

THE BADGER DIGGIN'S

The Badger Lapidary and Geological Society, Inc.

Monroe, Wisconsin

Devoted to the Earth Sciences

Vol. 47, No 6

June 2012

President's Message

Dear Badgers:

On Saturday, June 9, starting at 10 a.m., we will meet at Monroe's Northeast Park for the Wil Ward Annual (Memorial) Picnic. The Park is located at the end of 5th Street, one block from where Highway K/Route 59 intersects Highways 11/81 (see the map enclosed with this newsletter). Treasurer Daisy Peterson has reserved the shelter for us, which includes tables, grills, bathrooms, and electricity. We are also allowed to bring beer or wine. In addition, there is a large playground area including a baseball diamond. Please bring a folding chair for yourself.

As in the past, the club will furnish charcoal, buns, hamburgers, hot dogs, brats, and marinated chicken on the grill as well as paper plates, utensils, napkins, and condiments. Everyone is asked to bring their own drinks, along with a dish to pass (such as a salad, fruit, casserole, or dessert). Please let Teri or I know, by phone (608-835-2653) or e-mail (jdmarcheii@gmail.com), how many in your family will be coming, so that we can provide enough meat and buns for everyone.

Teri has also agreed to do silkscreen printing of the Badger logo onto T-shirts or other clothing items (preferably dark-colored) at the picnic. And of course, you are welcome to display any recent finds from our field trips or shows that you have attended. The club

Genie could also be passed along to the next person who wishes to use it.

We should have information from Mike Riesch about the upcoming field trip to Door County, to collect fossil corals, brachiopods, and possibly minerals such as calcite, from the fencerows and adjacent fields. Other field trips, as you know, have been scheduled throughout the summer. You'll be informed about them by e-mail as those dates draw near.

We hope to see you at the picnic (our last formal gathering before the summer), and wish you a productive and enjoyable collecting season ahead. You can tell us about your many adventures at the September meeting. Good luck!

Sincerely,

Jordan Marché

BLGS President

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Club Calendar

- June 9th: Meeting: Wil Ward Memorial Picnic – Monroe, WI
- June 23rd: Field Trip: Door County, WI
- July 14th: Field Trip: Shullsburg, WI
- July 28th: Field Trip: MN – Celebration of Agates Show
- Aug 11th: Field Trip: Utica, IL
- Aug 25th: Field Trip: Upper Michigan
- Sept 8th: Meeting: Monroe Library – Show & Tell
- Sept 22nd: Field Trip: Cedar Rapids, IA Area
- Oct 13th: Meeting: Trocke's Farm – Lapidary Day
- Oct 27th: Field Trip: Cedarburg, WI and Lake Michigan
- Nov 10th: Meeting: Monroe Library – Soap Stone Carving
- Dec 8th: Meeting: Monroe, WI – Annual Christmas Party

Note: There are no field trips in November & December due to the Holidays.



See you at the Pic-a-Nic!!

Meeting Minutes May 12, 2012

The May meeting was called to order in the Monroe Public Library at 10:00 on May 12th. The following members were in attendance: Dan, Laurie, Connor, Jayden & Erin Trocke; David & Susan Cress; Neal & Linda Trickel; Jack, Callie, Cassi & Collin Hoxie; Kevin Ponzio; Jeff Gross; Deb & Garrett Grunwald; Daisy Peterson; Jordan & Teri Marche^e; Tom & Karen Rusch; Dave & Donna Reese; Duane & Therese Cushing and Steve Holmes. We had several guests – Kevin Ponzio & Jeff Gross from the Glacial Drifters club and we were also joined by new members Duane & Therese Cushing.

The meeting minutes from the April were entered for approval. Daisy Peterson made a motion to accept them. This was seconded by Neil Trickel. The motion passed unanimously. Daisy proceeded with the Treasurer's report. She said that there are still some checks out for the show, but just about everything has been submitted. The picnic site for the June meeting has been reserved and is ready to go. Daisy also asked that if you have an address change to please let her know.

