

ROCK TALK



White Mountain Gem & Mineral Club
 P.O. Box 3504
 Show Low, Arizona 85902
www.whitemountain-azrockclub.org
whitemtngmc@gmail.com

Vol. 27, Issue 11
 November 2023

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Welcome back, Diane, Thelma, and Malcolm! So glad to see you are on the mend. Congratulations, Stan! The club voted unanimously to grant you lifetime membership status. You are one of four. This honor is granted to a very few long-time members for going way beyond above and beyond for the club. From the response of the membership present at our meeting, it was obvious that this honor was well earned and deserved.

Thank you, Terry, Shelly, Karen, and Carl, for brightening the smiles of so many at Harvest Fest. We got to see the eclipse, gave away lots of rocks, and made some great contacts. The weather was perfect also.

Congratulations to our new 2024 Board and thanks to all who are serving on our 2023 Board. The operation of the Club could not happen without our elected members and our volunteers. Thank you everyone for entrusting me with the Presidency for another year. I will continue to work hard for all of you.

Trivia - Impression fossils are more delicate than other fossils, but they are also long lasting. They are the imprints of plants and animals that have been pushed into soft layers of mud, silt, and sand which harden and solidify as rock. These are usually leaves, skin, feathers, scales, and invertebrate animals such as worms and jellyfish. Impression fossils give scientists clues about how some ancient animals looked.

Remember our holiday party is next month. It's a good time to celebrate the season and our joy of our hobby and one another.

Happy Thanksgiving everyone! I am thankful for each and every one of you!

Sandra

TREASURER'S REPORT

Current & Upcoming Expense

Web hosting fees
 Refreshment fund
Rock Talk printing and postage
 Rocky Mountain Federation dues
 and insurance


Income This Month:

Silent Auction
 Fifty/Fifty

BULLETIN BOARD

**Amazing month, November,
Both honor and Thanksgiving
To remember**

Happy November Birthday to:
Hope Rubi
Meg McDonald
Larry Pederson




**Why Not Join our
Let's Do Lunch club**

**WHEN: Friday, November 17,
be there at 12:00 Noon**

**WHERE: Monica's Café, 1100
W. Hall Street, Show Low
(Same street as KFC)**

**Let's celebrate our November
birthday club members!**

IN THIS ISSUE

ITEM	PAGE
President's Letter/ Treasurer's Report	1
Notes of Interest Important Reminders	2
Club Information	3
Minutes of October Meeting	4-5
October Field Trip	5
November Field Trip	6
Did You Know? Local Show	7
Rock of the Month	8
Crafty Corner	9
EXTENDED PAGES	
Photos	10-11

Holiday Party Potluck

**Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah,
Happy Yule, Happy Kwanza**

The December meeting is when we take time to celebrate good friends and good times. The party begins at 1:00 PM, Sunday December 3. Decorating to be led by Cathy and her team will begin by 12:15. We have lots of decorating to do. Shelly will coordinate the potluck. The Club pays for the meat but talented club members agree to cook it. The Pollard's will prepare the Turkey. The Hickman's will bake a ham. Club members are asked to bring a dish to share - salad/appetizer, side, or dessert. Mikki will provide music. There will be a \$10 gender-neutral gift exchange. Gifts should be related to our hobby. Use your imagination! Looking forward to seeing everyone at the festivities! —Sandra

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	Shelly Applegate		

Chamber of Commerce Liaisons

Show Low: Thelma Gray

Snowflake/Taylor: Open

Springerville/Eager: Rick Palmer

Heber/Overgaard: Aimee Webster

WHITE MOUNTAIN GEM & MINERAL CLUB

MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 5, 2023

The meeting was called to order by President Sandra Angelo at 1:35 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and members were welcomed.

For Show and Tell, Carl Hickman shared a graptolite stone formed by fossilized animals. Mike Soboleski shared a large crystal formation that he found on the October field trip. Ursula Wilson shared fossilized palm that was found at the landfill in Saint Johns.

The minutes were accepted as posted in the October issue of **Rock Talk**.

Treasurer Carl Hickman presented the club's financial report. October expenses included web hosting, refreshment fund, and **Rock Talk** printing and postage. Income was generated from member dues, 50/50 raffle, the silent auction, and rolling raffle. Upcoming expenses include **Rock Talk** printing and postage and Rocky Mountain Federation dues.

