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# THE BADGER DIGGIN'S

The Badger Lapidary and Geological Society, Inc.  
Monroe, Wisconsin

Devoted to the Earth Sciences

Vol. 45, No. 3

March 2010

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## President's Message

Dear Badgers,

Happy Spring! The weather is starting to warm up and the snow is starting to melt. We have many things coming up in the next month. The main one is of course our 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Show. The show takes a lot of work, coordination, and cooperation from everyone to make it successful, so don't forget to sign up for the display cases and pick a time or two to work. Everyone's help is really appreciated!

Another fun event that is coming up in preparation for the show is the March meeting. This meeting will be held out at our farm and the activity will be filling the fish pond bags for the kids' games. The address for the Trocke farm is 4771 County II, Highland, Wisconsin, and our phone number is 608-935-0597. Here are the directions to the farm from Monroe: Head north towards Madison on Hwy 69; take Hwy. 18 west towards Dodgeville; take the exit into Dodgeville, continue through town. Stay on 18 for about 1 mile. Turn right onto County Q and follow that for about 8 miles. Turn right onto County II. We are the 2<sup>nd</sup> driveway on the right. The meeting will start at 10:30 a.m. Please bring any material that you would like to donate to the kids' games (fish pond, spinner game, quarry quest). Also, it will be a pot luck, so **please bring a dish to share**.

I hope to see you at the March meeting and I'm looking forward to a fun and successful show!

*Dan Trocke*



## Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be held at **10:30 a.m.** on Saturday, March 13, 2010, at **Dan & Laurie Trocke's** farm, 4771 County II, Highland, WI.

**Please note the change in time and location!** Refer to the adjoining President's Message for directions and details.

## Program: Fish Pond Bag preparation.

All members are urged to bring those items (rocks, minerals, fossils) that are to be given away in the fish pond bags, or at the spinner game and quarry quest. Pre-printed labels, naming/describing the items, will be a plus.

Dennis and Mary Westby again have agreed to conduct the Fish Pond activities at our show. Thank you, Dennis & Mary!

Please bring a **pot-luck dish** to share, for the snacks.

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**Tentative Calendar of Club Events – through Dec. 2010**

- Mar. 13** Regular meeting: Fish pond bags (prep.)  
Location: Dan, Laurie Trocke's farm
- Mar. 27-28** 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Rock, Gem, & Mineral, Show,  
Monroe High School, 1600 26<sup>th</sup> Street.  
Theme: *Colors of the Earth*
- April 10** Regular meeting – Wire-wrapped Jewelry  
Teri Marché, Tyrel Rouse
- April 24** Field Trip – Geode collecting  
Leader: Dan Trocke
- May 8** Regular meeting – “Rock Terms You’ve Never  
Heard Before”: Dan Trocke
- May 22** Field Trip – Bellevue (IA) Agates  
Leader: Tyrel Rouse
- June 12** Annual Picnic: Pleasant View Park (Green Co.)
- June 26** Field trip – Dehnel’s Aegerine Pit  
Leader: Cathy Romeis
- July 10-18** Field Trip – Minnesota to Canada  
Leaders: Teri Marché, Cathy Romeis
- July 25** Field Trip – Rufer Quarry, Monroe  
Leader: Dan Trocke
- Aug. 14** Field Trip – TBA
- Aug. 28-29** Field Trip – Wyalusing & Prairie du Chien  
Leader: Teri Marché
- Sept. 11** Regular meeting – Show & Tell
- Sept. 25** Field Trip – TBA
- Oct. 9** Lapidary Day; Host – Trockes
- Oct. 23** Field Trip – TBA
- Nov. 13** Regular meeting
- Dec. 11** Christmas party

## MWF (& related) Club Events

**Mar. 13-14: Menasha, WI.** Weis Earth Science Museum Show, "Fox Rocks!" 1478 Midway Road. Sat. 10-5; Sun. 10-4. Contact: Joanne Kluessendorf, (920) 832-2925 or [joanne.kluessendorf@uwc.edu](mailto:joanne.kluessendorf@uwc.edu).

**Mar. 13-14: Macomb, IL.** Geodeland Earth Science Club's 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Show. Western Illinois University, Student Union Ballroom. Sat. 10-6; Sun. 10-5. Contact: Dennis Bomke, (217) 546-4096 or [dbomke@comcast.net](mailto:dbomke@comcast.net).

**Mar. 20-21: Cedar Rapids, IA.** Cedar Valley Rocks & Minerals Society's Annual Gem, Mineral, & Fossil Show. Teamsters Union Hall, 5000 J Street SW. Sat. 8:30-6; Sun. 9:30-5. Contact: Marvin Houg, (319) 364-2868 or [m\\_houg@yahoo.com](mailto:m_houg@yahoo.com).

**April 10-11: Green Bay, WI.** Neville Public Museum, 210 Museum Place, Sat. 9-5; Sun. 10-4. Contact: Randy Westberg, (920) 619-6060 or [randy.westberg@rhccgb.com](mailto:randy.westberg@rhccgb.com).

**April 10-11: Des Plaines, IL.** Des Plaines Valley Geological Society's 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Show. Des Plaines Park District Leisure Center, 2222 Birch St. Sat. 9:30-5; Sun. 10-4. Contact: Lois Zima or Jeanne Mielecki, (847) 298-4653 or [jaynine9@aol.com](mailto:jaynine9@aol.com).

**April 17-18: Eau Claire, WI.** Chippewa Valley Gem & Mineral Society, 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Show. Eau Claire County Expo Center, Lorch Ave. Sat. 9-5; Sun. 10-4. Contact: Mike Schoenfess, (715) 456-0664.

**April 17-18: Waukesha, WI.** Kettle Moraine Geological Society's Annual Show. Waukesha County Expo Center. Sat., Sun. Contact: Larry Christopherson, (920) 474-4094.

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## **First Annual Trilobite Jam: July 22-25, 2010. Utah!**

Open to all fossil enthusiasts — commercial, academic, and amateur. Offers four full days of uninhibited collecting on over 300 acres of trilobite- and fossil-bearing rocks of the Middle Cambrian Wheeler Shale and Marjun Formations.

Registration — adults: \$250; juniors (ages 12-18): \$200; children (12 and under): FREE. Hosted by Trilobite Jam, 10496 Raining Sky St., Las Vegas, NV 89178. Visit [www.trilobitejam.com](http://www.trilobitejam.com) or call toll-free hotline: (877) 877-9279.

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## **Meeting Minutes**

The February meeting was held on the 13<sup>th</sup> at the Monroe Public Library. It was called to order at 10:10 a.m. In attendance were Dan & Laurie Trocke and kids; Dave & Donna Reese; Ted Tinker; Clay Schroll; Marv Hanner; Wil Ward; Robert Gilbert; Brian & Cindy Green; Linda Neill; Chris Konetski; Neal & Linda Trickle; Daisy Peterson; Jack Hoxie; Harold Carter; Ralph Baumgartner; & Janet Bruce.

The signup sheets for the March show, the Chicago field trip, and thank you cards for Bud Higgins and Dave Zimmerman were passed around. While these were going around, we got the DVD player working and enjoyed the "Planet Earth – Caves" video. After the movie, the first door prize was awarded to Ralph Baumgartner. He won a very nice piece of snake-skin agate. A motion was called to accept the minutes from the January meeting. Marv Hanner made the motion and Jack Hoxie seconded it. The motion carried and the minutes were accepted as printed.

The *Treasurer's Report* was presented by Donna Reese. She thanked Daisy Peterson for the great job she had done as treasurer. She said that everything was very well organized and it was very easy for her to take over. She said that the new account at First National Bank in Monroe was open. She wanted to keep the account at a local bank so that anyone who took over the treasurer's position would be able to do the banking locally. She said that the income from the meeting auction (\$87.00) and the Trocke's auction (\$1027.25) of the pieces from the Bud Higgins and David Zimmerman collection came to \$1,114.25 and that many club members got some very nice samples. She said that the total income for the month was \$1249.25 and that the expenses were \$23.75. She also reported the figure for the checking account, but noted that we have many expenses coming up because of the show.

