



Share Your Voice In GSA's Connected Community

This is the fourth installment in a series about GSA's new Connected Community. Past articles* have addressed how you can easily and securely log in through GSA's "single sign-on" system, set up your profile to make yourself visible in the Community, find contacts using a host of key variables, join or create interest groups, and extend the Annual Meeting experience beyond October. This month we'd like to talk about how and why you might use discussion forums (eGroups) in the Connected Community.

Your time is too valuable to waste in idle conversation that isn't relevant or valuable to you. GSA's Connected Community eGroups present an opportunity to find useful information from—and share ideas with—trusted colleagues, actually saving you time. GSA members are a select cohort of educated, focused, geoscience professionals. This is a Community for the earth science community. These are the people you'll want to engage with!

GSA eGroups combine the best of listserve and threaded discussion forum technology. They are the primary communications vehicle for large and small communities inside of GSA's Connected Community. Committees and interest groups can have private conversations, such as members of a field trip or researchers studying a common location, or users can participate in the Open Forum, which is an unsegmented exchange for everyone to use.

Are you looking for recommendations or have a question you'd like to ask your network? Using GSA eGroups, users can post, respond, or simply browse discussion threads. You'll receive an easy-to-read e-mail that contains a picture of the author linked to the author's profile, a link to the online archive where all postings are automatically stored, and a link to respond to either the author or the entire group.

Start new conversation topics or conduct research. Meeting presenters: Participate in discussion groups to showcase your session and generate interest in your topic. Consultants: Showcase your expertise and raise awareness on critical issues.

Take full advantage of the power of GSA's online resources, and join your colleagues today. Simply type community.geosociety.org into your web browser and click on "Help" for instructions on how to log in. You'll appreciate the growing collection of (archived and searchable!) information and data GSA eGroups generate.

▶ **HOT TIP:** Ask questions and post responses—it's quick and easy.

▶ **HOT TIP EXTRA CREDIT:** Customize your experience. Adjust your preference settings to include the receipt of real-time or daily digest postings, subscribe to RSS feeds, or opt for a mobile-friendly application.

Next month we'll talk about related Resource Libraries that add even more functionality to eGroup discussions.

Why would I use the Open Forum?

- Looking for a great value on lodging or a tasty pit stop recommendation from someone who has been working in your field location?
- Would you like an opinion on the efficacy of a new product you're considering?
- Have you heard of a great job opportunity?
- Did you find an extraordinary data link to share or a great classroom idea for your students?
- Wonder how other geoscience departments are managing issues?

Together we are smarter. Chances are someone knows the answer to your sticky problem. Or maybe you know the shortcut that someone else needs. The Connected Community can provide real solutions and immediate feedback to make your life easier.



We Believe in the Power of GSA's
Connected Community!
community.geosociety.org

*See the *GSA Today* website, www.geosociety.org/gsatoday/, for more articles about the Connected Community.