

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



# September, 2005

## First Class

Please send exchange bulletins to:

Doug Olson, Editor  
211 Interlachen Way  
Stillwater, MN 55082

**September 20<sup>th</sup>** - Is this month's meeting date.  
**The program: SILENT AUCTION**



St. Croix Rockhound's

# LEAVERITE NEWS

Vol. 30, Issue 7; September, 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 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 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!

**September 20<sup>th</sup>** : St. Croix Rockhounds club meeting is to be held at Stonebridge Elementary School at 7:15 pm. The program will be *SILENT AUCTION*.

## COMING ATTRACTIONS

**September 24-25:** Rockhound auction in Palo, IA

**September 24-25:** Oshkosh Earth Science Club Show at Sunnyview Expo Center; Winnebago Co. Fairgrounds in Oshkosh, WI. Call 920-830-0969 or 920-235-4669 for info.

**September 30-October 2:** Geode Fest in Keokuk, IA. Daily contests, guided hunts, Geode cracking, Identification, swap area. Call for info: 800-383-1219

**October 1-2:** Racine Geological Society Annual Show at Gateway Technical College in Kenosha, WI. E-mail: [browniewgs@aol.com](mailto:browniewgs@aol.com) or check out [www.racinegeologysociety.homestead.com](http://www.racinegeologysociety.homestead.com)

**October 1-2:** Rock River Geological Society Show: Jefferson County Fair Park in Jefferson, WI. Call Don Behling 910-563-2698 for info.

**October 8-9<sup>th</sup>:** Anoka County Gem & Mineral Club Har Mar Mall show in Rosedale, MN

**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](mailto:rockbiz@cs.com)

**October 18<sup>th</sup>:** St. Croix Rockhounds club meeting

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

# Minutes of the Saint Croix RockHounds

May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2005

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

**Minutes** for the April 19<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.

**Refreshments** tonight are provided by Earle and Freya Kask and Mark Rasmussen.

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

**Old Business:** A motion was made that we buy a brick for the Stonebridge Playground Fund. The cost is \$100. Mark Rasmussen will match our donation.

**New Business:** LeRoy Betlach gave the figures on what it would cost to order new business cards for the club. A motion was made and seconded that we order cards for the club. Distribution of the cards should help our membership.

**Possible program** for the club is Flint Knapping.

**Possible club trips** would be to Montana or Upper Peninsula, Michigan.

**LeRoy Betlach** will arrange a club trip to the quarry north of River Falls, possibly for October 1<sup>st</sup>, for fossil hunting.

**Information on our summer picnic** will be forthcoming. The date and location will be reported in a news flyer.

**Door prizes:** won by Dave Klinkhammer, Avis Klinkhammer, June Young and Lin Rawlings.

**Meeting was adjourned** at 8:00 pm.

**Program:** Mark Rasmussen talked about fossil collecting in Minnesota.

**Respectfully submitted by,**

Freya Kask for Secretary, Doug Olson

*If paying dues by mail,*

*send to treasurer:*

*Lin Rawlings*

*850 Woodduck Rd*

*Woodbury, MN 55125*

# Silent Auction

Phyllis White is in Rochester at the Mayo Clinic receiving treatment. We wish her well.

# Sunshine News

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



**St. Croix Rockhounds silent auction at the regular club meeting – September 20<sup>th</sup> - 7:15 pm at the Stonebridge Elementary School in Stillwater, Minnesota.**

**All are invited to attend!!**

**Bring in your extra rocks, supplies, equipment or perhaps some goodies.**

**Bring your friends and neighbors!!!!**

# Celebrate!

## September's birthstone –Sapphire .

Sapphire is a variety of the mineral species corundum. Sapphires occur in all colors of the rainbow with the exception of red, which is ruby. The name corundum comes from the ancient Sanskrit "kuruvindam", while the name "Sapphire" comes from the Persian word "safir", meaning "beloved of Saturn", (or Greek sapphiros).

Sapphires are commonly heated to improve their color and reduce cloudiness that is caused by rutile inclusions. The rutile inclusions are responsible for the "star" or "cat's eye" in star sapphires.

The sapphire was said to represent the purity of the soul. Before and during the Middle Ages, it was worn by priests as protection from impure thoughts and temptations of the flesh. Medieval kings of Europe valued these stones for rings and brooches, believing that it protected them from harm and envy. Warriors presented their young wives with sapphire necklaces so they would remain faithful. It was believed that the stone's color would darken if worn by an adulterer or adulteress, or by an unworthy person.

Sapphires were once believed to be protection against snakes. It was said that if poisonous reptiles and spiders were placed in a jar containing the stone, the creatures would immediately die.

