



**REGULAR MEETING:** Meetings are held the 2nd Monday of the month from September to June. The Society will meet on **Monday October 12th** in the dining room of the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive, Rockville. The short business meeting will begin at 7:45 pm but the room is available to us at 7:30 pm so come early and see what you and others have on the Show Table and chat with old friends. The Program subject is "The Gemstones of Peru" by **Lee Horowitz** who is an owner, miner, cutter, producer, promoter and dealer of Peruvian opals and other South American minerals. Sounds very interesting!

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS** will meet **Monday October 19th** at 7:30 pm at the home of David and Nancy Ballard. All Board members are expected to be there. Any member is welcome to attend but please let Nancy know if you plan to attend (301 926 7374).

**ROSTER CHANGE** HARRIS, Jonathan jgharris7@gmail.com.

**NEW MEMBERS**

BABB, Kevin, Husband of Roshni Babb added as family member.  
CAMPANELLA, Stephen, 1103 Gilbert Road, Rockville MD 20851-1320,  
301 762 6278, stephencampanella@verizon.net.  
VARGO, Mary & Tracy, 12305 Glen Mill Road, Rockville MD 20854-1928, 301 294 8708,  
mbvargo@aol.com.  
Kate (8/98)

Welcome New  
Members



Our By-laws state "Any member in arrears as of Oct. 15th shall forfeit membership".

**IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID DUES, THIS WILL BE THE LAST ROCKHOUNDER YOU WILL RECEIVE**

A red star on the address label of mailed newsletters indicates non-payment (as of Oct. 1st). If not already done, pay for your Single membership at \$15 per year, or Family membership (Up to 2 adults and children under 18 years of age) at \$20 per year at the October meeting or send to: Membership Chairperson Nancy Ballard, 16812 Baederwood Lane, Derwood MD 20855-2011, 301 926 7374. She will mail your membership card(s) back to you if you send her a self addressed stamped envelope otherwise you may pickup your card(s) at the next regular meeting. Club membership is a requirement for attending most Society field trips. We need you and want you back!

P.S. There is an added \$5.00 fee for renewals after Nov.1st.

**DEADLINE** for the November 2009 Rockhounder: **Oct. 28.**

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**PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:** 'Tis the season to be making plans for next year. Our Society Vice President, Elmer Lantz, has provided us with a great series of speakers at our meetings but given the Society's term limits, his time in office, like mine, is quickly coming to a close. Our Board of Directors has, at my request, acted as a search committee to nominate candidates for President and Vice President. I am very pleased to announce that we have two excellent candidates. Eric Kindahl has agreed to run for President and Owen Powers has agreed to run for Vice President for the coming term that starts in January. We will hold the election at our November meeting. We're fortunate to have folks like Eric and Owen willing to pitch in to keep our club so successful. Thank you very much, Eric and Owen!



Also, as we speed into next year, Holly McNeil continues to do a tremendous job leading our Future Rockhounds of America (FRA) program. The FRA provides a framework for rock-related instruction for our club's junior rockhounds (up to age 18). As you probably know, our FRA meetings coincide with the first hour of our monthly meetings. Our club members have very generously donated minerals, fossils and other material to be used for the FRA program. It is again gratifying to see our club members, such as Lisa Carp, assisting with FRA instruction. Jack Busch was saying how this brings back memories of how our Society started in 1963 - as an activity for youngsters interested in rockhounding. Bravo to Holly and all those who are assisting with the FRA.

Finally, we had many membership renewals in the past month, but if you haven't renewed your membership please do so this month. You'll help us by not having to go through the administrative work required to remove and then re-add late-renewing members to the roster, mailing/emailing lists, etc. By renewing your membership this month you can also avoid the late fee of \$5 that kicks in on November 1. Please contact our Membership Chair, Nancy Ballard, whose address and phone number is listed on the back page of this Rockhounder, to renew your membership today. Thanks, Mark

**THIS AND THAT** Gladys Fuller has moved to Asbury Village. She has a comfortable two bedroom two bath apartment with dining-living room, kitchen, and balcony. Downsizing from her former home she had to rid herself of some mineral items which she has donated to the Society to be used as deemed appropriate by the Society.

