



# HUDSON-MOHAWK PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS' ASSOCIATION

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

Mark Davin, Editor

Vol. 9 No.3

November, 2002

Nov. 13, 2002: HMPGA Program Chair, Skip Delclos and Rich Volker, NJDOT

## "Lower Jurassic Emplacement of the Orange Mountain Basalt, Northeastern New Jersey"

The basalts of northern New Jersey are part of the Triassic Lowlands Physiographic Province. This province consists of non-marine sedimentary rocks and associated intrusive and extrusive basic igneous rocks. In New Jersey, these rocks comprise the Newark Group and consist primarily of layers of sandstone, siltstone, and shale with interbedded extrusive basaltic lava flows and intrusive diabase. The igneous rocks of the Newark Group are more resistant to erosion than the interbedded sedimentary rocks and tend to form prominent ridges such as the Palisades and the Watchung Mountains.

The basalt units which make up the Watchung Mountains were emplaced as multiple flows or sheets of lava during the Lower Jurassic Period, about 200 million years ago. These flows are beautifully exposed in several quarries along the First Watchung Mountain. Emplacement features include pillow structure, columnar jointing, secondary mineralization, and pahoehoe structure.

### About the Speakers

Skip has been a project geologist at Earth Tech for the past two years involved with mine planning, permitting, and evaluations. He received his MS in geology from the University of Vermont. Rich Volker has been employed as a field geologist and bedrock specialist with NJDOT for more than 20 years and has been very involved with the field mapping of northern New Jersey.

### About Our Meetings

**Where:** Holiday Inn Turf  
205 Wolf Road, Colonie

**When:** **November 13, 2002;** December, 2002  
(Date To Be Announced)

Board of Directors Meeting	<b>4:00 pm</b>
Social Hour	<b>5:00 pm</b>
Dinner	<b>6:00 pm</b>
Program	<b>7:00 pm</b>

**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](mailto:dwelch@alphageoscience.com) by the previous Friday. Please register even if you are planning on attending only the talk.

### HMPGA Corporate Members

(See page 4 for contact names and phone numbers.)

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## Paleontology at Dinosaur National Monument

*(The following is a very disturbing issue for the geological sciences, and especially for paleontology. The information was received by AWG from John Harper of the Pennsylvania Geological Survey via the Pittsburgh Geological Society e-mail list and has been corroborated by Dr. Ken Carpenter, Curator of Lower Vertebrate Paleontology at the Denver Museum of Natural History.)*

The Superintendent of Dinosaur National Monument, who has been on the job for a grand total of eight months, announced to all park staff that he will be abolishing the two paleontology positions at Dinosaur National Monument because paleontology is not a significant resource issue for him. This will mean the end of a 50-year old paleontology program which has produced the spectacular wall of fossils within the visitor center as well as abundant Mesozoic fossils from elsewhere in the Monument. The Monument will go from having an active excavation and research program on Mesozoic vertebrates to a caretaker policy, a step back to the 1930's. Thus the premiere fossil park of the National Park Service will have no program for protecting and understanding the resource for which the Monument was established in 1915. In addition, there will be no paleontology program in the soon-to-be-built museum and exhibit facility and collections building. Does this sound right to you?

If you value the dinosaurs at Dinosaur National Monument and you want to see the Monument continue to protect and explore one of the greatest windows we have onto the world of the dinosaurs, then this is your opportunity to speak up and stop this madness.

Write to the following people, as well as your own US senators and representatives, and ask that the paleontology program not be phased out and eliminated at Dinosaur. Ask that the Monument reinstate its research grade scientist position and continue to fully support the paleontology program, especially with the new facility being built in the next few years. This insanity can be reversed, but you need to be heard. Anyone - scientists, amateurs, dinosaur lovers - anyone who likes visiting the National Park Service parks and monuments, can and should express concern. Don't e-mail messages - they do not carry as much weight with an agency as a personally written letter, even a short one. And the sooner the better.

This would be a tragedy to say the least.

