

ROCK TALK



WHITE MOUNTAIN GEM AND MINERAL CLUB
SHOW LOW, ARIZONA

White Mountain Gem & Mineral Club
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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

WHAT A SHOW!

Our event exceeded all expectations! Thank you to everyone for making it happen! As with everything, there is always room for improvement. We will be discussing "do differently" this month for next year, so please provide any comments to Cathy, Carl, or me.

Welcome new members Diann, Shelly, Sherry, Lanora, Tom, James, Genesis, Lynne, and Robert! My apologies if I forgot anyone. We are so pleased you have decided to join us.

DaVinci Day, Medieval Mayhem was a big hit with the kids. Thanks Othello and Cy for decorating and hosting the tent and helpers Debbie, Ursula, Thelma, Lidia, and Allison.

The community events have been increasing awareness of our club. We saw many families at our show who we saw at Show Low Days and Medieval Mayhem. Our next outreach event will be Harvest Fest, October 14 at Pioneer Park in Snowflake. Keep those tumblers tumbling and pick up extra specimens on the field trips.

Rolling Auction - The drawing for the rolling auction will be held at our September meeting. Tickets are \$5. You need not be present to win. First winner gets to choose the septarian bear

or the giant crystal. Second ticket gets the other treasure.

Save the Date: September 16 is National Highway Clean-up Day and we will participate by cleaning up our mile south of Show Low. It only takes a couple of hours and, believe it or not, it is a fun time. As a reward, we get to enjoy Brookie's homemade cookies!

Trivia - A native element and a toxic traitor, arsenic was once called the "poison of kings." It was the toxin of choice when the ruling class wanted to bump one another off. Smells like garlic when heated or hit with a hammer. Once used to make emerald green paint, a favorite of Claude Monet, who went blind, and Vincent van Gogh, who went crazy. Today it is used in the semiconductor industry.

Our September 3 meeting will be a picnic in Show Low City Park in the Old Pavilion. Please bring a dish to share. We will begin about noon. For those who feel like competing, cornhole is available. I also have a washer toss game.

Have a great month.

Sandra

TREASURER'S REPORT

Current & Upcoming Expense

Annual show expenses
Show Low Chamber of Commerce
Rock Talk printing and postage
Website hosting renewal

Income This Month:

Annual show
Member dues
Silent Auction
Fifty/Fifty
Member donations

BULLETIN BOARD

The round-checked moon floats high
 In the glowing August sky;
 Quenching all her neighbor stars
 Save the steady flame of
 Mars.
 —Emma Lazarus



Happy August Birthday To:

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Thelma Gray | Allison Phelps |
| Sandra Jacobs | Carlo Porteen |
| Henry Jones | Marta Rodovska |
| Michael Park | Darren Schwiner |

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DON'T FORGET

➔ **"LET'S DO LUNCH CLUB"** meets Friday, August 25 at 1:30PM at New Bison Grill, 1 Bison Parkway (just off of SR260 at Bison Golf Club). Call Hope Rubi for more information.

➔ **OUR SEPTEMBER MEETING** will be a picnic at the Show Low City Park at the old pavilion. Turn right off the Deuce onto Owens, the main entrance to the park and swimming pool, just south of Safeway. The pavilion will be on your left. It will be potluck with all members contributing.

➔ **SEMI-ANNUAL ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY** Coming up September 16. More information in next month's *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	Carol Glick	(928)228 6202	malcarglick@yahoo.com
2ND VICE PRESIDENT	Rick Palmer	(928)333-5019	palmer57@frontiernet.net
SECRETARY	Debbie Christmas	(602)475-4714	Deb_xmas@yahoo.com
TREASURER	Carl Hickman	(928)536-3744	carlhickman8@earthlink.net
EDITOR	B.G. Hogarth	(928)532-3043 Cell-(775)397-2312	hogarths@citlink.net
FIELD TRIPS	Open		
	Open		

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	Carl Hickman	(928)536-3744	carlhickman8@earthlink.net
Sunshine	Donna Pollard	480-600-2714	tdpollard@msn.com
Education, Schools	Open		
Greeter/Door Prizes/ Raffle	Thelma Gray/OPEN		
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	OPEN		

Chamber of Commerce Liaisons

Show Low: Thelma Gray

Springerville/Eager: Rick Palmer

Snowflake/Taylor: Open

Heber/Overgaard: Aimee Webster

EDITOR'S NOTE

Normally a flyer with information about a gem show would be inserted at the end of the newsletter. However, I wanted to begin this issue of **ROCK TALK** with a huge **THANK YOU** to Donna Pollard and Rick Palmer for all the wonderful show photos that you both sent to me. I only wish I could have used all of them, each one on a page by themselves. However, a 30-page newsletter would probably have been a bit too much! And Rick, those "aerial" photos that you took really showed in wonderful detail the vendor booths and the interested crowds gathered around them.

Several of my friends (outside of the club) have told me how impressed they were with our show and how much they enjoyed it. So, thanks also go to everybody who helped in so many different ways to make it a success. Shall I use a pun, and say, "You all rock!"



