

Lakeland Gem & Mineral Club  
Minutes  
Tuesday, 25 April 2023  
6:30 p.m.  
Church of the Pines, Minocqua WI

## **Welcome and Introductions**

Barbara Sironen welcomed new & returning members to the April meeting. Attendees introduced themselves and their interest in geology and earth sciences. There were 15 attendees.

Ross Pettit volunteered to take the meeting minutes.

## **Program**

Gregg and Kay Guthrie presented on their five decades of experience rockhounding in the copper country. Copper has been mined since prehistoric times in the UP, and ancient tools forged from copper are still found from time to time. Michigan copper has been found as a prehistoric trade item as far away as South America, an indicator of both the extensiveness of indigenous people's trade routes and the value indigenous people placed on copper.

Gregg and Kay's presentation included a wide range of examples from their personal collection including raw specimen, copper crystals, and rare mohawkite (a composite of copper, silver and arsenic); artifacts such as chisel chips and firebrick infused with copper; and small pieces forged after hours by copper country workers.

Copper country is only 90 to 100 miles from Minocqua, but Gregg reported finding copper in a campsite on the Bear River outside of Lac du Flambeau.

While some sites, like the Cliff mine, are open and accessible to anybody, it's best to first check who owns the mine and make contact before doing any prospecting. Sites like the Adventure Mining Company ([www.adventureminetours.com](http://www.adventureminetours.com)) and Caledonia mine ([www.caledoniamine.com](http://www.caledoniamine.com)) offer tours and private ore piles with advance registration. The Mohawk mine is under new ownership and may reopen. Michigan Tech offers a week long program once a year where participants can go over freshly turned ground.

Kay mentioned that former club members Dale and Pattie Hartmann who live in copper country have offered club members to identify rocks they're brought, sell stone including copper, and provide information on local mine accessibility. Contact club president Barbara Sironen for details.

Other destinations and events in copper country recommended by Gregg and Kay include:

- The Quincy Swap Meet, which will be held August 9, 2023. (<https://quincymine.com/>)
- The Keweenaw Museum (<https://keweenawhistory.org/Keweenaw-History-Museum/>)
- Copper Country Mineral Club (<https://ccrnc.info/>)
- Ishpeming Rock and Mineral Club show is coming up August 5, 2023 (<http://ishpemingrocks.org/show.html>)

For still more information on shows and sales, Kay recommends visiting the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies website (<https://www.amfed.org/>).

## **Business Meeting**

### *President's Report*

Barbara reported that an ad hoc committee consisting of Mary Krueger, David Picard and Barbara Sironen met to review the bylaws. This committee met on March 28 and identified areas that needed to be worked on in the bylaws, but nothing that need be edited at this time. As nothing has changed, a motion was made by Mary to accept the unamended and unchanged bylaws and seconded by Kay. Motion carried.

We will seek advice from the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies on getting the right insurance and consent forms for group field trips.

Barbara also mentioned that the annual convention of the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies (<https://www.mwfed.org/>) will be held in Howell, Michigan this coming September 15th through 17th. This is not a rock show, although there are exhibits.

### *Board Member Reports*

#### *Vice President's Report*

Dave Picard reported that next month's program will be a combination of two proposed presentations. Bill will present on Carbon-14 dating on the wood present in copper artifacts to date them. Dave will present on the relative and absolute dating of rocks.

Other agreed but as of yet unscheduled presentations include Varieties of Quartz (Dave Picard & Barbara Sironen) including chalcedony, chert, agate, flint, onyx, amethyst, jasper, rose quartz, citrine, opal, etc.; and Thunder Bay Amethyst (Ross Pettit).

Dave circulated a sheet asking for proposals and volunteers to present.

Dave also reported one proposed field trip to the Seamen Mineral Museum (<https://museum.mtu.edu/visit>) in Houghton, Michigan.

### *Secretary's Report*

Barbara noted that Jeanne Wolfe, the Club Secretary, is currently facing some serious health issues that may require her absence from membership meetings for the time being. Because of this, we are asking that group members rotate to fill in for her in recording minutes at upcoming meetings.

Kay took minutes at the club's March meeting. The minutes were distributed via email to club members and posted to the club website. Barbara read the meetings. An amendment regarding insurance details was made by Dan. A motion to accept the minutes as amended was made by Dan and seconded by Bruce. Motion carried.

### *Treasurer's Report*

Mary Krueger reported the starting balance was \$5,580.73. There were general club expenses of \$18.48 and show expenses for \$96.80. There were deposits from show exhibitors / vendors and from dues of \$3,560. The current balance is \$9,025.45

A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Gregg and second by Cal. Motion carried.

### *Annual Gem & Mineral Club Show Report*

Dan has marketing materials for the show. The flier has the wrong website address; it still has the .com not .org. We will replace the .com with .org by hand on the fliers.

Dan reported that we have 64 tables reserved for the show; our maximum space is 90. Kay and Gregg indicated they would like to reserve as many as 4, putting us at 68. Dan asked club members to communicate the numbers tables they will want as soon as they can.

The metal detector arrived for the raffle. We have to apply for a license to run the raffle by May; Mary will look into this as the information was allegedly communicated with the Treasurer's details from Ron.

Three donations have arrived; one from Fordham, a "black anniversary kit" including a grinding motor and hand pieces. Two other donations have also arrived. Of 38 vendors contacted, only these three have responded.

Material for the silent auction is running short. In the past, deceased members bequeathed their collections to the club and that made up for the bulk of the silent auction. If any club member has specimen knows a person with desirable specimen they are looking to dispose of, please contact Dan.

John Dean is confirmed for the show to give a presentation on fluorescent stones. We had a discussion about safety (the UV light) and whether to secure a room for the fluorescent exhibition.

Dan or his designee will circulate a petition for people to contribute to the pot luck dinner. Last year, this changed from a pot luck to pizza and the dinner was successful.

#### *Membership Report*

Mary asked if anybody needed a membership form or to accept dues.

Barbara reported again that there is no field trips committee chairperson or program committee chairperson. The club would benefit greatly from having a volunteer for each position.

#### *Publicity Committee Report*

Kay will continue to do publicity for upcoming club events. Gregg will send any press releases to Ross to publish on the website.

#### *Website Committee Report*

The club has an email address, [hello@lakelandgemclub.org](mailto:hello@lakelandgemclub.org).

Ross made a motion to adjourn, which Bill seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Ross Pettit