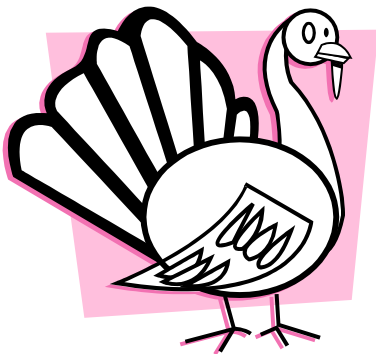


St. Croix Rockhounds
Doug Olson, Editor
211 Interlachen Way
Stillwater, MN 55082



November 2009

First Class

Please send exchange bulletins to:

Doug Olson, Editor
211 Interlachen Way
Stillwater, MN 55082

November 17th – Program
is on Fluorescent Minerals



St. Croix Rockhound's
LEAVERITE NEWS

Vol. 34, Issue 9; November, 2009

Member of:



&



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	(715) 483-1047
Program Committee	Bill Cordua	(715) 425-9544
	Victor Martinsen	(715) 247-3700
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.

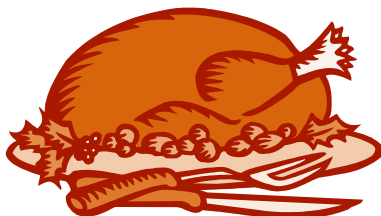
COMING UP! - November 17th: St. Croix Rockhounds club meeting will be held at Stonebridge Elementary School in Stillwater MN at 7:15 pm. The program will be on fluorescent minerals.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

November 17th: St Croix Rockhounds club meeting at Stonebridge Elementary School in Stillwater, MN at 7:15pm

November 21-22nd: Rosedale, MN - Anoka County Gem & Mineral Club's Sales Show; Har Mar Mall, Snelling & Co. Rd. B; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 12-5; CONTACT: Martha Miss, 8445 Grange Blvd., Cottage Grove, MN 55016, (651) 459-0343, rockbiz8@cs.com.

December 15th: St Croix Rockhounds club annual x-mas party at 5 pm, to be held at Vic and Elaine Martinsen's house.



Minutes of the St Croix Rockhounds October 20th, 2009

Meeting was called to order 7:17

Minutes were approved

Treasurer's report was approved

Dr. Bill Cordua introduced Bill Rusterholtz for the nights program. He also mentioned you should bring a fluorescent mineral to November meeting

Christmas potluck location: Vic volunteered their home in Somerset for the location.

Tuesday Dec 15th is the date set for potluck 5pm-?

Show committee: Bill mentioned the Saturday before Palm Sunday, March 27th will be date set for the club show. Sign up sheet to come.

Tonights refreshments provided by June Shalander and Norma Schutte

Cheryl Kopp and Joyce Sullwold are set to serve refreshments for November.

Tour director Susan Dustin is setting up a field trip to Keokuk Iowa for the weekend after Fathers day weekend and that the third weekend in September Geode Fest is very family friendly.

The Secretary mentioned that the Oklahoma youth donations were accepted Thanks to Ron, Dr Cordua, Bill and Thomas Fernholtz., and Pete Rodewald. for their donations. We are still awaiting his address to ship them.

Vic mentioned there are 3 items to be auctioned off.

7:30 meeting adjourned.

Welcomed Guests: Jackie Magler, Ron Bushman, and Dick Madison:

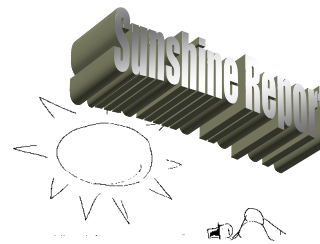
October Door Prize winners:

Ron, Earle, Joe, Dave F., Jackie M., Roger S., Louise, Bill F., Ron B., Becky K., Norma S., Floyd

Respectfully submitted by Bill and Tom Fernholz, secretary.

[ed: A person of significance to the rockhound community] On October 11th, with family and friends by her side, **June Culp Zeitner** passed peacefully away at her home in Rapid City. She was 93 years of age.

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



Celebrate! November's birthstone is Topaz.

In ancient lore, it could be used to control heat. It was said to have the power to cool boiling water, as well as excessive anger. As medication, topaz was used to cure fever.

During the Middle Ages, the topaz was used mostly by royalty and clergy. A 13th century belief held that a topaz engraved with a falcon helped its wearer cultivate the goodwill of kings, princes and magnates.

