

The Sooner Rockologist

Vol. 65 Number 2

February 2010

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!)



Plaque Presentation
Out going Oklahoma Mineral and Gem Society President Paul Cinnamon is presented a "President's Plaque" by incoming President Donna Davis. President Davis will serve a one year term.

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.

OMGS Board

(l to r) Jeannie Manners, secretary, David Read, treasurer, Darla Wood, Bill Chaney, Dale Moore, VP, Donna Davis Pres, Paul Cinnamon. Not pictured Joann Carroll, JC Brown, Elaine Welch, John Bode.



New Members

Scott & Debbi Cunningham and Herman Kirkwood receive their new member packets

The Sooner Rockologist is the official publication of the Oklahoma Mineral and Gem Society, Inc. and is published each month, except June and December. 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.



From the President's Desk

Hello Everyone!

Well, the New Year started good with the AKS Gem Show. Thanks to everyone who attended. Then things slid to a stop.

Sadly, the field trip to the Geffre's had to be postponed. I've talked to Sebastian and we've rescheduled for the weekend of Feb. 27 & 28. He'll keep the display out until then for anyone who wants to come during their normal operating hours. As of today, they still don't have power but have a generator going.

Unfortunately, I felt it best to cancel the Monday workshop due to the icy conditions. I know I wanted to stay home and thought everyone else should too. I want ya'll to stay healthy as we need several new committee chairpersons this year. Call me if you are interested in leading any of these committees: Christmas Party, Field Trips, or Telephone. Thanks to Beverly Hibbler for taking over as the club's Historian, and John Bode as Scholarship chairman.

If there is good weather, we'll see the officers at the board meeting and everyone else at the general meeting.

Donna Davis

Board Meeting Thursday, January 14, 2010

Members present: Donna Davis, Paul Cinnamon, Jeannie Manners, John Bode, Darla Wood, Wanda Manderscheid, David Read, J.C. Brown, Bill Chaney

Guests present: Robert Davis, Norma Cinnamon, Tom Manners, Dean Manderscheid, Brenda Hibbler

Chairwoman Davis brought the meeting to order.

Copies of the previous board meeting minutes were handed out. John moved, Wanda seconded that the minutes be accepted as read. Approved.

Correspondence – We have been receiving newsletters and dues payments.

Treasurer's report was given by David and will be filed for future audit. Arlene is currently doing the 2009 audit.

New member applications – We have received 4 applications. The applications of Scott & Debbi Cunningham, Tatiana Vanderslice, Sarah & Regina Kerr, and Jordan & Jasmine Walcott, were discussed. Paul moved, Wanda seconded that we accept the new members; motion passed. New member packets that have not been picked up at the meetings this last year will be mailed out following this month's meeting.

Committees – Show committee – Accounts were recently settled with the Fairgrounds.

2010 Elected Officers

President

Donna Davis 405-760-6566

Vice President

Dale Moore 405-834-0765

Secretary

Jeannie Manners 405-577-2029

Treasurer

David Read 405-789-2997

Board of Directors

One year term:

Paul Cinnamon

Joann Carroll

Darla Wood

Elaine Welch

John Bode

Two year term:

Bill Chaney

JC Brown

Appointed Officers & Committee Chairpersons

Anniversary Picnic: Donna Davis

Audio/Video: Tom Manners

Christmas Party :

Property Custodians: John Bode & Paul Cinnamon

Education: John Luna

Federation Activities: Arlene Burkhalter

Field Trips:

Historian: Joann Carroll

Hospitality: Ambrosia Geffre

Librarian: Norma Cinnamon

Meeting Display: Doyle McCown
Billie Marie Nedd

Membership: Wanda Manderscheid

Programs: Vernon Dorton

Parliamentarian: John Bode

Publicity Open

Newsletter Editor: Tom Manners
Scholarship: John Bodie
Show 2009: Open
Sunshine: Donna Davis
Telephone: Open
Ways & Means: Dean & Wanda Manderscheid
Doyle McCown
Workshop: Open
Web Master Open

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If you have articles of interest that you would like to see printed in The Sooner Rockologist, please be sure to contact the editor.

Please submit your contributions no later than the first of each month. Your submissions may be edited for punctuation, clarity and space. If you have an announcement or a trip report to share, please e-mail me or give it to me at the monthly meetings. E-mail attachments in MS Word are appreciated so as to prevent retyping the information. Unless otherwise noted, articles are written and/or contributed by the Editor.

