
THE BADGER DIGGIN'S

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

Devoted to the Earth Sciences

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April 2009

Meeting Minutes

The March 14th meeting was called to order at 10:25 a.m. by board member-at-large Dan Trocke. (Neither the club's president, vice president, secretary, nor show chair could be present at that time). Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

The *Treasurer's Report* was given by Daisy Peterson, who indicated that we have around \$700 in the checking account. She also reiterated that the check from the grant proposal, supporting last year's show advertising, has been received. She mentioned that, if the club reapplies for the same grant (e.g., covering *this* year's expenses), then greater documentation will likely be needed to show its cost effectiveness in bringing people to this area from the outside. She recommended that we file in advance if we seek continued funds of this kind. At the same time, she wished to be kept informed of any in-kind donations made toward club expenses by members, and reminded everyone that other club expenses must be approved in advance by the Board; otherwise, reimbursement may not be forthcoming.

Old Business: Dan briefly discussed the defunct status of the website, which is particularly unfortunate at show time, but indicated that some of our previous files *have* been recovered. However, it will be necessary to restart the website almost from scratch. The club very much needs one or more persons to get the new website up and running.

Dan also mentioned that he will coordinate the three currently open field trips on the club's calendar, through the end of summer. He asked whether there was interest in a trip to Utica, Illinois for minerals and coal-age fossils (there was such interest expressed). He also outlined his ideas for the Canadian trip this summer, which will have the Bancroft, Ontario GemBoree occurring in the middle of that trip. He plans to contact members with more detailed information regarding all of those trips.

[Minutes – cont. next page]

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be held at 9:45 a.m. on Saturday, April 11, 2009, at the Monroe Public Library, 925 16th Avenue, Monroe, WI. Take the elevator to the second floor.

Program: Bud Higgins Donation (or else Mineral Micromounting, presented by Dan Trocke).

If the Higgins donation arrives on schedule, we will need to unload it, inventory it, and find a place to store it, until deciding how it is to be used (see the article inside this issue).

As a result, Dan has graciously agreed to offer us his demonstration (in lieu of the donation), or else, if the donation does come through, to postpone his demonstration until the next month. The Club has purchased small plastic hinged boxes with Styrofoam bottoms, so that each member who attends will be able to take away a small mounted specimen from the meeting.

Snacks: Provided by the Petersons.



Meeting Minutes – cont.

New Business: Marv Hanner noted that, in the past, a copy of Frederick Pough's *A Field Guide to Rocks and Minerals* had been provided to all members (or families) of at least one year's standing in the club. He urged that such a policy be readopted. No further action was taken on the proposal, however, as this will require confirmation by the Board.

Show Business: In Dave's absence, the sign-up sheets were passed around for a final collection of signatures. What with Dave's probable departure for Canada later this year, Brain Green asked about his replacement as show chair. Dan announced that Teri Marché is now the show chair-in-training. Further, Dave has given copies of his software (Excel program) to the officers, to insure continuity of future show planning. Yet Dan noted that the proprietary nature of this software (developed as a business venture) must be recognized and respected.

Door Prizes: The first door prize was won by Daisy Peterson. It was a Silurian fossil trilobite (*Calymene celebra*) from Grafton, Illinois (and the Wisconsin State Fossil). The second door prize was won by Wil Ward. It was a bryozoan fossil from Mayville, Kentucky (age unknown). The final door prize (after the fish pond bagging was finished) was won by David Cress – an Oligocene-age oreodont tooth from South Dakota.

Thanks are due to the Reeses this month, who generously provided us with excellent sandwiches of several varieties and cupcakes for our snacks. They were really needed after all of that work filling hundreds of bags!

Respectfully submitted,

Jordan Marché

Acting Secretary



What's Rockin'

Erich Hessner displayed a fine, large crystal of smoky quartz from Arkansas. Some five-to-six inches long and one-to-two inches thick, it was readily admired by everyone.

Marv Hanner exhibited a host of colorful mineral specimens from India. These included two red specimens of apophyllite, a bright blue cavansite, a sample of heulandite, and some amethyst crystals. Sorry to say, they were **not** self-collected.

