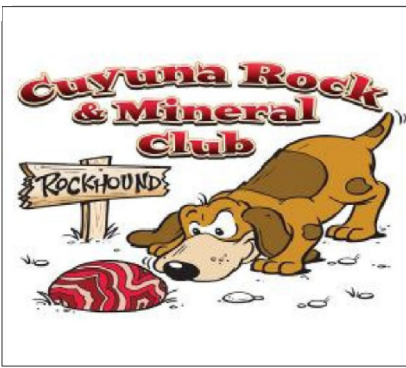


# The Agate Explorer

May 2023



## It's Showtime!

The annual show will be held Sat, May 13 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, May 14 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Set up is all day Friday, May 12.

If you are not signed up to volunteer during the show, and are able to do so, PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE call president Ed Opatz to help. Most shifts are 3 hours and require no training prior to working.

Are there any members who would like to take photos as they walk around the show? Please contact Ed Opatz—320-250-1363.



Franklin Art Center

### Club Information

Website-[www.cuyunarockclub.org](http://www.cuyunarockclub.org)  
Email-[cuyunarockgemclub@gmail.com](mailto: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.**

### Looking for Volunteers

For the Pebble Pups Day Camp on Friday, June 9—all day, at the Clubhouse.

The day consists of stations that small groups of kids rotate through approximately every 45 minutes. Volunteers have a curriculum sheet to follow for each station, with the materials provided by the Club. Possible topics this year may include:

Magnificent Minerals and Sluicing. Usually there are seven topics. Volunteers can suggest topics or select from the full list when it becomes available.

A few volunteers can be used for other activities, such as signing in participants, prepping simple snacks, and taking photos.

If you are interested in helping, please contact Marcia Opatz at 320-250-8120 or [theisma@hotmail.com](mailto:theisma@hotmail.com).

### Club Calendar

- May 13-14**—Annual Show at Crow Wing County Fairgrounds
- June 9**—Pebble Pup day camp
- June 10**—Pebble Pup agate pick; meeting date
- June 24-26**—Field to Thunder Bay for amethyst mining
- July 8**—meeting date



*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.*

## 2023 Field Trips



**June 24-26** Thunder Bay Canada mining for amethyst.

Things to know:  
Need enhanced driver's license or passport to enter Canada. No DWI in last 10 years. Camping and motels are available. Must be 18+ to go into the mine; younger participants may pick from the piles outside the mine.

Prices are \$50 per provided bucket for mine finds. \$25 for pile finds. Garden rocks are a separate (often less expensive) price.

### **July 21 (tentative) Northland Monument Tour and Agate Pick**

Things to know:  
Free tour of how rock equipment, followed by local agate pick and bring your own picnic lunch  
Carpooling/bus may be available

**Early August** Billings MT American Federation's yearly conference, includes rock show and most likely five days of field trips to various locations. Could include Montana moss agate, Bear Canyon agate, Kemmerer fish fossils.

**Throughout the spring/summer/fall** any location to pick Lake Superior agates.

If you are interested in any of the above trips, please contact Ed Opatz at 320-250-1363 or opatz1@att.net.



## May Birthstone Emerald

Emerald has been synonymous with the color green since ancient times. A fine emerald is a truly breathtaking sight, and this member of the beryl family deserves its placement among the traditional "Big Four" gems, along with diamond, ruby, and sapphire.

Legend has it that wearing emeralds will imbue the wearer with heightened intelligence and allow them to think objectively. Others use the stone to promote healing. It has even been claimed that emeralds allow the wearer to predict the future.

The best emeralds express an even, deep green. Some may have blue undertones. Emeralds are known to commonly include eye-visible inclusions. Generally speaking, the fewer the inclusions, the higher the value of the stone.

<https://www.gemsociety.org/article/birthstone-chart>

## Cuyuna Rock, Gem & Mineral Society Meeting Minutes

Saturday, March 11, 2023

### Board Meeting

Call to Order- The meeting was called to order at 12:12 pm by President Ed Opatz via phone. Present were Vice-President Lori DuBois, Treasurer Kevin Martini, Secretary Joanie Hanson, and Board Members-at-Large Vern Iverson, Judi Laurence, and Jo Schwalboski (via phone).

A motion was passed to approve the minutes from the February meeting.

