



The Rock Record – March 2017

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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:

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Saskatchewan Geological Society Lecture

Wednesday, March 22nd, 2017

“THE UNOFFICIAL HISTORY OF THE LIGHT MICROSCOPE”

Dr. Stephen Bend

Department of Geology, University of Regina

4:00 pm


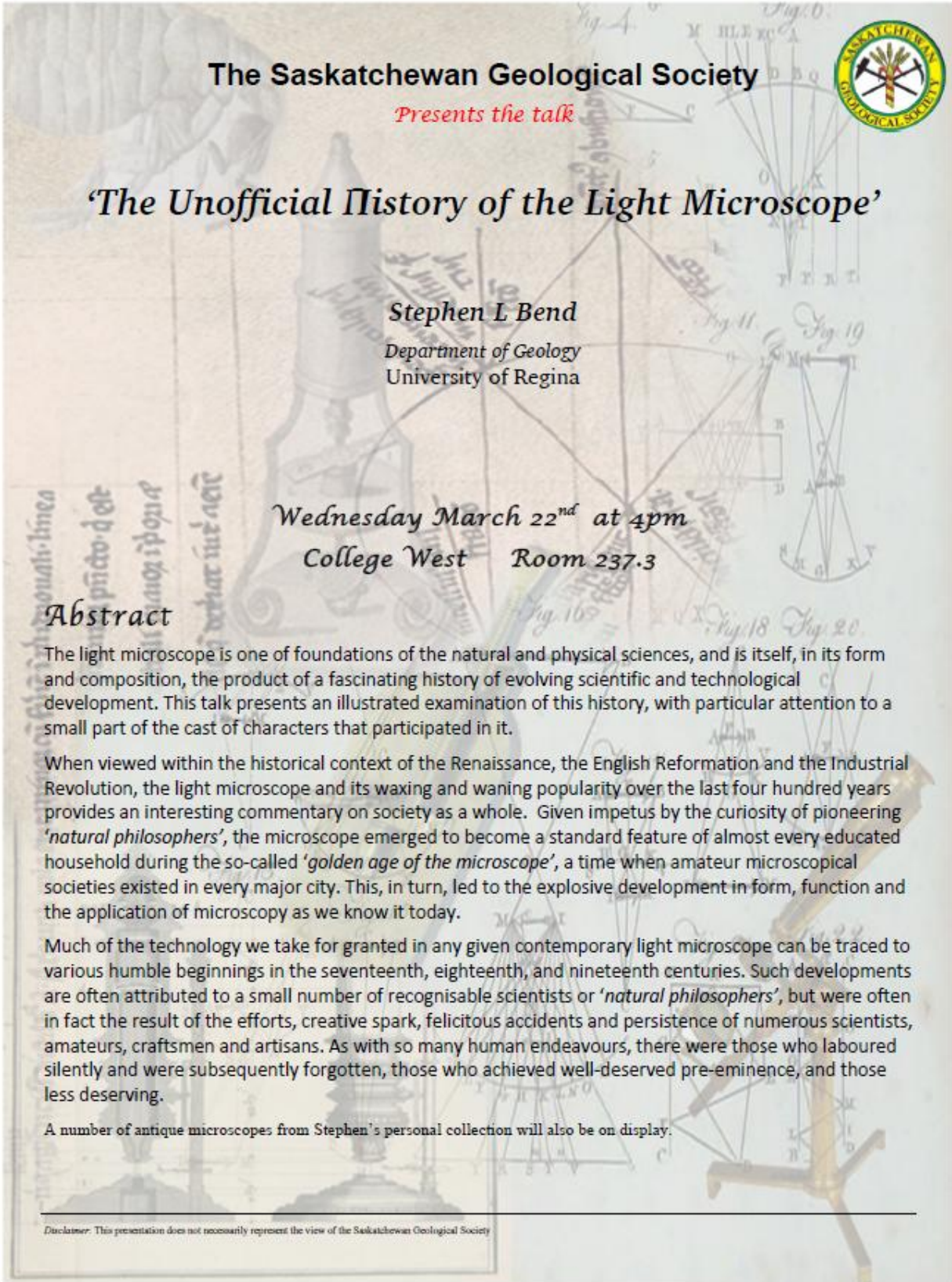
College West, Room 237.3

Beer & snacks will be on hand.

A \$5.00 fee will be charged for the thirsty.

For those “non-thirsty” members, the talk is free.

Please contact Mike Thomas at mike.thomas@sasktel.net or 306-457-7002 by 12:00 pm, Monday, March 20 if you plan having a beverage or two.



The Saskatchewan Geological Society
Presents the talk

'The Unofficial History of the Light Microscope'

Stephen L Bend
Department of Geology
University of Regina

Wednesday March 22nd at 4pm
College West Room 237.3

Abstract

The light microscope is one of foundations of the natural and physical sciences, and is itself, in its form and composition, the product of a fascinating history of evolving scientific and technological development. This talk presents an illustrated examination of this history, with particular attention to a small part of the cast of characters that participated in it.

