

# PCPG Newsletter

Communicating Key Information & Concerns  
to Geologists and Environmental Professionals

Issue 1 / 2015

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



It is with great pride, and admittedly a little trepidation, that I write my first "Message from the President" for a PCPG newsletter. It is an honor to serve as President of PCPG and as I look back over the service of past Presidents of this organization I get the sense that I have some large shoes to fill. Thankfully, however, the President's role is made much easier by the dedication of those behind the scenes and the Executive Committee, who provide institutional memory, continuity and stability to the organization; and by the accumulated wisdom of the Board of Directors ("BOD"), who, in most cases, provide the direction, commitment and legwork to further PCPG's vision to be *"the premier organization for the advancement of the ethical and professional practice of geology and the allied sciences"* and to fulfill its mission of advancing *"the practice of geology and allied science and the success of our members through advocacy, education, and networking."*

As a first order of business in 2015, I'd like to welcome newly-elected PCPG Board members Russell Losco, P.G. and John Torrence, P.G. and to congratulate Mark Iosco, P.G. on his re-election to the Board. On behalf of PCPG, I'd like to express my thanks and gratitude to outgoing board members Jim LaRegina, P.G. and Jennifer O'Reilly, P.G. for their time, commitment and excellent service to the organization. Also, I'd like to congratulate Gary Kribbs, P.G. on his election by the Board as President Elect for 2015. I look forward to working with Jennifer (Immediate Past President) and Gary (President Elect) on PCPG's Executive Committee, with the BOD and with our membership in the coming year.

I'd like to encourage our membership to become actively involved in your PCPG. To promote membership participation, and in response to comments I have received from past BOD members and past Presidents, in 2015 our quarterly in-person BOD meetings will be open to the general membership – all we ask is that you register in advance so we have an idea of how many will be attending. I encourage each of our members to attend at least one BOD meeting a year. Find out what we do, contribute to our mission, provide us your suggestions and constructive criticism and participate

*Continued on Page 11*

## DAYTRIPS TO OUTSTANDING GEOLOGIC SETTINGS IN PENNSYLVANIA

Ohiopyle State Park, Ohiopyle, PA

John Torrence, P.G.



*Potholes at Ohiopyle Falls*

from the Devonian Period; spanning roughly 120 million years of geologic history. As expected, limestone, shale, sandstone and conglomerate are present throughout the park. Outcrops at the sides of Laurel Hill expose a cross-section of the anticline, with beds dipping east and west.

I arrived at the Borough of Ohiopyle and parked across the street on the west side of Route 381 in the large Ferncliff Parking Lot, where you will also find the Park's Visitor Center, comfort stations and a really nice view of Ohiopyle Falls. In addition, there are places to eat and businesses that support outdoor enthusiasts by renting and selling kayaks, canoes, camping gear, etc.

My first hike was in the Ferncliff Natural Area; a peninsula of weathered sandstone and forest surrounded by a river meander. An old railroad bridge has been upgraded for foot traffic and you can walk across it to get to the Ferncliff Trailhead. Ferncliff Trail is a loop trail and an easy hike. It's roughly 1.7 miles in length and exposures of tan and gray Pottsville Formation Sandstone (Pennsylvanian [Late Carboniferous] Period) are present. Old river channels and potholes formed by turbulent water scouring the rock are visible from the trail. In fact, evidence of weathering and erosion was everywhere I looked. I completed the loop and went back to the Ohiopyle Falls overlook next to the Visitors Center. The riverbed is two thick beds of smooth sandstone cut by two sets of vertical fractures: one set parallel to and a second set perpendicular to the flow of the River. Large blocks of sandstone breaking away along vertical fractures have allowed the falls to migrate upstream. Numerous potholes of various sizes, and man-made square post holes are visible in the riverbed.

My next stop was an overlook along Sugarloaf Road called Baughman Rock. There is a sign and a parking area near the overlook. A very short hike at Baughman Rock starts at the north end of the parking area and presents a spectacular view of the mountains and valley. The rock is actually the top of a cliff and there is a long and sturdy fence at the edge to allow a safe spot to take in the view. You stand on exposed sandstone that provides good examples of weathering features.

