Ohio Section
American Institute of Professional Geologists

Chartered 1965 August 2025 Newsletter

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AIPG Ohio Section Fall Meeting

Exploring Earth's Most Alkaline and Reduced Aquifers

Presenter: **Dr. James Leong, Department of Geology & Environmental Earth Science, Miami University**

Date: Thursday, September 10, 2025

Location: Miami University – Shideler Hall
250 South Patterson Avenue
Oxford, OH 45056

Schedule: Social hour begins at 5:15 pm followed by Dinner at 6:15 pm and Presentation at 7:15 pm

Event Registration Payment: https://aipg-ohio.org/meetinginfo.php
See Page 12 for event details

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Message from the President

Dave Follett, CPG - 12034

Greetings Fellow AIPG Ohio Section Members, hope your summer is going well. With the end of summer fast approaching I have a lot to report on some of the Section's activities.

Once again, the Ohio Section held its 7th Annual Charity Golf Scramble at Chapel Hill Golf Course in Mt. Vernon on June 13th. This event continues to be a success for the Ohio Section and was well attended which raised over $3,500 this year to support our student chapters. Over the past five years, this Charity Golf Scramble has raised over $16,000 for Ohio Student chapters. An article on this event can be found on page 11 of this newsletter.

Speaking of student scholarships, I am pleased to announce that the Ohio Section will be awarding four scholarships to Ohio Section Student Chapters at Wright State University, the Ohio State University, and Miami University totaling $2,000. These scholarships will be presented in person to the recipients during the upcoming school year. The continued success of the Annual Charity Golf Scramble makes awarding scholarships like these possible.

I am excited to announce that the Ohio Section will return to hold our Fall Quarterly Dinner Meeting on September 10, 2025 at Miami University. Our keynote speaker will be Dr. James Leong assistant professor in the Department of Geology and Environmental Earth Science at Miami University. Dr. Leong's presentation titled "Exploring Earth's most alkaline and reduced aquifers" will cover alkaline and reduced fluids found in aquifers hosted in ultramafic rocks. Registration is now open and additional details on this meeting can be found on page 19 of this newsletter.

Lastly, I would like to provide a reminder that this year marks the AIPG National's 62nd Annual Conference in St. Louis, Missouri, October 4th through 7th. The theme of this conference is: The Gateway for Tomorrow's Geologist. The schedule of the conference can be found at https://aipg.org/page/2025NationalConferenceSchedule along with sponsorship and exhibit opportunities. More information can be found on page 11 of this newsletter.

I look forward to seeing you at the upcoming Fall Meeting in September. If you have any questions or concerns about activities of the Ohio Section, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Dave Follett, CPG-12034
2025 AIPG Ohio Section President

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AIPG Ohio Section 2025 Schedule

September 10, 2025	Ohio Section Fall Meeting at Miami University
September 11, 2025	Michigan Section Golf Outing
September 13, 2025	Cincinnati Museum Center Invertebrate Paleontology Museum Tour
October 4-7, 2025	AIPG National Annual Conference, St. Louis, Missouri
October 14, 2025	Rocky Mountain Groundwater Conference
October 22, 2025	Ohio Section Executive Committee Meeting
October 26, 2025	Wisconsin Section Field Trip – Geology of the Baraboo/ Devils Lake Area, Pleistocene to Precambrian
November 5, 2025	Fifth International Professional Geology Conference (Zaragoza, Spain)
November 20, 2025	Tentative date for Ohio Section Annual Meeting
January 27, 2026	Florida Groundwater Conference

We are hoping to announce other events. Please check out our website frequently: aipg-ohio.org

Last Tuesday of every month – AIPG Lunch and Earn @ 1:00 PM Eastern aipg.org/events/ for more details

Third Tuesday of every month at 12:00 PM (Central Time) the Texas Section hosts a webinar for 1 PDH credit. February 18, 2025 is going to be by Dr. Rebecca Smyth of the Texas Bureau of Economic Geology on Groundwater Systems of the western Panhandle of Texas.

Have an event you want to add, please send submittals to the editor at pchasco@nrmsolution.com or pdchasco@gmail.com.

