

Rough 'n Tumbled Times



8/12/2020

Official Publication for the Northwest Wisconsin Gem & Mineral Society

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Our regularly scheduled meeting would have been Aug 20.

Newsletters are off schedule this year, just like all other activities.

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

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



phillemartin.info



The President's Pen...

President's Message for August 2020

Greetings fellow Rock Hounds,

I hope everyone is well and staying safe. Because little progress is being made in containing the covid 19 virus, and development of a vaccine is so slow, we are stuck in what seems like an unending limbo of uncertainty. OK, so let's try to put this into perspective, we are in our sixth month of this pandemic. It seems like forever, (I miss seeing all of you and especially my kids in person). Now, consider the age of the planet, 6+ billion years old. Now, 6 months doesn't seem so long. We are all anxious to get out there and freely mingle with old friends and make new ones. Some people think this pandemic is a hoax and are out and about trying to restore some normalcy to their lives. However as a biologist, I can assure you that Covid 19 is real and it is a very unusual virus. Some infected people show little to no symptoms; some people acquire serious organ damage; children do get the disease, many with serious consequences; some people die. Nobody seems to know how each individual will display symptoms. However, people without symptoms are still carriers. Please help in ending the pandemic by following the recommendations of real doctors, nurses and scientists.

Enough of that. Hoping that you are out finding some wonderful specimens. Also, be sure to check out our Facebook page, add photos and comments.

Peace,
Dave

1961 – 2020 OUR CLUB IS 59 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

notice.

Dirt Devil meetings are also cancelled until further



Devils

Dirt Devils Chairpersons:

Kris Martin, Joyce Jacobson

For further information contact Kris at kristine.e.martin@hotmail.com

Message from editor:

It's unfortunate our annual August Gem and Mineral show is cancelled due to COVID-19. For comforting my sadness I cleaned and re-arranged my specimen rock display. It is nice to see the rocks gleaming rather than covered with a light layer of dust.

Jokes from 50 Best Rock Jokes website:

What's the difference between a steak and a rock?
One is a little meaty, the other is a little meteor.

What do you call someone that repairs rocks?
A Rocktor.

Why was the sedimentary rock so low priced?
Because it was on shale.

What rock group has four men that don't sing?
Mount Rushmore.

The following is an ad for selling a rock on Craig's List:

reply

favorite

hide

flag

Posted 8 days ago

print

A rock - \$100 (Eden Prairie)

This is a rock. It is about the size of a golf ball. (It is not a golf ball, and should not be used as one.) It is too boring to be photographed, though maybe I'll add a picture later to winnow down the offers if there is overwhelming interest in the rock.

This rock comes from the ground and currently has some dirt on it. It can be cleaned in a simple solution of soap and water. The rock enjoys an evening bath.

Although the rock comes from the ground, it is not a plant or any other type of living creature. The beauty of this is that it needs no food or water, and is fine with the summer heat. Please do not leave it outside in winter, though, as it may crack. (And please remember: this is a long-term investment. The rock will likely outlast you, and you should make plans in your will for who will replace you as guardian.)

Depending on how you treat it, the rock may get smaller, but it will never get much larger.

I had trouble placing this rock into a Craigslist category. Is it an antique? Well, it is probably very old, but I don't have the paperwork to show its provenance. Is it a work of art? Well, yes, in the same way that a sunset is. Is it an auto part? I guess you could put it in a car's trunk to get more traction for winter driving. Is it a toy? You could say that rocks are humanity's original toys. You could also say they were our first tools. You could call it jewelry, a musical instrument, etc.

Please note that this rock has been, in the past, a pet rock and (accidentally) a paper weight, and found both demeaning. This rock takes pride in what it is, so please consider this when you are making the choice to buy, and ultimately deciding how to incorporate this rock into your home and community.

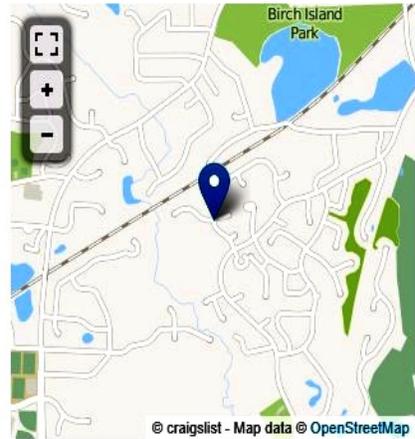
[Edit: I did not expect so many questions from potential buyers! I will answer as many as I can below.]

