

CHIP & LICK



Official Publication of the Miami Valley Mineral and Gem Club

VOLUME 48, NUMBER 7

SEPTEMBER, 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!

EDITOR: Becky Dobbs
2792 Greystoke Dr.
Xenia, OH 45385

WEB SITE: www.mvmgc.org

**MATERIAL IN THIS BULLETIN MAY BE COPIED PROVIDED FULL
CREDIT IS GIVEN TO THE AUTHOR AND TO THE BULLETIN.**

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



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Marie Shinabarger	Sep 7
Becky Dobbs	Sep 14
Wilda Kromphardt	Sep 23
Glenn Russell	Sep 28

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Marie & Ed Shinabarger	Sep 5
Kay & Dick Faux	Sep 30



President's Message

Welcome back and Happy Grandparents Day. I hope you have all made it through the long hot summer. It sure has been hot, but long? Seemed to pass so fast we just had the Swap and now are you ready for the big show as we start our 50 years as a club.

About the Swap, we had plenty of help setting up the shelter, only one mishap, discovered after it was up the center piece was not correctly installed and had to be taken apart to straighten poles. Only seven dealers showed up and no crafters. The weather was beautiful Saturday after weeks of rain. Sunday was nice too, but visitors must have stayed home to catch up with yard work. We started tearing down early and forgot how in the rush to beat the rain. We got everything loaded but the signs before the rain hit. My son-in-law Steve and I were drenched to the skin taking down the signs. The next day I spent drying rocks and boxes, etc.

If you were at the Swap, it may have seemed I was always talking to some family member. I think there were 18 present at some time during the weekend. The club did all right, as did the Lions Club. However the crafts part did not happen. Not one crafter was present. No one from the Lions pushed it. It was suggested we move the Swap to August to be held in conjunction with a town-wide garage sale.

Did you know a double A, AL baseball team is called the Midland Rockhounds? Bet they are not looking for a strike.

Russ Bignell underwent a rare operation (only 2nd done in this area) successfully in July. Last I heard he was doing fine. Hope he and Ginny are present today.

Much to do today preparing for the Show and upcoming elections. Yes, it's that time again.

Hugh Fulton



The decision to "polish a little more" will result in a new set of major scratches. *Via The Chiseler 06/02, via The Rockpile 05/02 via Mel Albright AFMS Safety Chairman*

UPCOMING SHOWS & EVENTS:

- SEPTEMBER 21-22, 2002 CLARKSVILLE, IN
8TH ANNUAL SHOW, "FALLS FOSSIL FESTIVAL", CLARKSVILLE RIVERFRONT FOUNDATION; FALLS OF THE OHIO STATE PARK. SAT 907; SUN 10-5
- OCTOBER 5-6, 2002, FAIRBORN, OH
MIAMI VALLEY MINERAL AND GEM CLUB 45TH ANNUAL SHOW LION'S DEN, 1043 RONA PARKWAY DR., SAT 10-6; SUN 10-5
- 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
- NOVEMBER 16-17, NEWARK, OH
"EARTH'S TREASURES"; THE LICKING COUNTY ROCK & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC. TEHERAN GROTTO BLDG., ON WATER WORKS RD. SAT 9-6, SUN 10-5



September Program: Minerals on-line

October Program: The Quartz Family



FIELD TRIP

When: September 21, 2002
Where: Sylvania Fossil Park

We will visit Sylvania Fossil Park to collect trilobite. The cost is \$5.00 per carload. Meet at Brukner Nature Center, 5995 Horseshoe Bend Rd., Troy, OH at 8 AM to car pool. Call Neil Reeder 937-773-0595 if you are going. For more information, call Gary Madrzykowski 419-882-8313



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

Via Strata Data 05/02, via Calgary Lapidary Journal 04/02

FEDERATION NEWS



The MWF Convention & Show will be in Springfield, IL on October 4-6, hosted by the Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society of Springfield, IL, at the Illinois State Fairgrounds. Clubs should plan to send a delegate to conduct the business of the MWF.

A new club has been added to the Federation. Please welcome the OSAGE ROCK & MINERAL CLUB, located in Osage Beach, Missouri. They were accepted to membership on April 8 of this year, and we are extremely proud and happy they have elected to join us. Please welcome them to the federation.

Mary Hanning, MWF Secretary, passed away on Friday July 5, 2002. Mary had been unable to perform her duties for several months. She served as President of the MWF in 1995-96 and as Secretary from 1997 until her illness prevented it in 2002. Sympathy cards may be sent to her husband Glen R. Hanning at RR #1, Box 63, Huntsville, IL 62344. Or email to <mgrocks@adams.net>.

At the AFMS Convention in Port Townsend, WA Marv Starbuck was elected President Elect of the AFMS and will serve as President in 2003-2004. Congratulations to him!

