

March 2010 Newsletter of the AGU Near-Surface Focus Group

1. George Tsoflias Steps Down as NS Focus Group Newsletter Editor
2. Joint Assembly Meeting of the Americas, 08-13 August 2010, Foz do Iguassu, Brazil
  - 2.1. Deadlines
  - 2.2. Near-Surface Geophysics sessions
  - 2.3. Hydrogeophysics sessions
3. SAGEEP in Keystone, Colorado on April 15, 2010
4. EGU Meeting, Vienna, Austria, May 2-7, 2010
5. SEG 2010 Denver, Colorado, 17-22 October: Call for Abstracts
6. Journal of Environmental and Engineering Geophysics (JEEG) call for papers: Geophysics for Dam safety
7. Vadose Zone Hydrologist position at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

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://nsg.agu.org>

AGU NS Membership as of March 2010:

Primary affiliation: 691 members; Secondary: 2316 members

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1. George Tsoflias Steps Down as NS Focus Group Newsletter Editor (from Lee Slater)

George Tsoflias (Associate Professor of Geophysics, University of Kansas <http://people.ku.edu/~tsoflias/> <<http://people.ku.edu/%7Etsoflias/>>)

recently stepped down as the Editor of the NS Focus Group newsletter.

George has performed an outstanding service to the focus group, having served in this role since the formation of the focus group and having edited no less than 38 newsletters, beginning with the first newsletter of December 2006. George deserves much credit for getting each one of these 38 newsletters out in a timely manner, demonstrating great diplomacy skills by developing solid working relationships with AGU staff to make this happen. Thanks to George, the NS newsletter has become one of the key mechanisms for communicating NS related content to the community and is now extensively used by both AGU and other societies interested in near surface geophysics. George always worked to make the newsletter as packed as possible with NS content, soliciting content from our members and also by liaising with the officers of other societies (SEG, EEGS, EAGE, EGU) on a monthly basis. George always took his role as newsletter editor seriously, recognizing that he was responsible for the content that was going to an ever growing membership, exceeding 3000 AGU members by the time George stepped down.

On behalf of our members, we thank George for a job exceptionally well done

Lee Slater (Chair), Rosemary Knight (Past-Chair) and Louise Pellerin (Vice Chair)

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2. Joint Assembly Meeting of the Americas, 08-13 August 2010, Foz do Iguassu, Brazil (from Juan Lorenzo)

2.1. Deadlines:

Abstract submission: March 31, 2010

Berkner Travel Fellowships: March 31, 2010

2.2. Near Surface Geophysics sessions:

NS01: Near Surface Geophysics General Contributions (Conveners: Jandyr De Menezes Travassos and Juan Manuel Lorenzo)

NS02: GPR and EMI Developments and Applications in Agriculture (Conveners: Evert C. Slob, Sebastien Lambot, and Jandyr De Menezes Travassos )

NS03: Medical Geology (Convener: Ahmet Umran Dogan; Cosponsor: Biogeosciences)

NS04: Near-surface Geophysics for Prediction and Monitoring (Conveners: Jandyr De Menezes Travassos and Juan Manuel Lorenzo; Cosponsor: Natural Hazards)

NS05: Open Reference Data sets, Software and Control Test Sites (Conveners: Juan Manuel Lorenzo and Jorge Porsani)

NS06: Radioactivity in the Near Earth Surface Environment (Conveners: Joselene Oliveira and Fernando Brenha Ribeiro; Cosponsors: Volcanology, Geochemistry and Petrology; Paleoceanography and Paleoclimatology; Biogeosciences; Natural Hazards; Hydrology)

NS07: Technological Developments in Near-surface Geophysics (Conveners: Sergio Luiz Fontes and Louise Pellerin)

2.3. Hydrogeophysics sessions (from Niklas Linde):

H03: Advances in Hydrogeophysics (Conveners: Remke L. Van Dam and James D. Irving; Cosponsor: Hydrology)

Thanks to all who are relentlessly promoting the Iguazu 2010 Joint Assembly and in particular the NS focus. We now have seven (7) NS Sessions. It almost looks like an NS fall meeting announcement. Please continue to stay involved and, especially, please encourage and support your students to attend!

Remember that the abstract deadline for The Meeting of the Americas is the last day in March. The Meeting of the Americas

(<http://www.agu.org/meetings/ja10/>) will be held 08-13 August 2010 in Foz do Iguazu, Brazil. The Iguazu World Natural Heritage Park will provide a spectacular backdrop to this Assembly which is sponsored by the most important Earth Science and Space Community Organizations of the Americas.

NS Program Committee for JA 2010 :

Jandyr Travassos, Brazil <<mailto:jandyr@on.br>>[jandyr@on.br](mailto:jandyr@on.br) <<mailto:jandyr@on.br>>  
<<mailto:jandyr@on.br>>

Juan Lorenzo, <<mailto:glore@lsu.edu>>[glore@lsu.edu](mailto:glore@lsu.edu)  
<<mailto:glore@lsu.edu>> <<mailto:glore@lsu.edu>>

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3. SAGEEP in Keystone, Colorado on April 15, 2010 (from Jonathan Nyquist)

The Environmental and Engineering Geophysical Society (EEGS) presents the 23rd Annual Symposium on the Application of Geophysics to Engineering and Environmental Problems (\*SAGEEP\*) being held at the Keystone Conference Center, Keystone, Colorado USA April 11-15, 2010.

