



THE AGATEER

The Newsletter of the Madison Gem and Mineral Club

Volume 7, Issue 3

March 2007

March 27 Meeting: Digging for Tourmaline and Smoky Quartz in Colorado

The March Club Meeting will be held Tuesday, March 27 2007 at 7 pm at the usual location, Weeks Hall, corner of Charter and Dayton Streets in Madison. Mike Riesch, of the Earthaven Museum in Gillett, Wisconsin will present "Digging for Tourmaline and Smoky Quartz in Colorado."

Never heard of Gillett? Neither had I. But, according to those who have been there, the Earthaven Museum is a great museum, so by all means stop if you are in that part of the state. Gillett WI is about half way between Green Bay and Antigo WI.

The Earthaven Museum is a nonprofit educational effort that seeks to foster a greater appreciation for the Earth

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, March 27, 7:00 PM

AB20 Weeks Hall

**UW Department of Geology and Geophysics
1215 West Dayton Street
Madison, Wisconsin**

DUES DUE

Please send your 2007 dues to the club at the newsletter's return address, or pay at the February meeting. Adult: \$12; Family: \$16; Junior (ages 6 to 17) \$5. If the date on your address label is earlier than 2007, your dues are in arrears. Thank you for your continued support.

Sciences among young and old alike.

What Earthaven has to offer:

* Over a thousand rocks, minerals and fossils on display from a total collection of more than ten thousand specimens

* Displays of minerals from throughout the world

* A special exhibit featuring minerals and fossils from Wisconsin

* Special displays of jewelry, gems and lapidary arts

* A fluorescent mineral display

* Ancient human tools and artifacts made from minerals

* Educational computer programs relating to the earth sciences

* A reference library of books and periodicals related to every facet of the earth sciences

* Knowledgeable staff and volunteers to work with youth, school and community groups by hosting field trips, study groups or on-site displays and presentations

* Hands-on experience learning how to identify rocks, minerals and fossils using real materials

* Equipment for testing, identifying and experimenting with minerals

* Free identification of rocks, minerals, fossils or other artifacts you have found

* Occasional field trips to areas of geological interest

Continued on page 2

2007 Member Competition

All members are urged to bring specimens for the monthly competition.

March - Fossils

April - Any Wisconsin-found material, including crystals, minerals, artifacts, cut stones, fossils.

Questions may be directed to Metje Butler, Education Chairperson, at 244-3659.

David Lapidary-man's Top Ten List

You Know You Are a Rock Hound When:

10. Your psychiatrist nods off when you talk about the great site you found for collecting fluorite crystals.
 9. You have replaced the rear springs in your car with those from a Mack truck.
 8. You park your car on the driveway because the garage is full of rocks.
 7. You spend more time in the State Capital looking at the rocks than talking to your representatives.
 6. You can spell rhodochrosite without looking it up.
 5. The telephone number for Burnie's Rock Shop is number one on your speed dial.
 4. You have visited every rock shop from Bangor to San Diego – multiple times.
 3. Your children refuse to go on vacation with you knowing that they will be looking at rocks from sunrise to sunset.
 2. You own more than one loupe.
- And the number one reason:
- 1. You have never seen a road cut that wasn't a thing of beauty.**

Earthaven continued:

* An appreciation of how are use of earth's resources can make a difference in our lives

Earthaven Museum

7599 Fifield Road
Gillett, WI 54154
(920) 855-6132

Earthaven@ez-net.com

Archaeology Dig

I just received the paper work on this year's field survey for the Archaeology Lab at UW Lacrosse. This year they will be again meeting at the Archeology lab at the UW Campus at 8:30 in the morning, May 5th and May 6th. (Saturday and Sunday) They will have a small meeting at the lab to talk about the day's events and what they are trying to find. They will be going to a plowed field near Holmen to start looking there first. They are trying to find any artifacts that were left behind, (like flints, arrowheads, etc) bring boots, sack lunch, water, small brushes and maybe a small backpack if you would like. They will return to the Lab to wash things and identify in a group setting. They will provide water and a cooler for your lunch. This is **free** to whomever would like to go and do a little exploring for them,. Please call the UW lab to get signed up at (608) 785-8454 by April 27 or email Jean at dowiasch.jean@uwlax.edu and leave a detailed message stating your name and phone number and what it is for also. You can also call Jean for more information or have her send a form to you also. Nicole and I did this last year and we had some fun doing this. We found some very interesting rocks that they did not want to keep. Usually about twenty people helped and you can ride with other people to the site or go in the UW van also. Thanks JIM COX

Calendar

March 24-25 Monroe Gem Show. Monroe High School. 9- 5 each day. Free admission

March 24-25: Des Plaines Valley Geological Society 42nd Annual Gem, Jewelry, Fossil, Rock and Mineral Show, Des Plaines Leisure Center, 2222 Birch, Des Plaines, IL

March 27 – Madison Gem and Mineral club meeting: Digging Tourmalines and Smoky Quartz in Colorado

April 1 Black Hawk Gem & Mineral Society - "Nature's Treasures Magnificent Minerals" Rock Island, IL

April 3 – Board meeting, 7 pm

The A.E. Seaman Mineral Museum invites you to Copper Country Mineral Retreat[©] August 5 to August 11, 2007

Houghton, Michigan
Michigan's Historic Lake Superior Native Copper
District in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Come for
the week or just a few days.

Don't Miss the Mineral Banquet with door prizes,
silent and voice auctions

Field Trips

bulldozed collecting sites
datolite day
historical tours
miner's day

Special Activities

Mineral Banquet
speakers and auctions
rock swap
open houses with sales

August 4
32nd Annual Upper
Peninsula Gem and Mineral
Show, Ishpeming Rock
and Mineral Club

August 10, 11, 12
12th Annual Copper Country
Rock and Mineral Club
Gem and Mineral Show,
Houghton, MI

For More Information Contact:
A. E. Seaman Mineral Museum
906-487-2572
tjb@mtu.edu

Words 101

Feldspar is the name of a group of rock-forming minerals which make up as much as 60% of the Earth's crust. Feldspars crystallize from magma in both intrusive and extrusive rocks, and they can also occur as compact minerals, as veins, and are also present in many types of metamorphic rock. Rock formed entirely of plagioclase feldspar (see below) is known as anorthosite. Feldspars are also found in many types of sedimentary rock.

Feldspar is derived from the German *Feld*, field, and *Spat*, a rock that does not contain ore. "Feldspathic" refers to materials that contain feldspar.

This group of minerals consists of framework or tectosilicates. Compositions of major elements in common feldspars can be expressed in terms of three endmembers:

K-feldspar endmember KAlSi_3O_8

Albite endmember $\text{NaAlSi}_3\text{O}_8$

Anorthite endmember $\text{CaAl}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_8$

Solid solutions between K-feldspar and albite are called **alkali feldspar**. Solid solutions between albite and anorthite are called **plagioclase**. Only limited solid solution occurs between K-feldspar and anorthite, and in the two other solid solutions, immiscibility occurs at temperatures common in the crust of the earth.

From Wikipedia

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Program Chairperson	Burnie Franke	837-9550

Membership is open to all individuals, and applications for membership will be accepted upon payment of annual dues, which are \$12.00 for adults (18 and older), \$5.00 for junior members (ages 6-17), and \$16.00 for families.

Visit the official website of the Madison Gem and Mineral Club at www.madison.com/communities/madisonrockclub/contact.php for more information

Madison Gem and Mineral Club
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