

## ASSOCIATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS

*"Serving Professionals in Engineering, Environmental, and Ground-Water Geology"*

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# THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN SECTION NEWSLETTER

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[www.aegrms.org](http://www.aegrms.org)

### MEETING DATE

**FRIDAY**  
**JANUARY 20<sup>th</sup>, 2006**

### TIME

5:45 p.m. Social Hour  
6:30 p.m. Dinner  
7:30 p.m. Presentation

### LOCATION

**Holiday Inn**  
455 S Colorado Blvd  
Denver, CO  
See map below

### COST

\$25 Members  
\$25 Non-members  
**Students, Free first time,  
then \$10**

### **CASH BAR**

### RESERVATIONS

c/o AEG Reservation Line  
(303) 264-1030  
[meetings@aeqrms.org](mailto:meetings@aeqrms.org)  
**BY NOON, TUESDAY**  
**JANUARY 17<sup>TH</sup>**

**January our meeting aligns with the mid year board meeting for National. Please note that this meeting is on a *Friday* and will cost \$25 instead of \$20**

### **Katrina: Geologic, Disaster, and Personal Perspectives**

Darrel W. Schmitz, Ph.D., P.G.

President, Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists  
Professor of Geology & Head, Department of Geosciences, Mississippi State University

Katrina was "born" on August 24 as the twelfth storm of the 2005 Atlantic hurricane season. After raking southern Florida she became an extraordinary large category 5 (Safer-Simpson scale) storm covering about half of the Gulf of Mexico. Katrina made a second landfall, the first in the northern Gulf, as a category 4 at Burris, Louisiana. She then made an additional landfall near the Louisiana-Mississippi state line. The large size and prior strength, coupled with the geography of the shoreline, resulted in a record high storm surge. The storm surge affected coastal areas from Louisiana to Florida while spawning tornadoes in Georgia. Katrina's impacts were disastrous. In addition to the devastation by the storm surge, coastal landforms were altered. Some offshore islands are nearly gone, while new sediment has been deposited in other areas. Landform also appears to have limited the inland distance of the storm surge in some areas. Debris deposited by Katrina's storm surge was found inland to the first marine terrace in coastal Mississippi.

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[student-chair@aegrms.org](mailto:student-chair@aegrms.org)

### **Website**

[www.aegrms.org](http://www.aegrms.org)

Having witnessed the second and most destructive to date hurricane landfall along the Mississippi coast, there are many direct and personal impacts – astounding, amazing, miraculous, and horrendous. Hurricane Camille in 1969 destroyed the Mississippi coast, but even worse destruction occurred from Katrina. Many structures which survived Camille were destroyed by Katrina, primarily due to Katrina's higher storm surge – about thirty feet in western Mississippi. The initial impact along the Mississippi coast was total destruction. Several towns no longer exist. The impact on New Orleans came later from flooding as a result of failed flood walls, that could not withstand the surge forces from Lake Pontchartrain. In northern Mississippi the direct impacts were trivial, compared to those at the coast, but there was damage and power outages over 250 miles from the coast. However, many at Mississippi State had personal impacts. One of our student's parents swam to safety from a top story window – in the storm surge. Another student lost his entire family in Gulfport. Most considered the legend of Camille as the ultimate possible hurricane in terms of its destruction along the Mississippi coast. Katrina has now replaced that legend.

## **Words From the Chair**

Over the last month or so, a number of things have happened to cause me to think about proposing a new initiative for the section. Yes, I know, we've proposed a lot of things lately (field trips, family fun events, exciting programs, and so on), and to add one more thing to the already oversized pile is asking a bit much for an all-volunteer organization, but bear with me.

First, we have an initiative to Kiuju&\*y\$N9F ner98 h9\*Y\$%9 h&\$h897 hf934 h IU8 975n 99y9\*&y8H5NN5 (purposely encrypted because it's a secret for now). Second, as I was going through the "BOX" of section files, I became intrigued by the amount of history contained in some of this material. Third, we used the AEG banner at our December meeting. This hand-crafted icon has been around for longer than I can remember. Fourth, a number of our section members received accolades at the Annual Meeting. Fifth, the local Board has been working hard on compiling an "operational manual" to pass onto to succeeding section offices. Sixth, AEG will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2007 (oh my gosh, I'm the same age as AEG).

What do all of these things have in common? History and institutional memory. I'd like to see us put some effort into recording some information about the Section for future generations of RMS members to enjoy and learn from. For example, a list of the section officers year-by-year; a list of speakers and programs we've had; a list of members who have achieved honors from AEG and so on.

But I'd also like to see more than just a dry list of dates and names. I'd also like to have a means for capturing the personal stories of our members. I mentioned this idea to Jerry last month. One of the reasons I used to justify my proposal is that we've lost some prominent members in the last few years (such as Dick Lemke and John Ivey). Well, that drew an immediate reply from Jerry. He related a story concerning the first time he met John at an AEG meeting. Remarkably, the story he told was exactly what happened to me when I met John for the first time.

I don't know exactly how to go about this. It's been suggested that we should get some folks together in a room (and you know who you are), buy a couple of beers, turn on the tape recorder, and let them loose. Well, it's something to think about. If anyone has any ideas, feel free to call me to discuss them.

On the National front, Becky Roland has informed the Board that AEG now has over 3100 members! This marks the third year in row that AEG has seen a net increase in membership. On behalf of the BOD, she wants to thank everyone for their hard work on making AEG such a wonderful and strong organization. The section wishes to thank Becky for her hard work on helping to make this happen.

Till next month.

## **AEG-RMS in South Dakota**

There will be an AEG RMS meeting in Rapid City South Dakota on January 27, 2006. Doug Boyer, Ed Friend, Tim Petz, Dwaine Eddington, and possibly others will be traveling to give a talk to students at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology about engineering geology careers.

The roundtable discussion will be at 4:00 PM in the Mineral Industries Building on the Campus of SDSMT. Happy will follow (place to be determined at the roundtable).

## ***NEW!* RSVP For Meetings on the Web**

There is a new and *easy* way to RSVP for the monthly meetings. Just go to [www.aegrms.org](http://www.aegrms.org) and click on "RSVP by clicking here". A short form opens up; fill it out and hit submit. Hopefully some of you will try it and we'll see how it works. Thanks Jill!

## **Student Night 2006**

Student Night will be February 9, 2006. The **abstract deadline is January 20, 2006.** As in years past there will be awards for presenters. We use the same format at the Annual Meeting, total time of 20 minutes (15 for talking with a few for questions). In years past we have limited the number of speakers to 4, if we get more than 4 abstracts, the students not speaking will be invited to create posters. We ask for help from the professors to encourage students to submit abstracts.

## **Engineering Geologist 1 Position Open - NYSDEC**

There is a position open for a Geologist at the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. This position will afford the successful candidate with an uncommon opportunity to learn cutting edge and best practice methods for addressing complex issues in engineering geology, hydrogeology and environmental management.

**\*\*Please see attachment at the end of this newsletter for information on this announcement\*\***



**Soil Nailing Specialty Seminar**  
**Embassy Suites Hotel**  
**Denver, CO ~ February 17, 2006**  
**\*View Details at [WWW.DFI.ORG](http://www.dfi.org) \***

The DFI Tiebacks & Soil Nailing Committee is presenting this one-day event following the success of last year's inaugural seminar on the subject of soil nails. The program will present issues regarding the design, construction, and quality control concerns associated with soil nail earth retention structures. The program includes the following presentations which will be moderated by Thomas J. Tuozzolo P.E. of Moretrench American Corporation and Howard Perko PhD P.E. of CTL|Thompson Inc.:

**Application of Limit Equilibrium Procedures for Soil Nail Design**

*Dr. Stephen G. Wright P.E., University of Texas*

**Excavation Support for Urban Redevelopment: 428 Westlake Project**

*Richard D. Luark, P.E., L.E.G. Golder Associates Inc.*

**Thoughts on Design**

*Thomas D. Richards, Jr., P.E., Nicholson Construction Company*

**A Permanent Soil Nail Wall at University of Colorado, Colorado Springs**

*John Hart, Coggins & Sons, Inc.*

**Soil Nail Wall in Colorado Springs, CO**

*Robert W. Thompson, P.E., CTL|Thompson, Inc.*

**Bellevue Technology Tower: Permanent Top-Down Soil Nail Design and Construction**

*Thomas Armour, P.E., DBM Contractors, Inc.*

**Soil Nail Walls at the Entrance to Aspen, CO**

*Don Berger, P.E., The Yenter Company*

**Soil Nail & MSE Wall Stabilization of the Elbow Fill Slide, Snake River Canyon, Wyoming**

*John Wolosick P.E., Hayward Baker Inc.*

Sponsor:

Deep Foundations Institute  
326 Lafayette Avenue; Hawthorne, NJ 07506  
Tel: (973) 423-4030 Fax: (973) 423-4031  
Web: [www.dfi.org](http://www.dfi.org)

Venue & Accommodations:

Embassy Suites Hotel Denver Downtown  
1881 Curtis Street, Denver, CO 80202  
Tel: (303) 297-8888 Toll Free: (800) 733-3366  
Special DFI rate of \$149.00, *subject to cut-off date of January 26, 2006 and availability.*

**DFI & AEG-RMS Member Registration Fee: \$250.00**

Non-member Registration Fee: \$295.00

Government Employee Registration Fee: \$175.00

Student Registration Fee: \$50.00

*(Students must provide copy of ID card)*

Exhibitor Registration Fee: \$550.00

*(Table top displays only)*

*(Includes one attendee registration and 6'x2' table)*

Registration Fees Include: Seminar session, breaks, lunch, reception, handout binder and registration materials.

## *Call for Abstracts*

# **First North American Landslide Conference**

The “**First North American Landslide Conference**” will be held **June 3-8, 2007** in **Vail, Colorado**.

The Conference theme is “**Landslides and Society: Integrated Science, Engineering, Management, and Mitigation.**” The Conference is designed to provide a stimulating forum for geoscientists, engineers, planners, economists, program managers, and other decision makers concerned with landslide hazards and their impact on North American society. Principal professional society sponsors of the Conference are the Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists (AEG), the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), the American Rock Mechanics Association (ARMA) and the Canadian Geotechnical Society (CGS).

The Geo-Institute of ASCE will publish the Conference proceedings. ASCE standards for publication will be followed – a minimum of two independent reviews of each submission. Abstracts may now be submitted electronically at the conference web-site:

<http://www.mines.edu/academic/geology/landslidevail2007/>

Abstracts are due by February 15, 2006, but earlier submissions are encouraged. Decisions concerning acceptance of abstracts will be made within one month of receipt, and no later than March 15, 2006. Draft papers of approved abstracts are due August 1, 2006. Paper reviews will be returned to authors by November 1, 2006.

Prospective authors are invited to submit abstracts of up to 500 words for papers to be considered for presentation/publication at the Conference. An individual may be a primary author and presenter for only ONE volunteered paper, but may co-author any number of abstracts/papers.

The abstract should include title of paper, names/affiliations of all authors and contact information for corresponding author, as well as which of the Conference topics/themes their paper

specifically addresses. The website contains details of the conference themes and topics to guide those preparing abstracts.

***Announcement and Call for Papers***  
**40<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium on**  
**Engineering Geology &**  
**Geotechnical Engineering -**  
***May 24-26, 2006, Utah State University,***  
***Logan, Utah***  
***Theme: Landslides - Investigation,***  
***Analysis, and Mitigation***

<http://www.isu.edu/engineer/geosym/>

### **OVERVIEW OF THE SYMPOSIUM**

The goal of this symposium is to provide engineering geologists, geotechnical engineers, and government professionals with the opportunity to exchange information on state-of-the-art practices in landslide investigation, analysis, and mitigation. The symposium will consist of invited speakers, contributed papers, and poster sessions. Although the theme of the symposium is landslides, papers on all engineering geology and geotechnical engineering topics are encouraged.

