Granite State Geologist

The Newsletter of the Geological Society of New Hampshire,
Spring Edition – June 2026 – Issue No. 133
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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I get a strong sense of optimism when I see my nine-year-old daughter and her friends completely fascinated by YouTube STEM sensations doing cool experiments covering physics, math, chemistry and geology. They have immediate access to a wealth of information presented in engaging ways. It is exciting to see the curiosity grow. Curiosity—the foundation of every scientific discipline—is being sparked in ways that look very different from previous generations.

Over the past year, GSNH has celebrated geologists who did detailed fieldwork and "boots-on-the-ground" mapping with little more than a compass, a notebook, and colored pencils. Their dedication laid the foundation for much of what we know about the state's geology today. At the same time, our field methods continue to evolve. Modern geologists increasingly rely on digital mapping tools, GPS, GIS, LiDAR, and mobile technology to collect and analyze data. We are also beginning to see artificial intelligence emerge as a valuable tool for organizing information, identifying patterns, and supporting scientific analysis.

Some may wonder whether these new technologies will replace traditional geologic skills. I believe the future is not about choosing one or the other. Instead, it is about combining the strengths of both approaches. No software can replace the value of field experience, professional judgment, and direct observation. However, technology can make our work more efficient, improve accuracy, and help us understand increasingly complex datasets.

As a profession, we have an opportunity to encourage the next generation to embrace both tradition and innovation. Geologists may now carry tablets instead of paper maps and use AI-assisted tools alongside their field notebooks, but they will still rely on the same curiosity, and critical thinking that defines geology. Watching young people engage so enthusiastically with science today gives me great confidence that while tools may change, the spirit of discovery remains the same.

-- Abby

DATES TO REMEMBER

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

July 18-19, 2026 – **45th Annual Champlain Valley Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show.** Champlain Valley Exposition, Expo North Building, 105 Pearl Street, Essex Junction, Vermont. http://www.burlingtongemandmineralclub.org/show.html

July 25, 2026 – **GSNH Field Trip!** Rain date: Sunday, July 26, 2026. See next section for details.

August 14-16, 2026 – **East Coast Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show.** Better Living Center, Eastern States Exposition, 1305 Memorial Ave, West Springfield, Massachusetts. https://www.mineralshowslld.com/fall-east-coast-show/

August 29-30, 2026 – **Capital Mineral Club Show**. Everett Arena, 15 Loudon Road, Concord, New Hampshire. https://www.capitalmineralclub.org/

September 17, 2026 – **GSNH Board of Directors Fall Meeting**

September 12, 2026 – **New England Mineral Association Fall Mineral Tailgate**. Havey Quarry, Levine Road, Poland, Maine. Rain date: September 14. https://www.nemineral.org/tailgates/

October 2-4, 2026. **New England Intercollegiate Geological Conference (NEIGC).** Rhode Island; details TBD. https://www.neigc.info/

October 11-17, 2026 – **Earth Science Week: "Critical Minerals for a Thriving Society"** https://www.earthsciweek.org/

October 22, 2026 – **GSNH meeting.** TBD.

GSNH Summer Field Trip - July 25, 2026

The GSNH summer field trip will be held in the White Mountains. It will be led by Nelson Eby and Ericka Boudreau. Contact Abby Fopiano to reserve your spot: Abby@edgewaternh.com

The schedule is as follows:

- 10:00 am: Meet at White Mountain Forest Visitor Center: 200 Kancamagus Highway, North Woodstock, NH

- 10:00- 10:30 am: Gather, Attendance, Brief overview, organize carpool.
- 10:30-4:00 pm: Stops 1-7 with a break for lunch (bring a packed lunch)
- 4:00 pm: Return to White Mountain Forest Visitor Center

Details:

- 6 CEUs will be offered.
- Limited to 18 Registrants - Carpooling from meeting area is ***required.***
- *Non-refundable* $10 fee per attendee. Payment required after requesting reservation (online credit card payment available). Payment confirms the reservation.
- Wear suitable shoes and safety vest; bring a pack lunch, water and snacks.

