

# CHIP & LICK

Official Publication of the Miami Valley Mineral and Gem Club

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NOVEMBER, 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!**

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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	372-8228
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



**NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

Jane Freese	Nov. 4
Deborah Huff	Nov. 12
Emory Stewar	Nov. 25

**NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

Beth & Emory Stewart    Nov. 25



Spring Banquet... April 10, 2004    Swap Date...June 5-6, 2004    Show Date...October 2-3, 2004

## President's Message

Our annual show now history was once again fun seeing old friends and former members Paul and Georgia Schumacher, Ray and Sue Trucksis. Jack Lahr stopped in on Saturday on his way to Georgia. Always good to have Jack at our events, we ought to make him an honorary member.

Garry Getz, now a geologist for Shelly Materials Columbus District brought a couple of bragging rocks to show off. Two large Celestite crystals he had found recently in a northern quarry. They were beautiful. I keep telling Garry he should be a member - he lives here in Springfield.

It was fun handing out door prizes and talking to the neighborhood kids over the weekend. Seeing their enthusiasm at the silent auction and wheel of fortune was fun. What was not fun was the fact that attendance was down again this year. Member attendance wasn't 100% either. But we didn't have any empty display spaces. Dealers mentioned that we are not alone, that other shows are down also. However in reading the reports from the Midwest Convention this past August, the Cedar Rapid, Iowa, club reports normal attendance at their show of about 3000. And by the way the 2004 convention will be held there at the Hawkeye Downs Fairgrounds April 23-25. Kansas City, MO invited everyone to the Kansas City Exposition. They annually host 12,000-13,000 people. Wow! I couldn't handle that either.

We have people address cards to be notified of the next show. Looking thru them there were 31 different communities in Ohio and three other states. The word must be getting out. The question now is do we want to do it again next year?

After last meeting it was time to get away for a while. Joan and I like to camp in southern Ohio hill country and attend the Fall Festival of the Leaves in Bainbridge. None of the festivals

seem to have attendance problems unless too crowded. While in the area we visited Patty Detty. Some of you will remember the Dettys. Harold was president when we joined the club back in 1970. Pat remembers old times and camping in Detty's Hollow. Pat says hello to old friends.

I still have not seen those Quartz crystals. I'm looking forward to the program today featuring them. That was a great program last month Gemstones of America. Thanks Andreas. Today is club election day. I wish we could find you a new president we also must name a new editor. Becky has done such a great job and the Bulletin is so important to hold a club together we have to address this ASAP.

But hey at least the club is still alive - three maybe four MWF clubs may have folded this year.

Hugh Fulton



## MIAMI VALLEY MINERAL & GEM CLUB MINUTES - 12 OCTOBER 2003

President Hugh Fulton called the business meeting to order.

Our chaplain, Udean Babyak presented a devotional inspired by watching the sunrise and the fact that it was Columbus Day. The minutes of the September meeting were accepted as read. Joyce Perry presented the Treasurer's report and a financial report of the Rock Show. These were both accepted.

### REPORTS:

**LIBRARY;** the current issues of the Lapidary Journal has been received along with the renewal notice for our subscription.

**WEB SITE,** a recent updating of our web site included pictures of our Swap and announcements of programs. **SUNSHINE;** cards have been sent to Beth Stewart and Fay Cowan.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Hugh Fulton shared

information he had received about upcoming shows. These notices and some catalogues were placed on the table for members to examine

LIASON: We have received a certificate of 50 years of affiliation from the Mid West Federation of Mineralogical & Geological Societies. We also received a questionnaire about Society activities which we discussed. Hugh Fulton will send in our answers. We received a letter from Kitty Starbuck describing the Mid West show in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

OLD BUSINESS: Hugh Fulton reported on our show. Attendance was less than last year but we made a profit. Saturday was our best day. We were pleased to have several former members of the club attend the show. We had some difficulty getting attenders to put a legible address on the cards that will be used to notify them of the next show. The Nominating Committee does not have a slate of officers for 2004. They hope to have a report for our next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: the club was reminded that Duff's Quarry would no longer permit people to collect rocks there. Dave Perry moved that we send them a letter expressing our appreciation for the times they had allowed us to collect there. Ed Shinabarger seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Dave and Joyce Perry will write and send the letter. Udean Babyak suggested that we have a carry-in banquet again this year. Andreas Ruben thought that the Business Center would be available and volunteered to enquire. The Club will buy a turkey.

