

AEG OREGON NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2026

VOLUME 14, NUMBER 6



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

February Meeting

Special Event in Honor of Scott Burns

RSVP **today** if you would like to attend.

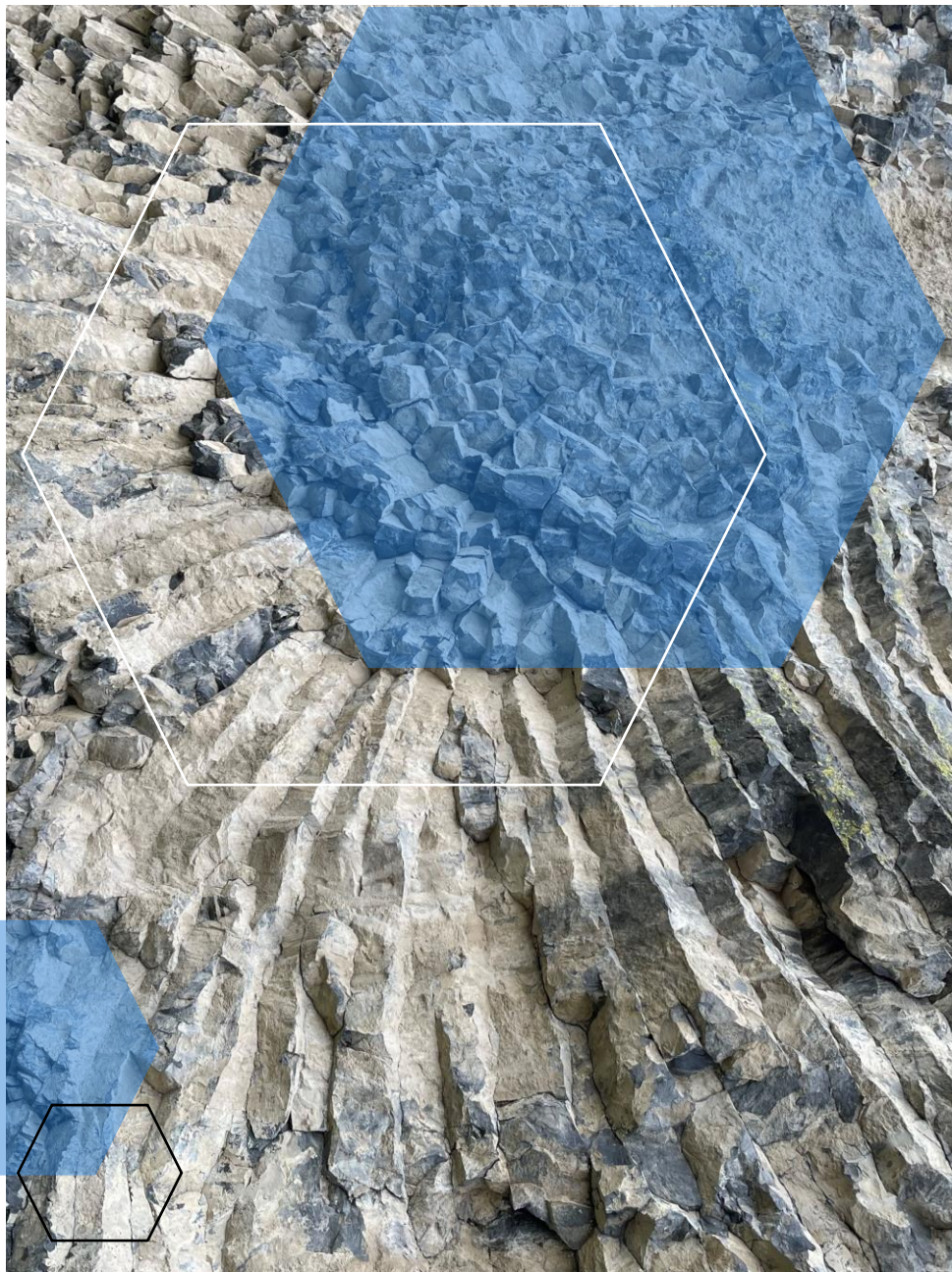
Meet Scott Burns

Letter from the Chair

Fear not what the future will bring.

