



THE AGATEER

The Newsletter of the Madison Gem and Mineral Club

Volume 17, Issue 4

April 2019

Monthly Meeting – April 23

The “Core” of the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey *presented by Carsyn Ames*

Carsyn Ames is the Samples Coordinator for the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey (WGNHS), where she manages the Survey’s various geologic collections. Among these collections are 650,000 lineal feet of bedrock core from over 2,000 drill holes throughout the state and over 11,000 sets of water well cuttings. Carsyn also curates a sizable hand sample collection totaling more than 51,000 samples and a thin-section collection with more than 15,000 thin sections. All of the collections are housed at the Mount Horeb Research Collections and Education Center. Carsyn will cover examples from the different collections, the importance of these collections, and her most recent adventure in recovering a collection of core from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities.

Wanted: Field Trip Ideas

Many thanks to club members Scott Olson, Holly Brassington and Karen Lederer for volunteering to coordinate club field trips!! The Field Trip coordinators would like to hear from members with ideas for field trips. Please e-mail Holly Brassington at brassingtonhh@gmail.com. If you have specific contact information for the site, that would be great – but any ideas will be fine. In the spirit of respect for our volunteers, members are advised if you sign up to attend a field trip, it is a commitment to go.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday,
April 22 at 7p.m. in AB20
Weeks Hall
UW Dept. of Geoscience**

****Dues are Due****

Dues are due at the beginning of each new year. You may give your dues to treasurer Rick Maske at the meetings, or send them to the club address: Madison Gem & Mineral Club, P.O. Box 8882, Madison, WI 53708. Dues are \$15 for an individual; \$20 for a family; plus, a surcharge of \$6 for a printed, mailed copy of the Agateer. Thank you for your continued support!

Club Notes

At the March meeting, Bob Thornton and Treasurer Rick Maske presented on a proposal for the lapidary lab budget and provided an overview of club finances. The MGMC Annual show did well again. A proposal to gift the UW Geology Museum \$500 was approved by the membership. The budget for the lapidary lap equipment and upkeep was approved as well. Club membership is maintained at about 120 members.

The membership also voted on a series of designs for the club t-shirts. Designs were presented on slides. (Thank you Jasmine for organizing the voting). Membership selected two designs that will be combined, with a final design shown at an upcoming meeting. The club is sold out of cloth bags – these will be reordered. There was also a proposal for baseball caps with the “Running Man”, the official logo of the MGMC. The club logo will also be present on the t-shirt. The board approved moving forward with price estimates for t-shirts, cloth bags, and caps.

Opening for Membership Chairperson(s)

We still have an opportunity for a Membership Chair, or if a group of people would like to share, that works as well. Just let a member of the board know, or announce it at a club meeting. Here is a brief description of duties:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome new members at club meetings• Notify newsletter editor and web administrator of details• Organize two annual club gatherings: Summer Picnic in August and Christmas Party in December• Ensure new members are receiving club information such as newsletters, e-mails, facebook messages and have access to the club website.• Engage the membership in activities at club meetings such as drawings, door prizes or other fun activities.	1-2 hours per month preparation in general 2-3 hrs. in July/Aug and Nov/Dec for planning special gatherings Attend club meetings Attend both the picnic and Christmas party
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Quartz Quiz – True or False?

Our March presentation was club member Carlos Peralta who share many fascinating things about quartz. Just for fun, try this True/False quiz about quartz. Answers will be provided in the May Agateer.

- 1) Quartz is the most common single mineral in the world. **True / False**
- 2) The crystal structure of quartz is only arranged only in a clockwise manner. **True / False**
- 3) The faces of a quartz crystal are arranged at a 60-degree angle. **True / False**
- 4) Phantoms, inclusions, dumbbells and scepters describe various forms of quartz. **True / False**
- 5) Quartz can have fluorescent properties and shows red or orange colors under UV light. **True / False**
- 6) You wouldn't find quartz in a Fairburn or Nolte agate. **True / False**
- 7) Ferruginous is a type of red quartz. **True / False**
- 8) Quartz is an affordable mineral to collect. **True / False**

Competition Schedule 2019

All members are urged to bring specimens for the monthly competition. Questions may be directed to Carlos Peralta, at 509-2836. Cash awards: 1st place \$10; 2nd place \$5. Unless specifically instructed, the specimens for the Competitions described below can be self-collected, or purchased, or given to you by somebody else.

Please make sure to write a short description (including the name of the specimen) on a 3 X 5 card or similar.

April 2019. Rough, Cut and Finished

Bring a finished cabochon or other polished piece presented right next to a piece of the original rough or slab. Have some work in progress? Bring it along.

May 2019. Rocks with memories.

Perhaps you have a specimen in your collection that has a non-geological story to tell. Perhaps it used to belong to a famous collector, or to a Museum. Perhaps it was involved in a historical event. Perhaps it came from a now closed mine, etc. Please write a brief description on a standard index card with a few highlights from the specimen's memories.

June 2019. Natives

Bring any specimen of a native mineral (Copper, Silver, Gold, Platinum, Mercury, etc.) Just in case, almost all the specimens sold as "Bismuth" are real bismuth but they are not native. These colorful and pretty specimens are synthesized. They would not qualify. By the way, there are real native bismuth crystals and lumps (they look silvery and their shapes are not as elaborate as the shapes of the synthetic ones).

Competition Results from March: All Thumbs (perky box size specimens)

1st Place: Beryl Aquamarine Schorl (Stephanie Sobczak) **2nd Place:** Spessartine Garnet (Scot Moss)

Calendar

April 22, 2019 MGMC Club Meeting, 7 pm at Weeks Hall

May 7, 2019 MGMC Board Meeting, 7 pm at Lapidary Lab

May 28, 2019 MGMC Club Meeting, 7 pm at Weeks Hall

APRIL 27-28: EAU CLAIRE, WI Chippewa Valley Gem & Mineral Society Annual Show. Sat 9 am - 5 pm; Sun 10 am - 4 pm. Eau Claire Expo Center Bldg, Lorch Ave, Eau Claire. Contact: Paul Tubbs, (715) 834-5747; bizpain1@gmail.com

MAY 4-5: MARSHFIELD, WI Heart of Wisconsin Gem & Mineral Society Annual Show. Sat 10 am - 5 pm; Sun 10 am - 4 pm. Marshfield High School Fieldhouse, 1401 Becker Rd., Marshfield. Contact: Cynthia Kelman, (715) 387-8782, kelman@tznet.com www.heartofwisconsinrocks.com

MAY 18-19: WAUWATOSA, WI Wisconsin Geological Society Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show. 10 am - 5 pm both days. Children's Activities, Exhibits, Dealer and Club Sales, Free Parking. Admisson \$3 or 2/\$5. Accompanied children free. Muellner Bldg at Hart Park, 72nd and State Street.

MAY 23-24: CEDAR RPAIDS, IA Cedar Valley Rocks & Mineral Society Annual Show. Sat 8:30 am - 6 pm; Sun 9:30 am - 5 pm. Hawkeye Downs, 4400 - 6th St., Cedar Rapids. Contact: Marv Houg, (319) 364-2868; m-houg@yahoo.com www.cedarvalleyrockclub.org

MAY 25-26: ST. CHARLES, IL Chicagoland Gems & Minerals Association Annual Show. Sat 10 am - 6 pm; Sun 10 am - 5 pm. Kane County Fairgrounds, 525 S. Randall Rd., St. Charles. Contact: Debby Ballot, (630) 272-8275; demarrex1@att.net www.cgma.rocks

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Madison Gem and Mineral Club Officers and Board Members:

President	Rick Zweifel	206-4981
Vice-President	Karl Allemeier	309-721-9097
Secretary	Jasmine Waldner	secretary@madisonrockclub.org
Treasurer	Rick Maske	212-4896
Newsletter Editor	Stephanie Sobczak	sgsobczak@gmail.com or 608-334-6142
Field Trip Chairpersons	Scott Olson, Holly Brassington, Karen Lederer	brassingtonhh@gmail.com
Education Chairperson	Carlos Peralta	509-2836
Club Sales	Bob Thornton	469-5885
Membership Chairperson	OPEN	
Show Chairperson	Nevin Franke	251-2601
Publicity Chairperson	OPEN	
Program Chairman	Alan Hills	877-8939
Web Administrator	Kate Thornton	kate@madisonrockclub.org

Membership is open to all individuals, and applications for membership will be accepted upon payment of annual dues, which are \$15.00 for adults (18 and older), \$5.00 for junior members (ages 6-17), and \$20.00 for families. There is a \$6 surcharge for printed and mailed copies of the Agateer.

Visit the official website of the Madison Gem and Mineral Club at <http://madisonrockclub.org>

Madison Gem and Mineral Club
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