

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



September, 2000

First Class

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 19th - is this month's meeting date

The Program is:
SILENT AUCTION

St. Croix Rockhound's

LEAVERITE NEWS

Vol. 25, Issue 6; September, 2000

Member of:



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ST.CROIX ROCKHOUNDS

MEETINGS: Club meetings are held the third TUESDAY of each month, with the one time exception of the March, 2000 meeting, 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	Elaine Martinson	(715) 247-3700
Treasurer	Vic Martinson	(715) 247-3700
Program Chairperson	Pete Rodewald	(715) 425-5561
Show Chairperson	Bill Cordua	(715) 425-9544
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	Vi D'Angelo	(651) 665-9067
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 19th – The Saint Croix Rockhounds meeting starts at 7:15 pm at the Stonebridge Elementary School in Stillwater. The program is SILENT AUCTION. Bring in your extra treasures for the benefit of the club.

Coming Attractions

October 13-15: AFMS/Rocky Mountain Federation Show in Moab, UT.

October 14-15: Anoka County G&M Show at the Har Mar Mall.

October 17th: St Croix rockhounds October meeting date.

November 25-26: Anoka County G&M Show at the Apache Plaza.

**Minutes of the Saint Croix
RockHounds
May 16th, 2000**

The meeting was called to order by the President, Freya Kask.

The Minutes were approved and seconded as it appeared in the Newsletter.

Victor Martinsen read the Treasurers report. There is a balance of \$1,191.38 after expenses. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurers report.

Bill Cordua passed a sign up sheet around for all those interested in a field trip he is planning for July 14. The details are in the May newsletter.

Bill Cordua is looking into possible places for our Fall Rock Show October 21. The favored place seemed to be the Mall at Old Country Buffet in Maplewood. If this is not possible then he will arrange for the show to be at the Mall by More 4 Store in Riverfalls. The club is still open to other ideas. Call Bill if you have other suggestions.

Our summer picnic will be August 19th at 3:00P.M. Doug will be in charge of sending out a Flyer to remind us.

Vi thanked everyone for the Sympathy cards. Our next meeting will be Tuesday Sept 19th. It will be a silent Auction.

Door prizes went to: Robert Olson, Freya Kask, Rod Harvey, Doug Olson, Bill Cordua, and Brad Bonse

The meeting was adjourned. Doug Olson Family and Bill & Jan Cordua

Served snack. A program on Diamonds

Celebrate!

September's birthstone is Sapphire.

September birthdays:

Helen Betlach – September 3rd
Freya Kask – September 11th
Elaine Martinsen – September 15th
Victor Martinsen – September 25th

September Anniversaries:

Leroy & Helen Betlach – 54th !!! on the 12th

Stones to Carve

The following stones can be carved with only a file and/or a Moto-tool, and maybe a few other hand tools. Some of these stones are known by several names:

Sepiolite: (Meerschaum) Famous as a material from which to make pipe bowls. Can be worked and even finished with steel wool.

Alabaster: (Gypsum) The hardness varies and hard types respond well with hand tools. Others can be worked with files and wet or dry sandpaper.

Talc: (Soapstone): Can be worked with files and sandpaper, and even with carving tools.

Anthracite: (Coal, jet) Can be worked with files and sandpapers, and can be polished to a shine equal to hematite.

Calcite: (Marble, Onyx): Can be worked with hand tools and tungsten bits.

Argonite: Similar to calcite and worked the same.

Howlite: Can be worked with hand tools and has the advantage of being easily dyed.

Most of these rocks can be easily saved with a hacksaw. Also, most can be polished easily by hand. *from the Rocky Reader 1/99, via Pick and Dop Stick 4/99, via Backbender's Gazette 1/00 via Achates 5/00*

Douglas County Field Trip Report

On July 14 - 16, 2000 I led a field trip around Douglas County, Wisconsin for the St. Croix Rockhounds and the Wisconsin Geological Society (based in Milwaukee). About 30 people attended, including Doug, Robert and Cassondra Olson, Dick and Jean Blum, Helen and LeRoy Betlach, Vi D'Angelo and Elaine Martinsen from the St. Croix Rockhounds. The rocks, weather and company were all excellent. It was fun mixing with people from another club.

The group gathered late Friday afternoon at Amnicon Falls State Park near Superior. I gave a talk about the bedrock geology, then led a short walking trip to see the Douglas Fault and the associated rocks exposed in the river gorge. That evening, we went down to the Lake Superior shore to talk about the lake's limnology and geology. We also got a chance to see some of the red clay (actually a clay-rich till) and the erosion problems it produces - including land slides where it is undercut by lake waves.

Saturday morning we visited the Carnes Quarry, near South Range. This was a small road metal quarry in a Keweenawan basalt flow. We found minerals in gas bubbles (amygdules), in veins and in faults cross-cutting the basalt. Good specimens of epidote, blue quartz, prehnite, calcite, chlorite and pale tan agate were found. In addition, calcite filled vugs were taken home for etching, so more good crystals may be found lurking beneath.

The lunch stop was at Pattison Park, where the group took a brief look at Big Manitou Falls, learned a bit more about the human and geologic history of the Park, and of copper exploration in Douglas County.

