

## Geosciences Working Group 2015

The Geosciences Working Group of the Faculty 5 of the University of Bremen offers an introduction to geology, palaeontology and mineralogy to the public every second Thursday of the month at 7:20 pm. These meetings give the chance to discuss with each other and to get advice from a scientist. The meetings include a generally comprehensible talk on geoscientific topics. Further information can be found on our homepage:  
[www.geosammlung.uni-bremen.de](http://www.geosammlung.uni-bremen.de)

### 08th January 2015

**Lecturer:** Werner Liebenberg

**Topic:** Magical landscapes of „Les Bondons“ in southern France - about ammonites and menhirs



The Cham des Bondons is a small and solitary plateau composed of limestone in the northeast of the Grands Causses, in between the Cevennes and the granitic massif of Mont Lozère. The talk reports about impressive landscape with weathering morphologies of granite, outliers of topographic escarpment of the Jurassic and far back into the prehistoric settlement of the region by man.

### 12th February 2015

**Lecturer:** PD Dr. Jens Lehmann

**Topic:** Bornholm - Sediments, fossils and landscape



This talk about the Danish Isle of Bornholm is not dealing with the geology off the granitic coastline and the sandstones of the early Palaeozoic - focussed already in an earlier lecture. The Isle of Bornholm is geological and scenically manifold and thus the speaker is concentrating this time on sedimentary deposits since the Ordovician, more than 450 million years ago and about the fossils and depositional environments. Scenic photos of the landscape and fossils are shown.

**12th March 2015**

**Lecturer:** Alan Marsh

**Topic:** Shark teeth and whale bones from Antwerp



After million of years sharks and whales are usually leaving not more than the resistant shark teeth and whale bones. In parts of the Benelux countries such fossils occur in sediments of the Miocene, a time interval in between 5 and 23 million years ago. Alan Marsh is presenting finds from the harbour area of Antwerp in Belgium and illustrates how to search for fossil shark teeth. The speaker has a hands-on approach on the research about the environment of the rim of the early North Sea. A compound picture is possible only by collecting more information and other fossils, such as mussels and snails.

**16th April 2015**

**Lecturer:** Dieter Siebert

**Topic:** Geology, fossils and minerals from the Damme mining area, Germany



Dieter Siebert is reporting about the former mining in the Eisenerzgrube Damme in Lower Saxony, NW-Germany, in between 1939 and 1967. The geological setting of the region and its minerals and fossils are demonstrated. The clayey beds of the Early Cretaceous contain indurated ironstone geodes. The debris iron ore of Damme consists of the rubble of the Late Cretaceous sea that reworked and redeposited the much older geodes.

**07th May 2015**

**Lecturer:** AG Geodynamik der Polargebiete

**Topic:** Plate tectonics and the history of glaciation in western Antarctica - how one thing depends on the other



In the framework of climate change there are many reports about melting polar caps in the media. In Antarctica the situation appears contradictory: for western Antarctica more and more records on the retreatment of glaciers are announced, but the polar cap in eastern Antarctica is comparatively stable. The reason for these differences are the geological history of subjacent rocks. The talk gives an overview about the development of Antarctica and its ice caps; starting with the break-up of the supercontinent Gondwana and ending with the begin of the glaciation and a possible collapse of the ice shield in western Antarctica in the future. These new data are based on two expeditions of the research icebreaker Polarstern into the Amundsen Sea.

**11th Juny 2015**

**Lecturer:** Annalena Schäfer & Sina Schlack

**Topic:** Fossils and geology of the Isle of Gotland - a student's project



The speakers are reporting about their journey to the Isle of Gotland in Sweden - the second largest island of the Baltic Sea. The Isle of Gotland consists mainly of rocks Silurian in age, the limestone is widely distributed and has been used since historic times. Lime kiln was a factor in deforestation. The limestone is representing the famous reef deposits of the island, a main topic of this talk. The reefs contain corals as well as brachiopods and bryozoans.

**10th September 2015**

**Lecturer:** Michael Guhl

**Topic:** Restoring fossil plants - Reconstructions of specimens and landscapes



Fossil plants are rarely found as complete fossils. Thus it is very difficult to obtain an idea of the whole individual. The talk demonstrated how various and numerous pieces can be used to achieve a scientifically well-based plant reconstruction and even of whole plant palaeocommunities. Differing nomenclature often obscured togetherness - a puzzle that is in progress on the background of ongoing research.

**8th October 2015**

**Lecturer:** Ludwig Kopp

**Topic:** Fossils in the popular believe



The alien shape of many fossils are phantasy inspiring objects. „Since the believe makes from nothing something and it turns impossible things possible.“ (Martin Luther, freely translated). The mythology, the state of science and the Christianisation were shaping or are still shaping a world view today. The talk demonstrates the continuous, mythological desire of people and the fossils and their interpretation are in its foreground.

**12th November 2015**

**Lecturer:** Hartmut Benthien

**Topic:** The secret of success of the flowering plants



A number of 250 000 flowering plants is living on our planet - thus this is the largest and multiform group of rooted plants. They are producing seeds to spread and among the flowering plants the angiosperms are those that are cheering us up with flowers and are also very important for man - with respect to their function in pollination. Their origin is hidden in the dark, since the origin of the flowering plants in the Early Cretaceous they are dominating all ecosystems. The talk focusses mainly on their evolutionary success.

**10th December 2015**

**Lecturer:** all

**Topic:** „Weser Geo-highlight 2015“ award & Christmas celebration



Many Bremen citizens collected rocks, fossils and minerals during 2015. Therefore, to add to the general warmth of the Christmas celebration, a prize is given for the “Exhibit of the year”. The most interesting, most pretty or best prepared specimen is voted as the “Weser Geo-highlight 2015” and honored with a prize - no matter if the find originates from the Bremen area, distant regions in Europe or even from overseas. In addition, the Geo-collection is presenting its new acquisitions of the year and the lecture programme for the year 2016 is released.