

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

First Class

May, 2002

NOTE: Meeting site has moved for May's meeting - see map inside!!!!!!

Please send exchange bulletins to:

Doug Olson, Editor
211 Interlachen Way
Stillwater, MN 55082

May 21st - Is this month's meeting date.
The program is: **More Agates** presented by Pete Rodewald



St. Croix Rockhound's

LEAVERITE NEWS

Vol. 27, Issue 5; May, 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	Helen & LeRoy Betlach	(715) 425-5948
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
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!

May 21st - The Saint Croix Rockhounds January meeting will be held at the Lily Lake Elementary school library starting at 7:15 pm. This is a change from our usual location. The program will be "More Agates" presented by Pete Rodewald.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

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

May 21st: St. Croix Rockhounds meeting

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

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

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

August 4-11: Keweenaw Week in Houghton, MI. For info contact Steve Whelan 906-337-2599 or see www.ccrmc.info

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

September 17th: St. Croix Rockhounds meeting – SILENT AUCTION!

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

**Minutes of the Saint Croix
RockHounds
April 16th, 2002**

The meeting was called to order at 7:25 by President, Vic Martinson. The minutes were approved as printed in the newsletter. The Treasurer's report was read and approved.

Committee reports:

Sunshine -none

Library -Helen and LeRoy Betlach will be the new librarians

Newsletter -Doug Olson not present

Refreshments -Freya will contact members to bring refreshments for May

Upcoming events:

A sign up sheet was passed for members to sign regarding the upcoming trip to Thunder Bay. The trip will tentatively take place on the weekend of June 1.

A Rock Swap will be held on May 18 &19 at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds in Fairfield, Iowa. The contact person is Dennis Kossow(641) 472-5874 or billrath@kdsi.net.

Door prize winners were Earl, Pete, Jeanne, Shari, Helen, and Freya.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35. We enjoyed an excellent program called "The Color of Nature, the Nature of Color" by Pete Rodewald.

Respectfully Submitted,
Siusan Dustin
Secretary

**Refreshments at May meeting are
to be served by
Avis Klinkhammer and Robert
Carlson**

Celebrate!

May's birthstone –Emerald.

Emerald was once believed to prevent epilepsy, stop bleeding, cure dysentery and fever, and protect the wearer from panic.

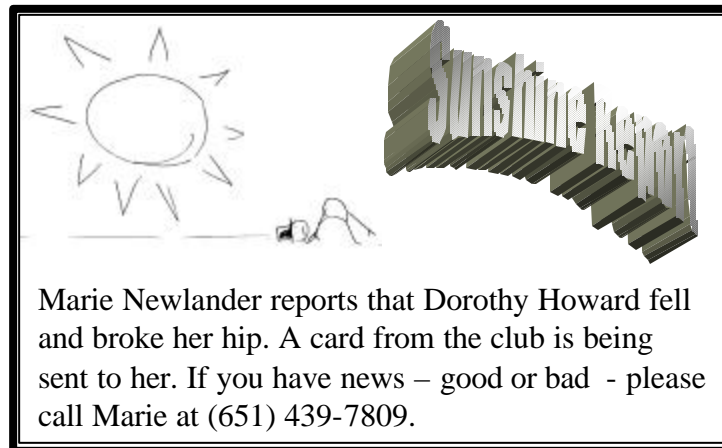
Emeralds were dedicated to the goddess Venus by the Romans because it symbolized the reproductive forces of nature. Early Christians saw it as a symbol of the resurrection of Christ. Emeralds were believed to hold the power to foretell the future in the middle ages.

May's Birthdays :

Jeanne Blom – May 5th

May's Anniversaries:

Bill & Janet Cordua – May 6th



Marie Newlander reports that Dorothy Howard fell and broke her hip. A card from the club is being sent to her. If you have news – good or bad - please call Marie at (651) 439-7809.

Silent Auction - in September

Remember to keep an eye out for items for our silent auction at the September meeting. It's a good time to clean out the garage/basement/back yard shed!!

Summer Celebrations

June's birthstone – Pearls, Moonstone, and Alexandrite are the three traditional birthstones for June.

Pearls, according to Indian mythology, were dewdrops from heaven that fell into the sea. They were caught by shellfish under the first rays of the rising sun, during a period of full moon. In India, warriors encrusted their swords with pearls to symbolize the tears and sorrow that a sword brings.

Moonstones are believed to be named for the bluish white spots within them, that when held up to light, project a silvery play of color very much like the moon. When the stone is moved back and forth, the brilliant silvery rays appear to move about, like moonbeams playing over water.

