

CHIP & LICK



Official Publication of the Miami Valley Mineral and Gem Club

VOLUME 47, NUMBER 5

MAY, 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:

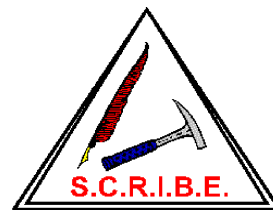
To promote interest and increased knowledge in the fields of mineralogy, geology, and the lapidary arts.

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
Editor	Becky Dobbs	dobbsr2001@yahoo.com
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



MAY

BIRTHDAYS

Udean Babyak	May 1
Karen Hall	May 5
Mat Kromphardt	May 8
Katrin Ruben	May 11
Russell Bignell	May 28

June Meeting is the Swap!

Article

Matt & Wilda Kromphardt

President's Message

Happy Mother's Day! Sorry we always have a meeting on Mother's Day. And it its May, it's almost swap time. Please note work schedule - June 9 & 10. Spread the word. Place flyers where you can. Teresa Guess has once again invited us to her home for a potluck lunch and grab bag fill. So, we will need bags and fill. See map for directions.

How about the Spring Banquet? You were so impressed by the ambiance of Tapestry and Tales we are going back for the Christmas Party. Passed by unanimous vote. The food was pretty good too.

The proposal for the club to have a Web page was also passed. Committee members Katrin and Andres Ruben explained and presented the how and why, pros and cons of having web sites. They did a great job. Really impressed me. I mentioned to someone the club was going to have a web site and they said 'Welcome to the 20th Century', wonder what they meant?

More good news, we have two new members. Please welcome to the club David and Mary Isbel. By the way, David's sister Dianne Jergens learned of the club on the Internet.

Hugh Fulton

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**MIAMI VALLEY MINERAL & GEM CLUB  
MINUTES - 8 April 2001**

President, Hugh Fulton called the meeting to order at 2:00 P.M. Chaplain Udean Babyak read a poem, "After the Winter God sends the Spring," by Helen Steiner Rice. Hugh Fulton welcomed new members David and Mary Isbel. The minutes were read and approved after corrections. The treasurer's report was read by Joyce Perry and accepted.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**Editor:** Becky Dobbs called attention to the

article in the April issue of Chip and Lick by Kitty Starbuck. A major concern in the article is the need to find places where the Midwest Federation Convention can be held. There was some discussion of Southwest Ohio as a possible location but no proposals came out of the discussion.

**Curator:** Becky Dobbs reported that she now has a new copy of the club inventory.

**Librarian:** David Perry suggested that members consider preparing brief reviews of books in our library. These could be presented at a meeting or included in Chip and Lick. He also suggested that the club purchase the new editions of books on Ohio Minerals and Fossils.

**Field Trips:** Matt Kromphardt reminded members of the field trips available through the Bruckner Gem and Mineral Club. The schedule will be in the next Chip and Lick

**Refreshment:** We need additional people who will provide displays and refreshments at club meetings. Members are encouraged to sign up.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** We received a flier announcing a rock show in Toledo on May 12 and an invitation from the Dayton Club to attend a lecture on meteors by Dr. Andrew Philip at the Riverbend Art Center on April 10th at 7:30

The president expressed the thanks of club members to Udean Babyak and Joyce Perry for their hard work in making arrangements for the Spring Banquet.

We plan to place photographs of mineral specimens on any new website and members are asked to bring suitable specimens to our next meeting so they may be photographed.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Since Betty Husted did not renew her membership, Udean Babyak agreed to be her replacement as a Trustee.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Club directories for 2001 were distributed and corrections and additions were made. A picnic for filling grab bags will be held at the home of Teresa Guess on May 20th at 1:30. Bring bags, food and rocks. Lemonade will be provided and there will be balloons on the mailbox. There will be a map in the May Chip and Lick

Virginia Bignell moved that we have the Christmas Banquet at the Tapestry and Tales Gift Shop and TeaRoom on the second Sunday in December. Udean Babyak seconded the motion and it was carried by a unanimous vote.

The meeting was recessed for refreshments. Following the recess Katrin and Andreas Ruben used computers to show the club a website which we might maintain. Possible website pages were labeled contact, meetings, newsletter, shows, links, and crafting. It would cost \$170 to launch such a website after that it would cost \$70 per year. Free web sites are available but we would have to permit ads to appear on our website. Dave Perry moved that we have a website; the motion was seconded by Ginny Bignell, Kay Faux proposed that the motion be amended to say that we want a paid site; this amended motion was seconded by Glenn Russell. The motion was also amended to include permission for Katrin Ruben to pay for the website with her credit card and for the club treasurer to reimburse her for that expense. The amended motion passed. Hugh Fulton expressed appreciation for the work of the committee and the meeting adjourned.

