

From the Blue Ridge to the Coastal Plain

Field Excursions in the Southeastern United States

edited by Martha Cary Eppes
and Mervin J. Bartholomew

Field Guide 29



THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
OF AMERICA®

*From the Blue Ridge to the Coastal Plain:
Field Excursions in the Southeastern United States*

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Cover: Saprolite and stream sediment exposure typical of those found in the southeastern Piedmont of the United States. Photo taken by Missy Eppes along the banks of Toby Creek, Charlotte, North Carolina, in a locality regularly used by geoscience classes at the University of North Carolina–Charlotte.

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Foreword

Gentle Reader,

Have you turned your eyes from the cover of this volume with a furrowed brow, wondering what you were supposed to have seen in the mess of mud, vegetation, and slime depicted in the photo? If so, then you have undoubtedly experienced the same feeling that has befallen the authors of these guides as they executed, with painstaking fortitude, the field work necessary to exhume geologic data in the Southeastern United States. Here, outcrops are not typically served up with their faces bare, beaming in bright sunshine. Instead, they manifest themselves as well cuttings, weathered saprolite, or darkly shadowed rock in dense Blue Ridge forests. That is to say nothing of the acres of ephemeral exposures that you may or may not be lucky enough to encounter along city streets and country roadways. No, the Southeast does not necessarily boast the most camera-ready rocks and sediment on the planet. The authors of these guides, however, make a convincing argument that our geology is certainly up there with some of the more interesting. This volume, produced in conjunction with the 2012 GSA Annual Meeting in Charlotte, North Carolina, showcases that geology with a broad range of timescales and settings throughout the Carolinas and adjacent states. So, grab your machete, your shovel, your bug spray, and perhaps even your night vision goggles, and set off to explore the amazing field experiences that our corner of the planet has to offer.

With best regards,

Martha Cary “Missy” Eppes
Jerry Bartholomew

