



Association for Women Geoscientists

Puget Sound Chapter

February/March 2003

Editor's Comments

Well, it is that time again, time for another AWG-PS newsletter. It is hard to believe that winter is waning and spring is coming. I am still hoping for more snow, but I likely will be disappointed.

I would like to thank Marcia and all those who helped her for getting the last newsletter out while I took care of a family emergency. They did a wonderful job and I truly appreciate it!

There are a number of different reports and announcements in this month's newsletter. From Marcia, we have a report on the January AWG/NWGS joint meeting with Liz Nesbitt as the speaker. I have included a summary of the last AWG Convention Planning Meeting that I wrote. There are two announcements from Lynn Hultgrien. These include an announcement for the 2003 AWG-PS Undergraduate Scholarship and an announcement from NWGS about an upcoming Student Poster Session, coming April 9. Please post the Scholarship Announcement and pass it onto any that might be interested.

This newsletter is being mailed instead of being e-mailed because of the Scholarship Announcement. In order to cut down on costs, we will e-mail future newsletters. If you would rather receive a mailed newsletter, please let me know. Also, if you have any announcements you would like the chapter to know, send me an e-mail and let me know.

Interesting Web Sites

Check out our new web site for the latest news on the Convention and what's happening in the chapter.

<http://www.scn.org/psawg>

Be sure to check out the web sites below for some great info and discussion of planetary geology.

<http://astrogeology.usgs.gov/> - the USGS

<http://earth.jsc.nasa.gov/> - the Earth from Space - NASA

<http://gislounge.com/ll/space.shtml> - GIS Lounge - GIS on other planets

<http://porter.geo.brown.edu/> - Brown U, the Planetary Geosciences Group

<http://webgis.wr.usgs.gov> - *PIGWAD - USGS

<http://www.appgeo.com/astromain.asp> - Applied Geographics, Inc.

<http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/> - Jet Propulsion Lab

<http://www.nasm.si.edu/ceps/rpif/> - Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum

<http://www.uh.edu/~jbutler/anon/anoncoursespace.html> - Space Geology & Remote Sensing Course Resources

<http://www.flag.wr.usgs.gov> - USGS

<http://www.flag.wr.usgs.gov/USGSFlag/Space/Isprs/index.html> - USGS

Please send me any interesting web sites you find and I will publish them.

Report on the January Meeting -- "The Icehouse Cometh"

On January 14 we held a well-attended joint meeting with the Northwest Geological Society which featured a fascinating presentation by Liz Nesbitt, Curator of Invertebrate Paleontology and Micropaleontology at the Burke Museum, University of Washington.

Liz spoke about the "The Eocene-Oligocene Boundary – the View from Western Washington." Liz has studied the Eocene and Oligocene sedimentary rocks in the Pacific Northwest and California for several years. Her talk focused on the wealth of evidence of a significant and sudden cooling event at the end of the Eocene, finally ending the greenhouse conditions that had persisted since the Jurassic. The main evidence is paleontological, featuring an abrupt change in marine fauna from subtropical to arctic and sub-arctic invertebrates. This was accompanied by a huge loss of diversity, with 100% extinction of late Eocene mollusk species. There is evidence of a similar change in land plants to species that live in much cooler conditions and is accompanied by a change in mammals from browsers to grazers.

On a global scale, this sudden change has been attributed to Antarctica finally breaking off from the last remnant of Gondwanaland, allowing the establishment of a circum-Antarctic ocean current. This markedly increased the global temperature gradient and allowed for the formation of polar ice caps (recorded in sediments as a dramatic change in oxygen isotope ratios). Locally, during the Eocene, the Pacific Northwest was in a lull between periods of subduction, perhaps because the transform boundary between the Kula and Farallon Plates (which were still subducting to the north and south) was located at about Oregon. The tectonics in Washington and Oregon were thus dominated by strike-slip faults. The local lack of subduction allowed rivers to build alluvial/deltaic sequences along a coastal shelf (roughly where I-5 is today), making it easier for present-day paleontologists to correlate marine and non-marine sections where they are interbedded. As a result, this region has some of the best sections in the world for studying the E-O boundary.

At the end of the Eocene, about the time the Crescent Basalts rafted in, subduction resumed, and arc volcanism shifted westward from the Challis Arc to the Cascade Arc. Coincidentally, the "Icehouse" set in. If you're interested in reading more, watch for the upcoming book "From Greenhouse to Icehouse" by Prothro et al. (including Liz Nesbitt, in press).

After Liz' talk, the highlight of the evening was when the University of Washington Department of Earth and Space Sciences conferred a well-deserved honorary geology degree on Connie Manson, WA State Division of Geology and Earth Resources Librarian, for exemplary service. As you probably all know, that library is threatened by the State's massive budget shortfalls. Help us all out by writing to your legislators and let them know how bone-headed and shortsighted dismantling that library would be. And for all you AWG-PS trivia buffs, Connie was our chapter's very first newsletter editor back in 1985.

