

# CHIP & LICK



Official Publication of the Miami Valley Mineral and Gem Club

VOLUME 48, NUMBER 2

FEBRUARY, 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!**

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

**WEB SITE:** [www.mvmgc.org](http://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.

### 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



### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

John Mercer	Feb. 4
Joyce Perry	Feb. 4

### FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Joan & Hugh Fulton Feb. 24



Spring Banquet... April ?? 2002    Swap Date...June 8-9 2002    Show Date...October 5-6, 2002

## President's Message

Our first meeting in our new meeting place ran smoothly. Without a hitch, in my opinion. What did you think? It was fairly well attended and we are able to contribute another 100% to the AFMS Scholarship Fund through the silent auction.

Please welcome new members Brian, Janice and Kevin Rogers to the club. Janice says they are interested in all phases of the hobby.

In reading the AFMS and MWF newsletters we are reminded that the never-ending story, the old Baucus bill has been introduced as a new bill HR2974. Once again we are asked to write our representatives or send them email. This all seems ridiculous and such a waste of time and effort. We should find out what congressman James P. McGovern (D-3<sup>rd</sup> district MA) is all about. Why he thinks Congress should be spending time on this at this time.

An article sent to me by our Arizona members Paul and Elsie Smith gives some insight as to how hard it would be to protect fossils from non-Paleontologists. The newspaper article appeared in the Las Vegas Review - Journal Dec. 24, 2001 and concerns a coal-mining town in Utah. Buried within the coal are fossils including dinosaur tracks, seems they walked on the land that became the coal. Fish and bones are so ordinary that people don't pay attention. A mine safety engineer is quoted "Honestly, from day to day we see so many of these things we just continue mining coal." Some experts say the area is practically a graveyard of prehistoric creatures. "Think how powerful the energy industry is. There is no way they are going to stop a coal mine for a dinosaur bone" so says the assistant director of a prehistoric museum. Without the mines the fossils would have gone undiscovered. But the same machines that uncover the fossils with one stroke can destroy them with the next. A professor

specializing in dinosaur tracks says: "The coal miners will make sure you never know what's there." "You have to work with them, if you don't they'll never tell you anything." Isn't that the solution, can't we all just get along. Thanks Elsie & Paul for the article. Hope you had fun at Quartzsite.

Hugh Fulton



## MIAMI VALLEY MINERAL & GEM CLUB MINUTES - JANUARY 13, 2002

We opened the New Year at a new location as President Hugh Fulton called the meeting to order in the Small Business Development Center on Auburn Ave. in Springfield, Ohio at 2:00 P.M. No business meeting was held in December so notes on our banquet, held in the Tapestry and Tales Restaurant, were read. The treasurer's reports for November and December and an annual report for the year 2000, prepared by Joyce Perry, the treasurer, were approved.

Hugh Fulton reminded us that this was the annual meeting of the club and reported that John Mercer, Udean Babyak, and Virginia Bignell had audited the treasurer's books and declared them to be in good order. The officers for 2002, nominated and elected in November were installed and began their term of service. It was necessary to make two adjustments in the slate of officers. Udean Babyak's term as trustee ended in 2001. Her new term will now end in 2003, and Virginia Bignell agreed to replace Beth Stewart as Trustee.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**SUNSHINE COMMITTEE:** It was reported that Beth Stewart had fallen and broken her hip. Surgery was required and she is currently in a nursing home in Enon. She would appreciate receiving cards.

**REFRESHMENTS:** Becky Dobbs reminded us

that we need people to sign up for refreshments and displays for our meetings and for articles for the Chip and Lick.

**LIBRARY:** Dave Perry reported that in our new meeting place, the library would be kept in a cabinet at the bottom of the stairs where we enter.

**PROGRAM:** Andreas Ruben reported on upcoming programs: February will be a program on radioactivity and radio active minerals; the March program will be held at Wright State University with the topic to be announced. A map of the meeting place will be printed in the Chip and Lick. April program will be Fluorescent Minerals. The May program will be planning for the Future of our Club.

**WEB SITE:** Andreas Ruben reported that a map of our new meeting place could be found on our web site.

**SPRING BANQUET:** Plans are in place to have the banquet at the Tapestry and Tales restaurant in Springfield.

**SWAP AND SHOW:** The Swap will be held in Donnelsville at the Lions Club on June 7, 8, and 9. The Annual Show will be held at Lions Den in Fairborn on October 5 and 6. (With setup on the 4<sup>th</sup>).

