# THE BADGER DIGGIN'S

The Badger Lapidary & Geological Society, Inc. Monroe, Wisconsin

Volume 42, Number 3

Devoted to the Earth Sciences

March, 2007

### **Officer Roster:**

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#### **Bulletin Editor:**

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**Directors:** All officers, ex-president, editor

**Programs:** Volunteers Field Trips: Lloyd Fager Show Chair: Dave Zimmerman

Scholarship: Mary Hanner, Donna Wilde,

Teri and Jordan Marche'

Refreshments: See snack sign up on Page

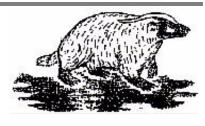
3! Hot beverage by the basket.

This newsletter, The Badger Diggin's, is issued monthly except for July & August.

Credited copying of this newsletter is permitted.

## **Meeting**

Our next meeting will be at 9:45 AM, Saturday, March 10, 2007, at the Monroe Public Library, 925 16th Avenue, Monroe WI. Take the elevator up to the second floor.



Program: Fish Pond Bags; assemble name badges

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The Badger Lapidary & Geological Society, Inc. was created in 1965 to stimulate the interest of its members and the general public in the study of Mineralogy, Geology, Paleontology, Archaeology and Lapidary.



The Badger Lapidary & Geological Society, Inc. is a member of the Midwest Federation & American Federation of Mineralogical & Geological Societies



MEETINGS: Held second Saturday of each month except July & August, at 10:00 AM at the Monroe Public Library, 925 16th **Avenue, Monroe WI.** Take the elevator up to the second floor. An adult must accompany children.

### **Deadline for submissions is** the 22<sup>nd</sup> of the month for the next month's issue.

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Articles, announcements, reports and member news can be sent by snail mail or to excalibar@lycos.com.

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### Visitors Welcome! **Membership Dues:**

Family - \$15.00 Single - \$10.00 Junior - \$1.00

Annual Show held at **Monroe Senior High School** March 24-25, 2007

# **Upcoming Events**

March 10-11, 2007 – Sussex, WI: Kettle Moraine Geological Society Annual Show, Wisconsin National Guard Armory, W239 N5678 Maple Ave., Sussex, Wisconsin; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4. Contact: Liz Fuher, (262) 246-6684.

March 10, 2007 – Chicago, IL: Chicago Rocks & Mineral Society, SILENT AUCTION, Salvation Army 0 Irving Park Corp, 4056 N Pulaski, 5:30 pm – 10:00 pm

March 17-18, 2007 – Menasha, WI: "Fox Rocks!" Show; Weis Earth Science Museum, University of Wisconsin-Fox Valley, 1478 Midway Rd., Menasha, Wisconsin; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 1-4; free admission. Contact: Joanne Kluessendorf, Weis Earth Science Museum, (920) 832-0125; e-mail: jkluesse@uwc.edu; Web site: www.weismuseum.org.

April 21-22, 2007 – Rockford, IL:
Rock River Valley Gem and Mineral
Society's Rockmania, Rock, Gem and
Fossil Show, Midway Village and
Museum Center, 6799 Guilford Rd.,
Noon to 5 p.m. both days, Dealers,
demos, displays, children's activities,
speakers. Admission \$6 adults, \$4
children (3-17). Admission includes
the museum. Contact: Frank & Connie
Lavin, 815-986-6362, e-mail:
NIVAL42@hotmail.com, or Dave
Reese, 815-885-1410, e-mail:
dmreese56@hotmail.com

#### Talks:

Sat. 3 P.M. Rocks and Minerals of Illinois, Wayne Frankie, IL State Geological Survey
4 P.M. CSI: Geology - Geology and Criminal Investigation, Beth Johnson, Doctoral student of geology, NIU
Sun. 1 P.M. Jane and Fossil Digs in China, Michael Henderson, Burpee Museum of Natural History
4 P.M. CSI: Geology - Geology and Criminal Investigation, Beth Johnson, Doctoral student of geology, NIU

Dates & Information Courtesy of: Exchange Newsletters and The Midwest Federation Website: http://www.amfed.org/mwf/

# Rough Cuts

By Kathy Fager. Editor

Because of the confusion with our case-sensitive website name, we solicited ideas for a new website name. Remember, sometimes asking for information can be a dangerous thing! ①

Some of the best ones: geobadger; badgerdiggins; rockbadger; monroerocks; blgsrockclub; badgerlapidary; monroerockclub; badgergeology; badgerclub. The "B" list had some issues with them: badgerontherocks (just what kind of club are we??); electricbadger; rockingbadger; rockingclub; idigrocks.

Then my family got involved. Once they started rolling, nothing could stop them: gerbadarylap; geosologicaliety; rockdiggers; boulderdashers; leadhead; showmethecrystals; leaverite; website (think crystal nameflourite, calcite, website).

Then we took the letters BLGS and ran them together when saying them. The first thing that came out was bluegoose.com. This led to bulges; biguglygeodeseekers; biglazygranitesitters; bluntforcetrauma (think teenage son); and takeusforgranite.com.

My daughter ended the search with www.weeeeeeeeee.com.

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## What's Rockin'?

By Marv Hanner, club member

Several items were displayed at February's What's Rockin' table:

Items found during our January field trip to the UW Museum at their outdoor cache (pit):

Kristin Fager....Various
Kathy Fager....various
Teri Marche.....garnets; sphalerite;
cephalopod

Daisy Peterson..porphyry; schist with black tourmaline; spodumene & hematite; hematite; pegmatite material from South Dakota; labradorite; garnet; black tourmaline; glauconite
Mary Hanner....leucite crystal

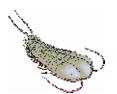
trimmed to thumbnail...
(thanks, Steve)

Other items displayed not from the UW museum:

Teri Marche.....polished horn coral

Lloyd Fager.....Brazilian rutiiated quartz; goethite on/in quartz amyglyoid from Morocco; malachite, lapis lazuli and brecciated red jasper spheres; cavansite on apophyllite from India

David Zimmerman...ametrine from Brazil, smithsonite from Mexico, Amber from Baltic Region, chrysoprase from Australia, cobalation calcite from Namibia, and lapis lazuli



# **Meeting Minutes**

The February 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the BLGS was called to order at 11:45 by President Steve Holmes. This followed a super talk by resident cave expert, Gary Emerson, and a raid on the equally super snacks provided by Dave Zimmerman. The home-made chili was a special treat!

Approval of last month's minutes was deferred to the next meeting since few people had yet to see the Diggins'. In the absence of Treasurer, John Norquay, there was no treasurer's report.

#### **Announcements:**

- 1) Remember the February Field Trip to the Platteville Mining Museum and Rollo Jamison Museum on February 24<sup>th</sup>. For more info contact Dan Trocke at home 608.935.0597; cell 608.215.5307.
- 2) Congratulations to Daisy Peterson on her excellent work in organizing and publicizing the January Field Trip. There was a great turnout and we had a good time.

**First Door Prize:** None this Month

#### **Old Business:**

Dave Zimmerman reminded the group that after February 28<sup>th</sup>, he will be purchasing the trailer from Farm and Fleet in Monroe. The model he is going to get for us is on their lot and the doors are unlocked. If anyone wishes to check it out in the next several weeks, you can simply stop by. One note is that the floor will probably need some plywood reinforcement.

Daisy brought the new club pins, Teri Marché had the red granite and galena pieces to glue on, but we had no glue. Dave volunteered some construction glue for next month, so we'll do them then as a project and give them out at the show.

**Second Door Prize:** Still none this month!

#### **New Business:**

Kathy Fager reported that there has been some difficulty for people logging on to our website due to its case-sensitive domain name (URL). We have a free site, but must tolerate advertising in return. She suggested getting another site for \$25 per year that will have no ads on

it. Much better. There has been some email activity brainstorming a new domain name, the results of which appear in this issue. Lloyd Fager moved that we adopt monroerockclub as our new name. The motion, seconded by Daisy passed unanimously.

Dave suggested that the website might be a good area to involve our younger members. He also described the "closed forum" section of another club's website. This area allows members-only access where they may post items at will. There would be a public section as well on a "read-only" basis for general access. He'll explore this further.

In any case, Kathy reminded the group that we need to do a better job photo-documenting our activities for both the website and the newsletter. With digital cameras, this should be easier than ever.

Kathy also passed around a reducedsize copy of the Diggins that she would like to have reproduced to give away at the show.

Dave reported that Monroe's own Judge Beer, local authority on copper artifacts who will be speaking at the show, has declined his honorarium. However, he declared a wish to join the club, so he will be getting a year's dues paid instead. Welcome to Judge Beer!

#### **Show Business:**

Once again Dave passed around sign-up sheets for show set-up and tear down, jobs during the show, and showcases. We will start at Donna Nolte's home on March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 4:00 pm with the new trailer. Check with Dave for directions.

Next month's meeting program will be assembling fishpond bags. If you thought stuffing envelopes was fun...! Bring whatever rock, fossil, or mineral donations you may have to the March meeting.

Dave asked for authorization to be reimbursed for the cost of inkjet cartridges to replace the several he has gone through at home for show business. He got it. We are a sympathetic group, and those things are expensive!

Kathy passed around forms for the silent auction so members can get a head start filling them out. She has these in

digital form as well, so you can get them by emailing her at excalibar@lycos.com.

Lloyd mentioned that high-priced silent auction items (\$10 or over) will be kept in a secure display case this year.

Steve Holmes reported finding the missing club banner in his rock room when he cleaned it out this winter. That trailer will really come in handy!

**Third Door Prize:** And again, no door prize. Where *are* you John?

#### **Door Prize Talk:**

The most amazing thing happened! We had a door prize talk! Bless you, Daisy! Thank you for you account of chalcopyrite. People will be sorry they missed it.

Upon a motion by Teri, seconded by Marv Hanner, the meeting was adjourned at 12:30.

Respectfully submitted,

# Teri Marche

Secretary

Members in attendance: Teri Marché; Daisy Peterson; Dave Zimmerman; Marv Hanner; Steve Holmes; Kandie Flannery; Neal and Linda Trickle; Dave Cress; Kathy and Lloyd Fager; and Dave and Donna Reese.

### Snacks

**March: Flannerys April: Steve Holmes** 

May: Trickles June: club picnic September: ???

October: Dan Trocke

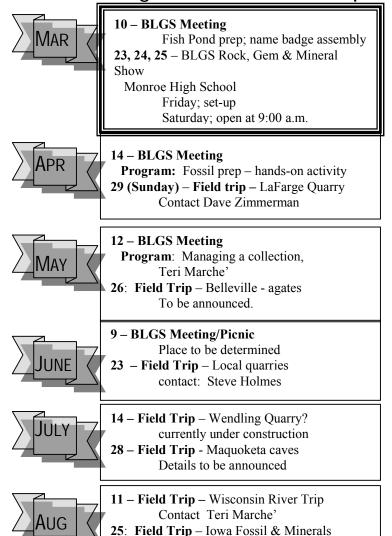
# Welcome to New Members

Chuck and Cynthia Peplinski Dodgeville, WI

Judge James Beer Monroe, WI

> Tyrel Rouse Madison, WI

Club Programs and Field Trips





**Program**: Summer Show –n-Tell **22** – **Field Trip** – Dubuque Underground

To be announced.

contact: Dave Zimmerman



13 – BLGS Meeting

**Program**: Fossils w/Steve Simpson

28 - Field Trip -

Details to be announced



10 - BLGS Meeting

**Program**: Marv the MicroMount Mineral Man (a.k.a M5)

24 - Field Trip - Happy Thanksgiving



8 - BLGS Meeting

Program:

**22** – **Field Trip** – Merry Christmas



Gary's program was excellent. An hour's worth of slides of many of the caves he's been in; the first slide of a "caveman" –his nickname. The ones I remember are of a native Indian actor holding a burning reed torch and looking at the ancient cave drawings. He only wore a loin cloth—in a 50° cave. They coved him with blankets between making the video.

A lot of tight crawling through narrow openings—I don't know if I would be claustrophobic on such an adventure.

### March's Program:

### **CALLING ALL FISH!**

By Donna Wilde, Frances Wells BLGS Club Members

The Badger Lapidary and Geological Society has a need for FISH! We want all of your little fishies from last summer. Bring in any extra stones that you found last summer for our Fish Pond kid game at the show. We are also in need for Spinner Game pieces. These are the nicer and bigger pieces. These need to be sparkly, shiny, or interesting and well worth a dollar.

Francis Wells and Donna Wilde have graciously offered to chair the event again this year. They are requesting that anybody having extra material please bring it to the MARCH meeting. We will try to stuff as many bags at the meeting, so please bring them up on the elevator to the meeting room. This always becomes a good meeting for kids, as they magically seem to grow their rock collections after this meeting!!!





# FEDERATION NEWS



## **AFMS**

# **More Information On the Fossil Bills in Congress**

by Jon Spunaugle, ALAA Executive Vice President for Legislation AFMS Newsletter, March 2007

Some talking points on: The Paleontological Resources Preservation Act, Senate Bill S-320 and House Bill HR 554 now being considered by the U. S. House of Representatives Natural Resources and Agriculture Committees and the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

These Bills are, for all practical purposes, identical to the fossil bills considered by the 108th Congress in 2003-4 and in the 109th Congress which passed the Senate in 2005. Therefore, past comments by previous AFMS and ALAA (American Lands Access Association) reviewers applies to these latest Bill introductions, (S-320 and HR 554). I would expect quick action on these bills, without the lack of action in the U.S. House as in the past. You may remember this Bill was passed by the U.S. Senate by voice vote without objection. In the last several years several reviewers called this a "bad bill" primarily because it criminalized fossil collecting with outrageous penalties for picking up a fossil on public land. The Bill was also criticized for its reward provisions for turning in violators, which seemed ripe for abuse. Those same statements apply to the current version.

The current Bills under consideration have some good points and some bad points. For someone like myself, who helped write the first version of the "rockhound" fossil collecting bill, and worked to defeat the so called "Baucus Bill" in 1992-3, I can clearly see some improvements. Several of the objections the amateur fossil collecting public voiced to the original 1992-3 Bill have been remedied in this latest S-320/ HR 554 version. However, several of the remaining "rockhound" objections remain.

Some of the remaining objections to the Bill S-320/ HR 554 in its current form are:

(1) The Bill fails to make any distinction between scientifically significant and commonly found fossils. Instead it defines the paleontological resource it would protect to mean "any fossilized remains, trace, .or imprints of organisms preserved in or on the earths crust" except for archaeological resources or those associated with an archaeological resource. (The latter are covered under an archaeological resources protection act passed many years ago). Casual collecting of a reasonable amount of common invertebrate and plant fossils may be allowed under this Bill in Section 5, at the discretion of the Secretary (the land managers). Therefore amateurs "may" be able to collect certain common invertebrate or plant fossils found on Federal lands, but not necessarily. Only hand tools could be used and collecting can not cause more than a

"negligible surface disturbance" (undefined). Collecting common vertebrate fossils such as fish fossils, sharks teeth and the like, would be a violation of the act, as would picking up a isolated single dinosaur bone fragment in the badlands of the western United States if it was on Federal land.

All other collecting of paleontological resources on Federal lands would require a permit issued by the Secretary (the land managers) and be given only to "qualified" applicants. The resources collected would remain the property of the United States with the resources collected and the associated data deposited in a approved repository when collected under a permit.

- (2) Further, there would be no commercial collection of fossils allowed. This would preclude anyone, amateur or otherwise, from selling, trading, or bartering any fossil collected on federal land. Not only does this effect amateurs, but completely eliminates the valuable and considerable contributions to paleontology that commercial fossil entities have provided in the past in discovering, extraction, and preparation of fossils. The Dinosaur "Sue" a Tyrannosaurus Rex, is a perfect example.
- (3) Penalties for criminal violation of any provisions of this Bill would result in fines in accordance with Title 18 of the U.S. Code and/or imprisonment for up to 10 years. Title 18 provides for fines ranging up to \$5,000 and up to \$10,000 in certain circumstances, or up to \$250,000 in certain cases. Such cases would be tried in Federal Courts.
- (4) Civil penalties are also provided in the Bill and can go as high as double the replacement cost or restoration cost of the resource involved, The value is to be determined by the land managers. No due process is required under the civil penalty provisions other than a required notice of a hearing. A judicial review petition is allowed only within a thirty day period following any civil penalty assessment, but the court is allowed to rule only on the evidence presented in the hearing report. Forget "innocent until proven guilty" and the right to a trial by your peers.
- (5) The Rewards and Forfeiture Section, Section 9, allows the Secretary of Interior or Secretary of Agriculture to pay a reward for information leading to a civil (or criminal) penalty. Rewards can go as high as \$500. So, you might want to look out for any neighbors who don't like you if you have any vertebrate fossils in your collection, especially, if you cannot prove where they came from. Most fossils I know of don't say "Made in China" or "Hocho en Mexico" on them. And, how many of you kept receipts on items purchased, or can you vouch for exactly where the vertebrate fossils really came from even if you did purchase them and can prove it? The Bill calls for a person to exercise "due care" in knowing if the resource was excavated or removed from Federal land. Again "due care" is undefined.

(continued on page 6)

#### (AFMS Fossil Bills, continued from page 5)

(6) Also subject to forfeiture under this Bill are "paleontological resources" with respect to which a violation occurred and which are in possession of any person and all vehicles and equipment of any person that were used in connection with the violation". I'm not a lawyer, but I do have knowledge of what has happened to several collectors and to several hobbyists in the past with regard to property confiscated, rightly or wrongly. In most cases nothing was ever returned regardless of its being legally obtained by the collector.

So, I worry for fossil collectors if this Bill, S 230/HR 554 becomes law. The best way to prevent its passage in its present form is for each and everyone of us to communicate your feelings to your Congressional Representatives. Because it seems likely that these bills will be passed in short order you need to write that letter immediately. Copies of the Bills are found on the internet at http://thomas.loc.gov using the Bill numbers.

# MWF

# **Rocky Stories**

## **Remembering Old Rockhounds**

By Julie Whilatch (6/14/06) MWF Newsletter, December 2006

A young man, (we will call him Johnny), came out of a restaurant. Along the sidewalk, glossy stones shown up at him. He picked one up to look at. An elderly gentleman coming up the walk commented, "That's a nice agate you have there." Johnny looked up and asked, "What's an agate?" The man went on to explain to Johnny what type of rock an agate was and how it got to Iowa. He then gave Johnny a business card and suggested that he and his family stop by his rock shop sometime.

A few days later, Johnny and his father did visit the shop. While there, they got to see agates collected by the owner. He showed them many different rocks. Then he told them about the upcoming rock show.

When the rock show day came, Johnny was so excited he could hardly wait. As his family entered, a friendly, smiling lady greeted them. She told them about the local rock club and upcoming activities. She also answered Johnny's question about who had more agates he could see. Johnny thought the club member was very nice and hoped they could join the club.

As Johnny and his family shopped, he paused at one table to look at some interesting rocks. The older dealer behind the table explained to them what kind of rocks they were and where they came from. He also told Johnny's mother about the beads she was looking at. He seemed really nice.

One of the displays that caught Johnny's eye was made up of many oval rocks. The gentleman standing near the four large cases told him they were called "cabs," short for cabochons. He told them about how he had cut and polished them all himself. Johnny was surprised at how many different

types of stones he had. The ones that looked like pictures were really neat.

Johnny and his family learned a lot that day and found a hobby they could all enjoy.

I have written this in remembrance of some old rock hounds that have passed on. I hope everyone will remember as time passes, we are all becoming the older gentlemen and the smiling lady. We need to teach about our craft and pass on the lore to all the Johnny's we meet. As a friend recently wrote, "Some of the grayhairs are gone, but we are here to take their places."

Remembering Alice, Loomis, Perry, Roy, Bill, and all the others that have left us.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

# 2007 MWF Convention & Show

# The Keweenaw of Michigan ... Past & Present"

hosted by

the Copper Country Rock & Mineral Club

The 2007 MWF Convention Committee is busily putting together information for an exciting nine-day event. Convention packets will be available at the MWF Spring Meeting on March 10 in Macomb, Illinois.

#### 4 Huge Events...9 Days

- φ Upper Peninsula Gem/Mineral Show August 4 Ishpeming, Michigan
- φ Copper Country Rock & Mineral Club Show -August 10-12
- φ Midwest Federation Convention August 10-12
- φ Copper Country Mineral Retreat August 4-12

Additional information will be available in the Convention packets, as well as on the MWF Web site. You may also visit the Copper Country Rock & Mineral Club Web site at www.ccrmc.info for show details or the A.E. Seaman Mineral Museum Web site at www.museum.mtu.edu for information about the Copper Country Mineral Retreat.

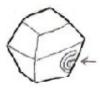
#### **MWF 2007 Convention Contact:**

Pamela Hecht 25393 Oak Street Calumet, Michigan 49913 (906) 337-2274 E-mail: steverox@up.net

### Junior Activities

By Michele Yamanaka, Junior Activities Chairman, MWF Newsletter, December, 2006





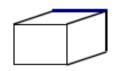
# Mineral Identification Clue #6 CLEAVAGE/FRACTURE

The way a mineral breaks is a good clue to its identity. It may break in definite directions along smooth surfaces, called CLEAVAGE, or it can break in irregular, uneven directions, called FRACTURE. Minerals usually don't do both.

CLEAVAGE happens because the atoms of the mineral are weaker in certain directions and so come apart there. The cleavage surface runs the same way as a side of the crystal. We describe cleavage by how easily it happens and the direction(s) of the cleavage. Minerals can have one, two, three, or up to six cleavage surfaces. Sometimes a mineral can have perfect cleavage one direction and poor in other directions (example = gypsum).

Poor - very irregular
Fair –irregular
Good - slightly uneven
Perfect - regular in many directions
Eminent - very perfect and in one direction

example = sulphur apatite feldspar, azurite calcite, fluorite mica



Galena Perfect cubic cleavage



Fluorite Perfect octahedral



Calcite Perfect rhombohedral



Mica Eminent basal

FRACTURE is described by how the broken surface looks. Some common kinds:

Conchoidal = a series of arcs like shell growth patterns. [Quartz, obsidian, flint, opal]

Hackly = jagged surface
[Native metals like copper, silver, gold]

Even = relatively flat, but smooth [Jasper]

Uneven = kind of rough [Pyrite, arsenopyrite]

Earthy = crumbly [Chalk]

Fibrous or splintery = woodlike break [Garnet, nephrite]









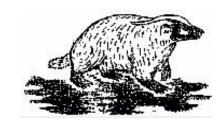


Badger Lapidary & Geological Society, Inc. Katherine Fager, Editor 308 S. Jackson Street Janesville, WI 53548









Web page: <a href="http://www.angelfire.com/wi2/BLGS">http://www.angelfire.com/wi2/BLGS</a>

#### **American Federation of Mineralogical Societies Code of Ethics**

I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner's permission.



I will keep informed on all laws, regulations or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.

I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.

I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.

I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind - fences, signs, buildings, etc. I will leave all gates as found.

I will build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.

I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.

I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.

I will not contaminate wells, creeks, or other water supplies.

I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.

I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.

I will cooperate with field-trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.

I will report to my club or federation officers, Bureau of Land Management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.

I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.

I will observe the "Golden Rule," will use "Good Outdoor Manners," and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and public "image" of rockhounds everywhere.