

The Badger Diggin's

The Badger Lapidary & Geological Society, Inc.

Monroe, WI

Devoted to Earth Sciences

Vol 46, No. 01

January 2011

Dear Badgers,

Happy New Year! I am happy to report that the Christmas party was well attended despite the blizzard and a rollicking good time, as is customary for this silly bunch of Badgers. We managed a quick meeting and elected our full panel of club officers for 2011. Please join me in thanking returning officers: Donna Reese as Treasurer, Mary Westby as Vice President, Tyrel Rouse as Officer at Large and newly elected Secretary, Ralph Burgener. Laurie Trocke has volunteered as Newsletter Editor, Teri Marché as Show Chair and I'll be continuing as President. The officers will meet this Wednesday January 5th, to discuss and plan the 2011 fieldtrip and meeting activity calendar. We'll try to incorporate those ideas and suggestions from the membership so please don't be shy.

Our first fieldtrip of the year will be a large auction of club-owned mineral specimens at Dan and Laurie Trocke's Farm on Saturday, January 22nd starting at 11:00 AM. Anyone arriving early will be put to work. The auction will be held in the stone barn which will be heated and hot drinks and sloppy joes will be served.

Dan and Laurie Trocke's Farm is at 4771 County Road II, Highland WI, 53543. (from Madison take Hwy 18 west through Dodgeville and turn right on County Q. Continue for about 7 miles and turn right on County II at the Otter Creek Bridge. We're the second driveway on right).

This will be a member only auction that has not been advertised outside of the club newsletter. I think we're going to have two to three hundred club owned specimens being auctioned. There is little information with most of these specimens however there will be club members there that can identify the minerals and give a best guess on origin.

Many of the specimens are really quite nice or unusual and are sure to catch your eye. This will be a silent auction, so bids will be written on the auction slip for each specimen until time runs out. There is no minimum bid, but bids must be in multiples of 25 cents. We're serving lunch (sloppy joes), drinks, and what-ever pot luck items people care to bring (not required). Please give me a call if you need more information and hopefully we'll see you there.

This auction event was a great success for the club last year and is made possible again by the continued generous donations from former Badger President's Bud Higgins & Dave Zimmerman. Thank you Bud and Dave! The purpose of this auction is to generate funds for the club and give members an exclusive opportunity to purchase these specimens.

The auction will be open to all Badger Club members, therefore you MUST be a currently-registered (i.e., 2011) dues-paying member in order to attend and participate in the club auction. Memberships can be renewed on-site before the auction

I'm honored to serve the club again as President and looking forward to a whole new year of opportunities, friendship, and some other third thing with the Badger club!

Dan Trocke

Newly re-elected Badger Lapidary & Geological Society President and aspiring Grand Poobah of the Iowa County Dugong Wrangler's Association.

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December Meeting

Many brave Badger members braved a fierce Wisconsin blizzard to join us for a wonderful Christmas party.

The December meeting was called to order after everyone enjoyed an excellent meal at the World Buffet. The meeting minutes from November were approved as written. Donna Reese let us know that she has received income from club dues & several deposits from dealers for the March show. She said that expenses consisted of the newsletter and show expenses. She said that for 2010, we had spent most of what we had earned, but not over what we had earned, which is exactly as we should be doing.

We moved on to the announcements for December. Donna said that she was collecting dues for 2011, so please get them to her asap. There will be a planning meeting in the early part of January to set up field trips and meeting activities for the coming year. If you have any ideas, please let Dan know. The January field trip will be another silent auction of the material that was donated by Bud Higgins. It will be held at the Trocke farm again. Directions & more details on the auction will be sent out later in January. The February field trip will be to a private museum quality collection in Prairie du Chien. It is owned by Phil Burgess and consists largely of fossils and agates. He has a 7' long cephalopod behind his couch in the living room and the rest of the house is filled with similar wonders. Daisy Peterson reserved the library for the meetings in 2011. The only month that we couldn't get was for the March meeting. This will be held at the Trocke's for filling the fish pond bags. Thanks to Daisy for her work in securing the library and also setting up the Christmas Party at World Buffet!! John Peterson announced that it was Daisy's birthday, so everyone joined in on singing Happy Birthday.



