

The Official

# AEG OREGON CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

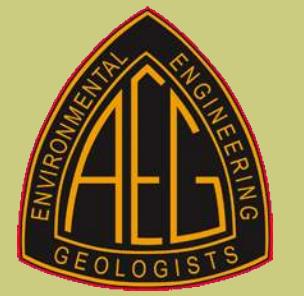
<http://www.aegoregon.org>

MEETING DETAILS
Date: Tuesday, January 25, 2022
6:30 pm Virtual
Location: Virtual Link:

[Pretty Rocks Zoom](#)

Evening Agenda: 6:30 pm Virtual Presentation
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UPCOMING MEETINGS:
Feb 21nd: Maddie German (AEG President)
Mar 15th: Dr. Ashley Streig
Apr 19th: Rick Wooten (Jahns lecturer)
May 17th: Student Night



## The Great one: Pretty Rocks Landslide in Denali National Park

**NOTE THE TIME**

Scott Anderson BGC Engineering  
Orion George FHWA  
Denny Capps NPS



Ninety years ago, the Denali Park Road was built across Polychrome Pass and the Pretty Rocks Landslide. It was excavated into steep slopes containing permafrost at some depth and built with common cut-fill methods of the time. It probably started moving as soon as it was built, but only in a minor way. By the 1960s the movement was notable but manageable with routine maintenance performed as the road opened in the spring each year. By the 1980s and 1990s, more movement was occurring and yet it was still manageable with innovative (at the time) geosynthetic reinforcements and other means, which Denali National Park and Western Federal Lands constructed. By the 2010's, the movement was notably more each year – it was clearly accelerating, and doing so alongside a warming climate. Alternate approaches for managing the landslide or avoiding it were being considered, and in 2020 a careful consideration of alternatives, including the risks, impacts, costs, and the need for rapid solution was made and it was determined that bridging the landslide was the best path forward. Investigation and design was underway throughout 2021, when the rate of movement on the slide became unsafe and unsustainable, so the road was closed. The last vehicle drove across Pretty Rocks Landslide on September 2, 2021, but that is not the end. This talk describes the problem and planned solution, including many innovations along the way – all designed to mitigate impacts of the landslide to Denali National Park and the people who wish to enjoy it.

[It] is the little causes, long continued, which are considered as bringing about the greatest changes of the earth.

James Hutton



## Bio: Orion George

Orion has a BSc (summa cum laude) from Humboldt State University in Geology (2006) and a Geology MSc from Western Washington University (2012) with 13 years of collective experience working as a geologist. He has worked with Barrick Gold Exploration in Alaska and Nevada supporting grassroots and developmental exploration, as an engineering geologist with the Washington State Department of Natural Resources doing slope stability assessments supporting their timber sale program, and most recently as an engineering geologist with the Federal Highway Administration's Western Federal Lands Division supporting projects in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, and Alaska.

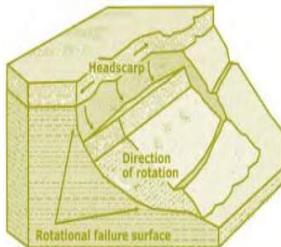


## Bio: Scott Anderson

Scott Anderson is a Principal Geotechnical Engineer with BGC Engineering in Golden, Colorado. He is a former researcher, professor, consultant and technical leader at the Federal Highway Administration. He is trained as a geologist and engineer at the University of Colorado, Colorado State, and the University of California at Berkeley, and he is a member of the ASCE Geo-Institute and AEG, and is active in these and many other professional organizations

## Bio: Denny Capps

Denny Capps is a park geologist at Denali National Park and Preserve. Geologic project manager with 20+ years of experience conducting cutting-edge remote sensing investigations, safe fieldwork in remote environments, and robust analyses.



"The earth is large and old enough to teach us modesty."

Hans Cloos



## Message from the Chapter Chair

Dear AEG Oregon,

A new year-a new wave! I hope you all are faring well, despite the stormy seas.

Now is the time to renew your AEG registration and keep AEG Oregon thriving! We have a great many members in the region- compared to other chapters. And it means we will continue to be an important link in people's professional networks. I hope you'll consider renewing or joining as a member. Students enjoy free registration.

Thanks to all that joined us for a deep dive into the history and evolution of geologic understanding of the Missoula Floods and Channeled Scablands by Jim O'Connor. Whether by Zoom or in-person, it was a great talk!

We hope you'll join us in a few short weeks for our annual joint meeting with our engineer friends, the Oregon ASCE. We are hosting, though virtually, and welcome all to join- please spread the word! (See meeting details in the side bar of this newsletter).

Bravo for continuing to persevere- wherever this newsletter may find you. We welcome any feedback you may have about how AEG Oregon can best serve you. Please reach out to any of the Board members- our contact information is listed below.

Happy trails,

-Nancy Calhoun

Oregon AEG, Chair 2021-22

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Topic: AEG - ASCE Joint January Meeting

Time: Jan 25, 2022 06:30 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

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*"The earth is large and  
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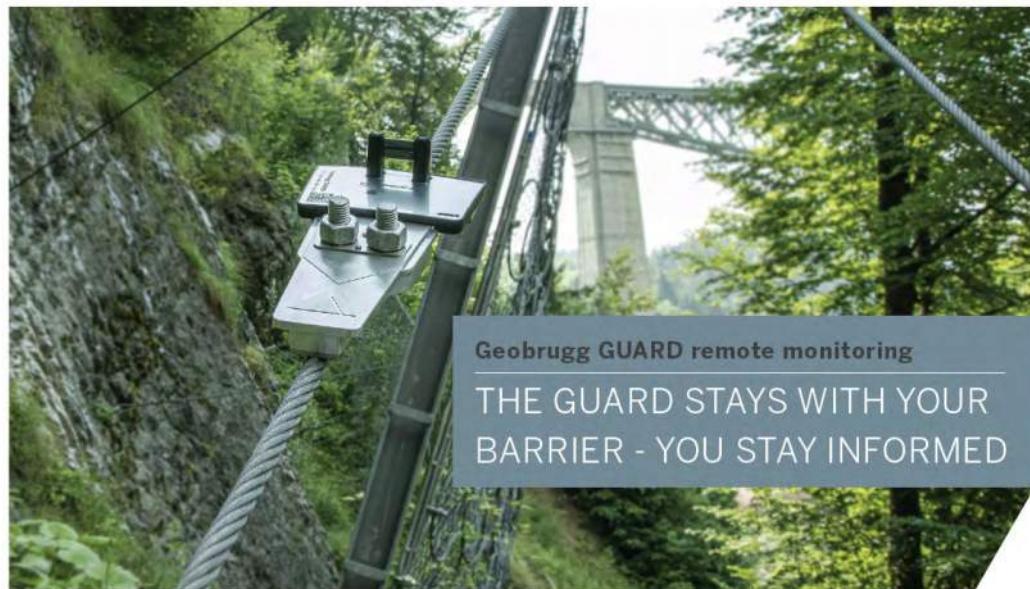
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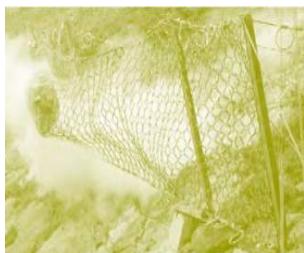
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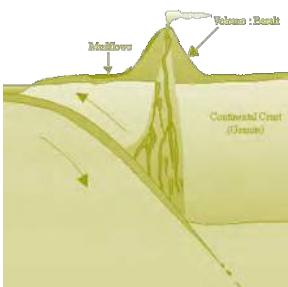
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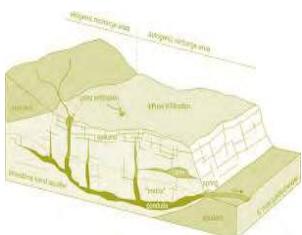
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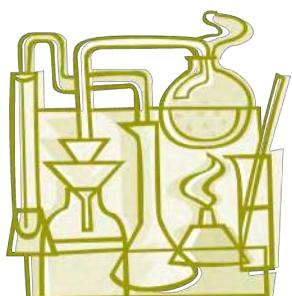


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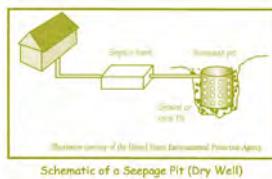


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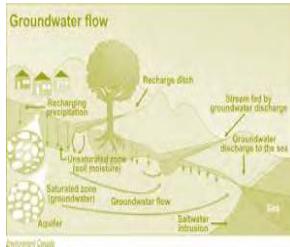


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*"A soil adapted to the growth of plants, is necessarily prepared and carefully preserved; and, in the necessary waste of land which is inhabited, the foundation is laid for future continents, in order to support the system of the living world.."*

*James Hutton*

## Chapter Officers & Committee Chairs



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DOGAMI  
[nancy.calhoun@oregon.gov](mailto:nancy.calhoun@oregon.gov)



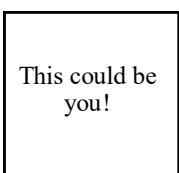
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Aspect Consulting  
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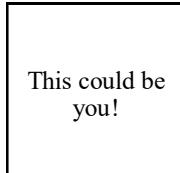
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## The AEG Oregon Chapter Newsletter

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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