AEG Landslides SUPER SCHOOL

WORKSHOP PROGRAM



LANDSLIDES SUPER SCHOOL PLANNING COMMITTEE
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Committee
Christina Comuso, NJ Department of Transportation
Julia Frazier, BGC Engineering
Paco Gomez, University of Missouri
Matthew Reihl, GeoStabilization International®

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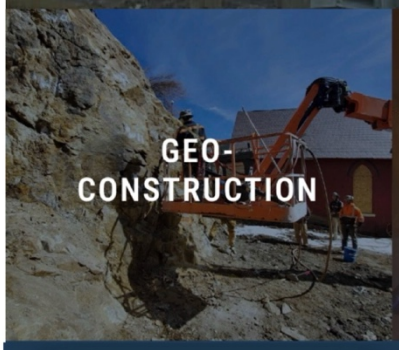
ON THE COVER
Big Sur Slide (USGS)

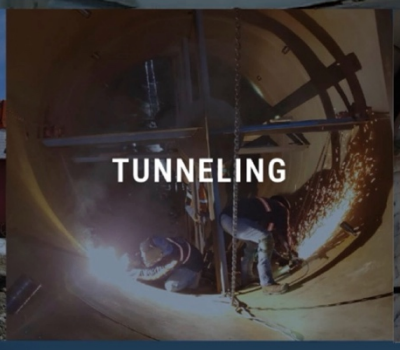
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WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

Association of Environmental & Engineering Geologists

DAY 1: NOVEMBER 3, 2026 – Sponsored by Harrison Western

Time	Title	Speaker	Room
7:00am	Breakfast and Registration		Salon E-H
8:00am	Welcome and Introduction to Workshop and Landslide Practice	Cole Rosenbaum, BGC Engineering, James Arthurs, Federal Highway Administration, and Lynne Chastain-Carpenter, USDA Forest Service	Salon A-D
8:30am	Landslide Characterization	Chris Pederson, BGC Engineering	Salon A-D
9:30am	Landslide Recognition and Mapping	Lynne Chastain-Carpenter, USDA Forest Service	Salon E-H
10:30am	Morning Break		Salon A-D
11:00am	Landslide Mechanics	Roch Player, Braun Intertec Corporation & Chris Pederson, BGC Engineering	Salon A-D
1:00pm	Lunch		Salon E-H
2:00pm	Investigation Planning	Chris Pederson. BGC Engineering	Salon A-D
3:30pm	Break		Salon E-H
4:00pm	Landslide Monitoring	Darren Beckstrand, Landslide Technology	Salon A-D
5:00pm	Networking Reception		Monarch

DAY 2: NOVEMBER 4, 2026 - Sponsored by Harrison Western

Time	Title	Speaker	Room
7:00am	Breakfast		Salon E-H
8:00am	Slope Stability Modelling	Roch Player, Braun Intertec Corporation & Darren Beckstrand, Landslide Technology	Salon A-D
10:00am	Break		Salon E-H
10:30am	Hazard, Consequence, and Risk Panel	Nicole Oester Mapes, CDOT, Lynne Chastain-Carpenter, USDA Forest Service, Christina Comuso, NJ Dept. of Transportation, and Justin Brooks, Kinder Morgan, Inc.	Salon A-D
12:00pm	Lunch		Salon E-H
1:00pm	Mitigation Methods	Darren Beckstrand, Landslide Technology and Matt Reihl, GeoStabilization International®	Salon A-D
2:00pm	Communication and Professional Practice	Nicole Oester Mapes, Colorado Dept. of Transportation and Lynne Chastain-Carpenter, USDA Forest Service	Salon A-D
2:30pm	Break		Salon E-H
3:00pm	Awareness of Advanced and Emerging Methods	Elizabeth Eiden, USGS and Olivia Hoch, USGS	Salon A-D
3:30pm	Recent Events	Lauren Schaefer, USGS and Darren Beckstrand, Landslide Technology	Salon A-D
4:15pm	Field Trip Briefing	Casey Dowling, BGC Engineering and Cole Rosenbaum, BGC Engineering	Salon A-D