The meeting was adjourned for refreshments. The program which followed was a video on gem stones.

Richard Faux, Recording Secretary

  
**November Program:**

Arkansas Field Trip Report



**December**  
Articles    Refreshments    Display

Christmas Party – Articles needed



**UPCOMING SHOWS & EVENTS:**

• **NOV 7-9, TAYLOR, MI**

MIDWEST FACETERS GUILD ANNUAL SHOW, TAYLOR  
SPORTSPLEX, 13333 TELEGRAPH RD. (US 24) BETWEEN  
EUREKA & NORTHLINE RD. FRI 3-8 PM, SAT 10AM – 7 PM,  
SUN 10 AM – 5 PM. ADMISSION \$3.00



**FEDERATION NEWS**



The application for 2004 Midwest Federation Dues and Insurance is on the front page of the November MWF Newsletter. Dues are due by January 15, 2004.

The deadline for nominations for the Midwest Honoree for the selection of students to receive AFMS scholarships is December 1, 2003.

SCRIBE meeting will be in Quartzsite Arizona Saturday, January 31, 2004.

*Via MWF Newsletter 11/03*



**HINTS & TIPS**

Tumbler Hints:

Vaseline can be used around the rim of a tumbler before anchoring the lid to get a tight seal and an easily removable lid.

Filler materials: Use enough to keep the rocks from knocking together. Suggested filler materials are whole grain oats purchased from any feed store, ground up corn cobs, rubber

bands (can be used and re-used), broken up safety glass, and plastic pellets

Be sure to have a lot of small stones and a variety of sizes for good abrasive action among the stones. The smaller stones help abrade the centers of larger material.

When finished with polish let the stones soak in a 51/50 solution of vinegar and water.

*Via Glacial Groove 05/03; via the Pica Pick 10/02; via the Rock Rattler 01/02; via Chips & Chatter 05/02; via the Pineywoods Rooter 06/00*



### Geology Today

By Marge Pearson

Evidence of an ancient volcanic eruption so powerful that it split the ancient super continent called Pangea, created the Atlantic Ocean, and spewed millions of square miles of searing lava that extinguished much of the life on Earth has been pieced together from the hundreds of basalt outcrops that rim the Atlantic coasts. "This is one of the biggest things that has ever happened in Earth's history," said paleontologist Paul E. Olsen of the Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University. "This is a gigantic, igneous event, and it all seems to have occurred in an amazingly brief amount of time." The new theory is that in the space of just a few million years, half of all marine species died out and almost as many species of reptiles and other land animals. This set the stage for the age of the dinosaurs and the evolution of the first mammals. The new research also adds weight to the theory that mass extinctions, which have plagued Earth repeatedly since the dawn of time, were caused not primarily by collisions with comets or errant asteroids, but by the fierce internal volcanics of the planet itself.

*Via The Show Me Geode 06/03 from Stoney Statements 10/02, via Chaparral Chatter 03/03, via The Pegmatite June-July-August 2003*

### Humor in Mineralogy

By France Vore.

**Almosthadite** – refers to a specimen of which the major portion remains on public display in a remove quarry.

**Cantrememberite** – one of the more common specimens typically from locations generally unknown in the present time.

**Droppedite** – a collection of cleavage fragments representing a high quality cabinet specimen formerly on display.

**Nolabelite** – one of a class of minerals or fossils of relatively little value appearing in most private collections.

**Cantquitespellite** – resembles a specimen in the University collection with an even longer and more complex name.

**Oncehadite** – used in reference to extremely unusual specimens traded a rock shows before true identity was realized.

**Usedtohaveite** – a secondary form of specimens including marcasite, best recognized by the permanent brown ring where the specimens formerly sat on the shelf.

*Via Glacial Groove 07-08/03; via many bulletins – Jewelry Making Gems and Minerals, 11/78 seen in the Post Rock 3/03; via The Conglomerate*



### Judean prophet foretold quake

By Dale Gnidovec

In the middle of the eighty century B.C., Jeroboam II was ruling Israel, and Uzziah was king of Judah. Amos, a shepherd-farmer from the Judean village of Tekoa, prophesized disaster. He said the entire kingdom would be shaken, houses destroyed and altars cracked.

Two years later, a great earthquake hit, cracking Solomon's temple, causing a large landslide near Jerusalem and toppling buildings throughout the kingdom. We know this not only from Biblical writings but also from archaeological clues. Many cities show evidence of quake-induced damage at dates confined to a short period around 750 B.C. Dating is based on

archaeological remains and on the royal chronologies of Israel and Assyria.

Hazor, about 7 miles north of the Sea of Galilee, was the largest Iron Age Israelite city. During the quake, walls and pillars were tilted to the southeast, and ceilings collapsed, burying objects of daily use. The quake evidence is just below signs of the destruction and burning of the city when it was conquered by Assyria in 732 B.C.

Deir 'Alla was an Iron Age city about halfway between the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea. It also shows buildings collapsed towards the south. Radiocarbon dating and pottery analysis indicate the destruction occurred about 750 B.C.

Gezer was a strategic city about 18 miles northwest of Jerusalem. It, too, has walls that fell to the south or were jolted as much as 15 inches on their foundations.

Many subsequent prophets, including Isaiah, Micah and Zechariah, spoke of the great quake, which spawned a proliferation of prophets and the "Day of the Lord" motif.

With an estimated magnitude of 8.2, it might have been the largest quake in the region during the last four millennia. Damage decreased toward the south, so the epicenter was north of present day Israel, probably in Lebanon. The most likely spot is the Dead Sea Transform Fault.

Earth's crust is broken into eight major (and many minor) sections of thin, slab-like proportions called plates. The Middle East is geologically so active because it sits on the boundary between two major plates: the African and Arabian.

Those plates are moving apart. Their separation creates dropped blocks that in some places contain long, thin bodies of water, such as the Red Sea and Dead Sea. It also causes earthquakes, such as the one that struck "in the days of Uzziah."

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

*Via The Chiseler 08/03*

A Defending Attorney was cross-examining a coroner. The attorney asked, "Before you signed the death certificate, did you take the man's pulse?"

"No," the coroner replied.

"Did you listen for a heartbeat?" the attorney asked.

"No."

"Did you check for signs of breathing?"

"No."

"So when you signed the death certificate, you had not taken any steps to make sure the man was dead, had you?"

The coroner, weary of the brow-beating, said, "Well, let me put it this way: the man's brain was in a jar on my desk, but for all I know, he could be out practicing law somewhere."

*Via ACHATES 08/03 from American legion Magazine via The Agate Explorer 06/03*



## LAKE SUPERIOR AGATE

By Maynard Green

Lake Superior agates were found in a range of volcanic mountains in Canada. Glaciers from further north finally succeeded in leveling these mountains on their way southward, crushing the basalt and freezing the agates. Glaciers deposited the agates southward, then, for hundreds of miles throughout several states. The name Lake Superior agates was given to them because the glaciers which deposited them were called the Lake Superior Drift.

Because of the grinding and crushing action of the glaciers, most agates found are only fragments of agates. However, a rockhound may on rare occasions, find an unbroken one. So, we must learn to look not only for the bands and inside coloring, but also for the smooth, glassy surface and pockmarked appearance characteristic of the Lake Superior Agates.

The commonly accepted theory seems to be that the Lake Superior agates were formed in the volcanic basalt, in gas pockets, that failed to escape as the lava started to cool. Later, silica rich liquids circulated within these pockets,

gradually depositing layers of silica, which jelled and eventually hardened, forming a complete agate after the pocket was filled.

Because of variations of temperature, pressures, and amounts of mineral contents in circulating liquids, different formation took place in the same cavity as it was being formed into what we call an agate.

