

The Sooner Rockologist

Vol. 64 Number 7

August 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.

July Activities



New members (L to R) JC Brown, Pam Mowen, Kerry Bruton, Ron Cleveland and Retta Conforth



Jeannie Manners works on a beaded necklace on work night



Charlie Markland hard at work cutting a cab during work night



Some of the tools of our hobby up for auction last month



Auctioneer and OMGS member, Vernon Dorton, tried to get the highest dollar for tables of rocks, minerals and equipment at the auction held in July.



The Sooner Rockologist is the official publication of the Oklahoma Mineral and Gem Society, Inc. and is published each month, except January and July. Non-profit hobby newsletters may freely use the material in this newsletter, except copyrighted material needs written permission. Please give credit where credit is due. The editor will send any article by e-mail. Member contributions are welcomed and encouraged.

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

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT'S DESK

Paul W. Cinnamon

I truly hope that you are having a pleasant, enjoyable summer. As I am writing this, we are experiencing a few days of respite from the heat wave of recent weeks, and for that I am thankful.

I wish to express my gratitude and appreciation to our members who so willingly assisted in so many ways in making the recent auction sale successful for our club. As most of you know, we put together an auction of equipment, rocks, slabs, and other related items from the collections of Ed and Lois Copley and Lois Smith. Although I'm certain the collectors of the material would have liked to have seen it sell higher, I feel we did the best we could in the present international economic climate. We sent sale bills out via email to well over 100 individuals, in a multi-state region, and many of these circulated the information with their local club members and fellow rockhound friends. This resulted in 47 bidders registering at the auction. My hat is off to Vernon and Lou Dorton. Vernon auctioned close to 400 items and Lou who was clerking the sale, competently recorded the item numbers, final bid amount, and the winning bidder's number. When I visited with Vernon Monday morning, he said he experienced a little soreness of his vocal cords, but otherwise was OK. Likewise, David Read, assisted by Jeannie Manners, performed a great service by serving as cashier for the event. Without the willing assistance and hard work of my wife, Norma, I would never get one of these events organized, the material cleaned, sorted, labeled, and ready for sale. Many nameless others deserve a special thank you, such as the guys who came at 6:30 a.m., to assist in getting the room set up, the auction items carried in and put in place, etc.; to those who brought and shared refreshments, and most of all, to those of you who spent some of your hard earned money, and took home the bargains.

It is difficult to realize that we are past the half-way mark in this year! We have been rewarded with a good influx of new members this year, and are striving to meet the needs and desires of these eager individuals. The organization of a silversmithing class, under the leadership of John Luna, is one of the most recent additions to our program. I hope this will turn into a permanent silversmithing guild within our organization. I think the class presently has about 20 members, and is continuing to grow. John has expressed his desire to have any of our experienced silversmiths assist him in presenting the training to the students.

We are also experiencing good attendance at our first Monday night of each month workshops, where we meet to exchange knowledge and techniques in any area of interest to our fellow club members. In addition to the silversmithing group, we have an eager group working on the techniques of making twist wire jewelry, another group is exchanging ideas and techniques of bead stringing, and several other members are bringing lapidary equipment, and are willing to teach cutting and polishing techniques. If I remember correctly, we had 36 present at the meeting on July 6th. Our next meeting will be on August 3rd, which will probably be before you receive this publication, and there will not be a meeting in September, because the building will be closed on Monday, September 7th, as this is Labor Day. Be certain to mark the date of the next meeting, Monday, October 5th, on your calendar.

In accordance with our OMGS By-Laws, and Operating Procedures, I have selected a nominating committee made up of three past presidents of our organization for the purpose of selecting individuals for nomination to serve in the elected positions of our club in the year 2010. If you are contacted, please

Parliamentarian: John Bode
Publicity OPEN
Newsletter Editor: Tom Manners
Scholarship: Arlene Burkhalter
Show 2009: Vernon Dorton
Sunshine: Donna Davis
Telephone: Oveta 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

accept the nomination, and pledge a bit of your time toward the successful future of our club.

Annually, for the past 10 years or so, our organization has been asked by Public Television Station OETA to provide a group of volunteers to man the telephones during their fund drive. This public exposure of our club provides an opportunity for some free advertising of our organization, and especially our upcoming show, November 7th, 8th. We need 15 or more individuals to participate in this event. Norma has the sign-up sheet. If you are able to participate, please give her a call at 262-6715. The date of our participation in the telethon is Sunday, August 9th, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. They will feed us a good lunch, give us some simple training in the pledge taking process, and provide refreshments throughout the afternoon. It is fun, easy, and good for OMGS.

