

# **SHOW-ME ROCKHOUNDS**

JUNE 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.

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## **CALENDAR OF FUTURE EVENTS:**

**June 8-10 Missouri Mines Annual Swap Park Hills, MO @ the Historic Missouri Mines Museum** off Hwy 32, 1.5mi west of Hwy 67, Fri-Sat, 9-6, Sun 9-5, Lloyd 573-431-2951

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

**JUNE 16 Saturday 11:15—1:15pm SHOW ME ROCKHOUND  
MEETING @ the PLAZA LIBRARY Large meeting room**

**July 7-8** Lake Ozark, Missouri - Osage Rock & Mineral Club. 6th Annual Show. The Resort at Port Arrowhead, 3080 Bagnell Dam Blvd. (Business Hwy.54). Roger Varvel, 417-532-4367 [rvarvel@fidnet.com](mailto:rvarvel@fidnet.com)

**July 21 Saturday 11:15—1:15pm SHOW ME ROCKHOUND  
MEETING @ the PLAZA LIBRARY Large meeting room**

**Aug 17-19** St Louis Gem & Mineral Show Machinists Building (??) St Charles Rock Rd

**August Association picnic??? I am not sure when that will be but per Martin the Rockhounds will have the meeting at the picnic site. More info to follow....stay tuned.**

**Sept. 14-16,** Denver, Colorado. Denver Gem and Mineral Show, Denver Merchandise Mart.

**October 6-7,** Omaha, Nebraska 51st annual show; Nebraska Mineral & Gem Club; Westside Community Center, 108th and Grover St.; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; contact Tim Kautsch, (402)397-9606; [www.nerockgem.org](http://www.nerockgem.org).

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:**

The collecting season is upon us. And as you leave to go out remember to shut off the water in the sink, maybe too the washing machine, make sure your clothes iron is unplugged, maybe the computer too, clear the stove top, and take your keys with you after locking the front door.

We just got back from Lake Kanopolis. The park ranger said that the water level had risen from Wednesday to Saturday morning, some ten feet. The difference in the lake now from that of a year ago, is to say the least mind boggling. The surface is lapping near the tops of the cliffs where we once collected many feet below. Not only are beaches gone, the lower parking lot at Horse Thief Canyon is submerged. Gas costs less in the area currently and for anyone who has been there often, just the sight is worth the trip.

Jerry and Robin are traveling out west. Was that to be from Utah to Idaho? They will have tales to tell at our meeting. And hopefully photographs of grand vistas. Oh yes, and maybe some rocks.

The photos I took of the Granby field trip have been developed; the film was Tri-X so the glorious greens of early spring are rendered in Ansel Adam grays.

The Missouri Mines Rock Swap is a favorite trip with many Kansas City faces in the festivities. The auction they have has brought out some amazing pieces. This is a place to go for mine minerals with old and new specimens to see and swap or buy.

Charley and I are off to New Mexico for the (Rocky Mountain Federation, ed )National Gem and Mineral show. Unfortunately this is at the same time as the Missouri Mines weekend. We'll be coming back the weekend of our meeting, still I don't see getting back that early, maybe late Saturday night. I hope we get back so we can rest on Sunday.

Enjoy the meeting and keep in mind a post meeting field trip.  
Martin Mueller

PS: I got the room for both June and July->11:15 to 1:15pm. Maybe have the Aug. meeting at the Association Picnic? Gotta run Marty

**MAY MEETING MINUTES:**

Nine Rockhounds attended today's meeting. We had 2 very nice surprises! Mark Sherwood was on hand to present his neat program on Raman Spectroscopy AND all the Rockhounds were invited to lunch at Bert and Ritas new home in Lee's Summit.

Sharon provided the treasurers report of \$1196.03. Sharon provided the last Association meeting notes for review and the financials of the March show. It appears there was a show profit this year and our club received \$175 for the club cases. Many Thanks to those folks who put their cases in the show for the public to appreciate!

One thing heard thru the grapevine is that the Association will offer to provide a temporary home to the Greensburg Meteorite. The meteorite has lost its home (due to that devastating tornado)and is apparently sitting on some flat bed trailer at present.

Mark's program on the Raman Spectroscopy was extremely interesting and informative. Mark indicated that this Raman Spectroscopy is new technology for gem and mineral identification. Also can be used to identify powdery mineral substances. This technology is also useful in many fields at present...particularly in Marks' field of Haz Mat investigations. See you in June. Carol

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**SALT PLAINS COLLECTING SITES CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!**

Ten vials of a yellow, liquid, hazardous chemical used during World War II was recently found by a Boy Scout digging for salt crystals. The Scout accidentally broke one of the vials open and experienced coughing, burning eyes and runny nose. Thankfully, his symptoms did not last and he seems to be doing fine now.

Army Safety Specialists were called in to investigate the find at the Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge. The vials have been identified as WWII-era mustard gas samples used during training exercises to prepare soldiers for war. In the early 1940s, the area was used by the military as a practice range. These vials were set on poles and then detonated to train soldiers to identify and handle chemical agents. The disposal protocol of the day was to simply bury them. The vials were found about 3 1/2 feet deep. Park officials have closed off the selenite crystal digging area to the public until further notice. The Corps of Engineers are conducting a thorough investigation of the entire salt flats, which comprises nearly 10,000 acres. Almost 300 acres is utilized from April 1st through Oct. 15th for public digging. Approximately 30,000 visitors come each year to dig for the crystals, including many Boy Scout troops and school groups.

*THE SOONER ROCKOLOGIST 5/07 via Glacial Drifter 5/07*

**MISSISSIPPI VALLEY CHAPTER OF THE FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY JUNE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE MISSOURI MINES MUSEUM AT PARK HILLS, MO ON SATURDAY JUNE 9 AT 8AM AT THE PICNIC TABLES AREA. TOPIC OF DISCUSSION --- THE FALL SEMINAR. Call Bruce for any questions 816-795-1641**