

CHIP & LICK



Official Publication of the Miami Valley Mineral and Gem Club

VOLUME 49, NUMBER 4

APRIL, 2003



MEETINGS: Second Sunday of the month except June, July and August.

PLACE: Small Business Development Center, 300 E. Auburn Ave.,
Springfield, OH 45505. Phone: 322-7821

TIME: 2:00 P.M.
Guests are always welcome!

EDITOR: Becky Dobbs
2792 Greystoke Dr.
Xenia, OH 45385

WEB SITE: www.mvmgc.org

MATERIAL IN THIS BULLETIN MAY BE COPIED PROVIDED FULL CREDIT IS GIVEN TO THE AUTHOR AND TO THE BULLETIN.

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.**2003 OFFICERS**

President	Hugh Fulton	322-1021
Vice President	Andreas Ruben	390-2081
Corresponding Secretary	Katrin Ruben	390-2081
Recording Secretary	Dick Faux	289-7032
Treasurer	Joyce Perry	372-8228
Editor	Becky Dobbs	becky_dobbs@mvmgc.org
Librarian	Joyce Perry	372-8228
Curator-Historian	Becky Dobbs	372-9022
Trustee (2003)	Ginny Bignell	866-8789
Trustee (2004)	Udean Babyak	322-0443
Trustee (2005)		

2003 COMMITTEES

Anti-Litter	All Members	
Canceled Stamps	Kay Faux	289-7032
Chaplain	Udean Babyak	322-0443
Christmas Banquet	Udean Babyak	322-0443
Field Trips/ Safety		
MWF Liaison	Hugh Fulton	322-1021
Photographer	Hugh Fulton	322-1021
Program	Andreas Ruben	390-2081
Refreshment		
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
Webmaster	Katrin Ruben	390-2081

**APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

Joan Fulton Apr 10
Andreas Ruben Apr 12

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

None this month



Spring Banquet... April 12, 2003 Swap Date...June 7-8 2003 Show Date...October 4-5, 2003

President's Message

Greetings from Mesa Arizona. Mesa has been our home base the last 2 weeks. Weather has been ideal. Rain a couple days but it was needed and greened up the desert. Before arriving Mesa, we visited the Painted Desert and Petrified Forest. Can you imagine me surrounded by petrified wood lying everywhere and not be allowed to pick up even one tiny piece? Next we visited the Grand Canyon National Park, one of the Seven Wonders of the World. The scenery is breathtaking. There were snow-capped mountains around Flagstaff; still a lot of snow on the ground, but the roads were clear.

On arriving in Mesa and meeting the snowbirds, other couples from the Springfield area who spend winter in Mesa, we were kept busy at least from 8-8 each day seeing the spectacular Arizona scenery. Even the highway overpasses are a thing of art. A lot of desert, Arizona is the only place in North America where four types of deserts are found. We have seen Indian Canals and petroglyphs, ruins, museums, Hoover Dam and Laughlin, Nevada. We also went to Oatmar AZ to see the burros and to Lake Havasu City to see the London Bridge. All this plus flea markets, antique shops and eating, boy do these people eat. We want to come back for some camping and Rockhounding.

In a paper I picked up, I find an announcement for a rock show, the Verde Valley Gem & Mineral Show, this weekend (March 23-24) in Cottonwood, AZ. Their show also includes art, woodcarving and porcelain shows. Their show was featuring fossils from the Institute of human Origin, Neanderthal skulls, demonstrating their large brain capacity. Some almost 50% larger than ours! No, we didn't go.

Rock burglars, seen on TV, the police are baffled by rock burglars. Dumb me; I think someone is stealing rocks out of yards. Seems nearly every home, store or whatever has river rocks all around in the landscaping. No, so the burglars use the rocks to break windows, to

avoid door alarms. Millions of dollars of household goods have been reported stolen.

Hope to be home in time for the April meeting, and see all the spring flowers at home.

Hugh Fulton



MIAMI VALLEY MINERAL & GEM CLUB MINUTES - 9 MARCH 2003

The meeting was called to order by Vice President, Andreas Ruben

Udean Babyak read a selection from the book of Ecclesiastics for devotions.

