Message from the Editor Submitted by Shawn Blaesing-Thompson
Welcome to the first 2008 Pacific Northwest Chapter newsletter. This newsletter is full of interesting information that includes: the member winter retreat in February, March joint meeting with NWGS, a request for science fair volunteers, the announcement of our 2007 scholarship recipient, as well as a lot of other great information.

President’s letter Submitted by Heather Vick
Greetings from your new AWG-PNW chapter president. I hope that 2008 is going well for each of you. I would like to particularly extend a warm welcome to our members in eastern Washington where the Spokane chapter is now combined with the former Puget Sound chapter to form the AWG Pacific Northwest Chapter. The Pacific Northwest Chapter also includes several members in northwest Oregon as well as British Columbia.

We live in a world where nearly every day, reported events that involve some aspect of the geosciences are in the news. Our planet is now faced with challenges that were unimaginable when I first studied geology in college in the 1970s. The importance of our discipline and related sciences cannot be overestimated in dealing with and adapting to the inevitable changes that will all too soon be occurring in our world due to climate change.

My goal as the new president of AWG-PNW is to strengthen and increase awareness of our organization through AWG’s sponsorship of technical events, field trips and meetings where women in the geosciences can participate, share information and celebrate our individual and joint accomplishments. The organization represents an exciting cross-section of professionals of all ages and from all segments of our field so an active participation encourages growth and advancement and enriches all of us.

Meetings of the Board were held in September, 2007 and January, 2008. The AWG Board is a knowledgeable dedicated group of experienced women professionals that I am proud to join and contribute to continue making AWG a stronger organization as the Board has done in the past.

The AWG-PNW scholarship program is poised to present a 2007 award. We received applications from several strong candidates. We are pleased to sponsor the scholarship and hope to expand the scholarship program in the future to 2 recipients.

Events for 2008 we are currently planning include a joint event with Northwest Geological Society, a warm weather field trip and an event on geologic hazards in Vancouver BC in the fall.

We are making updates to our webpage in an effort to make it more interesting and useful for our members and prospective members. If there is any way you can suggest how the organization can better serve you, please let us know.
Name Change of Chapter:
Thanks to an overwhelming response of yes, the Puget Sound chapter has now officially changed to the Pacific Northwest Chapter of the Association for Women Geoscientists. Our borders have also changed to include all of Washington State as well as some overlap into Oregon, Idaho, and southern British Columbia Canada. We hope to have programs coming to take advantage of our new geography and are considering the development of sub-chapters in areas where more active members exist outside of the Puget Sound area.

Outreach Activities
Call for Nominations - AWG Pacific Region Delegate Position
submitted by Marcia Knadle

A Pacific Region delegate position on the AWG Board of Directors is opening up this fall. The Pacific Region has two delegates and two alternate delegates, and AWG tries to maintain a geographic balance with one each from the southern part of the region and one each from the northern part, so the Board would prefer to have this position filled by someone from Washington, Oregon, or Alaska. Kirsten Nicolaysen of our chapter (Whitman College, Walla Walla) is currently an alternate delegate.

The AWG Board of Directors meets twice a year, with the fall meeting typically held just before the GSA Annual meeting. Directors are expected to attend as many meetings as possible, and AWG helps with travel expenses by reimbursing transportation and lodging up to $600 per meeting. Directors are expected to take an active role on committees and projects, and business is also conducted by e-mail.

If you’re interested in learning some leadership skills, meeting and working with other interesting women geoscientists, and serving AWG, please contact Past-President Nadine Langley at nlangley@handk.net. If you’d like more information about what’s involved with being a delegate, please contact Marcia Knadle (marciaAWG@aol.com or 206-553-1641.) Additional information can be found at: http://www.awg.org/about/delegates/DelegateRespv95.pdf.

Scholarship Recipient Announcement
Our 2007 scholarship award winner is Susan Black a student at UW-Tacoma. More information to come in a future newsletter. She will be awarded the $1000 gift at a future meeting.

We receive a grant from AWGF to cover half of the scholarship amount, the rest comes from members and companies that members work for. If you or your employer would like to contribute to the AWG-PNW (PS)_Scholarship fund (any amount helps $5, $10, etc.) send a check to AWG Foundation, Attn: / Lorraine Manz, PO Box 7364, Bismarck, ND 58507-7364

Plea for Science Fair Volunteers Submitted by Shawn Blaesing-Thompson
Help our chapter Encourage, Enhance and Exchange information with young women in the area by being a science fair judge. Please if you are interested in participating as a volunteer for these fairs contact me at blaesis@wsdot.wa.gov (Please volunteer – Instructions will be sent along with a packet for each judge for each fair.)

We receive a grant from AWGF to cover half of our expenses. If you would like to contribute to our half of the fund (any amount helps $5, $10, etc.) you can send a check with AWG-PNW
Mid Columbia Science Fair – Kennewick – Thursday March 13, 2008 - Kennewick

South Puget Sound Science Fair – Tacoma – PLU – Saturday March 28th – Pacific Lutheran University


Upcoming Events

February Retreat Notice

The newly-renamed AWG-Pacific Northwest Chapter is holding a retreat to allow members from the entire redefined service area and nearby to meet and discuss what we want from the chapter and how to make this expansion work. We are renting a large house in Hood River, OR for the weekend of February 8-10 and would especially like members from eastern Washington and northern Oregon to attend. Members from the Puget Sound area are also welcome to come. We have plenty of room, and the chapter is subsidizing one night of the rent, so the cost per person for 2 nights is not expected to exceed $50 -- the more people that come, the less it will be. We'll also ask participants to bring some food to prepare for meals and snacks.

While we will hold several meeting sessions, we plan to take breaks (to cook, to take walks, for entertainment), and participants are not required to attend all the meeting sessions. For example, if you'd like to come and use the house as a base to go skiing one day, that'd be fine with us. It's also OK to attend a portion of the event.

However, we would like everyone to attend a chapter brainstorming session, probably on Saturday evening. Attendance will not be interpreted as a commitment to take a leadership role unless you want to -- we mainly want ideas from members and a chance to discuss them in a relaxed and open forum.

Please let Heather Vick (heatherk@seanet.com; 206-325-5955) and/or Marcia Knadle (marciaAWG@aol.com; 206-553-1641) know if you'd like to come and if you'd be willing to drive. We'll send out more detailed logistical information (address, carpooling options, and food arrangements) in early February to participants.

Take a break, have some fun, and join us for interesting conversations about the future of your chapter! http://www.hrvcations.com/property4.htm#AVC

May Meeting Notice

Here's the information for our next newsletter on the speaker and talk for our upcoming joint meeting with NWGS on May 13. More information coming or check NWGS website at www.nwgs.org. Anne Trehu teaches at Oregon State University, and the title and summary of her talk is: Gas Hydrates of the Cascade Margin

Geophysical data suggest that gas hydrates are widespread in continental margin sediments, especially in accretionary complexes. However, quantification of the amount of gas present is difficult because gas hydrates are not stable at pressure and temperature conditions generally found on the Earth's surface. Recent ocean drilling cruises to central and northern Cascadia have
provided key data for ground-truthing the geophysical data and for understanding the distribution and
dynamics of gas hydrates formation in marine sediments.

Here’s a bio from her webpage
(http://www.coas.oregonstate.edu/index.cfm?fuseaction=content.search&searchtype=people&detail=1&id=574):

Dr. Anne Trehu is a professor of Marine Geology and Geophysics in the College of Oceanic and
Atmospheric Sciences at Oregon State University in Corvallis. Educated at Princeton and MIT, Dr.
Trehu has been working for more than 20 years to map plate interactions along the continental
margin of western North America in order to understand its geologic evolution and the seismic
hazards of the region. She has done seismic research on the San Andreas Fault, the Cascadia
Subduction Zone, and the Queen Charlotte Fault, and has been involved with the SHIPS project
(Seismic Hazards Investigation of Puget Sound) in northwestern Washington. She has also been
involved with international research projects on the occurrence of gas hydrates, and has participated
in ODP (Ocean Drilling Program) research cruises drilling into the Cascadia Subduction Zone
accretionary complex.

Seattle Times (and an article in Geology) on more recent research Anne’s been doing.
(http://seattletimes.nwsource.com/html/localnews/2004148942_earthquake28m.html).

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**Past Events**

**AWG Convention Denver October 2007 submitted by Marcia Knadle**

**AWG Convention and Fall Board of Directors Meeting**

In late October, AWG held its 30th Anniversary Convention in Glenwood Springs, CO. It was about
3 hours west of Denver but was definitely worth the trip. Glenwood Springs is a delightful hot springs
resort town along the Colorado River situated right at the boundary between the Southern Rocky
Mountain and Colorado Plateau Provinces, and the weather was perfect.

In accordance with the theme “Transitions”, the convention featured keynote speakers who talked
about global warming. Dr. Julie Brigham-Grette’s presentation was particularly good about past and
future warming. As the chair of PAGES (IGBP-Past Global Changes), she has access to the latest
research and fabulous graphics. Dr. David Chapman, a professor from Salt Lake City, spoke about
global warming trends in North America and gave a more personal view of how he has reduced his
carbon footprint. In addition, there were panels covering field safety, life-family balance issues, and
one on religion and science which included one of our chapter’s founding members, Janet Tanaka.
For me, one highlight was that I received the AWG Enhance Award, for long service organizing AWG
field trips.

In addition, there was a Past Presidents’ reception that was actually well attended by past AWG
presidents. I had worked with nearly all of them over the years, so it was fun to get to see so many of
them again. We also had a fabulous half-day field trip to Glenwood Canyon, which flows through
the faulted and folded western edge of the White River Uplift. The canyon shows a fairly complete
section of Precambrian gneisses and Paleozoic rocks – lots of spectacular sandstone and limestone
cliffs.
Pacific Region Alternate Delegate Kirsten Nicolaysen (and her 4-month old son Tobias) and I attended the AWG Board meeting immediately following the Convention. The main news affecting our chapter members from the Board meeting were:

- The Board approved the merger of the Puget Sound and Spokane Chapters, including a direct transfer of Spokane Chapter funds to the Puget Sound Chapter.
- The Board approved changing our AWG office contract to the American Institute of Professional Geologists (AIPG). We expect a number of benefits from this change, including getting more timely responses to requests than one woman working part time for us can do, a thorough re-design and easier maintenance of the AWG website, and eventually the capacity to do on-line membership renewals, hopefully by this fall. This change is in transition right now, but members can still contact the office via office@awg.org.
- AWG had a budget surplus last year and is in strong financial condition. There’s no talk of a dues increase.
A “gneiss” picture of AWG Past Presidents. Standing L to R: Lois Ongley, Laurie (Langer) Brooks, Kate Johnson, Jessica Donavan (AWG’s very first President!), Jan Wright. Kneeling L to R: Nadine Langley, Mary Gillam, Laurie Scheuing.
AWG – AWEP October 2007 Joint Meeting
On October 10, 2007, AWG joined with the Association of Women Environmental Professionals to sponsor a joint event entitled “Selection and Use of Hydrogeological Consultants and Information”. The meeting, which was held at the Phinney Neighborhood Center in Seattle, featured a panel of 4 Washington registered hydrogeologists who are members of the sponsoring organizations. The panel participants and the topics that were presented included “When and what to look for in selecting a hydrogeological consultant” by Anne Udaloy PG, PHg of SLR International. Anne’s talk gave some helpful insights for recognizing and hiring a good hydrogeological consultant. A presentation entitled “Details matter: drilling methods, well installation and data collection” was prepared by Suzanne Dudziak PG, PHg of Greylock Consulting LLC. Suzanne’s presentation described several types of available drilling methods used for site exploration. Marcia Knadle PG, PHg of Region 10, U.S. EPA gave a talk on “Use and misuse of hydrogeological information” which described common pitfalls and misconceptions in interpreting hydrogeological data. The event was introduced and moderated by Heather Vick PG, PHg.

Other Chapter Information
Webpage Update
The webpage is undergoing renovations and updates. Bare with us and check back every-so-often for more information.

www.awg-ps.org

Member Announcements

Amanda Taub, past AWG-PS Board Member and Newsletter Editor, has earned her certification as a GIS professional (GISP) from the GIS Certificate Institute. In recent years, there has been a great deal of discussion within the GIS profession on ways for its practitioners to raise the knowledge of and respect for GIS as a tool, science and profession. One of the ways in which this being done is to certify its professionals. As a GISP, Amanda demonstrated that she has the education, work experience and has made significant contributions to the profession. This certification is still in its infancy, but like the profession, it is growing in recognition and prestige. If anyone is interested in learning more about the GIS Certification Institute or its certification, please contact Amanda at ataub@co.douglas.wa.us or (509) 548-3466; or visit www.gisci.org.

Amanda is the GIS Analyst for Douglas County in East Wenatchee. She lives in Leavenworth with her husband, Alex, and their young son, Malaki-Jacob. She and her family enjoy spending time together, traveling and working on various arts and crafts.

Volcanology Teaching Resources Submitted by Janet Tanaka,

The pack includes a set of samples of volcanic rocks and a CD packed with resources designed to aid the teaching of Science (age 11 - 16), Geology (age 14 - 18) and Geography (age 11-18).

The CD includes themed PowerPoint presentations containing a wealth of information and images which can be used as they stand, or easily restructured to produce material tailored to specific needs, handout materials and information sheets on aspects of volcanic activity and associated
hazards, including what it's like to live "under the shadow of a volcano". It also includes a glossary of volcanic terms and volcano FAQ.

In addition, there are pupil worksheets to be used with "Montserrat's Andesite Volcano" DVD (useful for geology students age 16-18), and "The Price of Paradise 2007 edition" DVD useful for geography students (age 11-18), both produced by Living Letters Productions, Montserrat, which can be purchased separately from MVO.

Please contact MVO - cheri@mvo.ms, if you require any further information or wish to purchase the Montserrat Teachers' resource pack, priced at US$30 including postage and packing, or additional materials. All major credit cards are accepted.
AWG Pacific Northwest Officers and Chairs, 2007-2008

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