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Geologic Hike of Blendon Woods Metro Park

By: Michelle Torres, MEM-2972

On March 22, 2025, Dr. Mohammad Fakhari of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Geological Survey, led a geologic hike at the Blendon Woods Metro Park. The hike was well attended with a group of almost twenty AIPG members, friends, and family. It was a slightly chill and damp morning for a hike, but the lack of vegetation in early spring made for better rock viewing conditions. Dr. Fakhari led the group over several miles of trails leading to various stream channels where hikers could observe stream anticlines. Dr. Fakhari presented on his research on stream anticlines at the AIPG Ohio Section Winter Meeting. The geologic hike presented a unique opportunity for attendees of the winter meeting to see the features in person.

Stream anticlines form in shaley or clayey layers in response to compressional stress associated with water absorption in clay minerals. These features are small in caparison to anticlines or synclines forming in bedrock in response to tectonic pressures. Most of the stream anticlines observed during the geologic hike were on the scale of a few feet to a couple yards.

After stopping a multiple stream cuts to look at stream anticlines and discuss their formation and the geologic setting and history at the park, the hike wrapped up with a last stop focused on a different age than the Quaternary stream anticlines: the Ripple Rock Trail outcrop. Here, hikers could observe nice examples of ripple marks in the Bedford Shale.

At the end of the hike, Dr. Fakhari shared Ohio Geologic Survey pamphlets on the geology of other Ohio parks. Check out <geology.ohiodnr.gov> for available geologic hiking guides, including the guide for this hike for the Geology of Blendon Woods Metro Park.

If you are interested in attending a guided geologic hike, keep an eye out on the AIPG Ohio Section newsletter, website, and Facebook page. Also, if you have an area of knowledge you would like to share, and are interested in leading a geologic hike in the future, please reach out to AIPG Ohio Section through the website.

Ohio Section 2025 Spring Meeting Recap

Feature Presentation: Chondrichthyan Diversity across the Carboniferous-Permian Boundary in North America

Presented By: Mr. Dan Cline, PhD Student at Wright State University

By Robert Andrews, CPG-11975

On April 10, 2025, the Ohio Section held its Spring Quarterly Meeting at Wright State University (WSU) in Dayton, Ohio. In attendance were a mix of students from WSU, WSU Professors, and professional AIPG members. The evening began with a social hour allowing student and professional members time to mingle.

The social hour ended with welcoming remarks from President Dave Follett. President Follett highlighted upcoming events, including the 7th Annual Golf Scramble to be held on June 13th and the next AIPG-Ohio Section meeting to be held in September at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. The welcoming remarks concluded with recognition of the generous contributions from our meeting sponsors: ALS Environmental, Buckeye Elm Contracting, Environmental Risk Information Services, K3 Complete, Ohio Soil Recycling, Pace Analytical Services, and WIN Waste Innovations. Being a Gold Level Meeting Sponsor, Ben Dressman of ALS was given an opportunity to give remarks about the services ALS provides.

President Follett giving his opening remarks.

Dr. Hundley giving her opening remarks.

Following these remarks, Dr. Stacey Hundley, the advisor for the WSU AIPG Student Chapter, addressed the attendees and advertised two gift baskets put together by the Student Chapter that were raffled off at the end of the evening. Dr. Hundley then introduced the Student Chapter Officers that were present: Vice President Anna Quick, Treasurer Abby Derham, and Secretary Kenny Reinhard.

After all remarks were concluded and attendees enjoyed an Indian inspired meal prepared by WSU's Dining Services, Student Chapter Vice President Quick introduced the evening's speaker Dan Cline, an Environmental Science Ph.D. Student at WSU.

Dan's presentation was introduction of the Ph.D study he is undertaking at WSU. This study will examine the fossil teeth of chondrichthyans and other marine vertebrate taxa to determine their diversity during the Late Carboniferous through the Early Permian periods (325 to 275 million years ago). Specifically, in his study he desires to determine which groups suffered extinctions, which groups had speciation events, how the teeth of chondrichthyans compare, and which niches these taxa filled. Secondly, he desires to determine how chondrichthyans in North America across this time period compare to global trends.

