

ROCK TALK



WHITE MOUNTAIN GEM AND MINERAL CLUB
SHOW LOW, ARIZONA

White Mountain Gem & Mineral Club
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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

A picnic is a great way to celebrate the end of the summer season! It is even better when shared with good friends and good food. Welcome to new member, Ron and welcome back, Debbie. Thank you, Donna, for the tailgate silent auction. What a fun idea! Congratulations to Thelma and Donna, winners of the rolling auction.

Next month we will celebrate Halloween a little early with Trunk or Treat. Bring rocks you are willing to part with to share with the membership. (See Page Five in *Rock Talk*.)

October is when we set the slate for the election of officers and volunteers. All positions are open. You can see the list on Page Three. Our club is only as effective as we want to make it and that means it takes everyone to participate. So please, think seriously about a leadership position and volunteering.

Upcoming events - On September 8 the Mountain Saddle Band is presenting a drive-in concert from 5:00-7:00PM at Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church. September 16 is highway clean up and September 15-17 is the Payson Gem and Mineral show. September 29 is the "Let's Do Lunch" at Safire Lounge in Springerville. September 30 is the White Mountain Symphony Orchestra Patriotic Concert at 3:00PM at the Show Low School District Auditorium, and on October 14 we will have a booth at the Harvest Fest at Pioneer Park in Snowflake.

Trivia - A clastic rock, Sandstone (quartz and feldspar) is formed from sandy pieces of other rocks. Its aquifers hold life-giving water beneath Earth's surface. Running the length of the Grand Canyon, it is Earth's second most common sedimentary rock.

Next meeting October 1 at the VFW in Show Low.

Have an amazing month!

Sandra

TREASURER'S REPORT

Current & Upcoming Expense

Historian supplies


Income This Month:

Book sales
Member dues
Silent Auction
Fifty/Fifty

BULLETIN BOARD

September's child is full of love
For family and friends;
Granting each an honored spot
With love that never ends.
—David Lessard

Happy September birthdays to:
Terrace Pollard
Michael Sondalle
Aimee Webster



Why Not Join our **“Let's Do Lunch Club”**

When: Friday, September 29

This month, plans are to meet up at the Safire Lounge, located at 411 E. Main in Springerville at 12:30PM. Yes, it is a drive, but their menu is worth it, and besides that, Springerville has some great shopping places! See you there!

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DON'T FORGET



It's Highway Cleanup Time Again!

When: Saturday, September 16

You are invited to join other club members to clean up the club's appointed section of US60. Meet at the Chamber of Commerce parking lot in Show Low at 9:00AM. The State supplies vests, pickup sticks, and garbage bags. Bring good walking shoes, sun protection, and gloves.

Besides, I am told that Brookie brings **THE BEST** home-made cookies!

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

WHITE MOUNTAIN GEM & MINERAL CLUB

MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 3, 2023

The meeting was called to order by President Sandra Angelo at 12:35PM. As is our usual practice, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. New member Ron Ream introduced himself and mentioned that he was the winner of the one-year club membership at our show. Debbie Trimble was welcomed back after an extended leave of absence. Blue Thompson indicated that Moqui Marbles could be found in City Park. She and Debbie found several prior to the meeting.

The August meeting minutes were accepted as presented in *Rock Talk*. Treasurer Carl Hickman indicated we are in a very sound financial position. Sandra and Carl both reiterated that moving forward we must maintain a balanced budget.

The winners of the rolling raffle were called today. Thelma Gray won the septarian bear and the quartz crystal was won by Donna Pollard. The new rolling raffle for a coral specimen donated by Evva Ripperda will begin next month and the drawing will be held in December.

Sandra mentioned that volunteers are still needed for a number of open positions. If these positions are not filled, some of our practices will need to be adjusted. Positions that must be filled are as follows:

1. A coordinator for setup and teardown and to organize the potluck at monthly meetings. If this position is not filled, we must go to beverages only.
2. We need a field trip chair. September's field trip may be cancelled if no one volunteers. Sandra has another commitment that day. Ursula has agreed to lead the October fieldtrip to Lee Russell Canyon.
3. We need two greeters. Thelma has family responsibilities in the valley, and she is often not available. Diane took a serious fall and is unable to attend meetings.

4. Sandra also mentioned that long-time former member Steve Fowers is recovering at home from complications after a routine medical test in July.

Instead of a silent auction, Donna brought a variety of specimens from storage. Members were welcome to take them with or without a voluntary donation.

National Highway Cleanup day is Saturday September 16. See Page Two in *Rock Talk* for more information on the club's participation in this event.

Members were reminded that October is the month that we generate our slate for the 2024 officer elections. All positions (elected and volunteer) are available. Sandra urged members to consider volunteering some time back to the club. (See Page Three in *Rock Talk* for the list of positions and envision yourself in one of them.) Carl, our treasurer, is retiring from the position after five years. He will train the next person. The club operates on a cash basis, and everything is straight forward. No complex software is involved.

Announcements - Let's Do Lunch Club will meet at the Safire Lounge in Springerville on September 29. Sandra and Hope both have room for passengers. (See Page Two in *Rock Talk*.)

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Christmas, Secretary





Trunk or Treat **ROCKHOUND STYLE**

Once again, we will have our version of trunk or treat! For rockhounds, collecting "treats" generally means going to outings to various places to collect treasures.

Most of us have a tendency to take home more than we can use, resulting in rock piles all over our yards, garages, and inside our homes. Here is the plan:

For our October 1 meeting, bring your excess rocks in boxes and buckets, but leave them in your vehicle. After the meeting adjourns, we will go out to the parking lot where trunks will open for everyone to take some else's treasures home. **Please do not bring rocks that you want to sell.** Trades are permitted. Only bring rocks that you have no problem giving away to a good home. You may even be able to add rocks to your hoard. This year, we will bring in some "give-away" rocks from the club's storage unit. Those of you wanting to take free rocks home, bring your own empty buckets. And have fun!



WANTED!

LOOKING FOR

**September
16**

Someone to plan, organize, and lead the club's September field trip. We all want to get out there and find the greatest treasure ever. We just need **YOU** to lead it!!!

ALL THE WAY TO FOREST LAKES AND WINDING UP IN PINEDALE

Photos By
Shelly Applegate

Article By
Sandra Angelo



The day started out bright with comfortable temperatures as 17 of us and one dog headed off to Forest Lakes.

Surprisingly, we made it to the collecting area without incident. But then again, we only had to turn from 260 onto Forest Road 237 and then make one right turn into the national forest. A meadow has been planted under the power lines with instructions not to disturb it. No problem there, we were able to find plenty of brachiopods, sea urchin spines, sponge fingers, coral, and of course, lots of RPRs (real pretty rocks) in the surrounding area.

Soon the clouds appeared. We huddled under the trail head information structure until it became apparent the rain wasn't going to let up. Somewhat damp, we headed off for another attempt for Pinedale petrified wood. It wasn't raining there.

This time we let the new kid direct us. She got us to the backside of the ridge for which we had been searching. While we found many great specimens, flora, and fauna, we did not find any petrified wood. Sigh. We all agreed, we had a good time no matter what we did or didn't find.

Our next field trip is scheduled for September 23. We currently do not have a leader for a trip. An email will be sent out with trip information if the trip will be held.



CRAFTY CORNER

By

Lidia Duvall

EXPOSED DESIGNER STONE IN CONCRETE

Do you need a couple of stairs outside, maybe some pavers? These DIY (do it yourself) stairs were constructed with plywood forms. For pavers, two-by-fours or two-by-sixes would work.

Consult the internet on how to build the forms and how to pour concrete. Prewash your pebbles that you will inlay and let dry; this is very important. Once I had the stairs poured using a bit wetter concrete than normal, I screeded it, and troweled the edges. I consulted my pre-drawn design as to where I wanted the stones. The top of the concrete should have a "creme" on top within a few minutes of pouring and smoothing it. Push your rocks into the concrete, then using a trowel push them down further, so you cannot see them. You can also use a rubber mallet and/or a board to tamp it down instead. If the stones are too close together, they will keep popping out, so give them a little room. Screed again, so the entire surface is even with about a one-fourth inch slope for water runoff and edge again with edger. You should not be able to see your stones at all. Screed the entire top again. Let sit for about one to one and a half hours on a hot dry day, or two to two and a half hours depending on the weather conditions.

Now the fun begins. Get the garden hose with a spray nozzle and with medium pressure start spraying the concrete to expose the stones, increasing pressure a bit if needed, and the stones will gradually be exposed. Be careful not to expose them too much or they will come out or be a tripping hazard! As you can see from the picture below, I sprayed too much water or didn't wait long enough and lost some of my marbles... oops! Next with a dry brush like horsehair or soft bristles, gently sweep the entire surface. Once it is dry the next day, remove the forms and seal with a concrete sealer to bring out the colors and preserve the work.

FYI, I got these stones at the Dollar Tree in Show Low. Ta-da, you've just created exposed aggregate concrete work. There are so many variations of design from a random design to a complicated mosaic. I also used marbles and tile embedded in the concrete. Oh, the possibilities!





ROCK OF THE MONTH REALGAR

By Donna
Pollard

During the months of July and August, we examined minerals with arsenic (As) appearing prominently in their chemical formulas. We looked at arsenopyrite $FeAsS$ iron arsenic sulfide, and orpiment (As_2S_3), arsenic trisulfide. This month we will round out our examination of arsenic with realgar, (As_2S_3) arsenic sulfide. The name comes from the Arabic 'rahj al ghar', 'powder of the mine.'

Realgar is a soft mineral with a hardness of $1\frac{1}{2}$ but is rather heavy with a specific gravity (S.G.), of 3.56. The cleavage is good in only one direction lengthwise. The mineral has conchoidal fracture, a resinous to greasy luster, and bendability or tenacity of non-brittle, thin flexible scales. The crystals are of the monoclinic class, usually short, prismatic, acicular (needle shaped), with striations parallel to their length. The mineral can also be compact, encrusting, or granular aggregates.

Realgar has a brilliant red or orange-red color. The streak is also red-orange. The mineral may be transparent, translucent, or even opaque. As with other arsenic minerals, heat will cause the mineral to give off a strong smell of garlic. Upon exposure to light, realgar will slowly disintegrate to an orange-red powder called pararealgar. There has been discussion as to whether this powder is reduced to the mineral orpiment, but current research shows that the chemical makeup of the disintegrating powder keeps the realgar formula.

Similar minerals to realgar include cinnabar, a mercury ore that is heavier with perfect cleavage; cuprite, a copper ore with a different crystal form and streak color; and red jasper, a silicate which is much harder, smooth, and has a white streak.

Realgar is commonly found with orpiment and stibnite, and occasionally, cinnabar. Other common companions are ores of lead, silver, tin, and antimony. Realgar forms in low temperature hydrothermal veins, around hot springs, with volcanic gases, encrusted on clays, limestones, and dolostones, and as a weathering residue on arsenic-containing ores.

Realgar, an ore of arsenic, is used in the preparation of arsenious anhydride, (H_3AsO_3) an aqueous solution used as an herbicide, pesticide, and rodenticide. It also gives fireworks the bright white colored light and was used in paint.

In the United States, realgar is found as beautiful crystals in Mercur, Tooele County, Utah; with stibnite and cinnabar in Manhattan, Nye County, Nevada; in gray clays at the Getchell Mine, Humboldt County, Nevada; with ulexite and colemanite in Kern county, California; and in the states of Washington and Wyoming. Realgar is also found in Romania as beautiful crystals, Switzerland, Corsica, Japan, Mexico, and Central Asia.

pararealgar (major component) and realgar mixture

lead(II) sulfide formed from lead white



orpiment (yellow highlights)

vermillion

Early occurrences of realgar as a red paint pigment are found in ancient art works from Central Asia, China, India, and Egypt. During the Renaissance era, it was a popular pigment in fine-art painting, but this died out by the eighteenth century. It was also used as a medicine in the past.

OH, THOSE OLD FAMILIAR (AND SOME NEW) FACES!

We all seemed to have a great time at our September meeting and picnic, as can be testified by these photos taken by our very own Donna Pollard.

