



Ohio Section

American Institute of Professional Geologists

Chartered 1965

September 2026 Newsletter

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AIPG Ohio Section Fall Meeting

Incorporating Geochemistry and Statistics to Answer Relevant Environmental Questions

Presenter: Dr. Matthew Dietrich, Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Geology and Environmental Earth Science, Miami University

Date: Thursday, October 1, 2026

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

Schedule: Social hour begins at 5:30 pm followed by Dinner at 6:00 pm and Presentation at 7:00 pm

Event Registration Payment: <https://aipg-ohio.org/meetinginfo.php>
See Page 9 for event details

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Message from the President

Michael Friedhoff, CPG - 11093

As President of the American Institute of Professional Geologists Ohio Section, I'm pleased to reflect on the activities of the past several months and to look ahead to an exciting fall for our Section.

Robert Andrews and I represented the Ohio Section at the **2026 AIPG National Conference in Duluth, Minnesota, August 29 through September 1**. The National Conference provides an excellent opportunity to learn from geologists from across the country, exchange ideas, and strengthen the professional relationships that are so important to our organization. We look forward to bringing some of those experiences and ideas back to the Ohio Section.

We are also pleased to have an opportunity to connect with the next generation of geologists. On September 9, Robert and I will be speaking at the **Miami University AIPG student section meeting**. Engaging with students and introducing them to the benefits of professional involvement is an important part of AIPG's mission. I hope our Section can continue to strengthen its relationships with Ohio's university geology programs and provide opportunities for students to connect with practicing professional geologists.

Our **Fall Section Meeting will be held at Miami University on October 1**, with a presentation by Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Geology and Environmental Earth Science at Miami University, Dr. Matthew Dietrich. His talk "Incorporating geochemistry and statistics to answer relevant environmental questions" should be very interesting. The meeting provides another opportunity for members to gather, learn, and network.

As we move into the second half of the year, I encourage all of our members to participate in these events whenever possible. The strength of AIPG comes from the involvement of its members, and our meetings provide opportunities not only for professional development but also to build relationships with colleagues, students, and future members of our profession.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming events and continuing to work together to support the geologic profession in Ohio.

Sincerely,

Michael Friedhoff, CPG-11093
2026 AIPG Ohio Section President



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AIPG Ohio Section 2026 Schedule

October 1, 2026	AIPG Ohio Section Fall Meeting – Miami University
October 23-24, 2026	Kentucky Section Annual Meeting and Field Trip (West Portsmouth, Ohio)
November 9-19, 2026	AIPG Morocco Field Trip
November 2026	AIPG Ohio Section Annual Meeting – Columbus
March 31-April 7, 2027	AIPG Isle of Arran Field Trip
September 25, 2027	AIPG National Conference – Salt Lake City, Utah

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.

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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Letter From the Editor

Paul Chasco, CPG - 12024

I hope everyone is enjoying our third newsletter of 2026. I know it's been a busy summer for me both at work and at home. Our next newsletter is scheduled for mid to late October and I encourage you to keep an eye on the Ohio Section website to keep up-to-date with information on the Ohio Section activities that are coming up in the meantime such as informal field trips and hikes.

I want to continue to encourage you to send me geology related photos, news items, stories, or articles. Mike Friedhoff (CPG 11093) provided some impressive drone photos of Cincinnati that you can see on Page 17. Our Photo submission guidelines are on page 17 and our article submission guidelines are on page 20.

For those that were unable to attend, our spring meeting was held at Wright State University in Dayton. Michelle Torres provided a recap of the meeting that you can find on Page 5.

Our next meeting is scheduled at Miami University on October 1, 2026. The meeting abstract and speaker's biography are on Page 10. Our last meeting is tentatively scheduled for November. I would encourage everyone to introduce yourselves to our student members at Miami University.