The last hike of my day trip was on top of Laurel Hill on the McCune Trail, which is located on the highest ridge in the park. The trailhead is along Sugarloaf Road. To park, you drive a couple of hundred feet on a rugged dirt road to get to the small parking area. The McCune Trail is more difficult than Ferncliff Trail and is about 3.5 miles long. The trail meanders through open fields at first and then enters a wooded area with steep hills on either side. Large



*Resistant Bed of Sandstone on Baughman Rock Provides a Good Example of Weathering*

*Continued on Page 3*



### **OHIOPYLE** *Continued from Page 2*

rounded boulders of conglomerate and sandstone on either side of the trail demonstrate more of the effects of weathering and erosional forces. The McCune trail was a perfect way to end my day trip.

With another awesome day trip under the belt I returned to the Borough of Ohiopyle and found the Ohiopyle Bakery and Sandwich Shop (located at 85 Main St.); a great place to rest and grab a bite to eat and drink. The discussion around the table revolved around the scenic views, and all the trails we plan to explore next time. There are so many more day trips to be found in Ohiopyle State Park. Hiking, whitewater boating, biking, rock climbing, horseback riding, camping, watching wildlife, picnicking, cross-country skiing (and of course sledding); something for everyone. Ohiopyle State Park, I'll see you again soon.

**Park Entrance Address:** Route 381 and Sugarloaf Road, Ohiopyle, Fayette County, PA 18229.



*Ohiopyle Falls. Note the large block of sandstone that has broken away.*

**Helpful information on the  
geology of Ohiopyle State Park  
can be obtained from the DCNR, at**

**[http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/cs/  
groups/public/documents/document/  
dcnr\\_009017.pdf](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/cs/groups/public/documents/document/dcnr_009017.pdf)**



## REPORT ON THE 79TH ANNUAL FIELD CONFERENCE OF PENNSYLVANIA GEOLOGISTS: PENNSYLVANIA'S GREAT VALLEY & BORDERING MOUNTAINS NEAR CARLISLE

Gary Kribbs, P.G.

The 79th Annual Field Conference of Pennsylvania Geologists was conducted from October 16th through October 18th, 2014 and focused on Pennsylvania's Great Valley and Bordering Mountains. The field conference was jointly hosted by the Pennsylvania Geologic Survey and Dickinson College. The field trip leaders and organizers were Donald Hoskins, State Geologist, Pennsylvania Geological Survey (Retired) and Noel Potter, Jr., Dept. of Earth Sciences (Retired), Dickinson College, Carlisle, PA. Approximately 160 students, geologists, and geologic enthusiasts attended the conference. The conference was headquartered in Carlisle. Buses provided transportation to the points of interest within the Great Valley.

With a focus on South Mountain, its minerals, and the adjacent carbonate producing areas of the Great Valley Section, the conference trip covered karst, karst hydrology and water quality, paleontology, structural geology, mineralogy, glaciology, geomorphology, and discoveries and interpretations from new LiDAR technology.

### DAY ONE

Day One: Stop 1 was at Kings Gap Pond Kings Gap State Park, where attendees were introduced to karst features superimposed upon colluvial materials mantling the western flank of South Mountain.

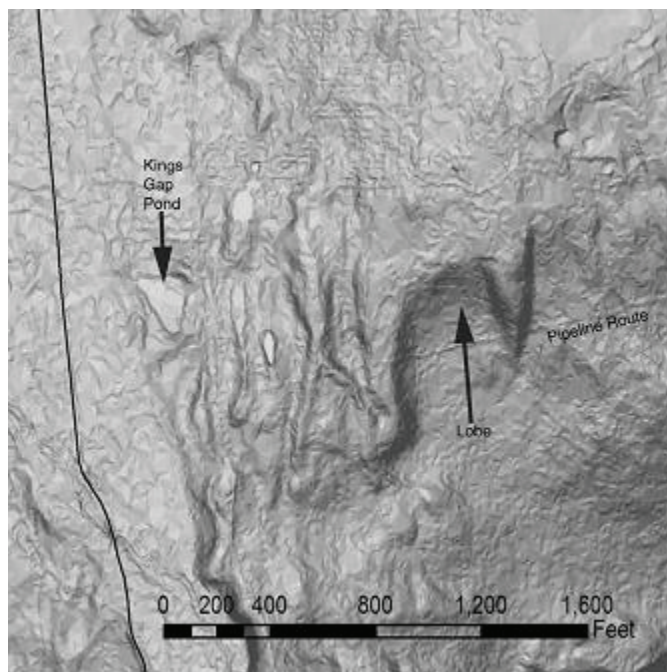


*The conference crew looking southeast at Kings Gap Pond and listening to Dr. Potter.*

*Continued on Page 5*

## FIELD CONFERENCE *Continued from Page 4*

Day One: Stop 1a dealt with the new information generated by recent LiDAR images (see below for an example). The LiDAR images have inspired some very interesting re-interpretations of periglacial permafrost and solifluction features in South Mountain colluvium and other previously interpreted alluviums.



