

# ***THE BADGER DIGGIN'S***

***The Badger Lapidary and Geological Society, Inc.***

***Monroe, Wisconsin***

***Devoted to the Earth Sciences***

**Vol. 46, No 3**

**March 2011**

## **President's Message**

Dear Badgers,

We've officially dragged ourselves out of the bear den with our first field trips of the season! Rufer's Quarry produced several good sized cephalopods. It was wonderful to see some new faces on this trip, as some of our new members, the Rusch's were able to join us. It was also great to welcome back some old friends. Steve Flannery & Steve Holmes joined us at the meeting and on the field trip. I hope we see more of all of you, old and new, the club is richer for having you!

The Meteorite trip proved that we leave no man behind, as we suffered gas station donuts for nearly an hour waiting for Jack Hoxie to make it back into Wisconsin!! Jack proved that Livingston is nearly as hard to find as the meteorites!! Luckily it did give us time to plan our mission, using a map packet that I had put together. I would be happy to share this with anyone that is interested in searching for these elusive space rocks. We were also lucky to be „wowed“ by some wonderful meteorites that Mike Reisch had brought along. It wasn't a terribly nice day, so we were out hunting for only about two hours. We didn't find any meteorites, but we did find a wonderful lunch that Laurie made for us back at our

house before we headed for the „petrified snake“ quarry. There were many nice fossils found at the Dodgeville quarry, some of them were nice little cephalopods that were dubbed „rebar fossils“!!

This month's trip to Jacob's Geode Mine is all set. Full information will be included later in the newsletter and a reminder e-mail will also be sent out closer to the trip date. I'm especially looking forward to this trip, as my family and I have never been there or collected geodes. Perhaps it is fitting that the geode hunt comes so soon after Easter as these hidden wonders should make a fun family event! I hope you will join us.

***Dan Trocke,***

***Badger Club President***

***Birth Certificate Available Upon Request!***

***dtrocke@acscm.com***



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## **Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Minutes 04/09/2011

The April meeting was called to order by club president Dan Trocke. Dan welcomed new members Tom and Karen Rusch and their grandson Christian.

Teri Marche made a motion to accept the March meeting minutes as printed in the newsletter. Tyrel Rouse seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Treasurer's report was next on the agenda. Donna Reese reported that the annual rock and gem show was a success and the donations received from the show would be used to cover show expenses and advertising costs.

The next item discussed was announcements and reminders. There was no meeting activity this month; instead the club is going to Rufer's quarry for a field trip to hunt fossils. The next field trip is planned for April 23<sup>rd</sup> to hunt Meteorites and fossils if time permits. A sign-up sheet was passed for anyone planning to attend the trip. Dan will email the details as the date gets closer. He also said that a magnet on a stick or handle was a good tool to bring because the meteorite will stick to a magnet. The next meeting will be on May 14<sup>th</sup>. A field trip at the Jacob's Geode Mine is scheduled for May 28th. More details about this trip will be discussed at the next meeting along with a sign-up sheet for anyone interested in going. Teri Marche brought in some quartz from Arkansas and amethyst from the Canada trip last year. She invited everyone to help themselves to some pieces. It was a big hit and most of it found a new home.

Dan Trocke won the first door prize it was a piece of coral.

Next up was Old Business. The March meeting was held at the Trocke's farm to fill fish pond bags. Only a few people made the meeting. Those people will get to choose a grab bag gift for their help. Ted Tinker picked a bag with a nice piece of turquoise.

Teri was next with show Business. The show is over. Teri thanked everyone that helped with the show. She also said that our club is at a golden moment and we have a great group of people that all work together to make this show a success. Special thanks to Dan Trocke and his family for all the extra work setting up and manning the fluorescent booth and hauling in the hundreds of pounds of specimens. Teri gave Dan a pendant she made from hackmenite that should fluoresce orange. She thought he could wear it next year when he mans the booth. The club members also thanked Teri for all her work preparing for the show. Discussion was opened on possibly changing the hours on Sunday to open at 10:00 am instead of 9:00. Teri said she would prefer to open later rather than close earlier on Sunday. It was also suggested that we come up with a special promotion or event for Sunday to help draw more people to the Sunday show. Maybe a TV ad on Saturday would boost Sunday attendance. This discussion will continue, and planning for next year's show will start at the November club meeting.

