



The Sooner Rockologist

MAY 2007

Vol. 62 Number 4

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. Member contributions are welcome and encouraged.

Salt Plains Collecting Sites Closed Until Further Notice!

Ten vials of a yellow, liquid, hazardous chemical used during World War II was recently found by a Boy Scout digging for salt crystals. The Scout accidentally broke one of the vials open and experienced coughing, burning eyes and runny nose. Thankfully, his symptoms did not last and he seems to be doing fine now.

Army Safety Specialists were called in to investigate the find at the Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge. The vials have been identified as WWII-era mustard gas samples used during training exercises to prepare soldiers for war. In the early 1940s, the area was used by the military as a practice range. These vials were set on poles and then detonated to train soldiers to identify and handle chemical agents. The disposal protocol of the day was to simply bury them. The vials were found about 3 ½ feet deep.

Park officials have closed off the selenite crystal digging area to the public until further notice. The Corps of Engineers are conducting a thorough investigation of the entire salt flats, which comprises nearly 10,000 acres. Almost 300 acres is utilized from April 1st through Oct. 15th for public digging. Approximately 30,000 visitors come each year to dig for the crystals, including many Boy Scout troops and school groups.

DINOSAUR BOOKS DONATED BY CLUB MEMBERS

By Norma Cinnamon, Librarian

OMGS recently received a very generous donation from club members, Max and Arlene Burkhalter. Four large books containing a vast array of information on dinosaurs include: *The Dinosaur Dictionary* by Donald F. Glut, *The Handy Dinosaur Answer Book* by Thomas E. Svarney & Patricia Barnes Svarney, *Bones*, *The Unity of Form & Function* by R. McNeill Alexander, and *Prehistoric Atlas* by P. Arduini & G. Teruzzi.



Any member interested in bones and fossils will certainly wish to examine these library additions and the information they contain.

Don't forget to thank our benefactors, Max and Arlene.

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 Brickman

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 Donna Davis

Telephone Oveta Vermillion

Ways & Means Wanda & Dean

Manderscheid

Doyle McCown

Workshop Mark Brickmann

OMGS BOARD of TRUSTEES MINUTES • April 12, 2007

The meeting was called to order at Denny's on N. May by Vice President Vernon Dorton, who thanked all for their attendance. Board members in attendance were: Mark Brickman, J.C. Brown, Oscar Carroll, Paul Cinnamon, Mike Holmes, Vi Holmes, Les Jones, Joyce McBryde, and Billie Marie Nedd. Guests were: Joann and Leona Carroll, Norma Cinnamon, and Karen Holmes. There was a quorum.

Dottie Smith, Secretary, was ill and Joyce was asked to fill in. Oscar moved and Vi seconded that the minutes of the March meeting as published in The Sooner Rockologist be approved. Motion carried. Vi Holmes gave the Treasurer's report which was accepted. She was asked to report the values of the CD accounts at the next meeting.

Correspondence: Due to secretary's illness, none available.

Old Business: Vernon stated that 100 more directories will be printed.

Les has the new computer and projector. He urged that anyone wishing to use them needs to check out operation instructions prior to program time. The laptop is now operating correctly, as is the sound level. The VHS player is also available.

New Business: Regarding the OMGS library books currently long overdue:

1. Jewelry Concepts and Technology
2. Gemstones of the World
3. Lapidary Carving for Creative Jewelry
4. Jade

(The person who checked out the books lives in Cleveland County, does not answer her phone, nor does she return messages left on the recorder.) OMGS would rather have the books returned to the Club's library. The replacement value of these books is known to be a minimum of \$325.00 plus whatever taxes, postage and handling charges might be included.

Les has been in touch with the Cleveland County District Attorney's offices; the DA's office has a person whose job it is to pursue this type of problem, wherein the County Sheriff or a Deputy calls on the culprit with a Warrant demanding return of the property. Les asked for a motion to authorize him to proceed with the action. Joyce moved and Billie Marie seconded a motion to authorize Les to pursue legal action against the person above referred to. Motion passed without dissent.

