



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

This Months Funny:

You might be a Rockhound if:

These are for the newbies!

You know the location of every rock shop within a 100 mile radius

When they haven't seen you for a week, the shop owners send you a get
well card!

You're retired and still thinking of adding a room to your house.



THE AMMONITE

Affiliated with RMFMS & AFMS

Next meeting:

6:00 p.m.

April 10, 2025

Minneluzahn Senior Center

315 North 4th 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

President:	Kelli Wold	605 381-6418	kelliwold24@gmail.com
Vice President:	Pete Lysenko		
Secretary:	vacant		
Treasurer:	Leslie Lysenko	605-786-8801	leslielysenko@gmail.com
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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

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

March 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 23 members and 10 guests – 6 of whom became new members! Secretary Melissa Russell was unable to attend.

Larisa B. motioned to approve the February minutes as published in the Ammonite. Debbie V. seconded. Motion passed.

Treasurer Leslie gave the Treasurer's report for the Club account & the Show account. "The Square" charges have gone up but should still be OK for Club's coverage. The Historian purchased office supplies in the amount of \$65.15 to organize Club files. Approval is requested to reimburse Jordan. Cole B. motioned to approve the Historian's bill. Debbie V. seconded. Motion passed. Larisa B. motioned to approve the Treasurer's report. Jason H. seconded. Motion passed.

Kelli spoke briefly about the luncheon to be held March for "legacy" members. Lori L. asked what criteria made a person "legacy". A long-time current member or a member who had made contributions to the club over the years, as this is the Club's 50th year of formation. 1975-2025.

Purchase of a sound system was discussed. To buy needed equipment could cost \$4,000 - \$5,000; a quote from Perfect Wave to provide rental at the show was \$2,000; a quote from Haggerty to provide rental was \$605. There was a suggestion to buy used equipment. Don B. talked to CSF and their "5 year plan" includes sound system and security cameras. It is a 100' x 120' space with high ceiling. Leslie motioned that the Club go with the Haggerty quote with the option that if another option comes along we'll review. Lori L. seconded. Motion passed.

Club T-shirts. Debra Bailey will be back within 2 weeks and will review.

Canvas Bags. The bag colors have been finalized and 12 bags will be created for approval. Then the final decisions as to type of bag and number needed will be made.

Show Report. Debbie said 6 spaces remain with 2-3 coming in soon. Lori L. suggested that she knew a vendor that can make rock-related t-shirts at the show. This might be nice and different. That vendor should contact Debbie for contract information.

Lori reported that the Rocky Mountain Federation Mineral Society directory would be out the next day and a copy will be given to each Club's president.

The Historian is missing Ammonites from some different years and would like club members to see if they have them to complete the club collection.

Field trip this Saturday at 10 am. Bring a rock or two to Kelli's. The geode crusher will be there. Sign-up sheet for those who want to come.

The RMFMS convention will be held Sept. 20-22 in Grand Junction, CO. Debbie will be entering a case for competition and can represent the club as a delegate. Lori L. explained that the Delegate meeting is required, and there are other functions as well – Editor's breakfast, banquet, cases, etc.

Don B. announced that the April meeting's speaker will be from the American Red Cross and will

explain about AED's and what they do. He stressed it is critically important to attend.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Kelli introduced Tom Woodden as tonight's speaker.

He spoke about the South Dakota State Gemstone, the Fairburn Agate, and explained the geography that produces (over a period of 37 million years) this agate and how it forms. There are 3 layers of Limestone: Minnekahta, Minnelusa, Pahasapa, and Tom pointed out the area called Minnelusa on a map of the Black Hills. Different ways of describing agates: full face, wrap-arounds, butterfly cut/effect. Tom showed many photos of agates and places they were collected: Indian Creek, Railroad Butte, Cheyenne River gravel bars, Shoemaker area, Tepee Canyon and Fairburn. This was an educational talk about a beautiful gemstone native to the Black Hills.

March 8th Show meeting minutes

Meeting called to order at 10:15, RCPL Conference Room. Present: Debbie Vick, Lori Bickford, Cole Burrington, Kelli Wold, Al Dorland, Sylvia Cox, Leslie Lysenko, Pete Lysenko

Vendors: Debbie passed out latest floor layout. Leslie will talk to Katie Lamie & Prof. Pagnac regarding guidelines for sale of artifacts or fossils. Prospector's Club will come Saturday.

Fluorescent: Ventilation was discussed. UV spectrum concern? Light is in the trailer – need to check it out. Replace display case glass? Ask Nancy Thompson to lend few specimens.

Advertising – Rob Wills was looking into advertising, however he will be out of town for a month. Leslie has done some. Sylvia mentioned radio station #1380. Leslie will continue posting on events calendars & Mimi will “bump” events on FB. Order 4 flutter flags for \$58.

Flyers – Have been posted to FB & Website & sent to RMFMS. Don suggested asking School of Mines to hang a banner. Post the 2024 YouTube from WaywardWoodward as a link?

Anniversary canvas bags - blue logo on a white or beige was good but not banner in yellow. If we order blue bags then yellow logo. Banner will be blue & say “established 1975”.

Sound system printouts reviewed & costs discussed. If CSF puts in sound system next year then we may not need one. Sylvia suggested Haggarty's or New Wave – can they provide this year?

Safety / Security “you're on camera” signs to post in building. Don took cameras to see how to use – app? Costs? Ask the Sheriff's office to speak Friday evening to all re: theft & safeguards. Cole & Marie will spend nights in building. Club will have NO opinion regarding firearms. See where AED units are in building.

Potluck: Leslie will ask Marie.

Geode 'cracking' is a popular feature. Kelli & Pete working on tool footing. How would we get geodes

& where to place. Safety glasses would be needed. Can bulk order from The Rock Shed? Lori is going to get in touch with LeRoy & get suggestions for ordering stickers, etc.

“**Give aways**” for the Club’s 50th Anniv? Don will ask Prospector’s Club cost of small bag of ‘dirt’ with gold flecks.

* Richard Smith of the area Red Cross will be speaker in April.

* RMFMS convention in Sept, Debbie would like to be one of the Club delegates.

* It was confirmed that vendors contribute one (1) item per Show for the raffle.

The meeting ended 11:45 am.

President's message

Thank to all who came to the March meeting. We had a great turn out, with 9 new guests.

The 2025 show is fast approaching us. We are needing all the help we can get for the show. If you are wanting to volunteer please contact Debbie Vick.

I would like to thank Tom Woodden for giving the talk on fairburns. Very interesting and always nice to see beautiful fairburns.

The field trip on Saturday was a cutting and polishing lesson. We had some who cut a rock for the first time and now is hooked.

Hope to see everyone in April.

Treasurer Notes:

Club Account – deposit of \$29 from February raffle & 3 bills paid, including rent, reimbursing Historian for supplies & \$20 for Ammonite costs.

Show Account – 2 vendor deposits of \$605 & no bills. So far there haven’t been any show charges but we’ll need to push the advertising & supplies for the children’s area, signage, etc.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS:

WELCOME:

Joe & Nancy Reinart, Trudy Smith & Steve Drews, Patrick Tisdale.

Larisa sent out an updated membership list, but note 3 email changes:

Kelli Wold is now keliwold24@gmail.com

Julie Lundin is now rushmore1313@gmail.com

Renee Saunders’ corrected email is crawfordslp2004@gmail.com

Please read the Show & the meeting minutes! So much is happening! We had a lot of fun at the rock saw & polishing demo on the March 15 ‘field trip’. Look for the next show meeting notice, everyone is welcome to attend! They’ve been held at the Rapid City Library on Quincy Street, so centrally located.

List of upcoming events:

April Guest Speaker: American Red Cross on AED's and First Aid Safety

April Field Trip: TBD

ATTENTION!!

The club needs someone to take over secretary duties which includes taking notes at each meeting.

The current secretary had to step down because of health reasons.

Tom Woodden was the guest speaker for the March meeting. He did a wonderful talk on Fairburn Agates.



March's field trip was to Kelli Wold's garage to learn how to cut rocks. Everybody had lots of fun.



Rock Saw Safety

After March's field trip to see and experiment with Kelli Wold's garage workshop using her rock saws, I feel like it would be beneficial to include some safety tips when using rock saws.

- 1.) Always wear the proper safety gear - closed toed shoes, safety glasses, ear protection, and also a N95 mask would be helpful in preventing inhalation of the fine dust particles produced
- 2.) make sure the saw is on a level surface
- 3.) Read up on the manual/operating instructions of the equipment.
- 4.) Keep fingers away from the blade while keeping the rock firm in a vise.
- 5.) Clean and lubricate the saw blade regularly.
- 6.) To prevent overheating check the water supply and power connections
- 7.) Inspect the moving parts one a month for wear and tear.

Cleaning Minerals

Referenced from
How to Collect Minerals by Peter Zodac
Bulletin No. 2 Pg 54-55 April 1934

Many times after collecting minerals from the field, they come back covered with impurities like sand and clay. Most of the time they can be washed with clean water using a stiff brush and then allowed to dry.

There are some minerals that need special care in cleaning. Soft, delicate or fragile minerals only use clean water and with a soft brush. Small tufts and dainty minerals should only be brushed off with a very soft brush or blowed on gently.

Halites and similar mineral should never be washed because they are dissolvable in water.

Mica will divide in left in water too long. This may result in having more specimens than planned.

Carbonates like calcite should only be washed with clean water without soap. Soap can injure the piece.

Quartz, feldspars, epidotes, garnets, beryls, tourmalines, and topazes are a little bit more sturdy. Soapy water will usually do the trick. Use a small sharp instrument to pick out sand or clay from cavities that can be found in some specimens.

There are other ways to clean tougher stains of impurities yet these methods can be dangerous to the collector, so care should be taken when using these chemicals. The best advice is to collect minerals that are not stained by unwanted impurities.

Last but not least are the pyrites, marcasites, and some pyrrhotties. These can be washed but needs

to be dried thoroughly. If not they can decompose, then become covered with a wide power and in time fall apart.

Pride in cleaning minerals one collects continues long after field collecting. It continues in the preparation on the minerals for display.

NEWS BRIEFS

RMFMS: There is a call out to anyone interested in stepping up and filling some of the open committee chairs. These include Fluorescent Tech, Lapidary Tech, Mineralogical Tech, and most important the PLAC (Public lands Access committee). Full description of each role can be found in the operating procedure document at www.rmfmts.org.

AFMS: In the February issue of the AFMS newsletter, there is an excellent article on having a yearly check of any safety kit, i.e. First Aid kits. It is better to be completely prepared than to be stranded somewhere with outdated safety supplies

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.

Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club Gem Show - 04/05/2025

Start Date: 04/05/2025

End Date: 04/06/2025

Hours: Sat 9:00 - 5:00 Sun 10:00 - 5:00

Venue: Lancaster Event Center

Address: 84th and Havelock Ave

Lancaster Event Center

Lincoln, NE 68508

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

Wichita Gem & Mineral Show – 04/25/2025

Start Date: 04/25/2025

End Date: 04/27/2025

Hours: Fri 9:00-6:00 Sat 10:00-6:00 Sun 10:00-5:00

Venue: Cessna Activity Center

Address: 2744 George Washington Blvd

Cessna Activity Center

Wichita, KS

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

Black Hawk Gem & Mineral Show - 04/06/2025

Start Date: 04/06/2025
End Date: 04/06/2025
Hours: 10:00 - 5:00
Venue: Waterloo Center for the Arts
Address: 225 Commercial St
Waterloo Center for the Arts
Waterloo, IA 50701

Anoka County Gem & Mineral Show - 04/12/2025

Start Date: 04/12/2025
End Date: 04/13/2025
Hours: Sat 10:00-5:00 Sun 10:00-4:00
Venue: Crystal Community Center
Address: 4800 Douglas Dr N
Crystal Community Center
Crystal, MN -
Website: <https://www.facebook.com/AnokaCountyGemMineralClub/>

Gila County Gem & Mineral Society Spring Show & Sell - 04/26/2025

Start Date: 04/26/2025
End Date: 04/26/2025
Hours: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
Venue: Bullion Plaza Cultural Center & Museum Lawn
Address: 150 Plaza Circle
Bullion Plaza Cultural Center & Museum Lawn
Miami, AZ 85539
Website: <http://www.gilagem.com/>

Colorado Mineral and Fossil Spring Show - NEW LOCATION - 04/18/2025

Start Date: 04/18/2025
End Date: 04/20/2025
Hours: Friday & Saturday 10AM-6PM Sunday 10AM-5PM
Venue: National Western Complex
Address: 4655 Humboldt St
National Western Complex
DENVER, CO 80216
Website: <http://www.rmgmpromotions.com/>