-- Marcia Knadle

NWGS Student Poster Session – April 8, 2003

The Northwest Geological Society (NWGS) is hosting a Student Poster Session on April 8, 2003. Students are invited to submit a poster describing their technical research in the earth sciences. Awards will be presented for the three best posters

in the following categories: community college student, undergraduate student and graduate student.

Each division will have a \$100 first prize and a second prize silver dollar. Judging will be based on technical merit, clearly stated objectives and conclusions, and quality of presentation. Posters submitted for, or prepared for, other professional meetings are acceptable. In addition to the poster, students will give five minute verbal summary presentation.

Students presenting posters will also be given a free dinner and a one year's membership to the NWGS. This is a great opportunity for students to meet prospective employers and gain experience at presenting research results. Students should feel free to bring their resumes to this and all NWGS meetings.

Students who would like to present a poster should contact Lynn Hultgrien at 206-543-9024 or lynn@ess.washington.edu. For more info on NWGS visit <http://www.scn.org/tech/nwgs>.

Convention Planning Meeting - January 9, 2003

Present: Marcia Knadle, Alicia Musselman, Amanda Taub

Consulted by phone: Carla Whittington, Shawn Blaesing-Thompson

Agenda:

Fundraising:

We discussed creating a uniform stationary template for all correspondence. Amanda, Alicia, and Shawn will e-mail each other to finalize the stationary. We then discussed a sample letter Alicia had written to Brunton, asking for donation of money or compass for raffle.

We also discussed having a raffle at the icebreaker party with the Brunton as the prize, if Brunton gave a compass instead of cash. Amanda suggested asking the chapter membership for donations to the raffle. Alicia will also target Estwing, Strickland, Hart Crowser, Inc. and Rockware, Inc. and Luna Bar for donations in exchange for advertising space in convention literature and on the convention web site. Alicia will ask Shannon & Wilson to print out

convention literature to send out to non-members for an in-kind donation.

Alicia will ask local chapter members employed by private companies if their employers would be willing to give small contributions of \$50 to \$100 to the convention, in exchange for listing them in convention lit. and a link on the web site.

We discussed with Carla how donators will make out their checks for the convention. We will set up a bank account for the convention named: 2003 AWG Convention.

No lunch will be provided for field trips. Getting coupons for coffee breaks and lunches was suggested.

We should ask Mountaineers for donation of book prize(s) to poetry contest.

We will ask Archie McFee's to sponsor prize for EMP Costume Party in exchange they can put out their merchandise catalog. We can bring in our own food and beverages. We should ask local businesses for donations of food, beverages and alcohol. Alicia will ask about late Summer local businesses such as Dilettantes and Red Hook.

NWGS Sponsorship - Ask them to sponsor either the icebreaker or the field trips. NWGS would get their name on the guide book and the opportunity to sell the guide book. Field trip is "Quaternary Geology of Seattle." Max number for field trip is 40. Use the money from this to subsidize student participation cost or give scholarships to students attending convention to attend field trips. Have time to figure out details before next NWGS board meeting. Ask Kathy Troost if she is willing to have NWGS's name on the guidebook and sell it as one of their publications. NWGS will need to ask who they want to benefit. Do something that directly benefits NWGS or benefit students at large.

Publicity:

Amanda shared her intro. letter. She will revise her letter with help from Alicia's letter. Amanda will target AGI, GSA, AWG and e-news, AEG, & AAPG for ¼ page ads. All others ask about pricing for ¼ page ads, but focus on announcement on calendar and link on web site.

There is \$200 in budget for advertising, but can spend more. We could possibly get free ad with AAPG. Shoot for advertising in April, May, & June. Amanda also shared her list of organizations.

Marcia suggested more organizations, such as National Association of Geology Teachers, Paleontology Society, Volcano Quarterly, American Institute for Professional Geologists, Society of Economic Geologists, and Society of Exploration

Geophysicists. Amanda will contact all these organizations for advertising in their publications. We roughed in the initial 1 page ad for Gaea. Shawn and Amanda will work on this ad to make it pretty for submitting in the next Gaea.

Budget:

Possibly have non-member and member rates. Then have AWG and affiliates (NWGS) at the member rates. We will hold off on this until speak with Kathy Troost.

We also discussed estimates for per person costs for each event and the proposed registration fees. At the next planning meeting, we hope to finalize the registration fees. About 50 people are needed to break even.

The checking account will be called 2003 AWG Convention. The chapter PO Box will be used as the contact address for Fundraising and Registration.

Publications:

Ask Shawn to do 1 pg. flyer for Gaea by end of February. Fax first to Marcia, Amanda and then to Joanne Kluessendorf. Have ready for next issue of Gaea.

End of April have 2 pg. flyer for Gaea. This would have more specific information and ½ page registration form.

Venues:

All contracts have been signed.

Next meeting:

Sunday, March 9 in Seattle, time and place to be determined. Fundraising issue: asking member employers for \$. Hopefully, more progress will be made on lining up speakers. We will finalize publications and registration fees.

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