**Georgia Olmstead** writes: "Hi I am doing fine. Must remember to go slow and not lift things. Had ablation procedure for "flutter" on Sept. 1 (& was "evicted" on Sept. 2.) Still have some "AFB"\* but will be treated with "drugs." Hi! to all."

\*AFB is atrial fibrillation. (The ablation fries some of the nerve pathways that cause the heart to beat irregularly. She is now living in Longmont CO, as noted in last month's roster changes. Last contact I had with her, she still had not re-established an internet connection. Ed.)

**Silent auction** of lapidary books donated by Paul Vance last month netted \$37.00 to the Society.

A **joint fossil collecting trip** to Henson Creek in Prince Georges County was held in conjunction with the Maryland Geological Society on October 3rd. This trip was announced by E Mail after the September meeting, and too late for this issue of the *Rockhounder*. If you lack E Mail, be sure to get on Jonathan Harris's list so you can keep informed about field trips.



Some thoughts on collecting.....

Directions to the "best site ever" are always wrong.

A little kid always finds the best fossil or mineral; after all, they are closer to the ground.

A stromato-lite has 1/3 less calories than a regular stromato...but it's not as satisfying.

## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The September 14, 2009 meeting was called to order by President Mark Dahlman at 7:47 pm, with approximately 67 people attending. The Minutes of the June 8th, 2009 regular meeting, with corrections published in the September Rockhounder were approved.

**President:** Mark mentioned the upcoming Eastern Federation Meeting in Bristol, CT. The Society is still seeking a member to serve as delegate. It was M/S/P that Wendell and Jo Ann Mohr be delegate and director alternate. Mark announced the silent auction of three copies each of the Gerald Wykoff books *Master Gem Cutting Tips* and *Master Gem Polishing*, donated by Paul Vance, all of which later sold. The Society is still looking for a candidate for Vice President. See Mark or any current board member if you are interested in running for any board position.

**Treasurer:** Andy reported we are in good shape financially, with few transactions over the summer. He is looking forward to the big deposit of dues and reminded those who haven't yet paid to do so.

**Editor:** Wendell reminded us of the upcoming Marriottsville Quarry field trip. He reported on many upcoming opportunities. Many classes are available from Glen Echo, Montgomery County, and others including topics from geology to jewelry. Many shows are also upcoming, see schedule. Jo Ann Mohr has available lottery tickets to benefit the Eastern Federation Fund .

**Membership:** Nancy has membership cards for those who paid dues, but sent no SASE.

**Program:** Vice President, Elmer Lantz, introduced the evening speaker, Jeff Nagy, GLMSMC Club Historian. Jeff, assisted by Larry Bernstein and Fred Parker, is researching an update to the MD Geological Survey Publication ES-5, *Minerals of the Washington, D.C. Area*. The presentation was entitled "The Fountain Copper Mine - A Forgotten Mining Operation in Montgomery County, Maryland." Jeff took us on a chase through historical documents from newspaper ads, citing rewards for runaway indentured workers, to mining records, noting you must always ask who, what, why, when, and where. Along the way we learned about the characters involved in the mine, their relationships to American history, and finally the most probable location of the mine. As a bonus, we heard about a brand new lead for a gold, silver, and copper mine near Randolph Hills subdivision, where the speaker grew up. Thanks, Jeff.



**FRA:** Holly announced the evening program theme had been working on the Rock & Mineral Badge and the Communication Badge. They also discussed the State Rocks and Minerals. Next month will feature a presentation on gemstones by club member and local expert, Lisa Carp.

It was M/S/P to accept new membership applications. The new members are Beth Hilkemeyer, Mary and Tracy Vargo and daughter Kate, Stephen Campanella, and Donna and Michael Gallagher and children Erin and Tristan. Kevin Babb is added as husband of Roshni Babb in their family membership.

Rod Towers administered the drawing for the junior door prizes and Joel Rosen administered the general and show table door prizes.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 PM.

