


CHIP & LICK



Official Publication of the Miami Valley Mineral and Gem Club

VOLUME 47, NUMBER 3

MARCH, 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!

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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:

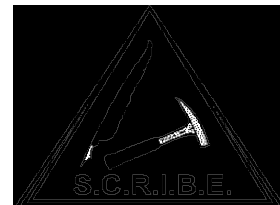
To promote interest and increased knowledge in the fields of mineralogy, geology, and the lapidary arts.

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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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	372-9022
Scholarship	Joyce Perry	372-8118
Show Chairman	Hugh Fulton	322-1021
Spring Banquet	Joyce Perry	372-8118
	Becky Dobbs	372-9022
Sunshine	Joyce Perry	372-8118
Swap	Hugh Fulton	322-1021



MARCH

BIRTHDAYS

Richard Litzinger Mar 22
Fay Cowan Mar 30

ANNIVERSARIES

None this month

April Meeting

Article Display Refreshments

Andreas, Katrin & Philipp Ruben

President's Message

Spring is coming, snowdrops have been in bloom since early February. Winter aconite's in mid February, tulips are up two inches. And the first rock show is this weekend in Richmond, IN. Everything is on schedule.

A big thank you to everyone who stepped up to chair a committee. Now we can handle the year. Also encouraging was the participation in last month's program. A show & tell of our favorite or most unique rock hobby item. We had an enjoyable variety of stories as well as specimens, artifacts, pictures of trips and a favorite book.

Preparing this month's program brought back memories of our early days in the club. At that time we had members who lived or had property in South Central Ohio and the club would have spring campouts in Detty's Hollow. Fourth of July camp out at Nasses' farm on Raccoon Creek and fall campout at the Husted's near Bainbridge. We would have field trips to places like Copper Mountains. We had access to coal mining areas; trips to Greazy Ridge for petrified wood...those were the days.

The program next month will be a web demonstration.

Hugh Fulton

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**MIAMI VALLEY MINERAL & GEM CLUB  
MINUTES - 11 February 2001**

President, Hugh Fulton called the meeting to order. For devotions, chaplain Udean Babyak read a poem by Alfred McAdam entitled, \*A Faithful Friend.\* The treasurer's report was read and approved. The minutes were read and corrected to read, "... change the swap to the week-end of the second Sunday in June.."

Hugh Fulton shared information he had received in correspondence including copies of a new pamphlet on Earthquakes in Ohio.

It was reported that Becky Dobbs has designed a swap flier and that we will procure 750 copies of this. Show fliers are also on order. The librarian informed us that the new copy of the Lapidary Journal had been received. Hugh Fulton reported for the Sunshine Committee and told us that Martha Miller will have surgery at the Grand View Hospital in Dayton on February 14th. Russ Bignell is expecting to have heart surgery and Betty Husted is undergoing chemotherapy. Udean Babyak will have knee surgery on February 21st instead of February 28th. Joyce Perry informed us that proceeds of the auction at our last meeting were \$34.30 and that this sum had been sent to the Scholarship Fund

Members are reminded that it is time to pay our annual dues and that you will not receive Chip and Lick after March if dues are not received.

**OLD BUSINESS:** The matter of fees for booths at the Swap was raised again. We understand that the Lions Club will ask crafts people to pay \$15.00 per day or \$20.00 for the weekend, if they wish to have a booth. The Mineral and Gem Club pays \$125.00 for the use of Headley Ballpark and have raised this money by asking each person who sets up a booth to contribute one specimen each day. These have been sold in an auction. After some discussion, Udean Babyak moved that we charge \$15.00 per day or \$20.00 for the weekend for each booth. The motion was seconded by Glenn Russell and then passed.

The matter of want ads in Chip and Lick was taken up again. Matt Kromphardt moved that we accept ads from members. The ads must take up no more than 1/8th of a column. They must be copy ready and contain information that will enable readers to contact the person submitting the ad. The motion was seconded by Udean

Babyak and passed.

Hugh Fulton asked club members to find people to head our committees in the coming year. The following people volunteered: Canceled Stamps, Kay Faux; Field Trips/Safety, Matt Kromphardt; Program, Andreas Ruben; Refreshment, Becky Dobbs; Sunshine, Joyce Perry; Swap, High Fulton

The possibility of a club web site was again discussed. Andreas Ruben had copied part of a web site to his lap top computer so people could see one in action. It was suggested that a web site would help us contact people in our area who are interested in rocks and might become members of our club. A committee consisting of Andreas Ruben, Katrin Ruben, and Becky Dobbs was appointed to bring a recommendation to the club.