Topaz was once thought to strengthen the mind, increase wisdom, and prevent mental disorders. It was thought to guard against sudden death. Powdered topaz added to wine was used to prevent asthma and insomnia. A cure for weak vision called for immersing the stone in wine for three days and nights, then rubbing the liquid on the eyes.

The Topaz symbolizes good fortune and longevity. According to legend, this golden stone possesses the power to cure many diseases.

Also, citrine, a transparent yellow quartz gem many of the best of which come from Brazil, is a current day birthstone for this month.

November birthdays: none known

November Anniversaries: none known

Yellow Topaz - Richness is the word for November's birthstone (state gemstone of the states of Texas and Utah). By Jen Lyn Campbell, The Fort Worth Gem and Mineral Club

Famous for its warm yellow tones, topaz is hailed as a gem, which is timeless and is set into rings, earrings, pills, and pendants. It may be linked to a suite of topazes or other gems in a lacy bracelet or neck chain. It makes a smart tie tack or cuff link and can also be used in men's rings. Topaz is an everlasting symbol of love and affection. It also ensures the fidelity of the one a person loves, if that person wears a topaz. It brings friendship. Known as "lover of gold," the topaz is used to bring wealth and money. When the powdered mixture of the gemstone is added to wine, it is said to act as a cure for asthma, ulcers, insomnia, and hemorrhage. In addition, it also alleviates the pain of rheumatism as well as to regulate the digestive system (perhaps this is why the stone is worn for weight loss). The topaz is used for protection purposes. It is considered a specific against envy, intrigue, disease, injury, sudden death, sorcery and negative magic and lunacy. This stone was thought to be especially effective when set in gold and bound to the left arm. It is said the topaz relieves depression, anger, fear, greed, frenzies, and all disturbing emotions. Topaz, if placed in the home, is said to be a charm against fire and accidents. When put under your pillow or worn to sleep, the topaz fends off nightmares and ends sleepwalking.

The topaz was associated with Jupiter (the God of the Sun) by the Romans. The Roman tales attribute its ability to dispel enchantment and help improve eyesight. It is believed that the name "topaz" is derived from the Greek "to seek," which was the name of an island in the Red Sea that was difficult to find and from which a yellow stone (now believed to be a yellowish olivine) was mined in ancient times. In the Middle Ages the name topaz was used to refer to any yellow gemstone, but now the name is only applied to the modern day topaz. Ancient Egyptians acknowledged the gemstone as a powerful gemstone due to the fact that it was colored with the golden glow of the mighty Sun God Ra. Ancient Greeks believed that it had the power to give more strength and provide the cloak of invisibility to its wearer during emergency times. In ancient times, a falcon figure was carved on a Topaz, which brought enormous goodwill to kings, princes and magnates. It was said to change its color in the presence of poisoned food or drink, and the gem's mystical powers waxed and waned with the phases of the moon. On occasions it has the amber gold of fine cognac or the blush of a peach plus the beautiful warm browns and oranges found in between.

In 1750 a Parisian jeweler discovered that a yellow topaz turns pink to purple-red when exposed to moderate heat. In the 20th century, the other artificially created color - blue, was discovered. Using radiation on the pale topaz that is found in Brazil, China, Sri Lanka and Nigeria creates blue topaz, in shades from pale to medium blue. In 1998, another variation of topaz was discovered. This surface-enhanced topaz has a color that is confined to a microscopically thin layer at and just below the surface with colors referred to as blue to greenish-blue or emerald green. Blue topaz has become a popular alternative in recent years for those who prefer faceted stones.

Topaz is said to have been commonly found in gravels as rounded pellets, an occurrence that is due to it being worn down by water and sand for thousands of years. The mineral is a silicate of aluminum, which contains 20% water plus fluorine. The relative proportions of these impurities give birth to the color of the stones. The sources of topaz are Brazil, Pakistan, Russia, Mexico, the Ural Mountains, San Diego, CA, and Thomas Range in Utah, Australia, Japan, China, Sri Lanka and Myanmar.

Today, Brazil is considered the world's best source of topaz. The much-sought Imperial Topaz, which runs from bright orange to a warm red in color, is found in only one location in the world: Ouro Preto in Brazil. The world's entire supply of Imperial Topaz is mined from two mines, the Vermelhao Mine and the Capao Mine, in a 60 square mile area. *...continued on next page....*

Topaz continued... Some experts expect the Imperial Topaz sources to be completely exhausted by the end of the century.

Dealers will frequently use terms such as "Bohemian Topaz," "Maderia Topaz" and "Occidental Topaz." These are really just fancy names for yellow quartz, also known as citrine. "Nevada Topaz" refers to smoky obsidian, and "Spanish Topaz" is really just orange-brown quartz. Don't be fooled; make sure that the topaz you buy is really topaz!

