

# 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

## January, 2026 Newsletter

Volume 40, Number 1



### January 13 Program Speaker **(New meeting location-see below!)**

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

**Speaker:** David Unruh, LG, LHG, Department of Ecology

**Title:** Historical Geology at Contaminated Sites: Implications for fate and transport of chlorinated solvents

**Abstract:** Characterization and effective clean up of sites contaminated with chlorinated volatile organic compounds (CVOCs) relies heavily on the geological environment in which these contaminants were released. In order to understand the best methods for treating contamination, it is essential to understand the geology and hydrogeology at a given site. This presentation covers a brief review of CVOC chemistry and fate and transport characteristics, an overview of Puget Sound Lowland recent geologic history, and two case studies of cleanup sites where geology plays a significant role in the distribution of contamination.

Chlorinated solvents were commonly used in a number of applications, but the most common scenario was as a dry-cleaning solvent. Dry cleaners in the Puget Sound Lowland area are difficult to remediate due to the glacial geology of the area. Two cleanup sites, Clean M Rite, located in the Queen Anne Neighborhood of Seattle, and the Capri Property, located in downtown Bellevue illustrate the importance of understanding local surficial geologic history when designing investigations of cleanup sites.

### 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:** ([add menu here](#) or [delete this section](#))

\*Please note special dietary needs or food allergies when you register so that a special meal may be ordered for you.

**➡ New Location:** [Hotel 116, 625 116th Ave NE, Bellevue, WA. 98004](#) ([Google Maps driving directions](#)). Park in the hotel parking area, enter near or through Woods Coffee to a small lobby, then up the stairs to the ballroom.

### Upcoming Speakers and Field Trips

Feb 10: Steve Angster, USGS topic TBA

Mar 10: Isabellah Von Trapp, Geosyntec, topic TBA

Apr 14: Colin Amos, WWU, topic TBA

May 12: Sean Mulcahay, topic TBA

Spring Field Trip: Jim Miller/Kathy Troost, Oly. Pen. landslide & eroding terrace at Rialto Beach, April 10-12.

Fall, 2026: Dave McCormack & Daryl Cowan, location and dates TBD.

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

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

## Announcements

- Several Board members are still seeking replacements, including Secretary, Treasurer, and Newsletter Editor. Please contact President [David Boyer](#) or the Board member directly for more information. Shared governance is critical for the continued viability of our organization.
- Field trip coordinator [Kathleen Goodman](#) is working on a field trip to **Cornwall & Devonshire** and possibly **Wales** in the summer of 2027. Please contact her to be put on her list of interested folks. No payment is required yet, cost TBD.
- Be ready to join an amazing field trip to the **Olympic Peninsula** led by **Jim Miller** and **Kathy Troost**, April 10-12, 2026, where they are monitoring “a really cool landslide” and will visit an eroding terrace at Rialto Beach.
- Chris Darman is working on a field trip to **Wales**, early Sept., 2027
- Next **Board of Directors meeting**: Tuesday, January 20, 6:00 pm via Zoom. Members are welcome to attend. Please email [nwgs.secretary.com](mailto:nwgs.secretary.com) for the Zoom link.

## Photo Spotlight

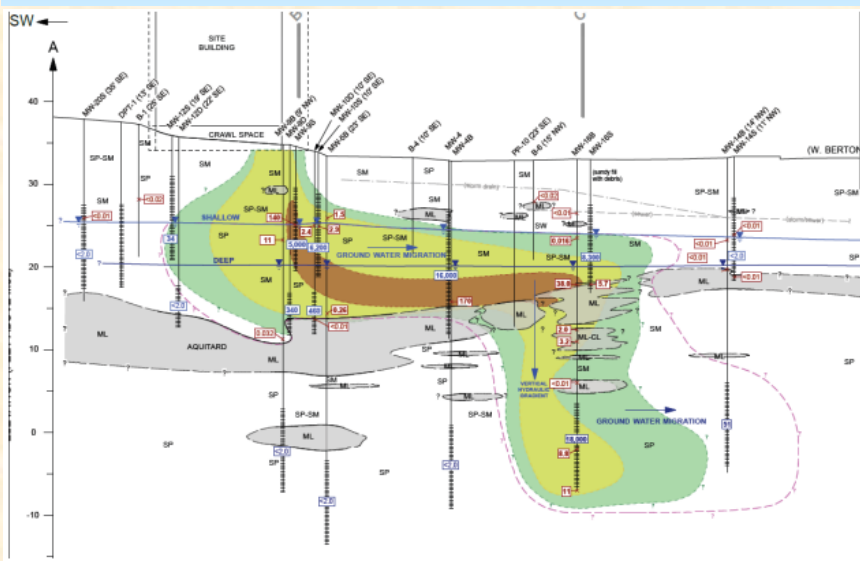


Figure adapted from: Environmental Partners Inc., *Remedial Investigation Report, Former Clean-MRite Site, 3308-3310 Third Avenue West, Seattle, Washington, April 29, 2013.*

## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays, October through May 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

Mumford, K. G., Kueper, B. H., and R. J. Lenhard, Flow and Distribution of Non-aqueous Phase Liquids, The Groundwater Project, 2024, <https://doi.org/10.62592/YXXN4737>

Troost, K. G., Booth, D. B., Wisher, A. P., and S. A. Shimel, The Geologic Map of Seattle - A Progress Report, U.S. Geological Survey, 2005, <https://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2005/1252/>

Morin, T. C. and T. S. Seeds, Remedial Investigation Report, Former Clean-M-Rite Site, 3308-3310 Third Avenue West, Seattle, Washington, Environmental Partners Inc, April 29, 2013, <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/document/48397>

Jones, E. and G. Cisneros, Data Gaps Investigation Report, Case Three Property, May 15, 2024, <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/document/141845>

Please send your reading recommendations to Newsletter Editor [Maria Parente](#).

To update your account information,, go to [NWGS.org/membership](https://nwgs.org/membership).  
Questions or comments? Contact President [Jackson Lundgren](#).

## Board of Directors

President [Jackson Lundgren](#)  
AESI

President Elect **OPEN**

Past President [David Boyer](#)  
Weyerhaeuser

Secretary [Amy Knudson](#)

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## Other Personnel

Membership Chair **Open**

Field Trip Coordinator [Kathleen Goodman](#), WSP

Newsletter Editor & Publications [Maria Parente](#)  
Pierce County Library

Webmaster [Matthew Porter](#)  
AESI