Notes:

- There will be seven stops. For two of these, we will be able to park along the road. For the others we will need to use parking lots with limited space for cars. The most restrictive will be Cathedral Ledge where you can park maybe 10 to 12 cars. Carpooling is essential. No more than six cars and no trucks can fit.
- Toilets are at the White Mountain Forest Information Center. There are toilets at Stops 3 and 4. Stop 3 will likely be the lunch stop. We will pass through North Conway on our way to Stops 6 and 7 with plenty of fast-food places and toilets for emergency relief.
- Please be aware of ticks – consider bringing bug spray!

New Hampshire Geological Survey Update

By Shane Csiki, State Geologist and Director

June 2026

For this update, we go behind the scenes to give you a sneak-peak at one aspect of the day to day around NHGS. One of the services we provide to Granite Staters that we don't typically talk about is that we answer questions from the public about the geology of the state. Most of you know that we get questions such as "Is this a meteorite?" and "What is the name of this rock (or mineral)?" But, we would wager that you cannot immediately guess one of the other most common questions we receive. Any guesses? The other most common question we receive is:

"Why did a sinkhole appear in my backyard?"

In our time at NHGS, all of us – Rebecca, Brian, Josh, Mike and myself – have all spoken with landowning callers in the state regarding “sinkholes” and what to do about them. We always calmly speak with landowners, listen to their concerns, answer their questions, and sometimes bring up lidar to take a peek at their address and help guide them as to what is likely occurring.

Of course, as geoscientists, we know that New Hampshire does not have “sinkholes” in the truest geologic sense of the term. New Hampshire was not endowed with the soluble carbonate rocks that can be dissolved by rainwater or groundwater to create true sinkholes. If you want to find true sinkholes, you’ll need to go to places such as central Pennsylvania, Missouri, western Illinois, western Kentucky, Tennessee, North Alabama or Florida. Of course, here in New Hampshire, our historical geologic processes gifted us lots of metamorphic and granitic rocks that are not as porous as some of these other states. The compressional forces and melting and subsequent erosion which laid the foundation for New Hampshire virtually eliminated the chances of carbonate rock in the state. So, not many true sinkholes here! So, when someone says they have a sinkhole in their backyard, what they’re really talking about is ground subsidence. Ground subsidence occurs when the material beneath the ground surface settles downward relative to the surrounding land, usually because a void has developed below the surface. These events can range from a leaking or failed pipe causing minor settling to the collapse of an old septic tank or even buried tree stumps. On many properties, the settling of material around buried tree stumps is a frequent cause of subsidence on landowners’ properties. In some cases, subsidence can also result from groundwater withdrawal in areas underlain by sand and gravel deposits, where lowering the water table allows overlying sediments to compact and settle.

This question has become so common, that last year, NHGS developed a fact sheet to explain sinkholes and subsidence to the public, which is available in NHDES’ fact sheet library.

There’s another common question we receive (and we suspect you can probably better guess this one!), is:

“Where can I find Gold in New Hampshire?”

We frequently receive inquiries from those who are seeking out the proven spots to strike the hidden treasures of gold in the Granite State. New Hampshire has become a very popular location for recreational gold panning, especially in streams in northern New Hampshire. Realistically, New Hampshire only has gold in small quantities in veins and dikes in bedrock, as well as placer deposits found in the gravels at the bottom of some streams. However, with callers and those who e-mail us, it

provides us the opportunity to talk about the broader state's geology with them. Placer deposits and quartz veins are found in the Clough Formation (western New Hampshire, particularly the Connecticut River Valley). Gold in these placer deposits range in size from fine "specks" to pearl size "nuggets." Also, the Ammonoosuc Gold District centered on Lyman, Monroe and Bath is another area where gold is found (in the greatest quantities in the state) in veins with sulfide minerals (i.e., pyrite). This district, with metamorphic rocks, many of which were originally deposited as "volcanics," extends into Vermont, and up the Connecticut River valley north into Quebec. Diamond Ledge in Ossipee is another locale where smaller amounts are known to have come from.

Gold prospecting in New Hampshire provides the opportunity to get outside, take in and appreciate the beauty of our state, and also, with some perseverance, and knowing where to look, you might find that gold nugget you've always been looking for!

So, there you have it! A peek at two of our most commonly asked questions, and some concise answers about the geology behind them!

What's Your Board Been Doing?

The GSNH Board of Directors met on Thursday June 11th via Zoom. They mostly worked on logistics for the summer field trip and possibilities for the October meeting!

