

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

First Class



March, 2002

Please send exchange bulletins to:

Doug Olson, Editor
211 Interlachen Way
Stillwater, MN 55082

March 19th - Is this month's meeting date.

The program is:

Locally Found Unusual Glacier Deposited Rocks



St. Croix Rockhound's

LEAVERITE NEWS

Vol. 27, Issue 3; March, 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!

March 19th - The Saint Croix Rockhounds January meeting will be held at the Stonebridge Elementary school starting at 7:15 pm. The program will be **Locally Found Unusual Glacier Deposited Rocks**, a program presented by Pete Rodewald.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

March 9-10th: Anoka G&M Club Spring show at the Apache Plaza

March 16th: St. Croix Rockhounds show at the Valley Creek Mall in Woodbury, MN

March 19th: St. Croix Rockhounds meeting

March 23-24th: Chippewa Valley Gem & Mineral Show at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in downtown Eau Claire, WI

April 16th: St. Croix Rockhounds meeting

April 20-21st: Anoka G&M Club Spring show at the Har Mar Mall

July 16-21st: NWFMS/AFMS Show in Port Townsend, WA

July 20-21st: Agate Days in Moose Lake, MN

Aug 30-Sept 1st: NWFMS Show in Enumclaw, WA

October 4-6th: Mid West Federation Show in Springfield IL

Minutes of the Saint Croix RockHounds February 12th, 2002

The meeting was called to order at 7:20 pm by president, Vic Martinsen.

The minutes of the January 15 meeting were corrected to include the winners of the January "Find of the Year Contest."

Winners: Brad Bonse in the Lake Superior Agate class

Pete Rodewald in the Open class

Sue Mata in the Fossil class

Committee Reports:

Minutes were approved as corrected.

Treasurer's report was read by Elaine Martinsen and approved. Dues for the 2002 year are still being collected.

Sunshine report - Vi DeAngelo is ill with pneumonia.

Refreshments: Sherry Frankenberg and Jeanne Blom will provide refreshments in March.

New Business: Upcoming Shows

Vic passed a sign up sheet for interested members to have a booth at the Valley Creek Mall show on March 16.

He also announced that a Gem and Mineral Show will be held at Apache Plaza on March 9 and 10th sponsored by the Anoka Gem and Mineral Club. A show will also be held at Har Mar Mall on April 20 and 21.

Vic has e mailed the new Thunder Bay agate mine in an attempt to gain information about opening dates but hasn't received an answer yet.

We were reminded not to forget the Moose Lake show on July 20 and 21.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 and the program provided by Pete followed. We watched a very informative and interesting video entitled "Voyage to the Planets." We ended the evening with refreshments and an opportunity to see a huge meteorite that Larry Dorau brought from China.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Dustin, Secretary

Remaining 2002 Club Meeting Dates

March 19th

April 16th

May 21st

Celebrate!

March's birthstone – two birthstones -- aquamarine and bloodstone. The name aquamarine was derived by the Romans, "aqua" meaning water and "mare" meaning sea, because it looked like sea water.

Aquamarines were believed to have originated from the jewel caskets of sirens, washed ashore from the depths of the sea. They were considered sacred to Neptune, god of the sea. This association with the sea made it the sailors' gem, promising prosperous and safe voyages as well as protection against perils and monsters of the sea.

The second birthstone for March is the bloodstone. It's a favored material for carving religious subjects, particularly the crucifixion. According to legend, bloodstone was believed to have formed during the crucifixion of Christ. A Roman soldier-guard thrust his spear into Christ's side and drops of blood fell on some pieces of dark green jasper lying at the foot of the cross, and the bloodstone was created.

In the Middle ages, bloodstone was believed to hold healing powers, particularly for stopping nosebleeds. Powdered and mixed with honey and white of egg, it was believed to cure tumors and stop all types of hemorrhage.

March Birthdays:

Avis Klinkhammer 4th

Barb Costa 14th

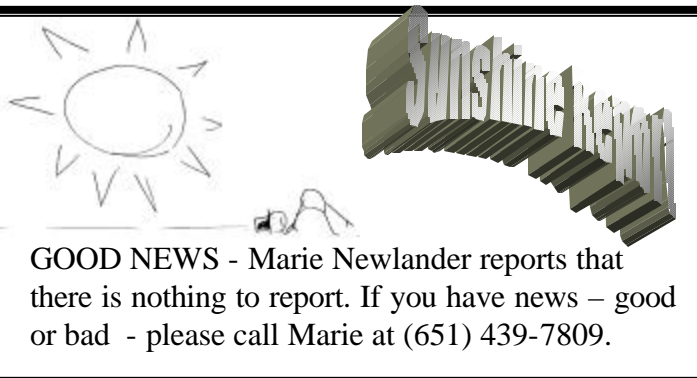
John Parsons 14th

Sandy Parsons 18th

Doug Olson 27th

Rodney Harvey 31st

March Anniversaries: None



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

Polishing Slabs in Rotary Tumblers- Experiences by Bob Ross from www.jaderockshop.com

Q: How large can I tumble slabs in a tumbler and get good polish on them?

