

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



October, 2005

**First Class**

Please send exchange bulletins to:

Doug Olson, Editor  
211 Interlachen Way  
Stillwater, MN 55082

**October 18<sup>th</sup>** - Is this month's meeting date.

***The program: Show and Tell and  
Bonfire***



St. Croix Rockhound's

**LEAVERITE NEWS**

Vol. 30, Issue 8; October, 2005

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 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!

**October 18<sup>th</sup>** : St. Croix Rockhounds club meeting is to be held at Brad Bonse's house. The program will be *Show and Tell* with bonfire and potluck. Potluck at 6 pm and the meeting starts at 7 pm.

## COMING ATTRACTIONS

**October 15-16<sup>th</sup>**: Minnesota Mineral Club show at National Guard Training and Community Center, 8180 Belden Blvd, Cottage Grove, MN. For info call 612-729-8331 or e-mail: rockbiz@cs.com

**October 18<sup>th</sup>**: St. Croix Rockhounds club meeting at Brad Bonse's house.

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

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

**The October Meeting will be a bonfire at Brad Bonse's House.**

**Potluck at 6pm, meeting at 7pm**

**See the map on page 5.**

**Brad will provide a fire, coffee, cider and has some chairs and tables. Bring your favorite chair and roasting supplies and some food to share. Freya will also provide drinks.**

**There will be a table set up so that you can show off your finds from the past year.**

# Minutes of the Saint Croix RockHounds

## September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2005

**The meeting** was called to order at 7:25 by President, Brad Bonse. There were 23 members present along with new member Dave Rusterholtz and guests Angela, Tiffany, Monica, Samantha and Ryan from River Falls and Marty from Spoon Rapids.

**Minutes** for the May 17<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved as they were written in the Leaverite News, although the wrong date was on the heading.

**The Treasurer's report** was approved as given by Lin Rawlings.

**Gregory Logjan** joined the club before the meeting and Cathy Saunders, our new member from the last meeting attended.

**Programs** – **Mark Rasmussen** reports possible presentations: "Future trends in oil exploration" and Scott Walters on lakers. October program is yet to be decided. Mark also noted a new textbook from the Geological survey on Minnesota fossils (\$30) by paleontologist Doc Sloan.

**Refreshments** tonight are provided by Eloise Kimball and Helen Betlach.

**Trips** – **Vic Martinsen** will look into a possible trip to Upper Peninsula, Michigan.

**LeRoy Betlach** received thanks from the club for the field trip to the quarry north of River Falls. LeRoy noted that the site may no longer be available as they are "gonna run out of quarry" and there are plans to build a road through it.

**Newsletter Editor:** Doug Olson has flyers and will submit bill for stamps for April 2005-Sept 2005.

**Historian:** Anyone want the job?

**Show Chairman:** Bill Cordua has club cards to give out. The club show is tentatively scheduled for April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2006 which is the Saturday before Palm Sunday.

**Sunshine Committee:** Phyllis White is receiving treatment at the Mayo Clinic, 5 days a week for 5 weeks.

**New Business:** Brad Bonse volunteered his house for the October meeting. Motion was approved to hold the meeting there (map on the next page). Brad will build a bonfire, potluck will start at 6pm, meeting at 7pm. Brad will provide coffee and Freya will bring other drinks. Brad suggests you bring your favorite chairs and roasting supplies.

**Old Business:** Brad thanked the Dustins for hosting the club picnic.

**Chris** brought in Rock & Gem Magazines for any takers.

No door prizes and the **meeting was adjourned** at 7:45 pm.

**Program:** Silent Auction

**Respectfully submitted by,**  
Secretary, Doug Olson

**Be prepared for SHOW  
and TELL at the  
October meeting**



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*

**Remember the October meeting  
will be at Brad Bonse's House and  
NOT at Stonebridge Elementary  
School!!!**



## Web Sites for Rocky Info from MWF News 10/05

Tracy Motter, the new Field Trip Chairperson for the Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society in Springfield, Illinois, began a Web search for ideas for possible field trip sites for the club. Below is an initial list of sites she found helpful. These sites offer beginning ideas. Further exploration and contacts need to be made.

