



NORTHWEST GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

October, 2026 Newsletter

Volume 40, Number 10

October 10 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: Matt Butrim, Museum & Preservation Specialist; University of Washington Burke Museum

Title: A new story for plant ecosystem recovery after the end-Cretaceous mass extinction

Abstract:

The Cretaceous-Paleogene boundary (KPB; 66 ma) is marked by a mass extinction event triggered by a bolide impact at the Yucatan peninsula. The ensuing devastation facilitated the rise of new ecosystems, including the first terrestrial communities dominated by angiosperms and mammals. Traditionally, floral recovery has been thought to have been slow, taking at least one million years before communities rebounded to pre-KPB levels of species richness. A new investigation of the fossil flora of the Denver Basin, Colorado, which preserves a stratigraphically dense, KPB-spanning floral record, suggests that the story is more complicated. Rates of extinction and recovery significantly vary across the basin, with plant communities along the mountainous western margin exhibiting high diversity within just 150 kyr of the KPB, while plant communities from the low relief basin center were consistently depauperate for over 700 kyr. This heterogeneity may support a hypothesis in which topographically complex mountain proximal regions served as mass-extinction refugia, which then gradually restocked their surrounding environments. Indeed, these results show that by 700 kyr post-KPB, the Denver Basin flora had converged, as mountain proximal and mountain distal plant localities began to share floral characteristics. For the first time, the Denver Basin fossil plant record begins to show the steps that led to plant community recovery after the end-Cretaceous mass extinction.

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 will be displayed on the NWGS dinner reservation page.

 **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

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

11/9/2026: TBD

12/8/2026: TBD

1/12/2027: 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

- NWGS is still looking to fill the **President Elect** position. Please contact President [Jackson Lundgren](#) 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.
- Chris Darman is working on a field trip to Wales, early Sept., 2027
- Next **Board of Directors meeting**: , 6:00 pm via Zoom. Members are welcome to attend. Please email nwgs.secretary.com for the Zoom link.

Photo Spotlight



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 at the [Hotel 116, 625 NE 116th Ave NE, Bellevue](#). 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!

Board of Directors

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Recommended Readings

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

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