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# THE BADGER DIGGIN'S

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

Devoted to the Earth Sciences

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## President's Message

Dear Badgers,

This is my first message to you as president of the Badger Lapidary & Geological Society. I would like to introduce myself to you and relate why I joined the club just three years ago. But before I do that, I want to express my thanks to John Norquay for his very active contributions to the club as treasurer, president, and a great friend of the club. John and his family have done a lot for the club and have shown themselves to be the types to jump in and participate. While John has stated that he is more of a "people person" than a hardcore rockhound, I would like to emphasize that his outgoing, generous and curious nature has endeared him to the club in far more ways than a stack of degrees in geology. I'm sure that everyone will agree that we hope to laugh and learn with the Norquay family for many years to come.

I'm honored to have been asked to help the club as an interim president, now that John has asked to step down because of time constraints. I'm keenly aware that the Badger club has a long tradition of learning and friendship. I feel that the Club is a kind of treasure left in our custody to care for and pass along to the next generation in as good or better condition than the way it came to us. I come by this perspective honestly, as many of you have heard me talk before about my two grandparents, Mike Trocke and Joe Maushammer, who were both very active rockhounds in the Racine and Kenosha clubs, starting in the 1950s. My Grampa Mike, with whom I grew up with and who helped to raise me, passed away in 1989.

[President's Message – cont. on next page]

## Next Meeting

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

**Program: Radioactivity in Geology and Mining (presented by Tyrel Rouse).**

Officer-at-Large Tyrel Rouse will give a presentation on the history of radioactivity as applied to problems and solutions in both geology and the mining industries.

He has asked members who possess any rock or mineral samples that are known to be radioactive to bring them to the meeting, where their levels of activity can be measured.

Tyrel can also discuss the effectiveness of various types of shielding materials, such as lead, in absorbing the different kinds of radiation emitted.

**Snacks:** Provided by the Greens.

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## **Officer Roster:**

### **President**

Dan Trocke  
4771 County II  
Highland, WI 53543  
608-935-0597  
[dtrocke@acscm.com](mailto:dtrocke@acscm.com)

### **Vice-President**

Teri Marché  
5415 Lost Woods Court  
Oregon, WI 53575  
608-835-2653  
[tmarche@education.wisc.edu](mailto:tmarche@education.wisc.edu)

### **Secretary**

Laurie Trocke  
4771 County II  
Highland, WI 53543  
608-935-0597  
[lor3@netscape.com](mailto:lor3@netscape.com)

### **Treasurer**

Daisy Peterson  
W4647 County FF  
Monroe, WI 53566  
608-328-1523  
[daisyp@tds.net](mailto:daisyp@tds.net)

### **Editor**

Jordan Marché  
5415 Lost Woods Court  
Oregon, WI 53575  
608-835-2653  
[jordanmarche@hotmail.com](mailto:jordanmarche@hotmail.com)

### **Show Chairperson**

Teri Marché  
(see above)

### **Field Trip Chairman**

Dan Trocke  
(see above)

### **Officer-at-Large**

Tyrel Rouse  
131 Langdon Street, Apt. 1  
Madison, WI 53703  
608-235-2865  
[karmacop\\_7@hotmail.com](mailto:karmacop_7@hotmail.com)

## **President's Message – cont.**

But despite my being surrounded with some of the best and most beautiful specimens of two life collections, only a seed of appreciation for the mineral kingdom was planted in me at that time, and which didn't really bloom until many years later. That was when I found my interest in rocks through trying to tell my own children about their great-grandfather. We also rediscovered his collection that had been stored away for years, gathering dust. It surely helped to drive my growing interest when I started to suspect that more than a few of the rocks in the collection were radioactive. So, learning which ones they were thus became a practical necessity.

I've learned that just as no two people are alike, no two rockhounds seem to share the exact same interest in the hobby. What fascinates each of us, regardless of whether it is lapidary, fossils, crystals, artifacts, or in my case, fluorescent rocks, is a reflection on how diverse we are and how broad the appeal of the hobby can be. I've been fortunate to have always had a great rock collection, thanks to my grandparents. However, the Badger club has allowed my family to reconnect with my grandfather's interest in science and nature, through the typically fine and supportive group of people that rockhounds are.

