

# CHIP & LICK



Official Publication of the Miami Valley Mineral and Gem Club

VOLUME 49, NUMBER 3

MARCH, 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!**

**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.**

**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



**MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

Fay Cowan March 30

**MARCH ANNIVERSARIES**

None this month



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

## President's Message

February is almost over and I am still shoveling snow almost every day. And getting tired of it so March 1 we hope to have left for sunny Arizona. However I'll be thinking of you March 9. Sorry to miss Andreas program. Believe it or not this trip to AZ is not a rock-hunting trip. We will be with several other couples who are not ROCK HOUNDS. No doubt if I see a rock pile I will have to check it out give it a-look see.

Things are started for the swap and the show. Contracts sent to last years dealers and magazine publicity for show. One thing we do not have is grab bags filled or empty.

Program for the April meeting will be rock and mineral identification part 1 to be followed by part 2 at May meeting. You might not notice but with this presidents message I have moved closer to the 21 century by e-mailing my message to Becky. Did it work? Michael Ruben helped the old man get started using the computer and how to send e-mail - thank you Michael, I can see I still have much to learn.

Some of you may remember Loyd and Jane Keil. They were the editors of the Chip & Lick in the 1970s. Jane passed away in 1995; Loyd passed away February 13, 2003 in Weslaco, Texas. They had retired there in 1984. Loyd had remarried and is survived by his second wife and by two sons and a daughter. Loyd and Jane both had cancer. Have a good meeting and I'll see you in April. Ah, springtime.

Hugh Fulton



The tourist from the prairie states was marveling at New England's scenery and asked a local New Hampshire farmer, "Where did all those rocks come from?" The farmer replied, "The great glacier brought them here." Seeking more enlightenment, the tourist persisted, "Well, where is the glacier now?" The farmer drawled, "It went back for more rocks!"

*Via The Gemrock 01/03 via The Rockpile 12/02*

## MIAMI VALLEY MINERAL & GEM CLUB MINUTES - 8 FEBRUARY 2003

The meeting was called to order by Hugh Fulton

For devotions, Udean Babyak read a selection from a "Dear Abby" column entitled, "Just for Today".

The minutes of the January meeting were read and approved as corrected. The Treasurers report for January was read and accepted.

Hugh Fulton announced that the program for this meeting would be a slide show on Club Shows rather than Club Field Trips.

REPORTS: Becky Dobbs, EDITOR of Chip and Lick reminded the members that she continues to need articles. She also discussed the ways that the E-mail capabilities of our web-site could be useful to the club. Joyce Perry reported that the LIBRARY had received and a new issue of the Lapidary Journal. Katrin Ruben, our WEB-MASTER described how people continue to make contact with our club through our web-site. Hugh Fulton shared news from the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies and the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. PROGRAMS for coming meetings were announced: March: Freiberg Mineral Collection; April: to be announced; May: Identification of Minerals.

OLD BUSINESS: Joyce Perry reported that the proceeds of the silent auction held at our last meeting have been forwarded to the AFMS Scholarship Fund. Hugh Fulton reminded us that we need people to head several committees.

NEW BUSINESS: We need a place to hold our Spring Banquet. Members were encouraged to submit the names of restaurants they think might be suitable.

The meeting was recessed for refreshments. We

then watched a collection of slides taken by Hugh Fulton at earlier rock shows. He called it, "A Trip down Memory Lane." The meeting was adjourned.

Richard Faux, Recording Secretary



### March Program: Mineral Collections

### April Program:

### Rock & Mineral Identification - Part 1



### April Articles   Refreshments   Display Becky Dobbs



## 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
- **APRIL 5-6 COLUMBUS, OH**  
CENTRAL OHIO MINERAL, FOSSIL, GEM & JEWELRY SHOW, THE COLUMBUS ROCK & MINERAL SOCIETY INC., WITH THE LICKING COUNTY ROCK AND MINERAL SOCIETY – VETERANS MEMORIAL, 300 W. BROAD ST.
- **APRIL 26-27 TROY, OH**  
TROY GEM, MINERAL, FOSSIL & JEWELRY SHOW  
JUNIOR FAIR BUILDING; MIAMI CO FAIRGROUNDS; CO RD 25-A
- **APRIL 26-27 CUYAHOGA FALLS, OH**  
GEMBOREE, SEMI-ANNUAL ROCK SHOW – SUMMIT LAPIDARY CLUB AND AKRON, MINERAL SOCIETY, EMIDIO & SONS EXPO CENTER, 46 EAST BATH ROAD

