



Granite State Geologist

The Newsletter of the Geological Society of New Hampshire,
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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Over the past year, I've had the privilege of watching an idea grow into something truly meaningful for our community. What began as a casual conversation among a group of geologists—meeting one Thursday a month over a few well-earned beers—has evolved into the creation of the John Cotton Scholarship. I am incredibly impressed by the dedication of the volunteers and donors who brought this vision to life. Through the formation of four focused committees and countless hours of effort, we worked diligently and consistently to turn a simple idea into a lasting program.

Today, we are proud to have raised over \$20,000 to support up-and-coming geologists, with applications currently out and awards anticipated this spring for field work opportunities. At its core, this initiative is about supporting the foundation of our science—boots-on-the-ground mapping—and ensuring that students have the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in the field. Even more exciting, this is not a one-time effort; we are establishing what we hope will be a multi-year, and perhaps even perpetual, scholarship program that continues to invest in young geologists.

In an industry where we often look around the room and see an average age north of 40, this effort represents an important step forward. It's a reminder that our profession is vibrant, impactful, and full of rewarding career paths for those just starting out. I encourage all of you to help spread the word about the John Cotton Scholarship and to support aspiring geologists wherever you can. Together, we can continue to strengthen the future of geologic sciences in New Hampshire.

-- Abby

DATES TO REMEMBER

April 7, 2026 – **New Hampshire Geological Survey Annual Mapping Workshop 2026**. Hybrid; NHDES/online.

April 23, 2026 – **GSNH Spring dinner meeting**. At the Derryfield in Manchester; see page 21 for a reservation form.

May 2-3, 2026 – **New England Gem & Mineral Show 2026**. Coolidge Hall at the Topsfield Fairground. <https://www.northshorerock.org/our-show/>

May 9-10, 2026 – **Southeastern New Hampshire Mineral Club 2026 Rock, Gem and Mineral Show**, Dover Elks Lodge #184, 282 Durham Road, Dover, NH. <https://efmls.org/clubdetails/southeastern-new-hampshire-mineral-club/>

May 29-31, 2026 – **Friends of the Pleistocene 2026 Field Trip**. The field trip will visit the Albany/Conway and Gorham/Berlin area of the Eastern White Mountains. *Tills, Moraines, and Associated Fluvial/Lacustrine Glacial Deposits in New Hampshire's Eastern White Mountains* to be led by Woody Thompson, Bob Newton, and Dan Tinkham. More information available soon.

June 11, 2026 – **GSNH summer Board meeting**. Online.

June 27-28, 2026 – **Gilsum Rock Swap 2026**. Gilsum Elementary School and Community Center, 640 Route 10, Gilsum, NH. <https://gilsum.org/rockswap/>

What's Your Board Been Doing?

The GSNH Board of Directors met on Thursday March 12th via Zoom. They discussed the upcoming April meeting (see separate information in this newsletter) and the summer field trip. There was also talk of updating the look of the website, and making it easier to use!

New Hampshire Geological Survey Update

By Shane Csiki, State Geologist and Director

March 2026

In many of these updates during the past 5 years, NHGS has updated everyone on the status and news with our most visible programs and initiatives: including the Groundwater Level Monitoring Network, Geologic Mapping Program, Stream Crossing Initiative, and Flood Hazards efforts. These initiatives are where much of NHGS' efforts are dedicated. There's one key program that we have not extensively covered . . . the New Hampshire Water Well Inventory. NHGS is the repository of the

statewide Water Well Inventory, and NHGS staff member, Tina Byrd is the steward of the inventory for the state. So, this seems like a good time to update you on this program!

Tina Byrd has been with NHGS in this role since 2018. Born and raised in Manchester, Tina processes incoming well completion reports submitted to the state, both in paper and electronic form. She also performs quality control review of the well completion information in the inventory to ensure it is accurate and timely, and thus, works hard to maintain the integrity of this statewide inventory and resource.

The Water Well Inventory within NHDES is jointly administered as a partnership between NHGS and NHDES' Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau. Each water well drilled in New Hampshire is required to have a completion report submitted under the Water Well Board law and rules. As many of you know, these reports collectively provide valuable information about the geologic character of the state, including among many other features, depth of bedrock. Many data elements from these reports are available through NHDES' OneStop. The paper records submitted since 1984 reside in file cabinets in NHGS' office. Many of the reports have diagrams, drawings and additional geologic information which are not captured in OneStop, and thus, represent a store of information about wells and the subsurface that are "locked away" in file cabinets. NHGS commonly receives requests for this information.

To address the issue of making these "locked away" paper copies available to the public – not to mention that the reports themselves are beginning to show their age – NHGS recently received a Data Preservation grant to continue the scanning of these reports in electronic PDF format. The goal is that the paper scans will be made available live online for each location, so that the additional information and diagrams accompanying each report will all be readily available. This will be a multi-year effort. Our current grant involves the completed scanning and public availability of reports from municipalities in Rockingham, southern Strafford and eastern Hillsborough Counties. Rebecca LeCain, in NHGS, is coordinating the execution of the project. Scanning is currently underway, with the expectation that this group of reports will be freely available online sometime in the late winter/spring of 2027. NHGS anticipates continuing this project in future cycles to gradually make these reports similarly available for other areas of the state, with the long-term goal of completing this for the entire state.

This project is important to support the long-term stewardship of the Water Well Inventory, and to ensure that the subsurface information contained in these reports is available for generations to come.

GSNH Grant Supplies in Use!

