

St. Croix Rockhounds
Community Education & Recreation
Independent School District #834
1875 Greeley Street
Stillwater, MN 55082

First Class

September, 1999

Please send exchange bulletins to:

Doug Olson, Editor
211 Interlachen Way
Stillwater, MN 55082

Meetings are held 7:15 PM at the Stonebridge Elementary School on W. Elm St., Stillwater, MN.



September 21st - is this month's meeting date.

The Program is:
Silent Auction

St. Croix Rockhound's

LEAVERITE NEWS

Vol. 24, Issue 7; September, 1999

Member of:



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ST.CROIX ROCKHOUNDS

MEETINGS: Club meetings are held the third TUESDAY of each month at Stonebridge Elementary School on W. Elm. St. in Stillwater, MN at 7:15 P.M.. Everyone is welcome.

MEMBERSHIP: Full membership for a single person over 16 is \$7.50 per year. Family membership is \$10.50 per year.

OFFICERS:

President	Freya Kask	(651) 777-6371
Vice President	Dick Blom	(651) 735-2323
Secretary	Karen Barenz	(651) 776-8525
Treasurer	John Parsons	(651) 257-2724
Program Chairperson	Pete Rodewald	(715) 425-5561
Show Chairperson	LeRoy Betlach	(715) 425-5948
Refreshments	Helen Betlach	(715) 425-5948
Librarian	Jeanne Blom	(651) 735-2323
Historian	John Parsons	(651) 257-2724
Sunshine Committee	Marie Newlander MN	(651) 439-7809
	Esther Rodewald WI	(715) 425-5561
Tour Director	Karen Barenz	(651) 776-8525
Liaison Officer	Freya Kask	(651) 777-6371
Newsletter Editor	Doug Olson	(651) 430-9035

The purpose of our organization is to bring together rock and mineral enthusiasts on a regular basis through membership and through pooling of individual knowledge, talents and skills, to improve the lapidary skills of participating members. Affiliation: American Federation of Mineralogical Societies and Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies.

COMING UP!

September 21st - St Croix Rockhounds meeting, 7:15 pm at the Stonebridge Elementary School. The scheduled program is "SILENT AUCTION" -bring lots of material for the club's fund raiser.

Coming Attractions

Sep 25th: Rock and Mineral Auction, Palo, IA., Larry and Betty DeSotel

Oct 8-10: Greater Detroit Gem & Mineral show, Cacomb Community College, Hayes and 12 Mile Rd in Warren, MI

Oct 16th: St Croix Rockhound Show at the Saint Croix Mall

Oct 22-24: Wausau, WI Central WI Gem, Mineral, Fossil and Jewelry show. Cedar Creek Mall (bus 51 & Hwy 51

Oct 30-31: Oshkosh, WI 28th Annual show at Oshkosh Convention Center

Minutes of the Saint Croix RockHounds May 18th, 1999

Minutes of the April 20th meetings approved as printed in the May Leaverite News. MSP

Show chairman **Leroy Betlach** handed out certificates for displays at the March show.

Treasurer's report was audited (by Dick Blom and approved. MSP

Gene White is hospitalized and a card was signed by members and will be sent.

May refreshments – thanks to Elaine Martinson and Elouise Kimball.

Club picnic will possibly be held August 21st. Freya will check with Phyllis White.

September's program is Silent Auction.

Librarian Jeanne Blom brought books, call her if you need something.

Moose Lake Agate Days are July 17th –18th.

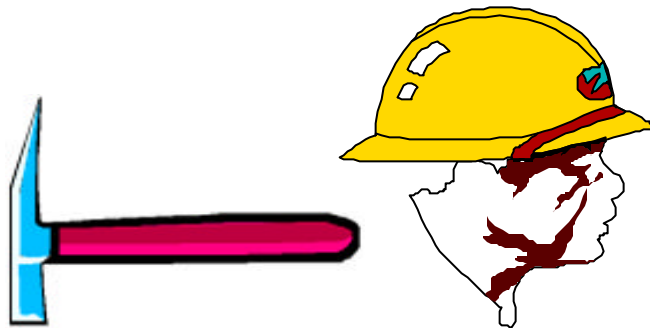
Door prizes were won by: Vi D'Angelo, Doug Olson, Floyd Kimball, Vic Martinson, Elouise Kimball, Rodney Harvey, Reuben Shelander, Robert Olson, June Shelander, Bob Carlson and Earl Kask.

The next **meeting** will be in September.

Motion to close the meeting for the program "Lake Superior Manitou". MSP

Respectfully submitted by
Karen Barenz, Secretary

Saint Croix Rockhounds charter club member **Eugene White** passed away over the summer. Our condolences go to Phyllis.



Rhubarb Cake by Elaine Martinson

This is the recipe for the rhubarb cake enjoyed at the May meeting of the Saint Croix Rockhounds:

- ½ cup shortening
- 1 ½ cups sugar
- ½ tsp salt
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp soda in 1 cup sour milk
- 2 cups plus 1tbsp of flour
- 3 cups rhubarb cut small



Cream shortening, add sugar and beat well, add salt, beat in egg, add soda and milk alternately with the flour mixture. Stir in rhubarb and pour into 9x13 pan. Mix topping ingredients and sprinkle over cake batter. Bake at 350 for 45 minutes.

Topping

- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1/3 cup nuts
- 1 tsp cinnamon

Mineralogical Terms for Gold Jewelry

Precious Metals: Gold, silver platinum, and palladium are known as precious metals in the jewelry industry. They are also called the Noble Metals by craftsmen.

Base Metals: Copper, zinc, and brass are called base metals by jewelers.

Karat: A measure of fineness for gold. Twenty-four (24) karat is fine (pure) gold; one karat equals 1/24th part. Thus 14 karat gold is 14/24th fine gold, and the balance (10/24ths) is alloy. If the gold content of an object is less than 10/24ths, the object cannot be represented as karat gold.

Colors of Gold: Yellow, green, rose, and white gold are produced by variations in the alloy. Silver and zinc tend to give gold a green color; copper gives a rose color, nickel a whitish color.

Solid Gold: the term 'gold' and 'solid gold' means fine gold or gold of 24 karats. The term should never be applied to articles of lesser quality.

Gold Filled: This is made by joining a layer (or layers) of gold alloy to a base metal alloy and then rolling or drawing it out to the thickness required.

Rolled Gold Plate: The same as gold filled, but usually of lower quality.

Gold Electroplate: Usually made by electrolytically depositing fine gold on a base metal. The plate thickness must be at least 0.000007 inches of fine gold. Items with a gold thickness less than that can be labeled 'gold washed' or colored.

from the Benitoite 6/93, via Breccia 12/95, via the Rockhound Gazette 1/96 via Stoney Statements 3/99

Mineralogical Terms for Silver Jewelry

Fine Silver: This is commercially pure silver and contains no alloy material.

Sterling Silver: 925/1000 (92 ½%) fine silver and 7.5% copper. This proportion is fixed by law.

Coin Silver: 900/1000 (90%) fine silver and the balance copper. This alloy was used for U.S. silver coins before 1965. New (from 1965) dimes and quarters contain no silver and half dollars (until 1971) contain 40% silver.

Commercial Silver: This term is applied to silver that is 99% or higher fine.

Foreign Silverware: Contains several varying percentage of silver. In some cases, the fineness is as low as 70%.

Danish Silver: Silverware manufactured in Denmark is 83% fine silver if made to minimum Danish standards and 92% fine silver is made for export from Denmark.

Silver-Plated Ware: made by electroplating fine silver on a base metal alloy - usually nickel silver or Britannia metal, and sometimes brass or copper. The inexpensive process was perfected for industrial purposes around 1840.

Sheffield Plate: Originally it was made by bonding sheet silver to copper, then rolling and forming it into hollow-ware. The original process was abandoned about 1840 for the new method of electroplating. Imitations made by plating silver on copper and is sometimes erroneously advertised as 'Sheffield Plate'.

Nickel Silver: It is a composition of nickel, copper and zinc. It contains no silver.

from the Benitoite 6/93, via Breccia 12/95, via the Rockhound Gazette 1/96 via Stoney Statements 3/99

Signs You're a Rockhound

You're probably a practicing rockhound if three or more of these signs apply to you.... If ten or more apply you are advised to seek professional help immediately!

- You can pronounce the word "molybdenite" correctly on the first try.
- You think the primary function of road cuts are tourist attractions.
- You own more pieces of quartz than underwear.
- You associate the word "hard" with a value on the Mohs scale instead of work.
- The rockpile in your garage is taller than you are.
- You have a strong opinion as to whether pieces of concrete are properly called "rocks".
- The local university's geology department requests permission to hold field trips in your back yard.
- You associate the name "Franklin" with New Jersey instead of "Ben".
- There's amethyst in your aquarium.
- Your wife has ever had to ask you to move flats of rocks out of the tub so she could take a bath.
- Your spelling checker has a vocabulary that includes the words "polymorph" and "pseudomorph".
- Your children are named Rocky, Jewel, and Beryl.
- You were the only member of the group who spent time looking at cathedral walls through a pocket magnifier during your trip to Europe.
- They won't give you time off from work to attend the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show and you go anyway.
- You begin fussing because the light strips you installed on your bookshelves aren't full spectrum.
- You've ever purchased an individual, unfaceted rock, regardless of the price.
- You've ever spent more than ten dollars for a book about rocks.
- You shouted "obsidian!" to a theater full of moviegoers while watching "The Shawshank Redemption".
- The polished slab on your bolo tie is six inches in diameter.
- You find yourself compelled to examine individual rocks in driveway gravel.

- The USGS identifies your collection as a major contributing factor to isostasy in your state.
- You know the location of every rock shop within a 100 mile radius of your home.
- When they haven't seen you for a week, the rock shop owners send you get well cards.
- You're retired and still thinking of adding another room to your house.
- Your idea of a "quiet, romantic evening at home" involves blue mineral tack and thumbnail boxes.
- You're planning on using a pick and shovel while you're on vacation.
- You can point out where Tsumeb is on a world globe.
- You think Franklin, New Jersey might be a cool place to go on a vacation.
- You associate the word "saw" with diamonds instead of "wood".
- You begin wondering what a complete set of mineralogical record is worth.
- When you find out, you actually consider paying it.
- You've fabricated a backpack for your dog.
- You've installed more than one mineralogical database program on your computer.
- The baggage handlers at the airport know you by name and refuse to help with your luggage.
- You receive a letter from the county informing you a landfill permit is required to put anymore rocks on your property.
- Your internet home page has pictures of your rocks.
- There's a copy of Dana's Manual next to your toilet.
- You still think pet rocks are a pretty neat idea.
- You get excited when you discover a hardware store that stocks 16 pound sledge hammers and 5 foot long pry bars.
- You debate for months on the internet concerning the relative advantages and drawbacks of vibratory versus drum tumblers.
- Your employer has asked you not to bring any more rocks to the office until they have time to reinforce the floor.
- You decide not to get married because you'd rather keep the rock.

-submitted by Roger Wolf from Achatas 10/97.

Stolen Gems

Federal Administration Current Rules and Regulations:

Dinosaur eggs should be left undisturbed especially those of Hypseosaurs. The Surgeon general States they are inedible and may be hazardous to your health. However, the ingestion of coprolite, properly sanitized, is still in dispute.

Rocks, etc.: abundant and available everywhere, though certain specimens have specific curtailments, others have few restrictions. Fabulous leaverites and sex stones may be gathered at will. Monica rocks, yet unclassified, are plentiful. Smart pills located near game trails are free for the taking, a real plus to be sure.... by Robert Heim *from the Polished Slab 4/99*

What is a Rockhound

A rockhound is a kind of nut whose mind is slightly undercut.
He swings a pick and drives a jeep, and dreams of agates in his sleep.
He'll pick up any kind of stone, or piece of glass or even bone.
If he can't name it, he'll assert that he has found a piece of chert.
from Yellowstone Deposit, via Rockfinder 5/97 via Achates 6/97

Hint – If you are having trouble with rock specimens scratching your glass or wood display shelves, try putting three or four dabs of G.E. Silicone Rubber Cement on the bottom of the trouble makers. Then place the object on a piece of waxed paper to cure about twenty-four hours. Large amounts of cement will take even longer. This method will produce a nice smooth rubber-like surface which will protect both the shelf and the specimen. *from Flint Rock & Gem Newsletter via Pik-N-Rok via the Trilobite*

Hint – a non-foaming detergent, such as borax compound will make your grinding wheel cut much faster. Try tri-sodium phosphate (TSPO), or one of the controlled suds detergent that are designed for automatic washers. Use about 1 heaping teaspoon of detergent to each 5 gallons of water that you drip on your grinding wheel. It helps in your tumbler also, because the foam action tends to hold the grit in suspension, and prevents from settling. *from Jaspers Jargon via Rock Rustler's News 5/95*

Hint – to make rock saws remain friction free, clean the saw blade perfectly clean and free from all oil and residue and then spray with "Pam". It also works well on guides for the vise. Add a couple of tablespoons of dish detergent to your cutting oil. If you have a plastic lid on the saw, this will be the first time you have ever been able to see through the top after the first slab. *from Escom via Achates 10/92*

The Difference Between Mammoths and Mastodons

- 1) Mammoths and mastodons represent different lines of development among the proboscideans, or elephant-like mammals. (The origin of mastodons goes back about 25 million year; mammoths are first known from about 7 million years ago.)
- 2) Of the two, mammoths are closer to the two living species – the African and Asian elephants. Mammoths, together with the living species are called true elephants.
- 3) The main difference between the two groups lies in the structure of their molars or cheek teeth. Both have "outsized molars", but mastodon teeth are low-crowned. (The crown is the part of the tooth that grows out of the gum line.) Mastodon molars have rounded cusps separated by valleys. Mammoth (and living elephants) molars consist of a series of cement-filled, ridge-like plates
- 4) Mastodons and mammoths differed in diet and habitat. The low-crowned mastodon teeth were an adaptation to browsing on the relatively soft twigs and leaves of open woodland. The cement hardened high crowned mammoth molars are efficient mills for grinding up tough prairie grasses. Of the two, the mammoth could exploit a wider range of habitat.

from Texas Mem. Museum via Paleo New, via Achates 6/96