

St. Croix Rockhounds
Doug Olson, Editor
211 Interlachen Way
Stillwater, MN 55082



September, 2001

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 18th - is this month's meeting date.

The Program is:

Silent Auction

St. Croix Rockhound's

LEAVERITE NEWS

Vol. 26, Issue 6; September, 2001

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	Dick Blom	(651) 735-2323
Vice President	Dave Klinkhammer	(651) 776-8046
Secretary	Elaine Martinsen	(715) 247-3700
Treasurer	Vic Martinsen	(715) 247-3700
Program Committee	Pete Rodewald	(715) 425-5561
	Bill Cordua	(715) 425-9544
	Victor Martinson	(715) 247-3700
Show Committee	Bill Cordua	(715) 425-9544
	LeRoy Betlach	(715) 425-5948
Refreshments	Freya Kask	(651) 777-6371
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 Directors	Vi D'Angelo	(651) 665-9067
	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 18th - The Saint Croix Rockhounds meeting starts at 7:15 pm at Stonebridge Elementary School in Stillwater, MN. The program will be SILENT AUCTION. Bring in your donations and your checkbook to bid on rocks, gems, and other items.

Coming Attractions

September 18: St. Croix Rockhounds meeting starts at 7:15 pm in Stillwater, MN

September 29-30th: Gem and Mineral Show at the Winnebago County Fairgrounds, 625 E. County Rd Y in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

October 6-7th – Rock sale by Dick and Esther Allen in Forest Lake, MN

October 6-7th: Anoka Gem and Mineral Show at Har Mar Mall in Rosedale, MN

October 12-14th: Greater Detroit Gem & Mineral Show at the South Macomb Community College Expo Center, Bldg P, 12 Miles & Hayes, Warren, MI. For info call 248-398-6693.

October 13-14th: Show in Rockford, IL at Lutheran HS, 3411 N. Alpine Rd.

October 19-21st: Three Rivers Show in Fort Wayne, IN at the Allen County Fairgrounds, 2726 Carroll Rd.

October 26-28th: Central MI Lapidary and Mineral Soc. Show at Marshall Street Armory in Lansing, MI.

November 2-4th: Southeast Federation Show in Pascagoula, MS

Minutes of the Saint Croix
RockHounds
May 15th, 2001

The meeting was called to order by the President, Dick Blom. The meeting was in the geology dept. at River Falls College. There were 25 present. The Minutes from the April meeting were approved as published in the Leaverite News. The Treasurers report was read and approved.

Freya is reserving Aug. 18th for our picnic at Bayport Park. Our next meeting will be September 18th the third Tuesday. Sept meeting will be the silent auction.

A discussion on field trips followed. LeRoy Betlach discussed a field trip to a sandstone pit for fossil hunting. It was decided we would set the date for July 28th. We would meet at 9:30 in the parking lot at Fleet Farm in Hudson. We were reminded about The Midwest Federation show in Rice Lake, WI. September 7th-9th. Another suggestion was going to Glendive for Montana Moss. Sept. 10th was suggested. Victor Martinsen reminded people of the Memorial trip to Keokuk, Iowa for Geode hunting. Anyone interested should call him.

Dick Blom read a letter he wrote to the American Federation newsletter nominating Pete Rodewald for Rock Hound of the year. The meeting was adjourned.

Bill Cordua gave us a great presentation on Polarized Light. We had an opportunity to tour River Falls College Geology dept. Refreshments followed.

Respectfully Submitted

Elaine Martinsen, Secretary

Celebrate!

September's birthstone –Sapphire. The sapphire was said to represent the purity of the soul. Before and during the Middle Ages, it was worn by priests as protection from impure thoughts and temptations of the flesh. Medieval kings of Europe valued these stones for rings and brooches, believing that it protected them from harm and envy.

Warriors presented their young wives with sapphire necklaces so they would remain faithful. It was believed that the stone's color would darken if worn by an adulterer or adulteress, or by an unworthy person.

Sapphires were once believed to be protection against snakes. It was said that if poisonous reptiles and spiders were placed in a jar containing the stone, the creatures would immediately die.

September birthdays :

Helen Betlach – 3rd

Freya Kask – 11th

Elaine Martinsen – 15th

Victor Martinsen – 25th

September Anniversaries:

Leroy & Helen Betlach – 12th

2001-2002 Club Meeting Dates

September 18th

October 16th

***November 12th

***December 5th (X-mas party)

January 15th

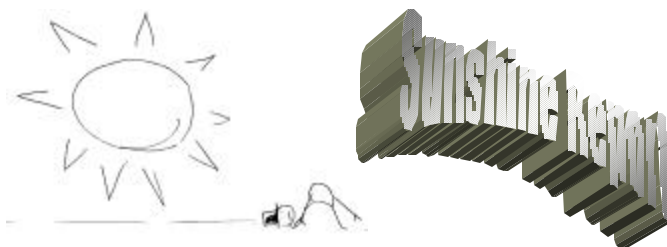
***February 12th

March 19th

April 16th

May 21st

****This date is NOT the third Tuesday of the month*



Marie Newlander reports that there is nothing to report. If you have news – good or bad - please call Marie at (651) 439-7809.