Stone Quarries and Beyond  
[www.cagenweb.com/quarries](http://www.cagenweb.com/quarries)

Rockhounding in Arkansas  
[www.rockhoundingar.com](http://www.rockhoundingar.com)

Mineral Collecting  
[www.mineralcollecting.org](http://www.mineralcollecting.org)

Arkansas Tech University  
[www.atu.edu](http://www.atu.edu)

Illinois State Geological Survey  
[www.isqs.uiuc.edu](http://www.isqs.uiuc.edu)

Bob's Rock Shop  
[www.rockhounds.com](http://www.rockhounds.com)

The Mineral Industry of Indiana  
[igs.indiana.edu/geology](http://igs.indiana.edu/geology)

Fossils in Ohio  
[www.colossal-fossil-site.com](http://www.colossal-fossil-site.com)

Rocks, Gems, Minerals and More  
[www.mcrocks.com](http://www.mcrocks.com)

Kentucky State Minerals  
Information  
[minerals.usgs.gov/minerals](http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals)

Upper Peninsula of Michigan  
[www.exploringthenorth.com](http://www.exploringthenorth.com)

Missouri Minerals  
[www.dnr.state.mo.us/geology](http://www.dnr.state.mo.us/geology)

Rock Collecting Sites  
[www.42explore.com/rocks2.htm](http://www.42explore.com/rocks2.htm)

Ohio Department of Natural  
Resources  
[www.dnr.state.oh.us](http://www.dnr.state.oh.us)

Rockman Joe  
[www.rockmanjoe.com](http://www.rockmanjoe.com) - locality  
information in Ohio

Clement Mineral Museum  
[www.clementmineralmuseum.org](http://www.clementmineralmuseum.org) -  
Educational Coordinator: Rose Ann  
Brasher 877-965-4262

Mineralogy of Wisconsin  
[minerals.usgs.gov/minerals](http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals)

Hoosier National Forest  
[www.fs.fed/r9/hoosier/docs/collecting](http://www.fs.fed/r9/hoosier/docs/collecting)

Show Dates  
[www.rockngem.com/showdates](http://www.rockngem.com/showdates)

Mineralogical Data  
[www.mindat.org](http://www.mindat.org)

*If anyone has ideas for trips please bring it up at club meetings.*

**Don't forget the Saint Croix Rockhound Website at [www.leaverite.com](http://www.leaverite.com). The site has meeting dates, maps and an archive of Leaverite Newsletters.**

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## The Top 35 "Oxymorons" from an anonymous contributor in the AFMS Newsletter 06/05

35. State Worker

34. Legally drunk

33. Exact estimate

32. Act naturally

31. Found missing

30. Resident alien

29. Genuine imitation

28. Airline food

27. Good grief

26. Government organization

25. Sanitary landfill

24. Alone together

23. Small Crowd

22. Business ethics

21. Soft rock

20. Amtrak schedule

19. Military intelligence

18. Sweet sorrow

17. Compassionate conservative

16. "Now, then..."

