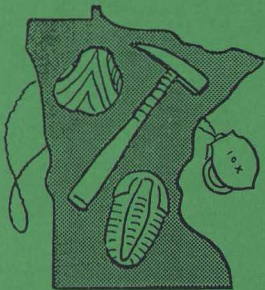


SUMMER 1992



Geological Society  
of Minnesota

NEWS

Geological Society of Minnesota



FIRST CLASS

EDITOR:

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1842 26th Ave NW  
New Brighton, MN 55112

PLEASE FORWARD



## Geological Society of Minnesota

2040 Laurel Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55104

### OFFICERS:

Pres. Dwight Robinson  
V.Pres. Judy Hamilton  
Sec'y Dorothy Kuether  
Treas. Sylvia Huppler

### DIRECTORS:

Allen Cox  
Tom Lonsky  
Conrad Nelson  
Galen O'Connor  
Dee Schmalz

NEWSLETTER

Summer 1992

### From the Prez

If you could stand a break from the inanities and grandiose delusions of the human "world," try a reading tour of "Microcosmos" by Lynn Margulis and Dorian Sagan. Margulis has been a rebel to watch. In the 70's, she began talking about cellular symbiosis (cooperative and mutually beneficial interactions between organisms). One of the great riddles of biological science is: how in the world did our busy, complex, and highly organized cells evolve?

Margulis said: Symbiosis. The establishment said: Likely story or some such. The proof these days is in the DNA. Mitochondria (tiny biological "batteries" which supply a cell's energy) and chloroplasts (plant cell photosynthesis factories) have their own DNA replicated quite independently of the cell's nucleus. Margulis sees a time in the impossibly distant past when the ancestors of mitochondria and chloroplasts were appropriated into the larger cellular systems. And then these systems in turn went symbiotic with other multicellular systems, etc. Each symbiotic relationship was only won after long periods of maladjustment and mayhem.

Eventually at least one such system got around to asking how it all came about. The story of how this all might have happened is the stuff of "Microcosmos." Margulis handily hacks through all the chauvinistic hype and tripe the human species has concocted to set itself at the head of the kingdom. If Margulis is right, our

exalted brains and nervous systems are a network of something akin to spirochetes. And for all the cleaning agents in the universe, none of us could last a moment without our earthly microbial matrix. So much for "stewardship."

For all our pretense and limitations, we are still the best thing we've got and some of us stand as shining examples of some of the best that life can be. I am thinking in particular of my long time friend and buddy, Mary Kimball. A Society such as ours require a special symbiosis to survive, and symbiosis only looks easy because it's working. Mary often told of bleak days during the mid-60's when GSM had hit the skids and might have disintegrated all together. Thanks to Mary and her belief that it was all worthwhile, we still have GSM today - bigger and better than ever. She kept things together, had a memory that never quit, and kept us out of the shoals more than once.

Mary has left us quite a legacy, but I can almost hear her say: "Well, get on with it." And so we have. Field trips, the State Fair, our upcoming lecture season - all top notch efforts by some top notch people. Mary wouldn't have had it any other way.  
- Dwight Robinson, President GSM

### Annual Meeting

The Fall Banquet and Annual Board Meeting will be held Monday September 28. Come to the Old Country Buffet in Maplewood near I-694 and White Bear Avenue. Dinner will be 5:00 - 7:15 PM, the Board Meeting with



election of new members from 7:15 - 7:30 PM, and a presentation of the Summer's field trips by Conrad Nelson scheduled for 7:30 - 8:30 PM. Conrad needs slides; if you have some you would like to share, please call him at 339-3117. Cost for the dinner is \$6.91. See you there!

- Galen O'Connor, Social Activities Committee

### Board Election

Elections for the GSM Board of Directors will be held September 28 at the Annual Meeting. Three positions are open for a first two-year term and one position for a second two-year term. Thus far, candidates for the first two-year term are Tom Casey, Ed Huppler, and Eva Selander. Tom Lonsky is a candidate to continue into a second two-year term. Additional nominations may be made from the floor. Allen Cox, Sylvia Huppler, and Dorothy Kuether are the departing directors.

### Stromatolites Protected

We all know how prevalent stromatolites were from the very earliest times of life on earth. And we have been told that today stromatolites are relatively rare and can be found only in places such as Shark's Bay, Australia where the special environments exist necessary for them to survive. However, did you know that there are living stromatolites right here in Minnesota?

A recently enacted law empowers the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to protect the rare "living" rock, which is found in three lakes in Minnesota. (The DNR article announcing the law doesn't say which three lakes.) Stromatolites are 99 percent rock and 1 percent algae. They are found under water when algae traps limestone in the water and cements it into rock. They were discovered in 1983 in a western Minnesota lake.

