



**SAVE THE DATE!!**



Saturday, January 21st  
A Social and Potluck

Featuring Dr. Cotter and  
Wanda Hanlon

Tasting Minnesotan wines  
grown and made at  
Whitewater Winery

All are welcome!!

**2nd Annual AWG-MN Fireside Chat:  
Geology, Terroir, and Winemaking of Minnesota**

Please come and join AWG-MN this winter for our second annual Fireside Chat and Potluck Event! This year we have two guest speakers- Dr. James Cotter from the University of Minnesota, Morris and Wanda Hanlon, owner and operator of Whitewater Vineyard. Dr. Cotter will be sharing a presentation on the geology, geomorphology, soils, and climate of the Upper Minnesota Valley grape growing region. Wanda Hanlon will follow with a presentation on the hardy varieties of Minnesota grapes and how to make wine. She will lead a wine tasting featuring some of her Whitewater Wine labels. It is just another chance to socialize with a little learning thrown in for kicks! More details will follow in the next newsletter; but feel free to show your interest by emailing [awg\\_mn@yahoo.com](mailto:awg_mn@yahoo.com) to RSVP.

**Hello Fellow AWG-MN Chapter Members!**

Happy Thanksgiving! In honor of giving back, we would like to develop a mentoring program this year that would help encourage students to pursue a career in science. We hope to establish a network that would enable our members to take advantage of mentoring opportunities. Below are examples of organizations with whom we would like to build relationships and establish a mentoring program. If you are already working with these or any other local science associations, please let us know.

**STEM** (Science.Technology.Engineering.Math)  
Web Site: <http://www.mn-stem.com/>

**Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin River Valleys**

St. Paul, Minnesota 55107-2214  
(615) 227-8835  
(800)845-0787-Local Toll Free Phone  
E-mail: [girlscouts@girlscoutsrv.org](mailto:girlscouts@girlscoutsrv.org)  
Web Site: <http://www.girlscoutsrv.org>



We are seeking contacts within these organizations. If you have any information that would assist us in our goal or would like to participate in the mentoring program please email us at [awg\\_mn@yahoo.com](mailto:awg_mn@yahoo.com).

**Election Results are In**

In August, AWG-MN Chapter held its annual board elections. Thank you for your involvement and taking the time to vote!!

- PRESIDENT: Jessica Hayson
- VICE PRESIDENT: Cheryl Sorensen
- TREASURER: Alicia Duncan
- SECRETARY: Sara Welna
- EDITOR: Heather Arends
- STUDENT REP: Beth Wenell

Through outreach and networking opportunities, we look forward to serving women geoscientists in every stage of their career.



## GSA National Conference 2011—Minneapolis

By Sara Welna

AWG would like to thank those of you who helped with AWG activities held during the Geological Society of America Annual Meeting in Minneapolis last month. For those of you who staffed the AWG Booth, you helped to recruit 36 new AWG members! Other successful AWG activities at GSA include the Women Mentoring Event, AWG Breakfast & Awards Ceremony and AWG Discussion on Issues Facing Women Chairs, Deans and other Academic Leaders. Good job Minnesota Chapter and thank you for your time supporting women geoscientists!

The national AWG Board of Directors and AWG Foundation thanks the Minnesota Chapter for hosting a successful Saturday night dinner and providing a variety of delicious appetizers. The dinner served as an excellent way to kick off GSA-Minneapolis and a perfect opportunity for the national Board of Directors and AWG Foundation to visit with Minnesota Chapter members.



*AWG Board of Directors, AWG Foundation and AWG Minnesota Chapter members at the tropical BBQ dinner hosted by the Minnesota Chapter during GSA 2011*

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## AWG-MN Helps Six Local Teachers Attend GSA

By Alicia Duncan

The GSA Annual Meeting & Exposition presented an excellent opportunity for K-12 earth science teachers to network in the geoscience community, learn about new research, and attend conference sessions focused on bringing scientific research into classrooms. The AWG-MN board set up a stipend program for the occasion by securing funding from the AWG Foundation and reaching out to local earth science teachers advertising the availability of funds to help cover GSA registration. Applicants were required to submit a statement describing what they hoped to get out of their attendance at GSA, a brief summary outlining their school, position, current classes, and if they have attended a GSA meeting in the past.

A total of six teachers applied for the stipend. All entries were well written and sincere in their goals to help young students, particularly female students, get excited about earth science. We awarded \$50 stipends covering the entire cost of registration for each of the six teachers. The AWG-MN board also put together a list of sessions and other events that might be of particular interest to a K-12 teacher attending GSA.

## Student Corner,

by Beth Wenell

Kit Resner is a Land and Atmospheric Science M.S. student in the Department of Soil, Water and Climate at University of Minnesota. In her research she relates the mixing of soils to the activities of non-native invasive earthworms in hardwood forest ecosystems. Her research entails quantifying soil mixing rates using radioisotopes  $^{137}\text{Cs}/^{210}\text{Pb}$  and optically stimulated luminescence (OSL). She also focuses on quantifying the rate of ion release caused by accelerated chemical weathering due to earthworm driven mixing. Her study area near Leach Lake, MN is an ideal natural laboratory that affords the opportunity to study the soil geochemistry along an earthworm invasion gradient.



Kit's research group has collected various types of samples including: soil, litter, earthworms, and water to embrace the interdisciplinary nature of the study. Through ongoing research they will build the inorganic chemistry foundation that will enable the linkage of soil mixing and forest floor change that occurs with earthworm invasion.

Kit has enjoyed digging soil pits and being in the field throughout her graduate career, and she has also enjoyed the laboratory environment. She has greatly enjoyed working with the project's collaborators and learning more about related sister disciplines (e.g. ecology, hydrology, geology). She hopes to continue her academic career by seeking to further understand how ecosystems change based on the various geochemical processes within the soil environment.

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## DATES OF INTEREST

### AWG-MN NETWORKING BREAKFAST

Every 2nd Friday, 7 am  
Minneapolis Egg and I  
2828 Lyndale Avenue South  
612.872.7282



- December 9, 2011- 7 am – Networking Breakfast at Egg & I in Minneapolis  
January 13, 2011- 7 am – Networking Breakfast at Egg & I in Minneapolis  
January 21, 2012- 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fireside Chat – Geology, Terroir, and Wine Making in Minnesota: Dr. Cotter (more details to follow in our next newsletter)  
February 18, 2012- SC/SW MN Regional Science & Engineering Fair – Mankato State University (opportunities to volunteer as a judge are available – email: [awg\\_mn@yahoo.com](mailto:awg_mn@yahoo.com) for more details)