**50 YEARS:** Hugh Fulton asked Becky Dobbs to prepare a 50 year book since this will be the 50<sup>th</sup> year that the club has been in existence. This book would be an expansion of the book that had been prepared to mark earlier anniversaries.

The meeting was adjourned for refreshments and the silent auction for the AFMS scholarship fund, which was the program for the day.

Following the auction Udean Babyak voiced the feelings of the whole club when she expressed her appreciation for the work of Andreas Ruben in securing a nice meeting place for the club. Hugh Fulton also announced that Brian, Kevin, and Janice Rogers have become new members of the club.

Richard Faux, Recording Secretary.

## UPCOMING SHOWS & EVENTS:

- FEBRUARY 23-24, SUSSEX, WI  
KETTLE MORRAINE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
10-5 SAT 10-4 SUN
- MARCH 8-10, RICHMOND, IN  
EASTERN INDIANA GEM & GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
WAYNE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS  
FRI 9-6 SAT 10-6 SUN 11-4
- MARCH 8-10, KANSAS CITY, MO  
EARTH SCIENCE CLUB OF GREATER KANSAS CITY  
FRI, SAT & SUN
- MARCH 16-17, HAMILTON, OH  
FORT HAMILTON GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY  
BUTLER COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS; SAT & SUN 10-6
- MARCH 16-17, 2002, CANTON, OH  
35<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GEM & MINERAL SHOW  
STARK COUNTY GEM & MINERAL CLUB  
SAT 10 AM - 6 PM SUN 10 AM - 5 PM
- APRIL 6-7, COLUMBUS, OH  
COLUMBUS ROCK & MINERAL SOCIETY  
NORTH HALL VETERANS MEMORIAL; SAT 10 - 7 SUN 11 - 5
- APRIL 27-29, TROY, OH  
TROY GEM, MINERAL, FOSSIL & JEWELRY SHOW  
JUNIOR FAIR BUILDING, MIAMI COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS,  
COUNTY ROAD 23-A  
SAT 9 AM - 6 PM, SUN 10 AM - 5 PM
- MAY 25-26, DAYTON, OH  
DAYTON GEM MINERAL SOCIETY. SHOW AT DAYTON ART-IN-  
THE-PARK, RIVERBEND ART CENTER, 1301 E. SEIBENTHALER  
RD., DAYTON
- JUNE 8-9, 2002, DONNELLSVILLE, OH  
MIAMI VALLEY MINERAL AND GEM CLUB ANNUAL SWAP AND  
CRAFT SHOW

- JULY 18-21, 2002, PORT TOWNSEND, WA  
NFMS AND AFMS GEM AND MINERAL EXTRAVAGANZA  
VICTORIAN GEMS A STEP IN TIME"; SPONSORED BY  
PORT TOWNSEND ROCK CLUB; JEFFERSON CO. FAIRGROUNDS
- OCTOBER 5-6, 2002, FAIRBORN, OH  
MIAMI VALLEY MINERAL AND GEM CLUB ANNUAL SHOW



## MIDWEST FEDERATION NEWS



### ALERT - Baucus Lives

Once again, your letters are urgently needed. A new bill reminiscent of the old Baucus bill has been introduced as HR 2974 by Congressman James P. McGovern (D-3<sup>rd</sup> District MA). The complete text of the bill can be accessed through [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov). At the House of Representatives home page, scroll down to the entry under the heading with the bust of Thomas Jefferson and click on "Bill Number." That will bright up a search screen and on that screen, under the heading "2. Bill Number:" type in "HR 2974". Near the top of the next page, far right, click on "full display", which will bring up the full text of the bill. Having reviewed the bill, please send your comments to your own congressman and to Congressman James V. Hansen (R-UT), chair of the House Natural Resources Committee, at the following address:

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
Telephone: (202) 225-0453

In view of the current problems with delivery of mail to federal officials (the Anthrax tragedy) I suggest that you e-mail your representatives through the web site at [www.house.gov/writerep](http://www.house.gov/writerep).

Via *MWF Newsletter 02/02*



## February Program Radioactive Minerals By Hugh Fulton

Friend or foe, at the mention of radioactivity today invites fear and thoughts of danger. Was it always so?

Let's go to the source, uranium is by far the most important source material. A German chemist named Martin Heinrich Klaproth discovered uranium in 1789. It was first used as a coloring agent. In December 1895 another German scientist Wilhelm Roetgen, discovered a mysterious form of radiation that passed right through solid objects. Roetgen named them X-rays. In 1898 Polish physicist Marie Curie and her husband Pierre, working with pitchblend succeeded in isolating a new element which Mme. Curie named radium. This radium was a remarkable substance, giving off heat as well as rays that - like x-rays - penetrated solids. Mme Curie named this type of radiation "radioactivity." By 1910 the Curies had completely isolated radium.

Uranium remained a by-product of the radium industry. It was of little use and not looked for like gold, silver, iron or copper.

When the atomic energy program began in 1942, adequate supplies of uranium were not known or even where and how to look for them.

The search for new sources of uranium had to be secretly carried out by screened army officers and civilian employees of the Manhattan Project.

The era of atomic energy began a new chapter on August 6, 1945 at Hiroshima, Japan, when once again raw materials, this time uranium were used as a weapon, continuing mankind's most basic desire from caveman to present to utilize raw materials to make weapons.

The Congress of the United States recognized the potential destructiveness of atomic energy as a weapon, and the peaceful possibilities. In 1946 the Atomic Energy Act established the Atomic Energy Commission (A.E.C.) with powers and responsibilities

exceeding any other agency established by the Federal Government. The object to assure the common defense and security, the development and utilization of atomic energy to increase the standard of living and promote world peace.

Secrecy began to be lifted, in 1948 the A.E.C. inaugurated a full-scale exploration and development program. In the boom years of the 1950s everybody got into the act, from rockhounds to plumbers, becoming "Sunday prospectors" as well as full time uranium prospectors.

Headquarters for the uranium boom was Grand Junction, Colorado. The boom really got underway in 1952, and by 1955 there were about 600 mines in the Colorado Plateau area. As the number of millionaires from uranium grew, the most sensational story is that of a man named Joe Cooker, who had bought the Yellow Jack Mine in 1946. It was a copper mine, but the mills refused to handle his copper ore because it contained too much uranium. In 1955 when the demand for uranium increased, the value of his mine went to \$250,000,000.

There is a lot of uranium scattered across the western half of the United States. Uranium is found in over one hundred minerals, there are outcrops everywhere.

Carnotite is the one found most often. It occurs in earthy masses, its basic color is bright yellow. Impurities may give it brown, red or orange shades.

Radium is found in carnotite and other uranium ores in the ratio of one part radium to 3,000,000 parts uranium.

The Curies were honored for their work with radium by having a unit of radioactivity measurement named for them, usually read M.C. (micro curies) or  $3.70 \times 10^{10}$  disintegration's per sec.

Wilhelm Roentgen was also honored by having units of measurement of X-rays and radioactivity named for him. Roentgens per unit of time as in milliroentgens (1/1000 roentgens) per hour or MR 1 hr.

Billions of dollars have been spent and or made finding the ores, mining it, refining, processing, manufacturing, and utilization of the end material. Fissionable materials are widely used in science, agriculture, industry and medicine. Today due to the marvels of modern medicine we may find ourselves radioactive. After a thallium stress test I was able to track the half-lives of the thallium for nearly a month.

After the boom years of the 1950s we experienced the Three Mile Island, and Chernobyl disasters. The "China Syndrome" movie and the end of the Cold War brought on protests against new nuclear power stations.

The price of uranium fell health risks and nuclear waste became the issue of the day. Now billions of dollars are being spent to provide safe storage for the waste products. All the spent fuel cells and other atomic waste are on the way back out west. For all eternity? I wonder.

In our area of Ohio, radioactivity centered on radon. One of the intermediate products of the decay of uranium 238 to lead - 206 is a gas called radon. It is highly penetrating and is in the sands, gravel and glacial erratics carried into our area and deposited by the glaciers from Canada.

Radioactive minerals are among the most interesting minerals. They break down on their own and cannot be prevented from doing so by any known means. Radioactivity cannot be seen, felt or heard unless received and recorded by instruments which transform it into other kinds of energy.

Three types of radiation exist, known as alpha, beta and gamma. Each has a different nature and behavior. Heat energy and the gas helium are also emitted.

Alpha has little power of penetration and can be stopped by paper or a few inches of air. Beta has higher penetration value but can be stopped by a thin sheet of metal or a foot of air.

Gamma waves are true rays, like those of light and x-rays, and have a high degree of penetration. Gamma waves are the ones used to detect radioactivity. To stop them takes 3 inches

of lead, one foot of rock, 2 1/2 feet of water or several hundred feet of air.

The most popular instrument used in prospecting for uranium is the Geiger Counter.