- **MAY 3-4 CINCINNATI, OH**  
GEOFAIR 2003; CINCINNATI CONVENTION CENTER  
5<sup>TH</sup> & ELM
- **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
- **MAY 24-25 DAYTON, OH**  
36<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY - ART IN THE PARK  
RIVERBEND ARTS CENTER; 1301 E. SIEBENTHALER AVE.
- **MAY 23-25 – NEWARK, OH**  
36<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY ROCK SWAP, AT HIDDEN HILL CAMPGROUND, 3246 LOPER ROAD N.E. CONTACT: BETTY McDONALD, 2586 N. GRUBB RD., DELPHOS, OH 45833 PHONE (419)339-3304.
- **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
- **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.
- **AUGUST 15-17 FLINT, MI**  
FACETERS SEMINAR; MIDWEST FACETERS GUILD, 14<sup>TH</sup> 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



When cutting petrified wood, cut across the grain for beauty. Sanding should always go with the grain to avoid tearing. If the grain is badly mixed, it is necessary to hand rub to polish. You can produce an excellent finish with dry crocus cloth and about an hour of rubbing before polish.

*Via Nickel Basin Rockhound 01/03, from Chips & Chatter 09/00, via Surrey Rockhounder 02/02*

## FEDERATION NEWS



AFMS Scholarship Foundation:

### Missing Funds – An Update

From Jon Spunaugle, AFMS President

As reported in the AFMS Newsletter last year, the Foundation Officers discovered a significant amount of funds missing from the Foundations' accounts. Further investigation brought us to the conclusion that the former Treasurer had removed the funds from the accounts. This information was brought to the attention of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Based on their findings and investigations, the former Treasurer was indicted in Federal Court in December and a trial has been scheduled for early May 2003. We remain hopeful that some of the misappropriated funds may be returned to the Foundation.

### *By Law Changes*

As a result of the discovery of missing funds, several parts of the AFMS Scholarship Foundation by Laws were revised at the last annual meeting. Revisions included requiring annual audits of the Foundations books and records by a CPA and Boding of the Officers that handle the funds of the Foundation. Other changes required better reporting of the financial information and better directions for the Officers of the Foundation. A complete copy of the Revised By-laws can be obtained by written request to the Foundation.

Se look forward to a successful conclusion to this trying period in the history of the Foundation, but can assure you that despite our setback, the Foundation is alive and well and continues to award scholarships to deserving students each year thanks to the generous donations of clubs and individuals like you.



## Collisions formed Afghanistan

By Dale Gnidovec

A war is being fought among mountains and caves in Afghanistan. Why are there mountains there? Why are there caves? Geology is playing a major role in this war, as it has in every other.

Geologically, Afghanistan can be divided into three main areas. The northwest portion is part of Asia. The central part consists of two foreign pieces, and the southeastern portion is part of the Indian continent.

In the Middle Triassic, about 220 million years ago, the vast super continent of Pangea began to break apart. On the eastern side of Pangea was a large embayment, the Tethys Ocean that separated the two main parts of Pangea: Lausaria in the north and Gondwana in the south. As Pangea fragmented, pieces of Gondwana broke loose and drifted north across the Tethys.

Two of these continental fragments eventually would become the central portion of Afghanistan. As they approached the Asian continent, the ocean crust of the Tethys dived beneath Asia to be recycled into Earth, a process called subduction. By the middle Cretaceous, 100 million years ago, the two well-traveled pieces were firmly welded to Asia.

In the shallow, tropical Cretaceous seas, thick beds of limestone formed. Reefs were abundant, but they were not coral reefs. Instead, the main reef builders were bizarre types of clams called rudists. Such limestone covered much of Afghanistan.

India, which began its journey connected to Antarctica and Australia far to the south, was approaching Asia and was about to collide. That collision, which started about fifty million years ago, produced the highest mountains on Earth. Both the Himalayas and the mountains of Afghanistan are a result of that collision.

The Indian continent is largely Precambrian igneous and metamorphic rock, so it is old, cold and rigid. The area it hit in Asia was mostly sedimentary and volcanic, so it was young, warm

and soft. India plowed into Asia like a piston, crinkling the crust.

