

# **GRAND JUNCTION GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

[www.gjgs.org](http://www.gjgs.org)

## **MARCH MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY 15, 2017**

**Joint meeting with the CMU Geology Students**

**7:30 PM**

**Saccomanno Lecture Hall**

**(In the Wubben Science Building)**

**Dr David Noe, Retired Geologist**

**Will Speak On**

**“The Earth Beneath Our Feet**

**Sharing the Geology of the North Fork Valley**

**With It’s Populace”**

**Abstract on Reverse**

**Guests Are always Welcome**

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**In 2020 the GJGS and the Four Corners Geological Society will be hosting the Rocky Mt. Section, AAPG Annual Meeting here in Grand Junction. There will be a planning meeting prior to this meeting, in the Saccomanno Hall, at 7:10. Please attend if you are interested.**

# Abstract

We, as geologists, are quite familiar with geologic maps, and revel in their colorful patterns and the information contained therein. But what about the non-geologist? A geologic map can be overwhelmingly complex and intimidating. What does this map show, anyway? What are all these shapes? What are all these big words? How do they know these things?

I have spent a decade mapping the geology of the North Fork area of central Colorado, in the vicinity of Paonia and Hotchkiss, as well as the nearby Gunnison and Uncompahgre River areas near Orchard City, Delta, Olathe, and Montrose. Geologic maps of these areas were made by me and my colleagues at the Colorado Geological Survey (CGS) under the auspices of the STATEMAP portion of the National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program, with funding from the USGS and the State of Colorado. To date, CGS has published over 100 1:24,000-scale geologic maps in Colorado, with twelve maps from within my area of emphasis in west central Colorado.

We've done a great job of making the maps available for free on the CGS web site, but few people naturally find their way to this resource. I certainly met many local residents while doing my fieldwork who were interested in the mapping and in the geology in general. How might we plug them in to this great source of information?

Upon retiring from CGS, I moved to the North Fork Valley and embarked on creating a series of locally based geology talks, with sponsorship from the Delta County Libraries and the Western Slope Conservation Center. We call the series, "The Earth Beneath Our Feet." The talks are my attempt to bring geologic awareness to the local populace. Each talk is tailored to the vicinity of where the talk is given. There are three parts: (1) The regional geology framework, or, "what do you see within your viewshed?" (2) What are geologic maps and how are they made? (3) The coolest things about the local geology that we found while making the maps. This is no standard technical presentation!

To date, I've given talks in all of the Delta County libraries, and several repeat talks. They have been overwhelmingly popular and have broken attendance records. Yes, the people here are interested in geology! The talks have resulted in more CGS map downloads. And people in the area have begun to understand the geology of their home place, and they see familiar landscapes in a different way.

For tonight's GJGS talk, I am going to show the Paonia Quadrangle presentation. Instead of giving the presentation verbatim, however, I am going to talk about what is being done during the course of the show to communicate specifically to the layperson audience. I hope you will enjoy hearing about this attempt to bring local geologic knowledge to the masses!

**2016 MEMBERS WHO HAVE NOT PAID THEIR 2017 DUES AS  
OF 3/1/17**

**Allin, Dave  
Bentley, Craig  
Brandt, Lauri  
Cassin, Lee  
Cavanaugh, Tom  
Cumella, Steve  
Daub, Gerry  
Dayvault, Jalena  
Gillespie, Joey  
Head, Chuck  
Hodge, John  
Jaquet, Neil**

**Mark, Fred  
Mark, Sandra  
Metzler, Don  
Ranspot, Harry  
Redd, Brett  
Scogin, Ron  
Shafer, Ian  
Skaggs, Gary  
Spangler, Mike  
Smith, Steve  
Tolen, Dave  
Trammell, John  
Waechter, Noel  
Warren, Rick  
Weissenburger, Kate  
Weissenburger, Ken**

**Your 2017 Dues-\$15.00-are due now. If you have not  
paid, make your check to the GJGS Foundation for a  
tax deduction as it is a non-profit organization. Bring to  
meeting or mail to  
GJGS, P O Box 4045, Grand Junction, CO 81502**