- See elsewhere in this newsletter for more information on the summer field trip.
- If you have ideas for how to advertise our John Cotton scholarships, please contact a board member.

Renew Your Membership for 2026!

Consider renewing your GSNH membership for 2026 today if you haven't already! 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.

Reminder: GSNH Hats, t-shirts and glasses available!

We have GSNH branded field hats, glasses, and t-shirts still available! See pictures below and order form on page 18.

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.

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.

Geological Musings: Zircons and the Hadean Eon

By Nelson Eby

The oldest period of Earth history, the Hadean Eon, extends from 4.567Ga to 4.03 Ga (Ga = 1 billion years). Rock of this age have never been found on Earth, but in a few locations zircon grains of this age have been found. The most famous locality is the Jack Hills of Western Australia (Fig.1), the Earth’s richest treasure trove of Hadean age zircons. Over 200,000 zircon crystals have been collected from this site and 10% of these zircons are older than 3.9 Ga. The oldest zircon collected from the site has an age of 4.404 ± 0.0068 Ga. Hadean age zircons, usually only a couple of grains, have also been collected from other locations: the São Francisco Craton, NE Brazil; Barberton Greenstone Belt, South Africa; Acasta Gneiss Complex, Northern Canada; Amitsoq gneiss, West Greenland; Iwokrama Formation, southern Guyana; North Qinling Belt, China; Wyoming Craton, USA; and East Antarctic Shield. The Jack Hills outcrop (Figs. 2, 3) is the most important Hadean Eon zircon locality on the planet and is now protected as part of an Australian Geoheritage Reserve.

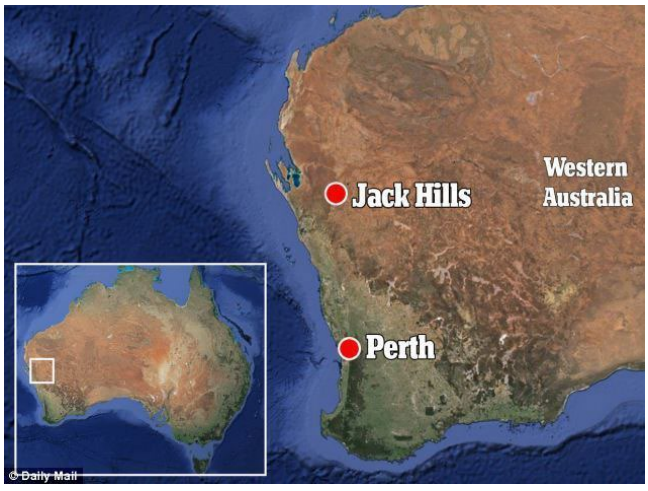


Figure 1. Location of the Jack Hills. From Alcherton, the Free Social Encyclopedia, 5/15/2026.

Figure 2. Jack Hills of Western Australia. Photo by N. Eby.

Figure 3. Simon Wilde standing on the zircon outcrop. Photo by N. Eby.

The zircons are found in a quartz pebble metaconglomerate (Fig. 4) in the Narryer gneiss terrane. The quartz pebble metaconglomerate underwent greenschist facies metamorphism and is considered to have a metamorphic age of ~3.0 Ga. Thus the zircons are older than their host rock. The quartz pebble metaconglomerate represents a metamorphosed fluvial deposit and the zircons were sourced from older igneous rocks. Zircon ($ZrSiO_4$) is very stable at high temperatures and is the mineral of choice for radiometric dating. Thus, the zircons are recording the age of their igneous rock source.

Figure 4. Jack Hills metaconglomerate, the host rock for the Hadean Eon zircons. From Wikipedia, 5/15/2026.

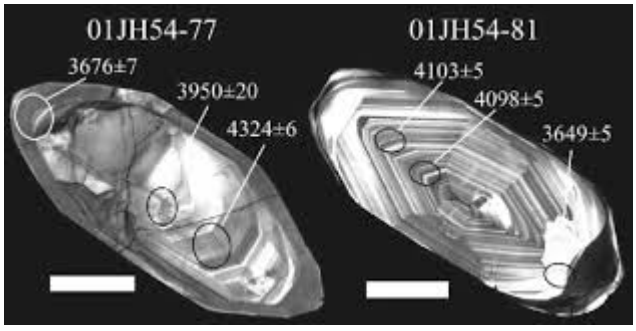


Figure 5. Dated zircon grains showing locations of spot analyses. Zircon grains often show multiple ages with the younger ages representing later periods of zircon growth. Scale bars = 50 µm. Image from Valley et al. (2006).

