



Winter 2014-15
Volume 40
Number 3

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings! As the newly elected president of the Geological Society of Maine, I would like to introduce myself and let you know what is going on within the society. I have been a member of GSM and the Maine geoscience community since 1986. I am a laboratory manager and instructor in the School of Earth and Climate Sciences at the University of Maine but have also worked in the mineral exploration industry in the early 1980's. I have participated in numerous GSM meetings and field trips, have served as treasurer and director in the 1990's and as vice president for the last few years. I am an enthusiastic supporter of the mission of GSM, and its tradition of bringing together individuals from local schools, academic institutions, government and industry.

GSM continues to be led by a dedicated group of officers and volunteers. Lisa Jacob, Bruce Hunter, Carol White, and Martha Mixon have agreed to continue their work as secretary, treasurer, newsletter editor, and website manager, respectively. At the Fall meeting Henry Berry was elected as the new vice president. Keith Taylor transitioned from president of GSM to director and will serve with directors Steve Kelley and Chris Morrell. Arthur Hussey will continue as GSM's historian and I'm sure will keep the society on-track and on-mission. I would like to thank Keith Taylor in particular for his service. He is a master of organization and communication and the society has had excellent meetings and field trips under his leadership.

Keith wrote a letter on behalf of the membership of GSM to the administration of the University of Southern Maine, the University of Maine System, and the board of trustees protesting the proposed elimination of the geosciences department. This letter was a result of a resolution at GSM's Spring business meeting held at Bowdoin College on April 4, 2014. The letter and response were published in our most recent newsletter along with a commentary from

Keith Taylor. I fully agree with Keith's arguments that the geoscience department at the USM serves a unique role in Maine geology community due to its location, student demographics, and program. I am disappointed with the short-sighted decision to eliminate this program that was developed by such talented and active members of our geology community.

Colby College has agreed to host the next GSM Spring meeting. The meeting will be held on April 10, 2015 starting at 1pm. This meeting will highlight student research. We invite students to present their research in the form of posters or talks. We will recognize the best talk and best poster with the Walter Anderson award at the society's business meeting. Bob Nelson from Colby College, in addition to hosting the meeting, will receive and organize abstracts. Abstracts can be sent directly to him before April 3, 2015 at:

Dr. Robert Nelson
Box 5804
Colby College
Waterville, Maine 04901-8840

Call for Abstracts For Student Presentations

**Geological Society of Maine Spring Meeting
Friday, April 10th, 2015
Colby College, Waterville, Maine**

Submit abstracts by email to: robert.nelson@colby.edu

Please indicate in the subject line if it's a **GSM poster abstract** or **GSM oral abstract**.

Abstract Deadline: must be received by **April 3, 2015**

Please see the GSM website www.gsmmaine.org for an abstract example and more information about the upcoming meeting.

THE STATE GEOLOGIST'S MESSAGE

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

BY ROBERT G. MARVINNEY, STATE GEOLOGIST

In November, Maine voters elected a new Legislature, which maintains control of the House by Democrats and shifted the Senate to Republican control. In the Senate, there are 15 new members, many of whom have previously served in the house, but 5 of whom have no previous legislative experience. In the House, while many incumbents were re-elected, 53 newly elected Representatives have no prior legislative experience. Several Representatives moved over from the Senate, having been termed-out there. With this mix of seasoned and freshmen legislators, I expect old issues to resurface and new ones to be introduced, as the legislative session opens on January 7.

It is certain that this Legislature will again take up the issue of metallic mineral mining - at the top of my list of bills related to geology. To recap, an after-deadline bill was submitted late in the 2012 session to revamp the laws related to metallic mineral mining. The bill that eventually passed changed several key provisions of law regarding mining, perhaps most importantly that the term of a permit would be for the life of a mine, rather than the arbitrary 5-year term in previous law. With the new law as guidance, the Maine DEP pursued rule-making which was completed during the summer of 2013, when the draft rules were handed off to the Board of Environmental Protection. Through lengthy public comment and deliberations, the BEP reviewed and amended the rules, returning them to the Legislature in early 2014, where they were ultimately rejected. This leaves Maine with a framework law from 2012 and rules from 1991 (slightly modified) – a situation that is ripe for reappraisal.

