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# THE BADGER DIGGIN'S

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

Devoted to the Earth Sciences

Vol. 45, No. 8

October 2010

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## President's Message

Dear Badgers,

It's been a good year to be a Badger and participate in some great club events, starting with the January auction and (for me) culminating in a very memorable club trip to Thunder Bay this summer. I have a barn full of club-owned rocks looking for rockhounds to adopt them, so it's not hard to imagine another January member's auction being organized. With winter on its way, it seems these last beautiful days are all the more precious. We have one last fieldtrip (TBD) to look forward to before the snow flies. I also enjoy repeating those traditions that are most worthwhile. I hope that all Badger club members and your special guests will please accept our invitation to attend the third annual **Badger Lapidary Day Party** at the Dan and Laurie Trocke family farm on **Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup>** starting at **11:00 a.m.** till the coyotes howl (late). Don't come early unless you want to be put to work!

Please **RSVP** to Dan Trocke  
[dtrocke@acscm.com](mailto:dtrocke@acscm.com) or 608-215-5307 with how many in your party will be coming so we can be prepared for the turnout.

As this is a potluck, please bring a side-dish or dessert to pass and a folding chair if you have one (that would be appreciated).

If you have one of the club's lapidary machines or a machine you're willing to share and teach, please bring it with you. If you have a club machine and cannot attend, please contact me or another club member to arrange for some kind of pick up. Thanks!

## The Day's Events:

- **Hands-on Lapidary Workshop** – cutting, grinding, polishing, trimming, tumbling, etc... Please bring some rocks or geodes if you have them and your ideas.
- **Geode cracking – Bring some geodes to crack with the club chain cracker.** I have a bucket of geodes that needs someone to crack them, so no one has to leave without cracking a free geode to take home.
- **Lunch provided:** Grilled chicken, hamburgers, brats and potluck. Please bring a side-dish or dessert to pass and a folding chair if you have one.
- **Drinks provided:** juice, milk, soda. Beer and Long Island Iced Teas while they last.
- **Itinerant petting zoo** on site. (Watch your step ... no, really!)
- **Collecting trip:** Immediately after lunch, we'll take a quick trip to a local road cut for druzy quartz and calcite and then a quarry for fossils, including the famous "petrified snakes" of Iowa County (i.e., cephalopods) found there. Please bring hard rock tools, gloves, safety glasses, and high-visibility vests and hardhats (if you have them).
- **Dinner provided:** Jambalaya stew and lunch leftovers.
- **Campfire:** For those able to stay late and weather permitting, we're planning to hang out around the campfire once it gets dark and enjoy the great company. Guitars and other unplugged instruments are welcome. Please plan to drink responsibly, car pool, or designate a driver.
- **Camping:** For those willing to brave the unpredictable October weather, feel free to set up a tent and camp to eliminate the worry about the drive home.

**Lapidary Machines** available for you to use:

- 24" diamond saw (Bring a big stone / boulder you've always wanted to cut.)
- 16" diamond saw (Bring a fist sized stone you've always wanted to cut.)
- Belt drum sander on bench arbor
- 2"x72" wet silicon carbide belt sander for pieces just too big to grind on the Genie.
- Club 10" diamond saw
- Club 14" diamond chop saw
- 6" combination trim saw, grinding bench and polisher (old school bench set up)
- Club "Genie": 6 wheel, 6" grinder / polisher
- A rented "Titan", 6 wheel, 8" grinder / polisher
- 14-lb capacity vibratory tumbler (If you have some quartz-hardness agates or stones to be tumbled, bring them with you).
- Club geode cracker
- Club flat lap or vibratory lap.
- Kids are welcome to use the machines, but must be assisted and supervised by an adult when first learning to use the machines.)
- If you have a lapidary machine, tool, rock, or project you would like to show or share, please bring it.