Extensive dating has been done on these zircons using ion and laser probes which make it possible to analyze 30 to 60 µm areas of individual zircons (Fig. 5). Ages obtained by these methods vary from 4.05 Ga to 4.404 Ga. Despite the small size of these grains (the scale bars in Fig. 5 are 50 µm in length), they have provided a great deal of information about the earliest history of the Earth. The Ti-in-zircon geothermometer gives a temperature of 680 ± 20°C for the Jack Hills zircons. Oxygen isotope ratios indicate that liquid water was present when these

zircons formed. The solubility of zircon in a melt varies with melt chemistry, and the melts with lowest zircon solubility are granitic in composition. The earliest Earth was envisioned as being incredibly hot (due to accretion) and to lack free water. The data derived from the Jack Hills zircons suggest that relatively early in Earth history the planet was cool enough to support liquid water and granitic magmatism – the initiation of crust formation – was already taking place.

If you want to know more:

- Geology Bites podcast featuring John Valley: https://www.geologybites.com/johnvalley

- Wilde, S. A., Valley, J. W., Peck, W. H., and Graham, C. M., 2001. Evidence from detrital zircons for the existence of continental crust and oceans on the Earth 4.4 Gyr ago. Nature, 409,175–178.

- Watson E. B., Wark D. A., Thomas J. B., 2006. Crystallization thermometers for zircon and rutile. Contrib Mineral Petrol, 151, 413–433.

April 2026 Meeting Recap

Our January meeting was held on Thursday, April 23 at The Derryfield in Manchester; we had 57 attendees that night. Dr. James Heiss, Associate Professor at UMass Lowell, gave a presentation discussing saltwater intrusion into coastal aquifers, the effect of saltwater on water resources, and some mitigation options that are being considered.

Dr. Heiss discussed the mechanics of saltwater intrusion and provided local examples.

GSNH meeting attendees during the presentation.

We also had a number of New Hampshire-specific geological publications available for a small donation, member updates, and the mineral raffle. Raffle winners were:

- Dorothy Richter (sphalerite)
- Erika Boudreau (biotite and albite – lucky winner of two mineral specimens)

Lithium in Eastern States Could Replace Imports for a Century or More

U.S. Geological Survey, April 28, 2026:
https://www.usgs.gov/news/national-news-release/lithium-eastern-states-could-replace-imports-a-century-or-more

The southern Appalachians hold an estimated 1.43 million metric tons of lithium oxide, concentrated in the Carolinas, and the northern Appalachians hold an estimated 900,000 metric tons, concentrated in Maine and New Hampshire, according to estimates in a new USGS scientific paper published in *Natural Resources Research*. The lithium is present in pegmatites, large-grained rocks similar to granite.

“This research shows that the Appalachians contain enough lithium to help meet the nation’s growing needs – a major contribution to U.S. mineral security, at a time when global lithium demand is rising rapidly,” said **USGS Director Ned Mamula.** “USGS mineral science is the leading edge in the effort to restore America’s mineral independence by mapping our nation’s mineral resources. Everything else

follows on the science: permitting reform and other policy changes to support investment in clean, responsible mining to 21st century standards, and mining workforce training for new American jobs. The United States was the dominant world producer of lithium three decades ago, and this research highlights the abundant potential to reclaim our mineral independence."

The United States had one sole producer of lithium and relied on imports for more than half the lithium used last year, factors that contributed to its inclusion on the 2025 List of Critical Minerals published by the USGS. Lithium is used in the lithium-ion batteries that power computers, military equipment, vehicles, phones, electric tools, and energy-grid storage, as well as in aerospace alloys. Additional lithium is imported into the United States every year inside finished products made elsewhere and containing lithium-ion batteries. While Australia is the world's largest producer of lithium, China is second, and accounts for the majority of world lithium refining and consumption.

