

CRYSTAL LINES

November 2009

The Peoria Academy of Science - Geology Section

A Few Not So Random Thoughts :

Field Trips So what do we have for field trips next year? We heard a lot of really good ideas at the last meeting. Here is part of what we discussed:

Illinois State Museum in Springfield for a closeup look at their mineral collections (a good winter trip)

Arkansas quartz mines (we have several members with experience now but it's a long drive)

Hamilton, IL for geodes (a perennial favorite)

The Clement Mineral museum in Kentucky and maybe some fluorite

The Funks' Mineral Collection in Shirley IL just southwest of Bloomington

Curry rock auction(s) in Belvidere near Rockford

Oklahoma for selenite (and rose rock perhaps?) – a very long drive

A round robin tour of club-member mineral collections – we have

The Gem Shop in Cedarburg, WI (north of Milwaukee, they have an impressive selection of lapidary materials and specimens)

The ISGS field trips (destinations in 2010 yet unknown but always interesting)

The Park Hills Swap Meet (usually 2nd week of June) plus trips to Valles Mines and other Missouri mine dumps for drusy quartz, barite and agate. The swap meet is becoming a large event well worth the trip.

The Copper Country Retreat in the UP (First week in August but again, a long drive)

Programming - We will go over these and maybe others next week. Also, we should talk more about programming for the meetings. We have some good ideas – guest speakers (anyone have someone in mind?), videos, demonstrations (on mounting stone, lapidary such as polishing Potosi stones, wire wrapping), mineral identification night (although interesting minerals are welcome anytime), tools –both for collecting and for preparation – what, where and how to use them.

Newsletter delivery issues If you are receiving this on paper by US mail it is because I don't have your email address. I realize that for various reasons there are club members that don't use email or want a hardcopy and that is okay. Email will have its advantages for everyone else. Event reminders can be sent in a flash and for the time being, I will be adding items that I have taken off the web that are difficult to add to the newsletter.

Membership Dues are due for year 2010. We will start taking money at the November meeting. If you joined at the show or sent in dues since August then you are covered for 2010. If there is a 10 next to your name in the newsletter address then you have paid. Dues are currently \$10 for a single

and \$16 for a family. Our primary expense for memberships are dues to our sponsoring organizations, \$4 per person to the Peoria Academy of Science and \$4 person to the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies (which, in turn, is part of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies). We are doing a good job raising money over and above membership fees so it may not be necessary to raise those fees.

Articles and submissions If anyone has an opinion that they would like to have included in the newsletter, please send it in. We have room for opinions and articles specific to lapidary, mineral collecting and fossils. We are particularly interested in any collecting experiences you have.

New Members I would like to welcome the following members who have joined at the show or since then :

Maurice and Carol Super, Washington
Laura, David, Milton, Devon Shaw, Peoria
Elaine Jorgensen, Brimfield
Amy Ward, Lacon
Vicki Small, Pekin
Lawrence, Victoria, Christopher Heren, E Peoria
Rick, Lucy, Cody, Sylvie, Lilly Twait, Eureka
William Wyant, Normal
Cheryl Shelander, Washington
Robert and Belinda Livengood and Isaac O'Keefe, Bartonville
Howard Lee, E Peoria
Becky and Greg Neaveill, Peoria

Welcome to you all. We look forward to seeing you at our meetings and fieldtrips. Thanks for joining us in this grand adventure.

2010 Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show Planning is underway already for the 2010 show in August. A committee is forming to make this even better than the last. We need to plan the silent auction, kids/pebble pups area, grab bags, theme (do we have one?), setup and takedown, food issues, greeters, organize the volunteers and so much more. If you are interested please contact Jim Travis, Dave Fitch, or any of the club officers. We have already started to gather materials for the silent auction and kids area and there is so much to do.

Websites Our website, <http://www.pasgeology.com/>, is up and running. We paid for another two years of operation. We try to keep newsletters online, contact information, field trip information and anything else Jim Travis thinks should be there. Please check it out.

Another interesting website is <http://gemhunter.webs.com/> . The author is Dan Heusel, a former staff geologist with Geological Survey of Wyoming. Something of a maverick (he didn't play well with others), Dan writes a number of knowledgeable articles about finding gemstones and precious metals. It is oriented to Wyoming geology but much of the info is general in nature.

And finally, www.quartzpage.de . A marvelous website dedicated to quartz. Pictures, descriptions, properties, and varieties. A very extensive site.

Looking Ahead Events to consider attending in future include:

November 27-29, St Louis MO. The St Louis Mineral and Gem Society Annual Show at the Holiday Inn Motel, 10709 Watson R. Fri 4-8, Sat 10-7 Sun 10-5. Website: www.stlmgs.stlearthsci.org .

January 26, Rock Bingo! The January meeting of the PAS Geology Section will **start at 6:00PM** rather than the usual 7PM. This will be our after-the-fact Christmas party. Please bring wrapped rocks or rock related items for prizes. There will be a buffet meal as well. The club will provide the chicken. Please bring a side dish or desert to share. More on this in the January newsletter.

Sawing (or What's Inside?)

Roger K. Pabian, Lapidary Chair MWF

There is a common belief that you never know what will be inside a rock until you saw it open. There may be some surprises, but the lapidary has a lot more control over what sawing will produce than is commonly believed. The biggest mistake is fitting the rock into the vise. ("This rock fits perfectly into the vise, therefore, that must be the direction in which I should cut it.") I have seen hundreds of slabs of aventurine that have no sparkle because they were cut in the direction in which they most conveniently fit into the vise. The same holds true for tiger eye and for most feldspars, such as labradorite or spectrolite.

The solution to getting the proper cut is no farther away than the scrap wood pile and some white glue such as Elmer's Glue. If you have a piece of aventurine and you want maximum sparkles, glue the piece to the lumber scrap with the sparkly side up. Give the glue about a week to dry and set up hard, then set the stone in the vise with the sparkles parallel to the blade. You should end up with some very nice slabs.

Tiger eye and feldspar are nice blocky minerals that fit very nicely into the saw vise, all in the wrong way. With tiger eye, make the cut such that it is parallel to the direction of the broken, fibrous surface. Glue one of the fibrous surfaces to a board and get ready to cut some very fine eye material. The tiger eye will be at an angle to the saw blade, and not in a block that is essentially perpendicular to it.

For feldspars, to orient the stone, take the block you wish to cut and roll it about under a bright incandescent lamp. (Do not use fluorescent lights or the ecologically safe lights as these do not have the proper wave lengths of light to be of any help.) You will find that when the surface of the stone shows the maximum reflection and color, that surface will be about 10 degrees off of the horizontal. Making your cut parallel to that surface will produce the best effect. You will need to have a few shims to set the block at about 10 degrees to the board. Make sure to not cut wood with your diamond saw; use small rock scraps for shims, or cut some from a soft rock such as alabaster or limestone.

When slicing agate nodules, cuts parallel to the surface will produce an opened pattern, whereas cuts that are perpendicular to the surface produce a tightly banded fortification pattern. By different orientation of the stone, you can produce opened or closed patterns at will.

Too many lapidaries tend to throw away the end cuts of agate nodules, but these often produce some of the most outstanding patterns when the surface is sawed away. My late friend, Bill White, won many American Federation trophies for his cabochons that came off of the end cuts; material that most people would have thrown away. When working with big cabochons, it is often quicker and less expensive to remove the excess material with the trim saw. This was especially true when carbide wheels were in vogue, and diamond grinders were not in use.

At any rate, you are the one in charge when sawing a rock. The rock doesn't have any say in the matter. Don't be hasty; use some glue and board scraps. Treat the material with the care and kindness it deserves.

(From the September 2009 MWF Newsletter)

PAS Minutes October 27, 2009

Sign in sheet was passed around. 26 members present. Thank you for the door prizes provided by Phil Krumholz and the refreshments provided by Jeanie Krumholz. Door prize tickets were passed out.

Ted Mlotek called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm. The club received a letter of recognition from the Midwest Federation in the form of a certificate for our 45 years as a member. Welcome new members: Maurice and Carol Super.

Georgia Hoggatt asked the members to fill out a "survey." What field trips would members want? Are we missing what members wish to get out of the meetings? What would make the club better or more interesting? This year the field trip proposed were:

Geodes in Hamilton, IL

Drusy Quartz in Valles Mine, MO

Quarry for fossils

Picnic/fishing/geode cracking in
September

Picnic with GESCI and visit to Funk
Museum

Mt. Ida for crystals

Braidwood for fossils

Member discussion: Trips great but timing not there due to so many things going on in families.

Dave Hoggatt proposed a possible trip to New Mexico next March for agates. The Hoggatts spend time in the south during the winter, and they would have an opportunity to get to know the area for a great specimen gathering adventure. Next Tuesday night would be a "free" night in the lapidary shop. The cost is usually \$5 to cover expenses to run the shop. This is a great time to get introduced to the art of lapidary work.

Sue Dobyns volunteered to send out a club directory. Right now it is about 7 pages. Dave Fitch has this and any member may get it via e-

mail. Just contact Dave if interested. We may do something as Sue suggested in the future.

Georgia introduced a brochure to the BEN E. CLEMENT MINERAL MUSEUM in Marion, KY. It has fluorite and other minerals. Field trips are also offered. Perhaps this could be a trip next year for the first week in June. The museum provides schools with programs.

Georgia also offered 2 books to the club library: One on "Beading" and another on "Minerals and Shells."

Ted reminded the members to pay dues in November. \$16 for family and \$10 individual.

Dave Fitch suggested that next year the dues be raised because of insurance costs and the cost of mailing the newsletter.

It is proposed that we form a Show Committee. Jim Travis does most of the work with the Hoggatts. The committee would work with Jim and be able to spread the work load. We had a terrific volunteer base of over 30 members for the show last August. It is this volunteer effort that is needed to work together all year. First we would make groups, and then find volunteers to work in the groups and as a team report to Jim.

So far for the show next year Ina has 75 grab bags made and 408 geodes are bagged and labeled.

