

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



# April 2009

[Editor's disclaimer: not all of the articles in this newsletter have been fully authenticated]

## First Class

**Please send exchange bulletins to:**

**Doug Olson, Editor  
211 Interlachen Way  
Stillwater, MN 55082**

**April 21<sup>st</sup> – Program is  
*"New Ideas about Lake  
Superior Agate"***



St. Croix Rockhound's  
**LEAVERITE NEWS**

Vol. 34, Issue4; April, 2009

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	Victor Martinsen	(715) 247-3700
Vice President	Ron Lewis	(715) 246-5118
Secretary	Bill & Thomas Fernholz	(651) 430-9039
Treasurer	Carol Jensen	cjensen_onyx@yahoo.com
Program Committee	Pete Rodewald	(651) 275-0607
	Victor Martinsen	(715) 247-3700
	Bill Cordua	(715) 425-9544
Show Committee	Bill Cordua	(715) 425-9544
Refreshments	Freya Kask	(651) 777-6371
Librarian	June Young	(651) 429-3887
Historian		
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! - April 21<sup>st</sup>:** St. Croix Rockhounds club meeting will be held at Stonebridge Elementary School in Stillwater MN at 7:15 pm. The program will be "New Ideas about Lake Superior Agate" a slide show from the Midwest Federation (subject to change by the MWF).

## COMING ATTRACTIONS

**April 4<sup>th</sup>:** St Croix Rockhounds club show at the Valley Creek Mall from 9 am-4 pm. For info call Bill Cordua 715-425-9544

**April 5<sup>th</sup>: Waterloo, IA.** Black Hawk County Gem & Mineral Society Annual Show. Waterloo Center for the Arts, 225 Commercial St.; Sun. 12-5; free admission; demonstrations, displays, fish pond, silent auction, jewelry, vendors; contact Dave Malm, (319) 266-6433

**April 18-19:** Eau Claire, WI. Chippewa Valley Gem & Mineral Society 46th Annual Show. Eau Claire County Expo Center, Lorch Ave.; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; silent auction, minerals, fossils, crystals, gems, rocks, artifacts, jewelry, demonstrations. Contact Mike Schoenfuss, (715) 456-0664.

**April 18-19:** Des Plaines, IL 44th Annual Show, Des Plaines Valley Geological Society, Des Plaines Park District Leisure Center, 2222 Birch St. Sat 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Jewelry, gem, fossil, rock and mineral dealers. Live lapidary arts demonstrations, silent auction, educational exhibits, kids' room, raffles and door prizes. Contact Lois Zima at (847) 298-4653 or Jeanine N. Mielecki, [jaynine9@aol.com](mailto:jaynine9@aol.com).

**April 21<sup>st</sup>:** St Croix Rockhounds club meeting at Stonebridge Elementary School.

**May 2-3:** Cayuna Agate and Mineral Show at Aitkin High School, Hwy 210, Aitkin, MN. Sat 9-5 and Sun 10-4. For info call Kat Thomas 218-678-3298 or e-mail [katmoose@emily.net](mailto:katmoose@emily.net).

**May 2-3<sup>rd</sup>:** The Heart of WI G&M Society Show at the Marshfield HS Fieldhouse, 1401 Becker Rd in Marshfield, WI. Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4. For info contact Cynthia Kelman 715-387-8782 or [kelman@tznet.com](mailto:kelman@tznet.com).

**May 19<sup>th</sup>:** St Croix Rockhounds club meeting in River Falls, Wisconsin

**July 18-19<sup>th</sup>:** Agate Days in Moose Lake. Contact Al & Diane Hyopponen: 218-525-7766 or [willow72cpinternet.com](http://willow72cpinternet.com).

**August 2-8:** Copper Country Mineral Retreat – hosted by the Seaman Mineral Museum. A week long mineral collecting extravaganza in Lake Superior Native Copper District near Houghton, MI. For details see [www.museum.mtu.edu/copper\\_country\\_mineral/index.html](http://www.museum.mtu.edu/copper_country_mineral/index.html) or call 906-487-2437.

