

Rough 'n Tumbled Times



March 27, 2022

Official Publication for the Northwest Wisconsin Gem & Mineral Society
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April Meeting

Thursday, April 21, 2022

Building opens at 6:30

Meeting begins at 7:00

Business meetings are held the third Thursday of each month from March to November at the Cameron American Legion



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



philipmatin.info

The President's Pen...

President's Message for 27/03/2022

Greetings fellow Rock Hounds,

As of this date (3/27/22) we still have no president. To see job description, refer to March 2022 newsletter.

1961 – 2022 OUR CLUB IS 61 YEARS OLD!!

MINUTES FROM 17/03/2022

by Robin Zelm

Present: 14

Paul Tubbs ran the meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

Checking:	\$2,499.03
Savings:	632.78
Petty Cash:	<u>91.20</u>
Grand Total:	\$3,223.01

Welcome to new member Murphy van Benschoten from Dallas, WI!

Midwest Federation is asking for nominations.

Our Rock Club (Northwest Wisconsin Gem and Mineral Society) will hold the annual Rock Show in Rice Lake at the Fairgrounds on August 21st and 22nd with set up being on Friday, August 19th.

Discussion regarding a tentative hike into the old Gordon/Wascott Copper Mine with Mike Schaaf possibly leading the hike sometime in June.

Roadside Pickup: Saturday, May 7th Rain or Shine. We will meet in front of Bush and Gillis Furniture Store (Old Office Max) in Rice Lake and leave from there at 10:00 am. Safety vest, and plastic garbage bags will be provided. Bring stick with a nail on the end or a grabber, comfortable clothes, and bug spray.

Sunshine Report: Card will be sent to Pam Coleman who had surgery. She is home recovering.

Thank you card received from Bruce Ward who has recovered from his surgery from last year.

Old Business: Discussion on field trip to Felsenmeer. Dave Skrupky will contact Bruce Ward. (Please see email from Dave. He said he had contacted Bruce and Bruce is considering the field trip to Felsenmeer in May perhaps.

Club Reports:

Chippewa Valley Gem and Mineral Society (Chippewa Falls): 58th Annual Gem and Mineral Society Show and Sale will be held April 23rd and April 24th at the Eau Claire County Expo Center. Set up will be on Friday, April 22nd.

Indianhead Club (Luck): 1st meeting for 2022 is April 4th (first Monday of every month). Door opens at 6:30 with meeting starting at 7:00 held at Luck Senior Citizen Center. Possible speaker about Glacial Lake located near Grantsburg.

We discussed having a Pot Luck picnic in July. More information to come.

Monthly Meeting Activities were planned for the year:

April - Roy will discuss rock/slab identification

May – Dave will discuss the history of the Gordon/Wascott Copper Mine

June – Silent Auction

July – Potluck Picnic

August – Rock Show in Rice Lake

September – Alan Barsness will demonstrate his flat lap equipment

October – Best Finds

November – Silent Auction and Election

Meeting was adjourned.

OUR SUNSHINE PERSON:

Laura Finley



If you know anyone that has been ill or could use some sunshine in their lives – please contact Laura. Her email is: laurah421@yahoo.com

Ella Mae Schaaf shared about a young man she knows who went to college with her son. His name is Aaron Dehl and he has been finding dinosaur bones in Montana. He found dinosaur bones on state land and has obtained permits for total access to dig in Montana. He is receiving guidance from a paleontologist from Wisconsin. Here are a few pictures Ella received via Facebook from Aaron.



Thanks for sharing Ella!

Thank you to Allen Hanson, President of the Indianhead Club and member of this group for the article about Diamonds in Wisconsin.

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 crystallizes 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.

I thought it would be nice to share some of the different rock shops in the area or even out of the area! If you have some favorite places to check out, let me know, and I'll add the info to the newsletter.

Stone Hinge Rock Shop

*This is owned by our members **Mike and Ella Schaaf***

At this time not open but their phone number is 715-656-4315

Located near Danbury WI

Facebook page

Butch's Rocks and Gems

Butch and Lois Grevich

Not open yet...phone number 715-494-9275

Located near Star Prairie, WI

Facebook page

Designed in Stone

Rick and Angie Tvedt

651-248-8768

Mora, MN

Facebook page

The Rock Guy

Dean Ferry

715-962-3400

Near Colfax, WI

Reagan's Rocks

Curtis Lyon

715-808-3879

Downtown Hudson, WI

Facebook Page

MLS (Minnesota Lapidary Supply) (Rocks and Things)

763-631-0405 or 763-389-0979

Princeton, MN 5537

***PLEASE PAY YOUR 2022 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

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



Hope to see you at our meeting on April 21st!

