



## Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists

# IN PURSUIT OF THE 7<sup>TH</sup> CONTINENT A JOURNEY TO ANTARCTICA

Susan Steele Weir

*This is Antarctica* author Joseph M. Durant writes:

“Imagine a place as big as the U.S. and Europe combined. Sunnier than California, yet colder than the freezing compartment of your refrigerator. Drier than Arabia and higher than mountainous Switzerland. Emptier than the Sahara. Only one place fits this description. It’s Antarctica. The strange but beautiful continent at the bottom of the earth.”

Antarctica is one of the most beautiful places on earth, a spectacular wilderness of snow, ice and rocks, teeming with wildlife. This stark beauty and abundant wildlife are positioned for up-close viewing as highlights of every voyage to the continent. The vast numbers of penguins, seals and seabirds are unmatched anywhere in the world. Its gigantic icebergs and ice shelves are found nowhere else; its mountain ranges and the enormous emptiness of the polar plateau boggle the mind. Traveling to Antarctica is like visiting no other country. It is an expedition to the earth’s most isolated continent, earned through a long, often uncomfortable voyage by ship, from the southernmost city in the world, Ushuaia, Argentina across the sometimes treacherous seas of the Drake Passage. Weather and ice, not clocks and calendars, set the schedule for exploration and are always subject to the continents changing moods.

### MEETING DATE

**THURSDAY**  
MAY 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009

### TIME

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

### LOCATION

**Berthoud Hall,  
Colorado School of  
Mines**

1516 Illinois St.  
Golden, Co 80401  
Room 205  
See Map Below

### COST

**\$25 Members**  
**\$27 Non-members**  
**Students, free first**  
**time then \$10**

### RESERVATIONS

[meetings@aeqrms.org](mailto:meetings@aeqrms.org)  
or  
[WWW.AEGRMS.ORG](http://WWW.AEGRMS.ORG)

**BY NOON,  
TUESDAY  
MAY 12<sup>TH</sup>**

## Words from the Chair

Welcome to a beautiful spring and the close of another successful AEG season! We've had a fantastic year including two distinguished Jahn's Lecturers, John Clague and Ed Medley, and Mark Molinari, AEG President and the AEG Executive Council meeting. I'd like to thank all of our other speakers this year: Kannan Hanna, Paul Santi, Patrick Smith and Alan Howard, Jonathan White, and last but not least Susan Steele Weir. I'd also like to congratulate all of the students who participated in another successful Student Night.

We had some really nice turnouts at all of our meetings this year, so thanks to all of our members! I'm looking forward to seeing everyone next fall.

Finally, we're very excited to have Susan Steel Weir host our annual Family Night this month. Susan will be giving us the details of her journey to Antarctica. Please bring your family and enjoy hearing about Susan's exciting travels!

Don't forget to RSVP by Tuesday May 12 at noon!

Sean Harvey, PG  
Chair, AEG-RMS

## 2009–2010 Meeting Presentations

If you are interested in Presenting at an AEG meeting contact Sean Harvey at [chair@aegrms.org](mailto:chair@aegrms.org)

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LT Environmental

## AEG Mid-Year Board of Directors Recap

I represented the Rocky Mountain Section at the Mid-Year Board of Directors Meeting in April. The following list summarizes items that require Member action or may be of interest:

- **AEG News Vendors:** If you use products or services advertised in AEG News please let the vendor know that you saw it advertised in the News. Some vendors have withdrawn advertising because they cannot track its effectiveness.
- **Annual Meeting:** The 2009 AEG Annual Meeting will be September 21 – 26 at Harrah's Hotel & Casino at Lake Tahoe. The hotel and surrounding area have activities for kids and families, and AEG encourages Members to turn the Annual Meeting trip into a family vacation.
- **Annual Meeting Travel:** Lemke funds are available to students traveling to the Annual Meeting. The application deadline is July 15. The AEG Member who recruits the most new members before the Annual Meeting will receive free round-trip airfare to the Meeting. Airfare must be on Alaskan Airlines and is being provided courtesy of the Alaska Section Chair (Paul Metz).
- **Demographic Survey:** AEG will be distributing a demographic survey with next year's membership renewal. Please take the time to complete and return the survey. The results will be used anonymously to better understand and serve the Membership.
- **Draft JTFAP Document:** AEG, AIPG, and the Geo-Institute of ASCE have co-authored a Joint Task Force on Areas of Practice (JTFAP) document to define the skills, knowledge base, and areas of practice for engineers, geologists, and engineering geologists. The document and comment form is available on the AEG website after logging in as a Member. AEG is accepting comments on this document until June 15, 2009. AEG encourages everyone to review the document and provide comments on it, either positive or negative. The general consensus at the meeting was that the current draft of the document needs major revision, but it is currently in AEG's best interest to continue working with AIPG and ASCE rather than developing our own document. An ad-hoc committee is being developed to review all comments received by June 15 and recommend action and direction for the document. The comments will be summarized and presented to Members 1 month before the Annual Meeting. A time slot is being scheduled at the Annual Meeting for a round-table discussion of the document.
- **E&EG Articles:** Members are encouraged to submit case histories and other practice-orientated papers for submission in Environmental & Engineering Geoscience.
- **Electronic Publications:** Over the next few years AEG will phase in electronic publications. The first publication to go electronic will be Environmental & Engineering Geoscience and the second one will be AEG News. Electronic publication of E&EG will reduce printing costs, save paper, and allow for keyword searches and color figures.
- **Facebook Page:** AEG has a Facebook page directed towards students and young professionals. The page name is New Geologist.

Let me know if you have any questions or comments on these topics.

Adam Prochaska  
Rocky Mountain Section Chair-Elect

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