



# THE AMMONITE

Affiliated with RMFMS & AFMS

Next meeting:

**6:00 p.m.**

**March 14, 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**

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**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**

## February Minutes

Kelli Wold called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm. There were 19 Members and 1 guest present. Guest was Don Bush from Hot Springs.

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

Leslie reviewed the treasurer's report. A motion to approve reimbursement to Leslie for costs incurred in show supplies. Debbie motioned to approve and Mickey seconded. The motion passed. Myesa motioned to approve the report and Sean seconded. The motion was passed.

Old Business:

An update of the show was given to the members on number of vendors so far. Only need to fill 16 spaces. Kelli and Debra explained to attendees the purpose of the show and the different portions of the show. Besides our vendors selling items there is a silent auction, showcases for members and other to display their collection (awarded best in show) and hourly and grand Door Prizes. The show also gives to the SDSMT a donation to the William "Bill" L. Roberts Memorial Scholarship. William Roberts was a curator of mineralogy, Director and senior curator of mineralogy and invertebrate paleontology at the SDSMT Museum of Geology. He had co-written the Mineralogy of the Black Hills. You can find more information on William L. Roberts at this website: [http://www.minsocam.org/ammin/AM74/AM74\\_1397.pdf](http://www.minsocam.org/ammin/AM74/AM74_1397.pdf)

Don updated the club t-shirts with the members. It was put to a vote to see who was interested in getting shirt made. 19 members were unanimous wanting t-shirts.

Trip waivers need to be filled out and signed before any member goes on a field trip.

Volunteers needed for monthly meeting snacks and for raffle donations.

There was a motion for the monthly raffle to use ½ of the raffle funds to be used for the following month's raffle items. Myesa motioned to approve and Debbie seconded. Motion passed.

Next month we will review map reading and locations with Mickey. Don showed which map to bring to meeting, USDA Buffalo Gap, National Grassland. Make sure it is the 2022 version. Michael reminded people that US 385 will be closed to construction starting spring of 2024 and will be closed for a couple of years.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:20 PM.

## **February 8 Board Meeting Minutes**

Meeting brought to order at 5:30 PM.

Attendees:

President Kelli Wold

Vice President Pete Lyesenko

Treasurer Leslie Lysenko

Secretary Debra Bailey

Retiring President Debbie Vick

Member Don Bailey

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

Gem & Mineral show update : Debbie handed out another floor plan update. Waiting on 3 deposits and contracts. Currently have 16 spaces open. Debra will check with Black Hills Prospecting Club if they want to set up a table inside to sell t-shirts, etc. Will call them on Friday. Debbie ran into rep for rack cards and got bus. Card. Debra will call him on Friday. Leslie got costs for street banners. \$750 for the city and 2 banners \$850. Debra asked if Express Signs was the only business that made those signs. Would like to see if we can get the banners for less. Kelli informed group that the remote radio station would be too much to have, \$499/hour. Show committee meetings will not be scheduled at this time, as needed for now.

Guest speakers: Pete will talk to Frank Garcia when we go on our field trip on Saturday about attending one of our meetings.

Field trip: need ideas for indoors. Jason Hammer will lead a field trip to Canata Basin in May.

T-Shirts: Don Bailey went over the information he gathered for the t-shirts. He went to Masters Embroidery, another club he is in uses them. They offer Hanes and Gildan shirts. Gildan does shrink. Shirt prices for Hanes (1 color with logo) 100% cotton \$9.82, 50/50 cotton/poly\$12.86 and 100% wrung spun cotton \$14.86. Above XL add \$2. Don talked about improving the Ammonite in our logo, he will work on this.

Volunteers for snack and raffle donations, Intro to Geology to GH class and use of raffles money will be discussed during the general meeting.

Meeting adjourned 5:59 PM.

## **February 18 Show Minutes**

Start at 2:30 pm

Attending meeting: Debbie Vick, Pete Lysenko, Myesa Fixx and Debra Bailey

Review of the updated floorplan. Currently there are 30 reserved spaces (waiting on contracts for 4). Still have 11 spaces available. Debbie was in contact with 5 other vendors who expressed interest. Looking to have them filled before the end of March.

Debbie will be reaching out to Ashley with the fairgrounds to get a status on the concession room construction. Will also ask about hanging signs from the walls.

Myesa was in touch with LeRoy about the children's activity center. He will be helping Myesa again this year. They will connect and review what is needed to supply that space.

Debra updated the advertising for the show. Currently have listed the show in the community calendars for KOTA/KEVN, NewsCenter1/KNBN, SDPB, Black Hills Things to Do, South Dakota Magazine, and Rock and Mineral Shows. Also looking into the price of street banners. Should have information next week.