**Directions:** It takes about one hour and 10 minutes to drive from Monroe to our house, but it is a beautiful drive this time of year. The address is: **4771 County Road II, Highland, WI 53543**  
From Madison, take Hwy. 18 / 151 to Dodgeville. Take the Hwy. 18 Dodgeville exit. Stay on 18 through town. After going through Dodgeville, take your first right on County Hwy Q. Follow Q for about 6 miles, then turn right on County Hwy. II just before crossing the Otter Creek Bridge. Our farm is the first house you will see on your right.

We hope you will be able to join us.

Your friends,  
Dan and Laurie Trocke  
Home Phone: 608-935-0597  
Cell: 608-215-5307



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## Meeting Minutes

The September meeting was held at the Monroe Public Library on September 11, 2010. The following people attended: Dan & Laurie Trocke and family, Neal & Linda Trickel, Brian & Cindy Green, Ted Tinker, Cathy Romeis, Donna Reese, Erich Hessner, Marv Hanner, Teri Marché, Clay Schroll, and Daisy Peterson.

The meeting began w/the annual Show and Tell. Jayden Trocke started this off with some beautiful amethyst points from the shop at the Purple Haze Mine in Thunder Bay, Ontario. He also had a cephalopod from southwest Wisconsin, glauconite collected on the club trip, and a pyrite sun.

Mike Riesch was next with many fine examples of Silurian corals and other fossils from Door County, WI. He invited the club to come and visit the Earthaven Museum and go collecting in the area on our next field trip at the end of the month. The sign-up form for this trip was passed around so he could get an idea of how many would be able to join him on this very fun trip.

Clay Schroll was next in line. He had some galena-bearing silver ore from the Einstein Silver Mine located one hour south of St. Louis. He also took a trip to South Dakota and collected agate, colored jasper, a bison tooth, an opalized clam, and a baculites from the Badlands stream beds.

Teri Marché then shared the agates she had found on many different trips. She had some from Wendling Behr Quarry (IA); Bellevue lakers; from a pit east of Janesville that she visited with the Jefferson club; and that she had purchased at Moose Lake Agate Days in Minnesota. Teri also had some very pretty thomsonite that she had polished on the Genie. These were collected at Cutface Creek and along the road by the Thomsonite Inn on the "Day of the Flies" on our way back from Thunder Bay, Ontario. The next treasures that Teri had were some very pretty amethysts from Thunder Bay. These came from the Blue Points Mine and from Dan & Bill's Mine. She also had some fantastic multicolored barite and anorthosite from a road cut with quartz and mica; taconite iron ore pellets; aegerine from the club trip near Wausau; and some dark purple fluorite cubes and some very fluorescent clear ones from the Annabel Lee and Mahoney Mines near Cave-in-Rock, IL.

Connor Trocke went next and got to show

off the huge Lake Superior agate that he traded up for at the Moose Lake Agate Show. He also had some glauconite from the club trip and an obsidian arrowhead that had been reworked as a hefted scraper that he found on the shore of Lake Koshkonong, WI.

Erin Trocke then shared some Brazilian agates that she had gotten in a trade with Ted Tinker; some petrified wood and agates that she found in some landscaping at Platteville, WI; plus a pretty jewelry and butterfly box that was full of pea sized lakers from the school playground.

Daisy Peterson was next in line. She had some beautiful lilac & Orange River jade (jadite) and necklaces that she had purchased on a trip to China. She also had some multicolored jade bought at a Buddhist temple in China. She had a really pretty calcite ball – very clear and beautiful – and a piece of petrisite with quartz that she had purchased at Westgate Mall in Madison. She said that there was not any place to collect in China, so she had to settle for purchasing a couple of pieces to bring back.

Dan Trocke shared his beautiful amethyst pieces from a clay pocket at the Blue Points Mine in Thunder Bay. This led to a discussion of the various injuries that were incurred at this mine and to Teri Marché's famous quote, "Flesh heals; amethyst is forever." Dan also brought some neat arrowheads, pottery shards and scrapers that were given to him by a friend; his Lake Superior agate collection, which included many from his Grandpa, some from Moose Lake, MN and some from other collecting trips. Dan also had a slice of the Mifflin meteorite that crash-landed in Wisconsin on April 14th and a gorgeous piece of fluorescent duckbill selenite that he got from Mystic Moraine Minerals at a rock swap.

