

CNYAPG
December 2023



**Central New York Association
of Professional Geologists**

Dr. Kristopher Kusnerik
Hamilton College

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6 December 2023– 7:00 PM - In-Person & Virtual Options Available

Dr. Kristopher Kusnerik (Hamilton College) will present:

Fossil Snails and Freshwater Springs: Understanding the Historical Ecology of Florida's Spring-fed Rivers and Springs using Fossil and Modern Mollusks

Live, dead, and fossil mollusks can be used to document long-term ecological trends on the scale of centuries to millennia. By understanding these trends, we gain a unique perspective regarding the current state and previous history of an ecosystem, enabling better-targeted conservation decisions and designing more effective restoration strategies. This talk applies these approaches to historical ecology- known as Conservation Paleobiology- to Florida's spring-fed river ecosystems. These freshwater habitats are increasingly threatened by climate, environmental, and human impacts but restoration efforts are complicated by the question of "What should a healthy ecosystem look like?" In three of Florida's spring and river systems- the Wakulla, Silver, and Ocklawaha Rivers- we track changes in freshwater mollusk communities from the late Pleistocene to today through comparison of fossil and modern mollusks. These trends illustrate a complex combination of invasive species, rising sea levels, environmental disruptions, localized species loss, and precarious decreases in biodiversity. Along the way I'll cover the complications in understanding how fossils are deposited and preserved in springs and rivers, how predator-prey interactions through time may reflect shifting environments, and what to do when a Category 5 hurricane crashes into one of your field sites midway through the project!

An application has been submitted to NYSCPG for this presentation to count for 1 NY PDH

BOTH IN-PERSON and VIRTUAL options are available!- Zoom link will be sent the morning of 12/6/23

Location: Spaghetti Warehouse, 689 North Clinton Street, Syracuse, New York or ZOOM

Time: 5:00—6:00p.m. social hour: 6:00-7:00 p.m. dinner; 7:00 p.m. technical presentation

RSVP: <https://cnyapg.org/>

Next dinner meeting - January 2023

CNYAPG Newsletter

The CNYAPG Newsletter is a monthly publication of the Central New York Association of Professional Geologists dedicated to sharing upcoming events, delivering regular articles of interest and providing the Membership a forum for discussion.

The newsletter is prepared by the Officers and Board of Directors of CNYAPG (listed below).

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President's Message– December 2023

Welcome to December! We are into the holiday season of a year that has gone by way too fast. Some of us saw our first snow of the season, and most of the leaves are off the trees, making it much easier to view the local geology. Before jumping into this month's letter, I want to thank Dr. Byrce Hand for his superb presentation on Glacial Meltwater Channels in the Syracuse area. It is always good to learn more about our local geological features. Thanks again, Byrce. For this month's presentation, I am pleased to announce that Dr. Kris Kusnerik of Hamilton College will be our featured speaker for our December 6th meeting. I am sure it will be fascinating.

Now, I need to address an issue that is very important to the majority of us, and that is PDH credits. First, in last month's newsletter, I spoke in error that NYSCPG had several classes online for PDH credits. This plan to post "Canned" presentations was shelved because the council decided it was, at present, too difficult to document that a person "actually" viewed the video. This is also difficult for live online remote presentations. With that said, it was brought to my attention that someone online during last month's presentation was taking a call during the presentation and had their camera on. I have been in "in-person" presentations for PDH credits and have observed several of my fellow "design professionals" texting or performing other tasks besides giving their full attention to the presenter. This is not only unacceptable but disrespectful to the person presenting. PDH credits for a presentation can be denied to a participant if the moderator determines that a participant is not in full attendance. Everyone, in-person and online, must demonstrate their participation in the program by answering the questions provided for that PDH program. Please remember that holding a state-issued professional license in any profession recognized by a state agency is a "privilege and an honor," not a right. Failure to acquire and document PDH credits can result in a loss of a professional license. Giving presenters your full and undivided attention is a matter of professional ethics and professional courtesy. We are all busy with personal and professional tasks. Still, please be mindful of your behavior and actions during a presentation. CNYAPG board members and all of our presenters put a lot of personal time and effort into providing this service for our community without compensation. Lastly, on this topic, it is the job of CNYAPG's moderator(s) to monitor attendees online and in-person during the presentations. In the interest of civility and professionalism, if have a concern about someone's behavior during a presentation, please bring it to the attention of the moderator (s) privately. Let us all continue to show each other professional courtesy and respect. Ok, on to more pleasant topics.