Jeff Cessna, Secretary

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES** President Mark Dahlman called the September 21, 2009 meeting to order at 7:30 pm. Board members present: Nancy Ballard, Mark Dahlman, Jonathan Harris, Elmer Lantz, Wendell Mohr, Andy Muir, Joel Rosen. Non-board member present: David Ballard.



**Vice President:** Elmer announced that the October presentation will be on the gemstones of Peru. It was M/S/P to give any club member who presents a program at a Society meeting a free year's Society membership (individual or family) effective 09/01/09.

**FRA:** (by proxy) Holly determined that a possible FRA badge for fluorescents will not be ready for 2 or 3 years. The board agreed with her suggestion to auction off the fluorescent minerals from the David Dinsmore donation at the December club meeting.

**President:** Mark reported that he has successfully scanned in the mailing list for our show invitations to convert the file to a modern database. He is making good progress on the quality assurance process, and hopes to complete the job by next meeting.

**Editor:** Wendell reported that he attended a home show at the Germantown Soccerplex and noted that they do not have electricity readily available on the show floor. They had to lay cords and cables all over the show floor, which would not make this location a good option for future Society shows if we should need to move out of the fairgrounds in the coming years.

**Property:** Joel reported that he has a number of give-aways still available for door prizes and show table prizes but will do a complete inventory to determine if he will need to purchase anything else for this year. He also led a discussion about the need to lubricate the various plastic pieces as we put together the showcases. It was agreed that bee's wax or paraffin might be the best option.

**Membership:** Nancy reported that she has received dues from 70 members, but another 50 have yet to pay. She also distributed a summation of data from our March 2009 show indicating the ways in which our attendees found out about the show. Our postcards sent out, fliers distributed widely, and word-of-mouth from friends and family accounted for the highest counts.

**Field Trips:** Jonathan reviewed plans for the Marriotsville Quarry trip Sept. 26 and the Stafford Quarry trip Oct. 10. He is also planning a fossil collecting trip to Henson Creek with the Maryland Geological Society. The board discussed the possibility of having a "beginner's quarry trip" that might encourage folks who have not collected at a quarry to give it a try. Experienced collectors could help beginners with safety issues, rock identification, and other skills.

**Treasurer:** Andy reported that we are in good shape financially. He will prepare a historical net worth statement for the next board meeting. Andy will send a thank you letter to Paul Vance for his donation of the books that were auctioned at the last club meeting. A \$300 donation was sent to the University of Maryland Geology Dept. as a thank-you for hosting a club visit in June. It was M/S/P to make the following donations this year: \$100 to the American Lands Access Association, \$300 to the Eastern Federation Fund, \$300 to the AFMS Foundation, and \$800 to the AFMS Scholarship fund. These donations are equal to last year's club donations, except for the AFMS Scholarship fund, which had been increased by \$400.

**Annual Show:** Mark reported that Don Turner has agreed to run the shop again. It is time again to start making pre-forms, and Mark will forward to Don the names of several club members who might be willing to assist.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 PM.

Andy Muir, Secretary Pro-tem



**FIELD TRIPS**

**Saturday October 10th.** Stafford Quarry, VA. Meet at the office at 8:45 am for safety briefing and paperwork signing at 9am followed by collecting until noon. In the past we have found nice orange zeolite crystals (mostly stilbite) in the amphibolite rock. Age limit 10 and up. (with parental supervision!) Please let Jonathan Harris know of your plans by October 4, so he has a head count. Email is (preferred) <jgharris7@gmail.com> or phone 301-545-0808.

Circumstances beyond our control, weather or problems at the quarry, can cause last minute cancellations so it is advisable to check Friday evening for any changes. Jonathan will try to avoid such situations and give notice as soon as he learns of them. Please be on time. Late comers who miss the safety briefing cannot collect at the quarry. Note that everyone (including minors) must have the appropriate safety equipment. This includes hard hat (ANSI Z89.1, certified for industrial head protection, readily available at home centers and hardware stores. Bike helmets and other sport helmets are NOT suitable.), eye protection, steel toed shoes, gloves, and long pants.

