



The Rock Record – April, 2010

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Please contribute to the SGS Newsletter

The SGS Newsletter is produced by the SGS executive. Letters, announcements, notices, comments, photos, news and information about SGS members, etc. are always welcome. Call an executive member or write to us at:

**Saskatchewan Geological
Society**
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SGS e-mail address:
info@sgshome.ca

SGS Website:
www.sgshome.ca

All advertising inquiries should be directed to **Tyler Music**

In This Issue

- **Near-Term Event Announcements** p. 1
- **Other Announcements and Comments** p. 2-3
- **May 5th Luncheon talk abstract** p. 3
- **2010 SGS Membership Form** p. 4

Wednesday, May 5th, 2010; starts at 7:30 p.m.

Bright Lights and Black Rocks: Fall and Recovery of the Buzzard Coulee Meteorite, West-Central Saskatchewan

Free Public Lecture

Ellen Milley, Department of Geoscience, University of Calgary

Saskatchewan Science Centre, Regina
SaskTel MAX Theatre

Wednesday, May 5th, 2010

Micro-Burgess Shales

Dr. Nick Butterfield, University of Cambridge
(abstract attached)

Lancaster Room, Royal Canadian Legion

Lunch: 11:45 a.m.

Meeting: 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Members: \$10.00 and Non-members: \$15.00 for lunch

For those not having lunch the talk is free

Please contact: Kate MacLachlan (kate.maclachlan@gov.sk.ca or 787-9059)

By Noon, Monday May 3rd if you are having lunch

Past Events:

1) The annual **SGS Curling Bonspiel** was held on March 6th. Eight teams participated in this non-competitive event and I am sure was enjoyed by all. A pizza and salad meal topped off the evening. Thanks are extended to Lynn Kelley, Kate MacLachlan, and Tyler Music who organized this fun event.

2) The **Student Career Night** at the U. of Regina was held on the evening of March 24th. It was well attended by the geology students, some of the professors, and some of the SGS executive. Kim Kreis, Ryan Morelli, and Tina Maki (APEGS) are thanked for their interesting and informative presentations and also Jason Berenyi and Susan Biss for organizing the event.

SGS ANNUAL FIELD TRIP TO THE BIGHORN BASIN, WYOMING

The SGS Field Trip this year is going to the Big Horn Basin of Northern Wyoming from Friday, August 20th to Tuesday, August 24th. Highlights will include outcrops of the Cretaceous Frontier Formation clastics, Mississippian Madison Formation carbonates, including karsting, Laramide basement structures, and hydrothermal systems. A non-refundable deposit of \$250.00, payable to the Sask. Geological Society by July 31st, is required to reserve your space. The estimated total cost will be on the order of \$500.00 and will include accommodations, lunches, transportation and a field trip guide. Student members will have a subsidized cost of \$300.00, with a non-refundable deposit of \$150.00. Call John Lake, field trip coordinator, at (306)-787-2621 to register.

GEOCANADA 2010 POTASH MINE TOURS FIELD TRIP

The organizers of the GeoCanada 2010 Conference have decided to open registrations for its field trips to non-conference members. This means that you do not have to be registered with the conference to participate in the field trips.

The Saskatchewan potash field trip runs May 5th – 6th and includes an underground tour of the Vanscoy Potash Mine, a surface tour of the Belle Plaine solution mining facility, and an informal core tutorial hosted at the Saskatchewan Ministry of Energy and Resources Sub-Surface Laboratory. The cost of the trip and more information are provided on the GeoCanada website:

<http://www.geocanada2010.ca/news/110/70/GAC003FT-Geoscience-of-Saskatchewan-Potash-Deposits/d,Field%20Trips.html>.

To register please contact Eleanor Penney at 709-737-7660.

University of Regina Proposed Reorganization

Further to the proposed reorganization at the University of Regina and the letter that was sent by the SGS in support of the Department of Geology. The University has apparently retreated from the idea of amalgamating the various science departments into one large natural science division. The Department of Geology will remain as an entity and they are in the process of selecting a new Department Head. Perhaps our letter played a small role in maintaining the department status.

If anyone has any ideas for luncheon speakers please contact one of our Program Chairs, Gavin Jensen (Tel.: 787-2577) or Bernadette Knox (787-9373).

A reminder, if you haven't renewed your 2010 membership yet please fill out the attached form and submit it with the payment at a meeting, or mail it to the SGS postal address on the first page. Jason Berenyi at (787-2579) or Jason.Berenyi@gov.sk.ca is the contact for memberships.

MAY 5TH LUNCHEON TALK ABSTRACT

N. J. Butterfield, Department of Earth Sciences, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK CB2 3EQ

Burgess Shale-type fossils are best known as macroscopic compressions on bedding surfaces, but they can also be extracted by dissolving away the shale matrix with hydrofluoric acid (HF). Most of these isolated organic-walled fossils are microscopic, but readily identifiable as the disarticulated remains of larger organisms, both animals and plants. Some can be associated with known macrofossils and shed important new light on both their (micro) anatomy and phylogenetic relationships (e.g., *Wiwaxia*, hyolithids, chancelloriids). Others have yet to reveal their overall form but can be identified on the basis of taxonomically diagnostic features (e.g., isolated crustacean mandibles and molluscan radulae). Still others remain entirely problematic, but serve to expand the palaeontological record of Cambrian diversity. Perhaps most significantly, these microscopic biotas are proving to be far more widespread than their elusive macroscopic counterparts, with a potential for greatly increasing the stratigraphic, palaeoenvironmental and macroevolutionary resolution of Burgess Shale-type fossils. The Western Canada Sedimentary Basin offers a unique opportunity to track micro-Burgess Shales across an epicratonic sea, and beyond the Middle Cambrian.

