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**NAGT PNW Section Liaison**

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**From the President  
Greetings!**

*Frank Hladky, PAC NW Section President*

I'm writing about a disturbing trend: the decline of professional science associations. I don't have to specifically call them out, many of you are already aware of associations that are faltering. Professional associations weaken as people lapse or retire and new generations don't replace them. NAGT and the Pacific Northwest section are not immune from the trend. When I see that trend it concerns me.



Section leaders have, in the past, extolled the merits of being a member of NAGT because of the resources it offers in helping to further one's career. This is particularly relevant to those new in their careers. But what if you are near the end of your career with all the resources you need, or what if you are retired? Is NAGT relevant to you? If it isn't anymore, can you at least push some fresh faces forward?

Often we think if we just had better programing, more people would want to be involved. Having taught students, sometimes it's enough to motivate students if you can convince them of the benefits. But students tend to be more motivated when they see the reason is for a greater cause, particularly if that cause is existential. Make no mistake about it, our cause concerns membership and service in the PNW section. The section's existence is not guaranteed if insufficient people step forward to serve. Nor is national's existence guaranteed: they may have deeper resources, but they also have bigger bills! (And there are inactive sections.) It's happening now, even though few wish to discuss it.

Even here in America, we've already seen the suppression of scientific information. NAGT is a leading advocate for geoscience because it sends a voice of hundreds of geoscience educators to legislators, bureaucrats, and government executives whose actions affect the teaching and understanding of geology. That voice of hundreds should be the voice of thousands, because there are that many teaching geoscience out there, *for now*. You may not agree with Edmund Burke's politics, but his statement, that "all it takes for evil to triumph, is for good men [and women!] to do

nothing” is particularly relevant. Science is under assault, we all know, and, in particular, geoscience.

Now you may think, there are other geoscience organizations advocating for geoscience. True, but what other associations have both geoscience and teaching in their names? That’s a lot more clout, than you might think, just in the name. But not if it goes away.

Yes, dues have gone up. In my case, in a three year span dues went from \$35, to \$45, to \$55 annually. That’s a 57 percent increase! Sticker shock is a factor for some, I know. If it is for you let me know. A third of our section had lapsed as of this writing—which I’ve never seen in the last five years. I’d like to see national put out a survey on this issue. But your membership counts. And it would count even more if you choose to serve here in the section. I liken it to going to the gym. Most don’t relish the thought of pain and sweat, until they’ve done it long enough and hard enough to see results. (It isn’t that hard: most of the sweat I see at the annual conferences, is in the form of the beer-stein bicep curl!). The association needs you, the section needs you. To join and to serve.

The cause is existential. Hope to see you on the rolls! See you in Penticton!

## 2019 NAGT CONFERENCE

June 25-27, Penticton, British Columbia

**Host - Todd Redding, Okanagan College**

[redding@okanagan.bc.ca](mailto:redding@okanagan.bc.ca)



Penticton sits in the heart of the beautiful Okanagan Valley of southern British Columbia. Great rocks, great wine, great people! Photo: Westjet.com

The Okanagan College Department of Geography, Earth and Environmental Science is hosting the 2019 National Association of Geoscience Teachers – PNW Section Annual Conference and Field Tour in Penticton British Columbia, Canada. The meeting is June 25-27, 2019. The first day will be conference, followed by 2 days of field trips in the South Okanagan.

The Okanagan Valley features a diverse geology with volcanic, metamorphic and sedimentary bedrock and a whole lot of glacial history. Come join us for a fun and informative event that is sure to feature a few liquid highlights of the Okanagan Terroir!

Penticton is sandwiched between Okanagan and Skaha Lakes and recreational opportunities abound. The area features some of the best mountain and road biking in the PNW, many hiking trails and lots of water sports options on Okanagan and Skaha Lakes. And of course there are dozens of wineries and excellent restaurants. For more information on the vacation opportunities check out <https://www.visitpenticton.com/>.

The conference website contains all the information you should need to register, submit an abstract and plan your visit to Penticton: <https://nagt2019penticton.weebly.com/>

### Conference Schedule and Registration

**Tuesday June 25** - Conference Day at Okanagan College, Penticton. Day of presentations and posters, 9am - 5pm. Cost includes lunch (sandwiches/wraps, salad), snacks and coffee.

**Wednesday June 26** - Field trip to Naramata and Summerland, departs Okanagan College campus at 8am. Cost includes transportation and bag lunch (sandwich, snack, fruit and drink).

**Thursday June 27** - Field trip to Okanagan Falls area, departs Okanagan College campus at 8am. Cost includes transportation and bag lunch (sandwich, snack, fruit and drink).