Sandra mentioned that the November issue of **Rock and Gem** featured Dobell Ranch. She also reported on the club's presence at the Snowflake Harvest festival. Shelly, Karen, Carl, and Terry were thanked for their participation.

The October field trip was led by Ursula Wilson to Centerfire Bog in New Mexico. See Page 5 in **Rock Talk** for information.

The November field trip will be to the Saint Johns' landfill to search for fossils and local rock specimens. See Page 6 in **Rock Talk** for further information.

Show Chair Cathy Cargile announced that planning for the 2024 Show will commence in January after the holiday season.

For the Old Business part of the meeting, Donna Pollard reported that a St. Johns property owner is willing to donate a 20-acre parcel to the club. It was also announced that the rolling raffle for the white coral specimen continues, the tickets costing five dollars. The winner will be announced at the next club meeting.

Volunteers are needed to assist with the December club Christmas party. Cathy and Ron Cargile and Shelly Applegate will bring and set up decorations. Mikki Kas will provide live and recorded music. Shelly will assist with the gift exchange. Carl and Karen Hickman will provide a ham and Donna Pollard will bring a turkey. A sign-up sheet will be passed around for club members to bring a side item or dessert. Set up will begin at 12:15 PM.

Motion was made by Carl Hickman to provide a lifetime membership for Stan Arneklev based on his many years of contributions to the club. The motion was seconded, and a majority vote was accepted.

The Let's Do Lunch Club will meet at Monica's Café at noon on Friday November 17.

Rock Talk editor B.G. Hogarth encouraged members with rock-related items that they may want to sell or trade, or who might be looking for items to buy, to contact her to include the information in the newsletter.

Rick Palmer is looking for another copy of this month's **Rock & Gem** magazine and also for some starlite fairy crosses.

For door prizes, Malcolm Glick won malachite specimen and Debbie Christmas won a piece of orange and black agate.

For the monthly program, Debbie Christmas presented a PowerPoint about Bryce Canyon National Park and the rock formations found there.

An election was held to elect club officers for 2024. The result was as follows:

President - Sandra Angelo
Vice President- Debbie Christmas
Second Vice President - Carol Glick
Secretary - Shelly Applegate
Treasurer - Mike Leistikow
Newsletter Editor - B.G. Hogarth
Members at Large - Dick Turpin, Terry Pollard, Ursula Wilson, and Shirley Leistikow
Field Trip Co-Chairs - Dick Turpin and Rick Palmer

(Continued on Page 5)

(Minutes, continued from Page 4)

The board will have a meeting with all club officers in early December at a date to be determined.

The 50/50 raffle of \$33 was won by Carol Glick. The second-place prize was a snowflake obsidian pendant and earrings won by Hope Rubi.

There being no further business to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned at 3:15 PM. The next regular meeting will be held on Sunday December 5.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Christmas, Secretary

A "CRYSTAL" PERFECT DAY AT CENTERFIRE BOG

By Sandra Angelo

Photos By Donna Pollard



What an amazing day for a field trip! The sun was shining and warm with a slight breeze. Rick's directions were spot on and Ursula got us to where we needed to go. Terry brought up the rear so none of us could accidentally venture off. It doesn't get better than this! Some couldn't wait to get started looking for treasures and some visited the Bastion Ranch Cemetery lovingly restored and maintained by current family members. The uniqueness of this pioneer cemetery is that the graves are covered with crystals and agate found in the Centerfire Bog area.

The settlers were pretty interesting, too; one spent a couple of years as a Texas Ranger. There were a lot of treasures to be found in the collecting area and no one appeared to be disappointed. Mike followed the directive of exploring around the vehicle first. He dug out a very large piece of Luna agate and when he turned it over it was covered in huge crystals! His comment during 'show and tell' was that 'dreams do come true'. There was plenty of surface collecting and for those willing to put forth the effort, some great treasures to be dug up. A perfect fall day!

SET YOUR ROCKHOONDING CALENDAR FOR . . .



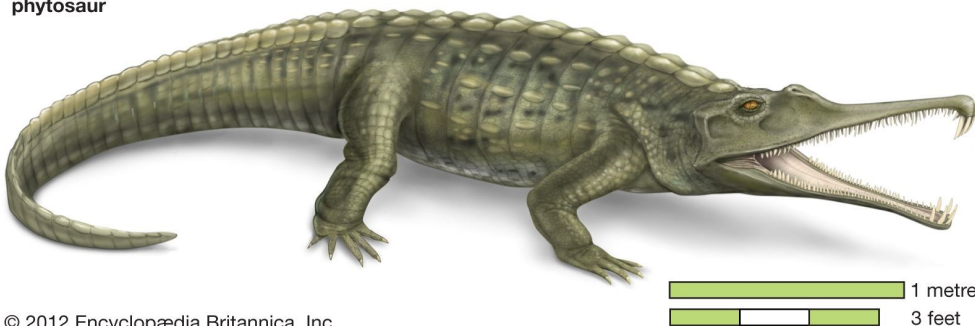
By
Sandra
Angelo

An unlikely but great place to visit! In the past we have found Phytosaur teeth, prehistoric fossils and coprolite. Recently Ursula found some palm wood. We will meet at the Dollar General by the 'Y' at 9:00 AM. From there we will head out to the landfill in Saint Johns. For insurance reasons, we need to fill out a form to visit. The original form must be submitted to the Saint Johns BHE office no later than November 16. If you are planning to attend, please call or send an email to Sandra no later than November 14. Thanks.

EDITOR'S NOTE: You might be asking, as was I, when reading this, "What in the world is a Phytosaur and what would a tooth from one look like? So, my ever-curious mind took me to the famous Wikipedia source of information, and this is what I found out:

"In the early Mesozoic era, dinosaurs walked the Earth and heavy ferns covered the land in a hot climate, but one familiar danger lurked at the water's edge: the ancient Phytosaur. This monstrous reptile was an early aquatic predator that struck with terrifying speed and power at anything unfortunate enough to cross its feeding grounds. While it resembled a modern crocodile, the phytosaur is far older and perhaps more frightening than the aquatic reptiles we know today."

phytosaur



© 2012 Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.



This tooth was measured at 1.14 inches. Quite large for a reptile don't you think? And note, in the picture at the left, his mouth is full of them!

Hard to believe that this creature is identified as a reptile, isn't it? And look at that mouth, with all those teeth! Aren't you glad to be living in this day and age, and able to meet up with this monster by collecting its teeth? If you find a tooth, bring it to Show and Tell. I would love to see it, and I'm sure others would as well.

DID YOU KNOW

SPEAKING OF PREHISTORIC

We all know about the dinosaur tracks in Arizona, but fewer folks are aware of another prehistoric creature that also left its mark on our land.

One of the largest mammals that ever walked the planet left behind proof of its existence right here in Arizona. Hiding in the remote desert landscape is a set of footprints made by woolly mammoths way back when!

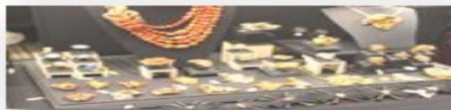
Little is known about the type of mammoth that created the prints or exactly how long they've been here. In fact, a general web search for these particular tracks won't turn up any results - you just have to be "in the know." Please keep in mind that the mammoth prints are located on Arizona State Trust Land, so you'll need a State Lands Permit to access the site. While the public is allowed to visit, please be respectful and leave no trace. Please refrain from stepping inside the tracks, as this wears them down and can destroy them over time.

You'll find this incredible evidence of prehistoric life in Cascabel, about 40 miles north of Benson in Cochise County. The tracks are located on the west side of the Dragoon Mountains, and you may need to explore a little to find them!

(Taken from <https://www.onlyinyourstate.com/arizona/mammoth-footprints-az/>)



ON THE AROUND AND ABOUT LOCAL GEM SHOW CIRCUIT



November 2023

11-12—LAKE HAVASU CITY, ARIZONA: Annual show; Lake Havasu Gem & Mineral Society; Aquatic Center, 100 Park Avenue; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4; \$2, children 12 and under free; 53rd annual Lake Havasu Gem & Mineral Show. Minerals, fossils, rock collections and demonstrations. Vendors offer jewelry, faceted and cabochon jewels, fossils, tools, slabs etc. Door prizes. Raffle baskets for scholarships. Food available. Fun and educational for all the family; contact Sandi Willis, (928) 733-6270; Email: willissandie318@gmail.com; Website: www.lakehavasugms.com

(No more scheduled shows in Arizona until January)

ROCK OF THE MONTH

GYPSUM

By Donna Pollard



Gypsum, $\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$, is hydrated calcium sulfate. Gypsum is extremely soft and can be scratched with a fingernail which makes it easy to identify. The streak is white and the specific gravity (S.G.) is 2.32, which makes gypsum appear light weight for its size. The colors range from clear through white, gray, green or yellowish, and red or brownish.

Gypsum has a monoclinic crystal structure which can take many forms. Selenite, which comes from the Greek word "selenos" meaning "moonstone," is the clear form of gypsum. These crystals can grow quite large and are popular with collectors. A dense granular form is known as alabaster used for carving, sculpture, and home décor. Satin spar is the fibrous form of gypsum and is a very popular item for wands and towers in the meta-physical world. Rosette shaped masses are known as rosettes or desert rose. They can be almost clear but often incorporate sand particles in the growth of the structure. A radiating form of crystal growth appear as rock flowers and are called "daisy gypsum," which often have curved crystal faces.

Gypsum crystals, which can be tabular or prismatic (diamond shaped), have a common habit of twinning, where one crystal grows into another or gets swallowed by another. This changes the appearance of the structure giving gypsum crystals a shape like a swallowtail with two distinct points, or a spearhead appearance with one point. Gypsum fractures in a splintery fashion but has perfect cleavage in one direction and good cleavage in another at angles of 114 and 66 degrees. If done carefully, gypsum crystal will bend slightly but not like a mica crystal would. Gypsum is soluble in strong acid and sometimes a specimen will fluoresce under ultraviolet (UV) light.

Gypsum is an extremely common mineral. As popular as gypsum in its various forms can be to the casual collector, its main purpose is in construction. Gypsum forms as the first precipitated deposit from evaporating seawater, so gypsum formations are found worldwide. The name "gypsum" comes from the ancient Greek word, "gypsos" which means gypsum or plaster. Smaller deposits form by the process of sublimation, where the gypsum forms directly from sulfuric acid fumes from volcanoes reacting with limestones in the area of the volcano.

These worldwide deposits of gypsum are mined for Plaster of Paris, retardant in Portland Cement to slow the settling rate, flux for pottery, fertilizer for over-alkaline soils, wallboard and more. The United States mines eight million tons of gypsum per year which is one-third of the world production of gypsum. Most of the mining takes place in stratified deposits interlaced with other sedimentary rock from the ancient oceans.

Plaster of Paris gets its name from the Paris, France basin. Other rich deposits are in Nova Scotia, Canada, Chihuahua, Mexico, and in Bologna and Pavia, Italy where giant selenite crystals are found in clay beds. There are many parts of the United States rich in gypsum. They include Mahoning County, Ohio; Wayne County, Utah; Niagara County, New York; Arizona, New Mexico, Michigan, Texas, California and elsewhere.

Gypsum is an all-purpose mineral, a great find for collectors and a mineral that is necessary for construction worldwide.

CRAFTY CORNER

By Lidia Duvall

EASY ROUND STEPPING STONES

Do you need or want some stepping stones, and want to use some of those nice flat stones you have in your collection to decorate them?

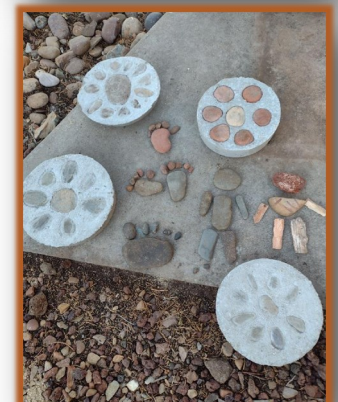
I needed some to traverse down the hill without getting all muddy!

I gathered some round molds from some plant saucers, bowls, aluminum pie plates, and some plastic edging that I had in the shed. Then I cut the edging to the desired size and duct taped it together. Next, I got quickset concrete. One bag made three to four large stepping stones or six to eight smaller ones. Before I mixed the concrete, I made all my flower patterns with my stones. Your patterns could be landscapes, people, footprints, etc. Your steps don't have to be round; they could be square or irregular.