As India advanced toward Asia, the ocean floor of the Tethys was destroyed by subduction. Continental crust, on the other hand, is too light to be forced back into Earth. It just crinkles or stacks up. Because of that, the Tibetan Plateau is 50 miles thick, double the normal thickness of continental crust.

Photos of bin Laden have shown him in front of what appears to be limestone. Caves are common in limestone, so maybe his hideout is among the Cretaceous limestone containing the ancient reefs of rudist clams.

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



**A Tumbling Tip**

By using small pieces of Styrofoam plastic, instead of the hard round plastic beads, your polishing agent will do a better and quicker job. Those hundreds of polish-impregnated little Styrofoam pieces will really put a shine on everything in the tumbler and will disappear from sight at the end of the polishing cycle.

*Via Strata Data 01/03, from the Rockcollector 4/01, via The Pineywoods Rooter 03/02*



**DID YOU KNOW**

Quarrymen in ancient Rome sometimes rubbed wax on their marble block and pillars to conceal cracks and flaws, at least until the sale was made. The wax would wash off in the first rainfall and the imperfections would reappear. The Roman Senate passed a law that made all marble purchased by the government had to be "sine cera", or without wax. From this root comes the word 'sincere', a word we know means without deception.

*Via Tulip City Conglomerate 01/03, via Earth Science News via Rock Dober 11/98*



**AQUAMARINE OR BLOODSTONE**

**Birthstones for March**

By Pansy D. Kraus, G.G., FGA  
Lapidary Journal March 1976

Since present-day birthstone lists show both aquamarine (beryl) and bloodstone, aquamarine will be discussed first. Aquamarine (beryl) was thought to give help to the wearer against his adversaries when in litigation or in battle; also, it was supposed to make the wearer amiable but still unconquerable and to quicken his intellect and thereby dispel any laziness.

During the days of the Roman Empire, it was supposed to prevent seasickness and to quiet stomach disorders. It was also supposed to ensure increasing love and to produce happiness, serenity and purity. Modern-day symbolism attached to the beautiful sea green to glue gemstone, when worn as a birthstone of talisman, are to quicken the intellect, cure laziness, and to produce courage.

Hundreds of years ago aquamarine was especially liked by the Chinese carvers since some of the crystals were quite large, and many fine figurines, seals and engraving were carved of aquamarine. Some examples can be seen in present-day museums. The Japanese carvers also used aquamarine for carving netsukes.

Aquamarine is approximately 7 1/2 in hardness and is very suitable for jewelry and with reasonable care will withstand chipping and scratching.

Aquamarine has derived its name primarily from its color, which can vary from a very pale, or very light sea green to an intense medium blue. At an earlier time the sea green to a deeper blue green was the most preferable color; however, at the present time the more intense deeper blue colors seem to be more preferable. (See color photograph on page 2192.)

Aquamarines can be found in quite large clear crystals and can be faceted into reasonable large stones since it does not present any specific problem for the faceter. It displays considerable brilliance when viewed under the soft yellow rays of incandescent lights. It is used primarily in dinner rings although matching necklaces and earrings are often seen. Aquamarines need to be of good size to show their color the best advantage. Many of the very fine blue stones currently seen in the jewelry stores are heat treated to intensify and improve their color, and the color which is induced by heat treating is said to be permanent.

Some of the important sources are in Brazil in the State of Minas Gerais along the river of Jequitinhonha near Minas Novas and near Teofilo Otoni at Marambaia on the Mucuri River. Other Brazilian localities are pegmatite dikes in the region of Ceara and Rio Grande do Norte.

They are also found in the Ural Mountains of Mursinsk near Sverdlovsk. The Russian localities are near the Urgulga River in Siberia, the Adul-Chalon Mountains near Transbaiklia, near Miask in Orenburg and Sanaka River, which is at the southern end of the Ural Mountains. On the Island of Madagascar, there are many different localities that produce aquamarine.

In South-West Africa at Rossing and rather recently a pale colored aquamarine has been found in Rhodesia. The deposits in India are at Kashmir, the Coimbatore district of Madras, and at Rajasthan (Rajputana). It is also found in Burma but is not common in Sri Lanka (Ceylon).

