

ROCK TALK



White Mountain Gem & Mineral Club
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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

WOW- What a Show! I saw lots of smiles and happy faces from guests, vendors, and volunteers. THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU to everyone who had a part in making the show a success. As Cathy pointed out, people have been working behind the scenes since last fall. We couldn't do this without everyone's support.

Welcome to our new members - Randy, Jeremy, Laura, William, Heidi, Garrin, Cesar, DaNelle, Jackson, Sawyer, Katy, Peggy, Stan, Karen, Mykaila, and Sharon. Did I mention how successful the show was?

Thank you, Debbie, Othello, and Ursula. You seemed to have as much fun at DaVinci Day as I did.

We have a new Treasurer! Yay! Kim Whitley has officially taken over the position. Thank you, Diane Turpin, for being our acting treasurer these past few months. We really appreciate you helping us out.

Farewell to our dear friend, Shirley. She has moved to Wisconsin to be near her family. We will miss you. And there will be no shortage of guest rooms when you come for a visit.

Trivia: A light and frosty fellow, pumice is the only rock that floats. A fine grain silica, this bubbly character is thrown out when volcanoes blow their tops. The cotton candy airhead can float in water for a year or more. It forms huge floating rafts providing homes for sea creatures.

September 1 is our End of Summer Picnic in the Park. We will be at the Old Pavilion in Show Low City Park beginning at noon. Electricity is available for hot stuff. See you there!
Sandra

TREASURER'S REPORT

Expense for July

Show Expenses
Rock Talk printing & postage
Potluck supplies

Upcoming Expense

Show Expenses
Rock Talk printing & postage
Donation, Deaf & Youth Camp

Income This Month

2024 Gem & Mineral Show
Member dues
Silent Auction
Donation

BULLETIN BOARD

Happy August Birthday

Cathy Cargile

Thelma Gray

Sandy Jacobs

Henry Jones

Michael Park

Allison Phelps

Carlo Porteen

Marta Rodovska

Darren Schwiner



Why not join our Let's Do Lunch Club

Where: Johnny & Dee's Picnic Basket
436 E. White Mountain Blvd.
Pinetop/Lakeside

When: Thursday, August 29,
12:00 noon

Let's Celebrate our
August Birthdays!!

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DON'T FORGET!!

Our September meeting is a
potluck picnic in the
Show Low City Park at the
old pavilion. Festivities begin
at 12:00 Noon.
Everybody is welcome to
contribute!



Coming up
September 14—

Our biannual club highway cleanup.
(More info in September Rock Talk)

Rock Talk Newsletter

Our newsletter is published monthly by the White Mountain Gem & Mineral Club, Inc. Any information or comments members wish to include in the monthly newsletter must be given to the editor at the general membership meeting or call the editor no later than Tuesday following the meeting.

Membership Dues

Membership dues are \$20 for a single membership and \$25 for a couple/family. (\$5 less if you receive newsletter by email.) Dues are paid in January each year along with a completed application form. Memberships initiated in November or later in a given year are also good for the following year.

Meetings

We meet the first Sunday of the month (unless it falls on a holiday) at the VFW Post 9907, 381 North Central Avenue in Show Low. Turn north off the Deuce of Clubs at Burger King. Social half hour at 1:00 PM, meeting starts at 1:30 PM.

ELECTED OFFICERS

Office	Name	Phone	E-Mail
PRESIDENT	Sandra Angelo	(928)537-3726	sandra_angelo@hotmail.com
VICE PRESIDENT	Debbie Christmas	(602)475-4714	Deb_xmas@yahoo.com
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FIELD TRIPS	Dick Turpin	(480)240-0995	
	Rick Palmer	(928)333-5019	palmer57@frontiernet.net

Members at Large

Dick Turpin	(480)240-0995
Terry Pollard	(480)431-0686
Ursula Wilson	(928)532-5703
Shirley Leistikow	(623)261-5752

