



HUDSON-MOHAWK PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS' ASSOCIATION

Please post

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

Mark Davin, Editor

Vol. 9 No.4

December, 2002

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

**Come Join Your Friends and Colleagues
and Share the Holiday Spirit!**

The Annual HMPGA Holiday Party

Wednesday, December 18th, 2002

from 5:00 PM to 7:30 PM

(Officers and Board Members: 4:00 PM Board Meeting)

**Big House Grill, 112 Wolf Road,
Albany, New York**

**Snacks Provided by HMPGA
“BYOB” (Buy Your Own Brew!)**

No Reservations Required

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N From the President's Desktop

by *Laurie Scheuing*

I would like to use part of this column to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season. The holidays can be hectic, so try and share your time with your family and friends. This can be worth so much more than a store-bought gift!

It is my pleasure to extend an invitation to everyone to attend HMPGA's annual Holiday Party at the Big House Grill on Wolf Road on December 18th. Please bring a guest along! This is the third year in a row that we have held our event at the Big House and it has always been well attended and a great way to unwind.

For the second part of this column, please allow me to rant (a little) ...

In an attempt to revitalize some of HMPGA's efforts, we are trying to reorganize some of our committees so that all of the work of the organization isn't the responsibility of the Board of Directors. During one of our recent Board meetings, we discussed what is really important to our organization. In our informal poll, we determined that education is one of the key objectives of HMPGA. As such, we would like to re-form the education committee. This means that we need a chairperson (or co-chairpeople) and active and committed committee members. The chairperson, or designee, would be responsible for reporting the committee activities to the Board at the monthly meetings. Given the Internet, much of the work of this committee can be conducted via e-mail.

A few members were recently contacted by e-mail to gauge their interest in participating on this committee. These are people that we hope will take an active role in focusing on this very important goal.

If you are interested in helping with this or any committee, please contact any Board Member. Please consider contributing your time. Our organization cannot survive on the efforts of the Board Members alone.

Other committees that need your help are:

- Nominations committee
- Program committee - current chairperson, Skip Delclos
- Membership committee - current chairperson, Laurie Scheuing, business ads and corporate membership, Steve Crook
- Communications committee

(Laurie Scheuing is a managing scientist with Quantitative Environmental Analysis, LLC)

News: Gem-quality Emeralds in Canada

Toronto - A mini staking boom has erupted for gem-quality emeralds in a most unlikely place - the Yukon territory in Canada's far north, the home of the Klondike gold rush more than a century ago.

The find was made by geologist Bill Wengzynowski while he was following up on copper traces for a small base metals company, Expatriate Resources, in the Finlayson District, about 200 km northeast of the capital, Whitehorse.

Wengzynowski, the descendent of a Klondike prospector, in 1998 stumbled across what he thought was green malachite. On closer inspection, he recognized it as beryl, a mineral that, with chromium, gives emeralds their renowned rich green color.

That discovery has led to further exploration along the remote granite intrusions of the Finlayson District, a mountainous area accessible only by helicopter.

The discovery could mark the beginning of a new era for the Yukon's struggling mining industry and become a new world source of emeralds, traditionally found in Colombia, Brazil, Zambia, Pakistan, Russia, Nigeria, and Afghanistan.

Until now, North Carolina is one of the few areas in North America to produce fine emeralds, which can fetch prices from \$10,000 per carat.

“We are aware of three or four other groups that are now looking for emeralds in the area.” Harlan Meade, president and chief executive of Expatriate Resources, said in an interview.

A Rare Event

True emerald occurrences are extremely rare, and the Yukon discovery is still at a very early stage, with more claims being explored, said Meade.

He said that since Wengzynowski’s discovery, it has taken time to access the area with equipment to properly sample additional rock sites from which emerged more beryl and bigger emeralds.

Last year, his Expatriate Resources formed a joint venture with True North Gems, Inc. on 93 mineral claims covering the initial discovery areas on Regal Ridge. True North will be listed on the Toronto Venture Exchange on Monday, November 25th.

Since then, Expatriate has joined with YK, a private diamond mining group that wants to remain anonymous, to explore more claims in the Finlayson District.

The property consists of 2,900 claims, many of them adjacent to the Regal Ridge property, and Meade said his company has ample exploration data that will be used to guide the YK Group in their search for more gemstones.

