



# THE KETTLE KRIER



Official Publication of **Kettle Moraine Geological Society**  
Visit our web site at [www.kmgsrocks.com](http://www.kmgsrocks.com)

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The Kettle Moraine Geological Society (**KMGS**) was organized in 1960 for the purpose of gathering and disseminating knowledge of geology and the earth sciences

Our meetings are held at the Pewaukee Public Library on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 PM. Guests are always welcome. Persons interested in becoming members can obtain an application form from any of the officers.

Visit our website at [www.kmgsrocks.com](http://www.kmgsrocks.com) and like us on facebook.

The Kettle Krier is the official publication of **KMGS** and is published each month. Articles for publication must be submitted no later than the second weekend of the month prior to publication.

**KMGS** is a member of the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Society and the American Federation of Geological Societies.

## MONTHLY MEETING NOTICE

**The July meeting of KMGS will be held at the Pewaukee Public Library on Wednesday, July 19, 2024 at 6:30 PM.**

The program for the July meeting has not yet been announced, but Mary Nettesheim promises that it will indeed be interesting and informative.

Also voting on changes to the by-laws will take place. Check your email for a copy of the changes.

Refreshments for the evening will be provided by Regina Kapta & Laura Fisher.

**Hope you can make it.**

## ***6-19-2024, KMGS June Meeting Minutes***

- (1) Meeting *Called to Order*** by President Javiar Benitez at 6:30 pm.
- (2) The *Pledge of Allegiance*** was recited by the 29 members in attendance.
- (3) *The Program***: The Program was presented by Mary Nettesheim on Summer Rockhounding Adventures.
- (4) *Business Meeting***: Reconvened after snacks which were provided by Donna cook & Jo & Laura Fisher.
- (5) *New Guests***: Maddie Woeger was present.
- (6) *Meeting Minutes***: The Reading of the Minutes was dispensed with as they are printed in the Kettle Krier.
- (7) *Treasurers Report***: The report was read by Pres, Javier Benitez. Motion To Accept as read by Liz Fuhrer. Seconded by Mike Kulas. Motion Carried.
- (8) *Tech Committee***: **None provided.**
- (9) *Education Committee Report***: Mike Andrysczyk & John Rettler presented Geology Lectures and presentations to about 300 K-4<sup>th</sup> grades at the Rolling Hills Middle School in Mukwonago. Future visits are planned.
- (10) *Jr, Rockhound (JRH) Committee Report***: The Junior members attended a KMGS Field Trip to the Cherney Maribel Caves. It was a huge success with 34 members and guests attending.
- (11) *Field Trips***: July 12<sup>th</sup>, a Moonstone Hunt in Wausau WI. Future pending Field Trips are to the Lion's Den Gorge, Wisconsin Dells, Adelman Gorge, and the Ledge County Park near Horicon.
- (12) *Program Committee Report***: Mary Nettesheim will again provide a program in July.
- (13) *Sunshine Committee Report***: Birthdays for the month are posted in the Kettle Krier.
- (14) *Show Committee Report***: John Rettler reported that the 2025 show was well underway, and plans are being formatted for the 2027 MWF Convention.
- (15) *(Old Business)*** A vote was called for the two proposed Bylaw changes introduced at the April meeting to bring the documents up to date and into compliance. The vote was tabled again as it was suggested that a mass mailing to the members of the changes should be done before voting.

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*(New Business)*

- (16) Janet Schmitt has reserved the Shelter at Nixon Park in Hartland for Saturday August 17<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 – 6:00 pm for the Annual Summer Picnic.
- (17) John Rettler Suggested that the Amazon Smile Account money should be moved into either the JRH or the Education Fund, to eliminate the need for record keeping, as there will be no more additions to the account. Suzanne Andrysczyk made the motion to move it to the JRH Budget. Mary Nettesheim seconded the motion. Motion Carried.
- (18) John Rettler suggested that the Organization send a Delegate and an Alternate to the MWF Convention in Peoria on August 24 & 25<sup>th</sup>. John will be attending in any case to observe the Convention for planning the 2027 when the MKMGS hosts the event.
- (19) John suggested the two be from the Show Committee to also take notes on the event. Javier Benitez and Janet Schmitt tentatively volunteered to attend.
- (20) *Announcements: None*
- (21) The “Goodie Detail” for July will be Regina Kapta & Laura Fisher.
- (22) Door Prized were distributed.
- (23) A *Motion to Adjourn* was made by Tony Ilecki. Seconded by Dave Elftman. Motion Carried at 8:09 pm.

*John M Rettler* – Secretary



## June Meeting Recap

The June meeting was attended by 29 members and guests. The program of the evening was a presentation by members of places they have visited and the adventures they have had. We heard about volcanic rock hunts in Arizona, geode searches near Keokuk, IA, looking for diamonds in Arkansas and hiking in Bryce Canyon National Park in Utah among other things

During the business portion of the meeting, a request for delegates to the MWF Convention (Aug 23 & 24) was made and tentatively Janet Schmitt and Javier Benitez will be attending along with John and Mary Rettler. The dates for the KMGS Annual picnic were announced (see separate announcement.).

A field trip on Saturday, July 13<sup>th</sup>, (a Moonstone Hunt in Wausau WI ) was announced, as well as future pending field trips to the Lion's Den Gorge, Wisconsin Dells, Adelman Gorge, and the Ledge County Park near Horicon. Stay tuned for dates and other information.

Thanks to Donna Cook & Joe & Laura Fisher for the refreshments that were enjoyed during the meeting.

Door prizes were then given out, and with that, the meeting was adjourned.

## Education Committee Report

Mike Andrysczyk and John Rettler were once again on the road with the "traveling rockhound show". This time they headed to the Rolling Hills Middle School in Mukwonago to present a geology and earth sciences talk to about 300 K-4<sup>th</sup> graders. Reports are that the kids enjoyed the presentation and the polished rocks that were given out afterwards. Future presentations are being planned.



**JR ROCKHOUNDS**

# **SPREADING THE LOVE OF ROCKS!**

**Kettle Moraine Geological Society introduces the KMGS Jr. Rockhounds Club! We're bringing our junior rock lovers together and gearing up for some *rock-tacular* fun!**

As a Jr. Rockhounds Club Member you can:

- Enjoy monthly meetings, presentations, activities and field trips
- Participate in the Rock Pals exchange
- Earn badges, scholarships and awards
- Display at the annual KMGS Rock and Gem show
- Meet fellow rock and gem lovers of all ages

**Join us at one of our  
future meetings!**

## **Wisconsin Moonstone Field Day**

Saturday, July 13th, 2024 • 10:00am- 4:00pm

Wisconsin Moonstones • 145813 County Rd. N • Wausau, WI 54401

## **Lion's Den Gorge Exploration**

Saturday, August 10th • 1:00pm - 4:00pm

511 High Bluff Drive • Grafton, WI 53024

Register at [kmgjrrock.weebly.com/events](https://kmgjrrock.weebly.com/events) or email [kmgjrockhounds@gmail.com](mailto:kmgjrockhounds@gmail.com)

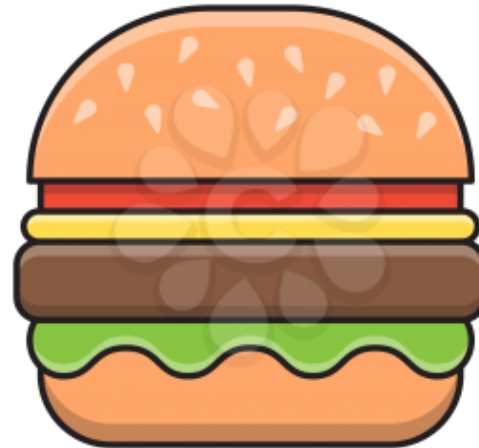
[kmgjrrock.weebly.com](https://kmgjrrock.weebly.com)

# KMGS ANNUAL PICNIC

The 2024 KMGS picnic date has been set! This year the date will be Saturday, August 17. The start time will be 11:00AM and will run until everybody is done partying or 6:00PM, whichever comes first.

As in previous years, you will need to bring your own brats, burgers, hot dogs, steaks, etc. Plus, as usual, bring a salad, or other side to share with the other picnickers. Please bring non-alcoholic beverages, as carry-in alcohol is prohibited. It is believed that the Beer Garden (located next to the shelter) will be open during the afternoon for those who wish to have a beer or two. There will also be a hot charcoal grill going for anyone wanting to cook brats, burgers, hot dogs, steaks, etc.

Maybe this year we can have a competitive game for members to participate in like corn hole or some other easy on the joints game. If anyone has any ideas about this please contact me at [tilecki@ymail.com](mailto:tilecki@ymail.com).



# KMGS Field Trip - Cherney Maribel Caves

*Article by John Rettler Photos by Ori-Anna Ramsey*

Saturday June 8th began as a drizzly mild temperatures day, which eventually gave way to sunlight and became a warm sunny day. The two-hour drive along Lake Michigan to Manitowoc County was a pleasant drive with scattered communities amidst the scenery of large regions and tracts of agricultural land.



We arrived at the Cherney Maribel Caves County Park and visited with the other KMGS members and guests as they arrived. Despite the rainy beginning the day, the 34 club members and guests of our group assembled and picnicked at the shelter as the sun broke through the clouds.

At one o'clock, Andy Krahn, our Tour Guide from the Wisconsin Speleological Society, began an informative presentation of the history of the Cherney Maribel Caves, who discovered them, what to see, and what to expect.

Andy was well qualified to provide the tour, as he himself was part of the exploration and restoration of the caves. Beginning with surveys and research, doing some of the first "belly crawls", and restorative digging and excavation.



Andy was highly informative, as we ventured down the stairs and along the gravel manicured paths at the base of the escarpment, and eventually into what would become several hundred of the thousands of feet of subterranean caves.



He would stop along the way pointing out the different entrances, the various limestone sediment formations, the effects of surface water, and the glacial sediment which filled the voids, even the vegetation and weather-related conditions which effect the evolution of the various caves.

The Maribel Caves consists of eleven caves along what is a part of the Niagara Escarpment. Many simply appeared to be a cavernous hole, or hollow space under an outcropping, and a few where the students could crawl and disappear out of sight, only to emerge from one side just twenty feet away, to give them a true Spelunking experience.

Other caves, often behind a locked door for obvious reasons, had "rooms" almost 30 feet around, and tunnels high enough to walk upright between the shallow pools of trickling water. The cavernous "rooms" and naturally eroded "hallways" had lights installed to make the entire tour a fascinating look into the subsurface area of the earth most will never see.



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Formed somewhere between the most recent Ordovician Period (440-500 million years ago) and the Permian-Triassic Extinction (250 million Years ago), when Wisconsin was covered by the most recent sea-scape, which deposited hundreds if not thousands of feet or more of sediment. The waters and natural carbonic acid eroded the edges of the escarpment and created the limestone karst and rock formations.

The sea was filled with all sorts of creatures and critters, many of which died or were trapped and became fossilized, and now remain for study and viewing in the limestone making up the karst. Eventually, glacial sediment prior to; or during the last ice age, filling the crevices and sinkholes with glacial sediment. As the glaciers melted, the rushing water enlarged the existing caves, and carved the West Twin River Valley alongside the escarpment.


Then frost action loosened rock from the cliff face, most of which partially or fully closing or covering the cave entrances, until they were discovered in 1892.

This was privately owned property, and in 1900 the owner built the Maribel Caves Hotel. The hotel replicated the attributes of Europe's medieval castles, complete with rounded towers, arching facades, and walls gilded with limestone. The resort also sported stables and a bathhouse, with running water from the natural springs, and for several decades housed tourists who came to see the caves and enjoy the therapeutic natural waters.

In 1985 a fire gutted the interior of the structure, and the 75-acre property was sold to Manitowoc County for a park, in 2013, a tornado finished the job, by removing the roofs, and now the ruins of the three building stand as a testament to the once stately castle-like hotel and resort, as a milestone near the end of our tour.



We completed the tour and returned to the parking lot around 3:30 pm, bid farewell to our guide and friends, and began our return home. It was a terrific field trip, to a little known but remarkable geological location just two hours away from home.

Many thanks to Ori Anna Ramsey for making the arrangements, Andy Krahn, for the education and the tour, to the Wisconsin Speleological Society for their work to maintain the caves, and to Manitowoc County for preserving and allowing access to the outstanding geological exhibit. 



**WELCOME TO NATIONAL BLUEBERRY MONTH,  
NATIONAL ICE CREAM MONTH, NATIONAL PICNIC  
MONTH, AND FIREWORKS SAFETY MONTH  
KMGS BIRTHDAYS IN APRIL**

**July 1, Brynley Hudson; July 6, Joe Woger; July 7, Richard Rosenberger; July 9, Linda Mocnik;  
July 11, Laura Fischer; July 15, Peter Graetz, July 18, Bernice McCloskey, July 20, Norah Collins;  
July 22, Carol Ward**

**OTHER DAYS OF NOTE IN THE MONTH OF JULY**

**JUL 1:** National Ginger Snap Day, Zip Code introduced by USPS (1963); **Jul 2:** National Anisette Day, World UFO Day, Marconi patents radio (1897); **Jul 3:** National Chocolate Wafer Day, National Independent Beer Run Day, Automobile patented by Otto Benz (1886); **Jul 4: U. S. Birthday (1776),** National Barbecued Ribs Day, Louisiana purchase announced (\$15M, or 4 cents/acre) (1803); **Jul 5:** National Apple Turnover Day, Transistor invented (1951); **Jul 6:** International Kissing Day, National Fried Chicken Day, Pokemon Go released (2016); **Jul 7:** National Strawberry Sundae Day, Sliced bread marketed (1928); **Jul 8:** International Skinny Dip Day, National Blueberry Day, 1st US passport issued (1796), Reports are broadcast that a UFO crash landed in Roswell, New Mexico (1947); **Jul 9:** National Sugar Cookie Day, US debt paid off, \$2,024,899 (1795); **Jul 10:** National Pina Colada Day, Lady Godiva's ride (1040), Telstar launched (1962); **Jul 11:** National Blueberry Muffin Day, National Sate Fair Food Day, Farmer's Almanac first published (1792); **Jul 12:** National Pecan Pie Day, Paper Bag machine patented (1859), Etch-a Sketch goes on sale (1960); **Jul 13:** National Beans 'N' Franks Day, Gruntled Workers Day, Screw propeller patented (1835); **Jul 14:** National Tape Measure Day, Corkboard patented (1891); **Jul 15:** National Tapioca Pudding Day, Margarine patented (1858); **Jul 16:** National Corn Fritters Day, National Cherry Day, World's first parking meter installed in Oklahoma City (1935); **Jul 17:** National Peach Ice Cream Day, World Emoji Day, Air conditioner invented (1902); **Jul 18,** National Sour Candy Day, Intel founded (1968); **Jul 19,** National Daiquiri Day, Sam Cot invents revolver (1814); **Jul 20:** National Fortune Cookie Day, Hank Aaron hits last home run (1976), Ford ships his first car (1903); **Jul 21:** National Junk Food Day, Central Park in NY created (1853), 200 year old "USS Constitution sails for first time in 116 years (1997); **Jul 22:** National Mango Day, National Hammock Day; **Jul 23:** National Vanilla Ice Cream Day, Ice cream cone invented (1904); **Jul 24:** National Tequila Day, Milwaukee hits 104 degrees F (1935); **Jul 25:** National Wine and Cheese Day, National Merry-Go-Round Day ( Pat. 1871); **Jul 26:** National Bagelfest Day, Ben Franklin becomes 1st Postmaster General (1775); **Jul 27:** National Scotch Day, Charlotte NC Mint opens (1837), Charlotte NC Mint destroyed by fire (1844); **Jul 28:** National Milk Chocolate Day, NASA created (1958); **Jul 29:** National Lasagna Day, Atomic Energy Agency established (1958); **Jul 30:** National Cheesecake Day, Last old style VW Beetle rolls off line (2003), Jimmy Hoffa disappears (1975); **Jul 31:** National Avocado Day, NYC experimental TV station W2XAO (now WCBS) begins broadcast (1931)

**THE STAFF OF THE KETTLE KRIER WISHES YOU A  
HAPPY 4TH OF JULY**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**July 12 & 13: Lakeland Gem and Mineral Club Annual Show**  
Hours: Fri. 10:00AM - 6:00PM Sat. 10:00AM - 6:00PM  
Lakeland Union High School, 9573 WI-70, Minocqua, WI 54548

## THE LAST WORD

So the 4th of July is upon us. The time to celebrate another birthday of the U.S.A. There will be picnics and outings of other sorts. The smell of charring steaks, brats and burgers will fill the air. Libations from lemonade to beer, to other adult concoctions will be consumed to help us stay hydrated during the hot day. And at the end of the day there will be fireworks. We will all “ooh!!” and “aah!!” at the beautiful displays of colorful sparks in the sky accompanied by loud explosive noises. But during the great show in the sky, how many will think of the connection fireworks has to geology and rockhounding?

True. Each burst of color depends on the mixture of minerals in the device. Strontium emits a deep red. A combination of titanium, zirconium and magnesium burns white. While copper bursts with a blue hue. Barium gives off a green aura, sodium is yellow and the gold sparks are produced by iron filings and charcoal pieces. While this is a simplified explanation of the colors, you can see how it takes geology and chemistry to make the show.

And as for the rockhounding connection, how many of the minerals listed above are in your collection?

**Thought for the month**  
**May the rock you find be the rock you were looking for.**

**Happy rockhounding!!!**

**See you all at the Pewaukee Public Library, July 19, 2024 at 6:30PM**

**Please send all comments, submissions and ideas for articles to me at [tilecki@gmail.com](mailto:tilecki@gmail.com).**

Tony Ilecki  
Editor

## **AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES CODE OF ETHICS FOR ROCK COLLECTING**

*I will respect both public and private property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without permission from the owner.*

Type to enter text

*I will keep informed on all laws, regulations or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.*

*I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of the property on which I plan to collect.*

*I will use no firearms or blasting materials in collecting areas.*

*I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind such as fences, signs, buildings, etc.*

*I will leave all gates as found.*

*I will build fires only in designated or safe places and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.*

*I will discard no burning material – matches, cigarettes, etc.*

*I will fill all excavation holes that may be dangerous to livestock.*

*I will not contaminate wells, creeks, or other water supplies.*

*I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.*

*I will practice conservation and undertake to use fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.*

*I will report to my club or Federation officers, Bureau of Land Management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.*

*I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.*

*I will observe the “Golden Rule”, will use Good Outdoor Manners and will, at all times, conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public Image of rockhounds everywhere.*