

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



First Class

May, 2006

Please send exchange bulletins to:

Doug Olson, Editor
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Stillwater, MN 55082

May 16th - Is this month's meeting date.

The program: To be announced



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 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	Susan Dustin	(651) 430-3933
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!

May 16th: St. Croix Rockhounds club meeting will be at the Stonebridge Elementary School. The Program will be announced check the website [www. Leaverite.com](http://www.Leaverite.com), I will post it as soon as I find out.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

May 16th: 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 8-9th: Anoka Gem and Mineral Club Har Mall summer show in Roseville, MN

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

October 14-15th: Anoka Gem and Mineral Club Har Mall fall show in Roseville, MN

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

After the May meeting the next St Croix Rockhounds regular club meeting will be September 19th.

Minutes of the Saint Croix RockHounds

April 18th, 2006

The meeting was **called to order** at 7:15 by president Brad Bonse. There were 24 members present.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as published.

Treasurer's report with a balance of \$1071.13 was approved as given by Lin Rawlins.

Trip Plans: Plans were discussed to the May trip to Glendive, MT and a sign-up sheet was passed around. Dates are May 18-21 with hunting on May 19-20.

Refreshments were provided by Susan Dustin and Brad Bonse. May refreshments will be provided by Eloise Kimball and someone else.

Program committee member Bill Cordua announced that tonight's program will be a National Geographic video about asteroid impacts on the earth.

Club Show: Thanks to Bill Cordua for coordinating the show. Wonderful display and turn out – a very smooth operation. The mall is inviting us back for next year.

Sunshine: Vi De Angelo is living in Los Angeles in assisted care.

Old Business: Lynn and Doreen designed a certificate for "Find of the Year" winners – very beautiful.

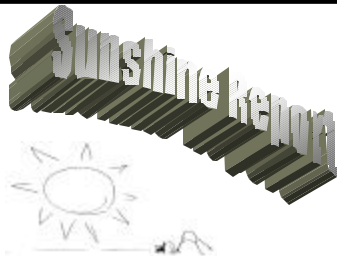
New Business: None

Door prizes – Queensland agates from Australia. Discovered in the 1930/40s. They started appearing in the US in the 1980s. Winners were: Freya Kask, Joe Moore, June Young, Dave Flynn, and Bill Cordua.

The **meeting was adjourned** at 7:40

Minutes submitted by Susan Dustin, secretary pro-tem

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



Celebrate!

May's birthstone –Emerald. This brilliant green stone reinforces love and creates harmony in the family.

May's Birthdays:

Jeanne Blom– 5th

May's Anniversaries:

Bill & Janet Cordua – 16th

June's birthstones - June has three stones: pearls, moonstone, and Alexandrite. Pearls, according to Indian mythology, were dewdrops from heaven that fell into the sea. They were caught by shellfish under the first rays of the rising sun, during a period of full moon. In India, warriors encrusted their swords with pearls to symbolize the tears and sorrow that a sword brings. .

June's Birthdays:

Janet Cordua - 8th

Marie Newlander – 16th

Dave Klinkhammer– 18th

June's Anniversaries:

Elaine & Victor Martinson – 24th

June & Reuben Shalander – 7th

July's birthstone – The Ruby. Large rubies are harder to find than large diamonds, emeralds and sapphires. As a result, rubies' value increases with size more than any other gemstone. In the Orient, rubies were once believed to contain the spark of life -- "a deep drop of the heart's blood of Mother Earth"

July's Birthdays:

Dick Blom– 7th

July's Anniversaries: none

August's birthstone –Peridot and Sardonyx. The peridot was regarded since ancient times as the symbol of the sun. The Greeks believed that it brought royal dignity upon its wearer. During the Middle Ages, peridot was pierced, then strung on the hair of an ass and attached to the left arm to ward off evil spirits. The Crusaders thought that peridots were emeralds, and brought them back to Europe where they were featured as ornaments in churches.

August's Birthdays:

June Shalander – 23rd

August's Anniversaries:

Jeanne & Dick Blom– 15th

Brad Bonse – 25th

If paying dues by mail, send to treasurer:

Lin Rawlings

850 Woodduck Rd

Woodbury, MN 55125

2006 Club Show Report *by Bill Cordua, Show chairman*

The St. Croix Rockhounds held their annual show on April 8, 2005 in the Valley Creek Mall in Woodbury, Minnesota. This was our sixth time in this location and coincided once more with the Easter Bunny's visit to the Mall. This year road construction made travel to the Mall a bit trickier than normal. Even so, on the show day many families came out for rocks and Easter candy.