Members of our Show Committee are working diligently toward presenting a great show on November 7 - 8, in the Modern Living Building, in the Oklahoma State Fair Park. Sandy Cannedy needs a few really good hobby related items to use as door prizes; we also need good material to sell at the Silent Auction during the event. If you know of any rock collections that the owner would be willing to donate for use in the Silent Auction, please contact Vernon Dorton or another member of the Show Committee. Now is the time for each of you to look through your collection and consider putting together a showcase of material that would be interesting, educational, or beautiful. If you need a showcase for your display, the show committee has cases and case liners available for loan. See our Show Committee Chairman, Vernon Dorton, or other members of the show committee regarding any ideas or questions about the show. We will need the participation of all our members to assist in setting up the show, policing the event, demonstrating in the working exhibits area; tearing down the show, and taking the cases and other equipment back to storage following the closing on Sunday evening.

You must make plans to attend our August 20th meeting. The program will be presented by two of our new members, Mindy Moxley, and Beth Gorton. They are the owners of Matchmaker Jewelry, and will explain the artistic process they use to create very intricate personalized items of jewelry, utilizing a 3D Cad computer program. They can supply a single piece, or an unlimited number of matching pieces of your design. Mindy and Beth are two of the granddaughters of a deceased, longtime, loyal member of OMGS, Trudy Gullo.

I am preparing this article a little early this month, at the request of our editor, Tom Manners. Tom needs to get this issue to press early, as he is going to have knee replacement surgery soon and will be a bit less active for a period of time while he rehabilitates. Good Luck Tom!

Board Meeting **Thursday, July 9, 2009**

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

Guests present: Norma Cinnamon, Robert Davis, Tom Manners, Lou Dorton, Oscar Carroll, John Luna

Chairwoman Davis brought the meeting to order. Copies of the previous board meeting minutes were handed out. Darla moved, Joann seconded that the minutes be accepted as read.

Treasurer's report was given.

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!

Correspondence – We received a change of address from the Whiteheads. We also have received many newsletters.

New member applications – We received applications from J.C. Brown (returning previous member), Pam Mowen, Marla Stevens, Kerry Bruton, Mary L. Weeter, Mindy Moxley, Beth Gorton, and Todd Hickman. Paul moved, and Doyle seconded that we accept the new members; motion passed.

Committees – Picnic committee – We had 32 people present at our picnic last month. Everyone present received a door prize.

Sunshine committee – Max's hip is healing. Les is healing slowly. Dean had dental work done, and a hernia fixed.

Show committee – We have 15 paid dealers, and are scouting for 3 more.

Education committee – John Luna has procured a permit for use of open-flame in the building for one year for the club. There are 8 people interested in a silversmithing course, which John started at the work night this past Monday. To conduct an 8-week class in silversmithing on Monday nights from 6 to 9, it will require room rentals costing the club an additional \$162. The students are willing to pay \$30 for the course, which should cover the cost of the room rental, plus any incidentals, making the course self-supporting. A similar course being offered in the area costs much more. Club members experienced in silversmithing are asked to come and share their expertise. A concern was expressed that the class is being started before it has been announced at a general meeting, and was addressed. Elaine moved, and David seconded that the check be written for the room rental; motion passed. Darla will contact Oveta, and the telephone committee will phone club members to advise them of the silversmithing class. The room rental will be taken care of tomorrow morning.

Old Business – The open flame permit has been taken care of. John Bode will contact OU and OSU about scholarship applicants, confirming requirements for the recipient – major, grades, financial need, character, and program presenter.

The auction will be conducted on the 18th. The Smiths and Copleys are the sellers, with a portion of the proceeds going to the club. Vernon will be the auctioneer, and Lou will be the clerk. David will be the cashier, and Jeannie will handle registration. Setup will begin at 7am, when the building personnel show up. Transportation and arrangements were discussed.

Most board members forgot to work on the by-laws update. We will bring our suggestions to next month's board meeting. We discussed some of Donna's suggestions: II E 5 – still okay; Operating Procedures 1 A – timing of dues a concern; 2 B – already changed, okay now.

New Business – It's time for the nominating committee to be appointed.

The Bead Market Oklahoma City show will be held August 29-30. Donna will contact them to see if they want OGMS to be represented.

Donna brought up the idea of moving the June picnic/potluck to a Saturday at the regular meeting room, and combining the semiannual auction with the picnic every other year. This change could be made without any changes to the by-laws or board action, at the discretion of the Anniversary Picnic Committee.

John reiterated that we need to contact all the new members by telephone the Monday or Tuesday before the general meeting to remind them to come, for their first year; this should help our retention rate. Paul plans on contacting newly approved members to invite them to come to receive their new member packet. We all need to be sociable at our meetings, making everyone feel welcome, and finding out their interests. Jeannie will email a list of

new members to the telephone committee ASAP, not waiting 3 months for the list that is shared with the general club.

We might want to have a bead class at a different time, for the sake of those who work and can't come on a Wednesday morning, possibly at Artworks.

