



Vol. 38 # 2 * **DIGGIN'S FROM DAKOTA** * 2nd Quarter - 2026

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>

Hi Everyone:

I hope you have been able to get out and enjoy the weather, it's a good time to search for that next great new rock sample.

In the past, I would even check out rock piles on farm land. Always get permission from the land owner. Let them know who you are and which rock pile you would like to look at. Remember, we are good will ambassadors for our organization.

We are in the process of planning for our 52nd Annual Gem & Mineral Show which will take place on October 24th and 25th at the Bismarck Eagles. Whenever you have a chance to visit with people invite them to attend our meetings as a guest. They may want to join.

On July 12: Mike Simonson will demonstration how to carve catlinite pipestone in Room A. Our Society is inviting the Flickertail Wood Carvers for this demonstration.

On August 2nd: Be sure to attend our annual potluck picnic at Sertoma Park's shelter #9 beginning at 12:00 P. M. sharp. Sloppy jos & water are provided. Members should also bring a hotdish or dessert to share. Also please bring a door prize or two.

On September 13th: We will meet in the Bismarck Public Library's room A. Our board meeting is at 1:00 P.M. Membership is at 2:00 P. m. We will review our final planning for the 52nd annual show at the Eagles. Please bring Show and tell items for every meeting.

I hope to see you at our meetings which are at the Bismarck Public Library's Room A.

Have a great summer, Tim Weiser

Membership inquiries - Call Brenda * Treasures of the Sea & Earth (701) 224-0103

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.

The Central Dakota Gem & Mineral Society had a very short business meeting at the Bismarck Public Libraries Room A on May 3, 2026. Our growing membership would like to see more examples of rocks, minerals, fossils and gems.



The top label indicates that one of these stones is an emerald. Very nice selection.



These examples of coral are a very nice selection.



An example of Charoite a rare silicate mineral found in Siberia, Russia.



A specimen of flower stone or Chrysanthemum Stone



This specimen of Selinite weighs in at about 25 lbs. It is very Impressive.

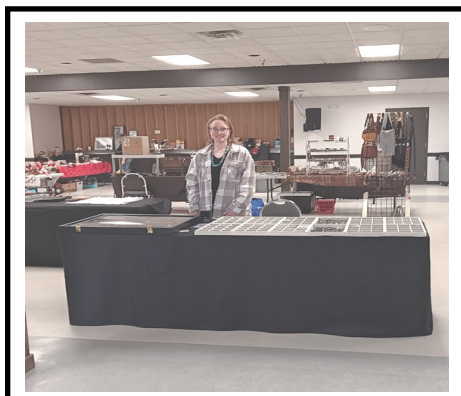


This is a nice specimen of rainbow pyrites

Antique Show & Flea Market * Mandan Eagles



Beautiful Wire wrapped jewelry



collectible Fossils & Minerals

Two members of our Central Dakota Gem and Mineral Society; Sarah Jergeson and Russ Schneider participated in an Antique Show & Flea Market on Saturday, May 2nd 2026. Both Sarah and Russ were happy with the show results. The show hours at the Mandan Eagles were 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. There was an excellent variety including antiques, collectibles, fossils & jewelry. Lunch & beverages were available.

Touring the Paul Broste Rock Museum

With the Central Dakota Gem & Mineral Society
On Saturday, May 30th, 2026

Paul Broste, was a farmer, author, poet, artist, rock collector, a skilled lapidarist but first and foremost was his dream of creating a special museum for the people of Parshall and North Dakota but also for the whole world to value. He knew that his collection deserved a special home that everybody would appreciate. It is now known as the "Parshall Acropolis." The Parthenon of Greek Literature was his inspiration for this project which was actually constructed on a hill. This building displays Paul Broste's sense of aesthetics and houses a world class collection of his polished spheres, fossils of prehistoric life, gems, mineral and rock displays. Also on display are his original oil paintings, along with illustrations from his published books. His skill of expressing himself as an author of literary works involving poetry or fiction. and also items of a historic nature. The building is of native granite boulders and the architectural design came from Paul Broste creativity. There are many places on this planet that must be seen to be appreciated and this is one of them.

