AEG NEWS

SUMMER 2025

Association of Environmental & Engineering Geologists

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ON THE COVER
View of Chicago through a bridge
Photo © Andrew Seaman

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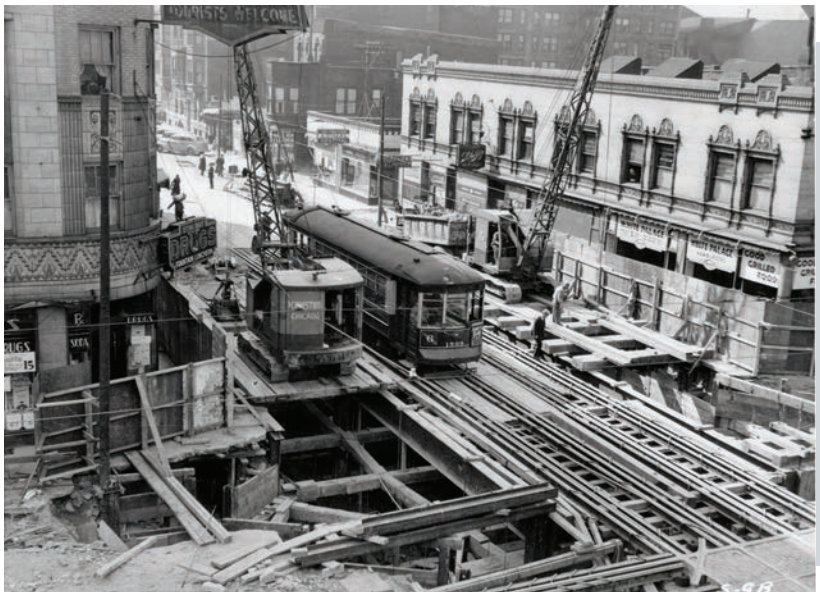
Estival Tidings!

In this issue: A preview of AEG's annual meeting, a potpourri of Association news, and an update on licensure. **By Bill Roman, *AEG News* Content Editor**



On page 40, Bill Godwin shares a brief synopsis of the Chicago Subway Project, which illustrates Chicago's important role in the origin of American foundation engineering. / *Photo from Chicago Transit Authority's photostream*

Welcome to the second issue of the redesigned *AEG News*! We have received only favorable comments on the spring issue, which debuted the new look, and we hope you too are enjoying the fresh new look developed by Allie Boman and Whitney Larson of Boman Communications. Your ideas on ways to further improve *AEG News* and items to feature in this publication are always welcome.

This summer issue features reports from most members of AEG's Executive Council. President Renee Wawczak shares her excitement about welcoming folks to Chicago for the annual meeting and invites you to join her on a fun run; Vice President Paul Weaver and Secretary Julia Frazier recap the 2025 midyear board meeting and express concern for disappearing geology programs; and Past President Sarah Kalika issues a call for advocacy and describes AEG efforts on continuing education and outreach.

Our special feature provides a preview of the annual meeting in Chicago. The preview begins with a welcome from Annual Meeting Co-chairs Renee Wawczak and Sarah Kalika, who express their gratitude to the volunteers helping them and share some highlights of the meeting, including the addition of a second day of virtual sessions for those unable to attend in person. The preview provides a synopsis of the geology of Chicago, descriptions of the field courses, and the schedule of sessions. It also provides details on the meeting venue, student opportunities, and the exciting special event and optional events. Under professional contributions, Bill Godwin shares a brief synopsis of the Chicago Subway Project, which illustrates Chicago's important role in the origin of American foundation engineering.

Our member spotlight focuses on Isaac Pope, who graduated with honors from the Colorado School of Mines and will be continuing his education at the Missouri University of Science and Technology. We are pleased to provide updates from the Dams and Levees Technical Working Group and several AEG operating committees including Communications, Membership, Workforce Development, Student & Young Professional Support, and the Strategic Initiative Coordinators. Our Homefront section features reports from four chapters—Nisqually, Greater Pittsburgh, Carolinas, and Chicago.

Our news of the profession section includes an article on recent legislation, both proposed and passed, affecting licensure in several states, and an article on some of the geohazard legislation proposed thus far this year in the 119th US Congress. **Correction**: In the update on reauthorization of the National Landslide Preparedness Act (NLPA) in the spring issue of *AEG News*, I incorrectly wrote that President Joe Biden signed the NLPA on January 5, 2021. President Donald Trump actually signed the NLPA on January 5, 2021.

Best wishes for a great summer!

Let's Meet!

AEG's president looks forward to meeting you at a chapter meeting in your city or at AEG's annual meeting in her home city. **By Renee Wawczak, 2024–25 AEG President**

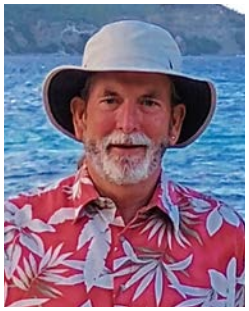
Dinner in Tampa prior to the midyear board meeting. Left to right: Treasurer Mark Swank, VP Paul Weaver, Past President Sarah Kalika, President Renee Wawczak, former Association Manager Evelyn Neale, and Secretary Julia Frazier.

Hello, and I hope you all are enjoying your summer! I have been enjoying the hospitality of the chapters during my presidential visits and catching up with so many familiar faces and making new friends! If I have not visited your chapter yet, and you would like a talk from the president, please let me know as soon as possible! I would be honored to meet your chapter members and see what your fantastic meetings look like!

I am looking forward with excitement to see so many of you this year at our annual meeting in Chicago, Illinois. Not only do I have the privilege of serving as president of this Association for a few more months, but I am also enjoying my role as an annual meeting co-chair. Chicago is a city near and dear to my heart, and I am so excited to share it with all of you. We have an excellent line up of technical speakers, fantastic local field courses, exciting guest tours, and a short course entitled "Strategies for Solving Hydrogeologic Complexities from the Sedimentary Sequence in the Western Chicago Suburbs." Our special event this year will feature the architecture and geology of downtown Chicago during a tour on the Chicago River, where you'll also get to sample the city's famous deep-dish pizza for dinner. Also, don't forget to visit our Young at Heart event at the famous House of Blues, right across from our meeting hotel! As a healthy twist to our meeting this year, I will be hosting some fun runs in the mornings before our technical sessions; for times, check out the program for Running with the President. All abilities and paces are welcome!

At our Opening Session, we will celebrate the AEG Foundation's student scholarship awardees and present awards to Volunteers of the Year and to the Outstanding Environmental & Engineering Project. The annual banquet will honor our outstanding award winners who serve AEG as mentors and technical experts. Don't forget to attend our Support Your Peers Luncheon on Thursday and the Closing Session on Friday afternoon, when we will present the AEG Publication Award and recognize winners of the Outstanding Chapter Award, Outstanding Student Chapter Award, and Outstanding Reviewer for the *Environmental & Engineering Geoscience* journal. We will also welcome our incoming Association President Paul Weaver. Our annual meetings are always strongly supported by our exhibitors and sponsors, so please help me welcome them by stopping by their booths during the Icebreaker Reception and Exhibitor-Hosted Luncheon and during our morning and afternoon breaks!

In Association news, we say a sad goodbye to our Association Manager Evelyn Neale. We are sad to see Evelyn go, but wish her well on her future endeavors. Please welcome Shannon Fitzpatrick-O'Shea, who will be our new association manager with Arden Solutions. Shannon comes from a strong background of representing nonprofit organizations and is sure to be a strong asset to AEG. Please give her a warm AEG welcome when you meet her!



AEG Holds 2025 Midyear Board Meeting

Two Executive Council members share notes on the midyear meeting, licensure, elections, and academic programs. **By Julia Frazier, 2024–25 AEG Secretary, and Paul Weaver, 2024–25 AEG Vice President**

Midyear board meeting attendees included (l-r): front row, kneeling—Region 2 Director Darrin Hasham and Region 7 Director Paco Gomez; middle row—Region 10 Director Fran Schultz, Early Career Ambassador Emma O'Hara, Region 9 Director Bill Mikalik, Region 1 Director Holly Nichols, AEG President Renee Wawczak, Region 5 Director Denise Garcia, AEG Past President Sarah Kalika, Previous Association Manager Evelyn Neale; back row—Region 3 Director Chip Barnett, Region 4 Director Jesse Ruzicka, AEG Treasurer Mark Swank, AEG Vice President Paul Weaver, AEG Secretary Julia Frazier, and Region 8 Director Hawkins Gagnon.

The AEG Executive Council (EC) consists of the secretary, treasurer, vice president, president, and past president, each of whom serve a 1-year term in each position. The Board of Directors (BOD) consists of the 11 regional directors (RDs), each of whom serves a 3-year term. The EC and BOD meet in person twice a year, once for the midyear EC/BOD meeting (held in the spring) and again immediately following the conclusion of the annual meeting. The EC also has two all-day virtual meetings each year, one in the winter and one in the summer.

This year's midyear meeting was held April 25–27 in Tampa, Florida. Meeting in Tampa gave us the in-person opportunity to meet the people from Arden Solutions, the association management company that took over management of AEG in July of 2024, as they are based in nearby Belleair Bluffs, Florida. The weekend started off with an all-day meeting of the EC on Friday and continued with a 2-day meeting (Saturday and Sunday) that included all the RDs. Most of the RDs were able to make it in person, which added to the quality of the connection and interaction and allowed for a fluid discussion and exchange of ideas. AEG's International RD Martha Whitney was even able to join for some of the meeting from a ship while working in the North Sea!

The 1-day EC meeting allowed for focused discussions amongst the group covering all aspects related to the running of an international professional association, including making sure the membership is supported and thriving. In addition, the EC meeting enables the EC to prepare for the BOD meeting with the goal of making the BOD meeting as organized and productive as possible.

Both the EC meeting and the BOD meeting included discussions around such topics as past and upcoming annual meetings, symposiums and workshops, membership renewals and future membership numbers projections, outreach, connection with other professional associations, mentorship amongst our members, the financial health of the Association including recommendations and input from the Finance Committee, the status of existing and proposed chapters, technical working groups, operational

committees such as the Strategic Initiative and Governance Committees, status updates on licensure issues across the country, review and update of outstanding action items from previous meetings, and various other operational topics such as contractors and tax filings.

Highlights from the midyear EC and BOD meetings included:

- Holly Nichols was approved to complete the remaining portion of the Region 1 director term (after resignation of the previous RD).
- AEG's Job Board is experiencing increased traffic this year indicating significant interest by our membership.
- The Workforce Development & Support Committee is moving forward with the launch of their mentoring program.
- Several changes to AEG's operating policies were approved along with two changes to the by-laws, which will be voted on by the membership during this year's election for open regional directors and EC positions.
- 2025 AEG awards requiring BOD votes were voted on and approved.
- A Marketing Strategies Workshop was held with the BOD and EC on Sunday morning.

Geologist Licensure

Virginia—Exciting news to report! On May 2, 2025, the governor of Virginia signed House Bill 1835, which establishes mandatory licensure of geologists in the commonwealth of Virginia effective July 1, 2025. Prior to the passage of this bill, Virginia had professional geologist licensure, but it was not a requirement to practice geology in Virginia. The passage of this bill comes after much hard work and patient waiting by many groups and individuals. Next steps include work by the Virginia Board for Professional Soil Scientists, Wetlands Specialists, and Geologists to implement the new law, and revisions to the Virginia Code to reflect this newly created license.

Florida—During the midyear board meeting in Tampa, we became aware of a threat to dissolve Florida's Geologist Licensing Board. At the time it was reported to us, we learned House Bill 1461, which dissolves the Geologist Licensing Board and thus the requirement for geologist licensure in the state, had been passed in the House and was moving to the Senate floor. However, the bill was indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration on May 3. We suspect that the bill may crop up again in 2026. See p. 46 for more on recent legislation affecting licensure.

2025 AEG Officer Elections

Terms are ending for a few of our regional directors, so please remember to look for your ballots and vote for your next regional director. The following positions are opening:

- Region 2 – Southern California
- Region 4 – Southwest
- Region 9 – Mid-Atlantic
- Region 11 – International

Additionally, votes will be tallied for the EC positions that require it (secretary and treasurer). The incoming EC secretary nomination for 2025/2026 is a recommendation that is carefully considered and vetted by the Nominations Committee and approved by the BOD prior to advancing the ballot. Keep watch for that voting opportunity, as well.

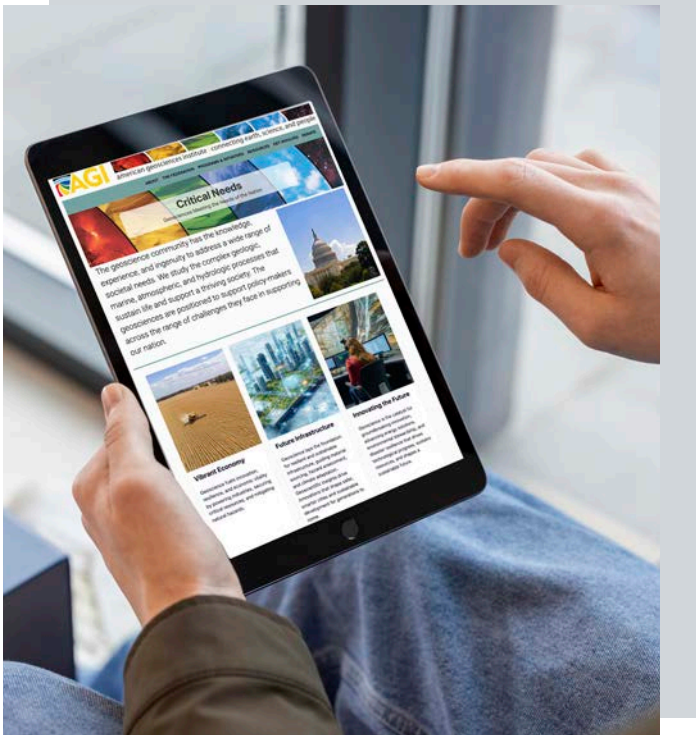
Message from AEG Secretary Julia Frazier on Disappearing Geology Programs

One of my responsibilities as AEG secretary is to write letters for various purposes as the need arises. One such opportunity arose this year in the form of a request for a letter of support for the Sonoma State University (California) Department of Geology, which was under threat of being removed by administrators. AEG provided such a letter to decision makers, and many others sent letters of support as well. Unfortunately, the geology department at Sonoma State University has been eliminated. We are also becoming aware of additional geology programs across the U.S. being removed from curriculum offerings.

AEG and I personally do not want to see academic pathways to pursuing a rewarding and impactful career in the geosciences systematically removed from universities. It is understood that academic institutions are struggling; however, as an industry group and an association with the purpose of supporting geoscience professionals, it is important for us to make efforts to sway the decision to eliminate geology programs. If you have any questions, input, or support to offer on this topic, please contact me at secretary@aegweb.org.

A Call for Advocacy

AEG's past president issues a call for advocacy and provides updates on AEG's continuing education and outreach efforts. **By Sarah Kalika, 2024–25 AEG Past President**



Critical Needs are geared toward providing information to legislative representatives and their staff on the purpose of geoscience and how we can support policymakers.

You might be aware that major sources funding in the United States for science, including geoscience, has been halted by the current presidential administration. Why should you care? If you have a degree in geology, it is important to understand that some of that degree was funded by congressionally allocated National Science Foundation (NSF) grants[1] in the form of research funds that your professors were awarded. In some universities, NSF grants help keep professors employed. NSF, one of the world's biggest supporters of research, also funded graduate student research that benefited you and other students. Some of NSF's grant funding includes travel to conferences including the Geological Society of America and American Geophysical Union, where researchers shared their findings and learned from others, and funding for publishing to ensure that research could be utilized by others, and more.

The proposed budget for 2026 (as of June 2025) includes an unprecedented cut to NSF funding of up to 55 percent, which impacts workforce development and university programs, among other items. A cut to the United States Geological Survey's budget of 38 percent has also been proposed, which would include elimination of essential services like earthquake hazard map updates performed by state geological surveys and support for volcano observatories, putting more of us at risk. These cuts will continue to erode geoscience departments at universities.

What can we do? Lobby your individual representative at the state and federal levels. Reach out to them specifically with your concerns. AEG's website has many tips and resources available under our licensure[2] section, but this advice can be used for more than just advocating for licensure. As professionals, it is up to those of us in professional practice to invest in our future and actively promote sharing of science with our peers with active participation in professional associations like AEG and others. We need to step up and step in to assist with promoting student participation in geoscience by donating to scholarship funds. We need to remain attentive to the issues impacting our profession and mobilize to make a difference. If you're interested in assisting AEG's efforts, please join our Licensure Committee, which was recently reactivated. We can use all the help we can get.

Continuing Education

As we gear up for our annual meeting in Chicago this September, I wanted to give an update on initiatives that

[1] See https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-025-01396-2
[2] See https://aeg.memberclicks.net/licensure

AEG has been working on over the past few months.

In April, the Geologic and Seismic Hazards Technical Working Group (TWG) hosted the **Geologic and Seismic Hazards Virtual Symposium,** which was held over three days and included 22 presentations on the volcanic hazards found within the continental United States, Alaska, Hawaii, the island of Montserrat, as well as international volcanic discussions with presenters from Iceland and France. A complete list of abstracts and discussions can be found at https://www.aegvolcanicsymposium.org, and recorded presentations are available for purchase and playback at https://www.aegweb.org/2025-gash-recordings. We had great participation for this symposium, with over 100 people who registered, including 40 students!

The **Dams and Levees TWG** is planning a **Risk Assessment for Dam and Levee Foundations Workshop** to be held November 4–6 in Golden, Colorado. This is a must-attend conference for engineering geologists, geological and geotechnical engineers, and anyone who is interested in advancing their skills in dam and levee risk assessment. Space is limited to 125 attendees, so make sure you reserve your spot! More information about the speaker lineup and how to register can be found at https://www.aeg2025riskworkshop.org.

AEG Outreach Efforts

This spring I attended a portion of the **Geological Society of America** (GSA) Cordilleran Section meeting in Sacramento, California. Special thanks to Holly Nichols who represented AEG at our booth for this event. We met with students, professors, and professional geologists—some of whom joined AEG as a result of our conversation! In October, at GSA Connects in San Antonio, Texas, AEG will not only have a booth but also will be hosting a field course to visit a local lignite mine. Thank you to the Texas Chapter for organizing this field course and staffing the booth!

AEG is a member society of the **American Geosciences Institute** (AGI). Each October, AGI hosts Earth Science Week, and AEG will once again be participating by including a colorful flyer in the Earth Science Week toolkit. If you are an educator or want a copy of the kit to share with a teacher, contact AEG to get a kit sent to you! These are great for decorating the walls of a classroom or office and have information to benefit students and others interested in Earth Science. AEG's flyer includes a QR code that links to our Students and Educators portion of the website, https://www.aegweb.org/students-and-educators. Let us know if you are interested in adding further details to this portion of our website! Additionally AGI has updated their Critical Needs document series. These are geared toward providing information to legislative representatives and their staff on the purpose of geoscience and how we, as geoscientists, can support policymakers. Take a look at the latest Critical Needs documents at https://www.criticalneeds.org.

What can we do? Lobby your individual representative at the state and federal levels. Reach out to them specifically with your concerns.

See you in **Chicago, Illinois,** for our annual meeting! Registration is open and our technical program, field courses, short course, and networking events will be unmatched! Now more than ever, it's important for those of us in private industry to join together to support each other, collaborate, and encourage students to pursue careers in geoscience. AEG's annual meeting is where lifelong friends are made and learning opportunities are offered. If your boss is on the fence, let them know that the cheapest form of marketing your company is attending the annual meeting where you can outshine competitors by keeping your geoscience skills fresh, learning from others, and sharing ideas that create value for your clients. More details can be found at https://www.aegannualmeeting.org.

If you have any questions about AEG or if you're interested in getting involved with our technical working groups, hosting a webinar, or writing a blog post—contact me at pp@aegweb.org.

