

The Official

AEG Nisqually Chapter Newsletter

November Meeting DetailsTuesday, February 6th

Location: 3 Magnets Brewing

600 Franklin St. SE

Olympia, WA

6:00 pm Social

7:00 Presentation

Dinner: On your own

\$10 Donation (Member)\$15 Donation (Non-Member)

Students FREE with RSVP

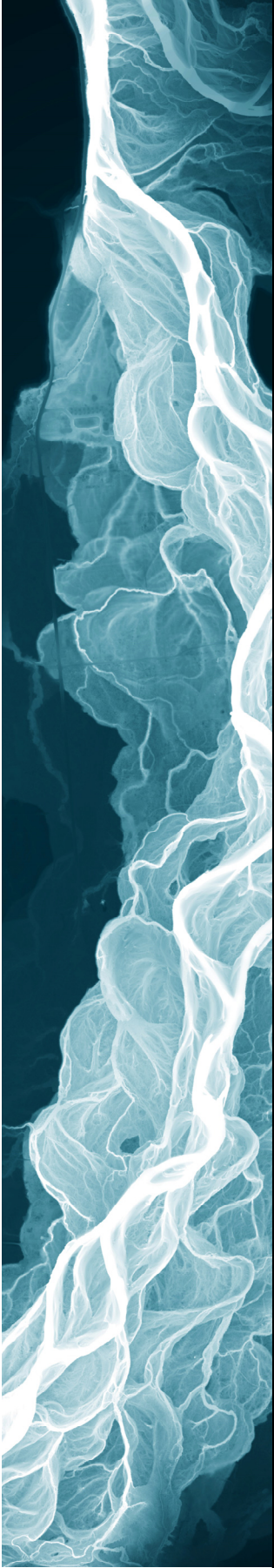
Please RSVP by 4 pm Friday,
February 2nd at: [http://
www.brownpapertickets.com
/event/3231795](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3231795)There is a \$2 surcharge for
those who do not reserve by
the deadline**Upcoming Meetings:**Mar 6th TBDApr 19th Joint Meeting with
Puget Sound Chapter*

Wallula Gap Boulder Trap

Wallula Gap is an amazing geologic landmark in Washington State. At this location, water from glacial outburst floods flowed through a narrow gap in the Horse Heaven Hills. This gap acted as a significant constriction point for floodwaters draining to the Pacific Ocean and resulted in enormous scour events within the gap, deposition of sediments upstream, and temporary inundations of the entire Pasco Basin. This constriction point is one of several important landmarks for geologists who study the cataclysmic glacial outburst flood events of the latest Pleistocene, or for anyone who wishes to take a moment to reflect on these dramatic events.

Unfortunately, the scoured basalt cliffs of Wallula Gap also produce dangerous rockfall that impacts the highway (SR 730), as well as the adjacent railroad tracks. Rockfall at this location regularly overwhelms the concrete barriers placed at the base of the slope and has caused injury and death for travelers. WSDOT has programmed the most extensive rockfall fence installation in our state's history and construction begins this spring. I will discuss WSDOT's site characterization efforts, flexible rockfall fence design methodology, and the various geotechnical and construction-related challenges to protecting the highway from large-block rockfall at this amazing geologic landmark.





Bio: Gabriel Taylor

Gabriel works as an Engineering Geologist for the Washington State Department of Transportation. A graduate of Western Washington University, he is a licensed Engineering Geologist with 12 years of experience working with geologic hazards along state highways and managing geotechnical elements of transportation-related construction projects.





Message from the Chair

Happy 2018! Welcome to our Nisqually Chapter newsletter! Thanks to all that attended the November meeting, and thanks to Eli Newby for a great presentation about how the DNR is applying some cutting edge tech to streamline surface mine inspections. We had a decent turnout and some excellent discussion following the presentation.

February's meeting will be held on February 6th at 3 Magnets Brewing Company in Olympia. Tell your colleagues and co-workers. We've got Brown Paper Tickets set up for RSVPs, it seemed like it has worked pretty well for our previous meetings. Remember, you can save a few dollars by handling things online in advance of the meeting. The Brown Paper Tickets event URL is on the front page of the newsletter.

Hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday. Now that the solstice has passed, the days are getting longer, but there's still plenty of dark, cold, and wet ahead, it is still officially winter. The Nisqually Chapter is planning for meetings in February, March, April, and May. April's meeting will be held in Tacoma as a joint meeting with the Puget Sound Chapter, we're welcoming John Wakabayashi, the 2017-2018 AEG Jahns lecturer. More information will be announced as the plans drop into place.

Don't forget to renew your membership! Please sign up for our mailing list to make sure you get future notifications and newsletters. See you all at the meeting next month.

Thanks,

Mike

Section Officers & Committee Chairs



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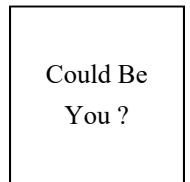
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The AEG Nisqually Chapter Newsletter

The Association of Engineering Geologists (AEG) contributes to its members' professional success and the public welfare by providing leadership, advocacy, and applied research in environmental and engineering geology. AEG's values are based on the belief that its members have a responsibility to assume stewardship over their fields of expertise. AEG is the acknowledged international leader in environmental and engineering geology, and is greatly respected for its stewardship of the profession.

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