

September's Birthstone Sapphire



Sapphire is one of the most precious and beautiful gems, prized since the Roman Empire for its deep blue color and its hardness. Sapphire is the birthstone for the month of September and the gem of the 45th wedding anniversary, and is one of the most popular gemstones in pendants, earrings, engagement rings and all kinds of jewelry thanks to its vivid color and its versatility.

Blue Sapphire and Fancy Sapphire

Sapphire is made of the corundum, the same mineral of which rubies are composed. Most precious sapphires sold in jewelry are blue, but in fact, corundum can occur in any color – and all of them are known as "sapphire" except for ruby red.

Blue sapphire is the most well known and highly prized. It can occur in deep, royal blue or any variety of hues down to sky blue. Blue sapphire can also be colored with hints of violet, purple or green. Sapphire is one of the hardest gemstones, rating a 9 on the Mohs scale (diamond is at 10).

Sapphire in Myth and History

Early myths purportedly claimed that the sky was a vast sapphire inside which the Earth was imbedded. Yet sapphire is not present in historical records until around the time of the Roman empire, when the stone was one of several blue gems called "sapphiros," Latin for blue.

Sapphire is a common English translation for the Biblical gemstone that represented the tribe of Issachar. In Sri Lanka, where sapphires were first mined, the gemstone was thought to bring wisdom and tranquility.

Magical Significance and Powers Ascribed to Sapphire

Like most gemstones, sapphire has been attributed with a long list of healing and magical powers. Sapphires are said to: bring majesty, wisdom and nobility, protect against evil thoughts, enhance feelings of harmony, sympathy, and loyalty, clarify creative thinking, intuition and problem-solving, protect against poison, depression, and blood disorders, inspire mutual love, constancy and trust.

Sapphire is believed to bring respect, loyalty and faithfulness to a loving relationship. It is the official gemstone for the 5th, 23rd, and 45th anniversaries, and star sapphire is traditional for the 65th.

Read more: http://gemstones.suite101.com/article.cfm/september_birthstone_sapphire#ixzz0LSZfdGUq
http://gemstones.suite101.com/article.cfm/september_birthstone_sapphire#ixzz0LSZESAR8

Article from <http://gemstones.suite101.com>

Photos from: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sapphire>



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Member of the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies



Affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies



2009-2010 Officers

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President	Patti Ballou.....	316-722-7913 jimpattib@yahoo.com
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Director 2011.....	Peggy Maggard.....	316-742-3746
Director 2012.....	Jim Ballou.....	316-722-7913

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Curator.....	Greg Weisbrod	316-686-1810
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Webmaster	Sandy Riekeman	316-262-7473 info@wgmsks.org
Registered Agent.....	Alice Piper	316-264-7273

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
Ardis Cruz
712 W Harry
Andover KS 67002-8734

Our Annual show for 2010 will be:
April 23, 24 & 25
Tri-State Treasures

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.

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Exchange Bulletins Welcome

Membership News

By Ardis Cruz

Please welcome our newest members and add their information to your club directory.

Norton, Scott 02/11
1617 N Vassar
Wichita KS 67208
316-258-7954
Joined 8-2009



Walker, Charity 5/27
P.O. Box 74
Mapleton KS 66754
620-224-8239
calsmom@yahoo.com
620-224-8239
Joined 8-2009

Walker, Rachel 4/11
1999 105th St
Mapleton, KS 66754
620-743-0114
Joined 8-2009

Reminder: Dues are overdue! If not paid by the end of September you will not be in the directory for 2009-2010.

From the Editor

What happened to the staple in the newsletter?

The US Postal Service has changed the rules for sending bulk mail. Staples are no longer allowed in the corner of the document. If the loose pages are too much to deal with, you may want to check out our electronic newsletter. If you'd like to receive a newsletter via email, send your email address to carolyn.white1@cox.net

It's Time for a New Membership Directory

I will be printing new membership directories in October. Take a moment to check the information we have on file for you now. Is it accurate? Would you like to add an email address? Am I missing your birthday or anniversary? If your information needs to be updated you can contact me at 316-250-61852 or at: carolyn.white1@cox.net

What do you want to see in QQ?

Have you been anywhere special lately? Read any good books? Taken any fantastic pictures? Found a neat website? Spread the wealth by sharing with your fellow rock hounds. Write me an article or a book report. Send me a web address. Quarry Quips is what you make it.

