



NYSCPG Newsletter

2015 Edition
Volume 3

May-June 2015
www.nyscpg.org

President's Note

Greetings,

Our new website is up and running; I hope you have had a chance to log on and see it. NYSCPG still has some work to do and fill it up with content (suggestions welcome). As a profession in the making, we continue to progress; the State's Department of Education has elected three geologists to the NYS Geology Licensing Board. They are Jean Neubeck, Bill Kelly, and David Franzi; we wish them all good luck with their job ahead. We still have a lot to accomplish before the profession of geology licensing law goes into effect; you can read some additional information in regards to this within the Legislative committee section.

Spring has arrived and summer is just around the corner: a time when high school and college graduations commonly take place. I was at a college graduation recently and one of the professors gave the graduates a few tidbits of advice. The students were graduating with a mechanical engineering degree; however, the advice is applicable to any degree. The professor's advice was for the engineers to never think they know everything, never make up an answer to something they don't know, and never be afraid to say that you don't know. I've been in the workplace for quite some time, and we can all carry these tidbits of advice forever. I don't consider myself an expert in anything; I see myself as a jack-of-all-trades, master of none. You might wonder where this is leading; the NYSCPG is working hard to add value to our newsletter, and we need our membership to help out. I suspect our membership is diverse with students, educators, field crew, managers, etc. None of us knows everything, but we *are* geologists and inquisitive in nature, right? I know that when I pick up a magazine, not everything catches my attention, but some pieces do and I read those. I learn a little of what I read, and that small piece provides fuel for getting more information. If all of us put something we found interesting in the newsletter, I would safely say that it would provide a spark to interest someone in something they may not know much about. For us seasoned geologists, that might be writing a piece about our job and why this job appeals to them. Information such as this can provide a student with an idea of what work is like after graduation. Some other areas of interest might be field trips, interesting NYS geologic facts, etc. We look forward to seeing some contributions for our future newsletters.

As always you contact me with any questions, comments, and or suggestions at iolberding@hotmail.com

Respectfully yours,

Ivy Hidalgo-Olberding

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March - April 2015 Newsletter Table of Contents

<i>President's Message</i>	1
<i>2014-2015 Officers</i>	2
<i>Transition Committee Update</i>	3
<i>Treasurer's Report</i>	7
<i>Legislative Committee Update</i>	8
<i>Un-Locked! Erie Canal Lock No. 52</i>	9
<i>May 2015 Membership Update</i>	10
<i>News from the Outreach Committee</i>	12
<i>Statement of Purpose</i>	14
<i>Fundraising Report—May 2015</i>	15
<i>US Geoscience Jobs and Enrollments Continue to Grow</i>	16
<i>NYSCPG Supporters—Thank You!</i>	17
<i>Long Island and Mining</i>	19
<i>Membership Application Renewal Form</i>	21
<i>Corporate Sponsorship Letter</i>	22
<i>Advertising Letter</i>	23

EVENTS

2015 NEIGC October 9, 10, 11 Columbus Day Weekend

New England Intercollegiate Geologic Conference (NEIGC)

Hosted by the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences
Wesleyan University, Middletown CT

<http://w3.salemstate.edu/~lhanson/NEIGC/Conference.html>

Please send contributions to the EVENTS section to any
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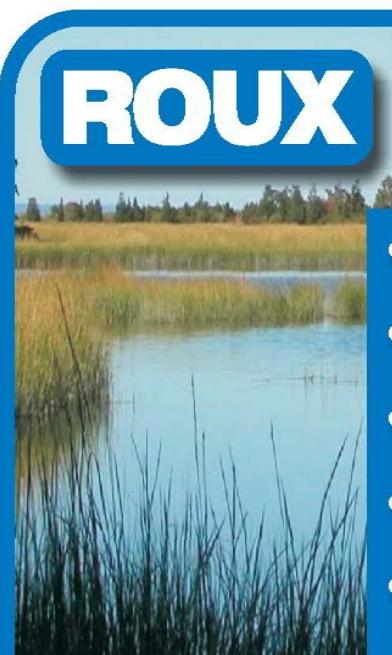
TRANSITION COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Transition Committee is in its early stages and was formed after passing the law to establish the profession of geology in New York State last November. The committee was created with the mission of charting where we, as an organization, should go from here. Many people have questioned the new role of the Council, whether there is a need to continue the group, and whether we still need a lobbyist, etc. The main objective of NYSCPG over the last 19 years appeared to be passage of a licensure bill, but it was truly about establishing and promoting the profession in NY, which included licensing geologists. On a day-to-day basis, that message has missed the mark and we are now re-educating people as to how we promote the profession.