A: Put in a layer of small beach agates, then cover with a layer of slabs. Over the slabs, put another layer of beach agates then another layer of slabs. Keep doing this until you tumbler is filled two inches from the top; as the stones grind down you will have more space in the tumbler after it runs a few days.

Q: How large should the beach agates be that I mix with the slabs?

A: About the size of marbles, or ½” to ¼” but no larger.

Q: Should I mix anything in with the small pebbles?

A: Yes, about one or two handfuls of obsidian chips, when these are ground smooth during the polish cycle they rub a higher polish on the other stones.

Q: How long should I grind for the first operation?

A: If you grind with a 47/60 grit, it takes about two weeks and if your grit breaks down to a powdered state in two weeks, they will be ready for polish. If the grit does not break down in that time, run them a few days more until it does. This does away with using a finer grit before polishing.

Q: How do I tell when the stone is ready for polish?

A: Take two stones and rub them together 5 or 6 times. Then use a rag and wipe them clean. If they show a glass line where you rubbed them, they are ready for polish, for the glassy lines mean the stone has no deep surface scratches and will polish easily.

Q: What is the first step in preparing the stones for polishing?

A: Wash stones in three pans of water. The first pan takes most of the grit off and the second pan takes it all off. Just to be sure that they are well cleaned, use the third pan. Wash out the tumbler as well. Be sure that there is NO grit left in it.

Q: How about the polishing powder?

A: You can use red oxide and use it several times over and over as long as you keep the pan clean after you remove it from the tumbler.

Q: How much polish do I need for a 12 pound tumbler?

A: About ½ pound of red oxide and 1-1/4 quarts of water. For a 2 pound tumbler use 1-1/3 ounces of red oxide and enough water to just cover the stones.

Q: How long do I run them in the polish cycle?

A: About 10 days.

Q: What is the next operation?

A: Pour off the water and the red oxide into a clean pan and keep it for the next batch to polish.

Q: what is the best pan to keep it in?

A: A deep refrigerator pan with a lid on it.

Q: Do I have to wash off all the red oxide from the stones in the tumbler?

A: No, just pour off all that will run out, then put in 1-3/4 quarts of water with one teacup full of Tide washing powder. Also add a bottle of clear glycerin to the soapy water. This will result in a better polish. For a two pound tumbler, experiment with a smaller amount of glycerin.

Q: How long do I run them in soapy water?

A: About five days, but remove a few stones and wipe them dry to make sure that you have a perfect polish before emptying the tumbler. If necessary run them an extra day or two.

Q: How do I tell if I have a perfect polish?

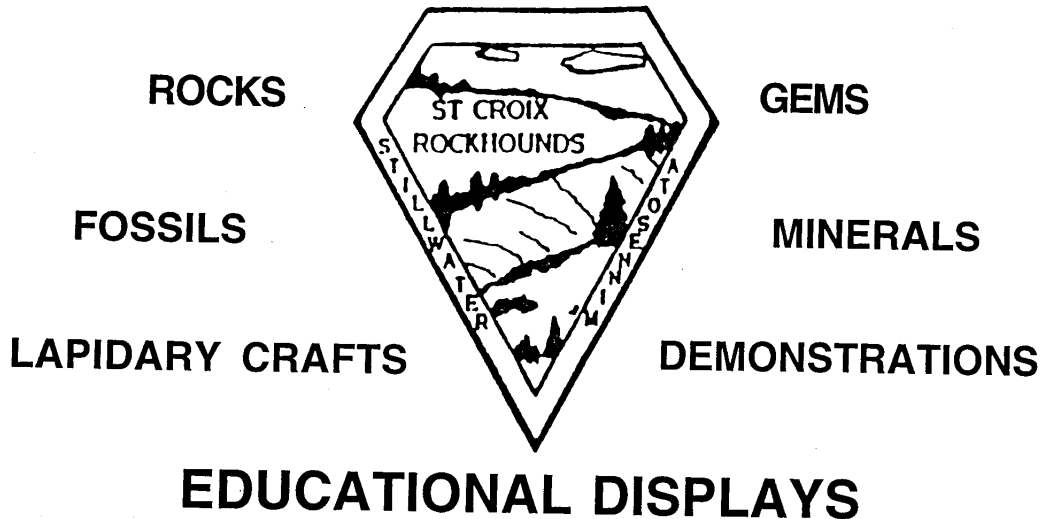
A: When you get a perfect polish, your stones (when wiped dry), will reflect light in all directions when held under a bright light. If they do not run them a little longer.

