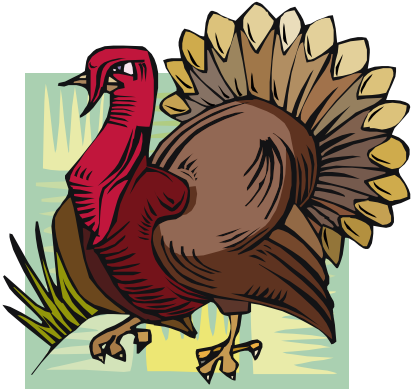


St. Croix Rockhounds
Doug Olson, Editor
211 Interlachen Way
Stillwater, MN 55082



November 2008

First Class

Please send exchange bulletins to:

Doug Olson, Editor
211 Interlachen Way
Stillwater, MN 55082



November 18th – The Program is:
**Fluorescent Agates by Pete
Rodewald**

St. Croix Rockhound's
LEAVERITE NEWS
Vol. 33, Issue 9; November, 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	Victor Martinsen	(715) 247-3700
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! - St. Croix Rockhounds club meeting will be at Stonebridge Elementary School on W. Elm. St. in Stillwater, MN in the cafeteria. Meeting time will be 7:15 pm. The program is "Fluorescent Agates" by Pete Rodewald (this is definite). The audience will see many agate species in their normal color then same stone in fluorescent colors, to show direct comparisons.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

November 18th: St Croix Rockhounds monthly meeting at Stonebridge Elementary School in Stillwater starting at 7:15 pm.

November 22-23rd: Madison Gem & Mineral 46th annual show at Alliant Energy Center, 1919 Alliant Energy Center Way, Madison, WI.

December 7th: St Croix Rockhounds X-mas party (????) at Larry Dorau's house

December 13-14th: Anoka County Gem & Mineral Club Winter Show at the Eisenhower Community Center, 1001 Highway 7, Hopkins, MN

Fed 28-Mar 1: Anoka County Gem & Mineral Club pre-spring show at the Har Mar Mall

May 16-17: Mid West Federation Show in Parma Ohio

July 30-Aug 1: AFMS/NWFS show in Billings, Montana.

Minutes of the St Croix Rockhounds

October 21st, 2008

The meeting was called to order by president Pete Rodewald at 7:18. There were 26 members present.

No treasurer's report. Vic Martinsen "volunteered" to assume Lin's duties. Dues are now due!

Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as published in the Leaverite News.

Show committee: Bill Cordua through Pete announced that the Valley Creek Mall has invited the club back to do their show on April 4th, 2009 which is the Saturday before Palm Sunday. The club voted to hold their annual show at that place and time.

The **Minnesota Mineral Club** has invited the St Croix rockhounds to set up showcases for the MWFederation annual convention which will be held in the Twin Cities in 2012.

Refreshments: Provided tonight by Norma Schutt (from Menomnie) and Freya kask.

Larry Dorau has invited the St Croix Rockhounds to a house party December 7th, which is a Sunday at 1 pm. He lives at 31 Highway 65, Star Prairie, WI. You may bring prizes and gifts as you wish but keep it under \$5. It has been suggested that this replace the regular December x-mas party usually held at the Old Country Buffet.

Old Business: It was moved that the old club show tables be offered to Pete for a nominal price. As part of this deal, anyone else who want the tables at the settled price is to let Pete know. Bill Cordua has let us know that tables for club shows are available through the University of WI-River Falls if they are ever needed. The motion was tabled. It was also noted that the club trailer used to haul the tables was given back to LeRoy Betlach.

Pete Rodewald displayed two poster's put together by Doug Moore. One on "Wonderful world of thundereggs" and the other displaying Pete Rodewald pictures of "Iris agates". Pete also wanted to go on record tonight that a large uncut laker, that he also displayed to us will have iris in it. The confirming clues are clear bands containing copper crystal particles.

Brad Bonse has a lost spoon from the picnic. It is an "Orleans silver" pattern.

