



**NEAR-SURFACE GEOPHYSICS FOCUS GROUP  
NEWSLETTER: JANUARY 2014**

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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: <http://sites.agu.org/nsg/>

**Follow NSFG on Twitter @NS\_AGU!**

## 1. 2013 AGU Fall Meeting Review (from George Tsoflias, NSFG President)

The Fall AGU Meeting has continued to grow, doubling attendance over the last ten years to over 22,000 participants in 2013! In addition, 50 remote viewing sites around the world signed up to view sessions live or on demand. The Near Surface Geophysics Focus Group had another strong year at the Fall Meeting. Although it is the technical program that brings us to San Francisco every December, it is always a great pleasure to see the NS community come together, meet with friends and make new acquaintances. The NS technical program (with 18 sessions and 157 abstracts) along with Hydrogeophysics and a number of co-sponsored sessions with other AGU sections and focus groups presented a broad range of topics highlighting the diverse and exciting work done in NS. For the second year we had technical sessions sponsored by the SEG (Society of Exploration Geophysicists) in an effort to increase interaction between the societies. Twenty-five students participated in NS OSPA (Outstanding Student Presentation Award) and the two winning presenters will be announced in a future newsletter and in Eos. I'd like to thank Lu Pellerin for coordinating the OSPA program this year and all the judges that helped evaluate student presentations.

The Near Surface Business Luncheon has become a regular event that many of us look forward to, not so much for the business update or the food, but for the opportunity to socialize with friends and colleagues. The event was a success again this year selling out (100 seats) online in advance of the start of the conference. Thirty student members were awarded free luncheon tickets thanks to the generosity of event sponsors and donors. A special event at this year's luncheon was the presentation of SEG's 2013 Near Surface Honorary Lecture by Dr. Valentina Socco "*Surface wave analysis for near-surface characterization: Introduction, theme and variation*". I thank Valentina for a wonderful presentation and the SEG for bringing the lecture to AGU. We hope to make the SEG HL presentation an annual event at the NSFG luncheon. The joint Hydrogeophysics-Near Surface social evening gathering at Hotel Utah is another favorite event that has become a tradition for our community and it was well attended.

Last but not least, I would like to acknowledge and thank the Sponsors of the NS Business Luncheon and Donors to NSFG:

<b>GEM Systems</b>	<b>Geometrics</b>	<b>Green Geophysics</b>	<b>GSSI</b>
<b>IRIS Instruments</b>	<b>Sensors &amp; Software</b>		<b>Zonge</b>

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## 2. AGU Membership Renewal and Contributions to NS (from George Tsoflias, NSFG President)

NSFG members:

If you have not renewed your AGU membership yet, this is the time to do it. Please make sure that Near Surface remains as one of your AGU affiliations (either primary or secondary) in order to continue receiving the newsletter.

This year consider making a donation to NSFG, any amount is appreciated. You can make your contribution online at [www.agu.org/givingtoagu](http://www.agu.org/givingtoagu). NS funds have been used to support student activities (subsidize the luncheon cost at the annual meeting; give monetary awards to Outstanding Student Presenters OSPA). We would like to expand benefits to students, such as travel grants to attend the fall meeting and small student research grants. Our focus has been on supporting students and we envision that remaining a priority; however other activities could also be supported. Your suggestions are always welcome.

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### **3. Union Awards, Medals, and Prize Nominations begin 31 January 2014 (from Louise Pellerin)**

**Deadline for Nominations:** 15 March 2014

UNION AWARDS, MEDALS, & PRIZE nominations begin 31 January 2014. If you have someone in mind that you would like to see nominated from NSFG, review details on the website <http://honors.agu.org/> and contact Lu Pellerin, Nominations Committee Chair, [pellerin@greengeophysics.com](mailto:pellerin@greengeophysics.com)

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### **4. Call for 2014 AGI Nominations (from Louise Pellerin)**

**Deadline for Nominations:** 1 February 2014

American Geosciences Institute (AGI) is seeking quality candidates for American Geosciences Institute 2015 officer positions and awards. Your nominations should be received by February 1, 2014, in order to be reviewed by the AGI Nominating Committee making recommendations for the 2015 officers and 2014 awards. Specifically AGI is seeking nominations for the following Executive Committee positions and awards:

*AGI Executive Committee Positions*

President Elect  
AGI Secretary  
AGI Member at Large

*AGI Awards*

Marcus Milling Legendary Geoscientist Medal  
Medal in Memory of Ian Campbell for Superlative Service to the Geosciences  
Outstanding Contribution to the Public Understanding of the Geosciences

AGI's Nominating Committee recommendations will be presented for consideration to the AGI Member Society Council at the April 7, 2014, meeting in Houston, Texas.