John Peterson showed an unusual rock specimen that was found on a lake shore in Minnesota. Its magnetic properties were apparent, as a magnet was readily attracted to it. The rock also had some flattened, conglomerate-like pebbles in it, implying a distant sedimentary origin. Opinions of others suggested that it contained microcrystalline magnetite, or else was a piece of hematite jasper. Either way, it was an interesting specimen, for sure!

David Cress brought in a valuable 2.65-carat rough diamond that came from Thailand. Impressive! Are you ever going to have this stone faceted, David?

Dan Trocke exhibited a number of items that included a nice-sized polished piece of "tiger iron" from Madagascar. He also showed an Arizona "blueberry," or azurite sand concretion; some double-terminated quartz crystals from Tibet; plus an egg carton full of fluorite specimens having phantom and chalcopyrite inclusions, all from Cave-in-Rock, Illinois. An enticement for a return field trip this year?

Finally, on behalf of David Zimmerman (in absentia), Dan displayed two large slabs of sowlbelly agate collected in Colorado. They each showed the fine, wavy laminations (resembling sliced bacon) that gave this rock its name.

Jordan Marché

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Tentative Calendar of Club Events – 2009

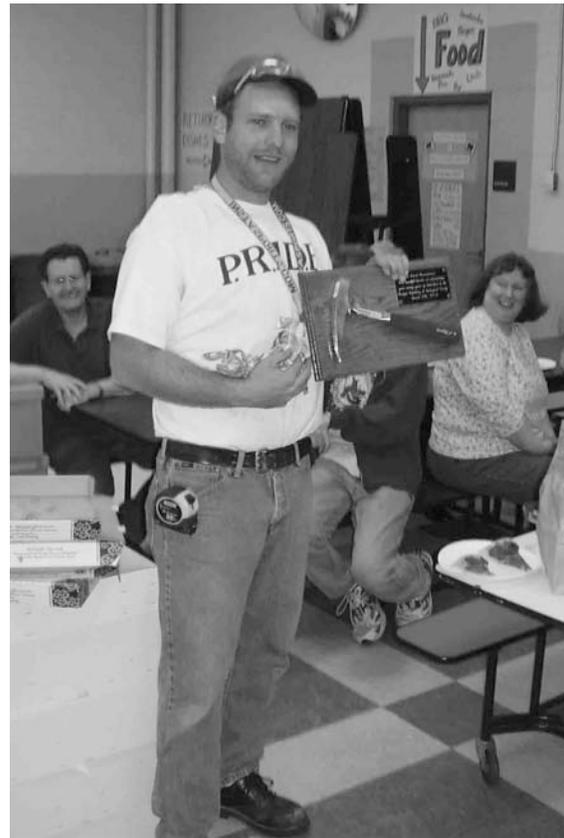
- April 11** **Regular meeting: Bud Higgins Donation**
(or else Mineral Micromounting – presented by Dan Trocke)
- May 9** **Regular meeting: Whichever of the programs does not take place in April!**
- May 22–25** **Field trip: Southern Illinois fluorite collecting**
Trip leader: Dan Trocke
- June 13** **Regular meeting: Annual Club Picnic**
Host: Norquays
- June 27** **Field Trip: Agate collecting (Bellevue, Iowa?)**
Trip leader: open
- July 11** **Field Trip: Reedstown Quarry (calcite, onyx)**
Trip Leader: Flannerys (?)
- July 25** **Field Trip: Utica, Illinois?**
Trip Leader: open
- July 29 – August 8** **Field Trip: Ontario, Canada**
Trip Leader: Dan Trocke
Includes visit to Bancroft Gemboree, August 2.
- August 22** **Field Trip: Wisconsin River canoe trip**
Trip Leader: Teri Marché
- Sept. 12** **Regular meeting – Show & Tell**
- Sept. 26** **Field Trip: Four County Quarry, Iowa**
Trip Leader: Teri Marché
- October 10** **Lapidary meeting**
Host: Trockes
- October 24** **Field Trip: Bat Cave near Beetown, Atkinson**
Trip Leader: open
- Novem. 14** **Regular meeting – program open**
- Decem. 12** **Christmas Party**