Payson Rimstones Rock Club
Gem & Mineral Show
Sept 15-17, 2023
 Fri 1-6 Sat 9-5 Sun 10-4
 Mazatzal Hotel and Casino

Vendors
 Rocks and Slabs
 Polished Rocks
 Fossils
 Jewelry & Art

Education & Kids Area
 Fluorescents
 Auctions, Raffles
 Demonstrations

\$5 Adults
\$3 Friday
Kids under 13 are FREE

*Red Jasper
 with Epidote
 Rye Creek, AZ*

WHITE MOUNTAIN GEM & MINERAL CLUB

MEETING MINUTES AUGUST 6, 2023

The meeting was called to order by President, Sandra Angelo at 1:30PM. As is our practice, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited by members. New members were introduced and welcomed.

For Show and Tell, Shirley Leistikow brought a piece of Luna Blue agate found on last month's field trip to the claims in the Escudilla Mountains. Donna Pollard found some arsenic sulfide in the club's storage shed. She sealed it in several jars and plans to put it on display in her museum. She warned everyone of the poisonous nature of this mineral. She also shared a basalt rock from her yard, a very interesting bowl-like piece.

Rolling Raffle tickets are on sale at five dollars each for a quartz crystal or a septarian bear. First winner drawn will get their choice. Sale of tickets will continue until the drawing at the September meeting.

The minutes for the June meeting were accepted with no additions or corrections.

Treasurer's Report was presented by Carl Hickman. June expenses included **Rock Talk** printing and postage, show expenses, and Show Low Chamber of Commerce membership. Income was generated from member dues, 50/50 raffle, and the silent auction, member donations. Upcoming expenses include **Rock Talk** printing and postage, and website hosting renewal.

Brookie Embry announced that September 16 is National Highway Cleanup Day. Club members will meet on Saturday September 16 at 9:00AM at them Show Low Chamber of Commerce parking lot and proceed to our Adopt-a-Highway mile for cleanup.

For the President's Report, Sandra reminded those present that volunteers are needed to fill the current open positions of meeting greeter, meeting potluck coordinator for setup/tear down, and field trip coordinator.

Please see Sandra if you can volunteer for one of these positions,

For Old Business Sandra reported the club's participation in the Medieval Mayhem DaVinci Day in July. Thank you to all who helped with this event.

Cathy Cargile gave a report on the recent show. She would like input via a survey of how the show went and how we can improve next year. The show was successful, running for three days with vendors very satisfied with the results. Cathy thanked all of the club members who volunteered many hours prior to and during the show to bring this success. Shirley Leistikow thanked members who provided donations for the raffle baskets.

The next public event is the Snowflake Harvest Fest on October 14.

Hope Rubi announced that the "Let's Do Lunch Club" will meet at the New Bison Grill on August 25 at 1:30PM. Other local area announcements included information that The Mountain Saddle Band will be performing a community drive-in concert on September 8 in Pinetop. Contact Mike Leistikow for more information. Upcoming gem shows include the Payson Gem & Mineral Club annual show on September 15 -17 and the Albuquerque Gem show on October 6-8.

Winners of door prizes included peridot won by Cathy Cargile, a calcite won by Hope Rubi, and a painted rock art won by Brookie Embry. The 50/50 drawing was won by BG Hogarth. Bill Stalder won a pendant and Linda Stalder won a mineral specimen.

Dick Turpin gave a presentation about his two-week trip to Utah where he visited several rockhounding sites and collected agates, obsidian, and topaz. He also brought some of his specimens to share with the group.

(Continued on Page 6)



(August Meeting Minutes, Continued)

The meeting was adjourned at 3:34PM. The next regular meeting will be held on Sunday September 3 and will be a picnic at Show Low Park at the Old Pavilion beginning at noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Christmas, Secretary



AUGUST FIELD TRIP

By Sandra Angelo



ur August 26 trip will again be heading to higher elevations for sea fossils near Forest Lakes. Expect to find brachiopods, sea urchin spines, sponge, and coral. Depending on the weather and interest level, we will stop in Pinedale on our way back. (I have figured out where I missed the turn to Turkey Hill). We will meet at the Show Low Chamber parking lot at 8:30AM and head out at 8:45AM. Bring your lunch and the usual rockhounding stuff. See you then!

WHAT YOU MIGHT FIND THERE



Brachiopod



Sea Urchin Spines



An
Arizona
Sponge



An actual
photo of a
coral fossil
found near
Payson.



ESCAPE TO ESCUDILLA

(OR THE CONTINUING STORY OF THE WANDERING WMG&M CLUB ROCKHOUNDERS)

Photos By
Donna Pollard

Article By
Sandra Angelo



Taking a break



It's a dog's life, but somebody has to do it!



