

THE BADGER DIGGIN'S

The Badger Lapidary and Geological Society, Inc.

Monroe, Wisconsin

Devoted to the Earth Sciences

Vol. 46, No 2

February 2011

President's Message

Dear Badgers,

As usual for the Badgers we like to keep busy for a rock club even in the Wisconsin winter. I'm happy to report that the auction last weekend was a great success, earning a little over \$700 for the club and many members were able to add some excellent and unusual specimens to their collection. I know this is true having been outbid by my own son on several items. J I have to say that the event was a lot of fun as well with an abundance of food and wood stove heat. I'd like to give a big thank you to Bud & Maggie Higgings and Dave Zimmerman for donating the specimens that made the auction possible. I'm also happy to report that both of our rockhound pups have recovered completely and seem to have suffered no ill effects from whatever toxic substance they got into!

At the February meeting we will have a number of important activities going on: We'll have the sign-up sheets for volunteering to work at the March Club Show, setup, and tear down, as well as sign-ups for helping with the club table and the kids activities. There will also be a sign-up for members that would like to reserve a display case. The show theme is "Rocks at Work" which should be a fun and easy theme to plan a display around if you choose to.

Also at the February meeting we'll have the sign-up sheets for the Prairie Du Chien Private Museum trip on Saturday February 26th. The complete trip information will be discussed at the Feb meeting and out in an email shortly.

Finally at the February meeting we'll have a gem tree making class conducted by Callie

Hoxie. The Badger club has purchased a large assortment of tiny tumbled stones, craft wire and glue for you to participate in the activity. Please bring an interesting rock or piece of drift wood to "plant" your gem tree on. Examples and photos of gem trees will be at the meeting. Primarily at the meeting you'll pick out your stone leaves and work on the wire trunk of the tree. Think of a bonsai when bending the trunk and branches of your tree. I imagine we'll have to do much of the gluing of leaves at home as newly glued leave take time to cure securely. I hope to see lots of kids both young and old ready to tackle this traditional rock hound art form. We'll try to have tools available, but if you have a pair of needle nose, round nose, and wire cutting pliers please bring these to the meeting. Also bring any tumbled or small gems that you may want to use on your trees.

Also, if you have any gems or small stones that you wish to donate to the club for our gem panning activity at the March show, please bring them to the February meeting, as well as any fish pond or spinner rocks you care to donate to the show, especially if you may not make the March meeting at the Trocke farm. We, with a lot of help from Mary and Dennis Westby, will be bagging the thousand or so fish pond bags that keep the kids coming at the show. We're looking for small crystals, fossils, tumbled rocks, interesting minerals, etc.

A little chaos goes a long way to keeping life interesting after all.

Hope to see you in February and have a great day,

Dan Trocke

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Meeting Minutes

January Meeting January 8, 2011

This month's meeting activity was viewing the video of Naica Crystal Caves of Mexico furnished by the Westby family. After the video, Teri shared a piece of selenite from the Naica caves that she had purchased on one of her trips.

Meeting was called to order by Vice President Mary Westby. The January Badger Diggins was sent out late because of a misunderstanding as to who was going to publish the January newsletter due to changing of the editor. Several members hadn't read the newsletter so Teri read the last month's minutes. The minutes were approved and accepted as written.

Next item on the agenda was the Treasurer's report. Donna reports that the club's finances are in good standing. All clubs fees and insurances have been paid and are current for the new year. Anyone who has not paid their membership dues for this year, please do so as soon as possible.

Announcements and Reminders.

Next month's activity will be making gem trees. If you are interested in participating, please bring wire, tools, and gemstones or polished rocks to hang from the trees. Some supplies will be furnished. For questions or more information please contact Laurie or Teri.

The field trip and meeting calendars were posted in the January newsletter. Please refer to this calendar as Teri discussed upcoming fieldtrips pointing out that there were some dates to be determined as information is available to members. Brian Green is checking into the Stockton, Illinois Quarry for galena and other minerals and Ralph Burgener will check on the Ryan Quarry near Brodhead/Beloit for fossils and some minerals. If there is enough interest, a canoe trip could be a possibility. Dan Trocke is the field trip coordinator and would appreciate anyone with information or suggestions for future club field trips.

Don't forget the Silent Auction on January 22, at the Trocke farm. This auction is available to paid members only. Directions to the farm will be sent out in an email prior to the date.

The first door prize was won by Cindy Green. It was a piece of sphalerite and calcite from Racine, WI.

There was no old business to discuss. For new business Donna Reese made a motion that the club makes a donation to

the Monroe Library for the use of the meeting room for our club meetings. Motion was seconded by Teri. Motion passed. This donation will be evaluated on a yearly basis. That was the end of new business.

Next on the agenda was the second door prize won by Archie Bruce. He won a very nice Ammonite.