A brilliant cut colorless topaz in the name of Braganza, a famous stone of 1640 carats is found in the Portuguese crown. A famous cut topaz is found among the crown jewels of Portugal, a magnificent yellow stone weighing only 12 ounces. The biggest uncut stone, a specimen found in Brazil weighing almost 600 pounds, is on display at the American Museum of Natural History in New York

Cut: Topaz has some impressive credentials. At Mohs 8, topaz is much harder than quartz (7) and a bit harder than most beryl (7.5 to 8). The surfaces of topaz crystals are exceedingly smooth and take a fine polish.

Color: Topaz comes in colors as diverse as brown, yellow, orange, sherry, red and pink, blue, greenish-blue and emerald green.

Clarity: Topaz's hardness and optical indices admittedly fall considerably short of those of the diamond and the corundum gems, sapphire and ruby. However, the indices of refraction and dispersion are higher than those of the beryl gemstones, thus properly cut topaz gems have great brilliance.

Caret: While it's hard to find (or afford) diamond or corundum gems in weights greater than 3 carats, topaz gems rarely weigh less. Topaz gems of 5 and 10 carats are common, and gems of 15 or more carats are not unusual. Topaz gemstones occur in a large variety of sizes, from tiny crystals to large rocks.

Care: Topaz should be protected from scratches and sharp blows. Therefore, it should not be worn during sports or strenuous work. Leaving the gemstone in the area of large temperature changes, such as a heater vent or a hot car should be avoided. The cleaning of a topaz in a home ultrasonic cleaner is a no-no, and instead it should be cleaned in warm soapy water. Due caution should be exercised with topaz gems, for its perfect cleavage may cause it to chip or form internal flaws if hit too hard. Topaz cutting also requires special practice for this reason.

Topaz is the Scorpio zodiac sign and is the anniversary gemstone for the 4th year of marriage. It is also the talisman for the Sagittarius zodiac sign and is the suggested gift for the 23rd anniversary.

References: <http://hvdeDaaes.com> <http://www.wikipedia.org> <http://www.ccaem.com>
<http://brvsonburke.com> <http://www.bsu.edu> <http://www.sdnhm.org> <http://www.alrashidmall.com>
<http://www.gemdirect.com> <http://www.mineralminers.com>

from The Cowtown Cutter November 2002 via Stoney Statements 10/03

Wonders Of A Crystal: A crystal is one of the strangest objects of nature. It is not alive, yet it grows. A crystal attracts the same kind of materials of which it is composed, arranges them with great accuracy in geometrical forms, cements the parts together and holds them. Place a crystal in a liquid, or vapor composed of the same ingredients as the crystal and the process of accumulation immediately begins. If a crystal was broken in two parts and placed in a bath of liquefied crystal, the broken surface will be repaired and each part will grow into another crystal, providing the other conditions favorable for crystal growth are present. Even after a crystal has been worn until it is but a rounded grain of sand, it will speedily become a crystal again if placed in a solution containing the ingredients of which it is composed. There is no known limit to ...next page...

the ability of a crystal thus to repair itself and resume its growth. Under a microscope a crystalline solution can be seen forming into crystals, and it is a wonderful sight. First, innumerable dark spots form in the fluid; they stand still and then begin to move. It is soon seen that the movement arranges the spots in straight lines, like beads. The beads speedily coalesce into rods, and the rods arrange themselves into layers until a crystal is created. The process proceeds so rapidly that it is almost impossible to follow closely. *from Tailings via Rock Scoop 2/01 via Dusty Rocks 7/01 via Golden Spike News 8/01 via Sedona Red Rocking News 04/08*

Abalone: (Editor's note - due to the near extinction of the species the harvesting of Abalone in Canada is prohibited - please use only old shells or from foreign sources)

Abalone, (Haliotis), for over 80 million years, has been grazing on algae in the selected waters of our planet earth. Eight species may be found along the West Coast of the North American continent, from Mexico to the Aleutian Islands. They are: Red Black, Corrugated, Green, Flate, White, Pinto, and Threaded.

These shells are comprised of multi-layered "Mother of Pearl" nacre, chemically similar to the Oyster. Color bands found in the shells are a direct result of diet and genetic factors. The outer layer is protected by a covering called Peristrium, which is a translucent shellac-like overlay.