Treasurer's report- Kevin- The club bank accounts were switched to Mid Minnesota Federal Credit Union. We will no longer be using Wells Fargo and are in the process of transitioning from there. A motion was passed to pay the bills for the month. Judi asked for money to pay for gift bags for the MWF meeting that will take place during the show. A motion was passed to give her \$100.00. Full report at the rock club.

Inventory banners for any necessary date changes for the show. – check at April meeting. And security vests.

Kevin fixed the display cases.  
Kevin worked on capping machines.

Vern worked on the rock room.

On the Friday before the meeting, Joanie, Sherry, and Judi reorganized and brought the library up to date. Lori worked on sorting spinning wheel rock.

The rock club was cleaned and prepared for the Brainerd Business after Hours event at Franklin Arts Center.

Show security- Joseph "Joe" Schley & Trent Lichtsinn.

Crow Wing County Sheriff, Eric Klang, OK'd the use of a squad car to be parked in front of the rock show.

Marcia put an ad in the Rock and Gem magazine for the month of April.

There will not be a silent auction at the show.

Mike Stanwood and Alan Busacker Braved the bad weather and came to help with clean up and show prep. Thank you to them.

### General Meeting

Cancelled due to snowstorm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joanie Hanson, Secretary

## Chinese Scientists Discover Huge Crystal-Filled Dinosaur Eggs Belonging to a New Species

Geodes are spherical rocks with crystal-lined hollow cavities. They are beautiful and unique, forming over thousands of years. But they are even more astounding when they turn out to be dinosaur eggs. This phenomenon is not uncommon. Voids inside the eggs can be filled by calcite and quartz crystals, resulting in geode-like structures. Discover what was inside these huge crystal-filled dinosaur eggs and other recent discoveries from this Chinese dinosaur hotspot.

Chinese paleontologists dug up three dinosaur eggs about the size of a cannonball in the Qianshan Basin of East China's Anhui Province. The site where the eggs were was along a highway in the cretaceous strata of the basin. The Qianshan Basin is a late cretaceous to the early paleocene sedimentary basin. The area is known for its discoveries of Paleocene vertebrate mammals, reptiles, and birds. But it was rare for finding cretaceous reptiles, until recently with these new dinosaur eggs.

The recently discovered dinosaur eggs are classified as a new oospecies, a species used to classify fossilized dinosaur eggs. They refer to this new species as Shixingoolithus qianshanensis. Their shells distinguish them



from other dinosaur species. They possess a larger size and density of radial microstructures on the eggshell's inner surface.

The eggs belong to a dinosaur from

the Cretaceous period, most likely an ornithomimid. Ornithomimids were bipedal running herbivores with duck-like bills. They were one of the longest-surviving and most widespread dinosaurs from the late Jurassic to the late Cretaceous periods. They were exceptionally fast runners and could grow up to 30 feet long, although most were between five and 20 feet. This dinosaur family died during the mass extinction event that wiped out all non-avian dinosaurs. The Chicxulub asteroid was six miles wide when it smashed into the Yucatan Peninsula 66 million years ago.

<https://a-z-animals.com/blog/chinese-scientists-discover-huge-crystal-filled-dinosaur-eggs-belonging-to-new-species/>

**The Club is always looking for places to pick Lake Superior agates or other Minnesota rocks. If you know of somewhere that we can get permission a group to pick, please call Ed Opatz at 320-250-1363. A stipend is paid to the landowner.**

## 2023 Show Volunteer List

### Show Set up—Friday p.m.

Vern Iverson      Bev Williams  
Lilly Peterson    Lisa Hughes  
Joanie Hanson    Marcus Wolff  
Jo Schwalboski

### Set up Display Cases Fri p.m.

### Security Back Gate

Saturday, 6-9  
Mike Stanwood

Saturday, 9-12  
Bruce Curley

Saturday, 12-4  
Allison Finch

Sunday, 8-12

Sunday, 12-4

### Vendor Survey/Forms

Laly Larson

**Count Saturday Admission #s**  
Sherri & Steve Moening

### Door Admissions

Saturday, 9-12  
Vern Iverson  
Keith Lorensen  
Becky Sovde

Saturday, 12-3  
Becky Sovde

Saturday, 3-5  
Alan Busacker  
Diane & Mike Windey  
Sunday, 10-1  
Vern Iverson  
John Leek

