

# ALBERTA ROCKHOUND NEWS

Publication of the Alberta Federation of Rock Clubs

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May, 2019



Brett Jensen

## President's Message

Greetings to all members of the Alberta Federation of Rock Clubs. Firstly, I would like to extend to the Medicine Hat Rock and Lapidary Club a giant congratulations and thank you for a most enjoyable and successful May Daze in Seven Persons. A special thanks goes out to Karen-Anne and John Cherwonogrodzky and to Rodney Zaugg and all the other club members for all their hard work and preparation. Thanks to all the AFRC members who donated, consigned and purchased items at the fantastic auction Saturday evening. I always look forward to May Daze each year.

I believe this year the bywords for all our clubs should be “active” and “inclusive.” The fastest way to destroy a club is to do nothing. When there are no club activities the life goes out of the club and it just dies. When there are classes, work times, field trips, tailgates, auctions, shows and all the other possible activities there is always something for everyone to enjoy and participate in. An active club is a healthy, growing club that attracts new members and holds onto members through involvement and sharing of knowledge and experience. Some people may fear or procrastinate accepting the responsibility to plan and lead an activity out of fear of not being perfect or making a mistake. I find most people are tolerant and appreciative of people's efforts on their behalf and do not expect perfection. Individuals and clubs both grow and develop when people take a chance, step into the unknown and try something new. If you have an idea for something new, take on the responsibility and do it! When we look back, we will find that these are the most significant times in our lives.

Inclusive means that we accept new people that are different from ourselves and new ideas that are different from our own. The healthiest organizations are the most diverse organizations where new people and ideas are accepted readily. Rock clubs tend to be composed of very diverse people with diverse interests and backgrounds. I believe that clubs that accept people with interests other than just lapidary are the most successful. Some people just like to collect interesting rocks, minerals or fossils. Most of us entered this hobby with just this in mind. Over time our interests grew to include other related activities such as lapidary, stone carving, flint knapping, faceting, jewelry making, etc. Now there are so many related activities it is difficult to know where to begin. That's a good thing! Let's accept new people with patience and tolerance and try to remember what we were like when we first tried our hand at making a cab. Let's travel this summer to new places and meet new people and make new friends to stretch and improve ourselves and our clubs. When we return let's share that new knowledge and experience with our fellow club members. We will be healthier and happier for it.

Please share your personal and club activities with the rest of AFRC through the Alberta Rockhound News. So on a closing note here is a plug for 2 events from the Southern Alberta Rock Hounds Association: Tailgate sale on September 14 from 10 am to 3 pm at the Peavey Mart parking lot in south Lethbridge (across the street from Costco on Mayor Magrath Drive south) and our National Rock and Gem Show on October 4, 5 and 6 at the West Pavilion of Exhibition Park in Lethbridge. See you there and good rockhounding this summer to you all!

## **ALBERTA FEDERATION OF ROCK CLUBS**

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### **MEMBER CLUBS AND SECRETARIES**

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*Southern Alberta Rockhounds:* Joyce Joevenazzo [joevenaj@gmail.com](mailto:joevenaj@gmail.com)

## **OBJECTIVES OF THE ALBERTA FEDERATION OF ROCK CLUBS**

1. To promote and encourage the study, cutting, polishing and engraving of gemstones and rocks and other geological materials and lapidary work as a hobby other than for the purpose of trade, industry or business.
2. To encourage the exploration of Alberta for lapidary materials, and to promote and create a greater interest in Alberta finished and unfinished rocks and minerals.
3. To encourage and promote the close association with, and exchange of information between rock hobbyists and lapidary groups to stimulate interest in and disseminate knowledge about mineralogy and earth sciences.
4. The Alberta Federation sponsors a website which its members may use to promote the activities and events of their club.
5. The operations of the Alberta Federation are to be mainly carried out in the Province of Alberta, under the Canadian Rockhound Code of Ethics.

THE ALBERTA FEDERATION OF ROCK CLUBS is a member of THE GEM AND MINERAL FEDERATION OF CANADA. Each club pays their members dues to the AFRC Treasurer by February 1<sup>st</sup> and each paid up member is entitled to 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Liability Insurance which covers events such as field trips, rock and gem shows, and other organized events.

**ALBERTA  
ROCKHOUND NEWS**

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This is your magazine. We need articles & suggestions. Send submissions anytime. If possible, send your article about two weeks before publication date to get them into the current month's publication. Otherwise the article will be included in the next publication.

**THANK YOU THANK YOU**

**We would like to thank the AFRC for presenting us with Lifetime Achievement Award Certificates at the Annual General Meeting held in Seven Persons and hosted by the Medicine Hat Rock & Lapidary Club on May 19, 2019.**

**Irene and Lavern Novlan**

**THANK YOU THANK YOU**

**On behalf of the May Daze 2019 Planning Committee, a huge thank you to all those who participated this year and made our efforts worthwhile. Even though the weather was not the best, we all made the best of it. Thank you too for helping us celebrate Medicine Hat Rock & Lapidary Club's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and your generous support for our silent auction.**

**Karen-Anne & John Cherwonogrodsky**

**Irene and Lavern Novlan AFRC Lifetime Achievement Award**

By Ed Zeschuk

Irene and Lavern joined the Calgary Rock and Lapidary Club (CRLC) in 1977. They attended their first Alberta Federation of Rock Clubs (AFRC) Annual Meeting on May 19, 1979. The meeting was hosted by the Rimbey Rockhounds Club and the meeting was held at the Hoadly Community Hall. Eighteen clubs were present. The rock hunts were in farmers' fields and local gravel pits. Irene found a stone bead in one of the gravel pits. This was their first of many AFRC pancake breakfasts.

