

Rough 'n Tumbled Times



10/6/2019

Official Publication for the Northwest Wisconsin Gem & Mineral Society

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NEXT MEETING...

THURSDAY – 10/17/2019

October - Best Finds

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 10/6/2019

Greetings fellow Rock Hounds,

Fall has always been my favorite time of the year. I like the cool crisp days, the trees display brilliant colors, the lack of mosquitoes, the walleyes starting to bite, and the fields being harvested so that my favorite rocks (artifacts) become visible again, especially after the summer rains have washed them clean. I even like cutting firewood.

At our meeting on Oct 17th I will be doing a flint knapping demo for the Dirt Devils while Paul Tubbs runs the business meeting. The program for the evening will be best finds. You may enter more than one category. All entries must be your own finds or specimens that you have personally worked. The categories are: LAKE SUPERIOR AGATE – your favorite Lake Superior agate that you found this year. MINERAL – your favorite mineral (copper, silver, etc.) that you found this year. SLABBING MATERIAL – favorite material that you used for slabbing this year. FOSSIL – favorite fossil that you found this year. ARTIFACT – favorite artifact that you found this year. SPECIMEN – just about any rock or mineral that you really like and that you found this year. METAL DETECTOR FIND – your most interesting find of this year. CABOCHON – you had to make this yourself. FACET GEMSTONE – you had to make this yourself. CARVING – you had to make this yourself. POLISHING-TUMBLED – you had to do this yourself. POLISHING – FLAT – you had to make this yourself. METALSMITHING – you had to make this yourself. WIRE WRAPPING – wrapped by you. CRAFT ITEM – anything you made (rock related, of course). JEWELRY PURCHASED FINDINGS – the stone has to be done by the person and use findings to make it. OPEN LAPIDARY – sphere, grinding, etc. done by you. COLLECTION / DISPLAY- collection of rock related items that you found and in an attractive display. Dirt Devils may participate, but should mark their entries as DD (for Dirt Devils). They will be voted on separate from adult entries.

The doors open at 7:00. I look forward to seeing everyone.

Peace,
Dave

1961 – 2019 OUR CLUB IS 58 YEARS OLD!!

September meeting minutes are provided by Ella Schaaf. Thank you for volunteering, Ella.

NORTHWEST GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY
MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 19, 2019

Meeting called to order by Paul Tubbs, acting vice president, at 7:30 p.m. Minutes read and accepted. Treasurers report given from Roy is as follows, checking \$2864.77, savings \$632.48, petty cash \$70.98, which totals \$3568.23. No report from the sunshine gal, Laura Finley.

Alan Hanson reports from the Indianhead Club that they are playing a field trip to Crystal Cave later in October.

Chippewa Valley Club report from Paul Tubbs, says they have 4 new members and their first meeting was September 10th 2019. They are planning a gold panning trip to Nugget Lake at the County park on Sept 28th. Cost is \$5.00.

On September 26th there will a talk on rock climbing at the Interstate Park in St. Croix Falls. Need a park sticker to get in. The Speaker has written a book.

Next meeting is October 17th and the program will Best of Finds. I think Roy or Dave may have the list of categories.

A get well card was passed around to sign for Ron Erickson. Paul was going to make sure he got it. Larry and Marcy will host a Christmas gathering at their home on January 5th 2020.

On October 7 Dave Skrupky will give a talk on Felesmeer at the Indianhead Club meeting. Meeting adjourned. Al Barsness will give program tonight on rock tumbling. Thanks to those that brought door prizes. Brian, Roy, Al, and Paul.



OUR SUNSHINE PERSON:

Laura Finley

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

Dirt Devils

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

OCTOBER

Natal stone.....Beryl
Guardian angel.....Bariel
His talismanic gem.....Agate
Special apostle....Simon (Zelotes)
His gem..... Jacinth (Zircon)
Zodiacal sign..... Scorpio
Flower..... Hops

October's child is born for woe, And life's vicissitudes must know;
But Jay a beryl on her breast, And Hope will lull those woes to rest.
When fair October to her brings the beryl,
No longer need she fear misfortune's peril.

We have already spoken of the 2 most famous/popular forms of Beryl used as gems: Emerald & Aqua- marine. Yet, there are a few others we should mention... Heliodor is a beautiful golden yellow colored stone whose name means "gift of the sun", Morganite is an intense, vibrant pink gem named after the mineral collector J.P. Morgan, and Goshenite is a colorless Beryl, named after a find in Goshen, Massachusetts. The latter is occasionally used as an imitation for either Diamond or Emerald by means of a process called Foiling, which is done by applying silver or green foil to the underside of a cut and faceted stone.

