



# The Maine Geologist

NEWSLETTER OF THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF MAINE

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope all of you can make it to the GSM summer field trip this year. It is shaping up to be the best field trip of the summer. We will be looking at a wide variety of geologic topics and localities including the Big Hill Zinc Prospect, some Silurian and Devonian Formations, Sipp Bay Preserve, a Pleistocene delta deposit, the Eastern Surplus Superfund site, the Charlotte Smith chlorinated solvent and PCB site, Ntolonapemk (an approximately 10,000-year-old Passamquoddy village), an ancient peat bog, Quoddy Head State Park (the easternmost part of the continental U.S.), and more. I suspect the best part of the field trip will be our campsite in beautiful Cobscook Bay State Park where we have two group spots reserved on the water. If you have never been to this beautiful location, I would urge you to come. There are numerous things to do in this area and I encourage you to stay longer and experience all that Downeast has to offer. You should have received a registration email from Tom Whittaker on June 11, 2026, so please register and attend.

On another note, we are attempting to increase our Education and Professional Development (EAPD) Fund. Please consider making a donation which will provide opportunities for students to contribute to our understanding of geology. You can make your donation directly through the [GSM website](#). Following our successful spring meeting held at Bates College, I was informed that many current students and professors were not aware that we have funding to help with their projects. The spring meeting was a good opportunity to remind our community of this funding, which can be applied for directly through our [website](#). I hope to see all of you Downeast on July 24–25 for the field trip.

Rich Campbell  
GSM President

## NEWS FROM THE STATE GEOLOGIST

Outside my window today is falling a lovely summer rain, soaking my late-planted vegetable seeds and also hopefully recharging depleted groundwater aquifers. With plenty of rain like this, the drought in Maine has improved greatly in the last couple of months, but a long-term deficit in deeper groundwater persists. The recent dynamics in Maine's water cycle are really a story of two different water reservoirs that operate on two different timescales.

The current drought peaked in severity late last October but did not show much improvement through the winter months, with a snowpack that was thinner than normal and melted early. However, improvement has exceeded expectations since the frost has thawed, driven by above-average rainfall in May and June. Shallow soil moisture has been replenished, streams and rivers are flowing at normal or above-normal rates, and ponds and reservoirs are full.

On the other hand, two back-to-back seasons of drought have kept groundwater levels consistently low as some part of Maine has been in drought status since September 2024. The situation in northern New England is now categorized as a "long-term drought" by the U.S. Drought Monitor. Groundwater reservoirs respond to precipitation on a significant delay; because it can take many months for some wells to reflect a deficit of rain, they can take an equally long time to recover when enough precipitation returns. Sustained rainfall that exceeds normal rates over months is typically required to recharge our deeper aquifers. So while we have seen some recent improvements even in deep groundwater wells, many wells are still near record lows, and another period of dry weather could lead to more water stress for homeowners and farmers who depend on well water. Fortunately, the National

Weather Service offices in Maine are suggesting that odds tilt towards above-average precipitation for the next couple of weeks and for the summer as a whole. Let's hope that becomes true!

We recently welcomed two summer field interns to the MGS: Devora Katz, a physics student at the University of Maine-Orono, and Riley Baker, a recent graduate of Bates College Department of Earth and Climate Sciences. Devora has been working with Amber Whittaker on relative gravity surveying using a portable gravity meter (on loan from Bates College) and will be studying many aspects of gravimetry as a geophysical method. Riley will be working with our marine geology team to survey erosion and deposition on Maine beaches, and to collect bathymetry data with our Nearshore Survey System. In addition, the MGS is preparing to hire two new staff members: one to replace Coastal Hazard Specialist Sam Roy, who has moved on to a new role at the State Resilience Office, and one to fill the geologist position vacated by Henry Berry's retirement. While I can't share any names yet, stay tuned for new staff announcements.

Ryan Gordon  
State Geologist

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## GSM SPRING MEETING RECAP

The 2026 GSM Spring Meeting was held at Bates College on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Attendees enjoyed excellent presentations and posters given by students from Bates College, Bowdoin College, Colby College, University of Maine-Orono, and Mount Blue High School. The best oral presentation award went to Ria Ravel from the University of Maine-Orono and the best poster award went to Hadley Blodget from Bates College. Instead of the usual keynote presentation, attendees split up into several small groups to discuss issues related to science and society. This was a great way to connect with other GSM members and for students to interact with professionals. All the groups took notes on their conversations and concerns ranged from the use of A.I to effectively communicating scientific information to the public.

The full meeting agenda and abstracts can be found at [this link](#).



*Poster session at the GSM Spring Meeting.*

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## NEWS FROM THE CAMPUSES

### University of Maine – Orono

Congratulations to our 2026 graduates! We are wicked proud of this cohort of students and all that they accomplished in their time at UMaine. We are using LinkedIn to stay connected with alumni, and to help students find employment opportunities. Several juniors traveled to Iceland for their Sea-to-Sky capstone experience this spring and are ready to finish strong in their senior year. The Geology Club traveled to Bethel this spring to tour the Maine Mineral and Gem Museum and go rock hounding in the nearby mountains before hosting a massive spaghetti dinner. Graduate students are conducting ongoing research this summer on Alaska's icefields, Maine's bedrock geochronology, Norway's moraine ages, Puerto Rico's soils, and much more!

Alice Bernosky



## GSM SUMMER FIELD TRIP

The 2026 GSM Summer Field Trip will take place in Downeast Maine on July 25-26. Trip stops will feature bedrock, surficial, coastal, and environmental localities across the Downeast region from Quoddy Head to Meddybemps. Camping at Cobscook Bay State Park and a cookout on Saturday night are included with your registration. [Sign up through the GSM website](#) by July 10 (note that you will need to make a GSM website account to register if you have not already). Please contact Andrew Collins (andrew.collins12 at gmail.com) with any questions.

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## FOP 2026 RECAP

The 87<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion of the Northeast Friends of the Pleistocene was held May 29–31 in the Madison, Conway, and Gorham, NH areas. The annual field conference was organized by Woody Thompson, Dan Tinkham, and Bob Newton and was titled “Tills, Moraines, and Associated Fluvial/Lacustrine Glacial Deposits in New Hampshire’s Eastern White Mountains.” Trip stops covered a variety of topics from subtle moraines in the woods to large gravel pit exposures to the famous Madison boulder. Many thanks to the organizers for an informative weekend. The 2027 meeting is slated to be held in New Brunswick, Canada.



2026 Northeast Friends of the Pleistocene attendees.  
(Photo by George Springston.)

## 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.*

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## 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](http://www.geologicalsocietyofmaine.org)

FACEBOOK: [facebook.com/GSMMaine](https://facebook.com/GSMMaine)

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## SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Executive Council met in person in advance of the spring 2026 meeting to finalize the GSM meeting planning, nominations for the Executive Council (EC), and 2026 field trip planning.

### Spring GSM Business Meeting Minutes, Friday, April 3, 2026

1. GSM President Rich Campbell offered congratulations to all the student presenters—the oral and poster presentations were excellent. Congratulations to the student presentation winners: Hadley Blodget for poster presentation and Ria Ravel for oral presentation.

2. The 2026 GSM summer field trip will be Downeast, July 25–26. Camping will be at Cobscook Bay State Park. The field trip itinerary is in the works, and a field trip guide will be prepared. Stops will include edrock and coastal geology, environmental remediation, and archaeology.
3. Executive Council nominations for fall 2026: any interested parties, please see Rich for more information.
4. The GSM is working to increase funding in the Education and Professional Development Fund in honor of Walter Anderson. There is a matching donation available (by an anonymous donor).
5. Member announcements:
  - a. Mt. Blue High School is looking for Chemistry, Physics, and Biology teachers to fill vacancies created by retirements.
  - b. Myles Felch announced the Maine Minerals Conference at Sunday River in Newry, Maine in May 15–17.

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

the [website](#) at any time or send me a check (address below).

As always, I'd like to remind everyone of a couple of things relating to the endowments:

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  
 29 CMD Drive  
 Albion, ME 04910  
 Email: thomasewhittaker\_at\_gmail.com

**Asset Summary  
 3/15/2026 to 6/10/2026**

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Account</b>	<b>Balance 3/15/26</b>	<b>Balance 6/10/26</b>
General Fund	MSCU Checking	\$1,803.07	\$1663.48
	MSCU Bus. Sav.	\$505.06	\$505.12
	<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>\$2,308.13</i>	<i>\$2,168.60</i>
EAPD Fund (prev. Anderson Fund)	Bath Savings Trust (managed acct)	\$54,029.35	\$59,841.72
Kevin McCartney Fund	Bath Savings Trust (managed acct)	\$22,481.57	\$23,742.83
<i>Combined Assets</i>	<i>Grand Total</i>	<i>\$78,819.05</i>	<i>\$85,753.15</i>

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

We had very little activity in our checking account during the March-June period (a total of 13 transactions with a net of -\$140) which is not unexpected. What we did see though was tremendous support of the EAPD Fund (formerly the Walter Anderson Fund) with donations of \$1,500. In addition to the donations, both the EAPD and Kevin McCartney funds performed well over the last quarter and both balances are at all-time highs.

Where we are struggling however, is dues. With the switch to the new website last summer (and an online dues payment option) the “active” members list has shrunk. Compared to last year, our checking balance is down ~\$650 (equivalent to ~22 regular member dues). If you need to submit a dues payment, please know that you can do so with a credit card via

The GSM's current fiscal year runs August 1, 2025 to July 31, 2026. A summary of income and expenses for the MSCU checking account for the current fiscal year is provided below.

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

<b>Income:</b>	
<i>Dues payments received:</i>	
By check	\$450.00
Online (new website deducts fee)	\$2,273.14
Donations	\$970.70
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$3,693.84</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>	
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
<i>Donations to GSM Funds from Checking:</i>	
EAPD Fund	\$1,665.00
Online payment processing cost (old website)	\$148.35
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$3,111.00</b>
<b>Net income</b>	<b>-\$613.40</b>

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Organizer</u>
July 25–26, 2026	<a href="#">GSM Summer Field Trip</a>	Downeast, ME	GSM
October 11– 14, 2026	<a href="#">GSA Connects</a>	Denver, CO	GSA
December 7– 11, 2026	<a href="#">AGU Annual Meeting</a>	San Francisco, CA	AGU
March 11–14, 2027	<a href="#">NEGSA</a>	Saratoga Springs, NY	GSA

Please submit events to include on the calendar to the Newsletter Editor: [lindsay.theis@maine.gov](mailto:lindsay.theis@maine.gov)

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**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).\*\***