



Uncle Josh Adventures: On The Border

By Greg Weisbrod

We all went to Uncle Josh's for a visit on Olive's birthday August tenth. He had been stuck at home with a big swollen foot and was happy to see us. We brought ice cream cake, groceries, and party stuff. He did seem a little nervous about his sore foot and kept it tucked under his jeweler's bench. I guess he didn't want any of us jostling it. Josh is the most serious rock hound we know, but we often don't know how serious he is.

He made us welcome and we settled in around his dinning-living room-den area. He said, "I sure am glad to see you all. I can't hardly get around with this bad foot; that great lump of rock landed on my right foot and I never learned to drive the Buick with my left foot. Where is that Dot?" he asked, using his pet name for her. "Here she is, our birthday girl. Say, I got you something for your birthday, sorry I didn't wrap it up proper. I spent too much time looking for the ones with holes in them. This is your birth stone." With that he gave Dot a nice necklace and bracelet string of peridot pebbles. "Gee, thanks, Uncle Josh," she said.

"Hey, you drilled these yourself." accused Garnet. "That's true, I can't fool you guys, and I collected them myself too." "Wait," said Ruby, "How come Dot's name is really Olive but we call her Dot?" "Well," Josh answered, "Olivine is the common name of the forsterite -- fayalite series of magnesium-- iron silicates. The iron rich fayalite is dark, but the gemmy forsterite ones are called 'pear-uh-doe,' the August birth stone." "So how come Dot?" "The last part of peridot is spelled D-O-T." "Oh," we chorused. "And because she is so fair, we didn't nickname her Fay." "Oh," we groaned. "This is confusing," I complained. "Where did you collect these peridees, peridoes, peridies?" I asked.



"Well that is kind of a story," Josh replied. We filled up our lemonades before he started. "It was down to the New Mexico/Mexico border at Potrillo Hole," he recalled. "I went April first 'cause April and March is the best time for collecting down there. I joined with a small group of rockhounds who knew the way. We turned off the highway onto a gravel road and drove a few miles. We stopped at a big depression with a wash cutting down its middle. You could see the round rim of the crater. At the south end, across a dusty dirt track was a barbed wire fence, the border between America and the United Mexican States."

Josh continued, "The geologists say this was an almost volcano. Hot magma welled up to ground level, steam belched off and then the magma slumped down like a fallen soufflé. The peridot crystallized in scattered nodules of small pebble and grain size. I looked for the bigger nodules on the idea they would have the larger grains of peridot. After an hour's collecting, I decided to get an early start back and so bid farewell to the group.

As I was leaving I turned on to a parallel track to pass an approaching border patrol truck. I continued driving about a mile down the road when I got stuck half way up a sandy hill. Boy, was I embarrassed. The old Buick was down to her axles on the hill, unable to go up or back down. I opened the trunk and unloaded some stuff, got out the jack, lifted and back filled. It did no good, I was still stuck in the sand trap.

(continued on page 10)

Member of the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies



Affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies



2010 - 2011 Officers

Board of Directors

President	Tony Giardina.....	316-214-8227 karen@van-m.com
Vice-President	Don Atherton	316-685-2725 datherton6@cox.net
Secretary	Tonona Martin.....	316-708-3488 tononamartin@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Sandy Whiting	316-744-8848 hoglips@aol.com
Membership	Susan Bannon	316-689-8256
Editor	Carolyn White.....	316-250-6182 carolyn.white1@cox.net, editor@wgmsks.org
Field Trip	Joe Cruz.....	316-218-0250 ardis.cruz@cox.net
Publicity.....	Leo Heidebrecht.....	316-260-4591 leomar@cox.net
Show Chair	Gene Maggard.....	316-742-3746 gandpmaggard@wildblue.net
Finance	Bob Haines.....	316-683-9021 bobh67218@yahoo.com
Director 2011.....	Peggy Maggard.....	316-742-3746
Director 2012.....	Naomi Matney.....	316-265-2665
Director 2013.....	Ardis Cruz.....	316-218-0250

Appointed Officers

Cheer	Alice Piper	316-264-7273
Curator.....	Greg Weisbrod	316-686-1810
Federation Rep	Bill & Janet Smith	620-296-4652 beetlebill@kanokla.net
Gifts	Paul Radiel	316-777-4174
Historian	Mary Clough	316-943-1785
Hospitality	Debbie Winton	316-841-8773 cwinton@pixius.net
Insurance/Property.....	Peggy Maggard	316-742-3746 gandpmaggard@wildblue.net
Junior Leader	Elizabeth Hixon.....	316-651-0054 ebeth.horselover@gmail.com
Librarian	Jim Yanda	620-455-2419 oxford@oldwiz.net
Registered Agent.....	Alice Piper	316-264-7273
Webmaster.....	Diane DeGood.....	316-794-8391

