

SHOW-ME ROCKHOUNDS

DECEMBER 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 the 3rd Saturday 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.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Here we are at the end of one year and looking forward: Starting with our lunch and party at the Flea Market burger "palace" and the club's plans for programs covering the first quarter of next year.

After our last meeting; a handful of us went out to see the road work on 87th Street at the Firemen's Memorial. David Reed found most of a crinoid calyx with some of the arms. Three pieces were found for that one and another calyx plate from a much larger crinoid, two handy projects for a small program.

This is the season for working on your displays. The kitchen table provides a good horizontal work area with one consideration to remember. A soft pad to protect the specimen; this could be several layers of newspaper, a desk blotter, a mouse pad, or anything else that will keep your specimen from damage if dropped. Once your work space is covered, and you have the bases next to you, then it is the mounting compound to decide upon. I like several options. The poster putty you can find at any office supply store is the most used temporary mounting media and it may hold a specimen in place for years. The most common for permanent mounting is hot glue, yet I favor the new polymer clays. Polymer clay adds an extra step in its need to be baked, still the color can be made to compliment the specimen and it can be shaped where hot glue can't be.

Well time is flying and I've got to run; see you at the party and let me know what you think of polymer clays. Martin

Calendar of Future Events:

Show Me Rockhound Holiday Party Saturday December 15 @ 11:15am @ the Westport Flea Market and Grill—Club contributes \$5 towards your meal. We will meet in the front party room. Bring rock hound related gift for the “game”! Call Sharon @ 913-341-6159 to RSVP ASAP

*******JANUARY 1, 2008 HAPPY NEW YEAR ROCKHOUNDS!!!!*******

Jan 19 @ 11:15am Show Me Rockhounds club Plaza Library Video program

Feb 16th- 12:15pmnote time change** Show Me Rockhound club Plaza Library Neat Video program Sweet Home Mine, Alma Colorado**

March 15- 11:15am Show Me Rockhounds club Plaza Library Discussion program

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NOVEMBER Show Me Rockhounds meeting notes:

Seven Rockhounds attended the meeting along with our guest Terry who has a passion for Fire Agate. The meeting brought to order by Martin. Treasurer reported balance of \$1027.29. Flyers for the Osage Rock and Mineral Club show Sat Nov 24 and the Central MO club show in Columbia in May '08 were passed around. There was no Association report or field trip report. Discussion of future programs revealed there will be a DVD video by Sharon of “The Diamond Story” (January); Carol to have Arnold present his DVD on the Sweet Home Mine of Alma, CO (February); Calcite/colemanite discussion per Marty (March); and hopefully a trip in April to Lawrence to view the fossil collection at KU and also a stop by the KGS offices. Charley suggested we invite other clubs to participate for this trip. Martin informed us that the Hartmans have purchased a large collection of rocks, minerals and fossils that they may make available to local rockhounds to view and purchase. Martin was unsure who’s collection it was originally. The meeting was adjourned and those who wished to were to re-group over there by the 87th street area and do some fossicking.

In Memoriam

Julie Miles, the daughter of our Rockhound friend Judy Oetting, lost her battle with lung cancer in

October. Judy, Our thoughts are with you and your family.

SARDONYX

- The ancient Egyptians carved Sardonyx into scarab beetles, wearing them as a talisman. In the 2nd Century, Egyptian geographer Ptolemy drew a map of India, which included “Sardonyx Gemstones” in the Sardonyx Mountains.
- Roman soldiers went into battle believing they gained courage by wearing Sardonyx engraved with Mars, the god of war. Roman General Publius Cornelius Scipio was known for wearing lots of Sardonyx. The women of ancient Rome regularly wore intaglios and cameos, and Sardonyx was widely used for this purpose.
- Queen Elizabeth I gave the Earl of Essex a ring of Sardonyx set in gold as a keepsake. Wearing a Sardonyx in Renaissance Europe was believed to give eloquence on speakers.
- The Sumerians, Egyptians, Greeks and Romans all used Sardonyx to ward off evil.
- Sardonyx was once used as a protection against plague and the bites and stings of poisonous reptiles and insects. Today, crystal healers use Sardonyx as a stimulant for self-control and protection.
- Folklore says Sardonyx helps promote healthy relationships, and helps to balance heaven and earth. As a result, some married couples credit Sardonyx with the ability to ensure a happy marriage.

Just The Facts

- Sardonyx belongs to the Chalcedony family and is a form of microcrystalline quartz consisting of different colored bands on its basic color. Referred as “striped veins”, these appear in varied patterns and in different colors.
- Sardonyx is traditionally orange red in color with bands that are white and reddish brown. However, it is also available in other colors such as yellow, brown, white, purple, gray, black, pink and green with bands that can occur in gray, black and brown.
- In Sardonyx, no two gemstones have the same banding pattern, making each one unique. The patterns and colors of the veins are irregular and occur naturally but sometimes the band can occur in a circular pattern similar to the pattern of cut tree trunk. While some Sardonyx can display straight lines in a horizontal direction, they are usually irregular in their thickness.
- Sardonyx seldom displays flaws and can occur in large sizes.
- Sardonyx can be faceted into various cuts including ovals, pears, rounds and cabochons, and has been set in Jewelry since antiquity. Sardonyx is also carved as cameos (i.e. a gem carved in relief) and intaglios (i.e. a gem carved in negative relief). Other Sardonyx items include beads and small statues.
- Sardonyx has been mined in India for thousands of years and remains a major source of this ancient gemstone. Other locations include Russia, Pakistan, U.S.A., Germany, Brazil, Mexico, Czechoslovakia and Africa.

Dues are due!!

Please pay Sharon your 2008 dues

Checks payable to: Show Me Rockhound

Send to : SHARON PENNER
4302 W. 93RD TERRACE
PRAIRIE VILLAGE, KS 66207

You're probably a practicing rockhound if...

You associate the word "saw" with diamonds instead of "wood".

You begin wondering what a complete set of the Mineralogical Record is worth.

When you find out, you actually consider paying it.

You've fabricated a backpack for your dog.

You've installed more than one mineralogical database program on your computer.

The baggage handlers at the airport know you by name and refuse to help with your luggage.

You receive a letter from the county informing you a landfill permit is required to put anymore rocks on your property.

Your Internet home page has pictures of your rocks.

They won't give you time off from work to attend the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show and you go anyway.

You begin fussing because the light strips you installed on your bookshelves aren't full spectrum.

The polished slab on your bola tie is six inches in diameter.

You find yourself compelled to examine individual rocks in driveway gravel.

You've ever purchased an individual, unfaceted rock, regardless of the price.

You've ever spent more than ten dollars for a book about rocks.