

CHIP & LICK



Official Publication of the Miami Valley Mineral and Gem Club

VOLUME 47, NUMBER 6

JUNE, 2001



- MEETINGS:** Second Sunday of the month except June, July and August.
- PLACE:** YMCA, 300 South Central Ave., Fairborn, Ohio 45324
- TIME:** 2:00 P.M.
Guests are always welcome!
- EDITOR:** Becky Dobbs
2792 Greystoke Dr.
Xenia, OH 45385

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Published monthly except July and August

Purpose and Memberships

The objectives of the Miami Valley Mineral and Gem Club are:

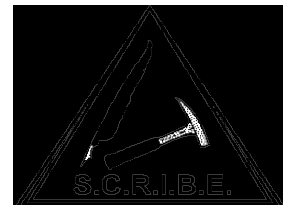
To promote interest and increased knowledge in the fields of mineralogy, geology, and the lapidary arts.

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.

2001 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
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Librarian	Dave Perry	372-8228
Curator-Historian	Becky Dobbs	
Trustee (2001)	Udean Babyak	325-0443
Trustee (2002)	John Mercer	322-1768
Trustee (2003)	Beth Stewart	864-1682

2001 COMMITTEES

Anti-Litter	All Members	
Canceled Stamps	Kay Faux	289-7032
Chaplain	Udean Babyak	322-0443
Christmas Banquet	Adlib	
Field Trips/ Safety	Matt Kromphardt	878-3348
MWF Liaison	Hugh Fulton	322-1021
Photographer	Hugh Fulton	322-1021
Program	Andres Ruben	390-2081
Refreshment	Becky Dobbs	
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



SUMMER BIRTHDAYS

David Perry	Jul 4
Beth Stewart	Jul 10
Leslie Kromphardt	Jul 10
Dick Faux	Jul 25
Mabel Husted	Aug 12
Jim Babyak	Aug 16
Ed Shinabarger	Aug 30

SUMMER ANNIVERSARIES

Joyce & David Perry	Jun 10
Ginny & Russell Bignell	Jun 19
Lee & Richard Litzinger	Jun 30
Karen & John Hall	Aug 5
Udean & James Babyak	Aug 6
Becky & Brad Dobbs	Aug 31



President's Message

Ah it's June. The spring rains are over; the spring flowers, bushes, shrubs and trees have been spectacular this year. And now we know if moving the swap date and encompassing other crafts has worked to our benefit.

If you missed the grab bag fill and picnic dinner (and most did), you missed some delicious food and fellowship. Ten members met and filled 138 bags. Andreas and Philipp Ruben even had a field trip. Philipp found a couple nice horn corals and brachiopod for his collection. Thanks Teresa for having us again this year and sharing your 90th birthday cake with us.

Among items of interest in June AFMS Newsletter, the Hall's Gap Millerite locality is now closed to collectors. It is posted "KEEP OUT" and is being enforced. I remember being there many years ago and it didn't look safe then.

In a note from AFMS President Burns, she asks that we write to request that heritage stamps of the birthstones be printed by the U.S.P.S. 475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW, Washington, DC 20260 or <www.usps.gov>. What I think they should issue is a sheet of 50 stamps, 50 states symbols, be it rock, gem, mineral or fossil.

Welcome Don & Lena Brewington back to the fold. Address etc. is the same as in last year's directory.

Congratulations to our Editor Becky Dobbs. She is graduating from Write State University with an MBA, so if you don't see her at the swap, (WSU graduation is this weekend), she is celebrating with hubby Brad.

Since this is the last bulletin until September, I wish you all a safe, pleasurable summer. And then, it's show time.

Hugh Fulton

MIAMI VALLEY MINERAL & GEM CLUB MINUTES – MAY 13, 2001

President Hugh Fulton called the meeting to order. Chaplain Udean Babyak read a selection

from GuidePosts, by Elizabeth Sherill.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Librarian Dave Perry reported that the Lapidary Journal had arrived and described an article on crystals that it contained. He encouraged members to check out a library book and prepare a book review for a club meeting. Joyce Perry, the Sunshine chair reported that Art Pitstick had visited them. He has developed macular degeneration in his eyes. His upbeat attitude impressed Dave and Joyce. A real sunny note was the report that Becky Dobbs will receive her MBA from Wright State on Saturday, June 9th.

CORRESPONDENCE: We received announcements of rock shows, which were placed on the table. The newsletter of the MWFGCS with show announcements and articles was also available.

