



## Association for Women Geoscientists

### Pacific Northwest Chapter

Spring - May 2008

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#### **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: blurbs about our upcoming and recent programs, miscellaneous tidbits and changes in staffing to the chapter board. Which brings me to my next topic...

This will be my last newsletter for the AWG Pacific Northwest Chapter. It is with great excitement that I am moving back to my home state of Iowa. No it is not for a change of climate but to be closer to family. June 9<sup>th</sup> I will start a new position with the USDA-Agricultural Research Service at the National Soil Tilth Lab at Iowa State University. I hope to remain active in AWG even though there is no chapter in Iowa. You should see my name on the ballot for the regional delegate position for that part of the country.

I will truly miss this great group of women and men and hope to hear from you and see you at conferences in the future. I wish you all the best in your future endeavors and please do keep in touch. I have added my contact information at the end of the newsletter.

Sincerely, Shawn Blaesing-Thompson

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#### **President's letter Submitted by Heather Vick**

Greetings from your AWG-PNW chapter president,

The membership of our chapter is currently just over 50, one of the largest membership roles we have had in quite sometime. We hope to see all of you at the upcoming events of 2008!

The chapter board had a conference call in March. We have two very active board members, Anne Udaloy and Shawn Blaesing-Thompson, who are moving to other places and will be giving up their positions on the board. We are extremely grateful for their contributions in time and energy to the board for the past several years. The board has managed to fill the hiatus' left by the departure of these 2 board members but they should know that they will be missed.

Anne Udaloy has been the chairperson of the AWG-PNW scholarship committee and has been very successful in advertising the scholarship and raising funds to finance the scholarship. Anne is a Principal Hydrogeologist with SLR International and has accepted a similar position with that organization in Cambridge England. Best of luck, Anne!

Shawn Blaesing-Thompson has managed the AWG-PNW webpage as well as served as Publications Committee Chair. Shawn has also headed up the Science Fair Committee which recruits judges for local area science fairs. Shawn has accepted a position in Ames, Iowa as a Support Research Scientist with the USDA Agricultural Research Service at Iowa State U. Shawn, you rock!

The chapter participated in two events in the South Sound Science Fair in March. I would like to encourage each of members to consider volunteering to represent our chapter as a science fair judge at least once. You will learn a lot of new science and meet some incredible young people who will be a part of tomorrow's scientific community.

Several members of the chapter participated in a chapter retreat which was held in Hood River, OR. Events for 2008 we are currently planning include a joint event with Northwest Geological Society on May 13, a warm weather field trip in August and an event on Geologic Hazards in Vancouver BC in October. At the upcoming joint event we will be awarding the recipient of the 2007 AWG-PNW scholarship. Please join us at the AWG table for the meeting. We will be announcing the winner of the 2008 AWG-PNW scholarship at the December meeting of the Northwest Geological Society.

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 are suggestions on how the organization can better serve you, please let us know.

Sincerely,  
Heather Vick  
President, AWG-PNW

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### **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.

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### **FUTURE ACTIVITIES**

#### **Fall Field Trip – September 2008**

#### **An AWG exploration of wine, water and basalt**

Meet in Walla Walla on Friday and Saturday September 5th and 6th for a one-day field trip to explore Columbia River basalts and Missoula flood deposits of southeastern Washington. We will gather late afternoon on the 5th for a wine-tasting or two and then leave early the next morning for the field trip. Estimated cost for participation is ~\$130 which includes lodging for two nights, transportation and lunch on Saturday. Other meals at participant's expense. Please contact Kirsten Nicolaysen, Whitman College, nicolakp@whitman.edu, 509-527-4934 if interested. Deposit will be due August 15th. Limited to 21 participants.

### **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](mailto:nlangley@handk.net). If you'd like more information about what's involved with being a delegate, please contact Marcia Knadle ([marciaAWG@aol.com](mailto:marciaAWG@aol.com) or 206-553-1641.)

Additional information can be found at:

<http://www.awg.org/about/delegates/DelegateRespv95.pdf>.

