



Rock Trips

Here are some pictures of recent trips the Riverton Club has sponsored. The Riverton Club members work hard every Spring to plan outings for the summer months. Ben Struempf coordinates the planning and gets out the schedule for publishing. Thanks Ben – your efforts have made a lot of great experiences for many people. Equal thanks and appreciation go to the individual members who lead these trips - your efforts make this all possible.

Garnets from the Sweetwater



The August 20 trip, led by Jim Mcgarvey, was one of the best attended trips ever, with members from several clubs across the state attending. There are over 30 people in the above photo plus various kids and dogs. The weather was fine, the company congenial, and the garnets were plentiful. The garnets are not large enough for jewelry, but everyone got a nice sampling of red beauties for their collection.

Left, Mace Countryman of the Riverton Club shows off his pan full of garnets.

Below are the panners at work.



All photos on this page are by Helen Hoff of the Natrona County Rockhounds.

Ice Slough



On August 27 Tom Dewey led about 20 people from several clubs on a trip to Ice Slough. Participants found agate, petrified wood, jasper, chalcedony in many colors, and the biggest prize of all, one piece of jade. Jade is what everyone hopes to find but these jade fields have been picked for over 100 years and there isn't much left out there. But every once in a while.... Everyone found plenty of other rocks to add to their collections and tumblers. That plus good weather and good company made for a happy bunch of rockhounds. It's good to live in Wyoming.

Although slightly out of focus, here is a picture of the piece of jade found by Valorie Wilson. She found it within a few feet of her



pickup. It was one of the first rocks picked up that day and provided plenty of motivation for this group of jade hunters.

One good way to stimulate interest in rockhounding is to make your club visible to the community in different ways. Clubs work with school groups, 4H groups, set up displays at libraries and community centers, enter floats in parades and support geology and lapidary sections at local fairs. These efforts expose people to rockhounding who wouldn't ordinarily pay any attention to us and frequently add a few new members to the club's roster. Every club must do things that attract new members or they wither and die. The WY State Rock Show is the supreme effort that clubs make, but please remember that smaller projects can make a difference too. Please help when asked to volunteer for a project.



Cary Arner, Linda Richendifer, and Gene Case, Riverton club members, show off the ribbons they won at the Central Wyoming Fair in Riverton.

You caught me! I wrote this piece so I could get my picture in the paper. It's good to be Editor. ---Gene Case