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Vol. 38 # 1 \* **DIGGIN'S FROM DAKOTA** \* 1st Quarter - 2026

This quarterly publication of the CDG&MS serves Bis/Man and the surrounding area.

Visit us on line at: [ndrockclub.org](http://ndrockclub.org) or <https://www.facebook.com/CDGMS>

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***The presidents corner with Tim Weiser:***

2025 Was a very good year. There is a saying that "It takes a village to raise a family." It's true. I would like to thank all the volunteers and officers for their efforts in making each of our activities a success. This includes our 51st annual CDG&M show at the Bismarck Eagles Club, field trips, a tour of the paleontology department at the Heritage Center, our two family picnics, and our monthly meetings. We are emphasizing the need to show our recent discoveries in the world of rocks, minerals, and fossils at each of our meetings. We are also developing children's activities for younger families while a meeting is in session. If you have ideas that will be beneficial to our group, let's hear them. **Here are just a few of our upcoming activities. See Calendar**

1. On March 15th, we will participating in a exciting tour of the paleontology department at the North Dakota Heritage Center, with our guide Alex Gardner at 1: 00 P. M. Please arrive earlier
2. On April 12, Sarah Juergens will be demonstrating the artistry of wire wrapping, Bismarck Public Library's basement Room A. There will be a Short meeting at 1:00 P.M. Followed by Sarah's demonstration on wire wrapping.
3. On May 3, we invite you to bring fossils, rocks, or minerals to be identified. Library room A
4. On June 7th, we will meet at McDowell Dam, shelter #3 at 12:00 noon. Pizza & water will be provided.

**I am looking forward to seeing you at our future events. *Tim Weiser***

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**CDG&MS Directory:**

**Tim Weiser:** .....  
**President**  
**Brenda Morgan:** .....  
**Vice President**  
**Jeanette Hoffman:** .....  
**Treasurer**  
**Susan Gerenz:** .....  
**Secretary**  
**Lori Loomis: State Director** .....  
**Representing the Rocky Mountain  
Federation of Mineralogical Societies**  
**Darrel Spencer, Editor**

**Membership:**

- \* **Individual memberships \$20.00 yearly**
- \* **Family memberships \$25.00 yearly**
- \* **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 A. Dates may change due to Room availability.**
- \* **Read the calendar dates for our CDG&MS organization.**

## *Wire wrapping with Sarah Juergens*



During the process of wire wrapping, you are going to create a beautiful example of wearable art, you have decided what type of colorful cabochon to use and whether or not a silver or copper wire will be used. As these wires are being wrapped around the cabochon, you have used specialized pliers to cut or twist the wire. You are agonizing in your mind as to how this is going to turn out but you have lots of patience. Opps, the phone just rang, better answer it. Two days later, I finally have time to finish this project. Wow, I am so happy as to how it finally looks. One of my friends wants to buy it. I have a another stone that would look great when it's wire wrapped.



*From cabochons to a work in progress and then finally. . .  
These are just a sampling of the artistry*



*Geo News, the DMR Newsletter, is published twice a year . It is designed to reach a wide spectrum of readers interested in the geology and mineral resources of North Dakota.*

*Each issue contains articles about current geologic mapping projects oil, and gas industry updates, educational opportunities, and features articles about interesting geologic phenomena of North Dakota.*

*Subscription requests, and address changes should be addressed to: DMR Newsletter, Attn: Editor, 600 E. Boulevard Ave, Dept. 474, Bismarck, ND 58505-0614 or email to [ndgspubs@nd.gov](mailto:ndgspubs@nd.gov)*



The newest issue of GEO NEWS Vol. 53. No. 1. contains a well written article about Becky Barnes, a long time member of The Central Dakota Gem & Mineral Society. Becky and her family have moved to the Minneapolis area with her family to explore new opportunities. Her accomplishments included serving as a very talented fossil preparator and supervisor of the Johnsrud Paleontology Lab for the North Dakota Geological Survey for over 17 years. She participated in many digs including the Medora area, the Pembina Gorge, the Dickinson area and also at sites near Bismarck and Mandan. She is the author of 6 NDGS publications, edited 57 issues of the Fossils in North Dakota Newsletter (Find), and completed many illustrations in the gallery of the Heritage Center and State Museum. Her outreach included many tours, and talks for the public. Becky is a very talented person who has contributed a lot to our Society.



## **Paul Broste Rock Museum Grand Reopening & Inaugural Outdoor Gem & Mineral Show**



**508 Main Street \* Parshall, North Dakota 58770**  
**Friday, May 29th, 2026 \* 2 P.M. to 7 P.M.**

**Flint Nab Starts on Saturday \* DIG THROUGH 25 TONS OF GRAVEL**  
**Saturday, May 30th, 2026 \* 10 A. M. to 6 P. M.**

**Emily Halvorson**

**701/897/0548**

**[emily.l.halvorson@gmail.com](mailto:emily.l.halvorson@gmail.com)**

**[rockmuseum@restel.com](mailto:rockmuseum@restel.com)**

**Eddie White**

**(FOR VENDOR INFO)**

**406/413/1136**

**[www.mtagateshack@gmail.com](mailto:www.mtagateshack@gmail.com)**

**MUSEUM TOURS \* SEMINARS \* KIDS ACTIVITIES \* FOOD TRUCKS \* POOL AREA**

## CDG&MS Members who had Sales Opportunities



Just before Christmas, during 2025, Mark and Diane Rau had set up their Rocks and Stuff Booth at Kirkwood Mall for last minute shoppers who were shopping for that great gift that could only be found at their booth.



On January 17th & 18th of 2026 Carrie & Russ Schneider set up a 4 table both with fossils, mineral specimens, native American collectibles, knives, as well as collectible books on archeology, hunting, and Rock hunting t-shirts.

## Rock Judging Contest winners of January 4th, 2026

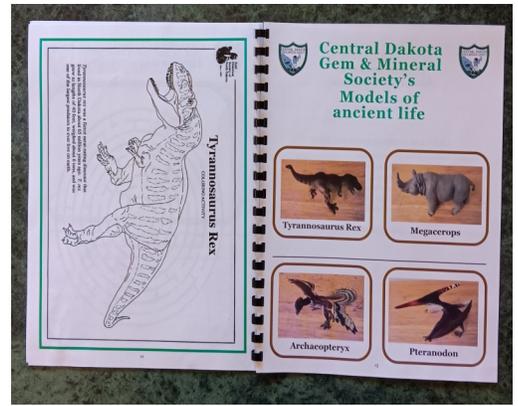
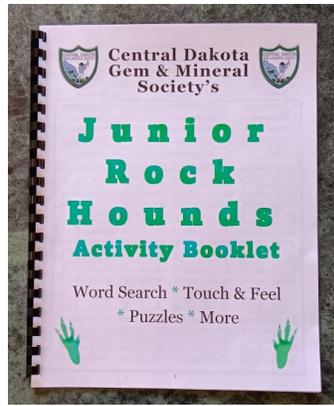
A rock judging contest for the ugliest (ruggedly handsome) rocks and also the prettiest was held at our last meeting. The editor feels every rock that was displayed on the table had a distinctive feature. The winners were selected through a paper ballot vote. Kimberly Reuer (Johnson) won the ugly rock category. Jolene & Brenda Morgan won the prettiest rocks category. There were several people who even brought some rocks or minerals that would fluoresce when using a black light device. See page 5 for several examples of how distinctive these minerals are. Thank you to Brenda and Jolene of Treasures of the Sea and Earth for their generosity in donating these very nice necklaces, and also thank you to everybody who participated.



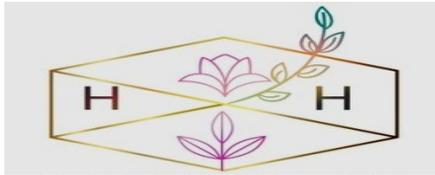
## Dues and children's activities . . .



Russ Schneider is in the process of Collecting the CDG&MS Membership Dues at our Jan 4, and February 1st meeting. The dues are \$20.00 for individuals and \$25.00 for families.



