



THE AGATEER

The Newsletter of the Madison Gem and Mineral Club

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October 2019

Program – October 22

Biggs Jasper and Deschutes Jasper: What's the Difference?

Presented by Alan Vanderohé

Biggs and Deschutes Jaspers are first cousins, both coming from north-central Oregon, both arising from similar materials and processes, and often being very similar in appearance and other lapidary aspects. In fact, their characteristics are so similar they are often confused with one another. It is also quite possible to confuse both Biggs and Deschutes with a different, geologically (or at least, geographically)-unrelated, jasper from the other side of the world. However, there are subtle but distinct differences in both the patterns and colors of Biggs and Deschutes. The similarities and differences will be described with a number of examples. We will also look into brief histories and stories concerning these jaspers, including theory of formation, discovery by people, and current status of new material. Biggs Jasper is related to, and often found in conjunction with, two particular agates. Specimens will be on hand for all materials mentioned in the presentation.

IT'S SHOW TIME!

Hi fellow club members. Last month we started signing up volunteers for the annual show of Nov. 23-24. A number of people signed up so it was a pretty good start. However, we need many more. Now that you have had a month to think about it, I hope you are ready to sign up. I will again have the signup sheets at this month's meeting. To review, the jobs are setup/cleanup, ticket sales, club sales, gold/sapphire panning security, and silent auction. Also, if you would like to present an exhibit, we have 4 and 8 foot spaces available. So, come to the meeting on October 27th, call me at 233-7970, or send me an e-mail at scotmoss@gmail.com. However, if you come to the meeting, there will be cookies or some other treat. I hope to see you there.

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

**Madison Gem & Mineral Show
November 23 & 24
Alliant Energy Center
SAVE THE DATE & VOLUNTEER!**

HOW YOU CAN HELP AT THE SHOW

<p>Friday Set-Up on Nov. 22</p> <p>On Friday afternoon, vehicles and people are needed to help set up the show. This involves picking up show materials from various locations and setting up at the Alliant Energy Center.</p>	<p>Sunday Tear Down on Nov. 24</p> <p>All hands on deck for packing up the signs, displays, lamps and any club sales material remaining. The more people helping the quicker it goes!</p>
<p>Ticket Sales</p> <p>Two people per shift will be seated at the front of our show space to sell entry tickets and collect money from participants, and help them navigate the show. The tickets given also serve as door prize tickets.</p>	<p>Security</p> <p>We will have two people per shift making the rounds near vendor tables. You will be issued a yellow vest. The Alliant Center does have security on the premises and they will be notified if needed.</p>
<p>Demonstrations</p> <p>People are needed to demonstrate aspects of our hobby. Panning for gold or sapphires (kids love it), making cabochons on the sanding wheels, faceting, rock carving, etc. Instruction is provided if needed.</p>	<p>Club Sales</p> <p>We offer all kinds of specimens, fossils, slabs, and jewelry for sale to benefit the club. Several people are needed to sell material and collect money and answer questions from time to time.</p>
<p>Silent Auction</p> <p>You can assist with putting out the items, logging sales and monitoring the auction. Helping prospective bidders sign up and obtain a bidder number, and answering questions people may have. Kids auctions are super fun.</p>	<p>Displays</p> <p>Display cases are available for club members to display their collection, or show their handiwork. Four foot and eight foot cases are available. Displays should be set up before show time and taken down on Sunday.</p>

Making Grab Bags – November 5

Did you know that each year, our show sells dozens of grab bags that contain 10 or more featured specimens, plus a handful of other material. On November 5 at the lapidary lab we will have a gathering to fill 125 grab bags. Those boxes or bags taking up space in your collection – the ones you don't know what to use them for - could find a home in a grab bag for this year. The fun begins at 7 pm on November 5.

Club Shirts Available at the Show

Brand new club t-shirts will be available at the show for purchase. Thanks to the submission of several designs, there are three different shirts to choose from! Also the very popular cloth bags with the club logo are back. Show your MGMC pride and pick up a shirt or bag.

Upcoming Lapidary Classes Starting in November

Nevin Franke will teach Intermediate Lapidary starting November 6, meeting Wednesday evenings until December 11. Registration is available through the Wheelhouse Studios website:

<https://union.wisc.edu/events-and-activities/open-art-studio-and-classes/classes-and-workshops/> .

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.

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, Whoknowswhatthisite, 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.

Calendar

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

November 5, 2019 Grab Bag Packing 7 pm at Lapidary Lab

OCTOBER 19-20: COTTAGE GROVE, MN Minnesota Mineral Club Annual Show. Sat 10 am - 5 pm; Sun 10 am - 4 pm. National Guard Training & Community Center, 8180 Belden Blvd., Cottage Grove. Contact: Maureen Scaglia, mascaglia@comcast.net

NOVEMBER 2-3: STURTEVANT, WI Racine Geological Society Annual Show. Sat 10 am - 5 pm; Sun 10 am - 4 pm. Fountain Banquet Hall, 8505 Durand Ave (Hwy 11), Sturtevant. Contact: John Lowman, (262) 989-9193; lowman.john@sbcglobal.net

NOVEMBER 9-10: FREEPORT, IL North West Illinois Rock Club Annual Show. Sat 9 am - 5 pm; Sun 10 am - 4 pm. Highland Community College, 2998W. Pearl City Rd., Freeport. Contact: Brian Green, (815) 745-2228, bgreen57@hotmail.com NWILRockClubFRPT.BlogSpot.com

NOVEMBER 23-24: MADISON, WI Madison Gem & Mineral Club Annual Show. Sat 9:30 am - 5 pm; Sun 10 am - 5 pm. Alliant Energy Center. Contact: Nevin Franke, (608) 251-2601; burniesrockshop@gmail.com www.madisonrockclub.org

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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
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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