

# GeoNews

Newsletter of the Association of Environmental & Engineering Geologists,  
Carolinas Chapter

*2009, 2011, 2013, 2016, 2017, and 2020 AEG Chapter of the Year*

FALL 2023



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## SAVE THE DATES

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Hi-Wire Event Space  
Asheville, NC  
October 5, 2023  
Geological Field Course  
Grandfather Mountain, NC  
October 7, 2023  
AEG Dinner Meeting  
Red Oak Brewery  
Whitsett, NC  
October 19, 2023

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**Thanks to our Sponsors!**

**GeoNews** is a publication of the Carolinas Chapter of AEG. There are four issues per year, with deadlines and issue publication dates listed below. We publish news of the profession, announcements, student member news, technical articles, and job openings.

**Deadlines for submittal to AE Carolinas GeoNews**

(can be flexible depending on events)

Spring—deadline March 1, issue date March 21

Summer—deadline June 1, issue date June 21

Fall—deadline Sept 1, issue date Sept 21

Winter—deadline Dec 1, issue date Dec 21

**Deadlines for submittal for the National AEG News:**

March issue—January 15

June issue—April 15

September issue—July 15

December issue—October 15

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**AEG Carolinas Chapter Website** [www.aegcarolinas.org](http://www.aegcarolinas.org)

**AEG National Website** [www.aegweb.org](http://www.aegweb.org)

**Cover:** Aerial photo of the failing spillway of Oroville Dam, California on February 11, 2017

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## Message From the Chair

*By Jennifer Thomas, P.G., AEG Carolinas Chapter Chair*

### Greetings Carolinas Chapter!

October is a very busy month for AEG Carolinas. I'm excited about our upcoming meeting in Asheville happening real soon. Though typically we do engineering talks at the Asheville meetings, this time we've planned a great environmental talk from RiverLink. I'll admit I organized this meeting and personally practice environmental geology. For those who live in town or as an extra enticement to come and stay in this fun city, Rick Kolb and members of the North Carolina Geological Survey have organized a field course to view local geology the following Saturday. Maybe we can get some folks from Atlanta or Nashville chapters to make the trip. For those hanging out, the highest elevations like Mt. Mitchell may be starting to get leaves in color.

Later in October, we're meeting in Greensboro. This is the Jahns Lecturer meeting so you know it's going to be a good speaker presenting an interesting topic. Details on the meetings and presentations can be found in this newsletter.

In addition to the meeting, as usual, the Jahns Lecturer will be touring colleges and universities to include NC State, East Carolina, College of Charleston, and University of South Carolina. We are continuing our efforts to plan activities in South Carolina and include students and professionals located there. After all, it is the Carolinas Chapter not the North Carolina chapter.

Things have been quieter as usual over the summer since students aren't in school; we hold events for their benefit as well as professionals. I look forward to seeing members again and having a beer with y'all.



Jennifer Thomas, P.G.

[jen@jennotecllc.com](mailto:jen@jennotecllc.com)

AEG Carolinas Chapter Chair



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## AEG Carolinas Chapter Q2 2023 Treasurer's Report

*By Walt Plekan, P.G., Carolinas Chapter Treasurer*



### AEG Carolinas Section Treasurer's Report April 1 through June 30, 2023

#### BALANCE As Of April 1, 2023

Checking Account	\$ 5,318.61
Savings Account	\$ 13,128.24
	<u>\$ 18,446.85</u>

#### INCOME

Chapter Dues	\$ -
Meetings	
March Meeting Sponsor - Greenville	\$ 250.00
May Field Trip - Sparta	\$ 670.02
Misc	
Sponsor Payments	\$ 1,375.00
GeoNews Advertising	\$ 60.00
Interest	
Interest from savings	\$ 4.91
<b>SUBTOTAL - INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 2,359.93</b>

#### EXPENSES

Fees	
Meeting Expenses	
March Meeting Raleigh	\$ 2,113.73
Banking Fees	
Paypal Field Trip - Sparta	\$ 32.62
Paypal Sponsors	\$ 49.96
Paypal GeoNews	\$ 2.58
Additional Expenses	
Webhosting and Email Service	
Printing and Postage	
<b>SUBTOTAL - EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$2,198.89</b>

#### BALANCE As Of June 30, 2023

Checking Account	\$ 5,474.74
Savings Account	\$ 13,133.15
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$ 18,607.89</u></b>



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## Rick Kolb's Motorcycle Trip— Mountains of the West

Rick Kolb retired last year from SynTerra, after 32 years of consulting with Law Engineering/ MACTEC and Dunklee & Dunham/SynTerra. Having gone to college in Montana, he's seen firsthand, as have many of you, the splendor of the mountains that are not always covered by trees. He left on a cross-country motorcycle trip last month and is currently in California. He shares some of the splendor of the western U.S., Alberta, and British Columbia in these photographs.



British Columbia



Overthrust in Alberta



Fraser River in Lillooet, British Columbia

*(Continued on Page 7)*

## Rick Kolb's Motorcycle Trip— Mountains of the West, Cont.



Oregon Coastline



Oregon Coastline



Oregon Coastline

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*(Continued on Page 8)*

## Rick Kolb's Motorcycle Trip— Mountains of the West, Cont.



US 12 in Idaho



Beartooth Highway



Chief Joseph Scenic Byway



Sunshine Trail, Steamboat Springs, CO



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Inside Sales Rep

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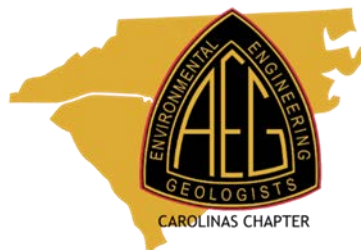
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## Carolinas Chapter Dinner Meeting

