

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

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

***Monroe, Wisconsin***

***Devoted to the Earth Sciences***

**Vol. 48, No 4**

**April 2013**

## ***President's Message***

Dear Badgers:

We're finally starting to see some actual signs of spring! This past week has seen the temperatures reach to 50 °F or higher, with the first substantial snowmelts in several months. Even the robins have returned. This of course means that we will soon be able to get out and begin collecting again! In fact, the program for our April meeting is a trip to the Rufer Quarry in Monroe, following the business portion of the meeting. We've chosen this opportunity to offer any new members who may have joined at the show their first chance to collect minerals or fossils inside a local quarry. Hard hats, safety glasses, and steel-toed shoes are strongly recommended.

We have another significant incentive for our newest members. Due to the generosity of Mike Riesch, Earthaven Museum, there will be a raffle at the meeting (new members only!) to win either a beautiful piece of phantom dogtooth calcite from the Vulcan Quarry at Racine, or else a fine specimen of amethyst. Either of these would qualify as gold brick prizes! In turn, most of you have also heard that there will also be another small auction at the upcoming meeting that is open to **all** of our members. BLGS member Ted Tinker recently suffered an injury to his left hand at work, and is hoping to raise some funds to meet his current expenses. Thus, he will be displaying a variety of

agates, jaspers, petrified wood, and the like for auction. Not only will you be able to get some great deals on these choice items, but you'll be helping Ted out as well. Please come and support the auction.

We should also be hearing the first results from treasurer Daisy Peterson about the financial success of our 2013 show. Many thanks are due to everyone who helped out during setup and teardown (likely accomplished in record time!), along with our members who worked at the front and club tables, oversaw the children's activities, the demonstrators, Green County Homemakers (delicious lunches), and of course the dealers themselves and the speakers. The Monroe Middle School proved to be an interesting and successful venue, even though we are planning upon returning to the high school for next year's show. Teri Marché can also give a more complete show report at the meeting.

A number of other regional shows are coming up this spring, including the MAPS (Mid-America Paleontology Society) show in Iowa City (April 5-7). I encourage you to attend these shows and to display any items that you obtain (or collect) at the What's Rockin' table in coming months. Let's all get out there and start to enjoy the return of warmer weather!

*Jordan Marché* BLGS president

## ***Officer Roster:***

### **President**

Jordan Marche'  
5415 Lost Woods Ct  
Oregon, WI 53575  
608-835-2653  
[jdmarcheii@gmail.com](mailto:jdmarcheii@gmail.com)

### **Vice-President, Field Trip Chair**

Dan Trocke  
4771 County II  
Highland, WI 53543  
608-935-0597  
[dtrocke@acscm.com](mailto:dtrocke@acscm.com)

### **Secretary**

Laurie Trocke  
4771 CTH II  
Highland, WI 53543  
608-935-0597  
[lor3@netscape.com](mailto:lor3@netscape.com)

### **Treasurer**

Daisy Peterson  
W4647 County Rd FF  
Monroe, WI 53566  
608-328-1523  
[daisyjovilu@gmail.com](mailto:daisyjovilu@gmail.com)

### **Editor**

Laurie Trocke  
4771 CTH II  
Highland, WI 53543  
608-935-0597  
[lor3@netscape.com](mailto:lor3@netscape.com)

### **Show Chairperson**

Teri Marche'  
5415 Lost Woods Court  
Oregon, WI 53575  
608-835-2653  
[tmarche@usnetizen.com](mailto:tmarche@usnetizen.com)

### **Officer at Large**

Marv Hanner  
PO Box 201  
Juda, WI 53550  
608-934-2001  
[tnmins@tds.net](mailto:tnmins@tds.net)

