



THE AGATEER

The Newsletter of the Madison Gem and Mineral Club

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September 2019

Program – September 24

Fossils of the Milwaukee Formation

The highly diverse biota of the Middle Devonian Milwaukee Formation and the need for its further modern analysis will be discussed. Major taxa not previously recorded from this formation will be revealed. Photographs of many of its approximately 250 species will be shown. Milwaukee's cement industry and its key role in the accumulation of the Milwaukee Formation's fossils will be discussed. Some of the fossils shown in the related book will be displayed. Copies of that book and the speaker's other book, *Solving the Mystery of the First Animals on Land: The Fossils of Blackberry Hill*, will be available for purchase and signing.

Our speaker, Kenneth C. (Chris) Gass has a degree in Geological Sciences from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. His areas of research have included Silurian trilobites of the family Encrinuridae and trace fossils from the Cambrian tidal flats of Blackberry Hill in central Wisconsin. In addition to writing books and peer-reviewed journal articles on those subjects, one of which won Honorable Mention for Best Paper Award from the *Journal of Paleontology*, Gass popularizes the related discoveries in talks, videos, magazine articles, and public radio appearances. Chris also developed a keen interest in the Devonian Milwaukee Formation. His field work includes having made hundreds of trips to Estabrook Park in Milwaukee to study that formation and its fossils before finally co-writing a book about it---*Fossils of the Milwaukee Formation: A Diverse Middle Devonian Biota from Wisconsin, USA*.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday,
Sept. 24 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!

IT'S SHOW TIME!

Hi fellow club members. Scot Moss here. It is amazing how fast a year can go. Here it is already time to start thinking about the annual show. This year's show is Nov. 23-24. That means it is time for me to start pestering you to volunteer your time to help put on one of the premier shows in the Midwest. I know you are up to it. How do I know? Because you have done it many times before. And very important work it is because revenue from the show is the biggest piece of what keeps the club operating. This includes the shop for all of you who are there on Saturdays cutting rocks. So, let me quickly summarize the jobs we have:

First, starting on Friday the 22nd, we need people to help haul rocks, display cases, etc., from several storage sites to the show location and to help set up. Then, when the show closes on Sunday, the reverse has to happen. People with trucks, trailers or cargo vans are particularly welcome, and the more we have, the quicker we can get home. Carts are also needed to haul everything to and from the loading dock.

Saturday and Sunday, we need people to sell tickets, assist with club sales, provide security, and help with gold and sapphire panning. Training is available. Finally, a great thing about our show is the topnotch exhibits we have. If you would like to put together a display from your collection, we have 4 and 8 foot display cases available. It is nice to show the public what we can do with rocks and minerals.

There are a several ways to contact me. First, you can come to the September and October club meetings where signup sheets will be available. This would be the best option because I could explain the jobs a lot better, and we could figure out what you would be most suited for. Second, you can call me at 233-7970. Third, you can email me at scotmoss@gmail.com. To induce you to sign up this year I will again be resorting to bribery in the form of brownies, cookies, or some other treat. So, start thinking about how you would like to help this year or what you can show in an exhibit. I'll see you at the next meeting.

A Gaggle of Grab Bags

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. This is a great way to stimulate the interest of those new to the hobby, and kids love them too! We just about sold out of our grab bag inventory from past years at the last show. So we are in the market for more material to fill 125 lunch 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. Polished stones, rough stones, small fossils, crystals, petrified wood, and even shells have made it into grab bags. November 5 is the deadline as we will be packing and labelling all grab bags on that day.

Silent Auction – Year 2

Hi! Stephanie Sobczak, auction organizer here. After a successful rookie year, we are gearing up for the MGMC Silent Auction. More details will be shared at upcoming club meetings. In the meantime, the inventory and pricing work is in full swing. We are in need of fossils to auction off. Preferably items that could bring in \$3 or up (we have mainly small examples on hand). If you have similar items, we could use up to 4 of the same thing. So if you have some interesting fossils that you are willing to part with as a donation to the club, please bring them to club meetings or drop off at the Lapidary Lab on Saturdays with a note. Many thanks in advance!

Notes from the MGMC Board

The board approved funds for the production of cloth bags and club t-shirts. These items will be for sale to the public at the MGMC Show in November. Recall the shirt design entries the club voted on last spring. The creativity of club members will be on display in color, on two sided t-shirts. Club Member Carlos Peralta also refreshed the running man logo with creative use of color. The cloth bags are popular items for carrying purchases. And both raise funds for the club.

Upcoming Lapidary Classes Starting in September

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.

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."

(continued)

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

September 24, 2019 MGMC Club Meeting, 7 pm at Weeks Hall

October 1, 2019 MGMC Board Meeting, 7 pm at Lapidary Lab

TBD, Show Committee Meeting

November 5, Grab Bag Packing, time TBD, at Lapidary Lab

SEPTEMBER 14: ROCKFORD, IL Rock River Valley Gem & Mineral Society Rock Swap. 9:30 am - 4 pm. Odd Fellow Lodge, 6219 Forest Hills Rd., Rockford. Contact: Duane Cushing, (815) 218-5011; tcdc78@comcast.net

SEPTEMBER 28-29: OSHKOSH, WI Oshkosh Earth Science Club Rock Swap. Sat 9 am - 5 pm; Sun 10 am - 4 pm. Sunnyview Expo Center, 500 E. County Rd. Y, Oshkosh. Contact: Ann Voges, (920) 725-1640; hankemps@milwpc.com

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

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. All items printed in the Agateer may be reproduced without permission if proper credit is given.

Madison Gem and Mineral Club Officers and Board Members:

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| Treasurer | Rick Maske | 212-4896 |
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| 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
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