



# THE AMMONITE

Affiliated with RMFMS & AFMS

Next meeting:

**6:00 p.m.**

**February 8, 2024**

**Minneluzahan Senior Citizen Center**

**Rapid City, SD 57701**

It is always rock hunting time!

The Purpose of our Non-Profit Club is to promote interest and education in geology, mineralogy, paleontology, archaeology and lapidary, to sponsor and promote the coordination of work efforts between groups and individuals





The Ammonite  
Western Dakota Gem and Mineral Society

**2023-24 Officers**

<b>President:</b>	Kelli Wold	605 381-6418	kelli@dakotastar.org
<b>Vice President:</b>	Pete Lysenko	605 786-8801	-----
<b>Secretary:</b>	Debra Bailey	571 275-1146	ddsebailey@yahoo.com
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Leslie Lysenko	605-786-8801	<a href="mailto:leslielysenko@gmail.com">leslielysenko@gmail.com</a>
<b>Board Member #1 :</b>	Jason Hammer	307 851-5770	hammerstoneware@gmail.com
<b>Board Member #2</b>	Rod Woodcock	575 956-3081	rodwoodcock001@gmail.com
<b>Board Member #3</b>	Myesa Fixx	425 239-3122	mlegendrefixx@gmail.com
<b>Librarian:</b>	Leslie Lysenko	605 786-8801	<a href="mailto:leslielysenko@gmail.com">leslielysenko@gmail.com</a>
<b>Editor:</b>	Debbie Vick	605 877-6957	<a href="mailto:dlvick@live.com">dlvick@live.com</a>
<b>Historian:</b>	Debbie Vick	605 877-6957	dlvick@live.com
<b>RMFMS SD Dir:</b>	Lori Loomis	719-207 1035	<a href="mailto:riggsoldchap@yahoo.com">riggsoldchap@yahoo.com</a>

**CLUB Mailing:** Western Dakota Gem and Mineral Society, PO Box 1954, Rapid City, SD 57709-1954

**CLUB Website:** [www.WDGMS.org](http://www.WDGMS.org)

**CLUB Facebook:** Western Dakota Gem and Society/groups

**CLUB Email:** [westdakota.rocks@gmail.com](mailto:westdakota.rocks@gmail.com)

**Meetings:** Second Thursday of each Month (except August) at 6:00 PM (times can change)

**At:** Minneluzahan Senior Citizen Center, 315 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Rapid City, SD 57701

**ANY SUBMISSIONS FOR THE NEWSLETTER SHOULD BE IN BY THE 25TH OF EACH MONTH**

Any questions about the material found in the Ammonite please contact the editor:

Deborah Vick, 265 Stumer Rd Apt 7, Rapid City, Sd 57701

If you change your address, email address or have a problem receiving a newsletter:

*Please Contact the Treasure at [westdakota.rocks@gmail.com](mailto:westdakota.rocks@gmail.com)*

**Dues:** \$15.00 per person - \$20 per family with children under 18 years – Includes 12 newsletters by e-mail. If you chose to receive the newsletter by mail, there is an additional \$10.00 fee. Dues cover the RMFMS insurance and an electronic copy of the newsletter.

**Send dues to Treasurer, PO Box 1954, Rapid City, SD 57709-1954**

## **January Minutes**

Kelli Wold called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm. There were 11 Members and 1 guest/guest speaker present.

Kelli asked if there was a motion to approve of the December meeting minutes. Leslie motioned to approve and Debbie seconded. The motion was passed.

Leslie reviewed the treasurer's report. Debbie motioned to approve the report and Jason seconded. The motion was passed.

A brief update on the show and vendors was presented. Currently there are 8 signed contracts for vendors using 17 spaces. There are 3 vendors we are waiting on their signed contracts. There are a total of 41 spaces for vendors to rent and 16 show cases.