Next item was show business. Teri Marche is still working on the radio advertising and has not had an opportunity to get it recorded. She is still waiting on the fourth speaker for the show. Kevin Ponzio again was mentioned as possible guest speaker with a presentation on flint knapping. Once this is done the show posters can be completed and will be available at the February meeting. Teri commented that it was not a good idea to put the posters up too early because they get covered up or removed before the show. Sign up sheets for volunteers to help with the show will be available at the February meeting also. Any help will be greatly appreciated.

A drawing was held to determine sales locations on the members table. Anyone interested in spot drew a number from the hat to find their space on the table. All club sellers received a copy of labels to use for the members items. A color coding on the labels will be used. This should make it easier to separate the sales at the end of the show. Any questions please contact Teri

The third door prize was won by Donna Reese. It was a bag of mineral donated by David Zimmerman. Because of this donation we were able to have a fourth door prize. It was won Bob Gilbert and was a nice free form polished agate.

Emily Legal made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Daisy. The meeting was adjourned

Thank you to the Clay for the wonderful treats as always and the Westby's for the video.

Submitted By

Ralph Burgener

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on February 12th at 9:45 am at the Monroe Public Library, 925 16th Ave, Monroe, WI. Take the elevator to the 2nd floor.

The Program for this meeting will be making Gem Trees. For this project, you will need:

- 24-gauge wire (silver, gold, copper, steel, or color-coated)
- Wire cutters
- Round-nose jewelry pliers
- Gemstone beads
- Measuring tape
- 527 craft glue
- Base for tree (a large, flat stone, rock or dish)
- Mini clamps
- Rubberbands

We have many gemstones and will bring wire, glue and the tools. If you have beads that you would like to use, tools of your own and a large stone, driftwood or dish to use for the base of your tree, please bring it.



What's Rockin'

The January weather didn't slow down the members that wanted to come and share their latest additions to their collections. Marv Hanner had his latest internet find, a piece with Chalcopyrite, Pyrite, Sphalerite and Quartz. David Cress had a possible Meteorite found near Juda. Dave Reese had a Nickel tree grown in a plating tank that he got for Christmas and a piece of Jaspilite that he got at the Republic Mine in the U.P. Mich.. A large piece of Hydrothermal Quartz grown in a lab at the Russian Academy of Science was brought by Neal Trickel. Teri Marche' had a piece of very clear selenite from the Naica Mine in Mexico, the mine where they found the cave with the gigantic selenite crystals. She also brought a piece of Kimberlite from Crater of diamonds Arkansas, a piece with Quartz, Waveilite and Variscite from Arkansas and a salt hopper crystal cast from Centerpoint, Arkansas. Erich Hessner brought a large collection of fossils including a Dino Jaw Bone, Vertebra, and another Dino bone from the White River formation as well as an Oyster Shell from the Cenozoic period found in Texas, a Cephalopod found in Wyoming then some Stromatolite from Wyoming, a garnet and a interesting unidentified from Wyoming. Ted Tinker had a nice Polyhedroid Agate from Brazil, Thunderbay Agate from Canada and some polished stones from trying his hand at tumbling. To wrap it up the Green's had a piece of Sow Belly Fluorite from Colorado.

Submitted by The Green's



Happy Valentine's Day!

Upcoming Events

February 5th: Universe in the Park

6 to 7pm. Meet at 2nd parking lot just past park entrance station. Big Foot Beach State Park, 1550 S Lake Shore Drive, Lake Geneva. Call 262-348-2420.

February 6th: UW Arboretum Walk

1:00 pm - 2:30 pm. Arboretum Visitor Center, 1207 Seminole Highway, Madison. Call 608-263-7888.

February 6th: Super Bowl XLV

Green Bay Packers vs Pittsburgh Steelers

February 12th: BLGS Meeting, Monroe Public Library – Gem Trees

February 18th: The Ancient City of Aztalan

Artifacts-Milwaukee Public Museum

. Schlitz Audubon Nature Center, 1111 E Brown Deer Road, Milwaukee. Call 414-352-2880

February 19th: Wonders of Physics – Chamberlin Hall, UW Madison, 11 am – 4 pm.

wonders@physics.wisc.edu or 608-262-2927

February 19th: Great Backyard Bird Count

9 am - 12 noon. Join us as we sit and count the birds, no experience necessary. Free. Pringle Nature Center, 9800 - 160th Avenue, Bristol, [Kenosha County](#). Call 262-857-8008.

February 26th: BLGS Field Trip to Prairie du Chien

March 12th: BLGS Meeting – Fish Pond Bags at the Trocke's (bring material to the February meeting or to the Trocke's in March)

Show Chair's Report

By Teri Marché

It's coming up on show time and a lot of things are nicely in place. Dealers, speakers, most demonstrators, the sales table, and food are all set. We have a show theme, *Rocks at Work*, that should be fun to play around with.