At a meeting last summer, Elaine Angstrom from Michigan, presented ideas on how to run a money making Silent Auction. Georgia reported that she raised \$4140 as profit at the Michigan Show this year. Part of the success is due to investing money to purchase items at a low cost. Georgia made a request for the club to fund \$300 toward the purchase of items. Ted made a motion to give Georgia \$300 for the purchase of items for the silent auction. Jim Travis seconded the motion and all were in favor. Motion passed.

Jim made a motion to allow Tracy \$200 to purchase specimens for the Kids' Room. Linda

Kahila seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Dave Fitch found a source in Bloomington for name tags. He will move forward to have a sample made up.

Dave found that the website went down. A charge of \$150 was needed to get it going again. This pays for the domain name and host for 2-3 years. Money was also needed to pay for the post office box.

New Business:

Dave Fitch announced a Nov. 14 Rock and Mineral auction in Rolla, MO. It is on the U of MO campus. There is a 7:30 check in with auction to follow later in the morning.

Ina announced the Slate of Officers for next year as follows:

President: Dave Fitch

Vice-P: _____

Secretary: Pam Cramer

Treasurer: Georgia Hoggatt

Refreshments and door prizes followed.

Members sharing recent field trips and “finds”: Pam Cramer showed samples of crystals from Mt. Ida. She and Megan found them on a trip last August.

Dave Hoggatt presented a sample of Blue Drusy from Wisconsin. He had trimmed it and polished the edges.

Mike Jenkins brought in a Dugway geode and a specimen of Septarian.

Dave Fitch explained a possible trip to Michigan the first week of August next year to a Copper Retreat. Field trips are constantly going to the mines.

The tallies from the suggestions requested earlier in the evening are as follows:

Finding Geodes, Fossils, Minerals, Crystals, Drusy

Field trip to OK for Hourglass Selenite

Trip to members homes to view collections

Gem Shop at Cedarburg, Wisconsin

Guest Speakers

Videos

How to mount a stone

Do more hands on with the membership

Polishing Potosi stones

Carol Winters suggested the club see the Illinois State Research and Collections Geology Exhibit.

Have a mineral ID night

Showing tools, where to buy them/find them, and wrapping of specimens.

8:30pm Ted made a motion to adjourn. Linda Kahila seconded the motion. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Cramer

P.S....PLEASE... We are in need of an editor for our newsletter. Contact Dave Fitch.



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The Quartz Page

Mineral Puns (That Henny Youngman threw out....)

A chunk of Halite walks into a Police Station , and reported that he was assaulted.

A mineral collector walks into a bar with a pail of crushed limestone, and says "I'll have a beer, please, and one for the road".

A Chemist trying to create a transparent mineral stirred Calcite into Sulphuric Acid, but the result was nothing to look at.

A mineral collector fell off of a quarry wall, and suffered serious injuries. He woke up in the hospital and cried "Doctor, doctor, I can't feel my legs!" The Doctor replied "I know, that's because we had to amputate both of your arms."

What do you call a fish fossil with no eyes? A fish fossil.

A Chlorine ion bumps into an Iron ion on the street and the Chlorine says Are you all Right?.... No, I lost an electron. Are you sure?..... Yes, I'm positive!

My portable UV light went dead, so I took it to the hardware store, and got new batteries, but they didn't work. No wonder they were "free of charge"! Still, I was "delighted". (My counselor suggested I find another outlet for any anger).

I asked the bookseller if my latest Fleischer Mineral Species issue was guaranteed, and he said "Obsoletely!"

I really didn't want to rappel down the Swiss Alp to find the Fluorite pocket, but I was roped into it. (To appreciate rope jokes, you have to be taut!)

Did you hear the joke about the prehnite pocket high up the side of the quarry wall? NO? Well, it was over your head, anyway!

Taking your children mineral collecting often puts them on their pest behavior.

A collecting friend got lost in a mine, but used his cell phone to reach me at the adit. That was a close call!

I was wondering why the falling piece of ledge was getting bigger and bigger. Then it hit me!

The rockhound sat down on his chisel and got a little behind in his collecting efforts!

He was arrested for throwing dynamite down the mine shaft, but when they saw his gold specimens, they dropped the charges.

In a recession, the mineral collecting business is always picking up.

Old mineral collectors never die...they just slowly petrify!

My digging buddy wanted to join me in my hole, so I gave him an inch and he became a ruler!

Mineral collecting is a lot like paying taxes. you work hard and end up in the hole!

While collecting minerals in California, there was an earthquake and two of my banking friends went into default!

GEOLOGY SECTION of the
Peoria Academy of Science

President – Ted Mlotek
Vice President – Georgia Hoggatt
Secretary – Pam Cramer
Treasurer – David Fitch
Webmaster – Jim Travis
Newsletter – (vacant)

Meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month except September and December. They start at 7PM at the Ameran CILCO Building at 8420 North University, Peoria, IL. Annual dues are \$10 single or \$16 family.

Membership committee is Mary Bodell (647-9523), Pam Cramer (360-2785), and Beth Sullivan (692-6431). Please contact any one of them with any concerns, ideas, or questions.

www.pasgeology.com