



# THE AMMONITE



Newsletter of The Western Dakota Gem & Mineral Society — June 2010

## FROM THE PRESIDENT, by Deb R



Have you signed-up yet for the Show? Are you planning on coming? I hope so for both questions. If not, there is still time, but you need to act soon if you want to support the club and Show by entering a display, giving a program, participating in the silent auction (or the new dealer/member auction), covering a shift at one of the tables or working set-up/tear-down.

This year will be a milestone year for the Show. It's our 30<sup>th</sup> Show, and we have a new website, we'll have a time-line display of the club's past, electronic billboard advertising, and additional souvenirs (pencils) to hand out along with our ever-popular rock cards. Also new this year will be the absence of some of our members. *(See the article for our newest lost member, Mark Anderson in this edition).*

Put June 25, 26 & 27 on your calendar, and plan to be a part of the fun. Get your shift commitments, silent auction and display forms in now!

Weather permitting, we hope to have a field trip for members, dealers and interested public the Monday after the Show (June 28<sup>th</sup>). We generally have several new members sign-up during the Show who are either new to the hobby, or who might not have been out rock hunting in awhile. Be sure to pass along your knowledge of safety, conduct, and specimens and just in general how to have a good time. ☺



*(A couple of past field trips and some happy people out for a good time.)*

## Treasurer' Report for May 14, 2010



The club deposited \$68.50 and paid bills totaling \$195.53, for a balance of \$10,973.75 We have 41 families and 45 singles as paid members.



## Secretaries Notes, May 14, 2010

Meeting was called to order at 7:30pm, minutes approved by Jamie B. and seconded by Cathy A.

Treasures report approved by Mickey S. and 2<sup>nd</sup> Jamie B.

Rocky Mountain Federation by Dale J. - no new information now.

Blue Ribbon by Martin O.- no news to report.

Multi-use Coalition by Ellen T.-We discussed wilderness area bill, and we are all urged to respond to the postcard sent by Senator Johnson. The website is <http://johnson.senate.gov>. We would like the areas in question to remain public land to be used for recreational use and grazing. This land is not pristine and has been settled already in the past. It is also land that tourists would not go out of their way to observe wilderness.

Wire wrapping - we are still a small group but if you want to join us we are meeting every other Tuesday night at Paula's house. Upcoming dates are 6/8, 6/22, 7/6, 7/20 at 7pm. Come and get some ideas on making jewelry out of your agate finds.

211 info sent out. Thanks Rita!

We are moving the club saw to Carl K house to be used by club members. Please contact Carl to arrange time to use the saw (348-3754). Motion presented by Ellen T. and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jan B. - motion passed.

We have a new PO Box. Stan H. will pick up the mail and Paula H. will make sure mail gets to Deb or anyone else it needs to go to. Rita will have the second key.

Rita will check on the use of the Pavilion for our picnic in August.

Elmer and family June 8-9<sup>th</sup>, they would like to look for fossils Deb has e-mail address.

John coming June 5-6, from Colorado to rock hunt if anyone wants to take him out.

Annette R is putting together a history of our club if anyone has pictures or stories, please bring them to Annette.

We signed the order for advertising through Epic Sign. We will see ads all over town for our upcoming show.

Annette and Becky are going to work on a time line of our club.

Show tickets have been printed.

Two Show cases will be held for exchange items from other clubs.

We need to come up with programs for our show. Linda S will be in charge of program times. If you have something to talk about or something to show please let her know ASAP so we can get them on a program.

Contracts for show cases. Contact Jamie B 415-6283

Silent Auction forms. Contact Linda S 716-4047

Don't forget Member/vendor auction at the potluck Dinner after Show setup Friday night. Please bring something for the potluck dinner. Our club will supply the fried chicken.

We are going to advertise our club on pencils to give away at the show. Betty W will get pricing through the company she works with. We are also getting new business cards with our new address and website on them.

We have a contract with the Civic Center for this year and an agreement for next year, but we should talk about alternatives now for more space then and for better pricing.

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Rest in Peace Mark, you will be greatly missed.



