AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS

Northeast Section NEWSLETTER HOLIDAYS 2024

As published on 12/23/2024

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November 11-13, 2024

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HOLIDAYS 2024 Edition No. 178

Published By the Northeast Section of the American Institute of Professional Geologists

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Section Meetings: Kelly Weyer, Bob Blauvelt, Michael Grifasi

Section Newsletter: Kim Burger, Editor; Dick Young, Publisher

Screening Board: Charles Rich (Chairperson); William Prehoda, James Moore, Kelly Weyer

2025 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE:

January 6th
March 3rd
April 16th — Spring Meeting with HMPGA Student Expo
May 5th
July 7th
September 9th
October - Fall Meeting TBD
December 1st

ExCom Meetings are typically held from 4:00 to 6:00 pm via teleconference.

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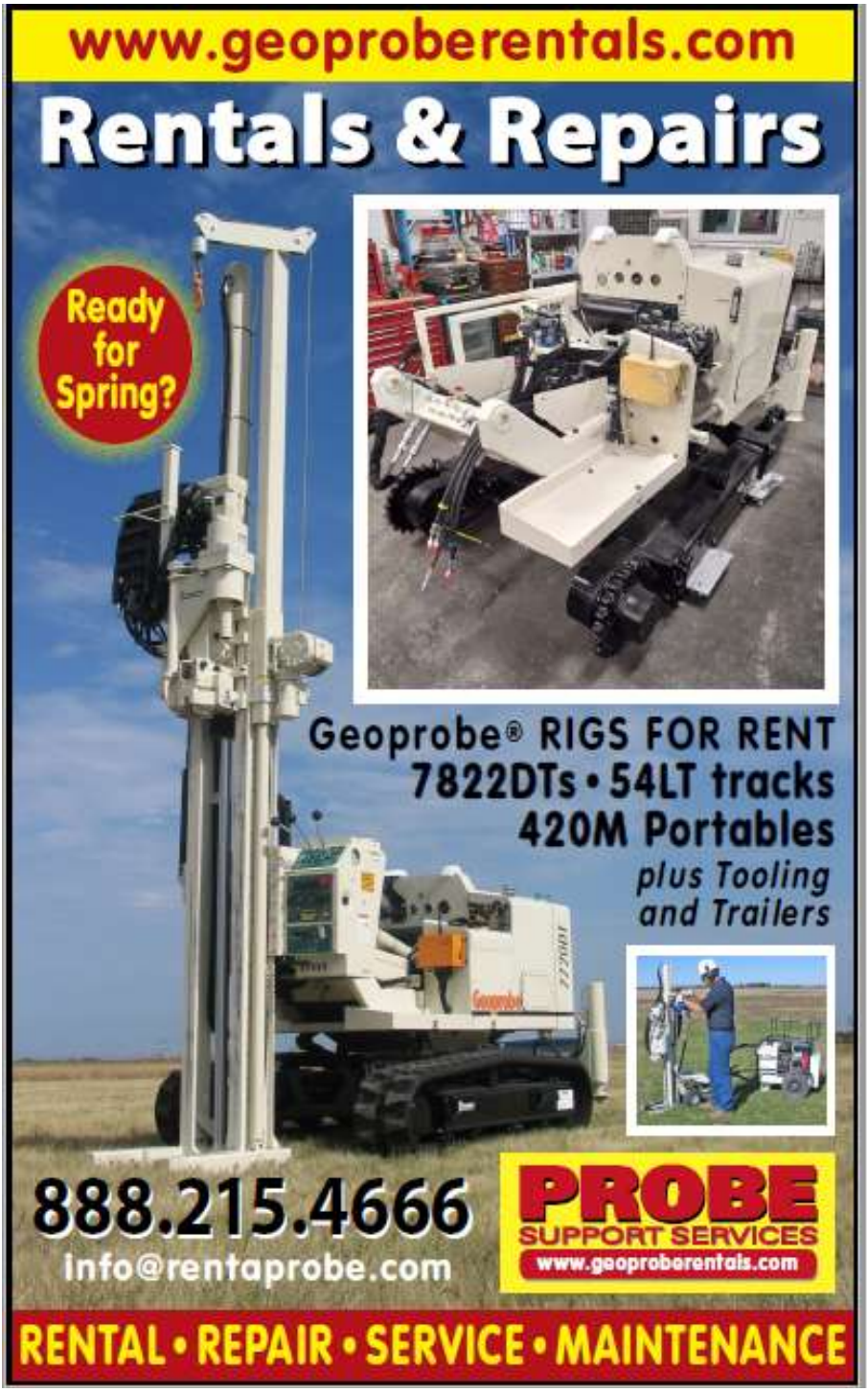
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Presidential Ramblings
HOLIDAYS 2024

AIPG
American Institute Professional Geologists

By NE-AIPG President Kelly Weyer, CPG-11826

Greetings Northeast Section and Friends of the Section!

We are close to the end of another successful year. The Northeast Section is back to hosting annual spring and fall in-person events and continues to award the annual Angelo Tagliacozzo Memorial Geological Scholarship (ATMGS). NE-AIPG seems to have the momentum and interest for the continuation and growth of the Section, for developing more opportunities for member involvement, for providing added value to the membership, and for supporting the professionals and students engaged in the profession of Geology.

In case you missed it, here's a brief recap on the year, and a quick look at the near future plans. The Spring Meeting and Student Exposition,

(Ramblings continued on page 12)

(Ramblings continued from page 11)

co-hosted with the Hudson-Mohawk Professional Geological Association (HMPGA) in Latham, NY, on April 17th, was the first in-person event in 2024. The event included a field trip to Holcim-Ravena Cement Plant and Quarry, a student poster session, professional networking and socializing, dinner, and a technical talk on Paleoclimate Archive of Glacial Lake Iroquois Sediments. The Student Exposition is an annual event started by HMPGA, to provide a networking opportunity for geology students nearing graduation and preparing to start their geological careers. Since part of NE-AIPG's efforts are to promote the profession and to support and engage students and professionals, we anticipate that our participation in this annual event will continue, and that the event will become more successful over the years.

Geology Field Days was the second spring 2024 event and was a day of field demonstrations co-hosted with the Central New York Association of Professional Geologists (CNYAPG) in Syracuse, NY, on April 26th. Professionals and students attended this event, which provided another opportunity for professional networking and to expose students to activities performed by professional geologists. Based on the success and interest, we anticipate this will be a re-occurring event, taking place at a regular frequency.

NE-AIPG hosted the annual Fall Meeting at Dinosaur State Park in Rocky Hill, CT, on October 11th. We enjoyed a tour of the facility, with great discussions on the trackway and the geology of the region, had time to network and socialize over dinner, then gathered in the exhibit center's auditorium for a technical talk on seismic experiments in CT. You can read about the event on pages 17, 21-22, and 30.

The Angelo Tagliacozzo Memorial Geological Scholarship (ATMGS) 2024-2025 application opened online in early September 2024 and closed on December 2, 2024. The ATMGS Review Committee will evaluate the application packages, and Awards are determined in the Spring of 2025. Information about the ATMGS is posted on NE-AIPG's website (https://ne-aipg.org/). Awards are funded by the ATMGS Perpetual Trust Fund, which relies on generous donations to build the fund. Over the next few months, we will determine our funds available for the annual Scholarship Awards, so if you have not donated to the ATMGS trust fund this year, we encourage you to do so, to help support our future Professional Geologists.

NE-AIPG was a sponsor of the field trips at the New York State Council of Professional Geologists' (NYSCPG) 3rd Annual Geology Days

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Conference, in Saratoga Springs, NY, on November 11-13, 2024 (see pages 18-19). This event was well attended, and the field trips were full. We look forward to the continued growth and success of the conference.

The Executive Committee is already making plans for 2025. We plan to hold the Spring and Fall in-person meetings, and we are considering a webinar series and various outreach opportunities throughout the year. The Spring Meeting and Student Exposition is in the works for late April in the Albany area with HMPGA. We're planning for a field trip, a student poster session, career-oriented networking and professional socializing, dinner, and a technical talk. This event will pursue PDH approvals, as appropriate. Watch for updates from NE-AIPG and HMPGA!