The first step is to convince people why they need to join and continue to be members, and the benefits to geologists. NYSCPG has been at the forefront of passing the licensing bill, and has been the organization that maintains the historical records of how we arrived at this point. This is the group that, with all of the volunteers up to this time, knows the details about the new law and how it can affect both individuals and corporations practicing geology in New York. This critical information needs to be distributed to groups across the state, regionally, and nationwide in a clear, concise, and consistent manner. Misinformation being circulated can cause more confusion for people as the process continues and NYSCPG should be the source to provide accurate information.

There are so many different groups for professionals to join, and all of them are great organizations for what they set out to accomplish. NYSCPG has to carve out its own niche to entice membership and participation. The biggest difference that sets NYSCPG apart is that while other organizations are technically focused, the Council is a professionally oriented group that represents geologists and the profession in New York State.

(Continued on page 5)



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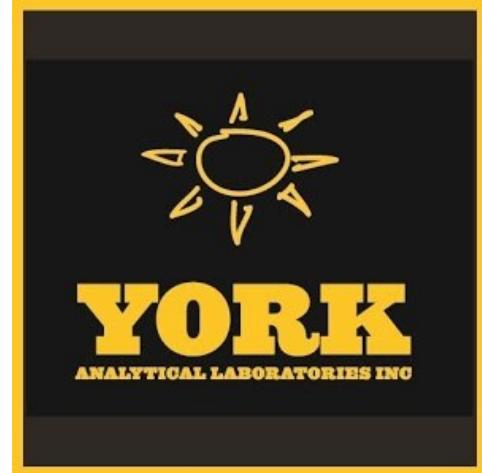
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TRANSITION COMMITTEE UPDATE

(Continued from page 3)

The biggest issue with all groups is increasing their memberships and getting those people to become active members. It is easy to send in a check once a year, and wait for news to come to you through the newsletters or meetings. What if you got to help create that news? What if you were at the forefront of something that comes along once in your career? There is truly so much work that this profession needs to accomplish in the near future, that any and all help will be needed to make this work seem easy.

The question of why NYSCPG still requires a lobbyist has been circulating since November of last year. As we move toward the effective date of the licensure law, we have much more work to complete within a short time. The Legislative Update makes note of the need for legislation that will be required to work through the issue of corporate restructuring. Our lobbyist, Peter O'Connell, has been working on drafting legislation for this purpose and working with SED, the State Department, and our related professions to bring all parties on board. This effort will continue into the next legislative session.

There will also be long-term needs that will require NYSCPG to retain a lobbyist. I refer people to Florida, and how that licensure law was almost allowed to sunset, but was retained due to the efforts of diligent geologists. We will need people monitoring legislation moving through both the Assembly and Senate and to evaluate how it affects our profession. As we move into our new role, we will begin to offer professional opinions on legislation in the form of support or opposition memos similar to our sister professions. Like most organized professions in New York, the related profession of engineering and as well as land surveying also maintain a lobbyist. We should expect that NYSCPG needs to do the same for similar reasons as these professions.

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TRANSITION COMMITTEE UPDATE

(Continued from page 5)

The essential issue becomes how we transition to our new role in representing our profession. Now is the time for us to look at the big picture and set the ground work for the future. The first step is to think of the Council as a business, rather than a social organization. With every great business venture, you need a solid plan. Here are some of the proposed aspects of the plan that the Transition Committee will begin working on:

- Establishing a management structure that will work for the organization for the long-term. Many groups have positions, like Executive Director, that have a larger management role in day-to-day activities. The current structure of the NYSCPG Board has the potential for a new president every year. In the long term, we may need more continuity. This structure may evolve over time and grow based on our needs, but the base organizational structure will remain critical.
- Working with similar groups in neighboring states to learn what has worked for them while transitioning to professionals. If we can use their experiences to inform and guide us, we may not have to re-invent the wheel.
- Finding ways to become financially self-sufficient. The Council currently receives sufficient funds to pay a lobbyist, host our website, and a few other minor expenses. However, we need to develop additional revenue. This can come from:
 - Increasing corporate sponsorship and value to members,
 - Offering short-courses that provide continuing educational credits, and
 - Hosting fundraising events (golf outings, dinners, etc.).
- Establishing a Geology Week similar to Engineers Week in New York. This can be used for outreach, both within the profession and with the public. Holding seminars across the state can promote the profession to students and educate the public on what we do that benefits society. This may also be used as a fundraising activity.
- Educating the regulatory bodies throughout New York on the passage of this law and what the establishment of our profession means to them. Outreach to these groups can establish what work should be stamped by a professional geologist and the benefits of geologic knowledge.
- Working with colleges and universities within our state to make sure they are aware and understand the implications of the law and help evaluate whether their academic programs will produce professional-track graduates.
- Revisiting the by-laws for the organization. This will be needed to incorporate all of the changes the Transition Committee may propose.

All of these ideas represent a new beginning that will require three major things: time, people, and money. The Transition Committee will begin meeting soon with a base of people to get the ball rolling. Once we have established clear objectives and direction, we can add more people to specific tasks to continue our momentum. The other aspect is increasing our funding for the near term. If you know geologists who are not members, this is the time to get them to join. If you know of companies that operate in New York who could become corporate sponsors or advertisers, please contact them and let them know of NYSCPG and how they can help.

Do not hesitate to contact me (jnadeau@alphageoscience.com) with any questions or comments regarding the Transition Committee or the direction of NYSCPG.

John M. Nadeau, CPG
2014-2015
Legislative/Transition Chairman
NYSCPG Past-President

Thank You for Your Support!

Treasurer's Report

Over the past five years (not counting 2015), our funding has grown significantly. While funds from the membership have been rising, our sponsors have been very generous. With the excitement of potential licensure over the past 2 or 3 years, membership funds have jumped from the \$5K range to the \$7K range, and sponsorship has jumped from almost \$12K in 2012 to double that in 2013, but then dropped back to about \$14K in 2014. Now more than ever, we need to continue to increase strength in membership and continue to keep our sponsorship strong. Although licensure has passed, we still need have lobbying expenses and will likely need legal advice. To date in 2015, we are a little more than half way to last year's funding total, so please spread the word to your fellow geologists and geoscientists that we continue to need their financial help and support!

Gene Florentino, P.G.

NYSCPG Treasurer



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Thank you for your support!!

Laura A. Brinkerhoff, LSRP, CPG

President

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LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Members of the Legislative Committee along with our lobbyist, Peter O'Connell, met with staff of the NYS Education Department on May 8th. It was a very good meeting and highly informative for us. Several topics were discussed, including the framework of the licensing board, the progress of the regulations, how NYSCPG can assist in the process, and proposed legislation to assist with corporate restructuring. The three geologists, Dave Franzi, Bill Kelly, and Jean Neubeck, who were installed on the licensing board were joined by one engineer and one surveyor to form a committee to prepare draft regulations for the profession of geology. This group has met a couple of times already and begun tackling this task, and are working hard to complete the proposed regulations in a short time period. Once the committee has completed this draft, the proposed regulations will go out for a public comment period. If no substantive comments require major re-writing of the regulations, the draft will go to the NYS Regents for approval. If comments are incorporated into the draft regulations, additional comment periods may follow. Once the regulations are approved by the Regents, the Education Department will begin to craft the applications and enhance the web portal (<http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/geo/>) to include the updated information. We will keep the membership apprised as these milestones are reached.

SED stated that NYSCPG's Legislative and Transitional Committees are welcome to provide any input we may have for the regulations to them. We are currently looking at submitting suggestions for the educational requirements for the law. The committee will try to forward these items to SED in early June for their consideration.

The main topic of the meeting was to get input from SED regarding the issue of corporate restructuring. The implantation of the licensing law will require all companies that offer geologic services to reincorporate into professional corporations. Currently, the law requires this process to happen on the effective date. Companies looking to re-incorporate into professional geology corporations would need licensed professional geologists on staff as of day one. Implementing a grandfathering period for corporations was discussed, with a two year window suggested as a sufficient time period for entities to work through the process. There was some discussion about how the 2012 Design Professional Corporation (DPC) law was implemented and some of the issues that arose for companies during their transition from PCs to DPCs. Our goal is to make the process as streamlined as possible by learning from these issues and determining if there are ways to avoid repeating them. We are hoping to get an appointment with the Department of State to get their input on this process as well.

I was invited to speak at the Buffalo Association of Professional Geologists (BAPG) meeting on May 20th. I would like to thank the group for their hospitality and interest in the talk. I presented a short update and answered questions for well over 30 minutes. This connection with our membership through these presentations will allow for stronger representation of the profession in the long-run. The questions ranged from how the law would affect individuals, sole-proprietors, to larger companies. A couple of people spoke of how their companies went through the process of becoming DPCs in 2012 and what pitfalls they experienced. Their experiences are critical for us to prepare for what lies ahead and how best to educate and prepare for the possibilities.

As always, you are welcome to contact me (jnadeau@alphageoscience.com) with any questions regarding the process of the Law's establishment and implementation.



John M. Nadeau, CPG
2014-2015 Legislative Chairman

Un-Locked! Erie Canal Lock No. 52, Port Byron, N.Y.

Gene Florentino, P.G. Ecology & Environment

How many of you have driven across NYS and seen the Erie Canal Lock sitting high and dry on the eastbound lane between Exit 40 (Weedsport/Auburn) and 41 (Waterloo/Clyde)? I have driven across the Thruway hundreds of times and always wondered, “Why the heck is that Lock sitting there”? Well, last week on my way to Syracuse from Buffalo, I finally got the chance to find out why. There is a new ramp on the eastbound lane leading straight to the Lock, now called the Port Byron Old Erie Canal Heritage Park.

The park, although open, will not be fully constructed until sometime in the summer of 2016. It will include the Erie Canal Lock 52 and the Erie House complex which includes the Erie house Tavern and Hotel, a mule barn, and a blacksmith shop. Lock 52 was constructed between 1849 - 1853. It remained in operation until the rerouting of the canal under the NYS Barge Canal System in 1917. The Barge Canal’s new route took advantage of several rivers that the Erie Canal had avoided (Mohawk, Seneca, Genesee, and Clyde Rivers), thus eliminating the use of Lock 52, leaving it high and dry. Despite its age (over 160 years), this Lock is one of the best preserved Locks from the former Erie Canal. The adjacent town of Port Byron contains many remnants of the former canal. East of the village, the former canal can be seen at Schasel Park with a towpath walking trail that runs between Port Byron and Weedsport. To the west, the old canal passes under the Thruway and can be followed as it passes through the muck lands, a place where onions and potatoes have been grown for generations. Thank goodness the Thruway was built well before EISs could significantly hold up a project!

So, next time you are trucking, cruising, biking, or hitchhiking across NYS, be sure to check out this historic wonder!



Left: Historical photo of Lock 52 in operation.

Note wooden gates and piers.
Date of photo is unknown.

Below: recent photo of Lock 52



May 2015 Membership Update

The new website is up and running! This is certainly the most exciting NYSCPG news since the passage of the bill! This will make things easier for NYSCPG members to update their personal information and pay membership dues online via PayPal. Thanks go out to Dr. Bret Bennington of Hofstra for taking the time to set up the new website and get it active. As a registered member of the New York State Council of Professional Geologists, you can log in to our new website and view members only news and information, including a membership directory, and update your membership status and profile. For your initial login you will need to set your password using the 'Forgot Password' link on the login screen and your email address. If the email address matches the one in the database, the system will send an email with a new password.

Please remind your geology cohorts when you see them this summer to become a member of NYSCPG. The passage of the bill has come and gone, but the regulations still need to be crafted and NYSCPG is hoping to have plenty of input. Our sister professions of Engineering and Land Surveying have watchdog groups and lobbyists that are constantly looking out for legislation that may impact their profession. Geologists need to step up to the table and do the same. The Council is an all-volunteer organization (except for our lobbyist) and cannot pay for its efforts to protect the profession of geology and our new status as Professionals without your support through membership dues and corporate sponsorships. Now is not the time to sit back and rest on our laurels.

Please feel free to contact me at strader@alphageoscience.com if you have any questions about your membership.

Steve Trader

Chair, NYSCPG Membership Committee



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NEWS FROM THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The purpose of the Outreach Committee is to advocate on behalf of the Council with other professional and regulatory organizations within the State of New York. So what does this mean? Simply that committee members act as liaisons between other professional organizations, such as engineers, lawyers and surveyors, and the regulatory agencies, such as Health and Environmental at the various levels of government, such as State, County, City and Town and inform them about what NYSCPG is doing and our mission.... right now we have licensing but what does it mean?

As an example, on Long Island where I live and work, there are numerous regulatory agencies: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation – Region I; Suffolk County Department of Health, Nassau County Department of Health, Nassau County Fire Marshal and ten Towns in Suffolk, three Towns in Nassau and various Villages. Do you think they all are aware of our profession? Our licensure? Remember, LI is only a small part of our vast State!

The truth of the matter is that people in our own profession do not have all the facts!

It is our responsibility as Outreach to disseminate the proper facts about our profession and organization. The committee can only be effective when there are numerous members all working together to achieve the common goal. If you are interested in participating on this committee, please contact either myself at cheryln@islandpumpandtank.com or Marcia Wollisk at darcyslaw@gmail.com. Both of us are current New York State Council of Professional Geologists Board members.

At this point we are interested in having “lead” members in the various areas of the state, which for ease coincides with the same regions of the NYSDEC. I would like to thank Richard Boelter (Arcadis) for volunteering to lead the “North NY area” which is DEC Region 6. If you are interested in volunteering for his section please email Richard at Richard.Boelter@arcadis-us.com.

(Continued on page 13)

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NEWS FROM THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE

I am involved with the Long Island region (DEC Region I) and Marcia is involved with the Capital Region & Eastern Adirondacks (DEC 4 & 5). We would like to have a “lead” for all the DEC Regions – so if you are interested in volunteering for the following regions, PLEASE contact me: Region 2- NYC; Region 3- Lower Hudson Valley; Region 7 – Central NY; Region 8 – West Finger Lakes and Region 9- Western NY.

Presently, we are preparing a written letter as an introduction to our organization and of the impact licensing of geologists may have on the regulatory or other professional organizations. Once the final letter is approved by the Board, each member will receive a copy via email, and each member is requested to log each contact you have made. We will be setting up a database with the information accessible to committee members, so that the agencies are not being bombarded by us, so to speak!

The Long Island region is having a meeting on Wednesday, June 24th @ 7:00pm with a central location to be determined, pending participants.

On a lighter side:

The Committee, in conjunction with the Fundraiser Committee, is planning a NY Geology and Wine dinner for next the summer of 2016, with the help of Rick Watt. The event will be held either at Cornell or in the vicinity of Cornell. The reason the summer months are more advantageous to host the event is due to the lodging rates in the area of Ithaca being higher during the college sessions. The event, a dinner and wine tasting event will depict the wines and geology from the various regions of New York State, along with the

(Continued on page 14)

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NEWS FROM THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE

(Continued from page 13)

option to participate in a geological field trip(s) and possibly a collecting trip.

We also would like to have a presence at local rock and mineral shows. We are looking for volunteers to contact their local clubs and request a table so that we can disseminate information about our organization. We will also have merchandise for sale as well.

As geologists we know what our profession is about - **Remember it is important for the rest of the people of the State to know who geologists are and why we are important to them!**

If anyone is interested in participating on the Outreach Committee please contact either:

Marcia Wilson - darcyslaw@gmail.com

Cheryl Neary - cheryln@islandpumpandtank.com or ciervo.neary@gmail.com

Ivy Olberding - iolberding@hotmail.com

Statement of Purpose

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.

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FUNDRAISING REPORT—May 2015

The council is gaining momentum on the tracks as we continue to get closer to the official licensure date in November 2016. Recently, we have updated our website which will continue to evolve, so please keep checking it out. Also we are revamping the newsletter and other communication outlets. This is all made possible from the continued support of our members, sponsors and advertisers.

The council would like to thank all the organizations that have supported us over the years and those who continue to do so. The Council asks our Corporate Sponsors and Advertisers to continue renewing their pledges of support. We need to generate additional revenues that will enable NYSCPG to move into the next phase of licensure, to ensure that the final regulations best serve the needs of the profession of geology and our members. Fundraising efforts by the Committee are ongoing, but renewals are very important and they set the stage for activities in 2015.

The existing cost structure for Corporate Sponsors for 2015 is as follows:

Diamond	\$3000
Platinum	\$2000
Gold	\$1000
Silver	\$500
Bronze	\$300

Advertising in the newsletter will be included at no additional cost for the Gold, Platinum and Diamond Sponsors. New sponsorship and advertising forms are included here and can also be found on the web site.

Members of the 2015 NYSCPG Fundraising Committee include Michael Rygel, Cheryl Neary, Michael Palleschi, Lenny Rexrode, Steve Trader, Pete Smith and I.

New members are always welcome to join the Fundraising Committee!

Best Regards,

Todd G. Bown, P.G.

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US Geoscience Jobs and Enrollments Continue to Grow

Dr. Michael Rygel, Department of Geology, State University of New York, College at Potsdam

The American Geosciences Institute recently released its annual summary of geoscience enrollment in the United States: http://www.americangeosciences.org/sites/default/files/currents/Currents-096-Enrollments2014_0.pdf. In 2014, American institutions awarded 3,700 baccalaureate, 1,480 master's, and 638 doctorate degrees and reported that there were nearly 30,000 students enrolled in undergraduate degree programs. The increase in the number of students has been accompanied by steady growth in job demand; the [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) predicts a 16% increase in the number of geoscience jobs between 2012 and 2022. The BLS' predictions make it clear that a degree in geology is a gateway to one of the fastest-growing, highest-paying careers in the natural sciences. Growth in both enrollment and employment is being driven by increased environmental regulation and enforcement, retirement of the boomers, and increased demand for the full spectrum of geologic resources. Despite recent decreases in oil and gas prices, continued improvement in other sectors of the US economy may offset those losses.

Job Title	2012 Median Pay	Employment growth 2012-2022	Entry Level Education
Geoscientist	\$90,890	16% (faster than average)	Bachelor's Degree
Environmental Scientists	\$63,570	15% (faster than average)	Bachelor's Degree
Hydrologists	\$75,530	10% (as fast as average)	Master's Degree
Physicists and Astronomers	106,360	10% (as fast as average)	Ph.D.
Microbiologists	\$66,260	7% (slower than average)	Bachelor's Degree
Chemists and Material Scientists	\$73,060	6% (slower than average)	Bachelor's Degree
Zoologists and Wildlife Biologists	\$57,710	5% (slower than average)	Bachelor's Degree
Conservation Scientists and Foresters	\$59,060	3% (slower than average)	Bachelor's Degree

Data from www.bls.gov

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*Please send ideas to
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current NYSCPG
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*Submissions due by the 1st
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Please submit all newsletter contributions by the 1st month of publication for consideration. Early contributions are encouraged.

mjbartron@gmail.com

<u>Volume</u>	<u>Publication</u>	<u>Deadline for Submissions</u>
Volume 1	January/February	January 1st
Volume 2	March/April	March 1st
Volume 3	May/June	May 1st
Volume 4	July/August	July 1st
Volume 5	September/October	September 1st
Volume 6	November/December	November 1st

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Long Island and Mining

Ivy Hidalgo-Olberding, 2014-2015 NYSCPG President

Looking at the NYSDEC Mining Rights page recently I looked at the various mineral resources New York State has and I found them to be quite impressive. My family is from South America where mining is a common profession because of the mineral resources available but I thought it was worthwhile to write something quick about NYS mining and in particular mining in Long Island, NY.

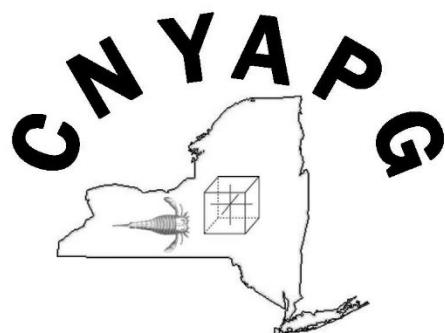
I'm sure you are saying Long Island? Geologists will know the type of mining, mineral resource, found in Long Island will be sand and gravel, but maybe not? The sand and gravel found in Long Island helped build New York City's skyscrapers. Since 1865, mining sand on the north shore of Long Island has yielded approximately 200 million tons of sand from Port Washington alone was used to make concrete for building the city's infrastructure such as highways and bridges and skyscrapers like the Empire State and Chrysler Buildings and the World Trade Center.

The sand on the north shore of Long Island consists of glacial deposits. Poorly sorted tills that include gravel and sand is what Al Marino, a sand pit worker, considered to be a perfect blend for concrete; a mix of coarse and fine grained sand to make strong concrete.

The next time you are in New York City remember that NY State glacial gravel and sand were used in building the City.

References

http://throughthesandglass.typepad.com/through_the_sandglass/2009/02/building-new-york-the-long-island-sandminers.html).



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