

CHIP & LICK



Official Publication of the Miami Valley Mineral and Gem Club

VOLUME 49, NUMBER 6

JUNE, 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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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
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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



SUMMER BIRTHDAYS

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

SUMMER ANNIVERSARIES

Joyce & Dave Perry	Jun 10
Ginny & Russ Bignell	Jun 19
Karen & John Hall	Aug 5
Udean & Jim Babyak	Aug 6
Becky & Brad Dobbs	Aug 31

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

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

President's Message

Time flies, how often I express this theme. Now I add the older I get the faster it flies. This year time and flying is the theme of the world with the 100th anniversary of powered flight. Celebrated locally, Dayton will have events in conjunction with the Air Show in July. A six-day aviation festival is scheduled Dec. 12-17 at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina to memorialize the Wright brothers' first flight. Stamps are being issued around the world commemorating the first flight. The state of Ohio is celebrating 200 years of statehood this year. And of course we are in our 50th year as a club.

Thanks to those who came to the meeting on Mother's Day to help with the mailing of swap flyers and publicity notices and we had some fun trying to identify some rocks. Did we get any rocks identified? Yes and a couple we didn't. The swap is here hope all goes well.

It has been a cold wet spring rain nearly every day so we are due a warm dry weekend. And that will mean yard work and graduation parties. Yes, we moved the swap date a week later to avoid graduation parties but it didn't work. I will be missing a couple hours Sunday afternoon. If its swap time and time for graduation parties then summer is not far behind and that means vacation time. No meeting July and August but come September we start again and its one month before the SHOW Oct. 4&5. We need you so please be there. Now have a great summer play hard, work hard, have fun and be safe see you in September.

Hugh Fulton



MIAMI VALLEY MINERAL & GEM CLUB MINUTES - 11 MAY 2003

The business meeting was opened by President

Hugh Fulton.

The minutes for April were read and approved. Joyce Perry read the Treasurers report and it also was approved.

REPORTS: EDITOR, Becky Dobbs, reminded members that she needs articles for the newsletter. Our LIBRARIAN reported that she had three new copies of the Lapidary Journal and that they would be on the table, along with some new catalogues.

CORRESPONDENCE: Katrin Ruben reported continued activity on the Web Site including a number of contacts from other countries. Hugh Fulton has received announcements for shows from other groups and several catalogues. These were placed on the table so members could look at them. There was also an announcement of a gold panning trip in southern Ohio sponsored by the Cincinnati Club.

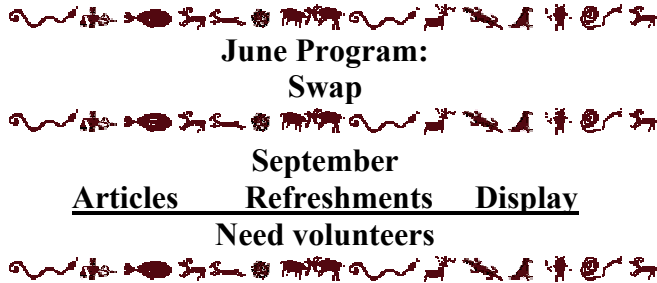
LIASON: We regularly receive newsletters from organizations to which we belong. Hugh Fulton told us of an article on Rose Quartz and one on the life of a rock club he found in the Mid West Federation newsletter.

PROGRAM: Members are asked to come at 1:00 on Friday June 6th to help set up for the Swap which is scheduled for June 7th and 8th. The September program subject was not available since arrangements have not been completed. The September meeting will be the last one before the fall show.

The meeting was adjourned so we could prepare the mailing of Swap announcements and enjoy refreshments. The program for the day was rock identification by individuals using information and tools that were on display.

Richard Faux, Recording Secretary





UPCOMING SHOWS & EVENTS:

- **JUNE 27-29 BLOOMINGTON, IN**
LAWRENCE COUNTY ROCK CLUB, INC
38TH 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
- **JUNE 28-29 – ANN ARBOR, MI**
M.G.A.G.S., ROCKHOUND SEMINAR AT WASHTENAW
COMMUNITY COLLEGE, CRAFTING WITH ROCKS AND GEMS,
LEARN HOW IN HANDS-ON WORKSHOPS. BEGINNING AND
ADVANCED DEMONSTRATIONS, LECTURES. FOR ADVANCE
INFORMATION CALL: DON BROWN (734) 421-8159.
- **JULY 30 – Aug 3 MANSFIELD, OH**
43RD ANNUAL SHOW, 'ROCKIN' AROUND THE WORLD';
RICHLAND LITHIC & LAPIDARY SOCIETY; KINGWOOD CENTER,
900 PARK AVE W; HOURS 10-5
- **AUGUST 3-10 HOUGHTON, MI KEWEENAW WEEK**
26 FIELD TRIPS
- **AUGUST 15-17 FLINT, MI**
FACETORS SEMINAR; MIDWEST FACETERS GUILD, 14TH ANNUAL
FACETERS SEMINAR AT MOTT COMMUNITY COLLEGE. HOURS:
FRI 4-8:30, SAT 8:30-5:30, 6:30 BANQUET WITH SPEAKER. SUN
8:30-3:30. REGISTRATION REQUIRED BY JULY 24, 2003. CALL:
HAROLD "ARIZONA" RICE (586)463-5972
- **SEPTEMBER 20-21 CLARKSVILLE, IN**
9TH FALLS FOSSIL FESTIVAL, FALLS OF THE OHIO STATE
PARK & CLARKSVILLE RIVERFRONT FOUNDATION, 201 W
RIVERSIDE DR. HOURS: SAT 906 SUN 10-5
- **SEPTEMBER 27-28 HEATH, OH**
35TH ANNUAL GEM, MINERAL FOSSIL & CRAFT SHOW;
LICKING COUNTY ROCK & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC. ; INDIAN
MOUND MALL AT 771 S. 30TH ST. HEATH, OH JUST SOUTH
OF NEWARK. SAT 10-9 SUN 12-6

FEDERATION NEWS



The MWF 63rd Annual Meeting will be held during its 2003 Show and Convention August 15-16, 2003 at the Cottage Grove National Guard Armory, 8180 Belden Blvd., Cottage Grove, Minnesota. The MWF Council Meeting will convene on Saturday, August 16 at 9:30 AM, 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 05/03

AFMS

From AFMS President Ron Carman: With the advent of warmer weather we all begin to think about another field trip season and the fun we can have getting outside with our fellow rockhounds looking for more and more goodies to add to the already over-stuffed shelves in our houses or grates (I know this fact all too well)! But before we dash madly out seeking the elusive mother lodes, lets all consider a very important aspect of every trip, that of safety. By its nature, our hobby has its hazards, not only in the field, but also at home or in our workshops where we often have equipment with moving parts and possible spills of water, oil or other sloppy stuff. We may talk about the risks of being on field trips, where we may encounter rockslides, pits, wildlife and other hazards, but don't forget about safety indoors. Equipment with saws, grind wheels, and other items run by electric motors should be periodically checked to ensure everything is intact and there is no danger of electric shock or fire. We should also see that all our equipment is in good condition and ready to use, whether we are in the shop or in the field.

I think we all know the importance of taking care of our gear.

Via AFMS Newsletter 05/03



HINTS & TIPS

How do you measure an ounce of grit? Try this: Use a standard measure teaspoon, fill with grit of any size (coarse, medium, or fine), scrape with a flag surface, such as a knife blade or ruler, so that the spoon is filled flat from rim to rim, and *Voila!* You have ¼ ounce of grit in the spoon. In general, it takes eight {8} teaspoonfuls level for [an ounce of] polishing powder.

Via The Show me Geode 02/03, via Dusty Rocks 10/02 via Rock Rollers Bulletin 01/03

After a tube of epoxy has been opened, dab Vaseline on the threads. The cap will not stick and mess up your tube. Vaseline around the rim of your tumbler before bolting on the lid makes a tighter seal and it will be easier to remove later.

From ACHATES 03/03, via St Croix Rockhounds leaverite News 04/02 via Hidden Treasures

When going to collect small specimens, take an old phone directory along. The pages make good packing material and don't fly around like newspaper. Use plastic jugs for rock holders by cutting off the neck, leaving a handle. Write locations on them with a magic marker. Another good packing material to wrap loose specimens is the many plastic grocery bags you accumulate. You can't get all the air out when you wad/fold them up, so tuck them in between specimens to protect them. Also don't forget egg cartons.

Via Crack 'n Cab via MWF Newsletter submitted by Al Cowan



AFMS SHOWMANSHIP

By Jim Brace-Thomson

A fun part of collecting and the lapidary arts is sharing what we've found or made. We get to "show off" and also learn from others, getting advice, sharing tips and just generally forging

bonds of friendship of like-minded individuals. But building an effective display involves more than getting a glass-fronted box and throwing in a bunch of rocks. Suggestions are:

- Use of balance (in size, colors and arrangement of specimens) to guide the viewers eye across a display in an aesthetically pleasing way.
- Use neat clear labeling that's both precise and large enough for viewers to read.
- Use a theme or story to tie a display together

Via Brukner Rockette 04/03



FOSSILS AND MEDICINE

By Fred Labahn

Now that you have collected fossils of many varieties and from many classes I have some information of a historic nature for their practical use. In the end it could reduce your medical expense and save you some money. How so, you say. Well, I say, read on.

