OREGON CHAPTER OF THE
ASSOCIATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL &
ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS

March 2023
Volume 11, Number 7

The Official

AEG OREGON CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

http://www.aegoregon.org

Meeting Details:

Date: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 7:00 pm Hybrid

Old Market Pub 6959 SW Multnomah Blvd

RSVP

In-Person $25
Cash or check.
Cards please use link above.

Agenda:

5:30 - 6:30 pm Social
6:30 - 7:00 pm Dinner
7:00 pm Presentation

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

April 05 2023--
Jahns Lecturer (Vince Cronin). *This is NOT on the normal 3rd Tuesday....*

May 23 2023--
Student Poster Night

Engineering Geology in the Court Room: Insight and Lessons Learned in Expert Driven Litigation

Engineering Geologist are no strangers to forensic investigations and analysis. We are regularly called upon to investigate the cause and origin of ground failures, analyze ongoing hazards using advanced technologies and construct physical models based on a variety of historical, remotely sensed and field observations. Legal disputes are a common development beyond these types of projects which many do not have the opportunity to experience.

Navigating the world of expert driven ligation is very much an art of its own. Technical experts are asked to opine on certain facts of a dispute, provide opinions regarding the controversy, and defend the foundation for their opinions under cross examination by counsels and scrutiny by other experts. Understanding the legal process and legal considerations in the context of engineering expert driven litigation is fundamental to being a successful and credible expert. Following an overview of the legal system, the process of expert driven litigation and how that changes from state to state, we will discuss some of the legal challenges that experts are commonly faced with like admissibility, the Frye Standard or worse… Daubert Challenges! Drawing on some key case histories, we will discuss lessons learned.

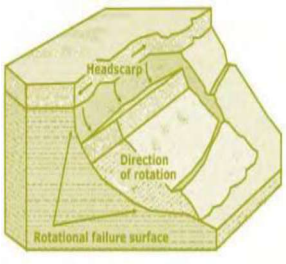
Geologists have a saying - rocks remember.

Neal Armstrong

Julian Waeber, Ph.D., P.E., P.G., C.E.G.

Dr. Waeber has over 15 years of experience in geotechnical engineering and engineering geology in North and Central America, Southeast Asia and Europe. He specializes in the assessment and mitigation of geologic hazards, construction support and characterization of weak and chaotic rock masses. Dr. Waeber has extensive experience with evaluation and design of dams, roadways, landfills, commercial development, pipelines, and natural and manmade slopes. He also has deep experience with the application of remote sensing technologies including continuous GPS, InSAR and LiDAR, particularly for landslide hazard assessment. Dr. Waeber is currently a managing consultant at Exponent, where he provides cause and origin of failure analysis and expert witness consulting in cases relating to geotechnical engineering, engineering geology and construction.

Dr. Waeber earned his doctoral degree from the University of California Berkeley Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. His doctoral research focused on the spatial and temporal behavior of seasonal landslide deformation, using InSAR and GPS to track ground surface displacements. During his studies, Dr. Waeber served as a graduate student researcher at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and remains an active Affiliate of the laboratory, continuing his research on landslides. Dr. Waeber also serves as an Adjunct Instructor at Portland State University, where he has taught a course on slope stability and will be teaching Engineering Geology this spring. Dr. Waeber has been an active and devoted member of the Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists (AEG), for nearly 20 years as well as the International Association for Engineering Geology and the Environment (IAEG). He has provided valuable leadership and engagement through his roles as the AEG San Francisco Bay Area chapter chair and IAEG USA National Group Representative and now IAEG Vice President for North America.



Message from the Chapter Chair

Hello Oregon Chapter!

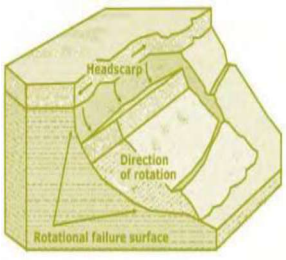
Hopefully you all survived the Great Portland Snowstorm of 2023 and got to enjoy *almost* making history. I'm looking forward to much less exciting weather as we move closer to field work season. I'm sorry I missed the in-person meeting in February, but it sounds like everyone enjoyed celebrating our Chapter on the Rise Award, and an engaging presentation from our AEG President. Sounds like it's onward and upward to Chapter of the Year at the 2023 Annual Meeting. It also sounds like the sound quality for virtual attendees was much better last meeting. A big thank you to our Chair-Elect, Ryan Cole, for researching and purchasing the new USB microphone and associated equipment.

At the March meeting, we're looking forward to hearing a presentation from Julien Waeber on Engineering Geology in court. The court room isn't usually a place that any of us want to be, so I'm looking forward to learning more from Julian. I, for one, have no idea what a Frye Standard or a Daubert Challenge is, but I am going to find out!

On a more somber note, one of the most famous engineering geologists in Oregon, Courtney Cloyd, passed away in January. Courtney worked for the Forest Service in Oregon for many years before transferring to the Washington DC office. His work for the Forest Service on investigating landslides and tying movement to rain events was groundbreaking. His full obituary is available here.

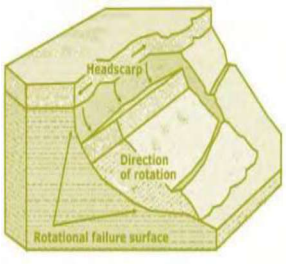
We hope you are all enjoying the first days of almost-spring, and we are looking forward to seeing you in person or virtually on March 21st. As always, if you have any problems with the virtual connection on the night of the presentation, feel free to email me aine.mines@ccilt.com and we'll try to trouble-shoot from OMP.

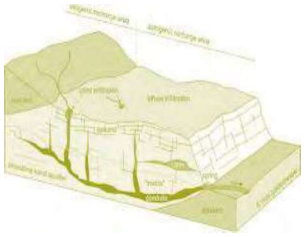
Yours,
Aine Mines
AEG Oregon Chapter Chair 2022-2023

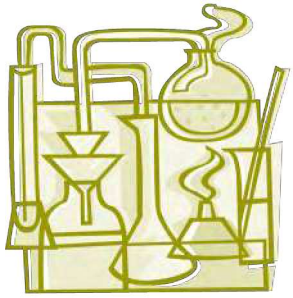


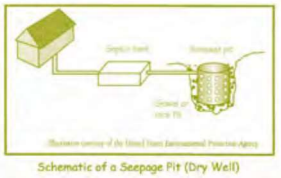
Geologists are never at a loss for paperweights.

Bill Bryson



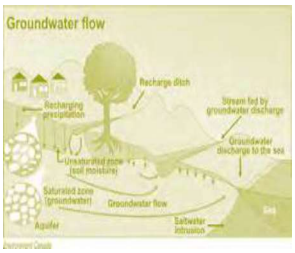






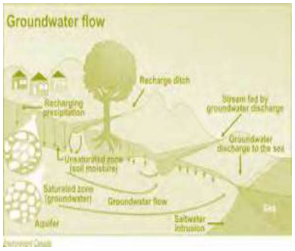
Schematic of a Seepage Pit (Dry Well)

http://www.aegoregon.org



We learn geology the morning after the earthquake.

Ralph Waldo Emerson



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Ralph Waldo Emerson

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The Oregon Chapter is also on the web at
http://www.aegoregon.org
National AEG webpage:
http://aegweb.org

Subscribe to the newsletter by sending any e-mail to aegoregon-subscribe@groups.electricembers.net

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Thanks For Supporting AEG

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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.

AEG OREGON CHAPTER NEWSLETTER is published monthly from September through May. Subscriptions are for members of AEG affiliated with the Oregon Chapter or other Chapters, and other interested people who have requested and paid a local subscription fee of $10.00. E-mail subscriptions are free. News items are invited and should be sent to: Aine Mines, AEG Oregon Chapter Chair, Cornforth Consultants, Inc., 10250 SW Greenburg Road, Suite 111, Portland, OR 97223, e-mail: amines@ccilt.com, phone (503) 452-1100. Electronic media is preferred. Deadline for submittal is the 25th of the month. Advertising: business card size $100/yr; ¼ page $200/yr; ½ page $350/yr; 1 page $450/yr.