In 1980 the AFRC show—yes, the AFRC used to host a Rock, Gem, Mineral and Fossil show, in Lacombe, AB every year. It was a huge success--163 displays, 22 competitive cases, 15 special displays and 19 dealers. After the show was over, the following day a convoy including Irene and Lavern left for a rock hounding trip to the Yukon. The trip was sponsored by the AFRC, Gem and Mineral Federation of Canada (GMFC) and the Tumblewood Rock and Gem Club of Edmonton. The trip was lead by Fred and Chris Dorward. It was a fantastic, once in a life time trip. There were 163 rockhounds from all over North America that were on the trip. Many close friendships were formed during this trip and still remain so today.

On May 16, 1981 Irene and Lavern showed slides of the trip to the Yukon at the Annual Meeting which took place at the Hand Hills Community Hall, hosted by the Drumheller Rock and Fossil Club.

At the Directors meeting on December 6, 1981 in Ponoka, Irene was elected AFRC Secretary and she held that position till December, 1983. Lavern became AFRC Custodian in 1981 and looked after the film library until 1983. He also became a Director to the GMFC in 1981 and took on the Education Chairman position. His term as Director lasted till March 6, 1983. He later became a GMFC Director in 2001 and 2002 when the CRLC hosted a joint show with the GMFC in 2002. The GMFC was celebrating its Silver Jubilee. He was the CRLC Show Chairman for these two years so acted as a liaison between the CRLC and the GMFC. He and Irene also made all the show mementoes that went into the exhibitor showcases. They also made all the me-

mentoes that were given to the members of the show committee.

At the Annual Meeting, May 22, 1983, which was held at the Strawberry Hall and hosted by the Leduc Lapidary Club, Lavern chaired a committee that would look into the sale of rock and equipment at the annual meetings. On the committee were: Dick Whitson, Camrose & District Lapidary Club; Ben Penno, Barrhead Gem Seekers and Ev Bowerman, Red Deer Rock & Gem Society. At this meeting he presented the report that he and the committee members had worked on.

It was decided that the AFRC, GMFC and the Drumheller Rock and Fossil Club would host a GMFC show from July 10 to the 14, 1985. All the AFRC Clubs participated. Some clubs took on the responsibility of advertising, some were in charge of ticket sales, others were in charge of dealers, etc. Bob Findlay from the Drumheller Club was Show Chairman, Irene was Show Secretary. Irene and Lavern took on the responsibility, along with Bob and Ruth Findlay from the Drumheller Club, of looking after the Awards presentation for competition and the social gathering that followed. Airplane rides over the Drumheller Valley were offered during the show. Rockhounds and dealers who attended this show still ask when is it going to be held in Drumheller again? This is the last time the AFRC hosted a show. It was the end of an era. This show brought all the rock clubs together, working towards a common goal. What an experience. It was a huge success.

In 1984 the AFRC bought a ribbon making machine and Don and Vi Merkley were in charge of printing ribbons. Irene and Lavern helped them with all the printing of the ribbons. The four of them printed ribbons for all the AFRC clubs as well as anything related to the GMFC.

Irene and Lavern contributed articles to the Alberta Rock Hound News (ARN). Irene also compiled all the motions made by the AFRC from 1996 to 2002. Some of the things they did were behind the scene but did make a difference--such as booking the Directors meeting room at Spruce Cliff Hall and negotiating rent prices, making sure the coffee was on, ordering AFRC name tags and Insurance cards. They facilitated in transferring the AFRC account from the Royal Bank in Calgary to the ATB in Medicine Hat, making a trip to Medicine Hat to do so. They started the "Heads and Tail" fund raiser prior to the start of the auction; approaching Silver Cove to see if they would donate the prize for the winner of the "Heads and Tail" fund raiser. The list goes on.

Lavern served two terms as AFRC President in 1999 and 2000 and one term from 2016 to 2017. In 1999 Irene and her Typing 30 class typed up the last membership Directory the AFRC produced. There were ten clubs in the AFRC at that time. The Directory is still being used today. Irene served as AFRC Treasurer from 1999 to 2015.

Both have been very instrumental in making the May Daze auction what it is today. Lavern and his brother, Del, started to auction by helping Bill Secretan from the Southern Alberta Rockhounds Association, at the May Daze auction at Wilton Park Hall, hosted by the Leduc Lapidary and Rock Club in 1994. Lavern's last auction was in 2016 at Lincoln Hall, hosted by the Lacombe Handicraft and Lapidary Club.

