

CHIP & LICK



Official Publication of the Miami Valley Mineral and Gem Club

VOLUME 48, NUMBER 10

50th Year Anniversary

DECEMBER, 2002



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!

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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.

2002 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	dobbsr2001@yahoo.com
Librarian	Dave Perry	372-8228
Curator-Historian	Becky Dobbs	372-9022
Trustee (2002)	John Mercer	322-1768
Trustee (2003)	Ginny Bignell	866-8789
Trustee (2004)	Udean Babyak	322-0443

2002 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	Matt Kromphardt	878-3348
MWF Liaison	Hugh Fulton	322-1021
Photographer	Hugh Fulton	322-1021
Program	Andreas 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
Webmaster	Katrin Ruben	390-2081



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Edwin Huff	Dec 6
Hugh Fulton	Dec 11

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

None this month



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

President's Message

.December – the year is fast coming to an end. As I write, it is near Thanksgiving Day and there are snow warnings on the T.V. Our club is now into our 50th year, we can be thankful we still function as a club. We were still able to have a Swap in the spring and a Show in the fall. As I think back on our accomplishments, the great programs, the new signs, the new look for the Wheel of Fortune, a great web site, our 50th year book, and our new meeting place is working out very well. It is apparent we should be thankful the Ruben family chose our club to join. Club members won more awards in the Federation bulletin contest. Most were honorable mention, but we would not have gotten them without the good work of our Editor Becky. Thank you Becky. The Chip & Lick holds the club together. And we are thankful for our girl-Friday, our Treasurer Joyce who is always there no matter the job, she accepts it willingly. These are the people who make the magic rock club work.

Edwin and Deborah Huff became our newest members at the November meeting, be sure to welcome them. Ernie Lincoln, a door prize winner at the show attended the November meeting, and she might also join. So things are looking up.

At the January meeting we will welcome two new officers; Andreas Ruben will be Vice-President and Joyce Perry, Librarian. The program will be a silent auction, don't forget. Hope the weather will not keep you away.

Wishing all of you a Happy Holiday and good health and happiness in 2003!

Happy New Year.
Hugh Fulton



MIAMI VALLEY MINERAL & GEM CLUB MINUTES - 10 NOVEMBER 2002

The meeting was called to order by president, Hugh Fulton.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as corrected and it was noted that Dave Perry would not be a candidate for Librarian. The Treasurer's report was read and approved.

Two guests, Edwin Huff and Ernie Lincoln were welcomed.

CORRESPONDENCE: Alan Cowan, our member in Canada sent a letter. We received a copy of a booklet on rock puzzles. Ernie Lincoln thanked the club for emeralds she won as a door prize at our club show. We received some show fliers, the American Federation Newsletter and the Mid West Federation Newsletter. This material was placed on the table for members to examine.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: FIELD TRIPS, The southwest Ohio clubs will visit a company that designs toys. Detailed information is available from Neil Reeder. **SUNSHINE COMMITTEE,** no activity this month. **SWAP,** the dates have been set for June 7 and 8, 2003 and we have received some dealer enquiries. **SHOW,** the dates have been set for October 4 and 5, 2003. **PROGRAM,** the program for the January meeting will be a silent auction.

OLD BUSINESS: It was reported that we might not be able to have our Christmas Banquet at the Tapestry and Tales Tea Room. The best alternative seemed to be to use our meeting room at the Business Center for a carry-in meal. Katrin Ruben will ask if it is available and notify inform members of the outcome. Becky Dobbs will use her e-mail list to contact members who can be reached in that manner. It was reported that the Rock Hound stickers had arrived. The club decided to sell them to club members for 50

cents each.

NEW BUSINESS: The names of the candidates for office were read. Since Dave Perry had asked to have his name removed as a candidate for Librarian, Joyce Perry volunteered to be nominated for that position. As there were no further nominations, the president declared that the nominations were closed and asked the secretary to cast a unanimous ballot for the following officers: President, Hugh Fulton; Vice President, Andreas Ruben; Recording Secretary, Dick Faux; Corresponding Secretary, Katrin Ruben; Treasurer, Joyce Perry; Curator-Historian, Becky Dobbs; Librarian, Joyce Perry; Trustee, John Mercer

Joyce Perry reminded members that it was time for them to pay their dues for 2003 and that she needed the membership information in order to prepare the Directory.

The meeting was adjourned for refreshments. Dave Perry then presented a demonstration on polishing sapphires. Katrin, Philippe and Michael Ruben gave a demonstration of the club website and of the information about rocks and minerals that could be accessed from the website.

. Richard Faux, Recording Secretary



**January Program:
Silent Auction**



**January
Article Display Refreshments
Need volunteers**



REMINDER: 2003 DUES ARE DUE



UPCOMING SHOWS & EVENTS:

- JANUARY 17-26 QUARTSIZE, AZ
ROCK, GEM & MINERAL SHOW.
- JANUARY 31-FEB 16, TUCSON, AZ
THE WORLDS LARGEST ROCK, GEM, MINERAL AND FOSSIL SHOW. THIRTY SITES OR MORE.
- JUNE 7-8, DONNELSVILLE, OH
MIAMI VALLEY MINERAL & GEM CLUB ANNUAL SWAP
- AUGUST 15-17, 2003, COTTAGE GROVE, MN
MIDWEST FEDERATION SHOW



FEDERATION NEWS



Two graduate student candidates have been selected for the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies Scholarships granted by the AFMS. These two candidates are Douglas Moore, a first year graduate student in geophysics at Michigan Technological University, and Amaid Erik Boice, a graduate student in Precambrian geochemistry at Indiana University.