We then moved on to announcements. Dan again circulated the sign up sheet for the Chicago field trip and noted that he had included information on the itinerary for the trip. He recommended getting 'Fun Passes' for the busses before the trip and also said to purchase a round trip ticket for the train at the time. The March meeting will be at the Trocke's farm on March 13<sup>th</sup>. We will fill the fish pond bags at that time, so if you have any material, bring it with you! Dan also explained about the thank you cards that were to be signed for Bud Higgins & Dave Zimmerman. We will send the cards to them for their generous donations of materials that were sold at the auctions in January.

The second door prize drawing was won by Dan Trocke. He won a nice piece of tumbled septarian.

Moving on to *Old Business*, Ted Tinker gave us an update on the website. He said that he is working on getting the web name set up and would let us know when the site was up and running. No one had any other old business to cover.

For *New Business*, Dan suggested that the club invest in a couple of thumb (or flash) drives to use for club archives such as files, pictures, field trip info, etc. Chris made a motion to buy the thumb drives. Daisy seconded it and the motion passed. Dan will purchase these for the club.

Jack Hoxie gave us an update on the show because Teri was in Tucson. Jack reminded everyone to please sign up for the display cases and to work at the show. He passed around maps with the areas that need to be covered for flyers & posters. He asked for volunteers to distribute the flyers and hang posters at libraries, community centers, schools, etc.

Robert Gilbert won the third door prize. It was a neat fossilized brachiopod heart.

Dan thanked Chris & Linda for the delicious food that they had brought. The March meeting will be a potluck, so please bring a dish to share.

Marv suggested that we order name tags for any new members and also for any old members that had lost theirs. Everyone thought that this was an excellent suggestion, so a sign up sheet was passed

around. Daisy will place the order for everyone and Dan will gather granite & galena to put on the name tags. If anyone else is interested, please contact Daisy.

Dan suggested that we think about what to do with the money from the auction and discuss that at a future meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Laurie Trocke*

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### **What's Rockin'**

This month we had a table full of fine specimens that any of us would have been proud to have in our collections. Dan Trocke displayed some peach calcite crystals and aragonite from Mapimi, Mexico. Erin Trocke brought some carved rock animals. Clay Schroll showed off a footprint cast from England. David Cress exhibited a moonstone from China. Neal Trickel set out some Indian artifacts from South Dakota and Wisconsin. Ted Tinker displayed a hadrosaur dinosaur egg from China. Marv Hanner exhibited specimens of jouravskite-gandfroitite, olmiite, and pseudomalachite on hemimorphite, all from China. Brian and Cindy Green put out some blue-green calcite, a jasper slab, and a drusy agate.

*Brian Green*

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### **(Relatively) New Book of Interest:**

*Lead-Mining Towns of Southwest Wisconsin*, by Carol March McLernon. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2008. ISBN: 978-0-7385-5199-9. Paperback, \$19.99. Available at Barnes & Noble.

One of a series of books, *Images of America*, by the publisher, this work features many historic photos of mines and towns near Hazel Green, Platteville, New Diggins, Benton, Shullsburg, Cuba City, etc.

## From the Showchair

Ohmigosh! It's time to start getting severely nervous! The show is just a few weeks away!! I hope I have everything covered. Let's see, venue: check; vendors: check; kitchen: check; speakers: check; demonstrators: check; ATM: requested, waiting to hear; Apostolate tables: check; FFA tables: requested, waiting to hear; upgrades to the trailer: check; new table coverings: check; sign-up sheets: check; posters and fliers: check. Donna's getting the cash boxes set up. Dennis volunteered to haul the trailer. Thank heaven Jack and Dan are doing the advertising! Still gotta request other AV equipment from the high school, get the microphones and amplifiers from Fuzzy's, notify the Monroe police, mail out some letters, work with Laurie on the kids' area. Ohmigosh!

The only way I am going to get through this is with lots of help and support from those who have experience with past shows. There is a lot about set-up that I still don't know. The electrical stuff has me really worried. Where does the ATM go? Ohmigosh!

So far all the spaces at the sales table are taken, and all the large showcases are spoken for.

\*\*\*\*A big need is for folks to sign up to fill the small cases. They are 22 in. square and 6 in. high at the back, sloping to 3 in. at the front. They are great for flattish pieces, and medium to fist-sized cabinet pieces. Send me an e-mail if you are willing to fill one.\*\*\*\*

By the way, the new table covers are a soft royal blue, which will show in the bottom of the small cases unless you want to bring a different color. Large cases still need a cover in the bottom. I chose the blue because it shows most things up nicely; black is too much like a funeral, and white will easily become a mess. I'd really rather not have to wash that much fabric!

I hope everyone took fliers and posters at last month's meeting. Dan will have the remainder at the March meeting.

It is also time to make some room in the garage for a new collecting season. Bring the remainders from last year's collecting for the Fish Pond bags that we will make up at the meeting. If there is large material, we can perhaps break it

down with Dan's rock cracker, or use it for the spinner game. Whatever you can bring, we can use.

I'll have a show set-up sign-up sheet at the meeting, but feel free to come and help even if you are not on the list by then. Any hands that show up will find a purpose!! I plan to be at the high school by 4:00 p.m. (worrying and probably going a bit nutsy). The trailer will arrive when Dennis can get it there after work. In the meantime we can clear the lounge area and start setting up tables. I know everyone will appreciate it if you can stay as well to help clean-up after the show. Ohmigosh, what am I forgetting?

I do want to take a moment here to publicly apologize to Dan. By following Dave's old poster design, I once again forgot to include the fluorescent tent as a major attraction. Mea culpa! Dan, if you are again willing next year, I promise you that your display will get the attention it deserves!

I know that that will not be my only mistake, I just hope the others will not be 'fatal' and that everyone will be patient with me while I learn how to do this thing. Ohmigosh!

*Teri Marché*

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From the Wisconsin Geological Society Newsletter, *The Trilobite*, March 2010:

Student Alexander Kendrick, age 16, of Los Alamos, New Mexico, has won the 2009 International Science Fair for developing a very-low-frequency radio that can send text messages from deep underground (i.e., in mines and caves).

A more detailed story about the student and his invention, "Texting Underground Can Save Lives and Caves," by Brad Horn of National Public Radio, can be found at their website: <http://www.npr.org>.

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**Editor's Note** — The 2010 membership list (as of 3/1/10) is being distributed as a separate (Word) document (or attachment). It is also mailed to those receiving a hard copy of the *Badger Diggin's*.

Badger Lapidary and Geological Society, Inc.  
Jordan Marché, Editor  
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#### Speaker Schedule

**Sat. 1:30 pm:** Tyrel Rouse, BLGS member, *Radioactive Rocks and Minerals*  
**Sat 3:00 pm:** Steve Simpson, Highland Community College, *Earthquakes in California, Haiti: Could It Happen Here?*  
**Sunday 1:30 pm:** Sandy Fuller, Rock Biz, *World of Fluorescence*  
**Sunday, 3:00 pm:** Kim Anderson, *Cave of the Mounds, Geology Education at Cave of the Mounds*

40<sup>th</sup> Annual

# Rock, Gem, & Mineral Show

March 27 & 28, 2010

9:00 am to 5:00 pm – Saturday and Sunday

Monroe High School, 1600 26<sup>th</sup> St. Monroe, WI (off Route 69 south)

Admission: Free Will Donation – Free Parking



*This Year's Theme – Colors of the Earth*



**Ten Dealers in Minerals, Fossils, Gems, and Jewelry**

**Speakers, Educational Exhibits, Demonstrations,**

**Hourly Door Prizes, Great Food**

**Wonderful Pieces from Around the World!**

**For the Kids**

**Terrific "Fish Pond," Spinner Game, Wandering "Rock Wizard"**

**Hands-on Activity – Hand Polished Jewelry (Make and Take)**

**Scavenger Hunt**

For More Information, Contact Teri Marché, 608.835.2653

Or email [tmarche@education.wisc.edu](mailto:tmarche@education.wisc.edu) Web Site: [www.monroerockclub.com](http://www.monroerockclub.com)

Presented by the Badger Lapidary and Geological Society

*A Non-profit organization dedicated to promotion of earth science study for children, adults, and families.*  
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