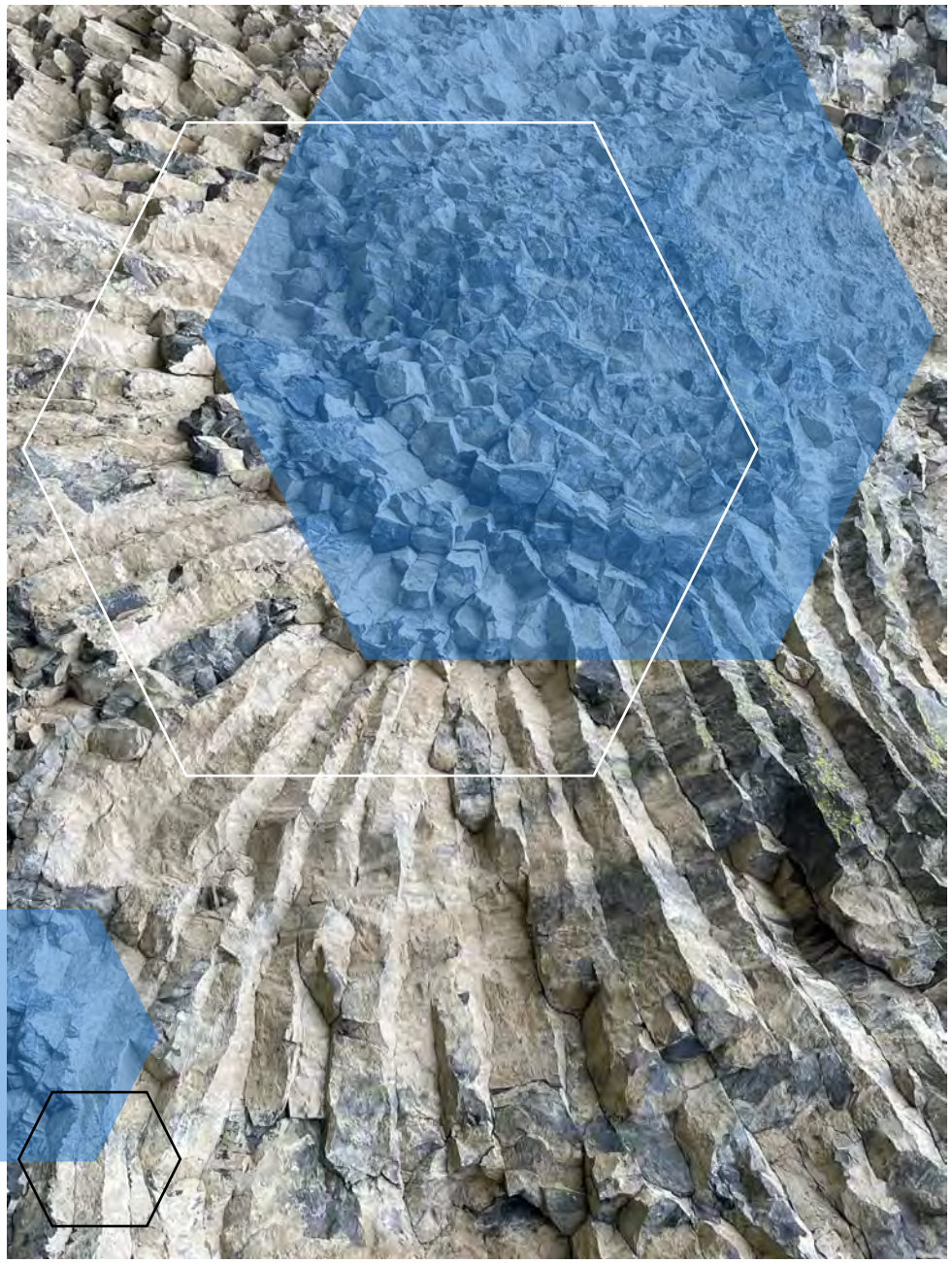
AEG OREGON
NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2026

VOLUME 15, NUMBER 3



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

November Meeting

Monitoring Deep-Seated Landslides and Controls on Shallow Landsliding and Debris Flows.

RSVP here.

Meet the Presenter(s)

Ben Leshchinsky

Letter from the Chair

The season of impermanence.

