



## GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA

# NEWS

WINTER 2006  
VOLUME LX, NO. 4  
<http://www.gsmn.org>

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## Membership Renewal

**Reminder...**your GSM membership expired September 30<sup>th</sup>, unless you have already paid your 2007 membership dues. **Check the mailing label on this newsletter.**

If the date on the label says **10/01/2006**, you need to **send in your membership renewal ASAP**. If the label has 10/01/2007 on it, then you have already renewed for 2007. Membership renewal rates are listed inside the front cover of the newsletter. Mail your renewals to:

**Geological Society of Minnesota  
P. O. Box 390555  
Edina MN 55439-0555**

#### Membership benefits:

Discounts on field trip costs  
Discounts on special event admission fees  
Quarterly newsletter  
Annual membership directory

Know that you are supporting GSM, which provides public education about geology for children and adults throughout the state, including school visits, State Fair booth, and science fair visits.

Eligibility to join the GSM media library (+ \$15/yr)

### **New membership chair appointed**

Katy Paul has agreed to be the GSM's Membership Coordinator. (See new address for renewals below.)

Please send renewals, new memberships, and changes of address to:

**Geological Society of Minnesota  
P. O. Box 390555  
Edina MN 55439-0555**

A big thank you to Sandy Steffner, board member, who stepped in as interim coordinator immediately following Gail Marshall's death.

Sandy says, "I would like to thank all those members who have submitted their renewals already and appreciate all the assistance I was given in my temporary role."

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Website Assistants Wanted

Are you interested in working on the GSM website? Please let Alan Smith, webmaster, know. You may contact Alan via e-mail through the GSM website: [www.gsmn.org](http://www.gsmn.org)

**GSM NEWS** Editor: **Kathy Ahlers**  
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The purpose of this newsletter is to inform members and friends of the activities of the Geological Society of Minnesota. GSM NEWS is published four times a year: February 15, May 15, August 15, and November 15. GSM NEWS welcomes unsolicited Geology and Earth Science related articles (best: 300 words, up to 500 words long) and photographs.

Deadline for article submission is three weeks before the date of publication. Contact the editor if you have something to submit.

#### PAST YEAR'S OFFICERS:

**Roger Benepé, President**  
**Janet Hopper, Vice President**  
**Dorothy Kuether, Secretary**  
**Ed Steffner, Treasurer**

Directors in addition to the officers listed above have been: Cindy Demers, Bill Farquhar, Kate Hintz, Gerry Paul, and Sandy Steffner.

Send all GSM membership dues, change-of-address cards, and renewals to:

**Geological Society of Minnesota**  
P.O. Box 390555  
Edina, MN 55439-0555

GSM is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Membership levels are:

**\$10 Full-time students**

**\$20 Individuals**

**\$30 Families**

website: <http://www.gsmn.org>

Additional donations are always appreciated!

## FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

Hello everyone,

Being president has been a wonderful experience. During my tenure, memberships have gone up, lecture attendance has almost doubled, response to lectures has been outstanding, and field trips have been tremendous.

I wish I could say it was my leadership that caused these effects, but I cannot take the credit. The credit goes to the board and other active volunteers. With this corps of fantastic individuals, my job as president has been very easy.

Where to start with the thank you's? To Bill Robbins for his nominations committee work, and for organization of the North Shore field trip; Paul Martin for showing me the ropes; Steve Erickson for outstanding programming of the lecture series; Janet Hopper, a VP ready to step in at a moment's notice.; Dorothy Kuether, who kept me on schedule; Ted Chura, for teaching me financial responsibility; and Ed and Sandy Steffner, whose kindness and self-sacrificing, get-it-done-now attitude have made me believe that anything can be done.

I could go on and on about everyone on the board, past and present. Thank you, everyone!

"Remember: the needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few, or the one."

See you at the seminars,  
Roger Benepé  
Outgoing President, GSM ♦

#### New Board Members:

At the annual meeting in September, elections were held and several new board members were elected. A big thank you to the board members who are retiring this year. The organization could not have been successful without your participation.

As of Jan. 1, 2007, the board of directors will be:

Janet Hopper	Kate Hintz
Ed Steffner	Gerry Paul
Randy Strobel	Sandy Steffner
Joan Furlong	Bently Preece
Kathy Ahlers	

Members, please think about serving on the board in the future if you have not already done so.

#### Contributions to the newsletter:

If you think this issue is a bit skimpy on content, it's because very few items were submitted. Please consider writing a short article, book review, related-event announcement, lecture or seminar review/summary, field-trip story (with one or two photos, if available), review of a DVD in our media library, or anything else possibly of interest to the members. Deadlines and word-count recommendations at left. Thank you. --Ed.

## 2006 State Fair Booth a Success

By Tom Schoenecker, committee chair

I would like to thank everyone who helped make the 2006 State Fair booth a great success. We made many contacts with the public, passed out more than 3,700 brochures, and had a great time doing it. It's always fun to talk about geology and rocks with the kids...and even with the grownups.

We did receive several suggestions for booth additions. Harlan Finney suggested that we add a glacial map with sediment samples. Elaine Handelman suggested that we include a sample of dolostone. Others suggested that we provide some glass cleaner and wipes so we can clean the magnifying glasses. We will keep these suggestions in mind for next year.