Our 8th Annual Charity Golf Scramble was on May 29th at Chapel Hill Golf Course in Mt. Vernon, Ohio this year. Our President-Elect, Robert Andrews (CPG 11975), once again took the lead and had a great event. Please Page 11 for details and photographs.

Sincerely,

Paul Chasco, CPG-12024
2026 AIPG Ohio Section Secretary and Newsletter Editor

Ohio Section 2026 Spring Meeting Recap

Feature Presentation: Reanimating Ohio's Ancient Sea Monsters:

Hydromechanics of Orthocone Cephalopods

Presented By: Dr. David J. Peterman, Assistant Professor, Department of Geology and Environmental Earth Science, Miami University

By Michelle Torres, MEM-2972

The American Institute of Professional Geologists (AIPG) Ohio Section held its Spring Quarterly meeting at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio. Dr. David J. Peterman, PhD, assistant professor of paleontology in the Miami University Department of Geology and Environmental Earth Science, presented the feature presentation following the social hour and dinner.

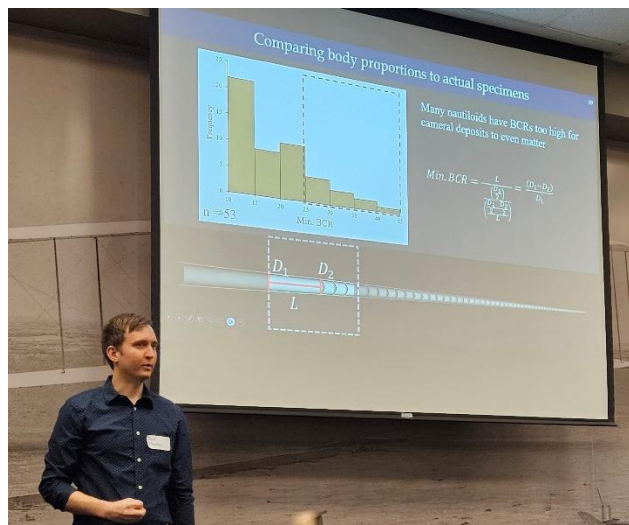
His talk focused on ongoing research on the hydromechanics of orthocone cephalopods, i.e. the straight-shelled cephalopods, and how these creatures would have lived and moved in ancient oceans. Dr. Peterman combined his background in both engineering and paleontology to create testable models of the hydromechanics of orthocone cephalopods.

Historic artistic renditions of orthocone cephalopods have reflected various interpretations of how these creatures may been orientated. Some interpretations show vertically oriented as standing cones on the ocean floor, and others showing orthocone cephalopods swimming horizontally or diagonally in the water column.



Figure 1 Example artistic rendition of an orthocone cephalopod oriented near horizontally (Image source: Wikipedia)

the conical shell, there is more room for mineral deposits and the stability is improved, with models showing that with body ratios around 30%, the cephalopods would need to stay vertical,



Dr. Peterman giving his presentation.

After speaking on lessons learned from modern cephalopods, Dr. Peterman turned to conical cephalopods. He modeled how changing variables in body composition, including size of the soft body and crystalline mineral structures in the shell, affected the stability of the straight-shelled cephalopod in the water column. It came down to calculations of the center of mass versus the center of buoyancy to estimate the life orientation, stability and maneuverability.

If the body of the cephalopods is shorter and occupies only the lowermost section of

but with 25%, there could be a wide range of stable orientations. However, after taking into account mineral deposits, no amount of variation in the mineral deposits varies the stable orientation away from vertical. The mineral deposits in the cone do not work as counterweights allowing for changing orientation. Therefore, based on his modeling, the apparent most likely body orientation is vertical, with orthocone cephalopods then able to move quickly up and down in the water column. The tear drop shape of the conical shell incurs minimal drag.

Following the presentation, the Ohio Section recognized Dr. Peterman for his contributions with a commemorative plaque of Ohio's state fossil, *Isotelus maximus*.

