

2023 AMA Speaker Biographies | Table of Contents

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Alan Lipka

Alan Lipka currently works as a Mine Superintendent at Northern Star Resources Pogo Mine. He is a Mining Engineer with 6+ years of industry experience and has worked in a variety of roles at Pogo during that time. Alan graduated from UAF with a Mining Engineering degree and was born and raised in Alaska.



Audra L.J. Brase

Alaska Department of Fish and Game – Habitat

Audra Brase has worked for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for over 25 years and been the Regional Supervisor of the Habitat Section in Fairbanks for the last eight. Audra supervises all ADF&G fish habitat permitting for hard rock and placer mining activities in the Interior and Northern Alaska. In the summer Audra still dons her waders and annually participates in environmental sampling at various mines and/or exploration prospects including Red Dog, Fort Knox, Arctic Bornite and Lost River to name a few. One of her favorite parts of her job is sharing fun fish facts with miners. Audra received her MS degree in Fisheries from the University of Alaska Fairbanks.



Barty Kleven

Barty Kleven is the Director of Environmental Affairs for Kinross Alaska. Barty manages a team of fifteen environmental engineers and technicians at Kinross.

Barty was raised in Chugiak, Alaska. After earning her Civil Engineering degree at Montana State University in Bozeman, Barty moved back to Alaska. Since then, Barty has lived and worked in Fairbanks focusing on environmental permitting and compliance in the mining, utility and oil and gas sectors. Barty was appointed by the Governor to the State of Alaska Minerals Commission from 2006 to 2015, and served as the Statewide Secretary for the Alaska Miners from 2004 to 2013.

Recent accomplishments include: successful reclamation and closure of the first large metal mine in Alaska, permitting mine expansions totaling 3.2 million poured ounces of gold (including leading a team of 40 internal and 40 external technical experts to submit all permit applications within 14 months of obtaining property ownership) and last (but not least) ensuring an excellent environmental compliance record at Fort Knox throughout. Currently Barty sits on the University of Alaska Fairbanks Board of Advisors, was selected as one of the 100 Global Inspirational Women in Mining for 2022 and is the President of the Alaska Miners Association.

Barty enjoys gardening, camping, painting and is learning to fly fish in her spare time. She has a son at aviation school and a daughter in college.



Beau Haag

Beau Haag is a young, enthusiastic exploration geologist who started his professional career in the minerals sector in 2020. He graduated with his B.Sc. in Geology in 2018 from Kutztown University of Pennsylvania and an M.Sc. in Geology from Western Michigan University in 2020. Since graduation, he

has worked on multiple, various level mining and mineral exploration projects in Nevada, Utah, SE Alaska, and British Columbia and aims to continually develop his understanding of ore-forming systems while enjoying the exciting and fulfilling life of an exploration geologist.



Brian Hoefler

Brian Hoefler is an environmental engineer who has been providing consulting services in Alaska since 1991. He leads multi-disciplinary teams supporting resource development projects for the mining, energy, utility, and government services sectors. He specializes in translating complex environmental issues into coherent messages for clients, engineering teams, and external stakeholders.

Brian started up Hoefler Consulting Group in 1995, an environmental firm that he ran for 15 years before exiting to an international consultancy. He is currently President and CEO of his second startup, Boreal Environmental Services based in Anchorage. Core business lines of both Hoefler Consulting Group and Boreal include ambient air quality, meteorological, and hydrologic baseline data collection for mining and other clients across Alaska.

He holds a BS in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Cornell University and an MS in Civil Engineering from the University of Washington. He is a registered professional engineer in the State of Alaska.

Brian was born and raised in Alaska. In his spare time he likes to hike, bike, ski, hunt, invest, and spend time at his Nancy Lake cabin. He and his wife Gail have three grown children and a dog Charlie.



Cal Craig

Environmental and Permitting Manager
Ambler Metals

Cal Craig was born and raised in Southeast Alaska and grew up commercial fishing with his parents in the small fishing community of Elfin Cove. After graduating high school from Juneau-Douglas, he attended Montana State University in Bozeman, graduating in 2005 with an undergraduate degree in Land Reclamation, later getting a Masters at UAA. Cal's first job in the industry was as an Environmental Scientist working at Donlin. He's spent the past 13 years working up in the Brooks Range as the Environmental and Permitting Manager for Ambler Metals, developing baseline data collection programs and bringing the project ever closer to development. Cal enjoys camping, boating and exploring Alaska with his 3 year-old daughter Isla.



