



Bulletin

of the Eastern Section of the National Association of Geoscience Teachers

**CORONAVIRUS
EDITION**

Volume 70, Issue 2: Spring 2020

President's letter

by **Michael O'Donnell**

Blue Ridge Community & Technical College

Challenging..... (in my case that is probably a big understatement) we are challenged in this time with adapting our approach to our normal, daily routine. Evolutionary theory talks about adaptation. In its simplest form, an organism adapts to the environment in which it finds itself. There are several evolutionary theories out there; pick your favorite, but it all comes down to adaptation to the point where a new species has arisen from something that is no longer around. I don't think this "new normal" we have encountered will force us to speciation, but we have all had to adapt in some way. (As an aside, my wife, Sarah, claims she has not been allowed to experience this new normal as she has gone to work everyday since the country has been under stay-at-home orders. Like human health care workers, veterinarians continue each day as the day before.)

So, what has been your adaptation? For me, it has been learning to do everything remotely. It isn't that I fear technology (ala Terminator!), but mostly that I am frustrated that it will not conform to what I want or need it to do. I must learn something new! Argh! And, it looks as though my colleges, Blue Ridge CTC, and Lord Fairfax CC, will continue the online format into the foreseeable future. Well, looks like I need to become an expert in Zoom! Don't get me wrong, I believe in the safety of

everyone out there. We should have been practicing most of what we are doing now (masks during any illness, like flu season; washing our hands properly; staying home when sick) and must continue. But I miss my students! I like the interaction with them during lectures and labs. For me, the computer tends to lessen the spontaneity of teaching. Perhaps, as I move forward, I can develop my online persona and bring the comedy of what I do in the classroom to what happens online. We shall see. Adapt! That is the key. Learn something new, keep your mind going. The cool thing is that each of us can do this and in different ways. Though we won't have our annual gathering, let's keep in touch through our Facebook page and continue to exchange our ways of adaptation. Who knows, perhaps we may evolve into something new! Stay safe and wash your hands! Meanwhile, enjoy some pictures of past trips I have taken.



Red Granite of Kgale Hill, Gaborone, Botswana Africa, May 2017



Great Smokey Mountains, Tennessee, June 2019



County Kerry's Wild Irish West Coast, July 2019





by **Steve Lindberg**

University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown

For our spring 2020 issue of the eastern section Bulletin we introduce a new feature titled “Outcrops”. For each edition of Outcrops we’ll accept submissions by eastern section members showing an outcrop they have personally been to. It can be an exposure you have studied, written about or simply photographed on a trip.

Here are the requirements in order to be considered:

1. The outcrop must have been visited and photographed by you.
2. The photograph can be recent or from past years.
3. Include a brief description of the location, general geology and the date taken.
4. The featured photograph for each issue of the Bulletin will be selected from those submitted. By submitting the photo you are allowing the Eastern Section of NAGT to

publish your name and photograph within the Bulletin newsletter.

5. Send your Outcrop photo to eastern section archivist Steve Lindberg at:
slindber@pitt.edu or
minerlight@atlanticbb.net

Spring 2020 “Outcrops”

Pitt-Johnstown geology students during a fall, 2016 field trip walking along the fold axis of the "Whaleback" anticline exposed within the Bear Valley strip mine in Shamokin, Pennsylvania. Located in Coal Township, Northumberland County, a few miles to the southwest of the town of Shamokin, Pennsylvania. Bear Valley is an abandoned strip mine located in the western middle field of the anthracite coal region in the Ridge-and-Valley Appalachians. The strip mine is a well known structural geology field location that exposes a series of folds in the Pennsylvanian Llewellyn Formation. Submitted by Steve Lindberg, Pitt-Johnstown.



Announcements



New VESTA website

by **Bonnie Keller**
VESTA

Hi all! The VA Earth Science Teachers Association has a website now: <https://vaearthscience.org/>



We have plans to create an online library of Earth Science materials for teachers to use that are specific to Virginia.



Rendezvous update & review camp

by **Caroline Smith**
NAGT head office

The 2020 Online Earth Educators' Rendezvous [program](#) and registration are now available! The [Online Rendezvous](#) will take place online via Zoom from July 13-17, 2020, and will feature a mix of multi-day (M-W and Thu-Fr) workshops with synchronous and asynchronous aspects, afternoon mini-workshops, roundtable discussions, plenaries, and a contributed program. NAGT members receive \$100 off registration.

The [Activity Review Camp](#) application deadline has been extended to May 25, 2020! We invite you to apply to a one-day "Review Camp" to help peer review the collections of submitted teaching activities from Teach the Earth and NAGT sponsored programs. We seek reviewers from across the disciplines who can evaluate the content and pedagogical quality of [Teach the Earth's contributed collections](#) as well as related activities from other projects. We will select 25 reviewers from those who apply, and provide a **\$500 stipend** that will help to offset your [Rendezvous registration](#). Stipends will be distributed 4 to 6 weeks after the conclusion of Rendezvous. You must take part in synchronous and asynchronous sessions during the review camp and complete the reviews assigned to you to be eligible to receive a stipend. [Apply to participate by Monday, May 25](#). Registration stipends/awards are also available for the following workshops:

- [Preparing for an Academic Career](#)
- [Creating Inquiry-Based Labs for Introductory Geology Courses](#)
- [Teaching for a Changing World: Water resources and melting ice](#)

Multi-day workshop spots are limited and are filling up. Save your spot by [registering for Online Rendezvous today](#), and join us for this unparalleled professional development opportunity!



