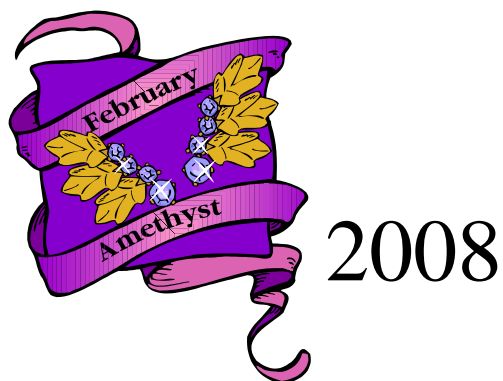


St. Croix Rockhounds  
Doug Olson, Editor  
211 Interlachen Way  
Stillwater, MN 55082



**First Class**

Please send exchange bulletins to:

Doug Olson, Editor  
211 Interlachen Way  
Stillwater, MN 55082



February 19<sup>th</sup> – The Program is:  
“Iris Agates” and  
**FIND OF THE YEAR**

St. Croix Rockhound's

**LEAVERITE NEWS**

Vol. 33, Issue 2; February, 2008

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	Pete Rodewald	(715) 425-5561
Vice President	Brad Bonse	(651) 439-6832
Secretary	Doug Olson	(651) 430-9035
Treasurer	Lin Rawlings	(651) 735-4691
Program Committee	Mark Rasmussen	(651) 275-0607
	Bill Cordua	(715) 425-9544
	Victor Martinsen	(715) 247-3700
Show Committee	Bill Cordua	(715) 425-9544
Refreshments	Freya Kask	(651) 777-6371
Librarian	June Young	(651) 429-3887
Historian	John Parsons	(651) 257-2724
Sunshine Committee	Marie Newlander MN	(651) 439-7809
Tour Director	Susan Dustin	(651) 430-3933
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! - February 19<sup>th</sup>** : St. Croix Rockhounds club meeting will be at Stonebridge Elementary School in Stillwater MN at 7:15 pm. The program will be a brief presentation on "Iris Agates" (with more at a future meeting) by Pete Rodewald and FIND OF THE YEAR.

## COMING ATTRACTIONS

**February 23-24<sup>th</sup>**: Anoka county Gem & Mineral Club show in Har Mar Mall in Rosedale, MN.

**March 15<sup>th</sup>**: St. Croix Rockhounds Annual Club Show; Saturday 9AM – 4 PM (Saturday before Palm Sunday), at the Valley Creek Mall in Woodbury, MN

**March 14-17<sup>th</sup>: Annual Show, Cedar Valley Rocks & Minerals Society**, Teamsters Union Hall, 500 J St SW, Contact: Marv Houg, 319-364-2868, [m\\_houg@yahoo.com](mailto:m_houg@yahoo.com)

**March 18<sup>th</sup>**: St. Croix Rockhounds club meeting will be at the University of Wisconsin in River Falls Wisconsin at 7:15 pm.

**April 8<sup>th</sup>**: Annual Silent Auction! Chicago Rocks & Mineral Society. Open to the public, no admission fee. The first tables close at 5:45pm. The auction is expected to last until 10 pm. Salvation Army, 4056 N. Pulaski Avenue, Chicago, IL.

**April 12-13<sup>th</sup>**: Anoka county Gem & Mineral Club show at the Eisenhower Community Center, Hopkins MN.

**April 19-20**: Chippewa Valley Gem & Mineral Soc, Eau Claire Expo Ctr, Lorch Ave off Hwy 93, Contact: Roger Goss, [Rgoss@cool.net](mailto:Rgoss@cool.net), 715-723-0196.

**June 20-22<sup>nd</sup>** : MWF convention in Lincoln, NE.

**September 23-28<sup>th</sup>**: AFMS/RFMS show in Humble (Houston), TX.

# Minutes of the St Croix Rockhounds January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008

The meeting was called to order by President Pete Rodewald at 7:21 pm.

**Treasurer's report** was approved as given by Lin Rawlings.

There were no **minutes** for the December meeting as business was not conducted at the x-mas party.

**Show Committee:** Bill Cordua noted that the club show is coming up March 15<sup>th</sup> (the Saturday before Palm Sunday) at the Valley Creek Mall in Woodbury. It will run from 9am to 4pm.

**The March meeting** will be held in River Falls on the university campus. A map will appear in the March newsletter. The program will be a slide presentation on "Naica Crystal Cave" in Mexico which contains the largest crystal specimens (gypsum) in the world.

**Program Committee:** Pete announced that the February program will be a short intro to "Iris Agate" and then "Find of the Year". [Entry rules can be found in this newsletter].

**Lin Rawlings** noted that the "Travel Channel" has a number of programs of interest for rockhounds, such as a show of copper country and lakers.

**Doug Olson** has extra Leaverite newsletters, as well as, MWF and AFMS newsletters.

**Refreshments** tonight were brought by Helen Betlach, Freya Kask and Tory and Ron Lewis.

**The meeting was adjourned** for Show and Tell.

## Show and Tell:

**Pete Rodewald** had some Septarian nodules collected locally and copper collected in the UP to show.

**Bill Cordua** showed us some pegmatite material he collected at the Poland mining camps in Maine while he and Janet stayed a "rockhound resort". He also had some 65 million year old meteor material collected in Alabama.

**Earl Kask** had an impressive array of Lakers collected at the gravel pit near Lake Elmo park.

**Susan Dustin** reported she had her best year ever collecting Lakers by asking permission to walk people's fields.

**Submitted** by Doug Olson, secretary.

# Celebrate!

February Birthstone : Amethyst

The ancient Greeks believed that this gemstone held many powers, among them protection against intoxication. In fact, the word Amethyst comes from the Greek word "amethystos," meaning sober. In ancient Greece, the gemstone was associated with the god of wine, and it was common practice to serve this beverage from Amethyst goblets in the belief that this would prevent overindulgence. Even today, Amethyst is considered a stabilizing force for those struggling to overcome addictive behaviors.

Once considered more valuable than diamonds, Amethyst is a member of the quartz family, occurring naturally as crystals within rocks.

## February birthdays:

None admitted

## February Anniversaries:

None admitted

(note: I will be pestering people for their birth dates at the next meeting – I won't ask for the year!!)



*If paying dues by mail,  
send to treasurer:*

**Lin Rawlings**  
**850 Woodduck Rd**  
**Woodbury, MN 55125**



# Black Diamond

## Stranger from outer space?

The origin of black diamonds (also called carbonados from the Portuguese, meaning burnt) has been puzzling since they were first found in Brazil in the mid 1800s. They are also found in Central Africa. One of the puzzling aspects of the black diamonds is that they are only found in Central Africa and Brazil. (Those two areas were once joined as a single landmass. Black diamonds are found in alluvial deposits and not in areas near other diamond fields.

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## *The Wonderful World of Agates July 10-13, 2008*

The *Wonderful World of Agates* celebrates the world's most beautiful and varied gemstone at the Weis Earth Science Museum (1478 Midway Rd., Menasha, WI ) at the University of Wisconsin – Fox Valley from July 10-13, 2008. This premier international event will bring together agate aficionados and amateurs alike, to celebrate and explore the beauty, science, history and mystique of these remarkable gemstones.

Activities will include educational displays, silent agate auction and an international array of dealers. An area will be reserved for agate books and signings by authors, with some new titles expected to be unveiled.

Stanford University historian and agate expert, Dr. Robert Proctor, will present a keynote address on Saturday, July 12, following the banquet. Registration for the event is \$75 plus \$18 for the banquet. For information or questions go to [www.agateshow2008.com](http://www.agateshow2008.com) or e-mail [agates2008@gmail.com](mailto:agates2008@gmail.com)

Carbonados are believed to be about 3.5 billion years old. Streams where they are found cut through geologic strata that are dated at approximately two billion years old. Some studies have dated black diamonds to nearly four billion years old.

Since their discovery, about two and a half metric tons of carbonados have been mined, compared with 26 metric tons of clear diamonds produced **every year**. Most diamonds are used industrially because they are not gem-quality. Unlike clear diamonds, carbonados tend to be more porous and agglutinated, which means they are comprised of clusters of crystals with less uniform alignment. Their agglutination results in more cutting surfaces, making them especially valuable for industrial uses.

Black diamonds are not found with clear diamonds; though, for a long time, black diamonds were believed to have been formed in the same way as the clear diamonds. Studies of the isotopes of black diamonds, however, found them to have different atomic weights and properties. The Brazilian and African carbonados have similar isotopes of carbon and nitrogen suggesting a common source. The origin being suggested is either a large meteor impact in the Precambrian or, more controversially, during a supernova when shock waves from an exploding red giant crushed carbon into dense aggregations and sent them hurtling through space. These deep space travelers would have been, according to the theory, attracted toward the solar system and eventually slammed into the Earth as meteorites. Either way, a meteoric origin would help explain the localized nature of their occurrence.

The jewelry trade has recognized the beauty of black diamonds. High quality carbonados are faceted in beautiful black gems, which are especially stunning when set in white gold. *from Fractured Agate 12/07*

[editor's note: carbonados is the hardest "natural" substance known, while it is less dense, it is harder than normal diamond.]

