



THE BADGER DIGGIN'S

The Badger Lapidary and Geological Society, Inc.

Monroe, Wisconsin

Devoted to the Earth Sciences

Vol. 56, No 5

May 2021

Club Message

Hi Badgers,

Hello May!!! I am **LOVING** the warmer weather and the beautiful evenings.

Are you out hunting for rocks? If so, please share your adventure with the members. We would love to hear about your trip and see your rock finds!!

Members Thank you for the great articles and the amazing pics!

I welcome all pictures, articles, and jokes for the newsletter!

Anyone interested in **contributing** to the newsletter please send me an email with your newsletter addition by the **end of each month**. I will add it to the next months newsletter.

The newsletter will be arriving in your **email the first week of each month**.

Debbie Lamb

MAY EVENTS

May 27 - June 1, 2021: South Dakota Trip-Custer State Park

- **Randy Matula to lead**



May 8, 2021

Park Meeting

Riverside Park, Janesville

Activity

**Mineral Identification
(basic)**

Club members will be available after the meeting to help you identify anything in your collection that you have questions on. Bring your mystery minerals and see if you can stump them!!

BLGS 2021 Calendar of Events

May 8, 2021: Park Meeting Riverside Park, Janesville

- **Activity-Mineral Identification (basic)-Marv?**

May 27-June 1, 2021: South Dakota Trip-Custer State Park

- **Randy Matula to lead?**

June 12, 2021: Annual BLGS Picnic

- Brigham County Park, 3160 County Hwy. F, Blue Mounds, WI
- Close to Cave of the Mounds
- Other attractions: Blue Mounds State Park, Bernie's Rock Shop in Madison, Minerals and More Rock Shop at 1035 N. Edge Trail, Prairie Oaks Center, Verona, WI
- Gwyn to bring meat, everyone bring own sides, plates, utensils

June 26, 2021: Field Trip

- Bellevue, IA Pit

July 10, 2021:

- Local fieldtrip to Janesville Quarry

July 17-18, 2021: Field Trip (None on July 24th)

- Moose Lake, MN "Agate Days"

August 14, 2021: Field Trip

- Rufer's Quarry, Monroe, WI
- Cephalopods, fossils, pyrite

Aug. 28, 2021: Field Trip

- Plan A: Glover's Bluff-Limestone Quarry, Meteorite Impact-Coloma, WI, Marquette County
- Plan B: Baraboo, WI Quartz
- Plan C: Ishpeming, MI Show

Sept. 11, 2021: Meeting

- Tie Bracelets with Rocks-Cherie
- Either at Mystic or Park

Sept. 25-27th: Field Trip

- Lake Michigan U.P.—Copper Country, Isle Royale, etc.

Oct. 9, 2021: Meeting

- Show Prep (for Oct. 30-31st)
- Bring supplies for kid's activities

Oct. 30-31, 2021: ANNUAL SHOW AT ROCK COUNTY

FAIRGROUNDS! PLAN TO BE THERE!!!

Nov. 11-13-Lapidary Days at Trocke's pending approval!

Dec. 11, 2021: Annual Holiday Party! Need new restaurant venue

- Gold Brick Game!

2021 Membership

Just a reminder that membership dues are due! \$15 for Single and \$20 for Family. Dues can be sent to Laurie Trocke.

2021 Calendar

2021 BLGS Calendars available for \$15 ~ great way to keep track of meetings and Club Field Trips 😊



Member Buy & Sale

BLGS member is looking for a horizontal all in one 6" or 8" flat lap to learn how to cab stones.

If you have one for sale or know of someone that does ~ Please contact Barb Schneider, 920-235-2245.

MAY Birthday Members

Happy Birthday 🎉

Modern & Traditional April Birthstone

EMERALD



April Meeting Minutes

by Laurie Trocke

The April meeting was called to order at 10:41 on Saturday, April 10th by President, Cliff Thomas. The following members attended the meeting: Dan & Laurie Trocke, Malacca Kobtschka, Debbie Lamb, David & Susan Cress, Marty Berg, Terry Shumway, Cliff Thomas, Gabriel Eggars, Reannah Jones, Michael Glass, Chuck & Lori Styles, Johnny Fay and Mike Reinke.

We started off by welcoming new members. Then a motion was made by Terry Shumway to accept the minutes for the March meeting as printed in the newsletter. Sue Cress 2nd the motion and it passed unanimously.

