

THE BADGER DIGGIN'S

The Badger Lapidary and Geological Society, Inc.

Monroe, Wisconsin

Devoted to the Earth Sciences

Vol. 48, No 5

May 2013

President's Message

Dear Badgers:

We've recently completed our second successful collecting trip of the season. This past weekend, members visited the Mazonia/Braidwood State Fish and Wildlife Area in northeastern Illinois to collect their own Mazon Creek nodules. The weather was pleasantly warm, and the nodules fairly abundant. I'd like to thank Dan Trocke for organizing this first-time visit to the collecting site. Harold Carter also deserves accolades for the 'shuttle service' he provided, using his own boat and motor to take us out to the collecting piles and islands in the present-day lake (former site of the famous Pit 11 locality). And new member Keith Robitschek lent his previous experience in directing us to one of the islands and locating the exposed slope on which Tully monsters have reportedly been collected. We'll have to wait and see whether any one of us actually succeeded in fulfilling that quest.

Only two weeks before that, a large contingent of us visited the Monticello road cut (in lieu of being unable to enter the local Quarry), where Erin Trocke and Steve Holmes each found specimens of 'flat' cephalopods in this Platteville Formation exposure. Outstanding! Plenty of other more common fossils, including corals, gastropods, and the like, were also found without difficulty. Our club is well-known for the number of field trips taken annually, and we hope that new members

especially have been pleased with the results. Even more is yet to come!

Depending upon the condition of the local Quarry, we may or may not be able to visit it after the upcoming May meeting. But if we need to remain indoors, then an activity involving soapstone carving will be offered instead as the monthly program. Preliminary information should also be available about the planned field trip to Cave-in-Rock, Illinois to hunt for fluorite over Memorial Day weekend. Camping and hotel accommodations will be discussed, as well as potential visits to museums at nearby Rosiclare, Illinois or Marion, Kentucky.

I intend to provide a new membership list as part of the next newsletter. Our previous one (2012) is now in serious need of updating. Please let Daisy or me know if you have any additions or corrections to the printed list. Otherwise, I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the next meeting.

Sincerely,

Jordan Marché

BLGS president

The member list will be available at a later date and is not included in this newsletter. LT

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BLGS 2013 Calendar of Events

May 11th: Meeting – Quarry Trip

May 25th: Field Trip – Cave-in-Rock, IL

June 8th: Meeting - BLGS Picnic

June 22nd: Field Trip – Ripon, WI

July 13th: Field Trip – Upper Michigan

July 27th: Field Trip – Cave Trip (tbd)

August 10th: Field Trip – Fennimore & Prairie du Chien

August 24th: Field Trip – Beloit, WI

September 14th: Meeting – Show & Tell

September 28th: Field Trip – Savannah, IL

October 12th: Meeting – Chain mail/Jewelry making

October 26th: Field Trip – Lapidary Day

November 9th: Meeting – Presentation (tbd)

December 14th: Meeting - Holiday Party

May Meeting: We can get into the quarry near Monroe this weekend! Please meet at the Monroe Library by 10:00 AM for a short meeting and then we will go to the quarry as a group. Hardhats are required so bring hardhats if you have them. We will bring some extras for those that don't. You will need safety glasses if doing any hammering, recommend sturdy leather high top boots to keep ankle twists down. Stay away from quarry equipment & electrical, stay out of the water and keep "a bounce and a half" away from the highwalls at all times. Recommend bringing rock hammers, chisels, leather gloves, long pants, prybars, rakes, collecting bags, snacks and drinks, etc.

Thanks,
Dan Trocke, Field Trip Chair

April Meeting Minutes

The April meeting was held in the Monroe Library on April 13th. It was preceded with a small auction by Ted Tinker, which was put on hold during the meeting and then ran for another 15-20 minutes after the meeting. We started the meeting out with introductions as we welcomed several new members to the club.

