



NORTHWEST GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

A regional association of professionals, students & others interested in geology
Please browse www.nwgs.org for more about us

November, 2008 Newsletter

Volume 22, Number 2

November 11 Program Speaker

Speaker: Peter Ward, UW Earth and Space Sciences and Biology Departments

Title: Extinction Astrobiology

Speaker Abstract: I will concentrate on mass extinctions, and the chemical evidence that is being used to work out cause. The talk will look at the carbon, oxygen, and sulfur isotope records across various mass extinction boundaries. I will also look at the new use of biomarkers to further understand cause, especially microbial input into kill mechanisms.

5:30pm: No-host social hour
6:30pm: Buffet dinner
7:30pm: Speaker program
All are welcome to attend – reservations are required if coming for dinner.

Program dinner reservations: NWGS members: \$30; Non-members: \$35; Full-time students in good standing: \$10. Add \$5 for LATE REGISTRATION. Mail check to Ginny Agnew, 935 Pine St., Edmonds, WA. 98020 (must be received by Thursday prior to meeting). Contact her at 425-776-6151 or agnewv@msn.com.

If attending the speaker program only, a \$5 voluntary donation to help defray the meeting room cost is greatly appreciated.

Location: Pacific Dining Hall at the [Talaris Conference Center](#), 4000 NE 41st St., Seattle, WA. Ph 206-268-7000. **Directions:** See [on-line directions with map](#), or: from I-5 northbound or southbound in Seattle, take Exit 168B (NE 45th St.). Drive east on NE 45th St. past UW down the hill and past University Village. Turn south (right) onto Mary Gates Memorial Drive at the 5-way intersection. MGM Drive will curve east (left) and become NE 41st St. Continue several blocks to the [Talaris Conference Center](#) entrance on the north (left) side.

Upcoming Speakers and Field Trips

December Speaker: Don Brownlee, UW Astronomy, [Minerals from the edge of the solar system](#).

January Speaker: Tom Bush, Pierce College Puyallup, [Breccias, breccias everywhere, but where's the gold?](#)

February Speaker: Josh Banfield, UW, [Space geology](#).

March Speaker: Don Swanson, USGS HVO, [Kilauea, an explosive, not milquetoast, volcano!!](#)

April Speaker: Tim Walsh, Washington DNR Geology, [Tsunami hazards](#).

May Speaker: Jody Bourgeois, UW, [Does Kamchatka belong to North America?](#)

2009 Field Trips: Several ideas have been proposed, including: Ingalls-Mt. Stuart-Swakane gneiss, southern Cascades volcanism, western San Juan Islands, Big Island of Hawaii, northern Cascades, and Nooksack valley bedrock. Contact President Elect [Donn Charnley](#) (206.546.3868) with comments or other suggestions.

Other Announcements

2009 ANNUAL DUES ARE DUE SOON!

Please send dues (\$35 professional, \$5 student) to [Dan Smith](#), 10203 40th Ave SW, Seattle, WA. 98146. *Thank you if you have already paid.*

Your research posters are requested! If you have a poster conveying your research, whether at the undergraduate, graduate, or professional level, please bring it to our next meeting for display! POSTERS ARE WELCOME AND ENCOURAGED AT ALL MONTHLY GATHERINGS! Also, please contact [Lars Gilmour](#) for information on the official poster session competition at the May, 2009 meeting. **Big prizes!!!**

Tax Exempt Status: [John Figge](#) is still working on the task of obtaining tax exempt status for [NWGS](#).

Charitable organization status: [Dan Smith](#) looked researched the need to declare ourselves as a non-profit, charitable organization and found that it is not necessary because our annual income is too low.

Northwest Scientific Association Meeting: [NWGS](#) board members have agreed to co-sponsor the March, 2009 annual Northwest Scientific Association Meeting, along with [AEG](#) and [AWG](#) this year in Johnson Hall at UW in Seattle.

Please see the [NWGS website](#) for detailed announcements.

Contact webmaster [Julie Masura](#) if you have any announcements to post on the website.

Photo Spotlight

Rhythmically-bedded sandstone-mudstone turbidites of the Cannon Beach Member of the Astoria Formation (Miocene) exposed at Silver Point, near Cannon Beach, Oregon, as seen on the fall 2006 NWGS field trip, *Geology of the Columbia River Basalts at the Miocene Shoreline to the deep sea, NW Oregon* (led by Alan Niem, Professor emeritus of geology, Oregon State University). Many of these units are nested channel deposits, cross-cutting other strata. According to Niem, such nested channels are an important aspect of submarine fans. *Photo and caption submitted by T. Bush.*



Your geology photo submissions (~1MB) with captions are appreciated. Please email to Newsletter Editor [Tom Bush](#).

About NWGS

NWGS, a regional association of professionals, students & other persons interested in **geology**, provides a forum for the presentation and discussion of a wide range of geologic topics, emphasizing those of the Pacific Northwest or of fundamental scientific interest. **Program meetings:** 2nd Tuesdays, October through May in the Pacific Dining Hall at the [Talaris Conference Center](#) in Seattle (see 1st page). Anyone may attend the speaker program, but a reservation is necessary for those wanting dinner (see 1st page). **Field trips (members only):** one in late spring/early summer and one in late summer/early fall, usually of 1-3 days in length. **Membership** is open to anybody with a professional or amateur interest in geology. **Annual dues:** Professional: \$35; Student: \$5. **To join or pay annual dues:** send a check payable to NWGS to Treasurer [Dan Smith](#), 10203 40th Ave SW, Seattle, WA. 98146. Please include your name, address, home phone, email, and employer/affiliation (if any).

Recommended Readings

- Atwater, T., and Stock, 1998, Pacific-North America plate tectonics of the Neogene Southwestern United States: an update, *International Geology Review*, 40: 375-402.
- Riedel, J. L., R. A. Haugerud, et al., 2007, Geomorphology of a Cordilleran Ice Sheet drainage network through breached divides in the North Cascades Mountains of Washington & British Columbia, *Geomorphology*, 91: 1-18.
- Whitney, D. L., J. H. Tepper, et al., 2008, Late orogenic mafic magmatism in the North Cascades, Washington: petrology and tectonic setting of the Skymo Layered Intrusion, *GSA Bulletin*, 120, (4/5, May/June): 531-542.

Please send your reading recommendations to Newsletter Editor [Tom Bush](#).

To report a change of email or postal address or request to be removed from mailings, notify Secretary [Dan Smith](#) at 206.937.5313. Questions or comments? Contact President [Dave McCormack](#) at 206.838.5834.

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