

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

Hey Badgers,

It's been a fantastic summer. A lot of you have been able to join the field trips. Michigan, Door County, Shullsburg & the latest to Utica were all fantastically fun and yielded some amazing finds. It is always fun to spend time on the rock piles & the beaches, sharing beautiful days with beautiful people!! Thank you for that.

I'd like to say a Huge Thank you to Mike & Ruth Riesch from Earthhaven Museum for hosting the Badger Club and the Lakeland Club on the trip to Sturgeon Bay. As always, they were knowledgeable, fun & gracious hosts. Their time and energy always make this a wonderful trip and we were all truly grateful.

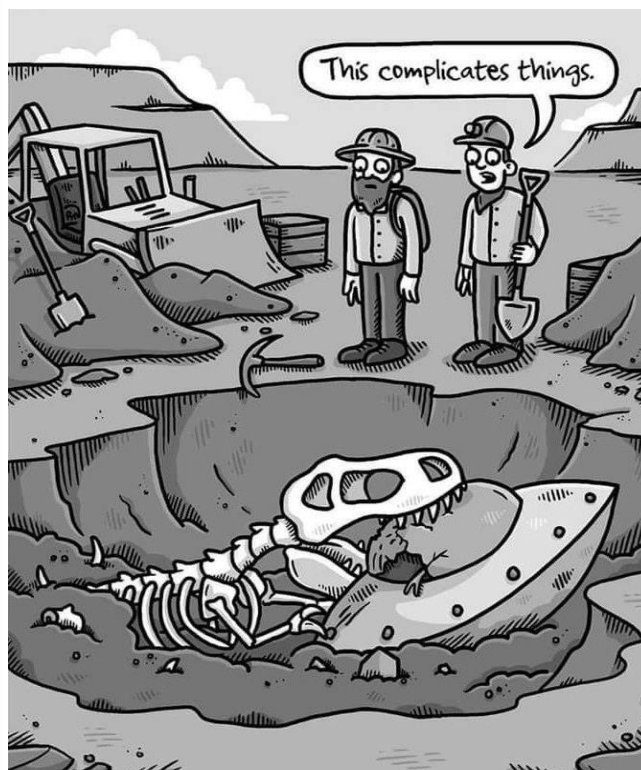
As we head into fall, we have some more fun times to look forward to. We have the Show & Tell meeting in September - - bring in your treasures to share, as well as any rock/mineral specimens that you would like to get some glamour shots of for possible inclusion in the calendar!! We also have the Graves Mountain trip coming up -- there is more information on that later in the newsletter. Lapidary Day will take place right after that, watch for an email with more information soon.

The planning for our 50th Anniversary Show is in full swing! We welcome any input, ideas, comments and contributions. Since it is the 50 Year show, we are hoping to make it spectacular! So start spreading the word!! We'll have 'Save the Date' flyers at the September meeting as well as any updates. See ya soon!!

Laurie
BLGS Pres

*You have spoken! See all the GREAT
rock material in this volume of
The Badger Diggin's.
Keep those articles coming!*

*Tamara Unger-Peterson
Newsletter Editor*



1 Just for Fun.... Courtesy of Cathy Romeis

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BLGS 2019 Calendar of Events

- Sept 14:** Meeting: Show & Tell and Rock Swap
- Oct 4-6:** Field Trip: Graves Mountain, GA & Hogg Mine
- Oct 12:** Meeting: Lapidary Day, Trocke's Farm
- Oct 26:** Field Trip – Cave Trip (location tbd)
- Nov 11:** Meeting: Speaker (TBD)
- Dec 14:** Meeting: Annual Christmas Party

There is not a field trip in November or December due to the Holidays

June Meeting Minutes

The June meeting was the Annual Picnic. The following members attended: Shirley, Chris & Mark Wolf, Jordan Marche', Jim & Wilma Lamont, Kim Hunter (and furry friends – Rocket, Finn & Koe), Gwyn Padden, David Noll, Kim, Callie, Cassi & Collin Hoxie, Johnny Faye, and Dan & Laurie Trocke.

Gwyn Padden set up her photo center to take pictures for next year's calendar. Everyone will have another opportunity to bring specimens to the September meeting. If you have pictures that you would like to submit, please send them to glowrocks@gmail.com. Once all photos are taken/submitted, we will pick the best ones for the calendar.

We enjoyed some excellent food and then held a short meeting. It was a lovely day, sunny, warm with the wind slightly from the west. We welcomed new member David Knoll.

