

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
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	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

NEXT MEETING: August 2, 1981, 4:00 p.m., followed by PICNIC SUPPER --
Sibley Park, South of Bismarck, ND on South Washington Street
PROGRAM: ANNUAL PICNIC (Recreation - 3:00; Meeting - 4:00; Picnic Supper - 5:00)
LUNCH COMMITTEE AND CLEAN-UP: All Members

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello, Everyone,

I'm glad to be back at the meetings again. Even missing one meeting makes it seem like I've been away a long time.

The Show-and-Tell at the last meeting was fun to watch. I hope members will continue to bring specimens from field trips as well as purchased materials. I think members are interested in what they can find locally. Seeing these materials helps all of us on field trips. North Dakota has interesting material, too!

Congratulations to Bob Randall and Bill and Gen Buresh for their awards. It takes a lot of hard work to achieve these and, I think, few of us realize this. I hope everyone has a chance to see them. Bob definitely has me interested in fluorescents.

The next meeting is our picnic. This is the time that we can "let loose" and enjoy ourselves outdoors. Everyone come so that we can make this one of the best meetings we have had. I'm planning on seeing everyone and their families there.

Mary Beth Olson

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 26	Field Trip, Parshall & Riverdale, ND--Central Dakota Gem & Min. Soc.
Aug. 2	Bismarck, ND--Regular Meeting & Picnic (Details elsewhere) Central Dakota Gem & Mineral Society
Aug. 8-9	Mitchell, SD--Gem and Mineral Show, Holiday Inn-- Corn Palace Rock Club
Aug. 15-16	Rapid City, SD--Annual Show, Civic Center, Western Dakota Gem & Mineral Society
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, Lakota 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

FIELD TRIP--JULY 26

Rod Hickle, Field Trip Co-Chr.

There will be a field trip to the Paul Broste Museum at Farshall, ND on Sunday, July 26 and a stop at the gravel pit at Riverdale, ND on the way home.

Members are asked to meet at the parking lot of the Red Fox Cafe in Washburn, ND on July 26 at 10:30 a.m., C.D.T.

Rod Hickle reports that he will have some room for passengers.

* * *

AT THE LAST MEETING--July 12

Twenty-two adult members, two juniors, and two junior guests were reported present at the July meeting. Sixteen adults, two juniors and two junior guests were present at the pre-meeting discussion session led by Harold Brady.

The two guests were Tamara and Delvin Giese, Mandan, grandchildren of Ted and Verna Giese.

Carol Hickle served as acting secretary in the absence of the regular secretary.

Bill Buresh gave a short report on the National/RMFMS Show and the Rocky Mountain Federation convention, at which he was a delegate in Salt Lake City in June. He reported that Earle Campbell was elected as the first director of the RMFMS for North Dakota, that Bob Randall won first place trophies for his fluorescent exhibit at the show from both the National and Rocky Mountain Federations, and that the editors of the "Diggin's" won second place for small bulletins in the Rocky Mountain Federation bulletin contest. He also displayed the red ribbon for the "Diggin's" award.

Field Trip Co-Chairman Rod Hickle reported that a field trip is being planned for Sunday, July 26, to the Broste Museum at Farshall, ND, with a stop scheduled at a gravel pile south of Riverdale, ND, on the way home. (Details elsewhere in the "Diggin's".)

Pius Fischer told about demonstrating lapidary techniques for a local Girl Scout group.

The next meeting will be during the picnic at Sibley Park on August 2. Details are printed elsewhere.

The door prize, a bag of rock goodies donated by the Mautz's, was won by Ralph Hickle.

The program consisted of a report by Earle Campbell on the National/Rocky Mountain Federation Show at Salt Lake City. Bob Randall showed the two trophies that he was awarded for his fluorescent display at the show and explained what was involved in preparing an exhibit for competition. Blossomae Campbell and Bob Randall also showed and demonstrated the fluorescence of some of the new specimens which they have acquired.

