

## INDEPENDENCE GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY

The Independence Gem and Mineral Society was founded in February 1948 for purposes of generating interest in the field of Geology. Our purposes are to promote interest in Faceting, Fossils, Lapidary, Minerals, Art MetalCraft, etc, have classes, field trips and create public awareness and interest through our club programs, outreach to schools, libraries and Gem and Mineral shows.

**THE GEMROCK** is the official newsletter of IGAMS. Send articles and correspondence to:  
Editor, 1600 E 80<sup>th</sup> Street, Kansas City, MO 64131.

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**MEETING PLACE:** June Meeting, Greenbriar Fountains. 2100 Swope Drive, Independence, Missouri 64057

**DUES:** Family \$15.00      Singles \$10.00      Juniors \$5.00

**AFFILIATIONS:**                      American Federation of Mineralogical Societies  
Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies  
Association of Earth Science Clubs of Greater Kansas City

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:** Submissions for the September newsletter to the editor no later than  
**August 31, 2005**

**For information on our club, please e-mail our webmaster at:**

**[igamsinfo@yahoo.com](mailto:igamsinfo@yahoo.com)**



**MEETING:** October 20, 2005  
**TIME:** 7:30 p.m.  
**PLACE:** Greenbriar Fountains, 2100 Swope Drive, Independence



**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**  
**October**

I was glad to see everyone at the September Meeting. Mark S. gave a fantastic program on his trip to Utah. Kind of makes you want to go out there and go through the mining piles.

The association is in need of someone to run the Association Booth for the 2006 Show. I want to thank Carol and Ted for their wonderful work they have done in the past shows.

If anyone went on any exciting trips this summer and did some rockhounding, write up your experiences and send them to Charley for the Newsletter. She would be glad to receive any articles written about our hobby.

Even though the 2006 Show is four and a half months away, now is a good time to be planning your cases and signing up to work when the volunteer sheets come around.

I'm so happy to have Judy O. as leader of our Junior Rockhounds. She does a wonderful job in working with them and having a great learning center at the Show.

Hope to see everyone at the October Meeting.

*Rebecca B., President*



**MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING**  
**OF IGAMS**

**September 15, 2005**



Our meeting was brought to order by our President, Rebecca. Minutes were taken by Charley in the absence of our Secretary. Our Treasurer reported there was \$1,316.48 in the treasury. The Club received a check for \$50.75 as proceeds from items designating IGAMS as beneficiary from the Association Picnic Silent Auction.

Charley reported that the Association needs someone to run the booth at the Show.

Field trip report by Ted F. A road cut site in Topeka and the Shawnee Rock Company Quarry #3 in Bonner Springs were collected. There were many fossils collected, calcites and some quartz. A return trip in the fall will hopefully be scheduled. The next field trip currently scheduled is the Friends of Minerology Symposium which will be on October 22-23 in Mt Ida.

Mineral of the Month was Zircon. The program for the meeting was "Field Trip to Utah 2003" by Mark S.

*Charley M.*



**2005 FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE**



Oct 22-23 Friends of Minerology

Other Field Trips to be announced when scheduled.



**DATES TO REMEMBER**

Oct 15-16 SPRINGFIELD, MO 38th annual show; Ozark Mountain Gem & Mineral Society; Exposition Center, 625 E. St. Louis; contact Floyd Carpenter, (417) 882-9296.

Oct 22-23 OKLAHOMA CITY, OK "A Kaleidoscope of Gems" Oklahoma Mineral & Gem Society; Coca-Cola Bricktown Event Center, 429 E. California; contact Linda Haynes, (405) 677-7698.

Nov 4-6 KANSAS CITY, MO The Bead Renaissance Shows; Business & Technology College, BTC Exhibit Hall, 1775 Universal Ave.; contact J&J Promotions LLC, P.O. Box 420, Williamsburg, NM 87942, (505) 894-1293; e-mail: info@beadshow.com; Web site: www.beadshow.com.

Nov 11-13 Fenton (St Louis), MO 48th annual show; St. Louis Mineral & Gem Society; Stratford Inn, 800 S. Hwy. Dr.; contact M. Perucca, 1307 Mystic Seaport, Fenton, MO 63026. [meliss530@aol.com](mailto:meliss530@aol.com)

Jan 21-22 Keokuk, IA, Worthen Earth Searchers, Keokuk Mall, Contact Merlin Tobias, 1765 E Co Rd 900, Carthage, IL 62321, (217) 743-6259, [ktobias@adams.net](mailto:ktobias@adams.net)

Jan 25-29 Quartzite, AZ 40th annual show, "QIA Pow Wow" Quartzsite Improvement Association; 235 E. Ironwood Dr.; contact Diane Abbott, P.O. Box 881, Quartzsite, AZ 85346, (928)927-6325

e-mail: [qia@redrivernet.com](mailto:qia@redrivernet.com); Website: [www.quartzsiteimprovementassoc.com](http://www.quartzsiteimprovementassoc.com).

Mar 10-12 Kansas City, MO 45th Annual Gem & Mineral Show, Association of Earth Science Clubs, KCI Expo Center; [www.kcgemshow.org](http://www.kcgemshow.org)

Mar 18-19 Cedar Rapids, IA: 42nd annual show; Cedar Valley Rocks & Minerals Society; Hawkeye Downs, 4400 6th St. SW; contact Leslie Blin, CVRMS, 505 5th Ave., Marion, IA 52302-3258, (319) 377-3339.

May 5-7 McPherson, KS: 14th annual sale and swap; McPherson Gem & Mineral Club; 4-H Fairgrounds, Hickory and Woodside; contact Marvin Lundquist, 441 N. Charles, McPherson, KS 67460, (620) 241-7003; e-mail: [swederocker@mpks.net](mailto:swederocker@mpks.net).

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**PROGRAM NOTE**

The program this month will be on the Barrel Method of Rock Tumbling, with instructions on how to build your own rock tumbler.

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**New Lapidary Class to Start**

There will be a new Lapidary Class starting at the Sermon Center. The scheduled dates are

November 7, 9, 14, 16 from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. As of the date of this publication, the class was not yet full, so reserve your place now! Contact The Sermon Center at 816-325-7370 to register. This class always fills up fast. There is a \$20.00 fee for the class, payable to The Sermon Center, and a \$5.00 materials fee which you will need to pay the first night of class. For information about the class, contact The Sermon Center or the instructor, **Ray M. xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx** The Sermon Center is located at 201 N. Dodgion St in Independence.

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**HAVING FUN – JUNIOR ACTIVITIES**

*by Jim Brace-Thompson, Jr. AFMS Activities Chair*

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ONE JUNIOR – AND ENCOURAGING MANY MORE!**

This month, I offer congratulations to Alaura Ann Barnes of Kansas City, Missouri! Alaura prepared a juniors display for this year's Midwest/AFMS Show & Convention in St. Louis and won the Lillian Turner Award. Some time ago, AFMS member Lillian Turner of Bethesda, Maryland, generously donated funds to support an award for the Outstanding Junior who exhibits at the Annual AFMS Show. The award consists of a certificate, a \$100 bond, and a mineral specimen. It is presented at the awards ceremony during the Show. Even more important than the monetary value is the honor and recognition of receiving this award and the pride it can engender in a junior member for a job well done in planning and assembling an excellent display.

Alaura is an adorable six-year-old girl who was accompanied at the ceremony by her grandmother. Her case was entitled "**Quartz I Collected**" and the exhibit included a picture of Alaura on a field trip hunting crystals in Arkansas. Along with the certificate and bond that comes with the Turner Award, she received a split geode lined with crystals to add to her collection. My thanks to Toby Cozens for facilitating the award in my absence this year, and my congratulations to Alaura!

Last year, we had no junior exhibits entered into eligibility for this award, and this year, Alaura's apparently was the only one. We need to do better, and I encourage everyone to make a concerted effort to work with kids and youth in your local clubs to encourage them to enter displays into your regional shows, whether competitive or noncompetitive. Planning, preparing, and setting

up a display and then attending a show and seeing all the other displays and meeting with those who prepared them is a great way to expand a child's horizons, to meet new and interesting people who are most actively engaged in our hobby, and—as always—to have fun!

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### UPDATE YOUR MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

When you renew your dues this year please complete a Membership Renewal Application. The purpose of this is to update the address and phone information for our club members. Dues must be paid by February 4, 2006, for your family to be included in the Club Directory, which will be distributed at the February meeting. The information gathered from the renewal application will enable the club officers to plan programs of interest to club members in the next year.



### BIRDS FROM DINOSAURS – THE DEBATE CONTINUES

In the recent *Journal of Morphology*, University of North Chapel Hill scientists are disputing the assertion that birds evolved from dinosaurs. A team of scientists headed by Dr. Alan Feduccia believe that the rudimentary “feathers” in fossilized remains found in China were not feathers, but are instead pieces of decomposed skin and supporting tissues that just happened to resemble feathers.

Dr. Feduccia is not disagreeing that birds and dinosaurs had some common reptilian ancestors, but believes that making the leap from dinosaurs to modern birds is a “big mistake.”

Summarized from  
UPI article Oct 10, 2005



The Gemrock will periodically be running articles by Mr. John Betts, noted mineral collector and dealer on the east coast. He has graciously given us permission to serialize some of his articles. If

the articles are used by other bulletins or newsletters, please contact Mr. Betts prior to using the articles for permission to do so.



### Advice For Beginners: Nine Lessons Learned from Experience

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(Part II of II)

#### Don't collect more than you can display.

There is probably something psychologically unique about collectors. Freud would probably say we were poorly potty trained. Whatever it is, many collectors get out of hand and focus on the hunt, on gathering all they can. The result is a garage or basement filled with minerals in boxes. And what good are they in boxes!!? Somewhere in my collection of minerals in boxes I have a tourmaline from Lambertsville, NJ that I have promised to trade with another collector. But I can't find it. I might as well not own it.

So invest in a cabinet or display case for your collection and display them. It doesn't have to be a glass-front cabinet, a chest of drawers stores minerals very efficiently, yet makes sharing your collection with others convenient.

If you have more than you can display, then choose your best to display. Then take a hard look at what is left in the boxes. Do you really need them? If not, then take a few minerals to the next show or club meeting and offer them to friends or one of the dealers. If you do need to keep the specimens then spend some more money on display cases.

Eliminating specimens from your collection is a good thing, not bad. The minerals you are getting rid of can be traded with another collector or you can offer them to a dealer as partial payment for that killer he has. Most dealers will gladly allow you to trade up, though don't expect to pay for the entire purchase in trade. Trading is not to be

underestimated. The key to a good trade is both parties get something they want. When you are trading up, offer a flat of minerals for that one killer you just have to have.

Often the best trading is when you travel to another region. Offer minerals from your home region for mineral from the other guy's home region. It is likely that each of you will be getting rid of minerals that you are up to you eyeballs in and can't give away at home.

Every collector avoids de-accessioning by saying that "some day I will move to a bigger house and have room for lots of displays." Trust me, that never happens. If the house is that big you will have spent all of your money on the down-payment and closing costs. And the day after you buy it a major repair to the roof, boiler, (you fill in the blank), will require you to spend your mineral money on repairmen and supplies. So be realistic. Collect for today's situation. Get rid of your minerals in boxes.

### **Develop relationships with dealers so they call you when good material comes in.**

Once you are an impassioned collector you will develop a specialty in your collection. This is often collecting the same mineral from many different locations or collecting many minerals from one location. Whatever it is, you will be on the lookout for those unique mineral specimens that fill the gaps in your collection. The best advice I have is to develop a relationship with several mineral dealers that you have bought from in the past. Take the time to tell them your interest, give them your want list, check in periodically to see what is new. Dealers see more minerals in a year than you could ever hope to see in a lifetime. If they have you in mind, you will have a better chance at building a unique collection.

There is a down side though. If a dealer finds you something that you have requested, you run the risk of spoiling the relationship if you do not buy the specimen. I am not suggesting that you buy everything that is offered. But understand that a dealer will eventually drop

you from his list if you don't occasionally purchase his offerings.