### **SYMPOSIUM HIGHLIGHTS**

- Geotechnical Engineering Keynote Address Michael Duncan, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
- Geological Keynote Address William Cotton, Cotton Shires and Associates
- Slope Stability Analysis Keynote Address Sunil Sharma, The University of Idaho
- Landslide Field Trip
- Latest Advances in Landslide Mitigation
- Selection of Strength Parameters for Analysis
- Seismic Slope Stability
- Recent Advances in Landslide Monitoring Technology
- Student Paper Contest
- Landslide Photograph Contest

### **CALL FOR PAPERS**

Although the theme of the symposium is "Landslides -- Investigation, Analysis, and Mitigation," papers are welcome in all areas of engineering geology and geotechnical engineering. Case studies on landslides are especially encouraged. Abstracts should be submitted to:

James A. Bay  
Department of Civil and Environmental  
Engineering  
Utah State University  
Logan, Utah 84322-4110  
[Jim.bay@usu.edu](mailto:Jim.bay@usu.edu)

by January 20, 2006. Abstracts should be approximately 250 words and may be submitted by email. Authors will be notified of acceptance by e-mail by February 10, 2006. A camera-ready digital copy of the paper will be due by April 7, 2006.

### **STUDENT PAPER CONTEST**

Students submitting papers for the student paper contest must be the first author of the paper, and the student must present the paper at the symposium. Indicate on the abstract if the paper is to be entered in the contest. Cash prizes will be awarded for winning papers.

### **LANDSLIDE PHOTO CONTEST**

Landslide photographs for the photo contest must be submitted in jpg format by April 7, 2005. Include a brief caption describing the photograph. Photographs will be included in the symposium proceedings and displayed at the venue.

### **REGISTRATION**

The registration for the symposium will be \$135. Student registration is \$35. Student banquet tickets will be an additional \$20. There will be an additional cost of \$35 for the field trip. This includes transportation, meals. Additional registration information can be found at <http://www.isu.edu/engineer/geosym/>.

### **LODGING AND TRANSPORTATION**

Lodging is available at the University Inn on the USU campus for \$58-\$65 plus tax per night. Call

800-231-5634. Other accommodations include the Best Western Weston Inn (435) 752-6187, Comfort Inn (435) 752-9141, The Hampton Inn (435) 713-4567, and the Crystal Inn (435) 752-0707. Ground transportation from the Salt Lake International airport is available through Cache Valley Airport Shuttle (435) 563-6400.

#### **SPONSORS**

The Utah Geological Society (UGS), The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), The Association of Engineering Geologists (AEG), Utah State University, Idaho State University, The University of Idaho, Boise State University, The University of Nevada Reno, The University of Nevada Las Vegas, and Montana Technical University.

***Call for Papers and Early  
Announcement***  
**57<sup>th</sup> Highway Geology Symposium**  
**Breckenridge, CO**  
**September 27 – 29, 2006**

\*\*Please see attachment at the end of this newsletter for information on this announcement\*\*

***Call for Papers – 2006 Colorado  
Geotechnical Seminar***  
***GEO-volution: The Evolution of  
Colorado's Geological and  
Geotechnical Engineering Practice***  
**Denver, CO; November 10, 2006**

\*\*Please see attachment at the end of this newsletter for information on this announcement\*\*

## **2006 Roy J. Shlemon Specialty Conference**

The 2006 Roy J. Shlemon Specialty Conference is being held May 3-5, 2006 in Durango, Colorado at the Historic Strater Hotel.

The conference subject is "Mass Wasting in Disturbed Watersheds" chaired by Bill Haneberg, Sue Cannon, Paul Santi, and Jeff Coe.

To receive more information and to register for the conference, go to the web site:  
[ww.haneberg.com/watersheds](http://ww.haneberg.com/watersheds) or go to AEG's web site ([aegweb.org](http://aegweb.org)) and click on the Mass Wasting logo.