**Traveling Point Agate:** Mining plans for this coming spring have not been finalized yet. Plans to work on our claim at Graveyard Point are under consideration and would occur in early June. If you are planning a trip out west, individuals and groups are welcome to stop by and collect on our claims for a small fee. Contact Eugene Miller: mail@thegemshop.com or 262-377-4666. You can see the website at www.thegemshop.com



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(Note: Field trip April 18<sup>th</sup> has been changed to April 26<sup>th</sup> – after the April meeting)

### **Minutes of the St. Croix Rockhounds March 17<sup>th</sup> 2009**

The meeting at UWRF was called to order by the President at 7:15 pm.

There were 18 members present.

**Correction** to the February minutes: Brad Bonse and June Shelander served treats.

Corrected February minutes were approved.

**Treasurers report** by Vic M: \$1263.65 Savings, \$266.18 Checking. Total: \$1529.83.

Treasurer's report was **approved**.

**Motion** to approve "Leaverite News" postage fee of \$258.38 was **approved**.

Elaine M, Bill & Thomas F., and Freya K provided treats.

Brad Bonse mentioned the By-Law that states: "A written report shall be submitted to the auditing committee yearly" or at least with a change in the Treasurer. (An auditing committee is a committee of two people).

**Field Trip Committee** suggested the following trips:

- Ron's gravel pit in New Richmond **April** 18<sup>th</sup> [ed: now the **26<sup>th</sup>**] (bring boots if muddy)
- Yet to be determined local trip in early **May**, to be discussed at April meeting.
- Early **June** Graveyard Point Agate mining claim on Oregon/Idaho border.
- **Club picnic** at Gladys's in Dresser, Wi. **August 15<sup>th</sup>** potluck style. You would be able to enjoy her collection three people at a time.

Dr. Cordua surveyed the group on ten slide show options for upcoming meetings.

Brad raised a point about having an additional silent auction for special projects. (ie.

Funding for slide shows or guest speakers).

**Motion** for second silent auction in March 2010 was approved.

**Show Committee** distributed flyers for April 4<sup>th</sup> Valley Creek Show and sign up forms for participating members. Early setup 6:30 pm. Friday night.

**Applause** to Doug Olson on his hard work as Secretary, and Editor of Leaverite News! Thanks, Doug!!!

**Meeting adjourned** 7:50 pm.

Dr. Cordua then presented a slideshow on Concretions, Nodules, and Geodes

Submitted by Bill Fernholz Secretary and Thomas Fernholz assistant to the Secretary.

## Birthstone for April - Diamond

The name “diamond” comes from the Greek word “adamas” which means unconquerable-suggesting the eternity of love. Diamonds are special gifts due to their glamour, rarity, durability and beauty. Diamonds are usually colorless. However, brown, yellow, green, blue, pink, red, gray and black variations are also found depending on the impurities present.

Diamond was chosen as the state gem for Arkansas, because at that time it was the only diamond-producing state in the United States. Colorado now has commercial production, also. The Crater of Diamonds State Park, located in Murfreesboro, Arkansas, is the only place in the nation where you can dig for diamonds and keep what you find. More than 70,000 diamonds have been found there.

The Crater of Diamonds State Park is the eighth-largest diamond deposit in the world. Farmer John Huddleston, who owned the property, discovered the first diamond in 1906. In 1972, the property was purchased for development as a state park, and since then visitors have carried home over 18,000 diamonds. Although diamonds are the main attraction, other semi-precious gems and minerals can be found there.

Source: *Deming Rock Chips April 2005*

### April Birthdays:

Earl Kask 5<sup>th</sup>  
Wendy Flynn 15<sup>th</sup>  
Bill Cordua 21<sup>st</sup>  
Reuben Shalander 21<sup>st</sup>  
Cassandra Olson 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Dave Flynn 29<sup>th</sup>

### April Anniversaries:

Rodney Harvey 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Freya and Earl Kask 28<sup>th</sup>



**Fairy Fossil:** Another set of ancient fairy remains has been found. Assiduous readers of **the ol' raincoaster blog** will recall our original reporting on **the fossil fairy of Coney Island**, which we broke to the larger world several months ago, much to the consternation of the scientific orthodoxy.

Now comes breaking news from **Derbyshire**, via **Neatorama**, that **the mummified remains of several authentic flower fairies have been located** in a barrow somewhere in the countryside. The exact site is being kept secret for obvious reasons.