Lunch was served by Betty Mautz, Ron Wandler, and Carol Hickle.

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HUNTING GEMS IN A SAPPHIRE MINE,

By Norman and Betty Mautz

The Eldorado Bar Sapphire Mine is located ten miles from York, MT, in the gravel hills overlooking the Missouri River. In the 1880's the mine was a gold dredging operation. The last five miles of road to the mine is little more than a trail.

After arriving, we signed in and waited for Bill Goodman to return. This is the last year of Bill's five-year lease on the 300 acres on which the mine is located. Campsites are available with or without electricity and also a modern bathhouse. But the nearest grocery store and phone are ten miles away at York.

You have a choice of digging in the gravel pit or the tailings of the dredging operation. Bill assigns each miner a place and instructs newcomers how to dig. Two rules which must be followed are: no undermining or tunneling and no unauthorized moves.

You can dig in an area as long as you want; no one can take your place. But if you're having no luck, Bill will be glad to assign you a new spot.

After trying to wash the gravel ourselves, we decided to use the concentrator. This is similar to a gold sluice, with the sand and lighter gravels washing away and the sapphires and heavier gravel, hematite, settling to the bottom of a pan. Nine 5-gal. pails of gravel were reduced to about half of a 5-gal. pail. The pan was flipped upside down on a table. The sapphires should then be on top. However, it is best to re-wash the gravel by hand. You can usually find a few more stones the second time.

We found six stones, including one small garnet, that we hope to have faceted, plus some smaller or fractured specimens.

A couple digging near us found a light blue-green sapphire which they estimated to weigh about 10 carats.

We camped next to Paul and Maureen Guidry from El Paso, Texas. They planned to stay a couple days after we left, but they were rained in for a week. Lucky for them! They found about 700 stones--the largest were a 17-carat sapphire, two sapphires about 10 carats each, and a 5-carat ruby.

Maureen also told us that the current lease will not be renewed. The mine has been sold and the new owners may go commercial next season.

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MEMBERS SPEAK AT GIRL SCOUT CAMP

By Emma Fischer

Pius and Emma Fischer gave a demonstration on rocks and lapidary techniques to 120 Girl Scouts of the Sakakawea Council on June 25 at Okan Rusa Day Camp Center north of Mandan, followed by dinner with the Scouts. Other guest demonstrators included club member Duane Robey, whose topic was "Tree Identification." The manager of the Day Camp is Darlene Fairaizl.

EXHIBITS FOR 1981 SHOW

Show time will be here in just two more months! Exhibits are the heart of any gem and mineral show, so if we are looking forward to and expecting another great show, we will have to provide the exhibits to make it great.

I hope that each and every club member is well on the way with plans for a display.

Some of the newer members are already acquiring cases. Adding these to exhibits of past years should make that expectation of a great show come true.

It has been said before that you do not need a new display every year. There will always be people who have not seen it before and others will always take another look and find something different about it--something that they may have overlooked in previous years. I am going to exhibit my "Ginkgo Leaf" display for the seventh consecutive year.

Attached to the "Diggin's" is an exhibitor's application. Do not lay it aside. Fill it out now. Either mail it to me or bring it to the next meeting.

I have already received two applications from individuals who received the form by mail with the publicity packets.

Will your application be next?

Bill Buresh,
1981 Exhibit Chr.

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CORRECTION

The editors wish to apologize to Glenn Michaels for failing to report that he also had an exhibit--a fine case of well-displayed geodes--at the South Dakota State Show in Hot Springs, SD, on May 16-17.

* * * * *

DON'T FORGET TO BRING USED STAMPS TO THE MEETING--HELP THE NEEDY WITH STAMPS

PICNIC--August 2

The annual picnic will again be held in conjunction with the regular meeting next month, which falls on August 2.

Space for the afternoon and evening has been reserved at Sibley Park south of Bismarck, according to Emma Fischer, picnic site chairman. Sibley Park is located on the south end of Washington Street.