The program at our next meeting will be South Central Ohio Rocks and Strange Places. The meeting was adjourned.

Richard Faux, Recording Secretary



THIS IS THE LAST CHIP & LICK YOU WILL RECEIVE IF DUES HAVE NOT BEEN PAID



### UPCOMING SHOWS & EVENTS:

- MARCH 17-18 CANTON, OH  
STARK CO GEM & MINERAL CLUB 34<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SHOW  
CANTON MEMORIAL CIVIL CENTER  
1101 MARKET AVE N. CANTON, OH  
SAT 10-6 PM SUN 10-5 PM
- MARCH 24-25 CHAMBERSBURG, PA  
FRANKLIN CO ROCK & MINERAL CLUB 24<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SHOW  
2463 LOOP RD.  
SAT 10-7 PM SUN 10-5 PM
- APRIL 1 -2 COLUMBUS, OH  
COLUMBUS ROCK & MINERAL SOCIETY  
VETERANS MEMORIAL BLDG.
- APRIL 6-8 BERE A, OH  
THE GREATER BERE A AREA GEM, MINERAL, JEWELRY & FOSSIL SHOW  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY FAIRGOUNDS
- APRIL 28 - 29 TROY, OH  
BRUKNER GEM, MINERAL FOSSIL & JEWELRY SHOW  
TROY, OH
- MAY 5 - 6 CINCINNATI, OH  
37<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GEM, MINERAL, FOSSIL & JEWELRY SHOW  
CINCINNATI CONVENTION CENTER
- JUNE 9-10 DONNELSVILLE, OH  
38<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MIAMI VALLEY MINERAL AND GEM CLUB SWAP
- JUNE 16 - 17, CLIO, MI  
MICHIGAN GEOLOGY AND GEMCRAFT SOCIETY'S 27<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ROCKHOUND SEMINAR
- JUNE 23 - 24 BLOOMINGTON, IN  
36<sup>TH</sup> 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



The Spring meeting of the MWF will be held Saturday, April 7<sup>th</sup> in the cafeteria of the Canton High School, Canton, Illinois. Plans for the field trips are still being formulated, but the intention is for a fossil trip on Saturday after the meeting and a Geode trip on Sunday.

The theme of the 61<sup>st</sup> annual Midwest Federation Gem & Mineral Show to be held in Rice Lake, WI on September 7-9, 2001 is "A Rock Odyssey 2001." All members of the MWF are invited to attend. Registration packets will be mailed in early April with details on field trips, costs and motel information.

If any junior members in your club wish to become members of the Future Rockhounds of America just fill out the application form found in the March issue of the MWF newsletter. By becoming members you will have the opportunity to correspond with young people across the United States.

## American Federation News



This year, the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies is able to offer each member of the Future Rockhounds of America a beautiful Cloisonné FRA pin. This pin will distinguish you as a member of a national earth science organization and, it is free to all FRA members!

Marty Hart, the AFMS Webmaster is looking for "How to" articles to add to the AFMS/EFMLS websites. If you've written a "How To" or know someone who has and will grant permission to use the article for non-profit purposes, please

send the article(s) to Marty. The email address is: [efmls-webmaster@amfed.org](mailto:efmls-webmaster@amfed.org)

If you don't have access to email, you can mail the article(s) to her: 41 Little Briggins Circle, Fairport, NY 14450-9725

Amazing shot of the earth - from Jack Nelson Mircomineralogists of the National Capital area: [http://antwrrp.gsfc.nasa.gov/apod/image/0011/earthlights\\_dmsp\\_big.jpg](http://antwrrp.gsfc.nasa.gov/apod/image/0011/earthlights_dmsp_big.jpg)

On December 22 a federal judge gave pro-access recreation advocates a stunning victory when he ruled against a national preservationist group's legal effort to ban off-highway vehicle (OHV) use on millions of acres in Utah. After listening to six days of evidence and arguments, U.S. District Judge Dale A. Kimball denied a motion for preliminary injunction filed by the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (SUWA) which sought to ban OHV use in nine popular recreation areas managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Beyond denying SUWA's request for an injunction, Judge Kimball granted a motion to dismiss filed by the Blue Ribbon Coalition (BRC) and the Utah Shared Access Alliance (USA-ALL) and ruled that the Court had no jurisdiction to consider SUWA's claims regarding the disputed areas. While BLM had opposed SUWA's request for an injunction, it failed to join in the recreational groups' motion to dismiss.

The areas the SUWA unsuccessfully sought to close to motorized vehicles include the San Rafael Swell, Behind the Rocks near Moab, Indian Creek in San Juan County, Wildhorse Mesa near Capital Reef National Monument, and the Coral Pink Sand Dunes.

This is the time of year when each of the Regional Federations ask clubs to pay their dues for the year and provide them with an update listing of club officers.

## HINTS & TIPS

**How to cut Iridescent Obsidian** depends upon which of two types you have. One type is banded and the color lies in bands of several shades or colors. The other type is not banded and surface chipping may be needed to find the one color. Cut the banded type parallel to the bands for an "eye" effect. For a rainbow effect, cut across the bands at about 15 degrees. Unbanded should be cut parallel to the observed color. Most from Glass butte is banded.

*Via MWF newsletter 03/01, via Rock Rattler 6/92*



## Head for the Hills

Do you like mysteries, strange places and ugly rocks with long names? Then a trip to the hills of south central Ohio is for you.

The hills were the last to be touched by the continental glacial ice. The retreat was slow. Ice continued to cover northern and western counties for thousands of years after it had disappeared in Ross and Highland counties, the farthest advance of the Wisconsin glaciation.

The ancient Teays River once flowed on its southeast to northwest course through Ohio some 2 million years ago. Now it appears as valleys without a river in an unglaciated section of southeastern Ohio. In western Ohio, no surface landscape is visible.

This region of Ohio is also the intersection of three geological regions of the North American continent. The central plains extending west to the Rockies. The interior plains unglaciated to the south. On the eastern side, the Appalachian Plateau. This diversity in geology leads to diversity in life. Adams County has more species of plants and animals than any other county in Ohio.

Adena, Hopewell, Seip Indian culture, names given to ancient cultures. What they

called themselves is unknown. These names are names given by property mounds were on.

Hopewell earthworks, some 23 burial mounds and excavated remains can be seen on the banks of the Scioto River near Chillicothe.

Fort Hill is an earthen rampart that encloses 40 acres atop a bluff. It is considered a special area for ceremonial tribal rituals.

Seip Mound is a huge burial complex. Much of the original site has been lost by cultivation. Some believe Seip Mound may have been the burial place of rulers or kings. There are even stories of curses. Artifacts found here included copper breastplates, grizzly bear teeth with inlaid pearls, and mica ornaments indicating wide trading of materials. Serpent Mound was built by the Hopewell Indians, and is dated between 300 BC and AD 1400. This is by far the largest and finest of serpent effigy earthworks found in North America. It measures 1,335 feet, head to tail, and about 15 feet in height. Little is known about these cultures.

Also in Adams County, next to the states most significant mound, we find the states most significant geologic feature. A cryptoexplosion structure, also known as the Serpent Mound Disturbance, a circular area of strongly faulted and folded rocks; some turned upside down, Ordovician to Mississippian in age. This sequence of rocks includes sandstone, siltstone, shale, limestone and dolostone, and covers an area 5 miles in diameter. Brecciated rock called shatter breccia, and small cone shaped structures called shatter cones, have led some to think the origin of the Serpent Mound disturbance was produced by an "astroplume" the explosion of a meteorite impact. However no trace of igneous rocks or meteorites have been found. Other researchers believe that it originated from an explosion of deep-seated gases, which caused movement of molten material from deep in the earth up into a weak point beneath the Earth's crust. What might have been a volcano failing to materialize. The cause cannot be proven, and is still debated by geologists.

Nearby, in the Sinking Springs area of Highland County, an area where the fossil stromatoporids can be found by walking the streambeds or in road ditches. Commonly referred to as “cabbage Heads” some are hollow and contain quartz crystals, call them geodes. Stromatoporida is a general name for extinct marine organisms of uncertain biologic affinities. These are probably from the Phylum Porifera Sponge. These rocks may be best known as winners of ugly rock contests.

