



Western Dakota Gem & Mineral Society  
P.O. Box 1944  
Rapid City, South Dakota  
57701-1954

This Months Funny:

You might be a Rockhound if:

You care more about the diamond in the movie "Titanic" than the people

You bring a catchers mitt to a rock fight.

You've been found gulty of trespassing on BLM land. The judge sentences you to 10 years' hard labor breaking rocks. You fall to your knees beg him, "Please, your honar, let it be in Franklin, New Jersey!"



# THE AMMONITE

Affiliated with RMFMS & AFMS

Next meeting:

**Annual Christmas potluck and Gift exchange**

**6:00 p.m.**

**December 12, 2024**

**Minneluzahn Senior Center**

**315 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street**

**Rapid City, SD 57701**

It is always rock hunting time!

The Purpose of our Non-Profit Club is to promote interest and education in geology, mineralogy, paleontology, archaeology and lapidary, to sponsor and promote the coordination of work efforts between groups and individuals





## The Ammonite Western Dakota Gem and Mineral Society

### 2024-25 Officers

<b>President:</b>	Kelli Wold	605 381-6418	kelli@dakotastar.org
<b>Vice President:</b>	Pete Bergeron	605 666-4141	tavfuto@sbcglobal.net
<b>Secretary:</b>	Melissa Russell	605 418-9001	melissaphoto@gmail.com
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Leslie Lysenko	605-786-8801	leslielysenko@gmail.com
<b>Board Member #1 :</b>	Jason Hammer	307 851-5770	hammerstoneware@gmail.com
<b>Board Member #2</b>	Rod Woodcock	575 956-3081	rodwoodcock001@gmail.com
<b>Board Member #3</b>	Lori Bickford	605 381-9143	bickfordlori020@gmail.com
<b>Librarian:</b>	Cole Burrington	605 924-4575	cole.burrington0575@gmail.com
<b>Editor:</b>	Debbie Vick	605 877-6957	dlvick@live.com
<b>Historian:</b>	Jordan Barnes	605 791-4288	jordanarama1@gmail.com
<b>Field Trip Chair:</b>	Julie Lundin	605 391-1516	julielundin@hotmail.com
<b>RMFMS SD Dir:</b>	Lori Loomis	719-207 1035	riggsoldchap@yahoo.com

**CLUB Mailing:** Western Dakota Gem and Mineral Society, PO Box 1954, Rapid City, SD 57709-1954

**CLUB Website:** [www.WDGMS.org](http://www.WDGMS.org)

**CLUB Facebook:** Western Dakota Gem and Society/groups

**CLUB Email:** [westdakota.rocks@gmail.com](mailto:westdakota.rocks@gmail.com)

**Meetings:** Second Thursday of each Month (except August) at 6:00 PM (times can change)

**At:** Minneluzahan Senior Citizen Center, 315 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Rapid City, SD 57701

**ANY SUBMISSIONS FOR THE NEWSLETTER SHOULD BE IN BY THE 25TH OF EACH MONTH**

Any questions about the material found in the Ammonite please contact the editor:

Deborah Vick, 265 Stumer Rd Apt 7, Rapid City, Sd 57701

If you change your address, email address or have a problem receiving a newsletter:

Please Contact the Treasure at [westdakota.rocks@gmail.com](mailto:westdakota.rocks@gmail.com)

Dues: \$15.00 per person - \$20 per family with children under 16 years – Includes 12 newsletters by e-mail. If you chose to receive the newsletter by mail, there is an additional \$10.00 fee. Dues cover the RMFMS insurance and an electronic copy of the newsletter.

**Send dues to Treasurer, PO Box 1954, Rapid City, SD 57709-1954**

## **November Minutes**

VP Pete Bergeron called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm. There were 23 adult and 3 child members and 1 guest speaker present. Pete informed the members that President Kelli was on vacation and Secretary Melissa was out due to surgery.

Pete briefly introduced our guest speaker, Walter Stein, from Hell Creek Paleontological Society and PaleoAdventures.

### **Old Business**

Pete asked if there was a motion to approve of the January meeting minutes. Debbie V. motioned to approve and Leslie L. seconded. The motion was passed.

Leslie reviewed the treasurer's report. Leslie reminded the members we now have two accounts; one for general club banking and the other specifically for the show. Debbie motioned to approve and Sean seconded. The motion passed.

Annual dues- Please reach out to Larisa B. to pay your dues and receive your 2024-2025 membership cards.

2025 Gem & Mineral Show- Debbie explained we have six vendors signed up for next year's show. Debbie will be contacting the vendors from this past year's show to see if they will be joining us again. Show committee meetings will start in January. All are welcome to join.

T-Shirts- Debra B. went over the new shirts and hoodies. Lori B. modeled the long sleeve shirt that will look like the short sleeve shirt but will also have the club's initials going down the left sleeve. Debra has a sign-up sheet for those that are interested in purchasing either a short sleeve t-shirt, a long sleeve t-shirt or a hoodie. Kid and adult sizes are available.

Field Trip- It was decided that Saturday's field trip will be to Maverick Junction, roadside exploration for Selenite and/or Satin Spar. Don B. and Don B. will lead.

### **New Business**

RMFMS delegates report-Lori L. was at this year's convention held in Oklahoma City, OK (Oct 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>). Lori had sent out to all members this report and explained this year's convention meetings ran much smoother than last year's meetings. RMFMS dues will be going up in the next year or two however the insurance went down \$0.10 per person. There was discussion about cash awards for junior exhibits. It would be nice to have WDGMS have more exhibits entered into the competitive displays especially now that we have Jr. Rockhounds. Lori was asked to judge the Jr. exhibits, however they were all disqualified. Lori explained that a Jr. exhibit only needed ONE mineral to be displayed and had to be labeled and all completed by the Jr. individual. Next year's show and convention will be held in Grand Junction, CO. Sean B. suggested having the Jr. Rockhounds enter into our show's displays before the show for "practice". This will be discussed further at the show meeting.

Holiday Potluck Party-Save the Date, Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm at the Minneluzahan Senior Citizen Center. Join you fellow club members for food, fun, Rock B-I-N-

G-O, 50-50 Raffle, and Gift exchange. If you would like to participate in the gift exchange please bring a wrapped gift, no more than \$15, rock related item. Debra B. will be sending out email invites for the potluck. There will be a link in the email that will take you to Perfect Potluck website. There you can sign up for a food item to bring to our party.

Debbie Vick has a rock hounding kit she would like to sell to a club member. Please contact her for more information.

Motion to adjourn by Larisa and seconded by Mimi. Meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.

## **November Board Meeting Minutes**

Meeting called to order at 5:50pm

Meeting attended by President Kelli Wold, Secretary Melissa Russell, Treasurer Leslie Lysenko, Board Member Lori Bickford, Past President Debbie Vick, Past VP Pete Lysenko, Past secretary Debra Bailey, Librarian Cole Burrington, Historian Jordan Barnes, Membership Larisa Bailey, Field Trip Julie Lundin, RMFMS State Director Lori Loomis, Don Bailey, Marie Fanning, and Tom Loomis.

Debra Bailey opened meeting by explaining further tonight's expectation for each of the committee members to talk about their responsibilities, issues and opportunities.

Kelli started by saying she oversees the club and each of its committees. Debra added that Kelli is the face of the club for the public.

Librarian Cole spoke about his goals, what kind of books he would like to add to the library as at one time there were over 200 books. He expressed interest in creating a digital library.

Field Trip Chair Julie talked about her list of potential field trips for the next year. November's trip will be decided with the members at the November general meeting. Lori expressed concern about inviting the public on field trips and liabilities. Debra explained the club does use a Liability Waiver. Lori informed us that all the clubs she is aware of do not allow non-members on field trips, only their club members. Julie will connect with RMFMS about the Liability Waiver.

Historian Jordan is excited to take on this responsibility but being new to the club will need assistance. Debbie V will give Jordan the tote with any information on the club. Debra has made a list of past officers but only back to 1986. Larisa can give long time members names on contacts to gather more information on club history.

Larisa went over her duties as membership chair and that dues are due in November. It was asked if she could start to keep a record of ages of the minors as this year we have a large number of families. This would be for activities.

Show Chair Debbie V went over her duties putting together a show, securing venue and vendors, floor plan and putting together a show committee. Don B discussed possible safety measures for 2025 show with signs and cameras.

Secretary Melissa discussed her responsibility of recording everything at meetings and her social media duties. Melissa gave ideas for Facebook to attract more people to our page like ID Tuesday.

RMFMS State Director Lori discussed her duties; she covers western Nebraska and western South Dakota. At this time there are four clubs in this area that are members of RMFMS. There was a discussion about the annual report that Lori gave to RMFMS. Debra explained the club did very well this year and was disappointed it wasn't reflected in the annual report. Don presented an annual report for 2024-2025 and asked if it was possible to follow something like this for future reports.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:33 pm.

### **President's message**

No message. Kelli was out of town for two weeks. She hopes to see everybody at the Holiday party!

#### Member news:

Long time member Mickey Snook is battling many health issues. He is currently in the hospital. Feel free to send him a get well card.

Debbie Vick (thats me!) has her rockhound kit up for sale. Available to club members. She feels like her health prevents her from doing any extensive rockhounding. Asking price - \$25. Here is pictures of the contents as well as the bag packed up. All that is needed is a pair of leather gloves and a knapsack/bucket to put you finds in. Contact her directly if interested.



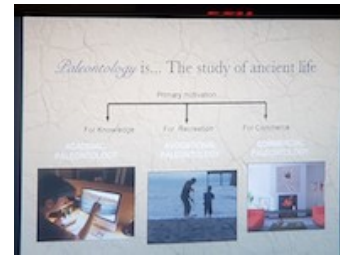
This cute little poem was shared by one of our oldest members, Ardis VanCalligan.  
Enjoy!

## **Collecting Rocks**

I think that there shall never be  
An ignoramus such a me,  
Who roams the hills throughout the day  
To pick up Rocks that to not pay.  
For there is something I've been told  
I took the Rock and left the gold.  
Over desert wild and mountains blue,  
I search for Rock of varied hue.  
A hundred pounds or more I pack,  
With blistered feet and aching back.  
And after this is said and done,  
I cannot name a single one.  
I pick up Rocks each place I go,  
The reason why I do not know.  
For Rocks are found by fools like me,  
There God intended them to be.

- Anonymous

The guest speaker at the November meeting was wonderful. Walter Stein, from Hell Creek Paleontological Society and PaleoAdventures presented everything one wanted to know about fossils, dinosaurs and paleontology. Many of the club members were involved in the excellent discussion that took place including the children.



The last part of this newsletter includes the current listing of the Club's library books. If members are interested in check one out feel free to contact the Club's librarian, Cole Burrington.

Also included is the Christmas party flyer and the Club's Annual Report.

## Upcoming Area Shows

This information can be found at the [www.rockandmineralshows.com](http://www.rockandmineralshows.com). Please check the website current shows across the country and in Canada.

December is a time where shows are at a bare minimum. There is only one in the area.

### **Rocks & Rails Mineral, Gem, & Model Train Show/Expo - 12/13/2024**

Start Date: 12/13/2024

End Date: 12/15/2024

Venue: Boulder County Fairgrounds

Address: 9595 Nelson Rd

Boulder County Fairgrounds

Longmont, CO 80501

Website: <https://flatironsmineralclub.org/>



# Library Books

## BOX 1

The Art of Jewelry Design	Galli - Riviere - Li	
Jewelry Making	Bovin, Murray	
Hand Wrought Jewelry	Franke, Lois	
Bead Embroidery	Edwards, Joan	
How to Bead Earrings – Artistic Approach	Berry, Lori	
Jewelry & Accessories	Bawden, Juliet	
The Complete Metal Smithing (2 copies)	McCreight, Tim	
The Jewelry Repair manual	Hardy, R. Allen	
The Basics of Bead Stringing	Anderson, Mel	
Moods in Wire	Sinclair, Ellsworth	
Gem Cutter's Guide	Bale, Ronald J	
Opal Cutting Made Easy	Downing, Paul B	
Gem Cutting - A Lapidary's Manual - 2nd Edition	Sinkankas, John	
Faceting For Amateurs - 2nd Edition Revised	Vargas, Glenn & Martha	
Mineralogy of the Black Hills	Roberts - Rapp	
The Jewel Cave Adventure - Hard Cover w/map & insert	Conn, Herb and Jan	
Roadside Geology of South Dakota	Gries, John Paul	
Midwest Gem Trails - Third Edition	Zeitner, June Culp	
Rushmore's Golden Valleys	Linde, Martha	
Mammoths - Ice-Age Giants	Agenbrood & Nelson	
Rex Appeal	Larson & Donnan	
South Dakota State Gemstone - Fairburn Agate	Clark, Roger	
Fairburn Agate - Gem of South Dakota	Woodden, Tom	
Handbook of North American Indians	Smithsonian Institution	
Jewelry Gem Cutting and Metalcraft	Baxter	
Gem Cutting Shop Helps	Leiper, Hugh	
Gem Care	Ward, Fred	
How to Tumble Polish Rocks Into Gems	Smith, Edward E	
Ring Repair	Reveres, Alan	
Master Jewelry Design & Creation	Wykoff, Gerald	
Geology of Wyoming	Geology Report	
Midwest Gem, Fossil & Mineral Trails - Prairie States	Zeitner, June Culp	

## BOX 2

The River Runs North - Story of Montana Moss Agate	Harmon, Tom	
The Agates of North America	Leiper, Hugh	
The Lake Superior Agate	Wolter, Scott F	
Illustrated Directory of Dinosaurs & Other Prehistoric Creatures	Cranfield, Ingrid	

The Dinosaur Dictionary	Glut, Donald F.	
Dana's Minerals and How to Study Them	Dana, Edward Salisbury	
Prospecting For Gems and Minerals	Sinkankas, John	
The Opal Book	Leechman, Frank	
The Mammoth Site of Hot Springs	Agenbroad & Nelson	
The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Rocks & Minerals		Alfred A Knopf
The Weekend Gold Miner	Ryan, A.H.	
Jewels and Gems	McDonald, Lucile Saunders	
Cameos Old & New	Miller, Anna	
Precious Stones - Vol. I	Bauer	
Precious Stones – Vol. II	Bauer	
Rocks & Minerals	Pellant, Chris	
Fossils	Walker - Ward	
The Complete Guide to Rocks & Minerals	Farndon, John	
The Mineral Kingdom	Desantels, Paul E	
Geology & Mineral Deposits of Some Pegmatites in the Southern Black Hills of South Dakota		Geological Survey of the U.S. Dept.of the Interior

### **Also in BOX 2: 17 DVDs**

How the Earth Was Made – Smithsonian Chronicles  
Montana Dueling Dinosaurs – Black Hills Institute of Geological Research  
Jewelry School – jtv.com  
Ultimate Rock Video / Rocks & Gems of the Smithsonian  
Geology of Caves and Caverns  
Collecting Earth's Natural Treasures  
Wonderful World of Agates  
Tree Stories by Ruby Lingebach  
Those Fabulous Thundereggs  
Mammoth Site Tour, Hot Springs  
Dino Collections – National Geographic (Discs I, II, III, IV, V)  
Wonderful World of Agates Symposium: Disc 1 speakers - Rothe, Agate Formations;  
Cross, Mexican Agates; Schafer, Germany Agates; Carlson, Banded Agates  
Wonderful World of Agates Symposium: Disc 2 speakers – Costigan, Lake Superior Agates;  
Kabat, Oregon Thundereggs; Stockwell, Thundereggs; Mueller, Mining Agates & Jasper