The New York State Council of Professional Geologists (NYSCPG) hosted its 2nd annual Geology Days conference in Saratoga Springs on November 13th, 14th, and 15th. There were approximately 300 attendees, with over a dozen vendors and suppliers. Over 35 corporate sponsors supported the three-day event with 30 presentations and two field trips, all for PDH credits. Presenters ranged from the USGS to national and regional environmental and geotechnical firms to university professors to testing laboratories. Topics from Case Studies to Borehole logging and Bedrock Permeability Testing to Site Geophysics to Sustainable Site Remediation were all presented. The conference was not just informative and educational, but it was great to reconnect with

President's Message (continued...)

people from my college days and people I worked with 20 years ago in another state. There were also several CNYAPG members in attendance.

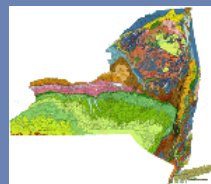
I am also pleased to report that by the vote of the NYSCPG membership, I have been re-elected to another term on the Board of Directors for NYSCPG. Also, during the icebreaker on the first night, each of the New York State regional organizations provided the attendees with an update. I was pleased and honored to show the attendees what CNYAPG has been doing to serve our membership in the past year. Our sister organizations are also doing great things for their members, like yearly field trips, summer programs, field camp scholarships, etc. However, I wanted to inform you that CNYAPG is the only NYS regional organization offering nearly all our presentations online for PDH credits, and our cost for PDH credits is comparable to the in-person offerings of our sister organizations. Several attendees expressed interest in becoming members of CNYAPG because of our online offerings. We will endeavor to spread the word and bring more professionals into our CNYAPG family.

As noted last month, CNYAPG contacted twenty-two public and private colleges and universities in Central New York to inform them of our 2023-2024 Earth Science Student Research Grant. We have begun receiving student proposals, and the review committee looks forward to discussing each proposal's merits. Please remember that all submissions are due by December 9th. A reminder email was sent the weekend before the Thanksgiving holiday. If you are a college educator, please check your email inbox, including your junk mail. I would also like to remind you that the CNYAPG Earth Science student Research Grants will directly support student research and help disseminate that research through conference attendance. The winning student (s) will be awarded grants totaling \$1000 in combined value. If any of you would like to make a monetary contribution to the Student Research Grant fund, it would be most welcome. CNYAPG would again like to thank all our corporate and individual supporters; much of what we do, we could not do without you.

Lastly, for those who like the seismic updates, we have been seismically quiet for the last month, with no activity reported by the USGS as of this writing. So, as I noted before, the leaves on the trees are nearly gone. Get outside before winter lands on us and observe some of our local geology, not to mention the host of wildlife. If braving the elements this time of year is not for you, try engaging your fellow geoscientists in other ways. You can post geologically related items to our CNYAPG's Facebook or LinkedIn pages or email us some of your fantastic photos for the newsletter.

I look forward to seeing you all on the 6th for Dr. Kusnerik's talk. Please have a safe and enjoyable holiday season, and finally, my customary quote. "Never be limited by other people's limited imaginations. If you adopt their attitudes, then the possibility won't exist because you'll have already shut it out. . . You can hear other people's wisdom, but you've got to re-evaluate the world for yourself." – Dr. Mae Jemison (Engineer, Physician, Author, former NASA astronaut. First African-American woman to travel into space).

The CNYAPG was founded in 1993 to strengthen and advance the geological sciences. CNYAPG conducts regular meetings on the first Wednesday of each month from September to May. Meetings feature dinner and distinguished speakers whose presentations invite comment and discussion.



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President's Message (continued...)

CNYAPG has contacted 24 public and private colleges and universities in Central New York to inform them of our 2023-2024 Earth Science Student Research Grant. We have asked for student proposals and abstracts to be submitted no later than Saturday, December 10, 2023. The CNYAPG Earth Science student Research Grants will directly support student research and help disseminate that research through conference attendance. The winning student (s) will be awarded grants totaling \$1000 in combined value. Any monetary contribution to the Student Research Grant fund you would like to offer would be most welcome.

Lastly, I encourage all of you to get out and enjoy the remainder of the fall colors. Take a hike or stroll through one of the local state parks. Clark Reservation, Green Lakes, Pratt's Falls, and Chittenango Falls all are near Syracuse and have beautiful scenery and wonderful exposures of the local stratigraphy, especially at Clark Reservation, Pratt's, and Chittenango Falls. If you take photos, please submit some for next month's newsletter.

