



# THE AGATEER

The Newsletter of the Madison Gem and Mineral Club

Volume 8, Issue 11

November 2008

**Nov. 22-23**

## **Show THIS Weekend – Alliant Energy Center**

Show Chairman Nevin Franke reports that preparation for the show is complete – the vendors are all lined up, the details with the Alliant Center have been worked out, grab bags filled etc. Thank you to the many club members that have volunteered to help with the show. Your dedication and commitment to the club show is very much appreciated. If you haven't volunteered to help and can spare a few hours this weekend, it's not too late to get involved. Give Nevin a call if you can help, 251-2601.

The one area that could always use a little more help is promotion. Since the city of Madison does not allow our promotional signs on city right-of-way, we have lost one of our primary ways of informing the public about our show. So your assistance with getting word out about the show is important – if you live on a busy street and can put a yard sign up, great; if you can put fliers up at the grocery store, laundromat, neighborhood center, great as well; and lastly, remind friends about the show – they can't go if they don't know.

### **November 25 Meeting:**

## **Summer Travels - Collecting, Prospecting, & Digging Far and Wide** *Gabriela Farfan*

Not many lapidary clubs can boast about their youth programs and activities – many clubs could better meet at Senior Citizen Centers given the average age of their members. But, the Madison Gem and Mineral Club has a youth member that lives and breathes lapidary and mineralogy - Gabriela Farfan. Gabriela is a high school senior and has already acquired a knowledge of the geological world far beyond her years. Accompanied by her father, Carlos Peralta, they have spent many summers traveling the American West in search of geological treasure. For the last two years the Peralta family has hosted a 'Rocks- For-Kids' program at their home, giving other youths an opportunity to learn about lapidary, geology, and especially mineralogy. The young participants have left with samples donated by the Peralta family as well as other club members.

Our Meeting on Tuesday November 25 will feature Gabriela speaking on her summer travels and collecting experiences.

**Next Meeting:**

**Tuesday, November 25, 7:00 PM**

AB20 Weeks Hall

UW Department of Geology and Geophysics

1215 West Dayton Street

Madison, Wisconsin

## 2008 Member Competition

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

**Nov. – Faceted gems, by member**

Dec. – No Competition

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

### Club Elections

Bob and Nancy Smith, co-chairs of the nominating committee, report that the following individuals have consented to run for club officer positions:

President: Alan Vonderohe  
Vice President: Steve Harsy  
Treasurer: Gerald Gunderson  
Secretary: Open

Election of officers will occur at the November meeting. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor for any member in good standing wishing to run.

### Words 101 Pyroxene

Pyroxene is a common silicate mineral (group). You will hear it pronounced either

Pie rox ene or  
Pier ox ene

Etymology: From 'pyr' meaning 'fire'; and 'xenos' meaning 'stranger'. This is from the mistaken belief that the mineral was not present in igneous rocks. This is a strange etymology indeed, as pyroxene is present in **most** dark colored igneous rocks! It is hardly a 'fire stranger'.

### Lapidary Lab Update

Discussion is continuing on the development of a lapidary lab at the Goodman Atwood Community Center on Madison's East Side. Alan Vonderohe has been instrumental in working out an agreement with the center that would allow us to have space for a lapidary lab at the center, located at 149 Waubesa Street. More information will be forthcoming when it is available.

### Welcome New Member:

Karen Edmund

### Calendar

Nov. 21: Alliant Energy Centershow set-up beginning 10 am

**Nov. 22-23: 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Gem and Mineral Show  
Alliant Energy Center**

**Nov. 25: Monthly MG&MC meeting  
Gabriela Farfan summer collecting trips**

Dec. 2: MC&MC Board Meeting 7 pm Weeks Hall Student Lounge

Dec. 13-14: Minneapolis Gem and Mineral Show  
Eisenhower Community Center

Dec. 13-14: Sheboygan Falls, WI  
Glacial Drifters Annual Show;  
Sheboygan Falls Municipal Bldg.