December Meeting Minutes Continued:

Then we moved into old business. Teri said that the website is almost up and running. Dan suggested that instead of doing small silent auctions at the meetings that anyone interested in selling/swapping should have them set up as sale items and should collect the money themselves and figure out the 10% donation to the club and get that to Donna. A new member, Curtis Wilkins, could not attend the Christmas party, but sent 4 presents that have his name in them and he will give the people that receive these gifts a special present at the January meeting. He also has a couple of very nice pieces that are very valuable that he would like to donate to the club. He would like the club to sell these pieces and use the money for equipment or activities. Everyone is looking forward to seeing these gifts and the items that he is donating.

The next item that we discussed is new business. The most important new business was the election of officers for the new year. The members that were nominated included: Dan Trocke – President; Mary Westby – Vice President; Ralph Bergner – Secretary; Donna Reese – Treasurer and Tyrel Rouse – Officer at Large. John Peterson made a motion to elect the nominated officers as a slate. Marv Hanner seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Congratulations officers!! Teri Marche will continue to be the Show Chair and Laurie Trocke will take over as newsletter editor.

The next item on the agenda was Show Business. Teri said that she has deposits from all but 1 of the dealers and has commitments from all of them. She has 3 of the 4 speakers lined up, but still needs demonstrators. Neil Trickle confirmed that he will demonstrate again and we will also have the genie set up with Will Ward and other club members demonstrating on that. She will try to have the long posters available at the January meeting, as well as more of the half sheet flyers. She has a commitment from Deanna with the Homemakers to provide food for the show. She also said that she will talk to Jack Hoxie regarding the radio recording. Dan suggested Kevin Ponzio as a possible guest speaker. He has a presentation on flint knapping that would work well with the 'Rocks at Work' show theme.

Thanks to Jordan for the excellent job he has done on the newsletter this year!!

Brian Green offered to provide the treat for February. John made a motion to adjourn, Marv seconded the motion and it passed unanimously, much to everyone's delight. After the meeting we closed the dividing wall to contain the noise and chaos that result from the Gold Brick Game!

Respectfully submitted by Your's Truly :)

Upcoming Events Tentative Schedule for 2011

January 8th: Meeting - Crystal Cave Video
January 22nd: Silent Auction at the Trocke's
February 12th: Meeting - Gem Trees
February 26th: Prairie du Chien Private Museum
March 12th.: Meeting - Fish Pond Bags @ Trocke's
March 26 & 27: BLGS Show
April 9th: Meeting - Rufers Quarry
April 23rd: Meteorite Hunt & Fossil Quarry
May 14th: Meeting - Fluorescent Talk by Tyrel
May 28th: Jacob's Geode Mine
June 11th: Picnic
June 25th: Rockford, IA Fossil Park
July 9th: Bellvue Agate Trip
July 23rd: TBD
August 13th: TBD
August 27th: TBD
September 10th: Meeting Show & Tell
September 24th: TBD
October 8th: Meeting - Lapidary Day @ Trocke's
October 22nd: Cave in Rock, IL
November 12th: Meeting - Speaker/Presentation
December 10th: Christmas Party

We have a number of ideas/possibilities for the dates that are to be determined yet, so it should be a great year!

How to Find Gold Nuggets in Your Computer

By David Zimmerman

The digital age is among us (some of us), and chances are that if you don't own a GPS device, then some day you will. Once you get over the fear of using this new toy, you will quickly find it to be one of your best friends. Even if you don't have a GPS device, you might enjoy looking at maps, such as Google Earth, or Google Maps. For an Excel geek such as myself, who loves to make a database for every type of datum, I thought it would be great *fun* to merge the three programs together.

I wanted to have a master database on Excel that I could store and manage collecting locations. Nothing matches Excel for organizing data. I wanted the maps (and other tools) from Google Earth, as no one does them finer than them. Finally, I wanted to export these locations to my GPS device so that I could find them in the field by looking at my hand-held GPS device.

This was not an easy endeavor, and it took me the better part of five days to hash out the software, and probably another five days to populate my database. This article will be of VERY limited scope, and it is not intended for computer novices, MAC users, etc. In fact, I run 2003 Excel, Google Earth 5.1, and I use a Garmin 60CX GPS device. The GPS device is a variable, and Excel 2000+ is probably OK, but anything else is unknown to me.

