

GE LETTER

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November 3, Meeting

"Geological Critical Thinking: When does a hypothesis become a conspiracy theory?"

Dr. Thomas Hegna

Dr. Hegna has his M.S. from the University of Iowa (2004), with his thesis being, "Systematics of Late Cambrian (Sunwaptian) Trilobites from the St. Charles Formation, Southeastern Idaho." Although he has written several more papers on trilobites, his interests are more wide-ranging, principally extending to crustaceans of all kinds. He is a leading authority on branchiopod crustaceans and a member of the Crustacean Society. Wikipidea notes that, "Branchiopoda is a class of crustaceans. It comprises fairy shrimp, clam shrimp, Diplostraca (or Cladocera), Notostraca and the Devonian Lepidocaris. They are mostly small, freshwater animals that feed on plankton and detritus." Many of you may be familiar with brine shrimp, also known as 'Sea Monkeys' which were marketed in the 1960s and 70s to kids to raise from eggs.

He has his Ph.D. from Yale University (2006), with his thesis "Phylogeny and Fossil Record of Branchiopod Crustaceans: An Integrative Approach." He taught at Western Illinois University (2011 – 2019), earning the 2016 WIU Provost's Excellence Award for Teaching with Technology. He now teaches at SUNY Fredonia since 2019, and studies the fossil record of both trilobites and early crustaceans. In the spring of 2022, he was awarded the William T. and Charlotte N. Hagen Young Scholar/Artist award at SUNY

Fredonia for his outstanding record of scholarship.

He has over 40 published, peer-reviewed papers and his work has been cited 882 times.

Report from the Board

Some members of the club have asked "What goes on at the board meetings?" In answer to that, we discuss what has happened since the last meeting, what is coming up at future meetings/activities, if anyone has comments or complaints, etc.

At the last meeting we had 22 people renewed their membership, checks paid out for guest speaker's honorium, cost of newsletter printing and postage to members requesting a hard copy, and cost of refreshments at the meeting. In November, our insurance to EFMLS will be due, and also deposits to the Fairgrounds for the 2024 Show. Deposits from the dealers will also start arriving.

Also, discussed the amount of rocks broken up for the mini-mine and if more need to be done. The "grab-bags" were also mentioned.

The membership list was updated, and former members that have NOT paid their dues since 2018 thru 2022 will be dropped from membership.

All board meetings are open to any members wishing to attend. The dates and times are published in the monthly Geoletter.

Name Badges

Several of our newer members have asked about the name tags that we wear at meetings and shows. Anyone interested in purchasing one, please give your name to Craig Posmantur.

The size is 1 ½" by 3". The cost is \$12.00 per tag and has a magnetic clasp or a pin clasp on the backside.

Current dues are past due

Our membership year runs from May 1st to April 30th. There are currently a number of people that are behind on their current membership. Please make an effort to correct this at the next meeting or by sending a check to Chris Boyd, 3663 Dickersonville Rd. Ransomville, NY 14131. Thank you!

Newsletter

Future copies of the Geoletter will arrive in your e-mail. If you prefer a hard copy instead, please contact the editor (Marilyn Broad, 716-632-8355) and leave a message or let me know at a future meeting.

Also, if you have anything that you would like printed in the newsletter, please let me know. Thank you!



2024 Show

Even though it's only November, it's not too early to start thinking about 2024's Show. The sign up sheets will be out in December for the various jobs (mini-mine, sluice, admission table, club table, etc.) and we would like as many people as possible to volunteer for these jobs.

If you wish to have display case at the show, now is the time to start to plan it. It doesn't have to be fancy, maybe just what you collected over the summer, while on vacation or at the rest stop along the way. Display sheets will be in the January Geoletter.

This year's theme is "Birthstones", which is not as easy to display as some others, but can be done. Just think harder.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO ALL!



Buffalo Geological Society Fall/Winter Coming Events

Nov. 3 – BGS Meeting 7:30pm – Dr. Thomas Hegna will be our speaker. His topic will be “ Geological Critical Thinking: When does a hypothesis become a conspiracy Theory?”

Nov. 4- “Dino Days” at the Buffalo Museum of Science

Nov. 9 – BGS Board Meeting 7:00 pm – 100 Lee St.

Nov. 11 – Veterans Day! **Remember ALL who served!**

Nov. 29 - - Continuing Education 8:35 am Masonic Hall on Sweethome Rd.

Dec. 1 – 6:00 pm Annual Holiday Potluck Dinner and Silent Auction. More information in the December newsletter.

Dec. 7 – BGS Board Meeting 7:00 pm – 100 Lee St.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!

Continuing Education will not meet during December thru February

Jan. 5 – BGS Meeting 7:30 pm – Members “Show and Tell”

Jan. 11- BGS Board Meeting 7:00 pm – 100 Lee St.