Directions: From Rockville take I-270 South. Keep right onto I-270 Spur. Merge onto I-495. At exit 57A, take ramp right onto I-95. At exit 143B, take ramp right onto VA-610 (Garrisonville Rd). The quarry is at 1012 Garrisonville Rd., Stafford VA, about 4 miles from I-95. The quarry is on the RIGHT side of SR-610. Summary: about 55 miles (one hour.)

**SHOWS ETC.**

**October 9, 2009,** Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Society Auction. Friday only, viewing 7:00 pm, Auction 7:30 pm. Woman's Club of Catonsville. Gemstones, cutting rough, jewelry, minerals, fossils, books, magazines, and lapidary equipment. Refreshments are available. Directions: Go West on Frederick Road from I-695 (Baltimore beltway), approximately 3 blocks to St. Timothy's Lane. Turn right and go one block to the Woman's Club located behind St. Timothy's Church.

**October 17-18** 37th Annual Gem & Mineral Show and 59th Annual EFMLS Convention sponsored by the Bristol Gem & Mineral Club. Beals Community Center, Bristol, CT. The EFMLS business meeting is on Friday, October 16th.



**October 31** 20th "ULTRAVIOLATION" Fluorescent Mineral Show by The Rock and Mineral Club of Lower Bucks County, PA Fairless Hills, PA. First United Methodist Church, 840 Trenton Road, Fairless Hills, PA, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm. \$2.00 donation, children age 12 and younger free. Information: contact Chuck O'Loughlin, 130 Maple Terrace, Merchantville, NJ 08109, Phone: 856-663-1383, Email: ultraviolation@yahoo.com.

**October 31** 24th Annual South Penn Rock Swap 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., South Mountain Fairgrounds (1.5 miles West of Arendtsville, PA on route 234). General admission: \$1.00. Tables for swappers: \$10.00 (Multiple tables allowed for the \$10.00 fee). Sponsored by: The Central Pennsylvania and Franklin County Rock and Mineral Clubs

**November 21-22** 18th Annual Northern VA Mineral Club Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show, George Mason University, Student Union Bldg II, Route 123 & Braddock Road, Fairfax VA. 10-6 Sat., 10-4 Sun. Admission \$4.00, Seniors (65+) \$3.00, Teens (13-17) \$3.00, 12 and under free. Info: Tom Taffe 703 281 3767 or <rockcllctr@aol.com>

**SAFETY** by Chuck McKie, from the 10/08 CFMS Newsletter  
via the 01/09 AFMS Newsletter

(Continued from the September Rockhounder)



**WARNING TO SILVER-SOLDERING ENTHUSIASTS:** Silver brazing alloy, frequently called silver solder, is an extremely valuable industrial material. It is used for joining metals and alloys such as silver, copper, brass, bronze, stainless steel, carbon steel and dissimilar metal combinations where it is necessary to perform the joining of these metals at low temperatures. Fumes generated during brazing can be a serious hazard. Brazing fluxes generate fluoride fumes when heated. Cadmium in silver brazing alloys vaporizes when overheated and produces cadmium oxide, a highly toxic substance. If cadmium oxide fumes are inhaled into the respiratory tract, they can cause pulmonary distress, shortness of breath, and in cases of severe exposure, may cause death. Silver brazing filler metals containing cadmium are: BAg-1, GAg-1a and BAg-2 and BAg-3. Since the boiling point of Cadmium is 1412° F., brazing can be carried on safely using BAg-1 and BAg-1a classes of filler metal at temperatures below 1400° F. BAg-2 and BAg-3 have recommended brazing temperatures of 1295 - 1550° F. and 1270 to 1500° F. respectively. Brazing can be carried out safely using temperatures below 1400° F. Since temperatures in the upper portion of these ranges can be reached, it is important to provide adequate local exhaust ventilation or, where this is not possible, individual air-supplied respirators. (This article taken from, Working with Silver Solder, Public Health Service Publication No. 1518, U.S. Dept. of Health, Education and Welfare.)

Do not overload electrical outlets. If in doubt, have the circuits checked by an electrician. Keep switches and motors in a dry place, where the water from the grinding will not splash on them. Be sure to have all motors and outlets grounded. In case of faulty wiring or short circuit, the ground will absorb the shock -- not you! Standing on a rubber mat will give some protection. Electric shocks can cause death! Suspicious wires lying on the floor or ground should be avoided -- at home, or on field trips. They may be harmless, but if they are not, beware! When a person suffers electric shock, it is important to use a stick or other such wooden object to separate him or her from the source before beginning resuscitation.

**2009 WILDACRES APPRECIATION AWARD** The Wildacres Appreciation Award is given annually to an individual who has made outstanding contributions to EFMLS Wildacres. The award, presented during the just concluded September session, reads as follows: The person to receive this year's Wildacres Appreciation Award grew up in Clifton, NJ. She and her husband had 5 children and have 5 grandchildren. She got into the hobby through a friend and into wire wrapping by taking a course at Wildacres. She soon began to teach wire wrapping at Wildacres and has done so for many years. She has been instrumental in obtaining speakers for Wildacres and was the director for two years.

After graduating from the Univ. of MD, she became a medical technologist. A member of the GLMSMC, she has learned much about the hobby and its various aspects. Despite just having had eye surgery, she taught at Wildacres this fall.

**Ginger Posthumus**, for your years of service and dedication to Wildacres as a director, teacher and obtaining instructors for Wildacres, the Wildacres Appreciation Award is presented to you with our thanks and appreciation. Congrats from us all, Ginger! You go, girl! Taken from the October 2009 EFMLS News



**SHOW TABLE:** Sept. 14, 2009. Thanks to those who bring items for sharing at the meetings.

<u>Exhibitor</u>	<u>Specimen (s)</u>	<u>Locality</u>
Jonathan Baum	Vanadinite/ Olivine in Lava	Locality not given
Frances Becker	Limestone with Shale*	Beaver Creek MD
Jeff Cessna	Wollastonite, Calcite, Barite	Franklin NJ
Michael Ciletti	"Blue" Quartz	Brazil
George Durland	Norbergite	Farber Quarry, Franklin NJ
	Hardystonite, Clinohedrite,	
	Willemite	Franklin NJ
	Benitoite	Gem Mine San Benito Co. CA
Dave Hennessey	Topaz	Russia
Chuck Hyland	Siderite	Ivigut, Greenland
	Quartz, Manganocalcite,	
	Pyrite, Sphalerite	Pachapaqui, Peru
Alexandra Kindahl	Low Iron and High Iron Sphalerite	Hanover NM, Santander, Spain
Eric Kindahl	Granite	Bukhausan N.P., Seoul, South Korea
Avery Marsteller	Quartz	Locality not given
Chuck Mason	Agate	Lake Superior
Mary Beth Mason	Various Rocks*	Lake Superior
Wendell Mohr	Shorl Tourmaline	Skardi, Pakistan
Andy Muir	Echinoderm and Shell Fossils*	Near Hancock MD
Joel Rosen	Dolomite/ Sphalerite	Elmwood TN
	Calcite	Ouray CO
Conrad Smith	Blue Fluorite	Bingham NM
	Oyster Fossil	Calvert Cliffs MD
Earl Smith	Chrysoprase	Australia
Linda Smith	Mystery Cabochon	Locality not given
Eric Thompsen	Elbaite Tourmaline	Minas Gerais. Brazil
	Turquoise	AZ
Rod Towers	Microscope and specimens	
	Meteorites	Various localities
Jennifer Weiss	Bismuth	Locality not given
	* = Self-collected or self made	



## DOOR PRIZES

**Junior**, Jonathan Baum, who won a carved frog in June took home a carved turtle at his meeting! Lucky boy, well on the way to a stone zoo. Conrad Smith the other junior winner became owner of a fluorite from Ancash, Peru. Not only that but he won the **Show Table** prize consisting of a mounted agate slab! **The General Door Prize**, An Orange Calcite sphere was won by Eric Thompsen.

