

# Rough 'n Tumbled Times



3/1/2019

**Official Publication for the Northwest Wisconsin Gem & Mineral Society**

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## Officers...

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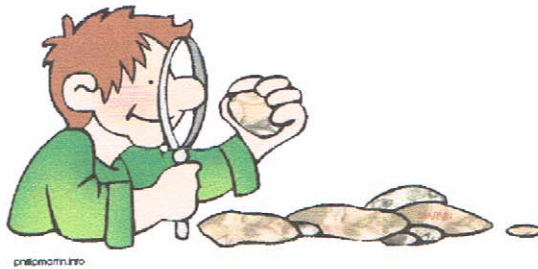
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**NEXT MEETING...**

**THURSDAY – 3/21/2019**

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 3/1/2019

Greetings fellow Rock Hounds,

Well.....as I write this, there is still lots of snow on the ground, and more coming. ☹ I am tired of shoveling and desperately hoping that this is the last of it and that it will begin to warm and expose the rocks and artifacts that have been too long hidden. To say that I'm anxious for spring is an understatement. The upside of all of this is that I've been working on my basement display room. With help from friends and relatives, we've installed display shelving and added a heating unit. I'm now in the process of sorting through 'stuff', organizing and hopefully thinning my collections. Problem is, most the 'stuff' I have collected has a story and I find it difficult to get rid of things that I have a history with. It's not as easy as the clean and organizing guru, Marie Kondo, on Netflix claims. Hmmm. Anyone out there with the same issue?

So, what have you been up to over the winter? A project similar to mine? A trip to warmer climes where collectiong specimens was possible? Reading a good book or two about geology, rock collecting or lapidary techniques? Be sure to share those book titles with us. Turning a rough rock into something amazing? Well, our first meeting of year will give you the chance to reconnect with fellow Rock Hounds and share your stories. Our meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 21st at the American Legion Post in Cameron. As always, the doors open at 7:00 and the business meeting starts at 7:30. The program will be a round robin / show and tell to share our winter stories. Don't forget to bring a snack to share. I hope everyone can make it, even if you can't yet see bare ground.

Peace,  
Dave

**1961 – 2019 OUR CLUB IS 58 YEARS OLD!!**

## MINUTES FROM 11/15/2018 by MARY JAVNER...

The Nov., 2018, meeting of the Northwest Wisconsin Gem & Mineral Society met on Thursday, the 15<sup>th</sup>, at the American Legion Hall in Cameron, WI. President David Skrupky called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

The Secretary's Report from the Oct. 18, 2018, meeting was read by Mary Javner; minutes were approved as read.

Treasurer Roy Wickman then gave the Treasurer's Report. We currently have \$632.39 in savings, \$2299.87 in checking, and \$228.98 on hand, for a total of \$3161.24. The report was approved as read.

Editor's Report: Anita Smith wasn't present. Dave mailed three newsletters and the rest were emailed to members. Dave had a problem with his email contact list and wants to make sure that everyone is getting their emails.

A flier for a fundraiser for the Luck Museum was circulated.

'Dirt Devils: Mark Javner reported that Cal Briggs of the Legion said that if we want to change our meeting time to earlier in the evening, it's okay with him. The Dirt Devil program was a video on dinosaurs.

Sunshine Report: Per Mary Javner, she sent cards to Al Barsness and Deanna Lea. Al called Dave and said thanks for the card. He needs four more surgeries on his esophagus. Deanna is in rehab at the nursing home in Colfax. Mary will send a card to Gary Thalacker.

Indianhead Club: Their final meeting of the year was on Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>, where they enjoyed a pot luck banquet. Their next meeting is on April 1, 2019.

The Chippewa Valley Club will have their Nov. workshop this coming weekend. They will have their Christmas party at the clubhouse on Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>, from noon-4:00 p.m.; food will be potluck and pizza. Their January meeting is on the 14<sup>th</sup>, and on Sat. the 19<sup>th</sup>, instead of having their regular workshop, Kent Syverson, the Dept. Chair and Professor of Geology at U.W. Eau Claire, will be speaking.

The Minnesota club's show went well; they didn't get the overflow crowds that they did last year.

### **Old Business:**

Dave announced Best Finds as voted on last month. They are as follows:

Lake Superior agate: 1<sup>st</sup>, Tate Emery; 2<sup>nd</sup>, Roy Wickman.

Mineral: 1<sup>st</sup>, Jim Loenser; 2<sup>nd</sup> place tie, Charlene Sitenga & Neal Sitenga.

Slabbing: 1<sup>st</sup> place tie, Jim Loenser & Roy Wickman.

Fossil: 1<sup>st</sup>, Jim Loenser; 2<sup>nd</sup>, Dave Skrupky.

Artifact: 1<sup>st</sup>, Bill Lea; 2<sup>nd</sup> place tie, Roy Wickman & Neal Sitenga.

Speciman: 1<sup>st</sup>, Neal Sitenga; 2<sup>nd</sup>, Laura Finley.

Metal Detector: 1<sup>st</sup> place tie; Charlene Sitenga & Juanita Erickson; 2<sup>nd</sup>, Neal Sitenga.

Cabochon: 1<sup>st</sup>, Roy Wickman; 2<sup>nd</sup>, John Park, Sr.

Facet Gemstone: 1<sup>st</sup>, John Park, Sr.

Polishing Tumbled: 1<sup>st</sup>, John Park, Sr.

Polishing Flat: 1<sup>st</sup>, Roy Wickman; 2<sup>nd</sup>, Bill Lea.

Jewelry Purchased: 1<sup>st</sup>, Roy Wickman.

Open Lapidary: 1<sup>st</sup>, Roy Wickman; 2<sup>nd</sup>, Dave Skrupky.

Collection of Similar Specimens: 1<sup>st</sup>, Dave Skrupky.

Let Dave know if you want a name badge; he'll place an order in the spring.

We'll wait until we have more members present to vote on whether or not to change our meeting time to an earlier hour.

Bill Lea brought up the issue of the article that was in the Rice Lake Chronotype; he followed up with Valerie Leair, who wrote it. He suggested that maybe we'd like to invite her to one of our meetings so she has a better idea about the club and its activities.

**New Business:**

We held Election of Officers. Dave Skrupky will continue as President and Roy Wickman as Treasurer. Mary Javner will be resigning as Secretary and Mark Javner as the head of the Dirt Devils. There weren't a lot of people at the meeting and no one who was there was interested in either position, so we'll take care of filling those positions in the spring. Anita Smith wasn't present so we don't know if she's interested in continuing to be the newsletter editor. Dave will check with her.

Our winter party will be on Feb. 9, 2019, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at the Legion Hall. If you want to bring a gift to exchange, the price to spend is \$10. If it's specifically for a man or a woman, please note that on the gift. Those who bring a gift will get a gift.

Our first meeting next year is on March 21<sup>st</sup>. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m., with the Silent Auction and lunch following.

Mary Javner, Secretary



**OUR SUNSHINE PERSON:**

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

**MEETING TIME -- 7:00 p.m. -- Just before the adult meeting**

**Dirt**

**Dirt Devils Chairperson:**

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

**The following is a segment from "A Year Full of Gems!" by KK**

Gemstones Around the World

Rocks, Minerals and, most of all, Gems, have held a mysterious power over peoples of all ages. Where did this fascination originate? It's impossible to tell, but it's safe to say that crystals and stones have been coveted & revered for their unique beauty since the first ancient man, or woman, picked a sparkling pebble from the ground or water and took it back to their cave to be wrapped in sinew and hung from a cord around their neck.

From that time onward, wars have been fought, thrones have been forsaken and lives have been sacrificed, all because of an obsession with these beautiful "Flowers of the Mineral Kingdom."

A few examples... *Julius Ceasar was reported to have paid the equivalent of \$300,000 for a single perfect Pearl.*

*Early Diamond miners were said to slash themselves and hide stones in their wounds (which were then bandaged) in order to conceal them. It's known they've swallowed others, to be recovered (through natural processes) later.*

*Lapis has been a healing stone since remote antiquity - in the 18th century, its value was 15 times that of Emeralds.*

*The Roman senator Nonius chose exile over parting with his prize Opal which was described to be "as large as a hazelnut and shining with splendor to rival the colors of the Painters." This was after Octavius Caesar was reputed to have offered a third of his vast Roman Kingdom for the gem, which he coveted.*

Here, I shall thus attempt to address this fascination with gemstones and their subsequent use as Natal (or Birth) stones. We shall track the history, legends, lore and uses for gems throughout antiquity into the present and beyond! At the end, I will include information on some popular jewels not designated for a specific month. Let the adventure begin!

The "Birth" of Natal Stones.

The dedicating of a special stone to each month of the year was first suggested in the 1st Century AD, and was linked to the 12 stones on the breastplate of the High Priest of Israel.

The modern system was created about 1562, & the custom of wearing such stones became popular in the 18th Century, starting in Poland and then spreading throughout Europe and the rest of the world.

The Birthstones, also called Natal Stones, were often associated with a protective force to keep one from misfortune and were usually given to a child (placed on the body or hung over the cradle) at birth.

The list has varied over time, and I consider George Frederick Kunz to be one of the experts on the 19th Century. In 1913 he published a book entitled "The Curious Lore of Precious Stones", which is fascinating. I shall be quoting liberally from this volume. On page 317 he writes of a "new schedule for the time-honored list of birthstones which received the approval of the National Association of Jewelers at their meeting in Kansas City in August of 1912." On page 320 he states, "This suggested radical change or violation cannot be permitted. The time-honored ordering is familiar now to all who are interested in the matter, and any change, even if one apparently for the better, is liable to disturb the popular confidence in those who are supposed to be familiar with the subject." It was Mr. Kunz's opinion that this change was "simply a return to the ordering of these stones in the Polish list", and he felt strongly that "sentiment must not be neglected, and nothing is more likely to destroy it than the conviction that it is being constantly exploited for the purposes of commercialism."

Well, nearly 87 years later, his fear that Natal Stones would be forgotten has proved unfounded, yet his diatribe against materialism seems almost prophetic. We now accept this "new" Birthstone list and spend millions each year purchasing jewelry in which these gems are featured.

Still, I wish to honor and celebrate the "sentiment" which Mr. Kunz so passionately refers to by presenting this booklet on **A Year Full of Gemstones** which includes information on both the "new" and the "ancient" as detailed in his writings.

Before we begin, let me share with you two charts which give a detailed listing of the *Natal Stones* from Mr. Kunz's time and the *Birthstones* that have become accepted today...

I shall also include alternates that may be more popular because of their greater availability and lower costs.

Natal Stones Popular in the 19th Century		
Month	Gem	Alternate
January	Garnet	NIA
February	Amethyst	NIA
March	Jasper	Bloodstone
April	Diamond	Sapphire
May	Emerald	NIA
June	Agate	NIA
July	Turquoise	NIA
August	Carnelian	NIA
September	Chrysolite	NIA
October	Beryl	NIA
November	Topaz	NIA
December	Ruby	NIA

Birth Stones Used Today		
Month	Gem	Alternate
January	Garnet	NIA
February	Amethyst	NIA
March	Aquamarine	Blue Topaz
April	Diamond	White Zircon
May	Emerald	Green Qtz.
June	Alexandrite	Pearl
July	Ruby	NIA
August	Peridot	Sardonyx
September	Sapphire	NIA
October	Tourmaline	Opal
November	Topaz	Citrine
December	Blue Zircon	Turquoise

Submitted by KK

***PLEASE PAY YOUR 2019 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 7<sup>th</sup> St, Almena, WI  
54805