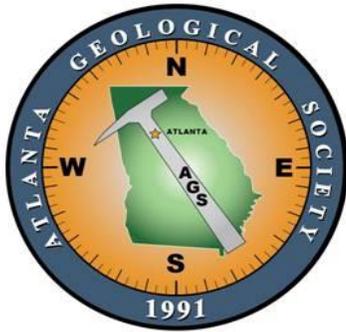
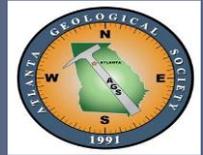


Atlanta Geological Society Newsletter

February 2022



AGS Atlanta Geological Society

Annual membership

- General: \$25
- Student: \$10
- Corporate: \$200
- [Click here to join](#)

In Memory of Nils Thompson

John Salvino

Neels, Nils, Neils....I bet I am not the only one who struggled to get this right when I met our friend for the first time. As I recall, just before I met Nils, I was in the parking lot at Fernbank Museum waiting for the AGS meeting to begin. While waiting, I read President's Nils's bio in the newsletter. To my surprise, he lived in Woodstock not more than a mile or so from me. How about that! Once at the meeting, I heard his name. It was then I committed to a mnemonic device to nail down the pronunciation: "Nils - as in kneel down in church". That thought cross my mind every time I saw him, including the last time at the hospice, when kneeling in prayer seemed to be the most appropriate gesture for this man who worked so hard to be a good husband to Elizabeth, father to Max and Greg, leader to Scouts and Sea Scouts, and who committed his leadership skills to the AGS.



I can't say I know Nils's full biography. What I do know about him was what he shared with me during almost ten years of carpooling from Woodstock to our monthly meetings at Fernbank. During those trips, we talked about all sorts of things including geology, consulting, politics, and our kids, families and spouses, all of which was dotted and dashed with a bit of profanity, whenever someone would cut Nils off while driving down I-75.

Nils never told me he was born in Amarillo Texas but I did know that he lived and grew up in Erie, Pa, the complete polar opposite of where I was growing up near Valley Forge, Pa. His parents were educators. His mom, librarian in the public schools and his dad once worked as a

February Meeting NOTE NEW TIME

Join us **February 22, 2022** for our AGS hybrid in-person and webcast meeting.

- 6:00: Pizza social at the museum
- 6:30: Business meeting
- 6:45: Presentation

Topic: Better Understanding Seismic Activity in the Southeast USA: Case studies of the Eastern Tennessee Seismic Zone and Vicinity of the Thurmond Reservoir

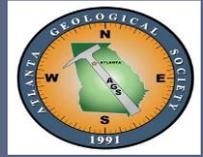
Speaker: Clara Daniels, Georgia Tech (see page 4)

In this Issue

- Join the AGS..3
- February Presentation..4
- How to become an AGS Sponsor..5
- Instructors needed for PG workshops..6
- Earth science mini-grant update..7
- Outcrop of the month..8
- Welcome new corporate sponsor, GeoLogic..9
- American Society of Reclamation Sciences scholarship..10
- Events Calendar..11
- AGS Officers, Committees, and Sponsors..13

Atlanta Geological Society Newsletter

February 2022



meat cutter. His brother Erik told me that Nils was crazy smart in high school, taking AP classes in math and science his senior year. Those grades got him into Penn State, where he graduated in 1983 with a BS in Geology while I was still face first in mineral trays at nearby Indiana University of Pa. At the advice of his professors, Nils continued his education in the high plains of central Kansas at Fort Hayes State, located just off I-70 and famous for its Mosasaur collection.

