

# DIGGIN'S FROM DAKOTA



MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CENTRAL DAKOTA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 2445, Bismarck, ND 58502

SERVING BISMARCK, MANDAN, AND SURROUNDING AREAS IN

NORTH DAKOTA

Gen Buresh, Editor  
DIGGIN'S FROM DAKOTA  
44 Captain Marsh Drive  
Mandan, ND 58554

**FIRST CLASS**

# DIGGIN' S FROM DAKOTA



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

Member,

Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies  
and

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies



- 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 II, CDGMS Constitution

MEETINGS: First Sunday of each month in the Hospitality Room, Capital Electric Building on Highway 83, north of Bismarck; 7:30 p.m. from April through October and 2:30 p.m., November - March. VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.

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

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN, 1981:

|                              |                                       |                    |          |          |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|----------|----------|
| President                    | Mary Beth Osborn                      | 310 - 12th Ave. NW | Mandan   | 663-1056 |
| Vice President               | William A. Buresh                     | 44 Capt. Marsh Dr. | Mandan   | 663-5397 |
| Secretary                    | Jane Lanz                             | 600 - 13th St. NW  | Mandan   | 663-8621 |
| Treasurer                    | Ronald P. Wandler                     | 336 Shady Lane     | Bismarck | 255-4947 |
|                              | Program Chr. Earle Campbell           | 1134 N. 28th St.   | Bismarck | 255-3658 |
|                              | Hospitality (Lunch) Chr. Leota Jensen | 1400 - 5th Ave. NW | Mandan   | 663-8217 |
| Clip stamp on reverse side ) | Field Trip Chr. Merle Lanz            | 600 - 13th St. NW  | Mandan   | 663-8621 |
|                              | Annual Show Chr. Don Campbell         | 1119 Memorial, #17 | Bismarck | 258-1194 |
|                              | OTHER APPOINTMENTS, 1981:             |                    |          |          |
|                              | Bulletin Editor Gen Buresh            | 44 Capt. Marsh Dr. | Mandan   | 663-5397 |
|                              | Early Class Harold Brady              | 1401 Sunny Road    | Mandan   | 663-3904 |
|                              | Federation Rep. Bill Buresh           | 44 Capt. Marsh Dr. | Mandan   | 663-5397 |
|                              | Greeter Mel Anderson                  | 1521 LaForest Ave. | Bismarck | 223-3558 |
|                              | Librarian-Hist. Glenn Michaels        | 1700 N. 4th St.    | Bismarck | 258-8417 |
|                              | Parliamentarian Al Hartl              | 1111 North 1st St. | Bismarck | 258-0761 |
|                              | Publicity Leota Jensen                | 1400 - 5th Ave. NW | Mandan   | 663-8217 |

All members are encouraged to submit articles/news for publication during the year. Advertisements from members will also be accepted for the bulletin. Material for the bulletin should reach the editor by the 10th of each month. Permission is given to reprint any article if proper credit is given.



## North Dakota's Annual GEM AND MINERAL SHOW Mandan Community Center

SEPT. 25 - 26, 1981

# DIGGINS FROM DAKOTA

Vol. 16, No. 8

August, 1981

NEXT MEETING: September 13, 1981, 7:30 p.m. (Discussion Class, 6:30 p.m.)

PROGRAM: In Preparation

LUNCH COMMITTEE: Rosa Theis, Vina Anderson, and Sue Randall

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello, everyone,

Summer is passing pretty fast for all of us and it's time to look forward to our September show. This is the time to say it looks like the Show Committee has put together what sounds like an excellent show, but they can still use as much help as we can give them.

Start working on display cases now. After all, our show is not just demonstrations, films, and dealers, but also exhibits. If you don't have a case, there are some available; if not, build your own. That way, you'll have one for other shows.

It takes a lot of hard work, but the end result is worth it. I'm sure Don will appreciate all help available to make his last year as show chairman the best. Remember, it's our show!