Reminder about the field trip to the SDSMT Museum of Geology. Meet at the museum, tour starts at 10:00am. Dress warm. Need field trip waivers before the trip.

New Business:

Leslie will be emailing out the by-laws, a book list from the club library, membership list and the field trip waiver.

Don B. talked about getting t-shirts for the rock show. The shirt would distinguish us as volunteers and WDGMS members. Mimi L. brought in a shirt that was used several years back that had the club's logo on the back. Don will be gathering information on costs and will present findings next meeting.

Lori L., our RMFMS delegate, informed us of some updates. There is an opportunity to have WDGMS's website evaluated and improved by entering into the RMFMS Regional Website Contest. Lori informed us of the AFMS Junior Website. It is a must see for all ages. You can access the site at [www.juniors.amfed.org](http://www.juniors.amfed.org). This site is run by juniors and is loaded with information, activities and badges. Additionally the RMFMS Conference will be held in Oklahoma City the last full weekend in October, (25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>). Lots of information and lots of fun (since it is around Halloween you can dress up too!).

Meeting adjourned at 6:30pm

Thank you Myesa for snacks and Debra for the hot chocolate. Thank you Jason and the Baileys for the raffles donations.

## **January 11 Board Meeting Minutes**

Meeting brought to order at 5:35 pm

Attendees:

President Kelli Wold

Secretary Debra Bailey

Treasurer Leslie Lysenko

Retiring President Debbie Vick

Board of Director Myesa Fixx

Board of Director Jason Hammer

Kelli Wold led the meeting. The meeting agenda followed an email sent by Debra Bailey.

A review of 2023: Most thought 2023 went well. We had a successful gem & mineral show after 3 years of not being able to hold one. The restart of field trips and the interest by club members was nice to see.

Successful holiday party: 20+/- people that attended with 5 guest and 3 new members. Everyone loved the Rock Bingo game and table center pieces.

Future guest speakers: For February we have Kayleigh Johnson from SDSMT Museum of Geology and for March we have Mickey Snook for Map reading/rock hounding locations. It was suggested for April's meeting to ask Doug Napier of the Jewelry Monk. Need to follow up with Tim Wooden for May's meeting.

Future field trips: Next field trip was this Saturday at the SDSMT Museum of Geology. Currently there are no other field trips planned. It was discussed to call Fossil Finder in Hot Springs for February's field trip.

Increase in the purchase of raffle tickets starts this month. Tickets are 50 cents/ 2 for a dollar.

Field trip waiver: Debra reviewed and stated that we should not shorten the waiver. She reviewed other clubs waivers and they all use the RMFMS complete waiver. We will use the waiver we currently have which is the RMFMS waiver. Need to have members complete and sign before members attend a field trip.

Review of the show's committee meeting from Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>. Mickey Snook wants to talk with someone from the committee. He has a list of places that will advertise FREE for the show. Debbie and Leslie re-measured the expo building and found that they can increase the number spaces, from 35 to 41. Leslie handed out information on current vendors that have turned in signed contracts for the show. We have to date 8 vendors using 17 spaces. Several vendors are interested, just waiting on signed contracts. Need to announce to the whole club that they are welcome to attend the show committee meeting. All input is welcome. The next show committee

meeting will be Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup> at 2 pm in the Hoyt Room, 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the Rapid City Public Library.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm

### **January 7 Show Minutes**

Attending: Debbie Vick, Myesa Fixx, Kelli Wold, Leslie Lysenko, Pete Lysenko and Debra Bailey

This year's show will be being held at the Nerdy Nuts Expo at the fairgrounds. A floor plan made by Debbie V. was passed around. Currently there are 11 spaces rented by 8 vendors.

There are 16 Show cases to be used. Currently six are claimed.

An Information table for the club is currently located on floor plan next to Silent Auction. This table may be relocated to give the Silent Auction area more room. Possible relocation to the "rest area" in front of the building if construction of the concession area is completed by show time. Other locations at end of show case area or by the back garage door (between SDSMT table and table #34) since garage door will not be used during show.