Meade said only time will tell how large the Regal Ridge discovery is, and whether it will attract the attention of big-name retailers like Tiffany & Co., which is opening a cutting office in the Northwest Territories for diamonds produced from Canada’s second mine.

Mike Burke, a staff geologist for the Yukon government, said mining companies were recognizing that Regal Ridge was probably not the only place where emeralds exist in the Yukon.

“Now that they have outlined the geologic setting, and the government has also done a lot more detailed work in the Finlayson Lake area that has provided a framework for others to look, it has triggered a bit of the staking rush.” he said.

Diamonds in the North

Lori Walton, a gemologist and adviser for the Yukon government, said the find did not surprise her.

She noted that 12 years ago no one believed diamonds existed in the frozen barrenlands of the Northwest Territories and now industry titans like De Beers are spending most of their exploration budgets in Canada’s North.

“I guess the reason is that Canada is underpopulated, so much of Canada has not been explored – and we have a harsh climate up here, so we can only look a couple of months a year – and emeralds are very, very rare.” she said.

Walton said the emeralds from Regal Ridge are scattered along an 800-meter ridge and just a small piece of that has been explored.

“This is showing us that the geology of the Yukon, Alaska, and northern British Columbia could be quite conducive to emerald formation.” she added, noting also the potential for rubies and sapphires.

Joe Montgomery, a Vancouver mining consultant who has worked with emeralds in Columbia, said he knew it was only a matter of time before emeralds were discovered in Canada.

“Emeralds are rare and don’t occur all over the place. You have to have very special circumstances ... beryl deposits are fairly common, but to get the green in there you need a bit of chromium and they have to be found together, and are not normally found together.”

Montgomery said the emeralds will have to be mined very carefully, without the traditional blasting methods used in gold and other mining projects.

“Generally, when you get into a zone of gem material, you slow everything down and work by hand.” he said.

(Submitted by HMPGA Board Member Curt Cappellano, Evergreen Testing & Environmental Services, Inc.)

Follow the progress of the Geologists' Licensure Bill:

<http://www.nyscpge.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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Is This Your Last Newsletter?

It might be if you haven't renewed your HMPGA membership for 2002-2003! Did you mean to renew last month, but just didn't get around to it? Don't worry! You can now download an application form from HMPGA's web site at <http://members.aol.com/hmpga> (you'll need Adobe Acrobat Reader to download the form), or, you can also request that an application be sent to you by e-mail or postal mail by contacting Laurie Scheuing at lescheuing@aol.com. By the way, do we have your updated e-mail address? And is your mailing address correct? Please let Laurie know!

Could the following members please contact Laurie, or any Board member, and update their e-mail addresses (e-mail messages have been returned as undeliverable):

Steve Trader
Brian Neumann
Tania Maynard

Thanks! And hope to hear from you soon!

To advertise in this newsletter, contact Steve Crook at (518) 827-7797 or scrook@midtel.net.

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

Help Wanted:

Evergreen Testing & Environmental Services, Inc. is looking for a geologist or engineer to direct and/or manage our geotechnical testing laboratory. Located in Watervliet, New York. Salary is at a professional level and will be based on geotechnical experience and the candidate's capabilities. Interested parties should mail or fax resumes to:

Curtis Cappellano

Evergreen Testing & Environmental Services, Inc.

594 Broadway

Watervliet, NY 12189

Phone: (518)266-0310

Fax: (518)266-9238

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T E S T I N G

Events Calendar

HMPGA

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

January 8, 2003

Field Sampling & Preservation Techniques for Volatiles in Soils.

Kevin Hoogerhyde, Severn Trent Laboratories

February 12, 2003

To Be Announced

Tom Johnson, Alpha Geoscience, & Mark Williams, Earth Tech

March 19, 2003

Indoor Air Quality: Vapor Migration from Contaminated Groundwater.

Gerry McDonald, NYSDOH

New York State Museum

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

Current Exhibitions:

Ancient Life of New York - A Billion Years of Earth History

Upcoming Exhibitions:

December 18, 2002 - March 12, 2003

Burgess Shale: Evolution's Big Bang

Long Island Geologists

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

April 12, 2003

Tenth Conference on "Geology of Long Island and Metropolitan New York"

Call for Papers, topics include:

- General Geology
- Glacial Geology
- Earth Science Education Programs
- Stratigraphy
- Sedimentology
- Coastal Geology
- Applied Geology
- Environmental Geology
- Engineering Geology
- Hydrology
- Bedrock Studies emphasizing the geology of Long Island & Metropolitan New York

Deadline for submission of titles: February 1, 2003

Deadline for submission of abstracts: March 1, 2003

(please visit the website for more detailed info.)