With help from Donna and Terry, 17 of us (including three junior members) and one dog found ourselves at the original claims site. The Forest Service had been grading the roads for some logging operations so all but the last half mile was an easy trip. The winter snows and spring rains resulted in a new crop of rocks. The morning threatened thunderstorms but there were enough sun interludes to find some really great crystals. Lots of Luna blue agate and carnelian were found as well. We even managed to collect a bag of small specimens for kids' activities. When the monsoons started in the early afternoon, it was time to head home.



Visiting and catching up with everybody

Look what I found!
Is this cool or what?



CRAFTY CORNER

By

Lidia Duvall

FEATHERED CABOCHON OR POLISHED ROCK

A fun and easy project using feathers and beautiful stones to glue onto baskets, wooden boxes, or a hatband

SUPPLIES

- ◆ Thin cardboard for the base cut in a circle or other shape one to three inches.
- ◆ Sharp scissors
- ◆ Three kinds or colors of feathers, trimmed
- ◆ Cabochon or flat polished stone
- ◆ Box, basket, or hatband
- ◆ Elmers and E-6000 Glue

To begin, trace and cut out the circle (or other shape) on cardboard and mark the center. To start the outermost ring, trim feathers and glue four of them to the center mark evenly in the four directions (or close to it) so that the feathers are hanging over the edge of the cardboard. Next fill in with two feathers between each of those four, keeping them evenly hanging over the edge using Elmers Glue. Inside that circle start the next circle in the same way, leaving only one third of the first row showing. Repeat again so that you now have three rows of concentric circles with feathers that coordinate with the cabochon. Cover with plastic or parchment and weight with books until dry to flatten. Once dry, glue the cabochon in the center of the feathers with a strong glue like E-6000. Press firmly. Next you will glue the finished product to a wooden box, hatband, or basket. Such a good way to use those cabochons and beautiful stones to enjoy them!

NOTE: If using your own harvested feathers, you must steam them first to kill the mites; feathers can also be ironed to strengthen. The cardboard base does not have to be in a circle. It could be a heart, rectangle, square, etc. I have also used the heart-shaped stones to format wings!





ROCK OF THE MONTH ORPIMENT



By Donna Pollard

Orpiment is As_2S_3 , Arsenic Trisulfide. The name is derived from the Latin *auripigmentum* which translates to golden paint, named for the mineral's vivid golden hue.

Fairly heavy, the specific gravity (S.G.) is 3.4 to 3.5, comparable to quartz, but the mineral is very soft, with a hardness (H) of $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2. This mineral has perfect cleavage in one direction, an uneven fracture, and belongs to the monoclinic crystal class. Visible crystals form only rarely, and are small, flattened, prismatic shaped. More frequently, the mineral is found as thin foliated (layered) masses, bladed, radiating, and fibrous, or massive.

As the Latin scholars said, the vivid golden hue is very evident. Today we describe the color of the mineral as lemon-yellow, which may also be brown-yellow, or orange. Orpiment is never opaque but may be transparent or translucent. The luster is resinous, greasy, and adamantine on fresh surfaces, with a pearly sheen on cleavage faces. These cleavage faces are flexible but not as flexible as elastic. Arsenic is a known poisonous substance. The mineral tends to be non-brittle and fragile, and on exposure to light and air, it can crumble into dust. This tendency makes the mineral dangerous to handle because of the arsenic present that breaks down into wind-blown particles which get on skin, clothing and are breathable.

Orpiment is found in low-temperature hydro-thermal veins often associated with stilbite, calcite, cinnabar and realgar. It also forms in crusty deposits surrounding hot springs, in argillaceous (clay sediments) rock, as a sublimation in fumaroles of volcanoes, and in metamorphic dolomites. Similar minerals include greenockite which is often found with sphalerite and has a different crystal form than orpiment, and sulfur which lacks the perfect cleavage of orpiment.

When heated, orpiment gives off a strong smell of garlic, typical for a mineral high in arsenic. The garlic smell masks the sulfur dioxide fumes which also emanate from this mineral when heated. Orpiment also dissolves in nitric acid, or a combination of nitric acid and hydrochloric acid known as aqua regia. The resulting liquid has a layer of yellow sulfur that floats to the surface.

Large micaceous (with mica) crystals have been found at Mercur, Toole County, Utah. In Nevada, crystals up to $\frac{1}{2}$ inching across (1.25 cm) occur with realgar at Getchell Mine, Humboldt County. Also, in Nevada at Persia and Manhattan, Nye County, are coarse foliated masses with stibnite, cinnabar, and realgar. Deposits are found in Washington State, California, and overseas in Kurdistan (Turkey); Georgia (USSR); Switzerland; Mount Vesuvius, Italy; and Japan.

Orpiment is mined as an ore of arsenic. It was also used in the tanning of hides to remove hair, and as a pigment in paint and in the past was a common ingredient in face make-up. The history of orpiment goes way back to ancient Mesopotamia and Sumerian lore, and to the ancient history of China. Today, on web sites like Etsy, spheres and skulls made of the arsenic minerals of orpiment and realgar are sold.



OUR BIG SHOW WAS A GREAT BIG SHOW IF YOU MISSED IT, YOU MISSED SOMETHING GREAT





