

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

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

***Monroe, Wisconsin***

***Devoted to the Earth Sciences***

**Vol. 51, No 1**

**January 2016**

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

Happy New Year!

We have a fun filled year ahead of us. The planning committee meeting was very productive. Be sure to come to the Club meeting this Saturday to hear about the plans for this coming year. The committee has come up with some interesting and educational club meeting presentations along with some new field trips. It looks like we will have a "rocking" year ahead of us.

Clay

President, Badger Lapidary and Geological Society

*The January Meeting will be held on Saturday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at the Monroe Public Library at 10:00 am. The meeting activity will be a video. We will also make any updates/adjustments to the years trip & activity schedule from the planning meeting.*

*Laurie Trocke*

*Newsletter Editor*

The video is: ***The Great Oxidation Event: Diversity of Colorful Mineral Species***

Dr. Robert Hazen (Carnegie Institution) and Clarence Robinson (George Mason U.) present research in the new field of mineral evolution, which focuses on the changing diversity and distribution of mineral species over 4.5 billion years of Earth history. This beautifully illustrated program was presented at the Dallas Mineral Symposium 2014 and distributed to subscribers on DVD. Courtesy of Mike Riesch.



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## **BLGS 2016 Calendar of Events**

- Jan 9:** Meeting: Monroe Public Library at 10:00. Video – 'The Great Oxidation Event
- Jan 23:** Field Trip: Madison Rock Shop Crawl (Could possibly be exchanged w/the Feb trip) *Teri*
- Feb 13:** Meeting: Monroe Public Library at 10:00 – Making a Bolo *Teri*
- Feb 27:** Field Trip: Fryxell Museum (Could be changed w/Jan) *Dan*
- Mar 12:** Meeting: Monroe Public Library at 10:00 – Faceting Basics *Neal*
- Mar 26:** Field Trip: Fishpond Bagging at Dan & Laurie Trock's
- Apr 9 & 10:** Annual Show at Monroe High School
- Apr 23:** Field Trip: Local Monroe Quarry *Dan*
- May 14:** Meeting: Monroe Public Library at 10:00 – Wire Wrapping *Teri*
- May 28:** Field Trip: Rockford, IA Fossil Park *Clay*
- June 11:** Annual Picnic w/Rockford & Freeport Club at Gitchell's
- June 25:** Field Trip: Iron County, MI *Mike*
- July 9:** Field Trip: Agate Expo, Cedarburg, WI
- July 16:** Field Trip (Note date change): Moose Lake Agate Days, Mary Ellen Jasper – MN *Deb*
- Aug 13:** Field Trip: Local Agate Collecting *Dan*
- Aug 27:** Field Trip: Wausau Area w/Bill Schoenfuss (tentative)

- Sept 10:** Meeting: Monroe Public Library at 10:00 – Annual Show & Tell & Intro to Lost Wax Carving  
*Dan*
- Sept 24:** Field Trip: SW Wisconsin Mines *Marv*
- Oct 8:** Meeting: Monroe Public Library at 10:00 – Lost Wax Carving  
*Dan*
- Oct 22:** Field Trip: Lapidary Day at the Trockes & Lost Wax Casting  
*Dan*
- Nov 12:** Meeting: Monroe Public Library at 10:00 – Freeport Show
- Dec 10:** Meeting: Annual Christmas Party

**There is not a field trip in November or December due to the Holidays**

Teri and Jordan Marché hosted Deb, Don, and Arianne Wehinger, Ken Schweitzer, Debbie and Chuck Pendray, Marv Hanner, Clay Schroll, and Laurie, Erin, Jayden, Connor, and Dan Trocke on New Year's day for lunch and some fun while planning the year's meeting programs and field trips. We put together a calendar that includes some old favorites and some new adventures. Look it over and see what you think. None of it is "set in stone" so if you have some other ideas, we'll discuss the calendar at the meeting in January. Here's to a great 2016 of rockhounding!

## Minutes of the December Meeting

*Respectfully submitted by Teri Marché, Secy.*

### Members present:

Deb, Don, and Arianne Wehinger; Clay and Maxine Schroll; Bob Gilbert; Marv Hanner; Dave and Donna Reese; Dan, Laurie, Erin, Jayden, and Connor Trocke; Brian and Cindy Green; Linda Trickle; Jordan and Teri Marché; Danielle and Tyrell Rouse

The group assembled at 6:30 p.m. at the International Buffet in Monroe for the annual Christmas Party. After a fine meal, President Marv Hanner called the meeting to order at 7:40.

