



# AWG-MN Newsletter

FALL 2010

VOLUME 5

## Geocaching—William O'Brien State Park

by Michelle Sutherland

Geocaching...What is geocaching? According to the official geocaching website ([www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com)) Geocaching is “a high-tech treasure hunting game played throughout the world by adventure seekers equipped with GPS (Global Positioning System) devices” where the “basic idea is to locate hidden containers, called geocaches, outdoors.”

On Saturday, July 17th, the Minnesota Chapter of AWG was able to experience geocaching first hand with a geocaching orientation at William O'Brien State Park. The geocaching program at William O'Brien is sponsored by the Geocaching Association of Minnesota and the Minnesota State Parks system, which means you do not need your own GPS unit to participate.

The day started with a presentation by the park staff explaining the history, creation, and level of participation of geocaching in Minnesota and worldwide. The training continued out into the trails in the nearby prairie lands where each participant was given personal GPS unit and clues as to where to find the geocaches. Some were simple to find, but some were more difficult as they blended into trees and vegetation.

This was a great opportunity for AWG to meet new people, learn a new activity and utilize resources offered by the Geocaching Association of Minnesota and Minnesota State Parks. If you are interested in trying out this activity, visit the following websites for more information:

[www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com)

[www.dnr.state.mn.us/geocaching/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/geocaching/index.html)

[www.mngca.org](http://www.mngca.org)

## President's Corner:

by Jessica Hayson

Hello all!

I wanted to take a minute to share a recap of all the activities we were able to fit in last year! It's been really fun to see and meet many of you through all of these local events and I look forward to seeing you again soon at some of our exciting upcoming events planned for next year. Watch for an updated calendar soon!

- Quarterly Newsletters – distributed to AWG members with chapter updates quarterly
- Networking Breakfasts
- Earth Science Week - October 10-16
- Women in the Geosciences Day – October 14
- Science Fair Judging and Awards – Winter and Spring 2010
- Minnesota Earth Sciences Teacher Association Conference – February 2010
- Networking Event with FWEF – March 2010
- AIPG/AWG Joint Luncheon – April 2010
- Geopaolooza – May 2010
- Lilydale Fossil Hunt – June 2010
- Geocaching – July 2010
- Family Fun Day/Picnic – September 2010

We always welcome any suggestions or ideas from our members – we'd love to make this organization all that it can be and to do that...we need to hear from you!

Email us at: [awg\\_mn@yahoo.com](mailto:awg_mn@yahoo.com) with any feedback!!

Looking forward to a great 2010-2011 year in AWG MN!!

# Hydrocamp

by Beth Wenell

I spent three weeks this summer taking my first geology class in eleven years: Hydrogeology Field Camp at the University of Minnesota. This intensive field camp course involved one week on campus in Minneapolis and two weeks at an environmental education center (camp/retreat center) near the university's hydrogeology field site, 200 miles north of the Cities.

One of the strong points of Hydrocamp was how field experience paralleled the classroom lectures. We learned the quantitative basis for each procedure within days of performing relevant field work exercises.

Although this is an intensive course, as any four-credit course would be when packed into three weeks, we managed to sneak in some breaks for beach volleyball, rock-wall climbing, swimming, boating and other diversions. One of the traditional diversions was a trip to the nearby Woodtick Musical Theater, a live comedy and variety show.

Amongst the prolific mosquitoes, ticks and poison ivy were great instructors, superb guest lecturers, and an excellent group of students from a variety of backgrounds (biologists and engineers mixing among the geologists).

Hydrocamp exceeded my expectations on many levels. I was impressed with the facilities and the opportunities for hands-on experience. The instruction was high-quality with a quantitative focus. Available for graduate or undergraduate credit, Hydrocamp can provide a great review for people entering a hydrogeology-related career or it would be an excellent choice to meet the field camp requirements for many universities.



Hydrocamp students preparing for a 5-day multi-well pumping test.



Students analyzing samples during well-drilling.

**Earth Science Week:  
October 10-16  
Women in the Geosciences Day:  
Thursday, October 14th**

**Prepare for Second Annual Women in  
Geosciences Day**

by Sara Welna

Please join the Association for Women Geoscientists (AWG), an AGI Member Society, in celebrating the second annual Women in the Geosciences Day - Thursday, Oct. 14 - during Earth Science Week 2010!

Women in the Geosciences Day offers you a chance to share the excitement and advantages of geoscience careers with women of all ages, especially those early in their education.

**What can you do?**

If you're an educator, invite a female geoscientist to speak in your classroom or institution. If you're a female geoscientist, visit a local school or volunteer at a science center. Organize a scout event for badges, lead a 4H field trip, or hold a special "Take Your Daughter to Work Day" focusing on the geoscience workplace. No matter who you are, you can help show young women what it means to be a geoscientist.

Watch for additional information and resources online in the coming months at Earth Science Week ([www.earthsciweek.org](http://www.earthsciweek.org)) and AWG ([www.awg.org](http://www.awg.org)). Have a great Women in the Geosciences Day!

**AWG Minnesota Chapter  
2010 – 2011 Election Results**

President:  
Jessica Hayson

Vice President:  
Michelle Sutherland

Secretary:  
Sara Welna

Treasurer:  
Alicia Duncan

Editor:  
Beth Wenell

Student Representative:  
Stephanie Day

Past President:  
Cheryl Sorensen

If you are interested in serving as an officer with the AWG Minnesota Chapter please contact us at [awg\\_mn@yahoo.com](mailto:awg_mn@yahoo.com).

**Please join your fellow AWG-MN members at these upcoming events:**

Got a super-duper textbook you'd like to swap out for that elusive copy of The Origin of Species? Come to the AWG-MN Book Swap to find your scientific literary treasure and network with local geoscientists! More details will be announced in the coming weeks, but the event will be held from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 27th at the Edina Public Library.

A holiday potluck and social night is tentatively scheduled for mid-December. Please contact the AWG-MN board at [awg\\_mn@yahoo.com](mailto:awg_mn@yahoo.com) if you are interested in attending and/or volunteering for this event.