



## NORTHWEST GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

A regional association of professionals, students & others interested in geology  
Please browse [www.nwgs.org](http://www.nwgs.org) for more about us

### May 2011 Newsletter

Volume 25, Number 5

#### May 17 Program Speaker (Note: meeting date is 3rd Tuesday this time)

**Speaker:** John Dilles, Geosciences, Oregon State University

**Title:** Mineral resources in academia: An impending crisis?

#### **Abstract:**

With continued industrialization in the developing world, prices for metals and other mineral products reached new heights in 2005 and have remained so today. One of the primary drivers of the high prices was a slowdown in the addition of new supplies via discovery and an inability to expand production from known deposits. Increasing demand also highlighted vulnerabilities in the supply chain of minerals critical for industrial production, national security, and a future "green economy," e.g., copper, lithium, and rare earth elements. In spite of these economic and policy drivers, the numbers of mineral resource ("economic") geologists being trained in the western world and the vigor of the related academic enterprise has decreased significantly over the past three decades. The decrease has been particularly evident in the United States where long-term trends foreshadow the demise of economic geology education and research in the coming decade. Academia can provide both excellent education for future mineral resource geologists, and quality research to tackle scientific questions.

There is no consensus among federal and state agencies, the mining industry, and the U.S. academic community regarding the importance of economic geology to future U.S. competitiveness. One avenue to provide such a consensus - followed by action - is to invite the minerals industry, government, and institutions with a stake in mineral resources to initiate a dialogue and develop a new strategy, perhaps mediated by the National Research Council, to take U.S. academic economic geology successfully into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

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.

► [Reservations Here](#) 

**PROGRAM DINNER RESERVATIONS:** NWGS members: **\$35**; Non-members: **\$40**; Full-time students : **\$15**. \$45 for LATE REGISTRATION. Make reservations on-line at [NWGS](#) then mail check to [Dan Smith, 10203 40th Ave SW, Seattle, WA. 98146](#) (must be received by Thursday prior to meeting). Contact him at 206-937-5313 or [nwgeo@yahoo.com](mailto:nwgeo@yahoo.com). If attending the speaker program only, a \$5 voluntary donation to help defray the meeting room cost is requested. 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. We meet in the Pacific Dining room on the left.

#### Upcoming Speakers and Field Trips

Spring, 2011 FT: Brian Sherrod (USGS), Active tectonics of western and central Washington, June 11 & 12

Fall, 2011 FT: TBA. Contact [Matthew Von der Ahe](#) to volunteer or provide suggestions.

October 11 Meeting: TBA. Contact President [Julie Masura](#) to volunteer or provide suggestions.

November 8 Meeting: TBA.

December 13 Meeting: TBA.

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

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

## Announcements

- **he May meeting is on the 3rd Tuesday, May 17 due to Talaris availability.**
- **Student poster competition** is the May 17 meeting. Advanced registration is **REQUIRED** to compete ([REGISTER HERE](#)) but dinner is included! **Big prizes!!!**
- **Dinner reservations** may now be made **on the NWGS website**, but you still need to mail your check to the Treasurer as before, for now. **On-line payment** is in the works.
- NWGS needs your suggestions for the Fall, 2011 **field trip!** Please contact new Field Trip Coordinator [Matthew Von der Ahe](#) with your suggestions.
- NWGS Historian [Donn Charnley](#) requests any pre-1980s NWGS information. Contact him at [donncharnley@frontier.com](mailto:donncharnley@frontier.com) or 206.546.3868.
- **Next Board meeting:** June 21, 2011, 4:30pm, location TBA.

*YOU would like to be involved!*

## Photo Spotlight



View of a mining blast in progress at an open pit gold mine in Nevada. A pattern of 18-ft holes is drilled on the pit floor (or other intended blast level), loaded with explosives, then blasted to break the rock for mining. Ore and waste are then loaded using electric shovels into 400-ton haul trucks for removal to processing facilities or waste rock repositories. Catchment benches are 60 feet high. T. Bush photo.

## 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 of fundamental scientific interest.

*YOU would like to be involved!*

**Program meetings:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays, October through May in the Pacific Dining Hall at the [Talaris Conference Center](#) in Seattle (see 1<sup>st</sup> page). Anyone may attend the speaker program, but a reservation is necessary for those wanting dinner (see 1<sup>st</sup> 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: \$30; Student: \$5. **To join or pay annual dues:** send a check payable to NWGS to Secretary [Dan Smith](#), 10203 40<sup>th</sup> Ave SW, Seattle, WA. 98146. Please include your name, address, home phone, email, and employer/affiliation (if any).

*YOU would like to be involved!*

## Recommended Readings

Einaudi, M.T., 1996, The future of economic geology in academia, in Brimhall, G.H., and Gustafson, L.B., eds., Maintaining compatibility of mining and the environment: Proceedings of a symposium in honor of Charles Meyer (1915–1987): Littleton, Colorado, USA, Society of Economic Geologists, p. 46–59.

Hitzman, M. **Dilles, J.**, Barton, M., and Boland, M., 2009, Mineral resource geology in academia: An impending crisis? GSA Today, v. 19, no. 8, doi: 10.1130/GSATG33GW.1

National Research Council, 2008, Minerals, critical minerals, and the U.S. economy: Washington, D.C., The National Academies Press, 245 p.

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 [Julie Masura](#).

## NWGS Board

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