



The Trilobite

Volume 73 Number 05

Wisconsin Geological Society

May 2017

NEXT WGS MEMBERSHIP MEETING & PROGRAM Monday, May 8 2017

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church Hall
(Downstairs, Enter at back of building)
1212 South 117th Street (Just North of Greenfield Ave):
West Allis, Wisconsin

7:00: Presentation followed by the business meeting.

Speaker: David Cordie PhD Student University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Paleoecology and geochemistry of early Cambrian microbial-archaeocyathan reefs in the western USA and Mongolia

Cambrian reef ecosystems experienced a rapid increase in skeleton-producing organisms, driven primarily by the origination of archaeocyathan sponges. The buildup of skeletons from these organisms created more niche space for additional organisms. However, at the end of Series 2 of the Cambrian (509 million years ago), archaeocyathan diversity declined. This extinction removed the major framework-building organisms within early reef ecosystems and allowed microbial communities to flourish. Microbial communities do not produce complex environments that additional organisms can inhabit and this change represents a major transition in the evolution of early marine life. This “reef gap” was apparently not filled by animals for up to ~5 million years, potentially due to oceanic anoxia, a global regression event, or replacement by more competitive organisms.

In this study archaeocyathan reefs within three formations of the White-Inyo Mountain region (Campito, Poleta, and Harkless) were sampled to assess faunal changes throughout the development of these reefs. In addition, stable carbon isotopes and trace element geochemical data were collected to assess changes in paleoenvironmental conditions. Reef diversity was very low in the Campito Formation and much higher in the overlying Poleta and Harkless Formations. However, increases in diversity were not linear and consistent, but rather increases in diversity proceeded through a series of burst and declines. Geochemical data also suggests that a positive carbon isotope excursion (~3‰) occurred within the lower Poleta. Finally, after an apparent environmental shift in the upper Poleta, reefs reestablished themselves in the Harkless Formation; however, with a distinct framework building community including coralomorphs and larger archaeocyathans. Samples from western Mongolia have also been collected as part of this study and show distinct facies of stromatolites and archaeocyathan colonies reduced in size.

WGS Minutes April 10, 2017 Immaculate Heart of Mary Church Hall

The business meeting was called to order at 8:10 PM by our President John Hammetter.

The minutes of the February meeting were printed in *The Trilobite*. (The March meeting was cancelled.) Jody Rymaszewski made a motion to accept the minutes as published. Another member seconded. The motion was approved.

New Memberships: None.

Guests: Fatimah, our guest speaker.

Kitty Klein read the Treasurer's Report for both March and April. A member made a motion to accept the March report for audit. Chuck Riel seconded. The motion was approved. Phil Peychal made a motion to accept the April report for audit. Another member seconded. The motion was approved. Kitty Klein also brought up the budget.

Committee Reports:

The Show Committee: We're all set with the dealers. We have someone running the kitchen. Ed Fyrnys is working on ideas for the children's area. Jody will be printing out the Wauwatosa bakery ingredient guidelines. We are looking for exhibitors. Club Sales looking for sellers. Mike Macali is looking for donations for Door Prizes.

Mineral & Fossil Study Groups: This Thursday, West Milwaukee Community Center, 1-3PM. Contact John Hammetter. Mineral Study Group will study quartz.

Junior Rockhounds: No report.

Field Trip: There was a behind the scenes tours UW Madison Geology Museum, April 1st. On April 29th there will be a field trip to Silha Quarry 10AM with the Rock River Valley Club.

Unfinished Business:

Jody Rymaszewski is going as an alternate delegate to the Midwest Federation Show in May 6-7 in Brainerd, Minnesota.

There will be a Scholarship reception on April 25 at UWM.

New Business:

Announcements: Jody and her husband paid for an advertisement for the show in the Tripoli Circus booklet. Frugal Collector book is available at discount via *Rock and Gem Magazine*.

Jody Rymaszewski is on the nominating committee and is looking for candidates.

Kitty Klein was presented with a certificate for her honorary membership.

Door Prizes: Donors: An agate donated by Cliff. Winner: Wanda Riel.

Adjournment: Denise Hohenfeldt made a motion to adjourn. Another member seconded. The motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Barbara Brown, WGS Secretary

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 6-7, 2017: Marshfield WI: Heart of Wisconsin Annual Show
1401 Becker Rd, Marshfield WI
Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4

May 6-7, 2017: Brainard, MN: MWF 77th Annual Convention,
Hosted by the Cuyuna Rock, Gem & Mineral Society: Sat 9-5, Sun 10-4
Crow Wing County Fairgrounds, Curling Club Bldg., 2000 SE 13th St., Brainard.
For info contact: Marge Jensen 218-838-8477 or marjen@crosbyironton.net