When viewed within the historical context of the Renaissance, the English Reformation and the Industrial Revolution, the light microscope and its waxing and waning popularity over the last four hundred years provides an interesting commentary on society as a whole. Given impetus by the curiosity of pioneering '*natural philosophers*', the microscope emerged to become a standard feature of almost every educated household during the so-called '*golden age of the microscope*', a time when amateur microscopical societies existed in every major city. This, in turn, led to the explosive development in form, function and the application of microscopy as we know it today.

Much of the technology we take for granted in any given contemporary light microscope can be traced to various humble beginnings in the seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth centuries. Such developments are often attributed to a small number of recognisable scientists or '*natural philosophers*', but were often in fact the result of the efforts, creative spark, felicitous accidents and persistence of numerous scientists, amateurs, craftsmen and artisans. As with so many human endeavours, there were those who laboured silently and were subsequently forgotten, those who achieved well-deserved pre-eminence, and those less deserving.

A number of antique microscopes from Stephen's personal collection will also be on display.

Disclaimer: This presentation does not necessarily represent the view of the Saskatchewan Geological Society

President's Message

Back home and pretty much worldwide, March is the month in which we recognize women in all their aspects of a private life: as mothers and daughters, sisters and grandmothers, paying almost no attention to all those things that they do in the public eyes. Consequently, I would like to use my first message as the new president to recognize all the women in this Society that have donated their precious time from being everything else to be scientists and to contribute to Society in order to see this society succeed. Thank you! Thank you for your enthusiasm, your ideas, and your willingness to see this society reach more and more people!

In the same idea of giving thanks, I have to recognize the outgoing executive: Michelle Hanson, Jason Cosford, Ralf Maxeiner, and Maria Velez. Michelle was the treasurer of the Society for the last 6 years, and the amount of work she put into keeping our finances cannot be described in words. Jason worked hard at bringing high quality speakers for our luncheon program and the Public Lectures both in Regina and in Saskatoon for the Open House. Ralf Maxeiner, I do not even know where to start. With your German precision, you're behind every decision and every new initiative, such as the calendar. I doubt that there are many people out there that know more about this society as you. The fact that I am here it is because of you. So, if I mess up, you're to blame, right? I hope you're going to guide my steps. Maria Velez was Society's last year Business manager. She was the one that convinced us to move into a more (delicious) environmentally sustainable direction. And I am pretty sure that the winners of the Golf Tournament enjoyed the home-made pie/prize.

I would also like to thank the newcomers: Colin Card as the Business Manager, Kim Kreis as the new Assitant Program Chair, Kate MacLachlan as the treasurer and Erik Nickel as the Vice-president.

Ladies and Gentlemen, all of you wonderful people that work together for this Society, I would like to Thank you! for everything you do. And to encourage you to get involved in planning and seeing through all the great activities of this small, but very active Society! If you have any ideas that will improve our Society and you'd like to see becoming reality, please talk to us.

That being said, if you'd like to keep informed with everything that we do, follow and like us on Facebook, check periodically our website www.sgshome.ca. We will also try to keep you informed by sending you periodic emails.

Monica Cliveti



OTHER NEWS AND EVENTS

“Unofficial Spring Field Trip”

Saskatchewan Geological Society *SPRING “CAMPING” FIELD TRIP*

to

Eastend T-Rex Museum, Cypress Hills West Block, Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park

June 2nd to 4th (or 5th), 2017



Day 1 (Friday, June 2), meet at Southland Mall, Swiss Chalet parking lot, 0800 hrs, leave Regina for Eastend T Rex museum, visit with Curators Tim Tokaryk and Emily Bamforth for awhile, then head to West Block Cypress Hills “**unser-vised** group camping site”, move in, and take over.....hopefully no later than late afternoon (*total distance~390 km to Eastend via Shaunavon, plus ~100 km to West Block camping*).

Day 2 (Saturday, June 3), check out Conglomerate Cliffs, "Mystery Rocks" (*see attached photo*), potential sites in Sask “West Block”, plus west into Alberta side where the rocks are better exposed.

Day 3 (Sunday, June 4), continue with visits to the various localities Alberta / Sask., as above.....or not. Return to campground, break camp by early afternoon, and make our way home**OR for an optional 4th day,** head west to Writing-on-Stone campground (~200 km), set up camp, check out the Cretaceous Milk River hoodoo exposures and stare at the very closeby Sweetgrass Hills / 50-54 Ma, early Tertiary igneous uplift just across the line in Montana.