Tonight's program is a change from the published "Fluorescent Agates". Instead it was a talk by Brad Cross on the "Agates of New Mexico" – part of a 9.5 hour DVD series "The Wonderful World of Agates" from the July 10-13, 2008 show in Menasha, WI.

The meeting was **adjourned** at 7:43.

Submitted by Doug Olson, secretary

Pete Rodewald submitted this note to me. He has made an offer for the old show tables [ed]:

"I've recounted the tables, in daylight this time, and there are 21 not 17. So with the club making a ceiling on the offer at hand of a limit of 10.00 per table, I'll offer 9.00 per table which totals 189.00 for all of them. However, any present club member can equal that offer also, or the club at the next meeting can reject my offer and decide on what price to settle on, per table. "



Celebrate! BIRTHSTONE FOR NOVEMBER – TOPAZ or CITRINE

Topaz is a common gemstone that has been used for centuries in jewelry. Its golden brown to yellow color is classic but is confused with the less valuable citrine, which is sometimes wrongly sold under the name topaz. The blue topaz that is often confused with aquamarine is rarely natural and is produced by irradiating and then heating clear crystals. Topaz is the hardest silicate mineral and one of the hardest minerals in nature. Topaz crystals can reach incredible size of several hundred pounds. Topaz can make very attractive mineral specimens due to their high luster, nice colors and well formed and multifaceted crystals. ...continued on next page

Celebrate! continued... Topaz may be colorless, yellow, orange, red, blue and green.

Citrine is any quartz crystal or cluster that is yellow or orange in color. Although often cut as a gemstone, citrine is actually somewhat rare in nature. Most citrines on the market have been heat treated. Specimens of low grade, inexpensive amethyst or smoky quartz are often cooked at high temperatures to produce the more profitable orange yellow citrine. Citrines whose colors have been produced by artificial means tend to have much more of an orange or reddish cast than those found in nature, which are usually a pale yellow. Much of the natural citrine may have started out as amethyst but heat from nearby magmatic bodies may have caused the change to citrine.

Interestingly, a popular gemstone on the market is a mixture of half amethyst and half citrine and is given the name *ametrine*. The manufacturer takes an amethyst stone and heats it, which converts it to citrine. He then bombards a portion of the stone to beta radiation which converts citrine back to amethyst. By using a metal mask (possibly in the shape of a heart) to block a portion of the beta radiation, an unusual citrine and amethyst gem is produced.

Unfortunately for citrine it is often confused with the more expensive orange-yellow topaz and is at times sold as topaz by unscrupulous dealers. This practice has soured many potential citrine fanciers who see citrine as a fake topaz and not as a legitimate gemstone. The finest citrine gemstones have a pure yellow color that cannot be duplicated by golden topaz, which will always have hues of orange or brown to darken the gem. *from <http://mineral.galleries.com> via the Voice 11/07*

I have no current members who admit having a birthday or Anniversary in November!!

She was only a whiskey maker, but I loved her still.

A rubber band pistol was confiscated in Algebra class because it was a weapon of math disruption.

The butcher backed into the meat grinder and got a little behind in his work.

I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger and then it hit me.

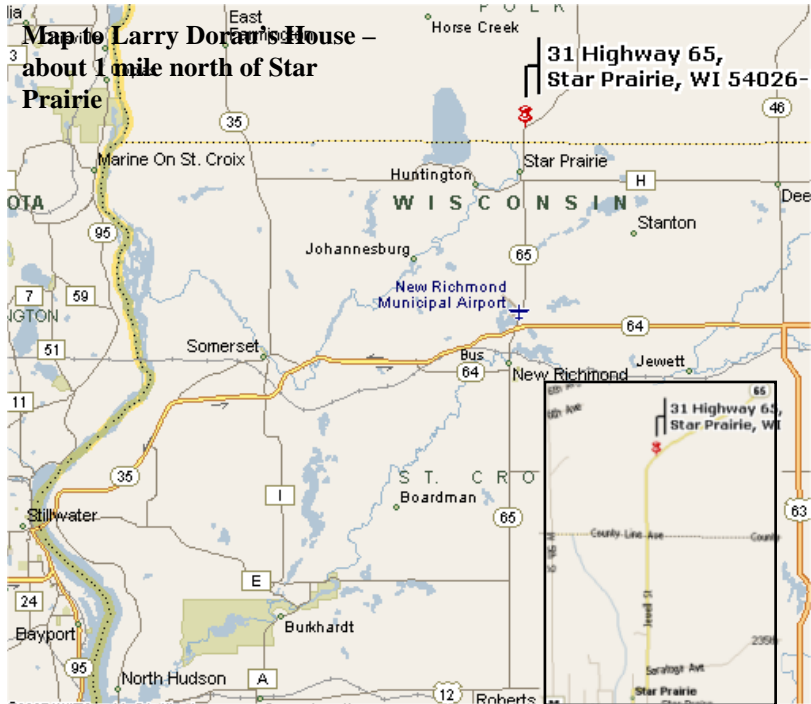
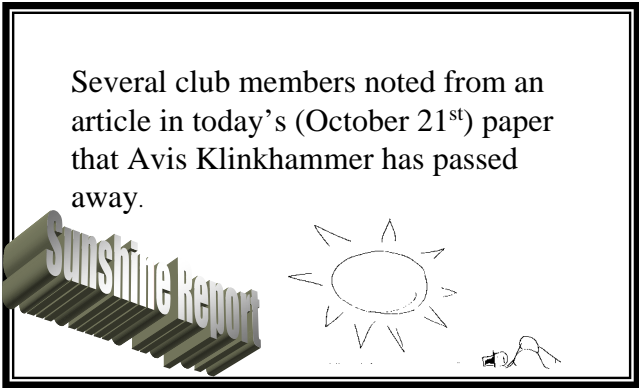
A sign on the lawn at a drug rehab center said: "Keep off the grass"

A small boy swallowed some coins and was taken to a hospital. When his grandmother telephoned to ask how he was, a nurse said, "No change yet." *from Hidden Treasures 11/2008*

If you can't be kind, at least have the decency to be vague.

If you lend someone \$20 and never see that person again, it was probably worth it.

It may be that your sole purpose in life is simply to serve as a warning to others. *from Stone Age News, May 2006 via Stone Chipper 05/08*



Gold Reality

Gold is a native element and precious metal. Gold has long been prized for its beauty, resistance to chemical attack and workability. As it is found as a native element, gold has a relatively low melting point (1063 degrees Celsius) and is malleable. It has been used by mankind for thousands of years. Gold is used as a standard for international currency and is also widely used in jewelry, electronics (where its superb properties as a conductor help offset its tremendous cost), dentistry and in photographic processes. Gold is found as usually as disseminated grains in Quartz veins with Pyrite and other sulphides, or as rounded grains, flakes or nuggets in placer deposits and in streams and rivers. Gold is one of the heaviest minerals, and therefore can be panned easily because the Gold sinks to the bottom, below the other substances. In addition, it can be easily separated from other substances due to the weight differences.

The mineral Gold is almost always mixed with a small amount of silver, and sometimes contains traces of copper and iron. A Gold nugget is usually 70 - 90 percent gold, and the remainder mostly silver. The color of pure Gold is bright golden yellow, but the greater the silver content, the whiter the color.

Most Gold is mined from ore, containing tiny amounts of Gold in the ore. The ore is brown, iron-stained rock or massive white Quartz. To extract the gold, the ore is crushed, then the gold is separated from the ore by various methods.

Gold is less commonly found as nuggets. Nuggets are formed when erosion causes a large piece of Gold to separate from its mother rock, and then gets carried away into a stream or river. The flowing water tumbles the Gold, giving each specimen a distinct shape. The Gold eventually settles at the bottom of the water, and due to its heaviness remains there. Other nuggets also get caught in the same area, forming a placer deposit.

