



**Association for Women Geoscientists**

**Pacific Northwest Chapter Winter 2008**

**Message from the Editor** Submitted by Holly Glaser

Welcome to the Winter Newsletter of the AWG-Pacific Northwest Chapter. During November, in keeping with the AWG's goal of encouraging the participation of women in the geosciences, the PNW Chapter is in the process of reviewing applications for the **2008 Janet Cullen Tanaka Scholarship**. The \$1000 award provides support to a student in the geosciences in Washington State. Each student faces different challenges in completing their education, and the scholarship award is intended to assist a student in meeting these successfully. While some challenges are academic, such as buying books and paying tuition, others are practical day to day hurdles such as making time for study and balancing family with work.

**CHAPTER MEETING FEB 15, 2009**

**MARCIA KNADLE WILL PRESENT A TRAVELOGUE OF  
LAST SUMMER'S AWG SCOTLAND FIELD TRIP**

**Greetings from your AWG-PNW Chapter President,**  
November 2008

I hope you are all enjoying what at least for now appears to be normal fall weather here in the Pacific Northwest.

This fall, the chapter sponsored a field trip on September 5th and 6th which was led by Dr. Kirsten Nicolaysen and entitled "Wine, Water and Basalt: Columbia River Flood Basalts as Sculpted by the Missoula Floods". The trip was attended by 10 participants in perfect weather and featured stops along the Walla Walla and Snake Rivers. The trip began with wine tastings at two of Walla Walla's local wineries, one in town and one out in the country, followed by sampling some local cuisine for dinner. Dr. Nicolaysen, who is a Professor of geology at Whitman College did an incredible job of planning, organizing, coordinating and leading the field trip. A fabulous time was had by all.

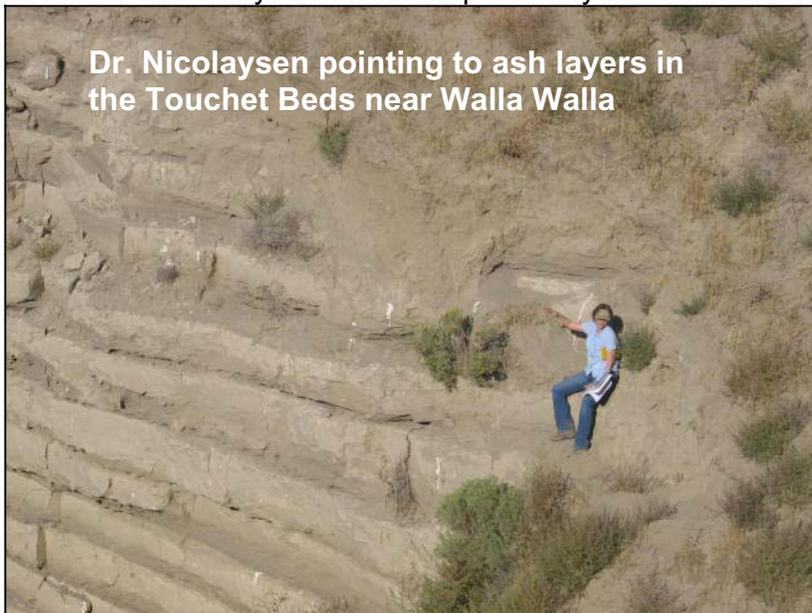
Our chapter is always looking for ideas for field trips and for volunteers who would like to lead or organize field trips so if you are so inclined, please make it known! The 2008 AWG scholarship announcement was sent out in October with an application deadline of December 1. Notification of the winner of the 2008 AWG scholarship will be no later than December 31, 2008. We need contributions for the scholarship which is funded by donations and fund raising by the chapter. Please check the AWG-PNW webpage for where to send your tax-deductible contribution and thank you so much.

The chapter is planning participation in several local spring Science Fairs. I would like to encourage each of our 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 no doubt be a part of tomorrow's scientific community.

Events for 2009 we are currently planning include a talk by Marcia Knadle about the AWG field trip to Scotland this past summer. Marcia will give a Powerpoint presentation and discuss the outcrops visited as well as tell stories regarding the local food customs. We may even get to hear a recount of Marcia's up close and personal encounter with the Old Red Sandstone... how many stitches was it, Marcia? This not to be missed event will be in February with a date to be announced soon. Another possible field trip is being planned for spring 2009, details soon to be released, as well as other events.

I would like thank Holly Glaser who stepped in to fill the vug created by Shawn Bleasing Thompson who managed the AWG-PNW webpage as well as served as Publications Committee Chair. Holly has done an amazing, hitting-the-ground-running job of updating the webpage and communicating with our members.

As always, if there are suggestions on events you would like to plan or attend or on how the organization can better serve you, please let us know. I would like to remind our members to renew your memberships as they coincide with the calendar year.



Finally, I sincerely hope that you all have a good holiday season. This is a time when we truly "need a little Christmas" (or whatever seasonal holiday is celebrated at your house) and so more than ever we can celebrate the important things in life and there is much to be thankful for.

Sincerely,  
Heather Vick  
President, AWG-PNW

## Chapter Events

### Board Election: 2008-2009

President: Heather Vick

Vice President: Marcia Knadle

Secretary: Suzanne Dudziak

### Mid-February 2009 Chapter Meeting: Geology of Scotland:

- Marcia Knadle will present a travelogue of last summer's AWG Scotland Field Trip
- Planned for Feb 15, please keep tuned for more information on the time.

### February 2009

**AWG-PNW Co-Sponsored Geologic Hazards Workshop, Vancouver BC** – watch for dates and more detailed information

- Are you interested in helping to get this event off the ground as an organizer, speaker or participant? Do you need a carpool? The people to contact are
  - Mindy Brugman [brugman@junction.net](mailto:brugman@junction.net)
  - Cathie Hickson [chickson@nrcan.gc.ca](mailto:chickson@nrcan.gc.ca)
  - For carpooling only: Marcia Knadle [marciaAWG@aol.com](mailto:marciaAWG@aol.com)
- Weather Forecast: "It looks like maybe (it won't be) quite as wickedly cold over the winter," explained Mindy Brugman, meteorologist for Environment Canada. "For December, January and February (it's) above normal for most of the west. (Forecasters) don't know if they'll be El Nino or El Nina. We're right now in a neutral phase. The La Nina phase has eased as of June, but there's still lingering effects. The jury's out on what we're going to get for the winter." *Edmonton Sun September 4, 2008*
- Travel:
  - 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).
  - WA State offers an enhanced driver's license that meets federal requirements for re-entry into the U.S. from Canada

### March/ April 2009 Science Fairs: Kennewick, Tacoma, Bremerton:

The **AWG Pacific Northwest Chapter** sends judges to two regional science fairs and to the state science fair. **We now have an AWGF matching grant to support our Science Fair outreach activities and members who volunteer as judges.** . The 2009 Science Fair season is short, and judging takes a day or so, depending on your travel time.

March 13: [Mid-Columbia Science and Engineering Fair in Kennewick, WA](#) March 21 South Sound Regional Science Fair in [Tacoma, WA](#),. [State Science and Engineering Fair in Bremerton, WA](#) April 3-4, 2009.

Consider volunteering as a Science Fair Judge at the 2009 Washington State Science and Engineering Fairs. Training is provided for this event, which has students from K-12.. If you are interested in judging. Travel expenses can be reimbursed, including one night's lodging for the state fair. Contact Kirsten Nicolaysen about volunteering. She has all the details. Please contact Kirsten Nicolaysen ([nicolap@whitman.edu](mailto:nicolap@whitman.edu))

**May 2008 Meeting:**

**Susan Black is awarded the \$1000 Puget Sound Chapter Scholarship & Pacific Northwest Association for Women Geoscientist Scholarship.**



Scholarship Chair Heather Vick at left congratulates Susan Black, a student at the University of Washington (Tacoma).

This student scholarship is one way that AWG-PNW encourages the study and professional pursuit of geoscience.