### Treasurer's Report:

We are well solvent, however, annual dues are now due, also club calendars are now for sale, \$13;00

### Minutes:

None were sent out due to a computer glitch at the Trocke's. They will be added to the January newsletter.

### Old Business:

The equipment authorized for purchase at the November meeting has been acquired. Teri brought along the Lee Faceting machine and the new diamond wheels. She also brought the new Wet Polishing Kit for the club to examine, having picked it all up at Kingsley North after Thanksgiving. Dan took the faceting machine to join our other equipment. Teri has the Wet Polisher for now.

### New Business:

After election of the new officers, we will need to have an Executive Committee meeting as early in January as possible to plan meeting programs and field trips for the year. Teri will host it at the Marché residence. Announcements and maps will follow by email.

The nominating committee presented the new slate of officers for election. They are as follows: Clay schroll – President, Brian Green – Vice President, Teri Marché – Secretary; Dan Trocke – Treasurer, Marv Hanner – Officer at Large.

Because there were no nominations from the floor, Teri moved that we vote on the slate as a whole, Donna Reese seconded, and the motion passed.

The entire slate was elected, and new President Clay Schroll took over the rest of the meeting.

## Show Business:

Deb had startling news to report. It seems that Dave Hirshbrunner, our contact at Monroe High School was required to resign from the district in November, and reimburse the district for over \$6,000. No cause was given. However, Deb quickly contacted the high school to be certain our dates for the show were still reserved. Thankfully we are ok!

All the dealers are settled, however, the Mitkoff's Sunshine Rock Company is not coming, and they will take their place

Deb is still waiting for the kitchen contract to be returned but has been assured it was an oversight, and the high school group still plans to do the food again.

Deb moved to adjourn and Teri seconded. Motion carried and we happily went on to our beloved Gold Brick Game.

A final note: On the way home from the party, the Marchés met up with a suicidal deer north of New Glarus. The deer got its wish, Teri's Exuinox was beautifully banged up and covered with deer hair, but the Marchés were fine. Teri's Chevy Rockmobile is being fixed as this is being written and should be set for another season of Rockin'.

## **Reprint of the Minutes of the November Meeting:**

*Respectfully submitted by Teri Marché, Secy.*

*Reprinted from the Dec Newsletter in case anyone missed them.*

President Marv Hanner called the meeting to order at 10:30

This meeting was rather "free-form" jumping around from one agenda item to another. I am reporting it as it should have gone had it followed the proper order, instead if chronologically (which made little sense).

Members present: Clay Schroll, Linda and Neal Trickel, Laurie, Erin, Conner, Jayden, and Dan Trocke, Robert Gilbert, Johnny Fay, Ken Schweitzer, Harold Carter, Marv Hanner, Jordan and Teri Marché

Program: Head down to Freeport for the Rock and Mineral Show

Minutes of the October meeting were approved, although a number of people reported not having received/read them. Aaaaargh!

Treasurer's Report: Once again we are very solvent!

Old Business: Dan reported on the work done to the trailer on lapidary day. They put on a new spring, and Dan may pick up another for the other side. However, he may need a back-up truck to haul the trailer in April, since his truck is on the fritz, and too far gone to repair. Also, for Lapidary Day, he cleaned out Tyrell's saw and purchased a significant amount of oil to replace the sludge. Dan asked if he could be reimbursed for this. Jordan moved, and Neal seconded approval of Dan's request, and the motion passed.

We again re-visited the question of whether or not to purchase new lapidary equipment for the club. Neal mentioned a used Lee Faceting Machine on the Kingsley-North website for \$350. He recommended it for anyone in the club as a starter machine. We also discussed the Wet Polisher for work on large, irregular material. Dan moved that the club purchase both, Teri seconded, and the motion passed. Neal also recommended that we get a set of wheels for the faceter. Teri will pick up the machines to save shipping.

The Nominating Committee reported a slate of officers for the December election, they are: *President*, Clay Schroll, *Vice President*, Brian Green, *Secretary*, Teri Marché, *Treasurer*, Dan Trocke, *Officer At Large*, Marv Hanner. There followed a discussion of issues for Dan in becoming Treasurer, particularly since he will be unable to be at our show on the Saturday. We'll work it out this year.

## What's Rockin' November Meeting

First Door Prize - Jayden Trocke won a lovely piece of Labradorite, probably from Madagascar.

New Business: Teri called for someone to take over the "What's Rockin'" duties. After a bit of discussion, Connor Trocke volunteered. We should see his first installment in this newsletter.

Treats for the meetings. We need to get a list for the next several meetings. The list is as follows: January, Clay Schroll; February, Marchés; March, open; April; Rock Show; May, open; June, Picnic

If Dan is to be Treasurer, he will have to relinquish Field Trip Chair. Dan recommended moving more toward a committee structure, in which several people would each be responsible for lining up, organizing, and publicizing a field trip. He also suggested using the January meeting program to create a schedule of trips and meeting programs as we did last year.

Second Door Prize – Linda Trickle won a beautiful uncut Ammonite, probably from Madagascar

Show Business: None to report, since the show chair was absent.

Third Door Prize: Ken Schweitzer won a lovely piece of Moroccan Aragonite

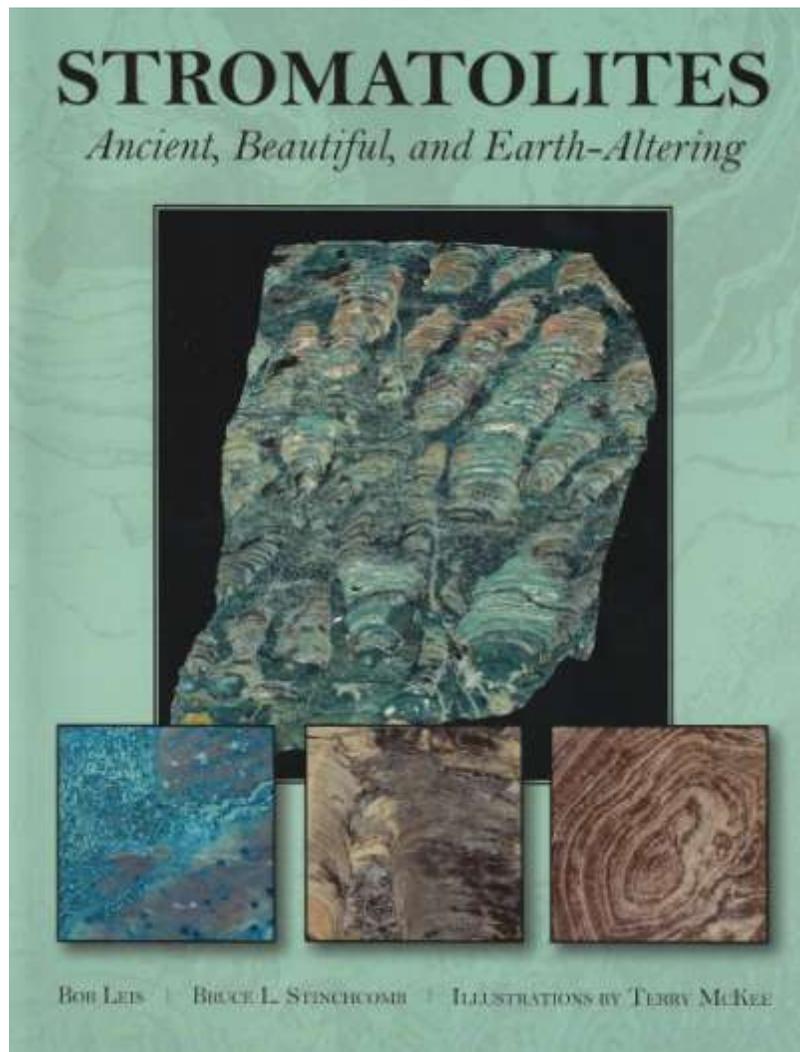
Teri moved and Dan seconded a motion to adjourn. Marv closed the meeting at 12:30, and we all headed south!

This month, we had a large variety of rock, mineral, and fossil specimens on show at the Badger Rock club meeting! We had everything, from Tourmaline needles, brought by Dan Trocke (Hi Dad!) to Bruceite from South Africa, brought by Marv Hanner.