Programs

By Don Atherton

The September Program will be about some fossils that you can find in Kansas



- Marvaline Ray sewed 234 grab bags. Thank you!

Do you know someone who did something special for WGMS? Let me know so that we can all say Thanks.

Field Trips

By Joe Cruz

I am planning a camping field trip to Cedar Bluff Reservoir. The date has not yet been determined and details are too much to put in the newsletter so if you are interested please call me.

The basic plan is to camp overnight Friday, Oct 2nd and hunt for septarian concretions at two spots on Sat, Oct 3rd. One is right on the lake and one on private property east of the lake.

There is also the possibility of finding shark teeth and other marine fossils. The lake is beautiful and it should be fun to get out and enjoy the outdoors.

I should have details available at the September meeting. If you will not be at the September meeting but are interested in going give me a call and I can mail some information to you.

Joe Cruz, 218-0250



Event Calendar



Show Calendar

SEPTEMBER:

Sep 12	Work Day @ Alan DeGood's Pot luck lunch & committee mtg	9 am
Sep 21	WGMS Board Mtg Community of Christ Church	7 pm
Sep 27	General Meeting WSU Geology Bldg, rm 101	2 pm
Oct 19	WGMS Board Mtg Community of Christ Church	7 pm
Oct 31	Work Day @ Alan DeGood's Pot luck lunch & committee mtg	9 am
Sep 27	General Meeting WSU Geology Bldg, rm 101	2 pm

16-20--DENVER, COLORADO: Wholesale and retail show, "The Denver Coliseum Mineral, Fossil, and Gem Show"; Eons Expositions, LLC; Denver Coliseum, 4600 Humboldt St.; Wed. 10-6, Thu. 10-6, Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-6; adults \$3, seniors and students \$2, children free; contact Lowell Carhart, 7514 Antelope Meadows Circle, Peyton, CO 80831, (719) 886-7046; e-mail: lowellcarhart@yahoo.com; Web site: <http://eons-expos.com/>

16-20--DENVER, COLORADO: Wholesale and retail show, "Denver Expo Gem Mineral Fossil & Bead Show"; Tucson Electric Park Gem Show; National Western Complex, 4655 Humboldt St.; Wed. 10-7, Thu. 10-7, Fri. 10-7, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 10-4; free admission, open to the public; contact Al Sargent, P.O. Box 2902, Tucson, AZ 85702, (520) 883-6447; e-mail: tepgem-show@hotmail.com; Web site: www.TucsonElectricParkGemShow.com

OCTOBER:

3-4--GREELEY, COLORADO: Show; Weld County Rock & Mineral Society; Greeley Senior Activity Center, 1010 6th St.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 12-4; free admission; contact Melanie DeHart, 410 21 Avenue, Greeley, CO 80631, (970) 352-8149; e-mail: hamlethouse@yahoo.com

3-4--JACKSONVILLE, ARKANSAS: 37th annual show; Central Arkansas 2009 Gem & Mineral Show; Central Arkansas Gem, Mineral & Geology Society; Jacksonville Community Center, 5 Municipal Dr., Hwy. 67/167 Exit 9 (Main St.); Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-5; free admission; contact Pat, (501)821-2346; pkissire@sbcglobal.net; www.centralrockhound.org

3-4--OMAHA, NEBRASKA: 54th 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; Web site: www.nerockgem.us

17-18--SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI: 42nd show; Ozark Mountain Gem & Mineral Society; Exposition Center, 635 St. Louis St.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; adults \$3.50, children 50 cents; contact Floyd Carpenter, 1942 S. Glenstone, Springfield, MO 65804, (417) 823-3800; e-mail: ttc65@sbcglobal.net

23-25--AUSTIN, TEXAS: Annual show; Austin Gem & Mineral Society; Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd.; Fri. 9-5, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$5, seniors \$4, students \$1; children 50 cents; contact Brian Wetzig, 6719 Burnet Ln., Austin, TX 78757, (512) 458-9546; e-mail: general@austingemandmineral.org; Web site: www.austingemandmineral.org

Please send show information to editor@wgmsks.org
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.

