



Vol. 38 # 3 * **DIGGIN'S FROM DAKOTA** * 3rd 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>

THE PRESIDENTS CORNER with Tim Weiser



Hello everyone: I hope that everybody has had a great summer and fall.

On September 19 of this year we had our annual Metasequoia Pine Cone hunt which was successful. Several participating members found pine cones, which we shall always treasure as a great memory. I also hope that everybody was able to take photographs for future memories.

We would like to also take this opportunity in thanking the owners of the property for allowing us to hunt for pine cones. It is a privilege and we are very thankful.

On September 27th, we filled our dollar bags with various rock selections. We always have a lot of success selling these bags. We met at my house which is located at 2940 Shamrock Drive, just north of Bismarck.

Our next regular meeting is October 11, 2026. We will be discussing our progress for the upcoming 52nd annual Gem & Mineral Show at the Bismarck Eagles. We are also asking for nominations for the officer positions of Vice-President and Treasurer. Both of these are two year positions. Members and guest may also bring rocks, mineral & fossils for identification.

We will be setting up on October 23, 2026 for our 52nd Annual Gem and Mineral Show held at the Bismarck Eagles. We "the volunteers" will meet at the Eagles at 12:00 Noon and get everything ready so that vendors may set up from 2:00 PM to 8:00 PM. See the Calendar for the for the October 24th, 2026 (9am – 6pm) and October 25th, 2026 (10 am - 4 PM) show date schedules.

November 1st, 2026 is the date of the actual election of the Vice-President and treasurer. We will also discuss the success of the 52nd annual GDG&MS show that was held at the Bismarck Eagles.

December 6th, 2026 is going to be the date of our annual Christmas Meeting. We will gather in the Bismarck Public Library's room A from 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM. We will have a very short meeting. There will be a gift exchange with a value of \$5.00 - \$10.00 per gift. Water will be provided.

*Please bring finger food such as: (appetizers, dessert, meat & cheese trays)
Society appreciates our volunteers and members. *Timothy Weiser**

CDG&MS Directory:

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

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.
- * Always check our calendar, our face book & web site for CDG&MS announcements.

Catlinite/pipestone Carving Demonstration by Mike Simonson

July 12, 2026



During this demonstration of carving Catlinite Pipestone that comes from Pipestone, Minnesota, Mike Simonson emphasized the importance of taking the time to consider the size, shape, color and texture of the pipestone that you are working with. Does the shape and size suggest a certain type of effigy pipe, possibly a turtle or even a medallion.

Draw your idea on paper, take your time and try to be creative. Cut a rough shaped block preferably using hand tools such as a coping saw, hand held files, The block will be the length, width and depth of your idea plus a little extra. Once the desired shape is formed you can always carefully remove a little extra material as needed with a suitable grade of sandpaper or a file.

If power tools are used there is a much greater chance of making a mistake with what you are making or even severely injuring yourself in the process. The native American Sioux Indians who were the original artisans created beautiful works using just the basic tools such as flint knives, bone awls and perhaps sand and a lot of patience.

It is highly recommended that you read Mike's detailed and very informative article that is featured on the Central Dakota Gem and Mineral Website ndrockclub.org under the heading of THE CONGLOMERATE OF ARTICLES. It will help you greatly with the accuracy of drilling a pipe bowl and stem of a peace pipe. It can also be found at www.facebook.com/CDGMS

You will want to check often for more articles as well as up to date announcements about us.



A pipe and a bird



Bismarck Flickertail Wood Carvers Club members were our guest.



A pipe and game pieces



Use tools such as hand saws, files, awls, various grades of emory cloth and a face mask for dust protection.

It was a **hot** day In August– Annual Potluck Picnic at Sertoma Park Shelter



Our August 2nd event was a picnic held at Sertoma park's shelter # 9.

The picnic was well attended. There was more than enough food for everybody.

Several people even brought their own little battery powered fans.



It is a tradition at our Society picnic that each of us bring a food item to share with each other and also a rock related gift that becomes part of a drawing. The extremely short meeting was just a reminder of future club events. Each member that participates in the picnic event enjoys sharing great conversations and we each brought a gift that became part of a drawing. Each person submits their name and they receive a playing card for a drawing. As each name is drawn with a card, the participant has an opportunity to select a gift with a matching card. Here are photos of some of the prizes. It was a lot of fun, the prizes are great and the popsicles were wonderful.



Central Dakota Gem & Mineral Society announces our 52nd Annual Gem and Mineral Show at the Bismarck Eagles on

October 24th & 25th, 2026

*** Free Admission ***

Children's Activities * Grab Bags * Identification of rocks, Minerals & fossils * Fluorescent Rock Blacklight Display * Grab bags * Displays * Lectures & More * Door Prizes on Saturday

Set up time on Friday, (Vendor set up time: (2 PM - 8 PM)

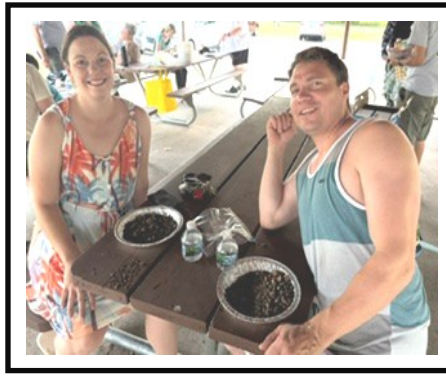
Show time on Saturday, October 24th, (9 AM - 6 PM)

Show time on Sunday, October 25th, (10 AM - 4 Pm) Vendors take down & clean up.

Discovering Micro Fossils



Microfossils sharks teeth & vertebrae found in the sands of time.



This couple is relaxing in the process of discovering the sharks teeth.



An enlarged view of several extremely small sharks teeth. These are very nice.

