

April 2021

NISQUALLY CHAPTER OF THE
ASSOCIATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL &
ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS

The Official

AEG Nisqually Chapter Newsletter

	Characterizing Quaternary deposits on the southwestern Washington coast: the geologic approach to a tectonics problem
Meeting Details Tuesday, April 6th	
Location: Go To Meeting	Southwestern Washington is one of the few areas on the Cascadia coastline where estuarine deposits are preserved as marine terraces and, therefore, offers an ideal location for observing long-term sediment accumulation along an active margin for evidence of permanent deformation. The sedimentary deposits south of Grays Harbor and east of Willapa Bay were mapped in the 1960s as a single unit, Quaternary terrace deposits, and were inferred to be estuarine terraces, uplifted in some locations to over 160m a.s.l. The potential for unmapped faults or a record of subduction-related long-term permanent uplift incited this investigation, aided by recent lidar data for the region. I revisit the deposits to determine their origin, age, geomorphic expression, and any possible deformation. I will describe my new geologic mapping and use unit descriptions and luminescence dates to build a stratigraphy and geologic history for the study area. I use these data to test the hypothesis that the deposits are uplifted marine terraces.
6:00 Presentation	
Dinner: At your home	
FREE for Member or Non-Member	
Upcoming Meetings: May: Scott Burns	<p>Meeting Info:</p> <p>https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/982090581</p> <p>You can also dial in using your phone.</p> <p>United States: +1 (408) 650-3123 - One-touch: tel:+14086503123,,982090581#</p> <p>Access Code: 982-090-581</p>



Bio: Kelsay Stanton, LG

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M.S., 2007, Western Washington University

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Kelsay is a Washington State licensed geologist and the owner of Stanton Geological Services. She has worked as a professional geologist in the Pacific Northwest since 2007. She is also currently pursuing her PhD at the University of Washington with a focus on tectonics and structural geology. Kelsay's interests in geology are broad, ranging from Cascadia neotectonics to geologic hazards and Quaternary geology in Washington State. She is a member of AEG, GSA, and the Tobacco Root Geological Society.



Message from the Chair

Spring and vaccinations

Greetings, AEG Nisqually! I hope this spring finds you healthy and well. Some of you may be vaccinated by now, and the rest of you are hopefully eyeing opportunities to get it done. It certainly appears that we will be able to meet up in person again soon. I managed to get my first shot yesterday, and I can report that it was a fairly smooth process and generally a huge relief. Now I need to crawl out of my year-long hermitage and rediscover my community! I find myself gratefully reflecting on the power of science and a modern enlightened society to address such perilous challenges as a global viral pandemic. It gives me hope for the other challenges that we face. The life-sciences have shown their enormous value, and we earth scientists also have a huge role to play in our common future.

Legislative update:

The House bills we discussed at our last meeting (HB 1400, 1401, 1402) did not make it out of the Committee. Our letter to legislators about the licensure issue remains on my to-do list. While I'm glad that some of the urgency has been removed, I apologize for not having this letter drafted up yet. Perhaps by the time of our upcoming Chapter meeting, I'll have something to share with you.

A few thoughts on the employment market

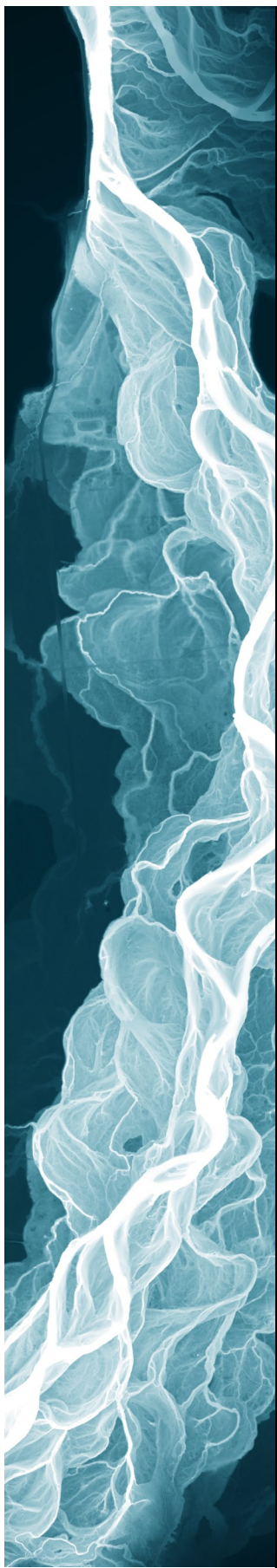
Over the past few weeks, I have seen positions posted, talked to recruiters, and have generally heard concerns from companies and agencies about not being adequately staffed with highly experienced engineering geologists. Especially as key individuals retire, there is a real need for senior-level geologists, especially engineering geologists. There just aren't enough seasoned EGs out there to meet the demand. I know that our community had many geologists who are in the first 10-15 years of their careers and are eager to get their hands dirty and gain experience with applied earth science. You are the future of our profession! In the near term, as infrastructure is funded by stimulus legislation, our industry will remain hot and our skills will remain in demand. For the longer term, with the challenges of climate change and adaptation all around us, these demands will only increase.

For those of you who are relatively new to this gig, I recommend that you position yourselves for future opportunities by seeking out experience in the applied side of geology and familiarizing yourselves with the players and projects that are of interest to you. Don't be afraid to cross the line into engineering, computer modeling, geophysics, or other adjacent fields. Pick up some new skills, meet people, and get yourselves out there.

Those of you with 15-30+ years in the saddle have an important role to play. Mentorship and training are critical functions for experienced geologists. The experiences gained over decades of practice just cannot be learned from webinars and textbooks. Often, highly experienced geologists are the gatekeepers to experience and know-how. I strongly encourage those of you in these positions to take your green geologists out into the field with you. Share your methods and thought-processes. Provide opportunities for experience to the younger geologists. Get them out there and give them stuff to do! Please, go with them whenever you can.

It's great to be part of AEG Nisqually! I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Gabe Taylor
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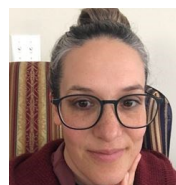
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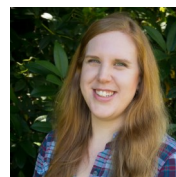
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The AEG Nisqually Chapter Newsletter

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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