Isaac Pope Earns Honors

On completing two degrees and starting a PhD program. **By Isaac Pope, Communications Committee Co-chair and *E&EG* Book Review Editor**

This past spring, Isaac Pope graduated with both his bachelor's degree in geology and geological engineering (summa cum laude) and master's in geographic information systems (GIS) and geoinformatics from the Colorado School of Mines, earning graduation honors from the National Academy of Engineering. While finishing his degrees, Isaac remained an avid investigator of geologic hazards under the careful mentorship of Dr. Paul Santi, conducting research from topics as diverse as landslides in southern Peru, combatting misinformation about earthquakes, and developing a new technique for dating youthful lava flows using GIS data. His research on lava flows was awarded an honorable mention from the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program and will be funded by the Kummer Innovation and Entrepreneurship Fellowship Program during his upcoming PhD program at Missouri University of Science and Technology. Throughout the program, Isaac remained an active AEG member contributing articles to *AEG News* and abstracts to the annual meetings, as well as co-chairing the Communications Committee and serving as book review editor of *Environmental and Engineering Geoscience*, a joint publication of AEG and the Geological Society of America. Isaac works as an intern in the U.S. Geological Survey's Earthquakes Hazard Program and more recently as a freelance GIS consultant in the renewable energy sector, providing an industry perspective that will be invaluable to his upcoming PhD studies.

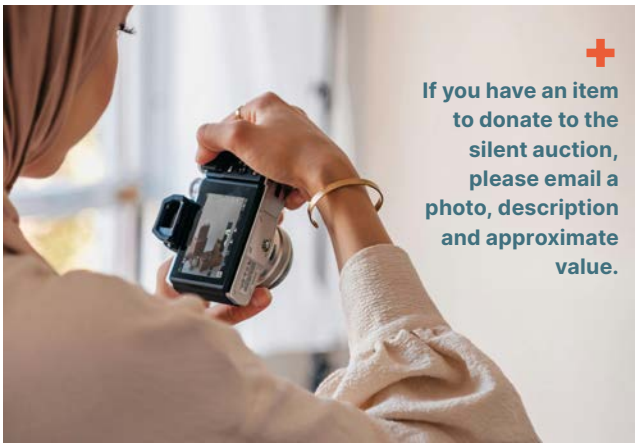
Experience the Soul of Chicago at House of Blues!

Young at Heart Event — 9/23/25

8-10pm Live Music by Keithen Banks. Included with full and student registrations.

Donate to Silent Auctions!

By Nichole Vetter, AEG Foundation Board Member



If you have an item to donate to the silent auction, please email a photo, description and approximate value.

The AEG Foundation (AEGF) is excited to announce the virtual silent auction, as well as the in-person silent auction for this year's annual meeting in Chicago, Illinois. The virtual auction will be live September 12, 2025, at 7:00 a.m. CST, and will end September 25, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. CST. The in-person auction will begin during the Ice Breaker on September 23, 2025, and end at 1:30 p.m. CST on September 25, 2025.

We are still looking for donations for both the virtual and in-person silent auctions. If you have an item that you would like to donate, please email a photo of the item along with the description and approximate value, and whether you will be attending the annual meeting and bringing the item with you to staff@aegfoundation.org. Ideas include a product made from a hobby (photographs, paintings, pottery, jewelry), gift cards, minerals, and rocks.

As a reminder, you can make a donation to the AEGF at any time by visiting our site, https://aegfoundation.org/donate.

Communications Committee

Overseeing publications, website, and media strategy.
By William Godwin, Co-chair

The Communications Committee has been active this year! From the Geology of Cities of the World (COW) series to the AEG News updates and Bill Godwin's upcoming book.

The Communications Committee has been active this year.

Committee members and *AEG News* Editors Bill Roman and Martha Whitney worked closely with the *AEG News* Production Editor Allie Boman to update the publication's style guide and submissions guide. These efforts follow the spring debut of the publication's fresh new design, which was spearheaded by Allie Boman and her colleague Whitney Larson, who is a graphic designer.

Committee member and Editor Terry Cordaro has been working hard on our Geology of the Cities of the World (COW) series. In particular, Cordaro has the technical assistance of AEG honorary member Bill Cole, who has been reviewing the manuscript for the New York COW.

Committee Co-chair Isaac Pope recently graduated with a bachelor's degree (geology and geological engineering) and master's degree (GIS and geoinformatics) from the Colorado School of Mines. He is now enrolled as a PhD candidate at the Missouri University of Science and Technology.

William (Bill) Godwin, the other committee co-chair, retired in March after 45 years in the profession as an engineering geologist. He is now devoting his time toward writing a book about his grandfather and traveling with his wife Diana, who is also retired.

What do you want to see featured in *AEG News*?

Contact Martha Whitney (aeginternational24@gmail.com) to share your content and ideas.

PLUS: Find our new style guide and article submissions guide on the *AEG News* site (www.aegweb.org/assets/docs/Publications/News/AEG_News_StyleGuide_2025.pdf).

Membership Committee

Driving AEG's growth by promoting membership, student outreach, and international collaboration.

By Rick Kolb

Dr. Kemeny presenting in St. Louis earlier this year.

The Membership Committee (MemCom) has targeted a few states that have potential to be future AEG chapters. We identified Florida as a large state with many geologists, so as an initial step to expose potential members to AEG, we invited 2024–25 Jahns Distinguished Lecturer Dr. John Kemeny to make presentations to geology departments at universities there. We contacted each department to gauge their interest; all welcomed his visit, so we undertook the planning. His schedule was as follows:

Sunday, March 30	→	Fly from Tucson to Tallahassee
Monday, March 31	→	Present at Florida State University in Tallahassee
Tuesday, April 1	→	Drive to Gainesville, present at the University of Florida at 2:30 p.m.
Wednesday, April 2	→	Drive to Tampa, present at the University of South Florida at 2:00 p.m.
Thursday, April 3	→	Drive to Boca Raton
Friday, April 4	→	Present at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton at 11:00 a.m., then drive to Miami and present at Florida International University at 3:00 p.m.

Sadly, Dr. Kemeny's trip started off inauspiciously. Due to weather, he missed his connection in Dallas and had to spend the night there, and the next day, weather prevented his plane from landing in Tallahassee, so he could not make his presentation at Florida State. However, the rest of the presentations went off as planned. Typically, he also had dinner with students after his presentations, so he had many opportunities to talk about geology and careers with future professionals/possible AEG members.

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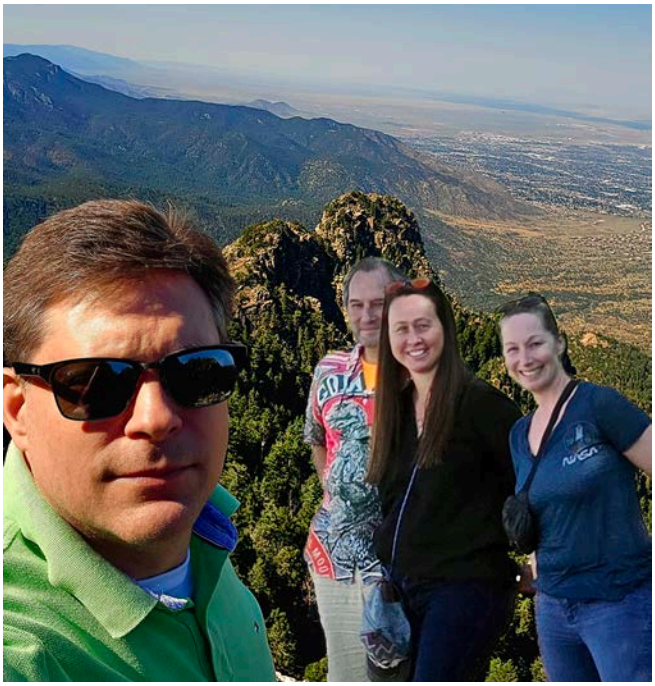
Aligning for Impact

AEG's strategic initiative coordinators make progress on implementing the Association's strategic plan. **By Dale C. Andrews, Chair, Strategic Initiative Coordinators**



Strategic Initiative Coordinators (l-r) Dale Andrews, Paco Gomez, Julia Frazier, and Renee Wawczak pose for a selfie atop Sandia Peak following a July 2024 strategic planning workshop in Albuquerque, New Mexico (Photo by Aaron Garcia).

AEG's Strategic Initiative Coordinators (SIC)

—**Renee Wawczak**, **Julia Frazier**, **Paco Gomez**, and myself, Dale C. Andrews—have been steadily working behind the scenes to help keep the organization moving forward. Our job is to update and support the Association's strategic plan by keeping goals on track, working across committees, and helping volunteer leaders turn ideas into action.

Since the 2024 annual meeting, SIC has coordinated regular strategy calls designed to advance each of the identified strategic goals with AEG staff and volunteers. We have focused on improving member engagement, updating how we support volunteers, and laying the groundwork for sustainable membership growth. One of the biggest outcomes from this work has been the creation of the Membership Committee (MemCom).

With MemCom having entered its second year as a standing committee, it is increasingly clear the potential positive impact that it can have in how AEG engages with its members. One of its early focus areas has been understanding membership retention patterns and identifying where the Association can do more to support continued involvement. In particular, the committee is examining factors that may affect renewal among newer members and is working to address them through clearer onboarding, improved communication, and a structured engagement calendar that includes welcome messages, check-ins, and opportunities to connect throughout the year.

Here are four other strategic focus areas that SIC is helping to develop and support:

Better Marketing, Wider Reach: A fresh marketing roadmap is in place that covers university outreach, referral programs, corporate engagement, and targeted digital campaigns. The goal is to help more people discover what AEG offers and why it is worth joining.

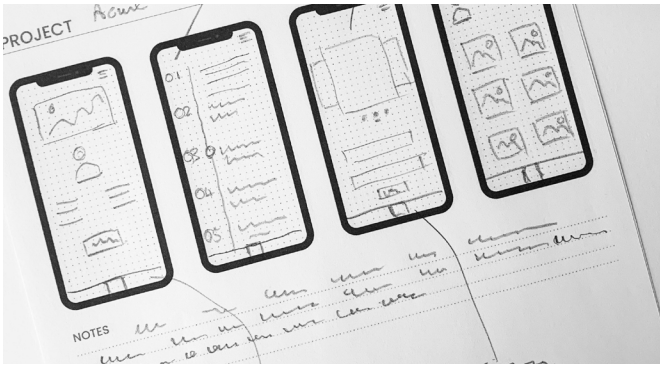
More Practical Volunteer Support: We have started rethinking how volunteers connect with AEG's mission. That includes exploring regional meetups, leadership summits, and activities that make it easier to get involved while maintaining balance.

Smarter Use of Data: We have been working with available data to better understand who is joining, who is leaving, and why. That has prompted conversations about customer relationship management (CRM) upgrades and ways to make our outreach efforts more effective.

MemCom's New Role: In addition to onboarding, MemCom is tasked with tracking retention, coordinating with other committees, and launching campaigns to grow and diversify membership. Their charter is a direct result of SIC's planning work and is already helping AEG take a more structured, member-focused approach.

While meaningful progress has been made, important work remains. Volunteer capacity is limited, and continued support, both in terms of personnel and

While meaningful progress has been made, important work remains. Volunteer capacity is limited, and continued support, both in terms of personnel and funding, will be essential to sustain momentum and translate these strategies into lasting outcomes. **The path forward is clear, and the foundation is in place.**



A fresh marketing roadmap is in place that covers university outreach, referral programs, corporate engagement, and targeted digital campaigns.

funding, will be essential to sustain momentum and translate these strategies into lasting outcomes. The path forward is clear, and the foundation is in place.

Looking ahead, SIC will continue advancing 2025 initiatives, including mentorship programming, regional leadership support, and public outreach around licensure and the geosciences. The next strategic planning session to define AEG's 2025–26 initiatives will be held this August in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

This summer also marks a transition. After 3 years in this role, I will be stepping down as chair of the SIC, and 2024-25 AEG Past President Sarah Kalika will be stepping in. Kalika's experience and steady hand will be a big asset, and I'll stay involved to help during the transition.

Thanks for the opportunity to serve. AEG's strength is its members. If you're looking for a way to give back or shape what's next, I encourage you to get involved. Whether through the SIC, MemCom, or another committee, there's always room at the table.

News from the Student & Young Professional Support Committee

By Rick Kolb, Co-chair

Submit your application by July 31 to be considered for a travel grant to Chicago!

The Student & Young Professional Support Committee (SYPSC) has promoted one of our members, Aleigha Dollens, to the co-chair position. Dollens received her MS in Urban and Environmental Geosciences in May 2025 from the University of Missouri at Kansas City, where she was also president of the geology club, and now works for WSP in Kansas City. SYPSC awarded Dollens an Annual Meeting Travel Grant so she could present a poster at her first annual meeting last year in Philadelphia. SYPSC will again review applications for travel grants for the annual meeting in Chicago. These applications are due by July 31; the application is on the Students and Educators page of the AEG website. Student members, early career members, and teacher members are eligible to receive travel grants of up to $500 each.

The AEG Board of Directors recently appointed Emma O'Hara as AEG's new early career advocate (ECA). O'Hara is a geotechnical engineer with WSP in Berkeley and is also vice chair of AEG's San Francisco Chapter. As ECA, she is responsible for assembling and publishing the SYPSC's student chapter newsletter. She completed her first edition just before spring semester ended. It will be posted, along with previous editions, on the Students and Educators page.

SYPSC Co-chair Francisco Saldana, a project geologist with GFT in Roseville, California, has begun recording podcasts of AEG members talking about their careers. The first podcast, which he is currently editing, is with Dr. Tej Gautam, an associate professor of Geology at Marietta College in Ohio. Saldana plans to prepare monthly podcasts with other practicing professionals this summer. If you are interested in participating in one of these podcasts, you can email him at fsaldana@gfnet.com.

SYPSC would like to help universities establish student chapters of AEG. The process is simple—all that's needed is a completed application, signed by three AEG student members and a faculty advisor, submitted to AEG and then approved by the Board of Directors. Since many schools already have geology clubs, the procedure to "add" an AEG student chapter at that school is simple. If your alma mater doesn't have a student chapter, a SYPSC member would be happy to contact your school; simply email the contact information for the geology club (or a student or faculty member) to me at rick.kolb1@gmail.com.

Students, teachers, and early career members: Apply for a travel grant for the upcoming AEG Annual Meeting in Chicago! Applications are due July 31 and can be found on AEG's Students and Educators page.

Workforce Development and Support Committee

Fostering connections, mentorships, and diversity in AEG. **By Minda Moe and Matt Buche, Co-chairs**

How can the WDSC support you? The WDSC would love to hear from you!

The Workforce Development and Support Committee (WDSC) continues to offer support to all of AEG's membership. We meet monthly on the third Thursday at noon Eastern/9 a.m. Pacific. We have around 12 active members and always welcome whatever level of engagement that our existing or new members can contribute to the committee.

Windy City Geology

Coming to the annual meeting this year? Please make time in your schedule to attend some eye-opening events supported by the WDSC.

Leading off the in-person program on Wednesday afternoon, this year's [Redacted] Symposium will feature speakers from a wide selection of industries and AEG regions. Last year's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)–Shine the Light Symposium at the 2024 Annual Meeting in Philadelphia was a great success, and we look forward to hearing new perspectives in Chicago. Attending the symposium is a great opportunity to learn about your colleagues and broaden your understanding of what it means to be a geoscientist.

Free for lunch on Thursday? Consider the Support Your Peers/Be Yourself Luncheon. Past luncheons have featured interactive polls, discussion, and great networking over food. This year's luncheon will feature a guest speaker from the Chicago area.

Ongoing Projects

Have you ever felt like the only person like you in a classroom, at an AEG meeting, or at a conference? How can the WDSC support you? Have you ever had an idea or wished for something that would add value to your experience at AEG (like pronoun badges or extra microphones at a symposium)? The WDSC would love to hear from you—please reach out to us at minda.moe@arcadis.com or matthew.buche@water.ca.gov with your experiences or ideas.

We would also welcome more input at our monthly committee meetings and support for ongoing WDSC projects, so please send us an email if you're interested in joining the committee as a volunteer.

If you are interested in connecting with a mentor or open to sharing your experiences with a protégé, please keep an eye on *AEG News* for announcements about the 2026 Mentorship Program.

Coming to the annual meeting this year? Please make time in your schedule to attend some eye-opening events supported by the WDSC.

Dams and Levees Technical Working Group

Advancing dam and levee safety through events, outreach, and international partnerships. **By J. Hawkins Gagnon, Co-chair**

The Dams and Levees Technical Working Group (TWG) is planning to have its next meeting at the end of June. We are planning to have two technical sessions on Thursday at the AEG Annual Meeting in Chicago. We're very excited about our upcoming Risk Assessment for Dam and Levee Foundations Workshop, being held November 4–6, 2025, in Denver, Colorado. We look forward to seeing dam and levee safety professionals at that meeting!

Please register at the website: https://www.aeg2025riskworkshop.org/program.

Sign up for the upcoming Risk Assessment for Dam and Levee Foundations Workshop, being held November 4–6, 2025, in Denver, Colorado.

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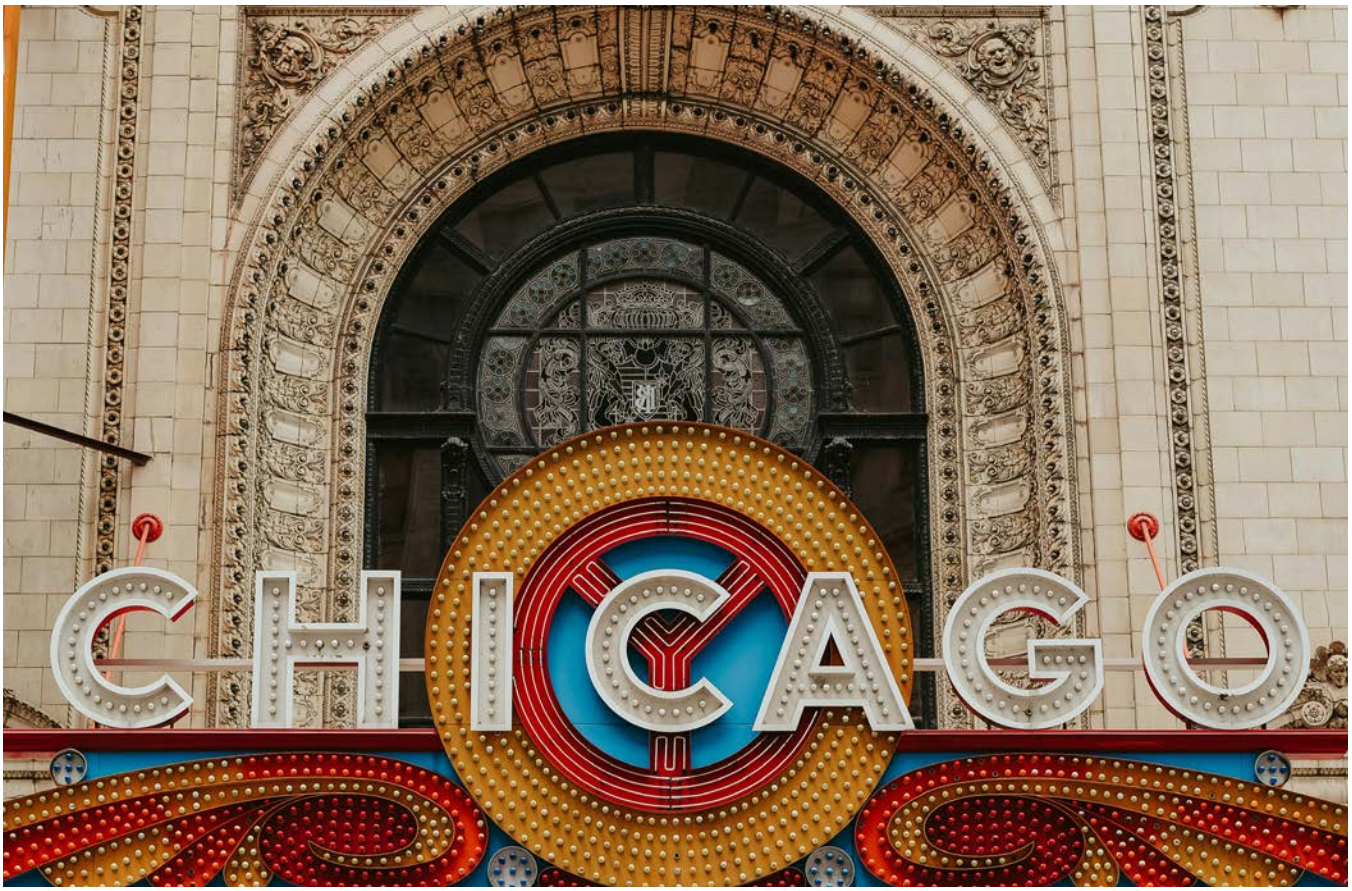


By Renee Wawczak & Sarah Kalika, Meeting Co-chairs

Get ready for AEG's 2025 Annual Meeting!

