



**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION of GEOSCIENCE TEACHERS**

## **PACIFIC NORTHWEST SECTION - 2005 ANNUAL REPORT**

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### **President's Report**

2005 was another "stable" year for the Pacific Northwest Section. The membership numbers have remained relatively constant (although dropping slightly) as have the section finances (see report below) and the section enjoyed another very successful annual conference. The annual conference was held in beautiful Coos Bay, Oregon, and was hosted by **Ron Metzger** and Southwestern Oregon Community College (see below). Ron did an outstanding job organizing the conference that ultimately went off without a hitch. We have added two new state councilors since the 2004; **Shawn Willsey** (College of Southern Idaho) and **Tom Lindsey** (Portland State University). There have been no other changes in regards to the section officers or state councilors. In the spring of

2006, the section will have officer and councilor elections. The section put out three newsletters (Fall 2004, Winter 2005, Spring 2005) under the guidance of **Cassandra Strickland** (Newsletter Editor). This was Cassandra's first full year as editor and she has done a fantastic job in adding images and pizzazz to the newsletter. The section continues to be relatively (but not overwhelmingly) "active" with regards to membership interest in the annual conference with some participation by state councilors in state-related earth science functions at either the K-12 or college-levels. As of the writing of this report, the 2006 section conference site has **NOT** been officially announced. This is a concern because we are now significantly behind schedule in regards to the timetable for putting together the 2006 section conference.

In summary, we had a spike of interest with regards to the addition of new councilors in 2004-05, and we have a truly dedicated newsletter editor. Attendance at the section conference was surprisingly less than expected considering the spectacular beauty and fantastic geology of southwest Oregon. We made quite an effort beginning in the Fall of 2004 to promote the Coos Bay conference so section participation was disappointing. Only one member from of the national NAGT (**Scott Linneman**, also a NW section member) attended the section conference and that was nice because he brought an important organizational perspective to the meeting. But overall, participation by the section membership remains relatively benign. Finally, there continues to be minimal interest by the section to aggressively recruit new members and especially new members from the K-12 ranks throughout the Pacific Northwest.

### **Vice President's Report**

The vice president of the Northwest section of NAGT position is kind of like the US vice president's job used to be -- not a lot to do, except stay in touch and help make things happen behind the scenes. In 2005, the highlight was our annual meeting in Coos Bay, which was a smashing success to which we owe Ron Metzger much thanks. I appreciated the thoughtful session there on so-called intelligent design, which I found encouraging because it reminded me that we in the geoscience education community have a very important job, teaching geology on the basis of logic, evidence, and a devotion to addressing the facts as they are rather than as people might prefer them to be. As long as we stick with that we will keep moving forward to a better-educated future. We are now trying to get the 2006 annual meeting for the Northwest section of NAGT arranged. I expect you will be hearing more about that soon as the site is verified and one or two more key volunteers step forward. I look forward to seeing you all there, along with your friends.

### **OEST Coordinator Report**

The Pacific Northwest section has recognized two outstanding Earth Science educators this year. The Pacific Northwest Section OEST award this year goes to **Lynda Sanders** of Sunset Middle School in Coos Bay, Oregon. Ms. Sanders has been teaching in the Coos Bay public school district for over 15 years. One of the highlights of her application was her participation in an AGI pilot study testing the CUES (Constructing Understanding of Earth Systems) curriculum. Lynda has participated in the National Science Teachers Association (and the state affiliate OSTA), been certified by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS program) and is active in her community. The Washington State OEST Award this year went to **Mark Anderson** of the Housel Middle School in Prosser, Washington. Mr. Anderson is recognized as an educator who not only gets his middle school students to understand earth sciences, but also gets them excited about the subject. He utilizes his field experiences from industry in conjunction with his Master's in Teaching to generate an awareness of the local geology that surrounds his students. The Pacific Northwest section is fortunate to be able to recognize two dedicated and outstanding educators.

### **State/Province Reports**

Alaska: the University of Alaska will be hosting the GSA Cordilleran Section meeting in May 2006 (Anchorage) and the Northwest Section of NAGT will be sponsoring a teacher workshop and geoscience education session along with a student poster session. **Cathy Connor** (Alaska state councilor) is the primary contact for this event.

