

# GeoNews

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

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

**SPRING 2026**



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## SAVE THE DATES

- GWPNC Spring Mini Conference  
 Frontier RTP, Durham, NC  
 June 11, 2026
- AEG 69th Annual Meeting  
 Chattanooga, TN  
 September 13-19, 2026
- North Carolina Environmental Conference  
 Winston Salem, NC  
 October 6-7, 2026

**GEONEWS Spring 2026**

**Issue Date: April 21, 2026**

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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 AEG Carolinas GeoNews**

(can be flexible depending on events)

Spring—deadline March 1, issue date April 15

Summer—deadline June 1, issue date July 21

Fall—deadline Oct 1, issue date Oct 21

Winter—deadline Jan 1, issue date Jan 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

**AEG Carolinas Chapter Current Officers and Contacts**

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| <b>AEG Carolinas Chapter Website</b> | <a href="http://www.aegcarolinas.org">www.aegcarolinas.org</a>   |
| <b>AEG National Website</b>          | <a href="http://www.aegweb.org">www.aegweb.org</a>   |

**Cover:** Collage of pictures from the Carolinas Chapter Spring Field Course on April 11, 2026, led by Phil Bradley, P.G. (NCGS).

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## Message from the Chair

*By Laura Elliott, P.G.*

I hope some of you were able to stop by our AEG Booth at the Clemson Hydrogeology Symposium earlier this month. What a wonderful event that always is - in person and to attend virtually! Your Carolinas Board wishes to support all geology research and outreach to further the love of engineering geology within the scientific community, the academic community, and to anyone with an interest in what we do. If there is an upcoming event or you have a great idea for one, please let us know.

We were likewise so glad to see your smiling faces at our Raleigh Chapter meeting with President Paul Weaver, P.G. speaking and the Dark Mountain Field Course to explore the Uwharrie volcanics of the Albemarle Volcanic Island Arc field course led by Phil Bradley, P.G. If you couldn't make it, you definitely missed out. Please plan to attend an upcoming social event or help us bring some new meetings/events to more corners of both states.

I would like to congratulate the recipient of the AEG Carolinas Chapter Annual Scholarship, Chandler Deese. She is a senior in The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Geological Sciences Program. She plans to attend Lehigh University's field camp, which will be across South Dakota, Wyoming, and Montana – what an amazing experience that will be! All undergraduate students enrolled in a geology or geoscience program in North or South Carolina are eligible to apply for this. Please consider applying this coming year (by January 15, 2027).

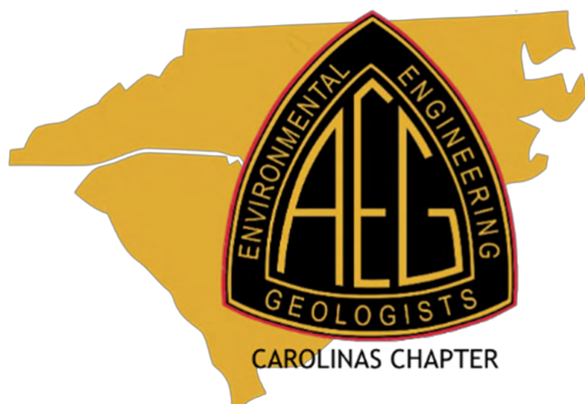
As always, thank you to ALL of our wonderful volunteers. I wish each of our members and sponsors a relaxing and very safe summer filled with hiking, biking, camping, swimming, and all the outdoor adventures our great states can offer from Murphy to Manteo down to Daufuskie!

Cheers,

Laura R. Elliott, P.G.


AEG Carolinas Chapter Chair

[laura.elliott@terracon.com](mailto:laura.elliott@terracon.com)



