



**NORTHWEST
SCIENTIFIC
ASSOCIATION**



Resilient Science

**96th Annual Meeting of the Northwest Scientific Association,
jointly sponsored with the Northwest Lichenologists**

March 23–27, 2026

Hosted by the Evergreen State College

Olympia, Washington

AGENDA

Monday March 23, Willapa Bay

Preconference field trip—Earthquake paleoecology of muddy low-tide outcrops accessed by rented kayaks. Depart Olympia 7AM; return 5PM, Limit: 20 participants. Leader, Brian Atwater

Tuesday March 24

Afternoon (1PM-4PM): NWSA Board Meeting, on Campus, PURCE HALL LH08

Evening (5PM – 8PM): WELCOME SOCIAL, The Mark, Downtown Olympia

Partially hosted, wine, food. No-host bar.

We will have the entire restaurant and covered garden

Wednesday March 25, The Evergreen State College

8AM. Breakfast snacks/coffee/tea, PURCE HALL, Lobby

8:30AM: WELCOME Evergreen Provost Noah Coburn, Dylan Fischer, TESC, David Shaw President, NWSA, LH01

9AM – 10AM. Morning Plenary Session, LH01

Robert Van Pelt, Forest Ecologist, Affiliate Prof. University of Washington. Author: Forest Giants of the Pacific Coast.



Presentation Title: **Importance of big trees - insights from 40 years in the field.**

Giant trees have been a source of wonder and inspiration to human cultures since the beginning. Many early mythologies are centered around giant trees. Champion tree programs around the world highlight the cultural, historical, and ecological significance of trees, while also inspiring public awareness and conservation.

Morning Contributed Oral Session

SESSION 1, **Forest Ecology and Landscape Change**, LH01.

- 10:15-10:30 Dylan Fischer, Ecosystem Resilience in Old-growth Forests and Clearcuts Following the Eruption of Mount St. Helens
 - 10:30-10:45 Lucy Kerhoulas, Conifer responses to wildfire and drought in northern California
 - 10:45-11:00 James Lamping, Landscape-Scale Projections of Forest Structure and Carbon Dynamics in Pacific Northwest National Parks
 - 11:00-11:15 David Peter, Unique flora and historic records reveal a lost Olympic Peninsula open woodland
 - 11:15-11:30 Dana Warren, Exploring the use of nineteenth-century paintings to assess pre-industrial forest and landscape change
 - 11:30-11:45 Sebastian Evans, Alpine plant succession on a Little Ice Age glacial foreland.
 - 11:45-12:00 OPEN
- Noon – 1PM. **LUNCH**, provided (sandwich bar or similar), PURCE HALL Lobby

[Afternoon Lichen Field trip 12:30-4:30- Meet in Lab 1 Foyer]

1PM – 2 PM. Afternoon Plenary Session, LH01

Megan Anderson, Earthquake Geologist/Geophysicist, Washington Department of Natural Resources



Presentation Title: **What happens when you crash Iceland into North America? Mapping Washington's hidden ancient tectonic "pileup".**

Western Washington has been a location of intense geologic action for millions of years, and it still is. This talk shows how geologists use the physics of Earth's gravity and magnetic fields to map deeply-buried rocks which tell the story of ancient mountains now long-gone. The talk will also show how the subsurface architecture left behind continues to influence the geologic and earthquake activity of today.

Afternoon Contributed Concurrent Oral Sessions

WEDS PM SESSION A, **Geological and Physical Processes**, LH01.

- 2:15-230 Richard Waitt, Mount St. Helens 18 May 1980 Clarified—Eyewitness Records of the Overland Pyroclastic Surge as Two Gravity Currents
- 2:30-2:45 Patrick Pringle, Status report on radiocarbon dating of subfossil wood at selected sites in the Pacific Northwest funded by a 2025 Pangea Awards grant
- 2:45-3:00 Okikiola Alegbeleye, Modeling Innovative Broken-Rock Habitat Quality Metrics for Climate-Sensitive Species using UAV Data and Machine Learning
- 3:00-3:15 Kaitlyn Briggs, Following the Water: Tree Water Sources and Streamflow Dynamics in Coastal Northern California Forests
- 3:15-3:30 Constance Harrington, Seasonal Trends in Soil Moisture in Young Plantations in Western Washington and Oregon
- 3:30-3:45 William Carlson, Leaf Wetness Sensors

- 3:45-4:00 BREAK

WEDS PM SESSION B, Restoration and Landscape Change, LH03.

- 2:15-2:30 Jennifer Johns, Community scientists investigate the complexity of forest recovery in the Opal Creek Wilderness and Scenic Recreation Areas after the 2020 Beachie Creek fire
- 2:30-2:45 ~~Jed Kaplan, Ecosystem modeling, wildfire, paleoecology, human-environment interactions, Indigenous burning practices~~
- 2:45-3:00 Sarah Hamman, Quantifying the biodiversity value of working lands to regional prairie conservation
- 3:00-3:15 David Peter, Seed heat tolerance of western Washington prairie associated species
- 3:15-3:30 Alison Styring, Bioacoustic Monitoring in The Evergreen State College Campus Forest
- 3:30-3:45 Susan Waters, Native bumble bees in the Pacific Northwest display more generalized foraging in the presence of a rapidly spreading non-native bumble bee

3:45-4:00 BREAK

WEDS PM SESSION C, Ecosystem Health and Pollinators, LH01.

