



THE AMMONITE

Affiliated with RMFMS & AFMS

Next meeting:

6:00 p.m.

June 13, 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 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 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

May Minutes

Vice President Peter Lysenko called the meeting to order at 6:04pm. Peter informed members that President Kelli was on vacation and Treasurer Leslie was on her way back from the east coast. Peter and Debra ran the meeting. There were 17 members and 1 guest present for the meeting. Peter welcomed new(er) members Don Bush and Lori Bickford to the club.

Peter asked if there was a motion to approve the April meeting minutes. Debbie motioned to approve and Alan seconded. The motion was passed.

Debra reviewed the treasurer's report. Myesa motioned to approve the report and Jason seconded. The motion was passed.

Peter explained after the meeting, Dr. Chris Jass, our guest speaker from the Mammoth Site will be presenting.

Old business

Rock show update- Debbie explained that all vendor spaces are now filled. We have 10 reserved showcases, 6 are still available. Debbie was finally able to connect with Adam from BHI. BHI only wanted to be at the rock show for a few hours for Pete Larson to have a book signing event. We originally had a 10x10 space for them but now we will re-rent the space (already rented) and have a special "book signing" spot in the rest area in front of the venue for the few hours on that Saturday. There is a show volunteer sign-up sheet in the back. Please look over, ask questions and help your club with the running of the show. Debbie also informed the members that the concession area and new bathrooms is complete. We will have Main St. BBQ for food on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. We will still have our club Potluck "Thank You" for the vendors. Sign up coming soon.

Club T-Shirts – New club shirts were worn by Don and Debra Bailey. Please see them if you are interested in getting a club T-Shirt. S-M-L-XL are \$ 13.22 + tax, 2XL \$15.22 + tax and 3XL is \$17.22 + tax. Last chance to sign up for shirt for this order.

Debra informed members May's field trip to the Coral Beds NW of Jewel Cave was set for Saturday. Maps and sign-up sheet in back of room.

Debra reminded members of Galena's Ghost walk and open house on June 8th, information sheet on tables.

Myesa updated members on a recent after school rock program held at the Robbinsdale Elementary School. Myesa, Sean and Debra led the program. There were 23 kids ages from 5-10. The kids were very excited and the program was well received.

New business

Don explained he was at the VFW for their last breakfast of the season and spoke with a woman who was a Cub Scout leader. They are very interested in a rock program for their scouts. We hope to continue with the educational programs.

Debra explained that sometimes mass emails are sent out to club members. The club receives emails from visitors to our website asking for some help. If you can help, please respond to all club members first, letting everyone know that you are taking responsibility to respond and answer the inquirer's question. This way we're not all responding to the inquiring person.

June field trip – Kelli will be leading this trip. Debra posed a question; do we want to go to Weta or Indian Creek. Weta is further but Indian Creek you must have a 4x4. It was decided that we would go to Weta.

Debra gave update on Mickey, possible surgery end of month. We wish him well.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Don, seconded by Debbie. Meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm

No April Board Meeting

No Show Meeting Minutes

There **will** be a show meeting June 9 2024. Everybody that wants to help at the show is encouraged to attend. It will take place in the upstairs Community Room at Rapid City Public Library. Times are 2:30 – 4:00 p.m.

COUNTDOWN TO THE SHOW – 57 days until our show!!

Events for the upcoming months:

May 11th – field trip - Baileys coral beds

June 13th – general meeting – Catherine Lamie from South Dakota State Historical Society

June 15th- field trip – Kelli trip leader– Weta

July 11th – general meeting – Guest speaker Frank Garcia

July 13th- field trip TBD

July 26th show set up

July 27 & 28th show and break down

August 8th – annual picnic in the park

Aug 10th- field trip TBD

September 12th general meeting

September 14th – field trip TBD

October 10th general meeting - officer elections

October 12th – field trip TBD

President's message

No current message. Kelli has been out of town for 2 ½ weeks. She is looking forward to seeing everybody at the June meeting.

TREASURER NEWS: Vendor payments have leveled off. We spent \$500+ on a new fluorescent light for the Club Fluorescent Case, but hopefully that will last many years.

Money has been received from club members for T-shirts & the order placed with a deposit.

