



THE AMMONITE



Newsletter of The Western Dakota Gem & Mineral Society – April 2010



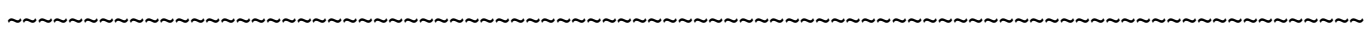
FROM THE PRESIDENT, by Deb R.

I'm excited to see the ice and snow recede and the sun and warmer days come back. I'm excited that our Show is only a few short months away. I'm even excited for the longer days of sunlight, even if it means yard-work is just around the corner. All of this excitement is tempered though, with the sadness at the loss of one of the club's most active and long-term members - Don R. I never considered at the meeting March 12th that that would be the last time I would be able to call on Don for a 'rep' update. His sudden passing just two days later still leaves me stunned, and I know I will be looking for his beard and cowboy hat at every meeting in the near future. Don's big voice was the first thing that caught my attention when I first joined WDG&MS about 6 years ago. Over time I got to know him and realized he just never seemed to slow down, even as that booming voice got quieter as his health declined.



He was the one who asked me, and then convinced me, to first run for President four years ago. Once I took the job I was glad to know I could count on him for support and any questions I needed help on. I'm not the only one who learned from Don or benefited from his passion for rocks - just ask any school kid in the area. Please give your support to Annette and the family as they deal with their loss. (I know it will be hard for you to come without Don, Annette, but you have a lot of friends at WDG&MS, and we want to see you and know if there is anything we can do to help). If it is still up by the time this edition comes out, please go to www.kirkfuneralhome.com and sign the guest book for Don.

I would like to thank Stan and Paula, our Field Trip chairs for arranging the special tour of the Natural History Museum in Hill City with Neal L. Neal took us on about a 2-hour tour to all the back (back, up, down and over) rooms of the museum and showed us specimens and areas that the general public may never get a chance to see. Neal was very patient with all our questions, and you could tell by his voice and excitement how much pride he takes in the museum and the work they do. They have also made the \$7.50 entry fee into a season ticket to help the locals be able to visit as often as they'd like. Thank you, Neal!



Secretaries Notes, March 12th 2010

The March meeting was called to order by President Deb R. at 7:30pm. The February meeting minutes were approved by Mickey S. and 2nd by Ellen T.. Treasures notes were approved by Ellen T. and 2nd by Mickey S.

New members and Guests were introduced.

Rocky Mountain Federation by Don R. There is no report. Don and Annette are not going to the show

because Annette is having a hip replaced. Members voted to let Gene M. have our proxy.

There will be no field trip this week but Neal L. can take us on a tour of the Hill City museum on 3/20/10, 10:30am Sign up sheet was sent around.

Don't forget to visit our club web site. www.wdgms.org

Wire wrapping get together is still going. Additional new dates are 4/13 and 4/27.

The Ammonite invites your input. Any stories or photos you might have that will interest other members will be put in as space allows.

Advertising in the Ammonite was voted on and approved for members only. Advertisements will be put in and rotated representing everyone fairly. Only gem/mineral/lapidary related will be used. Approved by Paul and 2nd by Ellen

211- Rita to send by 3/15

Deb has sent out mailers to vendors about the auction that we will be having the night of the potluck.

Talked about placing an advertisement in the South Dakota tourism magazine but then found out we may have missed the deadline. Deb will call to check. (Editor's note: we did in fact miss the deadline)

John Lufkin will be in Rapid City April 21-24. He is the author of The Geology of the Black Hills. We are trying to plan a small talk about the book he wrote. We are checking on a space to hold it. Stay tuned for the time....

Presentation From Roger V. on Intarsia was very informative.

Meeting was adjourned.



Treasurer' Report for March 12, 2010

The club deposited \$370.00 and paid bills totaling \$357.24, for a balance of \$10974.38. We had 38 families and 44 singles as paid members.

Attention all members....be ready to sign up in April to volunteer for our June show. It really is loads of fun, and everyone pitches in and helps one another. Besides, it's pretty cool spending basically the whole weekend with individuals that you only see briefly once a month. Everyone working together makes the show what it is - amazing! We are a lot of fun "don't cha know"!



Field Trip Report-Stan and Paula H.

We had a great turn out for the tour of the museum in Hill City. 17 in all. Neal was a great tour guide. He showed us all the dark background places, and he has such a passion for his work that it was a pleasure to be on the tour. I could have stayed there for hours and just looked through drawers. We saw so many things that we would have never seen. If we only could have a 1/100 of the collection we would be proud. Thank you Neal for the kindness you showed to our club members.

Inside the museum.



President Deb

Agates



Thank You Thank You Thank You Thank You

The following is a thank you letter received from Stevie H. Stevie was the 2009-2010 recipient of the Willard L. "Bill" Roberts Scholarship. The amount received was \$350. The letter is dated 10/22/09.

To whom it may concern: It has been said that "one can pay back a loan of gold, but one dies forever in debt to those who are kind." As I believe that this is true, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your contribution to higher education in the form of the Willard Roberts Memorial Scholarship.