New Hofstra YouTube channel

by **Christa Farmer**
Hofstra University

Hofstra's Geology, Environment, and Sustainability department started a YouTube channel and published several videos this semester for our students learning online - Others in NAGT might be interested in using them in their teaching. Have a look:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLoknEc9W5bXeSidVhxJrg>



Free Seismology Skill Building Workshop for Undergraduates

by Michael Hubenthal
IRIS

Despite the pandemic and suspension of our internship program for the summer 2020, IRIS remains committed to developing the next generation of seismologists.



To this end, the IRIS Education and Outreach program is offering a FREE seismology skill building workshop for undergraduate students seeking to build skills in working with seismic data and scientific computing. The workshop will run every other week from June 1, 2020 through August 28, 2020. The goals of this workshop are to increase students'...

- interest in taking additional course work in seismology and scientific computing,
- self-efficacy in using seismic data, and
- competitiveness in the graduate school or summer REU application process

Participation: This workshop is intended for undergraduate students (e.g., students majoring in computer science, geophysics, geology, math, physics, engineering). However, depending on response, graduate students may also be admitted. There are no-minimum course or experiential requirements in order for students of all backgrounds to participate. However, students who have completed at least one semester of math and physics will be best able to most benefit from the course, and two semesters of each math and physics would be ideal.

Additional information and registration can be found here: https://www.iris.edu/hq/short-courses/course/ssb_workshop



"FROM THE ARCHIVES" ...

Spring 2020 edition

by Steve Lindberg
University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown

The spring 1982 eastern section meeting was held at The College Of William And Mary, Williamsburg , Virginia from May 21-23. Here is the meeting notice notice, Saturday field trip schedule and registration fees for the meeting as it appeared in the spring 1982 edition of the *Bulletin*.

bulletin NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GEOLOGY TEACHERS EASTERN SECTION



FROM
THE
ARCHIVES

SPRING, 1982

ES/NAGT SPRING MEETING AND FIELD TRIP

May 21-23, 1982

The College of William and Mary
Williamsburg, Virginia

FINAL NOTICE

The spring meeting and field trips of the Eastern Section, NAGT will be held at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia. The program will start Friday evening with registration and a smoker from 6:30 to 9:30 PM. In addition, Faith Libelo is organizing a slide show and exchange session to run concurrently with the reception. Bring a few of your favorite and best slides for sharing and Faith will have the procedure worked out where-by others may order copies of these slides if they desire to do so.

For Saturday we have planned two all day field trips, one of which should appeal to most of you. One trip will be looking at the stratigraphy and paleontology of a portion of the Coastal Plain in Virginia, and should afford some excellent fossil collecting. The other trip will be to the Richmond area where we will see some of the uses to which various building stones have been put and how they have responded to urban stress. It will also visit an outstanding exposure of the granites at the Fall Zone in the James River (if the spring floods subside in time). For those who desire a break from geology and a look at some more recent history, we have arranged for a guided tour of the Colonial Williamsburg restored area. This will be limited to 25 people. Saturday Evening the banquet will be highlighted by the annual awards presentations and our speaker, Joel Levine, who is a scientist with NASA and has been doing extensive research on the origin of the earth's early atmosphere.

Sunday morning the annual business meeting will be followed by a series of four or five workshops. These will cover a variety of Earth Science-related topics. Each of the workshops will be given at two consecutive times so you can attend two of them.

We will be looking forward to seeing you in Williamsburg. Hopefully our southern weather will be at its best and the spring flowers will be out to welcome you.

Bruce K. Goodwin

SATURDAY FIELD TRIPS AND GUIDED TOUR

Field Trip #1. THE LATE CENOZOIC GEOLOGY AND ECONOMIC GEOLOGY OF THE LOWER YORK-JAMES PENINSULA.

This field trip will examine representative stratigraphic sections of Upper Tertiary and Upper Quaternary deposits on the lower York-James Peninsula, will delve into problems in stratigraphy, genesis, and the geologic history of the major formations in the area, and will review the geologic and topographic setting of mineral resources and landfills on the Peninsula. Excellent fossil collecting will be available at some of the localities.

Field Trip #2. THE GEOLOGY OF THE RICHMOND AREA AND THE USES OF BUILDING STONES IN THE CITY OF RICHMOND.

This field trip will consist of two segments: (1) a walking tour of downtown Richmond to study the origin, uses, and deterioration of building stones in that city; and (2) a visit to some extensive exposures of granite at the Fall Zone in the James River. Some excellent photographs of potholes and xenoliths may be taken at the falls. The trip will follow a guidebook published by the Virginia State Department of Education. This guidebook is built around a series of exercises developed for Earth Science students and designed to give students experience in observation and interpretation of geologic processes.

Special Tour

A GUIDED WALKING TOUR OF COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG.

This guided tour is offered for those who would like a change of pace and are interested in the 18th century history of the area. An expertly trained guide will lead the group through the restored area, provide an overview of the colonial capital, and weave together the appeals of its history, architecture, gardens, homes, crafts, archaeology, and decorative arts. This trip may appeal to some of the spouses of the earth scientists. Only 25 persons can be accommodated and reservations will be made on a first come - first served basis. We must have at least 20 people in order to run this tour.

FROM
THE
ARCHIVES

	Preregistration Fee	
Registration	\$ 5.00	\$ _____
Banquet	13.50	_____
Field Trip Transportation	5.00	_____
Box lunch (optional)	5.25	_____
Guided tour of Colonial Williamsburg (no box lunch is needed for this tour)	11.50	_____
Total		\$ _____



EASTERN SECTION NAGT

Officers

President: Mike O'Donnell, Blue Ridge Community and Technical College, 13650 Apple Harvest Dr, Martinsburg, WV 25403;

<MODONNEL@blueridgectc.edu or modonnell@lfcc.edu>

Vice-President: Christopher Roemmele; Department of Earth and Space Sciences, 225 Merion Science Center, West Chester University, West Chester, PA 19383610-436-2108; <CROEMMELE@wcupa.edu>.

Treasurer: Renee Aubry, 1179 Glen Rd., Shrub Oak, NY 10588; email <raubry@otunet.com>.

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Secretary: Rosemarie Sanders, 914-721-0948; email <Rose.Sanders@me.com>.

Publicity Chairperson: Vacant; volunteers welcome.

NAGT Geo2YC Division Representative: Rich Gottfried; Dept. of Science, Frederick Community College, 7932 Oppenheim Pike, Frederick, MD 21702; 301-846-2581(W); 541-822-5561(H); email <RGottfried@frederick.edu>.

Award Chairperson

All awards currently handled by Christopher Roemmele; 610-436-2108; email <CROEMMELE@wcupa.edu>.

Awards listing:

- Distinguished Service Award
- John Moss Award
- Outstanding Earth Science Teacher Award
- Ralph Digman Award
- James O'Connor Memorial Geology Field Course Scholarship

Eastern Section NAGT web site addresses:

<<http://sites.google.com/site/nagtes>>

or just <www.nagtes.org>.

State Councilors' years of office are in brackets; terms begin and end at the spring section meeting.

State Councilors

Delaware

Lawrence Matson, Dept of Natural Resources & Environmental Control, 88 Kings Highway, Dover, DE 19901; 302-739-9403; email <Lawrence.Matson@state.de.us> [14-17].

Maryland

Martin F. Schmidt, Jr., 2718 Appleseed Rd., Finksburg, MD 21048; (H) 410-526-6685, (W) 443-544-7483; Fax: 410-581-7038; email <mschmidt@umbc.edu> [15-18].

Rich Gottfried; contact info in Geo2YC Representative listing above [13-16].

New Jersey

Margaret (Missy) Holzer, Chatham High School, 255 Lafayette Ave., Chatham, NJ 07928; (W) 973-635-9075; (H) 732-868-0901; email <mholzer@monmouth.com> [15-18].

Michael Passer, 296 Central Ave., Englewood NJ 07631; 201-861-0846 (H); 201-519-1071 (C); email <michael@earthclass.org> [14-17].

New York

Renee Aubry, Port Chester HS, Port Chester, NY 10578; 914-934-7952(W), 914-245-9661(H) email <raubry@portchesterschools.org> or <raubry@otunet.com> [15-18].

Don Duggan-Haas, Paleontological Research Institution, 1259 Trumansburg Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850; 607-821-0910; email <dugganhaas@museumoftheearth.org> [13-16].

Ontario

No Councilors at present; volunteers welcome.

Pennsylvania

Randy Newcomer, Randy's Books, PO Box 214, Akron, PA 17501; 717- 823-0579 (C); email <randy@randysbooks.com>; <www.pageology.info> [13-16].

Jason Petula, Millersville University, 221 Stayer Hall, 51 Lyte Street, Millersville, PA 17551; (717) 872-3422; <jpetula@millersville.edu> [14-17].

Virginia

Callan Bentley, Northern Virginia Community College, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale, VA 22003; (W)703-323-3276; email <cbentley@nvcc.edu> [15-18].

Eric J. Pyle, Department of Geology and Environmental Science, James Madison University, MSC 7703, Harrisonburg, VA 22807; 540-568-7115 (W); email <pyleej@jmu.edu> [15-18].

West Virginia

Angela A. McKeen, St. Mary's Catholic School, Clarksburg, WV 26301; (C) 304-288-1419; email <amckeen71@gmail.com>. [13-16].

Deb Hemler; contact info in 2nd Vice President listing above [15-18].