Now the fun begins! Be sure to wear gloves and do not breathe the dust. Mix your concrete with water so that it's not too wet or dry; about the consistency of oatmeal. I used a wheelbarrow, hose, shovel, and an entire bag of concrete and was able to make several at once. However, you must be quick and ready with the patterns. I scooped the well-mixed concrete in the molds two to three inches thick, leveled and smoothed it. Next, I put the stones on top and wiggled and pushed them in, leaving space between to prevent the stones from popping out. Finally, wipe any excess concrete off the top of the flat stones with a wet rag, as the concrete will dry on them.

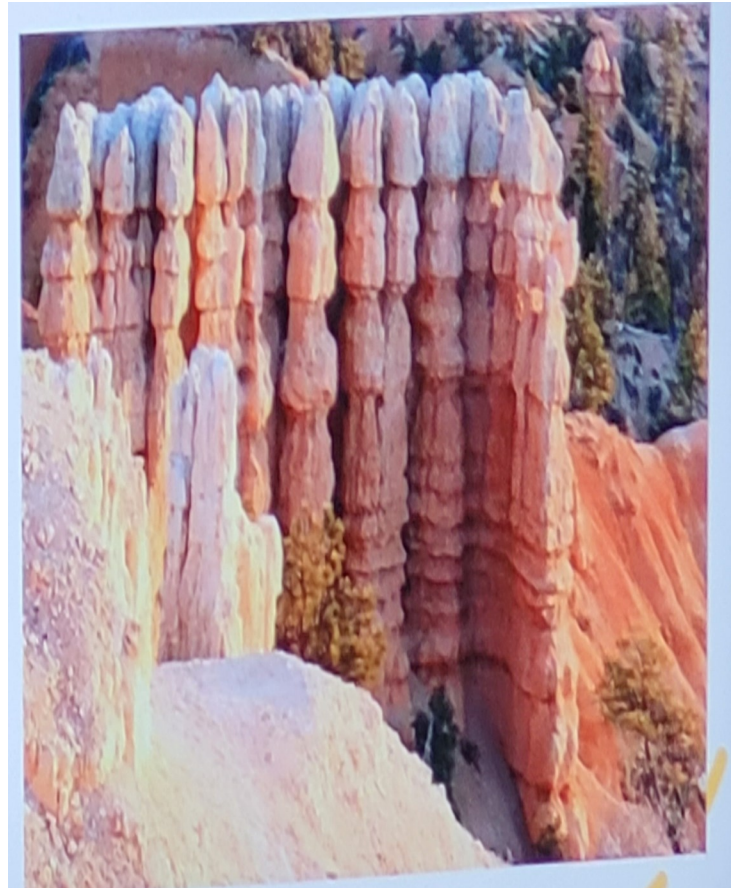
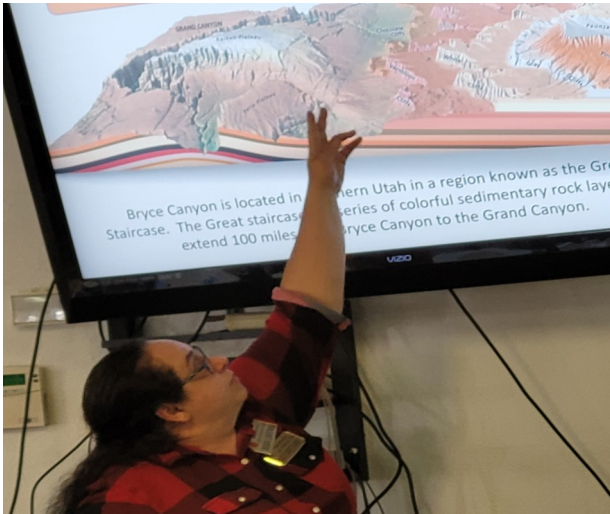
I waited two days for it to dry and removed the stones from the molds. I shoveled out ground holes and placed the stepping stones in so that they were ground level. Because I had a mud problem, I used a couple of sand bags around them and leveled it out. The path could also be placed in grass, rocks, or about any path, as long as they are fairly level and not a tripping hazard.

This project was fun and will be used for a very long time. Enjoy!



BRYCE CANYON PRESENTATION

At our November meeting, Debbie Christmas gave a fascinating presentation with slides from a trip that she made to Bryce Canyon, Utah. Here are some photos from that presentation. (Photos by Donna Pollard)



HARVEST FESTIVAL SNOWFLAKE, OCTOBER 14

Photos by
Donna Pollard



AROUND AND ABOUT IN THE MEETING ROOM

