



# GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA NEWS

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<http://www.geo.umn.edu/orgs/gsm>

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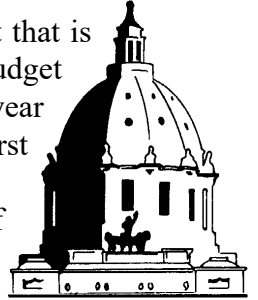
## MN Geo Survey suffers 2nd year of budget cuts

The Minnesota Geological Survey is facing a budget cut of at least 8% for the coming two years under the final state budget enacted in special session this summer.

The cut leaves the Survey operating on a budget that is 14% smaller than what it had in 2001. The final budget agreement reduced their funding by about \$150,000 year - below a level that had already been reduced in the first round of budget cuts imposed in 2002.

The Survey is funded through the University of Minnesota's budget bill. The budgets for the agencies that use the Survey's services - including the Department of Natural Resources, Pollution Control Agency, Department of Health and others - also suffered deep cuts this year.

In related action, the Legislature established a new Mineral Coordinating Committee in the Department of Natural Resources to establish a plan to encourage mineral exploration and development in Minnesota. The committee brings together various resource and economic development agencies, including the Geological Survey, Natural Resources Research Institute and representatives of mining and mineral industries. They are to work out a plan over the next three years. Finally, the building-project bill passed this year authorizes a new geology laboratory to be built at Ridgewater College in Willmar.



## 2003-4 lectures focus on landforms

The GSM's 2003-04 winter lecture series will focus on how geological processes shape the land and how geologists interpret evidence for ancient landscapes.

The series kicks off on **Monday, Oct. 6**, with an examination of volcanic landscapes, focusing on Mt. St. Helens, by independent geologist Dr. Roger Kuhns. Later lectures look at landscapes created by continental rifts and convergence zones, alpine and continental glaciation, streams, deserts and Karst topography. Scientific methods of dating landscapes will also be examined.

Lab sessions in the series include demonstrations of map-making techniques, use of GIS (geographic information systems) for land-use planning and a tour of the St. Anthony Falls Hydraulic Labs, one of the world's leading facilities for stream modeling.

*A full schedule of lectures and labs is included in this newsletter.* While the lectures will once again be held at 7:30 p.m. on Monday evenings on the University of Minnesota Minneapolis campus, the precise location remains undetermined as this newsletter goes to press. Check the GSM website for later information.

