

President's Message

As the father of small children, I have had the experience of seeing the movie Jurassic Park many times. Something about the film has always bothered me, and last night I realized what it was. The geologist hero of the film is a nineteenth-century, machine-wrecker, and technological goofball. He can't use computers, or any machines without getting lost or breaking them. He even fails to buckle his seatbelt and has to tie it in a knot! Fortunately, he is not like any geologist I have ever known.

I guess that is the problem, geologists have been typecast as creatures out of 1890, who may be heroes in the end, but take a long time getting up to speed. But we're not! All the geologists I deal with use super-modern computers and software and most work with equipment that would have bedazzled Nobel Prize winning physicists from even the 1950's. I can't figure out why we are so misunderstood.

The misunderstanding of geologists does not translate into dislike, far from it. For example, as of this writing in early October, the upcoming short course on the geology of Maine has more than 40 paid registrants, and the mailings have only been out for a few days. Most attendees will apparently not even be members of GSM, but rather from the interested public. So it appears we do relevant or at least interesting things; maybe we just travel to interesting places.

In the end, however, we need to present ourselves to the public as modern scientists with a deep understanding of the earth and oceans. To accomplish this, we need to do more public outreach to develop better public relations.

Geological Society of Maine Fall Meeting

The fall meeting of the Geological Society of Maine will be held in Orono, Monday, November 3, 1997, at the William T. Bryand Global Science Center, University of Maine. The center is located next door to the Sawyer Environmental Science Building and the Oceanography Building (Libby Hall), on the easternmost part of the campus, past botany and the greenhouses.

The program will begin at 1:30 P.M. and will include four speakers on the subject of water resources, with an evening talk by Fred Paillet of the U.S. Geological Survey. Following the afternoon speakers, there will be an indoor field trip through the new geology building, followed by a business meeting, dinner and evening speaker. A more detailed schedule will be mailed separately.

Geological Society of Maine Summer Field Trip

The 1997 Geological Society of Maine summer field trip, *entitled Geologic Studies in the Sebago Lake Region, Maine*, was held on a sunny weekend over the 26th and 27th of July. Bedrock and surficial geologists working in the Sebago Lake area each put together a few stops of interest.

Martha Mixon from F. M. Beck, Inc., and Bob Johnston from the Maine Geological Survey discussed their work on lake level problems at Sebago Lake. Beach profiling and analysis of weather conditions allow for the understanding of sand movement on the lake. Carol Hildreth, a contract geologist with the Maine Geological Survey, described the deglacial history of the Naples and Sebago lake quadrangles. Beth Lewis of the University of Maine discussed late Pleistocene and early Holocene history of the Songo River. John Creasy, Bates College, described the variations in a number of outcrops of the Sebago granite. Saturday night, after a refreshing swim in Sebago Lake, the summer meeting and cookout took place at the campsite at Songo Beach in the park.

Sunday our first stop was to the U. S. Geological Survey stream gaging station at Stony Brook in East Sebago. USGS hydrologist Perry Silverman described the program designed to better delineate ground water and surface water flow in the region. A fascinating description of the hardware and software used by the USGS in their surface water program was included. Spike Berry, Maine Geological Survey, showed the group the bedrock geology along the hiking trail up Douglas Mountain in the Saddleback Hills. John Creasy once again described some of the differences in the geology of the Sebago pluton and associated metamorphic rocks on the southern side of Sebago Lake. Finally, Maine State Geologist Robert Marvinney led the group inside the dry channel of the Saco River in Buxton to examine interesting metamorphic rocks and discuss problems of arsenic in ground water found in the region.

Geological Society of Maine Summer Meeting Minutes

The summer meeting of the Geological Society of Maine was held at Songo Beach Campground at Sebago Lake State Park. President Joe Kelley opened the meeting at 7 P.M. Minutes of the spring meeting were accepted. Treasurer's report as presented by President Kelley indicated society finances are in order. The Geology of Maine Short Course scheduled for October 10, 1997 will be held at Jewett Hall, University of Maine, Augusta. Fred Beck will provide Joe Kelley with information on continuing education credits for Teachers.

Peter Nickeson, a geologist at the Maine Department of Environmental Protection passed away recently. MDEP has taken up a collection to create a fund for Pete's thirteen-year old son David. Please send donations to Bruce Hunter or Clif Eliason of the MDEP.

Andy Tolman noted that state certified geologists would be asked in the near future to provide multiple choice questions for the new certification exam.

The annual meeting of the Northeast Section of the Geological Society of America will be held March 18 – 22, 1998 in Portland, Maine, at the Holiday Inn by the Bay.

The Maine Geological Survey is publishing on four diskettes the “Bibliography of Maine Geology”. As of July 28, 1997, the bibliography can be purchased for \$25.00 plus \$1.50 sales tax from the Survey.

Next year’s field trip suggestions are for the coastal area of Moosehead Lake region. This will be discussed and decided upon at a future meeting date. The fall meeting of the society will be held in November at the new Geological Science Building at the University of Maine in Orono (see elsewhere for details). Officer elections will be held at the fall meeting. Volunteers are needed to fill the Treasurer and Newsletter Editor positions. Bob Johnston will organize a nomination committee. Meeting was adjourned at 8 P. M.

Northeastern Section of the Geological Society of America

The annual meeting of the Northeastern Section of the Geological Society of America will be held March 18 – 21, 1998 in Portland, Maine, at the Holiday Inn by the Bay. The first announcement can be found in the September issue of the GSA newsletter, *GSA Today*. **Deadline for abstracts is November 14, 1997.**

Included along with the regular technical sessions, several symposia on Maine geology, a symposium on the contributions to New England Geology by Marland Billings and Katherine Fowler-Billings, and special poster and theme sessions will highlight the meeting. A special program, the Roy G. Shlemon Mentors Program in Applied Geology will be presented by Russ Slayback (Leggette, Brashears & Graham, Inc.) and Allison Kozak (HKS Environmental, Inc.), professional geologists in the consulting industry. The program will consist of workshops for upper-level undergraduates and graduate students soon to enter the job market. Two field trips are scheduled: the geology of the Portland water front by narrow gauge railroad (daily by Arthur Hussey), and the Poland Spring Bottling Company tour (Saturday afternoon by Kristin Tardiff).

Four short courses also will be offered at the meeting. Wednesday, March 18, an environmental geophysics short course (Stewart Sandberg and Lee Slater, University of Southern Maine), and the hydrology and ecology of wetlands (Andy Reeve and Aram Calhoun, University of Maine) will be presented. Saturday, March 21, two courses sponsored by SEPM will be presented: an environmental hydrogeology course (offered by Eric Eislinger, Alpha Earth, Inc.), and an introduction to seismic stratigraphy (offered by John Armentrout) are scheduled.

The final announcement with registration and housing form will be in the December issue of *GSA Today*. For more information about NEGSA, contact Stephen Pollock at the University of Southern Maine (207-780-5353), or Marc Loiselle, Spike Berry, or Tom Weddle at the Maine Geological Survey (207-287-2801).

MEMBERSHIP DUES STATEMENT

The **GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF MAINE, INC.** is a non-profit corporation established as an educational Society to advance the professional improvement of its members; to inform its members and others of current and planned geological programs in Maine; to encourage continuing social contact and dialog among geologists working in Maine; and to further public awareness and understanding of the geology of State of Maine; and of the modern geological processes which affect the Maine landscape and the human environment.

The Society holds three meetings each year, in the late fall (Annual Meeting), early spring, and mid-summer (usually field trips). A newsletter, *The Maine Geologist*, is published for all members three times a year. The Society year runs from August 1 to July 31. Annual dues and gift or fund contributions to the Society are tax deductible. There are three classes of memberships:

- \$7.00 REGULAR MEMBER Graduate geologists, or equivalent, with one year of practice in geology, or with an advanced degree.
- \$6.00 ASSOCIATE MEMBER Any person or organization desirous of association with the Society.
- \$4.00 STUDENT MEMBER Persons currently enrolled as college students.

A \$2.00 APPLICATION FEE is a one-time fee for all new members, payable when applying for membership.

THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF MAINE ANNUAL RENEWAL / APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

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|-----------------------|--------|----------------------------------|---------------|---|
| Application Fee | \$2.00 | \$ _____ | Name _____ | Checks payable to: Geological Society of Maine Martin Yates, Treasurer c/o Dept. Geological Sciences 5711 Boardman Hall University of Maine Orono, Maine 04469 |
| Regular Member | \$7.00 | \$ _____ | Address _____ | |
| Associate Member | \$6.00 | \$ _____ | _____ | |
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| Contributions to GSM | | \$ _____ (gift or fund on check) | _____ | |
| TOTAL ENCLOSED | | \$ _____ | _____ | |

(Geological Society of Maine funds include the Walter Anderson Fund, the Education Fund, and discretionary gifts as noted by contributor)

1996/97 SOCIETY YEAR BEGINS AUGUST 1 - PLEASE SEND DUES TO TREASURER

THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF MAINE

c/o Arthur M. Hussey, II, Postal Chairman
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Address Correction Requested

Correspondence about membership in the Society should be mailed to Martin Yates, Department of Geological Sciences, 5711 Boardman Hall, University of Maine, Orono, Maine 04469.

Items for inclusion in the newsletter may be directed to Susan Weddle, 11 Beech Drive, Brunswick, ME 04011.

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