Member Birthdays



September:

04	Pat Clough-McCombs
07	Robert Carr
08	Tony McClafflin
09	Agnes Saunders, Miklos Lorik
10	Joyce Weisbrod
13	Venetta Nutter, Jim Meir
14	Bernadine Roberts
19	William Webb
20	Steve Hurlock
21	Marvin Lundquist
22	Elizabeth Hixon

October:

01	Bill Smith, Janet Biven, Colin Workman
02	Quentin Askey
03	Wuakiya Brunner
05	Alice Piper
06	Angela White, John Rhoades
10	Ray Adams, Delbert Ebersole
14	Peggy Stambaugh
15	Janet Douglas
18	Marci Fleeker, Colby Woods
23	Kimberly Ebersole
27	Ray Barratti
28	David Fleeker
30	Ann Ebersole
31	Damon Lingafelter

Buena Vista Colorado, August 2009 by Tony McLoughlin

Whenever I go someplace where people have a chance to express themselves it amazes me how creative people can be. I believe every person has something they can be good at. In the rockhound field, there are so many areas a person can take an interest in. Whether you're a hobbyist, like me, a craftsman who can produce marvels to share with others, or an artist who has a passion they can express.



At the Buena Vista Rock Show this year there were many interesting things to see. One that really grabbed my attention was the paintings by Terry McKee. His paintings are so lifelike. Looking at his paintings was like traveling back in time. Each painting is based on fossil evidence and tells a story about what happened at the location.

Terry is a member of the Western Interiors Paleological Society, located in Denver. At an early age he became interested in map drawing, reading about and drawing dinosaurs. When he was 8 years old he moved to Oklahoma and became interested in Indians and western wildlife and pioneer paintings. He sold hundreds of paintings over a 25 year period.

His membership and association with the Western Interior Paleological Society and its members helps him paint. His paintings are detailed and realistic. They really do tell a story. Each painting is based on a site, the fossils found there and what life was like at that time. Whether it was two hundred years ago or 200 million.



Northeast of Pueblo are tepee Buttes where many baculites and ammonites are found. These buttes (small hills) are above the surrounding terrain and were caused by methane vents. Much like the vents found in the bottom of the pacific they were a source of food with the baculites being the top predator at that time. His paintings of these sites show what was going on and the types of life present. I can see the action just as if I was there. Terry McKee is an artist I hope to see again.





Meeting Minutes

By Susan Bannon

President Gene Maggard called the WGMS Board Meeting to order at Community Christ Church on South Webb Rd together at 7:00 pm Aug. 17, 2009. In attendance were: Paul Radiel, Ardis Cruz, Lyle Koerper, Gene Maggard, Ray Adams, Don Atherton, Joe Cruz, Sandy Whiting, Peggy Maggard, Carolyn White and Susan Bannon. The 2 new upcoming officers, Patty Ballou (President elect) and Jim Ballou (Director for the next 3 yrs.) were present, as well as our guest Alice Piper.

President Gene Maggard asked if there were any corrections to last month's minutes. Paul Radiel, Director, brought to our attention that although his actions were mentioned he was not listed as present. He was present.

Don Atherton, Vice President/Program Chair, stated that Sept. program will be on Kansas fossils. October's program will be a DVD on gems. Don, also, said he'd researched in Best Buy for a better way to show our DVD's/films. He suggested we buy a karaoke to get the best sound, a DVD/VHS player and a projector and gave us varying prices. Jim Ballou moved to authorize Don to purchase such using up to \$1500. Carolyn White, Editor, seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- Eight applications were turned in for the Swap Meet Saturday.
- Sandy Whiting, Treasurer, presented an insurance voucher for \$ 1309.00 from Hartford Insurance Co.
- Ardis Cruz, Treasurer, presented 3 new member applications from: D. Scott Norton, Rachel Walker and Charity Walker
- Ardis moved we accept the new members. Paul Radiel seconded the motion. Motion passed.

President Gene Maggard announced the following work dates at the DeGood's:

- Saturday, Sept 12th 9:00 a.m.
- Saturday, Oct. 31st 9:00 a.m.

On these workdays some bag items for the grab bag, while others break up rocks for the rock pile. We have a covered dish lunch. After lunch is a Show Committee Meeting.

