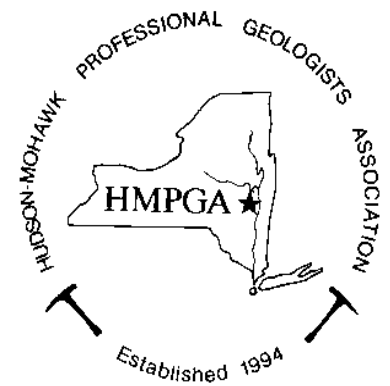


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*December Newsletter*

[www.hmpga.org](http://www.hmpga.org)



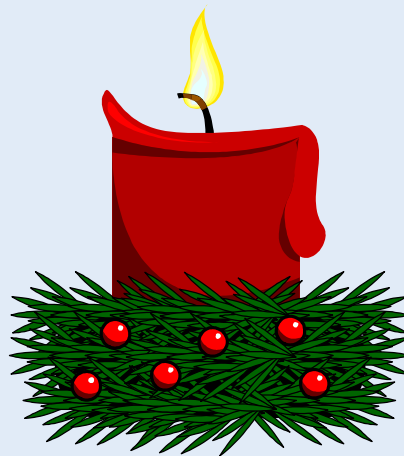
**DECEMBER 19, 2007**

**THE HMPGA ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY**

at the  
Calaway Grill in the Wingate Hotel  
661 Albany Shaker Road, Colonie

**Hors D'oeuvres provided by HMPGA**  
(Cash Bar)

Family and Friends are Welcome.  
Please see party cost and details inside this Newsletter issue  
and as noted in the President's Message.



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## Inside the December 2007 Newsletter

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HMPGA sponsors, coordinates, and participates in events to help educate the community and its members with respect to geological or geotechnical issues. Events include regular meetings with evening dinners and guest speakers. Other events include workshops, short courses, or field excursions. If you have questions, comments, or suggestions for our organization, please contact a HMPGA Officer or Board Member.

### December's Holiday Party Information:

**When:** December 19, 2007

#### **Schedule:**

### **Calaway Grill**

*The Saratoga Room*  
(attached to the Wingate Hotel)  
661 Albany Shaker Road, Colonie

Board Meeting	4:00pm
Holiday Party	5:00pm

#### **Party Event Cost:**

Free to members and their guest  
\$15.00/person for non-members  
\$25.00/couple for non-members

#### **Note:**

Please update your membership before the party, or at the door of the party on December 19<sup>th</sup>!

See you soon at the Holiday Party!





## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Holiday Greetings!

This past week I had the pleasure of attending the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Science Fair at the Caroline St. Elementary School in Saratoga Springs. My daughter Hannah is in 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade, and this year was her first opportunity to participate in the Science Fair, which she eagerly chose to do. And of course I was a very proud Dad when Hannah quickly declared that her project was going to be about geology! Because the parents are only supposed to offer their children guidance and support in choosing a project (as opposed to doing the project which I fear that some parents are guilty of), I suggested that she learn about the three different rock types and how they are formed. Our "experiment" consisted of making layered sandstone in a water bottle using spackle, sand, and food coloring (to help in distinguishing the various layers). Hannah then wrote a brief description regarding how igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rocks are formed, listed some of the well known rocks from each group, and their common uses. I thought she did a great job for an 8-year old and got a valuable introduction to geology. When I got to the science fair I was further encouraged by the fact that there were no less than 10 other projects that were geology related, including a few projects regarding global warming. It was really neat to see such a keen interest in geology and the earth sciences from 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> graders!

My observations at the Caroline St. Elementary School Science Fair, coupled with the great crowd that we had at our November dinner meeting, have only added to my enthusiasm that the profession of geology is alive and well in the Capital District region. As I announced at the November meeting, the HMPGA Board is currently requesting suggestions, input, cool geology photos, etc., from fellow members for the eventual creation of one or more power point presentations that will be available for use by HMPGA members that wish to give a presentation at a Career Day at a local elementary, middle school, and/or high school. I feel that if we all make a commitment to step up our outreach efforts in this regard, we can collectively make a noticeable difference that will hopefully result in both immediate and long term impacts.