AEG Oregon Bulletin

Local industry goings-on.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

NOVEMBER 10, 2026

Ben Leschinsky, *Monitoring Deep-Seated Landslides and Controls on Shallow Landsliding and Debris Flows*

Old Market Pub
6959 SW Multnomah Boulevard
Portland, Oregon

DECEMBER 15, 2026

Adam Booth, *Patterns of Paleolandslides and Paleoearthquakes in Oregon and Washington*

Old Market Pub
6959 SW Multnomah Boulevard
Portland, Oregon

JANUARY 19, 2027

AEG/ASCE Joint Meeting

Old Market Pub
6959 SW Multnomah Boulevard
Portland, Oregon

FEBRUARY 16, 2027

Vanessa Swenton, *Geologic Mapping*

Old Market Pub
6959 SW Multnomah Boulevard
Portland, Oregon

NOVEMBER MEETING

MONITORING DEEP-SEATED LANDSLIDES AND CONTROLS ON SHALLOW LANDSLIDING AND DEBRIS FLOWS

This presentation consists of an appetizer and an entree! For a starter, we will keep things cold, wet, and slow-moving by talking about the ongoing surface monitoring efforts of deep-seated landslides across Oregon by Oregon State University via the Oregon Landslide Observatory Network. The main course will be burnt and crispy, focusing on controls on shallow landsliding and debris flows in Western Oregon following wildfire.

Appetizer: Across the state of Oregon, landslides regularly diminish the reliability of transportation systems and pose risks to nearby communities and infrastructure. Understanding the spatiotemporal dynamics of these active hazards is critical for predicting and mitigating risk to person and property. Following the catastrophic failure of the Hooskanaden landslide in late February 2019, our team began instrumenting landslides across the State with RTK-GNSS arrays that provide the continuous 3D position of strategically placed rovers installed on the landslide surface with centimeter-level accuracy. These systems telemeter data to cloud storage every 30 minutes, providing the opportunity for near real-time monitoring and analysis. Here, we evaluate the displacement time series of several instrumented landslides across Oregon and investigate responses to precipitation spatially and temporally. We focus on case studies of active landslides during and after surge events. These data offer insights into the spectrum of slow-moving landslide behaviors, providing a deeper understanding of landslide sensitivity to disturbance and their associated kinematics, as well as useful data for evaluating landslide activity in addition to conventional monitoring techniques.



Entree: Post-fire shallow landslide and debris flow hazards are governed by the interaction among vegetation recovery, sediment availability, and meteorological triggering that evolves years after wildfire. This presentation covers an Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT)-sponsored research project that integrates field observations, laboratory testing, landslide inventorying, geospatial analyses, and inferred precipitation-triggering to evaluate the evolution of landslide hazards following high-severity wildfire in western Oregon. Laboratory testing indicates that root strength undergoes varying degrees of decline after fire, reaching an estimated minimum of approximately 50% of pre-fire strength approximately four years after disturbance, which increases shallow landslide susceptibility. Sediment availability in debris-flow-prone channels appears to play a role in pre- and post-fire hazards in some settings, especially when entrainment and bulking is a key concern. Landslide inventories show heightened post-fire landslide rates in the four years following wildfire in the form of more frequent, smaller failures. While variable and dependent on the site, analyses suggest that requisite precipitation for landslide and debris flow triggering is mixed, with 24-hour triggering rainfall potentially decreasing in some post-fire scenarios but remaining similar to unburned conditions in others. The findings emphasize the need for long-term monitoring and continued tracking of sediment recruitment and infrastructure performance to improve post-fire landslide and debris flow risk response along ODOT corridors.

MEETING DETAILS

Date:
Tuesday, November 10, 2026

Agenda:
5:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., Social
6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., Dinner
7:00 p.m., Presentation

Location:
Old Market Pub
6959 SW Multnomah Boulvard

RSVP:
Ticket prices vary. Use cash or check to pay at the door. If you want to pay with card, RSVP here.