### Field Trip Reminder

Don't forget the final field trip of 1992 will be September 12 - 13 in the Virginia/Eveleth area of the Iron Range. The trip will be led by Dr. James Walsh of Gustavus Adolphus College. Mark your calendars!

### State Fair Volunteers

Grace Benz	Tom Lonsky
Walt Blowers	Doris Luhmann
Tom Casey	Everett Luhmann
Rita Childs	Don Lynch
Marty Collier	Gail Marshall
Mary Collins	Betty McKenzie
Robert Collins	Mari Moen
Lorraine Cook	Conrad Nelson
Dan Croswell	Glenn Nyberg
Dianne Docherty	Marian Nyberg
Eugene Edie	Galen O'Connor
Denis Feigenbaum	Val O'Malley
Henry Gangl	Clarence Ooten
Marjorie Gangl	David Peters
Valerie Garber	Lisa Peters
Patricia Grambsch	Robert Petzel
Judy Hamilton (2)	Sue Petzel
Bob Handschin	Bentley Preece
Dick Heglund	Debra Preece
Jean Hosterman	Dwight Robinson
Rick Hosterman	Margret Rodina
John Howell	Dee Schmalz (2)
Susan Iwan	Dick Selander
Kristen Jamison	Eva Selander
Orell Jensen	Alan Smith
George Johnson	Kay Smith
Goldie Johnson	Paul Stabler
Sr. Joan Kain	Don Swensrud
Dorothy Kuether (2)	Paul Tollefson
Jan Lawhead	Shirley Tollefson
Bruce Leiding	Ted Tonkinson
Paul Lemke	Dick Uthe
Billie Logan	Clayton Wallin

### State Fair Exhibit

GSM's exhibit booth at the state fair was once again popular among fairgoers in the Education Building. Many thanks to the GSM members who volunteered to staff the booth and represent the Society. Special thanks are owed to the Exhibit Committee, led by Fran Corcoran, and the set-up/take-down crew consisting of Walt Blowers, Judy Hamilton, Bruce Leiding, and Tom Lonsky.

## In Memoriam

### Mary R. Kimball

1911 - 1992

Mary died peacefully in her sleep on the second day of July. When she died, this 80-year-old world traveler was doing what she loved - enjoying the beauty of the natural world and the diversity of its people - in this case, the heritage of Ozark crafts and its artisans and the forest-carpeted Ouachita Mountains of western Arkansas.

After what some would consider a full life of raising a family and working to support her children, Mary decided that curling up in a chair was not her idea of retirement. She immersed herself in many things and became active in many ways - with the Icelandic Society, the Twin Cities Japanese community, the Archeology Society, the Geological Society. She constantly volunteered her services as a monitor for voting on election days, as a worker at State Fairs and "A Taste of Minnesota," as a tour guide for the Science Museum, as Director and Officer for the Geological Society, among other things. She served as GSM President on two different occasions, at times when the future of the Geological Society seemed in doubt. She saw it become a 200-member-strong, vibrant organization. In the last several years Mary continued to serve the Society as liaison and "first contact" person and serve the Society's Board of Directors as an "elder stateswoman."

Somehow Mary also managed to travel to Iceland, western and eastern Europe, eastern Africa, and China during this time. Mary also travelled extensively in the United States - both as part of her work and in "retirement." She always had a passion to learn new things. Mary was in her late 60s when she took a raft trip down the Colorado River and over its famous rapids in the Grand Canyon. She was 75 when she hiked the high country in Montana's Glacier National Park. And during the last six years she was the "better half" of the team that developed three two-week summer field trips for GSM members. She kept that enterprise

going with wit, charm, organizational skill, and attention to detail.

Another one of her passions was photography. Many of the slide pictures GSM members have seen at pre-trip meetings for summer field trips and at yearly fall meetings were hers, and several members received hand-made Christmas cards that included a photograph of some favorite places she visited on her geological excursions.

What can be said about someone who helped sustain the Geological Society for three decades, served as a foundation for it, and gave us a sense of history? Her smile and the twinkle in her eyes said it all. Mary - we're here, and we'll remember.

- Dick Uthe

### GSM Lectures Begin

The 1992-93 GSM lecture series begins October 5. The theme for this season is "The Phanerozoic Eon - The Last 600 Million Years." A detailed schedule is included as an insert in this newsletter.

Lectures are held on Monday nights at 7:30 PM on the University of Minnesota campus (east bank). During the Fall Quarter, lectures will be held in the Chemistry Building, Smith Hall. It lies east across the Quadrangle from the Physics Building, where we are accustomed to meet. A map of the campus highlighting Smith Hall is enclosed.

#### 1992 - 93 Lecture Series

#### PHANEROZOIC EON THE LAST 600 MILLION YEARS IN TWELVE ACTS

UoM Chemistry Building  
Smith Hall

Monday October 5, 1992  
7:30 PM