The Maine Geologist

NEWSLETTER OF THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF MAINE

October 2026 Volume 52 Number 3

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is truly amazing how fast two years can fly by. This will be my last newsletter column submission as GSM President, and I am pleased by how our society has progressed into its 52nd year. The greatest highlight for me as President was the opportunity to talk with many of our members and learn more about their lives and interests as geologists and people. We truly have an impressive assortment of colleagues with interesting careers and fascinating stories. I hope you feel that the GSM has continued to fulfill its mission of furthering public awareness and understanding of Maine geology; developing and encouraging continual fellowship among Maine geologists; advancing the professional development of our members; informing the public of local geologic programs; and providing a financial base to publish and promote geologic matters.

Many significant events have occurred in the last two years. We have seen several of our members leave us and although we all regret their passing, their contributions to both Maine geology and our personal experiences will live on. We have also seen the retirement of several colleagues, but we know that their knowledge, leadership, and stewardship will pass on to the next generation. The work presented by a new crop of student geologists at our spring meetings continues to impress our members and carry on this legacy.

In 2024, we celebrated the GSM's 50th anniversary, reminiscing with talks about favorite Maine surficial and bedrock geology localities, a history of Maine sea level changes, challenges to be addressed by Maine geologists, a retrospective of our organization, and the growth of the environmental consulting industry. In 2025, we were all educated with great presentations on geophysical topics ranging from prospecting for groundwater, to gravity surveys, seafloor mapping, and evolution of geophysical methods. We were also treated to a fascinating talk about the submarine geomorphology of the Seattle Fault. I am sure our 2026 fall meeting presentations on coastal geologic processes will also be very informative.

The summer field trips to the Augusta-Waterville and Downeast regions were both well attended and excellent opportunities for fellowship and education. I want to thank all our trip leaders for their dedication and work to make those trips a tremendous success. Lastly, one of my goals as President was to increase our Education and Professional Development (EAPD) Fund to a level that can be self-sustaining to support new geologic research and the professional development of geologists throughout our state. We have made strides in doing this and are nearing our goal, but continued support is always welcome, and I look forward to watching the GSM prosper and be able to support our current and future geologists.

Rich Campbell
GSM President

GSM SUMMER FIELD TRIP RECAP

The GSM summer field trip was held July 25–26 and brought almost 40 of our members to the easternmost reaches of Maine to explore the Eastern Maine Volcanic Belt, remnants of the Pleistocene, and the beauty of Cobscook Bay. John Breedlove, Andy Reeve, and GSM board members Rich Campbell and Myles Felch shared their time and knowledge as stop leaders. Rich also designed excellent t-shirts commemorating the trip.

On Saturday, we visited volcanics and sediments of the Silurian Leighton and Hersey formations. Highlights included John showing us (and letting us take our rock hammers to) a sulfide mining prospect in the Leighton Formation. Professor Chunzeng

Wang (UMPI) provided some useful context, including an ostracod marker bed in the Hersey Formation at the beautiful Sipp Bay Preserve. Rich, Dr. Donald Soctomah (Passamquoddy), and Terry Connolly (EPA) walked us through the glacial, tribal, and environmental history of the N'Tolonapemk archaeological site and Eastern Surplus Superfund site in Meddybemps.

On Sunday, Myles guided us to spectacular coastal outcrops of older Silurian volcanics of the Edmunds and Quoddy formations. Andy shared his expertise of wetlands and glacial processes at a fascinating cross-sectional peat bog exposure.

Between stops, members socialized and reminisced during two nights of camping, grilling, and s'mores at the recently reopened Cobscook Bay State Park. The trip showcased the inspiring knowledge and curiosity among members of our organization. Thanks to everyone who attended and contributed! The trip guide will be available on the GSM website.

Andrew Collins
GSM Vice President



Professor Chunzeng Wang (UMPI, left) sharing his bedrock knowledge on the GSM summer field trip.



Bedrock locality on the GSM summer field trip.

NEWS FROM THE CAMPUSES

University of Maine-Farmington

UMF Geology students and faculty attended the summer GSM field trip to the Downeast area as well as NEIGC in Rhode Island. In addition to these fun field outings, students have been taking advantage of the wonderful fall weather and getting out in the field for various lab trips around western Maine in petrology and surficial processes courses.

