



NYSCPG Newsletter

2017 Edition
Volume 2

March/April 2017
www.nyscp.org

President's Message

I hope that you will take the time to read the latest installment of the NYSCPG newsletter. Contained therein you will find updates on university outreach, the ASBOG exam in NYS, upcoming deadlines, and the Council's efforts to offer more professional development and educational courses.

In early March, I was able to give an update on licensure at the Annual Meeting of the Pennsylvania Council of Professional Geologists (PCPG) in Harrisburg, PA. The general presentation provided a very topical overview of the process and we spent about 20 minutes in a Q&A session. Additionally, I met with the PCPG officers to talk about how their organization changed following the passage of a licensure bill in PA. This conversation was very helpful because it emphasized the importance of several areas that our committees are working on and provided insight into what we might reasonably expect in the future. The most relevant topics/ observations included:

1. **Relationships with other geologic groups.** It is essential that we maintain and expand mutually beneficial relationships with other geologic groups in NYS. As we refine our mission statement to better reflect our post-licensure objectives, we should consider similarities and differences with other groups.
2. **ASBOG.** To the best of their knowledge, they believed the PCPG to be the only state-wide professional organization to hold ASBOG review courses. Assuming that the number of geologists in a state broadly tracks with population, we should have a large enough market in NYS to be able to support review courses as well (New York has ~19 million residents and Pennsylvania has ~13 million, making us the 4th and 5th largest states, respectively). It seems that such a course would be most likely to succeed if we a) hold it twice per year in different areas in the state, b) offer it over two days, c) staff it with a combination of academics and professionals.
3. **Statewide dissemination of information.** The distribution of our membership across NYS is both a blessing and a curse. Although the broad geographic distribution makes it difficult to hold meetings that all members can attend, it also strategically positions us to be THE organization for distributing information across NYS. If we continue to expand our outreach capability, the hope is that government agencies and regulatory groups will come to us to help spread the word about developments in the profession.
4. **Organization.** In order to have the Council reach its full potential, we need to make sure that we communicate effectively with our members, host events and meetings, and stay abreast of legal and legislative matters that affect our profession. Other professional groups most commonly do this by hiring professional lobbyists and/or coordinators.

Successfully achieving the points raised above is going to be extremely difficult to do as a wholly volunteer organization. Although getting the licensure bill passed was built upon years of hard work by the Council, I would argue that hiring a professional lobbyist (Peter O'Connell) was the single most important thing that we did to finally get the bill passed. If the Council is going to continue to grow, we are going to need to increase our operating budget and the amount of volunteerism by our membership. I hope that you will, in whatever way you can, contribute to the Council to help us advance the profession in NYS.

Best Wishes,

Mike Rygel
2016/2017 NYSCPG President
michael.rygel@gmail.com

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michael.rygel@gmail.com
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cheryl@islandpumpandtank.com
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Todd Bown
Todd.Bown@GZA.com

James Dawson
dawsonjc@plattsburgh.edu

Matt Dupee
mdupee@alphageoscience.com

Marc E. Flanagan
meflanagan@trcsolutions.com

Richard Moravec
bmiwells@moravecwaterwells.com

John M. Nadeau
jnadeau@alphageoscience.com

Nick Recchia
nrecchia@geiconsultants.com

Andrew Vitolins
andy.vitolins@arcadis.com

Richard M. Watt
rwatt@ene.com

WEBMASTER

J. Bret Bennington
J.B.Bennington@hofstra.edu

March—April 2017 Newsletter

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Legislative/Transition Update

The grandparenting period for obtaining your Professional Geologist License has reached the halfway point. This means you have about six months to have your documents into NYS Department of Education to qualify for licensure without having to pass a licensing exam. All documentation corresponding to your application must be postmarked by November 20, 2017, to qualify. This includes the documents from outside entities such as endorsers and transcripts. The NYSCPG highly recommends that you read the geology regulations thoroughly and fill out the application forms as directed to ensure timely processing of your application.

New York State has signed a contract to offer the ASBOG exam as part of licensure qualifications. The first ASBOG exam will be held in NY on October 6, 2017. The schedule for future exams will be the third Friday of March and the first Friday of October. In order to sit for either exam, you must submit the appropriate documents to NYSED so that they can verify that you are eligible to sit for the exam. Once verified, you will need to complete an exam scheduling form and submit it to the exam administrator for New York State. More information can be found on the NYSED web portal at <http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/geo/>.

