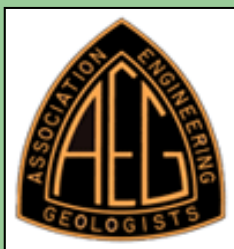


HAGS/AEG – Meeting Announcement

Thursday, October 12, 2017 6:30 p.m.



The Ancient Forests of Gilboa in the Catskill Mountains of New York State

Presented by: William Stein, PhD – Binghamton University

Abstract: The origin of tree-size plants in the Middle Devonian signaled a fundamental change in Earth's terrestrial ecosystems with multiple consequences on atmospheric CO₂ levels, climate, sedimentation patterns, global nutrient cycling, and possibly mass extinction. Perhaps the most famous fossil locality documenting an *in situ* forest of this age is the "oldest known petrified forest" at Gilboa in the Catskill Mountains of NY (Goldring 1927). At this site, hundreds of tree bases of *Eospermatopteris*, now known to be large pseudosporochnalean cladoxyloids (Stein et al. 2007), were found in rooted in life position. In 2017 a portion of the original site became briefly accessible after nearly 90 years. A fossil soil (paleosol) comprised of a gleyed fine sandstone was still intact providing well-preserved evidence of relative sizes and positions of trees in this ancient forest. Instead of a monospecific stand, it was a surprise to find a mixed forest comprised of dominant *Eospermatopteris* plus two other tree-sized plants. These included the earliest known arborescent lycopsid in North America, and very large scrambling to ascendant plants identified as aneurophytalean progymnosperms. Probably due to the presence of wood, the aneurophytaleans were the only plants preserved at the site showing both abundant compression carbon and partial preservation in pyrite.

Speaker Bio: William Stein received his B.A. from Pomona College, Claremont CA in 1974; Masters & Ph.D. in Botany from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI in 1980. Following postdoc at the Smithsonian Institution and research faculty position in the Museum of Paleontology, University of Michigan, in 1989 he joined the faculty in the Department of Biological Sciences, Binghamton University (SUNY). He now continues research as Professor Emeritus at B.U. and as research associate at the New York State Museum, Albany.

Meeting Location:

AEG Offices
441 Friendship Road
Harrisburg, PA
(not far from Bass Pro Shops)

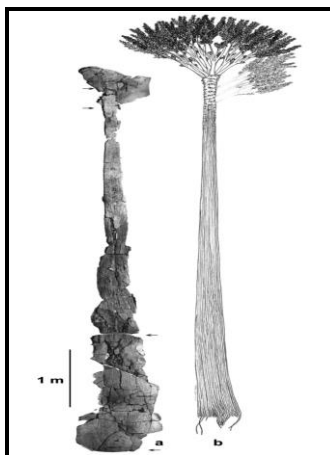
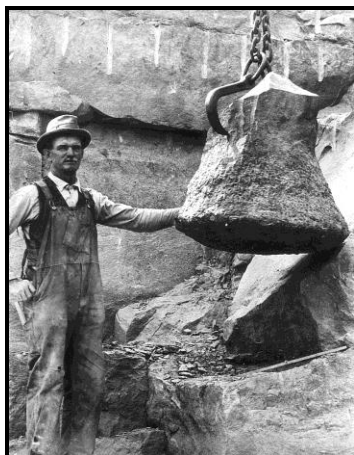
Dinner at 4:45 – 6:15
Fiesta Mexico
3957 Paxton Street
(between Ruby Tuesday
and Nissan dealership)

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RSVP for dinner & meeting by no later than noon Tuesday, October 10, 2017.

RSVP Amy Randolph at secretaryhags@gmail.com or 717.395.3181.

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