

The Sooner Rockologist

Vol. 64 Number 8

September 2009

Oklahoma Mineral & Gem Society Purpose

- *The purpose shall be an educational relationship among the members for the study of rocks, gems, minerals, fossils, and lapidary techniques, and for the exchange of the results of such studies and classifications with similar societies and the public. (We have fun, too!)*

Membership & Meetings

General Membership meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. (with the exception of June and December when we celebrate with an anniversary picnic in June and a December Christmas party in lieu of regular meetings). Guests are welcome!

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

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

?? Do You Recognize the People In This Picture??



If you said that these are the newest members of OMGS, then you would be correct. From left to right are: Melissa Perry, Chris, Aaron and Shawn Hendricks, Beth Gorton, Mindy Moxley and OMGS president Paul Cinnamon. We have added over 36 new members this year. Please make our new members feel

welcome.

The Oklahoma Mineral and Gem Show

Discover underground treasures and the thrill of being an explorer at the Oklahoma Mineral and Gem Show on Nov. 7-8 at the Modern Living Building at the State Fair Park in Oklahoma City.

- Children can explore hands-on activities and educational exhibits from museums
- Watch skilled experts demonstrate gem cutting and polishing, wire wrapping, bead stringing and much more
- See a variety of treasures from dealers across the globe including: gemstones, rough rock, minerals, crystals, fossils and more

Show hours are Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$6 for adults and free for children 12 and under. Scouts in uniform accompanied by an adult will be admitted free. For more information or discount tickets, contact the Oklahoma Mineral and Gem Society at www.GeoCities.com/oklahomamgs.



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2008 Elected Officers

President

Paul Cinnamon 405-262-6715

Vice President

Donna Davis 405-760-6566

Secretary

Jeannie Manners 405-577-2029

Treasurer

David Read 405-789-2997

Board of Directors

One year term:

Vernon Dorton

Wanda Manderscheid

Doyle McCown

Joanne Carroll

Two year term:

Darla Wood

Elaine Welch

John Bode

Appointed Officers & Committee Chairpersons

Anniversary Picnic: Donna Davis

Audio/Video: Tom Manners

Christmas Party: Dottie Smith

Property Custodians: John Bode & Paul Cinnamon

Education: vacant

Federation Activities: Arlene Burkhalter

Field Trips: Ed Vermillion

Historian: Joann Carroll

Hospitality: Ambrosia Geffre

Librarian: Norma Cinnamon

Meeting Display: Doyle McCown
Billie Marie Nedd

Membership: Wanda Manderscheid

Programs: Vernon Dorton

Parliamentarian: John Bode

Publicity: OPEN

Board Meeting Thursday, August 13, 2009

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

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

Chairwoman Davis brought the meeting to order. The previous board meeting minutes were printed in the Rockologist. Wanda moved, Vernon seconded that the minutes be accepted as read.

Treasurer's report was given, and will be filed for future audit.

Correspondence – We have been receiving newsletters.

New member applications – We received applications from Melissa Perry and the Hendricks family. Jeannie moved, and Joann seconded that we accept the new members; motion passed.

Committees – Show committee – We have 17 paid dealers. Tickets will be available at the general meeting. The truck is scheduled. In 2 years, the date might be moved back 1 weekend.

Field trip – We have a tentative field trip set up at the gravel pit for Saturday, October 17.

Sunshine committee – Tom had surgery. Dean is improving.

Old Business – The Bead Market chairperson has not responded to us.

John Bode is contacting OSU regarding the scholarship. Arlene has a possible candidate.

David Read recommends the following change to the ByLaws – changing II-1-D's mention of FSLIC to NCUA. He will present this change to the general meeting next week.

The auction last month was a success for the club and the families.

The nominating committee has been formed.

New Business – Mark Brickman informed Paul that he is moving and will need to resign his positions with the OMGS. David Read has been asked to take possession of the club's rock collection, and Charlie Markham has been asked to take over as OMGS' webmaster.

Recognition for class participants were discussed.

Joanne requested help in locating some of the club's historian books.

Meeting adjourned.

Jeannie Manners, Secretary

OMGS General Meeting Minutes Thursday, August 20, 2009

Paul Cinnamon, President, called the meeting to order. Welcome back, Dean & Wanda Manderscheid, Tom Manners, and Bill Chaney, following medical challenges.

We have guests: Wendy and Regan Abner.

Newsletter Editor: Tom Manners
Scholarship: Arlene Burkhalter
Show 2009: Vernon Dorton
Sunshine: Donna Davis
Telephone: Oveta Vermillion
Ways & Means: Dean & Wanda Manderscheid
Doyle McCown
Workshop: Mark Brickmann

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

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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

There was an inaccuracy in last month's minutes as published in the *Rockologist* – Billie Marie didn't bring dragonflies. Ed Vermillion made a motion to accept the previous minutes as amended. Donna Davis seconded, motion passed.

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

Correspondence included a letter from Lois Jan Smith and newsletters.

Thanks to those who participated in the August Fest.

Displays: Billie Marie Nedd reported that our presenters have a display, as well as those brought by Bob Welch, Larry Shearer, Darla Wood, Billie Marie Nedd, Ed & Oveta Vermillion, Teresa Gabrish, John Luna, Robert Davis, and Sebastian & Ambrosia Geffre.

New Members: Melissa Perry, Chris and Shawn Hendricks, Beth Gorton, and Mindy Moxley received their new member packets.

Old Business: The nominating committee is actively seeking people willing to take office in the organization; please accept their offer to serve the club.

New Business: David Read presented a proposed change for our Club Bylaws. Under Article II-Officers, Section 1, D, "The treasurer ... in a financial institution insured by the FDIC or FSLIC." Both mentions of the "FSLIC" [which was abolished in 1989] would be deleted and replaced by "NCUA". The membership will vote on this change next month, and it will be effective January 1st if approved.

Committees: Show Committee: The River of Gems show is coming up November 7-8. We have 17 dealers coming. We will need help with the setup on Friday, November 6. John Bode has books of 4 tickets available for \$20. We are accepting items for door prizes and the silent auction. The club has display cases available for members' use. Non-competitive and competitive cases are welcome. Rules for competitive cases are available online; entry forms are available from Dottie Smith.

Sunshine committee – Donna reported on Dean, Tom, and Bill Chaney's heart attacks and splints. Vona Burns, a previous member, passed away in the past month.

Field trip committee – Ed is working on a field trip in Davis for next spring. Paul has been in contact with the General Materials plant; a tentative date of Saturday, October 17, has been set for a field trip there.

There will not be a work night in September –the 1st Monday is Labor Day. We had good participation at the last Monday work night, and the beading group at Allouettes. The new bead group will be meeting this Saturday at the Artworks Bead Studio, at 1 pm. The silversmithing class is doing well.

The Tahlequah show is this weekend.

Thanks to JC and Dottie for cookies and to Joann for kitchen help this evening. Volunteers for September: Cookies – Lou Dorton, Nell Walraven, and Reba Gibson; Kitchen help – Pearle Haney.

The program this evening will be about jewelry design by some

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!

of our new members, Mindy & Beth, of Matchmaker Jewelry. Next month's program will be about gold-panning.

The door prize provided by Larry Shearer was won by Ann Christopher.

The meeting adjourned for refreshments and the program.

Jeannie Manners, secretary

OMGS HISTORY

When updating the history albums for our club, I found that we are missing the following copies of the Sooner Rockologist: 2003 - June and November; 2005 - January; 2006 - January; 2007 - January; 2008 - May, September and December. If anyone happens to have these issues and will part with them, please bring them to the next meeting and give them to Joann Carroll. Also, if anyone has any pictures of any of our field trips, picnics, Christmas Parties, sales or any other events that I could use in the scrapbooks, please bring them to me.

Your Historian,
Joann Carroll.

OETA AUGUSTFEST EVENT

Norma Cinnamon

I wish to thank all the volunteers that assisted with the OETA Fundraising event on Sunday, August 9, 2009. The AugustFest 2009 was very successful. The food was wonderful and I think all 18 of our members who participated had a great time. During one of the breaks in programming, Paul was interviewed about our organization. He used the opportunity to put in a plug for our upcoming show as well as advertising the functions of OMGS. All in all, our group enjoyed participating.

HINTS & TIPS

How to find the Fire in fire Agate: Fire agate is a quartz-based rock with layers of iron oxide in chalcedony which results in iridescence. It occurs in nodules of milky or grayish translucent chalcedony. Sometimes it is found in botryoidal growths in geodes and in chalcedony roses.

Fire agate appears as a dull, reddish brown layer, but when the surface layers are removed the rainbow colors or iridescence are exposed. The fire is brought out by tumbling, trimming, and grinding off the outer layers to expose the iridescence.

Polishing magnifies the fire.

To find the fire, remove the matrix, then tumble polish the

stones. Tumbling removes the excess chalcedony. When polished, remove excess stone around the edges, then polish and set. Allow the stone to retain its irregular shape and polish slowly, so you don't go through the fire layers. The graceful natural shapes are superior to those cut to calibrated sizes, as the best fire doesn't always fit a mold. To set it off, mount the fire agate in a custom-made gold or silver setting. Fire agates are most often found in Arizona, California, Idaho, and Mexico, among other locales.

(From *Breccia* 7/01 via GOLDEN SPIKE NEWS 10/01)

Fiber Optic Gems: What are They? Bill Grimes in *The Rockhound* via *Breccia* 3/01

Fiber optics was developed as a result of someone studying a piece of the mineral Ulexite. Also known as TV rock, it is a hard, brittle, fibrous stone which when writing is placed underneath, will allow the image to appear on the surface of the stone.

This led to the theory that if this type of fibrous material could be manufactured, it could be used in many different ways where image transmission was needed. Fiber optic cables were at first very slender and flexible, used in surgeries and in household decorations.

The manufacturing technology improved and soon manufacturers were spinning out miles of cable for a new application - data transmission lines. These lines can be up to two inches across. The cable consists of thousands of pairs of optic fibers. Each pair carries data for phone, computer, fax, etc. Since the sides of the cable are reflective, there is no need for insulation or shielding around each fiber, as in old phone lines. This translates to more pairs in a smaller space. For us in the hobby, this created one of the newest gem treasures.

Fiber Optic Cabs

In order to make a fiber optic cabochon, the cable scraps are first cut into small lengths. The cable is then either cut into spheres, or it is sectioned parallel to the length of the fiber. Once the slices are made, it is cut much like any other gem. However, care must be taken to protect the ends of the cable from splintering, catching cutting dirt, abrasives, etc. There is an interesting thing about fiber optic gems. If you look at them from a 90 degree angle from the eye of the gem, the gem will be transparent to light, maintaining its properties for light transmission.

Never Use Ammonia

Soap or detergents on genuine turquoise. In fact a good test for the genuine is to apply a spot of ammonia to the back of a suspected piece. If it's genuine, it will turn white.

Via *Breccia* & *Owyhee Gem* 8/01

When A Leather Buff Becomes Contaminated

Wash in warm water, soaping two or three times with Fels Naptha bar, working the surfaces of the leather together in a scrubbing motion to dislodge the contaminants. Rinse well in warm water. Hang on a clothesline with a snap type clothes pin to dry thoroughly. It is then ready to replace on the machine.

Via RRC Newsletter & *Owyhee Gem* 8/01

Via *The Rockcollector* 9/01

How to do a case for the show

From the Denver Gem and Mineral Guild workshop

Editors Note: The OMGS supplies cases with liners for the show. If you would like the full 8 pages of text of this article please email me at trmanners@sbcglobal.net

THE BASICS

- You only have to fill a **space that is about 43” x 22”** with specimens. That means you will probably need about **20 to 35 specimens**.
- Don't be concerned that your specimens “are not worthy” – **the presentation is the thing**.
- Here are the major tasks you have to accomplish – in sequential order:
 1. **Build a set of “liners” for each case you want to exhibit.** A set of liners consists of:
 - ◆ A “Back Panel”
 - ◆ A “Floor Panel”
 - ◆ Two “Side Panels”
 - ◆ Each of the panels needs to be covered with cloth.
 2. If you wish, you can **add risers, steps, “floating” platforms**, or other items to help display your specimens.
 3. **Choose the specimens** you want to display.
 4. **Create labels** for each specimen and for the case.
 5. **Create the desired layout** at home.
 6. At the show, **add the liners to the case** and adjust the liners if necessary. Clean the liners before adding the specimens.
 7. Carefully **add your specimens to the case**.
 8. **Clean the glass front panel and secure it to the case.**

THE ROCKS

- One really good rule is to avoid putting too many specimens in the case!
 - If you have more specimens than will fit in a case, make another case!
 - Most people have a tendency to try to put too many in, even when they think about it.
 - Taking two or three specimens out and spreading the remaining specimens will often make a dramatic improvement in a case's appearance.
 - Having several steps or separate risers in a case will allow you to put in more rocks without things looking as crowded.
 - Though it is always best to lay out the case ahead of time at home, take an extra specimen or two to “fine tune” the arrangement with different specimens while setting up the case.
 - After you make the arrangement at home be sure to number the bottom or back of the labels so that you can remember the order you planned.
 - After you have finished and are absolutely sure it is right, try taking a specimen or two out of the case to see if that improves the look.
 - Without trying to be slavishly tied to a symmetry a generally balanced appearance (color, brightness and especially size) helps. A trick to check this is to step back and squint, such that details aren't noticeable, but just the general form and colors.
 - It is best that the case contains specimens that are approximately the same size.
- An alternative that may work is to have one or more large specimens surrounded by smaller ones.

Tips about specimens

1. If you plan to wash specimens before setting up your display, allow a few days for them to dry

thoroughly. Otherwise, heat from the lights can cause moisture to form inside the case.

2. Wear thin white gloves when setting up your display to avoid getting fingerprints on crystal faces and other shiny surfaces.

3. Bring paper towels and glass cleaner, tape for removing lint, a ruler to check your spacing and alignment, and extra mounting materials.

RISERS, FLOATERS, AND SHAPES

OVERVIEW

- Use all of the case, not just the lower 12 inches.
- Take advantage of all the space.
- Don't put signs or labels on the sides of the case liners.

RISERS

- A 2-tier set of risers is the most common.
- 4 – 6 inches in height seems to be normal.
- You can vary the heights of risers within a case.

FLOATERS

- Use a dark cloth/covering.
- Cover the supports with dark material so they can't be seen.
- Keep the support materials back from the front of the floating shape so they won't be seen. .
- Make the support material for a floating shape big enough so the shape/board won't tip.

Tip about "floaters" - Look around at work or home for riser materials to create new affects. Some large plastic disks at work gave Bob the idea for his and Janie's case with the "floating" round risers.

FREEFORM SHAPES DRAPED WITH CLOTH

- Shapes to consider
 - Bricks
 - Logs
 - Wood blocks
 - Plastic holders
 - Glass jars
 - VCR boxes
 - Rock tumblers
- Possibilities for arrangement of shapes
 - Up & down
 - Ascending size
 - Each specimen sits on top of its own shape
 - Draw the viewers into the center of the case – where the specimens are.
- Avoid wrinkles, pleats and folds if at all possible.

Note - It is possible that irregular, free form riser shapes can work better than shapes that are too geometrically regular. **Use your imagination.**

LABELS

- Always label your specimens. Viewers learn nothing from specimens that have no labels.
- Make labels the most inconspicuous thing in the case – but not invisible!
- The label should not dominate the case.
- When you look at the display, ask yourself:

What is the first thing I see – the labels or the specimens?

Note - If the Case Label is on the back panel of the case, make sure it is low enough to be easily read when the glass front is placed on the case.

- Don't put signs or labels on the glass or on the side case liners.

OMGS Calendar

September 10 - OMGS Board of Directors Meeting

September 17 - General Meeting, Program - Video on Diamonds

September 12 - Enid Club Field Trip, Idabel-Mt. Ida - Quartz, Diamonds

October 1 - Show Committee Meeting

October 8 - OMGS Board of Directors Meeting

October 10 - Enid Club Field Trip, Orion-Fairview - Dolomite Pyramids

October 15 - General Meeting, Program - To Be Announced

October 17 - OMGS Field Trip, General Materials

November 7-8 OMGS Show "River of Gems" Oklahoma State Fairpark, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 9-5

November 19 - General Meeting Program - Craig Kime, Wire Wrap Demonstration

If you have changes, corrections or additions to the OMGS Calendar, please e-mail me at trmanners@sbcglobal.net or call me at (405) 577-2029.

For a complete listing of ALL the rock and gem shows around the nation please go to the web site:

<http://www.rockngem.com/showdates.asp>

If you would like to go on any of the field trips with the Enid club please contact Stan Nowak at 580-234-3126.

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