Bonnie Broman

Ms. Broman has over 15 years of experience in the natural resource sector most often working in remote exploration sites throughout Alaska, New Mexico, and Montana – including the Ambler Mining VMS District, the operating Nixon Fork high grade skarn gold mine, the Lordsburg Porphyry Copper deposit, and the Black Butte Copper deposit. She has managed remote logistics and training on several projects as well as having experience working with remote communities. She has been responsible for target generation and geological modeling in addition to QA/QC and database management. Database management includes designing logging systems to record all manner of geological, geochemical and geotechnical data, GIS data management, and QA/QC protocols as well as manipulating data by using 3D modeling tools. In addition, she has several years' experience working in the environmental clean-up industry focused on assessment of site infrastructure related to re-development. Ms. Broman holds a Master's degree from the University of Alaska – Fairbanks completing a geochemical and geo-metallurgical study of the Arctic volcanogenic massive sulfide deposit located in the Ambler Mining District; and an undergraduate degree from Appalachian State University in North Carolina.



Christopher Gerteisen

Mr. Christopher Gerteisen as General Manager controls all aspects of the Estelle Gold project while implementing efficiencies and savings to keep cost per discovery ounce well below industry average. Mr. Gerteisen has over 20 years of experience as a professional geologist with an extensive record of managing and advancing complex and challenging resource projects across North America, Australia, and Asia.

His work experience spans Greenfields from discovery through to production stage and other projects with a focus on commodities including gold and copper. He worked as a geologist on the Carlin Trend in Nevada and on exploration in Alaska with Newmont. He has held senior positions within several projects throughout the goldfields of Western Australia.

As a research geologist with Newmont he worked on the Batu Hijau Porphyry Cu-Au deposit in Indonesia. Most recently, through his technical contributions and management skills, Mr. Gerteisen played a significant role in the successful start-up, operations, and exploration which resulted in further mine-life extending discoveries at several prominent projects in the Australasian region, including Oxiana's Sepon and PanAust's Phu Bia in Laos. Mr. Gerteisen holds a Bachelor of Geology from the University of Idaho and a Master's Degree in Economic Geology from the Western Australia School of Mines. He is a dual USA and Australia Citizen based in Alaska and a member of the Australian Institute of Geoscientists.



Darwin Green

Founder of HighGold Mining, Darwin Green has been involved with mineral exploration in Alaska for over 20 years. He played a significant role in the discovery and advancement of the 14Mt Palmer Cu-Zn deposit, and prior to that, led advanced exploration and early-stage development for Niblack Mining for which he received the Commissioner's Award for Project Excellence by the State of Alaska. His corporate credentials include a successful track record in creating and financing public exploration companies and executing corporate transactions. Mr. Green holds both a B.Sc. and an M.Sc. in economic geology.



Dave Larimer

Raised in Colorado, Dave attended the University of Colorado at Boulder for his undergraduate education in geology. During this time, and the subsequent 25 years, the University of Colorado Football team has had a steady decline. It is not until recently with the hiring of Coach Prime (Deon Sanders) that the football team has turned it around, and Dave can once again be a proud Alumni of his Almamater...GO BUFFS!. Upon graduation, Dave was commissioned into the United States Army and “traveled” the world for free with no passport for 10 years. Dave’s first duty station was Fort Wainwright, got to experience the best parts of Alaska and decided this was “home”. Dave and his family moved back to Fairbanks upon completion of his military service. Dave has worked and studied economic geology from the academic, grassroots, greenfields, brownfields, and production in surface and underground settings. While he has worked in multiple commodities, he is fond of gold and the geochemistry of gold hydrothermal deposits.

Dave’s hobbies include (but not limited to) home brewing of Ginger Beer (the alcoholic type) and perfecting the art of home distillation.

Dave is a Fairbanks Branch Director of AMA and is currently the Exploration Manager for Contango Ore.



David Hedderly-Smith

David Hedderly-Smith is an independent consulting economic geologist based in Poulsbo, Washington. He holds a bachelor's degree in Geology from Western Washington State College (1971), a master's in Geological Sciences from the University of Washington (1975) and a doctorate in Geology and Geochemistry from the University of Utah (1997). He is a licensed Professional Geologist in Utah and a Q.P. under Canadian Securities Instrument N.I. 43-101.

