



AWG-MN Newsletter

JANUARY 15, 2010

VOLUME 1

Thank you to everyone from the 2009 AWG MN Board for another exciting year:

Cheryl Sorensen, Michelle Sutherland, Sara Welna, Alicia Duncan, Jessica Hayson and Stephanie Day

Welcome to the new 2010 AWG MN Board:

President:

Jessica Hayson

President Elect:

Michelle Sutherland

Past President:

Cheryl Sorensen

Secretary:

Alicia Duncan

Treasurer:

Sara Welna

Editor:

Beth Wenell

Student Representative:

Stephanie Day

Trying something new...

We decided to try something new this year and provide our members with a quarterly newsletter to review upcoming events and offer additional information that might be of interest to our AWG MN Chapter. This is our first version so please feel free to offer us any feedback on what you think to awg_mn@yahoo.com.

Also, we have generated a survey for you to follow up with getting some feedback from last year to help us determine what works and what didn't to give us ideas on this year. The link for this survey is included below.

[Click Here for the AWG MN 2009 Survey](#)

2009 Chapter Activity Highlights

We have had a great and productive year thanks to our AWG-MN Chapter members. Our monthly breakfast meetings have been fun and informative. We've planned for many of the activities this past year sitting around an "Egg and I" breakfast table. We have also enjoyed several Networking Happy Hours that took place in October 2008, May 2009 and July 2009.

During the December 2008 board meeting the AWG-MN board elected Stephanie Day to the position of student representative.

This year Jessica Hayson set up an AWG-MN account on "Facebook" and "Linkedin" to expand our professional network.

In February and March several of our members including Jessica Hayson, Alicia Duncan and Michelle Sutherland helped to judge at two school science fairs.

In April AWG-MN combined with AIPG for a luncheon. The speaker was Michelle LaRue who works for the Antarctic Geospatial Info. Ctr. at the U of M - Antarctic Geospatial Information Center (AGIC). She shared with us the results of her field work this past season in the McMurdo Dry Valleys gathering ground control points to create more accurate maps of the area.

Also in April members of the AWG-MN held a Speed Networking Event to meet other geoscience and environmental science professionals and enhance our professional network. This was a joint venture with the Forum for Women in the Environmental Field (FWEF) spearheaded by AWG-MN member Jessica Hayson. Thank you to all who helped with this endeavor!

Help Tell Cub Scouts about Geology!!



On Saturday October 10th is the semi-annual campout for Webelos Cub Scouts (4th and 5th grade boys and their parents.) There is a booth on the Geology Activity Badge that needs geologist to help tell the Scouts what geology is and how it is important to them. There should be approximately 1000 – 2000 cub scouts in attendance who will be rotating between about 10 – 12 activity badge stations in addition to other different events.

The event will be held at Camp Stearns which is just west of Annandale and North of Hwy 55. If this is something you're interested in, please contact Sara Welna ASAP at sarawelna@gmail.com. The AWG Minnesota Chapter is looking to provide 2-3 volunteers for this event.



President's Corner:

First of all let me say that I am SO excited for the new year and all the fun events we have planned for AWG MN!

We really need to hear from all of you to make this organization the best it can be for you. We have heard some feedback but I'd like to encourage you to take a few minutes and fill out the survey we've created.

Looking forward to a great 2010!!

Jessica Hayson

jhayson@aerotek.com

Women in the Geosciences Day – Thursday Oct 15th



Each year AGI organizes Earth Science Week, the geoscience community's premier public awareness campaign, to promote understanding of the Earth sciences and encourage stewardship of natural resources. Since its inception more than a decade ago, the annual celebration has grown significantly. More than 20 million people learned about the geosciences, and the campaign, through Earth Science Week in 2008.

This year, AWG, in conjunction with AGI, is proposing to initiate a "Women in the Geosciences Day" which will take place on the Thursday of each Earth Science Week (the second full week of each October). October 15 will be the 2009 Women in the Geosciences Day.

The Minnesota Chapter has coordinated a geoscience activity for a local troop of Girl Scouts to tour an active dolostone quarry. The scouts will be learning what a geoscientist is and how they can find out more about them. Here are some other suggested activities for how you can participate:

- Invite a female geoscientist as a colloquium/lecture series speaker on October 15 (or as close as possible to Oct 15th)
- Visit your local high school to talk about what Geoscientists do
- Organize events with female speakers at a local museum
- Organize a Girl Scouts/Boys Scouts event for Rocks Rock badges
- Take a 4H group on a field trip to look at rocks, minerals, soils, etc.

Schedule of Events

Greetings to new and continuing members of the Minnesota Chapter of AWG. This year we are going to be meeting as much as possible beyond our breakfast networking events. Look for notices about field trips, happy hours, joint programs with other local associations, volunteering, and most of all, just good times.

Just to keep everyone on top of the calendar, to start with, here are the dates for the upcoming Breakfast meetings:

- Friday October 9th, 7am - 8am, Minneapolis Egg and I Cafe
- Friday November 13th, 7am - 8am, St. Paul Egg and I Cafe
- Friday December 11th, 7am - 8am Minneapolis Egg and I Cafe

A happy hour is in the works, with the date announcement to soon follow.

Remember, this is everyone's AWG chapter, so drop a line and let us hear from you.

Field Trip – Saturday November 7th

We have planned a field trip for November 7th because there was a large response from both members and friends of AWG MN to have a field trip this year. Due to the fact that the weather may be somewhat unpredictable at that time of year, we felt it would be a good idea to head to a local cave because it's always a great place to be even if it's cold outside! We'll be heading to Mystery Cave in Spring Valley WI. It's less than an hour to get there from the Twin Cities. More details to follow soon...

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday November 7th – AWG MN Field Trip to Mystery Cave

www.acoolcave.com