

Rough 'n Tumbled Times



04/08/2021

Official Publication for the Northwest Wisconsin Gem & Mineral Society
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April 2021 meeting on Zoom
See details below!

We hope to resume in person meetings in May. Watch for notifications.

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

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



President's Message for April 2021

Greetings fellow Rock Hounds,

Our April 15th meeting will be again be held as an online Zoom meeting. I will send out an invitation with the link to join the meeting a day or so before it is to take place. Check you email for that invitation. Click on the link to join the meeting starting at 7:30 on the 15th.

Second is that we will be doing our annual Roadside Trash pick up on Saturday, April 24th. We will meet in front of the old Rice Lake Office Max near Hobby Lobby at 9:15. We will leave for the site at 10:00 am sharp. This is a rain or shine event, so dress for the weather. If enough people are interested, I will lead a hike into the Historic Pipestone Quarry. (see article below). Please email or call me so I know who to expect on the 24th.

I hope to see you all at the meeting and the Roadside pick up. If you have questions, please let me know. My cellphone number is 715-641-0961.

Peace,
Dave

NW WI Gem and Mineral Society Minutes from the March 18, 2021 meeting

Introductions and round robin reports:

Paul & Pam: will be participating in a rock demonstration on May 8 in Onalaska

Anita: has not been traveling

Kris: making plans for rock hunting trips this year, purchased a new metal detector

Robin: joined our club and the Chippewa Valley club last year, visited and recommends the A.E. Seaman Mineral Museum, is doing substitute teaching and has polished rocks with the students

Dick: moved lapidary equipment into basement of his house for easy access, plans to go to South Dakota to look for prairie agate and flint

Roy: was artifact hunting in Upper Michigan, talked about the Chippewa Valley swap last August, talked about Calumet & Hecla Mining Company where he bought a pick, a railroad spike puller, some square headed bolts, cleaned and re-organized and made new shelving for his collection

Dave: volunteers at the Turtle Lake museum, cleaned out a room at the museum for a display, talked about yellow chalcedony from Nevada

March 2021 Meeting
No Treasurer's report today

News:

Indianhead Club: Frederic show is cancelled for 2021

Chippewa Valley Club: April show is cancelled for 2021, fees for the fall swap at the Expo Center have risen tremendously so they are looking for another venue

Minnesota Club: no news

Northwest Club: 2021 show is booked for August 14 & 15

Old Business:

Each year we donate \$200 to the Cameron American Legion for usage of their meeting space, Dave has Best Finds awards to pass along to winners

New Business:

Annual roadside cleanup will be April 24. Afterwards we could walk to the Pipestone Quarry in the Blue Hills

Meeting notes recorded by Anita Smith

1961 – 2021 OUR CLUB IS 60 YEARS OLD!!



OUR SUNSHINE PERSON:

Laura Finley

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

Dirt

Devils

MEETING TIME -- postponed



Dirt Devils Chairpersons:

Kris Martin, Joyce Jacobson

For further information contact

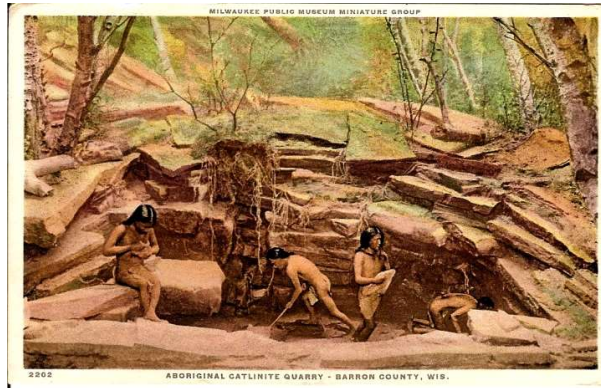
Kris at kristine.e.martin@hotmail.com

Message from the Editor:

It is said that "April showers bring May flowers". This certainly will come true as we move forward through 2021 and get on top of the pandemic.

I am always amazed at how quickly the lawn can turn green--mine greened up in less than 48 hours.

I would like to thank Dave for hosting our meetings by zoom. We can participate even though we are not all together, for now.



The following is an article written in 2005 by one of our club's founding members, Mel Jensen. It was written for the Barron County Historical Society newspaper, The Pioneer Gazette, about the Blue Hills Pipestone Quarry, titled Barron County's Renowned Pipestone Quarry on the National Register of Historic Places. I thought this would be good intro to a hike into the Quarry on April 24th after we do our Highway Clean-up project.