### **Buy the best mineral you can afford.**

When you buy, get the best. Remember the last mineral show you went to that had display cases. Which was more impressive or memorable: the case stuffed with 50 specimen each worth \$20 or the case with one specimen worth \$1000. Though the dollars may vary, we all remember that "killer" at the last show. Yet both collectors invested the same amount.

Lawrence H. Conklin, the distinguished NY mineral dealer who has guided many advanced collectors, suggest that collectors do the following: set a budget for mineral purchases in the coming year, decide how many specimens you must buy during the year to satisfy your urges, then divide your budget by the number of specimens to set the target range for you purchases. For example you say you want to spend \$600 in a year and you go to six shows a year and have to buy something at every show. The advice to buy the best possible minerals says you should the buy one \$100 mineral at each show - rather than buying ten \$10 minerals. At the end of the year those \$100 minerals will look better than a collection of \$10 minerals

How much did you spend on minerals last year? Not many people can answer that. Take the time to add it up. It will probably be more than you expect. Use last year's purchases as a guide to set your budget. Then divide that budget among the fewest specimens possible. You won't spend any more than you intended, but you will end up with a much better collection.

### **Never accept any damaged specimens.**

Too many beginner focus on getting a good deal at low prices. The result is they often lose sight of the quality and condition of the specimens. The first step to moving out the beginner status is to stop buying damaged crystals. Never accept edge "dings" or "contacts". Period. End of discussion.

What if the dealer tells you that all minerals from a particular locality are dinged? Then you don't need specimens from that locality.

This simple rule will improve you collection and the collection will hold it's value much better as time passes. As you walk a show keep this rule in mind and you will not make a bad purchase.

**Conclusion**

Much of this advice is just common sense. But it is not readily apparent to the beginner. Take this opportunity to learn from experience. I have learned these the hard way. Half of my collection is boxed away in a closet and I still can't find that Lambertsville tourmaline...

This article and others can be found at Mr. Betts web site: <http://www.johnbetts-fineminerals.com>.

(Part I of this article may be found in The Gemrock Vol 57 #9)



**An After Word to the above article:**

Our Juniors spent their last meeting learning how to catalog their specimens. It had been suggested that they keep a notebook with Identification Cards that correspond to numbers they are putting on their specimens. It is a simple system, but perhaps some of our Adult members could adapt it for their use.

This is a sample of the card the Juniors were given to start cataloguing their collections.

<b>Specimen:</b> _____
<b>variety:</b> _____
<b>location:</b> _____
<b>date:</b> _____ <b>ID#:</b> _____

The cards were printed on Business Card stock, so they are not very large, but they do contain all the information necessary to identify a single specimen. They were given notebooks with the

plastic insert pages that hold Business Cards, so they can keep all their cards together.

You could use index cards, or if you are not technologically challenged, you could create a database that has fields for all the information regarding your individual specimens. The system would work for all types of collections, minerals, fossils, et cetera.



**GEOLOGIC TIME PERIODS**

**How they got their names . . .**

The three geologic eras are the PALEOZOIC, MESOZOIC and CENOZOIC - from the Greek for ancient, middle and recent life. They are divided into 11 periods most of them named for the places where rocks from the period were first discovered.

The Cambrian Period (570-500 million years ago) is named for Cambria, or Wales. The next two periods also received Welsh names: Ordovician and Silurian for two Welsh tribes, the Ordovicians and the Silurians. The Devonian is named for Devonshire, England, and the Cretaceous comes from "creta", Latin for chalk, referring to the White Cliffs of Dover, England. The Jurassic is named for the Jura Mountains in Germany, and the Permian for Perm is Russia's Ural Mountains. The Triassic got its name because it was easily divided into three parts. In North America the Carboniferous (carbon = coal) is subdivided into the Mississippian, named for the Mississippi River and the Pennsylvanian, named for the coal deposits first discovered in the state of Pennsylvania.

Shoshone Rock Club <http://www.geocities.com/jacmac43/>



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