



NORTHWEST GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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



February 2014 Newsletter

Volume 28, Number 2



February 11 Program Speaker

Speaker: Jim Miller, Senior Principal, GeoEngineers, Inc., Redmond, Washington

Title: ALASKA GOLD: Geology and Mysteries

Abstract: Jim has been an avid recreational gold prospector for many years. His vacations have taken him to localities in Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho and Alaska in search of the yellow metal. Jim will share with you the experiences and geologic mysteries associated with prospecting trips to three different locations in the scenic state of Alaska. After introductory explanations about gold sources and occurrences, Jim's prospecting stories will begin in south-central Alaska, where he searched for native gold directly in host rock. At the two other locations, he used his metal detector to search for gold nuggets in alluvial deposits. The host rock source locations for the two gold nugget localities have never been found. With geologic and glacial maps, we'll speculate on where the Mother Lode gold sources may be hiding. Following his presentation, Jim will have examples of his Alaskan treasures available for viewing.

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**. Add \$5 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 Secretary [Beth Tanner](#) with questions about dinner reservations.

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

March 11: TBA.

April 8: TBA.

May 13: Anne Truhe, Oregon St. Univ., NSF Cascadia Initiative and the collection of multichannel seismic data off our coast.

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

Fall, 2013 Field Trip: TBA.

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

- NWGS now has a [Facebook page](#)! Check it out and “Like” us! Thanks Kent Lewis, for getting this set up!
- Heather Vick is working on T-shirts and baseball caps with the official color NWGS logo. Watch for these to be on sale soon.
- [Grace Winer](#) is working on starting a *Speaker’s Bureau*, a group of members that have talks on various topics ready for when we are asked for a speaker referral by local clubs and organizations. Please contact [Grace](#) if you would like to be on the list.
- The [Tobacco Root Geological Society](#) will be running a field conference in NE WA, July 31-Aug. 3. Contact [Skye Cooley](#) for more.
- The Columbia Basin Geological Society is holding its resurrection meeting with Eric Cheney as its speaker on January 28 in Spokane. Contact [Andy Buddington](#) for more.
- The deadline for applying to the [UW Applied Geosciences Professional Master Degree program](#) is March 1st. [More information](#).
- Next **Board meeting**: February 11, 4:30pm, Talaris Conference Center.

YOU would like to be involved!

Photo Spotlight



Jim Miller uses his metal detector near Denali National Park to locate quartz veins containing native gold.

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

Miller, James A., 2004, Trophy Nuggets at Ganes Creek, Alaska: *Rock & Gem*, vol. 34, no. 1, p. 28-32.

Miller, James A., 2012, Gold Nuggets and Their Secrets: *Rock & Gem*, vol. 42, no. 1, p. 12-16.

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](#).

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