- 4:00-4:15 ~~Alejandro Torres, Assessing Pollen Limitation of Native Prairie Forbs of Eastern Washington~~
- 4:15-4:30 Carri LeRoy, Plant sex and herbivore effects influence willow litter chemistry and decomposition in streams at Mount St. Helens
- 4:30-4:45 Emily Bradford, Finding Space for the Island Marble Butterfly: Modeling the Habitat of a Highly Endangered Endemic Butterfly in the Salish Sea Ecoregion
- 4:45-5:00 Andrea Thorpe, Restoration of sand dune habitat for a critically imperiled moth

5-7PM POSTER SESSION (refreshments and snacks available), LH07

Thursday March 26, The Evergreen State College

8:30AM. Breakfast snacks/Coffee/Tea, PURCE HALL, Lobby

8:50AM. WELCOME Lalita Calabria TESC, Lucy Kerhoulas, Cal Poly Humbolt, TESC, Dave Shaw, NWSA, LH01

9AM-10AM. Morning Plenary Session, LH01

Garrett Meigs, Forest Health Scientist, Washington Dept. of Natural Resources.



Presentation Title: **Forest health in a time of rapid change: A PNW perspective.**

Forests are changing in rapid and often surprising ways. This talk presents an overview of forest health and disturbance in Washington and Oregon, highlighting examples of natural and anthropogenic drivers of change. As wildfire, insects, drought, and other disturbances continue to reshape forests, long-term monitoring and adaptive management will be essential for landscape resilience.

Morning Contributed Oral Sessions

THURS AM SESSION A, **Forest Health**, LH01.

- 10:15-10:30 Rachel Brooks, Washington State Forest Health Highlights
- 10:30-10:45 Sarah Navarro, 2025 Oregon Forest Health Highlights
- 10:45-11:00 Michael Case, Managing for forest resilience in face of climate change; a case study of a PNW heatdome event
- 11:00-11:15 Michelle Agne, Effects of assisted population migration on Douglas-fir tree health
- 11:15-11:30 Kellee Boyer, Is root disease a factor in Mediterranean oak borer (*Xyleborus monographus*) host choice in Oregon white oak (*Quercus garryana*)?
- 11:30-11:45 Joseph Hulbert, Investigating western sword fern mortality in the Puget Sound
- 11:45-12:00 David Shaw, Western oak mistletoe (*Phoradendron villosum* subsp. *villosum*) in Oregon: pest or important native plant?

THURS AM SESSION B, **Lichenology**, LH03.

- 10:15-10:30 Alan Peterson, Lichen Records from the Contiguous United States: What We See, What We Miss, and What Might Be Wrong
- 10:30-10:45 Elise Grage, Tracking Population Decline of Alpine Lichen in the Olympic National Park, WA.
- 10:45-11:00 Cj Copper, Influences of conifer encroachment on Oregon white oak crown structure and epiphyte communities in northern California
- 11:00-11:15 Isabel Dean, IUCN Red List Assessments for the Rare Lichens *Nephroma occultum*, *Pseudocyphellaria hawaiiensis* and *Pannaria oregonensis*
- 11:15-11:30 Amanda Hardman, Listing Rare Species on Forest Service Lands
- 11:30-12:00 General Discussion: what are the major knowledge gaps in PNW lichenology?

Noon – 12:50. **PIZZA LUNCH, Annual Membership Meeting**, Announce Poster and Other Awards. ALL attendees invited. LH07

1PM – 2 PM. Afternoon **Plenary** Session, LH01

Sandy Leibhold, Chief Scientist, Forest Invasion Synthesis Centre Prague, Czechia. Faculty of Forestry and Wood Sciences | Czech University of Life Sciences Prague.



Presentation Title: **Globalization and biotic homogenization of the world's forests.**

Worldwide, biological invasions of non-native plants, insects and tree pathogens are transforming forests and impacting the ecosystem services they provide. At the same time, industrial forestry is increasingly turning toward the use of non-native tree species plantations to meet the world's demand for wood as well as for mitigation of carbon emissions. Here I will discuss these trends and comment on the outlook for the future.

Afternoon Contributed Concurrent Oral Sessions

THURS PM SESSION A, Fire Ecology, LH01.