We are open to suggestions for the Fall Meeting, and anything in between. Likewise, we are open to suggestions for another Spring or Summer Event in another region of the Northeast Section, which could be for learning, socializing, or fundraising. The Fall Meeting is typically held during the first or second week of October. Since the 2025 National AIPG Conference in St. Louis, MO, is on October 4-7, the Executive Committee and Fall Meeting planning committee will discuss options for a date that might bring the best attendance for the Northeast Section's Fall Meeting without impacting those who want to travel to the National AIPG Conference.

We'd like to have involvement and attendance from all states in the Northeast Section, whether it's for a Spring or Fall Meeting, a webinar, a campus visit to a geology department, or another activity. We represent the Northeast from NJ to ME, and I know that we have members involved or interested in our many geologic sites. If you have ideas or suggestions for field trips or talks in 2025 or beyond, we are happy to hear from you, whether you can volunteer to lead a trip or talk, or just have an interest in a location or topic that you'd like us to consider. You can email us at info@ne-aipg.org with suggestions or questions at any time.

Warm Holiday Greetings to
Each of You and Yours,

Kelly Weyer
NE-AIPG President

(End)

The Hudson-Mohawk Professional Geologists Association celebrated it's 30th Anniversary on October 16, 2024, at Wolf Hollow Brewing Company! Prof. Mathew Manon of Union College led a walking field trip on the Wolf Hollow Trail, then HMPGA members and their guests celebrated with cake and drinks at the brewery! HMPGA would like to extend thanks to all members for their dedication and participation in the organization. For 30 years, HMPGA has been engaging with the industry, bringing together professionals for technical presentations, networking, and social events.

To all of our members, thank you, and happy 30th Anniversary!

-HMPGA Board of Directors

(End)

October 11, 2024: Northeast AIPG Hosted the Fall Meeting at Dinosaur State Park in Rocky Hill, CT

This year's NE AIPG fall meeting was held at the Dinosaur State Park in Rocky Hill, CT. The meeting included a guided tour of the Dinosaur State Park Museum and Trackway, a networking and socializing dinner with colleagues and fellow geologists, and a technical talk given by Dr. Maureen Long from the Yale University's Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences.

A little history of the park: The tracks were originally discovered in 1966 while digging the foundation for a state laboratory at the site. Over the next several weeks and months of site investigation, over 2,600 dinosaur tracks were discovered and Dinosaur State Park officially opened in 1968. Approximately 500 tracks are currently protected and on display in the geodesic dome at the park. The remaining tracks were reburied to protect them from the elements, with future plans of enclosing that additional area as well and uncovering them for future study and enjoyment.

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NYSCPG Geology Days Conference

By John M. Nadeau, PG NYSPG Executive Director

The New York State Council of Professional Geologists (NYSCPG) is grateful for the 350 people who attended the third annual Geology Days Conference from November 11-13, 2024, in Saratoga Springs, New York. It was great to have returning attendees, along with many new ones, join us for our largest event to date. The conference allowed professional geologists, engineers, and sponsors to interact and network, while providing continuing education credit to New York State Design Professionals.

The conference has been approved for Connecticut Licensed Environmental Professional (LEP) continuing education credits, and interested attendees can contact support@nyscpg.com for more information.

Attendees took part in the Membership meeting on Monday which provided an update of NYSCPG's activities in 2024 and the direction for the future. The meeting was followed by the ice-breaker event that evening that allowed everyone to catch up with colleagues. Tuesday and Wednesday offered the options of thirty presentations to earn professional development hours (PDH). The keynote dinner on Tuesday was presented by Andrew Kozlowski, Ph.D., P.G. of the NYS Geologic Survey *(in picture below)* and was co-sponsored by the Hudson Mohawk Professional Geologists.

Conference participants were able to get out of the hotel and enjoy the fresh 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

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(Geology Days continued from page 18)

these excursions. Tuesday's trip was led by Mark Williams, P.G. of C.T. Male and Derek Ersbak, P.G. of P.W. Grosser, who led over 50 people focusing on the *Stratigraphy, Structure, and the Mineral Waters of Saratoga Springs*. The trip gave the participants an opportunity to sample the waters of each of the springs around Saratoga for over four hours. Wednesday's trip to the Albany Pine Bush was led by Neil Gifford and David Franzi, Ph.D., P.G. was also attended by over 50 people. The group learned various geologic aspects of the Pine Bush dunes and walked throughout the preserve to take in the sites and learn about preservation efforts.

Two ethics presentations provided information regarding the regulated practice of geology and business practices. The panel discussion on Tuesday was led by Eric Greppo, P.E., the Executive Secretary of the State Board for Engineering, Land Surveying & Geology, and provided the perspective of NYSED Rules and Regulations, established design professional ethical guidance, and generally recognized concepts of the Standard of Care. NYSCPG's Executive Director John Nadeau, P.G. and Lobbyist Campbell Wallace, Esq. of Pastel Rosen & Wallace LLP offered insight on how to apply the topics covered in the panel discussion into everyday practice.

The NYSCPG Board appreciates the volunteers who helped coordinate and run the event. The volunteers included students from Syracuse University and SUNY Oneonta who helped with checking in attendees during each presentation. 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 companies during the week, and it was good to see participants interacting with these people 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 fourth annual event! We welcome those who attended to participate in this brief survey to provide feedback that will be utilized for planning Geology Days 2025. Look for an announcement in the coming weeks for the 2025 date and venue.

(Geology Days continued on page 60)

Angelo Tagliacozzo Memorial Geological Scholarship 2024-2025

By Kelly Weyer, CPG-11826
Scholarship Chairperson

The 39th Annual Angelo Tagliacozzo Memorial Geological Scholarship (ATMGS) Update

The 2025 ATMGS Board of Trustees (comprised of the NE-AIPG officers) in conjunction with the ATMGS review committee, has the continued honor and responsibility of awarding the annual Angelo Tagliacozzo Memorial Geological Scholarships to selected junior and senior geology majors, since the first ATMGS recipients were selected for the 1987-1988 academic year awards.

The 2024-2025 online application opened in September 2024 and closed on December 2, 2024. The link to the online application and information about the scholarship was accessed through NE-AIPG's website https://ne-aipg.org. Announcements were sent to department chairs of colleges and universities with geology programs, past faculty sponsors, and others who requested to be added to the distribution list.

Once the online application closed, the application packages were reviewed for completeness. Student applicants were contacted with an update on their application status, and they will be notified throughout the review process, as appropriate.

Submitted application packages are distributed to the ATMGS Review Committee in mid-December for evaluation, and award suggestions are typically presented and voted on during the 2025 March ExCom Meeting.

This is an annual scholarship, so if you are or know a Geology student who will be a junior or senior next year, the next online application is expected to open in September 2025.

Have you donated to the ATMGS fund this year? If not, we encourage you to do so, to ensure we can continue providing substantial awards to future Geologists, and to support the continued success of the profession. You can donate using the form on Page 81, or online through the NE-AIPG website.

For more information on the ATMGS, please visit the NE-AIPG's website https://ne-aipg.org/ and see Pages 80-81 in this newsletter. Please contact us with any ATMGS related questions, at neaipg.atscholarship2@gmail.com.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the ATMGS program (through dollars or time) over the years, and an extra thank you to those who contribute every year!

(End)

(Fall Meeting continued from page 17)

The NE AIPG fall meeting started off with a tour of the facility lead by the Park's Education Director Michael Ross. Michael gave a great presentation regarding the geologic history of the Connecticut River Valley and the geologic reasons why the tracks are so well preserved in the sandstone bedrock in this area. As a treat, meeting attendees were also taken down onto the trackway to get an up-close look at the tracks and the surrounding rock matrix. Michael pointed out specific features in the rock, specifically ripple marks in the some of the sandstone beds, that help us to interpret and envision the conditions at the time the tracks were made.

Following the guided tour of the museum, New Haven-style pizza (we were in Connecticut after all) and drinks were served by the Big Green Food Truck in the park's picnic pavilion. I personally enjoyed seeing friends and colleagues from years past, and meeting many new people and fellow geologists as well.