# 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 2007. 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.

## **NEW IRS Filing Requirement** by Dick Pankey

The Internal Revenue Service has expanded the requirement to file the new electronic annual return to tax exempt organizations whose gross receipts are normally less than \$5,000.00. We have societies in the Federations that have always had gross receipts

less than \$5,000.00. These societies are not required to apply for tax exemption, but are treated as exempt. **The new provision requires these societies to also file the new electronic annual return even if they never filed for exemption.** It does not require them to file for exemption.

It is highly likely these societies will not receive the return information from the Service. The burden falls to the society to obtain the information and file the return. The IRS Exempt Organizations informed me they will be using the EIN (employer Identification number) data base for the filings. The EIN will be needed when filing.

What type of exemption do these societies have? It is my opinion that it depends on their Articles of Incorporation (corporations) or Constitution (unincorporated) (organizing documents). The wording of these documents and the actual activities of an organization will determine which section of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) applies. It is my belief that all active mineral and gem societies are eligible for exemption under IRC Section 501(c)(3) (charitable and educational).

What language needs to be included in these organizing documents to be treated as a 501(c)(3)?

Purposes that are educational in nature with the public invited to all educational activities.

Statement that the organization will not aid or oppose candidates for public office. Statement that in the event of dissolution remaining assets will go to another 501(c)(3) organization.

Statement that the organization will not to a substantial degree attempt to influence legislation.

The actual wording for the statements can be found in IRS Publication 557.

If the current organizing document does not include these statements, I recommend filing a Certificate of Amendment (corporations) or revising the Constitution (unincorporated). If your society wants to verify its status with the IRS, the Exempt Organizations can be reached at 877-829-5500.

I will answer any questions if you email me at [zeileitz@directcon.net](mailto:zeileitz@directcon.net) from AFMS Newsletter 02/08

## **MURPHY'S LESSER KNOWN LAWS** forwarded by B. Jay Bowman

1. Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
2. Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.
3. Those who live by the sword get shot by those who don't.
4. Nothing is foolproof to a sufficiently talented fool.
5. The 50-50-90 rule: Anytime you have 50-50 chance of getting something right, there's a 90% probability you'll get it wrong.
6. If you lined up all the cars in the world end to end, someone would be stupid enough to try to pass them, five or six at a time, on a hill, in the fog.
7. The things that come to those who wait will be the scraggly junk left by those who got there first.
8. The shin bone is a device for finding furniture in a dark room.
9. A fine is a tax for doing wrong. A tax is a fine for doing well.
10. When you go into court, you are putting yourself into the hands of 12 people who weren't smart enough to get out of jury duty.

from AFMS Newsletter 02/08

## Graphic granite -Dr. Bill Cordua, U. Wisconsin- River Falls

Last summer I had the pleasure of going to the Poland Mining Camp and spending three days pounding on pegmatites in Maine, not far from the city of Auburn. The Poland Mining Camp is fun place, geared to mineral collector vacations. For a nominal fee you get all your meals, a pleasant, if somewhat rustic, cabin and guided tours to granite pegmatite quarries to collect - places that are generally off-limits to collectors. The camp has an outside high-pressure hose and screen for washing your samples. The dining area is lined with cabinets filled with Maine minerals, has boxes of give-aways, and a good microscope for looking at your finds. Collectors gather outside the dining hall before and after dinner to trade stories. What a great place! During my stay I got to visit the Bennett Quarry, Emmons Quarry and the array of pits on Mt. Apatite. I brought back a nice suite of tourmaline, apatite, beryl and other goodies.

At Mt. Apatite, I was happily at work, screening rock tailings in a small pool in the floor of one of the pits, looking for bits of gemmy tourmaline. Taking a break (it was a ferociously hot day when I was there) I saw in the pit walls a wide variety of graphic granite. Graphic granite is a type of granite made of angular intergrowths of quartz in host feldspar (both potassium feldspar and albite are possible). The quartz crystals form incompletely, and show up as skeletal hexagonal outlines. These odd shapes, contrasting in color from the surrounding feldspar, resemble cuneiform writing or maybe odd runes, hence the name. Turn these rocks ninety degrees and the rest of the quartz crystals show up as elongated rods. In some the quartz crystals are quite large, in others small and pencil-like. The "runes" may go different ways in adjacent feldspar grains. In some places the quartz crystals get larger as they go from one end of the feldspar grain to the other. The pattern is distinctive and very attractive, particularly when the feldspar is a pleasant pink against the slightly smoky or gray quartz. Lapidarists have cut attractive cabochons and spheres from graphic granite.



How could such a thing form? First, such intergrowths are not unique to granite. They are often seen at the microscopic scale in gabbros, for example. Quartz and feldspar intergrowths are, however, the most common and easily seen manifestation of this phenomenon.

