

# CHIP & LICK



Official Publication of the Miami Valley Mineral and Gem Club

VOLUME 48, NUMBER 8

50th Year Anniversary

OCTOBER, 2002



**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.**

**2002 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	372-9022
Trustee (2002)	John Mercer	322-1768
Trustee (2003)	Ginny Bignell	866-8789
Trustee (2004)	Udean Babyak	322-0443

**2002 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	Matt Kromphardt	878-3348
MWF Liaison	Hugh Fulton	322-1021
Photographer	Hugh Fulton	322-1021
Program	Andreas Ruben	390-2081
Refreshment	Becky Dobbs	372-9022
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



**OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS**

Al Cowan Oct. 5  
 Matt Kromphardt Oct. 9  
 Paul Smith Oct. 14

**OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES**

Fay & al Cowan Oct. 1  
 Elsie & Paul Smith Oct. 30



Spring Banquet... April 13, 2002    Swap Date...June 8-9 2002    Show Date...October 5-6, 2002

## President's Message

October already can you believe it? Of course it's still September as I write this message but the show is looming ever closer and it is scary. I know this too shall pass. I enjoy the show but this is one weekend I like to see over. Allen Cowan called; he will be here Friday to help set up and Jack Lahr stopped by, he intends to be here on Saturday. The big worries are customers. Have it and they will come! I hope so.

So sorry to hear John Mercer is selling his collection. I know this is something all of us have to keep in mind. John has been such a good member for so long, he has held several offices. When you needed someone to help or chair something, you could count on John. I just hope I can get around like Johnny when I'm in my nineties.

I didn't know anything about a gold panning trip Phil; you could have borrowed a couple of my gold pans. They sure could have used the experience.

I want to thank the Dayton club for pushing our show and any other clubs who gave us mention in their bulletins.

If it's October 2002 then it's been 50 years since that group of rockhounds met with James Riley as chairman. Jim had a rock shop in Phoneton, Ohio. At this meeting the club was officially organized and established a permanent meeting time and place - the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month, at the Fairborn YMCA. Some things stay the same; we still meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday.

Hey things are looking up! I hear we may get some new members!

Hugh Fulton



## MIAMI VALLEY MINERAL & GEM CLUB MINUTES - 9 SEPTEMBER 2002

Hugh Fulton opened the meeting. Udean Babyak read a passage entitled, "In God We Trust", for our devotions. The minutes were approved as corrected. The treasurer's report for June, July, and August was approved as well as the financial report for the Annual Swap.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Dave Perry, the **LIBRARIAN** reported that the new issue of the Lapidary Journal had arrived. Joyce Perry reported that the **SUNSHINE COMMITTEE** had send cards to Russ Bignell and Beth Stewart. Joyce also told us that Jane Freese is not well. Becky Dobbs, out **EDITOR** told us that the 50-Year Book is finished and will be available at our upcoming show. Her job would be much easier if members would provide her with more articles. Andreas Ruben was detained in Germany so the **PROGRAM** at the October meeting will be, "The Quartz Family of Rocks", the program we had planned to have at this meeting.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Joyce Perry reported that we had received a communication from the State of Ohio informing us that we need to renew our registration as a corporation and that the matter had been cared for. The remainder of our correspondence consisted of publications and announcements of rock club events. Hugh Fulton and Becky Dobbs gave us information about the communications they had received and placed the material on the table for members to examine.

Hugh Fulton reported on the **SWAP**. It was profitable for both the Lions Club and us although no craft dealers participated this year.

Preparations for the **SHOW** are moving along. The Lions Club building will be open at 1:00 on Friday and club members are needed to help with the set up on that day. Material for grab bags is

needed and that should be brought on Friday. We are encouraged to stay after the end of the meeting and address announcement cards for the show.

**OLD BUSINESS:** It was reported that Andreas Ruben secured new signs to publicize our Swap and that they were appreciated.

**NEW BUSINESS:** A nominating committee consisting of Kay Faux, Udean and Jim Babyak was appointed and asked to report at the October meeting. Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> was chosen as the date for our Christmas Party. Udean Babyak will see if we can use the Tapestry and Tales Tea Room again.

The meeting adjourned and the club enjoyed refreshments and a program on Calcite.

