

# WISCONSIN AIPG SECTION NEWSLETTER

## Fall 2015



## Wisconsin

### President's Message

We are delighted to welcome our first **Student Chapter** in Wisconsin: the Geological Society of Whitewater - Student Chapter of the American Institute of Professional Geologists!



Left to right in the photo: Greg Guenther (Social Media Officer); Laura Dykstra (President); Dr. Rex Hanger (Faculty Sponsor); Tessa Snell (Vice-President); Melanie Sorman (Secretary-Treasurer).

We look forward to welcoming more student chapters into Wisconsin membership!

Your Wisconsin Section board meets by conference call the last Monday of every month, between 12:30pm to 1pm. Call notes are posted on our website: <http://aipgwisconsin.org/>

### 2015 Wisconsin Section Officers

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## Far from Boring/Close to Home

By Paula Leier-Engelhardt, P.G., C.P.G.

After 32 years of marriage to a geologist and unwittingly becoming the best sample Sherpa ever, my husband knows there is no hope in dissuading me from any geology-related project I cook up (ask him about the rock for the chimney incident). So, when I announced that, as a long term goal I was going to collect a rock from each Wisconsin county (there are 72, in case you were wondering), he put his head in his hands and said, “When do you want to start?”

What neither of us counted on was finding hidden treasures throughout the state that the average Wisconsinite doesn't realize exist. So, allow me to introduce you to some of the places we have discovered, and some of the people we have met along the way.

### **Dodge County– Where the #&\*% is the Neda?!**

It actually took us two tries to see the Neda Formation in outcrop, which I didn't think was too bad, as it is rather patchy in occurrence, with only eight known localities in eastern Wisconsin. It is an iron-rich deposit of shales and oolitic iron ore, sandwiched in-between the underlying Maquoketa Formation and the overlying Mayville Dolomite.

The thickest known deposit of the Neda Formation is in the subsurface near Manitowoc, Wisconsin, and I have seen whispers of its presence evidenced by iron-staining in the Mayville in Manitowoc County. I wanted to see it in place not only because it would be a challenge to find, but also because of its contribution to Wisconsin's mining heritage.

The Neda was mined for iron almost continuously from 1845 to 1914, with some of the iron being smelted in Mayville, and it was the basis for a modest local steel industry. For several reasons, including the fact that the mining went

underground, it became an unprofitable deposit to continue to work.



View from the hill (actually the Niagara Escarpment) wondering where a person could find the Neda Formation.

Photo Credit Steve Engelhardt

Our first attempt at finding the Neda Formation found us driving up and down Highway 33, stopping hither and yon in the towns of Neda and Iron Ridge, acting like thoroughly incompetent robbery suspects. Taking a break on top of a hill in an approach to a field, I spied a large red cobble in a near-by rock pile which turned out to be oolitic. Thinking it might be the only Neda I'd ever see, we liberated it from the rock pile, assuming the farmer wouldn't be too upset if it disappeared.



The Neda Formation in outcrop.

Photo Credit Steve Engelhardt

Doing a bit more research, I found out that much of the Neda mining district is now encompassed by the Town of Neda, so you do have to look carefully for evidence of the mines and outcrops as you walk through the town. Also, the mines have been designated a state natural area, as the 4 miles of mine tunnels are now a bat refuge. We did find one mine entrance, capped with a grate which allows access only for bats and bat-sized geologists. I did finally see the Neda in outcrop, but did not collect a sample. My cobble from the rock pile, plucked out and worn smooth by a glacier, will suffice. In honor of the miners who worked it, and the bats who now find refuge here, things should remain peaceful and undisturbed.



Mayville Audubon Inn -Photo Credit  
<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/25051341648690224/>

If you are in the area, do take the time to visit the quaint little town of Mayville, and stop at the Audubon Inn, originally built in 1896 and beautifully restored. Raise a glass of a local microbrew to the ones that went before us . . . and to the formation that did not want to be found.

AIPG 2015 National Conference

September 19-22, 2015  
**Anchorage, Alaska**  
Hilton Anchorage Hotel  
500 West Third Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99501  
Hotel: 1-800-HILTONS - Room Rate: \$137  
Hosted by AIPG National and  
Co-hosted by AIPG Alaska Section

<http://www.aipg.org/Events/2015/alaska-home.html>

**Wisconsin AIPG Annual Meeting:  
Work, Play, Meet and Eat!**

Geologists have always been great at multi-tasking! We have once again combined our annual meeting with an Ice Age Trail work event on Saturday, Oct 17 and/or Sunday, Oct 18, 2015.

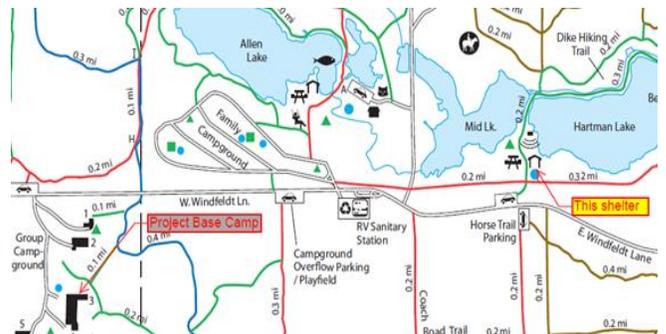
Our members also appreciate *free* food and camping. As a registered volunteer, you will receive both!

Here's how you all can register for Saturday, Oct 17, or Sunday, Oct 18 or both!

<http://www.iceagetrail.org/event/mobile-skills-crew-trailbuilding-event-portage-waupaca-counties/>

There is a part in registration that you can add additional friends & family members. Make sure they fill out the Volunteer Form if they have never been a volunteer for the Ice Age Trail in the past.

We meet for lunch (Noon – 2pm) at the Hartman Creek State Park Shelter park shelter on Sunday, Oct 18th for AIPG members, family & friends. You can just work the morning of Oct 18th if that is all the time you can spare. Or just come for lunch!



This project gives the Ice Age Trail its own home within popular Hartman Creek State Park, enabling year-round use by hikers and snowshoers.

Kettles, glacial erratics and towering oak and pine present a beautiful setting for picking up trash, cutting trees and branches, digging out rocks and weeds for trails, etc.!

Hartman Creek is about 1 hour and 15 minutes from Green Bay and about two hours north of Madison. It is west of Waupaca on Hartman Creek Road South of Highway 54 and north of Wisconsin Highway 22. *Come join us!*



Photo Credit  
<http://www.naturallyamazing.com/americasparks/10251.jpg>

### **2015 North-Central Section Meeting Madison, Wisconsin, USA/May 19–20, 2015**

The Annual Meeting of GSA's North-Central Section was hosted by the University of Wisconsin-Madison Dept. of Geoscience and by the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey. WI AIPG Section was a sponsor of this conference.

Our section manned the AIPG National Booth in the vendor area with 6 WI AIPG members.

Thank you to Jayne Englebert, Dale Rezabek, Andrew Graham, Steve Sletten, Paula Leier-Engelhardt, Darrell R. Reed, and Jack Travis for your help!

There was good student turn out with lots of applications received and sent to National. A professor from UW-Eau Claire who is Canadian stopped by the booth and said he was interested in AIPG certification as CPG!

Our Section also supplied a judge for the poster presentations and reminded to students think about publishing in TPG as a student member!

### **Quarry Quest September 12th, 2015 9am-4pm**

Wisconsin Section of AIPG is a sponsor of Quarry Quest this year! We'd like our members to volunteer for part of the event.

#### ***Can you be one of our volunteers?***

Just shoot Chris Lilek an email at [clilek3@yahoo.com](mailto:clilek3@yahoo.com) and let us know you can!

Quarry Quest has become one of the most fun and popular family events in Wisconsin. This exciting family outing and fundraiser is held at Michels Materials limestone quarry in Neenah, Wisconsin. The event provides an opportunity to educate attendees about the mining and construction industries, all while raising money for children's charities and Environmental Education Fund throughout the community.



Photo Credit  
<http://quarryquest.com/about-us/>

## **Geology Calendar of Events**

### **Geology 2015 Schedule Neville Public Museum**

210 Museum Place, Green Bay, WI 54303-2760

#### **September 16th, 2015**

See and hear about examples of odd mineral occurrences in Wisconsin that reveal interesting aspects of the state's geological history.

#### **October 21st 2015**

This presentation focuses on the geologic formation of dunes and sandy barrier beaches in Wisconsin's Door Peninsula to document sedimentary responses to natural lake-level fluctuations.

#### **November 18th 2015**

In 2005, Jewelry Television took a trip to see firsthand what was happening at the source of the One Generation Gemstone, Tanzanite. Follow our team into the mines and the buying district of Arusha to discover how the market has changed. Then go with us to Jaipur, India and witness the transformation of rough in its natural form to a beautiful, finished gem.

See more at:

<http://www.nevillepublicmuseum.org/geology-2015-schedule#sthash.U65p7dN5.dpuf>

### **Minnesota Ground Water Association Fall**

Conference/The 14th Sinkhole Conference  
**October 5-9, 2015** at the Mayo Civic Center in  
Rochester, MN

[www.sinkholeconference.com](http://www.sinkholeconference.com)

### **Weis'n'Miners Geology Club**

The Weis'n'Miners Geology Club is sponsored by the Weis Museum. The club is for everyone interested in minerals, fossils, lapidary & jewelry-

making, geology, archaeology, gems, metaphysics, and mining.

Everyone is welcome--singles, couples, families, young & old--and all levels of knowledge. First organized in 2007, the Weis'n'Miners Club has already become the largest geology club in Wisconsin!

Weis'n'Miners Geology Club meets the last Tuesday of every month, at 6:30 pm Emeritus Room at UW-Fox Valley  
1478 Midway Road, Menasha

Some of their past meetings included presentations on wire-wrapping, mammoths and archaeology, gem faceting, gold, fluorescent minerals, and copper mines of Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

<http://www.uwfox.uwc.edu/wesm/geoclub.html>

### **Riveredge Nature Center's Connections in Nature**

On Saturday, **November 14, 2015** we will be holding our 3rd Student Research Symposium "Connections in Nature".

Wisconsin AIPG Section will be providing 2 judges for the event. We hope to see some student members presenting their research work!

*Get the word out!*

Last year, over 30 students (graduate and undergraduate) from 8 Wisconsin colleges and universities presented oral and poster presentations to an audience of 100 fellow researchers and the general public.

It is an opportunity for graduate and undergraduate students to share their research and inspire future scientists and citizen scientists.

4458 County Hwy Y  
Saukville, WI 53080

<http://riveredgenaturecenter.org/visit/>