If you owe membership dues, please mail your check to:

OMGS
Attn: Jeannie Manners
P. O. Box 2084
Oklahoma City, OK
73101-2084

Field Trip committee – We have the Geffre’s openhouse this month. A trip to GM may be coming up in March.

Old Business – The storage building repair will be conducted this spring. The revised by-laws will be emailed to all board members; pricing for printing of the directory, by-laws, and brochures is being checked out.

New Business – The AKS show is on January 22nd; we will have a booth.

The silent auction will be held at the May meeting.

John recommends clarifying our membership – “married couple” should include “married couple which includes their children under age 18”. Also, the sign-in sheet at our general meetings is intended for adults only. The membership application form will be updated immediately.

There will not be a formal silversmithing class for a while, due to John Luna’s recent surgery.

John would like to do a program/s on mineral collection.

The board went over Donna’s proposed budget together.

The new board members, Bill, JC, and Joann, were welcomed (Joann in absentia). JC may be leaving us, in which case an appointment would be made by the Board.

Meeting adjourned.

Jeannie Manners, Secretary

OMGS General Meeting Minutes January 21, 2010

Paul Cinnamon, President, called the meeting to order. We have had good growth this past year, due to the friendliness and helpfulness of our members – thank you.

Wanda Manderscheid introduced our guests: G. Tiller, K. Dalton, J. Geoghegan, G. & L. Jones, C. Johnson, D. Jones, D. Geffre, B. Agnew.

Ed Vermillion made a motion to accept the November minutes as published in the *Rockologist*, Dale Moore seconded, motion passed. David Read gave the treasurer’s report which will be filed for future audit.

Correspondence: We have received newsletters from other clubs, and dues payments, and a notice about the Arizona show.

Dale Moore would like the membership record checked, for publication in the directory.

The AKS Gem Show will be this weekend at the fairgrounds; we will have a booth.

Displays: Doyle told about the displays, brought by Teresa G., Billie Marie N., Dottie S., and Bob W.

New Members: Scott & Debbi Cunningham and Herman Kirkwood received their new member packets.

Old Business: Vernon Dorton reported on the 2009 Show, which brought OMGS a profit of roughly \$5200.

New Business: John Bode presided over the induction of the new

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!

officers and board of directors: President – Donna Davis; Vice president – Dale Moore; Secretary – Jeannie Manners; Treasurer – David Read; 2 year Directors- Joann Carroll, Bill Chaney, JC Brown; 1 year Directors – Paul Cinnamon, Elaine Welch, John Bode, and Darla Wood.

2010 President Donna Davis presided over the remainder of the meeting. She presented a plaque to the outgoing president, Paul Cinnamon.

The proposed budget was presented to the membership for approval. After some discussion, Debbi Cunningham made a motion to accept the budget as proposed, Lanny Cranford seconded, motion passed.

Committee Reports:

Field Trips: Our field trip this month will be attending the Gefre's open house in Lindsey January 30 – 31. We have a tentative date for a General Materials trip on Saturday, March 6, 7 – noon.

Sunshine: The Vermilions have had a death in their family. Dr. London is recovering from surgery. Vernon is recovering. Connie H. will be having another surgery. Reba G. brought some new members.

Start collecting items to donate for our silent auction in May.

The door prize donated by Sebastian and Ambrosia was won by Larry Jones.

Thanks to Oveta V. and Darla W. for cookies this evening, and Dale M. for kitchen help. Volunteers for February: Kitchen help – Scott & Debbi Cunningham; Cookies – Kenton D. and Pam M.

The meeting adjourned for refreshments and a dvd about tanzanite.

Respectfully,
Jeannie Manners, secretary

OMGS Library News

I wish to thank the following individuals for their generous book donations to our club library: Teresa Gabrish, Lois Smith, Carolyn Roshong, and Loretta Nelson. Our library has also received donations of magazines from many of our members over the past few months. We are always very appreciative of these donations, and the sale of them will make possible the purchase of new books. I also wish to thank my assistant, Vi Holmes for her help in operating the library during this past year.

A Higher Way to Go

By Billie Marie Brown-Nedd

Baltassar Gracian, a leading Spanish philosopher and writer of the 1600's wrote, "The perfect does not lie in quantity but in quality. All that is best is always scant and rare, for mass in anything cheapens. It is Quality that bestows distinction and in the right proportions if the substance is sublime."

Have you noticed that diamonds, emeralds, rubies, sapphires and all other precious gems are measured in carats of weights (a very minute

measurement), not in pounds or tons?