An even rarer form of Gold is as crystals, which are cubic, octahedral, and dodecahedral. Even when the Gold occurs in crystals, they are distorted or are almost microscopic.

The finest Gold specimens that have been found

since early times have been smelted for production.

Nice specimens, therefore, are regarded very highly, and are worth much more than the standard gold value.

Gold is the most malleable and ductile substance known. It can be flattened out to less than .00001 of an inch (less than .000065 cm) and a 1 oz. (28 gram) mass can stretch out to a distance of over 50 miles (75 kilometers)!

Gold is also one of the most resistant metals. It won't tarnish, discolor, crumble, or be affected by most solvents. This adds on to the uniqueness of this mineral.

Gold is usually associated with Pyrite and other sulfides, and many times cannot be noticed because of the association with these resembling minerals. In certain localities, minerals that contain these sulfides are heated high enough for the sulfides to depart, enabling the Gold to remain intact on the matrix. Such Gold is known as "Roasted Gold", and is occasionally sold in "rock shops".

Gold Mythology

So deep ingrained in the human psyche is the lust for Gold that nearly every culture has its own myths associated with Gold. Phaethon, son of Helios in Greek myth, lost control of his father's golden chariot, which created the Libyan Desert. Jason, leader of the Argonauts in Greek Mythology, searched for, and eventually found, the fleece of a golden ram in order to claim his inheritance. The Greek and Roman Myth of Midas is about a king (Midas) who wished everything he touched would turn to gold but when Dionysus granted the wish, Midas soon saw the foolishness of his wish and asked Dionysus to release him the curse. To do so, Dionysus had Midas wash in the Pactolus River (in modern day Turkey). This is the mythological source of the real gold present in the river.

Beyond the normal greed and racism that drove the Spanish Conquistadors to commit the acts they did in the new world, was the search for the legendary City of Gold, El Dorado. In the 1500s, they searched for the city, expecting to find it with each exploration, and then changing its location to drive their men into new regions. By the middle of the 1500s they had pillaged and plundered all the way to Western New Mexico. *More gold hard facts next page....*

Continued from previous page.... It was written by Pomponius Mela, that a certain area was uninhabitable, "because the Griffons (a cruel and eager kind of wild beast) do wonderfully love the gold, which lies discovered above the ground, and do wonderfully keep it, and are very fierce upon them that touch it." Gryphons have always been depicted as guardians of treasure. Gryphons themselves depict gold, as they represent the wealth of the sun at dawn, the gold in the east. They are also said to line their nests, called eyries, with pure gold, woe be to the traveler looking to steal it.

Gold legends abound in the American West. Typically, they reveal and feed upon the fears of residents of the area. One typical story is the legend of a group of prospectors in the Wind River Mountains who found large nuggets of gold in a stream. Marauding natives killed two of the men and the third fled the area. When he returned to the area months later to search for the cabin where they had hidden their gold, he could not find it. Legend has it that the gold is still at its original hiding place.

Gold is associated with the Fall Equinox in Wiccan Religion. The Fall Equinox signals the time of harvest and the approach of darker days. It is a time of celebrating the harvest and thankfulness for the Wicca.

Gold's long history of use by mankind has given rise to a great number of healing myths. No doubt, its monetary value, which wells from a human lust for gold that is almost archetypal, has amplified the powers that healers attribute to the metal. That New Age healers call gold, "the Master Healer" is of little surprise considering how the desire that gold inspires approaches worship of the metal. Gold's lack of toxicity and its scientific properties of incredible malleability and ability to conduct energy, while remaining resistant to wear and corrosion, make it highly useful for Medical Science. Medical uses based on science have included the treatment of Arthritis, dental fixtures, and more.

Gold is associated with the number 2. Gold symbolizes the 50th anniversary in western culture

Name Origin: Anglo Saxon, of uncertain origin

Crystal System: Isometric - Hexoctahedral

Cleavage: None

Color: Yellow, Pale yellow, Orange, Yellow white, Reddish white.

Density: 16 - 19.3, Average = 17.64

Diaphaniety: Opaque

Fracture: Hackly - Jagged, torn surfaces, (e.g. fractured metals).

Habits: Arborescent - "Tree like" growths of branched systems (e.g. silver), Platy - Sheet forms (e.g. micas), Granular - Generally occurs as anhedral to subhedral crystals in matrix.

Morphology: Usually crude to rounded octahedral, cubes and dodecahedra to 2 cm. Often elongated on 100 or 111 forming herring bone and dentritic twins. Flattened plates with triangular octahedral faces. Rarely as wires(111 elongation)

Hardness: 2.5-3 - Finger Nail-Calcite

Luminescence: None.

Luster: Metallic

Magnetism: Nonmagnetic

Streak: yellow

RL Color: Gold-yellow when pure, silver white to copper-red when impure, blue and green in transmitted light *from Stoney Statements 12/03*

WANTED! Club members to step up and volunteer to take a position of responsibility. Officer elections are coming. Surprisingly little qualifications required.

BASICS ABOUT TUMBLING *from Rolling Stones Beacon 02/05 via Rock Chips 9/07 via the Voice 10/07 and 11/07*

With all of the various methods of tumbling that have been devised, they must all hold to certain facts. Whatever method you may use for your tumbling, keep these things in mind. Select stones near the same hardness. Soft stones will be pulverized by hard ones and the hard ones will not be ground properly. Use a mixture of small and large stones, but mainly larger ones. The smaller stones rubbing against the larger ones help the grinding action. However, too many small stones will tend to "ball up" and not mix properly in the load. All large stones, on the other hand, won't have enough surface contact against each other. Between steps everything must be cleaned thoroughly. You cannot carry any coarse grit into a finer stage. When ready to clean the barrel, do not put the waste slurry into your house plumbing; it will plug things up good. Do not use an aluminum colander or pan to rinse or wash your stones as it is likely to mark them. After a quick rinse and a thorough washing, put the stones in the barrel with water 1" above the stones, add a pinch of powder laundry detergent and run for 1/2 hour. This will remove more dirt. Clean barrel and stones again and you're ready for the next step. The barrel must be filled 2/3 to 3/4 with stones. If you don't have enough stones in the barrel, they will "fall" instead of "roll". Too many stones and they will roll too short a distance for effective action. The water level should be 1" below the level of the stones to create the proper slurry to carry the grit. Too much water and the slurry is too thin and the grit "washes" off the stone surface. Not enough water and the slurry is too thick for proper tumbling action.

The success of any tumbling operation is directly connected to the grinding and prepolishing quality preparation. A premium polish is one that removes all surface irregularities down to the bottom of the deepest scratch so that the entire surface is evenly smooth. This allows the entire surface to appear as a mirror.

A good procedure for hard rocks, like petrified wood, agates, and other quartz based rocks, is to run them in a "roller" with rough grit for a minimum of 21 days for the contouring. Although, a few days longer is OK if it is not convenient to wash out at that time. When washing out, save all slurry, including from the barrel. After this has had time to settle, carefully pour off most of the water, then dilute and pour off again, so that you can see the residuals. If there is an excess of remaining grit, this tells that either you are not running long enough to break down, or that you are adding too much grit to the starting load. Adjust your procedure to solve this.

If the first load grind is 21 days or longer with 60-90 grit, stones are contoured good enough to start in the vibrator at the 400 stage. Procedure for this are 400 grit, 2 days, 600 grit 2 days, prepolish 2 days, then polish as needed, usually 2 days or less.

Aluminum oxide (800) is a very good prepolish that works good for either hard stone, or apache tears. In the prepolish stage, and the polish, there seems to be a tendency for the abrasive to not carry well with water only. One way to solve this is to add an agent to the wetting liquid to improve the carrying ability. This can be achieved by using RV antifreeze as part of the wetting liquid to the load. (Editors note: Antifreeze is poisonous and should not be left where animals or children can get into it)

To start the load in the vibrator, add stone, separating media, abrasive, and secure the barrel, then turn on. This will be noisy to some extent, then add RV antifreeze as part of the wetting liquid to the load until the noise quiets down.