May 20-21, 2017: Wauwatosa WI: Wisconsin Geological Society Annual Show
Hart Park, Wauwatosa, 72nd and State St
Sat 10-5, Sun 10-5

July 14-15, 2017: Minocqua WI: Lakeland Gem Club Gem and Mineral Show
Lakeland High School, 9573 State Highway 70, Minocqua WI
Fri 10-6, Sat 9-5 Lakelandgemclub.com

Sept 23-24, 2017: Oshkosh WI; Oshkosh Earth Science Club Gem and Mineral Show
Sunnyview Expo Center, Oshkosh WI.
Sat 9-5, Sun 10-4

Oct 7-8, 2017: Jefferson WI: Rock River Valley Gem and Mineral Show
Jefferson County Fair Park, 503 N. Jackson Ave, Jefferson WI
Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4

The Midwest Federation website has an extensive calendar of shows and activities throughout the Midwest. <http://www.amfed.org/mwf/Calendar/calendar.html>

An extensive list on mineral shows is also at: <http://www.the-vug.com/vug/vugshows.html>

Field Trip April 29, 2017

Silha quarry, 1204 S County Trunk J, Janesville, WI 53546. 10am -2pm on 4-29-17.
Put on by the Rock River Valley club, so no going by the walls and No climbing on the equipment. Thanks Mike Macali Any questions call 414-321-9217 or cell 414-339-4949.
Please bring your WGS membership card in case we have to prove you are insured by the club.

Lapidary Equipment for Sale:

Tool Craft Lapidary Machine 1224 - diamond blade, 2 whet grinding wheels, 1 polishing wheel

7" disk flat lap unit and table

john perencevic <jill.john.peren@att.net> 414 -762-7478.

BEZEL PROBLEMS

When bezel setting a cab that has rather sharp corners, have you ever had problems pushing the metal down at the corners? It's a common problem often causing a wrinkle in your bezel and a grimace on your face.

In order for a bezel to capture the stone, the top edge of the bezel must be compressed and become shorter to lay down onto the stone. With a round or oval stone this naturally happens as you push and burnish the bezel. But when setting a stone with corners, the tendency is to push the long sides of the bezel down first. No compression occurs along the sides, and all excess metal is left at the corners. Compressing everything there is difficult. Often the only way to remove the extra metal at the corner is to make a saw cut and fold the two sides in to touch.

If you want a smooth bezel all around the corners, the simple solution is to set the corners of the bezel first. Then push in and burnish the sides. In this way the necessary compression is distributed along the length of all sides and not forced to occur at the corners. With the corners set first, the top edge of the bezel can easily be compressed along the sides.



CHEAPER & BETTER PICKLE

Most jewelers use a granular pickle mixed with water. The active ingredient is sodium bisulfate. This can be purchased from local stores as a common pool chemical used for adjusting the acidity of the water. It's sold under various names, so be sure to check the list of active ingredients for a brand that is 95% or more sodium bisulfate.

An added benefit is that the pool chemical is more pure in form than what is sold for jewelry use and does not cause the brown grime often found floating on the top of the pot.

See all Brad's jewelry books at [Amazon.com/author/BradfordSmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/BradfordSmith)

www.BradSmithJewelry.com

The Commodore Mine and Creede Colorado

At our rock swap in February, I was given an ore sample from the Commodore Mine in Creede Colorado. The Commodore Mine is a mile out of Creede on Willow Creek in Mineral County. The Commodore Mine and Willow Creek are currently a Super Fund site due to pollution from the closed mine.

Geology:

Mineral County is located deep within the San Juan mountains of Southern Colorado, somewhat between Durango and Alamosa. 95% of the county is public land. It is a sparsely populated area with only about 850 people in the county. The City of Creede (elevation 8799') is the only town in Mineral County. Established in 1892, Creede's history and economy has been built on silver mining and continues today through tourism.

The San Juan Mountains are a high and rugged mountain range in the Rocky Mountains in southwestern Colorado, and is the largest mountain range in Colorado by area. The area is highly mineralized (the Colorado Mineral Belt) and figured in the gold and silver mining industry of early Colorado. Major towns, all old mining camps, include Creede, Lake City, Silverton, Ouray, and Telluride. The geology that created the minerals begins about 60 million years ago. The Farallon tectonic plate was pushing under the North American Plate at a faster rate than normal, pushing up the Rocky Mountains. The San Juan Mountains were the final uplift and are the youngest mountains in Colorado. Eventually, the North American Plate slowed down and the Farallon Plate finally subducted beneath. As it was subducted, a wave of volcanic activity followed it as the melting plate became magma that rose to the surface. In the newly formed San Juans, the rising magma created a system of andesitic volcanoes that exploded and spewed ash and tuft throughout the region. The empty magma chambers collapsed to form calderas, and around their rims veins of ore-bearing igneous rocks were injected into fault lines and cracks. These veins became the great silver and gold mining districts of the area.