These beautiful shells have been found all over the world in many forms. In ancient times, royalty decorated their robes and turbans with them, Stings of Abalone shell jewelry were used by the women. During the era of barter and trade, the Abalone was often used as "coin of the realm". In many parts of the world, at archeological digs, artifacts have been found made from these shells. Today, many forms of jewelry, from formal to baroque, are designed with the unique characteristics and beauty of the Abalone utilized to the fullest.

Many steps are used in the preparation of the shell until its final lustrous beauty is brought to life in the creation of fine jewelry. *from the Ultralite Co. Inc. via Chips and Tips via the Victoria Gem and Lapidary Society website*

Working with Abalone (Editor's note - Abalone is extremely toxic if worked dry. Do not ever work this material unless the piece is under a steady stream of water. If you feel the least bit nauseous even when working it wet - stop immediately and get plenty of fresh air.)

Starting with the raw shell, it must first be soaked in a chemical to rid it of algae and parasitic crustaceans. It is scrubbed, dried, sandblasted, before it is ready for cutting. Rough shapes are formed by saw, drill, and Dremel tools using diamond edged tools. This work should be done

under water, with a worker wearing a respirators, plus fans blowing for ventilation to protect the workers from Silicosis, due to the dust of Calcium Carbonate from the shells.

After the cutting operations are completed, the shell parts can be placed in a tumbler for 24 to 72 hours with three changes of grit. The shell is then washed, and buffed to a high gloss finish. This last operation can be done either mechanically or by hand. The shell should now be a beautiful creation of vivid color worthy of any jewelry setting.

All that is left now is the imagination of the craftsman. The shell can be drilled for jump rings, epoxied for any glued style, or prong set for special effects. Completion of any of these operations assures the individual of the finest in Abalone jewelry.

The world's population has for years, gorged itself on these delectable Gastropods (Editor's note - if you enjoy fish flavored shoe leather), thus over-harvesting their reproductive capacity. The Sea Otter also includes Abalone as a main part of his diet, and that also reduces the reproduction. Our federal government has stepped in and placed an "Endangered Species" label on the Abalone for these reasons. Quantity limits as well as size limits have been placed on the harvesting of them. Thus, the Abalone has become more valuable, both as a food source and a jewelry source. *from the Ultralite Co. Inc. via Chips and Tips via the Victoria Gem and Lapidary Society website*

Jasper, What is it? You know the joke: If you can't identify something, call it jasper. Your odds are pretty good, given that jasper is a quartz and quartz makes up approximately 12% of the earth's crust, but what is it really?

Jasper is a dense, opaque variety of quartz, often red, brown, or yellow, due to oxides of iron. Although the term "jasper" is also used for other silicified rock, such as rhyolite, jasper is SiO₂, with a specific gravity of 2.5-2.0 and hardness of 6.5 to 7, with dull luster and white streak.

Quartz is the most abundant mineral on earth and is grouped by the size of the crystals that are distinguishable by eye, while cryptocrystalline quartz has crystals which are too small to be distinguishable without some kind of magnification.

Macrocrystalline quartz includes amethyst, citrine, rose quartz and smoky quartz. Fibrous cryptocrystalline quartz includes bloodstone, carnelian, chalcedony, and our favorite variety of banded chalcedony, the agate.

Chert is the general term for granular cryptocrystalline quartz. Jasper is a variety in this category.

Jaspers are usually colored by impurities. If the colors are banded they are called riband jasper; mottled yellow or brown varieties are called Egyptian.

Jasper is a silica mineral that is classified under cryptocrystalline quartz. It is opaque, fine-grained, dense (hardness 6.5-7). Its

submicroscopic crystals allow most jaspers to take a high, enduring polish making it extensively used for jewelry. Iron oxide and other ore impurities determine the color. Because of its great abundance and diversity of pattern and color it is part of almost all rock collections. Below is a list of some of the more commonly known varieties of jasper.

- **Biggs Jasper:** Browns/tans, complex distinctive patterning, from Biggs, Oregon. Looks like it has had a rough ride through history.
- **Brecciated Jasper:** Rounded fragments naturally cemented together in a gray base.
- **Bruneau Jasper:** Browns/tans with distinctive core patterns from Bruneau River, Idaho
- **Green Jasper:** Very light to dark green colors, sometimes quite gemmy (color from chlorites).
- **Leopard Skin Jasper:** Orbicular Jasper with a tan color, resembling leopard spots.
- **Morrisonite:** Desirable multicolored jasper from the Owyhee River area, Oregon.
- **Orbicular Jasper:** Jasper with rounded rings throughout the stone.
- **Poppy Jasper:** Yellow orbicular with red rings.
- **Red Jasper:** From dull red to intense, bright red with some patterning (color from iron oxide).
- **Yellow Jasper:** Some intense yellow-gold has been dug from the Red Top area in Eastern Washington. from the internet via Pebbles 7/01 via Golden Spike News 8/01 via Sedona Red Rocking News 5/08 via Fractured Agate 05/08

FROM THE ROCKHOUND DICTIONARY: from Strata Gem 7-8/05. via Rockhounder 7/07 via The Shin-Skinners News 11/07 via Stone Chipper 08/09

Findings: Stuff you find.