*A LiDAR image of the western flank of south Mountain showing a solifluction feature believed to have formed in a periglacial climate during the late Pleistocene (Source: Field Conference Guidebook)*



*Observing the late Cenozoic geomorphology of the Furnace Creek Fan in the Valley Quarries Mainsville Pit.*



*Conference participants observing the paleontology and “no structure” of Shippensburg Limestone Quarry. The light colored dolomitic layers are the Rockdale Run Formation.*

*Continued on Page 6*



## FIELD CONFERENCE *Continued from Page 5*

### DAY TWO

Day Two began with Big Spring (one of the largest springs in Pennsylvania), and anisotropic groundwater flow, dye tracing flow modeling and quality monitoring in the mantled karst in the Cumberland Valley, and included a stop at Dickinson College Quarry where, in the past, rock was quarried for use in the stone veneers of Dickinson College buildings.

Stop 8 of Day 2 was the N.L. Minich & Sons, Inc. shale pit at Caprivi, where the group examined autochthonous rock types of the classical Martinsburg Formation.



*At the Minich shale pit: Don Hoskins discussing pencil cleavage and the graptolites found on bedding planes.*



*Intersecting south-dipping cleavage plus J2 joints have produced this "pencil cleavage" in the Martinsburg.*

*Continued on Page 9*



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### PCPG Events

March 31, 2015

#### PCPG Annual Meeting

Harrisburg Holiday Inn East  
Harrisburg, PA

March 31, 2015

#### PCPG Spring Job Fair

Harrisburg Holiday Inn East  
Harrisburg, PA

### Other Events

April 8, 2015

#### Pennsylvania Chamber of Business – Environmental Conference and Trade Show

Best Western Premier  
Eden Resort  
Lancaster, PA

May 6, 2015

#### 2015 Pennsylvania Groundwater Symposium

Ramada Inn  
Conference Center  
State College, PA

May 13-15, 2015

#### PA Brownfields Conference

Erie Bayfront  
Convention Center  
Erie, PA

*Don't forget to check the  
"Courses & Events" link on  
PCPG's [home page](#)  
frequently for up to date  
information on upcoming  
educational opportunities.*

## THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW STORMWATER BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES MANUAL IN PENNSYLVANIA

*Russell L. Losco, M.A., P.G., C.P.S.S.*

In recent years the focus on stormwater management has shifted from one of detention or retention to, wherever possible, infiltration of stormwater to recharge groundwater. I was lucky enough to work on one of the first projects to attempt this, a combination golf course and residential development known as Inniscrone. This project, begun in the early 1990's, is located in London Grove Township in southern Chester County. Little did I know when I started work on the project that I would end up living a short distance from it and get to see it built over the next two decades. With little guidance as to how to go about it, myself and one colleague set about testing the soil using methods developed for the On-Lot Sewage Disposal program to determine suitability for stormwater infiltration. Using this approach we met with both successes and failures.

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...often, stormwater infiltration systems were  
completely designed before any data were sought

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As time went on, more and more municipalities here in the Piedmont region, where deep soils with high intrinsic permeability rates are widespread, jumped onto the stormwater infiltration bandwagon. This led to many and varied approaches to testing and design. Often, stormwater infiltration systems were completely designed before any data were sought to support the design. This led to mixed results with stormwater infiltration and a prevalent attitude among builders and developers that "infiltration just doesn't work."

Pennsylvania attempted to address this issue by developing a Stormwater Best Management Practices Manual (BMP) to standardize testing, design and installation. The development process was, however, less than ideal. Often, comments from the professional community were not considered. When the Stormwater BMP Manual was published in 2006, it was a flawed document that, in many cases, ignored science in favor of traditional practices. So the BMP Manual improved matters slightly but many bad practices still existed.