Day 4 (Monday, June 5), goof around at Writing-on-Stone, possibly check out the petroglyphs from which the park gets its name (from the 1971 SGS field trip guide, “Despite the fact that the drawings have been protected by establishment of a provincial park, many of the rock faces containing the drawings have been so badly mutilated that it is difficult to distinguish ancient artistry from contemporary idiocy.”) And when we have had enough, we head back to Regina, likely a 6 hour trip from Writing-on-Stone.

NOTES



- This trip is an “unofficial” one, and not financially supported by the Society.
- Participants supply their own transportation / food / beverage / camping needs (*campers, tents, bivy sacks, whatever*) / and camping fees. The organizers will supply itinerary / road log with directions to campgrounds, possibly some knowledgeable guides, and that’s about it.
- **Carpooling is encouraged.** If enough folks wish it, we can likely rent a multi-passenger van for the trip for those not hauling a camper. Contact organizers if this idea would work for you.
- The “West Block” does not require any pre-booking for camp-sites. If planning on taking in the Writing-on-Stone part, we have a “group site” pre-booked for the Sunday, June 5. If staying on longer than that, folks will possibly have to book a site (*Reserve.albertaparks.ca or phone 1-877-537-2757*).
- The trip is meant as a **family & friends type venture**.....kids, pets, etc. are welcome. If the weather co-operates, the early summer scenery in these areas is beyond compare. If the weather looks to be uncooperative, we may have to cancel, or re-tool somehow; in wet weather, roads can become impassable in this fairly remote part of the parks (and campfires hard to light).

We will send out an update announcement in mid-May to assess potential numbers, car-pooling options, and weather.

Please contact any of the organizers below if you are interested in such a thing, or questions, or suggestions, etc. We hope you’ll join us.

Mike mike.thomas@sasktel.net 306-457-7002

Kim k.kreiss@sasktel.net 306-539-9835

Brian brianbrunskill@sasktel.net 306-757-4470

John lakegeol@sasktel.net 306-741-1529

Membership Renewals PLEASE

SGS membership is on a calendar year basis. It is now time to renew your membership for 2017. The most convenient way to renew your membership is to do it online <https://sgshome.ca/membership/membership-application>. One change this year is that if not paid by March 31st, the membership fee for the active members will change from \$25/year to \$35/year. I strongly encourage you to take advantage of the “early-bird fee”.

Annual SGS Field Trip

We are pleased to announce that the 2017 SGS field trip will run from August 18th-22nd and will be a field trip to the Rocky Mountains. It includes a transect along highway 1 and 3, plus Kootenay Park, “Burgess Shale” hike and other exciting places. Keep those dates open! Further details on the trip and registration will be coming shortly, so stay tuned to our website.

Upcoming Activities in a nutshell

Here is what’s in the works for the months to come, submitted by Mike Thomas and Kim Kreis.

SASK. GEOL. SOC. PROGRAM, WINTER / SPRING / SUMMER, 2017

1. **Curling nite.** March 18
2. **Stephen Bend.** March 22. “The unofficial history of the light microscope: and the usual tale of unsung heroes, usurpers and scumbags” at U of Regina, 4:00 pm
3. **Megan Binner et al.** March 29. “Gold prospect, Rice Lake Greenstone Belt, Manitoba” at Artful Dodger, 11:45 am, and at U. of Regina, 4:00 pm.
4. **Bob Macdonald.** April 12. “The East African Rift System” at U. of Regina, 4:00 pm
5. **Tim Collett.** April 21. AAPG visiting lecturer, “Gas hydrate petroleum systems in marine and Arctic environments” at Artful Dodger, 11:45 am.
6. **Public Lecture.** April 24-25.



7. **Williston Basin Conference / Core Workshop.** May 2-4.
8. **Dale Leckie**, May 10. "The Tertiary Cypress Hills Formation and Upper Cretaceous Milk River Formation in southern Saskatchewan and Alberta", location to be announced.
9. **Emily Bamforth**, May 24. "Saskatchewan's vertebrate paleontological endowment, with special reference to SW Sask and the late Cretaceous / early Tertiary Periods", location to be announced.
10. **Spring "camping" field trip** to Eastend T Rex Museum, Cypress Hills "West Block", and Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park. June 2-5.
11. Field Trip to Rocky Mtns, transects along Hwy 1 & 3 plus Kootenay Park, "Burgess Shale-type" fossil hike. August 18-22.

Suggestions for other potential speakers or activities are always welcome. Please contact either Mike Thomas or Kim Kreis with your ideas.

News from the D.M. Kent Club

The D.M. Kent Club would like to thank all of the outgoing executives for all their time and effort this year.

John Kelley - president
Dallas Dixon - vice president
Anastasia Comptois-Poissant - communications
Garret Smith - social
Arin Kitchen - treasurer
Asnoldo Prieto – secretary

The election for the new executive is coming up soon. If you'd like to get involved, this is a great opportunity to leave your mark.



OUR 2017 CORPORATE MEMBERS:



Dave Thomas

