

THE GREEN MOUNTAIN GEOLOGIST
VERMONT GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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The GREEN MOUNTAIN GEOLOGIST is published quarterly by the Vermont Geological Society, a non-profit educational corporation.

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THE GREEN MOUNTAIN GEOLOGIST



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE VERMONT GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
VGS Website: <http://www.uvm.org/vtgeologicalsociety/>

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*The Vermont Geological Society's
Annual Meeting & Fall Field Trip
October 23, 2004*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PRESIDENT'S LETTER	2
INFORMATION ON THE FALL MEETING	3
STATE GEOLOGIST'S REPORT	4
EDUCATION REPORT	5
SPRING MEETING MINUTES	7
ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE COMMITTEE	8
VGS TREASURER'S REPORT	8
ANNOUNCEMENTS	10
ABSENTEE BALLOT	11

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hi All,

I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer and managed to find some time to get outside in between the raindrops. I want to thank Greg Walsh and Jon Kim for leading us on an outstanding field trip examining the bedrock geology in the Montpelier area. Not only was the trip well attended, Greg and Jon skillfully selected the one dry day during a spell of wet weather. The fall VGS field trip will be on October 23rd and will be led by Rick Dunn, Steve Wright, and others. Details on this trip can be found on the next page and I hope many of you will be able to attend.

I would like to take a moment to remind everyone that Earth Science Week is in October. OMYA has volunteered to take over the poster contest that is in part sponsored by the VGS. They will be hosting an awards ceremony for the poster contest during their open house at their Middlebury Quarry on October 16th. Announcements for this and other Earth Science Week activities are also included in this issue of the GMG and on the VGS website.

I would also like to remind everyone about the VGS visiting speaker program. This program was initiated last spring and Rick Dunn generously volunteered to serve as the first VGS visiting speaker. At the last two VGS winter meetings Rick gave fascinating talks on a portion of his research that integrates geology, geophysics, and archaeology. Please contact Rick directly if you are interested in having him visit your class or institution.

That's about all from here. As always, if anyone has any suggestions for the VGS please feel free to send them to anyone on the advisory board. Have a great fall.

Happy Trails,
Tim

FALL FIELD TRIP, ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTIONS

Saturday, October 23, 2004

FIELD TRIP:

TITLE: Surficial Geology of the Middlebury River Basin

TIME: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

LOCATION: We will meet at 9:00 am in the parking lot at the Middlebury College Snow Bowl on Rt. 125. The Snow Bowl is located near Middlebury Gap - roughly midway between East Middlebury and Hancock on Rt. 125. Those traveling along Rt. 7 should turn east on Rt. 125 in East Middlebury and those traveling along Rt. 100 should turn west on Rt. 125 in Hancock.

LEADERS: Richard Dunn (Norwich Univ.), George Springston (Norwich Univ. & Vermont Geological Survey), and Nathan Donahue (Consulting Geologist)

BRIEF FIELD TRIP DESCRIPTION: We will examine a variety of glacial deposits in and around the Middlebury River basin and attempt to decipher the late Quaternary history of the area. We plan on visiting the major, active pits in the area, as well as other illustrative sites. The field trip will conclude no later than 5:00 pm in the vicinity of East Middlebury.

ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

The VGS Annual Meeting will take place in East Middlebury immediately following the field trip. We will meet at 5:00 pm in the parking lot of the Waybury Inn in East Middlebury (located along Rt. 125). If you are unable to attend the Annual Meeting, please send in the enclosed absentee ballot by October 22, 2004. Ballots should be sent to Dave West, Dept. of Geology, Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT 05753. A list of nominees for offices, as well as returning members can be found on the included sample ballot.

STATE GEOLOGIST'S REPORT

This has been a season of acknowledgements for Vermont's Geological Survey. The Vermont Survey is to receive a National Award for Excellence at the National Earthquake Conference in St. Louis, Missouri. The award is for multi-jurisdictional planning and stems from our use of the HAZUS program to predict earthquake risk in Vermont. We work in cooperation with Vermont Emergency Management, FEMA, Regional Planning Commissions, and Towns to get the technical data out to planners.

John Kim received an achievement award from the Department of Environmental Conservation for an aspect of his work on the nitrate study next to a large farm in East Montpelier that the Vermont Survey is conducting in cooperation with Department of Agriculture. Working with EPA requires a Quality Assurance Plan and Program to conduct the geochemical testing. Jon did an excellent job of researching and writing the document. This is the first time that we have worked with EPA to produce this information and Jon handled the interaction with grace and perseverance and produced a document that all can be proud of.