In 2007 PCPG and the Pennsylvania Association of Professional Soil Scientists (PAPSS) were contacted by Domenic Rocco of PADEP Southeast Regional Office to provide peer review for a "White Paper" that he had written to supplement the BMP Manual. After a meeting between PADEP, PCPG and PAPSS, it became obvious that there were serious deficiencies in the BMP manual that needed to be addressed.

In 2009, an ad hoc meeting was called at PADEP's South Central regional office of all parties interested in drafting a new BMP manual. Over 100 professionals attended representing the engineering, geology, soil science and regulatory communities. After a morning of discussion, sub-groups broke out to divide the subject into areas of expertise and tackle the daunting task of creating a state-of-the art manual. This was the birth of the Pennsylvania Stormwater Technical Work Group (PASTW), which is open to any professionals in a related field who wish to contribute. We continue to work in conjunction with PADEP with the goal of producing a completed manual sometime in 2015.

*Continued on Page 13*



## STUDENT CORNER

*Martin F. Helmke, Ph.D., P.G., West Chester University of Pennsylvania*

Welcome to the *Student Corner*, a forum for information exchange between students and geologic professionals across the Commonwealth.

This quarter's student topic is internships. An internship allows students and recent graduates to hold a temporary position with the intention of developing on-the-job skills and to build an employment record. These positions can be paid, volunteer, part-time, or full-time. An internship can be mutually beneficial for both students and employers. Students receive real-world training in a supportive, low-risk environment, while adding experience to their resume and (if all goes well) a reference for future employment. Employers gain a low-cost employee with short-term commitment, along with the altruistic satisfaction that they are preparing the next generation for careers in the geosciences. Students should also be aware that many internships lead directly to offers for permanent employment by the host organization.

Although some academic institutions maintain long-term internship programs with industry, students earn most internships by employing classic job-hunting skills. Students should prepare a resume, be willing to provide references, and will likely need to interview for positions. They will need to search for internship opportunities through the internet, professional organizations, their academic advisors, and most importantly: through their contacts. One of the best ways to find an internship is through the alumni network. Another excellent option would be to attend a professional meeting with an organization such as PCPG to network with working professionals.

Here's the good news: there appears to be a sudden increase in the number of internships available this year. This may be due to the strengthening economy and the impetus for many organizations to build their employee pool to fill voids by soon-to-retire "baby boomers". Internships are available at all scales of geological services firms, government agencies (such as USGS, PADEP, National Park Service), professional organizations (GSA's GeoCorps and AGI), and the Research Experiences for Undergraduates program by NSF, just to name a few.

So students: get out there and apply for an internship. The time to apply for summer opportunities is NOW. Employers: please consider offering one of your young colleagues an internship this year. You will be supporting the next generation of geoscientists. And who knows—you might learn something from them, too.

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**Reminder:** PCPG will be hosting a Spring job fair from 9:00 to noon in Harrisburg on March 31, 2015. The fair precedes PCPG's Annual Meeting. Firms and agencies representing a variety of market sectors in geology and environmental sciences are invited to showcase employment opportunities, meet prospective employees, network, and conduct mini-interviews. Academic institutions are encouraged to provide van transportation to this event to allow students to participate in this great opportunity. Those wishing to register for the job fair can do so at no charge (does not include Annual Meeting activities). Anyone wishing to participate in the Annual Meeting Luncheon and meeting are asked to pay a reasonable registration fee. For more information, visit [www.pcpge.org](http://www.pcpge.org) and click on the home page calendar.

Please submit suggestions or questions regarding students and geology to Dr. Helmke at [mhelmke@wcupa.edu](mailto:mhelmke@wcupa.edu).



## FIELD CONFERENCE *Continued from Page 6*

The final stop (at the Florence Jones Rieneman Wildlife Sanctuary on Blue Mountain) offered an excellent view of the area traversed during the field conference. Dr. Dorothy Merritts provided a summary wrap-up of LiDAR Analysis of Periglacial Landforms on Blue Mountain and how the periglacial climate influenced the creation of solifluction lobes in the colluvial boulders flanking the north facing slope of the ridge.

The Field Conference of Pennsylvania Geologists, Dickinson College, and all the other contributors did an excellent job planning and coordinating the trip events. If you have not had an opportunity to attend a field conference, you may want to consider signing up for next year's event, which will be conducted in Pottsville, Pennsylvania (eastern anthracite region). The conference is a great opportunity to learn new geologic concepts, meet fellow geologists, and pick up professional development hours (PDHs). Just remember to sign up early, because space is limited and the roster fills up fast.





*The last field stop, at the Florence Jones Rieneman Wildlife Sanctuary*



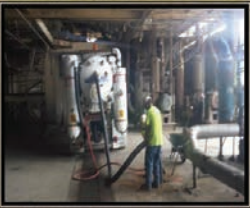

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## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: RETTEW

*Peter Chronowski, P.G., and John B. Stipe III, CPSS*



Ranked by Engineering News-Record as one of the top design firms in the U.S., RETTEW has featured a robust geosciences group for more than three decades. Now with more than 350 dedicated professionals, RETTEW operates from a network of ten offices in five states with projects spanning across the nation.

The firm has built its reputation providing a wide range of environmental and engineering consulting services. The firm's geosciences staff has continuously been involved in projects supporting local communities, from brownfield redevelopment to industrial, commercial, and residential sites. RETTEW's geologists, geoscientists, hydrogeologists, geotechnical engineers, soil scientists, and environmental compliance specialists work together as part of a diversified team with other disciplines such as civil engineers, safety consultants, transportation engineers, natural scientists, environmental engineers, damage prevention specialists, and structural engineers.

From simple, straightforward project to those larger and more complex, RETTEW's geosciences staff specializes in assessing the chemistry and dynamics of soils, geology, and groundwater. The combined expertise of staff helps clients mitigate risks, leverage property assets, and provide design recommendations. This can include a wide array of services such as environmental site assessments, water resource evaluations, environmental compliance and permitting, geotechnical studies, or remediation alternatives evaluation and design.

### **Project Spotlight - Natural Gas Processing Plant, Wyoming**

RETTEW was contracted by a confidential natural gas client operating in the Wind River Basin, Wyoming, to assess the characterization of subsurface impact from past operations at an active natural gas processing plant. Collaborating with the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WDEQ) and the client, the site work aimed to reach voluntary regulatory closure through remediation.

RETTEW's project team gathered and evaluated data collected over the past 20 years of site investigation and interim remediation activities, using it to develop a preliminary site conceptual model (SCM). The professionals used the model to assess the extent and potential migration of the petroleum constituent contamination to soil and groundwater above regulatory criteria. The model was also used to identify data gaps to prepare a workplan for site characterization and a remedial alternative evaluation.



*RETTEW Geosciences staff performing site characterization work in Wyoming*

The scope involved the completion of 36 soil borings using multiple drilling methods, collection of over 125 soil samples from both vadose and saturated zones, and quarterly groundwater sampling for one year. Our team then presented a Site Characterization Report that included soil characterization, smear zone evaluation, groundwater assessment, ecological risk assessment, background metals evaluation, and a refined SCM. The data collected from these characterization efforts have been utilized to evaluate multiple remediation technologies. The next phase of work involves performing pilot tests to assess three in situ remediation techniques for addressing residual soil and groundwater contamination.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *Continued from Page 1*

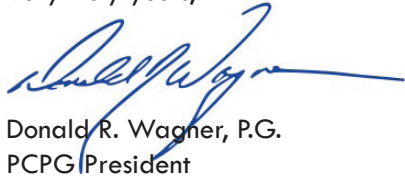
and be engaged in your organization. Additionally, I am supporting an amendment to our bylaws to allow standing committee chairmanship to be open to any member, not just a member of the BOD. We have a lot of talented, dedicated members who have a lot to contribute to the organization and I'd like to encourage them and enable them to do so in a meaningful way.

I encourage young professionals to join a standing committee – Communications, Education, Outreach, Government Affairs – it's a great way to meet other professionals and to learn. For those of you who are no longer "young professionals", join and participate in a committee to share what you've learned, to mentor younger professionals or young students – it's a great chance to give back to the profession you love.