The minutes of the February meeting were read and approved. The Treasurers report for February was also read and accepted.

REPORTS: Becky Dobbs, EDITOR of Chip and Lick, had no special information to share with the club. Joyce Perry, our LIBRARIAN reported that she had received the latest edition of the Lapidary Journal. Katrin Ruben informed us that our WEBSITE had received 1241 visitors in November but that activity has been lower in the winter months. The PROGRAM for April will be identification of rock specimens. The May program will be a continuation of the same subject. Good progress continues on preparation for the June SWAP. We need additional grab bags and rocks to put in them. The SUNSHINE COMMITTEE reported that Beth Stewart continues to make progress and she and may be able to attend when the weather is better.

CORRESPONDENCE: Mary Lindner sent information about the activities of the Columbus Rock Club. The American Federation of Mineral Societies acknowledged our recent contribution to the Scholarship Fund

OLD BUSINESS: It was announced that the SPRING BANQUET would be held at the Roush Restaurant at 6:00 P.M. on April 12th. The cost

will be \$12.50 and you may pay as you eat There will be no room charge if there are 20 or more in attendance.

NEW BUSINESS: Membership directories for 2003 were passed out. William and Dawn Queen were welcomed as guests.

The meeting was recessed for refreshment, following which Andreas Ruben presented a program on the mineral collection of the Freiberg Museum in Germany. The meeting was then adjourned.

Richard Faux, Recording Secretary



April Program:

Rock & Mineral Identification - Part 1

May Program:

Rock & Mineral Identification - Part 2



May

Articles Refreshments Display
Need volunteers



UPCOMING SHOWS & EVENTS:

- **APRIL 26-27 TROY, OH**
TROY GEM, MINERAL, FOSSIL & JEWELRY SHOW
JUNIOR FAIR BUILDING; MIAMI CO FAIRGROUNDS; CO RD 25-A
- **APRIL 26-27 CUYAHOGA FALLS, OH**
GEMBOREE, SEMI-ANNUAL ROCK SHOW – SUMMIT LAPIDARY CLUB AND AKRON, MINERAL SOCIETY, EMIDIO & SONS EXPO CENTER, 46 EAST BATH ROAD
- **MAY 3-4 CINCINNATI, OH**
GEOFAIR 2003; CINCINNATI CONVENTION CENTER
5TH & ELM
- **MAY 2-3-4 KALAMAZOO, MI**
KALAMAZOO GEOLOGICAL & MINERAL SOCIETY GEM & MIN SHOW PRESENTS THE KING OF THE TYRANT LIZARDS: T-REX. A FULL SIZED CAST OF SUE'S SKULL FRI 4-8 SAT 10-6, SUN 10-5
- **MAY 24-25 DAYTON, OH**

36TH ANNIVERSARY - ART IN THE PARK
RIVERBEND ARTS CENTER; 1301 E. SIEBENTHALER AVE.

- **MAY 23-25 – NEWARK, OH**
36TH ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY ROCK SWAP, AT HIDDEN HILL CAMPGROUND, 3246 LOPER ROAD N.E. CONTACT: BETTY McDONALD, 2586 N. GRUBB RD., DELPHOS, OH 45833 PHONE (419)339-3304.
- **JUNE 5 – 8 VENTURA ,CA**
AMERICAN AND CALIFORNIA FEDERATIONS OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES - SEASIDE GEMBOREE 2003
- **JUNE 27-29 BLOOMINGTON, IN**
LAWRENCE COUNTY ROCK CLUB, INC
38TH ANNUAL GEM MINERAL ~ FOSSIL SHOW & SWAP
MONROE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
FRI 8 10 AM - 7 PM SAT 8 AM - 7 PM SUN 8 AM - 4 PM
- **JUNE 28-29 – ANN ARBOR, MI**
M.G.A.G.S., ROCKHOUND SEMINAR AT WASHTENAW COMMUNITY COLLEGE, CRAFTING WITH ROCKS AND GEMS, LEARN HOW IN HANDS-ON WORKSHOPS. BEGINNING AND ADVANCED DEMONSTRATIONS, LECTURES. FOR ADVANCE INFORMATION CALL: DON BROWN (734) 421-8159.
- **AUGUST 15-17 FLINT, MI**
FACETERS SEMINAR; MIDWEST FACETERS GUILD, 14TH ANNUAL FACETERS SEMINAR AT MOTT COMMUNITY COLLEGE. HOURS: FRI 4-8:30, SAT 8:30-5:30, 6:30 BANQUET WITH SPEAKER. SUN 8:30-3:30. REGISTRATION REQUIRED BY JULY 24, 2003. CALL: HAROLD "ARIZONA" RICE (586)463-5972



