

October 2009 Newsletter of the AGU Near-Surface Focus Group

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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: www.agu.org/focus_group/nsg/

AGU NS Membership as of June 2009: Primary affiliation 635 members; Secondary 2107 members

1. Focus Group Announcements

1.1 Renewing your AGU Membership/Contributions to the NS Focus Group (from Lee Slater, FG President)

With the Fall Meeting fast approaching many AGU members will be paying their 2010 membership dues. The NS Focus Group values your membership immensely so please do remember to renew and continue to list NS as your primary or secondary affiliation.

In addition, now would be a good time to consider making a donation to the NS Focus Group funds. A direct donation to NS is simple to make during your online membership renewal and any donation (irrespective of size) helps NS to grow. The focus group funds have previously been primarily used to support student member activities including student luncheons at the Fall AGU meeting and a wiki established by Elliot Grunewald, Student Representative for the NS Focus Group. As our focus group funds continue to grow we look forward to broadening the range of our sponsorship activities.

1.2 Proposed Governance Changes at AGU and its Impact on NS (from NSG FG Executive Committee)

In May of this year AGU Council made a decision to change the governance structure of AGU. These changes will create a separate Board focused on the workings of AGU as an institution and redirect the work of the Council exclusively to science. This decision has significant positive implications for NS and AGU in general. Firstly, the Council will be able to redirect its attention to the issues that matter most to NS members i.e. the science, meetings, and AGU publications. Perhaps most significantly, NS (along with all Focus Groups) will have an opportunity to become a voting member of Council, such that future NS Focus Group Presidents and Vice Presidents would have seats on Council for 2010-2012. During this period, NS members will need to decide whether or not they wish to elect future officers, which at this point is the only proviso needed to retain a Council seat in the future. This fundamental change in AGU governance would allow NS to fully add its voice to AGU. This more formal participation of focus groups will build on the Union's tradition of having an engaged and active volunteer leadership base. A vote on the new Bylaws will be held October 15-31, 2009. The background and detailed information regarding this proposed change in governance structure can be viewed at http://www.agu.org/elections/bylaws09/Tomorrows_AGU.pdf. A video featuring AGU leaders talking about the

importance of these changes can be viewed at <http://www.agu.org/elections/bylaws09/leaders/>. We encourage all NS members to take the time to vote in October in support of these changes to governance structure.

2. 2009 Fall AGU Meeting, December 14-18 in San Francisco, California, USA

(<http://www.agu.org/meetings/fm09/>)

Approved Near Surface and Hydrogeophysics Sessions

Near-Surface sessions (from Chet Weiss)

This year saw an increase in the number of abstracts submitted to NS sessions - up 20% from 105 last year to 124 this year - while the overall abstract submission counts for the entire meeting rose from 15757 in 2008 to 15805 in 2009. So, while our numbers may be small, our growth trajectory is on the right track!

Near Surface Geophysics General Contributions (NS01: 56 abstracts)

Advanced Inverse Strategies for Improved Characterization and Assessment of Ground-Water, Mineral, and Petroleum Resources (NS02: 16)

Back to Basics: Inversion of Electrical Resistivity Imaging Data (2), Merged with NS01

Back to Basics: Measurement of Electrical Properties of Rocks and Sediments (NS04: 25)

Urban Geophysics (NS05: 25)

Hydrogeophysics Sessions (from Niklas Linde)

General Hydrogeophysics (H49: 34)

Characterization of Soil Moisture Dynamics and Plant-Soil Water Interactions (H50: 41)

Remote Sensing and Hydrogeophysics Applications for Modeling of Land Surface Hydrological Processes (H52: 31)

Innovative Field and Theoretical Methods for Hydrogeophysical Characterization of Aquifers (29)

3. Call for Session Proposals: 2010 Joint Assembly Meeting of the Americas, 08-13 August, Foz do Iguassu, Brazil (from Juan Lorenzo glore@lsu.edu, JA 2010 NS Program Representative)

Dear Colleagues:

Please start submitting proposals for sessions at the JA of the Meeting of the Americas, 2010

<http://www.agu.org/meetings/ja10/>. The deadline for submitting sessions is 31 December, 2009 11.59 ET. Now is the time to contact a colleague to organize a session with a north-south counterpoint. Students are encouraged to collaborate and develop sessions.

The Near Surface Focus Group (NSFG) is a new and dynamic division of AGU that investigates the complex nature of near-surface geosystems. The Spring Joint Assembly (JA) has always been an exciting meeting for the NSFG. In 2010 the JA will be the Meeting of the Americas to be held in Foz do Iguassu, 08-13 August 2010, Brazil. Join us in this wonderful opportunity to tap the great diversity of experience of the American continents and develop professional collaboration with neighbors. It is also an excellent opportunity to travel to a beautiful, friendly part of the world and visit the Iguazu National Park and the Iguassu Falls.

Estimados Colegas:

Les hacemos saber que ya se han abierto las inscripciones para las sesiones especiales para la "Reunión de las Américas" (AGU) con fecha límite el 31 de diciembre, 2009. Les rogamos vean <http://www.agu.org/meetings/ja10/> para más información. Por supuesto los jóvenes estudiantes forman parte integral de nuestro grupo profesional y por ello también quedan incluidos dentro de esta invitación.

De nuevo les recordamos que los participantes de nuestra joven y dinámica asociación, "Near Surface Focus Group" (NSFG) perteneciente al "AGU"-- nos dedicamos a la investigación de geosistemas someros, altamente dinámicos y complejos de la Tierra. Es por ello que estamos convencidos que nuestro grupo abarca uno de los campos de la geociencia con mayor capacidad para contribuir al bienestar de la sociedad en un futuro próximo. Quiero extender a todos la oportunidad de participar el próximo año en la "Reunión de las Américas" que tendrá lugar en Foz do Iguassu, Brasil, entre los días 8 y 13 de agosto del 2010-- Foz do Iguassu se encuentra muy cerca de las espectaculares

Cataratas del Iguazú, consideradas Patrimonio Natural de la Humanidad. Les pido por favor tomen en cuenta esta gran ocasión que se nos presenta, en la que sin dudas podremos mejorar la colaboración científica entre los americanos, mostrando nuestras contribuciones científicas individuales o en grupo, en esta reunión de renombre internacional.

4. Submit Articles and Content Suggestions for Inclusion to EOS (from Seth Haines)

Just a reminder: I am the EOS liaison for the NS community. Thus my goal is to facilitate the inclusion of Near-Surface material in EOS, AGU's weekly publication. If you have content, or ideas for content, please contact me at shaines@usgs.gov. Thanks!

5. Publication of the EAGE Special Issue on Hydrogeophysics (from Louise Pellerin)

The Special Issue on Hydrogeophysics – Methods and Processes will be published in two volumes in the October and December Issues of the EAGE Near Surface Geophysics Journal.

6. Society of Exploration Geophysicists News

6.1 The SEG will award Life Membership to Rosemary Knight (Stanford University) and Honorary Membership to Don Steeples (The University of Kansas) at the 2009 SEG Annual Meeting Honors and Awards ceremony on Sunday, 25 October, 4-5 pm, George R. Brown Convention Center, Houston, TX. For additional information about the SEG Honors and Awards ceremony refer to Special Events of the 2009 SEG Meeting web page.

6.2 SEG 2009 Meeting Update: Houston, Texas, 25-30 October (from Jan van der Kruk)

The NSG Technical Sessions are:

"Inversion and Engineering Applications" on Monday afternoon,

"Inversion and Engineering Applications" on Tuesday morning,

"Environmental and Engineering Applications" on Tuesday afternoon,

"Seismics" on Wednesday morning,

"Hydrogeophysics and Environmental Applications" on Wednesday afternoon.

"Near Surface Workshop" all day Friday (more information below)

NSGS Business Meeting: On Tuesday afternoon from 4-6 during the NSGS Business meeting, the transition between the 2008/2009 executive committee and 2009/2010 executive committee will take place, followed by a look forward to the upcoming year for NSGS.

Near-surface Geophysics Section Meeting and Reception: On Tuesday evening the Near-surface Geophysics Section Meeting (6:30) and Reception (7:30) is held (Zula restaurant, second floor, 705 Main St. #B.) and will include a summary of this past year, member discussion with the NSGS executive committee, presentation of Frischknecht and Mooney awards. There is no charge to NSG section members, nonmembers can join on the spot and students are welcome (Student Membership is Free).

6.3 SEG Near Surface Seismology and Ground Penetrating Radar Workshop (from John Bradford)

Technologies used in the application of near surface seismology and ground penetrating radar (GPR) have seen significant advances over the last several years. Both methods have benefited from new processing tools, increased computer speeds, and an expanded variety of applications. Many shallow seismic projects now incorporate analysis results from different parts of the seismic wavefield allowing greater redundancy and confidence in interpretations without increased acquisition costs. More information is being extracted from GPR data by utilizing the wide range

of analysis techniques developed for seismic data in concert with new tools specific to electromagnetic wave analysis.

It is fitting that these two geophysical techniques share the stage for a workshop that focuses on the highlights of an ever-increasing number of near surface studies taking advantage of the wide range of processing and analysis approaches applicable to both. This workshop is designed to bring the best of the past decade, state-of-the-practice applications of today, and visions for the next decade together providing practitioners and researchers with a unique opportunity to interact and share experiences.

Venue:

SEG International Exposition and 79th Annual Meeting George R. Brown Convention Center Houston, Texas, USA
Friday, October 30, 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

All speakers are invited and all interested attendees of the SEG meeting are welcome and encouraged to participate.

Organizers: Rick Miller, John Bradford, Klaus Holliger, Alan Levander, and Greg Baker

Contact: John Bradford johnb@cgiss.boisestate.edu

7. Environmental and Engineering Geophysical Society, September Issue of FastTIMES now available

The September issue of FastTIMES, the EEGS magazine for the near-surface geophysical sciences, has been published. This issue features advances in agricultural geophysics. It is available for download as a low- and high-resolution pdf document (viewable with the free Acrobat Reader) from the EEGS website at www.eegs.org/fasttimes/latest.html.

8. GPR 2010, XIII International Conference on Ground Penetrating Radar, Lecce, Italy, 21-25 June 2010

Contributions are solicited on (but not limited to): Agriculture, Archaeology, Sedimentology, Hydrology, Concrete/Pavements, Geology/Geotechnical Engineering, Diagnostic of historical buildings, Glaciology, Mining and Tunnelling, Utilities detection and mapping, Planetary Exploration, Demining and UXO and GPR wave interaction with the earth, Inverse Problems/Tomography, Numerical Modelling, Data Processing and Interpretation, Novel GPR Systems and Antennas, Airborne, Borehole and Novel Applications.

Important Dates:

October 15, 2009: Expression of interest submission in the form of 100-word abstract to GPR2010@ibam.cnr.it

January 15, 2010: Extended abstract submission

February 28, 2010: Notification of acceptance

For more information visit www.ibam.cnr.it/gpr2010

9. Near Surface Conference, Zurich, 6 – 8 September 2010 (from Niklas Linde)

Zurich has been chosen to host Near Surface 2010 – the 16th European Meeting of Environmental and Engineering Geophysics of the Near Surface Geoscience Division of EAGE. The meeting will be held from 6 – 8 September 2010. The meeting will include a one-day hydrogeophysics workshop on 5 September 2010, as well as field trips to a hydrogeophysical research site and the Grimsel Test Site, and underground laboratory operated by Nagra.

Deadline for extended abstract submission is 18 April 2010.

More information on:

<http://www.eage.org/events/index.php?evp=3149&ActiveMenu=2>

10. Positions

10.1 Postdoctoral Position in Applied, Engineering, and Environmental Geophysics, ETH Zurich

The Applied and Environmental Geophysics (AUG) Group at ETH (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology) in Zurich has an opening for a gifted young geophysicist at the post-doctoral level. The appointment will be for two years. We seek an excellent scientist who has expertise and interests in practical aspects of applied, engineering, and environmental geophysics (including hydrogeophysics). The successful candidate will participate in the teaching of courses that contribute to a joint MSc degree program in Applied Geophysics that is run by ETH and colleagues at the Technical University of Delft (TUD) and the Aachen University of Technology (RWTH). He/she will also be expected to initiate and conduct his/her own research projects and co-supervise undergraduate- and graduate-level thesis projects. Good knowledge of English is essential and it would be an advantage, although not essential, to have a working understanding of German. At the time of appointment, the successful candidate must have a doctoral degree in geophysics or related subject. Information on AUG's research activities can be found at <http://www.aug.geophys.ethz.ch/> and the joint MSc degree at <http://www.idealeague.org/geophysics/>.

To apply please email your resume together with the names, telephone numbers, and e mail addresses of two referees to Professor Alan G. Green at "green@aug.erdw.ethz.ch". The expected start date is January 1 or shortly thereafter.

10.2 Ph.D. Position in Hydrogeophysics, Institute of Geophysics, University of Lausanne

The Institute of Geophysics at the University of Lausanne has an opening for a doctoral student in the field of hydrogeophysics. The selected student will develop techniques for the integration and up-scaling of geophysical and hydrological data to characterize aquifers at the local to regional scale and apply these strategies to a polluted, and correspondingly well-studied, sub-watershed-scale aquifer. The position is funded for three years and will start in early 2010. At the time of appointment, the successful candidate must have the equivalent of an MSc degree in geophysics or a closely related field. We are looking for a highly motivated, mature individual with strong analytical and methodological skills. A basic knowledge of French is an advantage, but not a requirement. This is a unique opportunity for a young researcher to launch his or her career by joining a leading research team. Our institute is well equipped, evolving dynamically, and scenically located on the shores of Lake Geneva, a region of outstanding natural beauty that offers a vibrant cosmopolitan atmosphere and a very high quality of life.

To apply, please send a cover letter clarifying your overall motivation for entering a PhD program together with your curriculum vitae and the names, telephone numbers, and e-mail addresses of two referees to Professor Klaus Holliger, Institute of Geophysics, Amphipole Building, University of Lausanne, CH-1015 Lausanne, Switzerland, klaus.holliger@unil.ch. The deadline for submission of applications is November 30, 2009.

To contribute material to the NS-letter send an e-mail to:
George Tsoflias tsoflias@ku.edu

DEADLINE: Material must be received 2 full business days prior to the first of each month.

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 web address 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). E-mail attachments cannot be distributed.