Neil Trickel had an interesting rock from his Dad's collection. It was very heavy, black, and weakly magnetic. He thinks it could possibly be magnetite.

Brian & Cindy Green had an interesting box of rocks with calcite vugs that they had purchased for \$1.00 at Curry's Auction.

Donna Reese brought a copper chisel chip and a piece of agate with copper in it that they had found at the Wolverine Mine in Michigan.

Erich Hessner was next in line. He had some interesting pieces from a closed agate mine in Thunder Bay, Ontario, along with some hematite

and jasper, jasper and quartz, magnetite, a smelting brick, blister copper, and copper with silver that he had found in Iron Country, MI. He also had some pyrite, malachite and azurite, epidote, basalt, and silver pieces.

Ted Tinker brought a box with a variety of agates. He had some Lake Superior agates from the Prairie du Chien trip and some polished Brazilian agates.

Marv Hanner shared some jasper and agates that he had collected on some of the club trips, a star garnet that he thought was from Russia, and a piece of aquamarine from Africa.

Teri Marche also shared some collecting bags that Harold Carter had made from the legs of old blue jeans.

That wrapped up the Show and Tell portion of the meeting and we moved on to the first door prize. Cathy Romeis won a very nice piece of peridotite.

For *Old Business*, Teri Marche said that she had been working on the website. The new address for our website is [www.badgerrockclub.org](http://www.badgerrockclub.org). It is currently under construction, but hopefully, will be up and running soon.

Donna Reese presented the Treasurer's report. She said that she had collected dues from two new members and also that she had given Dan Trocke a check to get a new blade for the club saw.

The only announcement was regarding the upcoming field trip to Door County. Mike Riesch said that he was planning on providing food and a place to camp and that anyone interested could come up and visit the Earthaven Museum and he would lead a collecting trip to some of the local farms in the area for the fossils and corals that he showed during the meeting.

The second door prize was won by Ted Tinker. He won a nice pyrite cube.

Donna suggested that we send a check to Dennis Westby for moving the trailer out to the Trocke farm. Teri moved that we send him a check for \$75 to cover the cost of fuel as well as his time and trouble. Marv seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

We then moved on to *New Business*. Teri announced that Jordan Marché would be stepping down as newsletter editor in December so that he would have time to work on a book that he is writing. Anyone interested in this position next year should contact Dan Trocke.

It was also brought up that the club used to give out field guides to members if they stayed in the club for two years. Are we interested in reviving this practice or should we just have some on hand that members could purchase at a reduced price? If you have any suggestions or ideas, please present them at the next meeting.

After new business was wrapped up, we turned to Teri for an update on *Show Business*. She said that the last weekend in March was confirmed for the show and that she had nine out of ten dealers lined up. Teri will talk to the last dealer and send out contracts. Jack and Dan will help with the advertising again this year. Teri was also wondering if anyone had any suggestions for a theme for next year's show. Dan Trocke suggested "Rocks at Work" and after quite a bit of discussion, Daisy made a motion to adopt that theme, Erich seconded it, and the motion carried. Mike suggested Joanne from the Weiss Museum in Menasha as a possible contact for handouts, info, etc., for the show. He thought she would have many items or good suggestions that would tie in with the theme. It was also suggested that maybe we could find a source of industrial diamonds or else use garnets to set up a panning activity for the kids' program.

The third door prize was a neat fossil horse tooth that was won by Erich Hessner (which he then traded to a very delighted and excited Erin Trocke for one of her agates).

The October 9th meeting will be held out at the Trockes for **Lapidary Day**. Please bring a dish to share and your beverage of choice and contact us if you are planning to join us so that we can make sure to have enough food to grill and such. We are planning to visit a local quarry, possibly a road cut near Spring Green, or maybe the Dodgeville mineral museum. Contact Dan or Laurie Trocke if you need more info or want directions.

Donna Reese will bring treats to the November meeting and everyone is invited to attend the Freeport rock show after the meeting.