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Geologic Hike at Blackhand Gorge State Nature Preserve

By: Michael Friedhoff, CPG-11093

On April 25, 2026, members and guests of the American Institute of Professional Geologists—Ohio Section gathered at Blackhand Gorge State Nature Preserve in Licking County for a geologic hike led by Mike Angle, geologist with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Geological Survey. The hike provided an excellent opportunity to examine one of central Ohio's most impressive geologic features while also exploring the important role the gorge has played in Ohio's transportation history.



View of the Licking River which runs through Blackhand Gorge State Nature Preserve

Blackhand Gorge is particularly significant to Ohio geologists because it exposes the Black Hand Sandstone, a Lower Mississippian unit of the Cuyahoga Formation. The resistant sandstone forms the dramatic cliffs and narrow gorge through which the Licking River flows. The unit is characterized by medium- to coarse-grained sandstone, locally containing abundant quartz and chert pebbles, as well as prominent cross-bedding and conglomeratic zones. Its resistance to weathering and erosion has resulted in the prominent ridges and cliffs that characterize the preserve.

The Geology of Blackhand Gorge

The Black Hand Sandstone records a fascinating change in the depositional environments of ancient Ohio. During the Mississippian Period, much of Ohio was covered by a shallow sea, and sediment was being transported into the Appalachian Basin from highlands to the east. The Black Hand Sandstone represents a relatively coarse-grained interval within otherwise finer-grained marine strata of the Cuyahoga Formation.

Visitors to the gorge can observe several features that provide clues to the rock's history, including cross-bedding, conglomeratic zones, iron and manganese staining, and distinctive honeycomb weathering. Groundwater moving through the sandstone has contributed to reddish-orange iron staining and darker manganese deposits, while weathering along the exposed rock surfaces can produce the characteristic honeycomb texture.

The gorge itself is considerably younger than the sandstone. During the Ice Age, changes in regional drainage associated with glaciation caused streams to reorganize and eventually established the modern course of the Licking River through the sandstone ridges. Large volumes of glacial meltwater and sediment helped the river cut the narrow gorge seen today.

A Landscape Shaped by Transportation

The geology of Blackhand Gorge has also had a direct influence on Ohio's transportation history. The same resistant sandstone that creates the spectacular scenery presented a significant obstacle to early transportation routes.

Construction of the Ohio & Erie Canal began in the 1820s, and work in the Blackhand Gorge area began in 1826. Because the sandstone ridges confined the Licking River, the canal was routed through the gorge in part by using the river itself. A dam at Toboso created a slack water section, while locks connected the canal to the river. Canal builders also had to cut a towpath into the sandstone cliffs. A surviving canal feeder lock and portions of the towpath remain visible in the preserve today.



AIPG Ohio Section members and guests hiking through an abandoned lock from the Ohio & Erie Canal.

The name Blackhand Gorge comes from a large, dark, hand-shaped Native American petroglyph that once existed on the sandstone cliff. Unfortunately, the petroglyph was destroyed when the cliff was blasted during construction of the canal towpath in 1828. The loss of the petroglyph is a striking reminder that the history preserved at Blackhand Gorge extends well beyond its geology and transportation infrastructure.

The Black Hand Sandstone itself was also an important construction material. Local sandstone was quarried in the Licking Valley and used to construct canal locks and other infrastructure. Its durability made it particularly well suited for these applications.

From Canal Boats to Electric Interurbans

The transportation history of Blackhand Gorge did not end with the canal era. Railroads subsequently followed the narrow corridor along the Licking River. Later, the Ohio Electric Railway, an interurban electric railway, passed through the gorge.

The Ohio Electric line faced the same geologic constraint encountered by the canal builders: there simply wasn't much room between the river and the sandstone cliffs. To accommodate the railway, workers blasted a tunnel through the Black Hand Sandstone. The resulting tunnel is approximately 327 feet long and 19.5 feet high and remains one of the more recognizable remnants of the gorge's transportation history.



AIPG Ohio Section members and guests hiking through an abandoned tunnel from the Ohio Electric Railway.