The 12 inch remains complete with wings; skin, teeth, and flowing red hair have been examined by anthropologists and forensic experts who can confirm that the body is genuine. X-rays of the “fairy” reveal an anatomically identical skeleton to that of a child. The bones, however, are hollow like those of a bird making them particularly light. The presence of a navel even suggests that the beings reproduce the same as humans despite the absence of reproductive organs.

from <http://raincoaster.com/2007/04/01/mummified-fairy-remains-found/>

## NASA: Mars 'Humanoid Figure' Is Tiny Wind-Blown Rock

Friday, January 25, 2008 - A strange alien figure on Mars? Yeah, right, says NASA.

As reported Wednesday, bloggers and British newspapers have been abuzz this week over a blurry image taken by the Mars rover Spirit in November that seems to show a humanoid figure ambling down a shallow slope.

"It's a two-inch piece of rock eroded by the wind," explained NASA spokesman Dwayne Brown.

One Danish group noted that the figure looked like the Little Mermaid statue in Copenhagen harbor, and postulated that ancient Martians had colonized Scandinavia. "No one on the Mars Rover team is puzzled or surprised by the rock," he said. "I can guarantee you that if [the alien theory] had any validity, we would have a major press conference."

Of course, that won't stop people who just want to believe.

Maybe it's really a tiny statue of Bigfoot, constructed by a diminutive alien race on its way back from a hiking vacation in the Pacific Northwest. Source – FOX News via Stoney statements 02/08



## Critical Alert about the Petrified wood from Clio, Alabama:

Most of you know Gwen and I are cat lovers and we have a small herd of them. We all recognize cats for their curiosity. Recently we saw five of them at one time staring intently at one of the pieces of petrified wood we brought back from our last field trip to Clio, Alabama. We had seen this behavior before and always it was an indication of a snake in the immediate area. So, I moved this large piece of petrified wood with a rake, expecting to see and hopefully send a snake to the hereafter. To my surprise I found nothing under the specimen there in the yard.

For some reason I was motivated to break the piece in half. Still no snake! What I did find was an enormous number of wooly-looking creatures crawling around on the inside. They look like nothing I had seen before. Long, wide-bodied covered with what appeared to be fur, I assumed them to be "Wooly Worms". As I looked closer at them with a hand-held magnifying glass, I realized they all had exposed (but tiny) teeth! To make a long story short I called three different extermination companies before finding out what I had discovered. Evidence indicates these sort of wood-eating bugs that have been in an apparent cryogenic condition- frozen in time for million of years and have returned to actual life and metamorphosed into stone dwelling bugs once exposed to sunlight and rain.

The worst thing is to learn that they are more destructive to rocks and concrete than today's termites once they have awakened! An Entomologist from the State of Alabama has advised me to warn anyone who may have collected petrified wood from Clio, Alabama to be especially careful as to where you set these specimens. Apparently within three to five years they will devour entirely any petrified wood in which they exist, eating from the inside out. The damage they wreaked on the piece I broke open was obvious and alarming.

**PLEASE, PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THIS!** Leave those specimens of the petrified wood from Clio, Alabama out on your lawn away from any other rocks, in particular NOT on concrete surfaces such as front porches, garages, stepping stones or even sidewalks. Eventually all will be consumed by these heretofore-unknown creatures.

The State was good enough to advise me that if you soak your petrified wood specimens in a mixture of 1/3 distilled water, 1/3 juice from crushed onions and 1/3 white powdered sugar that this will kill the entire colony infesting your specimens after only 24 hours of soaking. On the other hand, if you make it a point to keep them off and away from other rock and concrete, they will self-destruct once they've destroyed their home. *from Mid Georgia Gem Clips, 03/06 via Georgia Mineral Society Tips & Trips 08/07*

**Crystal Skulls**...Urban legends are narratives which put our fears and concerns into the form of stories or are tales which we use to confirm the rightness of our world view...

This one tells of thirteen life-size crystal skulls, that one day, when all of the true ancient crystal skulls will be re-discovered, should be brought together for their collective wisdom to be made available, but the human race must first be sufficiently evolved, both morally and spiritually so as not to abuse this great power and knowledge... Max the crystal skull, however, is now known nationally and internationally. He has been presented in several documentaries world wide. And, not surprising for a real urban legend, Max is neither new, nor alone.



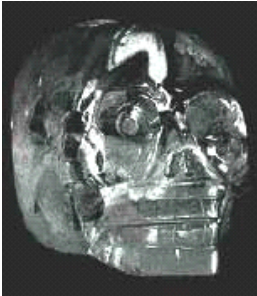
### **The Mitchell-Hedges Crystal Skull**

The most widely celebrated and mysterious crystal skull is the Mitchell-Hedges Skull, for at least two reasons. First, it is very similar in form to an actual human skull, even featuring a fitted removable jawbone. From a technical standpoint, it appears to be an impossible object which today's most talented sculptors and engineers would be unable to duplicate. As in the Max-legend, the discovery of the Mitchell-Hedges crystal skull, sometimes referred to as the "Skull of Doom". is a controversial matter, and reads like a sci-fi action adventure film.



### **The British Crystal Skull**

It is currently residing in the British Museum of Man in London, England, and has been there since 1898. It is a one piece clear quartz full size quartz crystal skull. There is a pair of similar skulls known as the British Crystal Skull and the Paris Crystal Skull. Both are said to have been bought by mercenaries in Mexico in the 1890s, possibly at the same time. They are so similar in size and shape that some have guessed that one was copied to produce the other. In comparison to the Mitchell-Hedges skull, they are made of cloudier clear crystal and are not nearly as finely sculpted. The features are superficially etched and appear incomplete, without discretely formed jawbones. The British Crystal Skull is on display at London's Museum of Mankind.



### **The Paris Crystal Skull**

It is currently residing in the Trocadero Museum in Paris, France. You may notice a slight indentation on the top, which is a hole that was cut into the skull purported to hold a cross.



### **Mayan Crystal Skull**

### **and The Amethyst Skull**

Further examples of primitively sculpted skulls are a couple called the Mayan Crystal Skull and the Amethyst Skull. They were discovered in the early 1900s in Guatemala and Mexico, respectively, and were brought to the U.S. by a Mayan priest. The Amethyst Skull is made of purple quartz and the Mayan skull is clear, but the two are otherwise very alike. Like the Mitchell-Hedges skull, both of them were studied at Hewlett-Packard, and they too were found to be inexplicably cut against the axis of the crystal.

Texas Crystal Skull (no picture) A skull known as "Max," or the Texas Crystal Skull, is a single-piece, clear skull weighing 18 pounds. It reportedly originated in Guatemala, then passed from a Tibetan spiritualist to Joann Parks of Houston, Texas. The Parks family allows visitors to observe Max and they display the skull at various exhibitions across the U.S.



### ET Skull

“ET” is a smoky quartz skull found in the early 20th Century in Central America. It was given its nickname because its pointed cranium and exaggerated overbite make it look like the skull of an alien being. ET is part of the private collection of Joke VanDietan, who tours with her skulls to share the healing powers she believes they possess. I did scrying with ET at the Star Knowledge Conference, June 1996.



### Rose Quartz Crystal Skull

The only known crystal skull that comes close to resembling the Mitchell-Hedges skull is one called the Rose Quartz Crystal Skull, which was reported near the border of Honduras and Guatemala. It is not clear in color and is slightly larger than the Mitchell-Hedges, but boasts a comparable level of craftsmanship, including a removable mandible.

As with Max, none of these tale skulls is beyond contradiction. Many

skeptics feel that the crystal skulls are probably of a much more recent vintage than their accompanying stories suggest. This, they believe, is the best way to explain their existence, since no one could have created them without technologies available only within the past century. Since carbon-dating only works on organic substances, it is impossible to determine just how old a crystal skull is. But one recent study found reasonable signs of some skulls’ relative youth.

A May broadcast of the BBC documentary series “Everyman” reported on studies of a number of crystal skulls and other artifacts of supposedly ancient origin conducted at the British Museum. Using electron microscopes, the researchers found that two of the skulls possessed straight, perfectly-spaced surface markings, indicating the use of a modern polishing wheel. Genuine ancient objects would show haphazard tiny scratches from the hand-polishing process. The report speculated that these skulls were actually made in Germany within the past 150 years.

Even the regal Mitchell-Hedges skull is not without scandalous accusations of fraud. Some believe that F.A. Mitchell-Hedges had the piece commissioned by a sculptor, and planted it in the Lubaantum ruins for his daughter to find as a spectacular birthday present.