In the area of Creede, about five overlapping calderas exploded and collapsed; silver-bearing ore was injected into fractured rock at the edge of the caldera.

History:

Travelers to this area appeared in the early 19th century. Tom Boggs, a brother-in-law of Kit Carson, farmed at the Wagon Wheel Gap in the summer of 1840. Nearly 15 years before there was a town called Creede, a hotel opened at Wagon Wheel Gap and The Denver & Rio Grande Railroad began transporting eager tourists into the area as early as 1883. Tourists were drawn by fishing and the hot springs there. A lavish bathhouse sheltered guests as they luxuriated in the therapeutic springs. The historic bathhouse still stands at the 4UR Ranch as a poignant reminder of those early tourism heydays.

The first silver discovery was made at the Alpha mine in 1869, but the silver could not be extracted at a profit from the complex ores. Ranchers and homesteaders moved in when stagecoach stations (linking the mining operations over the Divide with the east) were built in the 1870s, but the great "Boom Days" started with the discovery of rich minerals in Willow Creek Canyon in 1889. The Creede area leapt from a population of 600 in 1889 to more than 10,000 people in December 1891.

Continued on next page

In 1891, Colorado Springs railroad tycoon William Palmer extended the rail line from its terminus from Wagon Wheel Gap into Willow Creek Canyon just above present day Creede. During the ensuing boom years, two trains arrived and departed Creede daily. By 1892 over a million dollars in silver had shipped down-valley. Creede made Colorado a “boom” state once more.

Creede’s boom lasted until 1893, when the Sherman Silver Purchase Act was repealed by congress and the Silver Panic began, with prices for silver dropping from \$1.29 to about \$.50 per ounce. Almost as soon as it began, the boom was over and Creede began to die. Most mines closed, but a few kept working and others consolidated until 1930, when all mining ceased. Some additional mining occurred in the late 1930s by the Emperius Mining Company, and the Bulldog Mountain vein system was discovered in the 1960s, with mining along the vein conducted by the Homestake Mining Company until 1985. Overall, nearly 5 million tons of ore have produced over 84 million ounces of silver and substantial amounts of lead, zinc, copper, and gold.

The original townsite of Creede was located on East Willow Creek just above its junction with West Willow Creek. Below Creede were Stringtown, Jimtown, and Amethyst. The Willow Creek site was soon renamed Creede after Nicholas C. Creede who discovered the Holy Moses Mine. Soon the entire town area from East Willow to Amethyst was called Creede.

Some of the leading mines were the Bachelor Mine high up in a notch in West Willow Creek Canyon, the Commodore Mine lower down the same vein, the Amethyst Mine further up the canyon, the Last Chance high on the hill above the Amethyst, and the Bulldog complex to the west of Willow Creek. A large mill, called the Humphreys Mill, was located at the junction of East and West Willow Creek Canyons. The mill’s foundations can still be seen. The earliest mines in the district were discovered west of town around the Sunnyside area, such as the Solomon and Holy Moses mines. The town cemetery is located there now.

Characters:

Denver went through a wave of gambling and saloon reforms in the early 1890s, and many of the most famous casino owners and con men moved here to set up shop, including Jefferson Randolph “Soapy” Smith II. He sold his Tivoli Club in Denver and moved to Creede. He swindled local property owners out of their deeds and took over a large section of Creede’s business district, setting up his gang in various fronts for his confidence schemes. He soon announced himself as camp boss, and controlled all of the gambling and organized crime in the district. He appointed his brother in law as deputy sheriff, and the two of them established some order to the rough and tumble town, throwing out troublemakers. Soapy opened up a gambling hall called the Orleans Club in 1892. He purchased a “petrified man” nicknamed McGinty and had him placed on display. Later in 1892 he got word that the reforms in Denver were coming to an end, so he returned to Denver. Shortly after, a large part of Main Street burned down in a fire, including Soapy’s Orleans Club.

Another famous Old West character that found his way to Creede was William Barclay “Bat” Master-son. In his early days, he was a deputy sheriff in Dodge City, Kansas, along with Wyatt Earp. Bat eventually became county sheriff, at the same time that his brother, Ed, was town marshal. When Ed was killed by a cowboy named Jack Wagner, Bat avenged his death and had to leave Dodge. He went to work for Wyatt Earp in Tombstone, Arizona running the faro tables at the Oriental Saloon.