Nominations may also be submitted online at <<http://www.agiweb.org/direct/awards.html>>. In addition to the nomination form, please also include a brief biography that outlines the qualifications and experience of your candidate(s). Up to three letters of support may be sent for each nominee and, if provided, will be included in the package sent to the 2014 Nominating Committee.

AGI needs your participation in this process to identify the most appropriate candidates. If you have any questions, please contact Leigh Sutherland at AGI (voice: 703-379-2480 ext. 203 or email: [ls@agiweb.org](mailto:ls@agiweb.org)). Your assistance in submitting candidates for officer positions and awards is appreciated!

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## 5. GEOPHYSICS Special Issue: Coastal Near Surface Geophysics (from Remke Van Dam)

**Deadline for Submissions:** 28 February 2014

CALL FOR PAPERS, Geophysics Special Issue  
*Near Surface Geophysics in the Dynamic Coastal Environment: Crossing the Land/Sea Interface*

The Near Surface Geophysics Section of SEG is soliciting contributions for a Geophysics special issue on near surface geophysics in the coastal environment. The coastal zone is a dynamic setting, undergoing significant change at many time scales driven by factors such as large storms, rising sea level, and human activity. Both land- and marine-based near-surface geophysical methods can play a significant role in understanding the many processes that impact the coastal zone. This special issue will highlight the latest developments, instruments and techniques in applying near-surface geophysical methods to the coastal zone. It will emphasize as well connections between these methods and both the sedimentary geology of the coastal zone and numerical modeling of the impacting processes.

*Guest Associate Editors:*

John Goff ([goff@utig.ig.utexas.edu](mailto:goff@utig.ig.utexas.edu)) and Jeff Paine ([jeff.paine@beg.utexas.edu](mailto:jeff.paine@beg.utexas.edu))

Jackson School of Geosciences, University of Texas at Austin

Interested authors should submit their manuscripts for re- view no later than 28 February 2014. In addition, the special section editors would like to receive a provisional title and list of authors as soon as possible. Authors should submit via the normal online submission system for Geophysics (<https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/geophysics>) and indicate that it is a contribution for Crossing the land/sea interface. The submitted papers will be subject to the regular peer-review process, and the contributing authors also are expected to participate in the review process as reviewers.

*We will work according to the following timeline:*

Submission deadline:	28 February 2014
Peer review complete:	31 July 2014
All files submitted for production:	20 August 2014
Publication of issue:	Nov-Dec 2014

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## 6. INTERPRETATION Special Issue: RIVERS (from Remke Van Dam)

**Deadline for Submissions:** 15 May 2014

CALL FOR PAPERS, Interpretation Special Issue  
*RIVERS*

Rivers form important reservoirs globally, but their deposits are complicated. Rivers come in a wide variety of styles (e.g., meandering versus braided end-members have been recognized) and may form muddy or sand-dominated successions. Recent advances in seismic geomorphology and seismic attribute analysis have enabled 3D images of fluvial systems worldwide, but this field is still quite new.

Examples of meandering channels and channel belts are common, but braided examples are rare. The identification of simple unit bars versus compound bars is just beginning to be applied to the study of the facies architecture and seismic geomorphology of ancient systems. The editors of Interpretation invite papers on the topic of Rivers for publication in the February 2015 special section to supplement the journal's regular technical papers on various subject areas. Contributions are invited in the areas of

seismic geomorphology and the appearance of river deposits on seismic attributes and impedance inversion, as well as tutorials on geologic processes involved in formation and imaging of rivers in seismic data. We anticipate contributions related to:

- geomorphology and facies architecture of paleorivers and their deposits on seismic data
- seismic attribute analysis for paleoriver characterization
- the appearance of rivers in wireline and image logs
- outcrop analogs to subsurface river deposits
- differentiating river styles: meandering, braided, anastomosed, distributive, tributive
- modeling and scaling of fluvial systems
- fluvial petroleum reservoirs
- mapping of shallow river deposits for engineering and groundwater applications
- GPR studies of river deposits
- acquisition, processing, and imaging workflows to improve subsurface imaging of river deposits

Interested authors should submit manuscripts for review no later than 15 May 2014. In addition, the special section editors would like to receive a provisional title and list of authors as soon as possible. Authors should submit via the normal online submission system for Interpretation (<https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/interpretation>) and select the Rivers option in the manuscript type dropdown box. The submitted papers will be subject to the regular peer-review process, and the contributing authors are also expected to participate in the review process as reviewers.