Both candidates have received \$2000 this school year from MWF towards their research and will receive another \$2000 next school year pending successful continuation of the graduate student career. They have both expressed their gratitude to AFMS and MWF.

Via MWF Newsletter 12/02



ALL AMERICAN CLUB AWARD PROGRAM:
This program was established in 1967 by the AFMS and the seven region federations. The award is meant to: 1) Encourage local club members to share their expertise and enthusiasm for the hobby within their respective regions. 2) Provide a model for organizing an annual historical account for the posterity of each

club, and 3) Offer an opportunity for national recognition of exceptional clubs.

This is not a competition of one club against others. This is an evaluation of quality based on a standard of excellence. Gold, Silver and Bronze awards are granted for achievement of points in the appropriate scoring range. Only the top regional and national awards are determined on a high point basis. To allow more equality, separate top awards will be given for large clubs (100 or more members), small clubs (up to 99 members) and organized junior divisions (5 or more members).

Entries for 2002 must be received by the AFMS for national judging by March 31, 2003, and February 28 is suggested as the date for submission to your regional chairman (or directly to the AFMS if you have no regional chairman).

Mel Albright has resigned as AFMS Safety Chair as of November 1.

All rockhounds are urged to write to the USPS proposing 'Gem' stamps. Stamp proposals are to be submitted in writing to the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee, c/o Stamp Development, U.S. Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW, Room 5670, Washington, D.C. 20260-2437.

Via AFMS Newsletter 12/02



SAFETY HINT

We are learning that deafness can be attributed to the noise of our lapidary equipment. As we use face masks and goggles to protect our lungs and eyes from dust, so we should use ear plugs to protect our ears from the noise of our grinders and saws. We also need to be aware of the dangers of buffing machines used in our jewelry making. If there is no fan directly connected to the buffer be certain the area is well ventilated and that you wear a face mask. Protect your eyes too from flying debris from the buffer and from that occasional "slip" and the metal being polished flies off. Be certain to wash your hands after using buffers, grinders, and polisher so that bits of the abrasive don't get caught into your

eyes or mouth. Remember it is always better to err on the side of caution.

Via The Lithnics 10/02, from the Roamin Rams 3/97 via the Glacial Drifter 8/01



FOR THE KIDS

Crystal Star Christmas Ornament

(By Kerry Lowrie, FGMS Member)

Supplies needed:

Sugar	Water	Pipe Cleaners	String
Jar	Pot	Tablespoon	

Directions:

- 1) Ask a grownup to help you fill a jar with boiling water. Add white sugar a spoonful at a time, until no more will dissolve.
- 2) Make a star shape (or snowflake) out of a pipe cleaner. Colored pipe cleaners give a fun effect. Then attach a string to the shape. Hang the star in the solution. Let it remain for three days. Leave longer for bigger crystals.
- 3) Lift out the star by the string. Allow to dry. Different colors can be achieved with food coloring.

TIP: Don't rush, let solution cool slowly

Via The Chiseler 11/02, from Lithosphere



Dugway Geodes

They are named after the place from which they are found, Dugway Mountain in northern Utah. They are volcanic geodes which, when broken open, display an awesome hollow interior of six-sided quartz crystals. These geodes, shaped like potatoes, are grayish brown nodules, which are crisscrossed by a series of irregular ridges. It is believed that Dugway geodes had their beginning as large globs of droplets of lava spewed out from long extinct volcanoes; as they cooled, the lava shrank away from the inside, leaving a hole in the center and causing a network of irregular cracks to form on the surface. Water bearing silica moved down

through the soil and volcanic ash that covered the geodes seeped through the cracks and precipitated out, forming bands of blue and purple agate, lined with clear, beautiful hexagonal crystals.

Via ACHATES 11/02, from the Shawmish Roktak 11/99, via Quarry Quips, via Rockhound News, via Color Country Chips, via Cedar Valley Gems 9/02



Feeling Minerals

By Dr. Bill Cordua, U. Wisconsin- River Falls

Most of us are sight oriented when we study rocks and minerals. Once, though, I was asked to give a program on minerals for the Minnesota Society for the Blind. As I was preparing this, I was impressed by the number of properties minerals have that can be sensed with the hands. It's worthwhile reviewing some of these as they are good identification tools for any one.

Density (or specific gravity) is one of the more familiar ones. This is the mass per volume. As an example, think of suitcases. They have a certain volume. When they are empty, they have little mass, thus a low density. Put clothes in them and they get heavier for their volume. If you're a typical rock collector, you have probably put rocks in your suitcases and increased their density immensely, much to the annoyance of airport luggage handlers. Mineral densities can be evaluated the same way - by "hefting" them. If they have a medium density, they will feel about normal in mass for their size. If they are low density, like pumice or muscovite, they will feel light. If they are higher density, like garnet, galena, copper, barite or magnetite, they will feel heavy for their size. There are, of course, many ways to measure this density precisely, but "the heft test" still is a useful field test requiring no expensive instruments. You can fine-tune your approach by practicing hefting known minerals.

Another property that can be appreciated with the hand is tenacity - the resistance of a mineral to mechanical crushing or bending. Brittle materials will break when stressed. Most minerals are brittle. Malleable minerals, such as copper or gold can be flattened into sheets. Those who collect on the old copper mines in Michigan's Keweenaw Peninsula are aware of the resistance of copper-bearing rocks, and the spiny feel of the broken copper edges. These minerals are also ductile, meaning that they can be drawn out in the form of a wire. Some minerals like chalcocite or gypsum are sectile, meaning they can be cut with a knife. Gypsum is soft enough to be cut by a fingernail. Some minerals, like the micas, are elastic and can return to their original shape after being bent. Some mineral like talc are flexible. Once bent, these minerals stay bent after the pressure is released.

The smoothness or slipperiness of a mineral's surface can also be used as a tool. Talc feels slippery. Serpentine feels greasy. The fibrous character of splintery or asbestiform minerals can also be sensed.

Other minerals have distinct surface properties related to their wet-ability. This has to do with the way particular atoms on the surface of a mineral interact with water or other materials. Chrysocolla becomes sticky when moist, as do many clay minerals. Some clay minerals, such as those in the smectite group, actually swell when they absorb water and lose their strength. This is one reason why so many Western roads (where smectites are common in the soils) are good when dry, but become slippery mud holes after a rain. Diamonds do not wet with water. If a pile of crushed minerals is saturated with water to become a slurry, and then run over grease (such as Vaseline) the uncoated diamonds will stick to the grease while the well-wetted gangue minerals will slide right by. Beryl, corundum, rutile, spinel, topaz and zircon are other minerals that wet with difficulty. The capacity of dirt to slide off of mineral surfaces

also affects their cleaning. People who remark to me that datolites can be recognized on the mines dumps of the Keweenaw by the way the dirt seems to slide off of them are using this property.

Minerals are great to look at, but the enjoyment of their properties span all the senses.

References:

Frye, Keith, 1993, Mineral Science, An Introductory Survey, MacMillan Pub., 360 p.

Hurlbut, C. S. and W. E. Sharp, 1998, Dana's Minerals and How to Study Them, 4th Ed., John Wiley and Sons Pub., 328 p.

 **TIPS & HINTS**

When you are faceting and need to clean that (black or white) gunk off the facet you are working on, use a pre-moistened alcohol pad. It is clean when you open the package, cleans well and evaporates quickly. These are very inexpensive and readily available. Best feature is that you do not contaminate your stone with the last grit or polish that you used. Also works well to remove the black marker ink you used to paint the facet so you could see where the stone met the lap.

Via The Chiseler 11/02, from Gemking Daily Faceter 8/01, via Canaveral Moonstones 9/02, Greater Cinti Lap & Faceting Society 09/01 and Bruckner Rockette 10/01

Polishing Petoskey Stones in a Tumbler: A rock shop in Michigan was using finely ground corn cobs about the size of Ivory soap flakes to polish Petoskey Stone, dry and with cerium oxide and the finish was excellent. It is a soft material but would probably work on other stones.

By Lila Trudel in Lapidary digest, via Stoney Statements via the Trilobite 4/02, St. Croix Rockhounds Leaverite News 4/02



**December Birthstone
Turquoise**

Turquoise is a soft opaque gemstone that takes a good polish and is admired for its sky blue color. The blue is due to the presence of copper, and iron provides some green tones. Turquoise sometimes has a rock matrix and varying shades of gray, brown, or black veins due to the inclusion of various oxides.

Turquoise is one of the first gems ever used for jewelry. Turquoise jewelry was found with a 7500 year old Egyptian mummy. Turquoise beads from Mesopotamia (Iraq) date back to 5000 BC. Turquoise mining in the Americas started about 1000 years ago; this treasured gem has been discovered in burial sites from Argentina to the southwestern United States.

Via Tulip City Conglomerate 11/02



Write an Article

By George Finley

I have heard more than one person say "I can't write." Yet they talk to people all the time about events. Writing is just putting those words down on paper. There are some very simple things that you can do to help you write. All articles should have who, what, where, when and why. Another thing is when you come to a word you are not sure of its spelling. Then just spell it the best you can and underline it. This way you don't lose your thought train. Later you can go back with a dictionary and check the spelling. You would be surprised at how many times you get the spelling right. If you have a computer and it has a spell check, you can let it check your spelling. What to write about. If something is interesting to you that is rock related then more than likely it would be of interest to others. So sit down and start writing that great article we have all been waiting for. Turn it in to your EDITOR. That also goes for your junior members.

Via Tulip City Conglomerate 11/02, from Shawnee Slate, 08/02, via Quarry Quips 08/02



BECKY DOBBS - EDITOR
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SAVE COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS



MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR