

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



November 2010

First Class

Please send exchange bulletins to:

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Stillwater, MN 55082



November 16th – *The program:*
**Distant and Surprising
Contents of Glacial Till in
Wisconsin**

St. Croix Rockhound's
LEAVERITE NEWS

Vol. 35, Issue 9; November, 2010

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	(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 16th - St Croix Rock club meeting will be held at the Stonebridge Elementary School on W. Elm St in Stillwater, MN at 7:15 pm. The program will be "Distant and Surprising Contents of Glacial Till in WI".

COMING ATTRACTIONS

November 13-14th: South Central Federation Convention and show in DeRidder, Louisiana.

November 16th: St Croix Rockhounds club meeting will be held at the Stonebridge Elementary School on W. Elm St in Stillwater, MN at 7:15 pm.

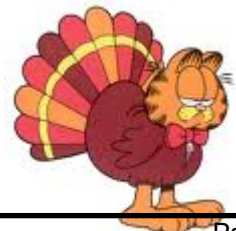
November 20-21st: Madison Gem & Mineral Club Show "Rockin' Madison 50 Years" at 1919 Alliant Energy Center Way; Madison, Wisconsin. Contact 608-251-2601 or e-mail burniesrockshop@gmail.com or check www.madisonrockclub.org.

December xx: St. Croix Rockhounds x-mas party at the Old County Inn Buffet near the Maplewood Mall.

February 26-27th, 2011: Anoka county Gem & Mineral Club "pre-spring" show at the Har Mar Mall in Rosedale, MN.

April 9-10th, 2011: Anoka county Gem & Mineral Club "spring" show at the Har Mar Mall in Rosedale, MN.

April 16th, 2011: St Croix Rockhounds Annual Club Show at the Valley Creek Mall in Woodbury, MN



Minutes of the St Croix Rockhounds October 19th, 2010

Meeting called to order at 7:20 p.m. by Ron in for Vic.

Corrections to the September meeting minutes Freya and not Ray provided treats for September, Sorry Freya.

October Treats provided by Norma Schutt and June Young. November treats will be provided by Bill and Thomas F. and _____

Meeting Minutes approved.

Bill Cordua mentioned he has not recieved a mailed newsletter for 2 months, nobody else has had problems.

Treasurer's report appreved.

New guests Bev C, Hope O, Karin M, Pam P, Matt & Malanie L, Welcome to the meeting.

Show committee: Club Show the saturday before Palm Sunday at the Valley Creek Mall in Woodbury.

Program Chairman: Bill Cordua has a program on Volcanoes

Next month's program is an amature archeologist and former 3M'er program on "Distant and Surprising Contents of Glacial Till in WI".

Field trip: Susan talked about the Geodefest trip to Keokuk Iowa with 14 of our club in attendance. Hundreds of pounds of Geodes were found and brought home. Some awesome some not so awesome ;-)

Door prize winners Freya, Thomas, Roger, Susan, and Norma S.

Meeting Adjouned 7:35p.m for the program on volcanoes.

Minutes submitted by Bill and Tom Fernholz, secretaries.

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





Geodefest : Sept. 24, 25 & 26, 2010 *by Susan Dustin*

Fourteen St. Croix Rockhounds and guests had an amazing experience finding Keokuk geodes in the vicinities of Hamilton, IL, St. Francisville, MO, and Keokuk, IA. We went to 5 sites, collecting in stream bottoms, stream banks, and pits. Adults and kids alike had fun playing in the mud and water while hunting beautiful geodes. They were plentiful as everyone was able to find many geodes from golf ball to basketball size. Watching geodes get cracked open, viewing geodes found by others, and having the opportunity to talk with the “locals” was all part of the fun. We're definitely going back next year and welcome anyone else to join us.



National Rockhound Hall of Fame by Steve Weinberger

The National Rockhound & Lapidary Hall of Fame was instituted to honor outstanding contributors to the earth sciences and lapidary arts. Categories for recognition are minerals, education, fossils, lapidary, jewelry and tribute.

