



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

Thank you to all the members that volunteered at the show. Your work is very much appreciated



THE AMMONITE

Affiliated with RMFMS & AFMS

Next meeting is the annual potluck:

6:00 p.m.

August 14, 2025

Old Storybook Island Picnic Shelter

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

President:	Kelli Wold	605 381-6418	kelliwold24@gmail.com
Vice President:	Pete Lysenko		
Secretary:	Debra Bailey	571-275-1146	ddsebailey@yahoo.com
Treasurer:	Leslie Lysenko	605-786-8801	leslielysenko@gmail.com
Board Member #1 :	Jason Hammer	307 851-5770	hammerstoneware@gmail.com
Board Member #2	Rod Woodcock	575 956-3081	rodwoodcock001@gmail.com
Board Member #3	Lori Bickford	605 381-9143	bickfordlori020@gmail.com
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Field Trip Chair:	Julie Lundin	605 391-1516	rushmore1313@gmail.com
RMFMS SD Dir:	Lori Loomis	605-718-9130	sdnestatedirector@gmail.com

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

CLUB Website: www.WDGMS.org

CLUB Facebook: Western Dakota Gem and Society/groups

CLUB Email: 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 4th 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

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

July Minutes

Vice President Pete Lysenko called the meeting to order at 6:05pm. Pete ran the meeting tonight. There were forty (40) people in attendance, five (5) were guests. Two of the guests were from Pennsylvania, traveling through to Montana. They brought some PA rocks in to give to our members. Tom Wooden introduced Sally & John B. and explained that they had eight (8) boxes of rocks and minerals that they would like to donate to the club. Thank you Sally and John. The donations will be sold at the silent auction.

Pete introduced our guest speaker, Dr. Sharon Weaver, Paleontologist from BHI.

Reports of committees & Old Business:

Pete asked if there was a motion to approve the June meeting minutes. Debbie V. motioned to approved and Larisa seconded. Motion passed.

Leslie reviewed the treasurer's report. Don B. motioned to approve the report and Lori B. seconded. Motion passed.

Show- Debbie V. explained that there was one vendor who was having issues getting his contract and money to us. He has mailed it twice. If it was not received by the 18th she would reach out to people on the waiting list to fill the two spaces.

Volunteers – Still need people to help out during the show.

Advertising – Rob W. said that he will send out the press release again. Since the boost to our FB page there has been a increase in views. 90% of the people have never been to our FB page before. He said the day of the show he would like to post some live feed on FB, people are always looking for something to do.

Potluck – email went out to all members about the potluck. Please reach out to Marie or Debra if you have issues with the potluck site.

Show cases- Rod W. stated there were still four (4) show cases available if you would like to show your specimens.

Silent auction – see Leslie or Rod for contract, great opportunity to sell some of those extra rocks you have laying around or unload some equipment.

Librarian – Cole thanked Don Bush for donating more books to the club library.

Historian – Jordan stated she was working on some posters for the show. Debra B. has made a slide show presentation to go with our club's 510th Anniversary. If anyone has some older pictures they would like to share, please reach out to Debra and she will put them on the presentation.

Fieldtrip chair – This month's field trip will be to Wide View Road to look for geodes. The Bailey family is leading.

Editor – Debbie V. asked for some help on some articles for the Ammonite.

Membership – Larisa informed the members that WDGMS now has 41 single and 39 family memberships. This breaks down to 118 adults and 12 children.

RMFMS – Lori was not available to attend tonight.

T-shirts – the last order of shirts came in. There are some extras available if you didn't order earlier. A new order will go out probably in August/September.

Correspondence & New Business

Secretary with correspondence- Several families have reached out to the club for information on rock hounding in the Badlands or Black Hills.

August Potluck Picnic- Leslie informed the group that Kelli would not be able to hold the picnic at her house this year, so many people and her place isn't that big. Leslie asked everyone about going back to the pavilion next to Story Book Island. A separate potluck email will go out immediately after the show (so they don't confuse it with the show potluck). There will be no guest speaker because we will recap the show, and hand out checks to those members who participated in the silent auction.

Elections- Debra explained that we need to start thinking about elections in October. The board will be making recommendations in September. If anyone is interested in a position within the club, please see a board member. There were sheets on the tables to explain each position.

