

**Northwest Wisconsin Gem & Mineral Society**

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**BULLETIN**

The "Rough-n-Tumbled Times" is published monthly, March through November, and either mailed or emailed to members and exchange editors. **Editor:** Anita Smith

**DUES**

\$8.00 per person (adult)  
Junior Members (Dirt Devils) memberships are free with an adult membership. Membership renewals are due in November / December for the upcoming year.

**NORTHWEST  
WISCONSIN  
GEM &  
MINERAL  
SOCIETY**



If you are interested in becoming a member, fill in the information below, enclose appropriate dues and mail to the address below:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. No. \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Children \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Roy Wickman  
1127 7<sup>th</sup> St  
Almena WI 54805

## JOIN THE FUN !!!

Are you a rock hound? Do you love beautiful gems and minerals? Do you find fossils and artifacts fascinating? If so, this is the club for you.

Our organization was established in November 1961 and has since been helping to educate those interested in the hobby of collecting specimens, fossils, minerals, and artifacts or doing lapidary work.

We have several activities to enjoy throughout the year. We host an Annual Gem & Mineral Show in August at the Barron County Fairgrounds, have silent auctions, member demonstrations, collecting field trips, picnic, a youth group, and we do educational presentations at schools.

We meet monthly, every third Thursday, March through November, at the American Legion Post in Cameron, WI. Youth group & socializing at 7:00 pm with the formal meeting starting at 7:30 pm. followed by a program & lunch.

All ages with any type of interest in rocks, gems, minerals, fossils or artifacts are welcome to attend. There is always something of educational value at our gatherings.

### **Need more information?**

Contact President David Skrupky at 715-986-2547 or email [dskrupky@centurytel.net](mailto:dskrupky@centurytel.net)

Web site:

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

## HISTORY

The club started with a group of about 13 individuals who set the groundwork for the formation of the Northwest Wisconsin Gem & Mineral Society. They first met on October 1961 and began setting up bylaws and a constitution. In November 1961, they adopted the bylaws and constitution and a slate of officers was elected. The first Executive Board Members were: Clarence Sidel, President; Harold Johnston, Vice-President; Leonard Goff, Secretary Treasurer.

## NATURE'S MATERIALS

When we think of **rocks and stones**, what comes to mind? Perhaps it is their utility: the construction of buildings, walls, roadways, bridges. Or they may be seen as a nuisance to be removed from fields before plowing. Maybe the vision of majestic mountains appears, or the memory of interesting pebbles discovered at the water's edge.

**Gems** are often revered as precious, to be afforded only by royalty or the wealthy. To certain gems some attribute mystical qualities and powers. Among the more commonly known gems are those assigned to each month, designated as birthstones.

**Minerals** and their uses have long been known, examples are metals, salts and coal. Technology has developed many important uses for these in our everyday lives.

**Fossils** are the remains of once living plants or animals preserved by natural means. Generally, we think of organisms that have been transformed into stone by being compressed over millions of years. Fossils also result from molds, casts and imprints. They tell us much of the history and evolution of our Earth.

**Artifacts** are usually shaped stone or metal objects made by early humans for functional, decorative or ceremonial use. Artifacts include spear points, arrowheads, scrapers, axes, grinding tools and ceremonial or everyday pipes. These tell us much about the development of humankind and how our ancestors used the natural materials available to meet daily needs.