



NORTHWEST GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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



May 2012 Newsletter

Volume 26, Number 3



Joint AWG May 8 Program Speaker



Speaker: Dr. Vicki McConnell, Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

Title: Everything you always wanted to know about state geological surveys, but whom to ask?

Abstract: State geologic surveys collectively employ over 2000 professional and support staff and represent total revenues of a quarter of a billion dollars annually.

We estimate that 500 to 700 students are employed by state geologic surveys as full time staff, interns, or seasonal field assistants. The individual surveys may have responsibilities and missions ranging from basic geologic mapping to regulating oil and gas exploration and development. Their collective missions lie in providing unbiased science information and data for their state decision makers and the citizens. Primary areas of work are in geologic mapping, energy and mineral resource investigations, water resource management, natural hazard mitigation, geosciences data preservation, and applied research and education.

I will give an overview of work we are conducting at Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries to illustrate the variety and depth of applied geoscientific research at a state geologic survey. Highlights will include tsunami inundation modeling and mapping, landslide inventories using lidar derived digital elevation models, geothermal resource research, and examples of our web based interactive maps.

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: **\$40**; Non-members: **\$45**; Full-time students : **\$20**. \$45 for LATE REGISTRATION. Make your reservation and payment on-line at www.nwgs.org (or mail your payment to *Northwest Geological Society, 4616 25th Ave NE #397, Seattle, WA. 98105* (must be received by Thursday prior to meeting)). Contact [Dan Smith](mailto:Dan.Smith@nwgs.org) at 206-937-5313 or 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, 2012 Field Trip: Steve Reidel, WSU-TriCities, Late Cenozoic evolution of the Columbia River system in the Columbia River Basalt Province, May 19-20. More details and a registration link are **now available** at www.nwgs.org.

Summer, 2012: *Special Edition* field trip to Iceland, August 14-19, to be led by an English-speaking Icelandic geology professor/tour guide. Please see **Announcements** on page 2. Registration at www.nwgs.org will be set up soon!

Fall, 2012 Field Trip: Eric Cheney, UW EES, Regional geology and tectonic history of the eastern flank of the Cascade Range from Stevens Pass to Leavenworth, to Ellensburg to Easton, Sept. 8-9. Watch your email for an announcement later this summer.

Please see the [NWGS website](http://www.nwgs.org) for detailed announcements.

Contact webmaster [Julie Masura](mailto:Julie.Masura@nwgs.org) if you have any announcements to post on the website.

Announcements

- The *Special Edition* field trip to Iceland will be **August 14-19** of this summer! These dates *do not* include travel days (you will need to arrive before and depart after these dates). The cost of ~\$1,500 is yet to be finalized, but will include mid-class accommodations and local travel throughout SW Iceland, the focus of the field trip. Air fare is up to you (and you may schedule your arrival or departure to provide for extra time in Iceland). The trip will focus on a variety of Icelandic geologic topics (volcanism, tectonics/structures, glacial, and more). More information and a registration link will be set up at www.nwgs.org soon.
- The 25-year anniversary symposium is scheduled for **May 4, 2013**. Please mark your calendar!
- NWGS Historian [Donn Charnley](mailto:donncharnley@frontier.com) requests any pre-1980s NWGS information. Contact him at donncharnley@frontier.com or 206.546.3868.
- **Next Board meeting:** May 8, 4:30 P.M., Talaris Conference Center.

YOU would like to be involved!

Photo Spotlight



Aerial view of the Thingvellir National Park area of SW Iceland, looking roughly north across the NW margin of the portion of the rift zone that bisects Iceland in this region. Note the two prominent half-graben fault scarps (down to the SE) trending NE from lower and middle left to middle right which cut young basalt flows. A volcano (name unknown) forms the skyline. The red-roofed buildings are the site of Iceland's Parliament, Althing, active from 930 to 1800 C.E. Photo is a scanned postcard purchased in Iceland (PUBL: LITBRÁ HF).

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: 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: \$30; Student: \$5. **To join or pay annual dues:** send a check payable to NWGS to Secretary [Dan Smith](#), 10203 40th Ave SW, Seattle, WA. 98146. Please include your name, address, home phone, email, and employer/affiliation (if any). Professional dues may now also be paid at www.nwgs.org.

YOU would like to be involved!

Recommended Readings

Everest Educational Expedition, www.montana.edu/everest. This is a Mt. Everest expedition currently underway commemorating the 50th anniversary of the first American ascent, sponsored by National Geographic, The North Face, and Montana State University. MSU geology professor [Dave Lageson](#) is an integral part of the expedition. The link above provides information about the expedition, access to expedition updates, and teacher resources. Scientific goals of the expedition include using GPS to accurately measure the mountain's elevation, studying its faults, and gaining a deeper understanding of the age of the mountain and its rocks.

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](#).

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