Richard Faux, Recording Secretary

### DID YOU KNOW?

Gems are weighted in carats. Amber is the lightest gem; cassiterite is the heaviest. The carat is derived from the weight of a seed of the carob

or locust tree of the Mediterranean. It weighs 1/5<sup>th</sup> of a gram. Each carat consists of 100 points.

*From Strata Data 02/01 submitted by club member Al Cowan*



### UPCOMING SHOWS & EVENTS:

- MAY 26-27 DAYTON, OH  
DAYTON GEM MINERAL SOCIETY. SHOW AT DAYTON ART-IN-THE-PARK, RIVERBEND ART CENTER, 1301 E. SEIBENTHALER RD., DAYTON
- JUNE 9-10 DONNELSVILLE, OH  
38<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MIAMI VALLEY MINERAL AND GEM CLUB SWAP & CRAFT SALE - HEADLEY BAKK PARK ON HAMPTON RD., DONNELSVILLE
- 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



John Washburn is stepping down as Archaeological Chair, and passing the baton back to Glen Hanning. John says it has been fun serving as chair of this committee, but it was time for a change. He will remain an archaeological assistant to Glenn and will pass articles to him for his committee as has done now. John will now assume the duties of the

geological chair and looks forward to the challenges it will present.

A By-Laws change for electing officers was proposed and approved to be recommended to the Council (the delegates) for approval. The proposal for electing officers by mail was made by Norm Hanschu at the October 24, 1998 meeting. This proposal was approved by the Council at the Council meeting in St. Louis, last August 19, 2000. Please make these changes in the By-Laws...they can be found in your Directory, which will be available, the end of April.

The Midwest Federation's 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting will be held during its 2001 Show and Convention September 7-9 at the Barron County Fairgrounds, Rice Lake, Wisconsin.

The MWF Council Meeting will convene on Saturday, September 9 at 9:00 am, with delegate registrations beginning at 8 am. The delegate appointed by your club or society will represent your interests, and may bring up pertinent discussions and proposals. However, in order to expedite matters if your society intends to have its delegate present any special motion at the meeting, please notify the Midwest President, Dean Stone and the Secretary, Mary Hanning, as to the nature of the subject so that it may be placed on the agenda. This should be done at least one month prior to the meeting.

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.

The MWF show at Rice Lake will have a Silent Auction for the Endowment Fund. This will be going on during the length of the show. Donations are welcome! Remember that items sitting on the shelf at home will not help the fund.

## American Federation News



Check out the AFMS website, Arlington website (AGMC.org) for pre-registrations forms for the 2001 AFMS/SCFMS Convention and Show June 11-17. Please make note when

making reservations that you are with the AFMS Convention and Show to be assured of the quoted prices. Lots of fun activities are being planned!

2001 pins are on sale for \$5.00 each. These pins are all numbered and will be a collector's item. There were only 2001 pins made and when they are gone there will be no more! Contact Joyce Speed, Show Chairman - 214-337-9446 or llispeed@wwol.com. She can mail up to 3 pins for \$.55 postage.

Steve Weinberger, President-Elect encourages members when visiting other clubs' shows, to be sure to wear your club badge for it shows your club's support for the other society. It also promotes reciprocity.

Why not take this opportunity of a new season to learn a new aspect of the hobby? Learn to cut a stone, identify a mineral, date a fossil (be sure you have your spouses' permission first), visit a new location, prepare a talk that you can present to your club, organize your collection, visit a show near to you, or even more important - teach someone knowledge and skills that you have.

We don't know how our life's work will be judged in time, but wouldn't it be nice to say that we did all we could?

## OUCH - THAT'S MY FOOT

by Mel Albright AFMS Safety Chair

Ever stub a toe while wandering through a rock field? Have you ever tried to pick up a rock and dropped it on your goes? Have you ever had a rock fall or roll onto your toes? How about a friend with heavy boots who clomps on your feet? Had a rock roll off the workbench and hit your toes? Dropped a tool that hit your toes?

No fun is it?

Did you know that there are safety shoes available? What are they? They are ordinary looking dress or work shoes or dress or work boots that have a steel guard built into their toe. This guard protects your toes from bangs large

and small. It is cup shaped and covers the front of your shoes from side to side 3-4 inches back. With them on, you can drop kick a small rock over to a friend with no injury or pain. The only ways to tell that the guard is there are to bang on the toe of the shoe with something heavy, test them with a magnet, or go through airport security.