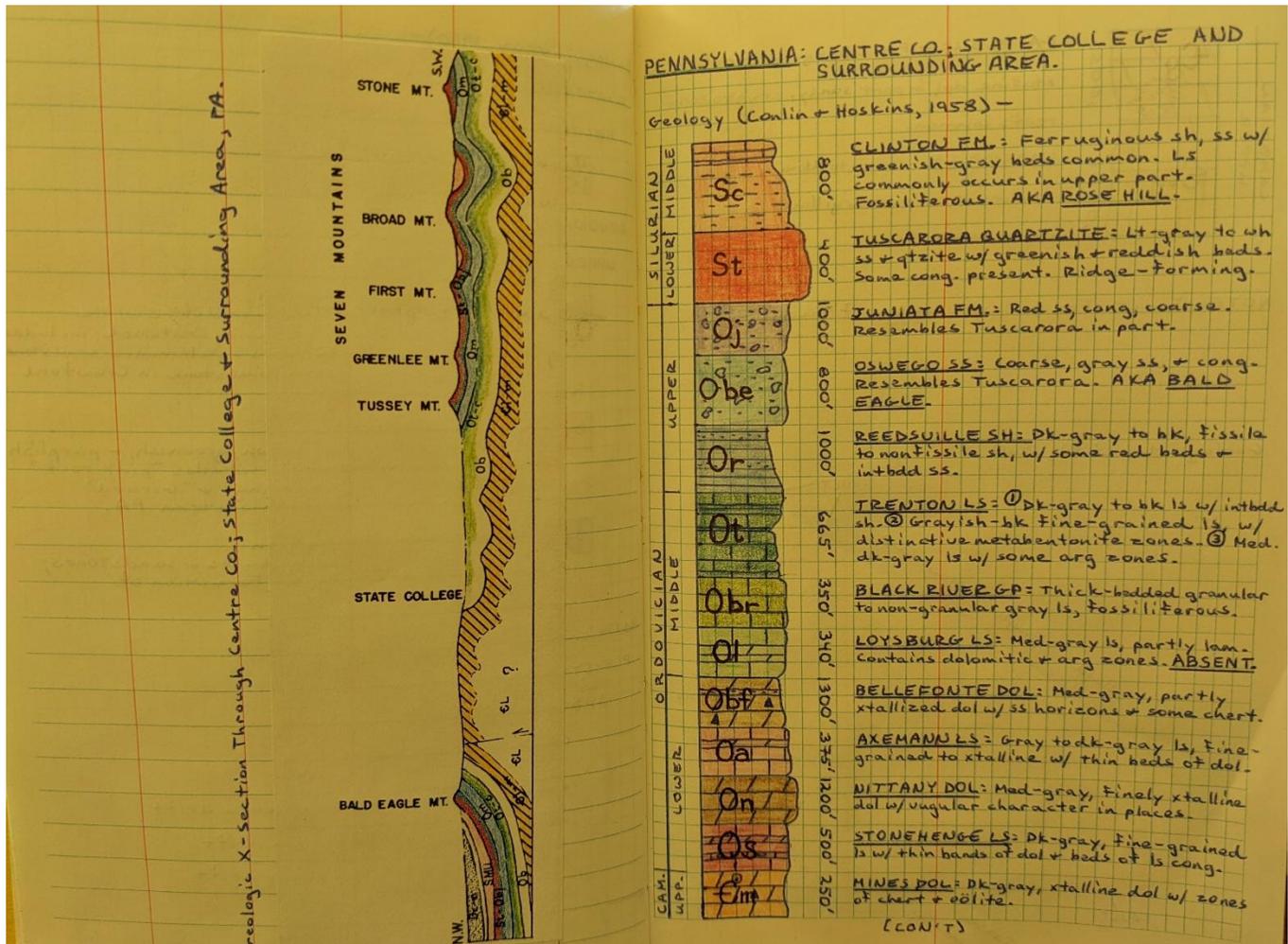
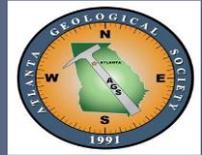
It is a wonder I did not cross paths with Nils in the Atlanta environmental and geological consulting world, since he held multiple state PG licenses and worked with dozens of professionals at several professional consulting firms. Nils and I finally made a connection at meetings of the AGS. After that we crossed paths in Scouting at Troop 994, where he was serving as an assistant Scoutmaster. He and his good friend Myles Alfonso (a Marine and affable logistics executive who was fascinated with any Geo-fact launch in his direction) along with their sons were fixtures in Troop 994. Nils and Myles were inseparable on countless camping trips including the scout pilgrimage to Philmont. Nils welcomed me and my son Nick into the Troop before jumping ship, so to speak; as he and his son Max went off to Sea Scouts.