There are two gems which can be used, presently, as the October birthstone. Some people prefer the Opal, but those who wish to have a more durable gem, will at times substitute the ever-popular Tourmaline (usually in its pinkish shade.) Let's begin with the Opal:
This opaque stone is a gem made of gelatinous silica and water (from 10-30%.) It has been described as either "a white snowy landscape dotted with fireflies of red, gold, blue, green &

purple" or "a black night streaked with rainbow lightning." In 1990, \$25,000 was paid for an exceptional Opal of the black variety that was no larger than a lima bean! A gem is designated to be of this rarer species when the background color is mid-grey, smoke-grey, blue or black.

The name Opal comes from the Sanskrit word Upala which means "jewel" or "stone." The best specimens are found in Australia, with fine stones occurring in Mexico, Nevada and Eastern Europe.

Opals are the most mysterious of birthstones. During the Middle Ages in Europe, the gem had a reputation as a "thief stone" as it was felt that it had the power to make its owner invisible. Sir Walter Scott wrote a novel, "Anne of Gierstein" in which the heroine wears a beautiful gem resembling an Opal in her hair and is plagued with nothing but misfortune. This added to the belief that the Opal was a bad luck stone, and it fell out of favor for many years.

The fact that Opals change color when temperatures vary, was another reason people believed it was a teller of doom. They become dull and grey when cold, thus were bearers of the sad news of the upcoming demise of someone afflicted with the Plague (also known as the Black Death.)

A more positive view of the Opal exists in a legend documenting the belief that the gem can only be found in the dry earth bed left behind by a long-forgotten inland sea. It was felt that the disappearing water had left these vivid, glowing jewels in memory of the rainbows that so often had arched above it - whose colors had reflected in the water and, after eons, were converted into physical form. Another story states that Opals fell from heaven in flashes of lightning, thus explaining their brilliant, ever- shifting colors.

Many cultures believed that the Opal could open one's mind to vision, for the Greek astrologers and mediums constantly used them in prophesy and divination. In folk-lore, Octavius Caesar wished to sell one third of his vast Roman kingdom for a single specimen.

During the Crusades, ladies would give their brave and gallant crusaders an Opal to bring them good fortune in battle. It's also said that blondes favor this gem as a pendant, for it was reputed to guard the color of their hair.

The Egyptians and Babylonians honored the Fire Opal (a bright orange variant that is translucent to transparent with no play of color) because they believed it to be a most powerful healing gem, accessing the energies of both Light and Water. Opals were also often placed on the navel of an expectant mother to provide her with an easier childbirth.

Because Opal is made up of a larger percentage of water than most stones, it needs to be treated with extra care so that it does not dry out, become brittle and crack. Wrapping it in cotton and immersing the stone (or entire piece of jewelry) in water occasionally or lubricating the gem with baby oil now and then should keep the colors glowing and alive.

As an alternate birthstone, the Tourmaline provides a great variety of colors and shapes to choose from. A complex Boro-silicate, this gem occurs in over 100 colors, some of which are uniquely desirable bi-colored varieties. One of the most popular of these is called "Watermelon Tourmaline" in which slices of a crystal are made to reveal a green "rind" encircling a pink center which may or may not have zones of other colors hidden within.

In 18th Century Western literature, this stone was declared a gem of the Muses and was used as a lucky charm by artists, writers and musicians. This is because it is said to possess a magnetic quality which can balance and harmonize the rational and creative minds in such a way as to attract inspiration.

These stones have long been prized for their ability to bring on a tranquil sleep as well as prophetic dreams.

submitted by KK

A note from the editor: I have included a puzzle 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**

MINI MINERS MONTHLY

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FOR YOUNG MINERAL COLLECTORS
VOL. 11 NO. 8 **AUGUST 2019**

Minerals You Haven't Heard of Before

Here are a bunch of mineral names you probably haven't heard of before. After you have found them in the puzzle, go to the internet and look them up. Some are large enough to be specimens for your collection. Many are only microcrystals that you can see with a microscope.

Visit the MinDat.org website to find pictures of all of these minerals.

(Make MinDat.org a regular visit on your web searches. It's a great website for mineral collectors.)

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Haüyne, Ahrensrite, Coulsonite, Talnakhite, Tolovkite, Tschermigite, Majorite, Kurilite,
 Powellite, Cerite, Coloradoite, Isomite, Putzite, Burtite, Padmaite, Platarsite, Hapkeite,
 Atokite