New area code for the MWF office:
1-269-649-1991

Via MWF Newsletter 06/02 & 09/02



Wavellite: Named after Dr. William Wavell, an English physician who discovered it.

Via Rock Pickings 09/02

DUFF'S QUARRY - CLOSED

By Hugh Fulton, MVMGC

The C.E. Duff Quarry in Logan County, OH just north of Huntsville on Route 117 is no longer open to collecting.

This July, son John, his wife and son went with me to find some pyrite crystals. When we went into the office to ask permission to collect the lady told us they could no longer allow anyone, even employees, into the quarry. Employees must have mine safety training before they can work. They are subject to a \$30,000 fine for allowing anyone in without this training. Seems a lady fell on the rock pile this spring. She hurt her ankle and ended up being airlifted out of the quarry by helicopter. The highway was closed for a while, reports were written, etc. The lady was very sorry. The last great, close, available hunting area is now a memory.

Minerals found at Duffs are calcite, pyrite, dolomite, fluorite and sphalerite. It is the pyrite that Duffs Quarry is most noted for, pyrite crystals of unusual form and complex crystal shapes. The dolomite of the quarry includes stromatolite beds. Pyrite and other minerals have mineralized vugs left by the dissolution of gypsum. The pyrite is usually capped by calcite. The calcite deposited after the pyrite, these are the bright well-formed crystals.

Weathering of crystals causes thin surface coatings most commonly gold, deep red, and bluish purple. Iridescent colors are often seen. Some crystals have brown coating, probably goethite and can be removed by soaking in hot oxalic acid if desired.

Pyrite crystallizes in the diploidal symmetry class of the isometric crystal system. The Duff pyrite represents many forms but the most typical is diploid with 24 faces.

Dolomite, another collectable mineral found in vugs, sometimes with pyrite; the white curved saddle-shaped is quite attractive.

Fluorite, not common, usually clear to yellow, sometimes pale purple, sometimes

recognizable shapes can be found where cubes have weathered away.

Calcite is found in most of the pyrite vugs and protects the pyrite. It can be removed by careful use of dilute muriatic acid, but be careful what it does to the dolostone.

Sphalerite is the least found mineral and might not be recognized.

MVMGC members have been fortunate to have access to Duffs for so long. Many field trips to Duffs were to get pyrite to put in grab bags.

Now we will better appreciate our Duff material and bring in some of the yard rocks containing vugs of pyrite, calcite and dolomite.



Panning for Gold

The Cincinnati Mineral Society hosted a field trip on Saturday, July 20, 2002 at Brushy Fork Creek at the intersection of Stonelick Creek, in Clermont County, Ohio. Phil Lind, a member of the Miami Valley Mineral & Gem Club was one of the adventurers who attended. Below is his story. (Ed.)

I've never panned for gold. I'm sort of impulsive when the weekend arrives. I wandered out to the garage and found a 1970's model plastic salad bowl (sort of looks like a gold pan), tweezers, garden shovel, small bottle for gold storage, a big bag of snacks and set out for Brushy Fork Creek. When I arrived Jim and Judy Budnik were at the road getting us to sign in and giving beginners advice. After listening, I wandered down to the creek bed and meant a few more nice folks that were already digging and sweating. There were a couple of people operating a gold sluice (electric and manual drive) The fellows explained how they worked and offered the use of their real gold pans if I wanted. After watching a few minutes and listening to the comments about how warm it was I decide to wade in the water, find a big rock to sit on (in the shade) and try out panning

for myself. I had a great time, but I better keep my day job (just for food and lodging). The whole experience was like being a kid again Crawdads, fish, water spiders, frogs, birds, and one snake (that I saw). There was also a golden retriever from the neighborhood that came to help. Although, I'm not sure of his purpose I think he was trying to make the creek deeper, for his main activity was to wade in the water, put his head under water, find a rock and take it up on the shore. Sometimes he stopped to see if we approved and then returned and retrieved another rock. I guess he was a real rockhound.

THINGS I LEARNED AND REMEMBERED FROM PAST EXPERIENCES:

1. Bring glasses that magnify. If I'm going to look for something the size of a pinhead in a pan of gravel I need them.
2. Everyday is great when you're outdoors enjoying nature. Finding gold, garnets, or other minerals is an extra benefit.
3. You can never have too many snacks and drinks.
4. Daydreaming is good. I could just see some old prospector out in the wilderness panning away.
5. A folding bag chair might be nice if you want to spend a long time having fun without back pain.

Thanks again,
Phil Lind, MVMGC member



FOR SALE

A rock collection covering the last thirty-five years. It consists of flint, blue flint (some Nelly), Montana agate, dinosaur bone, jade, petrified wood, etc. There are well over a thousand pounds of all types of material: cutting, display, tumbled, etc. Call John Mercer for information. (837) 322-1768.



