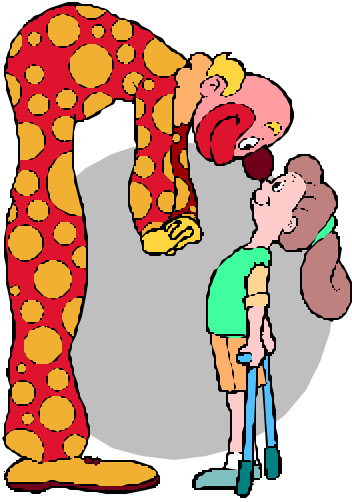


St. Croix Rockhounds  
Doug Olson, Editor  
211 Interlachen Way  
Stillwater, MN 55082



## First Class

# April, 2002

Please send exchange bulletins to:

Doug Olson, Editor  
211 Interlachen Way  
Stillwater, MN 55082

**April 16th** - Is this month's meeting date.

The program is:

## Agates by 35 millimeter



St. Croix Rockhound's

# LEAVERITE NEWS

Vol. 27, Issue 4; April, 2002

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	Vic Martinsen	(715) 247-3700
Vice President	Dave Klinkhammer	(651) 776-8046
Secretary	Susan Dustin	(651) 430-3933
Treasurer	Elaine 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!

**April 16<sup>th</sup>** - The Saint Croix Rockhounds January meeting will be held at the Stonebridge Elementary school starting at 7:15 pm. The program will be **Agates by 35 Millimeter**, a program slide presentation of photos by Pete Rodewald.

## COMING ATTRACTIONS

**April 16<sup>th</sup>:** St. Croix Rockhounds meeting

**April 20-21<sup>st</sup>:** Anoka G&M Club Spring show at the Har Mar Mall

**May 18-19<sup>th</sup>:** Wisconsin Geol. Soc. Show at 7300 W. Chestnut St. in Wauwatosa, WI. For info contact Donna Draeger at 414-476-8542

**May 21<sup>st</sup>:** St. Croix Rockhounds meeting

**May 31<sup>st</sup> –June 2:** Great American Gem Show at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds in the Progress Center; corner of Randall and Cosgrove, St. Paul, MN

**July 16-21<sup>st</sup>:** NWFMS/AFMS Show in Port Townsend, WA

**July 20-21<sup>st</sup>:** Agate Days in Moose Lake, MN

**Aug 30-Sept 1<sup>st</sup>:** NWFMS Show in Enumclaw, WA

**October 4-6<sup>th</sup>:** Mid West Federation Show in Springfield IL

## Minutes of the Saint Croix RockHounds March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2002

The meeting was called to order by the president Vic Martinsen at 7:20. Minutes were approved as stated in the newsletter. The Treasurer's report was read and approved. To date, 38 members have paid their dues, and a total of \$209.50 has been collected. \$86.00 was paid for the Midwest Federation dues, and \$96.00 was paid for Midwest Federation insurance. Badges are still for sale at \$2.25 each.

### Committee reports:

Sunshine-Marie Newlander reported that Dick Blom isn't feeling well.

Library-Jeanne Blom not present.

Historian-John Parsons not present

Newsletter-Doug Olson; several members reported that their newsletters are not getting "chewed up" anymore in the mail

### Announcements:

Bill Cordua reported that the March 16th show at Valley Creek Mall was successful. Fourteen rock hounds had tables, and the displays were well done. The facilities were very nice, but traffic was a little less than in years past.

Vic Martinsen and Pete Rodewald will be at the Chippewa Valley Gem and Mineral Show on March 23 and 24 at the downtown Holiday Inn in Eau Claire.

There's no news yet on the upcoming field trip to Thunder Bay to look for amethyst and seam agates.

Door prizes, topaz from Mexico found by Vic, were given to Helen, Shari, Freya, Brad, Avis and Bill and refreshments followed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40

The program entitled "Locally Found Unusual Glacier Deposited Rocks" was provided by Pete. These rocks were all found near his home in Wisconsin.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Susan Dustin, Secretary

**Refreshments at April meeting are  
to be served by Brad Bonse and  
Jeanne Blom**

## Celebrate!

**April's birthstone** –Diamonds. Ancient Hindus, finding diamonds washed out of the ground after thunderstorms, believed they were created by bolts of lightning. In our place and time, the diamond is a symbol of enduring love, and often grace engagement rings.

Found in their natural form, diamonds can appear quite unimpressive. It is only when they are cut and polished by skilled craftsmen, such that the light entering it is reflected and refracted as best possible, only then is their hidden beauty revealed.

