

THE AGATEER

The Newsletter of the Madison Gem and Mineral Club

Volume 8, Issue 9

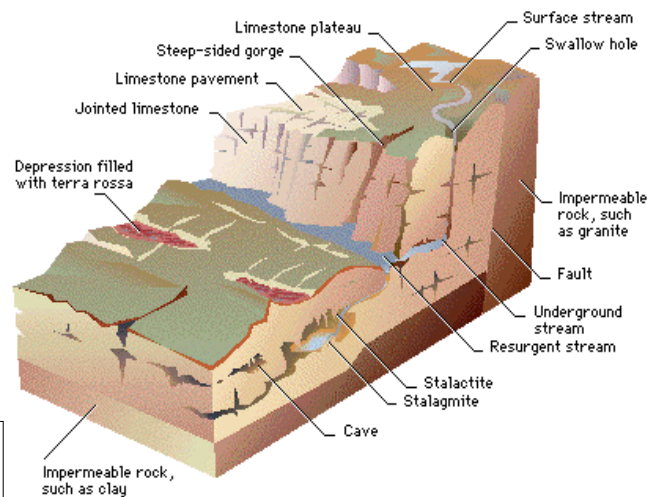
September 2008

September 23 Meeting:

Landscapes of China

Metje Butler

The immense size of China allows for a wide variety of landscape forms, from the high and dry Tibetan Plateau, to the Gobi desert, to the Mongolian grasslands, to the steamy tropical coastal south. Our September program will feature long-time member Metje Butler describing her experiences in China including the Li River region. The Li River is perhaps the most photographed region of Karst topography in the world. Karst topography forms from the chemical weathering of thick layers of limestone rock. Other regions with developed karst topography include the Mammoth Cave area of Kentucky, much of Florida, and Karst, Slovenia, the prototypical region from where this name is derived. Come and hear Metje's stories of her travels in this area.



Next Meeting:

Tuesday, September 23, 7:00 PM

AB20 Weeks Hall

UW Department of Geology and Geophysics

1215 West Dayton Street

Madison, Wisconsin

2007 Member Competition

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

September - pictures in Western agate (cut)

October - favorite material found by member

November - faceted gems (by member)

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

Calendar

Sept 23: Madison Gem and Mineral Club monthly meeting

'Landscapes of China' Metje Butler

Sept 27: Atwood Community Center Grand Opening
Noon – 4 pm

Sept. 27-28: Oshkosh Earth Science Club 37th Annual Show
Sunnyview Expo Center 550 E County Road Y

Oct. 4-5: Jefferson, WI Rock River Valley Geol. Soc. 36th
annual show; Jefferson city Fair Park; 503 N Jackson Ave.

Oct. 7 MG&MC Board Meeting 7 pm

Butter and Fossils... There Actually *Is* a Connection!

For many years, a fossil was used as a unit of measure for butter in rural England. Due to its very regular size and mass, Oxfordshire milk-maids used a common fossil sea urchin as a weight for the butter scales. This use continued at least into the 18th century.

This fossil urchin, *Clypeus plotti*, is still readily available in the Cotswold Hills of Great Britain. Known colloquially as "Chedworth Buns," "Checkbury Buns," or "Poundstones," it is 150 million years old, and is the largest of the Jurassic sea urchins in Europe.

From MWF News Sept. '08

Weird Words

Spodumene is a pyroxene mineral consisting of lithium aluminium inosilicate - $\text{LiAl}(\text{SiO}_3)_2$ - and is a source of lithium. It occurs as colorless to yellowish, purplish or lilac kunzite, yellowish-green or emerald-green hiddenite, prismatic crystals, often of great size. Single crystals of 14.3 m in size are reported from the Black Hills of South Dakota, United States.[1]

Spodumene is derived from the Greek *spodumenos* meaning "burnt to ashes," owing to the opaque, ash-grey appearance of material refined for use in industry.

Spodumene occurs in lithium rich granites and pegmatites. Transparent material has long been used as a gemstone with varieties kunzite and hiddenite noted for their strong pleochroism. Source localities include Brazil, Madagascar, USA (North Carolina, California), Afghanistan, and Pakistan.

Kunzite is a pink to lilac colored gemstone, a variety of spodumene with the color coming from minor to trace amounts of manganese. Some (but not all) kunzite used for gemstones has been heated to enhance its color. It was discovered in 1902, and was named after George Frederick Kunz, Tiffany & Co's chief jeweler at the time, and a noted mineralogist. It has been found in Brazil, USA, Canada, CIS, Mexico, Sweden, Western Australia, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Wikipedia

1st Annual Moving Rock Showing and Open House

Sunday October 26th 5 pm
Rare Earth Arts and Lapidary LLC
Tyrel Rouse Member
(Free! Free! Free!)

Hello friends,

Due to limited space in our new apartment, work shop and business storage I am organizing this event for friends who know my wife Danielle and I and support our business Rare Earth Arts and Lapidary LLC.

We invite you to come and experience a warm evening and Open House and have the opportunity to buy our inventory at much reduced prices so that we can make room for more new merchandise for the coming year. We plan to make this an annual event. Depending on the success of this years show, tentatively next year the theme for the "Moving Rock Showing" will be fluorescent, phosphorescent, and radioactive minerals with a special one-of-a-kind exhibit of UV minerals and a special display of fluorescent agates.

This year the theme of the show will be petrified wood and the Show and Sale will consist of minerals, fossils and of course petrified wood for sale and auction as well as many minerals and fossils from my personal collection. Also included will be a short lecture on favorite U.S. collecting sites for minerals, possibly with one or two guest speakers. The sale and auction will include: hand made jewelry, national and international specimens sold individually and by the flat, also an abundance of slabs, cutting rough and rough specimens as well as books, magazines, and a smattering of equipment. There will be many items for \$1, \$2, and \$5 in addition to the items that will already be discounted. Free dinner will also be provided as well as a showing of our new apartment. The event will start at the Green Briar Club House; love to see you there!

The format of the evening will be as follows:

5pm to 7pm is an open sale of jewelry, rough, slabs, specimens, magazines, and books. Along with free dinner; chilly, bread, cornbread, fresh fruit and other refreshments.

7pm to 8pm will be a live auction featuring some of the larger more specialty items mostly rough, specimens, and equipment.

8:30pm to 9:30 pm will be lecture time on favorite collecting areas in the U.S. accompanied by specimens from those areas.

9:30pm to 10pm on is open house to my new apartment. Swimming may be permitted . Please call to confirm.

Map and Directions:

To reach the show area and club house where the event will be held: Head west on Mineral Point Rd. passing Gammon rd and West Town mall on your left, keep heading west and past a stop lighted intersection and the UW clinics on your right, proceed to the second set of stop lights where you will want to be in the right turning lane this intersection is Randolph Drive and Mineral Point rd. You will know you are there because there is a PDQ and Pizza Hut on adjacent corners of the intersection. At this point turn right on Randolph Dr. and look for the entrance to Green Briar Village on your left. Turn left here and then keep to the right through some speed bumps and you will see the pool - follow the pool to the right and park near the pool in guest parking. The open house and show is in the club house adjacent to the pool and offices. Dinner and sales will begin at 5pm sharp but you are welcome to show up early.

Sincerely,

Tyrel Rouse and Danielle Poulton
Rare Earth Arts and Lapidary llc
Cell : (608) 235-2865
rareeartharts@gmail.com

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.

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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
P.O. Box 55024
Madison, Wisconsin 53705