



MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CENTRAL DAKOTA GEN & MINERAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 2445, Bismarck, ND 581 2
SERVING BISMARCK, MANDAN, AND SURROUNDING AREAS IN
NORTH DAKOTA

Gen & Bill Buresh, Eds.
DIGGIN'S FROM DAKOTA
44 Captain Marsh Drive
Mandan, ND 58554

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March, 1992

RMFMS - 2nd PLACE, SMALL BULLETINS, 1987
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DIGGIN'S FROM DAKOTA

Published by the CENTRAL DAKOTA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 2445, Bismarck, ND 58502

Member of:
ROCKY MOUNTAIN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES
and
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES



Organized March, 1966

- OBJECT: 1. To further the study of mineralogy and geology;
2. To arrange field trips to collect minerals, gems, and fossils;
3. To assist its members to improve in the art of cutting, polishing, and mounting gem material;
4. To provide opportunities for the exchange, purchase, and exhibition of specimens and materials; and
5. To share knowledge about gems, minerals, and activities of the Society with the general public. --Article, CDGMS Constitution

MEETINGS: First Sunday of each month in the meeting room, Capital Electric Building, Highway 83 north of Bismarck, ND; 7:00 p.m., April through October; 2:00 p.m., November-March. EARLY CLASS: One-half hour before meeting. VISITORS ARE WELCOME.

ANNUAL DUES: Family - \$8.00; Individual Adult - \$6.00; Individual Junior - \$3.00

1992 OFFICERS:

President - - - John Atwood, 1026 N. 10th St., Bismarck, ND 58501 - - - 222-0389
Vice President - Harold Brady, 1401 Sunny Road, Mandan, ND 58445 - - - 663-3903 or 04
Treasurer - - - Lenora Opp, 3269 East Capitol Ave., Bismarck, ND 58501 - - 222-0679
Secretary - - - Betty Mautz, Rt 1 Box 368, Garrison, ND 58540 - - - 337-5775

COMM. CHAIRMEN: (1991)

PROGRAM: John Atwood	222-0389	EARLY CLASS: John Atwood	222-0389
Russ Oliger-255-6440/ Ray Oliger	223-4986	Harold Brady	663-3903
HOSP.--LUNCH: Nettie Nelson	462-3680	FEDERATION REP.: Melvin Anderson	223-3558
Carol Hickle	794-3342,	GREETER: Betty Mautz	337-5775
Emma Brady	663-3903 or -3904	LIBRARIAN/HISTORIAN: Sue Randall	223-1625
HOSP.--CARDS: Viola Anderson	223-3558	PARLIAMENTARIAN: Al Hartl	258-0761
FIELD TRIP: Norman Mautz	337-5775	PUBLICITY: Edna Mausehund	782-4291
John Campbell	223-6754	STAMP CHR.: Doris Hickle	794-3137
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ANNUAL SHOW 1991: Rodney Hickle	794-3342, Ray Oliger	223-4986, Harold Brady	663-3903
RMFMS-STATE DIRECTOR FOR ND: Betty Mautz,	Rt 1 Box 368, Garrison ND	58540	337-5775

All members are encouraged to submit articles/news for publication.

Material for the bulletin should reach the editor by the 10th of each month.

Advertisements from members will be accepted for the bulletin. (\$2.00 for 1/8 page)

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NORTH DAKOTA'S 18TH ANNUAL
GEM AND MINERAL SHOW
Community Center - Mandan, ND
SEPT. 26-27, 1992

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VOL. 27 No. 3

MARCH 1992

NEXT MEETING Apr. 5, 1992, 7:00 p.m., Capital Electric
 PROGRAM Speaker--John Atwood
 EARLY CLASS, 1:30 p.m.
 LUNCH COMMITTEE: Verl & Edna Mausehund and Elma
 Rambough



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Another month has come and gone. Spring is almost here and summer is not far away.

As we prepare to go into the field we need to be reminded of safety. A field trip is no fun for anyone injured nor for the friends of those injured. Please always be careful so that we can all have fun.

John Atwood

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mar. 21 BISMARCK, ND--Future Rockhounds of America, 7:00 p.m., Capital Electric Bldg., Highway 83 North of Bismarck
 Mar. 21 BISMARCK, ND--ND Paleontological Soc. Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Capital Electric Bldg., Highway 83 North of Bismarck. Visitors welcome.
 Mar. 21-22 LINCOLN, NE--Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, 24th Annual Show
 Mar. 28-29 MINNEAPOLIS, MN--Anoka Co. Gem & Min. Club Show, Apache Plaza
 Apr. 5 BISMARCK, ND--Central Dakota Gem & Mineral Soc., Capital Electric Bldg., Highway 83 North of Bismarck. Early Class-6:30 p.m., Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Visitors welcome.

FEDERATION SHOWS - 1992

CFMS	EFMS	AFMS/MWFMS	RMFMS	SCFMS	NWFMS
HAYWARD, CA Aug. 21-23	HARRISBURG, PA Sept. 19-20	CLEVELAND, OH July 23-26	WICHITA, KS Apr. 24-26	ALPINE, TX Apr. 17-19	BUTTE, MT Jul. 31-Aug. 1-2

Central Dakota Gem & Mineral Society's 18th Annual Show
 SHOW COMMITTEE: RODNEY HICKLE, HAROLD BRADY, and RAY OLIGER
 THEME: "COME AND EXPLORE--EARTH'S TREASURES ON PARADE"
 September 26-27, 1992
 MANDAN COMMUNITY CENTER -- MANDAN, NORTH DAKOTA

NEW TREASURER SELECTED

At the March meeting Lenora A. Opp was nominated and elected to serve as treasurer for the remainder of the year. Her address: 3269 E. Capitol Ave., Bismarck, ND 58501----222-0678.

DUES ARE PAST DUE

The year "1992" or "'92" should appear on the mailing label for your copy of the "Diggin's" if your dues for this year were paid by Jan. 1. If the label still says "1991" or "'91", notice of your payment of current dues has not yet reached the editors. If you have paid dues since Jan. 1, the records will show it by the next meeting on April 5. The alphabetized list will be included for members in the April bulletin. We hope your name will be on that list!

EDITORS' TRIP TO ARIZONA

The editors spent the week of Feb. 19-26 enjoying the hospitality of and visiting friends (former neighbors) who now live in Wickenburg, AZ. We flew to Phoenix and drove the 50 miles to Wickenburg. We later learned a tornado had touched down in Apache Junction, just southeast of Phoenix, while we were trying to follow the maze northwest from the Phoenix airport.

The weather was balmy and humid. They already had exceeded their average of seven and one-half inches of annual rainfall in Wickenburg. The desert blooms were just emerging. They should be gorgeous this year after all the rain!

Wickenburg, with a population of about 5,000, appears to revel in a relaxed atmosphere. The surrounding "suburbia" consisting of "ranchettes" of from 5 to 40 acres adds about another 5,000 residents to the area.

The parents of Vice President Dan Quayle presently live in the area and one of his brothers has a business there.

The city was observing its 44th annual festival called "Gold Rush Days" which consists of three days of typical western entertainment--parade, rodeo, melodrama, barbecue, gun fights, dances, exhibits, annual gem and mineral show, carnival, a big outdoor arts and craft show, and many food booths. The Camp Verde Saddlebags, a mounted group of horsewomen, delivered a special shipment of mail to Wickenburg the first day of the festival, after a ride of more than 80 miles in two days. The activities reminded us of Mandan's rodeo and "Art in the Park" festival or the Folkfest in Bismarck.

The gem and mineral show is held in a room in their library, near the parade route and arts and craft booths. The show consisted of thirteen exhibits displaying primarily local collectables. A special exhibit of turquoise and turquoise look-alikes was provided by the Arizona Mineral Museum of Phoenix. There were four dealers and lots of door prizes.

Another attraction was the local museum with an extensive collection of mining tools plus dishes, clothing, and household items from pioneer days. --by Bill Buresh

...Agates that look like wood; agates with almost clear silica gel; possible cause for wavy-lined fortifications of Montana agates; and limb casts--silica gel-filled cavities remaining after tree limbs disintegrated.

