



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

Remember: October is elections. Please consider helping the club by stepping up and possibly becoming officers of the club.

ATTENTION!! ATTENTION!!

This will be the last meeting that will be held at Minneluzahan Senior Citizen Center!
Additional details will be introduced at the meeting



THE AMMONITE

Affiliated with RMFMS & AFMS

Next meeting:

6:00 p.m.

September 11, 2025

Minneluzahan Senior Citizen Center

315 North 4th Street

(Last time)

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
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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(will change)

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**

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September Minutes

President Kelli called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm. There were 37 people in attendance; this included one guest, our guest speaker, and many new members.

Old Business:

Kelli asked if we had a motion to accept the August minutes. Debbie motioned and Jason seconded. Motion passed.

Leslie read the combined August/September treasurer's report. Jason motioned to approve and Pete seconded. Motion passed.

Kelli informed the club that on our club field trips, a member can bring a guest. The member is responsible for the guest following club rules and AFMS ethics.

Show Chair, Debbie, thanked all our volunteers for this year's gem and mineral show. It was a great success. Our first show meeting for 2026 show will be held on September 27th at 10 am at the Rapid City Library. All are welcome to attend. Bring your thoughts and ideas.

September field trip- Don explained that our Saturday field trip will be to the Vore Buffalo Jump outside Sundance, WY. This is a special trip for our club as the facility closed after Labor Day. There is a \$6 cash entrance fee.

October field trip will be to a location on Pleasant Valley Road, south west of Custer. There we will find imprints of plants and coral. More information at the October meeting.

Jr. Rockhounder, Solomon Wills, will be representing our club at this year's RMFMS Convention in Grand Junction, CO. Our club has never had a Jr Rockhound compete before. Good Luck Solomon.

Rob W has started an Instagram account for the club. If you have pictures or a short 5 second video you would like shown, please send to Rob or to the clubs FB account and Rob will have it uploaded.

Elections are next month. If anyone is interested in running for an officer position please see a board member. Positions that we will be voting on are president, vice president, secretary and treasurer.

New business:

Mimi informed the members of a website that shows many rock hounding places. The site is called rockhoundingmaps.com. You can pick a state you want to visit and you do not need to join to view the site.

Jordan had asked about getting a microphone for our meetings. It is very difficult to hear speakers in the room. The club will look into it. The club is currently looking at possibly moving the club meeting place to another location due to rental pricing going up.

Debbie motioned to adjourn the meeting, Jason seconded. Meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm.

Show/Board Meeting Minutes September 27th

Show Meeting

Debbie called the meeting to order at 11:05 am. There were 16 members attending the meeting.

Agenda, floor plans and vendor contract were passed out to those attending.

For the 2026 show we will again use the Nerdy Nuts Expo and the GenPro buildings. GenPro will hold admissions, club information/membership, power point, fluorescent display, cases and not-for-profit & educational groups. Fluorescent display needs signs to show the entrance into the tent and possibly using black and yellow caution tape to outline the tent flaps. Possibility of having demonstrators in GenPro, will discuss more. Need more signage for all displays. Nerdy Nuts vendor spaces changed from 10x10 to 10x12. Concrete floor has 10x12 squares; this will be easier to make floor plan. Floor plans were approved for both GenPro and Nerdy Nuts buildings.

Jr Rockhound area- Rebecca will lead. Needs more/better signage. Lori figured about 170 kids visited this year but we put about 800 wristbands on kids at the admissions table. There is a need to advertise more for the kids' area and make the Jr Rockhound area more visible. Rebecca plans on a new sandbox, more chairs, new photo booth, and more crystal making sets. Last year under \$300 was spent for the Jr Rockhound area. Kelli motioned to budget \$500 for the Jr Rockhound area, Debbie seconded. Motion passed.

Debbie read an email from Rob. The email contained a lot of ideas to help get the show information out to the public and other clubs. He also brought back some ideas from this year's RMFMS conference/Grand Junction show. (type of advertising, sponsors, Kids bingo and more) Last year just under \$2000 was spent on advertising, banner permits, flags and flyers. Debbie motioned to budget \$2000 for advertising, Lori seconded. Motion passed.