Dues:

Club Year September 1 - August 31	
Adult Membership	\$10.00
Junior Membership (13-17)	\$ 5.00 (must have adult sponsor)
Quarry Quips Subscription ONLY	\$ 8.00

Please send dues to: **WGMS Treasurer,**
c/o Susan Bannon, 11825 E 1st St N, Wichita KS 67206-2732

Our Annual show will be:
April 15, 16 & 17 2011
World of Wonders

About our Club

The Wichita Gem and Mineral Society Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, tax-exempt, educational organization. Our purpose shall be exclusively educational and scientific; (a) to increase and disseminate knowledge of the earth sciences pertaining to minerals, gems, rocks, artifacts, and fossils and similar subjects; (b) to promote and perpetuate knowledge of the lapidary arts; © to encourage field trips to study the earth sciences, particularly of geology and mineralization in place and (d) to encourage greater public interest and education in gems, fossils and minerals, cooperating with established institutions in such matters.

The Wichita Gem and Mineral Society, Inc. meets the fourth Sunday of each month at 2:00 p.m. in Room 101, Geology Building, Wichita State University. - Except - January (Anniversary Party); April (Annual Show); August (Picnic & Auction). (November and December meetings are subject to University holiday closings.) Times and locations to be announced/published. WGMS does NOT offer classes or workshops.

Board meetings are held on the Monday preceding the General meeting at places announced and/or printed in the Quarry Quips, the official bulletin of the Society. ALL members are urged to contribute material for publication in the Quarry Quips, the deadline for ALL articles is the Friday following the General meeting. All articles should be submitted by e-mail to: editor@wgmsks.org or snail mail to:

Carolyn White
2225 N. Fountain
Wichita KS 67220

Club mailing address:

Wichita Gem and Mineral Society Inc.
PO Box 1464
Wichita KS 67201-1464
Web Address: www.wgmsks.org



The Quarry Quips is published monthly by the Wichita Gem & Mineral Society, Inc. Articles printed in this newsletter are the experiences and/or opinions of the individuals submitting them, they do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of the Wichita Gem & Mineral Society or the editor. We are not responsible for their authenticity, safety, or reliability. Caution and safety should always be practiced when trying out any new idea. Articles written without a byline are written by the editor.

Copyright © 2010 Wichita Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.

Except for items that are specifically copyrighted by their authors, other societies may use material published in the Quarry Quips provided that proper credit is given to the Author (if author is a WGMS member it will be so noted in the byline, please include this "WGMS member" in the byline) and the Quarry Quips, and the sense or meaning of the material is not changed.

Exchange Bulletins Welcome

Membership News

By Susan Bannon

Please add the following new members to your directory:

Barbara Latty BD: 1/2
315 S. Main
Caldwell, KS 67022
620-845-2763
balatt57@yahoo.com



Jacoby Springer BD: 12/19 (junior member)
3419 NW 39th Terrace
Topeka, KS 66618-3473
785-213-4321
cobydale97@yahoo.com



Member Birthdays

April:

02 Vi Lundquist, Jim Ballou
05 Debbie Lancaster
07 Jim Huengarde, Mike Estep
08 Yvonne Mack, Crissy Vitkus
11 Rachael Walker
13 Georgia Pollard, Joshua Walker
14 Jack Simmons, Alan Snider
15 Carolyn White
16 Debbie Winton
23 Ruth Weishaar
24 Elsie Vawter
25 Michael Wingo
26 Allene Boston-Aylward
28 Joe Cruz



May:

03 Velma Collins, Maricruz Acosta
22 Sean Carver
23 Arleta Seery
24 Ramona Lingafelter, Sally Henning,
Larry Springer
25 Gary Moore
27 Charity Walker
28 Barbara Hoppins, Debbie Vick
Scott Norton



Elsie Vawter, member of Wichita Gem and Mineral Society since 1973, passed away on Friday, March 4th, 2011 at age 90. Please remember her family in your thoughts and prayers.



Programs

By Don Atherton

The March program was provided by the show chairman Gene Maggard and the members of the show committee. They shared information about what each area provides for the customers that walk in the door. They also indicated what they need so we can have an excellent show as we have in the past years. Thank you to everyone that volunteered to work the show this year.

For Show and Tell we had Larry Skelton showing us some smoky quartz. George Mack went up Central Northern part of Kansas and found several sharks teeth in Rush county, Lincoln county, and Russell county. Lisa Scheibmeir had some wall paper edgings to give away.

Our April program is the WGMS Show on April 15-17th. For May we will have Larry Skelton give us a program on garnets.

Snack Sign-up



We need some people to sign up to bring snacks for the May, June and July meetings.

Please call Debbie Winton: 841-9576 to volunteer.

The Year Ahead



General Club Meetings

Apr 15-17	WGMS SHOW @ Cessna Activity Center	
May 22	WSU Geology Bldg, Rm 101	2 pm
Jun 26	WSU Geology Bldg, Rm 101	2 pm
Jul 24	WSU Geology Bldg, Rm 101	2 pm
Aug 27	Rock Sale, Pot Luck and Auction Community of Christi Church	
Sep 25	WSU Geology Bldg, Rm 101	2 pm
Oct 23	WSU Geology Bldg, Rm 101	2 pm

Board Meetings

Apr 11	Community of Christi Church	7 pm
May 16	Community of Christi Church	7 pm
Jun 20	Maggard's House 8318 SE Hwy 77, Leon	6 pm
Jul 18	Community of Christi Church	7 pm
Aug 22	Community of Christi Church	7 pm
Sep 19	Community of Christi Church	7 pm
Oct 17	Community of Christi Church	7 pm

WGMS Board Meeting Minutes

By *Tonona Martin*



The Board of Officers for the Wichita Gem and Mineral Society met March 21, 2011 at 7:00 pm at the Community of Christ Church. Tony Giardina, Carolyn White, Susan Bannon, Joe Cruz, Leo Heidebrecht, Tonona Martin, Gene Maggard, Naomi Matney, Ardis Cruz and Peggy Maggard were in attendance.

President Tony Giardina brought the meeting to order and the minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

Tonona Martin, Secretary announced the receipt of the clubs invitation and delegate information to the Rocky Mountain Federation annual convention June 24-26, 2011 to be sponsored by the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society. The board agreed that Bill and Janet Smith will be the club's delegates and Lyle and June Koerper will be alternates. The club also voted to renew our membership in the Go Wichita Convention and Visitor's Bureau. The Club received two applications for membership from Barbara Laty, a teacher and also from Jacoby Springer. Both membership applications were approved.

Susan Bannon, Membership Chair presented one application for scholarship. The applicant was Debbie Winton. Her application was reviewed and approved.

Carolyn White, Editor announced that the show programs were complete and distributed complimentary tickets and coupons to members.

Joe Cruz, Field Trips brought a sign to show to the group that he created to be placed at busy intersections the weekend of the show. The signs are black with neatly painted white lettering. Members were pleased. Joe has made 10 signs.

Leo Heidebrecht, Publicity reviewed an article in Gem and Mineral Magazine on how to have a successful show. Ideas included large billboards and placing coupons in different business establishments. The club also discussed giving complimentary tickets to people who have greatly assisted the club.

Gene Maggard, Show Chair stated that the work schedule is almost complete, we have lots of volunteers and are in good shape.

Tony Giardina, requested 5 board members to serve on the new officer nominating committee. The first committee meeting will be April 25th after the general board meeting.

It was announced that Life Member Elsie Vawter passed away.

There was no old business, new business or announcements. The meeting was adjourned.

WGMS General Meeting Minutes

The March General meeting of the Wichita Gem and Mineral Society was called to order by President Tony Giardina on 3/27/11 at Wichita State University. The minutes from the last meeting were approved. Officer's reports followed.

Secretary, Tonona Martin stated that Bill and Janet Smith will be club representatives to the Rocky Mountain Federation Convention. Lyle and June Koerper will be alternates. The club will retain its membership in the Go Wichita Visitor and Convention Bureau. The club accepted two new members to the club - Barbara Laty and Jacoby Springer.

Membership Chair, Susan Bannon stated that there were 38 members in attendance and that Debbie Winton was the first recipient of the \$50 WGMS scholarship. Alice Piper won the door prize - a beautiful belt buckle. Anna Smith won the badge prize- a peridot specimen.

Cheer Chair, Alice Piper requests that club members please make her aware of any deaths or illnesses among members so that she may send the proper correspondence.

Debbie Winton Hospitality Chair needs a volunteer for the May meeting. She also needs the key to the cabinet returned to her. It removed from its place at the February meeting. She also stated that the beading class held Wednesday went well!

Elizabeth Hixon, Junior Leader, stated that she is working on rebuilding the website. She is also focusing on new ideas for the juniors.

In lieu of a presentation today Gene Maggard reviewed expectations for the April Show, "World of Wonders."

- Set up Thursday evening 0800 if able to move tables. 1000 am if for general set up. Need people to hang around and tear down Sunday evening.
- Lyle Koerper encourages more members to have display cases at the show.
- If interested in helping Lisa announce- must have pleasant voice that carries well over a large crowd.
- Debbie Winton reminds members that the Thursday evening potluck expectations are two dishes – enough for yourself and six others.
- Contact Mary Clough if you want to be involved in education day on Friday morning! Want people who like young people.
- Admission table may be busy- members are encouraged to wear badges. Members get into the show free if they assisted at all. Be POLITE even when stressed.
- Special Programs will be Saturday and Sunday.
- Silent Auction - no late sign ins no time extensions this year.
- Membership recruitment dvd to be played during show with happy pictures!