## 2025 Chapter Finances

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

|   |                    |                    |  |                    |                     |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|--|--------------------|---------------------|
|    |                    |                    |  |                    |                     |
| Association of Environmental & Engineering Geologists<br>2480 West Bay Dr #141<br>Belleair Bluffs, FL 33770-2620<br>Phone: 727-940-2658      Manager@aegweb.org |                    |                    |  |                    |                     |
| <b>Chapter Financial Report: FY 2025</b>  |                    |                    |  |                    |                     |
| <b>Chapter: Carolinas Chapter</b>   |                    |                    |  |                    |                     |
| Balance on Jan 1, 2025:   |                    | \$ 14,048.21       | Balance on December 31, 2025:  |                    | \$ 11,600.33        |
| <b>Chapter Officers:</b>  |                    |                    |  |                    |                     |
| Chair:  | Laura Elliott      | email:             | <a href="mailto:laura.rob.elliott@gmail.com">laura.rob.elliott@gmail.com</a>         |                    |                     |
| ViceChair:  | Meredith Ambrose   | email:             | <a href="mailto:mparnold11@gmail.com">mparnold11@gmail.com</a>                       |                    |                     |
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| Secretary:  | Carsen Adams       | email:             | <a href="mailto:carsen.adams@martinmarietta.com">carsen.adams@martinmarietta.com</a> |                    |                     |
| <b>CHAPTER REVENUE</b>  |                    |                    |  |                    |                     |
|   | First Quarter      | Second Quarter     | Third Quarter  | Fourth Quarter     | YTD Total           |
|   | Jan-Mar            | Apr-Jun            | Jul-Sept   | Oct-Dec            |                     |
| Chapter Dues  | \$ 430.00          | \$ 440.00          |  |                    | \$ 870.00           |
| Subscriptions   |                    |                    |  |                    | \$ -                |
| Meetings  | \$ 4,862.00        | \$ 1,055.00        |  | \$ 2,194.00        | \$ 8,111.00         |
| Short Courses   |                    |                    |  |                    | \$ -                |
| Field Trips   |                    | \$ 510.00          |  | \$ 1,598.00        | \$ 2,108.00         |
| Publications and Other Sales  |                    |                    |  |                    | \$ -                |
| Bank/Investment Interest  | \$ 0.33            | \$ 0.33            | \$ 0.32  | \$ 0.28            | \$ 1.26             |
| Contributions/Gifts/Sponsorships  | \$ 3,375.00        | \$ 2,299.50        | \$ 275.00  | \$ 275.00          | \$ 6,224.50         |
| Advertising: Web & Newsletter   |                    |                    |  |                    | \$ -                |
| Other Income  |                    |                    |  |                    | \$ -                |
| Accounts Receivable   |                    |                    |  |                    | \$ -                |
| Unaccounted   | \$ 99.89           | \$ 0.11            |  |                    | \$ 100.00           |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>   | <b>\$ 8,767.22</b> | <b>\$ 4,304.94</b> | <b>\$ 275.32</b>   | <b>\$ 4,067.28</b> | <b>\$ 17,414.76</b> |
| <b>CHAPTER EXPENSES</b>   |                    |                    |  |                    |                     |
| Meetings  | \$ 4,971.13        | \$ 4,013.38        | \$ 4,114.63  | \$ 4,206.79        | \$ 17,305.93        |
| Short Courses   |                    |                    |  |                    | \$ -                |
| Field Trips   |                    | \$ 256.15          |  | \$ 441.56          | \$ 697.71           |
| Publications  |                    |                    |  |                    | \$ -                |
| Advertising   |                    | \$ 250.00          |  |                    | \$ 250.00           |
| Printing, Postage   |                    |                    |  | \$ 13.45           | \$ 13.45            |
| Student Support   |                    |                    |  |                    | \$ -                |
| Merchandise Purchases   |                    |                    |  |                    | \$ -                |
| BOD Meetings  |                    |                    |  |                    | \$ -                |
| Banking Fees  | \$ 319.75          | \$ 129.62          |  | \$ 215.06          | \$ 664.43           |
| Website/E-Communication   | \$ 627.95          |                    |  | \$ 203.17          | \$ 831.12           |
| Lobbying/Political Outreach   |                    |                    |  |                    | \$ -                |
| Other Expenses:   |                    |                    |  |                    | \$ -                |
| Unaccounted   |                    |                    |  | \$ 100.00          | \$ 100.00           |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>   | <b>\$ 5,918.83</b> | <b>\$ 4,649.15</b> | <b>\$ 4,114.63</b>   | <b>\$ 5,180.03</b> | <b>\$ 19,862.64</b> |
| Quarterly Surplus (Deficit)   | \$ 2,848.39        | \$ (344.21)        | \$ (3,839.31)  | \$ (1,112.75)      | \$ (2,447.88)       |
| FY Balance  | \$ 16,896.60       | \$ 16,552.39       | \$ 12,713.08   | \$ 11,600.33       | \$ 11,600.33        |

## The Inaugural North Carolina Environmental Conference (NCEC) is Coming

*By Rick Kolb, P.G. and David Mook*

The inaugural **North Carolina Environmental Conference - NCEC** will be held at the Benton Convention Center in Winston-Salem on October 6 and 7, 2026. This conference will be similar in format to the annual **Tennessee Environmental Network Show of the South** and the annual **Georgia Environmental Conference**.

As shown on the website, [www.northcarolinaenet.com](http://www.northcarolinaenet.com), the mission of the conference is “To create and effectively operate an annually occurring **North Carolina Environmental Conference**, providing **fresh, new, high-value, well-balanced, diverse, and relevant** educational content with a **positive impact on current and future** practitioners and the environment of North Carolina and the Mid-Atlantic region, while embracing a strong commitment to fostering significant connections among **Attendees, Speakers, Sponsors, and Exhibitors.**”

The conference will comprise eight break-out session blocks with five concurrent break-out rooms per block, for a total of forty topical presentations. The topic categories include the following:

- Air
- Assessment and Remediation
- Brownfield/Land Use
- Emerging Contaminants/Cumulative Impact
- Energy/Digital Infrastructure/Transportation
- Mining
- Natural Resources/Coastal/Wetlands
- Sustainability/Circular Economy/Natural Disasters
- Solid and Hazardous Waste
- Water/Aquatic Resources

## The Inaugural North Carolina Environmental Conference (NCEC) is Coming, Cont.

The conference is owned and operated by David Mook ([dmook@centergygroup.com](mailto:dmook@centergygroup.com)) and Dr. Jill Geraghty ([jgeraghty@centergygroup.com](mailto:jgeraghty@centergygroup.com)) from Atlanta. They are actively recruiting motivated Steering Committee Members to meaningfully and significantly participate as Topic Category Leaders and Topic Session Coordinators. Most importantly, the Steering Committee members are actively recruiting Speakers to present the topical sessions.