*The Carolinas Chapter of the  
Association of Environmental & Engineering Geologists  
Presents Guest Speakers:*



### **Lisa Raleigh, PhD and Renee Fortner, PhD**

RiverLink Executive Director and Watershed Resources Manager

### **Promoting Clean Water + Climate Resiliency in the French Broad River Watershed**

Dinner and Talk: 6:00-9:00 PM

Thursday, October 5, 2023

Hi-Wire Event Space, Asheville, North Carolina

### **Meeting Details**

**Place:** Hi-Wire Event Space, 2B Huntsman Place in Asheville

**Date:** Thursday, October 5, 2023

**Time:** 6:00 PM socializing begins, 7:00 buffet dinner, 8:00 Lisa and Renee's talk

**Cost:** AEG members \$35; non-members \$50; public-sector employees and teachers \$20. **Students free w/** college ID. *Registration will be \$5 more at the door.*

**Reservations:** Please make reservations and prepay by 6:00 PM on Friday, September 29, 2023 at <http://aegcarolinas.org/news/>. *Registration will be \$5 more at the door.*

**Students** - register by emailing meeting planner Rick Kolb at [rick.kolb1@gmail.com](mailto:rick.kolb1@gmail.com) by September 29, 2023.

**Continuing Education:** The NCBLG has preapproved AEG Carolinas to offer 1 CE credit for this presentation.

*(Continued on Page 10)*

## Abstract

### Promoting Clean Water + Climate Resiliency in the French Broad River Watershed

Executive Director, Lisa Raleigh, and Watershed Resources Manager, Renee Fortner will join us to share more about their work. Highlights will include their twenty year commitment to Karen Cragnolin Park (named in honor of their founder and a former auto-crushing operation on the banks of the French Broad and subsequent brownfield) and their investment in over a decade of phytoremediation and the recent activation and connection of the first phase of this park. They will also discuss the Southside Stormwater Project, a community-driven project addressing the quality and quantity of stormwater runoff within a marginalized community. This recently completed project includes green stormwater infrastructure such as bioretention cells, regenerative stormwater conveyances, a stormwater wetland, and community amenities.

They will close the presentation with their commitment to promoting green infrastructure at both the individual and urban-development level and their focus on reducing the sediment load on the French Broad River.

## About RiverLink

RiverLink's mission is to promote the environmental and economic vitality of the French Broad River and its watershed. For thirty-five years, RiverLink has worked to improve watershed health and climate resilience, provide permanent public access to the river through conservation and recreation easements, reclaim contaminated lands for public use and enjoyment, empower over 1,000 volunteers each year, and annually educate over 3,000 students, as well as the public at large, about the importance of a healthy French Broad River (FBR) watershed.

Their commitment could not be more timely and relevant as the FBR watershed was recently valued at \$3.8 billion a year in economic revenue to the region and at the same time 19 miles of the main stem of the FBR (through Asheville) and several of its tributaries were classified as impaired for fecal coliform.

## Lisa's Bio

Lisa, a Montana native, resided in Colorado for the past 30 years before relocating to Asheville as Executive Director. Prior to joining RiverLink, she was a nonprofit fundraising consultant and spent eleven years as the Director of Advancement for Colorado Rocky Mountain School. Lisa also co-founded Backbone Media — an outdoor industry specialty PR firm — and is a trained hydrologist with a Ph.D. in Environmental Science from the University of Oklahoma.

Personally, Lisa is deeply committed to human rights and environmental issues. An international traveler passionate about most things outdoors, she is an avid trail runner, road biker, and climber. Lisa is the proud mom of daughters Sunni and Belle, both of whom were born in Cambodia, raised by Lisa and her husband Duane in the Colorado Rockies, and now are attending Smith College and Fort Lewis College, respectively. Lisa and Duane greatly look forward to immersing themselves in all that Asheville has to offer, and are eager to explore its natural amenities and outdoor pursuits.

*(Continued on Page 11)*

### Lisa's Bio (continued from Page 10)

Lisa is honored to be joining the RiverLink team given the organization's rich history and legacy promoting the environmental and economic vitality of the French Broad River and watershed and believes it is a tremendous responsibility, one that she looks forward to sharing with the talented and dedicated staff, Board, stakeholders, and community members.

### Renee's Bio

Renee grew up along the New River in Ashe County, N.C. where she spent most of her childhood exploring the woods and creek near her home. Her childhood experiences instilled an unwavering love of the outdoors and passion for conservation. Renee's interests eventually led her to Asheville where she pursued a Bachelor's Degree in Biology from UNC-Asheville and later an M.S. in Biology from East Carolina University.

Renee holds professional certificates in Stormwater BMP Inspection & Maintenance and Residential Rain Garden Design from N.C. State University. She is also a Board of Trustee for the Friends of Hominy Creek Greenway.

While living in Asheville, Renee has been drawn to the surrounding rivers, whether it was canoeing the French Broad, swimming in the Swannanoa, or rafting the Nolichucky where she and her husband Dave were married. As the Watershed Resources Manager, Renee is excited to apply her skills to the conservation of the surrounding rivers, which are vital both ecologically and economically to this area in which we live.



