

Rough 'n Tumbled Times



11/6/2019

Official Publication for the Northwest Wisconsin Gem & Mineral Society

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NEXT MEETING...

THURSDAY – 11/21/2019

November - Elections and Silent Auction

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

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



phillematin.ink



The President's Pen...

President's Message for 11/21/2019

Greetings fellow Rock Hounds,

In the words of Dr Seuss, "Oh the places you will go, the things you will see". There are so many interesting places out there if only you look for them. Last month Roy Wickman, Allen Hanson and I attended Wisconsin Archaeology Day near Hixton at Silver Mound. Silver Mound is one of the most significant archaeology sites in our state. It is important due to the type of rock found there which made excellent stone tools for prehistoric people who traveled there to collect and work it. We visited cliff shelters and caves which contained prehistoric pictographs and petroglyphs. We practiced using an atlatl to throw spears like our ancestors. We always learn a lot. This is a wonderful place to visit if you can. Great KOA Campground on the site.



Then a few days later, 30+ enthusiastic rock hounds visited Crystal Cave near Spring Valley. A few of us had visited the cave in years past and were pleasantly surprised to see improvements made by the new owners. New and better walkways, improved lighting and new points of interest. Tours were led by recent geology college graduates who were more than prepared to answer all our questions in as much detail as only rock hounds would ask. I highly recommend this attraction, especially on a hot summer day when the cave temperatures hover in the 50's.



Our last meeting for the year is Thursday, November 21st at the American Legion Post in Cameron. The meeting will feature the results of the Best Finds from last month and a silent auction, (you know how it works, ask me if you forgot), also election of officers. So bring some good specimens to sell (like artifacts), a few dollars to buy specimens, a snack to share and your willingness to participate in the continuation of our club by becoming a club officer. I am more than willing to train someone into the President's position.

Peace,
Dave

p.s. Pam Tubbs sends a special greeting to club members for sending her a much appreciated 'get well card'.

1961 – 2019 OUR CLUB IS 58 YEARS OLD!!

October meeting minutes are provided by Roy Wickman. Thank you for volunteering, Roy.
NORTHWEST GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY
MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 17, 2019

The meeting was called to order by V.P. Paul Tubbs. There were no new members. Tonight is Best Finds Night. Dave was demonstrating flint knapping for the youth group. Anita read the minutes from the Sept. meeting. Treasurer's Report read by Roy Wickman. Checking \$2842.77, Savings \$632.51, Petty Cash \$152.98, Grand Total \$3628.26. Paul Noted members on the Sunshine report - Pam Tubbs & Ron Erickson. Al Hanson gave the Indianhead Club Report on the trip to Crystal Cave, Oct 25th, 2019. Winter Party at Larry and Marcy's on Jan 5th, 2020. The Cottage Grove Show is Oct 19 & 20, 2019. Dave Skrupky will not run for Club President for 2020. We also need a Secretary. November meeting is the Silent Auction and election of officers. Meeting adjourned. Door prizes were drawn and the Best Finds was held. Lunch was served.



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

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

NOVEMBER

Natal stone.....Topaz
Guardian angel.....Adnachiel
His talismanic gem.Amethyst
Special apostle.....Matthias
His gem.....Amethyst
Zodiacal sign.....Sagittarius
Flower.....Chrysanthemum

Who first comes to this world below
With drear November's fog and snow
Should prize the topaz's amber hue-
Emblem of friends and lovers true.

Firm friendship is November's,
and she bears

True love beneath the topaz that she wears.

The traditional and Natal birthstone for the month of November is the Topaz, a gemstone that comes in a vast palette of pastel colors, the most precious being a golden yellow (also known as "Imperial Topaz") and pink (also called by the name of "Sherry".) Topaz is an Aluminum Silicate containing about 20% water and Fluorine. Those with more water than Fluorine form the golden brown or, more rarely, pink shades, while those with more Fluorine than water are blue or colorless. According to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, some of the finer deep blue Topazes that were purchased in other countries have been found to be radioactive and may pose a threat to the wearer, so be careful what stones you buy when you are traveling abroad!

The Greeks believed Topaz gave them strength and improved their vision. This gem is considered quite precious by African bushmen, who use it in ceremonies for healing. It is said to replace negativity with love and joyfulness.

Golden Topaz stones, which feature many of the shades of Autumn were even thought by the ancients to give off light in the darkness. They are also said to be empowered to counteract poison instantly & quench the heat of boiling water.

It is believed that those who possess a Topaz are endowed with the qualities of cheerfulness, intelligence, friendliness and the ability to create lives that are long & fruitful.

Because Topaz is such a rare and expensive stone, the golden Citrine has recently gained favor for use as a more affordable alternate. This stone is a form of Quartz which occurs naturally in many shades from a lemon-yellow to orange and root-beer. It can also be created by heating low-grade Amethyst to 900 degrees Fahrenheit.

