

The Sooner Rockologist

Vol. 64 Number 6

July 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.

AuctionAuctionAuction

Are you looking for some equipment? Or perhaps some special rocks that you want for your collection. Maybe just some rough for cutting and polishing. It could be that fact that you just love going to auctions. Whatever the reason, plan to attend the OMGS estate auction on Saturday **July 18, 2009**. The preview will begin at 9 am in our regular meeting room; the auction will begin around 9:30. The auctioneer will be our own Vernon Dorton.

Our president, Paul Cinnamon, said there are so many items we may not get through them all on Saturday and a "Yard Auction" may need to be held at a later date. Keep in mind that OMGS will receive a generous portion of the sales proceeds.

Mark **July 18, 2009** on your calendar and come to have a good time. Feel free to bring refreshments to share.

Words of Caution

By John Wright, RPG, Conservation & Legislation Chair

(The following article was published in A.F.M.S. Newsletter Volume 62, Number 7 - June-July 2009)

If you plan on visiting the National Forest be aware that you cannot trust the information on their "web sites" or in their brochures as Forest Service law enforcement officers use a different set of rules, regulations, and interpretations than the ones published. These inconsistencies are probably the result of poor coordination within the departments of the National Forest and if you have ever attended any of the public forums they conduct, you know just how poorly organized they are. Unfortunately, Forest Service officials and Federal Judges invariably side with the law enforcement officers no matter how inconsistent or corrupt the circumstances may be.

Dick Pankey, President of ALAA, informed me of a pending case which is very typical of what can happen that occurred in the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests

located in northern Georgia. The victims in this case are Dr. Madden, MD, and his fiancé, who were rock-hounding in compliance with the Forest Service directives, but criminally charged anyway. I believe this is an important enough example that all of our members should be made (Continued on Page 5)

Board Meeting Thursday, May 14, 2009

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

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

Guests present: Norma Cinnamon, Robert Davis, Tom Manners, Lou Dorton, Dean Manderscheid, Oscar Carroll

Chairwoman Davis brought the meeting to order. The minutes were printed in the *Rockologist*. Wanda moved, Doyle seconded that the minutes be accepted; approved.

Treasurer's report was given.

Correspondence – We received a thank you card from Connie Hefley. We also have received newsletters, and a bill for the postal permit.

New member applications – We received applications from Michael Bosler, Joe & Retta Cornforth, and Ron and Linda Cleveland. Joann moved, David seconded that we accept the new members. Approved.

Committees – Show committee – We have 12 paid dealers, and 4 applications are out.

Program committee – We have several possibilities coming up.

Picnic committee – The pavilion will be free for the Jun3 7th picnic, as the Davis' live in Moore.

Old Business – The storage building workday will be on a Friday, probably the 22nd.

On July 18th we will hold the auction of the 2 estates. The club will receive a portion of the proceeds. Preview will begin at 9, the auction hopefully at 9:30.

Our insurance will cover the show in November.

The June 12-14 Shows of Integrity table will be under the direction of Donna Davis and Tom Manners, as the Cinnamons will be out of town. We will need the banner, tablecloth, brochures, displays.

The Bead Jamboree wants us to have an exhibit table next year.

According to the Oklahoma Tax Commission, we are not sales tax exempt.

New Business – To have an open flame in our meeting, we would have to purchase a \$25 permit for each incident.

If we can have advance notice about the programs, we can let our members know what is coming. This month we will be finishing the DVD.

We need to update the by-laws. Should we allow funds to be housed at a credit union – we might be able to set up a partnership with the Tinker Credit Union, allowing our club members to join the credit union if our club accounts were housed with them. We all need to look at the by-laws for possible changes, and bring our suggestions to the July board meeting. For the new by-laws to take effect in January, we would need to propose changes to the club membership no later than the October meeting, for a vote in the November meeting.