Jim Lamont made a motion to approve the minutes from the last newsletter. Johnny Faye moved to 2nd it. The motion passed unanimously.

Announcements: We wished Chris & Shirley Wolf a Happy 50th Anniversary and Wilma LaMont a Happy Birthday.

Also, Johnny Faye announced that he has an abacus.

Treasurer's Report: Jack will announce the final tallies from the show at the September meeting. Dan suggested that we invest money we from the show into a second genie or another grinder.

Old Business: The Michigan trip was very successful. We found Petoskey Stones, Sodalite & Specular Hematite. The group had a great time.

Johnny Fay won the first door prize. He won a piece of Pyrite from Colorado.

New Business: We are working on rescheduling the Bellevue, IA trip and hope to have a date in the near future.

The plans for the Graves Mountain trip are moving along. We have permission to get into the Hogg Mine on October 3rd, which is the Thursday before the Graves Mountain dig.

Show Business: Please let any of the Officer's know if you are interested in serving on a committee to help plan and run the show.

Dan Trocke won the third door prize. He won a piece of Smoke Quartz from Lake George, Colorado.

The treats for the September meeting will be determined closer to summer – if anyone is interested in bringing treats, please let Laurie know.

A motion was made to adjourn. It was seconded by Johnny. The motion passed.

Note The 2nd door prize winner and the person that made the final motion to adjourn were missed.

Submitted by Dan Trocke

Graves Mountain Georgia Field Trip - October

From Laurie Trocke

Just a quick update on the Graves Mountain Trip.

The Graves Mountain trip is shaping up nicely. We have confirmed that we can visit the Hogg Mine near LaGrange, GA on Thursday, **October 3rd**. We'll spend the day hunting there and then head to the Lincolnton, GA area for the 3 day dig at Graves Mountain.

We are looking at renting a house in both areas if people are interested. Let me know ASAP so that I have an idea of how many would want to share a house and how many are planning to make the trip for sure.

<http://hoggmine.com/>

Welcome to the Hogg Mine!

How it Works Just show up at the meeting place on the date of the Scheduled dig and we will get you signed in. We will caravan (You follow me in your own car) to the mine at 9 AM Sharp.

hoggmine.com

<https://www.gaminal.org/ft/commercial/ftgravesmain.html>

GMS - Graves Mountain

DIRECTIONS: From Atlanta's I-285, take I-20 east to the exit for Washington, GA SR 78 (SR 10, SR 17) and turn left. Travel north to Washington, turn right onto SR 378 and drive 11 miles to the Graves Mountain area. The entrance to Graves Mountain is on your right about 8/10 mile past the Lincoln county line sign.

www.gaminal.org

Show Business

From Laurie Trocke

We are looking for volunteers for committees to help plan/run the show this year. These are the committees that we have in mind. If you are interested in serving on a committee, let me know asap. Thanks!!

Show Chair & Co-Chair -- We need 2 people to serve as co-chairs to make sure that all of the I's are dotted and the t's are crossed!

Facilities – 2-3 people to make sure the facilities are ready to go, pick up the key, lock up at night, etc. Also to help with the layout of the vendors, kids games, sales table, etc.

Speaker – 2-3 people to research/contact possible speakers and schedule them to speak at the show.

Vendor Liaison – 2-3 people to answer any vendor questions/concerns.

Advertising – 2-3 people to set up Signs, Flyers, Newspaper ads, etc.

Social Media – 2-3 Social Media savvy people to get the word out thru digital marketing and advertising.

Kids Games – 2-3 people to plan the kid’s games & hands on activities, inventory supplies from last year, and head the preparations for this year.

Sales Table – 2-3 people to plan the sales table, help organize & facilitate running it at the show.

50 Year Anniversary Committee – 5-10 people to brainstorm and take suggestions from the members to make the 50 Year show amazing.

Laurie
BLGS Pres

Stalactites

By David Cress

I won a nice stalactite which is 4 ½ inch long and 1 ½ inches in diameter at it largest.

It is a speleothem which is the most common form of stalactite because it was formed on a limestone cave ceiling. It forms through deposition of calcium carbonate and other minerals, which are precipitated from mineralized water solutions.

Limestone is the chief form of calcium carbonate rock which is dissolved by water that contains carbon dioxide, forming a calcium bicarbonate solution. This solution travels through the rock until it reaches an edge and if this is on the roof of a cave it will drip down. When the solution comes into contact with air the chemical reaction that created it is reversed and particles of calcium carbonate are deposited.