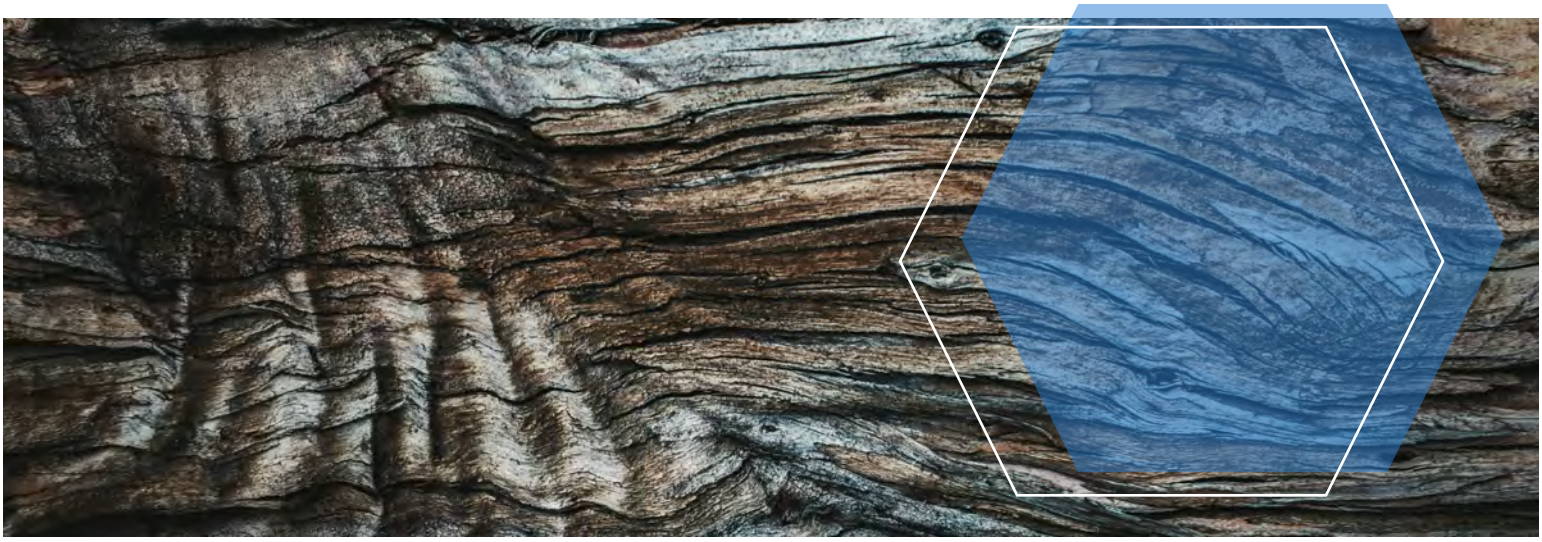


MEET THE PRESENTER

BEN LESHCHINSKY, PH.D., P.E.

Ben Leshchinsky is the Professor and Richardson Chair for the College of Forestry with a joint appointment at the School of Civil and Construction Engineering at Oregon State University. His primary area of research is the monitoring and modeling landslide hazards. Ben has served as Principal Investigator and Co-Principal Investigator on numerous research projects focusing on landslides, with sponsors including the Oregon Department of Transportation, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, National Science Foundation, and industry partners throughout the West Coast and Alaska. He is the recipient of the 2025 American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Walter Huber Prize and the 2020 ASCE Arthur Casagrande Award. However, Ben's only important accomplishment is that he has somehow convinced his children to enjoy triggering slope failures in the sand while digging at the beach.





LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

THE SEASON OF IMPERMANENCE

How is it November already? As I write this, I'm sitting by my office window, watching the gusty winds outside carry red and gold leaves from the trees and skitter them across the wet pavement. Autumn is the annual reminder that everything is impermanent—a fitting thought for those of us who deal so closely with the intersection of manmade infrastructure and geohazards. It's also a month for reflection and thankfulness. And it's very pretty, too.