The Ohio Electric Railway ultimately became part of a larger network of electric interurban transportation in Ohio. The automobile and improved highways eventually made interurban rail service increasingly difficult to sustain, and the line through Blackhand Gorge was abandoned in 1929.

A Geologic and Historic Crossroads

The April 25 hike demonstrated why Blackhand Gorge is such a special place for geologists. Within a relatively short distance, visitors can see the results of processes separated by hundreds of millions of years—from Mississippian sediment deposition, to modern river incision, to the human modification of the landscape for canals and railroads.

The hike also provided an opportunity for AIPG members to experience Ohio's geology in the field and to learn from Mike Angle's knowledge of the Division of Geological Survey and the geology of the preserve. Blackhand Gorge is a particularly good reminder that geology is not isolated from human history. The physical characteristics of the Black Hand Sandstone influenced where people could travel, where they could build infrastructure, and even the routes followed by Ohio's canals and railways.

For professional geologists, places such as Blackhand Gorge provide an opportunity to connect the rocks beneath our feet with the landscapes they create and the ways those landscapes have shaped Ohio's history. The Ohio Section appreciates Mike Angle for leading this informative hike and everyone who participated in making it a successful spring field event.

Ohio Section 2026 Fall Meeting

Feature Presentation: Incorporating Geochemistry and Statistics to Answer Relevant Environmental Questions

Presented By: Dr. Matthew Dietrich, Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Geology and Environmental Earth Science, Miami University

The Ohio Section of AIPG is pleased to host Dr. Matthew Dietrich, at the Section's Spring Meeting presentation, which will take place Thursday, October 1, 2026 adjacent to the Karl E. Limper Geology Museum at Miami University Shideler Hall located at 250 South Patterson Avenue in Oxford. Dr. Dietrich will be presenting a talk on tracing and quantifying pollution sources in the environment.

The event begins at 5:30 pm with social hour, followed by dinner at 6:00, and the feature presentation at 7:00. 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: Incorporating Geochemistry and Statistics to Answer Relevant Environmental Questions presented by Dr. Matthew Dietrich

SUMMARY

Tracing and quantifying pollution sources in the environment has regulatory relevance, human and ecological health relevance, and is important for better general understanding of contaminant fate and transport across different environmental domains. Different techniques are often employed, ranging from materials characterization through electron microscopy to detailed isotopic measurements of samples. Here, several case study examples will be presented where a combination of geochemical and statistical techniques are employed to answer questions about potential pollutant sourcing in soils, sediments, and groundwater. This includes tracing of coal combustion residuals (CCR) in groundwater, leaded gasoline and CCR in lake sediment cores, and metal particulate pollution in road sediment within urban settings. Collectively, the techniques presented here can help both environmental managers and researchers better quantify 1) The amount of pollution at a site, 2) Where the pollutant is coming from, and 3) Whether the amount of pollution it is significant relative to background concentrations.

Bio:

Matthew Dietrich earned his PhD in Environmental Science from Vanderbilt University, and holds both a B.A. in Environmental Earth Science & Sustainability and an M.A. in Geology from Miami University. In his current role as a geochemist at MineraLogic LLC, he focuses on helping answer a wide variety of environmental geochemistry questions for clients through data analysis, geochemical modeling, statistics, and more. Additionally, he helps with project development and continues to publish and conduct environmental health and environmental geochemistry research with collaborators across the globe.

AIPG Ohio Section Eighth Annual Charity Golf Scramble

By: Robert Andrews, CPG-11975



On Friday, May 29th, the Ohio Section of AIPG hosted its eighth annual charity golf scramble to benefit the student chapters of the section. Thirty-four golfers comprising nine teams teed off at 9 am to play the 18 holes of the Chapel Hill Golf Course located in Mt. Vernon, OH. 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 \$2,800 to support our student chapters at Ohio State University, Wright State University, Youngstown State University, and Miami University of Ohio.

 AIPG Ohio Section Charity Golf Scramble			
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An event like this could not have been held without the generous support of our sponsors. This year, our Team Sponsors were Bowser-Morner, Buckeye Elm Contracting, Civil & Environmental Consultants, RockWater Drilling, and WIN Waste Innovations. Hole Sponsors were Air Seven Heating & Cooling, ERIS, and SME. Eurofins, Pace Analytical and White Oak Environmental were our exhibitors. Lunch Sponsor were Buckeye Elm Contracting, ERIS, and White Oak Environmental.

This year's raffle items were donated by AIPG, ALS Environmental, Bowser-Morner, Buckeye Elm Contracting, Chapel Hill Golf Course, Chipotle Restaurants, Cincinnati Reds, Cincinnati Zoo, Columbus Clippers, Columbus Zoo, David Follett, Forestry Suppliers, Raising Canes, and Top Golf.

**2026 AIPG Ohio Section Charity
Golf Scramble Results**

Team	Score
Team Buckeye Elm 1	61
Team ALS	64
Team Buckeye Elm 2	64
Team ERC	66
Team Bowser-Morner	69
Team Eagon	71
Team CEC	72
Team Win Waste	73
Team Roth	73



Wine Provided by ALS Environmental



The first-place winner of this year's scramble was Team Buckeye Elm 1 with a score of 61, or 11 under par. This team consisted of Michael Friedhoff, Rob Patridge, and Eston Roark.

There was a tie for second place between Team ALS and Team Buckeye Elm 2, each having a score of 64. Using score card matching, it was determined that Team ALS was the 2nd place winner. The team members were Ben Dressman, Eric Koch, Joe Ribar, and Cory Schoonover.



Members of the third-place team (Team Buckeye Elm 2) consisted of Michael Leonne, Brandon Markey, Bruce Markey, and Dave Walker.

Placing fourth at this year's event was Team ERC with a score of 66, or six strokes under par. The team members were Josh McKinney, Andy Shipley, and Ben Chenoweth.



Team Bowser-Morner (Andrew Couper, Barb McGaven, Eddie, Moravec, and Chris Ryan) finished fifth with a score of 69.

Placing sixth at this year's event was Team Eagon with a score of 71, or two strokes under par. The team members were Sam Darland, Lauren Decker, Ryan Janes, and Nelson Novak.



Team CEC (Dave Follett, Michael Giggard, Anne Polakowski, and Brent Smith) finished seventh with a score of 72.



Tied for eighth and ninth place with a score of 73, nine strokes behind the winning team was Team Win Waste (Bryan Ezyk, Bill Foster, Matt Petrie, and Tim Watson) and Team Roth (RC Arseneau, Craig Hackman, Bruce Roth, and Robin Roth).

There were two skills contests during the scramble. Winner of the longest drive was Eston Roark of Team Buckeye Elm 1. Winner of the closest to pin contest was Chris Ryan of Team Bowser Morner.

An event like this could not have occurred without the support of our golf outing committee consisting of Robert Andrews, Lauren Decker, Michael Friedhoff, 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 8th 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 \$2,800 for our student chapters. Thanks again to all participants and sponsors. We look forward to seeing you again in 2027!







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 Mike Friedhoff, CPG 11093. Photograph taken on May 29, 2026. View of Chapel Hill Golf Course during the AIPG Ohio Section Golf Scramble. The image was taken using a DJI drone.



Photograph submitted by Mike Friedhoff, CPG 11093. Photograph taken on May 29, 2026. View of Chapel Hill Golf Course during the AIPG Ohio Section Golf Scramble. The image was taken using a DJI drone.



Photograph submitted by Paul Chasco, CPG 12024. Photograph taken in July 2026. Elephant Rocks State Park in Belleview, Missouri. The granite was formed 1.5 billion years ago. The uplift of the Ozark Plateau and subsequent erosion has exposed these rocks.



