



Photo by Bret Webster.

# ANNOUNCEMENT

## GSA Connected Community Now Accepting Members!

GSA values your membership and appreciates your commitment and investment of resources. We want you to know that we are investing in you, too. GSA is proud to announce the launch of our **Connected Community**—an innovative member benefit that is going to change the way we communicate and build relationships.

When you visit the **125th Anniversary Annual Meeting website**, you'll notice that a few things are different. You can still find all the public information you need about the meeting—that hasn't changed—but you'll also see that you can now log-in to the site. Under the "Community" tab, you'll find new options for connecting with members and sharing information.

GSA Members: You *already* have a profile in the Connected Community—all you have to do is activate it! Not a GSA member? You can join the Connected Community as well. Learn how to log in at <http://community.geosociety.org/Help/HowtoLogIn>.

### Benefits of Using the Connected Community for the Annual Meeting

- Post questions and comments to the Open Forum discussion;
- Get recommendations on must-attend sessions;
- Use the Meeting Bulletin Board to share a ride or find a roommate;
- Complete your profile in the member directory, and invite your colleagues to do the same. Search member profiles and find out who is attending; and
- Read up on blogs and resources posted by geoscience thought leaders.

In the coming weeks and months you'll be hearing a lot more about the Connected Community. As participation grows, it will become increasingly valuable as a networking resource and a tool for collaboration. We're committed to making sure you have the training and support you need to get familiar with and comfortable in this new environment. **To start, here are a few highlights you'll want to know about:**

### Member Directory 2.0

Create a comprehensive and interactive profile that will represent you both professionally and individually within the

GSA community. Your profile is similar to an online résumé but with member connections. Users will not only be able to browse information and facts about you, they will also be able to interact with you. For example, users can see your committee participation and volunteer activities, which are dynamically updated through the GSA member database.

Think of your profile as your personal platform amongst the GSA community. You have the option to search for other members, browse profiles, and identify potential contacts and groups of like-minded people. Connect with colleagues and friends in a matter of minutes, essentially building a professional network you can access from anywhere in the world. A variety of security settings exist so that you can set access to various parts of your profile and decide how your profile should be used.

♦ **HOT TIP:** Upload a professional picture. Pictures are worth a thousand words, so make sure the image best represents you and what you want to accomplish. Consider using the same picture across all social media channels; this enhances recognition.

### Discussions or e-Groups

Discussions are a hybrid of listserv and threaded discussion forum technology. Are you looking for recommendations or have a question you'd like to ask your network? Using GSA e-Groups/ Discussions, users can post, respond, or browse discussion threads. You'll receive an easy-to-read e-mail that includes a picture of the author and a link to the author's profile, a link to the online archive where all postings are automatically stored, and a mistake-free link to respond to either the author or the entire group. Start new conversation topics or conduct research. You'll be amazed at the collection of information and data GSA's e-Groups will generate every day.

♦ **HOT TIP:** Customize your experience. Adjust your preference settings to include the receipt of real-time or daily digest postings, or subscribe to RSS feeds to stay well-informed.

### Section, Committee & Division Communities

Several community types are set up within our social network for you to join. Begin streamlining your volunteer experience and

improving your membership interactions by participating. Start with a simple search. For example, if you're on a committee, check out your committee site. Within the committee site, you will be able to conduct committee business, share resources, and engage with other committee members. But GSA's Community sites are not just for committees—you'll also have a Section community and maybe a Division affiliation to explore. Sites and discussion groups can be set up for all kinds of GSA happenings—from education and networking events to special projects and interest groups.

♦ **HOT TIP:** The GSA OPEN FORUM is a place for *everyone* to post questions, photos, videos, or share thoughts.

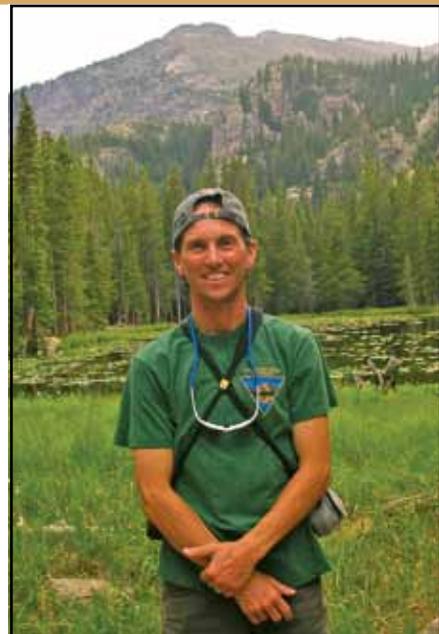
## Resource Library—Jackpot!

The resource library is a treasure trove of user-generated content posted by members for members. You can securely share documents pertaining to your collaborations with other members while archiving content into GSA's knowledge base. The resource library can hold multiple kinds of documents, including streaming video, PowerPoint presentations, PDFs, images, and Microsoft Office and Apple iWork docs.

This resource is what you make of it. Comment, rate, and tag documents to offer additional context to the posting to make it easy to search the resource pool.

♦ **HOT TIP CHALLENGE:** Register for the GSA 125th Anniversary Meeting and activate your profile with a photo in the Connected Community to make the most of your meeting experience.

♦ **HOT TIP EXTRA CREDIT:** Tell a colleague, coworker, or friend that you've registered for the meeting and the community site, and explain why you think it would be of value to them.



## Why would I join the Connected Community?

Cory W. Black Eagle recognized that GSA did not have a Division devoted to karst geology. So he created the GSA Karst Interest Group, and now he and all of the community's members have a built-in network, a discussion platform, a library of shared resources, and a platform for taking action to establish a new GSA Division.

## Contribute to the power of GSA's Connected Community!

♦ **HOT TIP:** Is there a group you'd like to see started? Take action. Send us an e-mail at [community@geosociety.org](mailto:community@geosociety.org) and let's have a conversation.



Connected Community



## PRESIDENT'S STUDENT BREAKFAST RECEPTION

**When:** Sunday, 27 Oct., 7–8:30 a.m.

**Location:** Colorado Convention Center



GSA President **Suzanne Mahlburg Kay** invites all students registered for the meeting to attend a free breakfast buffet sponsored by ExxonMobil Corporation. Sue and members of GSA leadership will be on hand to answer questions and address student issues. ExxonMobil will also be presenting the ExxonMobil Field Camp Scholar Awards and GSA/Bighorn Basin Field Awards.

Each student registered for the meeting will receive a complimentary ticket for the breakfast buffet. This is one of the most popular events at the meeting—Join in and take this opportunity to network with fellow students and meet the officers of GSA in a casual, friendly setting.

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GSA Headquarters at Rochester University in Rochester, New York