The average growth rate is 0.005 inches a year and can be as high as 0.12 inches per year. So my prize could have taken more than 900 years to get this big.

The large end of the stalactite has rings just like a tree and even some colored rings where other minerals were deposited. Most of the center is a clear crystalline calcite. (could be aragonite, gypsum or dolomite, but they are not colorless). When the water drips on the floor of a cave a corresponding cone shaped formation can also form and is known as a stalagmite.

The Great Eastern Rockhounding Trek of 2019

By Teri Marché

Three intrepid explorers met up in Brodhead on April 22. Deb Wehinger, Ken Schweitzer, and I piled into a truck loaded with gear, boxes, and buckets to face the sunrise and keep going. We had plans. We had a trailer, too. We were ready!

After bypassing Chicago, we took a break at Indiana’s Dunes State Park along Lake Michigan. The weather was good, so we walked the beach, got our feet wet, and picked up some interesting rocks, ‘cause that’s what rockhounds do!

Then we hit the road again, and headed for Ohio. The next morning it was time to check out the Sylvania Fossil Park. This is a free fossil collecting venue, located near some really big limestone quarries west of Toledo. There are three concrete pads in the park where they dump truckloads of material from the quarry for folks, including kids, to dig through. It is lots of fun, with Devonian-age marine fossils that are often pyritized. We had the place to ourselves for most of the morning, and we found some great brachiopods, corals, and trilobites.

Since we had a Wednesday date with a friend in Pennsylvania, it was time to put more miles behind us. Kerry Matt is an old friend of Jordan’s from our years in Lancaster County. He has written a book, *Pennsylvania’s Mineral Rainbow*, about his rockhounding experiences in the eastern half of the state. Kerry promised us a day in the quarries of Snyder County, and he delivered!

The county is in the heart of the Ridge and Valley geological formation that parallels most of the east coast. When Africa “bumped” onto North America, it literally wrinkled the landscape, creating long, folded mountains that extend, row upon row, for hundreds of miles, northeast to southwest. The limestone rocks in the two quarries reflected this; in one case the quarry wall arched over us like an anticline wave.

The folds in each of these quarries contained unique forms of calcite. The first quarry sparkled with masses of small hexagonal crystals, of clear, white, pink, and salmon colors. The second quarry featured larger, yellow, scalenohedral (pointed on both ends) calcites, along with masses of red to orange druzy

calcites. For me, the find of the day was a single boulder that broke open to reveal pockets of crystals, up to two inches, of prismatic yellow calcites. I brought along every single piece!

An amazing feature of this second quarry is the wavellite that can be found there. However, it is in the upper layers that had not been worked since last fall when a club, in Kerry's words, "hit it hard," so there would not be much left. Instead he brought some beautiful bright green pieces for us to select from and buy. Ken went for an entire flat! I found this occurrence surprising, since I had only ever heard of wavellite from Arkansas.

With the quarry owner encouraging us to, "take more!" it should be no surprise that, by the end of this, just our second day of digging, the 4 x 8 U-Haul trailer was full! Ken was playing tonnage king to Deb's queen! Still, it had been a terrific day, sunny, warm, and full of beautiful calcite, which we now hauled eastward.



Figure 2 Our guide to the Pennsylvania calcite quarries



Figure 3 Snyder County Calcite



Figure 4 - More Snyder County Calcite

We had another date, this time with Ralph Kovach, a friend of a friend of Mike Riesch (think Earthaven Museum). Ralph has been long associated with the Sterling Hill Mine and Museum in Ogdensburg, NJ, where he has been capping out fluorescent jewelry for years. A more amiable guy would be hard to find! On Thursday we also met up with Kevin Ponzio and Austin Gausman who came down from their digging in New York to meet up with us. We made a jolly crew indeed.

Ralph showed us places to dig at Sterling Hill, and we pulled out some of the beautiful "Christmas Tree" material for which this mine is famous. This high grade zinc ore, composed of metallic black Franklinite, deep red Zincite and Willamite of many colors, along with non-zinc-bearing calcite lights up in brilliant red and green under short-wave ultraviolet light. It is hard

to resist indeed! I was particularly tickled with the rose colored Willemite, which I had never seen before.



Figure 5 Anticline in the quarry wall shows how the Ridge and Valley Province of Pennsylvania was formed.

Unfortunately, that was our last day of good weather. Kevin and Austin joined us again at West Paterson, NJ, to search out the Upper New Street Quarry, famous for its glorious green Prehnite and zeolites. We were down in the workings when a cold front came crashing through, with lightning, thunder and torrential downpours. Even though we were prepared with full raingear, we all got soaked!

This quarry presented us with a real puzzle in its geology. The quarry wall is a mass of gigantic rounded boulders with irregular spaces between. Austin was first to discover the source of the Prehnite by bashing the boulders apart, although it was Deb who tracked the scattered Prehnite pieces up a talus slope to a face where collectors had obviously been working. However, it was the spaces between the boulders that contained the many zeolite minerals for which the quarry is also known.

We knew that the rock was "trap rock," igneous rock either extruded or intruded into the existing country rock. As I puzzled out the source of the boulders with Jordan upon our return home, the only thing that came to mind was "pillow lava," but that only happens when hot lava is extruded into the ocean. So far as we knew, that area of New Jersey had never been under the sea. A quick check of the site on Mindat provided the answer: it is indeed pillow lava, extruded into a giant freshwater lake. Crazy!

With all the rain it was hard to really examine our finds in the field, so we had to make our best guesses. I came back with Prehnite, Amethyst (a real surprise!) Laumontite, Pectolite, Chabazite, and other stuff as yet unidentified. I also learned that hitting

anything with a hammer in a rainstorm is a great way to get splashed in the face. We spent that evening trying to dry out every stick of clothing we had on that day. There was, unfortunately, no laundry at the hotel, and trying to get to one would have just gotten all the rest of our gear soaked, too. The room looked like a poorly displayed rummage sale!



Figure 6 Pillow lava "boulders" in the wall of the Upper New Street quarry, Paterson, NJ. Provided by Austin Gaustman

Saturday dawned grey and damp. We were to spend the entire day in Franklin, at the Super Dig event. Our morning was spent on the "Mill Pile," one of the last places for a chance at Parker Shaft material. That shaft produced the greatest number of rare fluorescent minerals in the area.

We discovered later that the pile came from the old Palmer Mill tramway in Franklin. The tracks leading from the mines up to the mill were originally on wooden trestles. Later they took tailings from the nearby Parker Shaft to shore up the trestle, filling all the spaces up to the tracks. When the mines closed and the tracks were no longer needed, they hauled the pile over to the Franklin Museum property and fenced it in.

As with any new site, it took some time to figure out how to approach the pile. The best way seems to be picking a spot, digging onto the pile and chipping a corner off of the rocks that turn up. Still, great finds were elusive. Ken came away with the prize, a boulder of Hardystonite, Clinohedrite and Willemite that he and Kevin broke up to distribute among our group.

That afternoon brightened up a bit so Deb, Ken, and I elected to stay at the Franklin Museum and dig at the Buckwheat dump, while Kevin and Austin checked out the Franklin Rock and Gem Show. The dump is pretty well picked over, with mostly just calcite remaining, although Deb and Ken turned up

some very black rocks with red to tan crystals that fluoresced turquoise and blue.



Figure 7 Zeolites formed in spaces between the "boulders." Provided by Austin Gaustman

At supper Austin and Kevin announced that they were heading home on Sunday, and they also reported that among other things, there was a dealer at the show who had drill cores. Nirvana for Deb!! So on Sunday morning, when we checked out the show, Deb wanted to make a beeline to the vendor, who was not at his outdoor stand, because it was, once again, raining.

We did meet up with Ralph again, and we did a rock swap in the parking lot. He had New Jersey copper, hyalite, fluorescent glass, and manufactured briquettes of magnetite invented by Thomas Edison – the forerunner of modern taconite balls. There were also fossil belemnite necklaces and polished Sterling zinc ore cabochons. Planning ahead, we had also packed up a good selection of our own local specimens in return. We spent the afternoon back at Sterling Hill to collect in the Passaic Pit and hit their "garage sale" of minerals. There were some good bargains!

Of course Deb was now on the drill core hunt and discovered a new rock shop on Main Street, the Franklin Mineral Rock and Gem LLC, where she purchased two boxes of Sterling Hill marble cores and a tray of zinc ore cores that fluoresce. The owners are locals and ready to share their knowledge of local mining history. We had a fun visit.

