



The Official

# Newsletter

of the Oregon Section Association of Engineering Geologists

Serving Professionals in Engineering, Environmental, and Groundwater Geology

## FEBRUARY 2003 SECTION MEETING

**JON HOFMEISTER, P.E., C.E.G., OREGON DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY  
AND MINERAL INDUSTRIES**

### Hazard Maps for Rapidly Moving Landslides

A new set of GIS hazard maps have been developed to delineate potential rapidly moving landslide areas throughout western Oregon. The mapping project was initiated in response to Senate Bill 12 (passed in 1999), which outlined a number of planning and policy requirements for state and local governments.

The Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) worked with the Oregon Department of Forestry, the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development, Earth Systems Institute, and a number of landslide researchers to compile data and create the maps. Creation of the maps involved GIS modeling, with targeted field evaluations and compilation of historic landslide inventories for quantitative and qualitative comparisons. The GIS modeling required the development of a new tool to spatially address areas of potential initiation, transport, and deposition.

The maps have been developed for all of western Oregon (west of the crest of the Cascades) and the outputs provide a consistent means of evaluating relative hazard. While regional in nature, the maps allow for some very powerful regional evaluations and applications.

Some of the potential applications will be discussed in the presentation. Jon's talk will also provide background information on Senate Bill 12, the mapping procedure, a description of the outputs, and comments on possible uses of the maps by professional geologists and engineers. There will be time left open for collaborative discussion.

#### Jon's Bio

Jon is a geotechnical engineer at the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI). He has been with DOGAMI for 3 years, and previously worked with URS Corp; at GRI; and at K2 Technologies, Inc in California—a

firm specializing in catastrophic risk modeling for insurance industry clients. Jon received his B.S. from Stanford University in Civil Engineering & Engineering Geology (dual degree) and his M.S. from the University of Washington in Geotechnical Engineering. He is licensed as both a civil engineer (in Oregon and California) and an engineering geologist in Washington.

Jon's current professional focus is on identifying natural hazards, and developing long-term mitigation strategies. He has led landslide and seismic hazard mapping projects in Oregon, California, Washington, the

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**This Month's Meeting is on Tuesday February 18**

**Luck Labrador Brew Pub  
915 SE Hawthorne Blvd  
Portland, Oregon**

6:00 pm Social  
7:00 pm Dinner  
8:00 pm Presentation  
\$12.00 dinner (\$6.00 for students).  
Options: Chicken or Veggie Bento

Call URS at 503-222-7200 by 4 pm Thurs. Feb. 13 with your reservation.

There will be a \$2.00 surcharge for those who do not reserve by the deadline. Call now!

A reservation made is a reservation paid.

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

We had an impressive show at the joint AEG-ASCE Geotechnical Group meeting last month, with a significant increase in AEG representation. The primary goal of joining with the Geotechnical Group of ASCE, rather than both the general ASCE section and Geotech Group, was to get more of our members to the joint meeting. This new joint meeting will be an annual opportunity to network and co-mingle with our engineer colleagues involved in similar work. I hope future speakers for this annual meeting can continue to be a combination of an engineering geologist and a geotechnical engineer on a project or topic that brings the two fields together. Although there were difficulties with the facility, food (I apologize to everyone who was at the end of the line and all who were counting on that dessert), and cost, the new tradition of a January meeting with the ASCE Geotechnical Group should be considered a success in that we roughly doubled the AEG representation at the joint

meeting to almost 50 percent. Your Board has met since the January meeting to review the roles and responsibilities of the Board members and Chairs. We look forward to good organization and communication that will be reflected in our meetings and activities.

A topic you may have heard on the local level if you work north of the Columbia River is the potential loss of the Geology Library and other public information programs at the Washington Division of Geology and Earth Resources. If the proposed cuts are accepted, the geologic literature in the library would no longer be available and the Geologic Mapping and Geologic Hazards programs would lose their ability to publish their results. If you use these resources, I encourage you to write a short letter to the legislators in Washington State. Email me and I will forward you the information you need.

On the Association level, many sections of AEG have outreach

programs that offer information and education to the local communities. Activities include workshops, field trips, field manuals for non-geoscientists, mentor programs for children, high school students, or young professionals, teaching an hour or more in local classrooms, etc. I understand there are several of our members that serve in some of these roles already and I would like to form a list of these members and others who are interested in learning how to serve the community as a geoscientist. If you are interested, please email me with the level of involvement you are interested in; I will email you back the current list of potential resources for outreach activities.

Hope to see you all at the Lucky Lab to hear Jon Hofmeister share his work on mapping and modeling landslides and debris flows. It is *not* too early to call in your reservation right now.

