

CHIP & LICK

Official Publication of the Miami Valley Mineral and Gem Club

VOLUME 50, NUMBER 3

March, 2004



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: Phil Lind
6104 Springfield-Xenia Rd
Springfield, OH 45502

WEB SITE: www.mvmgc.org

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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.

2004 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	Phil Lind	322-7916
Librarian	Joyce Perry	372-8228
Curator-Historian	Becky Dobbs	372-9022
Trustee (2004)	Udean Babyak	322-0443
Trustee (2005)	Marie Shinabarger	426-2289
Trustee (2006)	Becky Dobbs	372-9022

2004 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	Joyce Perry	372-8228
Scholarship	Joyce Perry	372-8228
Show Chairman	Hugh Fulton	322-1021
Spring Banquet	Udean Babyak	322-0443
Sunshine	Joyce Perry	372-8228
Swap	Hugh Fulton	322-1021
Webmaster	Katrin Ruben	390-2081



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Fay Cowan Mar 30

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

None recorded



Spring Banquet... April 10, 2004 Swap Date...June 12-13, 2004 Show Date...October 2-3, 2004

President's Message

March, the month we have been waiting for is here. The Indians called March "the wakening moon". March, truly is the dawn of the year, the first signs of flowers, new buds on trees and young animals. Our yard has been like a glacier, the snow became ice and hung on through February. I have noticed the early flowers are trying to push through. The birds know what time it is and are pairing off and looking over nest sites. It is still February as I write this and I notice our March meeting comes as late in the month as possible. Last month it was the earliest possible.

For the February program Philipp Ruben, shared with us his middle school science fair projects one of which he would be entering in the middle school science fair the next week. Good job Philipp, hope you received a superior rating.

Our program this month is Fluorite, one of the most beautiful mineral crystals in the natural world. To think that it is made of calcium and fluorine the most active and lethal of all-elemental gases. Yet, a form of it can be put in toothpaste, and it helps prevent tooth decay.

Southern Illinois and Northern Kentucky mines operated from the 1800's until the mid 1990's. At first lead was the product being sought. As the Midwest steel industries evolved fluorite become the most important product. Fluorite serves as a flux in the manufacture of steel.

Once upon a time in the good old days on a family camping trip to Mammoth Cave. I had taken some Ohio petrified wood and Pugh quarry minerals along just in case a trade opportunity should arise. This started my interest in collecting Fluorite. There was so much available and colors I had not been aware of. Probably no rock yards like those in Cave City today. I think Fluorite will be my feature mineral for this years show. Speaking of shows March starts the show season in our part of the world. Maybe we can find some new Fluorite discovery.

Hugh Fulton (president)



HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES? THE UPDATED MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY WILL BE OUT SOON AND YOU'LL BE OMITTED IF YOUR DUES AREN'T UP TO DATE. ALSO YOU WILL NO LONGER RECEIVE THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER. YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS OUT ON THE NEWSLETTER THE EDITOR IS SURE TO IMPROVE OVER TIME?

**MIAMI VALLEY MINERAL & GEM CLUB MINUTES
FEBRUARY 11, 2004**

The meeting was opened by our president, Hugh Fulton. The minutes of the January meeting were read and accepted. The treasurer's report for January was read and approved.

OTHER REPORTS:

EDITOR: Phil Lind is still getting acquainted with his responsibilities. He hopes the club members will help make sure he gets information that needs to be published.

LIBRARY: Joyce Perry reported that she had received the Lapidary Journal and some catalogues.

SUNSHINE: Joyce Perry sent John Mercer a birthday card.

REFRESHMENTS: A new sign up sheet has been prepared and members are encouraged to sign up for dates that are open.

CORRESPONDENCE: Hugh Fulton received letters from Alan Cowan (Canada) and Elsie and Paul Smith, who are in Tucson Az.

LIASON: Hugh Fulton shared announcements and news items which appeared in recent editions of the AFMS Newsletter and the MWF Newsletter. Some of the shows will be close enough to be of interest to our members.

