



Vol. 37 #1

DIGGIN'S FROM DAKOTA

1st Quarter - 2025

This quarterly publication of the CDG&MS serves Bis/Man and the surrounding area.
Visit us on line at: ndrockclub.org or <https://www.facebook.com/CDGMS>

Ok, here we go with a new year of adventure and knowledge. I would like to remind our members that it's time to renew your membership dues. A membership for a single person is \$20.00 and a family membership is \$25.00. We also appreciate any volunteers who assist with our future events.

We have had a good year recruiting new membership adding around 30 new members. We invite anyone interested in becoming a member to all of our meetings, except for field trips. You must prepay your membership before going on a field trip for insurance liability purposes.

Our club is in need of more material for our sellable grab bags such as small pieces of tumbled petrified wood, flint, agates or other specimens that will fit into a small brown bag. We put these rocks into a tumbler just to take the sharp edges off.

Please keep an eye on our calendar schedule for future meetings and or field trips. Our calendar is included in this newsletter. If anybody has an idea for a one day field trip, bring it up at one of our meetings and we will consider it.

Thank you for your attention and let's have a great year together.

CDG&MS President, Tim Weiser

The Officers of the CDG&MS:

Tim Weiser
President

Brenda Morgan
Vice President

Kristina Dirk
Treasurer

Susan Gerenz
Secretary

Steve Fasching
Representative to the Rocky Mountain
Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

Membership:

Individual memberships \$20.00 per year.

Family memberships \$25.00 per year.

Visitors are welcome to attend.

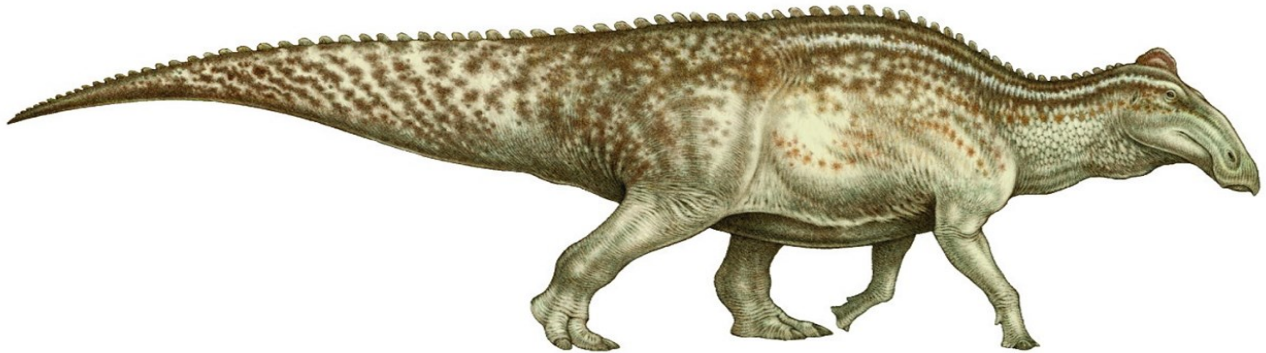
Executive Board meetings 1:00 P.M.

Regular meetings 2:00 P.M.

We meet the first Sunday of each month at the Bismarck Public Library down stairs Room B. Dates may change due to room availability. Read the calendar dates for our CDG&MS organization.

A Tour of the North Dakota Paleontology Department

The Central Dakota Gem & Mineral society members met our Tour Guide, Becky Barnes, a paleontologist with the North Dakota Geological Survey, & lab manager of the Johnsrud Paleontological Laboratory on March 16 at 1:00 PM. at the North Dakota Heritage center's Northern Lights Atrium. Becky is a dedicated member of Central Dakota Gem & Mineral Society. She has worked since 1998 in fossil preparation, educating the public & making science and history fun. This tour presentation was a lot of fun for our members to participate in.



“Dakota” the Dinomummy, A 67 million year old Cretaceous *Edmontosaurus* dinosaur

Illustration courtesy of Natee Himmapaan

A sixteen year old student found discovered this fossilized dinosaur mummy near Marmarth, North Dakota and nicknamed it “Dakota.” Scientists quickly realized how incredibly rare the find because it had some fossilized skin and other soft tissue that was intact. The skin must have been exposed long enough for it to dry and somehow preserved over the next 67 million years. Becky Barnes and other well known Paleontologist are studying “Dakota”, to see what else can be discovered.