The State Geologist shared the stage with Greg Walsh of the USGS on Vermont Public Radio's Switchboard program. It is believed that this is the first time that a general program on Vermont Geology has been presented on the live call-in segment. In large part, the questions were about listener observations searching for explanations about the geology and landscape of Vermont. Caller's questions took up most of the program and the interviewer Steve Zind would like to do another program because of the interest represented by the number of calls received. The one-hour show of August 5, 2004 can be listened to on line at http://www.vpr.net/vt_news/switchboard.shtml

At the Vermont History Expo, John Frietag of Stratford Vermont organized an exciting exhibit area on quarrying in Vermont. A number of Town Historical Societies presented posters on quarrying in their towns. The State Geologist presented a talk on Earth Resources and the Geology of Vermont.

OMYA has produced a beautiful poster to "Celebrate Earth Science Week" mentioning other sponsors including the Vermont Marble Museum, Vermont Geological Society and the Vermont Survey. The glossy pictures advertise a poster contest for K-12 students (entries due Oct 6) and poster has been sent to schools throughout Vermont. Thanks to Marjorie Gale for Vermont Survey Earth Science Week coordination.

Respectively Submitted,
Laurence R. Becker, State Geologist

EDUCATION REPORT

Earth Science Week 2004 - "Living On A Restless Earth"

October 10-16, 2004

The seventh annual Earth Science Week is jointly sponsored by the Vermont Geological Society, the Vermont Geological Survey at DEC, and the American Geological Institute. Once again, OMYA will host the popular quarry open house and participate in the organization of the poster contest. We appreciate the support of private business. This year's theme, "Living on a Restless Earth", should generate an enthusiastic response from students. An updated calendar of events is maintained on the Vermont Geological Survey's web site (<http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/geo/esweek04.htm>) and the survey obtained the Governor's Earth Science Week Proclamation. Events planned for Vermont are listed below. NEIGC will also coincide with the kick-off of Earth Science Week.

October 1, 8, & 16, 2004 - "Living On A Restless Earth" Poster Contest Events

Host: Vermont Marble Museum, OMYA and Vermont Geol. Society
Contact: Christie Harris (802-770-7214) or Rob Pye (802-459-2300)
E-mail: Christi.harris@omya.com or rpye@adelphia.net
Information: Entries are due on October 1 and judging will take place on October 8. The awards ceremony will be held on Saturday, October 16 at 11:30 am during Earth Science Week and OMYA's Open House. In addition to cash and mineral sample prizes, the winning entries will be featured in a 2005 calendar. For entry forms, contact Christie or Rob or download forms from <http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/geo/esweek04.htm>

October 12-13, 2004 - Geologists-in-the-Parks

Host: Vermont Geological Survey and Vermont Geological Society
Contact: Marjorie Gale (802-241-3608)
E-mail: Marjorie.gale@anr.state.vt.us
Information: The seventh annual Earth Science Week Geologists-in-the-Parks is an event for elementary through high school classes. Parks include Mt. Philo (Charlotte) and Little River (Waterbury). We currently have scheduled 150 students during the week and another 50 during the preceding week.

October 13, 2004 – Guest Speaker

Host: Vermont Geological Survey
Contact: Laurence Becker (802-241-3496)
E-mail: Laurence.becker@anr.state.vt.us
Information: Laurence Becker, Vermont State Geologist will present "*Natural Gifts: Earth Resources from Vermont's Geologic Landscape*" in the Skylight Conference Room, 103 South Main St., Waterbury, VT at noon. The event is open to the public.

October 16, 2004- Earth Science Week - OMYA's 4th Annual Quarry Open House

Host: OMYA, North America
Contact: Alice Blount (802-770-7267)
E-mail: alice.blount@omya.com
Information: Information will be posted on OMYA's web site <http://www.omya-na.com/>

SPRING MEETING MINUTES
Saturday, April 24, 2004, Middlebury, Vermont

The meeting of the Executive Committee followed nine student presentations associated with the Spring Meeting held at Middlebury College. President Tim Grover called the meeting to order with 5 people in attendance. Treasurer Steve Howe indicated that the financial condition of the Society is sound and that contributions to the Research Grant Program have been up significantly this year (in excess of \$500). Steve, in his role as Chair of the Advancement of Science Committee, indicated that there were no research grant applications received prior to the latest grant deadline (April 1st).

Rick Dunn of Norwich University was confirmed to be the first speaker selected for the newly established "VGS Visiting Speakers Program." The Committee then briefly discussed the role of the VGS in Earth Science week later this year. The Committee agreed to fund small awards for the Poster Session that will be hosted by the Vermont Marble Museum. The event is being coordinated by Rob Pye of the Marble Museum and Chrisie Harris of OMYA. Further details can be found in the Education Report.

The Committee then began discussions focused on adding to the content of the VGS fall meetings. This included discussions of having a post-field trip dinner and a designated speaker at this dinner (as has been the case in past years). Although no formal decision was made, President Tim Grover agreed to "sound out" interest on this idea. The committee briefly discussed the Summer Field Trip which Jon Kim (VGS) and Greg Walsh (USGS) have agreed to run in the Montpelier/Barre area – but for which details, including a date, have yet to be worked out.