The conference offers multiple student scholarship opportunities for enrolled Undergraduate, Graduate, and Doctoral students of \$1,500 each and hosts the finalists to present their research and network during the conference. There is a Student Scholarship supporting Golf Tournament on October 5<sup>th</sup>. The conference seeks Sponsors at multiple levels – Diamond, Platinum, Gold, Silver, and Bronze, all of which include Exhibit Booths. Complete details are on the conference website.

A promotional graphic for the North Carolina Environmental Conference (NCEC) 2026. The background is a scenic view of a park with a pond, trees with autumn foliage, and a city skyline in the distance under a blue sky with light clouds. The text is overlaid on the image. At the top right, it says "Focused on Outcomes!". In the center, the letters "NCEC" are written in large, bold, blue font, with a green leaf-like shape above and a blue wave-like shape below. Below "NCEC", it says "October 6-7, 2026" and "Winston-Salem, NC". At the bottom, it says "North Carolina Environmental Conference", "Benton Convention Center", and "www.NorthCarolinaENet.com".

*Focused on Outcomes!*

**NCEC**

October 6-7, 2026  
Winston-Salem, NC

North Carolina Environmental Conference  
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## Jahns Lecturer Chris Stohr's Visit to the Carolinas Chapter

By Michael Daniels (Chapter Student Liaison), Andrew Beaty (Chapter Field Course Chair), and Rick Kolb (Chapter Advisor)

The Carolinas Chapter of the Association of Environmental & Engineering Geologists welcomed **Dr. Christopher “Chris” Stohr**, the 2025–2026 Richard H. Jahns Distinguished Lecturer, for a multi-day visit across South and North Carolina. The tour provided students and professionals with valuable exposure to applied geology, career development, and real-world environmental and engineering geology case studies. Our chapter's Student Liaison, **Michael Daniels**, was the “travel agent” and organized Dr. Stohr's visit.

The Jahns Distinguished Lecturer program promotes awareness of environmental and engineering geology through invited presentations at universities and professional venues, helping connect students with practicing professionals and emerging career opportunities.



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## Jahns Lecturer Chris Stohr's Visit to the Carolinas Chapter, Cont.

Students and faculty attended these sessions to learn about real-world applications of engineering geology, including case studies related to groundwater protection, landfill performance, and environmental monitoring. Drawing from over four decades of professional experience, Dr. Stohr emphasized the importance of field observation, data interpretation, and interdisciplinary collaboration in solving complex geologic challenges. These visits provided students with direct interaction with an internationally recognized practitioner, offering insight into career paths in environmental and engineering geology while reinforcing the practical impact of applied geoscience in infrastructure, environmental protection, and public safety.

Dr. Stohr flew into Charleston on Sunday, January 25. American Airlines had to change his initial travel plans due to the excessive amount of snow that was forecast to fall in the Carolinas that weekend. He spent Sunday and Monday night in college accommodations, organized by College of Charleston geology professor **Dr. Norm Levine**, and on Monday Dr. Stohr delivered his presentation, *Navigating a Wide-ranging Career in Environmental and Engineering Geology*, which highlighted his extensive experience in applied geology and environmental problem-solving.



## Jahns Lecturer Chris Stohr's Visit to the Carolinas Chapter, Cont.



*Pictures from CofC*



On Tuesday, Dr. Stohr Chris drove his rental car to Columbia for his presentation at the University of South Carolina, organized by geology professor **Dr. Katherine Ryker** (an NC State alumnus), where on Tuesday morning Dr. Stohr presented his talk in the Jones Physical Science Center, *A Short Collection of Case Studies From Around the World*, to an audience of 300 students and several faculty. His presentation explored the lessons he had learned from legacy waste sites and environmental investigations, illustrating how modern imaging techniques, field methods, and geologic interpretation can improve environmental protection and infrastructure management. The visit reinforced the mission of the Jahns Lecturer program of connecting academic learning with professional practice and demonstrating the value of applied geology in real-world decision-making. In the afternoon, Dr. Stohr made a second presentation at USC in the Earth and Water Sciences Building, *Navigating a Wides-ranging Career in Environmental and Engineering Geology*. Dr. Stohr spent the night in accommodations provided by USC.

## Jahns Lecturer Chris Stohr's Visit to the Carolinas Chapter, Cont.



*Picture from USC*

On Wednesday, January 28, Dr. Stohr drove to Clemson University, where he was hosted by **Dr. Scott Brame** for his presentation to students and faculty in the geoscience and engineering community. The presentation focused on practical applications of environmental and engineering geology, drawing on decades of experience in groundwater investigations, waste containment performance, and applied field methods. Dr. Stohr emphasized the importance of careful site characterization, strong geologic interpretation, and interdisciplinary collaboration when addressing complex environmental challenges.