Debbie V. brought up the stipend for delegates going to the RMFMS Annual Convention during the Grand Junction Gem & Mineral Show in September. Debbie V and Lori L are our delegates this year. Both will attend the Awards dinner (\$45 each) and Debbie will attend the RMFMS Editors breakfast (\$25). It was decided that the club would pay a \$100/day for both plus the awards and breakfast. Debbie would receive \$270 and Lori \$245. Rod motioned to approve the stipend and Don seconded. Motion passed.

Debbie motion to adjourn the meeting and Jason seconded. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 6:41 pm.

Thank you John and Larisa for tonight's refreshments.

Thank you Jason and Renee for tonight's raffle items.

Field trips:

July – Geodes

August – Petrified Wood – Bighorn management area off of Sheridan Lake Rd.

September – Vore Buffalo Jump

October – TBD

November – TBD

Other possibilities – New Castle Petroglyphs, Tepee Buttes fossils, Custer Lithium mine

Guest speakers:

July – Dr. Sharon Weaver

August – no speaker- Potluck Picnic

September – TBD

October – TBD

November - TBD

President's message

The 42nd Western Dakota Gem and Mineral Society show was a huge success.

It couldn't have been done without you the volunteers. Thank you for giving up your time to help with the show.

We received great feedback back from the wonderful vendors. The club hit the advertising hard and had great results with the attendance being up from last year.

Welcome to all the new members and existing members that renewed their membership at the show. Hope to see all of you at the August picnic at old Storybook Island.

Thank you to all that brought items for the silent auction. The silent auction did very well and the club should be giving a number of scholarships to the Bill Robert's Scholarship Fund at the School of Mines.

The club turned 50 years old. Help us celebrate the club by attending the meeting and field trips.

Treasurer Notes:

Club Account – The July CLUB numbers were higher than usual - both in income & debits. T-shirts were bought by the Club but reimbursed by members who ordered. Also trailer storage fees were paid for the year. At \$34 a month it's still one of the best deals, along with close & easy access in Black Hawk.

Show Account – The remainder of the Vendor money was received. It was a huge help to have all vendors paid a couple of weeks BEFORE the show started. Lots of smaller payments to members for show supplies, Facebook advertising & venue.

THANK YOUs: Larisa & John Bailey for the snacks last month.

Jason Hammer & a visitor, BEN, donated some nice raffle items.

John & Sally Brice became new members & donated about 10 buckets full of petrified wood & other goodies, which were sold at the silent auction with 100% of the income to WDGMS.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS:

We have a lot of new members & hopefully they will attend meetings & field trips &: we'll get to know them.

If you have any member news OR have a change in contact information, please give Larisa Bailey a call or email (605-580-5192, baileylarisa@gmail.com)

If you didn't make the July meeting, you missed a fantastic speaker - Dr. Sharon Weaver, Paleontologist & Director of the Black Hills Institute in Hill City. Born in Minn, she came to the Black Hills when 12 years old & persuaded her parents to visit the Mammoth Site. She had some wonderful mentors, & after spent years working at museums & dig sites & completing her education, all over the country. She said one of the most interesting developments in her job has been the introduction of 3D printing together with writing computer programs, something she thought she would never do.

The display cases were amazing. Educational, memorial, specific collections & people showing their faves for the 1st time. Congratulations to Member SOLOMON WILLS for receiving Best of Show.

42nd Annual WDGMS Show Recap

The turn out for this year's show was wonderful. The show had 925 adults and 399 children on Saturday and 580 adults and 199 children on Sunday.

The use of the GenPro building for club information and admissions really helped out managing the traffic getting into the show.

At the club info table there was sign-ups for 39 new members so that means the club is growing. With having a guest speaker at each meeting and a planned field trip the Saturday after the meeting really helps gain interest in the club.

Besides the Club case, Dan Rathert Memorial case, the show had 14 cases showing various club members collections ranging from collections, educational and first time showers. Solomon Wills won the Best is Show! He is planning on taking his case to the Rocky Mountain Mineralogical Society's Convention at Grand Junction Colorado in September to enter in the Junior competition display. Wish him wonderful luck.

