



AWG LARAMIDE CHAPTER

AWG FALL BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S FALL MEETING REPORT

*From the AWG National Website
and other local chapters*

Individual members (especially those at-large) form the largest group within an organization, but usually these foot-soldiers know very little about what goes on at national levels. To become fully invested in an organization it helps to know what is going on within chapter, regional and national levels. The AWG Board of Directors has two meetings (fall and spring) and the board is made up of a remarkable group of women with varying ages and backgrounds. Our regional delegates are Holly Brunkel in Golden, Colorado, and Deb Hanneman in Idaho. Alternate delegates are Jackie Holt in Denver and Sally Potter in Salt Lake City.



Each delegate and excom member gives a status report, and many of the chapters would benefit from some of the great things the other groups are doing—if only they knew about it! Here are some important things discussed at the last fall meeting held in Houston in October (in conjunction with the annual GSA meeting):

1. It is **very** important to get your reports in on time, especially the treasurer's report, since there are new tax laws that AWG has to follow beginning this year.
2. AWG uses an archiving service at Iowa State University to archive documents. Chapters can use this

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



If you didn't read the status report from the AWG BOD's fall meeting, go read that first, then come back here. Did you notice how many chapters are either inactive or struggling...one dissolving in 2008? Your chapter--the Laramide Chapter--is actually one of the strongest, most viable of all the chapters! You wouldn't know it lately, so I want to make some big changes happen. I will be doing my damndest to inspire, lead, and twist arms to revitalize our own chapter. I don't want to have to send Jackie to the next 2009 fall BOD meeting to say our chapter will be dissolving due to lack of interest.

But that's what happens, people, when there is no turn-over. I believe it is quite natural to give some time to an organization you care about and then step back after a few years. Very few people can lead a sustained effort to volunteer organizations now. You give to an organization as long as it is either fun or stimulating. It doesn't help that our chapter is very spread-out and the concentration of activities is all in the Denver area. So...besides the usual events of student awards, science fair judging/awarding prizes,

FALL BOD MEETING, CONT....

3. service as well to maintain historical information about their chapter.
4. We had a presentation from the AWGF foundation, another great group of dedicated women, and it is clear they need more dollars to continue to increase the support they can provide for the remarkable list of activities they fund. Donate today!
5. A phone membership drive to get lapsed memberships renewed (membership should be up over 900 people now--do you have friends that might benefit from joining? We all need to do our part to spread the good word about AWG!).
6. Work to update/modernize the documents meant to guide the chapters and the board
7. Work to develop documentation for developing a third chapter level called student chapters (the two other levels are rebate-earning and non-rebate-earning chapters).
8. Work to start/continue updating the AWG website.
9. Education and outreach activities and opportunities.

Some of the officer reports from the meeting can be found here:

<http://www.awg.org/about/bodfall08/>

The BOD is looking for more members to be on committees with the board so if you are interested in learning more, contact a member of the Executive Committee at excom@awg.org.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER, CONT....

and bookclubbing, I'd like to have a chapter field trip this year.

I've tapped Gina Liles (new member) to take over as Secretary from Heather Lowers. Heather did a great job, but it was time to devote herself to her young family. Gina Liles has a degree in Geology from University of Missouri, Rolla, and was most recently working in the mining reclamation field before she took time off for her family. Now she's ready to jump back into things. Welcome, Gina!

Gina, Jackie Holt, and I would welcome your ideas for a summer or fall field trip. Should we go to Colorado Wine Country (i.e. Palisade/Grand Junction), should we go to Black Canyon of the Gunnison, Kiowa, Colorado's exposure of Tertiary paleosols...or what?

Drop any of us a line and let us know your ideas. Even if it only ends up as a glorified camping trip with us sitting around fishing in the evenings after a "geology hike" at Antero Reservoir or Pueblo Reservoir...let's do it! I'd also like to have the group do at least one social event together...maybe a play at Miner's Alley in Golden, the Denver Civic Theatre, or the Denver Victorian Playhouse. Let us know if you have any preferences.

There are several dates to save. Don't forget our February 5th general meeting and book club discussion at Lakewood Library. And remember April 3rd (Friday night) for the annual Student Awards Banquet at beautiful Mt. Vernon Country Club.

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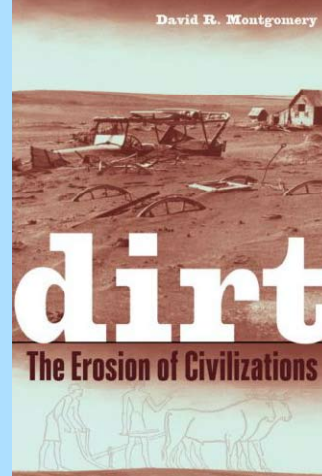
BOOK REVIEW: DIRT: THE EROSION OF CIVILIZATIONS

by David Montgomery, PhD,
Professor, Department of Earth and Space Sciences,
University of Washington

Dirt—it's everywhere we go, but we don't think much about it. Turns out its worth thinking about! In *Dirt: The Erosion of Civilizations*, award-winning geomorphology leader David Montgomery examines the disquieting notion that we are running out of dirt.

Cultivated soils erode slowly enough to be overlooked in a single lifetime but fast enough over centuries to limit the life span of civilizations. Us-

ing an engaging blend of history, archaeology, and geology, Montgomery explains how societies have continually risen, prospered, and plowed through a natural endowment of fertile dirt. He shares his hope



that the rise of organic and no-till farming will create an agricultural revolution allowing us to avoid the fate of previous civilizations.

I found the font to be a little dense (think stylish text-book) and it could have used some more pictures, but I learned a lot from this fascinating book.



Jim Peaco/NPS

IS YELLOWSTONE READY TO BLOW?

The notable swarm of earthquakes that started December 26, 2008, beneath Yellowstone Lake in Yellowstone National Park has stopped for now and may have ceased entirely.

This sequence of more than 500 seismic events was most intense on December 27, 2008. The sequence included sixteen events of magnitude 3 to 3.9 and approximately 70 of magnitude 2 to 3 (as of Sunday afternoon, Jan. 4, 2009). Visitors and National Park Service employees in the Yellowstone Lake area reported feeling the largest of these earthquakes.

No damage was reported within Yellowstone National Park. The swarm was in an area of historic earthquake activity and was close to areas of hydrothermal activity on the lake floor. Similar large earthquake swarms have occurred in the past at Yellowstone, without triggering steam explosions or volcanic activity.

See further details at the USGS website:
<http://www.usgs.gov/newsroom/article.asp?ID=2102>

STATUS REPORT ON AWG CHAPTERS (OCTOBER 2008)

From the AWG National Website and other local chapters

AWG Membership numbers have increased significantly due to the efforts of Nadine Langley and Janelle Gerry, as well as the board, in contacting expired members. AWG now stand at 878 members and 12 chapters. AWG hopes to keep up the momentum with future “work days” where board members continue to contact and recruit, including sessions here at the BOD meetings. Currently, ideas for membership drives are being tabled as AWG transitions to the Denver office. AWG hopes that by the 2009 member-

ship renewal time, they will be able to have online renewals using PayPal. Except for calling folks during AWG work sessions, AWG has slowed down any membership drives for now.

Regional Membership: As of Sept 1, 2008, there are 156 members in the Rocky Mountain region.

Chapters: There are 2 chapters in the Rocky Mountain region: Laramide (Denver area) and Salt Lake (Utah).

Salt Lake Chapter (SLC) Activities:

The SLC hosted its 19th Annual Silent Auction and Wine Tasting this past spring and raised \$4,858. Monies raised from this event funds scholarships for outstanding female geoscience students. This year the awards went to:

- The Susan Ekdale Memorial Field Camp Scholarship, worth \$1,500, went to Alysén Pedersen, University of Utah undergraduate.
- The Spring Research Scholarship, worth \$800, was awarded to Erin Tainer, Utah State University graduate.
- The Outstanding Female Geoscience Student scholarship, worth \$500, went to Courtney Neuffer, University of Utah undergraduate.

Laramide Chapter (LC) Activities:

The LC held its annual Student Awards Banquet in April at the Mount Vernon Country Club in Golden, Colorado. 35 students were nominated for awards: 18 awardees were from a Bachelor of Science or Arts program, 11 were in a Master of Science program and 6 were from a Doctor of Philosophy program. LC 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.

The LC hosted “Rocks and Roles” in October 2008 at Dinosaur Ridge (www.dinoridge.org) using the beautiful natural outside laboratory of the Dakota Hogback. This event was held in conjunction with the opening of the new exhibit hall at Dinosaur Ridge, which features unique paintings depicting the ridge at various times in the geologic past. Scientists and engineers (some from the Larmaide Chapter!) showed Girl Scouts and their families how to study natural history. AWGF has sponsored “Rocks and Roles” for four years through a grant.

THINK YOU KNOW A LOT ABOUT ABOUT YOUR STATE?

Test your knowledge with these state quizzes!



- **Colorado:** www.netstate.com/states/quiz/co_quiz.htm
- **New Mexico:** www.netstate.com/states/quiz/nm_quiz.htm
- **South Dakota:** www.netstate.com/states/quiz/sd_quiz.htm
- **Wyoming:** www.netstate.com/states/quiz/wy_quiz.htm

AWG CHAPTER STATUS REPORT, CONT....

Other AWG Chapters:

Efforts to revitalize the Los Angeles Chapter have petered out since Tonia Johnson has moved from San Diego back to Minnesota. Thus, AWG is still looking for someone to spearhead this effort.

The San Francisco Bay Area chapter has found someone willing to step in as president. Sara Welna, BOD Secretary, has summarized the recent status of the San Francisco Chapter:

- Classified as active (according to KT on 7/25/2008). Little to no chapter activity/events/member involvement.
- Has approximately \$2,659 in funds (as of 7/23/2008). Has member interest but no elected officers.
- KT is handling all funds (currently).

