

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

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

***Monroe, Wisconsin***

***Devoted to the Earth Sciences***

**Vol. 46, No 8**

**August 2011**

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## **President's Message**

Dear Badgers,

Just a quick reminder that we are having a **Show & Tell** themed Badger Lapidary and Geological Society meeting this Saturday September 10<sup>th</sup> at the Monroe Public Library 2<sup>nd</sup> floor starting at 10:00 AM (9:45 AM to set up and chat). Most people fondly remember Show & Tell at school and collecting rocks when they were kids. Time to be a kid again - talk, share, hear about the adventures and see pictures from the trips you may have taken this summer and to see the treasures brought in for the What's Rockin' table – rocks, minerals, fossils, jewelry, bugs, shells, bones, etc that you may have collected or purchased this year and would like to show and talk about with the group. This is also a great meeting for kids to bring in some of their favorite pieces to show & tell from their collections. I hope all of you can make it and as always please feel free to also bring a guest that may be interested in the hobby.

Also at this Saturday's meeting I will have signups for:

**Sept 24th** Wendling Quarry Fieldtrip led by Teri Marche'.

**October 8<sup>th</sup>** Lapidary Day at the Trocke's Farm (featuring a new free rock & mineral pile full of interesting material you can select from or

donate to behind the barn). Feel free to bring a guest.

**October 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>** Cave-In-Rock Fieldtrip to Southern Illinois for fluorite and fluorescent minerals. Those interested in going should let me know if you would like to return to one of the Clement Mineral Museum sites near Marion KY or stick with exploring the mine dumps in Southern IL. This has been a great camping and collecting trip we last went on in 2009.

Lastly I'm hoping to try a brainstorming roundtable to ask you, the members, to speak up about what you are interested in collecting and where you would like to go on fieldtrips as well as what meeting activities you would like to see more of at the club in the future. I promise you this will be a quick and possibly fun activity and should help us all get more out of being members of the Badger's Rock Club. See you on Saturday!

Dan Trocke

Badger Lapidary & Geological Society, Inc.

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## **Club Calander**

- Sept 10<sup>th</sup>: Meeting – Monroe Library  
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



Connor & Jayden at Annabel Lee in 2008

## **Southern Illinois Fluorite Mining History and Geology:**

Fluorite or "Fluorspar" as the miners called this mineral was mined in Hardin and Pope counties since 1842 and is the state mineral of Illinois.

Over 200 million years ago, a mass of molten magma pushed up from the earth's interior and bulged most of the area of Hardin County, Illinois, into a huge dome. During the ages that followed, huge dikes of black igneous rock from the abysses below split the region in many places from southeast to northwest. When the period of volcanic activity ceased, the molten magma began to cool and contract and the many mineral components of the mass began to separate out. As the mass shrank and subsided, the region collapsed into a series of long, narrow fault blocks... through these fault fractures...gasses heavy with fluorine, lead, zinc, barium, and with small amounts of cadmium, germanium and silver [rose]. During a period of certain temperature and pressure conditions, a chemical reaction took place between the gases and the limestone rock walls of the fissures. Fluorspar (Fluorite) formed from these super-saturated minerals at great temperatures and pressures deep in the earth. When driven through faults, the rising mineral rich fluids congealed into the thick, layered vein deposits of fluorspar as replacements of limestone beds. Thus were formed the ore bodies

## Upcoming Mineral Related Events

of fluorospar or fluorite ( $\text{CaF}_2$ ), sphalerite ( $\text{ZnS}$ ), galena ( $\text{PbS}$ ), barite ( $\text{BaSO}_4$ ), and calcite ( $\text{CaCO}_3$ ). At the close of the Pennsylvanian geologic period, 200 million years ago, the area stood high out of the sea and was subjected to erosion. The long years of weathering removed some 3,500 feet of the domed area, leaving the relatively low and scenic hills of today, and exposing for discovery veins and bedded deposits of fluorospar."

The Badger Lapidary & Geological Society October 22-23 Cave In Rock Fluorite Dig will visit mine sites & dumps located on the Commodore fault system and date back to 1901. Mine shafts on the properties have produced fluorite, smithsonite and sphalerite. Other minerals that have been found in the mine dumps include: cerussite, galena, hemimorphite, hydrozincite, quartz, & pyromorphite. Calcite is by far the most common mineral found, and all other minerals require some digging in the dump to locate.

The most common fluorescent mineral in the area is calcite, which glows a soft to bright pearly white. There are colors other than white, but they are fewer in number. Of particular note are specimens of sandstone, which glow a coral pink to a bright red in either short wave or broad-spectrum ultraviolet light. There are also specimens of fluorite that glow various shades of pale yellow due to petroleum inclusions and bright blue from Europium impurities in the fluorite.

