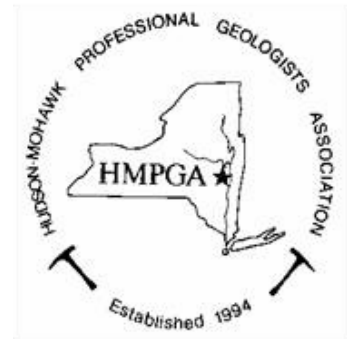


Hudson-Mohawk Professional Geologists' Association

www.hmpga.org



JOIN YOUR FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES AT

The Annual HMPGA Holiday Gathering

When:

Wednesday, December 15, 2004

Where:

205 at the Turf
(off of the Annex Hallway)

Holiday Inn Turf
205 Wolf Road
Colonie

Time:

5:30pm - 7:30pm



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fellow HMPGAvites:

Our November meeting featured an excellent presentation by **Bob Dineen**, who provided a thorough compilation of the glacial stratigraphy of eastern New York State. His talk is posted on our web site for your benefit. Special thanks to Programs Committee Chairperson **Jason Pelton** for his efforts on procuring recognized speakers with appealing topics. It is of no coincidence that our meeting attendance numbers have gradually increased.

Inside the December 2004 Newsletter...

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Wondering what is going on with the Geologists' Licensing Bill? We had an opportunity to get a few of your questions answered by Sam Gowan (see page 4) – interesting stuff. The HMPGA Board of Directors has recently voted to allocate a financial award to NYSCPG's efforts to pass the geologists licensing bill. We invite your comments to this proposed action. Please direct all comments to me. *Our objective is to help make a difference on behalf of issues of significance to our members.* I would also like to thank the twenty members who have volunteered to provide assistance in getting the Geologists' Licensing Bill through the state legislature.

Following our holiday party in December and a nip of the bubbly, we will kick-off 2005 with **Dr. Don Siegel** (Syracuse University) who will present: **"Saratoga Springs - Where does this very carbonated and highly saline water come from?"** This should be an exciting and well-attended discussion. Due to the large number of expected attendees, we are asking you to call early for advance reservations.

Please take a little extra time to appreciate and enjoy your families during this holiday season. To you and yours, have a happy and safe holiday season and a prosperous and bright new year. Slainte!



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About Our Meetings:

December's Board Meeting will be held at:

Calaway Grill
(attached to the Wingate Hotel)
661 Albany Shaker Road, Colonie

Time: 4pm-4:45pm

Join the **Holiday Party** at the
Holiday Inn Turf
205 Wolf Road, Colonie

- Hors D'oeuvres provided by HMPGA
- Cash Bar
- Guests welcome!

Future Meetings:

When: January 19, 2005

Board Meetings will be held at:

Calaway Grill
661 Albany Shaker Road, Colonie

Time: 4pm

Program: Holiday Inn Turf
205 Wolf Road, Colonie

Social Hour 5pm
Dinner 6pm
Program 7pm

Dinner: \$10.00/person for student members
\$22.00/person for members
\$25.00/person for non-members

Notes: Vegetarian or fish meals are available with prior request. Individual will be responsible for the cost of dinner unless a cancellation notice is received 2 hours prior to the meeting. Walk-ins will be charged an additional \$2.00.

Reservations: Please call or e-mail Diane Welch at (518) 348-6995 or dwelch@alphageoscience.com by the previous **Wednesday**. Please register even if you only intend on attending the talk. Thank you in advance!

Interested in advertising in the HMPGA newsletter?
Contact Mark Williams at (518) 899-5243 or
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TESTING

Next Newsletter Deadline:
January 3, 2005

Send MS Word documents via e-mail to
mary_millus@urscorp.com

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

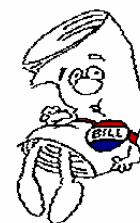
Geologist Licensing: Questions and Answers!

Prologue: NYSCPG is the state-wide organization that was formed to seek licensing for geologists and to promote public awareness of our profession. NYSCPG greatly appreciates the support by HMPGA and all our other regional geology associations. Our national society, AIPG, particularly the Northeast Section of AIPG, has also been a significant and continuing supporter. In actuality, NYSCPG is a creation of our local group in Syracuse (CNYAPG) and is staffed by representatives from the various groups and AIPG. The financial, moral and participant support from HMPGA and the other regional groups is absolutely necessary for the survival of NYSCPG and the success of the licensing effort.

HMPGA, through the efforts of President Mark Williams, has asked NYSCPG to answer five questions to keep HMPGA members apprised of the importance of licensing and the progress of the effort. These questions and responses are as follows:

Why Licensing?

This, of course, is the fundamental question that we must address within ourselves and then to the legislators before we can reach our goal. *We should all reflect on the fact that geology affects the health and welfare of everyone's lives through the availability of clean water, energy resources, and mineral resources.* Geology is also an important aspect in the stability of man-made structures. These important elements of our lives are hidden from view, and geologists are uniquely qualified through training and experience to characterize and understand these geologic elements. This is where the problems begin.



The problems arise due to the fact that the public, which is often guided by community governments, regulators and political action groups, seeks professionals to address geologic issues. Unfortunately, geologists are not recognized as professionals in New York; consequently, the public seeks licensed professionals from other disciplines. This can lead to the types of disasters such as the Thruway bridge collapse over the Schoharie Creek. We are all familiar with this and other disasters, and I am certain that we all have other personal experiences with inappropriate “geologic” work conducted by non-geologists.

“Unfortunately, geologists are not recognized as professionals in New York...”

One of my many personal experiences is with the “geologic work” conducted by a non-geologist, but a recognized expert in the environmental field. The individual was an expert in the field of health and safety. I was asked to rely on the “geologic” logs prepared by this individual for a legal case. The logs described several feet of varved silt and clay overlying a buried “railroad tie”. Needless to say, I refused to support his findings despite the fact that

we represented the same client. The public did not have a well defined basis for determining which expert was correct in this situation. This is one simple example of the kind of situations that the HMPGA membership has experienced many times.

The need for licensing was hammered in my brain several years ago when a group of geologists met with others in a working group with the NYSDEC to develop guidance on the appropriate professionals who are qualified to conduct work for the state on projects involving municipal waste, hazardous waste, petroleum contamination and water supply. The session was attended by many that included politicians and a public interest lobbying organization (NYPIRG). A geologist recommended that geologists should have a significant role in these projects since many aspects of the subject works are directly related to geology. The NYPIRG representative immediately responded that work on these sensitive projects by nonprofessionals would not be allowed and that only licensed professionals could protect the public's interest. The representative from the state education department then pointed out to the group that geologists are not licensed professionals and are not accountable by law.

It is clear to me, and should be to you, that geologists need to be recognized as professionals in the state of New York. In an increasingly litigious society and with the demand for greater accountability, licensing is the only realistic means of becoming recognized as professionals. *The public clearly demands this condition before the important work of geologists*

is accepted; without it, the public will choose to rely on non-geologists who are professionally licensed. Furthermore, the federal (USEPA) and state (NYSDEC) regulatory bodies are moving progressively toward requiring licensed or registered professionals. For example, the USEPA will be requiring a licensed geologist, a registered geologist, or a related licensed professional, for investigation work during Phase I environmental assessments. We can sit back and watch this happen or we can prepare ourselves by pushing forward for a license in New York. There is no reason to expect these trends to reverse. On the contrary, it is reasonable to expect incursion into other areas of our work, such as mining, that has been relatively free from professional requirements. I do not think it is prudent to sit by and wait for this to happen.

Why License Geologists?

The purpose of licensing geologists is to provide a mechanism to establish minimum criteria for who qualifies as a professional geologist and to provide a mechanism through which the public can identify an appropriate individual and hold that professional accountable for a given task. This purpose has the two-fold objective of recognizing geologists as professionals and improving the level of competency within the profession. This is the same status granted to recognized professionals with whom geologists routinely interact.

What is the current status of the licensing bills in the State Assembly and the State Senate? Furthermore, what makes this upcoming year different than others?

A new legislative session starts in January. The significance of this is that the Senate and Assembly licensing bills, along with all pending legislation that did not pass in 2004, will start fresh in each house as newly minted bills that must go through bill drafting and all of the appropriate committees. This is not an issue since we have been down this path before. We certainly do not expect any difficulty in the Senate where our bill has passed successively on three previous occasions.

"...this is the first time in ten years that the Assembly has expressed any real interest in working with us on our bill."

This year is different in the Assembly where we were finally successful in catching the interest of the Assembly leadership. The bill has been given an internal "nod" of approval to move forward with modifications. We are in the process of negotiating those modifications before the bill goes into drafting. Although we have many supporters in the Assembly, this is the first time in ten years that the Assembly has expressed any real interest in working with us on our bill. Of course, any modifications in the Assembly version will need approval by the Senate.

What are the stumbling blocks?

The current stumbling blocks in the Assembly version of the bill revolve around the professional status of geologists and the educational experience requirements. The Assembly version of the bill, which was introduced in June 2004, removed the word "professional" and relegated the practice of geology to assisting individual home owners and clients with less than 50 employees. We were successful, thanks to the efforts at a lobbying day in June, to remove the client limitations. We are still working on making sure that the bill is for licensing geologists as "professionals."

The educational requirement is focused on the Assembly's desire to require a master degree, (M.S.), which the Assembly recently required for school teachers. The M.S. requirement is unacceptable and is not consistent with the educational requirements in New York for the related professions of engineering, surveying and landscape architecture. Furthermore, there is no M.S. requirement for geologists and related professions in any other state. We will be working diligently to remove this issue.

"...there is no M.S. degree required for geologists and related professionals in any other state."

What can HMPGA members do to help?

HMPGA members can do many things to help. This includes becoming a member of NYSCPG. It is very important that we have a strong membership in NYSCPG to show strength to the Assembly.

Another very important source of help is through contacts with your local representatives. We anticipate a letter/email/phone contact campaign in early January as we start the bill moving through the committees. Please stay tuned for a call to action. You can certainly make contact even if there is no immediate call to action!

HMPGA is uniquely positioned within the state to provide direct contact with the legislature. We have many local Assembly sponsors and Assembly member Canestrari is a local representative who chairs the important Higher Education Committee. Assembly member Canestrari is the key individual, besides Assembly member Silver, that controls the movement of the licensing bill. We will hold a critical lobby day during the NYSCPG annual meeting at the end of January. It will be very important for HMPGA members, particularly those from Canestrari's District, to participate on lobby day and speak directly with Canestrari to insist on his support. The Assembly members respond very positively to their constituents and your personal contact is invaluable.

The last, but not least, means of help to the licensing effort is through financial support to NYSCPG. NYSCPG must retain and rely on lobbyists. This is critical to the process. NYSCPG is very thankful for the substantial contributions by HMPGA and its membership.

Thank you for your time and support.

Sam Gowan, President of NYSCPG and member of HMPGA



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DECEMBER events::...

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 RPI Colloquium “New Techniques for Imaging and Analysis of Planetary Materials at the Microscale: A study of Martain Aqueous Precipitates” Dr. Ed Vicenzi from the Smithsonian Institute RPI at 4pm RSVP due to Dan Reilly for AWMA Presentation on December 15	2	3	4 Dinosaur Holiday Party! At PRI Ithaca, NY (See Announcement)
5	6 Hudson River Environmental Society and Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve “Rising Chloride Concentrations in Tributaries of the Hudson Estuary” Holiday Inn, Kingston, NY 9am-4pm Variety of Speakers (See Announcement)	7 AWWA Webcast Presentation: “Public Communications on Lead in Drinking Water” (See Announcement)	8 RSVP to Diane Welch for upcoming HMPGA Party!	9 RPI Colloquium Special Session “The Composition of the Earth’s Core and Core-Mantle Exchange” Bill McDonough from the University of Maryland RPI at 4pm	10	11
12 NGWA Groundwater Conference and Exposition Las Vegas, NV (See Announcement)	13	14 Philadelphia AEG Meeting “Investigation and Remediation of MTBE Plume in Long Island, New York” Joe Hass of the NYSDEC in the Victorian Manor Edison, NJ at 8pm Deadline for GSA abstracts due to Skip Delclos (See Announcement)	15 HMPGA HOLIDAY PARTY! Holiday Inn Turf 205 at the Turf 5:00 pm AWMA Presentation: “The NYSDEC Focus & Initiatives for 2005” Erin Crotty, DEC Commissioner Holiday Inn Turf at 12 noon	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

JANUARY events....
JANUARY events....

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 <i>Deadline for entries submitted to Mary Millus for the January HMPGA Newsletter!</i>	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 <i>RSVP to Diane Welch for upcoming HMPGA Meeting!</i>	13	14	15
16	17	18 ESWWDA Annual Meeting The Beeches Inn and Conference Center Rome, NY <i>(See Announcement)</i>	19 HMPGA PRESENTATION: “Saratoga Springs - Where Does this very Carbonated and Highly Saline Water Come From?” Don Siegel from Syracuse University Holiday Inn Turf at 7pm	20	21	22
23 AWWA Symposium January 23-26 Palm Beach Gardens, Florida <i>(See Announcement)</i>	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Announcements

- **RISING CHLORIDE CONCENTRATIONS IN TRIBUTARIES OF THE HUDSON ESTUARY**

Date and Time: **December 6, 2004** from 9am-4pm

Place: Holiday Inn, Kingston, NY

RSFVP: For registration information contact **Mr. Stephen Wilson**, Hudson River Environmental Society at (518) 861-8020 or revisit our website (hres@nycap.rr.com) to check for a downloadable registration form.

For conference content information contact **Emilie Hauser**, Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve at (845) 758-7021 (eehauser@gw.dec.state.ny.us).

This conference will explore long-term trends in Hudson River tributaries, ecosystem effects, fate and transport in ground and surface waters, and source determination in aquatic environments. The realities and challenges of NYS DOT's road salt and de-icing practices will provide a management and safety perspective. Speakers Include:

Marlene Evans, Research Scientist at Environment Canada, *Road salt and its effects on aquatic ecosystems: a Canadian Environmental Protection Act Assessment*

Paul Heisig, Hydrologist, United States Geological Survey Water Resources Division: NY District, *Chloride concentrations in stream base flow and road-salt usage - Croton and Pepacton watersheds, New York*

Doug Heath, Hydrogeologist, EPA New England, *Road Salt Impacts to Lakes and Streams from Interstate 93 and Adjacent Roads in Southern New Hampshire*

Jeanne Hewitt, Section Head, NYS Department of Transportation Environmental Analysis Bureau, Hazardous Waste / Groundwater Section, *Preserving Safety with Salt: NYS DOT's Snow and Ice Control Operations*

Margaret Novak and Robert Bode, NYSDEC Division of Water, *30-year Trends in Water Quality of Hudson River Tributaries*

Serena Ciparis, Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve,

Sasha F. Hafner, Cornell University, *Long term trends in sodium and chloride in the Mohawk River, New York: the effect of fifty years of road-salt application*

- **DINOSAUR HOLIDAY PARTY AT THE PALEONTOLOGICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

Crafts and activities!

Date and Time: **December 4, 2004** from 11am – 2pm

1259 Trumansburg Road, Ithaca, NY

Phone: (607) 273-6623

Check out PRI's website for details: www.priweb.org

Announcements (Cont.)

- **CAPITAL DISTRICT BREAKFAST CLUB AND THE AIR AND WATE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION (AWMA) LUNCH MEETING**

Topic: NYSDEC's Focus and Initiative for 2004
Speaker: Erin Crotty, NYSDEC Commissioner
Date and Time: **Wednesday, December 15, 2004**
Location: Holiday Inn Turf, Wolf Road, Colonie
Cost: \$20.00
RSVP: Contact Dan Reilly of C.T. Male Associates, P.C.
P.O. Box 727, Latham, NY 12110
(518) 786-7400

Check out the Capital District Environmental Breakfast Club website:
www.youngsommer.com/CM/Custom/TOCEnvironmentalBreakfastClub.asp

- **THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA (GSA)**

The NE Sectional Meeting is in Saratoga Springs, New York on **March 14-16, 2005**. HMPGA Board Member Skip Delclos is chairing a session entitled "Careers in Professional Geology: Highlights for Students and Academics" and is looking for qualified individuals in professional geology to submit abstracts. In particular, we are looking for individuals in consulting, regulatory agencies, mining, and environmental fields that use geology on a consistent basis.

The Abstract deadline is **December 14, 2004**. Please submit all abstracts for this session to **Skip Delclos** at Delclos5@aol.com.

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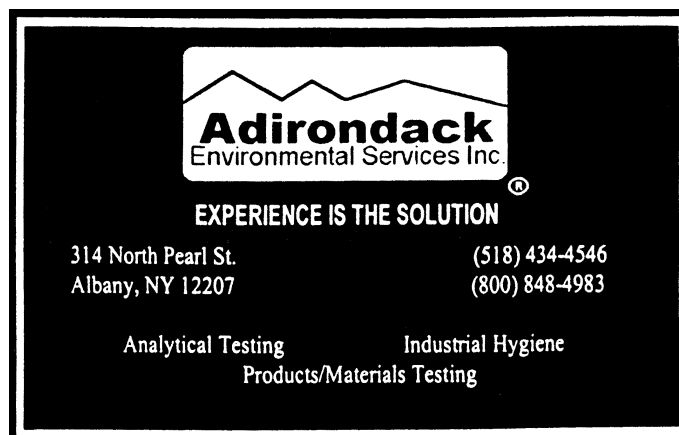
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Announcements (Cont.)

- **NATIONAL GROUNDWATER ASSOCIATION (NGWA) GROUNDWATER CONFERENCE AND EXPOSITION**

Date and Time: **December 12-15, 2004**
Where: Las Vegas Hilton, Las Vegas, Nevada
RSVP: NGWA
601 Dempsey Road
Westerville, Ohio 43018
Phone: (614) 898-7791 Fax: (614) 798-1657
E-mail: customerservice@ngwa.org

Check out the NGWA Website for more information: www.ngwa.org



- **EMPIRE STATE WATER WELL DRILLER'S ASSOCIATION (ESWWDA) ANNUAL MEETING WITH TABLETOP DISPLAYS**

Date and Time: **January 18-19, 2005**
Where: The Beeches Inn and Conference Center, Rome, NY
RSVP: Ed or Carol Bates
Lee Bates and Sons Well Drilling
900 North James Street
Rome, NY
Phone: (315) 337-2560 Fax: (315) 336-4075

Check out the ESWWDA Website: www.nywelldriller.org

Announcements (Cont.)

- **AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION (AWWA)**

Webcast--Public Communications on Lead in Drinking Water

Date and Time: **December 7, 2004** for 90 minutes

1:00–2:30 pm (Eastern)
12 noon–1:30 pm (Central)
11:00 am– 12:30 pm (Mountain)
10:00–11:30 am (Pacific)

Because customers and media are looking for information from their local utilities, AWWA has lined up a panel of experts to address the issues facing utilities. To make attendance easy for a widespread audience, AWWA will deliver the forum through a webcast December 7 at 1pm ET.

Speakers include Yone Akagi, Regulatory Compliance Supervisor with the Portland (Ore.) Water Bureau, Jonathan Yeo, communications director for the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, J. Paul Blake, communications director for Seattle Public Utilities, Jim Taft from the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators, and Denise Clifford, Director, Office of Drinking Water with the WA state Department of Health.

Source Water Protection Symposium

Date and Time: **January 23-26, 2005**
Where: Palm Beach Gardens Marriott Hotel, Palm Beach Gardens, Florida
RSVP: Register on-line at www.awwa.org
AWWA's Customer Service Group
6666 West Quincy Avenue
Denver, CO 80235-3098
(303) 347-0804

Help Wanted at Siena College:

Siena College will have an opening to teach one introductory earth science class for the Spring 2005 semester. The course is designed primarily for students not majoring in the sciences; about 30 students are expected for the class.

Requirements: A masters degree is required, and we would prefer either additional education or extensive work experience in relevant areas.

Contact: Interested individuals should contact **Dr. James Booker**, Environmental Studies Program Director at **(518) 783-2929**, or by email at jbooker@siena.edu.

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