

# CHIP & LICK



Official Publication of the Miami Valley Mineral and Gem Club

VOLUME 47, NUMBER 4

APRIL, 2001



- MEETINGS:** Second Sunday of the month except June, July and August.
- PLACE:** YMCA, 300 South Central Ave., Fairborn, Ohio 45324
- TIME:** 2:00 P.M.  
**Guests are always welcome!**
- EDITOR:** Becky Dobbs  
2792 Greystoke Dr.  
Xenia, OH 45385

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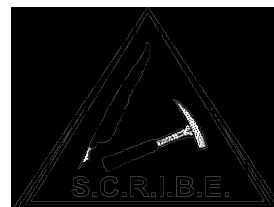
## *Purpose and Memberships*

The objectives of the Miami Valley Mineral and Gem Club are:

- To promote interest and increased knowledge in the fields of mineralogy, geology, and the lapidary arts.
- To further the art of mounting and setting stones.
- To encourage the collecting, identifying and displaying of specimens in these fields.

The annual dues are \$7.50 for an individual membership, \$10 for a couple, or \$12 for a family membership.

This club is a member of the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies (MWF), which is a member of The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS).



The Editor of the MVMGC is a member of S.C.R.I.B.E.

**MIAMI VALLEY MINERAL AND GEM CLUB, INC.****2001 OFFICERS**

President	Hugh Fulton	322-1021
Vice President	Matt Kromphardt	878-3348
Corresponding Secretary	Katrin Ruben	390-2081
Recording Secretary	Dick Faux	289-7032
Treasurer	Joyce Perry	372-8228
Editor	Becky Dobbs	372-9022
Librarian	Dave Perry	372-8228
Curator-Historian	Becky Dobbs	372-9022
Trustee (2001)	Udean Babyak	325-0443
Trustee (2002)	John Mercer	322-1768
Trustee (2003)	Beth Stewart	864-1682

**2001 COMMITTEES**

Anti-Litter	All Members	
Canceled Stamps	Kay Faux	289-7032
Chaplain	Udean Babyak	322-0443
Christmas Banquet	Adlib	
Field Trips/ Safety	Matt Kromphardt	878-3348
MWF Liaison	Hugh Fulton	322-1021
Photographer	Hugh Fulton	322-1021
Program	Andres Ruben	390-2081
Refreshment	Becky Dobbs	372-9022
Scholarship	Joyce Perry	372-8118
Show Chairman	Hugh Fulton	322-1021
Spring Banquet	Udean Babyak	322-0443
Sunshine	Joyce Perry	372-8118
Swap	Hugh Fulton	322-1021

**APRIL****BIRTHDAYS**

Joan Fulton Apr 10  
 Andreas Ruben Apr 12  
 Teresa Guess Apr 27

**ANNIVERSARIES**

Matt & Wilda Kromphardt  
 Apr 29

**May Meeting****Article Display Refreshments**

Ed & Marie Shinabarger

## President's Message

If Spring has sprung why am I still cold?

This month we will have some new experiences. The Spring Banquet being held in the Tapestry and Tales TeaRoom in Springfield, Ohio. As Udean explained, it should be fabulous. And wasn't it good to see Udean walking into the March meeting after knee replacement surgery.

At today's meeting Andreas and Katrin Ruben with Becky Dobbs will introduce us to the Internet world and the possibility of the club having a web page. Change we must accept it. This seems to be a year of change.

The club swap date changed so as not to be on the same date as the Strawberry Festival and graduation parties. Also, the Lions Club will be sponsoring a Craft Show to be held at the same time.

We are fortunate to have members living in Tucson Arizona, the home of the big show. Again this year Paul and Elsie Smith keep us informed. Elsie clipped all of the newspaper articles in regard to shows and sent this years catalog. Take time to look them over at the meeting. If you're not at the meeting, shame on you.

Hugh Fulton

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## MIAMI VALLEY MINERAL & GEM CLUB MINUTES - 11 March 2001

The meeting was called to order by president, Hugh Fulton. Two visitors, Dianne Jergens and Dan Isbel were welcomed. In the absence of Chaplain Udean Babyak, Hugh Fulton read a prayer for devotions. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. The treasurer's report was also approved. Hugh Fulton thanked the people who had volunteered at the last meeting to be committee chairmen.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Hugh Fulton reported that Chip and Lick is in the top 10 at an early stage of the MWF newsletter competition. Becky Dobbs asked people to consider signing

up for refreshments and displays since there are still slots that are not filled. Dave Perry, the Librarian, gave a brief review of the book *State Stones* and encouraged people to make use of the books in our library. Joyce Perry, the Sunshine chairman reported that Russ Bignell is making good progress, that Martha Miller is home, that Eugene Husted fell and broke his ribs and is in the hospital, and that Betty Husted is doing well with her chemotherapy.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** The club received a letter from MWF thanking us for our contribution to the scholarship fund. We received the AFMS newsletter, The MWF newsletter and an announcement of the Cincinnati Mineral Society Show, which will be held May 5 and 6.