Although I am a junior, this is my first year at the School of Mines. I am studying geology with a concentration in paleontology. After graduating from SDSMT, I plan to earn my doctorate degree. I would like to work in a museum or institute setting conducting research and educating the public about the wonders of Earth's history.

I would also like to express my sincere hope that you are able to continue financially supporting students at the School of Mines. This award has helped me in one of the more stressful areas of pursuing a degree, and I thank you for your generosity.

Sincerely, Signed Stevie H.

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**Attention all members**.....The following letter was received by Don and is so sweet. If you have a rock or fossil that you would like to share with Aaron **please contact Deb**. She has volunteered to put together a box and send it to him.....

Dear Don R.,

My name is Aaron H. I'm 11 years old and want to be a geologist when I grow up. I just moved to Oklahoma from Minnesota in March of 2009. I've been finding rocks and crystals every once in a while, and I'm excited to continue learning. This year I am doing a fun Science project. I'm building a small collection of rocks, gems, minerals, etc. from several states in the US. I'll be using it to research, write reports, and chart data. There is so much that I want to learn from this project, and I hope that you can help to me. I'm writing to ask if your club could send me a few samples of the state rock, mineral, fossils, or just anything cool that is found in South Dakota or any US state. We are a one-income family so I need to get these samples free or very cheap. I'm saving money so I can pay shipping or pay for the samples if I

need to. This is a long project and will take a lot of time. Would you please consider sending me a few items from South Dakota or any of the US states or refer me to someone who can help me? If you can help me, just email me back at my mom's email below to let me know. I attached a picture of me digging for selenite crystals and a picture of some other rocks and things I have found so far.

Thank you, Aaron H.

Mom: Shawn H. (Aaron's email is available upon request)





We also wanted to add a big kudos to Roger for his presentation last month on Intarsia. Roger hauled in some of his equipment and demonstrated his intarsia technique with rocks. Roger sure has a talent for combining different layers of rocks in just the right way to make the individual colors “pop”. He also showcased some of his fancy wire wrapping. Well done Roger.




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### ***6th Annual Fairburn Agate & Rock Swap***

Dates for the Rock Swap this year will be May 15 & 16, 8:00am-6:00pm.

Vendor set-up starts Friday, May 14<sup>th</sup>. Vendors must register with Swap organizers and are responsible for collecting/paying their SD sales tax.

No admission or set-up charge - open to the public.

Bring your specimens - experts will be on hand to identify and evaluate.

Auction Saturday at 5:30pm to help defray expenses (vendors encouraged to donate items for the auction).

There will be food available. For more information contact: Jim H. (605) 393-2163

[BigJim57703@peoplepc.com](mailto:BigJim57703@peoplepc.com) or Tom W. (605) 393-1963

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The diamond is the April Birthstone. April's birthstone is remarkably simple in composition, yet stunning in its unique ability to reflect and refract light into vivid flashes of brilliant color. The ancient Hindus called the Diamond "Vajra," meaning lightning, both because of the sparks of light thrown off by this gem as well as its invincible strength. The Diamond is harder than any other substance on earth.

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### **Are you tired of receiving your Ammonite in the mail with the black and white photos???**

Why not try our email version? Thanks to the H's, we have excellent pictures to share in this issue and hope to have many more in future ones as well. Try our email version. If it doesn't work out for you we will put you back on the “mail me one” list. No obligation, it's a savings for the club and very enhanced for your enjoyment. Email us at [shivers@rushmore.com](mailto:shivers@rushmore.com), or call us at 716-4047.



Thank you Stan and Paula for the excellent field trip pictures.

**Get well wishes go out to Mark A. and prior member Bob H. We all hope you are feeling better soon!**



*Let's all take a moment to remember Don R., and Ed G. We will miss you!*

Ed passed away on March 15, 2010. Ed was well known by many of our older members, as he was involved in the NE rock club and was a member of the rock Hall of Fame.

*Don R's write up will be posted on our website.*

**Wire Wrapping** has started. Contact Paula H. at 716-3656 if you would like to join the group.

**Classified Adds:** If you have something to sell rock hounding related, we'd love to put your ad here. If we get swamped, we will have to limit size and how many, but for now we'll just see what happens. Members only please.

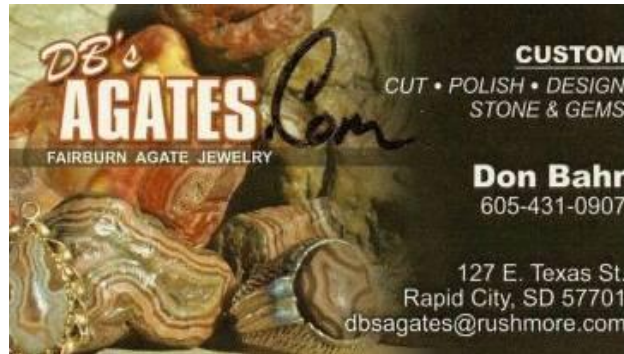
**Notice:** Stan and Paula H., our **Field Trip Chairs**, would like to know where members want to go in 2010. Give them your ideas for outside trips and ones we can take inside when the weather requires it.

