

# CHIP & LICK



Official Publication of the Miami Valley Mineral and Gem Club

VOLUME 49, NUMBER 2

FEBRUARY, 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!**

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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.**

**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



**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

John Mercer	Feb 4
Joyce Perry	Feb 4

**FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES**

Hugh & Joan Fulton Feb 24



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

## President's Message

It is still January and we are under the Snow Moon. This year it is the moon of many snows. I am getting my exercise sweeping and shoveling snow off sidewalks, cars, etc. It has been cold for so long I'm looking for "the January thaw."

Did you miss the January meeting? John and Philip brought more food than the few who attended could eat. The silent auction went fairly well, nearly everything sold. Proceeds go to the AFMS Scholarship Fund.

The weather being what it is I find time to read instead of cleaning up the basement. I learn fossil hunters are having a good time. In China a four-winged dinosaur has been found 2 1/2 feet long with four wings. Must have been an experimental model. In Arkansas, university students unearthed the worlds' largest fossil of a straight-shelled cephalopod. Almost 9 feet long the fossil was found at a city intersection in a drainage ditch. That ditch is probably a bit deeper now.

In the March Rock & Gem the feature I read first is "On the Rocks" by Bob Jones. In this issue he speaks of the life-and-death situation our rockhounding hobby faces these days. Most surprisingly to me he states that the Scottsdale, AZ club and the Lordsburg New Mexico Gem and Mineral Society have disbanded; tossed in the proverbial rock hammer. The Lordsburg Club even had its own clubhouse and lapidary shops. I never imagined clubs out west having any problems getting and keeping membership, locations for field trips to keep interest up. I thought those were unique to us.

At the end of the article Bob Jones advises club members beware "You have two choices: hold to the status quo or grab your bootstraps and give them a good yank."

I have come to believe its not that people are not interested, they just do not have time and inclination to be involved. And like the four-winged dinosaur, extinction is down the road.

Come on February bring on your Hunger Moon.

Hugh Fulton



## MIAMI VALLEY MINERAL & GEM CLUB MINUTES - 12 JANUARY 2003

Hugh Fulton, the president, called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as read. Joyce Perry read the treasurer's reports for December and January and they were approved.

Becky Dobbs reported as EDITOR, CURATOR and HISTORIAN and said that the main things she needs are articles for the Chip and Lick. Joyce Perry, our LIBRARIAN, informed us that, "So You Think You Know All the Answers", a new booklet of rock puzzles has been added to the library.

CORRESPONDENCE: Pat Detty expressed her pleasure at being asked to participate in the Christmas Banquet. Alan Cowan and the Smiths expressed their appreciation for the anniversary book, "50 Years". We also received several catalogues and newsletters including one from the Mid West Federation of Mineral Societies and the American Federation of Mineral Societies. The MWF newsletter contained an article about our insurance coverage, which we discussed in some detail.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: The club expressed their thanks to Katrin Ruben for a well-planned Christmas Banquet. Joyce Perry reported that nothing had come to the attention of the

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE except the usual winter colds. Katrin Ruben reported that use of our Web Site continues to increase. It is possible for club members to have an e-mail address on our Web Site. Becky Dobbs, our Chip and Lick editor has chosen to do that.

OLD BUSINESS: Joyce Perry moved that we authorize a check for \$80.00 payable to the Small Business Development Center since our rent for 2003 was now due. The motion was unanimously approved. John Mercer agreed to perform the year 2002 audit of the treasurer's books. The audit was completed during the refreshment intermission and the books were reported to be in good order.

Andreas Ruben announced the subjects of future programs: February, slide show of club field trips; March, sharing mineral collections: April, still indefinite; May, mineral identification.

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

Richard Faux, Recording Secretary



**February Program:**

**Slide show of early club field trips, etc.**

**March Program:  
Mineral Collections**



**March**

**Articles   Refreshments   Display**

**Andreas & Katrin Ruben**



I've learned that you shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands. You need to throw something back.

*Via MWF Newsletter 02/03*

**UPCOMING SHOWS & EVENTS:**

- MARCH 15-16 CANTON, OH  
STARK COUNTY GEM & MINERAL CLUB  
36<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GEM & MINERAL SHOW AT THE CANTON MEMORIAL CIVIC CENTER, 1101 MARKET AVE., NORTH  
SAT 10 AM - 6 PM SUN 10 AM - 5 PM
- MARCH 15-16 HAMILTON, OH  
THE FORT HAMILTON GEM, MINERAL & JEWELRY SHOW  
BUTLER CO FAIRGROUNDS  
ADMISSION \$2.00 CHILDREN UNDER 12 FREE
- MAY 3-4 CINCINNATI, OH  
GEOFAIR 2003; CINCINNATI CONVENTION CENTER
- APRIL 5-6 COLUMBUS, OH  
COLUMBUS ROCK & MINERAL SOCIETY  
VETERANS MEMORIAL; 300 W. BROAD ST.
- 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
- 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  
38<sup>TH</sup> 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
- AUGUST 15-17 FLINT, MI  
MIDWEST FACETERS GUILD 14<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL FACETERS SEMINAR  
MOTT COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
INFORMATION: CONTACT HAROLD "ARIZONA" RICE; 122 LOIS LAND, MTL CLEMENS, MI 48043. PACKETS MAILED UPON REQUEST AFTER MAY 1, 2003



"What am I supposed to do with this?" snorted the reckless driver as the desk sergeant handed him a receipt for his traffic fine. "Just hold onto it" the sergeant answered. "With four of them you get a bicycle."