We then moved on to Daisy's Treasurer's Report. Daisy said that we had about 665 people attend this year's show. This is lower than usual, but that was expected due to the change of date, venue and the weather. We still did OK as a fund raiser, netting a little less than 2012 and about the same as 2011. Daisy had asked the optimists club for a donation, but they turned us down. She'll try again next year. If we need to rent tables again, Daisy would like feedback for everyone that helped with the set-up/tear down. If we didn't need all of the tables, the rental place could drop the price. After much discussion, it was decided that there were only a handful of tables that were not needed and if necessary, we could reduce the number rented by around 10. Teri pointed out that this should not be an issue as the high school has tables available that we can rent for less money and they are right there at the school. More discussion of the show would be saved for later in the meeting.

The next item up was announcements. Dan Trocke explained that the quarry trip after the meeting was postponed due to flooding and unsafe conditions at the quarry. Instead of the quarry, we will be going to a road cut that is known for fossils near Monticello.

Tom Gitchel shared that he has been going down to a new location in the Keokuk area for the last 3 weeks to collect geodes. He brought some very nice ones to crack and share with club members after the meeting. He also went to his grandson's school to do a presentation and said that the kids all jumped every time one of the geodes cracked open!

We had 3 extra door prizes this month, due to a generous donation from Ted Tinker. The first two

door prizes were won by Ethan won a beautiful piece of crazy lace agate and Karen won a beautiful piece of copper.

Moving on to Old Business, Jordan said that he had about a dozen calendars remaining and wanted ideas on what to do with them. It was decided that they should be given to new members. Jordan also suggested that members start thinking about either specimens to be photographed or donations of pictures for next year's calendar. Deb Gruenwald suggested that anyone photographer bring their equipment to the show & tell meeting and take pictures during the meeting.

Dan Trocke then went into more detail on the upcoming field trip to Mazon Creek. He said that in the area we would be hunting, it would primarily be underwater critters – shrimp, jellyfish, clams, etc. instead of plants. The areas that were well known for plants are now mostly on private land. He said that there is a trail around the outside of the lake that has areas for hunting and that we will have boats to hunt on some of the islands. He also said that Tully Monster (the IL State fossil) can be found at this site. A hunting permit and reporting sheet is required to fossil hunt at the state park. These will be sent out along with more specific details closer to the trip.

Teri said that there is a place in Northern Wisconsin, Plum Creek, that you can pan for gold, garnets & diamonds. This might be substituted for one of the other planned trips, maybe for late July. It is just south of River Falls. An officer's meeting will be held to discuss field trip changes.

The next two door prizes were won by Erianna she won a nice piece of tumbled agate from Agua Nuevo, Mexico and by Don who won a very timely Mazon Creek fossil shrimp.

For other new business, Jordan asked if we wanted to have a show again next year. Tom made a motion, seconded by Johnny Fay. The motion passed unanimously.

This led us right into the Show report by Teri Marche'. Teri confirmed that next year's show will be held the 29th & 30th of March and will be back at the high school. She also said that we will need a different group to provide the food at the show and the Monroe Homemakers are retiring. If you know of any group that would like to provide the food as a fund raiser, please let Teri know. They do need to be certified to serve food in a public venue. It was suggested that perhaps an FFA group or other school organization might be an option.

A huge thank you to Teri and a big round of applause was offered for doing a great job pulling off the show. It was a great success, even with all of the known changes and the last minute changes!

We then had a discussion on different ways to promote the annual show. Johnny suggested that we print up flyers as early as a year in advance to put out at other club shows. It was also suggested that we print up business card size flyers for people to take. Daisy also said that she is looking for input on a better way to run the club table. She would like to see the sales tickets for club members be more consistent and would like a better way to keep track of member sales.

Jordan shared that right before the show, he received a letter from Mary Ward. She wanted to make a donation to the club and decided to give \$80. Thanks Mary!!

Barb Woodriff dropped off some club photo albums to put with the other history information. Teri suggested that the history info be brought to the shows.

Mike Reisch had donated some beautiful specimens to the club and wanted one of them to go in a drawing to new members. Keith Robischek won the drawing and chose a wonderful Amethyst piece. Congratulations Keith!!

The last two door prizes were won by Daisy Peterson. She won a pretty pyromorphite. Tom won a nice polished agate.

Thanks to the Trockes for the treats at the April meeting. Brian & Cindy Green will bring snacks to the May meeting. The June meeting is the picnic and will be a pot luck. It will be held at the same park as last year.