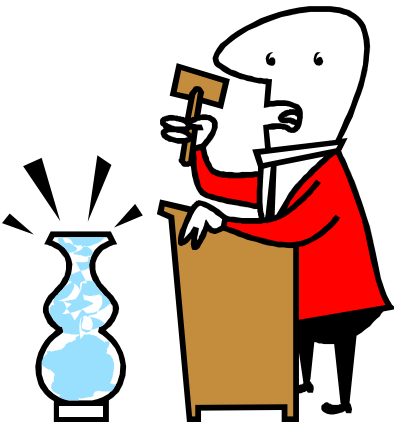
Ray Adams, Finance, said the audit would take place after the State Fair. Sandy Whiting said she'd bring the books to the Sept 21st Board Meeting.

We looked at the refined patches. Lyle Koerper moved and Don Atherton seconded that the patches not replace the plaques for "Rockhound of the Year" and " Outstanding Service Award" but be an addition with the plaques and that all plaque recipients of the past be issued like patches. Motion passed 8 to 2.

Joe Cruz, Field Trip Chair, said he'd be having a septarian nodule field trip in Sept.



GENERAL MEETING



On August 23, 2009 the Wichita Gem and Mineral Society held a morning Swap Meet/Sale in the parking lot of Community of Christ Church on South Webb Rd. A covered dish lunch followed. We had our famous auction afterward with Gene Maggard and Lyle Koerper as auctioneers, Ray Adams and Jim Ballou as displayers/bid takers, Mary Clough as clerk and Susan Bannon as cashier. The material was donated. The work was donated. It was a lot of fun, as usual.

2010 Show Committee

Show Report

By Gene Maggard

Note: Additional people are needed to serve on the Show Committee.

If you are interested in any way, please call Gene Maggard, show chair, at 742-3746. Ideally we'd like to have 2 people in each spot.



Don't know what you'd enjoy helping with? That is ok, pick one. Next year try something else! Some one already assigned to the area you are interested in? That's ok too. We like to share!

Show Committee Members

Chairman.....	Gene Maggard.....	316-742-3746
Admissions.....	Peggy Maggard.....	316-742-3746
Announcer.....	Jim Ballou.....	316-722-7193
	Lisa Scheibmeir.....	316-687-1183
Dealers.....	David Hardin.....	620-584-4716
Electrical.....	Greg Weisbrod.....	316-686-1810
Fluorescents.....	Ray Adams.....	316-942-7006
Gem Hunt.....	David Hardin.....	620-584-4716
Grab Bags.....	Carolyn White.....	316-250-6182
Junior Rock Pile.....	Alan DeGood.....	316-794-8391
Membership.....	Ardis Cruz.....	316-218-0250
WGMS President.....	Patti Ballou.....	316-722-7913
Publicity.....	Leo Heidebrecht.....	316-260-4591
Education Day.....	Carolyn White.....	316-250-6182
	Pat Clough McCombs.....	316-210-7380
Secretary.....	Susan Bannon.....	316-689-8256
Hospitality.....	Debbie Winton.....	316-841-8773
Security.....	Tony McClafin.....	785-489-2248
Setup.....	Lyle Koerper.....	316-722-7115
Silent Auction.....	Mary Clough.....	316-943-1785
Special Exhibits.....	Gene Maggard.....	316-742-3746
Special Programs.....	Don Atherton.....	316-685-2725
Treasurer.....	Sandy Whiting.....	316-744-8848
Volunteer Coord.....	Patti Ballou.....	316-742-3746
Wheel.....	Alice Piper.....	316-264-7273
Demonstrators.....	Debby Moore.....	316-524-6001
Editor.....	Carolyn White.....	316-250-6182
Webmaster.....	Sandy Riekeman.....	316-262-7473



Planning is well underway for the 2010 show. It looks like club member Roger Pollard has made some really good contacts in the Tri-States area for special exhibits of Tri-States minerals, and perhaps a special program, also. I will be following up on the contacts provided by Roger. Roger is also involved with the Joplin, Mo. show, which is Sept. 25, 26 and 27 this year. If you have time to see the show, you could also see a lot of Tri-State minerals at the show.

If you have not yet done so, mark you calendar for the Saturday, October 31 Jr. Rock Pile and Grab Bag work date at the De Goods. We will be wanting to get as many rocks busted as possible in order to avoid having to schedule a third work date.

We need to get more people on the show committee and involved in the planning of the show. Please contact me if you are interested.