Q: Do I throw away the soapy water after the stones are polished?

A: No, the soapy water with the glycerin can be kept in a pan and used for the next batch.

FREE GEM, MINERAL & ROCK EXHIBIT

**SPONSORED BY THE ST. CROIX ROCK HOUNDS
GEM AND MINERAL CLUB OF STILLWATER, MN**



**VALLEY CREEK MALL, WOODBURY
I-494 and Valley Creek Drive**

SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 2002

9 A.M. - 5 P.M.

FOR INFORMATION: CALL 715-425-3139 OR 9544

**REGULAR CLUB MEETINGS 3RD TUESDAY SEPT. THROUGH
MAY, STONEBRIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, W. ELM STREET,
STILLWATER, MN AT 7:15 P.M.**

**Volunteers needed to setup. Show up at 7 pm the Friday before the
show. Call Bill Cordua (715) 425-3139 if you desire more
information. THANKS!!!**

Stolen Gems *St Croix Rockhounds Leaverite News*

Hint: To find a star in a sapphire, apply some epoxy without the hardener. It will show the rays better than oil. *from Glacial Drifter via Drifter Rock 6/91 via Bell Notes 6/98 via the Pseudomorph via Rock Chips 2/02*

To Preserve Newspaper Clippings: of your accomplishment, dissolve a milk of magnesia tablet in a quart of club soda overnight. Pour into a glass pan large enough to accommodate the flattened clipping. Soak clipping an hour. Remove and pat dry. Estimated life span – 200 years. *from Gem Cutter News via Rock Buster New 11/01 via Golden Spike News 2/02 via Rock Chips 2/02*

Limb Casts: Limb casts are distinguished from petrified wood by the complete absence of any structural appearances – there are no cells or growth rings. It has been completely replaced by agate or chalcedony, generally retaining the form of the limb from the tree. *from Gem-N-I 10/92 via Bell Notes 6/98 via the Pseudomorph 12/01 via Rock Chips 2/02*

Weather Stone: There is a stone that can tell you the weather. It is called Lepidolite, a.k.a. the “weather stone”, and can tell us whether the weather will be rainy or fair. It is one of the Lithia minerals and is usually a pale gray-blue color, at least on fair days. If this Lepidolite specimen is beside an open window, it will turn a pink-like shade, if a rainy period threatens. Then when the air clears, it will change back to gray-blue again. *from Rock Rollers 3/97 via Rock Chip Report 10/00 via Golden Spike News 2/02 via Rock Chips 2/02*

Reaming Beads: When reaming a bead to enlarge the hole, place the bead in the small hole of a wood spring clothes pin. The wood does not mark the bead and holds it securely, permitting you to frequently dip the bead in a basin of room-temperature water to lubricate and prevent overheating. This method keeps one hand dry for handling the power tool. We use old dental diamond burrs for the drills. *from Chet & Margery Carlton of MMSLD via the Rockpile 6/94 via Bell Note 6/98 via the Pseudomorph 12/01 via Rock Chips 2/02*

Sixth sick sheik’s sixth sheep’s sick: is said to be the toughest tongue twister in the English language. *by Diane Horneber from Hidden Treasures 3/02*

Hints from Hidden Treasures:

Cut through a brick or old grinding wheel to open up diamonds in saws.

Put small stones in Plaster of Paris to hold for cutting.

Bevel edges of saw cuts before flat lapping.

Remove dopped stones by cooling in the refrigerator (don’t freeze, this propagates cracks). *from Hidden Treasures 3/02*

Hint: To find a star in a sapphire, apply some epoxy without the hardener. It will show the rays better than oil. *from Glacial Drifter via Drifter Rock 6/91 via Bell Notes 6/98 via the Pseudomorph via Rock Chips 2/02*



Award Winner

River Falls resident [and St. Croix Rockhound] **Pete Rodewald** was recently named “Photographer of the Year” for 2001 by the Western Wisconsin Photographic Club. Rodewald was awarded a plaque in honor of his accomplishments at the club’s Christmas party. The Western Wisconsin Photographic club meets the first and third Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Phipps Center for the Arts in Hudson. Persons interested in attending or wanting more information can call Susanne at 386-9333 or Greg at 715-246-6106.