Debbie V. will call Ashley at the fairgrounds to get an update on the construction status.

All agree that advertising is important and needs a lot of attention.

Debra B. will contact Mimi to start advertising on Facebook and website about the Gem & Mineral Show. Need an update/reminder every two weeks on Facebook. List the vendors who have contracted for the show. This will help generate more interest from public and other vendors. It was approved for Mimi to use the "booster" on Facebook to draw more attention to the show.

Debbie V. said she could handle the graphics for the advertising.

#### **Other advertising opportunities discussed:**

Banner across St. Joseph and Main.

Electronic Banner

KOTV – noon show

Radio ad

Events Calendar for South Dakota Magazine, Weekly Prospector, Rockngem.com, RMFMS and others

Need to reach out to Elevate, what resources or opportunities do they offer.

Fairburn Agate and Rock Swap (June 7th-9<sup>th</sup>) info table for our show

Summer Nights in Rapid City – info table

Dakota Star FCU- advertise on their electronic board on St Patrick.

**Other items brought up:**

Do we want to have guest speakers/breakout sessions – we have some time to decide.

Do we want to have field trips before or after the show – we have some time to decide.

Couple months before show need to go through trailer to review the show cases and signs.

**January 21 Show Minutes**

Start 2:00 pm – held in the Hoyt Room, 1<sup>st</sup> floor of RCPL

Attending: Debbie Vick, Leslie Lysenko, Myesa Fixx and Debra Bailey

Updated floor plan was handed out by Debbie and an updated list of vendors, paid and waiting signed contracts, was handed out by Leslie. Currently we have 9 signed contracts, either paid or with a deposit. There is another 3 vendors we are waiting on their signed contracts and deposits. Of the 41 spaces, 14 are rented, 6 are waiting on contract. Leaving 21 spaces available.

Debbie reached out to Ashley to see if the concession area has been finished. Due to the Stock show she was unable to connect with her.

Leslie reviewed information she received from Sign Express for a 4'x6' sign and the 30" x32' banner. Leslie will check with city for a date to hang banner. Leslie will also check with Sign Express if there is a way to change information on banner (ie date) without having to make a new banner every year.

“Save the Date” cards were made and will be mailing out some to our vendors. Reviewed mailing prices, priority or regular mail. Due to size, regular mail price is less expensive. 50 cards were set to Rod in AZ to hand out.

Myesa is waiting on a response from Summer Nights about setting up an information table during events.

Reviewing if we should have “rack cards” made to help advertise. It is possible that there is a company contracted to hand out the “rack card”. Need to stop by a place, Millstone, and ask.

Debra is still compiling a list of places to advertise with. Mickey has a list of places to advertise for free. Debra will be calling him to set up a time to visit him. Debra is finishing the paragraph for the newspaper/magazines "classifies" and online event calendars.

Debra will drive by the back of the expo building at the fairgrounds to see if there is a fenced in area for the prospecting club to set up. We don't want people slipping in the back door without paying.

**Next show meeting will be held February 18<sup>th</sup> @ 2:00 pm in the Conference Room, 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the RCPL.**

### **President's message**

A big thank you to those who ventured out in the bitter cold on Thursday. The speaker was Don Hamm. We learned how and what you can find with a metal detector.

The trip to the School of Mines was another cold and bitter day. A special thanks to Jack our tour guide. He took us on a fossil tour and ended up in the mineral room. Hope to see everyone next month.