Now things will really get going. I will have sign-up sheets at the February meeting for work at the show, which includes setting-up and tearing down. Anybody selling at the club table is expected to help with these two key areas, along with as many other folks as is possible. The more hands to pitch in (including kids), the quicker the work gets done! We typically have access to the building starting at 4:00 on Friday afternoon. I will be getting there early to pick up keys and coordinate with the custodians. There will be pizza for everyone that evening.

I will also have sign-up sheets for display cases. This year, putting in a display may involve doing a bit of research. Your display ideally should include not just some neat rocks and minerals, but also some account of how they are used to keep our society running.

For instance, I plan to show fluorite in the context of the steel industry where it is used as a flux for melting metals. Therefore, I will be adding samples of iron ores in their native and processed forms, as well as an example of finished steel. In addition, I have to look up the steel-making process to see what other mineralogical materials are needed. I'll try to get samples if I can, or use photos or text to fill in the rest of the story. You might want to concentrate, as in this example, on a single



product, or show multiple minerals and their uses. Or you might take an aspect of daily life, such as the auto, and look at what minerals go into it. There are many ways to approach this. Be creative!

Also at the February meeting, I will have posters to put up and short flyers again for distribution. Jack is looking to divide up the greater area and have people volunteer to "plaster" a section with posters. Let's get the word out.

There will be other particular jobs that will need some hands. One that I know of now is bagging up the panning materials. I will get the plastic bags, some tube sand, and I have a mess of small garnets. If anyone has any other gem bits to spare, could you bring them to the meeting or contact me to pick them up? I need someone to put together 200 bags of sand with garnets and gem bits mixed in. This would be a great activity for kids to get involved in. Unfortunately, I have only a bunny, and he has a problem snapping the ziplocs closed. Any volunteers?

This show has always been lots of work, but also great fun, mostly because of the many folks who pitch in every year. I'm hoping (and praying, too) that this tradition will continue. The rocks are great, but the people make it fun!



Balanced Rock – Buhl, Idaho

Traveling across south central Idaho, one finds dry desert, pastureland, waterfalls and seemingly out of nowhere, a canyon of columnar jointed basalt with a spectacular balanced rock. Born and raised nearby I remember being “hailed” throughout the region on many a rock hunting exhibition, so on a recent return trip home, we took a short 5 hour touring drive to once again reflect and enjoy the many natural wonders of the area.

Located 17 miles west of Buhl, Idaho near the town of Castleford, Balanced Rock sits atop the basalt cliff of a very short canyon, a 1 minute drive and as they say, “if you blink it is gone.” The perpendicular rock formations of basalt vary in height, some large block, some looking like smaller stacked stones. Balanced Rock is 48 feet high and approximately 40 tons in weight. The pedestal is only 3 feet by 17.5 inches wide. Shaped by differential weathering, the wind-carved rock is thought to be over 20,000 years old. One must climb up to the rock base to realize its massive size. Standing on top of the canyon’s rim is a breathtaking view of the adjacent canyon and pasturelands. Cold and snowbound in the winter, hot, hot, hot in the summer. The canyon was formed by a basalt flow that pushed through a large fissure in the earth’s crust. As the flow cooled, it shrank and formed vertical fractures, called columnar jointing. Over time these columns fracture, leaving large blocks. The size of the columns are based upon the rate of cooling, slower equals larger. Balanced Rock Park is one mile away and open year round, great picnic site. Visit idaho.org or gonorthwest.com for additional information.

Janet and Archie Bruce



Kids Corner

Rock & Mineral Scramble

Please unscramble the words below

- | | | | |
|---------------|-------|---------------|-------|
| 1. xynO | _____ | 2. ibnaidsO | _____ |
| 3. Fotelriu | _____ | 4. atieClc | _____ |
| 5. dnstenaoS | _____ | 6. Oalp | _____ |
| 7. riGtaen | _____ | 8. egtaA | _____ |
| 9. searpJ | _____ | 10. Qurzta | _____ |
| 11. reytiP | _____ | 12. atialhMec | _____ |
| 13. arneGt | _____ | 14. Jeda | _____ |
| 15. iteaHmte | _____ | 16. noootMnes | _____ |
| 17. stymhAet | _____ | 18. dSiaoetl | _____ |
| 19. irsTgEyee | _____ | 20. atitAep | _____ |

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Erin's Joke – Revised: Why didn't the rock cross the road? It didn't have the guts, but it would have if it had been a little boulder!

What did the boy volcano say to the girl volcano? I Lava you!



Summer Fun at Cave-in-Rock, IL

Badger Lapidary & Geological Society, Inc.

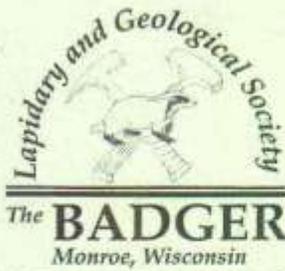
Laurie Trocke, Editor

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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

For More Information, Contact Teri Marché 608.835.2653, Email tmarche@education.wisc.edu