Because of bite marks on the fossil body, scientists realized that “Dakota” must have been attacked and then traveled only a short distance to a stream before it died. When alive it would have been roughly 23 to 25 feet long and possible weigh about 7 to 8 tons. The creature that had attacked “Dakota,” must have been really fearsome.



Dakota's left rear foot - Main floor display



Dakota's tail tip - Main floor display



Dakota's right front arm—Main floor display



Enlarged View of Dakota's skin tissue

Information for this article provided by North Dakota Geological Survey Collections, Fossils In North Dakota (FIND) Newsletter by Paleontologist, Becky Barnes, and edited by Darrel Spencer.

What are some of the processes that must be completed in preparing fossils for display?

I think that patience is a virtue common to so many different professions and this certainly is true with the preparation, and restorations of fossils for any display at museums such the North Dakota Heritage Center. Listed here are some steps that must be completed before a fossil is ready for display. (1.) using chisels, tooth brushes or a pick to remove debris from the fossil. (2.) Glue broken pieces. (3.) Using plastic casting techniques as necessary. (4.) Using acetone based preservatives as epoxy. resins and glues to harden and preserve the fossils



This wooden box in a work area of the Paleontology lab contains tiny garnets. Their quality as jewelry would be quite low but in this case their value is due to abrasiveness, hardness and lack of cleavage which can be used in a form of sand blasting in order to clean up fossilized bones.



Here are some tools used in the preparation of Dakota.



This is an important place where new discoveries can be made about Dakota.



Paleontologist Becky Barnes explaining to members of CDG&MS about fossil preparation for Dakota the Dinomummy



Fossilized parts of Dakota's skin, an *Edmontosaurus* is on display at the Heritage Center in Bismarck, North Dakota

All CDG&MS members are encouraged to submit articles & or photographs to the editor. Permission is granted to reprint non-copyrighted articles if proper credit is given. Disclaimer: CDGEMS newsletter editor cannot guarantee 100 % accuracy with information received



A weekend at the Kirkwood and Gateway Malls, Christmas shopping.

On December 13 and 14, 2024; four members of the Central Dakota Gem & Mineral Society, Diane & Mark Rau were set up at the Kirkwood Mall as well as Carrie & Russ Schneider with a display at the Gateway Mall. Both couples were displaying a great selection of rocks, fossils and mineral specimens as well as beautiful crystals. Both couples reported having a successful weekend of sales, and making new contacts.

The variety of fossils, artifacts and mineral specimens that were displayed at these two booths was amazing.

Diane has a wonderful selection of centerpiece creations with dragons and beautiful mineral specimens. These creations are both beautiful and whimsical at the same time.

Carrie's Pine needle baskets feature ammonites or other unusual mineral specimens. The skill in creating these beautiful baskets also requires lots of patience.

*We hope that everybody had a **Merry Christmas** and has a **Happy New Year!***



On December 1, 2024, after having a short business meeting downstairs in room B at the Bismarck Public Library, the CDG&MS shared the Christmas spirit with a nice selection of meet & cheese trays, appetizers, cookies & bars and water as a beverage. Our members enjoyed sharing Christmas gifts and enjoying each others company. It was relaxing and we all enjoyed ourselves.

The art of wire wrapping with Sarah Juergens



During the process of learning the art of wire wrapping, Sarah watched a lot of videos, and practiced a lot. There were frustrations of failures and the joys of success. If the hobbyist really likes what they are doing, they won't quite. During this process you probably visited with a friend about what you were doing. They were impressed and perhaps you gave a completed project as a gift. The word spreads. This is how a hobby might turn into a part time business or even more.

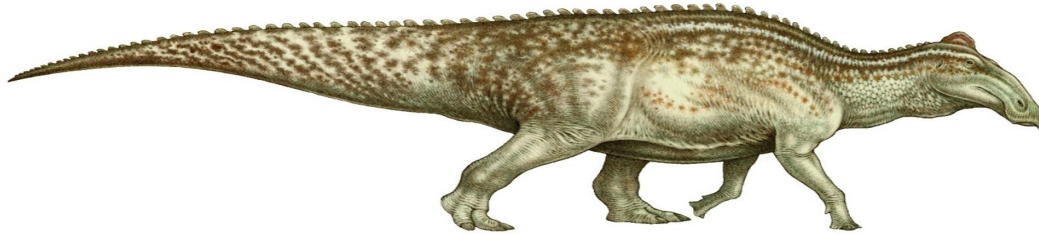
Some of the tools used by Sarah are specialized pliers such as flush cutters, bail making pliers, nylon jaw pliers, roundnose pliers, chain nose pliers, flat nose pliers, a digital caliper, various gauges of copper or silver wires, and of course watching the "how to videos."

Jim Nevland by Mike Simonson

In December, the CDG&MS lost a long term member. He died peacefully in his sleep in December at the St. Vincent's Home in Bismarck. He kept a frame of his favorite cabochons by his bed. Jim joined the rock club about 35 years ago and was active until health problems limited his activity about 5 years ago. He loved cutting agate and other cabochons. He also collected fossils and UV minerals.

Jim was preceded in death by his brother Jerald, who was also a CDG&MS member and served as our newsletter editor in the 1990's. Jim was from Carrington, North Dakota and never married. His father was a WWII veteran and gained some fame for being one of the 'Nevland Brothers' - five brothers who served in the Navy during the war.

Jim was a carpenter and construction worker. He built homes for many years, but eventually went to work for Menards as a construction specialist. He was the person you wanted to see when looking for the right park, material, or tool. Jim was very proud of his Norwegian heritage. He had the Norwegian flag and a Viking tattooed on his arms. Jim will be missed by the club, his family and friends.



Similarities of “Dakota” To Modern Animals

Dakota had several qualities very much like modern animals. It had a spiky back like an iguana, scales on its feet like a modern bird, and a fleshy comb on its head similar to a modern rooster. Even though the pictures of a hadrosaur show a “duck bill,” research indicates that the beak may have been more like a turtles.

The rear feet were not webbed but apparently resembled feet that could spread like a camel in order to more easily distribute the weight of the hind

quarters. The front feet or arms ended in mitten like hands with large nails like a rhinoceros's.

The Central Dakota Gem and Mineral Society highly recommends that the public visit the Heritage center and the history museum located near the capital in Bismarck, North Dakota.

It would be interesting to look at other dinosaurs of the past in order to see if there may similarities to more modern animal life.

The idea for this article came from a sign that is located near the “Dakota” display on the main floor that describes similarities between “Dakota” and modern animals.

Knife River Flint, the North Dakota State Rock by Michelle Cauley

North Dakota’s newest rock club, the “Bottineau Rock Hounds” is a rock club with a love of geology and a passion for civics within the Bottineau, North Dakota public School system. They were organized with 60 grade school through ninth grade students and guided by directors Michelle & David Cauley, and Carrie Reimche.

By filling out a “Candidate Nomination Form” five different candidates were selected: Chalcedony, Aventurine, Prairie Agate, Moss Agate, and Knife River Flint. A rigorous month long selection process was completed with Knife River Flint being the winner. A month long campaign occurred with posters, flags, stickers and even speeches which resulted in a final vote for the most popular candidate.

Knife River Flint was a great choice. It is a dark brown sedimentary rock composed of fine grain quartz crystals, is easy to chip and shape into tools or weapons. It has been quarried in North Dakota and used by Paleo-Indians, Archaic People, Mandan, and Hidatsa Native Americans for over 13,000 years.

Through the combined efforts of support letters, a school visit from a district representative, and testimony at the North Dakota State Capitol which included some club members from Bottineau as well as input from the public. House bill 1186 was drafted and successfully passed by both the house and the Senate by huge margins, and our Governor has now also signed the bill which makes it official

Thank you to the “Bottineau Rock Hounds.” This is a great accomplishment, the Central Dakota Gem & Mineral society is very proud of your accomplishment and the state of North Dakota is also very proud of your organization. Keep up the good work.

Central Dakota Gem & Mineral Society proudly announces our 51st Annual Gem and Mineral Show at the Bismarck Eagles
October 24th, October 25th, & October 26th, 2025

There will be lots of activities for children, demonstrations for adults, and drawings for free prizes on Saturday.

Set up time is on Friday, October 24, 2025 (12 AM - 8 PM) - (Vendors set up 4 PM - 8 PM)

Show time on Saturday, October 25, 2025 ((10 AM - 6 PM)

Show time on Sunday, October 26, 2025 (10 AM - 5 PM) - (Vendors take down & clean up)