



GEOSCIENCE
INFORMATION
SOCIETY

newsletter

Number 298 Summer, 2023

ISSN: 0046-5801

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President's Column:

By Linda Musser

As the autumnal equinox approaches, I look forward to our upcoming activities at the Geological Society of America annual meeting in Pittsburgh and our GSIS annual meeting and other sessions in November. We have made good progress on several initiatives including the scanning of the full backfile of the newsletter, currently underway. Information about voting on the slate of new officers may have already arrived in your in-boxes and I encourage you to vote promptly. Please also give some thought to how you would like to be involved with the GSIS in the coming year. Bob Tolliver, the incoming president, will be looking to make appointments after the annual meeting, to take effect in January.

Also happening in January is the co-sponsored meeting with the Atmospheric Science Librarians International. The meeting is hybrid so a trip to Baltimore is not required – but registration is and GSIS members can receive a low rate for this meeting. I also urge members to consider the 2024 conference calendar and give

thought to hosting a gathering of GSIS at a meeting you already plan to attend. The Executive Board has discussed providing funding for networking activities so please let me or another EB member know if you have any ideas. Some upcoming meetings are listed below to spur your imagination!

- AGU, *December 11-15, 2023* (San Francisco, CA)
- ASLI, *Jan.31-Feb.1, 2024* (Baltimore, MD)
- GSA, NE section, *March 17-19, 2024* (Manchester, NH)
- GSA, SE section, *April 15-16, 2024* (Asheville, NC)
- GS, Central sections, *April 21-23, 2024* (Springfield, MO)
- GSA, Rocky Mtn & Cordilleran sections, *May 15-17, 2024* (Spokane, WA)
- ALA Annual, *June 27-July 2, 2024* (San Diego, CA)
- GSA, *September 22-25, 2024* (Anaheim, CA)
- IAMSLIC, *2024*
- ACRL, *2025* (Minneapolis, MN)
- IATUL

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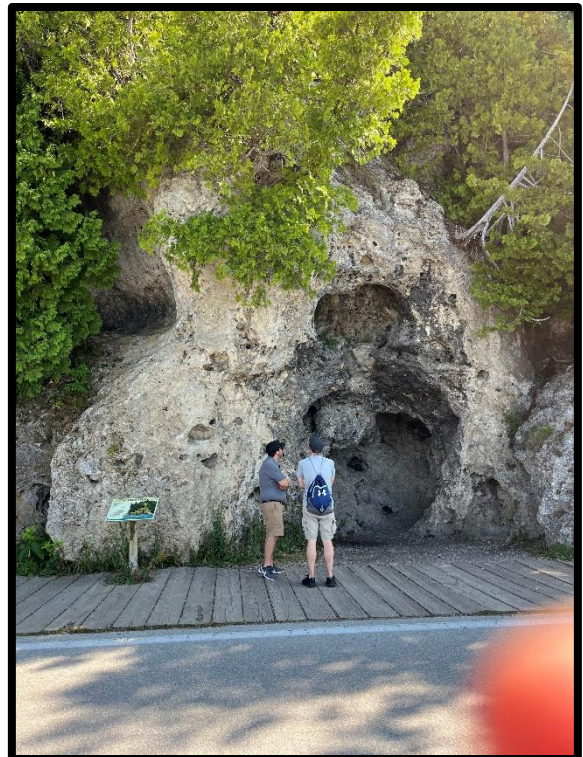
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The GSIS Newsletter is published quarterly, in Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall by the Geoscience Information Society. It is now published Open Access and is supported by GSIS memberships (individual or institutional). All correspondence regarding dues, membership status, and address changes should be directed to the GSIS Secretary. GSIS members are encouraged to contribute content for publication. Please send submissions by e-mail to the Newsletter Co-Editors Amanda Bielskas asb2154@columbia.edu or Michael Noga mnoga@mit.edu.

GeoWonders



Above: I explored Mackinac Island, Michigan, with my family this summer. We found the Arch Rock and Devil's Kitchen rock formations. We also toured the Crystal Cave in Bermuda! An active, underground, ocean-fed cave with crystal clear blue waters.— Ashley Orehek Rossi



Above: The Cheile Dobrogei geological reserve aka Dobrogea Gorges in Southeastern Romania has a total area of almost 11,000 ha. The Calcar Mountains (some of the oldest limestone formations in Europe) have an organic origin coming from the coral reefs that used to populate the tropical waters 205 million years ago. Lower right photo is of an Eastern Black-eared Wheatear on top of one of the rock formations. – Amanda Bielskas

ai4Libraries Conference

Cautiously Embracing the Future of Libraries

Date: October 19, 2023 (9am - 5pm, Eastern)

The ai4Libraries Conference is scheduled to be held virtually from the Georgia Tech Library on **October 19, 2023**, serves as an important platform to explore the potential benefits of AI in libraries. This conference aims to bring together librarians, subject matter experts, practitioners, enthusiasts, and skeptics to exchange ideas, share experiences, and chart a path towards a future where AI plays a significant role in driving library services.