At the beginning stages in the construction of this Parthenon inspired stone building, it was wisely decided by Paul that the base should be thicker in order to support the immense weight and then gradually become thinner at the top. Native granite boulders were hauled in from as far as 20 miles away, even using split and squared up rocks from old barn foundations for the corners of the building and pilasters between the windows.

A large group of members from Central Dakota Gem and Mineral Society decided to visit the Paul Broste Rock Museum at Parshall, North Dakota on May 30th of this year. We had previously made arrangements with Emily Halvorson, the Museum Curator.

This tour of this facility is a rock collectors dream. It includes a world class collection of stone spheres which features two sphere trees, an infinity room which features a one of a kind collection of spheres that resemble a solar system surrounded with mirrors. The special effects are out of this world. This museum also has a nice store where you can buy rock related items such as pull over sweaters, geodes, stickers, photo postcards mineral samples and more to create memories with.

Our tour guide Emily Halvorson is very knowledgeable and a delight to work with.



Call Emily Halvorson Curator
Paul Broste Rock Museum
(701) 897 - 0548
rockmuseum@restel.com
508 Main St. Parshall, ND 58770
Be sure to like & follow on Facebook!



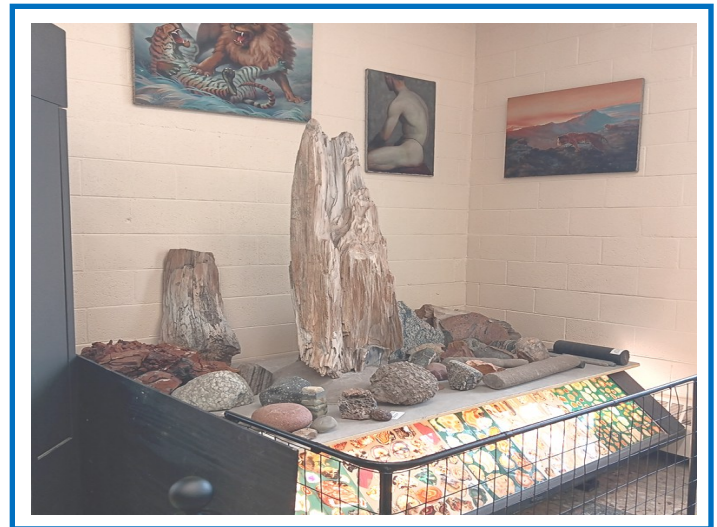
These polished spheres are stunning from the first moment they come in view as you enter the room and that feeling doesn't go away even as you finally manage to focus on other beautiful displays. I think everybody was profoundly affected by their beauty. A person could be inspired to write poetry about the beauty of nature created by the hand of God. Paul Broste began writing such poetry at the age of 64.

There is no beginning nor end to the surface of a sphere. It is a symbol of eternity.

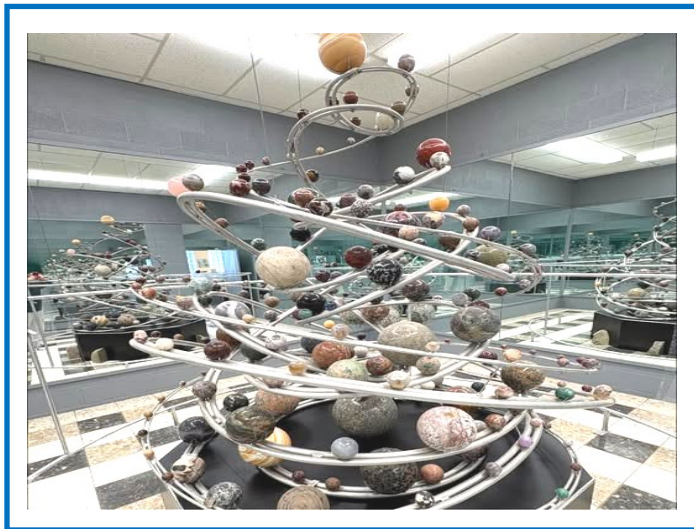
The description of the two sphere trees pictured here are taken from a copy of Paul Broste's book entitled *A Proem*. The first tree is loaded with about 85 spheres on it, and was displayed at the Milwaukee show in 1950. The other tree has about 115 spheres making 200 in all on this display.

