

NORTHWEST GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

March, 2023 Newsletter

Volume 37, Number 3

March 14 Program Speaker

5:30pm: No-host social hour; 6:30pm: Dinner
7:30pm: Speaker program ([reservations here](#), see below for details)

Speaker: David B. Williams, Author

Title: Cairns: Messengers in Stone

Abstract:

Writing messages with rocks is an ancient gesture that continues to speak to our imaginations. From meadow trails to airy mountaintops and wide open desert, cairns—those seemingly random stacks of rock—are surprisingly rich in stories and meaning. For thousands of years cairns have been used by people to connect to the landscape and communicate with others, and are often an essential guide to travelers. In this talk based on his book *Cairns: Messengers in Stone*, Williams will explore the geology, ecology, and human history of these ubiquitous trailside markers.

IN-PERSON PROGRAM DINNER RESERVATIONS!

Cost: NWGS member dinner: \$40; Non-member dinner: \$50; Student dinner: \$10; Talk-only: \$10; Student talk-only: free

To register for attending in-person: please [make your reservation here](http://nwgs.org/meeting-registration/) (nwgs.org/meeting-registration/) by the Thursday prior to the meeting.

Catered menu: Shepard's pie (gf, df), fisherman's pie (cream-based sauce with onions, carrots, peas, salmon, shrimp, crab, & scallops topped with mashed potatoes), rustic bread with Irish butter, stout gravy (gf, df), garden salad with 3 dressings, Guinness spice cake with maple glaze (gf).

Location: Fauntleroy YMCA next to the Fauntleroy UCC Church, West Seattle, 9140 California Ave SW, Seattle, WA. 98136. Use the parking lot on the [north side of the building](#). Get [Google Maps driving directions here](#).

Upcoming Speakers and Field Trips

April 11: Peter Davis, Pacific Lutheran University, The Easton Metamorphic Suite.

May 9: TBA.

Spring Field Trip: TBA.

Fall Field Trip: TBA

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

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

Announcements

- Sadly, NWGS cofounder and former President and Secretary **Donn Charnley** passed away on Feb. 5 at North-west Hospital in Seattle at the age of 94. Please see his full obituary on the next page.
- NWGS is still seeking a talented volunteer to fill the **President Elect** position. The success and future of this fine organization depends on shared governance by its members. The time commitment is not enormous, and this is a rewarding opportunity to contribute to the direction of our fine organization. Please contact President [Francois Lalague](#) for more information.
- We are currently working on filling in the talk and field trip schedules for 2023. Please let [Francois Lalague](#) know if you would like to volunteer or have any suggestions.
- Next **Board of Directors meeting:** Tuesday, March 21, 5:30 pm.

YOU would like to be involved!

Photo Spotlight



March speaker David Williams sits next to a cairn of a'ala lava on the southern flank of Mauna Kea volcano on the Big Island of Hawai'i with Mauna Loa volcano in the background.

About NWGS

The [Northwest Geological Society](#) is a non-profit educational organization which provides a forum for information and discussion on Northwest geology and related topics. The Society sponsors talks by leading academic and professional geologists at its monthly meetings, conducts field trips to locales of regional geologic interest, and publishes meeting summaries and field guides based on those activities. Membership is open to anyone interested in regional geoscience issues.

Program meetings are the 2nd Tuesdays, October through May. We are trying a new in-person venue this month at the [Fauntleroy YMCA in West Seattle, 9140 California Ave SW, WA, 98136](#). Reservations are required to attend in-person (Member dinner: \$40; Non-member dinner: \$50; Student dinner: \$10; Talk-only: \$10; Student talk-only: free).

Field trips (members only): The Society sponsors two overnight field trips each year, one in the fall and one the spring, to locales of regional geologic interest.

Membership is open to anybody with an interest in geology. **Annual dues:** Professional: \$55; Student: \$10. **To join or pay annual dues:** go to the [NWGS website](#), or visit our website for more details. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Recommended Readings

Spencer, J. E., Richard, S. M., Bykerk-Kauffman, Constenius, K. N., Valencia, V. A., 2022, [Structure, chronology, kinematics, and geodynamics of tectonic extension in the greater Catalina metamorphic core complex, southeastern Arizona, USA](#), *Geosphere*, Vol. 18, No. 6, pp. 1643-1678.

Williams, D. B., 2012, *Cairns: Messengers in Stone*, Mountaineers Books, Seattle, 192 p.

Wang, J. W., Gehrels, George, Kapp, Paul, Sundell, Kurt, 2023, [Evidence for regionally continuous Early Cretaceous sinistral shear zones along the western flank of the Coast Mountains, coastal British Columbia, Canada](#), *Geosphere*, Vol. 19, No. 1, pp. 139-162.

Please send your reading recommendations to Newsletter Editor [Tom Bush](#).

To update your account information,, go to [NWGS.org/membership](#).
Questions or comments? Contact President [Francois Lalague](#).

Board of Directors

President [Francois Lalague](#)
Pacific Lutheran Univ.