THE JADES: COLORS AND CONTROVERSIES *by Lyle G. Gable from Jax Gems 8/95 via AFMS Newsletter*

Jade and the color green are so inexorably linked that many people believe all jade to be green. Theoretically, pure jade, both nephrite and jadeite, should be white. Metallic salts in the form of oxides and silicates present, either alone or in combinations, and in varying degrees, are responsible for the vast array of colors, hues, shades, tints and tones, including multi-colors possible in jade. In rare instances, four or five colors may appear in a single stone. The green of jadeite is produced by chromium, the green of nephrite by iron. The degree of coloring agent present is presumed to determine the intensity of the color, a supposition partially refuted by the occasional occurrence of near- white nephrite with a high iron content.

That jade has a wide range of colors is not in dispute, but opinions differ as to whether jadeite or nephrite has the greater range. What is probably the majority view is stated by Gerald Hamrich in *The Handbook of Jade*. He writes the color range of jadeite exceeds that of nephrite. The opposite view is expressed in Judith Moorhouse's *Collecting Oriental Antiques*. Ms. Moorhouse contends that the range of nephrite is the greater.

In common with jades of other colors, white jade can be of many shades. While the near-whites and off-whites are not extremely scarce, a true, pure-white jade is rare. Again, there are conflicting opinions. Paul Desautels writes in *The Sometimes Green Stone* that a pure white jade is almost surely jadeite. Oscar Luzzatto-Bilitz claims in his *Antique Jade* that only jade (nephrite) and not jadeite can be pure-white.

Such unusual jade colors as red, lavender, blue, mauve and purple are acknowledged but the existence of pink jade is very much in doubt. Of twenty books treating, in whole or in part, with jade and its colors, eight list pink as a color for either jadeite, nephrite or both. Authors expressing opposite beliefs are Joan M. Hartman and Richard Gump. Mrs. Hartman, in her *Chinese Jade of Five Centuries* concludes pink jade is non-existent, "having never found even one example in the course of her researches. She also quotes Mr. Robert Crowningshield, a Director of the G.I.A., as stating that he had never encountered a single item of pink jade in twenty-five years of examining minerals. Mr. Gump's book, *Jade: Stone of Heaven* postulates the occurrence of pink jade and includes a color plate of what purports to be a pink nephrite cup. A few years ago, on a visit to the Norton Gallery in West Palm Beach, I may have seen a patch of pink jade. I am sure I saw a spot of pink on a water couple in the Chinese Collection. The collection catalog designated the area as pinkish blush but only tentatively identified the coupe as Burmese jadeite.

While it is probable that I will remain uncertain as to the existence of pink jade, it is even more probable that I will continue to hear someone exclaim, "But I thought jade was always green!"

JADE IS AS NEAR AS MOUNT VERNON, FAR AWAY AS BURMA

by Fred Greef from Washington Agate & Mineral Society Newsletter 1/95 via AFMS Newsletter

You may recall from my last article that the best grades of jade are rarely found and highly valuable. Of the two varieties of jade, high quality jadeite is rarer and more valuable than high quality nephrite.

Obvious questions at this point are: where can I dig jade or even, can I dig jade? Wade through this article and you just might find some. Jadeite is found in Central America, California and Japan, but northern Burma has the best quality and most plentiful supply. Unfortunately, you will have a tough time beating the Chinese dealers to the best rough jade solid in Burma, and you might have to settle for buying expensive Chinese carvings. China is world famous for the finest jade carvings ever produced. The artistry from the Chou Dynasty from 1122 BC to the end of the Han Dynasty in 220 AD has never been surpassed. It surprised me to learn that there are no known or historic sources of jadeite in China, and that most of the ancient Chinese carvings are nephrite jade from Turkestan.

The jade of Burma is jadeite. One deposit was estimated at 1,500 feet long by 600 feet wide. If it is 500 feet deep, it would weigh four and one-half million pounds. This hardly sounds rare, but Burmese jadeite comes in all grades and many colors. The best material is not common. *(continued on next page)*

(continued from previous page) The few other world locations are quite limited in quantity and the quality is also poorer. Chinese importation of jade from Turkestan continued amid the mid-18th Century when Burmese jade first began to show up in large quantities.

Nephrite jade locations are much more common worldwide than jadeite. Wyoming, California and Alaska are the only states that have produced nephrite in good quality and quantity in this country. Washington has produced some jade in the Mount Vernon area and some has shown up on Olympic Peninsula beaches. There is only one known nephrite location in Oregon- down in the southwest corner in the Pistol River area. Wyoming has produced the best nephrite jade in the western hemisphere, but the supply dwindles every year. New Zealand and Turkestan also produce some of the world's finest

nephrite. Some fairly large nephrite deposits have been discovered in Australia in the last 35 years, but they have not been of the quality of New Zealand jade.

