



AWG-MN Newsletter

WINTER 2010

VOLUME 2

GEOPALOOZA!

AWG MN is planning an exciting weekend of activities that we are calling "Geopalooza 2010" and we wanted to get you all the information as soon as possible because we know how calendars can fill up!! This event will coincide with the upcoming AWG National Board meeting to be held in St Paul MN on May 1st. Below are some initial details to help you plan the event. A small cost may be associated with the event to cover meals, admission cost, and potential group transportation but we expect the cost to be around \$20-30 to remain affordable. You can attend both day's events or just one of the days if you prefer. Please email me at awg_mn@yahoo.com if you are interested in more information.

Geopalooza 2010 • May 1st and 2nd

Events to include:

Trip to Mystery Cave – Spring Valley, WI
Tour of St Paul area Geology (may include Lilydale Brickyard, St Anthony Falls, Wabasha caves, and other St Paul Geological points of interest.)
Summit Brewery Tour

Estimated Schedule:

Saturday – Cave Tour, Picnic, Summit Brewery Tour
Sunday – St Paul area Geology (approximately 9 am – 12 noon)

We hope to see you all soon at one of our upcoming events. Please keep a eye out on the website for more info.

Thanks!
Jessica, AWG MN President

AWG National Board of Directors



The AWG Board of Directors (BOD) is the governing body of the Association, managing the affairs and funds of the Association. The BOD meets twice per year to conduct Association business. Delegates representing each of the six AWG regions, a Student Representative and the Association Officers are present for each meeting. The AWG Foundation meets to take care of Foundation business including review and approval of awards, scholarships and grants.

This coming spring, the AWG Board of Directors and AWG Foundation will hold their bi-annual board meeting on May 1st 2010 at the St. Paul Holiday Inn. Following the meeting, an evening social gathering will be held at a venue in St. Paul (venue has yet to be determined.) AWG Minnesota Chapter members are encouraged to attend the social gathering to meet your Association officers, directors and foundation officers. Stay tuned for further details or contact Sara Welna, AWG President Elect and AWG Minnesota Chapter Treasurer, at sarawelna@gmail.com for details.

MESTA 2010!

MESTA stands for Minnesota Earth Sciences Teacher Association. Each year, Earth Science teachers from all over the state, from K-12 through higher education, gather to learn more about Earth Sciences and how to work with it in education.

This year the conference is being held at the Kelly Inn, St. Cloud, Minnesota on Friday February 5th 2010, from 8-5. AWG will have a booth on the premises from 12-1, in order to offer resources to educators and to mix it up with others that are interested in Earth Sciences. For more info, go to <http://www.mnsta.org/>

BONUS! Our booth will be next to another group called the Geological Society of Minnesota (GSM), which completes a lot of Earth Sciences educating, volunteering and resourcing. Interested? Check out their site at <http://www.tc.umn.edu/~smith213/index.htm>

So stop on in and say hello. If you are interested in helping, please contact the AWG chapter through Michelle Sutherland at suth0032@umn.edu.

Featured Student Corner

Many people are familiar with the role of a geologist in finding oil through the use of seismic data and core samples. During my internship I learned about another role which geologists play in large oil companies. I worked with operations geologists, who estimate the pore pressure and fracture gradient of the formation that is being drilled through. These values are used while drilling to ensure that the well is drilled safely, both for the environment and the drillers on the rig. This experience gave me a unique opportunity to learn about a different side of the oil industry and work with geologists as well as drilling engineers.

Stephanie Day, dayxx196@umn.edu

Schedule of Events

Greetings to new and continuing members of the Minnesota Chapter of AWG. This year we are going to be meeting as much as possible beyond our breakfast networking events. Look for notices about field trips, happy hours, joint programs with other local associations, volunteering, and most of all, good times.