Sincerely,

Mary Beth Osborn

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Aug. 21-23 Midway, Wash.--"Nature's Rainbow of Jewels" Show, Northwest Federation  
Sept. 5-7 Omaha, NE--Nebraska State Show  
Sept. 18-20 Williston, ND--Annual Show, Williston Rock and Mineral Club  
Sept. 19-20 Aberdeen, SD--Annual Show, Dakota Glacier Rock Club  
SEPT. 25-26 MANDAN, ND--NORTH DAKOTA'S SEVENTH ANNUAL SHOW, Mandan Community Center,  
sponsored by CENTRAL DAKOTA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY. Show Chairman:  
Don Campbell, 1119 Memorial Highway, Bismarck, ND 58501  
Oct. 9-11 Edina, Minn.--Minnetonka Mineral Club, 1st Annual Show, Southdale  
Mall  
Oct. 17-18 Grand Island, NE--Grand Island Earth Science Society, Inc., Annual  
Gem and Mineral Show  
Dec. 12-13 Minneapolis, Minn.--Anoka County Gem & Mineral Club, 17th Annual  
Show Apache Plaza

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DON'T FORGET TO BRING USED STAMPS

AT THE LAST MEETING--August 2

Club members met for their annual picnic at a shelter at a beautiful site in General Sibley Park south of Bismarck near the Missouri River. The meeting was called to order at the scheduled time of 4:00 p.m.

President Mary Beth Osborn reminded members of the previous vote to change the date of the next meeting to Sept. 13 because of Labor Day. (Mark your calendars now!--Ed.)

Rod Hickie, Field Trip Co-Chairman, reported members attending had an interesting field trip to the Broste Museum in Parshall, ND, on July 26, with an additional stop for "hunting" on the way home.

Merle Lantz, Field Trip Co-Chairman, announced a field trip to the ginkgo beds north of Almont on Sunday, Aug. 9. Those members attending were to meet one mile north of the Almont Interchange at 11:00 a.m. Central Time.

Don Campbell, Show Chairman, reported that the Show Committee has completed all major details for the show on Sept. 25-26. The mailed advertising has all been sent and local advertising arranged, the building contract signed, and arrangements made for the food concession stand to be open during the show. Posters for the show will be distributed to members at the next meeting to deliver or put up wherever feasible.

A report of the Constitutional Revision Committee prepared by Al Hartl, Chairman, was read in his absence by Gen Buresh. The report consisted of four proposed amendments to the constitution. The report will be printed in the bulletin, with voting to take place at the September meeting.

Harold Brady, "greeter" pro tem, reported there were thirty-three adults and six children present.

Guests included Jana Mausehund, granddaughter of Verl and Edna Mausehund; Kim Parks, a guest of Mary Harvey; and Colleen Boehm, a guest of the Ron Wandler family.

A junior door prize, the second hand-crafted rock hammer for juniors made and donated by Ron Wandler, was won by Jana Mausehund.

The adult door prize, a key chain with a large square piece of sponge decorated to look like granite and donated by Sue Randall, was won by Orma Swanick.

Instead of a program, the business meeting was followed by the annual picnic supper, with much good food and good fellowship.

The lunch committee announced for September includes Rosa Theis, Vina Anderson, and Sue Randall.

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FIELD TRIP, August 26

by Rod Hickie, Field Trip Co-Chairman

A number of club members drove to Parshall, ND, on July 26 to visit the Broste Museum. A special feature there is a large collection of polished spheres in a wide variety of sizes and stones. Some are mounted on specially designed metal "trees" surrounded with mirrored walls which reflect the spheres to create an unusual effect. There are also many cases of specimens and fossils.

Also on display are antiques owned by the museum founder, the late Paul Broste, as well as some of his paintings. The building itself is made of native rock, with the entrance floor made of rock from other countries.

For this double-featured field trip, on the way home the caravan made a pre-arranged stop at a gravel pile, where they found agate and some oddities.

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"Coming together  
is a beginning;

Keeping together  
is progress;

Working together  
is success."

FIELD TRIP--August 9

by Merle Lanz, Field Trip Co-Chairman

Five families and one junior member were represented on the field trip to the glauco beds north of Almont on Sunday, August 9. The group enjoyed the pleasant summer day and good hunting. A number of good leaf fossils were found (but no fish this trip).

Attending were Ray and Leota Jensen, Earle and Blossomae Campbell, John Campbell, Glenn Michaels, Don Campbell, and Merle and Jane Lanz.

