

# Pacific Northwest Section



Fall 2017

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## From the President Greetings!

The Pacific Northwest Section is considered by folks from the national office to be one of the most vigorous NAGT sections in the nation. It might be because the section holds multi-day annual conferences. It might be because the section kicks out a newsletter or two. But the real reason is that the section has outstanding people. Since 2012, I've met many within the section, and I feel humbled to have served as section vice president and now as president.

As you can see from the side bar, there have been several changes in leadership. As people move on in their responsibilities, new people come in and accept roles of leadership. Those changes happen at the annual meetings. And the changes are by design as set forth in the section bylaws of 2001. It's by design that leaders should lead for a season, then move on and allow for others to grow into positions of responsibility. So for you early career professionals, your time is coming! And I look forward to it!

At recent meetings I've learned that the PNW section, which fluctuated in the last three years between 140 and 165 active members, is not the largest numerically. But the section is by no means the smallest in area or membership. The section serves a large geographic area: Alaska, British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. The active membership, however, represents but a fraction of possible participants.

I've also learned that the section has an enviable balance sheet. The section earns some revenue from a portion of member dues returned from national, and it sometimes earns a bit from annual meetings. The section has the ability to offer scholarships to its annual meetings and has done so for K12 teachers in recent years. Having resources means more opportunities to reach out. Details about the sections resources can be found in the section's annual report at: [https://nagt.org/nagt/about/workspaces/council/2017\\_annual.html](https://nagt.org/nagt/about/workspaces/council/2017_annual.html)

What the section does really well, is provide an outlet for its members. That's why the few things it does, like the annual conference, is well worth the time and effort expended. If you are looking to get refreshed in a professional setting with wonderful colleagues, then join the effort!



## Report on the 2017 NAGT PNW Annual Conference, June 22-24, Craters of the Moon, Idaho

Frank R. Hladky

Thanks goes out to all that made the 2017 NAGT PNW annual meeting another marvelous chance for section members to gather, discuss geoscience, attend informative talks, and observe geology in the field. Thirty four registrants attended the conference, more than double the 2016 meeting and about 10 more than the 2015 meeting. The turnout was due to section member Doug Owen's efforts to pull in participants from the National Park Service, Idaho National Laboratory, Craters of the Moon Natural History Association, Wastren Advantage Inc., and K12 teachers from as far away as Texas.

The theme of the meeting was a symposium on Craters of the Moon and the Eastern Snake River Plain. NASA's research and training efforts for future Mars missions was highlighted and the conference included teaching methods and resources. The itinerary included a field trip to the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) on Thursday, a symposium at the Center for Advanced Energy Studies (CAES) in Idaho Falls on Friday, and field trip options on Saturday of either Kings Bowl Lava Field (with current projects by NASA), or Craters of the Moon Lava Field.



Trip leader and conference organizer Doug Owen (center) atop inflated lavas, Craters of the Moon Lava Field. *Photo credit: Frank Hladky.*

One disappointment was INL's requirement that all attendees for the Thursday field trip be U.S. citizens. In this day and age of heightened security such precautions are becoming increasingly usual. Yet the

field trip to the "Site" never had field trip participants closer than a few dozen yards from INL facility security fences. Though much of "the Site" is protected space, most of that space is sagebrush. As a result we discouraged some of our Canadian (our closest ally, I might add) colleagues with bureaucratic over-reach. In future years we need to be more mindful as a section, and for that, I apologize—I'd rather have all of us be able to go or none of us be able to go. Lesson learned.



Typical view across the eastern Snake River Plain in the vicinity of the Idaho National Laboratory. *Photo credit: Frank Hladky.*



EBR-1, the first nuclear reactor to generate electricity. Now a museum piece and National Historic Landmark located at the Idaho National Laboratory. Open to the public. *Photo credit: Frank Hladky.*

## I would do it again—and you should, too

Anne E. Egger

Past-president, NAGT National

Associate professor, Central Washington University

As of October 24, 2017, I am past-president of NAGT, shocked that the year passed so quickly, grateful to

have been offered the opportunity to lead this organization, and perhaps a bit embarrassed at the naïveté that led me to say yes to serving as president in the first place. Did I accomplish everything I wanted to accomplish, all of the exciting ideas I brought in with me? No. But while leadership does involve proposing and testing new directions and potential destinations for an organization, it also involves responding to changing winds and currents and other external influences, and doing so in a way that stays true to the organization's core mission. I was naïve, perhaps, and did not anticipate the strength of the winds and currents, but I would do it again.

