

# SHOW-ME ROCKHOUNDS

NOVEMBER 2004 NEWSLETTER

## SHOW-ME ROCKHOUNDS

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 - Carol Fergason  
Newsletter – Carol Fergason

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:**

Greetings:

Fall is upon us. Winter is following with some weather-forecasters calling for a wet snowy season. A world covered by a blanket of snow gives us a time to catalog our specimens and get them into storage or in displays. For either storage or display, remember some minerals need special care and even with that some are very unstable.

Charley heard a radio ad from Linda Hall Library touting meeting space so she called them to get more details. The thought of Linda Hall as a meeting site with a set schedule reminded me that we had checked that library as a possibility and we decided not to meet there because we like our social snack but they did not want food brought into there. With their ad we wanted to hear what they would say, they are open Monday nights to 8:30p.m., we could stay later if we would pay the costs of security overtime. The library's future has a June 2005 start date for building an addition onto the library that will carry on to Sept. 2006, we would have to meet elsewhere during that time. As much as our schedule is a problem I do not feel moving our meeting site to Linda Hall Library at this time, is workable, maybe after Sept. 2006.

The By-law meeting on the 23rd of Oct. was a success as far as the Midwest Federation is concerned yet I believe we still need to find our historic By-laws because in one meeting we can not recreate something that had taken years to evolve. We shall rue the loss if they are not recovered.

Also at the By-law meeting I was reminded that I have been president for only one year not two. I will be president for 2005. If someone has a vision for our club, a direction and would be a leader, I want you to stand up. The Show-Me Rockhounds needs a leader in membership and programming.

November meeting has been, over these years at the Westport library, our holiday potluck dinner. I will see to providing a turkey breast for this odd Monday night meeting on the 15th, please come with a small side and stories to share.

Sincerely,

Martin Mueller

## **October Meeting Minutes:**

Meeting brought to order by Martin. Show-Me Rockhound members present this evening were Martin Mueller; Sharon Penner; Stuart Traxler; Ted & Carol Ferguson; Diana Aubuchon, and Frank Rockers and Rolland Smith. Secretary presented the meeting minutes for September 2004.

**Old Business:** By-laws....it was decided that a committee will meet at Sharon's home on Sunday October 24 at 1:30pm to create new by-laws as the old ones are not known or available. Any interested member is welcome to attend this meeting. Sharon's address is 4302 W. 93rd Terr in Prairie Village...ph# 913-342-6159 for directions. Martin requested a tour of Sharon's basement to view her fine collection of rocks and minerals.

**New Business:** December holiday party and gift game. It was suggested that this year we have our holiday party at a restaurant ---dinner funded by the club treasury. We also need new officers. Sharon volunteered to continue as Treasurer and Carol volunteered to continue as Secretary and do the newsletter. Need President and Vice-President for next year. Please consider volunteering for these positions to help our club grow.

**Association Discussion:** Again it was suggested that a "member/club swap session" would be a great idea to have at the picnic next year. Our delegate to take this suggestion to the next Association meeting. Apparently, the Association makes available a large room during the March show for the Bead Society to have "classes" and sell items for the benefit of the Bead Society and according to Bruce Stinemetz, president of the Association, this room is available to any club that wishes to have public "classes" and charge fees for these "classes" to make money for their club. So therefore various ideas were discussed that possibly the Show Me Rockhounds to be able to also hold some type of educational classes for club profit as well. Some ideas were demonstrations for rock tumbling or sessions for kids on making rock and/or mineral boxes.

**Other Club discussion:** Frank suggested locations for potential field trips next spring for fossils in Kansas. Ted discussed Wulfenite and provided a handout. Members discussed the hot vs. cold processes of mineral formation. Rolland gave a short talk on the Ohio brachiopods –mucospirifa. Similar fossils, the Neosprifia, is found around KC in the Pennsylvanian shale. Carol mentioned the Des Moines Lapidary show coming up weekend October 23-24. Martin shared his experiences of field collecting in the Winterset area of Iowa. Safety note from Sharon DO NOT ever use HCL acid on sulfide minerals for cleaning!!! DANGEROUS fumes can develop. Be safe!

**Programs:** October program was Martins' discussion of how lake alluvial fans are formed from river drainage. November program will be Mark Sherwood who will present the second part of a program on Geodes. Thanks to Sharon, Carol and Diana for the snacks this evening. December program will be the holiday party and gift game.

### **Calendar of Events:**

**Nov 5-7** Kansas City Fall Gem & Mineral Show KCI Expo Center  
10am- 8pm Fri & Sat; 10am –5pm Sunday

**Nov 12-14** St Louis Fall Show Stratford Inn, 800 S. Hiway Dr.  
Fenton, MO (636) 343-5757 or Melissa (636) 861-3865

**Nov 13-14** Field Trip to Mt. Ida, Arkansas for QUARTZ CRYSTALS!  
Call Bruce Stinemetz at 816-795-1641 for more info.

**November 15** MONDAY 7pm Show Me Rockhound Meeting!!

### **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

Below a letter from a former member of the Show- Me Rockhounds!

Hello,

As many of you probably know, I am no longer living in the Kansas City area and therefore am not able to participate in the gem and mineral clubs.

Consistant problems with my job and not enjoying what I was doing ultimately led me to pursue new career opportunities. As a result, I recently began a job as a mine geologist with OMYA California in Lucerne Valley, CA. We are the largest calcium carbonate (limestone/marble) producing company in the world. It is used in food, pharmaceuticals, roofing tiles, flooring, piping (whiting for PVC pipes, etc), and bathroom tiles along with making paper white. It has proved to be a very challenging, complex, and interesting job requiring numerous skills that I have yet to learn or haven't used in a long time. We also have some fascinating minerals (including fluorescent ones) in our mines, which definitely keeps up my interest level.

I really enjoyed the time I spent with the Shawnee Mission and Show Me Rockhounds Clubs. I always love meeting people that share the same interests as myself. I really learned a lot from everyone. One of the biggest reasons it was hard to leave was knowing that I could no longer participate in these clubs. Going to meetings and shows was often a great distraction from my job and some of the highlights of my time there. I wish everyone the best in the future. Hopefully I will be able to see some of you at the Tucson Show or other events in the near future.

I would love hearing from anyone and welcome your calls and emails. My address is listed below. If you are ever in my area, don't be hesitant to contact me.

Andrew Turner  
16061 Lorene Dr. #45  
Victorville, CA 92395

## **The Keokuk and Warsaw Geodes**

The Keokuk and Warsaw geodes' formation started some 300+ million years ago, in the Mississippian Age. River sediments trapped organic material in layers of mud. This organic material, released carbon dioxide and methane gas as it decayed. This gas "pooled" in the layers of compressed mud (shale), forming various-sized gas pockets. A concentrated solution of dissolved minerals invaded the pockets, creating the proper environment for crystal growth.

Many different minerals have been identified within these geodes, including:

Calcite, Quartz (clear, milky & smoky), Pyrite, Kaolin, Chalcedony, Sphalerite, Marcasite, Barite, Pyrolusite, Selenite, Smithstonite, Dolomite, Chalcopryrite, Goethite, Jarosite, Aragonite, Malachite, Hematite, Stilpnosiderite and Vidarite.

Specimen geodes are found in a 60 mile radius of Keokuk, Iowa and range in size, from pea size to 2+ feet in diameter. Each geode is like a snowflake, with no two alike.

- Via Internet