



Cuyuna Rock, Gem and Mineral Society

The Agate Explorer

January 2020

Don't forget! Your dues are due.

\$20 per household per year, January-December.

Checks made payable to:

Cuyuna Rock, Gem, and Mineral Society.

You may pay them at the Clubhouse, or mail to:

Cuyuna Rock, Gem, and Mineral Society,

1001 Kingwood St., Ste. B-40

Brainerd, MN 56401



Franklin Art Center

Live Auction

The live auction, to be held in conjunction with Alex Sample's show on Saturday, January 4th at the Brainerd Exchange (the former BN Railroad repair shops). Auction previewing begins at 9 a.m. when the show opens, with the auction beginning at 10:30 a.m. There are approximately 300 units.

If you are able to help and have not already signed up, PLEASE call Ed Opatz at 320-250-1363.

Rock Wrappers

An open gathering for wire wrappers starting at 10 a.m. on meeting Saturdays.

Hang out with other wrappers, and work on your projects. (Bring all supplies needed.) Learn tricks to make wrapping easier, a new design, or perhaps a new place to find supplies. All skill levels welcome!

Club Information

Website-www.cuyunarockclub.org
Email-cuyunarockgemclub@gmail.com

Meeting Place

Lower level
Franklin Arts Center
1001 Kingwood St, Brainerd, MN 56401

Directions

.4 mile east of Business Hwy. 371 & Hwy. 210 intersection.
(Castle turret water tower.)

Date/Time

the 2nd Saturday of each month at 2 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

Club Dues

\$20/ family
Free /unaccompanied juniors
Membership runs from Jan. 1-Dec. 31st.

Club Calendar



- January 4**—live auction of the Club members' Moe and Wagoner collections at the Sample show in Brainerd, viewing at 9 a.m., auction at 10:30 a.m.
- January 11** —Meeting
- February 8**—Meeting
- March 14**—Meeting
- April 4** —Meeting Note change of date due to Easter weekend.
- May 2**—Meeting Note change of date due to show.
- May 9-10** -Annual Rock Show

Information subject to change.

Club Purpose:

To foster an interest (& encourage young & old) to study earth science, enjoy the art of lapidary, hunting for rocks, and semi-precious stones. We also strive to use what we know and acquire to further educate everyone who has an interest in our hobby.

We are a not-for-profit organization.

Rock and Mineral Auction

SPONSORED BY THE CUYUNA ROCK, GEM, AND MINERAL SOCIETY

LIVE BID

NO BUYER'S PREMIUM

*IN CONJUNCTION WITH SAMPLE'S AGATE, GEM, & MINERAL SHOW
A PORTION OF THE PROCEEDS DONATED TO SMILES FOR JAKE.*

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4TH

**THE BRAINERD EXCHANGE (THE RAILROAD SHOPS)
210 BLACK SMITH CIR., BRAINERD MN 56401**

TIME: 10:30 A.M.

VIEWING BEGINS AT 9:00 A.M.

*INCLUDES COLLECTIONS OF LARGE MINERAL SPECIMENS,
MICRO MINERALS, SOUTHWESTERN U.S. AGATES,
JASPERS, & GEODES. INDIVIDUAL SPECIMENS &
50 PAILS OF MATERIAL. MORE TO BE ADDED.*

FOR MORE INFORMATION CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE:

WWW.CUYUNAROCKCLUB.ORG.

PRESIDENT ED OPATZ, 320-250-1363.

How to Calculate the Jeweler's Markup for Gold Jewelry

If you're buying gold jewelry, you need to know more than the daily price of gold. You should familiarize yourself with gold weights and karats. This will let you calculate the jeweler's markup in any gold item's price.

Gold Weight Measurements

Jewelers weigh gold and the metals used for alloying in troy ounces. However, depending on the circumstances, the terms and units of weight referenced may vary. Sadly, I think sometimes this is solely done to keep the average consumer from making quick and accurate calculations.