Are radioactive minerals dangerous to have and to hold? If held next to the skin for long periods of time, they can cause radioactive burns. Use common sense, do not handle and smoke or eat at the same time. Do not ingest - so 'no chip and licking'. Exposure to them in natural deposits has no danger. Keep in mind: mining is a hazardous occupation.

#### References:

- Minerals for Atomic Energy, By Robert D. Ninninger, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 1956 Van Nostrand Co.  
 Uranium and other Miracle metals, by Fred Reinfeld, 1955, Sterling Publishing Co.  
 The Town built on Uranium by Roger McPherson, Rock & Gem Magazine Feb. 2002  
 1001 Questions Answered about the Mineral Kingdom by Richard M. Pearl, 1955, Dover Publications, Inc.



**March meeting -  
 Program: Geology Dept. at Wright State  
 University**

**March Refreshments:  
 Becky Dobbs  
 Karen Hall**



#### **HOW'S YOUR FRENCH?**

There is a Mineral Atlas online at <http://webmineral.brgm.fr:8003/mineraux/Main.html>. This is an excellent site about minerals. Although virtually all the site is in French, the pictures are very good. Mineral names are French also but it is usually possible to figure out the English equivalent. If you are really stuck the chemical formulae are the same in English and

French and the mineral can be figured out that way. The French on the site is mostly quite basic so you don't have to be a French expert to understand it. This site is well worth a visit for the pictures alone.

*Via Vox Rox Dec 2000, from Strata Data 01/01  
 Submitted by Alan Cowan.*



#### **SAFETY TALK? - HO HUM!**

What's your reaction when someone says there's going to be a safety talk? If you're like most people, you immediately wish you were somewhere else. Is it because the people who talk about safety are boring? Or, do you consider yourself infallible and immortal? Yes, many speakers are and no you aren't either. When we get bored at the sound of the word "safety", we're not really thinking danger is a part of the things we do.

However, we are engaged in a hobby in which there are a great number of ways to hurt yourself or be hurt by others. So, we really should think about what we are doing and how we are doing it. We use poisonous materials, have flammable materials, use acid and caustic materials, use fire, generate dangerous fumes, drive in convoys, get out in the sun a lot, are often around unstable cliffs, ditches, and the like, use tools which often release flying material, use electrical equipment around water, use rotary tools, and more.

Do you know how to protect yourself and your friends in every one of these cases? Or, are you like many of us? - Just go ahead and never think about something going wrong? Do you own protective equipment - like canvas and rubber gloves, eye protection, safety shoes, safety hats? If you own them, do you use them? Face it, most of us don't. Can you treat insect and snake bites?

May I suggest something new? How about a "Safety Minute" at each club meeting. Either have a safety chairman or ask someone new each meeting to simply mention some one thing that

people in the club do that should require safety considerations. No one has time to get bored. Everyone is reminded that there are ways to get hurt in following this hobby. An extra free benefit of this idea is that people will become more safety conscious even doing things that are never mentioned in the meeting. Hey, give it a try!

by Mel Albright - AFMS Safety Chairman  
Via [http://www.amfed.org/a\\_safetyAFMS1.htm](http://www.amfed.org/a_safetyAFMS1.htm)



### ROCKHOUND RULES

- If you trim a specimen, the break will go through the largest crystal.
- Prices go up faster than your income and the heaviest finds are always made downhill from your car.
- The rock you want most is the one the owner doesn't want to sell
- When times are hard, dealers sell to each other.
- The best finds are made the day before or the day after you're there
- The really good stuff in the mail ad will be sold before you get the ad.
- The best crystal finds in the field are buried in hardest rock
- If you want to sell a rock, no one wants it. If you don't want to sell, everyone wants it.
- Hunting locations remain open only until rockhounds start hunting there.



### Ant Miners

A farmer in South Africa discovered diamonds and rubies in an anthill. He noticed small reflections of twinkling lights in the anthill, first discovering very small rubies and then diamonds with a fortune in diamonds below that. Let the ants do the mining from now on!

Via Tidbits of Wayne County Issue #148

### American Federation News



The Safety Manual of the AFMS has stood the test of time for over 30 years. But now it's time to bring the document into the twenty-first century. William Klose, AFMS Chair has accepted the task of chairing an AFMS Safety Manual Committee to investigate a Safety Manual Revision. The committee will include the Safety Chairpersons of the other Federations.