Vice President's Column

By Bob Tolliver

I'll be attending the GSA Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh this October and hope that if you are going to be in Pittsburgh on Sunday, October 14th you might join us for a tour of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh (<https://www.carnegielibrary.org/>). At 10:00 am we will have a tour with one of their Archivists and hopefully see some interesting items from their collections. Lunch afterwards and then we'll see what attendees would like to do after that.

The majority of our GSIS annual meeting events will be virtual again this year. In November we will have our Geoscience Librarianship 101 and the GSIS Award and Business Meeting on November 14-16. GL101 will be the first two days and the GSIS annual meeting events will be on the 16th. In addition, prior to the GSIS Awards, we will have a special session to honor

Sharon Tahirkheli for her contributions to our profession. I hope you will be able to join us virtually for these events.

I plan to have one or two more webinars before the end of the year. One will be our annual Professional Issues Forum and will be scheduled for some time after mid-October. I will follow up when I have a date and send out a call for discussion topics. You are welcome to send me possible topics before then, as well.

This September will be a slightly busier start to fall semester than usual for me. During the last half of September, I will be leaving my current position and moving back east to start a new position at the University of Delaware Library on October 1. Let's see how much stuff I can get rid of by the time you read this!

Movers: What's in this box? Rocks?

Me: Yes!

Mental Health in the Geosciences

Are you interested in supporting geoscientists' mental health and fostering a more inclusive and supportive geoscience community? Consider attending a one-day, NSF-funded workshop [Positive Mental Health in the Geosciences](#), on Thursday, October 19, 2023, from 8:00 am - 5:00 pm (the day following the GSA Connects 2023 in Pittsburgh).

Geoscientists often grapple with stress, anxiety, and isolation. Now, exacerbated by structural racism and the pandemic, we need a collective effort to address mental well-being. Join us to explore the challenges faced by geoscientists and learn about practical solutions implemented by universities, companies, and colleagues. Through engaging discussions and interactive sessions, we will assess the current state of mental health support, define the components of a healthy geoscience community, and identify actionable steps for a community that prioritizes mental health and supports people with all identities. Anyone interested in mental health in the geosciences is welcome to apply. We will prioritize individuals from historically excluded, minoritized backgrounds. A stipend and partial travel support are available. [Apply now](#): The application deadline is Friday, September 15

Mineral Cup 2023

By Cynthia Prosser

The Mineral Cup is a fun, good-natured competition between minerals that has run in September each year since 2017. There is lively lobbying for peoples favorite taking place on several different social media sites including, X (formally Twitter), Mastodon, and Instagram. Voting occurs on its own dedicated site: <http://www.mineralcup.org>.



In their own words; *From the Mineral Cup website:*

Do you like rocks? Are you an avid mineral collector and you've recently moved all your books from the shelves to make space for your best specimens? Do you like to look at the beauty of rare and precious minerals? Are you interested in mineral properties and how we use minerals in everyday life? Or are you just curious and want to learn more about minerals? Or maybe you have fond memories of a long-lost (but not forgotten!) childhood rock collection? Then Mineral Cup is for you!

What is Mineral Cup?

Vote for your favorite mineral each day in September for the annual Mineral Cup, a single-elimination tournament to determine which contender will be crowned Champion with bragging rights as the best mineral of the year. A total of 32 minerals are featured in the tournament: 15 of the previous year's top contenders, a crowd-selected comeback champ returning after elimination in previous years, and 16 new minerals (including ones that you nominate!). Learn more about minerals, cast your votes, recruit friends and allies to join the game, and campaign for your favorite minerals!

How did Mineral Cup begin?

Mineral Cup started in 2017 when [Dr Eddie Dempsey unintentionally started a spirited debate about which mineral was the best](#). In an effort to gain external support for his beloved quartz, he ran the inaugural Mineral Cup on his personal Twitter account. In 2019, the Cup moved to its own dedicated handle and expanded to an international team of volunteers. Eddie handed administration off to Mika McKinnon, who moved the social media game to its own site in 2023. You can find Mineral Cup campaigns on X, Mastodon, Bluesky, Instagram, Mindat, in school classrooms or the hallways of geology departments, and other places where mineral fans congregate.

What makes a mineral a champion?

With no criteria provided, it's up to you to decide what makes a mineral the best each year. It could be for scientific reasons, for aesthetics, or something as nebulous as which contender has the most engaging memes. We never know what will drive votes each year, only that you'll need to recruit and persuade friends, colleagues, and strangers if you want your favourite to survive each round and be crowned champion.

The first two Mineral Cups were won by classic rock-forming minerals, [olivine](#) and [garnet](#). Since then, it's been a silicon-free zone in the winners circle, with contentious [water ice](#) reigning supreme in 2019 when planetary scientists joined forces with figure skating fans. [Magnetite](#) had the most attraction in 2020, while quirky [guetzalcoatlite](#) became the first mineral to win during its inaugural competition year in 2021. After years of enthusiastic campaigns, vibrant [fluorite](#) slowly built enough support to win the championship in 2022. Who will it be in 2023?

Citations: *About Mineral Cup*. Mineral Cup. (n.d.). <https://www.mineralcup.org/about>

Review: SENCER Summer Institute 2023 Links Science to Civic Engagement

By Chris Badurek

The SENCER Summer Institute was held virtually on August 3-6, 2023 with both synchronous and asynchronous content. SENCER is a program of the non-profit National Center for Science and Civic Engagement (NCSE) entitled Science Education for New Civic Engagements and Responsibilities which formed out of research funding to support STEM communities of practice. SENCER is focused on developing a community of STEM educators, including faculty from STEM and science education departments, community college, non-profits, and informal education institutions, who apply STEM to promoting democracy and strengthening civic engagement.

The theme of this conference was *Science Education, Democracy, and Civic Engagement: Building the Community of Practice* and featured an array of long form keynote speakers (e.g., 60 minutes) and short-form lightning talks (e.g., 15 minutes). Presentation topics ranged from science education approaches, water resources, climate change education, universal design for learning in the sciences, advancing DEI in the undergraduate curriculum, and linking classroom experiences to civic engagement activities. The concluding keynote from Cathy Manduca was perhaps the most directly relevant to the geosciences as she is the founder and longtime director of the Science Education Resource Center (SERC) at Carlton College, former director of the National Association of Geoscience Teachers from 2007 to 2019, and also a fellow of the AAAS, the American Geophysical Union (AGU), and the Geological Society of America (GSA). Her keynote linked the relationship of the primarily earth science education work of SERC and the application of geoscience knowledge to improving communities and societal issues.

Overall, the content of this conference and community may be of interest to geoscience educators who are exploring linking classroom activities more directly to civic engagement and societal issues. While the GSA community refers to the importance of geoscience research to improving environmental problems, the SENCER community is more focused on communities of practice where earth science educators can learn new teaching approaches or about resources that address issues like diversity in the sciences and working with non-profit organizations. I recommend sharing information about this community with faculty or with colleagues who may be interested in supporting geoscience programs looking into increasing their civic engagement activities as part of high impact practices in STEM education.

SENCER. (2023). SENCER Summer Institutes. <https://sencer.net/sencer-summer-institutes/>

Musing\$

By Michael Noga

When I was a practicing librarian, I focused on journals in my role as the science collection manager, because they consumed the lion's share of the libraries' budget. I wanted to ensure that we had the best collection for our users. One of the measures that interested me was the paper acceptance rate, because it was considered a proxy for the value of journals in a similar way as acceptance rates are used by prospective students of competitive colleges and universities. I learned about some paper acceptance rates when I served on some society publication committees. Otherwise, I only found acceptance rates when journal editors mentioned them in editorials and reports from their publication committees.

I don't need to know paper acceptance rates anymore, but I recently discovered an editorial in Nature Geoscience (All aboard the transfer train, Nature Geoscience, 16, 549 (2023)) that reveals the percentage of articles that are sent to peer review and what percentage are rejected. The article describes the process for forwarding rejected articles to other Nature publications. I long wondered whether Nature editors did this. The transfer process helps the authors but also provides content for other Nature publications.

The editorial also mentions that transfer of articles from Nature itself to Nature Geoscience is common. I assume this practice is carried out for the other Nature monthlies and specialist journals. You can see how Nature Publishing could attract more of the high-quality scientific literature in its rapid expansion in new journals to compete with the major disciplinary journals from professional societies and other publishers.

The specific journal that accepts an author's article is still important in peer review, but not so much with the distribution of results, with the spread of large journal packages and open access.

CALL FOR PHOTOS!

Calling all women in geoscience!
You can be part of a global
community supporting students
and early career professionals.

The Geological Society of America (GSA) and Association for Women Geoscientists (AWG) are looking for photos of women geoscientists as part of their Pardee Keynote Symposia "P2. Spotlight on Positive and Diverse Female Role Models" which will be held at the GSA Connects 2023 Meeting in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania Pardee Keynote Symposia - Connects 2023 ([geosociety.org](https://www.geosociety.org)). The goal is to demonstrate that there are women working in all branches of geoscience across the globe in the office, lab and field. The photos will be shown in the session and in the Women in Geology Mentor Program Reception, after the session, to illustrate to the next generation the depth and breadth of female geoscientists.

What's Needed

- Two .jpg photos of you at work or play
- Cropped to a square
- Filename: first_last.jpg
- Email to diverse.geos2023@gmail.com

Please Include your name, occupation, employer, and where you are based in the email.

Deadline to contribute is September 22

ATTENTION ALL
Women in Geosciences

CALL FOR PHOTOS!



ABIGAIL BURT, QUATERNARY GEOSCIENTIST
ONTARIO GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
SUDBURY, CANADA

Send us two .jpg photos of **you at work or play**,
cropped to a square, with filename: **first_last.jpg**
(ex. **abigail_burt.jpg**).

Email to diverse.geos2023@gmail.com

Include your name, occupation, employer, and location in the email.

Photos will be featured at the GSA Connects Pardee Keynote Symposia:
Spotlight on Positive and Diverse Female Role Models
in October 2023.



Past GSIS Newsletters Wanted!

Thanks to a project, we now have some older GSIS Newsletters digitized and up in the [GSIS Newsletter Archive](#). We are still missing several years of early issues if you have any and are willing to have them scanned, please let Amanda Bielskas or Linda Musser know. We would be happy to borrow them to get them scanned so we can get them up on the GSIS website. Thanks to Michael Noga who shared many back issues we have been able to fill in a lot of content back to 1986. We are looking for issues from number 1-97, anything published before 1986. If you are interested in a trip through GSIS history, take a look through some of the issues added online!

Newsletter Archive

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2022	Spring (293)	Summer (294)	Fall (295)		
2021	April/May (289)	June/July (290)	Sept/Oct (291)	Dec/Jan (292)	
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Second Call for Abstracts
Association of Earth Science Editors
57th Annual Meeting
Austin, Texas, U.S.A. November 1–5, 2023

Registration is open for the 57th annual meeting of the Association of Earth Science Editors in Austin, Texas. Homewood Suites by Hilton Austin Downtown, 78 East Avenue, has been booked for the AESE technical sessions, and a block of guest rooms has been reserved for those attending. Reservations for the hotel will be made through our personal hotel website. There will an opening reception on Wednesday, November 1, and **technical sessions will take place November 2–3**, followed by a one-day field trip on Saturday, November 4.

We invite interested persons to submit an abstract for a talk based on any earth science–related themes and/or aspects of publishing such material. **Talks will be allocated 20 minutes.** Longer talks and workshops will also be considered; please notify us in advance.

Possible session topics include:

- Editing/publishing as a state/federal agency or a nongovernmental organization: opportunities, challenges, and constraints such as budgets, staffing, and/or time
- Managing the peer review process: handling edits from multiple reviewers while working alongside authors
- Writing and editing for the public: publishing for a variety of stakeholders and audiences, especially those who might be unfamiliar with the subject matter
- Reaching the masses: improving outreach efforts through websites, interactive tools, exhibits, and collections
- Anything from the beginning manuscript to editing, through to printing and dissemination of the material
- Suggestions for other topics are welcome. If you would prefer to chair a session or sit on a panel discussion or are interested in presenting a workshop, we'd love to hear from you as well.

Extended deadline for abstract submission: October 1, 2023

If you have specialized knowledge in any of the areas mentioned above or you know someone who does, please consider giving a talk or workshop or let us know whom we may contact. Help us make this 57th meeting a rewarding and memorable one.

Send abstracts to Carole Ziegler, AESEAustinmeeting@gmail.com, with “AESE 2023 Abstract” in the subject line. Please include author name(s), affiliation, and contact information in your email.

Please visit www.aese.org for more information regarding abstract guidelines, hotel reservations and meeting registration.