There likely will be bills related in one manner or another to climate change. The previous Legislature established a “Commission to Study the Effects of Coastal and Ocean Acidification” which met over the summer and fall to consider the broad impacts of ocean acidification to Maine’s economy (e.g. shellfish) and make recommendations for actions. Staff from the Maine Coastal Program (part of my

Bureau) participated in the process. The draft report released on November 10 includes recommendations to improve monitoring, address quality of outflows from sewage treatment plants, review/improve agricultural BMPs, and others. Undoubtedly many of these recommendations will come forward in the session. Also, we have heard some rumors about bills related to sea-level rise. It will be good to have an open discussion about these issues, informed by science.

In one session a few winters ago, no fewer than 14 bills were presented related to water resources, mostly focused on groundwater extraction. Will there be a repeat? With a new Legislature and a large contingent of freshmen, anything may happen.

Robert G. Marvinney, Maine State Geologist:
Robert.G.Marvinney@maine.gov

Legislative Update

Since Bob wrote his column the 127th session of the Maine Legislature has begun its work and as he predicted there are a number of bills of interest to Maine geologists including:

LD 146: Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 200: Metallic Mineral Exploration, Advanced Exploration and Mining, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Environmental Protection.

Yup - Its back! The Maine Legislature’s Energy and Natural Resources Committee is holding a public hearing on LD 146 starting at 9:00 am on Wednesday, February 25, 2015.

LD 169: An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Groundwater Rights sponsored by Representative Victoria Kornfield

Sound familiar? This bill, which has several co-sponsors from all over the state, proposes an excise tax of 1¢ per gallon of water on bottled water operators extracting over 1 million gallons per year. Because it is a tax, the bill was referred the Legislature’s Committee on Taxation.

Other bills include *An Act to Help Municipalities Prepare for Changes in Sea Level* and bills or bonds related to ocean acidification monitoring are also reportedly in the works.

GSM Summer Field Trip Isle au Haut, July 25 & 26



Photo Courtesy of Fred Beck

Bob Gerber and Marshall Chapman have planned a spectacular field trip on Isle au Haut for July 25 and 26th, 2015. Bob will give a tour of surficial geology on the first day and Marshall will show some very interesting bedrock geology on Sunday. Marshall wrote his PhD dissertation on the bedrock geology. Bob is a summer resident has spent a good deal of time studying the geology of the island. The scenery is beautiful and if the weather is good, this will be a very enjoyable trip. Take a look at the [2015 GSM Field Trip info](#) on the GSM website. Some people will be staying on the island and some on the mainland making the traditional social gathering on Saturday night difficult. We will have a social hour on the island before the boat leaves for Stonington after the Saturday trip. There will also be a cookout at the Old Quarry Campground for people staying on the mainland Saturday night.

The logistics of getting to the island and finding a place to stay may be difficult. There are not very many places to stay on the island as you will note when you read the field trip info document. Most of the people who attend will end up staying on the mainland. Summer prices are expensive so GSM will pay for the water taxi transport from Stonington to the island for people attending for both days. We will also subsidize the cost of camping at the Old Quarry

Campground in Stonington where we have reserved a group camping site. The cost for camping for participants will be \$10.00 per night per person. If you are interested in attending you must let us know in advance. Send an email to Bruce Hunter bruce.e.hunter@gmail.com by **May 31, 2015**. This is a firm deadline because we must make arrangements in advance with the campground owner, water taxi owners and owners of cars on the island to transport members to the field trip sites. Please let me know if you will be staying at the campgrounds for one night or two.

Geological Society of Maine Spring Meeting 1:00 pm Friday, April 10th, 2015 Colby College, Waterville, Maine

- Student Presentations
- Walter Andersen Award
- GSM Business Meeting

Check the GSM website for updates:
<http://www.gsmmaine.org/>

Will we see more of this in 2015?



Follow river conditions in Maine by checking River Watch 2015: <http://www.maine.gov/rfac/riverwatch.shtml>

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF MAINE

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The GSM Executive Committee met by conference call on November 4, 2014. Topics of discussion included the make-up of the GSM Executive committee, nominations for GSM Officers, planning for the Fall Meeting, status of planning for the 2015 summer field trip, and GSM financials.

The GSM Fall Meeting was held on November 6, 2014 at the Augusta Civic Center. The afternoon program included an interesting series of presentations on surface water and groundwater investigations. GSM President Keith Taylor convened the business meeting following the afternoon program.