Richard Faux, Recording Secretary



**October Program:  
The Quartz Family**

**November Program:  
Elections**



**November  
Article Display Refreshments**

**Joyce & Dave Perry  
Marie & Ed Shinabarger**



## UPCOMING SHOWS & EVENTS:

- OCTOBER 11-13, DAYTON, OH  
TREASURES OF THE EARTH GEM & JEWELRY SHOW  
HARA ARENA COMPLEX; 4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL FALL SHOW
- OCTOBER 18-20, FORT WAYNE, IN  
41<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL GEM-MINERAL-FOSSIL-JEWELRY-LAPIDARY ARTS  
2002 SHOW; ALLEN COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS;  
FRI 10-8; SAT 10-8; SUN 10-5
- OCTOBER 19-20, CLIO, MI  
FLINT ROCK & GEM CLUB SHOW, CARTER MIDDLE SCHOOL,  
300 UPLAND DR. SAT 9-7; SUN 9-5
- OCTOBER 26-27, CUYAHOGA FALLS, OH  
"GEMBOREE", SUMMIT LAPIDARY CLUB AND AKRON MINERAL  
SOCIETY; EMIDIO & SONS EXPO CENTER, 48 E BATH RD.  
SAT 10-7; SUN 10-6
- OCTOBER 26-27, EVANSVILLE, IN  
EVANSVILLE LAPIDARY SOCIETY SHOW, WASHINGTON  
SQUARE MALL, GREEN RIVER RD & WASHINGTON AVE.  
SAT 10-9; SUN 12-5 FREE.
- OCTOBER 25-27, MASON, MI  
38<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GEM & MINERAL SHOW SPONSORED BY  
CENTRAL MICHIGAN LAPIDARY & MINERAL SOCIETY; INGHAM  
CO. FAIRGROUNDS; FRI 6-9; SAT 10-7 SUN 11-5 ADM.
- OCTOBER 26-27, SOMERSET, PA  
APPALACHIAN GEM & MINERAL CLUB; MASONIC TEMPLE, MASONIC  
TEMPLE ROAD (RTE. 601 NORTH); CONTACT JOHN KESTERMONT  
(814) 487-7866
- NOVEMBER 1-3, CLEVELAND, OH  
MICROMINERAL SOCIETY OF CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF  
NATURAL HISTORY PRESENTS THE MICROMINERAL  
SYMPOSIUM AT THE MUSEUM, 1 WADE OVAL. FEE AND  
REGISTRATION REQUIRED. INFORMATION: RICHARD GREEN  
330-929-2395
- NOVEMBER 2-3, EXTON, PA  
33<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL SHOW, TUSCARORA LAPIDARY SOCIETY; CFS, THE  
SCHOOL AT CHURCH FARM, BUS. RTE. 30 AND RTE 202; CONTACT  
DON SCHWARZKOPF (215)674-0405;  
GEMARAMA@LAPIDARY.ORG; WWW.LAPIDARY.ORG
- NOVEMBER 16-17, NEWARK, OH  
"EARTH'S TREASURES"; THE LICKING COUNTY ROCK & MINERAL  
SOCIETY, INC. TEHERAN GROTTA BLDG., ON WATER WORKS RD.  
SAT 9-6, SUN 10-5

## FEDERATION NEWS

It's time to submit club information for the 2003 MWF Directory. The form is available on the cover of the October issue of the MWF Newsletter. Dues and insurance are due by January 15, 2003.



In the MWF Newsletter there is a book report "An Eye for Gold" by Sarah Andrews and "Rex Appeal" by Peter Larson.  
*Via MWF Newsletter 10/02*



The winners of the AFMS Programs are: Education Class "Datolite: Crystals, Diversity and Color" by Wayne Sukow, field trip class "In Search of South Dakota's Fairburn Agate" by Doug Moore and Don Kelman in the Special Class "Recovery of the Hyde Park Mastodon" by Jay Tinker. Anyone interested in entering the 2003 Program Competition can contact your Regional Librarian or AFMS Program Competition Coordinator Marge Collins (269)695-4313 or [margaret@gtm.net](mailto:margaret@gtm.net) for information or suggestions.

The October AFMS Newsletter contains an article on tax exemption that clubs can apply for.

In his last message as AFMS President, Steve Weinberger thanks all of the very dedicated AFMS officers, committee chairs and committee members for their help in the accomplishments of the past year.

The new ad-hoc Collecting Site Committee will be looking into the feasibility of the AFMS owning or leasing land on which club members can collect. The Lewis and Clark Committee have set its schedule for the completion of its project. The final product will be for the general

public of all ages, not just for rockhounds. Look for more in the upcoming year.

