

Rough 'n Tumbled Times



07/15/2021

Official Publication for the Northwest Wisconsin Gem & Mineral Society

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July 2021

Potluck picnic July 15, 5:00 pm

See details below

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

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



The President's Pen for July

Greetings fellow Rock Hounds.

Welcome to 'HOT' summer. Thanks to Robin Zelm for stepping up and becoming the Club Secretary and Anita Smith to continue on being our Newsletter Editor. Thanks Allen Hanson for your article on Wisconsin Diamonds. Well done everyone.

Our July 15th meeting will be our annual Picnic... well actually a Pot Luck at the Cameron American Legion Post. We will be starting a bit early; the doors open at 5:00 pm and we will eat at 5:30. Please bring one of your best Pot Luck dish recipes to share with everyone, also your own plates, utensils and beverage (no alcohol please). We will also be doing our ever popular Silent Auction. So sort through your collection for rock and rock related items you'd like to sell to raise money to buy items other members are selling. Set the selling price of the item(s) you wish to sell. Anything bid over that price will go to our club to support projects and activities. You get the starting selling amount. It's fun and everybody wins.

The last two pages of this newsletter are posters for the Indianhead Gem and Mineral Club's show at the end of this month and our club's show in August. Please print out a few copies of each poster and post them around your area and share with family and friends. Put them up any place that people will see them. We will also be advertising in the usual newspapers and advertisers. The success of our show depends on you. Thanks for your efforts.

Stay well because I want to see your faces at our next get together.

Peace,
Dave

1961 – 2021 OUR CLUB IS 60 YEARS OLD!!

**NW Gem and Mineral Society
Minutes from June 17, 2021
Submitted by Robin Zelm**

Present: Dave Skrupky, Roy Wickman, Mike and Ella Schaaf, Allen Hanson, Ron and Juanita Erickson, Roz Rockman, Anita Smith, Pam Coleman, John Park, Paul and Pam Tubbs, Robin Zelm

Treasurer's Report by Roy Wickman:

Checking - \$2,607.52, Savings \$632.69, Petty Cash - \$95.45, Grand Total - \$3,335.66
Motion to accept by Paul and seconded by John.

Sunshine Committee: Let Dave Skrupky or Laura Finley know if you know someone who needs cheering up

Indianhead Club News – Luck- Allen Hanson

Rock Show will be held in Frederic at the School July 24th and July 25th

Considering having a kid's event

A topic is needed for the Rock Show in July

Discussion at the Luck meeting was about diamonds in Wisconsin – history and where they have been found.

Chippewa Valley Gem and Mineral Society – Chippewa Falls- Paul Tubbs

Monday, June 14, 2021 was first open meeting. Workshop was held the following weekend. Discussion regarding April 2022 show and where to have it as Eau Claire County has raised their prices exorbitantly. Northwest State Fairgrounds was discussed as a possible option. Wheaton Town Hall was discussed for the Rock Swap on August 28, 2021.

The Minnesota Club will be holding a rock show at the MN State Fairgrounds in the Dairy Building on September 25th and September 26th.

The Northwest Wisconsin Gem and Mineral Society will hold their rock show on August 14 and 15 at the Rice Lake Fairgrounds in the Youth Expo Building. The theme will be copper in all its forms.

Brainerd Rock Show went well. Rock show in Milaca which was held June 19 and 20 had over 40 dealers.

Old Business: Discussion of election of officers. Motion made by Pam Coleman to keep the same officers as last year. Seconded

Anita will continue to be editor for the newsletter. Send articles to her or to Dave Skrupky. Members are encouraged to submit articles for the newsletter. Robin Zelm will be our new Secretary. (Thanks to both of you. Dave)

After much discussion about where to hold the club picnic at the July meeting on Thursday, July 15. Roy suggested we just hold it at the American Legion in Cameron where we have our meetings anyway. Motion was made and seconded. People can arrive by 5:00 with Potluck meal to begin eating at 5:30. There will be a silent auction as well.

Meeting topics for the rest of the year: **July**- Potluck Picnic and Silent Auction, **August**, discuss results of our Show & Sale, **September** - Al Barsness on lapidary techniques, **October** - Best

Finds, **November** - Silent Auction & Election of Officers.

A **fall field trip** to the Blue Hills Felsenmeer Area will be led by Bruce Ward. Date to be determined.

New Business: Discussion of the August 14 and 15th rock show in Rice Lake. Various Food Trucks were discussed. The show will be a Copper Theme.. anything copper. Dave passed around ideas for advertising the show on little cards. Nothing was decided regarding advertising on the cards.

Some members suggested have an earlier time for monthly meetings. So doors will open at 6:00 pm. with the meeting starting at 6:30 pm. This will be tried for a few months starting in August on a trial basis.

Raffle at the end of the meeting included. Brazilian Agates, Geodes, Thunder Eggs, Acco Geode, Barite, Rutilated Quartz, A large piece of ammonite fossil, Deer foot brachiopod (?), Texas Plume Agate, and Baby Brazilian Agates. Many thanks to all who donated the raffle prizes.

Items brought in for "show and tell" before the meeting included, copper, a couple of unidentified rocks with gold striping, ammonites, ice knocker artifacts, and epidote.

Roy brought in several scrapbooks from previous years. Thanks Roy.

Don't forget, the next meeting is Thursday, July 15 and is also the picnic!



OUR SUNSHINE PERSON:

Laura Finley

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

MEETING TIME -- postponed

Dirt Devils Chairpersons:

Kris Martin, Joyce Jacobson

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

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

Below is the presentation that Allen Hanson provided to the Indianhead club at their June meeting. Allen is now sharing this information for our club members to enjoy. Thank you, Allen.

How Diamonds Came to Wisconsin

Diamonds are created at a depth of 60-120 miles below the surface in the extreme heat and pressure of the earth's mantle.

The diamonds are brought to the surface in magma which crystalizes to form a structure which is called a pipe or dike of igneous rock called lamproites or kimberlites. Since diamonds are extremely hard, they survive weathering that wears away the igneous rock.

Deposits of diamonds occur with other denser materials such as magnetite, garnets and gold. Garnets and diamonds are hard enough to survive the grinding of the glaciers, while gold is ground to a fine flour-dust which can be found in Wisconsin's glacial till, but rarely any nugget-sized pieces. Gold has been found in Ashland, Bayfield, Clark, Douglas and Dunn counties, and certainly could be found in our area. Gold deposits are associated with "black sand" which is magnetite.

In Wisconsin, diamonds are found in glacial drift, but only about 20 have been found in Wisconsin, and they have generally been in southern Wisconsin in terminal moraine deposits. Six of the seven diamond occurrences have been in the marginal moraines of the Green Bay and Lake Michigan ice lobes.

A 3.34 carat diamond was found in Dane County in 1893. At least 10 small yellowish diamonds were found from 1880-1892 in St. Croix County in Plum Creek and Rock Elm Creek while people were panning for gold. Racine County has produced two 2-carat diamonds. In Waukesha County a 16.25 carat diamond was discovered in 1876 near Eagle while digging a well. It was found at a depth of about 70 feet. It was named the Eagle Diamond and was in the American Museum of Natural History until it was stolen in 1964. The biggest Wisconsin diamond was the "Theresa Diamond" which was 21.5 carats and found in 1888 in Washington County. It is the largest diamond ever found in Wisconsin and the fifth largest found in the United States. It has been cut into about 10 diamonds.

It is strange that most of these finds were in the 1800s, and no diamonds have been found in Wisconsin since 1913. However Paul Tubbs reported that a ¼ carat diamond was found in Pierce county in recent years.

However, a diamond-bearing lamprophyre has been found in Kenosha County. It is overlain with glacial till. Drill core samples have shown sharp-edged octahedral or macles, which I believe is like diamond dust.

Kimberlite pipes are one type of magma extrusion which may bear diamonds. About 1 in 10 pipes have diamonds, but less than 1 in 100 have commercially valuable diamonds. There are only about 50 active commercial diamond mines in the world.

It was originally thought that Wisconsin diamonds must have come from Northern Canada near St. James Bay, where the only kimberlite pipe was known north of the finds. However, glacial drift commonly is composed largely of material eroded from nearby bedrock which has been transported only a few miles from its original source. Obviously some of the till came from Canada however.

Then a kimberlite pipe was found in Iron County, Michigan and is now considered a possible source of the diamonds. The pipe was poorly exposed, but had a strong positive magnetic anomaly probably due to magnetite. Kimberlite pipes are usually small and this pipe is only about 200 meters in diameter. Others have covered an area of 50 acres. However, since kimberlite pipes usually occur in groups, it is likely that there are other undiscovered pipes in the region.

How can you tell if you are getting close to possibly finding diamonds? There are several other minerals and gems that occur under similar conditions, including garnets, clinopyroxene, olivine, magnetite and zircon. Certain garnets containing Chromium oxide are called pyropes. Garnets that have large amounts of chromium oxide are referred to as G9 or G10 garnets. These are the best indicator that you might be near a diamond-bearing kimberlite.

How can you identify a diamond? They say a diamond is not wetted by water, whereas almost all other rocks are. If it scratches topaz or corundum it might be a diamond. And diamonds will have perfect cleavage in three directions, and that should be visible, at least under a microscope. The best known kimberlite pipe was discovered in Murfreesboro, Arkansas in 1906.

by Allen Hanson

***PLEASE PAY YOUR 2021 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

NORTHWEST WISCONSIN GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

GEM & MINERAL SHOW & SALE

August 14 & 15 2021

Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



FEATURING: COPPER SPECIMEN & ARTIFACTS
BRING IN ROCKS, FOSSILS, MINERALS, CRYSTALS
& ARTIFACTS FOR FREE IDENTIFICATION

LOCATION: YOUTH EXPO BUILDING
BARRON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

ON HWY 48/NORTH END OF RICE LAKE, WI
OFF OF US HIGHWAY 53

(Watch for signs)

FREE Admission – FREE Parking -- Door Prizes
Kids' Activity Table
Lunch available on the grounds

MUSEUM-QUALITY MINERALS, SPECIMENS,
LAKE SUPERIOR AGATES, FOSSILS, JEWELRY
FREE DISPLAYS & DEMONSTRATIONS, FLINT KNAPPING

For more information, contact:

Show Chairman, Roy Wickman - 715-357-3223
Club President, David Skrupky - 715-986-2547

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54th Annual Gem and Mineral Show July 24 & 25, 2021



**Agates, Minerals, Fossils,
Gems and Jewelry
On Display and For Sale**

FREE
Free Admission
Free Parking
Free Agate Pit for Kids
Door Prizes
(Register at Main Door)

Demonstrations of:

Faceting, Flint Knapping and Cabbing
Lunch and Snacks Available by 4H Club
Saturday 10-5pm and Sunday 10-4pm
Frederic, Wisconsin High School Gym
(off Highway 35 North end of Frederic)

Indianhead Gem and Mineral Society

For Details Contact: Roy Wickman 715-357-3223 or Allen Hanson 715-646-2759