Norma raised the question whether we should possibly reinstate a monetary fine for overdue books. It was decided to discuss the proposal at the next Board meeting.

Vi reported that there is a bead show, "Bead Market" on May 12th & 13th at the

Gem Stone of the Month

May - Emerald

Overview: Emeralds are a gem-stone from the Beryl family of stones. It gets its characteristic emerald green color from traces of chromium in the crystal matrix. Emeralds of excellent quality which exceed a carat frequently are valued above diamonds. Inclusions caused by calcite deposits are typical in emeralds and color saturation and hue are a bigger factor in determining the value of an Emerald.

Usage: Emerald is a precious gem that promotes creativity and perception. It also acts as a natural tranquilizer when you are worried or your mind is troubled. Emeralds symbolize serenity, success in love, wealth, happiness and peace of mind. Improves the memory, helps insomnia, strengthens the immune system, helps with eye sight, restores youth, aids neurological diseases, heals ear problems, and eases child birth.

Legend: Emeralds have been treasured for thousands of years. The infatuation with Emeralds dates back to ancient Egypt and Rome. It is said that Cleopatra was always adorned in Emeralds and that this was her most treasured jewelry. The earliest emeralds date from the Ptolemaic era (320-30 B.C.), but there have been discoveries of mining tools

Oklahoma City Fairgrounds Centennial Building located at 3212 Wichita Walk (the bubble-building).

Mark raised a question as to how the club might improve our outreach. Oscar explained the concept behind work night as being an opportunity to offer instruction in the various activities involved in our hobby. After some discussion, the consensus was that we need to improve the way we conduct our Work Night.

The most used answer to "How did you learn about OMGS?" seems to be "I (We) found you on the Internet!" Perhaps we need to add to the website information listing the various activities, thus gaining more participation (visitors?) and should follow, memberships.

There being no further business, Les moved, seconded by Mike, that we adjourn. Motion carried.

Joyce McBryde, Acting Secretary

OMGS SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES • April 19, 2007

A special board meeting met before the regular meeting. There was a quorum. Paul Cinnamon made the motion to accept applicants, Barbara Schrock and Joni Schrock, for membership; Arlene Burkhalter seconded; motion carried.

Dottie Smith, Secretary

OMGS GENERAL MEETING MINUTES • April 19, 2007

John Bode, president, opened the meeting at 7:00 pm. Wanda Manderscheid introduced our guests: David Gentry, Tom & Jeanie Leonard, Leann Milton and Mary Witt. Wendy Easterling, and Dawson and Robert Helms arrived later.

The program was given by our scholarship recipient, Matt Totton, before our meeting. His presentation was entitled "Origin of the Magnetization in Cretaceous Sediments Disturbed Belt, Montana."

New member packets were picked up by Tyonne Lone Elk for their family and David Wilkinson. They both gave a short history of how they became interested in rocks. New members were welcomed.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the previous month's minutes as printed in The Rockologist; motion carried. Vi Holmes gave the treasurer's report, which will be filed for future audit.

Billie Marie told about our displays: Larry Shearer brought a Rose Rock Sculpture and piece of fluorite and other mineral specimens; Tyonne brought some of her crystals and mineral specimens; and Billie Marie brought some carved fish and some lavender lace agates.

going back to Ramses II (1300 B.C.) or even before. In the Middle Ages, deposits were also uncovered near Salzburg, Austria.

By the 16th Century, however, Colombia became the most celebrated diamond producer, with the stones being traded throughout South America. To the Romans, emerald was dedicated to Venus, the Goddess of Beauty, and symbolized the reproductive forces of nature. To the early Christians, it represented resurrection.

Occurrence: The majority of our Emeralds are Colombian, many from the renowned Muzo Mine, Chivor and Coscuez mines. We occasionally obtain Emeralds from Zambia and Brazil. Zambian emeralds are yellow-green, grey-green, and spinach green.

