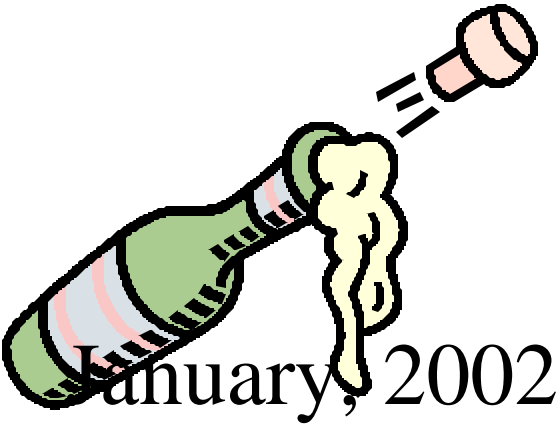


St. Croix Rockhounds
Doug Olson, Editor
211 Interlachen Way
Stillwater, MN 55082

First Class



Please send exchange bulletins to:

Doug Olson, Editor
211 Interlachen Way
Stillwater, MN 55082

January 15th - Is this month's meeting date.

**Find of the Year and
Show and Tell**



St. Croix Rockhound's

LEAVERITE NEWS

Vol. 27, Issue 1; January, 2002

Member of:



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ST.CROIX ROCKHOUNDS

MEETINGS: Club meetings are held the third TUESDAY of each month, at Stonebridge Elementary School on W. Elm. St. in Stillwater, MN at 7:15 P.M.. Everyone is welcome.

MEMBERSHIP: Full membership for a single person over 16 is \$7.50 per year. Family membership is \$10.50 per year.

OFFICERS:

President	Vic Martinsen	(715) 247-3700
Vice President	Dave Klinkhammer	(651) 776-8046
Secretary	Susan Dustin	(651) 430-3933
Treasurer	Elaine Martinsen	(715) 247-3700
Program Committee	Pete Rodewald	(715) 425-5561
	Bill Cordua	(715) 425-9544
	Victor Martinson	(715) 247-3700
Show Committee	Bill Cordua	(715) 425-9544
	LeRoy Betlach	(715) 425-5948
Refreshments	Freya Kask	(651) 777-6371
Librarian	Jeanne Blom	(651) 735-2323
Historian	John Parsons	(651) 257-2724
Sunshine Committee	Marie Newlander MN	(651) 439-7809
	Esther Rodewald WI	(715) 425-5561
Tour Directors	Vi D'Angelo	(651) 665-9067
	Karen Barenz	(651) 776 8525
Liaison Officer	Freya Kask	(651) 777-6371
Newsletter Editor	Doug Olson	(651) 430-9035

The purpose of our organization is to bring together rock and mineral enthusiasts on a regular basis through membership and through pooling of individual knowledge, talents and skills, to improve the lapidary skills of participating members.

Affiliation: American Federation of Mineralogical Societies and Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies.

COMING UP!

January 15th - The Saint Croix Rockhounds January meeting will be held at the Stonebridge Elementary school starting at 7:15 pm. The program will be "Find of the Year" and "Show and Tell".

Come prepared to talk about you trips during 2001 and to show off your finds in the contest.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

January 15th: St. Croix Rockhounds meeting

March 9-10th: Anoka G&M Club Spring show at the Apache Plaza

April 20-21st: Anoka G&M Club Spring show at the Har Mar Mall

July 16-21st: NWFMS/AFMS Show in Port Townsend, WA

July 20-21st: Agate Days in Moose Lake, MN

Aug 30-Sept 1st: NWFMS Show in Enumclaw, WA

October 4-6th: Mid West Federation Show in Springfield IL



**Minutes of the Saint Croix
RockHounds
November 13th, 2001**

The meeting was called to order by Dick Blom.
The minutes for the previous meeting were approved as published in the Leaverite News.
Moose Lake Agate days will be held July 20-21st next summer.
“Find of the Year” and officer elections are to be held in January and “Show and Tell” in February.
Refreshments in January will be pot luck.
Librarian Jean Blom has books available for user.
The next meeting will be the Christmas party on December 5th, 6:30 pm at the Old Country Buffet in Maplewood.
Pete Rodewald said there will be an auction, 4-11th of August, 2002, at Houghton, MI and it may be the last one.
Door prizes were awarded to Esther Rodewald, Bob Carlson, LeRoy Betlach, Bill Cordua, Freya Kask, Doug Olson, Avis Klinkhammer, and Shari Frankenberg.
November refreshments were provided by Avis Klinkhammer and Jeanne Blom.
Meeting was adjourned for a program on diamonds and asteroid impact in western Wisconsin.