From Auburn Ore bin - California, via Nickel Basin rockhound (1988) via Al Cowan-MVMGC

## FEDERATION NEWS



In the President's Message, Kitty Starbuck talks about the workings of 'YOUR' FEDERATION. She lists all of the committee chairs (and what they do). These are the people, both near and far, who are concerned and wish to do all they can in their power to help their fellow members, and promote this great hobby every chance they get. These are the people who make things available for all members in all the clubs in the MWF.

*Via MWF Newsletter 02/03*

(Ed. Note: see the MWF Newsletter at the February meeting)

### AFMS Endowment Fund

The AFMS Endowment Fund was established to raise funds, which can be used for special projects of the AFMS. Only the interest from the fund can be used each year.

How do you and your members benefit from the AFMS Endowment Fund? For the past several years each of the Regional Federations have been given at no charge \$200 in supplies. These supplies include such things as Rules Books, pins, and patches. The Regional Federations may, in turn, sell these items with the proceeds going directly to the Regional Federation treasury. The interest is also used to pay for duplication of the winning programs from the Program Competition for the Regional Federations to each receive copies at no charge.

The principal of the Endowment Fund is now over \$100,000. Unfortunately, although the investments made with these funds are in secure holdings, interest rates have been lowered considerably this year and thus our available funds for the coming year will be somewhat lower. In an effort to help increase earning power, the AFMS Endowment Fund has held a series of raffles each year with drawings held at the annual convention.

One of the special raffle items is a Dutch Oven especially created as a memento of the

Lewis & Clark Exploration Bi-Centennial Celebration, which began mid-January in Charlottesville, VA. Because of the weight of the oven you will either have to be in Ventura to pick it up in person or make arrangements to pay the shipping for it to be sent to your home.

Other special raffle items include a lovely turquoise necklace, an intarsia and some faceted stones, which we hope to have set as gold pendants. Watch these pages (AFMS Newsletter) for more information about the items and an opportunity to purchase raffle tickets for a chance to win one or more of them.

Should you wish to donate an item for the Endowment Raffle, send it to Dee Holland, AFMS Endowment Fund Chairman, PO Box 23, 8 Holland Ln; Tendoy, ID 83468-0023.

Should you wish to make a monetary donation to the AFMS Endowment Fund, send your check directly to AFMS Treasurer Toby Cozens, 4401 S. W. Hill St., Seattle, WA 98116-1924. All contributions will be acknowledged.

### New Safety Chair Appointed:

William (Bill) Buckner  
528 Demoiner Dr.  
Hermitage, TN 37070

### Teachers Can Get Free Materials

Teachers interested in obtaining materials for their earth science classrooms should be aware of an organization called Mineral Information Institute. Found on the web at [www.mii.org](http://www.mii.org) the organization offers a wide variety of materials, many of which are sent to teachers at no cost.

### New AFMS rules changes

At the AFMS/NFMS show in Port Townsend, WA the Uniform Rules Committee met and passed the following rules:

**Scrimshaw** - Division H was passed.

**Gem Trees** - Division A, Open was passed, but there will be a change made to the scoring of this new proposal at the next meeting June 3, 2003.

**Jewelry** - Modification to Division D, this has to do with the variety of work and the scoring for the more difficult techniques.

**Lapidary** - Modification to Division C, this has to do with CC-7 with size restrictions.

**Fossils** - Modification to Division F, there has been a change in units - setting up one group for classification and one group for locality, time or rock unit.

A proposal to form a committee of judges to arbitrate controversies arising during judging of competitive exhibits at the AFMS Show was passed.

*Via AFMS Newsletter 02/03*



### **Industries exploit Ohio's clay**

By Dale M. Gnidovec

Clay is confusing. The term can refer to a group of silicate minerals that form very small platy or flakelike crystals.

The word is also a size term. To an American geologist, clay consists of particles smaller than 1/256 mm. British geologists use a different size definition, as do American soil scientists.

Ohio clay comes in many colors. Most is gray, but it can range from pink to deep red to orange. When clay hardens into rock, it forms shale.

Ohio clay occurs in two geologic settings. Some was deposited on the bottoms of lakes formed by glaciers during the most recent (Pleistocene) ice age. Most comes from the coal-bearing rocks of eastern Ohio, usually immediately below a coal. Such "underclay" is thought to have been the soil in which the coal forests grew.

For many years, Ohio led the nation in the production of clay and clay products. Currently

Ohio ranks fourth, behind Alabama, Texas and North Carolina.