The objective of the conference is to bring together practitioners and researchers in order to define the current state of practice and identify unresolved problems with regard to the prediction and mitigation of mass wasting in disturbed watersheds.

Be sure to submit your abstracts to Julie Keaton at [aegjuliek@aol.com](mailto:aegjuliek@aol.com)

To make hotel reservations, call the Strater Hotel at 970-247-4431 and let them know that you are a participant in the "AEG Shlemon Specialty Conference" and receive your group rate.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Bill Haneberg at [bill@haneberg.com](mailto:bill@haneberg.com)

Invited guest speakers include:

1. Tom Koler of the U.S. Forest Service speaking about "Progress in forest engineering geology in the late 20th century and early 21st century -- the integration of engineering geology within ecosystem management of forested lands."
2. Laura Vaugeois of the Washington Department of Natural Resources speaking about "Washington's landslide hazard zonation project: a process for addressing risk to resources."

3. Charlie Luce of the U.S. Forest Service speaking about "Mass wasting following forest fires: processes at multiple scales."
4. Sue Cannon of the U.S. Geological Survey speaking about "Tools for assessing post-wildfire debris flow probabilities and magnitudes."
5. Jon Major of the U.S. Geological Survey speaking about "Mass wasting in volcanically disturbed watersheds: primary events, landscape responses, and geologically-ecological interactions."
6. Bill Laprade of Shannon & Wilson speaking about "Effects of urbanization on mass wasting -- detrimental and beneficial."
7. Bill Haneberg of Haneberg Geoscience speaking about "Landslides, lasers, and logarithms: the role of emerging technologies in watershed-scale slope stability assessment."
8. Rod Silde of Kyoto University (title to be announced)  
Come and join us in Durango and do not miss this exciting conference

## **Earthquake Anniversary Conference Abstracts due January 16, 2006**

You are invited to join the Seismological Society of America in San Francisco to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the 1906 earthquake and kick off the SSA's centennial celebration at the "The 100th Anniversary Earthquake Conference". SSA will be meeting jointly with the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute for their 8th National Earthquake Conference and the California emergency management community for their annual Disaster Resistant California conference at the Moscone Convention Center on April 18-22. The conference is also being co-sponsored by more than 50 organizations from around the world, including AEG.

This will be a golden opportunity for exchange between earth scientists, structural engineers, emergency managers and policy makers. Throughout the four-day meeting, there will be plenary sessions highlighting the 1906 earthquake, lessons from recent large earthquakes worldwide, and the outlook for earthquake research and loss reduction in the 21st century. Each day both plenary sessions and concurrent technical sessions will be offered, as will tutorials and field trips. Additional field trips will be available the weekend following the meeting. The SSA portion of the meeting will cover the full range of topics of interest to your membership. Registrants may attend any sessions at the meeting, whether they are sponsored by SSA, EERI or DRC. To commemorate the two centennials, the meeting will feature an Earthquake Anniversary Gala Reception and a SSA Centennial Reception and Banquet in addition to the traditional SSA icebreaker and annual luncheon. All four of these activities are included in the registration fee.

SSA abstracts can be submitted online at <http://www.1906eqconf.org/presentation.htm> until January 16, 2006. Registration and hotel information is online at the 100th Anniversary Earthquake Conference website: [www.1906eqconf.org](http://www.1906eqconf.org). (SSA's headquarters hotel is the historic Palace Hotel; book early for a greatly reduced rate)

## **Case Histories/Member Contributions**

We are always looking for individuals to provide their knowledge and experience to the AEG-RMS community through case histories and articles of interest. Please contact Kristi Ainslie at [newsletter@aeqrms.org](mailto:newsletter@aeqrms.org) if you have anything you would like to share. We have had good success with this in the past, so keep it going.