Alexandrite is named after Prince Alexander of Russia. The stone was discovered in 1839 on the day of the prince's birthday, in an emerald mine in the Ural Mountains of Russia. Since it is relatively recently discovered there is little tradition or superstition built around the stone.

June's Birthdays:

Janet Cordua - 6th
Dave Klinkhammer – 18th Shari
Frankenburg – 26th

June's Anniversaries:

Elaine &
Victor Martinson – 24th
June &
Reuben Shalander – 7th

July's birthstone – Ruby.

In the old Eastern legends rubies were self-luminous and contained a spark of life -- "a deep drop of the heart's blood of Mother Earth". Hindu priests believed that the homes of the gods were lit by enormous emeralds and rubies. Greek legends told the story of a female stork, who repaid the kindness of Heraclea by bringing her a brilliant ruby -- a ruby so bright that it illuminated Heraclea's room at night. Ancient Hindus, Burmese and Ceylonese regarded sapphires as unripe rubies. In the Middle Ages, rubies were thought to bring good health, as well as guard against wicked thoughts, amorous desires and disputes. The ruby was thought to hold the power to warn its owner of coming misfortunes, illness or death, by turning darker.

July's Birthdays :

Dick Blom – July 15th
Bob Carlson – July 23rd

July's Anniversaries:

none

August's birthstone – Peridot and Sardonyx.

The peridot is regarded as the symbol of the sun. The Greeks thought it brought dignity upon its wearer. During the Middle Ages, peridot was strung on the hair of an ass and attached to the left arm to ward off evil spirits.

Sardonyx were worn as talismans to guard against evil and bring good fortune. During the Renaissance, sardonyx was thought to bring eloquence upon the wearer and was regarded with great value by public speakers. Sardonyx is a variety of chalcedony and has a banded appearance usually Sardonyx stones usually white and brownish-red. Sardonyx is a relatively common gemstone and as such was popular not only because it was attractive but was also widely available.

August's Birthdays :

June Shalander – 23rd
Brad Bonse – 25th

August's Anniversaries:

Jeanne & Dick Blom – 15th

This is the last regular Leaverite
Newsletter Until September!!!



Enjoy your Summer.

It's a Big Stone!!!

Weighing almost 6,000 carats, the "Dare Devil" really is a big faceted stone. When you hold it in the light and turn it ever so slightly, it flashes a brilliant variety of colors – salmon, lilac, yellow, red...

Cut by the Dare Devil Faceters, members of the Intermountain Faceters Guild, the stone has been donated to the Scholarship Foundation and we are offering you a chance to own it. It's a salmon colored cubic zirconia and it really is an impressive item. It's been valued at several thousand \$'s.

By purchasing a ticket, or several tickets, you might just be the lucky person to take the Dare Devil home with you. Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20. They may be obtained at one of the upcoming Regional Federation shows (Rocky Mountain, Easter, California or Northwest/AFMS) or by sending your check, payable to "AFMS Scholarship Foundation" to:

Jon Spunaugle
1000 SE 144th Ct
Vancouver, WA 98868-70333

Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your ticket order along with your name, address and phone number, so that the receipts may be returned to you. The drawing to determine the lucky winner will be held at the NFMS/AFMS Convention in Port Townsend this July. You need not be present to win.

The AFMS Scholarship Foundation needs our support now more than ever and this is one way in which you can show that support... and perhaps own a fantastic faceted gem. *from MWF Newsletter 5/02*

Diagenesis vs Metamorphism by Eric Fritsch

Most (if not all) sedimentary rocks have undergone some heat and or pressure. Sand on a beach will rarely become a consolidated sandstone if it remains at surface conditions. In order for a sand to become a sandstone it must typically be buried, and, at depth, the geothermal gradient (it gets hotter as you go deeper) heats the sand and the weight of the sediment above creates pressure. This process (in combination along with water, and sometimes ions) is enough to cement the grains of sand together. Typically a rock may be subjected to temperatures up to 200 degrees Centigrade and pressures up to 2 Kb and still be classified as sedimentary. These relatively low temperatures and pressure may change the rock slightly but typically do not recrystallize the rock. This is referred to as diagenesis.

Coal is a sedimentary rock that has undergone diagenesis change. Coal originates as plant material which becomes peat or peat-like. Heat and or pressure change the peat slowly into lignite coal, bituminous coal, and eventually anthracite coal. At high enough pressures and temperatures the coal will metamorphose (recrystallize) into graphite.

