



# THE AGATEER

The Newsletter of the Madison Gem and Mineral Club

Volume 17, Issue 2

February 2019

**Monthly Meeting – February 26**

## **Quartz – An Old Friend** *presented by Carlos Peralta*

Quartz is the most common mineral in the Earth crust. All of us are very familiar with it. But, quartz has several secrets and skeletons in the closet. It does have an extended family including some rich relatives. It is a consummate shape shifter and it really likes to add details to its many faces. It likes to be always on time and sparks fly if you hit it hard. Often it grows to gargantuan proportions but it can also be extremely small that not even optical microscopes can see it. The really small ones just like to be in huge groups and play with dirt and other impurities resulting in either drab stones or spectacular gems. It has habits which do not refer to routines or to religious attire. Quartz crystal don't have to be killed twice to make them double terminated. Although some people believe that all the knowledge of the world is stored in some quartz crystals, in reality, those crystals only know about a few Laws. Quartz---it is time to share some gossips about this good old friend.

### **LAST CHANCE - CLUB T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST!** **Designs needed by March 20**

We have exhausted our supply of Madison Gem & Mineral Club T-shirts. So, this is a good time to entertain design options. Members have until March 20 to submit designs on an 8 ½ x 11 page, and e-mail to club secretary Jasmine Waldner ([secretary@madisonrockclub.org](mailto:secretary@madisonrockclub.org)) no later than March 20. Club members will have an opportunity to vote on a t-shirt design at the March club meeting. Let's get those creative juices flowing!

**Next Meeting: Tuesday,  
February 26 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!

## Tips for New Members

If you have recently joined the Madison Gem & Mineral Club – Welcome! There are many ways to benefit from your club membership so here are a few ideas to get you started:

**Come to the monthly meetings** – The fourth Tuesday of each month are club meetings. They are casual, educational and fun all at once! Members are welcome to bring a show & tell item and participate in the friendly competition for cash prizes! Have something you aren't sure what it is? Club meetings are a great opportunity to find out.

**Visit the lapidary lap** – Located on Paterson Street, just around the corner from Bernie's Rock Shop. We are open most Saturdays. Club members serve as shop supervisors, so stop in anytime and introduce yourself. If you are interested in using the lab, we can talk to you about that too.

**Volunteer for one of our groups** – We welcome new participants to help keep the club vibrant. Currently there are roles for planning a few field trips each year, organizing publicity for our Annual Show in November and posting club events, organizing presenters for the monthly meetings, and coming up with other ways to engage club members.

**Present a program** – While we usually have outside speakers at club meetings, from time to time members will present on an area of interest or a recent rock hounding trip. If you have an idea for a program and want to present, just let a club leader know.

**Join our Facebook group** – Members post all kinds of neat articles and pictures. This is also the best way to stay up to date on club happenings and lapidary lap hours.

We are glad you joined and look forward to seeing you soon!

## 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. Also the weather has been exciting lately – weather related cancellations or closings will be posted on Facebook.

## 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: 1<sup>st</sup> place \$10; 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

### February 2019. Fossil Creatures

Have a fossil critter in your collection? This month's competition will be for any once living thing that crawled, swam, or flew a million (or more) years ago.

### March 2019. All Thumbs

This month we celebrate the little guys! You can leave the heavy stuff at home. The competition is for specimens that fit inside a 1" cube perky box, but big enough to see without a microscope. These are also known as "thumbnail" size specimens. Some amazing specimens come in very small sizes. Magnifiers will be provided.

### 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.

### Competition Results from January: Any Recent Addition to your Collection

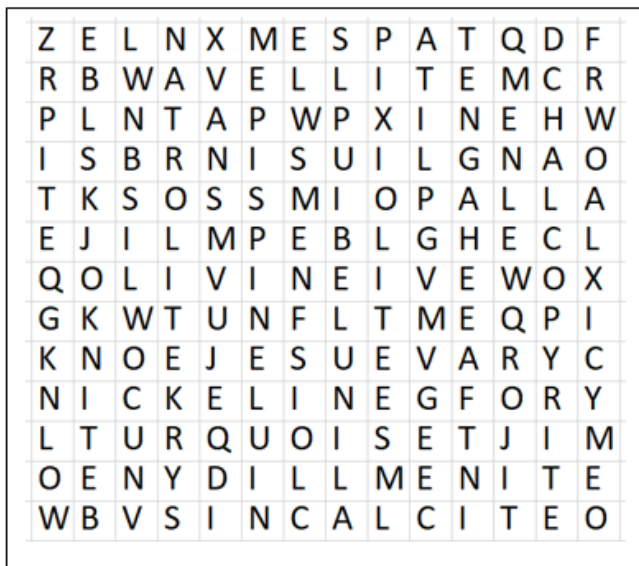
First Place – Grape Agate – Scot Moss

Second Place – Cave Calcite – Stephanie Sobczak

### Just for Fun

There are minerals found in Wisconsin hidden in the word search below. Your clue is the first letter of each word will spell WISCONSIN. Answers will be provided in the March Agateer.

W \_\_\_\_\_  
I \_\_\_\_\_  
S \_\_\_\_\_  
C \_\_\_\_\_  
O \_\_\_\_\_  
N \_\_\_\_\_  
S \_\_\_\_\_  
I \_\_\_\_\_  
N \_\_\_\_\_



### Calendar

**February 26, 2019 MGMC Club Meeting, 7 pm at Weeks Hall**

**March 5, 2019 MGMC Board Meeting, 7 pm at Lapidary Lab**

**March 26 MGMC Club Meeting, 7 pm at Weeks Hall**

**MAR 9: SKOKIE, IL** Chicago Rock & Mineral Society 70th Silent Auction. 7 - 9 pm. St. Peter's United Church of Christ Gym, 8013 Laramie, Skokie. Contact Jeanine Mielecki, (312) 623-1554, [jaynine9@aol.com](mailto:jaynine9@aol.com)

**MAR 9-10: WEST BEND, WI** Kettle Moraine Geological Society Annual Show. Sat 10 am - 5 pm; Sun 10 am - 4 pm. Washington County Fair Park & Convention Center, 3000 Hwy PV, West Bend. Contact: John Rettler, (262) 345-5020; [johnrettler@gmail.com](mailto:johnrettler@gmail.com); [kmgrocks.com](http://kmgrocks.com)

**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 6<sup>th</sup> St. SW, Cedar Rapids, IA. Contact Ray Anderson, (319) 337-2798, [rockdocanderson@gmail.com](mailto:rockdocanderson@gmail.com)

**APR 6-7: DES PLAINES, IL** Des Plaines Valley Geological Society Annual Show. Sat 9:30 am - 5 pm; Sun 10 am - 4 pm. Des Plaines Park District, 2222 Birch Street, Des Plaines. Contact: Connie Lavin, (815) 222-8197.

**APR 13-14: DECATUR, IL** Central Illinois Gem & Mineral Club Annual Show. Sat 9 am - 5 pm; Sun 10 am - 4 pm. Lester Building, Progress City, 4140 E 2nd Progress St., Decatur. Contact: Tony Kapta, 1483 E. Wood St., Decatur 62521; (309) 830-6516; [tkapta@comcast.net](mailto:tkapta@comcast.net)

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.

All items printed in the Agateer may be reproduced without permission if proper credit is given.

**Madison Gem and Mineral Club Officers and Board Members:**

President	Rick Zweifel	206-4981
Vice-President	Karl Allemeier	309-721-9097
Secretary	Jasmine Waldner	<a href="mailto:secretary@madisonrockclub.org">secretary@madisonrockclub.org</a>
Treasurer	Rick Maske	212-4896
Newsletter Editor	Stephanie Sobczak	<a href="mailto:sgsobczak@gmail.com">sgsobczak@gmail.com</a> or 608-334-6142
Field Trip Chairperson	OPEN	
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	<a href="mailto:kate@madisonrockclub.org">kate@madisonrockclub.org</a>

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  
P.O. Box 8882  
Madison, Wisconsin 53708