Experimental and field observations show that the texture results from the simultaneous growth of the two minerals, with the feldspar starting first. Feldspar is a discourteous host, as it allows the quartz to only partly develop its crystal faces. The outline of the angular partial quartz crystals forms the rune-like pattern. Recently Japanese scientist made 3-D models of the quartz crystals in graphic granite by using a medical X-Ray CT scanner. The quartz contrasted enough to show that what looked like separate crystals were really interconnected in 3 dimensions. Such technology will help geologists understand many structures by seeing through solid rock in ways never before possible. The exact conditions for making graphic granite require a particular composition of magma supersaturated in both minerals, and crystallizing at a particular speed. That is why not all granite will show this structure. Where they do, though, it is striking and a "graphic" example of how certain magmas behave.

Reference: Ikeda, S., Nakano, T. and Nakasima, Y, 2000, "Three-dimensional study of the interconnection and shape of crystals in a graphic granite by X-ray CT image analysis", *Mineralogical Magazine*, vol. 64, p. 945-959.

# Stolen Gems *St Croix Rockhounds Leaverite News*

**Mineral Oil Uses:** it is an excellent cleaner for selenite crystals. It seems to loosen the little tiny particles left after washing in water and it brightens them too. It is fine for preserving borax crystal from hydration changes. It makes variscite a deeper green, and it improves the appearance of fluorites and calcites. *from Gems of the Rogue 01/08 via Rock Chips 01/08*

**After a tube** of epoxy has been opened, dab a bit of Vaseline on the threads. The cap won't stick and mess up your tube. *from Gems of the Rogue 01/08 via Rock Chips 01/08*

**How to break rocks** for tumbling is a question that comes up frequently since small sized rocks are not always available in the gemstone material you want. You can prepare the rocks yourself with a rockhammer or rock pick, small sledge, Estwing's crack hammer or just a normal hammer and a heavy bag such as one made of denim. Bags can be made by sewing up an old Levi pants leg, a gunny sack, or a doubled up old pillow case. Fold the bag opening under, so no rock chips will fly out. Be sure to always wear safety glasses and gloves when crushing stone, especially when handling and removing the material from the bag, since the edges may be sharp. Some like to break the stones in a box, which will help corral the flying chips. If you have a corner to work in, this will also help corral the chips on at least two sides, while you hammer the chips on a hard piece of steel, andiron, etc. If you have several pieces of rock to break up, only place rock of the same hardness in the bag. You won't have to hit obsidian as hard as a piece of agate and you don't want the softer material completely crushed. Do not discard those very small fragments. Use them in your tumbler over and over again because they speed up the tumbling process. All of these small chips are rubbing the grit on your rock in a multitude of places which speeds up the process of tumbling and make a smooth, shapely stone. (To get a mental picture of what is going on in the tumbler, try picturing marbles in your tumbler. How many places are being touched with grit when the marbles rub on one another during the grinding and shaping of the marbles or stone? The small stones or filler will go between these larger spaces and will help speed up the tumbling process.) Some rocks are more fragile or brittle, and for these stones, it may be best to slab in the approximate thickness you want, then with a hammer and chisel, break these slabs into sizes close to your preference. *(Author unknown) via Stoney Statements 02/08*

**The "star"** in a synthetic sapphire moves with the light, but does not do so in a natural sapphire. *from The Ammonite, Quarry Quips via Rockwood Rockhound News 04/03*

**To clean fern fossils** do not use wax, shellac, varnish, lacquer or spray plastic because they cannot be readily removed and they destroy fine surface detail. Museums use yellow dextrin to bring out contrast and help preserve the specimen. Mix a little bit of the dextrin with water to the color of tea and paint it on the fern itself, not the matrix and it will stand out. *from Stoney Statements 10/03*

**Cleaning Copper or Brass:** If your copper or brass jewelry has turned that brackish green color with black spots, rub thoroughly with barbecue sauce (any brand) and wash with soap and water. *from Chert Chatter 1/97 & Ozark ES News 8/02 via Rockwood Rockhound News 02/05)*

**Jasper** is much more troublesome to polish than agate because many varieties are "earthy" and porous and others contain hematite, which in itself is difficult to polish. If you are on a field trip, a good way to test for jasper is to wet it. If it absorbs the water and dries rapidly, throw it away. It will not polish. Most jaspers polish well on leather with linde A, but good results can be obtained with tin oxide on either leather or felt. *from Golden spike 11/06 via Rock Chips 8/07*

**Wife's comment to her husband;** "of course I spend more than you make, dear, I have great confidence in you". *from Achates, 09/07 via Agate Picker 10/07*