## AEG 2006 Annual Meeting

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: AEG-2006 "Northeast Engineering Geology: From Till to Fill" in Boston, Massachusetts; October 30 through November 4 at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel. Special events include: 2 symposia (Big Dig in Boston; and New England State Geologists' Panel -- with the State Geologists from MA, VT, ME, NH, RI, and CT); 4 field trips (The Concord-Lexington Battle of April 19, 1775: A Clash of Continents and Cultures; Geology of Boston Harbor; Influence of Geology on Engineering Design in Boston; and Engineering Geology of the Combined Sewer Overflow Project, Providence, RI); and a Special Event -- Cape Cod Clambake including a tour of Wood's Hole Oceanographic Institute.

For more information, contact Dick Sherman (General Chair) at [Dick.Sherman@m-e.aecom.com](mailto:Dick.Sherman@m-e.aecom.com)

## Upcoming 2005-2006 Presentations

**February 9<sup>th</sup>** - Annual Student Night – *Students send your abstracts by January 20!*

**March 9<sup>th</sup>** - Phil Sirles, *Use of Geophysics in Transportation*

**TBD** - Jerry Higgins, Jahns Lecture.

## Your Business Card Here

The section is looking for companies or individuals who would like to advertise their products or services in the section newsletter and on the website. This is anything from a business card (\$10/month), quarter page spread (\$20/month), to a half page exposition (\$40/month). If you are interested, contact Kristi Ainslie [newsletter@aegrms.org](mailto:newsletter@aegrms.org).

We had a couple of takers last year; that really helped fill out the newsletter and make it interesting for us all. Thanks! Hopefully past ads have drawn some more attention to this.

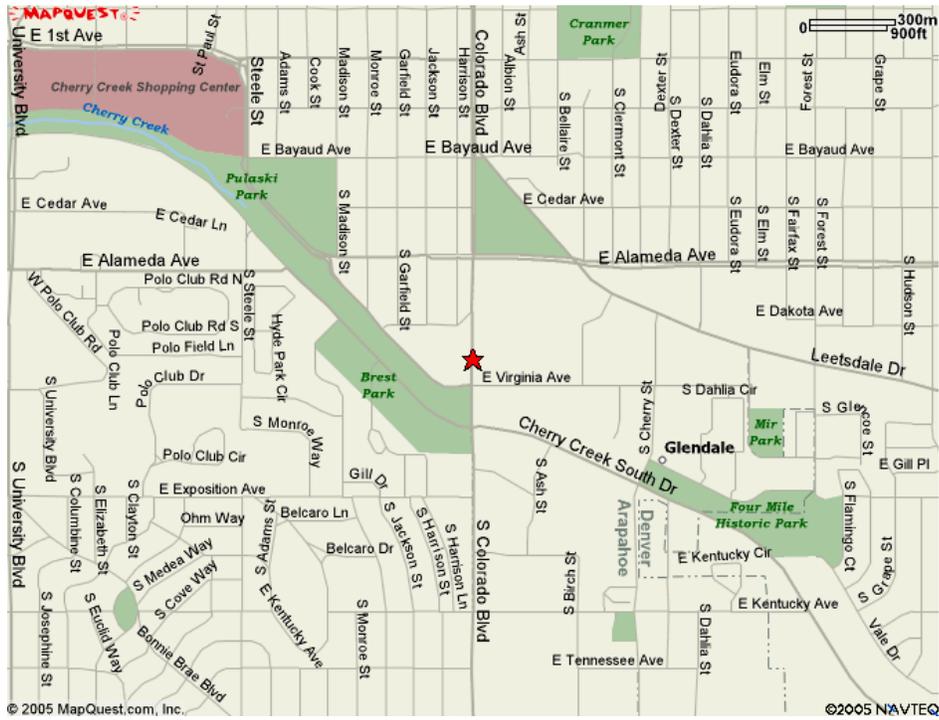
## Parting Words

Another packed newsletter. The number of conferences coming to Colorado is phenomenal! Also be sure to scroll all the way through to the end, there are quite a few attachments.

Again this month's meeting is on a Friday, and is usually a well attended and enjoyable meeting with several national board members in attendance.

Students, be sure to get your abstracts to us by January 20, 2006 for Student Night. Professors, bug your students to get their abstracts to us!

The Editors



**Holiday Inn**  
**455 S Colorado**  
**Denver, CO**