While Chicago is known for its outstanding food and music scene, we hope you will get a chance to learn a bit about the fascinating geologic history of the area, as well as the role that geology continues to play in the continued growth of this beautiful city.

We are grateful for our outstanding team of 2025 Annual Meeting Planning Committee volunteers, particularly Chris Stohr, Kevin Richards, and Bill Rochford, who went above and beyond to get our field courses and keynote speakers arranged, as well as to the Chicago Chapter, which helped promote this meeting. AEG is truly grateful for the countless hours of work by the committee members to organize field courses, the special event, technical sessions, student events, and more!

Did you know that 2025 marks 100 years since pioneer in rock mechanics Ruth Terzaghi earned her master's degree in geology at the University of Chicago? Her thesis was on the origin of abnormally steep dips of the Silurian Niagaran reefs in the Chicago area, some of which were mined at Thornton and McCook quarries (visit these on two of our field courses)!

We have a fantastic assemblage of **Technical Sessions and Symposia** on a mix of environmental and engineering geology topics including PFAS, microplastics, site characterization, geological energy harvesting and storage, using artificial intelligence and machine learning in geoscience, land subsidence, intraplate seismic hazards, tunneling, dams & levees, challenges facing our profession and university education systems, and more—planned by AEG's technical working groups and expert members.

For the first time ever, we have expanded our virtual sessions into two days! Join us on Monday and Tuesday from your home or office for presentations from outstanding speakers and interactive break activities. This is a perfect way to participate in the annual meeting and get some PDHs if you're unable to join us in person.

Looking for more learning opportunities? We're hosting an outstanding short course on Friday of the meeting. Join Dan Kelleher and Susan Grover while they discuss field strategies used to decipher depositional environments and stratigraphy of a sedimentary sequence drilled in 2022 through Wisconsinan-age deposits. The course **Strategies for Solving**

Hydrogeologic Complexities in the Western Chicago Suburbs will explore how they made history by age dating the buried A-horizon that was confirmed within the Pre-Wisconsinan-age portion of the sequence!

Want to get outside? Don't miss our field courses exploring the geology of the Chicago area including a **Geologic Trip down the Chicago Area Waterway** with visits to McCook Quarry, Lockport Lock & Dam, and the Fish Barrier; an overview of **Near Surface Geology and Urban Challenges in the Chicago Area** featuring visits to Sandy Ridge Nature Preserve, Indiana Harbor, and Northerly Island; an overview of **Geology, Infrastructure, and Shoreline Morphodynamics of Illinois Beach State Park** on the shores of Lake Michigan; and **Reefs to Roads: The Role of Ancient Reefs in the Development of Chicago's Infrastructure and its Stone Industry** with a visit to Stearns and Thornton quarries, sources of aggregate that helped build the area and an opportunity to learn about the re-purposing of former quarries as storage facilities for combined stormwater and sewage as part of Chicago's huge Tunnel and Reservoir Plan.

Sign up for field courses today at www.aegannualmeeting.org/field-courses

Prices increase August 1!

Northerly Island

AEG will award the Outstanding Environmental & Engineering Geology Project Award to the Metropolitan Water Reclamation and TARP project at this year's Opening Session.

Tuesday after the Icebreaker Reception in the exhibit hall, don't forget to join us at the Young at Heart event at the **House of Blues**! The venue is across the street from the hotel, and this event will feature drinks, appetizers, and live blues music for all participants.

To begin Wednesday morning, join us for our Opening Session, which will feature AEG Foundation awards and scholarships presented to deserving students, keynote speakers including **Dr. Thomas Oommen, Dr. Timothy Stark**, current Richard H. Jahns Distinguished Lecturer **Dr. John Kemeny,** introduction to our incoming Jahns Lecturer **Dr. Chris Stohr**, and presentation of the Outstanding Environmental & Engineering Geology Project Award to the **Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago's Tunnel and Reservoir Plan (TARP).**

On Wednesday night, our ticketed Special Event will take you on an

On Wednesday night, our ticketed Special Event will take you on an unmatched Chicago experience, **an architectural cruise along the Chicago River.**

unmatched Chicago experience, an **architectural cruise along the Chicago River**. We'll feast on deep-dish pizza and beverages while we enjoy a narrated tour of Chicago's eclectic buildings.

Don't forget to **vote for your favorite student poster** in the Meeting App and celebrate our student poster authors during the Thursday afternoon reception.

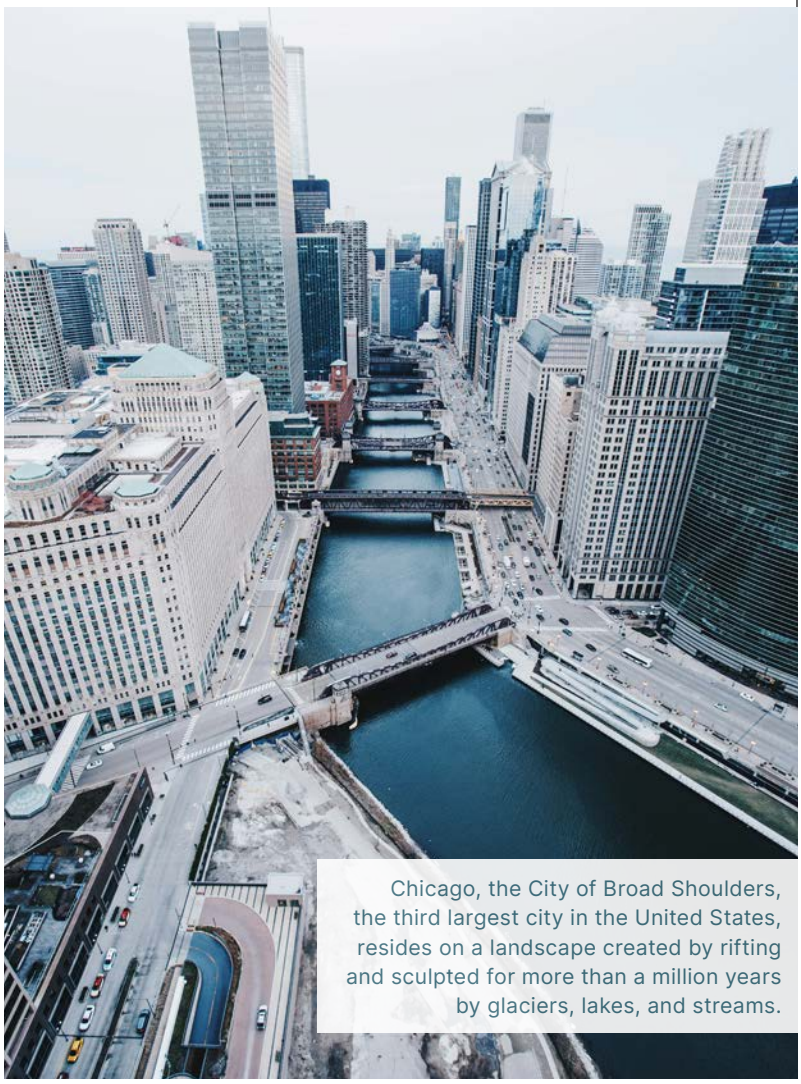
On Thursday night, don't miss our Annual Banquet, where we'll honor AEG's outstanding new honorary members and winners of the Floyd T. Johnston Service Award, Douglas R. Piteau Outstanding Young Member Award, Claire P. Holdredge Publication Award, Karl and Ruth Terzaghi Mentor Award, and the Schuster Medal. IAEG President Vassilis Marinos will be presenting a very special Honorary President Award to **Dr. Scott Burns**. Our final presentation of the evening will be from our incoming President **Paul Weaver** who will introduce himself and his plans for the upcoming year!

You can find us at our **Support Your Peers/Be Yourself Luncheon** on Thursday and the **Closing Session** on Friday afternoon, where AEG will present the **AEG Publication Award**, and recognize winners of the **Outstanding Chapter Award, Outstanding Student Chapter Award**, and the **Outstanding Reviewer for *Environmental & Engineering Geoscience* Journal Award**. We will officially welcome our incoming **AEG president** and invite you to join us afterward for a president-hosted happy hour and toast to a great year!

Our annual meetings are always strongly supported by our exhibitors and sponsors, so please help us welcome our **exhibitors** by stopping by their booths during the Icebreaker Reception, Exhibitor-Hosted Luncheon, and morning and afternoon breaks! Thank you to our **generous sponsors** who helped make this meeting successful including bringing us all day coffee. There are still opportunities to sponsor and a few exhibit booths available, so don't miss an opportunity to showcase your company!

Get to know our exhibitors! Open throughout the conference. A great chance to network and learn about resources and developments in the field.

Welcome to Chicago!



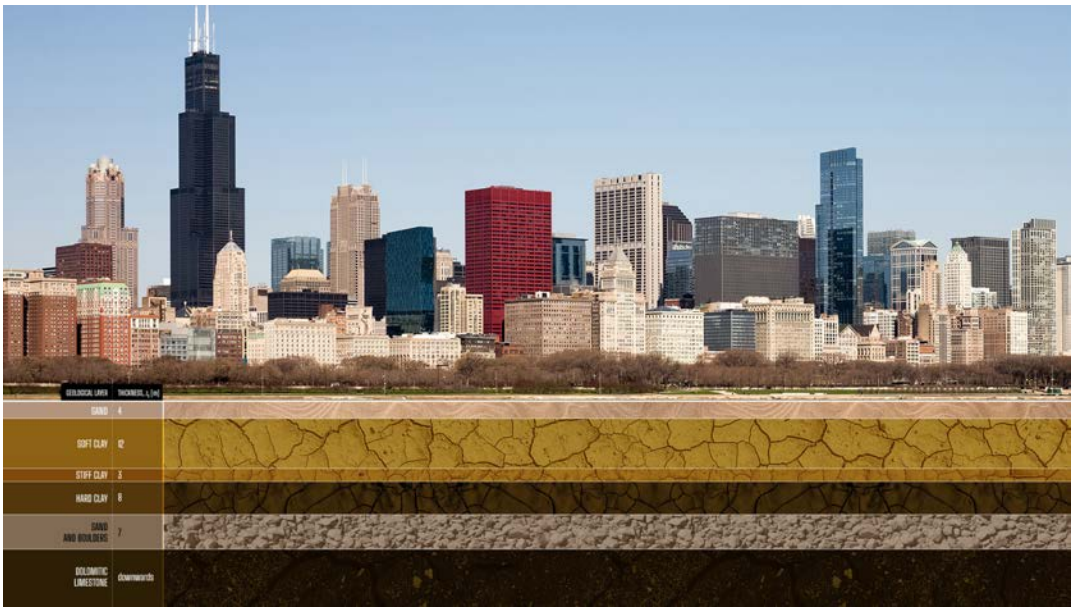
Chicago, the City of Broad Shoulders, the third largest city in the United States, resides on a landscape created by rifting and sculpted for more than a million years by glaciers, lakes, and streams.

Welcome to Chicago, named the "Best Big City in the U.S." by *Condé Nast Traveler* readers for an unprecedented eight consecutive years. Chicago is bursting with world-class culture and a welcoming Midwest spirit. You'll feel right at home as you explore the city's world-renowned museums, jaw-dropping waterfront, groundbreaking live music scene, award-winning theatres, iconic architecture, and stunning parks and green spaces. One of the country's top dining cities, Chicago's restaurant scene includes 23 Michelin-starred restaurants and international cuisines from around the world. The city's 77 vibrant neighborhoods are each home to their own unique vibe, with endless things to do and see around every corner. Come see what makes Chicago a city unlike any other.

Paleozoic, Quaternary, and Environmental Geology of Chicago

Chicago, the City of Broad Shoulders, the third largest city in the United States, resides on a landscape created by rifting and sculpted for more than a million years by glaciers, lakes, and streams. The canvas these agencies worked upon is dominated by dolomite deposited during the Silurian Period about 430 Ma at the bottom of a vast inland sea. Situated on the eastern flank of the Kankakee Arch, the bedrock underlying Chicago dips gently to the east beneath the Michigan Basin. Chicago's uppermost dolomite lies within the Niagaran Series, which is generally more resistant than the strata both above and below it, a rock characteristic displayed dramatically at Niagara Falls. Chicago's resistant dolomites are a primary feature controlling the geologic character of the region. Specifically, the bedrock high, in the western part of the metropolitan area, locally controls the subcontinental divide between the Great Lakes-Saint Lawrence River and the Mississippi River drainage systems.

Resistant ancient reefs are locally exposed at the ground surface in Chicago, where they have been quarried for stone construction materials since the 1820s. As these shallow bedrock resources are becoming depleted, today's aggregate production comes in part from underground mines in older Ordovician rocks of the western suburbs. Important bedrock-controlled infrastructure includes the Tunnel and Reservoir Plan (TARP), which famously exploits the high rock quality of the Silurian strata as a tunneling medium to direct excess combined stormwater and sewage to manmade chambers, tunnels, and reservoirs, where it can be stored prior to treatment and released to local waterways.



Quaternary glacial and lacustrine sediments mantle Silurian dolomite beneath the Chicago Loop. / Photo © Alessandro Rotta Loria/Northwestern University

Jet-black shiny shark teeth of Devonian or Mississippian age have been found within the clay filling fissures in the Silurian dolomite underlying Chicago. The shark teeth are not found in the dolomite itself and occur only within the clay filling the fissures in the dolomite, suggesting an emergence and weathering of the region after deposition of the dolomite, then a re-submergence later in the Paleozoic during the time when sharks inhabited the area and left a record of their presence.

Farther down Chicago's stratigraphic column lie the Ordovician age St. Peter Sandstone and Cambrian age Galesville Sandstone. In the latter half of the 19th century, Chicago entrepreneurs drilled numerous deep artesian flowing wells into these formations. The aquifers were recharged from outcrop areas at higher elevation within the Wisconsin Arch and the Kankakee Arch. Chicago's enormous withdrawals from these aquifers reduced the artesian pressure to the point where groundwater ceased to flow freely from the wells and pumping became necessary, which further reduced the artesian head. Lake Michigan is Chicago's primary source of drinking water, and TARP plays an important role in protecting this vital resource.

Most of the glacial drift beneath Chicagoland was deposited during the waning stages of the last glaciation from about 22,000 to 16,000 years ago. Glacial deposits are primarily till, outwash sand and gravel, and fine sandy to muddy lake sediment. Below the Loop, glacial drift varies from about 20 to 30 m thick. The nature of the bedrock surface is variable; in places, it was scraped to fresh rock by the glaciers, and in others, the bedrock below the drift is heavily jointed with some joints widened by weathering. Karstic sinkholes, now filled with Quaternary debris, are likely located in some areas.

The drift below the Chicago Loop includes, in traditional parlance, the Chicago Hardpan, Blue Clay, sands of Glacial Lake Chicago, and an astounding variety of anthropogenic fill. The hardpan is over consolidated silty and sandy diamicton (till) known to Quaternary geologists as the Haeger Member of the Lemont Formation. Its upper contact with the Blue Clay is one of the easiest subsurface horizons to identify beneath Chicagoland. The Blue Clay is a late-stage glaciogenic succession that includes over consolidated silty and clayey diamicton (the Wadsworth Formation), overlying lacustrine sediment (Equality Formation), and thin littoral sands (Henry Formation). Several generations of fill are below your feet as you navigate the streets of Chicago, including patches of cinder-rich debris from the 1871 Chicago Fire.

Visiting Chicago
FUN FACTS

Chicago's nicknames include **The Windy City, City of Big Shoulders, The Second City,** and **The City That Works.**

Chicago-born **Sen. Carol Moseley Braun** became the country's first female African American U.S. senator in 1992.

The Willis Tower (formerly the Sears Tower) is the tallest building in the Western Hemisphere at 110 stories high.

The term "**jazz**" was coined in Chicago in 1914. The city's native musicians included band leader Benny Goodman and drummer Gene Krupa.

The **first Ferris wheel** made its debut in Chicago at the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition. Today, Navy Pier is home to a 15-story Ferris wheel, modeled after the original one.

Climate/What to Wear

In the fall, Chicago's climate features a gradual cooling trend with temperatures ranging from the 70s during the day and low 60s at night. The fall season also brings a shift from summer humidity to drier conditions, along with the beautiful foliage for which Chicago is known. September in Chicago can still feel like summer, so pack some lightweight clothing options. However, be prepared for cooler evenings by bringing a light jacket or sweater The annual meeting attire is business casual.

Opening Session

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 – MORNING OPENING SESSION

Moderator: AEG President Renee Wawczak

Time: 8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

- Welcome: Renee Wawczak and Sarah Kalika
- AEG Volunteer Recognition Award
- AEG Advocacy Award
- AEG Foundation Awards
- Keynote Speakers: Timothy Stark, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and Dr. Thomas Oommen, Department of Geology and Geological Engineering, University of Mississippi
- Outstanding Environmental and Engineering Geologic Project Award
- 2024–25 Jahns Lecturer: Dr. John Kemeny
- Introduction of 2025–26 Jahns Lecturer: Chris Stohr

Keynote Speakers

Elevated Temperatures in Landfills – Recent Cases and Best Practices

Dr. Timothy Stark, Professor of Civil & Environmental Engineering, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Understanding subsurface elevated temperature (SET) events is critical for properly operating a municipal solid waste (MSW) facility. Once a SET event is detected in a MSW landfill, isolating and/or containing the event is difficult. Usually, operators take a "wait and see" approach, which delays implementation of techniques to isolate and contain the SET event. This presentation will provide recommendations and suggest best management practices to reduce the impacts of a SET event and allow the landfill to properly collect landfill gas without initiating and/or expanding the SET event. The presentation will also discuss proposed changes to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) and National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) regulations for landfills under sections 111 and 112, respectively, of the Federal Clean Air Act to reduce the potential for a SET event to occur.

Timothy D. Stark is a professor of civil and environmental engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with an expertise in geotechnical engineering. In particular, Dr. Stark has been conducting research and teaching on the static and seismic stability of natural and manmade slopes, dams, embankments, and earth structures for over 30 years. He has received a number of awards for his research, teaching, and service activities: 2024 Distinguished Member, American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE); 2023 J.E. Jennings Award, South African Institution of Civil Engineers; 2023 Martin S. Kapp Lecturer, Geo-Institute Met Section; 2022–23 Cross-USA Lecturer from ASCE; 2022 T.H. Wu Lecturer at The Ohio State University; 2019 George H. Norman Medal, ASCE; Best Paper in *Geosynthetics International Journal*, 2016; 2015 James M. Hoover Lecturer at Iowa State University; Thomas A. Middlebrooks Award, ASCE, 2013 and 1998; and Associate Editor Award, *Journal of Geotechnical and Geoenvironmental Engineering*, ASCE, 2012.

Aim your camera's smartphone at this code to access the digital version of the magazine, which includes hyperlinks for all conference resources. ▶

Environmental and Engineering Geology in a Data-Driven World

Dr. Thomas Oommen, Professor & Chair, Department of Geology and Geological Engineering, University of Mississippi

Environmental and engineering geology integrate geologic principles with engineering concepts to meet growing demands in infrastructure development, resource management, and disaster resilience. With the global population projected to reach 9.8 billion by 2050, mounting environmental pressures and climate variability emphasize the need for innovative, data-driven solutions. The field has traditionally focused on constructing critical facilities, such as dams, tunnels, and other subsurface structures, and mitigating hazards like floods, landslides, and earthquakes. It has now expanded its scope to promote sustainable development and environmental stewardship. In this new era, high-resolution remote sensing, advanced numerical simulations, and artificial intelligence enable more robust interpretation of vast geoscience datasets, from mapping flood extents using synthetic aperture radar to classifying complex soil textures for engineering geology. These technologies significantly enhance hazard prediction, resilience-building, and resource planning when integrated with open-access data and global repositories. Incidents like the Edenville Dam failure emphasize the critical need for proactive data analysis and decision support systems. By embracing emerging technologies and forging collaborations across academia, government, and industry, environmental and engineering geologists can play a pivotal role in ensuring that critical infrastructure and natural systems remain resilient and sustainable.