Individuals are nominated along with supporting documentation which the consultants (members of the committee) evaluate. For 2010 there are two inductees.

Jewelry: **Frank “Franko” Zambrotto** has been a wire wrapper for almost 30 years. In addition to his commercial activity, he has taught workshops for his clubs, assisted with club shows (contracts, set-up, electrical, demonstrations etc.). Franko has always encouraged youngsters in the hobby.



Minerals: **Peter Rodewald** was a self-taught amateur mineralogist / rock hound. He started picking up rocks as a boy and had been a field collector for over 50 years. In addition to his collecting and photography skills, he was an expert lapidary with a special interest in Lake Superior Agates, Keweenaw copper, and copper-bearing agates. He was one of the charter members of the St. Croix Rockhounds Club, having held every major club office and displaying at all of its shows. His photographic skills focused on color patterns in iris and fluorescent agates, and many of his photographs were featured in major publications. Two of his slide presentations were submitted to the AFMS and were award winners.



Sadly Mr. Rodewald passed away shortly after he was selected for induction.

The process for submitting nominations for the NRLH is more stringent than for the AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year program. Since the intent is to recognize people who have made major contributions over a period of many years, the following suggestions will aid the process:

1. Have more than one person recommend the individual and
2. Supply as much supporting and biographical information as possible since the consultants usually select the best candidate each year, the more supporting documentation, the better.

Send your nominations to Steve Weinberger, PO Box 302, Glyndon, MD 21071-0302 by March 31, 2011 for consideration in the 2011 selection process. *from AFMS Newsletter 08-09/2010*



“Celtic Style” jewelry



Man Finds Priceless Necklace in Garden – A Swedish man in

Stockholm digging in his garden, unearthed a spectacular find: an ornate gold necklace believed to be 2,000 years old.

Weighing about 17 oz., the necklace consists of two bulbs adorned with granular and filigree gold, linked by strands of braided gold thread. It was made in a Celtic style, probably in the early Iron Age, experts said. The necklace may not bring much for its discoverer. He is obligated by law to sell his souvenir to the state for its gold weight plus 10%.

With gold selling at about \$384 per oz. this week, the man would get about \$7,450 for his priceless piece of history, which will be displayed at the Swedish State Historical Museum in Stockholm. *from Globe 7/95 via Achates 95 via Rock Rustler's News 95 via Agate Picker 10/95 [ed. Even with gold now four times that price he is still ripped off.]*

Telling Meteorites from Wrongs - William S. Cordua, U. of Wisconsin- River Falls

"Is this a meteorite?" is probably the most common rock identification questions I get. Many people not only find meteorites fascinating, and would love to find one, but also they are aware of their value and hope for a windfall. Here are my clues from telling meteor-rights from -wrongs.

First, is it magnetic? Most meteorites contain at least some iron-nickel alloy so will respond to a magnet. Those that don't are so rare, weather rapidly and usually have such drab appearances that they aren't normally recognizable. We find these rare ones when they've been seen to fall from the sky, or they are found in areas where few other rocks accumulate such as on top of glaciers or on the deep sea floor.

Unfortunately, there are a number of earth rocks that also will respond to a magnet, so the magnetic test is not enough. Where I live, the landscape is covered by debris from glaciers that scrapped across magnetic iron formation and gabbros to the north. People picking through this material find lots of magnetic "meteor-wrongs", bring them excitedly into my office and come away bitterly disappointed. I'm sorry - but they are what they are.

Second, does the rock show layering? Meteorites don't show layers or bands but earth rocks often do. This includes veins, particularly ones with openings containing crystals. These are not signs of a meteorite.

Third, what does the rock look like on a freshly broken surface? Many weathered surfaces contain dark iron and manganese oxides, which make them look dark. To many people dark is "burned", who then conclude that weathered surface "must" be a fusion crust formed when the sample roasted during passage through the air. Nature is, unfortunately, good at making dark crusts through oxidation hydration, microbial action and so forth at room temperature. A fresh surface will reveal a lot about the rock. Fresh surfaces will often reveal the details of a rock's composition and texture and allow its identification - usually as a meteor-wrong.

Also, holes are not a good indicator of a meteorite. Many people assume rocks with holes have "boiled", thus must have hurtled through the air at high speed. Some meteorites may contain pits, called regmaglypts, but not holes. Holes are from earth processes of weathering, erosion or volcanic activity.

On a fresh surface a true iron-nickel meteorite will be steely and not very brittle. Stony meteorites will often have small spherical objects known as chondrules. Beware, though, as earth processes also can make spherical objects in rocks, such as oolites in sedimentary rocks and spherulites in volcanic ones

My fourth test is this: are there minerals present that are known NOT to occur in meteorites. Quartz and feldspars are common minerals found in many earth rocks but not in meteorites. If any of these are present, the sample is not a meteorite.

Fifth, if there is metallic iron present under the altered crust, does it have significant nickel in it? You want to make sure you haven't found a rusted chunk of Uncle Ned's old Model T. Meteoritic iron always has several percent nickel in it. Iron we find, smelt and use on earth does not. There are fairly simple wet chemical or spectroscopic tests that can be done at most universities to determine if nickel is present in any significant amount.

Some excellent books and web sites are out there to help. My favorite book for budding meteorite hunters is *Rocks From Space* by O. Richard Norton (1998 Mountain Press). Some good web sites are maintained by Aerolite Meteorite Men: <http://www.aerolite.org/found-a-meteorite.htm> and Washington University in St. Louis: <http://meteorites.wustl.edu/meteorwrongs/meteorwrongs.htm> The Washington University site has many pictures of meteor-wrongs.

If you are only finding meteor-wrongs, don't despair. Meteorites, although rare, can be found anywhere on our planet, so keep looking.

INSURANCE: PLAIN LANGUAGE

By Sandy Fuller, Treasurer, from MWF Newsletter
10/2010

Our Midwest Federation Insurance carrier recently clarified our general liability coverage. The General Liability policy covers bodily injury or property damage

under specific conditions.

Our policy allows clubs to engage in special events:

1. To raise funds for the club;
2. To recognize the accomplishments of the club or volunteers;
3. Contract with other parties (not employ) to organize, promote, administer, or sponsor activities for the two purposes described above;
4. To use owned or leased premises for the above activities;
5. To conduct regular club meetings of members, and gem, rock or mineral shows to which the general public is invited to attend;
6. To collect or hunt gems, rock or minerals in open fields or open air quarries, but a quarry employee must supervise quarry collecting and all minors must have adult supervision; and
7. To participate in recreational mining activities at venues where the public is allowed. However, the policy does not assume any liability for the owner/lessor of the property in this situation.

The policy specifically excludes the following:

1. Professional or semi-professional athletic events;
2. Pyrotechnic displays or sales;
3. Racing or timed events of all kinds, including but not limited to automobile or watercraft racing, airplane racing or exhibitions;
4. Animal or mechanical rides;
5. Aircraft or watercraft, whether motorized or not;
6. Any and all mining activities, including collecting or hunting for gems, rock or minerals, in underground mines, caves or non-open-air quarries;
7. Any and all rock climbing, rappelling or caving activities; and
8. Any and all use of power tools and equipment with the exception of hand-held metal detectors and small rock polishing equipment.

This explanation does not replace the actual language of the policy, which is the binding endorsement.

Remember, this general liability coverage protects against the negligent acts of the club and its members. It does not cover injury or property of the club or its members. The hiring of employees is also not covered under this policy.

Jade

Lapidaries and jewelers should constantly attempt to call gemstones and rough material by their correct name. Jade has many other stones named after it, as any material. The confusion as to what jade is, has been compounded by this deceptive practice.

Amazon jade is aventurine.

American jade is a rock - a mixture of idocrase and grossular.

Australian jade is chrysoprase.

Colorado jade is green microcline.

Flukien, Manchurian, and Honan jade are all soapstone.

Indian jade is aventurine.

Jadite is pure jade. (editor's note ? - not sure what he means)

Jasper jade is green jasper.