Vendor contract – update vendor spaces to 10x12. Input Sat & Sun vendors can enter to set up at 7:00 am. The WDGMS sponsored potluck will read “WDGMS sponsored dinner from 4:00-6:00 pm”. Still in discussion of whether to have the meal made by a few volunteers, catered or have the concessions make meal. Debbie will look into having the concession opened longer on Friday during set up.

Board Meeting

There was a very brief meeting of the board to discuss the clubs meeting location. Minneluzahan notified our club that we could no longer use the large room as they will be having other events in that room. We used to use the shuffle board room but that is no longer available. The can offer us the Card Room, cost \$100. All rooms have gone up in rental price. A few members visited other options last week. They were looking for space, parking, central location, and price. Other considerations: kitchen, screen, set up/ break down tables. The other locations were Lions Building (Central States Fairgrounds), Black Hills Institute, School of Mines, Library, Canyon Lake Activity Center, Dahl, West River Electric and many more. It was put to a vote and The Lions Building won. October's meeting will still be at the Minneluzahan Center.

It was discussed that we need someone to help with the website. There needs to be consistency. Need to update the blue logo and membership form. Need to add monthly the ammonite, speakers, and field trips. Could we add links to rock sites and other information like rockchasing.com, rockhoundingmaps.com rockhoundresource.com, etc. Need to bring up at the general meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 11:35 am.

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President's message

We had a great attendance at the September meeting. Thank you to Janie Knutson from the US Bureau of Reclamation. She was very informative on what the US Bureau of Reclamation does in this area of South Dakota.

Just a reminder that election of officers is in the month of October. If you would like to step up and help the club out, please let us know at the October meeting.

We are looking at different venues for the monthly meetings. The club was informed that the large room is no longer available to us. If anyone has an idea where to hold the monthly meetings and does not cost a lot of money. Please let me know.

Let's make the next year a very successful club. Any and all help would be greatly appreciated.

Treasurer Notes:

Club Account – The CLUB account had the Sept. raffle deposit of \$36, paid Sept. rent & bought 100 stamps for \$9.00.

Show Account – No deposits, no disbursements.

Do you think the treasurer position is difficult – NO!

***Jan 1 to Oct 2025: 2 autowithdrawals: WIX & Hostwinds (website)
Checks/Debit: 27 checks, 10 debits – rent, Ammonite costs, bus. cards, trailer
Deposits: 8 raffle, dues, canvas bags, t-shirts. Total deposits 31 (avg.3/month)***

This is Club Account only. Leslie will continue to be Show treasurer

MEMBER NEWS:

Mickey Snook still confined to home – phone calls & cards welcome!

Annette Rathert is home & gaining strength

Dale Joebgren will be moving & his address will be provided when we get it

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)

**CANVAS BAGS FOR SALE!!! \$10.00 at meeting.
Support the club and gain an attractive, sturdy tote-bag.**

Upcoming field trips:

October – Pleasant Valley Road for fossilized coral and imprints

November – TBD

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

Guest speakers:

