



## GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA

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# NEWS

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## 2007 GSM Booth at the Minnesota State Fair

It may seem early to think about the State Fair (which starts in August); however, keeping in mind the newsletter schedule, we must plan ahead.

This year, the Fair dates are;  
**Thurs., Aug. 23 through Mon., Sept. 3**

Time slots will be: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.,  
1 p.m. to 5 p.m., and 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Please start thinking about time(s)  
you would like to work. If you have a  
special time, please call me, and I'll  
reserve that time for you.

For those of you who have not  
worked at the GSM Fair booth before,  
try it, you'll like it! It really is a lot of  
fun. Where else can you spend four or  
more hours talking about a subject you  
really are interested in?

Remember, our job at the Fair is  
public relations. If we don't know the  
answers, we invite the questioner to our  
seminars, where he or she can ask the  
professionals.

If you have a preferred work  
day/time, call me at (952) 474-4600 or  
email me at [etschoen\[at\]juno.com](mailto:etschoen[at]juno.com).

“Thanks a rocks,”  
--Tom Schoenecker,  
Volunteer Coordinator,  
GSM State Fair Booth

### Wisconsin Dells Field Trip Details

If you are signed up for the  
Wisconsin Dells field trip being  
held Sat., June 9 (or you would  
like to be), please see details on  
pages 4 and 5.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Another Field Trip!

There is another field trip tentatively set for Sat., July 14th and/or 21st, 9 a.m. at the St. Anthony Labs. We would break into groups of about ten people, each with a tour guide, a graduate student provided by the facility. If many people decide to go, we may have to stagger the start time of groups, to match the graduate students available. Watch the website, e-mails will be sent, and keep in touch with Deb and Ly Preece <dpreece@comcast.net> (952) 949-1123

### GSM NEWS

**Editor: Kathy Ahlers**  
**(763) 789-7143**  
**ahler002[at]umn.edu**

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.

#### OFFICERS:

**Janet Hopper, President**  
**Ly Preece, Vice President**  
**Randy Strobel, Secretary**  
**Ed Steffner, Treasurer**

Directors in addition to the officers listed above are: Kate Hintz, Gerry Paul, Sandy Steffner, Joan Furlong, and Kathy Ahlers.

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

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

Membership levels are:

**\$10 Full-time students**  
**\$20 Individuals**  
**\$30 Families**

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

Additional donations are always appreciated!  
GSM is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

We have completed another year of lectures. I learned something at each of them and I hope that you did, too. A big thank you to Steve Erickson for organizing the speakers!

We have also had one field trip to Minnehaha Falls. Randy Strobel did a very nice job leading the same field trip three times so that as many people as possible could go, but yet the groups would be small enough so we could all hear what he had to say. It is good to be reminded that we don't have to travel far to see interesting geology.

There is one more confirmed field trip planned to the Wisconsin Dells on June 9. As I am writing this, there are still a few seats open on the bus.

We are trying to line up other field trips during the summer, so keep a look out in the mail and on the website.

Also, now is the time to start thinking about volunteering for the State Fair. We will have people staffing our table every day of the fair, so plenty of volunteers are needed.

Steve Erickson is also hard at work planning next year's lecture series. The tentative theme is "Current Research." Anyone with suggested lecturers should contact Steve.

Doug Zbikowski is heading a push to get the Minnesota legislature to fund more geological markers. We had a meeting with State Representative Diane Loeffler. She was neither particularly encouraging nor discouraging, but said our timing was good. We need to make contacts and prepare this summer for a push to get in the capital budget in the fall.

--Janet Hopper ♦

## Dare to Dream...

The board of directors is preparing for a long-range planning and development retreat this fall. We would like to incorporate member dreams and visions into whatever plans we develop. Please contact Kathy Ahlers, who will gather your suggestions for the board. (763) 789-7143 or ahler002[at]umn.edu. Thanks!

**PUBLIC SERVICE & PUBLICITY COMMITTEE**



**“Now Appearing at Your Local Library”—  
GSM Traveling Exhibit Makes a Stop at  
the Mississippi Branch Library**

Public libraries are community centers of learning. Placing the GSM *Rocks & Fossils* exhibit in the display case of a local library can reach and educate a receptive cross-section of active learners of all ages. At the same time, the GSM gets some free publicity.