The registration fee includes a copy of the abstracts and field trip guides.

### Registration Fees:

Early Rate (until June 7) is \$54.75 per day (CDN funds)

Regular Rate (after June 7) is \$64.75 per day (CDN funds)

**Register online here** (payment by credit card): <https://www.kelownatickets.com/events/event/NAGT2019>

For more information contact Todd Redding ([redding@okanagan.bc.ca](mailto:redding@okanagan.bc.ca)).



## NAGT – PENTICTON, 2019



Vaseaux Lake with McIntyre Bluff in background.



Columnar dacite, Giant's Head Mountain.



Giant's Head Mountain with Okanagan Lake and glacial lacustrine terraces in foreground.



Eocene leaf fossils, White Lake Formation.



Silt Cliffs, Naramata Bench, glacial lacustrine.



### Penticton: The Gateway to B.C.

After you come and enjoy NAGT 2019 Penticton, why stop there? Why not take another week and explore inland B.C.? Spectacular mountains, scenery, and geology abound. Good people. Load up on Okanagan wine and goodies, and then take off from there on a B.C. – Cordilleran adventure!

### CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

2019 Summer Conference at Okanagan College  
Penticton, British Columbia, Canada

Conference Day - Tuesday, June 25, 2019  
Deadline for Abstracts - May 17, 2019

If you would like to present a talk (15-20 minutes) or poster (teaching techniques, geology research, undergraduate research, etc.) submit your abstract to Hillary Goodner at [hgoodner@yvcc.edu](mailto:hgoodner@yvcc.edu). Please include “NAGT Conference Abstract” in the subject heading of your email.

Make sure that your abstract includes:

- Whether an oral presentation or poster is being submitted
- Title
- Author(s) name, affiliation, and contact email addresses
- Abstract length: maximum 1 full page (8.5” x 11”) in Times New Roman, 12-point font. You may include legible line diagrams, graphs or tables. Must maintain at least 1.0” margin on all four sides.
- Deadline — May 17, 2019

Due to the limited amount of time during conference day, acceptance for oral presentations will be based on first submitted, first granted basis. If time slots for oral presentations fill before the deadline date, you’ll be contacted in regards to a poster option.

## 5 Unique Things to do in Penticton!

It is a beautiful place with guaranteed sunshine and fun things to do. Come join your NAGT colleagues for a great experience in the famed Okanagan Valley of British Columbia. Here are 5 unique things you can do in Penticton besides seeing the geology:

<https://offtracktravel.ca/5-unique-things-to-do-penticton/>

### 2019 GSA Cordilleran Meeting, Portland, Oregon, May 15-17.

The GSA Cordilleran Section meeting will be hosted by the City of Roses at the Portland Convention Center. Go to the section meeting website at: <https://www.geosociety.org/GSA/Events/SectionMeetings/GSA/Sections/cd/2019mtg/home.aspx>. Many great sessions and field trips! Check out the conference website with an easy to view Conference program pdf: (<https://www.geosociety.org/documents/gsa/section/cd/2019/2019-CD-meeting-program.pdf>).

### LET’S MEET UP! NAGT PacNW Section

**Booth:** If you are planning on attending GSA Portland in May, drop by the NAGT Pacific Northwest Section booth in the Exhibitors & Posters area (Oregon Convention Center Exhibit Hall B). We are also planning an informal gathering around the booth on Thursday afternoon during the Beer & Poster session. Get your free GSA beer and then come on by! There is a GSA sanctioned Pub Crawl planned for that evening. So, come by and get primed for that.

### The Pacific Northwest section of NAGT is seeking nominations for:

**2nd Vice President**—assists VP in organizing annual conference. Becomes Vice President when Vice President becomes President.

**Web-site editor**—updates section website (at national), uploads latest newsletters and links and coordinates with national (SERC) where the site is hosted.

**State Councilors**, 1 each for ID, OR, and BC—provides newsletter editor with timely news in the section.

The term of service is three years, except for the president and vice presidents, which are one year unless no nominations are forthcoming. See the attached bylaws for more details.



**Requirements** include active membership and a willingness to serve. *Self-nominations are welcome!* Great for the resume!

For the section to function, an executive committee (president, vice president, and secretary/treasurer) is essential, otherwise the section becomes inactive.

Please submit your nominations to Frank Hladky [fhladkys@gmail.com](mailto:fhladkys@gmail.com). If nominations are received by June 15 and a quorum (20 members) attends this year's annual meeting (<https://nagt2019penticton.weebly.com/>), the business of election of officers will be decided there. In the absence of a quorum, a ballot with return instructions will be emailed. For more information, please contact Frank Hladky [fhladkys@gmail.com](mailto:fhladkys@gmail.com).

