



Western Dakota Gem & Mineral Society  
P.O. Box 1944  
Rapid City, South Dakota  
57701-1954

This Months Funny:





# THE AMMONITE

Affiliated with RMFMS & AFMS

Next meeting:

**6:00 p.m.**

**November 14, 2024**

**Minneluzahn Senior Center**

**315 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street**

**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

### 2024-25 Officers

<b>President:</b>	Kelli Wold	605 381-6418	<a href="mailto:kelli@dakotastar.org">kelli@dakotastar.org</a>
<b>Vice President:</b>	Pete Bergeron	605 666-4141	<a href="mailto:tavfuto@sbcglobal.net">tavfuto@sbcglobal.net</a>
<b>Secretary:</b>	Melissa Cote	605 418-9001	<a href="mailto:melissaphoto@gmail.com">melissaphoto@gmail.com</a>
<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	<a href="mailto:hammerstoneware@gmail.com">hammerstoneware@gmail.com</a>
<b>Board Member #2</b>	Rod Woodcock	575 956-3081	<a href="mailto:rodwoodcock001@gmail.com">rodwoodcock001@gmail.com</a>
<b>Board Member #3</b>	Lori Bickford	605 381-9143	<a href="mailto:bickfordlori020@gmail.com">bickfordlori020@gmail.com</a>
<b>Librarian:</b>	Cole Burrington	605 924-4575	<a href="mailto:cole.burrington0575@gmail.com">cole.burrington0575@gmail.com</a>
<b>Editor:</b>	Debbie Vick	605 877-6957	<a href="mailto:dlvick@live.com">dlvick@live.com</a>
<b>Historian:</b>	Jordan Barnes	605 791-4288	<a href="mailto:jordanarama1@gmail.com">jordanarama1@gmail.com</a>
<b>Field Trip Chair:</b>	Julie Lundin	605 391-1516	<a href="mailto:julielundin@hotmail.com">julielundin@hotmail.com</a>
<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 16 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**

## **October Minutes**

The Western Dakota Gem and Mineral Society regular member meeting was called to order by President Kelli Wold at 6:10 pm. on October 10, 2024.

The meeting was attended by 22 members and 1 guest, Jeannie Love. Secretary Debra Bailey was out of town.

Debbie Vick motioned to approve the September minutes and the Board/Show minutes as published in the Ammonite. Rod Woodcock seconded. Motion passed.

Treasurer Leslie reported that the Club accounts are being audited by A2Z Accounting. She also confirmed that the Show Account had been set up and payments made to Central States Fairgrounds, Roberts' Scholarship and AFMS scholarship. Rod Woodcock motioned to approve the Treasurer's report. Lori Bickford seconded. Motion passed.

Lori Loomis asked if the person in charge of membership would be given access to the Club email. Leslie said passwords to all accounts would be distributed in Nov., after elections.

Elections: Ballots have been passed out. Cole Burrington has volunteered to be Club Librarian. Kelli asked for nominations from the floor or if anyone was interested in a position. Jordan Barnes volunteered to be Historian. After ballots were tallied by the Treasurer and Vice President the 2025 officers are as follows:

President – Kelli Wold

Vice President – Pete Bergeron

Secretary – Melissa Cote

Treasurer – Leslie Lysenko

Board Member – Lori Bickford

Librarian – Cole Burrington

Historian – Jordan Barnes

Field Trip Chair – Julie Lundin

Lori Loomis spoke about her position as RMFMS Representative for 4 clubs in Western Nebraska and South Dakota. She asked that the Club let her know what subjects are important so that she can report on those items. She started issuing a quarterly newsletter about RMFMS matters and would like it to be forwarded to club members. Editor Debbie Vick apologized that she didn't realize it was to be forwarded, but will do that from now on.

Lori reported that the Annual Convention is on the last weekend in October in Oklahoma this year. The hosting Club will be dressing up for Halloween and having related activities. Lori

then questioned the decision voted on at the June meeting to assign the proxy to someone besides her. It was brought up that she had not attended many meetings in the past year, it was uncertain if she would be attending convention, and that Wyoming Rep. Jim Gray had offered to act as our proxy. Then followed a lengthy discussion which included Lori's schedule for the past year and her request for an amount to supplement her trip to convention. She stated that \$250 was given to her and Debbie last year to attend and it would be in line to do that again. The By-Laws, as amended in 2023, Article XIV, state

“2. Delegates that attend the RMFMS Show/Convention will be paid an amount to be voted on by the general membership (minimum of \$100) on a yearly basis”

. Sue Smith moved to have Lori Loomis attend the convention this year. Julie Lundin seconded. A majority voted in favor. Motion passed. Rob Wills motioned to pay Lori Loomis \$250.00. Rod Woodcock seconded. A majority voted in favor. Motion passed.