On Thursday, January 29, Dr. Stohr drove to Charlotte and met **Rick Kolb** at an Enterprise Rent-a-Car depot near UNC Charlotte. After Chris dropped off his car, Rick drove him to UNC Charlotte. We had lunch in Smith Hall with Senior Lecturer **Jake Armour** and student **Olivia Brooks**, after which Chris presented his Navigating a Career talk to students in McEniry Hall. Dr. Stohr spent the rest of the afternoon talking with students individually in one of the conference rooms. Jake drove Dr. Stohr to the Olde Mecklenburg Brewery (OMB) for his presentation at that evening's chapter meeting.

## Jahns Lecturer Chris Stohr's Visit to the Carolinas Chapter, Cont.

Our Field Course Chair, Andrew Beaty, organized the meeting at OMB, our usual venue in Charlotte for our winter chapter meeting. The meeting was well attended by private- and public-sector professionals and students from both UNC Charlotte and Appalachian State University. **Joan Smyth**, an Adjunct Research and Teaching Professor at App State and previous speaker at a Carolinas Chapter dinner meeting, led the establishment of an AEG Student Chapter at the school, and since her arrival there she has been bringing students to chapter meetings. As usual, the chapter meeting started with a hour-and-a-half social of beverages and appetizers, which was followed by a buffet dinner, and the evening was capped with Dr. Stohr's presentation, *Retrospective of the Earthline Hazardous Waste Landfill Failure: A Case Study of Legacy Landfills and Dumps*. After the meeting, Jake took Chris to his house, where Chris spent the night.



Picture from OMB

## Jahns Lecturer Chris Stohr's Visit to the Carolinas Chapter, Cont.

On Friday, January 30, Rick picked up Chris at Jake's house and drove him to Greenville, where we met East Carolina University geology professor **Dr. Eric Horsman**. In Graham Hall, Chris made his presentation, *Protecting Groundwater Quality Through Improved Landfill Maintenance Inspections and Records for Maintenance Using Freely-Available Imagery.* Dr. Stohr had planned to spend the night in Greenville and fly home on Saturday, but snow was forecast to begin falling on Friday night, and having encountered similar weather issues the weekend before when he flew to Charleston, he decided to fly out of Greenville to Charlotte that evening. After catching his connecting flight in Charlotte to Dallas/Ft. Worth, he spent the night in Dallas before flying home the next day to Champagne/Urbana. His early departure was a good idea because over a foot of snow fell on Greenville that night.

Thus, our chapter had another successful visit and week-long tour by the Jahns Lecturer. We have hosted the lecturer almost every year since 2007. Typically the lecturers have spent several days to a week in the Carolinas making presentations at universities, talking to students about careers in environmental and engineering geology.



**Aaron Gross, PG**

Senior Geologist & Drilling Coordinator

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## 2026 Membership Renewal

### Did your membership expire?

If you did not renew before 12/31/2025, your membership status has lapsed. You cannot log into the AEG website anywhere except in the membership forms. You can still renew by visiting the membership join/renew page and following the instructions.

Please contact AEG Headquarters ([contact@aegweb.org](mailto:contact@aegweb.org)) or the Carolinas Chapter Membership Chair (Katie Adkisson, [kaitlinadisson@gmail.com](mailto:kaitlinadisson@gmail.com)) if you have questions or need assistance. You are always welcome to call Member Services to renew over the phone at (727) 940-2658 x 2004.



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## AEG Visiting Professional's Panel at Appalachian State University

*By Michael Daniels (Chapter Student Liaison)*

The AEG Visiting Professionals Program made a successful stop at Appalachian State University on January 23rd, bringing together students and professionals for an engaging and insightful session.

This visit featured a small panel of three industry professionals: Katie Haven GIT, Mike Lear, PG, from Summit Design and Engineering, as well as Michael Daniels, PG, from Falcon Engineering, all graduates of Appalachian State's Geology Department. The shared connection to App State created a meaningful dynamic, allowing students to see firsthand career paths available to alumni within the geoscience field.

All three panelists previously worked together in the Geotechnical Department at Summit Design and Engineering, providing a unique perspective on collaboration and career development within the same organization. The panel also reflected career progression within the industry as Michael and Katie were hired and mentored by AEG's previous student liaison Brad Worley, PG.



## AEG Visiting Professional's Panel at Appalachian State University, Cont.

The panel discussion provided students with valuable insight into careers in geotechnical and environmental consulting, along with practical advice on transitioning from academia into the workforce. Students were highly engaged, asking thoughtful questions about field work, professional growth, and industry expectations.

Events like this continue to demonstrate the impact of the AEG Visiting Professionals Program in strengthening the connection between students and practicing professionals. The strong engagement from App State students made this visit especially rewarding and highlighted the importance of giving back to the next generation of geoscientists.







