wegener set in motion one of the most important scientific revolutions of the twentieth century.

Chris Wenczel, P.G.
NYSCPG President

Committees

Legislative Committee

NYSCPG advocacy and political engagement continues through August. Recapped below are our efforts to keep the legislative and political interests of the Council prominently highlighted.

Priority Legislation

Experience-only pathway: Earlier this summer, NYSCPG executive director John Nadeau and legislative counsel Campbell H. Wallace met with representatives of the New York State Governor's office to advocate for passage of [A5622/S6482](#), NYSCPG priority legislation to eliminate the experience-only pathway for Professional Geologist licensure. The Council discussed the merits of the legislation, the political landscape surrounding its passage, and how it complements the State's interest in environmental protection and the high-quality delivery of professional services. We invite interested members to send statements of support to "Legislative.secretary@exec.ny.gov." The bill has not been sent to the Governor's office. Upon being delivered to her, she has 10 days excluding Sunday to act on it. NYSCPG will keep members apprised of the bill's progress.

Office of the State Geologist: NYSCPG Legislative Counsel Campbell Wallace engaged the governor's office to discuss the legislation related to formally constituting the office of the State Geologist. The Governor has broad powers to pursue policy through the budget process. We positioned this proposal as one ripe to put an end to an ongoing problem, allow the State to access needed Federal funding, and allow the State Museum to continue its important work of producing geological maps for the benefit of a wide range of stakeholders.

Media

NYSCPG executive director John Nadeau appeared on the Capitol Pressroom podcast with David Lombardo on July 9, 2026 to discuss our interest in legislation ([S9601/A10978](#)) that would constitute the office of the State Geologist. Nadeau shined light on the need for the office to be properly recognized, and the funding shortfall associated with the current structure. The interview can be heard here: <https://capitolpressroom.org/2026/07/09/the-case-for-updating-new-yorks-geological-office/>

Political

NYSCPG attended the Speaker's Cup, a political fundraiser event supporting the Assembly Speaker. Legislative Counsel Campbell Wallace, representing the Council, engaged with Assembly speaker Carl Heastie, as well as myriad other Assembly members and key staff.

Campbell Wallace, Esq.

NYSCPG Lobbyist/ Pastel, Rosen, & Wallace, LLP

Outreach Committee

Can you spare a day to speak with high school students considering geology as a career? Or do you have some time to chat with college students considering various specialties in the field of geology? Maybe you have some wisdom to impart to a young professional just starting out in the field or have some time to answer questions about a professional license application. Maybe you have an idea for a new networking event or a connection to a local college.

If any of this sound like you – or if you are interested in finding out more, join the Outreach Committee! We are actively recruiting new members to help with our two sub-committees (Student Outreach and Young Professional Outreach). We have a variety of roles to fill, and the time commitment varies depending on the type of events you volunteer to do and your availability.

Please reach out to Kerry Maloney or Executive Director John Nadeau for more information or sign up as a volunteer on the [Outreach Committee form](#).

Kerry Maloney, P.G.

Director NYSCPG/ Outreach Committee Co-Chair

Fundraising Committee

The fundraising committee (Gregory Wyka [chair] and Cheryl Neary [co-chair]) are actively exploring new fundraising opportunities for the NYSCPG.

Our Geology Rocks concert and networking event returned for the sixth time on June 10, 2026, in collaboration with the New York City Brownfield Partnership's Big Apple Brownfield Awards (BABA) ceremony. Our event was held in New York City and serendipitously on the night of Game 4 of the NBA Finals when the Knicks overcame a massive 29-point deficit – the largest comeback in NBA Finals history – to defeat the Spurs. The BABA ceremony is one of the Partnership's cornerstone events because it recognizes and celebrates outstanding brownfield cleanup and redevelopment projects, honoring the teams and individuals whose innovative remediation, sustainability, community engagement, and economic development efforts transform contaminated properties into valuable community assets across New York City. Thank you to Jerry & The Newcomers for providing musical entertainment for the event and congratulations to all BABA recipients!

Our Quarterly Geo Insights webinar series continues, and we are actively looking for speakers and presentations for 2027. We are hosting a webinar on September 16, 2026, presenting on Performance and Persistence Differences Between Abiotically- and Biotically-Generated Mackinawite-Structured Iron Sulfides. Please visit our [website](#) to sign up for the September webinar and stay tuned for future invitation and registration information via email and/or on LinkedIn.

We continue to look for support and help with our fundraising efforts. Moving forward, we intend to refocus the committee's efforts in areas and concentration on the following:

- Managing and coordinating sponsors for Geology Days;
- Managing and coordinating our flagship fundraising events (Geology Rocks or other); and
- Managing and coordination speaks for Quarterly Geo Insights. If you are interested in joining the committee, please [let us know!](#)

We hope you enjoy the remainder of your summer and look forward to hearing from you!

Cheryl Neary, P.G.