Volunteer Positions

Webmaster/Coalition Chair	Aimee Webster	(602)503-8417	afwebster61@gmail.com
Show Chairman	Cathy Cargile	(714)348-9162	skyranch5734@yahoo.com
Assistant Show Chairman	Ursula Wilson	(928)532-5703	
Sunshine	Donna Pollard	480-600-2714	tdpollard@msn.com
Education, Schools	Open		
Greeter/Door Prizes/Raffle	Thelma Gray/Diane Moten		
Auctioneer	Donna and Terry Pollard		
Highway Cleanup	Brookie/ Larry Embry	(928)537-0760	
Bonus Prizes	Sandra Angelo	(928)537-3726	
Historian	Donna Pollard	(480)600-2714	tdpollard@msn.com
Librarian	Rick Palmer	(928)333-5019	palmer57@frontiernet.net
Meeting Room Setup/cleanup	Shelly Applegate	(928)245-4300	shellylynn@gmail.com

Chamber of Commerce Liaisons

Show Low: B.G. Hogarth

Snowflake/Taylor: Open

Springerville/Eager: Rick Palmer

Heber/Overgaard: Aimee Webster

WHITE MOUNTAIN GEM & MINERAL CLUB

MEETING MINUTES AUGUST 4, 2024

The Meeting was called to order by President Sandra Angelo at 1:35 PM. New members Sharon Griswold, Randy Beecroft, and Jeremy Beecroft were welcomed. For Show and Tell, Rollo showed banded agate and other specimens to be found on this month's field trip. Carl fessed up to accidentally dissolving an octahedron mineral he was investigating for Diane Moten. Rick Palmer showed a shadow box of labeled specimens he found in a historic building in Springerville.

The minutes were approved with a correction. Show Chair should be Cathy Cargile, not Debbie.

The new Treasurer is Kim Whitley! Thanks to Diane Turpin for stepping in this summer. All your efforts are appreciated. Sandra provided the monthly treasurer's report.

Board and President Reports - Shirley Leistikow has moved to Wisconsin to be near her family. She will be missed. We now have an opening for Member at Large on our Board. The club's second biannual highway cleanup is scheduled for September 14. Thanks to Debbie for coordinating our DaVinci Day efforts at Medieval Mayhem. We received a message of thanks from the event coordinator. Our end of summer picnic will be held September 1 at the Old Pavilion in Show Low City Park beginning at noon. Our August field trip will be to Lee Russell Canyon on August 17. It will be a joint trip with the Payson Rimstones. (See details on Page 5 in **Rock Talk**.)

The Twenty-fifth Gem and Mineral Show is now history! It was a huge and happy success as evidenced by the ten pages of photos in our annual scrapbook. Thanks to everyone who helped to make the show so successful. (See Show Wrap Up on Page 6 in **Rock Talk**.)

The Let's Do Lunch Club will meet Thursday, August 29 at noon at the Picnic Basket in Pinetop. See Page 2 for more information. Everyone is welcome.

The Alpine Gem, Mineral, and Gold Show is August 9 and 10.

The Payson show is September 20-22. Our field trip will include a trip to the show and Agate Mountain.

Dick Turpin presented a slide show on Fossil Hunting on the Peace River in Southwest Florida.

Door prize winners were Donna, Sandra, and new member Jeremy.

The 50/50 was won by Garrett and raffle winners were Karen, Hope, and Blue.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 3:25 PM with a motion by Thelma and a second by Debbie Trimble.

Respectfully submitted

Cathy Cargile, Secretary pro tem



AUGUST FIELD TRIP

LEE RUSSEL CANYON

NEAR RESERVE, NM

Field Trip Leader: Dick Turpin 480-240-0995

Date: Saturday, August 17, 2024

Location of the Field Trip Site: We will be going to a site near Reserve, New Mexico. The drive is approximately 120 miles from Show Low.

Where and When We Will Meet: The primary meeting point will be at the Dollar General store at the intersection of Routes 60 and 61 at 7:30 AM. The secondary meeting point is in Springerville at the McDonalds parking area at 8:15 AM.