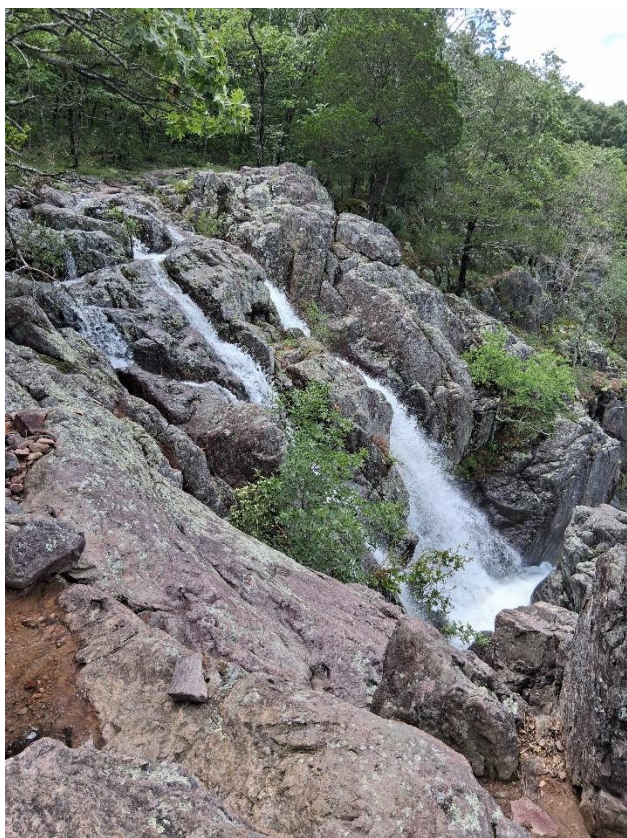
Photograph submitted by Paul Chasco, CPG 12024. Photograph taken in July 2026. Elephant Rocks State Park in Belleview, Missouri. This quarry operated beginning in the 1840s. The granite was used as paving stones in nearby St. Louis and can be seen at Laclede's Landing.



Photograph submitted by Paul Chasco, CPG 12024. Photograph taken in July 2026. Double Arch at Pickle Spring Natural Area in Farmington, Missouri.



Photograph submitted by Paul Chasco, CPG 12024. Photograph taken in July 2026. AIPG Ohio Section Secretary & Newsletter Editor is standing on the top of Taum Sauk Mountain (1,772 ft NAVD88), the highest point in Missouri as noted by the granite plaque. Taum Sauk Mountain is part of the Taum Sauk caldera that formed 1.4 to 1.5 billion years ago. This mountain is comprised of rhyolite and welded tuffs. It doesn't look like much, but this mountain has a flat top and along with the surrounding peaks in the St. Francis Mountains would have been part of an archipelago in the Cretaceous Interior Seaway.



Photograph submitted by Paul Chasco, CPG 12024. Photograph taken in July 2026. Mina Sauk Falls on Taum Sauk Mountain. With a drop of 132 feet, this is the highest waterfall in Missouri.



Photograph submitted by Paul Chasco, CPG 12024. Photograph taken in July 2026. This is a former lead mine operated by the St. Joseph Lead Company, located at St. Joe State Park near Park Hills, Missouri. This is part of the Old Lead Belt in the eastern St. Francis Mountains. This mine produced over 80% of the lead mined in the United States for over 100 years and ceased operations in 1972. The underground passages are estimated to be over 40 miles long and seven miles wide with over 1,000 miles of tunnels and 300 miles of railroad tracks located 500 feet below the surface. Underground tours are not available as the shafts have been sealed. Tours are available at the nearby mine in Bonne Terre, Missouri which connects to this mine.



Photograph submitted by Paul Chasco, CPG 12024. Photograph taken in July 2026. Thrombolite at the St. Joseph Lead Company mine. Thrombolites were indicators of the presence of lead. Galena was typically found about 100 feet below thrombolites.

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.

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