Good progress on arrangements for the Swap on June 9 & 10 was reported. Assignments to committees are listed in the May Chip and Lick. Katrin Ruben was asked to serve as webmaster of our new web site. The address is www.mvmgc.org. Udean Babyak reported that arrangements had been made to hold the Christmas Party at 1:30 on the second Sunday in December at the Tapestry and Tales TeaRoom in Springfield. Hugh Fulton brought the members up to date on arrangements for our annual show in October. Three contracts with dealers have been signed and two more have been promised. Wonders of Earth, a new dealer, will participate. May 20th is the day to fill grab bags at the home of Teresa Guess

Andreas Ruben, program chairman, announced that the September meeting program will be about our club library and that the program in October would be on copper minerals. He asked if members would be willing to have meetings at nearby locations to take advantage of program opportunities. Wright State University was offered as an example.

A membership renewal from Don and Lena Brewington was received.

The meeting was adjourned in order to take pictures of rock specimens for display on the club's new web site.

Richard Faux, Recording Secretary



UPCOMING SHOWS & EVENTS:

- **JUNE 9-10 DONNELSVILLE, OH**
38TH ANNUAL MIAMII VALLEY MINERAL AND GEM CLUB SWAP & CRAFT SALE - HEADLEY BAKKPARK ON HAMPTON RD., DONNELSVILLE
- **JUNE 16 - 17, CLIO, MI**
MICHIGAN GEOLOGY AND GEMCRAFT SOCIETY'S 27TH ANNUAL ROCKHOUND SEMINAR
- **JUNE 23 - 24 BLOOMINGTON, IN**
36TH ANNUAL GEM, MIN & FOSSIL SHOW & SWAP
FRI 10-07 PM SAT 8-7 PM SUN 8-4 PM
- **AUG 17-20 FLINT, MI**
FACETING SEMINAR 2001. MIDWEST FACETERS GUILD, MOTT COLLEGE, FLINT, MI. CONTACT HAROLD "ARIZONA" RICE, 122 LOIS LAND, MT. CLEMENS, MI 48043. (810) 463-5972
AZRICE@WWDB.ORG
- **SEPT 7-9, RICE LAKE, WI**
MWF SHOW AND CONVENTION



Midwest Federation News



MWF Convention update: Everyone is cordially invited to attend and be a part of "A Rock Odyssey 2001" being held in Rice Lake Wisconsin on September 7-8-9 at the Barron County Fairgrounds.

The Committee is asking for your help and support of two very important booths that will be

at the show. The silent auction booth (for the MWF Endowment Fund) & the FRA (Future Rockhounds of America) booth. The committee is asking for "extra" rocks & minerals you might have for the silent auction or for the kids free specimen table. Please take a few minutes to collect your extra specimens or lapidary materials and either bring them with you or send them with someone that is going.

WANTED! 2002 Honoree

Nominations for the 2002 Midwest Federation Honorary Award of the American Federation Scholarship foundation are needed. Individual(s) selected will be honored by selecting our two scholarship recipients for 2002. See the Official Directory, Page G-11, for instructions to nominate. Send nominations to: MWF Board of Selectors, John Blue, Chairman, 16155 Shurmer Rd. Strongsville, OH 44136; or Colleen Kugler, Member, 612 S.E. 3rd St., Aledo, IL 61213; or Randy Phillips, Member, 1139 Crooks St., Green Bay, WI 54301.

This is your opportunity to honor someone for their service to the hobby and/or the study of the earth sciences. Remember, only one nomination is selected each year, but your nomination can be updated and submitted again.

American Federation News



The AFMS Central Office is moving again! The new address is PO Box 891208, Oklahoma City, OK 73189-1208.

AFMS President Izzie Burns has a new telephone area code. It is now 626. Her e-mail address is <BizzieB@att.net>.

AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year: From the Midwest Federation, The Cincinnati Mineral Society nominated Marie and Terry Huizing. The Greater Cincinnati Lapidary and Faceting Society nominated Bambi Johnson.

Each AFMS affiliated club is eligible to select one member (or couple) as its AFMS Club

Rockhound of the Year each year. Who is your club would you like to recognize? Select a person (or couple) and then tell us, in about 50 words, why this person (or persons) is important to your club.

Send the information on your nominee to your regional AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year chairman and we'll publish it her in the AFMS Newsletter.