AEG Oregon Bulletin

Local industry goings-on.



UPCOMING MEETINGS

FEBRUARY 17, 2026

Special Event in Honor of Scott Burns

Oswego Hills Winery

[RSVP deadline is today!](#)

MARCH 24, 2026

Chris Stohr, Richard H. Jahns Distinguished
Lecturer

Steeplejack Brewing Company

APRIL 21, 2026

Paul Weaver, AEG President

MAY 19, 2026

Student Night!



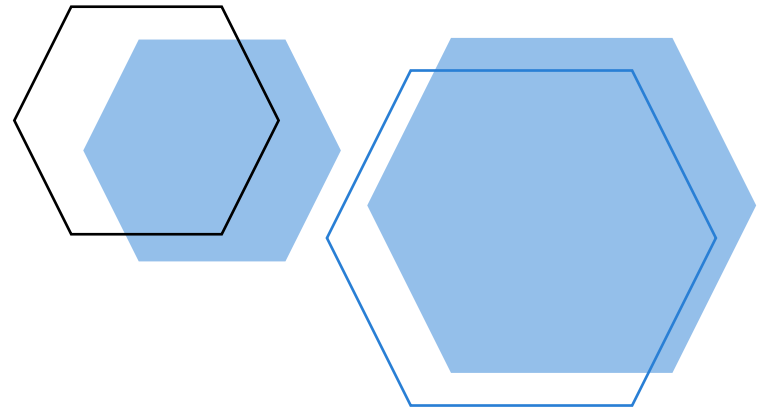
FEBRUARY MEETING

SECRET SPECIAL EVENT IN HONOR OF SCOTT BURNS

An evening to remember! Join us to celebrate Scott Burns upon his second retirement, share stories, and connect with the AEG and wider community. The evening will culminate in the presentation of the AEG Oregon Enduring Impact Award. Don't tell Scott—it's a surprise!

As part of the entertainment, we request that you send photographs, short videos, and statements about your memories with Scott to AEGOregon@gmail.com with "Scott Burns" in the subject line.

At the event, donations will be collected for a scholarship in Scott's name. You may also donate online at <https://donorbox.org/scott-burns-scholarship>.



Your event ticket includes an alcoholic beverage and multi-course meal served at Oswego Hills Winery.

MEETING DETAILS

Date:

Tuesday, February 17, 2026

Time:

5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Location:

Oswego Hills Winery
450 Rosemont Road
West Linn, OR 97068

RSVP:

Deadline to RSVP is **today**, February 2, 2026. Ticket prices vary.