Irene and Lavern have been AFRC delegates for approximately 35 years, representing the CRLC and the Medicine Hat Rock and Lapidary Club

# ALBERTA FEDERATION OF ROCK CLUBS (AFRC) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Seven Persons Community Hall (Medicine Hat), Alberta

Sunday, May 19th, 2019 (commenced 10:18 a.m.)

## MINUTES OF MEETING

recorded by Karen-Anne Cherwonogrodzky, written by John Cherwonogrodzky (JohnC)

### 1. INTRODUCTION AND GREETING BY MEDICINE HAT ROCK & LAPIDARY PRESIDENT:

Rodney Zaugg gave a brief welcome to all members, recognizing that many travelled a great distance (e.g. Edmonton) in poor weather (rain, cold, sleet). Given the great deal of work, organization and contacts that the MHRLC May Daze Committee (chaired by Karen-Anne Cherwonogrodzky) did for the event and especially AFRC members, he was confident that it was going to be very impressive.

### 2. AFRC PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Brett Jensen began by saying that after the rain and cold experienced on Saturday's amber hunt near Grassy Lake, the sunshine and warmth typical of the area near Medicine Hat was sure to make everyone appreciative. For the various clubs and members, there were 2 points he wanted to make. The first was to make sure the Alberta Rockhound News (ARN) was being received and read. There is a fair amount of information in that newsletter, notably the AGM Minutes will be in the next issue. The second was to make sure that the clubs are active, to do things (such as have classes, workshops, field trips, training on equipment, etc.) to attract and hold members. Don't be afraid to take on new things to keep things interesting.

### 3. CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA: No revisions, APPROVED by general consensus

### 4. ROLL CALL:

Roll Call:	Calgary Faceters Guild	Calgary Rock & Lapidary Club
	Edmonton Tumblewood Lapidary Club	Medicine Hat Rock & Lapidary Club
	Lacombe Handicraft & Lapidary Guild	Southern Alberta Rock Hounds Association

All clubs were present and represented. The Grande Prairie club was not active.

### 5. IN MEMORIAM

A moment of silence was observed in memory for Rose-Marie Laidlaw (MHRLC), Gunther Kuhnlein (CRLC), Alice Jaquish (CRLC), Dave Biro (CFC/CRLC/LHLG) and any others that may have been missed.

### 6. THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 20, 2018 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

Following the 2018 AGM, these were published in the May 2018 ARN (volume 48, no. 2). These were read by Karen-Anne Cherwonogrodzky. The Minutes were APPROVED by consensus with no revisions.

### 7. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

There was a brief discussion on potential Clubs and the distribution of information on how to start a rock and lapidary club. Lavern Novlan noted that such information he and Irene prepared had been shared in the past with the AFRC delegates. The Novlans forwarded information on how to start up a club to Grande Prairie. This was also forwarded to Lorne Alcock (CRLC), while Secretary for the AFRC, who requested a copy. Grande Prairie was sent this information. The group in Lloydminster requested and received a copy, but did not want to join AFRC.

## **8. CORRESPONDENCE:**

Lorne Alcock (CRLC), previous AFRC Secretary, had to resign due to family circumstances.

There was a request from the President to appoint someone as Secretary. Lavern Novlan made the motion to appoint someone, outside the by-laws process, until the Delegates could officially elect a Secretary (with the required duties and responsibilities) at a quarterly meeting. Seconded by Doug Schatz (LHLG), DEFEATED.

JohnC (Treasurer) volunteered to write the Minutes of the AGM. Nick Davy (MHRLC) moved that JohnC be a "Temporary Minute Taker". This was seconded by Lavern Novlan, APPROVED.

## **9. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### **9.1 Treasurer's Report and 2018 Financial Statements:**

JohnC made available hard copies of the summary of finances that included a copy of the audit (which included the Profit and Loss Statement, AFRC inventory), the budget for 2019 (based on Income and Expenditures of 2016, 2017, 2018 or 3 years), an Update of AFRC bank statements up to 17 May 2019), memberships summation and proposed list of delegates.

- The auditors, Peggy and Keith Keck, did a thorough professional review (2.5 hours) of AFRC's financial accounts for 1 Jan. to 31 Dec. 2018. All was in order and they signed/supported the document that was then submitted to Alberta Societies Registries.
- There was a net profit in 2018 of \$1306.39
- The Treasurer submitted a detailed budget for 2019 with a projected small surplus of \$53.93. Although expenses are up (e.g. Director's Insurance of \$500, projected 2 Workshop Grants of \$250 each) this is offset by the interest of the Alberta Treasury Branch GIC (\$743.84 for 2019). JohnC noted that the latter was to the credit of the Novlans while Irene was Treasurer and Lavern was President. Upon transferring Treasurer responsibilities to JohnC, the bank had to be changed to one in Medicine Hat and they arranged for the ATB. The Alberta Treasury Branch was very friendly and accommodating, was of Alberta and hence in line with AFRC provincial support, and offered a better return on a GIC investment than other banks (one bank was going to charge us for keeping our money).
- An update was given on AFRC bank accounts as of 17 May 2019. The amounts were presented at the AGM, but due to security cannot be revealed in this report. In summary, the GIC is doing well, the chequing account (based on annual expenditures) has enough to meet expenses for at least 3 years.