What Rockhounding Means to Me **By Matt Kromphardt**

Of all the different facets (no pun intended) concerning our hobby, rockhounding is my favorite and most dynamic. I can always buy rocks at a show, but there is something special about finding that one special rock in the middle of nowhere or where you didn't expect to find anything. It's equal to finding the proverbial needle in the haystack. I've learned a good rockhound requires a variety of skills: geologist, detective, outdoorsman, storyteller, pack horse, mole, billy goat, and hound dog (hence the name). Anyone who can combine those skills has to be proud of themselves and I'm sure has plenty of stories to tell. I personally haven't mastered those skills yet and I still consider myself an amateur. I'm happy if I can just find the place where others have been before. However, It's still challenging and extremely self-satisfying when you walk back to your vehicle knowing you found what you were looking for and it wasn't in aisle four.

I mentioned earlier that one of the qualities of a good rockhound was story telling. To me, it's the most important one. It's the way we learn and appreciate the past, how we collect our own experiences, and the way we pass information to the next generation. There are many fascinating stories, and some ingenious ideas that can be learned. Today we have technology, maps, 4-wheel drives, and a variety of other modern products. In the past, the same thing we do today was done with normal vehicles, a picnic basket, and sheer willpower. Did you ever wonder how?

What was the motivation? How did they know where to look?

Let's take a quick test. What is the most exciting part of club meetings for you? If you just answered "the social time" than you are already either a good storyteller or a good listener. If more than half the people in our club answered the same way, most likely; our club is healthy and will continue to grow. The one thing that keeps my interest is the people. Rockhounds are some of the most talkative, generous, and helpful people I've met and clubs should promote and encourage the free flow of information.

I don't think rockhounding should just be confined to the great outdoors. It's much more than that. It's a collection of life experiences ranging from personal initiative and accomplishments to interaction with others. It's never boring and the experiences I've gained, as well as the people I've met, will always have a special place in my heart.

(Matt is a member of the MVMGC)



IT IS THE DAWNING OF THE AGE OF -- SUNSHINE

By Mel Albright, AFMS Safety Chair

With spring and summer and the sun comes a time of high danger. Too much sunshine can be disabling or fatal.

Science reports that just one major sunburn while young may bring cancer in 15-20 years. For those older, it may take several sunburns. But, there is no safety in tanning. That too leads to cancer. For all the joy of warmth and summer, the sun on skin is not a good thing.

Some people are more sensitive than others are. Some, like me, can burn in only 10 minutes. Others may take 15 or 20 or 25. But no one can take as much as an hour without some damage.

Sun caused cancer is never good. But one kind can be fatal and fast. That is called

melanoma. If you find a spot that is irregular, bigger than a pencil eraser, probably varied in color, or a mole-like spot that is growing - RUN to the doctor. It may be melanoma and you could be dead in a few months if it isn't treated quickly. Melanoma spreads rapidly as soon as it grows inwards enough for cells to circulate through the body. Removing it before it spreads is critical. Once it spreads, there is no cure.

There are two other types of skin cancer. These two are dangerous, but not as sudden as melanoma. If you have whitish spots and scaly spots, get checked. If you have roughened skin spots, get checked. If there is any skin damage apparent, check it out.

A personal note - I worked harvest as a youngster. I always wore a straw hat. I wore long sleeves until I tanned through the shirt. But, at 72, I still must check every 2-3 years to have actinic keratomas (small whitish spots) removed, as they are pre-cancerous. Twice, I have had to treat my face and scalp and upper chest for dangerous sun damage. I still have scars and damage on my arms and head from sun damage. So, I preach about sun safety yearly.

THE SOLUTION? You already know - sun screen. Where? On all exposed skin - arms, face, ears, ankles, neck, and more depending on your clothes. Every time you'll be out in the sun. No exceptions. The SPF number you see on the container is a time safety factor. If I use a SPF 15 product, I'll sunburn in 150 minutes instead of 15. So, screen is not prevention, but only gives you more time before significant skin damage. So, you should also wear "shady" clothes and a hat and long sleeves. Then you can hunt rocks or hike or garden or work outdoors and be safe. Just because skin cancer is slow coming doesn't make safety less important.



June Program: The SWAP!!

**September Refreshments, Article & Display
Dick & Kay Faux**



DID YOU KNOW?

- American car horns beep in the tone of F.
- No piece of paper can be folded more than 7 times. (*Via ACHATES 04/01*)



Field Trip

Geode Jamboree 2001 - September 22, 2001

The Sheffler Geode Mine, Alexandria, Missouri, will have their annual Geode Jamboree, Saturday, September 22nd. Since this will be the last chance to collect Keokuk Geodes (The mine has been sold to the state). For a packet of information on the Geode Jamboree write or call:

Tim Sheffler, Mgr. Phone:
Sheffler Geode Mine 660-754-6443
R.R. 1, Box 172
Alexandria, MO 63430

Club members should take advantage of this last chance to collect Keokuk Geodes for a \$15.00 fee per person for up to 50#'s. It is a 10 hour drive from Troy to Alexandria plus rest, fuel and eat stops. Plan to travel most of the day Friday 9/21/01. And come home Sunday 9/23/01. All the motels and restaurants are in Keokuk, Iowa – 12 miles north of the mine.

