



APRIL - JUNE 1990

Geological Society
of Minnesota

NEWS

Geological Society of Minnesota



FIRST CLASS

EDITOR:

J. Allen Cox
1842 26th Ave. NW
New Brighton, MN 55112

PLEASE FORWARD



Geological Society of Minnesota

1711 Marshall Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55104

OFFICERS:

Pres. Walt Blowers
V. Pres. Allen Cox
Sec'y. Janet Mitchell
Treas. Ed Huppler

DIRECTORS:

Fran Corcoran
Dorothy Kuether
Bruce Leiding
David Peters
Dee Schmalz

NEWSLETTER: APRIL, MAY, JUNE 1990



From the Prez

Our 1989 - 90 lecture series has ended, and I think we all agree that it was quite a success. Attendance was high and, as always, those of us who heard the lectures were enriched by them. It is, after all, you the members, and our guests, who deserve the thanks for the lecture series. Without your support they could not continue.

In the last newsletter I suggested that we invite young adults of high school and college age to attend our lectures and join us on our field trips. The invitation is still open. This summer would be a good time to help them generate an interest in geology. Talk up the next lecture series and perhaps treat a student to one of our field trips this summer.

Speaking of field trips -- the Wyoming trip promises to be the highlight of the summer. That, together with our local trips should give us a summer to remember. Make it a safe and happy one.

As you know, the GSM sponsors a booth in the education building at the State Fair. It generates a lot of interest in the Society, and, as a matter of fact, the majority of our new members each year

come to us by way of our State Fair booth. As Fair time approaches, you may be called and asked to help staff the booth. Please consider it; your help is needed.

-- Walt Blowers

In Memoriam

Dr. Henry Lepp - Professor emeritus and former head of the Geology Department at Macalester College died May 27, 1990 after a bout with cancer. He had been at Macalester from 1964 until he retired last year and was well known and popular to the GSM. He was born in Russia, grew up in Saskatchewan, and received his doctorate in geology from the Univ. of Minnesota in 1954. He did field work in the Canadian Arctic and French West Africa for mining companies before turning to teaching at the UMD in 1954. He was a true friend to our Society, having lectured and conducted field trips, and we will miss him. Our deepest sympathy to his wife, children, and family.

SUMMER FIELD TRIPS

Jan and Warren Mitchell have worked true miracles bringing together this summer's local field trips. As late as April it appeared that none of the originally planned trips (and reported in the last newsletter) would take place due to last minute cancellations or schedule conflicts of the guides. Jan and Warren went into hyperdrive and after many hours on the phone actually managed to get FOUR local trips set up instead of three as originally planned. And these are some first-class excursions we're talking about here, folks!

The list now reads as follows:

June 9 - Taylor's Falls: The Unknown Side (Dr. Bill Cordua)

June 16 - River Exploration (Rebecca Seales)

Mid-July - Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Tour

Mid-Sept - Southwest Wisconsin (Dr. Ed Neuffer)

To kick the summer off, Dr. Bill Cordua of Univ. Wisconsin-River Falls led a field trip to the Taylor's Falls area to observe Precambrian basalt flows and Cambrian sandstone formations, tour of the Dresser traprock quarry. Many of us remember Dr. Cordua from Rock Elm Disturbance field trip in July, 1988 when we learned all about "astroblesmes." Once again, we were treated to beautiful weather and Dr. Cordua's lucid descriptions of the Midcontinent Rift basalt flows, their subsequent erosion by Cambrian seas (including evidence of steep cliffs and pounding surfs), and islands in glacial River St. Croix. We spent the morning at Taylor's Falls and Interstate Park, WI, and then spent the entire afternoon at the Dresser traprock quarry.

The very next weekend, Rebecca Seal took us on a local field trip to Nine Mile Creek in Bloomington and to Minnehaha Falls. This was a really interesting, hands-on trip dealing with river and stream geology. The highlight of this trip was at Nine Mile Creek where everybody broke up into teams and assigned different measurements and experiments to make on the stream. We assembled just before lunch, and each team presented its results as Rebecca explained the significance and tied them all together. What a great way to learn geology!

A third, more informal trip is scheduled for Saturday in mid-July at the soon-to-be-opened Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge (U.S. Dept. of Interior). Park Rangers will conduct tours, lasting approximately one hour, of the new facility and exhibits. Afterwards, hikes along the extensive trails in the refuge and lunch are planned. Since this was not discussed earlier in the season as a field trip, the entire GSM membership will receive a trip description in the mail.

Finally, the fourth field trip will be to the Plattville, WI and led by Dr. Ed Neuffer from the Univ. of Wisconsin - Plattville. This is in the Driftless Zone on the state and is also known for its lead and zinc mines.

Membership

Summer's here and we can relax -- but not the membership committee. We are sharpening our pencils and preparing to enter your name in the ledger after we receive your GSM dues for 1990 - 91. The early submission of dues is a help to us because it lessens the "rush" in September and October. It also helps us remain solvent through the summer. New members are encouraged to join in the summer because the field trips then come as a bonus. - Walt Blowers

GSM 1990-91 LECTURE SERIES

BACK TO THE BASICS ORIGIN OF EARTH, MINERALS, ROCKS, AND EARLY LIFE

Lecture Number	Date	Title	Lecturer
	24 Sep 90	Annual Meeting - Fall Banquet	TBD
1	8 Oct 90	Origin of our solar system	Calvin Alexander
2	22 Oct 90	Earth as a planet; the first half billion years	Calvin Alexander
Lab	29 Oct 90	Basic chemistry: atoms, elements, compounds	Dick Uthe
3	5 Nov 90	Minerals	Jim Miller
4	19 Nov 90	Rock cycle: igneous rocks	Jim Miller
5	26 Nov 90	Rock cycle: metamorphic rocks	Jim Stout
6	7 Jan 91	Rock cycle: sedimentary rocks	Karen Kleinspehn
Lab	14 Jan 91	Isotopes & radioactivity: basics of radiometric dating	Dick Uthe
7	28 Jan 91	The Archean: setting the stage	David Bice
8	11 Feb 91	The Proterozoic: all systems operating	David Bice
9	25 Feb 91	Origin and evolution of early life: single cells to jellyfish	Bob Sloan
10	11 Mar 91	Chemical basis of evolution: DNA and replication	Sam Kirkwood
11	25 Mar 91	Genetic basis of evolution: genetic variation, mechanisms of change	David Merrell
12	8 Apr 91	Ecologic basis of evolution: survival of the fittest	Jay Hatch
	29 Apr 91	Spring Banquet	TBD