MEET SCOTT BURNS

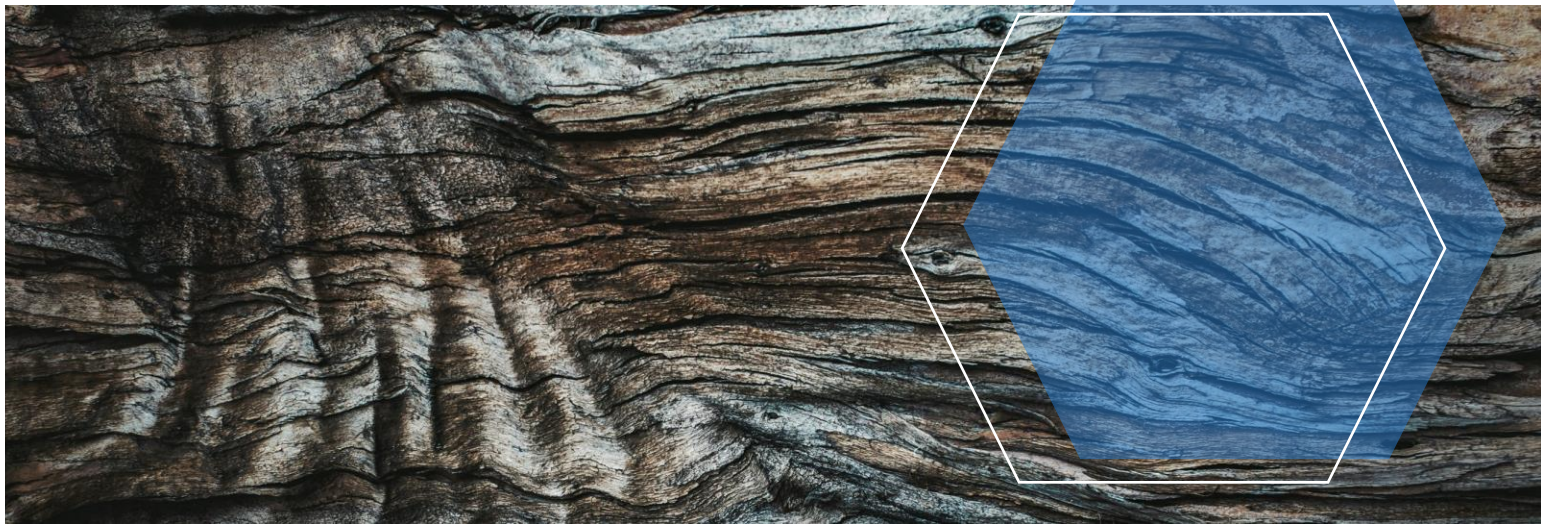
Scott Burns is a nationally recognized geology expert whose career has been defined by an exceptional commitment to public education and outreach, scientific advocacy, and applied geoscience. He is Professor Emeritus of Geology at Portland State University, where he taught for more than three decades and also served as department chair and associate dean. His areas of specialization include landslides and slope stability, environmental geology, soils and terroir, geomorphology, and Quaternary geology, with a particular focus on geological hazards that affect Oregon and the Pacific Northwest.

Burns has authored or co-authored over 100 scientific publications, books, and reports, and has conducted research on topics such as landslide processes, earthquake and radon hazards, soil formation, and landscape evolution, contributing significantly to professional understanding of slope stability, hazard mapping, and surface processes. He is known for bringing geology to broader audiences through public lectures, field trips, media appearances, and community outreach.

In addition to his academic work, Burns has been exceptionally active in a number of professional organizations. He served four years on the Oregon State Board of Geologist Examiners and was a champion for geologic licensure. His impact to AEG has been significant at all levels—serving three terms for the AEG Oregon Board in the mid-1990s (Secretary, Vice President, and President) and serving the same for AEG National in the early 2000s. He was Vice President and, later, President of the International Association for Engineering Geology and the Environment. Throughout his time as an AEG member, Scott has made a point to connect students with industry professionals, assisting many to get their first jobs in the field.

Through sustained teaching, research, and public engagement, Scott Burns has made lasting contributions as an educator and advocate for the geosciences. His consistent commitment to connecting scientific knowledge with real-world applications, supporting professional standards within the discipline, and fostering the development of students and early-career geologists has had an enduring impact on the field of geology and AEG Oregon.





LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

FEAR NOT WHAT THE FUTURE WILL BRING

AEG Oregon,

I hope everyone enjoyed the great talk by Doug Anderson, Evan Garich, and Gary Connor. Denny Capps, our special guest for the evening, expressed to me how grateful he was for opportunity and that he really appreciated the collaboration between the presenters and the audience. So, thanks to you and our friends at ASCE for a great night.

I got some big news recently. A project that I have been working on for eight years is finally going to construction. If am honest, I am equal parts excited and nervous. It is going to be a huge challenge to see it through to completion. In times like this, I turn to philosophy for reassurance. One of my favorites is the following: “Never let the future disturb you. You will meet it, if you have to, with the same weapons of reason which today arm you against the present.” – Marcus Aurelius

In other words, it doesn’t matter what the the future holds. If you stick to logic, wisdom, and rational thinking, you will find a way forward.

I hope that you are all able to join us on February 17, 2026, for our special event honoring Scott Burns. Until then, take care.

Regards,

Nicholas Farny, AEG Oregon Chair





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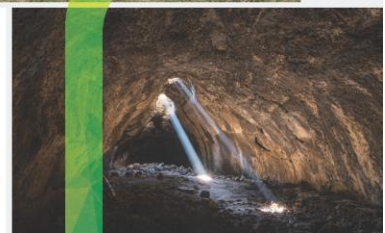
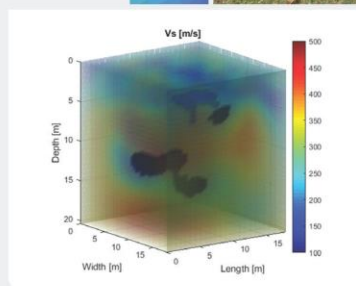
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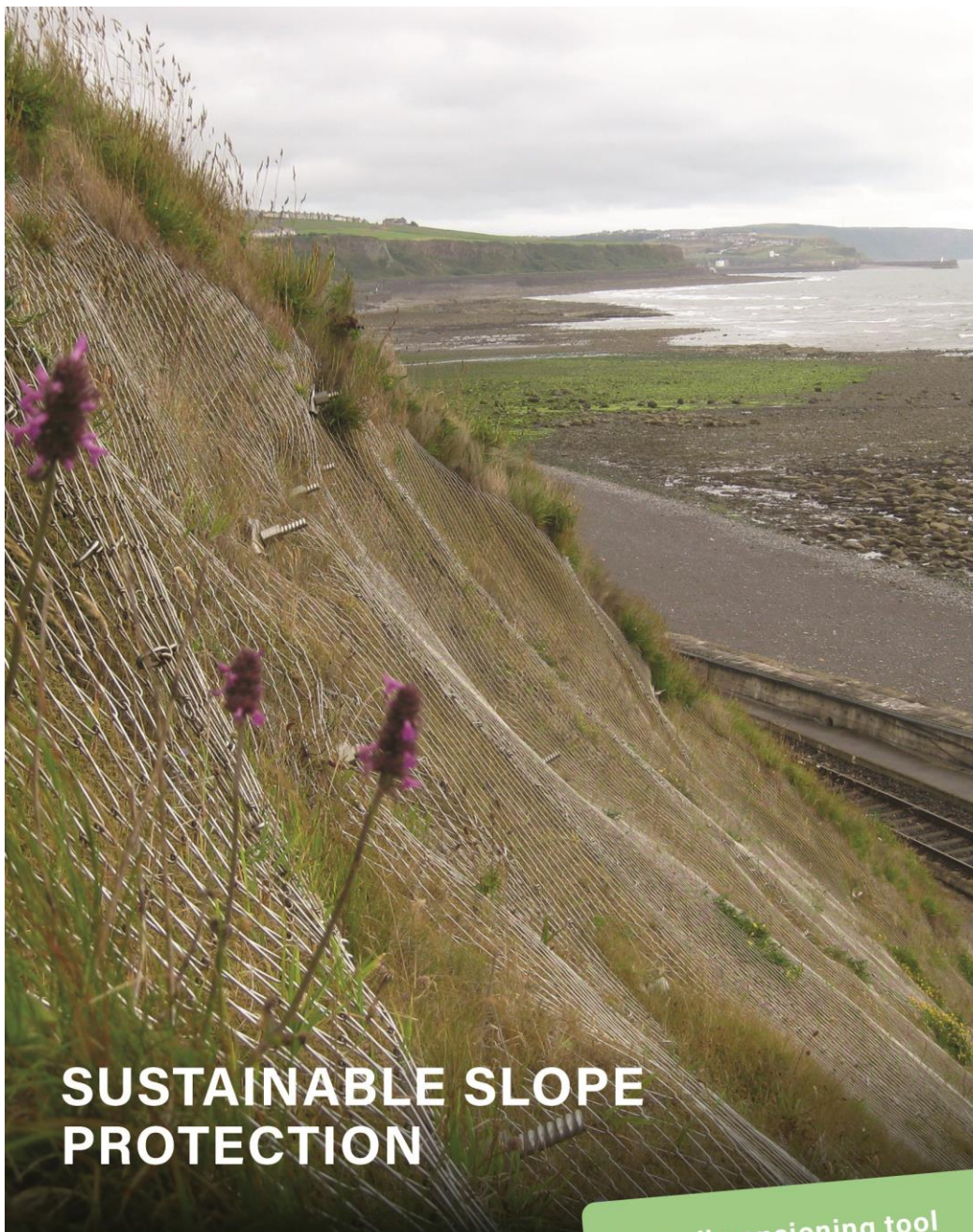
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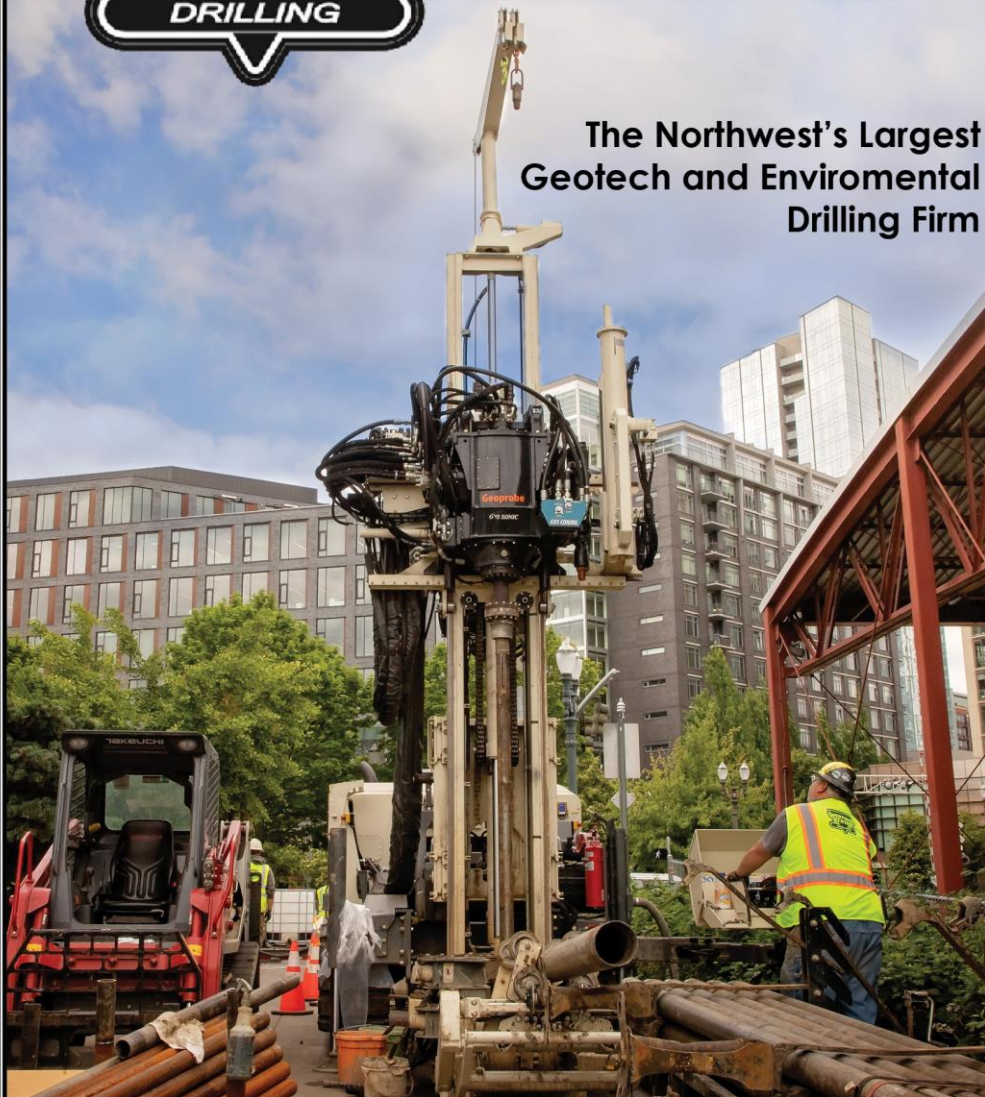
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AEG OREGON BULLETIN