Meeting adjourned.
Jeannie Manners, Secretary

General Meeting Minutes Thursday, July 16, 2009

Paul Cinnamon, President, called the meeting to order.

Last month was our anniversary picnic, celebrating 63 years. Thanks to Donna and Robert Davis for coordinating the event. There were 32 people present.

We have guests: Dixie DeLuco, Kathy Stroer, Gary Fisher, Mark Randall, Melissa Perry, Don Jones, Beverly & Joe Hancock.

John Bode made a motion to accept the previous minutes as published in the *Rockologist*. Donna Davis seconded, motion passed. Any *Rockologist* articles are needed by July 28th or 29th, due to Tom's scheduled knee surgery.

David Read gave the treasurer's report, which will be filed for future audit.

Correspondence consisted of newsletters. Paul received an invitation from OETA to participate in the August Fest 2009 on Sunday, August 9, 11:30 am – 6 pm.

Displays: Doyle reported that Billie Marie brought carvings, dragonflies; Robert brought unusual petrified wood and copralite; Doyle brought coprolite and smoky quartz; Dottie brought flower made of quartz and serpentine/aventurine and some ruby items.

New Members: Retta Conforth, Ron Cleveland, Kerry Bruton, and Pam Mowen received their new member packets. JC Brown's membership was renewed.

Old Business:

New Business: The nominating committee is in place.

Committees:

Field trip committee – nothing to report at this time, other than the auction this weekend.

Sunshine committee – Dean had surgery; Max had surgery; Les is recovering slowly.

A new bead group will be meeting the 4th Saturday of each month at the Artworks Bead Studio, from 1 to 3 (or 4).

Show Committee: On November 7-8 we will have the River of Gems show. We will be in need of volunteers and door prize items.

We have a silversmithing class going on Monday nights for several weeks, from 6 to 9 pm.

We had 36 people present at our last work night in May.

The OMGS booth at the bead show in June was a success, with lots of member participation and good contacts made.

The door prize provided by Sebastian was won by Charlie.

Thanks to Darla for kitchen help, and to Doyle and Beverly for cookies tonight. **Volunteers for August: Cookies – JC Brown and Dottie Smith; Kitchen – Joann Carroll.**

The program this evening will be help for do-it-yourself rockhounding by David Read. The program next month will be jewelry waxcasting by some of our new members, Mindy & Beth.

The meeting adjourned for refreshments and the program.

Jeannie Manners, secretary

Rockologist Articles

Would you like to write an article for the *Rockologist*? I could use your help. It can be about anything that pertains to rock collecting or any of the other facets of our hobby. It doesn't have to be a polished piece, we can help with spelling, grammar or even typing it. Just hand your article to me at a club meeting or E-mail it to me at Trmanners@sbcglobal.net.

Famous Petrified Forests

Submitted by Dick Young

Our petrified forests are generally of three types. The first type has been showered and completely covered by volcanic ash leaving the trees standing in an upright position. The Petrified forest of Yellowstone National Park are an example of this type. The trees are standing in their original state where they grew many millions of years ago. The forest of Yellowstone covers more than 40 square miles which is the largest area known. Another unusual feature of the Yellowstone Petrified forests is that many thousands of fossilized leaves, needles, cones, and seeds of over one hundred different kinds of trees and shrubs have been found there. It is the only place in the world where twenty-seven successive layers of petrified forms can be seen.

The story behind the Yellowstone Petrified Forest is that an old volcano began to erupt and continued for some twenty years. Mineral bearing waters had begun to petrify the once living forest. In the span of a couple of hundred years, a new forest began to appear and grew for the next five hundred years. Then, the old volcano erupted again. This process reoccurred twenty-seven times as twenty-seven distinct layers of buried forest have been exposed in the Fossil Forest on the south side of Laramie River Valley. An example of a well-preserved stump can be seen a few feet from the highway along "The Petrified Road". Along the northern slopes of Specimen Ridge there are many layers of petrified tree trunks. About two thirds of the way up on the eastern edge is a group of upright standing trunks of unusual beauty and size just as they grew many millions of years ago. The largest of these petrified stumps is a redwood over five feet in diameter and believed to be approximately one thousand years old when buried by volcanic debris.

A second type of Petrified Forest is believed to be the result of logs jamming at the mouth of a river, sinking into the mud and becoming petrified. The Petrified Forest of Arizona is an example of this type. Driftwood may be deposited on the shore by the winds. Generally fossil wood which at one time was driftwood does not have bark. This fact may account for the lack of bark on the wood in Arizona. The Arizona forests are between one hundred and two hundred million years old. One stone log, twenty feet wide and forty feet thick flung across a ravine forms a natural bridge - the famed Agate Bridge. The Arizona Petrified forests are composed of different forests varying in coloring. The Rainbow forest is a multiplicity of colors; the Blue forest is mostly carbonized sections; and the Black Forest is brilliantly black. Many logs of white, some almost transparent, make up the Second Forests, while the Third Forest displays large specimens as long as one hundred sixty feet. The fossil wood is of three general types. 1. Jasperized wood predominately bright red, some translucent and variegated with a riot of colorless 2. Small amounts of bright red wood are found often with areas of nearly colorless quartz. 3. Section of dark or nearly black wood.