Dan Trocke shared an interesting story about a little dinosaur museum that he found in Millard, WI. It used to be a taxidermist shop that the owner, an avid collector, has turned into a free museum to display and share his collection. He has a great collection of dinosaur bones and is very happy to share it with visitors.

Johnny moved to adjourn the meeting. Dan seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned and after Ted's auction wrapped up; the What's Rockin' table was admired; and many wonderful geodes were cracked open, many of us braved the chilly wind and headed to Monticello for some great fossil collecting!

What's Rockin'

This month we had a full house of people as well as a full table for what's rockin'. An added attraction this month was Tom Gitchel brought a couple buckets of geodes from a new collecting location down by Hamilton IL and we had a geode cracking session after the meeting that was enjoyed by all.

On the table Ridge Zies brought a collection of cracked geodes that he had collected with his grandfather Tom Gitchel plus a unique geodized crinoids calyx that he found. Connor Trocke brought a very large phacops trilobite from Morocco and some petrified wood. Dan, Jayden and Erin Trocke brought a bunch of Lake Superior Agates and petrified wood they collected the weekend before the meeting at Prairie Du Chien WI. Dan also brought a fossil crab from Morocco, a very large trilobite tail from WI. and a slab of coprolite from Utah (petrified dino poop). The Marche's brought a table full of fine stuff themselves starting with a crinoids float from OK; three ammonites from OK, TX and Morocco; a Heterotrophic from Morocco; a Conularia from NY; a Hydnoceras (glass sponge) from NY. Last but not least, they brought a piece they got from Dave Zimmerman when they met up with him a few weeks ago, a unique piece of fluorite and amethyst from Thunder Bay Canada.

The Green's

Some Info About Illinois Fluorite – Teri Marché (Door Prize Article)

The January/February 2013 issue of Rocks and Minerals was a gorgeous one, devoted entirely to fluorite. I found one article, *Fluorite in Mississippi Valley-Type Deposits* (Fisher, Lillie, & Rakovan, pps. 20 – 47) to be particularly useful. While such deposits occur in many places around the world, the article documents those in England and Illinois. The latter really piqued my interest, and given our upcoming field trip, I am sharing some of it here.



In 1839, while digging a well on the James Anderson farm in Rosiclare IL, workers brought to grass the area's first galena and fluorite, sparking over a century of production in what would become the most productive fluorite mining district in the country. Initially lead was the goal of miners, from 1842 into the 1880s. Fluorite at this time was mostly discarded. However, with the invention of the Bessemer process for making steel, fluorite became important as a flux to melt the steel at a lower temperature and cost. First they dug the discarded fluorite out of the spoil piles, then, around 1900, active fluorite mining began. Mining companies came and went until just two, Minerva Oil and Ozark-Mahoning dominated the Cave-in-Rock district. By the 1990s there was just the Ozark-Mahoning. The Annabel-Lee Mine was the last mine active, closing in 1995.

This whole history was made possible during the Devonian and Permian Periods when the earth's continents were driven together into the supercontinent of Pangea. In what would become North America, these collisions gave rise to a complex system of faults centered on the New Madrid area, creating cracks and voids in the rocks that later filled with super heated fluids carrying lead, zinc and fluorine molecules. These precipitated out to fill the cracks, forming vertical, ribbin-like veins with massive material. Mines in the Rosiclare district primarily exploited such "master lode" veins and accounted for about 75% of total production until about 1947.

Well-formed crystals needed the larger voids created when the horizontal host limestone strata were

dissolved and replaced with the new minerals. Cave-in Rock and Harris Creek districts consisted primarily of such "stratiform" mines.

Where the fluorine originated remains a question, however it is suspected that an igneous source below Hicks Dome, a locally uplifted crypto-volcanic feature that fills the entire northwest corner of Harden County, may be involved.

The rest of Hardin County is divided, northeast to southwest, by the Rock Creek Graben of Pennsylvanian Period sandstones, conglomerates and shales, with most of the fluorite district lying along the graben's southern margins. This is further divided into the Rosiclare district to the west and the Cave-in-Rock district to the east. North of the graben is the smaller Harris Creek district, with just two mines, the Denton and the Annabel Lee.



