



MGS Happy Hour (Live in Billings)



When? Thursday May 9th 5:00PM – 8:00PM

(Social 5–6 pm, dinner at 6 pm, talk starts at 6:30 pm)

Where? Bighorn Resort (1801 Majestic Lane, Billings MT 59102)

What? Presentation, Buffet Style Dinner, Drinks

Dinner tickets: \$30 for members, \$40 for non-members (guests), \$10 for students (*Drinks not included with ticket*)

MGS Happy Hour Watch Party (Missoula)

When? Thursday May 9th 5:00PM – 8:00PM

(Social 5–6 pm, talk starts at 6:30 pm)

Where? Imagine Nation Brewing (1151 W Broadway St, Missoula, MT 59802)

Community Center Room, off the main taproom

What? Livestream Zoom Presentation, Drinks, optional dinner available at venue

Donations Welcome!

RSVP to montanageologicalsociety@gmail.com by latest Monday May 6th

Please specify in your RSVP if you will be joining us in Missoula or in Billings

SPEAKER: Rob Diedrich

Rob Diedrich is a retired petroleum geologist and a longtime member of the MGS. Rob spent the first 15 years of his career with Marathon Oil Co, working petroleum exploration projects in Casper, WY, Houston and Tyler, TX. He moved to Billings in 1996 to work for the Montana Power Co and attended an MGS field trip to Beartooth Mtn Front on one of his first weekends in Montana. He later went on to work for Nance Petroleum and its parent company, SM Energy. In 2015, Rob and his wife, Mary Ann, moved to Denver where Rob served as SM Energy's Vice President - Resources, until his retirement in 2019.

Rob is an active volunteer for the Rocky Mountain Association of Geologists, serving as president in 2022. He is a member of RMAG's 'On the Rocks' field trip committee, which organizes geologic field trips led by technical experts to some of the most scenic and significant geologic locations in Colorado and the Rockies. Additionally, Rob leads 'urban' geology trips for students and adults to some of Denver's historic stone buildings, constructed with rock quarried from Colorado.



From Quarry to Icon: Unveiling the Timeless Legacy of Colorado's Yule Marble

The Yule Marble is one America's most famous and historically significant building stones. Quarried from a location high in the Western Elk Mountains of Colorado, the marble was used in construction of buildings in over 25 states including the Lincoln Memorial and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Washington, DC. The parent rock for the marble is the Mississippian Leadville Limestone which was transformed to marble through contact metamorphism associated with the emplacement of the Treasure Mountain laccolith, about 12 mya. Quarry operations began in 1885 and continue today.

In this presentation, we will explore the geological background of the Yule Marble. We will investigate the traditional methods employed for extracting, cutting, and finishing this pristine stone and highlight historical structures built with the Yule, including several located in the State of Montana. Finally, we'll examine contemporary quarrying and finishing techniques applied to the Yule Marble today.