Just to keep everyone on top of the calendar, to start with, here are the dates for the upcoming Breakfast and Happy Hour meetings:

- Friday January 8th, 7am - 8am, St. Paul Egg and I Café
- Thursday February 11th, 5:00pm – 7pm, Blarney Pub & Grill, Dinkytown 412 14th Avenue Southeast, Minneapolis, MN, (612) 331-1527
- Friday February 12th, 7am - 8am, Minneapolis Egg and I Café
- Friday March 12th, 7am - 8am, St. Paul Egg and I Café
- Tuesday April 6th, 11:45am – 12:45pm, Joint Luncheon with AIPG Radisson Hotel Roseville 2540 North Cleveland Avenue: I-35W & County Rd C

Remember, this is everyone's AWG chapter, so drop a line and let us hear from you.

AWG-MN Fall Survey Results

The results are in! A total of 10 people filled out the survey. 40% of those individuals have been members of AWG for five years or more. How do folks end up getting involved in AWG-MN? Word of mouth! What do our members value the most about our organization? The most common responses were networking for professional opportunities and building a sense of community.

Thanks to those of you who filled out the survey. We love to get suggestions for improvement, and we'll be working in incorporating these suggestions into the next successful year of AWG-MN!

Science Fairs

We have typically sent 2 judges to each of the following Science Fair Events to represent AWG MN and we designate a special award for students with Geoscience projects to be presented the day of the events:

This year's 59th Annual Junior/Senior High Regional Science & Engineering Fair will be held on **Saturday, February 6th** – three weeks earlier than last year..

The Elementary Regional Fair will be on **Saturday, May 1, 2010**.

Additional information on these events can be found at www.mnsu.edu/sciencefair. Please email us at awg_mn@yahoo.com if you are interested in volunteering for these events.

Additional regional and state fairs are listed below. Each fair has a website for further information. The main website for science fairs in Minnesota can be found at the Minnesota Academy of Science: <http://www.mnmas.org/mnmas/Home.asp>. If you have questions about how to get involved, feel free to contact the AWG chapter through Michelle Sutherland at suth0032@umn.edu.

Region	Date(s)	Location
Northeast Regional Science Fair	2/6/2010	U of MN, Duluth, Kirby Student Contact: Cindy Welsh cwelsh@cloquet.k12.mn.us
Southcentral/ Southwest RS&EF	2/6/2010	Centennial Student Union, Minnesota State University, Mankato www.mnsu.edu/sciencefair
Twin Cities Regional Science Fair	2/12/2010- 2/13/2010	Univ of MN - Field House, 1800 University Ave, Minneapolis www.tcrsf.org
Rochester Regional Science Fair - Papers	2/16/2010	University Center Rochester in the Regional Sports Center. www.rochester.k12.mn.us
Rochester Regional Science Fair - Projects	2/18/2010- 2/19/2010	on website - (from "Academics" pull-down menu select "Rochester Regional Science Fair).
Central Region Science Fair	2/20/2010	Atwood Memorial Union at SCSU web.stcloudstate.edu/jfmckenna/Regional%20Science%20Fair/sciencefair.html
Southeast Regional Science Fair	2/26/2010	ST MARYS UNIVERSITY TONOR CENTER GYM, 700 Terrace Heights Winona, MN 55987 www.winona.edu/sciencefair
Western Regional Science Fair	2/27/2010	Minnesota State University Moorhead, Comstock Memorial Union www.mnstate.edu/csnsoutreach/
State Science Fair	3/26/2010- 3/28/2010	Crown Plaza Hotel, St. Paul http://www.mnmas.org/mnmas/Home.asp
South Central/Southwest Reg. Science & Eng. Fair - ELEMENTARY Division	5/1/2010	Bresnan Arena in Taylor Center and Myers Field House Minnesota State University, Mankato

Sport your AWG style!

Find AWG gear including a fleece pullover, tote, pens, and pins at <http://www.awg.org>.

ALL proceeds go directly to sustain AWG programs. Please support your Association and ORDER TODAY!