15. Passive aggression

14. Clearly misunderstood

13. Peace force

12. Extinct life

11. Plastic glasses

And the top ten

10. Terribly pleased

9. Computer security

8. Political science

7. Tight slacks

6. Definite maybe

5. Pretty ugly

4. Rap music

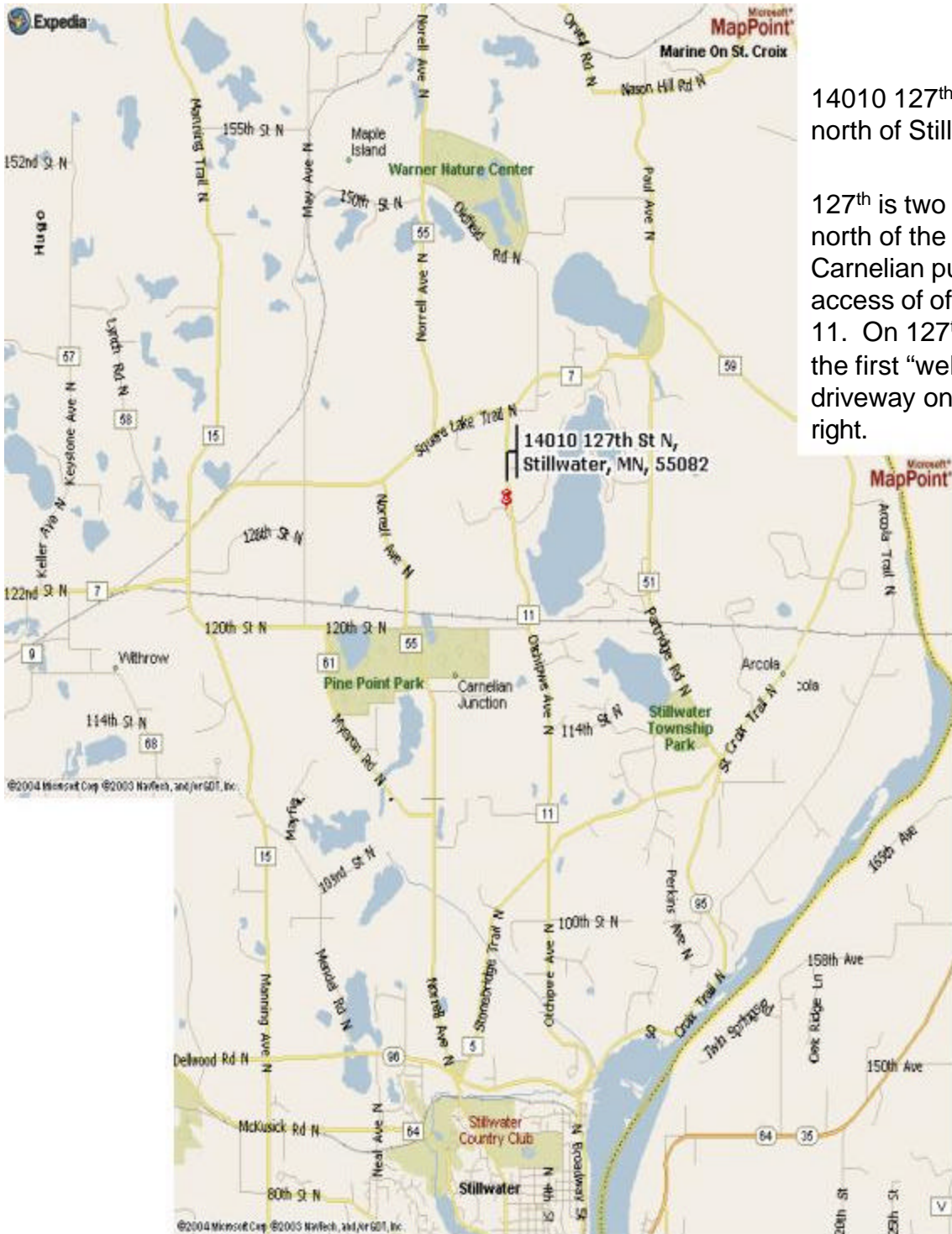
3. Working vacation

2. Religious tolerance

And the number 1 oxymoron

1. Microsoft Works

# Map to the October Meeting Site, Bonfire and Potluck (Potluck at 6pm, meeting at 7pm) Brad's phone number is: 651-439-6832



14010 127<sup>th</sup> St N,  
north of Stillwater.

127<sup>th</sup> is two blocks  
north of the Lake  
Carnelian public  
access of county  
11. On 127<sup>th</sup> take  
the first "well-used"  
driveway on the  
right.

# Petrified Wood

It was generally believed that it takes millions of years for wood to petrify. It has been taught in classrooms and everywhere else. Some people say that it takes so long to petrify wood the earth must be old, not the Biblical doctrine of the young earth.

So imagine the surprised looks when they hear that wood can petrify quickly. The informed geologists would not say that it takes an excessively long time.

There are two processes which petrify wood and both of them involve burial in volcanic ash. The ash decomposes in water which enriches the ground water with silica.

In one type of petrification, the wood decays in a silica rich environment. Each molecule of wood is replaced by a molecule of silica. When the replacement is complete the beautiful colors are the result of mineral impurities in the silica. Sometimes there is no organic material remaining but at times the light and dark regions of the tree's growth rings decay at different rates resulting in hints of growth rings. This type is found in the Petrified Forest of Arizona.

The other type of petrification takes place when the silica rich water, calcite, or a combination of silica and calcite infiltrates the porous wood plugging up the pores preventing complete decay. This process allows individual cells to be preserved very well, and at times the tree ring pattern is easy to see.

Now it is well known that wood can petrify rapidly. This has been duplicated in laboratories and in examples of some tools with wooden handles from the last century that have petrified.

It is also possible to petrify wood in natural settings. Researchers in a field experiment dangled a piece of wood inside an alkaline spring in Yellowstone Park wanting to see what effect the hot silica rich environment would have on it. Some petrification occurred in the first year.

One company is making real hardwood floors by petrifying wood commercially. So it just takes the right conditions to petrify. By Georgeann Kirkpatrick from the *Pseudomorph via the Tumble Rumble 1/05 via Emerald Gems 3/05*.

