Northeastern Friends of the Pleistocene

Who are we? The Friends of the Pleistocene is an informal “non-organization” of people interested in the glacial record and other aspects of Pleistocene geology, climate, etc. There are no dues, budget, elected officers, or membership requirements! Our only goal is to provide a good annual field trip with accompanying guidebook and provocative discussion. We have done this every year since 1934, except during WWII and the 2020-2021 covid pandemic. Northeastern FOP is the original Friends group and the oldest of several FOP branches that have sprung up around the United States.

What do we do? Each year, one or more individuals volunteer (or get persuaded by our Secretary!) to lead a field trip in their area of expertise. These trips are usually held around early June. They range across the same region that’s covered by Northeast GSA – the Northeastern states and Canadian provinces from Ontario to Nova Scotia. Most people who attend our annual weekend field trips are geoscientists with varying backgrounds. They include teachers, students, state and federal government employees, and people from the private sector. The objective is to showcase and discuss new or recent research by the leaders. These sociable annual gatherings are great learning and networking opportunities for all concerned.

How are the trips organized? The leaders line up a series of stops that give a good overview of their study area and research problems. They arrange to base the meeting at a local hotel, and other logistics of meals, transportation, and guidebook preparation. The result is a registration package that offers all of this at reasonable cost. Every trip is self-financed from registration proceeds.

Where do I find trip information? Trip announcements appear on our website, usually by January or February. Preliminary information on the date and place are followed by further details and the registration form when available.

http://www2.newpaltz.edu/fop/

We also post trip announcements on other organizational websites.

Where are the past guidebooks? It has taken years to track down and digitize all the Northeastern FOP guidebooks. This task is nearly complete, and you will find the guidebook pdf files on our website. They range from short handouts in the early days to nicely produced modern guidebooks of publication quality. Many of the guides provide insights on the development of geologic concepts and describe important stratigraphic sections that are no longer available.

Woody Thompson (Maine Geological Survey, retired) is the current Secretary of Northeast FOP. He maintains the records and guidebook archives, and recruits trip leaders for future years. John Rayburn (Professor of Geology at SUNY-New Paltz) is our Webmaster.