Since all these programs use their own proprietary computer language, the challenge was to find a Rosetta stone to help these programs communicate. Internet searching revealed many people experiencing the same headaches and desires that I was, and there were even many solutions posted. I also wanted Freeware, but the risk that comes with Freeware is always malicious code. I downloaded and tried about seven programs, and most of them were junk, and who knows how much malware I now have! I also do not guarantee the Freeware listed in this article to be free of malicious code, so install at your own risk. If Freeware scares you too much, pony up \$65 for the software at www.expertgps.com and you get your waypoint manager/ converter program, plus all the U.S. topographic maps as a bonus! Alternatively, you could pony up \$400 to Google and get their Google Earth Pro.

Here is a diagram for you to visualize how these programs communicate. Programs are named and have their file extensions below:

The first instinct is to make a database, but resist that urge, as you will find yourself making MANY changes if you have to tinker. The first thing is to download the most up-to-date version of Google Earth. It's a hog, and if you have an older computer, don't even attempt it. Assuming you are now familiar with Google Earth, waypoints, folders, etc., right click on the my places folder and make two new folders. I named mine waypoints and downloads. This will greatly clean up your Google Earth folders and waypoints.

Next, you will need to work on your database. To get your template, you will need to download the Freeware excel2kml02, which is found here:

http://bbs.keyhole.com/ubb/ubbthreads.php?ubb=showflat&Number=613667&site_id=1#import. I like this program because it is simple and it works. The macros will need to be enabled if the program is to work properly. If you don't know what a macro is, I would suggest you educate yourself before proceeding. Now that the Excel document is opened, you will see the short directions on the third sheet, but essentially it is the first sheet (data) that is the meat and potatoes. What the directions don't tell you is that once you create a KML file, it will be saved directly to your hard-drive folder under the name myfile. Don't bother opening the KML file up. Instead, open up your Google Earth, then go to File, then Open, then find your myfile.kml. I would suggest not renaming or moving your KML file, as the chances are that you will have to make many changes to it and the default is easy to find. One limitation to this program is that it only keeps track of four columns of data. I am sure that there are many other columns hidden that it automatically fills for you, but this will differ from some database files, as they might have up to 20 or more columns! I like this program because it only has four columns. I personally find the other 16 columns to be useless for rock collecting.

With any luck, your test waypoints are there on your Google Earth Map. Now, you can populate your Excel Database. Be careful not to use any symbols in your database with the exception of periods and minus marks in your coordinates. That piece of advice alone would've shaved six hours off from my learning curve! Also, use copious amounts of thought when naming your waypoints. This would be a typical waypoint for me: iqc msh01 Poudrette Quarry. This is a nice way to organize your waypoints, as the first half of the name gives great geographical information and the second part gives great readability. This example stands for Quebec, Mont-Saint-Hilaire, Location #1, Point of Interest.

My first attempt at barcoding my locations resulted in the first half, but I found the usability difficult because there is instant gratification in reading the quarry name on your Google Earth Map. This naming system also works great for Excel databases, as your list will be organized by State, City, and location number.

Now, looking at our diagram above, you will see that we accomplished the left side, so now we tackle the right side. This is simply done with a Freeware program called GPS Babel found at www.gpsbabel.org. This is an amazingly simple program that is specifically designed to translate dozens of computer languages for map making. In order for you to use this program, you will need to know what language your GPS device uses. Chances are it is on the dropdown list. I would imagine 15 minutes of tinkering with GPS Babel and you will quickly be an expert. You can also use it to create a Tab Delimited Field File which can be opened up in Excel. I'm sure there will be much copying and pasting of certain columns in order to merge databases, but that part is easy to do. You will notice that there are excessive columns in the Tab Delimited database, which will be useless for our purposes. We just need the four columns of information required for the Excel2kml02 program.

One thing that is not on the diagram, but could be, is that your waypoints from Google Earth could be transferred to Google Maps (Internet-based), and thus you can create printable driving maps and routes. This can also be done directly in Google Earth by left-clicking on a waypoint. I have not had a need to use the Google Maps, but it is assumed that Google Earth and Google Maps communicate easily and flawlessly with each other. Also, this could be used for publishing data on the Google Maps site, or on Mindat.org.

I am sure that you will have many different variations of organizing and might even use different programs. This article was written with the intent on helping to minimize but not eliminating your learning curve. While this whole process may seem cumbersome and confusing to most, it has the possibility to pay off in dividends. You can harvest collecting locations from sites like www.mindat.org, government agencies for mining, and even historical sites! My three largest igold nuggets yielded over 100 waypoints each!