Continued next page

When Bat's other brother, Jim, was threatened by men in Dodge City, Bat returned and engaged in a shootout in the town plaza where one man was wounded. Bat was fined \$8 and asked to leave town again. He moved to Denver where he dealt faro at a gambling house and became friends with Soapy Smith. He moved with Soapy to Creede in 1892 and managed the Denver Exchange Club until it, too, burned down in the fire

Another famous character who showed up in Creede was the famous female gambler "Poker" Alice Tubbs who worked for a while as a dealer in Bob Ford's saloon. She was known to smoke cigars and carry a .38. In her later years, she wore men's clothing and ran a "house" of ill-repute in Sturgis where she was often arrested for drunkenness and keeping a disorderly house. Though she paid her fines, she continued to operate the business until she was finally arrested for repeated convictions of running a brothel and sentenced to prison. However, Alice, who was 75 years old at the time, was pardoned by the governor. She died at the age of 79 in 1930. In her later years, Alice claimed to have won more than \$250,000 at the gaming tables and never once cheated. In fact, one of her favorite sayings was: "Praise the Lord and place your bets. I'll take your money with no regrets."

Alice's pal "Calamity Jane" Cannary also was known to have made an appearance in Creede. All these characters gave the town its reputation as one of the wildest camps in the state while the boom lasted. It was a short but wild ride. Cy Warman, the editor of the Creede Candle, described the lively community at its prime, saying "It's day all day in the day time, and there is no night in Creede."

Information from:

Wikipedia.com

Creede.com

Mineralcountycolorado.com

Centralcolorado.com

And the blog <https://elementsunearthed.com/tag/commodore-mine/>



Commodore ore house and chutes
coloradohikes.com



Commodore mine
codot.gov



At our April meeting, Kitty Klein was presented with a certificate thanking her for her many years of service as our Treasurer. The award, which was presented by our President John Hammetter, includes a lifetime membership in the Wisconsin Geological Society. Thank you Kitty!

Greetings Fellow Members,

Now is the time for all good men and women to come to the aid of their Society. As some of you know, our Treasurer, Kitty Klein, is stepping down from her position in June. Simply put, the WGS needs a new Treasurer. Will one of you step up and accept this duty? Without a Treasurer our Society might have to fold. Seriously. We might be able to get by without a Vice President, as is our present situation, but not a Treasurer. Our Society has existed since 1936 and I would like to see it celebrate its 100th birthday. Would one of you please consider filling this position? Please email me at john.hammetter@marquette.edu if you are willing to help the WGS continue.

John Hammetter, President WGS

Slips for the baked goods sold at the show. Please print out as many as you need. Contact Jody Rymaszewski: 414-771-4780, rockslover@aol.com for more information.

WGS 2016 BAKED GOODS GUIDELINES & LABELS FOR EACH DONATION.
--PER WAUWATOSA HEALTH DEPT.: PLEASE WRAP EACH PIECE IN PLASTIC WRAP, IF FEASIBLE, & GATHER THEM WITH THE ID LABEL. --
NO: CHEESECAKE; PASTRIES; CREAM, MERINGUE, CUSTARD OR PUMPKIN PIES; CREAM-FILLINGS; OR, FROSTINGS MADE WITH CREAM CHEESE.

DONOR NAME & PHONE NO. :

ITEM NAME:

ALLERGENS (CIRCLE): DAIRY/MILK/BUTTER; EGGS; SOY; PEANUTS; TREE NUTS; WHEAT; MELON; CITRUS; STRAWBERRIES; CHOCOLATE; OTHER_____.

DONOR NAME & PHONE NO. :

ITEM NAME:

ALLERGENS (CIRCLE): DAIRY/MILK/BUTTER; EGGS; SOY; PEANUTS; TREE NUTS; WHEAT; MELON; CITRUS; STRAWBERRIES; CHOCOLATE; OTHER_____.

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**Official publication of
The Wisconsin Geological Society Inc.**

The **Trilobite** is published monthly, except for the months of July and August. It is mailed without further charge to the members of the **Wisconsin Geological Society Inc.** Subscription fee to non-members is \$10.00 per year.

All items printed in the Trilobite may be quoted, unless expressed permissions from contributing authors, newspapers, or magazines prohibits copying. We ask that recognition be given, and we will also recognize others.

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The Purpose of the Wisconsin Geological Society, Inc is to:

- Create an interest in the study of Geology
- Provide a means for personal development in Geology.
- Disseminate knowledge concerning all phases of Geology.

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The Trilobite
Official Publication of:
The Wisconsin Geological Society Inc.
2446 North 69th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53213

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May 2017

General Membership meetings are held each month (except July and August) on the second Monday of the month at 7:00p.m. in the Parish Hall (lower level) of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, 1212 South 117th Street; West Allis, Wisconsin.

All news, articles, and pictures to be included in the Trilobite should be forwarded to the editor by the 15th of the month. They can be mailed or e-mailed to:
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pvs@wi.rr.com

WGS Members, Please Note:

**Your Membership Dues are renewed
in November.**

\$15.00 Single Membership
\$20.00 Family Membership

*Please remember to send your check to
Club Treasurer Kitty Klein
(See page 11)*

The check should be made out to WGS

**The Wisconsin Geological Society, Inc
is now in it's 81st year**