Dan



**September 10-11—Fairfield, Iowa:** The Sac & Fox Lapidary Club, Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show  
Saturday hours 9 am - 6 pm, Sunday hours 10 am-5pm  
Betty Morris & Dennis Kossow; [emorris@lisco.com](mailto:emorris@lisco.com)

**September 14-18—DENVER, COLORADO:** "Denver Coliseum Show"; Eons Expositions LLC; Denver Coliseum, 1900 44th St.; Wed. 9-6, Thu. 9-6, Fri. 9-6, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 9-4; contact Lowell Carhart, (516) 818-1228; Web site: [www.DenverColiseumShow.com](http://www.DenverColiseumShow.com)

**September 16-18—HOLLAND, MICHIGAN:** "Petrified Wood: Ancient Forests"; Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club, Fri. 9-8, Sat. 9-7, Sun. 11-5; contact Patty Valentine; Web site: [www.tulipcity.org](http://www.tulipcity.org)

**September 16-18—LINCOLN, MISSOURI:** Mozarkite Society of Lincoln; Lincoln City Park, Lamine St. and Benton St.; Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4; free admission; dig for mozarkite; contact Robin Kimber (660) 827-2538; e-mail: [robin480@att.net](mailto:robin480@att.net)

**September 17—TWO HARBORS, MINNESOTA:** 12th annual show and sale, "Agate City Rock Show"; Agate City Rock Shop; 721 7th Ave.; Sat. 9-5; contact Bob Lynch, (218) 834-2304; e-mail: [bob@agatecity.com](mailto:bob@agatecity.com); Web site: [www.agatecity.com](http://www.agatecity.com)

**September 17-18—CLARKSVILLE, INDIANA:** Falls of the Ohio Foundation; Falls of the Ohio State Park, 201 W. Riverside Dr.; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; contact Alan Goldstein (812) 280-9970; e-mail: [park@fallsoftheohio.org](mailto:park@fallsoftheohio.org); Web site: [www.fallsoftheohio.org](http://www.fallsoftheohio.org)

**September 17-18—HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA:** 46th annual show; Central Pennsylvania Rock & Mineral Club; Zembo Shrine Center, 2801 N. Third St.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; contact Betsy Oberheim (717) 469-2243; Web site: [webmaster@rockandmineral](mailto:webmaster@rockandmineral)

**September 24-25—COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA:** Loup Valley Gem & Mineral Club; Knights of Columbus Hall, 3115 6th St.; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; contact Ben Vrana (402) 563-3265; e-mail: [mlempke68601@yahoo.com](mailto:mlempke68601@yahoo.com)

**September 24-25—FRANKLIN, NEW JERSEY:** 55th annual show; Franklin Mineral Museum; 50 Washington Ave.; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; contact Pat Seger, (862) 266-4472; e-mail: [pesolutions.minerals@gmail.com](mailto:pesolutions.minerals@gmail.com); Web site: [www.franklinmineralmuseum.com](http://www.franklinmineralmuseum.com)

**September 24-25—TRAVERSE CITY, MICHIGAN:** Grand Traverse Area Rock & Mineral Club; History Center of Traverse City, 322 Sixth St.; Sat. 10–5, Sun. 11-4; contact Lauren Vaughn or Cynthia Vaughn, (231) 276-6150; e-mail: [Maple2b@aol.com](mailto:Maple2b@aol.com)

**September 24- 25 – Oshkosh, Wisconsin**

Earth Science Club Gem & Mineral Show  
Sunnyview Expo Center ; Sat 9am-5pm, Sun 10am-4pm  
[www.oesclub.org](http://www.oesclub.org)

**Upcoming Local Events for September**

- **9 - 11 Beloit - Festival on the Rock.** 11 Bands, 3 Days, 2 Stages! Preservation Park, Hwy 51 N. For more information call (608) 362-6896.
- **9 - 11 Jefferson - Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival.** Jefferson Fair Park 503 N Jackson. For more information call (608) 868-2505.
- **9 - 10 West Bend - Kettle Moraine Jazz Festival.** Fri 4PM - 10PM, Sat 2PM - 10PM. Admission charged. 14th annual Kettle Moraine Jazz Festival. Riverside Park, 800 East Kilbourn. For more information call (262) 334-9638.
- **16 - 18 Brookfield - Hidden River Art Festival.** Hours: Friday 1-7PM; Saturday 10-6PM; Sunday 11-4PM. Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts. For more information call (262) 781-9520.
- **16 - 18 Wisconsin Dells - Wisconsin Dells Wo-Zha-Wa Days.** Downtown Wisconsin Dells and Bowman Park..
- **17 Cross Plains - Hill and Valley Antique Auto and Americana Show.** 6:45AM - 4:30PM. Admission free. Baer Park, County P. For more information call (608) 798-3040
- **17 - 18 Jefferson - Gemuetlichkeit Days.** Sat 11AM - 8PM, Sun 1:30PM - 6PM. Jefferson Fair Park, 503 N. Jackson Avenue. For more information call (920) 674-6124.
- **17 - 18 Marshfield - Maple Fall Fest.** Sat 9AM - 5PM, Sun 10AM - 4PM. Wildwood Park & Zoo. For more information call (800) 422-4541.
- **17 Monona - Pipers in the Prairie and Festive Fire.** The entrancing sounds of Pipers in the Prairie and Drummers on the Drumlin! Aldo Leopold Nature Center Monona Campus, 330 Femrite Drive. Event starts at 4:30PM and ends at 8:00PM. For more information call (608) 216-9373.
- **17 - 18 Soldiers Grove - Driftless Area Art Festival.** Sat 10AM - 5PM, Sun 10AM - 4PM. Admission free. Beauford T. Anderson Memorial Park, Hwys 131 & C. For more information call (608) 624-3600
- **24 Wisconsin Dells - Cranes of the World Festival!** [www.savingcranes.org](http://www.savingcranes.org) International Crane Foundation For more information call (608) 356-9462 ext. 121.

