



HUDSON-MOHAWK PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS' ASSOCIATION

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

Kathy Sanford, Editor
Vol. 8 No.6
February 2002

Feb. 13, 2002: HMPGA Welcomes Dorothy Peteet of NASA/Goddard and Lamont-Doherty **Evolution of the Hudson Estuary – Marsh Clues to** **Environmental History**

Our research utilizes sediment, macrofossil and pollen stratigraphy in order to understand the history of environmental change in the Hudson Estuary. We are currently working on five sites, ranging from Jamaica Bay and Staten Island northward to Iona Island. While we are examining the origin of marsh formation throughout, results to date focus on the history of vegetational change in Jamaica Bay and Piermont Marsh. Human impact over the last 500 years is clearly visible in the Lower Hudson region.

About the Speaker

Dr. Dorothy Peteet's current research interests are in quaternary vegetation, environments, and climatic variations, particularly abrupt climatic events. She is also interested in the study of arctic and subarctic carbon fluxes, high and mid-latitude paleoecology, and palynology and macrofossil investigations used to reconstruct vegetational history. She is involved with global climate modeling (GCM) utilized to understand mechanisms and causes of climatic change.

Dr. Peteet was awarded her M.S. and Ph.D. in biology from New York University. She received her B.S. in botany from Duke University. She is currently a senior research scientist at NASA/Goddard Institute for Space Studies and an adjunct senior research scientist at Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory.

HMPGA Corporate Members

(See page 5 for contact names and phone numbers)

Adirondack Environmental Services, Inc.
Aquifer Drilling & Testing, Inc.
Earth Tech, Inc.
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Spectra Environmental Group, Inc.
URS Corporation

About Our Meetings

Where: Holiday Inn Turf
205 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 Welch at (518) 348-6995 or
dwelch@alphageoscience.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

For Christmas, I received the book *The Map that Changed the World; William Smith and the Birth of Modern Geology* by Simon Winchester, (Harper Collins, 2001). The author will be speaking at RPI on March 27, 2002. (See the Events Calendar in this newsletter.) This book tells the story of a canal digger who in 1815 published the first geologic map and later became recognized as the "Father of English Geology." I mention this book because I find it nicely complements the Historical Geology seminars that I have attended in the last two years. These include our November 2001 speaker, Richard Nyahay, who delved into the history of natural gas and oil production in New York State; the History of the Oil Industry Symposium in Titusville and Oil City, Pennsylvania, that my wife and I attended in June 2000; and, Dr. Gerald Friedman's Conference on the History of Geologic Pioneers that I attended in August 2000.

Friedman's "Pioneers in Geology" conference highlighted the early works of geologic luminaries including Amos Eaton, Sidney Powers, Henry Nason, Ebenezer Emmons and James Hall. Following a day and a half of absorbing talks, we toured the final resting places of Amos Eaton, Henry Nason and Sidney Powers in the Oakwood Cemetery, located in North Troy, and those of Ebenezer Emmons and James Hall in the Albany Rural Cemetery. Dr. Friedman played a prominent role in installing memorials for these Pioneers. I felt honored to be part of it. Our own Pioneer, Dr. Friedman has received distinguished awards named after both James Hall and Sidney Powers.

While at this conference, I was fortunate enough to meet, though accidentally, another living Pioneer of Geology, Mr. Samuel Pees. Sam, a retired Petroleum Geologist, is the President of the Drake Well Foundation and spends a great deal of his time documenting Pennsylvania's oil history. He graciously invited me to the Oil History Conference in Oil City, Pennsylvania. After a day and a half of engaging talks on the history of oil exploration and production in

northwestern Pennsylvania and other parts of the world, we visited the Drake Well museum in Titusville. True to the 1859 original, a board by board replica of the derrick and a working pump are erected at the exact location of the first drilled oil well in the United States. Nearby is the burial site of Edwin L. Drake, the man credited with starting the oil industry.

Northwestern Pennsylvania has many compelling relics of the early oil industry; consider Oil City, Titusville, Pithole City and Bradford. A town known as Pithole City was built and existed as an oil boom town for a scant 500 days. From a farm in May 1865, it boasted 15,000 residents by September 1865. Pithole City had all the amenities – a Town Council, 57 hotels, bars, brothels and a daily newspaper. It didn't have, however, a very effective fire department and several fires in 1867 and 1868 eventually burned the town to the ground (as the price of oil sharply declined). What wasn't burned was sold for lumber or firewood. The Danforth House, which cost \$30,000 to build in 1865, was sold for \$16 for firewood in 1885. Pithole City – valued at \$2,000,000 in 1865 – was sold to the County in 1878 for \$4.37. (Enron?)

