

THE BADGER DIGGIN'S

The Badger Lapidary and Geological Society, Inc.

Southern Wisconsin
Devoted to the Earth Science

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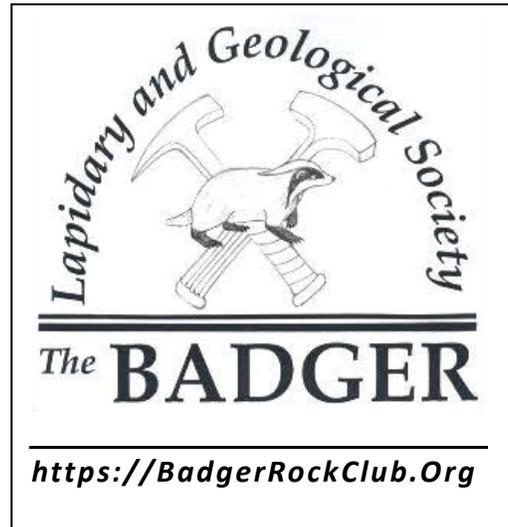
Hello Badger Rockers,
And *Welcome* to all New Members!

We are beginning this newsletter with a



Rocky Mountain of Thanks to
Debbie Lamb

who is retiring from writing our club's monthly newsletter after five years. Debbie spends her time travelling around the country - collecting stones, stories and memories wherever she goes. We are grateful for Debbie's past contributions and look forward to her upcoming ones as she continues to *Rock On* wherever the road takes her!



Hi - my name is Laura Petranek Arneson, and I am taking over putting the monthly newsletter together. I have been with the club for six or seven years and have always had a love for rocks. My favorite childhood rock was white and looked like a slice of bread. I remember picking it up at the tip of Door County while waiting for a ferry to Washington Island with my family when I was around four or five years old. This rock served as a great 'road paver' in our gravel driveway where I grew up, and it brought me years of delight.

Since joining the Badger Lapidary and Gem Society, I have learned so much about the quality and characteristics of various stones, and my collection has grown tremendously. My husband Dennis and I borrowed club equipment and learned how to polish rocks. We bought a rock saw. We talk to other club members and are always learning about the *what, where, why, and how* of rocks and fossils and are amazed at how much knowledge we have access to! Joining this club has been one of most fun things I have done!

I hope this newsletter continues to have information about what you need to know to keep *your* interest in rocks growing; in order to do that, I am going to rely on your article submissions, pictures and suggestions! Thanks in advance! *Laura*

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Badger Rock Club Business Meeting

Minutes - November 8, 2025 –

by Dawn Dennis, Secretary

Welcome, new guests: Chris Jacobson, Sue Schuetz, Debbie Mathews and Dan Capps.

Minutes were accepted from the October meeting.

New Business/Announcements:

- A Big *THANK YOU* to Debbie Lamb for writing the newsletter for us; your work is much appreciated!!
- If anyone has items that they would like to have photographed for the 2026 calendar, please get them to Laurie Trocke.
- Our Club's Holiday Party is 12/13/25 at 2:00 P.M.; it is a potluck event and there will be a short business meeting followed by the famous GOLD BRICK game. There will be a Facebook event posted and emails sent out about this soon.
- Dan Trocke talked about his soapstone carving in progress. He also shared information on how to carve this material.
- Laurie Trocke passed out the new name tags. If you still need one there will be another order going in soon.
- Treasury Report/Dan Trocke: Current balance given. Talked about upcoming expenses for the show and about meeting snacks

Show business: (Laurie Trocke, Chair)

March 28 & 29, 2026 at the Craig Center in Janesville

*****Reminder*** - Club members can sell at the club table for only a 10% fee of what you sell!**

- All vendors are secured
- Activities discussed: hands-on sand casting, crystal clusters, gem panning and metal detector
- Confirmed Speakers: Scott Rippe (Topic TBD); Robert Humphries - Welsh mining; John Dean – Fluorescent Rocks
- Club members will go out to dinner after the show closes on Saturday (location TBD)
- Sign-up sheets were passed around
- Shannon mentioned Goodwill donating rocks for kids' games; not sure about the ethics on using donations?