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ARTISTRY IN NATURE

Here is an article from an exchange bulletin which deals with our 1981 show theme, "Artistry in Nature."--

Although those regal minerals, the gemstones, owe their beauty to the skilled hand of a gem cutter, Nature's own artistry with more lowly minerals is often equally breathtaking. The colors of a polished piece of jasper are like a dazzling Oriental landscape painting. (Picture Jasper) A fine-grained form of quartz, jasper forms under intense heat deep in the earth. The delicate brushstroke-like swirls of color come about from varicolored iron and manganese impurities trapped in it at the time of its formation.

Nature's artistry sometimes takes unexpected turns. At first glance, even an expert might be deceived by the lacy branching pattern on a cracked slab of shale, so close is its resemblance to a fossil impression of an ancient fern. But this fossil is a dendritic (tree-like) crystal growth of mineral, manganese oxide. Moisture containing dissolved manganese oxide seeped into a fissure in the shale, crystallized there and was exposed only when the shale was broken up into slabs.

Another example of mineral mimicry of living things occurs in the formation of barium sulfate crystals. When

crystals of this mineral develop in sand, the crystal structure becomes rounded and softens into petal shapes. (Roselike)

As cleverly conceived as a piece of contemporary metal sculpture is a pyrite crystal formation. Better known as "fool's gold," pyrite's crystal faces develop chiefly in the shape of cubes. When the faces of the growing crystals intersect, complex geometric forms are born that would delight the most sophisticated connoisseur of modernistic sculpture.

I think I see the hand of God in these beauties! --from the Reader's Digest, "The World Around Us," via "Chips from the Rock Pile," August 1980

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CHATOYANCY

This word is a contraction of two French words "chat", cat, used to describe odd light reflection phenomenon and "oeil", eye.

The cat's eye effect is a sharp single band of light running like a brilliant slit across an oval-shaped stone. The light band is made up of multiple reflections from thousands of needle-like inclusions in the gemstone. They all run parallel to each other. The thinner and more numerous the inclusions in the gemstone, the sharper and brighter the eye. The structures may be mineral species, rutile or extremely thin empty capillary tubes.

Those "eyes" occur in chrysoberyl, tourmaline, ruby, sapphire, garnet, spinel, and quartz.

If needles line up in 2 or 3 directions, 2 or 3 bands are reflected. Thus rubies and sapphires may show asterism--or star effect--displaying chatoyancy in 3 directions with the light bands intersecting at a single point. --from "Tulip City Conglomerate" via "The Rockhound Scoop," March, 1981



Report of "Ad Hoc"  
Constitutional Revision Committee

Your "Ad Hoc" constitutional revision committee respectfully recommends for favorable consideration the following proposed amendments.

1. Article III, Item b. Delete all wording after the comma, leaving only the words "Individual Adult Membership"  
(Rationale: Deleted wording is redundant)
2. Article VI, Section 1. After the word "needed" on line 3, insert the words "unless otherwise provided."  
(Rationale: To provide for possible amendments which might modify the duties of the president such as item 4 which follows.)
3. Article VII. Add a new section 5 "It shall be the objective of the society to confine its business sessions to not more than 45 minutes."  
(Rationale: There is a growing feeling among members that we are spending an inordinate amount of time on administrative detail to the detriment of program--hopefully this new section will motivate officers to restore a better balance.)
4. Article X, Section 2. In the first line substitute "Prior to" for the word "At" and substitute "Executive Board" for the word "president". After "year," add a new sentence, "The committee shall be announced at the October meeting."  
(Rationale: To allow a broader input into the nominating process and to inhibit the possibility of self-perpetuation in philosophy, this change is recommended. Also by announcing the committee at the October meeting the entire membership will know to whom they may go to give suggestions.)

Respectfully submitted,

Harold Brady  
Gen Buresh  
Al Hartl

Presented at the regular meeting on August 2, 1981.

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For clarification, the present section of the constitution recommended for revision by the Constitutional Revision Committee is printed in the left column on the next page. In the right column is the same section of the constitution if amended as proposed. New words proposed for each section are underlined.



CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION, cont.Present Section in Constitution

ARTICLE II. MEMBERSHIP. Section 1.  
b. Individual Adult Membership, which shall include single adults.

ARTICLE VI. DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

Section 1. The President shall preside over all meetings of the Society and its Executive Board; appoint all committees specified in the Constitution and others as needed; declare an office vacant when an officer has been absent for three consecutive meetings without cause; be responsible for carrying out the object of this Society; countersign all checks issued; and shall be ex officio a member of all committees except the Nominating Committee.