We got a note from Kelly Cote, a first grade teacher at Woodman Park School, thanking GSNH for the supply grant. She said,

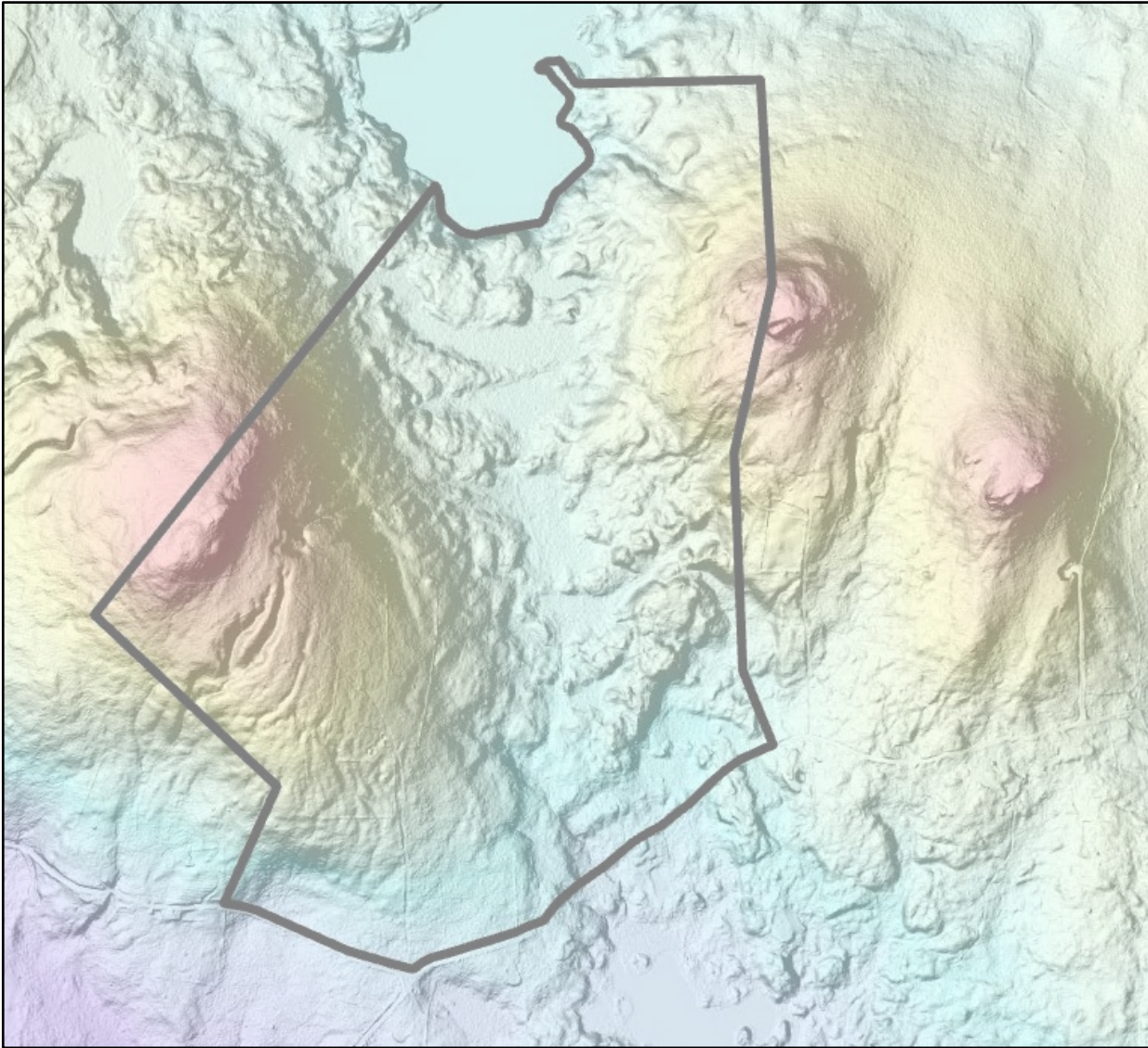
We are excited to share that we have finally reached the subjects within our curriculum where we can start using the wonderful learning tools that the GSNH grant purchased for our first graders! First graders have begun learning about the Sun, Earth, the Moon, and their relationship to each other. We are discovering what causes day and night and the Sun, Earth, Moon model was instrumental in illustrating this concept for our students! Attached are a couple of pictures of students exploring and interacting with the model. As you push on the handle, the Earth rotates, the moon orbits the Earth, all while the Earth and moon are orbiting the Sun. It is such an awesome learning tool!...

Our next unit focuses on the Earth and different types of rocks. We will send along more photos as we use 3D Earth layer model and rock/geode collections! Thank you so much for supporting education and extending learning opportunities for our first graders!



Friends of the Pleistocene – Tills, Moraines, and Associated Fluvial/Lacustrine Glacial Deposits in New Hampshire's Eastern White Mountains

See details below regarding the 87th annual reunion of the Friends of the Pleistocene on May 29-31.



The official Registration Form containing many details will be out within a few weeks. All participants are responsible for their own lodging. A block of rooms is available at the Town & Country for those who want to book early:

Call 603-466-3315 - <https://www.townandcountryinnandresort.com/>

Questions?: Contact Dan Tinkham @ daniel.tinkham@gza.com or 703-623-7785

Columnar joints in the Ossipee Mountains Rhyolite

By Nelson Eby

Columnar joints, which form by thermal contraction during cooling of lava flows and tuffs (Fig. 1), are common in basalts (Fig. 2), but are much less common in rhyolites. Notable examples of columnar joints in rhyolite are the Yellowstone Plateau rhyolites, Bishop tuff (California), and thick ash flow sheets in caldera complexes. The Ossipee Mountains of New Hampshire are an example of a caldera complex that formed ~122 million years ago.