Tid-Bits

- The name crystal is derived from the Greek word Krystallos that came from the Latin word Kryos meaning icy cold. The ancients believed that crystals formed from water, which froze so hard, that it would never melt.
- Ancient Vikings are known to have tested Emeralds by smashing them with a hammer. One can only wonder how many rare and beautiful Emeralds were destroyed by this ignorance.
- The toughest gemstone is actually Jadeite or Jade. Early tools and hammers have been found which were formed from this gem mineral.

Via Dusty Rocks 06/02



White Buffalo turquoise

When discovered in the Dry Creek Mine in Shoshone Indian Reservation near Battle Mountain, Nevada, 1993, the discoverers were not sure what it was. Because of it's hardness, it was decided to have it assayed. Their suspicions proved correct. It was, in fact, white turquoise. It was not until 1996 however, that it was finally made into jewelry.

Turquoise gets its color from the heavy metals in the ground where it forms. Blue turquoise forms where there is copper present (most Arizona turquoise). Green turquoise forms where iron is present (most Nevada turquoise). White turquoise, forms where there are no heavy metals present. This occurrence turns out to be rare. To date no other vein of white turquoise has been found anywhere else. When this vein runs out that will be the last of it.

Via Flint Flashes 03/02 via Rockhound Gazette



The closest distance between two points is always under construction.

Via Dusty Rocks 06/02, via Golden Spike and others.

In Memoriam Capt. John Sinkankas

Born on May 15, 1915 in Patterson, New Jersey, John Sinkankas passed away 88 years later on May 17, 2002, after a brief stay in the hospital.

John was very proud of his 25-year career as a navy flyer (retired Captain); however, he is best remembered for his literary career. He published fifteen books on gems and minerals, as well as numerous articles in various journals. John was a much-requested speaker on these topics, and his world-class library of 13,000 items now resides at the Gemological Institute of America. His monumental work, *Gemology: An Annotated Bibliography*, documented a lifetime of work and offered insight into his immense love of books.

John earned an honorary Doctor of Philosophy from William Patterson College in 1982. Sinkansite was named in his honor in 1984, and in 1988 he received the first individual Carnegie Mineralogical Award. He was a bookbinder, artist, lapidary, historian and always a raconteur. In short, John Sinkankas was a Renaissance man who had a tremendous impact on everyone he met.

He is survived by Marge, his wife of 62 years and their four children - two sons and two daughters. He will be missed by all who knew him.

Roger Merk

From the Pegmatite June-July-August 2002



TIPS & HINTS

To cut unlined Obsidian, first immerse in water. Hold it up and look at it against the sunlight while turning it. You will see a point where the coloration is the brightest. Cut parallel to that point.

Via Dusty Rocks 06/02, via Golden Spike and others.



MVMGC 45th Annual Show

October 5 - 6, 2002



Set up at Lions Den, Friday Oct. 4

1:00 PM all members able

Show hours: Saturday 10 AM - 6 PM

Sunday 10 AM - 5 PM

REGISTRATION DESK

MABEL HUSTED & JANE FREESE
MARIE SHINABARGER
KAY FAUX

BECKY DOBBS & KAREN HALL
UDEAN BABYAK
JANICE ROGERS

GRAB BATS AND DOOR PRIZES

JOYCE PERRY
VIRGINIA BIGNELL

KATRIN RUBEN
KIMBERLY

WHEEL OF FORTUNE

GLENN RUSSELL
RUSS BIGNELL

PHILIPP RUBEN
PHILIP LIND

SILENT AUCTION

JOHN MERCER
ALLEN COWAN
DAVE PERRY

EMORY STEWART
ANDRES RUBEN
BRIAN ROGERS

WORK SHOP

PLEASE IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING YOU CAN SET UP, PLEASE DO SO

PUBLICITY TEAR DOWN AND CLEAN UP
ALL MEMBERS OF THE MVMGC

NEED DOOR PRIZES, GRAB BAGS, ITEMS FOR THE WHEEL AND SILENT AUCTION
MAKE YOUR SHOW A SUCCESS. PARTICIPATE, HELP WHERE NEEDED

THANK YOU

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

SAVE COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS

PENNIES

I found a penny today
Just laying on the ground,
But it's not just a penny
This little coin I've found.

Found pennies come from heaven
That's what my Grandpa told me,
He said Angels toss them down
Oh, how I loved that story.

He said when an Angel misses you
They toss a penny down,
Sometimes just to cheer you up
To make a smile out of your frown,

So don't pass by that penny
When you're feeling blue,
It may be a penny from heaven
That an Angel's tossed to you.

*Submitted by MVMGC member Allen Cowan - via a local senior's
retirement center Gravenhurst, Ontario, Canada. Author unknown*