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

The Sooner Rockologist
April 2009, Vol. 64, No. 5

OMGS
P. O. Box 2084
Oklahoma City, OK 73101-2084
(permanent mailing address)
Our Website is:
www.OMGS.org

Editor
Tom Manners 405-577-2029
Email: trmanners@sbcglobal.net

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

David talked to a CPA. The CD interest should not be rolled back in to the next CD, but should go into the operating fund.

John Bode will be asked to contact OU and OSU about scholarship applicants, confirming requirements for the recipient – major, grades, financial need, character, program presenter.

Meeting adjourned.
Jeannie Manners

OMGS General Meeting Minutes Thursday, May 21, 2009

Paul Cinnamon, President, called the meeting to order.

We have guests: Marla Stevens and Eve Cushing. We have a silent auction at every meeting.

Ed Vermillion made a motion to accept the previous minutes as published in the *Rockologist*. John Bode seconded, motion passed.

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

Correspondence was shared – newsletters and a thank you card from Connie Hefley.

Displays: Doyle reported that Billie Marie brought mineral carvings, inkpens, a jade button collection, quartz dragonfly; Paul brought a log cabin made out of crinoid stems; Loretta brought items by Pam Moore and Jim Myer; Oscar brought a copper collection; Robert brought petrified wood and Dugway geodes; Doyle brought coprolite and smoky quartz; David brought the What is it?

New Members: Michael Bosler received his new member packet.

Old Business: An email requested help with the Salt Plains grand opening on Saturday, May 30th. The Shows of Integrity is June 12-14; the club will have a table; we can use volunteers to man the table.

New Business: We have a directory update available.

Committees:

Sunshine committee – John has hurt his foot; Chet is in the hospital; Max has broken his hip.

Picnic Committee: The picnic is Sunday, June 7, in Moore; handout is available.

Schedule: June is a meeting-free month; there will be no work night until July 6 (20 – 30 present last month); but the readers will still be meeting on the 3rd Thursday (8 present last month); no *Rockologist* will be printed in June.

Show Committee: The show is coming up November 7-8. We have at least 13 dealers. We can use donations of good material for the silent auction at the show.

We will be hosting an auction on Saturday, July 18th. The preview will begin at 9 am in our regular meeting room; the auction will begin around 9:30. Feel free to bring refreshments to share. The club

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!

will receive a generous portion of the sales proceeds.

The door prize, a thunder egg, was won by Dottie.

Thanks to Joanne for kitchen help, and to Beverly and Ovetta for cookies tonight. Volunteers for July: Cookies – Doyle McCown and Beverly Hibbler; Kitchen – Darla Wood.

Welcome back, J.C. Brown!

The meeting adjourned for refreshments and the program.

Jeannie Manners, secretary

About Quartz (By C.E. Johnson)

The mineral we call Quartz is probably the most well-known mineral among rockhounds and prospectors, and the most prolific mineral collected; no doubt because it is plentiful and it occurs in a tremendous variety of forms and colors, so it's no wonder that it has been given so many variety names. However, It may be of interest to some rockhounds that as plentiful as Quartz is, it's just the second-most plentiful solid substance in nature on earth. Feldspar is first by a large percentage, but only a few varieties of this are valuable to rockhounds.

Quartz is composed essentially of Silicon & Oxygen, and is basically colorless or whitish in its more or less chemically "pure" form, but it often includes minor so-called "impurities", which gives it various colors. It's a very hard mineral, (on a scale of 1 to 10, it's a #7) so of course it is very resistant to scratching and abrasion and it resists the usual chemicalweathering" effects much better than many other minerals.

Quartz is noted for crystallizing very nicely whether small or large, and the crystals often occur in clusters. The most attractive crystals are often transparent, but many have occurred as the more attractive purple-colored "amethyst"; and others occur as "smoky-quartz" crystals.

Some quartz occurs as "agate" & "jasper", "chert", and "flint", and even some "petrifiedwood" are forms of quartz.

