



HUDSON-MOHAWK PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS' ASSOCIATION

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<http://members.aol.com/hmpga>

Kathy Sanford, Editor
Vol. 8 No. 2
October 2001

October 12, 2001 - Dr. Donald Siegel to Speak During Earth Science Week

Geological Explanations for the Great Biblical Myths

This talk, sometimes viewed as provocative, addresses geological and archeological explanations for the most popular biblical myths. Sedimentological and other evidence shows that the origin of Noah's flood myth almost certainly stems from the massive flooding of the Black Sea area by Mediterranean Sea water, that Sodom and Gomorrah were probably destroyed by tectonic activity, and that the major plagues of Egypt plausibly were caused by the caldera explosion of Santorini.

About the Speaker

Dr. Siegel has been a professor of earth sciences at Syracuse University since 1982. Previously he was a hydrologist with the USGS. He received a Distinguished Service Award from the Geological Society of America in 2001 after having served as Chairman of the Hydrogeological Division, a GSA Fellow and a Birdsall Distinguished Lecturer. Dr. Siegel has also served the National Research Council on the Committees for Techniques for Assessing Ground Water Contamination, for Techniques for Wetland Delineation and on USGS Water Resources Research. In addition to having published about 70 peer-reviewed papers on paleohydrogeology, wetland hydrology and geochemistry and contaminant hydrology, Dr. Siegel has served as Associate Editor for the journals *Water Resources Research*, *Wetlands*, and *Ground Water*.

HMPGA Corporate Members

(See page 2 for contact names and phone numbers)

Adirondack Environmental Services, Inc.
Aquifer Drilling & Testing, Inc.
Earth Tech, Inc.
ERM Northeast
GeoTrans, Inc.
MARCOR Remediation, Inc.
SJB Services, Inc.
Spectra Environmental Group, Inc.
URS Corporation

About Our Meetings

Where: Cranberry Bog Restaurant
56 Wolf Road, Colonie

When: Second Wednesday of every month
except June, July and August.

Board of Directors Meeting	4:00 pm
Social Hour	5:00 pm
Dinner	6:00 pm
Program	7:00 pm

Dinner: \$10.00/person for student members
\$20.00/person for members
\$22.00/person for nonmembers

Vegetarian meal options are available with prior request. ****Individuals will be responsible for the cost of dinner unless cancellation notice is received 24 hours prior to the meeting.****

Reservations: Call or e-mail Diane Trianni at (518) 783-1805 or alphageo@aol.com by the previous Friday. Please register even if you are planning on attending only the talk.

**For HMPGA membership information,
please contact Curt Cappellano at
(518) 266-0310.**

N From the President's Desktop

by George Pafumi

It has been a somber month. As geologists we are intimately aware of the destructive forces in nature; earthquakes, floods, hurricanes and volcanos take many human lives each year. However disturbing, we learn to accept this as a fact of life on earth. How disconcerting it is when the destructive force comes from man. There has been great sadness and bereavement for both the innocent victims in this siege and the brave police and firefighters that perished trying to help them. It is reassuring, however, to hear the positive ring of giving, patriotism and honor. May we all have strength and inner peace. Hug your loved ones.

With that said, here it is October already – great outdoor weather for field work and Earth Science Week. HMPGA will have its October meeting during that week. The outreach committee is working on completing several displays at libraries throughout the Capital District. If you wish to donate specimens for these displays contact Bill Dickerson or one of the other education committee members.

Our first meeting at The Cranberry Bog was very well-attended. Dr. Taury Smith gave an enlightening talk about sea level changes. The October speaker will be Dr. Don Siegel from Syracuse University. He will speak on “*Geologic Explanations for the Great Biblical Myths*.” Dr. Siegel last presented a paper for HMPGA on March 18, 1998,

entitled “*Making Do-With Scant Real-World Data*.” Please come and enjoy.

During the September meeting I was overwhelmed with all the support of our membership to sponsor students of geology, both for dinners and for student memberships. We will be working hard with the local colleges and universities to see if there are students interested in our membership drive. You should also encourage other professional colleagues to join.

A special thanks goes out to Dr. Don Cadwell for his hard work as Membership Chairman and the person who has assembled the Membership Directory for the last five years. I am pleased that Curt Cappellano will be assuming that roll. Dr. Cadwell will remain on that committee as an advisor.