As I so often do in my spare time, I take a book or magazine from the shelf and glance through and perhaps recall something of interest. Recently I came across an article "A Fossil for What Ails You." What follows is a review of part of the folklore connected with customs and practices dating back to the Paleolithic tribes of Europe.

As recently as 200 years ago many people in the world, including scientists and doctors, believed that among other things fossils had remarkable power to cure different ailments. Physicians and Folk Doctors didn't agree on why fossils cured people and animals, but they agreed fossils were good medicine. Would it surprise you to know oil of amber was listed in an important Pharmacopoeia (list of drugs, their use and amounts) as a bonafide medicine as late as 1948?

The use of fossils reached their peak just after the Middle Ages. Physicians and Folk Doctors collected and prepared their own

medications. In the 13th Century, Emperor Frederick II of Germany set down strict rules ordering a separation of roles for the Physician and apothecary. These rules however, did not apply to the Folk Doctors. The apothecaries prepared the fossils for use by grinding them to a fine powder and then mixing them with wine, water or other liquids for internal use. Honey, was or other things were used to make ointments or salves.

In 1700 a large deposit of mammoth bones were found near the Neckar River. The Duke of Wurttemberg ordered a scientific dig. The scientists of the day did so and in the process got into an argument whether they were elephants brought to Europe by Hannibal, bones from old Roman sacrifices or animals destroyed by the great flood recorded in the Bible. While this was going on, the pharmacists, who collected materials for their own use, calmly gathered all the teeth and powered them for medical use.

No one seems to know why certain fossils were used for specific illnesses except that the shape of the fossil determined its use. An example, in Scotland, the oyster Gryphacea, commonly called the Devils Toenail, was used for arthritic joint pains.

Amber is the fossil sap of extinct pine trees. It has been used longer and for a greater variety of medicinal purposes. Powdered amber mixed with other medicines was given to pregnant women to prevent miscarriages. Powdered amber mixed with wine eased the pain of childbirth. A necklace of amber beads worn by small babies protected against secret poisons, witchcraft and sorcery. Callistrus, a Greek of the 4th Century BC believed that yellow amber if worn as a collar about the neck cured fever and diseases of the mouth, throat and jaws. Powdered and mixed with honey and oil of roses it was an excellent salve used to improve dim eyesight. In the 16th Century a doctor found a way to make oil of amber and from then to the 19th Century it was used by many doctors for gout, rheumatism, whooping cough, bronchitis and other ailments.

Ammonites are the favorite fossil of many collectors all over the world. The Greeks of the 3rd Century used ammonites as a cure for blindness and snake bites. The snake bite remedy came from the belief that ammonites were petrified snakes.

Sea urchins were also part of the Pharmacists' stock. A Cretaceous sea spine, found in Palestine, was used for almost 2,000 years. Pliny, the Roman historian of the 1st Century, said that whoever licked it would find his gallstones broken and voided in short order, but Galen, a 2nd Century physician, said that they should be crushed in mortar and mixed with water to be effective.

Belemnites were thought to be thunderbolts by people of the Middle Ages and still are in some parts of Great Britain. They were crushed and the powder kept a person from being struck by lightning or bewitched by demons from the sky. They were also used to cure a variety of illnesses and prevented nightmares.

Fossil shark teeth were thought to be tongues of serpents which St. Paul had turned to stone on his visit to the island of Malta. Because of this myth they were believed to have power against the bites of any reptile. Wine in which shark teeth had been soaked was thought to be a good antidote for snakebite or any other poison.

Cures for ailments were also found in the use of a jet, a very hard coal, dragon bones, unicorn horns (which were probably the horn of the narwhale) and toadstones, which were the teeth of rays.

I have enjoyed reading of this use of fossils in early medical practice. For me I will stay with modern medicine. Thanks to RFMS Newsletter via the Shawmish Rokatawk 11/00

Via The Chiseler 04/03, via the Rockpile 03/03



Yeech!

By Tec Marikos

Rock hunting folks are clean-living, hard working people. They care for their families, feed them vitamins when they are well [and]

medicine when they are sick, clothe them warmly when its cold, fan them when its hot and then – Yeech!