Also in Highland County there are several gorges carved through the Niagara limestone. The little Niagara Falls, much smaller, about 20 feet, is in the bed of Rattlesnake Creek.

The gorge at Paint Creek State Park and the gorge of the Seven Caves area, one can find “Beef hearts”, Pelecypods, the internal molds of megalomordia canadensis (formerly called megalomus). Seven Caves is a privately owned 100-acre park just off Route 50. Don’t miss it. Paint Creek State Park, Pike Lake and Rocky Fork Lake State Park provide camping in this area.

A place that draws me back year after year, even if I don’t pick up anything, is Copperas Mountain. It is located in Ross County about 1 mile east of Seip Mound on the south side of Paint Creek. Stream erosion has produced a spectacular 350-foot cliff rising nearly vertically above the bed of Paint Creek. The name Copperas, a former name of melanterite, a mineral found as efflorescence on the Ohio Shale. Early settlers used it for dyeing clothes. Found here a few thin beds of dark gray limestone called cone-in-cone, appearing as nested cones, not to be confused with shatter cone, although it makes me wonder, seeing it and the condition of the Ohio shale above it. This structure is said to be due to pressure and by crystallization and solution, cone-in-cone is sometimes mistaken for a fossil, hence we have a pseudofossil.

After the cliffs, the most eye catching feature is the “Ludus Helmontii” a name given by Dr. John Locke, in the 1830’s. These

unusually large limestone concretions, spherical in shape, 1-5 feet in diameter characterized by septarian cores. Also found here, pyrite nodules occur with spectacular efflorescence of white halotrichite-pickeringite and copiapite, commonly misidentified as sulfur.

The Ohio shale developed in late Devonian time, about 360 million years ago. This shale can be seen in many road cuts in this area. Geologists have divided it into 3 units; the lower unit is the Huron member. It is this layer that contains the “Huron boulders” concretions. One of the most curious rocks found in Ohio. They have always been a curious subject to geologists. Speculations as to their origin continue.

Petrified wood could be found in most of the coal strip mine areas. It can also be found in the Shade River – Federal Creek area of Athens County, walk the streams - ask the locals.

Time to go, spring is beautiful with spring flowers. Summer is ok. Fall is best, cooler, fall festivals and the changing leaves. Winter is tricky, but ice formations make for a worthwhile trip.

From a commercial and industrial viewpoint, this area has been used, depleted or set aside due to advances in technology.

Before rock salt was discovered in the 1880s, the premier salt producing area would have been Morgan County and Jackson County, the early enter of salt boiling. The first whites to make salt did so in 1798.

“Hanging Rock Pig Iron”, the great Iron Age of Southern Ohio lasted almost 100 years. The iron pigs from the Ohio, Franklin, Vesuvius, Etna and 42 other furnaces provided the rails to span the continent, plows to break the plains and guns, cannons and the iron clad monitor. Hanging Rock, a six county area, is known for superior quality iron. Ironton was the center of Southern Ohio’s world leading pig iron industry.

Crooksville was a clay center for fire clay, potters clay and brick clay. The decline in the use of bricks for paving streets brought about the demise of this industry.

Sandstone once quarried for grindstones and sharpening stones, another industry yielding to artificial stone.

The dimension stove has lost much of its business because of the substitution of concrete.

Coal is now without question Ohio's most valuable resource. But for this area, once a principal coal producing area, it has pretty much been worked out.

Batavia claims the Batavia Gold Mining Co., established in 1868. The company was a failure, but is still remembered with a festival.

As you drive through areas, these hills and river valleys you might ask, am I still in Ohio? Don't miss the Hocking areas – Ash Cave, Old Man's Cave, Cedar Falls, Cantwell Cliffs, Rock Bridge and on, and on. Joan and I have been camping the area for forty years and always look forward to the next trip.

Happy Trails.

Hugh Fulton

References: Ohio Pride, Ohio in the Making, Ohio Geology Summer 1982 and Fall 1994, Ohio Magazine, Minerals of Ohio, Ohio Fossils, and Timeline Magazine.

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Denim Iron-on patches make excellent polishing discs. They will adhere to surfaces where ordinary glue and adhesives will not.

Via ACHATES 3/01, Shop Talk-by Mike McGuire-The Agate Explorer 10/00

BECKY DOBBS - EDITOR
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SAVE COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS