



The Sooner Rockologist

April 2007

Vol. 62 Number 3

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 our anniversary picnic and Christmas party are held in lieu of regular meetings. Guests are welcome.

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

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

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, unless used by permission. Please give credit where credit is due. Editor will send any article by email.

Our 9th Annual Spring Rock Swap is finally here!

Rockhounds will flock to Red Rock Canyon State Park near Hinton for the Oklahoma Mineral and Gem Society's 9th Annual Spring Rock Swap. Collectors will bring their finest gems, geodes, crystals, fossils and rose rocks for display or trade. This is an informal meeting to swap rock specimens and handmade jewelry with other hobbyists.

"This is one of our most fascinating annual events", says Park Manager David Sutton. "It's hard to believe there are so many different kinds of rock, and the rock art that some of these artists create is just beautiful."

One of the most popular events of the swap meet is the "glow show" after dark at 8 PM on Saturday. The "glow show" features stunning florescent rocks, which glow under special lighting. Club members are always anxious to share their wisdom about the rock we live on, and visitors are encouraged to ask questions and learn. The event is free to the public.

The [Oklahoma Mineral and Gem Society's](http://www.omgs.org) Spring Rock Swap takes place in the California Road Campground at the south end of the park. Red Rock Canyon State Park is located 5 miles south of Interstate 40 on US 281, on the south side of the city of Hinton. Please contact us, if you're interested.

State council meeting at 1:00 pm. (with collection of donations for the scholarship fund.) Auction will be at 2:00 pm, or after the council meeting. Pot luck dinner is Saturday night at 6:00pm. Friday is the day the Rockhounds give talks to local schools. Please contact us if you can help.

Contacts:

Chet Hazelwood 405-427-1439 chethokc@worldnet.att.net

Phil Rathbun 405-721-4060

George Finley 405-769-5060 roserocking@aol.com

Web site: <http://omgs.org>

Tent and RV campsites are available at Red Rock Canyon State Park for an exciting and informative weekend during this event. For availability, call the park office at (405) 542-6344. There are full hookups, electrical hookups, and tent camping. Check with the Ranger for discounts. See you there!

<http://www.shopoklahoma.com/redrockc.htm>



2007 Elected Officers

President

John Bode 580-336-2996

Vice President

Vernon Dorton 405-324-7664

Secretary

Dottie Smith 405-672-2510

Treasurer

Vi Holmes 405-834-0765

Board of Directors

Two year term:

Arlene Burkhalter

J.C. Brown

Mike Holmes

Joyce McBryde

Bob Welch

One year term:

Sebastian Geffre

Les Jones

Mark Brickmann

Billie Marie Nedd

Oscar Carroll

Paul Cinnamon

Appointed Officers & Committee Chairpersons

Anniversary Picnic Donna Davis

Audio/Video: J.C. Brown

Christmas Party Dottie Smith

Property Custodians John Bode

Paul Cinnamon

Education: Mark Brickmann

Federation Activities Max and

Arlene Burkhalter

Field Trips Paul Cinnamon

Larry Shearer

Historian **OPEN**

Hospitality Ambrosia Geffre

Librarian: Norma Cinnamon

Meeting Display Doyle McCown

Billie Marie Nedd

Membership Wanda Manderscheid

Omniplex Chet Hazelwood

Arlene Burkhalter

Programs Vernon Dorton

Parliamentarian Joyce McBryde

Publicity **OPEN**

Rockologist Editor Coleen Lumly

Scholarship Arlene and Max

Burkhalter

Show 2007 Arlene Burkhalter

Vi Holmes

Stamps Dottie Smith

Sunshine **OPEN**

Telephone Oveta Vermillion

Ways & Means Wanda & Dean

Manderscheid

Doyle McCown

Workshop Mark Brickmann

OMGS BOARD MINUTES • March 8, 2007

Members present: Vernon Dorton, J. C. Brown, Arlene Burkhalter, Bob Welch, Billie Marie Nedd, Vi Holmes, Paul Cinnamon, Joyce McBryde, John Bode, Les Jones, and Dottie Smith. Guests were Lou Dorton, Henry Nedd, Norma Cinnamon, and Max Burkhalter.

Vernon opened the meeting at Denny's restaurant. The directory is being printed.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, J.C. made the motion to accept the minutes, Billie Marie seconded, motion passed. Vi Holmes gave the treasurer's report.

Paul Cinnamon reported that an inventory was done at the Will Rogers Bldg. at the last meeting. It has been too cold to do the inventory at the shed.

The scholarship recipient will give the program at the April meeting. Pictures will be taken at that time.

