

# AWG LARAMIDE CHAPTER

## Happy July 4th!!

Going to see fireworks?  
Want to know gives those colors?

Deep reds = strontium  
bright greens = barium  
hues of blue = copper  
brilliant yellow = sodium  
hues of orange = strontium + sodium (OK..that was obvious!)  
silvery whites = titanium, zirconium and magnesium alloys  
lavender = copper + strontium (another obvious one)

Special effects:  
gold sparks = iron filings and small particles of charcoal  
loud flash = fine aluminum powder

Info from US Bureau of Mines

## Student Awards Banquet-Another Success!

On Friday April 11, 2008, the Laramide Chapter of AWG held its annual Student Awards Banquet (SAB) at the Mount Vernon Country Club in Golden, Colorado. Despite an early spring snowstorm the day before, the weather for the event was glorious. Our keynote speaker was Susan Cummins Miller (in photo at right with red jacket). Susan gave an outstanding presentation, reminding everyone of the early AWG charter days (she was there!) as well as her path from geologist to author.



We had a book signing afterwards and sold books as a Chapter fundraiser. We got these books at a considerable discount from the publisher and were able to pass along a discount to people buying the book that night. Ms. Clare Marshall, Chapter President, presented the awards and Ms. Heather Lowers organized and supervised all student nominees and their award packages. Shannon Mahan

chose and organized (is this possible?) the speaker. All these ladies worked extremely hard to make this night special for everyone, especially our students. Geo-science departments from colleges in Colorado, New Mexico, South Dakota, and Wyoming nominated outstanding women students in their B.S., Mc.S., and Ph.D. programs.

This year thirty-five (35) students were

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**We are looking for a newsletter editor. Tanya Holtz and I can get give tips or help you through the first one together. How hard can it be???**-  
Shannon



**Send us some working pictures!! Chapter members read the newsletter and love to see photos. This picture could be you in the field!**

**Where was I? During a recent trip to Custer State Park (near Rapid City, SD) the USGS Water Science Center personnel and I were sampling for paleo-flood deposits (note the hip waders on everyone due to current floods!!)**

nominated for awards. Eighteen (18) awardees were from a Bachelor of Science or Arts program, eleven (11) were in a Master of Science program and six (6) were from a Doctor of Philosophy program.

Laramide Chapter members and guests donated **\$805.00** to the event and these donations were passed along to the AWG Foundation, which in turn also helps sponsor the event through a grant. Donations were down this year from the previous

year by \$200. The cause for this is not known, because the students who attended and the guests they brought with them stayed at about the same number (60). We had several anonymous donors help with expenses and printing, just like last year! Thank you all!

## President's Corner-Clare Marshall

Summer-time: a time to get out and GO. Vacation or field trips to places near and far, old and new. Traveling with friends, family or coworkers. Getting into the mountains for another hike or picnic. This is the time of year most geologists love best. Even for those of us who are no longer practicing geologists, summer is the chance to get out and see the rocks exposed by the winter weather, to examine geologic maps of places we visit, to

find faults, folds and crystals.

This summer has an added twist - climate change and gas prices. Will your plans be altered because of these? We are going to Glacier National Park this summer, because it might be our last chance to see a glacier. What will next summer bring?

For the AWG Laramide Chapter, this summer brings an opening for Newsletter editor. Tanya Holtz has resigned as

editor, due to changes in her work situation, so here is your opportunity to contribute! If you have ever thought about how to help the chapter, this is your chance. This issue is being produced by our Chapter Treasurer, Shannon Mahan. The next one could be done by you! Please let us know if you are interested.

Remember, the chapter exists by small contributions from all members, not big contributions from a few members!!

## Rocks and Roles-by Clare Marshall

*Rocks and Roles* is a day to celebrate the Earth and the roles that women build in the study of the Earth. Using rock examples of Mesozoic sediments, scientists and engineers can show Girl Scouts and their families how to study natural history. Or scientists can set up stations to tell their own stories. *Rocks and Roles* is an occasion to inspire girls and young women to make a difference in the future of our planet. This year, come out to Dinosaur Ridge on **October 4th, 2008 (Saturday)**.

Girl Scout badge requirements include not only science but also the history of science: women scientists of the past and present. Teaching opportunities are limited only by your imagination: environmental science, ecology, land management, hydrology - whatever you feel strongly about or enjoy. Come and set up a station and tell the world, or at least the scouts and their families. Help girls learn that they can make a difference. Become part of this celebration by telling the story you love the most.