**ANOTHER New Ice Age Floodscapes** on YouTube videos from Bruce Bjornstad: **Ringed Craters** video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Nis90QHDg>. This is another awesome instructive video with stunning aerial images. These "ring craters" have been an enigma for some time and this video takes a very interesting look at these unusual beasts of central Washington.

**SAGE 2YC Regional Earth Science Teaching Workshop** at the **Cascade Volcano Observatory** on **Saturday May 4th 2019**. This workshop will focus on using natural hazards to make our instruction relevant to our local communities while fostering higher order thinking skills and supporting metacognitive awareness in our student so that we can better support and increase student success.

The workshop is **FREE, includes food**, begins at **9:00 am**, and will conclude by **3:30 pm**. A no-host social event will take place where we will gather informally for replenishment and further discussion following the workshop at **Hopworks Urban Breweries** Vancouver location. Details and registration at: <https://serc.carleton.edu/sage2yc/teams/oregon/workshop2018/index.html?>

This workshop, **CASCADES: Creating Academic Success & Cognitive Awareness Developing Exemplar Students** features

- A share-a-thon of volcano and volcanic hazards test questions which we will put through the ringer of Bloom's Taxonomy to prime a discussion on how to improve our test questions by assessing higher order thinking skills
- Planning for the 40th anniversary of Mount St. Helen's eruption
- A tour of the CVO
- An update on the State of the Arc

- An introduction to metacognition and its use in your classroom

This workshop is part of the SAGE 2YC (Supporting Student Success in Geoscience at Two-year Colleges) Faculty as Change Agents Project (<http://serc.carleton.edu/sage2yc/about.html>). This multi-year project includes support for four Portland area regional workshops between fall of 2016, and spring of 2020. This workshop is the third in the series and is a great opportunity to **meet other instructors in the Pacific Northwest** and to **connect to earth science teaching resources on a national level**.

This workshop is being put on by the Oregon Faculty as Change Agent team: **Daina Hardisty** (MHCC), **Andy Hilt** (PCC Rock Creek Campus) and **Eriks Puris** (PCC Southeast Campus). There is building support to improve 2YC geoscience teaching at the national level, come learn about what is going on and the many opportunities available to you.

If you have any questions please contact Daina ([daina.hardisty@mhcc.edu](mailto:daina.hardisty@mhcc.edu)), Andy ([andrew.hilt@pcc.edu](mailto:andrew.hilt@pcc.edu)) or Eriks ([eriks.puris@pcc.edu](mailto:eriks.puris@pcc.edu)). Please spread the word and we hope to see you at the CVO on May 4th!

## **Earth Educators' Rendezvous Deadlines are May 1st for Early Registration, Review Camp, and NGSS Tagging Camp!**



**EARTH EDUCATORS' RENDEZVOUS**  
July 15-19, 2019 • Nashville, TN  
Co-hosted by Tennessee State University & Vanderbilt University  
workshops • contributed talks & posters • teaching demos • plenary sessions • working groups

Have you secured your spot at the 2019 Earth Educators' Rendezvous in Nashville? Don't forget to register by May 1 for the best prices!

Still on the fence? Rendezvous' professional development opportunities abound! Capitalize on experience from your colleagues at a variety of workshops, present and discuss your own findings, and network with others engaged in improving undergraduate Earth education! Check out this year's workshops, mini-workshops, roundtables, plenaries, and more on the program, read on in this newsletter to hear what the co-chairs are most excited about, and check out the newly posted contributed program! And if you're still interested in presenting a poster or share-a-thon presentation? You can still submit a late abstract (by May 15).

If you have some flexibility to arrive early, we invite you to explore these opportunities to participate in the Sunday Activity Review Camp or NGSS Tagging Camp. Plus, we're already planning the 2020 Rendezvous! If you're interested in hosting Rendezvous, or if you have a suggested venue, please submit your interest here! Hosting the Rendezvous is a great way to showcase your department, institution, and your geographical region. The Rendezvous events bring the nation's leading Earth Educators to your school and opens up opportunities for your colleagues to participate. Also, if you or your institution are in a position to sponsor the Rendezvous, please let us know.

## ***In the Trenches* Seeks Editor-in-Chief**



Are you interested in connecting and working with creative individuals from a broad range of geoscience disciplines, and bringing to light some of the newest and most interesting teaching strategies and resources? To learn more about being part of this important NAGT publication, see the article: Search for In The Trenches Editor.