### **BOX 3**

A Pictorial Guide to Fossils	Case, Gerard R
The Fossil Book	Fenton, Carrol Lane
The Encyclopedia of Gemstones and Minerals	Holden, Martin
Mineralogy	Sinkankas, John

Gemstone and Mineral Data Book	Sinkankas, John	
Gemstones of North America - Volume II	Sinkankas, John	
Gemstones of North America - Volume III	Sinkankas, John	
Minerals of the World	Duda - Rejl	
Precious Stones	Bauer, Max	
Fluorescence – Gems & Minerals under Ultraviolet Light		Robbins, Manuel
Black Light Creates Fascinating Fluorescence	Braun, Edmund A	

# WDGMS Annual Report

*Western Dakota Gem and Mineral Society*

Annual Report - 2024

## Introduction –

### *“Mission Statement”*

The purpose or purposes for which this corporation is organized is to promote interest and education in geology, paleontology, archaeology, fossils, and lapidary. To sponsor and provide means of coordinating to work and efforts of groups and individuals interested to these or related earth science fields.

- **Western Dakota Gem and Mineral Society (WDGMS)** “Board of Directors”:

President – ***Kelli WOLD***

Librarian – **Vacant**

Vice President – ***Peter LYSENKO***

Historian – **Vacant**

Secretary – ***Debra BAILEY***

Field Trip Coordinator – **Vacant**

Treasurer – ***Leslie LYSENKO***

Membership Coordinator – **Vacant**

Board member – ***Myesa LEGNDRE – FIXX***

Social Media Coordinator – ***Mimi LANCSAK***  
Ammonite Editor – ***Deborah VICK***

Board member – ***Jason HAMMER***

Gem and Mineral Show Chairperson –  
***Deborah VICK***

Board member – ***Rod WOODCOCK***

Board member – ***Deborah VICK*** (Outgoing  
2023 WDGMS President)

***Rocky Mountain Federation Mineralogical  
Societies’*** representative – ***Lori LOOMIS***

## Activities –

- The WDGMS has a “Facebook” page.
- The WDGMS has a website.
- As of 11-09-2023 the WDGMS had (27) adult members, (17) families and (60) voting members.
- The WDGMS has (10) scheduled monthly meetings held at the Minneluzahan Senior Center located in Rapid City, S.D. The meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month with a guest speaker / instructor.
- 11-11-2023 – **Jason HAMMER** – Rock Prep & Rock Tumbling  
(18 members / 7 guests)
- 12-14-2023 – **Holiday Potluck Meeting**

- 01-11-2024 – **Donald HAMM** – Metal Detecting & Black Hills Turquoise  
(11 members / 1 guest)
- 02-08-2024 – **Kayleigh JOHNSON** – Rock Identification and Rock Hardness  
(19 members / 1 guest)
- 03-14-2024 – **Mysea FIXX** – Map Reading & Rock Hounding Locations  
(18 members / 4 guests)
- 04-11-2024 – No guest speaker (20 members / 1 guest)
- 05-09-2024 – **Dr.Chris JAS** – Mammoth Site discovery & development  
(17 members / 1 guest)
- 06-13-2024 – **Katy LAMIE** – South Dakota State Historical Society – Archeological  
Department (22 members / 1 guest)
- 07-11-2024 – **Frank GARCIA** – Discussed self and World Fossil Finder  
(20 members / 2 guests)
- 08-08-2024 – **Annual Pot Luck Picnic**
- 09-12-2024 – **Kelli WOLD** – Discussed / Displayed Opals & Opal hunting  
(27 members)
- 10-10-2024 – “**Elections**” & **John MATTERSON** – Discussed the formation of the Black  
Hills / Badlands areas. Also discussed “Badlands Chalcedony Agates” and how to ID them. (22  
members / 1 guest)
- The WDGMS has (10) scheduled field trips led by a WDGMS member the Saturday following  
the general meeting.
  1. 01-11-2023 – Toured ***Black Hills Institute*** –  
(16 members / 4 guests)
  2. 12-11-2023 – No Field Trips
  3. 01-13-2024 – Toured ***South Dakota School of Mines & Technology – Museum of  
Geology*** (10 members / 4 guests)
  4. 02-10-2024 – Toured ***World Fossil Finder*** Museum –  
(11 members / 2 guests)
  5. 03-16-2024 – Viewed “***Dinosaur 13 movie***” @ Elks Theater, Rapid City, S.D.  
(6 members)
  6. 04-13-2024 – Visited **Conata Basin Agate Beds**, Badlands, S.D.  
(12 members / 8 guests)