Larry Tuttle
Julia Daly



UMF Geology at NEIGC in Rhode Island.



Quoddy Head lighthouse (GSM Summer Field Trip).

University of Maine-Presque Isle

Chunzeng Wang, David Putnam, and UMPI's GeoEnv Club took a trip to the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument (KWWNM) on October 3rd during peak fall foliage. While there, the group visited the Tekαkαpimək Visitor Center, drove on the Loop Road, hiked Barnard Mountain, and even celebrated freshman Grace Van Busen's birthday with cake at the Katahdin Overlook (photo below). It was every student's first time visiting the KWWNM. Students learned about indigenous culture and history, as well as local geology and landscape.

Chunzeng Wang, John Waldron, Allan Ludman, Amber Whittaker, Robert Marvinney, and Paul O'Sullivan recently published a new research paper titled "Detrital Zircon Provenance of Cambro-Ordovician Inliers in the Northern Maine Appalachians: Relocating the Laurentia–Ganderia Boundary in an Accretionary Orogen" in the American Journal of Science. They discovered that zircon grains from the oldest formation in the Munsungun area match Laurentia, the ancient continental core of North America. In contrast, samples from the Grand Pitch Formation in the East Branch and Weeksboro-Lunksoos Lake area and from the Mars Hill Conglomerate retain signatures associated with Ganderia, a small continental fragment derived from Gondwana. These findings indicate that the long-recognized boundary between Laurentia and Ganderia (Gondwana) should be redrawn farther southeast in northern Maine and the magnificent Munsungun-Winterville belt is associated with Laurentia. The study shows that Maine preserves a more complicated record of Appalachian geologic history than earlier models recognized. It also reshapes our understanding of how the northern Appalachian Mountains were assembled through ancient plate movements, volcanic activity, continental collisions, and the closing of long-vanished oceans.

Chunzeng Wang



UMPI GeoEnv club at the Katahdin Overlook in KWWNM.

GSM FALL MEETING

The 2026 GSM Fall Meeting theme is "Maine's Dynamic Coastline." Please join us for an afternoon of talks by college faculty, State of Maine staff, and the Gulf of Maine Research Institute, covering a wide variety of coastal geology topics. The meeting will be held on Friday, November 6 at Colby College's Alumni Center Building (Parker-Reed Room—the same location as the 2025 Spring and

Fall Meetings). Many thanks to GSM Treasurer Tom Whittaker for securing this very comfortable meeting space and organizing the speakers! The agenda will start with a business meeting at 1 PM, followed by talks. There will be plenty of snacks, starting with a welcome reception at 12:30 PM and a social hour at 4:30 PM. Please see the GSM website for a full agenda.

NEW GSM WEBSITE

Thanks to Chris Halsted, the GSM has a new website with a new address:
https://www.geologicalsocietyofmaine.org/
We still own our old web address, so if you happen to type that one in, no problem—you will be routed to the new site. The new website has increased functionality that should allow us to set up events and communicate with members more efficiently. However, we were not able to migrate member accounts to the new site. ***This means that you will need to sign up for a new GSM account if you would like to pay your dues or make a donation.***

THE EDITOR'S MESSAGE

The newsletter is distributed through email and on the GSM website in PDF format. Anyone with special needs should contact the Editor. Please send items of interest and photographs of GSM activities to: Lindsay Theis, Newsletter Editor
lindsay.theis@maine.gov

GSM WEBSITE:
www.geologicalsocietyofmaine.org
FACEBOOK: facebook.com/GSMMaine



SECRETARY'S REPORT

The GSM held no formal business meeting since the last Secretary's Report provided in June 2026, so there are no minutes to report at this time. The next GSM business meeting will be held during the fall meeting on Friday, November 6, 2026.

The Executive Council met by Zoom in October 2026 to discuss requests for research and conference funding from the Education and Professional Development fund, plans for the fall 2026 meeting, and plans for the spring 2027 meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Jacob, Secretary
ljj@smemaine.com

TREASURER'S REPORT

I am excited to report that it has been a busy time for the GSM balance sheet since the last report. This includes a large number dues payments and a significant number of new members. Welcome! In addition, we held our summer field trip in Downeast Maine, with participants supporting the event with a small fee. Beyond that, donations to the EAPD Fund (formerly Anderson fund) have continued in Walter's name. Thank you for the great support. On that note, we received two excellent grant applications from students that we are thrilled to be able to support through the EAPD Fund.

