Roadside Geology of Wisconsin

When you’re driving on a Wisconsin highway, do you ever wonder what kind of rock, exactly, is in that roadcut you’re passing? Why the central part of the state is so flat? And what those small, elongated hills in southeastern Wisconsin are? Wouldn’t it be nice to have geologists in the car to explain it all?

That might not always be easy to arrange, but now you can have the next best thing: a guide entitled Roadside Geology of Wisconsin to carry in your glove compartment.

Geologists Robert H. Dott, Jr., and John W. Attig realized that, although technical publications about Wisconsin geology abound, little material easily understandable by the nongeologist was available. This inspired them to develop a guide book written in plain English.

Dott and Attig have divided the state into five regions; they describe the overall geology of each region and use 35 road guides to fill in the details of the geologic processes that are chronicled in the rock, sediment, and landforms along the roadside. For example, the authors delve into the geologic underpinnings of the Wisconsin Dells, the Baraboo Hills, and more than 25 state parks.

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