



THE AMMONITE



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



FROM THE PRESIDENT by Deb Radomski

Will the ice in my yard never melt? I promised to mail some rocks to family around the holidays, but they've been frozen solid to my patio since Christmas, and I'm afraid I'll break the cement if I try to bust them loose. Usually I brave the cold to go out at least once or twice at the beginning of each year, but this year has not provided the normal temperature breaks, and I find I'm getting 'rock withdrawal'. The club has already started to get inquiries from out-of-towners on where to go and when we have field trips, so I know I'm not alone in my yearning to get outside and see what I can find. I've never been to the Nebraska beds, Orlich, Pringle, Edgemont, the Montana beds or many other places within a day-trip distance from here. This year I'm determined to hit at least one or two new places (to me), plus a few of my old favorites. If you have not already done so, be sure to get your Field Trip wish list to Stan and Paula Hohn. Also keep in mind that those fortunate enough to be able to go out during the week can also 'chat' on the new club website (www.wdgms.org) if you're looking for someone to go out with outside of regular field trip times.

Secretaries Notes, February 12th



The February meeting was called to order by President Deb Radomski at 7:30pm. The January meeting minutes were approved by Ellen Tilley, and 2nd by David Romig. Treasures notes approved by Mickey Snook, and 2nd by David Romig.

New members were introduced.

Rocky Mountain Federation by Don Rathert - reviewed a three page letter. County commissioners and the Governor are opposed to the grasslands becoming a wilderness. The land is not pristine because of homesteads and remnants of past usage.

No field trip this month. We will be in touch with Neal Larson for a trip to Hill City museum in March.

Wire wrapping get togethers are still going on. Last one held on a snowy night - not a lot of participants. I and Hazel and Gene have been learning from each other and are getting better all the time. Wire wrapping get together will be held at Paula's house on March 2nd, 15th and 30th at 7pm. There may be other get-togethers in the next months, stay tuned.

By-Laws approved and three copies signed

Flyers for the 2010 show were sent around, and draft C was voted in. There will be black and white copies done at the UPS store, and there are a few people willing to print at least 100 copies on their own color printers at home.

There will be a live auction for members and dealers on Friday night at the potluck dinner after set up. 100% of the proceeds will go to the club. We would like to limit the items to 20 so we are not there all night.

A presentation was given on drilling holes in agates by Walter. Meeting was adjourned



Treasurer' Report for February

The club deposited \$364.00 and paid bills totaling \$836.04, for a balance of \$10.961.62.

We had 38 families and 41 singles as paid members.



Let's all take a moment to remember Mae Hubbell... Mae passed away February 12, 2010 from lung cancer. She was a sister of June Zeitner and had lived with June in Rapid City for several years. After June died last October, she moved to Maine to live with family. She attended several of our annual rock shows here. Mae wrote on various topics in the Lapidary Journal, including articles on gem trees. She is survived by two of the five Culp sisters; Sylvia in Ohio and Phyllis in California.

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

Classified Adds: This will be a new section used as needed. 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. Advertising policy will be discussed at the March meeting.

For Sale: 20" Highland Park Saw. New blade - never cut a rock. Two new bearings on the feed. Automatic cut off switch. Call Dale for the price. 393-2011.

Notice: Stan and Paula Hohn, 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 Evans. Don't forget to check out our new website at www.wdgm.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 Radomski with your chosen month(s) and item(s). Contact Mike Joebgen, 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 Brezina 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 Goheen	Paul & Jan Goheen	Ammonites by Neal Larson
FEBRUARY	Don & Annette Rathert	Don & Annette Rathert	Hole Drilling-Walter Brooks
MARCH	Deb Radomski	Mickey Snook	Intarsiq-Roger Vesely
APRIL	Mills	Martin Osterloh	Rock hounding sites-Ellen Tilley
MAY	Cathy Atchley	Joebgen	Rock Carving-Walter Brooks
JUNE	Becky Bender		30 th SHOW-Last minute review
JULY	Rita & Lyle Hanson		
AUGUST	Summer Meal	Summer Meal	Summer Meal
SEPTEMBER	Hazel Williams	Gene and Hazel Williams	
OCTOBER	Calvin Luke	Deb Radomski	
NOVEMBER	Cliff Nelson		
DECEMBER	Holiday Dinner	Holiday Dinner	Holiday Dinner

Let the show begin.....okay not yet but our show dates are June 26 & 27th, 2010.