**Minutes of the Saint Croix
RockHounds
December 5th, 2001**

The Christmas meeting at County Buffet was called to order by the President, Dick Blom. There were 28 present. A slate of officers for the year 2002 were read.

President	Victor Martinsen
Vice President	David Klinkhammer
Treasurer	Elaine Martinsen
Secretary	Susan Dustin

Discussion followed. LeRoy Betlach made a motion to accept the slate of candidates for the year 2002. It was seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

Victor Martinsen said he has an inventory list in the Treasurers records.

Cassandra asked about a New Years Rock Hunt. Nothing was decided.


Next meeting is January 15th. January program will be “show and tell” and the contest of “Find of the Year” Pete will give the program for February.

Freya Kask suggested for January 15th that everyone bring refreshments to pass around.

The meeting was adjourned for Fun and Games.

Respectfully Submitted

Elaine Martinsen, Secretary



Marie Newlander reports that Phyllis White is home and recovering from minor surgery – a card was sent to her.

If you have news – good or bad - please call Marie at (651) 439-7809.

2001-02 Club Meeting Dates

January 15th

*****February 12th**

March 19th

April 16th

May 21st

****This date is NOT the third Tuesday of the month*

FIND OF THE YEAR

Contest Rules (revised 1991)

The contest is open to all members of the St. Croix Rockhounds club. Absentee members may submit specimens through another member and junior members are eligible to enter the contest and to vote. However, there can be only one entry per person per class. There are five entry classes:

Lake Superior Agates: No lapidary work of any kind is allowed. Agates may be oiled.

Fossils: Specimens may be cut or glued together. Specimens may be treated or sprayed only to prevent deterioration and not to enhance them. They may not be polished.

Polished: Tumble or face polished but not spray polished. The specimens may also be cut or glued together.



Jewelry: The stone may be cut, shaped, polished and mounted. The featured stone must have been found and worked in this current year.

Open: Specimens may be cut or glued together but not polished or sprayed. Lake Superior Agates may NOT be entered in the Open class.

Note: all specimens must have been found in 2001. Polishing or lapidary work must also be done on the specimen during the year it is found and entered. Finally, the specimen must have been found in its natural setting (“in-situ”) by the person entering the specimen.

Also, please label all entries (approximately 2x3 inches) stating the category, material, and general location (county) of your find. On the REVERSE side of the label, print your name. Place the card, name side down, on the table adjacent to your entry. Thank you.

The Legend of Blueberry Amethyst

The discovery of commercial amethyst deposits along the North Shore of Lake Superior by non-natives dates back to the early 1800's. Over the past 200 years, periodic mining of amethyst has occurred at over 15 different locations primarily north and east of the city of Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada.

During the winter of 1996-1997, John Hakala and Dan Calvert, two local prospectors, did extensive research into the possibility of finding amethyst deposits west of Thunder Bay.

Historic records from the late 1800's indicated that 20 silver mines operated between 1875-1895 west of Thunder Bay and all had some amethyst associated with their mining activities. At least six of these sites were investigated, but had no significant amethyst showings or were too remote to access.

While researching the records, a report from 1885 included a notation in a margin that read 'looked for silver 1 mile above Kakabeka falls along the Kaministqua River – none found – beautiful amethyst.'

Armed with this knowledge, the two prospectors scoured the shoreline by canoe in November of 1997. After a week of prospecting with no results, they were weary and about to give up. On November 17th, while making a lunch fire, Dan Calvert accidentally missed a log he was chopping and hit a rock. Disappointed that he may have damaged his axe, he bent over to check what, in fact, he had hit. All of a sudden he smiled and yelled to his partner, "John, take a look at this!:

Immediately, John ran to where Dan stood and there at Dan's feet was the most brilliant purple amethyst John had ever seen. The colour was amplified by the freshly fallen snow. "My God," John stated, "doesn't that colour remind you of blueberries?" Dan chuckled and replied, "John, you are right!" And so the name "Blueberry Amethyst" was founded.

