

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,

I suppose you would expect that my President's Message would be regarding the show last week. You would be right! What I really want to tell you is how much appreciation we get from the community and the public for hosting this show. Most of you do not see or hear the wonderful emails, notes & comments that I receive. Many people have sent me messages or stopped by the show to tell me what a great time they had. Some of the things that I have heard are: the speakers were excellent, the vendors had beautiful things for sale, the kids had a ton of fun things to do and everyone from the Badger club was so nice, friendly and helpful. The reasons that we contribute vast amounts of time & energy are probably different for each of us, but as a whole, this is our opportunity to truly fulfill the clubs mission to promote interest and knowledge of the earth sciences to the public. That being said, I would like to thank everyone for making the show possible. Please pass on any comments or suggestions that you have or that you may have heard so that we can make the show even better next year!

In other news, the snow has finally melted and it is starting to warm up and

most of the rockhounds that I know are anxious to get out and do a little hunting. April brings a couple of opportunities to do just that!

We are planning to travel to Rufer's Quarry near Monroe after the meeting on April 9th, so bring your collecting tools and bags as well as warm clothes – it's still a little chilly out there! We will also have a collecting trip for our April Field trip. We will be meeting at the gas station in Livingston, WI and travelling to some nearby farms to look for pieces of the Mifflin Meteorite. I will have information packets and maps for everyone that is interested. After we search for these elusive space rocks (we have gone hunting a number of times and the only meteorite that we have found was from Ebay!), we will move on to Mellum's Quarry near Dodgeville, WI to do a little fossil hunting. There will be a sign up sheet at the next meeting, but if you are interested in joining us, please e-mail me .

After that, we are planning a longer trip to Keokuk, IA to the Jacob's Geode Mine for our May trip. More information on this trip will follow as well. It looks like spring will be filled with some fun trips. How everyone can join us on some or all of these trips!!

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Meeting Minutes

We did not have a meeting in March, because of the fish pond bagging. We would like to send a huge 'thank you' out to Brian & Cindy Green, Ted Tinker, Teri Marche', as well as the Trocke kids for all of their help in getting the fish pond bags done. Also a big thank you to the Reese's, Dave Zimmerman, Joanne Paradis & Normand Labbe, the Marche's, Barb Woodriff, Ted Tinker, Dan Trocke and everyone else that donated material for the kids activities. We could not have run the games without your great donations!!



Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on April 9th at the Monroe Public Library. The meeting activity this time will be a field trip to Rufer's Quarry in Monroe for some fossil collecting, so be sure to bring your collecting gear so you can enjoy our first hunting trip of the season!!



2011 Show Report

By Teri Marché

It's hard to believe that another great rock and mineral show is over. What a weekend. I think we have set-up down to a science. We were done setting up tables in record time, and pretty much done filling cases and tables by 8:00. Some of the reason for that was finding the tables already in the school, many of them the new, lightweight variety. However, the real reason for the swift set-up was the many willing and able hands. Again, I received many compliments from dealers about how well this club works together. All true!!!

Special thanks to Dan Trocke and Jack Hoxie for their well-placed efforts on advertising. Thanks to their work we had fantastic crowds on Saturday and fine attendance on Sunday. Thanks also to Barb Woodruff for soliciting time for an interview on WEKZ radio in Monroe. Thanks to Jordan Marché for putting together a slate of speakers reported to be the best ever. To Mary and Dennis Westby for their work with the fishpond and to Laurie, Connor, Jayden, and Erin Trocke for taking charge of the gem panning.

Once again Dennis and Dave Reese manned the admissions table (a chilly prospect) and the results of their efforts filled the donations jar. Brian and Cindy Green anchored the sales table along with a constant rotation of other help. Thanks to Will Ward and Neal and Linda Trickle for their demonstrations of lapidary processes. Once again Marv Hanner did a fine job as the Rock Wizard.

Along with everyone mentioned above, Dave Cress, Ralph Burgener, Ted Tinker, Erich Hessner, John and Daisy Peterson, and Tyrell Rouse pitched in wherever they could. Thanks too to Mike Riesch who brought a display, gave a talk, and generally helped out everywhere.

Thanks to all those who assembled displays to fill the showcases, even the radioactive ones. Those that

followed the show theme were full of great information, and the others were interesting and beautiful in their own right.

Once again, my special thanks to Donna Reese, who so competently kept the books, paid the checks, and organized the cash boxes. She was a constant support to me throughout the weekend as we "conspired" to solve problems as they arose.

Thanks as well to the dealers whose displays and offerings form such a centerpiece of every show. Thanks to them, we are all able to extend our collections, give out door prizes at our show and meetings, and see first-hand the newest materials to come on the market. By all reports the dealers did well, although the trend toward purchases of lower-priced materials was noted everywhere. This is not the year for high-end minerals, and certainly not in Monroe. There were many gorgeous items I too could have happily purchased, in a better economy.