7. 05-11-2024 – Visited **Fossil Coral Beds**, Custer, S.D.  
(9 members / 5 guests)
  8. 06-15-2024 – Visited **Weta Agate Beds**, Badlands, S.D.  
(3 members)
  9. 07-13-2024 – No Field Trip due to “Gem & Mineral Show”
  10. 08-10-2024 – Visited **Teepee Canyon Agate Beds** – Custer, S.D.  
(14 members / 5 guests)
  11. 09-14-2024 – Visited **Kern & French Creek Agate Beds** – Fairburn, S.D. (17  
members)
  12. 10-12-2024 – **The Mammoth Site** – Hot Springs, S.D. (14  
members / 2 guests)
- On 05-01-2024, members of the WDGMS participated in an after school “Outreach” program at the **Robinsdale Elementary School**, located in Rapid City, S.D., for approximately **(35)** students. WDGMS members, **Debra BAILEY**, **Sean BAILEY** and **Myesa LEGENDRE – FIXX** discussed anything and everything rocks and how to identify them here in the Black Hills of South Dakota
  - The WDGMS sponsored its 41st “Gem and Mineral Show” on Saturday, 07-27-2024, and Sunday, 07-28-2024. The show was held at the Nerdy Nuts Building on the Central States Fairgrounds in Rapid City, S.D. The Gem and Mineral Show had **(34)** vendors in attendance with **(844)** paid attendees on Saturday and **(582)** paid attendees on Sunday. The WDGMS also hosted a “Silent Auction” during the Gem and Mineral Show which generated **\$10,721.29**. This assisted in funding (6) 2024 WDGMS sponsored scholarships.
  - The **Black Hills Prospecting Club** was also in attendance on Saturday, 07-27-2024, setting up tents in front of the Nerdy Nuts Building. The **BHPC** then set up troughs to hold water and dirt from their club gold claims allowing both adults and children, attending the Gem and Mineral Show, their first ever attempt to pan for gold.
  - As a result of the WDGMS “Silent Auction” generating **\$10,721.29** in funds at the 2024 Gem and Mineral Show it was able to fund the following scholarships:
    1. \$ 500 scholarship was granted to the **American Federation of Mineralogical Society**.
    1. \$500 scholarships were granted to the **Willard L. “Will” Roberts Scholarship Fund** to students at the **South Dakota School of Mines and Technology** located in Rapid City, S.D.
  - Members of the WDGMS, **Kaley JOHNSON** and **Donald BAILEY**, collaborated together and designed a WDGMS club t-shirt utilizing the club colors of “Blue and Gold” with the club logo, the Ammonite, displaying it on the back. These t-shirts were worn by WDGMS club members



**Western Dakota Gem & Mineral Society**

**Annual Holiday Party and Potluck**

Thursday, December 12, 2024 starting at 6:00 PM

Minneluzahan Senior Citizen Center



Food

Fun

50/50 Raffle

Gift Exchange

Rock B-I-N-G-O



Gift exchange-- If you would like to participate -- please bring a wrapped gift no more than \$15 -- rock related