

THE BADGER DIGGIN'S

The Badger Lapidary and Geological Society, Inc.

Monroe, Wisconsin

Devoted to the Earth Sciences

Vol. 49, No 5

May 2014

President's Message

Greetings, Badger Lapidary and Geological Society members, spring has been slow arriving. Even the trees agree; most have only just begun to leaf out. I did see one large tree in full bloom last week over near Whitewater or Ft. Atkinson with white flowers kind of like a pear tree, but it was fuller, almost round. I believe we are planning to go to a local quarry after the meeting. Perhaps the weather will cooperate. There is a small chance of showers so take precautions.

Marv Hanner, President
President, Badger Lapidary and Geological Society

*The May Meeting will be held on
Saturday, May 10th at 10:00 at the
Monroe Public Library. We will
meet in the parking lot
immediately after the meeting and
proceed as a group to a local
quarry for some collecting. Please
bring hard hats and safety glasses,
sturdy shoes and collecting tools
along! Hope to see everyone on
Saturday!!*

*Laurie Trocke
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BLGS 2013 Calendar of Events

May 10th Meeting: Local Monroe Quarry

May 24th Field Trip: Door County

June 21th Meeting: Annual Picnic

June 28th Field Trip: Indiana

July 12th Field Trip: Keokuk, IA (Jacobs Geode Mine)

July 26th Field Trip: Casseville, WI

August 9th Field Trip: Utica, IL

August 23rd Field Trip: South Dakota

September 13 Meeting: Annual Show & Tell

September 27th Field Trip: Local Quarry (Tbd)

October 11th Meeting: Micro Day

October 25th Field Trip: Lapidary Day at the Trockes

November 8th Meeting: Fakes & Manmade Minerals

December 13th Meeting: Annual Christmas Party



April Meeting Minutes

The April meeting was called to order at 11:30 on Saturday, April 12th, after a great presentation & hands on activity. Everyone got to try their hand at making either gem trees or a gem tree pendant. Many thanks to Dan Trocke for the presentation and bringing in the tools & supplies. There were some beautiful little trees by the end of the day!!

The first item on the agenda was the Treasurer's report. Linda gave a breakdown on the show results. We had a great turnout for the show this year, though there was some confusion on the numbers attending as we switched the color of tickets halfway thru!! The fish pond & kids activity did a nice business as always and we collected quite a few donations at the front door. Linda has the final numbers from the show if you would like to see them.

We then moved on to announcements. Brian Green said that the picnic would be moved to June 21st and combined with the Freeport and Rockford clubs. It will be held at Tom & Dar Gitchell's again this year. This is a wonderful place for the picnic and everyone had a grand time last year.

Dan Trocke said that the April field trip would be to the Bellevue quarry for agates. The June field trip will be to Indiana to collect fossils & geodes. It coincides with the Bedford, IN rock show. This is a huge show and includes an outdoor swap meet. Dan will send a separate email out with information on these two trips.

The first two door prizes were handed out. Jayden Trocke won a large plate of fossils and Bob won a nice piece of Hornblend from Bear Lake Diggings in Ontario.

We did not have any old business and the only new business was a discussion of any tools or equipment that the club should invest in. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please let one of the officers know.

Dave Cress one the next door prize, a nice piece of pink Dolomite and Teri Marche' won a nice Botroidal Hematite prize.

We then moved on to Show Business. Teri thanked everyone for all of their help and also gave out some

individual Thank you gifts. She gave gifts to: Dan Trocke for the Fluorescent display, advertising, moving the trailer and helping with set-up/tear-down; Dave Reese for helping set up tables; Brian & Cindy Green for running the sales table; Neil & Linda Trickel for their demo table and also Linda for taking care of the money during the show; Marv Hanner for his fantastic Rock Wizard; Clay Schroll "who pesters me to no end"; Donna Reese for being there to keep us all sane; the kids in the club for all of their hard work – 'they keep a lot of things going'; and Dave & Sue Cress for help with set-up and tear down and also help at the front door.

We then discussed whether we should have a show next year or not. Erin Trocke made a motion to have a show next year, which was 2nd by Neil. The motion carried unanimously. Teri will commit to being show chair for next year.

We discussed possibly changing the show times for next year, staying open later on Saturday and closing earlier on Sunday. We will discuss this possibility again, closer to the next year's show. Teri asked if the Greens would agree to be in charge of the sales table next year and if Laurie would agree to run the kids games. They agreed. Teri also encourages everyone to do a display next year, we had several empty cases this year and it would be great if these were filled at the next show.