Recommended Vehicle: Any 4WD vehicle can make it to the collecting area.

What We Will Collect: We will be collecting agates similar to the Luna Blue variety.

Recommended Things to Take: Bucket, rock hammer, grabber, digging tools, water, lunch, sun screen.

Cell Phone Service: The site is moderately remote and likely has very weak to no cell service.



2024 Payson Rimstones

Gem & Mineral Show

Sept 20-22

Vendors
Rocks
Fossils
Jewelry
Kid's Fun
Fluorescents
Auctions - Raffles
Demonstrations

At the Mazatzal Hotel
and Casino Payson, AZ

Rainbow Fluorite - Asia

2024 PAYSON RIMSTONES

Gem & Mineral Show

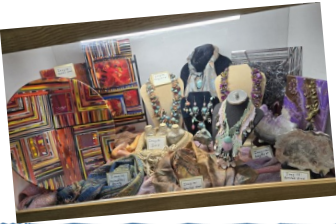
★ **Fri Sept 20 - 1p-6p**
Sat Sept 21 - 9a-5p
Sun Sept 22 - 10a-4p

Mazatzal Hotel and Casino, Payson, AZ

- More than 20 vendors
- Raw and Polished Rocks & Minerals
- Gems, Fossils & Jewelry
- Kids Activities & Demonstrations
- Silent Auctions - Raffle - Door Prizes

Adults - \$5 Fri - \$3 for Adults
Kids under 13 are FREE

2024 Show Chair - Becky Bagshaw (928) 978-7019



GEM SHOW WRAP UP

By Cathy Cargile
Show Chair



Terrific 25th Gem Show is a Wrap!

Our awesome vendors, generous donors and our superb club volunteers came together resulting in one of our very best shows ever! Because of your efforts White Mountain Gem and Mineral Club has a greatly increased purse to carry forward with educating adults and children on a large variety of geology topics. Thank you one and all for your greatly appreciated contributions!

We have received great feedback and many valuable suggestions to make next year's show even better. Increasing attendance is one major area that needs work so selecting our show dates, planning advertising even further in advance, and setting the stage to be able to have even more vendors are priorities.

In September we will have a special Gem Show meeting to debrief and layout our 2025 show plans. If you have suggestions already, please take a few minutes to jot them down to share. A date for this meeting will be announced at our September picnic meeting and included in the September newsletter. Watch for it!



WHAT IS IN THE NEWS: POTENTIAL BULLION DEPOSITORY FOR ARIZONA? WILL AZ SB 1633 BE SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR?

By Cathy Cargile

Currency, Federal Reserve Note, Greenback, Dollar-bill, Folding Money and probably many more synonyms have been used to describe the cash here in the United States of America used for transactions between individuals and businesses, payment of debts and bills etc.

Back in the day the US Treasury kept a reserve of gold and/or silver to back the value of paper money and coins issued which had no intrinsic value. Those days are long gone, making the actual physical value of coins or paper money virtually worthless without sufficient gold or silver to back the volume of cash in circulation.

Potentially joining New Hampshire, South Dakota, Wyoming, Utah, and Nevada, each already recognizing specie-backed currency as legal tender, Arizona has recently passed Senate Bill 1633 to establish a bullion depository for safe storage of precious metals and to facilitate issuance of State minted gold and silver coins as well as specie-backed transactional currency. (specie -noun- coin as distinguished from paper money also coin made from precious metal as distinguished from base metal.)

URSA, one of our 2024 Gem Show vendors, offered Goldbacks for sale. The purpose of this form of gold is making it easier to use gold in everyday transactions. You may wish to learn more about Goldbacks by reaching out to Randy@URSA.LLC and please do your own research on AZ SB 1633 to learn more about specie-backed currency and the current status of SB 1633.

Note: One source I found online indicates there are now 12 states accepting gold and silver as legal tender.

Editor's Note: Sam Upshaw at First National Bullion, 801 E. Deuce of Clubs is a good contact for this. He really knows his business.

