

Rough 'n Tumbled Times



6/20/2020

Official Publication for the Northwest Wisconsin Gem & Mineral Society

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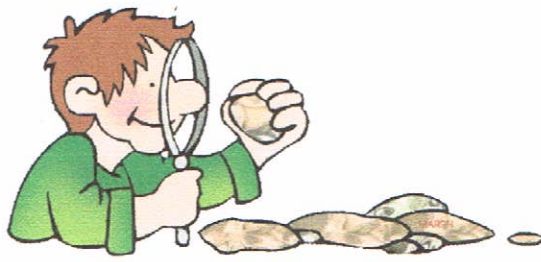
We missed our regularly scheduled meeting on June 18,



at least the weather has been beautiful.

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

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





The President's Pen...

President's Message for June 2020

Greetings fellow Rock Hounds,

Ooops. I am sorry that this newsletter is late....it's all my fault. Time gets away from you when you are in the middle of a pandemic. I don't know about anybody else but we have been so busy catching up on home projects and doing minimal contact volunteer work that the time just flies. So I guess by now that you noticed that we didn't have a June meeting and you've probably guessed that we won't have a July (picnic) meeting. And of course you know that our Annual August show in Rice Lake has been cancelled. I hope this isn't our new reality.

Have you visited the Northwest Wisconsin Gem & Mineral Society facebook page yet? I would encourage you to add your own adventures and photos. This is your site, please use it. Thank you to those who have shared photos and stories.

I miss seeing all of you. Let's hope an effective vaccine is coming soon.

Stay well. Peace,
Dave



One of our annual picnics at Cumberland Beach. I hope we can do this next year.

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.

MEETING TIME -- 7:30 p.m. -- During the adult meeting



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

Here is a contribution from Kristy Kringle:

I was perusing the Rice Lake Chronotype LEGAL and POLICE CALL pages on June 18th, and this was one item I found:

8:33 am two subjects by the dock (at a park) collecting rocks

8:54 am officer confirmed subjects were collecting rocks. Lake St., Cumberland

I apologize if you think I have a twisted sense of humor when relating a tale of the police being called because "two subjects" (I wonder what they were wearing that made them look suspicious?) were "just" rock collecting. After I finished chuckling, I thought it'd be fun to ask if any members would like to relay their

stories/adventures of passers-by who couldn't believe that you were walking with your head down looking at the earth because you were "collecting rocks."

When I was younger, I admit, getting "hassled" a lot more often while I was intently scouring the road, lake, parking lot, or even landscaped area of a business for 'goodies." I've been asked innumerable times, "Did you lose something?" or "Do you need help?" But that hasn't stopped me. Some of my more memorable finds was an amethyst cluster in the landscaping area of the Rice Lake Chamber of Commerce, and awesome crystal clusters of a variety of colors along the railroad tracks, while walking on the shoulder of numerous roads and streets (both in the middle of the city or along a country lane or gravel road), and a Geode with amazing crystals, I kid you not, amongst some hillside landscape rocks decorating the yard of a cabin owner on Sand Lake. All of these were over 10 years ago, and I get goose bumps even now recalling the circumstances. I also found a gorgeous good-sized rose quartz in the landscaping material of a gas station in Chetek. That summer I made numerous agate finds in a parking lot near the river where the gravel was "topped off" frequently. I still wish I'd known what gravel pit in the area was used by the city/county so I could have gone to the "source."

I hope everyone is staying safe, well, and sane in the "Summer that Wasn't" and that you have not fallen into too deep a depression when contemplating an August without our annual Rock Show. Recently Barron County residents were told that there would be no county fair this year either. My husband is on the board of the Fair Association and it will be a bleak season without both events.

I am encouraging you all to mine the depths of your rock/fossil/arrowhead collecting expeditions for the funny and the embarrassing stories. We could all use a good laugh! On a personal note, I request you amend your prayers to ask for some light, warm, rains to wet the areas we love to peruse so that the "good ones" are a bit easier to find. Hopefully, we'll all have lots to share at our "best finds" meeting this fall.