Work Day

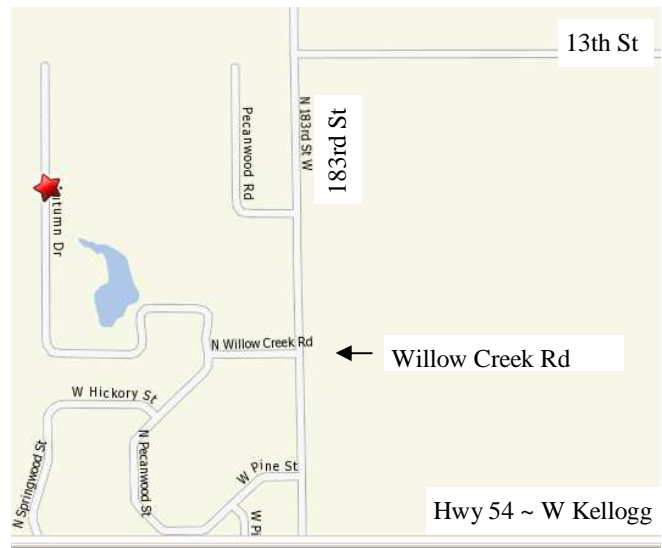


It is that time of year again! Time to start preparing for next years show. We have two work days scheduled this fall out at Alan DeGood's place.

- Saturday, Sept 12th 9:00 a.m.
- Saturday, Oct. 31st 9:00 a.m.

We will be breaking rocks for the Junior Rock Pile and bagging specimens for the grab bags. If you are going to break rocks please bring your hammer and safety goggles.

We will have a pot luck lunch and a show committee



SCIENCE DAILY ~ TOP SCIENCE HEADLINES

I recently signed up for an email newsletter created by Science Daily. They send out a daily or weekly digest (your choice) of headlines related to the following subjects: Health & Medicine, Mind and Brain, Plants & Animals, Earth & Climate, Space & Time, Matter & Energy, Computers & Math, and my favorite...Fossils & Ruins. You can choose to get information from any or all of the above listed topics.

Each article contains links to related stories so you can easily find subjects of interest to you. When you are on their website, you can click on one of the main topics and browse to your heart's content. All of the articles are dated so you can easily tell how current the information is.

I highly recommend Science Daily. If you already an expert, it provides you with a way to see the latest information. If you are a novice, like me, its like being a kid let loose in a candy store. You can sign up for an email newsletter at <http://www.sciencedaily.com/newsletters.htm> or browse for news of interest to you at <http://www.sciencedaily.com/>

Below are excerpts from a few of the treasures I found in my browsing this week. The first article was in my weekly email...the others were linked to the original article or to one of the articles browsed. All of the articles contain reference sources and wonderful pictures and/or sketches.

Evidence Of Iridescence In 40 Million-year-old Feather Fossil: *ScienceDaily (Aug. 26, 2009)*

"Known for their wide variety of vibrant plumage, birds have evolved various chemical and physical mechanisms to produce these beautiful colors over millions of years. A team of paleontologists and ornithologists led by Yale University has now discovered evidence of vivid iridescent colors in feather fossils more than 40 million years old..."

Yale University (2009, August 26). Evidence Of Iridescence In 40 Million-year-old Feather Fossil. *ScienceDaily*. Retrieved September 2, 2009, from <http://www.sciencedaily.com-/releases/2009/08/090826072957.htm>

Scary Ancient 'Spiders' Revealed In 3D Models, With New Imaging Technique: *ScienceDaily (Aug. 5, 2009)* — Early relatives of spiders that lived around 300 million years ago are revealed in new three-dimensional models, in research published August 5 in the journal *Biology Letters*.

Imperial College London (2009, August 5). Scary Ancient 'Spiders' Revealed In 3D Models, With New Imaging Technique. *ScienceDaily*. Retrieved September 2, 2009, from <http://www.sciencedaily.com-/releases/2009/08/090804211128.htm>

Beaked, Bird-like Dinosaur Tells Story Of Finger Evolution: *ScienceDaily (June 18, 2009)* —

"Scientists have discovered a unique beaked, plant-eating dinosaur in China. The finding, they say, demonstrates that theropod, or bird-footed, dinosaurs were more ecologically diverse in the Jurassic period than previously thought, and offers important evidence about how the three-fingered hand of birds evolved from the hand of dinosaurs...."