PROGRAM: Andreas Ruben reported on upcoming programs: March, The mineral Fluorite; April, How to Organize Your Collection.

OLD BUSINESS: Joyce Perry reported that we took in \$32.00 at our silent auction in January. We returned to our discussion of Rock and Gem subscriptions. Members can subscribe to the magazine for one year for \$19.95 and part of that price will be returned to our club treasury. Phil Lind wanted to know whether multiple year subscriptions were available. Joyce Perry said that she would find out.

NEW BUSINESS: Joyce Perry reminded club members that the March Chip and Lick will contain a notice of the need to pay dues for 2004. It is important to care for this since it is time to prepare the membership directory for 2004. Phil Lind moved that we discontinue our subscription to the Lapidary Journal. Dave Perry seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

This completed the business and the meeting was adjourned for refreshments. A program was then presented by Philipp Ruben in which he shared with us two projects he had completed for his school science fair.

Richard Faux, Recording Secretary

MARCH PROGRAM

PROGRAM - FLUORITE

REFRESHMENTS - HUGH FULTON



Future Programs and Refreshments:

April: Program – How to Organize your collection

Refreshments – Dick & Kay Faux

May Program: - unavailable at this time

Refreshments – Becky Dobbs

June: – Club Swap

July : - no meeting

August: - no meeting

September Program: unavailable at this time

Volunteer needed for refreshments

October Program: – unavailable at this time

Refreshments -Jim & Udean Babyak

November Program: - unavailable at this time

Refreshments – Ed & Marie Shinabarger

December Program – Annual Christmas Party

UPCOMING SHOWS & EVENTS:

MARCH 13-14 HAMILTON, OHIO

FORT HAMILTON GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY SHOW, BUTLER COUNTY FAIRGROUND, HAMILTON, OHIO

- **MARCH 20-21 CANTON, OH**

37TH ANNUAL GEM & MINERAL SHOW; THE MCKINLEY ROOM IN THE CANTON CIVIC CENTER, 1101 MARKET AVE. NORTH CANTON, OH
SAT 10-6, SUN 10-5

- **MARCH 27-28 COLUMBUS, OH**

2004 CENTRAL OHIO MINERAL, FOSSIL GEM & JEWELRY SHOW; VETERANS MEMORIAL, 300 W BROAD ST SAT 10-7 SUN 11-5

- **APR 3-4 CINCINNATI, OH**

GEO FAIR 2004, 40TH ANNUAL GEM, MINERAL, FOSSIL & JEWELRY SHOW OF GR. CINTI. CINCINNATI CONVENTION CENTER, 5TH & ELM. SAT 10-7 SUN 11-5

- **APR 23-25, 2004 CEDAR RAPIDS, IA**

2004 MIDWEST FEDERATION SHOW AND CONVENTION

FOR MORE INFORMATION CHECK OUT; WWW.ANGELFIRE.COM/IA3/CVRMS (ALL LOWERCASE)

4400 6TH ST SW

FRI 10-6; SAT 8:30-6; SUN 9:30-5

FEDERATION NEWS**THE FEDERATION REMINDS US THAT EVERYONE'S HELP IS NEEDED**

Information below is copied from March MWF newsletter 2004

WE CAN SAVE OUR COLLECTING SITES, WITH YOUR HELP

LOUD & CLEAR March 2004

H. R. 2416 - Paleontological Resources Preservation Act

As I write this in mid-January, H.R. 2416 is "stalled" in several House committees, including the Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation and Public Lands, the Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health, and the Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans, all subcommittees of the House Resources Committee. The companion bill in the Senate (S546) passed on voice vote and some predicted smooth sailing through the House. However, by letter, email and telephone, opponents of the bill were able to get sufficient information to House members on the key committees to at least delay the legislation.

In my early teens (several years ago) I collected a rock only recently confirmed by a professional paleontologist to be petrified bone. Take the problem of identification, add the problem of ignorance of boundaries of public lands, and mix in the draconian criminal and civil penalties of H.R. 2416, and we have a mix likely to cast a chill on all collecting on public lands. For example, H. R. 2416 provides for forfeiture of "all vehicles and equipment of any person that were used in connection with the violation" (section 11 (b)). We have such a forfeiture provision in statutes dealing with drug trafficking, but fossil Collecting?

The following is representative of letters I have sent to over 50 House members

Congressman (or Congresswoman}
U.S. House of Representatives Washington, D. C. 120515

Re: H R – "Paleontological Resources Preservation Act"

Dear Congressman (or Congresswoman)

I am writing in opposition to the captioned bill. I serve as Chair of the Conservation and Legislation Committee of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS), a national organization of "rockhound" clubs, representing about 50,000 rockhounds throughout the United States.

I offer a wager to any of your colleagues inclined to support HR297 4. I will bring a group of ten (10) rocks, including one vertebrate fossil, to any location in the National Capital area at a time of their choosing. My bet is that they cannot identify the vertebrate fossil within a reasonable period of time. Yet

HR 2416 would require such skill of ordinary citizens and impose draconian penalties in the event of failure.

The Senate companion bill (S546) has already passed the Senate. Here's what Washington Watch had to say about S546:

"Bad Bills

8546 Anti-rockhounding bill titled the "Paleontological Resources Preservation Act" places severe penalties on recreational rockhounding, would permit only "experts" to disturb public land surfaces.

Allows for seizure of private vehicles, camping equipment and anything else the government wants to grab f9f even minor violations. This bill assumes that big brother government has all the answers, even though some of the greatest discoveries of dinosaurs in pre-recorded history has been done by private individuals."

Frankly, I was surprised that the forfeiture provision for seizure of vehicles and other property of the malfesor (without right to trial ?) is also provided for in the House bill, even if the violation is characterized as a "civil penalty", i.e. does not rise to the level of a crime (misdemeanor or felony) The forfeiture provision would put erring fossil collectors in the same peril as drug dealers.

What else is wrong with **HR 2416**? Answer: a lot. For example, Section 9 "Prohibited Acts; Penalties-False Labeling Offenses" provides "a person may not make or submit any false record, account, or label for, pr any false identification of any paleontological resource excavated or removed from Federal lands." Pity the poor collector or curator, amateur or professional, who mistakes a Psittacosaurus bone for a Chasmosaurus bone. Such mis-identification can make a criminal. Thankfully, I only collect minerals which I all too often misidentify. .

I also object to Section 15 of the bill entitled "Saving Provisions", Provision 3 which specifies that the bill does not apply to "amateur collecting of a rock, mineral or invertebrate or plant fossil that is not protected under this act." I wish to specifically address the situation here in Northern Virginia where I have lived for over 30 years. During this time I have received numerous inquiries from Scout leaders as a loss as to where to take scouts to collect geological materials and fulfill the requirements for a merit badge in geology. I have always directed them to Westmoreland State Park (a Commonwealth of Virginia Park) where fossils can be collected along the Potomac shoreline. I personally have led "Indian Princess" (YMCA/YWCA) groups on such collecting trips along the shores of the Potomac. On one such trip, which I vividly recall because my own daughter was present, every one of the approximately ten children found at least one fossil shark's tooth. Other materials collected included fossil whale bone. The kids were thrilled and took their treasures into their schools for show and tell sessions. Please understand that this activity would not have been possible if the Potomac shoreline was in a National Forest subject to the provisions of the legislation as proposed in the form of HR 2416 because of the fossils collected by the kids on the trips I have described were vertebrate fossils. I could also relate my own experiences as a youngster collecting vertebrate fossils in creek beds but I do not wish to belabor the point. I recognize that current BLM and Forest Service regulations prohibit the collecting of any vertebrate fossil without a permit, however I believe that this policy is wrong-headed and certainly should not be made statutory law.