*Ruth Wilmoth*  
*AEG Oregon Section Chair*

## SHORT NEWS ITEMS

**Membership Information:** If your membership information has changed, please take the time to update through the AEG Website or by contacting our Chief Staff Executive Becky Roland at (303) 757-2926 x307

**Oregon Section Book:** The 1998 publication "Environmental, Groundwater And Engineering Geology Applications from Oregon" Edited by Scott Burns, with articles by many Oregon Section members, is available from Nature of the Northwest (DOGAMI Book Store at 800 NE Oregon St.), Powell's Book Store, Portland State Book Store (corner 5<sup>th</sup> and Mill), and Amazon.com.

**"Seeking Old AEG Annual Directories":** If anybody has any pre-1997 AEG annual directories, please email George Freitag, History Chair at gfreitag@gri.com. George is compiling our sections history. His mailing address is: GRI Inc., 9725 SW Beaverton-Hillsdale Hwy, Beaverton, OR 97005

**Receive Your Newsletter by E-Mail:** PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO SWITCH TO THE E-MAIL NEWSLETTER. This saves the Section money and simplifies the editor's job. Please send your e-mail address to or.aeg.news@cornforthconsultants.com

OREGON SECTION AEG NEWSLETTER is published monthly from September through May. Subscriptions are for members of AEG affiliated with the Oregon Section or other Sections, and other interested people who have requested and paid a local subscription fee of \$10.00. Email subscriptions are free.

News items are invited and should be sent to: Charlie Hammond, OR Section AEG Newsletter Editor, Cornforth Consultants, 10250 SW Greenburg Road, Portland, OR 97223, email: or.aeg.news@cornforthconsultants.com, phone (503) 452-1100. Electronic media is preferred. Deadline for submittal is Friday three weeks before each meeting.

Please notify Charlie if you have a change to your email or mailing address.

## CALENDAR

**March 18:** Willie Scott, USGS CVO, Three Sisters Bulge Data

**March 30-April 4:** Cordillera GSA in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico

**April 15:** Student Night

**May 2-4:** AEG Executive Council Meeting and Mid-Year Board Meeting, Portland, Oregon

**May 20:** to be determined

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New Madrid Region (central U.S.), and the Gulf Coast—and has teamed with public and private partners to develop proactive planning and implementation programs.

Outside of work, Jon enjoys playing basketball, soccer, and baseball; spending time with friends and family; reading; volunteering; and mineral collecting. He is

actively engaged in community service with agencies including the Oregon Food Bank, Friends of Trees, Hands on Portland, Portland Community Gardens, Union Gospel Mission, Mallory Meadows Community Center, Schoolhouse Supplies, Portland Parks and Recreation, and the Columbia Symphony Orchestra.

## OREGON SECTION OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS



**Chair: Ruth Wilmoth**, Columbia Geotechnical, Inc., (360) 944-7397, cgivanc@aol.com



**Chair-Elect: Warren Krager**, (503) 684-4902, wkrager@aol.com

**Secretary: Rowland French**, Northwest Geophysical Associates, Inc., (541) 757-7231, rowland@nga.com



**Treasurer: Brent Black**, Cornforth Consultants, Inc., (503) 452-1100, bblack@cornforthconsultants.com



**Past Chair: Andrew Harvey**, PBS Environmental, (503) 248-1939, andrew\_harvey@pbsenv.com

**PSU Student Chapter President: Julie Griswold**, griswold@pdx.edu

**Program Chairs: Jason Hinkle**, Oregon Department of Forestry, (503) 945-7468, jhinkle@odf.state.or.us



**Tim Richter**, URS Corporation, Inc., (503) 948-7213, tim\_richter@urscorp.com



**Membership Chair: Matt Brunengo**, GeoEngineers, Inc., (503) 624-9274, mbrunengo@geoengineers.com

**Field Trip Chair: Dave Scofield**, Portland District COE, (503) 808-4867, scofield@onemain.com

**History Chair: George Freitag**, GRI, Inc., (503) 641-3478, gfreitag@gri.com



**Newsletter Editor: Charlie Hammond**, Cornforth Consultants, Inc., (503) 452-1100, or.aeg.news@cornforthconsultants.com



**Assistant Newsletter Editor: Darren Beckstrand**, Cornforth Consultants, Inc., (503) 452-1100, dbeckstrand@cornforthconsultants.com

**Legislature Chair:** position available

**Continuing Education Liaison:** position available

## THANKS FOR SUPPORTING OREGON AEG!

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