Going into more detail, Marv also brought a Flourite from China. Clay brought a fossil bone (possibly whale, possibly not). Johnny brought a number of things including a Sodalite from Ontario, a "Train Reck Florite" from Mexico, and petrified wood from... and I quote... "A very old tree..." Harold brought a mystery algae fossil from a mystery location, Ken brought Amethyst geodes from Uruguay, and the Marchés (fancy é, courtesy of rage italics font ) brought a Flourite with Calcite and Sphalerite.

And Finally Dan Trocke, who went absolutely crazy this month and is taking up half of this paragraph..., Brought Tourmaline needles in Quartz, Green Banded Flourite, Canadian Brucite Needles in Quartz, Mexican Agates, an Azurite, Malichite, and Chrisacola mix rock, Rutile Needles in Quartz, Carnelian, Stromatolite from Lake Michigan, and last but certainly fanciest (despite being not a real rock) Victoria Stone, made by Dr. Imuri in Japan during the 1970s.

So... good job everyone! Keep bringing interesting rocks for you people to look at and me to type about! (oh and I'll notify you all when my website is up! (Invest in time machines today, for a brighter future yesterday! Support Connor!))



Review of *Stromatolites: Ancient, Beautiful, and Earth-Altering*, by R. J. (“Bob”) Leis and Bruce L. Stinchcomb. Illustrations by Terry McKee. Atglen, PA: Schiffer Publishing, 2015 (paperback).

Jordan D. Marché II

The oldest macroscopic forms of life on Earth, extending back roughly 3.5 billion years ago, are stromatolites. Through that time, they have radically altered our planet’s atmosphere, yielding the first abundance of free oxygen produced by photosynthesis. Truly the most ancient of ‘living fossils’, they also continue to survive today in two widely separated but very different marine environments—one in the Bahamas and the other in Australia. Yet, before the appearance of this book, finding adequate, accessible information about stromatolites was no easy task. That search has now become vastly easier and much more enjoyable, thanks to the efforts of Wisconsin stromatolite enthusiast Bob Leis and retired St. Louis Community College professor Bruce Stinchcomb.

This work might be thought of as the first-ever ‘field guide’ to stromatolites, covering their history, collection, and interpretation. The work is profusely illustrated with photos and drawings or paintings by paleoartist Terry McKee. The book’s eleven chapters present, in language accessible to anyone, the origins, importance, and relevance of

stromatolites and related phenomena such as banded iron formations (BIFs), which contain the bulk of the world's iron ore deposits. Each chapter concludes with a glossary of technical terms and a bibliography.

Readers are introduced to the five major classes of stromatolites, as well as lesser-known variations (e.g., spheroidal oncolites). Their diversity of occurrences, along with a multitude of corresponding shapes (ranging from laminar and domed to columnar, conical, and irregular) and colors, demonstrate the highly collectible nature of these structures. Stromatolites are also distinguished from similar-looking pseudo-fossils and dubio-fossils, for which interpretations are still unclear. The occurrence of fresh-water stromatolites (past and present), including those found in hot-springs environments at Yellowstone National Park, indicate the degree to which these organisms have become adapted to an enormous range of earthly conditions. Stromatolites are also of interest to astrobiology's search for extraterrestrial life, as they may represent one of the most likely forms of simplified life to be expected on other planets or objects within our solar system or beyond.

Special treatment is given to several of the premiere locations in North America where stromatolites are regularly collected and prepared; e.g., the Mary Ellen Jasper of the Mesabi Iron Range of Minnesota. It is also welcome news (to this reviewer) to discover that many widely-studied stromatolites have been given scientific (i.e., binomial Latin) names. During the Phanerozoic Era (that is, since the Cambrian Period), a variety of other invertebrates, such as snails and trilobites, have been found in association with stromatolites, presumably because they grazed upon them for food.

Though long regarded as little more than curiosities or objects of uncertain pedigrees, stromatolites are finally being recognized as worthy of collection and study by amateur and professional geologists, biologists, and paleontologists. They've been featured in the recent three-part National Geographic/PBS production on the geohistory of North America. How appropriate, then, that Leis and Stinchcomb's excellent volume is now available to serve as a valuable reference and guide to stromatolites, for this and the next generation of rockhounds.

