

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



April, 2005

First Class

Please send exchange bulletins to:

Doug Olson, Editor
211 Interlachen Way
Stillwater, MN 55082

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

***The program: METEORITES a
talk by Bill Mason***



St. Croix Rockhound's

LEAVERITE NEWS

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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	Brad Bonse	(651) 439-6832
Vice President	Vic Martinsen	(715) 247-3700
Secretary	Doug Olson	(651) 430-9035
Treasurer	Lin Rawlings	(651) 735-4691
Program Committee	Mark Rassmussen	(651) 275-0607
	Bill Cordua	(715) 425-9544
	Victor Martinson	(715) 247-3700
Show Committee	Bill Cordua	(715) 425-9544
Refreshments	Freya Kask	(651) 777-6371
Librarian	June Young	(651) 429-3887
Historian	John Parsons	(651) 257-2724
Sunshine Committee	Marie Newlander	(651) 439-7809
Tour Director		()
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 19th: St. Croix Rockhounds club meeting is to be held at Stonebridge Elementary School at 7:15 pm. The program will be on meteorites with local expert Bill Mason.

COMING ATTRACTIONS.

April 19th: St Croix Rockhounds show at the Valley Creek Mall in Woodbury, MN

April 16-17th: Anoka County Gem club show at the Har Mar Mall in Rosedale, MN

April 23-24th: Chippewa Valley G&M Show, at the Eau Claire 4H Expo Center at Hwy 93-I94 in WI. Call Roger Goss 715-723-0196 for info

April 23rd: Mine Safety Training – all day training open to member of the Midwest Federation. Cost is \$25, for more info contact Barbara Flores 815-248-2025 or bafheartland@yahoo.com

April 30th: Cuyuna Rock & Mineral Club Show at the Westside Church in Aitkin, MN. For info call Keith at 218-226-4847

May 13-15th: Wisconsin Geological Society Show, for info contact Paul Schmidt 414-771-8668 or pvs@wi.rr.com

June 3-5th: G.A. St. Paul, MN – International Gem & Jewelry Show at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds, call 301-294-0034 or www.intergem.net for info.

June 10-12th: California Federation Show in Roseville, California

June: Rocky Mountain Federation show in Colorado Springs, CO

July 16-17th: Agate Days in Moose Lake

July 9-10th: Anoka County Gem club show at the Har Mar Mall in Rosedale, MN

Minutes of the Saint Croix RockHounds March 15th, 2004

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 by President, Victor Martinsen.

There were 19 members present.

The Secretary's minutes for February 15th meeting were approved as they were written in the Leaverite News.

The Treasurer's report was approved as given by Elaine Martinsen.

Program chairman Peter Rodewald has nothing to report.

Show chairman Bill Cordua needs a couple more tables/displays for our upcoming show. Setup will be 6:30 pm Friday (March 18) and will take about 1 hour – volunteers wanted, meet at the Keys Restaurant.

Refreshments tonight are provided by Elaine Martinsen and Lin Rawlings.

NEW Club Officers

Brad Bonse – President

Vic Martinsen – Vice President

Lin Rawlings – Treasurer

Doug Olson - Secretary

Mark Rasmussen volunteered to head up Programs and **June Young** volunteered to take over as Librarian. **Bill Cordua** will continue as Show Chairman and help with Programs. **Freya Kask** will continue as Refreshments committee and **Doug Olson** will continue as newsletter editor.

The slate of officers was **approved unanimously**.

New Business

June Young has listed all library materials in an Excel file for distribution. Call or e-mail her if you wish a copy: 651-429-3887; jayhawkmn@yahoo.com.

The Saint Croix Rockhounds website is www.leaverite.com. June Young has suggested some member may wish to receive their newsletter by e-mail. Mark Rasmussen would like to see the newsletters archived on the website and has volunteered to upgrade our site.

Dick and Jeanne Blom were nominated for Lifetime membership. They have been members since ~1979. Motion was seconded and approved. Their new address is 2275 Woodlane, Woodbury, MN.

Brad Bonse raised the possibility of perhaps donating some money to the Stonebridge playground fund. Perhaps buy a brick for \$100. Issue was tabled to a future meeting for more info on publicity possibilities.

Flyers:

Costigan Minerals garage sale, 2190 8th Ave (near 61 and I494) on the second and third weekends in April.

Moose Lake Agate Days in July, 2005.

New rock shop in New Prague.

Meeting was adjourned at 8 pm.

Program was a slide show on on Tucson, Arizona created presented by Pete Rodewald.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Olson, Secretary

The Saint Croix Rockhounds wish to welcome visitor and new member Joe Moore from Mahtomedi, MN.

If you have news – good or bad - please call Marie at (651) 439-7809.



Celebrate!

April's birthstone – Diamond: The Diamond, stone of April, is known as the "fire of love." Diamonds bring love and protect from evil. They are also thought of as the frozen tears of past princesses.

April Birthdays:

Earl Kask 5th
Bill Cordua 21st
Reuben Shalander 21st
Cassandra Olson 22nd

April Anniversaries:

Rodney Harvey 22nd
Freya and Earl Kask 28th

2005 Club Show Report

The St. Croix Rockhounds held their annual show on March 19, 2005 in the Valley Creek Mall in Woodbury, Minnesota. This was our fifth time in this location and coincided with the Easter Bunny's visit. A sloppy spring blizzard made getting to the Mall Friday evening for set-up a little tricky, but the show day was clear and families came out for rocks and Easter candy.

LeRoy and Helen Betlach had two tables dominated by fossils. These included trilobites, brachiopods, fish, and coral. They had turrifera gastropods to give to the kids. They also brought some photo albums to reminisce about their many mineral and fossil collecting journeys.

Bill Cordua showed various "big rocks" from the University of Wisconsin – River Falls collection. His giveaways of muscovite mica were also very popular. Bill was also busy identifying specimens brought in by show visitors.

The club table featured coloring and project materials for kids of all ages and flyers from the Minnesota Geological Survey. Lyn Rawlings brought a box of sawn rocks for giveaways for the club table that proved of great interest to the adults as well as the kids.

Sandy Fuller and Martha Missy of the Minnesota Mineral Club came over to show with us. They brought specially built display cases of fluorescent and phosphorescent minerals, and were very busy demonstrating these properties on their own samples and on what ever rocks folks brought in.

Dave and Avis Klinkhammer had a display centered on examples of polished gem materials. They had an excellent display of bolo ties, a lamp whose base was filled with tumbled lake Superior agates, and decorative colors of polished gems in oil.

Vic Martinsen had a large lighted display of fine mineral specimens from world-wide localities. Highlights were Michigan pieces, including silver from the Flintsteel Mine, rhodochrosite from Ironton and copper crystals from the Central Mine. Vic also showed fine Condor, Queensland and Laguna agates and had an impressive assortment of copper artifacts.

Mark Rasmussen, assisted by Brad Bonse, fielded a display of great fossil specimens, including a cave bear skull, a mammoth tusk and large ammonites. Mark also displayed fossil teeth and talons, including the world's largest known megalodon tooth.

Pete Rodewald had three large display cases. One featured slabbed and back-lit Spanish Point agate. The other two focused on geodes from world-wide localities, emphasizing the variety of forms and minerals these geologic features can have.

Reuben and June Shalander brought many excellent agates from the Lake Superior region and elsewhere. They also showed a fascinating collection of flint tools and arrow heads.

We look forward to next year's display at Valley Creek Mall. Thanks to all those who helped by displaying and in the set-up and take-down!

Bill Cordua, Show chairman.

Seeing is Believing

Geologist Sir James Hall picked up his gun. He was determined to prove a point. His good friend, James Hutton, believed that heat and pressure could change chalky rocks like limestone and dolomite into marble. Other scientists laughed at this, but Sir James agreed with his friend. To prove it, he poured powdered chalk down the gun barrel, sealed the end, and roasted the weapon. Once it cooled he tipped out a stony mass that looked like marble. Hutton was right! Not everyone was convinced. But Sir James went on to conduct 500 similar experiments between 1798 and 1805. Today everyone agrees with him and Hutton. *from Gem Cutters News via The Gemrock & others via the Trilobite 2/01.*

Saint Croix Rockhounds Membership List

ARE YOU READY FOR TROUBLE?

By Mel Albright, AFMS Safety Chair *from AFMS Newsletter*

Most of us cruise through life expecting no major health problems and getting none. But, fate has a way of surprising us. Accidents happen, strokes come, heart attacks come, sudden changes happen, snakes bite. And then we go or are taken to an emergency room to get help. When you get there, are you ready? Ready? How? Well, there are some things you should carry at all times. Otherwise, the emergency treatment may hurt you rather than help. What should you carry?

1. A list of all the medicines you take. This should include everything. Your regular prescriptions, of course are part. List the medicine, it's strength, and the frequency you take it. Over the counter stuff should be listed, too. What vitamins do you take? What herbals? Anything you take regularly should be listed - name, strength and frequency. Then there is the occasional stuff. Over the counter pain killers, cold medicines, cough medicines, allergy pills, etc. should all be listed.
2. A short health summary. List whatever problem you might have. Sinus, heart, diabetes, allergies, asthma - whatever. Remember, you may not be in shape to tell the doctors.
3. A list of who to contact if you are taken ill or hurt. Some hospitals either cannot or are reluctant to treat you without your family being aware of what's going on. Names, addresses, phone numbers, and relationships should be listed.
4. Your identification. Frequently, joggers and the like go out without identification. When they are stricken, no one knows who they are or who to tell.
5. And, of course, your health insurance information. Surprise health problems are a shock to all of us. We all like to pretend they won't happen to us. But they might! Don't make them worse by not being prepared. And don't bet that you can remember all of the above information while worrying about your health.

Stolen Gems *St Croix Rockhounds Leaverite News*

Make a note: Epoxy resin, when it is burned, gives off a gas that causes instant pneumonia. Araldite and other instant glues adhering to metals being welded or soldered will give off this gas. Make sure all metal is clean and your bench does not have any glue adhering to it. You will become unconscious and if no one is there to assist, you are in trouble. *from Gem Cutter News 9/03 via MWF newsletter 1/05 via Achatas 4/05*

Lapidary Polishing Compounds: For economy, dedicate a buff, or lap pan to a particular polish and simply recharge with fresh polish as required to maintain effectiveness.

Cerium Oxide – the best gemstone polishing compound for most uses. Best with opal, agate, quartz, and obsidian Not as effective with soft material or stones that tend to undercut.

Micron Alumina – a 5 micron polishing powder developed for computer disks. It is the best polish for seashells, pretty good for soft stones and excellent as a pre-polish in vibratory tumblers and laps – not rotary tumblers.

Aluminum Oxide, MAP – preferred by many to Linde A, this is a slightly faster and more economical rare earth polish that we call Miracle Atomic Polish.

Zirconium Oxide – a rare earth polish that is especially good for tumblers and laps. The most economical effective polishing media. White and will not discolor gemstones.

Tin Oxide – a long time favorite, use on leather for polishing turquoise and all soft stones..

Linde “A” – a tremendous favorite with gem cutters whether faceting or polishing cabs. Relatively expensive, you should consider polishing the stone then giving it a quick hit with Linde “A” to attain a super polish. Available as a powder to mix with water or an emulsified cream with the consistency of hand lotion that does not separate in solution.

Oxalic Acid – used for polishing carbonate type onyx when mixed with another polish such as Tin Oxide. In a strong solution with water, it is used to clean iron stains from specimens, e.g. quartz. Mix with hot tap water by stirring in oxalic crystals until the water is saturated and will not dissolve any more. Crystals forming along the sides of the container indicate a saturated solution and should they disappear, you need to add more. **WARNING:** while this is a relatively mild acid all precautions must be taken to keep it out of the eye, mouth, etc. *from Grindings 12/04 via Golden Spike News 4/01 via Emerald Gems 4/05*

Hint: Silver and rubber do not get along very well. Never put a rubber band around sterling silver or you will end up with a permanent stain. *from the Cowtown Cutter via Stoney Statements via the Trilobite 10/02.*

Dents In Hollow Bracelets: can be removed by soldering a piece of wire into the dent and pulling outwards. When satisfied that the solder and wire are holding well, pull out with pliers or place in vise. Do not overdo the pulling. When finished pulling, cut off the wire and file carefully. Use graving tool if motif is to be refurbished. *from Al Bodman of Laphound News 11/91, via Crystal Ball via Stoney Statements*

When weighting material material for finishing on the vibrating lap, use a little Dow Silicone Bathtub caulk on the stone. The weight sticks quickly and holds throughout the process. *from Achatas via Smoke signals via Agate Explorer 7/04*