



AWG Pacific Northwest Chapter

July-August 2022 AWG-PNW E-News

Chapter News

The new AWG website launched in early May! AWG has completely changed their website (still at www.awg.org) and their databases. This has several advantages for AWG – it's easier for multiple people to update pages (each chapter has a page and potentially access to edit it) and **a lot** less expensive for AWG to process credit card transactions. If you haven't already logged in to establish a new username and password to access your account, please do so soon. An email from the AWG office with the instructions to do that was sent out to all members on May 2. (If you're sure you're a member and didn't get that email or have trouble logging in per the email instructions, please contact Mona at office@awg.org or 303-412-6219 to resolve the issue.) Once you're into your member profile, establish a **user name and a new password**. Then click on "groups" and select **Pacific Region** from the drop-down menu – you should already be in the PNW Chapter group.

Call for chapter officer nominations: Neither our chapter's president nor vice-president can run for those same offices this summer because of the term limits written into our bylaws which limit both of those offices to three successive 1-year terms. Consequently, by mid-August, we **MUST** have a new candidate for president. The chapter can legally function without a vice-president, but it works a lot better if we have one. Our current secretary (Pat Reed) is willing to run again. The incumbent president, Marcia Knadle, will remain on the AWG-PNW Board in her capacities as past president and Pacific Regional Delegate and will be available to help any new officers. Contact Marcia if you're interested or have questions.

Upcoming Chapter Events:

Unless we have a late summer Zoom meeting or day hike, our next event will be our AWG-PNW Fall Zoom meeting on **Monday October 24 at 4 pm** featuring **Sophie Kurucz** (P. Geol., Ontario Geological Survey) speaking about ***Earth's first snowball event: Evidence from the early Paleoproterozoic Huronian Supergroup***. We saw some of the late Precambrian Windermere Group diamictites on the SE BC Hot Springs trip, which piqued our interest in these events, but there were "snowball earth" events earlier in the Precambrian.

Abstract: Snowball Earth hypothesis proposes that the Earth completely froze during glaciations ~ 640 million years ago and evidence supporting these events has been increasing, primarily from samples of carbonates directly overlying glacial diamictites, termed cap carbonates. However, this was not the first extensive glacial period that affected planet Earth: ~1750 million years prior to Neoproterozoic glaciations the Earth went through its first (that has been recognized) major glacial episode, the early Paleoproterozoic Huronian glaciations. This talk discusses geochemical data from the second Huronian ice advance and its overlying cap carbonate, the Espanola Formation, and provides new evidence for the possibly snowball Earth-like nature of the ~ 2.4 Ga Bruce glaciation.



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AWG-PNW's 2023 Field Trip:

Marcia is exploring a possible follow-up field trip to our SE BC trip to NW Washington to look at the similar rocks on our side of the border, probably in either spring or fall of 2023. This would be a 3-4 day trip including Republic (with a trip to Stonerose plant fossil quarry), Kettle Falls (located on the edge of the late Precambrian rifted North American craton) and Metaline Falls to look at lower Paleozoic shelf rocks. We should be able to set it up so that participants can camp if they wish. If you can suggest a good leader or would be interested in helping plan the trip, please let [Marcia](#) know. We may also try to do the long-delayed Mount St. Helens trip in 2023, but Covid may continue to delay that one.

AWG's 2023 Field Trip:

A trip to **Nova Scotia and Newfoundland** is being planned for August of 2023, so mark your calendars. Tentative dates are Aug. 3 – 17.

Other Field Trips:

If you missed our Point Roberts/Lily Point field trip back in 2016, Mindy Brugman will be leading a beach walk there for the Point Roberts Library on July 8 and is willing to stay a little later to discuss the cliff deposits with any geologists who come. The Pleistocene deposits in the cliff there are really different and interesting, and it's a very pretty beach, so it's worth your while to make the trip. To drive to Point Roberts, you'll have to cross the border twice each way and use the [ArriveCAN app](#) to demonstrate that you're fully vaccinated against Covid. Unfortunately, there is no ferry service.

