

CHIP & LICK

Official Publication of the Miami Valley Mineral and Gem Club

VOLUME 49, NUMBER 10

DECEMBER, 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
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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.**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	372-8228
Show Chairman	Hugh Fulton	322-1021
Spring Banquet	Udean Babyak	322-0443
Sunshine	Joyce Perry	372-8228
Swap	Hugh Fulton	322-1021
Webmaster	Katrin Ruben	390-2081

**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

Edwin Huff	Dec. 6
Hugh Fulton	Dec. 11
William Queen	Dec. 18

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

None this month



Spring Banquet... April 10, 2004 Swap Date... June 5-6, 2004 Show Date... October 2-3, 2004

President's Message

The end of another year is fast approaching. In looking back (club wise) the club did not move forward as we would have it. There were prospective new members that did not work out. I wonder what we did or didn't do. Attendance was down at our swap and show. Did we do all that we could? Did the commercial show the next weekend take guests/visitors away or confuse them? Could there really be two rock shows that close together? I am aware there was some confusion as I received calls asking if we had changed location. As a show chairman for over 20 years I have observed these commercial shows grow in number and club shows decline. I have mixed feelings about them and have yet to attend one.

In reading the Show Dates in latest Rock & Gem and Lapidary Journal it looks like most shows across the country will be of the commercial type. They must be doing something right maybe I should visit one. Thanks for letting me vent my frustrations.

Wasn't last month's program great? Thanks go to Dave Perry and Philip Lind for a job well done. And we got to see those quartz crystals finally. I learned some things like what is a "tabie" it isn't a cat. It's the thinnest quartz crystal you ever saw and it still manages to have six sides. But Philip, I'm wondering if you find some leverite, pick it up carry it home clean it and then bring it to show off is it still leverite?

Before I lost sleep over a replacement for Becky Dobbs as editor of the Chip & Lick, Philip Lind stepped up and said he would like to give it a try. I know Philip can do it and with help from Becky and the rest of us the Chip & Lick can continue. Thanks Philip and thank you Becky for a job well done. (That's old navy talk for when you did your job better than just OK.)

As I write this we are having first snow flakes of the season. It is Thanksgiving week and I am thankful that most of our family will be able to be together to give thanks for our many blessings. As we enter the holiday season I wish

you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Be safe

Hugh Fulton



MIAMI VALLEY MINERAL & GEM CLUB MINUTES - 9 NOVEMBER 2003

Hugh Fulton called the meeting to order.

Udean Babyak, our Chaplain, gave a devotional talk built around the memories of a World War II sailor and calling our attention to Veterans' Day, which is at hand. The minutes of the October meeting were approved. Joyce Perry presented the Treasurer's report for October and a slightly revised financial report for the Rock Show. These were both accepted.

REPORTS: EDITOR, Becky Dobbs reported that she had received bulletins from several other rock clubs. These were placed on the table so members could browse through them.

LIBRARY; the current issues of the Lapidary Journal has been received. SUNSHINE; Fay Cowan sent the club a note thanking us for the cards she has received. PROGRAMS: The December program will be the Christmas banquet and we will have a silent auction in January.

CORRESPONDENCE; a rock club in Klamath, Oregon is revising their by-laws and they requested a copy of our by-laws. We have an extra copy and Becky Dobbs will send it to them. Hugh reported on an announcement of a show at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh. He highly recommended the show. He also shared information from the American Federation and Mid West Federation newsletters.

CHRISTMAS BANQUET: the banquet will be held on December 14th at 1:30 at the business center. The club will purchase a turkey which Joyce Perry volunteered to roast. Members are

asked to bring their own table service. There will be a voluntary gift exchange. If you wish to participate, bring a gift worth less than \$5.00 for a man or a woman.

OLD BUSINESS: The Nominating Committee reported that they still needed to find candidates for some offices. The club members discussed the situation and the following list of candidate was developed: President, Hugh Fulton; Vice President, Andreas Ruben; Recording Secretary, Dick Faux; Corresponding Secretary, Andreas Ruben, Treasurer Joyce Perry; Curator-Historian, Becky Dobbs; Librarian, Joyce Perry; Editor, Philip Lind; Trustees Udean Babyak 2004, Marie Shinabarger 2005, Becky Dobbs 2006. Since only one candidate was nominated for each office, the president instructed the secretary to cast a unanimous ballot for the slate of officers.

Joyce Perry reported that a letter had been sent to Duffs Quarry, as the club requested.

The meeting was adjourned for refreshments. Dave Perry and Philip Lind presented a program on a trip to Arkansas to collect quartz crystals.

Richard Faux, Recording Secretary

Nominating Committee Report

Udean Babyak, Committee Chairperson. The nominating committee presented this slate of Officers and Board Members to lead and serve the Miami Valley Mineral and Gem Club in 2004 at the November meeting:

President – Hugh Fulton
 Vice President – Andreas Ruben
 Corresponding Secretary – Katrin Ruben
 Recording Secretary – Dick Faux
 Treasurer – Joyce Perry
 Editor – Phil Lind
 Librarian – Joyce Perry
 Curator-Historian – Becky Dobbs
 Trustee (2004) – Udean Babyak
 Trustee (2005) – Marie Shinabarger

Trustee (2006) – Becky Dobbs

December Program:

Christmas Banquet

Date: December 14, 2003

TIME: 1:00 PM

Place: Small Business Development Center
 (regular meeting place)

Please bring table service and a covered dish

Roast Turkey provided by club
 \$5.00 Gift exchange for those wishing to participate

We will eat at 1:30

January Program:

Silent Auction

January

Articles Refreshments Display

Refreshments and Articles needed

UPCOMING SHOWS & EVENTS:

- **DEC 12-14, SHARONVILLE, OH**
 THE GREATER SHARONVILLE GEM, MINERAL, JEWELRY, FOSSIL, & BEAD SHOW. SHARONVILLE CONVENTION CENTER, 11355 CHESTER RD. FRI 1107; SAT 10-6; SUN 11-5
 STRIETER PRODUCTIONS, JANE STREITER SMITH 216-521-4367, SPI@STRATOS.NET
- **JAN 1-28, 2004, QUARTZSITE, AZ**
 INTERNATIONAL SHOW DESERT GARDENS. DAILY 9-5
- **JAN 4 – FEB 1, 2004, LAUGHLIN, NV**
 3RD ANNUAL SHOW; CLOUDS JAMBOREE; AVI RESORT & CASINO
- **JAN 31 – FEB 14, 2004, TUCSON, AZ**
 32 SITES; WORLDS LARGEST GEM, MINERAL & ROCK SHOW
- **MARCH 20-21 CANTON, OH**
 37TH ANNUAL GEM & MINERAL SHOW; THE MCKINLEY ROOM IN THE CANTON CIVIC CENTER, 1101 MARKET AVE. NORTH CANTON, OH SAT 10-6, SUN 10-5

- **MARCH 27-28 COLUMBUS, OH**
2004 CENTRAL OHIO MINERAL, FOSSIL GEM & JEWELRY SHOW; VETERANS MEMORIAL, 300 W BROAD ST SAT 10-7 SUN 11-5
- **APR 3-4 CINCINNATI, OH**
GEO FAIR 2004, 40TH ANNUAL GEM, MINERAL, FOSSIL & JEWELRY SHOW OF GR. CINTI. CINCINNATI CONVENTION CENTER, 5TH & ELM. SAT 10-7 SUN 11-5
- **APR 23-25, 2004 CEDAR RAPIDS, IA**
2004 MIDWEST FEDERATION SHOW AND CONVENTION FOR MORE INFORMATION CHECK OUT;
WWW.ANGELFIRE.COM/IA3/CVRMS (ALL LOWERCASE)
4400 6TH ST SW
FRI 10-6; SAT 8:30-6; SUN 9:30-5



FEDERATION NEWS



The Midwest Federation's 64th Annual Meeting will be held during its 2004 Show and Convention April 23-25, 2004 at the Howard Johnsons Express Inn – Airport, 9100 Atlantic Drive SW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

The MWF Council Meeting will convene on Saturday, April 24 at 9:30 a.m., with delegate registrations beginning at 9:00 a.m. The delegate appointed by your club or society will represent your interests, and may bring up pertinent discussions and proposals.

