



THE AMMONITE

Affiliated with RMFMS & AFMS

Next meeting:

6:00 p.m.

April 11, 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

President:	Kelli Wold	605 381-6418	kelli@dakotastar.org
Vice President:	Pete Lysenko	605 786-8801	-----
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	Myesa Fixx	425 239-3122	mlegendrefixx@gmail.com
Librarian:	Leslie Lysenko	605 786-8801	leslielysenko@gmail.com
Editor:	Debbie Vick	605 877-6957	dlvick@live.com
Historian:	Debbie Vick	605 877-6957	dlvick@live.com
RMFMS SD Dir:	Lori Loomis	719-207 1035	riggsoldchap@yahoo.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 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

March Minutes

President Kelli Wold called the meeting to order at 6 pm. There were 18 members and 4 guests in attendance. Guests were Logan, Megan, Wilks and Chili.

Kelli asked if there was a motion to approve the February meeting minutes. Alan motioned to approve and Jason seconded. The motion was passed.

Leslie reviewed the treasurer's report. Mimi motioned to approve the report and Sue seconded. The motion was passed.

Old Business:

Show update- Kelli passed around an image of the banner that the club is having made to be placed across Main and St. Joseph Streets. More flyers are being made and will start to bring them to the meetings. Don asked about the directional signs and reminded that we need to use a drill to make a hole in the ground to place the "H" signs. Besides banners across the streets, we will have the older banners hung on the fencing on Cambell Street below the digital Fairgrounds sign. Don asked about signs being placed at the entrance of the Nerdy Nuts building, Debbie will ask Ashley if permitted. Kelli informed members that we will be having a fluorescent display. Will be using a pop-up tent with black fabric to darken, looking at new lighting for display.

Club t-shirt- Don was waiting on a final image of the logo. Next month he will have samples with the logo on and will have a sign up for those who want a t-shirt. These shirts are to be worn at the Gem & Mineral Show to identify the club members.

Field Trip- Since the weather has been nice, May's field trip to the Conata Basin has been pushed up to April 13th. Jason Hammer will lead. We will meet in the parking lot of the Minneluzahan Senior Citizen Center at 9:45 am. We expect it to take 1 hour 10 minutes to get there. Jason reminded everyone to bring tools, bucket, sunglasses, water and first aid. Don informed members that at a recent conference he was informed that bears have been seen in the Hills. For Conata Basin we need to be cautious of rattlesnakes.

New Business:

Guest Chili asked members if anyone knew of someone or a supplier for equipment. He was informed of Larry Norton and the Rock Shed in Keystone.

Meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm

Thank you, Wilks, for helping draw numbers for the raffle. Thank you, Curt, for snacks, and Jason and Don for raffle items.

March Board Meeting Minutes

No Board meeting

February 18 Show Minutes

People attending: Debbie Vick, Leslie Lysenko, Pete Lysenko, Myesa Fixx, Kelli Wold and Debra Bailey

Meeting started at 2:30

Debbie handed out an updated floorplan with vendors names and Leslie handed out an itemized income/expense sheet for the show and contracted vendor amounts paid/totals.

Of the 41 spaces for the show:

29 received contracts

4 awaiting contract/money

3 club use (info table, florescent display & rock & mineral ID)

5 AVAILABLE spaces

There are 16 spaces for Displays. Currently 6/7 are claimed. If there are more vendors interested in reserving a space, we can utilize the unclaimed displays or other open spaces.

Street Banners for downtown Rapid City. Information/quotes from seven different sign companies was presented over the last couple of weeks to the show committee. Kelli motioned to go with Sign Express and Debbie seconded. Motion was passed.** Sign Express will make two banners to hang across Main St. and St. Joseph St.

It is possible that SDSMT will not be able to attend the show this year. They currently do not have a director or assistant director of the Geology Museum to run a table. Debra will reach out to the museum and see if someone will be at the school over the summer to run a table.