It was decided at the June meeting to have a get-together at 3:00 p.m., with the meeting at 4:00 and the picnic supper at 5:00 p.m.

The reservation for the site is listed from noon to 9:00 p.m., according to the chairman, so members can take advantage of the longer time if they wish. If you get there early, look for the reservation notice with the Central Dakota Gem & Mineral Society name on it.

All those coming to the picnic should bring:

For your own family:

- Meat and bread (or sandwiches)
- Beverages (Remember--No glass containers in a city park)
- Dishes/cups/glasses, silverware including serving pieces
- Napkins
- Tablecloth (old)

One dish to share:

- Potato salad, green salad, pickles, or cake

* * * * *

MEMBERSHIPS--Please add these names to your membership list:

- 58. Johnson, Jim (J) 1005 N. 11th St., Bismarck, ND 58501
(Sponsored by Vernie Peterson)
- 59. O'Neill, Owen/Rosella 906-1st Ave. NW Mandan, ND 58554

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EXPERIENCE is what causes a rockhound who has made the same mistake twice, to bust up the third mistake and put it into a tumbler.--Geo-Logic via L. Agassiz R. Nound

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Reprinted from Pioneer Press, Mandan, ND, Dec. 11, 1967. Contributed by Verna Giese.

GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY EXHIBIT

'BIGGER SUCCESS THAN ANTICIPATED'

The Central Dakota Gem and Mineral Society, a rock hound club composed of 48 families, had more than 600 guests at the first exhibit conducted Dec. 2 and 3 at the Lewis and Clark Hotel, Mandan and the Capital Electric Building, Bismarck.

"The success exceeded our expectations," a spokesman for the group stated. "We are just getting started, and this is encouraging."

Ray Barnett, Bismarck was named 1968 president. Jacob Schlosser, Mandan is vice-president and Stanley R. Fairaizl, Mandan, is secretary-treasurer and program chairman.

Prizes were awarded at Mandan to Matt Knoll, Lee Mohr, Otto DeLaBarre, all of Mandan and Mrs. Vernon Giese, Bismarck, and Jake Braumberger, Jamestown. Prizes at Bismarck went to Della Collins, Robert Randall, Bismarck; Sig Rayset, Hettinger and Chris Coyne, Minot.

First officers of the group were Harold Brady, Mandan, president; Sebastian Dosch, Bismarck, vice-president; and Fairaizl, secretary-treasurer.

Seventeen exhibits were contributed by the Messrs. and Meses. Ray Barnett, John Dosch, Sebastian Dosch, Erwin C. Evanson, Richard A. Isaak, Warren Pederson, Joel Ramberg, Earl M. Tonander, John F. Tonander, James F. Tracy, all of Bismarck; Harold Brady, Stanley R. Fairaizl, and Jack Schlosser, Mandan; Theo. Giese, New Salem; Adolph Herring, Rex Herring, Turtle Lake; and Ole Stavin, Wilton.

Regular meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the first Sunday of each month in the Hospitality Room, Capital Electric, Bismarck. Visitors are always welcome and may come to any group meeting.

Official organization of the group took place March 6, 1966. Because the longer title is hard to remember, they often refer to themselves as the "Rock Hounds."

Each person who attended the annual exhibit received an unusual bonus-- attached to his program was a polished gem stone.

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THIS-N-THAT

Don Campbell, Jack and Jeff Harvey, Pius and Emma Fischer, Mary Beth Osborn and Patrick, and Clifford and Delores Barnhart attended the Miles City Show on June 20. They reported enjoying it very much. E. Fischer met a former childhood friend there, Esther Cureke, a former Bismarck resident. ***

Harold and Emma Brady and daughter Pat enjoyed ten days vacationing and rock hunting in the Black Hills in June.***

Glenn Michaels reports that a number of club members attended the fossil-hunting field trip in the Linton area with the Paleontology Club on June 20. ***

Randalls, Earle Campbells, and Bureshes enjoyed visiting with Neil and Ida Brandon at the Ennis Rock Shop in Ennis, MT, on the way to Salt Lake City. The Brandons are dealers at our September show in Mandan. ****

Bob and Sue Randall attended the Gem and Mineral Show in Winnipeg on July 2-5. They reported it was a good show. Bob acquired some new fluorescent specimens to add to his already award-winning collection. ****

Members reported up and about after recent hospitalization are Emma Fischer and Gen Buresh.