Sunday, 1-4  
Alan Busacker

### Club Table

Saturday, 9-1  
Meredith Sternaman/Dick Salzwedel  
Joanie Hanson  
Sherry Busse  
Saturday, 1-5  
JoAnn Moe

Sunday, 10-12:30  
Alan Busacker  
Bruce Curley

Sunday, 12:30-4  
Lilly Peterson

### Security Exit Gate

Saturday, 9-12

Saturday, 12-3

Saturday, 3-5

Sunday, 10-1

Sunday, 1-4

### Security—Walk Around

Saturday, 9-12  
Dan Hamond

Saturday, 12-3

Saturday, 3-5

Sunday, 10-1  
Dan Hammond

Sunday, 1-4

### Rock Saw/Geode Cracker

Saturday, 9-12  
John Krebs  
Daryl Tasler

Saturday, 12-3  
Daryl Tasler  
Ed Walton

Saturday, 3-5  
Daryl Tasler  
Ed Walton

Sunday, 10-1  
Ray Strassburg  
Marge Strassburg  
Ed Walton

Sunday, 1-4  
Ray Strassburg  
Marge Strassburg  
Ed Walton

### Rock Pile

Saturday, 9-11  
Reisz family

Saturday 1-5  
Schmitt family

Sunday, 10-1

Sunday, 1-4  
Lori & Mitch Norman

### Spinning Wheel

Saturday, 9-12  
Kathee Stanwood  
Mike Stanwood

Saturday, 12-3  
Ann Espeland  
Reisz family

Saturday, 3-5

Sunday, 10-1  
Kathee Stanwood  
Mike Stanwood

Sunday, 1-4  
Sue Mott

### Sluice Box / Rock Pile

Saturday, 9-1  
Paulette & Braydon Woznick

Saturday, 1-5  
Paulette & Braydon Woznick

Sunday, 10-1  
Jane and Todd Stevens

Sunday, 1-4  
Bruce Curley

### Rock Wizard

Saturday, 10:30-1

Saturday, 1-3  
Dave Moe

Saturday, 3-5  
Dave Moe

Sunday, 10-1

Sunday, 1-4

### Show Tear Down

Lori DuBois  
Joanie Hanson  
Sue Mott  
Barb Cannon  
Lisa Hughes  
Marcus Wolff

### Monday Clean up—a.m.

Chuck Knierim  
Karen Knierim

## ROX BOX

A place to advertise rock items to sell or trade and to inquire about items to purchase.



**The Cuyuna Rock, Gem, and Mineral Society accepts no responsibility for any dissatisfaction that may occur by either party, sell or buyer. The Society does not profit in any way by sales transactions.**

**Wanted:** Rock Saw, 14-16 inch blade and tumbler, 20+ pounds. Contact Mike Stanwood at 218-821-4775.

**Wanted:** Ride to show on Sunday, May 14th from Parkers Prairie or nearby. Please call Marie Israel at 218-924-4017 or 320-219-2559.

**For Sale:** New 15 lb. barrel tumbler \$300. Call John Krebs 320-260-7349.



**For Sale:** Jen-ken kiln af3p 11x11x4.5. Comes with at least \$400 worth of glass, forms, and supplies. Everything for \$750. Call Kevin Martini at 217-770-8917.





# 2023 Cuyuna Agate & Mineral Show

**Saturday, May 13 9-5 Sunday, May 14 10-4**

**Crow Wing County Fairgrounds  
2000 S. E. 13th St., Brainerd, Minnesota**



**Adults \$2.00 Under 12 \$1.00 Mothers free on Sunday!**

***Sanitizing station available; current Covid rules will be followed.***

**Agates from around the world ♦ Handcrafted Jewelry ♦ Fossils  
Crystals ♦ Unique Décor Items ♦ Prizes ♦ Specimens ♦ Fluorescents  
Displays ♦ Spinning Wheel ♦ Knappers ♦ Rough Rock  
Equipment & Lapidary Supplies ♦ Minerals ♦ Agate rock pile for kids  
Slabs & Cabochons ♦ Rock Cutting ♦ Geode Cracking ♦ Sluicing  
Ask the Wizard of Rocks ♦ Concessions ♦ ATM Available**

Member  
MW Federation of  
Mineralogical &  
Geological Societies



Member  
American Federation  
of Mineralogical  
Societies



**Buy Sell Trade**

**For more information call /text Ed Opatz at 320-250-1363 or email at [opatz1@att.net](mailto:opatz1@att.net)**

**[www.cuyunarockclub.org](http://www.cuyunarockclub.org)**





**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.

**Sunshine Requests**



If you know someone who could use a little sunshine—birth, illness, surgery, family death—please contact Joanie Hanson at 218-831-2665.

**Minnesota Rock Shops**

- Agate City** 721 7th Ave., Two Harbors 218-834-2304
- AM Rock Shop** 710 E River Rd, Anoka 763-421-2807
- Art & Soul** 5124 202 Main St Stillwater, 651-275-0255
- Beaver Bay Agate Shop** 1003 Main St., Beaver Bay 218-226-4847
- Christy's Crystals** 407 N Riverfront Dr, Mankato 507-720-1061
- Designed In Stone** 841 Forest Ave E Suite 110, Mora 651-248-8768
- Dream in Jasper Crystal Shop** 107 N Meridian St, Belle Plaine 763-301-1058
- Enchanted Rock Garden** 1228 E 66th St, Richfield 612-866-1140
- Jon's Gem Emporium** 184 North Hwy 10, Motley 218-640-1047
- Magic Mushrooms in the Crystal Garden** 171 Lake St N, Big Lake 612-805-7111
- MO'R Designs** 2100 Snelling Ave N Suite 13, St Paul 651-294-3069
- Naturally Unique** 137 Western Ave N, Park Rapids 701-429-0409
- Rocks and Things** 201 N Rum River Dr, Princeton 763-389-0979
- Rocks & Tools SeashellsbyShelly Rock and Crystal Shop** 2625 County Rd 37 NE, Monticello 763-295-2440
- Sacred Sage and Crystals** 118 Broadway E, Little Falls 320-360-3611
- Sample's Agates Gem and Mineral Shop** 18581 MN-371, Brainerd 218-821-6623
- Taylor's Falls Bead Store** 364 Bench St, Taylor's Falls
- Those Blasted Things** 924 Kniss Ave., Luverne 507-283-4027
- Twin Pines Trading Post** 31049 Front St, Pequot Lakes 218-839-0829
- ZRS Fossils and Gifts** 3018 Lyndale Ave S, Minneapolis 612-824-1068

**May Upcoming Rock Shows**

- 5-7—KALAMAZOO, MI: Kalamazoo Geological and Mineral Society; Kalamazoo County Expo Center; Fri. 4-8, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; \$5, under 12 free; kalamazoorockclub.org
- 5-7—MCPHERSON, KS: McPherson Gem and Mineral Club; 4-H Fairgrounds; Fri. & Sat. 9-5:30, Sun. 10-3:30; Free; www.mcphersongemandmineralclub.org
- 6-7—MARSHFIELD, WI: Heart of Wisconsin Gem & Mineral Society; Marshfield High School Fieldhouse; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; Free; www.heartofwisconsinrocks.com
- 12-14—COLUMBIA, MO: Central Missouri Rock & Lapidary Club; Knights of Columbus Hall; Fri. 12-7, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; 3-day pass: \$6, under 12 free; Website: cmrlc.org
- 13-14—BOZEMAN, MT: Bozeman Gem & Mineral Club; Gallatin County Fairgrounds;

- Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; \$3, under 12 free; Linda Johnson, (406) 580-3419; Email: linda-johnson.montana@gmail.com
- 19-21—JOPLIN, MO: Tri-State Gem & Mineral Society; Joplin History & Mineral Museum; Fri. & Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-3; Free; Chris Wiseman, (417) 623-1180, 1586; Email: jmc-cwiseman@sbcglobal.net
- 20-21—WAUWATOSA, WI: Wisconsin Geological Society; Hart Park; Sat. 10-4:30; Adults \$3 or two for \$5, Children Free, Website: wigeo.org
- 20-21—BUTTE, MT: Butte Mineral & Gem Club; Butte Civic Center Main Arena; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; \$3, Under 12 free; Pete Knudsen, (406) 490-5828; Email: PKnudsen@mtech.edu
- 27-28—ST. CHARLES, IL: Chicagoland Gems & Minerals Association; Kane County Fairgrounds; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; \$5, under 13 free; Website: CGMAshow.com



**Kids' Corner**

**Sodalite**

Sodalite is a vibrantly blue mineral which was named for its high sodium content (sodium is in table salt!) It has a greasy lustre, which means that if you can get a good look at a clean crystal then it will look like the surface of the mineral is greasy.

Sodalite is a highly fluorescent mineral. This means that if you have an ultraviolet light (a black light/ the light that is used for glow-in-the-dark mini putt) and you shine the light on a piece of sodalite then it will glow!



Used in decorative pieces and jewelry.

<https://uwaterloo.ca/earth-sciences-museum/resources/just-kids/minerals-kids>

**Volunteer Needed**

The Club is looking for someone to be a field trip coordinator. This person would look for locations to rockhound and organize the trip. It would not be necessary to go on every trip, but have contact information available. Assistance given by Board members. Call/text Ed Opatz at 320-250-1363.



**Cash Or Credit** **Rocks by the piece** **Rocks by the pail** **Rocks by the pound** **Volume Discounts** **ATM .3 mile**

**New 1000+ pail collection!**  
**Agates from around the world.**  
**Lake Superior Specimens Septarians Jaspers**  
**Multi-colored glass Petrified Wood Kyanite**  
**Pails of Lake Superior Agates, 1/4"-2"**  
**Specimens Fossils Geodes Spheres/Eggs**  
**Bismuth Amethyst Crystals Indian artifacts**  
**Celestite Dino bone Coprolite Aragonite**  
**Bubbling rock fountain rocks 3-D frames**  
**Agate Art Vintage jewelry Equipment**  
**New pieces added from collections.**

**Rock cutting available.**

**Friday, May 26 9-5 Friday, June 2 9-5**  
**Saturday, May 27 9-5 Saturday, June 3 9-5**  
**Sunday, May 28 9-5 Sunday, June 4 9-3**  
**Monday, May 29 9-3 Other times by appt.**

**43330 125th Ave., Holdingford MN**

**For questions, call/text 320-250-1363.**

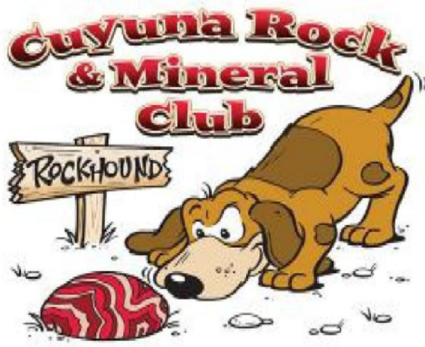
**Cuyuna Rock, Gem, & Mineral Society**  
on the Web

[www.cuyunarockclub.org](http://www.cuyunarockclub.org)

**Rocks Gems Fossils Minerals**  
**JON'S GEM EMPORIUM**  
Call Or Text To Shop Off Hours OPEN FRI AND SAT 10-6 SUN 12-5  
**218-640-1047**  
MOTLEY, MN

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## FIRST CLASS MAIL



## The Agate Explorer

April 2023  
Official Publication of the Cuyuna Rock,  
Gem & Mineral Society



Members of AFMS & MWF

## Notes from the President

We are sure rocking at our house. The countdown is on to our big show in Brainerd on May 13th and 14th. The list is long, and so are the days. I hope we can get everything done.

If you haven't signed up for volunteering at the show, and are available that weekend, even for a couple of hours, PLEASE give me a call—320-250-1363. Most jobs need no training. We have a volunteer appreciation dinner sometime after the show to thank everyone that worked at the show. Can't beat that!

We are still looking for places to look for Lake Superior agates. Do you know of a farm or private gravel pit that would let a group look? We pay the owner a stipend, and have insurance to cover damage to the property.

Recently I talked to a Club member that COULD have somewhere to look for binghamite. I am really excited about the possibility of that happening. In the entire time I have been with the Club (15 years?) we have never had a spot to look for that Minnesota rock.

I hope you noticed the sale flyer in this newsletter for a sale at our house. Marcia and I, along with a lot of helpers, have been sorting through a big collection I bought. We won't get through everything before the sale, but there will be lots and lots of new rocks to see.



*Ed Opatz*

## Club Officers & Board of Directors

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