Old Business:

- Club pop-up store going on-line by next week (Laurie)
- Lapidary Day was a well-attended event; there were more than 30 folks there.
- Bring ideas for field trips for 2026: we will have fewer large trips next year as there is a BIG one in February.
- The February 2026 field trip will be to the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show. Dan is flying out Feb 2-8; Herb is going to drive (taking the scenic route). Darsha suggested including emails for Herb and Laurie (More details coming in the newsletter). There was some discussion about how to bring all the rocks back from the show.

Door Prize Winners: 1. Dan Capps 2. Craig Fleming 3. Penny Petranek

Meeting adjourned.

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PLEASE JOIN US!

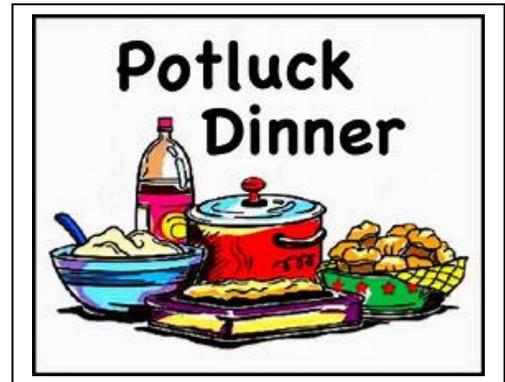
Our annual Holiday Party will take place at a new location this year – for details, please see the email message from Laurie Trocke { glowyrocks@gmail.com } which was sent out

on November 14, 2025.

The party starts at 2:00 P.M., but you are welcome to arrive early to help set up.

This year the meal will consist of a potluck dinner in our own private setting. The Club will provide the main course -- ham & turkey (which our own Grill Master, Herb, has volunteered to prepare) and **we ask that you bring one of your signature dishes** to share.

Also, please **bring a beverage of your choice**. Once again, Penny Petranek's granddaughters will be baking cookies for the party. They are starting a baking business and will have a donation jar available.



Following the meal, we will hold our **December Club Meeting**. The primary purpose of the meeting is to elect officers for 2026. We try to keep the meeting short and sweet so that we have plenty of time for the main event of the evening – ***The Fantastical Gold Brick Game!!***



We have been playing this game at our Holiday party for something like 50 years! It is a wonderful tradition and is lots of fun. We will read the rules and explain how the game works at the party.

Please **remember to bring two or three inexpensive, well packaged/wrapped gifts per person.** These gifts will be part of the game. We always make sure that everyone gets something. In addition to these presents, the club donates four nice gifts which you will have a chance to win at the end of the game.



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The Holiday party is also a great time to pay annual dues (cash or check, please) –

- \$15 for an individual
- \$20 for a family.

Please remember dues must be paid *before* you can participate in field trips with the club. You may also mail your dues to our treasurer (see Officer Rosters). Thanks to all who have already paid up!



We will also have **2026 Calendars** available for \$15.

Club Hats \$5

T-Shirts \$18

SAVE THE DATE

For Our 55th Annual Rock, Gem, Mineral, & Fossil Show!

Dates: **Saturday March 28** and **Sunday March 29, 2026**

Hours: **9am-5pm** **9am-4pm**

Location: **Rock County Fairgrounds, Craig Center Building**
1301 Craig Ave, Janesville, WI 53545 [Download Map](#)

Description: **Ten dealers, excellent speakers, many beautiful club displays, fluorescent mineral tent, lapidary demonstrations, club sales table, hourly door prizes, educational films.**

Activities for kids: Fishpond, spinner game, gem panning, scavenger hunt, rock crafts, and roaming rock wizard.

Food: **Herb will once again be grilling and providing food for the show.**

Thank you for your support! Our 54th annual show (March 15 & 16, 2025) was a big success!

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January:

Saturday, January 10, 2026, at 10:30 A.M. - Club Officers will be hosting the first meeting of the year at FESTIVAL FOODS in Janesville. This will be a brainstorming session to plan our Club's field trips and meeting activities for the upcoming year. All members are welcome and encouraged to join!