There were approximately 200 Licensed Professional Geologists listed on the Office of the Professions web site as of the writing of this update. I have been informed that the processing time for applications is averaging between 8-12 weeks. We should expect this processing time to increase as we approach the end of the grandparenting period. This timeframe also will play a factor with converting businesses to offer professional geological services. All corporations desiring to provide geological services in New York must have licensed PGs and have completed their articles of incorporation prior to the enforcement date of March 1, 2018, for persons and companies. After that date, no one can legally offer geologic services in NYS without the proper credentials.

NYSCPG continues in its mission to provide benefits for our members and we are in the initial stages of developing a “review class” for the 2-part ASBOG exam. We are looking to begin offering this seminar in the next 12 months to people looking for assistance reviewing for the ASBOG exam. More details regarding this review course will be shared as things develop. Please contact me if you are interested in assisting in this endeavor.

I continue to share this important reminder. People need to be cognizant when licensed in other states not to refer to themselves a Professional Geologist in NY until they obtain their NYS license. Now that licensing law is effective in NY, it is illegal to call oneself a PG in this state without the proper credentials. If your business card lists you as a PG, you must be licensed in the jurisdiction of the address of your business. If you currently are licensed in another state, you can refer to yourself as a PG only if you display the qualifying state, e.g. PG (any state).

Thank you for your continued support. As always, you are welcome to contact me at jnadeau@alphageoscience.com with any questions regarding the process of the Law’s establishment and implementation.



John M. Nadeau, CPG

2016-2017

Legislative/Transition Chairman

NYSCPG Past President

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.

Membership Committee Report

Many of you have taken advantage of renewing your membership for the 2017 fiscal year, thank you! As an active member we invite you to login to the website (www.nyscpg.org) and ensure that your profile is up to date. Your annual membership provides you with up to date information for Professional Geologists in New York State, the NYSCPG newsletter, and updates regarding the transition of the profession.

We have been working with our Fundraising Committee and others to update our Members Database and making room for additional members. So if you have individuals you work with or go to school with, who share a love for geology, please extend to them an invite to join the Council. Membership renewal or new membership is now even easier to complete by using the NYSCPG's website at www.nyscpg.org.

If you are interested in becoming a more active member with the NYSCPG, please consider volunteering your time to assist with the Membership Committee or one of our other committees, it is a rewarding experience! Please contact Marc Flanagan (MEFlanagan@trcsolutions.com) for more details.



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Outreach Committee Report

The OC will be springing into action!

We have committed ourselves to visit college/universities which offer a program in the field of geology in NYS in the Fall of 2017.

To begin with, each member has chosen at least three colleges/universities to visit. Each member then corresponds with the faculty at the chosen schools to determine a preference date for our power point presentation.

All OC members reaching out to the institutions of learning will have the same power point presentation.

Most recently I was asked if we could possibly offer this to Boy Scouts and High School programs.

We have our work cut out for us – and we can always use more members in the group.

Please contact any one of the following to let us know your intent:

Region I	Cheryl Neary	cherylN@islandpumpandtank.com
Region II	Nick Recchia Scott Yanuck	nrecchia@geiconsultants.com syanuck@laurelenv.com
Region III	Patrick Diggins David Hannam	geodiggins@gmail.com dhannam@langan.com
Region IV & V	Marcia Wolosz	darcyslaw@gmail.com
Region VI	Scott McDonald	SMcDonald@gesonline.com
Region VII	Marty Meriwether	martinm@pwgrosser.com
Region VIII & IX	Gene Florentino	GFlorentino@ene.com

The committee has been set-up to simulate the NYSDEC as far as regions of the state are involved. For each DEC region, we have a “lead” person. If you are interested in being on the committee, please contact the lead in your region.

We meet via in-person and through a conference call the third Wednesday of each month.

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Spotlight on the Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club

The Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club (<http://www.wcgmc.org>) was founded in 1973 to “stimulate an interest in the Earth Sciences and in the collecting and classification of minerals and fossils and in the art of gem cutting.” Their meetings are held on the second Friday of the month at 7 pm at in the Presbyterian Church, Maple Court Street, Newark, NY. Meetings in July & August are held at different locations and will be announced in June via the club website. Memberships run October-October; Individuals are \$15 and families are \$20.

The club also hosts numerous workshops and field trips. The accompanying article on eurypterids from the Ridgemount Quarry highlights what collectors might be able to see on the Club’s June 16th field trip. Although guests are always welcome to meetings and workshops, participation in field trips requires a club membership.