FEDERATION NEWS



The spring Executive Meeting of the Midwest Federation will be held in May at the Kalamazoo show.

Michelle Yamanaka has been appointed as the MWF Junior Activities Chairman (beginning in January 2003.) Michelle is a member of the Tree Rivers Gem & Mineral Society in Fort Wayne, IN. She can be reached at YamanakaM@cs.com or by phone at (260) 424-5070.



Mine menace: petrified stumps

By Dale M. Gnidovec

The famous Petrified Forest of Arizona is really more like a petrified logjam, because most of its tree trunks fell and were transported by water before burial. Actual petrified forests exist, however, with trees - or at least their stumps - still in place where they grew.

Evidence for some of Earth's first forests occurs near Gilboa, N.Y. Stumps more than 3 feet in diameter, with their roots in shale and their trunks surrounded by sandstone, occur in sediments deposited toward the end of the Devonian Period, approximately 360 million years ago.

Another fossil forest was found at an underground coal mine, the Sterling North Mine, in Jefferson County, Ohio. In the mudstone roof of the mine are circular rinds of coal up to 4 feet in diameter that are the stumps of trees that lived there when the peat was accumulating.

More than 800 stumps were found all of one species of lycopsid represented today by the diminutive club mosses. During the Pennsylvanian Period, 300 million years ago, they reached tree size, 120 to 150 feet tall.

They had thick bark covered with diamond-shaped pits and are often called "scale trees." They lacked hard wood, so after death their spongy interiors rooted quickly and became filled with sediment.

Stumps in the roof of a coal mine are called "kettlebottoms" by the miners. Filled with mudstone or sandstone, the bell-shaped kettlebottoms fall easily once the coal is removed from beneath them. They are also known as "widowmakers" because of the potentially fatal effects on the miners.

Another Pennsylvanian-age fossil forest is in Canada at Joggins, Nova Scotia. The trees contain the remains of some of the earliest reptiles, small lizard-like animals that became trapped in the hollow stumps and couldn't get out before perishing.

In the roof of a Cretaceous coal mine in Utah are stumps surrounded by fossil footprints

of dinosaurs that were probably feeding on those trees.

Another famous fossil forest is in Yellowstone National Park. Exposed in Lamar Valley are layers of volcanic ash containing the fossil trunks of trees.

Trees can't sprout on fresh ash; it must decompose into a soil that can support plants. From the thickness of the stumps (with circumferences up to 16 feet) and by counting growth rings (as many as 500), we know that each forest lasted many years.

Exposed in that valley are 27 buried forests, one on top of another, representing more than 20,000 years.

*Dale M. Gnidovec is curator of Ohio State University's Orton Geological Museum.
Gnidovec@geology.ohio-state.edu*



DID YOU KNOW

Poisonous Malachite

Did you know that malachite is very poisonous in its raw state? Never lick the material to see the color. Don't even repeatedly lick your finger and apply (to the stone). When you grind, wipe the contaminated oil off your skin right away. If you smoke and the taste becomes very sweet, you are absorbing the malachite dust. The copper oxide dust is mixing with the moisture in your mouth and reacting to the tar in the tobacco, turning it into saccharine. Needless to say, you should take some immediate steps to stop the inhalation.

Via Fort Hamilton Gems 04/03 from Amador Nugget, via Music City Rockette & Chips)



Only in America...do we use answering machines to screen calls and then have cal waiting so we won't miss a call from someone we didn't want to talk to in the first place.

