

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

Dear Badgers,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and enjoying the summer. I wanted to briefly report on the Galena hunt at Stockton quarry which was well attended for such hot weather. Collecting started slowly with some small fossils, curved cephalopods, tiny brachiopods, jasperized honey comb coral, and some altered marcasite crystals found on the upper quarry. After getting the lay of the land which had changed since the group was last here in 2007 we found more and more galena (lead sulfide) cubic grey crystals in layers of clay to the side of the lower quarry area. Harold Carter and Brian Green hit into the first big pieces of galena weighing around 20 pounds or more per piece and then they both proceeded to help everyone else find some good pieces as well. Harold was infallible with a metal detector and could tell you were to look and about how big a piece you would find. By far the largest single piece of galena was found by Elizabeth Schellenger with the Freeport Rock Club. Her find shows good crystals on one side and like many pieces found at this site is a strikingly pretty metallic blue color on the raw or freshly cleaved faces. Several people helped her coax the piece out of its home among some tree roots and down to

her car. I would estimate that it weighed somewhere between 160 and 200 pounds.

Not bad considering lead is about \$1.20 per pound right now. I am anxiously waiting to hear what it actually weighed and hoping Elizabeth will send us a picture of herself with her find for the newsletter. The owners of the land report that the largest piece of galena to ever roll out of the wall in this quarry weighed a whopping 240 pounds.

It is a bit of a mystery to me how the galena is being found where it is in the clay. It may be a natural deposit or may have been moved there years ago, scraped up with the top soil when the quarry began 50 years ago or maybe through some natural process long before this. I've heard in the old days galena deposits could be found exposed on the surface in the lead mining regions, but those days are all but gone. Perhaps this is a remnant of those deposits.

By the end of the day we were all bone sore and tired from the hard digging through gravel filled clay, but there is nothing like digging for Galena in the Lead Mine District to make you feel like a true Badger.

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I want to thank Brian Green for setting up this great trip. Thanks also to everyone in the club for the bunch of email birthday wishes. They put a big smile on my face despite my turning 40 last week. I told my kids to slouch and not use big words for the day so I didn't feel quite so old. ☺

Dan Trocke

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fanny pack, 1 gallon buckets, knee pads, gem scoops, sunscreen and plenty of water and liquids!

Club Calander

- August 13th: Belleview Agate Pits
- August 27th: Beloit Quarries, Ralph Burgener
- Sept 10th: Meeting – Show & Tell
- Sept 24th: Field Trip – Wendling Quarry?? Teri Marche'
- October 8th: Meeting – Lapidary Day, Trocke's
- October 22nd: Field Trip – Cave in Rock, IL
- Nov 12th: Meeting – Flint knapping, Kevin Ponzio
- Nov 26th: No trip – Thanksgiving
- Dec 10th: Annual Party
- Dec 24th: No trip – Christmas

Upcoming Club Events

August 13th: Bellview Gravel Pits

This is always a fun trip, easy collecting, beautiful agates, and great company!

Details for the Agate Trip:

Date: SATURDAY, August 13th, 2011

Location #1: Bellevue Iowa Sand & Gravel Quarry / Gravel Yard. This has been a fun site to visit and no one ever goes home from here empty handed. We will find Lake Superior Agates, carnelian, and jasper. Thomsonite, sagenite agate and even a piece of petrified wood has been collected here, but is extremely rare.

Meeting Place & Times: Lets meet directly at the quarry / gravel yard which is across the street from the Bellevue Golf Club at 32292 395th Avenue. I'm planning to be there around 9:30 AM. Anyone arriving earlier or later can simply drive in and begin the hunt.

What to bring: Sack Lunch, as we will be eating lunch in the quarry. Small garden tools, rakes,

Notes: This has been an excellent producing quarry and especially great site for young kids, but please ensure kids stay off any machinery in the quarry and away from any water as it may be deep in areas. The owner was kind enough to give us permission to hunt on this site for just this one day, so please do not contact the owner or plan any return trips until next year when access for the group is requested again. We do need to stay out of the dredging quarry. Sorry - there are no bathroom facilities in quarry. This trip is open to all Badger Club and MWF Members.

Contact Person: Dan Trocke, Home 608-935-0597, Cell # 608-215-5307

Optional Location #2: Graf Iowa Road cut – For those interested in fossils, consider stopping either on your way to the Bellevue quarry or after at the Graf Iowa Road cut on 5 Points Road (Graf Road) just ¼ mile south of Graf Iowa. Parking and bathrooms are available ¼ mile north of the cut at the County Park in Graf on 5 Points Road (Graf Road). The road cut is very tall and crumbling making it possibly dangerous to directly collect from in most areas. Luckily there are several places directly on the cut you can collect without overhead hazards as well as a lot of fallen rock containing specimens laying at the base of the cut. No collecting alone and **Hardhats** must be worn when below the cut. Bring hardhats, prybar, hammer, chisel, gloves, and wear safety glasses if hammering.

Notes: The road cut has been a renowned fossil collecting locality for geology classes and collectors for years. The cut is composed of late Upper Ordovician Maquoketa shale about 450 million years old containing two 1' thick layers of tightly packed cephalopods and other fossils. The site contains an unusual and unexplained phenomenon of cephalopod shells impacted into each other. The cephalopod fossils are fairly stable and made of the secondarily phosphatized original shell material - not molds. The cephalopods break loose from the sandy matrix rock fairly easy and would make nice specimens if you take the time to work a whole intact fossil out of the rock. I found a large fallen slab that contained several trilobite tails (pygidiums) in with the cephalopods. I didn't find any whole trilobites, but I wasn't there very long.

The road cut is known to contain: Orthoconic (straight shell) Nautiloid cephalopod: Isorthoceras SocaileBivalve: Palaeoconcha spGastropod: Murchisonia sp: Brachiopods Graptolites: Trilobites: Crinoid debris

August 27th: Beloit Quarries

We will meet at the Stop & Go in Broadhead on Hwy 11 at 9:00 to begin this trip. It is about a 10 minute drive to the quarry from there. This is a great quarry for fossils, they have found clams, horn corral, crinoids stems, snails and even a trilobite or two!! You will need hard rock collecting tools, hammers, chisels, sledges, etc. Also, hard hats & leather boots are required!

Upcoming Mineral Related Events

August 13 – 14: Rice Lake – Northwest Wisconsin Gem & Mineral Society Annual Show – Sat 10 AM – 5 PM & Sun 10 AM – 4 PM – UW Barron County Campus

Free Admission, Free Parking, Kids Activities, Museum Quality Specimens, Free Displays & Demonstrations

August 13 – 14: Location TBD – Auction of Lifetime Collection of Professor Roger K Pabian – 11:00 AM – www.fordfordauctioneers.com

August 20th: Stevens Point – Heart of Wisconsin Gem & Mineral Society 9th Annual Rock Swap & Tail-gator – Sat 10 am – 5 pm

Hwy 10 at the intersection of Fleet Farm, Jung's, Citizens Bank & behind Applebees in the parking lot. Any one that wants to come and sell, buy or trade rocks, minerals or lapidary equipment is welcome. No charge for selling! Contact Sandy at stonez@charter.net for more info.

August 19 – 21: Bridgeton, MO – Greater St. Louis Association of Earth Sciences Club Show – www.stlearthsci.org/show/flyer.aspx

August 27 – 28: Peoria Academy of Science Geology Section Show – Sat 9 AM – 5 PM & Sun 10 AM – 5 PM – Grand Hotel On Brandywine, Peoria, IL

Upcoming Local Events

August 12: Ellison Bay, Dusk: Perseid Meteor Showers Night Sky Event: Join us in the picnic area at dusk to view this spectacular meteor shower in the darkest park of northern Door County. Bring a lawn chair or blanket

August 13: Hartford, Noon – Dusk: Hartford Hot Air Balloon Rally: FREE admission and parking. Food and children's games available for purchase. Free plane ride for kids 8-17 with signed waiver, courtesy of EAA Young Eagles. Enjoy Nick's Kid's Show, flight simulator, and more! Approximately 15 hot air balloons lift off about an hour and a half before sunset (weather permitting) and return for a night glow that is not to be missed.

www.hartfordchamber.org

August 13 – 14: Chilton, 9 – 5: Wisconsin Steam & Gas Engine Show: Display of historic steam engines, gas engines & tractors. Threshing & saw mill in operation daily. Farm toy show, flea market, food & concessions. www.wisteam-engine.com/contact-us.html

August 10-14: Mineral Point: Cornish Fest: In celebration of its Cornish heritage, Mineral Point hosts a variety of activities with food, music, workshops, games and more. www.cornishfest.org

August 10-14: Cobb: Cobb Corn Roast: Fastpitch ball games, volleyball, midway, food, music, & dance. Parade, sweet corn and chicken on Sunday only.

August 19: Monroe, 5 pm: Cars on the Square: Classic cars on display, prizes, food.

August 19 – 21: Baraboo, 8 am – 5 pm: Badger Steam & Gas Engine Show: Wisconsin's largest display of early American steam-powered and gas-powered equipment. Food, flea market, arts & crafts, and entertainment. 2011 Feature: John Deere Rally. www.badgersteamandgas.com

This is only a very small sampling of all of the wonderful events and festivals going on in Wisconsin in the Month of August. For more information, go to http://www.wistravel.com/wisconsinsevents_july.htm



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