



ROCK TALK

White Mountain Gem & Mineral Club
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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

It was wonderful seeing so many people at this month's meeting. Welcome home, Ginger. Good to see your smiling face. Thank you, Dick for sharing treasures from your recent adventures. Thanks to everyone who participated in the highway cleanup and Brookie who brought her amazing cookies.

Cathy and her team are making great strides in completing everything to guarantee a terrific show. Thank you everyone for your efforts. Just a reminder, this is our major fundraiser and everyone is expected to volunteer in some capacity. We know some have limitations but we have all kinds of things that need to be done and we can accommodate any special needs. Fliers are now available! Contact Cathy for where to pick them up and also to volunteer. Please make sure you are at the July 2 meeting since we will be finalizing all the details for the show July 13-16.

Rolling Raffle - Our next raffle is a Septarian concretion that has been carved to look like a very large bear totem. It will run July and August with the winning five-dollar ticket being drawn at the September 3 meeting.

Trivia: Graphite, a cool customer that conducts electricity well without melting, is also considered the dirty brother of Diamond. It shares the same composition but the carbon atoms are not as densely packed, making it soft and slimy. Its greasy nature makes excellent pencils and machine oil. Used as control rods in nuclear reactors to mop up excess neutrons, it governs the ferocity of nuclear-fission reactions.

See you at Show Low Days, June 10. Have a great month.

Sandra



TREASURER'S REPORT

Current & Upcoming Expense

Rock Talk Printing and Postage
 Show Banner Updates

Income This Month:

2023 Gem and Mineral Show
 Member Dues
 Silent Auction
 Fifty/Fifty
 Amethyst Crystal Raffle

BULLETIN BOARD

What is so rare as a day in June;
Then, if ever, come perfect days.
--James Russell Lowell



Happy June Birthday To:

- Sandra Angelo
- Lidia Duvall
- Lee Freyhagan
- Yvonne Garrett
- Michael Leistikow

ESCAPE REALITY WHERE A THOUSAND YEARS OF HISTORY COMES TO LIFE

July 7 is DaVinci Day at
Medieval Mayhem at
Frontier Park in Show Low.
We will have a booth.
Hours 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM
Theme Costume Required

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DON'T FORGET

Members whose last names begin A-L will host the next meeting potluck

"LET'S DO LUNCH CLUB" meets Friday, June 30 at 1:00PM at Long Wongs Restaurant, 2251 W. White Mtn. Blvd. Special guest Michael Crawford will speak about his plans to run for a seat in State Congress.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We urgently need volunteers for:

- ◆ Field Trip Coordinator
- ◆ Assistant Field Trip Coordinator
- ◆ Education Coordinator

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
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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/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	Beverly Willmon	(928)220-3535	

Chamber of Commerce Liaisons

Show Low: Thelma Gray

Springerville/Eager: Rick Palmer

Snowflake/Taylor: Open

Heber/Overgaard: Aimee Webster

WHITE MOUNTAIN GEM & MINERAL CLUB

MEETING MINUTES JUNE 4, 2023

The meeting was called to order by President Sandra Angelo at 1:30PM.

Sandra welcomed back Ginger Donahue and Thelma Gray as well as Barbara, a new guest.

For Show and Tell, Dick Turpin shared several specimens from Utah, including geodes from Dugway, mahogany and snowflake obsidian, and agates from Moab area. He mentioned that he also has topaz from Topaz Mountain. Lidia DeLavio shared an aqua aura stone. Hope Rubi shared a large fossil that she found near Forest Lakes.

The minutes from the May meeting were accepted with no corrections or additions.

Treasurer Carl Hickman presented the club's financial report. (See Page 1 in **Rock Talk**.)

Rick Palmer stated that he is scouting out some field trip locations.

Sandra mentioned the Show Low Days event on June 10 at Frontier Park. We will have a booth for community awareness with children's activities. Volunteers are needed for this event.

Another upcoming event at which we have a booth is Medieval Mayhem on July 7. Please reach out to Debbie Christmas to sign up for this event. Volunteers should wear medieval dress and the event sponsor said they are willing to assist with wardrobe if needed.

New Rolling Raffle for next two months is a bear-shaped Septarian. Tickets are five dollars apiece.

Sandra reported on the May field trip, which was a huge success. (See Page 7 in **Rock Talk**.)

The June field trip is on June 24 to the Pinedale area. (See Page 6 in **Rock Talk**.)

Cathy Cargile gave an update on the July Show. (See Page 5 in **Rock Talk**.)

A presentation was given by Donna Pollard on plate tectonics and how our Earth is ever-changing.

Greg Wyman won the 50/50 drawing of \$55.

Additional raffle items were won by Hope Ruby (painted elk on jasper) and Greg Wyman (beaded ladybug on quartz). Door prizes were won by Judy Harrell, Brookie Embry, and Dick Turpin.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 3:50PM. The next regular meeting will be held on Sunday, July 2, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Christmas, Secretary

SHOW UPDATE

ROCKS NEEDED FOR KIDS' CORNER

Listed below is a tally of the rocks needed for The Kids' Corner at our show. Kids love plowing through sand to find a treasure and then to learn how to identify their discoveries.

Azurite	Geode, half	Petrified Wood, blue
Bubblegum	Halloween Jasper	Petrified Wood, polished
Calcite, yellow	Jasper, red	Petrified Wood, red
Chert	Malachite	Sand Dollars
Chrysocolla	Opalite specimen	Selenite Rose
Fluorite from China	Payson Geodes	Serpentine, polished
Fossils	Petrified wood chips, natural	Zebra Marble



Progress is being made in getting the vendor gifts. We will be putting our logo on bank bags. Posters flyers are being printed. Debbie Christmas will have them available at her house in Lakeside after Wednesday this week. Please call/text to pick them up. Greg, Terry, and Mike are working on signs. Volunteers are needed to help stencil and repair signs. Ursula is working on signs for inside and around the show. Please reach out to Greg Wyman if you can assist. Dick Turpin will be the announcer.

We still need items for the 'car wash' and 'date night out' raffle baskets. Please let Shirley Leistikow know if you have already brought items for the raffle baskets so she can give credit to those who donated.

Carol Glick can still use more small pieces or other polished stones for the Kids Corner. Any additional donations should be brought to the July meeting.

DON'T FORGET TO SIGN UP FOR VOLUNTEER POSITIONS AT THE SHOW!! Since our show is now a three-day affair, we need all the help we can get!!!!

SHOW LOW DAYS--JUNE 10

By Sandra Angelo

Show Low Days is this weekend and we are participating. One of our goals this year is to increase awareness of our club and grow membership, particularly families with children. Our booth will have the spinning wheel (always a fun activity), rocks (of course), and lots of information about us. Show Low Days is at Frontier Park at the end of North 9th Place. We will be located in the Non-Profit Alley. Set up is at 9:30AM with teardown at 4:30PM. The early shift is in place but volunteers are needed from 2:00 to 4:30. Call Sandra with any questions and what time you want to play with us.



JUNE FIELD TRIP

By Sandra Angelo



On Saturday June 24 we will be heading to the Pinedale area in a search for petrified wood that is mostly dark gray with smoky quartz crystals.

We should also be able to find fossils.

Meet at the Show Low Chamber of Commerce parking lot by 9:00 AM with departure by 9:15.

Bring the usual supplies for a rock hounding trip into nature.



By
Sandra Angelo

JASPER AND FOSSILS AND AGATES, OH MY!

Photos By
Donna Pollard



It was a terrific way to begin a holiday weekend. Thirty-five rockhounds (14 Payson Rimstones, 21 members from our club, and a couple of dogs) converged at the Dollar General before heading about five miles east to the Concho BLM site. The weather, while windy, was otherwise perfect. Several commented about the variety of finds which included jasper, petrified wood, fossils, and agate. One Payson member found an elk jawbone complete with teeth. We were also able to visit Donna's rock museum. The watermelon was pretty good, too!



CRAFTY CORNER

By

Lidia Duvall

HOW TO DRILL A HOLE IN A ROCK

Let's begin with the rock type. You will have more success as a beginner with sedimentary specimens. Igneous and metamorphic are harder and take longer. Some examples of sedimentary rocks are shale, chert, coal, sandstone, mudstone, limestone, arkose, and conglomerates. For this procedure, thin pebbles, rocks, and cabochons are preferred.

Next let's talk drill bits, drills and Dremels. First and foremost—if you are using an electric tool, read the tool manual for drilling underwater. Electricity and water do not mix! You could be electrocuted! Therefore, I recommend a high-speed battery drill or high speed Dremel, but even then, don't let the drill get wet (except for the bit), keep your hands dry, and you can hold onto your rock under water with one hand if you don't have a small vise. Also, you can drill by hand with a bow or hand drill. The drill bits must be diamond tipped, and coring bits are best. Solid bits take longer, and you have to start with a small one and increase the size of the bit as you go. Smaller bits break easy. You will need a 2.5mm solid or preferably hollow coring bit for small pebbles and cabochons, hollow coring bit for harder rocks, and for drilling thick or hard rocks a tricone bit (also called roller cone bit). Diamond bits are necessary for this project and underwater drilling saves on wear, prevents breakage, and is faster. The adjustable chuck for small bits is needed for the Dremel.

Even though water keeps the dust down you should wear goggles and a mask. Use a shim or wood under your stone so you won't drill through your water container. Don't let the rock slip and drill your fingers! A small vise in your water container can be used to hold the stone underwater. Once the hole is drilled it will have blowback on the backside of the rock. To avoid this, you must drill from the front halfway, then from and back.

Supplies: Goggles, mask, pen to mark the drilling spot, a thin pebble, cabochon, or rock, a shim, or wood, Dremel or drill, diamond drill bits, container of water, vise if preferred, and a rag to mop up any water spilled. You may consider having Eucerin hand lotion on hand.

Instructions: Goggles first! The stone or cabochon should be just under the water sitting on the shim. Hold the stone or use the vise. Start drilling at a 45-degree angle to get it started. Once started, then drill at a 90-degree angle (Straight up and down). Start drilling without much pressure. Keep lifting the drill up and down so water gets in the hole and keeps the bit from getting hot. You will know when you hit the wood and it is complete. It should only take two to ten minutes depending on the rock and thickness. You may want to use unscented Eucerin lotion to condition the stones. Lotion up your hands and massage the stone. It intensely brings out the natural beauty; also, it won't show scratches or look dirty. Let it soak in for 10-15 minutes and wipe it off with a clean rag.

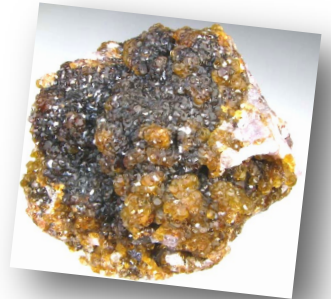
You're done!



ROCK OF THE MONTH

SIDERITE

By Donna Pollard



Siderite is an iron carbonate, (FeCO_3) originally called Chalybite. We are more familiar with calcium carbonate, (CaCO_3), which is the mineral Calcite, and the general formula for limestone. Siderite is a minor ore of iron, but it is more of interest because it is lacking in sulfur and phosphorous, found in most iron ores, and is often rich in added manganese, zinc, and/or cobalt. The name comes from the Greek *sideros*, which means iron.

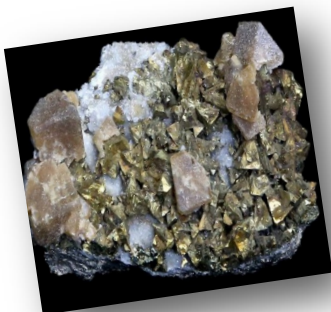
The crystal system of Siderite is trigonal, where the crystals are usually rhombohedral, often twinned, with curved faces reminiscent of Dolomite. Sometimes the crystals are aggregates of small, tabular, individuals. Siderite can also be massive, granular, fibrous, botryoidal, or earthy. Particularly large deposits of oolitic siderite (small round balls) that formed in continental water with low-oxygen content, can be found worldwide.

Siderite is a bit heavier than a like-sized specimen of quartz, with a specific gravity (S.G.) of 3.8-4, decreasing with included manganese content. The fracture is uneven, tenacity brittle, streak white, hardness (H.) 4-4 $\frac{1}{2}$, and the luster is silky or pearly and sometimes glassy. Though siderite is generally brown to yellow-brown, it can be gray, gray-brown, reddish-brown to dark brown or black with a bluish tarnish, if a high amount of manganese is present. The surface readily alters, becoming coated with brown goethite.

Distinguishing features that separate siderite from similar minerals include, the rhombohedral crystal shape and same cleavage, brown color, and the heavier feel (heft) that distinguishes it from calcite or dolomite. Also, unlike calcite, which dissolves easily in hydrochloric acid (HCL), siderite needs warmed HCL to dissolve. Siderite also has the unusually feature of becoming magnetized when the mineral is heated. Other similar minerals are sphalerite, with a different cleavage, and limonite, a general term for altered iron ores. Limonite never forms crystals or has a glassy luster.

Associated minerals include chalcedony, barite, calcite, fluorite, sphalerite, cryolite, and various ore minerals. Siderite is found worldwide, including some fine deposits in North America. Massive (twelve inch) crystals are found in Ivigtut, Greenland, with cryolite and fine crystals found at Mt-Saint-Hilaire, Canada. A large vein of siderite with sphalerite and pyrite was found in Roxbury, Connecticut, and massive deposits are present in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Cavities of light-brown crystals were found in massive deposits in the Gilman District, Eagle County, Colorado, and granular stalactitical siderite covered by small iridescent siderite crystals was found in the Campbell shaft, Bisbee, Cochise County, Arizona.

Siderite can easily be confused with more common calcite, and it is very possible that it may be hiding in rockhound collections of what is suspected to be calcite. I, for one, will be looking through my calcite specimens for this interesting mineral.



AROUND AND ABOUT THE MEETING ROOM