Laurie Trocke presented the Treasurer's Report and said that she had made a deposit of \$704. This money was from dues, calendar purchases and payments for the fluorescent flashlights.

We proceeded to announcements and discussed the upcoming fieldtrip to Keokuk, IA and Hamilton, IL. Reminded everyone that 2021 dues need to be turned in. We also informed everyone that there are still 2021 calendars left – if interested, contact Laurie or stop at Mystic Moraine. Dan Trocke said that he had extra batteries for the flashlights if anyone needed spares.

The 1st door prize was drawn. Mike Reinke won a nice piece of fluorescent Sodalite from Lake Michigan.

There was not any old business that needed to be addressed.

Cliff Thomas won the 2nd door prize. He won a nice Moss Agate slab with dendrites.

The next item was New Business. Debbie Lamb advised everyone to contact her if they are not getting the newsletter so that she can update email addresses.

We moved on to Show Business. Laurie said that we are on track for the October Show. She started a sign-up for Display Cases and will have more sign-ups at the next meeting. We then discussed getting a banner made for

the fluorescent display as well as a BLGS banner to put out at meetings and field trips.

The 3rd door prize was won by Chuck Styles. He won a very nice Shark's tooth.

Thanks to the Trockes for bringing snacks for the meeting. Reannah & Gabriel volunteered to bring treats for May.

Terry made a motion to adjourn, 2nd by Mike. The meeting adjourned at 11:20.

After the meeting, Dan Trocke did a demonstration on wire-wrapping and Cliff Thomas cracked geodes to give people a hint at what they could find on the field trip.

Matt Morohn's Rock Shop ~ CALM Crystals and Minerals



Calm Crystals and Minerals
210 N Main Street
Black Creek, WI 54106
920-519-0111

Rock Shopping by Mike Reinke

Pics of the [Rock County Rocks and Gems](#) in Beloit



Lots of polished pieces, some minerals; the 'grape' chalcedony from Indonesia, and brucite from Pakistan. A little pricey, but who isn't the days?

Here is a picture from a booth at [Volo Antique Mall](#). There are six cabinets loaded with pieces large and small. Reasonably priced. This dealer also has a booth at the antique mall in Rockford.



Humor and Wisdom from Cathy!

From Cathy Romeis



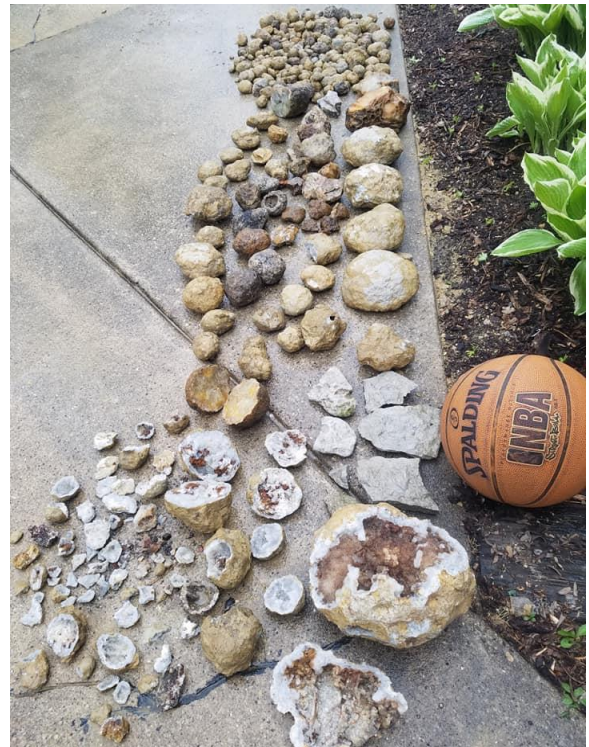
April Field Trip - Keokuk

Geodes

Check out these amazing pics!! We had a **blast!!!** We had a total of 52 people on this trip, of them, 14 were kids, 8 were new members that joined on this trip and another 8 were joining us for the first time! So much fun to meet everyone and to have a chance to visit with some.







**Thank you
Mike Glass, Reannah Jones, Mark Perry, Matt
Marohn, Becky Crase, Michelle Pratt-Bender,
and Debbie Lamb for the amazing pics!**

South Dakota Trip

May 27 - June 1, 2021

Plans for the South Dakota trip are well underway. Here is the current itinerary -- please keep in mind these are the initial plans and as we get more information, suggestions for other spots, etc, they may change slightly -- all of the general areas will be the same. We are planning on being in the Custer, SD area.