Dan indicated that there are several established sites for these taxa in Ohio (Conemaugh Group), Kansas (Red Eagle Formation & Grenola Formation), Nebraska (Indian Cave Sandstone), and Texas (Lueders Formation).

For his study, Dan plans to collect samples from sites in Ohio, Kansas, and Nebraska as well as a new site in the Matton Formation located in Illinois. From each site he plans to collect bulk samples (at least 20 kg up to 50 kg) for acid wash and sieve analysis in order to recover the microfossils and identify the fossil taxa within each unit.

Dan Cline giving his presentation.

Dan Cline receiving a plaque with the State of Ohio fossil as a token of appreciation.

Dan indicated that he has already completed a study of some of the taxa in Ohio, specifically in the Conemaugh Group. From the 15 distinct chondrichthyan taxa present throughout the deposition of the Conemaugh Group, there is an abundance of piscivorous (fish-eating) taxa and durophagous (shell-crushing) taxa indicating a rich food web. These results serve as a reference for comparison to other outcrops of the Conemaugh throughout the Appalachian Basin and other equivalent Kasimovian and Gzhelian exposures throughout North America.

After questions from the audience, President Follett presented Dan with plaque containing a cast of the State of Ohio Fossil, the trilobite *Isotelus Maximus*, as a token of appreciation.

Following the presentation, Dr. Hundley and WSU students raffled two gift baskets of donated items from the Dayton area.

Gift baskets raffled off at the end of evening.

Again, the Executive Committee would like to extend a thanks to our event sponsors: ALS Environmental, Buckeye Elm Contracting, Environmental Risk Information Services, K3 Complete, Ohio Soil Recycling, Pace Analytical Services, and WIN Waste Innovations. Their support is necessary for the Ohio Section to be able to continue to help underwrite this cost of these events.

Attendees socializing during the event.

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Schedule | Conference Hotel | Registration | Sponsors & Exhibitors

Meeting Information from TPG, including field trip descriptions.

Mark your calendars and join us for the 62nd National Conference of the American Institute of Professional Geologists (AIPG) in the vibrant city of St. Louis, Missouri! This year's theme, **"The Gateway for Tomorrow's Geologist,"** promises to inspire and challenge us as we look toward the future of geoscience. The event offers a dynamic blend of field trips, technical sessions, and a fantastic array of networking and social events. Whether you're a seasoned geologist or just starting your career, this conference is a unique opportunity to expand your knowledge, connect with industry professionals, and enjoy the rich culture and history of the St. Louis area. Don't miss out on this exceptional gathering of geoscience enthusiasts—see you there!

Conference Hotel
Doubletree by Hilton Hotel St. Louis - Chesterfield
16625 Swingley Ridge Road
Chesterfield, MO 63017

AIPG Ohio Section Seventh Annual Charity Golf Scramble

By: Robert Andrews, CPG-11975

On Friday, June 13th, the Ohio Section of AIPG hosted its seventh annual charity golf scramble to benefit the student chapters of the section. Forty-eight golfers comprising 12 teams played the 18 holes of the Chapel Hill Golf Course located in Mt. Vernon, OH. Prior to the 9 am tee time, all registered players received a swag bag of golf balls and tees provided by White Oak Environmental. At the conclusion of playing the par 72 course, golfers were treated to a late lunch of bratwurst, hamburgers, and potato salad provided by Chapel Hill in their air-conditioned club house. Then golfers participated in the famous raffle of donated items. At the conclusion of the event each player received a bottle of wine donated by ALS Environmental. This year's event raised over $3,500 to support our student chapters at Ohio State University, Wright State University, Youngstown State University, and Miami University of Ohio.

An event like this could not have been held without the generous support of our sponsors. This year, our Team Sponsors were ALS Environmental, Buckeye Elm Contracting, Civil & Environmental Consultants, Eagon & Associates, Environmental Remediation Contractor, K3 Complete, and SME. Hole Sponsors were Air Seven Heating & Cooling, Bowser-Morner, ERIS, EnviroCore, WIN Waste Innovations, and White Oak Environmental. Pace Analytical and White Oak Environmental were our exhibitors. The Lunch Sponsor was ERIS.

This year's raffle items were donated by AIPG, ALS Environmental, Buckeye Elm Contracting, BJ Wholesale Club, Bowser Morner, Bricks & MiniFigs, Civil & Environmental Consultants, Columbus Clippers, Chapel Hill Golf Course, David Follett, Pace Analytical, ProMusica Entertainment, Raising Canes, RockWater Drilling, Terracon, and White Oak Environmental.

2025 AIPG Ohio Section Charity Golf Scramble Results

Team	Score
Team Buckeye Elm 2	61
Team ALS	62
Team Win Waste 2	65
Team Buckeye Elm 1	65
Team ERC	65
Team Win Waste 1	67
Team SME	69
Team K3	70
Team Eagon	70
Team Roth	72
Team CEC	76
Team Bowser-Morner	80

Wine Provided by ALS Environmental

The first-place winner of this year's scramble was Team Buckeye Elm 2 with a score of 61, or 11 under par. This team consisted of Mike Akins, Michael Leone, and Brandon Markey.

Finishing second with a score of 62 was Team ALS. This team consisted of Ben Dressman, Eric Koch, Joe Riber, and Cory Schoonover.

There was a three-way tie for third place with a score of 65. Using score card matching, it was determined that Team Win Waste 2 was the 3rd place winner. The team members were Brad Bashore, Devin Borer, Bryan Gill, and Nathan Taylor.

The other teams, Team Buckeye Elm 1 and Team ERC, were considered as finishing in 4th and 5th place. The players on Team Buckeye Elm 1 were Bruce Markey, Rob Patridge, Mike Friedhoff, and Rick Fitch. Team ERC consisted of Max Baumgartel, John Enderly, Josh McKinney, and Andy Shipley.

Placing sixth at this year's event was Team Win Waste 1 with a score of 67, or 5 strokes under par. The team members were Brian Ezyk, Bill Foster, Matt Holland, and Matt Petrie.

Team SME (Ben Chenoweth, Colin Flaherty, Andy Roberts, and Matt Schley) finished sixth with a score of 69.

Tied for eighth and nineth place with a score of 70, nine strokes behind the winning team was Team Eagon (Sam Darland, Lauren Decker, Ryan James, and Nelson Novak) and Team K3 (Chris Carpenter, Joe Factor, Randy Gabbert, and Mike O'Connell).

Team Roth (RC Arseneau, Craig Hackman, Howard Prigosin, and Robin Roth) finished with a score of 72.

Finishing with a score of 76, 11 strokes being the first-place team and 4 strokes above par for the course, was Team CEC (Michael Giggard, Brent Smith, Andy McCorkle, and Dave Follett)

Team Bowser-Morner (James Fairchild, Alix Hart, Barb McGovern, and Eddie Moravec) finished with 12th with score of 80.

There were two skills contests during the scramble. Winner of the longest drive was Ben Dressman of Team ALS. Winner of the closest to pin contest was Mike O'Connell of Team K3.

An event like this could not have occurred without the support of our golf outing committee consisting of Robert Andrews, Hugh Downer, Michael Friedhoff, Dave Follett, and Michelle Torres. As always, Chapel Hill Golf Course staff were incredibly helpful during the entire process and made everything run smoothly on the day of the event

Overall, the Ohio Section's 7th charity golf scramble was a rousing success and an enjoyable event for all who attended. The Section appreciates of all participants who attended and the sponsors that contributed to the outing. The Executive Committee looks forward to using the over $3,500 for our student chapters. Thanks again to all participants and sponsors. We look forward to seeing you again in 2026!

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Community Outreach

AIPG Ohio Section Representation at the Dayton Children's Water Festival

By: Michelle Torres, MEM-2972

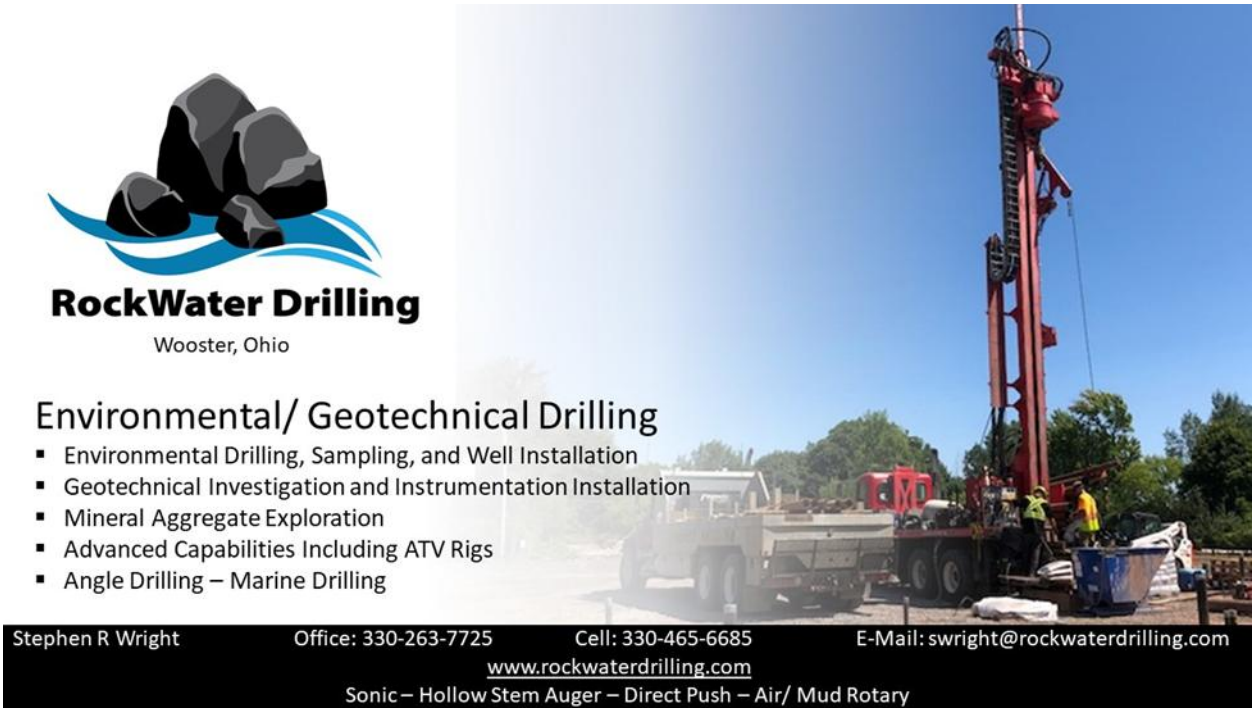
In Spring of this year, organizers of the Dayton Children's Water Festival reached out to the AIPG Ohio Section to request volunteer participation in the upcoming 2025 event. I volunteered to represent AIPG Ohio Section at the event, which took place at the University of Dayton in April. The Dayton Children's Water Festival is an annual event, where various professionals in the water industry volunteer to present activities and presentations related to water, aimed at a 4th grade elementary audience. Local elementary schools can then sign up classes of students to attend the event for a field trip, with classes moving to different presentations to get a variety of information direct from professionals. Many of the professionals hailed from the water and wastewater treatment industries, but there was also decent representation from environmental consultants and scientists that could speak on surface water and groundwater. In total, there were 37 different presenters, each offering between one and five sessions ranging from 15-25 minutes in length.

I prepared a 25-minute presentation on Ohio geology, focusing on the Dayton area, which I shared with four classes of between 20-30 students over the course of the morning. I included maps showing the extent of the glaciers and the groundwater resources in Montgomery County, and discussed the basics of groundwater and what that will look like in Dayton, where much of the region has access to the Great Miami Buried Valley Aquifer. I was able to include photos of the lithology encountered during monitoring well installation projects in the area as visuals. I tied in discussions of groundwater to the water cycle, which many of the students said they were learning about in school.

