
THE BADGER DIGGIN'S

The Badger Lapidary and Geological Society, Inc.
Monroe, Wisconsin

Devoted to the Earth Sciences

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March 2009

Meeting Minutes

The February 14th meeting program was begun at 10:30 a.m. at the Monroe Public Library and consisted of a series of lapidary demonstrations. Several members brought in the club's (or else personal) equipment (the Genie, vibratory lap, trim saw, and rotary lap) and explained their workings to the membership. Teri Marché began with an explanation of the Genie and its use in making cabochons. The six wheels are worked successively from left to right; the final wheel is for polishing. All grinding/polishing must be done wet; this is provided by the two water-filled trays and pump sprayers that keep the selected wheel moist. Teri also showed finished samples of agate, barite, onyx, amazonite, brecciated quartz, and even vesuvianite that she had worked. In discussion that followed, Brian Green explained his method for working small samples on homemade dop sticks, fashioned from drywall screws and cemented with Superglue.

Brian then went over the principles of grinding and polishing on the large (18-inch) vibratory or flat lap. This is most often used with rough-cut slabs (or geodes), as it is impossible to produce a smooth flat surface on the Genie. Grinding can be accomplished with as little as two grades of abrasive and water (220 and 400 – 600 grits), followed by polishing with cerium oxide on a felt or carpet base. Lead weights must be attached to lightweight slabs (w/ double-faced carpet tape or plumber's putty) in order to make the process effective. A 'bumper strip' on the inside rim can be made from a simple piece of plastic hose. The machine must be leveled accurately, and measures taken to prevent splashing. If the same tray is used for all three stages, an extensive clean-up must be done after each grade *and especially before polishing* to remove all coarser grit (and prevent later scratching). A separate tray for each grade of abrasive and polish is much to be preferred. Janet Bruce provided additional advice about use of liquids other than water (e.g., Sunlight dish soap; pink "RV fluid") to prevent overheating during polishing, and avoiding contamination of the cerium oxide (by sifting/sieving).

[Minutes – cont. next page]

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be held at 9:45 a.m. on Saturday, March 14, 2009, at the Monroe Public Library, 925 16th Avenue, Monroe, WI. Take the elevator to the second floor.

Program: Fish Pond Bag Preparation

All members are urged to bring those items (rocks, minerals, fossils) to the meeting that are to be given away in the fish pond bags, or in the spinner game, at the upcoming show. Pre-printed labels naming/describing the items will be a big plus.

This year, Dennis and Mary Westby have graciously agreed to chair the Fish Pond event at our 39th Annual Show. They will be 'learning the ropes' from long-time former chairs, Frances Wells and Donna Wilde. Thank you, Dennis and Mary, for taking charge of this activity!

Snacks: Provided by the Reeses.



Meeting Minutes – cont.

David Zimmerman then showed how the club's ten-inch trim saw (obtained from Wil Ward) is used for cutting/slabbing samples. Either mineral oil (for harder samples) or Crystal Cut lubricant (mixed with water, for softer rocks) may be used. Although the auto-feeder on the saw is no longer operative, this should not be a problem. Samples are clamped into a holder that slides on a rail, thus maintaining a straight feed during the cut. David also showed how to cut multiple slabs of uniform thickness. The saw has no ON-OFF switch (a safety issue pointed out by Archie Bruce), and so should be used along with a switched power strip. Finally, David showed off the small rotary lap, which is used for creating flat surfaces on small items. A series of interchangeable disks (with coarse-to-fine grades of diamond grit) are available. Water again must be provided by means of a drip cup and catch basin.

During these demos, president John Norquay set up a spreadsheet on his laptop to keep track of the lapidary equipment. When borrowing any of these tools, send an e-mail to John with your request.

The business meeting was called to order at 12 noon by president Norquay. Approval of the minutes from the previous meeting was moved, seconded, and passed. On account of treasurer Daisy Peterson's absence, no treasure's report was given.

Old Business: David Zimmerman announced that the club's grant proposal of some \$500 - \$600 (covering advertising expenses from the 2008 show) had finally been approved. According to the new grant guidelines, groups requesting funds must have a representative present at the meeting during which the approval is discussed/voted.

Teri Marché explained that the club's order for cardboard specimen boxes, flats, etc., has been placed with the dealer in Arizona, but that prices have risen since the catalogue from which the items were ordered was printed. Items ought to be received by late February, and she will then let individuals know what the differences in price are for the items that they ordered. On another matter, a basement tour of the Milwaukee Public Museum (February 28 field trip) appeared unlikely. She will e-mail members with alternative plans.

The first door prize was won by Normand Labbe – a fossil sand dollar.

New Business: David Zimmerman explained the situation regarding the club's website (now sadly defunct): sometime in the past, the host (in the UK) was not paid, with the result that the service was dropped. It is unclear whether any backup files were saved; if not, then the site will have to be recreated from scratch. The two necessary fees involve securing: (1) the domain name and (2) the host service. Someone else in the club is needed to spearhead the resumption of the website.

The second door prize was won by Janet Bruce, which (though called a "chrysanthemum stone") was actually a fossil ammonite from China.

Show Business: David announced that, due to budget restrictions, bulk mailing of the 2009 show advertising was forfeited. Instead, printed flyers are to be distributed by members. Signup sheets for working at the door, club table, sales table (chaired by John Norquay), show cases, etc., were put out for signatures. Otherwise, contact David about your availability. The next meeting will be devoted to fish pond bag preparation. Discussion ensued about bringing the club trailer to the meeting, so that finished items can be loaded directly into it. The nominal set-up time at the high school (on the 27th) is around 4 p.m. As many volunteers as possible are needed for set-up and takedown (on the 29th).

The third door prize was won by John Norquay – a thunder-egg geode.

Guests, including David's friend, Jane Lagacé from Quebec, Canada, were introduced.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Thanks go to all club members who spoke about the lapidary machines, and especially to Dennis and Mary Westby, who furnished us with excellent snacks (including the hot barbeque sandwiches).

Respectfully submitted,

Jordan Marché

Acting Secretary

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Tentative Calendar of Club Events – 2009

- March 7-8** **Field Trip (on your own): Burpee Museum's 11th Annual Paleofest. 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. each day**
- March 14** **Regular meeting: Fish pond bags (prep.)**
- March 28-29** **39th Annual Mineral, Gem, & Fossil Show, Monroe High School, 1600 26th Street. Theme: *Driftless Treasures of the Badger State* 9a.m. – 5 p.m., Sat. & Sun.**
- April 11** **Regular meeting: Micro-mounting**
(presented by Dan Trocke)
- April 25** **Field trip: Geodes – Jacobs and St. Francisville, MO**
Trip leader: Dave Zimmerman
- May 9** **Regular meeting: Arkansas diamond discovery**
(presented by Dave Zimmerman)
- May 23–?** **Field trip: Southern Illinois fluorite collecting**
Trip leader: Dan Trocke
- June 13** **Regular Meeting: Annual Club Picnic**
Host: Norquays
- June 27** **Field Trip: Agate collecting (new place)**
Trip leader: Dave Zimmerman
- July 11** **Field Trip: Reedstown Quarry (calcite, onyx)**
Trip Leader: Flannerys (?)
- July 25** **Field Trip: locality open**
Trip Leader: open
- August 8–?** **Field Trip: Canada (?)**
Trip Leader: Dan Trocke?
- August 22** **Field Trip: Wisconsin River canoe trip**
Trip Leader: Teri Marché



Other MWF Club Events

March 14-15: Macomb, Illinois. Geodeland Earth Science Clubs, Inc. Annual Show. Western Illinois University Student Union Ballroom, Murray Street. Sat. 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Sun. 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Contact: Dennis Bomke, dbomke@comcast.net.

March 21-2: Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Cedar Valley Rocks & Minerals Society, 46th Annual Show. Teamsters Union Hall, 5000 J Street, SW. Sat. 8:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Sun. 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Admission: \$2 (adults); \$0.50 students (ages 12-18); free for children under 12. Contact: Leslie Blin. 319-377-3339 or bblin@bser.com.