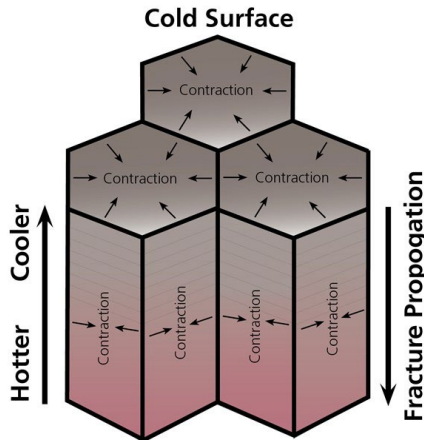


Figure 1. Cooling of lava flow causes contraction leading to tensile stresses and formation of columnar fracture patterns. Source: US National Park Service

Figure 2. Columnar joints formed in a basalt lava flow. Vik, Iceland. Photo by N. Eby

The Ossipee columnar rhyolites (Fig. 3) are found on the Bald Knob trail cutoff (43.72723, -71.30398 • Elevation: 491 m). The columnar blocks are tilted ~30 degrees to the East (bearing ~ 85 Degrees) and are about 0.3 m in diameter and ~ 1.2 m long. Saturation geothermometers give temperatures of 921°C (zircon) and 894°C (apatite). Thermodynamic calculations using the PELE computer code give a liquidus temperature of 926°C. Thus, the emplacement temperature for the rhyolites was greater than 900°C. At the time of emplacement the Ossipee rhyolites were hotter than the Bishop tuff (740 – 780°C) and the Yellowstone rhyolites (720 – 850°C) which also formed columnar joints during cooling. However, these temperatures are significantly less than the 1100 to 1200°C temperatures of basalt lava flows. The size of the columns is



Figure 3. Ossipee columnar rhyolites. Photo by Bernie Volz

inversely related to the cooling rate. A rough calculation, assuming only conductive cooling and a well-insulated base with top dominated cooling, gives a cooling time to ambient temperature of ~40 days.



The next time you're hiking in the Ossipee Mountains pay a visit to this unique, for New Hampshire, geologic feature. If you want to know more about the geology of the Ossipee Mountains, the Lakes Region Conservation Trust publishes a pamphlet on the geology (*The Geologic History of the Ossipee Mountains of New Hampshire*).

January 2026 Meeting Recap


Our January meeting was held on Thursday, January 22 via Zoom. William Stefanov, the Senior Earth System Scientist within the Astromaterials Research and Exploration Science (ARES) Division at NASA, provided a presentation on The NASA Earth Science Disasters Program – the View from Space. A few example slides from the presentation are shown below; for more information, reach out to Will at william.l.stefanov@nasa.gov.

How NASA Uses Satellite Imagery

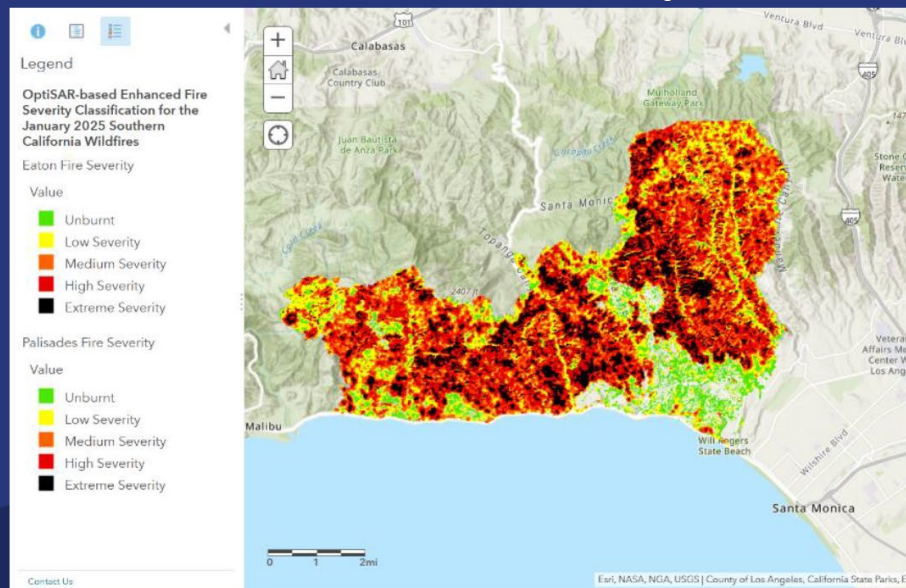
- The Disasters Response Coordination System (DRCS) leverages satellite data to provide timely, global situational awareness during emergencies.
- They help emergency responders make life-saving and life-sustaining decisions during hurricanes and other natural disasters.



The DRCS used images of Hurricanes Milton and Helene taken by astronauts onboard the ISS.



LA Fires – Burn Severity



Calling all Geology Students!

The Geologic Society of New Hampshire is now accepting scholarship applications for the John Cotton Geology Scholarship! To be eligible to apply, a student must be at least one of the following:

1. Pursuing their geological sciences degree from an accredited university or college in New Hampshire;
2. Be a New Hampshire resident pursuing a geosciences degree from any accredited university or college; or
3. Be requesting a scholarship for a project focused on New Hampshire geology.

The deadline to submit a complete application is March 31, 2026. Priority will be given to students whose study/research aligns with John's career interests of "boots on the ground" groundwater resource mapping and New Hampshire surficial and bedrock mapping. For more information about John Cotton's story and the application portal, please visit the [Geologic Society of New Hampshire's JC Scholarship website](#).

What a Solar Superstorm Could Mean for the US

U.S. Geological Survey, December 10, 2025:

<https://www.usgs.gov/news/featured-story/what-a-solar-superstorm-could-mean-us>

If a geomagnetic storm as large as the famed “Carrington Event” of 1859 were to occur today, it could adversely affect telecommunications and electric power transmission systems across the U.S., especially in the Midwest and the East Coast.



Northern lights drape the night sky in Golden, CO, on November 11, 2025.

Sources/Usage: *Public Domain.* [View Media Details](#)

Vibrant Lights, Minor Disruptions

On November 11, 2025, people across the United States looked up in awe. The northern lights, usually reserved for places like Canada and Alaska, were instead visible as far south as Alabama and Florida. The vibrant display of auroras was caused by a strong geomagnetic storm, the result of a burst of solar activity that sent charged particles racing toward Earth hours earlier.

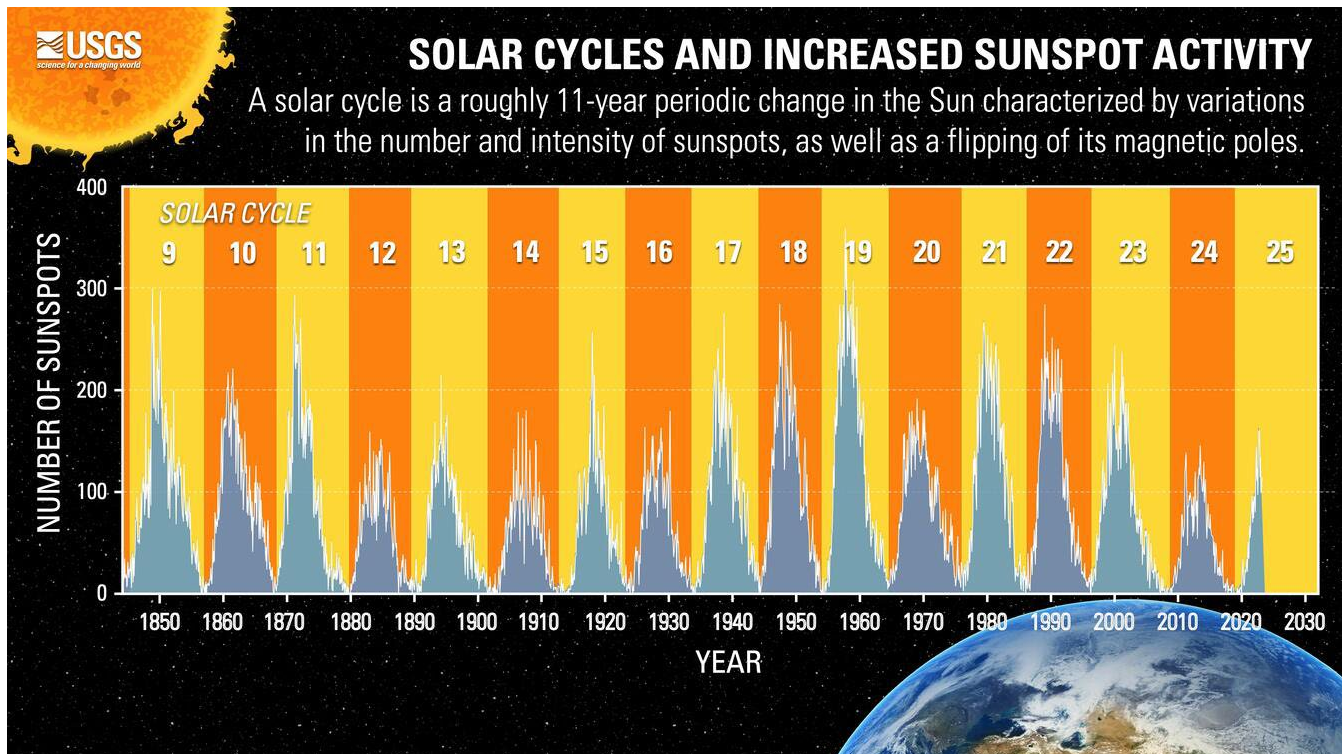
The geostorm caused only minor disruptions, such as a 30-minute blackout of high-frequency radio transmissions across Europe, Africa, and Asia, as well as delaying the launch of NASA’s ESCAPEDE

satellite. However, it did serve as a reminder that the Sun is still currently in an active phase, and with that comes an increased potential for “space weather” events that can affect the technologies on Earth that we rely on every day.

Understanding Geomagnetic Storms

The Sun follows an approximately 11-year cycle of magnetic activity. As it passes through the [peak of Solar Cycle 25](#) and enters the early declining phase of the cycle, increased activity continues to produce more [sunspots](#), [solar flares](#), and [coronal mass ejections](#). These solar eruptions can send massive waves of energy into space. If one of these eruptions is directed toward Earth, it can disturb our planet’s magnetic field and trigger a geomagnetic storm. Other recent notable events occurred in May 2024, January 2025, and June 2025.

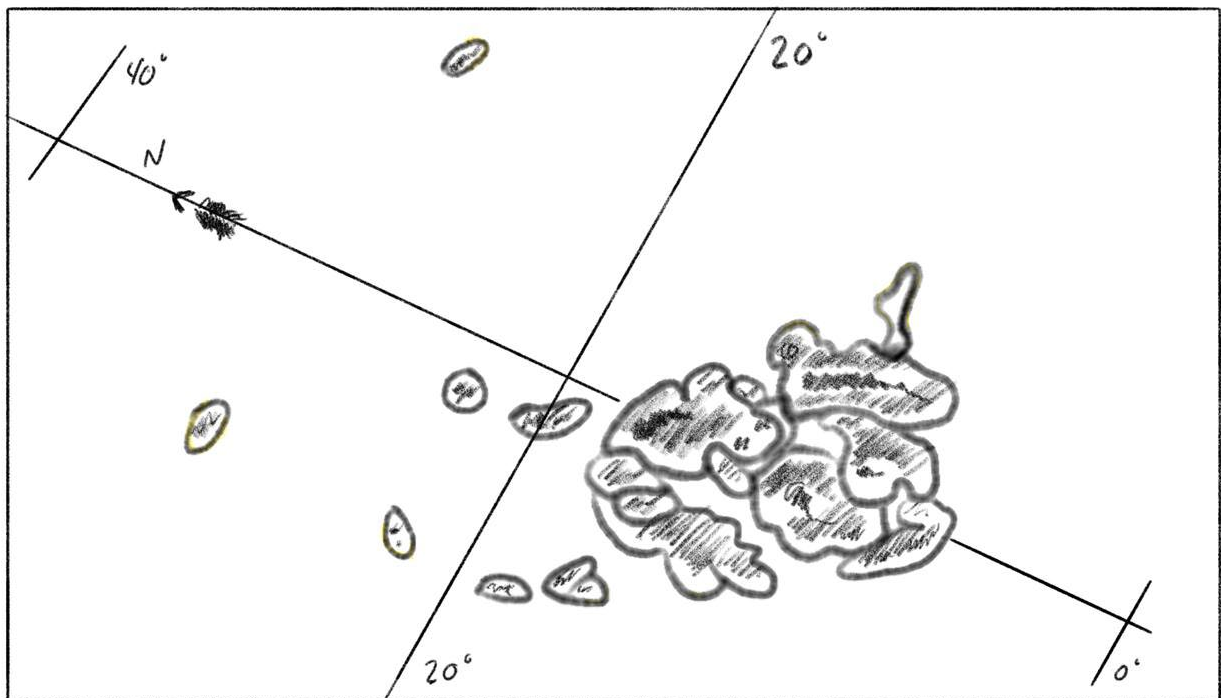
Although these geostorms have [occurred throughout history](#), their potential impacts to modern society have grown as our dependence on technology has increased. Today, geomagnetic storms can interfere with satellite operations, disrupt GPS and radio communications, and in more extreme cases, adversely affect electric-power transmission systems and lead to widespread blackouts.



The graphic shows the last 17 solar cycles and their related increased sunspot activity. A solar cycle is a roughly 11-year periodic change in the Sun characterized by variations in the number and intensity of sunspots, as well as a flipping of its magnetic poles. The table shows the peaks and troughs of solar activity from when measurements began in 1850 until today. Sources/usage: Public Domain.

A Historical Benchmark: The Carrington Event

One of the most well-known examples of an extreme geomagnetic storm is the “Carrington Event” of 1859. Named after British astronomer Richard Carrington, who observed the solar flare that preceded it, the geostorm caused widespread disruption to telegraph systems, which were the backbone of global communication at the time. Operators reported sparks, fires, and electric shocks. If an event of that magnitude occurred today, the consequences could be far more significant. Modern infrastructure, including satellites, navigation systems, and electrical grids, is far more powerful, complex, and interconnected than it was in the 19th century. One failure could have a cascading effect across many of these networks. Automated electronic functions could falter. Blackouts could affect not just neighborhoods, but entire regions. Flights at multiple airports could be delayed or cancelled. And although these disruptions may only last for a few seconds, in a worst-case scenario, they could go on for days or weeks.



Reproduction of original "Solar sketch, September 1, 1859, by R. C. Carrington"

Reproduction of original "Solar sketch, September 1, 1859, by R. C. Carrington." The original sketch was the first solar pulse and geomagnetic storm ever recorded, undertaken for the Royal Astronomical Society by astronomer Richard Christopher Carrington. Sources/uses: Public Domain.

New USGS Research Maps the Modern Risk

To better understand ground-level magnetic-storm hazards, USGS scientists developed a [new map of geoelectric fields such as those that would be generated in the Earth by a Carrington-scale storm](#).

Geoelectric fields are natural electric currents that flow underground when solar storms disturb Earth's magnetic field. These currents vary depending on the local geology and can be stronger in some regions than others.

Using decades of geomagnetic data and Earth conductivity measurements from across the country, the study found that the Eastern and Midwestern U.S. would be most affected. The bedrock beneath these regions, which include many of the nation’s largest population centers and critical infrastructure, is more exposed to charged geoelectric fields that can interfere with electric-power systems. In some areas, expected magnetic field strengths would be enough to stress or damage high-voltage transformers and potentially lead to massive power outages.

“This work demonstrates that an intense magnetic storm could be far more hazardous than what the electric power transmission industry is prepared for,” said Jeffrey J. Love, USGS geophysicist and advisor for geomagnetic research. “These large storms are 100-year-type events, so although rare, they are still potentially consequential.”



Northern Lights (Aurora borealis) and outdoor electrical switchgear at winter night, snow field. By Alexandr Patshin, Shutterstock: <https://www.shutterstock.com/image-photo/northern-lights-aurora-borealis-outdoor-electrical-1081616435>

Monitoring and Mitigating the Risk

USGS plays a key role in monitoring and understanding space weather. Through a network of ground-based magnetic observatories, USGS provides real-time data on geomagnetic activity. These data support national and international efforts to [forecast](#) and respond to space weather events.

In addition to monitoring, USGS conducts [magnetotelluric surveys](#) to understand how Earth's subsurface geology influences the strength of geoelectric fields. This information helps utilities and emergency planners assess where infrastructure may be most vulnerable and prioritize mitigation strategies.

Looking Ahead

As Solar Cycle 25 unfolds, more geomagnetic storms and their impressive auroras will continue. Most will be mild, but the potential for a major event remains. The November auroras were a dazzling reminder of Earth's connection to the Sun, but they also highlight the importance of preparedness. With tools like the new geoelectric hazard map, USGS is helping the nation better understand and mitigate the hazards of space weather. By combining long-term monitoring, scientific modeling, and public outreach, we are working to ensure that when the Sun sends its next big storm, the U.S. will be ready.

Renew Your Membership for 2026!

Consider renewing your GSNH membership for 2026 today! With your membership, you get a discount on dinner meetings and field trips, information of upcoming events of interest to the geological community, voting privileges at Society business meetings, and automatic subscription to this newsletter! Membership dues also help to support outreach for the greater community, including teaching grants.

See the last page of this newsletter for a membership renewal application.

