

What do you do with your collection?

You can savor, display, trade or sell. There are numerous shows throughout the year, presented by regional clubs throughout the country, and even internationally, where you can display your favorites, or purchase material from dealers to augment your collection. One of the great things about mineral, rock and fossil specimens is that you don't have to feed them, take them for walks, water them or keep them in the refrigerator. When the mood takes you, you can pick up the project where you left off, without fear that it will have withered from neglect.

OK, I'm convinced —How do I join, and how much will it cost?

Just talk to any club member, or simply show up at any club event or meeting (guests are truly welcome to attend, and join in or not, as they see fit) or check our website:

APPLICATION FORM

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____ **STATE:** _____ **ZIP:** _____
Phone:(____) _____ **e-mail:** _____

Send to: Cynthia Kelman
1403 N. Broadway Ave.
Marshfield, WI 54449 (715)387-8782

ANNUAL DUES (includes newsletter):
\$15 individual-\$20 Family/couple-\$5 Student
(\$12 Newsletter only)

HEART OF WISCONSIN
GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP

JOIN OUR CLUB
AND PURSUE YOUR INTEREST IN:

- ROCK COLLECTING**
- LAPIDARY ART**
- MINERAL COLLECTING**
- FACETING GEMS**
- JEWELRY MAKING**
- WIRE WRAPPING**
- FOSSIL COLLECTING**
- FIELD TRIPS**
- GEOLOGY**

WHO ARE WE? WHAT DO WE DO?

Organized in 1967, **The Heart of Wisconsin Gem & Mineral Society** is a non-profit, educational club, dedicated to promoting the interest education and enjoyment of the earth sciences and lapidary arts.

Members are of all ages, occupations and educational levels, and share a common interest in the earth and mineral kingdom and recreations related to earth sciences and associated activities.

WHERE AND WHEN DO WE MEET?

Regular meetings are held at 7:00 P.M. the second Thursday of each month at The Park Lodge in Junction City (224 Park Ave), Sept. thru May. Potluck gatherings are held in Aug. and Dec. at locations to be determined. **Guests are always welcome at all club meetings during the year.**

What kinds of activities do members pursue?

A diversity of interests is represented in our club, as in other similar clubs.

Some members have a scientific interest in minerals, studying them and collecting them in a systematic fashion. Rare and interesting, often attractive, examples of the world's 4000+ mineral species can be acquired through collecting, trading or purchasing. Many rocks and minerals can be transformed into lapidary or jewelry creations, using metal-smithing and lapidary techniques, such as casting or wire-wrapping.

Other members collect fossils which are available from all areas of the world. Still others become enthralled by the optical properties of gem materials, which leads them into the fascinating field of faceting, which also combines well with metal-smithing and jewelry making. Many members have multiple interests, in several of these pursuits.

Field trips with our club and other affiliated clubs, open opportunities to collect in areas that are not available to the general public, and club members help each other in learning to recognize materials in the field, and to clean and utilize the materials that they collect.

Is it expensive to pursue this hobby?

This hobby can be as cheap or as expensive as you wish to make it. Very expensive materials and equipment can be purchased, but very good material and new or used equipment is available at much more affordable prices. Equipment for cutting and grinding rock is very durable, and most people buy used equipment, which can function for many decades, with only simple, basic maintenance. Good material can be collected for only the cost of travel and the effort expended in planning and field collecting.

Basic collecting tools are cheap, and knowledge acquired over time is often the most valuable collecting tool. Club members teach each other, and club meetings are partly focused on the learning aspects of the hobby, which allows experienced members to pass on their knowledge to newer members of the group.