1 troy pound = 12 troy ounces
1 troy ounce = 20 pennyweights (dwt)
1 pennyweight (dwt) = 24 grains (gr)
15.43 grains (gr) = 1 gram (gm)
31.10 grams (gm) = 1 troy ounce

Note these equations carefully. In particular, learn the conversions for pennyweight (dwt), grain (gr), and gram (gm). (Don't confuse the abbreviations of the last two). You'll find yourself frequently dealing with these three weight references on a "price per _____" basis.

Gold Karat Values

The karat value (K) of a gold item measures the purity of its gold. In other words, it measures the ratio of pure gold to alloy metals. 24K gold is 100% pure. 12K gold has 12 parts gold and 12 parts alloy metal, or 50% purity.

Divide any K value by 24 to determine the purity percentage, or consult the following table.

| Karat | Parts Gold | Percent Gold |
|-------|------------|--------------|
| 24 | 24/24 | 100.00% |
| 18 | 18/24 | 75.00% |
| 14 | 14/24 | 58.33% |
| 12 | 12/24 | 50.00% |
| 10 | 10/24 | 41.66% |

You can round 14K to 60% and 10K to 42% for easier approximations.

Calculating the Markup

When sellers say they don't sell on the basis of weight, they're pricing according to what the traffic will bear. In other words, you'll have to deal with an arbitrary markup for a gold item.

However, if you know the weight and karat of the gold item, you can calculate the gold value yourself. Also, you can get a good idea of the jeweler's markup.

Below, you have three examples of gold items sold by pennyweight, grain, and gram. Let's calculate the markup in these cases, using \$400/troy ounce as the daily gold price. (Editor's Note: Yes, this article shows its age. However, the math remains the same, regardless of the daily gold price).

Pennyweights

A dealer wants to sell a 14K gold item weighing 3 dwt for \$90.

To get the pennyweight price, divide the daily gold price per troy ounce, \$400, by 20. (1 troy ounce equals 20 dwt).
Thus, $\$400/20 = \20 per dwt.

To get the pure gold price for the item, multiply 3 dwt, the weight of the item, times \$20.

Thus, $3 \times \$20 = \60 . (This would be the price IF the item were 24K or 100% gold).
To get the 14K gold price for the item, multiply \$60, the pure gold price, by 0.6. (Remember, 14K gold contains approximately 60% gold and 40% alloy).
Thus, $\$60 \times 0.6 = \36 .

So, the 3 dwt, 14K item contains \$36 worth of gold, when gold sells at \$400 per troy ounce. Therefore, we've determined the jeweler's markup for the alloys (and everything else) at \$90 for the item comes to about 2.5 times the value of the gold.

Grains

A dealer wants to sell a 14K gold item weighing 3 gr for \$5.
To get the grain price, divide \$400 by 480. (1 troy ounce equals 480 gr).
Thus, $\$400/480 =$ approximately \$0.83 per gr (or 83¢ per gr).

To get the pure gold price for the item, multiply 3 gr times \$0.83.
Thus, $3 \times \$0.83 = \2.49 .

To get the 14K gold price for the item, multiply \$2.49 by 0.6.
Thus, $\$2.49 \times 0.6 =$ approximately \$1.49.

So the 3 gr, 14K item contains about \$1.49 worth of gold, when gold sells at \$400 per troy ounce. Therefore, we've determined the jeweler's markup at \$5 for the item comes to slightly more than triple the gold value.

Grams

A dealer wants to buy a 14K gold item weighing 3 gm for \$15.
To get the gram price, divide \$400 by 31. (1 troy ounce equals approximately 31 gm).
Thus, $\$400/31 =$ approximately \$13 per gm.

To get the pure gold price for the item, multiply 3 gm times \$13.
Thus, $3 \times \$13 = \39 .

To get the 14K gold price for the item multiply \$39 by 0.6.
Thus, $\$39 \times 0.6 = \23.40 .

So the 3 gm, 14K item contains around \$23 worth of gold, when gold sells at \$400 per troy ounce. Therefore, we've determined that the jeweler's offer to buy the piece at \$15 comes to about 65% of its gold value.

Calculating the Gold Content Value of a Jewelry Piece

In summary, to determine the gold value content of an item, you first need three bits of information.
weight, karat, the daily gold price

Next, if you encounter weights measured in pennyweights, grains, and grams, remember these conversions.
20 dwt to a troy ounce
480 gr to a troy ounce
31 gm, approximately, to a troy ounce

Divide the daily gold price per troy ounce by the appropriate number above. Then, multiply that result by the weight of the item to calculate its pure gold price.

Finally, multiply the item's pure gold price by its gold content percentage (its karat value divided by 24). This final result indicates the value of the actual gold content of the item. Now, you can figure out the jeweler's markup for the piece.

https://www.gemsociety.org/article/gold-quoted-priced-discussed-jewelry-trade/?utm_source=igs&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=dec_2_gold_markup

Cuyuna Rock, Gem, & Mineral Society on the Web
www.cuyunarockclub.org



New Herbivorous Dinosaurs Discovered

Paleontologists have discovered the remains of two new species of herbivorous dinosaurs that roamed Argentina's southern El Calafate area 70 million years ago. Dubbed the "Nullotitan Glaciaris," the first dinosaur measured 82 feet in length, and had four legs and a long neck, according to reps for the natural sciences museum of Buenos Aires, Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales Bernardino Rivadavia.

Remains of the "Isasicursor Santacruensis" were also unearthed during the dig. This second species measured 13 feet long and could move rapidly on its hind legs. "These [discoveries] are from a new archaeological site that is full of plant fossils, dinosaur fossils and other vertebrae," paleontologist Fernando Novas told Reuters. "It reveals to us an ecosystem from around 70 million years ago — before dinosaurs became extinct."

Novas declared the Nullotitan "one of the last great dinosaurs, the last giants that lived on the Earth." He said the species must have been a common animal because of the large quantity of its bones excavated during the dig.

The discovery of the Isasicursor Santacruensis is especially notable, Novas said, because it proves the existence of prehistoric pack animals.

"We found many bones from this animal but of different sizes, adults and youth, all mixed together," Novas said. "This is one of the few discoveries that reveal to us that these dinosaurs species lived in groups, in packs. They formed packs as a defense mechanism against predators, that in the past were giant carnivores related to Tyrannosaurus rex."

<https://nypost.com/2019/12/12/two-new-dinosaur-species-discovered-in-argentina/>



We're on Facebook!
**Cuyuna Rock,
Gem & Mineral Society**

is a closed group, so you must ask to join. After being approved you can follow the members' posts and add your own information.

Cuyuna Rock, Gem & Mineral Society Board Meeting Minutes Saturday November 2, 2019

The meeting was called to order by President Ed Opatz at 12:03 pm. Present were: Treasurer Kevin Martini, Secretary Joanie Hanson, and Board Members-at-Large Lilly Peterson, Vern Iverson, and Lori DuBois.

A motion was passed to approve October's minutes.

Treasurer's Report: Kevin will have the updated report posted at the rock club. Kevin will be purchasing 2-8 ft. tables for the Fairgrounds, 8 fitted 8ft. table clothes for the show tables, as well as ink for the club printers.

Other rock clubs have expressed an interest in exchanging ideas for places to pick agates etc. A motion was passed to have more interaction with them before giving out locations.

Vern was concerned about electrical issues for plug-ins of shop equipment. Kevin assured him that all outlets are up to code. The rock club will have an information table, the spinning wheel, geode cracker, and live auction at Alex Sample's Agate Show January 4th, 2020. The Auctioneer's contract was signed.

Looking for speaker topics/ class ideas. Need a member to be in charge of Kid's Corner.

Ed would like all members to notify him right away when somebody in the club passes away.

A motion was approved to put advertising on the DMV electronic billboard for the auction in January and the show in May. Revenue is not very high from the Rock Box at the Landscape Arboretum in Brainerd but we will continue with it because it is good advertising for the club.

Respectfully submitted,
Joanie Hanson, Secretary

Six Most Expensive Fancy Colored Diamonds



When the Spirit of de Grisogono rough diamond was first discovered in Africa, it weighed an astounding 587 carats, an enormous black diamond. The rough diamond was cut down to

312.24 carats by Swiss jeweler, De Grisogono. Even after being cut and faceted, the Spirit of de Grisogono still holds the title as the largest black diamond in the world and is the world's fifth largest diamond overall.

The Spirit of de Grisogono is currently set in a white gold ring, surrounded by 702 white diamonds that total 36.69 carats. It's value has not been disclosed.

<https://www.truefacet.com/guide/6-expensive-fancy-colored-diamonds/>

Jewelry Making Tip

By Brad Smith
www.BradSmithJewelry.com

Bezel Problems

When bezel setting a cab that has rather sharp corners, have you ever had problems pushing the metal down at the corners? It's a common problem often causing a wrinkle in your bezel and a grimace on your face.



In order for a bezel to capture the stone, the top edge of the bezel must be compressed and become shorter to lay down onto the stone. With a round or oval stone this naturally happens as you push and burnish the bezel. But when setting a stone

with corners, the tendency is to push the long sides of the bezel down first. No compression occurs along the sides, and all excess metal is left at the corners. Compressing everything there is difficult. Often the only way to remove the extra metal at the corner is to make a saw cut and fold the two sides in to touch.

If you want a smooth bezel all around the corners, the simple solution is to set the corners of the bezel first. Then push in and burnish the sides. In this way the necessary compression is distributed along the length of all sides and not forced to occur at the corners. With the corners set first, the top edge of the bezel can easily be compressed along the sides.

Mineral Encyclopedia

Euclase



Euclase is a rare beryllium aluminum hydroxide silicate mineral that crystallizes in the monoclinic system. It has a chemical composition of $\text{BeAlSiO}_4(\text{OH})$. Euclase crystals are usually found in granitic pegmatites and low-

temperature hydrothermal deposits. Massive to fibrous euclase is usually found in schists and phyllites.

It is safe to say that most geologists have never knowingly encountered euclase in the field. It is a rare mineral, they are not expecting to see it, it is usually present in small quantities, and because most euclase is colorless to white it is easily overlooked.

Euclase for Gem and Mineral Collectors

Euclase is best known for its prismatic crystals with prominent striations and a beautiful blue color with a light tone. Excellent crystal specimens are prized by mineral collectors. Specimens with excellent blue color and high clarity are often faceted into gems for mineral collectors.

Euclase has a hardness of 7.5, which would make it an excellent gem. However, it also breaks easily along planes of perfect cleavage, and that reduces its usefulness as a gem used in jewelry. The name "euclase" is derived from the Greek words eu and klasis, which together mean "good fracture".

Geographic Occurrence

Euclase was first reported from the Oren-

burg district of Russia's Ural Mountains where it occurs with other gem materials and gold in stream gravels. The most important source of gem- and specimen-quality euclase today is from Ouro Preto, in the Minas Gerais area of Brazil. Noteworthy euclase occurrences include: Australia, Austria, China, Colombia, Colorado (USA), Germany, Russia, and Zimbabwe.

<https://geology.com/minerals/>

Physical Properties of Euclase

Chemical Classification Beryllium Silicate

Color Most euclase is colorless or white. However, its color ranges from blue to green to yellowish green. Blue euclase is a favorite of gem and mineral collectors.

Streak White or colorless (when harder than the streak plate)

Luster Vitreous

Diaphaneity Transparent to translucent

Cleavage Perfect cleavage in one direction. Cleavage faces sometimes have a pearly luster. Conchoidal fracture.

Mohs Hardness 7.5

Specific Gravity 3.0 to 3.1

Diagnostic Properties Prismatic crystals with obvious striations, perfect cleavage, color. Colored crystals are usually light in tone and may be pleochroic.

Chemical Composition $\text{BeAlSiO}_4(\text{OH})$

Crystal System Hexagonal

Uses No important industrial uses. High-quality crystals are prized by mineral collectors. Specimens with good color and high clarity are faceted as gems for collectors.

Rock Room

This Club is unique because it has its own rock store. Here is an inventory of what is available for Club members to purchase. Stop in when you come to the Clubhouse.

Grit and Polish
Montana Petrified Wood
Montana Moss & Blue Agate
Oregon Geodes
Chalcedony
Desert Rose
Plume Agate
Yellow Jasper
Bruno Jasper
Owyhee Picture Jasper

Brazilian Agates
Amethyst
Tee Pee Canyon Agate
Hauser Bed Agate Thundereggs
Slabs of all sizes and types
Septarian Nodules—Utah
79 Bed Geodes—Oregon
Moroccan White Agate
Obsidian
Mineral specimens
Dinosaur bone
Condor Agate
Mexican Luna Lace Agate
Starolites (Cross Rocks)
Small Botswana Agate
New material will be available soon from a recent donation.

January Rock Shows

3-5—SANTA ROSA, CA: Gem Faire; Sonoma County Fairgrounds; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; \$7; Email: info@gemfaire.com; Website: <http://www.gemfaire.com>
4—BRAINERD, MN: Sample's Agate Gem & Mineral Shop; The Brainerd Exchange; Sat. 10-5; \$2 donation; Website: <https://www.samplesagategemandmineralshop.com>
4—BRAINERD, MN: Cuyuna Rock, Gem, & Mineral Society; live auction; The Brainerd Exchange; 9 a.m. viewing, auction at 10:30; \$2 donation as part of Sample's Show; Website: www.cuyunarockclub.org
10-12—LARGO, FL: Pinellas Geological Society; Central Park Performing Arts Center; Fri. & Sat. 10-5, Sun. 12-5; \$2, under 12 free; Website: www.PGS.Rocks
10-12—GLOBE, AZ: Gila County Gem & Mineral Society; Gila County Fairgrounds, Fri. & Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; \$3, children/students free; Website: www.gilagem.org
10-12—DEL MAR, CA: Gem Faire; Del Mar Fairgrounds; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; \$7; Website: <http://www.gemfaire.com>
17-19—SAN RAFAEL, CA: Gem Faire; Marin Center; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; free; Website: <http://www.gemfaire.com>
18-19—FREDERICKSBURG, TX: Fredericksburg Rockhounds; Lady Bird Johnson Park at the Pavilion; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-4; free; Website: fredericksburgrockhounds.org
18-19—DELAND, FL: Tomoka Gem & Mineral Society; Volusia County Fairgrounds; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; \$4, under 13 free; Website: tomokagms.org
18-19—YACHATS, OR: Yachats Agate Festival Planning Committee; Yachats Commons; Daily 10-4; free; Website: www.yachatsagatefestival.com
24-26—TYLER, TX: The East Texas Gem & Mineral Society; Tyler Rose Garden Center; Fri. 9-5, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; \$5, students/children \$1; contact Margaret Kilanski; Email: mlkilanski@yahoo.com

January 2020-February 2020

30-10—TUCSON, AZ: JOGS Tucson Gem & Jewelry Show; Tucson Expo Center; daily 10-6; \$20, no admittance for children under age 14; Website: <https://jogsshow.com/>
31-2—ROSEVILLE, CA: Gem Faire; Placer County Fairgrounds; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; \$7; Website: <http://www.gemfaire.com>



Agates From Around The World

*Warsaw Formation Agates
Warsaw and Hamilton, Illinois*

Jacob's Quarry is one of several geode-producing sites around Keokuk, Iowa and I like coming to the quarry mainly because the geodes are of right size for me (not bigger than softballs) to sell for geode-cracking purposes. I did not expect to find any agates there and I almost threw the solid nodules away. When I broke one that turned to contain the white chalcedony/agate bands, I gathered the solid nodules that I threw away to be cut. Few nodules will reveal the "White Ringers" a nickname given to the ring-like white bands of agates within the quartz nodules by the local collectors and apparently, they have some value among the geode-collectors.

