

SHOW-ME ROCKHOUNDS

MARCH 2005 NEWSLETTER

MEETINGS are held at the WESTPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY each month at 7:00pm. The library is located at 201 Westport Rd. KCMO. There is parking on the side and in the rear of the library. 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. Our purpose is to further the study and awareness of the Earth Sciences amongst our membership and the public.

OFFICERS: Marty Mueller President; Vice-President ????
Sharon Penner, Treasurer Secretary & newsletter Carol Ferguson.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Howdy: The field trip down to Granby was a success and if you can follow the trail of multiple memberships, then there were representatives of half of the clubs that belong to the greater association. The first quartz larger than drusy was found with three pieces collected; two at Granby and one at Webb City. The crystals are a centimeter across at the base that gives credence to the reports of quartz in the Tri-state region. We also came back with calcite crystals, some over 10 cm, sphalerite, dolomite, and others of the gangue.

The March show is upon us. Club Cases...Thursday set up; don't compare yourself to the best others can do, just do the best you can. Remember life challenges us with the fact that everything can be done better still it has to be done in order to learn and grow. The Association booth needs donations of time and material; time at the booth to share your knowledge and rockhound enthusiasm, material donations to provide pebble pups low cost specimens for their youthful collections. The Association booth funds the education budget.

I am trying to get to Richard Spur, Oklahoma on the 19th of March and I hope to carry back an update on the Dolese Quarry for the April meeting. If anyone is interested in a long haul trip let me know so I can get permission for you to get on site. The Dolese Quarry has been known for calcite and pyrite crystals, and fossil bones of wee Permian beasts. This trip maybe the last chance to collect there until they start cutting into the next hill in 15 years, it all depends upon how far they have cut back since David Reed and I were last there. The March meeting will have time for us to go over the sights and sounds of the show and I am looking forward to seeing you at both. Martin.

Calendar of Events:

March 11-13 Association of Earth Science Clubs of Kansas City Annual Show.....see the website www.kcgemshow.org--NEED LOTS OF HELP WITH SET UP ON WED AND THURS; ASSOCIATION BOOTH; THE DINNER ON THURS AT 4PM ETC, ETC, ETC, ETC..... CALL BRUCE STINEMETZ AT 816-795-1641 FOR QUESTIONS.

March 10-13 Rockhound Roundup Deming, New Mexico (1-505-544-8643)

Tues March 15th Show Me Rockhound meeting will be at Westport Library @ 7pm.

April 9-10 Lincoln Gem & Mineral Show, Lincoln, NE Pershing Auditorium, 226 Centennial Mall South on 15th. John Harrison (402) 792-2337

Tues. April 12th Show Me Rockhound meeting

April 22-24, Wichita Club Show Wichita, Kansas 2005

April 23-24 Black Hawk Gem & Mineral Show Pputnam Museum IMAX theater Lecture Hall 717 W. 12th St., Davenport, Iowa

Future Events:

- Ellinwood Swap Ellinwood, Kansas May 20-22, 2005
- Park Hills Swap Missouri Mines in Park Hills, MO. 2nd weekend in June.
- **Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies Show**, 41st Annual Pikes Peak Gem & Mineral Show Hosted by the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society June 17-19, 2005
The theme will be "Pikes Peak, A Rockhounds Paradise", featuring Colorado Gems, Minerals and Fossils. **Five days of field trips will follow the show.** Information, 1-719-632-9686 email csmsshow@cs.com. Location: Phil Long Expo Center, 1515 Auto Mall Loop, Colorado Springs.
- AFMS/MWF show with the St Louis Association of Earth Science Clubs will be held at the Greensfelder Recreation complex in Queeny Park in August. More to come....

Field trip report

February 2005

The first field trip of the year was in the Tri-state lead district and was well attended by 14 members of SHOW-ME and IGAMS rock clubs. The weather was excellent and the forecast from Jeff Penner was dead on target.

The first stop was at Granby, MO on Saturday where we collected specimens of Galena, Sphalerite, Hemimorphite, Pyromorphite, Calcite, and perhaps Smithsonite. Dinner that evening was at Timber Ridge steak house in Joplin.

Sunday morning we moved on to the mine at Carterville and collected more Tri-state minerals as well as fossils. At about noon the weather broke "as forecasted by Jeff" and it started to rain, this was not an inconvenience as everyone was ready to head home anyway. Almost everyone commented about how out of shape they had gotten during the winter and how sore they were.

IF you don't attend these fieldtrips, you should! Not only are they fun, you get fresh air and exercise. Look for the 2005 Field Trip at the March Show. Ted Ferguson

Here's Mud in Your Eye

I remember hearing that the Eskimos have 200 names for snow; cold snow, wet snow, dry snow, little flakey snow that blows into my snow goggles snow and on and on. Well as a rockhound, I very seldom find any snow worth naming but mud, mud is something I have had to...well beyond my lack of imagination and authority my naming mud has had no permanence in the English language. While at UNC up in Greeley, Colorado I ended up with a list, from the "Oxford English Dictionary", of names for mud.

Blash is liquid mud.

Clart is sticky dirt or mud.

Cod is mud with shells taken from the bottom of a river.

Gumbo is prairie mud.

Moya is volcanic mud.

Putty is sticky underwater mud.

Riley is thick, turbid mud.

Slumgullian is muddy deposit in a mining sluice.

And

Stable is liquid mud caused by continual foot traffic.

Well even the Brits' have missed naming some of the mud I have run into, such as the mud that sticks so tight it can't be kicked off your boots only scraped. Or the mud that sticks so tight that you have to leave your boots in the mud while you find a tree branch so you can pry your boots out of it. And then what would you call the mud that doesn't get scraped off your boots but falls off once you're in your sweetie's car?

"I hate that MUD." Martin

Another article from Martin:

If you are starting to understand the balance between pattern size and the size of cabochons, I want to introduce shape into the mix. I will always advise the use of a template. Templates are made of thin materials such as aluminum or plastic although you may use card stock paper to make your own, they will have a group of cut outs that you use in two ways. The first use is to pick the area on a slab you wish to have for your design, some people feel that a template of a contrasting color will help frame the pattern in the slab (here is a minder that a pattern will shift as you grind away at the cabochon as you form the dome), sometimes making a template of a colored paper works as the frame.

Once you have identified the area you find to fulfill the needs of the design you will scribe a line marking the edges of the cabochon with a pointed metal rod. The metal rod has to be softer than the rock so it will leave a good streak; aluminum, copper or brass will work while pencil marks and ink wash off.

Shape

Shape for cabochons is changing drastically. I have mentioned baroque cabochons; the baroque is by lack of our manipulation has the freest form of the cabochons used in jewelry and that freedom of form has dictated design constraints, this free form has been contrary to the control that is found in working in metals. I feel that as humans coming out of the Stone Age and entered the ages of metals we did not gain the technology to work semiprecious and gem stones as we gained mastery over the malleable metals.

This lag caused centuries of stress for the jewelers to the "Powers That Be", for them to take an all but rough stone, fit it into delicate filigree and have the design look balanced and noble. My guess is that some poor apprentice in the shop where they used the smack the diamond with a hammer method for testing diamonds for authenticity, picked up the "sand" and found they could flatten the back side of rocks by hand milling them on a table top. That maybe simplistic but it is where modern lapidary got started.

The pendulum swing from free form to the extreme control of carved geometric shapes started at that time. The designer now could work rock into shapes that would balance with the high degree of finish that was found in the metal work and so came about the cut out shapes we have in our templates. The squares, circles, rectangles, hearts, and crosses all were to show our power over rough stone. Then came several waves of appreciation of the natural world verses modern industry, attempts to have design pay homage to nature by allowing a loosening of the hard geometric shapes we had used for so long.

I feel this struggle between free form and imposed shapes found its nadir in the middle of the second half of the 20th century where there came into being an anti-craftsmanship stance by many artists. What I see we gained in the battle won against this anarchy is a new understanding of the shapes we can use in design. Quality of workmanship has won and the spoils are a new freedom to view the pattern in a rock as a springboard in the designing of a piece, no longer a secondary consideration. Good luck. Martin