The validity of this charge is uncertain, but even if the Mitchell-Hedges skull is of modern origin, its structure is no less extraordinary. In all likelihood, every crystal skull in the world was fashioned by plain old human beings of some sort, and regardless of whether the work was carried out five years ago or five hundred years ago, it is not crystal skulls that steer human life, but what humans keep believing about them.

*Written by Huehuetotl, October 24, 2007 at 4:42 pm, Posted in [Current Affairs](#), [Psychology](#)*

[Ed. note: *Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull* was released on May 22, 2008. Even though this article was written 7 months previously one wonders about the connection.]



# Stolen Gems *St Croix Rockhounds Leaverite News*

**Slabbing of Nodules** - while some small pieces of rough are very difficult to hold in a vise for even one cut, most can be held for that first cut. If you can hold it for one cut, you do not really need to set it in cement, Plaster of Paris, or anything else. Once you have a flat surface (and assuming that your saw doesn't leave huge, rough gouges in the surface) you can glue each flat surfaced piece to a wooden block with water glass, sodium silicate. Just spread a little on the wooden block, plop your rock down on it and go to bed. Next day you can saw to your heart's content. If your wood block is square, the last slab you cut should be just as true as the rest of them. The last slab can be removed from the wood by soaking in water for several days.

One day to dry, one week to unglue is just about right for water glass. I bought my water glass at the Wal-Mart pharmacy for \$2.58 a pint. A pint should last me several years. Incidentally, water glass is strong enough to hold very substantial sized rough that is difficult to put in a vise, as well as the small stuff. *by Herb Luckert Lapidary Digest July 97 via Stoney Statements 03/09*

**Bezel Wrapping Tip** - an easy way to wrap a bezel around a cabochon. Using super glue fasten a nail to the base of your stone. If the stone is still on the dop stick it will also work. Position the cab on top of a small vise by securely clamping the vise on the nail or dop (not the stone) as shown in the following photograph. This holds the stone in place allowing you to accurately measure and cut the bezel. The vise I am using is a clamp on vise with rubber jaw protectors. *by Dave Jacobson from Canaveral Moonstone 3/09 via Stoney Statements 03/09*

**The best thread for beads** depends on what the beads are. Use strong, not-abrasive resistant silk on non-abrasive beads such as pearls, turquoise, mother-of-pearl, and lapis. Use abrasive-resistant nylon on beads such as onyx, metals, and quartzes. Before using nylon, pre-stretch overnight with a weight. *from New & Views via AFMS Newsletter via TTown Rockhound 7/98 via Stoney Statements 03/09*

**How to remove stains from marble** - use a paste of cornstarch and water. Spread over the stain and allow to dry overnight. Rinse with clear water. If the stain remains, repeat with a paste of cornstarch and hydrogen peroxide, except rinse off after a couple of hours. *from Cabber Gabber, via the Cora Geode 10/91, Scribe 2008 CD via Pick & Pack 03/09*

**Lack of polish** - when you have a cab or flat-lapped rock that cannot be brought up to a good finish, give it several coats of neutral (clear) shoe polish with a good buffing between coats. *from The Boondocker 12/85, via Burro Express 11/91, Scribe 2008 CD via Pick & Pack 03/09*

**Working soft stone** - when working a soft stone such as onyx or marble, soak the stone in water for a couple of days before cutting. The absorbed water will keep the saw oil from being absorbed and will result in a higher polish. *from Gem-n-i via Rock Chip Reporter 10/01, Scribe 2008 CD via Pick & Pack 03/09*

**Oldest Spider Wed in Amber** – In December 2008, scientists found silk spider threads in amber formed around 140 million years ago. This discovery implies the orb spinning spider existed before flowering plants, much earlier than previously believed. The amber was found on a beach in East Sussex that is known for its fossilized dinosaur tracks. Photos of the amber found by Jamie Hiscocks can be seen at [www.farlang.com](http://www.farlang.com). *from UK telegraph by Richard Gray via the Agate Picer 02/09.*

**Fossil of 43-foot super-snake Titanoboa** found in Columbia. At 2,500 pounds and as long as a school bus, *Titanoboa* could swallow crocodiles. It lived after dinosaurs died out, and changes scientists' ideas about 'how big a snake can be'. More at [www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-sci-snake5-2009feb05\\_0,6550292.story](http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-sci-snake5-2009feb05_0,6550292.story) *from Trilobite 04/09*

*My wife says I don't listen... or something like that.*