If you need to submit a dues payment, please know that you can do so with a credit card via the website at any time, or send me a check (address below or hand-deliver at the next GSM meeting).

Both endowment funds (EAPD and McCartney), managed by Bath Savings Trust, continue to perform well. We are excited for the potential of these funds to be able to support more grants in the future. I'd like to remind everyone that:

1. The two endowment funds are there to support activities that you—GSM members—wish to undertake. Please apply through the GSM website if you would like some financial support for an activity.

2. Donations to the funds are accepted year-round (through the website or via a check in the mail). Every little bit helps grow the funds such that the GSM can keep offering support well into the future.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Whittaker, Treasurer
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Albion, ME 04910
Email: thomasewhittaker _at_ gmail.com

Asset Summary
6/10/2026 to 10/22/26

Fund	Account	Balance 6/10/26	Balance 10/22/26
General Fund	MSCU Checking	$1,663.48	$2,192.46
	MSCU Bus. Sav.	$505.12	$505.20
	Subtotal	*$2,168.60*	*$4,397.66*
EAPD Fund (prev. Anderson Fund)	Bath Savings Trust (managed acct)	$59,841.72	$61,420.63
Kevin McCartney Fund	Bath Savings Trust (managed acct)	$23,742.83	$24,436.70
Combined Assets	*Grand Total*	*$85,753.15*	*$88,554.99*

GSM's most recent fiscal year ended on July 31, 2026. The summary of income and expenses for the checking account at Maine State Credit Union for fiscal year 25/26 follows:

Final Fiscal Year 25/26 Balance Sheet for MSCU Checking Acct:

Income:	
Dues payments received:	
By check	$491.00
Online (new website deducts fee)	$4,213.50
Donations	$970.70
Subtotal	**$5,675.20**
Expenses:	
2025 Fall Meeting at Colby College	
Room Rental + AV support	*$0.00*
Refreshments and table setup	*$1,841.65*
Event Insurance	*$396.00*
Total:	$2,237.65
2026 Spring Meeting at Bates College	
Stationery	*$35.83*
Best oral presentation prize	*$150.00*
Best poster prize	*$150.00*
Total:	*$335.83*
Dues reimbursement (overpayment)	$60.00
New book of checks	$30.04
Research awards (no applications received)	$0.00
Donations to GSM Funds from Checking:	
EAPD Fund	$1,665.00
Kevin McCartney Fund	$50.00
Online payment processing cost (old website)	$148.35
Subtotal	**$4,526.87**
Net income	**$1,148.33**

The new fiscal year (26/27) began on August 1, 2026. The summary of income and expenses thus far for the checking account at Maine State Credit Union is provided below:

Income:	**(8/1/26 to 10/22/26)**
Dues payments received:	
By check	$340.00
Online (note new website deducts % fee)	$1,403.50
Donations (for EAPD fund)	$100.00
Subtotal	**$1,843.50**
Expenses:	
2026 GSM Summer Field Trip	$1,233.84
2026 Fall Meeting at Colby College	
Event Insurance	*$332.00*
Total:	*$332.00*
Research Awards:	
Two grants were awarded 10/22/26 in the amounts of $1000.00 and $700.00	$1,700.00
Subtotal	**$3,265.84**
Net income	**-$1,422.34**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Event	Location	Organizer
November 6, 2026	GSM Fall Meeting	Colby College	GSM
December 7–11, 2026	AGU Annual Meeting	San Francisco, CA	AGU
March 11–14, 2027	NEGSA	Saratoga Springs, NY	GSA
March 25, 2027	Maine Sustainability and Water Conference	Augusta Civic Center	University of Maine-Orono
April 16, 2027	GSM Spring Meeting	University of Maine-Presque Isle	GSM

Please submit events to include on the calendar to the Newsletter Editor: lindsay.theis@maine.gov

PLEASE PAY YOUR ANNUAL GSM DUES VIA THE GSM WEBSITE:

https://www.geologicalsocietyofmaine.org/pricing-plans/list

****NOTE: You will need to create a new GSM member account on our new website to pay dues or make donations. You will be prompted to make an account when you select a GSM membership to pay dues (click the "Sign Up" button on the checkout page).****