Korean jade is bowenite, a hard variety of serpentine. (Mexican jade is green dyed marble or calcite.

Oregon jade is a dark green jasper.

Silver Peak jade is malachite.

Transvall jade is a massive variety of green grossular garnet.

Real jade such as BC jade, Alaska or Yukon jade are truly nephrite jade:

Nephrite Hardness 6-6 1/2 S.G. 2.95 R.I. 1.6 - 1.63

Jadeite Hardness 6 1/2-7 S.G. 3.3 R.I. 1.66 - 1.68

from Laphound News via the Victoria Gem and Lapidary Society website



Stolen Gems *St Croix Rockhounds Leaverite News*

Ten golden rules to take care of amber *from Glacial Drifter via T-town Rockhound, via Rock Roller via Emerald Gems 10/10*

1. Never leave your amber under direct sunlight
2. Keep your jewelry away from too much hot or cold temperature
3. Always apply your perfume and hairspray before wearing the jewelry
4. Never wash dishes or do laundry with your jewelry on
5. Do not cook or clean your house with household cleansers while wearing amber
6. Store amber in a separate casket to protect it from get in touch with other materials
7. Clean your jewelry every time you wear it.
8. Ultrasonic or steam cleaner is not suitable for cleaning amber.
9. Always clean amber with a mild solution of soapy and slightly warm water and use a flannel cloth.
10. Polish and make it shiny with olive oil and a soft cloth.

A handy hint: Have a note pad next to the tumbler to record the date, time and condition of the stones during the various steps and grit changes. *from Stoney Statements 10/10*

Pneumonoultramicroscopicsillivolanolionosis – a long but deadly word is an ailment caused by inhaling very fine silicate or quartz dust produced by dry sanding. The work is long, but the cure is longer. *from Burro Express via Rocky Review via Agate Picker 10/96*

Red Opal—If the opal you are grinding turns red, you're probably grinding your finger tips. *from The Rockhounder, 7-8/09 via Pick&Pack 08/09*

Dopping Hints - If you follow these steps, you should not have problems with your stone adhering to the dop wax. First, the stone must be completely clean and oil free. Use soap and water or acetone or lacquer thinner to remove oil from the stone. Your cleaning method will depend on the type of cutting fluid, type of stone, and the stone's porosity. After cleaning, water should not bead up on the stone, indicating the stone is completely oil-free.

Choose a dop stick that is as large as possible to use with your stone. The dop stick diameter should be at least 50 percent of the diameter of the stone. 75 percent is better. This gives more area for adhesion and also minimizes bending forces on the dop wax. Next, the stone must be heated for wax to stick. Are you heating the stone before putting it on the hot wax? That is a critical step. Put the stone on the flat surface of the wax heater; face down, with a small bit of wax on the backside of the stone. When the small bit of wax starts to melt, the stone is hot enough to dop properly. *from Gem Cutters News – May 2010 via Ore-Cutts, January 2010 via Stoney Statements 05/10*

Picking Good Jasper Jasper is much more troublesome to polish than agate because any varieties are "earthy" and porous, and others contain hematite which is itself difficult to polish. If you are on a field trip, a good way to test jasper is to wet it. (Do not lick it.) If it absorbs the water and dries rapidly, throw it away. It will not polish. If it stays wet and does not dry right away, keep it. It contains a high amount of chalcedony and will take a good polish. Most jaspers polish well on leather with Linde-A, but good results can be obtained with tin oxide on either leather or felt. Always remember that a fine sanding job is the secret of good polishing. When tumbling softer, hard-to-polish material, don't start with the coarse grit. Start with the second grit and go one grit finer than the #3 grit used on agates. In polishing, fill the tumbler 3/4 to 7/8 full (if not using pellets) so the stones will roll and not fall. This way you do not have the stones beating the polish off the ends. Also, cerium oxide will polish better than regular tumbler polishing agents. It does not take very much cerium to do this job, about 1/2 as much as the regular tumble polish. *author unknown from Rock Rollers, 10/2004, via Gem Cutters News 12/2009 via Backbender's Gazette 09/10*