Other Geology News

See below for a roundup of recent geology articles that caught the interest of GSNH members:

The Green River flows 'uphill.' Geologists think they finally know why.

By Andrew Paul, Popular Science, February 2, 2026.

<https://www.popsci.com/environment/why-green-river-flows-uphill/>

The Green River flows through a canyon almost 2.5 miles high, cutting through a huge rock mass that predated the river by millions of years. It merged with the Colorado River millions of years ago, changing the continental divide and creating new habitat boundaries for wildlife that changed their evolution. But how did it cut through rock apparently uphill, particularly given the lack of tectonic

activity to change bedrock orientation? Scientists have found evidence of a lithospheric drip that caused a layer of the Earth's crust to dip into the mantle, causing the land above to dip down. When the layer breaks off, the land then appears to bounce back. The atmospheric drip mechanism may explain other strange erosional features around the world.

An Asteroid Might Slam Into the Moon in 2032—and Create a Fiery Flash That's Visible to Earthlings, New Research Suggests

By Margherita Bassi, Smithsonian Magazine, February 9, 2026.

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/an-asteroid-might-slam-into-the-moon-in-2032-and-create-a-fiery-flash-thats-visible-to-earthlings-new-research-suggests-180988160/>

Early in 2025, the 200-foot diameter asteroid 2024 YR4 was briefly in the news because it was calculated to have a 3.1 percent chance of hitting Earth – the highest probability of a strike by an object of that size identified by NASA. It didn't hit the Earth, but as it moves through space, it now has a slightly higher likelihood of hitting the Moon: 4.3 percent. Scientists studied the asteroid's dimensions and path, and have calculated that it may hit on December 22, 2026, creating a flash visible from Earth and ejecting 1.1 million tons of debris into space. This impact, if it happens, would be a rare natural experiment to evaluate impact craters.

'A whole lost culture': the Irishman reviving the forgotten sport of stone lifting

From the Guardian, February 14, 2026.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2026/feb/14/stone-lifting-sport-irish-culture-indiana-stones>

It's not directly related to the science of geology, but GSNH newsletter readers may get a kick out of this story of David Keohan's quest to identify lifting stones, used as tests of strength.

Call for Articles

Have a geological story you want to share with your fellow geologists? Did you go on a field trip or just see a cool geological feature in your travels? Feel free to submit to the GSNH newsletter, published quarterly. The submission deadlines are March 1, June 1, September 1, and December 1, but content can be submitted any time for inclusion in the next newsletter article. Send to jlambert@nobis-group.com. For more details, see the submission guidelines at the GSNH website:

<http://www.gsnh.org/submission-guidelines.html>.

Legislative Committee Update – March 2026

By Tom Fargo

Below is a list of 2026 NH General Court (House and Senate) Bills that are potentially relevant to members of the Geological Society of New Hampshire. This table lists bills identified by keyword searches completed on March 12, 2026.

Bill Number	Title	Bill Description	Bill Status
Key Word “Environ”			
HB 97-FN Held over from 2025 session	making an appropriation to the department of environmental services for wastewater infrastructure projects.	This bill makes an appropriation (currently listed as \$15 Million) to the department of environmental services for eligible wastewater projects.	Voted Inexpedient to Legislate by full House 01/07/2026.
HB 392 Held over from 2025 session	(New Title) directing the dissolution of the department of health and human services' office of health access and the department of environmental services' functions for environmental justice.	This bill directs the dissolution of the department of health and human services' office of health access and the department of environmental services' functions for environmental justice, and requires certain programs administered by the office of health access to be transferred to other divisions or offices.	Voted Inexpedient to Legislate by full Senate 02/18/2026.
HB 1089	extending the authorization of the department of environmental services for the evaluation and mitigation of new community water system contamination risks.	Under this bill, the department shall adopt rules pursuant to RSA 541-A specifying criteria and procedures to ensure a groundwater withdrawal less than 57,600 gallons over any 24-hour period from a new source of water for a community water system as defined by RSA 485:1-a and subject to RSA 485:8 does not cause an unmitigated impact to an existing private water supply well in accordance with RSA 485-C:21, V-c(a), <i>RSA 485-C:21, V-c(j)</i> , or <i>RSA 485-C:21, V-c(c)</i> .	Voted Ought to Pass by full House on 02/19/2026. Currently in Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
HB 1426-FN	requiring the department of environmental services to employ certified personnel in each program area.	This bill states: The department of environmental services shall seek, through recruitment and retention efforts, training, or state contracting to ensure that each of its program areas that have licenses or certifications have at least one certified individual, either as a direct employee or through a contracted arrangement, to address program-related matters and any issues that may arise in the course of its operations. The department may use existing appropriations, federal grants, or program fees for costs associated with training and certification under this section. A certified individual shall be an employee who holds a current, valid certification or license in and from the program area they serve. Certified individuals employed by or contracted with a department	Voted Ought to Pass with Amendment by full House on 01/28/2026. Referred to House Finance Committee on 02/12/2026.

