



*Geophysical Society of Pittsburgh
And the
Pittsburgh Association of
Petroleum Geologists*



*Proudly Presents Wednesday, November 15, 2023
At Cefalo's Restaurant, Carnegie, PA*

975 Sols of return sample science on Mars

Presented by:

Dr. Kathleen Benison
West Virginia University



*Please RSVP using the PayPal link on the Geophysical Society of Pittsburgh website at: www.thegsp.org
Cost: \$35 Members, \$40 Non-members (\$5 for Students). Meeting Location: 428 Washington Ave, Carnegie, PA 15106
(412) 276-6600.*

Abstract:

Wonder what the Perseverance rover has been doing on Mars and the status of its sample collection? This talk will provide a summary of the past 2.5+ years of the rovers accomplishments on Mars, from the perspective of a Mars 2020 mission return sample scientist. The talk will also describe the role of a return sample scientist, including the daily jobs required to help the rover work on Mars and the related research on Mars-analogs to better understand rocks in Jezero crater and prepare for study of Mars rocks in Earth labs. Finally, a detailed description of the compositions and textures of two interesting rocks sampled by Perseverance, and the preliminary interpretations about clues they offer about habitability and potential biosignatures, will be featured.



- **Biography: *Dr. Kathy Benison:*** Kathy Benison grew up in a suburb of Boston, along the coast in Massachusetts. She was introduced to science by Carl Sagan's and Jacque Cousteau's TV shows. She earned a B.S. in geology and chemistry from Bridgewater State College in 1990, after which she worked as a field chemist for Clean Harbors Environmental Services for one year. Kathy then earned a M.S. in Geology from Binghamton University, and a Ph.D. in Geology from the University of Kansas in 1997. Kathy was a professor of geology from 1997 until 2012 at Central Michigan University. She has been a professor of geology at West Virginia University since 2012. Kathy is a GSA Fellow, an Explorers Club Fellow, and a National Geographic Explorer. She is currently a science editor for the journal *Geology* and a science team member of the Mars 2020 mission. She's also a mom of three young adults.

Wednesday November 15, 2023

Agenda:

11:15 to 11:45 Social Half Hour

11:45 pm Lunch Buffet

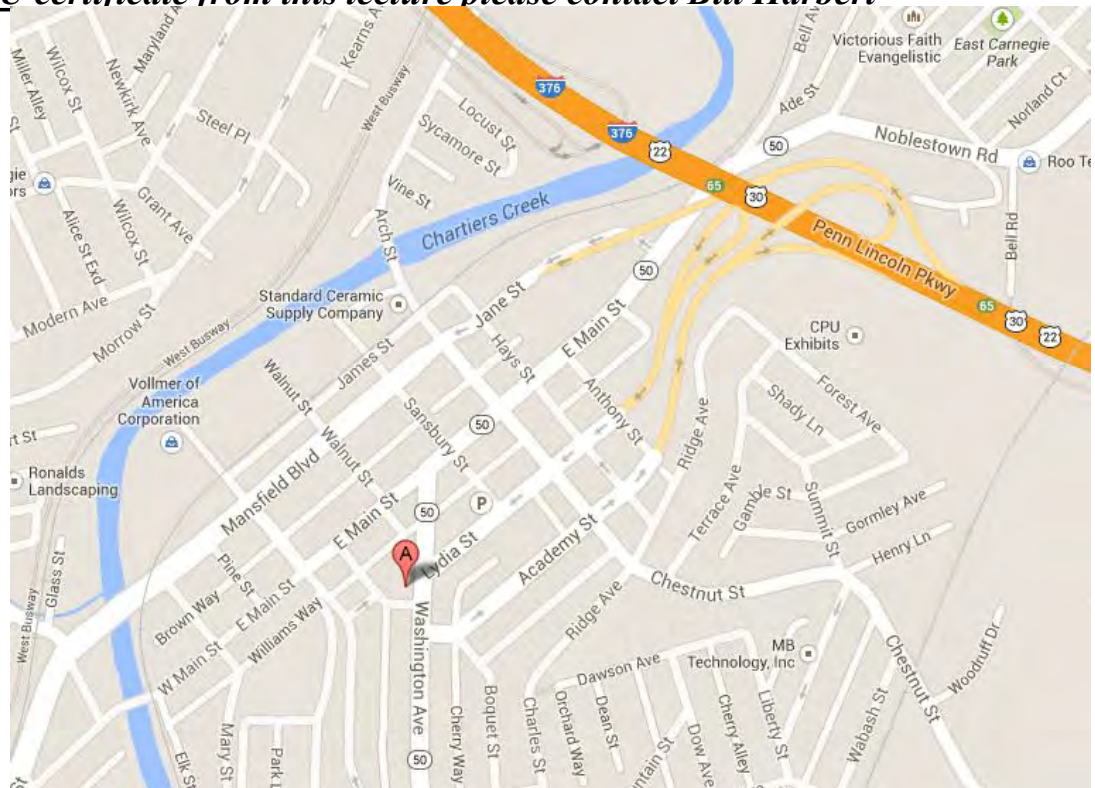
12:00 pm Lecture

***\$25 for members,
\$40 for non-members,
\$5 for students.***

To receive a CEU certificate from this lecture please contact Bill Harbert

This months lecture will be held at :

**Cefalo's
Banquet & Event Center
428 Washington Ave.
Carnegie, PA 15106
412.276.6600**



We would like to thank our 2023-2024 Corporate Sponsors. Please contact Joel Starr if you are interested in sponsoring the GSP

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Sponsorship Opportunities



The Geophysical Society of Pittsburgh offers sponsorship opportunities. Our monthly meetings occur each first Tuesday of every month beginning in September through May.

Since our inception in 2010, meetings have been very well attended by industry professionals, averaging well over 50 attendees per meeting, peaking at more than 100 for our most highly attended meeting. Not only do our meetings offer exceptional technical presentations in the field of geophysics, but they provide an outstanding networking opportunity for oil and gas industry professionals working in the Appalachian basin.

Your generous donations will help in the following ways: 1) helping to bring in distinguished lecturers; 2) offsetting part of the cost of the monthly meeting venue; and 3) enabling a Scholarship Program for future Geophysicists to be awarded each year to an outstanding student enrolled in a Geophysics program at one of our local universities.

Your company logo will be boldly displayed during the social hour of each meeting on the front screen, as well as on all meeting announcements and on our website. We are offering corporate sponsorship opportunities at several levels this year, as well as opportunities to sponsor our social hour during the meeting. Please note that a secure payment link is now available on our website for your added enrollment convenience.

Please click [HERE](#) to download more information, then return to this page to enroll as a sponsor.



Geophysical Society of Pittsburgh

The Geophysical Society of Pittsburgh successfully hosted the first and second Appalachian Basin Geophysical Symposia (ABGS). The events were huge successes with great speakers covering the latest innovations in geophysical research, technology and perspectives of the Appalachian Basin. We thank all our generous sponsors, speakers and organizers who made this event possible.

The positive feedback received from our community has prompted the GSP board to make the ABGS an annual event. With the addition of this yearly symposium, *it was determined that the monthly meetings should be reduced to a quarterly basis.*

The goals of this change are twofold:

1. Boost attendance numbers at our general meetings;
2. Focus Appalachian Basin centric talks for the ABGS.

Two of the quarterly meetings will occur in the fall and the other two during the spring. The ABGS will still be held around the beginning of June in tandem with the golf outing. This ensures that our members still have the opportunity to network on a semiregular basis.

We hope these changes help enhance the GSP's ability to promote the science of geophysics as well as promote the fellowship and cooperation among its membership. We look forward to seeing everyone at the first meeting this September.

Sincerely,

The GSP Board

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## 2023-2024 GSP OFFICERS

*President:* Scott Gorham <https://www.linkedin.com/in/scott-gorham-9556a129/>  
*Vice President:* Jianli Yang <https://www.linkedin.com/in/jianli-yang-81152914/>  
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Your Dues and Sponsorship in Geophysical Society of Pittsburgh go toward:

- *Outstanding Monthly Lecture Series*
- *SEG Distinguished Lecturers*
- *Annual Scholarship Awards*
- *Annual Golf Outing*
- *Short Courses*

Please contact Scott Gorham, Jianli Yang, Joel Starr or Bill Harbert for Sponsorship Opportunities.

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