After lunch, the group went to some gravel pits east of Patzau. These pits were on an old shoreline of Lake Superior (glacial Lake Duluth) when it was larger and 500 feet higher than the present lake shore. A few Lake Superior agates were found, as well as 4 small pieces of amethyst. The presence of the amethyst suggested a possible near-by bedrock source.

The last stop that day was at the Buckley Quarry, near Amnicon Falls State Park. This is a quarry in gabbro that intruded the Keweenawan basalt flows. The gabbro was cut by faults and veins in which could be found botryoidal prehnite crusts, pink to red to white analcime, laumontite, natrolite, and micros of chalcopyrite and marcasite. Some prospected the red till on top of the gabbro and found some good Lake Superior agates.

On Sunday, the group went in caravan south to the old Weyerhauser Copper area north of Hayward. This mine consists of several shafts and adits. The group settled in on the dumps of the workings of the Skrupky Mine. Metal detectors soon located some good native copper specimens. Prehnite, chlorite, epidote, calcite and pumpellyite were also collected.

By 11:30 A.M. Sunday, the group began to disperse. I led one last stop for those interested at the reclaimed Flambeau Mine site south of Ladysmith. The reclamation is well advanced. Now prairie and wetlands full of butterflies, flowers and birds replace the bustle of mine trucks from a few years earlier. It is a bittersweet sight for mineral collectors who surely enjoyed the beauty of view, but pined a bit for the specimens buried beneath.

- Bill Cordua, U.W. - River Falls



Eau Claire Meteor

A meteor struck near the Omaha (railroad) yards in 1908 making a deep hole in the ground. Dr. Chase witnessed the descent.

from The Fractured Agate 3/95

Rock and Mineral Auction at the Community Center in Palo, Iowa
(near the corner of Clinton and Flint streets)
Saturday, September 30, 2000 – 9am to ???
Approximately 1,000 lots of rocks, minerals and equipment

Stolen Gems

Hint – did you know that malachite is very poisonous in its raw state? Never lick the material to see the color. Don't even repeatedly lick your finger and apply. When you grind, wipe the contaminated oil off your skin right away. If you smoke and the taste becomes very sweet you are absorbing the malachite dust. The copper oxide dust is mixing with the moisture in your mouth and reacting to the tar in the tobacco, turning it into saccharin. Needless to say, you should take some immediate steps to stop the inhalation. *from Amador Nugget summer, 2000 via Rockette, via Rock Writings, via Chips via the Polished Slab 9/2000.*

Humor – Husband and wife, both rockhounds, were approaching their 20th anniversary, and his friends were teasing him about what he would get her for her anniversary gift. He calmly replied, “well she loves opal, so I'm going to take her to Australia.” One friend told him that would be hard to top and asked what he planned for their 25th. The rockhound quickly replied, “well for the 25th, I'm going to go back and get her”. *from Chaparral Chatter 6/00 via Rock Chips 7-8, 00*

Putting the Eye in Tigereye by Carny Hound – First the slab must be cut parallel to the fiber. A difference of 2 or 3 degrees will make a difference in a proper or improper cut. Look across the slab at a 60 degree angle. You should see half of the slice toward you, either dark or light, and see that the other half is opposite in color. Mark the dividing line between the dark and light areas, lightly with pencil. Rotate the slice, end for end, and hold it in the same place. If the light side was near you before, it should still be near after you rotate the slice. Mark the dividing line again and hope your lines are in the same place. Now turn the slice so the top side becomes the bottom, and you see the reverse for the lighting effect. If the light side was near you before, the dark side should be near you now. When you see the dark side toward you, you are looking at what should be the top of the finished stone. Cut the stone with a high dome and you will have a floating eye. *from the Puget Sounder, via Rock Rollers 10/97, via the Rockfinder 11/97 via Achatés 7/2000.*

Kanifers – Hardness is dependent on the crystal structure of the mineral. The more compact the atom, the greater the binding force between the atoms, and - therefore, the greater the amount of force needed to separate the atoms. Hardness varies, sometimes in spectacular fashion, when measured in several different directions on the same crystal. Diamond cutters orient the stone to be cut so that the soft direction will come in contact with the randomly arranged diamond crystals on the cutting wheel. Some of these crystals will be in the hard orientation; these are the ones which will be able to cut the diamond. “Kanifer” (means “can not do”) are twinned diamond crystals which have no soft direction, hence they cannot be cut. *from article by Dr. Edward Conner in High Country Gleanings 11/96, via Glacial Drifter 5/99, via Pegmatite 10/99, via Flint flashes 11/99, via Chip & Lick 12/99 via Achatés 7/00.*

Did you Know:*from Achatés 5/00* The Average person ingests about a ton of food and drink each year.
The earth weighs 6,588,000,000,000,000,000,000 (6.6 septillion) tons.
Every day a thousand tons of meteor dust falls on the earth.

Real Amber? – “I have found one simple “foolproof” test for determining real amber from fake. Only real amber will sink in tap water and float in salt water...” *by Walter Anderson from Rockhound Roundup 9/88 via Pebble Pusher 5/00 via Achatés 6/00*

Purple Glass: If you wish to know if a clear glass bottle will turn purple without exposing it to desert sunlight, place it under a black light. If it fluoresces green, it will turn purple when it is exposed long to the sunlight. This is due to small amounts of manganese. Manufacturers stopped using manganese some time before the twenties, so that you know that this glass most likely was made before World War I. *from Pick and Pack 2/00 via others via Rock Chips 2/00*