The annual Wayne County Gem & Mineral Club Show will be held June 3 & 4, 2017 at the Greater Canandaigua Civic Center, 250 N. Bloomfield Rd, Canandaigua, NY 14424 *Please see details flier on Page 10.*

(Continued on page 7)

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The Many Faces of Ridgemount

Article by Wayne Davey and Stephen Mayer; originally published in the [May 2017 newsletter](#) of the [Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club](#)

Ridgemount Quarry in Fort Erie, Ontario is famous for its Eurypterid-bearing strata. Upper Silurian Bertie Group limestones are exposed predominantly at the surface; and it is these rocks that are so reluctant to give up their fossils. The topmost layer known as the Williamsville B Formation, consists of 6 to 8 inches of barren, unproductive, silty, calcareous shale. These rocks need to be cleared before getting to the underlying fossiliferous layers of the Williamsville A Formation.

Prior to February 2016 the owners of Ridgemount set aside a portion of the quarry to allow collecting fossils, however, in March 2016, they relocated the collecting area to a much smaller section. Here the collecting is difficult, digging is hard, very hard and days go by without finding anything other than tiny fragments of eurypterids. It is not uncommon to move several tons of rock with nothing to show for it.



Figure 1: The new collecting area during the WCGMC trip last May. WCGMC will visit this year on June 16th.

Persistence, however, does pay off. With enough hours invested, extraordinary fossils can be found. One of us (WD) is very fortunate to live less than ten minutes from Ridgemount and has been able to visit the quarry most Fridays throughout the year, even in winter. As long as there is little or no snow cover and the weather isn't too bad (snowing or raining too hard) and the temperature is about 20F or above WD will try his luck. Some winter days are more pleasant than the blistering hot days of summer, and it's never crowded.

Although folks needed to work hard for the fossils in the original area, they were more easily obtained than from the new location. The new area that has been set aside for collectors in the last year has proven to be a real challenge. Tons of material had to be cleared. The rock is harder to split than the previous area. Most visitors to Ridgemount come once, complain bitterly about the seemingly impenetrable, sharp, ugly rock, and the inherent lack of fossils. Then they leave, never to be seen again. That's unfortunate as the reality is that a very diverse assemblage of species, although sparse, can be found and typically exhibit excellent fossil preservation.

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

In the past year, Wayne has found several complete *Eurypterus lacustris*, including the specimen depicted on the front page, parts of four other species of eurypterid, two species of horseshoe crab, phyllocarids, plants including *Cooksonia* and a possible undescribed alga as well as a few other fossils.

This article and the pictures on the following page are intended as a summary and a visual aid of the many species found at Ridgemount. Perhaps the pictures will be useful to those of you who choose to attend the WCGMC trip on Friday June 16th.

For additional information we suggest the following references:

Batt, R. J., 1999, An Examination of Eurypterid Occurrences in the Williamsville Formation (Bertie Group) Exposed in Ridgemount Quarry, NYSGA 71st Ann. Mtg. Guidebook, p. B58-B67.

Clarke, J.M., and Ruedemann, R. , 1912. The Eurypterida of New York: New York State Museum Memoir 14, Albany, NY 628 p. – download from NY State Library site

Ciurca, S.J. Jr., and Hamell, R., D., 1994, Late Silurian Sedimentation, Sedimentary Structures and Paleoenvironmental Settings within an Eurypterid-Bearing Sequence (Salina and Bertie Groups), Western NY and SW Ontario, NYSGA 66th Ann. Mtg. Guidebook, p. 457-488

Vrazo, M. B., Brett, C. E., and Ciurca, S. J. Jr., 2016, Buried or brined? Eurypterids and evaporates in the Silurian Appalachian Basin, in *Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology*, v. 444, p. 48-59.