Thomas Oommen is professor and chair of geology and geological engineering at the University of Mississippi. He began his academic career at Michigan Technological University, serving 13 years in geological engineering and progressing from assistant to associate to professor. He has contributed significantly to understanding earth materials, geologic processes, and geohazards, applying those insights to engineering and hazard mitigation. Dr. Oommen's research leverages remote sensing and machine learning to address critical issues in site characterization, infrastructure monitoring, and geohazards. Recognized for developing collaborations across academia, government, and industry, he has secured over $12 million in research funding from various agencies and industry partners, authored over 100 peer-reviewed journal publications, and advanced transformative approaches to engineering geology. An active leader, he served as past chair of the Geological Society of America's Environmental and Engineering Geology Division. Dr. Oommen currently chairs the American Society of Civil Engineers-Geo-Institute's Engineering Geology and Site Characterization Committee, is the chair of the awards committee of the American Geophysical Union Natural Hazards section, and is the co-editor for the *Journal of Environmental and Engineering Geoscience*. With a strong commitment to mentorship, he guides students and cultivates a supportive, research-focused environment.

Technical Program

Wednesday, September 24

MORNING OPENING SESSION

Moderator: AEG President Renee Wawczak
Time: 8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

See additional section on Opening Session

AFTERNOON BREAKOUTS – 2:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

Technical Session #1: [Redacted] — A Symposium

Technical Session #2: Tunneling Symposium

Technical Session #3A: Current Status of Geology Programs at Universities

Technical Session #3B: Vapor Intrusion Symposium

Thursday, September 25

MORNING BREAKOUTS – 8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Technical Session #4: Geologic and Seismic Hazards Symposium - Advances in Studies of Intraplate Tectonics

Technical Session #5: Dams and Levees Symposium

Technical Session #6: Land Subsidence Symposium

AFTERNOON BREAKOUTS – 1:40 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

Technical Session #7: Geologic and Seismic Hazards, Part I

Technical Session #8: Environmental Symposium

Technical Session #9A: Naturally Occurring Asbestos Symposium

Technical Session #9B: Climate Change Deformation Impacts on Infrastructure and the Built Environment (In partnership with the Society of Exploration Geophysicists [SEG])

Friday, September 26

MORNING BREAKOUTS – 8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Short Course: Strategies for Solving Hydrogeologic Complexities from the Sedimentary Sequence in the Western Chicago Suburbs

Technical Session #10: Landslides

Technical Session #11: Subsurface Urban Heat Islands/Geological Energy Harvesting and Storage Symposium

AFTERNOON BREAKOUTS – 1:00 p.m.–2:40 p.m.

Technical Session #12: Geologic and Seismic Hazards, Part II

Technical Session #13: AI/Machine Learning

Technical Session #14: Site Characterization

Poster Presentations

Posters will be presented on Wednesday, September 24, and Thursday, September 25. We will be awarding winners of the Student Poster Competition at the poster reception on Thursday, from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. A drink ticket is included for all full, Thursday-only, and student registrations. All posters will be presented at the poster reception.

Visit our website for session details and all conference resources. ▶

FUN FACTS

The Twinkie was invented during the Depression by **Chicagoan Jimmy Dewar**, at the time, manager of Chicago's Continental Baking Company. The dessert was dubbed "Twinkie" after Dewar spotted an ad for Twinkle Toe Shoes. They were originally filled with banana cream, but vanilla cream was swapped in as bananas became scarce during WWII.

2025 Virtual Day Expanded to 2 Days

Monday, September 22, 2025 - 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. Eastern
Tuesday, September 23, 2025 - 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. Eastern

$100 members/$150 non-members
$20 students (email heather@aegweb.org for discount code)

Registration for this event will be included with all annual meeting full and student registrations.

REGISTER NOW at https://bit.ly/3ZpZXlJ

Join us for AEG's Annual Meeting Virtual Day. This will be two online-only days of technical presentations for those that would like to participate in the annual meeting but are unable to attend. All presentations will be recorded for later viewing. These sessions will provide 9 professional development hours (PDHs).

We are excited to announce that the AEG Geologic and Seismic Hazards (GASH) Technical Working Group is hosting a second virtual day on Tuesday, September 23 from 10 a.m.–2:00 p.m. Eastern. There is no additional cost for this extra day. This is the same group that convened the outstanding Virtual Volcanic Hazards Symposium in April this year.

This special GASH Virtual Session will focus on "Advances in Studies of Intraplate Tectonics" and will complement the in-person GASH Symposium on the same topic that will be held on Thursday, September 25, 2025. During these sterling technical presentations, speakers will provide detailed information on their studies conducted in the following intraplate tectonic settings to characterize geologic features and resultant seismic hazards:

1. The Reelfoot Rift and its associated earthquakes beneath the Mississippi River Valley of the central United States.
2. Earthquake hazards in the New Madrid Seismic Zone in west Tennessee.
3. Faulting and the resultant M5.1 earthquake in Sparta, North Carolina—the only earthquake in the southeastern United States for which surface faulting has been observed.
4. Analysis of faulting in the Charleston Seismic Zone, South Carolina, using multiple geophysical data sets.

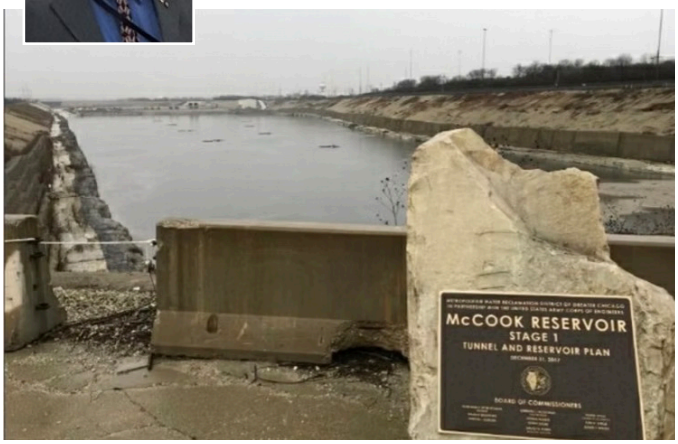
"This Special Virtual Symposium is going to be too exciting to miss for those keen to hear **case histories that showcase the analysis of geologic and seismic hazards in intraplate tectonic settings.** The opportunity to learn about approaches and methods applied and to talk with the experts who applied them will be unmatchable!"
—CONVENER GERRY STIREWALT

Field Courses

Field Course #1:

Geologic Trip down the Chicago Area Waterway

Tuesday, September 23, 2025 / 7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.



Stop 1, McCook Reservoir. (Photo credit: USACE 2018)

Fee: $150 per person ($195 after August 1)

Minimum number of attendees to run the course: 25

Maximum number of attendees: 50

Leaders: Bill Rochford - Coordinator, Yuki Galisanao, Dan Ferris, and Joe Schulenberg, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) - Lockport Powerhouse; and Don Mikulic

Activity Level: Easy to moderate, some walking

Recommended Equipment: Hiking shoes, hat, and sunglasses

Stop 1: McCook Reservoir (Yuki Galisanao). The McCook Reservoir is located adjacent to the Interstate 55 traffic corridor and between the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal (CSSC) and the Des Plaines River. The project will permit a capacity of 10 billion gallons and benefits over 3 million people in Chicago and 36 suburbs. It is composed of two reservoirs separated by a rock weir structure. Stage 1 has been in operation since 2017, and Stage 2 is currently under construction. At the site, approximately 30 to 70 feet of glacial drift overlies Silurian dolomitic bedrock. The overburden contains till, lacustrine sediment, and outwash. The perimeter of the reservoir and the weir structure consist of pre-split rock faces with rock reinforcement as required. To manage groundwater infiltration and exfiltration a double row grout curtain and overburden slurry cut-off wall was installed around the reservoir perimeter. The overburden in the Stage 1 reservoir is stabilized with different types of retaining walls including a gabion wall, soil nail wall, and concrete block retaining wall. (Estimated time – 1 hour)

Stop 2: Fish Barrier (Joe Schulenberg). The Fish Barrier project is a unique effort to implement controls to prevent aquatic invasive species (large, jumping Asian carp) from migrating between the Mississippi River basin and the Great Lakes. The site visit will discuss the location's geology and the approach taken to control the movement of the Asian carp. (Estimated time – 1 hour)

Stop 3: Lockport Lock & Dam (Dan Ferris/ MWRD). This project functions to control the water levels of the rivers in and around the City of Chicago and part of the system that reversed the Chicago River. The Lockport Lock provides a navigation link between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River. The lock and

dam are founded on Silurian age dolomitic limestone that was exposed following breach of the Valparaiso glacial moraine, which created the waterway. Recently, the lock was dewatered, allowing inspection and mapping of the bedrock surface. Other key features creating the overall project include an embankment section creating a 30-plus-foot change in the waterway and a hydropower unit. The field course will present the project features and some of the history of this unique engineering project. (Estimated time – 90 min)

On the bus (MWRD): During the trip, we will hear a history of the Chicago Waterway, from the time of the last glaciers through events such as the flood that carved the waterway, the historic portage between Lake Michigan and the Des Plaines River, the reversal of the Chicago River, and the MWRD Deep Tunnel project.

FC#1 is a geologic trip down the Chicago Area Waterway seeing features between the Des Plaines River and the Chicago Ship and Sanitary Canal (CSSC). *The first stop will occur at the CUP-McCook Reservoir to see bedrock and overburden formations that were exposed in constructing this unique project. Next, we will stop at the Fish Barrier on the CSSC to see measures to control the migration of invasive aquatic species, notably Asian carp. The trip will conclude at the Lockport Lock and Dam where the two waterways come together. Along the way, we will learn about the engineering efforts in constructing tunnels and reservoirs in the Chicago area to address excessive stormwater flooding problems.*

—LEADER BILL ROCHFORD, UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Stop 1, Sandy Ridge Nature Preserve (Cook County Forest Preserve).

Field Course #2:
Near Surface Geology and Urban Challenges in the Chicago Area

Tuesday, September 23, 2025 / 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Fee: $150 per person ($195 after August 1)

Minimum number of attendees to run the course: 25

Maximum number of attendees: 48

Leaders: Bill Rochford – Coordinator, Brandon Curry, Jan Merl, and Robbie Sliwinski

Activity Level: Easy to moderate, some walking

Recommended Equipment: Hiking shoes, hat, sunscreen, sunglasses, and insect repellent.

Stop 1: Sandy Ridge Nature Preserve (Brandon Curry). The Quaternary geology of Chicagoland is introduced, focusing here on the ancient shoreline deposits of Lake Michigan. The Sandy Ridge Nature Preserve is located in a particularly well-expressed swath of beach ridges (the Toleston Beach) along the southern shores of Lake Michigan. Based primarily on several years of geologic mapping in this region by the Illinois State Geological Survey, the Quaternary geological framework of Chicagoland will be introduced; the architecture, age, and regional relationships of the Toleston Beach Ridge complex is also featured. (Estimated time – 1 hour)

Stop 2: Indiana Harbor and Canal – Confined Disposal Facility (CDF) (Jan Merl or Mike Cook). The purpose of this facility is to contain contaminated sediments from the Indiana Harbor and Canal. The site is a former petroleum refinery that went bankrupt and became classified as a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) site. The project includes a perimeter soil-bentonite cutoff wall and steel sheet pile wall through fill and sand (relic beach) deposits that overlie glacial till. An automated groundwater extraction system manages existing contaminated groundwater and any waterborne contaminates from the dredged materials. A containment dike was constructed over the original refinery grounds, which created some challenges. A pool of water is maintained over the impounded sediments to limit air emissions and particulates. A perimeter cap with a layer of compacted clay beyond the embankment prevents contact with underlying contaminated soil. Extensive air and groundwater level monitoring is being performed. Expansion of the CDF was recently completed to increase the capacity and allow an opportunity to improve some of the issues identified during the initial operations of the facility. (Estimated time – 1 hour)

FC#2 is to see and learn about the near surface geology and urban challenges along the south shore of Lake Michigan. *First, we will stop at the Sandy Ridge Nature Preserve to see beach ridges and swales that were formed by the lake. Then we will go to the Indiana Harbor and Canal – Confined Disposal Facility that was built to contain contaminated dredged material from the harbor and has extensive measures to control groundwater. Our last stop will be to Northerly Island to learn about new updates by the Illinois Geologic Survey to the Quaternary stratigraphy in the area, after which we will hear about work performed to convert an airport at Northerly Island to a nature preserve, as well as a chance to walk around the site.*

—LEADER BILL ROCHFORD, UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Stop 3a: Northerly Island Visitors Center – Subsurface geology of the Chicago Loop east to Northerly Island (Anjali Thota, Brandon Curry, and Alessandra Rotta Loria). A three-dimensional model of the Chicago Loop will be presented to aid participants in envisioning subsurface conditions. The marriage of Quaternary stratigraphy with soil engineering properties, including thermal properties, will be discussed. A new geologic unit, the Blodgett member of the Equality Formation is featured. New mapping on the Jackson Park Quadrangle and Anjali's modeling shows this unit thickening from the new Obama Center north to Lincoln Park. The Blodgett unit is primarily fine-grained lacustrine sediment that was deposited adjacent to the waning glacier (Lake Michigan lobe). The Blodgett's high moisture content, low strength, and compressibility have challenged Chicagoan structural and engineering geologists for more than 100 years. Construction of deep structural support for taller and taller buildings in this geological environment led to the innovative developments in soils engineering by Terzaghi, Peck, and others. (Estimated time – 1 hour)

Stop 3b. Northerly Island Ecosystem Restoration Project (Robbie Slowinski). This site has a varied history, initially being constructed as part of the 1933 World's Fair, afterward becoming Meigs Field Airport in 1947. In 2003, the airport was decommissioned, and the current project was implemented to create a nature preserve completed in 2018. (Estimated time – 1 hour)

FUN FACTS

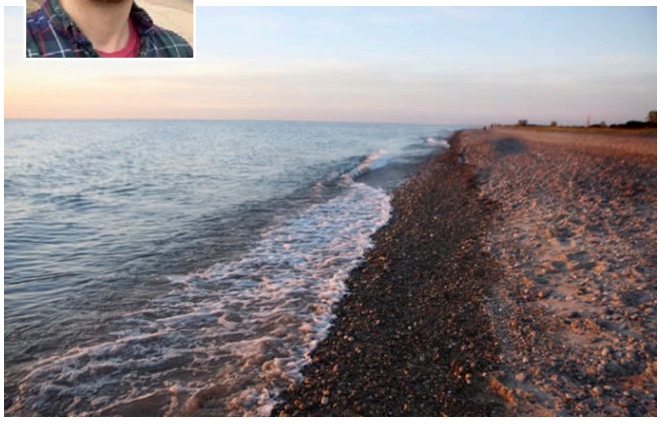
Chicago has **26 miles of lakefront** with an 18.5-mile lakefront path.

The city holds **8,100 acres of green space** with **580 parks** and 26 beaches.

Field Course #3:

Geology, Infrastructure, and Shoreline Morphodynamics of Illinois Beach State Park, Lake County, IL

Saturday, September 27, 2025
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.



Illinois Beach State Park.

Fee: $150 per person ($195 after August 1)

Minimum number of attendees to run the course: 25

Maximum number of attendees: 50

Leader: C. Robin Mattheus, Illinois State Geological Survey (ISGS) and Mitchell Barklage, ISGS

Activity Level: Low to moderate, depending on personal preference and ability. The content will be delivered at the stop locations just few minutes from the parked vehicle(s). At the end of each presentation, there will be an opportunity for visitors to walk along the shoreline to look at some features first-hand. This will be along sandy stretches of shoreline.

This course will explore the late Holocene history of the Zion Beach-ridge Plain, one of the few large sandy promontories within the Great Lakes region containing washboard style ridge-and-swale topography. The course will also explore the modern shoreline along both net-erosional and net-accretionary portions of the migrating system. This stretch of coast has seen construction of submerged rubble-mound ridge, as part of a Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) project, and a series of emergent breakwaters as part of a $74 million State Capital Development Project (2023–24). Both were implemented to slow shoreline retreat and create aquatic habitat, with the Illinois State Geological Survey's (ISGS's) long-term monitoring along these shorelines providing the pre-construction geomorphic template for assessing structure effectiveness. The ISGS Coastal Research Group will lead this trip, which will begin at the North Point Marina and wind up at the Illinois Beach State Park hotel. A handful of sites along the route will offer opportunities to view and discuss 1) modern shoreline morphodynamic trends and influences of offshore and onshore infrastructure, 2) hydrodynamic impacts on coastal development (e.g., lake-level changes, storms, winter ice-cover), and 3) relic shoreline-related terrains across the ridge plain with paleo-environmental implications.

Stops will include 1) the overlook at the south end of North Point Marina, 2) the site of an unsuccessful 2018 emergency beach-nourishment effort to save a park road, 3) the GLRI project site, 4) a dune field and the last remaining unmodified stretch of shoreline within Illinois Beach State Park. The trip will address patterns of sand erosion, transport, and deposition across events with decadal timescales (as informed by observational and survey data), coupling these insights to the longer-term evolutionary history of the Zion Beach-ridge Plain, as elucidated from sediment core, subsurface geophysical, and geochronological datasets.

The field trip to Illinois Beach State Park will investigate shoreline dynamics along one of the few sandy promontories within the Great Lakes region with ridge-and-swale topography *and discuss how geomorphology is impacted by meter-scale lake-level fluctuations, seasonal variances in storm climate, and human activities. Recent emplacement of > 20 emergent breakwaters is of particular interest.*
—LEADER C. ROBIN MATTHEUS, PHD, COASTAL GEOLOGIST, ILLINOIS STATE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, PRAIRIE RESEARCH INSTITUTE, UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN.

Field Course #4:

Reefs to Roads: The Role of Ancient Reefs in the Development of Chicago's Infrastructure and its Stone Industry

Saturday, September 27, 2025
7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Thornton Reservoir.

Fee: $150 per person ($195 after August 1)

Minimum number of attendees to run the course: 25

Maximum number of attendees: 48

Leaders: Don Mikulic, Weis Earth Science Museum; Bill Rochford, United States Army Corps of Engineers; Chris Stohr, Illinois State Geological Survey, retired; and Justine Stumpf

Activity Level: Easy to moderate, some walking

Recommended Equipment: Hiking shoes, hat, sunscreen, sunglasses, and insect repellent.

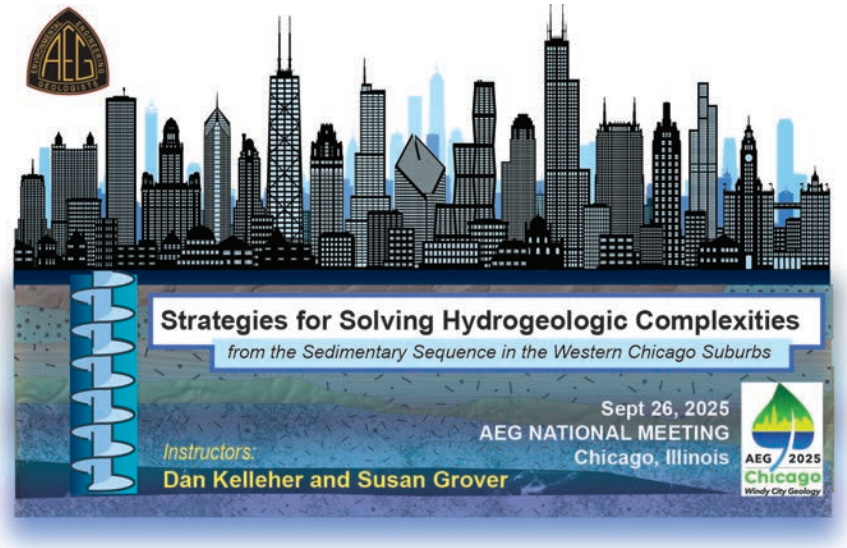
Stop 1: Stearns Quarry. This stop will discuss the importance of the Chicago area stone industry (1820 to the present) in developing and maintaining the city's infrastructure and the technological advances used to produce this mineral resource. Specific features to be discussed include raising the streets, recycling old quarries, and the role of this site in the Tunnel and Reservoir Plan (TARP) system planning. The role of bedrock geology in these features will be featured.