Nils was a workhorse for AGS. During his initial nine years as President, he refined and perfected AGS's current bylaws, held regular Executive "meetings" and speaker dinners at any one of a number of pubs and pizza shops at Emery Square. It wasn't all pilsner and pie for Casey, Shannon, Ben, Rob, Ken and me, we actually got stuff done, had serious conversations and became convinced that AGS was one of the most valuable assets to the geologic and environmental community of the Atlanta area. Nils stepped down from his first term as president in 2016. He was called back to serve in 2020.

When Nils stepped down as president in 2016, I had the pleasure of providing him with a plaque mounted on a chunk of Charnockite (porphyritic, hyperstene-modal granite; look it up) that I collected on a Scott Harris field trip near Pine Mountain, Ga. For that reason it seems strangely coincidental that it was on another Scott Harris Field trip, this past December to Stone Mountain, Ga where I would get to talk geology, stare at xenoliths and car pool for the very last time with my friend.

Nils passed away on February 9, likely from the sporadic/spontaneous version of Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease, (CDJ); a particularly nasty and always fatal brain disease that rapidly robs its victims of mobility, vision and speech, then shreds one's emotions and their perception of reality. Nils and his brave family faced this disease as the rest of us celebrated the holidays and new year. By mid-January, Nils explained as best he could the "Tic Toc, Tic Toc, Tic Toc" (his way of saying he knew that time.... you know, the thing that geologists can never get enough of....was running out. I said goodbye to Nils the only way I knew, by reading to him vignettes by naturalist author, Ted Williams from his book "Wild Moments".

We say goodbye to Nils this month and we honor his commitment to AGS by continuing to hold our monthly lectures, meetings, field trips and our annual barbecues social. Nils is gone but don't be too surprised when you're standing in the Fernbank Dino Rotunda that in the background you hear his cadence, his laugh or his characteristically confident way of explaining anything... "and so on and so forth, like that."



Centre County, PA, stratigraphy from field book notes by Nils Thompson. Courtesy of Max Thompson

Join the Atlanta Geological Society

Membership categories:

- o General (\$25) shall be persons who are interested in the geological sciences.
- o Student (\$10) shall be full-time undergraduate, graduate or post-graduate students enrolled at an accredited college or university and who are interested in the geologic sciences.
- o Corporate (\$200) shall be Registered Georgia Corporations engaged in geologic, engineering or other related services. Each Corporate Membership shall provide for up to 5 General Memberships for employees of the corporation and advertisement in the association newsletter and web site. To join the organization, go to: <http://atlantageologicalsociety.org/membership-and-dues/>



February Presentation: Better Understanding Seismic Activity in the Southeast USA: Case studies of the Eastern Tennessee Seismic Zone and Vicinity of the Thurmond Reservoir

When: February 22, 2022 (NOTE NEW TIME)

6:00: Pizza social

6:30: Business meeting (zoom starts)

6:45: Presentation

The meeting will be in person and via zoom. Click on this link to join meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85396665201?pwd=NnMvVzFXdjllc1Q4OE4vWFJWemE0Zz09>

Abstract: The Eastern Tennessee Seismic Zone (ETSZ) is the second most active seismic zone in the eastern United States, after the New Madrid Seismic zone in the Mississippi Valley area. A few faults have been identified in the region, but many remain unknown or poorly constrained at depth. We apply a matched filter technique to detect earthquakes not previously catalogued in the ETSZ. We use 15 years of catalogued earthquakes in this region to detect missing events in the same time period (January 2005 to May 2020). We also calculate the magnitudes of new events and relocate the both the new detections and previously catalogued earthquakes to better constrain earthquake locations in the ETSZ. Relocated hypocenters are examined to resolve fault structures and orientations. Our ultimate goal is to use spatio-temporal changes of seismicity during the last 15 years reveal subsurface fault structures and the driving forces of seismicity along the ETSZ. We also present our findings on a notable earthquake in the vicinity of the Thurmond Reservoir, located at the border between Georgia and South Carolina. The Mw 4.1 earthquake on February 15, 2014 near Edgefield, South Carolina was one of the largest recorded by nearby modern seismometers, providing an opportunity to study its source properties and aftershock productivity. The low number of detected events in the weeks around the mainshock suggests that this sequence is deficient in aftershock production, as compared with expected aftershock productivities for other mainshocks of similar magnitudes.