There will be no speaker at our December meeting, as we will be having our **Annual Holiday Gathering**. Therefore, please come and join your fellow HMPGA members at **5:00 p.m. on December 19<sup>th</sup> at the Calaway Grill** as we meet to enjoy each other's company, eat delicious hors d'oeuvres, and imbibe a few cold beverages. The holiday gathering is free of charge for HMPGA members who have paid their dues for 2007-2008, although you must pay for your own beverages. In a concerted effort to be fair to those HMPGA members that have paid their annual dues (and to encourage those of you who haven't yet paid your dues to do so), the following guidelines will be in effect for the festivities on the 19<sup>th</sup>:

- 1) Paid members are invited to bring one guest at no additional cost.
- 2) Members who have not paid their dues are encouraged to do so prior to the party (Dec. 19) or at the door and may bring one guest at no additional charge.
- 3) Non-members are welcome and encouraged to attend at a cost of \$15 per person/\$25 per couple.

I look forward to seeing you at 5:00 p.m. on **December 19th** at the Calaway Grill!

Steve Le Fevre

*Managing Geologist with Barton & Loguidice, P.C. in Albany*





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# Climate Change 101: Water and climate change

By Elizabeth Humbert

Special to The Ithaca Journal: Life Science & Environment Section

## How will it affect us?

Often the first thing we think of, when faced with the vision of climate change, is rising sea levels. Increasing temperatures influence sea level by melting polar ice caps, but they also change the way water moves through various earth systems in our region. With a complex series of interactions, climate change could cause major changes not only in sea level, but also in regional precipitation, evaporation, groundwater supply and river or lake systems.

Sea level change is not a new thing. Between 20,000 and 10,000 years ago, the end of earth's last major ice age, sea level rose about 700 feet. This same scenario is seen cyclically throughout the geologic record. At various times of glacial development, sea level would drop, because a tremendous amount of water was frozen in ice sheets. As the earth began to warm, the huge glaciers melted, and sea level began to rise. By around 10,000 years ago, much of the most recent melting was complete. Interestingly, scientific records show a relatively stable sea level during the development of major human civilization. This is important because we see that many of the world's great cities are along the coasts, mainly due to availability of resources and access to global trade. Many of these cities would therefore be devastated by a sea level rise.

## Predictions

Current predictions of sea level rise are intricately dependent on predictions of and interactions between temperature change and melting of polar ice caps. This means that identifying specific sea level change numbers over the next 100 years is incredibly difficult. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Third Assessment Report from 2001 has predicted an increase of 0.5 to 2.5 feet by the year 2100. Doesn't sound like much? Maps drawn up by the Institute for the Study of Planet Earth at the University of Arizona in Tucson, show that a 3-foot rise in sea level would swamp cities all along eastern U.S. seaboard. By 2050, New York City could experience storms and hurricanes that would allow sea water to flood Lower Manhattan, southern Brooklyn and Queens, as well as Staten and Coney Island.

## Upstate Effects

So where does this leave regional Upstate New York? We won't be inundated by rising sea levels, but the way water exists and moves through our area could be greatly impacted. It is incredibly difficult to predict climate change — even a minor interaction between various earth systems can change the predicted outcome dramatically. Water resources are affected by many different things: rising sea level, changes in precipitation, temperature, humidity, wind, and sunshine are just a few.

EPA Scientists believe that as upstate New York warms, we could see a drier climate overall, with more chance of extreme weather events. Although the average amount of annual precipitation won't change, we may get drier because of increased evaporation due to higher summer temperatures. These same problems could create longer and more frequent droughts. Interestingly, it is expected that our winter precipitation is expected to increase by 15-20 percent while our summer precipitation is expected to decrease by 5-10 percent. With all these changes in the seasonal precipitation cycle and increased evaporation, lake levels could lower, impacting marshlands, wildlife, and human recreation. Another of the effects of warming on Central New York is more intense precipitation events. With more hot days comes the likelihood of more violent thunderstorms, hail storms, and localized tornadoes. These are not uncommon to this area, but they could become part of our landscape rather than the occasional anomaly.

continued...



...continued

Humans have built lives and civilizations around water accessibility. We use water for basic needs, transportation, and agriculture, and it is a resource that is taken for granted. In coming years, with changes to our current water cycle, we will be forced to adapt to increasing sea levels and conversely, increased scarcity of fresh water. Conservation of this resource begins now!

Consider how you can lessen your water use.... Check out our tips for inspiration!

*The Paleontological Research Institution (PRI) and its Museum of the Earth's Climate Change 101 series will appear monthly in the Wednesday Life Science and Environment Section of the Ithaca Journal. Check out our blog for weekly updates on IthacaJournal.com. Elizabeth Humbert is Education Resources Manager at PRI's Museum of the Earth.*

## Are you into Blogging?

## The Paleontological Research Institute and the Museum of Earth welcomes you to their Global Climate Project.



The goal of their website is to collect and synthesize available information on global change and present it in a straightforward, unbiased, easily-accessed format for scientists, educators, students, and members of the public. Much information is available on the internet and in the media about the important subject of global change, and it can be difficult to sift through. This site is a resource for those wishing to educate themselves and others so that as individuals and citizens we can make informed choices and learn to live more lightly on the planet.