Friday -- This day will be largely on your own, explore the National & State parks, geology museums, rock stores, etc. We may plan to meet for supper that evening.

Saturday -- Rock Hunt at the Helen Beryl Mine -- approximately 15 minutes from Custer, SD. We hope to find Beryl, black Tourmaline, Quartz (some smokey or rose), Feldspar, Spudomene and other Pegmatites.

Sunday -- Rock Hunt in the Fairburn Agate Beds -- probably near the French Creek Campground about an hour from Custer, SD. We hope to find Prairie Agates, Bubblegum Agates, Jasper, Chalcedony, Petrified Wood and maybe even a Fairburn Agate if we are really lucky.

Monday -- Rock Hunt in Teepee Canyon -- about 20 minutes from Custer, SD. We hope to find Teepee Canyon Agates, fossils and sandstone.

Watch your email for more details, including meeting times & places, lodging possibilities, things to do in the area, etc.

Hope to see you there!!



Badger T-Shirts for SALE

Hey Badgers, we have a lot of t-shirts available from last year -- these would have been used at the show, but since it was cancelled, they were not picked up or sold. We have black & gold ones with the logo & 1970-2020 on the front and the 50 year design on the back. We also have a few teal blue ones with just the logo available. The shirts would be 8 dollars.

Let Laurie know you are interested!



Keokuk Geodes

Michelle Bender's great finds from 2020
trip to Jacobs Geodes



Great Finds!

"Where are you gonna go when the volcano blow?"

by Mike Reinke

A lyric from Jimmy Buffett. The answer depends on what kind of volcano. Some of them are tourist attractions like in Hawaii, and Iceland. People come and watch them gurgle up their lava. Other volcanoes are violent that must be fled from in advance. The answer in one word is viscosity. That means basically, stickiness, the ability or inability to flow. High viscosity means very thick and resistant to flowing. Your motor oil in your car has the viscosity of 10 W 30, or 5w 20, and these are degrees of how thin they get working in a hot engine, and they're designed for that specific engine.

Have you ever seen a video of molten Steel in a steel making plant? They pour that steel and it flows like syrup. Also, have you ever seen glass blowing, where they have the melted glass and it can be worked into extremely fine shapes because it's so sticky. Molten iron would just splattered on the floor whereas glass is much more workable because of it's extremely high viscosity.



Volcanoes from Hawaii have a Basalt lava which has a little more iron and a little less silica. It's a very dark rock when it solidifies because of the iron, and it just oozes out and does not have a lot of gas in it but because of the viscosity the gas can be released more easily. Volcanoes on continents are made of light colored rocks, more silica, say 70% rather than 45%, give or take.) Remember, glass is made from sand, sand is high in silica and very low in iron, so most rocks on continents are essentially dirty sand. Those volcanoes have much more gas, that will be another discussion, and it tends to be pent-up because they're so sticky so when it gets to the mouth of the volcano it tends to explode all at once. It's like the difference between the small release of gas you hear when you open a pop can and the different reaction when you shake the can first and then open it. And to add to the complexity, there aren't simply 2 types of volcanos. there is a volcano in Africa that gurgle's up basically molten limestone. See youtube, under "Oldoinyo Lengai volcano".

Always plenty to learn, as long as you know where to go when the volcano blow.



A Missouri Road Trip Report

by Randy Matula

Earlier this year I became aware of a location in Missouri called Haunted Ridge, where a large number of quality drusy quartz pieces and nice plates of larger quartz points were being found. I had no idea what or where this place was, but thought it sounded intriguing and idly thought to myself that someday I should head to Missouri to try to find some of the drusy that they are famous for.

In March, I saw that Bryan Major, of YouTube's The Crystal Collector fame, was going to be digging at Haunted Ridge on a Thursday and Friday and that the first ever public dig at the site was to be held on Saturday and Sunday. On a whim, I decided to head down to Missouri for a long weekend with my son Luke and check it out. We made the seven-hour trip on Thursday and spent the night in Potosi, a small town in Washington County. The next morning, we drove about fifteen minutes to the Coleman property. Upon arriving, we met Greg and his wife Judy and learned how their property had recently become a rockhounding destination. He told me that our vehicle's Wisconsin license plate represented the thirteenth state that had visited his property in the last two days. I then spoke to a rockhound from Georgia who had been digging the previous day and admired some of his huge pieces of quartz.