## September birthdays :

Helen Betlach – 3<sup>rd</sup>

Gregory Logajan – 8<sup>th</sup>

Freya Kask – 11<sup>th</sup>

Pete Rodewald – 13<sup>th</sup>

Elaine Martinsen – 15<sup>th</sup>

Victor Martinsen – 25<sup>th</sup>

## September Anniversaries:

Leroy & Helen Betlach – 12th

## Here are some of the U.S. Statistics for

**1905:** The average life expectancy in the U.S. was 47 years. Only 14 percent of the homes in the U.S. had a bathtub. Only 8 percent of the homes had a telephone. A three-minute call from Denver to New York City cost eleven dollars. There were only 8,000 cars in the U.S. and only 144 miles of paved roads. The maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 mph. Alabama, Mississippi, Iowa, and Tennessee were each more heavily populated than California. With a mere 1.4 million residents, California was the 21<sup>st</sup> most populous state in the Union. The tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower. The average wage in the U.S. was 22 cents an hour. The average U.S. worker made between \$200 and \$400 per year. More than 95 percent of all births in the U.S. took place at home. Ninety percent of all U.S. physicians had no college education. Instead, they attended medical schools, many of which were condemned in the press and by the government as “substandard.” Sugar cost four cents a pound. Eggs were fourteen cents a dozen. Coffee was fifteen cents a pound. Most women only washed their hair once a month, and used borax or egg yolks for shampoo. Canada passed a law prohibiting poor people from entering the country for any reason. The five leading causes of death in the U.S. were: 1) Pneumonia and influenza; 2) Tuberculosis; 3) Diarrhea; 4) Heart disease and 5) Stroke. The American flag had 45 stars as Arizona, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Hawaii and Alaska hadn't been admitted to the Union yet. The population of Las Vegas, Nevada was 30. Crossword puzzles, canned beer, and iced tea hadn't been invented. There was no Mother's Day or Father's Day. Two of ten U.S. adults couldn't read or write. Only six percent of all Americans had graduated high school. Marijuana, heroin and morphine were all available over the counter at corner drug stores. According to one pharmacist, “heroin clears the complexion, gives buoyancy to the mind, regulates the stomach and bowels, and is, in fact, a perfect guardian of health.” Eighteen percent of households in the U.S. had at least one full-time servant or domestic. There were only about 230 reported murders in the entire U.S. Try to imagine what it may be like in another 100 years... it staggers the mind. – *e-mail correspondence from Con Schallau*

**WHY GOLD DISCOLORS:** The most common reason gold will turn different colors is due to chemical reactions with the alloyed metals mixed with the gold when it is exposed to a caustic element.

Some of these chemicals are present in common household products. Swimming pool chlorides and Clorox based household cleaners will definitely cause gold to change to an ugly gray. Mercury from a broken thermometer can literally dissolve the gold right out of a ring leaving a burned black spot or hole. Copier ribbons contain xylene, which can cause yellow gold to turn white, and some ink stamp pads contain a medium which will do the same thing. Smog fumes, perspiration, saltwater, or even certain fruit juices can all cause a discoloring effect on gold. Whenever you are going swimming in chlorinated water or will be working with solvents or cleaners it is best to remove your jewelry. If you get any of these chemicals on your jewelry clean it with a mild solution of baking soda and rinse well before wearing it again, or take it to your local jeweler for a professional cleaning.

The most common reason gold will discolor your skin is metallic abrasion. Many cosmetics contain compounds harder than the jewelry itself. These compounds in the cosmetics will wear away microscopic particles of gold, which will collect in the pores of your skin. Very fine metal particles always appear black, not metallic. When the particles stick to your skin in quantities, they will form a black smudge. To prevent this you should remove your jewelry when applying cosmetics and then carefully clean the area so it is free of any cosmetics where the jewelry is to be worn. Changing cosmetic brands may also help. Gold itself will not corrode, but the primary alloys that are mixed with 10 and 14 karat-gold will. They are copper and silver. Under moist conditions, a person's perspiration which contains fats and fatty acids can cause corrosion in karat gold jewelry. The level of corrosion will differ, based upon each individual's unique body chemistry.

Things that you can do to prevent your jewelry from tarnishing or turning your fingers black are, remove all jewelry before using soaps, perfumes, or cosmetics, and have your jewelry cleaned frequently. You will be amazed at how nice it will look when kept free of oils and dirt.