**CLASSES** Get the Glen Echo Park Fall-Winter catalogue of classes and events if you are interested in polymer clay, beading, jewelry, and stone carving during November, December, and January. Clearwater Nature Center is again offering classes in jewelry and cabochon making. Info: 301 297 4575.

**ANOTHER LONG TIME MEMBER DIES** Anna Marcus, 93, who was a long time loyal member died on August 16th. She was among the earliest members of the Society and served many functions including Secretary and long time Publicity Chairperson. She and her husband Phil, who died in 1986, were premier fossil collectors and traveled many miles personally collecting specimens. When she, for a time, moved to Leisure World, she made her collection available free to members. (I remember that specimens were pretty well picked over and, shamefully, many became disassociated from their labels. I also noted specimens that she and Phil had donated specimens to the Smithsonian Institution at the Naturalist center when we had a field trip there recently. Ed.)

Her tireless efforts for the Society resulted in her election as a **Life Member**. She attended our show in March 2009 and, despite being in a wheel chair, was still perky and fully interested in the show features.

Her daughter, Susan Marcus, was an early Society member and went from being a pebble pup to the pursuit of a degree in the Earth Science field and became a supervisor at the USGS in Reston VA.

Our condolences to her son from a first marriage, Richard, daughter Susan, and four grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.



Susan and Anna March 2009

**CLOSE FRIEND OF SOCIETY DIES** Lillian Turner, 91, died on September 27th.

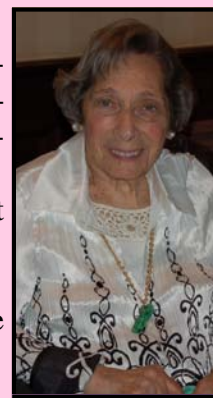
As Chairman of the AFMS Commemorative Stamp Committee she was responsible for obtaining the two sets of mineral stamps in 1974 and 1992 issued by the USPS. She was also instrumental in the AFMS donation of the "first lady's brooch" made up of stones from all states. It was on exhibit at the First Ladies exhibit in the National Museum of American History. (Since the two year renovation of their exhibits recently completed, I don't know if it is still shown. Ed.)

Lillian donated a very large diamond which is on display in the Smithsonian Institution NMNH gem hall as the "Mysterious diamond." It is a nearly black stone and is so named because it is about half dollar size but extremely thin. Its mount hides the fact of its thinness. She has also donated some Jade pieces, at least one of which is on exhibit in the geology hall.

For a number of years she made her rough and polished jades, large cut gemstones, replicas of famous diamonds, and carved gemstone birds available for exhibit at our Annual Gem and Mineral Show. She had, at times, up to 4 outstanding cases.

Lillian made a donation to a fund for GLMSMC for an award for the best junior exhibit in our show and we award a \$100 savings bond when warranted. The fund continues existence.

She has also contributed door prize material, both for our meetings and the Annual Show.



October 2007



Our condolences to her son, Stephen and other relatives

What do little ghosts have in their rock collection?

\_\_\_\_\_ !  
 U P N C T U P O F T

Write the letters of the alphabet that come before each of these letters.





**JUNIOR FUTURE ROCKHOUNDS OF AMERICA**

By Holly McNeil



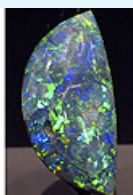
Welcome Back! It was a busy summer for Future Rockhound members...Jimmy Cummins attended Geology camp and showed us specimens from collecting trips he went on, Conrad Smith put together a mineral identification session for Webelos at scout camp – thanks to his efforts 48 Webelos earned their Geology Activity pins. Jonathan Bowman and Trevor Babb explored the Museum of Natural History....and that is just for starters! At our September meeting each member shared summer rock-hounding stories with the group and practiced speaking about their specimens. As part of our continued efforts to earn the Rock & Mineral badge, we played a group game called “Rockin’ USA” where teams took turns selecting a state and then identifying its official rock or gem by studying clues relating to the mineral properties of the stone. The Amethyst team was the winner, and everyone went home with mineral prizes.



Upcoming:

**October 12** program –**GEMSTONES!** Lisa Carp has graciously agreed to show some of her extensive gemstone collection and discuss various aspects of it with the group. It should be a fascinating and eye-popping session!

For more information on the Future Rockhounds of America program, please contact Holly McNeil at <fra\_advisor@glmsmc.com> or 301-605-7179. Center photo by W Mohr, others by Holly McNeil



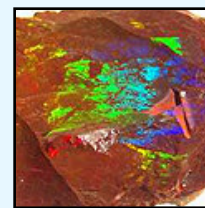
Black Opal

The October birthstone, **OPAL**, is a mineraloid gel which is deposited at a relatively low temperature and may occur in the fissures of almost any kind of rock. It is most commonly found with limonite, sandstone, rhyolite, and basalt. The water content is usually between 3 and 10 %, but can be as high as 20%. Opal ranges from clear through white, gray, red, orange, yellow, green, blue, magenta, rose, pink, slate, olive, brown, and black. Of these hues, the reds against black are the most rare and dear, whereas white and greens are the most common; these are a function of growth size into the red and infrared wavelengths.

Common opal is truly amorphous, but precious opal does have a structural element. At the micro scale, precious opal is composed of silica spheres some 150 to 300nm in diameter in a hexagonal or cubic closed-packed lattice. These ordered silica spheres produce the internal colors by causing the interference and diffraction of light passing through the microstructure of opal.

Opal is one of the mineraloids that can form or replace fossils. The resulting fossils, though not of any extra scientific interest, do appeal to collectors.

Resource: Wikipedia, <<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Opal>>  
Music City Rockette, Mid TN Rockhounds Oct 2008

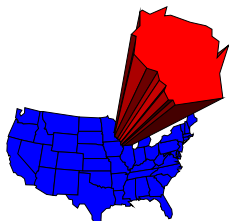


Ethiopian Opal



THE ROUTE TO GOOD SITES

WEB SITES



**Mineralogy of Wisconsin**, <<http://www.uwex.edu/wgnhs/MinIndexIntro.htm>>, is on the WI Geological and Natural History web site and lists 300 or so minerals of Wisconsin. It is by Dr William S. Cordua, Professor of Geology/Mineralogy at the University of Wisconsin, River Falls WI. The database is cross-referenced by county and mineral. There are links to fluorescent minerals, meteorite ID, uses of minerals, properties, Wisconsin Geology Related Attractions and others. • A group of mineral collectors went to Wisconsin to collect. The weather turned dreadfully cold on the weekend of the field trip. One collector solved the problem. He went to the drug store and came back stocked up with many packages of cold remedy for the whole group. •

**Rock Tumbling Hobby**, <<http://www.rocktumblinghobby.com/>>, is by Andy (Last name not given on site). It may be a useful start for beginners going into the hobby or the more advanced telling what it's all about, equipment used, stones, pit-falls, and tips. Over 2550 members have participated in its message board. I find that very few messages are about tumbling but a great cross section of lapidary of all kinds many with very attractive photos of the work. As is customary, specific equipment manufacturers are not endorsed here.



Tumbled Carnelian  
(Photo from web site)

- Don't store tumbled stones in the candy dish! •



Photo from  
Web Site

**3D-Museum** <<http://test.3dmuseum.org/>> is a new test site maintained by the Vertebrate Paleobiology Lab of the University of California, Davis and is a work-in-progress. Many people have been part of the project. The current gallery index is on the main page on the right. Currently about 50 living and fossil specimens can be viewed and rotated at any angle you wish. See how the 3D images were made and enjoy cruisin' around the site.