DAY 3: NOVEMBER 5, 2026 – FIELD TRIP – Sponsored by BGC Engineering

Time	Title	Leaders	Room
8:00am	Field Trip	Casey Dowling, BGC Engineering & Cole Rosenbaum, BGC Engineering	Meet in the Lobby
3:00pm	Field Trip Debrief and Course Wrap Up	Casey Dowling, BGC Engineering, Cole Rosenbaum, BGC Engineering, and James Arthurs, FHWA	Monarch

Wifi Network: Marriott Conference – Password: 11AEG2026



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AEG Landslides Technical Working Group

Technical Working Groups are established by the President to pursue a technical task or engineering/scientific issue, which is of importance to the membership and in accordance with the objectives of AEG. Co-chairs are appointed by the President. Committee members are selected from the membership by the co-chairs. Major goals of Technical Working Groups are as follows:

1. Monitor new developments in the special technical fields, bringing them to the attention of the membership through timely articles in the AEG NEWS and website
2. Cooperate with other professional/technical societies and organizations in organizing and presenting seminars and conferences on the TWG's technical specialty
3. Formulate draft policy statements and position papers for Board consideration in a professional and timely manner

If you are interested in joining the Technical Working Group, email chairs, James Arthurs, james.arthurs@dot.gov or Cole Rosenbaum, crosenbaum@bgcengineering.ca



James Arthurs, Ph.D., P.E., P.G.
Senior Geotechnical Engineer, Federal Highway Administration

James strives to apply his knowledge and skills in geology and engineering to help the public live and build safely in a world rich in hazards. To that goal, he earned a B.Sc. in Geological Engineering from the Colorado School of Mines, focusing on engineering geology, geotechnics, and hydrogeology. James moved to New Zealand, and started work towards a Ph.D. in Geology, his research focused on landslide in volcanic ash, volcaniclastics, and volcanic derived sediments. Upon completing his Ph.D., he moved back to Colorado and went to work for a local geotechnical firm, starting as a construction inspector and working his way up to a project engineer responsible for design of MSE retaining walls for large, complex commercial and residential sites. Along the way, he helped coordinate and conduct subsurface investigations for the Eagle P3 FasTracks project, a recent major commuter rail build out in Denver. At this point, he had an opportunity to join Federal service at the Office of Federal Lands Highway. Since then, he has worked on a variety of complex and technically challenging projects with a variety of local and Federal projects. James won the Young Author Award at the 2017 Highway Geology Symposium for his paper on construction on weathered volcanic ash in Hawai'i. James is active in the Association of Engineering Geologists, serving as his local Chapter Chair in 2019-2021, and Co-Chair of the Landslide Technical Working Group from 2022 to present.



Darren Beckstrand
Landslide Technology

Darren is a Senior Associate Geologist with Landslide Technology with 26 years of experience. He specializes in Geotechnical Asset Management, Geotechnical Instrumentation, and Slope Stability Concerns



Justin Brooks, L.G., L.E.G.
Pipeline Integrity Geohazard Lead, Kinder Morgan

Justin Brooks is a Licensed Engineering Geologist in Washington State and has 19 years of experience in geotechnical consulting and geohazard management. Over the past decade Justin has worked with Kinder Morgan to develop and oversee nationwide geohazard management programs for pipeline integrity. Justin has a passion for geomorphology and near surface geologic processes as well as the practical application of technologies such as LiDAR, GIS, and remote sensing to systematic geohazard management at scale.



