

THE BADGER DIGGIN'S

The Badger Lapidary and Geological Society, Inc.

Monroe, Wisconsin

Devoted to the Earth Sciences

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President's Message

Welcome fellow rockhounds,

We had only a few attendees last month, so maybe there will be more of us this time around. The weather has been nice for outings; one fellow I know found a nice arrowhead recently. Lapidary day is coming up near the end of the month. It is time to pick and choose what you might like to work on during that time. I hope to see you at our meeting, meanwhile keep looking for that elusive gem you have determined you must have.

Your president,

Marv Hanner

*The October Meeting will be held
at the Monroe Public Library on
Saturday October 10th at 10:00 am
We will have a guest speaker, Gerry
Gunderson. Hope to see you there!!*

*Laurie Trocke
Newsletter Editor*



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BLGS 2015 Calendar of Events

- Oct 10th:** Meeting – Monroe Public Library
Guest Speaker, Gerry Gunderson
- Oct 24th:** Field Trip – Lapidary Day – Trocke's Farm
- Nov 14th:** Meeting – Monroe Public Library
- Dec 12:** Meeting – Annual Christmas Party



The October Meeting will be our Annual Lapidary Day Party. This will be held out at the Trocke's Farm on Saturday, October 24th. Bring a dish to pass for lunch and rocks to cut, polish, crack or grind. Hope to see you there!!

Minutes of Meeting, September 12, 2015

Members in Attendance: Neil and Linda Trickle, Teri Marché, Clay Schroll, Bob Gilbert, Marv Hanner, Deb, Don, and Arienne Wehinger, Tom and Karen Rusch, Eric and Tracy Punsel

Program: Show and Tell:

Clay Schroll brought a selection of mica, tourmaline, and feldspar from his trip to the Wasserman Mine, visited while staying in Bethel, Maine

Bob Gilbert brought a nice arrowhead and several landshells from the local area

Deb Wehinger brought samples from club fieldtrips. From the Copper Country trip she showed copper bought from a local collector and pieces of showy red basalt conglomerate cemented with chrysocolla, azurite, and malachite from the Bumbletown Mine. From the Shullsburg trip she brought several nice large dogtooth calcite crystals.

Tracy Punsel brought a large Graf cephalopod and some agates from the Belleview, Iowa trip.

Teri Marché brought a selection of Pennsylvania minerals bought from an old collection while on a visit back east. They included williamsite, zirconite, chromite, serpentine, cacoxinite, and beraunite from Lancaster County.

Before and after the meeting, Eric Punsel took photos of specimens for the calendar using his nifty portable light stand and his tablet computer. The results looked great and will be seen on this year's calendar. Many thanks, Eric!

Marv then called us to order for a short meeting. There were no minutes, since the most recent meeting was the picnic. The treasurer reported that we are well solvent! Announcements included information about the upcoming trip to Illinois for fluorite, and news of several fall rock shows.

Under Old Business we discussed ideas for possible equipment purchases. Suggestions included a good metal detector, a flexible wheel wet polishing kit, and a new saw. Another thought concerned issues of

expenses for upkeep of the show trailer. However due to the low attendance it was decided to wait until another meeting for any final decision. While on the topic of equipment, we had a reminder that all club equipment must be brought back for lapidary day at the end of October.

New Business consisted of a discussion about this year's calendar and whether to do one. Deb Wehinger moved that we do a calendar again this year. Teri Marché seconded, and the motion passed.

Our new Show Chair, Deb Wehinger reported the following under Show Business: The dates for the show are April 9 & 10, with set-up on the 8th. The show will be later this year due to Easter, which falls on our regular date. The times will be 9:00 to 5:00 on Saturday and 9:00 to 4:00 on Sunday. All of last year's vendors are returning, and Deb is still waiting on word from the kitchen folks. Tom Gitchell will bring his geode cracker again.

Thanks you to Deb for this month's treats.

Upon adjourning several of us headed to Rockford for that club's Swap and Sale.

Speaker for the October Meeting

Our speaker at the BLGS meeting on Oct. 10 will be Gerry Gunderson from Madison. Gerry is a retired earth science teacher who will be talking about various kinds of microfossils that he has collected in Wisconsin and elsewhere. He will have a Powerpoint presentation illustrating his findings.

Thanks to Jordan Marche' for arranging the speaker!

Artists and the Mineralogy of Paint

There are some old ideas about artists being just a bit looney. As an artist I can tell you that such is not always the case. However, it takes very little research to understand the source of these notions. You just have to look at where they found their art materials.

I have in my watercolor box, tubes of my favorite blue, Pthalo Blue, short for pthalocyanine. It comes in green as well, and both are gorgeous! I am always careful with that one. I also have an old tube of Strontium Yellow, a lovely delicate color. I have to try that with a Geiger counter sometime. Then there are the cadmiums, both red and orange. Cancer in a tube, there.

These are especially an issue with water-based paint, because of the way artists (including myself) work with their brushes, especially the finest, small ones. In order to get a good, sharp point on such a brush, we often use our lips to pull the hairs together. Now read the above paragraph again in that light. Then go on, because it gets even worse.

Throughout prehistory, as far back as ancient cave painters, artists have used whatever they could find to get the colors they wanted, most often from clays and minerals. We still use a variety of Umbers and Siennas, named for the areas of Italy where the clays were dug. They produce several varieties of brown. Ocher is a yellow-tan from limonite infused clay. Luckily cave painters' method of application has gone out of style. They took the paint in their mouths and blew it onto the walls.

Okay so far, just a little extra iron in the diet. In those days, right up to the 19th Century invention of collapsible metal tubes, artists had to grind their own pigments as they needed them, since there was no way to mix up the paint and keep it from drying out. Remember that, and read on.

Two favorite colors came from a similar source: copper mines. Azurite and Malachite were ground to powder to produce Mountain Blue, and Mountain Green from the days of ancient Egypt right

up through the Roman Empire and the Medieval Period. So, add a little copper to the mix, not too bad yet. Eventually Lapis-Lazuli was introduced and ground up to make Ultramarine Blue, a favorite with Medieval manuscript illuminators.

However, it is the reds and yellows that really got dangerous. Realgar, a beautiful, and dangerous arsenic mineral was ground up and produced a wonderful, deep red. Put a good point on that brush! Realgar degrades into Orpiment, without losing a bit of the arsenic, and its ground up pigment produced an equally wonderful bright yellow. Yummy.

Of course, there was an alternative to the arsenic: mercury in the form of Cinnabar. This produced Vermillion Red and is still in use. While you are imagining ancient painters grinding up those pigments, and pointing their brushes with their lips, think about the Chinese artists who actually carved decorative screens from massive Cinnabar. The screens are still around, but I would guess the artists didn't last very long.

Other colors used by painters have fewer ill effects. Black was easily produced through burning wood to charcoal, or scraped from oil lamps, to produce Lamp Black. Powdered chalk was a good source of White, although both Lead and Zinc were widely used, into recent times, for the same color. Leaded white paint has been banned, due to its effects on growing children who find it sweet and chew it from the woodwork. Workers in factories producing Lead White were also at risk for lead poisoning. I also read somewhere that lead-white was applied as makeup by Roman women. I can just imagine the effects of that, along with the famous lead plumbing in Roman houses.

A nice barn-red was produced with Hematite, particularly the lower grade ore. As a matter of fact, the wide availability of large quantities of such ore allowed for production of large, inexpensive quantities of red paint. Because it was so cheap, farmers chose it to paint their barns. That is why barns are red. I have samples of hematite from the Rock Springs, WI area that can be

dipped into water and applied directly to paper for drawing or painting.

So, considering all the dangerous minerals they used in their paint, it is not surprising that artists were often a bit strange. It is instead surprising that they survived with minds intact enough to pass on their skills!