The USGS projects that world production capacity for lithium will double by 2029, driven by increasing demand. Lithium supply security has become a priority for technology companies.

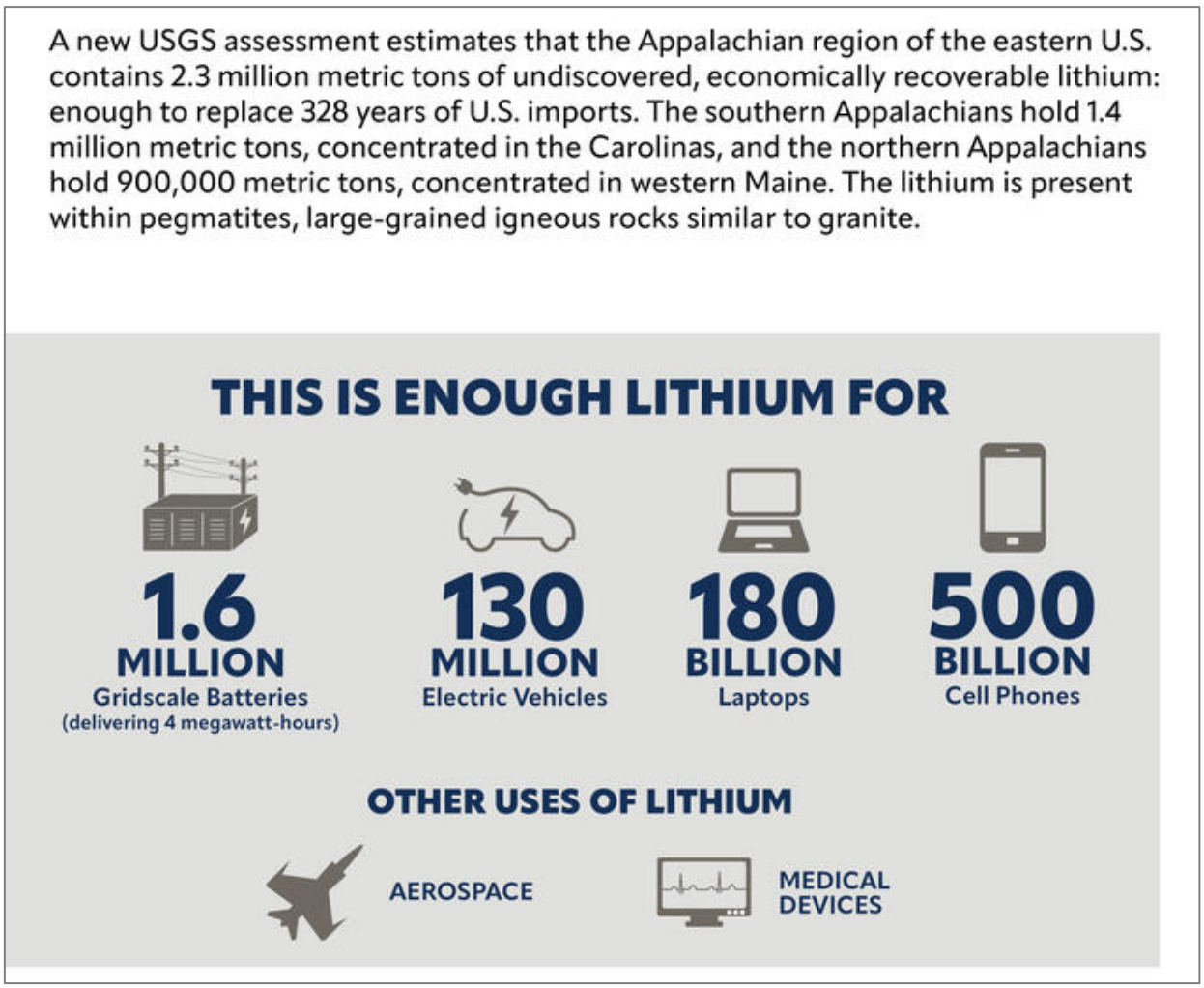
The estimated 2.3 million metric tons of lithium oxide in the Appalachian region would be enough lithium for batteries in:

- 1.6 million grid-scale batteries large enough to stabilize an electric grid
- 130 million electric vehicles
- 180 billion laptops, or a 1,000 year-supply of laptops for the world (at 2025 levels)
- 500 billion cellphones, or 60 cellphones for each person on earth

Assessing the mineral resources of the United States has been a responsibility of the USGS since it was created in 1879. Its mission was reinforced in the Energy Act of 2020, which called on the USGS to assess all minerals and the USGS is playing a major role in implementing Executive Orders14154, *Unleashing American Energy*, and 14241, *Immediate Measures to Increase American Mineral Production.*

Longstanding USGS Fundamental Science Practices and Executive Order 14303 *Restoring Gold Standard Science* emphasize the importance of scientific peer review and communication of the uncertainty of scientific findings. The estimates in these studies present the 50% confidence level. For example, in the northern Appalachians, it is equally likely that there are more than 1.4 million metric tons of lithium oxide as it is that there is less. There is 90% confidence of at least 90,000 metric tons, and a 10% probability that there are as much as 7.4 million metric tons that remain

undiscovered in the northern Appalachians alone. The median estimate of 1.4 million metric tons of resource in place was then screened for economic recoverability based on global lithium mining experience and lithium prices.



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Lithium pegmatites in the Appalachian region have long attracted scientific attention – the Kings Mountain area of North Carolina was the site of the first large-scale lithium pegmatite mining in the United States, and large Maine deposits have been studied. The new USGS assessments build on that legacy with a more systematic, detailed approach.

A team of USGS geologists worked together on the northern and southern assessments, combining geologic maps, tectonic history, geochemical sampling, geophysical surveys, and records of mineral occurrences. They then conducted simulations using a global dataset for lithium pegmatites to estimate how many undiscovered lithium deposits there are in the study area, and how much lithium they hold. Details from the southern assessment covering the Appalachians from Maryland to Alabama will be published later.

Lithium-rich pegmatites in the northern Appalachians formed from the same geologic forces that built the mountains more than 250 million years ago. The high heat and pressure during the mountain-building caused some of the deeper crustal rocks to melt, and some of these magmas were rich in lithium. This melting occurred when plate tectonics forced Africa, Europe, and North America together into a supercontinent named Pangea. Pegmatites like the ones found in the Appalachian mountain belt are found in corresponding areas of Ireland and Portugal, both of which formerly bordered the Appalachians.

The USGS also studies and assesses other sources of lithium, including in wastes from energy production. In 2024, USGS researchers assessed that a resource of 5 to 19 million metric tons of lithium is present in brines in the Smackover Formation of southwest Arkansas. The USGS did not assess what amount would be economically recoverable.

2026 Election Announcement

Interested in getting more involved with GSNH? Consider running for a GSNH Board of Director position! The Board meets quarterly over Zoom and works to create programs of interest for our membership, encourage education and research in geological fields and contribute to public knowledge about geology in New Hampshire. If interested in joining the Board of Directors, please contact Elections Chairperson Julie Spencer (julie.spencer@comcast.net).

For more details about the various positions, see http://www.gsnh.org/gsnh-constitution-and-bylaws.html

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Historic Geologic Data Viewer coming soon from the New Hampshire Geologic Survey!

The NHGS is pleased to announce that a new way to view old data will be publicly available soon! The Historic Geologic Data Viewer will show locations of field data collected over the years of mapping in NH that may not have been included in maps or other publications, and it will link to documents with photos and field notes. The documents are a great way to scroll through time and see how an area has changed. For now, the viewer will display the collection of Woody Thompson, who has been mapping the glacial history of NH since the 1980s! The viewer will be on the New Hampshire Department of

Environmental Services Geodata Portal by the end of June. If you have any questions please email Rebecca LeCain at rebecca.m.lecain@des.nh.gov.

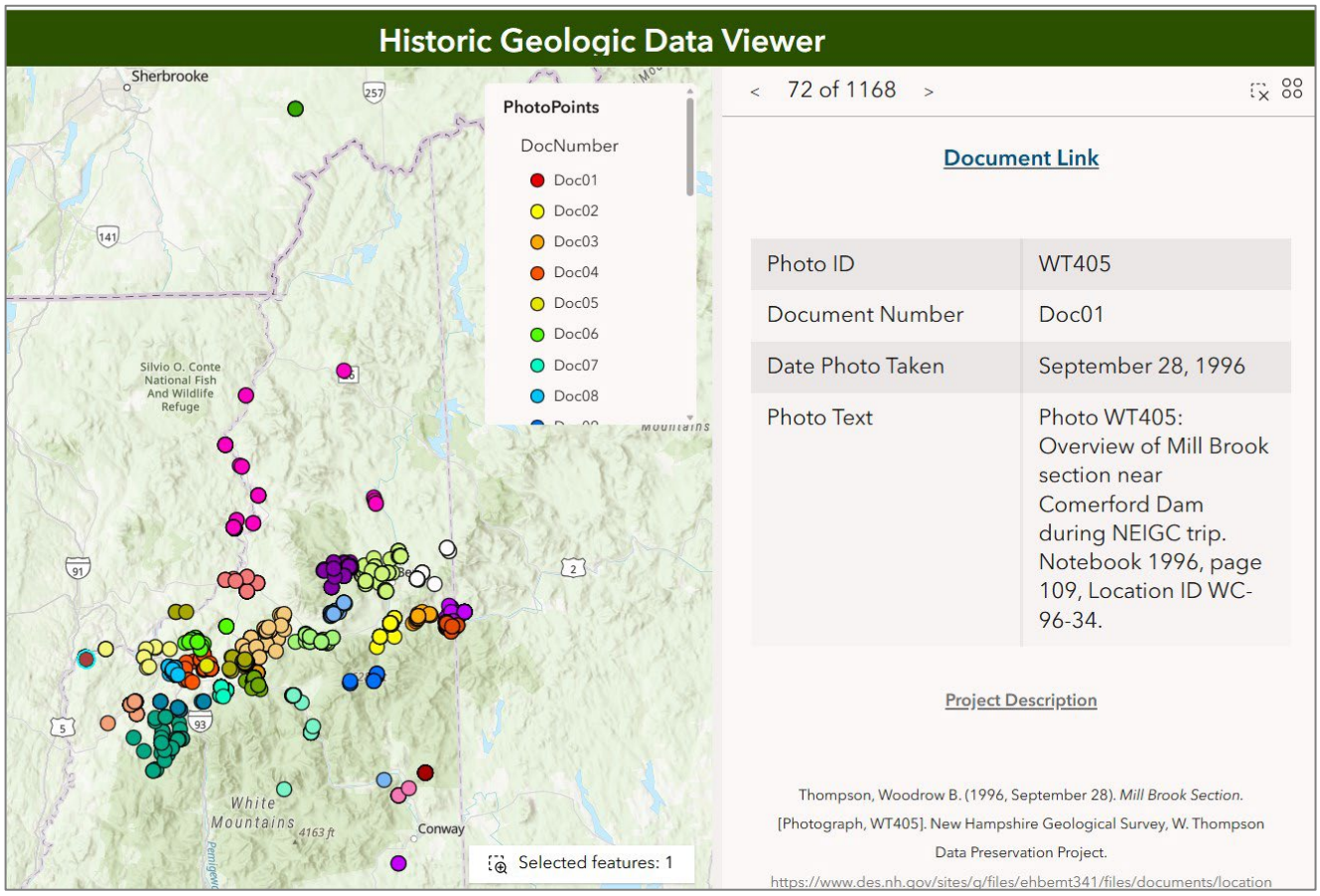

Image from the NHGS Historic Geologic Data Viewer.

Other Geology News

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

Apollo Samples Told a Conflicting Story About Lunar Magnetism, Until Now
By Grace van Deelen, EOS, March 19, 2026.
https://eos.org/articles/apollo-samples-told-a-conflicting-story-about-lunar-magnetism-until-now

Data from lunar soil and lunar crust observations indicate that our Moon hasn't had a magnetic field for 900 million years. However, rocks from NASA's Apollo missions to the moon suggested that the Moon had strong magnetism in its early history, between 3.5 billion and 3.9 billion years ago. The Moon's inner core doesn't seem to be large enough to explain the magnetism detected in the Apollo samples. New evaluation of those Apollo samples suggests that the high amounts of titanium in the samples from basalt formation are linked to short-term generation of strong magnetic fields.

More sophisticated geochemical modeling and basalt sampling from future expeditions (such as the planned Artemis program to return to the Moon) may help to refine the timing of the magnetic field formation.