April 5: Waterloo, IA. Black Hawk Gem & Mineral Society, 49th Annual Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show. Waterloo Center for the Arts, 225 Commercial Street. Noon – 5 p.m. Theme: Nature's Hidden Secrets – Frozen in Time (petrified wood). Admission free, but donations accepted. Contact: Mickey Johnson. 319-266-6433.

2009 Burpee Museum Expeditions to Utah, Montana

Rockford's Burpee Museum of Natural History is sponsoring two series of expeditions, to augment the museum's growing collections.

“Project Utah” – Hanksville, Utah, to collect bones of Jurassic Morrison Formation dinosaurs *Allosaurus*, *Stegosaurus*, and *Apatosaurus*. Ages 15 and up. Three one-week periods are available (a three-day minimum is required): May 25-29, June 1-5, and June 8-12. Daily rates: \$150/day (general); \$125/day (educators). Orientation session: Saturday, April 4, 1-3 p.m. All food, accommodations are on your own.

“Highway to Hell Creek” – Ekalaka, Montana, to collect bones of Cretaceous Hell Creek Formation dinosaurs *Edmontosaurus*, *Triceratops*, and an unnamed theropod. Ages 15 and up. One week only: July 26 – August 1. Weekly rates: \$850 (general); \$700 (educators). Food, accommodations provided at Camp Needmore. Orientation session: Saturday, July 11, 1-3 p.m.

For more information about either expedition, or the Burpee Museum, visit <http://www.burpee.org>.

What's Rockin'

What a busy meeting! There was lots of activity at the table this month, although it was not overly filled. Dave Zimmerman is still cleaning his Arkansas quartz, evident in the classy cluster he showed. He also brought a piece of deep green wavelite from the same state. In line with his presentation on sawing, he showed a fine tri-colored slab of Colorado fluorite. Light shining through it really made it glow.

Art Aurand, a guest for the day, put out a geode, resembling those often found in southern Indiana, in the form of a probable fossil sponge. He also showed a well-preserved and nearly complete *Calymene* trilobite fossil, actually the state fossil of Wisconsin that can no longer be collected in this state (the one quarry is now closed). His came from Illinois. However, Art did have a super cephalopod fossil, probably of Ordovician age and probably from Wisconsin, showing both the outer shape and that of the inner siphuncle. Come again, Art!

Teri Marché brought along a number of items that have recently met the club's Genie machine. These included a flat of polished Lake Superior agates, Colorado blue barite, Canadian purple and green vesuvianite, amazonite, and colored glass made from Mount Saint Helen's ash, among other things. She also used these in her presentation. The Marchés also brought some Eocene “fish bits,” collected several years ago in the Kemmerer area of Wyoming, for members to take.

Most puzzling of all items on the table were the shiny metallic silver shapes displayed by Dennis Westby. They were three-dimensional geometric shapes of various sorts and sizes that rattled when shaken. That was a daring thing to do since the attached sign said, “Touch at your own risk.” Dennis labeled them as “Things found at UFO crash site,” a secret location. (They were actually stainless steel shapes with loose coins inside formed by Dennis using skills from his “day job.”) We all had fun with them.

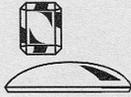
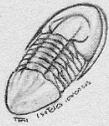
Teri Marché

BLGS Membership List (3/1/2009)

Ralph & Marsha Burgener	602 4th Street	Brodhead, WI 53520	608-897-2824
Harold Carter	P.O. Box 36	Earlville, IL 60518	815-246-9361
Steve & Kandie Flannery	W995 Taylor Trail	Brodhead, WI 53520	608-897-2694
Brian & Cindy Green	P.O. Box 396	Warren, IL 61087	815-745-2228
Gary & Diana Henson	506 Sparrow Drive	Edgewater, FL 32141	386-426-2457
Erich Hessner	108 1/2 Cherry Street	Janesville, WI 53548	608-345-6430
Bud & Maggie Higgins	645 Tracy Ferry Road (341)	Mountain Home, AR 72653	870-491-5995
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Normand Labbe	302 Eagle Heights, Apt. C	Madison, WI 53705	608-236-4654
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John & Daisy Peterson	W4647 County FF	Monroe, WI 53566	608-328-1523
Gertrude Pickett	1703 Lake Drive	Monroe, WI 53566	608-325-3694
Dave & Donna Reese	6388 Nimitz Road	Loves Park, IL 61111	815-885-1410
Cathy Romeis	4229 South 68th Street	Greenfield, WI 53220	414-546-9061
Tyrel & Danielle Rouse	131 Langdon Street, Apt. 1	Madison, WI 53703	608-235-2865
Clay & Maxine Schroll	1238 West Stephenson Street	Freeport, IL 61032	815-233-2136
Neal & Linda Trickel	1911 10th Street	Monroe, WI 53566	608-325-2571
Daniel Trocke	4771 County II	Highland, WI 53543	608-935-0597
Laurie Trocke	4771 County II	Highland, WI 53543	608-935-0597
Wil & Mari Ward	2112 18th Avenue	Monroe, WI 53566	608-325-4313
Howard & Frances Wells	W5483 County FF	Monroe, WI 53566	608-325-2482
Dennis & Mary Westby	503 East Fulton Street	Edgerton, WI 53534	608-884-3968
Steve & Donna Wilde	W5485 County FF	Monroe, WI 53566	608-328-4392
June Windsor	131 Nora Court	Mountain Home, AR 72653	
Jim Windsor	1101 West Main Street, Apt. 1	Safford, AZ 85546	928-348-0755
David Zimmerman	N3201 Crazy Horse Lane, #37	Brodhead, WI 53520	608-921-0206
Roy Zimmerman	N2302 Airport Road	Brodhead, WI 53520	608-897-4509

39th Annual

Mineral, Gem & Fossil Show



Our 2009 Theme:
Driftless Treasures of the Badger State

- Free Parking
- Free Admission
- Affordable Family Event

March 28 & 29, 2009

9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday & Sunday

Monroe High School, 1600 26th St. • Monroe, WI (off Route 69 south)

Many Special Speakers

Sat. 11:00 a.m.: Mike Riesch – Curator, Earthaven Museum – Curating WI's Mining and Mineral Heritage"

Sat. 1:30 p.m.: Johanne Paradis - Environmental Engineer, and Dr. Normand Labbe – "Unearthed Mountains of Quebec and Their Minerals"

Sat. 3:00 p.m.: Dr Eric Carson – Wisc. Geological and Natural History Survey – "Wisc's Lead Mining Heritage"

Sun. 1:30 p.m.: Michael Henderson – Curator Earth Sciences, Burpee Museum of Natural History – "Utah's New Discovery, A Dinosaur Graveyard"

"Sun. 3:00 p.m.: Dr. Jordan Marché II Historian of Science, Oregon, WI – "Did the Ice Age End with a Bang?: A New Theory of the Megafaunal Mass Extinction"

Museum Displays of Wisconsin Treasures

- Milwaukee Public Museum: Silurian Reef Fossils of Wisconsin
- UW Madison Geology Museum: Tri-State Minerals
- Platteville Mining Museum: Phenomenal Mining Artifacts & Minerals
- Plus other museums and private collections displays!

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The Badger Lapidary & Geological Society, Inc.

Ten Dealers in Minerals, Fossils, Gems & Jewelry
Speakers, Educational Exhibits, Wandering "Rock Wizard"
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Great Food and a Terrific "Fish Pond" for the Kids
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Show chair: David Zimmerman - 608-921-0206

E-mail: David@showchair.com • Web site: www.MonroeRockClub.org

Member of the American Federation and Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies

A non-profit organization dedicated to promotion of the study of earth sciences and offering an educational scholarship.

Badger Lapidary and Geological Society, Inc.

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