Kelli Wold  
President

### **Events for the upcoming months:**

- 2/8/2024 General Meeting – Guest speaker Kayleigh Johnson, SDSMT, Rock Identification
- 2/11/2024 Field Trip – Fossil Finder's Museum Hot Springs, SD
- 3/14/2024 General Meeting – Guest speaker Mickey Snook, Map reading & locations for rock hounding
- 3/16/2024 Field Trip – TBD

### **Next Field Trip:**

Saturday, February 10th we will have a field trip to the World Fossil Finder Museum in Hot Springs. Our event starts at 10:00 am. There is a cost to enter: ages 4-12 \$5, ages 13-59 \$10 and those 60+ or veterans is \$9 (plus tax). For those that want to car pull we will meet at the US Forest Service Mystic Ranger District parking lot on Rt 16 in Rapid City at 8:55 am. We will need to leave at 9:00 am sharp as it will take about an hour to get there. Their address is 719 Jensen Highway, Hot Springs, SD 57747

# Minerals That Require Special Care

by  
Deborah Vick

In the world of mineral collecting there is a wide variety to collect. Most minerals are beautiful as is and don't require much care in displaying or storing them, yet there are some minerals that take special care and protection from atmospheric influences. This table shows different influences and the minerals that need protection.

## Loses water in excessively dry air

Autunite	Melanterite
Borax	Natron
Chalcathite	Thenardite
Halotrichite	Torbernite
Kernite	Trona
Laumonite	Zeunerite

In addition some chalcedonies and agates lose water, become pale in color and less translucent. Chrysoprase changes to very pale shades as water is lost. Opals also lose water and may crack.

## Gains water in moist air

Carnallite	Kurnakovite (develops powdery coating)
Halite	Melanterite
Hanksite	Sylvite
Kernite	Ulexite (develops powdery coating)

## Tarnishes or Oxidizes

Argentate	Niccolite	Malachite
Arsenic	Prousite	Marcasite
Bismuth	Pyrargyrite	Zincite
Bismuthinite	Pyrite	
Chalcocite	Pyrrhotite	
Chalcopyrite	Realgar	
Cinnabar	Silver	
Cobaltite	Smaltite	
Copper	Sphalerite	
Crocoite	Stibnite	
Enargite	Sylvanite	
Iron	Vivianite	



Some minerals do better stored in a dark place until viewed. If on display do not place in direct sunlight.

- Apatite (pink type loses color)
- Argentite (alters)
- Beryl (brown or orange types loses color, usually changes to pale pink)
- Cerargyrite (alters and changes color)
- Cinnabar (alters and changes color)
- Fluorite (purple and green types changes colors)
- Orpiment (decomposes)
- Proustite (alters and becomes gray)
- Pyrrargyrite (alters and becomes gray)
- Quartz (amethyst, smoky quartz, and rose quartz sometimes becomes paler in color)
- Realgar (alters into orpiment)
- Spodumene (Kunzite becomes pale in color or loses all color)
- Topaz (brown topaz loses color)
- Tyuyamunite (alters)
- Vivianite (quickly changes to dull dark blue-violet color)

Sulfur crystals are damaged by rapid temperature changes

Crystals containing water-filled cavities can be damaged by freezing

So enjoy all those wonderful minerals that are out there to be found. Once home and in your personal collection care must be done to preserve the collection for many generations to admire.

**References**

Unknown publication, Appendix II, pages 360-361

## **Upcoming Area Shows**

Most of this information was obtained from [www.rockandmineralshows.com](http://www.rockandmineralshows.com). Please check the website for other shows across the country and in Canada.

DGMG Jewelry. Gem & Mine

2/23/2024 – 2/25/2024

Fri/Sat 10:00-6:00

Sun 10:00-5:00

15200 West 6<sup>th</sup> Street

Jefferson County Fairgrounds

Golden, CO 80401

Website: <https://denvergem.org/>

### **Now for a lighter side of life as a Rock-hound**

A taste of Jeff Foxworthy but with a rockhounding twist:

You might be a rock-hound if:

You color co-ordinate your clothes and shoes to match your gemstone pendants

You like to examine the rocks in your driveway.

You bore everyone else while searching the ground for pretty rocks

Your garage is so full of rocks that the car will not fit in

You have amethyst in your fish tank