



THE AGATEER

The Newsletter of the Madison Gem and Mineral Club

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May 2019

Monthly Meeting – May 28

Wisconsin Rocks! A guide to Geologic Sites in the Badger State *presented by Scott Spoolman*

Author Scott Spoolman has picked 52 of the most interesting geologic sites in the state to include in *Wisconsin Rocks! A Guide to Geologic Sites in the Badger State*. The sites tell stories of ancient mountain building, volcanic eruptions, crushing glaciers, and catastrophic flooding. The book serves as a guide for those wishing to explore Wisconsin's widely varied landscapes and geologic sites. The author will introduce his book by sampling some of the sites during his talk and presenting several of his own photos from the book. His books will be for sale and he accepts cash, check, or credit card.

Spoolman is a science writer who has focused on the environmental sciences, especially those stories of natural science and the environment related to Wisconsin and surrounding states. He grew up in northern Wisconsin, earned a master's degree at the University of Minnesota, and worked for several years in the publishing industry before becoming a freelance writer. He is also the author of *Wisconsin State Parks: Extraordinary Stories of Geology and Natural History*, and coauthor of environmental science textbooks.

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.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday,
April 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!

Club Notes

At the April meeting, we learned about the “hidden gem” that is the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey (WGNHS) repository of 650,000 lineal feet of bedrock core from all around Wisconsin. That and more are located in a warehouse in Mount Horeb. Sounds like a field trip opportunity.

Speaking of field trips, our new Field Trip Coordinators have pledged to host 4 field trips in the next 12 months. Ideas are requested, so please contact Holly Brassington, (e-mail is on the back of this newsletter).

The club sponsored lapidary class wrapped up on April 28. Feedback from students was positive and the weekly rotation of instructors worked well for them. The next class will be held starting on Wednesday, July 10 for 6 weeks. Class will be half 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!

Our Hobby’s History: It Started with a Passion and a Sharing of Ideas

by Jennifer Haley AFMS Historian - *Reprinted from AFMS Newsletter*

I’ve been hitting the books again, investigating the earliest AFMS Historian files to see what gems of information I could write about for you. 1928 is a year to remember. The first radio and telephone connection between the Netherlands and U.S.A. occurred, American aviator Amelia Earhart became the 1st woman to fly across the Atlantic Ocean, sliced bread was sold for the first time, and Scottish bacteriologist Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin while studying influenza.

And in 1928 an earth science teacher noticed the need to have the earth sciences taught at schools below the college level. Unfortunately, I do not have the gentleman’s name, but what we do know is that he started a club for his students and community. The club was such a big hit, he hoped something similar could go national. Peter Zodac, founder and first editor of Rocks & Minerals Magazine was a big supporter of the idea, and began writing monthly articles which appeared in his magazine about forming earth science clubs. In those articles were ideas for programs and activities, and of course information about minerals. Learning about minerals and collecting minerals was becoming extremely popular, and was the main focus of our hobby in the beginning. Individuals and families were fascinated with what they could learn, and were enchanted by the adventures they were exploring.

Mineral societies slowly but in a big way began to spring up around the country. The first two in California in 1931, 1932, and the third in Oregon in 1933 which was called the Oregon Agate and Mineral Society. The Oregon club got busy promoting themselves and started a bulletin. The club grew by leaps and bounds its first year, becoming what was believed to be the largest club of its kind in the world at that time. The monthly bulletin was called the Oregon Mineralogist. By its second year a person you are now familiar with from a recent American Federation of Mineral Societies Historian article, Dr. Dake, became their editor and renamed the bulletin The Mineralogist Magazine. Two other publications were born from the excitement of the hobby, Earth Science Digest and Mineral News and Notes. Advertisements for lapidary equipment became a popular aspect of the magazines. Clubs across the country were corresponding with one another, visiting each other’s club meetings and venturing out together to collecting sites for minerals. With so many clubs forming an idea was sparked to form a Federation.

Those first visionaries of our hobby wanted to keep the spirit and the knowledge of the science and the hobby alive instead of seeing it dwindle over time. As a synergy, they felt their combined efforts would be far greater than the sum of what an individual club could do on their own. Backed by the eagerness and the efforts of the clubs over a course of years, the seven federations one by one were formed. California Federation-1936; Northwest Federation-1938; Midwest Federation-1940; Rocky Mountain Federation-1941. During the time of WWII efforts to advance the federations was suspended. In 1946 came the inspiration for forming a national federation, and by 1947 the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies was born. Two other federations followed with the formation of the Eastern Federation of Mineralogy and Lapidary-1950, and the Southwest Federation-1976. When you hear society members asking why we have the federations and the AFMS, you now have a great story to tell them that they can take to heart.

Answers to Quartz Quiz in April Agateer: 1) True; 2) False – can be both clockwise and counter clockwise; 3) True; 4) True; 5) False – Quartz glows green; 6) False; 7) True – quartz is found in Fairburn, Nolte and other agates; 8) True!

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.

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 a now closed mine, etc. Please write a brief description on a standard index card with a few highlights from 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!

Competition Results from April: Rough, Cut and Finished

1st Place: Tiger Eye (Karl) **2nd Place:** Agatized Wood (Bernie Franke)

Calendar

May 28, 2019 MGMC Club Meeting,, 7 pm at Weeks Hall

June 4, 2019 MGMC Board Meeting, 7 pm at Lapidary Lab

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

MAY 23-24: CEDAR RPAIDS, IA Cedar Valley Rocks & Mineral Society Annual Show. Sat 8:30 am - 6 pm; Sun 9:30 am - 5 pm. Hawkeye Downs, 4400 - 6th St., Cedar Rapids. Contact: Marv Houg, (319) 364-2868; m-houg@yahoo.com www.cedarvalleyrockclub.org

MAY 25-26: 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: Debby Ballot, (630) 272-8275; demarrex1@att.net www.cgma.rocks

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

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 www.lakelandgemandmineralclub.com

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Madison Gem and Mineral Club Officers and Board Members:

President	Rick Zweifel	206-4981
Vice-President	Karl Allemeier	309-721-9097
Secretary	Jasmine Waldner	secretary@madisonrockclub.org
Treasurer	Rick Maske	212-4896
Newsletter Editor	Stephanie Sobczak	sgsobczak@gmail.com or 608-334-6142
Field Trip Chairpersons	Scott Olson, Holly Brassington, Karen Lederer	brassingtonhh@gmail.com ; olsens93@gmail.com ; KarenL@charter.net
Education Chairperson	Carlos Peralta	509-2836
Club Sales	Bob Thornton	469-5885
Membership Chairperson	OPEN	
Show Chairperson	Nevin Franke	251-2601
Publicity Chairperson	OPEN	
Program Chairman	Alan Hills	877-8939
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
P.O. Box 8882
Madison, Wisconsin 53708