In her search for a drill core source, Deb also came up with another name, and on our way north out of New Jersey on Monday morning we made another stop. The name was Bob Hauk, who just happened to be one of the two ex-miners who bought the Sterling Hill Mine when it closed to create the Museum and tour.

The Hauks live in a lovely home filled with the results of a lifetime of dedicated collecting: mining artifacts, rock and mineral spheres of all sizes, and trench art to name a few. Almost everything was for sale. We all bought New Jersey copper, Ken found a super Prehnite piece, and I found a small boulder of giant New York garnets. Deb hit the jackpot with a complete flat of Sterling Hill fluorescent drill cores, still in the original box! There were also some 4 ft. long cores from Cobalt, Canada. So, with lighter pockets, and a heavier truck, we set off for New York.

Our first stop was in Fonda, at the ice cream stand near the river. Then we went to the Crystal Cove Mine north of St. Johnsville. For a small fee, we spent the afternoon in the pit, gathering up rock covered with Herkimer Diamond druze. Some of it also had a larger crystal or two in the bargain. This material cleans up to be the sparkliest stuff imaginable.

With just two more days to go, we headed to the town of Herkimer, NY, then up to the Ace of Diamonds Mine. This mine is carved into the side of a cliff along the road. The owners are mining new areas off to one side, and hauling up the extra rock to the top of the cliff on the other side. We could either screen from a dirt pile, or go up top and break rock. By now we were all feeling the long, busy days of the past week, so we elected for some easy screening at the sluice on Tuesday. The rain held off nicely during the day and we all found some small diamonds.

On Wednesday, after a quick look up top, Deb took her ailing wrist and returned to screening. Ken climbed all over a super muddy rock pile, found two very muddy large crystals, helped me to move a boulder showing a bunch of crystal-filled vugs (a true gentleman!) and then joined Deb at the sluice. After beating that boulder down to a manageable size, I found a few more rocks to reduce to rubble, popping out crystals all the way. Rock reduction can be fun! Thankfully the rain once again held off until nightfall, so I sat on that rockpile all afternoon.

On Thursday we tossed our gear into the truck, no easy task they way it was loaded! Then we headed south and west, overnighting in Ohio and arriving home on Friday.

It took four days before I could get through a day without a nap: a week for unpacking and scrubbing up my collection, and two more weeks to saw off extra matrix where needed. It was a fantastic trek, and now my house is filled with lots sparkly, shiny, fluorescent beauties. Whew!

September/October Rock & Gem Shows

6-8: GREENFIELD, IN The 500 Earth Sciences Club of Indianapolis Annual Show. Fri & Sat 10 am - 6 pm; Sun 10 am - 4 pm. Hancock County 4H Fairgrounds, 620 N. Apple St., Greenfield. Contact: Tom Odom, (765) 325-2690; tomo1@hughes.net www.500earthsciencesclub.org

6-8: TOLEDO, OH Toledo Gem & Rockhound Club Annual Show. Fri 2 - 8 pm; Sat 10 am - 6 pm; Sun 11 am - 5 pm. Stranahan Theater Complex, 4645 Heatherdowns Blvd, Toledo. Contact: Stephen Shimatzki, (567) 868-8794; sjs132@gmail.com www.rockyreader.com

13-15: HOLLAND, MI Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club Annual Show. Fri 10 am - 8 pm; Sat 10 am - 7 pm; Sun 11 am - 5 pm. The Soccer Stop, 5 River Hills Dr., Holland. Contact: Sue Goedert, sonbeams2000@yahoo.com www.tulipcity.org

14: ROCKFORD, IL Rock River Valley Gem & Mineral Society Rock Swap. 9:30 am - 4 pm. Odd Fellow Lodge, 6219 Forest Hills Rd., Rockford. Contact: Duane Cushing, (815) 218-5011; tcdc78@comcast.net [FLYER](#)

20-22: LINCOLN, MO Mozarkite Society of Lincoln, Inc. Annual Show. Fri & Sat 9 am - 5 pm; Sun 9 am - 3 pm. Mike Hare Memorial Field, behind Bulls Eye Under the Water Tower, Lincoln. Contact: Karl David Parsons, (301) 641-6188; mozarkiterocks@gmail.com www.mozarkite.com

21-22: HOWELL, MI Livingston Gem & Mineral Society Annual Show. Sat 9 am - 6 pm; Sun 10 am - 4 pm. Hartland Schools Service Center, 9525 Highland Rd., Howell. Contact: Ed Oller, (810) 241-8801, edleathercraft@gmail.com www.livingstongems.com

21-22: AMANA, IL Cedar Valley Rocks & Mineral Society Rock Auction. Sat 9 am - 7 pm; Sun 9 am - 3 pm. Morton Building @ Amana RV Park, 39 - 38th Ave, Amana. Contact Marv Houg, (319) 364-2868; m-houg@yahoo.com www.cedarvalleyrockclub.org

28-29: TRAVERSE CITY, MI Grand Traverse Area Rock & Mineral Club Annual Show. Sat 10 am - 5 pm; Sun 11 am - 4 pm. Cherryland VFW Hall (Post 2780), 3400 Veterans Dr., Traverse City. Contact: Jared Bowen, (269) 303-5732, jaredjbowen@gmail.com www.tcrockhounds.com

28-29: NASHVILLE, IN Brown County Rock & Mineral Club Annual Show. Sat 10 am - 6 pm; Sun 10 am - 5 pm. Brown County History Center, 90 E. Gould St., Nashville. Contact: Rhonda Dunn, (812) 320-

6237, bcrmc2010@gmail.com <http://browncountyrock.webs.com>

28-29: OSHKOSH, WI Oshkosh Earth Science Club Rock Swap. Sat 9 am - 5 pm; Sun 10 am - 4 pm. Sunnyview Expo Center, 500 E. County Rd. Y, Oshkosh. Contact: Ann Voges, (920) 725-1640; hankemps@milwpc.com

October Shows

5-6: BELLEVILLE, MI Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society Rock Swap. Sat 10 am - 5 pm, Sun 10 am - 4 pm. Wayne County Fairgrounds, 10871 Quirk Rd., Belleville. Contact: Bill Barr, (505) 803-4888, wbarr@umich.edu; Tom Morris, Jr., (313) 278-5063 www.mmls.us [FLYER](#)

5-6: JACKSONVILLE, AR Central Arkansas Gem, Mineral & Geology Society Annual Show. 9 am - 5 pm both days. Jacksonville Community Center, 5 Municipal Dr., Jacksonville. Contact: Lorri Norwood, shadowbearvision@aol.com

5-6: SPRINGFIELD, IL Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society Annual Show. Sat 10 am - 6 pm; Sun 10 am - 4 pm. Orr Building, Illinois State Fairgrounds, 801 E. Sangamon Ave, Springfield. Contact: Ed Wagner, (309) 838-7782; loesseditor@gmail.com www.loess.org

6-7: OMAHA, NE Nebraska Mineral & Gem Club Annual Meeting. Sat 10 am - 6 pm; Sun 10 am - 4 pm. Westside Middle School, 8601 Arbor St., Omaha. Contact: Bruce Sturges, (402) 680-4051; bsturges@yahoo.com www.nerockgem.org

11-13: WARREN, MI Michigan Mineralogical Society Annual Show. Fri 9 am - 6 pm; Sat 10 am - 7 pm; Sun 11 am - 5 pm. Macomb Sports & Expo Center, Bldg P, 14500 E. 12 Mile Rd., Warren. Contact: John Peters, (313) 255-7774; joopett13@hotmail.com www.michmin.org

12-13: CLEVELAND, OH Parma Lapidary Club Annual Show. Sat 10 am - 4 pm; Sun Noon - 4 pm. Parma Lapidary Club, 2130 W. 110th St., Cleveland. Contact: Amanda Balog, parmalapidary@yahoo.com www.parmalapidary.org

12-13: COLUMBUS, NE The Loup Valley Gem & Mineral Society Annual Show. Sat 9 am - 5 pm; Sun 10 am - 4 pm. First United Methodist Outreach Center, 3602 -16th St., Columbus. Contact: Greg Johnson, (402) 270-0791; loupvalleynew@gmail.com

18-20: FORT WAYNE, IN Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Society Annual Show. Fri & Sat 10 am - 6 pm; Sun 10 am - 5 pm. Allen County Fairgrounds, 2726 Carroll Rd., Fort Wayne. Contact: Russell Greim, (260) 403-

0450; 3riversshow@gmail.com www.3riversgem_mineral.tripod.com

19-20: SPRINGFIELD, MO Ozark Mountain Gem & Mineral Annual Show. Sat 10 am - 5 pm; Sun 10 am - 4:30 pm. Springfield Expo Convention Center, 333 S. John Q. Hammon Parkway, Springfield. Contact: Larry Lillich, omgms.57@gmail.com www.omgms.rocks

18-20: MASON, MI Central Michigan Lapidary & Mineral Society Annual Show. Fri 6 - 9 pm; Sat 10 am - 6 pm; Sun 11 am - 5 pm. Ingham County Fairgrounds, Main Arena, 700 Ash St., Mason. Contact: L. Roger Laylin, (517) 349-3249 www.michrocks.org

19-20: CLIO, MI Flint Rock & Gem Club Annual Show. Sat & Sun 10 am - 5 pm. Carter Middle School, Rogers Lodge Dr., Clio. Contact: Bill Wendling, (810) 638-5796, bwrockbarn@centurytel.net www.flintrockandgem.org

19-20: COTTAGE GROVE, MN Minnesota Mineral Club Annual Show. Sat 10 am - 5 pm; Sun 10 am - 4 pm. National Guard Training & Community Center, 8180 Belden Blvd., Cottage Grove. Contact: Maureen Scaglia, mascaglia@comcast.net

19-20: DES MOINES, IA Des Moines Lapidary Society Annual Show. Sat 9 am - 5 pm; Sun 10 am - 4 pm. Iowa State Fairgrounds, Knapp Animal Learning Center, North Gate at E33rd St. & E. University, Des Moines. Contact: Ken Belzer, dmls.2019show@dmlapidary.org

19-20: CHICAGO HEIGHTS, IL South Suburban Earth Science Club Annual Show. 10 am - 5 pm both days. Prairie State College, 202 South Halsted St., Chicago Heights. Contact: Jan Podbielski, jan@janskidesigns.com

26: WOODBURY, MN St. Croix Rockhounds Semi Annual Show. 9 am - 1 pm. Valley Creek Mall, 1750 Weir Dr., St. Paul. Contact: David Rusterholz, (715) 760-0479

26-27: EVANSVILLE, IN Evansville Lapidary Society Annual Show. Sat 10 am - 5 pm; Sun 10 am - 4 pm. CK Newsome Community Center, 100 E. Walnut St., Evansville. Contact: Sara Rappee, (812) 589-3079, sararappee@yahoo.com www.evansvillelapidarysociety.com

26-27: CUYAHOGA FALLS, OH Summit Lapidary Club and Akron Mineral Society Semi-Annual Show. 10 am - 5 pm both days. Emidio & Sons Expo Center, 48 East Bath Rd., Cuyahoga Falls. Contact: Gujo Kotch, (330) 929-3798; gemboree@outlook.com www.summitlapidaryclub.com

26-27: DAVENPORT, IA Blackhawk Gem & Mineral Club Semi Annual Show. Sat 10 am - 5 pm; Sun 11 am - 4 pm. Mississippi Valley Fairgrounds, 2815 W. Locust St.,

Davenport. Contact: Craig or Kellie Moore, (563) 299-5740; kalsinean@gmail.com

Stones have been known to move and trees to speak.

William Shakespeare

Rosiclaire American Fluorite Museum

From Debbie Wehinger

For those of you who have collected fluorite in southern Illinois, you've probably stopped at Rosiclaire, IL to the American Fluorite Museum. It's a small museum packed with tons of historical maps, dioramas and beautiful specimens of fluorite.

Back in January 2019 the museum had a fire due to a faulty furnace. It damaged the roof, tore through walls and covered everything with soot. They were still trying to recover when they were hit again, this time with thieves. The museum was broken into and over \$25,000 in specimens were stolen. This museum is such a great piece of American History.

They have established a Go-Fund Me Page to help raise the money to restore and reopen the museum. Let's pull together and spread the word amongst the clubs and let's help raise some money for this gem.

Here is the link for the story of the fire and the Go-Fund Me page:

https://www.gofundme.com/help-repair-the-fluorite-museum?fbclid=IwAR2KkoETfba_aSmKHDu2WuSQUGq_s9ZORGpZcqnHPVd34dPAI_V6bPXhBSiQ

Here is the link about the robbery:

<http://www.wsiltv.com/story/40669676/up-to-25000-in-fluorite-stolen-from-museum>

For those who are dealers – they would like you to be on the look out for the stolen pieces.

Door County Field Trip – August 2019

Written by Gwyn Padden-Lechten

Our August fieldtrip to Door County to collect Silurian fossils with our hosts Mike and Ruth Reisch of the Earthhaven Museum was fun in the sun. We met Mike and Ruth in Sturgeon Bay to caravan with the Lakeland Gem Club to a field site where we dug through rock wall piles. Ken Schweitzer picked a spot near a tree providing shade and worked straight down diligently for 4 hours. He found a few cephalopods and plates containing a variety of corals.

Stromatalites, honeycomb, horn and chain corals were common finds. We all got a good workout carrying our specimens back to the vehicles. A Lakeland Gem Club member had constructed a sturdy sled to pull their specimens. We all admired their ingenuity.



Figure 8 Ken Schweitzer Fossil Finds

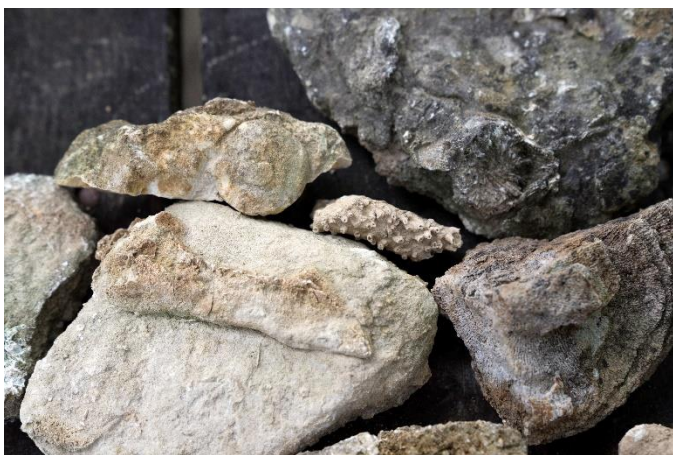


Figure 9 Gwen's Fossil Finds



Figure 10 More of Ken's Fossil Finds

After collecting fossils, Laurie Trocke and I treated ourselves to fresh in season cherries at a local produce market and headed towards the eastern shoreline looking for beaches to comb. The beaches are sandy with small rocks and fragments of coral, granite, basalt, unakite and other minerals.

We met up with Michelle Pratt-Bender in Algoma at sunset for a night hunt for fluorescent rocks. Michelle found her first syenite containing fluorescent sodalite that was about the size of a pullet egg. Syenite is an intrusive magmatic rock that is blue-grey to dark grey with white mottled pattern or streaks. When under long wave ultraviolet light, the sodalite lights up in orange to yellow veins. It is speculated that the sodalite bearing syenite originated in Ontario, Canada and was transported south during continental glaciation. It is also possible that the source is an alkali complex submerged under the Great Lakes.



Figure 11 Sodalite in Syenite - white light

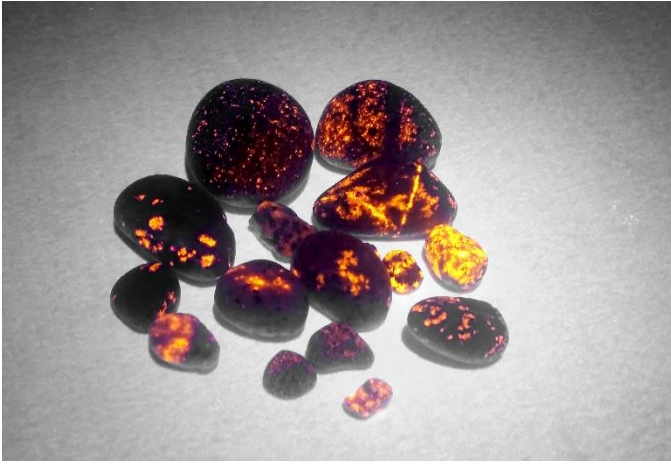


Figure 12 Sodalite in syentie - UV light

While we walked along the beaches of Lake Michigan in Algoma and Kewaunee, we enjoyed the serenity of a

gentle breeze, calming waves against the shoreline and observed the nighttime sky. The nearly full moon washed out any sighting of the Perseid meteor showers. Venus and Mars are currently blocked from our view by the sun, but Saturn and Jupiter were in alignment on each side of the moon.

On Sunday, Laurie and I left Kewaunee to Earthhaven Museum where Mike treated me to a private tour. The museum is beautifully curated with a majority of the specimens collected by Mike as well as donations. The display of fluorescent minerals has been expanded and a new cave section is under construction. Mike and Ruth, thank you for a wonderful fieldtrip and museum visit.

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