



THE AGATEER

The Newsletter of the Madison Gem and Mineral Club

Volume 17, Issue 1

January 2019

Monthly Meeting – January 22

Club Show & Tell

We will be kicking off the new year with a Show & Tell program. This is always a lot of fun. Members may bring anything to they would like to share. If you have an unknown item, bring it along. We always learn something new at the Show & Tell meeting. No worries about having a fancy presentation – you can share from your seat, or come up front if you like. Afterward, there will be time to see the items and chat with members.

Club meeting agenda will be:

- I. Welcome members and any guests attending
- II. Announcements, Shows, Classes, etc.
- III. Open Chair Positions - Information
- IV. Lapidary Lab Updates
- V. Competition Theme – held after the program.
- VI. Program – Show & Tell

CLUB T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST

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. Submit your design on an 8 ½ x 11 page, and e-mail 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!

**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!

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.

January 2019. Most Recently Acquired Treasure.

We would like to see the latest rock, fossil or specimen that is now in your collection. It could be one that you found, or purchased, maybe a present from the holidays, or you borrowed without permission from another collector (preferably an out-of-state collector). Maybe you picked up something neat at our show in November?

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 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 long closed mine. Perhaps there was a funny or odd story about how it came to be in your collection.

Be sure to include a short story on a standard index card highlighting 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).

July 2019. Celebration of Twins

Did you know August 8 is National Twin Day? Bring two specimens, slabs, or cabs that are sisters or just look better when shown side-by-side. They might have interesting and complementing patterns or colors. Twinned crystals are eligible too.

August 2018. Rocks for kids.

This competition has become a tradition. Bring one, or two, or many rocks that can make a kid happy. Anything is fine: minerals, fossils, gems, slabs, rock hammers, rubies, etc. Please keep in mind that the materials you will bring to the competition will be given away to kids. You cannot get them back even if you won a prize.

(Competition schedule continued)

September 2019. Fuzzy Rocks

If it looks fuzzy, it probably isn't (unless you have okenite or asbestos or velvety malachite or the infamous hollandite/romanechite rats hairs). The fuzzy hairs are long and very thin crystals. Therefore, they are easily damaged if handled. So, this competition will be "look-but-don't-touch."

October 2019 Synthetic Gem Materials

This refers to gem materials that are chemically and crystallographically exactly (or very close) to their natural counterpart. They are produced by many different industrial processes. Rubies, sapphires, diamonds, amethyst, emeralds, and others. These materials are commonly faceted and set in jewelry. There is nothing wrong with them as long as their synthetic nature (and much lower price) is revealed at the time of purchase.

November 2019 Like it Rare?

Rare rarities. Bring the rarest non-radioactive specimen in your collection. This is your chance to show us your Poudretteite, Red Beryls, Pezzotiates, Whoknowswhathisite, Golden Coral, Benitoite, Calaverite, Japan Law twin, Copper skull, Copper included agates, double sceptered quartz crystal, fossil coelacanth, Queen Elizabeth's nose ring, or anything in your collection that is rare.

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.

Calendar

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

February 5, 2019 MGMC Board Meeting, 7 pm at Lapidary Lab

February 26, 2019 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

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; 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 6th St. SW, Cedar Rapids, IA. Contact Ray Anderson, (319) 337-2798, rockdocanderson@gmail.com

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.

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

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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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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