At this stage, you have cushioning that lets the stones slide by each other. Do this on all vibrator stages. For most loads, the media percent should 35%. For small flats, pre-contoured cabs or apache tears, the media should be 75%.

Stolen Gems *St Croix Rockhounds Leaverite News*

Lapis Test: Hydrochloric acid is good for testing lapis lazuli. A drop of it on the blue stone (the backside) creates an odor of hydrogen sulphide (rotten eggs). On the white areas, it usually effervesces because the white is usually calcite. This test will distinguish lapis from sodalite or lazulite. *from Mineral Matter via Rockhound Rambling 2/08 via Sedona Red Rocking News 04/08*

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 Southwest Gem, 12/1996, via The Cowtown Cutter, 3/2001 via Sedona Red Rocking News 04/08*

One of the cardinal rules in using the tumbler is “do not overload.” The ideal tumbling load is slightly less than 3/4 full. Use only enough water to fill the voids between the stones, with no more than 1 / 8 of an inch over the top of the stones. Another item that causes difficulty is the amount of abrasive. Use only enough to cover the surface area of the stones. This usually takes about one pound of #100 grit for each eight pounds of rock. This may be further reduced as the #400 and #600 grit is used, as the finer particles possess more surface area, and 3/4 pound of grit with eight pounds of rock is usually sufficient. *from The Southwest Gem, 7/00, via The RockCollector, 2/01 via Sedona Red Rocking News 04/08*

Instead of dumping used acid (oxalic, muriatic, etc) down the drain, where it can cause pollution and might damage the plumbing, try the following: put it in a plastic bucket or earthenware (do not use metal) with a piece of limestone. The limestone will neutralize the acid so that it can be safely dumped almost anywhere. - *Author unknown – from The Petrified Digest 6/99 via Quarry Quips 7/03 via Sedona Red Rocking News 04/08*

Apache Tear Polishing Tip by George Anderson – SRGC -Crushed Walnut Shells are great to use as a filler when polishing Apache Tears. Obsidian is difficult to polish and “bruises” easily. After you have finished filling your tumbler barrels 3/4 full of Apache Tears, put in your grit and 3 to 4 cups of crushed walnut shells (you can layer this), then add your water. The shells can be obtained in 25 lb bags from your local farm/pet supply distributors. You will have to put in fresh walnut shells with each grit but the cost is nominal. Also put shells in with your polishing medium – wash carefully after polishing, but do not run overnight in detergent as you would other rocks. The polish will be great and you won’t have any bruising. *from Skagit Rock & Gem Club 02/06, Taken from: Rockhound Ramblings 07/07 via Sedona Red Rocking News 5/08*

Precious Asbestos? Yes, there is a precious asbestos. It comes in a remarkable variety of colors, the most highly prized being apple green. Many believe, especially in the Orient, that wearing a piece of this promotes good fortune and longevity. So what is it?

First, let’s review what asbestos really is. Asbestos is NOT a mineral, but a mineral form. It is the name given to any of a group of fibrous, metamorphic minerals of the hydrous magnesium silicate variety. It is extremely fire-resistant. Its name is derived from a Greek word meaning “inextinguishable.”

There are six minerals which can take an asbestoid form. One is a member of the Serpentine Group, chrysotile, known commercially as “white asbestos”. All of the remaining types of asbestos are members of the Amphibole Group. They include actinolite, anthophyllite, grunerite (var. amosite – “brown asbestos”), riebeckite (var. cro-cidolite – “blue asbestos”), and tremolite. Fibrous actinolite, alone or when combined with the fibrous form of tremolite, forms a mass made up of tough, interlocking fibers, so dense that the fibers are not discernible. This is called nephrite. Any translucent nephrite specimen that has an interesting or uniform color distribution, and is extremely tough, is called **Jade**. *From MWF News 06/08*