



NORTHWEST GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

November, 2023 Newsletter

Volume 37, Number 7

November 14 Program Speaker

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

Speaker: Grace Winer, Expedition Staff member on Lindblad/National Geographic Expedition ships

Title: Geology of Iceland: la Terre Vivante (the living earth)

Abstract: Iceland's unique tectonic setting controls its very active geological processes. Situated on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge and over the Iceland hotspot, vast amounts of basaltic lava have formed the Iceland plateau and keep Iceland's "fires" going today. In addition to older, active volcanic systems, a recently reawakened volcanic zone on the Reykjanes Peninsula has commenced eruptions between the Keflavík International Airport and the capital city of Reykjavík. A volcanic system is the principal geological structure in Iceland and about 31 volcanic systems are located on its active volcanic zones. In Iceland a volcanic system consists of a fissure swarm, a central volcano, or both. These volcanic areas are controlled by the tectonics that are pulling Iceland apart where the North American and Eurasian plates meet. The volcanic terrain of Iceland has been greatly influenced by ice and subglacial volcanic landforms can be still seen, leftovers from the Ice Age. About 11% of Iceland is covered by ice today and melting is predicted to result in increased eruption rates. Historic eruptions on Iceland have had far-reaching and drastic results and Iceland's volcanoes are capable of producing such eruptions again at any time.

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 \(nwgs.org/meeting-registration/\)](http://nwgs.org/meeting-registration/) by the Thursday prior to the meeting.

Catered menu: hearty pot roast with carrots, onions, celery, and red potatoes; hearty vegetable stew; mashed potatoes and gravy; homemade sauce; garden salad; pumpkin trifle

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](#).

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

Upcoming Speakers and Field Trips

December 12: Tom Doe, Golder Associates, Hiking Cougar Mountain During COVID Times.

January 9: TBD.

February 13: Stacia Gordon, UN Reno, Tracking the Rheology History of an Arc System: Magmatism, Metamorphism, and Deformation in the Deep Crust.

March 13: TBD.

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

- 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.
- There are some exciting **field trip** options on the horizon! These include possible trips to the the **Issaquah Highlands**, the **Jurassic coast of England** (Fall, 2024), and the **four-corners** area of the Southwest.
- We are currently working on filling in the talk and field trip schedules for the 23-24 year. Please let [Francois Lalague](#) know if you would like to volunteer or have any suggestions.
- Next **Board of Directors meeting:** , 5:30 November 16, 5:30 pm. Members are welcome to attend. Please email nwgs.secretary.com for the Zoom link.

YOU would like to be involved!

Photo Spotlight



03AUG2021, At the Fagradalsfjall lava flow on the Reykjanes Peninsula. The lava was still warm and smelled like gunpowder. Image by Susan Seibert, National Geographic Photographer.

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 [Fautleroy 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

- Guðmundsson, Ari Trausti (2013). The Living Earth: Outline of the geology of Iceland, Published by Mal og Menning
- Richard, Jeremie (21MAR2021). The beginning of renewed activity on the Reykjanes Peninsula. From phys.org: "Lava eruption from long-dormant Icelandic volcano": <https://sciencesprings.wordpress.com/tag/icelands-fagradalsfjall-volcano/> Phys.org; Excellent photos and map figures
- Rev. Jón Steingrímsson (1998). Fires of the Earth: The Laki Eruption of 1783-1784. Nordic Volcanological Institute & the University of Iceland Press. Reykjavík, Iceland

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](#).

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