

THE BADGER DIGGIN'S

The Badger Lapidary and Geological Society, Inc.

Monroe, Wisconsin

Devoted to the Earth Sciences

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December 2013

President's Message

Dear Badgers:

It is time once again for our annual Christmas party! We will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 14, at the **World Buffet** in Monroe, located at 145 7½ street. To reach the Buffet, proceed west on 8th Street from Hwy. 69. It is set back from the road, on the right hand side, a little ways beyond Farm & Fleet.

After a short business meeting, where we will elect officers for the coming year, we will play the **Gold Brick Game**. Everyone should bring two inexpensive wrapped gifts that are very well cushioned. The rules of the game will be explained for new members.

Dinners at the Buffet are normally around \$11.50 per adult; prices for children are based upon age. But, as in the past, the club will subsidize **half** of the adults' and **all** of the children's meal costs. Please let treasurer Daisy Peterson know how many in your family will attend, so that she may submit an approximate count in advance. Phone: 608-445-9109 or e-mail: daisyjovilu@gmail.com.

The new BLGS mineral calendar, "**Wonders of the Earth 2014**," will be available for sale at the party. Cost is \$10.50 for club members, and \$12 for non-members. These make a great gift item for your geologically-minded friends, no matter where they live.

Let me also remind you about the payment of **dues** for next year. Please renew your membership in the club. Along with the annual show, there will be plenty of activities and field trips planned for the coming year.

It has been my pleasure to serve as your president over the past two years. But I will be stepping down now (along with the other currently elected officers). We look forward to the new club leadership provided by the slate of officers that will be presented by the nominating committee. Let's wish them the best in the year ahead. Thank you, everyone, and I wish you happy holidays.

Jordan Marché

BLGS president



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BLGS 2013 Calendar of Events

December 14th: Meeting - Holiday Party

Join us for the December Meeting at 5:30 pm on Saturday, December 14th, in the World Buffet in Monroe, Wi. We will have our Annual Holiday Party – Great food, Good friends, Elect Officers & Enjoy the Chaos of the Gold Brick Game. Hope to see you there!!



November Meeting Minutes

The November meeting was held on Saturday, November 9th in the Monroe Public Library. We started off with a wonderful presentation by Teri Marche' on her trip to the Sterling Mine in New Jersey. It included a little bit of history, some great pictures, lots of information on the mine & materials and even some very cool specimens that Teri brought to show & share.

After Teri's presentation, the meeting was called to order at 11:15. The October minutes were approved and then we moved on to announcements. Cathy Romeis shared the flyer for the 2016 Agate Show (more on this later). Everyone was reminded that the Freeport show was this weekend and the Madison show would follow in 2 weeks. Dan said that he had talked to Ken Schweitzer via email. Ken recently bought a house that is over an hour closer to Monroe. His knee is healing slowly and he has extra time right now. Dan suggested that he might be a good person to research new field trip sites. Dan will suggest this to Ken. Teri said that she brought some Cana Lilly roots in for anyone that was interested.

The first two door prizes were drawn. Connor Trocke won a very neat coral fossil and Bob won a pretty pink opal.

Moving on to old business, Jordan showed the 2014 calendars. They are excellent! They will be available to members for \$10.50 and to the public for \$12.00. We do not have any new information on decals.

For new business, Jordan called for a nominating committee to contact people and see if they were interested in being officers. All 4 officer positions are up for election this year, so if you are interested in serving as President, Vice President, Treasurer or Secretary, please contact Dan Trocke, Teri Marche or Karen Rusch.

The next door prize was a neat seal bone fossil from Gainesville, IL. It was won by Dan Trocke. Teri Marche' won the fourth door prize. She won a pretty piece of petrified wood with smoky quartz from Alabama.

In other new business, Teri received a letter from Veronica Woods, the CEO of Agate Expo LLC. This is the

group that is putting together the huge agate show in 2016. They are looking for clubs to be involved with the show. After some discussion, it was decided that we are interested, but would like more information on what type of involvement they are looking for. Teri will respond and request more information.

Dan made a suggestion that the January field trip be to the Milwaukee Public Museum. The general consensus was that the museum would make an excellent field trip. We will work out the details and send out a field trip notice in January.

Teri then covered Show Business. She said that we have checks and contracts from 7 of the 10 dealers and she will contact the other 3. She was very excited to announce that she has a group (or possibly groups) from the High School that will take care of the food at the show. The biggest thing we still need for the show is speakers, so if you have any suggestions, let Teri know. She will get flyers to club members after Christmas. The kids activity this year will be fossil casting. Dan suggested that they form a show committee as it seems that a couple of things got missed. Dan suggested that we should collect email addresses at the show again this year and also that we have a sign up form for all of the jobs at the show to try and keep any one stuck at one activity all weekend. Teri suggested that Jack Hoxie and Dan try and get together with her in the near future to discuss advertising and these other ideas.

The final door prizes went to Christian Rusch – a nice piece of selenite and by Neil Trickel – a pretty piece of copper.

Thanks to the Wehinger's for the delicious treats!!! The next meeting will be the Christmas party and the Trocke's will take care of the snacks in January.

The meeting was adjourned and many club members travelled down to Freeport to enjoy the show.

What's Rockin'

The What's Rockin' had some great treats on it this month. Harold Carter brought a nice assortment of fossils from the road cut in Fennimore. Teri Marche' brought some treasures from her trip east. She had fluorescent minerals from the Sterling Mine in New Jersey; Cape May Diamonds; Shells from New Jersey and Shells from the Philadelphia Shell Show. Dan Trocke brought an assortment of interesting pieces. He had Neptunite; Dino Dung; a neat piece of Calcite and Copper and a Crinoid Fossil. Finally, Karen Rusch brought a most excellent Rock Witch :)

Enhydrous Quartz Geode



This is an enhydrous quartz geode from Salto do Jacui, in the basaltic province of Rio Grande do Sul, the southernmost state in Brazil.

A window was polished in the face of the geode to make it easier to see the water level and gas trapped inside as it is backlit and shaken side to side. I purchased this specimen about 5 years and there are no signs of it leaking or drying out.

These enhydrous geodes formed when silica rich fluids deposited chalcedony quartz on the walls of gas pockets inside cretaceous volcanic basalt over 66 million years ago. The geodes are collected today in primary or sedimentary clay soil resulting from the decomposition of the basalt. The quartz husk of the geode is much

more durable than the basalt it formed in, which explains why the geodes erode out of the basalt rock intact, without cracking, and the water and gas inside the geode is sometimes trapped and sealed inside.

I came across an abstract from an article in the Geologic Society of America

<http://gsabulletin.gsapubs.org/content/85/4/577.abstract> which claims a very interesting origin of the waters contained in the Salto do Jacui enhydrous geodes. Analyses of the Oxygen-18 isotope of oxygen and deuterium (Isotope of Hydrogen / Heavy Hydrogen) concentrations in the water contained in these geodes indicate that the waters contained in the geodes are likely of meteoric origin.

Submitted by Dan Trocke

December Mineral Events

Mineral Miner Open House

Sa: 12-6, Su: 12-5

Several flats of azurite, malachite, copper, and cuprite from Milpillas Mine, Sonora, Mexico, and from Brazil, rutilated smoky citrine. Also, Wallace's collection at 20% off. All rockhounds are welcome! Come shop or come and just talk "rocks." Basement is 50% off.

Henry and Patsy Schmidt, 177 Blackhawk Rd., Highland Park, IL.

International Gem and Jewelry Show

December 13-15, 2013

Fr: 12pm-6pm, Sa: 10am-5pm, Su: 11am-5pm — \$8 admission or free with prepaid admissions cards with club membership. Active military FREE with current ID. No children under 9 or strollers allowed.

Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, 5555 N. River Rd., Rosemont, IL.

December Events in Wisconsin

6 - 8 Blue Mounds - Caroling at the Cave. Local choir groups will gather at the Cave of the Mounds to serenade visitors with holiday cheer. Children will also be able to participate in holiday crafting and visit with Santa in the Visitor Center! Cave of the Mounds, 2975 Cave of the Mounds Road. For more information call (608) 437-3038.