The nodules originally were the form of crinoid head and other fossils before they had been expanded by crystallizing gypsum and other evaporate within the soft limestone (or limey mudstone) to be later dissolved. Quartz, calcite, dolomite, barite, marcasite and sometimes agates will fill in the gaps left by dissolved evaporate minerals. Hollow and chalcedony lined (also agate) geodes can be also found there.

The quarry is not the only place where agates can be found. The geode-bearing Warsaw Formation covering a large area around Keokuk, Iowa (including Canton, Missouri and possibly Vinton, Iowa) will sometimes produce large white to gray banded agate nodules similar to the Coldwater Agates from Vinton, Iowa.

<http://www.sailorenergy.net/Agates/AgatesIllinoisJacobsQuarryWarsawAgates01.html>

Precious or Semi-Precious Gemstones



Tourmaline is a boron silicate gemstone that may contain any of a number of other elements, giving it a chemical formula of $(Ca,K,Na,[])(Al,Fe,Li,Mg,Mn)_3(Al,Cr,Fe,V)_6(BO_3)_3(Si,Al,B)_6O_{18}(OH,F)_4$. It forms trigonal [crystals](#) and has a hardness of 7 to 7.5. Tourmaline is often black but may be colorless, red, green, bi-colored, tri-colored, or other colors.

<https://www.thoughtco.com/alphabetical-list-of-precious-and-semiprecious-gemstones-4134639>



The World of Jaspers Unakite Jasper

Sometimes known as unakite jasper, it is a form of granite, which includes pieces of green epidote, quartz crystals, and pink orthoclase feldspar.

It also possesses a unique, pink and mottled green appearance, and when it's polished it has an attractive multi-colored appearance, which makes for outstanding jewelry.

Unakite was discovered first in the Unakas Mountains, which is part of the Appalachian Mountains, where the stone gets its name from.

Unakite appears to have been caught up in the glacial drifts during the Ice Age and has already been found throughout North America, as well as in South Africa, China, and Brazil, even though never in the numbers present in the Unakas Mountains.

This is a semiprecious kind of stone, and since all of the components of it are somewhat common minerals that are found in the crust of the Earth, unakite stays comparatively cheap and eagerly available, more especially to people who live in the vicinity of the mountains.

https://gemstagram.com/_trashed/

Cuyuna Rock, Gem & Mineral Society General Meeting Minutes Saturday November 2, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 by President Ed Opatz. There were 30 members and 1 guest present.

The annual board member elections were today. Elected- President: Ed Opatz, Secretary: Joanie Hanson, Board Members-at-Large: Vern Iverson, Lori DuBois and Julie Jo Larson.

Member silent auction today.

Membership renewals are due for 2020. Many thanks to Dan Bubalo for the donation of rocks and agates. The club will put them to good use.

Jan 4 show prep- November 23 at rock club to sort and organize collection for the auction. Volunteers needed for sorting and at the show as runners for the auctioneer and other club activities (info table, geode cracker, spinning wheel).

If you know of a good place or farm field to pick agates please let Ed know.

Suggestions for advertising for the show in the spring were discussed.

Door Prize winners: Bev Williams, Paulette Durnan, Kevin Martini, Judy Frampton, Lilly Peterson, Bev Williams.

Respectfully submitted,
Joanie Hanson, Secretary



Matt Metzler received his scholarship at the Christmas party that was awarded by the Club. Matt is attending the University of Minnesota Duluth, majoring in geology. Congratulations, Matt!





A little Christmas party chaos!

The annual Christmas party was held on December 14th. Part of the tradition is a white elephant gift dice game.

A Museum Devoted to Geological Treasures Opens in Maine *A world-class meteorite collection is among the highlights of the new Maine Mineral & Gem Museum.*

When Jane Perham decided it was time to close Perham’s Maine Mineral Store in 2009, the beloved institution her father founded in 1919, she worried about what would become of the collection of minerals and gems that her family had acquired over the decades.

“I prayed and suffered a long time about what I was going to do with it,” Ms. Perham said. “I knew I wasn’t going to break it up. That wasn’t going to happen no matter what.”

Then Lawrence Stifler and Mary McFadden expressed interest in purchasing the entire collection. The Perham legacy would be kept intact, and in Maine.

Mr. Stifler and Ms. McFadden, married philanthropists based in Massachusetts, have dedicated themselves to helping preserve western Maine’s rich mining history, of which the Perham store was an integral part. The material they received from Ms. Perham constitutes one of 10 major local

collections of minerals, gems and rocks that the couple have acquired. Now those items form the cornerstone of the Maine Mineral & Gem Museum, located in the town of Bethel, which Mr. Stifler and Ms. McFadden opened to the public Dec. 12 after years of development.

The couple took the first step toward creating the museum in 2005 when they bought the Bumpus quarry, a disused feldspar mine abutting their property. They then began devising plans to showcase and safeguard the area’s mineralogical wealth. The project was further bolstered when Carl Francis, the former curator of Harvard University’s Mineralogical and Geological Museum, joined them after his retirement in 2011.

Throughout the planning stages, Ms. McFadden and Mr. Stifler, the founder of Health Management Resources, kept an eye out for important specimens, especially those held by aging collectors who wanted to ensure that their life’s work would be cared for after they were gone.

Commercial mining, however, has largely been in decline in western Maine, leaving many mines inactive and in disrepair. Dedicated “rockhounds” continue to scour the area for choice mineral specimens, but that

tradition is waning.

Mr. Stifler and Ms. McFadden, whose family foundation supports the Bedlam theater company in New York, the Grab the Torch youth leadership program and other organizations, intervened in part because they feared that much of this area’s history was in danger of being lost. “Conservation started it all,” Mr. Stifler said, “and this is a form of conservation as well, conserving a great part of the heritage of Maine and making that available to the public.”

Maine Mineral & Gem Museum
99 Main Street, Bethel, Maine;
207-824-3036, mainemineralmuseum.org.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/12/12/arts/design/maine-mineral-and-gem-museum.html>

Sunshine Requests



If you know someone who could use a little sunshine— birth, illness, surgery, family death—please contact Christi Higgins at 320-224-6650.

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& Mineral Society
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FIRST CLASS MAIL



The Agate Explorer

January 2020

Official Publication of the Cuyuna Rock,
Gem & Mineral Society



Members of AFMS & MWF

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& Board of Directors**
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Notes from the President

Hopefully Santa brought you some cool rocks, and not coal!

Now that most of the holiday commotion is over you could have time to think about who the Club can get as a star vendor at our 2020 show. Is there a vendor you have met at another show that doesn't come to ours? Let me know and I will contact them about coming to ours.

Also, are there any changes that you think we need to change/improve for the 2020 show? This is OUR show, so it's important that you have input.

If you have plans to be in the southwest any time from mid-January through mid-March, call me. Maybe we can meet to go rockhounding. Marcia and I will be in Texas, New Mexico and Arizona.

We are still looking for a few people to help at the rock auction on January 4th. PLEASE call me A.S.A.P. if you can help. Even an hour or two can be a great help. Since this is something we have not done before it's hard to know how many people we need. I would like to have too many people, than not enough. Some people have volunteered to be there all day. If we have plenty of people everyone will have a chance to enjoy the show.

LET'S ROCK ON IN 2020!

Ed Opatz