### April Birthdays:

Earl Kask 5<sup>th</sup>

Bill Cordua 21<sup>st</sup>

Reuben Shalander 21<sup>st</sup>

Cassandra Olson 22<sup>nd</sup>

### April Anniversaries:

Rodney Harvey 22<sup>nd</sup>

Freya and Earl Kask 28<sup>th</sup>

### FOR SALE

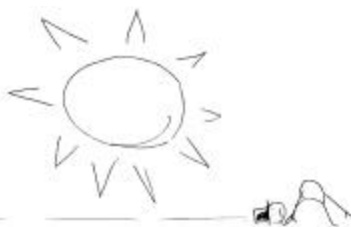
10" Saw

6" Saw

8" Grinder with 3 heads

Contact: Joan Gilbertson

651-731-1051



GOOD NEWS - Marie Newlander reports Vi D'Angelo has not been feeling well – a card has been sent. If you have news – good or bad - please call Marie at (651) 439-7809.

# 2002 Club Show Report

The St. Croix Rockhounds held their annual show on March 16, 2002 in the Valley Creek Mall in Woodbury, Minnesota. This was our second time in this location, and the facilities were excellent. There were fourteen tables of wonderful displays.

LeRoy and Helen Betlach's display had Montana moss agate, (as found and sliced), various forms of obsidian, turritella from Wyoming, barite from Missouri, geodes from Oregon, topaz from Utah amethyst from Canada and a selection of gem trees.

Jeanne Blum showed geodes from Missouri and Iowa, and had pictures of geode hunting. Both kids and adults were fascinated with looking at these geodes with Jeanne's magnifying glass.

Bill Cordua showed various "big rocks" from the University of Wisconsin - River Falls collection and a table of rocks and minerals from Wisconsin. He was also kept busy identifying specimens brought in by show visitors. Bill also minded the club table. He had club information and educational materials to hand out. Seven geology majors from U.W. - River Falls helped out during the day.

Arthur Hill showed for the first time. He had jewelry boxes with inlaid stones in carved scenes. He also had stones smithed for jewelry boxes and some garden stone from the South West.

Dave and Avis Klinkhammer had a wonderful display of cabochons, faceted stones and jewelry. They also showed geodes and polished slabs of assorted stones.

Vic Martinsen had a display of fine minerals specimens, featuring a suite of calcite, marcasite, sphalerite and galena from the zinc-lead mines in the Shullsburg area of Wisconsin. He also displayed yellow barite from Nevada, copper from Michigan, zeolites from India and mineral specimens from Africa, Peru, Brazil and Russia.

John and Sandy Parsons displayed petrified wood and pine cones from Argentina as well as petrified wood from South Dakota, Wyoming, Montana, Oregon and Nevada. They also had a selection of Brazilian agates including one over a foot high.

Geodes were the theme of Pete Rodewald's display. He had specimens from many localities including

He had specimens from many localities including Brazil, Mexico, India, Patagonia, Kentucky, Morocco, Tunisia, Montana and Iowa. Featured minerals included celestine, millerite, adamite, calcite and quartz.

Reuben and June Shalander had a variety of agate on three tables, including an excellent display of Lake Superior agates and Native American artifacts.

- Bill Cordua.

## **Book Review: Geologic Field Guides to the Devil's Lake Region, Door County,**

## **Kettle Moraine Country and the Zinc-**

**Lead District of Wisconsin** by Rachel K. Paull and Richard Paull, Burgess Publishers, Edina, MN, 1988

This useful volume in our club library was written by 2 U.W.-Milwaukee professors. It is a good book for travelers in Wisconsin. It features road logs and descriptions of interesting geologic stops. It is not, however, a guide to collecting localities. In fact, a number of stops are visited by hundreds of geology students each year, and should not be damaged by collecting. Although the book is best for those with some background in basic geology, anyone interested in the area's geological history will find this book informative.

The book begins with a short summary of Wisconsin's geology and physiographic provinces. The second part consists of detailed road logs to 4 trips around areas of the state having particular geological and scenic interest. Each trip is laid out with mileages from a key starting point.

There are many notes in the road logs to geologic, geographic and cultural features. It would be handiest (and safest!) to have a passenger read aloud as the driver drives. There are additional longer descriptions for each stop.

Trip one is a guide to the Baraboo area. This is a region dominated by a large syncline of Precambrian quartzite. The structure is partly buried by Paleozoic shallow-marine sediments, and Ice Age materials. All are featured in the 12 stops on this 110-mile trip.

Trip two takes one to the Door Peninsula to look at Silurian dolostones, Ice Age and coastline features of this scenic part of Wisconsin. (cont. next page...)

**Book Review** (...continued from previous page) This road log has 3 parts, covering all together 172 miles, with 7 featured stops and a number of optional stops.

Trip three goes through the Kettle Moraine area, which is world-famous for its landscape produced by the most recent glaciation. It also covers the older Paleozoic bedrock, featuring a clay pit and old iron mines. This trip covers 152 miles, with 7 featured stops and several optional stops.

Trip four focuses on the old zinc-lead mining region in the southwestern part of Wisconsin. This trip details the mining history and Paleozoic bedrock. It covers 46 miles, but has no featured stops.

Since the book was written in the 1980's, some roads may have changed (changing the recorded mileages), and some stops such as quarries may have become inaccessible. There is also no indication that some of the stops are on private property, and should not be entered without permission. I think people using the volume will apply common sense to those situations.

In summary, this is a very handy book to those interested in geology who are planning a trip into the areas covered.

- Bill Cordua, U. of Wisconsin - River Falls

## St. Croix Rockhounds Membership List

(Not available on the website)

**Tumble Polishing Obsidian:** *by Ted Robles* To tumble-polish obsidian, do not use Cerium Oxide or Tin Oxide; these being acidic, react with obsidian, which is alkaline, and the best you can usually expect is a soft matte finish. (I can and have gotten good results with Tin Oxide using a very thick Tide slurry, that is because the Tide is so alkaline, it overcomes the weak acidity of the Tin Oxide. Don't rely on it; it takes a long time.) My best success has been with Raybrite, which is Aluminum Oxide, Ocatagon Process liquid detergent, crushed walnut shells screened thru 1/8" mesh, and only enough water so that the whole mass will move. (I use a teaspoon!). Put it on and forget it for a week (unless you're using a vibratory tumbler, which I don't recommend because obsidian spalls like crazy unless you're using so much carrier that there is no chance for obsidian to strike obsidian). Open it up and look. Here is a trick that very few people know. Obsidian, once polished will just as quickly become unpolished! So, once it has almost been polished, look at it every hour or so until it has reached the shine you want. Turn it off at night. I know, that's a sin you're not supposed to commit, but if it's polished at hour 3, it would probably be unpolished at hour 8! It's mighty persnickety stuff but the results are worth the extra care. Oh, and pellets are a poor choice for carrier on obsidian; walnut shells or rice hulls work much better. Leather punchings are good too. *from Stoney Statements via the Trilobite 4/02*

**Polishing Petoskey Stones in a Tumbler:** A rock shop in Michigan was using finely ground corn colbs about the size of Ivory soap flakes to polish Petoskey Stone, dry and with cerium oxide and the finish was excellent. It is a soft material but would probably work on other stones. *by Lila Trudel in Lapidary Digest via Stoney Statements via the Trilobite 4/02*

**Recipe to cook agate:** To bring out the bright color of an otherwise drab slab of Brazilian agate, place the slab in the oven and bring the temperature to 550 degrees Fahrenheit. Do this gradually over a two hour period. Hold it at 550 degrees F. for 1/2 hour and allow it to cool overnight. Do not open the oven while the slab is hot for it will fracture. It is recommended to leave the oven closed overnight, so that the slab will suffer no sudden change of temperature. (Ed. Note: some exchange-bulletins suggest that the slabs be placed in sand, in a baking pan, to help keep the temperature even.) *from Mineralog & Pegmatite via Rear Trunk via the Trilobite 3/02*

**Great Crystal Hunting:** Several years ago Earth magazine reported that scientists were hypothesizing that the Earth's core is a single crystal of iron. Geophysicists at Harvard University have used earthquake seismic waves to deduce that the mass at the center of the Earth has many properties of a single crystal. Scientists had previously theorized that the core material was solid iron because of the presence of the Earth's magnetic field, among other things. The particulars of the crystal caused them to theorize that the crystal is epsilon iron, which, it turns out, only exists at tremendous pressures and temperatures such as those found at the center of the Earth. The geophysicists also found that the axis of the supposed crystal is aligned exactly with the Earth's magnetic field, giving rise to speculation that its growth orientation was (and is still being) caused by the field. And we thought that good, large crystal specimens were getting hard to find! *from the Mountain Gem via Glacial Drifter via the Gemrock.*

**Hint:** After a tube of epoxy has been opened, dab vaseline on the threads. The cap will not stick and mess up your tube. Vaseline around the rim of your tumbler before bolting on the lid makes a tighter seal and it will be easier to remove later. *from Achates 3/94*

**Hint:** Wet diamond laps with water. Then use a bar of Lava soap against the slow moving lap until it is well covered with soap. With the lap still moving, use an old tooth brush and scrub well. You will see that it cuts better. Fels Naptha soap also works well. *from Flint Rock and Gem via Achates 7/94*