Each club is entitled to one vote. An alternate may vote in the absence of the delegate. Guests are invited but will not be able to vote.

Via MWF Newsletter 12/03

AFMS

Alan Hukill, Education – All American Awards Chairman is encouraging clubs to enter the AFMS All-American Program. The program was established in 1967 by the AFMS and the regional federations. Its purpose is to encourage clubs to be active in their respective federations and offer some sort of national recognition for

those clubs. It is also a very good method of documenting your clubs history. The entry forms are in the December issue of the AFMS Newsletter.

In the Presidents message, Marve Starbuck urges clubs to pay their federation dues on time, and clearly identify the persons who are to receive the AFMS and MWF newsletters. MWF dues are due on January 15. On February 15 the club information goes to the Directory Chairman who transfers it to the directory. This information is then forwarded to the AFMS Central Office so that the proper number of newsletters can be sent to the people that should receive them. The AFMS Central Office has not been sending out the number of newsletters they would like, because clubs have not been sending them the proper information.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

The AFMS has an ongoing goal of having subjects of interest appear on commemorative stamps. Currently we are attempting to get **gemstones on stamps.**

We need YOU to active support and promote the project by sending letters to the USPS. You do not have to be an AFMS member to write, so encourage your friends and relatives to get involved too. Letters or petitions for stamp subjects should be sent to:

The Citizens Stamp advisory Committee
c/o Stamp Development
U.S. Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Room 5670
Washington, DC 20260-2437

In your letter, be sure to tell the committee, in your own words, how you would like to see a series of gemstones on stamps issued. (There have never been gemstones on U.S. issued stamps.)

Thanks for your assistance.

Via MWF Newsletter Dec03-Jan04



HINTS & TIPS

A word about jasper. You will find jasper is much more troublesome to polish than agate, because many varieties are "Earthy" and porous and many others contain hematite, which is very difficult to polish. If you are on a field trip, a good way to test for jasper is to wet it. If it absorbs the water and dries rapidly, throw it away. It will not polish. If it stays wet and does not dry right away, it contains a high amount of chalcedony (quartz) and will take a good polish. Most jaspers polish well on leather with Linde A, but good results can be obtained with tin oxide on either leather or felt. Always remember that a fine sanding job is the secret of good polishing.

Via Tulip City Conglomerate 10/03



DECEMBER BIRTHSTONE THE MINERAL TURQUOISE

- Chemistry: $\text{CuAl}_6(\text{PO}_4)_4(\text{OH})_8 \cdot 5(\text{H}_2\text{O})$, Hydrated Copper Aluminum Phosphate
- Class: Phosphates
- Uses: as an ornamental stone for carving and jewelry.

Turquoise is a valuable mineral and is possibly the most valuable, non-transparent mineral in the jewelry trade. It has been mined for eons since at least 6000 BC by early Egyptians. Its history also includes beautiful ornamental creations by Native Americans and Persians. Its popularity is still quite strong today. Although crystals of any size are rare, some small crystals have been found in Virginia and elsewhere. Most specimens are cryptocrystalline, meaning that the crystals could only be seen by a microscope. The finest turquoise comes from Iran but is challenged by some southwestern United States specimens. Turquoise is often imitated by "fakes", such as the mineral chrysocolla, poorer turquoise specimens are often dyed or color stabilized with coatings of various resins. The name comes from a French

word which means stone of Turkey, from where Persian material passed on its way to Europe.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

- **Color** is of course, turquoise, but this color actually varies from greenish blue to sky blue shades.
- **Luster** is dull to waxy, vitreous in macro-crystals.
- **Transparency** specimens are opaque.
- **Crystal System** is triclinic; bar 1
- **Crystal Habits** include crystals rarely large enough to see, usually massive, cryptocrystalline forms as nodules and veinlets.
- **Cleavage** is perfect in two direction, but is not often seen.
- **Fracture** is conchoidal and smooth.
- **Hardness** is 5 - 6
- **Specific Gravity** is approximately 2.6 - 2.8 (average)
- **Streak** is white with a greenish tint.
- **Associated Minerals** are pyrite, limonite, quartz and clays.
- **Other Characteristics:** color can change with exposure to skin oils.
- **Notable Occurrences** include Arizona and New Mexico, USA; Australia; Iran; Afghanistan and other localities in the Middle East.
- **Best Field Indicators** are crystal habit, hardness, luster, color and associations

Via <http://mineral.galleries.com/>. Copyright © 1995,1996,1997,1998 by Terran Technologies, Inc.. All rights reserved. Permission to copy descriptions and images is granted for personal and educational use only



November Program
Hunting Quartz in Arkansas
 By Dave Perry - MVMGC

Our trip to Mt. Ida was great! The people we met there were very friendly and helpful. The Sweet Surrender Mine was our first stop. What a beautiful area! The owner took all 18 or so of us down a narrow dirt road to an open pit mine. There we worked in the iron colored dirt searching for crystals.

Some of the tools needed are old clothes, old shoes, a plastic bucket, a small digging tool, a carpet sample to sit on, and newspaper to wrap your prized crystals, cloth gloves, and sunscreen lotion. It gets hot in Arkansas in the summer. Early spring or late fall are good times to go.

Your crystals will most likely be muddy and stained by rust. Here are some tips to use in the cleaning process. All of the mud and dirt must be removed first. A garden hose works fine. On many pieces you will need a dental pick to clean out the small areas between the crystals. Some people take their crystal to a coin operated car wash for mud removal. After all of the mud is removed, the crystals are ready to have the iron stains removed. For this you will need two 5 gallon buckets so that one can be placed in the other. Drill holes in the bottom of the inside bucket. In the outer bucket, pour in 3 gallons of warm water. You must wear heavy water proof and acid proof gloves. Slowly add 1 lb of oxalic acid to the water. Place the crystals to be cleaned in the inside bucket and carefully and slowly lower the bucket into the solution. Cover with a lid and let sit in the sun for 3 days. Note: All of this is done outside. After 3 days, carefully lift the bucket out of the acid solution, allowing the liquid to drain out through the holes in the bucket. Thoroughly wash the crystals with clean water and allow them to dry.



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

**WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT ARKANSAS
 QUARTZ CRYSTALS?**

Arkansas quartz crystals are regarded as some of the worlds finest. The quartz in the Quachita Mountains contains very little contaminants. Water-clear quartz is the specialty and it is found throughout the mountains. Ron's mine, the Old Coleman Mine, is distinguished not only as the largest producer, but also as the purest source of quartz crystal. The uniqueness of this deposit is a result of how the quartz developed. Most quartz has been formed through volcanic activity, where fractures on the earths crust allowed hot silica-laden water-based fluids, heated to high temperatures by volcanic activity, to leach into crevices within the earth. AS the fluids passed along their route, contaminants were introduced by the various minerals these fluids came in contact with. When the fluids encountered favorable conditions, silica began to be deposited and from that the quartz mineral grew.

The crystals found in the Quachita Mountains are thought to have formed in a different and non-volcanic manner. The forces created during the building of the mountains are thought to have "squeezed" water from the underlying unit of shale and sandstone. Because of the depth of burial of the sandstone and shale units (perhaps tens of thousands of feet) and also as a result of the high pressures developed within the sedimentary units during the mountain building process, the water was heated to very high temperatures (260 degrees C/500 degrees F). This hot water, derived from the trapped original sea water, was very different from fluids originating from igneous sources, in particular it contained fewer dissolved minerals. You can easily see the difference if you compare samples of the crystals. Quartz from either source can be well formed. The difference in clarity is truly noticeable due to the different conditions of growth.

Via ACHATES 05/03; written by Jon Erlandson 9/99; via Sooner Rockologist Sept/Oct 2000; via the Rockpile 12/00; via Cedar Valley Gems 02/03

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

SAVE COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS

A PETRIFIED WOOD FACT

Many pieces of petrified wood, especially from the Northwest, have a center that looks like wood, but with a layer of chalcedony or pumice between the center and the outside.

This indicates the tree was green when it was buried in hot ash. The water in the green wood evaporated, making the wood shrink. The outside was made into a cast by the heat, so the areas between the wood and the cast were filled with chalcedony, making beautiful pieces of petrified wood.

Via Rock Pickings 09/03; via Golden Spike News 04/02



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!