Faceting: A complex way to ruin a good mineral.

Friend: One who can see the star in your sapphire.

Geode: A poem to G. (often written in hollow verse)

Grinding Wheel: A bearing going out on your old truck.

Fortification: Two twentyfications; a large gulp of good whiskey.

Gentleman: A man who holds the door open for his wife to carry the rocks in.

Diamond: The hardest stone known to man to get back from his old girlfriend.

Stolen Gems *St Croix Rockhounds Leaverite News*

Prevent Silver from Tarnishing—Apply a thin coat of Alberto VO5 Conditioning Hairdressing with a soft cloth to clean, polished, dry silver candlesticks, picture frames, service sets, and other decorative items. Wipe off excess, leaving behind a very thin, virtually invisible protective coating. VO5's protectants actually prevent tarnishing. *from T-Town Rockhound, 09/09 via Pick&Pack 09/09*

Cleaning Petrified Wood—To remove clay and ferrous oxide from the surface use Mr. Clean. Do not use oxalic acid as it darkens the specimen. *from T-Town Rockhound, 3/9 via Pick&Pack 08/09*

Large Slabs—A good way to tell how solid a slab might be is to heat it in hot water. The surface will dry immediately. If there are holes or fractures in the slab, every one will soon be lined with water. Mark the lines with a pencil to orient the slab for your project. *from Ttown Rockhound, 3/9 via Pick&Pack 08/09*

Grindstone—Never test to see if a grindstone is turning with your nose—it's only a expression. *from The Rockhounder, 7-8/09 via Pick&Pack 08/09*

Household products that can be used as rock cleaners - *By Betsy Martin*

Safety: Always use plastic containers, rubber or nitrile gloves, eye protection, good ventilation and great care when handling these products.

Zud or Barkeeper's Friend cleansers (contains oxalic acid) - Warm or hot solutions will remove iron stains and are helpful with clay deposits. These cleaners can be used with a toothbrush on sturdy surfaces.

Toilet Cleaner (the hydrochloric acid type) – dissolves calcite rapidly. After treating anything with acid, rinse very carefully and soak in ample fresh or distilled water for a while to leach out any acid remaining in crystal seams and fractures. You can then follow up with a final soak in diluted Windex to neutralize remaining traces of acid.

Lime Away (diluted hydrochloric acid) - dissolves calcite slowly. Rinse as you would for other acid treatments (see above).

Calgon - dissolve this powdered water softener in water. Use for clay removal.

Vinegar (acetic acid) **Soda Water, Colas** (carbonic and phosphoric acids) - will slowly etch out very delicate fossils in limestone. Rinse as you would for other acids (see above).

Iron Out (iron stain and clay remover) - Mix with warm water and use with good ventilation. It will lose strength if stored. Rinse with plain water.

Bleach - Dilute solutions of bleach can remove organic deposits and disinfect minerals collected in areas used by livestock. Rinse with plain water.

Hydrogen Peroxide - use to remove manganese stains. Rinse with plain water.

Citric Acid - Use to remove manganese stains. Rinse as above for acids.

Windex (with ammonia) - a good clay deposit remover and final surface cleanup. Works well in ultrasonic cleaners. Rinse with plain water.

Distilled Water - Use to clean sensitive species and as a final soak after acid treatment.

Removing Thin Coatings: On moderately hard mineral - use toothpaste (a feldspar abrasive) and a toothbrush. On hard minerals - use toothbrush with pumice powder and water. On calcite (including bruised places) quickly dip in vinegar or Lime Away and rinse thoroughly. Repeat. Soak in plain water afterwards to leach any acid from cracks.

Cleaning Tools: Toothpicks, seam ripper, bamboo sticks, sewing needles in a pin vise, old dental tools, old toothbrushes, periodontal brushes, canned air, Exacto knife, single edge razor blades, cheap small stiff bristle brushes. *from - The Franklin County Rockhounder Via -Rockhound Rambling 04/08 Blue Agate News 05/08 via Calgary Lapidary Journal 10/08*