Further information on conference registration (now open) and housing can be found at:

<http://www.eegs.org/sageep/index.html>

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4. EGU Meeting, Vienna, Austria, May 2-7, 2010 (from Niklas Linde)

The EGU General Assembly 2010 will bring together geoscientists from all over the world into one meeting covering all disciplines of the Earth, Planetary and Space Sciences. Especially for young scientists the EGU appeals to provide a forum to present their work and discuss their ideas with experts in all fields of geosciences. The EGU is looking forward to cordially welcome you in Vienna. Further information and final list of sessions can be found at: (<http://meetings.copernicus.org/egu2010/>)

Deadlines:

Letter of Schedule | Meeting Program onto Web: March, 12, 2010

Pre-registration deadline: March, 13, 2010

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5. SEG 2010 Denver, Colorado, 17-22 October: Call for Abstracts (from Jan van der Kruk)

The Near Surface Geophysics Section would like to invite you to submit an Expanded Abstract for oral or poster presentation at the SEG International Exposition and 80th Annual Meeting in Denver, Colorado, 17-22 October, 2010. The abstract submission system opens on 10 March 2010 and the deadline is 7 April 2010. Please visit the website <http://abstracts.seg.org/> for all abstract submission details.

Contributions from all Near Surface and Environmental Geophysics disciplines and from all parts of the world are welcome. We encourage paper submissions which emphasize near surface geophysics applied to groundwater resource evaluation, mine dewatering, environmental characterization, engineering evaluation, seismic and geologic hazards assessment, as well as advancements in borehole, surface and airborne geophysical technologies and processing for near surface applications.

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6. JEEG call for papers: Geophysics for Dam safety (from Janet Simms)

Call for Papers: Geophysics for Dam Safety; Special Issue of the Journal of Environmental and Engineering Geophysics

The Journal of Environmental and Engineering Geophysics (JEEG) announces a Call for Papers for a special issue on geophysics for dam safety. The Dam Safety issue is scheduled for publication in March 2011. The special issue editor is Dr. Michael H. Powers, U.S. Geological Survey, Denver, CO. Sponsorship of this issue is still open.

Papers describing the successful use of one or more geophysical surveys to understand engineering issues of concern for dam safety risk assessment and/or remediation are sought. The issues can include foundation and/or embankment property measurements, fault analyses for earthquake hazard potential, basin studies to better understand hydrological risks, or other safety concerns. Preference will be given for papers with supporting information to substantiate the geophysical models. International contributions are encouraged. The final special issue can only accommodate a maximum of seven or eight papers, but all accepted papers will be considered for publication in other JEEG issues.

Papers can be submitted through the JEEG submission site, <http://jeeg.allentrack.net>. Indicate in the cover letter that the paper is for consideration in the Dam Safety special issue. The deadline for submissions is May 30, 2010.

Questions may be directed to:

Special Issue Editor—Michael H. Powers, [mhpowers@usgs.gov](mailto:mhpowers@usgs.gov) <<mailto:mhpowers@usgs.gov>>

JEEG Editor—Janet Simms, [Janet.E.Simms@usace.army.mil](mailto:Janet.E.Simms@usace.army.mil) <<mailto:mhpowers@usgs.gov>>

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7. Vadose Zone Hydrologist position at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Richland, WA

Posting Title: Post Masters - Vadose Zone Hydrologist

Job Opening ID: 118464

Location: PNNL – Richland, WA

Job Description:

[https://erecruit.pnl.gov/cs/hrext/cache/PT\\_PIXEL\\_1.gif](https://erecruit.pnl.gov/cs/hrext/cache/PT_PIXEL_1.gif)The candidate will assist project staff to conceive, organize, and run numerical simulations of subsurface flow and transport processes that include the flow of water under variably saturated conditions, the transport of mass and energy, and the remediation of vadose and saturated zones. The candidate will participate in model development and the conduct of laboratory and field experiments. The candidate will analyze experimental data and compare them with model results using automated inverse methods. The candidate will communicate science findings verbally and in writing.

[https://erecruit.pnl.gov/cs/hrext/cache/PT\\_PIXEL\\_1.gif](https://erecruit.pnl.gov/cs/hrext/cache/PT_PIXEL_1.gif)

Minimum Requirements: Candidates must have received a Masters degree within the past two years from an accredited college or university.

Minimum overall GPA of 3.0 required. All staff at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory must be able to demonstrate the legal right to work in the United States.

Qualifications:

[https://erecruit.pnl.gov/cs/hrext/cache/PT\\_PIXEL\\_1.gif](https://erecruit.pnl.gov/cs/hrext/cache/PT_PIXEL_1.gif)Candidates must have received a M.S. in Soil Physics, Hydrology, Environmental Engineering or a related field with an emphasis on flow in variably saturated porous media. The candidate must be fluent in one or more scientific programming languages, should have experience working in a Linux/Unix environment, and must have excellent written and oral communication

skills. The candidate must have experience running a variably saturated subsurface flow and transport models, including STOMP and/or HYDRUS; experience with parameter estimation codes, e.g. PEST or UCODE, and geostatistical analysis software such as GSLIB. In addition, the successful candidate must be able to work well in a team setting, be self-motivated, and place a high value on data quality and accuracy

[https://erecruit.pnl.gov/cs/hrext/cache/PT\\_PIXEL\\_1.gif](https://erecruit.pnl.gov/cs/hrext/cache/PT_PIXEL_1.gif) Equal Employment

Opportunity: Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) is an Affirmative Action / Equal Opportunity Employer and supports diversity in the workplace. All employment decisions are made without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, marital or family status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or genetic information. All staff at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory must be able to demonstrate the legal right to work in the United States.

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To contribute material to the NS-letter send an e-mail to:

Xavier Comas [xcomas@fau.edu](mailto:xcomas@fau.edu) <<mailto:xcomas@fau.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.