Following our dinner, Dr. Maureen Long from Yale University provided a very interesting and informative talk regarding her SEISConn work in Connecticut. Dr. Long and her team have deployed an array of 15 broadband seismometers in a dense linear array across northern Connecticut. Using recordings of seismic waves from distant earthquakes, they are imaging the crust and upper mantle beneath southern New England. Images of the deep

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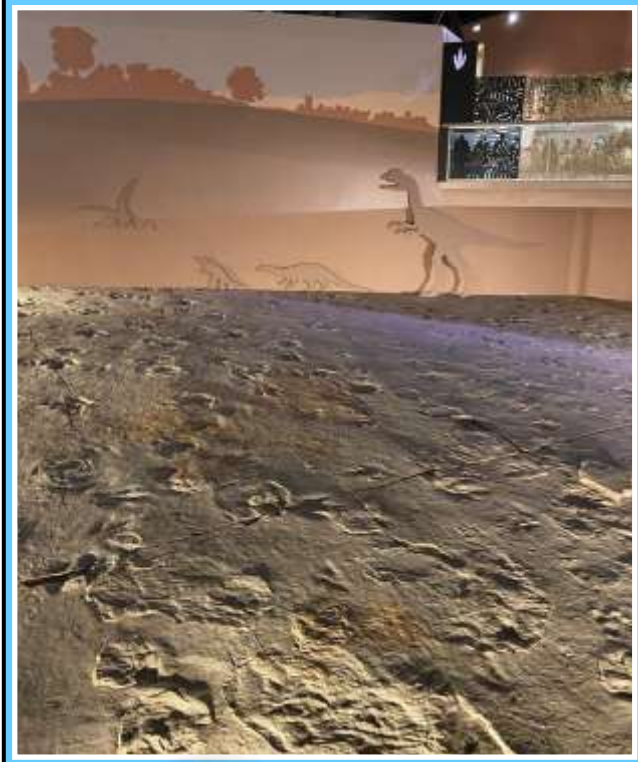
structure can address fundamental questions about how supercontinents are formed and break up, as well as how plate tectonic processes such as subduction, rifting, and terrane accretion affect the evolution of the crust and uppermost mantle.



Furthermore, these images can help to refine models for how the various phases of Appalachian orogenesis and the rifting associated with the breakup of Pangea have shaped the bedrock geology of Connecticut.

The NE-AIPG Fall meeting was a great event, and the efforts that the NE-AIPG ExCom members and the Dinosaur State Park employees, as well as our presenters, were very much appreciated. We had 30 attendees this year, and I hope to see even more people at our next event!

Above Left: The Dinosaur Trackway

Direct Left: Close up of the Dinosaur Track

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The Slayback Award

Anyone may provide written, descriptive nominations of candidates (and of their contributions to NE/AIPG) for the Slayback Award, *by CONFIDENTIALLY submitting the nomination in writing to any one of the previous recipients* (Dick Young, Dennis McGrath, Dan St. Germain, Tom West, Curt Kraemer, Bob Blauvelt, and Jeff Frederick).

The concept of the Russell G. Slayback Award is to provide: "Honor and Recognition of Exemplary Service, Above and Beyond, To the Northeast Section of AIPG." Thus, the Slayback Award is intended to be presented *on those rare occasions* when truly landmark, exemplary service has been given to the Northeast Section of AIPG for a protracted period of time by an AIPG Certified Professional Geologist who is a Member of the Northeast Section. *"On those rare occasions"* is the operative phrase, as the Slayback Award was never intended to be "*presented annually*."

Selection of Awardees is made by the previous recipients, in confidential discussions with the NE/AIPG Section President. Individual Members of the ExCom may be consulted for their input on a confidential basis. Confidentiality, to maintain the element of surprise in honoring the Recipient(s) and his/her/ their long service, is a cornerstone concept of the Slayback Award.

Additionally, given that Russ was committed to helping/mentoring young Geologists and was a long-time, devoted proponent of the Northeast Section's Angelo Tagliacozzo Memorial Geological Scholarship Trust Fund, Donations In Memory and Honor of Russ Slayback may be made to the NE/ AIPG Geological Scholarship Perpetual Trust Fund and should be written to: Angelo Tagliacozzo Memorial Geological Scholarship Trust Fund, and mailed to: NE/AIPG Geological Scholarship Trust Fund, c/o Scott Hulseapple, 679 Plank Rd, Clifton Park, NY 12065

Alternatively, you can make your Contribution, RIGHT NOW, ONLINE, by going to https://ne-aipg.org/ and clicking "Donation To Scholarship Fund" (under Quick Links" on the home page). All Contributions to the Scholarship Trust Fund are invested, perpetually, with earnings thereon used solely for the Scholarship. NE/AIPG bears all costs of administration. Please ask your employer about matching your tax-free contribution and about additional corporate contributions.

For further information, contact Kelly Weyer: neaipg.atscholarship2@gmail.com

(End

NYSCPG NEWS

By John Nadeau (CPG-1181), Executive Director

I hope that all the NE-AIPG members had an enjoyable Thanksgiving. I would like to take the opportunity to thank the leadership of NE-AIPG and their members for the continued support of the NYSCPG. I wish you all the best the holiday season has to offer and a Happy New Year.

Thank you to all of you who attended Geology Days 2024. It was great to see so many friends in one place catching up during the conference. NE-AIPG once again sponsored the two field trips, and we had over 50 participants on each. I would also like to thank the volunteers who made the event run smoothly, the speakers for the effort in preparing their presentations, and of course the sponsors who allowed us to keep the costs low for attendees. As part of the conference, there were two ethics presentations providing guidance on how to practice, both as an individual and as a business. NYSCPG is planning on continuing to work the NY Education Department on future webinars and in-person events to provide information for you as professionals.

As we enter the latter part of the year, NYSCPG is looking towards the future. The Legislative Committee, including our lobbyist Campbell Wallace, will soon begin planning for the 2025 Legislative session. NYSCPG will be looking to meet with state agencies, and Legislative staff to discuss potential bills we will be introducing. We will keep the members of the profession informed as policies are fine-tuned and if we plan to host a lobby day.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) released the latest revisions to the 6 NYCRR Part 375 with respect to the Brownfield Clean Program. The current version continues to include the Qualified Environmental Professional term that NYSCPG interprets as counter to the Education Law defining the Professional Geologist

(NYSCPG News continued on page 27)

(NYSCPG News continued from page 26) and Professional Engineer. NYSCPG will be submitting a comment letter addressing our concerns and will ask our members to do the same. Information regarding the amendments, a virtual public hearing, and the comments submission information can be found at https://dec.ny.gov/regulatory/regulations/proposed-emergency-recently-adopted-regulations/environmental-remediation-revisions.

NYSCPG is also looking at hosting Geology Rocks again in 2025. We are looking at May 8th as the potential date at the Coliseum in White Plains, NY. The event will feature a cover band playing music from the 80s and 90s. More information will be available on the NYSCPG website and LinkedIn by the end of this year.

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.