During my year as president, I led a series of productive discussions within the Executive Committee and Council to consider revising our mission. Here is where we landed: *NAGT supports a diverse, inclusive, and thriving community of educators and education researchers to improve teaching and learning about the Earth.* The mission statement puts our community first: our success as an organization is measured in the strength of our community—not just the number of members, but the connections between members and the opportunities they have to collaborate and communicate and share their knowledge and expertise. And our community has a vision of *building geoscience expertise and an Earth-literate society through high-quality education.*

Our vision may feel further away now, when scientific expertise seems to no longer be valued and our educational system struggles for funding. But our mission reminds me that we still support our community, perhaps in new ways as the external influences change. Another big accomplishment this year was building our ability to use advocacy. We partnered with the **March for Science** and wrote and signed on to letters addressing issues like standards adoption in states. When I started as president, we did not know there would be a March for Science and it was not on my short list to participate in marches when I took office. But it was incredibly empowering to represent NAGT and the Pacific Northwest Section as a speaker at the March for Science in Seattle and voice our support for strong science and strong science education.

The NAGT community is full of dedicated, passionate, and hard-working people with good ideas and diverse backgrounds. Serving as a leader in this community has given me the opportunity to learn so many things from so many of you. There are leadership opportunities throughout the organization in the sections, divisions, and committees, website editors and reviewers, and liaisons to other organizations you are involved in—I hope you will consider getting involved.

## **Hello from New Section VP**

*Hillary Goodner*

Hello from central Washington! My name is Hillary Goodner and I am the full-time geologist at Yakima Valley College. I have a MS in Geology from Central Washington University. I am originally from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan where I spent numerous hours exploring the northern boreal forests of the upper Midwest and studying the incredible geology of the Great Lakes region.

As part of my undergraduate studies, I helped create earthquake early warning networks for Southern California as an intern for the Southern California Earthquake Center. I furthered my research in geophysics studying episodic tremor and slip of the Cascadia subduction zone in my master's program. My goal is to educate others about geology and environmental science. As part of this goal I have spent time volunteering for the Yakima Valley Office of Emergency Management and am working on helping students understand the world around them.

My favorite geo-activities include hiking and traveling to explore new places and the unique geology of many regions. I love the challenge of the Cascade Mountains, the saturation of the Olympic Peninsula, and the annual changes of the shrub-steppe in the Columbia Basin. I look forward to experiencing more of the Pacific Northwest and getting to know all of you!

## **Report on the 2017 GSA Annual Meeting, Seattle, Washington, Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>**

*Andy Buddington*

This huge, fantastic meeting of GSA in Seattle had over 7000 attendees, 393 sessions, and 4950 accepted

abstracts! A total of 20 field trips with 18 short courses. Something for everyone! NAGT had a really big presence with one NAGT-sponsored short course focusing on 2YC (our own **Eric Baer** from Highline CC was a co-instructor), and fourteen sessions (including posters) covering a wide variety of geoscience education topics. For a complete list of sessions and accessible abstracts, go to: <https://nagt.org/nagt/profdev/GSA/2017GSA/index.html>.

## NAGT National News

2017 was an exciting year for NAGT. Our highlights included:

- Hosting the third **Earth Educators' Rendezvous** (EER) in Albuquerque, NM, where more than 360 educators from across the country came together to collaborate with colleagues from a variety of fields working to improve Earth education.
- Supporting the **Career Prep Workshop** at EER, which allowed for more graduate student participation and intermixing of Earth educators at all stages of their careers.
- Continuing our seven **awards programs**, funded by donations from our members and generous donors, in order to provide outstanding current and future educators with the support that they need for growth.
- Partnering with over 100 science organizations to officially endorse the **March for Science**, a series of rallies and marches held in Washington DC and more than 600 other cities across the world.
- Co-sponsoring the **Next Generation Science Standards**-Earth and Space Science Webinar Series, a session at GSA, and collaborated to lead the NGSS-ESS Working Group.
- Launching a redesign of the **Teach the Earth** website, with enhanced online access to over 4000 reviewed teaching resources

In 2018, NAGT hosts the fourth annual **Earth Educators' Rendezvous** in Lawrence, KS July 16-20.

**When you renew** your membership, you are supporting NAGT's valuable professional development opportunities, award programs, and outreach efforts. You will also continue to receive access to NAGT's two publications. The *Journal of Geoscience Education* (**JGE**) is the premier peer-reviewed publication for geoscience education research, curriculum, and instruction at the undergraduate and pre-college levels. *In the Trenches* (**ITT**) is a full color, 16-page publication, designed to provide a forum for geoscience education dialogue targeting educators in the classroom.