## ***Teach the Earth* Needs Your Help!**



Have you ever searched *Teach the Earth* (or elsewhere online) for high quality, ready-to-go activities or topics that are suitable for your geoscience course, only to come up empty handed?

This is your chance to tell the *Teach the Earth* website committee all about it! We are interested in learning more about the needs of *Teach the Earth* users and want to identify gaps in the geoscience content housed in the *Teach the Earth* portal. You can help us do that by contributing your ideas to our discussion. If you aren't sure where to start, consider these questions: What educational resources (supporting your courses or teaching) have you searched for online but haven't been able to find? What new Earth education topics and resources would you like to see incorporated into *Teach the Earth* in the future?

## **GEO2YC Division**

Foundations Newsletter submissions are due June 1 and September 6. Please submit your stories, experiences, experiments, photos and awards to the editor [sukismaglik@gmail.com](mailto:sukismaglik@gmail.com) anytime prior to each deadline.

## **NAGT Award Nominations**

The following NAGT awards have upcoming deadlines:

- Outstanding Earth Science Teacher (OEST) awards: A listing of the deadlines and contact people for each Section is listed on the award website. Check out your Section's deadline and submit your nominations via the website.
- Dorothy Lalonde Stout Professional Development Grants: Nomination deadline is April 15.
- Outstanding Teaching Assistants: Nomination deadline is June 15.
- Robert Christman Distinguished Service Award: Nominations are accepted on an ongoing basis.

## **MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS & TRIPS**

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

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

**Washington Science Teachers Association:** <https://wsta.wildapricot.org/>

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

**Geologic Society of the Oregon Country:** <https://www.gsoc.org/>

**Columbia Basin Geological Society** meets monthly in Spokane, the last Tuesday of the month. Contact Chad Pritchard at EWU for more info: [cpritchard@ewu.edu](mailto:cpritchard@ewu.edu)

## **GENERAL SECTION NEWS**

**Alaska:** Alaska teachers and professors are currently bracing for news on next year's funding for schools and the University of Alaska system. Newly elected Governor Dunleavy proposed a budget that slashes K-12 education funding by 25% and state support to the UA by 41%. The governor wants to cut spending in order to continue to run the state without any state income taxes and continued distributions of a large permanent fund dividend to all residents, during a time when oil tax revenues-- the main source of state funding-- are low. Opponents say such cuts would be a tremendous blow to the already struggling public

education system in the state and would gut the university system.

Advocates for public education and the university are working hard to lobby the state legislature to craft funding legislation that restores education funding. There have been numerous rallies, public meetings and testimonies to the Legislature, and advocacy workshops at UA. Educators are hoping to bolster support for education in the Legislature that would be strong enough to potentially override a veto if need be. So far, the House finance subcommittee rejected the governor's UA budget on a bipartisan basis, but the fight looks tougher in the Senate. The Alaskan governor has line-item veto power that requires a 3/4 member override.

The University of Alaska is the country's leader in Arctic research, and campuses across the state engage in critical research, education, and outreach related to climate change, natural resource management, natural hazards, and other geoscience applications. Geoscience classes are already not offered in many K-12 schools, and educators are worried that budget cuts will eliminate teachers and programs that are not of the highest priority. These uncertainties and negative outlooks are already driving many professors, teachers, and university students to start looking for out of state alternatives. Hopefully by the next quarterly newsletter, there will be a more positive report for the future of geoscience education in Alaska.

**British Columbia:** see announcement above regarding the 2019 NAGT Pacific Northwest Section annual

conference to be hosted by Okanagon College and organizer Todd Redding.

A worthy repeat: our good friend and colleague, **Tark Hamilton** reports that he is now retired from **Camosun College**, and that he and his wife Coleen are traveling to their many time-shares worldwide, playing golf and cornhole, and still trying to get a gig on *Jeporady*. Hey, **Tark**, Alex is a fellow Canadian, so why can't you get on *Jeporady*? Seriously, after March 1<sup>st</sup>, he'll "be back doing research at PGC/GSC Pacific and available through his daily Yahoo email [tark\\_hamilton@yahoo.com](mailto:tark_hamilton@yahoo.com)". Enjoy retirement Tark!

**Oregon:** see SAGE 2YC workshop above.

**Idaho:** Here is the link to the IMMG field trip schedule: <http://www.idahomuseum.org/field-trips/>

**Washington:** see photos below from Central Washington University recruiting weekend.

**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!







CWU's Nick Zentner hosted a Spring 2019 Recruiting Weekend for CWU Geology. Recruits from Two-Year Colleges plus First-Year CWU students enjoyed hiking and discussing geology in Drumheller Channels, Mattawa Ash Fall Quarry, and Mattawa Ice Age Boulder Field.