**Sept 5-6, 2008: Wine, Water and Basalt**

Submitted by: Kirsten Nicolaysen, Field Trip Leader.

Our theme was roughly the Missoula floods, the jokulhlaups that last occurred approximately 12,000 years ago.



Left: Kirsten has the clipboard as the trip begins at Burlingame Canyon.

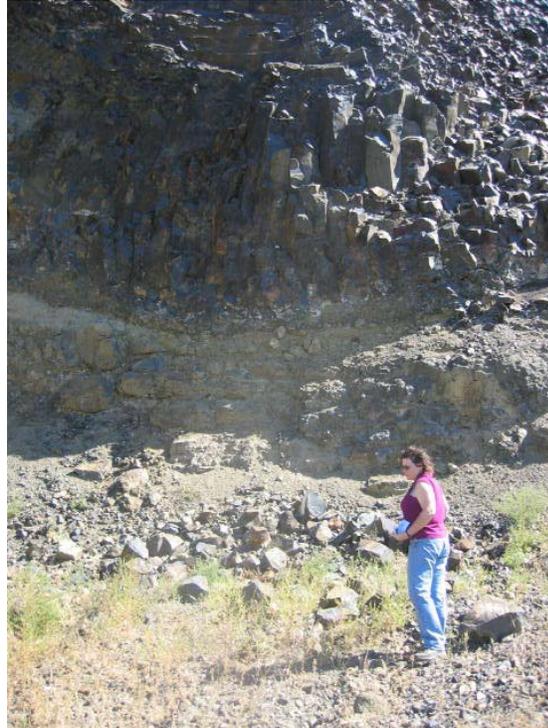
Above, Laura Wilcox stands on repeated flood deposits.

First we visited the classic Burlingame Canyon locality where ~40 sand-silt rhythmites provide evidence for the repeated flood events. And how can the leader, an igneous petrologist-geochemist, pass up the opportunity to see Columbia River basalts (CRB) in cross-section? I couldn't!

Our next stop looked at the **channel filling basalts** of the latest stages of the CRB plus a near-surface dike. We lunched sitting on the basalts near Two Sisters gazing at Wallula Gap, where each jokulhlaup bottlenecked before enhancing the Columbia Gorge.

Finally a long drive north to see Palouse Falls at the southern margin of the Channeled Scablands and then the Monumental Flow contact with gravels of the ancestral channel of the Clearwater-Salmon. Missed us this time? We had three participants from the Portland area who spoke tantalizingly of a future field trip in the Portland area.

Heidi Yantz from Portland inspects the basalt.



Local specialties were featured at the pre-trip dinner  
Back Row L-R: Jill Betts, Kirsten Nicolaysen, Marcia Knadle, Heidi Yantz, and David South.  
Front Row L-R: Shari Silverman, Laura Wilcox, Lina Ma, Kelley Ward, and Heather Vick.

Stay tuned for details. And in the meantime, the following references [below] will help you plan your own field trip to the geology of the Walla Walla - Tri-cities area."

- R.J. Carson and K. Pogue, 1996. "Flood basalts and Glacier Floods: Roadside geology of parts of Walla Walla, Franklin, and Columbia Counties, WA" Washington Division of Geology and Earth Resources, Information Circular 90.
- B. Bjornstad, 2006. On the Trail of the Ice Age Floods: A Geological Field Guide to the Mid-Columbia Basin. Keokee Books, 320 pp.

<p>Kirsten Nicolaysen Assistant Professor Dept. of Geology Whitman College Walla Walla, WA 99362</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:nicolakp@whitman.edu">nicolakp@whitman.edu</a> Phone: (509) 527-4934 <a href="http://people.whitman.edu/~nicolakp/">http://people.whitman.edu/~nicolakp/</a></p>	
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### Collaborating on Complex Projects

Amanda Taub, a subscriber to a number of newsletters, found a good series of articles on applying GIS to different kinds of projects that meld earth science and engineering: Tunnels. <http://www.esri.com/news/arcnews/summer08articles/gis-for-earth-science.html> , or Click on : <http://www.esri.com/news/arcnews/summer08articles/gis-for-earth-science.html>

“When earth science and engineering methods intersect, as they do to sustain infrastructure near earthquake faults or construct tunnels through mountainsides, GIS is where the two fields find common ground. Experts in both disciplines are able to easily and effectively collaborate using the visualization, analysis, modeling, monitoring, and data integration and management capabilities of GIS.”. Special sections below include: Alpine Rail Tunnel Soil Liquefaction Earthquake Visualization Protecting Caves, and Students Study Geomorphology”



The Brenner Pass between Austria and Italy has been a highway for travelers for back 5000 years.

Keeping the project team technically aligned and providing the public with “transparent and ample information were critical issues for this high visibility effort. Information about the project and contacts for questions are located at <http://www.bbt-se.com/>,

Our chapter is still adjusting to the loss of our former editor and science fair coordinator, Shawn Blaesing Thompson, who moved to Iowa in May to work for the USDA. However, our loss has been the AWG Board of Directors' gain, as Shawn is now the AWG North Central Regional Delegate. Since Pacific Region Alternate Delegate Kirsten Nicolaysen didn't attend, Shawn was kind enough to provide her report from the fall Board meeting for our information.

### **AWG Fall Board of Director's Meeting Report**

Submitted by Shawn Blaesing-Thompson

Being a new member it was all very humbling and interesting for me. The board is made up of a remarkable group of women with varying ages and backgrounds and was a pleasure for me to participate.

Each delegate and excom member gave a status report, and it is clear to me that many of the chapters would benefit/learn from some of the great things the other groups are doing. Some important take away for each chapter to pay attention to... It is **VERY** important to get your reports in on time **especially the treasurer's report** since there are new tax laws that AWG has to follow beginning this year. Please let the excom know if your chapter is uncertain which reports are due when.

One thing I learned that may be of benefit to the chapters is that AWG uses an archiving service at Iowa State University to archive documents. Chapters can use this service as well to maintain historical information about their chapter.

We had a presentation from the AWGF foundation, another great group dedicated women make up that group and it is clear **they need more dollars** to continue to increase the support they can provide for the remarkable list of activities they fund. Donate today!!

Some of the activities the board worked on breakout groups included:

- a phone membership drive to get lapsed memberships renewed (membership should be up over 900 people now - do you have friends that might benefit from joining... we all need to do our part to spread the good word about AWG!),
- work to update/modernize the documents meant to guide the chapters and the board
- work to develop documentation for developing a third chapter level called student chapters (the two other levels are rebate earning and non rebate earning chapters)
- work to start/continue the update the AWG website
- discussions about education and outreach activities

Some of the officer reports from the meeting can be found here.

<http://www.awg.org/about/bodfall08/index>

We are looking for more members to be on committees with the board so if you are interested in learning more contact a member of the excom at:

[excom@awg.org](mailto:excom@awg.org)

Things to keep an eye out for... the long awaited online renewal of your AWG

membership... coming soon to a computer near you.  
 Best wishes to you all.  
 Shawn Blaesing-Thompson

Feel free to be in touch at [mudnmaps@gmail.com](mailto:mudnmaps@gmail.com) or  
[shawn.blaesing@ars.usda.wa.gov](mailto:shawn.blaesing@ars.usda.wa.gov)

**Chapter Website**  
**Revised**

**When you are out on the web**, please take a moment to check out the <http://www.awg-ps.org/>. to find out about the chapter's board, scholarships, science fairs, volunteer opportunities, past doings and more. The schedule is up for 2008 and 2009.

**Your news is important.** Send in the latest and let the chapter know what kind of geology you are interested in and the type of activity you are up to! What would you like to see on the site? How can it be improved? Your comments, ideas and suggestions are invited. Please send submissions to editor [@awg-ps.org](mailto:@awg-ps.org), or mail to Holly Glaser, AWG-PNW Pubs, 4554 E. Mercer Way, Mercer Island WA 98040

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**AWG-PNW Newsletter Fall/ Winter 2008**

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