



# Hudson - Mohawk Professional Geologists Association

## OCTOBER MEETING

www.hmpga.net



### Tuesday October 18, 2022

### **NYSCPG GEOLOGY DAYS PRESENTS: PUBLIC HEALTH PROTECTION A Geologist's Perspective**

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**Speaker: Daniel C. Lang  
Deputy Director, Center for Environmental Health –  
New York State Department Of Health**

**This course is pending approval for 1 PDH+**

**Abstract:** Geologists have unique qualities, scientific principles and expertise that make them well equipped to put the public health challenges of our time into context. They understand that events of geologic significance (earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, climate change effects, etc.) do not just spontaneously occur but in fact are mere symptoms of long-term, ever-changing, and often hidden (or ignored) processes. The profession of geology has therefore attracted like-minded people of a certain temperament and cool-headed nature that can be modeled by public health professionals.

This presentation will highlight some of the key public health protection initiatives in New York State and how geologic principles can be applied to help us better implement these programs. Drinking Water Source Protection, Water

**Abstract:** (cont'd) Infrastructure Improvements, Lead Service Line Replacements, Emerging Contaminant Monitoring, Maximum Contaminant Levels, Indoor Air Quality and Wastewater Surveillance are just a few of the relevant environmental health programs that would benefit from geologists' perspectives. Deep dives into the Drinking Water Source Protection Program and the Statewide Wastewater Surveillance System will show how these public health protection initiatives can be successfully implemented with a better understanding of the effects of long-term processes and background monitoring programs so familiar to geologists.

**About the Presenter:** Dan Lang is the Deputy Director of the Center for Environmental Health (CEH) in the New York State Department of Health. CEH scientists, engineers, sanitarians, physicians, educators, researchers and other public health professionals work together to prevent and reduce New Yorkers' health risks at home, work, school and play. The CEH Office of the Center Director provides overall executive direction for environmental health programs. In addition to supervision of central office staff, the office works closely with regional office staff to coordinate the oversight of environmental health program activities implemented by the Department's nine district offices, 36 county health departments, and the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

In his previous role as the CEH Director of Strategic Operations, Dan provided program management and team-building support to advance high-priority projects for the Center and the Department, the latest of which has been New York State's Wastewater Based Epidemiology program. He oversaw a COVID-19 wastewater pilot study in Fall 2020 where wastewater sampling was conducted in multiple locations in four cities in Upstate New York. The results of this pilot study were used to design a statewide COVID-19 Wastewater Surveillance Program that continues to expand.

Dan is a New York State Professional Geologist and has 30 years of experience in the environmental field, having worked as an environmental consultant for 25 years after receiving his Master's degree in Hydrogeology from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Science from the University of Rochester.

Reservations are required by Monday

**October 10, 2022**

**\*\*Late Registrations will not be accepted\*\***

Registration includes Happy Hour (Open Bar), dinner, in-person presentation, and One (1) Professional Development Hour (PDH+)

Register on-line at <https://www.nyscpgeology.com/Geology-Days-2022>

Or at [www.hmpga.net](http://www.hmpga.net)

Questions? Call or email John Nadeau at 518-579-6580 • [jnadeau@nyscpgeology.com](mailto:jnadeau@nyscpgeology.com)

Cost: \$40.00 for members

**+PDH certificate available at no additional cost.**

<b>Location:</b>	Holiday Inn Saratoga Springs 232 Broadway Saratoga Springs, NY 12866	<b>Time:</b>	Happy Hour 5:00pm Dinner 6:00pm Presentation 7:00pm
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**Sponsorship is available for this conference!** Event sponsorship information is available by contacting John Nadeau at [jnadeau@nyscpgeology.com](mailto:jnadeau@nyscpgeology.com) for more information.

## *President's Message*

Dear HMPGA Members,

Welcome to the 2022-2023 season! If you haven't already done so, please remember to renew your membership for the new season. Corporate memberships are also available and I encourage interested parties to visit our Membership Information page at [www.hmpga.net](http://www.hmpga.net).

Wanted to start this month's newsletter off with a very special THANK YOU! to Jesse Vollick for not only his time as President these last two years as we navigated through the coronavirus pandemic, but also for his decade of serving as the Program Director. He left our new Program Director, Jon Dippert, with large shoes to fill and we already have a great slate of speakers lined up for you this season.

It was great seeing many of you who attended this summer's annual outing, starting with two great field trips (Lester Park and Stark's Knob) led by Ed Landing and ending at Common Roots Brewing Company. Thank you Ed for leading such a wonderful event.

We had an excellent kick-off to the season with a great presentation by Dr. David Franzi from SUNY Plattsburgh. Thank you to all who attended.

