



Onondaga CSI - Tales of the Tully Valley

Presented by Mr. William Kappel, Hydrologist

United States Geological Survey, Ithaca, NY

September 20, 2007

The hydrogeology of the Tully Valley never ceases to amaze, as our knowledge continues to evolve. Beginning in the Spring of 2006, CNYAPG members participated in walkabouts of both the east and west brine field areas at the southern end of the Tully Valley – looking for any information that would lead to a better understanding of hydrogeologic conditions in and near these former brine fields. Results of these walkabouts led to further study of joint and fracture openings above the brine fields, the ‘discovery’ of a solar pond, and the use of dendrochronology in an attempt to determine fracture history (forensic hydrogeology at its best!).

Furthermore, in the major tributary valleys to the Tully Valley, Rattlesnake Gulf and Rainbow Creek, large landslides – larger than the 1993 slide, are ongoing but few are aware of their presence. These landslide areas can and do, at times, contribute more turbidity to Onondaga Creek than do the ever-present mudboils. Information on these landslides and an update on the mudboils are also part of this CSI presentation.

Presenting September’s talk is William Kappel of the U.S. Geological Survey in Water Resources Division, Ithaca New York. Mr. Kappel has been with the USGS since 1979 and specializes in water-resource investigations. Mr. Kappel’s investigations include aquifer mapping studies in upstate New York and approximately 10 years of ground-water study in the Niagara Falls region. More recent investigations include the hydrogeology of the Tully Valley and mudboil activity, the 1993 LaFayette mudslide, and the Retsof Mine Collapse - Genesee Valley Aquifer study team. Current investigations include Onondaga Valley Aquifer study -- movement of natural brines to Onondaga Lake, and the study of small aquifer systems in the Tug Hill Plateau.

CNYAPG

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<http://www.cnyapg.org>



MEETING LOGISTICS: The meeting will take place on Thursday, September 20, 2007 at Onondaga Community College, Room 369 Ferrante Hall (3rd Floor). Directions to OCC are provided below.

A social hour will start at 5:30 pm and will be followed by a dinner starting at 6:30 p.m. The main presentation by Mr. Kappel will begin at about 7:30 p.m.

The cost of dinner is \$15 for members; \$17 for non-members, the first five students will receive free sponsorship to the meeting. People may also attend the presentation only for a nominal fee of \$3. Please RSVP by Monday, September 17th to Annette at info@pwinc.com or (315) 437-1429.

Directions to Onondaga Community College (OCC) <http://www.sunyocc.edu/>

From North of Syracuse, Route 81

- Take Rt. 81 south to exit 17 (Brighton Ave.).
- Take first left onto State St.
- Continue to second light, take right turn, followed by a quick left onto Salina St.
- Continue to intersection of Rt. 173 (W. Seneca Turnpike), take a right.
- Continue on Rt. 173 1.8 miles to intersection of Rt. 175. Bear left onto Rt. 175.
- Continue 0.8 miles to second traffic light. Turn right at College entrance.

From South of Syracuse, Route 81

- Take Rt. 81 north to exit 16 (Nedrow).
- Turn left off exit on to Salina Street (Rt. 11) to Rt. 173 (W. Seneca Turnpike).
- Turn left on to Rt. 173 and continue 1.8 miles to intersection of Rt. 175. Bear left onto Rt. 175.
- Continue on Rt. 175 0.8 miles to second traffic light. Turn right at College entrance.

From Downtown Syracuse

- Take Salina St. south to Rt. 173 (W. Seneca Turnpike) and turn right.
- Continue on Rt. 173 1.8 miles to intersection of Rt. 175. Bear left onto Rt. 175.
- Continue on Rt. 175 0.8 miles to second traffic light. Turn right at College entrance.

From New York State Thruway, East or West

- Take Thruway exit #39 to Rt. 690 East.
- Continue on Rt. 690 to Rt. 695.
- Bear left on Rt. 695 to Fairmount/Rt. 5.
- Turn right on Rt. 5 (West Genesee St.) and follow to third traffic light.
- Turn left to Rt. 173 (Onondaga Rd.) and proceed 4 miles. Turn right at College entrance.

Location of Ferrante Hall: See map on next page.

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