

GRAND JUNCTION GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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MARCH MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2022

7:30 PM

**Joint meeting with the CMU Geology Students
Saccomanno Lecture Hall
(Room 131 in the Wubben-Science Building)**

**Patrick A. Burkhart
Department of Geography, Geology and the
Environment
Slippery Rock University**

Will Speak On

“Savor the Cryosphere”

Guests Are Always Welcome

**Dr. Burkhart’s presentation will be by Zoom.
For those who wish to attend remotely, the Zoom
instructions are on the last page.**

Abstract on Next Page

Savor the Cryosphere

Patrick A. Burkhart
Department of Geography, Geology and the Environment
Slippery Rock University

One day in 2014, while watching the news, I heard a politician say that climate change was pseudoscience. I thought: What, thermometers lie? So, I resolved to do something about the disconnect between knowledge and perception.

I had seen *Chasing Ice*; I admit that it had brought tears to my eyes. So, I called James Balog and asked him to work together. Then, I called Richard Alley and Lonnie Thompson, and Greg Baker and Paul Baldauf. We agreed. Savor became a thing. This small team actually has a large footprint in the science of retreating glaciers. We packed the ballroom at the Geological Society of America meeting in the Baltimore Inner Harbor. After the Pardee Keynote Symposium, of course, we wanted to publish. The peer review assembled was remarkably heavy, and rich with lessons. Then, we made the cover of *GSA Today*.

For several years, I had consulted on environmental permitting for mining interests in the high, dry Andes of Argentina, 31 degrees south. As a hydrogeologist, I was charged with assessing vulnerabilities of alpine water supply. In particular, my charge was to evaluate the influence of rock glaciers on river discharge. Who on Earth is worried about loss of ice in the mountains? Well, of course, most communities living on downstream river banks, amongst others.

The photos I will share are inspiring – so much spectacular alpine geomorphology. The adventure was incredible. Geologic expeditioners we were – packed into Toyota HiLuxes, not unlike militant guerillas, grinding through incredible mountain passes, driving across swollen rivers, but instead of carrying the munitions of a conflict zone, we were packing pH and flow meters, LiDAR, geophones, and more. The scenery of glaciated lands is incredible, but the story however, is more than a little troubling. Yikes.

Savor the Cryosphere. Google it.

Andres Aslan is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: GJGS March 16

Time: Mar 16, 2022 07:00 PM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

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