Regards,

John M. Nadeau, PG
NYSCPG Executive Director

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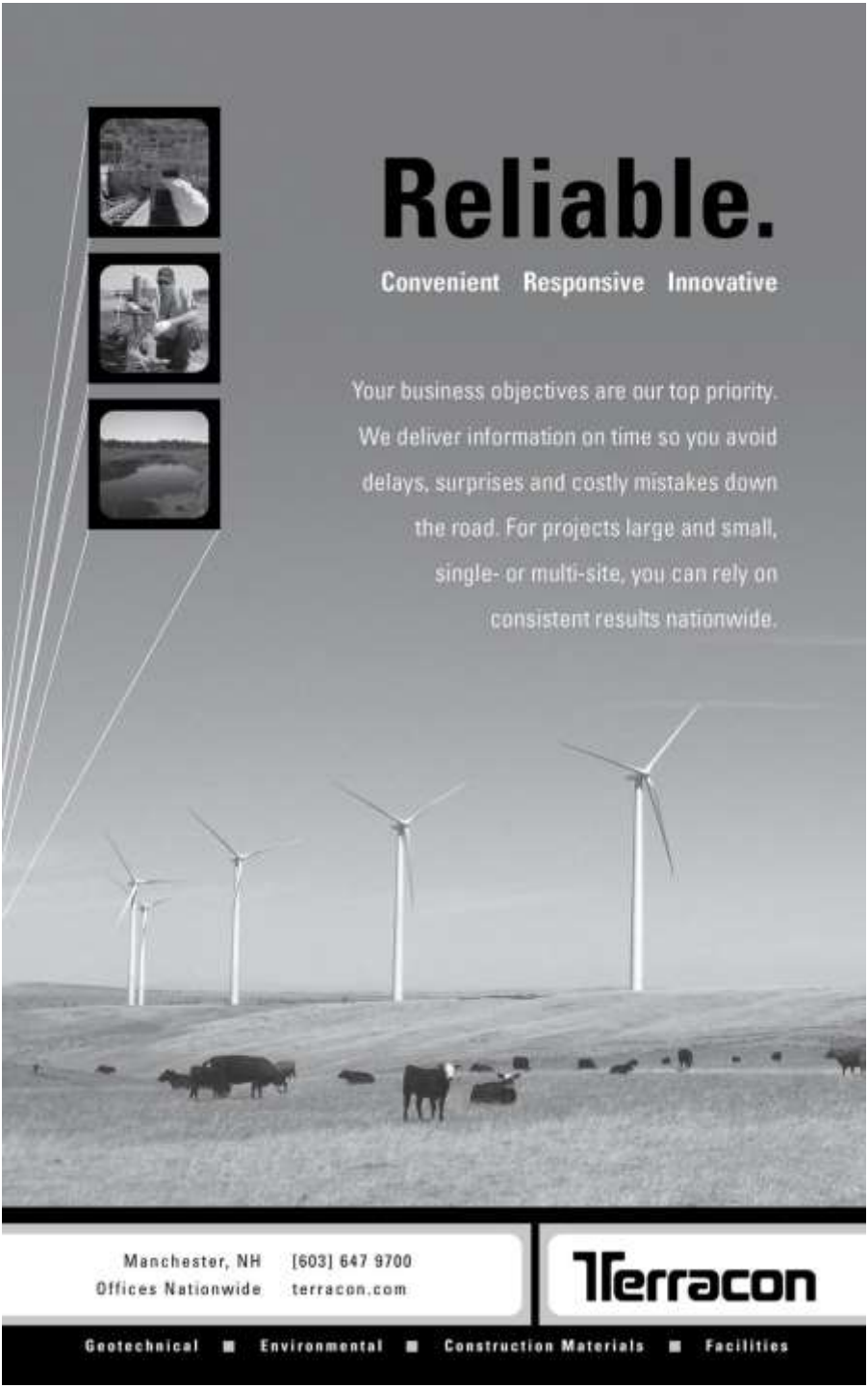
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(Fall Meeting continued from page 22)

Top: Park Tour
Middle: The Lecture Group
Bottom: Dinner in the Park

(End)

The New York State Museum and the New York State Geological Survey (NYSGS) have been neglected to the detriment of the State's citizens, and the State's geological community. The time for action is upon us – there is legislation (https://assembly.ny.gov/leg/?bn=A08851&term=2023) that if enacted would support the Museum's mission, and by extension that of the Geological Survey. By contacting your Senator and Assembly Member (https://www.nysenate.gov/find-my-senator and https://nyassembly.gov/mem/search/), you can call for its passage. Below is the full story of how we got here, and our path forward…

There have been multiple articles written in the New York Times and the Albany Times Union over the last several months regarding the state of the Museum. I bring this to your attention in case you do not know that the NYSGS is an agency of the Museum. The last New York Times article regarding the decline of the Museum was published on October 19th (https://www.nytimes.com/2024/10/19/nyregion/state-museum-ny-albany.html) and specifically references claims made regarding the NYSGS. The article discusses ongoing state and federal investigations to evaluate whether the Museum received excessive federal funding from the United State Geological Survey (USGS). The article also mentions allegations that Museum administrative staff engaged in a timecard scheme to bilk federal funds. An investigation by the State Education Department's Bureau of Labor Relations found the allegations were unsubstantiated.

While NYSCPG is not aware of any specific allegations, we are aware of the historical success of the NYSGS and particularly the geological mapping program that has had a long-standing and productive partnership with the USGS. Despite decades of

(Call to Action continued on page 32)

(Call to Action continued from page 31)

declining staff and attrition of museum scientists trained in geology, the NYSGS appears to have been having a resurgence over the last several years. Numerous presentations have been made to various professional geological organizations, along with other public presentations, on the ongoing geologic research that shows an active and productive group of researchers that are producing high-quality scientific information despite funding issues within the Museum.

Increased federal funding in recent years has resulted in an increased number of published maps which NYSCPG has previously highlighted on our website and in articles. Many of the geologists in New York, professionals and academics alike, use the maps and data prepared by the NYSGS. Not only do these maps serve as important educational products, but these geologic publications serve society to help protect water resources, find aggregates to build and repair infrastructure and help identify locations of critical minerals needed to provide vital materials to support the state and national economy. The subsurface scientific coring and exploration drilling that has resulted from the cooperative federal-state partnership is having a profound impact to improve understanding of past climate, aquifers, and geothermal potential and will likely provide vital information for predicting future climate change.

The NYSCPG's mission includes the strengthening and advancement of the geological sciences as a profession; promoting the protection of public health, the public welfare, and the environment; and promoting high standards of ethical conduct within the profession. NYSCPG views the federal resources awarded to the Museum to produce maps and collect high quality geologic data as a solid investment that is benefiting both the state and its citizens. The maps produced by the NYSGS help promote geology to the public and can be used to promote the protection of the public and the environment. We also believe that the NYSGS staff operate with an appropriate standard of care and high ethical standards and any investigation will show that allegations made against NYSGS staff to be unfounded and that they will be allowed to continue their critical work moving forward.

Where does that leave us, the professional geologists of New York, and what can we do to ensure that additional geological

(Call to Action continued on page 33)

(Call to Action continued from page 32)

data continues to be collected and managed by qualified, competent geoscientists? Professional geologists have been aware of the financial struggles and lack of staffing of the Survey and Museum since the State Geologist role was vacated in 2010. Almost every state in the union has a Chief Scientist and State Geologist, except New York. New York is the 4th most populous State and has a diverse landscape and highly variable geologic settings constructed from ancient tectonic events that occurred more than a billion years ago to glacial deposits as recent as 13,000 years old. The roles of the State Geologist are to manage the NYSGS; provide unbiased scientific information to state agencies; prepare and manage federal grants; oversee staff that conducts field work, curate the current mineral collections, and maintain the subsurface core collection; maintain the Empire State Organized Geologic Information System (ESOGIS); provide educational opportunities for the public; and serves as a technical resource to the State in response from catastrophic flooding, landslides, droughts and other emergency-related events.

(Call to Action continued on page 34)

(Call to Action continued from page 33)

As professional geologists we must request that a State as large and geologically complex as New York should maintain this key position within the Museum, which was founded by the original scientific efforts of the NYSGS in 1836. The Chief Scientist-State Geologist position typically directs and oversees the NYSGS technical staff, and the time to re-establish this key vacant role has come.

How do we accomplish this? It is election season, and candidates are canvasing neighborhoods and hosting town meetings. I call upon the geologic community to become as vocal as we did to ensure licensure passage a decade ago. The bill referenced at the beginning of this article (A08851) proposed to increase the county clerk fees from $15 to $25 with the revenue going to fund the Museum. Reach out to your elected officials and ask them to support that measure and in turn specifically fund the NYSGS and re-establish the State Geologist role. If you are unsure who your representatives are, please check out https://www.nysenate.gov/find-my-senator and https://nyassembly.gov/mem/search/.

There is an adage that the "squeaky wheel gets the grease," and it is time for our profession to make some noise. Please contact me with any questions via email at jnadeau@nyscpg.com or by phone at 518-579-6580.

John M. Nadeau, PG
NYSPG Executive Director

(End)

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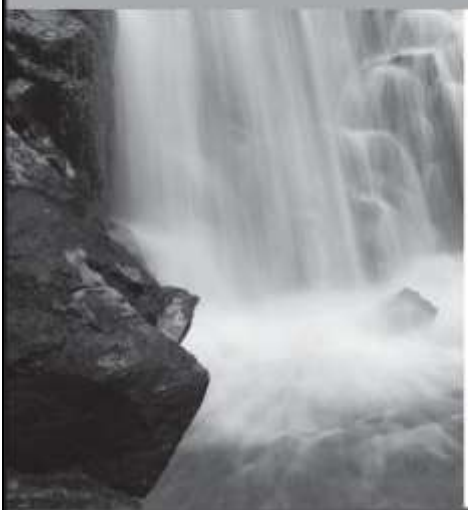

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How Many Continents Are There? You May Not Like the Answers.

Recent earth science developments suggest that how we count our planet's largest land masses is less clear than we learned in school.

By Matt Kaplan NY TIMES Oct. 30, 2024

The world is split up into continents, there are seven in all.

And if you get the gist, we're going to make a list,

From biggest to small …

Your kids may have come home from school singing this infectious ditty, or another like it. But are there really seven continents?