I have to admit that I love the chatter and banter of meetings, along with the adventure and friendly competition of collecting trips. I hope that the Badger club experience provides this same personal renaissance for *all* of its members, by reminding them that there are still plenty of opportunities for an individual to explore the natural world. These many ways can range from a simple appreciation of natural beauty to some deeply complex system of science (e.g., chemistry, physics, geology, geography, and quantum mechanics) as a person could ask for to satisfy the curiosity that resides in all of us. While those bitten with the rock bug can attest to the beauty, mystery, and complexity found in the study of rocks and geology, it is the sharing of your interest with other people, your children, and the making of new friends while experiencing the beauty of nature through collecting, that has lit a passion for the hobby in me and many others.

For anyone interested in the collecting aspect of the hobby, you quickly learn that knowing where and how to collect is best supported by joining a club. It wasn't long after I had volunteered to coordinate a field trip that I was made "Field Trip Chair." I'm still not really sure how that happened, but I'm happy to continue with this role for now and hope to inspire other club members to participate in the best collecting field trips that we can provide. For more information on any of the fieldtrips coming up this year, please keep either myself or Daisy Peterson updated with your correct e-mail address, or you may contact me directly.

A strong fieldtrip schedule relies on the support of everyone in the club to pitch in and volunteer by attending trips, volunteering to coordinate trips, and networking to locate new opportunities. While I strongly urge people to participate, teach, share, and contribute to the club in whatever special way that only you can, the club is open to anyone having a good attitude, despite whatever limited amount of time, knowledge, skill, or commitment they have to share.

Keep on rockin'!

*Dan Trocke*

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### Meeting Minutes

The April 11<sup>th</sup> meeting was held in the Monroe Public Library. Before the meeting, we were all surprised when our current president, John Norquay, announced that he would be stepping down, effective immediately. He said that he would still remain an active member, but didn't have the time that the job of president required. He went on to say how much he enjoyed being a member of the club and was looking forward to all of the fun activities that are coming up this summer, including the picnic, which will still be held at the Norquay's home. He then had to leave to attend a sick animal at home.

After John left, we moved on to the April program.

The April program was presented by Dan Trocke. He made an excellent presentation on mineral micromounts. He brought a homemade rock trimmer, boxes, a label maker, and specimens for those who lacked them. He explained how to trim, mount and label micro specimens. After his explanation, everyone had a chance to make their own micromount. These samples were then put on the 'What's Rockin' Table' to be judged and the winners were awarded a 'small cash prize' (this turned out to be micro-money and everyone was very entertained).

The meeting was called to order at 11:30 a.m. and the first door prize was immediately awarded. Dan Trocke won the first prize and it was appropriately a very nice rhodocrosite micromount. After the door prize, several guests were welcomed and a couple of new members were introduced. The minutes from the March meeting were discussed and since there were no changes or additions, the minutes are to stand as printed in the last newsletter.

The *Treasurer's Report* was next. Daisy said that the show report was not complete because all of the receipts had not yet been turned in. She also said that the door count was uncertain for Saturday and will be straightened out. She said that the show went very well and that we had about the same total income as last year. We also managed to save on some expenses. We made about \$1300 at the door and \$300 at the fish pond. Daisy also said that the Westbys did a fantastic job in taking over the fish pond this year. She should have more details at the next meeting. If you have any expenses from the show, please turn them in to Daisy.

Moving on to *Old Business*, Daisy said that Roy Zimmerman had made a request to be reimbursed for some expenses related to the trailer that he had incurred last year. Daisy made a motion to reimburse him, Dan seconded the motion, and it carried. Daisy did ask that anyone who wished to be reimbursed for out-of-the-ordinary club-related expenses to please get a pre-approval first.

Jordan then discussed the upcoming Midwest Federation annual meeting in Ohio. They have encouraged MWF clubs to send a delegate to represent their organization. If anyone is interested, the paperwork must be turned in by April 18<sup>th</sup>.