SAFETY IN THE SHOP

Tumblers – bombs for the unwary

Did you know that you might be harboring an explosive device in your shop? Well, actually, not a high explosive, because I've never heard of one actually exploding with sufficient force to take out a well, but tumblers have been known to blow their tops and create an unholy mess on the shop floor. The reason is the coarse, medium, and fine grits, all are composed of 'Carborundum,' which is silicon carbide. As is the case with all carbides, this material reacts with water to release Acetylene gas.

In summer considerable pressure may be generated by the combination of Carbide and warm water. The reaction is much slower in the winter. Preventative medicine is very simple; take the lid off about every third day instead of once a week or more.

(Be sure you clean mating surfaces well before reassembly, to prevent leaks.) In very warm weather, in case of pre-polish, it is a good idea to open the tumbler every other day. Saves mopping.

Via Fort Hamilton Gems 04/03 from article by Ted Robles, in Mountain Gem, via music City Rockette



Anne C. Yokell
1933-2003

Anne Christine Yokell, age 69, of Fairborn, passed away Thursday, March 13, 2003, at home.

She was born Nov. 20, 1933 in Manhattan, Kansas, the daughter of Arthur and Christine Buckley Goodrich. She was a member of Mary, Help of Christians Catholic Church and was one of the founders of the FISH Pantry in Fairborn.

Anne was a former member of the Miami Valley Mineral and Gem Club. She is survived by two daughters and a son-in-law, Julie and Scott Holmes of Dayton and Dr. Carol A. Yokell of Ft. Worth, TX. Two sons and daughters-in-law, Michael and Joyce Yokell of Ft. Worth and

Dr. Richard and Kathleen Yokell of Hampton, VA; a sister and brother-in-law, Jan and Larry Stuckey of Plattsmouth, Nebraska.

She is also survived by nine grandchildren and several nieces, nephews and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, Raymond J. Yokell Jr. and a brother Arthur Goodrich.

Lula M. (Lou) Fulton

Hugh Fulton's mother, Lula M. Fulton, 94, of Springfield, Ohio passed away Friday, February 28, 2003 in Good Shepherd Village. Funeral services were held March 4, 2003 and burial in Enon Cemetery.



**DINOSAUR DIGS
NEW DINOSAUR UNEARTHED**

At the Dinosaur National Monument, near Vernal, Utah, researchers discovered the skull of a new meat-eating dinosaur. The skull was just a few feet from the site where a remarkably complete, but headless, skeleton of a new specimen of carnivorous dinosaur, about 15-feet long, was discovered six years ago. The skeleton is housed at the parks Quarry Visitor Center and now is undergoing extensive study. Is this a previously unknown species of Allosaurus, or a new kind of dinosaur? Allosaurus was a 2.5-ton, 30-foot long carnivore that roamed the western half of North America during the late Jurassic period.

Via Fort Hamilton Gems 04/03, from Chips & Tips)

TRACKING DINOSAURS

The discovery of what may be the oldest dinosaur footprints ever found in the U.S. has led some scientists to push back the date of dinosaur evolution. The tracks, found near Fort Wingate, New Mexico, are from a herbivorous Ornithischian dinosaur and are about 225 million years old. Similar tracks have been found in

France and are about 240 million years old. According to Stephen Hasiotis of the U.S.G.S. in Denver, the similarity of the tracks may suggest that dinosaurs evolved earlier than widely believed.

The New Mexico footprints were found in an ancient flood plain and were dated stratigraphically, using the estimated age of the rock layers around the tracks to determine the age of the tracks themselves.

Via Fort Hamilton Gems 04/03, from Conglomerate, via Rocks Digest, Jan 15-Feb 15, 1995 & Rock Lore, 04/97



How to Make A Two-sided Bola with the Cord through the Middle

Have you ever had a piece of material, which was too thin for a cab? Well, I did and it was a beautiful piece of Biggs jasper, far too pretty not to make into a cab. Here's how I saved the problem and I hope it will give you some ideas on how to use material you may have which you think is too thin to be cut into a cab.