Luke and I gathered our buckets and backpacks and climbed aboard Greg's side-by-side. He pointed out a couple of good locations for surface-collecting as we rode to a wooded ridgetop where he dropped us off. A mini excavator had been used the day before to dig up some fresh material at several locations along the ridge. We decided to search the freshly dug areas first since it had rained the night before and we were the first to arrive that day. It immediately became clear that the entire ridgetop was made up of quartz in various forms.



As we poked through the piles of orange, sticky clay, we could see an occasional glint as the sun reflected off a crystal or two that was barely visible. It seemed that we would not really know what we had found until we had an opportunity to thoroughly wash the pieces. After wrapping the best pieces with foam and filling a couple of buckets, Luke and I caught a ride back to our vehicle to drop off our finds. We grabbed two empty buckets and headed to a hillside covered with cedars and oaks that Greg had told us was a good spot. We could see that a small creek made its way through the valley below and decided to slowly work our way down to it, searching the hillside for anything worthwhile.



Stones littered the forest floor, many covered with moss and lichen, while others lay buried beneath fallen leaves. We flipped each one over and checked the undersides, digging and prying the larger ones free. Some featured large quartz points, others had chalcedony-coated points, while many exhibited the beautiful drusy coating that we had come to expect.



We were fortunate enough to find a few massive crystal plates, which was very exciting! One of the most fascinating things about the site was the abundance of finely banded lace agate. I collected a bunch of it with intentions of cutting and cabbing it.



We managed to fill a few more buckets with our treasures and said our goodbyes to the Colemans after purchasing matching Haunted Ridge Rocks T-shirts, of course.

The next day we decided to do some exploring west of Potosi and were able to find the locations of a couple of old iron and barite mines. Some large tailing piles still exist so we spent most of the day and the next picking through the rubble and the surrounding ditches and washes. One pile contained large amounts of rocks with beautiful blue drusy-lined cavities. Also found were some great specimens of barite, quartz and barite combinations, hematite, goethite, and pyrite. We had an absolute blast!



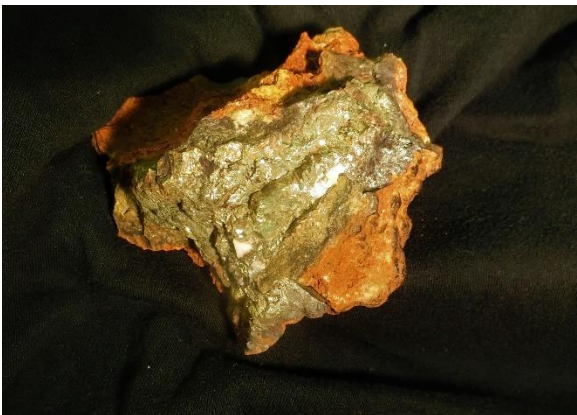
A stop along the Fourche A Renault river offered us a chance to search some large gravel bars and yielded some nice pieces of polished agate.

We topped off our trip by hiking up nearby Hughes Mountain. Its bald peak is composed almost entirely of rhyolite and offers unobstructed views of the surrounding countryside.



Having made some great memories 'hounding in the beautiful countryside of Washington County, Missouri and enjoying blue skies and mild temperatures all weekend, we reluctantly began the long journey back home.

The next couple of weeks were spent picking clay out of rock crevices, washing specimens, and soaking pieces in Iron Out baths. That part of the adventure continues.



Perhaps a club trip to this area would be of interest to some folks? Be sure to lobby your Field Trip Chairperson! 😊



BLGS Annual Rock Show
October 30th & 31st, 2021
Rock County Fairgrounds

Rock Show Chairperson

Laurie Trocke

608-935-0597

laurie.trocke@landsend.com

This page will be updated monthly with Fair information.

- **Showcases available for club members to set up displays at the show. There are 8 large ones – 2ft x 4ft x 20in and 12 small ones 2ft x 2ft. The large ones have a built-in light and the small ones have lights mounted above them. The display cases are covered and cannot be opened during the show. More Information available in the April 2021 Newsletter – if interested in a showcase – please contact Laurie**

What did the gold say to the pyrite?

You are a fool and a fake!

Officer Roster

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Open

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