Probably because of this, our sales table did a booming business! Material literally flew off the table on Saturday. By Sunday morning, there was no material waiting to go on display, and most of that was gone by the end of the day.

The Green County Homemakers did it again, providing inexpensive lunch, including their famed raspberry pie. They are such an asset to our show every year.

Something new this year was the ongoing presence of the high school janitorial staff for the duration of the show. Jim was especially helpful in dozens of ways over the weekend. I am truly grateful for their support and dare to hope for it as well in the future.

Once again, I have done a bunch of organization, but actually pulling off this show took the work of the entire club, and it succeeded only because we work so well together. This is a truly special group. Many thanks.

Tucson

The Tucson Gem and Mineral Show is the largest of its kind in the world. Imagine the Monroe show with several hundred thousand people attending! Ruth and I were fortunate to make it out there again this year. All you winter-weary-Wisconsiners can imagine sunny skies, palm trees, flowers and temps in the 60's and 70's in mid-February. And that's exactly what we had on this, my 27th visit in the last 34 years. Of course, the Tucson event was a lot closer when we lived in Colorado in the 70's and early 80's. It's amazing to see how the show has changed and grown over the decades.

The Tucson rock show began back in the 1940's sponsored by the local rock club and held at the county fairgrounds. The 40's and 50's were perhaps the best times for rock clubs around the country. They sprang up everywhere in the post-war era. Access to gem, mineral and fossil sites was readily available and interest in the lapidary arts blossomed. I remember my first visit to Tucson and being amazed at the hundreds of rock club members from midwest to Pacific coast, each wearing their distinctive club vests, colors and badges. This was truly the heyday of rock clubs. When I became president of the Pueblo Colorado Rockhounds in 1978, there were about 170 members listed.

But times and events do change. Surprisingly, the Tucson event has grown to the point where there is not one show, but 34 different shows occurring during the month preceding the actual TGMS club show at the Tucson Convention Center in mid February. There are bead shows, jewelry shows, lapidary shows, fossil and mineral shows, equipment shows, you name it. Most of these shows are wholesale shows where retailers can purchase materials and stock for the coming year. Jewelers, interior decorators, rock shops, artists, collectors can all find what they need.

The Tucson Mineral and Fossil Show sponsored by Marty Zinn is one we attend on a regular basis. There are literally hundreds of dealers occupying every room and space in four large hotels in town. And for a few weeks, they offer every type of rock, mineral, gemstone you can imagine. They come from all over the world to bring new and interesting material for sale. Would you like a stegasaurus skeleton to park in your driveway? Available for \$350,000. How about a 400 lb blue turquoise carved in Japan with mountain landscapes. Only 1 million \$. Everything about the Tucson show is in superlatives. You will find some of the best minerals and fossils in the world there. At the main show, there is the equivalent of three

football fields of displays and dealers under one roof. There are displays from major collectors, museums and dealers from around the world. The best and the newest are available.

This year, one of the dealers, Collectors Edge, had two large clusters of red rhodochrosite blades named the Emperor and the Empress, from China

The largest, about 20" across was selling for \$5 million (and was sold!). The Empress was still available for a paltry \$3 million. Every year the show has a theme. This year it was California minerals. Lots of beautiful tourmaline and even an 80lb gold nugget. Awesome stuff. If you want to see three quartz crystals, each weighing 4 tons, or a large amethyst cathedral from Brazil that three adults can stand in, then Tucson is for you.

You may shake your head and say this is way beyond you. Some of you have been there and know the magic. But the real importance of shows like Tucson's is that it attracts the best materials from around the world, new finds, wonderful discoveries from everywhere we might not ever see. This is how new discoveries make their way to our club show, via our show dealers. This is how we all benefit from that mineral marketplace so far from Wisconsin.

Mike Riesch

Upcoming Event: Copper Country Mineral Retreat!

Information regarding The Copper Country Mineral Retreat, taking place during the week of August 8 thru the 13th, is now posted on the mineral museum website.

The schedule of events, details, registration form, and lodging information is all available at www.museum.mtu.edu Click on the Copper Country Mineral Retreat tab to view these details.

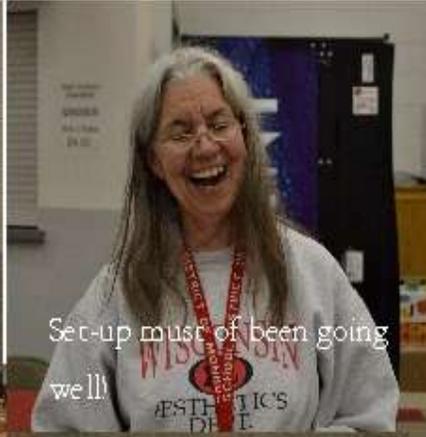
Make your plans now to attend this years' COPPER COUNTRY MINERAL RETREAT!