Show: Kelli reported that it had been discussed to raise the vendor space fee from \$175 to \$180. She asked for club approval. All ayes.

Kelli reminded the club that November 1 is the date for membership renewal. Larissa Bailey will be reminding members also.

Rod Woodcock motioned to adjourn. Mimi Lancsak seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.

John Masterson was the speaker. He has been collecting rocks and minerals since the 1960s on Federal and private lands (with permission). He gave a short explanation of the geology and history and the formation of the Black Hills and Badlands area. John brought many samples of Badlands Chalcedony Agates; they were well organized and labeled. He explained many of the markings and how they're formed. John feels personally that there are no secret places for rock hunting and that it's all to be shared. He talked about the many places he has rock hunted: areas near Scenic, Interior and Emily; Conata Basin, Bear Creek, Railroad Butte, Buffalo Gap, Cheyenne River and more. He reminded everyone that you cannot sell items from Federal land. John was an informative speaker and easy to listen to. His Facebook page is called "Fairburn Agate Hunter"

## **October Board/Show Meeting Minutes**

Meeting called to order by Kelli at 5:30 pm.

Attending the meeting were Kelli W, Peter L, Leslie L, Debra B, Debbie V, and Lori B.

Debra informed the board she would not be able to attend the general meeting. She had prepared the ballots for the elections. We were informed that Cole Burrington would like to be the Librarian and we could place his name as a write-in. Larisa Bailey will take over membership chair.

Debbie V. had made some changes to the 2025 Show contract for vendors, this was emailed

to the board prior to the meeting. Leslie had made some additional changes. Changes included layout for easier read and dates for balance due. Board requested to have an increase in the cost of space rental from \$175 to \$180. Debra will check with Sign Express on the cost of signs to hang from the ceiling (silent auction, club info, etc). We will not be needing the additional room, the GenPro Building, for next year. There is a problem with letting people in and paying, very challenging and with the ATM right there at the door, people get bottled neck. Will look into possibly putting up a rope to stop people from walking in without paying.

Upcoming events:

Field trips for Oct. – Mammoth Site, Nov. – TBD, Dec.– no trip.

Guest Speakers – Oct. – John Masterson, Nov. – Hell Creek Paleontological Society and Dec. – Holiday Pot Luck Party.

December Holiday Potluck - Debra will send out the email invite and link to the potluck website. We will play Rock Bingo again. Debra will look into the cost of ham in place of fried chicken.

T-shirts- we used Hanes last time for the shirts. Master Embroiderers suggested we use Port & Company (same quality) for \$1 less. Slight difference in the Royal Blue, lighter. We can also order long sleeve or sweatshirt hoodies. Long sleeve is \$4 more than the short sleeve. Sweatshirts are about \$22 before logo. A sign-up sheet will go up soon.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

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## **DUES... DUES... DUES...**

It is that time of the year where membership dues are due for the coming year.

Unless you signed up during the show, you need to renew your membership.

The dues are \$15 for single, \$20 for family including children under 16. This includes 12 issues of the Ammonite e-mailed to you.

If you would like your mailed to you there is an additional fee of \$10.

For questions concerning membership please contact Larissa Bailey.

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**Remaining events for the rest of the year:**

November 14th meeting, guest speaker - Hell Creek Paleontological Society  
November 16th - Field trip TBD  
December 12th - Holiday Potluck  
No December Field trip

**President's message**

Thank you to everyone that attended the October meeting. There were several new members and guests that attended. Our club is growing and you can feel the excitement.

I would like to apologize for the heated discussion on who we are sending to the Rocky Mountain Federation show. This is something we do not like to see in a club meeting.

John Masterson talked about the Black Hills Chalcedony Agate. He showed us all the different types of Chalcedonies he has found through the years. It was very interesting.

Thank you to all that stepped up for the different positions in the club. Volunteers like you keep the club going.

If you are interested in buying a WDG&MS tee shirt let Don Bailey know.

Hope to see everyone at the November meeting.



