

## Geosciences Working Group 2020

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)

**16th January 2020**

**Lecturer:** Prof. Michal Kucera

**Topic:** Foraminifera - a microscopic journey into the past of the oceans



Foraminifera are the unsung heroes of climate research. Their ornamented calcite shells, preserved in the sediments of the sea floor, form a unique archive of past ocean change. Together we embark on a journey through the geological history of foraminifera, highlighting their success and following their manifold interactions with the evolution of the oceans.

**13th February 2020**

**Lecturer:** Lina Madaj & Eva Bischof

**Topic:** "Once upon a time" - Scientific short stories



„Once upon a time“ is a group of international scientists and artists, most of whom work at MARUM in Bremen. As different as all participants may be, they all share a common basic idea: complex scientific contexts must be made accessible to the general public.

At the heart of the project are self-written short stories that deal with the topics of the research areas of the scientists: climate change, the importance of the seas and oceans and how we humans can discover, use and protect these and our planet.

The first result of their work is an illustrated eBook with a collection of 12 stories and poems, freely available online. In order to reach as broad a mass as possible, regular readings take place.

More information about the project can be found at: <https://www.marum.de/en/Discover/Once-upon-a-time/Stories.html>

**12th March 2020**

**Lecturers:** Dieter Siebert

**Topic:** The fascination of the fossils of Monte Bolca



The „Monte Bolca“ site is among the most important classical Fossilagerstätten in the world. The approximately 50 million year old platy limestones have provided a large number of very beautiful fish from the Eocene, a fauna that is unique. „Monte Bolca“ is a window into the history of the Earth, a snapshot of a particularly important phase of the evolution of fish and thus „Monte Bolca“ even plays a decisive role in the history of geology and palaeontology.

**2nd April 2020**

**Lecturer:** Werner Liebenberg

**Topic:** Johann Wolfgang von Goethe - Poet and Geologist



As advisor to Duke Carl August von Sachsen-Weimar-Eisenach (1757-1828), Goethe was also working for universities and in the mining business. This is a reason why he intensively studied geology and mining. In this context he undertook three Harz journeys, on which he visited mines and collected minerals and rocks. The stations of these Harz journeys are followed and viewed from today's point of view in this lecture.

**14th May 2020**

**Lecturer:** Prof. Jens Lehmann

**Topic:** River meadows from the time of the dinosaurs - the Wealden facies in England and Northern Germany



The term Wealden refers to sediments of the Lower Cretaceous period, which were deposited in fresh and brackish water of river floodplains or in lagoons. The term derives from the name of the southern English countryside Weald. Fascinating on the Wealden are its fossils, for example plants, turtles, sharks, crocodiles. Particularly spectacular are tracks of dinosaurs and their bones, in fact, the most important dinosaur discoveries in Europe come from the Wealden.

**18th Juny 2020**

**Lecturer:** Andreas Witzel

**Topic:** The Dolomites 240 million years ago. In the footsteps of the collector and pioneer Rinaldo Zardini (1902-1988)



A visit to the „Museo Paleontologico Rinaldo Zardini“ in Cortina d’Ampezzo gave the reason to give this talk about one of the most consistent collections of fossil echinoderms, shells, snails, plants and invertebrates from the Triassic. Most fossils come from the collection of the autodidact Zardini, which consisted of 150,000 larger and smaller fossils from the Cassian strata and formed the basis for a mammoth work on the past tropical alpine world of the Dolomites. The lecture traces the unusual life of this meticulously working multi-talent and presents some special finds. the end of the dinosaurs living on the mainland, although many reptile species had already become extinct.

**10th September 2020**

**Lecturer:** Hartmut Benthien

**Topic:** The Pliocene of Willershausen – a recurring ecosystem?



The environment and climate 3 million years ago, before the beginning ice ages of the Pleistocene, can be reconstructed based on over 50,000 fossils of approx. 500 animal and plant species.

The lecture will focus on the manifold and impressive fossils found in the former clay pit of Willershausen and the particular conditions of their fossilization history.

Despite an almost similar climate the fauna and flora was richer in species than at present. Many fossil species did not survive the ice ages, but some can still be found today in Southeast Asia and North America.

In view of global warming, the question arises as to possible changes in the present and future ecosystems.

**8th October 2020**

**Lecturer:** Jürgen Reinhardt & Andreas Witzel

**Topic:** The Piesberg near Osnabrück and its fossils



The quarry at Piesberg near Osnabrück is one of the largest in Europe its coal was already mined in historical times. The Piesberg exposes the Upper Carboniferous, represent deposits of the Carboniferous greenhouse climate in which the forests flourished extremely well. For this reason, many plant fossils are found in these beds, but the Piesberg is also known for its animal fossils. For a long time, the site was famous mainly for horseshoe crabs, but for some time now, fossils that are visually far less attractive have been making headlines. These are rather small and inconspicuous, but scientifically enormously important. This lecture reports about old and recent finds from the Piesberg.

**12th November 2020**

**Lecturer:** Jürgen Reinhardt, Andreas Witzel, Werner Liebenberg & Prof. Jens Lehmann

**Topic:** Citizen Science



„Citizen Science“ is on the advance. More and more research institutions in Germany are working with lay people, which is beneficial for both sides. On the one hand, nobody would work on many research questions without „Citizen Science“, on the other hand, many laymen fulfil a researcher’s dream. These people realize themselves and enjoy their work. „Citizen Science“ is not a new invention, palaeontology in particular has always been predestined for this topic, for example Gideon Mantell, a 19th-century doctor who did research in his spare time and described many fossils for the first time. On this evening we will report on the activities of the layman’s work in the Geosciences Collection of the University of Bremen and show what and how much has already been moved.

**12th December 2019**

**Lecturer:** all

**Topic:** „Weser Geo-highlight 2018“ award & Christmas celebration



Many Bremen citizens collected rocks, fossils and minerals during 2018. 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 2018” 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 2019 is released.