In April, the GSM exhibit was displayed at the library in Fridley. Beth Werking, Library Supervisor, wrote, “Thank you for bringing this fascinating rock exhibit to the Mississippi Branch Library this month. Both adults and children stood before the exhibit for many minutes, reading the ‘stories in the rocks.’ We answered a number of questions and received many compliments about the display. We welcome a return visit anytime.”

Many area libraries have similar display cases available for community groups’ use. If you would like to have the GSM collection displayed in your local library, please contact me, Doug Zbikowski, with your request to discuss scheduling possibilities. Thanks to Kathy Ahlers for sponsoring this location.

There is no charge to you or the library, but it is important that you—as a local resident—not only serve as the local contact to sign us up, but that you commit to helping put up, and later, remove the display. Responsible older children and teens are welcome to accompany their parent/guardian and help.

--Doug Zbikowski,  
Committee Chair  
<zbiko001[at]umn.edu>



**TENTATIVE GSM SEMINAR SCHEDULE  
2007-2008**

**FALL 2007**

- September 24, Banquet, Dr Howard Hobbs, MN Geo Survey, Glacial History of Minnesota
- October 8, Dr. Ian Williams, UWRF, Pyrennes Mountains of Europe
- October 22, Dr. Dale Setterholm, MN Geo Survey, Groundwater Resources in Minnesota
- Nov. 5 Dr. Kristi Curry-Rogers, SMM/Macalester The Latest and Greatest about Dinosaurs

**Lab: Saturday, Nov 10, Macalester College Basic Rock-Forming Minerals**

- Nov. 19, Dr. Donna Whitney, UM, Collapse of Mountain Systems
- Dec. 3, Dr. Harvey Thorleifson, Search for Diamonds in Minnesota

**SPRING 2008**

- January 28, Dr. Tony Runkel MN Survey, Geology of SE Minnesota

**Lab: Saturday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, Macalester College, Igneous and Sedimentary Rocks with their Metamorphic Equivalents**

- February 11 tbd
- February 25, Laurel Woodruff, USGS, Geology of Isle Royal
- March 3 or 10 (opposite of U of M Spring Break) Dr. Sarah Titus, Carleton College, Recent work along the San Andreas Fault of California
- March 24, Dr. Martin Saar U of M, The Role of Fluids in Geology
- April 7, Dr. Kate Pound, St.Cloud State, Geology of New Zealand
- April 21 Doug Zbikowski, Geo Society of MN, Does Polar Drift Drive Mega-Earthquakes?
- May 5<sup>th</sup> Banquet, tbd

Thank you to Steve Erickson for setting up this wonderful schedule. Please contact Steve with your comments and ideas. <sgaryerickson[at]aol.com> As in past years, the room will be announced once classes begin at the U of M in the fall. Check the GSM website.

## Field Trip to the Wisconsin Dells

**Date: Saturday, June 9, 2007**

**Leader: Robert H. Dott, Jr.**

Professor Emeritus,  
University of Wisconsin  
and co-author (with John W. Attig) of *Roadside  
Geology of Wisconsin*. Missoula, MT:  
Mountain Press, 2004.



Robert Dott is highly committed to public geoscience education. This promises to be an enriching field trip.

There will be three different parts of this field trip, which spans an entire day and evening, with bus transportation provided for the entire trip.

Those on the bus will need to bring both a bag lunch and bag dinner—one meal for the outbound trip, and one for the return trip.

### Details about the trip:

First, there will be a 3-hour boat trip on the Upper Dells, with geological commentary by Robert H. Dott, Jr. We will see the upper dells, the formation of sedimentary rocks in that area, contribution of glaciers to formation of the Dells, and other features that are appropriate.

At the moment, I would expect the bus to arrive at the Upper Dells Boat Tour at about 11:30 AM, at 107 Broadway, Wisconsin Dells, and to depart on the boat from Drinkers Dock at 11:45 AM. The boat ride is fully handicapped accessible.

After the boat ride, as the second part of the trip, the plan is for us to go

to the H. H. Bennett photo studio to see 1880s photos of the Dells, and some equipment used by Bennett to make these photos. The studio is fully handicapped accessible and is a historical site administered by the Wisconsin Historical Society. Bennett was the person who sold people on coming to the Dells in the early days.