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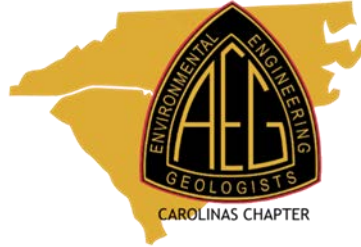


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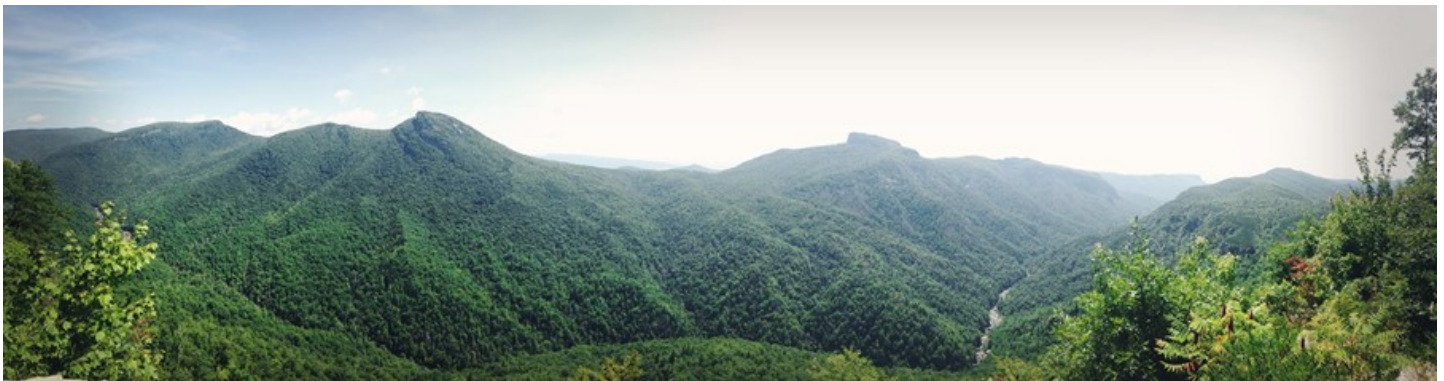




## Geological Field Course to the Grandfather Mountain Area

*McDowell and Mitchell Counties, North Carolina*

*Saturday, October 7, 2023– 9:00AM to ~5:00PM*



**Field Course Leaders:** Bart Cattnach, Ashley Lynn, Brennan Trantham, David Korte (North Carolina Geological Survey)

**Details:** Three stops in the morning, lunch at the Switzerland Inn, and three stops in the Afternoon including overlooks at Linville Gorge and roadside outcrops within the Grandfather Mountain tectonic window.

**Location:** Starts and ends in the NCDEQ parking lot at 2090 US 70 in Swannanoa, NC with an option to leave vehicles at the Lowe’s Home Improvement store in Marion for those heading East after the trip.

**Field Course Description:** We’ll visit the western edge of the Grandfather Mountain tectonic window and see outcrops within and outside the window. We begin at a “never field tripped” outcrop of the Linville Falls fault, a major ductile fault zone juxtaposing Mesoproterozoic granitic rocks on top of Cambrian carbonates. We’ll then explore outcrops of metamorphosed sediments and the intrusive Spruce Pine Plutonic Suite outside the window. After lunch we’ll visit sandstones within the Grandfather Mountain Window to see primary sedimentary structures and a great view of Linville Gorge. Linville Gorge is part the rugged escarpment separating the Blue Ridge and Piedmont physiographic provinces and contains many interesting bedrock and geomorphic features. We’ll finish the course viewing slope movement and ductile and brittle deformation features at roadcuts inside the Grandfather Mountain window.

*(Continued on Page 13)*

**Cost:** \$20 for AEG members and teachers; \$50 for non-members, \$1 for student members. Registration does not include the cost of your lunch.

**Registration:** Go to [www.aegcarolinas.org/news](http://www.aegcarolinas.org/news). **Reservation deadline: 5:00 PM, Friday, September 29, 2023. Field trip is limited to 20 participants.** Due to the lack of parking places at some outcrops, we will carpool with up to five to a car for a total of 20 people. Bring your four-door car. You can leave your car not being used at the DEQ parking lot in Swannanoa or Lowe's parking lot in Marion.

**Field Course Waiver:** When you register for the field course, please sign/date and return field course waiver to Rick Kolb at [rick.kolb1@gmail](mailto:rick.kolb1@gmail) or bring it with you to the field trip.

**Continuing Education Credits:** Seven hours for North and South Carolina geology board.



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***Carolina Board Meeting Minutes 8-29-2023, 4:00pm— Microsoft Teams Meeting****By Jen Thomas, P.G.—Carolinas Chapter Chair***AEG CAROLINAS CHAPTER- BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES****August 29, 4:00 TO 4:45 PM**

1. Call to Order via Microsoft Teams 4:00PM

2. Roll Call—ATTENDEES: PAUL WEAVER, MEREDITH AMBROSE, JARED WILKE, JEN THOMAS

3. Board Elections- We need a non-elected member to receive and count ballots— need their email on the ballots before they can be

distributed. Paul normally does this but is too busy this year. Meredith will handle it.

4. Upcoming Meetings

Asheville— October 5 at Hi-Wire event space. RiverLink environmental presentation. Attendees looked to make sure everything looked right on the announcement before distribution and confirmed what we were charging. Jen chose Foothill Meats to cater but they are slow on communication and she may need to find someone who can accommodate vegetarians better .

Greensboro— October 19 at Red Oak Brewing— Vince Cronin (Jahns Lecturer)- Laura setting up

School tour schedule and drivers for Vince— Jen has asked Brad to join. We'll need drivers between venues. If we don't have enough board members we'll request volunteers from general membership. Jen has a proposed schedule to share. Jared is in the Raleigh area and Paul is in Greensboro— both can help with driving. Gary Rogers can do Greensboro to Raleigh as well. Jen will also check with Adam or other Raleigh-area people. Don't know anyone in SC for driving but maybe Rick does— talk to Rick and Laura

5. GEONews— Meredith and Colleen— No major content received yet except treasurer's report. No meetings. We'll post announcement for fall meetings and Rick usually provides articles

6. Sponsor Update— Jared and Walt— 18 total. No new ones recently. Rick reached out to people at GWP social— sending out changes in contact people to Meredith.