Speaker bio: Clara Daniels is a 5th year PhD student studying Seismology at Georgia Institute of Technology, getting ready to graduate this May! She has her Bachelor's in Electrical Engineering, with a focus on Digital Signal Processing, also from Georgia Tech. She grew up in Pennsylvania and Georgia, which is why earthquakes on the East Coast are so interesting to her and the focus of her research.

Sponsor of this month's meeting—Salvino Environmental Services

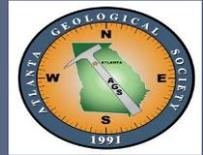
Thanks to Salvino Environmental Services and an anonymous donor for generously sponsoring our February meeting. John

Salvino is AGS treasurer and long-time member. His company, Salvino Environmental Services, LLC provides technical and field support services to remediation contractors. They also provide supplemental geological and environmental field support services as companies bridge the labor and human resource gaps between their current available staff resources and their project work load. For more information, go to: <http://sites.google.com/site/salvinoenvironmental>



Atlanta Geological Society Newsletter

February 2022



How to become an AGS Sponsor

The Atlanta Geological Society (AGS) benefits from the generosity of our Sponsors. In return, we highlight their contributions at our meetings, in our newsletters and on our website. Sponsor funding helps finance a variety of activities.

- * Each year we host as many as ten lectures on various topics associated with geology, geoscience, and the environment that are presented during monthly meetings. Sponsor funding provides food and refreshments during these meetings.
- * We also host monthly Saturday workshops that provide technical review of geologic topics geared to help professional geologist candidates review and study for the National Association of State Boards of Geologists exams. Sponsor funding provides food and refreshments during these workshops.
- * The AGS awards mini-grants to assist educators and scientists in their effort to promote aspects of geology and participate in relevant conferences. Sponsor funding helps finance these grants.
- * The AGS hosts an annual Social so members can meet in an informal setting, share a meal, and watch a movie at the Fernbank Museum's Rankin M. Smith Sr. 4K Giant Screen Theater. Sponsor funding helps finance this annual event.

In return for funding support, the sponsor may set up a display and provide promotional materials at the meeting, receives recognition from officers, and is given time for a short presentation. There is plenty of opportunity to mingle with members during pre-meeting refreshments. AGS sponsors are recognized in our monthly newsletter and on our web site.

AGS appreciates all levels of support. Following are costs of various activities:

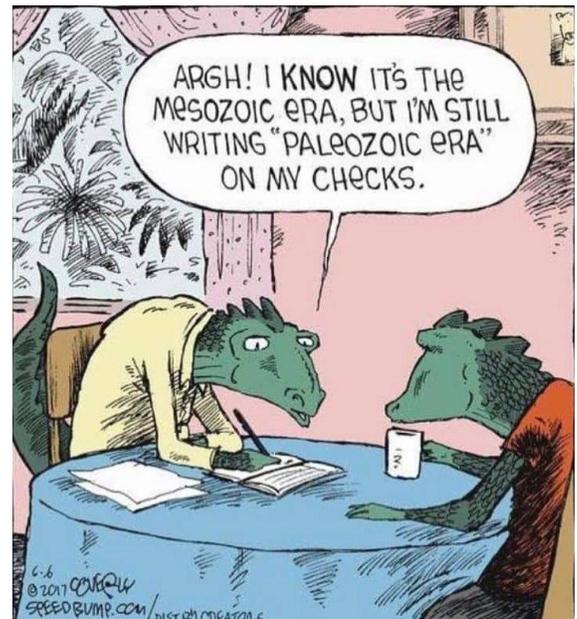
- Monthly meetings: \$100
- Saturday workshops: \$50
- Annual social: \$1,000+
- Teacher Grants: \$300

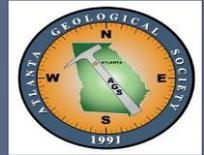
We welcome full or partial funding support. To become a sponsor please go to:

<http://atlantageologicalsociety.org/sponsorship/>

For more information contact John Salvino:

johnsalvino619@gmail.com





Instructors Needed for PG Workshops: Share Your Expertise With The Rising Class Of Professional Geologists!