Field Trips: Les Jones is going on an overnight trip to the Alabaster Flint National Monument, north of Amarillo—a looking trip, not collecting. Let him know if interested. Paul is setting one up for the gravel pit. Larry Shearer may know about where to hunt for rose rocks. Another possibility is hunting for selenite crystals at Great Salt Plains.

The Exhibitors and Judges Seminar is March 31, starting at 9:00 at the Energy Center in Norman.

Paul and Norma gave a school program at Independent Charter School. The program was a huge success, especially the fluorescent part.

Billie Marie Nedd agreed to do the rock tailings for The Rockologist. We still need a sunshine and parliamentarian.

The meeting adjourned.

Dottie Smith, Secretary

OMGS GENERAL MEETING MINUTES • March 15, 2007

John Bode, president, opened the meeting at 7:00 pm. Dale Moore made a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting as printed in The Rockologist, Sebastian Geffre seconded, motion passed. Vi Holmes gave the treasurer's report, which will be filed for future audit.

Correspondence: Several flyers were received. The Ada Show will be March 23, 24, and 25th. A swap by the Tri-State Gem & Mineral Society on the property of the Redings Mill Inn, just south of Joplin, MO, April 21 and 21, the same weekend as the Wichita, KS show. A Show in Madras, Oregon, is June 27-

Gem Stone of the Month April – Diamond

Overview: The word “diamond” comes from the Greek word *adamas*, meaning “unconquerable and indestructible.” Diamond is the King of Gems. It is one of the most powerful stones. Diamonds are crystalline forms of carbon and are the hardest stones known. It is supposed to be the most powerful when combined with other gemstones.

Diamond is the ultimate gemstone, having few weaknesses and many strengths. It is well known that Diamond is the hardest substance found in nature, but few people realize that Diamond is four times harder than the next hardest natural mineral, corundum (sapphire and ruby). But even as hard as it is, it is not impervious. It has a broad color range, high refraction, high dispersion or fire, very low reactivity to chemicals, rarity, and of course, extreme hardness and durability. Diamond is a polymorph of the element carbon.

Usage: It is said to signify purity and innocence; has always been associated with strength and good luck; gives calm sleep and takes away nightmares; reflects light and thought and will absorb all energies, both positive and negative. It focuses on the brain, takes away blocking and strengthens the brain function. A stone for peace. It can help you achieve material wealth and prestige.

Legend: Diamonds were worn in ancient times to promote strength, invincibility and courage. The earliest record of a man giving a diamond to a woman for her hand in marriage was in 1477, when the Arch Duke of Austria gave one to Mary of Burgundy.

July 1. Also a list was received from Dan Lingelbach, secretary/treasurer of the Oklahoma State Council, of the upcoming shows and activities in this area for the coming months.

Committee Reports:

Show Committee: Arlene Burkhalter reported that she has some flyers for our show in November. They are going to start calling for material for our grab bags. Mike Holmes went to Kansas City to their show to check on dealers for our show, and someone will be going to other shows to check on dealers.

Field Trips: Paul Cinnamon reported that he has a trip tentatively scheduled for Saturday, May 5 to General Materials Gravel Pit, from 8:00 am to 12:00.

Displays: Ovetta Vermillion brought some pictures she from made from rocks. Les Jones brought some fossils. John and Nan Bevins brought their cut stone collection Billie Marie Nedd brought an aquamarine display. Vi Holmes brought some of Garland’s engravings and carvings from his collection. Joe Cook, one of our guests, brought a rock, hopefully a meteorite, which he found.

There was no old business.

New Business: Ovetta Vermillion reported that she needs some helpers for telephone calling. John reported that Arlene gave him the audit of the treasurer and we came in pretty good shape and will have the budget figured out which will probably be the same as last year.

The Judges and Exhibitors Seminar is Saturday, March 31, at the Energy Center in Norman, parking on the east side of the building. This is open to all to help in setting up a case to make it more attractive, etc. Joyce McBryde volunteered to be the parliamentarian.

There is a book sale at OU, Mark Brickman will find out more about it.

The meeting adjourned for refreshments and the program, which was given by Dale Moore on the Grand Canyon.

Dottie Smith, Secretary



Field Trip Scheduled for May! Hooray!

A field trip to the General Materials Gravel Pit is scheduled for Saturday, May 5, 2007. This trip is scheduled for two purposes. First and foremost, it provides a great near-by location where we can all find some interesting material to add to our collections. Second, our club is in dire need of material to be used during our upcoming show in November. We need material to put into grab bags, as well as rough rocks for the silent auction. At our last show, we sold all of the material we had available, and now we must rely on the generosity of our members to replenish the stock. We hope everyone will participate in the field trip and donate a portion of the material

Humans have a long history of appreciating the special qualities of diamonds.

Over the years and around the globe, their unique hardness, clarity and relative rarity have typically made them symbols of social and financial success.

Occurrence: South Africa and other localities throughout Africa, India, Brazil, Russia, Australia, and Arkansas.

Physical Properties

Color	pale yellows, browns, grays, white, blue, black, reddish, greenish, colorless.
Hardness	10
Specific Gravity	3.5
Refractive index	2.4

Aries Birthstone, Lucky Charm
April Modern Birthstone
April Traditional Birthstone
April Ayurvedic Birthstone
Taurus - Lucky Charm
August Mystical Birthstone



Birth Stones By Sign ~

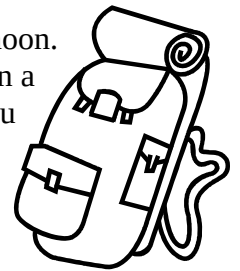
Aries: Mar 21-Apr 20
Ruby, Amethyst, Garnet,
Topaz, and Coral

Those who from April date their years, should Diamonds wear lest bitter tears for vain repentance flow: this stone, emblem of innocence is known.

they find to the Club. There will be several buckets or containers in the parking area labeled OMGS. Please share generously. If you will tumble polish small rocks for the grab bags, it will be greatly appreciated.

The pit operators have told me they intend to close down the operation while we are collecting. If the machinery is not in operation, the use of hard hats will be optional, however, if you have one bring it. Also, if you have extra hard hats, please bring them in the event they are required and some of our newer members or guests don't have one. *Eye glasses with hardened lenses, or standard safety glasses are required.* The pit owners require that we avoid the vicinity of any area where their machinery is in operation and that we stay well back from the edge of the water in the pit and the river. The material is dredged from depths going down to about sixty feet below water, and the banks of the pit are very unstable and steep. Observe the utmost caution when hunting on or around the piles of gravel. Avoid any area where the material might slide and cause injury. Children must be monitored carefully.

The gates should be open by 8:00 a.m., and we can hunt until noon. We will have a sign-in sheet and Release From Liability form on a clipboard that all members and guests are required to sign. If you are late arriving, you will find the forms near the door of the office. *The names of all minors must also be entered, and a parent or guardian must sign the release form next to the name.* Example: John Doe, Jr. by John Doe, Sr.



For those who have not hunted this site before, I suggest you bring a water bottle for each member of your party, and perhaps a candy bar or snack. Each person should also have a water squirt bottle, such as an old Windex bottle, to use to wash the dust and dirt off the material for easier identification and grading. I also find an old dish brush to be very handy to clean prospective material for better identification. Bring a rock hammer, or small garden hand claw or something similar to dig into the rock piles. Each person should have a bucket or bag to carry their treasures back to their vehicle. Cotton or leather gloves will assist in preventing blisters, and sunscreen and insect spray may be needed.

Our members and friends have had many rewarding and memorable hunts on the gravel piles in the past. Generally, everyone finds a lot of good cutting and tumbling material and specimens. Some of the things to look for are rose rocks, aragonites, mastodon teeth and bones, as well as hippo, camel, horse, and buffalo teeth and bones. Cutting material includes "Oklahoma Jade", banded jasper, petrified wood, rosebud agate, as well as many other varieties of agate and jasper.

The General Materials pit is located SW of OKC off I-44. Turn off I-44 at SW 149th Street (exit 109), and proceed west about 1 1/4 miles to SW MacArthur Blvd. Drive south on MacArthur about 1/4 mile to the gate on the east side of the street. Follow the General Material signs to the entrance gate. There should be adequate parking for everyone under the shade trees near the office. A walk of 100-200 yards from the office will bring you to the gravel piles where we will hunt. For additional information, call Larry Shearer at 329-2563, or Paul Cinnamon at 262-6715. We look forward to a productive and fun day.

As we concluded the program, we presented each of the science teachers with a nice rose rock and a small selenite cluster of blades for display in their classrooms. Then, we presented each of the students with a small zip lock bag containing a small rose rock, an hour glass selenite crystal, and a tumble polished rock from our personal collection. Following the program, several of the students came up and introduced themselves and shook hands with us, while thanking us for presenting such an entertaining program. Probably the most difficult part was trying to get our material packed up so we could leave and the school staff could go home. Several students and teachers continued to engage us in conversation, and ask questions.

Although tired, we both felt proud of the students, their good behavior, and their respectful interaction with one another and us. At a time when many schools are receiving a great deal of adverse publicity regarding fights among students, lack of discipline, and the poor education being provided, I believe our experience at this school indicates that this is not universally the norm. We left with a very favorable impression of the school, the faculty, and the students.


"The only real valuable thing is intuition"

Albert Einstein

OMGS MEMBERS PRESENT SCHOOL PROGRAM

by Paul & Norma Cinnamon

We recently received a request to present a "Wacky Wednesday" after school program for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students at the Charter Independence School, in Oklahoma City. This mid-weekly program is designed primarily for students whose parents are unable to pick them up at the 2:30 pm end of the school day. Consequently, these young people must "hang out" on or in the school, many until after 5:00 pm. The date of our program was Wednesday, March 7, 2007. About 35 students attended along with several teachers, including all three of the school's science teachers, the principal, and some school assisting staff.

The content of these weekly programs consists of almost anything that deviates from the regular school curriculum. The school faculty mainly strives to find programs that are entertaining, fun, informative, educational, good to eat, etc. Frequently, the students don't know the source or contents of the program until it begins. Of course, the principal, and most of the school staff know in advance at least something about the program contents.

We had been forewarned that after sitting in class for the entire school day, many students are tired, hungry, and about to burst with the pent up energy typical of youth in this age group. Wacky Wednesday programs take place in the cafeteria. All the tables and chairs have been folded and stored against the wall, and the tile floor has been cleaned from the lunch time debris. The students, who are neatly clad in school uniforms, come in with bulging book bags and sit on the floor. As they assemble, they are permitted to enjoy a snack and soft drink, and are allowed to be a bit more rowdy than during their regular classes. While the students enjoy their snacks, the principal and one or more teachers begin the sessions with brief announcements of school events, activities, and issues needing attention. The school likes to schedule events where respectful student participation and interaction are expected and permitted, and we prepared our program with this in mind. Consequently, our program on rocks, minerals, and fossils was a big hit with most of those present.

We passed around many samples of rocks, minerals, and fossils while talking about where they were found, how they were formed, and some of the things a rockhound can make from them. As always, polished sections of dinosaur bone and coprolite elicited many amusing comments, as did the crystal lined geodes, and the surprise beauty contained in many thundereggs.

Beyond doubt, the biggest hit, with not only the students, but also the faculty, was our fluorescent viewing box display. At the beginning of the program, we explained what it was, and how to operate the switches to see the amazing changes in the rocks when exposed to the long wave and short wave ultraviolet light. I do not believe there was a time from before the program was introduced until I finally had to unplug the viewing box so we could pack the material for the trip home that someone was not looking. I even had a couple of teachers come back in after most of the students had left for home wanting to look again. During our program we showed the students several nice examples of the Oklahoma State Rock, the Barite Rose, and the Oklahoma State Crystal, the Hourglass Selenite Crystals from the Great Salt Plains.

Continued in column at left on this page -

UPCOMING SHOWS

April 13-14 Pond Creek Annual Swap & Show at the Civic Center, Pond Creek, OK

April 20-22 Wichita GMC 54th Annual Show, Wichita Cessna Activity Center, 2744 George Washington Blvd. Friday hours 9 to 7; Saturday 10 to 7 and Sunday 10 to 5 p.m. Adm \$4

April 27-29 Red Rock Canyon Swap Meet & State Council Meeting, Hinton, OK

May 5-6 McPherson GMC Swap, McPherson Fairgrounds, McPherson, Kansas

May 18-20 Ellinwood Swap, City Park west of Ellinwood, KS

June 7-10 AFMS/RMFMS Convention and Show, Roswell Civic Center, Roswell, NM

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The Oklahoma Mineral and Gem Society, Inc.

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Editor's Note: Submit your contributions no later than the first of each month please! Submissions may be edited for punctuation, clarity and space.

If you have an announcement or a trip report to share, email or give it to me at the meetings. Email is preferred, so I don't have to retype it. Unless otherwise noted, articles are written or contributed by the Editor. **Thanks to all of you who contributed to this issue!**



OMGS CALENDAR UPDATE



Apr 2

Workshop Night 7:00

Education Committee Meeting 6:00

Apr 12

Board Meeting 7:00 (dinner @ 6 - Denney's at 63rd & May Ave)

Apr 18

Bead Class at Alouette's, Midwest City

Apr 19

General Membership Meeting 7:00 – Program by Scholarship Winner
Come early, sign in and register for the door prize and check out the Silent Auction items. You may find a treasure!

May 5

General Materials FieldTrip

May 7

Workshop Night 7:00 – Education Committee Meeting 6:00

May 10

Board Meeting 7:00 (dinner @ 6 - Denney's at 63rd & May Ave)

May 16

Bead Group Meeting at Alouette's, Midwest City

May 17

General Membership Meeting 7:00
Come early, sign in and register for the door prize and check out the Silent Auction items. You may find a treasure!

May 27-29

Red Rock Canyon 9th Annual Spring Rock Swap, Hinton, OK
Sponsored by The Oklahoma State Council and hosted by OMGS

FIRST CLASS MAIL – DATED MATERIAL

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