Physical Properties

Color	Yellow Green to Blue Green
Refractive Index	1.57 - 1.60
Chemistry	Beryllium Al Silicate
Hardness	7.5 - 8.0
Density	2.62 - 2.90
Crystal Group	Hexagonal

Emerald

20th Anniversary Gemstone

January-Mystical Birthstone

Taurus -Modern Birthstone

Taurus - Traditional

Correspondence: A letter from Ed Vermillion thanking our club members for supporting their Ada Show. We have discount tickets for the Wichita Show this weekend. A card about a commercial show in Dallas May 4-6, and flyers for swaps in Ellinwood, May 18 and 19 and McPherson, Kansas May 4-6. Several newsletters from other clubs were received and given to our Editor.

Committee Reports: Red Rock Canyon Swap is April 27-29, with fluorescent display in the evening, Oklahoma Council meeting Saturday at 2:00 pm with auction after the meeting, and a potluck supper Saturday night at 6:00. This year they do not have a school for us, but are encouraging the students to come down to the swap.

Chet said the demonstration at the Omniplex is Friday and Saturday, May 11-12, with set-up on Thursday. The doors open at 9:00 am and all members are encouraged to participate. There is no charge for our members who help.

Paul Cinnamon reported that Max and Arlene Burkhalter donated four books to the library, which can be checked out: "The Handy Dinosaur Answer Book", "Prehistoric Atlas", "The Dinosaur Dictionary" and "Bones".

Field Trip: A field trip has been verified, which previously was only tentative, to the General Materials Gravel Pit, South MacArthur, off of I-44, exit 149, on Saturday, May 5, from 8:00 am to noon. You will be required to sign release form—have hard hats, if they are working, and safety glasses. Also, good to have squirt bottle, rock hammer & picks, buckets, drinks, snacks. Stay away from the pit proper and any equipment.

Picnic: Donna Davis has scheduled our picnic for the first Sunday in June, which is the 3rd, and has acquired the same pavilion as last year.

Show Committee: Arlene: "Thanks to Mike Holmes for being successful in getting the dealers for the show. Would like to have an equipment dealer. All members are invited to come to the show committee meeting the first Monday at 7:00 pm, during work night. We need help in several areas. The show is in the Modern Living Building at the fairgrounds. At the field trip Saturday, there will be a bucket for members to donate for the silent auction and the grab bags.

New Business: JC has a chart for members to indicate what areas they are interested in learning about, then we can have available persons to help you during our work night.

Sunshine: Jean McKissack resigned as sunshine chairman; Donna Davis volunteered to serve.

There is a Bead Show at the fairgrounds May 12 & 13.

Volunteers for cookies for May: Vernon Dorton, Elaine Welch, and Tyonne Lone Elk; for kitchen help: Pearle Haney and Darla Wood.

Dean Manderscheid won the door prize.

The meeting adjourned.

Dottie Smith, Secretary

Birthstone

Taurus - Planetary Stone

Lucky Charm - Gemini, Cancer

Cancer - Birthstone

As with aquamarine, emeralds are a gemstone from the Beryl family of stones. They have a stunning green color. It is generally accepted that the finest emeralds originate in Colombia.

BERYL

Overview: The name beryl is of the Ancient Greek "beryllos" which was originally applied to all green gemstones, but later used only for beryl. Beryls are hard minerals consisting of beryllium aluminum silicate. The most famous variety of beryl is emerald. Beryl is also the principle source of beryllium, which is used in the manufacture of light-weight metal alloys of high tensile strength and superior hardness and fatigue resistance.

Beryls are popular gemstones, and not only because of their gorgeous colours, but because of their high brilliance and their excellent hardness. Beryls are some of the most valuable of all the colored gemstones.

Usage: Beryl increases psychic awareness and heightens human potential by expanding the mind to grasp the laws of nature. Beryl is believed to bring good luck and give eternal youthfulness. It is said to

ROCKER TAILINGS By Billie Marie Nedd

Donna and Robert Davis closed April 27th on their new home and they will be moving in when they return from a preplanned cruise. They are very excited about their new home. They have a big 49th anniversary coming up in a few months. Early in their marriage they traveled all over the US since he was in the Army. During his military career, he was stationed in S. Korea as a MAG, a military adviser. Their children were just toddlers during his service.