A Florescent display was discussed and decided it would be taking the table #2 location. Table #2 is in a corner (harder to rent) but next to the club info table (easier for club volunteers to watch). Display is in the trailer. Looking at a pop up covered in black fabric (possible landscape fabric or black fabric from Joann's). Will be looking into best possible solution. Also need new black light system to hang over the display case. Agreed that we need to set up display for a dry run to make sure everything works. Need a poster with description of rocks and why the fluorescent.

Additional signs needed: WDGMS informational table, Admissions table, Silent Auction, Kids area and Florescent Rocks. Debra will stop by the CopyCountry to see if they still have our signs saved from 2019. If not, how much will it cost to make signs. Need to look in trailer for other signs that were made in previous years. Table tent signs for vendors will be made by Debra.

Kids Area: Myesa has reached out to LeRoy and will partner with him on activities. Items needed: dino stickers, dino pencils and/or erasers. 6 bags of sand for the sandbox (Pete will purchase). Egg crates (members can start saving) Coloring pages from the National Park Service "Prehistoric Life in the National Parks Coloring Book". Washable markers, bucket for water and paper towels. Rocks for sand box (in trailer), googley eyes (in trailer) and glue. Tarp is in Trailer. An amount was requested for the purchase of some of the items for the Kids

Area. Kelli motion for \$100 and Debbie second. Motion was passed.**

Program: hand out at admissions table will include list of vendors, history of club, current club officers, show committee, silent auction info, display cases voting info, fluorescent display info, kids area info, Remembering departed Rockhounds.....

Display cases: Best of show. Attendees will be given one ticket each at admissions table with instructions on voting. Leslie will check with J&J for award plaque. 6 possibly 7 display cases have been reserved to date.

Bags- Kelli has some bags to give to attendees.

Speaker/mic- to announce door prize winners – is provided by fairgrounds.

Flyers – Kelli has made about 200 and will continue to make more.

Pete asked about informing member to help with the show. Need sign up list of activities, tables, set up and break down and other jobs at meeting with explanations.

**Per club By-Laws – “No expenditure over \$50.00 will be made with the thought of repayment until the action has been approved by a vote of the Board of Directors or the membership”. 6 of the 8 Board of Members are on the Show Committee

Meeting adjourned at 4:00pm

Next show meeting will be held April 7th @ 3:00 pm in the Hoyt Room, 1st floor of the RCPL. It is open to everyone who is interested in helping out for the show

Myesa is requestiong egg cartons any size for the kid's corner.

Also bring some igneous, sedimentary, and Metamorphic rocks to the April meeting for an after-school outreach program

Events for the upcoming months:

April 11th - Guest Speaker Frank Garcia

April 13th - Field Trip to Conata Basin rockhounding, Jason Hammer leader

May 9th - Guest speaker Mammoth Site

May 11th - Field Trip TBD

June 13th – Guest speaker SD Historical Society – Rock hunting on public lands, etc.

July 11th – Guest speaker BH Paleontology Society

July 27-28th – WDGMS Show!

August 8th – Picnic/ post show potluck

President's message

Thank you to everyone that attended the March meeting. We had 4 new guesses that night.

The July 27th and 28th Gem and Mineral show only has a few spots left. If you are interested in helping out at the show please contact Kelli Wold. If you are interested in having a display case at the show please contact Debbie Vick.

It was our **map** night were to go rock hunting. Myesa Fixx was our speaker for the night. She gave a great and very informative narration of where to go rock hunting in the National Grasslands and the Black Hills area.

The field trip was to the Elks theater to watch Dinosaur 13 screening. The Black Hills Institute are celebrating their 50th Anniversary.

Hope to see everyone at the April meeting.

Kelli Wold
President

Treasurer's notes

We are still getting Vendor contract money so the show deposits were \$1,197.00. Only 3 disbursements – rent, \$750 to reserve the banner & \$103.60 for wristbands, which should be enough for next year also.

The Board made a decision to deliberately schedule Show meetings so talk about the Show wouldn't take up time at the regular club meetings. We can have short Club meetings & get right to speakers, raffles, snacks & ROCKS!