The AWG Foundation has sponsored the Rocks and Roles event for four years. It has grown from 12 to 60 volunteers, but the percentage of women helpers has gone steadily down. We can expect 800 to 1000 visitors - less than half that attend the same event held for Boy Scouts. Show our youth that women can be (ARE) scientists.

Contact: Clare Marshall at [dinodiscovery@dinoridge.org](mailto:dinodiscovery@dinoridge.org)

(Discovery Day Liaison)



**AWG book club pick:**  
*Sand in My Bra and Other Misadventures*  
 Edited by Jennifer L. Leo  
 ISBN: 1-885211-92-9  
 This is a compilation of travel writing by women that tell of their experiences from the typical travel rigmarole to the truly mortifying. Jefferson county public library system has five copies for circulation and the Denver public library has seven copies. Join us July 31 (Thursday night) at Cayce Gulbransen's house at 6:00 pm. Bring snacks and a drink or two. We all have terrible (as well as wonderful) travel stories, maybe we should write a book.

*Travel isn't always what we dream it will be, but oh, the stories that follow.* - Jennifer L. Leo

## May Bookclub Meeting

Members of AWG met on May 29<sup>th</sup> at the Belmar Library to discuss "The Omnivore's Dilemma" by Michael Pollan. Those present brought small dinners, ranging from the "organic" or "farmer's market produce" through "naturally-made fast food" to "industrial cookies." This launched into a meaningful and interesting discussion of food, health, society, and the environment. Since members present were all originally from different parts

of the country, with different backgrounds in "food knowledge" and how food is produced, some portions of the book moved people more than others. One member was enlightened about high school days when friends from 4-H would use different mixtures of cattle feed and how that related to the industrialization of food. It was interesting to note how like-minded most of us were when it came to health and

family, and how food is an integral part of that relationship. We also discussed the locations of the local Farmer's Markets, which can be found at <http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/Agriculture-Main/CDAG/1167928159956>

If you've read "The Omnivore's Dilemma" and would like to comment, send your thoughts to this newsletter editor.

-Submitted by Amy Bern

We're on the web!! Look under chapters at the AWG home page at <http://www.awg.org>



Are you just going to lay around this summer? Or are you going to go to a Book club meeting?

#### Goals of AWG

To ENCOURAGE the participation of women in the geosciences,  
To EXCHANGE educational, technical, and professional information,  
and  
To ENHANCE the professional growth and advancement of women  
in the geosciences.

#### ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN GEOSCIENTISTS

##### LARAMIDE CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: Clare Marshall, 303-989-7269, marshall4@bunchofgeeks.com

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Delegate: Holly Brunkel, hollyb128@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: It could be you!!

Guest Newsletter Editor: Shannon Mahan

## Backyard Events and Happenings:

The DMNS has an investigation called the Cedar Mountain Dinosaur Project. This project is based in the area of western Colorado/eastern Utah and seeks to examine the early Cretaceous Epoch. They have volunteer opportunities or if you just want to see the geology and paleontology behind the scenes go to:

<https://scientists.dmns.org/sites/kencarpenter/Cedar%20Mountain%20storage/Introduction.aspx?PageView=Shared>

Want to keep current on what's happening in space? Our favorite go-to

person is Jack Horkheimer. His website is <http://www.jackstargazer.com/scripts0SG0824.html>.

(Sample from website): The first day of spring which is also called the vernal equinox, vernal meaning green and equinox meaning equal night, which means simply that on the equinox the hours of daylight are equal to the hours of night. Now on the first day of spring, the vernal equinox, the Sun rises exactly due east and sets exactly due west. And on each successive day it will rise and set just a little bit farther to the north until the summer solstice, the first day of summer, when the Sun reaches its northernmost point along the horizon and actually seems to stand still and rise and set almost in the same place for a few days. In fact the word solstice means "Sun stands still" which is exactly what appears to be happening.

I am part of a local weather network called CoCoRaHS (Community Collaborative Rain,

Hail and Snow Network). From my own weather station we recorded about 8.75" of moisture since September 15, 2007. The mountains and western Colorado are looking good to average and eastern Colorado (neatly divided right down the Front Range cities) is in a moderate drought. States to the south of Colorado are all in a severe to moderate drought...so it could be worse.

<http://www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor>