

THE BADGER DIGGIN'S

The Badger Lapidary and Geological Society, Inc.

Southern Wisconsin
Devoted to Earth Science

Vol. 61, No 1

January 2026

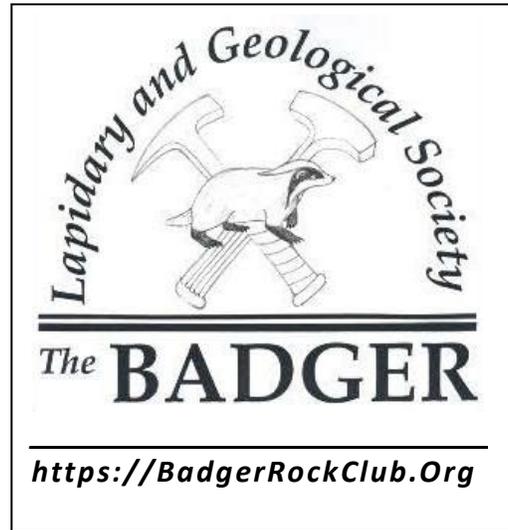
Hello Badger Rockers,

Welcome to the new year – 2026 looks to be a promising year for great education, interesting field trips and meetings, with lots of fun for all!

But we need your input!

Please share your ideas - maybe you have dream locations for rock or fossil hunting. Perhaps you have thought about lapidary skills you want to develop or learn more about. Maybe you know people who have expertise in working with gems or minerals that could meet with our club – let's explore our inner rockings together this year!

Contact an officer or send ideas to me, your newsletter writer. Rock on!



Laura

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UPCOMING 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. We will also be electing officers for 2026. All members are welcome and encouraged to join!

- **Saturday, January 24, 2026 at 10:30 A.M.** - TBD – This will be decided at the meeting on January 10th

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February

- **Field Trip: Tucson Gem Mineral and Fossil Showcase** is a series of shows that run in the greater Tucson 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 by sharing a rental house on 5 acres of land 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. It is not too late to plan on going! Come to our planning meeting 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, Show Prep– The location is TBD.
-
- **55th Annual Rock, Gem, Mineral, & Fossil Show!**
 - **Friday, March 27, 2026** 4:00-10:00 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.
 - **Sunday, March 29, 2026** 4:30 P.M. - Teardown

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- \$15 for an individual/per calendar year
- \$20 per family per calendar year

Please remember that 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 if you have already paid up for the year!



BLGS 2026

**BLGS Calendars are available
for sale at all our meetings for \$15**

**Club Hats \$5
T-Shirts \$18**



**At our Holiday Party, Melissa Hoxie dresses up as ...
...a unabrow skier? An Elf? No doubt she is joyous presence!**

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Badger Rock Club Business Meeting Minutes

Saturday, December 13, 2025 at 2:00 P.M.

by Dawn Dennis, Secretary

**Thirty-Eight folks attended this meeting, including one new club member – which was held at the Richmond Town Hall.

The Meeting called to order by Darsha (1. Mike; 2. Dan T)

Meeting Minutes were accepted from the November 8, 2025 business meeting (1. Debbie L; 2. John N)

New Business/Announcements:

- A BIG **THANK YOU** goes to Herb Bunger for reserving the Richmond Town Hall for our meeting and Holiday Party site and for preparing the wonderful main entrees!
- Another BIG **THANK YOU** goes to Debbie Lamb for her years of doing the newsletter!!
- T-shirt orders will be announced in January (Laurie T)
- Treasury Report: (Dan T) – The report is same as last month. This month there will be more activity due to membership renewals, purchases of new name tags (\$10 each) and selling new calendars (\$15 each)

Show business: (Laurie T) (March 28-29, 2026)

- Sign up sheets were sent around the tables; this is our big event of the year and makes money for the club to use. Please consider signing up to help ~ the more hands helping make the load lighter
- Speakers are lined up
- "Save the date" flyers are complete;
- Kids games have been planned

- The floor plan layout has already been drawn up (WAY TO GO, Laurie!!!!)

Old Business:

- **Tucson Trip** (Dan) (2/2 – 2/8/26): a rental house has been booked. It will hold 10 folks and 7 have already committed. It is located on five acres and a giant pet tortoise lives there. Herb and Dan will be driving down with the club truck and it will take them three days.
 - For information on this part of Arizona, see www.https://WhereAZ.com
 - For information about the various rock shows, see
 - shows.Tuscongemshows.net
 - <https://www.visittucson.org/blog/post/what-to-expect-from-a-visit-at-the-tucson-gem-shows/>
- Camping sites:
 - [RV Campground](#) – 11300 S Houghton Rd
 - [Sunshine Mile RV Park](#)– 201 S Norris Ave
 - [Tucson KOA Resort](#) – 5151 South Country Club Rd

New Business:

- Our next meeting is Saturday, January 10, 2026 at **10:30**. This is the planning session for 2026; PLEASE bring your ideas for outings, programs and talks you might want to do. We are REALLY looking for more folks to get involved with teaching, talking or leading an outing.
- The meeting on Saturday, January 26 will be determined at the planning meeting.

Door Prize winners:

1. Kal Hill (Laguna agate);
2. Debbie (quartz);
3. Pam (Malachite);
4. Jack Hoxie (Dew Drop Diamond Geode);*
5. Shannon Holt (mystery gem assortment)*

Meeting adjourned (1. Shannon 2. John)

*prizes #4 and #5 were donated

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

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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Chair	Name	Contact Information
2026 Officers Roster		
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

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RECAP



Do we know how to ... Make and Eat Good Food, *or What?*

...Buy Crazy and Fun Gifts for the Fantastical Gold Brick Game, *or What?*

...Shake Dice, Grab Gifts and Give Up Gifts, *or What?*

The **Fantastical Gold Brick Game** M.C., Jayden Trocke, gives instructions before the fast-paced game begins.



Most of the audience listens intently...



The game is on, and the different sets of dice are passed from one player to the next ...



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The Gold Brick Winners – *Congratulations!*



Jack Hoxie won a beautiful piece of Celestite.



Debbie Lamb won a nice piece of purple & yellow fluorite from Cave-in-Rock, IL. It was part of the Museum of Minerals & Crystals collection.



Laurie Ross won a piece of Green Fluorite from the Diana Maria Mine in Durham, England.



Randy Matula won a great piece of Dogtooth Calcite & Fluorite from Mexico.