Matt Kromphardt attended a meeting on field trips. The Bruckner Gem and Mineral Club of Troy, has made plans for a number of field trips, mostly using buses, and would welcome participation of interested people. Matt has phone numbers if members are interested in following up on this.

Show and Swap fliers were available and members were encouraged to take some and place them where interested people might pick them up. The program for the April meeting will be a demonstration of a website similar to one our club might develop.

Udean Babyak brought us up to date on plans for the Spring Banquet. We will meet at the Tapestry and Tales Gift Shop and Tearoom at the Bushnell Building in Springfield on Saturday, April 7th at 6:00 P.M. The address is 14 E. Main St. Members were asked to sign up for an entree and dessert choice.

The club approved payment of a bill for \$99.33 for payment of Chip and Lick and Swap and Show fliers.

The meeting adjourned to watch a slide show on the rocks and geology of South Eastern Ohio.

Richard Faux, Recording Secretary

## Intellectual Pastimes May Prevent Alzheimer's

From an article in the Baltimore Sun, 3/6/01

Although there have not yet been enough studies, adults with hobbies that exercise their brains appear to be less likely to have Alzheimer's disease.

A survey of people in their 70's showed that those who regularly participated in hobbies that were intellectually challenging during their younger adult years tended to be protected from Alzheimer's while those whose main leisure activity is dominated by TV watching tended to have an increased risk.

The finding supports other studies showing that brainpower unused is brainpower lost.

*Via AFMS Newsletter 04/01*



## Digging Into Our Past

By John Prats

Headlight Staff, Deming News

Dr. Fred Eric Haessley, a retired doctor from Wisconsin, who retired to Deming, discovered a rare set of Colombian mammoth tusks, 10 miles northeast of Deming. Realizing they were more than just rocks, he called the BLM, who confirmed the significance of his find.

The tusks are 8 feet long and believed to be of an animal that died 12,000-20,000 years ago. Dr. Mike O'Neiel, a regional paleontologist for the BLM, theorized the animal was preserved because it was washed into a spring-fed lake, and was later covered by sedimentary clay.

It is estimated it was about 15 feet at the shoulder, and weighed 5-6 1/2 tons. These large animals could have been brought to extinction by the ice age, or by hunters faced with a dwindling food supply.

The Colombian mammoth was not hairy and was the size of a "very modern elephant." It's tusks were almost completely unscathed by the

harsh elements. A shoulder blade believed to belong to the mammoth was also uncovered.

A new technique developed by the University of Michigan will analyze the layers of the tusks, to provide insight into what it ate and how old it was. Carbon dating will determine its exact age.

Findings from the excavation will be taken to the New Mexico's Museum of Natural History in Albuquerque for further study.

*Via MWF Newsletter 04/01*

## UPCOMING SHOWS & EVENTS:

- **APRIL 28 - 29 TROY, OH**  
BRUKNER GEM, MINERAL FOSSIL & JEWELRY SHOW  
TROY, OH
- **MAY 5 - 6 CINCINNATI, OH**  
37<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GEM, MINERAL, FOSSIL & JEWELRY SHOW  
CINCINNATI CONVENTION CENTER
- **JUNE 9-10 DONNELSVILLE, OH**  
38<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MIAMI VALLEY MINERAL AND GEM CLUB SWAP
- **JUNE 16 - 17, CLIO, MI**  
MICHIGAN GEOLOGY AND GEMCRAFT SOCIETY'S 27<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNUAL ROCKHOUND SEMINAR
- **JUNE 23 - 24 BLOOMINGTON, IN**  
36<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GEM, MIN & FOSSIL SHOW & SWAP  
FRI 10-07 PM SAT 8-7 PM SUN 8-4 PM
- **AUG 17-20 FLINT, MI**  
FACETING SEMINAR 2001. MIDWEST FACETERS GUILD, MOTT  
COLLEGE, FLINT, MI. CONTACT HAROLD "ARIZONA" RICE, 122  
LOIS LAND, MT. CLEMENS, MI 48043. (810) 463-5972  
AZRICE@WWDB.ORG
- **SEPT 7-9, RICE LAKE, WI**  
MWF SHOW AND CONVENTION



Polishing Opal: Tin oxide and jeweler's rouge are alternate polishing compounds for opal.