RPI & SUNY Albany: Earth Sciences Joint Colloquia Series

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

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

Buffalo Association of Professional Geologists

<http://www.bapg.org>

December 9, 2002

Holiday Happy Hour

January 15, 2003

BAPG Monthly Dinner Meeting - Joint Meeting with ASCE

Whittier/Anderson Memorial Tunnel Construction

Frank Frandina, P.E.

Central New York Association of Professional Geologists

<http://www.cnyapg.org>

(No December meeting - Happy Holidays!)

January 16, 2003

"The Superfund Amendments of 2002 and What They Mean to Phase I and Phase II Audits - and the People Who Perform Them"

Mr. Dick Brickwedde, Esq.

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>

Midwest GeoSciences Group - University of Massachusetts at Amherst

<http://www.midwestgeo.com>

The AEG NY-Philadelphia Section Meeting Announcement: Tuesday, December 10, 2002

Topic: Fracture Rock Hydrology, Naval Air Warfare Center, West Trenton, NJ
by Pierre Lacombe, USGS Water Resources, NJ

In 1993, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) began studies of TCE contamination in fractured sedimentary bedrock in cooperation with the U.S. Navy at the Naval Air Warfare Center (NAWC) near Trenton, NJ. In 2001, the USGS Toxic Substances Hydrology Program initiated research at the NAWC to complement and expand the research being conducted on ground-water flow and contaminant transport in fractured bedrock at its Mirror Lake, New Hampshire Research Site. The NAWC site was chosen because the general hydrogeologic framework was well defined and the site contained extensive TCE contamination over a range of geochemical conditions.

The research will provide understanding of the physical, chemical, and microbial processes that affect the transport and fate of chlorinated solvents in fractured sedimentary rock aquifers, including the role of dense non-aqueous phase liquids (DNAPL) as a long-term source. The research also will develop methods for cost effective subsurface characterization. You may visit the research web site at <http://nj.usgs.gov/nawc/index.htm>

The evening's talk will discuss the hydrogeologic framework based on natural gamma ray logs, and rock cores interpreted in light of Van Houten sedimentary cycles. Initially, ten parallel cross-sections were developed using the natural gamma ray signature of the bedrock to display the hydrogeologic framework of NAWC. The framework interpretation has recently been expanded to include the stratigraphic units within a typical Van Houten cycle. The hydrogeologic framework includes a synthesis of the rheological response of the strata to folding,

faulting, intrusions, off-loading as well as chemical and physical weathering. The presentation will include a discussion of three-dimensional contouring of stressed and static water levels, TCE, DCE, and VC contamination, and urban ground-water hydrology.

(For more information &/or reservations, call or e-mail: Rich Britton, president, at (732) 390-5858, rbritton@whitmanco.com ; or Jerry Cirilli, treasurer, at (201) 794-6900, jcirilli@angan.com)

Apply Now for GeoCorps America 2003 Summer Positions

Student? Professional? Teacher? Retiree? You can work in a National Park or National Forest! Summer 2003 positions are posted on the GeoCorps Website at <http://rock.geosociety.org/geocorps/allJobDescriptions.asp>. Application materials must be sent to GSA and postmarked by Friday, February 7, 2003.

Examples of GeoCorps Projects:

- Research, develop, and present interpretive programs for visitors;
- Develop and lead hands-on educational activities for K-12 students;
- Excavate and prepare fossil specimens;
- Conduct stream surveys and watershed assessments;
- Monitor glacier movement;
- Assess soil compaction, trail conditions, and erosion and sedimentation;
- Map geologic features.

Learn more about the GeoCorps America Program by visiting the following web site:
<http://www.geosociety.org/science/geocorps/>

(From GSA_Mail@geosociety.org. Submitted by HMPGA Secretary Bill Dickerson)

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Upcoming Deadlines

December meeting reservations:	No reservations required
January newsletter:	12/27/02

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