Gold, silver and platinum, the most precious metals, are measured in Karats, grams, penny-weights and ounces, not in pounds or tons.

When someone asks you, "Is that all you have done?", you can reply with, "Quality is always scant and rare."

If you wonder why this column is so short this time well...

Field Trip Scheduled for March 6, 2010

A field trip to the General Materials Gravel Pit is scheduled for Saturday, March 6, 2010. This is a convenient location near Oklahoma City where we can all find some interesting material to add to our collections, and is open to anyone wishing to participate.

The pit foreman intends 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 a hard hat I suggest that you 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 lens or standard safety glasses are required. The pit owners request that we stay well clear of their machinery and equipment, and avoid all areas near the edge of the water in the pit and the river. The material is dredged from depths going down to about sixty five feet below water, and the banks of the pit are very unstable and steep. Use caution when 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 open between 7:30 and 8:00 a.m. We must all be out of the gate by 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 in the office or near the door of the office. The names of all minors must be entered, and a parent, guardian, or the person responsible for the child must sign the release form next to the child's 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 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 buckets or bags 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. It is easy to 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 to 200 yards from the office will bring you to the gravel piles where we will hunt.

Anyone needing additional information may call me at 405-262-6715 or 405-210-1179.

We look forward to a productive and fun morning of rock and fossil hunting.

ANNUAL POT-LUCK, AUCTION AND SWAP

The Tulsa Rock and Mineral Society will host the 2010 annual pot-luck, auction and swap on Saturday March 13th at Bob and Nancy Hicks' rock farm near Collinsville, OK.

The sale and swap portion of the day will begin at 10:00. Bring whatever you want to swap or sell. There will be \$2.00 per pound slabs, and petrified wood for sale. Gary Cooper donated 5,000 plus pounds of rocks for the 25 cents per pound TRMS rock pile. If you have rocks to donate for sale please bring them to add to the rock pile.

The pot-luck lunch will be served at 12:00. Bring whatever you like to eat and share with others. Please bring some extra chairs and folding tables.

Please bring some rock related items for the auction which will start after lunch. Proceeds go to the club.

Members of other rock clubs are invited to attend.

Forest Service To Eliminate Senior and Disabled Camping Discounts

DURANGO, CO - The U.S. Forest Service has announced it plans to eliminate the 50% discount at National Forest campgrounds that has traditionally been available to holders of lifetime Senior and Access (permanent disability) passes. The change will apply at campgrounds operated by private concessioners, which represent 50% of National Forest camping capacity and 82% of reservable campsites. In a notice in the December 1st Federal Register, the agency outlined a new policy that would replace the half-price rule that has been in place since the mid-'60s with a 10% discount. The policy would also require Senior and Access passholders to pay a fee at National Forest day-use sites that are currently covered in full by their passes.

Seniors 62 and older pay a one-time \$10 fee for their lifetime pass. Lifetime passes for the permanently disabled are free. Together, Senior and Access passes represent more than 78% of all pass sales. Under current policy, concessioners are required to honor Senior and Access passes for campground fees under the same terms as if the Forest Service operated the facility directly, meaning that a 50% discount must be offered. Most highly-developed campgrounds are now concessioner-run.

As the concessioner program has expanded over the past thirty years, it has moved away from a small mom-and-pop business model to one dominated by a few large corporations. According to the published notice, those firms brought five specific complaints to the Forest Service: 1) the REA does not require the 50% discount, only Forest Service policy does; 2) the discount is too steep; 3) the 50% discount is non-negotiable and can't be used as a "marketing tool to encourage off-peak use"; 4) as the baby-boomer generation ages, too many people are becoming eligible for the discount; and 5) prices to other campers must be increased to cover the discounts given to lifetime passholders. The bottom line is, it's hurting their bottom lines.

The move is possible only because of changes in the laws that authorize recreation fees on public lands. Until 2005 such fees were governed by the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965. That law established the Golden Age and Golden Access passes, entitling the holder to lifetime free entry to National Parks and giving a 50% discount on federal camping fees. In 2005 a new law called the Recreation Enhancement Act (REA) took effect, replacing the previous authority. Under REA, lifetime passes are still offered but the 50% camping discount is no longer required. The Forest Service had, until now, continued the discount as a matter of policy and had required concessioners to do so as a condition of their operating permits.

