



# 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

## March, 2010 Newsletter

Volume 24, Number 3

### March 9 Program Speaker

**Speaker:** John Figge, North Seattle Community College

**Topic:** Modeling the Tectonics of the Challis Enigma

**Speaker Abstract:** In reconstructing the geologic evolution of this region, it has become apparent over the last three decades that the fundamental determinant on that course of events is vested in the evolving relationships between the oceanic and continental plates along this portion of the Pacific Margin. In reconstructing those events, the most enigmatic questions surround the relationships which characterized the "Challis" Episode of Eocene time. This evening's presentation details a relatively simple model for these events which have been adopted in a new textbook of Pacific Northwest Geology written by the speaker. This is a model which broadly conforms to the variety of magmatic and tectonic events evidenced over this episode, while employing relatively common geologic processes. Given the continuing ambiguity as to the course of events over this period, the author has adopted this model for the purposes of introductory instruction.

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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

**April Speaker:** Paul Hammond, Portland State University, Structures in the Columbia River Basalt Group south of Snoqualmie Pass.

**May 18th Speaker (note date change to 3rd Tuesday of May for the poster session):** TBA.

**Spring, 2010 Field Trip:** Paul Hammond, Portland State University, Stratigraphy and structure of Grand Ronde Basalt in the Naches River area, south-central Washington, June 12-12, 2010. Contact [Greg Ferris](#) to register (see p. 2).

**Fall, 2010 Field Trip:** Dave Tucker, Western Washington University, Holocene deposits of Mt. Baker, dates TBA.

### Other Announcements

**Final Announcement: 2010 Dues are due!** Please maintain your membership currency by squaring up with [Dan Smith](#) (see page 2)!

**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 student poster session competition at the May, 2010 meeting. **Big prizes!!!**

**Nominations are needed for NWGS President Elect for 2010.** Please contact [John Figge](#) to nominate someone or yourself!

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

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

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

### Photo Spotlight

Fossil palm frond from the Eocene Chuckanut Formation, Chuckanut Drive (SR 11), south of Bellingham, Washington. The Chuckanut Formation is a thick (~6,000m) sequence of fluvial arkosic sandstones and shales with some coal-bearing units, and is famous for its array of Eocene leaf fossils. Lesser well-known is the occurrence of bird and mammal trackways within the Chuckanut, and a soft-shelled turtle fossil was discovered in 1960 near Clark Point, south of Bellingham. Photo 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:** 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 Treasurer [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).

### NWGS Personnel

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### Recommended Reading (kindly submitted by John Whitmer)

Kesley, H.M., 2008, Earthquakes generated from bedding plane-parallel reverse faults above an active wedge thrust, GSA Bull., vol. 120, no. 11/12, 1581-1597.

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 [Donn Charnley](#) at 206.546.3868.

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