*Via The Show Me Geode 04/01 and others*

## Midwest Federation News



New Program Kits Available. Did you know that the mineral Nahcolite is found in most kitchens and it has many uses around the house; that Magnesium is called the 'universal metal'; or anything at all about Eudialyte? If you and fellow Club members would like to learn more about these (or a whole list of other minerals), contact Neil Reeder to order a 'Mini-Mineral Kit'.

Twenty-three kits (in addition to the three minerals above) are listed in the 2000 MWF Directory on Gold page 7, along with an Order Form. OR contact MWF Library Assistant, Neil Reeder. Phone: (937)773-0545 or wrote: 638 Stalter Rd., Piqua, OH 45356.

Volcano Kit also available.

*Via MWF Newsletter 04/01*

## American Federation News



2001 'A Gem Odyssey' is the theme of the combined AFMS/SCFMS Convention and Show hosted by the Arlington Gem and Mineral Club. The show is being held at the Arlington Convention Center, 1200 Ballpark Way, Arlington, TX, on June 11-17, 2001. Many field trips are planned during the week. Some will be guided and other local collecting areas will be self-guided. This area is noted for fossils. The show will have many excellent displays both competitive and non-competitive. As you know, shows depend on attendance and displays, therefore, we are expecting wonderful displays and a large attendance. Make your plans and reservations early.

*Co-Chairmen Delbert & Joyce Speed*

Several changes to the Uniform Rules were approved at the Moab meetings this past year. These changes have not been printed and are available from your Regional Federation Supplies Chairman. These "new rules" will be in use for judging at your Regional Federation Shows this year and at the AFMS Convention and Show in Arlington, TX this June. We encourage all exhibitors to obtain a copy of these changes and to keep their copy of the rules book up to date. *From Jim Hurlbut*

AFMS Endowment Fund. Plans for the 2001 Endowment Fund fund-raiser are proceeding well at this time. There are always questions as to "What is the Federation, what does it do for me, why should I help?" The Endowment Fund is a great answer to these questions. The fund raises funds, which are maintained in a perpetual account, to support federation activities. We currently use the interest from the proceeds to support the production and distribution of programs to each regional federation. These programs are then available to the individual club/society members of the regional federation.

We are also supporting the AFMS website, which had almost one million hits in the year 2000. Much additional information will be placed on the site in this year. We are reaching the public in this manner and it appears that growth will continue as we make the site even more attractive.

*From Lewis Elrod, AFMS Chair*

Look around, see what you find, send it on to me for the fund-raiser and let's all get behind the AFMS again this year.

*Via AFMS Newsletter 04/01*



Polishing Turquoise: If you are running into difficulty getting a good polish on turquoise, use a piece of organdy on the wheel. It seems to be more effective than felt.

*From The Show Me Geode, via Breccia 09/99*

**THE STORIES BEHIND THE TABLES AT THE TUCSON SHOWS**

Let's start with the 24 year-old whiz kid who can identify not only the specimen, but also the country, state, county and the mine it came from.

A man hoping to raise enough money to build a well near his home in Africa by selling his carvings.

This year's show had a Russian theme with many Russians in attendance. Tatiana Faberge' was there signing copies of her book on sale for \$125. Featured in the show 60 Faberge' objects d'art.

You want fossils, there were 450 fossil dealers, 135 from foreign countries.

Did you know getting married at the show was an in thing? Seems Tucson brings out the romance.

Big is in for beads. Just drill holes in your rough rock, string it, and wear it.

The state of metaphysical shows and the why for their decline.

Buddha beads and figurines were fast sellers. People wanted them for good luck and protection. While in another part of the world, people were destroying the largest carved Buddha's ever.

How do you think of meteorites? "If you think of planets as baked cookies, meteorites are the cookie dough the butter and eggs that went into the cookie," explained one seller of such.

Are web sites hurting shows? Commercial web sites may turn out to be the shows biggest booster. Bob Keller of "Bob's Rock Shop" at www.rockhounds.com believes the Internet is creating a new generation of rock lovers.

With 25 private and public shows in 30 locations there are cops everywhere. It's big bucks for off duty policemen from Tucson and surrounding area private security companies. Still, thefts were reported running into hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The word from several sources is that investors are pumping up prices, artificially driving them higher and higher. Bob Jones,

writes about this in the May issue of the Rock & Gem.