Most vendors were pleased with the traffic and sales. Many positive comments on the show hall. They also appreciated the help from club members checking in on them and delivering water when needed. Those who stayed for the potluck Friday after setup enjoyed the food and fellowship with members and fellow vendors.

Since it is the 50th Anniversary of WDGMS club formation, the grand door prize was so graciously donated by a club member and vendor, Sylvia Cox. This gold ring was won by 'Tash' Brewer.



Here is to all the wonderful memories (and lessons learned) of 2025 and looking toward the 43rd Annual show next year. The dates are as follows July 24, 2026 is setup and July 25 & 26, 2026 are the days of next year's show. Looking forward to seeing everybody there.

Upcoming Area Shows

This information can be found at the www.rockandmineralshows.com. Please check the website current shows across the country and in Canada.

Nebraska Artifact Show - 08/17/2025

Start Date: 08/17/2025

End Date: 08/17/2025

Hours: 9:00 - 5:00

Venue: Seward County Fairgrounds

Address: 430 N 15th St

Seward County Fairgrounds

Seward, NE 68434

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

Northwest Nebraska Rock Swap - 08/29/2025

Start Date: 08/29/2025

End Date: 09/01/2025

Hours: 8:00 - 6:00

Venue: Crawford City Park

Website: <https://discovernwnebraska.com/crawford-rock-swap/>

Wyoming Jade Fest - 08/08/2025

Start Date: 08/08/2025

End Date: 08/10/2025

Hours: 9:00 - 6:00

Venue: Jeffrey City Fire Hall

Website: <http://-/>

Creede Rock & Mineral Show - 08/01/2025

Start Date: 08/01/2025

End Date: 08/03/2025

Hours: 10:00 - 5:00 FREE Admission

Venue: Underground Community Center & Mining Museum

Address: 13 Forest Service Road 503

Underground Community Center & Mining Museum

Creede, CO

Website: <https://www.creede.com/rock-mineral-show>

Buena Vista Contin-Tail - 08/07/2025

Start Date: 08/07/2025

End Date: 08/10/2025

Hours: 9:00 - 6:00 Daily, Free Admission, Free Parking

Venue: Buena Vista Rodeo Grounds

Address: CR 321 Gregg Dr, Buena Vista, CO 81211

Website: <https://bvrockshow.com/>

Woodland Park Rock, Gem & Jewelry Show - 08/15/2025

Start Date: 08/15/2025
End Date: 08/17/2025
Hours: 9:00 - 5:00
Venue: Ute Pass Saddle Club Grounds
Address: 19570 E HWY 24
Ute Pass Saddle Club Grounds
Woodland Park, CO 80863
Website: <http://woodlandparkrockandgemshow.com/>

Annual Lake George Gem & Mineral Show - 08/15/2025

Start Date: 08/15/2025
End Date: 08/17/2025
Hours: 9am-5pm
Venue: Field next to Lake George Post Office
Address: 37380 US Hwy 24 (Field next to Post Office)
Field next to Lake George Post Office
Lake George, CO 80827

Des Moines Lapidary Society Rock Swap - 08/16/2025

Start Date: 08/16/2025
End Date: 08/16/2025
Hours: 8:00 am - 11:00 am
Venue: Des Moines Lapidary Society
Address: 2608 24th St
Des Moines Lapidary Society
Des Moines, IA 50310
Website: <http://www.dmlapidary.org/>

Gitchee Gumee Agate Festival - 08/01/2025

Start Date: 08/01/2025
End Date: 08/02/2025
Hours: Fri 5:00-8:00 Sat 10:00-5:00
Venue: Ursa Minor Brewing taproom
Address: 2415 W Superior St, Ste B
Ursa Minor Brewing taproom
Duluth, MN 55806
Website: <https://facebook.com/events/s/2025-gitche-gumee-agate-festiv/1234128548099087/>

Prescott Gem & Mineral Show - 08/01/2025

Start Date: 08/01/2025
End Date: 08/03/2025
Hours: Fri/Sat 9:00-5:00, Sun 9:00-4:00
Venue: Findley Toyota Event Center
Address: 3201 N Main
Findley Toyota Event Center
Prescott Valley, AZ 86314
Website: <https://www.prescottgemmineral.org/>