First, a layer of agate may have formed then conditions changed and a layer of quartz crystals developed. Then, perhaps, another layer of agate, and so on. We have in this case, alternating bands of agate and crystal which forms such a pleasing pattern.

The sagenite agate occurred when a cluster of crystals formed in some gas pocket in the basalt. These may form as clusters or simple crystals, sometimes coarse, some fine as hairs, depending on the type of variety of crystal. After the crystals formed, circulating liquids then completely filled the cavity and surrounded the crystal with agate.

The tube agate is another variety of Lake Superior Agate. While there was no circulating action taking place there was enough moisture from seepage to form a dripping action from the ceiling, and form a cluster of agate stalactites, much like those found in a cave. Again, silica circulated in and out, completed the agate and completely surrounded the cluster of stalactites.

Another fairly common type of agate is the onyx or waterlevel agate. In this case, liquid seeped into the cavity, but only enough quantity to lie motionless for a period of time and eventually form a straight band or layer. Layer after layer was built up until the cavity was filled. In many cases, after several layers were built up, enough additional liquid entered so that the circulating motion began and we then had a fortification pattern formed on top of the layers of agate.

Eye agates have long been a favorite. They are not plentiful by any means. They differ from the tube agate in that they usually appear on the surface of the agate like a saucer or half-ball and do not penetrate deeply in the agate as do the

tubes. They may have formed as balls of moisture on cavity walls. They never collected enough moisture to start dripping or running. Eventually, they jelled and hardened with later circulating liquids coming in and completing the agate.

Jasper agates, or as many rockhounds say, jasp agates, are usually opaque except for agate patterns often mixed in. Many have patches of black hematite, or often the patterns are plume-like. They are a very solid agate, quite free from fractures.

One of the most neglected of the Lake Superior agates is the moss agate, which is passed up by many, not recognized by others. No two patterns alike are found and the variety seems endless. They are relatively free of fractures and can run larger in size than other agate types. It is possible to see several different types formed in a single agate. Variegated agate is one of the most interesting of the types with an endless variety of combinations.

Some of the other rare types of Lake Superior agates include the very rare plume agate, agate-within-agate, agate with an amethyst quartz center, radiating out from a tube pattern, shadow agate which must be tilted back and forth to see movement of the shadow ruin agate, with its pattern of breaks, faulted agate in which the series of bands were broken apart and the space between again filled in with agate, and the geode agate.

Most agates range in size from less than an inch up to  $\frac{3}{4}$  pound. Anything over  $\frac{1}{2}$  pound is considered rare and over two pounds is considered very rare. Every type of agate is found in the Lake Superior agate, although some types are quite rare. The amazing thing is that all of these various types may be found in any one spot being hunted. Gravel pits are the prime target for the agate hunter, although they are found wherever gravel or rocks are to be found, such as lakeshores, riverbeds, gravel roads, new graded roads and even farmers' fields.

*Via Rock Pickings 11/03; via The Kettle Krier 10/03; via Rockhound news 05/01*

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## SAVE COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS

### SIERRA NEVADA GLACIERS RETREATING RAPIDLY

A new survey of glaciers in the Sierra Nevada shows the thick slabs of ice that have frosted many of the state's high peaks for the last thousand years are shrinking dramatically and in some cases, disappearing altogether.

Darwin Glacier near Bishop California is an estimated 50 to 100 feet thinner today than it was in historical photos from the early 1900s. The Lyell Glacier off the John Muir Trail in Yosemite National Park also is retreating.

Seven Sierra Nevada glaciers that were surveyed and re-photographed over this last summer are all smaller than they were a century ago. The mountain range is home to most of the states glaciers.

There have been lots of melt reported a research ecologist with the U.S. Geological Survey based at Sequoia national Park. At the same time, a few glaciers to the north, atop Mount Shasta are growing – an unexpected development.

Most ice worldwide has retreated in the past 100 years as the planet has recovered from a bout of cooling called the Little Ice Age, which ended around 1850.

Many experts also suspect that transformation of the glaciers may be accelerating as the planet warms in response to the human production of greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide.

*Via Rock Pickings 11/03; via Los Angeles Times/Indianapolis Star 10/03*