BLGS Annual Show Pictures from a Great Weekend!

SET UP



Neil & Linda Trickle set up their facing demonstration.



Set-up must of been going well!



Dan sets up the Black Light Tent.



So, where does this stuff go?



Erin mans the broom.



Mary gets ready for some fishin'!



Settin' up the Display Cases.



Jaydie makes signs for the kids games.



Setting up the club table.



Danielle, Tyrel & Eric - takin' a break.

Fluorescence



Badgers at Work & Play



Dennis & Barb welcome guests at the front door.



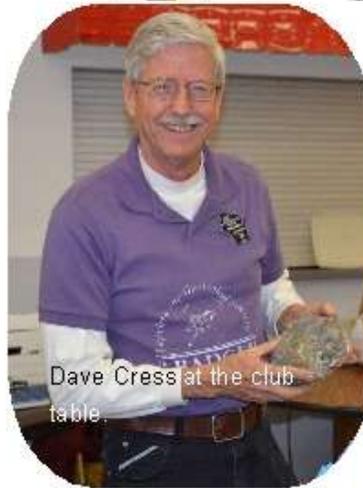
Erin & Emily



Our Roving Rock Wizard, Marilyn Hanner.



Will Ward, having some fun at the genie.



Dave Cress at the club table.



Connor helping with the gem panning.



Jimmy & Collin take a break.



Erin, Cassie & Callie - getting ready for the crowd on Sunday morning.



Mary Westby, running the kids games.



Ted's new treasure!



Cindy Green, helping at the sales table.

More Sights from the Show



April Events

April 1, 2, 3: **MAPS Fossil Exposition XXXIII**, Wester Hall, Western Illinois University, Macomb, IL

April 7, 8, 9: **Coin Show** sponsored by the South Shore Coin Club at the Wyndham Hotel Airport, Milwaukee, WI

April 8 & 9: **49th Kettle Moraine Geological Society Show** – Waukesha County Expo Center, Waukesha, WI. www.fromtherockroom.com

April 16: **Curry Lapidary Auction** – Belvidere Fairgrounds, Belvidere, IL.

April 16 & 17: **Chippewa Valley Gem & Mineral Show** - Eau Claire County Expo Center, Eau Claire, WI.

April 22 – 24: **Central Illinois Gem & Mineral Show** – Macon County Fairgrounds, Decatur, IL.

April 30 – May 1: **Heart of Wisconsin Gem & Mineral Show** - Marshfield High School Field House, Marshfield, WI.

Fabulous Illinois Fluorite

March 1 through June 5. This is a wonderful collection of Fluorite, including a collection of 'Blue John' Fluorite. Lizzardo Museum of Lapidary Art, 220 Cottage Hill Ave, Elmhurst, IL

Mummies of the World

Friday, December 17, 2010 through Tuesday, May 10, 2011. The largest exhibition of mummies and related artifacts ever assembled. Mummies features an astounding collection of 150 objects, including real human and animal mummies and related artifacts. The ground breaking exhibition bridges the gap between past and present, showing how science can shed light on the historical and cultural record around the world. Milwaukee Public Museum, 800 W Wells Street, Milwaukee, WI. Call 414-278-2702

Club Calendar

- April 9th: Meeting & Rufer's Quarry in Monroe
- April 23rd: Field Trip – Meteorite Hunt & Fossil Quarry, Dodgeville, WI
- May 14th: Meeting – Open
- May 28th: Field Trip – Jacob's Geode Mine, Hamilton, IL
- June 11th: Annual Picnic
- June 25th: Field Trip – Door County Fossils, Mike Riesch
- July 9th: Field Trip – Fossil Park, Rockford, IA
Jordan Marche'
- July 23rd: Field Trip – Stockton, IL Quarry, Brian Green
- August 13th: Belleview Agate Pits
- August 27th: Beloit Quarries, Ralph Burgener
- Sept 10th: Meeting – Show & Tell
- Sept 24th: Field Trip – Wendling Quarry??
Teri Marche'
- October 8th: Meeting – Lapidary Day, Trocke's
- October 22nd: Field Trip – Cave in Rock, IL
- Nov 12th: Meeting – Flint knapping, Kevin Ponzio
- Nov 26th: No trip – Thanksgiving
- Dec 10th: Annual Party
- Dec 24th: No trip - Christmas

Badger Lapidary & Geological Society, Inc.

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