The second door prize was won by Teri Marché. She won a very nice polished cephalopod (*Orthoceras*) from Morocco.

The next item was *New Business*. Marv Hanner explained that Kevin Ponzio has suggested the formation of a mineral study group that would meet once a month and include members from other regional clubs as well. A meeting place would be decided upon, based on the availability of members and the amount of interest. If you wish to join this group, please contact Marv at 608-293-2201.

Dan then moved on to field trips. The original field trip for April was going to be to the Jacobs Geode Mine. This did fall through and will be scheduled for a later date. The replacement field trip will be to the UW-Madison Geology Museum's open house on Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>. Dan also reported that we needed an activity for the May 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. It was suggested that we hold an officers' meeting after the regular meeting to discussing upcoming events.

The May field trip will be to Cave-in-Rock, Illinois over Memorial Day weekend (May 22-25). Another upcoming field trip is to the Bellevue quarry in Iowa. This trip did not yet have a leader, although Tyrel Rouse volunteered to assist with it.

Dan also wondered who was updating the club membership list and said that he would like a copy for sending out messages regarding upcoming field trips. Daisy said that she keeps track of members and that the information is kept on the Edit Grid. Jordan also has the updated e-mail distribution list.

Steve Flannery is currently listed as leading the field trip in June. Dan said he is also looking at getting back into the Utica clay pit (which has both minerals and Carboniferous plant fossils).

The next item of new business was selecting a new president to complete the year until elections are held in December. The president's responsibilities were laid out by Teri. The president needs to make a commitment to be at every meeting; to follow up on the meeting programs; to set an agenda; and to write a president's message for the newsletter. She then asked for suggestions or volunteers. Dan Trocke was selected and offered the position. He accepted and thus was named the interim president. Since he would be leaving his position as Officer-at-Large, that position was offered to Tyrel Rouse. He also accepted.

After selecting the interim president, we moved on to discuss the Bug Higgins donation. It was decided that the collection would be stored at the Trockes whenever it comes. This led to a discussion of how the club would use the trailer. Dave Zimmerman was the one who usually hauled it with his truck. It was suggested that we ask Steve Wilde if he could haul the trailer when needed. If he is not available, the club would have to rent a truck.

The third door prize was won by Marv Hanner. He won a very nice topaz micromount from San Luis Potosi, Mexico.

Wil Ward then suggested that we reimburse Bud Higgins for his gas money if he brings his collection all the way to Wisconsin; conversely, perhaps someone could meet him half-way. Dan Trocke made a motion to reimburse Bud. Wil then seconded it with an amendment that we don't just offer, but that we *give* him, the gas money. The motion to pay Bud for gas – to offer it when he is here and if he won't take the money, then to just mail it to him, passed unanimously. It was also suggested that meeting Bud in the Cave-in-Rock area might be a possibility. Dan will call him and discuss these options.

We moved on to *Show Business*. Teri Marche is now the official show chair and Dan will help her with advertising. She said that every report she heard on this year's show was superlative! Set up and take down were both accomplished in record times. Teri then handed out 'Thank You' gifts and apologized in advance in case she missed anyone. If you did get missed, it was completely unintentional! The 'Thank Yous' for the kids went to: Chelsea & Jacob Norquay and to Erin, Connor, & Jayden Trocke. They helped with running messages, working the kids' games, and take down. Next on the list were Dennis & Mary Westby. They were sensational this year in taking over the fishpond, helping with set up and take down, and being great help everywhere all weekend. Brian & Cindy Green, Wil Ward (our senior club member – he's been in the club since 1964), Clay Schroll, Normand Labbé, and Roy Zimmerman were all of tremendous help over the weekend. Jordan Marché arranged the speakers and also helped with set up and take down. The Trockes helped with the black light tent. Neil & Linda Trickel worked at the demonstrations table and also helped out wherever needed. Harold Carter, Dave Cress, Daisy & John Peterson, Dave Reese, Marv Hanner (our wandering Rock Wizard), Erich Hessner, Steve & Donna Wilde, and Tyrel Rouse all provided assistance whenever it was needed. The list could go on and on. We are very grateful to everyone that pitched in and helped to make it such a successful show!

Teri's next task as show chair is to set the date for next year. She will work on that and let us know as soon as she can. Someone will need to take over the kids' programs that Teri usually runs. Laurie Trocke, Tyrel Rouse, and Dennis & Mary Westby will take these over and run them. Teri would love any additional volunteers for the show. She would especially like help again next year with set up and the cabinet displays, along with the electrical set up.

Teri then explained that Dave Zimmerman had left a 'To Do' list regarding the show. She said that she will look it over and see what can be worked out. She also explained that she is now the vice president *and* show chair. She asked if someone else would be able to take over the What's Rockin' Table, so I will take that over.

Dan then made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Tyrel seconded it, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Laurie Trocke*

Secretary

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### **What's Rockin'**

The What's Rockin' Table went miniature this month with micromounts. Many of the micromounts were made right at the meeting during the April program, but some of them were samples brought in by Dan Trocke.

The two micro-specimens from Dan were green, acicular (i.e., needle-like) edenite inclusions in quartz from Madagascar, and acicular rutile and hematite inclusions in quartz from Minas Gerais, Brazil.

Also on the table was a very pretty piece of fluorite from China that Teri Marché brought in. Teri also displayed a piece of marcasite that she had collected in Argyle.

Marv Hanner brought a piece of apophyllite stalactite from India.

Dan Trocke also brought in a giant trilobite that he had purchased at the club show. The trilobite was a *Drotops megalomaniacus* from the Atlas Mountains area of Morocco. He further brought a cabinet sized piece of arsenopyrite and quartz from the Yaogangxian Mine, Hunan Province, China.

*Laurie Trocke*

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### **Tentative Calendar of Club Events – 2009**

**May 9**            **Regular meeting: Tyrel Rouse, "Radioactivity in Geology and Mining"**

**May 22–25**    **Field trip: Southern Illinois fluorite collecting**  
Trip leader: Dan Trocke  
(contact Dan for further details)

#### Abstract of schedule:

Friday May 22: Travel to Cave-in-Rock State Park, Illinois.

Saturday, May 23: Meet at Ben Clement Fluorite Museum, Marion, Kentucky, for planned digs.

Sunday, May 24: Meet at Cave-in-Rock State Park for group visit to Annabel Lee Mine site.

Monday May 25: Travel home.

**June 13**            **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 Mine)**  
Trip Leader: open

**Novem. 14**      **Regular meeting – program open**

**Decem. 12**      **Christmas Party**

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### MWF (and other) Club Events

**May 9-10:** Oconomowoc, Wisconsin. Kettle Moraine Geological Society's 47<sup>th</sup> 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, 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show. Muellner Building, at Hart Park, 72<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:pvs@wi.rr.com).

**May 23-24:** Wheaton, Illinois. Chicagoland Gems and Minerals Association, 33<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:CGMA@sbcglobal.net) or visit: <http://www.chicagolandgemshow.org>.

**June 6-7:** Viroqua, Wisconsin. Annual Show, Coulee Rock Club, Viroqua Junior High School, 100 Blackhawk Drive. Saturday: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.; Sunday: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Contact: Gary J. Krause, 606 E. Court Street, Viroqua, WI 54665, 608-637-2574, or [garyjkrause@yahoo.com](mailto:garyjkrause@yahoo.com).

**June 26-28:** Bloomington, Indiana. Lawrence County Rock Club, 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil Show-Swap. Monroe County Fairgrounds, on Airport Road, 0.7 miles west of IN Rte. 45 South. Free admission. Friday: 10:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.; Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.; Sunday 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. For more information, call 812-295-3463 or 812-247-3780.

### 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](http://www.museum.mtu.edu/copper_country_mineral/index.html) or call 906-487-2437 or e-mail [dmcomfor@mtu.edu](mailto:dmcomfor@mtu.edu).



Badger Lapidary and Geological Society, Inc.  
Jordan Marché, Editor  
5415 Lost Woods Court  
Oregon, WI 53575

