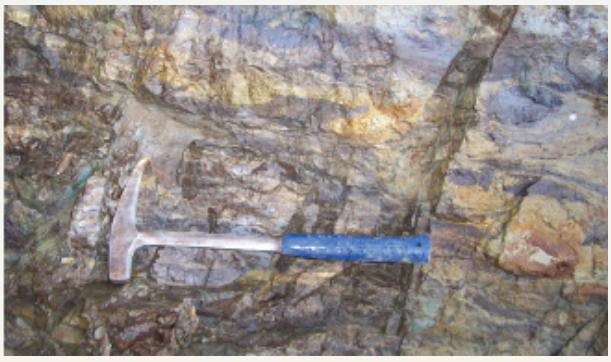
The Appalachians: A Traveling Geology Course: Québec - Boundary Mountains - Maine

June 11 - 17, 2018

The Appalachian mountain belt records the life cycle of the Iapetus Ocean that once separated Laurentia, the ancient core of North America, from Gondwanaland, the supercontinent comprising South America, Africa, India, Australia, and Antarctica. As we traverse the wreckage of Iapetus, from Quebec City across the Boundary Mountains to the coast of Maine, we will examine nearly the full spectrum of rocks and structures found on Earth. After decades of research, this rich geologic record reveals a coherent story of continental rifting, seafloor spreading, subduction, and collisions between the ancient Appalachian margin of North America and volcanic island arcs and microcontinents peeled from Gondwanaland. Participants will have the opportunity to acquire a variety of field skills as they decipher this fascinating episode of Earth history. We will also discuss the intriguing ways in which tectonic processes interact with the carbon and climate systems. (Please inquire about special costs due to the nature of the seminar - office@eaglehill.us)



About the instructor

Dr. Douglas Reusch (reusch@maine.edu), Professor of Geology at University of Maine Farmington, is interested in the origins and significance of mountains, notably the New England Appalachians, and also how tectonic processes affect carbon cycling and the Earth's climate. He has participated in Antarctic research, Ocean Drilling Leg 183 to the southern Indian Ocean, and mapping projects in coastal Maine, west-central Maine and Newfoundland. At UMF, Dr. Reusch teaches Environmental Geology, Oceans: Ancient and Modern, Structural Geology and Tectonics, and Geochemistry. He has also engaged UMF students in geologic research, including mapping of the nearby, spectacular Bald Mountain and Saddleback Wind field sites.