ARTICLE VII. MEETINGS. Section 5.  
(Proposed new section)

ARTICLE X. COMMITTEES. Section 2.  
At the October meeting the President shall appoint a NOMINATING COMMITTEE consisting of a chairman and two additional members to nominate a slate of officers for the coming year.

Same Section, If Amended as Proposed,  
New Words Underlined

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP. Section 1.  
b. Individual Adult Membership.

ARTICLE VI. DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

Section 1. The President shall preside over all meetings of the Society and its Executive Board; appoint all committees specified in the Constitution and others as needed, unless otherwise provided; declare an office vacant when an officer has been absent for three consecutive meetings without cause; be responsible for carrying out the object of this Society; countersign all checks issued; and shall be ex officio a member of all committees except the Nominating Committee.

ARTICLE VII. MEETINGS. Section 5.  
It shall be the object of the Society to confine its business sessions to not more than 45 minutes.

ARTICLE X. COMMITTEES. Section 2.  
Prior to the October meeting the Executive Board shall appoint a NOMINATING COMMITTEE consisting of a chairman and two additional members to nominate a slate of officers for the coming year. The committee shall be announced at the October meeting.

NOTE: Please bring this bulletin with you to the next meeting for reference during discussion of these proposed amendments. Also bring your copy of the constitution.--Ed.

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SHOP TIPS -- No doubt you have heard that it is better to polish certain stones at a slower speed. If you don't have a speed control on your polisher, just work the center of your disk. What you are concerned about is the "surface speed." Remember that your disk surface in one complete revolution at two inches from the center will travel 6.26 inches, and at 8 inches it will travel 25.12 inches. So you should use the area near the center for slower polishing speeds and the outer surface for faster polishing speeds. --from "Ozark Earth Science News" via "Korn Krib News"

Denim iron-on patches make excellent polishing disks. from "The Geode"

THE ROCKHOUND

Who's the stranger, Mother dear? Look, he knows us. Ain't he queer?

Hush, my child, don't talk too wild; he's your father, dearest child.

He's my father? No such thing! Father died a way last spring.

Father didn't die, you dub; Father joined the Rockhound Club.

But now the snow has come and so there's no place left for him to go,

No place left for him to roam, that is why he came back home.

Kiss him--he won't bite you, child; all those rockhounds look that wild!

--from "Carry Hound" via "Lowcountry Gem & Mineral Society"

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THIS-N-THAT

It was reported at the last meeting that Pius Fischer was a patient in the Bismarck Hospital, where he was recovering from surgery. Emma reports that he has been convalescing at home since August 9. + + + + +

An article about our club's annual show to be held September 25-26 is printed on page 1086 of the August, 1981 issue of the Lapidary Journal. + + + + +

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TRY WORKING SOME FALSE IVORY

Ask your meat store for some large bones (or save some of your own). Don't cook; just clean off the best you can. Into a large long pan put about  $1\frac{1}{4}$  cups of 20 Mule Team Borax with just enough water to dissolve the borax. Heat to warm temperature, not hot. Put the bones in and soak for three weeks or so. Then wash thoroughly and let dry for several days. Household tools will shape bones; you can use round, flat, or pointed files (even fingernail files) and hacksaw and pocket knife will cut. You can sandpaper and finish with steel wool. Or carve, shape, or drill and polish as you would a cab, but it is much easier to work than stone. You can carve flowers or animals on the bone with a Dremel tool.

If you want the darker "mastodon" ivory, soak in strong coffee. The carved areas will turn darker than the rest and stand out beautifully.

Single pieces of polished and decorated bone can be used for pins, rings, pendants, ear rings, key chain charms, or scarf slides. Square or oblong links cut from lengthwise strips of bone can be used for bracelets after polishing/decorating by drilling holes in two sides of each link and connecting the links with jumprings and a clasp or by drilling holes through each link and stringing them on round elastic.

You can try etching and filling in a design with India ink for bone scrimshaw.

--adapted from "Gemrock" via "Halite Hilites", March 1981

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ALLOTROPISM -- An element that occurs in more than one crystal form, as carbon, which in hexagonal form is graphite and in cubic form is diamond. --from "The Pick and Dop Stick" via "The Rock Vein"