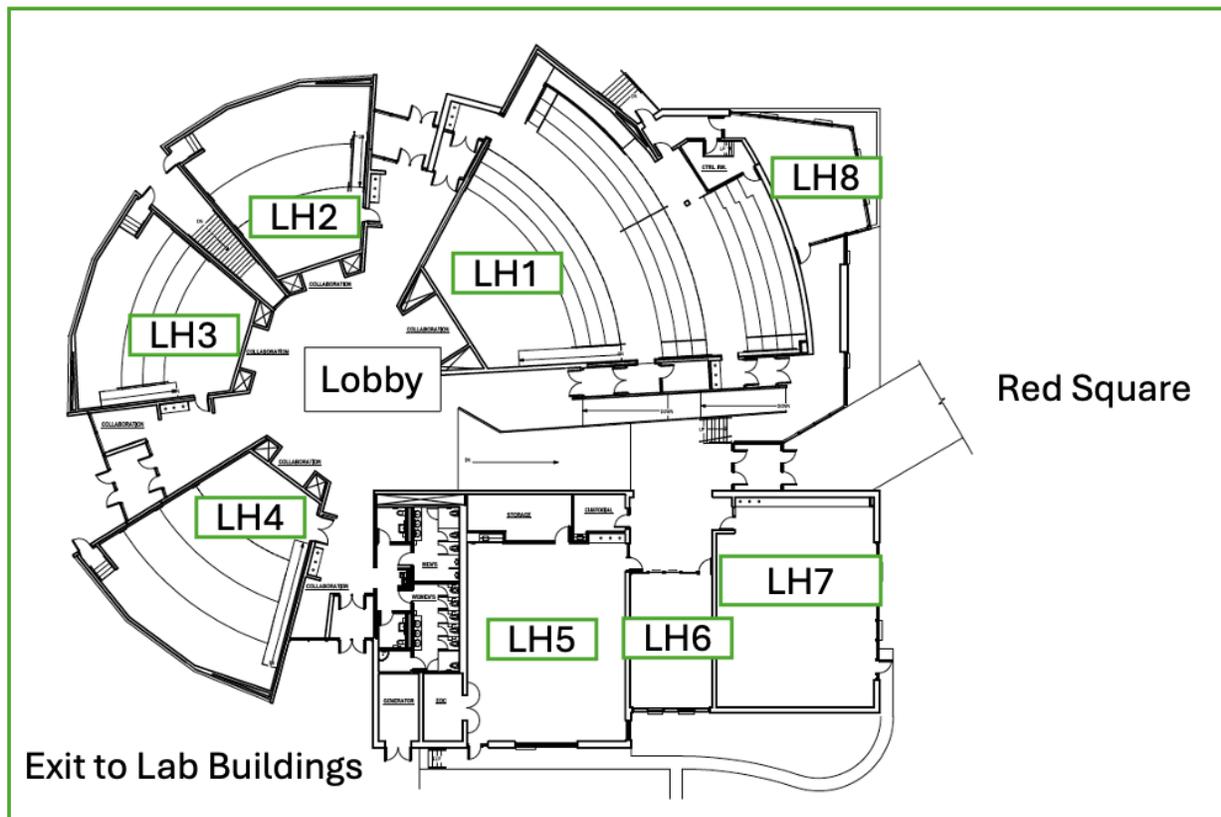
- 2:15-2:30 Kristen Emmett, Forest health monitoring underscores urgency of fire risk reduction efforts in eastern Washington
- 2:30-2:45 Samantha Kennel, Assessing Forest Health Following a Free-Burn Wildfire in Colville National Forest
- 2:45-3:00 Derek Churchill, Evaluating the work of wildfires in enhancing landscape resilience across Washington's Forests.
- 3:00-3:15 Joshua Halofsky, Have fire exclusion and land-use shifted aboveground biomass outside historical ranges across a fire-prone forest region?
- 3:15-3:30 Daniel Gavin, Vegetation, Fuel, and Modeled Fire Behavior Following Single and Multiple Fires in the Western Cascade Range of Oregon
- 3:30-3:45 Daniel Donato, Observing a 500-year-old Douglas-fir forest for 72 years: What can it tell us about old-growth development and climate change impacts?
- 3:45-4:00 BREAK
- 4:00-4:15 Matthew Reilly, Fire effects on trees species distributions in Oregon, Washington, and California
- 4:15-4:30 Michele Buonanduci, Atlas of multiple burn severity metrics across forests of the western US
- 4:30-4:45 Madison Laughlin, Scorch vs. Torch: Linking field and satellite data to map qualitatively different levels of severe fire
- 4:45-5:00 Brian Harvey, (Un)paint it black: embracing the wide variety of ecological outcomes produced by high-severity fire

LICHENOLOGY Alpine Lichen Workshop 2-5pm Lab 1 Rm 1040

Friday March 27, Field Trips (details to follow)

- 1) Restoration Ecology: **½ day trip to view prairie, oak, and wetland restoration in the field Leader, Connie Harrington.** This field trip will visit Glacial Heritage, A Thurston County Park Managed by the Centers for Natural Lands Management to view successful examples of prairie and oak restoration and Blooms Preserve, a Capitol Land Trust property with recent examples of restoring wetlands.
- 2) Lichens in the Field (NW Lichenologists)

Building Map:



[Campus Map linked here](#)