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## 2026 Earth Educators Rendezvous

*By Katherine Ryker (Associate Professor, University of South Carolina)*

AEG members are invited to expand their perspective on Earth science education while experiencing two outstanding field excursions at the 2026 Earth Educators' Rendezvous (July 20–23, Columbia, SC). While the Rendezvous is best known for its collaborative workshops, talks, and discussions focused on advancing Earth education, these field trips offer hands-on opportunities to connect geologic insight with teaching, interpretation, and real-world environmental systems. **Learn more about the meeting or register at [https://serc.carleton.edu/earth\\_rendezvous/2026/index.html](https://serc.carleton.edu/earth_rendezvous/2026/index.html)**

**Congaree National Park (Sunday, July 19, led by Dr. Raymond Torres, USC)** explores one of the Southeast's striking "ribbons of green" - broad floodplain valleys visible even from satellite imagery. Within this remarkably preserved system lies the largest intact old-growth bottomland hardwood forest in the United States. Participants will examine floodplain formation processes, subtle (<1 m) topographic variability, and the hydrologic dynamics that shape sedimentation, inundation, and ecosystem structure across scales. For engineering and environmental geologists, this trip offers a rare look at a relatively undisturbed floodplain system, ideal for thinking about watershed behavior, land use impacts, and restoration analogs.



*Picture at a field trip of a previous EER Event*

## 2026 Earth Educators Rendezvous, Cont.

**Peachtree Rock Heritage Preserve (Friday, July 24 led by Dr. Andrew Leier, USC)** provides access to some of the only sedimentary rock exposures in the region. These Eocene sandstones, rich with *Ophiomorpha* burrows, cross-stratification, and fossil material, record an ancient shoreline during greenhouse climate conditions. The trip emphasizes depositional interpretation, stratigraphy, and links to modern coastal processes, including sea-level rise along the South Carolina coast. Broader discussions connect geologic history to present-day environmental challenges, with the added intrigue of historical artifacts from early 20th-century activity in the area.

Whether you're interested in geomorphology, stratigraphy, or translating geologic complexity into meaningful narratives, these trips provide valuable technical and educational insights. Join us in Columbia to explore how field-based understanding can inform both practice and teaching.



*Group picture at a previous EER Event*

# North Carolina Environmental Conference

## Benton Convention Center

[www.NorthCarolinaENet.com](http://www.NorthCarolinaENet.com)

October 6-7, 2026



The **North Carolina Environmental Conference** is the largest, most comprehensive and diverse environmental education opportunity in North Carolina, and is attended by 500 Local, State, and Federal Government Officials, Economic Development, Business and Industry Leaders, Corporate Sustainability, Scientists, Educators and Universities, Non-profits, Manufacturers, Attorneys, Consultants, Architects, Engineers, Builders and Contractors, Developers, Land Owners, Agribusiness Leaders, Energy and Transportation Experts, Geologists, Forestry, Agribusiness, Water Planning Districts, Public Health Officials, Solid and Hazardous Waste, Recycling Experts, Enviro-Tech, and many others with a strong interest in environmental activities in North Carolina and the Mid-Atlantic region.

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## Carolinas Chapter Volunteer Profile— Adam Phillips

*By Rick Kolb*

The Carolinas Chapter is managed by the board of directors but includes other positions not on the five-member board. We have profiled several of these members, including **Andrew Beaty** as Field Course Chair, **Michael Daniels** as Student Liaison, **Colleen Ranieri** as Sponsor Chair, and **Katie Adkisson** as Membership Chair and Newsletter Co-editor. These individuals serve specific functions, as their titles imply, and their assistance in “running” the chapter is critical, so that we can share the work with many people rather than putting the burden on only a few.

This quarter we profile **Adam Phillips**, who serves as the chapter’s Social Committee Chair. Adam updates our LinkedIn posts and will soon revive our Facebook page (we lost login information for Facebook long ago, so we need to start over) and will enlist us on Instagram and Bluesky. Adam is the Business Development Manager for North and South Carolina at Enthalpy Analytical, one of our chapter sponsors (thank you, Adam!). As chair of our Social Committee, he helps coordinate our quarterly chapter meetings and social events and promotes them on social media. Adam has over 15 years of experience in the environmental-testing industry and previously worked for a consulting firm early in his career. He earned two degrees from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington in Environmental Studies. In hindsight, Adam wishes he had studied geology (yeah, he’s envious of those of get to take the FG and PG exams...)! Adam is a native of Asheville and enjoys any outdoor activity - hiking, camping, fishing, hunting, boating, and gardening. Adam has lived in the mountains, coast, and Piedmont and is a proud North Carolinian. If you have any suggestions for social activities the chapter could undertake, send him an email at [adam.phillips@enthalpy.com](mailto:adam.phillips@enthalpy.com).



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## 2026 Clemson Hydrogeological Symposium

*By Jen Thomas, Past Carolinas Chapter Chair*

I went to the Clemson Hydrogeological Symposium on a mission to promote AEG (and fulfill my continuing education credits). Since I wasn't attending any field trips, the event started for me with a social at Kite Hill Brewing for beer, pizza, and a snack spread. I had a beer with some of the Carolinas Chapter sponsors past and present and maybe got some to think about sponsoring again. We'll see.



**FROEHLING &  
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## 2026 Clemson Hydrogeological Symposium, Cont.

The next morning, I set up my display table and explored the talks on a wide diversity of topics, many of which were focused on South Carolina. I caught up with a former co-worker giving a talk on geophysics. Other talks I saw included reconstructing historical flood events by studying tree rings and using the composition of foraminifera to track past storm events, and karst terrain assessment in Eastern Tennessee. There were sessions on PFAS and microplastics. The keynote address discussed how groundwater recharge was impacted by changes in land use and climate in Wisconsin. The talks were evenly divided between post-grad research and professionals.