Dave first came to work in Alaska in 1971 and in 1975 moved to Anchorage where, over the next ten years, he worked both in industry and in state government where he was the Deputy Director for Minerals in the Alaska Department of Natural Resources from 1981 to 1984. In 1985 Dave started the consulting geology business that he has now operated for nearly 40 years. His consulting business has focused on mineral exploration work predominantly in Alaska and the Yukon, but he has also worked in Utah, Colorado, California, Nevada, Arizona, Washington & North Carolina, and South America, Asia & Africa. Clients have included large and small exploration companies and Alaskan native corporations.

Dave has served as CEO and Chairman of the Board of Goldspan Resources, an American OTC company and on the boards and advisory boards of several Canadian junior exploration companies. He is currently Manager and lead member of the Mount Andrew Mining Company, Tubutulik Mining Company and Chulitna Mining Company LLCs, all Alaskan LLCs involved with exploration and development of Alaskan mineral properties.

Dave lives in Poulsbo, Washington, with his wife Carolyn. They have two adult children, Arthur and Theo.



David (Zoom) Szumigala

David (Zoom) Szumigala is currently employed as a Geologist IV in the Mineral Resources Section of the Alaska Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys. He is a mineral exploration geologist with over 40 years of experience in Alaska and he has worked on projects in most regions of the State. Zoom has worked for major mining companies in the western US and Alaska with mineral exploration experience

at scales from “grass-roots” regional programs to mine feasibility drilling projects. Zoom was part of the team that rediscovered gold skarn mineralization at the Nixon Fork Mine and he was part of the Placer Dome Exploration team that discovered the Donlin Creek gold deposit. Zoom has been active with the AMA Fairbanks Branch for more than 20 years, serving as chairman, vice-chairman, secretary, treasurer, and director over the years, as well as chairing the technical sessions committee for the biannual Fairbanks AMA Conference since 2000. He believes in advocating for the Alaska mineral industry and educating the public on important issues for the industry and other natural resource industries. Zoom strongly supports educating Alaska's youth about the importance of mining in their lives. Dave and his wife, Ellen Daley, have three adult children, Matias, Antonio, and Nayeli. Zoom is involved with Running Club North and other local groups in the Fairbanks community, including serving as a Director, SafeSport Coordinator, and coach for the Hockey Club of Fairbanks, and as an assistant soccer coach for Monroe Catholic High School.



Doug Kreiner

Doug Kreiner is a research geologist with the U.S. Geological Survey at the Alaska Science Center. He completed a B.S. in geosciences and environmental studies at Northland College in Wisconsin, M.S. in economic geology at Colorado State University and Ph.D. in economic geology at University of Arizona. Following his PhD, Doug worked in industry for 5 years managing porphyry, epithermal and Carlin-style gold exploration programs in the western US. At the USGS, Doug continues to study fluid-rock interactions in the crust and applies system-scale studies and regional metallogenesis to understand the time-space relationships of hydrothermal systems and their tectonic environments.

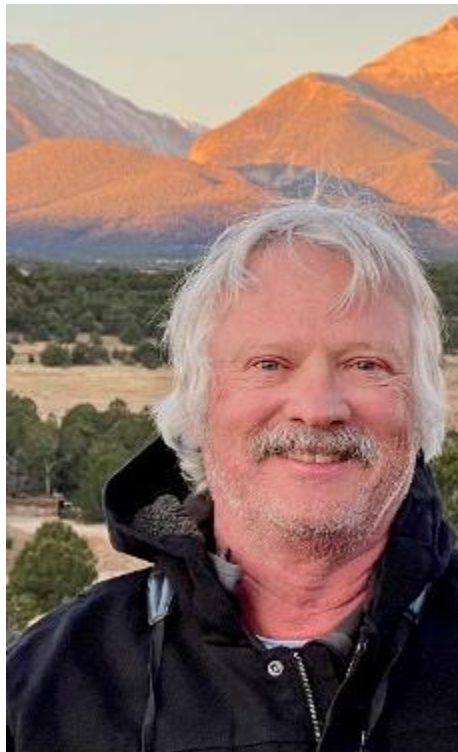


Ed Fogels

Ed is currently the environmental and permitting manager for Graphite One, and is responsible for the environmental baseline studies for the project. Ed Fogels recently finished a 30-year career with the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, where he served as the Deputy Commissioner of the department for almost 10 of those years, and was instrumental in designing and managing the State's Large Mine Permitting Process.