In the United States there are a number of localities where aquamarine can be found: Hurricane Mountain, Yancy County, and Grassy Creek, Mitchell County in North Carolina; Mount Antero in Colorado; New Milford, Litchfield County, and Haddam Neck, Middlesex County, Connecticut; Pala, San Diego County, California; and in Stoneham, Albany and Paris, Oxford county, Maine.

Other localities where it is found, although not always in gem quality, are Northern Ireland, Argentina, Norway, China, and Tanzania.

Aquamarine can be imitated by using a fine glass of the right color (called *paste* by the jewelry trades), garnet-topped doublets, and the matching colors of synthetic spinels.

### **Bloodstone**

Bloodstone has considerably more symbolism and lore than does its alternate. It is a dark lively green chalcedony (cryptocrystalline quartz) with red flecks and spots. The dark lively green color is caused by closely packed green moss in a translucent chalcedony with the red spots or flecks distributed evenly throughout the stone. The smaller and more evenly distributed and the more distinct the red spots are, the finer the quality becomes.

In ancient times, as well as during the Bible times, it was frequently referred to as heliotrope. Occasionally the term is still used.

Throughout the earliest records and writings, bloodstone was thought to control and stop violent hemorrhaging, as were other stones, which displayed

a vivid red color. Since the red was suggestive of blood, it was, therefore, used to cure or control any health problems related to the circulatory system of the body. A Christian legend indicates that the spots of red were representative of the blood of Christ and has been illustrated by showing a picture of Christ on the cross with the blood dripping on the stone at the foot of his cross. It was believed that, when placed in water, it caused the water to appear reddish in hue when the water in which the stone was placed was put where the sun could shine upon it. Another belief was that bloodstone could cause thunder and lightening as well as hard rains. When made into a signet, if the bloodstone has a bat engraved on top of it, it was supposed to give the wearer help with incantations and also would give the wearer power over demons and evils spirits.

Most of our current supplies today come from India on the Kathiawar Peninsula although some is supplied by the United States, Australia, and Brazil. Scotland, on the Ile of Run also produces some very fine material and occasionally Uruguay, Egypt, Siberia and Canada produce colorful pieces.

Present-day uses of bloodstone are usually cabochons or intaglios, which are used in tie tacks, rings and cuff links for men. Women usually prefer rings, pendants and earrings and bracelets.

### REFERENCES:

- Kunz, George Frederick, *the Curious Lore of Precious Stones*. J.B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia and London, 1913.  
 Shipley, Robert M. *Dictionary of Gem and Gemology*. 5<sup>th</sup> Edition. Geological Institute of America, 1951.  
 Webster, Robert. *Gems: Their Sources, Descriptions and Identification*. 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. Butterworth & Co. (Publishers) Ltd. 1975  
*Lapidary Journal*, December 1949  
*Lapidary Journal*, March 1964  
*Lapidary Journal*, January 1967

*Via Nickel Basin Rockhound 03/88*



The room was full of pregnant women and their partners, and the Lamaze class was in full swing. The instructor was teaching the women how to breathe properly, along with informing the men how to give the necessary assurances at this stage of the plan.

The teacher announced, "Ladies, exercise is good for you. Walking is especially beneficial. And gentlemen, it wouldn't hurt you to take the time to go walking with your partner!" The room got quiet. Finally a man in the middle of the group raised his hand. "Yes?" replied the teacher. "Is it alright if she carries a rock bag while we walk?"

*Via Nickel Basin Rockhound 01/03, via Surrey Rockhounder 05/02*

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

## SAVE COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS

### **STONE FOR THE UNKNOWNNS IS QUARRY'S QUEST**

The tomb of the Unknown Soldiers in Arlington National Cemetery has a crack in it about 3 feet above the base of the memorial and encircles the tomb. The Colorado Yule Marble Co. is quarrying a new block of white marble to replace the 61 year old cracked memorial.

A Coloradoran gave \$30,000 to replace the tomb's cracked stone. An artist, yet to be identified, will carve an exact replica of the existing tomb of the Unknown Soldiers.

Just across the Potomac River from Washington, DC, the tomb attracts 4 million visitors annually. Sculpted into the marble are three Greek figures, representing Peace, Victory and Valor, along with the phrase: "Here rests in honored glory an American soldier known but to God."

Via Brukner Rockette 02/03, *Source: The Denver Post, via John Kleber*