



KETTLE KRIER

President: Tony Ilecki Vice President: Richard Hamann
 Secretary: John Rettler Treasurer: Carol Ward

**Our next meeting will be on July 19th, 2017 at 6:30PM at the Pewaukee Library
 Goodie Detail is Mary Rettler & Liz and Russ Fuhr**

A Message From the President

I hope you have all had a good Memorial Day weekend, and are ready for the road trips and rock hunting parties of the season. If you happen to find a good location, please let us know at the next meeting.

Congratulations to John Rettler for his 2nd place award for newsletter articles from the Midwest Federation. Due to other commitments, I was not able to attend the Midwest Federation Convention held on May 6 & 7 in Brainerd, Minnesota. This proved unfortunate, as there was no one from our club present to accept the award given to John Rettler for the article he wrote entitled "Moonwalking", about a field trip to collect Wisconsin Moonstones. A reprint of the article follow.

MOONWALKING

Saturday, March 19th, eleven members of the Kettle Moraine Geological Society drove to Wausau and set about "Moonwalking" around the rural countryside. This is not a 1980's dance move; but rather as in walking around on a warm, sunny spring day searching for "Moonstones".

About a year ago KMGS friend and supporter William Schoenfuss invited us to scour a field for "Anorthoclase" or more commonly known as "Wisconsin Moonstone". We feel quite privileged and grateful to be able to scout about in search of some specimens. Out of respect for the Landowners; and our guide's wishes; we can only have access to the area from the time the frost leaves the ground until the alfalfa crop starts to green up. Luckily the narrow window of opportunity was in sync with a warm sunny spring day making the event a pleasurable excursion.

I am told there is only about a four square mile area in North America where these rare geological gemstone specimens can be found; formed billions of years ago when the volcanoes of North America were still forming the continent, (Day 3 in Genesis), long before the glaciers or the ice ages had taken place. Wisconsin Moonstone is a little known; but very much appreciated native gemstone. It is has similar characteristics to labradorite as the sheen is only visible when turned to allow the

light shine upon it in low light or UV exposure, but is quite striking when it's lustrous blue hue catches your eye as the sunlight lights it up.

The frost naturally brings the specimens to the surface and some are found just lying on the rain eroded surface. Others lie just below the surface and can be found by tapping the ground with a scratching tool, until you hear the distinctive "clink" of contact with the stone. Then careful excavating being cautious to not to disturb the alfalfa roots or excessively damage the surrounding area, as you look for chips, pebbles or even a fist sized rock containing the shiny prize. You have to keep in mind this is a field that will be harvested in just weeks, and to be respectful to the landowner, you want to remove any unwanted stones from the field, fill in your holes and level any soil before you move on to another site. You don't want to lose access to a prime site, because a stone dug up and discarded, causes damage to hay harvesting equipment later costing the landowner repair costs and down-time during harvest season. Always remember to be respectful and appreciate the privilege.

Our group of eleven spent the afternoon walking, digging, scratching and brushing stones in search if the elusive prize. As expected we had varying degrees of success. Mary and I picked a five gallon bucket about three quarters full of specimens, which we now need to wash, clean the iron stains off and sort. We found two very nice pieces we may turn into jewelry, a few more for display and the rest still to be determined. Afterwards some of us met up at The Texas Roadhouse in Wausau for dinner and enjoying conversation before driving home again.

It was a fine sunny spring day and the perfect way to begin the rock-hunting season. Our deepest thanks to Bill Schoenfuss for his time, generosity and support; and the same to Thomas Bucholtz, and for both of them spending the day sharing their knowledge and expertise, and making our day a success and memory!

John Rettler

Recap of MAY Meeting

Meeting Called to Order by President Tony Ilecki.

Pledge of Allegiance recited by 28 members in attendance.

Sec. John Rettler read the Minutes of the April Meeting. Mike Andrysczyk made motion to accept as read. Second by Russ Fuhrer. Motion Carried.

Treasurers Report was read by Treasurer Carol Ward. Motion by Liz Fuhrer to accept as read. Second by Winnie Mading. Motion Carried.

Show Committee Report: John Rettler reported that about 30% of the Vendors have responded and committed to the 2018 show. There will be a Show Committee meeting on May 30th.

The Tech Committee Report was presented by Richard Rosenberg. He urged the club to utilize the Blog on the Website. Any input regarding the system should be forwarded to him.

President Tony Ilecki once again requested a Volunteer for “The Sunshine Committee”. Nobody was willing to volunteer.

Old Business:

Janet Schmitt reported on holding a Summer Picnic on Saturday first Saturday in August, at Nixon Park in Hartland. It will begin at Noon, but some will be there early to start setting up.

Peter Graetz reported on the Arrow Point Hunting Excursion on May 6th, and stated that while no “points” were found there were several outstanding wildlife sightings that the group was witness too.

Garret Schumacher reported on the Excursion to the Silha Quarry in Janesville with the Rock River Club. He found a nice geode and also noted that he now has a “geode cracker” for the club to use.