Letters should be addressed to: Fran Mainella  
Director, National Parks Services  
1849 C St., NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240

U.S. Senator Robert Bennett  
431 Dirksen Building  
Washington, D.C. 20240

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## The Association of Engineering Geologists New York-Philadelphia Section Meeting Announcement: Thursday, November 14, 2002

***Topic: Applications of a Groundwater-Recharge Methodology in New Jersey  
by Jeffrey L. Hoffman, P.G., NJ Geological Survey***

In 1993, the New Jersey Geological Survey published a methodology for estimating average annual groundwater recharge. This was originally designed to be used on a municipal scale to estimate the relative importance of different areas to recharge. It could be applied in a reasonable amount of time using readily-available data. Since then, this methodology has been used to produce statewide maps of groundwater recharge, estimate pre- and post-development recharge volumes by municipality, determine capture-area extent for proposed groundwater withdrawals, estimate recharge volumes needed to offset a development's increased stormwater runoff, and establish the carrying-capacity of rural areas zoned for septic tanks based on nitrate concentrations. This presentation will be a brief overview of the basic recharge methodology and its application.

*(For reservations, call or e-mail: Rich Britton, president, (732)390-5858; [rbritton@whitmanco.com](mailto:rbritton@whitmanco.com); or Jerry Cirilli, treasurer, (201)794-6900; [jcirilli@langan.com](mailto:jcirilli@langan.com) no later than Tues., Nov. 12, 2002)*

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### 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"

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## Events Calendar

### HMPGA

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

December, 2002

*No Program; Holiday Party; Time & Place To Be Announced.*

### New York State Museum

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

### Long Island Geologists

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

### RPI & SUNY Albany: Earth Sciences

#### Joint Colloquia Series

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

<http://www.albany.edu/geosciences/semrcurr.html>

November 13, 2002, Albany

*"Evaluation of Current and Historical Fluxes of Atmospheric Mercury to Vermont and New Hampshire Lakes", by Neil Kamman*

November 30, 2002, Rensselaer

*"Direct Observation of a Full Crustal Column Through an Ancient Mountain Belt in New Zealand", by Keith Klepeis*

### Buffalo Association of Professional Geologists

<http://www.bapg.org>

### Central New York Association of Professional Geologists

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

Next monthly meeting:

Thursday, November 21, 2002

*"Karst Hydrology - Water Supply and Contaminant Transport in Carbonate Aquifers of New York", by Dr. Arthur Palmer*

RSVP by November 18, to Bonnie at Parratt-Wolff via e-mail at [bolney@pwinc.com](mailto:bolney@pwinc.com)

### New York State Geological Association: Annual Meetings

<http://www.nysgaonline.org>

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>

Final Announcement: 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, March 25-27, 2003, Springfield, Massachusetts

### Midwest GeoSciences Group - University of Massachusetts at Amherst

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

### Northeastern Science Foundation

<http://us.geocities.com/northeasternscifdn>

Silver Jubilee Anniversary meeting of the Northeastern Science Foundation, Troy New York (affiliated with Brooklyn College and the Graduate Center of New York), August 10-12, 2003

#### Innovative Studies and Discoveries

Call for papers:

- Oil and Gas Exploration in Northeastern North America
- Dolostone as an Exploration Target
- History of Geology
- From Hall to Plate Tectonics
- Karst and Caves
- Modern Concepts of the Taconics and Appalachians
- Cleaning the Environment or Water-borne Toxic Waste
- Education in Geology; Where Are We Heading?
- Assorted Topics

For more information, contact: Dr. Gerald M. Friedman, Distinguished Professor of Geology, Northeastern Science Foundation, 15 Third Street, P.O. Box 746

Troy, NY 12181-0746 USA

Phone: (518) 273-3247

E-mail: [gmfriedman@juno.com](mailto:gmfriedman@juno.com)

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#### Upcoming Deadlines

November meeting reservations:	11/08/02
December newsletter:	11/29/02

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