- Demonstrations in sphere making, flint making and other skills will be done throughout the show.
- Other show activities discussed were fluorescents, grab bags, rock wheel, junior rock pile, and gem hunting.
- Lisa is offering free borders that could be used to decorate display cases.

Show & Tell:

- Larry Skelton - Smoky Quartz found in 1964- found in Canadian Territory
- George Mack - polished Coprolite from Utah, Sharks teeth from Russell County and Mosasaur teeth from Morocco.

Show Admissions

By Peggy Maggard

Each year I get questions about free admission to the WGMS Show so I thought I would write an article for the Quarry Quips letting our members know the latest Information on "Free Admission" to the Gem Show.

Free Admission is available any day of the show to all WGMS members or other people if:

- you are working at the show or have helped with set-up the day before.
- you have made a substantial donation or contribution to the show.
- you are a Life Member. (It would be helpful to the Admissions people if you would wear your Life Member name tag.
- you have been issued a Complimentary Admission Wichita Gem & Mineral Show coupon with your name listed as guest and signed by a current WGMS member. The yellow Complimentary Admission Coupon is available from the Admissions or the Show Chairperson.
- you have a blue Membership Guest Coupon with your name listed as guest and signed by a current WGMS member. (The admission cost will be collected by the Treasurer from the WGMS member). The blue Membership Guest Coupon is available from the Admissions or the Show Chairperson.

Show Report

By Gene Maggard

Greetings, SHOWTIME is here. I hope to most of you on Thursday, April 14, at the Cessna Activity Center for setup, and then again on Friday, Saturday and Sunday as we all work hard to staff the show, make the show a success, and most important, have some fun doing it.

After you are signed up to work, if for any reason you cannot keep your scheduled time(s), please me know at the earliest possible moment. It does not take very many "no-shows" to really make a burden on the rest of us.

Now is the most important time to publicize the show. Spread around as many show flyers and discount coupons as possible. Let your friends and acquaintances know about the show. Members publicizing the show is one of the greatest generators of attendance.

Attendance for the show is critical for two reasons. First, it generates attendance revenue. Second, it attracts business for our vendors, who are paying us to be allowed to display at our show.

Have a great show and lets all work together to make this the best WGMS show, ever.

Field Trips

by Ardis Cruz

On Saturday, **April 23rd** we will be collecting selenite crystals at the Salt flats in Jet, Oklahoma. We will meet at the Salt Plains at 10 am. If you need directions or are interested in carpooling, contact us



In **May** we will be going to Mead, Kansas. We hope to hunt for agate, quartz and fossils.

More information will be forthcoming on this trips and others we are trying to plan.



Call Joe or Ardis at 218-0250 to RSVP or to ask questions.

Planning a Field Trip: *How to Find Neat Rocks!*

By Lyle Koerper
Wichita Gem & Mineral Society

In talking with would-be rockhounds there is generally enthusiasm expressed for going on a field trip.

There is something very invigorating about just thinking of trudging into “nature” to find some magical mineral, agate, fossil or simply an interesting rock specimen. The anticipation in the planning and the actual search are satisfying. Then the “finding” is the main course and dessert all in one.

But, how do you know where to go? How do you plan a field trip?

June and I have shared our rockhounding hobby for more than 15 years. Following are suggestions for getting started.

1. Join a gem club such as the Wichita Gem & Mineral Society (WGMS). Most societies offer field trips and members can provide rock solid suggestions ranging from equipment and what to wear to where to go and what to look for.

2. Determine what you want to collect. There are lots of fossils near Wichita, but if your heart is set on exotic agates and amazing geodes you will probably need to plan on traveling some miles.

3. Read reference books, use the internet, talk with others and organize your notes. When you find that a certain specimen can be located in a specific area, be sure your travel instructions are specific and complete. You may want to go back to some locations regularly.

4. Go. Fight the mosquitoes, sweat in the heat, get wind blown, walk and dig until your muscles ache – find that prize that you can’t wait to show someone.

Reference Books: You can, but do not need to spend a lot of money. Remember, rocks, minerals and fossils are old. Old or used reference materials are generally inexpensive, and very good. Don’t buy the first rock and mineral identification book you see. Look beyond the pictures to determine if the information is too technical or really helpful. There are books for children and ones on special topics. A visit to your local library will help you identify books you may want to acquire.

Some of the books on our reference shelf include: “Roadside Geology of South Dakota.” There are similar books for most states. “National Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Rocks and Minerals.” Simon & Schuster’s “Guide to Rocks and Minerals.” Golden Nature Guides “Rocks and Minerals” and “Fossils.”