The motif of the first tree is a triangle, as you may be able to discern in both the design of the tree and the arrangements of the spheres. The tree is four feet tall, and the largest sphere is nine and three-quarter inches in diameter.

For the second tree he chose a Hogarth curve, and it is sometimes called the line of beauty. It is a curve wider from the start and smaller as it turns the other way. You will see this curve as you follow the trunk of the tree, as well as the branches. You can also find the same curve from one sphere to the other, or from sphere to branch. This tree including the top sphere, is almost six feet tall. The largest sphere is twelve and three-quarter inches in diameter.



This large petrified tree stump is the remains of a sequoia (redwood) tree that existed about 200 million years ago (Jurassic Epoch), in what is now North Dakota. This stump had split into two pieces with a weight of at least a ton and a half. They had been discovered on the side of a clay hill near the Missouri River about 20 miles southwest of Parshall, ND.



The Mirror Room, the Infinity Room or Astronomical Cavalcade Room.

The frame structure that supports the spheres are constructed of metal rods welded together at the ends that bend and curve in such a way that is suggestive of planetary orbits while at the same time suggesting the mystery & vastness of space. This room contains 231 spheres

As you look at the mirrors, you will see reflections from several directions. If you feel lightheaded, you may want to hang on to something. According to the references there are about 700 stone spheres withing the museum. Here are two views of the same spheres.

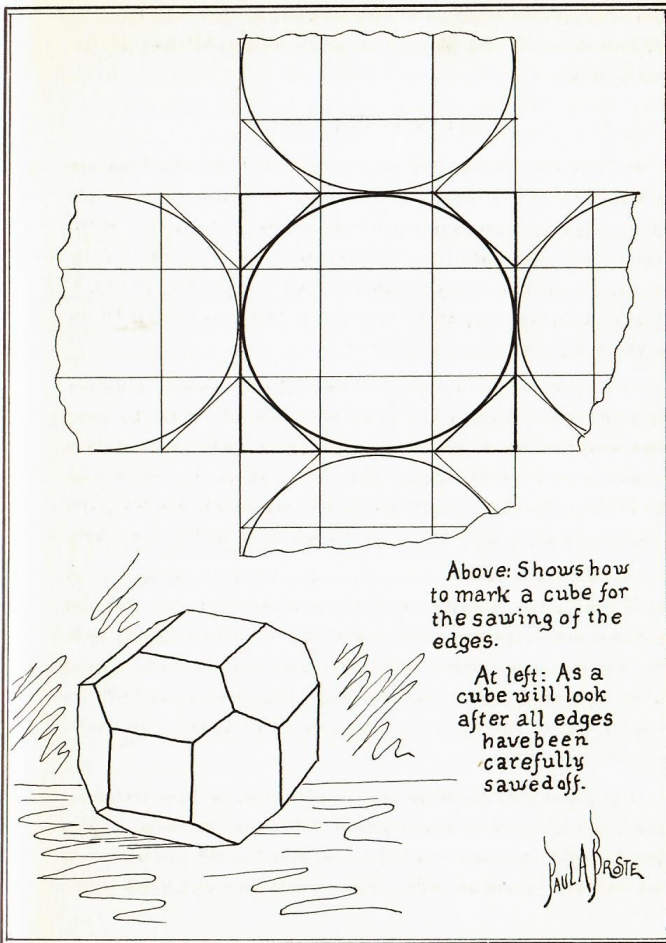


Emily Halvorson Curator for the Paul Broste Rock Museum and also our tour guide is explaining each feature of the huge variety of unique mineral displays that are contained in this one of a kind building. We are very fortunate having this one of a kind museum in North Dakota.