6 - 8 Spring Green - Spring Green Country Christmas. Enjoy old-fashioned Christmas traditions and small-town hospitality with an artistic flair. Activities include Breakfast with Santa, holiday crafts to make and to buy, horse drawn wagon rides, Tour of Homes, Luncheon and Fashion Show, free kids' movies, tree lighting, music, distinctive shopping, tasty things to eat and spectacular fireworks. Throughout downtown Spring Green. For more information call (608) 628-1001.

6 West Bend - John McCutcheon's Winter Solstice Concert. One of the most respected and loved folksingers, John McCutcheon performs with a full band for this special Winter Solstice concert, 7:30pm in campus theatre. UW-Washington County, 400 University Dr.,. For more information call (262) 335-5208.

6 Wisconsin Dells - 'Escanaba in da Moonlight' performance at Monk's at the Wilderness. Come to Monk's at the Wilderness for a performance of the long time deer hunting favorite 'Escanaba in da Moonlight.' Performances will start with dinner featuring a variety of entree choices. Call the number below for ticket information or to make reservations. Monk's Bar & Grill At the Wilderness, 45 Hillman Road,. Event starts at 6:30PM. For more information call (608) 254-6665.

7 Lake Geneva - Holiday Craft Fair. Get your holiday shopping underway at the Holiday Craft Fair in Lake Geneva Wisconsin. Featuring crafters throughout the Midwest, all proceeds will be used for the 8th grade graduation. Concessions are available, raffles throughout the day and a visit from Santa Claus. Woods School. For more information call (262) 248-3816.

7 Madison - 9th Annual Holiday Art/Craft Sale. Handmade and repurposed gift items at reasonable prices. Free parking, admission, refreshments. Most items \$30 and under. Bake sale benefits food pantry. 402 Highpoint Rd, Stark Realty Bldg. For more information call (608) 291-0010.

8 Milwaukee - Santa Hustle 5K. Be a part of one of the largest growing races as thousands of Santas will hit the streets of Milwaukee at the Second Annual Santa Hustle

5k Run/Walk at Veteran's Park on Sunday, December 8, 2013 at 9:00 A.M. **Course still being determined, location subject to change. Every participant will receive a free Santa hat, beard, and customized Santa dri-fit shirt to wear while running. Come out out for a morning of outrageous holiday decorations, festive music, and a large after party! 1010 N. Lincoln Memorial Dr. For more information call (847) 829-4536.

13 Reedsburg - Living Windows in Downtown Reedsburg. Walk the streets of Downtown Reedsburg and watch your favorite Christmas carols come to life in the downtown businesses windows. This event is free and open to the public. Downtown Reedsburg. Event starts at 6:00PM and ends at 8:00PM. For more information call (608) 524-5392.

13 - 15 Spring Green - Spring Green Country Christmas. Spring Green Country Christmas continues this weekend, including a four-stop progressive dinner, Children's Choir concerts, Holiday Open House in area stores, tasty treats and plenty of interesting options for gift-shopping, including in-store surprises. Downtown Spring Green. For more information call (608) 628-1001.

14 Wisconsin Dells - Santa's Workshop at Tanger Outlet Center. Come to Suite 241 in the Tanger Outlet Center and get your photo taken with Santa! Also bring a gift to donate to local children in need and receive a free digital photo session with Santa! Tanger Outlet Center, 210 N. Gasser Road. Event starts at 10:00AM and ends at 2:00PM. For more information call (608) 253-5380

28 Boulder Junction - 7th Annual Between the Holidays Celebration . Celebrate the snowy season at the Boulder Junction Winter Park on Old Hwy K from 4pm to 6:30pm. Festivities will include a chili dump, bonfire, music, ice-skating, cross country skiing, fireworks and more. Winter Park on Old County Road K East of Downtown. For more information call (715) 385-2400.

31 Portage - New Year's Eve at Cascade Mountain. Celebrate New Year's Eve this year at Cascade Mountain! Event will feature fireworks, music, and snow tubing & skiing until midnight. Cascade Mountain, Cascade Mountain Road. For more information call (608) 742-5588.



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**Just in time for
Christmas and
Santa Approved!**





November Meeting



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