The opalized wood forests of central Washington run a close second to the famed forests of Arizona. An outstanding feature in Washington is the only fossilized ginkgo trees known in the world are found there. The well known Ginkgo Petrified Forest is of the driftwood type, Of the ten thousand fossilized trees in this forest, only six have been identified as Ginkgo trees. The Ginkgo is one of our oldest and most primitive types of trees, a direct ancestor of our modern tree, and is remarkable in that it has survived through millions of years while other species have died out.

Nevada boasts of the largest petrified tree known in the world. It is fourteen feet in diameter and nearly three hundred feet long. Another distinction in Nevada is the woods of Virgin Valley are fully opalized with the "fire" of the fire opal.

A third type is that of scattered woods may be covered in some manner, to become solidified later. For instance, rising waters in a lake may completely cover a forest and protect it from decay. Later on petrification may preserve the trees permanently. Some of the woods in California, Nevada, Oregon, and central Washington have this origin.

The Wonder of Rockhounding

By C. E. Johnson

Our world is full of minerals because minerals come from rocks, and rocks are everywhere and they occur in great variety; so rock and mineral collecting can be a very interesting, adventurous and self-satisfying activity; as some of you may already know, and it also can be developed into a profitable venture as some of you know. However, its obvious that many “rockhounds” are overlooking so many free and worthy or valuable rocks and minerals in their haste to get to the usual pay-to-dig collecting sites and expensive rock-shops. Rockhounding can be worth our time whether we are at a designated collecting site or not; there are collectible rocks and minerals wherever we are.

It's obvious that children have more fun with rockhounding probably because of their more acute sense of wonder, curiosity and adventure. All of these attributes naturally begin at an early age of course, but unfortunately seem to fade soon after their early teen years. This seems natural but there are exceptions even among the young-adult group; and also among our free-to-do-as-we-like retirees who still have those same aforementioned attributes and can still get around.

Many loose rocks may look uninteresting to you at first glance, but when they are broken to reveal a fresh surface, they are usually much more appealing regardless of their compositions; and their individual grains and crystals are more easily identified and evaluated (all rocks and minerals naturally get dirty, and ordinary weather processes also degrade their surfaces chemically, thereby disguising their true nature). Many worthwhile rocks and minerals often are overlooked for those reasons. Also, many rocks and minerals look better in sunshine or other good lighting.

Most rockhounds are aware of the many desirable varieties of quartz & calcite, both of which are common minerals but many other common minerals also occur in a collectible variety of shapes & sizes & colors. The word common doesn't mean worthless, Feldspar is one of the three most common “rock-making” minerals and is even more plentiful than quartz or calcite, and it also has many varieties, such as labradorite, moonstone, sunstone, amazonite, sanidine, and peculiar inter-growths of several types of feldspar (perthite),

Other common minerals are mica, hornblende, augite, apatite, diopside and enstatite/hypersthene series; and there are so many different rocks and their varieties available, so any rockhound probably should be able to come home with something different for their collection on each outing, and perhaps with something unique or valuable. All it takes is curiosity and a discerning eye. Also, or course, learning the basics of how rocks & minerals form and how to tell them apart from each other would be more interesting and productive for you if you are curious enough to try.

It's stimulating and mind-improving, and the exercise is good for you. If you have the time, try it, you may like it.

History Lesson 101: When the white man discovered this country, Indians were running it...there were no taxes. No debts, and the women did most of the work. All the Indian men did was hunt and fish as much as they wanted, whenever they wanted!

Here's the real kicker. The white man was dumb enough to think that he could improve on a system like that!!!!

Via Golden Spike News 11/01

OMGS Calendar

August 8 - Enid Club Field Trip, Noble-OKC - Rose Rocks

Aug 13 - OMGS Board of Directors Meeting

Aug 20 - General Meeting, Program - Wax Casting

**Aug 21-22 - Tahlequah, OK Swap and Sale at the Tahlequah Community Building Fri 9-6:30 Sat 9-5
free admission for more information contact Sara Brasel (918) 458-0801**

**Aug 29 - Sept. 7th The "Chaparral Rockhounds" of Roswell, NM, would like to cordially invite all
Rockhounds of all ages to "AGATE RENDEZVOUS 2009", our annual ten-day, nine-night
fieldtrip campout through the Labor Day weekend held at Apache Creek, New Mexico**

September 12 - Enid Club Field Trip, Idabel-Mt. Ida - Quartz, Diamonds

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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