Submitted by Teri Marche'



October Mineral Events

9-10—MOUNT IDA, ARKANSAS: Annual Amateur World Championship Quartz Crystal Digging Contest; Mount Ida Area Chamber of Commerce, Montgomery County Fairgrounds; Fairgrounds Rd; Fri. 9 am-4 pm, Sat. 9 am-4 pm; \$75/\$100; Annual Amateur Quartz Crystal Digging Contest. Keep all you find, meet other miners; maybe even win a prize!; contact Sherrie Ellison, Mount Ida Area Chamber of Commerce, Mount Ida, AR 71957, (870) 867-2723; e-mail: director@mountidachamber.com; Web site: www.mountidachamer.com

9-11—WARREN, MICHIGAN: Annual show; Michigan Mineralogical Society, Macomb Community College ; 14500 E. 12 Mile Rd, S. Campus Expo Center; Fri. 9:00 am-6:00 pm, Sat. 10:00 am-7:00 pm, Sun. 11:00 am-5:00 pm; Adults \$8, Seniors +62 \$5, Children ages 5-17 \$4; The 71st Annual Greater Detroit Gem, Mineral, & Fossil Show, presents one of the largest collection of gems, minerals, & fossils in the Midwest. This year's theme: "A RAINBOW OF CRYSTALS". This family friendly and educational show features displays from internationally renowned universities, museums, and collections. This very exciting show is for the beginning collector to the experienced collectors. Over 60 dealers and vendors offer specimens, lapidary supplies, jewelry, collecting supplies, & printed materials. Lectures and demonstrations take place throughout the weekend. Please check www.michmin.org after April 2015, for updated show information including

new author book signings, new university listings, and other exciting events that will take place. School tour information can be obtained at joodiddy13@yahoo.com Vendor information can be obtained at mydirtypawdog@yahoo.com ; contact Patricia Graves-Wesolosky, 1151 Yule Rd, Leonard, MI 48367; e-mail: mmsgeograves@hotmail.com; Web site: www.michmin.org

10-11—TOPEKA,, KANSAS: Annual show; Topeka Gem & Mineral Society, Inc., KS Expocentre AG Hall; 17th & Topeka Blvd.; Sat. 10 am-6 pm, Sun. 10 am-5 pm; Adults \$5, Students \$1 (13-17), Children under 13 free w/adult; Dealers, Demonstrators in wire wrap and silversmithing, 4-H Displays, silent auctions, lapidary supplies, grab bags, and door prizes. Web www.topekagemandmineral.org or contact M. Mowry rock2plate@aol.com 785-267-2849 Dealer inquiries welcome.; contact Millie Mowry, 1934 SW 30th St, Topeka, KS 66611-1917, (785) 267-2849; e-mail: rock2plate@aol.com; Web site: www.topekagemandmineral.org

16-18—FORT WAYNE, INDIANA: Annual show; Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society, Allen County Fairgrounds; 2726 Carroll Road; Fri. 10:00 am-6:00 pm, Sat. 10:00 am-6:00 pm, Sun. 11:00 am-5:00 pm; Adults \$5.00, Seniors \$3.00, Students \$1.00, Children 12 and under free; Attractions: gem, mineral, fossil and jewelry dealers, lapidary arts demonstrations, Viking Knit classes, exhibits, geode cracker, gem sluice, kid's games, door prizes, silent auction, fluorescence room, touch 'n feel table, mineral ID, speakers (Saturday.) ; contact Russell Greim, 7619 Co. Rd. 68, Spencerville, IN 46788, (260) 403-0450; e-mail: 3riversshow@gmail.com; Web site: http://members.tripod.com/3riversgem_mineral/

17-18— CHICAGO HEIGHTS, ILLINOIS: Annual show; South Suburban Earth Science Club, Prairie State College; 202 S. Halsted St.; Sat. 10:00 am-5:00 pm, Sun. 10:00 am-5:00 pm; Admission is Free; The South Suburban Earth Science Club is eager to share their experience and knowledge of Earth's treasures with you! The weekend show, held in the Prairie Room Gym area, will have displays of minerals, fossils, artifacts, and jewelry making to name just a few. Come and enjoy the demonstrations on various aspects of the hobby. Purchase items, such as handmade jewelry, crystals, fossils, geodes, etc., from our dealers. There will be something of interest for all age groups including a children's activity area. ; contact Peggy Keating-Bolm, 20 Charles Ct., Crete, IL 60417, (708) 822-0361; e-mail: peggyjanekb@comcast.net

17-18—COTTAGE GROVE, MINNESOTA: Annual show; Minnesota Mineral Club, National Guard Training and Community Center; 8180 Belden Blvd.; Sat. 10:00 am-5:00 pm; Adults \$2.00, Children \$1.00; Exhibits - Dealers - Tailgate Sales - "Kids' Corner" - Programs - Demonstrations; contact phil gotsch, 8063 Hayes St. NE, Spring Lake Park, MN 55432, (763) 717-1641; e-mail: agatephil@earthlink.net; Web site: www.minnesotamineralclub.org

