

NISQUALLY CHAPTER OF THE  
ASSOCIATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL &  
ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS

The Official

# AEG Nisqually Chapter Newsletter

## Meeting Details

Monday March 23rd

Location: Mercato Ristorante

111 Market St NE

Olympia, WA

[Google Maps Link](#)

5:30pm Social hour and buffet

6:30 pm Presentation

7:30pm Brief Q&A

**\$30 Member or Non-Member**

**\$15 Educators or Job Seekers**

**\$5 Student**

**\$5 Online**

RSVP Online: -<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/aeg-nisqually-navigating-a-career-in->

## Upcoming Meetings:

April 22



## This Month - Jahns Lecturer, Chris Stohr - Two Talks Combined!

We put the topics to a vote during our February meeting, and (wouldn't you know it), we had a tie. Being a gracious and accommodating kind of guy, Chris Stohr has offered to squeeze these two talks into one night!

### Title

Detailed Image Interpretation of Thermal IT, Orthophotography, and LiDAR imagery for GIS-based Tracking of Features of Interest on Legacy Landfill Covers *WITH* Navigating a Career in Environmental and Engineering Geology – *make a living and a difference to heal a hurting planet*

### Abstract

Infiltration of precipitation through earthen landfill covers can generate leachate that may escape through unlined landfill boundaries. This presentation reviews the use of multi-date and multi-band aerial photography, airborne LiDAR, and post-sunset thermal infrared imagery to identify cover defects such as depressions, erosion, landslides, and other features of concern. These features were detected by enhancing and comparing imagery across multiple dates and mapping them within a GIS-based relational database for field investigation.

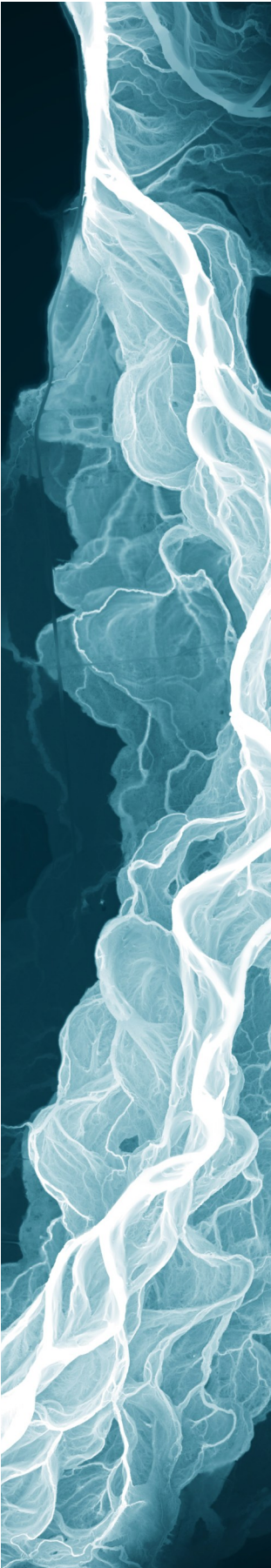
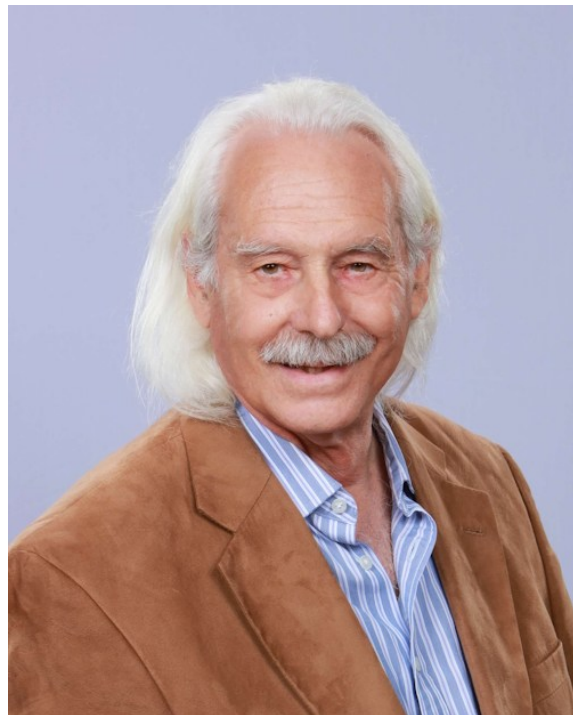
The talk also explores career development in environmental and engineering geology. Because geoscientists work in fields that significantly affect public health and safety, professional licensure and ongoing continuing education are essential. Professional organizations support technical growth while also offering guidance on practical skills such as leadership, communication, and well-being. The presentation concludes with examples of how volunteer and community engagement can provide balance and fulfillment throughout a geoscience career.

## Biography: Chris Stohr

Dr. Christopher “Chris” Stohr, retired from the Illinois State Geological Survey at the Prairie Research Institute, has been selected as the 2025–2026 Richard Jahns Distinguished Lecturer by AEG and GSA-EEGS. With more than 40 years of applied geology, research, and international humanitarian experience, Dr. Stohr has worked extensively across the Midwestern U.S., Africa, and South America. He holds a BS in Geology from Saint Joseph’s College and an MS in Engineering Geology from Purdue University.