Abigail Knapp

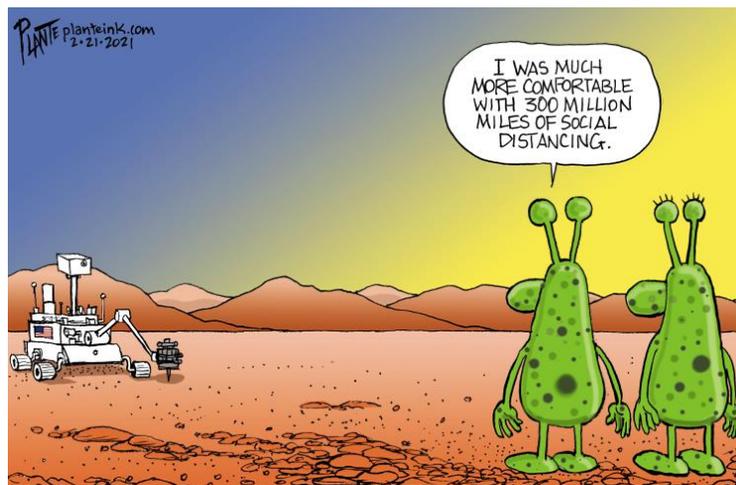
Are you a professional geologist, faculty member, or graduate student with expertise in geological science? Consider sharing your knowledge at one or more of our monthly [PG workshops](#) to help geologists prepare for the [National Association of State Boards of Geology](#) (ASBOG) Exam and registration with the State's licensing board.

These PG workshops are about two hours in length and are held monthly on the last Saturday morning of the month. These sessions qualify instructors and students attending with 2 hours of professional development hours. Each session provides a review of one of the eight sub-disciplines featured in the ASBOG exam:

- A. General and Field Geology
- B. Mineralogy, Petrology, and Geochemistry
- C. Sedimentology, Stratigraphy, and Paleontology
- D. Geomorphology, Surficial Processes, and Quaternary Geology
- E. Structure, Tectonics, and Seismology
- F. Hydrogeology
- G. Engineering Geology
- H. Economic Geology and Energy Resources

The format is currently online through the Zoom platform, hosted by Scott Harris of the Fernbank Science Center, so if you are in a remote location, you can still participate! Previous workshops have incorporated lectures, discussions, quizzes, and are always great fun! We love to promote our talks through our website, newsletter, and social media, and we have a great group of excited members attending!

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to provide a workshop, please contact Abigail Knapp, chair of the PG workshop committee at abigail.s.knapp@gmail.com.





Earth Science Mini-Grant Program Update

The Earth Science mini-grant program was established by the Atlanta Geological Society (AGS) in the 1990s to provide resources to supplement the K-12 classroom teacher's operating budget for Earth Science education. During 1998-2005, the Georgia Mineral Society (GMS) joined AGS in providing grants. This partnership was ended over disagreement regarding whether grants should be provided to teachers throughout the state or limited to the metro Atlanta area only. Recently, the AGS board and GMS decided to once again partner together in the grant program as the reach of AGS has grown statewide in recent years. The grant, referred to as the Sandy Pottinger award by AGS and the Holly Camp award by GMS, is being revised to reflect the input of both organizations. A flyer describing the program was prepared by Bill Witherspoon of AGS and distributed to educators at a booth manned by GMS at the Georgia Science Teachers Association annual conference, February 10-11 in Peachtree City, Ga.

The Earth Science mini-grant program provides resources to supplement, enhance and enrich Earth Science learning. Grants of up to \$300.00 may be applied for, with the total amount awarded dependent on available funding. Examples of supported projects include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Purchase of Mineral/Rock/Fossil samples or collections
- Materials and expenses for classroom experiments
- Development or purchase of software for Earth Science subjects
- Computer or GPS hardware purchases
- Earth Science field trip expenses
- Limited on-line service fees to provide geological research access to Internet resources

Awardees are expected to use the available funds for their maximum benefit. Upon completion of the project, a written report of no more than four typed pages or a video no longer than 15 minutes will be submitted to the Atlanta Geological Society Grants and Scholarship Committee at the address below within 1-year of grant award. It is suggested that the report could be student-compiled, teacher-graded, and submitted in a portfolio format. A one-page written summary must accompany any multimedia presentations. A presentation to a general meeting of the Atlanta Geological Society may be requested for any project.

This program is open to all elementary, middle and high school earth science/systems classes and teachers within Georgia. Applications should be submitted on or before September 1 each year. Awards will be announced on September 30. To apply [click here](#).

