

# CHIP & LICK

Official Publication of the Miami Valley Mineral and Gem Club

VOLUME 49, NUMBER 5

MAY, 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)

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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
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

**MAY BIRTHDAYS**

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

**MAY ANNIVERSARIES**

None this month



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

## President's Message

May! I seem somewhat surprised as I write Presidents Message for May. The three week trip west really nice but it was good to be back in Ohio, to see the flowering trees, shrubs and other spring flowers. This spring they have been exceptional.

Spring also means clean up for the yard yes but this year our roof was torn off and replaced, what a mess. Can you imagine what the attic looked like?

We missed the early Rock Shows: Richmond and Columbus. Enjoyed the Troy show, seeing old friends and talking to the dealers some I have known for over thirty years. When you see John Lamont ask him about his helicopter adventure at Quartzite this year. Glad you made it John.

If it is May, then the swap is fast approaching. The biggest question right now is grab bags - do we or don't we? Then it's getting the word out. There is so much competition for the publics time and attention, Times are just not at the best now either. And then there is the weather. We just have to make the most of it. Most important have some fun learn something and share our great hobby.

Let us all welcome Bill Queen, to our club. Bill's father Larry Queen is a past president of the club - 1976 & 77. It is great to welcome Billy back as Bill. Bill, please help us to keep you interested and being an active member of the Club. Let us know how we might help.

The Spring Banquet made for a nice night out in good company. It was good to have Udean Babyak there after knee replacement. Thank you to Joyce Perry for another job well done.

Swap set up Friday, June 6 after 1PM - all who can please help.  
Saturday hours are 10 AM - 6 PM Sunday 10 AM - 5 PM.

Need help both days registration, wheel of fortune, silent auction, grab bags?  
Need items for wheel of fortune and silent auction. Need the word spread where and when this event takes place

Help with tear down and clean up. Any questions???

Hugh Fulton



## MIAMI VALLEY MINERAL & GEM CLUB MINUTES - 13 APRIL 2003

President Hugh Fulton opened the meeting. In the absence of Udean Babyak, Hugh Fulton read a passage from The Daily Word for our devotions.

The minutes of the March meeting were approved as corrected and the treasurer's report was also approved.

**REPORTS:** Becky Dobbs, **EDITOR** of Chip and Lick, was present but had nothing new to report... Joyce Perry, our **LIBRARIAN** had received some catalogues, which were placed on the table and made available to members. Katrin Ruben informed us that our **WEBSITE** had received 1241 visitors in November but that activity has been lower in the winter months. The **PROGRAM** for May will be identification of rock specimens. Members are asked to bring some rocks to identify. The June **SWAP** will be held on the 7th and 8th and setup will be on the 6<sup>th</sup>. Three dealers have contracted to be at the show. The **SUNSHINE COMMITTEE** reported that Beth Stewart's health continues to be stable. Udean Babyak is making good progress in her recovery from surgery.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** We received a letter confirming that the club's insurance has been renewed. Alan Cowan sent us some pictures and reported that his wife had suffered a pinched nerve and had been in the hospital. An announcement about the Kalamazoo show disclosed that the skull of Sue, the dinosaur, would be one of their displays. We have received a new copy of the Mid West Federation Directory and it was much improved.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Twenty-one members attended and enjoyed the Spring Banquet at Roush’s restaurant.

**NEW BUSINESS:** William Queen was welcomed as a new member.

The meeting was recessed for refreshment. The program, which followed, was a videotape, which described the varieties of rocks and discussed their identifying characteristics. Following the program the meeting was adjourned.

Richard Faux, Recording Secretary



**May Program:**

**Rock & Mineral Identification - Part 2**

**June Program:**

**Swap**



**June**

**Articles Refreshments Display**

**Need volunteers for articles**



**UPCOMING SHOWS & EVENTS:**

- **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



**FEDERATION NEWS**

**AFMS:**

AFMS Uniform Rules can now be obtained with the click of a mouse. The file is posted in pdf format and you will need Adobe acrobat Reader in order to obtain the rules. To obtain your copy, visit the AFMS website <[www.amfed.org/rules/rules.htm](http://www.amfed.org/rules/rules.htm)>. If you don't have access to the internet or just wish to purchase either the entire rules set or 2003 updates, contact your regional federation supplies chairperson. The cost is minimal.

Seaside GEMboree info can be found on the show website: <<http://afms-cfmshow.org>>

Have you purchased your tickets for the AFMS Endowment raffles? The drawing will be held during the AFMS/ICFMS Convention in Ventura, CA during the first weekend in June. All tickets can be purchased by sending your check, payable to "AFMS Endowment Fund" along with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to:

Dee Holland  
6155 Haas St.  
LaMesa, CA 91942-4312

**MWF:**

The MWF 63d Annual Meeting will be held during its 2003 Show and Convention August 15-16, 2003 at the Cottage Grove national Guard Armory, Cottage Grove, Minnesota. Each club is entitled to one vote – so send a delegate!

*Via MWF newsletter 05/03*

**Dating game is sparked by atoms**

By Dale M. Gnidovec

Rocks in the Columbus area were formed 360 million years ago. Dinosaurs showed up on Earth 225 million years ago and stayed 160 million years until becoming extinct about 65 million years ago, long before mammoths and mastodons died out 10,000 years ago.

We know all this because of atoms.

Atoms have an outer “shell” of one or more rapidly spinning electrons, and a central clump called the nucleus. The nucleus is made of protons and neutrons. The number of protons determines an atoms type. One proton and it is the element hydrogen. Two protons equal helium, seven equal nitrogen, ninety-two equal uranium, and so on.

Certain combinations of protons and neutrons result in unstable atoms that decay. When that happens, they radiate energy – thus, radioactive energy.

The decay also changes the atom from one element into another. This change occurs at a constant rate, like the ticking of a clock. Geologists use the “ticking” to determine the age of rocks.

Radioactive atoms are like grains of sand in the top of an hour glass. As time passes, they change into non-radioactive atoms, marking time just as the sand in the top of an hour glass moves toward the bottom. By measuring relative amounts of radioactive and non-radioactive material in rock, geologist can calculate age.

You probably have heard of carbon-14 or radiocarbon dating. Most carbon is carbon-12, which is not radioactive. Carbon-14 is radioactive, but because it decays so quickly (half is gone in 5,730 years) it is used to date things that aren't very old - about 70,000 years at most. For paleontologists, that makes carbon-14 useless except for dating animals that lived at the end of the Ice Age. Archaeologists, on the other hand, find carbon-14 dating very useful as most of what they study existed in the 70,000 year span.

To date older fossils, we must use other radioactive atoms. The most common of these are uranium, which decays to non-radioactive lead, and radioactive potassium, which decays to non-radioactive argon.

Most of this kind of dating is done with igneous (volcanic) rocks, which may seem like a problem because fossils are found almost exclusively in sedimentary rocks such as sandstone and shale. However, during most of Earth history, there was enough volcanism that we can usually find a volcanic ash bed or lave flow in layers or rock just above or below fossils.

Want a date? Find the radioactive mineral.

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

**HINTS & TIPS**

I was asked one time, “How do you clean your quartz crystals?” The answer given was, “I use Iron Out.” I bought some from the local hardware and sure enough the crystals came clean. I thought nothing could take the iron stains out of them, but now I have some very beautiful crystals. Iron Out contains sodium hydrosulfite and sodium bisulfate, so keep it away from children and be careful when you use it. Follow the directions on the bottle.

*Via Rock Pickings 04/03, via Paul good; The Petrified Digest 0 7/99; Quarry Quips 01/03*

To clean pyrite and try to make it look nice and brassy, first wash it carefully in water. Put in a plastic bowl, dish, etc. and pour vinegar over the specimens, making sure all pyrite is covered. Turn the specimens over several times. When they look clean and shiny, rinse with water. Put on paper to dry. Children can use this method.  
*Via Rock Pickings 04/02, via The GemRock 09/02; Quarry Quips 01/03*



## THE CALIFORNIA GOLD RUSH: GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

By Sam Shapiro

The California Gold Rush was one of the great mineral stampedes in world history. In January, 1848, California had only 14,000 non-Indian inhabitants. By January, 1850, there were 100,000, and later that year the area was admitted as the 31<sup>st</sup> state. Behind this pivotal event there were millions of years of geological processes which put gold dust and gold nuggets where they could be got at with the simplest tools – a knife or a flat tin plate.

East-Central California, the area of the mother lode in the Sierra Madre Mountains, once lay beneath an ancient sea. Thousands of feet down are thick layers of sedimentary rock, laid down on the sea floor. Then the North American Plate, inexorably moving west, collided with the Pacific Plate. In the subduction zone, the Pacific plate slid underneath, pushing up magma from deep within the earth and forming the coastal ranges, the Cascades, the Rocky Mountains and the Sierra Nevada.

The awesome heat of this orogeny (mountain-building) drove superheated water up through molten granite, propelling liquefied quartz and gold toward the surface.

Then, as volcanic action died down and the water cooled, the minerals settled together in milky white quartz veins along the western slope of the Sierras. The Feather, the Yuba, the American, the Stanislaus-fast-rushing mountain streams – eroded the quartz and carried gold

dust, flakes and nuggets downstream and dropped them in gentle eddies and gravel bars. Neither the local Indians nor the Spanish ever explored the mineral region. By a twist of fate, John Marshall, building a sawmill for John Sutter, discovered gold in the mill race on January 24, 1848 just when Mexico had been forced to cede California to the United States. The great Gold Rush began.

*Via Michigan Mineralogical Society Conglomerate 03/03, via The Rockfinder 01/03*



## SAFETY FIRST

By Bill Klose, EFMLS Safety Chairman

Hammers used by rock hounds come in every size, type and construction and include rock hammers, bricklayers or masons hammers, blacksmiths or sledge hammer, machinists peen hammers, jewelers hammers, setting hammers, soft face hammers, lead or copper faced hammers, trimmers and welders hammers, as well as a variety of mallets, such as rawhide, rubber and tinnens. I have even seen napping hammers (a 3-pound high carbon steel hammer with tapering faces used for forming stones during road construction or similar stone work) and railroad track mauls (used for driving railroad spikes). As it is hard to anticipate what a rock hounds “favorite weapon” will be, I thought I would present a list of general hammer safety practices followed by the proper use of some of the more common hammer types.