Of course not all quartz is valuable or even worth collecting; much of it occurs as a common "rock-making" mineral in many of the Granite-family rock formations and other igneous rock formations, and it's the main mineral of sandstone, quartzite, beach-sands, and in most water-courses with the gravel & rocks; and it's common & plentiful in shale-rock formations; yet it also occurs as valuable minerals, such as precious Opal, and sem-precious gemstone material and other rockhound minerals of various values, such as "cats-eye", "tigers-eye", "onyx", "citrine", and "aventurine".

Special igneous rock formations known as "pegmatites" which are bred by ordinary granite formations produce the largest and best-formed quartz crystals, often along with large crystals of other valuable minerals, including especially valuable gemstone minerals.

Many ordinary "quartz-veins" also produce considerable crystallized quartz, especially in the uppermost portions of "newly-formed" veins. Ordinarily they occur there in clusters of very numerous well-terminated small crystals which are usually clear brilliant-looking, or whitish. These are usually found lining the walls of narrow open spaces, The clear ones especially make attractive specimens around the home or office, etc.

aware of the problems they could encounter when visiting in “our” National Forests. Permission was granted by the victim, Dr. Madden, to use his very well written account of the circumstances, which unfortunately is very typical of a number of other similar cases being adjudicated in the SFMS area at the present time.

E-Mail received from Dick Pankey:

A couple of weeks ago I received this article. It was written by a rockhound from Georgia. He first contacted me in early February. We have exchanged e-mails, had telephone conversations and he has provided me with other information regarding collecting in Georgia National Forests and the charges against him and his fiancé. I have begun collecting rockhounding/collecting regulations and information from BLM and FS offices around the country. So far much of the information is sketchy and vague. Written regulation and pamphlets most often don't exist. What I have found out is that although the laws allows for collecting on BLM and FS land each district can establish their own management plan based on their interpretation of the law and the ranger/enforcement officer enforces the management plan based upon their interpretation. And these vary widely!

So we have undocumented, inconsistent regulations, enforced by people based upon their ideas and agendas, so THIS CAN HAPPEN TO YOU.

Dick Pankey, President, ALAA

THIS CAN HAPPEN TO YOU

On November 1, 2008, my fiancé, Dori, and I were criminally charged with collecting Staurolites on U.S. Forest Service land. Local collectors have been going to this location to collect Staurolites for over 30 years. Our friends, Tonya and Barry, informed us of the location in Blue Ridge. We visited this area four (4) times in the summer and fall of 2008. The Staurolites we found on the surface were mostly poor quality. However, just a few inches under the surface using a scraper we found much better quality ones. We used hand tools including a scraper and a small pick. I feel we were very careful not to damage the site. We did not dig more than 6 or 7 inches and completely filled in our holes and raked the dirt to ensure the site looked undisturbed.

On November 1, 2008 Officer Mike Tipton of the USFS approached us. We did not attempt to hide ourselves because we had no idea we were doing anything wrong. He stated he had set up a video camera at the site and had been watching us. This was very alarming to us. I assured him if he had approached us that first time and explained that the Forest Service did not wish us to collect here, we would have politely left and never returned. He will attest to the fact that we were cooperative. He even complimented us stating we were “not like most of the individuals he deals with.”

Officer Tipton approached us and asked us what we were looking for. We told him we were looking for Staurolites. He did not know what Staurolites were, but informed us we needed a mining permit to dig for any type of mineral. He told us any Staurolites we find are government property. Next he confiscated our scraping tools, knap sack and bucket. He separated us and read me my Miranda rights. At this point he asked me if I would allow federal agents to search my home in Rome for any other federal property. When I said “no” my interview was over. Evidently he tried to obtain a search warrant, but was unsuccessful. Officer Tipton repeatedly inquired as to whether we sold rocks. I told him I have never sold minerals and Staurolites have only intrinsic value. In the past there have been locations in Blue Ridge (Hackney Farm) that have allowed individuals to collect a bucket of them for \$5.00.