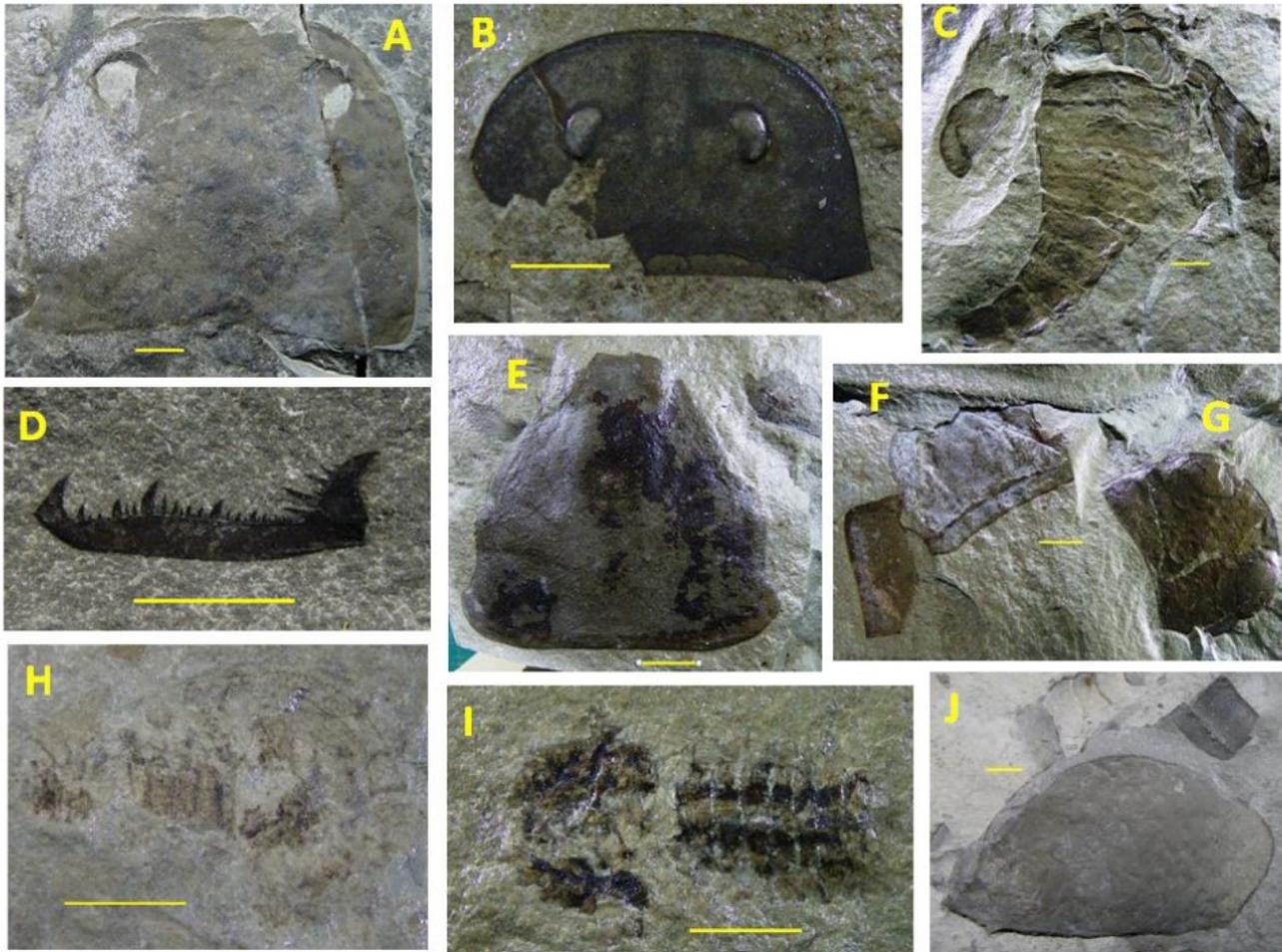


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Eurypterids and More That Can be Found at Ridgemount Quarry in Fort Erie, Ontario



All specimens and photos by Wayne Davey. The yellow scale bar in all photos is one centimeter long.



Ridgemount Eurypterids: **A-** A large *Dolichopterus macrocheirus* head, a species only found occasionally, **B-** *Eurypterus de kayi* head, **C-** *Eurypterus lacustris* – most commonly found species, distinguished from *de kayi* by head proportions, **D-** Toothy partial claw from *Pterygotus acutiramis* **E-** *Paracarcinosoma scorpionis*, the head and a few body segments of a very rare species found in 2015 at the old quarry location, **F-** *Eurypterus lacustris* head and **G-** *Pterygotus acutiramis* head on the same slab. To the best of the authors' knowledge no complete *Pterygotus* specimens have ever been found and some collectors have been searching for over 20 years (pers. comm.).

Other Ridgemount Fossils: Two Species of Horseshoe Crab, **H-** *Bunaia* sp., a very rare species known only from Ridgemount, **I-** *Pseudoniscus* sp. with elongate, highly segmented carapace. Collectors have stated that these fossils are not uncommon at Ridgemount, but it took WD four years to find his first one, then surprisingly 6 or 7 more last year, **J-** Phyllocarid, *Ceraticaris acuminata* - a fairly common species, note the abdominal segments above the carapace. **Plants** can be found also: **K-** *Cooksonia*, an early land plant displaying internal vascular water plumbing.

Figure 2: Eurypterids and other fossils found at the Ridgemount Quarry in Fort Erie, Ontario. All specimens and photos by Wayne Davey. The yellow scale bar in all photos is one centimeter long.

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New York State Council of Professional Geologists

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