First you saw off ends or corners in a fashion that you have the same diameter in all directions. Then you grind off on a grinding wheel corners or high places till you have a round stone but quite rough and maybe not perfectly round.

One piece is fastened to an upright shaft and may be called a cup. This shaft turns around and the cup with it, as well as the sphere you lay in the cups. Then take the other piece of pipe and hold it at an angle on the turning sphere and feed abrasive into this piece of pipe. The grit will be cutting and always cutting on high spots or places making your sphere rounder and rounder, a smoother and smoother until it is a perfect sphere. You will have to flop the sphere over on the cup once in a while so that your cutting all the way around evenly. I have made 680 spheres this way and here in this Museum you see the world's largest collection of spheres by one man.

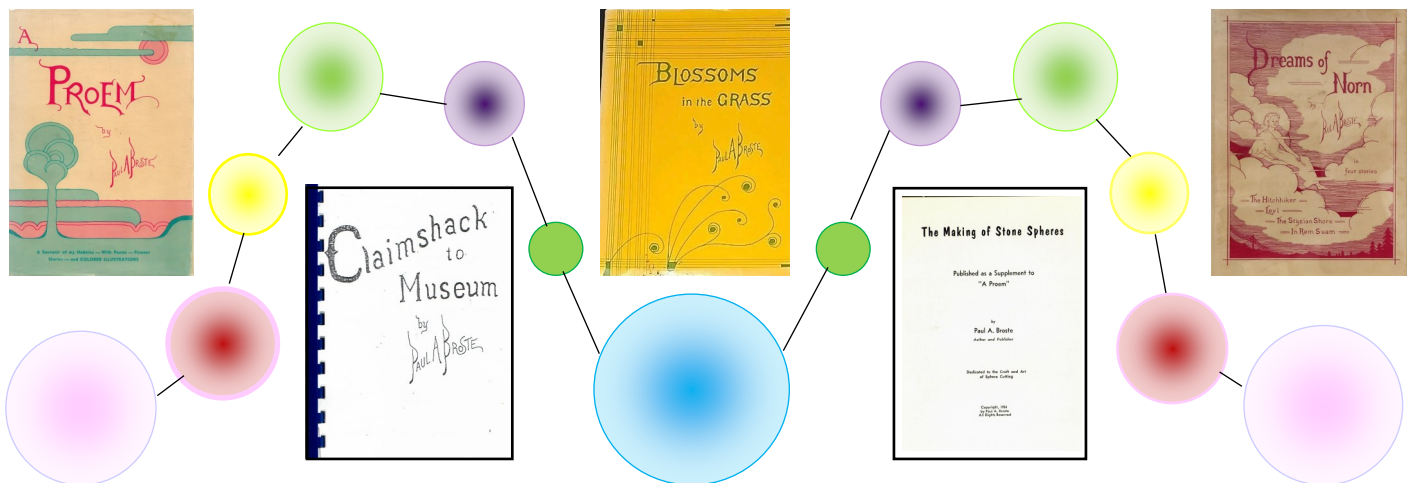
The above information is from Pages 25-26 of a pamphlet entitled "Claimshack to Museum" by Paul A. Broste.



The Making of Stone Spheres: Self published & copyrighted by Paul Brost as a Supplement to "A Proem" in 1954. This editor has watched videos of creating spheres using modern equipment and I am impressed with the artistry of Paul Broste in creating spheres using equipment that he had at the time.

Claimshack to Museum by Paul A. Broste: Self Published & copyrighted in 1968.This is the story of the Paul Broste Rock Museum.

Blossoms In The Grass: Self published & copyrighted, illustrated poetry by Paul Broste in 1973.





This Certificate of Appreciation had been awarded to the Paul Broste Rock Museum on September 28-29, 1984 for an outstanding display of stone spheres in a annual Central Dakota Gem & Mineral Show.



Here are several very nice award and exhibition ribbons that were earned by Paul Broste for his participation in various shows across the United States.