On January 11, 2009, Officer Tipton gave us a courtesy call. He stated we are being charged criminally with 261.9(a) destroying a natural feature or property of the United States (\$250.00 fine) and 261.9(b) removing a natural feature or property of the United States (\$250.00 fine). These are criminal misdemeanor offenses and can result in a criminal record. I strongly feel the section we are being charged under is both vague and does not address the important point that we were collecting minerals. Mineral collecting is generally allowed on most U.S. Forest Service lands including public domain lands and acquired lands. Unfortunately, each individual Forest Service can now make the rules (on acquired lands) dictating the rules for rock hounding and Georgia has one of the most restrictive policies. Under this charge it appears we are vandals or even worse thieves. I told Officer Tipton I was considering going to court. Five days later when I received my ticket it had doubled to \$400.00 for each offense for a total of \$2000.00.

In conclusion, I feel strongly we took the utmost care to treat this land with care. We spent at least 15-20 minutes each time to leave the ground looking undisturbed. I feel the US Forest Service in Georgia is treating mineral collectors like criminals. Mineral collecting has in the past been considered a wholesome and educational activity. In other states, the US Forest Service has been much more responsive to working with mineral collectors

and even encourages collecting. I am saddened that in Georgia the US Forest Service is now considering it a criminal offense. Thank you for the time you spend considering this matter.

(Signed) Robert Madden, M.D.

Note: This is the Federal Code that Dr. Madden was charged with violating. The specific items in the charges re underlined and in "Bold" print.

36 CFR 261.9 - Property.

Code of Federal Regulations - Title 36: Parks, Forests, and Public Property (December 2005)

TITLE 36 - PARKS, FORESTS, AND PUBLIC PROPERTY CHAPTER 11 – FOREST SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

PART 261 –PROHIBITIONS

subpart a – GENERAL PROHIBITIONS

261.9 – Property

The following are prohibited:

(a) Damaging any natural feature or other property of the United States.

(b) Removing any natural feature or other property of the United States.

(c) Damaging any plant that is classified as a threatened, endangered, sensitive, rare, or unique species.

(d) Removing any plant that is classified as a threatened, endangered, sensitive, rare, or unique species.

(e) Entering any building, structure, or enclosed area owned or controlled by the United States when such building, structure, or enclosed area is not open to the public.

(f) Using any pesticide except for personal use as an insect repellent or as provided by special-use authorization for other minor uses.

(g) Digging in, excavating, disturbing, injuring, destroying, or in any way damaging any prehistoric, historic, or archaeological resource, structure, site, artifact, or property.

(h) Removing any prehistoric, historic, or archaeological resource, structure, site, artifact, property.

(i) Excavating, damaging, or removing any vertebrate fossil or removing any paleontological resource for commercial purposes without a special use authorization.

(j) Excavating, damaging, or removing any cave resource from a cave without a special use authorization, or removing any cave resource for commercial purposes.

[46 FR 33520, June 30, 1981, as amended at 49 FR 25450, June 21, 1984; 51 FR 30356, Aug. 26, 1986; 59 FR 31152, June 17, 1994]

{ Note: This excerpt is from Page 2, Official Web Site of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest }

(Editors Note: In light of the preceding article I have provided the following information on Rockhounding in the Ouachita National Forest. The information is from the US Forest Service, Ouachita National Forest's web site.)

Minerals and Geology

Rockhounding Rules for the Ouachita National Forest

Rockhounding and Mineral Collecting Activities

Rockhounding and mineral specimen collecting on the Ouachita National Forest is considered to be hobby or personal activity involving the occasional removal of small amounts of material by hand from surface exposures of rock and quartz veins. Such material obtained in this manner should be for personal use only and cannot be sold. Rockhounding under this condition does not include excavating or any kind of digging to expose quartz crystal bearing veins. The removal of material from lands already under mineral contract, claim, permit or lease, must be with the permission of the operator. Consequently, under these conditions there is considered to be no adverse environmental impacts from rockhounding activities on the Ouachita National Forest. However, if persons and groups are interested in pursuing a short-term organized recreational rock collecting activity on the Forest that may result in access and/or excavation impacts, they can submit their proposal in writing to the District Ranger for

consideration. Any such activity approved by the District Ranger may require the submission of a reclamation bond.

Within the Ouachita National Forest boundary there are many good mineral collecting localities on both Forest lands and adjacent private lands. The mineral in this area of primary interest to collectors is quartz crystal. The Federal mining laws do not distinguish between mining related activities conducted primarily for recreational versus commercial purposes; consequently, the two interests often overlap in many areas on the Forest. There are commercial crystal mines in the area that charge a daily fee for digging and removal of quartz. For the serious quartz rockhound, the commercial mines will likely provide better collecting opportunities simply because they are constantly opening new sources of crystal, increasing the potential for finding nice quality pieces.

The Forest has two developed quartz crystal collecting areas: Crystal Vista on the Womble Ranger District near Mount Ida, Arkansas, and Crystal Mountain on the Jessieville-Winona Ranger District, midway between Jessieville and Perryville, Arkansas. They are not active mine sites. There is no fee to collect quartz from these sites. For more information on Crystal Vista, contact the Womble Ranger District at Telephone 870-867-2101, and for Crystal Mountain, contact the Jessieville-Winona Ranger District at Telephone 501-984-5313. Please Note: Because these are no longer active mines, they are well picked over and provide a limited collecting experience for most folks.

Ouachita National Forest Quartz Rockhounding Policy:

If the following simple rules are being followed, those interested in rockhounding and collecting quartz crystal from Ouachita National Forest lands do not need to make further contact with nor obtain additional permission from the District Rangers. This applies to the general Forest area and to developed quartz collecting areas on the Ouachita National Forest:

Only small amounts of crystal, less than 25 pounds, is to be removed by hand.

Tool, if needed, is limited to small screwdriver sized hand prying tool.

Digging is not allowed under this condition unless written permission is granted by the local District Ranger.

Collecting is not authorized on quartz contracts unless the permission has been granted by the contract holder.

The material is for personal use only and is not to be sold (*otherwise the activity could be considered a commercial venture, and one that would come under other permitting procedures and regulatory authorities*).

Ouachita National Forest "Gold" panning Policy

There are no historic gold producing locations in Arkansas or Oklahoma. However, folks in or near the Ouachita and Ozark mountains can practice their panning skills under the rules listed below in preparation to going to historic gold producing locales in other parts of the country. You may want to bring some steel shot or copper BB's (NO LEAD PLEASE) to count out and mix in the gravels. Then hone your panning skills by attempting to recover the same number of steel shot or copper BB's.

Rules for panning in National Forest streams:

Standard and traditional gold pans and panning methods are employed.

Activity is conducted in the bed of the stream, not the bank.

The activity cannot in any way alter the stream channel, nor undercut boulders nor result in creating any hazards.

Only the edge of the pan or a small hand garden trowel can be used to loosen bed gravels.

Any holes created in the panning process are immediately backfilled when finished.

The material is for personal use only and is not to be sold (*otherwise the activity could be considered a commercial venture, and one that would come under other permitting procedures and regulatory authorities*).

OMGS Calendar

Jul 9 - OMGS Board of Directors Meeting

July 11 - Enid Club Field Trip, Avard-Waynoka - Holey Rocke, Eisenglas

Jul 16 - General Meeting, Program - Maps and the Rockhound.

Jul 18 - Estate Auction at Will Rogers Park beginning preview at 9:00 a.m. auction at approximately 9:30

Aug 3 - OMGS work night

Aug 6 - Show Committee meeting

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

Aug 13 - OMGS Board of Directors Meeting

Aug 20 - General Meeting, Program - To Be Announced.

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.

***NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK
PERMIT NO. 534***