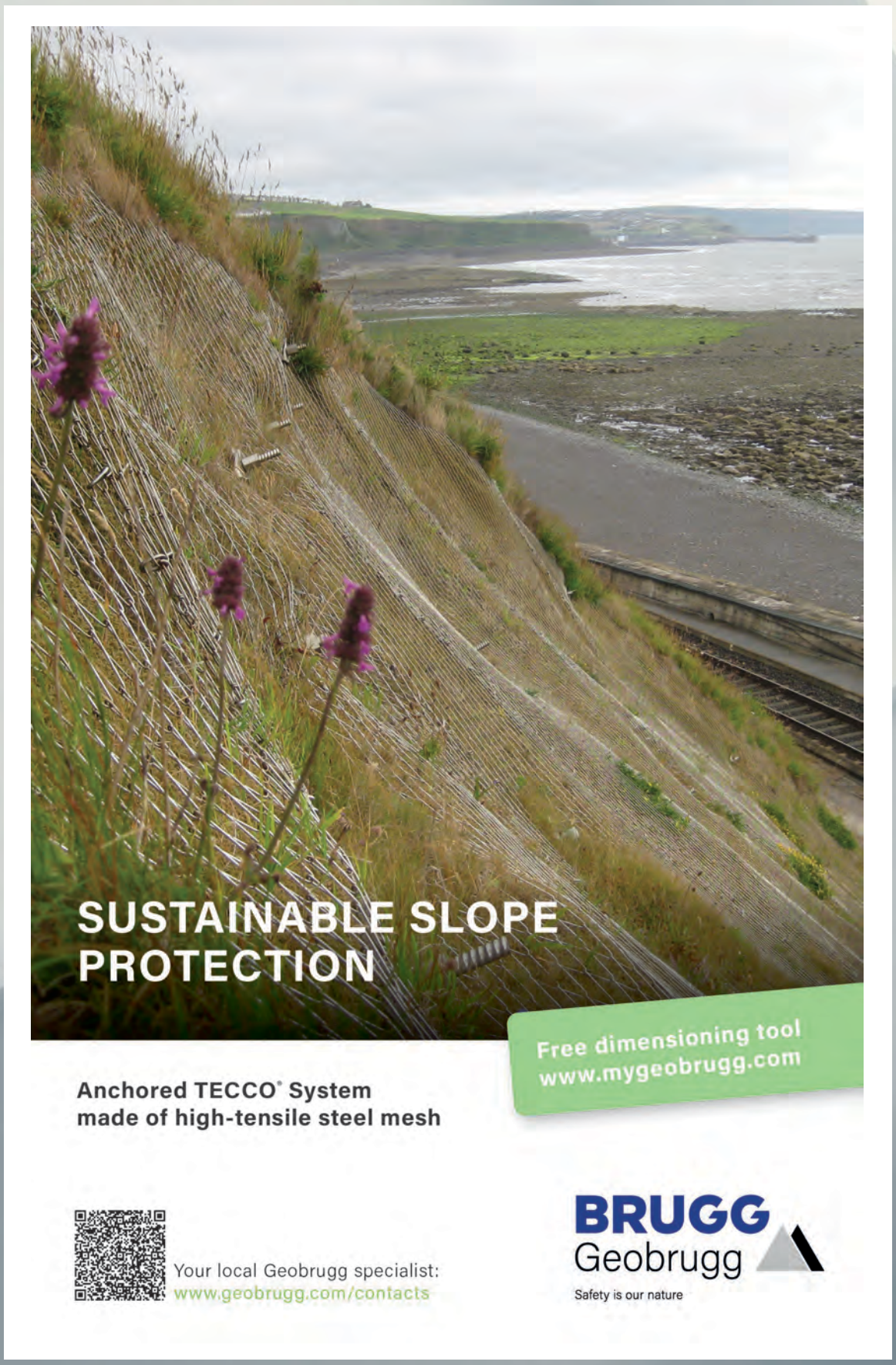
Once again, I'm very excited about our speaker this month, Ben Leshchinsky. He'll be discussing results from his post-wildfire debris flow study. The topic brings back a vivid memory for me. I was on site outside Brookings shortly after the Chetco Bar Fire in 2017, and I'll never forget the devastation that resulted from it. An entire mountain range completely devegetated. The soil was baked into a fine, dry, silty powder that billowed up into the air with each step I took. I remember thinking the place looked like Mordor—straight out of the Tolkien books. And I wondered if it wouldn't all just let loose in the next rain. That image has stayed with me as a stark reminder that the effects of wildfire are numerous beyond the initial flames and continue to affect the landcape long after the burning is done.