His career includes early work for the Missouri Geology and Land Survey on dams, waste facilities, dye tracing, and landfill investigations, as well as fault and paleoseismic studies for a nuclear power plant project in Iran. At the Illinois State Geological Survey, he led or contributed to research in landslides, groundwater, geophysics, remote sensing, precision agriculture, coastal erosion, photogrammetry, laser scanning, archaeology, and carbon sequestration. His award-winning work using post-sunset thermal infrared imagery to analyze landfill cover failures became the basis of his PhD research, and he has investigated legacy landfills across the U.S., Egypt, Malawi, and Argentina.

Dr. Stohr has served as a Fulbright Senior Specialist in Egypt, led humanitarian development projects in Malawi, and is licensed as a Professional Geologist and Certified Engineering Geologist in Illinois and Oregon. He has served on the Champaign County Board, the Mahomet Aquifer Council, and the Illinois Board of Licensing for Professional Geologists, and remains active in ASPRS, AEG, and GSA.



## Message from the Chair

### Hello, AEG Nisqually!

We are heading into our late winter and spring program at AEG Nisqually, starting with the Jahns Lecture and followed by a visit from the AEG National President. Your board is meeting soon to fill out the rest of the spring schedule and consider whether we should plan a field trip with one of our other chapters. If you have an idea for a local geology field trip, please let us know at [aegnisqually@gmail.com](mailto:aegnisqually@gmail.com).

### Just can't stop thinking about landslides

I have landslides on my mind this month. Fresh out of our emergency response and the clean-up phase following the December atmospheric river event, I had the opportunity to go to Asheville, NC, where I visited some impressive debris-flow sites associated with Hurricane Helene. I spoke with some friendly homeowners in the Appalachians about the wild morning they had on September 27, 2024, when their serene little creek turned into a life-threatening torrent of mud and boulders. It all looked quite placid and beautiful to me, but we noticed scarring high on the trees, and they shared a video of the debris flow rushing past their front porch.

While I was there, I enjoyed two days of discussions with a terrific group of scientists from around the country who have been tasked with advising the USGS on implementing the national strategy for landslide loss reduction.

Meanwhile, at WSDOT, we are assessing the merits of InSAR for identifying and monitoring landslides (more on that later). On a more immediate and applied level, we are trying to manage a large landslide on US 101 above the Bogachiel River, a few miles south of Forks. We recently constructed a soil-nail wall on the headscarp to try to hold onto the one lane that remains, while we prepare to build an extension on the very robust retaining wall (which is also moving slowly toward the river). There is no perfect solution for this one. Northwest GSA will be visiting this landslide during their field trip in April.

Meanwhile, WGS is mapping out in Clallam County. I'm sure they will be looking at plenty of landslides as part of that work. I'm looking forward to some new maps! We also intend to coordinate with WGS in Clallam County by sharing the results of our drilling and the instrumentation of deep borings in the deep-seated landslide near the beach below the clay mine where Trevor likes to collect fossils. I expect this work will generate some good AEG talks next year!

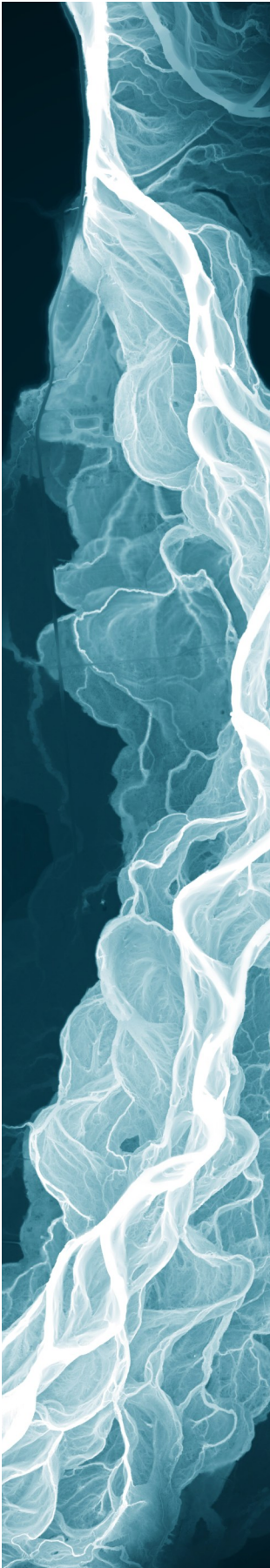
### Please renew your membership and select AEG Nisqually

When you renew your AEG membership be sure to select Nisqually as your Chapter. It puts a few more bucks into the Chapter account and keeps our numbers up.

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

*Gabe Taylor*

*[taylorg@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:taylorg@wsdot.wa.gov)*



## Section Officers & Committee Chairs



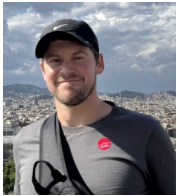
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**National AEG webpage:**  
<http://aegweb.org>

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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.

AEG NISQUALLY CHAPTER NEWSLETTER is published monthly from September through April. Subscriptions are for members of AEG affiliated with the Nisqually Chapter or other Chapters, and other interested people. E-mail subscriptions are free.

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