



American Chemical Society

Central Wisconsin Section



"Agate Über Alles"

by
Mr. Doug Moore
UWSP

Tuesday, December 9, 2003
7:00 PM Science Building, *Trytten Lecture Hall*. Room A121
UW – Stevens Point

5:30 Mixer & 6:00 Dinner, Holiday Inn

Banded agate, a semi-precious gemstone and form of cryptocrystalline quartz, surely rates as one of nature's most beautiful and colorful forms. Approximately 1000 varieties of agate are found around the globe, the oldest (ca. 1 billion ybp.) being amygdaloidal agates from the Lake Superior geosyncline. Since Sumerian times, agate has been fashioned into jewelry and other items. The precise diagenesis of agate remains a mystery, although many theories have been advanced since the 1700's. Most prominent has been the work of the German chemist Raphael Liesegang (ca. 1913), and currently the efforts of Michael Landmesser (Univ. of Mainz). The duration of the process, temperature and pressure regimes, crystallization, self-organizing structures and wave-front reactions, geologic setting and petrification may all be fragments of the puzzle.

This slide-illustrated presentation will show why collectors and scientists continue to be fascinated with agate.

About the Speaker

Doug Moore became a "rockhound" for 45 years ago, and developed an obsession with agates in 1996. He and fellow member of the Heart of Wisconsin Gem & Mineral Society, Don Kelman, produced a series of agate slide programs that garnered national recognition. Under the guise of furthering international relations, Moore traveled three times to Germany in the past year, collecting and acquiring agate specimens. He serves as News Photography Program Manager at UWSP, and holds degrees in Natural Resources and Field Biology from UWSP and the University of Michigan.

Prior to the meeting, a 5:30 PM mixer and dinner will be held at the Holiday Inn, 1510 North Point Dr. (Business 51 North, 4 blocks from UWSP campus). *After dinner, drive south then three blocks east on Fourth Avenue to reach Parking Lot X on campus. The Science Building is adjacent to the lot and the Trytten Lecture Hall is just inside the main entrance.* **Reservations may be made by calling Barb Klein (Chem. Dept. office) at 715-346-2888 (or email bklein@uwsp.edu) by 4 PM on Monday December 8.**