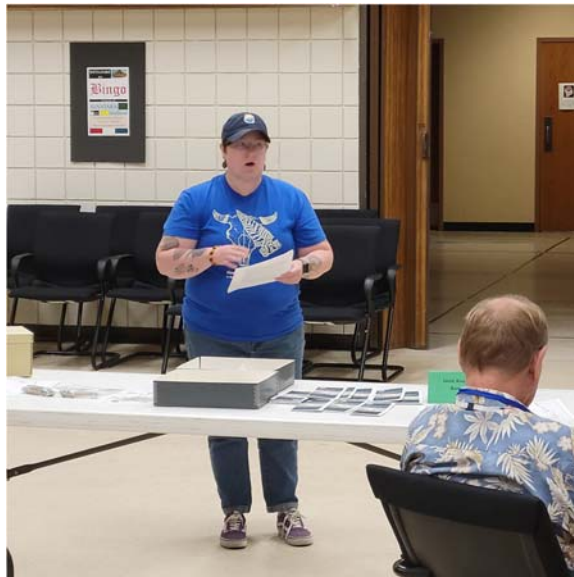
October – Diane Gates

November - TBD

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September Guest Speaker

For those that missed the September monthly meeting you missed a very interesting and informative guest speaker. Many of our field trips are taken and often on some type of U.S. Government owned and managed property. This could be through the National Park Service, the Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management or even the Bureau of Reclamation. We, the WDGMS, were very fortunate in that the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) participated in our 42nd Gem and Mineral Society show for 2025. Since little was known about the BOR and what it actually does we were able to get them to participate by having Janie Knutson attend the September monthly meeting. Janie explained the history and mission of the Bureau of Reclamation since its creation in 1902. Janie is stationed in Rapid City and is responsible for areas in both North and South Dakota. Since the BOR is responsible for dams, canals and power plants this creates a lot of territory to manage, develop and protect water and water related resources. As Janie explained with many of these projects there is a lot of construction and one never knows what a little digging might reveal whether it be a dinosaur fossil, fossilized sea shells or even Native American artifacts. So this is where Janie fits in. Janie regaled us with stories about what has been found at construction sites during construction and even post construction. She also explained the Do's and Don'ts of rock hounding on BOR property. Unfortunately the BOR does not issue permits, at this time, to conduct any type of rock hounding on any BOR property in the Black Hills area. However, Janie did explain that she could lead a rock hounding trip to the Belle Fourche Reservoir, one of the BOR's first ever projects in the U.S., to look for shark's teeth and other invertebrates from the construction of the Orman Dam, but no one can keep these specimen's. So since Janie is a bona fide archeologist she would be more than happy to lead any future trips on Bureau of Reclamation property.



Vore Buffalo Jump Field Trip September 13th

For those individuals who have not visited the Vore Buffalo Jump you need to schedule time to visit this interesting and historical place. We were given a personal tour by Jackie Wyatt and Ted Vore. During the early construction of I-90, the decision was made to move the interstate south of the sinkhole when large quantities of buffalo bones were discovered from the drilling. Jackie informed us that from 1500 to 1800's, Native Americans would use the sinkhole to trap bison. Many of the bison

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parts were used not just for food but containers, decorations, medicines, paints, robes, shelter and so much more. This was all prior to the use of horses, so all the meat and supplies were carried by dogs or on their backs out of the sinkhole and then miles away to their camp. Once you have walked down and back up the modern paved path to the sinkhole, you will see how daunting this task must have been. We finished the tour with Ted and Jackie instructing many of our club members how to throw darts at a target with an atlatl, a primitive throwing stick.



ATTENTION!!

Last chance this year. Place your t-shirt order at the October meeting. You can order short or long sleeve shirts or hoodies. Orders will go out on Friday the 10th!

There is a website, rockhoundingmaps.com/south-dakota that gives ideas of where to rockhound in South Dakota. It also has listings for other states.

PLEASE NOTE: Check if it's public, private or Federal land **BEFORE** rockhounding at these sites.

Elections for officers are THIS MONTH! The club needs new faces and ideas. Please consider stepping up!

Since Debbie Vick (that's me) could not make it to the RMFMS Convention in Grand Junction, Colorado as a Delegate for the club, Rob Wills and his son Solomon went in her place. (Thank you very much - Debbie Vick.) Rob Wills has provided an article highlighting his trip.

2025 RMFMS Convention, Grand Junction, Co

Rob Wills

I wanted to share some highlights from our recent trip to the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies (RMFMS) convention in Grand Junction, CO. Solomon and I hit the road early, leaving Rapid City at 5 AM on Wednesday, September 18. Our first stop was Buc-ee's for their

delicious brisket and pulled pork sandwiches and a few snacks. The journey between Denver and Grand Junction on I-70 was breathtaking, with old mines and quarries dotting the hillside. The elevation climbed from 5,000 ft in Denver to over 11,000 ft at the Eisenhower-Johnson Memorial Tunnel. The snow-capped peaks were a sight to behold. As we descended, the landscape transitioned to an arid climate with bald buttes, tumbleweeds, desert grasses, and cacti. A brief construction delay

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set us back an hour, but we finally arrived in Grand Junction, which has a similar population to Rapid City but boasts two Chick-Fil-A restaurants.

The Grand Junction Gem & Mineral Club (GJGMC) hosted the convention at their club house and the rock show at the Mesa County Fairgrounds, which featured over 40 vendors, competition and educational exhibits, geode and rock cutting, a silent auction, a Junior Science Rock Club booth, and a membership booth for the GJGMC. The first day's attendance was over 1,400. Debbie Vick and Solomon submitted competition cases and both brought home awards—Solomon won the Junior Cash Prize, and Debbie received a trophy for her Beautiful Minerals Usually Found in Massive Form exhibit.