LIBRARIAN: Library books have been brought to meetings. Please look them over! They can be checked out if you are interested!!!

And a Bonus !!

FIELD TRIP Saturday May 25 to WETA. with the Sioux Empire Gem & Mineral Society of Sioux Falls. A few of the Sioux Empire club have joined us on our last 2 field trips & it's been a good time rockhunting with them! This is an annual event for their club to visit Black Hills over Memorial Day weekend & go on a field trip.

If you wish to go along, please meet **SATURDAY at 8:a.m. at Discount Fuels in Kadoka.** They are also planning to go on Sunday!

May Guest Speaker – Dr. Chris Jass

Dr. Chris Jass, Director of Research from The Mammoth Site in Hot Springs, was our club's guest speaker for our May meeting. Dr. Jass gave a power point presentation on the history and beginnings of The Mammoth Site. He explained it all started when a gentleman by the name of George Hanson was bulldozing an area in Hot Springs for a housing project. Mr. Hanson's blade struck something and rather than continuing he stopped and saw that it was a long tusk. Phil Anderson, the land owner, halted the housing project until it could be further investigated. Mr. Anderson invited Dr. Jim Mead and his small crew to the site. They spent 10 days excavating, salvaging and stabilizing bones, tusks and other fragments. Many of the items collected had nowhere to go so they went home with the crew. The following summer Dr. Agenbroad and Dr. Mead lead another team to continue excavating the site. By the end of the summer, land owner Phil Anderson, realized his 14 acres of land was more valuable as a geological resource than as a housing project. Through community commitment and Mr. Anderson's generosity, The Mammoth Site of Hot Springs was born. This is the 50th Anniversary of the Mammoth Site. Dr. Jass's presentation was in-depth and inspiring. It was interesting to find out that at The Mammoth Site you can see fossils "in situ" or as they were discovered. This is very unique as the museum is also an active dig site. We encourage everyone to visit the site.

The Size Dilemma

By Deborah 'Debbie' Vick

Every collector enjoys what they have in their collections, no matter what it is. The largest concern facing any collector is what size should their pieces be?

Too big and the collection takes over the collector's home. They also can become too expensive. One does not need to strive to get a museum sized piece when they live in limited space.

So what size to collect? It depends on several factors. The price, the quality of the specimens and last but not least the display space one has.

To help out in this tricky area the American Federation of Mineralogical Society (AFMS) has described different dimensions for the most common sizes a collector can go off of for their collections.

The smallest size is the Micro-Mount. These specimens require magnification to truly appreciate the beauty of the mineral. This size is excellent for minerals that are only found with good quality crystals in that size. Collections of this size takes up the least space.

Next size up is the Thumbnail. Specimens of this size are usually displayed in a cube size box called a 'Perky' box. AMFS states the this size is about 1 inch in any direction.

The next step up in the Miniature size. This is larger then the Thumbnail and usually 2 Inch max. in any direction.

Cabinet has two different categories. The small cabinet is 4 inches in any direction and the cabinet is over the 4 inch size.

There are many factors that go into making a collector happy yet the most critical part is the size. Rocks and minerals can easily take over one's living quarters if not properly monitored, so **size does really matter!!**

Our Show Update

The vendor spots have pretty much been filled. Waiting on the last vendor contract. That completes the first major step in having a show.

The next is just as important. Without helpers the show will go nowhere. So please sign up to

help in the many areas that need help.

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There is also background work that needs to be done to prepare for the show. Here is one item that needs helpers:

Help is needed to re-cover some of the display case liners.

The material has been purchased & been laid them out to see how many cases we can cover - I think 6. They NEED to be cut out & attached to cardboard.

We need some large pieces of cardboard in good shape - no folds, holes, etc. The back & bottom liners measure **22 1/2" x 43 1/2"**.

We will need some place to spread out the material, cut iron & attach. Reserve a room at the Library OR if anyone has space in their home, garage or basement? Also a "full size" ironing board. I do have an iron (although it is rarely used). (Editor's note: I have a full size board and an working iron)

Upcoming Area Shows

Most of this information was obtained from www.rockandmineralshows.com. Please check the website for other shows across the country and in Canada.

Fairburn agate & Rock Swap
June 7, 8, & 9 2024
Custer Co. Fairgrounds
[Hermosa, South Dakota](#)

The Rock'N Gem Show – 06/07/2024

Start Date: 06/07/2024

End Date: 06/09/2024

Hours: 9:00 - 5:00

Venue: Hairy Mosquito Trading Company!!

Address: 21287 Hwy 169

Hairy Mosquito Trading Company!!

Milaca, MN 56353

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1776821512499166?>

Anoka County Gem & Mineral Club Rock Swap - 06/15/2024

Start Date: 06/15/2024

End Date: 06/16/2024

Hours: 10:00 - 2:00

Venue: United Methodist Church Parking Lot

Address: 16 2nd Ave

United Methodist Church Parking Lot

Osseo, MN

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/AnokaCountyGemMineralClub/>

Sublette County Rock Hounds' Annual Gem & Mineral Show - 06/14/2024

Start Date: 06/14/2024

End Date: 06/16/2024

Hours: Fri/Sat 9:00 - 5:00 Sun 9:00 - 4:00

Venue: Sublette County Fairgrounds, Events Center

Address: 10937 Hwy 189

Sublette County Fairgrounds, Events Center

Big Piney, WY

Website: <https://www.wsmgs.org/upcoming-events.html>

Kemmerer Fossil & Mineral Expo - 06/14/2024

Start Date: 06/14/2024

End Date: 06/15/2024

Hours: 9:00 - 6:00

Venue: South Lincoln Training & Event Center

Address: 215 HWY 233

South Lincoln Training & Event Center

Kemmerer, WY

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

Summer Rock Swap - 06/22/2024

Start Date: 06/22/2024

End Date: 06/23/2024

Hours: Sat 10:00-6:00 Sun 10:00-4:00

Venue: Beer Family Farm

Address: 18701 Ashland Rd

Beer Family Farm

Ashland, NE

Website: <https://www.lincolngemmineralclub.org/>

Treasures of the Universe - 06/22/2024

Start Date: 06/22/2024

End Date: 06/23/2024

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

Venue: Ravalli County Fairgrounds

Address: 100 Old Corvallis Road

Ravalli County Fairgrounds

Hamilton, MT 59840

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

Bitterroot Gem & Mineral Show - 06/22/2024

Start Date: 06/22/2024

End Date: 06/23/2024

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

Venue: Ravalli County Fairground, Farmers State Bank Event Building

Address: 100 Old Corvallis Road

Ravalli County Fairground, Farmers State Bank Event Building
Hamilton, MT 59840
Website: <http://bitterrootgemandmineral.org/>

The 4th Phoenix Heritage Mineral Show - 06/01/2024

Start Date: 06/01/2024
End Date: 06/02/2024
Venue: Phoenix Shrine Auditorium
Address: 552 N 40th St
Phoenix Shrine Auditorium
Phoenix, AZ 85008
Website: <https://www.msaaaz.org/PHX-HERITAGE-SHOW>

Delta County Rock Wranglers - 06/01/2024

Start Date: 06/01/2024
End Date: 06/01/2024
Hours: 9:00 - 5:00
Venue: Heddles Recreation Center
Address: 531 North Palmer St
Heddles Recreation Center
Delta, CO 81416

Pikes Peak Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show - 06/07/2024

Start Date: 06/07/2024
End Date: 06/09/2024
Hours: Fri - Noon-7:00, Sat - 10 - 5, Sun - 10 - 4
Venue: Norris Penrose Event Center
Address: 1045 Lower Gold Camp Rd
Norris Penrose Event Center
Colorado Springs, CO 80905
Website: <http://www.pikespeakgemshow.com/>
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/ppgmjshow>

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

Fossicking Gone Wrong

Two men go on a fossicking trip. They buy all the equipment: the Miners Right, the gold detectors, the Blundstone boots, the maps, the 4WD, and even a two-man tent. They spend a fortune.

On the first day, they go fossicking, but they don't find anything. The same thing happens on the second day and the third day. It goes on like this until finally, on the last day of their vacation, one of the men finds a geode.

As they're driving home, they're really depressed. One guy turns to the other and says, "Do you realise that this one lousy geode we found cost us fifteen hundred dollars?"

The other guy says, "Wow! It's a good thing we didn't find any more!"

- From the Owlcation website author Suzanne Day