Anyone with a map can see that Asia and Europe are connected. They are often called Eurasia for that reason. The divide is pretty arbitrary, more culturally than scientifically defined. So, is it fair to say that there are actually only six continents?

That is just the first slippery step on a well-oiled slope. What about North America and Asia?

They are connected by the Bering Sea Shelf, once dry land crossed by humans and flooded only in the geologically recent past. Technically speaking, that makes Asia, North America and Europe all one continent. Does that mean there are only five?

Other experts contend that five, six and seven are wrong and argue in favor of eight continents. There are even those who go as far as to say there are only two.

Hiding within the simplicity of the song, there is an illusion of general agreement about the number of continents.

The dispute arises in part because there are really two types of continents: Those recognized by cultures around the world, and those recognized by geologists. Cultures can define a continent any way they want, while geologists have to use a definition. And geological research in recent years has made defining continental boundaries less simple than it might have once seemed as researchers find evidence of unexpected continental material.

"This triggers a lot of interest because there are significant implications for our understanding of the mechanisms of continent separation, ocean formation and plate tectonics," said Valentin Rime, a geologist at the

(Continents continued on page 41)

(Continents continued from page 40)

University of Fribourg in Switzerland. He added, "But after the excitement comes rigorous checking and debate to make sure the evidence is solid."

Geologically speaking, to be a continent, a bit of the planet needs to have four things:

A high elevation relative to the ocean floor.

A wide range of igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary rocks rich in silica.

A crust thicker than the surrounding oceanic crust.

Well-defined limits around a large enough area.

The first three requirements are found in just about every geology textbook. But not so with the fourth. What is "large enough," or how "well-defined" the limits of a potential continent need to be, are matters that are less often discussed, unless a geologist is studying bits of the planet that are on the cusp of being continental.

"Anything big enough to change the map of the world is important," said Nick Mortimer, a geologist with the New Zealand government-owned GNS Science research institute. "Labeling and identifying part of the Earth as a continent, even a small, thin and submerged one, is more informative than just leaving a map blank."

This creates problems for numbering continents.

Consider Iceland, which sits atop a rift that stretches around Earth, the Atlantic branch of the mid-oceanic ridge. Volcanic activity there slowly separates the tectonic plates on which North America and Europe rest. Most of the ridge lies deep beneath the ocean. But in Iceland, it sits above sea level.

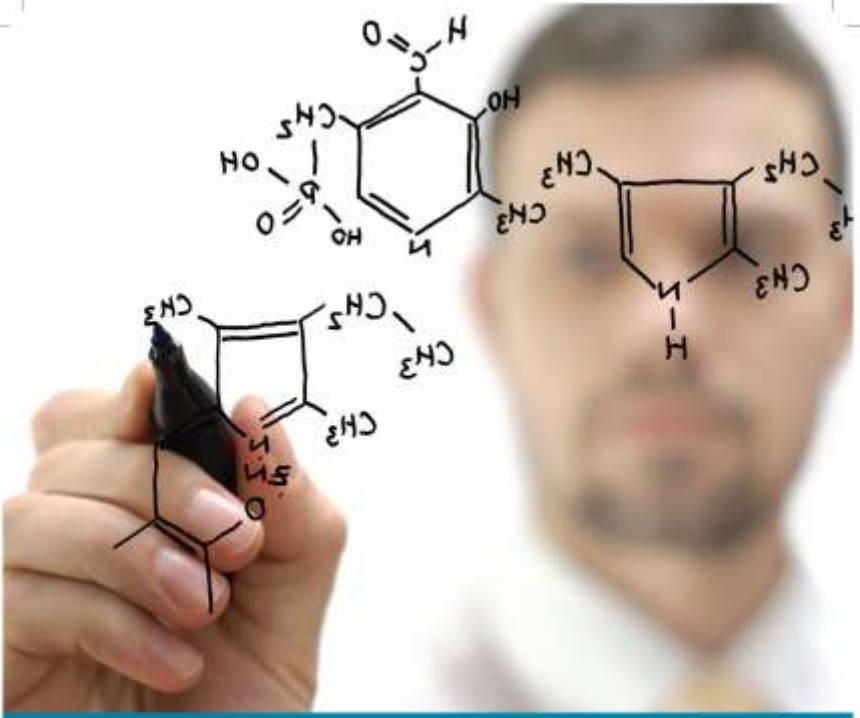
Another enigma is that the volcanoes there often spit out lava made of molten continental crust, even though Iceland is thousands of miles from any continents. Some geologists therefore suspect Iceland is not a lonely island at sea, but actually part of a continent (although as to which one, that can get complicated, too).

That notion finds support off Africa's eastern coast.

A mid-oceanic ridge in the Red Sea is dividing Africa from Asia. This divorce is happening at the rate at which fingernails grow. Along most of the ridge, the separation is straightforward. But the separation is much messier where the Red Sea meets the Gulf of Aden. In place of an obvious point of thinning where ocean crust is forming, the continental crust between Africa and Asia is splintering into hundreds of pieces. In that location, there is no obvious point where Africa ends and Asia begins.

"It is like very strong and very thick toffee getting stretched out, but not

(Continents continued on page 44)



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snapping," said Gillian Foulger, a geologist at Durham University in England.

Dr. Rime and colleagues recently published a study in the journal Geology showing that Iceland, too, has heavily stretched toffee beneath its surrounding seas. Instead of a clean break between North America and Europe, there appears to be a complex mix of magma and continental crust fragments scattered in a path between the two land masses that runs right through Iceland. Just like the point where the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden meet, there is no clear point where North America ends and Europe begins.

Of course, if Africa is still attached to Asia through the Gulf of Aden and North America is still attached to Europe, this kind of messes up the "Seven Continents" song. If the crust between these continents is stretching but not snapping, is it well-defined enough to identify the two land masses as separate continents? Or are they still one?

Then there is New Zealand, which really wrecks things for our kids.

Although New Zealand and Australia are often grouped together, they are not on the same continent. While Australia is widely considered to be a continent in its own right, the notion that New Zealand is part of its own continent, Zealandia, is a newer argument.

Submerged shelves that rise high above the ocean floor stretch for miles far beyond the tiny island nation. Along the edges of those shelves, there is deep water and oceanic crust that is thinner than the crust beneath the shelves. Drill cores, seabed dredge samples and rocks collected from the region show that the giant mass that New Zealand sits on is composed of igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary rocks rich in silica, just as is the case with all other continents.

While few think of Zealandia as a continent in cultural terms, "it is increasingly being recognized as a geological one," Dr. Mortimer said.

But not everyone agrees, and they point to that meddlesome fourth criterion ignored in most textbooks. The crust making up Zealandia is between 10 and 30 kilometers thick, making it thicker than the seven kilometers of most ocean crust. But it is not as thick as other continents' crust, typically between 30 and 46 kilometers. This makes the boundaries between Zealandia and the ocean less well defined and more difficult to discern. Size creates issues too. At 4.9 million square kilometers, the proffered Zealandia is much smaller than Australia, which itself is only 7.7 million square kilometers.

Then there is the fact that Zealandia is mostly submerged. Being above water is not part of the geological definition of a continent, but it does seem to matter culturally, because people are used to thinking of continents as dry land.

(Continents continued on page 46)

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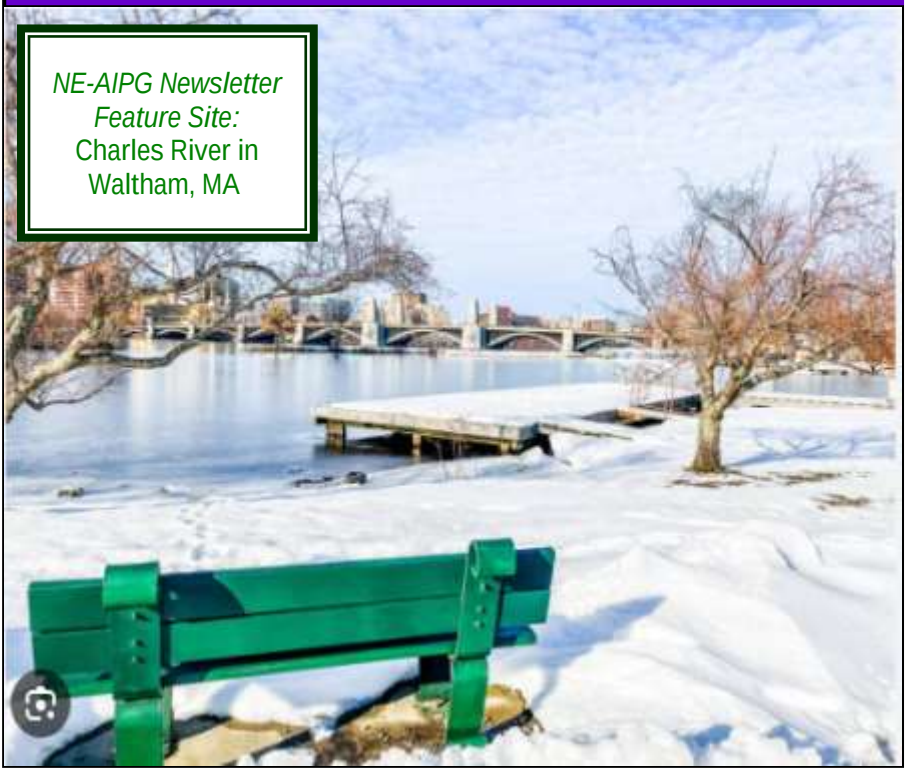

(Continents continued from page 44)

Geologists are still arguing what these discoveries about continental and oceanic crust mean for the number of continents. What is certain is that the research is revealing that there is more than one way for two continents to split apart, and that the split is not always clean or even complete.

"There are basically only two major continents," Dr. Rime said. "Antarctica and everything else, since South America is connected to North America through Panama, North America is connected to Asia through the Bering Strait, and Asia is connected to Europe, Africa and Australia through the Urals, the Sinai and Indonesia, respectively."

Dr. Mortimer doesn't agree.

"Zealandia is separated from Australia by a 25-kilometer-wide, 3,600-meter-deep ocean trough," he said. "Based on Valentin's logic, that would mean there are actually three continents."

But he acknowledged some uncertainty, adding, "Unless the trough is found to be very deep continental crust, like the Iceland situation, in which case Zealandia would be a part of Australia."

And then there is the possibility that Iceland is sitting on top of its own large chunk of free-floating crust as perhaps continent No. 9.
"If true, 'Icelandia' would join a growing fellowship of continents large and small," Dr. Foulger said.
Culturally, this research and the arguments it provokes change nothing — which is a good thing, because if there were only two continents, there might not be an infectious tune for your children to sing.

(End)

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September 2024 MEETING MINUTES NE SECTION – AIPG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

September 10, 2024

Kelly Weyer*	Michael Grifasi*	Lou Russo	Scott Tucker*
Jennifer Rhee*	Trevor Gowan*	Dennis McGrath	Scott Hulseapple*
Laurie Scheuing*	Calvin Prothro	Dick Young	Stacy Stieber
Adam Kaiser	Jim Ridenour	Mitchell Ward*	Martin Derby Cheryl Neary

Called to order at 4:00 pm

Welcome Statements and Announcements

- President Elect 2024 Position Open.

Secretary's Report (Minutes):

- In the absence of the Secretary, the President reported that the minutes of the May Ex Comm meeting were approved by email on July 26, and included in the Autumn newsletter.
- Regarding the draft minutes of the July Ex Comm meeting, Kelly suggested several changes be made. No objections were raised; however, a vote on approval was held in abeyance pending amendment to reflect the suggested changes and subsequent distribution of the revised draft by the Secretary. After distribution by Mitch, a motion to accept/end/approve will be entertained via email.

Treasurer's Report

- Scott Hulseapple reported that all awards from the Angelo Fund have been received by the awardees and that all the checks have been cashed. The Fund value remains in a strong position. A short discussion ensued about what a sustainable distribution level might be given the fund value at present.
- The Treasurer reported that the President had been reimbursed for travel expenses incurred to attend the National Meeting, at the level that had been approved in advance and as was budgeted. This amounted to $1800.00, however, the actual expenses incurred were $2133.23. Laurie made a motion to reimburse the President for the difference between the budgeted and incurred amounts, seconded by Scott Tucker. Without objection, the motion passed. After the vote, Kelly reported that the meeting was good, and recommended attending to all who have an opportunity to attend in future. She also noted hearing from attendees in several sessions that various section membership rolls are slowly increasing after declining in recent years. Next year the meeting will be in St. Louis, MO
- Ongoing items
  - Scott reported that he has filed paperwork with the State of New Jersey related to the need for an incorporated agent for the Angelo Tagliacozzo fund. He noted that a physical address in NJ where the agent can be contacted was a requirement.
  - The Treasure observed that he expects the section will incur a sizable expense associated with the Fall meeting, but that it also typically is an income producer.

(Minutes continued on page 52)

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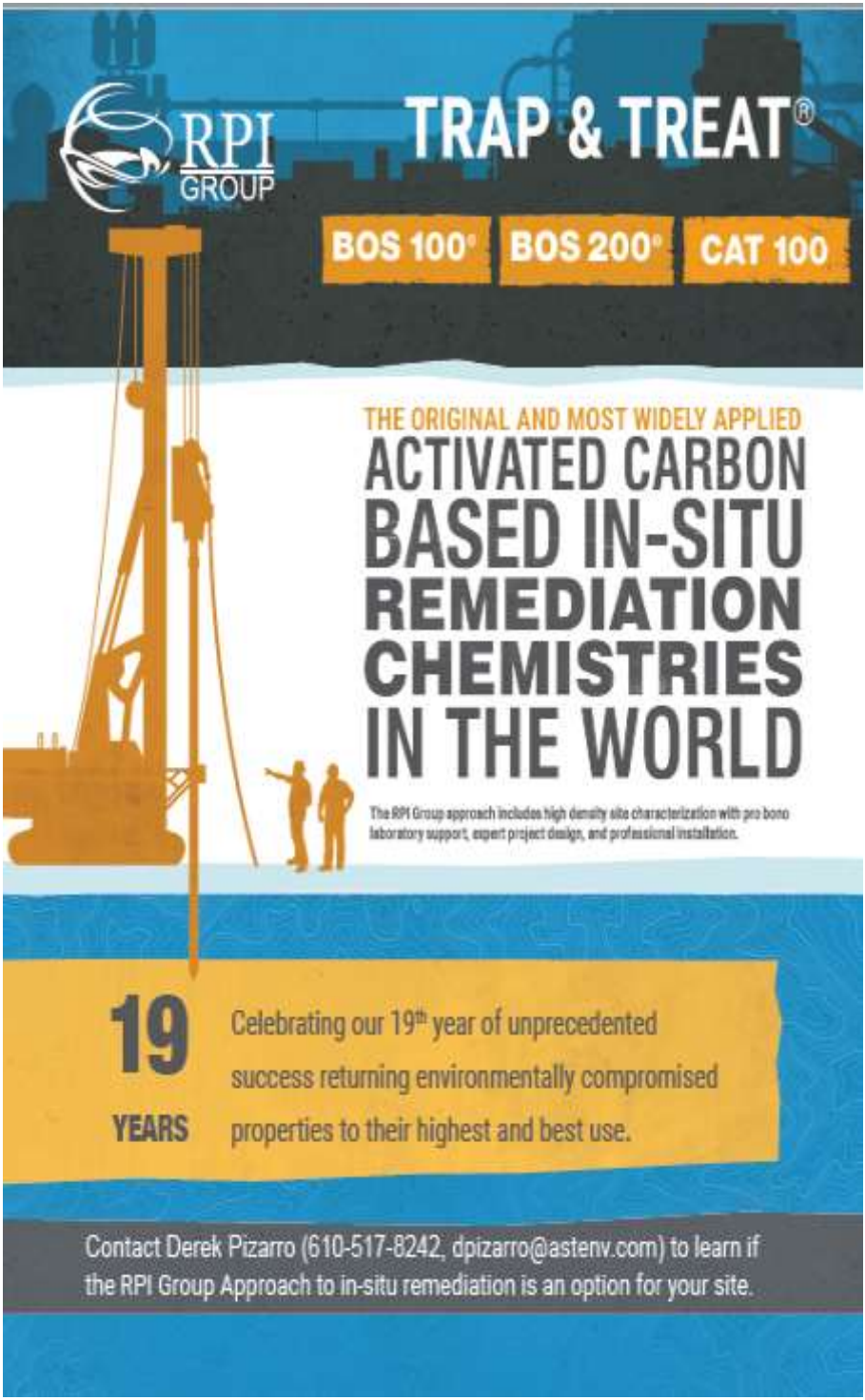
(Minutes continued from page 50)

Reports from Committees

- Scholarship: Committee Chair gives update.
  - The committee is working on reviewing and finalizing materials for the 2024-2025 scholarship application. The President will be reaching out to persons who have expressed an interest in helping with this activity.
  - Announcements of the availability of the scholarship application will go out before the end of September. These will be directed to the universities that show up in the section member directory. The application period will run from the end of September to the beginning of December.
  - The President mentioned that we need to confirm the makeup of the committee for the 2024-2025 period.
- Publications
  - Dick reported that the Autumn newsletter has been distributed and announced that he is seeking content for the 2024 Holiday edition (due out in November 2024). A few remarks followed regarding advertising and sales income.
  - The reporting closed out with a general plea for content for the newsletter going forward, and a brief exchange on whether a closer look at how the membership values the newsletter and if it should be continued in its current configuration might be merited.
  - Ongoing items – Kelly observed that steps have been taken to ensure website access to the newsletters, and that content there is up to date. In addition, there is an archive on ISSUU.
  - Mike said he would pull something together for the newsletter, a book review on a geology-related novel.
- Meetings/Webinars/Events Committee
  - Fall Meeting – Friday, 10/11/24.
    - A September 4 motion to approve expenses was passed via email on September 5.
    - The event will be held starting at 3:30 PM EDT at the Dinosaur State Park in Rocky Hill, CT. Registrations are coming in. The speaker and topic have been confirmed; the speaker will be coming from Yale, in New Haven, CT, and overnight accommodations are not needed.
    - We are giving $250 donation to the park.
    - A discussion ensued as to what kind of gift would be appropriate to thank the speaker for this event, and more generally going forward. There was general feeling that some kind of acknowledgement is appropriate, but that it ought to be something easy to manage by givers and receivers and perhaps not just a rock to sit in a corner someplace. Several suggested that something like a coffee mug or a cup would be more practical, although there might be attendant considerations related to bulk acquisition and storage. Mike said that he would check around over the coming week for potential costs of making a mug. He also said he would check with National AIPG to see if we could get some help from them that might lead to a section mug that is a takeoff on one of their designs. Dick suggested that an NE Section mug design might include some interesting geology images from the region, and over the short term perhaps we could give an existing AIPG mug with a gift card and a thank you note tucked inside.

(Continued on page 54)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(Minutes continued from page 52)

- Geology Days – Saratoga Springs, NY
  - Mike mentioned that some Syracuse students will be attending, and that this provides an opportunity for the professionals to interact with them and make them aware of the existence, activities and benefits of affiliation with the NE Section. Kelly suggested the possibility of organizing a more-or-less informal gathering of AIPG attendees on one of the days.
  - NE-AIPG is co-hosting field trips (one on Nov 12, another on Nov 13). The trip to Saratoga Springs is fully subscribed; 30 of the 50 slots for the Pine Bush parabolic dunes trip are filled.
- Other Upcoming Events
  - PDH Webinars – w/PDH $25/$30, no PDH $20/$25. Mike said he has a contact who is interested in doing a presentation; Kelly suggested that might fit into the January-February-March framework, maybe as a part of a Winter Webinar Series.
  - Anyone with ideas for a talk or who knows of someone who might be a presenter is invited to pass that information along. Also, consider a gift for presenters.
  - We need to start thinking about the Jan-Feb-Mar meetings.
- ExCom and Committees
  - Still looking to fill ballot slots for 2025. Current office holders have agreed to serve an additional term as needed. There are three possible candidates for the at-large positions; one of the current at-large members is willing to continue another year. Calvin was asked about the possibility of serving in the officer track; he said it was not possible this year, perhaps next.
  - Our intention is to finalize the ballot, distribute it, have the voting proceed and report out the results before the Ex Comm October meeting.
- Student Outreach/Mentoring/Student Chapters
  - No activity to report yet; classes just started, and it is early in the term, students still getting settled. We do (as noted above) want to get the scholarship application information headed their way asap. Perhaps we could also consider putting on some webinars (or pointing out existing webinars that are accessible and could be of interest to them). Another possible option to consider would be to arrange some campus visits. No comments were forthcoming.

Correspondence

- We received an inquiry from National AIPG inquiring if the section would increase section dues and modify dues for emeritus level members. The section decided to decline both.
- Dick asked if others have been getting spam emails purporting to be from bona fide members/officers. He reported receiving them for quite some time. Kelly asked whether removing personal contact information from the website might help address that situation, the consensus was that there is not a lot that can be done that would be effective. A word to the wise was offered to always reach out to the supposed originator of such an inquiry before providing things like credit card information

Old Business and New Business

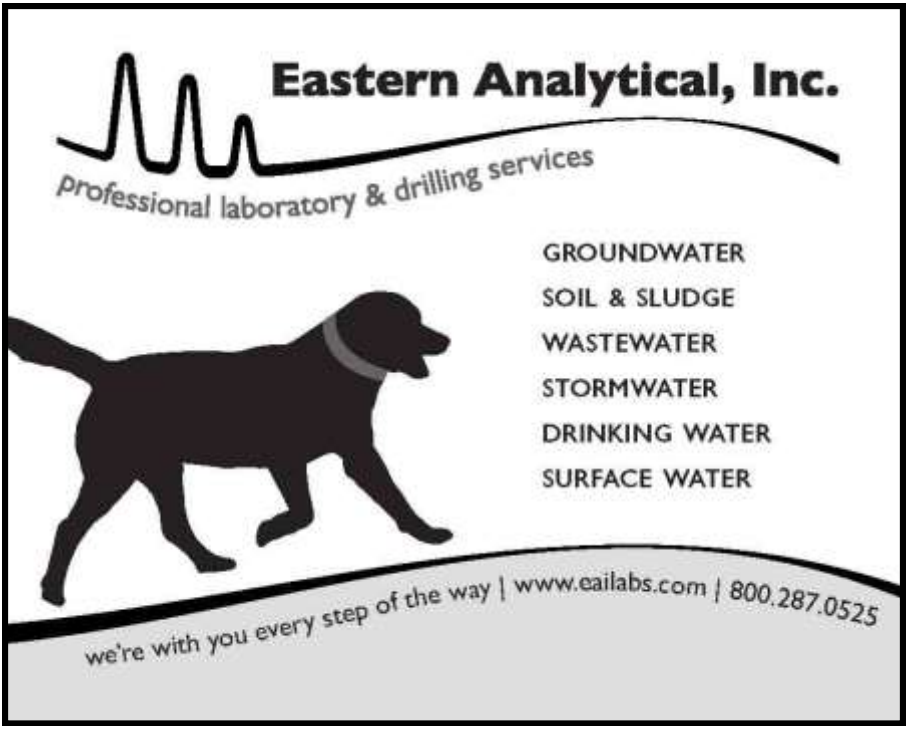
- Website is being kept current, making it apparent that we are an active group.
- No new business noted.

Closing Statements and Final Thoughts

- Next ExCom meeting – December 2, 4 pm, Zoom.
- Kelly hopes that we have the election handled shortly.

Meeting adjourned at 5:18 pm without objection.

(End)



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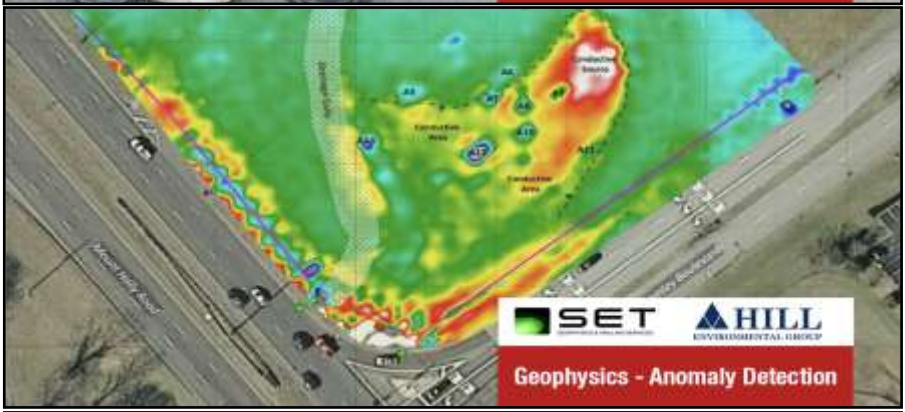
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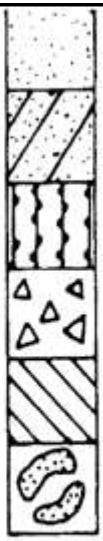

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(Geology Days continued from page 19)

Field Trip 1: Tuesday, November 12th – "Stratigraphy, Structure, and the Mineral Waters of Saratoga Springs"

(Geology Days continued on page 61)

(Geology Days continued from page 60)

Field Trip 2: Wednesday, November 13th – "The Albany Pine Bush: Globally-rare ecology built on a unique foundation of paraglacial sand dunes"

(End)

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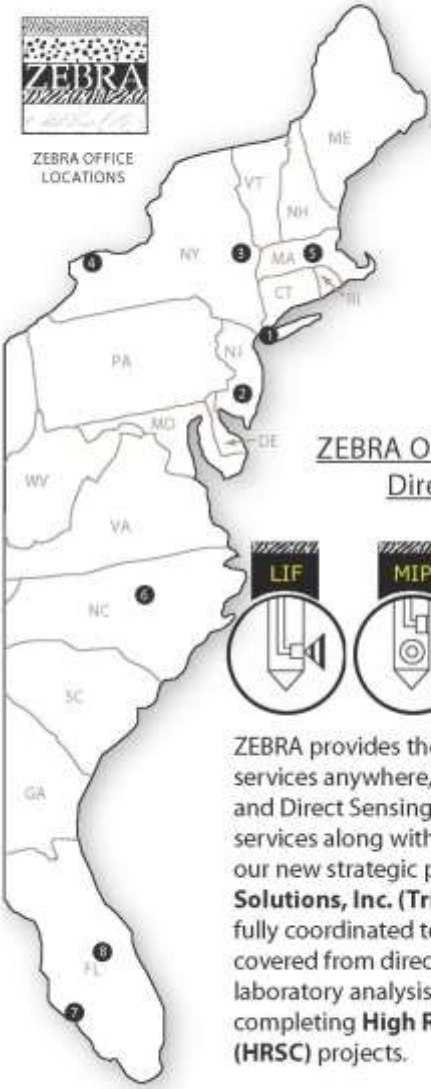

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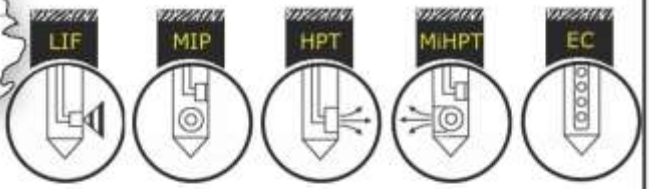

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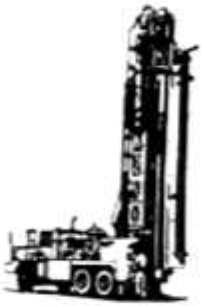

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NE-AIPG 2025 PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Winter Newsletter

January	6	Deadline (Material to Editor)
January	17	Content to Publisher
February	3	E-mail to Members

Directory of Members

February	3	Deadline (Material to Editor)
March	10	Content to Publisher
April	7	E-mail to Members

Spring Newsletter

March	14	Deadline (Material to Editor)
March	31	Content to Publisher
April	14	E-mail to Members

Autumn Newsletter

July	18	Deadline (Material to Editor)
August	8	Content to Publisher
September	2	E-mail to Members

Holiday Newsletter

October	3	Deadline (Material to Editor)
October	17	Content to Publisher
November	3	E-mail to Members

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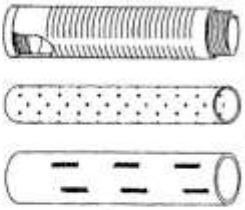

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The Angelo Tagliacozzo Memorial Geological Scholarship

The Angelo Tagliacozzo Memorial Geological Scholarship was established by the Northeast Section of the American Institute of Professional Geologists in late 1986. The first Scholarships were presented to undergraduate Geology students in 1987.

The ATMG Scholarship recognizes the dedicated leadership and service which Angelo provided to NEAIPG, to AIPG, and to the geological profession, until his untimely passing on October 11, 1986. The Scholarship furthers Angelo's goal of acquainting young geologists with AIPG and with AIPG's importance to the geological profession.

ANGELO TAGLIACOZZO (1936 - 1986)

Angelo Tagliacozzo received his doctorate in Geology from the University of Rome (Italy) in 1962. Thereafter, he worked in various positions as geologist, geophysicist, and hydrogeologist, which included assignments abroad, in the U.S., and with the United Nations. Angelo provided exemplary service to AIPG at the Section and National levels. He was a Northeast Section Executive Committee Member (1973- 1982), Vice President (1977-1978), President (1979-1980), National Advisory Board Delegate (1981-1982), and Screening Board Chairman (1984-1986). Angelo's dedication to and leadership of the Northeast Section Screening Board has become the ultimate standard against which service in such a position is measured. Angelo also served as an AIPG National Executive Committeeman (1982); he was a vigorous advocate of measures to increase professionalism. Angelo was (and will always be remembered as) a respected professional… and a friend to many.

THE SCHOLARSHIP

NEAIPG grants Scholarships to undergraduate geology students annually. The Scholarships are designed to help with the cost of summer field courses, textbooks, and other aspects of geological education. Scholarships are awarded, on academic achievement and on financial need, to students enrolled in recognized geology programs at colleges or universities located in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont.

YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

Your participation is encouraged in support of this dynamic memorial to Angelo and his recognition of the importance of AIPG to the geological profession. Contributions to the Scholarship Perpetual Trust Fund should be written to:

The Angelo Tagliacozzo Memorial Geological Scholarship Trust Fund, Inc. and mailed to:

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Alternatively, you can make your Contribution RIGHT NOW ONLINE, by simply going to https://ne-aipg.org/ and clicking "Donation To Scholarship Fund" (under "Quick Links" on the home page).

All Contributions are invested perpetually, with earnings thereon used solely for the Scholarship. NE/AIPG bears all costs of administration. Please ask your employer about matching your tax-free contribution, and additional corporate contributions.

For further information, contact Kelly Weyer:

neaipg.atscholarship2@gmail.com

Memorandum

To: Kelly Weyer, Chairperson, ATMG Scholarship, Northeast Section, AIPG
From:
Date:
Re: ***I'm Taking the Pledge: I'M IN FOR 2025!***

Dear Kelly,

This year, I am 100% with you when it comes to achieving the Section's goal of 100% participation in support of the ATMG Scholarship Perpetual Trust Fund in 2025!

I agree with your encouragement that **each and every Section Member make a contribution in accordance with their ability!** Affordable donations from many members, can show a stronger and more united support for the future of our profession and aspiring geologist, rather than relying on the generous support from a few members.

To show my support toward the profession of Geology and encourage aspiring Geologist, you can **count me in FOR 2025!**

I am committed to contributing, as much as I can, **to give back to the profession that has given me so much. I'M IN FOR 2025**, and I am considering a **tax-free donation** equivalent to $35 a Week, $35 a Month, or $35 for the Year!

Also, I just wanted to tell you I am delighted to know that every one of those hard-earned dollars that I contribute will be INVESTED in the Scholarship Perpetual Trust Fund, so my contribution today can keep on giving, year after year! That makes me feel like my contribution really means something, both now and in the long term!

I have thought it over, and **I know how important 100% participation is to make significant impacts in the lives of aspiring geologists!** So, Kelly, **I'M IN FOR 2025**, as indicated below.

If I want to add another tax-free donation later in the year, or if I want to pay this donation online, I know that I can visit the Section website at https://ne-aipg.org and make a donation at any time.

Professionally yours, _____

At this point in 2025, I am pledging the amount indicated below, and I will provide payment via check, or will pay online at https://ne-aipg.org/. I indicated my donation amount and payment method below with an "x" on the appropriate statements:

_____ $35 a Week ($1820 for 2025)
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_____ $35 a Year ($35 for 2025)
_____ I pledge to donate the amount of $_____ (I know that a little bit is better than nothing!)
_____ I have physically mailed this letter to you and enclosed my check, made out to "The Angelo Tagliacozzo Memorial Geological Scholarship Trust Fund, Inc."
_____ I have emailed you this letter, and I will pay the donation online. If my payment is not received within 30-days of receiving this letter, please invoice me and I will agree to pay as soon as possible, and no later than by 12/1/2025.

Signed: _____

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