

Serving Professionals in Engineering, Environmental,  
and Ground Water Geology

OREGON SECTION

# NEWSLETTER

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The Official Newsletter of the Oregon Section Association of Engineering Geologists

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May, 1999

VOLUME 99, NUMBER 05

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## ***MAY MEETING:***

Speaker: **Mr. Ken Buss, P.E., Principal**  
GeoEngineers, Inc.  
Redmond, Washington

Title: **"Aldercrest-Banyon Landslide, Kelso, Washington"**

Date: **Thursday, May 20, 1999**

Times: 6:00 PM Social hour  
7:00 PM Dinner  
8:00 PM Talk

Where: **McMenamins's St. John's Pub**  
8203 N. Ivanhoe  
(Ivanhoe and Richmond; just north of St. John's Bridge)  
"Capacity 100 people"

Cost: **\$10**

Menu: Ivanhoe Street Cobb Salad; Communication Breakdown Burger;  
Garden Burger; Maria's Smokey Turkey Sandwich.

**Reservation:** Call Murbach Geotech., (503) 538-8352. by noon Tuesday (5/18), **A reservation made is a reservation paid.** Please call to cancel if you cannot attend. Thank You!

# *“Aldercrest – Banyon Landslide”*

## **ABSTRACT**

In February 1998, a sewer line separated in the Aldercrest neighborhood in Kelso, Washington. This was the first indication that the City was facing a problem of monumental proportions. About the same time, residents began to notice cracking in the walls and sticking doors in their homes. In early April, ground separation of 2 to 6 feet vertically began the destruction of residences located on and below the reactivated head scarp of an ancient massive slope failure. The landslide has continued to grow to its present size of about 3,000 feet wide by about 1,500 feet from toe to top of head scarp. At its maximum, the head scarp is now about 90 to 110 feet high. Slope movement is now evident up slope of the head scarp up to the top of the ridge. As of early December 1998, 60 homes have been completely destroyed. At least 60 more are experiencing some degree of damage. On October 16, 1998, President Clinton issued a disaster declaration for the area. Presently, the FEMA declaration area includes 138 homes that will ultimately be affected and will have to be evacuated. Total damages to public facilities in the neighborhood are estimated to be in excess of 5 million dollars. Total damages to private property are estimated to be in excess of 23 million dollars.

## *Message from the Chair:*

This is my last message from the chair (does that mean I have to sit on the floor from now on?). As I have said before I have really enjoyed this year and I want to thank all of you for making AEG Oregon Section a really great organization to participate in.

Last month we had a very interesting meeting with the talk provided by Mr. David Rankine of Golder Associates “Portland office” on the Forensic Geology Investigation of the Sunset Tunnel Collapse (HWY 26). This was a very interesting and timely talk. Thanks David!

This months talk will have an associate (obviously optional) field trip the Kelso to see the landslide. There is a waiver form to be returned to DOGAMI if you want to go. Thanks to Mei Mei for the idea and organization! See you there.

Last month I attended the National AEG, Mid-year Board of Directors Meeting in Vicksburg Mississippi as your representative (Section Chairs are AEG Board Members). There was progress in the meeting and I can report the state of the National AEG organization is very good.

The meeting was very organized and efficient (especially considering the number of members and limited time for pre-meeting discussions). The E-mail for Board Members makes this process better than it must have been in years past (the dark ages of pre-E-mail). The main agenda item was the deletion of the By-laws (article 10) that concern suspension and expulsion of members. The problem began years ago when AEG dropped the "ethics section" of the By-laws to be in compliance with restriction of trade law. This set the association up for a real problem in trying to suspend or expulse a member without it being capricious and arbitrary. There was a lot of discussion by the Board of what AEG wanted to be, a "de-facto licensing " or "trade" organization. The discussion ended with an agreement to study the potential for a well written and simple "code of ethics" to replace the one deleted years ago. A subcommittee was appointed to address this by the annual meeting in Utah. The Board then proceeded to vote to delete the existing by-laws. The purpose of this was to prevent someone from forcing the issue of suspension or expulsion (or any other ethics based association by-law), during the time when there was no existing "code of ethics." This will be continued in Utah at the annual meeting.

The board continued to consider "re-structuring" concerns as proposed by Eldon Gath at the annual meeting in Seattle. This project has seen some progress and seems to have less urgency, but is not resolved. I am on the subcommittee that is charged with addressing the issue and I will report any new developments as they occur.

There was no dues increase recommended for this year in the treasurer's report, however it was strongly recommended to increase dues for next year.

Annual meeting schedule was provided as follows:

|      |                      |   |
|------|----------------------|---|
| 1999 | Salt Lake City, Utah | Sep. 26 – 29                            |
| 2000 | San Jose, CA         | Sep. 21 – 24                            |
| 2001 | St. Louis, MO        | Oct. 24 – 27 (joint AIPG)               |
| 2002 | Reno, NV             | Sep. 24 – 27 (Pepper Mill Casino/Hotel) |
| 2003 | Vail, CO             | Sep. 16 – 19 (Marriott Hotel)           |

There was some discussion of a name change to AEEG or AE2G = Association of Engineering and Environmental Geologists. The discussion centered on the name change in the journal and the concern that "environmental geologist" would remain reluctant to join an organization without environmental in the name. Please let Charlie Hammond or me know if you have comments on this topic. Reception to the idea was somewhat mixed with the majority uncertain it would have the intended affect and not wanting to part with the tradition of AEG as the name.

Student involvement was identified as very important to the future of AEG and I felt really good about reporting Oregon's successful student chapter and involvement. Thanks to Scott Burns for his efforts in this area!

Dave Michael  
Section Chair 1999

# *Short news items:*

**New Metro publication now available:** "Landslides in the Portland, Oregon Metropolitan area resulting from the storm of February 1996: inventory map, database, and evaluation" by Scott Burns, Bill Burns, David James and Jason Hinkle of PSU.

a) To order the map and the report/database, the cost is \$20 and you can pick it up at the Data Resource Center at Metro, order it over the phone (797-1725), or order it off of the homepage on the internet: [www.metro-region.org](http://www.metro-region.org).

b) The electronic GIS database (very accurate) of all 705 landslides is almost ready. You can order it on CD for \$20 from Metro (797-1742) or can get an FTP file downloaded from the internet by calling Steve Erickson for further details (797-1595).

**Update on the Oregon AEG book:** Scott just talked with the publisher from Star Publications in Belmont, California, and he has said that our book, **Environmental, Groundwater and Engineering Geology: Applications from Oregon**, has now sold half of the supply. We originally printed 500 and there are still 250 left. You can purchase it for \$79.95 locally at the Nature of Oregon bookstore, 800 NE Oregon Street in Portland or at the Portland State Bookstore on the PSU campus in Portland on 6th Avenue across from the Cheerful Tortoise Pub. If you don't have a copy, you need to purchase one and have it in your library!

**Membership Chair:** Tim Blackwood is the new Membership chair. Tim works for Geo-Engineers and can be reached at (503) 603-6663 at work.

**AEG Homepage:** check it out: [http:// www.aegweb.org](http://www.aegweb.org)

**Now available at Portland State:** Graduate Certificates in Engineering Geology, Environmental Geology, Hydrogeology, and Hydrology. These certificates are between a BS and an MS degree. They take only 18 hours of graduate work in the subject matter and have no thesis with them. Most of the courses are in the evenings. Call Scott Burns for more information: 725-3389.

**The Board of Geologist examiners** has relocated as of January 4, 1999, the new information is as follows: **707 13<sup>th</sup>. St. SE, Suite 275 Salem, OR, 97301** Phone **(503) 566-2837**, Fax **(503) 362-6393** Please contact Administrative Assistant to the Board **Susanna R. Knight** for assistance with Board issues.

**Kelso Washington Landslide Field Trip**  
**May 21 Friday 1:00 to 6:00 p.m.**

**Field Trip Leaders**

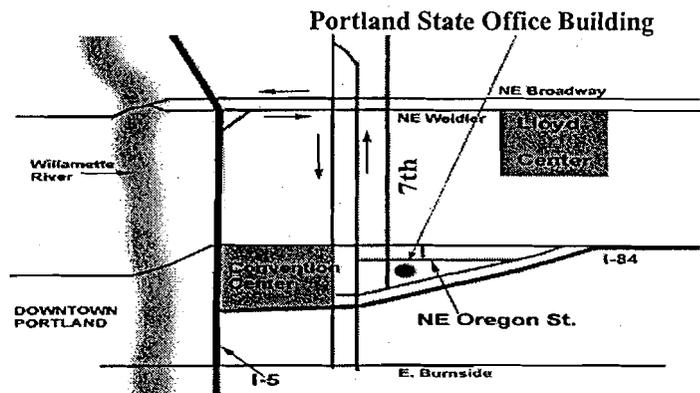
Yumei Wang, DOGAMI, 503-731-4100 x226  
Diane Murbach, Murbach Geotech, 503-538-8352  
Ken Buss, GeoEngineers, 425-861-6000

**Meeting time and location**

12:45 pm at Portland State Office Building  
800 NE Oregon St. (7th and Oregon in  
Lloyd District)

Pay parking available and public transportation nearby

**Sign up soon. Limited space. Donation (\$20 suggested to either ASCE or AEG) and completed Participant Waiver and Release form must be received by 5/17 to Neva Beck, DOGAMI, 800 NE Oregon St., #28, Portland, OR 97232, 503-731-4100 extension 0. FAX 731-4066**



**Lecture.**

5/20 6 pm AEG section talk on Kelso landslide by Ken Buss at McMenamin's St. John's Pub 8203 N Ivanhoe (cross street Richmond; just North of St. John's Bridge). Reservations by noon Tuesday 5/18. Call 503-538-8352.

**Field trip notes.**

The City of Kelso is generously allowing geoprofessionals in this hazardous restricted area for educational purposes. Please provide strict professional conduct and respect. Wear field boots and attire. Participation on this excursion is at your own risk and the State of Oregon, ASCE and AEG assume no liability.

**Sponsors.**

Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI)  
American Society of Civil Engineering Geotechnical Group (ASCE)  
Association of Engineering Geologists (AEG)

## Participant Waiver and Release

The City of Kelso, Washington, hereafter known as 'the city', does hereby authorize The State of Oregon Geology Department, supervisor(s) and staff member(s) hereafter known as the 'state', to participate in a guided tour, (hereafter known as 'the activity') accompanied by an employee of the City of Kelso, of the Aldercrest Block Slide for the purposes of studying land formations, movement, characteristics of the soil and how the movement has effected the area.

I am fully aware of the special dangers and risk inherent in the activity, including physical injury, death, or other consequences that may arise or result directly or indirectly from the activity. Being fully informed as to these risks and in consideration of the privilege of participating in the city's activity, I hereby assume all risk of injury, damage and liability and waive any right of recovery form or to bring suit against the City for any personal injury, death, or other consequences arising out of my voluntary participation in the activity, except for the sole negligence of the City.

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| Participant Printed Name | Participant Signature | Date |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|------|
|--------------------------|-----------------------|------|

I certify that I am of legal age and that I have read and understood the foregoing release; and that I join in the release without reservation, granting full consent and authorization for the above named person to participate in the activity.

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| Name of Organization | Supervisor Printed Name | Supervisor Signature | Date |
|----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|------|
|----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|------|

The above signed, having been fully advised as to the nature and possible dangers and hazards of the Kelso, Washington landslide Field Trip, May 21, 1999 which is sponsored by DOGAMI, ASCE, and AEG, does hereby assume any and all risks involved in connection with the trip and does hereby save and hold harmless DOGAMI, ASCE, and AEG from any and all claims, losses and damages, (including attorney's fees and any cost involved because of said claims) on account of injury, death, property damage, and inconvenience or loss of money due to delay that may arise, by reason of my participation in the trip.

Participants must carry their own insurance.

Return to: Neva Beck  
Oregon Dept. of Geology  
800 NE Oregon St. #28  
Portland OR 97232  
Fax: 503-731-4066

Must be received no later than 5/17/99 4:00 p.m.

# **“AEG CALENDAR”**

**May 20, 1999:** AEG Section Mtg. Ken Buss PE “Aldercrest – Banyon landslide of Kelso WA”

**May 21, 1999:** DOGAMI/ASCE/AEG “field Trip” to Kelso Landslide

**June 6-9, 1999:** Rock Mechanics for Industry Symposium, Vail, Colorado

**Sept. 18-19, 1999:** Friends of the Pleistocene trip in the Columbia Gorge

**Sept. 26 – 29, 1999:** AEG National Meeting in Salt Lake City

## **1999 AEG - OFFICERS**

| Position    | Name            | Telephone |          |          |
|-------------|-----------------|-----------|----------|----------|
|             |                 | Daytime   | Home     | FAX      |
| Chair       | Dave Michael    | 359-7448  | 357-0238 | 357-4548 |
| Newsletter  | “               |           |          |          |
| Chair-Elect | Charlie Hammond | 452-1100  | 274-1437 | 452-1528 |
| Secretary   | Diane Murbach   | 538-8352  | 538-8352 | 538-8353 |
| Treasurer   | Monte Murbach   | 538-8352  | 538-8352 | 228-7781 |
| Past Chair  | Scott Burns     | 725-3389  | 692-9618 | 725-3025 |
| Membership  | Tim Blackwood   | 603-6663  | 236-7792 | 620-5940 |

### **MEMBERSHIP**

*For application forms for Membership in the National AEG, call Tim Blackwood the membership chair at (503) 606-6663 (w). He will also have copies at the monthly meetings. Membership is on a calendar year basis. If you are a national member, they will collect our local dues of \$10, which just covers our newsletter costs. If you would like to subscribe to the local newsletter (comes out 9 times a year) without being a national member, fill out the form below and mail to Monte Murbach. Note: the following form is only for people and organizations that wish to subscribe to the Oregon AEG Newsletter without being members of the national AEG.*

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**APPLICATION FOR LOCAL MEMBERSHIP IN OREGON SECTION, AEG:**

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**AFFILIATION:** \_\_\_\_\_

**MAILING ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

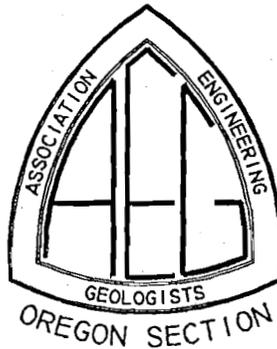
**TELEPHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Mail form and \$10 to Monte Murbach, David Newton & Associates, 1201 SW 12th. Ave. Suite 400, Portland, OR 97205.*

# ANNOUNCEMENT OF OUR NEXT EXCITING MEETING

## MAY 20, 1999

# AEG



Dave Michael, Editor  
Oregon Chapter, AEG  
c/o ODF NWOA  
801 Gales Creek Rd.  
Forest Grove, OR 97116



Charles M. Hammond  
Cornforth Associates  
10250 SW Greenburg Rd. #111  
Portland, OR 97223-5460

MAY 13 1999

