



## A Journey to Everest

By Terry LaFrance, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

**The Story:** For 2 ½ months in the spring of 2001, Terry LaFrance climbed with the International Mountain Guides Inc. Mallory and Irvine Research Expedition. The goal of this expedition, which was a continuation of the search that began in 1999, was to locate artifacts of the 1924 British expedition. Throughout this effort, Terry LaFrance's personal goal was to climb high and be at the right place at the right time for a shot at the summit. Success for the Mallory and Irvine Research Expedition would be confirmation of whether the British climbers were successful in reaching the summit almost three decades before the currently accepted first successful summit attempt in 1953. For Terry, success would be to climb as high as possible and get down in one piece. Hear his first hand account of the expedition, intertwined with highlights of the history behind the famous northeast ridge.

**The Climbing Route:** The north ridge route of Everest is one of three ridges that make up the triangular shape of the mountain. First attempted by the British in the 1920s, the first accepted successful climb of the route was by the Chinese in 1975. Today's expeditions typically set up six camps, with two primary camps used as staging areas, Base Camp at 17,000 ft, and Advance Base Camp at 21,000 ft. The technical climbing commences above 21,000 ft where climbers climb to the North Col at 23,000 ft. The col is a low point between Changste, a mountain to the North of Mt. Everest and the north ridge of Everest. From the north col, climbers push up to 25,500 ft or Camp V, then out onto the north face and ultimately to the high camp at approximately 27,000 ft. The air is obviously very thin at these altitudes and climbers have little time to delay before trying for the summit. The climbers move up through a steep section of approximately 800 ft of rock known as the yellow band and onto the northeast ridge. From here, climbers have about one mile to go to the summit. The hardest climbing however lies between the climbers and the summit. Three rock steps varying from approximately 70 ft to 110 ft in height must be surmounted, along with several exposed rock traverses

that reveal 10,000 ft or so of the north face leading to the Rongbuk glacier below. If the summit is attained, there is of course the decent to contend with...

**About The Speaker:** Terry is a life long resident of New York State, having grown up in Binghamton and Rochester and attending college at SUNY Buffalo. He currently lives in Albany, New York, where by day, he is a civil engineer at the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. After work however, he often heads to the High Peaks Region of the Adirondacks. Over the past nine years, he's gained a wealth of experience climbing the renowned rock and waterfall ice routes of the North Country and has enjoyed many of its' scenic high peaks. From New York, Terry has ventured out on mountaineering challenges around the world. His travels have included far off places like Ecuador, Scotland, and the Himalayas. His climbing goals have varied, from climbing the 3000 ft wall of El Capitan in Yosemite National Park, to tackling the Cassin Ridge on the south face of Denali, Alaska. Through his journeys, Terry has gained a wealth of experience and has prevailed over fear and self-doubt.

The meeting will take place on Thursday, March 21 at the Genesee Inn, 1060 East Genesee Street, Syracuse, NY. There will be a cocktail hour from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Dinner will be at 6:30 p.m. and our featured speaker, Terry LaFrance, will begin his talk at 7:30 p.m. The cost of dinner is \$17 for members, \$20 for non-members, and \$15 for student members. Please RSVP by Monday, March 18 to Bonnie at Parratt-Wolff via e-mail at [bolney@pwinc.com](mailto:bolney@pwinc.com) or 437-1429.

**Directions:** To get to the Genesee Inn, take the Route 690E exit from Route 81S. Take the first exit off of 690 (Teal Avenue) and turn right at the bottom of the off-ramp. Go approximately 1 mile (crossing Erie Boulevard) and turn west (right) onto Genesee Street. The inn is on the south side of the street, between Crouse and University Avenues.

# Calendar

Thursday, March 14, 2002	CNYAPG Monthly Dinner Meeting, Genesee Inn, Syracuse, NY. Terry LaFrance, "A Journey to Everest." From 5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. cocktail hour; followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m., and our speaker's talk will begin at 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, March 20, 2002	BAPG Monthly Dinner Meeting, BAPG Monthly Dinner Meeting. "Eurypterids from the 'Buffalo Pool'" by Dr. Rick Batt, Department of Earth Sciences and Science Education, Buffalo State College. Contact <a href="mailto:lcervi@ene.com">Lea Cervi</a> (e-mail <a href="mailto:lcervi@ene.com">lcervi@ene.com</a> ) or call 716-684-8060).
Saturday, April 6, 2002 SPECIAL EVENT! MARK YOUR CALENDARS!	Lackawanna Coal Mine Tour & Anthracite Heritage Museum. CNYAPG will lead a field trip to the Lackawanna Coal Mine. A coach bus will leave Syracuse at 8:00 a.m., arrive in Scranton in time for a picnic lunch (provided), and will arrive back in Syracuse by 6:00 p.m. Call Sarah McCulloch at 607-836-4400 or e-mail <a href="mailto:sarah@geologic.net">sarah@geologic.net</a> with any questions.
Wednesday, April 10, 2002	Geological Society of America's Birdsall-Dreiss lecturer, Dr. Graham Fogg. Details to follow.

## OUR PRESIDENT'S VOICE

By Bill Morrow

From Antarctica to Mount Everest, CNYAPG has got you covered! At our February meeting, Dr. Amy Leventer from Colgate University gave about 40 guests a great presentation on her numerous expeditions to Antarctica. Dr. Leventer presented in detail the logistics involved with a 60 day cruise – from how many supplies needed, to the training of the scientific crew, as well as how to play foosball on a rolling ship! We learned a great deal about how to conduct an expedition – but also learned about data collection as it relates to climatological studies. Dr. Leventer and her crew used various types of sampling tools to collect up to 25 meters of a continuous core at one location. This process was then repeated as they circumnavigated about one-third of the Antarctic coastal margin. A team of scientists will study the geochemistry, sedimentology, and paleontology of these cores.

Next month's program features one of the NYSDEC's finest. Mr. Terry LaFrance will present a program on his successful ascent of Mount Everest. This program will be enjoyable for all ages, as well as spouses. We hope that you will not only attend, but also bring a guest! PLEASE note the date of the event. In effort to give folks a little more lead time from when their "Technologist" arrives to the actual meeting date, we have moved March's meeting back a week to March 21<sup>st</sup>.

A different CNYAPG sponsor's ad will be posted in each issue of the Technologist. In addition to monthly participation in the Technologist, CNYAPG prepares a September, December, and April newsletter for its members. For more information regarding CNYAPG, please contact Bill Morrow, President (315.437.1429, [wmorrow@pwinc.com](mailto:wmorrow@pwinc.com)) or Lynette Mokry, Secretary (315.446.9120, [LM@BBL-INC.COM](mailto:LM@BBL-INC.COM)).

**First Annual Salary Survey:** Have you ever wondered about how the salary scale of practicing geologists in the Central NY region compares with other areas? Well here is your chance to find out! Our April newsletter will include a one-page members survey concerning: 1) the type of company they work for, 2) company size, 3) primary duties, 4) current title and years of experience, 5) highest academic record, 6) annual salary, and 7) estimated value of "other" compensation. Your responses will be tabulated and presented back to you in our September newsletter. The success of this survey depends on your participation! Please take a few minutes to pull the survey from your April CNYAPG newsletter, fill out, and return it anonymously to us.

The Groundwater Professionals of North Carolina conducted a similar survey a year ago. The median salary from their responses was \$50,000 to \$60,000, and the average "other" compensation was \$7,000.00. It is interesting to note that the group who described themselves as "owners" had both the highest and lowest pay within the responses. This is something to think about for those who are considering establishing their own business!

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