## **BLGS 2013 Calendar of Events**

March 23<sup>rd</sup>: Field Trip – Rescheduled due to weather : (

April 13<sup>th</sup>: Meeting – Quarry Trip

April 27<sup>th</sup>: Field Trip – Mazon Creek

May 11<sup>th</sup>: Meeting – Soap Stone Carving

May 25<sup>th</sup>: Field Trip – Cave-in-Rock, IL

June 8<sup>th</sup>: Meeting - BLGS Picnic

June 22<sup>nd</sup>: Field Trip – Ripon, WI

July 13<sup>th</sup>: Field Trip – Upper Michigan

July 27<sup>th</sup>: Field Trip – Cave Trip (tbd)

August 10<sup>th</sup>: Field Trip – Fennimore & Prairie du Chien

August 24<sup>th</sup>: Field Trip – Beloit, WI

September 14<sup>th</sup>: Meeting – Show & Tell

September 28<sup>th</sup>: Field Trip – Savannah, IL

October 12<sup>th</sup>: Meeting – Chain mail/Jewelry making

October 26<sup>th</sup>: Field Trip – Lapidary Day

November 9<sup>th</sup>: Meeting – Presentation (tbd)

December 14<sup>th</sup>: Meeting - Holiday Party

**The April Meeting will be held at the Monroe Public Library on Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00. There will be a small auction before the meeting. The program for this meeting will be a collecting trip to a local quarry right after the meeting concludes. See you there!**

## ***March Meeting***

We did not have a meeting in March due to the show. Thanks to everyone for all of their hard work at the show. Hope to see you in April!

### **Show Chair's Report**

Well, we did it! We pulled off the most star-crossed show in my memory! It could almost give you a case of triscadecaphobia (being the 2013 show and all that). So, with a great deal of help, and some lucky breaks, we did it.

In some ways the Middle School venue was better. The tables were delivered and picked up directly from the gym, which halved the amount of work needed to set up. With the help of folks like the Greens, Brian & Cindy, the Tricklees, Neal & Linda, Clay Schroll, Mike Riesch, and my handy hubby Jordan, we had tables set up in record time, and the dealers were able to start their set-ups before 5:00.

The speaker room was a much nicer venue than the one we have at the High School, with room enough that Dan could set up his fluorescent display without needing the tent. He claims to have brought fewer rocks this year, but I am not convinced. The location of everything except the cafeteria was much more compact, and worked out well, with everyone adapting to the demands of the space. By Saturday noon we had everything worked out, and I could start to breathe.

The cafeteria was indeed a concern, but we saw that as the general crowd grew, so did the crowd in the lunch line. Parking, was, of course, an issue, and I have had reports of folks either going to the high school, or missing the changed date altogether. We all did the best we could, even commandeering Mike's truck for a billboard. I expect that the Middle School has never seen an event such as this.

My special thanks must go out to the Trocke's, especially to Laurie for her work both

before and during the show with the gem panning, and to Deb Grunewald for her long hours of work at the pools. She was willing, without knowing what she was getting in for! My thanks also to all the Trocke kids, especially Erin and Jayden for their help with the kid's activities. I think Jayden got a lot of polishing done that weekend with the Genie. Thanks also to Dan for his efforts with the trailer and the ever popular fluorescent display.

Thanks to our Rock Wizard, Marv Hanner. Someday we'll get that hat to fit. Thanks to Jordan for once again taking care of scheduling, meeting, and otherwise taking care of the speakers. Thanks also to our able treasurer, Daisy for again organizing the cash boxes and keeping the financial side of things in line. She is still working on the final report, and we'll hear how we did at the April meeting. Finally, thanks to all who stayed to help pack up and clean up the hall. We did it in good time and were out of there by 8:00. Not too shabby!

I just KNOW I forgot to mention some names here, and if I did, please forgive me, every hand, no matter how small, was so very much appreciated. The show could not have happened without you.

Teri Marche



# Stories From The Show

This year was my second Badger Lapidary and Geological Society Rock show. I had the privilege of helping with the panning for treasure booth, and what fun we had! It is extremely fun to watch kids' faces as they find their treasure and dig through the sand to get the sparkling pieces of rock and oh, those shark's teeth were quite the hit. Saturday we had quite the crowd and it kept us hopping...moving from one "swishing" station to another. We actually had to have people come back because we couldn't fit them all in at once.

The most rewarding moment for me was when one woman sat down next to me and told me that "this is the best rock show of any around this area. We come back year after year from Madison because you always get the kids involved, and have fun activities for them to do. None of the other rock shows even come close." I tell you, I was so proud to be part of our club at that moment, I was almost bursting!

Thank you to all the Badger club members who work so hard to put this show on, we are obviously making a difference in some people's experiences with rocks, minerals and fossils.

Deborah

Maybe next year we can do a dino-dig or at least a fossil-dig! I know there was a lot of interest in the fish fossils that were set up right next to the gem-panning

These stories were posted on Facebook – the first two come from Daisy Peterson and the last is from a guest at the show.

Just a word of "random act of kindness" that I was able to experience at the show.

I had the pleasure to witness two and if you've seen others, please Post them too.

First: At the Fishpond. Two boys are looking but not sure if they should try it or not. Maybe thinking they are too old. I invite them and also invite a "grown up" who I thought was with them. Well, he tells them to keep their > tickets and instead pays for them. As it turns out, he was just a passerby and gave those guys a good time. Just like that. The boys liked it and ended up fishing some more. They really had a good time.... Thanks, Stranger!

Second: My daughter and her boyfriend visited the show and bought a stone from one dealer and decided to have it rapped into a ring by another dealer. Both are in school and have to be frugal with their money.

(But as you know our dealers are very reasonable with their prices.) The two were watching Gere intensely as he did his beautiful work and had a good time. When they pulled out their money to pay, Gere informed them that Someone else already paid for it! I was there and Gere kept winking at me which made me think he donated it and he was winking at me because he thought I paid for it. As it turned out a lovely Stranger had paid for it, giving those two the surprise of their life. What a sweet thing to do. Thank you Stranger!

Lori Hendricks Soderberg wrote:  
So here is another pay it forward story...I had taken 2 students/brother with special needs to the Gem Show as I knew They would love all the different gems, stones, rocks and treasures. We had been looking forward to it for weeks. Their mom had given them \$20 each. They could spend \$15 on treasures and save \$5 for lunch. We spent an hour or so browsing, playing games and visiting the vendors. The one brother had purchased his treasures, many of which he picked out for his friends and mother as gifts. The other younger brother found what he wanted to buy, put his hand in his pocket and discovered his \$20 bill was gone. He had lost it.

He checked all of his pockets and then came to tell me what happened. He was so upset but kept his composure and we traced his footsteps all over the gym searching for his money. His brother asked the lady in charge to make an announcement in case anyone found it on their table or the floor.

First of all the announcer gave him \$10 to spend in case he couldn't find his money-she was so kind and generous! Several vendors looked on sadly and asked if he had found his money yet. He was just so sad about it and was so determined to find it. After about 20 minutes, a friend of mine who had witnessed the disappointment on the boy's face and could tell his "day was ruined" came up to us and told us he had found the money and gave the \$20 bill to the boy. Oh the joy on their faces, both the giver and the taker when the mystery was solved and all was well in his world again! The boy quickly ran back to the announcer and gave her the \$10 back and told her that his money was found! My friend gave me a wink and said it was worth the joy he had seen on the boy's face when he gave him the missing money. The boy quickly thanked him and went happily along to make his purchase. Both of the boys, had saved enough for lunch. After shopping a little more, we went to the lunch stand where some patient and delightful ladies helped us pick out our lunch choices. One lady was so patient naming every kind of bar for one of the boys so he could finally make his choice. As they rummaged through the chip bags and candy bars, they finally made their choices for lunch and snacks for later.

We sat at one of tables and shared our treasures one by one while we ate our lunch, sometimes a little louder than our neighbors and as boys will be boys, plenty of loud burps later! Not only was everyone so patient at the Gem show with two sometimes loud teenager from the lady running the spin game allowing one of the boys to choose whatever rock he wanted versus the one he landed on to the helper in the Ultraviolet lights/rock room who patiently answered every one of their 50 questions about the rocks. After spending 3 hours at the show, we headed home happy, tired and full bellies. The boys had had a great time and his mom had a break from parenting=win/win! Thank you to everyone for a great show and especially those who pay it forward with random acts of kindness, you will be blessed!



*Thanks to everyone young & old for all of the hard work and dedication to make the show a success. Thank you for your kindness, your patience and for sharing your knowledge. The show would not be the success it is year after year without you.*

## April Field Trip

**The April Field trip will be to the Mazon Creek area in Illinois on the weekend of April 27 & 28. More information to follow closer to the field trip, but here is a bit of a teaser to give you something to look forward to:**

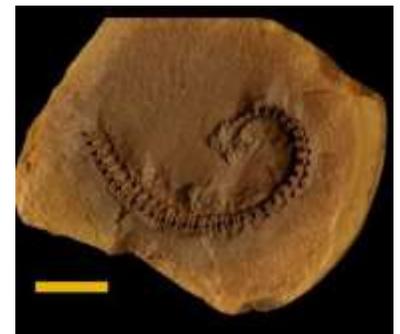
## Mazon Creek area fossil collecting

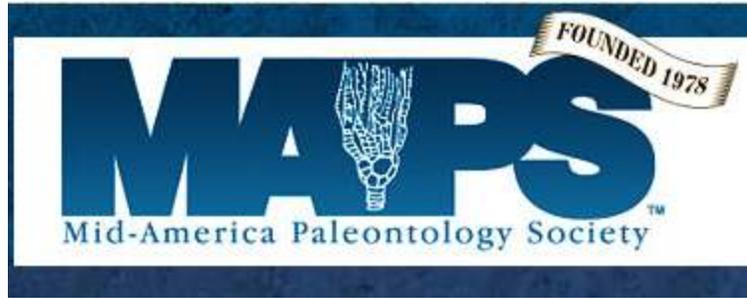
Coal mine spoil piles that once covered acres in the counties of northeastern Illinois are rapidly being leveled because of environmental concerns and land development. The good old days of the concretion collector are gone. Numerous field guides and newspaper articles written in years past detailing locations and ease of access are no longer valid. Small patches of strip and shaft mine spoil piles are still to be found but permission of landowners is required before searching for concretions. There is some good news about the future of fossil collecting in this area. The state of Illinois has been leasing all the northern part of Pit 11, now Braidwood Lake and has recently signed a new 30-year lease. This will allow fossil collecting to continue under state regulations for the life of the lease. The southern portion of Pit 11 is now owned by the state and is part of Mazonia Braidwood State Park. In the park, the state has of now occasionally taken up the turning over of portions of the old strip-mined areas to encourage fossil collecting. Unfortunately for fossil plant collectors, the park contains only fossils from the previously mentioned Essex biota. It is important that collectors abide by all state regulations in the park to help keep collecting alive. As of this writing, a day permit and reporting system is in place for fossils found in the park and a

collecting season has been established from March 1 through September 30. It is recommended that collectors check with the park headquarters for the latest regulations at; Mazonia Fossil Permits Office, P.O. Box 126, Braceville IL. 60407 or by calling (815) 237-0063 or to this website

<http://www.dnr.state.il.us/lands/landmgt/parks/r2/mazonia.htm>

<http://www.mazoncreekproject.com/frame.html>





**PLEASE JOIN US FOR NATIONAL FOSSIL EXPO 35  
APRIL 5-7, 2013:**

The MAPS EXPO Show will be held April 5-7, 2013, at the Sharpless Auction facility just north of I-80 at Exit 249. The Pre-Show will occupy the Travelodge south of I-80 at Exit 246 on North Dodge Street about 3 mi from Sharpless Auctions. Both venues are located in Iowa City, Iowa.

**THE TOPIC WILL BE LIFE DURING THE DEVONIAN GEOLOGIC  
TIME PERIOD ABOUT 419.2 TO 358.9 MILLION YEARS AGO.**

**The theme for EXPO 35 will be "The Devonian"**

**The keynote talk is titled:  
"Devonian Rocks and Fossils of the Iowa Area"  
and will be given by **Brian Witzke** of University of Iowa.**

**Show hours will be the same as in the past - 8am to 5pm on Friday and Saturday,  
and 8am to Noon on Sunday.**

**The Keynote talk will be given on Friday evening, **start time at 5:15 PM.****

**The Live Auction will be held Saturday evening, **start time at 5:15 PM.****

**Please note that the start times for the evening events have moved up! The hope is  
that this will allow more people to attend the Keynote & Auction, and this will  
hopefully allow the activities to end before dinnertime.**

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**For more information on Maps, see their website at  
<http://midamericapaleo.org/content/EXPO/2013/expo35.php>**

## Mineral Events

### April 4-6—WYOMING, MICHIGAN

Indian Mounds Rock & Mineral Club; Rogers Plaza Town Center; 28th St., west of US 131; Thu. 9:30-9, Fri. 9:30-9, Sat. 9:30-8; free admission; dealers, crystals, minerals, fossils, beads, polished rocks, faceted gems, jewelry, carvings, estate pieces, rock tumblers, specimens, coprolite, demonstrations, children's table, rock identification, coprolite exhibit; contact John Donker, 7129 Edgewood Ave., Jenison, MI 49428, (616) 457-0556; e-mail: jjredon65@sbcglobal.net; Web site: www.indianmoundsrockclub.com

### April 6 LOVES PARK, ILLINOIS

Rock River Valley Gem & Mineral Society Open House & Exhibition, 11 - 3, North Suburban Library, 6340 North 2nd St. Contact: Bill Horschke, (815) 544-2073; whorschke@yahoo.com

### April 13-14—MARION, ILLINOIS

Southern Illinois Earth Science Club; Pavilion of the City of Marion; 1602 Sioux Dr.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$2, children (18 and under) free; rocks, minerals, fossils, lapidary, shell crafts, fluorescent shows, silent auctions; contact Mike Chontofalsky, 1019 E. Broadway, Centralia, IL 62801, (618) 532-0455; e-mail: chontofalsky@att.net; Web site: www.siesclub.org

### April 14—WATERLOO, IOWA

Black Hawk Gem & Mineral Society; Waterloo Center for the Arts; 225 Commercial St.; Sun. 11-5; free admission (donations accepted); activities and booths for adults and kids, demonstrations, speakers, silent auction; contact Dave Malm, 1715 Drury Ln., Cedar Falls, IA 50613, (319) 266-6433; e-mail: davidmalm@cfu.net

### April 19-20—REDWOOD FALLS, MINNESOTA

Minnesota Inventors Congress; Redwood Area Community Center; 901 Cook St.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6; adults \$5; demonstrations, exhibits, geode breaking, door prizes, grab bags, rough rock, jewelry; contact Allan Hacker, PO Box 37, Morgan, MN 56266, (507) 249-3811

### April 19-21—DECATUR, ILLINOIS

61st Annual Mineral, Gem & Jewelry Show; Central Illinois Gem & Mineral Club; Macon County Fairgrounds; 3700 Westlawn Ave.; Fri. 9-6, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-4; adults \$5 (3-day admission), children free; contact Regina Kapta, 1483 E. Wood St., Decatur, IL 62521, (217) 233-1164; e-mail: cigmc@comcast.net; Web site: cigmc.earthinsync.com/

### April 20-21—EAU CLAIRE, WISCONSIN

Chippewa Valley Gem & Mineral Society; Eau Claire County Expo Center; Lorch Ave.; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; free admission; silent auction, minerals, fossils, crystals, gems, rocks, artifacts, jewelry, demonstrations, "hands-on" booth for kids; contact Mike Schoenfuss, 2545 W. Taylor Creek Rd., Eau Claire, WI 54701; e-mail: mschoenfuss@gmail.com

### April 19-20-REDWOOD FALLS, MINNESOTA

New Ulm Gem & Mineral Club Inventors Congress, Fri 10-6, Sat 10-6, Redwood Area Community Center, 901 Cook St. Contact: John Davis, (507) 354-1212

### April 20-21—ROSEVILLE, MICHIGAN

Mt. Clemens/Macomb Gem & Lapidary Society; Roseville Recreation Center; 18185 Sycamore; Sat. 10-7, Sun. 11-5; adults \$3, seniors \$1, students and children free; contact Jacqueline Swain, 44314 Macomb Industrial Dr., Clinton Township, MI 48036, (313) 469-7868; e-mail: jacswain018@aol.com; Web site: www.mcglis.org

### April 20-21—ROSEVILLE, MINNESOTA

Anoka County Gem & Mineral Club; Har Mar Mall; 2100 Snelling Ave. N; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 12-5; free admission; agates, fossils, gems, jewelry, minerals; contact Martha Miss, (651) 459-0343; e-mail: martha@rock-biz.biz

### April 27-28—BENTON HARBOR, MICHIGAN

Blossomland Gem & Mineral Society; Orchard Mall; 1800 Pipestone Rd.; Sat. 10-7, Sun. 11-4; free admission; demonstrations, gem faceting, silversmithing, jewelry making, rock and gem crafts, gold panning, dealers; contact Larry Kiernan, 208 E. Sycamore St., Three Oaks, MI 49128, (269) 756-9080; e-mail: tire309@yahoo.com

### April 27-28—FORT DODGE, IOWA

River Valley Rockhounds' 50th Anniversary Gem, Mineral, Fossil Show, Sat 9-5; Sun 11-4; Iowa Central Community College Career Education Building, 330 Ave M (Bus Hwy 20) Contact: Jim Baumer, (515) 955-6783; jbaum@frontiernet.net

### April 27-28—FRANKLIN, NEW JERSEY

42nd New Jersey Earth Science Assn., Sterling Hill Mining Museum, Franklin-Ogdensburg Mineralogical Society; Washington School; 50 Washington Ave.; Sat. 9-5:30, Sun. 10-5; adults \$4; outdoor swap, auction, indoor mineral dealers, fluorescent minerals, gems, meteorites, fossils, daylight and fluorescent exhibits; contact Russell Brarens, 515 Lincoln Blvd., Middlesex, NJ 08846-2442, (732) 469-1047; e-mail: RNB515@aol.com

## Wisconsin Events

**6 Dodgeville - Paws Fur A Cause Run/Walk.** 5k run or 2m walk, with all proceeds benefiting the Iowa County Humane Society. Iowa County Humane Society. For more information call (608) 930-0883.

**6 Superior - Gitchee Gumeew Brew Fest.** Sample more than 125 beers from 35 craft brewers from Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan, Illinois and Iowa. Celtic music and beer games for your entertainment. Only 1300 tickets will be available. Must be 21 years old. UW Superior, Wessman Arena, 2701 Catlin Avenue. Event starts at 4:00PM and ends at 8:00PM. For more information call (715) 394-8361.

**12 Monroe - Just Imagine: A Tribute to John Lennon.** Experience Lennon's timeless musical genius as Tim Piper effortlessly transports the audience to an imaginary world where John Lennon comes alive once again. Enjoy the music, the stories behind the songs, and revealing insights about the birth of the Beatles. Monroe High School Performing Arts Center, 1600 26th Street. Event starts at 7:30PM. For more information call (608) 325-5700.

**13 Madison - 7th Annual Wisconsin Gourd Society Festival.** 9AM-4PM. Admission free. The theme this year is Skategourding. This is a free one day family event featuring the ordinary gourd as an art medium - through musical instruments, demos and classes. Featuring live music, competitions, seeds/growing literature, raffles, a silent auction and prizes. Olbrich Botanical Gardens, 3330 Atwood Ave. For more information call (608) 445-1410

**13 Prairie du Sac - Wollersheim Winery's Brandy Release.** Taste Wollersheim Winery's first ever 100% Wisconsin Brandy. Watch in action barrel making demonstrations and how the barrel maker prepares the Wisconsin oak barrels that the brandy ages in. Complimentary self-guided tours take you behind the scenes where you can view the Portuguese copper kettle where the brandy is distilled. Live music! (No admission fee. Open to the public.) 7876 Hwy. 188. For more information call (608) 643-6515.

**20 - 21 Eau Claire - Chippewa Valley Gem and Mineral Show.** Exhibits will include a silent auction, minerals, fossils, crystals, gems, rocks, artifacts, demonstrations and jewelry. Hands on booth for the kids, and lots of food will be available. Saturday 9AM-5PM; Sunday 10AM-4PM. Eau Claire County Expo

Center, 5530 Fairview Drive. For more information call (715) 456-0664.

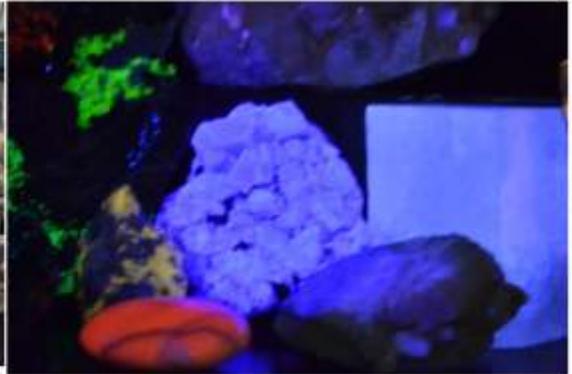
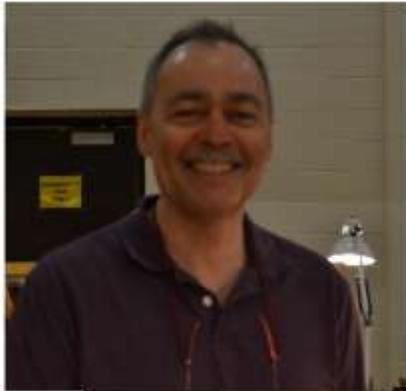
**20 Madison - Busking for Books: A Literacy Network Musical Fund.** 11AM-1PM. Dozens of local musicians & performance artists will perform on the corners of the entire stretch of State Street to raise awareness, friends and funds for Literacy Network's adult literacy programs while highlighting Madison's rich performing arts community. State Street. For more information call (608) 244-3911.

**20 Madison - Isthmus Green Day.** Isthmus Green Day is an expo and forum that celebrates and promotes environmentally conscious living through informative exhibits, product demonstrations, educational activities, fascinating speakers, shopping opportunities, and more. The 2013 keynote speakers include Doug Fine author of Too High To Fail and Farewell, My Subaru and Michael Brune the Executive Director for the Sierra Club. Monona Terrace, 1 John Nolen Drive. For more information call (608) 251-5627 .

**27 Madison - Crazylegs Spectator Hospitality/Active Kids Clinic.** Saturday, April 27, 8AM - 2PM. Come on in and warm up with a free cup of Barriques coffee or hot cocoa while the 32nd annual Crazylegs festivities fill the square. Create a free cheer poster to support your favorite runner, and get free active kids tips from Kane Sivesind, owner of Core Health & Fitness and Brad Stewart, local youth sports specialist at Core. 1 North Pinckney Street. For more information call (608) 286-3150.

**27 Stoughton - Spring Fever Gift & Plant Fair.** Local artists, crafters and independent contractors with lots of spring gift ideas. Also annual and perennial plants available. 320 N. Harrison Street. For more information call (608) 873-7633.

**27 Wisconsin Dells - Animal Expo Day at Upham Woods Outdoor Learning Center.** Upham Woods will be showing off many of their critters - turtles, birds, fish, raptors and more. Register by April 20th. Free to attend, but for a suggested \$2 donation towards sponsoring an animal you will receive an animal fact card for the animal you sponsor. N194 County Road N. Event starts at 9:00AM and ends at 12:00PM. For more information call (608) 254-6461



**Monroe Show 2013**

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

**Laurie Trocke, Editor**

**4771 CTH II**

**Highland, WI 53543**

