

General Information

Background:

The Cuyuna Rock, Gem & Mineral Society was located in Crosby, 14 miles NE of Brainerd until recently when a new clubhouse had to be found.

The name "Cuyuna" is unique because it derives from a man by the name of Cuyler Adams. Story has it that Mrs. Adams coined the name "Cuyuna" using part of Cuyler's name and that of his dog Una. Mr. Adams discovered iron ore in the area, and the Cuyuna Iron Range was established.

There is no active mining in the area at this time, but the pits have filled with water and been stocked with trout. "Locals" spend a lot of time fishing (with great success) for trout, northern pike, bass, crappies and sunfish. The mines are now part of a state park.

If you are interested, it is possible to drive to the top of one of the dumps for a bird's eye view of the Crosby area. Please e-mail Marge at marjen@crosbyironton.net if you would like more information. It's only about 3 or 4 miles from Crosby. This could probably be done sometime on the Friday before the show – depending on weather.

Previously, many rockhounds collected specimens of binghamite and silkstone from the mining dumps. It is said to be the only place binghamite is found. (Be sure to attend the meetings on May 6 – it's possible you might just be the lucky door prize winner of a specimen of binghamite or silkstone.)

Rules for Competitive and Non-competitive Exhibits:

If you are entering an exhibit at the Show, please check the AFMS website at: http://www.amfed.org/rules/AFMS_Rules_2016_Updates.pdf. This will help you find the right Division, Class and Group for your Exhibit. The MWF will furnish judges.

Food at the Show

A caterer has been hired as a food vendor at the show. This vendor will also be preparing the meal for the Awards Banquet on Saturday evening.

Speakers

At the Awards Banquet a junior member of the local club will be a speaker. He made an interesting "find" this past summer and will share the details with us.

Things to Do

As mentioned before, check in with www.brainerdlakes.com for great ideas. A suggestion is the Crow Wing County Historical Society Museum on Laurel Street in Brainerd - next door to the historic courthouse.

Some suggestions in the Crosby area are:

The old Soo Line Railroad Depot. It is now a museum and houses, among lots of other things, a small rock collection of Cuyler Adams.

The Milford Mine is about 4 miles north of Crosby. The worst mining disaster in the State of Minnesota happened here in 1924. It is a park now.

We are hoping to be able to tour the Croft Underground Mine area. Updates on this and other possible events – field trips, etc. will appear in the Convention news articles in the upcoming MWF Newsletters. Minnesota's weather will play a part in some of the activities.