7. Membership— Meredith- No changes. HQ is doing membership drive in October and sending out reminders— it's been helping. Memcom charter will be approved at national meeting and started.

8. Field Trips— Rick

April field trip with Will Doar to Orangeburg Scarp in Lowcountry with a meeting in Charleston or Columbia the night before

Phil Bradley with NCGS is looking at a field trip in eastern NC

9. Other activities or business? Paul wants to spend funds to send chair or vice chair to national meeting. Let's discuss at next meeting with quorum.

## Jahns Lecturer Dr. Vince Cronin to Visit the Carolinas Chapter



AEG and GSA support the Jahns Lecturer, who tours the United States and gives presentations on geology topics to students at colleges and universities. The Carolinas Chapter has hosted the Jahns Lecturer annually since 2007 (except during Covid) and is honored to have an October visit from Jahns Lecturer Dr. Vince Cronin. Here is the schedule for his visit:

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| Thursday, October 19 | Present at the Marine, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences Department of NC State University at 12:00-1:00 in Room 1132 of Jordan Hall<br><br>Present at the AEG Carolinas chapter meeting at Red Oak Brewery in Whitsett at 8:00 PM |
| Friday, October 20   | Present at the Department of Geological Sciences of East Carolina University at 12:00 PM in Room 106 of the Graham Building   |
| Monday, October 23   | Present at the College of Charleston in SSMB Room 211 in the Science and Mathematics Building at 11:00 to 1:00. Students from the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department of The Citadel have also been invited.         |
| Tuesday, October 24  | Present at the School of the Earth, Ocean & Environment of the University of South Carolina at 4:30 PM in Room 201 of the Earth & Water Science Building  |




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(Continued on Page 16)

## Jahns Lecturer Dr. Vince Cronin to Visit the Carolinas Chapter, Cont.

### Vince's Bio

Vince engages in a broad range of geoscience work. He has served in various capacities in GSA's Environmental and Engineering Geology Division, and is a GSA Fellow. He is also a long-time AEG member. Vince worked for the first Jahns Lecturer, Dr. Jim Slosson, as an engineering geologist and consultant on projects involving landslides, active faulting, flooding, coastal/stream erosion, and resource evaluation in the western United States.

Vince is an emeritus professor of geoscience at Baylor University. There and at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Vince taught a variety of graduate courses about structural geology, tectonics, and engineering geology, and the core undergraduate courses in physical geology and structural geology. Along with his graduate and undergraduate students, Vince has used earthquake data, lidar-based geomorphic analysis, GPS geodesy, and field work to locate the ground-surface trace of seismogenic faults.

Vince is the editor of the 11th through 13th editions of the *AGI/NAGT Laboratory Manual in Physical Geology* (Pearson) and is writing a quantitative primer on plate kinematics. Vince has contributed to the development of geoethics for about 30 years and currently serves on the executive board of the International Association for Promoting Geoethics (IAPG) as its North American coordinator.

**NC State University (Thursday, October 19, 12:00-1:00 PM)**

**Jordan Hall, Room 1132**

**The Search for the Dog Valley Fault**

The Dog Valley fault (DVF) is an active left-lateral strike-slip fault that is responsible for the M6 Truckee earthquake (1966) — the largest earthquake yet recorded in the Tahoe-Truckee area of California and Nevada. Although the DVF is included in the Quaternary Fault and Fold Database of the United States, its ground-surface trace is not well established. Getting a better handle on this fault is important because another large earthquake on the DVF might endanger Stampede and Boca dams, whose failures would quickly send a significant volume of water and debris into downtown Reno. One estimate places the potential number of casualties related to sudden failure of these dams in the low six-figure range. This talk summarizes work done by Dr. Cronin and student collaborators using the Seismo-Lineament Analysis Method (SLAM) to locate the DVF and understand its structural context. For more information about this topic, navigate to <https://croninprojects.org/Jahns/DogValleyFault/index.htm>



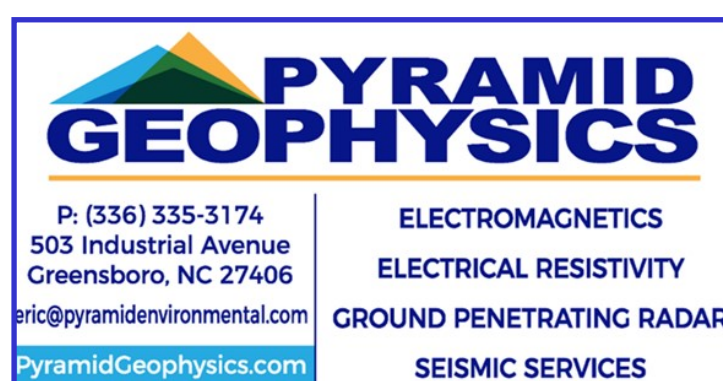
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GROUND PENETRATING RADAR  
SEISMIC SERVICES

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## Jahns Lecturer Dr. Vince Cronin to Visit the Carolinas Chapter, Cont.

**East Carolina University (Friday, October 20, at 12:00 PM)**

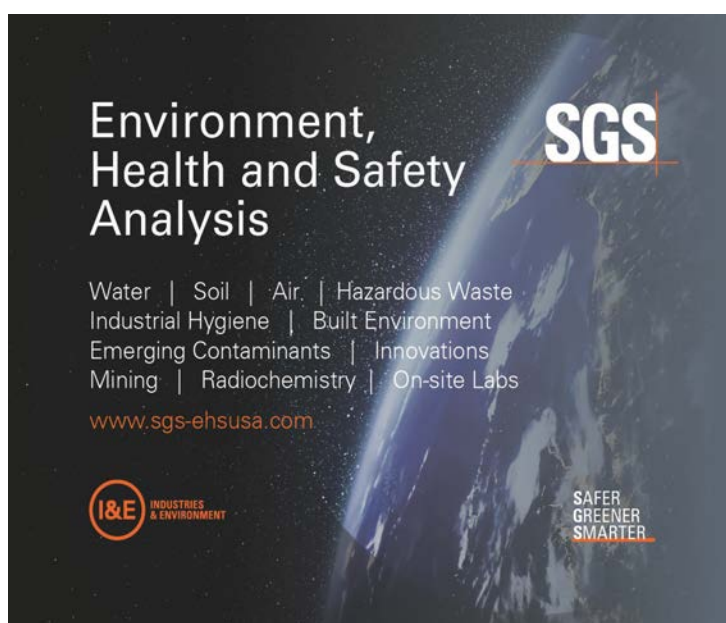
**Graham Building, Room 106**

How can engineering geology help society meet the challenge of a changing climate?

Engineering geology forms an important part of the practical interface between humans and our Earth's environment. The year 2023 has been marked by record heat worldwide, both on the land surface and in most oceans, and the highest concentrations of atmospheric greenhouse gases ever measured. We have just emerged from the most severe drought condition in 1200 years in parts of the western United States, quenched by an unprecedented series of atmospheric rivers. Massive fires in desiccated areas devastate grasslands, forests, and communities. Supplies of potable fresh water are reduced in many places. Rising sea level places coastal infrastructure and communities at risk, and historic rainfall events from atmospheric rivers and hurricanes cause equally historic floods and trigger landslides. The warming climate can worsen existing problems of environmental justice.

Mitigating the effects of a warming climate will require the sustained efforts of the engineering and engineering geoscience communities throughout the coming decades. In parallel with the need to reduce the human-controlled drivers of global warming, we need to provide reliable information to society so that the adverse effects of a changing climate can be avoided or mitigated. Ignoring the problems does not generally lead to solutions, but preparing to address the problems will lead to opportunities for engineering geologists to provide great service to society.

For more information about this topic, navigate to <https://croninprojects.org/Jahns/EngGeolClimateChange/index.htm>



*(Continued on Page 18)*

## Jahns Lecturer Dr. Vince Cronin to Visit the Carolinas Chapter, Cont.

### Other abstracts presented on Vince's visit

#### A path from “rocks for jocks” to a career in engineering geology

This talk will explain how a person might develop their interest in engineering geology in school, apprentice with a licensed engineering geologist, pass the FG and PG exams, and contribute to society as a professional geologist. It will provide an answer to the question "what is engineering geology," by considering some of the geological problems that engineering geologists are involved with (e.g., a myriad of water-related issues, coastal and fluvial erosion/deposition, characterization of active faults, forensic geology, dam siting, work on roads and foundations and pre-development site investigations, et cetera). It will highlight the idea that engineering geologists have established communities (AEG, GSA-EEGD, AIPG, SIPES) that provide networking opportunities, continuing education, and support for their members.

Dr. Cronin will also emphasize the universal utility of environmental and engineering geology. That is, a person with strong family ties to a given place is likely to be able to work as an engineering geoscientist in or near that place. Or, if they feel that job-related travel/relocation is an attractive aspect of career, they can work as an engineering geologist almost anywhere including internationally.

For more information about this topic, navigate to <https://croninprojects.org/Jahns/EngGeolCareerPath/index.htm>

#### Geoethics is at the heart of engineering geoscience

This talk will focus on the ethical foundations of applied geoscience. There is no reason for engineering geology to exist as a profession if we do not provide society with useful and reliable information about the Earth. The ethical practice of engineering geology requires a firm commitment to the responsible conduct of geoscience in the public interest. Dr. Cronin will present three of the "primacy principles" that are foundational to the practice of engineering geology, related to protecting the public interest (health, safety, well-being), the conduct of science as a truth-seeking process, and environmental stewardship.

For more information about this topic, navigate to <https://croninprojects.org/Jahns/EngGeolGeoethics/index.htm>

## Jahns Lecturer Dr. Vince Cronin to Visit the Carolinas Chapter, Cont.

### Other abstracts presented on Vince's visit (Cont.)

How can an engineering geologist find an active fault?

This talk will summarize techniques Dr. Cronin and his students use to find the ground-surface trace of seismogenic/active faults. It will emphasize the ideas of geoscience to benefit society, the primacy principle of protecting human life/safety, the comingling of basic fieldwork with analysis of geophysical data (relocated earthquake hypocenter data, earthquake focal mechanisms, GPS geodesy, LiDAR-based geomorphic analysis), and the virtue of continuing education throughout a geoscientist's career. For more information about this topic, navigate to <https://croninprojects.org/Jahns/>



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(Continued on Page 20)

## Jahns Lecturer Dr. Vince Cronin to Visit the Carolinas Chapter, Cont.

### Other abstracts presented on Vince's visit (Cont.)

#### Moving experiences with landslides

This talk focuses on landslides (in the broadest sense of the term), including some general background about landslides, landslides Dr. Cronin worked on, and maybe a couple others that he studied. With Jim Slosson, Dr. Cronin worked on several expensive landslides in Malibu (Big Rock Mesa, Rambla Pacifico, Castellamare, etc.), the Abalone Cove landslide, the Thistle landslide in Utah, and several debris flows (I-5 at Grapevine, Pacifica) including one that caught him along a mountain road in the Karakoram-Himalaya in Baltistan, Pakistan, where he lived. For more information about this topic, navigate to <https://croninprojects.org/Jahns/EngGeolLandslides/index.htm>



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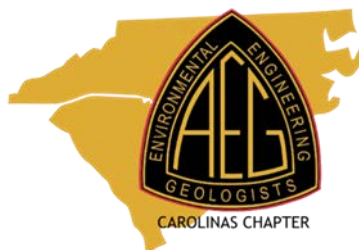
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## Carolinas Chapter Dinner Meeting

*The Carolinas Chapter of the  
Association of Environmental & Engineering Geologists  
Presents Guest Speaker:*



**Jahns Lecturer- Dr. Vince Cronin**

**How can engineering geology help society meet the challenge of a changing climate?**

Dinner and Talk: 6:00-9:00 PM

Thursday, October 19, 2023

Red Oak Brewery, Whitsett, North Carolina

### Meeting Details

**Place:** Red Oak Brewery at 6901 Konica Drive in Whitsett, North Carolina

**Date:** Thursday, October 19, 2023

**Time:** 6:00 PM socializing begins, 7:00 buffet dinner, 8:00 Vince's talk

**Cost:** AEG members \$35; non-members \$50; public-sector employees and teachers \$20. **Students free w/** college ID. *Registration will be \$5 more at the door.*

**Reservations:** Please make reservations and prepay by 6:00 PM on Thursday, October 12, 2023 at <http://aegcarolinas.org/news/>. *Registration will be \$5 more at the door.*

**Students** - register by emailing meeting planner Laura Elliot at [laura.rob.elliott@gmail.com](mailto:laura.rob.elliott@gmail.com) by October 12, 2023.

**Continuing Education:** The NCBLG has preapproved AEG Carolinas to offer 1 CE credit for this presentation.

### Abstract

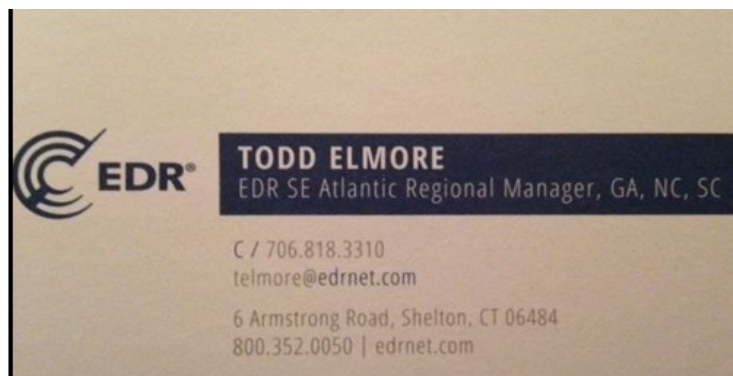
Engineering geology forms an important part of the practical interface between humans and our Earth's environment. The year 2023 has been marked by record heat worldwide, both on the land surface and in most oceans, and the highest concentrations of atmospheric greenhouse gases ever measured. We have just emerged from the most severe drought condition in 1200 years in parts of the western United States, quenched by an unprecedented series of atmospheric rivers. Massive fires in desiccated areas devastate grasslands, forests, and communities. Supplies of potable fresh water are reduced in many places. Rising sea level places coastal infrastructure and communities at risk, and historic rainfall events from atmospheric rivers and hurricanes cause equally historic floods and trigger landslides. The warming climate can worsen existing problems of environmental justice.

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For more information about this topic, navigate to <https://croninprojects.org/Jahns/EngGeolClimateChange/index.htm>

**NCDOT Southeastern Transportation Geotechnical Engineering Conference**  
*October 30-November 2, 2023*  
*Charlotte, North Carolina*

North Carolina Department of Transportation is proud to present the 52nd Annual Southeastern Transportation Geotechnical Engineering Conference (STGEC). The conference will be held at the Sheraton/Le Meridien Charlotte Hotel. Please visit <http://stgec.org> to register and get additional conference-related information. If you have any questions regarding registration, please contact Tom Santee at 919-414-2447 or by email at [support@stgec.org](mailto:support@stgec.org).



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## It's Time to Cast Your Ballot for the 2024 AEG Carolinas Chapter Officers

Ballot is shown as a .jpeg that can be downloaded and edited with your vote  
Please email your completed ballot to Meredith Ambrose  
([mparnold11@gmail.com](mailto:mparnold11@gmail.com)) by *Wednesday, September 27, 2023*

### AEG CAROLINAS CHAPTER 2022-2023 BOARD OF DIRECTOR SELECTION BALLOT

☐

CHAIR

**Jennifer Thomas, P.G.**

Jennifer joined AEG in 2012 and became the editor of GeoNews, the Carolinas Section newsletter, shortly after joining. She graduated from Mary Washington College with a BS in geology in 2000. Following graduation, she returned to her hometown of Charlotte and began working as an environmental field technician. After working for several local engineering companies, Jennifer started her own company (JennTec) in 2012. She is a licensed geologist in North Carolina.

☐

CHAIR

(write-in candidate)

☐

VICE CHAIR

**Jonathan Gerst, P.G.**

Jonathan Gerst is a Principal Hydrogeologist with Peak Hydrogeologic, PLLC in Tryon, NC. He is a Carolina native who received his bachelor's degree in geology from Appalachian State University ('05), and obtained a master's degree in hydrogeology from Virginia Tech ('10). During his 16-year professional career, Jonathan has specialized in delivering environmental and water resources consulting solutions to public and private sector clients throughout the southeast, Pacific northwest, and abroad (Suriname and Morocco). As a currently registered NC/SC-Professional Geologist, Jonathan focuses his consulting practice on commercial environmental due diligence, brownfield redevelopment, and groundwater studies throughout the Carolinas.

☐

VICE CHAIR

(write-in candidate)

☐

TREASURER

**Walt Plekan, P.G.**

Walt will be entering his sixth year as the Carolinas Chapter Treasurer. Walt has also served the AEG Carolinas Chapter as the Sponsor Chairperson and been a key planner on both Vapor Intrusion Conferences. He is employed by AECOM in Morrisville, NC. He graduated from SUNY Fredonia in 1994 with a bachelor's degree in Geology and his professional experience is in environmental consulting and program management. Walt is a licensed Professional Geologist in North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia.

☐

TREASURER

(write-in candidate)

☐

SECRETARY

**Laura Elliott, P.G.**

Laura has been involved with AEG since starting her career in Raleigh in 2009. She graduated from The College of William & Mary with a BS in Geology in 2007 and Vanderbilt University with a MS in Earth and Environmental Sciences in 2009. She has worked for several environmental consulting firms in the Triangle, the NCDEQ Division of Water Resources, and is currently a Senior Geologist with Terracon in Greensboro, NC. She is a licensed geologist in North Carolina and Virginia.

☐

SECRETARY

(write-in candidate)

*Please Print and Sign Your Name Below*

Please email completed ballot by September 27, 2023 to:

[Meredith Ambrose mparnold11@gmail.com](mailto:Meredith Ambrose mparnold11@gmail.com)

## Summer Brewpub Socials

Thursday, July 20 at Foothills Brewpub, Winston-Salem, NC

The Carolinas Section started organizing brewpub socials about 10 years ago as a way for AEG members and non-members to get together to socialize on an informal basis. Chapter Social Chair Adam Phillips set up two socials this past summer. Adam had a well-attended social at Wilmington in May and another in Raleigh in June. If you have a location in mind for a social reach out at [abp9676@hotmail.com](mailto:abp9676@hotmail.com).

Adam's first social was at Foothills Brewery's downtown brewpub in Winston-Salem on July 20th, timed to occur before the Winston-Salem Dash's baseball game, which several also went to after the social. The second social was at Tobacco Road Sports Cafe overlooking the Durham Bulls ball park on July 27th. Those that attended had a good time with good conversations, and we encourage you to come to future socials as a way to just get out of the office or house. Here are some photos from the socials.



## Summer Brewpub Socials

Thursday, July 20 at Foothills Brewpub, Winston-Salem, NC (Cont.)



## Summer Brewpub Socials

Thursday, July 27 at Tobacco Road Sports Cafe, Durham, NC



## Summer Brewpub Socials

Thursday, July 27 at Tobacco Road Sports Cafe, Durham, NC (Cont.)



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS—2023

### *Geological Events in the Carolinas*

Courtesy of AEG Carolinas Chapter—[www.aegcarolinas.org](http://www.aegcarolinas.org). Last updated September 7, 2023

Send updates/corrections to Rick Kolb, [rick.kolb1@gmail.com](mailto:rick.kolb1@gmail.com)

**Meeting Date, Time, and Location are Subject to Change—Please Verify Prior to the Meeting**

#### **Date: September 19-24, 2023**

**Event:** AEG 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting – “Hazards in Hind-sight...Lessons for the Future”

**Location:** Portland Marriott Downtown Waterfront; Portland, Oregon

**Details:** <https://www.aegannualmeeting.org>

#### **Date: Thursday, October 5, 2023**

**Event:** AEG Carolinas Chapter Meeting

**Location:** Hire Wire Event Space, 2B Huntsman Place in Asheville, North Carolina

**Cost:** \$35 for AEG and ASCE members, \$50 for non-members, \$20 for public-sector employees and teachers; **free** for students w/ ID. **Registration will be \$5 more at the door.**

**Details:** 6:00-7:00 socializing, 7:00-8:00 buffet dinner; 8:00-9:00 speakers.

**Presentation:** Promoting Clean Water + Climate Resiliency in the French Broad River Watershed

**Speakers:** Lisa Raleigh, Ph.D. and Renee Fortner, Ph.D., RiverLink Executive Director and Watershed Resources Manager

#### **Date: Friday, October 6, 2023**

**Event:** ASBOG FG and PG Exams – deadline to complete the application to take the fall exam was July 27, 2023. The next exam date is March 15, 2024.

**Location:** The 21 Prometric Testing Centers in North Carolina and the 6 in South Carolina

**Contact:** [www.ncblg.org](http://www.ncblg.org) or <https://llr.sc.gov/geo/>

#### **Date: Saturday, October 7, 2023**

**Event:** Geological Field Course to the Grandfather Mountain Area

**Location:** McDowell and Mitchell Counties, North Carolina

**Cost:** \$20 for AEG members and teachers; \$50 for non-members, \$1 for student members

**Leaders:** Bart Cattnach, Ashley Lynn, Brennan Trantham, David Korte, NCGS

**Details:** We'll visit the western edge of the Grandfather Mountain tectonic window and see outcrops within and outside the window. We begin at a “never field tripped” outcrop of the Linville Falls fault, a major ductile fault zone juxtaposing Mesoproterozoic granitic rocks on top of Cambrian carbonates. We'll then explore outcrops of metamorphosed sediments and the intrusive Spruce Pine Plutonic Suite outside the window.

**Details (continued):** After lunch we'll visit sandstones within the Grandfather Mountain Window to see primary sedimentary structures and a great view of Linville Gorge. Linville Gorge is part the rugged escarpment separating the Blue Ridge and Piedmont physiographic provinces and contains many interesting bedrock and geomorphic features.

We'll finish the course viewing slope movement and ductile and brittle deformation features at roadcuts inside the Grandfather Mountain window.

**CE credits:** 7 hours for North and South Carolina registered geologists

**Registration:** Go to [www.aegcarolinas.org](http://www.aegcarolinas.org)

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(Continued on Page 30)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS—2023 *(continued from page 29)*

**Date: October 15-18, 2023**

**Event:** Geological Society of American Annual Meeting

**Location:** Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

**Details:** <https://community.geosociety.org/gsa2023/home>

**Date: Thursday, October 19, 2023**

**Event:** AEG Carolinas Chapter Meeting

**Location:** Red Oak Brewery at 6901 Konica Drive in Whitsett, North Carolina

**Cost:** \$35 for AEG and ASCE members, \$50 for non-members, \$20 for public-sector employees and teachers; **free** for students w/ ID. **Registration will be \$5 more at the door.**

**Details:** 6:00-7:00 socializing, 7:00-8:00 buffet dinner; 8:00-9:00 speaker

**Presentation:** How can engineering geology help society meet the challenge of a changing climate?

**Speaker:** Jahns Lecturer Vince Cronin

**Date: October 27-29, 2023**

**Event:** Carolina Geological Society annual meeting and field trip – Welcome party is Friday night, field trip is Saturday and Sunday -- “The Geology of the Carolina Terrane in Chatham County, North Carolina: Results of the New Geologic Mapping by the North Carolina Geological Survey”

**Location:** Headquarters is the DoubleTree by Hilton at RDU Airport. Field trip starts and ends in Durham.

**Details:** <https://www.carolinageologicalsociety.org/cgs-2023-meeting-and-field-trip/>

**Date: October 30 - November 2, 2023**

**Event:** 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Southeastern Transportation Geotechnical Engineering Conference

**Location:** Sheraton/Le Meridien Charlotte Hotel

**Details:** This conference will explore the challenges and advances in Geotechnical, Geological, Geophysical, and Geoenvironmental Engineering. The Geotechnical field is constantly increasing in its complexity and rate of change. This conference aims to bring together designers, practitioners and research professionals involved in current geotechnical problems and technologies.

**PDH hours:** up to 18 hours

**Details:** <http://stgec.org/>

**Date: November 8, 2023**

**Event:** AEG Fall Career Panel Webinar

**Time:** 1:00-2:30 PM

**Location:** Virtual

**Cost:** TBD

**Details:** AEG's Student & Young Professional Support Committee presents a panel webinar on careers in environmental and engineering geology. The moderator will be AEG President Renee Wawczak of the US EPA in Chicago. Panelists will be Dr. Tej Gautam, Associate Professor of Geology at Marietta College in Ohio; Jacqueline Betancourt, Staff Geologist at UES in West Sacramento, CA; and Francisco Saldana, Project Geologist at Gannett Fleming in Roseville, CA.

**Registration:** Go to the calendar at [www.aegweb.org](http://www.aegweb.org) to register

**Date: January 2024 (date TBD)**

**Event:** How to Prepare and Strategize for the ASBOG® Fundamentals of Geology Exam

**Location:** Virtual

**Cost:** Free for AEG members and students, \$20 for non-members

**Details:** AEG's Student & Young Professional Support Committee presents the sixth FG webinar

**Registration:** Go to the calendar at [www.aegweb.org](http://www.aegweb.org) to register

**Date: September 10-14, 2024**

**Event:** AEG 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

**Location:** Hilton Philadelphia at Penn's Landing; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

**Date: September 23-27, 2025**

**Event:** AEG 68<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

**Location:** Westin Chicago River North; Chicago, Illinois

**Date: September 2026**

**Event:** AEG 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

**Location:** Hotel TBD; Chattanooga, Tennessee

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## AEG CAROLINAS CHAPTER – SPONSOR INFORMATION

The Carolinas Chapter of AEG supports many of its activities with financial assistance provided by our sponsors. Our activities include quarterly meetings, periodic field trips and seminars, a quarterly newsletter, and email announcements about our meetings and geoscience related activities. In addition, we donate large quantities of educational resources to science teachers.

We offer several levels of sponsorship, but they all have one goal: to keep the sponsor's name in front of our members and to bring you business. We have a real commitment to connecting our sponsors to potential buyers and subcontractors, so our group is a great place to find new customers and to catch up with existing clients in an informal setting.

Our sponsors provide the financial support that allows us to have reasonably priced dinner meetings, host seminars, provide discounted dinner meeting costs for students and teachers, underwrite the cost of newsletters and our web site, provide geoscience mentors for students and young professionals, and support science education tools to our teachers and in our schools. All costs listed below are per year and end in December. New sponsorships received after October will continue to December of the following year.

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Meeting Exhibits: Space for tabletop display at one meeting. Cost of meeting waived for one person on the exhibit date.

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Web Page: Acknowledgement on the AEG Carolinas Chapter Web Page, [www.aegcarolinas.org](http://www.aegcarolinas.org), with a link to your site.

### Gold Sponsor (\$400):

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Meetings: Listing on a Sponsor Poster, located at sign in table. Verbal acknowledgement by name in Chairman's introductory comments.

Meeting Exhibits: Space for tabletop display at two meetings. Cost of meeting waived for one person on the exhibit date.

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### Platinum Sponsor (\$550):

GeoNews Newsletter: Half-page ad (4-1/2" high x 7" wide), four times per year.

Meetings: Listing on a Sponsor Poster, located at sign in table. Verbal acknowledgement by name in Chairman's introductory comments.

Meeting Exhibit: Space for tabletop display at three meetings. Cost of meeting waived for one person on the exhibit date.

Email Announcements: Listing of your company name on each AEG - Carolinas Chapter email announcement (our email list is currently over 1,000 people)

Web Page: Acknowledgement on the AEG Carolinas Chapter Web Page, [www.aegcarolinas.org](http://www.aegcarolinas.org), with a link to your site.

### Titanium Sponsor (\$650):

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Please complete the form below and mail to Eric Cross, AEG Carolinas Sponsorship Chair. Please call or email if you have any questions (contact information below).

### AEG Carolinas Chapter Sponsorship Form

Please begin our sponsorship of the Carolinas Chapter of the Association of Engineering Geologists. Our sponsorship level is:

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