



**"Geology, Climbing and Adventure on the Vinson Massif,
Antarctica's Highest Mountain"
Presented by Dr. Paul Fitzgerald**

The Vinson Massif at 16,067' is the highest, and one of the most remote mountains in Antarctica. It lies in the Ellsworth Mountains, part of the Ellsworth-Whitmore Mountains crustal block that was the most mobile of the West Antarctic microplates. Determining when and why mountains form is quite difficult under the best of circumstances, but is even more difficult when a mountain range is surrounded by ice. In this project, Dr Fitzgerald and his colleagues used low temperature thermochronology on samples collected from a 4 km vertical sampling profile off the western flank of the Vinson Massif to document the denudation history of the mountain range and hence when it formed and possibly why. Fieldwork involved in this project involved climbing the peak to collect the samples, many delays, bad weather, frostbite and mountain rescues.

Presenting October's program is Dr. Paul Fitzgerald, Associate Professor in the Department of Earth Sciences at Syracuse University. His research interests focus on using low temperature thermochronology to better understand the tectonic evolution of orogenic systems, and hence a better understanding of the geologic processes responsible. He has had 15 seasons of fieldwork in Antarctica, but has also worked in the central Alaska Range and is currently involved in

projects in the Basin and Range Province, the Pyrenees and Papua New Guinea, as well as Antarctica. This work is supported by National Science Foundation Funding.

Meeting logistics: The meeting will take place on Thursday, October 16 at the Genesee Inn, 1060 East Genesee Street, Syracuse, NY. A social hour will be held at the Inn from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., followed by a buffet dinner. The dinner will start at 6:30 p.m. and our featured speaker, Dr. Paul Fitzgerald, will begin his program at 7:30 p.m. The cost of dinner is \$20 for members, \$22 for non-members, and \$15 for student members. Please RSVP by Monday, October 13, 2003 to Bonnie at Parratt-Wolff via e-mail at 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

October 16, 2003	CNYAPG Monthly Dinner Meeting, Genesee Inn, Syracuse, N.Y. Dr. Paul Fitzgerald. Geology, Climbing and Adventure on the Vinson Massif, Antarctica's Highest Mountain. From 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. there will be a social hour, followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. Our speaker's talk will begin at 7:30 p.m.
October 3 - 5, 2003	34 th Binghamton Geomorphology Symposium Ice Sheet Geomorphology – Past and Present Processes and Landforms. This conference is being organized by Dr. Fleisher, SUNY Oneonta (fleishpj@oneonta.edu) and Dr. Knuepfer, Binghamton University (Peter.Knuepfer@binghamton.edu).
November 21, 2003	CNYAPG Monthly Dinner Meeting, Genesee Inn, Syracuse, N.Y. Dr. Karen Harpp. Geology and the Galapagos Islands. From 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. there will be a social hour, followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. Our speaker's talk will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Our President's Voice –

I would like to thank those of you that attended our first meeting at Green Lakes State Park on September 18th. I was unable to attend due to work obligations, but hear that Dr. Barclay gave an excellent presentation. The weather certainly cooperated!

A couple weeks ago I attended the New York State Geological Association (NYSGA) Diamond Jubilee Field Conference at SUNY Oneonta. For those that did not attend this, or past conferences, it is a program in which professors from several local universities lead field trips describing various aspects of the local geologic setting. I attended a field trip lead by Dr. Jay Fleisher entitled *Glacial Regime and Depositional Environments along the Retreating Laurentide Ice Sheet, Northeastern Appalachian Plateau, New York* which was very informative and entertaining. The weather was terrific, and the field trip and group were exceptional. I urge you all to consider attending future NYSGA field trips for “hands-on” learning, and a chance to see the various geologic environs of our great State!

David Lay

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Membership news – For those of you who have not yet renewed your membership, please do so now! To renew your membership or become a new member, simply complete the membership form which is available on our website at www.cnyapg.org! Membership is only \$25 per year and all money received is used for these newsletters and our monthly meetings.

Future programming –

CNYAPG has some great programs lined up for 2003-2004. Our November speaker will be Dr. Karen Harpp (Assistant Professor at Colgate University) talking about Geology and the Galapagos Islands.

Wanted!

CNYAPG needs a computer-oriented volunteer to update our monthly website. This task requires about 30 minutes per month for someone familiar with maintaining an existing website. For more information about this important position, please contact Bill Morrow at (315) 437-1429.

A different CNYAPG sponsor's ad will be posted in each issue of the Technologist. For more information regarding CNYAPG, please contact David Lay, President (315.446.9120) or DWL@BBL-INC.com