National Science Foundation (2009, June 18). Beaked, Bird-like Dinosaur Tells Story Of Finger Evolution. *ScienceDaily*. Retrieved September 2, 2009, from <http://www.sciencedaily.com-/releases/2009/06/090617171816.htm>

Sands Of Gobi Desert Yield New Species Of Nut-cracking Dinosaur: *ScienceDaily (June 17, 2009)* — "Plants or meat: That's about all that fossils ever tell paleontologists about a dinosaur's diet. But the skull characteristics of a new species of parrot-beaked dinosaur and its associated gizzard stones indicate that the animal fed on nuts and/or seeds. These characteristics present the first solid evidence of nut-eating in any dinosaur..."

Discovery Raises New Doubts About Dinosaur-bird Links: *ScienceDaily (June 9, 2009)* —

"Researchers at Oregon State University have made a fundamental new discovery about how birds breathe and have a lung capacity that allows for flight – and the finding means it's unlikely that birds descended from any known theropod dinosaurs..."

Oregon State University (2009, June 9). Discovery Raises New Doubts About Dinosaur-bird Links. *ScienceDaily*. Retrieved September 2, 2009, from <http://www.sciencedaily.com-/releases/2009/06/090609092055.htm>

Fossil Feathers Preserve Evidence Of Color, Say Scientists: *ScienceDaily (July 9, 2008)* —

"The traces of organic material found in fossil feathers are remnants of pigments that once gave birds their color, according to Yale scientists whose paper in *Biology Letters* opens up the potential to depict the original coloration of fossilized birds and their ancestors, the dinosaurs...."

Yale University (2008, July 9). Fossil Feathers Preserve Evidence Of Color, Say Scientists. *ScienceDaily*. Retrieved September 2, 2009, from <http://www.sciencedaily.com-/releases/2008/07/080708182536.htm>

RACETRACK PLAYA MOUNTAINS

(Information obtained from several sources by Linda Behr for *The Mountain Gem*.)

Nestled in a remote valley between the Cottonwood and Last Chance Ranges, the Racetrack is a place of stunning beauty and mystery. The Racetrack is a playa--a dry lakebed--best known for its strange moving rocks. Although no one has actually seen the rocks move, the long meandering tracks left behind in the mud surface of the playa attest to their activity

The moving rocks, also known as sliding rocks or sailing stones, are a geological phenomenon found in Racetrack Playa, a seasonally dry lake (a playa) located in the Panamint Mountains in Death Valley National Park, California. The rocks move across the surface of the playa, leaving long tracks behind them as they go, without human or animal intervention.

They have never been seen or filmed in motion. Racetrack rocks only move once every two or three years and most tracks last for just three or four years. Rocks with rough bottoms leave straight striated tracks while those with smooth bottoms wander. Most of the moving stones originate from an 850-foot (260 m) high hillside made of dark dolomite on the south end of the playa, but some are intrusive igneous rock from adjacent slopes. Tracks are often tens to hundreds of feet (low to high tens of meters) long, a few to 12 inches (8 to 30 cm) wide, and typically less than an inch (2.5 cm) deep.

Over the years there were many speculations and possible explanations made on how the stones move, ranging from supernatural to very complex. Most hypotheses favored by interested geologists suggest that strong winds when the mud is wet are at least in part responsible. But some stones weigh as much as a human, which some researchers feel is too heavy for the area's wind to move. They maintain that ice sheets around the stones either help to catch the wind or move in ice flows. But both theories don't explain how two rocks right next to each other could go in two opposite directions or one could stay put while the one three times the size, doesn't. So far every attempt of explanation has been insufficient and purely assumptive. The mystery of moving rocks is yet to be revealed.

Main source:

<http://britishexpats.com/forum/showthread.php?t=542408> and other Internet sites

via The Mountain Gem, 06-2009

Read more at:

<http://geology.com/articles/racetrack-playa-sliding-rocks.shtml>

<http://www.anomalies-unlimited.com/OddPics/Playa.html>

All pictures were copied from the above sites.





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Next Meeting

September 27, 2009
Wichita State University
Geology Building, Rm 101

Newsletter Deadline

October 2, 2009
Articles & Address Corrections

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