After the Treasurer's report, Jordan moved on to announcements and reminders. Dan Trocke asked if anyone had the club genie and Jack Hoxie said that it was at his house. He is planning to bring it to the June meeting if someone else would like to take it for a month. This led to a discussion on what the best practice would be to keep track of the club equipment. It was decided that we could include this information in future newsletters, so if you have any of the club equipment, please let the newsletter editor know so it can be published. The next announcement came from Kevin Ponzio. He handed out fliers for the Glacial Drifters show, which will be held the weekend of June 9th & 10th at the Sheboygan County Fairgrounds in Plymouth, WI.

The first door prize was won by Kevin Ponzio. He won a nice piece of polished Petrified Wood.

After the door prize drawing, Jordan asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of Wil Ward. Afterwards, Neal & Linda Trickel said that they had talked to Wil's family and that the family & Wil really appreciated the flowers that the club had sent them. The gesture and the fact that the club members were thinking about Wil meant a lot. Dan Trocke will get a sympathy card for the family and send that, along with a copy of the newsletter to Wil's family.

After taking some time to honor Wil, we, appropriately moved onto discuss the picnic that has now been named after him! Daisy said that the picnic will be held at the

Northeast Park in Monroe, WI (there will be a map later on in the newsletter). The club will provide the meat, buns, grilling stuff, plates, etc – the Marche's will bring this. Everyone else should bring a dish to share and their own drinks. Teri will bring the silk screening supplies again this year, so if you have a t-shirt, sweatshirt, pajamas, or whatever that you would like the Badger logo on, please bring them. Teri said that clothes that are a solid, dark color works best.

The next item up for discussion was the quarry trip immediately following the meeting. Dan said that we had permission from the quarry owner and that the quarry had just been blasting the day before so there should be fresh material to explore. Dan said that he did promise the owner of the quarry a few things: First, club members should not go to the quarry on their own. This is a once-a-year trip and other clubs should coordinate their trips with ours so that he is only approached once a year for permission. Second, all club members will keep a "bounce and a half" away from the high walls and wear hard hats & safety glasses. Third, Dan brought the saw to cut out good specimens, please ask him for help if you find something that needs trimming or cutting out. This is usually a fun trip and we will leave together for the quarry immediately following the meeting.

The next field trip will be Agate hunting in Bellevue, IA. More information on this trip will follow in an e-mail closer to the trip.

The May field trip was held on a dreary, rainy Saturday. A few people made it to the Grotto in Dickeyville and a few people made it to the roadcut in Graf, IA. The Trocke's and Deb Grunwald went and did a little hunting in the rainy weather and found quite a number of good specimens. Dan found several Trilobite parts and a large cephalopod.

Teri then told everyone about her trip with Mike Reisch to Cave-in-Rock, IL. She explained that she had met the Griffith family while she was there and they had sent back a box of Fluorite pieces to share with the club. After the club members had taken their pick, Teri sent the box home with Dan to add to the kids bags, either for the presentation that he is doing at a couple of Wisconsin schools or to add to the fish pond bags next year.....either way, kids are going to wind up with some nice crystals!

Neil Trickel made a suggestion that we send something to the quarry owners as a thank you for letting the club in. Dan mentioned that in the past, we have given the quarry owners nice specimens of crystals, cheese or

something along that line. Everyone agreed that this was a good practice to continue.

The 2nd door prize was drawn and Dan Trocke won a nice piece of Horneblende from Bear Lake Diggings in Ontario, Canada.

After that, we moved on to show business. Jack Hoxie said that there are several other shows that are moving their show dates because of Easter and will be in conflict with ours. We may need to adjust the date of our show because of this. Jack said he had talked to the dealers and they said that the week before Easter worked better for most of them.

After show business, we moved on to new business. Dan told about the mammoth tusk that he had found while rock hunting with Teri, Connor & Jayden. They had started the trip with a visit to a quarry in Savannah, IL to cut out several really nice Recepticulities fossils that Teri had found. They decided to head towards Prairie du Chien from there to do a little agate hunting. They stopped to hunt on a backwater of the Mississippi. Near the river was an area of previously dredged material, buried in a bank, Dan found some pieces of material that he at first thought were chalk, but quickly realized that it had to be Mammoth tusk, sticking out of the sand. The agate hunting was quickly abandoned and everyone pitched in to uncover pieces of tusk. Dan brought home one large piece and many, many smaller ones. After hours of careful work, he stabilized the big one and even found many smaller pieces that went with it. The end result is on the What's Rockin" table!! Teri also took home a larger piece to stabilize and piece back together.

Jordan brought up the next topic of discussion. He said that the Midwest Federation has several new DVD's available to purchase and he wondered if the club would be interested in them. There are 4 new ones in all and the cost would be \$20 each or all four for \$60. Jack Hoxie made a motion to purchase all four videos, Dan seconded it and the motion carried.

The next item on the agenda is that the club needs a new blade for the 10" saw. These blades typically run about \$100 for a good one. Donna Reese suggested that Kingsley North is a good source and often has good sales. It was suggested that Dan Trocke do a little research, find out when their sale is and purchase a new blade. Teri made a motion to do this, Daisy seconded it and the motion carried. Dan will look into finding a blade and purchase one if/when he finds a good deal.

Kevin Ponzio then shared some information on a new product with the club. He said that Diamond Pacific has a new product called Super Serium Oxide and that it

seems to work very nicely for lapidary work and that he recommended it. It was also pointed out that we had a celebrity in our midst.....Kevin had a fantastic article in the most recent Midwest Federation newsletter. You can see it at

<http://www.amfed.org/mwf/Federation/newsletters.html>.

Jack Hoxie won a nice pair of polished Ammonites for the 3rd door prize and Jordan Marche" won a pretty little piece of aquamarine for the last door prize.

Jayden Trocke made a motion to adjourn the meeting. This was seconded by Daisy Peterson and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 and everyone that was interested headed for the quarry to do a little rock hunting!

Submitted by Laurie Trocke

What's Rockin'

The What's Rockin" table had some great specimens for the May meeting. The Trocke's contributed some wonderful pieces from the field trip to Graf, IA. Dan Trocke brought a number of large and small Cephalopods and a Trilobite tail. Connor Trocke had some very nice Grapolites from the same trip. Dan also brought in a nice Recepticulities fossil from a quarry in Savanah, IL. He also displayed his favorite new find, a really nice, large piece of Mammoth Tusk, as well as several smaller pieces, that he found near Prairie du Chien, WI. Jayden Trocke added his ever-growing collection of little agates that he finds in the playground of his school to the What's Rockin" table. Teri Marche" shared several pretty pieces of Fluorite as well as some Fluorite „diamonds" that she had gotten on a recent trip to Cave-in-Rock, IL.

Submitted by Laurie Trocke



Upcoming Mineral Events

8-9: REDWOOD FALLS, MN; Club Show in conjunction with MN Inventors Congress, Redwood Area Community Center, 901 Cook St, Fri & Sat 10:00-6:00, Contact Allan Hacker, PO Box 37, Morgan, MN 56266, 507-249-3811

8-10: PARK HILLS, MO; 15th Annual Missouri Mines Rock Swap, St. Joe State Park, Missouri Mines Historical Site, Hwy 32 1.5 miles W of US Hwy 67, Fri-Sat 9:00-6:00, Sun 9:00-4:00, Contact Missouri Mines Museum, 573-431-6226 or Boneta Hensley, 411 Allen St, Farmington, MO 63640, 573-760-0488,

<http://www.facebook.com/bonetahensley>

<https://www.facebook.com/events/113248432100456/>

9: MONROE CITY, MO; Show & Swap, Gem City Rock Club, M.W. Boudreaux Visitor Center at Mark Twain Lake, Rte J, Sat 9:00-4:00, Contact Jeanne Smith or Debbie Franke, 30263 207th Ave, Ewing, MO, 63440, 573-439-5890, jsmith45@marktwain.net

9: SKOKIE, IL; 1st Annual Swap, Chicago Rocks & Minerals Society, St Peter's United Church of Christ, 8013 Laramie Ave, Sat 1:00-5:00, Contact Jeanine Mielechi, 6304 W Highland Ave, Chicago, IL 60646, jaynine9@aol.com

9-10: SIOUX FALLS, SD Sioux Empire Gem and Mineral Society Sioux Falls will have a booth at the Outdoor Expo held at the South Dakota State Fairgrounds in Huron.

9-10: PLYMOUTH, WI; Annual Show, Glacial Drifters Geological Society, Inc., Sheboygan County Fairgrounds, 229 Fairview Dr, Sat 9:00-4:00, Sun 10:00-4:00, Featuring Agates of the World. Agates, rocks minerals, jewelry, gems, cabochons, Polished and carved items, fossils, dinosaur bones, petrified wood, crystals of the world and more!! Contact Kevin Ponzio, PO Box 44, Plymouth, WI 53073, 920-980-6413, earthprospect@frontier.com

16-17: OZARK, MO; Gem Fair, Ozark Mountain Gem & Mineral Society, Finley River Park, Contact Eddie Maples, 417-725-3001

22-24: BLOOMINGTON, IN; 47th Annual Show & Swap, Lawrence County Rock Club, Inc., Monroe County Fairgrounds, Airport Rd & Hwy 45, Fri 10:00-6:30, Sat 9:00-6:30, Sun 10:00-4:00, Contact Dave Treffinger, 13101 E 250 N, Loogootee, IN 47553, 812-295-3463

23: OSSEO, MN; Rock Swap & Sale, Anoka County Gem & Mineral Club, United Methodist Church Parking Lot, 2nd Ave & 2nd St SE, Sat 10:00-2:00, Contact Martha Miss, 8445 Grange Blvd, Cottage Grove, MN 55016, 651-459-0343, info@rock-biz.biz

24: COLUMBUS, NE; Swap, Loup Valley Gem & Mineral Society, Isaac Walton Cabin, Junction Hwys 81 & 30, Sun 9:00-5:00, Contact Mary Wemhoff, PO Box 257, Platte Center, NE 68653, 402-246-3955, wemhoffconst@plattevalley.net

30-July 1: OSAGE BEACH, MO; 11th Annual Show, Osage Rock & Mineral Club, The Inn at Grand Glaize, 5142 Hwy 54, Sat & Sun 11:00 – 5:00, Contact Roger Varvel, 14354, Hwy 64, Lebanon, MO 65536, Recorded Info 417-532-4367, ormc2012show@centurylink.net