Within these districts, most of the fluorite occurs on three stratigraphic levels, The Bethel, Rosiclare, and Sub-Rosiclare, all in Mississippian age rocks. In the uppermost, and theoretically younger, Bethel level, the vast majority of the fluorite is in shades of pale yellow, rich amber and butterscotch with thin outer bands of purple or blue, with crystals typically up to 4 inches on a side. Sphalerite, calcite, and barite are also found at all levels. By contrast, the deeper Rosiclare and still deeper Sub Rosiclare levels typically produced blue to purple, often well zoned, crystals, often reaching up to a foot on a side. Lead occurs more frequently the deeper the strata lie, and quartz is only found at the deepest levels of the Cave-in-Rock area. Thus one can hunt the tailings piles and make a good guess about how deeply the minerals were mined.



(Pictures from Field Trips to Cave-in-Rock area)

Mineral Events

May 11-BIGLERVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

Franklin County Rock & Mineral Club, Central Penn Rock & Mineral Club; South Mountain Fairgrounds; 615 Narrows Rd.; Sat. 8-3; contact Tom Smith, 10 Roger Ave., Shippensburg, PA 17257, (717) 532-7204; e-mail: tsmith1012@comcast.net; Web site: www.rockandmineral.org

May 17-19-JOPLIN, MISSOURI

7th Annual Spring Rock Swap; Tri-State Gem & Mineral Society; Schifferdecker Park; 7th and Schifferdecker Ave.; Fri. 9-6, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 9-3; contact Chris Wiseman, (417) 623-1180; e-mail: jmc-cwiseman@sbcglobal.net

May 17-19-SOUTHGATE, MICHIGAN

Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society; Southgate Arena; 14700 Reaume Pkwy.; Fri. 2-7, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; adults \$4, seniors \$3, students \$1, children (under 12) free with adult; contact Rich Williams, 4730 Bridal Run, Apt. 2 B, Ypsilanti, MI 48197, (734) 330-4784; e-mail: Richwill48@gmail.com

May 18-19-WAUWATOSA, WISCONSIN

Wisconsin Geological Society; Muellner Bldg. - Hart Park; 72nd and W. State St.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; adults \$3 each, 2 for \$5, children free; more than 20 dealers, lapidary supplies, tools, books, rough material, slabs, finished specimens, cabochons, jewelry, carvings, fossils, children's activities, exhibits, displays, presentations; contact Paul Schmidt, 8213 Red Arrow Ct., Wauwatosa, WI 53213, (414) 771-8668; e-mail: pvs@wi.rr.com; Web site: www.wisgeologicalsociety.com

May 31-2-WAUSEON, OHIO

State Line Gem & Mineral Society; Fulton County Fairgrounds; Junior Fair Bldg., 8514 SR 108; Fri. 12-7, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 11-4; free admission; dealers, jewelry, gemstones, beads, fossils, findings, geode cracking, educational demonstrations, children's activities, dynamic displays, silent auction, MSHA Mine Safety Class, soapstone carving classes; contact Doris Brzezicki, 419 N. Broad St., Adrian, MI 49221, (517) 263-1669; e-mail: rychar@tc3net.com; Web site: http://stateline.freewebspace.com/

June 1-2-VIROQUA, WISCONSIN

Coulee Rock Club; Viroqua Middle School Gym; 100 Blackhawk Dr.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; donation requested; rocks, minerals, fossils, jewelry, silent auction, free drawings, mineral ID demonstration; contact Gary Krause, 606 E. Court, Viroqua, WI 54665, (608) 637-2574; e-mail: garykrause6438@gmail.com; Web site: www.garysrockshop.com

Wisconsin Events

11 Baraboo - Downtown Baraboo Spring Fair on the Square. 9AM-4PM. Admission free. "Eat Street" Food court, farmers market, kids' entertainment, live music and performance. Over 150 crafters and artisans. Downtown Business District, Third and Fourth St. For more information call (608) 356-2937.

