



## **Tales from the Galapagos Islands: Fieldwork and Research on Darwin's Volcanoes"**

**Presented by Dr. Karen Harpp**

The Galapagos Islands have long been known for their unique flora and fauna, primarily because of their importance to the evolutionary theories of Charles Darwin in the 1800s. This volcanic island chain, however, has only recently been studied in detail by geologists, and proves to be a fascinating and complex system for helping us understand the origins of volcanic islands, as a window into Earth's interior.

The Galapagos are located off the coast of South America and are entirely volcanic in origin, the most recent eruption having occurred in 1998. In this presentation, we will explore a series of research projects carried out both on land and at sea around the archipelago that address such questions as the potential for imminent eruption on the westernmost islands using high precision GPS studies, the origins of small, enigmatic volcanoes in the northern archipelago, and the relationship between geological and biological processes in the islands. We will also consider the unique challenges posed when doing fieldwork in the Galapagos, including fresh volcanic terrains, lack of water sources in the field, concerns about contamination of plants and insects between islands, and the all-too-exciting ocean crossings between volcanoes.

Presenting November's program is Dr. Karen Harpp, Assistant Professor in the Geology Department at Colgate University. Her research interests are focused

on using chemical, geological, and field techniques to study volcanological processes, particularly the origin of ocean islands and mid-ocean ridge processes. She has been studying the Galapagos Islands for almost a decade, most recently with the involvement of Colgate undergraduate students. This work is supported by the National Science Foundation.

**Meeting logistics:** The meeting will take place on Thursday, November 20 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. Karen Harpp, 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, November 17, 2003 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 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

November 20, 2003	CNYAPG Monthly Dinner Meeting, Genesee Inn, Syracuse, N.Y. Dr. Karen Harpp. <b>Geology and the Galapagos Islands.</b> 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 –

We had a terrific program last Thursday at the Genesee Inn; Dr. Fitzgerald gave a most interesting presentation, with some of the most beautiful photographs of Antarctica I have ever seen! The logistics and hazards of field geology in Antarctica, and especially within the Ellsworth-Whitmore Mountain range certainly dwarf the problems we normally encounter in the consulting field!

I would like to take this opportunity early in the season to urge all of you that have allowed your membership to lapse to renew! Also, please inform your colleagues of our association, and encourage them to attend a meeting to see what CNYAPG is about. We feel that our organization is vital to professional geologists in central New York State, providing a forum for like minded individuals to meet, and expand our knowledge base. CNYAPG is also closely associated with other associations lobbying for Professional Geologist legislation in New York State. We are only as energetic and informed as our members. A diverse and involved membership is essential to the continued health and vigor of the CNYAPG, please get involved!

David Lay

## Membership news –

For those of you, who have not yet renewed your membership, please do so now! If you renew now, your membership will be current through December 2004. To renew your membership or become a new member, simply complete the membership form which is available on our website at [www.cnyapg.org](http://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. We are currently discussing a spring fieldtrip to Howe Caverns Schoharie County with our colleagues at SUNY Oneonta.

## CNYAPG.org!

We at CNYAPG would like to extend our appreciation to Sean Pepling whom has generously offered to fulfill the need as webmaster. Sean is a longstanding member and past officer whom again stepped up to the plate! Thanks again, Sean. Please visit our website at [www.cnyapg.org](http://www.cnyapg.org).

# GeoLogic

GeoLogic NY, Inc.

Direct Push Probe Services  
(GeoProbe®)

Subsurface Explorati'on & Drilling

NYS Economic Development and  
NYSDOT Certified Woman-Owned  
Business Enterprise

CNY 607-836-4400

[www.geologic.net](http://www.geologic.net)

WBE

214

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](mailto:DWL@BBL-INC.com)

<http://www.cnyapg.org>