**Mark Anderson – a short biography of a man of many talents:**

My name is Mark Anderson and I've been a member of the local rock club now for a couple of years. All my life, I've been interested in rocks and minerals among other things. When I was still in the crib, my parents would take me out with them to hunt agates in the rock beds. They would put a blanket over the crib to keep the sun off me while they hunted. My father also took me with him a lot to look for relics around old homesteads, and we also hunted for arrowheads often. While I was in college, I learned how to make stone tools and artifacts. My extended family of aunts, uncles, grandparents and siblings would frequently get together and hunt for agates, old bottles, and metal detect. Over the years, I accumulated a lot of "stuff"! So much so that I had to turn one of my bedrooms into a museum room. Lately, I started learning faceting and silversmithing. Both are very good hobbies for a long cold winter. Being a member of the rock club has been a fun and educational pastime. I hope to spend many more years with this endeavor.

*Originally published in the March 2009 Ammonite, the below article showcased a few of the many talents of a great craftsman and generally all-around nice guy: Mark Anderson. Mark passed away May 18<sup>th</sup> after a long battle with cancer. His courage and talent will be very much missed.*



(Examples of Mark's talent-faceting, cabochons, silversmithing, and discussing his hobbies with admirers.)

It's Picnic time again...  
It's Picnic time again...

Mark your calendars with the information below....

We have the Old Storybook Island Picnic shelter reserved for Aug 13, 4:30 - 10 p.m. for our annual potluck picnic. More information on what to bring, and how to sign up will be at our meetings.



## June meeting... **Attendance is critical** for the June meeting.

Be informed of possible show changes this year. Volunteer and not only do your club a great service but have fun at the same time. Get your silent auction numbers now! Volunteer to help out.

Silent Auction Changes-One big change this year is...only scheduled volunteers will be allowed to work the silent auction. Also, volunteers/members may NOT set out their own items for sale. There will be other volunteers available to do that for you. Only volunteers with badges will be allowed behind the counter. Set up is Friday. Takedown will be at close of business on Sunday, not before. Unlike last year, you do not need to be a member to sell. The same club agreement of course will apply to non-members with 20% of the proceeds going to the club. Please have your items to us Friday night or early Saturday morning. Making sure your seller number is clearly marked on your bid sheet along with your starting price before you bring your items to us. There will not be an area set up at the show to do this.

We have a high need for individuals to sign up for display cases and selling silent auction items. We also need donated items for the Friday night live auction.

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## June's Birthstone is the Pearl.....

From one of the humblest of life forms, the mollusk, comes the pearl -- a gem of unsurpassed beauty and elegance. When an irritant, such as a small parasite or a fish lodges in the flesh of an oyster, mussel, or clam, a protective substance called "nacre" is produced. Over years, layer upon layer of shimmering nacre coats the intruder, creating a lustrous pearl.





June has two alternate birthstones. The first is Moonstone, a type of feldspar named because of its uncanny resemblance to the iridescent sheen of the moon. Varying in color from clear to blue-white or peach, it was considered by ancient civilizations to be a sacred stone, bestowing the wearer with great spiritual understanding. Some believed that the Moonstone could even make a person invisible! Mined in Sri Lanka, Brazil, India, Madagascar, and the United States, a gift of this stone is symbolic of health and longevity.



The second alternate birthstone for June is the Alexandrite. A yellowish or brownish green in color, this gemstone has the unique characteristic of changing color to a red hue when exposed to a glowing light source, such as candlelight. Because of this quality, it has been characterized by poets as "an emerald by day, a ruby by night." Alexandrite was first discovered in Urals in 1830 but is mined today primarily in Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe, Brazil, Burma, Madagascar and Tanzania.

Kudos to Walter B for the rock carving presentation. Everyone always enjoys what you have to share, and you definitely have a group of followers who are curious as to what you will come up with next. Thank you for demonstrating at our May meeting....



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

**Classified Adds:** 12" Leather Pad Buffer- \$75.00, excellent condition.



Vibrating Tumbler-\$80.00, excellent condition-New today cost is \$250.00.

Please call Vince H for inquiries on these two items at 605-343-3556.



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

Please notice we have a new mailing address.

# USGS Reports on U.S. Mineral Production

The value of U.S. mineral production significantly declined in 2009.

The value of raw, nonfuel minerals mined in the United States was \$57.1 billion in 2009, a decline of 20 percent over the past year. The value of materials domestically processed and refined from these raw minerals was \$454 billion in 2009, a 25 percent decline from that of 2008.