### 9.1.1 Treasurer's Report of the current 2019 May Daze.

As of 4:00 a.m., Heads and Tails brought in \$67, the Silent Auction (donations) \$687, the Live Auction \$714.45 (15% of \$4763 sold), a membership for \$5, for a total of \$1473.45. Additional revenues would be 10% of tailgate sales following the AGM. As the Hall rental was \$600 for the 3 days, it was projected that there would be no deficit, and likely a profit, for AFRC at the end of May Daze 2019.

### 9.1.2 Motions presented by the Treasurer:

In accordance with the Alberta Societies Registry, and AFRC by-laws, there were motions that had to be passed at the AGM:

– **Motion 1:** That the Treasurer's AFRC Annual Financial Report be approved. Moved by Terry Routledge, seconded by Rodney Zaugg, CARRIED.

– **Motion 2:** That the auditors be Peggy and Keith Keck for the 2019 audit. Moved by Lavern Novlan, seconded by Nick Davy, CARRIED.

– **Motion 3:** That the Proposed Budget for 2019 be approved. Moved by Nick Davy, seconded by Lynn Strom, CARRIED.

– **Motion 4:** Given the excellent state of AFRC finances, that the Membership fees be the same as that since 1991; namely, \$5 per family, \$4.50 for an adult, \$4 for a student. Moved by Christina Elsdon-Davy, seconded by Karen-Anne Cherwonogrodzky, CARRIED.

– **Motion 5:** That the noted Delegates of the Clubs to AFRC, with possible corrections, be approved. Moved by Lavern Novlan, seconded by Marilyn Jetter, CARRIED.

On the last motion, CRLC noted that Lorne Alcock should not be one of their listed delegates as he resigned. As Motion 5 stated “with possible corrections”, there was no need for another motion. All that was required was for that club to submit a replacement as soon as possible to the Treasurer who would submit this to the Alberta Societies Registry.

### 9.1.3 Discussion of the Auction:

- **WENT WELL:** The Treasurer discussed how well the auction went. There were 50 donations for the Silent Auction. For the Live Auction, the auctioneers were talented and knowledgeable, the clerks were phenomenal – the amount collected from all the buyers EXACTLY (to the penny) matched the total of all sales. There was sufficient cash on hand to pay all sellers their 85% of sales immediately after the auction or the next day before the AGM.

- **VALUE:** The Treasurer noted that the AFRC Auction was an incredible opportunity for Clubs and individuals to start their rock and lapidary hobbies. It was an ideal annual event where one could acquire machinery and materials for a fraction of the cost (1/4 to 1/10 regular value). Often one could get up-and-running, not for several \$1000s but for a few \$100s.

- **BREAK:** Mid-way through the auction there was a 10-minute break. One opinion from the floor was that this was a mistake, that it encouraged people to leave the auction to the disappointment of the sellers. In contrast, one opinion was that it allowed some buyers to make a last assessment on the items left and that this may have helped sales and another appreciated a chance to stretch.

- **DESCRIPTIONS:** One opinion was that as everyone had a chance to look at the items and record which they were going to bid upon, the auction could be done a lot quicker by not reviewing the items. Another view was that the buyers wanted and needed the auctioneers to give some insights into the lot, point out why these

had high value, quality or rarity, why they should bid higher.

- **SILENT AUCTIONS:** Pauline Zeschuk complemented the entire “AFRC Auction Volunteer Committee”, especially the auctioneers, runners and clerks for a successful auction. As donations to the Medicine Hat Rock & Lapidary Club (about 40 items) and donations to the AFRC (50 items) were done before the Live Auction, this saved about 1.5 hours. Thanks goes to Karen-Anne Cherwonogrodzky for this innovation.

- **DONATIONS:** Karen-Anne Cherwonogrodzky in turn thanked all the help from the “MHRLC May Daze Committee” who donated their time and support for a long list of activities (e.g. items for gift bags, hall opening/closing/care, meal and refreshment preparation, table/chairs/display case set-up and take-down, trailer and tenting registration, etc.). She encouraged AFRC members to support where possible all the sponsors that donated to the gift bags. Of special note was the unique contribution of Louise Wutzke and family of 60 door prize gift bags (fossils, minerals) to commemorate her late husband, Bill Wutzke.

- **LOT SIGN-UP:** The Treasurer heard positive comments that the quality of the lots had gone up for this auction. It was thought that as lots were limited 10, and because more sellers were involved, they brought their best. There was a brief discussion on whether to lower the number of allowed lots, but the consensus was that this would not make it worthwhile for sellers to participate. A problem that the Treasurer was observing was that members were beginning to register to sell their lots for years ahead and where was the limit?

Mike O’Toole made the motion; “*I move that [the] reservations list for the next May Daze Auction be opened at the conclusion of the current May Daze Annual General Meeting*”. Seconded by Rod Zaugg, **CARRIED**.

## **9.2 Custodian’s and Librarian Report, and the Traveling Memento:**

Doug Schatz, the Librarian, said that the Lacombe club had the Traveling Library for the past year, and that all was well. The DVDs are particularly good and useful. (Note, one of the DVDs on wire-wrapping had become corrupted. Fortunately, there was a backup disc that JohnC gave to the club at the AGM). If anyone has any ideas or requests concerning the library, please let Doug know. As it was not decided who would take the library next, it will currently stay with the Lacombe club.

