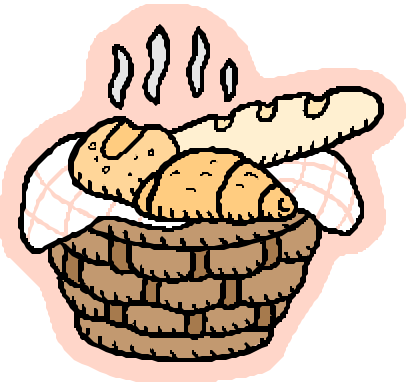
St. Croix Rockhounds
Doug Olson, Editor
211 Interlachen Way
Stillwater, MN 55082



November, 2005

First Class

Please send exchange bulletins to:

Doug Olson, Editor
211 Interlachen Way
Stillwater, MN 55082

November 15th - Is this month's meeting date.

The program: To be determined

St. Croix Rockhound's

LEAVERITE NEWS

Vol. 30, Issue 9; November, 2005

Member of: AFMS & MFW MID WEST FEDERATION

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 Rasmussen	(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 MN	(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!

November 15th : St. Croix Rockhounds club meeting is to be held at Stonebridge Elementary School, starting at 7:15 pm. The program was yet to be determined at the time of printing this newsletter.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

November 12-14th: Southeast Federation convention and show in Melbourne, FL hosted by the Canaveral Mineral & Gem Society

November 15th: St. Croix Rockhounds club meeting at Stonebridge Elementary School

December 2-4th: South Central Federation convention and show in Austin, TX hosted by the Austin Gem & Mineral Society

December 7th: St. Croix Rockhounds club meeting will be the annual X-mas party at the Old Country Buffet near the Maplewood Mall.

December 10-11th: Anoka County Gem & Mineral Club Faribo West Mall show in Faribault, MN

2006

May 12-14th: Midwest Federation convention and show in Detroit, MI hosted by the Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society

June 9-10th: California Federation convention and show in Angels Camp, CA hosted by the Calaveras Gem & Mineral Society

June 9-11th: Rocky Mountain Federation convention and show in Stillwater, OK hosted by the Stillwater Mineral & Gem Society

Minutes of the Saint Croix RockHounds
October 18th, 2005

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 by President, Brad Bonse. There were 17 members present .

Minutes for the September 20th meeting were approved as they were written in the Leaverite News.

The Treasurer's report was approved as given by Lin Rawlings. He reported that the club earned $272 from the silent auction. Dues are now due: $7.50 for an individual and $10.50 for a family.

Programs – Mark Rasmussen reported that tonight's program is "Show and Tell". Future programs might include a talk on the future of oil – and prospecting, a talk by Scott Walter on Lake Superior Agate and a lecture on Wisconsin meteorite impacts by Dr. Bill Cordua. Mark is also seeking potential interest in a 2 hour special event on "Artifacts – new and old" by the Modern Lithic Guild and a knapping demo.

Pete Rodewald is going to Munich Germany for an agate show and might have info and pictures for a future program.

Refreshments for November will be provided by Susan Dustin and Lin Rawlings.

X-mas party and meeting will be held at the Old Country Buffet in Maplewood on December 7th (the first Wednesday in December).

Tour Director - there is no tour director for the club. Bill Bonse is stumping for trip ideas and will bring a board for people to put ideas. Potential is Montana agate near Glendive (Pete has slides of previous trips). Mark mentioned that there are hidden eskers on geologic maps in Wisconsin that have potential for agate that probably have not been searched.

Pete

New Business:

Pete Rodewald brought up that the Minnesota Minneral Club is hosting a worldwide agate display. The host wants all Minnesota clubs to participate. It will be a 2 day event held in June or July of 2007.

It was suggested that the club library be parcelled out to various libraries with club info as means of outreach to new members. The idea was tabled.

Sunshine Committee: Marie Newlander was not present. No one had any current news on Bob Carlson. Freya suggested we encourage Dick Blom to come to the x-mas party.

Door prizes were won by Susan Dustin, LeRoy Betlach, Bill Dustin, Lin Rawlings and Freya Kask.

Adjournment at 7:50 pm

Program: Show and Tell

Respectfully submitted by,
Secretary, Doug Olson

There is no news.
If you have news
- good or bad
- please call Marie
at (651) 439-7809.

If paying dues by mail, send to treasurer:
Lin Rawlings
850 Woodduck Rd
Woodbury, MN 55125

November's birthstone is Topaz.

The Topaz symbolizes good fortune and longevity. According to legend, this golden stone possesses the power to cure many diseases.

No one has admitted to me that they have a November birthday or anniversary – ed.

Questions & Answers (from MWF Newsletter)

Is That Cow-sid-nee or Cow-son-nee?

Question: Tom Hay asked this question on the rockhounds mailing list on the Internet "... Why don't the mineral guides give the phonetics of mineral names? There are several names that I hear a different pronunciation every time I hear someone pronounce it. Is there a guide or dictionary out there which gives the proper pronunciation of mineral names? Anyone else have the same problem or am I just different, like my wife says??????"

Answer # 1: The Glossary of Geology, third edition (1987), published by the American Geological Institute, lists most mineral names and their pronunciation. This book is available in almost all libraries with a significant collection of geology books. It has also recently been re-released on CD-ROM. Larry Bowlds

Answer # 2: A Pronouncing Guide to Selected Minerals, Rocks and Gems was published privately by the authors) by Raymond L. Forbes and Nancy H. Russell in 1978. Just for fun.... they list: Chalcedony.... kal-SAID-uh-nee John Jaszczak

Answer # 3: The Worldbook Dictionary says…. kal-SAID-uh-nee AND KAL-say-doe and goes on to say that it is derived from Latin *chalcedonius* and the Greek *chalkedon* which means "an unidentified stone".

Just for fun: Answer #4: Blasphemy! Part of any good 'cult' is the development of an arcane, insider language indecipherable to outsiders. Once you have fully mastered the pronunciation of obscure minerals, you are then eligible for indoctrination into the club and taught the secret handshake.

Many of us in the Eternal Order of Cool Rocks would prefer that all formal rock names have many more syllables than the lowly zincite. Those fossil guys have it good -- Tyrannosaurus Rex just has a nice roll to it. We get stuck with one syllable elements (tin, zinc, etc.) and two-syllable clinkers like halite, zincite, flourite...

Something has to be done. Perhaps we can roll in locality information into the formal name? The discoverer's name? Both? Add in the impurities list? Then you can have magnetitiferous hematitous oregonensis jonesii. A hematite with magnetite found by Jones in Oregon.

HAZARDS FROM ORGANIC SOLVENTS

By **Peter R. Girardot**

A new study has found that women exposed to certain solvents during the first third of their pregnancy are thirteen times more likely to have a baby with significant defects. They were also more likely to have miscarriages or have premature babies or have babies with low birth weight and fetal distress.

Some of the solvents of concern are hydrocarbons, phenols, trichloroethylene, xylene, vinyl chloride and acetone. Of these, acetone and alcohol in particular are likely to be found in rock shops.

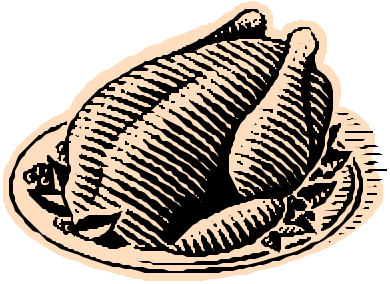
A group of women who were not exposed were also studied as a control. These had an unusually low number of birth defects in their children. The main researcher of the study feels that more study will be necessary to absolutely confirm the findings.

Some of the occupations in which the women were working included graphic arts, painters and even a social worker. For those of us in jewelry, lapidary and related arts, solvents are usually common and are occasionally used without knowledge of their toxic nature.

So that such solvents can continue to be used without hazard in the lapidary arts, proper venting is best. Failing that, a charcoal filter mask would be wise.

Reference: Journal of the American Medical Society, 281, 1106 (1999)

AFMS SAFETY ARTICLE - APRIL, 1999



Hunting the source of Georgia tektites

Tektites are small masses of silica rich glass, generally a few inches across. They have disk, spindle or dumbbell forms suggesting they were shaped by being blasted through the air. They generally have a pleasant bottle green color and are made into jewelry, and are thus popular with rockhounds. They occur widely scattered in loose sediments in various strewn fields. The ones from Czechoslovakia, called "moldavites", are particularly well-known and were the first tektites described in 1788. Other famous strewn fields are in Australia ("australites") and southeastern Asia ("indochinites"). In the U.S., a strewn field is centered in Georgia.

Tektites form at the sites of large terrestrial asteroid impacts. These powerful events flash melt the earth rocks at "ground zero", throwing small globules of liquid rock out of the crater with supersonic force. These globs cool and are shaped as they speed through the air. They can be scattered in this way hundreds of miles from the impact crater that produced them. In many cases the crater from which the tektites came can be identified. The European moldavites, for example, originated at the Nordslinger Ries Crater in western Germany.

Over the years, over 1,800 tektites have been found scattered over a 7,000 square kilometer area west of Augusta, Georgia. These "georgiaites" have usually turned up in farm fields and gravel roads where recent sediments are used as road materials. Even though they are in modern sediments, their radiometric ages are about 36 million years. Thus they were part of an older formation that have survived reworking into younger materials. This leaves two obvious questions for intrepid tektite hunters. First, what rock layer was eroding to release the tektites? Second where was the impact that formed them?

We'll take the second question first. In 1996, a major impact structure was found buried under the sediments of Chesapeake Bay. This crater is 90 kilometers in diameter and formed about 36 million years ago. This crater was discovered by geophysical methods, and subsequently drilled, with core samples recovered. It does not outcrop at the surface, but tsunami debris have been found in formations that are exposed. Not only is the impact the same age as the tektites, but it would have melted rocks of just the right chemical composition to make georgiaites. Recently, materials thrown from the crater were found in several clay mines in eastern Georgia. These are found in the Twiggs Clay member of the Dry Branch formation, dated at 36 million years old. This is a relatively soft, poorly exposed formation, so outcrops are scarce. Any tektites found within it would be more resistant to weathering than the surrounding clay. Tektites would accumulate on the ground surface and be worked into younger sediments, similar to what happens to agates.

Tektite hunters now have a target area for their search. Outcrops and mines where rocks of this age are exposed now or in the past should be good spots to look. Tektite finds in Cape Cod and the coastal plain region of Texas may also be from this impact. Perhaps in time there will as many georgiaites on the market as there are moldavites today.

-Dr. Bill Cordua, U. Wisconsin- River Falls

References:

Povenmire, H, 2002, "The distribution of Georgia tektites", Meteoritics and Planetary Sciences, vol. 37, p. A 119.

Harris, R. Scott, et. al., 2004, "Upper Eocene impact horizon in east-central Georgia" Geology, vol. 32 #8, p. 717-720.

Koberl, C. et. al., 1996, "Impact origin of the Chesapeake Bay structure and the source of North American Tektites", Science, vol. 271, p. 1263-1268.

Fossil Preparation

1. Don't over clean a specimen. An under prepared fossil is more scientifically valuable than one that much of surface has been removed.
2. Don't start a piece until its display orientation is determined.
3. Hammer away from the fossil, not towards it.
4. Nodules and concretions will usually split with ease if they are subjected to several freeze-thaw cycles. *from The Gemrock 11/04 via Rockwood Rockhound News 5/05*

Make a Note of This! Epoxy resin gives off a gas that causes instant pneumonia when it is burned. 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 could become unconscious and if no one is there to assist, you would be in trouble. *from: MWF NEWSLETTER 1/05*

Cleaning Minerals:

Fluorite can be cleaned with muriatic acid.

Barite can be cleaned in hydrochloric acid. It will loosen clay and iron.

For **water soluble** minerals, use alcohol.

For **carbonate** minerals try full strength Clorox.

Sulfide minerals such as **pyrite** and **marcasite** can be made bright by soaking over night in a solution of oxalic acid (2 oz to one qt. of water)

The red and brown stains so often associated with **quartz** can usually be removed by a concentrated solution of oxalic acid.

For black stains made by manganese, try diluted hydrochloric acid. *Caution: Always remember the formula :always add acid. meaning to always add acid to water, never the reverse, to keep down any possibility of accidents*

To clean **desert roses**, immerse in a solution of Axion for at least 12 hours. Brush lightly and rinse in clear water. *from Rockwood Rockhound News 04/04*

A Paleolithic Rockhound -Rock hounding is nothing new! In a cave in central France, a Neanderthal's collection was found. It consisted of a piece of fool's gold (pyrite), fossil shells and coral. All objects were collected miles from the cave. They showed no signs of being worn; instead they apparently were placed in the corner for the owner to admire 50,000 years ago. *from Chip & Lick, The Chiseler, the Tumbler, Rocky Reader and Fort Hamilton Gems via Rockwood Rockhound News 03/04*

"Rockhound" - According to the American Geological Institute Glossary of Geological Terms, "rockhound" is a term first used by oil drillers for geologists,who often smell rock samples taken from well cuttings for the odor of oil. They used to say, "He hunts for oil like a hound dog," which evolved into rockhound. *from Pick & Pack via Rockwood Rockhound News 03/04*

Early Field Trips by Bill White - According to some old magazines, both the Union Pacific and Northern Pacific railroads ran collecting excursions from the east and allowed the ticket holders to collect rocks, fossils and what have you. This was done along the railroad right of way. These trips were popular from about 1890 thru 1910, I think some of these people were my ancestors. *from Rockwood Rockhound News 02/04*

Channel jewelry hint - try using aluminum epoxy as the stone cement for your channel inlay work. It will polish to the same color as the silver bezels, plus there will be no sign of "gaposis" in your work. *via Rock Talk, and The Rockpile 4/96 via Stoney Statements*