Call Neil Reeder 937-773-0545 if you are planning on going to the Jamboree.

Via Brukner Rockette 04/01



HINT: To preserve newspaper clippings of your accomplishments, dissolve a milk of magnesia tablet in a quart of club soda overnight. Pour into a glass pan large enough to accommodate the flattened clipping. Soak clippings an hour, remove and pat dry. Estimated life span – 200 years.

Via Brukner Rockette 04/01

Fire still smolders beneath town

By Dale Gnidovec

Imagine having a fire burning in an abandoned coal mine under your house. Imagine having cracks opening in the ground and spewing lethal concentrations of poisonous gases. These weren't idle thoughts for the people of Centralia, a small town in northeastern Pennsylvania.

In May 1962, the town council decided to use a nearby abandoned strip-mined pit for a landfill. Some trash was already there, and it was burned. Unfortunately, the trash concealed a hole that lead to a 6-foot-thick seam of anthracite coal. The coal caught fire.

In 1969, dangerous levels of carbon monoxide drove three Centralia families from their homes. By 1978, state and federal agencies had spent more than \$3 million in unsuccessful attempts to control the fire.

In 1981, a 12-year-old boy was nearly swallowed by a huge hole that opened beneath his feet. By 1982, borehole temperatures reached 260 degrees Celsius (500 degrees Fahrenheit) under the town, and 455 degrees C (850 F) under the town's main highway.

One old-timer quipped that if you were buried in the Centralia cemetery, you could be cremated for free.

Debate over whether to abandon the town grew acrimonious, even violent, with tire slashing and death threats. A referendum showed that only about two-thirds of the residents wanted to move.

In 1983, Congress appropriated \$42 million to relocate the town's homes and businesses. By 1991, about 1,000 residents had moved. Centralia once had five churches, a school, a bank, a post office and a hotel.

Now all but 30 of the town's 500 buildings have been razed. On one street, a lone narrow row home remains.

The main road, now detoured, snakes past dead trees that are charred at their bases.

At the south edge of town is a field of pipes vending noxious fumes. The air is heavy with the smell of sulfur, and your shoes get hot just standing in the street.

Roughly 40 residents still refuse to move, despite eviction notices. Some claim the government just wants their land so it can mine the coal. Others say the town is nicer now than it's ever been, because it is almost like having a park all to themselves.

The fire spreads erratically, from barely moving to as much as 700 feet a month. It has burned an underground area of 450 acres. As many as 3,000 acres could be consumed, and it may burn for 100 years.

Centralia is one hot town.

Dale M. Gnidovec (gnidovec@geology.ohio-state.edu) is curator of Ohio State University's Orton Geological Museum. Dale's articles first appeared in the Columbus Dispatch Sunday issues.



Tips & Hints

When cutting rhodocrosite it is important that only water be used on the saw. An oil base product will be absorbed and the stone's color deadened. After the material is ground to form, sand first on 220 grit, wet; then on 400 grit, wet. For best result use worn sanding cloths.

Tin oxide is perhaps the best polishing agent for rhodocrosite. Some lapidaries report good results from tin oxide that has been mixed with a small amount of vinegar and used on a felt wheel.

Another method is to mix two teaspoons of tin oxide and one level teaspoon of oxalic acid in half a pint of water and use on leather buff. In using this formula, be sure that not more than a third by volume of acid to tin oxide is used or the stone will be damaged. This polishing formula also works well on marble. *Via ACHATES 05/01, via Cedar Valley Gems 11/00*

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SAVE COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS

Invitation from the Dayton Gem & Mineral Society

The Dayton Gem and Mineral Society is very pleased to present Fred Weber, of Weber Jewelers, who will speak to us on "Gems from a Jeweler's Perspective" Members of your club are invited to attend this talk, which will take place on Tuesday, June 12, at 7:30 PM. The DGMS meets at the Riverbend Arts Center, 1301 Siebenthaler Rd., Dayton, OH.

For more information about this talk, call Andrea Koziol (VP), at (93&) 229-2954, or email at koziol@notes.udayton.edu.

Have a great summer!