# INSECT BITES By Chuck McKie CFMS

**Safety Chairman, 2002, City of Phoenix Source 1996-97**  
**Last modified 06/20/2000 00:10:24 from CFMS Newsletter 9/02**

Insect bites and stings are common, and most are considered minor. It is only when the insect is poisonous or when the patient has an allergic reaction and runs the risk of developing anaphylactic shock that the situation becomes an emergency. Even under those conditions, accurate diagnosis and prompt treatment can save lives and prevent permanent tissue damage.

The normal reaction to an insect sting is a sharp, stinging pain followed by an itchy, swollen, painful raised area. The swelling may be there for several days but usually goes away within 24 hours. Local reactions are rarely serious or life-threatening and can be treated with cold compresses.

However, there are some people who have allergic reactions to "normal" insect stings. Approximately 50 people die each year in the United States from insect stings. This is more than all other bites combined including snake bites. Thousands of people are allergic to bee, wasp, and hornet stings. Insect stings can be deadly for those people, on the average, within 10 minutes of the sting but almost always within the first hour.

The stinging insects that most commonly cause allergic reactions belong to a group of the hymenoptera, the insects with membranous wings. These include bees, wasps, hornets, and yellow jackets. Stings from wasps and bees are the most common.

## **Black Widow Spider**

The black widow is a spider with a shiny black body, thin legs and an hourglass shaped red/white mark on its abdomen. The female is much larger than the male and is one of the largest spiders in the United States. Males generally do not bite. Females bite only when hungry, agitated or protecting the egg sac. The black widow is not aggressive. They are usually found in dry, secluded, dimly lit areas. More than 80 percent of all bite victims are adult men.

Black widow spider bites are the leading cause of death from spider bites in the United States.

**INSECT BITES** continued: The venom is 14 times more toxic than rattlesnake venom. It is a neurotoxin that causes little local reaction but does cause pain and spasms in the larger muscle groups of the body within 30 minutes to three hours. Severe bites can cause respiratory failure, coma and death. Those at the highest risk are children under age 16, the elderly, people with chronic illness and people with high blood pressure.

**Signs and symptoms of a black widow spider bite:**

1. A pinprick sensation at the bite site, becoming a dull ache within 30 to 40 minutes
2. Pain and spasms in the shoulders, back, chest, and abdominal muscles within 30 minutes to three hours
3. Rigid, board like abdomen
4. Restlessness and anxiety
5. Fever
6. Rash
7. Headache
8. Vomiting and nausea
9. Flushing
10. Sweating
11. Grimacing.

**The symptoms usually last 24 to 48 hours.**

**Treatment:**

- 1 Treat for shock
- 2 Apply a cold compress but do not apply ice
- 3 Transport to hospital as quickly as possible

**Brown Spiders**

There are two types of brown spiders or brown recluse spiders in Arizona. They often are called violin spiders because of the characteristic "violin-shaped" marking on the upper back. They are generally brown but can range in color from yellow to dark brown. They are timid with webs in dry undisturbed areas. The Arizona species is not the same as the brown recluse spider in the Midwest.

The bite of the brown spider is a serious medical condition. The bite is non healing and causes tissue death. Sometimes surgery is necessary. The bite causes only a mild stinging sensation if any at all. Victims often are unaware they have been bitten.

**Several hours after the bite, the following signs and symptoms begin to result:**

1. A small white area appears surrounded by a margin of redness which may produce a mild itching pain.
2. A blister appears surrounded by mild swelling and redness.
3. A "bull's-eye" or "target" lesion develops
4. There may be fever, chills, rash, hives, nausea and pain in the joints over the next few days.

The target lesion will enlarge over the next few days and produce extensive tissue death. There is no anti-venom. The lesion will have to be soaked in antiseptic and possibly antibiotics. Surgery may be necessary to cut out the dead tissue.

**Scorpions**

There are many species of scorpions found in Arizona but only one is potentially lethal. This is the bark scorpion. It is one of the smaller species being one to one and a half inches long. It prefers places dark and cool, wood piles, palm trees, decorative bark. The severity of the sting depends on the amount of venom injected but scorpion stings can be fatal. Ninety percent of all scorpion stings occur on the hands.