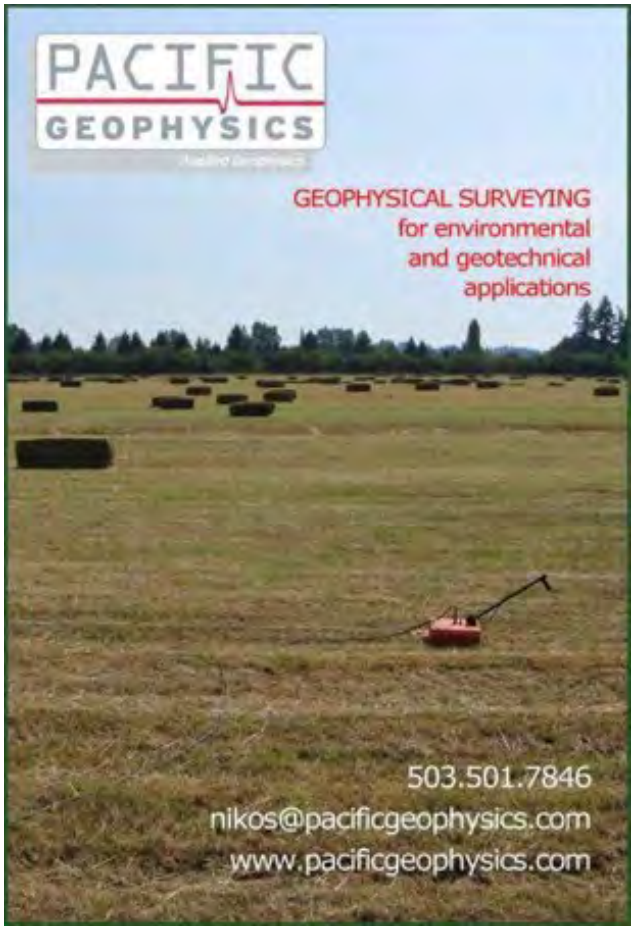
I hope you'll join us for what will certainly be an interesting (and unfortunately, more and more pertinent) presentation and conversation. This month, I'm reminded that I'm thankful for the community that AEG provides and for the opportunities it gives us to learn from one another and to better consider how engineering geology can help the communities we live in.

Wishing you a cozy November,

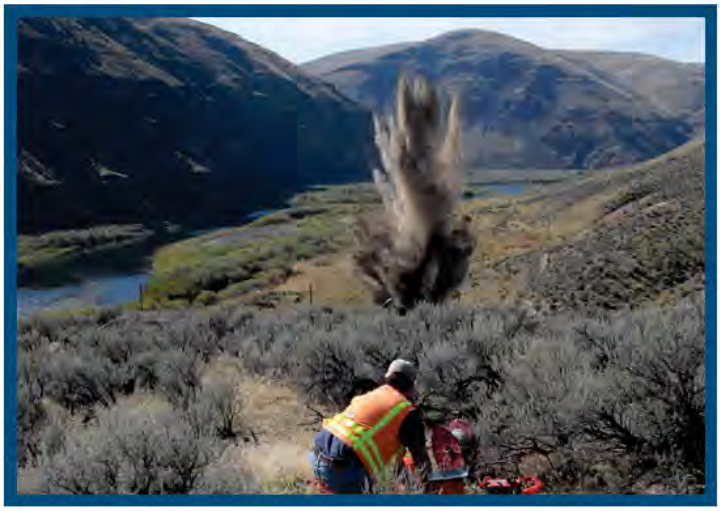
Justin McCarley




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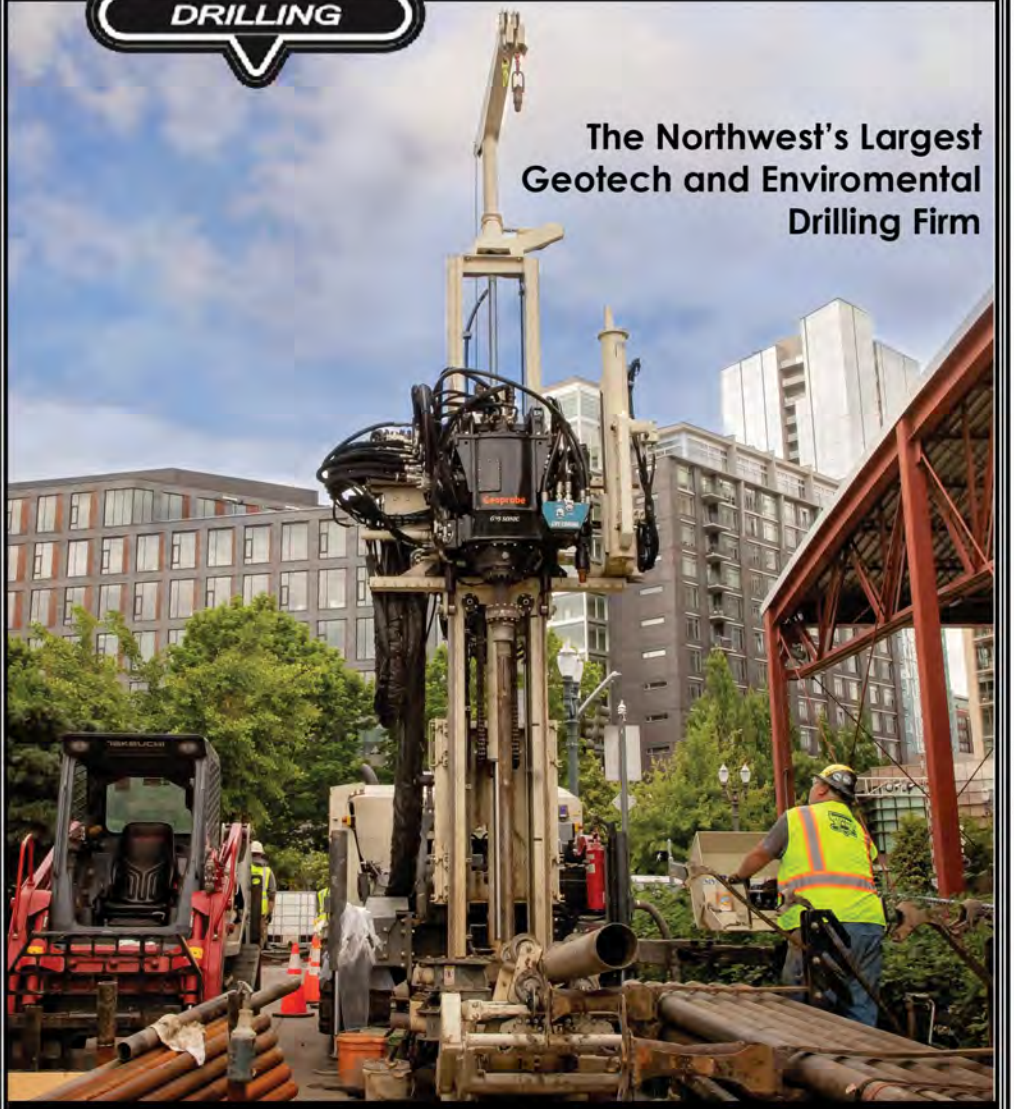
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AEG OREGON BULLETIN

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 2: High Desert Museum presents *Natural History Pub—Building Stream Resilience*, 7 p.m. – 8 p.m., McMenamis Old St. Francis School, Bend, OR.

November 5: Hatfield Marine Science Center presents Patrick Pringle, *Sleuthing Ancient Eruptions, Landslides, and Earthquakes—Deciphering How Buried Trees Record Geologic and Environmental History in Cascadia*, 3:30 p.m. – 4 p.m., HMSC Gladys Valley Marine Studies Building, Carmen Ford Phillips Auditorium, Newport, OR.

November 13: Geological Society of the Oregon Country presents Ian Madin, *Oregon Timestones: A Journey Through Oregon's Geologic History*, 7:30 p.m. – 9 p.m., Portland State University Cramer Hall, Rm 53, and via Zoom, Portland, OR.

November 14: Archaeology Roadshow presents *The Archaeology of Fire and Water*, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m., Columbia Gorge Discovery Center, The Dalles, OR.

November 14–15: Rogue Gem and Geology Club presents *Gem & Mineral Sale*, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. and 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., Josephine County Fairgrounds, Grants Pass, OR.

November 20–22: Gem Faire, times vary, Washington County Fairgrounds, Westside Commons, Hillsboro, OR.