Only nephrite jade has been discovered in Canada, and most of the known deposits are in British Columbia. The B.C. jade belt runs through the middle of the province from north to south. The best known deposits are in the Lillooet area with other large concentrations in the center and on the northern end of the belt. Much B.C. jade is carving grade and sold to China, with only a small amount of jewelry quality.

The good news is that gravel bars along the Frasier River are still open for public rock hounding.

You don't have to dig it, you simply pick it up. The only other close location that I am familiar with is our annual club trip to Deer Creek. I found two pieces on my first trip with the club. Naturally, the smaller one is the better of the two. But I

won't throw either one out because I found them.



A large measure of the enjoyment of our hobby consists of collecting in the field. For that reason, the members are proud to endorse the following:
"Code of Ethics"

- ♦ I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without permission from the owner.
- ♦ 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 property on which I plan to collect.
- ♦ I will use no firearms or blasting material 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 which 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 utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.
- ♦ I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.
- ♦ I will cooperate with fieldtrip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.
- ♦ 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.

Revised July 7, 1999 at the AFMS Annual Meeting

ROCK Sale - Oct. 6

& 7, 2001 - Forest Lake, MN

9 am to 5 pm

Selling 25 years of collecting - rough, slabs, specimens and etc.

Includes Montanas, Lakers, Brazilians, geodes, turritella - all priced to go.

Also: 14" Slab Saw with extra blade

Vibra tumbler - approx. 10"

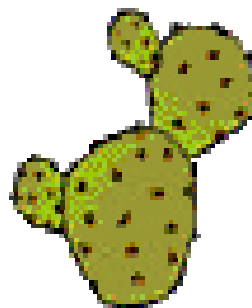
Consignment - 18" Rock saw with 2 extra blades (1 new) \$750 or B.O.

Esther Allen

20109 Harrow Ave. N.

Forest Lake, MN

651-464-2087



Stolen Gems

St Croix Rockhounds Leaverite News

To finish Soapstone as the Chinese did, heat the finished carving in the oven for an hour at 200 degrees – remove from the oven and apply a coat of paste wax and polish. A jade effect results from this method. *from Golden Spike News 7/01 via Deming Rock Chips 8/01*

Tiger-Eye: for that glass finish on tiger-eye, polish once, dry the stone, then put a drop of vinegar on the stone. Leave it on for a couple of minutes, then give it a second polish. The result should be that deep glass finish that you've been wishing for. *from Gem & Mineral Federation of Canada 8/89 via Deming Rock Chips 8/01*

Cutting Petrified Wood: petrified wood should be cut lengthwise of the grain. The wood produces a more varied pattern. Sometimes cutting crosswise will give good patterns, but this is not usually the case. Limb sections are rather on the scarce side as they tend to disintegrate before they petrify. If they are cut diagonally and polished to one end, it adds to their beauty. *from Fort Hamilton Gems via The Flint Gemstone via others via The Trilobite 9/01*

Polishing Plume Agate: Plume agate undercuts readily since the plume is softer than the agate. This problem can often be remedied by reducing the speed of your sanding and polishing operations. If you can reduce the speed about half of normal, this problem should be eliminated. Also avoid excessive heat. *from The Flint Gemstone via others via The Trilobite 9/01*

4.3 Billion years old: is the age of a grain of zircon, a crystal found recently in Australia. The crystal scientists said, is the oldest known solid on earth. *from Detroit Free Press 1/01, via the Conglomerate via the Trilobite 9/01*

Hint: if you want matched stones, put a piece of paper between two stones and glue together with mounting glue; then shape as desired in one grinding. A light tap with your hand will separate them. *from Michigan Gem News via the Drift 7/01 via Achates 8/01*

How About This One: *by Mike McGuire*

Take a few strands of bare copper wire and form them into a tree-like structure. Place the tree in a large glass vessel (a gallon jug or jar). Dissolve 2 grams of AgNO₃ (silver nitrate) in 4 liters of distilled water. Transfer the AgNO₃ solution into the vessel containing the copper tree. The reaction begins almost instantly and is completed within hours.

The conclusion is: copper is oxidized in a solution of AgNO₃. At the same time, silver ions (Ag) are reduced to metallic silver (2Ag). Metallic silver forms a soft white lustrous metal which is inactive, but nevertheless becomes attached to the limbs of the wire tree to give an appearance of snow.

Object: to cause the precipitation of silver and promote the formation of silver crystals on the copper tree. *from the Agate Explore 7/01*

For Polishing Hard to Polish Stones: Make a slurry using 1 part hand soap and 3 parts cerium oxide. A laminated cotton buff is moistened, the stone is dipped in this slurry and applied to the spinning cotton buff. *By Mike McGuire from the Agate Explore 7/01*