



THE AGATEER

The Newsletter of the Madison Gem and Mineral Club

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May 2018

May 22 – Presentation

Tromping the Triassic of Wyoming

New insights into old deposits

Our presenter for May is **Dave Lovelace, Assistant Scientist from the UW-Madison Geology Museum**, who will be discussing recent adventures in the Late Triassic of Wyoming. He will share new discoveries that rival the greatest sites in the world. Earliest dinosaurs, proto-crocs, and huge amphibians (Oh my!).

Dr. Lovelace is a vertebrate paleontologist specializing in Triassic-aged rocks of the Rocky Mountain West (252-201 million years ago). He joined the UW Geology Museum team as a research scientist after completing his PhD at UW-Madison's Department of Geoscience in 2012. Dave combines the study of ancient bones, trackways, and soils to build a picture of what ecosystems looked like 230 million years ago — when the first mammals, turtles, crocodiles, lizards, dinosaurs, and birds evolved. Since becoming a member of the museum team, Dave had made several exciting discoveries including: the oldest known turtle tracks in the world, two mass-death-assemblages of Late Triassic amphibians, and the oldest dinosaur tracks in Wyoming.

Reminders from the MGMC Board

The Board wants to remind members of two items that have come to our attention. Recently, we were made aware of well-meaning persons that have given programs in schools, libraries, etc. using our club name as sponsor, yet we the board of the Madison Gem & Mineral Club knew nothing about these events. We wish to protect the club reputation and any claims of liability. While we welcome sharing of educational programs with the public – for reasons stated each program should be outlined and approved by the Board. We all love to share our rocks, but we need to do so in a responsible manner, to the club and to the public.

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

Dues are Due

Club dues renewable at 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. The new dues structure is \$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!

Reminders from the MGMC Board continued...

A second reminder is related to club members wishing to sell items at our monthly meetings in the Geology building. We have a policy that a 20% commission from sales goes to the Geology Museum as a donation for providing the space for our gatherings. This includes member sales, as well as club sales. This is just a small thank you to Rich and the Museum for all they do for the club. This does not apply to sales held at our summer picnic where members may set out a table for sales in a swap meet type event for members. Also guest speakers may at times sell their books, wares, etc... as a club sanctioned program event. While our monthly MGMC meetings are open to the public, private sellers (i.e. not paid club members in good standing) are not permitted to sell at club meetings. If you are approached by a seller, please share this information. Thank you.

Education Notes & Thanks

Many thanks to Carlos Peralta who has been busy presenting on behalf of the MGMC and Geology Museum. On April 21, he attended the Waunakee Public Library STEM Fair and displayed many minerals and gems, fossils and a few rocks. Several hundred people attended. Carlos also presented at the Kennedy Elementary School Science Night on April 23rd. He brought a precious opal from Rainbow Ridge, and a museum loaned meteorite – which were stars of the show! It is great to see so many families helping their kids become aware of science, and we are glad to play a part.

Save the Date from Carlos

The 2018 Acid Party will be on Sunday, June 24 from 1:00PM on. Please make sure to bring a dish to pass and chocolates for me. Do your best to wear a tie-dyed t-shirt. Oh, I almost forgot: you could bring rocks that can be cleaned with acid. We can also try to identify specimens, check for radioactivity, and test for fluorescence. Come early (as early as 10:00AM) if you would like to see the collections more closely. This is the fourth (perhaps the fifth?) acid party. In the past, most everyone have survived them.

Note from Bob

Occasionally I am asked if someone in the club would like to be hired to, say, polish stone bookends, slabs or specimens. If there is anyone who would like to take on some work like this they should get in touch with me so I can pass along their contact info. Thanks -Bob

Intro to Lapidary Class through Wheelhouse Studios

Class registration for Summer Session WED, July 18 to August 22, 5:30 – 9 pm, taught by Neven Franke. These courses have been filling up, so don't wait too long to sign up. Go to the Wheelhouse Studios site to register. Or use this link: https://apm.activecommunities.com/minicourses/Activity_Search/intro-to-lapidary/10512

How do you say...?

Knowing how to pronounce the new language of minerology and geoscience can be a bit intimidating. Here is how to sound like a pro.

This month is a list of descriptive terms in our hobby, not necessarily specific rock, gem or mineral names:

cabochon	KAB-uh-shon	A material that is polished, but not faceted – suitable for setting
conglomerate	kon-GLOMM-ahr-it	A coarse grained sedimentary rock; granules larger than 2 mm.
dodecahedral	doh-deck-uh-HEE-druhl	A twenty sided crystal form.
drusy	DROO-zee	A coating of crystals on a rock surface.
cerium	SEAR-ee-um	A soft metal (symbol Ce), the oxide is used for polishing
conchoidal	kong-KOYD-ul	A mineral or rock surface with smooth, shell like curves

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.

May 2018. Pyrites are not fools. Any pyrite or closely related minerals. We mean iron sulfides (marcasites, pyrites) and iron sulfides with additional elements (arsenopyrites, chalcopyrites, pyrrhotite, etc.). I am always puzzled by the “fool’s gold” name attached to pyrite. It does not look like gold at all. Paradoxically, there are known pyrite deposits that are being mined for the gold they contain. The gold is not part of the pyrite itself. It is found disseminated as tiny flakes among the pyrite!

June 2018. Fossil plants. Any fossil plant from your collections.

July 2018. FWWA. Found While Walking Around. Do you know how to tell if someone is a rockhound? They are always looking at the ground! The July competition is any geology-related find not obtained from purposeful rockhounding, mining, shows or stores.

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.

March Competition Results

April 2018 competition was “Tiny Treasures” featuring the microworld of crystals, minerals, gems and fossils. Congratulations to our winners!

1st place: **Kevin**
2nd place: **Scot Moss**

Calendar

May 22 Madison Gem & Mineral Club monthly meeting – 7pm. AB20 Weeks Hall, Dept. of Geoscience

June 5 Board meeting MG&MC

May 26-27: 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: Marge Dobrofsky, 6148 Elm St., Morton Grove 60053; (847) 334-4482; adams9104@sbcglobal.net

June 2-3: ONALASKA STATE, WI Coulee Rock Club Annual Show. Sat 10 am – 5 pm; Sun 10 pm – 4 pm. Onalaska Omni Center, 255 Riders Club Rd, Onalaska, WI. Contact: Allison Conrad, 33435 Burns Valley Rd, La Crescent MN 55947; (507) 895-8109; rockinbabe@acegroup.cc

July 14-15: FREDERIC, WI Indianhead Gem & Mineral Society Annual Show. Sat 9 am - 5 pm, Sun 10 am - 4 pm. Frederic High School, Frederic. Contact: Roy Wickman, 1127 - 7th St., Alemena 54805; (715) 357-3223.

July 14-15: MOOSE LAKE, MN Carlton County Gem & Mineral Club Annual Show. Riverside Area, 20 Earl Ellens Dr. Contact: Dan & Lynn Svercl; (218) 721-2679; danlynnsunrisefarm@yahoo.com

July 20-21: MINOCQUA, WI Lakeland Gem & Mineral Club Annual Show, Fri 10 am - 6 pm; Sat 9 am - 5 pm. Lakeland Union High School, 9573 Highway 70 West, Minocqua. Contact: Ron Zimmer, 9280 Timberline Dr., Minocqua 54548; (715) 614-1080; rzimmer@charter.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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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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