Other items discussed: What items will be at the admissions table, show program, admission bracelets, vendor table tents and pulling trailer out mid June to see what supplies we have and/or need.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15

**Next show meeting will be held March 10th @ 2:30 pm in the Conference Room, 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the RCPL.**

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

March 14<sup>th</sup> - General Meeting – Guest speaker Mickey Snook, Map reading & locations for rockhounding

March 16<sup>th</sup> - Field Trip – Elks Theater - "Dinosaur 13" (More information on this field triip in this newsletter)

April 11<sup>th</sup> - Guest Speaker Frank Garcia

April 13<sup>th</sup> - Field trip TBD

May 9<sup>th</sup> - Guest speaker TBD

May 11<sup>th</sup> - Field Trip to Conata Basin rockhounding, Jason Hammer leader

### **President's message**

Thank you to everyone that attended the February club meeting. The club show is proceeding very nicely. If anyone is interested in volunteering, please let us know.

Kayleigh Johnson from the School of Mines gave a presentation on how to help you identify your rocks. If there is something you are unsure of, they will be happy to help you identify your rocks at the museum.

The field trip to the World Fossil Finders in Hot Springs was guided by Frank Garcia. It was very informative and fun.

Hope to see everyone in March for where to find agates by Micky Snook. Bring your maps to mark the areas you want to go rock hunting.

Kelli Wold  
President

### **March Field Trip**

Saturday March 16<sup>th</sup> the field trip the club is going to do something different. We are going to see a movie at the Elks Theater. They will be showing Dinosaur 13. It is about Pete Larson and his team from the Black Hills Institute of Geological research made the worlds greatest dinosaur discovery in 1990. Sue the T-Rex...

Show starts at 6:30. Tickets can be purchased online for \$10.72.

Hope to see you there!

# **Why Color Should Not Be The ONLY Characteristic of Identifying Minerals**

By Deborah Vick

There are many minerals that yes, can be identified by color alone. Gold, Azurite, Rhodochrosite, and Dioptase are a few.

Others come in many different colors that sometimes can confuse the beginning collector. Quartz and Calcite are two notable minerals. Quartz in its pure form is colorless yet when traces of other elements are present then other colors are found. Purple, white, pink, green, black, yellow, orange and brown are some of the colors.

Calcite is the other 'peacock' of minerals. Its various colors include white, clear, gray, yellow, green, blue, brown and black.

Some minerals change color when exposed to light, heat and radiation. Realgar changes to Pararealgar upon repeated exposure to light. Prousite and Vivianite darker and Kunzite fades with exposure to light. Some gemstone varieties of Topaz, Beryl, and Corundum are heat treated to produce deep colored stones from dull stones in the gemstone industry.

Other minerals oxidize or tarnish. Silver, Copper, Bornite and Chalcopyrite are some examples.

The most unusual mineral is the gemstone Alexandrite a variety of Chrysoberyl. It is dark green in natural light but turns purple in artificial light.

Agates are another mineral that is artificially enhanced in various ways including dying.

Because of all these factors and variations when trying to identify a mineral use different identification marks alongside color, Hardness and crystal habit are two.

Discussion: Can anybody else list some minerals that are difficult to identify with color only?

## 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.

### Gem, Mineral, Jewelry & Bead Show

Dates: 3/8/2024 - 3/10/2024

Hours: Fri 10:00-8:00 Sat 10:00-7:00 Sun 10:00-5:00

KCI Expo Center

11730 NW Ambassador Drive

Kansas City, MO 64153

Website: <https://www.showsofintegrity.com>

### Body Mind Spirit Expo

Dates: 3/15/2024 - 3/17/2024

Hours: Fri 1:00 - 9:00 Sat 10:00 - 7:00 Sun 10:00 - 6:00

Crowne Plaza Denver Airport Convention Center

15500 E 40th Ave

Denver, CO

Website: <https://www.bmse.net/>

### Fort Collins RockHounds Show

Dates: 3/22/2024 - 3/24/2024

Hours: Fri 4:00-8:00 Sat 9:00-6:00 Sun 10:00-4:00

Larimer County Fairgrounds - McKee Buildin

5280 Arena Circle

Loveland, CO 80538

Website: <http://www.fortcollinsrockhounds.org/>

### Cedar Valley Rocks & Minerals Show

Dates: 3/23/2024 - 3/24/2024

Hours: Sat 8:30-6:00 Sun 9:30-4:00

Hawkeye Downs Expo Center

4400 6th St SW

Cedar Rapids, IA 52404

Website: <http://www.cedarvalleyrockclub.org/>

### Sidney Gem & Mineral Show

Dates: 3/23/2024 - 3/24/2024

Hours: Sat 9 - 5 Sun 10 - 2

St Matthew's Parish Center

310 7th St SE

Sidney, MT



St Cloud Agate Swap

Date: 3/24/2024

Hours: 10am to 4pm

Bestwestern Kelly Inn

100 4th Ave S

St Cloud, MN 56301

Website: <https://facebook.com/events/s/stcloud-agate-swap-2023/1098567677700885/>

Timpanogos Gem & Mineral Show

Dates: 3/15/2024 - 3/17/2024

Hours: Fri/Sat 10:00-7:00 Sun 10:00-5:00

Spanish Fork Fairgrounds

475 South Main Street

Spanish Fork, UT

Website: <http://timprocks.weebly.com/>

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

Funny Rock-hound Slogans:

- May the Quartz be with you!
- We dig Mother Earth
- Be daring – Cab It
- Trilobite me
- Lode off my mind
- I can make your bedrock