Young kids and old kids should be free to collect common vertebrate fossils as well as common invertebrate fossils on public lands. Fossil collecting is and has been a gateway to the sciences, i.e. it is often one's first hands-on experience with anything science related.

For the foregoing reasons I urge you to oppose H.R. 2416.

To: Robert Cranston
Subject: HR2416, 5546

It is imperative that this message get out to all clubs and that they take action. I am going to put together another list of people whom you may contact on various committees. I have done this in the past and even though my new Congressional Directory will not be delivered until late February or March, we need to get to these people as quickly as possible. I ask each of you to pass along this message from George Loud. Also note that there is another message following George's message. This one is from Marion Zenker who has acted for years as a spokesperson for both ALM (American Lands Access Assoc.) and MPS (American Assoc of

Paleontological Suppliers). As I have said before, I no longer have several hundred e-mail addresses to send this message to, so it is Up to each of us to spread this word and encourage Gem and Mineral Club members,

Metal Detectorists, Paleontologists" and Geologists to take immediate action and write those legislators who say they never hear from us.

George's will appear in the AFMS newsletter but I understand the majority of the Club members never see that bulletin either. This should be headline news in every Club bulletin as it affects your future in geological, mineralogical and paleontological collection. If you don't care about those issues, then do nothing and those privileges will indeed disappear. This would be a good time for a strong effort by ALAA to make a major contribution to defeat this legislation. Bob Cranston

If you would like to read either Bill and you have access to the Internet, then go to: www.thomas.loc.gov and put up the bill numbers in either the House or Senate side.



Refreshments, articles, and displays needed for future newsletters and meetings. A sign-up sheet will be available at the monthly meeting. Please sign up. I know each of you has a specialty that would interest the entire club.

FLUORITE ILLINOIS' STATE MINERAL

Deep purple, amethyst, sky blue, sea green, sunny yellow and crystal clear-the mineral fluorite comes in all colors. Many types of fluorite even glow under ultraviolet light. "They're "fluorescent."

Pure fluorite (CaF_2) made of the elements calcium (Ca) and fluorine (F) is colorless. The various colors result from tiny amounts of other elements substituting for the calcium in the crystalline structure.

Transparent to translucent, this glass-like mineral may be found as irregular masses filling veins that cut through rocks, or in flat-lying bands or layers parallel with the bedding planes of sedimentary rocks.

Fluorite also forms as clusters of beautiful cubic crystals.

Light reflects strongly from fluorite's crystal faces and luster. As lovely as a gemstone, fluorite is brittle and relatively soft (4 on Moh's hardness scale), so it's unsuitable for ring settings. Brooches and pendants must be handled carefully to avoid scratching or fracturing the mineral specimens in these settings. Just for display, miners chipped octahedrons out of coarse crystals of the mineral known to the mining industry as fluorspar. They called the eight-sided crystals "diamonds."

Hot water containing fluorine and other dissolved chemicals rose from deep in the earth during the Jurassic Period, about 150 to 200 million years ago. The water flowed through northeast-trending faults and fractures in limestone laid down earlier in the Mississippian Period, about 330 million years ago.

When the hot brines reached the calcium-rich Mississippian rocks, the temperature and other conditions were just right for crystallizing fluorite along the walls of the faults and in flat-lying layers parallel to the beds of limestone. These host rocks dissolved and were replaced with the fluorite.

Since the early 1800's, fluorite has been mined in southeastern Illinois. The fluorspar-rich region, which reaches from southeastern Illinois into parts of Kentucky, was called the Illinois-Kentucky Fluorspar Mining District.

In Illinois, fluorite was mined almost exclusively in Hardin and Pope Counties. The main production came from fissure-vein deposits in the Rosiclare district, and stratiform (bedding plane) deposits in the Cave in Rock district. Other areas in the two counties yielded smaller amounts of the mineral.

Most mining was underground, as much as 1,300 feet deep. But open-pit mines operated where fluorite deposits intersected land surface.