In the past 30 years, a great many excellent safety articles have been published in the various Club and Federation Newsletters, and on the AFMS web site. In addition to reviewing these articles, National Safety Manuals and web sites for appropriate data to add to the AFMS Safety Manual, it is also important to obtain input from the members of the Clubs on things that they would like to see added to or improved in the Manual. The more input, the better the final product, and the better we can all do to keep our members healthy and safe. Please solicit input from your members, field trip chairmen, shop instructors, and others who provide safety training in your club, and forward to your Federation Safety Chairperson, for consideration.

William can be reached at:  
<seagoatc@epix.net> or write to PO Box 28;  
Noxen, PA 18636-0028.



Happy Valentine's Day



**Elderly Patient Petrified**  
By Dale M. Gnidovec

The computer screen glowed in the darkened hospital room. A ghostly image appeared on the screen. It was roundish with indistinct lighter areas inside. In quick succession, images flashed by as the CAT scan machine "sliced" through the patient. There was no chance of saving him (or her), as death had occurred millions of years ago.

The patient being examined in a second-floor room at University Hospital was a petrified dinosaur egg from China that had recently been acquired by Orton Geological Museum. It is about the size of a grapefruit and is embedded in dark red sandstone. The shell is smooth, gray and about the thickness of a pencil lead. The egg was laid during the later part of the Cretaceous Period, somewhere between 91 million and 75 million years ago.

We don't know why it didn't hatch. Perhaps it was infertile. Maybe it became smothered by a sandstorm. Maybe its mother (or father) was killed, so there was no one around to keep it from overheating by shading it from the noon sun or keep it warm during chilly nights.

We also don't know what kind of dinosaur laid the egg, which is nearly a sphere. Such eggs are usually attributed to sauropods - long necked, long-tailed four-legged dinosaurs commonly called brontosaurus. The attribution is based on very flimsy evidence, however. If an embryo could be found inside this particular egg, that would go a long way to solving the mystery of its origin.

That's why it ended up at the hospital where, with technician Brenda Dann at the controls, we took "slices" of the egg in 5 millimeter increments, about like a loaf of bread. The images started out small, as just the edge of the egg was "cut." The images became larger in diameter as we moved toward the center.

We didn't find anything that looked like bones of a baby dinosaur. While that was disappointing, it was not unexpected. The embryo may have died before bones were formed, and embryonic bones are usually made of cartilage, the flexible material in your nose

and ears. Cartilage does not fossilize as readily as does bone.

There will be other eggs and other fossils to scrutinize with X-rays and CAT scans. These techniques are opening a new world to archaeologists and paleontologists whose "patients" can be millions of years old.

*Dale M. Gnidovec is collections manager of Ohio State University's Orton Geological Museum.*

*Via Flint Flashes 02/01*



## ROCKINITIONS

Tumbler	One who falls down a rock pile.
Rock Chisel	One who chisels someone else's pickings.
Quartz	Two pints of rocks.
Zinc	Where you wash your tired feet after a long hunt.
Apatite	What you get on a long hunt.
Garnet	Those big, perfect specimens.

*Via Brukner Rockette 04/01*



## GEMS

- Life is a Grindstone. Whether it grinds you down or polishes you up depends on what you are made of.
- Synonym: A word you use when you can't spell the other one.
- If you want to leave your footprints in the sands of time, you had better wear work boots.
- Get someone else to blow your horn and the sound will carry twice as far.

*From The Calgary Lapidary Journal, 11/01, Via Strata Data 12/01, Via Nickel Basin Rockhound 01/02, submitted by Allen Cowan*

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

## SAVE COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS

### **Frog in Amber**

A mine worker in the Caribbean made a once-in-a-lifetime find when he discovered the remains of a frog that was encased in amber some 40 million years old. "It's the most beautiful thing we've seen in amber", said University of California professor George Poinar, Jr., an entomologist.

The frog was found in the Dominican republic in 1987 in a mine in the mountains above Santiago. He sold it to James Work, a gem broker from Ashland, Oregon. The scientists estimated that the frog was at least 40 million years old - they speculated that a bird snatched the frog and took it to a nest in a tree, where a huge block of sap fell on it. The sap hardened and turned to amber. The frog's skin and tissues are largely intact, its legs broken as though by a birds beak.

Poinar and Cannatella, a frog specialist also of the University of California, said the frog was the best-preserved old frog known to science. However, it is not the oldest fossil frog. Fossilized bones show that frogs have been around for 200 million years or more.

*From Kansas city Times, via The Tumbler 03/95, via Surrey Rockhounder Newsletter 11/01 Via Nickel Basin Rockhound 01/02, submitted by Allen Cowan*