How to you get safety shoes or boots? There are several ways. First let me say they are sized exactly like regular shoes or boots. If you wear a 9B normally, you'll wear a 9B safety shoe. They'll feel normal, but heavier. If you're around a larger city, you will find an industrial safety company there. They'll have the shoes. If you have some industry nearby, their safety people can direct you to a source. If you search on the Internet with the words "safety shoes", you will find a number of sources for ordering them.

Cost? About the same as ordinary shoes or slightly more. One Internet company has a very wide variety of styles for \$85 to \$100.

By the way, if your work involves heavy stuff and you do not wear safety shoes, now is the time. They're a lot cheaper than medical care.

*Via AFMS Newsletter 05/01*



**Using Soapstone Meal**

A great quantity of soapstone dust or meal can be produced during the process of carving. This waste is an excellent natural fertilizer. Simply sprinkle the meal around the plants and work it into the soil. It also keeps snails and slugs away. They cannot glide over the dust as it sticks to their undersides.

Submitted by Al Cowan

*Via Petrified Digest, and Strata Data and Laphound News 01/01 and Surrey Rockhound 01/01 and via Nickel Basin Rockhound 03/01*



Conscience is what hurts when everything else feels good.

*Via Brukner Rockette 05/01*



**May Program**

Silent Auction



**Field Trips**

Matt Kromphardt, Field Trip chairman will provide copies of the upcoming field trips scheduled by the Brukner Club, at the May meeting. In the future, if anyone wants to go with the Brukner Club on these trips contact Matt or Neil Reeder (937) 773-0545 who is the director of field trips for the Brukner club for directions and more information.



**HEAT TREATING AGATES**

Some agates respond well to heat treating to restore colors. An example, after millennia, many Lake Superior agates have lost their vivid reds and oranges. The structures are intact but the color has faded to almost uniform light tans and browns. Heating them restores much of their original vibrancy. Some other stones that especially benefit are Brazilian agate and Carnelian. To treat, place a layer of clean sand or kitty litter 1/2-inch deep in a Pyrex dish. Place a layer of slabs or rocks in the dish. Cover thinly with sand or kitty litter. Repeat until all rocks are used. Place in oven at lowest setting (150 degrees) for 2 hours (this drives out the moisture that could cause the stone to explode). Then raise the temperature 50 degrees every 1/2-hour until 500 degrees is reached. Leave on for 2 hours at 500 degrees then turn off the oven to let cool, preferably overnight - NO PEEKING-to allow container to cool completely to room temperature before opening the door. This process takes at least 10 hours of oven time.