Henry Nedd is a registered full-blood Choctaw, and as such, was invited to the recent premier showing of "The Choctaw Code Talkers" at the Oklahoma History Museum. The movie featured the story of the original code talkers who served during WWI and WWII. Henry and Billie Marie attended the big event, complete with a lavish layout of food and commemorative shirts. There are only a couple of these code talkers still alive, but many of their ancestors were present. Editor's note: For more info (which is very interesting), go to the Oklahoma History Center web site at <http://www.okhc.us/index>.

Minnie Lee Morgan, one of our charter members, says she is walking a little bit. She has to hold onto a rail but she is doing pretty well and in good spirits. She was the OMGS editor for 7 years and did the Rocker Tailings for years after that.

Trudy Gullo, a longtime member, is a truly dedicated and courageous Rockhound. She is practicing picking up rocks that her caregiver throws on the floor so she can practice picking up the rocks with her grabber stick. Trudy is in her late eighties. And fell down a flight of stairs in 2006. She now has a steel plate in her neck, uses a walker and oxygen. She can now walk $\frac{1}{2}$ mi on her walker!

Jackie Hazelwood was taken to ICU at Presbyterian Hospital on April 29th. She was admitted for heart failure and was revived. Chet could not be reached for an update on her condition. We wish her a speedy recovery.

Joyce and George McBryde celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary May 1st and have planned a nice long vacation together, the first one alone since they were married. They will be going to the Grand Canyon and Yellowstone and many other sites between here and there. Congratulations!



Don't have a weather alert radio?

Your cell phone can do the job. The TV stations will send an email to your cell phone when severe weather approaches.

Sign up for the service at channel 4, KFOR.
<http://www.kfor.com/Global/story.asp?S=731316>

The email address for some Cingular customers is:
yournumber@cingularme.com

Thanks Dale! This could come in real handy on a field trip!



protect travelers from danger and to treat disorders of the heart and spine. It stimulates the mind, increases confidence and cleanses. It has been used in the treatment of disorders of the heart, liver and spine and can also be helpful in treating concussions and damage to the cranial portion of the head.

Legend: Beryl spheres or eggs were used for scrying during the renaissance. The ancients used beryl in rain-making rituals. In the early 1200s, beryl was thought to help in courtroom litigation as well as on the battle field. There is a "gem city" in Greek myth, called the City of the Islands of the Blessed where beryl formed the temples of the gods.

Occurrence: Beryl occurs in the United States, Mexico, Russia, Brazil, India, South America, Western Africa, Madagascar, and Ukraine.

Physical Properties

Color	colorless, yellow, orange, green, blue, pink and very rarely red.
Hardness	7.5 - 8.0
Specific Gravity	2.62 - 2.91
Refractive index	1.566 - 1.602

Zodiac Signs of Beryl -
Scorpio and Sagittarius

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CORRECTION: George Finley's

OMGS CALENDAR UPDATE



- May 5 **General Materials Field Trip**
- May 7 **Workshop Night** 7:00 – Education Committee Meeting 6:00; Show Committee Meeting 7:00
- 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!
- June 4 **Workshop Night** 7:00 – Education Committee Meeting 6:00
Show Committee Meeting 7:00
- June 14 **Board Meeting** 7:00 (dinner @ 6 - Denney's at 63rd & May Ave)
- June 20 **Bead Group Meeting** at Alouette's, Midwest City
- June 21 **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!

First Class Dated Material

email address was published in an article last month; George has advised that it is an old one. His new address is: finley.g@att.net



UPCOMING SHOWS

May 12-13 60th Annual Grand Junction Gem Mineral & Jewelry Show, Two Rivers Convention Center, Grand Junction, CO

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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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 attachments in MSWord are 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!**



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