ROCK OF THE MONTH

SEDIMENTARY ROCK II



The White Cliffs of Dover



Banded iron formation,
western Australia



Tonto Bridge, Arizona

Last month we examined detrital sedimentary rock. These are rocks formed from pre-existing rocks that have been weathered into smaller pieces, eroded, transported in water, ice, or air, and deposited. Layer by layer, those pieces build up, eventually forming sedimentary rock formations.

We will continue our examination of sedimentary rock by looking at chemical sedimentary rock.

A worldwide, common, chemical sedimentary rock is rock salt. Crystals of this type of rock are known as halite. Rock salt is composed of halite with impurities of clay minerals and iron oxides which may turn it a reddish color. Usually massive in size, it is coarsely crystalline and with pressure, "flows" forming salt plugs and domes in other formations. Rock salt forms from the evaporation of saline waters, such as salt lakes. The "Dead Sea, Israel/Jordan; Great Salt Lake, Utah; and Mono Lake, California, are just a few of the famous salt lakes where evaporation creates rock salt.

Rock gypsum is another evaporite created sedimentary rock. It may be originally marine or terrestrial, forming often in layered sequences with the minerals halite, calcite, and anhydrite. It is coarse to fine, often fibrous, and is soft enough to be scratched with a fingernail. Unique conditions that created White Sands National Park in New Mexico has enough rock gypsum to supply wallboard to the USA for a thousand years.

Potash rock is another common evaporite sedimentary rock composed of a mixture of the minerals sylvite and halite. Often orange/red, this color comes from impurities of iron oxide in the saline waters in which it is formed. Potash rock is abundant in potassium chloride (KCl) and used in agriculture as rich fertilizer.

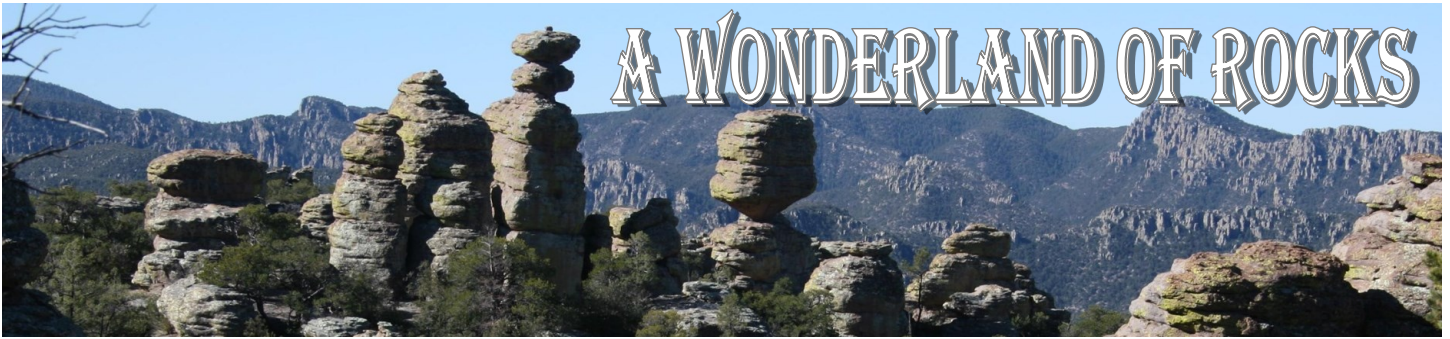
Limestone, the most common sedimentary rock on earth, is mostly composed of calcium carbonate that formed huge formations from

the evaporation of marine, and in some cases, terrestrial waters. There are many varieties of limestone: tiny or slightly larger fused balls called pisolitic or oolitic limestone, pure white, fine grained, and chalk, like the famous White Cliffs of Dover on the British coast, which is fossil-rich limestone named for the dominant fossil embedded within it. A few of the varieties of limestone named for the fossil environment in which it is found include crinoidal, coral, shelly, bryozoan, and nummulitic.

