

Rough 'n Tumbled Times



4/9/2019

Official Publication for the Northwest Wisconsin Gem & Mineral Society

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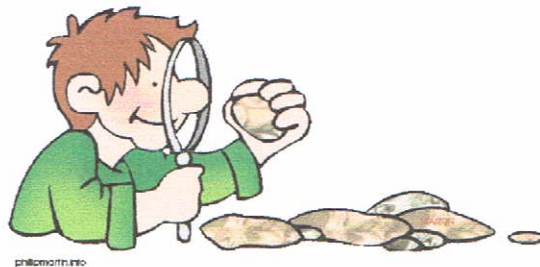
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NEXT MEETING...

THURSDAY – 4/18/2019

Business Meetings are held the third Thursday of each month, March – November

<http://www.cameronamericanlegion.org/rockclub.html>

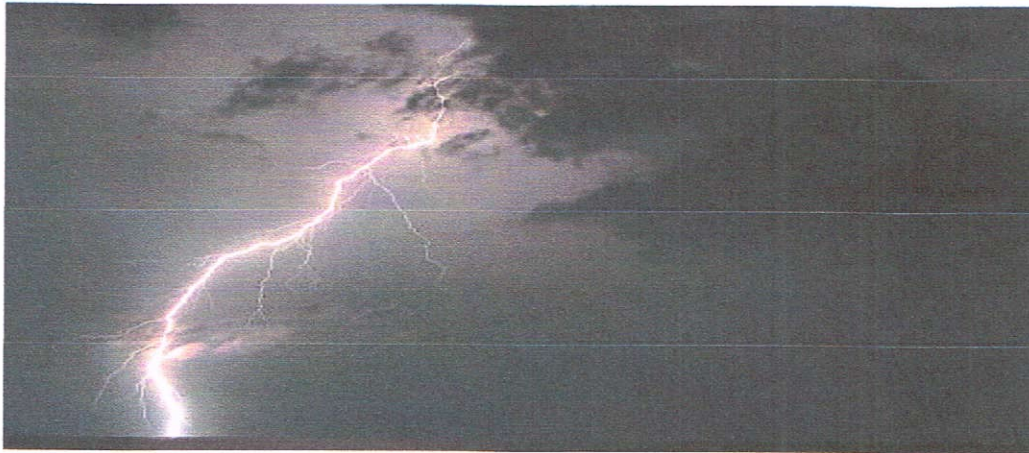




The President's Pen...

Greetings fellow Rock Hounds,

Yesterday the sun was shining and the ground was bare. Today there is a raging blizzard outside my window. It's amazing how fast the weather can change. When the ground is bare again and the temperatures are more conducive to being out in the field, we would do well to remember how fast conditions can change. We all need to be 'weather aware'. Although temperatures can drop quickly, usually we can deal with that. Perhaps the biggest danger in our area is lightening. I love to be out in the field after a rain, but I sometimes venture out while it is raining because the rocks and artifacts show up so much better. However, when I hear thunder I get off the field as quickly as possible and head for the car. If going inside or getting into a vehicle isn't possible, don't get under a tree as high objects are more likely to be hit by lightning. Make yourself as small and low a target as you can get in a low area but don't stand in water. Remember that lightening can strike miles in front or behind of the storm system. Don't wait until the storm is upon you before you take action. Watch for very dark greenish skies of low hanging dark clouds which might precede high winds or tornadoes. If you plan to go back out after the storm, wait at least 30 minutes before you do.



Our next meeting is April 18th at the American Legion Post in Cameron. The doors open at 7:00 and the business meeting and kid's activities will begin at 7:30. Kris Martin is our new Dirt Devils leader. It was decided that the kid's activities would be better if they occurred at the same time as the 'boring for kids' business meeting. The kids would then join us for the club program. Speaking of which, Roy Wickman will be doing the program on rock identification where we will be testing our rock knowledge. But to add a bit of interest, we will see if we can stump Roy by bring a rock or two for him to identify. It will be fun.

Two last things, we still need someone to take on the Secretary position and we need to pick a date to do our annual roadside trash pick up. Think about it. I hope to see everyone there.

Peace,
Dave

1961 – 2019 OUR CLUB IS 58 YEARS OLD!!

MINUTES FROM 3/21/19

Secretary notes taken by Allen Hanson

Northwest Regional Gem and Mineral Society Secretary's Report for the Meeting of March 21, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 by Dave Skrupky. Eight members and a father with two children attended the meeting.

The minutes of the November 18, 2018 meeting were read by Roy Wickman. Acceptance was moved by Ella Schaaf and seconded by Allen Hanson.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Roy Wickman. Income included \$24.00 from annual dues, 28.50 from the silent auction, and smaller amounts from food and other. Dues to the Federation were \$223.50. Currently, the club's checking account is 2076.37, savings account 632.42, and cash is 288.98, for a total of 2997.77.

Old Business:

Dirt Devils may be headed by Kris Martin, Joyce Jacobson and Debbie Elbee. Further information to follow.

A call for a director for the Sunshine Committee did not receive any volunteers.