Note: we are not planning to do a January Field Trip in 2026 due to the usually ridiculously wintry weather that usually corresponds with the fourth Saturday of this month. Now watch, we will have a spring thaw with weather in the 50's because we said this! *If this changes, we will post a notice on our Facebook page and send out an email notice to our paid members.*

February:

Field Trip: Tuscon Gem Mineral and Fossil Showcase is a series of shows that run in the greater Tuscon, Arizona area from January 28 through February 15, 2026.

- From dazzling crystals priced at just a few dollars to museum-quality specimens valued in the hundreds of thousands, Tucson's gem shows deliver treasures for seasoned collectors, curious visitors, and everyone in between. No matter the season, there's always a new discovery waiting.
- More than 80% of shows are open to the public. A few shows offer advance registration. A couple charge admission. Some are only available to licensed dealers.
- Several club members are planning to rendezvous in Tucson, perhaps to rent a shared house/Airbnb while attending all or part of the show, and/or to meet up somewhere in the desert to find rock specimens on a semi-organized field trip. If you are interested in going, make sure you get involved in on-line discussions NOW so you can receive group information as it becomes available, or contact Laurie Trocke at glowyrocks@gmail.com.

Saturday, February 28, 2026, at 10:30 A.M. - regular meeting at FESTIVAL FOODS.

March:

Saturday, March 14, 2026, at 10:30 A.M. – regular meeting at FESTIVAL FOODS. Focus will be on Show Prep

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55th Annual Rock, Gem, Mineral, & Fossil Show!

Friday, March 27, 2026 – 6:00-10:00 P.M. - Show set-up at the Craig Center

Saturday, March 28, 2026 – 9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.

5:30 P.M. - ? Dinner for club members (Location TBD)

Sunday, March 29, 2026 - 9:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.



At the November 8th meeting, Dan Trocke gave instructions on the art of carving soapstone. Dan showed his latest project and many members had a lot of fun with trying out the techniques.

Club member Craig Fleming was amazed at how easy it was to shape his stone (left) following Dan introduction. Other members are encouraged to bring their final project to the Holiday Party to show off their skills!

Q: Why did the slab of marble break up with the geologist?

A: He took it for granite.

Q: What do call a stone that quits going to school?

A: A skipping stone.

Q: Why won't you see geologists at an Opera?

A: They are only into rock' n 'roll.

Q: Why do the beer-drinkers in the Rock club like attending the October meetings the best?

A: Because it is the time to celebrate Rocktoberfest.

Q: What is a rock club member's favorite Halloween costume?

A: Jasper the Friendly Ghost

Q: What does the geologist/landscaper recommend for a privacy fence?

A: A Stone Hedge

Q: What did the Italian Rock Club chef get for Christmas?

A: A pizza stone.

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2025 Officers Roster

Chair	Name	Contact Information
President	Darsha Olsen	darshakay@gmail.com
Vice-President	Brian Zahn	1rockpile@gmail.com
Secretary	Dawn Dennis	muirwyn@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Dan Trocke	Daniel.trocke@slh.wisc.edu or glowyrocks@gmail.com 4771 CTH II Highland, WI 53543 H) 608-935-0597
Officer at Large	Herb Bunger	herbertbthree@yahoo.com
Newsletter Editor		
Thru November	Debbie Lamb	dkaylamb@yahoo.com
As of December	Laura Petranek Arneson	laura_petranek@hotmail.com OR LollyPetArn@gmail.com

If you have any questions, please contact a Club officer. For Member information changes, please notify the treasurer.

CLUB INFORMATION

Meetings are typically held on the **2nd Saturday** of each month at 10:30 A.M. at FESTIVAL FOODS in the 2nd Floor Community Room (2233 Humes Rd / Janesville WI 53545).

Field Trips are usually held on the **4th Saturday¹** of the month. Trip Announcements are made on our Facebook Page, but locations and details are shared through emails addressed to *paid* Club Members.

- **Website:** BadgerRockClub.Org
- **FACEBOOK** – “[Badger Rock Club](#)”

Private group

[1.4K members](#)

Members can post pictures to this site. Note – when placing pictures on Facebook, members are giving BLGS permission to use them in the monthly newsletters.

- **Membership Email Address:** glowy.rocks@gmail.com



¹Except in January, March, November and December