You can see the effect of diagenesis on the limestone at the Cathedral in Omaha. The floor is made of a common limestone, (sedimentary rock), that contain black lines that resemble a graph. These lines are called stylolites and are formed by pressure dissolving missing layers of limestone.

Most agates form as a result of diagenetic alteration in limestone. Slightly heated and basic (pH >7) silica-rich water flows thru limestone until it encounters a pore space where a chemical reaction lowers the pH, dissolving the limestone and precipitating silica in bands as an agate. Excessively hot water which changes, adds silica, and recrystallizes the limestone produces a skarn. Metamorphosing a limestone recrystallizes the calcite grains in the limestone to form new grains and a metamorphic rock called marble.

It may be difficult to determine if a rock is metamorphic or diagenetic. Geologists may differ in opinion as to whether a rock is a diagenetic shale or low shale.

Notes on a talk by Dr. Watkins at the February meeting of the Nebraska Mineral & Gem Club from Rear Trunk via The Trilobite 5/02

Stolen Gems *St Croix Rockhounds Leaverite News*

Cabochons: Ever wonder why a rounded and domed polished stone is called a cabochon? One rock book states that the word cabochon is derived from a French word meaning bald-headed. The more highly polished, the more beautiful. Is that why BALD IS BEAUTIFUL? *from Fr. Lewis Rock Club 3/02 via Golden Spike News 04/02 via Rock Chips 04/02*

Tumbling Hint: Since vibratory tumblers do not “tumble” it is important to realize that you cannot get the same effect from a vibratory tumbler that is traditionally associated with conventional rotary tumblers. You cannot get good shaping with a vibratory tumbler. If you start with an angular piece, you will end up with a polished but still very angular piece. *from Lapidary Digest via Stoney Statements via the Trilobite 05/02*

Diamonds from outer space: For a long time, astronomers have known that microscopic diamonds have been falling to Earth from interstellar space. They were assumed to only be formed when rare massive supernova stars explode. Recently, researchers from the University of Calgary have found evidence that diamonds may form around certain much more common, smaller stars that are surrounded by clouds of carbon-rich dust. Each star may have a cloud of carbon-rich dust that outweighs Earth tens of thousands of times. This would mean that diamonds are relatively common in our galaxy. Unfortunately, we’ll still have to dig for any we want to use. *from unknown source via the Rockorder 5/99 via Pebble Pusher 2/02 via Achates 4/02*

Hint: If you dopping wax begins to lose its “stick”, add a pea sized piece of bee’s wax and mix well. This will renew over-heated and contaminated wax. Every now and then heat dop wax to a thin liquid and mix well, since components tend to settle out. *from Golden Nugget via Rock Rustler News via Achates 7/94*

Knucklebones: This game comes from the island Mauritius in the Indian Ocean:

1. Each player needs ten stones. Each of the ten stones should be about the size of the end of your thumb and easy to pick up. It helps if they are somewhat flat on some surfaces.
2. Hold all ten stones in one hand, toss them, and catch as many as possible on the back of your tossing hand. The ones that you don’t catch should be left on the ground. The next play is made with the stones you were able to catch.
3. Toss the stones from the back of your hand into the air, and try to catch them all in the palm of your hand. If you drop any, you lose your turn. If you catch them all, lay those aside in a pile of your winnings.
4. Now repeat steps 2 and 3 using the stones that were dropped in the first step. The winner is the person who picks up all his or her stones in the fewest tosses. *from The Fractured Agate 3/02.*

Sylvania Fossil Park: The Fossil Park opened last year, and will be open on weekends starting on May 25th, 2002. The cost for people living outside the Sylvania, Ohio area will be \$3-\$7 depending on what day it is. This will be each carload – not per person. They will try to have from four to six piles of good material on hand at all times. If the budget allows they might get more added before the end of the season (Oct 15, 2002). This will be the good shale everyone has been sneaking in to get for the last several years. No more fear of police. *from MWF Newsletter 5/02*

Did you know: that the Lincoln Memorial in Washington DC is growing stalagmites and stalactites in its basement? This phenomenon is caused by water seeping through the marble and carrying minerals with it. Through the years the formations have grown several feet. When it was built, engineers sand 122 steel cylinders to bedrock about 50 feet underground. The base of the memorial is set high above ground on a rectangular platform, thus forming a cavernous space beneath the floor. *from the Rockhound 3/02 via Rock Pickings 4/02 via Chip & Lick 4/02 via Achates 5/02*