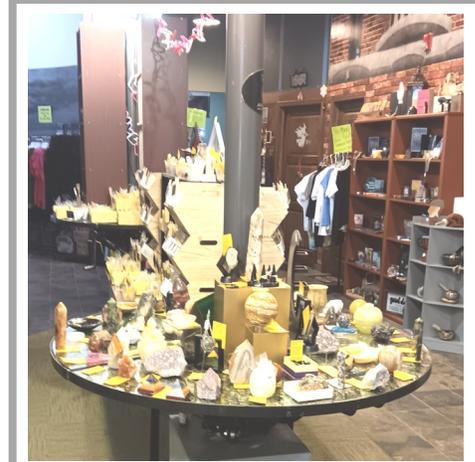
The Central Dakota Gem & Mineral Society is in the process of developing activities for families with younger children. These activities include Dinosaur Word Searches, Word Puzzles, Dinosaur models from the Heritage Center's gift shop, coloring/drawing activities, with more activities planned. These activities will be available at each of our Bismarck Public Library meetings. Ideas are needed.



Handled Healing  
701/401/8378  
handledhealing@gmail.com  
2720 E. Broadway Ave.  
Suite # 1  
Bismarck, ND 58501

Founded in 2019 by  
Jazmin & Ty Gensrich

Great selection of  
polished and rough  
crystals, minerals,  
handmade jewelry,  
metaphysical stones,  
Tarot card readings  
holistic wellness,  
books, gifts, reiki &  
classes of holistic  
wellness



Here is a grouping of rocks fluorescing under a black light. These specimens were brought for display by two of our newer members Bonnie and Katherine Fitzpatrick during our January 4th, 2026 CDG&MS meeting.



## Here is a summary of important issues from the CDG&MS that have been discussed and acted upon during this quarter.

Nominations for the two available officer positions, the CDG&MS President and the CDG&MS Secretary were made and acted upon. Each of the positions are two year positions. Tim Weiser and Susan Gerenz have graciously agreed to volunteer for another two year term. Our society has voted unanimously to accept their leadership. We are lucky to have volunteers like Tim and Susan.

Because of increased family obligations Kristina Dirk our Treasurer has requested that she be allowed to step back as treasurer. Jeanette Hoffman, a CDG&MS member who has experience working with finances has agreed to complete the two year term as treasurer. Kris will help Jeanette as needed. Our Society again voted unanimously in favor of this agreement. This agreement allows the treasurers to share the responsibility. Kris, thank you for all your hard work! A motion was also made and passed during our meeting in February to have both the treasurers co-sign checks for payments due.

During the December, 2025 meeting an inhouse audit was conducted and approved.

Our Society is in the process of discussing whether or not we wear vest, aprons, lanyards or whichever a member feels comfortable with at a club event.

Our society is discussing a possible tour of the Paul Broste Rock Museum at Parshall, North Dakota on Friday, May 29th, 2026 from 2 PM to 7 PM. or Saturday, May 30th, 2026 from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM. The Flint nab starts on Saturday. This tour coincides with a rock show that is being planned. See page three.

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## Would you like to Become a Rock, Gem, fossil or Mineral collector?

You probably already have the makings of a rock collector because a lot of us collectors have been picking up strange and pretty rocks ever since we could walk. Instead of just putting them in our pockets until the pocket is full, put them in a container so that they can be identified, labeled, easily seen and enjoyed by everybody. It also helps to have some basic tools such as a rock hammer, a pick, a chisel, safety glasses, work gloves, and a pair of boots. Keep track of what specimens you find or buy and also record where you got it from. You will find that a reference book or two really comes in handy.

You will also notice that it's not practical to keep every thing. It is better to have quality than quantity. Get to know other collectors in your area and if possible join a club like **Central Dakota Gem & Mineral Society**. You will be able to share your knowledge with many people and along the way make some wonderful friends.

Always get permission to go looking for rocks from the owner of any private property. Know the rules and regulations for state or federal property. Be responsible and always pick up after your self. There are areas that people are not allowed to take specimens from. Know the rules. It is important to be safe and also have fun.

**Quartz  
Amethyst  
Thunder Bay,  
Ontario, Canada**



**Knife River Flint  
North Dakota  
State Rock**



**Metasequoia  
Pine Cone  
North Dakota  
State Fossil**



**Moss Agate  
Miles City,  
Montana**