The GJGMC has about 160 members, with 40-50 regularly attending bi-monthly meetings, and 1,500 Facebook followers. They have their own building, making it easy to host meetings and get-togethers. We were fascinated by their tradition of sharing rocks—members place unwanted rocks in piles on their property for others to pick through. We had the privilege of collecting obsidian, Blue Forest Petrified Wood, amethysts, opals, Yellow Cat Agates, malachite, and more for our club.

The GJGMC's free Junior Science Rock Club meets the first Tuesday of the month and offers several field trips throughout the year. The juniors can earn up to 20 badges through the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) Badge program. One junior member had a display at the rock show, though it wasn't submitted for competition. We enjoyed getting to know the GJGMC members, including club President Steve Cable and science teacher Bambi. Steve shared tips for creating buzz for the rock show, and Bambi, passionate about rocks and fossils, generously gave away treasures like uranium, trilobites, shark teeth, agates, fluorescents, and garnets, which we graciously accepted.

The RMFMS convention at the GJGMC clubhouse saw 17 clubs in attendance, including the AFMS President. The Federation is financially healthy and graciously accepted our club's scholarship donation. Several long-time members were honored in a moment of silence. The convention was brief, with most reports submitted in advance and no major votes. We attended the RMFMS dinner, enjoying Famous Dave's Barbeque and collecting Yellow Cat Agates for the club. We heard from scholarship winners Amy Vovopyanov and Tyler Wickland about the geologic impact of wildfires and the unique geology of the Colorado Plateau.

At the RMFMS Editors and Webmasters breakfast, Debbie Vick received awards for her role as Editor of the Ammonite, for the Ammonite as a Small Bulletin, and for her article, "Tenacity." There are numerous opportunities for club members, including juniors, to win writing awards, such as poetry, articles, drawings, photo collages, and research.

Overall, it was a fantastic experience. Thank you, Western Dakota Gem, and Mineral Society, for sending us to the convention. We met wonderful people, found amazing treasures, and learned a lot about the Federation.

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.

Central Dakota Gem & Mineral Show - 10/25/2025

10/25-26/2025

Venue: Bismark Eagles Club Aerie 2237

Address: 313 N 26th St, Bismark Eagles Club Aerie 2237, Bismark, ND

Website: <https://ndrockclub.org/rock-show> <https://m.facebook.com/CDGMS>

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Rocktoberfest Gem & Mineral Show - 10/11/2025

10/11-12/2025

Hours: 9:00 - 4:00

Venue: Western WY Community College - in the Atrium

Address: 2500 College D, Western WY Community College - in the Atrium, Rock Springs, WY

Website: <http://-/>

WY State Mineral & Gem Show - 10/17/2025

10/17-19/2025

Hours: Thurs/Fri 10 AM - 6 PM, Sat 9 AM - 5 PM

Venue: Cam-Plex

Address: 1635 Reata Dr, Cam-Plex, Gillette, WY 82718

Website: <https://www.cody59ers.com/>

Body Mind Spirit Expo - 10/10/2025

10/10-12/2025

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

Venue: Colorado Springs Event Center

Address: 3960 Palmer Park Blvd, Colorado Springs Event Center, Colorado Springs, CO

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

11th Annual Helzarockin' Gem and Mineral Show - 10/10/2025

10/10-12/2025

Hours: Fri/Sat 9:00 - 5:00 Sun 9:00 - 2:00

Venue: Buckeye Equestrian Center

Address: 10300 S Miller Rd, Buckeye Equestrian Center, Buckeye, AZ 85326

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

The Rock Yard - 10/16/2025

Start Date: 10/16-19/2025

Hours: 9:00 - 5:00 Daily

Venue: The Rock Yard

Address: 615 W Lester St, The Rock Yard, Tucson, AZ

Website: <https://therockyardtucsongemshow.com/tucsonfallgemandmineralshow.html>

Rock, Gem & Jewelry Show - 10/18/2025

10/18-19/2025

Hours: Sat 10:00-5:00 Sun 10:00-4:00

Venue: Sedona Red Rock High School

Address: 995 Upper Red Rock Loop Rd, Sedona Red Rock High School, Sedona, AZ 86336

Website: <http://sedonagemandmineral.org/>