LeRoy and Helen Betlach had two tables with a variety of interesting materials. These included Iowa geodes, agates, amethyst, wonderstone, septaria concretions and a number of LeRoy's excellent "Gem Trees". They also brought some photo albums to reminisce about their many mineral and fossil collecting journeys

Sandy Fuller of the Minnesota Mineral Club came over to show with us. She focused on fluorescent and phosphorescent minerals. This included bringing specially built display cases for viewing fluorescent minerals, as well as 2 hand-held Super-bright U.V. lights, and assorted literature and specimens.

Dave and Mavis Klinkhammer had a display centered on examples of polished gem materials, with a display of bolo ties and examples of agate clocks, including a "how-to" display on how to assemble them.

Vic Martinsen had a large lighted display of fine mineral specimens from worldwide localities. The display specialized on some great silver specimens. Vic also brought in a large specimen of crystallized copper from the Kearsage Lode of Michigan's Keweenaw Peninsula.

Cathy Saunders was a first-time displayer. She had many examples of jewelry she has made, including those made from agate, onyx and hematite. She focused on her wire-wrapping work, and demonstrated some basic techniques to those interested.

Pete Rodewald had five display cases on two tables. One focused on crystal specimens of zeolites and associated minerals from the basalt quarries of India. He also showed Mexican agates, iron meteorites, and other large samples featuring stalactitic growths.

Reuben and June Shalander brought many excellent agates primarily Lake Superior agates. It was a great "museum" of some of the very finest "Lakers", showing many of their varieties. They also showed a fascinating collection of Native American artifacts such as hammer stones.

The club table featured coloring and project materials for kids of all ages and flyers from the Minnesota Geological Survey and from various up-coming shows. Lyn Rawlings brought a box of sawn rocks for giveaways that proved of great interest to the adults as well as the kids. Brad Bonse supplied some surplus agates as give-aways. Bill Cordua set up his specimen I.D. table as part of the club table. Brad Bonse, Bill and Jan Cordua and several U.W. - River Falls students helped mind the table.

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 takedown!.

May is the last regularly scheduled meeting until the September meeting! This is the last newsletter until September. Enjoy your summer!



Remember to clean out your rocks and rockhound supplies for the September St. Croix Rockhounds SILENT AUCTION. Also encourage your friends and neighbors to come participate in the bidding.



Leroy Betlach shows off samples to Mall patrons.



Vic Martinsen talks "rocks".

If the population of China walked past you in single file, the line would never end because of the rate of reproduction." Is this true?

ANSWER. Probably not, as best explained by Richard Ritter. The current population of China is about 1.25 billion, with about 20 million births per year. We'll assume that the birthrate stays about the same, as the population grows a bit but the births per 1000 drops a bit, under the current one child per family policy. The Chinese walk say 3 feet apart at 3 miles per hour, for a rate of 46 million Chinese per year. So even if no one died in line, the line would shorten by 26 million per year and run out in about $1250/26 = 48$ years.

(Different assumptions could lead to a different conclusion.) *from Frank Morgan's Math Chat, www.maa.org/features/mathchat*



Reuben's portable agate museum



Sandy Fuller shows off fluorescent minerals

In spite of what you read on the web - **Women and men do not differ in their rates of spontaneous blinking** (M.J. Doughty, 2002, Optom Vis Sci), averaging around 10 blinks per minute in a laboratory setting. However, there is an established gender difference in inhibition of the startle response blink: men (and lesbian women) manifest greater inhibition of the reflex than heterosexual women (Q. Rahman et al., 2003, Behavioral Neuroscience).

[The startle response blink] is the response of mind and body to a sudden unexpected stimulus, such as a flash of light, a loud noise, or a quick movement near the face. *from www.wikipedia.org*

"Code of Ethics"

- ◆ I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without permission from the owner.
- ◆ I will keep informed on all laws, regulations or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.
- ◆ I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.
- ◆ I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.
- ◆ I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind such as fences, signs, buildings, etc.
- ◆ I will leave all gates as found.
- ◆ I will build fires only in designated or safe places and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.
- ◆ I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.
- ◆ I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.
- ◆ I will not contaminate wells, creeks, or other water supplies.
- ◆ I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.
- ◆ I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.
- ◆ I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.
- ◆ I will cooperate with field-trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.
- ◆ I will report to my club or federation officers, Bureau of Land Management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.
- ◆ I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.
- ◆ I will observe the "Golden Rule", will use Good Outdoor Manners and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public Image of Rockhounds everywhere.

Revised July 7, 1999 at the AFMS Annual Meeting

Gaps in Mammoth DNA Make Cloning Impossible by Brian Rodgers EIGGS

Fragments of DNA from mammoths have been recovered and sequenced, but are too damaged to make cloning the long-extinct creatures possible. Unlike earlier research, the DNA this time comes from the nucleus of mammoth cells, not from the energy-producing mitochondria. Mitochondrial DNA is more plentiful and easier to detect in ancient samples, but nuclear DNA is more revealing and is the type needed for cloning.

Scientists recovered and sequenced nuclear DNA from several Siberian and Alaskan mammoths, as well as from extinct ground sloths from Chile and Cave bears from Croatia. The animals had all been preserved after death in permafrost or in very cold conditions, aiding survival of the tissue, but the longest sequence that it has been possible to recover is about 100 base pairs long—each base representing a letter of the genetic alphabet.

In modern DNA from living species, we can recover sequences hundreds or thousands of times longer. This shows that the DNA is very fragmented and there is no way to use it to clone a mammoth. The results do allow mammoths to be compared to elephants. As expected, there are many parallels, with Asian elephants apparently being more closely related to the mammoth than the African variety. The next closest relation is the manatee, and the rest are a long way away. *from Rockwood Rockhound News 04/03*

Variations of the Cabochon: The word cabochon comes from the French *en cabochon*, meaning “like a bald head”. The similarity of a bald, shining pate to the rounded top of the gemstone is quite apparent. Other than that, here are a few descriptions of the different types of cabochon cuts:

Simple cabochon: It has a flat back and a simple, curved top. When looked at from above, the stone may be round or elliptical, square or rectangular, or any other freeform shape.

Low cabochon: This has a much flatter top than the simple cabochon. It is suited for softer stones – such as turquoise – where a high, protruding top is apt to be chipped and worn dull in a comparatively short time.

High Cabochon: It has an especially high top and is thus more suitable for a hard stone. Translucent materials – such as chalcedony or quartz – are well adapted to the style because they will yield a high gloss polish while also preserving and enhancing the greatest depth of color from the stone.

Hollow cabochon: The hollow cabochon has a concave bottom or back. This style of cutting is used for dark, transparent stones where the light passing through the stone is largely lost. Carbuncles, or deeply colored garnets, have their beauty enhanced when cut this way.

Double cabochon: This is a style where both the top and the bottom of the stone have been cut in convex domes. Both sides have been polished and the curvature on the back is typically less than that on the top. This cut is useful when the stone is either transparent, translucent, or has inclusions. Moss agate is a likely stone to be cut this way.

Lentil cabochon: This is like the double cabochon cut in that both the top and the bottom have been cut and polished in convex domes. However, unlike the double cabochon cut, the lentil cabochon features identical curves on the top and bottom of the stone. *from Golden Spike News via Grindings 12/04 via Emeral Gems 03/06*

A suggestion to make the wet grinding procedure more comfortable: place water pipe foam insulation over the edge of the water trough for an easy wrist rest while working the stone. Just cut to the length needed and slip it over the edge of the water pan. *from Quarry Quips 04/04 via Rock Chips 06/04*

Use Bondo (same stuff they fill dents in cars with) when the rock is not slabbed flat and you want to attach the uneven end to a piece of 2x4 block. *from Rocky Tales 9/05 via Rock Chips 10/05*

When tumbling rocks, you can add desert sand to the first grit in the tumbler. Place plain white rice in with the stones for the last polishing. This will do a wonderful job and the rice will keep the stones from chipping. *from Rocky Tales 9/05 via Rock Chips 10/05*

Switcheroo: need another idea for your extra slabs? Why not try your hand at making some nice agate or marble switch plates to replace those plastic ones you have now? *from Rocky Tales 9/05 via Rock Chips 10/05*

CZ or Diamond? How can you tell? *(from Mountain Gem 4/97 & Ozark Earth Science News 8/02 via Rockwood Rockhound News 02/05)*

1. Cubic Zirconia does not have the edges of a diamond.
2. A line drawn on a sheet of paper is visible through CZ but not through a diamond.
3. A CZ will be transparent if placed in water; a diamond remains visible,
4. If not sure, take it to a jeweler.

No word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver, or purple. *from Hidden Treasures 02/06*