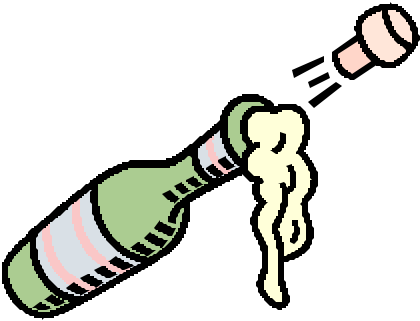


St. Croix Rockhounds
Doug Olson, Editor
211 Interlachen Way
Stillwater, MN 55082



First Class

January, 2006

Please send exchange bulletins to:

Doug Olson, Editor
211 Interlachen Way
Stillwater, MN 55082

January 17th - Is this month's meeting date.
The program: Find of the Year



St. Croix Rockhound's

LEAVERITE NEWS

Vol. 31, Issue 1; January, 2006

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!

January 17th: St. Croix Rockhounds club meeting will be at the Stonebridge Elementary School. The Program will be "Find of the Year". Bring your treasures found and made during the last year. More details of the contest can be found in this newsletter.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

2006

January 28-February 11th: Tucson Arizona Mineral and Fossil Show

February 21st: St. Croix Rockhounds club meeting will be at the Stonebridge Elementary School

May 19-21st: Midwest Federation convention and show in Southgate< MI

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

July 14-16th: Northwest Federation convention and show in Longview, WA hosted by the Southern Washington Mineralogical Society and the Mt. Hood Rock Club

August: South Central Federation convention and show in Bossier City, LA

August 14-20th: Southeast Federation convention and show in Nashville TN

November 18-19th: Eastern Federation convention and show in West Palm Beach, FL hosted by the Gem & Mineral Society of Palm Beaches, Inc.

**Minutes of the Saint Croix
RockHounds
December 7th, 2005**

There was no business meeting in December. There was a x-mas party. Our program was a cd show of agates from all over the world brought by Pete. They were really beautiful!!!!!! We ate lots of good food, and we played some fun (silly) games also. Door prizes were given. Brad asked that we announce in the January newsletter that our current officers have agreed to maintain their positions. However, if others would like to "apply" for the positions, they should make this known at the next meeting and we'll vote then. The positions of tour director and historian are unfilled at this time and interested persons are encouraged to apply.

**Respectfully submitted by,
Susan A. Dustin, Secretary pro-tem**

Celebrate!

January's birthstone – Garnet: The January birthstone stands for "constancy". To modern users, the garnet symbolizes a light heart, loyalty and enduring affections.

Ancient warriors believed that garnets brought victory. The Crusaders used them as protection against wounds and accidents.

The name "garnet" is derived from the Latin "granatum" meaning "pomegranate" because the crystals resemble the red color and seed-like form of this fruit. As with many precious stones, garnets were once believed to hold medicinal powers. In Medieval times, it protected its wearer against poisons, wounds and bad dreams, and cured depression. Red garnets relieved fever, hemorrhages and inflammatory diseases.

January birthdays:

None

January Anniversaries:

None

Those who wish to receive the Leaverite News via e-mail can send an e-mail to the editor: doug@implan.com. If you should later decide you prefer hard copy, send another e-mail so stating.

*If paying dues by mail,
send to treasurer:*

**Lin Rawlings
850 Woodduck Rd
Woodbury, MN 55125**



Really Old (and bad) Puns from Ye Olde Ed

from AFMS Newsletter 12/05

Those who jump off a bridge in Paris are in Seine.

A backward poet writes inverse.

A man's home is his castle in a manor of speaking.

Practice safe eating – always use condiments.

Shotgun wedding: a case of wife or death.

A man needs a mistress just to break the monogamy.

A plateau is a high form of flattery.

Dancing cheek-to-cheek is a form of floor play.

When two egotists meet, it's an I for an I.

The definition of will? (It's a dead giveaway.)

In democracy your vote counts. In feudalism, your count votes.

A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.

If you don't pay your exorcist, you get repossessed.

A lot of money is tainted – It taint yours and it taint mine.

A boiled egg in the morning is hard to beat.

He had a photographic memory that never developed.

A midget fortune-teller who escapes from prison is a small medium at large.

Phyllis White has had surgery and is resting at her home in Stillwater.