Marv suggested that there might be a better way to call the hourly door prizes when there is a speaker. Possibly calling a few minutes before or waiting until after the speaker is finished.

Dan Trocke said that he either needed help setting up the fluorescent display or needed to be excused from moving tables and setting up the main show floor.....it is too much work to try and do both and he winds up staying away setting the display up all night Friday night. It was suggested that the fluorescent display be included in the sign up sheets.

If you have any ideas for a theme or special exhibit for next year's show, please send them to Teri. Erin Trocke suggested 'Purple' as a theme, but Teri thought that might be a little vague :)

The last two door prizes were won by Brian Green won a nice Orthoceras from Erford, Morocco and Marv won a piece of Calcite from Chihuahua, Mexico.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00.

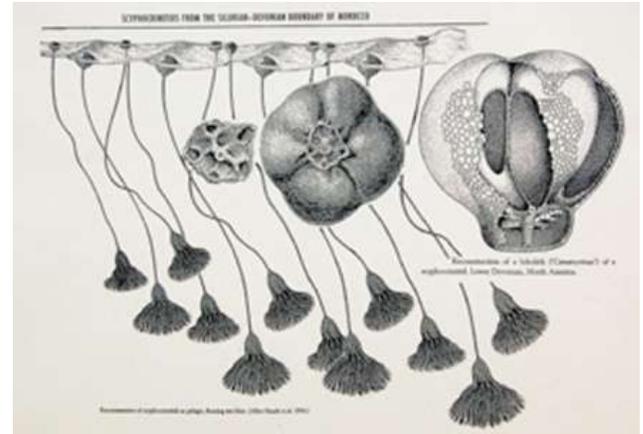
Thanks to the Trickels for the great snacks.

What's Rockin'

We had some great pieces for the what's rockin' table this month. Teri Marche' brought some beautiful fluorite pieces and had nicely displayed on a light table. She had a couple of pieces of Chinese fluorite, a wonderful piece from Cave-in-rock and a fantastic piece of blue fluorite from France. Teri also had a nice piece of blue Barite from Morocco, Cerrusite from the Nakhlak Mine in Iran and a Problematic fossil, which is from an extinct molascan group that was found in Sullivan, MO.

Dan Trocke shared some wonderful finds mined with the silver pick (purchased) at the MAPS Fossil show this spring: A Neanderthal scraper artifact that was made from Libyan desert glass (glass formed during a meteor impact 26 millions years ago and later knapped to make tools by Neanderthal hunters during the Pleistocene; a piece of an Edmontosaurus dinosaur pelvic bone from Utah; a Crinoid Calyx (flower like tentacle head) labeled Zeacrinites Worthani from Northwest Alabama; a Methacanthina Devonian Trilobites from Wales; a Hamaar Laghdad fish fossil in nodule from Morocco; a Tully Monster fossil from Braidwood, IL; a partial Pachycephalosaurus dinosaur vertebra; and lastly a pair of Crinoid Floats called Loboliths, which come from the Devonian of Oklahoma. Most crinoids were held in place by a holdfast, root-like system.

A few species were bottom bobbers and floaters. These unique crinoids are believed to have floated with the currents with the calyx (flower like tentacle head) facing down. The Lobolith was chambered and filled with some form of gas produced by the crinoid. The gas caused the crinoid to float and could probably be regulated to allow the crinoid to move up and down in the water column (see illustration).



A Lesson Learned in the Field – Teri Marché

Door Prize Article

One summer, a few years ago, we were in Colorado, down at the south end of South Park, at Hartzel, digging for blue barite. “We” included Mike Reisch, Dave Zimmerman, and, for those who remember them, our Canadian friends, Johanna and Normand. The latter two had a carful of supplies for collecting, as did we all, but theirs included a bucketful of plastic handle bags, like the ones you get at the grocery store. It was a bright blue but gusty day, and when they opened their car, the wind picked up a plastic bag at just the right angle. It took off, literally, and before anyone could catch it, that bag was off, higher than a kite, and headed for the next county, or maybe the next state. It got so high that we lost sight of it entirely. I have often wondered where that thing ever came back to earth – if it did!

That experience so impressed me that now no plastic bag from our house goes into the recycling bin without being tied in a knot so it won’t blow away. I also concluded that plastic bags have no place in the field. First of all, they are too easily ripped or broken when filled with rocks, especially those with sharp edges. Second, like the one at Hartzel, they too easily get away.

Traditional collecting bags, before plastic, were made of cloth. I remember seeing some of these, although they were rather smallish. So what to do?

On one field trip, club member, Harold Carter, pulled out some wonderful collecting bags. Large, soft, sturdy, roomy, and best of all, they were cheap. They were made of the legs from old blue jeans, cut off below the worn out knees and sewn across. They are totally reusable, sturdy enough for the sharpest rocks, soft enough to protect larger but delicate material, and, best of all, they won’t blow away. They are also a great way to recycle old blue jeans. It doesn’t take long to accumulate a good supply, and now they are all that I use.

Another idea comes from club member Cathy Romeis, who works part-time in a thrift store for second-hand items. Among the donations that come in there seem to

be lots of old canvas tote bags. She has accumulated a bunch of those for collecting. They have the same advantages as the blue jean bags, with the added feature of handles that can be slung over an arm or shoulder.

I am sure there are other ideas out there, but I am equally sure that plastic bags have no place in the natural world we inhabit when collecting. The sight of that bag heading for the stratosphere will stick with me for a while!

Hope you can join us in Door County for the May Field Trip. We will visit the fantastic Earth Haven Museum and have access to some local farms for collecting opportunities. More details will follow soon!



May Mineral Events

May 10-BIGLERVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA:

Franklin County Rock and Mineral Club, Central Pennsylvania Rock and Mineral Club; outdoor pavilion; South Mountain Fairgrounds, 615 Narrows Rd.; Sat. 8-3; adults \$1, students and children free; contact Tom Smith, 10 Roger Ave., Shippensburg, PA 17257, (717) 532-7204; e-mail: tsmith1012@comcast.net

May 10-HAYSVILLE, KANSAS:

3rd Annual Rock Swap & Sale; Silver-n-Stones; Hometown Market; 100 S. Main; Sat. 9-4; free admission; Bring your own tables Rocks Fossils Slabs Lapidary Tools; contact Steve Hurlock; e-mail: Silverstones@cox.net

May 16-18-JOPLIN, MISSOURI:

8th Annual Outdoor Rock Swap; Tri-State Gem & Mineral Society; Schifferdecker Park; 7th and Schifferdecker Ave.; Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-3; free admission, \$35 setup fee for swappers/dealers; dealers welcome, first come first served for outdoor spaces, provide your own shelter/tables; contact Chris Wiseman, PO Box 555, Joplin, MO 64802, (417) 623-1180

May 16-18-SOUTHGATE, MICHIGAN:

40th Annual Show; 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 free; 18 dealers, kids' attractions, mineral and lapidary displays, free mineral kits for kids and teachers, demonstrations, crystals, fossils, jewelry, rocks; contact Bill Barr, 1405 Hewett Dr., Ann Arbor, MI 48103, (505) 803-4888;

e-mail: wbarr@umich.edu; Web site: www.mmls.us

May 17-18-WAUWATOSA, WISCONSIN:

Wisconsin Geological Society; Muellner Bldg., Hart Park; 72nd and State St.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; adults \$3 (one person) or \$5 (two people), students and children free; more than 20 dealers, lapidary supplies, tools, books, rough material, slabs, finished specimens, cabochons, jewelry, carvings, fossils, informative displays, children's activities; 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 24-25-WHEATON, ILLINOIS:

Chicagoland Gems & Minerals Assn.; Dupage County Fairgrounds; 2015 W. Manchester Rd.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$5, seniors and students (13-17) \$3, service personnel and children (under 13) free; free gift for children in "Kids' Korner", dealers, beads, fossils, gemstones, handcrafted jewelry, minerals, supplies, tools, demonstrations, faceting, fossil preparation, gem trees, glass fusing, jewelry making, micromounts, scrimshaw, silver smithing, opal cutting, wire wrapping, fossil exhibits, lapidary, gems, minerals, silent auctions, door prizes; contact Richard Dillon, PO Box 360, Wasco, IL 60183, (630) 377-0197; e-mail: CGMA@sbcglobal.net; Web site: www.chicagolandgemshow.org

May Events in Wisconsin

- **10 Baraboo - Frog Safari at Devil's Lake State Park.** Come to a frog safari at Devil's Lake State Park and take a nocturnal hike while listening for the different frog species of the park. Bring a flashlight. Devil's Lake State Park, S5975 Park Rd. Event starts at 8:00PM and ends at 9:30PM. For more information call (608) 356-8301.
- **10 - 11 North Freedom - Mother's Day Special at the Mid-Continent Railway Museum.** Treat Mother to a 5-course dinner served in first class cars by uniformed waiters. Dinner train departs Saturday evening at 6:15pm. On a smaller scale treat Mom to first class service, trains depart on Saturday at 11:00am and 1:00pm. There will also be Sunday Mother's Day Brunch Trains at 10:30am and 12:45pm. Mid-Continent Railway Museum, E8948 Diamond Hill Rd. For more information call (800) 930-1385.
- **10 Wisconsin Dells - FFA Plow Day.** Come to Plow Day hosted by FFA and check out antique tractors as they plow the fields. Event is free and open to public, concessions will be available. Marv Grefe Farms, 4046 Highway B. Event starts at 10:00AM and ends at 2:00PM.
- **11 Prairie du Sac - Salute to Mothers at Wollersheim Winery.** In honor of Mother's Day Mother's will receive a free winery tour when accompanied by their family! Wollersheim Winery, 7876 Hwy 188. Event starts at 10:00AM and ends at 5:00PM. For more information call 1-800-VIP-WINE.
- **13 Lake Delton - Going Fishing on Lake Delton.** Come fishing on Lake Delton at this free event. Bring a pole if you have one but no bait or equipment necessary. Chaperones are encouraged to attend. Kaminski Park, Cty Rd A & Dam Rd. Event starts at 4:00PM and ends at 6:00PM. For more information call (608) 254-7458.
- **16 Baraboo - Program on Bird Songs at Devil's Lake State Park.** Come to Devil's Lake State Park for a program on bird songs. Event begins at the Nature Center to become familiarized with common bird songs, then moves outside to listen to the birds. Devil's Lake State Park, S5975 Park Rd. Event starts at 6:30PM and ends at 8:00PM. For more information call (608) 356-8301.
- **17 Baraboo - Owl Prowl at Devil's Lake State Park.** Come to Devil's Lake State Park for their Owl Prowl. Explore the Steinke Basin and Johnson Moraine looking for barred owls. Bring footwear that can get muddy and a flashlight. Meet at the Steinke Basin parking lot. Devil's Lake State Park, S5975 Park Rd. Event starts at 8:00PM and ends at 9:30PM. For more information call (608) 356-8301.
- **17 - 18 Janesville - Janesville Renaissance Faire.** A step back in time, a leap forward in fun! Join us for music and merriment, shopping and delicious treats, cannon fire and fire juggling, children's crafts and family fun. Traxler Park, Main Street. For more information call (608) 289-0699.
- **17 Waukesha - Wisconsin Zombie Mud Run.** The Wisconsin Zombie Mud Run is a thrilling endurance race for your life that pits you against pandemic (obstacle course) and successfully navigate the 5K course and all 13 obstacles, while attempting to avoid the multitude of zombies and losing all 3 of your life lines. 1000 Northview Road. For more information call (262) 844-5611.
- **20 Madison - Wright Design Series.** The Wright Design Series was inspired by master architect Frank Lloyd Wright who, although known for his architectural designs, also created designs in furniture, clothing, textiles and tableware. The free lectures and discussions highlight a wide array of design topics, including the fields of architecture, interior design, graphic design/visual communication and industrial design. Monona Terrace; One John Nolen Drive. For more information call (608) 261-4000.
- **24 Phillips - Plant Swap & Sale.** Bring your plants to swap or sell during the trellis workshop and be sure to check out the selection of plants available at the Friends of Fred Smith Studio all summer long. Wisconsin Concrete Park, N8236 South Hwy. 13. For more information call (715) 339-7282.
- **24 Spooner - Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Day & Wooden Boat and Canoe Show.** Come to Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Day and Canoe Show for a fun-filled event featuring live music and great wooden boats and canoes. 312 N Front St. Event starts at 11:00AM and ends at 4:00PM. For more information call (715) 635-5002.
- **May 31 - Jun 1 Minocqua - June Bloom Arts & Crafts Festival.** Two day art and craft show. Featuring live music, artist demonstrations, food and Unique handcrafted items by over 50 exhibitors. Torpy Park, Downtown Minocqua. For more information call (715)-356-5266.

Wisconsin Geological Society

Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show

Saturday May 17th

Sunday May 18th

10am - 5pm both days

Children's Activities!

Exhibits!

Dealer and Club Sales!

Free Parking

Fossils Admission: \$3.00

Minerals 2 for \$5

Lapidary accompanied

Jewelry Children Free

Indoors in the Muellner Bldg.

at Hart Park

Wauwatosa WI

Enter at 72nd and State Street



Gem



Trees



Badger Lapidary & Geological Society, Inc.

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