Friday July 8th, 2pm to 3pm

Nature Exploration on the Beach: Rock Identification

Join local geology lovers at the beach to learn about our local rocks and some glacial history that gifted us this abundance. Rock ID field guides available to share. All ages welcome.

The **Tobacco Root Geological Society (TRGS)**, which normally holds its annual field conference in Montana or Idaho, is holding it in **Wenatchee** this year on **July 29-31** and exploring the geology in and around central WA. You must join TRGS (<https://www.trgs.org/membership>) to get information to sign up for the conference, but membership is cheap – \$25 professional and \$5 student! Go to <https://www.trgs.org/membership>. Even if you don't attend the conference, as a member you can receive all the papers and field logs associated with it in TRGS' annual publication *Northwest Geology* for a reasonable price.

Sept 22-25: Malheur Field Station in eastern Oregon is hosting a 3-day Geology Field Study event led by **Michael Cummings** (PSU emeritus). The cost is \$550, which includes meals and lodging at the field station. Go to <https://malheurfieldstation.org/geology-field-study> for more information.

Zoom presentations roundup:



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Being summer, the calendar of presentations has dwindled, but there are a few talks happening in late June and July.

Thursday June 28 @ 7:00 pm: COGS* will host **Bill Burgel** presenting ***Volcanoes! Travelogue and Science of Two Volcanic Arcs***, a comparison of two volcanic arcs both originating from the subduction of remnants of the Farallon Plate (the Cascades and the volcanoes of Central America). Here's the Zoom [link](#) to register.

Friday July 8 @ 7:30 pm: GSOC* will host **Andrew Dunning** (M.S. PSU) presenting ***Earthquakes and Glaciers: Paleoseismology of the Strawberry Mountains***. This will be a **hybrid** meeting. For more information and to find the link to register for the Zoom presentation, check back at www.gsoc.org.

Thursday July 21 @ 7:00 pm: IAFI* **Lower Columbia Chapter** and the Tualatin Historical Society will host **Victor Baker** (U Arizona) speaking on ***Ancient Megafloods on Mars***, providing an update to our understanding of these events based on information from recent Mars probes. Here's the Zoom meeting [link](#).

If you'd like to give a talk for a future chapter Zoom meeting or would like to suggest someone, please let [Marcia](#) know. If you'd like to watch the Zoom recording of our May meeting with Dr. Gillian Foulger to challenge your views of hot spots, here's the YouTube [link](#), courtesy of GSOC.

Recorded Zoom Talk:

AWG Lifetime member **Tanya Atwater** was the recipient of this year's Wollaston Medal, which is the Geological Society's highest honor and awarded annually since 1831 (to William Smith, as it happens). As part of the Zoom awards event, she gave a fantastic presentation ***Romancing the planet: The plate tectonic revolution and how it simplified, clarified, and beautified our vision of planet Earth and made it extra fun to be an Earth scientist***. If you missed it, you can watch it on YouTube [here](#).

The recording of **Nancy Shrader's GSOC Geology Talk** about our **SE BC Geology Hot Springs Tour** is not yet up on the GSOC website but should be soon, so check back for that.

Geohumor:

From the Onion:

<https://www.theonion.com/fema-director-claims-spending-life-preparing-for-natura-1849002646>

And, in a sad commentary on the times: <https://www.theonion.com/report-many-companies-now-offering-women-permanent-un-1819577044>

***Societies and their websites:**

COGS – Central Oregon Geoscience Society -- www.cogeosoc.org

GSOC – Geological Society of the Oregon Country -- www.gsoc.org

IAFI – Ice Age Floods Institute – www.iafi.org

NWGS – Northwest Geological Society – www.nwgs.org



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AEG-PS – Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists, Puget Sound Chapter -
www.aegpugetsound.org

AEG-Nisqually – Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists, Nisqually Chapter –
<https://aegniskually.org/>