Ed is also a partner in Jade North LLC, a consulting firm specializing in natural resource, management, and Alaska Native issues, and is consulting with the governments of Greenland, Serbia, and Indonesia to help them modernize their mining regulatory systems.

Fogels earned a degree in Environmental Sciences from the University of Virginia. He is married to Luann, a school nurse, and together they have a daughter, Avery. Ed enjoys rock climbing, skiing, and cooking.



Karsten Eden

Dr. Karsten Eden is the Chief Geologist at the Alaska Mental Health Trust Land Office in Anchorage, Alaska and manages the Icy Cape Gold and Industrial Heavy Minerals Project. Karsten is a Certified Professional Geologist with over 25 years international experience in the supervision and management of mineral exploration and mine development projects in Alaska, Western Australia, West Africa, Scandinavia and Europe. Throughout his career, Karsten has provided consulting services to many international mining companies and has held several corporate geologist positions. He holds a doctorate degree in exploration geology from the University of Technology in Aachen, Germany.



Emma Pokon

Acting Commissioner
Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

Emma Pokon joined DEC in February 2020 from the Alaska Department of Law where she had most recently served as a Senior Assistant Attorney General assigned to support DEC. In her time with the Department of Law, she also worked with the Department of Natural Resources and the Regulatory Commission of Alaska and as a Special Assistant to the Attorney General. Previously, Ms. Pokon represented the North Slope Borough in natural resource and environmental matters and served as a law clerk for the Fairbanks Superior Court. She has bachelor's degree in history with a minor in chemistry from Hamilton College and a JD and a Master of Studies in Environmental Law from Vermont Law School.



Erin E. Marsh

Erin E. Marsh is a research geologist with the Geology, Geophysics, and Geochemistry Science Center of the U.S. Geological Survey in Denver Colorado. She has conducted studies on the orogenic and reduced intrusion related gold, Ni-Co laterite and placer gold deposits. Her research focuses on geochemistry, regional metallogeny, and geology of ore deposits in the North American Cordillera applying fluid inclusion, isotope, and trace element chemistry analysis to the understanding of ore genesis.



Evan Gearity

Evan Gearity, M.Sc., CPG, has over 15 years of experience in economic geology, including over a decade working in Alaska. His master's thesis focused on the geochemical and structural controls on epithermal gold and porphyry systems in western Montana. He then came to Alaska where he has held senior level positions at various deposits and mines across the state. He is currently the Exploration Manager for Wiseman Metals.



Evan Twelker

Mineral Resources Geologist
Alaska Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys

Evan Twelker is a senior mineral resources geologist with Alaska's Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys (DGGs). He leads mapping and economic geology research projects in Alaska's mineral-rich Yukon Tanana Upland and contributes to planning and geological interpretation of DGGs's geophysical programs. Prior to joining DGGs in 2013, Evan spent ten years as an exploration geologist working throughout Alaska on projects including Arctic, Bornite, and Livengood. 19 years after arriving in Fairbanks to attend UAF, Evan is still working with his graduate advisor, the esteemed/infamous Dr. Rainer Newberry, although he may have received some kind of degree at some point.



Gabe Graf

Chief Geoscientist
Alaska Energy Metals Corporation

Mr. Graf has over 15 years of industry experience as an exploration and mining geologist. He has previously worked for Newmont Mining Corporation, Sumitomo Metal Mining Pogo, and Northern Star Resources Ltd. As the Exploration Superintendent of Sumitomo Metal Mining Pogo, his reinterpretation of CSAMT geophysics across the Goodpaster District resulted in new target generation concepts and led the exploration team to the discovery and delineation of the Goodpaster Deposit (2022 Maiden Resource: 3.2Mt @ 10.3g/t for 1.1M Au ounces) and the Central Lodes Deposit (2019 Maiden Resource: 2Mt @ 7.9g/t Au for 509k Au ounces). He graduated from the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh (2006) with a bachelor's degree in Hydrology, a master's degree in Economic Geology from the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology (2008), and an MBA from the University of Alaska Fairbanks (2018). Mr. Graf is a certified professional geologist (#11889) with the American Institute of Professional Geologists.