*Via the Drift 3/01, via ACHATES 04/01*

## **My trip to Italy**

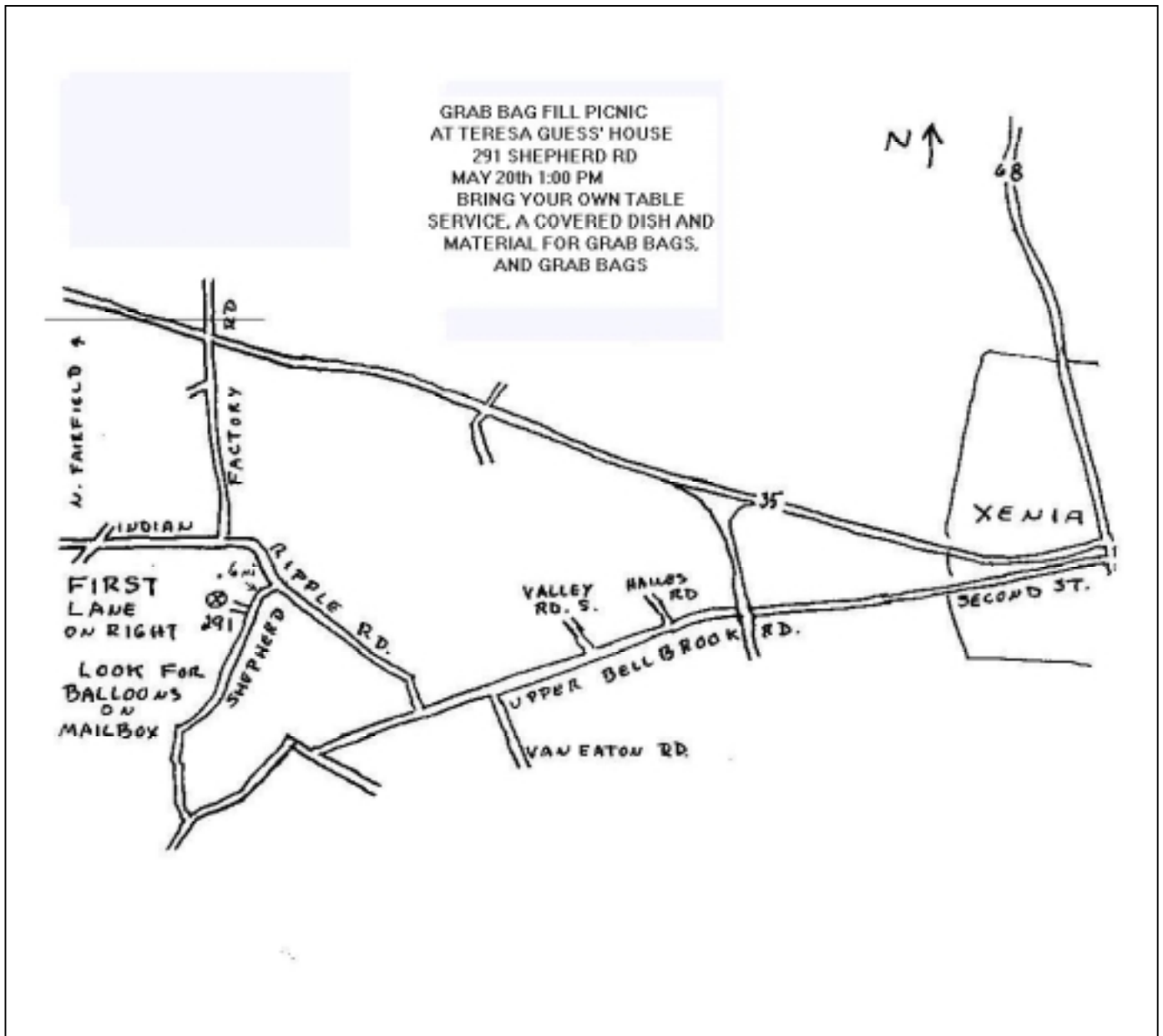
By Philipp Ruben

Last year in May, I had a trip with my parents to Italy. At first we visited Rome. There we went to the Coliseum and the Forum Romanum. After Rome we spent some fabulous days by the Mediterranean Sea in Viareggio. From there we had an expedition to the famous Carara marble caves. We found a lot of beautiful white marble and some Quartz crystals.



The second week we traveled to an island called Elba, which is famous for its Iron mines. At the entrance of the mine you could mostly find small pieces of Hematite and Pyrite. In the Mining Museum my dad and I bought a rock made up of Hematite and Pyrite shown on the following picture.





**GRAB BAG FILL & PICNIC**

**May 20<sup>th</sup> 1:00 pm**

**At Teresa Guess' house  
291 Shepherd Road  
Xenia, OH**

**Bring your own table service, a covered dish and material for grab bags. Grab bags are also needed.**

## MVMGC 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Swap

**June 9 & 10, 2001**

SET UP - Friday June 8, 1:00 PM. All members who are able

### **SATURDAY 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM**

#### **REGISTRATION DESK**

Kay Faux  
Udean Babyak  
Joyce Perry

#### **GRAB BAGS**

Mabel Husted  
Jane Freese  
Mary Isbel

#### **WHEEL OF FORTUNE**

Jim Babyak  
Philip Lind  
David Isbel

#### **SILENT AUCTION**

John Mercer  
Dave Perry  
Russ Bignell

### **SUNDAY 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM**

#### **REGISTRATION DESK**

Becky Dobbs  
Ginny Bignell  
Wilda Kromphardt

#### **GRAB BAGS**

Marie Shinabarger  
Karen Hall & Kimberly  
Katrin Ruben

#### **WHEEL OF FORTUNE**

Andreas Ruben  
Ed Shinabarger  
Philipp Ruben

#### **SILENT AUCTION**

Hugh Fulton  
Beth & Emory Stewart  
Glenn Russell  
Matt Kromphardt

### **ALL CLUB MEMBERS HELP TAKE DOWN AND CLEAN UP**

#### THE NEW DOLLAR COIN

By Carolyn Weinberger

Have you seen the new "gold" dollar coin and wondered if it is real gold or not? By exploring the U.S. Mint website ([www.usmint.gov](http://www.usmint.gov)), I've learned that the new coin is made of an alloy called manganese brass which is bonded to a core of pure copper.

The manganese alloy is made up of 77% copper, 12% zinc, 7% manganese and 2% nickel. If you include the copper core, the composition of the new dollar is 88.5% copper, 6% zinc, 3.5% manganese and 2% nickel.

If you've not yet seen the coin, it features a likeness of the Indian guide Sacajawea. The obverse features a flying eagle. Of course, the coin is gold in color.

*Via Gem Cutter News 6/00 via the Rockfinder 3/01, via Cedar Valley Gems 4/01, via ACHATES 05/01*

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

SAVE COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS

# HAPPY MOTHERS'S DAY