Stop 2: Thornton Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) Reservoir. This stop will focus on the reservoir, its construction, and its role in the TARP system. As one of three large reservoirs of the TARP, it is designed to store up to 20,000 acre-feet of combined sanitary and storm sewer overflow from the Calumet Deep Tunnel and flood water from nearby Thorn Creek. Key features of this site are the 110-foot-high roller compacted concrete dam under I-80, water entrance and exit tunnels into the reservoir, and the precision drilling and blasting techniques used to construct a stable and smooth reservoir wall. The relationship between reef geology and the development of the quarry, on the siting and construction of the reservoir, will be featured.

Stop 3: Thornton Quarry and reef. As one of the oldest and largest quarries in the country, the Thornton Quarry has had a significant role in developing standards for extracting and processing aggregate resources in urban areas. Since the late 1800s, innovations in aggregate production have had an important impact on the operations at Thornton. By adopting new methods, it should be possible to mine stone here well into the next century before its reserves are depleted. Silurian reef has had a scientifically significant role in the study of ancient reefs. The vast reef exposures produced by almost 200 years of quarrying at Thornton have produced a unique three-dimensional exposure that is known to geologists around the world. This reef has been especially important in understanding the character and development of similar oil-bearing reefs deeply buried in the adjacent Michigan and Illinois basins. It also has had a defining role in how the site is quarried and in the selection of location and construction of the reservoir.

FC #4 will examine the bedrock geology of Chicago focusing on its important role in developing and maintaining the area's infrastructure, *while making critical contributions to understanding the Silurian geology of the Midwest. It will feature stops with important roles in the development of the TARP system and ancient reefs.*
—LEADER DONALD MIKULIC, WEIS EARTH SCIENCE MUSEUM

Short Course



Strategies for Solving Hydrogeologic Complexities from the Sedimentary Sequence in the Western Chicago Suburbs

Friday, September 26, 2025
8:00 a.m. — 12:00 p.m.

$450 members/$550 non-members (Includes Friday afternoon registration to the Annual Meeting) 50% off with a full or student registration.

Professional Development Hours (PDHs): 4.0 (Continuing Education Units (CEUs) administered by Northern Illinois University)

This training event is being donated by the instructors.

Take a Student to Dinner or Lunch

Professionals purchase a student and young professional a ticket to attend the Support Your Peers/Be Yourself Luncheon or the Annual Banquet for free.

This is a wonderful opportunity for students to meet and network with professionals and fellow students.

Guests of Attendees: Experience Chicago!

Guest Information

Guests of attendees are a special part of the annual meeting. The local committee takes great care to help make their time at the meeting pleasant and entertaining by offering a variety of activities while attendees participate in the daily sessions.

Guest Registration:

Before/After September 1 - $350 / $375

Guest Registrations are a great value and include:

Chicago Big Bus City 48-Hour Pass - Our hop-on, hop-off bus tours give you the freedom to plan your own itinerary and explore the best of Chicago's landmarks as little or as much as you'd like. Hop off the tour at any time within the validity period of your ticket and simply hop on again when you're ready.

Choose one of two guest tours - A private tour of Frank Lloyd Wright's best known Chicago architectural creations or the Chicago Crime and Mob Private Tour, both on Wednesday, September 24, at 1:00 p.m.

Opening welcome Icebreaker Reception

Exhibit Hall - Unlimited entrance to the Exhibit Hall with all day coffee

Guest networking coffee/tea welcome on Wednesday, September 24, 2025, from 9:00 a.m.–10:00 a.m.

Special and Optional Events

Special Event

Architectural Cruise with Chicago's *Emerald Lady*

Wednesday, September 24, 2025
$140/person
Includes hosted bar (soft drinks, iced tea, juices, summer wines, and draft beer) and Chicago's famous deep-dish pizza

Join us on a fabulous private cruise for a stunning evening along Chicago's beautiful riverwalk and spectacular lakefront. Take in epic views of Chicago's glittering skyline while you explore Chicago's iconic architecture. Highly trained and enthusiastic volunteer Chicago Architectural Center docents (guides) provide a compelling and detailed narrative of Chicago's numerous architectural styles and the stories of the legendary figures who designed and built the city. The newest vessel to join the fleet, Chicago's *Emerald Lady*, boasts an oversized bar, large interior salon, elegantly decorated, and an upper deck for dancing under the stars and viewing Chicago's world-famous skyscrapers as you glide by closer than ever. Our dinner will be catered by the famous Gino's East Restaurant. Since opening in 1966, Gino's East has maintained its reputation as one of Chicago's most loved pizzerias!

Optional Events

Student/Professional Networking Reception

Tuesday, September 23, 2025
5:15 p.m.–6:15 p.m.

Be sure to attend the Student/Professional Networking Reception. This fun and relaxed event is the perfect place for you to make new friends and meet future employers/employees! You don't want to miss it! Be sure to sign up on your registration form.

Young at Heart - Experience the Soul of Chicago at House of Blues

Tuesday, September 23, 2025
8:00 p.m.–10:00 p.m.
(Included with full and student registrations. $130 for all other attendees)

Experience the magic of the House of Blues! Immerse yourself in the rich atmosphere of the legendary House of Blues, a space that seamlessly combines the grit of a Mississippi Delta juke joint with the grandeur of a 1920s opera house. Our event will be held in the famous Foundation Room. The House of Blues is more than just a venue; it's a cultural destination that celebrates Southern art, music, and community. This social event is a great way to start your week in Chicago. Mingle with your friends in environmental and engineering geology while you enjoy free appetizers, live music, and a free drink ticket. Just a short walk from the hotel, this event is an excellent opportunity to build connections with peers, mentors, senior fellows, and potential employers. We encourage students and young professionals to join the event and welcome experienced professionals who are "young at heart!"

Support Your Peers/Be Yourself Luncheon

Thursday, September 25, 2025
12:00 p.m.–1:30 p.m. $75/person

Annual Banquet

Thursday, September 25, 2025
7:00 p.m.–9:30 p.m. $150/person
This is a well-attended, high-profile event at which the Association's major awards are given. Join us for a gourmet dinner, fine wine, and a chance to visit with friends—both old and new. Semi-formal attire is recommended, though not required.

Awards Ceremony and Corporate Business Meeting

Friday, September 26, 2025
3:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

(Free with all registration types.) The awards ceremony and corporate business meeting is a time for Association officers, board members, and committee members to participate, and report on their activities; come witness the installation of new officers, the transition of the outgoing and incoming presidents, and the presentation of some of the AEG awards.

Student Opportunities

We hope you'll take this opportunity to meet a new face and help prepare yourself or a fellow member for a successful future!

Free Registration

Interested in volunteering 8 hours in exchange for a complimentary full meeting registration? Volunteer duties include running the speaker timer and lights for the technical sessions, stuffing registration packets, taking tickets at events, and helping with registration. Contact Heather Clark for all the details, heather@aegweb.org or (303)518-0618.

Mentor Program

The Student and Young Professional Support Committee (SYPSC) has developed an annual meeting mentor program to pair professionals that plan to attend the meeting with interested student attendees. We hope mentors can provide advice and support both before and during the annual meeting to make the meeting more relaxing, enjoyable, and beneficial for students. Students interested in being paired with a mentor will identify themselves when they register for the meeting and will be provided with the contact information of a professional who has volunteered to be a mentor. The student can then contact the professional with questions ranging from "What should I wear?" to "Could we meet during the Icebreaker?" Contact Heather Clark, heather@aegweb.org for more information.

Student/Professional Networking Reception

Tuesday, September 23, 2025 - 5:15 p.m.–6:15 p.m.

This fun and relaxed event is the perfect place for you to make new friends and meet future employers/employees! We will be giving away four $50 Visa gift cards. You don't want to miss it! Be sure to sign up on your registration form.

Silent Disco

Wednesday, September 24, 2025 - 7:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.

Join us for Silent Disco! Not your normal nightclub! Put on your headphones and rock out to the music of your choice. Refreshments provided. Fun to participate - or watch! This is a free event for students and young professionals!

Young at Heart – Experience the Soul of Chicago at House of Blues

Tuesday, September 2, 2025

8:00-10:00pm

Live Music with Keithen Banks

(Included with full and student registrations. $130 for all other attendees)

Experience the magic of House of Blues! Immerse yourself in the rich atmosphere of the legendary House of Blues, a space that seamlessly combines the grit of a Mississippi Delta juke joint with the grandeur of a 1920s opera house. Our event will be held in the famous Foundation Room. This social event is a great way to start your week in Chicago. Make or Mingle with your friends while you enjoy free appetizers, live music, and a free drink ticket. Just a short walk from the hotel, this event is an excellent opportunity to build connections with peers, mentors, senior fellows, and potential employers. We encourage students and young professionals to join the event and welcome experienced professionals who are "young at heart!" (Included with full and student registrations. $130 for all other attendees).

Registration

Rates by/after August 1, 2025

Full Registration

Member Early/Late - $645/$700

Non-Member Early/Late - $795/$850

Student - $95
Speaker Member* Early/Late - $595/$650
Speaker Non-Member* Early/Late - $745/$800
**Speaker discount codes are sent to speakers once their abstract is accepted.*

Includes:

- Student/Professional Networking Reception
- Icebreaker Reception with drink ticket and appetizers
- Young at Heart Student and Young Professional Event with drink ticket
- Opening General Session
- Exhibitor-Hosted Luncheon
- Poster Session Reception with drink ticket
- Closing Reception with drink ticket
- All Technical Sessions and Symposia
- Exhibit Hall with all day coffee and Technical Session Breaks

One Day Registration

Member Early/Late - $325/$400
Non-Member Early/Late - $425/$475
Speaker Member* Early/Late - $300/$350
Speaker Non-Member* Early/Late - $400/$450
**Speaker discount codes are sent to speakers once their abstract is accepted.*

Includes:

- Opening General Session (Wednesday Only)
- Exhibitor-Hosted Luncheon (Wednesday Only)
- Poster Session Reception with drink ticket (Thursday Only)
- Closing Reception with drink ticket (Friday Only)
- All Technical Sessions and Symposia
- Exhibit Hall with all day coffee and Technical Session Breaks

Does not include the Icebreaker Reception, Young at Heart Event, or Student/Professional Networking Session

Guest Registration

Must be linked to a full or one-day registration - $350/$375

Guests of attendees are a special part of the annual meeting. The local committee takes great care to help make their time at the meeting pleasant and entertaining by offering a variety of activities while attendees participate in the daily sessions. For details on tour and activity options to experience on your own, visit https://www.aegannualmeeting.org/guest-information.

Includes:

- Icebreaker Reception with drink ticket and appetizers
- Guest Coffee/Tea Get Together
- Exhibit Hall with all day coffee
- 48-Hour Hop on/Hop off Bus Tour Pass
- Wednesday afternoon Guest Tour: Private Frank Lloyd Wright Architectural Tour or Chicago Crime and Mob Tour (visit the annual meeting website for detailed information on the tour options)

Does not include the Opening Session, Technical Sessions and Symposia, Exhibitor-Hosted Luncheon, Poster Session Reception, Closing Reception, Young at Heart Event, or Student/Professional Networking Session

Optional Events for Additional Fees (per person)

- Special Event: "Architectural Cruise with Chicago's *Emerald Lady*" (Wednesday, September 24, 2025, 6:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.) - $140/person
- "Support Your Peers/Be Yourself" Luncheon: (Thursday, September 25, 2025, 12:00 p.m.–1:30 p.m.) - $75/person
- Annual Banquet - (Thursday, September 25, 2025, 7:00 p.m.–10:00 p.m.) - $150/person
- Field Courses - Varies by Course (see pp. 28-32)
- Visit the Field Course, Guest, and Special Event pages for details and fees!

Virtual Days are included in all Full and Student meeting registrations. Virtual Day is also available separately: Member $100, Nonmember: $150, Student $20.

Cancellation Policy

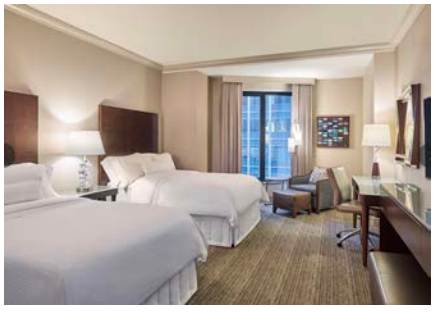
All cancellations and requests for refunds must be made in writing to the Annual Meeting Committee chair(s). Verbal requests will not be accepted. Refunds may be issued 4–6 weeks after the close of the meeting. For cancellations received at least 30 days prior to the start of the annual meeting:

- a $75 processing fee will be applied for cancellation of a full professional registration
- a $45 processing fee will be applied for cancellation of a 1-day professional registration
- a $40 processing fee or the cost of the activity, whichever is less, will be applied for cancellation of each annual meeting activity.

Events and Field Courses

- A 50% refund will be issued for cancellations received between 15 and 30 days prior to the start of the annual meeting. No refunds will be issued within 15 days of the start of the annual meeting. Special consideration will be given for verifiable personal and medical emergencies.

Hotel & Fitness



Hotel

Westin Chicago River North
320 N Dearborn St, Chicago, IL 60654
Regular Rate: $414 (plus $125 resort fee and taxes)
AEG Group Rate: $279 (Plus taxes, includes resort fee) expires on September 1, 2025.
Reservation Link (also available on https://www.aegannualmeeting.org)

Located in the heart of downtown Chicago, in the prestigious River North district, our iconic hotel in the Chicago River North area is an ideal home base for work or rest. Connect with the historic and energetic Windy City from The Westin Chicago River North, which is within walking distance from Millennium Park, the Chicago Riverwalk, the Magnificent Mile, and the Chicago Theatre District. Refreshed in early 2020, our flexible event spaces provide a perfect setting for executive retreats and conferences. Fuel your day with delicious and healthy on-site dining at 320 RiverBar.

Wellness Focus

This year we are adding a focus on wellness. We will be offering healthy options for meals and breaks during the annual meeting as well as several fitness opportunities.

WestinWORKOUT® Fitness Studio—Complimentary for guests at the Westin Chicago River North

- Equipped with four Peloton bikes. Or, ask about our guest rooms with Peloton bikes in them!
- Open 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, includes locker rooms, and saunas.
- Features cardiovascular equipment, elliptical machine(s), exercise bike(s), free weights, stair climber(s), strength equipment, treadmill(s), and weight machines.

WestinWORKOUT Gear Lending kits

Westin has partnered with fitness experts to bring you top-of-the-line recovery and strength training equipment during your stay. Whether you're looking to maintain your daily yoga routine, speed up recovery after an intense workout, or ease tension after a long day of travel, our lending kits are available to help you stay active and feel your best.

AEG Group Fitness Opportunities

We will be arranging several small group fitness opportunities that will be free for attendees. We will be providing details in the Program with Abstracts coming out by September 8, 2025.

- Morning run with the president
- Strength/cardio classes in the fitness center
- Start your day right—morning stretching class in the fitness center

Sponsorship Opportunities Still Available

Visit **aegannualmeeting.org** for complete details and to sign up

All sponsors and exhibitors receive these baseline benefits:

- Listing in Program with Abstracts, available to all attendees and emailed to our membership worldwide.
- Listing on the AEG annual meeting website.
- Ability to place your promotional materials in the attendee's registration packets.
- Your logo on signage at the annual meeting.
- Listing and logo on the annual meeting mobile app that gives our attendees instant and updated meeting information all at their fingertips.

Why you should sponsor:

- Network with industry professionals: public and private owners, transportation departments, developers, financiers, integrated project team leaders, senior executives representing environmental engineers, contractors and specialists, all the major suppliers and specialty contractors.
- Increased brand exposure to potential clients and teaming partners.
- Reconnect with past colleagues and clients.
- Expand your business to a global market.
- Build lasting recognition for your company.

Silver Sponsorship—One left (AEG Corporate Business Meeting and President-Hosted Closing Reception)—$2,750

- 8'x10' Exhibit Booth including 6' skirted table, two chairs, sign, electricity, and internet.
- One full meeting registration and two booth attendee registrations at $395.
- Exclusive sponsorship of the AEG Corporate Business Meeting and President-Hosted Closing Reception.
- Logo at booth location on the exhibit hall map.
- Opportunity to place your retractable banner at your sponsored event.
- Quarter-page ad in the Program with Abstracts.

Speaker/Moderator Breakfasts (Wednesday–Friday)—$600 for all three breakfasts. Opportunity to place your retractable banner at the breakfasts.

Field Courses—$300 each. Your logo will be placed on the Field Trip Guidebook.

Technical Sessions and Symposia—$500 for each Technical Session or Symposia. Your logo will be placed on the session opening slide and you have the opportunity to place your retractable banner at the session.

Technical Session Breaks (Wednesday morning, Wednesday afternoon, Thursday morning, Thursday afternoon, Friday morning)—$600

All Day Coffee Sponsor—$600 each day (Tuesday–Friday)

Support Your Peers/Be Yourself Luncheon—$600

Student Mini-Grant Program—$250 (Shared Sponsorship), provides the Student/Professional Networking Session giveaway to offset student travel expenses.

Young at Heart Student and Young Professional Event at the House of Blues—$1,000 (Shared Sponsorship)

Exhibit Booth Opportunities—Only two booths left—$1,500 each

If you are planning to register two people for the annual meeting, then the booth will cost you only an extra $400. A full registration is included ($645–$795 value) and a second registration is only $395. Don't miss out on this great opportunity to showcase your organization.

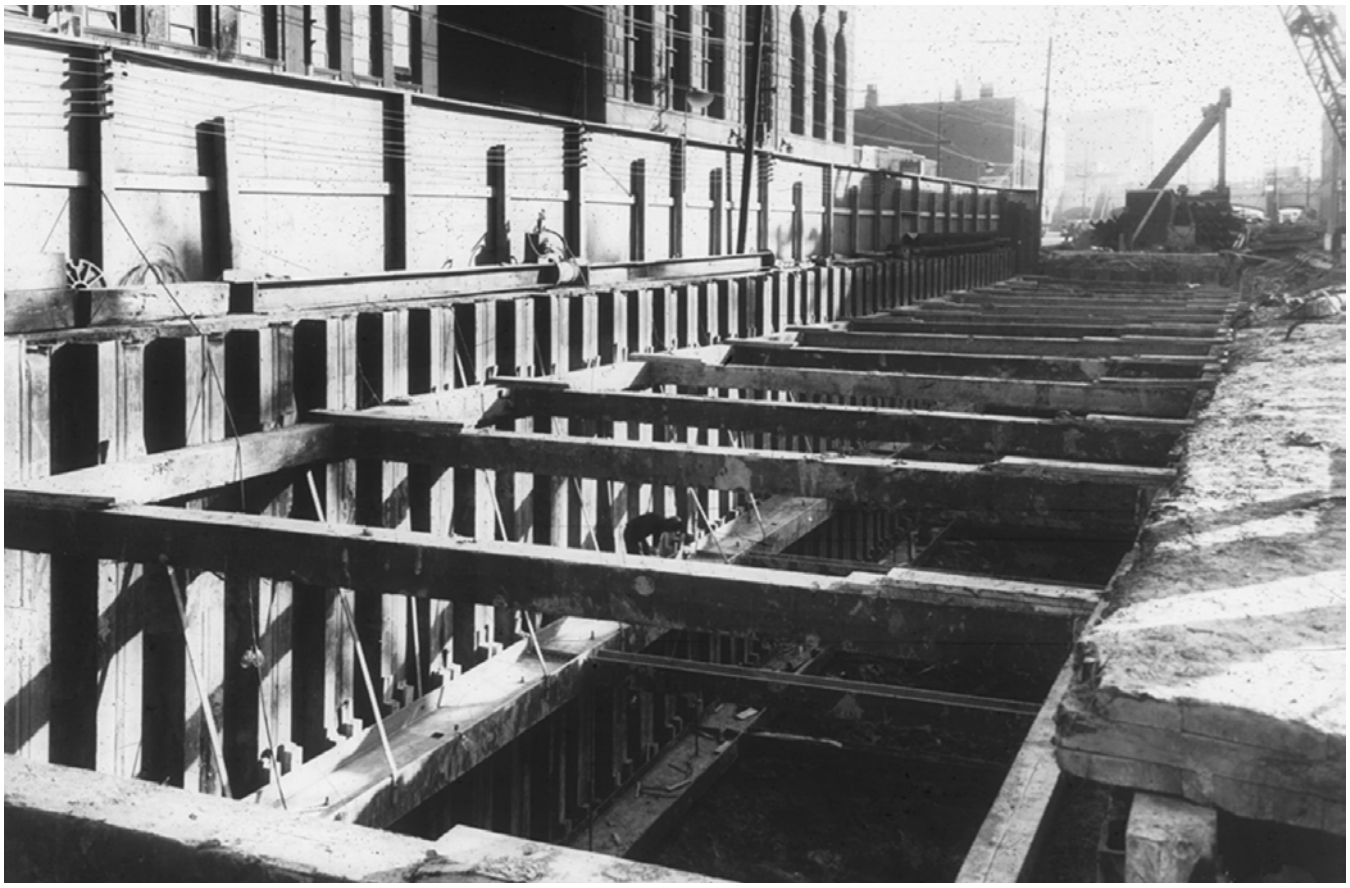
EXHIBIT HALL HOURS

Tuesday, September 23, 2025
Icebreaker Reception: 6:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 24, 2025
Exhibitor Hall Open: 7:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 25, 2025
Exhibitor Hall Open: 7:30 a.m.–3:20 p.m.