Not only did we have a very enjoyable time at the Sertoma Pak picnic sharing food and wonderful conversations, we also participated in a drawing of names that allowed each and every paid up member to pick a surprise gift as well as examine containers of ancient sea bed material with a variety of micro fossils of shark teeth and vertebrae.

The micro fossils had previously been donated by Ray Oliger, who is a long time very dedicated member of the Central Dakota Gem and Mineral Society.

Even though a person has sifted through the sand or gravel debris looking for micro fossils, consider looking through the fossils again but in a much more thorough manner. You may find fossils that were overlooked the first, a 2nd time or additional searches. Don't be so anxious to throw the leftovers away. There may be more to discover. The editor would suggest having a stronger magnifying lens or even a microscope to examine the left overs.

In identifying shark teeth compare the shape, size, structure of the root or base and even look for edge serrations.

The above Photo credits to Society member Kimberly (Christianson) Reuer.

Discovering Additional Micro Fossils.

The editor took some samples home and by using a higher magnification discovered even more micro fossils that had been missed from the first examination and discovered even more great items such as this enlarged view of a conglomeration or clump of material that had not been previously separated.

The central photo has an overall look of an animals head but upon closer inspection we see several interesting features, such as. What appears to be an eye is actually a tiny vertebrae. The nose is a extremely small serrated sharks tooth. What could be sharks teeth are located at the back of the head.

The first photo is showing what appears to be grinding teeth and the last photo shows what appears to be teeth used for piercing flesh and hanging on. Some of these teeth were less than a quarter of an inch in length.

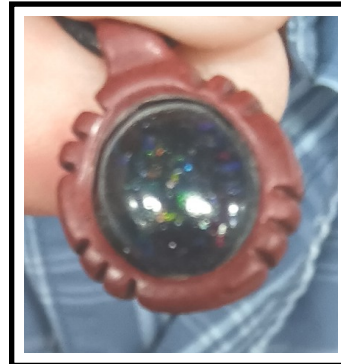


Catlinite Pipestone Carving Results



Mike Simonson had demonstrated Catlinite carving techniques for the CDG&MS as well as several guests from the Flickertail Wood Carvers Club on July 12, 2026. Since then two of our members have completed examples shown here of what can be carved out of Catlinite Pipestone Carving.

Shown on the left is an arrowhead and a miniature pipe. Shown on the right is a catlinite pendent with a stone as a centerpiece. These are works of art. Thank you Doug and Mike



ND Rocks, Minerals and Fossil Presentations, Miller Elementary 4th grade By Mike Simonson

In April and June, club members Susan Gerenz and Michael Simonson offered classes to 4th graders at Bismarck's Miller Elementary school. The focus was on North Dakota's geology, rocks, minerals and fossils. Special emphasis was placed on First Peoples and fossils.

In the section on First Peoples, the Clovis and Folsom cultures, the children were fascinated to learn that they were elephant hunters (mammoths and mastodons). They learned about Knife River Flint (KRF). KRF quarries are the oldest archeological sites in the state, dating back 12,000 years. KRF was an important resource widely traded in North America. Although not quite as sharp as obsidian, KRF is stronger and holds a sharp blade longer.

Regarding energy resources, the children learned that ND has enough lignite coal to supply the country's energy needs for 500 years. They also discussed oil, and briefly the uranium and rare earth resources in the state.

As might be expected, the children especially loved the section on North Dakota's dinosaur and other fossils. Our state has exceptional fossil sites from the Late Cretaceous. It contains an excellent record of the KT extinction event that wiped out all the non-avian dinosaurs.

The children were very engaged, and had numerous questions and discussions. At the end, the children and teachers were given free gifts of ND fossil metasequoia pinecones and petrified wood. The children also received invitations and handouts about the Central Dakota Gem and Mineral Society. Given the success of the events, the future classes should be offered and could be greatly expanded to other schools if members are available to conduct them.

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

The picnic that was held at the McDowell Dam on June 6, 26 was successful but no meaningful motions were discussed and acted upon.

During our July 12 meeting at the Bismarck Public Library; the CDG&MS Board meeting. A discussion was held, centered around having the grade school teachers decide which students could be eligible for a CDG&MS membership, based upon financial needs of the family. Our executive board could make that decision.

We also discussed combining the family picnic normally held at the McDowell Dam with the Sertoma Family Picnic during the August event.

On Sept. 13, 2026 the CDG&MS will have a Show committee meeting (6:30 PM) at the Bismarck Eagles in order to hopefully organize any loose ends for our 52nd annual show to be held at the Bismarck Eagles on Saturday, Oct. 24th (9 AM - 6 PM) and Sunday, Oct. 25, 2026. (10 AM - 4 PM) with Friday, October 23 being the set up day from (12 PM To 8 P M).

A motion was also made and approved by the CDG&MS to have Tim Weiser, our society president as a co-signer on the checking account replacing the former treasure.

Hunting for petrified Metasequoia Pine Cones With Members of the Central Dakota Gem & Mineral Society

We left the Mandan Legion Park at 9:00 Sharp as a group of 20 intrepid CDG&MS members and friends hoping that each would discover that elusive treasure. Realizing that the pinecones have a natural color that blends so well with the background of the river bed. You have to have sharp eyes.



Photo by Amanda Mulske



Photo by Deana Cahoon



Here we are on location as we begin our hunt. Good luck!



Small piece of petrified wood



Small piece of petrified wood



Here are a grouping of two metasequoia pine cones



This rock contains a negative impression of a metasequoia pine cone.

We're just having fun!



We know your hiding! Come out from where ever your at!



Aha! You can't hide from us!



Thank you to all of our wonderful members for the photographs.

We hope that everybody who participated in this event had a great experience. Become a member.