While developing the property in 1998, John decided to call his friend, a full-blooded Ojibway, to ask him the symbolism of amethyst for his people. His friend explained that amethyst was a highly spiritual stone and that in this area some native people used to carry a small amethyst stone in their wampum bags. When asked what they called amethyst, he was puzzled and said he would have to check with the elders. When he called John back in week's time, he said, "You're not going to believe this, but as you know, our people have no name for colour, so amethyst was called 'Shawaska Meenin Manido Asin', or "Blueberry Spirit Rock!"

from Shawnee Slate 10/01 via MWF Newsletter 01/02

Celebrate!

January's birthstone – Garnet: Ancient warriors believed that garnets brought victory. The Crusaders used them as protection against wounds and accidents.

The name "garnet" is derived from the Latin "granatum" meaning "pomegranate" because the crystals resemble the red color and seed-like form of this fruit. As with many precious stones, garnets were once believed to hold medicinal powers. In Medieval times, it protected its wearer against poisons, wounds and bad dreams, and cured depression. Red garnets relieved fever, hemorrhages and inflammatory diseases. To modern users, the garnet symbolizes a light heart, loyalty and enduring affections.

January birthdays:

Esther Rodewald – 22nd

January Anniversaries:

None

Keep this fine publication arriving in your mailbox - pay your dues!!!

Did you know? According to the American Geological Institute Glossary of Geological Terms, “rockhound” is a term first used by oil drillers for geologists, who often smell rock samples taken from well cuttings for the odor of oil. They used to say, “He hunts for oil like a hound dog”, which evolved into rockhound. *from Tips and Chips, 1/98, via Rocky Trails 10/01 via Rock Chips 12/01*

Did you know: Ohio once had volcanoes? The area now known as Ohio, Indian, and Illinois once had sharp mountains with volcanoes. Where are they now? Still there. The fierce landscape of old is only two miles below the surface. *from The Rockpile, the Chiseler and Breccia via the Pick, via the Dop Stock via The Trilobite 11/01*

Iowa Coral: Iowa has few native cutting materials. There is only one fossil coral that may be cut. It is called Lithostrotionella coral. A few common names are Honeycomb or Iowa Pink. This coral was formed during the Mississippian and later geologic periods. There are two major regions of coral in Iowa. One is around Iowa City and the other is in the southeast corner of the state around Keokuk. The Iowa City material is soft and colored a light brown, with very large colonies. It is undesirable for jewelry, but does make fair carvings and bookends. The Keokuk material is harder, colored white to dark red, with some pieces showing a hint of blue. The colonies are smaller than in the Iowa City coral. The Keokuk material is thought to have been formed at a depth of eight to one hundred feet in the inland sea about 325 million years ago. The coloring that has made this coral so famous is caused by iron oxide ingested by the coral animals. This coral is highly silicified. The corals grew in a colony of individual cones; each cone was made by one small animal and is almost always a hexagon shape from very small to nearly a half-inch size. The colony forms from a single base into a spherical shape called a head. The tops of the colonies are rough with a raised edge and a raised center. When cut this coral makes a very unique stone. Slice across the heads and you get a hexagon shape showing the coral to its best advantage. Cut lengthwise the stone will show the ribs of growth. Angle cuts may show both of the above. *from The Drift via Agateer via the Trilobite 11/01*

Gemstone Dying: Mix a box of Rit with a couple ounces of wood alcohol. Let your stones, polished and tumbled, soak in this solution in a small jar until the desired shade has been reached. This could take 30 minutes to overnight. If too much dye is absorbed, soak in clear wood alcohol. After dying, wash in clear water, apply a good wax and polish with a soft cloth. Crazy lace, banded Brazilian agate, etc., can easily be dyed a more pleasing color. Slicing after being dyed can result in some fantastic results. *from The Fractured Agate 11/01*

When tumbling rocks: to polish, you can add desert sand to the first grit in the tumbler. Place plain white rice in with the stones for the last polishing. This will do a wonderful job and the rice will keep the stones from chipping. *from The Fractured Agate 11/01*

Denim: iron-on patches make excellent polishing discs. They will adhere to surfaces where ordinary glue and adhesives will not. *By Mike McGuire/the Agate Explorer 10/00 via Shop Talk via Achatas 3/01*

South Pole Fossils: are found within 400 km of the pole. The leaves are from a deciduous southern beech (Nothofagus). More than 50 kg were found on Beardmore Glacier - in the mountains. The fossils indicate a warmer climate about 3 million years ago - from 5C in the summer to -20C in the winter. – *from Dusty Rocks via The Rock Rattler*