Q: Why am I giving up this rock, if it is as special as it sounds? A: I am guardian to a large group of rocks, and frankly am too busy to care for them all. This rock is the least needy, so it is the one I am most comfortable parting with, though I will still be crestfallen when I have to say goodbye.

Q: Does the rock have any career aspirations? A: It has considered being a nude/still-life art model.

Q: Can this rock be used as a weapon? No, it gets along with everyone. This rock only wants peace on earth, as it is a piece of earth.

- do NOT contact me with unsolicited services or offers



Michele Lane near Hallmark Drive
[\(google map\)](#)

condition: **excellent**

***PLEASE PAY YOUR 2020 DUES NOW
THANK YOU.***

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION – pass to anyone that might join

Name _____

Address _____ City _____

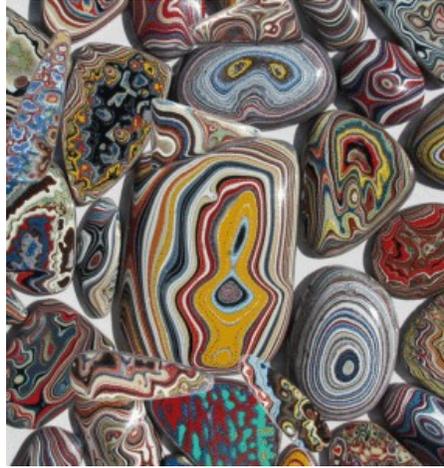
State _____ Zip _____ PH _____

Email Address _____

(CHILDREN ARE FREE WITH EACH PAID MEMBERSHIP)

Send \$8 for each adult member to: Roy Wickman, 1127 7th St, Almena, WI 54805

Fordite's History



FROM PAINT TO PRECIOUS GEM

Fordite, also known as Motor Agate, is a unique automotive enamel material with an interesting history. The original layered automotive paint slag “rough” was made incidentally, years ago, by the now extinct practice of hand spray-painting multiples of production cars in big automotive factories.

The over sprayed paint in the painting bays gradually built up on the tracks and skids that the car frames were painted on. Over time, many colorful layers built up there. These layers were hardened repeatedly in the ovens that the car bodies went into to cure the paint. Some of these deeper layers were even baked 100 times.

Eventually, the paint build-up would become obstructing, or too thick and heavy, and had to be removed. As the story goes, some crafty workers with an eye for beauty realized that this unique byproduct was worth salvaging. It was super-cured, patterned like psychedelic agate, and could be cut and polished with relative ease!

Wow! “RECYCLE IT!” seemed to be the resounding sentiment. And so it was...

As word got around about this remarkable material, it's been said that rock hounds started showing up at auto factories, offering to help remove that problematic paint!

Sadly, the techniques that produced this great rough years ago, are no longer in practice. Cars are now painted by way of an electrostatic process that essentially magnetizes the enamels to the car bodies. This leaves little, or no overspray. The old factory methods that created this incredible material are long gone.

The Fordite “mines” are dry, so get some while you still can!

Source: fordite.com



Ammolite is an opal-like organic gemstone found primarily along the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains of North America. It is made of the fossilized shells of ammonites. It is one of few biogenic gemstones; others include amber and pearl. In 1981, ammolite was given official gemstone status.

An iridescent opal-like play of color is shown in fine specimens, mostly in shades of green and red; however all the spectral colors are possible. The iridescent color of ammolite comes from interference with the light that rebounds from stacked layers of thin aragonite platelets.

Chromatic shift is how the colors vary with the angle of viewing and the angle of light striking the gemstone. The brightness of colors and their iridescence is essentially dependent on how well-preserved the nacreous shell is, and how fine and orderly the layers of aragonite are.

The Blackfeet tribe know ammolite as iniskim, meaning "buffalo stone", and have long believed it to possess amuletic powers; specifically, the gem is believed to aid in the buffalo hunt, by drawing the buffalo within tracking distance. The Blackfeet also believe ammolite to possess healing powers and incorporate the gem into their medicine bundles for use in ceremonies.