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



FIND OF THE YEAR

Contest Rules (revised 1991)

The contest is open to all members of the St. Croix Rockhounds club. Absentee members may submit specimens through another member and junior members are eligible to enter the contest and to vote. However, there can be only one entry per person per class. There are five entry classes:

Lake Superior Agates: No lapidary work of any kind is allowed. Agates may be oiled.



Fossils: Specimens may be cut or glued together. Specimens may be treated or sprayed only to prevent deterioration and not to enhance them. They may not be polished.

Polished: Tumble or face polished but not spray polished. The specimens may also be cut or glued together.

Jewelry: The stone may be cut, shaped, polished and mounted. The featured stone must have been found and worked in this current year.

Open: Specimens may be cut or glued together but not polished or sprayed. Lake Superior Agates may NOT be entered in the Open class.



Note: all specimens must have been found within the calendar year of entry. Polishing or lapidary work must also be done on the specimen during the year it is found and entered. Finally, the specimen must have been found in its natural setting (“in-situ”) by the person entering the specimen.

Also, please label all entries (approximately 2x3 inches) stating the category, material, and general location (e.g., county) of your find. On the REVERSE side of the label, print your name. Place the card, name side down, on the table adjacent to your entry. Thank you.

Fossil Legislation Being Considered by John Spunaugle (A summary of an article in the AFMS newsletter)

The Paleontological Resources Preservation Act, Senate Bill S-263, is now being considered by the U. S. House of Representatives Natural Resources Committee. This bill, for all practical purposes, is identical to the fossil bills considered by the 108th Congress in 2003-4. Therefore, past comments by previous AFMS and ALAA (American Lands Access Association) reviewers apply to this latest introduced bill, S-263. Again, as in the last Congress, the Bill was passed by the U.S. Senate by voice vote and has been referred to the U.S. House of Representatives for consideration and possible passage.

In the last Congress, several reviewers criminalized fossil collecting with outrageous penalties for picking up a fossil on public land. The bill was also criticized for its reward provisions for turning in violators, making it rife for abuse. The S-263 bill has some good points and some bad points. For someone like myself, who helped write the first version of the “rockhound” fossil collecting bill, and worked to defeat the so called “Baccus” Bill in 1992-3, I can clearly see some improvements. Some of the remaining objections to the Bill S-263 in its current form are as follows. The bill fails to make a distinction between scientifically significant fossils versus common fossils. Instead, it defines the paleontological resources it would protect to mean “any fossilized remains, trace, or imprints of organisms preserved in or on the earth’s crust...except for archaeological resources or those associated with an archaeological resource. (The latter are covered under an archaeological resources protection act passed years ago).

Casual collecting of a reasonable number of common invertebrate and plant fossil specimens may be allowed under this Bill in Section 5, at the discretion of the Secretary (the land managers). Therefore, amateurs “may” be able to collect certain common invertebrate or plant fossils found on federal lands but not necessarily. Only hand tools could be used and collecting cannot cause more than a negligible surface disturbance (undefined). Collecting common vertebrate fossils, such as fish fossils, sharks teeth and the like, would be a violation of the act, as would picking up an isolated single dinosaur bone fragment in the badlands of the western United States if it was on federal land. All other collecting of paleontological resources on Federal lands would require a permit issued by the Secretary (the managers) and be given only to “qualified” applicants. The resources collected would remain the property of the United States with the resources collected and the associated data deposited in an approved repository when collected under a permit.

Further, there would be no commercial collection of fossils allowed. This would preclude anyone, amateur or otherwise, from selling, trading, or bartering any fossil collected on federal land. Not only does this affect amateurs, but also completely eliminates the valuable and considerable contributions to paleontology that commercial fossil entities have provided in the past in discovery, extraction, and preparation of fossils. The dinosaur “Sue,” a Tyrannosaurus Rex, is a perfect example.

Penalties for criminal violation of any provisions of this Bill would result in fines in accordance with Title 18 of the U.S. Code, and/or imprisonment for up to 10 years. Title 18 provides for fines ranging up to \$5,000 and up to \$10,000 in certain circumstances. Violations would be prosecuted in Federal Courts.

Civil penalties are also provided for in the bill and can go as high as double the replacement cost or restoration cost of the resource involved as determined by the land managers. No due process is required under the civil penalty provisions other than a required notice of a hearing. A judicial review petition is allowed only within a thirty-day period following any civil penalty assessment, but the court is allowed to rule only on the evidence presented in the hearing report. Forget “innocent until proven guilty” and the right to a trial by your peers.