17-18—CLIO, MICHIGAN: Annual show; Flint Rock & Gem Club, Carter Middle School; 300 Upland Drive, 2120 Christner street; Sat. 10:00 am-5:00 pm, Sun. 10:00 am-5:00 pm; Adults \$3.00, Students \$1.50, Children \$1.50 ages 6-12; Free Admissions for Scouts in uniform. Minerals, Rock's displays & lapidary skills; contact Diana Dady, 2120 Christner Street, Burton, MI 48519, (810) 744-0852; e-mail: ddady@comcast.net; Web site: FlintRockandGem.org

23-25—MASON, MICHIGAN: Annual show; Central Michigan Lapidary & Mineral Society, Main Arena, Ingham County Fair Grounds, Mason Mi.; 700E. Ash St., ; Fri. 6:00 pm-9:00 pm, Sat. 10:00 am-6:00 pm, Sun. 11:00 am-5:00 pm; Adults \$3.00, Students \$1.00, Children under 12 FREE with paying Adult; Free Parking, 12 Dealers, Club and Guest Displays, children's table, mineral identification kits, fluorescent mineral booth, hourly door prizes, mineral identification, petoskey stone polishing, raffle, silent auction, spinning wheel, working demonstrators and more.; contact L. Roger Laylin, 1770 Sandhill Rd., Mason, MI 48854, (517) 349-3249; e-mail: l.r.laylin@gmail.com; Web site: michrocks.org

24-25—HONOLULU, HAWAII: Annual show; Rock and Mineral Society of Hawaii, Outrigger on the Beach Hotel, Waikiki; Leahi Room, Upper Lobby, 2335 Kalakaua Ave.; Sat. 10:00 am-5:00 pm, Sun. 10:00 am-5:00 pm; Admission is Free; This is the only mineral show in Hawai'i, organized by and for the members of the Rock & Mineral Society of Hawai'i, with minerals and gems stones in one location that can be found nowhere else on the islands. ; contact Keith Kruger, PO Box 23020, Honolulu, HI 96823; e-mail: hui.pohaku@gmail.com; Web site: http://pohakugalore.net/Hui_pohaku/Annual-Hawaii-Mineral-Show.html

24-25—EVANSVILLE, INDIANA: Annual show; Evansville Lapidary Society, Washington Square Mall; 5011 Washington Ave; Sat. 10 am-7 pm, Sun. 12 pm-5 pm; Admission is Free; Back to our original location- Washington Square Mall featuring 20+ dealers. Junior Rockhounds booth with spin and win game, raffles, hourly door prizes, silent auction, private collectors' exhibits, arrowheads and artifacts, demonstrations and club booth. Offering specimens, crystals, fossils, minerals, fine jewelry, beads, carvings, rough, geodes, faceted stones, tumbled stones, slabs, cabochons, rough and more; contact Sara Rappee, 413 North Park Dr., Evansville, IN 47710, (812) 589-3079; e-mail: sararappee@gmail.com; Web site: www.evansvillelapidarysociety.tumblr.com

31-31—BIGLERVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA: Swap and Sale; Franklin County and Central Penn Rock & Mineral Clubs, South Mountain Fairgrounds; 615 Narrows Road; Sat. 8:00 am-3:00 pm; Adults + Seniors \$1.00, Students + Children are free!; Located in pavilion among trees; food stand; wonderful time with our hobby; contact Tom Smith, 10 Roger Ave, Shippensburg, PA 17257, (717) 552-6554; e-mail: tsmith1012@comcast.net

31-31—FAIRLESS HILLS, PENNSYLVANIA: Annual show; The Rock & Mineral Club of Lower Bucks County, PA, First United Methodist Church; 840 Trenton Road; Sat. 9:00 am-5:00 pm; Admission is \$2.00, Children are Free; contact Chuck O'Loughlin, 130 Maple Terrace,

