
THE BADGER DIGGIN'S

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

Devoted to the Earth Sciences

Vol. 45, No. 4

April 2010

President's Message

Dear Badgers,

I hope everyone has recovered from the Badger Rock Show last weekend. The show is our greatest source of revenue and more importantly our best chance to educate the public about our club, our hobby, and it especially allows us to form new friendships. I've heard nothing but good things from the vendors and attendees that I've talked to and everyone should be proud of the hours you've volunteered that made this year's show a success. While many members pitched in with great enthusiasm during setup and teardown, brought fabulous displays and skillful demonstrations, I'd like to acknowledge by name several members who stepped up and volunteered in new areas: Teri Marche as our new Show Chair & television celebrity, Tyrel Rouse as guest speaker, Dennis Westby for hauling the trailer, Donna Reese as Treasurer, Jack Hoxie with advertising, new members Ted Tinker, Linda Neill, and Chris Konetski with the club sales table, Erin, Connor and Laurie Trocke with the rock polishing, and Jayden Trocke helped with the fish pond. I hope I haven't missed anyone. Thank you!

With the work done, and spring truly here, now it's time to play. I'll have information out by e-mail and a sign-up sheet at the next meeting for the April 24th & 25th BLGS Fieldtrip to Jacob's Geode mine near Hamilton, Illinois. This is best considered a weekend trip due to the amount of travel required (4 hours one way). What we will hopefully find: geodes in layers of soil, clay, and especially shale. Most geodes will be filled or lined with quartz crystals and often calcite as well; however, 16 different minerals have been found inside the geodes at this site. The rarest and therefore most prized would be the geodes with black and iridescent calcite cubes inside or esthetic combinations of associated minerals. The club has a very good geode cracker that would be ideal for opening this type of geode. It may surprise you that I've never dug geodes before and my kids and I are looking forward to it. Laurie on the other hand will probably have a fishing pole hidden in the car. This trip will be open to all MWF members. Anyone interested in going that does not have e-mail should give

me a call and I can then mail them the information.

Take care.

Dan Trocke

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be held at 9:45 a.m. on Saturday, April 10, 2010, at the Monroe Public Library, 925 16th Avenue, Monroe, WI. Take the elevator to the second floor.

Program: Wire-wrapped Jewelry, presented by Teri Marché and Tyrel Rouse.

Members should bring an attractive stone (gem, mineral, or fossil) that they would like to wire-wrap. In addition, if they have any jewelry making tools of their own (pliers, etc.), please bring them along, too. The club will furnish at least some tools, and enough copper wire, to allow everyone to complete their projects.



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Tentative Calendar of Club Events – through Dec. 2010

- April 10** Regular meeting – Wire-wrapped Jewelry
Teri Marché, Tyrel Rouse
- April 24** Field Trip – Geode collecting
Leader: Dan Trocke
- May 8** Regular meeting – “Rock Terms You’ve Never
Heard Before”: Dan Trocke
- May 22** Field Trip – Bellevue (IA) Agates
Leader: Tyrel Rouse
- June 12** Annual Picnic: Pleasant View Park (Green Co.)
- June 26** Field trip – Dehnel’s Aegerine Pit
Leader: Cathy Romeis
- July 10-18** Field Trip – Minnesota to Canada
Leaders: Teri Marché, Cathy Romeis
- July 25** Field Trip – Rufer Quarry, Monroe
Leader: Dan Trocke
- Aug. 14** Field Trip – TBA
- Aug. 28-29** Field Trip – Wyalusing & Prairie du Chien
Leader: Teri Marché
- Sept. 11** Regular meeting – Show & Tell
- Sept. 25** Field Trip – TBA
- Oct. 9** Lapidary Day; Host – Trockes
- Oct. 23** Field Trip – TBA
- Nov. 13** Regular meeting
- Dec. 11** Christmas party

Second Bud Higgins Donation Received

On Tues., March 23, BLGS member Bud Higgins presented the club with another sizeable donation of rock and mineral specimens, along with several machines for working them. Thank you once again, Bud! And there is a possibility of even more material coming our way. It looks like another auction is in store!

MWF (& related) Club Events

April 10-11: Green Bay, WI. Neville Public Museum Geology Club's 2010 show. 210 Museum Place, Sat. 9-5; Sun. 10-4. Contact: Randy Westberg, (920) 619-6060 or randy.westberg@rhccgb.com.

April 10-11: Des Plaines, IL. Des Plaines Valley Geological Society's 45th Annual Show. Des Plaines Park District Leisure Center, 2222 Birch St. Sat. 9:30-5; Sun. 10-4. Contact: Lois Zima or Jeanne Mielecki, (847) 298-4653 or jaynine9@aol.com.

April 17: Belvidere, IL. The Curry Gem Auction will be held at the Boone County Fairgrounds, starting at 9 a.m.

Janet Bruce

April 17-18: Eau Claire, WI. Chippewa Valley Gem & Mineral Society's 47th Annual Show. Eau Claire County Expo Center, Lorch Ave. Sat. 9-5; Sun. 10-4. Contact: Mike Schoenfess, (715) 456-0664 or msrocks2@charterinternet.com.

April 17-18: Waukesha, WI. Kettle Moraine Geological Society's 48th Annual Show. Waukesha County Expo Center, 1000 Northview Road. Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4. Contact: Liz Fuher, (262) 246-6684 or fromtherock.com.

May 15-16: Wauwatosa, WI. Wisconsin Geological Society's 53rd Annual Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show. Mueller Building at Hart Park. Sat., Sun. 10-5. Admission \$3; or \$5 for two adults. Accompanied children free. Contact: Paul Schmidt, (414) 771-8668 or pvs@wi.rr.com

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Meeting Minutes

A very short meeting was held at the Trocke farm (on March 13) while we enjoyed all the wonderful pot-luck dishes. Donna Reese started with the *Treasurer's Report* and made a suggestion that the checking and savings balances not be included in future newsletters. Everyone agreed that this was a wise suggestion. Dan moved on to announcements

and said that the April field trip to Jacobs for geodes is a go. More information and sign up sheets will be available at the April meeting. The program for the April meeting will be jewelry making. Please bring small pliers, small wire cabs, and any stones that you would like to work with if you have them. The first door prize was awarded to Dan Trocke, who won a very nice piece of malachite.

We moved on to *Old Business*. Ted said that the domain name, "monroerockclub.org" was no longer available for our website. He said that "badgerrockclub.org" is available and wondered if we would like him to use that instead. Teri moved to use "badgerrockclub.org" as the domain name, Linda seconded the motion, and it passed. We also agreed that Ted should use the company justhost.com for our website. There were not any other old business items, so we moved on to the second door prize drawing. Teri Marché won a beautiful piece of labradorite from Madagascar.

Next on the agenda was *New Business*. We agreed that it would be very nice to have a list of club machines available on the website. Ted agreed to add that to the site and that it would have a section where you can sign up for the machines so that everyone knows where they are.

Moving on to *Show Business*, the sign-up sheets for the display cases and for the different jobs at the show were passed around again. Teri also passed out more posters and flyers. Dan said that he had gotten an advertising update from Jack Hoxie. He was going to get the ads into the paper, but had run into computer problems and couldn't send out the bulk e-mail. Dan said that he would take care of that and get the e-mail sent out ASAP. Teri said that we would be able to get into the High School at 4:00 p.m. to start setting up on Friday, March 26th. We appreciate everyone's help in getting ready and then running the show.

The third door prize was won by Dennis Westby. He won a beautiful piece of blue chalcedony. The meeting was then adjourned and everyone moved into the main part of the barn to finish putting together the fish pond bags for the kids. We made over 1,000 bags for the show!! Thanks to everyone that could come out and help! Your hard work will be very much appreciated by the kids at the show.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Trocke

A Note from Jack Hoxie:

After airing Teri's 3-4 minute interview on Channel 15's Morning Show on March 28, the station archived the video clip. Jack has since located and downloaded a copy of the interview (not an easy task, even for a computer professional!) and will have it available on his laptop at the meeting. Anyone who desires a copy of the video should bring a flash drive having at least 30MB of memory space to the meeting. Thank you, Jack, for this generous effort!

From the Show Chair

Omigosh! I can hardly believe it is over! I can also hardly believe it worked!

That it did was mainly the result of all those who worked so hard to set up and take down tables; move, unload and load the trailer; set up and wire showcases, and haul in cartload after cartload of equipment and beautiful stuff. I heard so many, many compliments about the wonderful club displays; we certainly outdid ourselves on that. All the kids' areas and the fluorescent display make our show a one-of-a-kind.

Many more thanks to those who manned and womanned the tables, stands, and booths. I hear that two otherwise quiet fellows are largely responsible for an especially well-used donations jar at the door. It was also especially neat to see some of our own "pebblepups" leading the kids' activity. Kids teaching kids; how great is that?

A special thanks to all who worked on getting the word out about our show by contacting websites, magazines, newspapers, TV stations, putting up posters and e-mailing the word out. The attendance seemed to be pretty consistent across the two days, and what I have heard from our dealers has been quite positive.

So, thanks to the organizational program of my predecessor, Dave Zimmerman (I used his software extensively) and this fantastic club, it worked! I came away with a renewed appreciation for what a profoundly special group this is.

At the next meeting, I plan to get a bit more personal with my thanks, and we will have a show report for you. Donna has been very busy tallying up the returns and the bills. At that same meeting, we will also need to vote on whether or not to go for show no. 41 next year. If so, we should brainstorm ideas for improving the show and the show process, as well as ideas for next year's theme, if we want a theme. As for the show chair position, if one is needed, I am willing to do so again. However, I will also readily give way to another if that is the will of the group. Lotsa decisions.

Teri Marché

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