1. Always select the proper type, size and weight of hammer for the job.
2. Always wear eye protection.
3. Always strike a hammer blow squarely, avoiding glancing blows and over and under strikes. The hammers striking face should be parallel with the surface being struck.
4. When striking a chisel, punch, or wedge, the striking face of the hammer should be 3/8” larger than the struck face of the tool. Both the striking hammers face and the struck face of the tool should be free of oil.

5. Do not strike another hammer with a hammer.

6. Do not strike a harder surface with a hard surface hammer.

7. Never use a hammer with dents, cracks, chips, mushrooming, or excessive wear. Replace the hammer—redressing is not recommended.

8. Replace worn or damaged handles. A qualified individual should replace hammer handles. Most hardware stores will replace hammer handles for a nominal fee. They can also provide a rubber sleeve for sledge hammers, which will prevent handle damage just above the head.

Bricklayers or masons hammers are designed for setting or splitting bricks, masonry, and tile and concrete blocks. Never use them to strike metal or drive tools such as chisels. The blade of a bricklayers hammer should be kept sharp by redressing at a 40-degree angle with a bench grinder. Keep the metal cool while grinding by quenching often in water to protect the metals tempering.

Hand drilling hammers are used with chisels, star drills, punches and hardened nails. Never use common nail (claw) hammers for striking metal, such as chisels, as they are designed for driving unhardened nails and their shape, depth of face and balance make them unsuitable for this use.

Machinists peen hammers (ball, cross or straight) are designed for striking chisels and punches and riveting, straightening and shaping metal.

Blacksmiths or sledge hammers are designed for striking wood, metal, concrete, or stone, depending on size, weight and shape.

When using a hammer, grip the handle near the end where it is designed for gripping and will give you the best control and impact with the least effort. Watch your hands, shins, and feet. It may be advisable to wear gloves, long sleeve shirts and high lacing safety shoes to protect from flying debris and sharp shards of the situation warrants it.

When storing hammers for a period of time, lightly lubricate metal parts, but wipe any oil or grease from rubber mallets or rubber handle grips to prevent damage to the rubber.

So get out there and hammer up a storm safely.

*Via Rock Pickings 04/03*



**FIELD TRIP**

Quartz Crystal Hunting in Arkansas  
Sweet Surrender Mine - Washita, AR.  
Digging fee: \$20 (children 6-10 is \$10), and you keep all the crystals you dig.

Directions: - From Mount Ida, take Hwy 27 North approx. 10 miles to Horseshoe Bend Road. Horseshoe Bend Road is 1/2 mile past Washita on the right. Go approx. 1/2 mile on Horseshoe Bend to the first mailbox on the right (Flyod Irons). Turn right on Forest Service road 20-feet before Irons' mailbox and follow it to the mine at the top of the hill.

Meet: at Judy's Rock Shop

Time: 10:00 A.M. (AR time) June 12, Thursday

Where to stay: Aqua Motel, Washita.

Rate: \$40.00 per night includes tax. (6-11/6-13)

Phone: 1-870-867-2123 for reservation.

Camping: Denby Point Campgrounds

Tent camping: \$8.00/\$10.00

Campers/hook-ups \$12.00/\$14.00 (group of 6 gets better rate in group area).

Resv: 1-877-444-6777 or [www.reserveusa.com](http://www.reserveusa.com)

Map available: Call Don Walker for more information and to help co-ordinate everything. Phone: 1-614-878-6112. Leave message if no answer! I'll call you back!



Some people dream of worth accomplishments, while others stay awake and do them.

*Via MWF Newsletter 05/03*

BECKY DOBBS - EDITOR  
2792 GREYSTOKE DR.  
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## SAVE COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS

### **Learn Something New**

by Keri Dearborn

Gypsum is a water soluble material. Yet, the shifting dunes of White Sands, New Mexico, are made of this material. How did it get there and why hasn't it been washed away?

250 million years ago the gypsum was a dissolved mineral floating in a shallow inland sea. As the climate changed and the ancient seas retreated into the lowest corner of its previous domain, the gypsum was concentrated. When the last of the water evaporated away, the gypsum was left behind. The glittering white sand dunes of gypsum survive today because there are no rivers or streams that drain the low-lying basin. Even when the rare rainfall comes, the gypsum cannot escapt. When the rainwater evaporates the gypsum is left behind again. Only wind threatens to scatter the white mineral crystals. The gypsum dunes of White Sands are very unusual and fortunately for all of us, President Herbert Hoover used the Antiquities Act of 1906 to protect the area in 1933.

*Via ACHATES, 05/03 via Del Air Bulletin 9/01 via Golden Spike News 10/01 via Hidden Treasures 02/03*