For further information, please contact:

William G. Waggener, Grant Coordinator
Cell 404-354-8752
Email: waggener90@gmail.com

GET \$\$ FOR
your classroom

A 2020 mini-grant funded materials for a SE lesson on the Physical Attributes of Rocks standard.

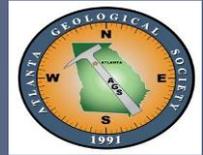
"Thank you...My students are now **ROCK STARS!!!**"
-Greta Shipman,
Green Acres Elementary,
Cobb County

EARTH SCIENCE MINI-GRANTS

- ✓ Up to \$300
- ✓ Simple application
- ✓ Spend on study samples, lab materials, software, field trip costs and more
- ✓ Teacher awardee retains items

APPLY BY SEPT 1

<https://www.gaminal.org/edmini.html>



Outcrop of the Month

Bill Witherspoon

Does Cumberland Island qualify as an outcrop of the month? Depending on the geologist's perspective, a Georgia beach has either 0% or 100% outcrop exposure. This month's feature is excerpted from Pamela Gore's writing on p. 42 and 46 of *Roadside Geology of Georgia*, illustrated by C.J. Jackson's photos as published on an intervening page.

Cumberland Island, the largest and southernmost of the Georgia Sea Islands, has an interesting history, going back at least 4,500 years to when Indians built villages and mound- and ring-shaped oyster shell middens. Atop one of these mounds a four-story tabby mansion, called Dungeness, was built in the 1790s. The walls of the mansion were 6 feet thick at their base. The mansion burned in 1866. In the 1880s, Thomas Carnegie acquired the property and built a castle on the ruins of Dungeness, but it too burned and lies in ruins.



Left: Oyster shell midden exposed by erosion. Right: A wild horse on Cumberland Island near a sand dune

Sand dunes have begun to bury trees and shrubs southeast of Dungeness as wind transports beach sand inland. Typically, vegetation stabilizes them, but in places feral horses and other grazing animals have destroyed the vegetation. In some places on the island, a set of secondary, large parabolic dunes has formed inland of the original dunes along the beach. Driven by prevailing winds, these secondary dunes are migrating into the maritime forest and burying trees.

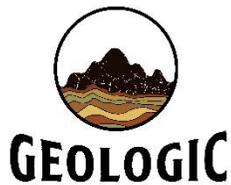
Most of the drinking water on Cumberland Island comes from artesian (free-flowing) wells drilled into the porous limestone that is hundreds of feet below the surface. This limestone is part of the Floridan aquifer and can be traced in the subsurface to Albany, about 180 miles to the west. Impermeable clay lies over the limestone, which causes the water to be at considerable pressure near the coast. A 680-foot-deep well at Dungeness drilled by the Carnegies in 1887 flowed at nearly 800,000 gallons per day, and the water rose 51 feet above the ground surface. The water gets its taste and slight odor from the minerals and sulfur—in the form of hydrogen sulfide gas—that it picks up in its subsurface journey.

Atlanta Geological Society Newsletter

February 2022



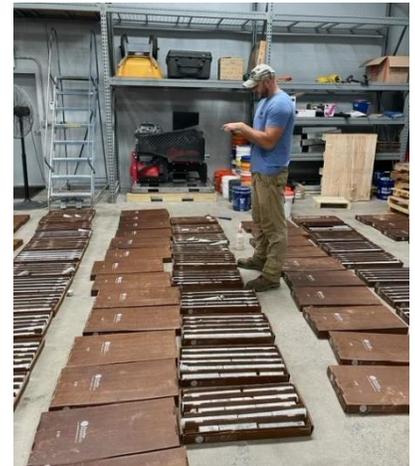
Welcome to our new Corporate Member: GeoLogic



GeoLogic, LLC, was established in 2018 by Benjamin Black, Owner and Principal Geological Engineer with more than 25 years of experience in geological, hydrogeological, and geotechnical analysis and design. He currently maintains active Professional Engineer certification in 7 states, and active Professional Geologist certification in 8 states including Georgia. Ben is also a certified GSWCC Level 2 Erosion and Sediment Control Plan Design Professional.