George Case

George moved to Alaska and began working for the USGS in November 2016. He studies genesis and spatial potential of critical mineral-bearing systems, such as graphite and lithium, using a range of analytical and GIS tools including geochemistry and uranium-lead geochronology.



Joe Kurtak

Joe Kurtak has more than 40 years of experience working in mineral exploration and assessment in the Western U.S. and Alaska. Joe first came to Alaska in 1971 via a summer job working in mineral exploration in the Wrangell Mountains. This started a love affair with the 49th State and its fascinating geology that continues to the present day.

Joe obtained his Master's degree in geology from the Mackay School of Mines in 1975. Since then he has worked in both the private and public sectors including the U.S. Bureau of Mines and most recently the Bureau of Land Management. During this time Joe has taken part in a series of large-scale mineral assessments in Alaska. These range from the Panhandle to the North Slope and the Fortymile to the Seward Peninsula.

Since retirement from Federal service in 2015 he has been working part time as a consultant. He also continues to follow his life-long passion for geology.



John Shively

Chairman
The Pebble Partnership

John Shively first came to Alaska in 1965 as a VISTA volunteer. What started as a one year assignment turned into a career involved in the issues that have shaped Alaska – both in the private and public sector. Shively worked with NANA Regional Corporations on the development of the Red Dog Mine and prior to his assignment at Pebble served as Holland America Lines executive in Alaska. He has served two governors and is a former commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources. Shively has been a trustee for Alaska Permanent Fund, regent at the University of Alaska and served on numerous boards including the Alaska Chamber and the Resource Development Council where he served as president for five years. In 2009, Shively received the Bill Egan award from the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce as their outstanding Alaskan of the year. Shively has also been recognized with the prestigious Denali Award from the Alaska Federation of Natives. In 2014, Shively transitioned from his position as CEO of the Anchorage-based Pebble Partnership to serve as Chairman of the Board – a role that will allow him to stay active with Pebble while spending more time with his family. Shively left semi-retirement to return as CEO for the Pebble Partnership in the fall of 2020.



Justin Seavey

Justin Seavey joined Usibelli Coal Mine (UCM) as a senior engineer in 2011. He is responsible for geologic modeling and resource estimation, as well as short-, mid-, and long-term mine planning. Mr. Seavey also oversees the engineering staff in the development and preparation of plans and designs that support UCM's goals of safety, environmental stewardship, and efficiency. In 2021, Justin was also tasked with researching opportunities for critical minerals and rare earth extraction from Alaska's coal and coal ash, as well as carbon capture, utilization, and storage opportunities in Alaska.

Before joining UCM, Mr. Seavey worked in the natural resources industry on a wide range of projects throughout the U.S. and internationally. From 2008 to 2011, he served as an engineering consultant for UCM assisting in permitting the Jumbo Dome Mine in Healy, as well as the Wishbone Hill Mine in Palmer. When the opportunity to join UCM arrived, Mr. Seavey quickly accepted because he enjoys the unique challenges that come with mining year-round in Alaska.

Growing up in Colorado, Mr. Seavey graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Mining Engineering from the Colorado School of Mines in 2003. He and his growing family relocated to Healy, AK from Denver, Colorado in 2011. Mr. Seavey recently joined the University of Alaska Fairbanks alumni after graduating from the School of Management with a master's in business administration. Justin is also working to complete a graduate certificate from the Colorado School of Mines in Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage.

In his free time, Justin enjoys spending time with his wife, Kristin, and his daughters, Sydney and Andie. He also enjoys learning to play the guitar, personal fitness, golf, skiing, hunting, fishing, and generally living an active lifestyle.

Matthew Hanson

Matthew Hanson is an Exploration Geologist with over 20 years experience. He grew up in the small Copper River town of Kenny Lake. He was educated at UAF and graduated with BS in Geology. In his career he has worked for Avalon Development, Metallogeny, Kinross, and Freegold Ventures. He was the Prep Lab Manager for five years at ALS Minerals in Fairbanks, the longest to ever stay in that position. For the last two years he has been the Geologist for Doyon Limited, overseeing lease agreements, rescuing old core and managing small exploration programs.



Mark S. Lockwood

Certified Professional Geologist

BS Geology from University of Alaska - Fairbanks

MS Geology from New Mexico Tech

Senior Consultant with Shannon & Wilson in Fairbanks for 31 years.

Mark has over 40 years experience working throughout Alaska, on projects ranging from geologic mapping, mineral exploration, water resources, and contaminated-site characterization and remediation.