Namaste, Kristie Kringle

minerals.net website

THE MINERAL AMETHYST

Amethyst is a well known mineral and gemstone. It is the purple variety of the mineral [Quartz](#), and its most valuable and prized variety. Its name derives from the Greek "amethystos", which means "not drunken", as Amethyst in antiquity was thought to ward off drunkenness. The color of some Amethyst specimens from certain localities slowly fade upon prolonged exposure to light. When used as a gemstone, Amethyst is often heat treated to deepen the color, or to transform it into [Citrine](#). Some varieties may also change to a light green color, which is given the trade name "Prasiolite", or "Green Amethyst", as it is more commonly known in the gem trade.

Amethyst is most prevalent as small [stubby pyramidal](#) crystals, although several localities such as the Mexican occurrences are well-known for producing elegantly tall [prismatic](#) crystals, which are very highly regarded by collectors. Amethyst also forms the internal lining of [geodes](#), some of which can be over 10 feet tall and weighing several tons.

USES

Amethyst is one of the most popular gems. It has a beautiful color and is fairly common, making it an inexpensive and widely used gem. Most Amethyst is faceted into jewelry cuts, and some are cut as [cabochons](#). Large, [massive](#) chunks of Amethyst [banded](#) with Quartz is sometimes carved into ornaments.

Amethyst is also very popular among mineral collectors. Small [geode](#) sections and [tumbled](#) stones are sold to amateur collectors, while more serious collectors go for the rare [prismatic](#) crystals and giant [geode](#) sections.

NOTEWORTHY LOCALITIES

Amethyst is a very common mineral and is found worldwide. Only a select few of the most famous localities will be mentioned here.

Tall, [prismatic](#), well-shaped crystals are restricted to several Mexican localities: Piedras Parado and Las Vigas de Ramirez, both in Veracruz; and Amatitlan, in Guerro. They occur in elongated crystals that are rarely [faceted](#), since collectors pay well for these rarities. Another excellent Mexican locality is Guanajuato, where plates of stubby crystals are found.

Enormous quantities of Amethyst come from Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, where huge crystal-lined Amethyst [geodes](#) are found, especially at Ametista do Sul. Another South American country, Uruguay, produces deeply colored crystals in large geodes and [pipes](#) in Artigas, near the Brazilian border. An additional important South American locality, especially noted for [Ametrine](#), is the Anahi Mine, Santa Cruz, Bolivia.

Large amounts of Amethyst are found both in Namibia and South Africa -- these are often labeled in the jewelry industry as "African Amethyst". In Namibia, an interesting occurrence is the Goboboseb Mountains, near Brandberg, in the Erongo Mountains, where crystals are zoned in lighter to darker colors. In South Africa, extensive deposits are in Boekenhouthoek (Magaliesberg), Mkobola district, where the Amethyst occurs with a spiky overgrowth of small crystals (popularly called "[Cactus Quartz](#)"). Very dark and clear Amethyst was once found in Russia in the Ural Mountains and Siberia; and a [drusy](#), lilac-colored Amethyst in globular associations has recently come from Nyiri, in northeastern Hungary.

There are two notable Canadian occurrences. One is Thunder Bay, Ontario, where specimens contain an internal coating of red [Hematite](#). The other locality is the area of Digby, Nova Scotia, where naturally rounded, waterworn Amethyst pebbles are found on the beaches along the Bay of Fundy.

In the U.S., fine Amethyst crystals comes from the Four Peaks (in the Mazatzal Mountains), Gila Co., Arizona; in the Pohndorf Mine, Jefferson Co., Montana; Crystal Park, Beaverhead Co., Montana; the Pennoyer Mine at Redfeather Lakes, Larimer Co., Colorado; and at Deer Hill, Oxford Co., Maine. There are several good localities in the Carolinas, specifically Statesville, Iredell Co., North Carolina; the Reel Mine, Iron Station, Lincoln Co., North Carolina; and Abbeville Co., South Carolina (the Diamond Hill Quartz Mine and the Ellis Jones Mine). A recently productive location producing deep purple crystals is Jackson's Crossroads, Wilkes Co., Georgia. Diamond Hill in Ashaway, Hopkinton, Washington Co., Rhode Island is known for the rare [scepter](#)s that were found there. Amethyst is also found in the [traprock](#) quarries of Passaic Co., New Jersey, specifically at the Upper New Street Quarry in Paterson and at Prospect Park.

***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