11 Grantsburg - The Adventure Triathlon. Explore northwest Wisconsin's beauty by biking through Crex Meadows Wildlife Area, paddling down the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway and running through Governor Knowles State Park on your way back to Memory Lake Park. Bike = 18 miles; Paddle = 3 miles; Run = 8 miles. Chip timing, dri-wick performance shirt, goody bag, post-race refreshments, entertainment. The top three teams, top three men individuals and top three women individuals will receive awards. Proceeds benefit Grantsburg youth recreation. Please call for fee info. Begins & ends at Memory Lake Park. For more information call (715) 463-5988.

12 Mauston - Woodside Ranch Annual Mother's Day Horse Show. Celebrate Mother's Day by watching a horse show! There will be snacks, refreshments and souvenirs on sale at the event. Woodside Ranch, W4015 State Road 82. Event starts at 8:00AM. For more information call (800) 626-4275.

12 Prairie du Sac - Wollersheim Winery's Salute to Mothers. Open for tours and tasting plus Mothers can receive a complimentary tour when accompanied by their family. 7876 Hwy. 188. For more information call (608) 643-6515.

16 - 19 Portage - The Great Nursing Home Escape. From a locked-down nursing home in the dead of night, they attempt the greatest escape ever. Join this misfit band of "inmates" as they hatch a master plan to escape their dreary nursing home and find something far more important than a baseball game – they find their youth. Admission tickets \$10 Adults / \$5 Students Portage Center for the Arts 301 E. Cook St.. For more information call 608-742-5655.

17 - 19 Fitchburg - Fitchburg Days 2013. Friday; The Kissers at 6PM. At 9PM the skies will light up with fireworks, followed by Pat McCurdy 9:30Pm-12PM. Saturday; Fitchburg Fire Dept. vs. Fitchburg Police Dept. softball game at 1PM-3PM, including fun inning activities. Kyle Henderson's Blue-Eyed Soul Band at 2:30PM, followed at 5:30PM by Aaron Williams and the Hoodoo & The Jimmys 8PM. Carnival rides, a childrens' tent and food by many local vendors. Sunday: Heartland

Farms Animal Sanctuary petting zoo, Childrens' Tent 12-4PM. Admission \$5 to main tent where beer and bands are located. McKee Farms Park, 2930 Chapel Valley Road. For more information call (608) 663-5703.

18 Baraboo - Art & Bloom Festival. Featured artists & an Art Show, an August Derleth retrospective, a plant sale and book signing. Also a Silent Auction and bake sale. Durward's Glen, W11876 McLeisch Road. Event starts at 9:00AM and ends at 3:00PM. For more information call (608) 356-8113.

18 Collins - Breakfast With The Birds. Enjoy a light breakfast at Al Corso Restaurant in Collins at 8 a.m. then head over to the Collins Marsh Nature Center at 9 a.m. for a birding workshop, finally try out your new skills in the marsh after the presentation! Breakfast will be 5\$, but the workshop is FREE! (Donations are appreciated) Please RSVP to ensure your seat by contacting us at (920) 772-4258, or collins_marsh@yahoo.com Collins Marsh Nature Center & Al Corso.

18 Phillips - Heritage Days – Get Hooked on History. Experience Price County history through re-enactments, interactive displays, engaging exhibits by local and regional historians and book authors. Hear old time music and learn to use a compass like early settlers did. Fun for the whole family. No registration required. Wisconsin Concrete Park/N8236 South Hwy 13. Event starts at 10:00AM and ends at 3:00PM. For more information call 715-339-7282.

18 Waukesha - Wisconsin Zombie Mud Run . The first Milwaukee area zombie 5K mud run will have 13 obstacles where runners attempt to avoid the multitude of zombies while trying to cross the finish line without losing all 3 of their life lines. If you want to finish the toughest race in wisconsin, train hard because only the strong survive! The Waukesha Expo Center, 1000 Northview Road . For more information call (262) 844-5611.

25 - 26 Burlington - Burlington Jaycees Arts, Crafts & Vendor Fair. The 3rd Annual Burlington Jaycees Arts, Crafts & Vendor Fair is held during Chocolate Fest Weekend in Burlington. Over 100 different vendors from all over Wisconsin & Illinois. The proceeds from the fair help many worthwhile causes, including SafetyTown, Burlington community pool, the United Way and many more. Echo Park, 595 Milwaukee Ave. For more information call (262) 210-0284.

25 - 26 Fort Atkinson - Fort Koshkonong Rendezvous. The 20th Annual Fort Koshkonong Rendezvous allows visitors to step back in time and see how life was in the 1840s. Witness living history and eat

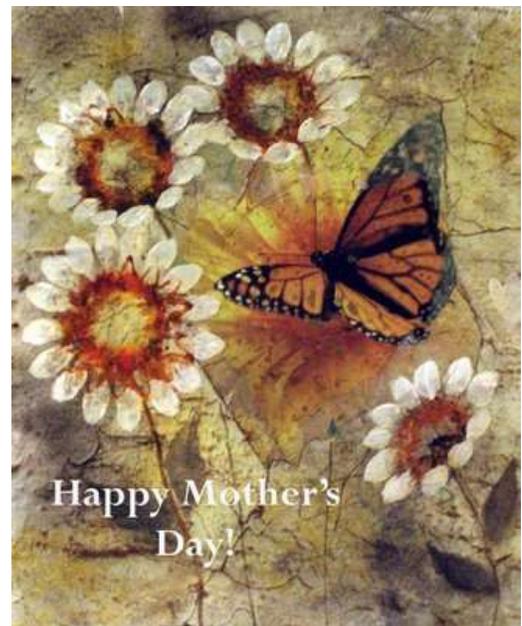
period food. Rock River Park . For more information call (920) 563-3210.

27 West Bend - Memorial Day Free Admission to the Old Courthouse . Join the celebration of Veterans on the Veteran's Plaza then visit the Museum for free. Open from 11AM to 1PM. Old Courthouse Museum, 320 S. 5th Ave. For more information call (262) 335-4678.



May Field Trip

The May Field trip will be to Cave-in-Rock, IL over Memorial Day Weekend, May 25th thru the 27th. We will be collecting fluorite, possibly stopping at one of the museums, camping and having a grand time! More information to follow closer to the field trip. Hope you can join us!



Viroqua Rock, Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show 2013

Saturday June 1, 10:00 to 5:00pm
Sunday June 2, 10:00 to 4:00pm

Viroqua Middle School Gym
100 Blackhawk Drive, Viroqua, Wisconsin

Lapidary Arts, Gemstones, Crystals, Minerals, Agates, Fossils, Jewelry, Polished Stones,
Meteor Display, Rough Rock, Geodes, Carvings, Specimens, Door Prizes, Fishing for Fossils
and Rock Identification Demonstrations and kits for Kids,
Silent Auction, Food Court, Air Conditioning
Speakers, Sunday at 1:00pm "What are Rocks" Gary Krause/Jerry Haavind

Dealers :

Randy Phillips
Gary Krause (Gary's Rock Shop)
Frank Lavin
Carol Wilson (Elroy, WI)
Ellis and Sandy Voss (West Side Agate)
Kathy Madigan (Gaia Gems)
Phil Oliver (Agate and Wood)
Mary Gerber (World Community)
Phil Burgess (Local collector and dealer)
Gary Richards (Keepers of the Earth)
Amber America
Mokasiya (Viroqua, WI)

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Co-Sponsored and Supported By:

Viroqua Rotary
Viroqua, Wisconsin

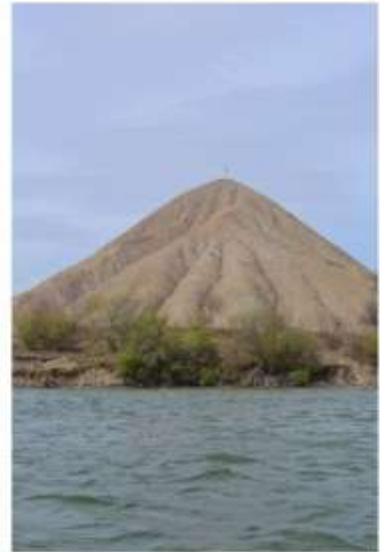


Coulee Rock Club
La Crosse, Wisconsin





April meeting & collecting trip to Monticello.



**Mazon
Creek
Fossil
Trip**



Badger Lapidary & Geological Society, Inc.

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