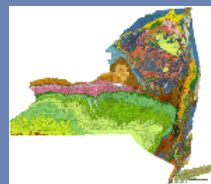
To end this letter, a customary quote for these too familiar of times: "For peace is not mere absence of war but is a virtue that springs from a state of mind, a disposition for benevolence, confidence, and Justice." — Baruch Spinoza

Calvin K. Prothro, P.G., CPG
President of CNYAPG



2023 NYSCPG Geology Days Photos

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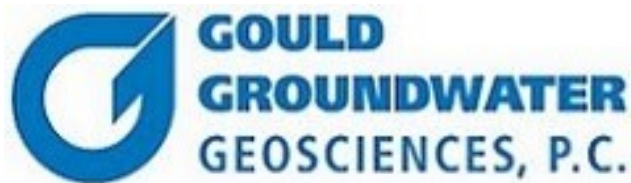
We characterize the mineralogy/chemistry, texture, structure, porosity, and organic matter content of rock, soil, or sediment to assist and enhance environmental investigation

- ❖ Optical Microscopy
- ❖ X-Ray Powder Diffraction
- ❖ Scanning Electron Microscopy
- ❖ Electron Probe Microanalysis
- ❖ Energy and Wavelength Dispersive Spectroscopy

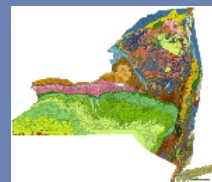
Geochemistry/Chemical Hydrogeology

We assist with evaluation techniques focused on the chemical properties of water and its interactions with rock, soil, or sediment as a complement to standard hydrogeology techniques, which typically focus on the physical properties and available quantity of water (i.e., flow paths/flow rates)

- ❖ Water Types/Hydrochemical Facies Evaluation
- ❖ Graphical Data Analysis/Mapping
- ❖ Geochemical Calculations/Modeling
- ❖ Statistical Analysis



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Upcoming Events

December 6 2023 7:00 PM– CNYAPG– Dr. Kristopher Kusnerik —
(Hamilton College) —Dinner Meeting—www.cnyapg.org

Thank you to David Eckhardt for your donation!



2024 Grant for Earth Science Student Research

**Up to \$1,000 Available
to Support Central New York Student Research**

The Central New York Association of Professional Geologists (CNYAPG) is accepting proposals for 2024 grants to support CNY student Earth Science research or to help disseminate Earth Science research through conference travel.

Eligibility: Two \$500 grants or one \$1000 grant will be awarded competitively to fund either undergraduate or graduate student research-related activities or conference travel to present research. Applicants must attend a participating CNY college/university and be a student of good standing pursuing a degree in Geology or related science.

Proposal Due Date: Proposals must be submitted no later than **December 9, 2023**. Applications should be sent to scholarship@cnyapg.org with "student scholarship" in the subject.

Criteria for Selection: CNYAPG will review and rank proposals based on the purpose, design, and impact of the research, funding purpose and budget, proposal quality, and general earth science interest. Notification of the awards will be made no later than February 17, 2024.

Procedures for Application: Applicants are required to submit a 1-2-page proposal including, at a minimum:

- Project title
- Name of advisor
- Statement of funding purpose
- Project summary including:
 - List of collaborators and PIs on the project
 - Base funding sources, if any
 - An abstract (no more than 200 words) explaining:
 - The purpose of the research (problem statement, hypotheses to be tested),
 - What has and what will be done (project design) and
 - The primary impact of the research
 - Budget explaining how the money will be used and the timeline for work.

Expectations for Recipients: Recipients of the CNYAPG student scholarship will be asked to share the results of their research at a CNYAPG meeting during the following year (2024-2025).

If you have any questions regarding this RFP, please email scholarship@cnyapg.org and include "student scholarship" in the subject.

CNYAPG is a not-for-profit organization with the general mission to strengthen the geologic sciences as a profession in Central New York. Further details about CNYAPG can be found on our webpage: <http://www.cnyapg.org/>

Central New York Association of Professional Geologists (CNYAPG)
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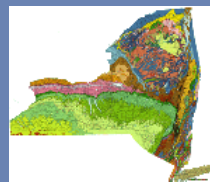
CNYAPG Governance

Membership Renewal

CNYAPG's membership period follows the CNYAPG meeting year from September through August. Renewals are due in September. To renew or become a new member, simply complete the membership form, available on our website at www.cnyapg.org. Membership is only \$25 per year and all money received is used in support of our organization.

Join CNYAPG at our social networking groups on [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#). These sites (always under development) will provide online forums for discussion, as well as another way to inform our members and networking opportunities. For more information about our social media sites e-mail us at admin@cnyapg.org.

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