Please see below our list of dealers who we look forward to seeing at the show.

Endless Possibilities

Tim and Barbara Almy
10403 Circle Drive
Edgemont, SD 57735

Wire wrapping

TLZ Enterprises, LLP

<http://www.tlzenterprises.com/>

Terry L. Zunder
1403 W. 111th Place
Northglenn CO 80234

Fossils and Minerals

Lavin's Gems

Frank Lavin
9942 Montrose
Schiller Park IL 60176

Gem stones

Dale Joebgen

14974 Back Country Trail
Rapid City SD 57703

Slabs, Rough Rock and Jewelry

Sisters Rocks

Tarre Smith
PO Box 351566
Westminister CO 80035

Lapidary tools, Minerals

Aldinger Geological Enterprises

Dennis Aldinger
6975 Brighton Street
Summerset SD 57718

Fossils

Old Dead Things

<http://olddeadthings.com/>

Jim and Linda Schmiedt
4440 Sam Howell Road
Casper WY 82604

Fossils and Minerals

One of a Kind Designs

Alverna Gibson
7217 Lola Dr.
Black Hawk SD 57718

Jewelry

Stone Crystals

Keith and Charlotte Harmon
8316 Oxford Drive
Tyler TX 75703

Breaking Geodes

Phantom Rocks

Carolyn Tunncliff
1130 Francis #7070
Longmont CO 80501

Beads and Minerals

K AND K Minerals

Kim Nielsen
50434 Leisure Lane
Scottsbluff NE 69361

Fossils and Minerals

Dakota Matrix Minerals

<http://www.dakotamatrix.com/>

Tom Loomis and Miranda Boenisch
225 Westberry Ct.N.
Rapid City SD 57702

Minerals

June 26 & 27th 2010

Wilderness? -I think not! by Jim Hardesty

Editor's note: Jim sent this editorial to the Rapid City Journal, but they failed to publish it.

The reasons behind the special interest groups that are pushing to "save our grasslands for our future generations" are very questionable. I question Sen. Tom Johnson's decision to introduce a bill to designate 40,000 to 50,000 acres of the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands as wilderness. I have no doubt that he looked into this, but I doubt he looked far enough to really understand the impact this could have.

These areas aren't "grasslands" anyway. They are extensions of the badlands. If you look at the south and east boundaries of the Indian Creek area, it's the Badlands National Park, all 244,000 acres of it, totally protected and saved for our future generations. Do we need to add the Indian Creek and Red Shirt Creek areas to this? I think not. Making wilderness out of the Indian Creek and Red Shirt areas would do nothing to "save" them. They are already areas that are designated as roadless or at least protected from any off designated road use. What else would wilderness designation do? Tom Troxel, the Black Hills Multiple Use Coalition executive secretary, seems to fear the impact it will have on grazing levels, and the special interest groups using wilderness as a means to challenge the Forest Service's ability to effectively control fire, noxious weeds and prairie dogs. In the Rapid City Journal, 20 Jan. 2010 article, he says "if additional protections are necessary, there are other designations without all the baggage of wilderness designations".

In the same article Terry Mayes, board member of the South Dakota Wildlife Federation, (a special interest group) says "Wilderness protection ensures that the land will remain as it is, while still allowing hunting and fishing, hiking, camping, rock collecting, disabled access, and horseback riding". Just how does he expect a disabled person to access these rugged and remote areas?

If the current restrictions on this public grassland are properly enforced, all that he states in this article will be accomplished *WITHOUT* wilderness designation!