Upcoming Events

- **7 St. Germain - Party with the Pack.** Join select Green Bay Packers for an evening of fun, dinner, auctions of football memorabilia and autograph signing. Benefits Angel on My Shoulder. Held at Black Bear Lodge on Little St. Germain Lake. 1320 Halberstadt Road. For more information call (800) 563-4340.
- **9 Sun Prairie - Taste of the Arts Fair.** Featuring art and craft vendors from around the state in a beautiful park setting. Free parking, Wine & Cheese Tasting, food vendor booths, entertainment, children's playground and more. 1350 Sheehan Park, Linnerud Drive. Event starts at 9:00AM and ends at 4:00PM. For more information call (608) 837-4547.
- **9 - 10 Wisconsin Dells - Taste of Wisconsin Dells.** The festival takes place in Downtown Wisconsin Dells and will feature over 20 local restaurants serving BBQ, American Delicacies and ethnic specialties. A beer tent including Wisconsin microbrews and entertainment stage featuring a variety of local performers are also planned for the weekend festivities. Downtown Wisconsin Dells. For more information call (800) 223-3557.
- **9 Wisconsin Dells - Dells Riverfest.** Opening the outdoor fun season in the Dells with a triathlon. Participants will paddle a 2 K kayak race on the Upper Dells of the Wisconsin River, run a 5 K sprint to Camp Wawbeek, and bike 10 K through the woods and farmlands of Dell Prairie. Bring the whole family to the start/finish at Drinker Dock on River Road, where kids' activities, refreshments, and music will entertain racers and spectators alike. 1510 River Road, Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965. For more information call 1-608-253-6658.
- **13 - 19 Reedsburg - Reedsburg Butter Festival.** Butter Fest Parade at 10:30AM on June 16. Various locations/Nishan Park. For more information call (608) 524-6404.
- **15 - 17 Milwaukee - Lakefront Festival of Arts.** Festival takes place in-side the museum's Calatrava-designed building, and on the outdoor museum grounds. Fri 10AM-9PM, Sat 10AM-7PM, Sun 10AM-5PM. Admission charged. Milwaukee Art Museum, 700 North Art Museum Drive. For more information call (414) 224-3856.
- **16 Glendale - 2012 Wisconsin Beer Lovers Festival.** Third annual all-Wisconsin craft beer and tasting festival, featuring selections from more than 30 breweries. Breweries have been paired with local chefs to offer unique tasting portions designed to complement more than 30 unique beers from among the state's finest craft breweries. Bayshore Town Center, 5800 N. Bayshore Drive. For more information call (414) 390-5500.
- **16 Whitehall - Harvest Home Farm Artisan & Fiber Festival.** Watch and learn as local artisans demonstrate their shearing, weaving, spinning and blacksmithing skills. Shop for handcrafted items produced by artisans from around the Midwest. The Wisconsin Working Stockdog Association will also be hosting a sheep dog trial. W16303 Simonson Road. For more information call (715) 538-1446.
- **17 Monona - Family Fishing Fun.** You'll see examples of different types of rods and reels, play the Backyard Bass fishing game to practice casting, learn how to tie basic fishing knots, and catch worms to use as bait as you fish in our pond. Program will be conducted outdoors, rain or shine, so please dress appropriately. Pre-registration recommended; walk-ins accepted. Call for program fee info. Aldo Leopold Nature Center, Monona Campus. For more information call (608) 221-0404, ext. 1.
- **19 Janesville - Wine & Roses in the Garden.** Wine & Cheese tasting - learn about K&W's rose growing program. Door prizes, music, specials. Proceeds benefit Spirit Horse Equine Rescue. K&W Greenery, 3128 Highway 14 East. For more information call (608) 752-8917.
- **21 - 24 Hayward - Musky Festival.** Fish, food and plenty of fun for the whole family. Sidewalk sales, crafts, carnival, parade and live music. Main Street. For more information call (800) 724-2992.
- **23 Baraboo - An Evening with the Cranes.** Enjoy wine and food at the only place in the world where you can see all 15-crane species! Big birds, big fun! Tickets on sale now. E11376 Shady Lane Road. For more information call (608) 356-9462 ext. 121.
- **23 - 24 Spring Green - Spring Green Arts & Crafts Fair.** 43rd annual arts and fine crafts fair held in downtown Spring Green. Sat 9AM - 5PM, Sun 9AM - 4PM. Admission free. Downtown, Jefferson Street. For more information call (608) 588-7082.
- **26 Baraboo - Sand County Songs Concert at Aldo Leopold Foundation.** Songwriter Tim Southwick gives voice to the chapters of A Sand County Almanac. Free & open to the public. E13701 Levee Road. Event starts at 6:00PM and ends at 8:00PM. For more information call (608) 355-0279.
- **Jun 30 - Jul 1 Manitowoc - River Rendezvous.** Take a cruise on a schooner, enjoy crafts, food, music, and fun along the river. Wisconsin Maritime Museum, 75 Maritime Drive. For more information call (866) 724-2356.

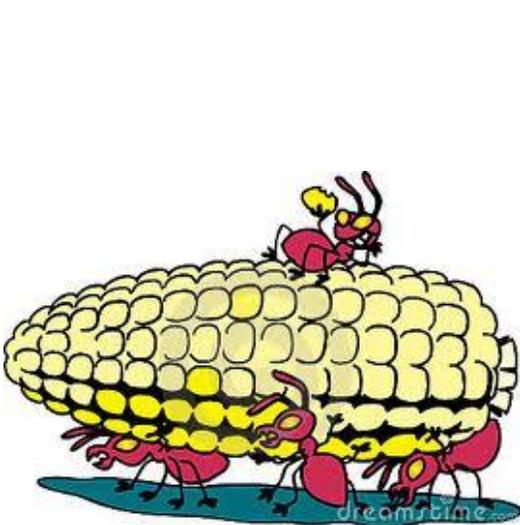
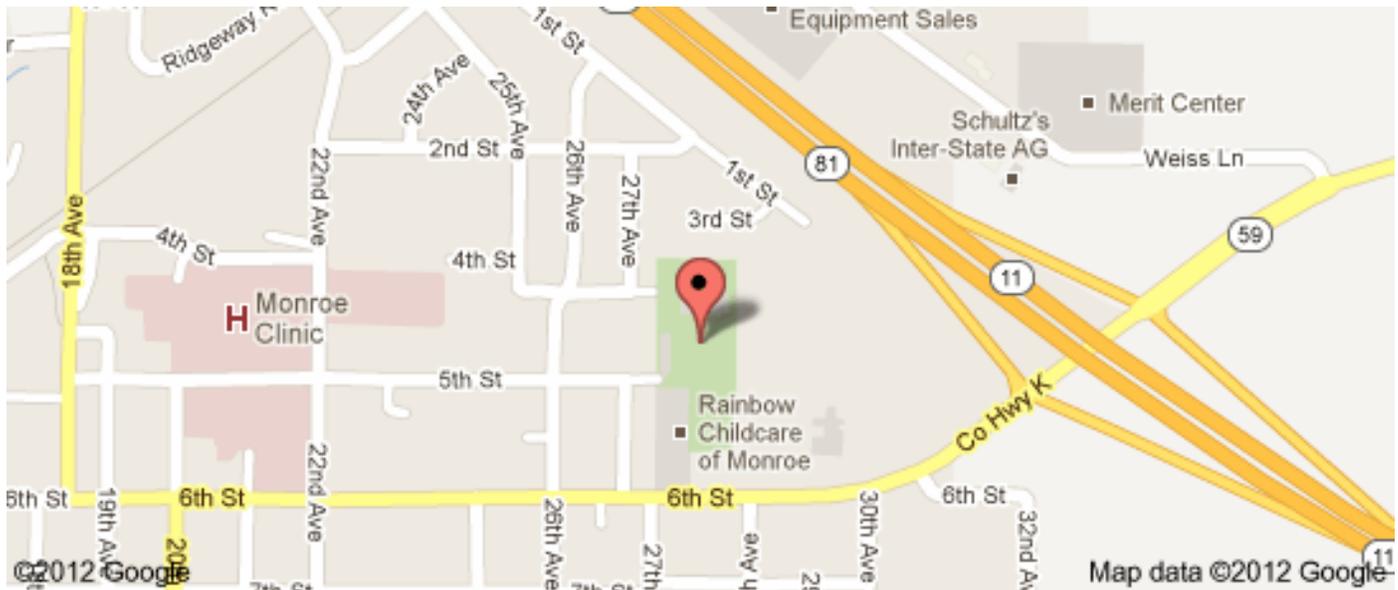
June Meeting

The June meeting will be the annual club picnic. It will be held at Northeast park in Monroe, WI. We will begin gathering around 10:00 and eat around noon. Bring a dish to pass, your own beverages, folding chairs and any kind of outdoor entertainment (Frisbee, football, baseball, etc). We will hold a short meeting (hopefully) and enjoy some excellent food and great company. We will have the geode cracker on hand as well as the silk screening supplies. There is

a map below and if you have any questions on how to get there, please contact one of the club officers. Hope to see you there!!

Laurie Trocke

Newsletter Editor



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Thank You Wil Ward

By David Zimmerman

Nature can be an insightful guide sometimes. As I'm writing this, I am reminded of the elephant pack that just watched their giant bull go to sleep for the last time. I'm sure I will have this feeling in me for quite some time to come, as will most of you. Our hearts and sympathies go out to Wil's wife Mary, and son John and daughter Wendy. Wil passed away peacefully on April 24th and was laid to rest April 30th.

Knowing Wil though, he would probably describe this as an awkward time for himself. Awkward because Wil liked humor, and awkward because when the subject of conversation was Wil Ward; he always tried to find a new topic to converse about.

Humility was just one of Wil's great traits. I would venture to say that most current club members were not with the club when Wil was extremely active in the club. Many of his contributions occurred in the 1960's to the 1990's, and while he has held every elected position in the club, he will mostly be remembered for his service as President, Show Chair, and Treasurer.

Not only was he greatly successful at these positions, but they occurred during some of the largest growth eras the club has ever seen, which of course was no coincidence. When Wil touched something, it ran like a well oiled machine. Most of this was due to Wil's excellent management skills and great organizational skills.

His show management skills are unparalleled while occurring when the show was even larger than our current show, as it included the entire gymnasium full of dealers. Even after his numerous years of show management, he was always one of the first volunteers to help set up, and one of the last ones sweeping the floors. His Wisconsin minerals showcases were always the envy of any museum in the state, while his fossil table supported one of the largest complete cephalopod fossils that I've ever seen. Making those specimens even more amazing, is that they were all self-collected!

Wil always liked telling the stories about when he led the club fieldtrips to the underground mines near Shullsburg. They would visit the Bear Hole Mine and the Blackstone Mine on weekends, paying the hoistman \$10 to lower the group down into the mine for the day. I can only imagine the sights they had seen. Now those were some really exciting club fieldtrips!

When the topic of Founding Members would come up, most people in the club would assume that Wil was a Founding Member, but he would always proudly claim that he joined in the second year of the club's existence. Knowing Wil though, I would not be surprised if he really was a Founding Member.

As one of the kids growing up in the club, I always remember Wil treating us as adults while telling us stories about his youth that were slightly corrupting to our upbringing. One of those stories involved the last day of school for a teen-aged Wil Ward. To celebrate such a noteworthy day, he and his friends decided to temporarily affix a metal garbage-can to a flagpole-rope. When they hoisted the can to the top of the flagpole, it flipped itself perfectly upside-down and landed right on top of the ball of the flagpole! Their temporary release mechanism had worked, so the can was not attached to the rope any longer and the group of teenagers had a good laugh watching the janitor try to remove the garbage can from the flagpole! That story will always bring a smile back to my face!

Having a degree in Pharmacology from UW Madison, Wil had a superior knowledge about the chemistry involved with minerals. His presentations to the club about oxides, sulphates, and sulphides were always well

attended and very thorough. Besides being a pharmacist for 47 years, Wil also served in the Army in his youth; was very active in the Methodist church throughout his life; played clarinet in the city band for over 40 years; was a volunteer for the Boy Scouts; and loved gardening and his wife Mary for over 59 years.

Wil exhibited his humility and strength at a club MSHA meeting years ago when he quietly left the meeting and no one could find him in the building. It caused us great concern, but when we went out to the parking lot, we saw that his car was gone. We did not find out until a few days later that he had had a heart attack at the meeting and then drove himself to the hospital!

I find it a fitting tribute to honor Wil by naming our annual picnic after him. Wil is the longest serving member the club has ever seen and was instrumental in keeping the club alive during some lean years as well as helping it to prosper during the strong years. I really do not think the club would exist right now if it weren't for this one man. Wil loved the annual picnics, and because it represents a gathering of good friends, good minerals and fossils, and good smiles, I think it is the perfect way to remember this giant of our pack.



Agate Hunting



Badger Lapidary & Geological Society, Inc.

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