



NORTHWEST GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

December, 2008 Newsletter

Volume 22, Number 3

December 9 Program Speaker

Speaker: Don Brownlee, UW Department of Astronomy

Title: Minerals From the Edge of Space

Speaker Abstract: University of Washington astronomy professor Donald Brownlee works on cosmic dust, comets, astrobiology and STARDUST—a NASA Discovery mission to collect samples from a comet and bring them back to Earth. Don is the principal investigator for Stardust, a NASA Discovery mission that captured comet particles and is returning them to Earth. The seven-year mission launched from Cape Canaveral, Fla., on Feb. 7, 1999. Stardust came within 150 miles of the core of the comet Wild 2, gathering a variety of scientific readings and sending close-up pictures back to Earth. It return to Earth with its treasure, bits of comet dust, in January 2006. It is the first U.S. sample-return mission since Apollo 17 and the first ever designed to return material from outside the orbit of the moon.

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 : \$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 agnew@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

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

February Speaker: Josh Banfield, UW, [Geology of Mars](#).

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?](#)

Spring, 2009 Field Trip: TBA

Fall, 2009 Field Trip: TBA

Fall, 2009 Field Trip, Special Edition: The Big Island of Hawaii is being discussed as a possible option.

Other Announcements

2009 ANNUAL DUES ARE DUE SOON! Please send dues (\$30 professional, \$5 student) to [Dan Smith](#), 10203 40th Ave SW, Seattle, WA. 98146. *Thank you if you have already paid.*

Nominations for President Elect: Nominations are requested for this important position. If you wish to nominate yourself or someone else (with permission), please send your nomination to President [Dave McCormack](#) (206.838.5834) **by 12/01/2008**. The next President Elect will be elected at the December 9 meeting.

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!!!**

Big Island of Hawai'i Field Trip: An extra field trip is being considered to the Big Island of Hawai'i, focusing on the volcanism if Kilauea and other parts of the island. Please send your feedback to Field Trip Coordinator [Greg Ferris](#) regarding this idea.

Student scholarships for NWGS field trips: Plans are in the works for providing support for 2 students to attend each spring field trip with NWGS support. Selection will be by applicant lottery.

NWGS Field Trip Guides: [John Figge](#) is working on making NWGS field trip guides available to members on the web page.

Résumé board: The résumé board will be available again starting in December. If you are looking for work in geology, bring your résumé to post. If you are an employer looking to hire a geologist, come and peruse the available talent!

Next Board Meeting: December 9, 4:30pm, [Talaris Conference Center](#).

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

Photo Spotlight

Geologist Dr. Kruawum Jankaew in a pit on Island Phra Thong, on the west coast of Thailand, about 125 km north of Phuket, showing multiple sand sheets (light-colored) within peaty deposits, interpreted as tsunami sands at this location (upper-most deposit from the 2004 event). Brian Atwater of the U.S. Geological Survey, University of Washington, coauthored the results of this research in a recent article in *Nature* (see Recommended Readings and associated [video clip](#) below). This research shows that the devastating 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami had several predecessors during the last 2800 years, the most recent of which was about 550-700 years ago.



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: \$30; 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

- Kruawun Jankaew, Brian F. Atwater, et al., 2008, Medieval forewarning of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami in Thailand, *Nature*, 55 (30 October): 1232-1234 ([video link!](#)).
- Johnston, S. T., and S. Acton, 2003, The Eocene southern Vancouver Island orocline—a response to seamount accretion & the cause of fold & thrust belt extensional basin formation, *Tectonophysics*, 365: 165-183.
- Lipman, P. W. and W. C. McIntosh, 2008, Eruptive & noneruptive calderas, northeastern San Juan Mountains, Colorado: where did the ignimbrites come from? *Geological Society of America Bulletin*, 120 (July/August): 771-795.

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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