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SAWING GEODES--Look for the largest dome on the specimen. This dome was in an upright position while it was formed. Saw through the largest dome and it is likely you will get the best picture. If the specimen is elongated or egg-shaped, saw lengthwise to obtain the best exposure. While there is no certain means to determine the interior of an agate, nodule, thunderegg or geode, these ideas are likely to be beneficial.--from The Rockhound Reporter via Strata Gems, July 1981

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TO POLISH SOAPSTONE: Cut the shape desired with a hand saw. Carve to shape with a knife. Sand with 200 to 400 grit sandpaper. Smooth with 000 steel wool. Heat in strong sunlight or warm oven until warm to the touch. Rub with clear paste wax while talc is still warm.--from Korn Krib News via Lake Agassiz Rock Hound, April 1981

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PERIDOT

In antique jewelry one frequently encounters a clear olive-green stone that once may have been bought for an "evening emerald." In all likelihood, the cutter knew it by no other name, but today it would be identified as peridot, the gem variety of the mineral olivine.

The name comes from the French, thus the last syllable is pronounced "doe". Peridot is one of the few gems that occur in nature in one color only. This is due to the metal iron which forms part of its basic formula.

During the 19th century the source of the ancient stone was the subject of much speculation for no records of their source existed. Since peridot was known in Biblical times and was used by the ancient Egyptians, it was generally thought that the source was somewhere in the eastern Mediterranean area.

It was not until early in the 20th century that the ancient source was re-discovered--on a small island of St. John in the Red Sea. The rocks of this island are composed essentially of olivine in grains too small for gems, but on the eastern side there are veins containing beautiful well-formed crystals. The many shallow pits in this area are no doubt the remains of ancient times. Since their rediscovery, new pits have yielded superb crystals, but the supply is limited.

Other deposits of olivine of gem quality occur in Burma, Ceylon, Australia and Brazil. Two deposits are known to exist in Arizona: one known as Peridot Mesa on the San Carlos Indian Reservation and the second, Peridot Ridge, located north of Fort Defiance near Canyon de Chelly.

The most famous peridot belongs to the USSR and once formed part of the royal Russian regalia. This stone is said to be crystal clear and of a fine olive green color, weighing slightly over 192 carats. Gem quality peridots of this size are exceedingly rare. The

National Gem Collection in the Smithsonian Institution boasts a fine large Arizona gem weighing 22.9 carats.--from Pik-N-Kok via Lake Agassiz Rock Hound, May 1980

CASTING, by Joe Rapjack

Casting is one of the oldest metal working methods to produce tools, jewelry and art forms. As early as 2230 B.C. bronze was cast using the lost wax method. Today the lost wax method is the most popular. Using the centrifugal or vacuum casting equipment, it gives excellent results with the least amount of effort, as long as the proper procedure is followed.

Other methods of producing castings are: sand molds, cuttlefish bone, and tufa. Their use is limited to uncomplicated forms.

Casting in itself does not produce an art form or piece of jewelry. It is only one step in a series of procedures necessary to accomplish this.

To begin, we need a design. The design is carved into a wax pattern, invested in a mold, burned out, cast, cleaned, finished and polished. Each of these steps requires specialized equipment and materials.

A good book on the subject, such as "Creative Casting," by Sharr Choate, is a MUST. It will list techniques, materials and equipment necessary to achieve the proper results.

An important consideration is the cost of equipment, materials and precious metals used in casting. --from Pick and Pack via Halite Hilites, Hutchinson, Kansas, March 1981

A Diet is something that takes the starch out of you.--from Michigan Lapidary Society via Lake Agassiz Rock Hound