## January Mineral Events:

### January 2016

**15-17—GLOBE , ARIZONA:** Annual show; Gila County Gem & Mineral Society, Gila County Fairgrounds; 900 E. Fairgrounds Rd.; Fri. 9 -5 , Sat. 9 -5 , Sun. 9 -4 ; Single Admission \$3, Couple Admission \$5, Free Admission for students/children; contact Jodi Brewster, P.O. Box 487, Miami, AZ 85539, (623)-810-9780; e-mail: jodibrewster66@gmail.com; Web site: <http://www.gilagem.com>

### January 2016-February 2016

**29-14—MARANA, ARIZONA:** Annual show; Miner's Cooperative , Mark Jacob's Sports Park ; 6901 N. Casa Grande Highway; Daily 8:30 -5; Free Admission; Enjoy your day shopping in the Arizona Sunshine for all types of rocks, gems, minerals, jewelry, lapidary supplies, direct from miners across the USA at the 3rd annual Marana Miner's Cooperative Rock Show. Mineral specimens from around the world See thousands of finished stones and gems ready for your next jewelry project. Finished jewelry pieces designed by artisans from across our country; contact Rachel Ford-Dingfield, (720)-495-8362; e-mail: kaipuravida@gmail.com; Web site: <http://tucsonrockgemmineralshow.com/>

**29-14—TUCSON, ARIZONA:** Wholesale and retail show; AS Shows, Kino Sports Complex; 2500 E Ajo Way; Daily 10-6; Free Admission; A world class collection of vendors.; contact Jim Gehring, 2003 Viscount Row, Orlando, FL 32809; e-mail: Jim@as-shows.com; Web site: [KionGemShow.com](http://KionGemShow.com)

**30-13—TUCSON, ARIZONA:** Wholesale and retail show; Martin Zinn Expositions, L.L.C., Three locations: InnSuites Hotel, Ramada Ltd., Mineral & Fossil Marketplace; 475 N Granada, 665 N Freeway, 1330 N Oracle; Daily 10-6; Free Admission; 400 Dealers in three locations, selling minerals, fossils, meteorites, gemstones, cutting material, decorator items, and more.; contact Regina Aumente, PO Box 665, Bernalillo, NM 87004, 505-867-0425; e-mail: [mzexpos@gmail.com](mailto:mzexpos@gmail.com); Web site: [www.mzexpos.com](http://www.mzexpos.com)

# TUCSON GEM, MINERAL & FOSSIL SHOWCASE

Join the World's Biggest  
Treasure Hunt  
Jan. 30 through Feb. 14, 2016

For two weeks near the start of every year, Tucson becomes playground number one for the world of international gem and mineral trading, buying, bargains and bragging rights. Here's what you need to know.

### [It's More Than One Show](#)

"Gem Show" sounds like a single site, but the Tucson Gem, Mineral & Fossil Showcase happens all across town at more than 40 sites, from giant halls to hotels and sprawling camps of roadside exhibit tents. **Almost all shows are free and open to the public.** You can get the details (and zero in on your interests) with the search tool on this page.

### [Yes, There's a "Main Event"](#)

The [Tucson Gem and Mineral Show®](#) packs the downtown Tucson Convention Center for the final weekend of this two-week mineral madness, pulling in thousands of treasure hunters from every corner of the globe. Free seminars and a Junior Education Area make this show a big draw for families, too!



SRGJSHOWS *Presents*  
The Gem and Jewelry Show on Grant  
at  
Grand Luxe Hotel  
1365 West Grant Road, Tucson, AZ 85745  
January 28 - February 10 2016  
Show Hours: 10am-6pm  
A Unique Show for Unique Buyers Featuring  
Vintage Gems, Ancient Artifacts, Findings,  
Beads, Jewelry, Ethnographic Art & more...

## January Events in Wisconsin:

### Get Outdoors! Learn to Snowshoe

**Saturday, January 9, 2016.** 10-11:45 am. Learn how easy it is to snowshoe and then get outside to enjoy the wonders of our beautiful snow-covered forest. Snowshoes provided for those who do not have any. To register, call (920) 533-8322 by January 7. This program is best for people older than 8 years. Free. Kettle Moraine State Park - Northern Unit - Ice Age Visitor Center, N2875 STH 67, Campbellsport, [Fond du Lac County](#). Call 920-533-8322.

### GO! Discover-Animal Tracks

**Saturday, January 9, 2016.** 9 am - 2 pm. Who left tracks in the snow? Drop in to learn how to identify tracks, walk like an animal, make note cards with tracks, and much more. Then grab a tracking handout and head outside to discover who's been walking around Havenwoods. Free. Havenwoods State Forest - Environmental Awareness Center, 6141 N Hopkins St, Milwaukee, [Milwaukee County](#). Call 414-527-0232

### Rich Regent Jazz Clarinetist

**Saturday, January 9, 2016.** 11:30 am to 2:30 pm. Enjoy a variety of popular and jazz tunes performed by versatile jazz clarinetist Rich Regent. Food and beverages are available. Free parking with validation. Free. Milwaukee Public Market, 400 North Water Street, Milwaukee, [Milwaukee County](#). Call 414-336-1111.

### Beekeeping for Beginners

**Saturday, January 16, 2016.** 9 am to 4 pm. Beginners Classes will repeat on Jan 16 & 30, Feb 20, Mar 19, Apr 9 and May 7, 2016. Second Step Class is Mar 5, 2016. All classes run from 9am - 4pm. The fee of \$50 covers coffee, handouts, free sample journals and catalogues, and props galore for you to handle. Individual, hands-on Mentoring is also available, \$20 for 2 hours in the apiary. To register, contact Jeanne Hansen at 608-244-5094. 50. Dane Co Extension Building, 5201 Fen Oak Dr, Madison, WI, [Statewide](#). Call 608-244-5094.

### Collection of Collectors

**Saturday, January 16, 2016.** 10 am to 12 pm. If you have 2 of something, it's a collection! Discover what your neighbors collect during the 10th annual Collection of Collectors. Collectors share their interesting & unique passion. You'll learn something new during this fun, informal, & FREE program. Want to share your collection? Contact Jessica at (262) 335-4678 to

register your collection. It's FREE to participate! Includes FREE admission to the Old Courthouse Museum. Free plus Free museum admission. Washington County Historical Society, 320 S 5th Ave, West Bend, [Washington County](#). Call 262-335-4678.

### Old School Variety Show

**Saturday, January 16, 2016.** 7:30 pm. The Old School Variety Show was developed in the Spring of 2007. The shows creator, Michael Scott, realized that some of his best memories involved simply gathering friends for an evening, drinking wine and sharing stories and talents. He began to wonder. Could that intimate, organic form of entertainment be achieved publicly? He enlisted the talents of musicians Mike Caucutt and Nancy Stoll along with popular local actress Nikki Andrews and The Old School Variety Show was born. Pump House Regional Arts Center, 119 King Street, La Crosse, [La Crosse County](#). Call 608-785-1434.

### Jazz Heritage Festival

**Saturday, January 23, 2016.** 1:00 pm. Jazz combo performances by the young musicians in the Jazz Studies program as well as clinics led by professional jazz musicians. Adult: \$12 Student/Senior: \$10 Premium Reserve: \$25. Milwaukee Youth Arts Center, 325 W. Walnut, Milwaukee, [Milwaukee County](#). Call 414-267-2950.

### Snow Sculpture : Fairy-Tale Flurries

**Saturday, January 23, 2016 through Sunday, January 24, 2016.** Noon - 5 pm. Fairy-Tale Flurries With a nod to Forest Folklore, Team USA Snow Sculptors - Mike Martino, Tom Queoff, and Mike Sponholtz - carve winter's fluffy stuff, celebrating the 26th anniversary of the Museum's snow-sculpture partnership. Free. Woodson Art Museum, 700 N 12th St, Wausau, [Marathon County](#). Call 715-845-7010.

### Rummage-A-Rama! and Wisconsin Antique & Vintage Show

**Saturday, January 30, 2016 through Sunday, January 31, 2016.** Saturday, 9-4; Sunday, 9-3. Rummage-A-Rama!, Milwaukee's original rummage sale and bargain tradition features hobby items, crafts, antiques, collectibles, overstock, closeouts, flea-market finds and personal rummage sale items from everyday people. \$5 per person or \$3 with two food items for Hunger Task Force; Kids 12 & under are FREE. Milwaukee County Sports Complex, 6000 W. Ryan Road, Franklin, [Milwaukee County](#). Call 414-375-2024.

# Christmas 2015



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

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