		of environmental services program area shall not be required to comply with certification maintenance requirements that present a conflict of interest, including but not limited to submitting work product to the department to maintain hours of work experience. Certified individuals employed by the department of environmental services shall not be responsible for paying licensing or certification fees to a department of environmental services program while so employed. No certified individual shall be liable for damages arising from their duties to carry out the statutory duty and regulatory requirements of their respective program at the department of environmental services	
HB 1478-FN	requiring the department of environmental services to revise the rules for proposed new landfills	This bill requires: No solid waste permit shall be issued by any division of the department for the siting of a new landfill if any part of the actual solid waste disposal area is proposed to be located sufficiently close to any existing drinking water well, perennial river, lake, or coastal water of New Hampshire, as defined in RSA 483-B:4, XVI, such that groundwater on the landfill site would be able to reach the water body within 5 years of migrating off-site due to any leak, spill, or other failure. In addition: The department shall establish a site-specific setback distance for any proposed new landfill from any drinking water wells, perennial river, lake, or coastal water of New Hampshire, as defined in RSA 483-B:4, XVI. The setback distance shall be sufficient to prevent any contaminated groundwater at any part of the landfill footprint or leachate storage or piping infrastructure from reaching any existing drinking water wells, perennial river, lake, or coastal water of New Hampshire within 5 years. The bill further specifies how these limitations shall be implemented.	Voted Ought to Pass with Amendment by full House on 03/11/2026
HB 1621-FN	requiring a baseline environmental impact study to be completed prior to development of certain manufacturing and storage facilities.	Under this bill: (a) "Baseline environmental study" means a comprehensive assessment of the existing environmental conditions at the time of application. It shall serve as the reference point for evaluating the potential environmental impacts of the proposed development and shall be conducted in accordance with standards established by the department. The study shall include data on water, air, soil, noise, and light. (b) "Manufacturing facility" means any building, structure, or premises used for the industrial-scale processing, preparation, assembly, packaging, or fabrication of goods, materials, or products, including but not limited to food, chemicals, electronics, or machinery. (c) "Storage facility" means any building, structure, or premises used for the commercial or industrial storage of goods, materials, equipment, or hazardous substances, including self-service	Voted Inexpedient to Legislate by full House 02/19/2026.

		storage units, warehouses, and underground storage tanks, whether for temporary or long-term use.	
Key Word “Water”			
SB 541-FN-A	making an appropriation to the department of environmental services to fund regional drinking water infrastructure.	This bill makes an appropriation to the department of environmental services of \$16,500,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027 for the purpose of funding regional drinking water infrastructure as part of Phase 2 of the Southern New Hampshire Regional Water Project to increase water supply by over 2 million gallons per day to multiple towns impacted by per- and polyfluoroalkyl substance contamination and growing water demands.	Referred to Senate Finance Committee, Hearing was held 01/20/2026
Key Word “Waste”			
HB 707 Held over from 2025 Session; and with nearly identical bills: HB 1189-FN and: SB 356-FN	establishing a solid waste site evaluation committee	This bill creates the solid waste facility site evaluation committee in order to evaluate applications for solid waste facility siting and to grant or deny such applications. This legislation establishes a preference for siting of new landfill capacity on land adjacent to existing permitted landfill capacity and gives the department of environmental services comprehensive exclusive authority to approve the siting of such new capacity. In addition: This legislation leaves unchanged current law regarding siting of new landfill capacity on land that is not adjacent to existing permitted landfill capacity. The bill established the New Hampshire solid waste facility site evaluation committee consisting of 7 members, the Commissioners of department of business and economic affairs and the department of environmental services, and five members appointed by the governor with expertise in municipal planning, in achieving natural resource protection in the context of large project development, in the private waste management industry, who serves on the state conservation commission, and who is representative of the business community. No person shall commence construction of any major solid waste disposal facility within the state unless it has obtained a certificate pursuant to this subdivision.	Voted Ought to Pass with Amendment by both full House and full Senate. Referred to Senate Finance Committee for hearing and approval vote on 01/27/2026. HB 1189-FN voted Ought to Pass with Amendment by full House on 03/11/2026 SB 356-FN referred to Interim Study, by full Senate on 02/19/2026
HB 1138	limiting the placement of out-of-state waste going into New Hampshire landfills.	This bill requires that any landfill operator permitted under this chapter on or prior to December 31, 2025, shall accept out-of-state solid waste as no more than 30 percent of its total solid waste. Any landfill operator who receives a permit on or after January 1, 2026, under this chapter shall accept out-of-state solid waste as no more than 15 percent of its total solid waste.	Voted Ought to Pass by full House on 03/05/2026. Referred to Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
HB 1622-FN	relative to the state's solid waste disposal capacity	This bill directs the Department of Environmental Services: In its consideration of applications for additional landfill capacity in the state, the department shall give first preference to expansions, where appropriate, in accordance with existing statutes and rules	Voted Ought to Pass with Amendment by full House on 02/19/2026. Referred to House Finance Committee

		and consistent with any existing municipal agreements. Second preference shall be given to development of brownfield sites, where appropriate, in accordance with existing statutes and rules and consistent with any existing municipal agreements. If a greenfield application is received, and there are no pending applications for an expansion or brownfield development, the department may process the greenfield application after the developer reviews and explains the choice of a greenfield site with reference to the list of sites developed by the department. Using existing data, the department shall compile a list of all existing landfills in operation and all known closed landfills. The department shall use the tools at its disposal to determine, to the best of its ability, which sites would be unsuitable for future development because they are too close to schools, homes, airports, surface waterbodies, or other features to align with department setback regulations. A final list, excluding the sites deemed unsuitable for development, shall be made public. In addition the department shall evaluate existing capacity at currently operating landfills in the state, and shall report on potential future capacity for these operations in the event of future expansion.	
SB 226 Held over from 2025 Session	relative to suspending applications for new landfills and establishing a committee to study the feasibility of incinerating solid waste.	This bill suspends applications for new landfills and establishes a committee to study the feasibility of incinerating solid waste. The Department of Environmental Services indicates the bill would prohibit the Department from issuing new landfill permits until July 1, 2031. Additionally, this bill does not prohibit the Department from issuing expansions or permit modifications for landfills located on a site where a RCRA Subtitle D landfill exists, as of December 1, 2022, provided such landfill has been fully permitted. The bill also establishes a committee to study the feasibility of incinerating solid waste. This committee shall review the permit process; current prohibitions; the environmental impact include effects on air, soil and water; and the impact incineration solid waste would have on landfill capacity.	Full Senate voted to refer this bill to interim study on 01/07/2026.
Key Word “PFAS or per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances”			
HB 1275	relative to the effects of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances on agriculture	This bill creates the agricultural PFAS remediation fund in order to assist farmers in New Hampshire who have suffered losses or incurred costs resulting from the actual or suspected presence of PFAS in soil, water, or agricultural products as a result of standard agricultural practices, including the land application of sludge or biosolids. This bill also imposes a 5 year moratorium on the spreading and application of sludge and biosolids for agricultural use.	Voted Ought to Pass with Amendments by full House on 03/11/2026

		An approved House floor amendment requires: By June 30, 2027, the department shall initiate rulemaking under RSA 541-A to develop concentration-based standards for PFAS in biosolids at land-application sites. Such standards shall be set for those PFAS compounds for which an ambient groundwater quality standard has been established under RSA 485-C. Such rulemaking shall include requirements for PFAS soil testing at land-application sites. Land application shall not occur if biosolid or soil PFAS concentrations exceed the applicable standards. Funds to assist with agricultural soil testing may be available from the agricultural PFAS relief fund under RSA 485-H:7	
HB 1389	relative to PFAS facility liability	This bill provides for perfluoroalkyls (PFAS) facility liability for contaminations of groundwater quality standards according to federal regulations. Any person who owns or operates a PFAS facility where a release of PFAS at or from such PFAS facility has resulted in total combined concentrations in groundwater or surface water of 500 parts per trillion or greater of PFAS compounds for which ambient groundwater quality standards have been established pursuant to RSA 485-C, or who owned or operated a PFAS facility at the time of such a release, shall be subject to the provisions of federal regulations in 40 CFR 265.111 and 265.114. Such provisions shall apply to the closure, removal from service, or decommissioning of: (a) All tanks, piping, containers, manufacturing equipment, waste or wastewater treatment infrastructure, and air pollution control devices used to handle, convey, or otherwise manage materials or wastes containing PFAS; and (b) The interior and exterior surfaces of PFAS facility buildings and structures where materials or wastes containing PFAS are or have been used, stored, treated or otherwise managed. Nothing in this paragraph shall be interpreted to limit the applicability of RSA 147-B:10 or RSA 147-B:10-a to releases of PFAS otherwise subject to such sections.	This bill is currently in the House Judiciary Committee. The Majority voted Inexpedient to Legislate on 03/04/2026. The minority voted Ought to Pass with Amendment. The bill will likely fail along party lines.

Key word searches with no returns: **professional, geology, mineral, rock, soil**

GSNH T-Shirt Order Form

	Number of Items	Price per Item	Shipping (1 item)*	Shipping (2 items)*	Total
GSNH T-Shirt**		\$18.00	\$7.00	\$10.00	
GSNH Field Hat		\$20.00	\$10.00	\$15.00	
35th Anniversary Pint Glass		\$10.00	\$7.00	\$10.00	

Total

*Email gsnhinfo@gmail.com for shipping estimate for mixture of above items.

**Specify Unisex or Women's style. Available in Small, Medium, Large and Extra Large sizes.

Ship to:

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Street Address

City, State, Zip Code

Phone #

(in case of questions about your order)

Please make checks payable to "GSNH" and mail with this completed order form to:

**GSNH
P.O. Box 401
Concord, NH 03302**



Geological Society of New Hampshire



**Topic: Saltwater Intrusion into Aquifers and its
Effect on Water Resources
Speaker: Dr. James Heiss
University of Massachusetts Lowell**

Thursday, April 23, 2026

**Location: The Derryfield
625 Mammoth Road
Manchester, NH 03104**

5:30 pm Social Hour - 6:30 pm Dinner - 7:15 pm Speaker Presentation

RSVP by noon on Monday, April 13

- Advance Reservations: _____ Member (Dues Paid) \$50.00
 _____ Non-member \$60.00
- Students \$25.00 with valid student ID card (Reservation Requested)
 - Member at the Door \$55.00
 - Non-Member at the Door \$65.00

Checks payable to: GSNH

Please indicate special food issues – leave blank for none.

GSNH will also accept dinner reservations by e-mail, which will then allow you to pay at the door.

Reply via e-mail to Sharon Lewandowski, Sharon.A.Lewandowski@des.nh.gov or

Mail to: **Sharon Lewandowski, GSNH Dinner Meeting,
PO Box 401,
Concord, NH 03302.**

Please note that e-mail reservations constitute an agreement with the Society for which you will be responsible to pay, whether you are able to attend or not, unless you cancel your reservation by noon on Monday, April 20.

Name(s) _____

Address: _____

Your phone or e-mail: _____

The dinner and lecture program counts as 2.0 hours of CEU contact hour credit.



MEMBERSHIP & RENEWAL APPLICATION

Geological Society of New Hampshire

PO Box 401, Concord, NH 03302

Name: _____

(Please print clearly)

E-mail: _____

Renewing Members: Only update this section if you have changes to your contact information (including email) or educational history.

New applicants: please complete this section.

Preferred address/email to receive GSNH Communication: ___ Home or ___ Business

Home Address:

Business Address:

(Employer): _____

Home Telephone: _____

Office Telephone: _____

New Hampshire PG # (if applicable) _____

Education: Degrees received or in progress:

Table with 4 columns: Year, Degree, Major, College or University

I volunteer to help with one of the following committees or tasks:

- Membership Committee, Legislative Committee, Giving a talk at a meeting, Membership Category, Regulations Committee, Education Committee, Events Committee, Communications Committee, (Newsletter or Website, circle preference), Other:

- Regular Member (Annual Dues \$20.00)
Student Member (Annual Dues \$10.00). Please complete Education section above.

Make checks payable to "Geological Society of New Hampshire." Note that GSNH dues are not deductible as a charitable contribution, but may be deductible as a business expense. Please return this completed application form with any necessary corrections and a check for the appropriate dues to the GSNH at the address above. The Society's membership year runs from January 1 to December 31.

Signature: _____ Date: _____