Eighteen-carat gold jewelry is less likely to change because of the lower alloy content and platinum jewelry is nearly impervious to chemical corrosion. Of all the different types of jewelry it will wear the best and give you the least amount of trouble, especially if you experience constant problems with discoloration and black smudges. *from the Rockytier 9/01 via 12/03 Stoney Statements*

**Soapstone (or steatite) :** The Chinese have treasured soapstone for centuries and used it to carve their delicate figurines. The Eskimos use it to make lamps and cooking pots. In ancient Babylon it was used to make signet rings and other items of jewelry. In North America, the early pioneers used it to make laundry tubs; but this I not why it is called soapstone. The mineral gets its name because the waxy polished surface looks and feels like soap.

Soapstone is classified as a metamorphic rock. The original mineral was probably lava, rich in magnesium and silicates fused in the "furnace" of some ancient volcano. The characteristic and usually chief mineral is talc ( $Mg_3Si_4O_{10}(OH)_2$ ), but which also contains varying parts of chlorite, mica, tremolite, quartz, magnetite, and iron compounds. It is gray to green in color and is notable for its high degree of resistance to acids and heat. It is so soft that it can be easily cut with a knife or other sharp tool, making it a popular material for sculpting. The chief deposits of commercial importance are in the United States, Norway, and Canada. It is now used in the manufacture of laboratory table tops, kitchen sinks, laundry tubs, furnace linings, and electrical apparatus. *Source: A combination of articles from Rock Rattler and Chip & Lick 9/93 via MWF, Achates 3/94 via Achates 8/05 and the Columbia Press Encyclopedia*

*The Finnish word SAIPPUAKIVIKAUPPIAS (a soapstone seller) is the longest known palindrome in any language according to the Guinness Book of World Records. from [members.aol.com](http://members.aol.com)*

**Polishing Coral:** Gem coral is calcium carbonate, an organic material, and is 3.5 in hardness. It can range in color from white to dark red. Gem coral can be cut and polished on a regular cabochon unit but you must be careful when dopping since it is heat sensitive. Use only a fine grinding wheel that has been dressed down to a smooth even surface.-and keep plenty of water on the grinding wheels and sanding cloth. Hold the stone against the wheels and sanding cloth with a light pressure. Coral requires a 400 or 600 grit wet sanding cloth for the final sanding. It can be polished on either a hard felt wheel or a leather disk with tin oxide or cerium oxide. *from Labs-N-cabs 3/96, via MGAGS fall/02 via Stoney Statements 8/05*

**Lapidary Polishing Compounds 2:** A complete group of polishes for lapidary applications from the inexpensive tumbler to the best quality gemstone polishes that bring up a bright, high shine of gems. For economy, dedicate a buff, lap pan, or barrel to a particular polish and simply recharge with fresh polish as required to maintain effectiveness.

**Linde 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 powder to mix with water or an emulsified cream with the consistency of hand lotion that does not separate in solution.

**Cerium Oxide:** The best gemstone polishing compound for most uses, is a mixture of rare earth oxides rich in cerium oxide. Best with opal, agate, quartz, obsidian, etc. and not as effective with very soft material or stones that tend to undercut. For lap or tumbler, mix with water and apply the paste to your buff. Micron Alumina: A 5-micron polishing powder developed for computer disks. It is the best polish for sea shells, pretty good for soft stones such as malachite and onyx, and excellent as a prepolysh in vibrator tumblers and laps but not in rotary tumblers.

**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 such as quartz. Mix with hot tap water by stirring in oxalic crystals until the water is supersaturated 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 eyes, mouth, etc.

**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. Tin Oxide: A longtime favorite. Use on leather for polishing turquoise and all soft stones. Zirconium Oxide: A rare earth polish that is especially good for tumblers and laps. The most economical and effective polishing media. White and will not discolor gemstones. *from Fredericksburg Rockhounds News, January 2003 via Backbender's Gazette, 8/03 via Stoney Statements 8/05 [this is a revised version of an article appearing in the April 2005 issue of Leaverite News -ed.]*

**Scientists have found soft tissue in Tyrannosaurus Rex bone.** The discovery was made when they had to break the bone in order to fit it in the helicopter. In the laboratory they found what they believe could be blood vessels, bone cells and blood cells. In some cases the material was so soft it could be squeezed out. The researchers hope that some museums may break some fossils to look for more tissue. The find may help to answer many questions about dinosaur physiology but casts serious doubt on the current models of how fossilization occurs. Scientist say it is too early to know if we will see dinosaur DNA but are hopeful. *from [www.abc.net.au](http://www.abc.net.au) via the Trilobite 5/05*

**Jade Polishing Agent** – a Little Graphite mixed with chrome oxide and applied to a muslin buff makes a wonderful Jade Polishing Agent. When using chrome oxide for polishing jade, mix it with a solution of ½ water and ½ vinegar. *form Stoney Statements 03/03*