Please remember to **renew your membership** for 2018 to keep us going strong! To renew online with a credit card, simply go to [nagt.org/members](http://nagt.org/members). A printable PDF is available on our website at <http://nagt.org/nagt/membership/index.html>.

## MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS & TRIPS

**AGU 2017** Annual meeting will be in New Orleans (not SF as usual) this year! Dates: Dec. 11-15<sup>th</sup>. A large NAGT presence. Go to <https://fallmeeting.agu.org/2017/> for more info.

Central Washington University, Geology Seminar Series: *Friday, December 1, 2017*  
**Contrasting deglacial patterns and glacio-hydrological processes between portions of the Cordilleran Ice Sheet and the Laurentide Ice Sheet**  
Jerome Lesemann, Vancouver Island University  
Noon, Science II room 206.

Central Washington University, **Public Lectures & Field Trips**: <http://www.geology.cwu.edu/lectures/>

**Ice Age Floods Institute**: website, events, field guides: <http://iafi.org/>

**Of Wolves and People...Science Behind Transforming Conservation Conflicts**, November 14th, Paula Sweden is Conservation Northwest's Policy Director, Where: Three Magnets Brewing, Olympia. For more info: <https://wsta.wildapricot.org/event-2709480>

**Giants of the Salish Sea: Research on Humpbacks and Gray Whales**, December 12<sup>th</sup>, John Calambokidis is a Senior Research Biologist with Cascadia Research Collective, Where: Three Magnets Brewing, Olympia: <https://wsta.wildapricot.org/EventCalendar>

**2018 GSA Annual Meeting:** The 2018 GSA annual meeting will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana, November 4-7. For more information, go to [http://www.geosociety.org/GSA/Events/Future\\_Annual\\_Meetings/GSA/Events/Annual\\_Meeting.aspx](http://www.geosociety.org/GSA/Events/Future_Annual_Meetings/GSA/Events/Annual_Meeting.aspx)

### **2018 GSA Joint Rocky Mountain Cordilleran Section Meeting**

The 2018 Cordilleran Section will be May 15-17 in Flagstaff, Arizona. For more info, go to:

<http://www.geosociety.org/cd-mtg>

**28<sup>th</sup> Annual Idaho Water Quality Workshop:** Jan 30-Feb 1, 2018 at Boise State University: <http://www.deq.idaho.gov/assistance-resources/conferences-trainings/idaho-water-quality-workshop/>

**Oregon: SAGE 2YC Regional Workshop** Saturday January 27<sup>th</sup> at Portland State University.

This year's regional workshop will be at PSU geology department Saturday January 27<sup>th</sup>. Working topics include metacognition, broadening participation, the Vanport floods, geobridge programs to transition 2YC students to 4YC geology programs and revisions to the PSU geology degrees. Contact Daina Hardisty ([Daina.Hardisty@mhcc.edu](mailto:Daina.Hardisty@mhcc.edu)) or Andy Hilt ([andrew.hilt@pcc.edu](mailto:andrew.hilt@pcc.edu)) or Eriks Puris ([eriks.puris@pcc.edu](mailto:eriks.puris@pcc.edu)) for more info!

**Washington: Spokane Intercollegiate Research Conference**, April 28, 2018, hosted by Whitworth University. An excellent opportunity for undergrads to show off their research! Free. <http://digitalcommons.whitworth.edu/sirc/2018/>

The Washington Department of Natural Resources, Division of Geology and Earth Resources has changed its name! It is now the **Washington Geological Survey**. Visit their new website at: [http://www.dnr.wa.gov/Publications/ger\\_spokane\\_building\\_stone.pdf](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/Publications/ger_spokane_building_stone.pdf)

**Northwest Geological Society**, monthly meetings, lectures, and field trips: <http://www.nwgs.org/>

### **BOOKS & READS!**

*Andy Buddington, Spokane Community College*

***Roadside Geology of Washington***, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, by Marli B. Miller (University of Oregon) and Darrel S. Cowan (University of Washington) is now available! Highly regarded as the most up-to-date and most visually impressive geological road guide available. This follows on the footsteps of Marli Miller's beautiful and hugely popular ***Roadside Geology of Oregon*** (2<sup>nd</sup> edition). These are both "must-haves".

Also new from our own Shawn Willsey, ***Geology Underfoot in Southern Idaho***, available through Mountain Press. Way to go Shawn! Here is a comment from Callan Bentley's blog review: "This is a useful book to show you how to find the best of the best, and put the landscape and outcrops into regional contrast.

## **GENERAL SECTION NEWS**

**British Columbia:** There's a new open access (free) Physical Geology textbook by Steve Earle (formerly of Vancouver Island University) available through Open Campus BC (address below). This might be of interest to other faculty in the PNW. I'm using it for my intro class and it has been great. *Todd Redding*. <https://open.bccampus.ca/find-open-textbooks/?uuid=52166cd1-e380-4e1b-9a6f-d891936e4749&contributor=&keyword=&subject=>

Steve Earle, for his teaching contributions and long term leadership in helping bring the Earth Science program into degree status at Vancouver Island University, Steve Earle will be receiving the **Transfer & Articulation Community Leadership Award** as part of the *2017 BCCAT Transfer Awards!*. This is a recognition award from BCCAT, our provincial transfer entity. *Tark Hamilton*.

Recommended!” You can also purchase this online at: <https://squareup.com/store/shawn-willsey>

Not new but still an important book to have on your office shelf, especially if you teach NW Geology: *Geology of the Pacific Northwest* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition), by Bill & Elizabeth Orr.

I recently read two wonderful books by Spokane author, historian, and naturalist, Jack Nisbet:

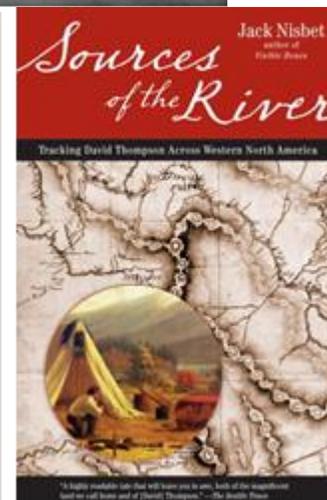
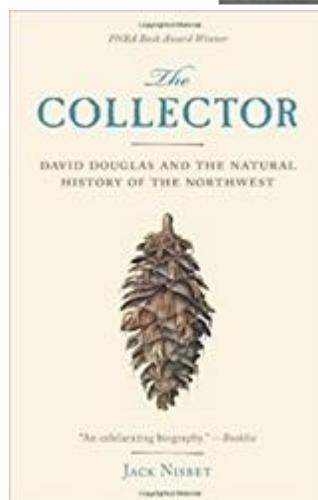
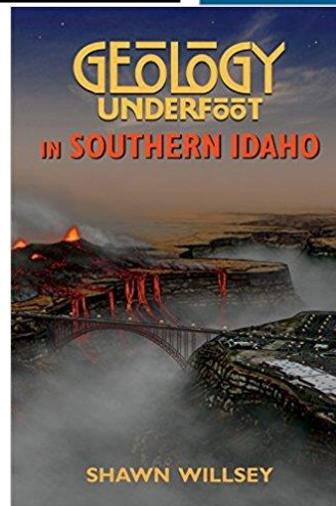
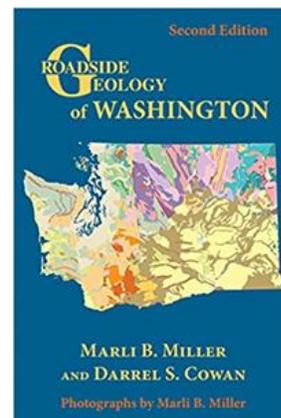
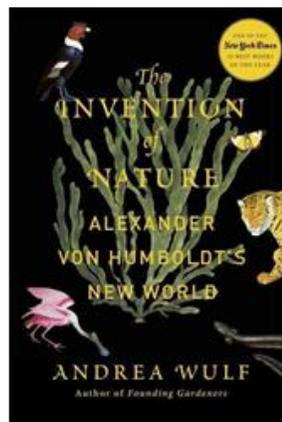
- *The Collector: David Douglas and the Natural History of the Northwest*
- *Sources of the River: Tracking David Thompson across Western North America*

I highly recommend these (in fact, all of Jack’s books!) for those of you that enjoy learning about Pacific Northwest history and natural history. Another recent read that was quite enjoyable and recommended is Andrea Wulf’s,

- **The Invention of Nature:** Alexander von Humboldt's New World

## Newsletter Materials!

If you have anything that you would like to share with the section, please don’t hesitate to send it to either Frank or Andy. We’re always looking for information and items to put in the newsletter. Got a great field or lab sample photo you want to share? Send along with a description. Book or article review? Or, heaven forbid, how about writing a relevant piece on something that may be of interest to the rest of us. Please submit!



The Selkirk Crest looking north, Idaho Panhandle