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New York State Geological Association
74th annual meeting

Guidebook for Fieldtrips in New York and Vermont

Lake George, New York
September 27, 28, 29, 2002

Organized and Edited by
James McLelland and Paul Karabinos

Meeting hosted by Colgate University and Williams College
THIS GUIDEBOOK AND MEETING ARE DEDICATED TO

W. YNGVAR ISACHSEN - (1920-2001)
GEOLOGIST, FRIEND, AND TEACHER EXTRORDINAIRRE

For many years, Yngvar served as Senior Scientist at the New York Geological Survey in Albany. During that time, he investigated, and became familiar with, the nature and problems of rocks in his beloved Adirondacks. He also was keenly attuned to the Proterozoic of the Hudson Highlands and the remarkable tectonic history of the Taconic belt of New York. His efforts were crucial in compiling the 1970 edition of the Geological Map of the State of New York that all of us still rely on to this day. At about the same time, he and Jim Olmsted organized an immensely successful and important conference on the “Origin of Anorthosite and Related Rocks”. Yngvar served as editor for the volume generated by that conference and bearing the same name Today the “Origin of Anorthosite and Related Rocks” (New York State Museum and Science Service Memoir 18, 1969) continues to serve as a centerpiece for investigators in this very significant field.

Throughout his career Yngvar was deeply interested in brittle fracturing and produced important studies on “zero-displacement crackle zones in the Adirondacks and mylonitization along the Carthage-Colton Zone separating the Highland and Lowland terranes. In his later years he also conducted research on Catskill fracture patterns that may record a meteorite impact. One of his most important pieces of research was that concerning the age of uplift of the Adirondack Dome. He provided compelling evidence for a recent (>20 Ma) date for this event.

Besides his scientific contributions, Yngvar was one of the great teachers of his time. He was blessed with the ability to transmit ideas in remarkably clear terms and to generate interest as he did so. Those of us who now spend our time investigating Adirondack problems are forever grateful to this Teacher of Teachers for showing us the way, pointing out problems, making astute suggestions, and ALWAYS encouraging us. Whatever advances come out of current and future Adirondack research, they will forever carry the stamp of Yngvar’s influence.

Finally, we note that Yngvar was a dear and important friend to many of us. Although we might not always agree, we could always exchange ideas in constructive and cooperative ways. A day in the field with Yngvar was a day spent generating both ideas and excitement – and a great deal of warm laughter. When the day was done, it was time to join in good food and good drink, and there was never a better companion in these endeavors – many of them at his lovely Brant Lake home with his gracious wife, Stasia. The times were many; the memories are grand.

We miss him; we think of him; and we honor him. Hail Yngvar!
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