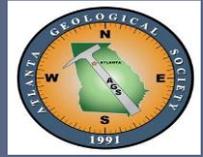
Located near the border of Marietta and Woodstock, GeoLogic is a rapidly-expanding full-service geological engineering firm consisting of geologists, engineers, scientists, designers, and laboratory staff. In the nearly four years since its inception, GeoLogic has grown to include 13 employees, with immediate openings for three more.

Specializing in surface mine planning, permitting, and expansion, the GeoLogic team has conducted numerous quarry evaluations for both dimension stone and aggregate operations as well as assessments for sand pit feasibility throughout the southeast. Services include subsurface exploration, resource and reserve estimates, constraints analyses, slope stability and seepage analyses, surface mine planning and permitting, geotechnical engineering, rock mechanics evaluations, mineral remoteness reports, laboratory testing, engineering evaluations for dams, dam inspections, and drone services. GeoLogic also offers third-party independent technical review and expert witness testimony.



The close-knit GeoLogic team works hard and plays hard, often working out together in our CrossFit-style warehouse gym before and after work. We also support our local community by sponsoring school events and donating to scout troops. We've hit the ground running in 2022 and are geared up for an exciting and productive year!





CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: AMERICAN SOCIETY OF RECLAMATION SCIENCES 2022 MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

ASRS will award three scholarships this year to deserving B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. students (one scholarship at each level) from academic institutions having curricula leading to professions related to reclamation or related applied disciplines. Scholarship includes a cash award (\$1,000 for B.S., \$1,500 for M.S., and \$2,000 for Ph.D.) and one-year student membership.



Selection criteria:

- Applicants must have completed at least the sophomore year of a curriculum in a science discipline directly relating to and leading to a profession in reclamation or closely related applied disciplines.
- Applicants must be full time students, have an adequate grade point average, carry the curriculum required hours, and have participated in other scholastic activities.
- Extracurricular participation and leadership in a recognized ASRS student chapter and other professional accomplishments will be considered beneficial to the applicant.
- Applicants will be considered for a Scholarship at a specific level either while they are enrolled at that given level or within one calendar year of completing their degree at that given level.
- Previous award winners at a specific level are eligible to apply for the award at a different level, as long as the applicant: i) can verify a significant change of topic (either by attending a different institution, changing majors, or explicitly explaining a significant change in academic interests), and ii) is not applying in the year immediately following the year in which they received an award.
- Previous award winners are not eligible to apply for a second award at the same level.
- No individual may be awarded more than two Scholarships in total.

Application Procedures:

- All applications must follow proper procedures outlined on the ASRS Web page: <http://www.ASRS.US>
- All applicants must provide electronic copies of all application materials as Adobe PDF documents (and preferably as a single pdf document), to the Scholarship Committee Chair via e-mail: completed application form (found on the ASRS Web page), letter from the applicant outlining education and career goals, three reference letters (with at least two academic, including one from advisor), college transcripts (scanned copies acceptable if pdf not available), resume (including lists of awards, honors, and extracurricular activities)
- Applications must be received by February 28, 2022. Please address questions and send completed applications to:

Barry Stewart, Ph.D.
ASRS Memorial Scholarship Committee Chair
Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, Mississippi State University
32 Creelman St., 117 Dorman Hall, Box 9555
Mississippi State, MS 39762-9555

Phone: 662-325-2725; Fax: 662-325-8742; E-mail: brs40@msstate.edu

Atlanta Geological Society Newsletter

February 2022



Events Calendar

February 17, 2022 – 3:20pm: Mining and geology topics in the southeast during covid. This joint meeting of AEG Atlanta, SME Georgia, and AIPG Georgia. It will cover a variety of Mining and Geology Topics in the Southeast during Covid. There will be 5 presentations of 15 minutes each. The presentations will last from 3:30 PM and end before 5:15 PM. For more information [click here](#).

February 22, 2022, 6pm: AGS monthly meeting, speaker: Clara Daniels, Georgia Tech. Topic: Better Understanding Seismic Activity in the Southeast USA: Case studies of the Eastern Tennessee Seismic Zone and Vicinity of the Thurmond Reservoir. See page 2 for more information.

March 18, 12pm: Georgia Ground Water Association meeting. Speaker: James Landmeyer, USGS. Topic: Pump and "Tree!": Using Trees to Remediate Contaminated Groundwater. [Contact Debbie Gordon](#) for more information.