Below I have listed the names of the 59 people who gave so generously of their time to make our booth at the Fair a success. I would like to thank all of them and especially Dick Heglund who worked four shifts, Doug Zbikowski and Bill Robbins, who each worked three shifts, and Ken Barklind, Conrad Zbikowski, Mark Ryan, Jerry Shermer and Ed Steffen, who each worked two shifts. Special thanks also go to Dave Wilson, Paul Martin, Judy Hamilton, Katy Paul, Steve Erickson, Derick Edge and Dick Heglund for doing set-up and tear-down. A very, very special thanks should also go to Bill Robbins, Doug Zbikowski, Dick Heglund and Ed Steffen, who graciously stepped in at the last minute to fill an unplanned hole in our schedule.

Again, Thanks arocks.

—Tom Schoenecker

Ken Barklind Patay Haberty Katy Paul  
Roger Hoopes Don Jagusch Donnie Pierre  
John Hunsand Orell Jonson Annie Kant  
Mary Elaine Pat Johnson Keith Relyea  
Finn Cantonian Gary Jacobyn Bill Robbins  
Cindy Demers Harold Johnson Mark Ryan  
Don Croward Lee Kaphingst Pat Ryan  
Steve Erickson Mary Ann Korus Verna Schaaf  
John Ernst Judy Lager Maureen Scaglia  
Joan Paulong John Matuszko Jerry Shumers  
Harlan Finney Paul Martin Alan Smith  
Bruce Gochman Gerald Manki Kay Smith  
John Granta Cindy Schneider Ed Steffler  
Judy Hamilton Tom Neuenberg Sandy Steffler  
Elliott Handelman Mark Nepon Randy Stroebel  
Dick Heglund Jim Nye Jim Struchel  
Kate Hintz Gerry Paul Galen O'Connor  
Dan Swenstad Dave Wilhelm Dave Wilson  
Roger Willette Doug Zbikowski Conrad Zbikowski

## PARTY IN HONOR OF GAIL MARSHALL

Gail requested no memorial service or funeral, but specified that a party could be held in her honor. Gail's daughters are starting to plan a party, probably for springtime. If you would like to be informed as to when the party will be held, please send a note to:

**Kristi Marshall  
12232 Allen Dr  
Burnsville, MN 55337**

Or call and leave a message: (952) 894-2961

## Advice for parents of rockhounds: part II

By Kate Hintz, Science Museum of MN  
Continuation from last issue—

Questions to ask child rock collectors

### What can you tell me about the rock?

You'll hear answers from your budding geologist like smooth, bumpy, rough, pretty, sparkly, heavy, round, layered, or flat. There's hardly a wrong answer here. Some children reply that their rock is "soft." Use this time to explain the difference between soft and smooth. Marshmallows are soft, your rock is smooth or polished.

### How does the surface of your rock feel?

Is it smooth, bumpy, or rough? How did it get so smooth or polished? That happens as rocks roll in the lake or in the process of being rolled and abraded while being transported by glaciers.

### Describe the texture of the rock.

Is it fine-grained or coarse? Is it all the same color, or can you see different colors or minerals in your rock? Compare the rock to a cookie. Is it more like a granola bar or a vanilla wafer? In the granola bar, you can distinguish the rolled oat grains and the chocolate chips just like you can see clear quartz, pink feldspar, and black mica in granite. Or is your rock more like a vanilla wafer, where you can't see the individual grains of flour and sugar. This texture is similar to fine-grained rocks like basalt or rhyolite—very common rocks in Minnesota. A magnifying glass is a good tool to see texture.

### What color is the rock?

Color gives us clues to a rock or mineral's identity too, and most of us like pretty and colorful rocks. What gives your rock that red color? (The red in many Minnesota rocks comes from iron.)

### More rock ideas:

Got lots of rocks? Sort them—however you like. Play twenty questions with the rocks. Draw pictures of rocks. Go collect some more!

These discussions may lead to identifying a rock, but remember rock and mineral identification comes with practice and seeing lots of rocks. Geology is complex, and it's often difficult for kids to understand processes that took millions of years to happen. ♦

*Plan to attend...*

Geological Society of Minnesota  
WINTER BOARD MEETING and SOCIAL EVENT

Saturday December 9, 2006

Board Meeting 3:00 p.m.

Buffet Potluck about 5:00 p.m.

**Location:**

9619 Briar Circle  
Bloomington, MN 55437  
952-831-5165

If you are planning to eat, please bring a food item to share, as this is a Pot Luck Party. Punch, coffee, and soft drinks will be provided. So that we avoid too much of any item, please call or e-mail Sandy Steffner, [ssteffner\[at\]mn.rr.com](mailto:ssteffner[at]mn.rr.com), with what you plan to bring: hors d'oeuvres/appetizer, salad, bread, "hot dish," dessert, or other.

This invitation goes to all members in good standing who currently serve on the board, who have served on the board in the past, and to any current GSM member who is considering serving on the board in the future. All dues-paid members are also welcome to attend the GSM Board of Directors meeting.



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FIRST CLASS MAIL

10/1/2007 1  
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