**Notes from the MWF:**

La Crescent Minnesota resident, Brian Overhouse, has numerous lakers for sale. He said that most are unique specimens he has collected that he would like to sell individually. He does not have any pictures that he can post at this time, but would like anyone interested to give him a call and then something could be worked out between the two parties for viewing. His phone number is: 507-895-8459.

Greetings, my name is Dave Root and I am the lapidary chairman for the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical & Geological Societies. I came to this position after the untimely passing of my predecessor Roger K. Pabian, but I fear I am ill-qualified for it. I know a bit about faceting but I'm fairly ignorant about the other forms of the lapidary arts. I'm aware of a few gifted people from clubs in my own neck of the woods, but I am certain there are many, many more out there in the clubs that make up the Midwest Federation.

What I am trying to do is create a lapidary skills database. So if we have a member of one of our clubs that, say, was trying to take up stone carving and had questions or problems there would be a resource where he could go to get answers.

The purpose of this communication is to request that if you have club members who are particularly talented in one or more of the lapidary arts, to send me their names, specialty and contact information. I'm looking for those skilled at polishing, cabochons, carving, intarsa, silversmithing, faceting, gem pictures and trees, wirewrap and any other form of lapidary art that I failed to mention. Please put "Lapidary Skills Database" in the subject line and also include the name of your club and your state.



## ***In the News***

Monday, 9 October, 2000, 15:28 GMT 16:28 UK

### **Giant trilobite discovered**



About twice the size of the previous record holder

**By BBC News Online science editor Dr David Whitehouse**

The largest trilobite yet discovered has been identified by Canadian palaeontologists.

The creature, which dates from 445 million years ago, measures 72 centimetres in length. This is about twice the size of the previous record holder.

Trilobites are an extinct group of sea-dwelling arthropods (animals with an outer skeleton and jointed body and limbs) that are distantly related to crabs, scorpions and beetles.

They are probably the most common fossils of the Paleozoic Era (about 545-250 million years ago) and scientists use them to help date different layers of rock.

"A trilobite of this size really is an amazing discovery," said Dr Graham Young, a member of the team that discovered it.



Trilobites were very widely distributed

### **Useful creatures**

The specimen is an example of a previously unknown species, and was found by researchers studying ancient tropical coasts, of the Late Ordovician and Early Silurian geological periods (458-408 million years ago), in Manitoba, Canada.

When the fossil was unearthed, most of its segmented exoskeleton was missing and only the rear most portion of the tail shield was present.

Scientists realised just what a monster they had when they started to clean up the specimen. The fossil is now on display in the Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature in Winnipeg.

Most trilobites are between 3 and 10 cm (1 - 4 inches) in length. The creatures evolved quickly and were widely distributed, making them useful tools to compare the ages of rock strata in different parts of the world.

### **Colder climates**

"There is nothing familiar about this particular specimen! It is an important and amazing find," says Manitoba Museum's Dr Bob Elias.

Dr Graham Young said: "We have found a very unusual specimen that illustrates some of the diversity and weirdness of ancient life. A trilobite of this size really is an amazing discovery."

In July 1998, a team of scientists set out for northern Manitoba hoping to find fossils similar to those uncovered by previous digs, like the 43-cm (17-inch) long trilobite excavated in the area a decade before.

The team struck lucky just outside their original search area. The trilobite's size contradicts the idea that larger animals are more commonly associated with colder climates.

Although northern Manitoba is now sub-arctic, hundreds of millions of years ago it would have been submerged in salty seawater located on the equator.

*All images courtesy of the Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature*

**Submitted by Dan Trocke**



The team found the specimen just outside their intended search area



The fossil is now on display to the public

***JOKE OF THE DAY!***

***WHAT DO YOU CALL A HOMELESS CAVEMAN??***

***A HOBO SAPIEN!***





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