## From the Internet (Via Bob's Rock Shop):

### *Cavern of Crystals*

There is a wonderful article in the latest issue of National Geographic (November 2008) on Mexico's Cave of Crystals. What an amazing site. Don't miss the article. It's well worth the cost of an issue at a magazine stand if you're not a subscriber. From **John D. Gonzales-Lusk** - October 28, 2008 Email: [gonzlusott@aol.com](mailto:gonzlusott@aol.com)

### *Repairing Rough Rock Fractures?*

Is there any product out there that you can repair fractures in rough rock before slabbing. I have some real nice pieces (two-three pounds each) that have a couple of fractures I would like to fix before sawing. Thanks Dave From **Dave** - October 17, 2008 at 08:58:12 Email: [highdesertdeals@msn.com](mailto:highdesertdeals@msn.com)

Paint it with a two-part epoxy, like "Environ-Tech"...I've suggested that buddy even rig up a vacuum unit using an old auto air conditioning pump, to pull the clear resin even further into the 8x8, 10x10 pieces he slabs up....sometimes he has to re-coat the slab after every cut, if he really sees something special in a cobble-sized piece of amy breccia..From **Raymond Hietapakka** - October 18, 2008 at 07:48:27 Email: [crystalcreek@shaw.ca](mailto:crystalcreek@shaw.ca)

It helps to dilute the epoxy with two parts toluene and soak the rock in it while heating on a CLOSED element hot plate at low heat. (Toluene is flammable). Then let it cool. The dilution and cooling help draw the epoxy into the cracks. I have used this method to keep thin sections from tearing out during grinding. From **Don Peck** - October 20, 2008 at 09:11:25

### *Denatured Alcohol*

I've been looking for some denatured alcohol and have checked all of the usual places - Lowes, Home Depot, Home Hardware, drug stores and I have struck out! Any ideas on where I can find it? Or are there other suggestions on what to put in the alcohol burner? I'm using it to heat my stone, dop stick before I cab it. I've been juggling a lighter and the dop stick and that seems to be one thing too many. From **Jenn** - August 27, 2008 at 08:02:15

I bought it at Wal-mart. It was with the paint thinner and furniture refinishing products. From **Kerrie** - September 24, 2008 at 08:32:15

You may be able to find denatured alcohol at Ace Hardware. They have it in my town. Otherwise try marinas. It is used in large boats galleys. From **B. D. Moore** - September 17, 2008 at 08:09:33 Email: [rambdm50@earthlink.net](mailto:rambdm50@earthlink.net)

Jenn, You should find it in the Paint Dept. at Home Depot, Lowe's, or the hardware store. It is used to dilute shellac. From **Don Peck** - August 28, 2008 at 09:03:55

Isn't denatured alcohol the same as rubbing alcohol? I know it will burn. Would kerosene work? In a small enough burner I don't think the smell would be all that noticeable. From **Don L.** - August 28, 2008 at 09:03:45

Rubbing alcohol is isopropyl alcohol - one more carbon atom in the molecule than ethanol (denatured). So they are not the same. Isopropyl does not work as well in alcohol lamps, as it tends to give a smokey flame. From **Don Peck** - August 29, 2008 at 10:21:16

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**Madison Gem and Mineral Club Officers and Board Members**

President	Steve Harsy	831-6562
Vice-President	Nevin Franke	251-2601
Secretary	OPEN	
Treasurer	Jerry Gunderson	836-1389
Newsletter Editor	Karl Bethke	249-6195
Field Trip Chairperson	Ken and Megan Woodford	830-3500 ext 3529
Education Chairperson	Metje Butler	244-3659
Sales	Jack Heabler	712-2697
Membership Chairperson	OPEN	
Show Chairperson	Nevin Franke	251-2601
Publicity Co-chairs	Karl Jensen	242-5513
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](http://www.madison.com/communities/madisonrockclub/contact.php) for more information

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