Now, take this information and go find some digital gold in YOUR computer!

Upcoming Local Event

The Wonders of Physics Presentation & Fair UW Madison

When? Saturday, February 19, 2011

Drop in anytime from 11 am - 4 pm.

Where? Chamberlin Hall, UW-Madison Campus,
1150 University Ave., Madison, WI 53706

Free parking is available in Lots 17, 20, & 21

Who? Everyone!

Physics Fair Events:

- Physics Fair Exhibits open (11:00 am – 4:00 pm)
- Research laboratory tours will be given throughout the day
- • [Ingersoll Physics Museum](#) open (11:00 am – 4:00 pm)
- 28th Annual • [Wonders of Physics](#) Presentations (1:00 pm, 4:00 pm, and 7:00 pm) •

For more information:

email: wonders@physics.wisc.edu

call: 608-262-2927





Remembrances

Donna Nolte: Donna Nolte, age 73, of Omro, passed away peacefully on Thursday, December 30, 2010, at her home with her son by her side. Donna was born November 23, 1937, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the daughter of Hector and Irene (Fuller) Fraser. She retired as a bookkeeper from Winnebago County Mental Health. Donna loved nature, and would often take trips just to explore the country roads. She enjoyed feeding and watching the birds, planting flowers, dogs, and is best known for her lapidary skills. While working as a volunteer at Evergreen Retirement Community, she helped start a Lapidary Shop. She also enjoyed working with children, teaching them about stones, polishing them and making them into jewelry.

Donna was loved and will be missed by her beloved son, Nelson Nolte of Oshkosh, her sister; brother; nieces, nephews and many dear friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, Eugene Nolte, and infant daughter, Dawn.



Kid's Corner

Why didn't the Rock cross the Road? It didn't have the guts!

(Cathy Trueske)

Why are Fire Engine's Red?

A Fire Engine has 4 wheels and 8 men. 4 and 8 are 12. 12 inches is a foot. A foot is a ruler. Queen Elizabeth was a ruler who ruled the 7 seas. In the seas there are fish and the fish have fins. Once a long time ago, the Fins fought the Russians, who are also called Reds. A fire engine is always red because it is always rushin'!

(Ruth Biesch shared this with me at the World Buffet when Dave Zimmerman was in WFO)

Why did the dinosaur cross the road?

Because the chicken wasn't invented yet!

Where was the dinosaur when the sun went down?

In the dark!



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

DON'T FORGET!
2011 DUES ARE DUE!

"Code of Ethics"

- I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without permission from the owner.
- I will keep informed on all laws, regulations or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.
- I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.
- I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.
- I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind such as fences, signs, buildings, etc.
- I will leave all gates as found.
- I will build fires only in designated or safe places and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.
- I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.
- I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.
- I will not contaminate wells, creeks, or other water supplies.
- I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.
- I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.
- I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.
- I will cooperate with field-trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.
- I will report to my club or federation officers, Bureau of Land Management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.
- I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.
- I will observe the "Golden Rule", will use Good Outdoor Manners and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public Image of Rockhounds everywhere.

Revised July 7, 1999 at the AFMS Annual Meeting

I thought this would be a good reminder for everyone before the 2011 collecting season begins!

Badger Lapidary and Geological Society, Inc.

Laurie Trocke, Editor

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The 41st Annual Rock, Gem & Mineral Show



March 26 & 27, 2011

9:00 am to 5:00 pm – Saturday and Sunday

Monroe High School – 1600 26th Street, Monroe, WI

Admission: Free Will Donation, Free Parking

An Affordable, Educational, Family-Friendly Event



This Year's Theme – Rocks At Work



Quality Dealers: Gems, Minerals, Fossils, Crystals, and Jewelry

Children's Activities: Fish Pond, Scavenger Hunt, Roaming Rock Wizard, Gemstone Panning

Other Goodies: Quality Member Displays, Fluorescent Display, Door Prizes, Demonstrations

Great Speakers, Good Food

Presented by the Badger Lapidary and Geological Society

A Non-profit organization dedicated to promotion of earth science study for children, adults, and families.

MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN FEDERATION AND MIDWEST FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES

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