Mike Schaffner

Mike Schaffner is the Sr. Vice President of Mining for Graphite One. He has 35 years of experience in all stages of mining including green fields exploration, construction and start-up, management of operations, and closure and reclamation. A graduate of Montana Tech, Mike and his wife, Katrina, live in Anchorage, Alaska.



Paula Lillesve

Paula Lillesve is the Chief Environmental Engineer at Hecla Greens Creek Mine on Admiralty Island located 18 miles southwest of Juneau, Alaska. She completed her B.S. in geology and environmental science at Purdue University. Paula has worked in the mining industry for over 11 years. She started her career in northern Minnesota as Environmental Coordinator for air and water at several open pit iron ore mines before making the big move north in 2022. She started at Greens Creek as the Environmental Permitting and Compliance Coordinator before moving to the Chief Environmental Position just this year. Paula's passions include teaching the up-and-coming generation about mining and encouraging women to join the industry. She currently sits on the newly formed Women in Mining- Alaska Chapter board as Vice President. When she is not working, she enjoys spending time with her husband and two dogs usually while hiking around Juneau.



Robert (Bobby) Fithian

General Manager
Sundance Mining Company

Bobby has spent the past 40 years working in resource-based industries throughout Alaska including mining, forestry, guiding, agriculture and specialty construction, with a conservation focus for each of them. He has previously served on the Anchorage AMA BOD, as our elected Statewide President and currently as chairman of the Ketchikan/Prince of Wales chapter.

He has served several additional industry leadership roles and numerous State/Federal appointments. He founded Alaska Hardrock Mining in 1982 and continues to conduct unique projects throughout Alaska.

Currently, he is the co-founder, co-owner and general manager of Alaska's sixth operating hardrock mine, the Dawson Mine on Prince of Wales Island.



Sage Langston-Stewart

Project Geologist
Western Alaska Minerals

Sage has a M.Sc. in Geology and a B.Sc. in Geology and Geological Engineering from Colorado School of Mines. Sage worked at the Caribou-Cross Mine in Nederland, Colorado, where she completed her master's thesis, conducted core logging, underground mapping, and geological modeling. Sage has been working with Western Alaska Minerals for the last 4 years. With the geologic team at WAM, Sage lead the drill hole targeting for the 2022 season and now she continues to work on the geologic interpretation, modeling, and continues to expand the geologic understanding at Waterpump Creek and Last Hurrah.



Shelea Alonso

Shelea Alonso is an MLRS User Support Specialist with the Bureau of Land Management who has been working to support internal and external customers with the MLRS system and to create and run reports for users. Before becoming a User Support Specialist, she was a Mining Claim Adjudicator at the BLM Colorado State Office. Shelea enjoys spending quality time with her husband and two children in Colorado, where they reside.



Steve Ball

Steve Ball joined Coeur Alaska's Kensington Mine in November 2017. Steve was promoted to General Manager of Kensington in May 2022 after serving over four years as the Technical Services Manager, overseeing exploration, geology, mine engineering/planning, and project engineering for the Kensington Mine. His career spans over 19 years in the mining industry both in underground and open pit mine operations in locations including Namibia, Argentina, Brazil, Kazakhstan, Russia, British Columbia, Nevada, and now Alaska. Steve is an avid kayaker spends much of his free time enjoying the outdoors with his wife Heather and their dog Moxie.



Sue Karl

BA Middlebury College
PhD Stanford University

As a graduate student Sue worked summers in mineral exploration in the Alaska Range, Brooks Range, and North Slope. She works in the U.S. Geological Survey Minerals Program in Alaska as a geologic mapper and stratigrapher, with emphasis on sedimentary petrology, igneous geochemistry, and the sources and tectonic settings of mineral deposits. Current projects include mineral systems in southeast Alaska, sedimentary basins in the western Alaska Range, the metallogenesis of rare earth elements and graphite on the Seward Peninsula, and the sources and distribution of critical minerals in Alaska statewide.



Tim Smith, BSc, MSc (Hon), PGeo

Chief Executive Officer U.S. GoldMining Inc.