US-Indian Space Mission Maps Extreme Subsidence in Mexico City
By Sally Younger, NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, April 29, 2026.
https://www.nasa.gov/missions/nisar/us-indian-space-mission-maps-extreme-subsidence-in-mexico-city/

The NISAR (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar) satellite is one of the most powerful radar systems launched into space. NISAR can track real-time changes to the Earth's surface beneath clouds, vegetation, and other obstacles. NISAR mapped the ground beneath Mexico City, one of the fastest subsiding major cities in the world at more than a half inch per month in some areas. Extensive groundwater pumping and the weight of development has resulted in compaction for more than a century, damaging infrastructure. Satellite imagery will help to track changes city-wide for planning and mitigation.

East Africa Might Break Off From the Continent Sooner Than Scientists Thought—and a New Ocean May Fill the Gap
By Margherita Bassi, Smithsonian Magazine, May 8, 2026.
https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/east-africa-might-break-off-from-the-continent-sooner-than-scientists-thought-and-a-new-ocean-may-fill-the-gap-180988659/

The Turkana Rift, which is the tectonic rift across Kenya and Ethiopia, is part of the larger East African Rift System, which stretches for 4,000 miles from Jordan to Mozambique. Scientists have found that the Turkana Rift seems to be separating faster than previously anticipated, with a much thinner crust in the center than previously anticipated (approximately 8 miles thick). The rift has allowed for significant long-term sediment buildup and fossil accumulation; based on current observations, an ocean will fill this gap in just a few million years – much sooner than previously expected.

BOOM over Massachusetts and U.S. East probably a meteor
From the EarthSky.org, May 31, 2026.
https://earthsky.org/earth/boom-over-massachusetts-and-u-s-east-probably-a-meteor/

Many people around the northeast US, particularly Massachusetts, reported a bright daytime meteor at about 2:07 PM on May 30, 2026, with a loud double boom. NOAA's GOES-19 also recorded a flash in the area. The meteor appeared to have fragmented at about 40 miles over northeast Massachusetts and southeast New Hampshire, releasing an energy equivalent to about 300 tons of TNT.

Legislative Committee Update – June 2026

By Thomas Fargo

In the March 2026 Legislative Update (see Spring Newsletter), I identified through a keyword search, thirteen Bills of potential interest to GSNH. Of those Bills, the following four made it through the NH legislature and are now awaiting action by the Governor:

Bill Number	Title	Bill Description	Bill Status
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)*, RSA 485-C:21, V-c(j),* or RSA 485-C:21, V-c(c).	Passed by House and Senate, awaiting Governor signature
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.	Passed by House and Senate, awaiting Governor signature
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	Voted Ought to Pass with Amendment by both full House and full Senate. 05/21/2026. Awaiting Governor signature

		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.	
HB 1275	(Old Title) Relative to the effects of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances on agriculture, exempting certain per- and polyfluoroalkyl products from use restrictions, and relative to the definition of "drinking water standard".	As amended by a joint House and Senate Committee of Conference, this bill amends the definition of "drinking water standard" as it pertains to maximum contaminant levels in certain water management and protection funds and programs. Text as passed: Amend RSA 485-H:2, III to read as follows: III. "Drinking water standard" means the ***(PFAS)*** maximum contaminant levels established pursuant to RSA 485:16-e ***or, at the discretion of the commissioner, an analogous federal standard***.	Voted Ought to Pass with Amendments by House and Senate. Awaiting Governor signature,

The March 2026 update was completed before “Crossover”, the deadline for when bills originating in one chamber are required to pass to the opposite chamber. The following is a listing of House Bills of potential interest to GSNH that failed to subsequently pass the Senate. In each case, the Senate voted to refer the Bills to Interim Study. In the second year of a legislative session, such as 2026, Bills referred to Interim Study are effectively killed.

HB 1426-FN	requiring the department of environmental services to employ certified personnel in each program area.
HB 1478-FN	requiring the department of environmental services to revise the rules for proposed new landfills
HB 1138	limiting the placement of out-of-state waste going into New Hampshire landfills.
HB 1622-FN	relative to the state's solid waste disposal capacity
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.

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Signature: _____ Date: _____