To keep things fun, I put together a permeability experiment for the kids to try. I prepared three different pretend aquifers using clear beverage dispensers with a bottom spigot and donated sand and gravel from Bowser Morner Inc.'s soils laboratory (excess sample material slated for disposal). One consisted of fine to medium sand, one of medium gravel, and one with a coarse gravel. After asking students to make their predictions of which material will have water come through first, which will flow with the most discharge, and which would flow

for the longest, three volunteer students were selected to “race”. I gave each student the same volume of water to pour into the pitcher, and a “ready, set, go” to start the race.

I was pleasantly surprised by the level of excitement with pouring water into rocks. Each class asked great questions, and made clever observations and inferences on what they saw going on in the “aquifer” and why the fine sand was so slow compared to the gravel. And luckily, despite the short amount of time we had together, we did have time to repeat the experiment with new volunteers several times over, you know, for science.



Ohio Section 2025 Fall Meeting

Feature Presentation: Exploring Earth's Most Alkaline and Reduced Aquifers

Presented By: Dr. James Leong, Department of Geology and Environmental Earth Science at Miami University

The Ohio Section of AIPG is pleased to host Dr. David Leong, at the Section's Fall Meeting presentation, which will take place Thursday, September 10, 2025 at the adjacent to the Karl E. Limper Geology Museum at Miami University Shideler Hall located at 250 South Patterson Avenue in Oxford. Dr. Leong will be presenting a talk on alkaline and reduced aquifers. This event is sponsored by ALS Environmental, Buckeye Elm Contracting, Environmental Risk Information Services, K3 Complete, Ohio Soil Recycling, Pace Environmental Services, and WIN Waste Innovations.

The event begins at 5:15 pm with social hour, followed by dinner at 6:15, and the feature presentation at 7:15. The cost is $40 for members and guests or $15 for students. Please preregister and submit payment for the event via the AIPG Ohio Section website https://aipg-ohio.org/meetinginfo.php.

The featured topic will be: Exploring Earth's Most Alkaline and Reduced Aquifers

presented by Dr. James Leong

SUMMARY

Some of Earth's most alkaline (pH >11) and reduced (H_2 - and CH_4-rich) fluids are found in aquifers hosted in ultramafic rocks. In this talk, Dr. Leong will discuss the results of his fieldwork and computer simulations to characterize the water-rock reactions that yield these extreme compositions. This unique chemistry enables rock-powered microbial habitats on the subsurface Earth, and given the ubiquity of ultramafic rocks in our solar system, perhaps also in other rocky bodies beyond our planet. Dr. Leong will also discuss how emissions of natural H_2 in these settings contribute to the rise of an oxygen-rich atmosphere on the early Earth. More recently, similar subsurface water-rock reactions have been considered as an affordable source for clean H_2 as an energy source. Lastly, he will discuss how reactions that generate alkaline fluids in ultramafic aquifers are being targeted for permanent CO_2 storage to help curb rising levels in the atmosphere.

Bio:

Dr. Leong is currently an assistant professor in the Department of Geology and Environmental Earth Science at Miami University. He received his PhD in Geological Sciences from Arizona State University in 2020. He then worked as a postdoctoral scientist at the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University before starting at Miami University. James is interested in understanding the nature and dynamics of water-rock-gas-microbe interactions and their implications for the chemical and redox processes in surficial and deep Earth reservoirs, and the habitability of rock-hosted environments on our planet and beyond. To study these systems, James uses a combination of field, analytical, experimental, and theoretical techniques in mineralogy and aqueous geochemistry.

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Photograph Submittal Guidelines

The Ohio Section welcomes and encourages members to submit photographs for the newsletter. We are looking for photographs with short captions that you think are interesting or showcase geology and geologists at work. Topics of interest include scenery, geologic disasters, interesting or historical geologic events, interesting work sites, and similar topics. Contributing photographers are requested to abide by the following guidelines to ensure civility and professionalism.

1. Submissions should include your name and membership number.

2. Title of the photograph and year the photograph was taken.

3. A brief description of the photograph.

4. Names of any identifiable persons in the image and permission to publish their photo. No minors please.

5. Please do not submit photographs with confidential or proprietary information.

6. The Ohio Section also welcomes and will consider relevant photographs from non-members, provided contributions abide by the above stated guidelines.