Along comes a meeting or show and all common sense goes by the wayside. For example, Mr. Joe Germfear is a very sensitive person. He wipes his spoon so as not to get germs. He has a strong compelling desire to wash his hands after handling a door knob or shaking hands with someone. Joe is happy; Joe has a pretty rock slab. Joe lets his dear friend Mr. Neu Monia, look at his pretty rock slab – what happens? Like a frog going for a fly, Neus' tongue uncoils and with the skill of a paperhanger he – Yeech! - mops the pretty rock slab into a slobbery mess. “Hey Joe, that’s great,” and he hands it back to poor old Joe. Now Joe has his choice – throwing the slab away, hiding in the corner and crying – all of which would offend his buddy Neu, or smiling weakly, stuffing said slab in his pocket, going home, throwing slab away and burning his pants or anything that touched the rock. Joe is no longer happy.

Now, I may have put that a little strongly – what’s a little spit among friends?

Let’s go to a show and look around a bit, maybe we’ll see. Oops – there he is – Mr. Terry Trenchmouth licking a rock now. “Nah, that just isn’t the right color.” Down goes the rock, exit Terry stage left. Enter, stage right, Ms. Mono Nucleosis (my contribution to women’s lib!), a gleam comes to her eye, she gets breathless, she reaches for that same rock. Like the British flag at Waterloo, her tongue unfurls – now Mono has Terry’s trenchmouth. Like Terry, Mono didn’t like the color either, so she leaves it with a sign to none other than our friend Sam Snotnose. He can never understand why he always has such a bad cold after each show. Now Sam is luckier than Terry or Mono. He can get Terry’s trenchmouth or Mono’s nucleosis, or with a little luck he can get both – which he will probably take home to his family.

Now everyone is thinking “maybe if I get there before Terry.” It won’t work that way

because most people store their rocks outside, in gardens, around trees, and where you find trees and fire plugs, you find dogs.

In all seriousness, this is a very unhealthy habit. Aside from the possibility of getting someone else’s illness, that lovely piece of jasper may have been rubbing shoulders, in a specimen box, with a mineral that is poisonous.

Via The Show Me Geode 02/03, via the Show Me Geode archives 05/1974



HOW TO KILL AN ORGANIZATION

Don’t come to meetings. If you do come, be late!
If the weather doesn’t suit you, don’t think of coming!!

If you attend, find fault with the work of others
Never accept an office. It’s easier to criticize.
Be angry if you are not appointed to a committee.

If your opinion is asked, say nothing.
Afterward, tell everyone how it should have been done.

Do no more than necessary.

If a few people work tirelessly, complain that the group is being run by a clique.

Don’t tell the leader how the group can help you achieve certain goals.

But if it doesn’t - quit coming.

When you attend a meeting, vote for one thing then forget about it after you get home.

Agree to everything at the meeting, disagree later.

Get all the benefits your organization provides, but don’t make a personal contribution.

Talk about co-operation, but never practice it!

From Mid-Tenn Gemmmers via MWF 05/03



HAPPY FATHERS DAY!

HAPPY FLAG DAY!

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

SAVE COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS

ROCKHUNTING – STONE AGE NEWS

Have you ever thought about rock hunting from the rocks point of view? It must be terrifying to be hunted by a group of crazed fanatics wielding a fearsome array of weapons like spears, spades, and worse of all—hammers. These humans even go to such lengths as to travel for hundreds of miles and climb down cliffs to be able to hack a poor unsuspecting rock out of its natural environment.

The rocks go to great lengths to camouflage themselves from the piercing eyes of their predators. Some rocks make themselves look nothing like they really are by growing an outer rind that completely hides their interiors, while others bury themselves deep in the mud and clay. They don't do this for no reason at all, for their fate in the hands of a rockhound is horrible indeed. In the hands of an amateur, the unlucky rock will usually be brutally smashed open and unceremoniously dumped into a sack, eventually to wind up in a dusty drawer or under a veranda in the damp and dark, never again to see the light of day.

But, at the hands of an experienced lapidary enthusiast, the rocks fate is even worse. After the rock is uncovered, it is chipped and then put into a sack. When it arrives at that terrible place, the workshop, it is cut into slices and then into smaller pieces, partly ground into a fine powder on a grindstone, and the rest of it is polished. The most humiliating thing of all for the poor dissected piece of stone is that it will end dangling from a human neck!!! It's a good thing that rocks don't bleed...

From Pickings (New Zealand) and Rolling Rock Club Newsletter (article given to Hugh Fulton by John Lamont – longtime dealer at our show)