Lynne Chastain-Carpenter
Program Manager at National Geologic Hazards Management Program, USDA Forest Service

Lynne Chastain-Carpenter is a national-level emergency management and geologic hazards leader with over 25 years of experience in disaster response, risk assessment, interagency coordination, tribal engagement, and strategic program development. She serves as the USDA Forest Service's only full-time Geologic Hazards Program Manager, providing nationwide expertise on landslides, slope failures, floods, volcanic and seismic hazards, and other geologic risks, and has led complex emergency operations including post-Hurricane Helene assessments. Her background spans federal emergency management, geotechnical evaluation, mineral resource economics, and high-level tribal relations, including serving as a principal liaison for multiple Tribal Nations. She has designed and led national programs, advised senior leadership across agencies, and is recognized for her ability to synthesize technical data, coordinate multi-jurisdictional responses, and support communities facing natural hazards. She holds a B.A. in Geology from Colorado College (Cum Laude) with graduate studies in geochemistry at the Colorado School of Mines.



Christina Comuso
Geologist, NJ Department of Transportation

Christina Comuso is a geologist with the New Jersey Department of Transportation and has spent the past five years focusing on rockfall hazard assessment and mitigation, subsurface characterization, slope stability analysis, and geologic support for emergency response and infrastructure recovery. She also helps lead the development of NJDOT's geotechnical asset management database and implementation of an inspection and monitoring program for rock slopes, retaining walls, and other geotechnical and geological assets. In addition to this she leads the Geotechnical Engineering and Geology Unit's drone program and is a certified FAA Part 107 remote pilot. Christina holds a Master of Science in Geology from Stellenbosch University and a Bachelor of Science in Geology from Stockton University. She remains actively engaged in the professional community through her involvement with the Transportation Research Board, the Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists, the Geological Association of New Jersey and the Highway Geology Symposium.



Casey Dowling
Senior Geological Engineer, BGC Engineering

Casey Dowling is a Senior Geological Engineer at BGC Engineering and an adjunct faculty member in the Geology and Geological Engineering Department at the Colorado School of Mines. He has over 15 year's experience working in the field of landslides, completing field investigations and desktop analyses on landslides from the Rockies of Northern British Columbia to the Yazoo Clay of Mississippi. He specializes in landslide characterization and geohazard management strategies for linear infrastructure.



Elizabeth Eiden, Ph.D.
Research Geophysicist, Geologic Hazards Science Center, USGS

Elizabeth Eiden, Ph.D. is a Mendenhall Postdoctoral Fellow with the Landslide Hazards Program at the U.S. Geological Survey in Golden, CO. She received her B.Sc. in Geophysics from the California Institute of Technology and her Ph.D. from Cornell University. She has 10 years of experience using remote sensing data to detect, monitor, and model geohazards. Her specialty is in Interferometric Synthetic Aperture Radar (InSAR), a remote sensing technique that uses active microwaves to measure surface deformation over time.



Olivia Hoch
Geologist, USGS

Olivia is a Geologist in the Landslide Hazard Program in Golden, CO.Olivia earned a BA in Earth Science from Vassar College and an MS in Geoscience from University of Arizona



Nicole Oester Mapes
Geohazards Services Manager, Colorado Department of Transportation

Nicole is a geohazards professional with over 13 years of experience in geohazard risk analysis, design and construction support, asset management, and technical team leadership. Nicole is recognized for leading successful geohazard response and management efforts. Experienced in integrating advanced geotechnical tools and research methodologies to manage geohazard risk across Colorado's transportation network while optimizing funding allocations.



Chris Pederson
Geotechnical Engineer, BGC Engineering

Chris oversees geotech drilling, soil and rock logging, geohazard characterization, construction monitoring, stability modeling, geologic research/desktop studies, data compilation, and reporting. He received his B.S. and M.S. in Geological Engineering from Colorado School of Mines.



