



# THE AMMONITE



Newsletter of the Western Dakota Gem & Mineral Society –November 2010

## FROM THE PRESIDENT, by Ellen Tilley



I am looking forward to a great year ahead of us, and working with the newly elected Officers and Show Committee, and I would like to thank all of you that make our club special. I will be giving our November program on Faceted Gemstone Identification. Our Christmas Party will be December 17, 6 PM, sign-up sheet will be available at our November meeting. Our 2011 Gem and Mineral Show will be June 17, 18, and 19 at the Event Center at the Fairgrounds. The Show Committee is already working on the logistics. It will be a challenge, but there is room for expansion. I am excited about the new addition to the kids area, it will be a field hunt in the small arena. One side will be Prairie Grasslands and Dry Spool Creek, the other side will be Black Hills Trail. Together we can make this new location work.

## Treasurer' Report for October 2010



The club deposited \$308.25 and paid bills totaling \$682.25, for a balance of 12,757.48. We have 56 families and 53 singles as paid members.

Mickey Snook motioned to approve the treasurer's report as written and 2d by Becky Bender.

## Secretaries Notes, October 2010



The October meeting started at 7:30pm with introductions of guests and visitors. Two new members joined, Jim and Patti Guptill.

Minutes were approved by Ellen Tilley and 2d by Jan Baumeister.

Rocky Mountain Federation- Dale is still unable to make contact with the Rocky Mountain Federation.

Blue Ribbon – Martin had no new reports at this time. The web site for the Blue Ribbon magazine is [www.sharetrails.org/magazine](http://www.sharetrails.org/magazine).

Membership list was sent out by email and hard copy. Reminder to everyone—does not share with anyone who isn't a member.

Multi-use coalition-Ellen received a letter. Pine Beatles Resolution... Save our Black Hills Citizen Group Some funding received to do treating and thinning of infected trees. Senator Johnson held a special meeting and stated the National Guard is now involved in the Grassland Wilderness controversy. Grassland wilderness fight has been on since 1979.

Mike Joebgen presented the show update. Some members met last week at the event center. Rock Magazine needs to be notified 4 months in advance to run the advertisement.

Christmas dinner will be 17 Dec at the Elks. Decision of meal choice held in Nov. Choices were Prime Rib or chicken. A meeting will not be held in Dec, the dinner will take the place of our meeting.

Reminder: dues are due in November. If you have not paid your dues this year please do so. Thank you.

Some emails are coming back undeliverable. If you have a new email address, please forward to the secretary and the president.

Non-profit paperwork was never been submitted in 1982. The Form 1023 was never submitted. IRS will be getting with Rita. We are state exempt from taxes. Rita will provide an update in Nov.

A new copier card is being purchased. 3cents per copy. A motion by Ellen was made to purchase the copier card and 2d by Mickey.

NEW BUSINESS: card from Blue Ribbon asking for donations. Money will be used to fight to keep public lands open. Jan motioned to donate \$25.00. Ellen 2d. Approved.

ELECTIONS: Deb has papers for new president.

Marsha Taylor motioned to accept ballot as listed. Mickey 2d. Motion was passed.

Show committee meeting following the raffle.

~~~~~

Classified Ads:

POLISH AND GRIT

I have a lot of polish and grit in 500, 600, and Rapid Polish. Also, I have one Ethnology two tub vibrating tumbler. (tubs hold one quart each). Looks new and a similar new one on-line for \$500 is on sale now For \$400... Asking \$200. Let me know and I will bring items to a meeting. 348-8948 Annette Rathert

~~~~~

**Pictures from the collection of Gene W.**



Thanks to Deb for sending this article for this month's Ammonite We will have to go down the new Research Laboratory when it is finished.



Approximately 80 million years ago, marine reptiles swam the inland sea that covered South Dakota and left a rich fossil record behind. James Martin Ph.D., executive curator of the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology's Museum of geology, has excavated hundreds of these creatures during his more than 30 years in the field. This fall, he excavated another that ranks top of his list.

“This specimen represents the best preserved mosasaur I’ve seen in 20 years and is a credit to state and federal cooperation.” Martin said.

Six years ago, Martin recovered a huge mosasaur- a giant, air-breathing marine lizard from the Missouri River bluffs near Chamberlain, South Dakota. While in the field this fall, he and his team, in collaboration with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Made a return trip to the area, where the proverbial lightning struck twice. In the Pierre Shale Group, directly above the previous excavation site, an incredibly well-preserved plioplatecarpine mosasaur was found by James Lindley of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Fossil vertebrates such as this reptile are public property and require a federal collecting permit for removal.

Clustered around the fossil, Martin and his team gently culled through layers of shale to uncover the specimen, literally sifting through the fossil record. As they uncovered the skull, the jaws slowly appeared, studded with teeth-razor sharp in life and still menacing 80 million years after death. According to Martin, the skull is just one reason the 10-foot specimen is a rare find. It is uncommon to find a mosasaur of this size that is fully articulated, still retains its skull and even the soft tissue preserved. The other piece that elevates this specimen from the ordinary is that the creature still contained remains of its last supper.

Now removed from the field, the specimen is being prepped, studied, and will be displayed in the new Paleontology Research Laboratory.

## **NOVEMBER BIRTHSTONE:**



November's gemstone, Citrine, is as warm as a Van Gogh painting of sunflowers. The name Citrine comes from an old French word, "citrin", meaning lemon. One of the more rare forms of quartz, this gemstone ranges in color from the palest yellow to a dark amber named Madeira because of its resemblance to the red wine.

Perhaps because of its scarcity, there is little mention of Citrine used as a gemstone prior to the first century B.C. The Romans were thought to be the first to wear the yellow quartz, crafting it into cabochon, or highly polished but uncut facets of stone set into jewelry. Citrine became more popular during the Romantic Period, when artisans often favored these warm colored gems to enhance gold jewelry. Citrine, like all forms of quartz, was believed to have magical powers and was worn as a talisman against evil thoughts and snake venom. It was also considered to have medicinal properties and was commonly used as a remedy for urinary and kidney ailments.

Sister stone to the purple quartz known as Amethyst, Citrine crystals are found in igneous metamorphic and sedimentary rocks. It is believed that some Citrine may have actually begun as Amethyst, but heat from nearby molten rock changed it to the yellow form of quartz. Citrine is known to change color when subjected to heat and is routinely heated in the jewelry-making process to intensify its color. For this same reason, though, this gemstone should not be left in direct sunlight for a long time because it will permanently alter the color. Most Citrine is mined in Brazil, but other sources of the quartz are Bolivia and Madagascar.

A gift of Citrine is symbolic for hope and strength. With its sunny brightness, this gemstone is ideal for helping anyone to get through the tough times in life!

### **Alternate Birthstone**

Yellow Topaz is an alternate gemstone for those born in November. Its golden color was believed by the Egyptians to be the glow cast by the sun god Ra. Yellow Topaz ranges in color from a peachy blush to a deep cognac. A gift of this gemstone is said to symbolize friendship and to strengthen one's capacity to give and receive love.

**Happy Birthday to all of you that were born in the month of November.**

**CLUB CALENDAR** – Below is our calendar for the year. Although 2010 is now filled, you can always sign up for Door Prizes and Programs for 2011. Sign up at club meetings, or contact Ellen T. 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.

| MONTH            | REFRESHMENTS    | DOOR PRIZES      | PROGRAM                                  |
|------------------|-----------------|------------------|--|
| <b>JANUARY</b>   | Paul & Jan G    | Paul & Jan       | Ammonites by Neal Larson                 |
| <b>FEBRUARY</b>  | Don & Annette R | Don & Annette R  | Hole Drilling-Walter B                   |
| <b>MARCH</b>     | Deb R           | Mickey S         | Intarsiq-Roger V                         |
| <b>APRIL</b>     | Mills           | Martin O         | Rock hounding sites-Ellen T              |
| <b>MAY</b>       | Cathy A         | Joebgen          | Rock Carving-Walter B                    |
| <b>JUNE</b>      | Becky B         | Rita H           | 30 <sup>th</sup> SHOW-Last minute review |
| <b>JULY</b>      | Rita & Lyle H   |                  | Event Center-Pam Teller                  |
| <b>AUGUST</b>    | Summer Meal     | Summer Meal      | Summer Meal                              |
| <b>SEPTEMBER</b> | Hazel W         | Gene and Hazel W | Wire Wrap-Roger V                        |
| <b>OCTOBER</b>   | Calvin L        | Deb R            | Lost Wax Casting-Ildiko Wagner           |
| <b>NOVEMBER</b>  | Cliff N         | Charles G        | Faceted Gemstone ID's-Ellen T            |
| <b>DECEMBER</b>  | Holiday Dinner  | Holiday Dinner   | Holiday Dinner                           |

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

|                            |   |              |
|----------------------------|---|--------------|
| <b>President:</b>          | Ellen T. 21653 Piedmont Meadow Road, Piedmont, SD 57769.....  | 701-787-4659 |
| <b>Vice President:</b>     | Mike J. 5884 Legacy Lane, Rapid City, SD 57703.....           | 685-4847     |
| <b>Secretary:</b>          | Paula H. 533 Enchantment Road, 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>  | Gene W. 2415 Judy Avenue. Rapid City, SD 57701.....           | 399-2670     |
| <b>1 yr. Board Member:</b> | Dale J. 14974 Back Country Trail, Rapid City, SD 57703.....   | 393-2011     |
| <b>2 yr. Board Member:</b> | Mickey S. 201 Patton St., Rapid City, SD 57701.....           | 791-1953     |
| <b>3 yr. Board Member:</b> | Stan H. 533 Enchantment Road, Rapid City, SD 57701.....       | 484-1591     |
| <b>Newsletter Editors:</b> | Hazel W & Paula H. P.O. Box 3620 Rapid City, SD 57709 .....   | 399-2670     |
| <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     |

**Remember we have a new club address. This is to be used for all correspondence.**

**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  
Editors: Hazel Williams and Paula Hohn  
P.O. Box 3620  
Rapid City, SD 57709

Affiliated with AFMS and RMFMS  
Club Mailing Address:

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

**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.**