New Business:

Ed Sanford brought up the possibility of arranging some Filed Trips to Illinois as a guest of ESCONI to look for Fossils. He wanted to see if there was some interest; if he were to arrange a visit to one of the Quarry’s of the William Charles Construction Company. More details to follow.

Mike Andrysczyk mentioned he found a great book on the Wisconsin geology. The Wisconsin Foundation by Gwen Schultz (UW Press \$27.95) speaks to the geological history of the region, as well as a simple and accurate rock identifications and more.

Richard Rosenberger is retiring from giving Quarry Tours at the Halquest Mine and Pit. If anyone is interested in taking it over; he is opening it up to others to continue the tours. They run about 100 tours annually, and if anyone is interested he would be happy to provide details

Announcements:

May 20-21 The Wisconsin Society will be holding their show in Wauwatosa.

June 24th and September 9th, The Chuck Howland Estate will be auctioning off Rough Rock at the Curry

Auction in Belvidere IL.

The June Goodie Detail is Milt & Karen Wilson and Russ & Liz Fuhrer,

Larry Christopherson has some Rock show cases for sale, see him if interested.

John & Mary Rettler asked if anyone knew of a small Rock Club in the Eastern Washington County area. They approached us at the show and might be looking to merge, but we have not heard anything since. Nobody seemed to know of them.

We received a donation of some nice rock and mineral specimens for the Club Sales from a former member “Mrs. Hartwig”, who asked us to put them to good use.

John Rettler was awarded Second Place in the Midwest Federation Writing Contest in the “Original Adult Article” category. He was awarded a plaque from the MWF and a Certificate from KMGS.

Motion to adjourn by Dave Elftman. Second by Debbie Elftman. Motion Carried.

The next meeting will be on June 21, 2017, 6:30PM at the Pewaukee Library.

A Governor Dodge Tale

My wife Marlene and I recently took a short 4-day trip to Governor Dodge State Park. The purpose of the trip was to break-in a new RV trailer we had purchased. It had been a long time since we were in the area, and we were looking forward to seeing places we had not seen in years. Although there are not any rock hunting sites in the area we were not disappointed.

Our journey began with a trip to Stephen’s Falls in the Park. The water drops into a small stream in a canyon-like ravine with rock formations on either side. After taking a wrong turn on the trail, we discovered even more interesting boulders and turned a .25 mile hike into a three mile tour. Well worth the effort.

A short drive up Hwy 23 we encountered Tower Hill Park. A vertical shaft was drilled 120 ft into the rock, and a horizontal tunnel of 90 ft to the river took 187 working days to complete with one man, Thomas B. Shaunce, doing most of the work with a pick-axe and gad. The walk up a fairly steep incline wasn’t too bad, but I couldn’t help but wonder how they got the lead ore up to the smelter at the top.

On the last day we discovered a small gift shop/museum about ¼ mile north of Gov. Dodge State Park. Never got to the gift shop, but the Museum of Minerals and Crystals was well worth the price of admission. The owner said it had been around for years, and it looked like it, but this was the first I had heard of it. The displays consisted of crystals, geodes, a small Wisconsin section, examples of fossils and a rock mosaic of Man-O-War (the horse). Talking to the owner, I was informed that the operation was for sale. Unfortunately it is part of a larger parcel and may not be continued by any new owner.

It was interesting to see the sights that we had seen about 30+ years ago with our kids. It was like a time warp, with nothing having changed, including the paint on the DC 3 in front of DON Q’s. For the record, there were no problems with the trailer, even in the rain.

Tony Ilecki

UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE 3-4: VIROQUA, WI Coulee Rock Club Annual Show. Sat 10 am - 5 pm; Sun 10 am - 4 pm. Viroqua Middle School, 100 Blackhawk Dr., Uiroqua. Contact Allison Conrad, (507) 895-8109; rockinbabe@acegroup.com

JUNE 10: SKOKIE, IL Chicago Rocks & Minerals Society Annual Rock Swap. Sat 11 am - 5 pm. St. Peter's United Church of Christ gymnasium, 8013 Laramie (at Oakton). Contact Betty Novak, (708) 795-7539; novakagate@hotmail.com

JUNE 24: Boone County Fairgrounds, 8791 Rte 76 (Fairgrounds Rd), Belvidere, Illinois. Curry Lapidary Auction, starting at 9:00AM. This auction is to include part of the Chuck Howland collection of rough.

For those who like to plan ahead, the KMGS picnic will be held at Nixon Park in Hartland on Saturday, August 5, 2017. It starts at noon, (be there a little earlier for set-up) and runs till 4:00PM. Bring your own food and a dish to pass around if want. A grill will be set up for cooking.

THE LAST WORD

Memorial Day has just passed, and the “official” start of the summer season has begun. I hope that all of us have taken time out during this holiday weekend to remember those who have died so that we can all enjoy the lifestyle we have today. And also a big **THANK YOU** to the members of our armed forces who continue to protect us.

Until next time, happy rockhounding!!

TONY ILECKI

Editor