Illinois displaced Kentucky as the country's leading producer of fluorite in 1942. For many years, Illinois accounted for more than 50% of total U.S. fluorspar production, But by 1990, more than 90% of the fluorite used in the U.S. was imported. Illinois was the only remaining domestic producer.

Competition from foreign producers coupled with high costs of underground operations made Illinois' fluorspar mining unprofitable. The last fluorspar mine in Illinois closed in December 1995. Fluorspar is no longer mined anywhere in the United States.

Native Americans carved fluorspar to make artifacts, but the first recorded use of Illinois' fluorite was in 1823, when fluorspar mined near Shawneetown in Gallatin County was used to manufacture hydrofluoric acid.

The mineral, fluorite, is vital to the nation's economy. Its uses:

Minerals-smelting iron, aluminum and other metal alloys, manufacturing glass, enamel glazes, ceramics, Portland cement and many chemical compounds.

Hydrofluoric acid-refining aluminum, refining uranium fuel for nuclear reactors, making rocket fuel and metal plating.

Inorganic fluorite chemicals-toothpaste, special fluxes for welding rocks, optical lenses and concrete hardeners.

Organic fluoride chemicals-plastics, refrigerants, nonstick coatings, lubricants, stain repellents, dyes, herbicides, medicines and anesthetics, cleaning solvents, degreasing agents and foaming agents. One of the most widely used organic fluoride compounds, the refrigerant Freon 12@, is no longer produced in the United States. The chlorine in the compound is thought to damage the protective ozone layer that shields the earth from ultraviolet radiation.

Contributed by D. L. Reinsrtsen and J. M. Masters, Illinois State, Geological Survey 1997

Via 500 Earth Sciences Club, The tumbler (March 04)



This space left intentionally blank so that club members will realize that there is plenty of space for their articles. Please send them in!!!!



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CLUB PUBLICATIONS

By Hugh Fulton

Have you ever wondered about other clubs and how we might compare? At the December Christmas party Becky, brought a stack of exchange bulletins for our examination. I picked bulletins from 16 different clubs. All had great articles, good hints, and humorous items. However I wanted to learn about the clubs, I made a list of things to look for on my second reading. Only one was from a federation other than the Midwest. Two were 14 and 16 pages all others were eight pages. Seven PM on weekday evenings the most popular meeting time. We are the only club meeting on a Sunday afternoon. All but two clubs gave a purpose for membership. I gleaned from the Midwest Federation Directory, membership for these clubs ran from 33 to 192 four were over 100. We would be even smaller. Dues range from \$5 to \$15 per adult and \$1 to \$3 for juniors two had entrance fees also. Officers, no matter the size of the club I found officers holding multiple positions some are even officers in other clubs. Most have the same committees. Articles/reports I found humor in all but one. Most clubs reported news from AFMS and MWF, all reported upcoming shows. With only one exception most articles were credited to some other publication. Other things I noted most try to have regular field trips. Some have poor turn out for activities while others are so active they have calendars with something scheduled nearly every day. Some are like business with their own buildings and work shops they can have classes and this no doubt makes them more appealing to new members. And of course more responsibility to be shared. One publication lists an editor, publisher and a cartoonist. This of course was one of the large clubs with a larger publication. Of course reading only one issue is not fair to rate any thing and that was not my intent. So what was my conclusion? That we are like families, some small, some large ,some well off, and some just making it. Facing the same problems and solving most. What impresses me most is how far club bulletins have come since computers replaced mimeograph machines.



MORE SPACE AVAILABLE

WE NEED ARTICLES

HUMOROUS EVENTS

POETRY

HOW WAS YOUR LAST ROCK HOUNDING TRIP ?

COME ON PEOPLE I KNOW THAT YOU HAVE TALES TO TELL !

SHARE ! SHARE ! SHARE!

PHIL LIND - EDITOR
6104 Springfield-Xenia Rd
SPRINGFIELD, OH 45502

SAVE COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS