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## **YEARLY PROGRAM**

### **Scholarship Recipient Announcement**

Help us congratulate our 2007 scholarship award winner is Susan Black a student at UW-Tacoma. More information to come in a future newsletter. She was awarded the \$1000 scholarship last week (the check is in the mail.)

Our scholarship account with the AWG Foundation is nearly empty after awarding the 2007 scholarship. If you were planning to donate part of your upcoming tax rebate, please consider using some of it to stimulate a financially-strapped woman student to become a geoscientist. To award a \$1000 scholarship, we need to raise \$500 to qualify for matching funds from the Foundation, which is a 501(c)(3) corporation. As such, your donation is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law – which may help you keep more of your money next year. Please send your contribution to:

Lorraine Manz  
AWG Foundation Treasurer  
Attn: AWG-PNW Scholarship  
P.O. Box 7364  
Bismark, ND 58507-7364

Please make your check out to “AWG Foundation” and be sure to write “PNW Chapter Scholarship” on the memo line. Thank you!

### **Science Fair 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 please contact any of the chapter officers (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 (PS)\_Sage\_05-0001r in the memo line to AWG Foundation, Attn: AWG-PS\_ Sage\_05-0001r / Lorraine Manz, PO Box 7364, Bismarck, ND 58507-7364

## **PAST EVENTS**

### **May Meetings**

**Write-ups for the May meetings will be in the Summer Newsletter.**

### **AWG Pacific Northwest Chapter Joint meeting with the Northwest Geological Society Tuesday May 13, 2008**

**Gas Hydrates of the Cascadia Margin** – Anne Trehu, Oregon State University College of Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences

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.

### **Cascade Volcano Observatory Field Trip May 3, 2008**

More to come on this in the summer newsletter.

### **April Retreat**

As part of our reorganization last year, the chapter decided to hold a weekend retreat where the officers and any other interested members, especially from the expanded geographical service area, could come together to think and talk about our vision for the chapter in a relaxing setting. We had planned to hold it in February and decided on Hood River, partly because it is fairly centrally located yet low altitude (less snow), and because there are lots of rental houses available there. We also invited Oregon AWG members, some of whom belong to our chapter and would like us to expand our activities to the south, as well. The February date got postponed due to bad weather and roads (surprise!), so we rescheduled to April 11-13. While several members had planned to come, in the end only three of us participated – Heather Vick, Heidi Yantz, and myself. Even so, we had very productive meetings, relaxing meals, and a fabulous hike on the first real day of spring.

Heidi is a hydrogeologist in Portland who has been a member of AWG since grad school. When she escaped the Midwest several years ago to return to the Pacific Northwest where she grew up, she immediately joined our chapter and has been lobbying for more activities in the Portland area ever since. As a major proponent of the sub-chapter concept, she's willing to help organize events in the Portland-Vancouver area and would welcome help from one or two other Portland-area members. We would also like to have an eastern Washington sub-chapter. At the last minute, Kirsten Nicolaysen (Pacific Region Alternate Delegate) was unable to attend, but she is also willing to help organize eastern Washington events, hopefully with help from members from the former Spokane Chapter and members from the Tri-Cities, Ellensburg, and Wenatchee areas.

The goal for our sub-chapters is to hold one event per year in each sub-area. For the Portland area, we have the upcoming trip to the USGS Cascades Volcano Observatory Open House and lunch with Portland-area members. For eastern Washington, Kirsten, a professor at Whitman College, is organizing a field trip in the Walla Walla area in late summer. We also

hope that the Spokane-area members will continue to hold their traditional AWG breakfast whenever the Northwest Mining Association is meeting there. We hope that these events (especially field trips) will be well attended by members from the entire chapter. If you have ideas for sub-chapter events in future years, please feel free to contact Heidi or Kirsten. Better yet, please feel free to organize your own event. The chapter will help with seed money, advice, and publicity for events.

We also discussed encouraging sub-chapters to hold occasional social and networking events – the occasional lunch, weekend potlucks, etc. This may be more successful in the Portland area simply because of the denser population, but it may be worthwhile to try events in the Spokane area.

Beyond that, we're looking north. Mindy Brugman (Environment Canada) and Cathie Hickson (CGS) are organizing an AWG-PNW-sponsored geologic hazards workshop to be held in the Vancouver, BC area this fall. If you're interested in helping organize, speak, or otherwise participate in this event, please let me know. If you'd like to attend and don't have a passport to show at the border, you may wish to get a US Passport Card to speed border crossings: [http://travel.state.gov/passport/ppt\\_card/ppt\\_card\\_3926.html](http://travel.state.gov/passport/ppt_card/ppt_card_3926.html).

In addition, we discussed how to expand our outreach programs (scholarship, science fair) to a larger area without diluting them too much. For the scholarship, we have already expanded the area to include eastern Washington for this year. If we wanted to expand it to northern Oregon, we should really offer a second scholarship, even a smaller second place one, to help maintain the odds of successfully competing for one. On the other hand, we would be able to do corporate fundraising over a larger area.

Finally, we looked ahead to 2009 events. In the spring, there'll be the Geological Society of America's Cordilleran Section meeting in Kelowna, BC (a few hours north of Okanogan). We may wish to have some sort of function there. Then in the fall, GSA's annual meeting will be in Portland. AWG events that will be held with it include the fall Board of Directors meeting (probably just before) and the AWG Breakfast (typically Monday morning) when the Outstanding Educator Award is presented. If you plan to attend this GSA meeting, please make a point of attending the AWG Breakfast and spending some time networking at the AWG booth in the exhibits.

To cap our weekend, we went for a hike on the Rowena Plateau in the Tom McCall Nature Preserve. We hiked up through wildflowers to a view point with glorious views of the Columbia Gorge, Mount Adams and, at the top, Mount Hood.

Please feel free to continue the conversation about where our chapter is headed by e-mailing your thoughts to Heather Vick ([heatherk@seanet.com](mailto:heatherk@seanet.com)) or myself ([marciaAWG@aol.com](mailto:marciaAWG@aol.com)). If you have ideas for activities in the Portland area, contact Heidi Yantz ([hyantz@gmail.com](mailto:hyantz@gmail.com)).



Captions for photos:



002 – Heather (L) and Heidi (R) admire the view of the Columbia River and the top of Mount Adams (by Marcia Knadle)



008 – Shooting stars (by Marcia Knadle)



013 – Marcia and Mount Adams (by Heidi Yantz)

There's a fun groundwater animation Marcia stumbled on at

<http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/wq/groundwater.htm>.

Click on "The Groundwater Story Animation". It takes 2-3 minutes to load but then it's all dancing and singing groundhogs **and** a singing aquifer.

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## 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](http://www.awg-ps.org)

## Member Announcements

Shawn Blaesing-Thompson, a soon to be a past AWG-PNW Board Member and Newsletter Editor, has earned her certification as a GIS professional (GISP) from the GIS Certificate Institute. 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 Shawn at [mudnmaps@gmail.com](mailto:mudnmaps@gmail.com) or (360) 561-7043; or visit [www.gisci.org](http://www.gisci.org).

### **AWG Pacific Northwest Officers and Chairs, 2007-2008**

President:	Heather Vick	W: (206) 850-9248	president@awg-ps.org
Past President:	Lynn Moses	W: (360) 709-5462	ppresident@awg-ps.org
Vice President:	Suzanne Dudziak	W: (253) 266-2838	vpresident@awg-ps.org
Secretary:	Marcia Knadle	W: (206) 553-1641	secretary@awg-ps.org
Treasurer:	Wendy Gerstel	W: (360)754-2409	treasurer@awg-ps.org
Publications Chair:	Holly Glaser	W:	editor@awg-ps.org
Scholarship Chair:	Vacant	W:	scholarship@awg-ps.org
Web Mistress:	Holly Glaser	W:	webmistress@awg-ps.org
AWG Board			
Alternate Delegate:	Kirsten Nicolaysen	W: (509) 527-4934	nicolakp@whitman.edu

**AWG-PNW Website:** [www.awg-ps.org](http://www.awg-ps.org)

Association for Women Geoscientists  
Pacific Northwest Chapter  
1910 E. 4<sup>th</sup> Ave., PMB # 65  
Olympia, WA 98506