

# **SHOW-ME ROCKHOUNDS**

MAY 2007 NEWSLETTER

Dues are \$10.00 per family and \$5.00 for individual memberships. Show-Me Rockhounds is a non-profit organization affiliated with the Association of Earth Science Clubs of Greater Kansas City, Inc. and the Mid-West Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Monthly club meetings (Now on Saturday morning from 11:15am-12:15pm are at the Plaza Library in the Large meeting room. Our purpose is to further the study and awareness of the Earth Sciences amongst our membership and the public.

**OFFICERS:** Martin Mueller, President; Rolland Smith Vice-President Sharon Penner, Treasurer; Secretary & newsletter, Carol Ferguson.

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:**

The world is turning green and no more frost expected: May is upon us.

Plants are beginning to carpet the ground as waves of spring wash across the land like a rising tide with creatures large and small coming out from winter's grip. From rock hounds to wood ticks: the fields and forests; meadows and mine dumps are once again teeming with life.

The world of fossil hunting has been in the news again. From Australia's largest dinosaur, to the Kansas City ammonites found by our club members: fossils are getting attention some with dire predictions for global warming and others because they are superlative, largest, fastest, carnivorous, or in the Kansas City area the most common. What is your favorite local fossil?

We have a good list to pick from:

- ( ) Crinoids
- ( ) Bryozoans
- ( ) Brachiopods
- ( ) Corals
- ( ) Foraminifera
- ( ) Conodonts
- ( ) Gastropods
- ( ) Cephalopods
- ( ) Fish bits
- ( ) Ferns and other Plants
- ( ) the very rare Shark teeth
- ( ) or \_\_\_\_\_?

Again as we have our May meeting and the weather is nice we will go to collect around town and we could go as far as Topeka before the price of gas goes much higher. I will be bringing the Wyoming Geologic map to the meeting. I hope to see you there. Martin Mueller

## **Calendar:**

**May 4-5** Annual Swap McPherson, KS 4-H Fairgrounds Woodside & Hickory Contact Marvin at 620-241-7003 or [swederocker@mpks.net](mailto:swederocker@mpks.net) or Jim at 620-241-2433.

**May 19, 2007 Saturday, 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM Show-Me Rockhounds Plaza Library in Large Meeting Room—Be there!**

**May 18-19** Ellinwood Swap in Ellinwood, KS City Park call 620-564-3300 for info.

**June 8-10** Missouri Mines Annual Swap Park Hills, MO @ the Historic Missouri Mines Museum

**June 7-10** The AMFS/RMFMS show Roswell Civic Center in Roswell, NM

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## **APRIL MEETING MINUTES:**

No minutes as we did not have a meeting but there was a field trip.

## **FIELD TRIP REPORT.....Sharon Penner**

There were quite a few people on this field trip. Among the attendees were Martin & Charlie, David Reed, Frank Rockers, Gayleen Smith, Jerry & Robin Creager, Bruce & Mollie Stinemetz, Mark Sherwood, Stu Traxler, Sharon Penner, a man from St Louis and several others whose names I don't know. The temperatures were in the 80's. It was a perfect day for rock hunting. We got off to a bit of a slow start because the man who was supposed to let us in didn't have the key to the gate. Rockhounds were not deterred by the locked gate. Everyone with 4-wheel drive and brave souls with cars went around the gate. Those of us not so brave got rides. No broken axles reported. A key was finally obtained and the gate was opened a couple of hours later.

Although there was a lot of thorny brush to fight through to get to the dumps, I found some nice dolomite as well as hemimorphite, a weathering product of sphalerite with a couple of small galena and calcite crystals and one specimen with a couple of small green balls. I don't know what these are. I also found a nice brachiopod specimen.

Martin & Charlie grilled hamburgers and provided a variety of cheese, chips, and drinks for lunch for everyone. They even set up a portable gazebo tent to sit under. Lunch was quite a relief from climbing through all the brush and being out in the sun for several hours. Many thanks to the Muellers for going to such an effort!

**ROCKHOUND GARAGE  
SALE**

**MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND**

**FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY  
MONDAY**

**MAY 25, 26, 27 & 28<sup>TH</sup>**

**PRE-VIEW & SALE  
FOR ROCKHOUNDS ONLY  
HAPPY HOUR ( 4PM - ?? )  
THURSDAY MAY 24  
SNACKS AND DRINKS PROVIDED**

**Carol Ferguson  
3912 queen ridge  
Independence, mo  
816-231-2490**

**Take I-70 East to Lees Summit Rd (see the Cracker Barrel) come north  
(Left) on Lees Summit Rd to 39<sup>th</sup> St and go west (Left) 2 blocks to Queen  
Ridge -turn left onto Queen Ridge -  
4<sup>th</sup> house on the right side of the street.**

### **Awesome vacation report:**

This editor spent a week in the Sante Fe, New Mexico area a couple of weeks ago. Our group toured the Taos Pueblo, the Bandolier National Monument, The Santuario de Chimayo, the Loretto Chapel and the wonderful spiral staircase, the oldest adobe building and church, Old Town Albuquerque, the Plazas of Taos and Sante Fe, the Georgia O'Keefe art gallery and museum, and the Rio Grande Gorge and Bridge and a large variety of upscale art galleries and shops and restaurants too numerous to mention. The final day of our trip was the "Gathering of Nations" on Friday April 27 at the University of New Mexico. This gathering included Native Americans from all over the United States and Canada. It was a quite the experience. THE highlight of this day for me was when I actually met and shook hands with 9 gentlemen who were the original Navajo "code talkers" in World War II. These men were participating in a book signing event and with the purchase of one of the 3 books available—you also were able to have the book autographed by these living legends and get photos. Maybe you have seen the movie with Nicolas Cage called "Windtalkers"? The way I understand it is that the Navajo people were recruited by the Army during WWII to use their unique language as code for our troops. This language "code" was unbreakable by the enemy. AWESOME!