Business Meeting Minutes

The business meeting was called to order at 4:15 pm by GSM President Keith Taylor.

2014 Summer Field Trip

The 2014 summer field trip was a great success. Approximately 70 attendees from the Geological Societies of Maine and New Hampshire enjoyed exploring the geology of the Bethel area. GSM should consider continuing to explore ways to collaborate with GSNH, and possibly the Geological Society of Vermont.

2015 Spring Meeting

The 2015 Spring Meeting will be held at Colby College. The date is to be determined, likely in early April.

2015 Summer Field Trip

The 2015 summer field trip will be to Isle au Haut, organized by Bob Gerber and Marshall Chapman. Bob put together a fairly comprehensive document describing accommodation and transportation logistics, geology of the island, what to bring, and what to expect. The PDF document is available at the GSM website. The logistics of accommodation and moving people around the island are a bit complicated. Response will be needed early to coordinate on-island transportation. More accommodation options will be explored, and more information will follow.

Educational Grant Program

Up to \$1,000 is available for individual educational grants. A document summarizing the guidelines of the educational grant program is available at the GSM website. Applications are due on March 1 and September 1. The GSM Executive Committee will review applications, and will announce awards at the spring and fall meetings.

GSM Newsletter

The second 2014 newsletter was distributed recently, and the third will be distributed in December.

Financials

Treasurer Bruce Hunter will provide a financial report in the upcoming newsletter. GSM coffers are in good shape. If members have recommendations of where/how to spend funds, suggestions to the Executive Committee are welcome.

GSM Board Elections

The GSM Executive Committee offers the following slate of nominations for GSM Officers:

President – Marty Yates
Vice President – Henry Berry
Treasurer – Bruce Hunter
Secretary – Lisa Jacob
Newsletter – Carol White

Officers serve two-year terms, 2014-2016.

The slate was nominated in a motion by Tom Eastler and seconded by Chris Dorian, and passed by membership vote.

Words from the Incoming President

Marty Yates extended his thanks to the GSM officers, both outgoing and incoming. Marty offered thanks to outgoing President Keith Taylor for a great job as President, and for bringing his professional perspective to the position. Marty also offered thanks to Alice Kelley for her service to the GSM Board, both as past President and Director.

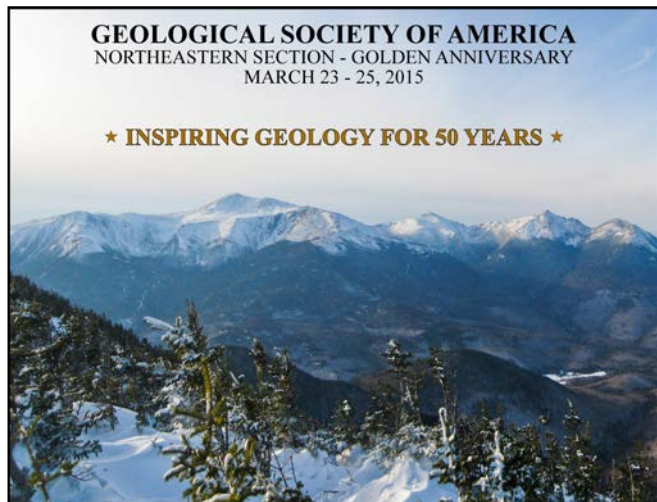
Respectfully submitted by Lisa Jacob, Secretary

ljj@smemaine.com

207-829-5016

**UPCOMING MEETINGS OF
INTEREST**

SPRING 2015



Geological Society of America-Northeast Section
50th Annual Meeting
23 March through 25 March 2015
Bretton Woods, NH

<http://www.geosociety.org/Sections/ne/2015mtg/>

The Northeastern Section of GSA celebrates its Golden Anniversary - 50 years of geologic discovery in New England. Several special events are planned for the meeting which will take place at the historic Omni Mount Washington Resort Hotel in Bretton Woods.

Contributions to New England Stratigraphy & Structure:
In Honor of Robert Moench and Douglas Rankin

Coastal and Glacial Processes from Alaska to New England:
In Honor of Jon Boothroyd

50th Anniversary Exhibition: Minerals of New England

New England & Adirondack Bedrock Geology: A Personal Perspective Over 64 Years. Peter Robinson,

A historical perspective on the bedrock geology of the region in terms of the ideas and personalities of the many who've worked on it during the Section's 50-year history; a rich slice of geological culture that led to many landmark studies while providing much fellowship, camaraderie, and moments of humor.

