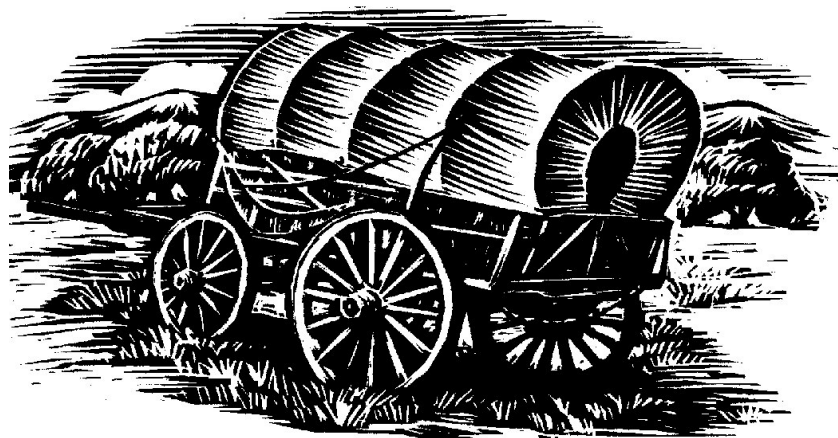


# **G THE M R O C K**

## **INDEPENDENCE GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY**

Independence Missouri



### **I.G.A.M.S**

**VOL. 58 November**

CHARLEY MAAZOUZ, Editor  
1600 E 80<sup>th</sup> St  
Kansas City, MO 64131

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**



# 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:** November 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  
December newsletter to the editor no later than **November 26, 2006**

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

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



**MEETING:** November 16, 2006  
**TIME:** 7:30 p.m.  
**PLACE:** Greenbriar Fountains



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It was good to see everyone at the October meeting. We are entering into the Thanksgiving season. We, as a club, and individually, have many things to be thankful for. IGAMS has been blessed with many years of wonderful members, a wonderful person teaching our Young Rockhounds, and a love for what we do in our hobby.

The March Show is fast approaching. I am always glad to see our club cases in the show. I look forward to seeing exhibits by our Young Rockhounds.

I want to wish all of you a happy Thanksgiving and hope everyone has a wonderful time with family and friends. Individually, we have many things to give thanks and appreciation for, such as our families and our homes and, to name a few.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the November meeting. We will have election of officers for the year of 2007. See you there!

Rebecca B.  
IGAMS President



### MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF IGAMS

October 19, 2006



Rebecca brought the meeting to order and the minutes of the previous meeting were read. There were no additions or corrections to the minutes. Molly reported \$1537.91 in the checking account and reminded members dues can be paid at any time for the coming year.

Betty and Mark started the Association Report by reporting that plans were being formulated for the annual Gem & Mineral Show, saying 18 dealers had already signed up. They also reported the August picnic was not well attended, probably because of excessive heat, and plans are being made to hold it indoors next year at the Trade

Center. It was noted Mr. Bones would be at the show and they were trying to get Lawrence Alpine Minerals to bring some of their unique specimens. They also reported minor changes to the by-laws were being considered.

Mark initiated a discussion on the dwindling number of people enjoying lapidary work and mineral collecting and ways to increase the number of people actively participating in the hobby. One suggestion was for everyone to put educational cases on display at the March Show.

Rebecca reminded next month we need to vote on new officers and a nominating committee had been recruited to help choose a slate of officers.

After a break and the door prize drawing a video on Russian Gem Treasures was shown reminding members our hobby has been practiced for a very long time by masters in lapidary work.

Door prizes were won by Mark S., Rebecca B., Wilburn & Helen O., Monty & Karen W, Judy O., Alaura B., Lois A., and Dave M.. The meeting was adjourned.

Kathy T., Secretary



### ASSOCIATION REPORT

The changes to the Association Bylaws were voted on and after a spirited discussion were all approved, with the exception of a change to proxies. The proxy matter was opened to discussion and was ultimately passed.

A report on dealers currently contracted for our March show was presented, we have 50 confirmed dealers with 164 tables sold. Gil Parker reported that he has a number of dealers waiting to see if we will have room for them at the show.

The Shows of Integrity exposition, the "Fall Show" had tables set up for local clubs for use. The Association Booth was set up and doing a brisk business. Martin Mueller manned the booth on Friday, reported he needs help for the March show as one person cannot man the booth. Saturday was a better day, thanks to Bob and Kathy T. who came in and worked all day long. Sunday was steady, Martin and Charley manned the booth

with “superintending” provided by Bruce S. Bruce was invaluable in helping to pack the booth up. Sales from the Association Booth brought in \$411 dollars. New stock for the March show were purchased for the booth.

College exhibits and special exhibits are being lined up. More committee reports to follow in the December meeting.



## GEODES

*Mitty Sticha*

A geode is a sphere shaped rock which contains a hollow cavity lined with crystals. This cavity can be as little as a pea, or almost as large as the sphere itself. One that is completely filled with small compact crystal formations such as agate, jasper or chalcedony is called a nodule.

Geodes can be found throughout the world. The most concentrated areas are located in deserts, volcanic ash beds, or regions containing limestone. The western U.S. has several famous sites for collecting. In the Midwest, western Illinois and adjacent parts of Iowa and Missouri are noted for their geodes.

Keokuk, Iowa and Hamilton, Illinois are favorite destinations for rockhounds out on a day trip in search of geodes. Geodes from Keokuk contain a variety of minerals, but quartz is dominant in most. Chalcedony layers also encrust the interior walls of many geode cavities covering the surfaces of the quartz crystals in a variety of colors, including gray, white, blue, yellow and orange. Most geodes found in the Midwest range from less than 1 inch to more than 2 feet in diameter with 3-5 inches being the average.

Geologists believe that geodes begin as bubbles in volcanic rock or as animal burrows, tree roots or mud balls in sedimentary rock. Over time, the outer shell of the geode hardens, and water containing silica precipitation forms on the inside walls of the hollow cavity within the geode. Over long periods of time (thousands of years) the layers of silica cool, forming crystals of different minerals within the cavity. Amethyst and calcite are also found inside.

Larger geodes are often used as book ends or for other decorative purposes. The largest geode I personally have ever seen was about 4½ to 5 feet

tall and about 25 inches around. The crust inside the walls was beautiful clear quartz, while the interior was amethyst with brilliant shades of purple and crystals the size of children’s blocks. It was at a rock shop in Nevada and was priced at \$25,000. I had left my checkbook at home that day, so had to pass on this purchase. Upon returning the next year, much to my dismay, it was sold. Next time.

From THE OPAL, Sept 2006



## MWF excerpts

The MWF Newsletter for November 2006 had a report on the Presidents’ and Show Chairpersons’ Caucus by John Washburn, Member, Long-Range Planning Committee.

Mr Washburn shared some handouts he had with the group. One of the handouts listed some helpful hints for struggling clubs. A few of the suggestions are reprinted here.

1. Reverse business meeting and program. Have program first.
2. Place meeting notice in local newspaper, listing the program to be presented with meeting time and mention that the public is invited to the meeting.
3. Give prospective new members a free newsletter for a couple of months.
4. When dues are delinquent, send out a postcard reminder of same with meeting noted.

Although our local club is not on life-support as of yet, maybe some of the above could be adopted to give IGAMS a boost.

On a similar note, maybe we could develop a handout for our club. We could make it available at the March show. I know from being in the Association Booth at the show, as does everyone else who works the booth, that the public asks lots of questions about where there is a local club they could visit. Maybe we could attract some new hobbyists and potentially new members.

**JUST A REMINDER TO ALL OUR MEMBERS, DUES ARE DUE ANY TIME NOW. IF YOUR ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER OR E-MAIL ADDRESS HAS CHANGED, PLEASE LET MOLLY KNOW SO SHE CAN HAVE THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR UPDATE THE ADDRESS FILE.**