Do not forget to register for the upcoming October meeting, which will be held one day early on Tuesday, October 18 as part of the Geology Days Conference presented by the New York State Council of Professional Geologists in Saratoga Springs, October 17-19. Reservations for the October meeting should be made through <https://www.nyscpg.com/Geology-Days-2022> or by contacting John Nadeau. Please see the meeting flyer for additional information.

Please remember there are always opportunities with HMPGA for members to be involved with the Board of Directors and assist with other support. I encourage interested persons to contact myself or other board members.

Thank you and looking forward to great season,

Brian Taylor, P.G.

President 2022-2023

## Volunteer Opportunities

Your opportunities here.

## EVENTS

Please join us at the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Geology Days Conference organized by the NYSCPG!



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- ❖ Graphical Data Analysis/Mapping
- ❖ Geochemical Calculations/Modeling
- ❖ Statistical Analysis

# OCTOBER'S GEO-CRYPTOQUOTE

CLUES: A = M; K = N; and Y = K

(Note: Puzzle is a quotation related to geology. Each letter of the quotation is substituted by another letter.)

“D BVEELBX XUNX XUL CLBX ELGPGEDBX DB UL FUG UA BLLK

XUL AGBX SGJYB”

- ULSCLSX UNSGPI SLNI

## MAY'S GEO-CRYPTOCIPHER SOLUTION

“THE HISTORY OF ANY ONE PART OF THE EARTH; LIKE THE LIFE OF A SOLDIER, CONSISTS OF LONG PERIODS OF BOREDOM AND SHORT PERIODS OF TERROR” – DEREK V. AGER

A large industrial drilling rig is positioned in a field of vibrant yellow sunflowers. The rig is tall and complex, with various mechanical components and a vertical mast. A worker in a white hard hat is visible near the base of the rig. The background shows a line of green trees under a clear sky.

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## Paul Griggs, P.G. Geologist for Griggs – Lang Consulting Geologists and Engineers, P.C., Troy, NY

We know that in geologic time it takes a while for news to travel, but we are proud to belatedly recognize long-time HMPGA member Paul H. Griggs, P.G. on the tenth anniversary of Paul's receipt of a national award from the Interstate Mining Compact Commission (IMCC), Herdon, Virginia. The IMCC is a multi-state governmental organization supporting the natural resource and related environmental protection and mine safety and health interests of its member states. Consulting Geologists and Engineers, P.C.

The IMCC issued a press release in March 2012 to announce the recipients of its annual mineral education awards. Begun in 1999, the awards are presented each year in two categories: the mining awareness educator category and the public outreach category.



The IMCC describes that its public outreach award is presented to an industry, environmental, citizen or other group, or to a state government body, that has achieved excellence in one or more of the following categories: provided educational outreach in an innovative manner that increases the level of understanding in the community about mining and its impacts; promote awareness of environmental stewardship associated with mining through active involvement of citizens; fostered cooperation and partnerships with diverse groups to achieve understanding; enhanced the understanding of issues associated with mining and natural resource development; and/or fostered public education through mine tours, visitor centers, community awareness days, career days, personal volunteerism in schools, maintaining adopt-a-school programs or partnership programs, or any other innovative initiative deemed deserving by the awards committee.

Those who know Paul appreciate that Paul's contributions to geology education include all the above. For his volunteer efforts, Paul was presented with an engraved plaque at a banquet held in conjunction with the 2012 annual meeting in Ashville, North Carolina.

Paul's educational outreach has included informational meetings and quarry tours for state legislators, regulators, local government officials and science teachers. He has led educational mine and cave tours for seniors, fossil hunters, elementary school groups and the boy scouts and girl scouts. Paul has given numerous presentations to college students about geology, minerals, and mining. He has educated groups from all segments of society about the importance of mining and mineral resources, the variety of mineral uses, and environmental and regulatory controls related to mining.

Paul worked with the NYSDEC's Division of Mineral Resources in its "Smart Planning" initiative to educate local governments on the need to plan for future use of the mineral resources within their boundaries. He is a volunteer on tasks force groups sponsored by New York Construction Materials, Inc., a non-profit industry membership association, to develop and educate members of best management practices for blasting, stormwater control and other environmental controls. Paul has provided an internship for a student interested in mining and geology; given classroom presentations on geology, the need for mining, and the mining process; and made presentations to the Science Teachers Association on "The Economic Impact and Need for Mining and Educational Opportunities" along with other outreach activities.

In its letter to Paul congratulating him on being selected as a winner of the 2012 IMCC Mineral Education Award, the IMCC noted the award reflects Paul's "dedication to minerals and environmental education." The letter from IMCC Executive Director Gregory E. Conrad to Paul stated "... Your efforts are representative of a commitment to educate the public about mining and minerals and will reap future benefits in the way of a better understanding of mineral use and production, necessary environmental controls, and the resulting impacts on society. Keep up the good work."

