

The Sooner Rockologist

Vol. 64 Number 4

April 2009

Oklahoma Mineral & Gem Society Purpose

- *The purpose shall be an educational relationship among the members for the study of rocks, gems, minerals, fossils, and lapidary techniques, and for the exchange of the results of such studies and classifications with similar societies and the public. (We have fun, too!)*

Membership & Meetings

General Membership meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. (with the exception of June and December when we celebrate with an anniversary picnic in June and a December Christmas party in lieu of regular meetings). Guests are welcome!

On the first Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. (except on holidays), we meet for a Demonstration & Work Night to give members an opportunity to share information and teach each other and assist each other with various personal projects.

Meetings and work nights are held at the Will Rogers Garden Exhibition Building, 3400 N.W. 36th Street in Oklahoma City. Annual dues are \$10.00 for a single membership and \$15.00 for husband and wife (children also). A \$1.00 per person initiation fee applies to new members, subject to application and approval.

More New Members



For the second month in a row, the Oklahoma Mineral and Gem Society has welcomed a large class of new members. From left to right the new members are Dwight & Ann Berglan, Chris & Dion Burnett, Bill Chaney, Lanny Cranford, Brenda Hibbler, Beverly Hibbler, Charlie Markland, Loretta Nelson, Dale Moore, Melanie & John Richards and Elsie Stickler. Please help these new members to feel at home at OMGS.

General Materials Field Trip a Success

After a two year wait, the General Materials Field Trip was held on March 14. With 78 people from Oklahoma Mineral and Gem Society and several other clubs from around Oklahoma attending, the field trip was definitely a success. The day started out slightly damp with a chill in the air but this did not stop Oklahoma rockhounds from sorting through the piles of rock.

General Materials management apologized for not having larger piles to sort through. Apparently their business has been good and they were unable to keep large supplies on hand. A second field trip was discussed for later in the year, but there are no definite plans at this time.



OMGS Board Meeting Minutes
March 12, 2009

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2008 Elected Officers

President

Paul Cinnamon 405-262-6715

Vice President

Donna Davis 405-760-6566

Secretary

Jeannie Manners 405-577-2029

Treasurer

David Read 405-789-2997

Board of Directors

One year term:

Vernon Dorton

Wanda Manderscheid

Doyle McCown

Joanne Carroll

Two year term:

Darla Wood

Elaine Welch

John Bode

Appointed Officers & Committee Chairpersons

Anniversary Picnic: Donna Davis

Audio/Video: Tom Manners

Christmas Party: Dottie Smith

Property Custodians: John Bode & Paul Cinnamon

Education: vacant

Federation Activities: Arlene Burkhalter

Field Trips: Ed Vermillion

Historian: Joann Carroll

Hospitality: Ambrosia Geffre

Librarian: Norma Cinnamon

**Meeting Display: Doyle McCown
Billie Marie Nedd**

Membership: Wanda Manderscheid

Programs: Vernon Dorton

Parliamentarian: John Bode

Publicity OPEN

Members present: Paul Cinnamon, Donna Davis, Vernon Dorton, Jeannie Manners, Doyle McCown, David Read, Elaine Welch, and Darla Wood.

Guests: Norma Cinnamon, Robert Davis, and Tom Manners.

Donna Davis, Chairman of the Board, called the meeting to order. A copy of the minutes from last month's board meeting was handed to the board members. Doyle moved, David seconded to accept the minutes as read.

Correspondence: We received a letter with dues from Marguerite Hunt, as well as other dues and newsletters.

Treasurer's report was given and accepted.

New applications were received from Dwight & Ann Berglan, Chris & Dion Burnett, Bill Chaney, Abe Cochran, Lanny J. Cranford, Ann Fordyce, Beverly Hibbler, Brenda Hibbler, Charlie Markland, Dale Moore, Rob & Loretta Nelson, John & Melanie Richards. Darla moved, Paul seconded that we approve the new members; motion passed.

Committee reports:

Field trips: The field trip is still on for this Saturday, no matter the weather. We have a tentative field trip set up for next month, April 18, at the Dodrill Museum in Cushing, Oklahoma. All clubs in the state will be invited; this will be a museum visit and "sidewalk sale" of many different items.

Show committee: nothing earthshaking.

Education committee still has no chairman.

Old business:

After discussion, and recognizing that the Red Rock Canyon Swap Meet has already been booked for next month in our name, Jeannie moved, and Vernon seconded the motion that OMGS will no longer host the Red Rock Canyon Swap Meet in April. Motion passed.

Donna contacted Les and got the information about ordering name tags. She will proceed, contacting the company, and report back.

New business:

The Rocky Mountain Federation has lost our insurance carrier. We will now be responsible to get our own liability insurance. Elaine moved, Doyle seconded that Paul be authorized to pursue the purchase of liability insurance for OMGS. Motion passed.

Since our last board meeting, an executive decision was made by the president, treasurer, and other board members to cash the CD and put the funds into savings temporarily, rather than reinvest in the same bank which might be a potential risk. Paul moved and Jeannie seconded that David be authorized to shop for the best CD rate and pursue it. Motion passed.

We discussed our method of handling members who skip paying dues for 1 or more years, then pay again: whether they should be required to fill out a new member application again and pay the new member fee, or just be allowed to skip the year and go on. The Bylaws

Newsletter Editor: Tom Manners
Scholarship: Arlene Burkhalter
Show 2009: Vernon Dorton
Sunshine: Donna Davis
Telephone: Ovetta Vermillion
Ways & Means: Dean & Wanda Manderscheid
Doyle McCown
Workshop: Mark Brickmann

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If you have articles of interest that you would like to see printed in The Sooner Rockologist, please be sure to contact the editor.

Please submit your contributions no later than the first of each month. Your submissions may be edited for punctuation, clarity and space. If you have an announcement or a trip report to share, please e-mail me or give it to me at the monthly meetings. E-mail attachments in MS Word are appreciated so as to prevent retyping the information. Unless otherwise noted, articles are written and/or contributed by the Editor.

If you owe membership dues, please mail your check to:

OMGS
Attn: Jeannie Manners
P. O. Box 2084
Oklahoma City, OK
73101-2084

were consulted – they state members who don't pay should be dropped from the roll; however, 'membership requirements may be waived at the discretion of the board.'

David has filed the 2008 Form 990N.

An update was given on the Salt Plains situation.

The meeting was adjourned.

Jeannie Manners

OMGS General Meeting Minutes March 19, 2009

Paul Cinnamon, President, called the meeting to order. Wanda Manderscheid introduced our guests, Kevin Riley and Dennis Chastian. Ovetta Vermillion made a motion to accept the previous minutes as printed in **The Rockologist**, Donnie Heffley seconded, motion passed. David Read gave the treasurer's report which will be filed for future audit.

There is a list to sign if you want a name badge. Also, the directories are ready to be picked up. See Donna Davis for the directory and the name badge.

New Members: The following new members received their new member packets—Dwight & Ann Berglan, Chris & Leon Burnett, Bill Chaney, Lanny Cranford, Beverly Hibbler, Brenda Hibbler, Charlie Markland, Dale Moore, Rob & Loretta Nelson, John & Melanie Richard and Elsie Stickler.

Old Business: The Shawnee Club asked to host the Red Rock Canyon Swap and the board agreed. The swap will be April 17, 18 and 19.

Committee Reports: Show Committee—Vernon Dorton said our show is in November and we will need help. There are sign-up sheets for the different committees. Help is particularly needed for set-up day.

Bead Class: The bead class is the third Wednesday of the month at Alouette in Midwest City starting at 10:00 am. Let Dottie Smith know if you would like to be called before the bead class.

Field Trip—Paul Cinnamon reported that 78 rockhounds signed in last Saturday morning for the field trip to General Materials Gravel Pit—28 OMGS, 24 Tulsa, with Stillwater, Shawnee and Ada also represented. Another trip will be this fall. An upcoming field trip to the Dodrill Museum in Cushing is April 18 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Duplicate material will be available for sale.

Displays: Vernon Dorton—wire wrapped cabochons; Dottie Smith—rough aquamarine from North Carolina and aquamarine beads (March's birthstone); Jerry Cannedy—jasper, rhyolite, alunite and hematite he got in Quartzsite; Darla Wood—gem trees; Billie Marie Nedd—aquamarine tree and some carved figures; David Read—fossils; Bob Welch—agates; Becky Searcy—a specimen which might be magnetite, also some material she found on the field trip last Saturday.

NOTE: We would like to receive input from each and every one of our members on what you would like to see happening during our work night the first Monday of each month, so we can determine who will give instruction in those particular areas of interest. Thank you

A BIG THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER.

Regarding health issues, Donna Davis is on our sunshine committee. She said she hasn't been receiving any notifications lately of folks being ill or having difficulties. In that regard, no news is good news!

But if you don't know who to contact to tell about these things, she is the person. She asked that I be sure to remind everyone.

Her phone number is 760-6566, and her e-mail is

robertdavis3@cox.net.

Please be sure to keep her abreast of these issues so our club can help out if needed. Thanks!

The door prize was won by Tim Wolfe which was provided by Sebastian Geffre.

Thanks to Darla Wood for kitchen help and to Nell Wallraven and Tyonne Lone Elk for cookies tonight. Volunteers for next month: Cookies—Donna Davis and Sue Smith; kitchen help—Ambrosia Geffre and Dottie Smith.

An auction was held for the Hi-Tech Diamond Cabbing with 5 laps with Diana Davis being the top bidder with \$280. Next month will auction a 6-inch trim saw which needs a motor and a 6-lb rock tumbler.

Announcements: The Wichita, Kansas Show is April 26, 27 and 28. The Siloam Springs, Ark. Show is April 4 and 5.

The meeting adjourned for the refreshments and the program on making glass beads by John Bode's daughter, Lori Bode, and her son John Austin.

Dottie Smith, Acting Secretary

Road Trip to Deming, New Mexico And Rockhound State Park

By Tom Manners

Things don't always start out the way we plan them. Jeannie and I had planned to take a trip to Deming, New Mexico during her spring break, so on Friday before leaving I hooked up the electric brakes for our tow dolly. While I was checking the brake controller and the brakes I blew a high pressure oil line on the GMC motor home. Since this is a 1976 classic motor home, you can not just run to the auto parts store and pick one up. On Saturday morning we had to skip the long awaited field trip to General Materials so I could find some one to make me a hose.

After repairing the GMC, we decided to wait until after church on Sunday to start our trip. Maybe it is a good thing we did, as we had no further trouble with the GMC. We made it to Clovis, NM before we stopped for the night. Did you know that a freight train runs through Clovis ever 15 minutes during the night? I can tell you for certain that they do and they blow their horns at the rail crossing just across the street .

I have never before caught myself looking at the road cuts as we drove through the mountains, but I was doing just that on this trip. We arrived in Deming in the early afternoon. Rockhound State Park is easy to find by just following the signs.



The park is about 11 miles out of town on the west side of the Little Florida Mountains. The park has 29 sites, some with electric and water hook ups. If you plan a trip to Rock Hound State Park be sure to make a reservation before leaving. During our time there, all of the site were full and several “drop ins” had to be turned away.

Our first evening was spent relaxing and watching the sunset. It seems each sunset is a little different, but all were gorgeous. We did not try to go up the trail to the digging area until the next day. On Tuesday we had an early breakfast and started up the hill with our tools and five gallon bucket. We found morning to be the best time to look for Thunder Eggs. The dig area is on the west side of the mountain, so we had shade until around one in the afternoon. Our first day we did not find anything to put in the bucket. In the afternoon we went into town and did some necessary shopping and just looked around a bit.



Our first stop was the Deming Visitors Center to get some direction to the Deming-Luna Mimbres Museum. The Museum as it turns out was only a couple of blocks from the Visitors Center. This is a very good museum for a city the size of Deming. Our main interest was the thunder egg and geode display. The display was donated by Paul Coburn, aka the “Geode Kid”. The display is valued at over a million dollars and is well worth the stop.

Just outside Rockhound State Park is another must stop for the geode collector. Paul Coburn and his partner, Christopher Blackwell, run the Basin Range Volcanics Geolapidary Museum. Although the building is not much to look at, they maintain a nice display of Geodes and thunder eggs. Also if you think you didn’t find any thunder eggs at the park you can purchase some here.

On Wednesday we continued our routine of going up the mountain to dig in the morning and relax in the afternoon. On Thursday we tried a location a little bit further up the hill and this time we were rewarded with some nice agate and what appeared to at least one broken thunder egg. It is hard to tell just exactly what you have until you put the rocks in a saw. We found several specimens that looked interesting and put them in our bucket. It might interest you to know that it is easier to carry a bucket with a few tools in it up the side of a mountain than it is to carry that some bucket down that same hill if you put a bunch of rocks in it.

On Friday we just relaxed a bit, after all that is the reason we came to Deming. Saturday and Sunday were travel days. We arrived back home Sunday afternoon and the old GMC ran fine all the way.



Monday I got to put some of the rocks in the saws. I was quite pleasantly surprised by the first rock that I cut. This rock was about the size of a baseball and did not look like what I believed a geode should look like. Inside was a very nice void with some beautiful crystals. After polishing it, I gave it to Jeannie to take to school with her. Some of the other rocks that looked to be nothing had surprises in them also. One in particular that looked like a piece of conglomerate has some nice but very small geodes in it. I am not through with the cutting and polishing at this point but I am very happy with the yield of this trip.

Dodrill Museum Field Trip 2009

Greeting Fellow Rockhounds:

I recently emailed several of you about establishing a date to hold a “Field Trip” to the Dodrill Museum in Cushing. After receiving several replies, the Board of Directors of the Museum have decided to hold the event at the Museum, 123 S. Cleveland, Cushing, Oklahoma, Saturday, April 18, 2009, from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. The Museum is located in the west central part of Cushing. If you come into the city on Hwy 33, there is a small highway sign where you will turn off toward the South on Cleveland. This event will be open to all rockhounds and guests. It will provide an opportunity for many of us to obtain hard to find mineral specimens, rocks, slabs (both rough and polished), fossils, leaf prints, petrified wood (both rough and polished sections and slices), crinoids bulbs, fluorescents, and many other items. Lots of this material came from locations that are now either depleted or closed to collecting.

Most of this material consists of items not on display due to lack of space, duplication, and many other reasons, and have been declared surplus by the Museum. The items will be offered for sale at very reasonable prices. It will give the opportunity for all of us to enjoy the Museum’s many wonderful fossil, rock and mineral displays, including one of the finest displays of petrified wood available for viewing anywhere, and at the same time will greatly assist the museum in raising some much needed funds to pay the ever increasing costs of maintaining the museum. It will be a lot of fun for all of us, and especially for those who have not seen the museum previously, and the newer members of our organizations.

We request that you put this event on your calendar, and also that you assist us in publicizing the event to the other members of your clubs.

If you have any questions, you may email me at pncinnamon@yahoo.com, or phone me at (405) 262-6715.

**Paul Cinnamon
President, OMGS**

Selenite Crystal Digging Area

By Stan Nowak

(Editors note: the following was taken from the President’s Letter printed in the Rocky Mountain Federation Newsletter.)

A meeting was held March 3, 2009 at Cherokee, OK concerning the status of the hour-glass selenite crystal digging area. Parsons Corp., a contractor to the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, presented what has transpired since a vial of training chemicals was found by a Boy Scout from Bartlesville, OK in April 2007.

The area was combed for hazardous anomalies. A total of 155 vials were found near the same area. The digging area was scanned with a large metal detector on wheels. Digging was done only in the areas of anomalies. Only .2% of the anomalies produced any chemical agent identifications sets (CAIS).

All info that concerns the digging area is available for public viewing in the Cherokee public library. There were five proposed alternatives for the area. Alternative #1 was to open the site as is. Alternative #2 was to limit access to the area by certain personnel. Alternative #3 was to open the area to all with educational signs and pamphlets about possible hazards and what to do if

a CAIS. Finally, alternative #5 was to excavate & restore the entire area and possibly destroy the crystal forming environment.

The panel, which included Parsons Corp., U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, EPA, Fish and Wildlife, Oklahoma State Environmental etc. chose alternative #3 as the Preferred Alternative. A public comment period was open from February 16 to March 18 for written comments. I commented at the meeting that while it would be nice to just open the area by alternative #1, to promote health and safety concerns, alternative #3 was the best choice.

After public comment period closes, a summary of the comments will be written by the Tulsa District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and presented April 17 to the Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Director in Albuquerque, NM who will make the ultimate decision. He does not have to agree to the preferred alternative although every one at the meeting hopes he does. Once I get the word of his decision I will notify the RMFMS and AFMS.

GENERAL MATERIAL FIELD TRIP MARCH 14, 2009

By George Finley

The following article is from the April 2009 Shawnee Slate.

A wet and slow rain was falling when I left my house in Choctaw and headed to Southwest Oklahoma City. I hoped this would be another great day to hunt rocks. I thought only a rockhound would be out on a day like this. The rain was very light and the forecast was for it to move out. The rain would make it much easier to find the good material. As it was a Saturday morning the traffic was very light.

As I drove through the gate to General Material Sand and Gravel Company I was surprised to see all the Vehicles parked around the drive. I was lucky to find a place near the Office building. I went inside and was greeted by Norma Cinnamon who had me sign in and brought my attention to the things the workers had brought for us to see that they had found. There were several Buffalo Horns, a leg bone of some kind and a full skull of a Buffalo. There was also a display case mounted on the wall of items found and polished by Paul Cinnamon.

I found out later that over 61 people had signed up for the field trip. Some of the people I saw were from Shawnee, Tulsa Ada, Stillwater and Oklahoma City. There may have been other clubs that I did not see as I spent most of my time on the back side of a large pile of washed gravel. I remember it was on a few years back that I would climb to the top of one of these and set in the middle where I could see, almost every thing. The time before I could only get half way up the gravel pile. This time I was only able to get a couple feet up the side. What a difference a few years can make. It shows that the old body is not up to what it was a few years back.

I only had a few things in my bucket but I believe they were some great finds. I found two Aragonite Crystals and gave them to a local Science Teacher. I have several others that I plan on giving this teacher after I get them all identified.

A BIG THANKS FOR THE OKLAHOMA MINERIAL & GEM SOCIETY FOR INVITING US.



OMGS Calendar

April 2 - Show Committee meeting

April 6 - OMGS work night

April 9 - OMGS Board of Directors Meeting

April 16- General Meeting, Program - Program To Be Announced. There will be an auction of a Raytec Diamond 6 inch trim saw. This saw comes without a blade or motor.

April 18 - Dodrill Museum, Cushing 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Surplus material will be available for sale.

April 25-26 - Wichita, KS Gem and Mineral Show

May 4 - OMGS work night

May 7 - Show Committee meeting

May 11 Enid club field trip, Prague - Fossils, Quartz, Jasper

May 14 - OMGS Board of Directors Meeting

May 21 - General Meeting, Program - Program To Be Announced.

June 13 - Enid club field trip, Hardtner, Bill White's Museum

November 7-8 OMGS Show "River of Gems" Oklahoma State Fairpark, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 9-5

If you have changes, corrections or additions to the OMGS Calendar, please e-mail me at trmanners@sbcglobal.net or call me at (405) 577-2029.

**For a complete listing of ALL the rock and gem shows around the nation please go to the web site;
<http://www.rockngem.com/showdates.asp>**

If you would like to go on any of the field trips with the Enid club please contact Stan Nowak at 580-234-3126.

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