The drawing for the "Dare Devil" Faceted Stone was held at the AFMS/NFMS combined Convention and Show in Port Townsend, WA July 20. The winning ticket was from a donation by John Baumler of New York State. The generous contributions to the AFMS Scholarship Foundation in this single fund raising effort added an additional \$5,766.00 to the trust account. Income from this account is used for making the Foundations educational grants.

AFMS Rockhound of the Year - from the Midwest Federation: The Driftless Area Gem & Mineral Club of Tomah, WI honored Marjorie and Howard Niles. The Greater Cincinnati Lapidary & Faceting Society honored Fred Williams; and the Cincinnati Mineral Society selected Jim & Judy Budnik as their Rockhounds of the year. Congratulations to you all.

*Via AFMS Newsletter 10/02*



## THE LIBRARY DISPLAY

By Hugh Fulton

I think this year marks the 25<sup>th</sup> year I have placed a display in the Clark County Public Library. Each year, with the display of what might be seen at the show, I place flyers and handouts like the ones at the show, i.e. guides to the geology along Interstate 70, etc. or flint, that are provided by the Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources.

Each year some one or two interesting things happen. This year the most interesting so far is the telephone call from a lady asking me if I would be interested in some steinkerns. She had seen the display in the library and she is downsizing since the death of her husband. Ok, so what is a steinkern?

The lady and her husband were beachcombing in March of 1997. At this time the state was pumping sand in from offshore to renew the beaches. They were finding things that one fellow said were loggerhead turtle heads that had petrified and that they were thousands of years old.

Well, this lady wasn't buying that and began to find out just what she had found. Most agencies did not even respond to her letters. She didn't give up; she sent a couple to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.

The National Museum of Natural History responded. Thanks to Raymond T. Rye II, a museum Specialist with the Department of Paleobiology.

We learn "They are steinkerns of venerid clams, and probably were eroded from a submarine outcrop of the Peedee Formation, a rock unit that formed during the late Cretaceous Period of geologic time." This would make them over 65 million years old.

Steinkern forms after the animal dies and the soft parts inside the shell rot, creating an empty chamber. After the muscles decay, the two valves of the shell gape somewhat. During burial, fine sediment can enter the cavity between the two valves. Later if the shell is completely dissolved by acid-rich ground water, this filling or steinkern, can pop free of the surrounding rock matrix.

A Steinkern is an internal mold and is an important type of fossil preservation, because its surface is an impression of the internal surface of the two valves of the original shell.

And now we know what a steinkern is, because of this lady's persistence. And I'll bet we might have one or two of some kind in our collections, for example, the "beef hearts" or *Megalomus* found in Silurian rocks in Ohio.

P.S. This kind lady would like to have them passed out to others. So be sure to pick out your own steinkern and tell me what you see as you hold it up and look it over. Do you see how that fellow thought they were petrified turtleheads? Or do you see what I see?



A piece of blackboard chalk absorbs moisture in your jewelry box and prevents tarnish. Keep the box tightly sealed. *Via The Prospector Newsletter 09/02*



### **Congratulations Club Members!**

Congratulations are in order!

The following received awards in the MWF in the 2002 Bulletin Editors Contest.

The Chip & Lick received Honorable Mention in the Small Bulletin category.

Matt Kromphardt received Honorable Mention Original Adult Article for "What Rockhounding Means to Me."

Kay Faux received Honorable Mention Original Adult Article for "October Field Trip."

Hugh Fulton received Honorable Mention Original Adult Article for "Copper."

Phillip Ruben - age 11 - received 4<sup>th</sup> Place - Junior Articles (age under 12) for "The Bingham Copper Mine."

Well done! Thank You to the MWF Bulletin judging committee.



Everyone has a photographic memory. Some just don't have film!

From Strata Data 05/02 *Via Calgary Lapidary Journal 04/02*

### Crystal Peculiarities

A crystal is one of the strangest objects in nature. It is not alive and yet it grows. It attracts the same kind of materials, of which it is composed, arranges them with complete accuracy and geometrical form, cements the parts and holds the crystals together.

If a crystal is placed in a liquid or a vapor containing the same ingredients as it is, it immediately begins the process of accumulation. A broken crystal, placed in a bath of liquid crystal, will repair the broken parts until they become a perfect crystal providing, of course, that other conditions are favorable for crystal growth.

There is no limit to the ability of a crystal to repair itself and assure its growth. The process can be seen if viewed under a microscope. It is a remarkable sight. If a crystal has been worn down to practically nothing and placed in a crystalline solution, under proper conditions (heat, etc.), it will immediately form a crystal again.

A crystalline solution, under the microscope, appears to have many dark spots to form, at first standing still, then moving. The movement arranges the dark spots in straight lines like beads. The beads turn to rods and the rods arrange themselves into layers until the crystal is created. This process progresses so rapidly, it is difficult to follow.

*By Myrtle Griffith via The Rocky Reader, 12/91, via The Shield via The prospector Newsletter 09/02*

  
**TIPS & HINTS**

Mineral oil is an excellent cleaner for selenite crystals. It seems to loosen the little tiny particles left, after washing in water, and it brightens them, too. It has several other uses. It is fine for preserving borax crystals from hydration changes. It makes varascite a deeper green, and improves the appearance of fluorites and calcites.

Toothpaste with fluoride formula has the unique characteristic of penetrating stone, ceramics, brick or terra cotta and flushing dirt to the surface, where it can be washed away with water. It was used to restore Etruscan vases by New York's most famous art and antique restorer.

*Via The Prospector Newsletter 09/02*

A jewelers saw is a very handy tool. Tear or cut narrow strips of cloth backed silicon carbide paper. Clamp the ends in your saw, tension up and you have an excellent sander for hard to get at places in silver work or carvings.

*From Strata Data 05/02, via Pebble Prattle via Stone Chat, Spring/02*

Use disposable diapers to protect carvings or minerals in transit. They come with their own fastening tapes and can be used over and over again and are good for cushioning fragile materials.

*From Strata Data 05/02, via the Rockytier via the Cutting Edge 04/02, et al.*

Add a couple of pouches of Know Gelatin during each grit change when tumbling. This keeps the grit in suspension and works better in the culling process. In the final polish, the gelatin acts as a cushion and prevents scratching on delicate stones.

*Via The Flint Gemstones 09/02, via the Coral Geode 09/02, Rock Chipper and the Rock Collector 09/02*



### GET YOUR ROCKHOUND STICKER!

Bright yellow sticker, 3.5 inches in diameter, with diagonal black rock hammer and the work "ROCKHOUND" underneath. Stickers are 50 cents each, for 1 to 59 stickers (minimum order 10 stickers) or 30 cents each for quantities of 100 or more, price includes postage and handling. Make checks payable to Rocky five. Credit Cards OK. Contact Frank Mullaney. 5705 Begonia Dr. San Jose, CA. 95124-6535. Phone 408-266-1791. E-mail: rockyfiv@aol.com

*From The Quarry 10/02, via the Pegmatite 09/02*

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

## SAVE COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS

### **If God Gives you a Cat . . . .**

Whoever said the Creator doesn't have a sense of humor? Dwight Nelson recently told a true story about the pastor of his church.

He had a kitten that climbed up a tree in his backyard and then was afraid to come down. The pastor coaxed, offered warm milk, etc. The kitty would not come down. The tree was not sturdy enough to climb, so the pastor decided if he tied a rope to the tree and his car and drove away so the tree would bend down, he then could reach up and get the kitten. He did all this, checking his progress in the car frequently, and then figured if he went just a little further; the tree would be bent sufficiently for him to reach the kitten. But as he moved a little further forward the rope broke. The tree went 'boooing!' and the kitten sailed through the air out of sight. The pastor felt terrible. He walked all over the neighborhood asking people if they had seen a little kitten. NO! Nobody had seen a stray kitten. So he prayed, "Lord I commit this kitten to your keeping," and went about his business.

A few days later he was at the grocery store, and met one of his church members. He happened to look into her shopping cart and was amazed to see cat food. Now this woman was a cat hater and everyone knew it, so he asked her, "Why are you buying cat food when you hate cats so much?"

She replied, "You won't believe this," and told him how her little girl had been begging for a cat, but she kept refusing. Then a few days before, the child had begged again, so the mom finally told her little girl, "Well if God gives you a cat, I'll let you keep it."

She told the pastor, "I watched my child go out in the yard, get on her knees, and ask God for a cat. And really, pastor, you won't believe this, but I saw it with my own eyes. A kitten suddenly came flying out of the blue sky, with its paws outspread, and landed right in front of her."

Never underestimate the Power of God!

*Via The Flint Gemstones 09/02 (from Frank & Pat Steffey)*