

CCGO Highlights

A Publication of the California Council of Geoscience Organizations

An Advocate for the Profession in the Public Interest

Summer, 2003

CCGO Conducts the 4th Annual Legislative "Drive-In"

CCGO delegates Rick Blake, Sue Jagoda, Tim Parker, and Jim Jacobs descended on the Capitol for the annual Legislative Drive-In on March 4.

Themes this year were to support the various programs under budget cuts in the California Geological Survey (CGS), State Mining and Geology Board (SMGB) and Board of Geologists and Geophysicists (BGG); promote strong science programs in the schools; and increase diversity in the sciences. CCGO also supports legislation to protect groundwater and the environment, and the wise use of natural resources.

CCGO delegates spent the entire day in Sacramento, in meetings with CGS, SMGB, Department of Conservation, Office of Education, BGG, and the Governor's Office of Appointments. CCGO also met with California State Geologist Jim Davis, senior staff in the offices of Senators Byron Sher and Liz Figueroa, and Assemblymen Joe Nation and Manny Diaz. CCGO thanks GRA for hosting a reception for the delegates at the offices of Nossaman, Guthner, Knox, and Elliott.

Sixth Annual CCGO Fundraisers a rousing success!

The enthusiasm of California geologists soared on May 12 and 13 with the presence of Dr. Chester F. "Skip" Watts, the 2003 Richard H. Jahns Distinguished Lecturer. His talk emphasized that potential hazards from rock falls and rockslides are on the rise as land development reaches into previously untouched areas, and at the same time, a new generation of decision makers is emerging who are unaware of the fundamental principles of mass wasting, leading to some expensive and tragic

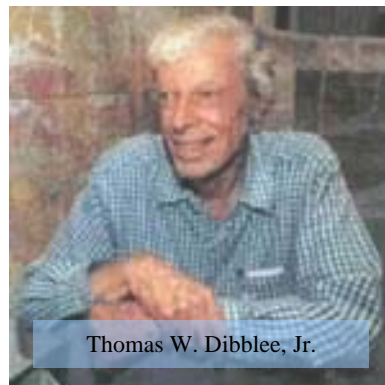
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examples of preventable disasters. Skip's philosophy dovetails perfectly with CCGO's mission, and his outstanding slides and dynamic presentation emphasized to the attendees of both meetings the reasons that CCGO was established. The meetings were held in conjunction with AEG SoCal and AEG SF, and were chaired by AEG member Betsy Mathieson, of Exponent Failure Analysis.

The 2003 CCGO Awards presented at the May Fundraisers included the following:

CCGO Community Geologist Award - John Karachewski of American Association of Petroleum Geologists (For a California geologist who has made a major difference in the profession and the public perception of geologists as a result of volunteer work or community service). John has donated the use of his spectacular photographs of geological formations for no charge to several geoscience organizations for many years (CCGO, BGG, etc.). His photographs can be viewed at www.geoscapesphotography.com/.

CCGO California Geologist Hall of Fame, Living Legends Award - Tom Dibblee, Jr. (For a living California geologist who has done extraordinary lifetime



Thomas W. Dibblee, Jr.

work towards improving the profession of geology). Tom needs no introduction, being one of the true legends in California Geology. He has walked and mapped nearly ¼ of the state in over 70 years of

active mapping! A bio and listing of his maps can be found at <http://www.sbnature.org/dibblee/>

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CCGO Founders' Award - Robert Tepel (For a California Geologist for life-long contribution to the profession and substantial contributions toward furthering the mission of CCGO). Bob is the principal founder of CCGO, and a driving force in exploring issues regarding Professional Licensure for Geologists.

CCGO Gold Award - Betsy Mathieson (For officers and volunteers of CCGO who have shown extraordinary dedication towards advancing the mission of CCGO). Betsy has been involved in CCGO since the earliest days of our formation, has served two terms as President, and has volunteered thousands of hours toward our mission and goals.

CCGO Presidential Award - Jane Gill (For officers and volunteers of CCGO who have shown dedication towards advancing the mission of CCGO). Jane was among the first organizers of CCGO, served for several years on the Board as Treasurer, and is currently CCGO Executive Director.

Our congratulations to each of these extraordinary geoscientists!

CCGO/ AIPG Geoscience Awards presented at California Science Fair

CCGO members and American Institute of Professional Geologists (AIPG) representatives Jim Jacobs (AIPG

President) and Dave Sadoff (AIPG VP) judged and

presented the CCGO/AIPG

Geoscience Awards at the California

Science Fair on May 20. The

awards included an award of \$250.00

from CCGO to winners of Senior

and Junior

Divisions. AIPG subsidized travel

costs for the judges.

The Junior Division winner was Eric Leidersdorf of Los Angeles County for his project "Use Your Head(land)! An Experiment in Shore Protection".

Mr. Leidersdorf explored the differences to shoreline and currents caused by breakwater geometry. The Senior Division winner was Allison



Jim Jacobs and Senior Division winner Allison Suarez at the 2003 California State Fair.

Suarez of Calaveras County for her project "Solving the Mystery of the Penn Mine Wetland". Ms. Suarez wished to find out what caused the low pH in the Penn Mine wetland during the 2002 rainy season; and why the wetland removed dissolved iron during the rainy season while most other dissolved metals increased. For the complete press release, go to

<http://ccgo.org/Education/2003SFA.html>

CCGO 2003 Legislative Research Grant

CCGO is seeking a California student to assist us in accomplishing one of our goals and objectives. This student would research compiled lists of geoscience-related regulatory databases, compile a list of proposed laws, regulations, ordinances, statutes, codes, and guidelines, and work with CCGO to undertake research necessary for preparation of position and background papers. CCGO will provide a stipend of \$1000 for this work, and the student will be considered for future work. For more information, please go to www.ccgo.org or contact the CCGO Executive Director at JaneHGill@aol.com. Email only, please.

CGS Programs under Siege

The Strong Motion Instrumentation Program (SMIP) and Seismic Hazards Mapping Program (SHMP) of the California Geological Survey (CGS) strong-motion sites are both in danger of being cut in the current legislative session due to the state budget crisis. CCGO urges you to write your legislator on this issue. Details on the programs, sample letters, and addresses are posted at www.CCGO.org.

CCGO Highlights is a publication of the California Council of Geoscience Organizations. There are four issues per year, Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter. We publish news and items of interest to the member organizations and businesses of CCGO. Member organizations, member businesses, and supporters are welcome to submit articles, items of interest, and news of their membership to the editor, Jane Gill, Executive Director of CCGO, at janehgill@ccgo.org