Per their comment from a prior web site: "3D data contents of this website is freely available for academic purposes and personal enjoyment, unless otherwise

- These fossils span many geologic eras. Time is nature's way of keeping everything from happening all at once. •
- A geology student asked the farmer if it would be O.K. to hunt fossils on the farm. Said the farmer, "I guess it will be o.k. so long as you don't shoot towards the house." •

*From Petrified Digest 6/05, via The Roadrunner 4/09 via Aug 2009 Stone Chippers Austin TX*

**HAPPY OCTOBER BIRTHDAY TO MEMBERS:**

Kathy Bowman, Ken Carter, Thomas Caton, Jonathan Ertman, Tristan Gallagher, Stephanie Hald, Matthew Hennessey, Owen Hochuli, Charles M. P. Hyland, Charles J. Hyland, Sue Krug, John Kuehn, Avery Marsteller, Aidan McElravy, Jim Michaelis, Leslie Porter, Annie Shaw, Scott Snyder, Louis Van Rafelghem, Therese Van Rafelghem, and Dee Weiss.



## SOCIETY HISTORY

BY JACK BUSCH



**CLOSING OUT 1994** - At October's meeting a slate of officers was presented with Bob Irby suggested for President, and Charlie Zellers for Vice-President, with Lois Ritchie and George Fetterly continuing as Secretary and Treasurer, respectively.

Al Bullock reported he'd been on a field trip to Limestone Quarry in New Jersey. He said nothing about what he found there but did state that the trip out of the quarry was "Helacious." Continuing with field trips that are unusual, Frances Gallegos read a letter she received from member Sarah Ramuglia who had moved to Alaska. Sarah's description of the trip made by the club she joined up there make ours sound wimpy; e.g. for some you need a 4-wheel drive; for others you need strength and endurance to hike 24 miles round trip, toting your specimens on the way back; and still others requiring \$150 minimum round trip air fare to and from the site due to the paucity of roads in that state. I doubt if much has changed in the ensuing 15 years except perhaps the airfare. And Sarah added there always was the possibility of encountering a grizzly bear along the way.

The main feature of October's meeting was not a speaker. Rather, it was an auction of items from the collections of Ev Ecklund and Dick Kitterman. Bob Irby, Wendell Mohr, and Jack Nelson were the callers and were able to net over \$535 for our treasury.

Several successful cave onyx workshops were held in October and November at the home of Lou Williams, who volunteered the use of his equipment (and his expertise) to prepare performs for the upcoming show's workshop.

There were field trips aplenty during the mid fall months, six in October and an equal number in November. Available space does not permit reporting on each, but all were well attended and produced good results. Unfortunately, at Texas Quarry (north of Baltimore) some participants mangled their hands due to improper use of rock and crack hammers. As a result the Society Executive Board authorized Field Trip Chairman Terry Cirrincione to obtain a first aid kit. It's not a bad idea for anyone going on a field trip to include such a kit with their own gear.

In November's "Rockhounder" Editor Nancy Ballard reprinted an article from the September 1994 issue of "Rocky Echoes" describing the gold mining in Georgia during the 1800's. The first gold rush in the US began there in 1828 right after a deer hunter kicked a rock, reached down to pick it up, and saw gold. Ten years later so much was being found that the US mint opened a branch in Dahlonega that turned out over \$6 million in coins. Consolidated Mine was the largest east of the Mississippi and it had something, according to the article, I would have liked to have seen: the world's first "pneumatic wench" (sic) for which, later on, Ingersol-Rand offered \$850,000!

At November's meeting the slate of proposed officers for the forthcoming year was approved by acclamation ('Twas ever thus). Wendell Mohr reported he had spoken about minerals to 25 Cub Scouts from Pack 1440 and 15 of their siblings at Fields Road Elementary School.

The evening's speaker was Andy Herman, an electrical engineer whose hobby is gem cutting to the extent he's a graduate gemologist. He told of various instruments he used to identify gemstones. After explaining about each he invited members to come up and see the instruments in operation.

The Society's year ended with the Holiday Party, but before anyone repaired to the cake and candy tables, they were given a treat of a different sort. Then-new member Rod Towers, using slides to supplement his presentation, gave an excellent talk about Pleistocene Vertebrates of Texas and California.

And with that we close the door on '94, a very busy year. Next issue I'll start through 1995's annals to see what transpired through it.



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