Also over the past year, U.S. dependence on foreign sources for minerals has increased, continuing a trend that has been evident for more than 30 years. The United States relied on foreign sources to supply more than 50 percent of domestic consumption of 38 mineral commodities in 2009, and was 100 percent reliant on imports for 19 of those.

Minerals are a fundamental component to the U.S. economy. Final products, such as cars and houses, produced by major U.S. industries using mineral materials made up approximately 13 percent (more than \$1.9 trillion) of the 2009 gross domestic product.

A decline in the U.S. housing market during 2009 caused reductions in the production and consumption of construction materials. Declines in automobile and durable goods manufacturing resulted in reduced production and consumption of metals including copper, iron, steel, lead, and platinum-group metals.

Gold was one notable exception to the downward trend in metal prices, reaching an all time high of \$1,215.21 per troy ounce in early December 2009. Iron ore was among the largest to decline and decreased by nearly 50 percent in production quantity and value over the last year.

The USGS report “Mineral Commodity Summaries 2010” is available at <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/pubs/mcs/>.

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**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 June 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       | Ammonites by Neal Larson                 |
| 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 A         | Joebgen          | Rock Carving-Walter B                    |
| JUNE      | Becky B         | Rita H           | 30 <sup>th</sup> SHOW-Last minute review |
| JULY      | Rita & Lyle H   |                  |                                          |
| AUGUST    | Summer Meal     | Summer Meal      | Summer Meal                              |
| SEPTEMBER | Hazel W         | Gene and Hazel W |                                          |
| OCTOBER   | Calvin L        | Deb R            |                                          |
| NOVEMBER  | Cliff N         | Charles G        |                                          |
| DECEMBER  | Holiday Dinner  | Holiday Dinner   | Holiday Dinner                           |

## 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>         | Martin O, 245 E. St. Charles St, Rapid City, SD 57701.....           | 721-7770 |
| <b>BHRMUC Rep:</b>         | Ellen T, 21653 Piedmont Meadows Rd., Piedmont, SD 57769.....         | 787-4659 |
| <b>RMFS SD Dir.:</b>       | Dale J, 14974 Back Country Trail, Rapid City, SD 57703.....          | 393-2011 |
| <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>           | Annette R, 2701 Mystic Mt. Rd., Rapid City, SD 57702.....            | 348-8948 |
| <b>Librarian:</b>          | Steven E, P.O. Box 1123, Rapid City, SD 57709.....                   | 791-2473 |
| <b>Webmaster:</b>          | Steven E, P.O. Box 1123, Rapid City, SD 57709.....                   | 791-2473 |

# And now for a little fun and creativity....

Whether it is a birthday that catches us off guard or a gift at Christmas time, a gift of something you made yourself really stands out...It says "Look I made this for you!" or "Isn't this rock cool. I made you something special out of it." Homemade gifts are from the heart. Don't get me wrong, we all go out and buy presents, usually because we run out of time or ideas, so here is a couple of ideas I fell in love with. The Silent Auction would love to sell these for you, hint hint....!!

### Coasters

Get out that box of slabs you plan to use someday and blow off the dust. Pick out 6 that you can trim to 4" squares. Then round the corners and bevel the edges, so the squares will have smooth edges. Polish the best side, either with your equipment or with a water proof acrylic. Back the other side with self-stick felt. The thickness of the slabs does not have to be the same. You now have a set of six unique coasters in a variety of colors and patterns made special BY YOU!

**Don't like the Coaster idea try this....**

### Magnets

Now I know I can't be the only one with magnets on the ole refridge holding up stuff. Don't throw away the bits you trimmed off. Smooth the edges and cut the shapes one or two inches one way and about ¾ inch the other. Tumble polish these and you have a pretty collection of free-form pieces. Glue a magnet to each and you have a nice collection of refrigerator jewelry for yourself, a gift, or even a door prize.

(From the Hy Grader, via Rock Rollers 2/96, via Breccia 9/96, via T-Town Rockhound 1/97)

**Club Address: Western Dakota Gem & Mineral Society, PO Box 3620, Rapid City, SD 57709-3620**

**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.**

THE AMMONITE

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.