Continental limestone can form from evaporation of terrestrial waters. Travertine, often formed from deep hot springs, can also be found in continental volcanic regions. Tonto National Bridge, Payson, Arizona is a travertine formation formed from calcium-rich migrating waters that traveled through other sedimentary formations. Stalactites and accompanying stalagmites are continental limestone formed from calcium-rich water dripping through a void in limestone formations, evaporating, and leaving the dagger-like formations intact.

Some sedimentary formations are suspect, with various "experts" debating the true identity of formation. One example is banded ironstone, also known as banded iron formation (BIF). This is some of the oldest known rock on the North American continent and mostly found in Canada. It is also found in Mingus Mountain in central Arizona. Another example is oolitic ironstone, believed by some to be lime deposited in marine conditions, then replaced by iron-rich minerals. Others believe the oolites were already rich in iron when deposited.

Next month, we will examine the final common sedimentary rocks that also cause much debate as to true origins. These include coal, lignite, peat, jet, chert, flint, amber, septarian, and even pyrite nodules.



(Taken from <https://www.nps.gov/chir/index.htm> and https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geological_history_of_the_Chiricahua_Mountains)

I remember as a young girl growing up in Cochise County, many trips into the beautiful Chiricahua Mountains, and especially the Wonderland of Rocks National Park. Viewing the hoodoos and precariously balanced rocks was always a treat that my family never tired of.

So how did these mountains become so rugged and so abounding in unusual rock formations?

It is interesting to note that the Chiricahua Mountains are part of an "archipelago" of mountain ranges known as the sky islands that connect the Sierra Madre Occidental in Mexico with the Rocky Mountains and have seen a tremendous amount of volcanic activity in their time. During what is called the Cenozoic Period, one eruption was one thousand times greater than the 1980 eruption of Mount St. Helens, laying down ash over a 1,200 square mile area.

So what about those hoodoos and balanced rocks? How did those amazing articles of natural rock sculpture come to be? The article goes on to say:

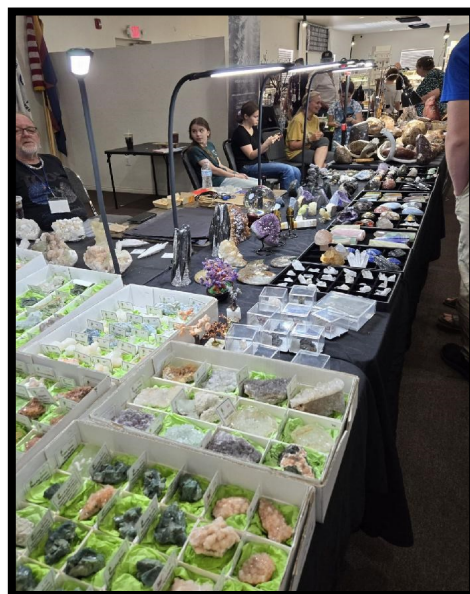
" The most notable geologic features in the mountains are found in the Chiricahua National Monument. Massive stone columns, or hoodoos, blanket the area and are the result of hundreds of thousands of years of weathering and erosion. The hoodoos originated from a thick deposit of tuff (volcanic rock more than 75% ash) laid down by the Turkey Creek Caldera. As the tuff cooled, it contracted and formed joints (basically a break in the rock). Differential chemical and physical weathering concentrated along these joints, initiating the formation of thousands of rock columns. Balanced rocks that perch, sometimes precariously, on top of many of the hoodoos are a distinctive feature of the monument. "

The Chiricahua Mountains contain many historical sites as well. These mountains were the Apache tribal lands of the famous chiefs Cochise and Geronimo, the latter who used the mountains as a base for his raiding parties. This necessitated the founding of Fort Huachuca to protect the ranchers and other settlers.

There are also many hiking trails, but with reminders of dangers, such as heat, remember it is a wilderness, come prepared, and lately a reminder that you are near the border and could run into smugglers.

And it is still a wonder to see on a car trip!

OUR BIG SHOW WAS A GREAT BIG SHOW!!!



AND THEN WE HAD THIS MEETING