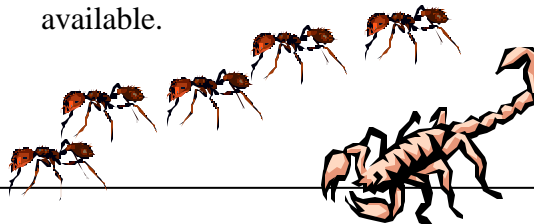
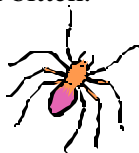
The lethal scorpion is very slender and streamlined. It is straw-colored or nearly opaque, small, less than two inches long.

**Signs and symptoms of scorpion stings include:**

1. Sharp pain at the site of the sting
2. Swelling that gradually spreads
3. Discoloration
4. Nausea and vomiting
5. Restlessness
6. Drooling
7. Poor coordination
8. Incontinence
9. Seizures

**Treatment:**

1. Apply ice to relieve the pain of the sting
2. Be sure the victim's airway stays clear
3. Transport to a hospital. A specific anti-venom is available.



**A good way to tell how solid a slab is:** heat it in hot water (NOT in a microwave oven). The surface will dry immediately. If there are holes or fractures, every one will be lined with water. These can then be marked with a pencil and used to orient your stone *from Rolling Stones Gem & Mineral 12/03 via Rock Chips 9/05*

**To remove rust:** from household or collecting tools, make a paste using two tablespoons of salt and one tablespoon of lemon juice. Apply the past to the rust with a dry cloth and rub. *from Morton Salt 3/96 via Rolling Stones Gem & Mineral 12/03 via Rock Chips 9/05*

**Hint:** Use this solution to finish off your fossil specimen after it has been cleaned. It gives contrast and a satin finish to show it at its best. If you do not like the results you can wash it off with warm water. You will need 2 cups of water, 2 cups of tightly packed onion skins, 2 teaspoons starch (Argo Gloss laundry), and 2 teaspoons cold water.

Boil onion skins in 2 cups water for 25 minutes. It becomes a nice brownish color. In a small dish, mix starch and 2 teaspoons cold water. Remove onion skins from water and add starch mixture. Stir in and boil 3-5 minutes, stirring constantly. Makes 1 cup. Paint mixture on fossil with brush while mixture is still warm. Add more coats as you think are necessary. If mixture becomes too thick, add more water. If too thin, boil longer. Store remaining mixture in refrigerator. It keeps for several weeks. Always reheat before using. *from Agateer 5/06 via Fractured Agate 6/96 via the Drift via Achates 7/05*

**Hardly!:** According to an old superstitious belief, the wearing of a turquoise would preserve one from injury by falling. A medieval king who wore a turquoise ring asked his jester day: "What do you think would happen if I jumped off the highest part of the castle with this ring on my finger?" The jester replied with a ready wit worthy of his office, "The turquoise, my lord, would probably not be hurt." *from Gems via Achates 7/05*

**Scientists find eggs in dinosaur mom:** A geologist found a dinosaur's fossilized remains in China's Jiangxi province and sold them to a museum. The dinosaur was an oviraptorosaurian, a subgroup of theropods, and it stood 10 to 13 feet tall when it lived 65 to 100 million years ago. "The museum that purchased it did not know there were any eggs inside," said Sato, a Paleontologist at the Canadian Museum of Nature in Ottawa. "They thought it was just a skeleton." Shelled eggs within the female dinosaur's body cavity were discovered when researchers were preparing the 14-by-14-inch pelvis. Sato described the eggs as "pineapple-sized potatoes", and bumpy in texture. *from story.news.yahoo.com via the Trilobite 5/2005*

**New thinking on the function of stegosaur plates:** The bizarre plates and spikes that lined the backbones of the long-extinct stegosaurs were probably extreme examples of the often elaborate and colorful displays developed by animals to recognize fellow members of their species, according to an international team of paleontologists. Their analysis of stegosaur plates lends support to a growing consensus among paleontologists that the weird adornments of many dinosaurs – the horns of triceratops, the helmet-like domes of the pachycephalosaurs, and the crests of the duck-billed hadrosaurs – likely served no function other than to differentiate species, akin to birds' colorful feather ornamentation.

Stegosaurs were elephantine plant eaters that populated the world during the Jurassic period, about 210 to 144 million years ago, alongside ferocious predators like allosaurus. Growing up to 20 feet from nose to tip of tail, the most recognized stegosaur, *Stegosaurus stenops*, had a double row of plates instead of plates or some other combination. The thin plates and spikes, called scutes, were bony outgrowths of the skin, or osteoderms, and probably were covered with a horny keratin. *from UC Berkeley via the Trilobite 6/2005*