You can save some serious bucks, it says here, if you go faux, simulated, synthetic, pseudo-synthetic, or imitation. And you might if its smuggled, produced by child labor, or a misuse of Indian motifs. Dealers suggest buyers question the source of items you are interested in.

A big sell included artificial geodes, 1400 lb. concrete geodes. Do you bring your own forklift? They sold \$20,000 worth to one buyer.

As Paul Harvey would say, for the rest of the story, see newspaper clippings on tables at today's meeting.

Hugh Fulton

*Via newspaper clippings sent by Paul & Elsie Smith*

TO ALL STATE DIRECTORS:

Greetings from Deming,

As 2<sup>nd</sup> VP of the MWF, it is my job to keep in touch with the State Directors to help them with any problems they might have, and encourage them to check with their clubs, asking if they would be interested in hosting a MWF Convention.

The ideal situation is to have Conventions scheduled up to three (3) years in advance. At the present time, the only one scheduled is in Rice Lake, Wisconsin, on September 7-9, 2001. This means, we are looking for a host club for 2002, 2003, 2004, and for a combined AFMS/MWF Convention in 2005.

One of the most often heard and used excuse we hear is, "We don't have enough members to do the work." This is a cop out, and I don't buy that. Let me go back a few years. The ideal situation is to have three (3) years to prepare for such a show.

In 1983, we had the same problem, no one to host a Convention. So my club, The Kalamazoo Geological and Mineral Society volunteered, and whipped together a very successful Convention, in less than a year and a half. Even though our membership was about 80 people, it was 15-20 people that did the work. We had several well-known speakers, 300 displays, 70 of which were competitive, a post office cancellation station, and many other things.

In 1993, 6 people, Norm and Joyce Hanschu, Chuck and Marge Collins and Marve and I chaired a very successful Field Trip Convention held in the Upper Peninsula at Michigan Technological University, Houghton, Michigan. When Marve and I ran into Dean Stone at the Keweenaw Gift and Gem in Houghton, his first remark was "It boggles my mind, how you pulled off this Convention 600 miles from home!!!"

I'm sure there are many clubs right now, who have a successful show, that could easily host a Convention. Many clubs are under the impression they need to enlarge their show in order to host a Convention, and that it should be in a Convention Center, which is very PRICEY! This is NOT necessary! Some of the best Conventions I have been to were held at fairgrounds. The AFMS/RMFMS Convention held in Moab, Utah last October, oozed camaraderie, was held in a horse arena. It was one of the best Conventions I have been to in a long time.

The only requirements needed by the MWF, are a place to hold two meetings (luncheons are nice, but not necessary), a banquet to hand out the competitive awards, and a breakfast to hand out the bulletin awards. I, myself, would like to see the two events combined, to hand out just the top three winners of the bulletin contest at the banquet. The editors work long and hard 10 months of the year, and should be honored by everyone, not just by other editors at the breakfast.

If you feel you do not have enough people, enlist the help of surrounding clubs. They are more than happy to help. Even though they are not necessary, favors and centerpieces add to the festivities. Ask other clubs to do this.

The NORTHWEST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY of Barron, Wisconsin that is hosting this years Convention has 40 members. They are very enthusiastic, and have many fun things planned.

There are 13 clubs in the MWF that have over 150 members, isn't there someone out there that can host a Convention? If 6 people can pull off a Convention 600 miles from home, can't you host one in your own backyard?

Please step forward, and say "We'll do it", don't just sit back and 'let John do it.' Fill my mailbox with offers...for 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005. It is a lot of fun, really.

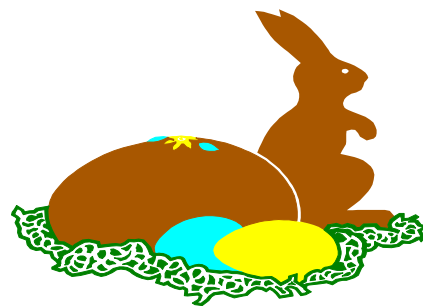
Below are the statistics (by state) on where Conventions have been held since the first one in 1941...

Indiana 6	Illinois 8	Iowa 5	Michigan 15
Minnesota 6	Missouri 3	Nebraska 2	Ohio 7
South Dakota 2	Wisconsin 7		

My state stacks up pretty good, how does your state stack up?

I rest my case...

Warm regards,  
Kitty Starbuck  
2<sup>nd</sup> VP MWF



BECKY DOBBS - EDITOR  
2792 GREYSTOKE DR.  
XENIA, OH 45385

SAVE COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS

*HAPPY EASTER!*