**Webmaster** - Steve E. Don't forget to check out our new website at [www.wdgms.org](http://www.wdgms.org).

**CLUB CALENDAR** – Below is our calendar for the year. As you can see, we still have a few openings for Door Prizes and Programs for 2010. Sign up at the March meeting, or contact Deb R. with your chosen month(s) and item(s). Contact Mike J., our Vice President, if you have an idea for a program or would like to present one. We are all a very enthusiastic audience and would love

to learn what you have to share. Jamie B. has also offered to present programs on just about any topic you want – let him know your suggestions.

| MONTH     | REFRESHMENTS       | DOOR PRIZES       | PROGRAM                                  |
|-----------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------------|
| JANUARY   | Paul & Jan G.      | Paul & Jan G.     | Ammonites by Neal L.                     |
| FEBRUARY  | Don & Annette R.   | Don & Annette R.  | Hole Drilling-Walter B.                  |
| MARCH     | Deb R.             | Mickey S.         | Intarsiq-Roger V.                        |
| APRIL     | Mills              | Martin O.         | Rock hounding sites-Ellen T.             |
| MAY       | Cathy Atchley      | Joebgen           | Rock Carving-Walter Brooks               |
| JUNE      | Becky B.           |                   | 30 <sup>th</sup> SHOW-Last minute review |
| JULY      | Rita & Lyle Hanson |                   |                                          |
| AUGUST    | Summer Meal        | Summer Meal       | Summer Meal                              |
| SEPTEMBER | Hazel W.           | Gene and Hazel W. |                                          |
| OCTOBER   | Calvin L.          | Deb R.            |                                          |
| NOVEMBER  | Cliff N.           |                   |                                          |
| DECEMBER  | Holiday Dinner     | Holiday Dinner    | Holiday Dinner                           |



<http://www.dbsagates.com>

### Western Dakota Gem & Mineral Society 2009-2010 Officers and Chairpersons (area code 605)

|                            |                                                                  |          |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| <b>President:</b>          | Deb R., 430 E. Idaho St., Rapid City, SD 57701.....              | 343-7850 |
| <b>Vice President:</b>     | Mike J., 5884 Legacy Ln., Rapid City, SD 57703.....              | 716-9886 |
| <b>Secretary:</b>          | Paula H., 533 Enchantment Rd., Rapid City, SD 57701.....         | 484-3754 |
| <b>Treasurer:</b>          | Rita H., 2569 Ambush Ranch Rd., Rapid City, SD 57703.....        | 348-3916 |
| <b>BRC SD Rep:</b>         | Donald R., 2701 Mystic Mt. Rd., Rapid City, SD 57702.....        | 348-8948 |
| <b>BHRMUC Rep:</b>         | Donald R., 2701 Mystic Mt. Rd., Rapid City, SD 57702.....        | 348-8948 |
| <b>RMFS SD Dir.:</b>       | Donald R., 2701 Mystic Mt. Rd., Rapid City, SD 57702.....        | 348-8948 |
| <b>Field Trip Chairs:</b>  | Paula & Stan H., 533 Enchantment Rd., Rapid City, SD 57701.....  | 484-1591 |
| <b>1 yr. Board Member:</b> | Ellen T., 21653 Piedmont Meadows Rd., Piedmont, SD 57769.....    | 787-4659 |
| <b>2 yr. Board Member:</b> | Dale J., 14974 Back Country Trail, Rapid City, SD 57703.....     | 393-2011 |
| <b>3 yr. Board Member:</b> | Mickey S., 201 Patton St., Rapid City, SD 57701.....             | 791-1953 |
| <b>Newsletter Editors:</b> | Steve & Linda S., 11809 Eastridge Hill Dr., Black Hawk, SD 57718 | 716-4047 |
| <b>Historian</b>           | Donald R., 2701 Mystic Mt. Rd., Rapid City, SD 57702.....        | 348-8948 |
| <b>Librarian:</b>          | Steven E., P.O. Box 1123, Rapid City, SD 57709.....              | 786-5974 |
| <b>Webmaster:</b>          | Steven E., P.O. Box 1123, Rapid City, SD 57709.....              | 786-5974 |

**You can see above how involved Don R. was with the club. We couldn't bring ourselves to remove his name. He leaves a great void not only in our hearts but in our organization.**

**Club Address:** 2701 Mystic Mt. Rd., Rapid City, SD 57702

**Meetings:** Second Friday of each month, 7:30 p.m., Minneluzahan Senior Center, 315 N. 4<sup>th</sup> St., Rapid City

**Dues:** Family - \$15, Single - \$10, Payable by cash, check, or money order. Senior Citizens - free (does not include bulletin)

**The purpose of our club is to promote interest and education in geology, mineralogy, paleontology, archaeology, and lapidary, to sponsor and provide means of coordination the work efforts of groups and individuals interested in these science fields.**

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Official Publication of the  
Western Dakota Gem & Mineral Society

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**Material in this newsletter may be used if proper credit is given.  
Material for this newsletter must be given to the editor by the  
25<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding that issue.**