Rockhounding Guide Books: There are books for most states that list actual rockhounding sites with travel directions and information on what you might find. Gem Guides Book Co. of Baldwin Park, CA publishes a series of “Gem Trails of (state)” while Falcon Guide of Guilford, CT publishes “Rockhounding (state)” directories. There are many other similar books. Check the internet, rock shops and libraries. You can often borrow books from others. Check publication dates. Rocks don’t change, but regulations and availability do change. Most guide books cost less than \$20. Our experience has been that we could not find a third of the locations listed because of poor instructions, changes in the area or because of travel difficulty. Then, we found keeper material at only about half of the locations found. Remember, rockhounding often involves real physical work. And sometimes there are disappointments.

(continued on page 7)

Other Reference Resources: The Kansas Geological Survey and similar organizations in other states are often helpful. Other government agencies include the Federal Bureau of Land Management, and national forest identities. WGMS membership also leads to connections with members of other similar organizations such as the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies covering a 12-state area, and the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Rock shop proprietors sometimes provide help. There are places where you pay to dig. Examine those opportunities carefully to determine the value for you.

Remember: You can hunt only in areas open for collecting. New government regulations have closed many areas. Of course, all private land can be hunted only with owners permission. Also, be familiar with the Rockhound Code of Ethics.

What is the BEST source for field trip information? Without a doubt, the activities and members of groups such as the WGMS can really get you going. The next best thing is having an inquiring mind and taking initiative in seeking help from references sources and others.

Equipment, what to take: Dress for the location and climate. Be mindful about safety in situations where you are not fully familiar. For example, will you need protection from the sun? When you plan your trip, be mindful of tools you will need. If your trip is a club trip, ask the Field Trip Chairman what you will need. A five gallon bucket works good for collecting. You can also use heavy cloth bags and bring smaller plastic bags if you know there will be smaller delicate things. You might need a shovel, geologist hammer, pry bars, chisels, some small digging tools. But, ask and do some research before you start purchasing or even load the vehicle. You will want good quality tools. Rocks are generally hard. A hammer that proves to be softer than the rock you want to tame is not only frustrating, but dangerous. Finally, food, safely packed, tastes extra good on a field trip, and plenty of water will add to the enjoyment of the day.

Following are experiences that show how field trip information can be secured.

Last summer June and I attended a week long program at the YMCA Conference Center near Potosi, MO. We checked our "Midwest Gem, Fossil and Mineral Trails" guidebook and found several references to area rockhounding. At one time there were galena mines. When we arrived at the conference center we asked a staff member about the mines. He couldn't help. We asked our conference leader who contacted a local resident. He couldn't help in finding galena, but suggested another collecting place. In a local flea market we saw some interesting mineral specimens. We purchased a couple, and got the name and phone number of the person who provided the specimens. A telephone call resulted in a good conversation, but the individual could not provide galena.

We showed some Potosi specimens at the next WGMS meeting. It was then we realized we had missed a great opportunity. A WGMS member indicated he was familiar with the Potosi area and if he knew we were going there he could have given us instructions to a couple of interesting collecting sites.

The second weekend in March the gem club of Deming, NM hosts a "Rockhound Roundup" that includes three days of field trips, silent and regular auctions, and a large range of vendors and exhibits. We have attended many times. We have gone on many field trips. A small fee is charged. We have also gone collecting with different groups that seemed to form through conversations on motel parking lots and at the silent auction. There are several reasons to go with others. Sharing information on where to go and what to look for is helpful. Also, safety factors should always be considered. Accidents or auto breakdowns do happen.

More than 10 years ago we wanted to find petrified wood in Arizona. We checked the guide books. We went to one location where poor quality wood was supposed to be found, but found the location closed. We drove through the small town. At the little post office two ladies were outside. I asked if they had any idea of where we might locate petrified wood. They agreed that there was a place outside of town "where kids go to make out" that might be promising. We found the BLM area and "primitive" road. The road is regularly graded. We have "made our" along this roadway many times hunting there whenever we are in the area.

(continued on page 8)

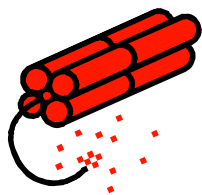
Visiting our son in Needles, CA took us into a new collecting area. At the local Historical Museum we found names of members of the local gem club. We telephoned and had a delightful walk through their yard inspecting their collection. We ended the visit with arms full of neat stuff, and the next day went on a field trip into the desert. From home we sent back some Midwest specimens. Another year we elected to stay in nearby Lake Havasu City, AZ. We contacted the Lake Havasu gem club field trip chairman listed in the Rocky Mountain Federation Directory. During the week we went on two field trips with club members and received directions for a trip we took solo.

Finally, careful planning is part of the fun and key to a successful trip. Full consideration of safety of everyone is essential. And, you learn by going!

American Federation of Mineralogical Society Code of Ethics



A large measure of the enjoyment of our hobby consists of collecting in the field. For that reason, the members are proud to endorse the Code of Ethics below. It is suggested that field trip chairs present a copy of this code to landowners when asking permission to enter private property.



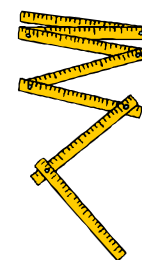
- I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner's permission.
- I will keep informed on all laws, regulations, or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.
- I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.
- I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.
- I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind - fences, signs, buildings, etc.
- I will leave all gates as found.
- I will build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.
- I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.
- I will fill all excavation holes, which may be dangerous to livestock.



- I will not contaminate wells, creeks, or other water supplies.
- I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.
- I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.
- I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.
- I will cooperate with field-trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.



- I will report to my club or federation officers, Bureau of Land Management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes,
- I will observe the "Golden Rule," will use "Good Outdoor Manners," and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and public "image" of rockhounds everywhere.





Hammer Safety; **SAFETY FIRST**

by Bill Klose, EFMLS Safety chairman March 2000 EFMLS News

Hammers used by rock hounds come in every size, type and construction, and include rock hammers, bricklayer's or mason's hammers, blacksmith's or sledge hammers, machinist's peen hammers, jeweler's hammers, setting hammers, soft face hammers, lead or copper faced hammers, trimmer's and welder's hammer's, as well as a variety of mallets, such as rawhide, rubber, and tinner's. I have even seen napping hammers (a 3 pound high carbon steel hammer with tapering faces used for forming stones during road construction or similar stone work) and railroad track mauls (used for driving railroad spikes). As it is hard to anticipate what a rockhounds "favorite weapon" will be, I thought I would present a list of general hammer safety practices followed by the proper use of some of the more common hammer types.

1. Always select the proper type, size, and weight of hammer for the job.
2. Always wear eye protection.
3. Always strike a hammer blow squarely, avoiding glancing blows and over and under strikes. The hammers striking face should be parallel with the surface being struck.
4. When striking a chisel, punch, or wedge, the striking face of the hammer should be 3/8" larger than the struck face of the tool. Both the striking hammers face and the struck face of the tool should be free of oil.
5. Do not strike another hammer with a hammer.
6. Do not strike a harder surface with a hard surface hammer.
7. Never use a hammer with dents, cracks, chips, mushrooming, or excessive wear. Replace the hammer-redressing is not recommended.
8. Replace worn or damaged handles. A qualified individual should replace hammer handles. Most hardware stores will replace hammer handles for a nominal fee. They can also provide a rubber sleeve for sledge hammers, which will prevent handle damage just above the head.



Bricklayer's or mason's hammers are designed for setting or splitting bricks, masonry tile, and concrete blocks. Never use them to strike metal or drive tools such as chisels. The blade of a bricklayer's hammer should be kept sharp by re-dressing at a 40 degree angle with a bench grinder. Keep the metal cool while grinding by quenching often in water to protect the metals tempering.

Hand drilling hammers are used with chisels, star drills, punches, and hardened nails. Never use common nail (claw) hammers for striking metal, such as chisels, as they are designed for driving unhardened nails and their shape, depth of face, and balance make them unsuitable for this use.

Machinist's peen hammers (ball, cross, or straight) are designed for striking chisels and punches and riveting, straightening and shaping metal.

Blacksmith's or sledge hammers are designed for striking wood, metal, concrete, or stone, depending on size, weight, and shape. When using a hammer, grip the handle near the end where it is designed for gripping and will give you the best control and impact with the least effort. Watch your hands, shins, and feet. It may be advisable to wear gloves, long sleeve shirts, and high lacing safety shoes to protect from flying debris and sharp shards if the situation warrants it. When storing hammers for a period of time, lightly lubricate metal parts, but wipe any oil or grease from rubber mallets or rubber handle grips to prevent damage to the rubber.



So get out there and hammer up a storm, safely.

Via GCLFS Newsletter May 2010, Via Cabber Gabber, May 2009, via Rock Collector May 2009

Uncle Josh Adventures: On The Border

By Greg Weisbrod

(continued from page 1)

I looked up and there was the dust cloud of the group leaving the area on the correct dirt road. I was stranded alone in the wilderness on dirt road to nowhere. My cell phone was useless. I climbed a little rise and looked around. The sun was warm and breeze was also warm. In the south about a half mile away a figure was walking toward me. A cold chill ran down my neck and I started to think about the flute playing Hopi trickster god Kokopelli. After a while since the figure got no closer I realized I was looking at a yucca plant tossing in the breeze."

"Wait a minute Uncle Josh, you don't really believe in other gods do you?" asked Crystal. "I guess I do in a way," he replied, "a god is a power that can magnify a part of you, usually at the expense of the rest." "Oh, like the god of panic?" And then Maline pipes up with, "you mean like your foot?" So I contributed, "he means like being a rockhound," which was a mean thing to say but nobody noticed. "Anyway," Josh continued, "after awhile a border patrol guy drove by and pulled me out with directions back. I told him I would put him in for a commendation the next time I saw the President. So it all ended OK but for one thing. When I loaded the jack back in the trunk, I forgot to reload the 25 pounds of Big Diggin's agate that I had taken out. So if anybody comes across that orphan outcrop of sardonyx I left half way up the hill, they are welcome to it."

"What is sardonyx?" asked Opal. "Oh," said Josh, "that's a red banded agate which is another August birth stone." "Hey, I like Dot," said Olive.

Sardonyx

<http://en.wikipedia.org>



- To Lisa Schiebmier for making 86 necklaces for grab bags
- To Debbie Moore for sewing 200 grab bags.
- To everyone who is putting together a display or has signed up to work at the show - you make our show AWESOME!
- Donations are needed for spin the wheel and silent auction.
- Invite your friends and neighbors...they'll be glad you did!



AFMS ENDOWMENT FUND

BY RICHARD JAEGER



I am the Rocky Mountain Federation Regional Chair for the AFMS Endowment Fund. Pam Hecht is the new AFMS Endowment Fund Chair; the raffle will be done the same as Josie Middleton did it last year. Basically, this is a raffle drawing with tickets being sold at \$5 each or five tickets for \$20.

People from clubs around the American Federation donate prizes for the raffle – they may be jewelry, crystal, mineral, or other items, the value of which range generally from \$50 to \$200. The drawing will be handled so that there is at least one winner from each of the seven regional federations.

This is a major way to financially support the American Federation's efforts on behalf of our hobby. Over \$5,500 was raised last year; the goal this year is \$8,000. Last year there were only nine prizes while this year there have already been twenty-two prizes donated!

Pam requests that the checks be sent to the regional chairs so that we may issue tickets and have a record of who has entered. Checks should be made payable to the "AFMS Endowment Fund". We then forward those checks to Pat LaRue, the AFMS Treasurer. I will fill out the proper number of tickets for each contribution, send the stubs to the donating individual, and take the tickets to the AFMS Show in Syracuse, New York to be put into the RMFMS bag. Tickets may also be purchased at the RMFMS Colorado Springs show. There will be one ticket drawn from each of the bags for the seven regional federations. After that, all tickets will be dumped into one bag, and further drawings will take place until all the prizes have been awarded.

I hope that many of you will participate and hopefully be winners in Syracuse; you need not be present to win. I would also be happy to accept any donated prizes for the raffle; the more prizes, the more winners, and hopefully more money raised. My contact information is provided on RMFMS address page of this newsletter under Past Presidents (first column).

Via RMFMS April newsletter



Attention Juniors

If you know of kids who would like to join a functioning internet Junior Rockhound group, please refer them to <http://pebblepups.blogspot.com/> or steve.veatch@gmail.com. Steve is the Colorado Springs & Lake George Pebble Pups and Junior leader who established the internet group two years ago.

Via RMFMS April Newsletter



Copper Wire



After having dug to a depth of 10 feet last year, New York scientists found traces of copper wire dating back 100 years and came to the conclusion, that their ancestors already had a telephone network more than 100 years ago.

Not to be outdone by the New Yorkers, in the weeks that followed, a California archaeologist dug to a depth of 200 feet, and shortly after, a story in the LA Times read: "California archaeologists, finding traces of 200 year old copper wire, have concluded that their ancestors already had an advanced high-tech communications network a hundred years earlier than the New Yorkers."

One week later, The Escanaba Press a local newspaper in Upper Michigan, reported the following:

"After digging as deep as 300 feet in his pasture near Flat Rock, Ole Olson, a self-taught archaeologist, reported that he found absolutely nothing. Ole has therefore concluded that 300 years ago, Upper Michigan had already gone wireless."

Via *The Tulip City Conglomerate*, April 2010



You are Invited to a "Beeding Bee"



Do you like to bead? If so, you are invited to come to Marci Fleeker's on Wednesdays for an evening of beading fun. Sessions are subject to cancel without notice so check with Marci to confirm.

Come anytime after 4pm. Bring your own beading project to work on in the company of other people who like to bead. We won't be teaching any lessons, or providing any food or drinks, we'll just be having fun and hopefully learning from each other.

If you don't have a beading project but want to fellowship anyway, feel free to join us with a project of your choice

2166 S. Topeka
262-8392

Show Calendar

For a more complete list of all shows go to: <http://www.rockngem.com/showdates.asp> or refer to a copy of Rock & Gem Magazine.



APRIL:

15-17—WICHITA, KANSAS: Show and sale, "World of Wonders"; Cessna Activity Center, 2744 George Washington Blvd.; adults \$5, ages 12-17 \$1, children under 12 free with adult; gemstone jewelry, gems, crystals, beads, agates, polished stones, fossils, rocks, minerals, children's programs; contact Gene Maggard, (316) 742-3746; e-mail: gandpmaggard@wildblue.net

22-24—DENVER, COLORADO: 2011 spring wholesale/retail show, "Colorado Mineral & Fossil Show"; Martin Zinn Expositions; Holiday Inn – Denver Central, 4849 Bannock St.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; free admission; 80 wholesale and retail dealers, minerals, fossils, gems, jewelry; contact Martin Zinn Expositions, P.O. Box 665, Bernalillo, NM 87004-0665; e-mail: mzexpos@aol.com; Web site: www.mzexpos.com

MAY:

6-8—McPHERSON, KANSAS: 19th annual sale and swap; McPherson Gem & Mineral Club; McPherson 4-H Bldg., 710 W. Woodside; Fri. 9-7, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10:30-3; free admission; buy or swap, rocks, gems, minerals, fossils, jewelry, door prizes, displays, collections, free rock identification, fluorescent mineral exhibit, kid's spin-and-win; contact Jim Nutter, 1611 Jody Ln., McPherson, KS 67460, (620) 241-2433; e-mail: mcphersongemmineral@hotmail.com

13-15—JOPLIN, MISSOURI: 5th annual Outdoor Rock Swap; Tri-State Gem & Mineral Society; Schifferdecker Park, 7th and Schifferdecker Ave.; Fri. 8-6, Sat. 8-6, Sun. 9-4; free admission; contact Joplin Museum Complex, 504 Schifferdecker Ave., Joplin, MO 64801, (417) 623-1180; e-mail: jmc-cwiseman@sbcglobal.net

20-22—SOUTHGATE, MICHIGAN: Show, "Southeastern Michigan Gem & Mineral Show"; Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society of Michigan; Southgate Arena, 14700 Reaume Pkwy.; Fri. 2-7, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-5; contact Rich Williams, 15816 DuPage, Taylor, MI 48180, (734) 374-2279; e-mail: Richinmich53@aol.com

27-30—SCOTTSBLUFF, NEBRASKA: Retail show; Panhandle Rock & Gem Club; Riverside Zoo Campground, 1600 S. Beltline Hwy. W.; Fri. 8-5; Sat. 8-5, Sun. 8-5, Mon. 8-5; free admission; Raffle and Auction Sat.; contact Dale Tikalsky, 523 W. 20th St., Scottsbluff, NE 69361, (308) 631-7814; e-mail: tikal-sky21@charter.net

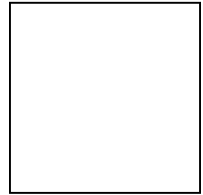
28-29—FORT WORTH, TEXAS: 60th annual show, "Marvelous Minerals"; Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Club; Will Rogers Memorial Center, 3401 W. Lancaster; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$5, seniors and students \$4, ages 16 and under free; contact Steve Hilliard, PO Box 418, Decatur, TX 76234, (817) 925-5760; e-mail: fwgmc@embarqmail.com; Web site: www.fortworthgemandmineralclub.org



**WICHITA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY,
INC**

QUARRY QUIPS

Carolyn White, Editor
2225 N. Fountain
Wichita, KS 67220
editor@wgmsks.org
www.wgmsks.org



TIME VALUE
DO NOT DELAY

Next Meeting:

Sunday May 22nd, 2:00 pm
WSU Geology Building, Rm 101

WGMS Show
April 15, 16, 17
Cessna Activity Center
2744 George Washington Blvd
Wichita, KS

«Name»
«Name 2»
«Address»
«City State zip» «Sort Field»

What's in this Issue

Page	Club Business	Page	Special Interest
2	About Our Club		AFMS News:
3	Calendar - WGMS Events	10	AFMS Endowment Fund
5	Field Trips	8	AFMS Code of Ethics
4	Meeting Minutes		RMFMS News
3	Member Birthdays	11	Internet Junior Rockhound Group
3	Membership	11	Beading Bee
2	Officers	9	Hammer Safety: Safety First
3	Programs	6 - 8	Planning a field trip: How to Find Neat Rocks!
5	Show Report	11	Show Dates
		Cover	Uncle Josh Adventures: On the Border

Quarry Quips Article Deadline: April 29, 2011
Send articles to Carolyn White. Contact information at top of page.