President Elect **OPEN**

Past President [Matthew Porter](#)
AESI

Secretary [Amy Knudson](#)

Treasurer [Pam Osterhout](#)
Floyd I Snider

At-Large Board Members [Maura OBrien](#)
Retired
[Tom Bush](#)
Pierce College Puyallup

Other Personnel

Membership Chair [George Bennett](#)
Bennett Consulting

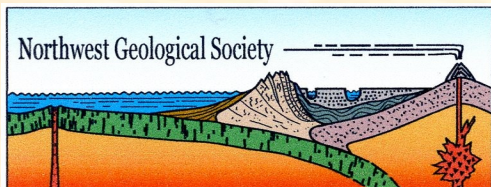
Field Trip Coordinator [Kathleen Goodman](#), Wood PLC

Newsletter Editor & Publications [Tom Bush](#)
Pierce College Puyallup

Poster Chair [Maura OBrien](#)
Retired

Webmaster [Matthew Porter](#)
AESI

Facebook Pagemaster [Eric Baer](#)
Highline CC



NORTHWEST GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

Donn Charnley (1928-2023) (excerpts from the *Shoreline Area News*)

NWGS cofounder and former Washington State Rep. and Sen. **Donn Charnley** (D) of Shoreline, Washington, died Sunday morning Feb. 5, 2023, at Northwest Hospital in Seattle. He was 94. Donn served as NWGS President in its early version in 1965, then helped resurrect the organization after a fifteen year hiatus with Eric Cheney in 1987. He then served as NWGS Secretary from 1987 to 2002.

A significant theme of his life was a love of the outdoors. While his children were at home, the family camped in the San Juans, sailed, canoed and kayaked in the Salish Sea, hiked in the Olympic and Cascade mountain ranges and skied in Washington, Idaho, Utah and Montana and British Columbia and Alberta, Canada.

For years he drove the family to Snoqualmie Summit where the children took skiing lessons from and he taught for Fiorini Ski School. He also played guitar and led songs from the US Army's 10th Mountain Division and others on the ski bus and in the lodge. His lifelong passion for the sport shaped many of his winter adventures.

He took legions of students on geology field trips around the state, often driving the Snoqualmie Pass highway and describing geological structures over walkie-talkies while en route to set up camp and explore Frenchman Coulee near Vantage on the Columbia River.

With students' legs dangling over a dry fall, he described the cataclysmic Missoula Floods that periodically gouged their way through Central Washington, down the Columbia River and into the Willamette Valley at the end of the last ice age.

His interest in politics began while attending the University of Washington where he met and was active in issues and candidates with first wife, Frances "Libby" Graves.

He spent decades teaching, including driver training when he was a counselor at West Seattle High School and later as a professor of his beloved geology from January 1964-December 1996 at Shoreline Community College.

He retired from SCC after 32 years but continued teaching geology to mostly retirees in adult education programs throughout the Puget Sound Basin, including the Creative Retirement Institute at Edmonds Community College.

In more recent years the complicated visuals he learned to create embellished his PowerPoint presentations to augment his courses. Altogether, he taught for 56 years, until the COVID-19 quarantine in 2020.

He was active throughout the 1960s in the civil rights movement, Zero Population Growth, the PTA, ecological and environmental issues, the Kidney Foundation, Northwest Geological Society, the Democrat Party and various boards.

He served in the Washington State House of Representatives in the 44th District in north King County from 1971-1981, was Majority Whip for a couple of terms, and served in other leadership posts and on a variety of committees in the House, including Transportation.

As a freshman legislator, Charnley and other first-time representatives from the Seattle area were relegated to the back row of the House and told to not speak, watch and listen. The legislators made headlines by vociferously refusing to be quiet, saying they were elected and there to represent their constituencies.

Elected to the state Senate in 1980, he was gerrymandered out of his constituency in 1982 when the district boundary was redrawn south around his house to include his home in the 1st District to the north.

He ran for and was elected for another term in the House in 1982. He subsequently lost the election for the state Senate to the incumbent in 1984.

Henderson Camps for Boys and Girls on Lopez Island, which later became Camp Nor'wester now on Johns Island, was a large part of Charnley's childhood and adult life. As counselors in the 1940s at Henderson's, Charnley met his best friend, Bill Holm, a teacher, artist, art historian and author focused on Indigenous Northwest Coast art.



Because of their friendships with the Kwakwaka'wakw people on Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Canada, tribal guests came to Henderson/Nor'wester to share their culture, art, music, stories and heritage with thousands of campers over the years.

The joy Charnley gained from traveling, geology and all things outdoors thoroughly rubbed off on his children who also sing many of his favorite folk songs, from the Weavers, Pete Seeger and Peter, Paul & Mary to old English sea shanties and shipwreck sagas.

During his marriages, Charnley had Scott and Annie with Frances "Libby" Graves; Brent, Janet and Craig with Lucile Janousek (now Rock); and Alan with Dr. Melinda Denton.

It's only in the last several years that he slowed down tremendously. He had skied into his late 80s, read voraciously and enjoyed travel in the South Pacific, Norway, Greece, Europe, Alaska and the Galapagos.

He was born April 3, 1928, in Detroit, Michigan, to journalism professor Mitchell V. Charnley and writer mother Margery "Peg" Lindsay.

He grew up and attended schools in Tacoma, and graduated from Broadway High School on Capitol Hill in Seattle. He earned a bachelor's degree and a masters in geology from the University of Washington and a masters from the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis.

His family includes companion Corinne Waters of Bellingham, Washington; children Scott Charnley of Shoreline, Annie Charnley Eveland of Walla Walla, Washington, Brent Charnley of Lopez Island, Washington, Janet Charnley of Snohomish, Washington, Craig Charnley of San Francisco, California, and Alan Charnley of Shoreline; eight grandchildren and several great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to Camp Nor'wester, PO Box 1055, Edmonds, WA 98020, or online at norwester.org/support; the University of Washington [Melinda Denton Memorial Endowment Fund](http://MelindaDentonMemorialEndowmentFund); San Juan Preservation Trust, septa.org/visit-our-preserves/; Northwest Geological Society, nwgs.org/; or the Nature Conservancy of Washington, Donation.