

SHOW-ME ROCKHOUNDS

JULY 2006 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 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:

Hot! Hot! Hot! We're going to be; hot, hot, hot.

Yes we're going to be hot but mostly because its summer, unfortunately. The Fourth of July gave us a few days of relative comfort yet by time we can get away from work to look further a field the heat returns.

Many of our missed opportunities come from lack of communication; in this day and age of the telephone and email, when conversation can be spontaneous to the desire instead of having to wait to see someone or through newsletters and snail mail. I am going to stretch a metaphor. Good fences make good neighbors.

When this phrase was first used it was directed at defining the limits of personal property, then came the move to suburbia, where young families left the extended family to have homes of their own. The fence became the location of the stereotypical gossip wives, sharing both the good and the bad. Now it is our turn and we have a fence that stands neglected. In a "real" time world are we too busy to keep our fence in good repair?

The definition of this fence is that of a boundary of shared interests; the fence where we gather to visit is the monthly club meeting, the newsletters are the posts and the wires are made up of the activities we bring with ourselves. I fervently hope I am not preaching to the choir because the Show-Me Rock Hounds has new members that are literate and Carol's work on the newsletter is worth reading. To the new members: when you come to your first meeting and join, just what do you expect? Belonging to a club is defined as an activity, this is a shared responsibility based upon the members being full grown adults. That means visiting, of speaking and sharing, of photos and tales of field trips, more than gracing us with your presence once. Per Rolland the program for July will be on "How fossils form." the November show last year, a fellow came by to let us see a shark jaw he'd found in the shale by the Fireman's Memorial at 71 Highway and 87th Street, now the area is being heavily excavated to improve 87th. Would anyone like to hunt there some weekend? Or does that interfere with your favorite Saturday afternoon TV shows, the "PBA" or reruns of "COPS"?

Dear Lord: will the first weekend of August be appropriate for a long three day trip to Indiana? Bedford is so very far away and my little pickup is having clutch troubles. Will other people be able to go and help make the trip fun, even if the price of gas hits \$4.00 a galleon? Oh Lord: help this lowly rock hound be strong to carry the buckets back to the truck. Thank you for the specimens I've collected in years past, and please help me watch my budget so I can keep on affording to be a rock hound. Amen
Oh yes, P.S. please smile on the annual Association Picnic with it second rock swap. Thank you, Martin

Notes from the June meeting from Sharon: Rolland gave an interesting Power Point presentation about trilobites. I brought a few rocks from the Pea Ridge mine. Martin identified the most questionable specimen which turned out to be specular hematite with feldspar and hornblende. I also found actinolite and non-gem quality epidote, and a very pretty specimen with pyrite on magnetite. The people present at the meeting were Frank, Gayleen, Stu, Me, Martin and Rolland. We will honor the remaining year of the contract with the KC Expo Center so the 2007 Gem show will be at the Expo Center. However, we will be moving after that, to the old location down on Front Street, which was completely remodeled by the Metropolitan Junior College system. We are not to say anything to the Expo Center about our likely move for 2008. I updated the picnic flyer with the new date. The Association picnic will be in August and the Show Me club will host the club swap. More details at the July meeting. Be there!

Calendar of Events:

July meeting July 18 @ 7pm at the Plaza Library large meeting room.

August 12-13 9am-5pm Ozark Mountain Gem & Mineral Show Finley River Park @ 1075 N. Riverside RD Eddie Maples 417-725-3001 or Floyd Carpenter @ 417-823-3800

August 15 Show Me Rockhounds @ 7pm at the Plaza Library

Aug. 19-20 Greater St Louis Association of Earth Sciences Show @ St Charles Convention Center 1001 Veterans Memorial Pkwy; St. Charles, MO 10am-6pm

Aug. 27 Association Picnic Antioch Park FUN FOOD FELLOWSHIP SWAP!

Sept 15-17 Denver Gem & Mineral & Fossil Show; Denver Merchandise Mart 451 E. 58th Ave www.denvermineralshow.com for more information

Sept 15-17 Lincoln Swap in Lincoln, MO at the City Park for more info call Linville Harms at 660-827-4143---Mozarkite Field trips!

Sept 23-24 Tri-State Gem & Mineral Annual Swap Joplin Museum Complex in Schifferdecker Park. Call 417-623-1180 for more information.

Oct 7-8 Omaha, Nebraska Gem & Mineral Show Westside Community Center @ 108th & Grover St in Omaha; call Tim @402-397-9606 or www.nerockgem.org

Oct 14-15 Topeka Show in Topeka, KS @ Kansas ExpoCenter 17th & Topeka Blvd email for more info Rock2plate@aol.com

Oct 28-29 Tulsa Gem & Mineral Show Expo Center Harvard & Yale on 21st St Richard Jaeger 918-481-0249 or Rjgrsci@aol.com

Ode to an aging Rockhound
by Delores E. Rose from G. I. Nuggets,
Dec. 04 First Place AFMS Adult Poetry

Oh, to have the enthusiasm I had then,
The wonder of a polished stone
Or my first gift of fossil bone,
When I was just a rockhound of ten.

Oh, to have the energy I had aplenty,

To hunt for agates through the day.
And carry my bag all the way.
When I was a rockhound of twenty.

Oh, to have been able to dig and get dirty,
Fossils to find in our Badlands,
Scrounging in mud and sifting sands.
When I was a rockhound of thirty.

Oh, to have the adventure of feeling sporty,
My trusty hammer, pick and awl.
Shale split trilobites...what a haul!
When I was a rockhound of forty.

Oh, but today my life is not very nifty
With pains in the knees and shoulder.
And stiff hands are getting older,
Now that I am a rockhound of fifty.

Oh, but my future hunting may be quite a chore,
But I shall cherish my treasures
For the memories and pleasures,
When I am a rockhound of sixty or more.



MERCURY FILLED NECKLACES FROM MEXICO MUCHO DANGEROUS!

In Mexico, necklaces sold as gifts at flea markets and shops can be causing dangerous mercury spills. So says an article written for the Central City, Colorado newspaper, entitled "To Your Good Health" by Peggy Rothe, R.N.

These popular necklaces are adorned with hollow glass pendants that contain mercury. The mercury looks like a silvery clump of liquid rolling around inside the hollow glass pendant. These glass pendants come in many shapes, some resembling milk bottles, chile peppers, saber teeth, or even hearts.

Mercury is a toxic liquefied metal that, when it vaporizes, may cause chest pains, headaches, coughs, and breathing difficulties. Neurological damage can be caused by long term exposure to mercury vapors. The amount of mercury being found in some of these necklaces, if the glass breaks and the mercury is spilled, requires expert response and cleanup.

When mercury spills, it breaks into tiny pieces and rolls into cracks in floors, or gets trapped in carpet. If it is spilled near heating ducts, it can vaporize quickly and contaminate an entire building. Specialized vacuuming equipment is needed to remove spilled mercury safely. If not cleaned up properly, spreading of the contamination could result. At school spill sites, the level of mercury in the air has exceeded the federal standards of safety.

If you have a necklace containing mercury, or want to dispose of any other mercury, contact the nearest Health Department in your city or community.

... excerpted from the article received from Jim Hurlbut. Glacial Drifter 1998

Editors note: Bet these necklaces or other mercury filled jewelry are now collectors items!

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Check it out! Interesting information from other newsletters:

JADE: To cut jade for a good polish, first grind and polish the jade hunk on all six sides as if it were a cube. One of these faces will polish better than the others. Then cut the material parallel to this face. A little graphite added and mixed with chrome oxide and applied to ordinary buffs makes a wonderful jade polishing agent; this also works for some hard-to-polish agates.

Chrysocolla Chrysocolla usually occurs as a bright green or bluish crust, or as compact, grapelike clusters, or often seen as slender needles. Crystals intergrown with Quartz or with Opal are more commonly used in jewelry. It is found in Copper-mining areas in arid climates, particularly in Chile, England, the former USSR, and Zaire. It is also found in Globe Mine in Gila County, Arizona. "Eilat Stone," which is Chrysocolla intergrown with Malachite and Turquoise, reputedly came from King Solomon's mines. Eyewitness Handbooks of Gem Stones, and Peterson Field Guides Rocks and Minerals.

LET THERE BE FRESH AIR

Purify indoor air with spider (airplane) plants: NASA has found that in 24 hours they will remove formaldehyde, carbon monoxide, and nitrogen dioxide from the air. It has been said that 8-10 plants will purify the air of an average home!

Lepidolite can be called the "Weather Stone" since it will tell us whether the weather is rainy or fair. It is one of the lithia minerals. On fair days, it is usually a pale gray - blue color. If the lepidolite is beside an open window, it will turn to a pink lilac shade if a rainy period threatens. Then, when the air clears, it will change back to gray-blue again, via Gems of the Rogue 12/06(?) via Deming Rock Chips 10/97

Determining Meteorite - One way to tell in the field if your rock is a meteorite is to always carry a piece of emery paper with you. If in doubt, just rub the stone with the paper. If it's a meteorite, it will disclose bright specks of iron and nickel.

Clean rubber rollers on your tumbler with lacquer thinner. It will also prolong life of windshield wiper blades. Keeps them pliable and eliminates drying. Roc Toe, via Breccia 10/97 via Pick & Pack 3/98