Maine Water & Sustainability Conference
Tuesday, March 31, 2015
Augusta Civic Center, Augusta, Maine

<http://umaine.edu/mitchellcenter/maine-sustainability-water-conference-2015/>

GSM Annual Spring Meeting
Wednesday April 10, 2015 at 1:00 pm
Colby College, Maine

Student oral and poster presentations

<http://www.gsmaine.org>

SUMMER 2015

Maine Beaches Conference
July 17, 2015
Southern Maine Community College
South Portland, Maine

<http://www.seagrant.umaine.edu/maine-beaches-conference>

GSM 2015 Summer Field Trip & Meeting
Saturday & Sunday July 25-26, 2015
Isle-au-Haut, Maine and vicinity.

Trip Leaders: Bob Gerber and Marshall Chapman
Maine Geological Survey.

Check the GSM website <http://www.gsmaine.org> & REGISTER



Photo source: Bob Gerber

MEMBERSHIP DUES STATEMENT

The GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF MAINE, INC. (often referred to as **GSM**) 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 the 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 a field trip). A newsletter, *The Maine Geologist*, is published for all members three times a year. The Society year runs from Sept. 1 to Aug. 31. Annual dues and gift or fund contributions to the Society are tax deductible. There are four classes of memberships:

\$20.00	REGULAR MEMBER	Graduate geologists, or equivalent, with one year of practice in geology, or with an advanced degree.	FEE SCHEDULE AS OF 2014-2015
\$20.00	INSTITUTIONAL MEMBER	Libraries, societies, agencies, businesses with interests in or practicing geology and related disciplines.	
\$10.00	ASSOCIATE MEMBER	Any person or organization desirous of association with the Society.	
\$ 5.00	STUDENT MEMBER	Persons currently enrolled as college or university students.	

THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF MAINE ANNUAL RENEWAL / APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Regular Member	\$20.00	\$ _____	Name _____	Make checks payable to: Geological Society of Maine Bruce Hunter, GSM Treasurer 44 Old Fairgrounds Rd Readfield, ME 04355
Institutional Members	\$20.00	\$ _____		
Associate Member	\$10.00	\$ _____	Address _____	
Student Member	\$ 5.00	\$ _____		
Contributions to GSM		\$ _____		

(please write gift or fund on check)

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Email Address _____

(GSM funds include the Walter Anderson Fund____, and discretionary gifts as noted by contributor)

2014/2015 SOCIETY YEAR BEGAN SEPTEMBER 1 - PLEASE SEND DUES TO TREASURER.

THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF MAINE

c/o Carol White, Newsletter Editor
C.A. White & Associates
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Yarmouth, Maine 04096
cawhitemaine@zwi.net



THE MAINE GEOLOGIST is the Newsletter of the Geological Society of Maine, is usually published three times a year, in mid-winter, summer, and early fall, for members and associates.

Items for inclusion in the **Newsletter** may be directed to:

Carol White, cawhitemaine@zwi.net; C.A. White & Associates, 1 Main Street, Yarmouth, Maine, 04096

Correspondence about **membership** in the Society, **publications** and **dues** should be mailed to:

Bruce Hunter,; Bruce.E.Hunter@maine.gov; Bruce Hunter, GSM Treasurer, 44 Old Fairgrounds Rd., Readfield, ME 04355

Geological Society of Maine Officers 2014-2015

President	Marty Yates	(2016)	University Maine-Orono, yates@maine.edu
Vice President	Henry Berry	(2016)	Maine Geological Survey, henry.n.berry@maine.gov
Secretary	Lisa Jacob	(2016)	Sevee & Maher Engineers Inc; ljj@smemaine.com
Treasurer	Bruce Hunter	(2016)	Maine DEP; bruce.e.hunter@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Carol White	(2016)	C.A. White & Associates; cawhitemaine@zwi.net
GSM Historian	Arthur Hussey	(2050)	Professor Emeritus, Bowdoin College, hussgeo@zwi.net
Directors	Keith Taylor	(2017)	St. Germain Collins; keitht@stgermaincollins.com
	Chris Morrell	(2016)	R.W. Gillespie & Associates, Inc.; cmorrell@rwg-a.com
	Steve Kelley	(2015)	Haley & Aldrich; skelley@haleyaldrich.com