Chippewa Valley's Paul Tubbs reported that their show is April 27th from 9-5 and 28th from 10-4. It is held at the Eau Claire County Expo Center. Their club is also hosting a workshop. More information on that can be obtained from Paul Tubbs.

Indianhead Club report by Allen Hanson presented information on a book by Scott Spoolman "Wisconsin Rocks" available through Abebooks for \$16.70 and higher. Allen canvassed the group on having Lacy Sellant give a talk at Luck at the June meeting, with a suggested topic of fossils in the St. Croix Valley. The cost of the speaker will come to \$50 or more. There was general agreement that we should try to have her speak at the June meeting. Allen mentioned a talk coming up at Interstate Park Visitor Center on 5-9-19, 6:00 pm and the mammoth site in South Dakota. The meeting is free, but a sticker for the park is required. Allen displayed a couple antique axes and John Park Sr. gave information on how they were made. Finally Allen advised that he could not make it to the April 1st meeting, and asked the members to run the meeting.

Ella Schaaf gave information on the Hunt Hill show on June 8, 2019, from 10-2. More information may be available on the Dryden Wire under recent news, for this and other local news.

Dave Skrupky gave information on the availability of name tags with the club's logo.

New business:

Dave Skrupky asked for topics and speakers for future meetings.

Door prizes were donated by Paul Tubbs and Roy Wickman. All items were given to the two young children at the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10.

Allen Hanson, Actg. Sec. 3-27-19



OUR SUNSHINE PERSON: If you know anyone that has been ill or could use some sunshine in their lives – please contact us.

MEETING TIME -- 7:00 p.m. -- Just before the adult meeting

Dirt



Devils

Dirt Devils Chairperson: Kris Martin

kristine.e.martin@hotmail.com

If there will be children attending, please let us know BEFORE the day of the meeting.

The following is a segment from "A Year Full of Gems!" by KK

Natal stone....Jasper/ Bloodstone
Guardian angel.....Machediel
His talismanic gem.....Ruby
Special apostle.....James & John
Their gem.....Emerald
Zodiacal sign..... Aries
Flower..... Violet

MARCH

Who on this world of ours her eyes
In March first opens may be wise,
In days of peril firm and brave,
Wears she a bloodstone to her
grave.
Who wears a jasper,
be life short or long,
Will meet all dangers
brave and wise and strong.

Now, let's discuss the three most popular Natal Stones attributed to the Month of March... Kunz lists Jasper and Bloodstone, while traditional sources of today state Aquamarine (with Blue Topaz as an alternate because of its color) best represent this month. We shall cover Topaz as the November Natal stone.

Jasper is a multi-colored, striped or spotted form of Chalcedony that can occur in a large variety of colors from grey to red to yellow & green. Finely grained and dense, it can contain up to 20% foreign materials (other than Quartz) that serve to determine its external color, outward appearance and identifying streak.

This stone is known by many names, including Prase and "Swiss Lapis" which is actually a greyish- brown Jasper colored prussian blue and then used as a substitute for natural Lapis Lazuli.

American Indians utilized Jasper to help conjure up much-needed rain, hence its name "rainbringer." It has long been thought to be a protective stone, and was believed to guard both mother and baby during the process of childbirth.

Another form of Jasper is the Heliotrope, or **Bloodstone** as it is more commonly called. It gets its name from its greenish background color that contains flecks or spots of red (from Iron oxide) which resemble drops of blood.

Legend says that this stone was formed at the Crucifixion as Christ's holy blood dropped to the grass below and hardened.

Because of this association with blood, it has had several physical properties assigned to it, from increasing strength to lengthening one's life span, to causing blood to clot.

In the past, Bloodstone was often carried by soldiers as a talisman to either protect from wounds or stop bleeding if they occurred. Believed to be magic, this effect was probably attributable to the application of pressure and the cool temperature of the stone.

Aquamarine is a member of the Beryl family, a silicate of Beryllium and Aluminum, and receives its delicate coloring (that of a sea- water blue: what its name means in Latin) from traces of Iron. Deposits of this gem can be found on all continents, the most important being located in various regions of Brazil. Brave gem hunters were rewarded for their efforts by finding exceptional crystals of this jewel near the summit of stormy Mt. Antero in Colorado after braving the cold and fierce winds that were prevalent at over 20,000 feet.

The largest Aquamarine of cutable quality was found in 1910 in Marabaya, Minas Gerais (Brazil). It weighed 243 pounds and was 18" long by 15 1/2" in diameter. There have been other finds weighing a few tons, but the specimens were opaque and gray, not suitable for jewelry.

Long used as a protective amulet while traveling on water, this stone was said to keep one safe during storms and has been esteemed by fishermen who wear or carry it as a lucky talisman. They believe it will ensure a bountiful catch (along with providing added protection while being out upon the open sea where weather patterns have been known to be unpredictable, changing rapidly, often catching them unprepared.)