As the third event of the trip, we will then travel to Parfrey's Glen, about 20 miles south of the Dells. This is a very scenic area, with exposures of impressive Cambrian-age conglomerates, which were deposited in front of sea cliffs made of Precambrian quartzite. Parfrey's Glen is located about 4 miles east of Devil's Lake State Park and is administered by the park. At its uppermost part, the glen reaches a depth of nearly 100 feet, and embraces a mountain-type stream flowing through its floor. The Glen's walls are sandstone embedded with pebbles and boulders of quartzite. This quartzite is conglomerate, with sandstone layers of ancient sandy beaches. Because the Glen contains many unusual and rare flora, visitors must stay on the trail from the lower parking area to the top of the glen and retrace their steps back. The Path is about 0.8 miles long. We will explore a micro-climate as we hike through a 100-foot-deep ravine in the Baraboo Bluffs. Participants will have to walk on narrow boardwalks and bridges. Uneven and often slippery stone steps must also be climbed. Appropriate footwear should be worn, and clearly Parfrey's Glen is not handicapped accessible.

To reach Parfrey's Glen, just take Hwy. 113 south out of Baraboo and turn left on DL. The entrance will be on your

left a few miles down. The entrance is a bit hard to see, but if you get to the Old Schoolhouse Restaurant, you passed it. Just turn around and go back about a half mile. To find Parfrey's Glen on a map, just go to our Devil's Lake Trail Map.

5:00 p.m. Arrive at Parfrey's Glen  
 6:15 p.m. Leave The Glen  
 9:45 p.m. Arrive at 3M Center  
 10:15 p.m. Arrive at Osborne Rd Terminal♦

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**Pick-Up Points:**

7:00 a.m.  
 1240 Osborne Road Terminal,  
 Fridley, MN

7:45 a.m.  
 Bldg. 243, 3M Center, Maplewood, MN  
 Parking lot south of the building.  
 Detailed maps are available for both  
 pick-up sites.

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 Cost for members will be \$60,  
 nonmembers will be \$70, and this includes  
 bus transportation, boat trip, trip leader  
 costs, admission to the Bennett Studio and  
 Parfrey's Glen. Bring your own bag lunch  
 and bag dinner and possibly a tip for the  
 driver. Alcohol is not allowed on the bus.

PLEASE—BE PREPARED FOR ANY  
 TEMPERATURE OR TYPE OF  
 WEATHER!

This cannot be emphasized enough.  
 We will be far from home for a long day,  
 and the discomfort of being cold and/or  
 wet is something we all wish to avoid.

To attend or for additional information,  
 contact trip organizer:

**William B. Robbins**  
**(651) 739-1146**  
**robbins.wb[at]comcast.net**

**THE DAY'S SCHEDULE**  
**SATURDAY, JUNE 9, 2007**

7:00 a.m. Driver reports  
 7:15 a.m. Depart 1240 Osborne Road  
 7:45 a.m. Arrive at 3M Center, Bldg. 243  
 Maplewood  
 8:00 a.m. Leave 3M Center  
 11:30 a.m. Arrive at boat dock  
 11:45 a.m. Begin Boat trip  
 3:00 p.m. End Boat trip  
 3:15 p.m. Arrive at H. H. Bennett Studio  
 4:30 p.m. Leave Studio

**~ OBITUARIES ~**

**Walter J. Blowers**

Walt Blowers, long-time GSM member, died in March at age 78. Walt was a geologist—B.Sc., University of St. Thomas—who taught there later in life and studied geology throughout the world, in places such as Greece, Iceland, and Hawaii. He did this after a two-decade-long career in the military (Air Force and Army, retiring as a Captain), then marrying, raising four daughters, and working for another two decades in industry.

Walt regularly volunteered to staff the GSM booth at the State Fair. But his primary contribution to GSM was helping prepare and co-lead many two-week-long summer field trips to interesting geological sites in Montana, Washington, Idaho, Ontario, Utah, South Dakota, and Wyoming. He helped find and organize all those daily field trip stops and mold them into fascinating geological stories. In addition, he co-wrote several extensive guidebooks for those trips for the Society. His quick wit and insightful geological observations "in the field" will be missed by his friends—and especially by his co-leader.

--Rick Uthe

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**William A. Powell**

Diane Lentsch's husband, William A. Powell, 54, passed away at home in November after a 26-month battle with a GBM brain tumor.

Bill was a uniquely talented man with a diversity of passions: reading, art, carpentry, and the outdoors. Interment was at Fort Snelling National Cemetery. Services have been held.

Our thoughts are with Diane at this difficult time.

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