Voice your opinions, concerns, questions, and comments on their Blog: [www.climatechange101.blogspot.com](http://www.climatechange101.blogspot.com)

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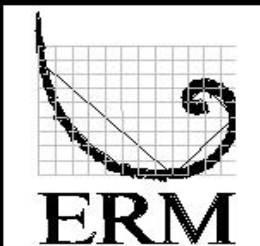
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University of Texas, San Antonio  
February 27, 28, 29, 2008

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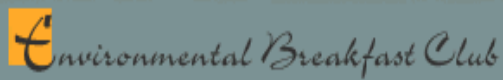
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Northern Illinois University Naperville Extension Campus and Fermilab  
May 6, 7, 8, 2007





### **CAPITAL DISTRICT BREAKFAST CLUB PRESENTATIONS:**

The Capital District Environmental Breakfast Club is an informal group of environmental professionals that meets monthly to discuss current environmental issues. Each meeting features a speaker on a topic of interest, a regulatory update, and an open forum. Meetings are held on the first Friday of each month except July and August.

The Environmental Breakfast Club meets at the Holiday Inn Turf on Wolf Road in Colonie, New York. Meetings start at 7:30 am. The cost is \$12 per person, which includes a full breakfast buffet.

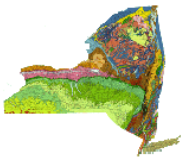
You can find out more details about the Capital District Environmental Breakfast Club at their website:  
[www.youngsommer.com/CM/Custom/TOCEnvironmentalBreakfastClub.asp](http://www.youngsommer.com/CM/Custom/TOCEnvironmentalBreakfastClub.asp)



### **Buffalo Association of Professional Geologists (BAPG)**

The BAPG conducts regular membership meetings on the third Wednesday of the month, January through June and September through November. Meetings feature distinguished speakers and interesting topics. Field trips and technical seminars sponsored by the BAPG encourage the exchange of scholarship and expertise.

Visit [www.bapg.org](http://www.bapg.org) for more information!



### **Central NY Association of Professional Geologists (CNYAPG)**

The CNYAPG conducts regular meetings on the second Thursday of each month from September to May. Meetings feature dinner and distinguished speakers whose presentations invite comment and discussion.

Visit [www.cnyapg.org](http://www.cnyapg.org) for details!



### **LONG ISLAND ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS**

The Long Island Association of Professional Geologists (LIAPG) is a not-for-profit professional organization dedicated to the professional and business needs of geologists located in the Long Island / Metro New York area.

To contact members or view upcoming events sponsored by the LIAPG, go to their website:  
[www.lipg.org](http://www.lipg.org)





## AIR AND WASTE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION (AWMA) NORTHEAST SECTION:

The Mid-Atlantic States Section of the Air and Waste Management Association (MASS-A&WMA) is a professional non-profit association of engineers and scientists working in the environmental field, with a particular focus on issues related to air and waste. The Association strives to provide an opportunity to enhance the profession by providing opportunities for its members to network with other professionals.

Visit the AWMA website for information on professional activities and updated news!

[www.mass-awma.net](http://www.mass-awma.net)



## THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA (GSA)

The GSA strives to be a leader in advancing the geosciences, while enhancing the professional growth of its members, and promoting the geosciences in the service of humankind.

Discover events and information on their website: [www.geosociety.org](http://www.geosociety.org)



## New York State Museum

The **New York State Museum** is a major research and educational institution. It is dedicated to promoting inquiry and advancing knowledge in the fields of geology, biology, anthropology, and history, through the investigation of material evidence germane to New York State's past, present and future.

For information on upcoming exhibits visit: [www.nysm.nysed.gov](http://www.nysm.nysed.gov).



## New York State Council of Professional Geologists

*The **NYSCPG** strives to strengthen and advance the geologic sciences as a profession, promote the protection of public health and welfare and the environment through the professional practice of geologic sciences, and create high standards of ethical conduct among its members and within the profession of geology, as well as the legal standing of geologists and their ability to practice geology in New York State by promoting the licensing of geologists in New York State through statutory regulation.*

To learn more about supporting the licensure of professional geologists in NYS, visit: [www.nyscp.org](http://www.nyscp.org)





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