The REA specifies that pre-existing holders of Golden Age and Golden Access passes can continue to use them in accordance with the terms they were issued under "to the extent practicable.." That

means they should be grandfathered-in for the 50% discount as long as the pass is not lost or stolen. But when the new REA-authorized Senior and Access passes became available in 2007, Golden passholders were encouraged to exchange their old paper pass for one of the new plastic ones, and according to the Forest Service many did. Now the Forest Service is claiming that keeping track of different discounts for Golden passholders than REA passholders is "not practicable."

"The Forest Service is not showing good faith by changing the terms of the passes after the fact," said Western Slope No-Fee Coalition President Kitty Benzar. "They encouraged people to turn in their Golden passes, which guaranteed a 50% camping discount, in exchange for an REA pass which does not, without telling them that they were giving up an important benefit. If they can't find a practical way to distinguish between the two types of passes, the only fair thing to do is to continue to offer the 50% discount to both groups."

Day-use sites managed by concessioners will also be affected. Under the new policy, holders of the annual America the Beautiful Pass would be entitled to free entry, but Senior and Access lifetime passholders would get only a 10% discount. This changes current policy which calls for all three passes to be honored equally at day-use fee sites.

The change is the latest in a long series of policy decisions that have transformed recreation on public lands from a public benefit into a market commodity.

"Until 1997, when the Recreation Fee Demonstration Program was implemented, it was government policy that public lands were to be available equally to all Americans, with modest fees only for a few highly developed sites and for entrance to National Parks," said Benzar. "They were one of the benefits we enjoyed as citizens and all supported with our tax dollars. Since then there has been a systematic policy shift. Public lands are now expected to pay their own way in access fees."

She pointed out that under previous policy, offering lifetime passes and substantial discounts to seniors and the disabled was a way of honoring their contributions to our nation and ensuring them access to the benefits of outdoor recreation. "I guess that's out the window now," she said. "No more special honors, no more special breaks. Pay up or stay home now applies to everyone."

OMGS Announces Equipment and Rock Auction March 13, 2010

All rockhounds are invited to attend a large auction of equipment, rocks, slabs, and supplies on Saturday, March 13, 2010. The auction will be in our regular meeting room at the Will Rogers Garden Center, 3400 NW 36th Street, Oklahoma City, and will open for inspection at 9 am., and the auction will start about 9:30 am. The auction will be open to all members, friends, and the general public. OMGS will benefit from the receipt of a portion of the sale proceeds.

The items in this auction come from two of our long time, loyal OMGS rockhound families who are no longer able to enjoy their hobby due to physical disabilities. They desire that their years of enjoyment in acquiring fine lapidary and jewelry making equipment, rocks, and supplies be made available to their rockhound friends.

The sale will include more than 30 pieces of equipment, ranging in part from a 6 wheel diamond capping machine, rock saw, Factron faceting machine, with a complete set of index wheels, dops and laps; a complete jewelry casting system, vibrating tumblers, silversmith/goldsmith tools, lapidary polishing equipment, jewelry polishing equipment, steam cleaner, rolling mill, etc. There will be more than 50 lots of fine clean rock slabs and rough from numerous locations. Many of these sites are no longer in production or available to rockhounding. The equipment is clean, well cared for and ready to use.

As soon as we have a more complete inventory, I plan to post a Sale Bill on the omgs-minerals.org website. Please mark your calendars.

OMGS Calendar

February 11 - OMGS Board of Directors Meeting

February 18 - General Meeting, Program - To Be Announced.

Feb. 27 & 28 - Field Trip to A & S Forever Rock Shop. Please see the January Rockologist for a map.

March 1 - Work Night

March 6 - General Materials Field Trip

March 11 - OMGS Board of Directors Meeting

March 13 - OMGS Equipment and Rock Auction, 9:00 a.m. inspection and sale beginning at approximately 9:30 a.m.

March 13 - Tulsa rock club Annual Pot-Luck, Auction and Swap at Bob and Nancy Hicks' rock farm near Collinsville, OK.

March 18 - General Meeting, Program - To Be Announced.

March 26-28--ADA, OKLAHOMA: Show, "The Rock 'n Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show 2010"; Ada Gem, Mineral & Fossil Club; Pontotoc County Agri-Plex, NE corner of state Hwy. 99 and Richardson Loop Bypass; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-5; free admission

April 23 -WICHITA, KANSAS: Show; 57th annual show; Wichita Gem & Mineral Society; Cessna Activity Center, 2744 George Washington Blvd.; Fri. 9-7, Sat. 10-7, Sun. 10-5; adults \$5, children \$1; annual Rocky Mountain Federation meeting

May 8 & 9 - Bead Jamboree Bead Show , Oklahoma State Fair Grounds. Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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>

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