Finally, the members of the Executive Committee who were present at the meeting volunteered to retain their current positions for the next year. Formal elections to the Executive Committee will be held at the Annual Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Dave West, Secretary

Advancement of Science Committee Report

Congratulations to the students who received awards at our Spring 2004 Meeting:

- 1st Place Award and Doll Award (\$100): Emily Peterman, Middlebury College
- 2nd Place Award (\$75): Susannah Cowden, Middlebury College
- 3rd Place Award (tie) (\$50): Burch G. Fisher III, Middlebury College
- 3rd Place Award (tie) (\$50): Colin Rodgers, Middlebury College

The Charles G. Doll Award, given for the top undergraduate student presentation, is a plaque with the student's name and school engraved on it that is kept at the student's school until the following year's Spring Meeting.

The Committee will recommend several dates in late February, 2005, for the Society's next Winter Meeting. Members are encouraged to contact me with any suggestions they may have for a theme for the meeting.

Respectfully submitted
Stephen S. Howe, Chair

TREASURER'S REPORT

The financial condition of the Society continues to be strong. As of September 12, 2004, the checking account balance was \$4,888.09. To my knowledge, there are no outstanding bills. A financial statement for the period 10/1/03-9/12/04 is indicated below. Expenses exceeded income during this 12-month period due to the unusually large number of Research Grant awards.

The following members have been approved for membership in the Society since the last report: Paul S. Renouf, Putney, Vermont and John G. Van Hoesen, Poultney, Vermont.

The 2004 membership directory is included in this issue of the *Green Mountain Geologist*. The 2005 membership renewal and directory information form will be mailed out to all members by December 31, 2004. The deadline for renewal will be January 31, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen S. Howe, Treasurer

Income and Expenses 10/1/03-9/12/04

INCOME	
Total Dues	\$1,651.00
Member	\$1,200.00
Family	\$280.00
Student	\$16.00
Institution	\$155.00
Student Research Grant Contributions	\$575.00
<i>Vermont Geology</i> Sales	\$15.00
Return of Extra Postage Reimbursement	\$51.80
TOTAL INCOME	\$2,292.80
EXPENSES	
<i>Green Mountain Geologist</i> Printing	\$209.22
Postage	\$167.02
Office Supplies	\$7.93
Post Office Box Rental and Key Deposit	\$50.00
Winter Meeting Refreshments	\$59.69
Spring Meeting Refreshments	\$58.50
Awards	\$1,838.00
Research Grants	\$1,563.00
Spring Meeting Student Talks	\$275.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,390.36
TOTAL INCOME – TOTAL EXPENSES	(\$97.56)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OMYA Middlebury Quarry Open House, East Middlebury, Vermont, October 16, 2004

OMYA is once again holding its annual open house at its Middlebury Quarry to commemorate Earth Science Week. This large quarry produces white, high-calcium marble that is processed into fillers and extenders for the paper, plastic, and paint industries. It has also produced some very attractive salmon-colored calcite. This will be a family event that will include quarry tours, viewing quarrying equipment close-up, earth science activities, and refreshments. The event is free and will be held from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM, with the last tour at 3:00 PM.

The road to the quarry is off the east side of US Route 7, 2.5 miles south of the *Middlebury Inn* (traveling southbound) and 1 mile north of the turnoff to the junction of Routes 125 and 116 (traveling northbound). The quarry road is between *Standard Register* and *Foster Motors*, and the green street sign is labeled *1975 Private Road*. Continue straight on this road at the first stop sign. The second stop sign is at the quarry. Please park where instructed. For further information, call Alice Blount at (802) 770-7267 during business hours or visit the website at www.omya-na.com

*New England Intercollegiate Geological Conference (NEIGC)
October 8-10, 2004, Salem, Massachusetts*

This annual geological field conference offers 20 different field trips in and around northeastern Massachusetts. See the following Web site for trip descriptions and registration details:
<http://www.salemstate.edu/~lhanson/NEIGC/2004NEIGC.html>

In addition to these announcements, please see the "Education Report" on page 5 for information on Earth Science Week activities. You may also check the Vermont Geological Society's calendar (<http://www.uvm.org/vtgeologicalsociety/calendar.html>) for updated information on geological activities in the region.

Absentee Ballot 2004

Vermont Geological Society

Please enter your name and address here:

Officers

President	Tim Grover	_____
Vice-President	Rick Dunn	_____
Secretary	Dave West	_____
Treasurer	Steve Howe	_____

Board of Directors

Helen Mango	_____
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If you will not be attending the annual meeting, please complete the absentee ballot and return it to David West, Dept. of Geology, Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT 05753 no later than October 22, 2004.

Returning Board Members are:

Board of Directors: Ray Coish and Shelly Snyder
 Advancement of Science: Steve Howe
 Education Committee: Christine Massey
 Membership: Steve Wright
 Public Issues: Larry Becker
 Publications: Dave West