Ralph Burgener won the 2<sup>nd</sup> door prize. It was a nice piece of agatized petrified wood.

Next item is new business. Tyrel was scheduled to do a talk on fluorescents at the May meeting but he will not be available. Teri volunteered to do a presentation on hand polishing. The club

Genie needs to be checked out. It may need new wheels. Donna suggested that we may be able to rotate the wheels down and only buy the course wheel. Dan would like to have the unit taken to Bernie's for an estimate of what is needed. It may also be possible to buy a cheaper brand of wheel to save some money. Ted Tinker will take the machine in for a check-up and estimate only. Nothing will be purchased without preapproval from Donna and the club.

Dan said he gets allot of emails from other area clubs about shows and event that are coming up. These events are not always in our area. It was decided the he would forward the emails to our club members only if he thought it was something we may be interested in. Dan said he noticed the Allison Conrad from the Midwest Federation newsletter forwards our newsletter to other area clubs. Teri asked that we put in the newsletter that our field trips are open to all Midwest Federation members.

The third door prize was won by one of our new members, Christian Rusch. He won a very nice cluster with Garnets and Smokey Quartz.

Next months treats will be supplied by Donna and Dave Reese.

Teri made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tyrel seconded it. Meet adjourned.

Everyone loaded up in their cars and headed out to Rufer's Quarry.

Submitted By

Ralph Burgener

## What's Rockin'

Dan Trocke brought in a wonderful collection of fossils, including some dinosaur bones and teeth. He also had petrified wood and an awesome trilobite he found at the Rufer Quarry on a previous field trip.

Teri Marche displayed a gem tree she made.

Ted Tinker brought in two very large agate slabs that were nicely polished. Ralph Burgener

## Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on May 14<sup>th</sup> at the Monroe Public Library. The meeting activity will be hand polishing. If you have anything that you would like to try polishing, please bring it along. There will also be material that that you can choose from. Hope to see you there!

16A WWW.FREEM.COM SUNDAY, MARCH 6, 2011

# MICHIGAN

## YOU HAVEN'T LIVED HERE UNTIL ...

### You see an ice volcano

By ZLATI MEYER  
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

**WHAT'S THAT?** They're mountain-shaped piles of ice along the shore, dozens of feet tall, that spout water as waves rush in. They're found in the frigid waters off northern Michigan on lakes Superior, Michigan and Huron.

**HOW IS AN ICE VOLCANO FORMED?** After the cold weather sets in and the lake is calm, the water starts to freeze right through to the bottom in the shallower bays, said John Anderton, head of the Northern Michigan University geography department. When a storm comes in, waves break against the shore, smashing up against the ice, which isn't perfectly solid. The waves get into those cracks and weak points, and the ice starts to break apart. The water gets thrust upward, making a spray that looks like a whale spout. As it rains down, it freezes on

top of the ice mounds and, over time, becomes cone-shaped.

**DOES AN ICE VOLCANO ALWAYS LOOK LIKE THAT?** If the ice mounds start to build outward, not just upward, it can form a tunnel. If a stronger storm with stronger waves comes in, a new ice volcano could form farther inland. Some become multi-chambered as the ice on the shore changes.

**WHAT'S INSIDE?** An ice volcano is hollow. People like to climb into them, but Anderton advises against it. If you do try it, however, bring crampons, an ice axe and a helmet. Have people there with you to lower you down inside with a rope and don't explore ice volcanoes when the waves are coming in. If you look inside one and see water or freshly frozen ice, don't go inside, because you'll likely fall into the water. Also, because they're basically tunnels, the air is pressur-



SUZIE ZEGLER/Northern Michigan University

This ice volcano towers about 30 feet on Middle Bay near Marquette and was made by waves from Lake Superior.

ized, so you can get thrown out of the top.

**WHEN ARE THEY THERE?** Ice volcano season is usually midwinter — after enough time has passed and the lakes begin to freeze — until mid-March. At that point, the weather is warming up a bit and the waves begin to break them apart.

**WHERE'S THE BEST SPOT TO SEE ONE?** Ice volcanoes are common on the northern coast of the Upper Peninsula on Lake Superior because storms come in from the north, west and northwest — the ideal set-up to create big waves to crash against the ice on shore.

Submitted by Jorden Marche'

## LIVINGSTON METEORITE FALL

Reprinted from the Trilobite.

(WGS Members and Friends: Below is a compilation of a first-person narrative and some information I received in 2010 from Dan Trocke. Dan is President of the Badger Lapidary and Geological Society in Monroe, WI. He gave me permission to share this all with you. Exciting stuff. Happy hunting!! Jody)

---These are exciting days for a rock hound. If you haven't heard of the meteor that fell past Livingston, WI on April 14, 2010 then you must have been living under a rock. The night it fell, Laurie (his wife) saw a bright flash and we heard the sonic boom that rattled the windows of our living room. After that there was a sustained rocket engine like rumble of the meteorite passing by that lasted perhaps 22 seconds! We ran outside and continued to see flashes over the ridge for another 2 minutes. There wasn't a cloud in the sky and it was another full minute before the crickets and frogs began to chirp again. I can tell you it was very eerie, but thankfully the mystery has turned out to be a lot of fun and educational for the community and meteorite enthusiasts.

---I spoke with the Director of the UW (Madison) Geology Dept, Dr. Richard Slaughter, who estimated that there may already be as many as 75 pieces found to date and many more are expected to be waiting out there. Be warned - Hunters must get permission from land owners to walk any lands in the area or should stick to the public roadways between the road and fences. Unfortunately there is a lot of roadbed material in this area that does stick to a magnet, so don't get your hopes up unless you have a good physical match to pieces already found – smooth black fusion crust with a grey fine grained interior and will of course stick to a magnet. Wisconsin has been hit by at least 12 meteorites since the 1860s. The meteorites ranged in size from less than 1 pound to around 530 pounds. The last time a meteor fall was seen with meteorite finds recovered in Wisconsin was 1917. Kind of a rare event.

---My family has been out hunting meteorites a few times searching the roadways near the Livingston area using as a guide the incredible Doppler radar image that captured the path and spread of the meteor fragments as they hurtled through the air a little over a mile above the ground.

---One of the best stories I've heard concerning this meteor occurred during a meteorite presentation with full media on site at the Iowa Grant school. One of the

students went looking for and found a black meteorite fragment during recess. What a great memory he will always have of that day! You can still see two of these fragments and of course other great specimens at the Madison Geology Department (museum).

---I've been told that a metal detector is not very effective at detecting these meteorites as there isn't enough metal in them to really stand out and there is a lot of buried farm junk in all of these fields so you'll spend too much time digging junk if you do bring a metal detector. Most have had the best luck just using their eyes to look for little black rocks and a very strong magnet on a stick to help you poke around and check suspicious rocks and niches without having to bend over all day. They do stick rather well to a strong rare earth magnet. Also if you find little black rocks right on the road you should be suspicious as there is a lot of road bed material in the area that sticks to magnets and looks very close to the meteorites. Does your meteor-maybe stick to a magnet? If it does that is a very good sign. If it doesn't you may have found some hematite or bog iron which does a very convincing job of looking like a meteorite, but won't stick to a magnet at all.

---A webpage (link below) that generously shares a very detailed strewnfield map that pinpoints the locations of about 50 meteorite finds and shows better resolution radar images than I had seen before. The site offers some good analysis of why the meteorites ended up where they were found and suggests some promising locations to continue the search. If you have any interest in this meteor fall, I'm sure you'll appreciate this website.

<http://www.meteoritesusa.com/meteorite-articles/wisconsin-meteorite-strewnfield-map/>

---From the website: **[Size of the WI Strewnfield:** Video analysis of the fireball recorded from Milwaukee suggests the last two bursts or "fragmentation events" happened over Mineral Point, and eyewitness accounts have also supported this, meaning that much larger pieces of the WI meteorite can most likely be found further southeast of Mineral point. It's possible the known strewnfield, as depicted in these maps, only account for HALF of the actual distribution ellipse. Given the very shallow 11 degree angle of descent, it's been estimated by experts to be up to 25 miles long, perhaps longer. ---Current known size is **16.37** miles long from the smallest to largest piece, and approximately **2.1** miles in width. There are two main clusters of meteorites distributed around the Iowa-Grant school, and the area

near where the "Shed Hitter" was discovered by a local landowner.]

---Livingston is about 65 miles west of Madison and our house is approximately 14 miles from Livingston. I made a map showing the outlines of the radar images drawn to scale over a road map of the area. (This is best seen on-line.) The meteor was moving toward the South East as it fell. I read that one expert estimated the meteor weighed around 2700 pounds before breaking up and about 5 kilograms total has been recovered.

---With the maps and the accompanying text I think people can head out on their own and look for a promising field in the area. Look for pasture, hayfields or cornfields etc that had not been plowed after the fall cuttings. Ask the farmer about this while introducing yourself and asking permission to walk their field. Keep in mind that spots on the map that have a lot of meteorite finds listed are also the spots that will have

been pretty thoroughly searched already. I spoke with Dr. Paul Sipiery with the Planetary Studies Foundation and he suggested that meteorites do bury themselves and that the annual frost heave will do a lot to uncover some of these in the next few years.

---The Planetary Studies Foundation and the Platteville Chamber of Commerce partnered to produce commemorative t-shirts now available at the Chamber office. Proceeds will be split between the Planetary Foundation for research & scholarships. The Chamber's portion will be used to create marketing pieces for this tourism phenomenon! The Platteville Area Chamber of Commerce, located at 275 W. Business Highway 151 in Platteville, Wisconsin, is the place to pick up these t-shirts. These shirts are only \$10 and \$12 for an XXL. (E-Mail : [chamber@platteville.com](mailto:chamber@platteville.com) Phone: 608-348-8888 Fax: 608-348-8890 Call for availability. No mail orders at this time.)



## May Events

**May 7<sup>th</sup> - Madison - Arboretum Native Plant Sale.** Over 100 species of native grasses, prairie plants, ferns, woodland flowers, shrubs and trees will be for sale. 1207 Seminole Highway. For more information call (608) 263-7760.

**May 7<sup>th</sup> - Racine - Lakefront Artist Fair.** Admission free. Celebrating the 30th annual Lakefront Artist Fair. Over 100 artists exhibit at this lively family event on the banks of beautiful Lake Michigan. Festival Park. Event starts at 9:00AM and ends at 4:00PM. For more information call (262) 637-7892.

**May 11<sup>th</sup> - Sun Prairie - Sun Prairie's Taste of the Arts Fair.** Admission free. Featuring art and craft vendors from around the state in a beautiful park setting. Free parking, Wine & Cheese Tasting, food vendor booths, entertainment, childrens' playground and more. Sheehan Park, 1350 Linnerud Drive. Event starts at 9:00AM and ends at 4:00PM. For more information call (608) 837-4547.

**May 14<sup>th</sup> - Stoughton - Syttende Mai Festival.** Celebrating its Norwegian heritage, Stoughton offers parades, arts & crafts fair, run/walk, costumed styleshow, and authentic Norwegian food and dance. Downtown. Event starts at 9:00AM and ends at 5:00PM. For more information call (608) 873-8082.

**May 14<sup>th</sup> – Dodgeville - Annual Plant Sale** The Uplands Garden Club will offer many shade & sun perennials, rock garden plants, vegetable, and other plants from 8:00 a.m. to noon at Harris Park, 600 Bennett Rd., Dodgeville, south of Hwy 18 on Bennett Rd. For more information contact Pat Borcharding at (608) 930-9442

**May 14 – 15 – Muscoda - 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Morel Mushroom Festival**  
<http://www.muscoda.com/event-morels-2011.html>

**May 15<sup>th</sup> - Kaukauna - 29th Annual Nature's Images Art Fair.** Admission free. 50+ fine artists displaying nature related paintings, photography, sculpture, crafts from natural material, botanical and herbs, Celtic harpist, food, picnic area, wildflower hikes, and eagles along Fox River. 1000 Islands Nature Center, 1000 Beaulieu Ct. (Hwy Z). Event

starts at 10:00AM and ends at 4:00PM. For more information call (920) 766-4733.

**May 15–17—Champaign, IL. 47th Forum on the Geology of Industrial Minerals.** University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Info.—Kathy Henry, 217/244-8994, or <http://www.isgs.illinois.edu/sections/indust-min/im-home.shtml>.

**May 21<sup>st</sup> - Baraboo - Annual Leopold Center Family Day.** This is a free, family friendly event held annually at the Leopold Center. Program will run rain or shine. E13701 Levee Road, near Baraboo. Event starts at 12:00PM and ends at 4:00PM. For more information call (608) 355-0279.

**May 21<sup>st</sup> - Oshkosh - Festival of Spring.** Admission free. Features the Paine's annual Spring Plant Sale and vendors of landscape, garden supplies, original art, crafts and retail items. Paine Art Center and Gardens, 1410 Algoma Blvd.. Event starts at 8:00AM and ends at 4:00PM. For more information call (920) 235-6903.