Not many people are aware that Barron County is the home of a noted Pipestone Quarry! Pipestone (Catlinite) is found in the Blue Hills east of Rice Lake where early Native Americans quarried the rock from which they carved tobacco and ceremonial pipes, along with other objects. Pipes are a symbol of peace and friendship among the tribes. Ceremonies are a vital component of the Ojibway people and all began with the smoking of the pipe. The pipe was smoked at ritual ceremonies since tobacco is considered a sacred substance, when the pipe was offered and if one smoked the pipe, they accepted the responsibility designated.

Geologically, the Blue Hills area is part of the Penokean-Killarney mountain range which existed millions of years ago. There followed millions of years of erosion by wind, rain, freezing and heat which made this area of Wisconsin and the Blue Hills a comparatively level area. The Blue Hills resisted this erosion to a great extent so that many years later when the glaciers advanced to this area, it only pushed off the tops of these ancient mountains.

The Blue Hills are approximately 10 miles wide and 25 miles long, lying in a northeasterly, southwesterly direction. They rise to a height of 1770 feet near Meteor in Sawyer County.

Known references to this quarry go back to 1843 when Rev. Alfred Brunson of Prairie du Chien was appointed Indian Agent to the Ojibway Indians who resided in Northwestern Wisconsin. Following are excerpts from Mr. Brunson's trip in 1843 from Prairie du Chien to the Indian settlement of LaPointe on Madeline Island off the coast of Bayfield: *'On my way from this place to LaPointe in the summer of 1843, after leaving Chippewa Falls, our route was between the waters of the Chippewa and Cedar Rivers. At one of our camps, which I think could not have been more than 40 or 50 miles from the falls, a young Indian in our company told my son B.W. Brunson and Wm. Warren, my interpreter, that we were near the Red Pipestone Mountain and offered to pilot them to it if they would not tell the Indians of it, for if they knew of him showing a white man where it was they would kill him. He led them to the mound by one route and from it by another, and left a plug of tobacco and some other trifling article to appease the Manitou or Great Spirit on the account of the trespass on the sacred spot. This he said was the Indian custom in visiting that mound to obtain stones of which they made their pipes. Of the specimens they brought away, several pipes were whittled out with knives carried along'*

In 1875, the land on which the Pipestone Quarry is located was owned by H.C. Putnam who bought it from the government sometime before 1875 at which time he personally examined the premises. Following is an excerpt from The History of Chippewa Valley, printed in 1875: *"His (Putnam's) visit was made under the guidance of an Indian who was quite superstitious in regard to the desecration of the sacred spot as was the one who attended Dr. Brunson's party in 1843. Mr. Putnam describes it as an oblong, irregular mound, rising 250 to 300 feet above the surrounding surface sloping down from the summit on the north and west in irregular but not very bold declivities, but on the southeast in concave form, as though a section of the hill at some time had lost its foundation and sunk; a third or more of its original size breaking off in a curved perpendicular line and even now presenting a sublime exhibition of the convulsions of nature well calculated to ensure awe in the savage beast. Before its upheaval the mound appears to have been a mass of very fine red clay which had hardened into a compact seamless mass of beautiful stone, well adapted to the purpose which the Indians have used it for."*

Another reference to the Quarry is from the Wisconsin Archeologist, Vol. 9 No. 2 printed in 1910 by G.A. West as follows: *"A large number of pipes and ornaments in the archeological collections of this state are made from Barron County Catlinite. Some varieties of this stone much resemble those of Minnesota pipestone and many articles commonly supposed to be from Minnesota are in fact products of the Wisconsin quarries."*

It is now known that pipestone from the Barron County quarry was traded extensively. Barron County pipestone is highly desirable because it contains a greater amount of Kaolin, which is a hydrous aluminum silicate and makes it

easier to carve.

A comprehensive display about pipestone may be seen in Pioneer Village Museum's Jerome Hall display building. It includes a large piece of pipestone as it comes from the ground, and a pipe which was carved in the 1970's by Eldon G. Wolff, who was Curator Emeritus of the Milwaukee Museum.

***PLEASE PAY YOUR 2021 DUES NOW
THANK YOU.***

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION – pass on 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**