I am lucky enough to have on file some older Ammonites. In reading them I came across an interesting article on Synthetic Diamonds. It was originally published in the 2018 Ammonite. Enjoy this unusual article!

## **HERE'S HOW ITS POSSIBLE TO MAKE PERFECT DIAMONDS IN A MICROWAVE**

Science Alert. By Beccrew. April 9, 2018

Right now about one in four diamonds for sale around the world are blood diamonds – mined in a war zone and sold to finance armed conflict and civil war. Trying to avoid blood diamonds is nearly impossible. This is one of the reasons the market for lab-created diamonds is slowly but steadily growing. They are cheaper, more environmentally friendly, and ethnically sound options that look just as pretty as the natural stones. “To a modern young consumer, if they get a diamond from above ground or in the ground, do they really care?” Chaim Even-Zohar from Tacy, an Israel-based diamond consulting firm pointed out to Bloomberg business.

The artificial diamonds have the same physical structure and chemical composition as a mined diamond and are nothing like the lab-grown imitation diamonds, like cubic zirconia.

The process is – place a tiny fragment of diamond (called a carbon seed) into a microwave with varying amounts of carbon-heavy gas (methane is most commonly used). The gas mixture is heated to a very high temperature in the microwave to produce a plasma ball. Inside the plasma ball, the gas breaks down and the carbon atoms crystallize and accumulate on the diamond seed, causing it to grow. This process takes about 10 weeks to make a marketable diamond. But experts report that it works so well that they need a machine to differentiate between a lab-grown diamond and one found in a mine or riverbed.

Bloomberg reported that the lab-grown diamonds make up only a tiny fraction of the \$80 billion global market. In 2014, Bloomberg estimates that there were 360,000 carats of lab-grown diamonds manufactured and 146 million carats of natural diamonds mined. If the results of a recent survey are any indication of things to come, things are about to change in a hurry because less than half of North American consumers age 18-35 said they would prefer a natural diamond over a synthetic one. Its estimated that by 2026, the man-made diamonds will skyrocket to 20 million carats. Walmart and Warren Buffet's Helzberg Diamonds are already stocking the synthetic versions.

The mining companies aren't willing to give up that big slice of the diamond market. And have already won a major victory last July, in that the International Organization of Standards ruled that the lab-grown stones must be labeled “synthetic”, “lab-grown” or “lab-created”, never “real”. The natural diamond companies are banking on people being willing to pay the higher price for the ‘romance of a stone from nature’s as opposed to the ‘cookie-cutter’ feel of the lab-created stones. But, the price difference -- \$6,000 per carat for a synthetic as opposed to \$10,000 for a similar sized natural stone and no ethical questions, may make a difference.



“We are creating a new industry,” Vishal Mehta, CEO of 11A Technologies in Singapore, reportedly the most prolific producer of synthetic diamonds in the world, told Bloomberg. “Consumers today, resonate with the idea of an ecofriendly and conflict-free choice for diamonds. That’s been the sticking point.

## **HOW TO TURN PEANUT BUTTER INTO A DIAMOND**

Popular Mechanics. By John Wenz. November 8, 2014

“A little pressure and a lot of heat can turn some Skippy into condensed carbon.”

You don’t need to dig into the earth to find diamonds. Just reach for the Jiff. In his quest to mimic conditions deep inside the earth, Dan Frost, of the Bayerisches of Geoinstitute in Germany has discovered a way to turn carbon dioxide into diamonds.”

Don Frost was attempting to replicate the crystalline structures believed to exist in the lower mantle. During this research, he discovered an effect that pulls the carbon dioxide from the crust into the deeper layers. The process pulls the oxygen from the CO<sub>2</sub>, leaving the carbon which under intense pressures forms diamonds.

To replicate this in the lab, scientists tried subjecting a carbon rich material –peanut butter – to extreme high pressure. Volatile hydrogen entered the mix and ruined the experiment, but not before diamonds appeared in the high pressure environment.

This method won’t lead to a new way to craft your engagement ring. But it could lead to other methods of pressurizing carbon-rich materials into diamonds that could be used in superconductors and quantum computing. We also might learn a little about how our planet was formed.

### **Upcoming Area Shows**

This information can be found at the [www.rockandmineralshows.com](http://www.rockandmineralshows.com). Please check the website current shows across the country and in Canada.

Because of the large space that is used just to list current shows it was voted by the board just to include the link to find a show in ANY state.