And we know that Paul certainly has kept up his excellent work! Over many years Paul has led tours of mines and caves, engaging students and geologists alike to appreciate minerals and mining contributions to society. As Paul has done so many times to engage others, he graciously coordinated a field trip for the 2022 Spring meeting of the National Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG), the organization that provides the nationally administered ASBOG® Fundamentals of Geology and Practice of Geology examinations. On a cold rainy April day, Paul led a quarry tour and natural history presentations to intrepid geologists visiting Albany from all over the country. Paul's continuing commitment of his extensive volunteer activities exemplifies his passion for geology and education, including Paul's serving on the Board of Trustees at the Cave House Museum of Mining & Geology.

Paul Griggs has been a consultant to the construction and mining industry since 1984. Paul is a member of the Hudson-Mohawk Professional Geologists Association, the New York Council of Professional Geologists, the American Society of Testing and Materials, and the International Society of Explosives Engineers. He has been active in professional and industry associations since 1985 and has served on the Board of Directors of

the Empire State Concrete and Aggregate Producers Association and the New York Construction Materials Association as well as numerous joint Industry-NYSDEC and Industry-NYS DOT Task Forces.



The photo shows Paul in his natural habitat and typical attire, this time on a rock face outside Becker's Cave. Paul is proudest of his family -- his wife Carol and their two daughters. Thank you, Paul, for all your time and energy to highlight mining geology and for making a difference!

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Being active in HMPGA is a fully volunteer activity that often demands a great deal of attention.  
The following members chair this year's committees and we thank them:

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Membership	Vacant	

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# HMPGA CALENDAR

DATE	SPEAKER	TOPIC
October 18, 2022	Dan Lang Deputy Director - Center for Env. Health NYSDOH	Public Health Protection - A Geologist's Perspective
November 16, 2022	Dr. Allan Ludman	TBA
December 21, 2022	NA	Holiday Party

## OTHER EVENTS:

Watch our website (<http://www.hmpga.wildapricot.org/>), Facebook, and LinkedIn for announcements of future events!



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Eastern New York (ENY) Chapter of the Air & Waste Management Association (MASS-A&WMA). They encompass the greater Capital District and Hudson Valley region of eastern New York State. A professional non-for-profit association of engineers and scientists working in the environmental field, with a particular focus on issues related to air and waste. [www.awmanenychapter.wildMAYicot.org](http://www.awmanenychapter.wildMAYicot.org)



The Geological Society of America (GSA) strives to be a leader in advancing the geosciences, while enhancing the professional growth of its members, and promoting the geosciences in the service of humankind. [www.geosociety.org](http://www.geosociety.org)



The New York State Museum is a major research and educational institution. It is dedicated to promoting inquiry and advancing knowledge in the fields of geology, biology, anthropology, and history, through the investigation of material evidence germane to New York State's past, present and future. [www.nysm.nysed.gov](http://www.nysm.nysed.gov)



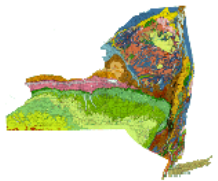
New York State Council of Professional Geologists (NYSCPG) strives to strengthen and advance the geologic sciences as a profession, promote the protection of public health and welfare and the environment through the professional practice of geologic sciences, and create high standards of ethical conduct among its members and within the profession of geology, as well as the legal standing of geologists and their ability to practice geology in New York State by promoting the licensing of geologists in New York State through statutory regulation. [www.nyscpge.org](http://www.nyscpge.org)

## *Environmental Breakfast Club*

The Capital District Environmental Breakfast Club is an informal group of environmental professionals that meets monthly to discuss current environmental issues. Each meeting features a speaker on a topic of interest, a regulatory update, and an open forum. Meetings are held on the first Friday of each month except July and August. The Environmental Breakfast Club meets at the Holiday Inn Turf on Wolf Road in Colonie, New York. Meetings start at 7:30 am. The cost is \$15 per person, which includes a full breakfast buffet. [www.youngsommer.com](http://www.youngsommer.com)



Buffalo Association of Professional Geologists (BAPG) conducts regular membership meetings on the third Wednesday of the month, January through June and September through November. Meetings feature distinguished speakers and interesting topics. Field trips and technical seminars sponsored by the BAPG encourage the exchange of scholarship and expertise. [www.bapg.org](http://www.bapg.org)



Central NY Association of Professional Geologists (CNYAPG) conducts regular meetings on the second Thursday of each month, unless otherwise posted, from September to May. Meetings feature dinner and distinguished speakers whose presentations invite comment and discussion. [www.cnyapg.org](http://www.cnyapg.org)



Long Island Association of Professional Geologists (LIAPG) is a not-for-profit professional organization dedicated to the professional and business needs of geologists located in the Long Island / Metro New York area. [www.lipg.org](http://www.lipg.org)



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