Erich Hessner made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Daisy Peterson and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

*Laurie Trocke*

**What's Rockin'**

Table space was almost at a premium for the September Show and Tell meeting, with members wanting to show off their favorite finds of summer.

Ted Tinker had crazy lace agate from Mexico, blue lace agate from India, Queensland agate from Australia, Brazilian agate, lakers from Prairie du Chein, Agua Nueva agate from Mexico, and assorted tumbled stones.

Clay Schroll had argentiferous galena from the Einstein Silver Mine in Missouri and various agates from South Dakota.

Erich Hessner showed a smelter brick replaced by copper from the Quincy Mine, chisel chips from the Central Mine, a halfbreed native silver on copper, pyrite silver azurite from the Henwood Mine, some "blister copper" – a result of smelting ore to 95% Cu – from the Quincy Mine, specular hematite jasper from the Republic Mine, Thunder Bay agate from Ontario, magnetite from the Republic Mine, and specular hematite jasper quartz from the Republic Mine.

Cathy Romeis had a table full of pictures from the summer club trips.

Marv Hanner exhibited star garnet from Russia and aquamarine beryl from Africa.

Donna Reese found some copper in agate from the Wolverine Mine #2, plus a copper chip that looked like a twisted knife blade from the Cliff Mine in Michigan.

The Greens brought several pieces with vugs of dogtooth calcites.

Teri Marché had several boxes of finds, including fluorite from Cave-in-Rock, Illinois, aegerine from Wausau, amethyst and barite from Thunder Bay, Ontario, and thomsonite from Minnesota.

We must apologize to the Trockes because, after we got home, we found that we didn't have any of their What's Rockin' slips. But Dan had a whole table full of stuff by himself and his kids filled the better part of another table. To give Dan credit, he found some of the best Thunder Bay amethyst we have ever seen.

*Brian & Cindy Green*

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**Tentative Club Events – through Dec. 2010**

**Oct. 9 Lapidary Day – Host: Trockes**

**Oct. 23 Field Trip – TBA**

**Nov. 13 Regular meeting**

**Dec. 11 Christmas party**

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**MWF (& related) Club Events**

**October 8-10: Wausau, WI.** Fourth Annual Wausau Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show. East Gate Hall at Marathon Park, 2101 Stewart Avenue. Fri. 12-5, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4. Contact: Jennifer Damrow, (715) 212-7080, or [Jennifer@exclusiveinspirations.com](mailto:Jennifer@exclusiveinspirations.com).

**October 16-17: Des Moines, IA.** Des Moines Lapidary Society Annual Show. Paul R. Knapp Animal Learning Center, Iowa State Fairgrounds. Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4. Adults – \$5; children 12 and under – free. Contact: Steven Cunningham, (515) 262-4578, or [steverv@mchsi.com](mailto:steverv@mchsi.com).

**October 23-24: Gurney, IL.** Lake County Gem & Mineral Show. Key Lime Cove Water Resort, 1700 Nations Drive. Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4. Contact: Gere Bunnell, (847) 336-1270, or [gere@cgbunnell.com](mailto:gere@cgbunnell.com).

**October 23-24: Davenport, IA.** Black Hawk Gem & Mineral Club's Fall Rock, Gem & Jewelry Show. Mississippi Valley Fairgrounds, 2815 W. Locust St. Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-3:30. Contact: [msrocks2@charterinternet.com](mailto:msrocks2@charterinternet.com), or (563) 445-3034.

**November 13-14: Freeport, IL.** North West Illinois Rock Club's Holiday Jewelry, Gem & Mineral Show. Highland Community College Student/Conference Center, 2998 West Pearl City Road. Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4. Contact: Brian Green, [bgreen57@hotmail.com](mailto:bgreen57@hotmail.com).

**November 20-21: Madison, WI.** Madison Gem & Mineral Club's "Rockin' Madison 50 Years" Show. Alliant Energy Center, 1919 Alliant Energy Center Way. Sat. 9:30-5, Sun. 10-5. Adults – \$3; children – free. Contact: Nevin Franke, (608) 251-2601, or [burniesrockshop@gmail.com](mailto:burniesrockshop@gmail.com).

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