I cut it into a 52mm X 3mm cab, then one thicker than usual. In this case, I used blue tiger-eye. After I cut the two cabs, one Biggs jasper and one blue tiger-eye, I used the edge of my diamond-grinding wheel to grind a groove down the center of the blue tiger-eye cab (the thicker of the two.) Be extra careful while performing this operation.

Put a bola cord between the two cabs and press them together by hand. Pull the cord through the groove, then grind and repeat the procedure until the cord slides through the groove with just a slight pull so as not to slip when you wear the bola.

When you are satisfied with the groove in the thicker cab, remove the cord and glue the two cabs together -- in my case Biggs jasper on one side and the blue tiger-eye on the other, back to back. Be careful not to get glue in the groove. Remember that your bola cord has to slide through this. I used a vise with a shop towel on each side of the cabs. Be careful that the cabs do not slip out of alignment while gluing. I always let my glue dry at least 24 hours. When glue has dried, clean the excess, if you have any, from the edges of the two cabs without much of a problem.

For each dangle, I glued a piece of Biggs jasper and a piece of blue tiger-eye together and ground and polished them as one piece, attached a bell cap to one end then use a jump ring to attach it to the bola tip.

When you finish with this project you will have a beautiful bola that has no metal slide glued on the back. Furthermore, you will have a bola, which you will be very proud of. Good luck - I know you can do it.

By Jim Foskett via Greater Cinti Lapidary & Faceting Society Newsletter 04/03, via SMS Matrix and Sooner Rockologist via Cedar Valley Gems 02/03



Dinosaur Skin Fossil

By Carolyn Tunnicliff

Are you guilty of picking up a rock and bringing it home with you just because it appeals to you for some reason? A graduate student studying rocks near Deming, New Mexico did exactly that. He found a textured rock some two feet wide, which he thought, was fossilized tree bark. The "rock" just sort of hung around the New Mexico Museum of Natural History for the last five years.

About a year ago, researchers began to suspect the "rock" was something more than fossilized tree bark. The pockmarked "rock" has sort of a cottage cheese texture - but has been identified as the skin fossil of a duck-billed dinosaur!

Spencer Lucas, paleontologist at the museum, says this discovery verifies that dinosaurs were cold-blooded and had skin like lizards. The discovery also raises questions about how skin tissue can be preserved.

A piece of the "rock" will be displayed at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History in Albuquerque. A rubber mold has been made, so visitors can feel how it would have felt to pet a dinosaur.

Via Nickel Basin Rockhound 03/03, via Surrey Rockhounder 11/02, via Flatirons Facets, Tulip City Conglomerate, and Laphound News 09/02



Only in America...can a pizza get to your house faster than an ambulance.

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

SAVE COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS

Crystal Moonbeams (Gypsum)

By John F. Ross, Editor Smithsonian 04/02

In the spring of the year 2000, two Mexican miners were blasting a new tunnel 1000 feet down in the silver and lead Naica Mine in southern Chihuahua, Mexico.

They discovered a 30x60-foot cavern filled with immense crystals. They are pitched on top of one another and are the length and circumference of mature pine trees. Some of them are four feet in diameter and 50 feet in length. There are also rows of sharktooth formations three feet high set at odd angles. A second chamber adjacent to the first had even bigger crystals. They are thought to be 30 to 100 years old.

The temperature is about 150 degrees with 100% humidity. It feels like a blast furnace and one can only stay inside for 6 - 10 minutes before becoming disoriented.

Geologists' explanation for this remarkable find is a step-like process. Magma or molten rock 2-3 miles underneath the mountain forced mineral rich fluid up through a fault into cracks in the limestone bedrock near the surface. Over time hydrothermal liquid deposited gold, silver, lead and zinc in the limestone, but in a few caves the conditions for crystals were perfect.

Groundwater rich with sulphur from the metal deposits dissolved the limestone and released calcium. The calcium combined with sulphur and formed the crystals.

Via Nickel Basin Rockhound 03/03, via the bugle 10/02