

SHOW-ME ROCKHOUNDS DECEMBER 2004 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; Jeanne McGuire Vice President & Programs; Sharon Penner, Treasurer Secretary & newsletter Carol Ferguson.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Hello. The snow has fallen, giving us a white Thanksgiving. While writing this, the snow is gone and I am waiting for some rain, mentally trying to keep track of the many irons I have in the fire currently.

First and foremost is a Holiday Dinner for all of the Show-Me Rockhound members, I know that as the one room will hold 14, the restaurant will set all of us in the same area so we can have 25 or more members and friends gathered together. I trust the specific information for the meal will be covered elsewhere in the news letter.

December is a time when we balance reviewing the past year and then planning the future. The review part is easy; I can say I went here, we went there, I did this, we did that, and I learned a lot and I collected a lot. It is the Future that is so difficult, the future is full of "I want" and "I would like" of "can I" and "may I". I find myself somewhat bound by my childhood upbringing, where if I said "I want" I was told "not to be selfish" yet as I look to this next calendar year I know that I must act upon my "I wants" in order to be an active participant in my life. I want to have not only a club case for the March show but I plan to have a competition case, I want it to stand out and look good. I want to get the bones from Richard's Spur displayed well and to organize our at home display cases into themes. I hope you would like to have at least a club case, a desire to work up a competition case, yes to go that extra distance because of a "want to".

As you work on the cases, there are two names you can run into: Dana and Sinkankas. Two titans of mineralogy; Dana wrote, compiled, and edited a series of volumes on the different classes of minerals that are now known as "The Dana's" and Sinkankas wrote text books with great information for rockhounds such as the 1964, MINERALOGY, A FIRST COURSE, that is still providing a strong base with solid methods for working with what we collect. Linda Hall library will have copies as do some of our co-members within the Association of Earth Science Clubs here in town, although no one will let their copies out of their houses. Good luck.

I hope to see every one of the members at this December dinner, this is a great way to get together so we can get a head start on a joyous season.

Sincerely, Martin Mueller

November Meeting Minutes

Meeting brought to order by Martin. Show-Me Rockhound members present this evening were Martin Mueller; Ted & Carol Ferguson; Gary Williams and Frank Rockers.

We welcomed our guests Ray and Kay Rutledge from Ogden, Utah who are in the Kansas City for a year or so working with inner city families.

Very informal meeting we had this evening.

- Ray Rutledge is a geologist by trade and very interested in field collecting opportunities of the bi-state area. Discussion centered around this topic and Ray left the group with a wide variety of information.

- By-laws were reviewed, approved, and signed and sent off to the MWF.

- Quartz crystal field trip report from Martin. One of the best collecting field trips to that area yet...many folks found huge specimens. Martin passed around a 12 inch long by 6 inch diameter nice clear crystal. We discussed the geology and formation of the quartz crystals of the Mt Ida, Arkansas area. Per Martin, the quartz of this area is formed from the silica rich sand and thermal chemical laden water and pressure over long period of time.
- It was decided that the December meeting will be the annual holiday party and game. We will meet at Cinzettis restaurant on Tuesday Dec. 14th at 7pm. Carol will reserve a room for our group. Members to cover their own drinks and contribute \$5 per person and the club will cover the rest.
- Thanks to Martin, Frank and Carol for this evenings snacks!

Calendar of Events:

December 14, 2004 7pm-8:30pm

Show Me Rockhound Annual holiday party and gift game. Cinzettis Italian Restaurant at 91st and Metcalf. Bring a wrapped gift.....no more than \$5 or so and should be related to our hobby.

Future shows:

Association of Earth Science Clubs of Kansas City Annual Show March 11-13, 2005

St. Louis Show April 8-10, 2005

Wichita Club Show April 22-24, 2005

Ellinwood Swap May 20-22, 2005

Strange Mineral Tales....

A long time ago if you wanted a candle, you went to a beekeeper. His wax and your wick made a candle. In modern times candles are mass produced from paraffin which is a commercially refined product of petroleum. What is not widely known is that wax can also be mined! There are very few places where wax has been mined on a commercial basis because of the quantities available. A location in Austria was the only place where wax was being mined in this century until a discovery was made at Soldier Summit, Utah.

The wax is related to petroleum and is called ozokerite. It is apparently a high quality form of natural paraffin, developed from the residue of crude oil percolating through fissures in rocks. Compared to beeswax and man-made paraffin, its melting point is much greater (between 155 and 190 degrees.) Ozokerite was sometimes found in large veins that were almost 100% pure. The majority, however, is found in a brecciated form bound up with sandstone and shale. Once mined, it must be crushed, then dumped into tanks of boiling water where the wax is skimmed and poured into molds. The "wax belt" of ozokerite covers an area of about 12 miles in Utah. Large tailing piles from the mining operation of the American Ozokerite Co. are strewn alongside U.S. 50 near Soldier Summit. (Rockwood Rockhound News)

IT'S RAINING DUST BUNNIES!

DUST - So, you don't have enough space after filling your house and yard with hundreds of pounds of fossils, petrified wood, agate, topaz, and who knows what, you've run out of room. So, you don't have enough space? Well, here's how to get more space; space dust, that is. The next time it rains, place a container under a drain spout or other location to collect a good quantity of rain. Discard obvious debris such as leaves and roofing materials and then sift the remains through a bit of old window screen or sneak the flour sifter out of the kitchen. Use a magnet to determine if any of the particles contain iron. Those particles may be space dust, also known as micrometeorites.

Most meteorites falling through earth's atmosphere will burn up before landing on earth, but some will reach the earth in microscopic sizes. Micrometeorites are composed of heavy elements such as iron, nickel, carbon, magnesium, calcium, and such compounds as helium that's missing a neutron and amino acids. However, we're more interested in the high iron content of micrometeorites because that's what separates it from most earth material. Using a microscope,

look at the material that attaches to the magnet. If you're lucky, you may see a micrometeorite which looks like a pitted mini ball.