

Hudson-Mohawk Professional Geologists' Association

January Newsletter

www.hmpga.org



January 18, 2006

"The Origin of Sustainable Life on Earth, and its Prospects Elsewhere: A Geologist's Perspective"

Speaker: John W. Delano, Ph.D. (The University of New York at Albany)

Abstract: The latest geochemical and isotopic data suggest that the environments suitable for the origin of sustainable life on Earth may have been present by approximately 4.3 billion years ago. Although a high frequency of cataclysmic impacts onto Earth (boiling of global oceans) may have continued until approximately 3.8 billion years ago, the most primitive life may have been capable of surviving those extreme conditions. Isotopic dating of impact-produced glasses from the Moon are constraining the bombardment history of the Earth/Moon system. These results along with the latest astronomical data on planets orbiting other stars currently suggest that, while life may be common in the Universe, complex, multicellular life (e.g., "chipmunks") may be rare. Intelligent life may be even more rare (i.e., Earth appears to be an unusual place). Within approximately 15 years from now, data will be available on these latter issues.

About the Speaker

John Delano received his Ph.D. in geochemistry from Stony Brook University (SUNY), and his research has been funded principally by NASA for the last twenty years. He holds the rank of Distinguished Teaching Professor in the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, and the Department of Chemistry, at the University at Albany. Professor Delano is a Principal Investigator in NASA's Exobiology Program, and also an Associate Director of the New York Center for Studies on the Origin of Life (a NASA Specialized Center of Research and Training) with colleagues at RPI. Professor Delano has served on many advisory panels for NASA and the National Science Foundation, and gave invited testimony in 2004 before the President's Commission on NASA's 'Moon, Mars and Beyond' program. He has published 55 professional papers.

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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.

JANUARY'S Meeting and Event Information:

When: January 18, 2006

Schedule:

Calaway Grill
The Saratoga Room
(attached to the Wingate Inn)
661 Albany Shaker Road, Colonie

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 by noon on **January 18, 2006**. Please register even if you are only attending the Program.

Thank you in advance!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings fellow HMPGA Members!

Happy New Year!

This month, John Delano, University at Albany, will discuss the "Origin of Sustainable Life on Earth, and its Prospects Elsewhere: A Geologist's Perspective." John is a Principal Investigator in NASA's Exobiology Program, and also an Associate Director of the New York Center for Studies on the Origin of Life. Judging from the interest expressed by my wife and friends when I mentioned John's presentation, you may want to invite some guests to accompany you to the meeting on January 18th. As an added incentive, the dinner fee for guests will be the same as for members (\$20).

In February, Sam Gowan from Alpha Geoscience will be speaking at the first annual **Cadwell Lecture** on "Aerial Photographic Interpretation: An Art or a Science?" And in March, Don Dwyer and Hank Willems of the NYSDOT will speak on "Cleaning up New York State's Waste Tire Piles."

Please note, it is not too early to make plans to attend this year's HMPGA short course on "Vapor Intrusion." I have attended one of Blayne Hartman's short courses in the past, and I'm sure you will be pleased with your decision to attend. Blayne is one of the pioneers in the field and has many years of practical experience. He is also a very good lecturer.

Regards,
Bill

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

February's Newsletter Deadline:

January 26, 2006

Send MS Word documents via e-mail to
mmillus@continentalplacer.com

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

Frank J. Williams, P.G.

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Dr. Donald Cadwell (CPG-9087) Retires from the New York State Geological Survey

After twenty-six years of service, Dr. Donald Cadwell has retired from the New York State Geological Survey. Prior to his tenure at the NYSGS, he was an earth science teacher in White Plains High School and professor of geology at Lafayette College and Appalachian State University. He also offered geologic consulting services while working in academia. Don's professional interests involved Pleistocene geology, environmental geology, and geomorphology.

When he came to the Survey he began to work on a statewide map of the glacial geology, as none existed at the time. Don organized a team of glacial geologists, mostly from academia, to map the state. Working with this group, the first map of the surficial geology of New York ever produced was published in five sheets between 1986 and 1991. Don was author or co-author on each sheet. While doing this, Don kept up a research program in Alaska dealing with pro-glacial landforms in front of the Bering Glacier as analogs to post-glacial New York. For several years in the 1990s, he organized and ran a research program on the seismic behavior of the glacial materials of the state. The data were provided to the New York State Office of Emergency Management for the purpose of mapping seismic risk across New York.

Don will be remembered as a long term member of the HMPGA Board of Directors. He assembled HMPGA's first membership directory and maintained and published it annually for several years. At the summer HMPGA-sponsored gatherings at Thacher Park and Petrified Gardens, Don could always be found at the barbeque grill cooking burgers and hot dogs for the membership. Generally, he could be relied upon to provide assistance wherever HMPGA needed help.

For the past five years, Don was the leader in the New York State Museum's summer workshop for secondary school earth science teachers. This intensive, five-day, program prepares high school teacher of earth science to better understand the geologic processes and the geology of New York. Teachers from virtually all of New York's counties have attended the program. By teaching 150 teachers, Don has had an enormous impact on earth science students across the state. Overall, Don Cadwell was a great asset for the local geological community, as those of us who frequently called upon his expertise can attest. His advise was always wise and freely given. His shoes, not withstanding the fact that they are size sixteen, will be hard to fill at the NYSGS.

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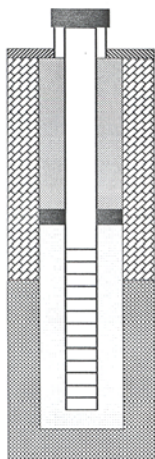
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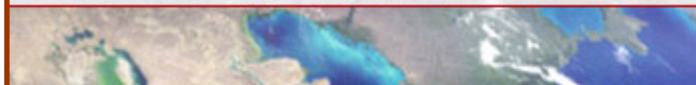
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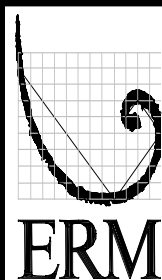
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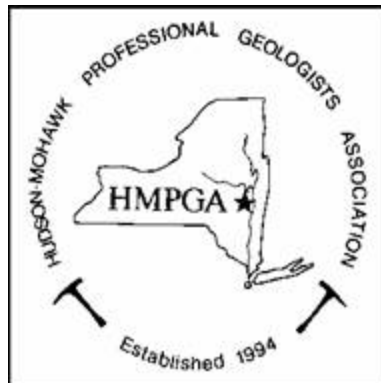
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AGENDA

SOIL VAPOR MONITORING, VAPOR INTRUSION, AND INDOOR AIR: A WORKSHOP



APRIL 18, 2006

**~Crossgates Banquet House~
Rapp Road & Washington Avenue Extension
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COURSE OUTLINE

- 7:30am – 8:30am** **TRAINING COURSE REGISTRATION AND COFFEE**
- 8:30am – 8:45am** **WELCOMING REMARKS AND INTRODUCTION**
- 8:30am – 10:30am** **PART 1 – OVERVIEW OF VAPOR INTRUSION**
Blayne Hartman; H&P Mobile Geochemistry
- What is it?
 - Why Do You Care About It?
 - When Should You Care About It?
 - At What Sites/Conditions Need You Care About It?
- PART 2 – PRINCIPLES OF VAPOR MOVEMENT**
Blayne Hartman; H&P Mobile Geochemistry
- Brief Review of Vapor Movement in the Subsurface
⇒ Fick's Law & Vapor Diffusion
⇒ Rates of Movement
 - Henry's Law Constants & How to Use them
 - Alpha Factors... What are they? How to use them?
- 10:30am – 11:00am** **BREAK**
- 11:00am – 12:00pm** **PART 3 – REVIEW OF FEDERAL & STATE GUIDANCE**
Blayne Hartman; H&P Mobile Geochemistry
- 12:00pm – 1:00pm** **LUNCH** (provided)
- 1:00pm – 2:00pm** **PART 4 – METHODS TO ASSESS UPWARD VAPOR RISK**
Blayne Hartman; H&P Mobile Geochemistry
- Indoor Air Measurement
 - Modeling
 - Soil Vapor Surveys
- 2:00pm – 2:30pm** **BREAK**

COURSE OUTLINE (Continued)

2:30pm – 3:45pm

PART 5 – SOIL GAS SAMPLING & ANALYSIS METHODS

Blayne Hartman; H&P Mobile Geochemistry

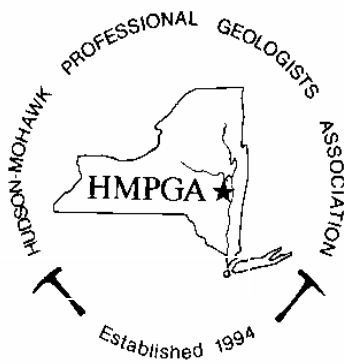
- An Overview of Soil Gas Methods
 - ⇒ Passive Soil Gas
 - ⇒ Flux Chambers
 - ⇒ Active Soil Gas
- Details of Active Soil Gas Surveys
 - ⇒ Sampling & Analysis Issues
 - ⇒ Spatial Sampling Strategy
 - ⇒ Vertical Sampling Strategy
 - ⇒ Sub-slab vs. Near-Slab Sampling
- Demonstration of Soil Gas Sample Collection

3:45pm – 4:30pm

PART 6 – MITIGATION METHODS

Blayne Hartman; H&P Mobile Geochemistry

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS



**SOIL VAPOR MONITORING, VAPOR INTRUSION, AND
INDOOR AIR: A WORKSHOP**

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DATE: **Tuesday, April 18, 2006**
8:30 AM - 5:00 PM
Registration: 7:30 - 8:30 AM

COST:
HMPGA Member (before March 1, 2006): \$125
Professional (before March 1, 2006): \$150
Professional (after March 1, 2006): \$200
Student: \$25

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