March 29, 6pm: AGS monthly meeting, speaker: Victor Ricchezza. Topic: Geology for the Next Generation—Purposeful Training in Geoscience Education

April 7-8, 2022: Geological Society of America joint section meeting—North Central and Southeastern Sections, Cincinnati, OH. [Click for more information](#)

April 26, 6pm: AGS monthly meeting, speaker: Randy Kath. Topic: to be determined.

May 31, 6pm: AGS monthly meeting, speaker: Debbie Gordon. Topic: Hydrology of the Claiborne aquifer in Southwestern Georgia

University of Georgia Geology Colloquium Series

Virtual event via zoom

Note: A password is required to join these meetings. Please call the Geology office (706-542-2652) and speak with a representative to obtain the code. Alternatively, a code request can be made to [UGA Geology](#).

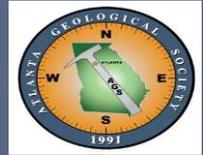
February 18, 2022 - 4:10pm: Dr. Nurgul Balci, (Istanbul Technical University (ITU)): Mg carbonate buildups of Lake Salda, Turkey: Implications for biotic and abiotic processes.

February 25, 2022 - 4:10pm: Dr. Jenny McGuire, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences (Georgia Tech)

March 18, 2022 - 4:10pm: Dr. Juliane Dannberg, (University of Florida): Mantle plumes and their interaction with tectonic plates: Insights from geodynamic modeling

March 25, 2022 - 4:10pm: Dr. Linda Kah, Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences (University of Tennessee): Understanding Jezero crater, Mars: Insight from the Perseverance rover mission

April 1, 2022 - 4:10pm: Dr. Sarah Carmichael, Department of Geological and Environmental Sciences (Appalachian State University): CSI: Devonian - are large igneous provinces guilty of causing the end-Devonian mass extinction?



April 8, 2022 - 4:10pm: Dr. Emily Martin, Research Physical Scientist Center for Earth and Planetary Studies (National Space and Air Museum Smithsonian Institution): Estimating regolith thickness on Saturn's Moon Enceladus

Fernbank Museum Events

Exhibits

Knights in Armor (On View February 5, 2022 – May 15, 2022) Through more than 100 objects—including full suits of armor, mounted equestrian figures, paintings, helmets, swords and other weaponry—this exhibit tells the tale of the European knight from the medieval and Renaissance periods through the Medieval Revival of the 19th century.

Symphonies in Scale: LICHENS (On View February 12, 2022 – May 8, 2022) The striking beauty of lichens is showcased in 10 larger-than-life macro photographs, which immerse guests in these worlds, ignite their sense of wonder and unearth a childlike curiosity

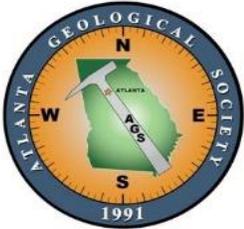
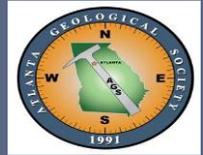
Fernbank's Giant Screen Theater is OPEN daily. Now Playing:

- *Mountain adventure: out of bounds
- *Dinosaurs of Antarctica

Other events

- Fernbank Audubon Walk, February 19, 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM
- Fernbank After Dark: Night at the Science Museum, March 11, 7:00 PM – 11:00 PM
- Little Critters Day, March 12, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
- Fernbank Audubon Walk, May 14, 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM





AGS Annual membership

- General: \$25
- Student: \$10
- Corporate: \$200
- [Click here to join](#)

AGS Officers

- **President:** Nils Thompson
Phone (770) 910-5645
captain.nils@outlook.com
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Phone (678) 674-5580
pgore@gsu.edu
- **Secretary:** John Clarke
Phone: 770-367-5880
ice12jsc@gmail.com
- **Treasurer:** John Salvino, P.G.
Phone: 678-237-7329
Johnsalvino619@gmail.com
- **Past President:** Ben Bentkowski
bbentkow@gmail.com

Our Corporate Sponsors



AGS Committees

- **Technical presentations:** Pamela Gore
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pgore@gsu.edu
- **PG Workshops & Continuing Education:**
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