Director NYSCPG/ Fundraising Committee Co-Chair

Gregory C. Wyka, P.G., LEED AP ND

NYSCPG Past-President/ Fundraising Committee Co-Chair

Geology Days Committee

Geology Days is fast approaching! As usual, we will have our dual PDH tracks of speakers, plus the two technical field trips. The field trips are already sold out but you can add your name to the waiting list. [Register for the Conference on this Form](#)

New this year, on Wednesday November 11th, we are offering an optional 4 PDH short course: *Borehole Geophysics and Hydrogeologic Characterization for Multilevel Well Design and Construction*, presented by Robert Garfield, P.G. of Hager-Richter Geoscience, Inc. and John Dougherty, P.G. of CDM Smith. Those interested in attending this course may choose to attend for or without PDH credit. If you would like to only attend the short course rather than the entire conference, [register on this form](#).

Also new this year, we are offering multiple clothing options which can be pre-ordered for pick-up at registration. We are offering three short-sleeved shirt options, a quarter-zip pullover, a baseball hat, a visor, and a winter hat. A small selection of items will be available for “day of” sales, so we highly recommend ordering ahead of time if you want to guarantee getting the item you want. View the available options on the [Apparel Form](#).

Please note that the Holiday Inn Room block has sold out, and the NYSCPG has reserved additional accommodation options for the Conference at the AC Hotel Saratoga Springs and the Inn at Saratoga. Reservations for the AC Hotel can be made [here](#), and reservations can be made with the Inn at Saratoga by calling 518-583-1890 and mentioning the Conference.

Kerry Maloney, P.G.

Director NYSCPG/ Geology Days 2026 Committee Chair

Continuing Education Committee

As you are all aware, Continuing Education (CE) is a necessary requirement to maintain your license. CE courses must meet the following NYSED criteria for acceptability:

- Offered by one of three types of approved providers
 - a NYSED approved sponsor that can approve courses for themselves or others, OR
 - An entity that NYSED recognizes as able to approve courses on a course-by-course basis for themselves, OR
 - A college or university with at least 1 Accredited Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) accredited program
- Be in an approved subject
- Be in an approved format
 - Live or Live webinars and educational activities such as on-demand courses, teaching, gaining a patent and others that are licensed in FAQ #16 below

Thus, effective January 1, 2022 licensed professional geologists renewing registration of a license on or after January 1, 2023 are required to complete 36 contact hours of CE in each three-year registration period.

Section 7211 of Article 145 of Education Law and sections 68.14 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education apply to the CE education requirements.

The following is a handful of several of the frequently asked questions (FAQs) on SED's website (Continuing Education for Geology - Q&A | Office of the Professions). However, these FAQs are not a substitute for reading the provisions of laws, rules or regulations.

Q #1: Why is CE important?

A: Licensed professional geologists work in a world of evolving technology, increased consumer expectations and other emerging issues. Practice in this changing environment requires ongoing development of knowledge and skills. It is critical that licensees remain current with changes and developments in the profession to render quality services and to ensure public protection. The Office of the Professions is committed to helping professionals stay up-to-date and informed throughout their professional lives.

Q#2: What is the difference between “Licensure” and “Registration”?

A: When an individual successfully completes the licensure requirements they are awarded a professional license. The license is valid for life unless it is revoked or surrendered. Professional geologists in New York must register with the State Education Department every three years to practice their profession.

Q#3: Who is required to take continuing education and how many hours must be completed?

A: Every New York State licensed and registered professional geologist must complete CE requirements unless you satisfy the requirements of the public sector exemption outlined in question 4 or are newly licensed as outlined in question 6 or 7. Professional geologists will be required to complete a total of 36 hours of continuing education during each three-year registration period. Dually licensed professionals are required to complete a total of 36 hours of continuing education during

each three-year registration period. Each licensee must take continuing education in appropriate subject areas offered by approved sponsors.

Q#4: What are the requirements for the public sector exemption for CE for Professional Geologists?

A: To satisfy the CE requirements under the Public Sector Exemption, a licensee must be directly employed on a full-time basis by the State of New York; its agencies, public authorities, public benefit corporations or local government units on January 1, 2022, working in a position requiring licensure in geology, and either represented by a collective bargaining unit or, pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law, designated managerial or confidential. If a licensee practices geology (i.e., provides geological services) in New York State outside the government service described above, the exemption no longer applies. In these situations, the licensee must complete the regular continuing education requirement of 36 hours per registration period.

Q#5: When will I be required to report CE hours?

A: While the FAQ response is obsolete because the answer was based on a prorated formula between 2022 and 2025, you now must complete all CE hours within your triennial registration period at a rate of 1 hour per month for a maximum of 36 hours. However, it is not necessarily 1 hr per month, as long as you complete 36 in the 3-year period. Lastly, you do not need to report the hours, but you must keep a record of the hours in case you are audited.

Q#6: Do I need to complete CE requirements in my first triennial registration period?

A: No, you are not required to complete continuing education during your initial three-year registration period.

Q#7: I was practicing in another jurisdiction and just received my first NYS license and registration. Do I need to complete CE immediately?

A: Yes, you must complete 1 hour of continuing education for every month of your registration period.

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! Please encourage your colleagues (professionals, regulators, students and retirees) whom are not yet members or past members who have not renewed their 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.

Sustaining Membership

College/ University Members



SUNY Potsdam | Potsdam, NY



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Geophysics for the Engineering
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