## 2026 Clemson Hydrogeological Symposium, Cont.

During breaks, I greeted attendees at the AEG table. The South Carolina Department of Environmental Services employees showed interest in getting involved. Most of the flyers for the upcoming meeting and field trip were picked up.

In closing, conference attendees were invited to a picnic on a forested bluff above a lake. Some of the people I spoke with told me they go to this conference every year. It typically sells out before the end of the registration period. I also learned that Scott Brame puts it on single-handedly.



## Summary of April 2026 NCBLG Meeting

*By Rick Kolb*

The North Carolina Board for Licensing of Geologists (NCBLG; <https://www.ncblg.org/>) is managed by Upton Associates and Barbara U. Geiger is the Board Administrator. The board meets quarterly, typically at the North Carolina State University Club in Raleigh and once a year in the geology department at a university in North Carolina (the November 6<sup>th</sup> meeting will be held at UNC Charlotte). The first part of each meeting, typically two to three hours in length, is open to the public and anyone, licensed or not, can attend this portion of the meeting. The board goes into closed session when discussing topics such as applications for the FG and PG exams and disciplinary proceedings. Past board member Rick Kolb attended the open portion of the April 13<sup>th</sup> meeting, which was held at the North Carolina Board of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors because the University Club is closed on Mondays.

At the April meeting, Barbara announced the latest statistics: 1,184 licensed geologists, 217 corporate licenses, and 234 exam candidates, of which 47 are Geologists-in-Training. She said applications to take the FG and PG ASBOG exams are up. The board reviewed and approved two applications for continuing-education hours; preapproved courses are listed on the website at <https://www.ncblg.org/resources/approved-continuing-ed-database>.

The board has instituted a new system for renewing geology licenses, as noted in the board's April 17<sup>th</sup> email to licensees. As part of renewal this year, each licensee will receive with their license card a "Licensed Professional Geologist" sticker as shown below, measuring 6 inches by 3 inches.

Licensed Professional Geologist



Licensees can purchase additional stickers for \$2.00 and a Licensed Professional Geologist magnet, measuring 7 inches by 3 inches, for \$3.00.

## Carolinas Chapter Spring Dinner Meeting Recap

*By Meredith Ambrose, Vice Chair*

On Thursday, April 9 the Carolinas Chapter hosted Paul Weaver, the current AEG national president, to speak at our spring dinner meeting, which we co-hosted with the Carolinas Section of AIPG. This year we switched it up a bit from our normal brewery spots and chose Gravy in downtown Raleigh. We had heavy hors d'oeuvres as the meal and Lee Marchman with Field Environmental (a platinum sponsor!) graciously volunteered to be a drink sponsor for the event!



## Carolinas Chapter Spring Dinner Meeting Recap, Cont.

Paul's presentation highlighted his extensive career as a geologist throughout many different industries, and the lessons he learned along the way. There were, of course, many stories he recollected; some good and some very, very bad (i.e. your field geologist finding a dead body on a job site). Many students from NCSU, Wake Tech, and UNC attended, as well as educators and private and public sector employees of all different ages. The great thing about Paul's presentation was that anyone who attended learned something valuable and could really relate to his lengthy career.



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## Carolinas Chapter Spring Dinner Meeting Recap, Cont.

Paul retired from ESP Associates, Inc. in 2024 where he was the senior transportation geotechnical project manager in charge of all North Carolina transportation geotechnical work. Some of the many positions he held over his 40 plus year career include concrete and soil technician/soils and concrete laboratory manager, geologist/quality control manager for a limestone quarry, in-house specialist for subgrade and base stone chemical stabilization with the North Carolina Department of Transportation, drilling department manager, and geotechnical engineering department manager. Paul received his degree in geology from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington in 1981. He has been very involved in AEG for over 25 years serving as Chair of the Carolinas Chapter for 4 years, Southeast Region Director for 2 years, Co-Chair of the 2019 AEG Annual Meeting held in Asheville, Co-Chair of the AEG Meetings Advisory Committee, and he is currently Chair of the AEG Carolinas Scholarship Committee, advisor to the Carolinas Chapter, and Treasurer for the upcoming AEG 2026 Annual Meeting to be held in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Paul lives in Greensboro, North Carolina and is a licensed geologist in North Carolina. In his free time, Paul enjoys creating unique wood crafted items such as tables, benches, wine racks, etc.



## Carolinas Chapter Spring Dinner Meeting Recap, Cont.



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## Carolinas Chapter Spring Field Course Recap

*By Katie Adkisson, Membership Chair & Newsletter Co-Editor*

On Saturday, April 11th, the Carolinas Chapter welcomed Phil Bradley, P.G. to lead our spring field course to Explore the Uwharrie Volcanics of the Albemarle Volcanic Island Arc near Troy, NC. Phil is a Senior Piedmont Geologist with the NC Geological Survey. The field course was held in the northern portion of the Southern Pines 100K map near Troy, NC. Members of the Carolinas Chapter AEG toured key outcrops and mapping areas used by the NC Geological Survey (NCGS) during its Piedmont compilation and 100K-scale mapping program. The NCGS — with partial USGS STATEMAP support — has spent recent years compiling legacy data and collecting new bedrock and structural data across the Chapel Hill and Southern Pines 100Ks. In June 2025 the Piedmont program completed field work and produced a preliminary map of the northern half of the Southern Pines 100K; the field course visited much of that mapped ground. Field course participants hiked about 3 miles across the Uwharrie Volcanic Complex, observing lithologies including conglomeratic siltstones and sandstones, volcanic tuff, and rhyodacite. Participants also got the chance to see if collecting strike and dip measurements are like riding a bike. Those results were inconclusive.



