



THE AGATEER

The Newsletter of the Madison Gem and Mineral Club

Volume 16, Issue 12

December 2018

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

MGMC Annual Gem and Mineral Show – A Banner Year!

First of all, a big THANK YOU to everyone: club members, family and friends for making this year's show a great one. Here are the particulars: We had 1,938 paid adult admissions, with another 321 kids admissions. Attendance this year was about 300 more than in 2017. Rick Maske will provide a full account of the revenue taken in at the January meeting – once a few outstanding bills are paid. Nevin Franke reported the vendors were pleased with the attendance and their sales. Only a few thefts were reported. Scot Moss reports the demonstrations were very active this year, including purchases of panning material for gold and sapphires. Scot also wants to thank everyone who volunteered their time to make the show a success. Stephanie Sobczak reported 166 people signed up for bidder numbers at the Silent Auction. The Auction brought in about \$1900 – with the kids' auction being particularly popular with the parents. With a few tweaks, the auction will be back next year. From the club sales, Bob Thornton reported steady sales all weekend with overall sales down slightly. All the equipment sold! And we are sold out of club tote bags as well as our supply of t-shirts. From Bob: To all the show and club sales helpers—Thank you, Thank you, Thank you! I'd thank you all by name, but I fear I'd forget someone's name as so many of you were there! See you all soon.

We wrapped up this year's club meeting calendar with a wonderful presentation from Carlos Peralta's daughter, Gabriela. Gabriela shared her "Journey in Mineralogy" via conference link. Beginning at age 7 with her first quartz crystal received from Klaus Westphal at the UW Geology Museum, through high school and the big question, "What makes sunstones sparkle?" which led a 10-year project culminating in her PhD in mineralogy. During which time she also graduated from Stanford University and is now applying this vast knowledge to coral research. Gabriela begins her new job at the Smithsonian Institution soon.

The club Christmas Party was great fun with holiday fellowship and the spirited games of Bingo. Thank you to our club officers, Rick Zwiefel, Karl Allemeier, Rick Maske, Jasmine Walder – and special thanks to Scot Moss and Bob Thornton - for making our holiday gathering possible.

CLUB T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST – see page 2 for details

**Next Meeting: Tuesday,
January 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!

New Club T-shirts needed – Seeking design ideas!

As noted in the show notes, we have exhausted our supply of MGMC t-shirts. The board is requesting new ideas for shirt designs. Those interested should send their design to club secretary Jasmine Waldner (secretary@madisonrockclub.org) no later than February 20. Club members will have an opportunity to vote on a t-shirt design at the February club meeting. Let's get those creative juices flowing!

Club Leadership Re-elected for 2019

At the November meeting, our current leadership and board was re-elected by the membership after no new names were submitted in nomination. Bob Thornton and Scot Moss spoke about the importance of keeping the club vibrant with members active in events and leadership roles. Please speak to any member of the board to learn more about any of our open chair roles or for next years' board.

Michigan Man Finds Glowing Fluorescent Rocks He Calls "Yooperlites"

Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/michigan-man-discovers-glowing-flourescent-rocks-called-yooperlites/> September 17, 2018

Erik Rintamaki was searching for rocks on a Michigan beach last summer when he made what he calls a "mind blowing" discovery. Resting among the thousands of pebbles covering the Lake Superior beach, Rintamaki saw a glowing rock. The gem and mineral dealer told CBS News he often goes rock hunting. But on this particular June night, he found a rock unlike any other — a florescent orb that he later named "Yooperlite." Like lava glowing through cracks in the earth, a glowing light seeped out of the lines in the small rock.

Rintamaki knew this couldn't be the only Yooperlite out there, but he couldn't find any information about glowing rocks online. He knows many people in the gem and mineral field, but everyone he asked had no clue what these mysterious rocks were.

Rintamaki went back to the beach night after night, carrying a black light which helped illuminated the glowing rocks. "I was blown away," he said. "It's insane how many are on the beaches up here." He started collecting Yooperlites by the bagful and sold them online. Michigan State University messaged Rintamaki with an interest in buying some of the rocks to study.

Michigan State, along with the University of Saskatchewan, researched the Yooperlites for months. The universities determined that Rintamaki did, indeed, discover a new type of rock. He says other people may have spotted these gems before, but he was the first person to get Yooperlites verified — making him the self-proclaimed "Christopher Columbus of rocks."

Rintamaki said Michigan State gave the rocks a scientific name: syenite clasts containing fluorescent sodalite. The name he gave them — Yooperlites — comes from the nickname "Yoopers," which refers to people who live in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, according to Mineral News, a newsletter for mineral collectors that reported on Rintamaki's discovery.

When his discovery was verified and made public in May 2018, Rintamaki says life as he knew it changed. "I've had thousands of messages and I can't get to them all," he told CBS News. He now gives Yooperlite tours on the beaches along Lake Superior.

Competition Schedule 2018

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.

November 2018. Museum eligible Club members brought in some of their best specimens. The contest results were:

1st Place: Chalcedony Concretion (Scot Moss)

2nd Place: Azurite Crystals in matrix (Stephanie Sobczak)

If you have competition ideas for next year, let Carlos Peralta know.

Watch Facebook for Lapidary Lap Open Times

While our Lapidary Lap on Paterson Street (around the corner from Burnie's Rock Shop) is open almost every Saturday from 8 am to 5 pm, some shop supervisors may open the lab on different days. Watch the MGMC Facebook page for notices of open lab times.

How Minerals Get Their Names

In addition to names referring to chemical composition, location, or use, minerals can be named after their discoverer, or are named in recognition of those important in the field of geology or collecting. Here are some minerals you may not know are named after people:

Morganite: (variety of Beryl): – American financier J. P. Morgan (1837–1913)

Covellite: CuS – Italian mineralogist Niccolo Covelli (1790–1829)

Sugilite: $\text{KNa}_2(\text{Fe},\text{Mn},\text{Al})_2\text{Li}_3\text{Si}_{12}\text{O}_{30}$ – Japanese petrologist Ken-ichi Sugi (1901–1948)

Bixbyite: $(\text{Fe},\text{Mn})_2\text{O}_3$ – American mineralogist Maynard Bixby

Zoisite: $\text{Ca}_2(\text{Al},\text{OH})\text{Al}_2(\text{SiO}_4)_3$ – Carniolan scientist Sigmund Zois (1747–1819)

Okenite: $\text{CaSi}_2\text{O}_5 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ – German naturalist Lorenz Oken (1779–1851)

Kunzite: (variety of spodumene): – American mineralogist George Frederick Kunz (1856–1932)

Prehnite: $\text{Ca}_2\text{Al}(\text{AlSi}_3\text{O}_{10})(\text{OH})_2$ – Dutch governor Colonel Hendrik Von Prehn

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_minerals_named_after_people

Calendar

January 8, 2019 MGMC Board Meeting, Lapidary Lab, 7 pm

January 22, 2019 MGMC Club Meeting

JAN 15-17 INDIANAPOLIS, IN Annual Show Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites 650 West Washington Street. Regional clubs will be displaying and selling. Contact Peggy Fisherkeller (317) 232-7172.

www.indianamuseum.org

FEB 14-17 TUSCON, AZ 65th Annual Tucson Gem and Mineral Show. This years theme is “Wulfenite is Loved”.

Website; www.tgms.org

MAR 23-24 CEDAR RAPIDS, IA Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies. Annual Convention. Hosted by Cedar Valley Rocks and Minerals Society. “Geodes, Iowa’s Mysterious State Rock”

Hawkeye Downs, 4400 6th St. SW, Cedar Rapids, IA. Contact Ray Anderson, (319) 337-2798,

rockdocanderson@gmail.com

The Agateer is the official publication of the Madison Gem and Mineral Club. It is published monthly, and mailed as a benefit of membership to all Madison Gem and Mineral Club members.

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President	Rick Zweifel	206-4981
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Education Chairperson	Carlos Peralta	509-2836
Sales	Bob Thornton	469-5885
Membership Chairperson	OPEN	
Show Chairperson	Nevin Franke	251-2601
Publicity Chairperson	OPEN	
Program Chairman	OPEN	
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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