

MIGE 2025 1st Annual Field Trip Syllabus

All times are in CDT

For those of you who have been to the Baraboo before but it has been a decade or more, please note that U.S. 12 takes a completely different route than it use to take.

August 30, 2025 (Saturday): South Limb of the Baraboo Syncline

8:00 AM The van will be picking up those who opted for the most expensive field trip as long as you are in within 25 miles of Devils Lake

STOP 1 Devils Lake Entrance

9:30 AM We will all meet at the entrance of Devils Lake at the main entrance located at South Lake Road and Burma Road (GPS: 43.41653, -89.74851). There will be a short lecture. From here we will caravan to the first outcrop. This will be on the entrance road. Pullover as far as you can. We will then ascend up the hill about 50 feet to the outcrop that expresses Pumpelly's Rule.

STOP 2 East Bluff

10:15 AM We will descend the outcrop and head towards the main entrance where we will park as close to the south shore as we can and head up the eastern bluff to the peak point. This will be physically taxing. If you cannot make the climb, that is fine. You may explore what you want until we return.

12:00 PM We will meet back at the van for lunch.

1:30 PM We will have a short lecture.

2:00 PM We will Caravan to Stop 3

STOP 3 Point Rocks Road

2:30 PM We will meet at the end of Point Rocks Road (GPS: 43.43267, -89.77569). This is a protected outcrop that use to be along US-12 until they relocated US-12. The construction was completed in 2017. So now there is plenty of parking and space to take you through the outcrop's many points of geologic interest.

3:30 PM We will remain here and discuss what we have learned so far.

4:00 PM Leave site and Caravan to Stop 4.

STOP 4 Baxter's Hollow

4:30 PM Arrive at Baxter Hollow. There are two main places to park south of the bridge over Otter Creek. One is at GPS: 43.39408, -89.79603. The van will park here if there is room. Both lots are along the right (east) side of the road.

We will first explore the granite on the west side of the road. After that you may explore on your own after a short lecture or with Steve. We will be spending some time here, so pace yourself.

6:00 PM Meet back at the van. Wrap up for the day and talk about tomorrow.

6:30 PM Dismissed for the day

August 31, 2025 (Sunday): North Limb of the Baraboo Syncline

8:00 AM The van will be picking up those who opted for the most expensive field trip as long as you are in within 25 miles of Devils Lake

9:30 AM We will meet at the “Rock Springs Free Water” across from Ableman’s Gorge. It is on the right side of Hwy DD, there is plenty of parking (GPS: 43.4833, -89.9172). Fill your jugs during a short lecture. Here we will talk about the deformation of the quartzite and geologic structures.

STOP 5 Ableman’s Gorge

10:00 AM We will walk across the road to Ableman’s Gorge to take a look at some ripple marks and orientation of the quartzite. We will walk north from there to look at some breccia. We will not climb up the rock because of stability issues. Steve will lecture from the bottom discussing the ripple marks.

11:00 AM We will head back to the vehicles and caravan north 0.38 miles north to Stop 6.

STOP 6 Van Hise Rock

11:15 AM We will talk about the significance of this outcrop and why it is protected. Steve will talk about the historic and geologic significance of the rock.

12:00 AM We will break for lunch.

STOP 7 The Great Unconformity

1:00 PM We will follow the tracks crossing one rail bridge. Here we will look at the Great Unconformity where it is vertical and the Precambrian-Cambrian environment. We will talk about basic principles of stratigraphy and mapping.

2:00 PM We will return to the vehicles and call it a day. If the weather from the previous day hinders us, we will add them here.

September 1, 2025 (Monday): The Cambrian

8:00 AM The van will be picking up those who opted for the most expensive field trip as long as you are in within 25 miles of Devils Lake

9:30 AM We will meet at the “Parfrey’s Glen” on the north side of Hwy DL (GPS: 43.40980, -89.63671). Be aware that this trail starts out easy and gets progressively more and more rocky and wet. There will be large boulders to navigate around at one point. If you can’t do the whole hike, that is fine. The hike is about 1 mile as the crow flies, one way.

STOP 8 Parfrey’s Glen

10:00 AM We will walk north stopping along the way and talking. Eventually the path becomes the creek. If the water is too high we will stop. It shouldn’t be this time of year. If we can, we will head to the falls. Here we will have a lecture. Here you will see some of the Cambrian sands with quartzite boulders and cobbles.

11:30 AM We will head back to the vehicles and head to Natural Bridge parking lot (GPS: 43.34515, -89.93017)

STOP 9 Natural Bridge

12:00 PM When we reach the natural bridge we will break for lunch after a short lecture.

1:30 PM We will walk up the trail to the Natural Bride. The hike is not that far, about 1/3 of a mile to get to the Natural Bridge. Here we will talk about the features in the sandstone.

3:00 PM Head back to the vehicles and discuss the final day before going our separate ways for the day. Or we will visit a spot we had to miss during bad weather.

September 2, 2025 (Tuesday): Under the Baraboo

8:00 AM The van will be picking up those who opted for the most expensive field trip as long as you are in within 25 miles of Devils Lake

9:30 AM We will meet at the “Lower Narrows State Natural Area” on the north side of Hwy 33 and Man Mound Road with parking at (GPS: 43.49001, -89.60467). The trail is only about 1/10th of a mile to the outcrop.

STOP 10 Lower Narrows State Natural Area

10:00 AM We will walk north until we reach the cliffs. This natural area was designated such in 2006. Before that it was an active quarry. The quarry was reclaimed by the Kraemer Company of Plain, Wisconsin. They worked with Sauk County Planning and Zoning, the Sauk County UW Extension Office, as well as local school children and volunteers to reclaim part of the mine back to natural prairie. By looking at aerial photos it looks like the quarrying was still operating in 1992. Steve thinks he remembers it being operated in 1997.

We will talk about what is seen at this outcrop but we won't climb it. We will also discuss the relationship of the syncline the neighboring rocks.

11:00 AM We will leave for our last stop.

STOP 11 Felsic Rocks in the Woods

11:15 AM Park on the south side of Hwy 33 at GPS 43.50505, -89.62764. From here we will dismount and head into the woods. It's only about 50 feet to the trail. Here we will stop at the cliffs and talk about what we see. Here we are stratigraphically below the Baraboo Quartzite.

12:00 AM The trip ends and we will go our separate ways. Those in the van will be dropped off.

THANK-YOU FOR COMING!