Fossils in your collection, especially if you cannot prove where they came from, are subject to the provisions of this bill. Most fossils I know of don’t say *Made in China* or *Hocho en Mexico* on them. And, how many of you kept receipts on items purchased, or can you vouch for exactly where the vertebrate fossils really came from even if you did purchase them and can prove it? The Bill calls for a person to exercise “due care” in knowing whether the resource was excavated or removed from Federal land. Again “due care” is undefined.

Also subject to forfeiture under this Bill are the paleontological resources with respect to which the violation occurred; in addition all vehicles and equipment of any person that were used in connection with the violation may be forfeit. I’m not a lawyer, but do have knowledge of what has happened to several collectors and to several hobbyists in the past with regard to property confiscated, rightly or wrongly. In most cases nothing was ever returned, regardless of its being legally obtained.

So, I worry for fossil collectors if this Bill. S-263 becomes law. The best way to prevent its passage in its present form is for all of us to communicate our feelings to our Congressional Representatives. A copy of the bill is found on the Internet by using any of the Internet search engines: Google, Yahoo, or MSN for instance. *from Pick & Pack 12/05*

Stolen Gems *St Croix Rockhounds Leaverite News*

To break a cavity filled with fragile crystals away from a large matrix specimen fill the cavity with fine dirt and hold the piece with the cavity facing up to retain the dirt while you trim the specimen. The dirt prevents the shock of the hammer blow from loosening the crystals. *from T-Town Rockhound 4/00 via Rock Chips 12/05*

Polishing Jade - Jade is one material that many of us have difficulty in polishing. It will take a polish but it does take longer than Agate or Jasper. Just don't give up. After finishing with 600-grit it can be polished on leather with water and a little tin oxide on the stone. If there is "orange peel" (undercutting) it may be necessary to hand-finish with wet or dry 1200-grit sandpaper. Just keep rubbing and be patient. *from Wayne Ehlers from The Lapidary Journal via Ventura Gem 3/99*

Cleaning Your Specimens;

Wash carefully to remove dirt. If soaking in acids or other solutions, try an inferior specimen first. When working with adds, remember the three A's - Always Add the Acid to the water. Keep your solution fairly clean for best results. Oxalic acid is useful for rust stains; muriatic acid, for removing hematite stains; and hydrochloric acid is the best for removing black manganese stains. When using any of these solutions, **wear protective clothing, goggles and rubber gloves.** Household bleach works well for removing many stains but **never mix bleach and acid.** The results could be tragic.

Barite,	30% hydrochloric acid solution.
Beryl,	Any acid solution may be used.
Petrified Wood,	Household bleach or oxalic acid.
Bornite,	Overnight in oxalic acid.
Carbonated Minerals,	If your specimen will not come clean in bleach, use a very weak solution of oxalic acid.
Chalcopyrite,	Soak over night in a solution of oxalic acid, 2 oz. to a quart of water, or under close watch in hydrochloric acid.
Copper,	Nitric or hydrochloric acid.
Epidote,	Quick dip in nitric or sulphuric acid.
Fluorite,	Hydrochloric or muriatic acid, 1% acid to 10% water.
Galena,	Soak overnight in oxalic acid. Wash well.
Gold,	Ammonium bifluoride.
Graphite,	Try any acid.
Hornblend (microline, scapolite, tourmaline),	Any acid except hydrofluoric.
Iron (labradorite),	Concentrated sulphuric acid.
Marcasite,	Overnight in oxalic acid solution or a very quick dip in hydrochloric acid, or it may be washed in ammonia water.
Millerite,	Hydrofluoric or sulphuric acid solution.
Orthoclase,	Most acids except <i>aqua regia</i> .
Pyrite,	Overnight in oxalic acid solution or a quick dip in hydrochloric acid. Rinse in ammonia water.
Silver,	1 oz. baking soda, 1 oz. salt dissolved in 2 quarts warm water in an aluminum container.
Sulphide minerals,	Acetic acid solution. If this doesn't work, try hydrochloric acid.
Tremolite,	Any acid except hydrofluoric.
Zircon,	Any acid.

from Pick & Pack via Quarry Quips via Chips & Facets via The Coral Geode 12/97 via Ventura Gem 1/99.