**May 27 – 30 - Burlington - ChocolateFest.** Memorial Weekend marks the start of summer and the festival season. What better than to start with Chocolate! Don't miss fireworks, 4 stages of music and entertainment, chef demonstrations, Chef Meltdown, Chocolate Indulgence, carnival, food, fun, chocolate contests, parade, and of course . . . more Chocolate! 680 Maryland Ave/Festival Grounds. For more information call (262) 763-3300.

**May 28–29—Wheaton, IL. 35th Annual Chicagoland Gem & Mineral Association Show & Sale.** Dupage County Fairgrounds Main Building, 2015 W. Manchester Rd. Info. Rich Dillon, [cgma@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cgma@sbcglobal.net), or [www.chicagolandgemshow.org](http://www.chicagolandgemshow.org).

**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

**Farmer's Markets** – There are many local Farmer's Markets that are now open. Check <http://www.wisconline.com/attractions/farmmarkets.html> to find one in your area.

## Special Events

### Wisconsin Geological Society 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Show

54th Annual Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show  
by Wisconsin Geological Society  
May 14-15, 2011; 10am to 5pm;  
Indoors at Muellner Building, Hart Park in  
Wauwatosa, WI. (enter at 72nd & State street)  
22 dealers, club sales, speakers, exhibits, door  
prizes, food, and children's activities.  
\$3 for adults, children free  
Contact Paul Schmidt for info: 414-771-8668  
or [pvs@wi.rr.com](mailto:pvs@wi.rr.com)

### 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](http://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!

## Club Calendar

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

## Jacob's Geode Mine, Hamilton Illinois Fieldtrip

**Dates & Schedule:** Saturday, and Sunday May 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, 2011. This is best considered a weekend trip, due to the amount of travel required, 4 hours one way.

- **Saturday:** - **Jacob's Geode Mine** on E County Route 1220, Sutter IL (just south of Hamilton Illinois) Ph: **217-847-3509** One Mile South of Hamilton IL.
- **Sunday:** - **Hill Top Mud Bog** owned by Randy and Kathy Alvis off Hwy 27 & Hwy B in St. Francisville, Missouri Ph: **(660)-754-6361**, r\_k\_alvis@hotmail.com.

**Contact Person:** Dan Trocke, Home: **608-935-0597** or Cell: **608-215-5307**. Please contact Dan to confirm you plan to go or if you have any questions. This trip is open to all Badger Club and MWF members.

**Meeting Times:** Meet at the Jacobs mine Saturday morning.

**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 site rule is that you can open geodes there, but once you open one you should put it in your bucket and buy it. Geodes are best cleaned off (car wash in Hamilton) before cracking if you have the willpower to wait.

**What to bring:** 5 gallon buckets, mattock or pick, pointed D-handle shovel, safety glasses, pry-bars, pick hammer, hammer, chisels, wrapping paper, rubber bands, egg cartons, and leather gloves. Take knee boots in case of mud. The pit itself is surrounded by trees, but the digging areas at Jacob's is in full sun so consider wearing a hat, sunscreen, **bug spray** and packing **plenty of cold water or sports drinks**.

**Pay to dig fee:** Jacob's Geode Mine charges \$18 per 5 gallon bucket of collected geodes. Hill Top Mud Bog is known for XL geodes and charges \$25 per 5 gallon bucket and a per pound fee for geodes too big to fit in a 5 gallon bucket.

**Hotels:** Motels for overnights are in Keokuk.

- Keokuk Motor Lodge, 3764 Main St. in Keokuk, IA 319-524-3252 (was charging \$45 per night).
- Holiday Inn Express on Main Street which has an interesting Keokuk geode collection on display.
- Some new hotels by the bridge and along the main drag to the super 8 on the west edge of town.

**Camping:**

- Hickory Haven Campground, 2413 353rd Street, Keokuk, IA 52632-9523, (319)-524-8459
- City of Keokuk Campground in Riverview Park just west of the Bridge Ph: (319)-526-5332.
- Whispering Pines Campground, 2505 Hilton Road, Keokuk Iowa, Ph: (319)-524-8403 or (319)-524-7387

## *April Field Trips*



**Badger Lapidary & Geological Society, Inc.**

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