Braced open cut during construction of the Chicago Subway. / *Photo from Professor Ralph Peck's Legacy Website (https://peck.geoengineer.org/resources/photos/2/singlePhoto/31)*



Chicago's Role in Foundation Engineering

The origins of the observational method emanated from the first phase of Chicago's subway project. **By William Godwin, PG, CEG**

The understanding of ground deformation in response to tunneling excavation has benefitted enormously from some classic studies conducted by two giants in the geotechnical field—Drs. Ralph Peck and Karl Terzaghi. Peck, professor emeritus of engineering at the University of Illinois-Urbana (and an AEG member) spent several of his early years in Chicago during transit tunnel construction starting in the late 1930s. His work, in collaboration with his mentor, Dr. Karl Terzaghi, provided the basis for the use of the observational method in earthwork construction. Terzaghi, who studied and achieved a PhD at the Technical University in Graz, Austria, is considered the Father of Soil Mechanics. He was familiar with the geology of Chicago and had lectured at the University of Illinois in the late 1920s.

In 2009, at a joint meeting of ASCE and AEG in Chicago, Dr. J. David Rogers (recipient of the 2016 AEG Terzaghi Mentor Award) provided an informative lecture entitled "Gow, Mohr, Terzaghi, and the Origins of the Standard Penetration Test," which described Chicago's important role in the origin of American foundation engineering. The lecture details the evolution of discrete soil sampling methods and how they were employed to

Ralph B. Peck and Karl Terzaghi, Talbot Lab, University of Illinois. / *Photo from Professor Ralph Peck's Legacy Website (https://peck.geoengineer.org/resources/photos/2/singlePhoto/35)*

characterize ground conditions to support novel deep foundation elements in soft ground. He then describes the need for technical support of the first phase of the Chicago Subway Project along State Street (see figure 1) and the hiring of subway engineer Ray Knapp. The primary reason engineer Ray Knapp engaged Terzaghi, and he, in turn, recommended hiring Peck, was to monitor deflections of adjacent building foundations and to advise the city on the best practices to avoid costly damage to these older structures. Peck also ran a soils mechanics laboratory for the project.

Peck learned that Terzaghi was a determined taskmaster, requiring constant recording of a variety of measurements, inked figures, and daily typed reports. Terzaghi would visit Chicago for an entire week, about once every 4 to 6 weeks. During these visits he would discuss Peck's findings and provide guidance on what to do next. Several sections of the tunnel alignments were in open cut, which required (as now) the use of H-piles, timber struts, steel walers, and timber lagging to support

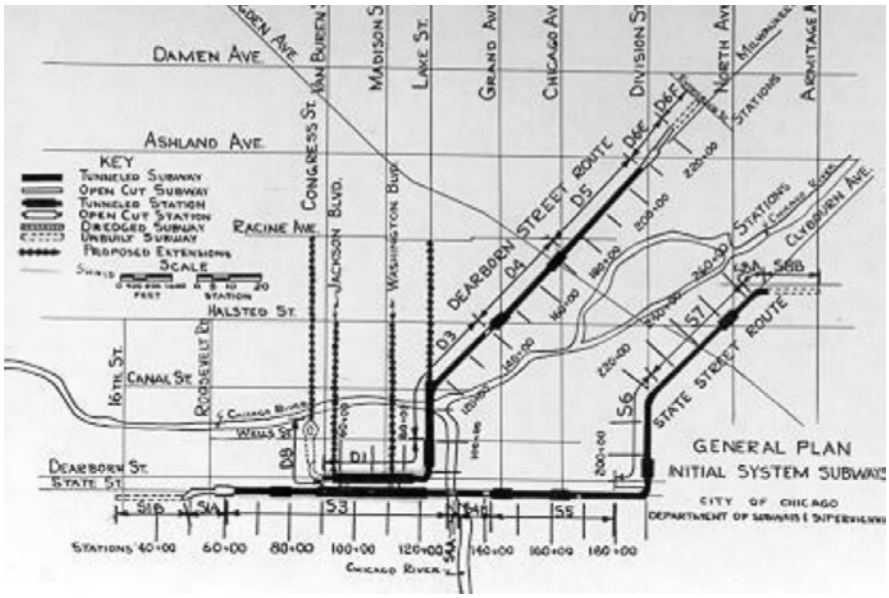


Figure 1. Chicago Subway Project map showing State Street segment on the bottom right. / *Photo from page 36, Rogers (2009)*

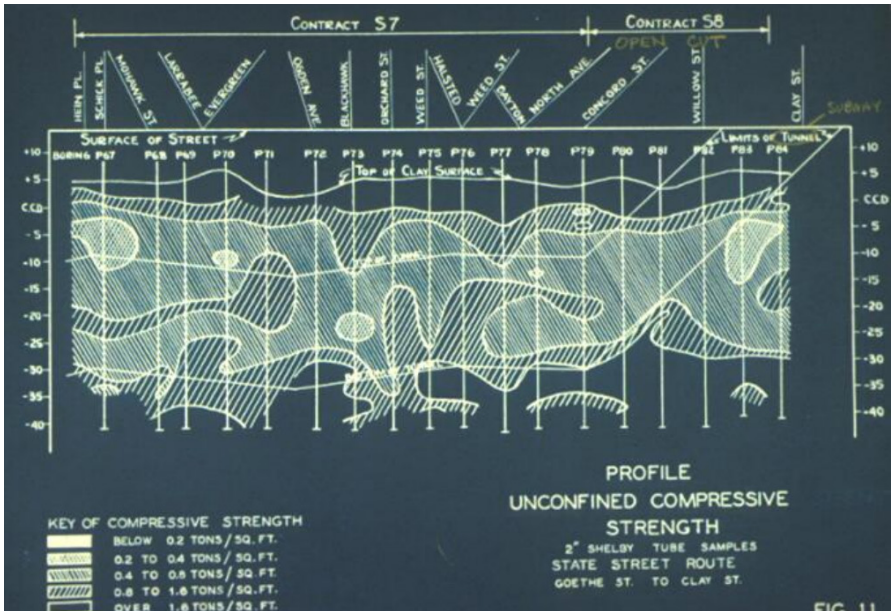


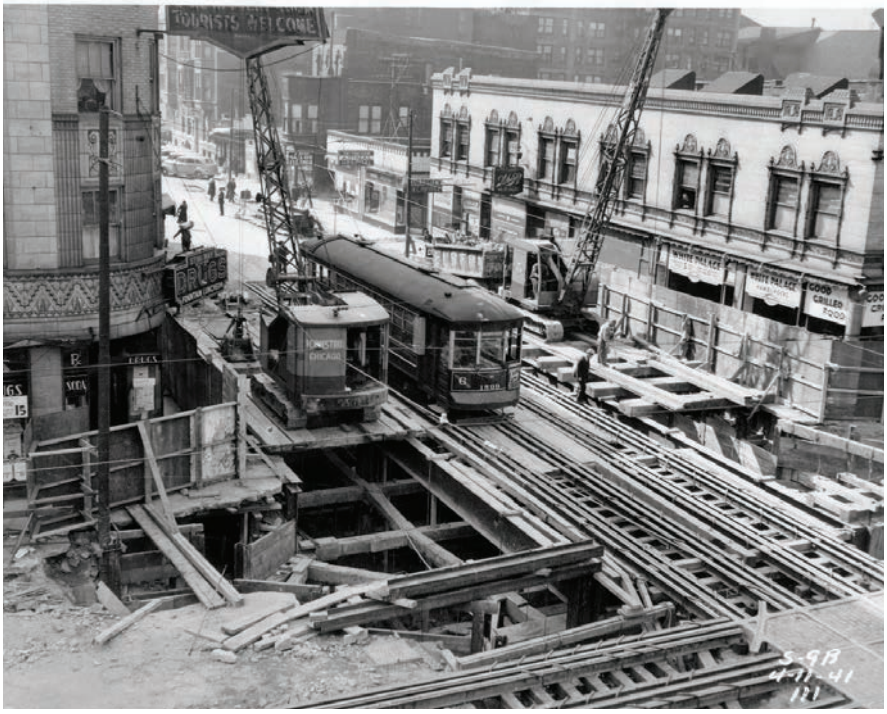
Figure 2. Graphic representation of State Street subsurface strengths of Chicago Clay. / *Photo from page 43, Rogers (2009)*

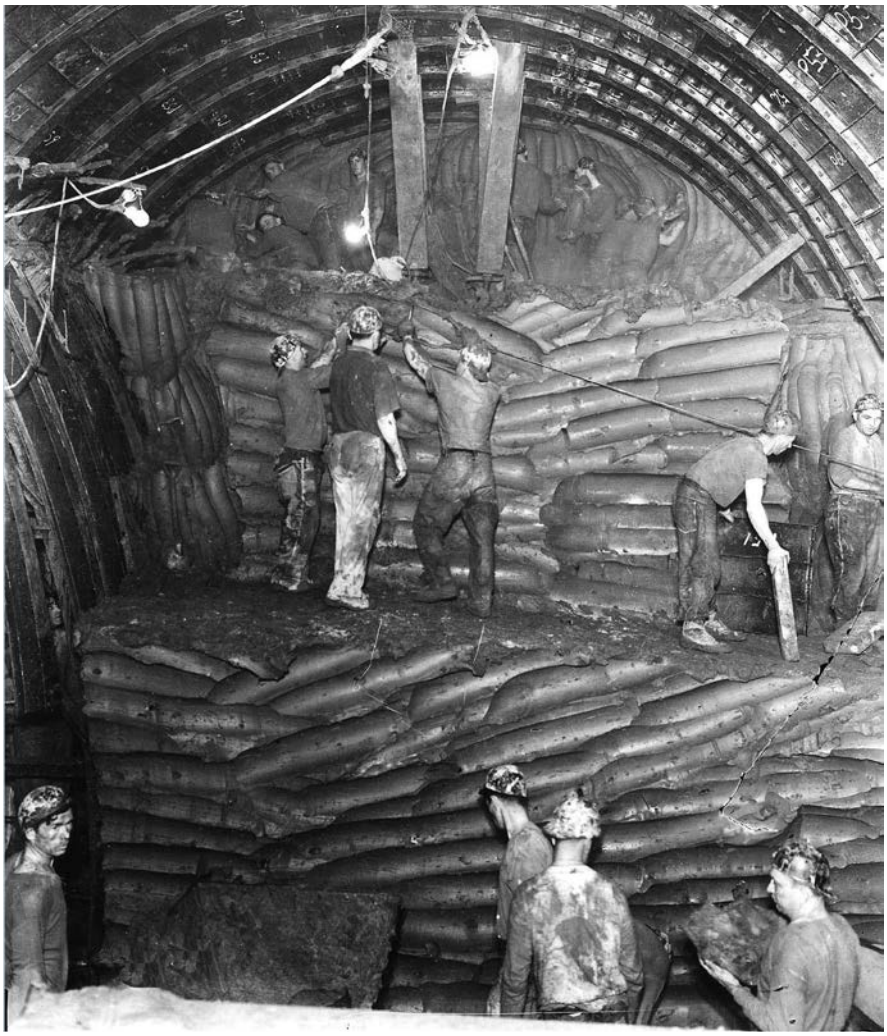
the excavations. Terzaghi wanted Peck to measure strut loads to see if clays adhered to the wedge theory of lateral soil pressure for sands that he had proposed after studying the Berlin subway collapse in 1936. Peck's lab group measured strut loads on timber struts with mechanical strain gages configured with hydraulic jacks, providing the first such readings made in cohesive materials.

Dr. Edward Cording in his 2013 paper describes the Chicago Clay and the unique configuration of the tunnel alignment. Most of the alignment had a depth to tunnel crown of 25 feet. This allowed access via stairs, and also the advantage of heave and settlement

troughs being contained within street and sidewalk corridors. There were also limitations in technology associated with compressed air at greater depths below the water table. The main challenges were inherent soft and squeezing properties of the glacial till which was entirely within the tunnel face. Using drilling and laboratory data, Peck's team was able to anticipate uniaxial compressive strengths (UCSs) along the alignment (see figure 2).

The principal concern of the city and its merchants was the settlement of streets and businesses caused by the subway excavations. Peck's group surveyed spearheads pushed into the tunnel face to measure relaxation and compared these data to those being recorded on survey pins placed along the streets above. Peck measured strut loads and deflections in braced open cuts and inside driven tunnels of the Chicago Subway Project. He and Terzaghi developed apparent pressure theorems from these data.





Top: Streetcar tracks on trestle over construction of the Chicago stop in the State Street Subway on April 11, 1941. / *Photo from Chicago Transit Authority's photostream*

Bottom: Hand-mining clay, Chicago Avenue Station on State Street. / *Photo from Professor Ralph Peck's Legacy Website (https://peck.geoengineer.org/resources/photos/2/singlePhoto/32)*

Next Page: Construction of the 4.9-mile-long State Street Subway (now part of the CTA Red Line) began on December 17, 1938, near Chicago Avenue. / *Photo from the Chicago Transit Authority's photostream*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RICHMAN BROTHERS
PALMER HOUSE
Broadstreet's
STATE ST
SHOPPERS SPECIAL

Photos from Chicago Transit Authority's photostream

Previous page: Cross-section rendering of the State Street Subway (1941).

Top: Photo showing mining and construction methods employed during construction of the State Street Subway (now part of the CTA Red Line).

Bottom: Early 1940s photo of State Street Subway tunnel construction. View south from what is now the Lake station on CTA's Red Line.

In 1941, as part of a soil mechanics session given in Chicago, Terzaghi submitted a technical paper on tunnel shield liners, while Peck submitted another paper on equivalent pressure distribution in open cuts. The latter won an ASCE Norman Award for the title, "Earth Pressure Measurements in Open Cuts, Chicago (Ill.)," published in the June 1942 ASCE Proceedings.

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Updates on Geologist Licensure Legislation

By Bill Roman, *AEG News* Content Editor

Legislation affecting the licensure of geologists is currently being reviewed or modified in a number of states.

Several states have recently amended or are considering amending their laws regarding licensure of geologists. New legislation has been enacted in Virginia, Nebraska, and California. A bill passed both chambers of the legislature and was sent to the governor in Illinois, and new legislation was considered in New York and Florida. The profession of geologist is being reviewed in Washington.

Virginia

In Virginia, HB.1835 was passed by the House of Delegates by a vote of 91-6 on February 4, and by the Senate by a vote of 39-0 on February 17, 2025. Governor Glenn Youngkin signed the bill on May 2, 2025. The bill amends and reenacts sections of the Code of Virginia relating to the regulation of geologists.

Specifically, HB.1835 provides for licensure of professional geologists by the Board for Professional Soil Scientists, Wetland Professionals, and Geologists. Under the old law, professional geologists are certified by the board. The bill requires the board to issue a license to any individual who holds an unexpired certification issued prior to July 1, 2025, in order to practice as a geologist. The bill also makes any person practicing or offering to practice geology without holding such license from the board guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. The bill requires the board to promulgate regulations to implement the provisions of the bill to be effective within 280 days of the bill's enactment.

The Virginia Geologists Workgroup (VGW), led by Drew Thomas and AEG's lobbyist, collaborated on the legislation, which was introduced in the House of Delegates by the bill's Chief Patron Delegate Bill Wiley on January 6, 2025. The effort was supported by donations from professionals and companies within Virginia and generous matching contributions from AEG's Licensure Fund. According to the Virginia Department of Professional & Occupational Regulation, Virginia had 948 Certified Professional Geologists as of May 1, 2025. More details on the VGW's on-going legislative efforts are available on VGW's page on AEG's website.

Nebraska

On February 26, 2025, Nebraska Governor Jim Pillen signed Legislative Bill 38, which amends the law governing the licensure and regulation of professional geologists working in Nebraska. LB.38 was introduced in Nebraska's unicameral legislature by North Platte Senator Mike Jacobson on January 9, 2025, and

passed by a vote of 48-0 on February 21, 2025. In his Statement of Intent, Senator Jacobson wrote, "LB.38 modernizes and streamlines the Geologist Regulation Act by updating terminology, simplifying licensure requirements, and improving administrative processes. Key changes include reducing the experience requirements for licensure, allowing non-licensed geologists to serve as education board members, and allowing fees for online applications to support database modernization."

The simplifications of licensure requirements include reducing the minimum number of years of geologic work experience required for licensure from five to four and allowing individuals who practice any combination of certain geology-related activities for at least 14 years to apply for licensure. Other provisions of the bill clarify that members of the state Board of Geologists serve 5-year terms ending on the last day of February and require that one member of the board be a professional geologist who also is a faculty member of a geology or related geosciences department of a Nebraska college or university.

California

On September 25, 2024, California Governor Gavin Newsom signed Assembly Bill 3253, which included several provisions relating to licensure of geologists. The bill was authored by Assemblyman Marc Berman and co-authored by Senator Angelique Ashby. The assembly passed the bill by a vote of 71-0 on May 22, 2024; the Senate passed the bill with amendments by a vote of 40-0 on August 27, 2024, and the assembly concurred with the Senate amendments by a vote of 76-0 on August 28, 2024.

AB.3253 made three modifications pertaining to the California Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors and Geologists: 1) extended repeal dates of provisions for establishment and functioning of the board from January 1, 2025, to January 1, 2029; 2) removed term and age requirements for members of the board; and 3) authorized the appointing authority (instead of the Governor) to remove board members for neglect of duties, incompetence, or unprofessional or dishonorable conduct.

AB.3253 also made minor changes to the Geologist and Geophysicist Act, which became effective on January 1, 2025. The modifications revise the language of some of the acts constituting a misdemeanor (§ 7872), add impersonating or using the certificate number of a geologist-in-training or using a false certificate as a misdemeanor, and require written contracts for geological or geophysical services to include the disclosure of the existence of any current professional liability insurance policy covering the professional geologist or professional geophysicist in responsible charge of the services. A copy of the Geologist and Geophysicist Act showing the amendments is available on the board's website.

Illinois

In Illinois, the Geology Act Sunset Extension Bill (SB.2493) was filed in the Senate by its sponsor Senator Suzy Glowiak Hilton on February 7, 2025. SB.2493 was approved by the Senate Licensed Activities Committee by a 6-0 vote on March 19, and by the full Senate by a 56-0 vote on April 9, 2025.

SB.2493 would change the repeal date of the Professional Geologist Licensing Act from January 1, 2026, to January 1, 2031. The bill would add provisions concerning the address of record and email address of record of the applicant and licensee and a provision to prevent the appointment to the Board of Licensing for Professional Geologists of a geologist disciplined under the Act within the last 10 years. Other new provisions would require an applicant, at the applicant's expense, to have an evaluation of the applicant's education in a foreign country; require applicants to complete the application process within 3 years from the date of receipt of the application, and require applicants to furnish a Social Security number or individual Taxpayer Identification number, and a customer identification number for license renewal applications. Another new provision would allow a licensed geologist to place their license on inactive status and be excused from the payment of renewal fees until active status is resumed.

Finally, four new types of violations would be added to the Act: 1) fraud, misrepresentation, or concealment in applying for or procuring a license under the Act, or in connection with applying for the renewal of a license; 2) the inability to practice with reasonable judgment, skill, or safety as a result of habitual or excessive use or addiction to alcohol, narcotics, stimulants, or any other chemical agent or drug; 3) engaging in dishonorable, unethical, or unprofessional conduct of a nature likely

to deceive, defraud, or harm the public; and 4) violation of any provision of the Act or any rules adopted under the Act.