Looking back, I am struck by several overwhelming conclusions. Geology is a science as rich in history as it is in scientific discovery and, to a large extent, the science developed out of the economic necessity of the extractive industries (oil and mining). The science and practice of geology helped to shape this nation and New York played a pivotal role the early development of the science. As President, I would like to propose that HMPGA undertake a History Committee. I hope you agree. Please see me if you would be interested in participating.

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

Members Sought to Judge Top Science Projects

The Joseph Henry Science Fair celebrates its sixteenth year on April 26, 2002. This annual science fair is open to all 4th through 8th grade students attending public or private school in the City of Albany.

Because of Joseph Henry's involvement in the geological sciences and the Fair's promotion of sciences for young people, the HMPGA Board voted unanimously to donate \$250 to the 2002 Science Fair. The Fair Committee has informed us that they will be awarding a prize for a geology project at the Fair. Any HMPGA members who would like to volunteer to judge the students' projects, please contact George Pafumi. This year's Fair will be held in the University Heights Gymnasium of the Albany School of Pharmacy.

Follow the progress of the geologists' licensure bill:

<http://www.nyscp.org/>
New York State Council of
Professional Geologists

<http://assembly.state.ny.us/leg/>
New York State Assembly
Bill Search Page

<http://www.senate.state.ny.us/>
New York State Senate
Click link to "Bills/Laws"

Dear Mr. Pafumi:

HMPGA President George Pafumi recently visited the third grade at Harmony Hills Elementary School. Here are excerpts of some of his "Thank You" letters from the students:

I can't believe I saw Mt. St. Helen's! It was so exciting! Thank you.

Do you like Mt. St. Helen's? I didn't know that the Grand Canyon was that big.

Thank you for the information. I never knew that hematite was made of iron. My favorite mountain was Mt. St. Helen's. I never heard of Bryce Canyon. My favorite canyon used to be the Grand Canyon, now it's the Bryce Canyon.

Thank you for coming to our classroom and telling us about rocks and minerals. I liked Mt. St. Helen and the waterfall. I liked the volcano and the Grand Canyon. I might be a geologist when I grow.

Some of the minerals are beautiful. My favorite mineral is the one with the purple diamonds. You are a great geologist.

I am going to be a geologist when I grow up. The rocks and minerals were cool. Scientists are cool. The volcano was cool, too. All of the things were cool.

I loved the Grand Canyon. It is so beautiful and big. How did you make it around?

Thank you for coming to our school. You are a good geologist. I liked the Grand Canyon.

Thank you for coming to our class. I like the minerals. My favorite mineral was Talc.

Thanks for the new information.

Next newsletter deadline: February 22, 2002

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.

***To advertise in this newsletter, contact
Steve Crook at 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

N From the Secretary's Notepad Excerpts from Draft Minutes for January 9, 2002

by Eriko Fujita

Call to Order: President George Pafumi called the meeting to order at approximately 4:07 pm. Officers and Board of Directors present were George Pafumi, Laurie Scheuing, Eriko Fujita, Bill Kelly, Mark Davin, Don Cadwell, Curt Cappellano, Mike Palleschi, Kathy Sanford, Steve Crook, and Tom Ebert. Also present was Bill Dickerson.

Treasurer's Report: The current balance was reported to be \$4,709.98.

Correspondence: George Pafumi received a thank you letter from Ms. O'Shea, Director of the Joseph Henry Science Fair Committee.

Tape Recorder Purchase: A tape recorder was purchased and was in use for the Board Meeting.

Educational Outreach Committee: Bill Dickerson reported that there will be an annual mineral show this year at the NYS Museum on February 23 and 24, 2002. It will be held in the

corridor beneath Madison Avenue. Bill had posters advertising the show for anyone interested. Bill will also coordinate volunteers for the HMPGA table.

Finance Committee: Curt Cappellano stated that he would like to prepare a budget of HMPGA's expenses for the year. He would like to prepare a list of costs and asked for input from members to provide costs by month if possible via email. Curt will try to review the past Treasurer's Reports and receipts as well and get a handle on HMPGA's monthly expenses before the next meeting.

Next Meeting: February 13, 2002; 4:00 pm; Holiday Inn Turf.

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

HMPGA Corporate Members

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Adirondack Environmental Services, Inc.	Steve Valle	(518) 434-4546
Aquifer Drilling & Testing, Inc.	Joe Miranda	(518) 274-3949
Earth Tech, Inc.	Frank Williams	(518) 458-1313
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GeoTrans, Inc.	John Guswa	(978) 772-7557
Hydrogeologic, Inc.	Michael D. Jackson	(518) 782-3435
MARCOR Remediation, Inc.	Mark DeAngelo	(518) 456-5909
Parratt Wolff, Inc.	Steve Crook	(518) 827-7797
SJB Services, Inc.	Bill Bosworth	(518) 899-7491
Spectra Environmental Group, Inc.	Robert Lafleur	(518) 782-0882
URS Corporation	Stephen LeFevre	(518) 688-0015

Events Calendar

HMPGA

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

February 13, 2002

History of Hudson River Marshlands

Dorothy Peteet, Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory

March 13, 2002

To Be Announced

April 10, 2002

Grand Unifying Theory of Zinc Ore Deposits at Balmat, NY

Bill deLorraine, Zinc Corporation of America

May 8, 2002 - Technical Symposium

Daytime Program

Full Day DNAPL Seminar

Dr. Bernie Kueper, Queens University

Dr. Jack Guswa, GeoTrans, Inc.