I read and tried to understand the Wilderness Act, but it is written so the average layman can't follow it. In several places it refers you to other Acts that are written so as to totally confuse you also. I did get this out of it though: it says there will be NO commercial activity on any land designated as wilderness. To my knowledge cattle and buffalo ranching are most certainly commercial operations and many of them depend on the grazing leases they have on these public grasslands for their very existence.

Those who support the wilderness designation say that these grazing leases will continue to be honored and that the ranchers who now lease these lands will continue to be able to do so and will be allowed to use motorized vehicles to maintain their operations there. What will happen when these leases come up for renewal? What will really happen if these areas do become wilderness?

It is easy to promise one thing to accomplish a goal, but once that goal has been reached, it is just as easy to renege on or forget those promises. If you don't believe that, just look at the promises made by any candidate for political office then look at his/her track record after being elected. Most fail miserably to keep their promises.



Thank you Walter Brooks for our February program! Walter demonstrated on his own set-up how to drill holes in cabochons. Many club members took advantage of his "hands on" time while he coached us on his own technique.

North Dakota Geological Survey's 2010 Public Fossil Digs

Check website for more information: <https://www.dmr.nd.gov/ndfossil/digs/digs.asp>

Whiskey Creek

Dates: June 14th-18th, 2010

A sixty million-year-old fossil site containing crocodile, champsosaur (crocodile-like animal), turtle, and fish has recently been discovered in the beautiful and rugged badlands near Buffalo Gap, North Dakota. The North Dakota Geological Survey, in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service - Dakota Prairie Grasslands, will participate in scientific, professionally conducted, fossil excavations at this site in June 2010. Public participation is invited. This dig is open to anyone 16 years and older. For more information contact Dr. John Hoganson (jhoganso@nd.gov) or Jeff Person (jjperson@nd.gov). Cost \$900 per person.

Marmarth

Dates: August 1st-6th, 2010

Sixty-five to seventy-five million-year-old fossil sites containing dinosaur and other fossils have recently been discovered in the beautiful and rugged badlands near Marmarth, North Dakota. The North Dakota Geological Survey and the Marmarth Research Foundation, in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service - Dakota Prairie Grasslands, will participate in scientific, professionally conducted, fossil excavations at these sites in August 2010. Public participation is invited. This dig is open to anyone 14 years and older. For more information contact Mr. Louis Tremblay (loutrem@comcast.net), Dr. John Hoganson (jhoganso@nd.gov), Jeff Person (jjperson@nd.gov), or Becky Gould (bgould@nd.gov). Cost \$900 per person.

Rhame

Dates: August 7th-14th, 2010

About sixty-five million year old (Cretaceous age Hell Creek Formation) fossil sites containing *Triceratops*, plant, and other fossils have recently been discovered in the beautiful and rugged badlands near Rhame, North Dakota. The North Dakota Geological Survey and Pioneer Trails Regional Museum, in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, will co-sponsor scientific, professionally-conducted, fossil excavations at these sites in 2010. Public participation is invited. This dig is open to anyone 12 years and older. For more information contact Mr. Dean Pearson (701-523-3625), Ms. Kathryn Wilkening (701-523-3600), Dr. John Hoganson (jhoganso@nd.gov), Jeff Person (jjperson@nd.gov), or Becky Gould (bgould@nd.gov). Cost \$600 per person.

Medora

Dates: June 21st-27th, 2010

A sixty million-year-old fossil site containing crocodile, champsosaur (crocodile-like animal), turtle, and fish fossils has recently been discovered in the beautiful an rugged badlands near Medora, North Dakota. The North Dakota Geological Survey and Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation will co-sponsor a scientific, professionally conducted, fossil excavation at that site in June 2010. Public participation is invited. This dig is open to anyone 12 years and older. For more information contact Group Sales (groupsales@medora.com), Dr. John Hoganson (jhoganso@nd.gov) or Jeff Person (jjperson@nd.gov). Cost \$145 per day.

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

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

As always old/new ideas are welcome. This is "your" newsletter and we would love to hear from you.

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. 4th 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
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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
25th of the month preceding that issue.**