Everyone is welcome to attend the Show Meetings! You might have a suggestion, talk about the signage, publicity, or maybe just want to find out what's going on! The next Show meeting is Sunday April 7, 3:00 p.m. at the Rapid City Public Library on Quincy Street.

Note from the Editor:

I now usually just put the Ammonite together and sometime compile articles.

This time I have some information and a request that I would like to share with the club members. Every year the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Society (who we belong to) has a convention that one of the regional clubs host. This is where representatives (delegates) from regional clubs get together, discuss and share topics that affect us rock-hounds. The RMFMS convention is being held in Oklahoma City this year. I am asking if the club is able to send two delegates to the convention this year. I do know that our State Director Lori Loomis is interested in going as well as I. Because of the distance the cost will be little high because of the price of fuel. I am asking the club to think about and discuss this situation.

Thank you, your editor

Time to Get Ready for Rock Hunting

Mimi Lancsak and Mickey Snook

Anybody can find a rock.

The bears are waking, spring is coming, it's time to get prepared. Research areas and gather your gear. Find Different places you want to hunt ex: grass, hills, bare ground, creeks.

- How is your health – can you do the hike? Can you carry the weight? Tip: start walking or exercising before spring arrives to get in shape.
- Don't go alone. Let someone know where you're going.
- What are you looking for – prairie agates, petrified wood, fossils, bubble gums, fairburns, coral?
- Are you taking kids or pets with you? Know the danger – if snakes appear – stop, slowly and quietly walk the other way. Rattlers travel in pairs. Also watch for cactus, skunks and big putti tats. Taking a pet – not recommended.
- Take food and water. Pack it in, pack it out. Carry an emergency kit in your car. Good to have a cell phone and gps.
- Weather – good time to go is after a rain because things get shiny but don't forget the gumbo. What is your best time of the day for you to hunt?
- Maps – get the latest edition, new updates on land swaps (go to forest service centers, Bandland visitor center, Wall or Hot Springs)
- Equipment – rock hammer, backpack or small bucket, rock scooper, can or walking stick, spray bottle with water because you can't wait to get home and see what you found or any other tool you found helpful.
- Optimal times – early morning while the dew is still there. Rocks are shiny and jump out at you.
- Know the law – forest service, grassland, private property. Contact a club, read books, browse the internet, or call a rockhound for other helpful information.

Now it's time to hunt.

Looking for something specific like fossil, prairie agate or fairburn, then you need to know the location for where that can be found. Start looking for a pattern like a prairie agate then you'll find other things. If you see it, like it, pick it up. Beginners or a child will pick up any kind of rock, ask what it is, get attached and take it home because the rock is pretty. By having a more knowledgeable person with them, a child or newbie can learn what to look for and ask all the common questions when a rock is picked up like – what is this? Enjoy the day, enjoy the scenery and take your time. Don't try too hard.

If someone is color blind or has a disability, listen to them because they have some good tips. Be understanding of a person with a disability, everyone can learn something.

Now it's the end of the day, you're getting tired and it's time to go home. Be happy, smile and enjoy your finds.

HAPPY ROCKHOUNDING!

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.

Colorado Mineral and Fossil Spring Show

Dates: 4/12/2024 - 4/14/2024

Hours: Friday & Saturday 10AM-6PM Sunday 10AM-5PM

Crowne Plaza DIA

15500 East 40th Avenue

DENVER, CO 80239

Website: <http://www.rmgmpromotions.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RMGMineralandfossilshows>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/RMGMPromotions>

Body Mind Spirit Expo

Dates: 4/5/2024 - 4/7/2024

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

Colorado Springs Event Center

3960 Palmer Park Blvd

Colorado Springs, CO

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

Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club Gem Show

Dates: 4/6/2024 - 4/7/2024

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

Lancaster Event Center

84th and Havelock Ave

Lincoln, NE 68508

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

Miles City Gem & Mineral Show

Dates: 4/27/2024 - 4/28/2024

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

Custer County Fairgrounds

42 Garryowen Rd

Miles City, MT

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/people/Miles-City-Gem-Mineral-Club/100085057008520/>

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

I am leaving this blank this month because I am again asking for new material.

Please help me out!