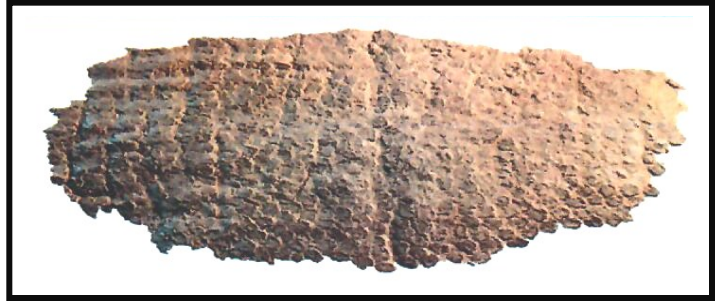
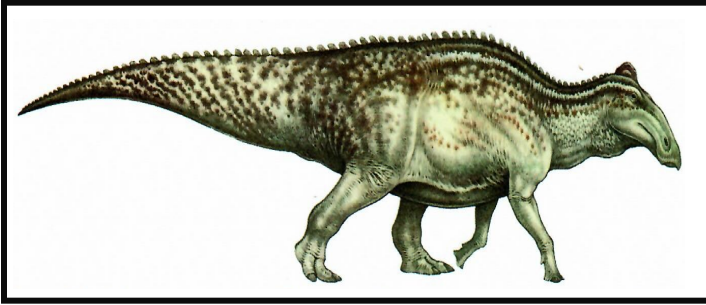
In photograph A: In an isolated desert area, 120 miles south of Santa Fe, the first atomic bomb was detonated in the early morning hours of July 16, 1945. The building that had housed the bomb was vaporized but this **yellowish gold glass that came** from the windows of the Trinity test site building survived. It is 80% lead glass as originally described by James Bauman from Texas during a visit to the Paul Broste Rock Museum on 7/19/2015.

In photograph B: We see that the objects in the fluorescent glow room fluoress under a black light.

On April 12, 2026 Sarah Juergens demonstrated the completion of several beautiful examples of wire wrapped jewelry. Various types of specialized pliers and even a drill was skillfully used to twist wire into the beautiful art form that is shown above for the front & back of these two items.



North Dakota Heritage Center Tour with Alex Gardner, paleontologist



On March 15th of 2026, The Central Dakota Gem & Mineral Society had participated in a tour of the North Dakota Paleontology Collections that is located in the North Dakota Heritage Center. Our tour guide Alex Gardner, is with the North Dakota Geological Survey. Alex did a wonderful job of bringing our group up to date on “Dakota the Dinomummy,” a 67 million year old Cretaceous Edmontosaurus dinosaur that had originally been discovered near Marmarth, North Dakota by a sixteen year old student. The illustration of Dakota is by Natee Himmapaan.

It is only in very rare instances where skin is preserved. It must have been exposed for an extended period of time in order for it to dry and somehow be preserved until modern times, some 67 million years later.

The large display booth shown above contains Dakota’s left rear foot, Dakota’s tail tip as well as the right front arm.

The members of our society take this opportunity to encourage the public in visiting the North Dakota Heritage Center which is located at 600 East Boulevard, Bismarck, ND 58505.

There is also a special members only tour for the Central Dakota Gem & Mineral Society. You have to have a membership, and attend our regular monthly meetings.

Information for this article has been provided by the North Dakota Geological Survey Collections, Fossils in North Dakota (FIND) Newsletter by Paleontologists, Becky Barnes and Alex Gardner.

The CDG&MS would like to thank Tony Goldade as well as Mark & Diane Rau for their generous donations of beautiful rocks for the mystery bags contributing to our 52nd annual show in October.

CDG&MS minutes from the previous quarter that have been discussed and acted on.

1. During April the 52nd Annual Central Dakota Gem and Mineral show budget has been discussed and approved.
2. In May, volunteers for the various committees of our 52 Annual Gem and Mineral Show which will be held at the Bismarck Eagles in October have also been assigned and are functioning.
3. During June, committee progress reports have been made demonstrating what progress has been made for our upcoming October 24th & October 25th, 2026 at the Bismarck Eagles.