*The submissions will be processed according to the following timeline:*

Submission deadline:	15 May 2014
Peer review complete:	26 September 2014
Final files submitted for production:	9 October 2014
Publication of issue:	February 2015

*Special section editors:*

Janok P. Bhattacharya ([bhataj@mcmaster.ca](mailto:bhataj@mcmaster.ca)); David Cleveland ([david.m.cleveland@exxonmobil.com](mailto:david.m.cleveland@exxonmobil.com)); Nick Howes ([Nick.Howes@shell.com](mailto:Nick.Howes@shell.com)); Steve Hubbard ([shubbard@ucalgary.ca](mailto:shubbard@ucalgary.ca)); Dale Leckie ([leckied@shaw.ca](mailto:leckied@shaw.ca)); Kurt Marfurt ([kmarfurt@ou.edu](mailto:kmarfurt@ou.edu)); Henry W. Posamentier ([henry.posamentier@chevron.com](mailto:henry.posamentier@chevron.com)); Mathew Pranter ([matthew.pranter@ou.edu](mailto:matthew.pranter@ou.edu)); Brian J. Willis ([BWillis@chevron.com](mailto:BWillis@chevron.com)); Lesli J. Wood ([woodl@beg.utexas.edu](mailto:woodl@beg.utexas.edu))

## 7. Upcoming Conferences and Workshops

### 7.1 EGU 2014 – Abstract Submissions DUE 16 January, 2014

**Conference Date:** 27 April- 02 May, 2014

**Location:** Vienna, Austria

**Conference Website:** <http://www.egu2014.eu/>

Some example sessions that may be of interest to Near Surface Geophysics Focus Group members are given below, but please see the conference website for the full session listing.

**SM4.5/HS12.2** Imaging the shallow subsurface with seismic and other geophysical methods

**HS2.3.4** Innovative sensing techniques and data analysis approaches to increase hydrological process understanding

**GI3.1** Civil Engineering Applications of Ground Penetrating Radar

**GI3.5** Sensing techniques, geophysical methods, sensor network architectures and data analysis methods for critical and transport infrastructures monitoring and diagnostics

**CR2.3/SM4.6** Applied Geophysics in Cryosphere Sciences

**GI3.4** From Artefact to Historical Site: Geoscience and Non-Invasive Methods for the Study and Conservation of Cultural Heritage

**GI3.9** Integrated Studying of Karst Phenomenon in Subsurface

**ESS1.9** Unmanned aerial vehicles for high resolution sensing in the geosciences

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### 7.2 NAGT/Cutting Edge Teaching and Early Career Workshops

#### **Getting the Most Out of Your Introductory Courses (virtual)**

March 3-14, 2014; *Application Deadline: January 13, 2014*

This workshop will provide the opportunity for departments, individual faculty, and regional or state systems to reflect on their introductory courses and the ways that they can be designed to best serve their needs in their context. <http://serc.carleton.edu/NAGTWorkshops/intro/virtual2014/index.html>

#### **Designing and Using Videos in Undergraduate Geoscience Education (virtual)**

Feb 7, March 7, April 4, May 2 – 2014; *Application Deadline: January 17, 2014*

This virtual workshop is open to all faculty who teach undergraduate geoscience courses and who are currently incorporating homemade videos in their courses or who will begin to develop these resources as part of this program. <http://serc.carleton.edu/NAGTWorkshops/video/workshop2014/index.html>

#### **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED FOR NEW FACULTY:**

##### **Early Career Geoscience Faculty: Teaching, Research, and Managing Your Career**

June 22-26, 2014 with an optional trip to NSF on June 27, 2014 - University of Maryland, College Park  
*Application deadline: March 1, 2014*

There are other workshops with deadlines in February, so be sure to check out the NAGT/Cutting Edge and InTeGrate Workshop Schedules.

- <http://serc.carleton.edu/NAGTWorkshops/workshops.html>
- <http://serc.carleton.edu/integrate/workshops/index.html>

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**TO CONTRIBUTE MATERIAL TO THE NSFG NEWSLETTER SEND AN E-MAIL TO:**

Stephen Moysey ([smoysey@clemsun.edu](mailto:smoysey@clemsun.edu))

DEADLINE: Material must be received 5 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.

**GET YOUR MESSAGE OUT NS MEMBERS FASTER:**

You will no longer need to wait until the end of the month to share an important or time-sensitive contribution to the newsletter. Appropriate contributions to the newsletter will also be shared ASAP via Twitter. Please note that only NSFG members that follow [@NS\\_AGU](#) will receive Twitter announcements, so make sure that you sign up!