



February 2017 issue

***** Our next regular meeting will be held on Monday, February 21, 6:45 pm at the TADL *****

Program: Isle Royale National Park by guest author and adventurer, Loreen Niewenhuis

Snack Hosts: Laura and Allison Miller, Marianne Pagel, Ben Card, and Sarah Vanderkleed

Door Prizes: Cathy Miller, and Lisa Knudsen

From the January 17 Meeting:

The January meeting was highlighted with a short program on Dino Bone used in lapidary work (and collecting) by Deb Bull, and the main program was on fossils and was presented by Amanda Flowers. The snacks were provided by Rick & Kathy Churchill, Deb and Gary Bull, Lisa Knudson, and Sarah Vanderkleed. The door prizes were given by Ken Schug, Marcia Roehrich, and Elizabeth Rivers. Thanks to all of the above volunteers for their part in the meeting.

The Rockhound of the Year for 2017 was Lauren Vaughn.

Plan now for 2017:

The March meeting will be held on **Tuesday, March 21st**.

Please sign up to present a 5 minute or main program or to provide treats or a door prize. See Lorna or Kevin.

The Midwest Federation Convention will be May 6-7 in Brainerd, Minnesota

The American Federation Convention will be June 9-11 in Ventura, California

GTARMC Club dues need to be paid for 2017. If you joined after the show in September, you are paid through 2017.

Looking for straggler Rock and Mineral Show Signs!

Please bring the Rock and Mineral Show signs to the February meeting and give them to Cynthia and Lauren Vaughn. We need to count them to see if we need to order more for next year. There are still about 15 signs that have not been accounted for. They are our most used form of advertising by show attendees.

Fordite – AKA Motor City Agate

Fordite has become increasingly popular as a lapidary material for making pendants, rings, bracelets and other jewelry items. If you are not familiar with the product, it is built up paint layers from the paint spray and baking booths at the automobile plants. The overspray accumulated on the pipes, racks, walls and other fixtures and had to be removed periodically. A lot of it made it to landfills over the years until people began to realize that the multiple layers of different colors would make interesting material for jewelry and other art pieces. The baking of the paint layers in the spray booths made the material very hard and workable for lapidary work. The auto factories use a different process now to put the paint finish on cars so this source has gone dry. Smaller body shops that still spray by hand will probably continue to produce some material as will boat manufacturers and certain other painting operations. However, the material will not be the same as the original Fordite.

Finding reasonably priced true Fordite is getting more difficult. It is now often priced by the gram. Amazing for industrial waste, isn't it? Use care in purchasing "Fordite" and make sure that it is a quality material and not something somebody made in their garage by repeated spraying on objects. It may look similar but probably would not be the same quality of the spray enamels used in the auto plants and very likely not baked to make it more durable.

Here are some photos of pendants set in silver so that you can see some of the beautiful variations in colors and patterns.



Newsletter Items Wanted

There is a need for items of interest and importance for the upcoming newsletter editions. If you know of something you would like to contribute including photos of club activities or areas of interest, please email to Lauren Vaughn at:

maple2b@aol.com

See you at the meeting on Monday, February 20 !



Scene from the January meeting.