I hope to see each of you at the annual meeting on March 31, 2015 in Harrisburg. We have a great lineup of speakers, refreshments, entertainment and door prizes. It's a great time to meet and network with your friends, co-workers and colleagues. This year, we will also be holding a job fair in connection with the annual meeting as part of our outreach to geology and allied science students. So – if you're looking to hire summer interns or recent geology graduates, register a booth and meet some talented young geologists who are eager to learn the profession. And if you're a geology or allied sciences student thinking about career opportunities, [register](#) to come on out and meet potential employers!

I welcome your thoughts, feedback and comments on PCPG's vision and mission. Feel free to send me an email ([drw@stevenslee.com](mailto:drw@stevenslee.com)).

Very truly yours,



Donald R. Wagner, P.G.  
PCPG President

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## PCPG GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATIVE BILL TRACKING

*Mark B. Iooos, P.G.*

As part of the services provided to our members, the PCPG Government Affairs Committee (GAC) is involved with the tracking of Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Legislative bills (both House and Senate) which may be of interest to Professional Geologists licensed in Pennsylvania.

Information regarding pertinent House and Senate bills is tabulated in an Excel spreadsheet and will be periodically uploaded to the PCPG's website. The legislative tracking spreadsheet is a dynamic document. The updates to the spreadsheet include adding information for the submittal of new House and Senate bills, and updating the status of legislative action (i.e., committee votes, legislative votes, and referrals to either the House/Senate). The spreadsheet is not a comprehensive compendium of all legislative bills, but rather only those pieces of legislation which are deemed to be of interest to Professional Geologists. If information is needed on **all** legislative action, members can sign up and receive daily email updates via [www.legis.state.pa.us](http://www.legis.state.pa.us).

Currently the GAC is following legislative action in the following areas of the House and Senate:

### House

- Environmental Resources & Energy committee
- Professional Licensure committee
- Consumer Affairs committee

### Senate

- Environmental Resources & Energy committee
- Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure committee

Listed below is a link to the most updated version of the legislative tracking spreadsheet. Please note that there are two tabs in the spreadsheet (one for the Senate and one for the House). The "Blue Colored" text in the spreadsheet (accessible to PCPG members only, log-in required) represents hyperlinks, where Members can obtain additional information concerning the bill, legislator, and the committee taking action on the bill. If a Member is interested a legislative bill not included in the spreadsheet, they are urged to contact Mark B. Iooos, P.G., Chairperson of the GAC at: [mioos@skellyloy.com](mailto:mioos@skellyloy.com).

<https://pcpg.wildapricot.org/GovtAffairs>

The GAC has made a reasonable effort to convey accurate information in the spreadsheet regarding the language and status of legislative bills of interest. Members are urged to visit <http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/bills/> to obtain actual language and updates on specific legislative bills prior to making professional and/or business decisions.





## STORMWATER *Continued from Page 7*

I was honored to serve as the chair of the Infiltration Sub-group. The Infiltration Sub-group consists of engineers, geologists, soil scientists, regulators and, eventually, some representatives of manufacturers of products used in installation. We met monthly with the goal of producing a consensus document that incorporates solid science and the best practices known in the industry. The chapter on stormwater infiltration was completed in 2012 and the Infiltration sub-group has since assisted other sub-groups wherever possible. The PASTW decided early in the process that any dissenting opinions should be recorded and presented along with the finished work. The Infiltration sub-group had a minimum of dissenting opinions, and the document is considered to be a consensus document.

The remainder of the Manual is estimated to be 60-70% complete, but there is a lot of work yet to be done. One area that has received little attention is karst areas, which would be ripe for members of PCPG to contribute to. Anybody interested in participating should contact me at [Soildude@comcast.net](mailto:Soildude@comcast.net) or Mark Bowen, the chair of PASTW at [Mark.Bowen@KleinschmidtGroup.com](mailto:Mark.Bowen@KleinschmidtGroup.com) or Sara Ryan at [contactsarahryan@gmail.com](mailto:contactsarahryan@gmail.com).

## DEADLINE FOR OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER IS MAY 20, 2015

For more information, contact our PCPG Newsletter Editor and Communications Committee Chairperson - Valerie Holliday, P.G., by **Email** or telephone at 610-517-7898.

### 2015 PCPG NON-MEMBER AD RATES

*(Rates are listed as amount per issue)*

Size	Commitment:	1x	4x
1/2 Page		\$300	\$240
1/4 Page		\$185	\$150
Business Card (H or V)		\$100	\$80

### 2015 PCPG MEMBER AD RATES

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