Citrine has been revered for helping their owners remain optimistic by encouraging them to "look toward the sunrise."

DECEMBER

Natal stone.....Ruby
Guardian angel.....Humiel
His talismanic gem.....Beryl
Special Apostle..... Paul
His gem.....Sapphire
Zodiacal Sign.....Capricorn
Flower.....Holly

If cold December give you birth-
The month of snow and ice and mirth-
Place on your hand a ruby true;
Success will bless whate'er you do.
December gives her fortune, love and fame
If amulet of rubies bear her name

The month of December has had many different birthstones ascribed to it, from Blue Zircon to Ruby to Turquoise. We shall begin with Zircon, for I believe it is one of the best kept secrets of the gem world. Their brilliance can rival the Diamond and they come in many lovely colors, some found naturally and others created by heat treating the common reddish-brown pebbles to 1800 degrees Fahrenheit.

My favorite story about Zircons goes as follows... A quarter of a century ago in Thailand, there lived an American diplomat's wife who kept a large aquarium with numerous tropical fish. Wishing to obtain some brightly colored pebbles to serve as decoration, she offered a small coin to each of a group of native boys for a handful of stones from the bank of a near-by river. A few hours later, she had almost 1/2 gallon of tiny, stream-worn rocks at a cost of less than 50 cents. Later, much to her amazement, she learned that nearly every pebble in her aquarium was a gem-quality Zircon!

Certain beach sands (principally in Florida and Australia) contain a significant proportion of Zircon grains.

These colorful jewels have been thought to stimulate dreams, make their wearer a winner in all enterprises and cheer the heart. They have also been used as wishing stones.

submitted by KK

A note from the editor: I have included an article from the Mini Miners Monthly newsletter. Thanks to Darryl Powell for sharing to other rock lovers. Also thanks to Alan Hanson for his great idea on formatting the page.

***PLEASE PAY YOUR 2020 DUES NOW
THANK YOU.***

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION – pass to anyone that might join

Name _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ PH _____

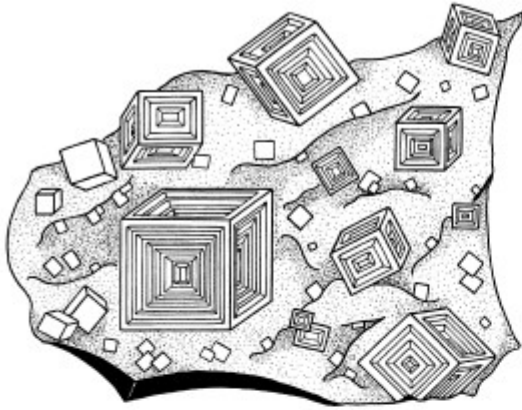
Email Address _____

(CHILDREN ARE FREE WITH EACH PAID MEMBERSHIP)

Send \$8 for each adult member to:

Roy Wickman, 1127 7th St, Almena, WI 54805

"Salted" or "Unsalted"???????



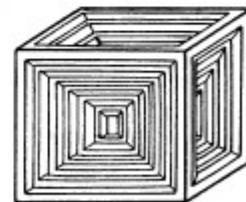
No, we're not talking about minerals with salt sprinkled on them. But "salting" does have a special meaning in the mineral world.

Have you ever been to a mine or a mineral show where you got to look for minerals in the dirt or sand? Sometimes you get a bag of sand with minerals hiding inside and you get to use a sluice or a pan to remove the sand and reveal the minerals by swishing the mixture around in water.

Sometimes, you get to pick up mineral pieces that you find on the ground. I went to a garnet mine many years ago. They let us dig around in the dirt to find pieces of garnet. I found a HUGE chunk of deep red, massive garnet on the ground that I got to keep.

Did you know that many times, businesses (including mines and museums) will add pieces of minerals and crystals so that it is easier for you to find something to take home? Sometimes they add pieces of the minerals that are found only in that area. Other businesses add pieces of minerals from all over the world. This is a practice called *salting*. "Salting" is when a business, museum or mine adds minerals to a dig area that were not naturally there to begin with.

The most honest and reputable places will tell you upfront that they salt their dirt or sand so that you have a better chance of finding something to take home with you. However, some businesses don't tell this to their customers. On the other hand, there are businesses that take great pride in never salting their mine or dig site. When you go into their mine or business, you will know up front that what you find truly did come out of their mine. This means you may not find much. But if you do find something interesting, you will know that it is a special find and worthy of adding to your collection.



So, if you're out at a mine, mineral shop or museum this summer, and they give you a chance to dig or search for minerals in their dirt or sand, ask if they have "salted" the area. They will be impressed by just how much you know!

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