## Carolinas Chapter Spring Field Course Recap, Cont.

Goals and mapping methods: The principal NCGS mapping objectives were to refine geologic contacts previously mapped at reconnaissance scale, resolve edge-match issues with adjacent detailed maps, and collect systematic bedrock structural and fracture data. Mapping covered an area equivalent to roughly eight 24K quadrangles at 100K compilation scale. Teams documented contacts, lithologic variations, and sampled bedrock for U-Pb geochronology.



## Carolinas Chapter Spring Field Course Recap, Cont.

Key findings and significance: Field mapping and new age data have prompted significant revisions to regional stratigraphy and improved understanding of the Carolina terrane in the Southern Pines area. The compilation supports reinterpreting the long-recognized Uwharrie unit as the Uwharrie Volcanic Complex and establishes a new major unit, the Seagrove Formation. Four U-Pb samples from the northern Southern Pines 100K (two for crystallization ages, two detrital) and four additional late-2025 samples from the southern Southern Pines and Laurinburg 100Ks were collected for dating. Combined age data indicate volcanism and sedimentation of the Uwharrie Volcanic Complex and Seagrove Formation spanned roughly ca. 560 Ma to ca. 523 Ma, broadly contemporaneous with deposition of Albemarle Group units, refining the timing and nature of Albemarle Arc volcanism.



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## Carolinas Chapter Spring Field Course Recap, Cont.

Outputs and access: The Piedmont program advanced the Henderson and Chapel Hill 100K maps to open-file status; these and the Southern Pines products are available for download from the NCGS website. Continued geochronology and compilation work will further refine correlations across adjacent 100Ks.



## AEG Carolinas Chapter Board of Directors Meeting

**April 3, 2026**

*By Carsen Adams, Carolinas Chapter Secretary*

### **Call to Order—Laura Elliott**

**Roll Call—** Laura Elliott, Meredith Ambrose, Walt Plekan, Carsen Adams, Jen Thomas, Katie Adkisson, Andrew Beaty, Michael Daniels, Colleen Ranieri, Rick Kolb, Paul Weaver

### **Membership— Katie**

- Katie provided a membership update.
- Board members will continue reaching out to non-renewed members.
- Total membership is 241 members, many of whom are student members.

### **Finances— Walt**

- As of April 3, 2026, approximately \$16,000 across all accounts.
- General discussion on the cost of dinner meetings.
  - Be cognizant of costs going forward.
  - Work with venues to obtain nonprofit rates and menu pricing.
- Chapter membership fee is currently \$10.
  - Consider raising the fee to \$15 or \$20.
  - Field trips help generate revenue.
  - Brainstorm new field trip opportunities:
    - ✦ Mines across the Piedmont (gold, lithium, aggregate, etc.).
    - ✦ Nuclear power station tour or field trip.
- Consider switching payment processing from PayPal to Zeffy.
  - Carsen and Walt to work on this.

## AEG Carolinas Chapter Board of Directors Meeting, Cont. April 3, 2026

### Sponsorship Updates— Colleen

- Discussed setting up a Carolinas Chapter shared Google account to archive documents, emails, photos, etc.
- Several new sponsors confirmed for 2026.
- Continue outreach to former sponsors for renewal.

### Chapter Meetings

- **April 9, 2026 – Raleigh Meeting at Gravy**
  - Paul Weaver speaking.
  - Meredith and Rick worked with Gravy to reduce costs.
  - Nonprofit rate was used.
  - Going forward:
    - ✦ Identify venues that work well with nonprofits.
    - ✦ Provide an advance budget to venues.
    - ✦ Compare costs of a full sit-down meal versus heavy appetizers.
- **Asheville, NC – September**
  - Inquire about the Hi-Wire event space.
- **Greensboro, NC – October 2026**
  - Paul to investigate additional venue options.
  - Nancy Hardison with Brooks Pierce offered to speak on Brownfields.
- **Columbia, SC Meeting** (Contact: Katherine Ryker)
  - Hunter-Gatherer and Savage Craft noted as popular venues.
  - Consider format:
    - ✦ Full dinner meeting versus social or mini-speaker event.
    - ✦ Evaluate costs.

## **AEG Carolinas Chapter Board of Directors Meeting, Cont. April 3, 2026**

- **Wilmington, NC**

- Potential social discussed.

### **Field Courses— Andrew**

- Dark Mountain Field Course – Uwharrie, April 2026
  - Led by Phil Bradley.
- Western North Carolina field course
  - Potentially led by David Korte.