Following passage in the Senate, SB.2493 was delivered to the House, where it was sponsored by Representative Marcus C. Evans, Jr. The House State Government Administration Committee approved the bill by an 8-0 vote on May 7, 2025. The provisions of SB.2493 relating to licensure of geologists were inserted into the Roofing Licensing Sunset Bill (SB.2503) by House Floor Amendment No. 3, which passed the House by a 106-0 vote on May 23. The Senate Licensed Activities Committee recommended Senate concurrence by an 8-0 vote on May 29, and the full Senate voted 57-0 to concur with House Amendment No. 3 on May 31, the last day of the 2025 legislative session. On June 27, the bill was sent to Illinois Governor JB Pritzker, who has 60 days (until August 26) to either sign the bill into law, veto it, or allow it to become law without his signature. Governor Pritzker had not signed the bill as of the time of this writing.

New York

Legislation has been introduced in New York to update the state's geologist licensing requirements. The New York Senate version of the bill (S.6482) was sponsored by Senator Lisa Webb and passed by a vote of 57-0 on May 22, 2025, and delivered to the Assembly, which has yet to vote on it. The New York State Assembly version of the bill (A.5622) was introduced by Representative Chris Eachus on February 18, 2025. A.5622 was substituted in the Assembly by S.6482 on June 10, 2025, but the Assembly did not vote on the bill before adjourning on June 12, 2025.

The 2025 legislation passed by the Senate would have made four modifications: 1) remove the provision allowing for a substitution of 12 years of working experience for a bachelor's degree or higher based on a program in geology; 2) allow persons with substantially equivalent educational credentials, in accordance with the commissioner's regulations, to sit for the professional geologist examination, provided all other requirements for licensure are satisfied; 3) authorize a person seeking licensure pursuant to the current 12-year experience ladder to file an application within 2 years of the legislation's effective date in order to preserve the ability to qualify for geologist licensure based on experience; and 4) change references from "intern geologists" to "geologists in training."

Florida

On February 28, 2025, Representative Taylor Michael Yarkosky introduced a bill (HB.1461) that would repeal several boards, commissions, and councils within the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR), including the Board of Professional Geologists, and shift their authority to DBPR. The bill would in effect replace the Board of Professional Geologists with a newly established "licensing program" within the DBPR's Division of Professions.

By an 11-4 vote on April 9, 2025, the House Industries and Professional Activities Subcommittee took a final action of favorable with committee substitute. By a 12-3 vote on April 15, 2025, the State Administration Budget Subcommittee took a final action of favorable. HB.1461 was then referred to the House Commerce Committee. On March 10, 2025, Senator Keith L. Truenow introduced the Senate version of the bill (SB.1452), which was referred to three committees. Both HB.1461 and SB.1452 were indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration on May 3, 2025.

Two weeks prior to the withdrawal of HB.1461, the House Commerce Committee, by a vote of 13-8 on April 22, 2025, inserted provisions of the bill relating to industries and professional activities (including repeal of the Board of Professional Geologists) as an amendment into HB.991, a bill originally focused on community development. The House opted to substitute HB.991 with SB.110, a priority of Senate President and citrus grower Ben Albritton, who calls the bill a "rural renaissance" plan. The Senate passed SB.110 by a vote of 39-0 on March 19, 2025. The House amended the Senate-passed bill by inserting the provisions relating to industries and professional activities and passed the amended bill by a vote of 69-42 on April 25, 2025. The Senate refused to concur in the House amendment to SB.110 on April 30, 2025, and the House was requested to recede. The Florida legislature had not passed a budget bill by the scheduled end of its 60-day regular session on May 2, so Senate and House leaders agreed to hold a special session. SB.110 died when the special session adjourned on June 16, 2025, after the final

votes on the state's budget and related bills.

Washington

The Washington State Department of Licensing (DOL) is reviewing the licensing of geologists in compliance with the 2023 Professional License Review Act (PRLA), which requires the DOL to submit an annual report to the state legislature reviewing ten percent of the Department's professional and business licenses. The PRLA is intended "to establish a sunset review process for all professional licensing requirements regulated by the Department of Licensing, to ensure that the rights and well-being of current and future practitioners of the profession be given full protection from unnecessary regulatory burden and that regulations meant to safeguard public health and safety are still warranted." The Act ensures that each license program is reviewed every 10 years. As part of this year's review process, on December 17, 2024, DOL held a 1-hour online "Geologists Listening Session," which was attended by more than 90 licensed geologists, including Ken Neal, a member of AEG's Licensure Committee. According to Neal, during the session, DOL acknowledged the overwhelming response by licensed geologists and made it clear that geologist licensure will not be eliminated. The report is due to the legislature by August 31, 2025.

Status of Licensure in the U.S.

According to the Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG), 31 states and one U.S. territory (Puerto Rico) now have geologist registration, licensure, or certification laws. The 31 states with such laws are Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. The 19 states having no such laws are Alaska, Colorado, Connecticut, Hawaii, Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Montana, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Vermont, and West Virginia.

2025 Geohazard Legislation

Congress is considering bills on sinkholes, landslides, earthquakes, and volcanoes. **By Bill Roman, *AEG News* Content Editor**

Since the 119th US Congress convened on January 3, 2025, several geohazard related bills have been introduced in the House and Senate.

The bills seek to address hazards related to sinkholes, landslides, earthquakes, and volcanoes. The USGS has expressed support for the intent of legislation reauthorizing its programs pertaining to landslides, earthquakes, and volcanoes, but in some cases, not for the levels of authorization.

The Winter Park Florida Sinkhole of 1981 developed within the Floridan aquifer. (Photo taken May 10, 1981, by Anthony S. Navoy, USGS.)

Sinkhole Mapping Act of 2025

On January 31, 2025, a bill "To direct the Director of the United States Geological Survey to establish a program to map zones that are at greater risk of sinkhole formation, and for other purposes" (H.R.900) was introduced in the House by Representative Darren Soto (D-FL-9) on behalf of himself and Representatives Gus M. Bilirakis (R-FL-12), Maxwell Frost (D-FL-10), Kathy Castor (D-FL-14), and Frederica S. Wilson (D-FL-24). Since its introduction, four more representatives have signed on as cosponsors of the bill: Jim Costa (D-CA-21), Josh Harder (D-CA-9), Brian K. Fitzpatrick (R-PA-1), and Wesley Bell (D-MO-1).

H.R. 900 would require the Director of the USGS to establish a program to study the short-term and long-term mechanisms that cause sinkholes and develop maps that depict zones that are at greater risk of sinkhole formation. The maps would be developed using 3D elevation data, reviewed at least once every five years, and displayed on a public website for use by community planners and emergency managers.

The bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources, which held a markup session on April 9. During the session Representative Soto offered a substitute bill, which inserted the words "subject to the availability of appropriations made in advance for such purposes," into the provision requiring the Director of the USGS to establish the sinkhole study and mapping program. By unanimous consent, the committee approved the amended bill. After being reported out of committee on July 2, the House passed the amended bill by voice vote on July 14.

On February 12, 2014, a sinkhole measuring 40 feet wide, 60 feet long, and 30 feet deep opened beneath the National Corvette Museum in Bowling Green, Kentucky, swallowing eight Corvettes on display. (Photo credit: National Corvette Museum).

National Landslide Preparedness Act Reauthorization Act of 2025

On March 21, 2025, Rep. Suzan K. DelBene (D-WA-1) introduced a bill "To reauthorize the National Landslide Preparedness Act, and for other purposes" (H.R.2250) on behalf of herself and seven other Representatives from Washington. H.R.2250 was referred to the committees on Science, Space, and Technology (CSST) and on Natural Resources (CNR).

On May 20, the CNR Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee of the CNR held a hearing on three bills reauthorizing key USGS programs including the National Landslide Hazard Reduction Program and the 3D Elevation Program. In its statement for the record, the USGS described the progress made since the National Landslide Preparedness Act (NLPA) was passed and signed into law in by Pres. Donald Trump on January 5, 2021. USGS expressed support for bill's intent but not for the authorization levels sought, stating, "Studying landslides requires more than just lidar, and lidar is used to study more than just landslides, but the association of the two activities by NLPA is appropriate and effective. In addition, expanding coordination and development of improved mapping of stream networks from lidar will improve community risk assessments of destructive post-wildfire debris flows. H.R. 2250 would reauthorize NLPA through 2030. Changes to NLPA, such as new priorities focusing on atmospheric rivers and other hydrologic events, as well as new frameworks for regional stakeholder participation, will improve implementation in the future. The Department supports the intent of H.R.2250, but would like to work with the Sponsor to align the authorization levels to the President's Budget." Following a mark-up session, on June 25, 2025, the CNR ordered the bill to be reported to the full house by unanimous consent.

On May 6, the National Landslide Preparedness Act Reauthorization Act of 2025 (S.1626) was introduced in the Senate by Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) on behalf of herself and Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA). The bill was referred to the CCST, which ordered the bill to be reported to the full Senate on May 21. In a report issued July 11, the Congressional Budget Office estimated that implementing S.1626 would cost $424 million over the 2025-30 period and $90 million after 2030.

National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program Reauthorization Act of 2025

On May 1, 2025, the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program Reauthorization Act of 2025 (H.R.3168) was introduced in the House by Representative David G. Valadao (R-CA-22) on behalf of himself and Representative Jim Costa (D-CA-21). H.R.3168 was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology (CSST), the Committee on Natural Resources (CNR), and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure (CTI).

In its May 20, 2025, Statement for the Record to the Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee of the House CNR, the USGS expressed its support for the intent of the bill but not for the authorization levels sought. The USGS stated: "H.R. 3168 would reauthorize NEHRP through 2030 and includes several improvements to NEHRP the USGS supports. In particular, the bill would integrate the Chair of the Scientific Earthquake Studies Advisory Committee into the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP) oversight structure. This body is the most important external advisory to the USGS related to earthquake science, and codifying its role within NEHRP will strengthen the program. H.R.3168 would also authorize future expansion of earthquake early warning and the dissemination of aftershock forecasts after significant earthquakes, both of which are tools the USGS and our NEHRP partners will need to make America even safer from earthquakes. The Department supports the intent of H.R.3168, but would like to work with the Sponsor to align the authorization levels to the President's Budget." Following a mark-up session, on June 25, 2025, the CNR ordered the bill to reported to the full house by unanimous consent.

The January 17, 1994 magnitude 6.7 Northridge, California earthquake killed 33 people, injured over 7,000, and disrupted key transportation arteries for months after the earthquake (USGS photograph).

On January 29, 2025, the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program Reauthorization Act of 2025 (S.320) was introduced in the Senate by Senator Alex Padilla (D-CA) on behalf of himself and Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK). The bill was referred to the CCST, which ordered the bill to be reported to the full Senate on April 30. A similar bill introduced by Senator Padilla passed the Senate in December 2024 but died as a result of inaction by the House.

National Volcano Early Warning and Monitoring System

On May 5, 2025, Rep. Nicholas J. Begich (R-AK-At Large) introduced a bill "To amend the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and

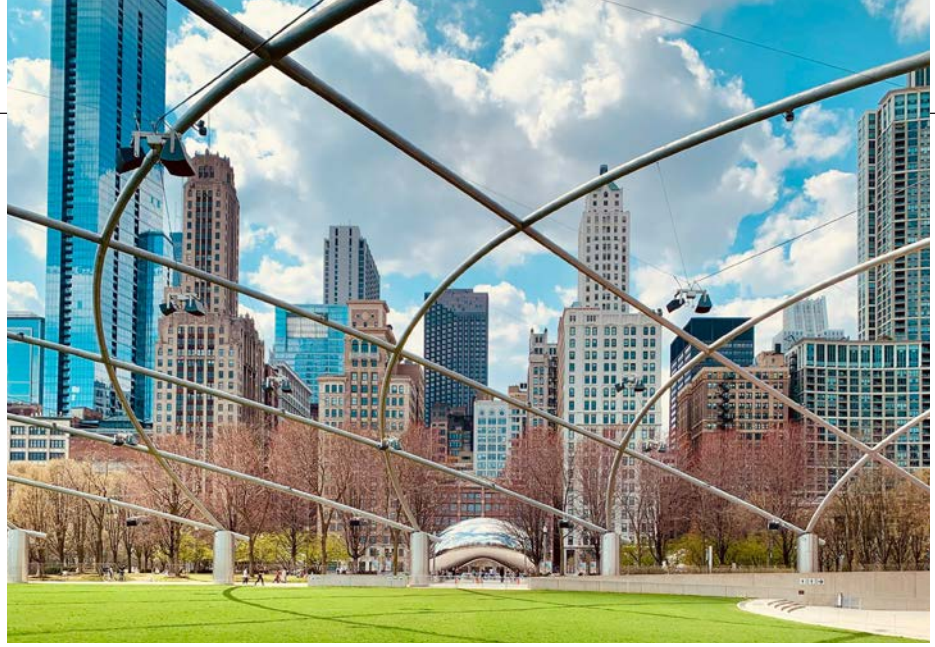
Recreation Act to reauthorize the National Volcano Early Warning and Monitoring System" (H.R.3176), which was referred to CNR.

H.R.3176 was also addressed during the May 20 hearing held by the CNR Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources. In its Statement of Record to the Subcommittee, the USGS expressed its support for the bill "The National Volcano Early Warning System (NVEWS) authorization was first signed into law by President Trump in 2019 to establish a unified and integrated volcano monitoring system for the Nation to ensure public safety from volcano hazards. The USGS has pursued this objective by merging our volcano observatories into one interoperable Volcano Science Center, and we have begun planning a national volcano information center to make our data more useable and provide watch office capabilities around the clock. Earlier this year, unrest at Mt. Spurr west of Anchorage reminded us why volcano monitoring is crucial to the Nation. Hundreds of thousands of Americans and millions of dollars of cargo traveling by plane can be impacted by eruptions. The USGS volcano monitoring capabilities enabled by NVEWS are essential to addressing gaps in coverage keeping Americans safe. H.R.3176 would reauthorize NVEWS through 2030. The Department supports the bill as introduced." Following a mark-up session on June 25, 2025, the CNR ordered the bill to be reported to the full House by unanimous consent.

On March 13, 2025, Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) introduced "A bill to amend the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act to reauthorize the National Volcano Early Warning and Monitoring System, and for other purposes" (S.1052) on behalf of herself and Senators Maria Cantwell (D-WA), Mazie K. Hirono (D-HI), and Dan Sullivan (R-AK). The bill was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. A similar bill introduced by Senator Murkowski passed the Senate in December 2024 but died as a result of inaction by the House.

Chicago Chapter

Tim Drexler, Acting Chair



The Chicago Chapter looks forward to welcoming you to Chicago for AEG's 68th Annual Meeting at the Westin Chicago River North, September 23–27, 2025. The 2024–25 season has been chock-full of chapter events and exciting news.

Jahns Lecturer Program

Cynthia Palomares, the 2023–24 Jahns Distinguished Lecturer made five presentations in the general Chicago area during late August and early September 2024. The presentations, followed by a question-and-answer period, were delivered to students and faculty at the University of Illinois, Northern Illinois University, Purdue University, Wheaton College, and to the membership of AEG's Chicago Chapter. Her topics included "How Climate Change Impacts Infrastructure" and "Regulatory Requirements for Hazardous Waste Management Units." Student and faculty attendance was strong at the schools, and the response from faculty members to the presentations was very positive. All of the schools plan to host the Jahns Lecturer again in 2025.

Chicago Section Monthly Meetings

All of our fall meetings were held at Emmett's Brewing Co. in downtown Downers Grove, Illinois. The 2024–25 season began on September 3, 2024, with a presentation from Cynthia Palomares on "Regulatory Requirements for Hazardous Waste Management Units." Next, Carol Hawbaker presented on "PFAS Toxicology" at our October 22 meeting. Carol is the manager of the Office of Toxicity Assessment in the Associate Director's Office of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. Our November 19 meeting featured Jim Depa and Dave Kulczycki with Jacob and Hefner Associates, Inc. The topic was "Lessons Learned from Treating Over 60,000 Pounds of TCE with 475 Metric Tons of ZVI in Dense Clay Soils." The meeting was attended by ten members. On December 17, the Chicago Chapter had a networking party at Emmett's Brewing Co., which was attended by ten members including Ms. Sara Stohr.

On January 22, 2025, the Chicago Chapter held its annual joint meeting with ASCE at Pazzo's, an Italian restaurant located at 311 S Wacker Drive in downtown Chicago. Jason Buenker, PhD, PE, GE, presented "North Portland Junction—Challenges in Geotechnical Construction." The meeting was well-attended with an estimated 50-plus ASCE members. AEG's Patty Bryan presented highlights of the upcoming AEG Annual Meeting in Chicago and invited ASCE members to attend.

On March 29, we had a full-day workshop on the technology and use of cone penetrometers. See the article below for details.

Capping the year, the Chicago Chapter cohosted an April 15 joint meeting with the American Institute of Professional Geologists at Black Barrel Tavern in Chicago. The speaker was AEG President Renee Wawczak, and her topic was "Using High-Resolution Site Characterization to Expedite Environmental Investigations." After her talk, Wawczak reminded attendees to come to the AEG Annual Meeting in Chicago in September. There were 27 attendees, with a good mix of professionals, students, and college faculty.

Cone Penetrometer Technology [CPTu] Workshop

The Cone Penetration Technology (CPTu) Workshop was held on Saturday, March 29, 2025, at Wheaton College, located approximately 25 miles west of Chicago. A total of 45 participants attended the professional technical presentations. The attendees included four professors and 23 graduate and undergraduate students from four colleges and universities (Wheaton College, Illinois State University, University of Illinois Chicago, and University of Missouri) and 15 working professionals from three states.

By all accounts the CPTu Workshop was successful in every respect, including students meeting working professionals and arranging internships, collegial networking, and professors meeting academic colleagues. The workshop featured the following lectures and field demonstrations:

"New Developments and Applications for Cone Penetrometer Technology in Environmental and Engineering Geology and Examining and Interpretation of Field CPT Measurements" by Bruce Miller, BSc, PG, ConeTec.

"Cone Penetrometer Measurements of Glacial Geologic Units in Illinois" by Jason Thomason, Illinois State Geological Survey.

"ASBOG and Professional Geologist Registration" by Adam Kittler, Chair of Illinois Board of Licensing for Professional Geologists.

"Random-Field Characterization of Fissuring in Clay Using CPT Measurements" by Jiangting Liu, PhD Candidate, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering.

"Characterizing Brine Plumes and Identifying Fill Zones Using CPT in Western Michigan" by Jon J. Tortomasi, BS, Jacobs Solutions Inc.

CPTu demonstration by Bruce Miller, ConeTec, and all instructors.

From top : CPTu Workshop at Wheaton College, March 29, 2025. CPTu Workshop class. Participants watch a Cone Penetrometer demonstration.Bruce Miller (ConeTec), Professor Andrew Luhmann (Wheaton College), and David Heidlauf (Ramboll) discuss CPT. Chris Stohr with Illinois State University students.

Dr. Andrew J. Stumpf

Nominate a colleague or peer for one of AEG's many awards!

See eligibility criteria and deadlines on the Awards and Scholarships page: https://www.aegweb.org/awards-scholarships

Dr. Andrew J. Stumpf Receives Karl and Ruth Terzaghi Mentor Award

Dr. Andrew J. Stumpf was recognized as the recipient of the 2025 Karl and Ruth Terzaghi Mentor Award. Professor Stumpf has supervised thesis and project research including geologic mapping at several universities in the U.S. and Canada since 2000. During this time, he has formally mentored and supervised 50 students and informally mentored many others. At the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Dr. Stumpf has served as a faculty advisor to the Student Sustainability Committee, which awards $2M in grants annually to various groups and initiatives. Additionally, he has worked with the Mahomet Aquifer Consortium (MAC), an organization advocating for the protection of the remaining groundwater quality of that sole-source aquifer. MAC membership includes farmers, water companies, and elected officials who value Dr. Stumpf's professional technical information that has led to the collection of helicopter-borne transient electromagnetic geophysics now being collected and interpreted over the Mahomet Aquifer.