Finally, even though it doesn't take much to get geologists into a brew pub, I was glad to see many of our members turn out for Dave Foster's retirement party at the Albany Pump Station! Best wishes, Dave, from all of us. Let's all have a great Earth Science Week.

HMPGA President George Pafumi is owner and Principal Hydrogeologist of Environmental Maintenance Technology of Schenectady.

HMPGA Corporate Members

	<i>Contact</i>	<i>Phone</i>
Adirondack Environmental Services, Inc.	Steve Valle	(518) 434-4546
Aquifer Drilling & Testing, Inc.	Joe Miranda	(518) 464-2848
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SJB Services, Inc.	Bill Bosworth	(518) 899-7491
Spectra Environmental Group, Inc.	Robert Lafleur	(518) 782-0882
URS Corporation	Scott Sklenar	(518) 688-0015

It's Time to Join or Renew - Why Not Do it NOW??!!

There's a membership application form in this newsletter and on our website (address at the top of each page of this newsletter). You know what to do!

But Before You Do . . .

Make a copy for any local geologist you know who did not receive a newsletter, and enclose his or her application and dues in the same envelope with yours.

Or Better Yet, Save a Stamp . . .

And invite that potential new member to join you at the October 10 meeting, at the Cranberry Bog, where you both can pay your dues for 2001 - 2002!

Update Your Mailing Address

Please be sure to update your mailing address, if necessary, when you complete your membership application to join or renew. DEC folks who moved downtown - don't forget to give us your floor and mail code if you choose to receive the newsletter at work.

Make Sure We Can Find You in Cyberspace

The officers and directors want to start using e-mail to keep the membership up-to-date. Please check your e-mail address in the 2001-2002 directory you received last spring, and if necessary send any corrections to Laurie Scheuing at lescheuing@aol.com.

Newsletter Editor Needed to Start September, 2002

Contact Any Officer or Board Member if Interested

N From the Secretary's Notepad

by Eriko Fujita

Call to Order: The September 12 meeting of officers and directors was called to order at approximately 4:07pm by President George Pafumi. Officers and Board of Directors present were George Pafumi, Laurie Scheuing, Tom Ebert, Eriko Fujita, Bill Kelly, Don Cadwell, Curt Cappellano, Steve Crook, and Kathy Sanford. Also present were Bill Dickerson and Gerry Friedman.

Treasurer's Report: Laurie Scheuing reported that the current balance was \$3,329.04.

Correspondence: George Pafumi reported that he attempted to contact Dr. Bopp of RPI, and Dr. Linsley of SUNYA to encourage student attendance. He was unable to directly speak with them. The contents of the PO Box were collected by Bill Dickerson. The mail received consisted of membership renewals.

Ads and Corporate Memberships: Steve Crook will pick up where Vance Bryant left off regarding ads and corporate memberships.

Education Committee Report – Earth Science Week Program: Bill Dickerson reported that the Colonie, Saratoga, East Greenbush, and Guilderland libraries have been contacted by various Board and HMPGA members regarding Earth Science Week. Bill Dickerson contacted Bob Fakundiny regarding the Earth Science Week proclamation. Bill Kelly will follow up.

Upcoming Meeting Speakers and Topics: Bill Kelly and Laurie Scheuing reported that the talks for October and November 2001 and January 2002 have been scheduled. The December 2001 meeting will be the holiday party. Dr. Siegel is scheduled for October 2001 and Dorothy Petit is scheduled for November 2001 (topic has not been confirmed). Laurie Scheuing reported that John Luttinger of GeoMatrix is scheduled for January 2002. Rich Nyahay will be available for February or March 2002.

Newsletter: Kathy Sanford reported that the September 2001 newsletter was mailed to approximately 350 addresses. The October 2001 newsletter will be mailed to the last year's members only plus some non-members (schools) with a membership renewal form as an insert. To date, there has been no response regarding the search for a new editor.

Next Meeting – 10/10/01; 4:00 pm, Cranberry Bog

HMPGA Secretary Eriko Fujita is a Project Geologist with URS Corporation.

To advertise in this newsletter, contact Steve Crook (518-827-7797).

Rates (per issue):

Full page	\$100
Half page	50
Quarter page	25
Business card	10

Advance purchase of a full page for one year (10 issues, \$1000) includes one Corporate Membership (value \$100). Purchase of a half page for one year (\$500) offsets half the cost of one Corporate Membership.

Northeastern Geology and Environmental Sciences

Northeastern Geology and Environmental Sciences, published by the Northeastern Science Foundation, contains original papers related to the earth and environmental sciences of northeastern North America. The following is a list of papers from the most recent issue.

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CARBONATE DIAGENESIS AND DOLOMITIZATION OF CAMBRO-ORDOVICIAN (SAUK SEQUENCE) PLATFORM STRATA IN CENTRAL NEW YORK: PART 2
Shruti Sarah Philips and Gerald M. Friedman

NATURE, ORIGIN, DIAGENETIC HISTORY, AND GEOCHEMISTRY OF THE BEEKMANTOWN-GROUP DOLOMITES (SAUK SEQUENCE) OF NEW YORK
Mossbah M. Kolkas and Gerald M. Friedman

LIKELY NON-GLACIAL ORIGIN OF SANDSTONE CLASTS IN A GLACIAL LAKE DEPOSIT: THE CARMICHAELS FORMATION, WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA
Brian T. Kirchner and Jack Donahue

LATERAL AND STRATIGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF SEDIMENTARY ORGANIC MATTER IN MIOCENE PROGRADING SEDIMENTS (ODP LEG 174A, NEW JERSEY PASSIVE MARGIN, USA)
Caroline C. Pellaton and Georges E. Gorin

SHAKESPEARE GOT IT WRONG. IT'S NOT "TO BE", IT'S "TO DO"! : THE AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL MEMOIRS OF A LUCKY GEOPHYSICIST: PART 4
Jack Oliver

Northeastern Science Foundation
P.O. Box 746; Troy, NY 12181-0746
Phone: 518-273-3247; Fax 518-273-3249

Program ideas?

**Contact Laurie Scheuing
at 518-373-1200.**

Next newsletter deadline: Oct. 19, 2001

Send WordPerfect documents or e-mail text to harrier@worldnet.att.net.

Any content that appears to express an opinion on behalf of HMPGA will be reviewed by the President prior to publication.

Events Calendar

HMPGA

<http://members.aol.com/hmpga>

October 10, 2001

Geologic Explanations for the Great Biblical Myths
Dr. Don Siegel, Syracuse University

November 14, 2001

To Be Announced
Dorothy Petit

December 12, 2001

Holiday Party

January 9, 2001

Geophysical Applications to Environmental Problems
John Luttinger, GeoMatrix

RPI & SUNY-Albany Earth Sciences Joint Colloquia Series

<http://ees2.geo.rpi.edu/colloq.htm>

Rensselaer - October 3, 2001

*Revelations at Mineral-Water Interfaces from Synchrotron
X-ray Scattering and Standing Waves*
Neil Sturchio, University of Chicago - Illinois

Albany - October 12, 2001

*The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly - Contrasting Styles of
Porphyry Mineralization in New Guinea's Wild West*
Kurt Friehauf, Kutztown University

Rensselaer - October 17, 2001

*Microbial Rock and Mineral Transformations: Implications
for Carbon Cycling*
Katrina Edwards, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute

Albany - October 24, 2001

*Scientific Participation in Public Policy: The Case of
Hurricanes and Earthquakes*
Thomas Birkland, Nelson A. Rockefeller College of Public
Affairs and Policy, University at Albany

Rensselaer - October 31, 2001

*Molecular Approaches to Studying Microbes Involved in Two
Biogeochemical Transformations: PCB Declorination and
Anoxygenic Sulfide Oxidation*
Donna Bedard, Biology Department, Rensselaer

Albany - November 14, 2001

*Methods for Age-Dating Young Groundwater: Applications in
Biogeochemical Studies in the Catskill Mountains and the
Georgia Piedmont*
Douglas Burns, USGS

Rensselaer - November 28, 2001

*Rare Earth Element Composition of a "Gem" Quality Zircon
from the Mud Tank Carbonatite, Australia*
John Hanchar, George Washington University

Rensselaer - December 5, 2001

To Be Announced
Jen Macalady, University of Wisconsin-Madison

17th Annual NYS Geographic Information Systems Conference

<http://www.esf.edu/outreach/conted/conferences/nysgis2001basics.htm>

October 29 - October 30, 2001

Holiday Inn - Turf, Colonie
"GIS... Not So Scary!"

Contact Horace Shaw at (315) 470-6891.

Buffalo Association of Professional Geologists

<http://www.bapg.org>

A meeting is scheduled for October 17, 2001. Topic, location
and speaker are to be announced. Contact Carol Yamarino,
(716) 684-8060.

Buffalo Geological Society

October 5, 2001

*Bethlehem Steel Site: History, Environmental Condition, and
Future Use Possibilities*

Parkside Lutheran Church, Buffalo
Contact Jon Nickerson, (716) 684-8060.

Central New York Association of Professional Geologists

<http://www.dreamscape.com/cnyapg/>

October 11, 2001

History of the Salt City
Dr. Bill Kappel, USGS

Long Island Geologists

<http://pbisotopes.ess.sunysb.edu/lig>

October 10, 2001

The Relationship Between Land Use Planning and Groundwater Quality

Paul W. Grosser, Consulting Engineer & Hydrogeologist

October 27, 2001 (7:00 am - 6:00 pm)

Field Trip: Bedrock Geology of NYC: More Than 600 m.y. of Geologic History

Pam and Pat Brock, Queens College

April 20, 2002

Ninth Conference on Geology of Long Island and Metropolitan New York

Deadline for submission of titles February 1
Deadline for submission of abstracts March 1

Northeast Section - American Institute of Professional Geologists

<http://www.ne-aipg.org/Fall2001.htm>

October 17, 2001 (2:45 - 8:00 pm)

Caumsett State Park: Lloyd Neck, Town of Huntington

Geology of the Beach and Cliffs at Caumsett State Park

Dr. Gilbert N. Hanson, SUNY Stony Brook

Program includes dinner and an after-dinner presentation (to be announced). Please pre-register as soon as possible since space is limited to only 35 people. Registration form and detailed schedule posted at the web page.

New York State Geological Association: Annual Meetings

October 12 - 14, 2001 Palisades, NY

Hosted by Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory

The Hudson River: Historical and Environmental Geology

<http://www.ldeo.columbia.edu/~polsen/nysga/nysga.ldeo.html>

2002 Glens Falls, NY

2003 Hartwick College and SUNY-Oneonta

Geological Association of New Jersey

October 26 - 27, 2001

Geology in the Service of Public Health

benimoff@postbox.csi.cuny.edu

Geological Society of America Annual Meeting and Exposition - 2001
<http://geosociety.org/meetings/2001/index.htm>

November 1 - 10, 2001

Boston, Massachusetts

Pre-meeting field trips	November 1 - 4
Short courses and workshops	November 3 - 4
Presidential address	November 4
Exhibits open	November 4 - 7
Technical program	November 5 - 8
Post-meeting field trips	November 9 - 10

Northeastern Section - Geological Society of America

<http://www.geosociety.org/sectdiv/northe/02nemtg.htm>

March 25 - 27, 2002

Springfield, Massachusetts

Abstracts deadline	December 18, 2001
Preregistration deadline	February 15, 2002
Cancellation deadline	February 22, 2002

2001 - 2002 Board of Directors

Officers

George Pafumi, President	(518) 357-0908	gfume@aol.com
Laurie Scheuing, Vice President	(518) 373-1200	lescheuing@aol.com
Thomas Ebert, Treasurer	(518) 457-1038	tebert@gw.dot.state.ny.us
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Bill Kelly, Past President	(518) 474-7559	wkelly@mail.nysed.gov

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Curt Cappellano, Membership Chairman	(518) 266-0310	ccappellan@aol.com
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Mark Davin	(845) 256-3064	davin@ulster.net
Mike Palleschi	(518) 783-1805	alphageo@aol.com
Kathy Sanford, Newsletter Editor	(518) 402-8056	harrier@worldnet.att.net

Upcoming Deadlines

September meeting reservations:	10/5/01
October newsletter:	10/19/01

HMPGA
PO Box 5506
Albany, NY 12205-0506

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST CLASS

***HMPGA Meets at the Cranberry Bog
on the Second Wednesday of Each Month
Oct. 10: Geological Explanations for Great Biblical Myths***