

February 2008 Newsletter of the AGU Near-Surface Focus Group

1. AGU Chapman Conference on Biogeophysics (Estella Atekwana & Lee Slater, Conveners) - Website now available
2. Near Surface Geophysics at the 2008 Joint Assembly in Fort Lauderdale (FL)
3. AGU Joint Assembly, Hydrogeophysics session announcement
4. AAPG Division of Environmental Geosciences short course announcement: Near Surface Seismic Reflection Processing
5. EEGS December 2007 issue of FastTIMES available online: News for the near-surface geophysical sciences

Recent announcements of interest to the NS community (conferences, academic positions, graduate student opportunities etc.) can be found at the AGU NS-Focus Group Web Page: [http://www.agu.org/focus\\_group/nsg/index.html](http://www.agu.org/focus_group/nsg/index.html)

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1. AGU Chapman Conference on Biogeophysics, Portland, Maine, USA. 13-16 October 2008 (Estella Atekwana & Lee Slater, Conveners)

The website for the NS sponsored AGU Chapman Conference on Biogeophysics is now online (<http://www.agu.org/meetings/chapman/2008/fcall/>). The objective of this conference is to bring together geophysicists, biophysicists, geochemists, geomicrobiologists, and environmental microbiologists conducting multidisciplinary research with potential impact on the evolving field of biogeophysics in order to define the current state of the science, identify the critical questions facing the community and to generate a roadmap for firmly establishing biogeophysics as a subdiscipline of earth science research. Please watch this website for updates on travel funding opportunities to participate in the Chapman conference.

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2. Near Surface Geophysics at the 2008 Joint Assembly in Fort Lauderdale (FL) - Abstract Submission Tool open:

The deadline for submission of abstracts to the 2008 Joint Assembly in Fort Lauderdale is March 5. Near Surface Geophysics (NS) will host seven sessions at the 2008 AGU Joint Assembly in Fort Lauderdale (FL), May 27-30. The abstract submission tool can be accessed at <http://www.agu.org/meetings/ja08/>.

NS Sponsored sessions:

NS01 Innovative Near-Surface Geophysical Approaches to the Characterization of Karst Aquifers

NS02 Near Surface Studies of Coastal Processes  
NS03 New Geophysical Tools and Software for High-Resolution Field Site Characterization  
NS04 Rock Physics Relationships for the Near-Surface: From the Laboratory Scale to the Field Scale  
NS05 Near-Surface Geophysical Methods in Wetland Studies  
NS06 Uncertainty in Near Surface Geophysical Data Interpretation: Implications and Developments  
NS07 Near Surface Geophysics: General Contributions

Near Surface Geophysics also presents jointly with the following Special Sessions:

H05 Site Characterization and Hydrologic Modeling  
HG05 Advances in Understanding Groundwater Flow in Karst Systems  
H16 General Contributions in Hydrogeophysics

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3. AGU Joint Assembly, Hydrogeophysics session announcement

H16: General Contributions in Hydrogeophysics

Conveners: Stephen Moysey (smoysey@clemsun.edu) & Xavier Comas (xcomas@fau.edu)

Hydrogeophysics applies geophysical tools and methodologies to hydrologic problem solving. This session welcomes general contributions to the area of hydrogeophysics. For example, authors may submit contributions discussing new data acquisition tools ranging from the lab to field, data integration algorithms, watershed and/or aquifer monitoring studies, or hydrologic interpretations of geophysical measurements. Case studies are welcome.

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4. The AAPG Division of Environmental Geosciences (DEG) announces its April 2008 short course, Near-Surface Seismic Reflection Processing

Dates and Times: April 19-20, 2008. Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., with optional evening session 6:00-7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Location: Computer Training Laboratory, Southwest Research Institute®, San Antonio, Texas  
Instructor: Roger Young (University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK) Registration Limit: 20;  
Professional Fee: \$355; Student Fee: \$178 (limited)

Includes: A Lab Manual of Seismic Processing (EAGE book) and a CD-ROM containing all short course notes, the complete SPW processing software package keyed to the seismic data set, the seismic data and all intermediate processing results generated during the short course. Fee also includes breakfast snacks, lunch, and refreshments. Optional Saturday-evening session includes a pizza dinner and a lecture on the spectral decomposition method of transforming seismic data to a higher frequency representation (comparable to a sonic log) and a hands-on opportunity to implement same.

Intended audience: Environmental geoscience professionals, graduate students, and undergraduates seeking a practical understanding of seismic methods.

Course objective: To come to an understanding, through a hands-on processing experience, of the consequences of model simplifications and mathematical assumptions imposed on the real earth during the processing of seismic data.

Course description: This is an interactive computer-based course of instruction in fundamentals of seismic reflection processing. The course was designed to extend the understanding of principles taught by lectures in an introductory college course in seismic exploration; it consists of lectures and a sequence of 12 computer laboratory exercises:

Early registration ends February 12, 2008. To register for this course and the AAPG 2008 meeting in San Antonio, Texas, please visit: <http://www.aapg.org/sanantonio/registration.cfm>

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#### 5. EEGS December 2007 issue of FastTIMES available online

EEGS is pleased to announce publication of the December issue of //FastTIMES//, news for the near-surface geophysical sciences. It is available for download as a low- and high-resolution PDF document (viewable with the free Acrobat Reader) from the EEGS website at [http://www.eegs.org/fasttimes/latest\\_issue.cfm](http://www.eegs.org/fasttimes/latest_issue.cfm). It is best to download the document and view it outside of a web browser.

To take full advantage of the electronic format, we encourage its distribution to the widest possible audience. If you know of someone who might enjoy reading //FastTIMES// but may not be on the distribution list, feel free to forward the web link to them.

Be sure to take advantage of the hyperlinks within the document that link the table of contents with articles, the advertisers with their ads, the authors and their email addresses, and the advertisers and articles with external web sites.

EEGS is interested in //FastTIMES// comments and suggestions. Further, we are always interested in content for the next issue! Please send your submissions to the editorial team - Jeff Paine ([jeff.paine@beg.utexas.edu](mailto:jeff.paine@beg.utexas.edu)), Roger Young ([ryoung@ou.edu](mailto:ryoung@ou.edu)), or Brad Isbell ([bisbell@hgiworld.com](mailto:bisbell@hgiworld.com)). Please direct advertising inquiries to Jackie Jacoby ([staff@eegs.org](mailto:staff@eegs.org)).

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To contribute material to the NS-letter e-mail to:  
George Tsoflias [tsoflias@ku.edu](mailto:tsoflias@ku.edu)

**DEADLINE:** Material must be received 2 full business days prior to the first of each month. Failure to meet the deadline will likely result in missing the next issue.

**GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSIONS:** All members are welcome to submit content of interest to the NS community. Please keep messages brief and provide contact information and (if available) a hyperlink for additional information. AGU requests formatting of e-mail messages to be as simple as possible (no bold characters (use ALL CAPS instead), no color font, or other special formatting of text and paragraphs). Do not submit e-mail attachments for distribution.