POLISHING TIPS
by Chuck Hull

Two questions the beginner often asks about cabochon polishing are: "What's the best kind of buff?" and "What's the best kind of polishing powder?" Like as not he will hasten to add, "I'm having trouble getting a good polish with my felt buff and tin oxide, and I'm wondering if I shouldn't try leather with cerium." Or, "So-and-so is using a muslin buff with Linde A and, man, does he get a polish! Maybe that's the combination I should be using."

Well, the truth, of course, is that all of the above combinations are good, but until the beginner PREPARES HIS CABS PROPERLY, no combination of buff and polishing powder will give him the polish he is looking for. I would say use what you have, whatever it may be. I have never been able to tell if the best polishing agent was any one of a dozen different kinds that you see advertised in the magazines. They will all do a good job, and while eventually most of us will favor one or another, the beginner should be assured that there is really very little difference between any of them.

The simple secret of a good polish, as any veteran can tell you, depends a great deal upon the preliminary sanding or lapping. This is extremely important. You can't get a good polish on an" cab or flat without the preliminary proper sanding. Many experts use a well-worn 600-grit belt as the final sanding, which gives the stone the appearance of having been polished, but then the polishing agent and buff can finish the job. It requires a trained eye and careful inspection with a good glass to detect scratches that will not buff out quickly and completely.

If you can't get the scratches out of your cabs with very little buffing, don't expect much improvement by changing buffs or polishing compounds. Instead concentrate on your preliminary finishing; it can't be emphasized too much. Maybe that old buff is O.K. after all. _ From Black Hills Prospector, via Beehive Buzzer 1/92



SAFETY WARNING:

MALACHITE COULD BE DANGEROUS TO
YOUR HEALTH

Malachite is one of the outstanding color gemstones; however, great care must be exercised in working with it as it is poisonous in the raw state. First, never lick malachite to see the color. If you wet your finger to apply it to the stone, do not put it back in your mouth for a second wetting.

Also, grinding it wet use caution, and wear a mask when grinding it dry or polishing. When cutting it on the saw, do not get contaminated oil on your skin for any length of time. If you smoke, you can tell very easily if you are getting malachite dust because your smoke will be getting sickeningly sweet. The reason for this sweet taste is that the copper oxide dust mixes with the moisture in your mouth, and combination reacts on the tar of the tobacco, turning it into saccharin, an artificial sweetener.

From Rockfinder, via MMS Conglomerate,
THE ROCKY READER 9/91

REDWOOD FAMILY

About forty species of sequoias (*Sequoia*) flourished in Northern Hemisphere forests some 60 million years ago. Only two species survive. Both are evergreen trees found principally in California; both have a high resistance to fire, insects, and disease, which accounts largely for their great age. Baldcypresses (*Taxodium*) are the only other native North American members of the redwood family. Other genera occur in Asia.

TREES OF NORTH AMERICA

DINUBA

A true slice of Americana a section of petrified sequoia tree that fell about twenty-four million years ago was ensured preservation when it was donated to the Smithsonian Institution by the owner of a Dinuba sawmill.

The petrified rock, called a "national treasure" by the institution, was one of eight slices salvaged when the sequoia tree was recovered a few years ago near Madras, Oregon. Six of the surfaces were sold to European interests, the seventh piece is in a private collection in Colorado.

John Sampson White, Smithsonian curator in charge of gems and minerals, said he and another institution curator worked for three years to find a buyer of the fine sequoia slice so it could remain in the United States.

White said Ron Yanke, owner of Sequoia Forest Industries, purchased the best of the eight pieces, "This is perhaps the best sample of petrified sequoia ever recovered. It's a national treasure," White said. "If we lost it, it would be a tragedy."

White was on hand as Yanke donated the rock, approximately six feet in diameter by three inches thick, to the Smithsonian in a brief ceremony in from the sawmill.

The agreement with the institution allows for the sequoia to be transported to schools, fairs, and other events for two years. Yanke had the rock mounted into a mobile exhibit so it can be displayed.

He said the petrified sequoia will travel around California for the first year before it is taken through Oregon, Montana and Idaho.

Yanke said he wanted the rock to stay in the United States. He would not say how much he paid for the sequoia section.

We wanted to make sure the American people got to see it. White estimated that more than a million people will see the rock each year.

The tree was about two hundred sixty years old when it fell in a forest during the Miocene Era. After it was unearthed, the twenty-one ton section of the petrified sequoia was sent to Vermont for cutting. During unloading, half of the tree shattered and only eight slices were recovered.

Herbert Zuhl, a New York man who specializes in petrified wood saved a piece to sell to someone who would donate it to the institution. He held onto it for three years while we struggled to find a donor. Yanke stepped forward and came to our rescue, White said.

From F k Tok 6/89, via Sooner Rockologist 1/90





"BERG TURNS HOBBY INTO BUSINESS"

That is the headline for an article with photos about CDGLMS members, Melvin and Agnes Berg of Underwood, ND in a recent issue of the *Washburn Leader*. The article, written by Linda Hermanson of the paper staff, relates how a hobby involving rocks and gemstones has developed into a business named "M & A GEMSTONES." ("M" for Melvin and "A" for Agnes). The article outlines their combined participation in the project.

The article states that most of their work is done in the basement of their Underwood home, which, like the basements of most rockhounds, is packed with stones in varying stages of development.

The roots of the business go back to the 1950s when they were spending winters in Arizona, collecting rocks in the deserts and mountains and returning back to North Dakota each year with a car full of precious stones. Mel states that some pretty nice stones also can be found right here in North Dakota.

Mel does the shaping and polishing and mounts the larger pieces,--"belt buckles, bolos, etc., but the arthritis in his hands makes working with smaller pieces difficult, so Agnes puts the necklaces, earrings, and other small pieces together," he stated.

"Most of the marketing is done through art and craft shows. Along with the jewelry, they display and sell Agnes' paintings and handmade paper cards.

"Their most recent showing was at the Underwood Jaycees craft and bake sale in December. They have also tried some flea markets but discovered that people there are looking for something-for-nothing and apparently don't realize how much goes into handmade gemstone jewelry.

"It's interesting work and I love it," Mel says. "In my life I have had many, many jobs, but I like this gemstone work the best of all." Reprinted by permission.

the ROCKY MOUNTAIN DIGEST



An official publication of the RMFMS issued in the even months of the year to member clubs. Neither the DIGEST nor the NEWS can be exchanged with individual, non-federation club newsletters. The RMFMS exists to help educate members in collecting, studying and fashioning earth science objects. Editor is Ruby Lingelbach, 1116 S. Gray Stillwater, OK 74074. The RMFMS is a Regional Member of AFMS.



FEBRUARY 1992

Volume 13 Number 2

FEDERATION DUES ARE DUE

For some reason the words in the title of this message causes some clubs to have long discussions about paying their dues when they ought to look at this as an opportunity to promote our hobby of rockhunting.

"There is no free lunch" applies as well in rockhunting as any where else. I know we like to think we are free to hunt on public lands, but if that still exists--and it may not in the future (near future, even)--it is because of the efforts of a lot of volunteers known as The Rocky Mountain Federation, the five other regional Federations and the American Federation. These volunteers give of their time and money to help retain the privilege of hunting rocks on public lands.

From previous presidents' messages you know that of the past annual R.M.F. operating budgets, about 30% came from interest on savings accounts, 30% from the return on Federation Shows and 40% from the 50¢ dues. (25¢ of the 75¢ you pay to the RMFMS Treasurer goes to the American Federation as dues).

Interest rates are down this year so our income is down; show profits are down because of higher costs, so more of our budget must come from dues. The 75¢ per member we pay has got to be the biggest bargain around. You all know that 50¢ does not go very far anymore. Therefore I have asked the Long Range Planning Committee to propose a revision to the Articles of Incorporation to increase the dues. As you may know this change has to be reported 60 days in advance of the Annual Meeting on April 25, 1992, to the Federation Secretary and then immediately to the clubs.

Think about what 50¢ would buy back in 1981, the last dues increase, and what it will now. I think you will agree that dues must be raised.

--Coffee, on the average, is MORE than 50¢ a cup; if you get pop from a dispenser it is 75¢ for one can or bottle most of the time.

A dues increase will be discussed and action taken at the Annual House of Delegates Meeting, April 25 at the Federation Show in Wichita.
--See you there.

G. Art Pavin, President

--AND THIS FROM OUR TREASURER

Thank you, if you are one of the clubs that have already sent in your 1992 dues. We were a month late in getting our dues notices out due to the fact that our outgoing Treasurer, Melvin Anderson, suffered a heart attack at the time of transferring the paperwork to me.