Merchantville, NJ 08109, (856) 663-1383; e-mail: ultraviolation@yahoo.com

31-1—MIDLAND, MICHIGAN: Annual show; Mid-Michigan Rock club, Great Hall; 5121 Bay City Road; Sat. 10 am-6 pm, Sun. 10 am-4 pm; Adults \$1.00, Children .50¢; contact Dale Foster, 6113 Partridge Lane, Midland, MI 48640, (989) 513-7254; e-mail: MMRcrockclub@yahoo.com

Wisconsin October Events

- **2-11 Reedsburg - Fermentation Fest.** Wormfarm Institute presents Fermentation Fest – A Live Culture Convergence. A food and farming festival with a focus on fermentation and fun! There's something brewing in the crocks, kettles and jugs of Reedsburg, Wisconsin. From sourdough bread to home-crafted beer, pickles to soy sauce, chocolate to cheese, compost to silage, the Live Culture Convergence has it all. Farmers, chefs, artists, poets and cheese makers converge in the beautiful working lands of Sauk County with a series of tastings, demonstrations, cooking classes, art events, brewing seminars, farm tours and more.
- **9-10 Grafton, WI – October Fest.** Pumpkin carving contest, pumpkin lighting, pancake breakfast and more.
- **9-12 Sparta - Sparta Fall Fest.** Enjoy the pet parade, pie contest and fun for everyone. Held in historic downtown Water Street, Sparta.
- **10 New Glarus - Swiss Church Art and Craft Fair.** Art and Craft Fair to support Swiss UCC mission 18 Fifth Ave. For more information call (608)-527-4850.
- **10 Racine - Root River 5K.** This is one of our favorite trail runs! The Root River Pathway starts in the natural beauty of Island Park. 1704 Liberty Street. For more information call (877) 651-2440.
- **10 Madison - Quivey's Grove Beer Fest** – Now held for over 22 years with cold beer, live music, and hot food. Located at 6261 Nesbitt Road, Madison, Wisconsin.
- **10 Neshkoro - Neshkoro Scarecrow Festival.** Make your own scarecrow and enter it for a \$1 registration fee. Arts & craft vendors,

farmer's market, hayrides, petting zoo, pony rides, live music and food vendors. 10 AM to 5 PM. Activities held at Neshkoro Public Library, Main Street, River's Edge Park, and throughout the downtown area.

- **10 – 11 Cedarburg - Oktoberfest**
Our newest festival is Oktoberfest (formally German Festival), celebrating the German heritage of Cedarburg's founding fathers. The 7th Annual Oktoberfest will be located in beautiful Cedar Creek Park under a huge tent.
- **16 - 17 Onalaska - Quiltfest on the Mississippi.** Special Guest Karen McTavish Quilt display, Workshops, Raffle Quilt, Vendors, Boutique, Appraisals by AQS certified appraiser. October 16, 2015 Noon to 6 pm October 17 2015 9 am to 4 pm Onalaska United Methodist Church 212 4th Ave. For more information call (608) 781-4605.
- **16 West Bend - Fall Fest** . Annual Halloween celebration including business trick or treating, childrens games & activities as well as a spooky river walk! 215 N Main St. For more information call (262)338-3909.
- **16-18 Mineral Point, Spring Green, Dodgeville & Baraboo – Fall Art Tour**
Artisans open their studios and allow visitors a unique, behind the scenes view into how

their work is created. For more information, visit their website: www.fallarttour.com

- **17 Sparta - Zombie 3k.** Runners wear flag football style belts and run for their lives in this zombie infested course! Runners try to keep at least one flag through the race to survive the run!
- **Haunted Houses:** The Haunted Barn, Stoughton; Terror on the Fox, Green Bay; Haunted Cornfield, West Bend; Dead by Dawn Dead & Breakfast, Manitowoc; Hill Has Eyes, Franklin; Chamber of Horrors Haunt & Zombie Hunt, Fall River; Camp Dread, Janesville; Forest of Freaks, Janesville; Ghost Boat, Wisconsin Dells; Haunted Hayride, Highland; Haunted Train of Terror, Edgerton; Attack of the Rabid Rabbit, Madison; Siege Scare Factory, Mukwonago; Terror Trail, Wautoma; The Dark Carnival, Oconomowoc; Twisted Realms, Elkhorn; See <http://www.hauntedwisconsin.com/things-to-do/haunted-attractions> for more information on haunted attractions as well as family friendly things to do for Halloween.



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