The Youngest Magmatic Event in Eastern North America

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• Geologic Map of the VA Eocene Magmatic Event



• Example Ar/Ar age for the Eocene volcanic pulse in the ENAM



• Bimodal volcanism in VA ~47-49 Ma

➡ Basalts (48.2±0.2 Ma)
▲ Basanites (48.60±0.89 Ma)
▼ Trachybasalts (47.0±0.2 Ma)
■ Trachydacites (48.79±0.07 Ma)

From Mazza et al. (Geology, 2014).



• What produced the Eocene event?

Reorganization of plate motion and change in the orientation of the regional stress field in the Eocene (Southworth et al., 1993)

Intraplate signature but T to low for a deep mantle plume (Mazza et al., 2013).

Lack of a thick lithosphere below the Eocene magmas in VA (while thick in other Appalachian locations, Wagner et al., 2012)



Tomography cross section

Thermobarometric results agree with seismic evidence for a thin LAB below the Eocene Volcanoes

Evidence for a low-shear wave velocity "scar" below the Eocene volcanoes

³He/⁴He ((R/RA >>1) from local thermal springs connects the shallow crustal fracture systems to a region deep into the mantle (Baedke and Silvis, 2009)