### **Spring Newsletter— Meredith**

- Information requested to be submitted to Meredith by April 3.
- Historically, newsletters are sent the month before chapter meetings to advertise upcoming events.
  - Discussion on whether to adjust the schedule for Fall 2026.

### **Scholarship Updates— Laura / Paul**

- Scholarship awarded to one (very deserving) applicant.
- Discuss the possibility of the recipient presenting at a future meeting following the field course.
- Posting and visibility discussion:
  - Currently posted on the AEG Foundation website.
  - In the future, include links in announcements and email blasts for greater visibility.

### **Student Liaison— Michael**

- Provided general updates.
- Discussed the Visiting Professionals Speaker Series.

## AEG Carolinas Chapter Board of Directors Meeting, Cont. April 3, 2026

### Chapter Update for the Next AEG News Edition — Laura

- AEG News is published five times per year:
  - Regular issues in Spring, Summer, and Winter.
  - Annual Report and Directory issue in March.
  - Annual Meeting Program with Abstracts issue in September.

|   |   |
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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS—2026*****Geological Events in the Carolinas***

Courtesy of AEG Carolinas Chapter—[www.aegcarolinas.org](http://www.aegcarolinas.org). Last updated April 21, 2026

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: April 28-29, 2026**

Event: 2026 Emerging Contaminants in the Environment Conference (ECEC 26)

Location: I Hotel and Conference Center; Champaign, Illinois

Details: <https://publish.illinois.edu/emerging-contaminants-conference/>

**Date: June 8-10, 2026**

Event: 2026 National PFAS Conference

Location: I Hotel and Conference Center; Champaign, Illinois

Details: [www.nationalpfasconference.org](http://www.nationalpfasconference.org)

**Date: June 11, 2026**

Event: Groundwater Professionals of North Carolina Spring Mini-Conference 2026

Location: Frontier RTP in Durham

Details: TBA

CE credits: TBA

**Dates: August 18 & 19, 2026**

Event: American Ground Water Trust's *Mid-Atlantic & the Carolinas Groundwater Conference*

Location: Embassy Suites at 2925 Emerywood Parkway in Richmond, Virginia

Details: <https://agwt.org/event/26magw/>

CE credits: TBA

**Date: September 13-19, 2026**

Event: AEG 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting: Rivers, Rails, Roads & Rocks

Location: Westin Chattanooga; 801 Pine Street; Chattanooga, Tennessee

Details: <https://www.aegannualmeeting.org/future-aeg-meetings>

**Date: September 17, 2026**

Event: Groundwater Professionals of North Carolina Annual Golf Tournament

Location: Bryan Park, Greensboro, NC

Details: TBA

**Date: October 1 and 2, 2026**

Event: ASBOG FG and PG Exams

Location: The Prometric Testing Centers in North and South Carolina

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

Event: First Annual North Carolina Environmental Conference

Location: Benton Convention Center; 301 W. Fifth Street; Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Details: <https://northcarolinaenet.com/mission>

**Date: October 6 and 7, 2026**

Event: First Annual North Carolina Environmental Conference

Location: Benton Convention Center; 301 W. Fifth Street; Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Details: <https://northcarolinaenet.com/mission>

**Date: October 11-14, 2026**

Event: Geological Society of American Annual Meeting

Location: Denver, Colorado

Details: <https://connects.geosociety.org/>

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS—2026

### *Geological Events in the Carolinas*

Courtesy of AEG Carolinas Chapter—[www.aegcarolinas.org](http://www.aegcarolinas.org). Last updated April 21, 2026

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:** November 12, 2026

**Event:** Groundwater Professionals of North Carolina Fall Mini-Conference 2026

**Location:** Lenny Boy Brewing Company, 3000 South Tryon Street in Charlotte

**Details:** TBA

**CE credits:** TBA

**Details:** <https://www.aegannualmeeting.org/future-aeg-meetings>

**Date:** October 25-30, 2027

**Event:** AEG 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

**Location:** SAFE Credit Union Convention Center; Sacramento, California

**Details:** <https://www.aegannualmeeting.org/future-aeg-meetings>

**Date:** September 11-16, 2028

**Event:** AEG 71<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting

**Location:** Steamboat Grand in Steamboat Springs, Colorado



# SAVE THE DATE

September 13-19, 2026 | Westin Chattanooga

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The highlight will be locking through Chickamauga Dam.

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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.

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 business to your company. Most of our members are practicing professionals with responsibility for selecting 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.

### Silver Sponsor (\$275):

GeoNews Newsletter: Business card size ad (2" high x3-1/2" 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 Exhibits: Space for tabletop display at one meeting. 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.

### Gold Sponsor (\$400):

GeoNews Newsletter: Quarter-Page ad (4-1/2" high x3-1/2" 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 Exhibits: Space for tabletop display at two meetings. Cost of meeting waived for one person on the exhibit dates.

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.

### Platinum Sponsor (\$550):

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

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.

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Businesses or individuals can also advertise in GeoNews without being a full sponsor. The annual rates for advertising in GeoNews are as follows:

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Please complete the form below and mail it to Rick Kolb, AEG Carolinas Sponsorship Chair. Please email Rick if you have any questions (contact information below).

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