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*Our June 2008 Section Meeting: Yakima, WA
Summer Opportunities throughout the NW*



From the President

In today's busy world, we seem to exist more and more at a physical distance from each other. Many of us teach classes online. While commuting, we stay in touch with family and friends on our cell phones. And, text messaging has added a whole new dimension to communication at a distance.

But the digital world has its limits. Eventually we need a head-clearing dose of face-to-face communication. We need to get together in person from time to time.

After all, to really learn a rock, our students must go beyond reading and hearing about its properties and examine the rock itself. Similarly, we get a feel for what is really going on in geoscience education by meeting each other in person.

What do we gain by meeting with each other? We learn new things from each other every year. Collectively, we have years of experience teaching and learning earth science in its many different forms. We demonstrate to each other what works and we explore intriguing new methods together.

I am always inspired by the innovative teaching approaches presented at our annual meetings, by the field trips that are so expertly run, and by our spirited discussions between talks, at meals, and in the vans. Every human enterprise needs a forum for sharing, to build *esprit de corps*, to help recharge the batteries of hard-working people, and to ignite sparks of inspiration. Our meetings provide a solid example of the power of learning together and are a potent form of professional development. They also happen to be a lot of fun.

Make a point of getting together with your geoscience-teaching peers and friends in Yakima this 3rd week of June. Look for meeting information, registration and abstract submission materials on pages 4, 5, and 6 of this newsletter. It is shaping up to be a great meeting and I look forward to seeing you there.

Dr. Ralph Dawes,
Wenatchee Valley
College

State by State

British Columbia, Yukon, Alaska, Idaho, Oregon & Washington

Alaska

State Councilors: Cathy Connor & Michael Collins

March

- Southeast Alaska Regional Science Fair/Intel www.jsd.k12.ak.us/jdhs/frameit/?url=http://www.ptialaska.net/~gennie/SEASF.htm

April

- Alaska Geological Society Spring Technology Conference, April 17, BP Center, Anchorage Alaska www.alaskageology.org/techconference.html
- Alaska Science and Engineering Fair/Intel, Anchorage, April 11-13, 2008. www.alaskasciencefair.org

May

- INTEL International Science and Engineering Fair, (For all qualifying HS state science fair award winners), May 11-16, 2008 Atlanta, Georgia. www.societyforscience.org/isef/

June-July-August

- UAF-Ninth International Conference on Permafrost, Fairbanks June 29-July 3, 2008, www.nicop.org
- UAF geology Field Camp-next 2009. For university students. For information, go to: www.uaf.edu/geology/FieldCamp/fieldcamp_index.html
- International Volcanology Camp. For university students. Katmai-June 8-21, 2008. Kamchatka-August 2-17, 2008. www.uaf.edu/geology/InternVolcanologySchool/2000index.htm
- UAS-Juneau Icefield Research Program July 1-Aug 24, 2008. www.paulillsley.com/jirp/index.html
- **2008 Summer Courses, Kasitsna Bay Laboratory, Seldovia, AK.** The University of Alaska Fairbanks offers a number of classes at the Kasitsna Bay Lab. All participants receive in-state tuition. 2008 courses include: Kelp Forest Ecology, Cold Water Diving, Marine Invertebrates, Vertebrates of Kachemak Bay, and Climate Change in Alaskan Estuaries. For more information on these classes, including registration, please visit: www.westnurc.uaf.edu/kbay/academics.html
- **ASRA, July 14-25, 2008. The Alaska Summer Research Academy is for students entering grades 8-12**, and is hosted by the College of Natural Science & Mathematics at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. ASRA began accepting applications in February, and many of the modules are full. Five modules, however, still have space, including: Creative Writing, Earthquakes, Insects, Human Physiology, Web & Digital Media. Apply now for the remaining modules, as they are filling quickly. For more information send an email to asra@uaf.edu, or call us at 907-474-7221 (Kate) or 907-474-7077 (Jeff). Please visit the website to apply: www.uaf.edu/asra/register/
- **NOAA TEACHER AT SEA, 2009 Field Season.** The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Teacher at Sea Program will begin accepting applications for the 2009 Field Season on **October 1st, 2008**. If

selected, teachers will work with a scientific team under the direction of the Chief Scientist. For information about ships and science missions, visit the NOAA Marine Operations web site: www.moc.noaa.gov/index.html. All costs are paid for by the program. Start planning now! If you are interested in applying for next year's field season, please contact **Jennifer Hammond** via email jennifer.hammond@noaa.gov or **Elizabeth McMahon** at elizabeth.mcmahon@noaa.gov.

Idaho

State Councilor: Shawn Willsey

- **33rd Annual Tobacco Root Field Conference in Red Lodge, Montana, July 31- Aug 3, 2008.** The Tobacco Root Geological Society is a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to the study of geology of the Northern Rocky Mountain Province. Deadline for papers and road logs is June 1, 2008. More information can be found at: www.trgs.org
- **IGS Field Workshop, July 13-18.** The Idaho Geological Survey is sponsoring their annual Field Workshop for Earth Science Educators. This year the workshop will be held in McCall, Idaho from July 13-18, 2008. Registration is due by July 1, 2008. For more information, go to: www.idahogeology.org/FieldWorkshops/

Oregon

State Councilors: Joe Graf & Tom Lindsay

- **OPLI Rafting Trip, July 15-19.** The Oregon Paleolands Institute and Winding Waters Expedition is hosting a five-day river trip down the lower Salmon River through the "Suture Zone" near the Idaho-Oregon border. Geologist Ellen Bishop will be our geological guide through this fascinating region of accreted terranes. The trip is July 15-19, 2008 and the cost is \$1,400 per person. For more information see: www.windingwatersrafting.com/specials.php#salmon
- **National Science Teachers Association, Nov. 20-22, 2008.** The NSTA regional meeting will be held in Portland this Fall, at the Oregon Convention Center. Additional sessions and events will be held at the DoubleTree and Hilton Hotels. The theme of this year's conference is "Sustainable Science." For more information, including registration, go to: www.nsta.org/conferences/2008por/

Washington

State Councilors: Joe Hull & Jeff Tepper

- **Washington Science Teachers' Association, Oct. 11-13, 2008, Tacoma, WA.** WSTA will hold its annual Fall Conference in Tacoma. For information and to register go to www.wsta.net
- The **National Earthquake Conference** will be held in Seattle, April 22-26, 2008. www.earthquakeconference.org
- **Tenure Track Position Available.** South Puget Sound Community College in Olympia is searching for a full-time tenure track geologist; the deadline for applications has passed.

Geology Books/Publication Collection*Andy Buddington, Spokane Community College*

Free! A professional collection of close to 30 years of Economic Geology, GSA Bulletin, and Geology, along with over 50 textbooks and geologic reports on various geologic subjects (ore deposits, mining, resources, basin analysis, etc.) and regions. Many are a little dated but this is a good set of foundational publications. This collection is being donated by the wife of economic geologist **George Kailor** (deceased). She would like to see the collection go to a good home (for educational purposes) and kept intact. For more information, contact **Andy Buddington** at abuddington@scc.spokane.edu

PNW Section Meeting- 2008, 2009, 2010*Ron Metzger, Southwestern Oregon Community College*

Not that I tend to procrastinate or anything, but as Tax Day is here and that coincides with Cassie's deadline...

Here's an annual meeting update. Hopefully you've all had a chance to check out the website for this June's meeting in Yakima, and have had an opportunity to mail off a check for registration. We need continued support and participation in the annual meeting. As many have discussed over the years, this truly is our main connection to each other and the most significant thing that we accomplish as the Pacific Northwest section of NAGT. We have a commitment from Brett Gilley to host in Vancouver, British Columbia for 2009 and we will start wrangling some details on that soon. Now it's time for someone to step up for 2010. I know that seems like well along the horizon and we have plenty of time. But, just out of curiosity, how many of you are like me and feel as if the academic year just started when in reality we are on the rapid down slope slide to graduation and the end of the academic year. 2010 will be here before we know it.

So here's the plea-hope to see you in Yakima this June-David and Cassie have put together a great meeting for 2008. And, if you're willing to host in 2010 let me know by dropping a line to rmetzger@socc.edu; that way I won't have to start twisting arms in Yakima!

GSA Houston 2008, Oct. 5-9, 2008**Global Warming Science Topical Session #11****Global Warming Science: Implications for Geoscientists, Educators, and Policy Makers**

George T. Stone, Science Department, Milwaukee Area Technical College, stoneg@matc.edu.

Andrew M. Buddington, Science Department, Spokane Community College, abuddington@scc.spokane.edu

The principle goal of the session is to provide geoscientists and geoscience educators reviews of hard science on global warming, current and projected impacts, and policy implications for mitigation and adaptation. Abstract deadline: June 3rd.

Alaska Seas & Rivers Teacher Workshop*Michael Collins, AK State Councilor*

Kasitsna Bay Laboratory, Seldovia, Alaska
June 9–20, 2008

The goal of this workshop is to develop three new curriculum guides for the Alaska Seas and Rivers Project. These guides will be designed for use with grades 6–8. Participating teachers will be expected to field-test lessons and activities in their classrooms during the 2008–2009 school year. The application deadline was March 14th, 2008, but spaces were still available, so apply quickly.

This is an opportunity to:

- Increase your content knowledge of marine/aquatic environments.
- Assist in the development of inquiry units of instruction for statewide use.
- Participate in field trips and classroom activities with visiting scientists, content experts, and master teachers.
- Earn 3 credits from the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Tuition, travel, food, lodging, and a stipend will be provided. For more information, or to attend the workshop, contact **Marla Brownlee**, (503) 368-3953 fax or email at marlabrownlee@mac.com.

People Coming, People Going*Joe Hull, Seattle Central Community College*

Robert Turner recently joined the faculty at the University of Washington-Bothell. He received his BS and MS in geology at Allegheny and WWU, and his Ph. D. in Marine Science at UNC-Chapel Hill. Yes, Andy, I've bugged him about joining NAGT.

Sauropods & Snakeweed, June 2008*Jenny Thomson, Eastern Washington University*

Eastern Washington University will be offering a summer field course in geology and biology, SAUROPODS AND SNAKEWEED, June 21 - 29, 2008 with a pre-trip meeting at 6:00PM the evening of June 9 in the Geology Department.

This nine-day field trip and camping experience will enable participants to study the spectacular rocks, fossils and biology of the Utah and Colorado high desert. The class will visit Fossil Butte, Colorado and Dinosaur National Monuments, and Arches and Canyonlands National Parks, and examine their geologic history. Emphasis will be placed on dinosaur quarry sites and trackways. Students will also observe a variety of plant and animal adaptations to desert conditions, cold winters, and short growing seasons. The importance of microclimate in promoting biological diversity will be emphasized.

For information see www.geology.ewu.edu/dept/sumtrp08.htm or call **Dr. Buchanan** or **Dr. Thomson** at 509-359-2286 or **Dr. Schwab** at 509-359-4727. This is a for credit course but may also be taken as pass/fail for continuing education students.

Pacific Northwest NAGT Annual Meeting, Yakima, WA, June 17-20th

Yakima Valley Community College in Yakima, WA will be the venue for our section conference during the third week of June. Please join us for four days of learning and camaraderie. Fellow geoscience educators from all levels, including K-12, community college and university from all over the Pacific Northwest will converge on the YVCC campus for 3 fieldtrips, a full day of meeting talks/posters, and our annual banquet. Registration materials and abstract submittal materials are available at the end of this newsletter and online at: www.nagt.org/nagt/organization/northwest/meetings.html

The **deadline for mail-in registration is May 30th**; **electronic registration** (email us; or online-if it is ever fixed!) **by June 10th**. The **deadline for submitting an abstract for a talk or poster is May 30th**. Abstracts will be accepted after this deadline; however, they may not be included in the printed conference guidebook.

Field Trips

On **Tuesday, June 17th**, **Dr. Steve Reidel** of Washington State University and **Newell Campbell** (professor emeritus, YVCC) will lead participants on a hard rock exploration of the Columbia River Basalts and the Yakima Fold Belt. This all-day trip will explore the flood lavas (~2 miles thick in the Yakima area!) that created the Columbia Plateau and their subsequent uplift along the thrust folds of the Yakima Fold Belt. The Columbia River basalts and the Yakima fold belt comprise a great example of a planetary wrinkle ridge, an important geologic feature found on the terrestrial planets and our moon. The active and lengthy Olympic - Wallowa lineament roughly bisects the province and, along with the other folds of the fold belt, form a seismic hazard not only for local residents, but also for the nearby Hanford Nuclear Reservation, currently the Department of Energy's largest storage facility for nuclear waste.

On **Wednesday, June 18th**, we will host another all-day field trip, this time heading west into the south-central Cascades. **Pat Pringle** of Centralia College, Centralia, WA, and **Paul Hammond**, emeritus professor at Portland State University, will showcase the tectonic and volcanic history of the White Pass and Bumping Lake areas on our way to Mount Rainier National Park. The Mount Rainier area has splendid scenery, but we will also be focusing on the complex geology in this area, including the abundant evidence of past volcanism, the potential of future volcanic activity, the recent flood damage that destroyed large portions of the tourist-developed portions of the park, and the rapidly retreating glaciers that crown Rainier's 14,410 foot peak.

Friday, June 20th, will be the final day of the conference and the final field trip. **Dr. Alan Busacca**, emeritus professor in WSU's department of Crop and Soil Sciences and owner of Vinitas Vineyard Consultants, **Dave Norman**, Deputy State Geologist, and **Dr. Wade Wolfe**, co-owner of the Thurston Wolfe Winery, will lead us on a day trip to explore the terroir



Mt. Adams, a composite volcano of the south-central Cascades, looms over Yakima, Washington. Vineyards in foreground.

of the Yakima Valley. Participants will experience the contrasting physical characteristics of the region's wine appellations, as a function of soil differences that reflect the underlying geology and climatic differences. Yes, wine tasting is included, and yes, we'll have the chauffeured tour bus again!

Talks, Posters & Workshops

Thursday, June 19th will be a day of classroom education. The morning will be devoted to talks. We invite you to submit an abstract! At noon we will break for catered lunch, followed by a poster session and additional talks. Talks currently scheduled include topics such as Missoula floods and the correlation between climate change and mass extinction. The latter portion of the afternoon will be devoted to two workshops: 1) Computer-based labs & Exercises for Earth Science classes; and 2) Methodologies for Teaching Global Warming. An 'open discussion' concerning the challenges of teaching global warming in a geoscience classroom was broached at the 2007 annual meeting in Portland. Audience response was vigorous, and took the discussion in unexpected directions. David and I agreed that this session should have a "Part II" at the 2008 YVCC event. Both workshops will include ~10 minute individual presentations, with ~ 15 minute discussion sessions following each.

Following the talks on the evening of the 19th, we will congregate for good food and drinks (yes, Tark, good microbrews, too) at the Yakima Arboretum. Our banquet will be a catered BBQ affair, and we will have the beautiful grounds of the arboretum for our disposal.

If you would like to join us for one or more (all!) days of the conference, please fill out the form included in this newsletter or at the meeting website. Costs for each day are listed on the form.

Continuing education credits will be available for Washington and Oregon educators through (respectively) the Washington Science Teachers Association and the Oregon Science Teachers Association.

For more information, please call or email **Cassandra Strickland** (509-542-4871; cstrickland@columbiabasin.edu) or **David Huycke** (509) 574-4817; dhuycke@yvcc.edu).

**Pacific Northwest Section of the National Association of Geoscience Teachers
2008 Annual Conference, Yakima, Washington**

REGISTRATION FORM - Deadline for mail-in registration is May 30th

I am registering for the following events (check each that apply):

Conference Day (Talks & Poster Session), June 19th

Member \$20.00 Non-Member \$35.00 Student \$15.00. School/ Dept _____

Evening Banquet, Yakima Arboretum.

\$15.00 each person x _____ (Number attending) = \$ _____

Eastern Washington Field Trip, led by Dr. Steve Reidel. Lunch included. June 17th

Member \$25.00 Non-Member \$45.00 Student \$20.00

**White Pass & Mt. Rainier Field Trip, led by Pat Pringle and Dr. Paul Hammond. Lunch included.
June 18th**

Member \$30.00 Non-Member \$45.00 Student \$20.00

**Terroir of the Yakima Valley Field Trip, led by Dr. Alan Busacca, Dave Norman & Dr. Wade Wolfe.
Lunch included. June 20th**

Member \$25.00 Non-Member \$45.00 Student \$20.00

\$_____ Total Enclosed

NAME:

PHONE:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

PHYSICAL ADDRESS:

AFFILIATION (If you would like it printed on your name tag):

Do you require any special accommodations for field trips or the meeting day? If yes, please describe:

If you registered for a fieldtrip, please indicate if you prefer a vegetarian lunch.

Vegetarian
 Non-Vegetarian

Yes, I am interesting in helping host a future PNW NAGT meeting, please send me information.

No, I am not interested in hosting future meetings.

Please print and mail this form, with your check (payable to YVCC) by May 30th to:

David Huycke
Geology/Geography Department
Yakima Valley Community College
P.O. Box 22520
Yakima, WA 98907-2520

Questions? Call David at (509) 574-4817

Or email at dhuycke@yvcc.edu