

NORTHWEST GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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



December 2013 Newsletter

Volume 27, Number 8



December 10 Program Speaker

Speaker: Julie Masura, University of Washington Tacoma, Environmental Science Department

Title: Characterizing microplastics from surface waters from the west coast of Vancouver Island to Puget Sound, Washington

Abstract: Plastic marine debris is found in coastal and marine waters worldwide. There has been an increase in the study of microplastics, synthetic polymers < 5 mm, throughout the world. Researchers at the Center for Urban Waters, University of Washington Tacoma have participated in a study to standardize field and laboratory methods to determine the concentration of microplastics in the marine environment. This presentation describes a 4-year survey of waters from the west coast of Vancouver Island to Puget Sound, Washington. This project is a collaborative effort between the University of Washington Tacoma and local boat-based environmental education groups who were trained by our research group on sample collection. Samples were gathered from remote, suburban, urban, and industrialized bays and inlets. Scientists from the Center for Urban Waters analyzed the environmental samples using the developed wet-peroxide oxidation method. This survey measured variable concentrations of microplastics in this region's surface water ranging from non-existent to 50% microplastics of the dry mass with an average concentration of 5% microplastics of the dry mass.

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 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

January 14: Kate Allstadt, UW Graduate Student, Seismically Induced Landsliding in Seattle: a Magnitude 7 Seattle Fault Earthquake Scenario.

February 11: Jim Miller, Gold Deposits in Alaska.

Spring, 2014 Field Trip: Saturday, May 17: Ralph Haugerud, USGS UW, the Seattle fault zone on Bainbridge Island.

If you would like to volunteer to give a talk or lead a field trip for NWGS, please contact President [Dan Smith](#).

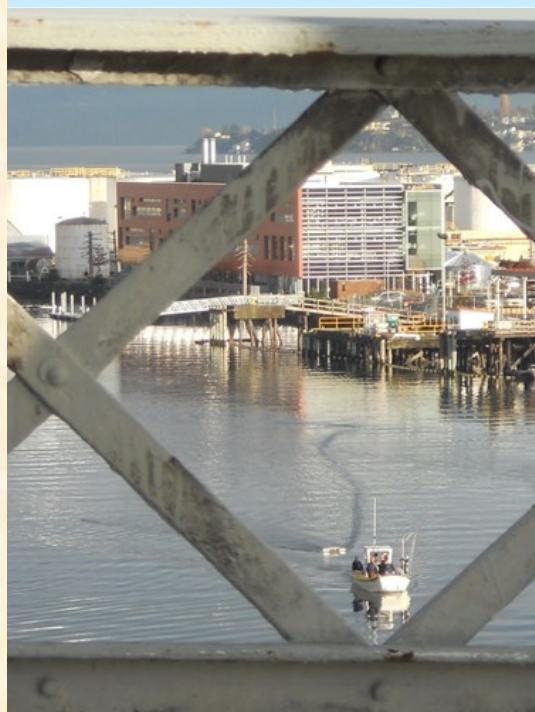
Please see the [NWGS website](#) for detailed announcements.
Contact webmaster [Julie Masura](#) if you have any announcements to post on the website.

Announcements

- **Dan Smith** is the next incoming NWGS **President** for 2014! Dan previously faithfully served NWGS as Secretary since 2005, and we look forward to an outstanding year with him in his new position! Thanks, Dan!
- The **Secretary** duties have now been split into two positions. Most of the duties will be retained under the Secretary title, with **Beth Tanner** taking over for Dan, who will continue with most NWGS Secretarial duties. Thanks, Beth!
- Duties regarding membership records will now be the responsibility of the newly-created **Membership Chair**, with **George Bennett** as the first office holder in this capacity. George is also an NWGS Past President (2005). Thanks, George!
- We will be awarding *two* **Tool of Geology** awards at the December meeting to members who have made significant contributions to NWGS over the years.
- The NWGS Board and other members are continuing their work on formalizing NWGS by-laws. Stay tuned for further developments.
- Next **Board meeting**: December 10, 4:30 P.M., Talaris Conference Center.

YOU would like to be involved!

Photo Spotlight



Researchers sampling microplastics in Thea Foss Waterway, Puget Sound, WA

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

Christopher LaRocque, **Julie Masura**, Joel E. Baker, Concentrations of marine microplastics in Puget Sound and Chesapeake Bay, University of Washington Tacoma, Center for Urban Studies, Tacoma, Washington, http://www.tacoma.uw.edu/sites/default/files/global/documents/ias/UWaTERS_11/LaRocque.pdf.

Hinds, Sandra, 2012, Wind pushes plastics deeper, driving trash estimates up (with video), UW Today, April 25, 2012, <http://www.washington.edu/news/2012/04/25/wind-pushes-plastics-deeper-into-oceans-driving-trash-estimates-up-with-video/>.

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 Membership Chair **George Bennett**. Questions or comments? Contact President **Dan Smith**.

NWGS Board

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