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Roch S. V. Player, PE, BC.GE, PMP

Vice President, Principal Engineer - Braun Intertec Corporation

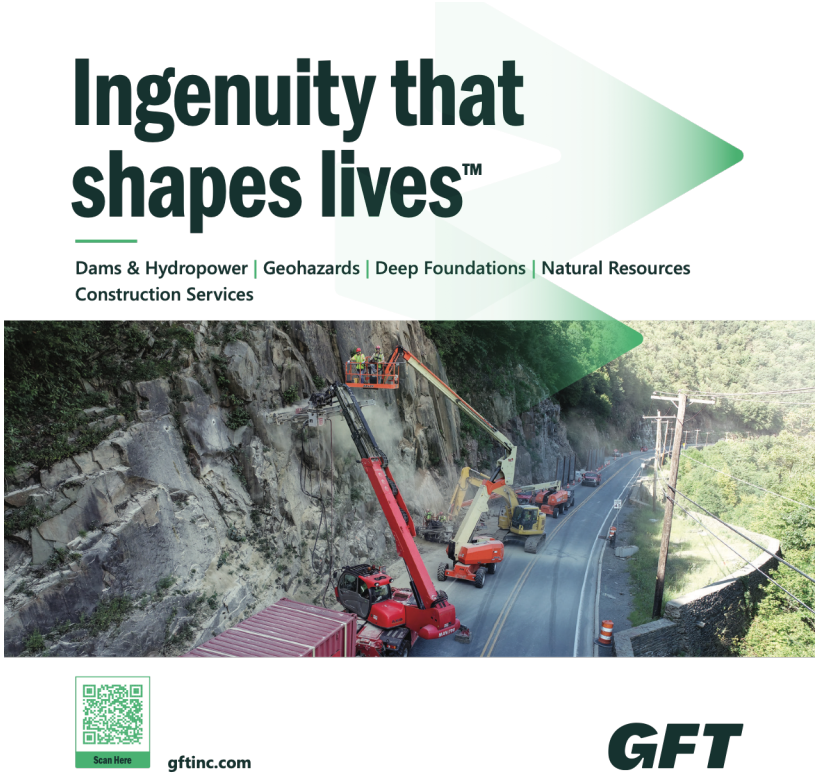
Roch S. V. Player is Vice President of Technical Practice at Braun Intertec Corporation. Mr. Player resides in Mount Vernon, Iowa. He received his BSCE with a Geology Minor and MSCE in Geotechnical Engineering with a Geology Emphasis from Iowa State University. Mr. Player is a licensed Professional Engineer in multiple states. He has over 30 years professional experience on projects throughout the United States and Canada. During his career, he has specialized in geohazard characterization and Design/Build delivery of infrastructure projects, including bridges, highways, airfields, slope stabilization, geohazard mitigation, and retaining structures. In addition to his professional consulting and construction experience, for two years he taught geotechnical and foundation engineering as an Adjunct Instructor at the University of Texas – Tyler. After spending 15 years living and working around the U.S., he returned to Iowa in 2013 to continue his professional practice and finish raising his family. Mr. Player remains active in civic, professional, and religious organizations. He has been married for over 30 years to Sherene Hansen Player and is the father to four daughters.



Matthew Reihl

Director of Strategic Partnerships, GeoStabilization International®

Matthew Reihl, P.E. is Executive VP of Operations at GeoStabilization International, the nation's leading geohazard specialty contractor, where he has spent over a decade leading landslide repair, slope stabilization, and rockfall mitigation programs across the eastern United States. Over his career, he has held full profit-and-loss responsibility for regional operations delivering hundreds of millions of dollars in geohazard construction, working directly with state DOTs, utilities, railroads and general contractors on some of the most technically complex and time-critical slope failures in the region. A licensed Professional Engineer and General Contractor in multiple states, Matthew holds a Master of Engineering in Civil Engineering from Stevens Institute of Technology, he joins us today to share practical insights on landslide mitigation methods drawn from the field.