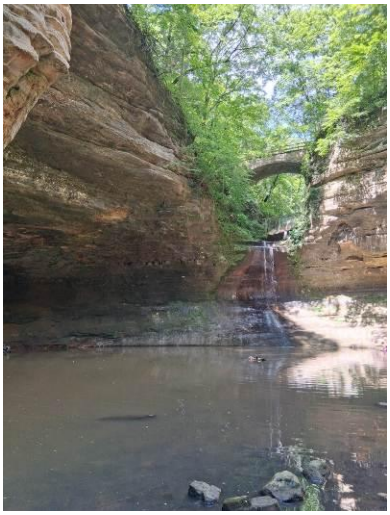
Contributions to the Ohio Section newsletter do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Ohio Section or the editor. We reserve the right to choose photographs published for space considerations.
Please send submittals to the editor at pchasco@nrmsolution.com or pdchasco@gmail.com.

Photograph submitted by Paul Chasco, CPG 12024. Photograph taken in July 2025. Walls Falls located near Zanesfield, Ohio. The waterfalls are located at the contact of the Devonian Ohio Shale (top) and Devonian Columbus Limestone (bottom).

Photograph submitted by Paul Chasco, CPG 12024. Photograph taken in July 2025. The Saint Peters Sandstone in Starved Rock State Park, Illinois.

Photograph submitted by Paul Chasco, CPG 12024. Photograph taken in July 2025. Valley carved by the Illinois River as seen from Starved Rock in Starved Rock State Park, Illinois.

Photograph submitted by Paul Chasco, CPG 12024. Photograph taken in July 2025. The Saint Peters Sandstone in Matthiessen State Park, Illinois.



Photograph submitted by Paul Chasco, CPG 12024. Photograph taken in July 2025. Cascade Falls and the Saint Peters Sandstone in Matthiessen State Park, Illinois.

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Letters to the Editor and Editorial Submittal Guidelines

The Ohio Section welcomes and encourages membership discourse via the Section newsletter on relevant geopolitical and geological topics, in accordance with our chartered purpose. Contributing authors are requested to abide by the following guidelines to ensure civility and professionalism.

1. Scientific interpretations should include accurate and effective references.

2. Opinion pieces should be presented with reasoning. Fellow members may choose to comment or challenge a submittal with their own contribution.

Authors must abide by the AIPG Code of Ethics. Any author who violates this code will not be published. Authors must be respectful to fellow members, all political parties, officials and candidates.

3. Letters to the Editor should be under one page in 12 pt. Arial font.

4. Member authors should provide their name and certification number.

5. The Ohio Section also welcomes and will consider relevant articles from non-members, provided contributions abide by the above stated guidelines.

Contributions to the Ohio Section newsletter do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Ohio Section or the editor. We reserve the right to edit for clarity and space considerations.

Please send submittals to the editor at pchasco@nrmsolution.com or pdchasco@gmail.com.

I'm not just looking for letters to the editor, I'm also looking for your articles. As the Ohio Section Newsletter Editor, I am working to engage our members and looking for content that you think our members would enjoy. I cannot do this by myself and I am asking for your submissions. I am looking for student papers, abstracts, ongoing research, technical articles, case studies, guides. and, of course, letters to the Editor. While I am limiting the space for letters to the editor, articles can be longer.

The guidelines are pretty simple (see above). All submissions must be professional and must not violate the AIPG code of ethics. Submissions must not be copy right protected or previously submitted for publication elsewhere. We will not publish articles that are clearly marketing for a product or company.

Articles submitted from January 1 to March 15 will be published in the spring newsletter. Articles submitted from March 16 to July 31 will be published in the Summer newsletter. Articles submitted from August 1 to October 15 will be published in the fall newsletter. Finally, articles submitted on or after October 16 will be published in the winter newsletter. I look forward to reading and publishing your articles.

It might be time to cool it on the jokes. Just wanted to let you know that we are here for all your supply and rental needs & that we will not take you for granite.

Also, we hope you stay the rock star that you are!

(DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT PUNS heheh)

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