We are thankful that Melvin is now on the way to complete recovery.

For those who have not sent in their dues--we thank you because we know that they will be in the mail real soon.

If all member clubs get their dues in before January 15 or at the latest, February 1, we will not have to send reminders out and will therefore save some money on postage for "PAST DUE" notices. We are, at the present time, a little over half way there, which is good considering the late start.

On another matter: I keep the records of RMFMS equipment and need to know who has the Smith Corona, Super 12, # 6LEF 5915 736 typewriter. If you have it, let me know please.

Keith Price, Treasurer.

THE JANUARY ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS has articles on Paleozoic Terrestrial Plants by Fred Labahn, An Update on the Stumpf Site by Jonathan Campbell Refining Gold by Jerry Bullock, Tomboy by Sue Kurtz, and much more. Ask to see a copy.

RECOGNITION OF LAPIDARY EXCELLENCE (R.O.L.E. PROGRAM)

(Material sent by Edward J. Clay, Houston Gem & Mineral Society.)

A Program to stimulate and improve the lapidary arts of the members of the Houston Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.

GOAL:

To encourage members to improve his or her ability to achieve proficiency in the art of cabochon making.

LEVELS OF ACHIEVEMENT:

Five levels of achievement will be recognized, each with definite objectives to be accomplished. The expectations as far as difficulty and use of materials will be more demanding as one achieves and reaches succeeding levels. Levels of achievement are as follows: 1) NOVICE, 2) APPRENTICE 3) PROFESSIONAL 4) MASTER, and 5) ARTISAN.

NOVICE:

To earn NOVICE status you must finish two oval stones of the designated size and using the two materials listed below.

40 x 30	agate
30 x 22	obsidian

Each stone must receive a score of at least 75 points evaluated according to the table found [in the March ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS]. EVERYONE BEGINS AT THE NOVICE LEVEL, REGARDLESS OF LAPIDARY EXPERIENCE!

APPRENTICE:

To earn APPRENTICE status you must first pass the NOVICE level and in addition complete 6 stones of the following sizes using the listed materials. Any size stone can be made from any of the listed materials, however each material and each size must be represented.

24 x 10	agate
14 x 10	obsidian
13 x 18	petrified wood
38mm round	jasper
30mm round	rhodonite
30 x 40 teardrop	serpentine

Each stone must be evaluated and have earned a score of at least 80 points

PROFESSIONAL:

To earn PROFESSIONAL status a person must first pass the APPRENTICE level and in addition complete the following 10 stones using the materials listed. Any size stone can be made from any of the listed materials, however each

material and each size must be represented.

SIZE	MATERIAL
10 x 18 oval	petrified wood
12 x 10 oval	jasper
16 x 12 oval	rhodonite
dime round	opal
penny	jade
heart	feldspar family
cross	serpentine
keystone	tiger eye
free form	malachite
square	onyx

Each stone must earn at least 85 points on the R.O.L.E. scale. (This will be in the March issue of THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS.)

MASTER:

To earn MASTER status you must first pass the PROFESSIONAL level and in addition complete the following 12 stones using the materials listed. Any size stone can be made from any of the listed materials, however each material and each size must be represented.

SHAPE OR KIND	MATERIAL
cat's eye	opal
star stone	turquoise
doublet	amethyst
double sided teardrop	garnet
double round	jade
double sided square	feldspar family
double sided heart	tiger eye
two freeforms	malachite
three stones of choice	onyx
	chatoyant stone

All stones must be evaluated at a score of 90 or more. Any member reaching the MASTER level status will automatically become a R.O.L.E. Program Committee member and serve as a lifetime judge on a standby basis.

ARTISAN:

To earn ARTISAN status one must first pass the MASTER level and in addition complete the following 15 stones. Any except those especially designated can be made from material of the member's choice.

SHAPE OR KIND: triplet, fire agate, fire opal, sphere, inlay, intarsia and 9 stones of the member's choice representing exemplary expertise. All stones must be evaluated at a score of 95 points or more.

(Evaluation point formula, how to submit cabs, judging guide, etc. will be in the March NEWS.)