

# Hudson-Mohawk Professional Geologists' Association

*February Newsletter*

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



**February 15, 2006**

## The 2006 Cadwell Lecture “AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION: AN ART OR SCIENCE?”

**Abstract:** Is Aerial Photographic interpretation an art or a science? Perhaps it's both, though its foundation in science has greatly aided in the applicability to the natural sciences. Air photographic interpretation allegedly started as a military reconnaissance tool during the Civil War, but agricultural and geological professionals quickly caught on to the beneficial application for natural resource assessments and geologic investigations. Geologic applications in the past few years have focused on techniques for locating water resources and flow paths in bedrock (fracture trace analysis) and for analyzing the historical activities at hazardous waste sites or other sites involved in disputes and litigation. Air photographic interpretation linked with other historical information has been a valuable tool in developing the history of waste disposal at Love Canal, the Hylebos Waterway in Tacoma Washington and many other local and national sites.

### *About the Speaker*

*Sam Gowan is one of the Co-Founders and a Past President of HMPGA. Sam is President of Alpha Geoscience where he is currently working on the assessment of ground water conditions for a variety of water resource and site development projects, the evaluation of mineral resources, the characterization and remediation of brine contamination of ground water, and assessment of historical data regarding property and resource damages. He has extensive experience in geologic and hydrogeologic investigations and in the interpretation of air photographs. He is a certified professional geologist (AIPG); has a license or registration in Geology in PA, TX, MO, and IL; and he is the immediate Past President of the New York State Council of Professional Geologists.*

## Inside the February 2006 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.

### **FEBRUARY'S Meeting and Event Information:**

**When:** February 15, 2006

**Schedule:**

**Calaway Grill**  
**The Saratoga Room**  
(attached to the Wingate Inn)  
254 Wolf Road, Latham

|                |        |
|----------------|--------|
| Board Meeting  | 4:30pm |
| Social Hour    | 5pm    |
| Dinner         | 6pm    |
| Program (free) | 7pm    |

#### **Dinner:**

\$10.00/person for student members  
\$20.00/person for members  
\$22.00/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 24 hours prior to the meeting. Walk-ins will be charged an additional \$2.00.

**Reservations:** Reservations are required for dinner attendance. Call or e-mail Diane Welch at (518) 348-6995 or [dwelch@alphageoscience.com](mailto:dwelch@alphageoscience.com) by noon on **February 15, 2006**. Please register even if you are only attending the Program.

Thank you in advance!



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Greetings fellow HMPGA Members!

For those of you who missed last month's talk, John Delano from the University at Albany, provided us with a captivating account of the origin of sustainable life on Earth, and its prospects elsewhere. John's presentation was so good, and the topic so interesting that by the end of the evening there were many of us who, if we had it to do over again, would be pursuing a career as a planetary geologist. I also note that last week there was news that a planet only 5 times the mass of Earth was recently discovered in another solar system.

This month, Sam Gowan, Alpha Geoscience, will be speaking at the first annual Cadwell Lecture on "Aerial Photographic Interpretation: An Art or a Science?" Given the rapid pace of change currently taking place in the field, I'm sure that Sam's talk will be both timely and inspiring. It will also serve to honor the memory of Don Cadwell and his many contributions to our community of professionals.

Also, a reminder that it is not too soon to sign up for the Vapor Intrusion short course that HMPGA is sponsoring this April.

Regards, Bill

*(Bill Wertz works for the Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Environmental Remediation)*

**February's Newsletter Deadline:**

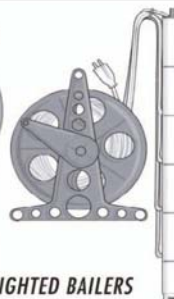
**February 23, 2006**

Send MS Word documents via e-mail to  
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Any content that appears to express an opinion on behalf of HMPGA will be reviewed by the President prior to publication.

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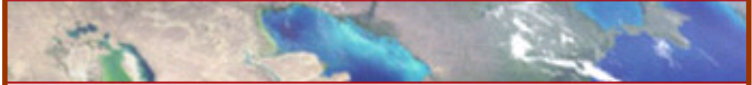
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Saturday and Sunday  
February 25 & 26, 2006  
10AM - 5 PM  
at the  
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EMPIRE STATE PLAZA  
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INFORMATION: 518-474-5877

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## *The 13th Annual James E. Campbell Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show At the New York State Museum*

HMPGA will be hosting a booth at the **New York State Gem & Mineral Show**, which is to be held at the New York State Museum (upstairs on the terrace level).

HMPGA is currently looking for volunteers to help out! If you are interested, please call HMPGA member Tom Ebert at (518) 457-1038 or via e-mail at [TEBERT@dot.state.ny.us](mailto:TEBERT@dot.state.ny.us). The hours are 10:00 to 5:00 each day, with a set-up on Friday evening, and a breakdown on Sunday evening.

**SEE PAGE 6 FOR DETAILS!**



## QUANTITATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS, LLC SCHOLARSHIP

### *The Scholarship*

QEA, LLC is a national environmental engineering and science consulting firm specializing in the investigation and remediation of pollution problems in natural systems. In an effort to foster the education of future professionals in our field, QEA, LLC has founded a scholarship fund to financially assist graduate students in obtaining their graduate level degree. Scholarship awards ranging from \$500 to \$2,000 will be provided to the recipient's college or university for distribution to the recipient for tuition and/or educational supplies (e.g., books).

### *How to Apply*

Interested students may obtain an application and submission information at [www.geallc.com](http://www.geallc.com). Students should submit their applications along with the following:

- Letter(s) of recommendation from professors or employers
- Undergraduate and graduate (if applicable) transcripts
- One page essay describing your educational goals, reasons for selecting your major, future plans, and how this scholarship would help you
- Resume

### *Who Can Apply?*

- Full time graduate students or individuals accepted to a United States graduate school
- Individuals with an undergraduate GPA of B average or higher
- Individuals with a major in: environmental engineering, environmental science, or related majors

### *Application Deadline*

Applications must be received by June 1, 2006. Scholarship will be awarded in Fall 2006.

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# The 13th Annual James E. Campbell Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show

The 13th Annual James Campbell Memorial Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show and Sale will take place on  
**Saturday and Sunday, February 25 and 26, 2006**  
(10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.).

Vendors will display and sell gems, jewelry, minerals, fossils, lapidary equipment, publications and much more. Tours of the mineral and fossil galleries and mineral and fossil identification opportunities will be available for visitors. Lectures will also be held including Dr. Marian Lupulescu, Curator of Geology of the New York State Museum, on What's New in New York Mineralogy and Dr. Ed Landing, New York State Paleontologist, on Earth's oldest trees and a 360 Million year-old log jam in the Catskills The show is co-hosted by the Capital District Mineral Club. Proceeds will fund new acquisitions for the Museum's gem and mineral collection.

**Admission fees:** Saturday and Sunday, February 25 and 26 (New York In Bloom & Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show & Sale: \$5 per adult; children 12 and under free when accompanied by adult. To help prevent delays at the admission areas, groups of 10 or more visitors are asked to please call the Museum in advance (518-486-2011) to arrange for registration and payment options. Group leaders will be given instructions regarding entry to the shows.

**Parking Information:** Pay parking lots are available on either side of the Museum on Friday. After 3 p.m. Friday and throughout the weekend, free, limited parking is available. Additional pay lots available weekend days. Buses may discharge and pick-up passengers at Madison Avenue entrance of New York State Museum, but are required to park in Lincoln Park, which is approximately 4 blocks from the Museum.

Additional information can be sent upon request for tour operators.  
For additional information on either event, please call  
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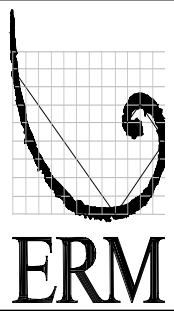


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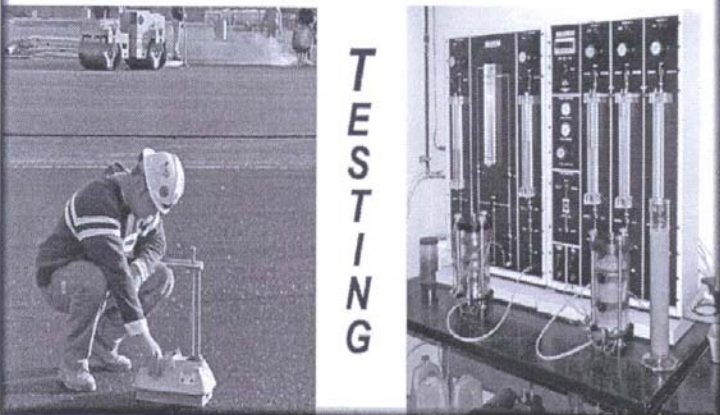
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## Northeastern Science Foundation Dedication to Ebenezer Emmons

On **April 27th at 3 PM** at the rock exposures between Russell Sage dining room and overpass we are going to unveil a plaque in memory of Ebenezer Emmons who was a graduate of Rensselaer in the first class 1826 and one of the first RPI professors. Ebenezer named the Adirondack and Taconic Mountains, and was principally responsible for the transformation of American geology. Through him New York State became the model and standard for the stratigraphic surveys of much of the rest of the United States.

We will have several dignitaries speak and after a small reception we will go to downtown Troy to the building of the Northeastern Science Foundation on 15 Third Street where we shall see an exhibition of papers, books and lecture notes written by Emmons and we also will see the William Smith map ("the Map that changed the World" according to Simon Winchester) which will show the Taconics in England which Emmons described and named in the US. There will be more refreshments and a social.

If you are interested in attending this event, please call the Northeast Science Foundation in advance.

Learn more about the organization by going to their website: [thesciencefoundation.com](http://thesciencefoundation.com)

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The Hamburg Natural History Society, Inc. (HNHS) is searching for a full-time professional natural science educator to work at the Penn Dixie Paleontological and Outdoor Education Center in Hamburg.

HNHS is currently accepting resumes and inquiries for this position with the hopes of filling this full-time position this spring. The following text provides a brief description of the duties and responsibilities.

**Duties:** The Educator will be a full-time professional staff member supporting a variety of activities of the HNHS, but focusing primarily on educational programs at the Penn Dixie Site, and at schools within Western New York. Supported by volunteers, the major goal of this position is to expand educational programs in the natural sciences at the Penn Dixie site for schools, public groups, and visitors. The educator will be working with schools on-site and off-site; community, civic, scout, pre-school, and adult groups; staffing Penn Dixie exhibits at a variety of shows and Special Events; have an opportunity to develop and implement new natural science programs; work and train volunteers; supervise site activities and maintenance; support fundraising events; and participate in the development and growth of a classic geological and natural science outdoor education center. This position will require working on many weekends and adapting to a flexible work schedule.

This is an interesting and diverse opportunity to work with one of the newest and fastest growing outdoor educational centers in New York State. The Penn Dixie Site is a hands-on outdoor educational facility, not a museum. **If you know of anyone that may be interested or qualified for this position, please pass along the attached ad and this email. Thank you.**

**EDUCATOR POSITION INFORMATION:** full-time, natural science educator with background in geology/biology/natural sciences required to support programs at the Penn Dixie Paleontological & Outdoor Education Center in Hamburg, NY and in-school programs. Bachelors degree in natural sciences preferred or equivalent experience. Equal opportunity employer. **Send resume to: Executive Director, Hamburg Natural History Society, P.O. Box 772, Hamburg, NY 14075.**



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The position available will involve the execution and management of Phase I investigations, subsurface investigations, and remedial actions, the supervision of junior staff and contractors, report preparation and client maintenance for financial and industrial clients.

Individuals must have excellent written and oral communication skills and competence in MS Office products.

HRP offers a competitive salary and benefit package. Interested candidates should e-mail a resume to [jeff.sotek@hrpassociates.com](mailto:jeff.sotek@hrpassociates.com) or mail resume to

**HRP Associates, Inc.,  
100 Saratoga Village Boulevard, Suite 27,  
Malta, NY 12020**

Please include relevant project experience and salary requirements. HRP is an EOE.

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- Has offices in Syracuse, NY and Hillsborough, NC to service your needs across the length of the East Coast.
- Provided 2,875 days of drilling services spread among 12 different states in 2005.
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- Offers both environmental and geotechnical drilling services.
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- Has a vac unit for “soft-digging” prior to drilling.
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- Maintains many specialized safety certifications - including LPS for ExxonMobil and Chevron, FRA training for railroad work as well as the standard Hazwopper training for all field employees.



**For more information visit our website at [PWINC.COM](http://PWINC.COM) or call 800-782-7260**





## 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.

### *February's Topic of discussion: Legislative Updates*

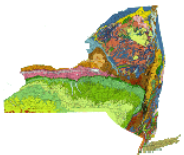
You can find out more details about the Capital District Environmental Breakfast Club at their website:  
[www.youngsommer.com/CM/Custom/TOCEnvironmentalBreakfastClub.asp](http://www.youngsommer.com/CM/Custom/TOCEnvironmentalBreakfastClub.asp)



## 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, featuring distinguished speakers. 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.liapg.org](http://www.liapg.org)



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**HMPGA**  
**P.O. Box 5506**  
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