This gem (which was once described as "A thousand leagues of sunlit sea imprisoned in a cup") exudes a calm and joyful energy and has been thought of as a purifier. To test this theory, just imagine that the air on all sides of you is permeated with the essence of Aquamarine - if you keep your focus, you should be able to sense a freshness in the quality of the air encircling you plus a decrease in the toxic effects of pollution, at least temporarily. This is a good exercise to use anytime you enter a smoky room or anywhere the oxygen content of the air is compromised or not at the optimum in breathing quality/capacity.

Natal stone....Diamond/Sapphire
Guardian angel.....Ashmodei
His talismanic gem..... Topaz
Special apostle.....Phillip
His gem.....Carnelian
Zodiacal sign Taurus

APRIL

She who from April dates her years Diamonds should wear, lest bitter tears, For vain repentance flow. This stone Emblem of innocence is known. Innocence, repentance -sun and shower-
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As shown above, GFK agrees with the traditionalists on the use of the Diamond for the month of April, but also wishes to highlight the Sapphire as well. Thus, we shall begin with that and follow up with information on the "King of Gems", the mighty Diamond...

Being a September baby & a gem lover, I am intimately acquainted with the **Sapphire**, which belongs to the Corundum family, appearing in all colors except red. One source of the desirable silky-blue colored stones is a valley in the Kanskar range of the Himalayas in Kashmir. These "Kashmir Sapphires" were discovered after a landslide around 1881. Other colors of Sapphire/Corundum are: Padparadscha (a unique pinkish/ orange that results from tiny trace amounts of Iron), yellow and green (caused by larger amounts of Iron particles), pink (produced by very small amounts of Chromium) and the pure gem variety (consisting of a colorless material formed from Aluminum oxide.) Blue stones occur when pure Corundum is mixed with ferric Iron and Titanium, the amounts of each determining the wide variety of depth of coloring from lt, blue, to several shades of purple to almost black (the latter which are a dark blue with a metallic sheen are indigenous to plasser deposits located in Montana.) Yellow Sapphires are found in Australia, from Queensland come green specimens, while pink, yellow, orange and violet stones showing two or more colors are recovered from the gem-bearing gravels of Sri Lanka.

Most natural Corundum, however, is not of gem quality. It is opaque and gray or brown (much of this type comes from Madagascar.) Because of its hardness, this material is used on industrial tools. Sapphire is also able to be laboratory grown and then is put to various uses including crystals on fine watches and as a covering for bar code scanners since it resists scratching. On the Moh's scale, Corundum is rated a 9, second only to Diamond crystals.

Another unusual use for Corundum results from its combination with Hematite and Magnetite. This impure form is known as Emery, and has been used as an abrasive in Mediterranean countries (such as the Greek island of Ikaria) for thousands of years.

Various stories surround the naming of Sapphire. One states that it came from the english translation of the biblical SAPPUR the substance of God's throne (Ezekiel 1:26), which actually at that time referred to Lapis Lazuli. Other sources state that words related to Sapphire come from Sanskrit, Hebrew, Latin and Greek, all associated with the planet Saturn (Romans assigned these stones as the gem representing their God, Saturn.) The Persians believed the Earth itself rested on an enormous Sapphire and the sky was but a mirror reflecting this foundation. Buddhists believed that Sapphire favored devotion & spiritual enlightenment. Christians later came to believe that this gem conferred protection against evil (including the bites of poisonous serpents & spiders), while bishops and cardinals wore it as a means of connecting with God. A gem of the soul, the crystal-blue Sapphire is one of the universal gems of history tying all religions together like an ecumenical council.

Thus, the Sapphire stands for purity and truth, as well as being believed to have healing properties. Wearing it is supposed to increase a person's Potassium, Magnesium and Calcium levels. The stone is also said to spark prophesy, expand wisdom, open the mind to beauty and promote peace.

A related power attributed to Sapphire is its legendary ability to protect its owner from captivity.

Currently it finds favor with those involved in litigation and legal matters, as it's said to eliminate fraud. Of course, the stone will work only if its wearer is pure of heart and in the right.

To illustrate the point that precious gems can be found anywhere, I site the following... In 1929, a large blue Sapphire (weighing 958 carats and named "Gem of the Jungle") was found concealed inside the roots of a tree - it was revealed when a lightning storm caused the tree to

topple thus exposing the roots where the magnificent gem had lain so very quietly - undisturbed for millenniums.

The above story seems to confirm the notion that the Sapphire is a "stone of prosperity" which sustains the many gifts of life while eliminating frustration and doing its best to fulfil the dreams and desires of its owner/wearer. The person who purchased the world's largest Star Sapphire at a Tucson show in the late 1980s would certainly agree. It has been described as being the size of a baked potato, a light lavender color and weighing 1,154 carats. The price paid was only \$10; with the stone later being found to be genuine and worth at least two million dollars!

Submitted by Kristy Kringle
Part 2 on Diamonds will continue next month

PLEASE PAY YOUR 2019 DUES NOW
THANK YOU.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION – pass to anyone that might join

Name _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ PH _____

Email Address _____

(CHILDREN ARE FREE WITH EACH PAID MEMBERSHIP)

Send \$8 for each adult member to:

Roy Wickman, 1127 7th St, Almena, WI 54805



"He gathers moss now, but in his day he
could roll with the best of them."