Cole Rosenbaum, M.Sc., PE
Senior Geological Engineer, BGC Engineering

Cole is a Senior Geological Engineer with BGC Engineering in Golden, Colorado, with over ten years of experience specializing in landslide and geohazard investigations, mitigation design, construction support, and geohazard asset management programs for linear infrastructure across North America. He holds B.Sc. and M.Sc. degrees in Geological Engineering from the Colorado School of Mines and is licensed as a Professional Engineer in multiple U.S. states. Since joining BGC in 2017, Cole has worked across many aspects of landslide practice, from field investigations and data analysis to developing geotechnical models, designing mitigation measures, and providing construction oversight and quality assurance. His experience includes desktop landslide inventories using lidar and satellite imagery and pipeline strain data; detailed subsurface investigations with drilling, test pits, and instrumentation; and hands-on construction support where designs were adapted to observed site conditions. He has also worked on landslide investigations in Yellowstone National Park, where landslides are addressed in a setting that underscores both the complexity and importance of the work. Cole has served as project manager and technical lead on landslide projects impacting pipelines in the Appalachian Plateau and throughout North America, and he balances technical practice with project, staff, and office leadership as an office manager overseeing a multidisciplinary team. He is an active member of the Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists and has served as Co-Chair of the AEG Landslide Technical Working Group from 2024 to present.



Lauren Schaefer, Ph.D.
Research Civil Engineer, USGS

Lauren Schaefer joined the USGS Geologic Hazards Science Center in June 2020. Lauren is a researcher with the Landslide Hazards Program investigating landslide hazards using a variety of engineering geology principles and remote sensing techniques. Her research interests include multidisciplinary applications of synthetic aperture radar and spectral imaging, landslide and volcano monitoring, experimental rock mechanics, and material evolution in dynamic systems. She is additionally interested in natural hazards emergency response. She has previously served as a volunteer for the Red Cross, AmeriCorps, and GeoCorps America.

Education:

- 2013-2016: PhD, Geological Engineering, Michigan Technological University, USA
- 2010-2012: MS, Geology, Michigan Technological University and Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca, Italy
- 2005-2009: BA, Environmental Geoscience, DePauw University, USA







SAVE THE DATE!

Join us to celebrate and honor the history and founding of AEG in Sacramento in 1957, including attendance by family of founding member H. Ray Taber that are still in the area. Our Special Event “Octaberfest” will be at the Taber Ranch.

The Hyatt Regency Sacramento is ideally located across from the street from the SAFE Credit Union Convention Center and the 40-acre California State Capitol Park and offers a tranquil urban escape. Surrounded by restaurants, shopping and nightlife, you’ll be a short walk from Capitol Mall, the Crocker Art Museum, Golden 1 Center, and the Old Sacramento Waterfront. Enjoy dinner by the outdoor fireplace or take in downtown Sacramento skyline views from your room.

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Matthew Reihl, matthew.reihl@gsi.us
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BGC Engineering is a globally recognized consulting firm specializing in geotechnical, environmental, and applied earth sciences. Established in 1990, BGC delivers innovative and sustainable solutions to complex engineering and environmental challenges worldwide. Our dedicated team—comprising engineers, geoscientists, technicians, software professionals and corporate support staff—provides comprehensive investigation, design, and construction review services across our 20+ offices in North and South America, Australia, Europe, and the Caribbean. We combine technical excellence with a deep understanding of our clients' needs to provide tailored solutions across various industries including mining, energy, infrastructure, and communities sectors.

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Nathan Saraceno, nsaraceno@gftinc.com
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GFT is a recognized leader in geotechnical and geological engineering. We provide consultation for dams, deep foundations, ground improvement, geohazard mitigation, and risk management, offering innovative solutions to safeguard infrastructure and communities. Our team of geoprofessionals specializes in landslide stabilization, rockfall mitigation, debris flow management, and seismic hazard evaluation. Using cutting-edge technology, including LiDAR, remote sensing, and predictive modeling, we assess and address complex geotechnical challenges for transportation, water, energy, and public sector clients. With decades of experience, we develop customized, cost-effective strategies to enhance resilience and protect critical assets from natural hazards, ensuring safety, sustainability, and long-term performance in diverse and challenging environments.