British Columbia: N/R

Idaho: **Shawn Willsey** will be attending the "Great Rift Science Symposium" in Pocatello (October) on behalf of NAGT. This meeting coincides with the Idaho Science Teachers Association (ISTA) meeting. Shawn will attempt to network with earth science educators on behalf of Pacific Northwest section of NAGT.

Oregon: **Frank Granshaw** attended Oregon Science Teachers Association annual conference in Salem, Oregon on behalf of NAGT. Frank organized and maintained a booth at the conference along with **Mike Goodrich**, another NAGT member. Frank estimates that over 60 attendees visited their booth. Frank and Mike presented NAGT membership information along with information about teacher workshops at Portland State University. Frank reported that many of the K-12 science teachers were interested in the field trips offered at the annual Pacific Northwest Section conference.

Washington: **Joe Hull** attended the annual National Science Teachers Association meeting in Seattle, in November 2004. Joe met with K-12 science teachers on behalf of NAGT. As usual, the main question that came up regarding what NAGT has to offer to K-12 science teachers is “what do you have that I can use in my classroom, that works for my age and grade level, and how does it address either the **WASL** or the **state science standards**?”

### Membership Report

Membership in 2005 dropped slightly from 2004. As of September, the total number of members had decreased to 130.

May 1999	119
May 2000	93
May 2001	142
May 2002	133
May 2003	129
May 2004	127
Sept. 2004	137
Sept. 2005	130

### Treasurer's Report

<b>Beginning Balance:</b> 6/30/04	<b>\$3720.00</b>
Income:	\$675.25
Expenses:	\$239.41
<b>Ending Balance:</b> 8/30/05	<b>\$4155.84</b>

### Income

Rebate:	\$322.50
Guide books sales:	\$68.00
Misc: Bellevue rebate	\$284.75
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$675.25</b>

### Section Newsletter

The Pacific Northwest Section has circulated three newsletters (Sept. 2004, Feb. 2005 and April 2005) during this fiscal year. Although the newsletter is under direction of a new editor, the format has remained relatively unchanged. Regular news items include “From the President” and “State News” (contributed primarily by state councilors). Other news items are welcomed from any NAGT member. Most submittals regard meetings (NAGT, GSA, state educational, etc.) and award programs (e.g. OEST); however, the newsletter has included several articles of teaching/educational interest.

### Annual Section Meeting/Conference

The annual section conference was held in beautiful Coos Bay, Oregon (June 22-25) and was hosted by Southwestern Oregon Community College. Ron Metzger was the primary coordinator and he single-handedly put together a fantastic conference. Ron continued maintained several organizational “traditions” for the conference by holding it in late June soon after the completion of Spring term classes. He also coordinated a field-trip based format with various options for the attendees and their guests. And finally, the conference had a one day session of talks devoted to earth science teaching and the field-related local geology of southwestern Oregon. There were 3 days of field trips with one day of talks and discussion with a total of 36 people registered for the conference and 13 presenters. The pre-conference field trip included coastal geology, neotectonics, and Native American history of the Cape Blanco area. The second field trip visited the coastal geomorphology of the Oregon Dunes National Monument and the geology of the areas north of Coos Bay. The third and final field trip visited the spectacular coastline of Fossil Point and Cape Arago. The conference included a day of talks focused on the teaching of earth sciences with a two-hour session devoted to the controversial topic of “Intelligent Design” and the K/12 science curriculum. Mark Terry (Northwest School, Seattle) and Scott Linneman (Western Washington University) guided this very provocative and enlightening discussion. The evening dinner was capped with a presentation on *National Parks as Classrooms* by Bob Lillie of Oregon State University. The conference was promoted via numerous section and national announcements starting in the fall of 2004 along with a conference website developed by Ron Metzger.

### Publications

The section continues to offer guidebooks (for sale) from the 1999-2005 conferences. The interest in these guidebooks has been encouraging and Joe Hull is continuing to work with conference organizers on consistency and how to have guidebooks prepared so they can be made easily available for sale. Guidebooks are available for purchase via the section website.

**Section Web Site**

The section website has moved to a new host site (<http://nagt.org/nagt/organization/northwest/>) is being actively maintained by **Jenny Thomson** (Eastern Washington University). The site is now being coordinated directly with the national NAGT website and the Pacific Northwest Section site is consistent in design and content with the national NAGT site.