Evening Program

To Be Announced

New York State Museum

<http://www.nysm.nysed.gov/calwin02.html>

Through March 31, 2002

A Billion Years of Earth History

Specimens from the Museum's exhaustive fossil collection on display in the Exhibition Hall.

February 23 & 24, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

9th Annual James Campbell Memorial Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show & Sale

- Concourse Level Empire State Plaza
- Vendors from New England will display and sell gems, jewelry, minerals, lapidary equipment and supplies, stone carvings, silver and goldsmithing tools and much more.

Long Island Geologists

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

April 20, 2002

Ninth Conference on Geology of Long Island and Metropolitan New York

Deadline for submission of abstracts

March 1

RPI & SUNY Albany: Earth Sciences

Joint Colloquia Series

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

February 6, 2002 - Albany

The Holocene Record of Large Mississippi River Floods in the Sny Bottom Near Hannibal, Missouri: A Geoarchaeological Perspective

Julieann Van Nest, New York State Museum

February 13, 2002 - Rensselaer

Stable Isotopic Evidence for Open-System Degassing During the Climactic Eruption of Mt. Mazama, Crater Lake, Oregon

Charles Mandeville, American Museum of Natural History

February 20, 2002 - Albany

To Be Announced

March 6, 2002 - Rensselaer

Felix Waldhauser, Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory

March 20, 2002 - Albany

Variations in Seawater Chemistry over the past 600 MY: Causes and Influences on Marine Life

Tim Lowenstein, SUNY Binghamton

March 27, 2002 - Rensselaer

Is Geology Cool? How William Smith Became a Best-Seller
Simon Winchester, Author of The Map that Changed the World, William Smith and the Birth of Modern Geology

Rensselaer - April 3, 2002

Kurt Fiegl, Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales (Paris)

Albany - April 17, 2002

Estimating shortening in a penetratively deformed domain of the Cordilleran thrust belt

Tekla Harms, Amherst College

Rensselaer - April 3, 2002

James Wright, Rutgers University

Albany - May 1, 2002

To Be Announced

Buffalo Association of Professional Geologists

<http://www.bapg.org>

February 20, 2002

March 20, 2002

To Be Announced

Buffalo Geological Society

March 1, 2002

Geology of Niagara Falls

Contact Jon Nickerson at 716-684-8060

March 23 - 24, 2002

Thundering Niagara - Gem, Mineral, Fossil Show

Contact Don Lapham at 716-879-0457

April 5, 2002

Minerals to Gemstones

Contact Jon Nickerson at 716-684-8060

Central New York Association of Professional Geologists

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

February 12, 2002

Communications With Your Laboratory

Tom Alexander, OBG Laboratories

A Journey South: Sixty Days in Antarctica

Dr. Amy Leventer, Colgate University

April 6, 2002

Lackawanna Coal Mine Tour & Anthracite Heritage Museum

New York State Geological Association: Annual Meetings

April 5-7, 2002 (Rescheduled from Fall 2001)

The Hudson River: Historical and Environmental Geology

Hosted by Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory

September 27 - 29, 2002

Hosted by Colgate University

Lake George, NY

Fall 2003 Hartwick College and SUNY-Oneonta

Fall 2004 Hosted by SUNY-Potsdam

Northeastern Section - Geological Society of America

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

March 25 - 27, 2002

Springfield, Massachusetts

Preregistration deadline February 15, 2002

Cancellation deadline February 22, 2002

Midwest GeoSciences Group - University of Massachusetts at

Amherst

<http://www.midwestgeo.com/>

“The Midwest GeoSciences Group is a self-supported organization formed for the sole purpose of geoscience education. The Midwest GeoSciences Group conducts workshops, short courses and field trips focusing on the geologic environment in the Midwestern United States.”

June 18 - 19, 2002

Improving Hydrogeologic Analysis of Fractured Bedrock Systems

June 20 - 21, 2002

Improving Hydrogeologic Investigations: Advances in Characterizing Ground Water Movement Through Glacial Sequences

Program Chair Needed

Contact Laurie Scheuing at 518-373-1200

2001 - 2002 Board of Directors

Officers

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Upcoming Deadlines

February meeting reservations:	2/08/02
March newsletter:	2/22/02

HMPGA
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Albany, NY 12205-0506

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST CLASS