UPCOMING EVENTS

Now through Feb. 16: OMSI presents “Heads & Hearts: Seeing the Landscape through Nez Perce Eyes,” a museum exhibit sharing Nez Perce stories recording historical geological features and events. OMSI, Portland, Oregon.

Feb. 11: The Oregon Natural Desert Association presents Dr. Ellen Bishop, “Forged in Fire: The Volcanic Activity that Shaped Oregon’s High Desert.” 7 p.m., virtual, free.

Feb. 13: The Geological Society of the Oregon Country presents Dr. John Beaulieu, “A Personal Re-evaluation of the ‘Big One.’” 7:30 p.m., PSU Cramer Hall, Portland, Oregon.

Feb. 13–14: Hartfield Marine Science Center, Visitor Center, presents “Fossil Fest 2026.” Newport, Oregon.

Feb. 24: The Central Oregon Geoscience Society presents Reed Burgette, “Illuminating a Deforming Landscape: Mapping and Analyzing Fault Scarps with Lidar across Oregon.” 5:30 p.m., Worthy Brewing, Bend, Oregon (and virtual).

Feb. 25: GRI presents Greg Martin and Mike Marshall, “Get the Dirt on Dirty Dirt—Hazardous Materials Management: From Site Assessment to Project Completion.” Free, virtual. Counts toward your Professional Development Hours!

Mar. 4: GRI presents Nick Hatch and Jack Gordon, “Instrumentation and Monitoring: Project-Specific Applications.” Free, virtual. Counts toward your Professional Development Hours!

STUDENT NIGHT

Student night will be May 19, 2026. This is an opportunity for students to present their projects and mingle with industry professionals. And there are prizes! It’s never too early to start thinking about what you might present.

A NOTE FROM DENNY CAPPS

Members of the Oregon AEG,

Thank you for generously covering my airfare to attend the January AEG/ASCE Joint Meeting. Your support allowed me to participate as an unofficial co-presenter on our presentation about the Pretty Rocks landslide and bridge despite restrictions that prevented me from traveling in my official government role.

I am especially grateful because this support enabled meaningful in-person collaboration between presenters and audience, including encouragement for students. As you well know, the in-person conversations that happen around a formal event are often the most important, and the collaboration extended for days before and after the presentation between government, contractors, and academia. The Denali Park Road and Pretty Rocks landslide and bridge project sit squarely at the intersection of geology, geohazards, and engineering, and the opportunity to engage directly with AEG and ASCE colleagues strengthened both the technical discussion and the broader exchange of ideas. That kind of collaboration is essential for tackling complex infrastructure challenges in dynamic landscapes!

Thank you again for your generosity and for the Oregon Chapter’s commitment to fostering professional connection and shared learning. I truly value the opportunity to collaborate with this community and hope to continue contributing to AEG efforts in the future.

Denny

CALL FOR CONTENT!

We would love to hear from you! Tell us about your recent projects, career milestones, events, awards, and job postings or submit articles and visual elements. Send newsletter contributions to Sarah Norton at snorton@gri.com.

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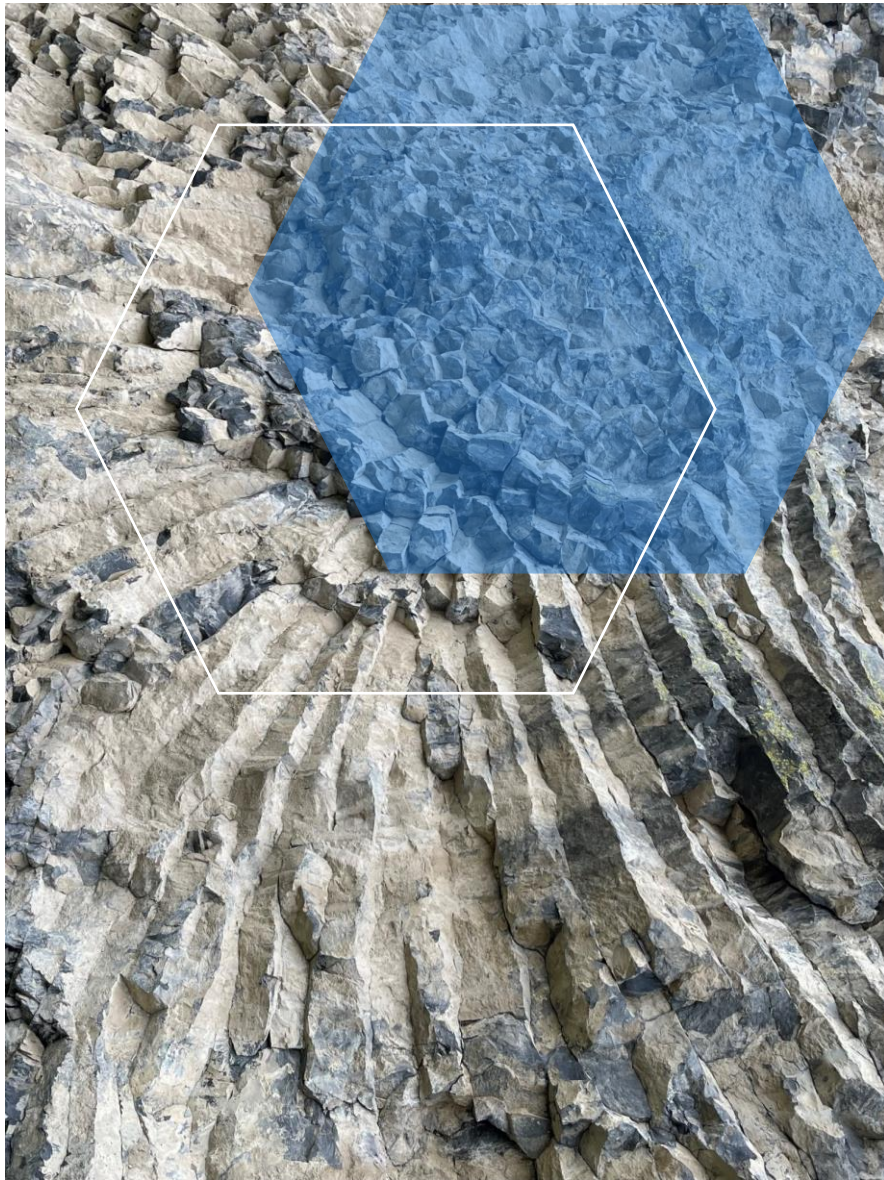
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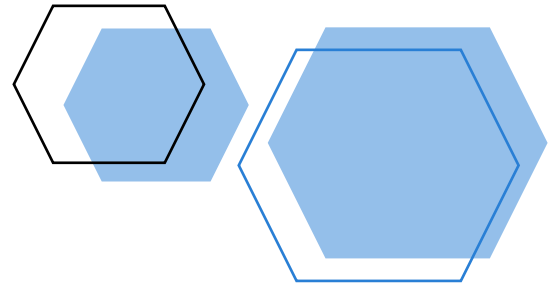
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THE OREGON CHAPTER IS ALSO ON THE WEB

<http://www.aegoregon.org>

NATIONAL AEG WEBPAGE

<http://aegweb.org>



THE AEG OREGON CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

The Association of Engineering Geologists (AEG) contributes to its members' professional success and the public's 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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