



Atlanta Geological Society Newsletter

Atlanta Geological Society March Speaker “Geology of the Isle of Skye Scotland”

Speaker Ben Bentkowski’s Biography:

Ben Bentkowski is a senior hydrogeologist at the Region 4 office of the Environmental Protection Agency. He is a registered professional geologist in Georgia and a member of the Board of Registration. He is currently serving as the president of the Atlanta Geological Society and enjoys the intertwining of geological exploration and vacations. BS in Geology, Florida Atlantic University and MS in Geology from Oklahoma State University.

Abstract:

The Isle of Skye is part of the Inner Hebrides located along the west coast of Scotland. The oldest rocks exposed are Lewisian gneisses 2,800 million years old. Jurassic limestones are exposed primarily along the coastline and can be quite fossiliferous. The predominate rock type at the surface is the upper part of the igneous rocks associated with the considerable lava flows from the Cullin volcano located on the south end of the island. One reference suggests that there were 24 separate flows of lava, accumulating to between 2-3,000 feet thick. The final main event of the geologic history of Skye is the repeated glaciation during the Ice Ages. These events left the biggest imprint in the scenery visible today, including the largest landslide(landslip) in the British Isles. Structurally, the southern portion of Skye has among the earliest thrust faults identified associated with the Caledonian Orogeny, 435 mya, (a.k.a. Appalachian orogeny) which has a very distant familial connection to the speaker.