In 1996, clay sales totaled 1.98 million tons with a market value of \$12.8 million. Clay was produced by 44 companies at 57 operations in 24 Ohio counties. In order, the top five counties were Tuscarawas, Stark, Ottawa, Paulding and Greene.

Before 1882, bricks for paving were confined to small areas such as crosswalks. Then Steubenville, Cleveland, Columbus and Cincinnati began paving their streets. By 1893, Ohio had 44 plants producing paving bricks for roads.

In 1909, the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, whose nickname is "the Brickyard," was paved with Ohio bricks.

In the early 1920s, Canton became known as the "Paving Brick Capital of the World." In 1923, one Canton company shipped 92 million bricks, 20 percent of the nation's supply.

In 1884, a plant near Canton became the first in Ohio (and perhaps the nation) to manufacture clay electrical insulators. The first high-voltage (20,000-volt) porcelain insulators in the country were made there in 1897.

The first American plant for the production of wall and floor tiles was started in Zanesville in 1874. Tiles made in Stark County, Ohio, were used to line the Lincoln Tunnel (which connects New Jersey to New York under the Hudson River), the tunnels under Chesapeake Bay and the Allegheny Tunnel of the Pennsylvania Turnpike.

Between 1915 and 1922, the Brown Shoe Co. became the biggest customer of the Canton Porcelain Co., which manufactured clay marbles. Each pair of Buster Brown shoes came with a free bag of marbles; most of them made in Canton.

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



## TIPS & HINTS

Recently I purchased a beautiful Brazilian agate, which was glued to a bold slide. When I asked the dealer how I could remove the agate, so I could display it rather than wear it, he replied that he glued it with epoxy, and it was on to stay. Later I happened to ask another dealer if he knew of a way I could remove the agate from the tie slide.

He said they do it all the time. Just put it in the freezer over night. The next morning use a knife with a thin blade and gently push or pry the blade under the edge of the fastener. The tie slide will just pop off. I followed his instructions, and sure enough, it popped right off. I cleaned off the remaining glue with nail polish remover, which was the dealer's second suggestion if the freezer method didn't work.

*(By Rita O'Neal from the Post Rock 6/01)*

*Submitted by Al Cowan, MVMGC, via Strata Data and others)*

## A Tumbling Tip

In tumbling stones, particularly during the polishing phase, one of the more important factors is the speed with which the stones roll inside the tumbler. Various means of slowing the action down have been used. Plastic pellets, rice-hulls, corncobs, walnut shells, and many different thickeners from sugar to soap have been tried.

I think I may have hit upon the ideal thickener, because it can be fine-tuned to give the exact degree of retardation of the tumbling action desired for a given charge. Metamucil! Try it, you might like it! Prepare your charge as usual, with the normal amounts of stones, water, and polishing medium, be it tin oxide, ceric oxide, or alumina, and water. Add a teaspoonful of Metamucil and tumble the resulting mixture a few hours. Check the thickness of the slurry. If it is what you want, continue. If too thick, add a little water; if it's too thin, add more Metamucil. Check every day to make sure it's doing what

you want. It is really surprising how well this simple additive works.

*Via Nickel Basin Rockhound, via Hound's Howl 09/02*



## DID YOU KNOW

Utah's Arches National Park has the greatest known concentration of natural stone arches in the world. By 1992 nearly 2,000 arches were discovered within the parks 73,379 acres. The more well known of the arches range from 34 to 128 feet in height, and from 32 to 71s feet in widths. The arches formed when alternating frosts and thawing caused the porous sandstone to flake and crumble, eventually cutting through the rock fins. Rock falls and weathering enlarged the holds. Arches National Park is located in "high desert", with elevation ranging from 4,085 to 5,653 feet above sea level. The climate is one of very hot summers, cold winter and very little rainfalls. Even on a daily basis, temperatures may fluctuate as much as 50 degrees.

*Excerpted from an article in The Californian, via The Glacial Drifter July/Aug '96 via The Pegmatite June/Aug '02 via Brukner Rockette 02/03*



## Desert Fridge: Rockhounds Take Note

Thanks to the second law of thermodynamics, Mohammed Bah Abba has developed a refrigerator that doesn't need electricity...and it costs very little. The elegant design consists of an earthenware pot nestled inside a larger pot. Damp sand is packed between the two pots. When the Pot-with-pot system is stored in a very dry, well-ventilated place, the water held in the clay walls of the two pots and sand evaporates, carrying heat with it. The inner pot therefore cools down. Abba received one of five biennial *Rolex Awards for Enterprise* for his clever design.

*From Scientific American 11/2000, via Breccia 11/2000, via The Lithnics 1/01 via The Chiseler 02/03*

BECKY DOBBS - EDITOR  
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## SAVE COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS

Hint: If you are looking for something to do now that it is cold outside, try the following:

1. Read a book from the club library and do a book report for the newsletter.
2. Clean and oil your tools and equipment.
3. Write a hint for the newsletter.
4. Pay your club dues.
5. Make something for your club auction or as a Christmas gift.

*Via Greater Cincinnati Lapidary & Faceting Society 11/00, via The Chiseler 02/03*



HAPPY  
VALENTINES  
DAY!