David Zimmerman Receives Surprise Farewell Gifts

During a break at the setup for the BLGS show on Friday night, David Zimmerman was presented with a pair of gifts to recognize his contributions to the club, especially in his long-standing role as Show Chairman. At the presentation, Teri Marché explained how David's forthcoming departure to Quebec, Canada had led to the Board's decision to honor his enthusiasm for the hobby of rock-hounding and dedication towards the club itself. Dan Trocke then presented a wooden plaque to David, which not only held a new Estwing rock hammer, but also carried a polished aluminum engraving with this inscription: "To David Zimmerman, with heartfelt thanks we acknowledge your many years of service to the Badger Lapidary and Geological Society. March 27th, 2009."



But that was only half of the planned surprise. Daisy Peterson then presented David with a brown paper bag, which on opening proved to be empty. But then the officers proceeded to stuff David's hat, shirt, and trousers with a large number of dollar (and larger) bills, representing the amount that had been raised from members through a secret collection taken on his behalf. This cash donation was intended either for David to use at the show, in the purchase of one or more specimens of his choice, or else to help offset the expenses of his relocation to Canada. As a result, the (previously empty) brown paper bag came in very handy! David appeared to be very moved by this unexpected display of support from the BLGS, and thanked everyone (both those present and away) for this gesture. His plaque and hammer were then displayed at the Club table for the duration of the show.



We wish David the best of luck as he begins this major new phase of his life, but expect that we will encounter him again sometime, either on a future field trip or during a visit back to Wisconsin for a club meeting or rock show. Bon voyage, David!

Higgins Donation to BLGS

By David Zimmerman

Hello Badgers,

Recently, I received a call from our past president, Bud Higgins (now living in Arkansas), and he has relayed to me an interesting windfall for the BLGS. He wants to donate the bulk of his collection to the club, for us to do with as we please. Some of this material might be used for the spinner game, while other portions might be put up for sale at the club table next year. Bud was the gentleman that created and painted our spinner game. As a result, I am sure that he would like to see much of it go to the children's education area. He was, and still is, a school teacher. Some of the donation could also be given away as door (or Gold Brick) prize material for the meetings, enabling further savings for the club.

Bud has talked about trying to bring the material up during the second weekend in April, which will coincide with our meeting date. At the moment, he is not completely sure that this timeframe will be possible, as he is trying to thread the needle with various schedules. So I expect that he will confirm things at an upcoming date. I have asked him to give us some idea of the volume of material being donated, as I am sure it will push the limits of space available on our trailer. He is going to rent a truck in order to bring everything up here. He is also talking about donating some lapidary equipment; some of it is in decent condition, while other things currently do not work. Once again, I have asked him for an inventory to help us plan as much as we can within this tight timeline.

Bud (Earnest) Higgins, and his wife, Maggie, are two of the finest people that have ever served in this club. I am very glad that they are enjoying their retirement in Arkansas. He served as club president for many years and expanded the children's area of our show. Before Bud came along, about all I remember the club having was the fishpond. Maggie was mostly a silent member in the club, but a very warm person to talk with. I think she helped Bud dig quartz in Arkansas, but she was not big on attending meetings.

So, what a wonderful windfall for the club, and the Higginases are again showing us what extraordinary members they are. Since I will be in Quebec during the end of this transaction, he will keep in close touch with Wil Ward. While I can certainly forward information back down here from Quebec, I will not be around to help unload things. I will keep you posted as soon as I find out anything more. Have fun!

'Tis the Season

By David Zimmerman

There is one thing that I love about Wisconsin, and that is a pronounced change of seasons. When I've lived elsewhere and not seen these changes, there is a monotony that takes place as well as a lethargy that occurs by one's settling into ruts. And like with any holiday season, there is the anticipation, the preparation, the event, the cleaning of the dishes, and then the relaxation.

As most of you know, this was my last year as show chair, as well as potentially my last year as an active member of the club. I feel that I am leaving the club on a good note with a good show and good healthy finances (which is as much the show chair's duty as that of the other officers). I have so many good memories with all of you through the years that I could not begin to put them all down on paper for fear of making a novel. So, I will paint with broad strokes.