The Great Lakes Chapter returned their chapter funds to the AWG office on June 5, 2008, as the chapter will dissolve due to lack of interest. Official dissolution will be discussed at the fall 2008 BOD meeting.

The Sierra Chapter has been struggling for a few years with declining membership and participation. This decline is the result of members changing lifestyles and commitments. Some members have reduced their level of activity to concentrate on family issues, several members have moved, and a few are preparing for retirement. The remaining officers have taken turns covering offices, and planning events, so that our ideas and energy feel stale.

The officers have agreed to work together to recruit new members in an attempt to revitalize the chapter. At a minimum, they will hold an informal get-together in January as they have every year since 2001. At that meeting, they will likely plan additional events on a bimonthly or quarterly basis. Additionally, the members that were contacted indicated interest in participating, but not necessarily in leading, future chapter events. The remaining active members and officers have indicated interest in resuming the Sierra Chapter scholarship to (a) Sacramento State student(s). Their former liaison at California State University Sacramento has reduced her participation as well, so that their newsletters were no longer being posted. AWG has been invited to participate in a Student's Night in conjunction with AEG, in which students are invited to present their work, and may be able to reestablish our relationship with the university.

AWG needs to do something about the South Florida chapter. It is on the list to discuss during new business Membership Drive. The chapter is currently inactive. No response to AWG National inquiries has been received from the Austin Chapter. There is still interest in joining AWG from that area as new members sign up, however.

Chapter Activity Reports and Officer Reports have been received from the Minnesota, Osage, Pacific Northwest, Laramide, Lonstar, San Francisco Bay Area, Sierra, and Sooner Chapters.

No Chapter Activity Report or Officer Report received from Austin, Delaware, Great Lakes Chapter (pending dissolution), Potomac, Salt Lake, or South Florida Chapters.



ACTIVITIES IN THE COLORADO AND WYOMING AREA!

International Year of Planet Earth

This is the International Year of Planet Earth, a global initiative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). See www.yearofplanetearth.org for more information.

Western Museum of Mining and Industry

Located off I-25 near the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, the Western Museum of Mining and Industry will be opening a new exhibit and holding special events:

- Gold Rush Exhibit - Opens March 2009
- Saturday, March 14, Women in Mining (details TBA)
- Spring Break with the Burros

For more information, visit www.wmmi.org/

Denver Museum of Nature and Science

Melting Away and on the Rise: Changes in the Arctic Ice Cover

January 29, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

Konrad Steffen, PhD, director, Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences (CIRES), and Professor, Department of Geography, University of Colorado at Boulder

Two large ice sheets in Antarctica and Greenland are losing ice at an ever faster rate. What is causing these changes in the ice sheet, and what does it mean for the global climate? Steffen has led field expeditions to the Greenland ice sheet and other Arctic and Antarctic regions for the past three decades and has returned to the same site for the past 18 summers.

He and his team of scientists use climate system modeling and ground and satellite measurements to determine the response of ice sheets to a warming climate—and they have found alarming results. Join Steffen as he goes behind the headlines and explains the techniques for gathering information about these

stunning changes in global climate and what the results might say about the future.

This program is presented in concert with International Year of Planet Earth, a global initiative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). See www.yearofplanetearth.org for more information. For more information about the lecture series, see www.geosociety.org/.

Tate Museum

The Tate Museum (associated with Casper College) is a great little museum in Wyoming. Stop by to check out progress on “Dee the Mammoth.” The discovery was first made on March 8, 2006 by bulldozer operator Dee Zimmerschied while preparing the area for a drilling pad on a private ranch north of Casper.

The museum also offers a week long course in the summer. Last year they worked in two dinosaur quarries, as well as other paleontological sites near Lusk, Wyoming. The main focus was a *Triceratops*, the Wyoming State Dinosaur.

Learn about the Late Cretaceous by digging through the pages of history. Like a forensic scientist, you will piece together the events around the deposition of this 65-million-year-old fossil. Participants will learn various field techniques including mapping, excavation, geology, and preparation. Evening lectures will cover paleontology, taphonomy, paleoecology, and geology of the site. College credit is available. Check it out at [www.caspercollege.edu/tate/!](http://www.caspercollege.edu/tate/)

Laramide Chapter Activities

February 5th, 2009 - General meeting and book club discussion at Lakewood Library.

April 3rd, 2009 - Student Awards Banquet at Mt. Vernon Country Club.



**ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN GEOSCIENTISTS
LARAMIDE CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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Delegate: Holly Brunkel, hollyb128@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor: Melissa Barton, 719-210-6458, melissa.barton@colorado.edu

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.

MEMBERSHIP

If you are interested in becoming a member of AWG, please contact the Laramide Chapter Executive Committee. More information is available at the AWG home page: <http://www.awg.org>

Association for Women Geoscientists
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