



# THE AGATEER

The Newsletter of the Madison Gem and Mineral Club

Volume 17, Issue 6

June 2019

*Monthly Meeting – June 25*

## **Spectacular Quartz Crystals of the Swiss Alps**

*presented by Bill Koch*

Join Bill on a trip to Bern, Switzerland to see this historic city and visit the Museum of Natural History where the fabulous "Plaggenstock Treasure" resides. Large pink fluorites discovered in 1994 resulted in eleven years of hard work to make the initial find in the fall of 2005. Named the Planggenstock discovery for its mountainside location, this site would go on to produce two tons of crystal-clear quartz specimens of superlative size and character.

To frame this magnificent find the presentation will detail the history of Swiss quartz mining that stretches all the way back to the time of the Romans. The tectonic forces that formed the Alps resulted in a relatively small, very high-altitude area where all of these finds have been made. You will see pictures of the extreme locations where these historical discoveries have been made and learn why we haven't seen or heard more about them. And best of all you will be able to watch a 15-minute documentary video that shows the huge Planggenstock crystals actually being extracted from within the mountainside cavities where they were discovered.

## **MADISON GEM AND MINERAL CLUB JUNE 23, 2019 OUTING LIMESTONE QUARRY OUTSIDE COOKSVILLE**

Madison Gem and Mineral Club members please join us for the first club outing of 2019. Thanks to the suggestion and leg work of Anna Hitz we will be exploring and collecting at a limestone quarry near Cooksville, WI. You could find shell fossils and agates. See page 2 for details.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday,  
June 25 at 7p.m. in AB20  
Weeks Hall  
UW Dept. of Geoscience**

### **Event Details Inside!**

June 23 Quarry Collecting – Info & Directions  
June 30 Annual Acid Party - Info & Directions  
July 10 Lapidary Class starts - Registration details  
August 11 Summer Picnic Details

**JUNE 23, 2019 COLLECTING OUTING  
LIMESTONE QUARRY OUTSIDE COOKSVILLE**

1. Date: June 23, 2019
2. Time: 12:00 PM – 5:00PM
3. Owner and Address: Thayer Every, 298 WI 138, Stoughton, WI
4. Dress for the weather with hats, rain gear and close toed foot wear
5. Bring water and if wanted, snacks
6. Only members can attend the outing because of insurance limitations
7. If you plan to attend the outing please RSVP me by June 21<sup>st</sup> at [brassingtonhh@gmail.com](mailto:brassingtonhh@gmail.com) or 608-233-1804.

**DIRECTIONS:**

Take Park St. south or Beltline exit on to Hwy 14 toward Oregon. Oregon is about 10 minutes south of the Beltline.

Exit Hwy 14 at the second Oregon exit and head around the traffic circle towards Stoughton. You are now on Hwy 138

When you arrive in Stoughton you will see Wal-Mart on the left. The next stop light 138 turns right and joins Hwy 51

Proceed on Hwy 138 about 1 mile. It turns south on Van Buren St.

Proceed towards Cooksville about 4.3 miles. Just before reaching Cooksville then left onto Oak Lawn Rd.

The address is 298 Hwy 138. There will be a chain across the road with a padlock on it but it isn't locked. Please make sure you don't accidentally lock it as we don't have a key.

**Acid Party! (not that kind...) You are invited!**

The 6<sup>th</sup> Acid Party will be on Sunday, June 30, starting at 11:00 a.m. Come much earlier if you would like to have a tour of the collections. I'll be ready to talk about rock as early as 8:00 a.m.!

We will have plenty of acid to clean rocks. Wear a tie dye shirt if you have one. You can also bring some of your specimens you suspect might be radioactive—we can test them. This is a Potluck party so please bring a dish to pass (meats, salads, deserts, finger foods, toes food, chocolates, etc.). We are planning to have lunch at @1:00PM. Please RSVP to [cperalta@wisc.edu](mailto:cperalta@wisc.edu). Send me an email if you have questions.

5651 Barbara Drive, Fitchburg  
608-509-2836 (text only).

- ➔Take Fish Hatchery south. Go for about 3 miles south of the Beltline. ➔Turn right on Lacy Rd.
- ➔Go west 1 block ➔On Tower Hill turn right ➔Go one block north on Tower Hill Rd. (a short block) until you reach Barbara Dr.
- ➔On Barbara Dr. turn left go 1.5 blocks ➔ House will be on left, split-level ranch; yellow & brown

### Intro to Lapidary Class Information

The next class will be held starting on Wednesday, July 10 for 6 weeks. Class will be held from 5:30 to 9 pm. Registration is available through the Wheelhouse Studios registration page. <https://union.wisc.edu/events-and-activities/open-art-studio-and-classes/classes-and-workshops/>. Course fee is \$149.50. Look up: Intro to Lapidary. Registration is now open!

### Save the Date: Summer Picnic on August 11

Club members are reminded to save Sunday, August 11 for the annual Summer Picnic – 11:30 am to 4 pm. We will be located in the same place as last year. Shelter #1 at Lake Farm County Park. In addition to food and fellowship, materials from the club's inventory will be for sale. Last year, sales were brisk, so remember to bring cash or check. If anyone would like to help with the picnic, contact a board member.

### 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.

#### 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.

**Competition Results** from May: Rocks with memories

**1st Place:** (name) **2nd Place:** (name) – Will be reported in next newsletter

### Calendar

**June 25, 2019 MGMC Club Meeting,, 7 pm at Weeks Hall**

**July 2, 2019 MGMC Board Meeting, 7 pm at Lapidary Lab**

**July 23, 2019 MGMC Club Meeting, 7 pm at Weeks Hall**

**JUNE 1-2: ONALASKA, WI** Coulee Rock Club Annual Show. 10 am- 5 pm both days. Omni Center, 255 Riders Club Rd., Onalaska. Contact: Allison Conrad, (507) 895-8109; [rockinbabe@acegroup.cc](mailto:rockinbabe@acegroup.cc)

**JULY 13-14: MOOSE LAKE, MN** Carlton County Gem & Mineral Club Annual Show and Moose Lake Agate Days. Sat 9 am - 5 pm; Sun 10 am - 3pm. Riverside Arena, 20 Earl Ellens Dr., Moose Lake. Contact: Lynn Suercl, (218) 721-2679; [danlynnsunrisefarm@yahoo.com](mailto:danlynnsunrisefarm@yahoo.com)

**JULY 19-20: MINOCQUA, WI** Lakeland Gem & Mineral Club Annual Show. Fri 10 am - 6 pm; Sun 9 am - 5 pm. Lakeland Union High School, 9573 Highway 70, Minocqua. Contact: Ron Zimmer, (715) 614-1080; [rzimmer@charter.net](mailto:rzimmer@charter.net) [www.lakelandgemandmineralclub.com](http://www.lakelandgemandmineralclub.com)

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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>**

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