This Badger club is a VERY special club. Not just to me personally, but it is unique in its chemistry, its makeup, its purposes, its ability to adapt, its history, and most of all, because of you the people. As the show chair for the past six years, I have had the chance to be the public face for our club, and I have been able to hear many good things about the club that have not been passed on to everyone. I hear comments that this club is "the most active club in the MWF," that "this club has life in it," that "this club cares about the kids," that "this club is so organized" [if they only knew . . .], that "this club makes their meetings fun," and so many wonderful comments that are spoken to me and others. This club is proof positive that change and progress can be a very healthy thing in life. We really do have a unique club, and it is the wonderful people like you that make it what it is.

For reinforcement of this point, look to this latest donation to the club: the Bud (Ernest) and Maggie Higgins donation, in which he is packing up the majority of his collection and donating it to the Badger club. Now, this would be a noble enough thing to do under normal circumstances, but when you figure that Bud and Maggie now live in Arkansas, and belong to a local Arkansas club, and that they both are getting up there in age, you will really start to appreciate the logistics that are behind this donation. They are even renting a truck in order to bring their collection to us. There is something about our club that inspired Bud and Maggie to do this, and it is you. You may not realize it, but it is the uncommonly good people that this club attracts that keeps it prospering and leaves a mark on its members. So while some have said that I have left my mark on this club and show, I can assure you that this club has left a mark on Bud and me, and numerous others throughout our forty-year history.

I hope that all of you understand and appreciate the history that you are making, as you continue to celebrate the diversity and camaraderie of this fine group. There are no finer people than rockhounds and that is a fact in my eyes. Collectively, our goodness makes up the spirit of this club. I feel that this club has MANY good years in front of it, so long as we focus on having fun in what we are doing, and continue to make even those laborious activities fun. Volunteering to share the workload makes us strong, together with fostering our youth and acknowledging them by name.

Providing that my stay in Quebec is a permanent one, you are all welcome to come visit me and enjoy some world-class mineral collecting with our fellow Canadian rockhounds, who I can assure you are a wonderful bunch. I will take along fond memories of this club (and maybe a dollar or two!) and carry all of that with me to Quebec.

So, just as the seasons change, so must life. I love all of you, and I hope you strive to have and make fun with everything you do. But just remember this: my move to Quebec is completely Johanne and Normand's fault! Ha! Ha! Ha!

P.S. You may contact me at the following address, phone numbers, and e-mail:

c/o Jane Lagacé
233 Rue Uldéric Baril
Mont-St.-Hilaire
Quebec, Canada J3H 6E1
608-921-0206 (my cell phone – temporary)
450-446-7945 (Jane's home number)
514-910-5529 (Jane's cell number)
800-408-1448 (Jane's work number)
david@showchair.com

Mid-America Paleontology Society (MAPS), National Fossil Expo XXXI, April 3-5

Buy, sell, & swap fossils (exclusively). Western Hall, Western Illinois University, Macomb. Friday and Saturday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.; Sunday 8:00 a.m. – 12 noon. For more information, visit: <http://www.midamericapaleo.org>.

Open House at UW Geology Museum, Sunday, April 26, Noon – 4:00 p.m.

The Geology Museum at the University of Wisconsin-Madison will host its annual open house. The Museum will display its best fossil specimens of the Mazon Creek flora and fauna, which include jellyfish, dragonflies, and horseshoe crabs. At 2:00 p.m., director Rich Slaughter will give a talk entitled, "Swamp Things and Sea Monsters: The Fossil Biota of Mazon Creek." The Museum is located in the Lewis G. Weeks Hall, 1215 West Dayton Street. For more information, contact Brooke Norsted at 608-262-1412.

New Madison Lapidary Shop

The Madison Gem and Mineral Club is completing work on a new lapidary shop within the Goodman Community Center, located at 149 Waubesa Street, Madison. The club will be holding instructional and open shop sessions, beginning the week of March 30. We are also celebrating with an open house at the shop from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 28. All are welcome to attend the open house. Our instructional and open lab sessions will also be available to anyone with an interest in the lapidary arts. Please join us during the open house. For more information about the shop and our planned activities, contact the undersigned.

Alan Vonderohe
President, Madison Gem and Mineral Club
608 635-2096
apvonder@facstaff.wisc.edu

MWF (& Other) Club Events

April 4-5: De Pere, Wisconsin. Rock, Gem, Fossil, & Mineral Show. Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.; Sunday 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Includes metal detector, wire wrapping demonstrations. Van Veghel's Auction Hall, 2 miles south of De Pere on Hwy. 32/57. Admission: \$1 (over 12 years of age). Proceeds go to the Neville Public Museum Geology Club Scholarship Fund. Sponsored by R&S Rocks and Science, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

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.

April 18-19: Des Plaines, Illinois. 44th Annual Jewelry, Gem, Fossil, Mineral, and Lapidary Arts Show. Saturday 9:30 a.m. -5:00 p.m.; Sunday 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Des Plaines Park District Leisure Center, 2222 Birch Street. Admission: \$3 adults; \$2 seniors; \$1 students. For more information: call Lois Zima, 847-298-4653; e-mail Jeanine Mielicki at janine9@aol.com; or visit: <http://www.desplainesgeologyclub.org>.

April 18-19: Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Chippewa Valley Gem & Mineral Society 46th Annual Show. Eau Claire County Expo Center, Lorch Avenue. Saturday: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.; Sunday 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Contact: Mike Schoenfuss, 715-456-0664.

May 2-3: Marshfield, Wisconsin. The Heart of Wisconsin Gem & Mineral Society’s 36th Annual Show. Theme: “Midwest Copper Treasures.” Marshfield High School Fieldhouse, 1401 Becker Road. Saturday: 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.; Sunday: 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Contact: Cynthia Kelman, 715-387-8782 or e-mail: kelman@tznnet.com.

May 9-10: Oconomowoc, Wisconsin. Kettle Moraine Geological Society’s 47th Annual Show. Olympia Resort, 1350 Royale Mile Road. Saturday: 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.; Sunday: 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Admission: \$2 adults; \$0.50 children. Contact: Liz Fuller, 262-246-6684.

May 16-17: Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. Wisconsin Geological Society, 52nd Annual Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show. Muellner Building, at Hart Park, 72nd and State Streets. 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. each day. Admission: \$3/adult; two for \$5; accompanied children free. Contact: Paul Schmidt, 414-771-8668 or e-mail: pvs@wi.rr.com.

May 23-24: Wheaton, Illinois. Chicagoland Gems and Minerals Association, 33rd Annual Gem, Jewelry, Fossil, and Mineral Show and Sale. Dupage County Fairgrounds, 2015 West Manchester Road. Admission: \$5 adults; \$3 seniors and students; free (children under 13). For more information: call 630-377-0197 or e-mail: CGMA@sbcglobal.net or visit: <http://www.chicagolandgemshow.org>.

Copper Country Mineral Retreat, August 2-8
A mineral collecting extravaganza in Upper Michigan’s historic Lake Superior native copper district. Events include: mineral collecting field trips to mine rock piles prepared to expose new materials; mineral and gift shop sales at A. E. Seaman Mineral Museum; underground collecting at Caledonia Mine; workshop on micro-mineral photography; featured speakers; mineral banquet with auctions; and open houses/sales at Keweenaw Gem & Gift, Red Metal Minerals. Come for the week or just a few days . . .
To request registration materials, visit: http://www.museum.mtu.edu/copper_country_mineral/index.html or call 906-487-2437 or e-mail dmcomfor@mtu.edu.

An Opportunity

Would you like to represent the BLGS at the Midwest Federation’s 69th Annual Meeting, held in conjunction with the MWF 2009 Show, May 15-17, at Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds, Bagley Road, Berea, Ohio? Each club is entitled to one vote at the Council Meeting on Saturday, May 16. You must be registered as a delegate before April 18. The Council Meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn Select, 15471 Royalton Road, Strongsville, Ohio. Details will be available at the next BLGS club meeting.

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