



2019 Joe Webb Peoples Award

This year's JWP Award goes to **Ralph S. Lewis** for his long-time contributions to the field of geology in Connecticut. After receiving his M.S. degree in Geology from Franklin and Marshall College, Ralph worked for several years for the U.S. Geological Survey Marine Science Center in Woods Hole, MA where he began his career as a marine geologist investigating submarine geology offshore of southern New England. He was subsequently hired by the State of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection and spent several years in landfill-site investigations for DEP before moving to the CT Natural Resources Center and CT Geological Survey. He began offshore geologic investigations in Long Island Sound and became director of the Long Island Sound Resource Center, a cooperative effort between CT DEP and the University of Connecticut at Avery Point. In cooperation with the USGS, he conducted extensive geologic investigations in Long Island Sound eventually covering the entire basin with closely spaced high-resolution seismic reflection surveys, side-scan sonar, and multibeam bathymetry. He has authored many publications on the geology of Long Island Sound and this geology

was published in 2005 as part of the Quaternary Geologic Map of Connecticut. Ralph became the State Geologist of Connecticut in 1997, and served in that role until his retirement from DEP and the Connecticut Geological Survey in 2003.

He did not retire from Connecticut Geology however, but began teaching part time at Connecticut College and UCONN-Avery Point where he is professor in residence in the Marine Sciences Department. In 2009, he was one of the founding board members of the Geological Society of Connecticut and served as its 2nd president from 2013-2016, and he continues to contribute as a GSC Board member. He is a member of the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering, and a recipient of the Dr. Sigmund Abeles Award for “Outstanding Service to Science Education in Connecticut”.

Ralph also generously contributes his time as a guest speaker on geologic topics for various organizations and universities. He has been named the first GSC distinguished lecturer for the 2019-2020 academic year.

Thank you, Ralph, for your long history of geologic contributions to Connecticut!