Dr. Stumpf was an inaugural member of the City of Urbana, Illinois, Sustainability Advisory Commission, which recommends policy and specific actions by the City. The City of Urbana has been assertive in adopting sustainability initiatives to conserve natural resources and reduce emissions.

Dr. Stumpf was also a mentor for MentorNet, which was a Geological Society of America program during the COVID-19 crisis. His participation evolved into the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) 2023 Geothermal Collegiate Competition, an annual challenge that offers college students experience in the renewable energy industry. As a nationally known geothermal energy researcher, Dr. Stumpf was the mentor for Team GeoTribe from the University of Oklahoma, who won first place in the Technical Track of the 2023 competition. His dedication to students and organizations as a mentor reflects highly upon his own values as a working Professional Geologist for the Illinois State Geological Survey, Prairie Research Institute, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and AEG as a professional technical organization.

Highway Construction Careers Training Program

On May 6, 2025, Chicago Chapter Past Chair Chris Stohr gave a presentation on "Preparation and Careers in Applied Geology" to 13 students in the Highway Construction Careers Training Program (HCCTP) at Parkland College in Champaign, Illinois. This was the second talk for HCCTP, which discussed careers in applied geology (environmental, mining, logistics, computer technology) and college preparation. About half of the class were from minority or disadvantaged backgrounds. Some students who were involved in construction (e.g., electrical, concrete, carpentry) express interest in transitioning from trades to college because of injury, fatigue, or family circumstances. The lecture encouraged these students to progress in their craft by improving their knowledge and skills with advanced technology.

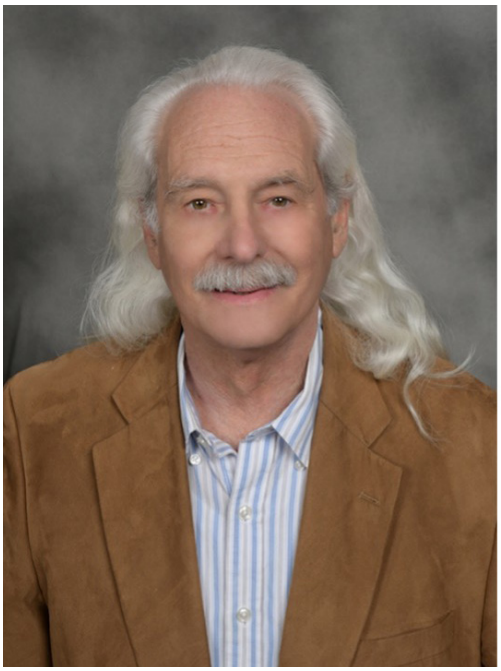
HCCTP helps young and middle-aged students by introducing them to crafts and trades, labor history, hands-on work in several crafts, financial management, resume and interview skills, and practical aspects and expectations of indoor and outdoor construction such as regular work schedules and regular, on-time attendance. Some students also require remedial education in math or reading.

Illinois Geology Act Sunset Extension Bill

During the 2025 legislative session, the Illinois House and Senate passed SB.2503, amending the Regulatory Sunset Act, which included the Professional Geology Licensing Act, to extend the Licensing Act from 2026 to January 1, 2031. The bill has been submitted to the Governor of Illinois for signature. The full text of SB.2503 is available at: http://bit.ly/4n2j8Ml

Illinois Board of Licensing Activities in 2025

The Illinois Board of Licensing for Professional Geologists will consider promulgating rules for continuing education as part of the renewal for PG licensing. This is allowable under the current law, which is expected to be renewed in 2025. Other regulated professions such as engineers and nurses require a minimum number of hours of continuing education. PGs in other states require CEUs and PDHs. If you have a suggestion for the number of CEUs per year or biennial (2 years) and how the validations should be made, please contact: Chris Stohr, PhD, at chair.aeg.chicago@gmail.com (preferred) or 217.766.4071.



Dr. Christopher Stohr

Chicago Chapter Honors and Awards

Former Chapter Chair Dr. Christopher Stohr Selected as 2025–26 Jahns Lecturer

Dr. Christopher Stohr has been selected as the 2025–26 Jahns Distinguished Lecturer. Dr. Stohr has a long history as an author, educator, and public servant. He received a BS in Geology from St. Joseph's College in Renssalaer, Indiana, in 1971, an MS in Engineering Geology from Purdue University in 1974, and a PhD in Agronomy, Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1996. Dr. Stohr is a Certified Engineering Geologist and Registered Geologist in Oregon and a Professional Geologist in Illinois. He has been an instructor, visiting professor, and visiting instructor at multiple universities in the Midwest, and he has received multiple awards including the AEG Presidential Citation, the Champaign-Urbana International Humanitarian Award for participating in relief projects in Zomba, Malawi, Africa, along with being a Fullbright Senior Specialist. Dr. Stohr is an emeritus member of the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing and is a member of Delta Epsilon Sigma and Phi Eta Sigma honor fraternities. He is a member of the Illinois Board of Licensing for Professional Geologists and is a county board member for Champaign County, Illinois. Dr. Stohr has authored or co-authored more than 100 peer reviewed articles and abstracts.

Carolinas Chapter

Laura Elliott, Chapter Vice Chair, and Rick Kolb

From top: Patrick Gannon presenting at the February meeting in Charlotte. Attendees at the February meeting.

The Carolinas Chapter has been active on several fronts over the past few months, including a significant personnel change. Our chair, Jonathan Gerst, suffered an off-roading bicycle accident when riding with his kids and broke two vertebrae in his neck. Gerst is the owner of a small business called Peak Hydrogeologic in Tryon, North Carolina, and he decided to step down as chapter chair to focus on his recovery and company. Vice Chair Laura Elliott of Terracon Consultants in Greensboro is teaming up with Past Chair Jen Thomas of JennTec in Asheville to lead the chapter until we elect new officers in September 2025.

Our chapter has held three chapter meetings in 2025:

We held our winter meeting on February 13, 2025, at the Olde Mecklenburg Brewery in Charlotte, where our speaker was Patrick Gannon of EA Engineering, Science, and Technology. He presented an extended version of the excellent talk he gave at the 2024 annual meeting in Philadelphia, "A Tale of Two Discrete Fracture Networks: CVOC-Impacted Bedrock Aquifers in Upstate New York." One of our members had seen his presentation at the annual meeting and thought his talk would be well-received in North Carolina, where we have similar issues with contaminants in fractured rock. As usual, we had about 20 geology students from University of North Carolina at Charlotte and Appalachian State University attend for the chance to interact with practicing geologists (the free dinner students receive at our chapter meetings was probably an attraction, too).

We had to postpone our September 2024 meeting in Asheville due to the heavy rains preceding the arrival of Hurricane Helene, so we moved it to White Labs Brewing on March 13, 2025, where Past AEG President Jennifer Bauer spoke on "Hurricane Helene and Landslides: A Field Based Perspective." We had many ASCE members attend this "make-up" meeting.

Our spring meeting was held on April 10, 2025, at the Tobacco Road Sports Café and Brewery in Raleigh, where our speaker was Jahns Lecturer Dr. John Kemeny. We

selected his "Innovative Monitoring and Characterization Technologies" presentation for that meeting. About 15 students were in attendance from Appalachian State University, North Carolina State University, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and Wake Technical Community College.

In addition to his presentation at our chapter meeting in Raleigh, Dr. Kemeny made presentations during the week of April 7, 2025, to the geology departments at the Universities of North Carolina at Charlotte and Chapel Hill, North Carolina State University, East Carolina University, and Wake Technical Community College, which is the only two-year college with an AEG student chapter. Typically, our chapter hosts the Jahns Lecturer for a week to visit schools in North and South Carolina. We have developed contacts at all the schools that have geology programs through our Visiting Professional Program.

In more personnel news, two members have volunteered to step up and serve the chapter. Michael Daniels has assumed the role of our chapter's student liaison, who coordinates our chapter's Visiting Professional Program and arranges college visits by the Jahns Lecturer. Daniels graduated from Appalachian State University in 2022 with a BS in Geology. He is the geotechnical field investigations coordinator at Falcon Engineering in Raleigh. Since graduating, he has acquired hands-on experience in conducting and managing geotechnical investigations, fieldwork coordination, and technical reporting, with a strong background in North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) projects. Daniels is passionate about combining technical precision to practical, real-world challenges and continuously seeks opportunities to grow both personally and professionally. Outside of work, he enjoys woodworking, riding his motorcycle, road trips with his dog, and tackling home improvement projects.

From top : Jahns Lecturer John Kemeny speaking at the April meeting in Raleigh. John Kemeny presents on "Innovative Monitoring and Characterization Technologies" at the Tobacco Road Sprots Café and Brewery.

Michael Daniels

Andrew Beaty

Phil Bradley providing an overview of the regional geology prior to starting the field course.

Andrew Beaty is a project geologist at Terracon and has assumed the role of our chapter's field course chair. He is from Gastonia, North Carolina, and received his BS in Geology from University of North Carolina at Charlotte in 2017. Since graduating, Beaty has been working in the geotechnical consulting industry. He is licensed in North and South Carolina and currently manages commercial geotechnical projects and assists in some NCDOT projects for Terracon from their Charlotte office. Outside of work, he enjoys hiking at Crowders Mountain State Park with his wife and 2-year-old son and traveling to national parks. Since being introduced to the parks during an East Carolina University field camp in Colorado, he has visited 21 national parks, including a recent trip to Dry Tortugas.

Our chapter typically holds two field courses a year on Saturdays in the spring and fall. Commonly, our field courses are led by geologists at the North Carolina Geological Survey (NCGS) and provide continuing education (CE) hours that are needed by registered geologists in North and South Carolina. We held our first course this year on Saturday, May 3, 2025, along the Deep River Rail Trail in Franklinville, North Carolina, where AEG member Phil Bradley of the NCGS provided a 45-minute overview of the local geological history. He then showed the 40 attendees several outcrops of rock associated with the circa 630–615 Ma Hyco Formation of the Hyco Arc and transition into younger rocks associated with the circa 550–530 Ma Albemarle Arc. Along the way, Bradley discussed the findings from recent NCGS mapping and age–date work in the area. This course offered 4 hours of CE.

We are planning a second field course for September 13, 2025, jointly with the South Carolina Association of Environmental Professionals. This will be our first field course in South Carolina. It will feature a tour of Santee Cooper's 91-year-old Jeffries Hydroelectric Dam near Moncks Corner, an exploration of a decommissioned coal-fired generating site and review of remediation and groundwater-monitoring activities, and a visit to Old Santee Canal Park.

We had hoped to resurrect the field course that we had planned for October 2024, which we cancelled due to Hurricane Helene. However, much damage remains from the hurricane. Field course leader David Korte with the NCGS recently wrote, "We are mapping

post-Helene landslides from aerial imagery and the field because we will not have lidar until the end of the year. Many of the roads around Bat Cave remain closed or have limited access. We are going out there this morning because we had at least 15 reactivations this week… In addition, I am negotiating with the legislature to increase staff from 3 to 12, working with the Governor's Advisory Committee on WNC [western North Carolina] Recovery and Resiliency, and GrowNC." He wrote that next year will be better for him to lead a field course in western North Carolina.

Our chapter has begun discussions with the Nashville Chapter on how the Carolinas Chapter can assist with AEG's 2026 Annual Meeting in Chattanooga, Tennessee. The Carolinas Chapter held AEG's annual meeting in 2011 in Charleston, South Carolina, and in 2019 in Asheville, North Carolina, so many of our members have experience with all the work required for annual meetings. If you would like to be involved with any portions of the planning and participate in the annual meeting, please reach out to our Vice Chair Laura Elliott at laura.rob.elliott@gmail.com. We welcome your help!

Clockwise from top left: NCGS geologists Phil Bradley and Garett Thompson showing the geology of the island arcs. Stop 1 featured a vista on the Deep River and the best outcrop of the day (in the Piedmont, there's way too much vegetation for geologists). Phil Bradley explaining the miniscule outcrop at Stop 2. A little bigger outcrop at Stop 3.

Abandoned coal mine along the Fifteenmile Creek trail.

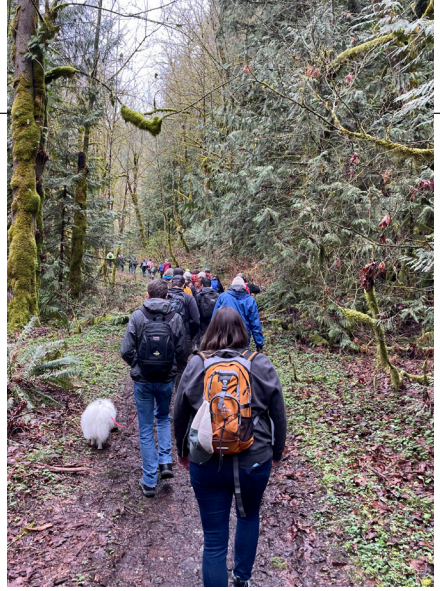
Nisqually Chapter

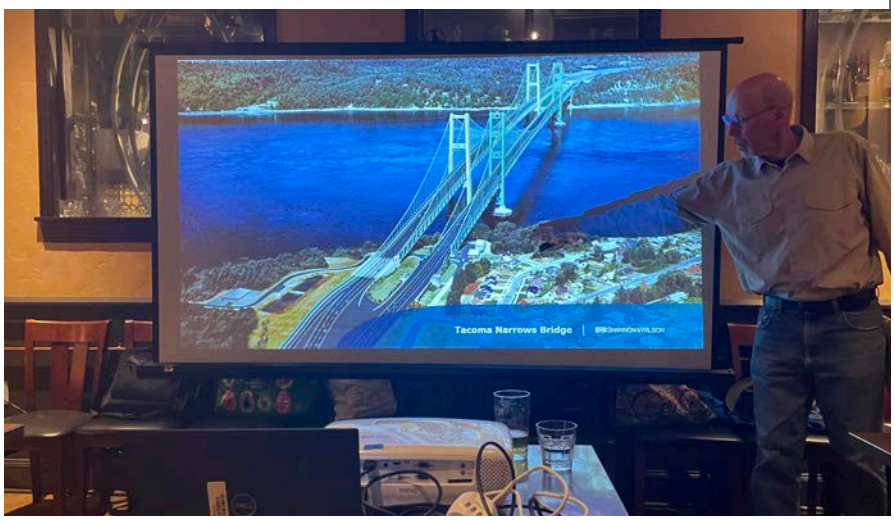
Ken Neal, Contributor

The Nisqually Chapter elected a new slate of officers in September 2024. These include Stephen Newman (chair), Whitney Hansen (vice chair), Rebecca Garrison (treasurer), and Maria Cools (secretary). Stephen, Whitney, and Rebecca are employed by the Washington State Department of Transportation, and Maria is employed by Mud Bay Geotechnical Services. In addition to our newly elected officers, Kate Mickelson from the Washington Geological Survey continues to serve as editor of our newsletter.

The Nisqually Chapter has had a series of interesting monthly meetings since Fall 2024, each with great speakers on a diverse range of topics. In September, Stephen Newman presented a talk on the remarkable history of the Lek Dike, Netherlands: 900 years of construction, maintenance, catastrophic failure, and emergency repair. In October, Eric Daiber (Washington State Department of Ecology) presented on navigating the concrete jungle and dealing with water quality protection issues related to recycling concrete. In November, Bill Laprade presented on his decades-long career with Shannon & Wilson. In December, we held a holiday party, with a white elephant gift exchange, trivia, and non-technical talks focused on our chapter members' recent adventures outside of work.

In January, we held a joint meeting with the Puget Sound Chapter in Tacoma. At that meeting, Douglas Boyer, chief of the Risk-Informed Decision-Making Branch of the Division of Dam Safety and Inspections within the Federal Emergency Regulatory Commission, presented on the 2017 Oroville Dam spillway incident and subsequent reconstruction. At our February meeting, Jahns Lecturer Dr. John Kemeny gave a talk entitled "Everyday Geospatial: New Technologies Anyone Can Afford for 3D Field Scanning, Point Cloud Processing, Rock Mass Characterization, and Slope Stability." In March, Megan





Clockwise from top left : Field trip attendees hiking the Fifteenmile Creek trail to the amber deposits. Bill Laprade presenting his involvement in the Tacoma Narrows Bridge project. Talus 9 landslide discussion. Doug Boyer during his presentation on the 2017 Oroville Dam spillway incident.

Anderson, PhD, (Washington Geologic Survey) presented "Deep Structure of Siletzia: Why the Middle of the Crust Matters for Engineering Seismology."

On March 22, we held a field trip to Issaquah, Washington. Our trip rendezvoused at Jakob Two Trees, a delightful troll sculpture fashioned entirely out of recycled materials built into the forest landscape. After a brief discussion of the regional geology, we hiked up Fifteenmile Creek to search for amber deposits, followed by a visit to the Talus 9 landslide. This was a family- and dog-friendly event attended by 45 people and several furry friends.

At our April meeting, Ken Neal presented "My Career—A Long and Winding Road." On May 20, our final meeting for this spring, AEG President Renee Wawczak gave a presentation on using high-resolution site characterization to expedite environmental investigations.

Our meetings are held in the Wine Room at the Mercato Ristorante in downtown Olympia, Washington, usually on the first Tuesday of the month. Pizza and salads are our normal fare, which allows us to conduct meetings at a relatively modest cost.

Greater Pittsburgh Chapter

Jim Hamel, Honorary Member and News Wrangler

Pittsburgh recently hosted the 21st Annual Student night.

The 21st Annual Student Night, a research showcase and joint meeting with the Pittsburgh Geological Society and the American Society of Civil Engineers

Pittsburgh Section Geo-Institute, was held on April 16 at Gaetano's Banquet Center in Pittsburgh. Each of the three societies selected a student paper for oral presentation and a monetary prize. Other students gave poster presentations and oral presentations before the dinner. The AEG judges' selection for 2025 was "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle: Reevaluating Old Coal Cores for New Purposes" by Kylie Brinza (West Virginia University), an intern at the U.S. Department of Energy National Energy Technology Laboratory in Morgantown, West Virginia. Using the lab's facilities, she analyzed five coal seams from an existing 1,000-foot-long core for critical minerals and rare earth elements. Preliminary results show bands of lanthanum, cerium, and yttrium inclusions in the coal seams.

Kylie Brinza presenting her research on April 16, 2025.

In other member news, Kyle Fredrick of Pennsylvania Western University, located in California, Pennsylvania, was reelected president, and Wendy Noe of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection was reelected secretary of the Pittsburgh Geological Society.

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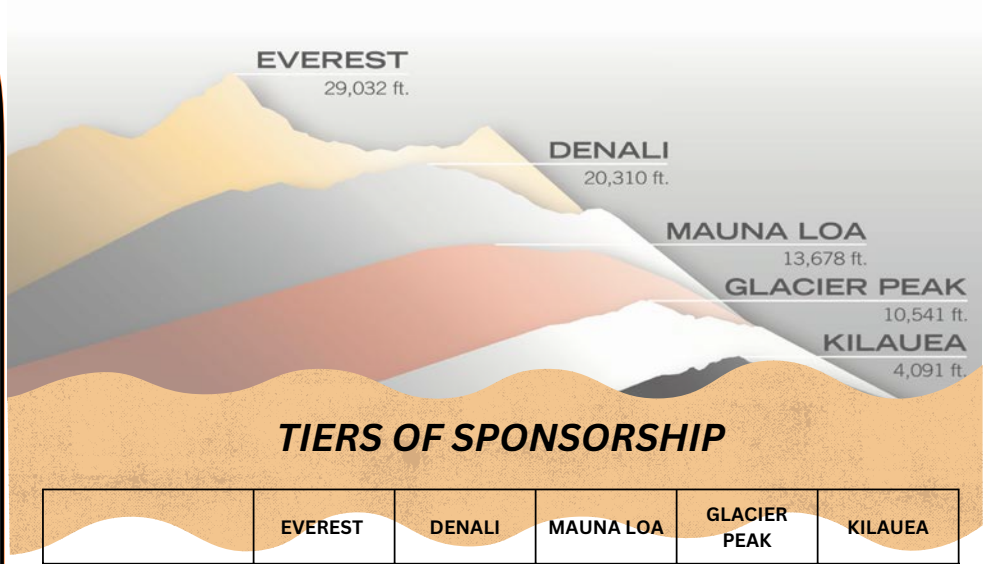

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