Tim is a geologist with over 25 years of experience in mineral exploration and mining, predominantly in orogenic gold settings in Australia and Canada, and more recently in cordilleran magmatic hydrothermal systems. He has a track record of discovery and mine development in Australia and Canada with the full range of junior, mid-tier and senior mining companies, most recently including stints with Goldcorp and Newmont as Director of Generative Exploration for North America. Prior to that he was VP Exploration with Kaminak Gold Corp where he led the field team to the discovery of the Coffee Gold Deposit in Yukon, Canada. Tim left the majors in early 2022 to return to the junior sector and take up a role with GoldMining Inc, which has an America's focused portfolio of over 30 million ounces in resource stage projects spread across 11 projects in five countries. With the spin out of the Whistler gold-copper project into U.S. GoldMining Inc and its successful IPO and listing on the Nasdaq in early 2023, Tim took up the role of CEO, with the primary objective to continue to explore and grow the resource inventory at Whistler and to oversee completion of an initial PEA.



T. Newkirk

Mr. Newkirk has over eighteen years of mineral exploration and mining experience, specializing in geologic and structural mapping. His work experience includes greenfields and brownfields exploration, production geology, as well as a researcher.

Past project work includes exploration of Archean greenstone VMS deposits in northern Minnesota; Carlin type gold systems across the Pipeline Cortez Hills Four Mile Canyon Goldrush areas; Low and High sulfidation systems across the Great Basin, northern Sierra Madre Mexico, and Maracunga district in Northern Chile.

More recently, he has worked as the Project Geologist on the exploration phase of the Kudz Ze Kayah Project in SE Yukon, Canada. He conducted district-scale mapping of the Delamar Mining District in SE Idaho and the Bare Mountains in the Beatty District SW Nevada. He also worked as a Senior Geologist at the Palmer Project SE Alaska. He is currently the Senior Exploration Geologist for Tectonic Metals Inc. and is working on the Flat Gold Project in Alaska.

Mr. Newkirk holds a BSc in Geology from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh and an MSc in Geology from Northern Arizona University, and was a PhD candidate at the University of British Columbia.



Varina Zinno, M.Sc., CPG

Senior Geologist at Calista Corporation, and Session Chair of Early Exploration Session

Varina Zinno is the Senior Geologist with Calista Corporation, formed during the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971, and she is focused on further developing the mineral potential in the Calista region in SW Alaska, including managing the NYAC gold project. Varina is a Certified Professional Geologist with over 14 years of work experience in mineral exploration and mining spanning projects located in Canada, Western US, and all over Alaska, in multiple deposit types. She graduated from the University of Oregon with a bachelor's degree in Geological Sciences with dual minors in Chemistry and Fine Arts-Metalsmithing in 2007. Varina obtained a master's degree in 2010 from McGill University in Earth & Planetary Sciences, focus Mineralogy and Crystallography. In 2012, Varina relocated from Montreal to Anchorage to work in Alaska and soon started volunteering with AMA on the Convention Planning Committee. Some of her contributions include organizing the first ever Core Shack & Prospectors Tent exhibits in 2014 and for many years after.



Victor Ross

Victor Ross is a Project Manager working for Stantec from Wasilla. He earned a bachelor's degree in mining engineering from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks and has specialized training and experience in wetlands, waters of the United States, and permitting. He has 40 years of experience working with the mining industry. His responsibilities have included project management, permit evaluation and issuance, wetland delineations, NEPA documentation, and site compliance. He left Federal service in 2012 having worked 20 years for the Alaska USACE Regulatory Division and 13 years for BLM in Alaska and the US West. Victor is an Anchorage board member of the Alaska Miners Association and sits on the Alaska Minerals Commission. Victor has worked on innumerable Alaska mineral projects as both a regulator and consultant, including Kensington, Alaska-Juneau, Greens Creek, Donlin Gold, Pogo, Red Dog, Fort Knox, True North, Gil, Manh Choh, and a plethora of exploration projects.



Zach Baer

Zach Baer is a Professional Wetland Scientist with Stantec. Zach earned his bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. He has sixteen years of experience in wetland delineation, permitting, and mitigation. Zach manages and conducts all phases of projects including field work, mapping, GIS analysis, report production, and permitting. Zach has completed wetland delineations and USACE CWA 404 and RHA 10 permits for mining, oil and gas, transportation, and commercial development industries in Alaska. Select clients and projects include Kinross, Donlin Gold, Pogo, Teck American, Johnson Tract, AKLNG, ASAP, Totchaket Road, Road to Tanana, and the Kivalina Evacuation Route.