The Travelling Memento (petrified wood, donated by the Clubs, combined in the shape of Alberta, with name plates of May Daze hosts) had been located in BC and had been returned. Due to its travels, it needs to have name plates of May Daze hosts (2017-2019) added. Karen-Anne Cherwonogrodzky agreed to arrange for this and reimbursement will be decided at the next AFRC Delegates meeting.

## **9.3 AFRC Delegates from member Clubs for 2019-2020.**

This was covered under 9.1.2, Treasurer, Motion 5.

## **9.4 GMFC Report:**

Brett Jensen is the Delegate who reports on the GMFC. He noted that the GMFC meeting and election of the Executive will be in BC in June.

This year, Brett is also the AFRC President, the GMFC President and the SARHA President. As the GMFC AGM and National Show will be in Lethbridge (first weekend in October 2019), he is the perfect bridge between all parties. He noted:

- They are accepting Vendor applications for the Show, and already financially they are in the black. Club members can be vendors, one can rent 1-16 tables, booths could likely be any size wanted. Grouping of

vendors could be done, there will be a room for display cases.

- As about 80% of AFRC membership goes towards GMFC membership, all AFRC members can attend the GMFC AGM. The location of its AGM and banquet have yet to be determined.

- Camping may be a problem and they are looking into sites for out-of-town buyers.

The GMFC "*Tumbling Book*" is out, but Brett has still not seen the digital form.

The AFRC could have up to 6 members on the GMFC Board, but has only 3 (Brett Jensen, Doug Schatz, Holger Hartmier). In past years, Maureen Dowler made the motion that a member not a Delegate/Director could be a GMFC delegate so long as (1) they attended AFRC meetings to be knowledgeable about the organization, (2) they voted at the GMFC in accordance with AFRC policy and interests. Pauline Zeschuk noted that being a GMFC delegate is a very positive experience, being welcomed to their meetings, activities, barbecue and rock hounding. The GMFC also provides an annual scholarship for a member's child attending post-secondary education. At present, there was no-one volunteering to be a GMFC delegate.

### **9.5 ARN Newsletter report:**

Pauline and Ed Zeschuk thanked those that contributed articles to the newsletter, whether it related to club events or even individuals doing unique things. Another topic was "The Human Factor". They enjoy editing the Newsletter, usually get it done in a few weeks, but it is essential that it be distributed, that every member get a copy forwarded by the club director tasked to do so. They also discussed that there was a "Buy and Sell" part in the Newsletter that is free advertisement for AFRC members doing this for lapidary related items.

### **10. NEW BUSINESS:**

To date, there was no Club that stepped forward to host the 2020 May Daze. Dale Nielsen (CRLC) asked if by convention there was a rotation among the clubs to be hosts. It was noted that usually May Daze alternates from a southern location to a northern one. However, no club volunteered as host.

Brett recommended that this be thought over the summer for a decision, and that planning should begin at least at the September AFRC meeting.

### **11. ANNOUNCEMENT OF CLUB EVENTS:**

•SARHA (Lethbridge) will be hosting its annual tailgate at the Peavy Mart parking lot, on the 2nd Saturday in September (14th).

•As discussed before, Lethbridge will be hosting the GMFC AGM and National Show the first weekend of October.

•The Calgary Rock and Lapidary Club will be holding its Christmas Fair, with 30 tables, likely on November 2nd, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

### **12. AFRC LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP AWARD:**

Ed Zeschuk was the Master of Ceremony for the occasion, and noted that there was not one, but at least 3 reasons for giving the Novlans the award(s). First, they were the driving force that kept the AFRC active and alive over the decades that they took part. Second, their handling tasks that needed to be done and responsible positions (Irene was Treasurer for 14-16 years, Lavern was President 3-times) was the glue that held it together. And third, they were "walking encyclopedias" of information of what that rock, mineral or gem was,

where it came from (indeed, often the mine and its owners), and any unusual history, use or property of a specimen. They were always, friendly, helpful and accommodating; always the perfect example of what an AFRC member should be.

Brett Jensen, the President, awarded plaques to Irene Novlan and Lavern Novlan to honour their many contributions to the AFRC. As they did so both as individuals and as a team, a plaque was given to each, and a third plaque was given to both of them together.

**ADJOURNMENT:** It had been a long productive meeting with several issues addressed, and the meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m

# 2019 NATIONAL ROCK AND GEM SHOW OF CANADA

**OCTOBER 4-6, 2019**  
**Lethbridge Exhibition Park**  
**West Pavilion**

- Rocks and Minerals
- Fossils
- Jewelry on Display & for Sale
- Silent Auction
- Children's Activities
- Demonstrations

## Hours

Friday: 1pm - 9pm  
Saturday: 9am - 5pm  
Sunday: 10am - 4pm

## Admission

(Cash Only)  
Adults: \$2.00  
Children: Under 12 Free

## Location

3401 Parkside Dr S  
Lethbridge AB  
T1J 4R3

## Sponsored by:

Southern Alberta Rock Hounds Association and  
Gem and Mineral Federation of Canada

## MAY DAZE 2019 REPORT

by Ed Zeschuk

May Daze 2019 was held on May 17 to 19 at Seven Persons Community Hall. The event was hosted by the Medicine Hat Rock and Lapidary Club. In spite of a modest attendance it was a very successful event, extremely well organized by the host club and exciting for the first time attendees. The hall was very well designed, spacious, bright and modernly remodeled and the camping facilities provided all that one would want.

Friday was a showery and cold day but that did not deter the arrivals from arranging their camping areas, unloading the rocks and equipment for the next day auction. Around 5:30 pm the members lined up for the great BBQ. Hamburgers along with a variety of condiments provided a great meal. This meal break provided the opportunity for arriving friends to socialize and reminisce about the things they have done since the last May Daze. Because of the distances between the northern and southern Alberta clubs many members meet once a year only during these events.

The seven display cases provided the attendees the opportunity to see what club members in other clubs have done. These display cases provide the vehicle by which club members get inspired to try new things at their club workshops. The use of display cases at May Daze has grown bigger over the years because the members have experienced the benefits they provide for the attendees. It boils down to seeing first hand what can and what has been done by other clubs and this is a tremendous motivator to the members.

The Friday BBQ was followed by three presentations. The first was Mel Derzaph who presented a very extensive talk about carving of wood and then progressed to stone. The samples he had were very impressive. This was followed by Reg Merkley who spoke about his work which was quite different than Mel's. Reg uses a lot of animal horns, some stones, and some wood. He emphasized that his work is local and close to nature.

Slim Metz talked about inlay work using a variety of materials. He had displays of the various materials such as mammoth teeth, bone, and colorful stones such as turquoise. Slim inlays the material in fairly coarse format rather than the fine work of intarsia. The end results are very nice and professional looking.

The field trip enthusiasts left on their chosen trips early Saturday morning. The weather was overcast and no rain but the wind was very cold. Those individuals who chose to remain in the hall were treated to the various demonstrators showing their expertise. Those that chose to visit the local gravel pits found interesting material but it was not what would be classed as semi precious. It was deemed to be a good "outing" but material found would be better for the garden. On the other hand those returning from the amber field trip had returned with some amber. Granted the pieces were very small and would be considered as specimens but the largest was approximately 6 mm long and 3 mm thick. A bit too small for any jewelry application but it verifies that Alberta does have amber.

Saturday afternoon was allocated to the various demonstrations. Dale Nielsen had a motivated group at her table showing the group how to work with Clay Polymer. She showed the various techniques that one can incorporate into your jewelry making.

Adam Jetter demonstrated how to make a wire chain. It is exciting to watch how a person can take a tiny piece of wire and with a few proper bends and twists you get a beautiful and useful chain.

Jim Routledge showed the participants how to wire wrap a bracelet. Terry Routledge also demoed the making of a bead bracelet.

Judy Jensen was busy all day faceting a stone with interested individuals coming by and watching intently.

The pot luck meal was set up and people lined up to have the meal. Everyone was hungry after a day of field trips, demos and socializing. It did not take much coaxing to get the people to settle down to eat. As usual the choices were just fantastic.

The auction materials were set out in their proper places with members busily viewing and jotting down the lot numbers for the evening auction. The smaller, expensive items were placed in a display case for security reasons until the auction started. A new concept was tried this year with great success so likely it will be used for the next event. Two silent auctions were set up. These were items that were donated to the silent auction. The proceeds from one, items donated to AFRC from the general membership, went totally to the AFRC. The proceeds from the second one, items donated by the Medicine Hat club only, went to the Medicine Hat club to offset some of the costs of hosting the event. This helped a lot in reducing the time of the live auction. The silent auction was closed at various unannounced times during Saturday.

There were 40 buyer paddles signed out for the live auction but in reality only about 5 active buyers were busy outbidding each other. Able auctioneers Brett Jensen and Harvey Prins did an efficient selling of the items. Helpers were Ron Biel, Randy Kiemele, Keith Keck and Brian Stanford. In spite of the very small number of buyers, the sellers seemed to be happy with their income and the buyers were certainly very happy with the purchases. There were a lot of very good machines this year. For anyone wanting to get their lapidary shop started this was the place to be.

The recording and keeping track of the sellers and buyers went very well. Jim Routledge made a computer program for the recording of the numbers and the ladies did the backup recording. At the end of the auction the buyer's and seller's transactions were looked after very quickly.

Sunday morning started out with the complementary breakfast. Great scrambled eggs and sausage and all the coffee you wanted. It was a nice way to start the morning.

The AFRC Annual General Meeting started promptly right after the breakfast. The attendance was fairly small but the necessary business was done. Marilyn Jetter gave a thorough and informative speech about the Medicine Hat Rock and Lapidary Club's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Near the conclusion of the meeting the Novlans, Lavern and Irene, were presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award.

After the meeting the crowd headed to the parking lot for tailgating. Tailgating activities were very brisk and not only the sellers benefitted monetarily but the AFRC received the 10 % commission. It was a win-win situation.

May Daze came to a halt shortly after 4 pm with many goodbyes and hugs. The Medicine Hat Rock and Lapidary Club did a tremendously great job from beginning to end. Thanks for the great time. We can hardly wait until next year!

**Pictures of the various May Daze events next:**



Campers were arriving early Friday



Socializing before Friday BBQ



Lacombe Lapidary Club



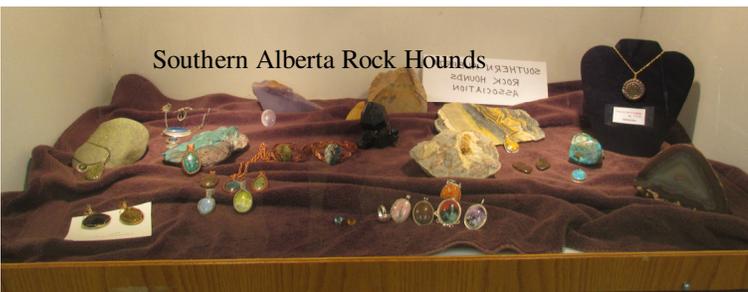
Calgary Rock & Lapidary Club



Agate Display



Kiemele Display: Lethbridge



Southern Alberta Rock Hounds



Reg Merkley



Medicine Hat Rock & Lapidary Club



Small, expensive auction items stored for safe keeping



Manfred viewing 30th Anniversary photo album on display table



Silent Auction table



Reg Merkley giving talk on his latest creations



Tour to Saamis site with speaker



Tour to St. Patricks



Slim Metz giving talk on Inlay



Samples of Slim's inlay work



Line up for Friday BBQ



Treasures from gravel pit tour

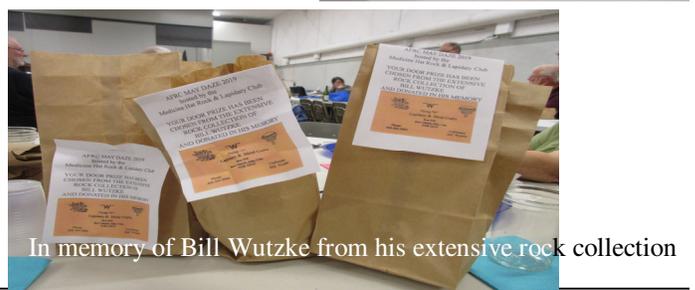


More treasures from gravel pit



Amber found on tour

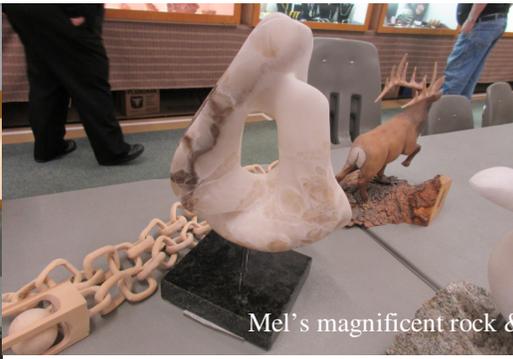
This was the nicest piece



In memory of Bill Wutzke from his extensive rock collection



Mel Derzaph talking about his carvings



Mel's magnificent rock & wood carvings



Reg Merkley gave a very interesting talk about his creations.



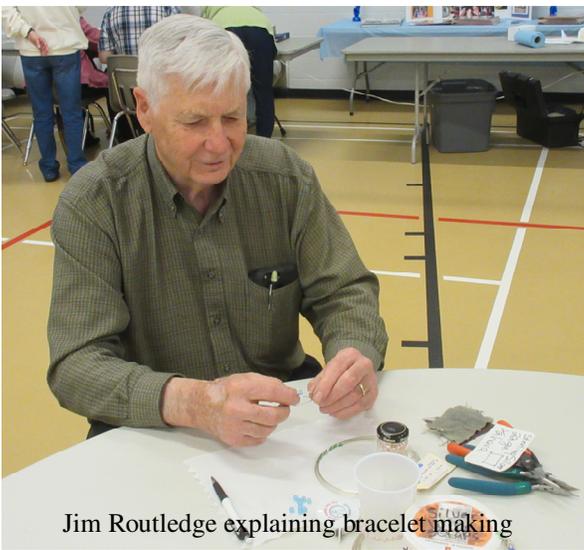
Reg's master pieces



Dale Nielsen explaining the process of working with Clay Polymer



Judy Jensen demonstrated Facetting



Jim Routledge explaining bracelet making



Terry Routledge demonstrated beading



Adam Jetter explaining the fine points of chain making



Pauline recording her anticipated auction purchases.



Auction equipment



Auction rocks & items



Auctioneer Harvey Prins & helper Ron Biel



Auctioneer Brett Jensen & helper Ron Biel



President Brett Jensen & Treasurer John Cherwonogrodsky: AGM



Members attending the Sunday morning AGM



TAILGATING



Part of the Friday program were presentations by Mel Derzaph and Reg Merkley.

by Pauline Zeschuk

### Mel Derzaph



Reg



Mel

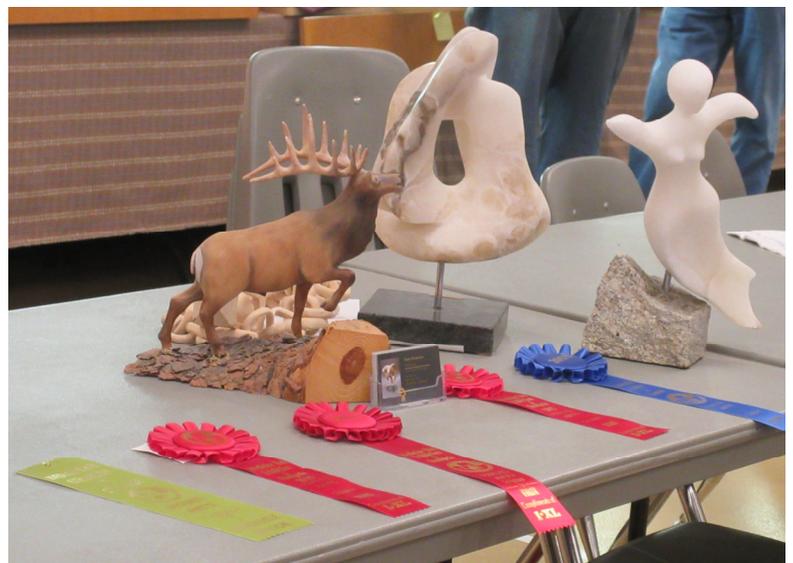
Part of the Friday, May 17, 2019, evening program was a presentation by Mel Derzaph. Most interesting was the journey that led to making rock carvings. Mel began with making wooden sculptures. He did one especially elaborate chain and ball wooden sculpture with each link carved so that it was a link within another wooden link as shown in the picture. Mel commented that making the chain was a challenge that taught him a lot about carving. This progressed to experimentation and rock carving which led to pieces with a hole in them. The purpose of the hole in the carving is to create greater interest in the piece by drawing the viewer's attention to the hole. The rest of the carving is very nicely balanced around the centre of interest. Mel commented that different people see different things in an abstract or semiabstract carving.

One material that Mel enjoys using is alabaster. First, a rock must be chosen for the project. Does Mel have a project in mind and then looks for a rock to fulfill the need, or, does Mel first find a rock which gives him ideas for a shape for carving? Probably both approaches are used at different times.

Carving rocks requires a great deal of work using a variety of tools. First the shape is roughed out using an angle grinder. Then a rasp is used for most of the shaping of the object. A hand dremel is used for final shaping followed by polishing. Mel said that an angle grinder was very helpful. Also used in the process is a diamond drill and a diamond grinder, both of which require being use with water to prevent excessive heating, and possible cracking the stone. The results are a technically perfect piece.

As an artist Mel does commissioned work. He has also entered his pieces in competitions and has won ribbons for his excellent work. (as shown in the photo)

Mel's presentation was most interesting and informative; giving club members an insight into what is involved in the creation of rock sculptures. Viewers have a greater appreciation of how much work is involved.



## Reg Merkley

Reg Merkley was born and raised in the Slave Lake area. By being close to nature it was convenient to use the materials available. In addition to wood and rock, Reg has used found objects such as moose and deer horns, making very interesting figurines and other objects in his dioramas.

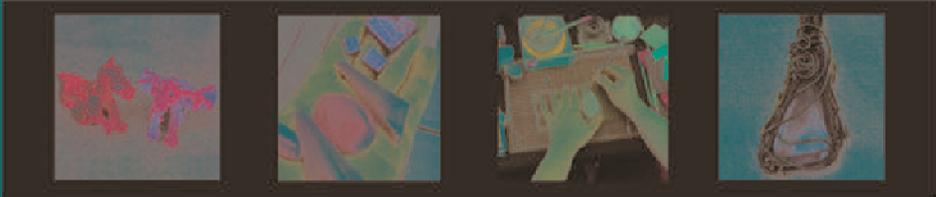
Working with a variety of objects is challenging. First you have to acquire the right material. Animal horns were acquired by having them given to him or by going out to hunt for them with his helicopter pilot friend. When horns were spotted from the air, the pilot would land the helicopter and allow Reg to pick up his rare find. Knowing your material and how to handle it is very important. The dust created from sawing or filing moose horn is not only unpleasantly smelly like burned hair, but it is also poisonous. Reg did all his cutting and filing of moose horns outside. Another rarity is finding rotten birch. The inside rots out leaving a cylinder of birch bark. Bone was also used in some of Reg's creations.

Reg has used a variety of rocks. He found jade very hard. Some other rocks were black and white sandstone with a silvery glint in it, and soapstone. He has also enjoyed working with ammonite and petrified wood. Reg has a special way of combining rock, bone and wood in his creations. If he gets a special feeling for his creation he chooses to keep for himself rather than sell it or give it away. Several items of his interesting creations were in his display case for all to enjoy.



 **Calgary Rock & Lapidary Club**  
**Christmas Artisan Fair**  
November 2nd, 2019 10am - 3pm  
Thorncliffe Community Hall  
5600 Centre St. N



**Featuring Rocks, Gems, Jewelry & More!!!**  
[crlc.ca](http://crlc.ca)