TEST DATES

November 1–15, 2026: GE exam through BPELSG.

SEEKING

The AEG Oregon Scott Burns Enduring Impact Award is now receiving applications. The purpose of this scholarship award is to assist students and early career professionals in costs related to their education and professional development. Apply here.

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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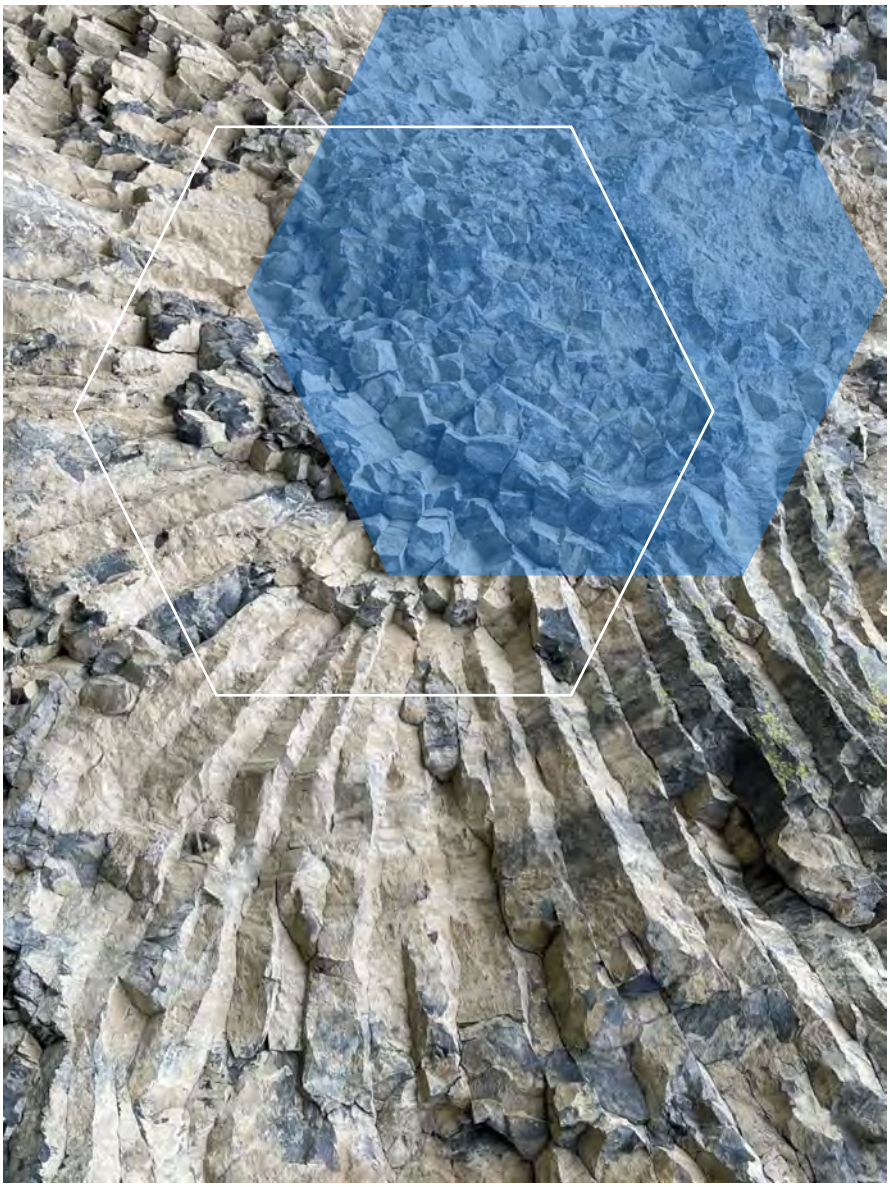
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THE OREGON CHAPTER IS ALSO ON THE WEB
http://www.aegoregon.org

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.

The AEG OREGON CHAPTER NEWSLETTER is published monthly from September through May. Subscribe to the newsletter by filling out out our form here. News items are invited and should be sent to: Sarah Norton, AEG Oregon Newsletter Editor, at snorton@gri.com. Deadline for submittal is the 20th of the month. Advertising: business card size $100/yr; ¼ page $200/yr; ½ page $350/yr; 1 page $450/yr.

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