

Rough'n Tumbled Times



06/17/2021

Official Publication for the Northwest Wisconsin Gem & Mineral Society

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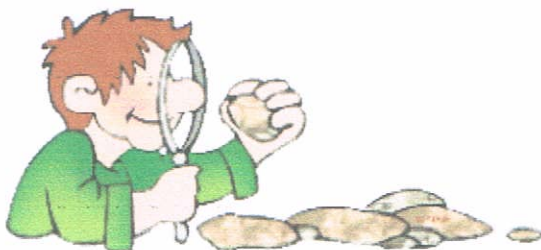
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June 17, 2021 Meeting Cameron American Legion Post

Doors open at 7:00, Business Meeting starts 7:30

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 2021

Greetings fellow Rock Hounds,

I hope this finds you well and starting to enjoy the loosened covid restrictions. Although many people have been immunized, there are still some who are not. Children under 12 have not been vaccinated and therefore we still need to be cautious as those of us who have had the shot can still be carriers and can pass it on to those precious little ones. Our April 'in person' meeting went very well. People came masked and initially we were all vaccinated, so the masks came off, however when some of our youth members arrived and we all masked up again. A small price to pay for being able to see everyone again and thinking of others, not our own feeling of inconvenience. At our June 17th meeting I would ask that everyone brings a mask and if everyone is vaccinated, the masks can be off. It really was wonderful to see people in person. I look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting.

With permission from the Author, Rus Hanson member of the Indianhead Club I have included a fun story about the innocence of childhood and the wonder of discovery. Thanks Rus.

A visit from Otis

by Rus Hanson

My neighbors stopped by to trade eggs for maple syrup yesterday. Three-year-old Otis was along and popped out of the back seat to visit. He is a feral child, raised by parents who believe free-range chickens lay the best eggs and free-range children turn into good adults. Bare feet toughened by 2 months without shoes and fearless of stubbing toes he was soon romping around with Jack, his dog. My feet hurt just watching him running across the crushed gravel driveway.

He followed us to the field edge where his dad and I talked about sawing an oak log. The field was wet from rain earlier in the day and Otis tried out walking in the clay loam mud watching it ooze up between his toes. Seeing the fresh rained on fieldstones and rocks, he headed out to collect them.

Otis is deprived in one way, he lives on the stoneless, mudless sand barrens along the St Croix River where if you see a stone in the field, it is surely an Indian artifact. For him, rock collecting is a trip to someplace, and this was an unexpected opportunity. Soon he was back with his grubby fists full of stones and his pockets too.

"Let's see what you found, Otis," I asked sitting down on the sawmill rail to be at his height. As

he showed me each one, I asked him why he liked it.

His rocks and his answers reminded me of when I was young and any rock that caught my eye was collectible. That ended when Uncle Chan taught us to look for agates, and they became the only pretty rocks.

Otis is an only child for another 6 months, and like children with only adults to talk to, he is verbal at a level far beyond that of boys with siblings. He was clear in expressing his likes.

"This one is shiny, see the shiny goes cross the whole rock."

"This one is red. I like red."

"This one is smooth. This one has sparkles. This one has pretty lines. This one is just right for throwing. This one is for mama – she likes red and white ones. Can I have them?"

Otis has a standing invitation to come again, only next time I might take off my shoes, especially if it is after a rain, and join him and see if I can forget to look for agates only.

For the next Rock Club Meeting, I asked Otis if I can borrow his rocks from the visit to our farm. I will bring them along.

I challenge you to take a look at the rocks in your backyard, driveway, or garden and pick a few common ones that look interesting to you and bring them along to see if we too can recapture some of the joy of finding that the world is covered in pretty rocks, and they don't have to be named, valued rocks to be enjoyed.

Rus did bring the bucket of rocks that Otis found to the Indianhead Club meeting and each one was amazing considering the reason he picked them up. Do you have kids or grandkids or neighborhood kids who might benefit from a barefoot walk in a muddy field? Everything they find is special, even if it isn't an agate or an arrowhead. Encourage them and enjoy what they share. Heck, take your shoes off and join them.

1961 – 2021 OUR CLUB IS 60 YEARS OLD!!

NW WI Gem and Mineral Society Minutes from the 1st in-person meeting on May20th, 2021 Submitted by Robin Zelm (Thanks Robin)

Present: Dave Skrupky, Roy Wickman, Paul and Pam Tubbs, Allen Hanson, Alan Barsness, Bruce Ward, Alice and Brian Berthiaume, Evan, Brittany, and Erin Koehn, Robin Zelm

Meeting called to order by Dave Skrupky at 7:30. Motion made by Paul Tubbs to accept Secretary's report from April. Seconded by Brian Berthiaume

Roy Wickman presented Treasurer's report. Motion to accept by Paul Tubbs and seconded by Allen Hanson

Announcements:

Anita would like to give up editorship of Newsletter.

Old Business: Discussion about electing new officers. President is usually for 2 terms (1 year). Some of the duties of President are lining up insurance, put together ads for shows, and running meetings. When more members are in attendance, the group will address changing officers.

The Club is 60 years old this year! There used to be committees when membership was over 60 people.

Roadside pickup went well.

Thanks to Dave Skrupky for organizing and leading the field trip to Pipestone Quarry in the Blue Hills of Barron County.

Sunshine Committee reports that all's well with people at this time but if you know of someone who could use some sunshine let Laura Finley or Dave Skrupky know.

New Business: Alan Barsness will do a lapidary presentation in September.

If you have something to present at a meeting, let Dave Skrupky know. Other ideas for presentations include: fossils, safety information when rock collecting such as don't look into an ultraviolet light. Experiences of belonging to a rock club, different techniques for working with rocks, etc.

In June, members are encouraged to share their rock hunting travels. Roy will bring in scrapbooks from previous years that belong to the club.

If you have any youth that will be attending for the youth activity, let Chris Martin, or Joyce Jacobs know.

Indianhead Club News – Luck – Allen Hanson

They had their first in person meeting. Shared rock specimens. Not sure if Rock Show will be held in July. School Building may not be available. Next meeting, June 7th - 1st Monday of the month

Chippewa Valley Club- Chippewa Falls – Paul Tubbs

First open meeting is June 14th beginning at 7:00. Workshop will be held the following weekend. There will be a limit of 4-5 members in the workshop at a time. Meetings will be held throughout the summer with time off for December and maybe January.

The Minnesota Club will be holding a Rock Show at the MN. State Fairgrounds in the Dairy Building. September 25th and September 26th. There will be a tailgating area also

Bruce Ward is willing to lead a field trip to the Rusk Co. Blue Hills Felsenmeer possibly in the Fall

Discussion on the annual rock show and sale to be held at the Rice Lake Fairgrounds in the Youth Expo Building. Dates for this are August 14 and 15.

Active club members: \$5.00 per table if you want to sell stuff.

Possible Theme : Copper

Total number of vendors is 15 which includes inside spaces.

Advertise in local papers

Displays

Kid's section

Flint knapping, Face polishing, Cabochons, Faceting

Members could go to a restaurant afterwards to socialize

Dianne Harris will not do food this year. If you know of a group that would like to sell food for a fundraiser, let Dave Skrupky know. They would provide and prepare the food and keep all the profits.

Donated door prizes at the meeting included: a beautiful honey oxide cab, some yooperlites, pyrolucites, and lemon grass chalcedony.

Members brought in a variety of items for "show and tell". We were able to examine these before and after the meeting.

Next Meeting: June 17



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

Message from the Editor:

Good news! COVID-19 positive percentages are dropping, people have/are receiving their vaccine, and events are happening.

The weather is fluctuating so much this year. Cold, then dry, then wet, then hot. I waited to plant my garden until the frosty weather was through, and now it seems late according to the calendar. It's so nice to see the flowers and greenery again.



***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**