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FIRST CLASS MAIL



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**INDEPENDENCE
GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY**

Independence Missouri



I.G.A.M.S

VOL. 58 NO. 03/04

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:
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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 May newsletter to the editor no later than **April 28, 2006**

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

igamsinfo@yahoo.com



MEETING: April 20, 2006
TIME: 7:30 p.m.
PLACE: Greenbriar Fountains

were read and the treasurer reported \$858.26 in the checking account.

Bruce reported a field trip was scheduled for the following weekend to Granby. Those interested were asked to meet at the Dollar General Store at 11:00 a.m.

Anna reported on Amethyst the February birthstone and Abbey reported on her own March birthstone the Aquamarine.

Dave reported he had received a request from an Oregon club for rocks, minerals, and fossils representative of our state for display at the Western Federation Show. He collected specimens and had them ready to mail. The Oregon club said they would mail specimens of their area to our club in return.

Ray said a lapidary class was scheduled for March 17. They had increased the size of the class to ten and had two others waiting for the next class.

Judy presented each Pebble Pup with a certificate for the case they displayed at the show and a geode plus a ruby for each from Dave. Their efforts are much appreciated by the club and a great incentive for future rock hounds.

Arnold reported there would be a special geode hunt at Keokuck for October 6 to 8 with new areas being available to hunt.

Kathy, Ray, Hannah, Zachary, Betty, Bruce, Dave, Kaitlin, and Bob won door prizes. After sharing finds at the show a motion was made by Dave and seconded by Bob to adjourn. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned.

Kathy T., Secretary

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FIELD TRIP REPORT

The weather tended towards maybe rain, definitely cool, but undaunted we started south on Hwy 71 towards Granby. The clouds above opened up and dampened the road, but what kind of rockhound lets a little cold, wet, miserable weather stop them?

Good thing we did not let it stop us, for the day turned out to be WONDERFUL (and the weather wasn't half-bad either).

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

There was no President's Message received for the April newsletter.

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MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF IGAMS



February 16, 2006

The meeting was brought to order and our visitors Mark and Larry were introduced to club members. The minutes were read and Molly reported \$885.25 in the checking account.

It was reported the Association is finalizing plans for the show. Members were told the building would be available for set up at 10:00 am on Wednesday March 8th and 9:00 am on Thursday. Kara has volunteered to chair the dinner on Thursday and requested members bring dishes for the potluck and set up their cases on Thursday. Betty requested help in the hospitality room during the show. It was noted the field trip to Oklahoma had been postponed until February 25.

Kaitlin, Kyle, Monty, Kathy, Alyssa, Rebecca, Ruby, Molly, Ralph, Lorie, Bob, Zach, and Tony won door prizes.

The Pebble Pups showed the specimens they had collected for display at the show and participated in the program given by Judy on the story rock and minerals tell of our history from the old volcano at Taum Sauk Mt. to the Inland Sea of Kansas.

Kathy T., Secretary

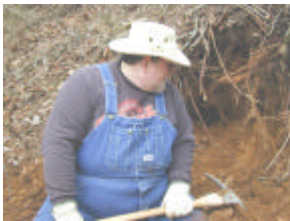
March 16, 2006

The meeting was brought to order and our visitors Arnold, Ron, Gwen, Eldon, Emily, and Tim were introduced to about 40 members. The minutes

We had a good turnout, happy to see new members in the mix. The sun managed to make itself presentable and we left the meeting point to go to the mine dump. A little thing like the gate being locked couldn't stop us, and besides, the commissioner met us out there (he had forgotten the key) and told us to "just drive around that gate", so we did. Well, most of us did. One faint-hearted opted to leave their car outside the gate and caught a ride in with Bruce.



We headed straight on back to what had been a promising location on an earlier field trip, and were not disappointed. One week later and the brambles, poison ivy and noxious weeds would have been a definite bummer, so we picked a good weekend. Shovels and picks in hand, everyone commenced to digging.

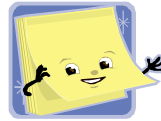


The less ambitious of the group contented themselves with walking around and picking up the calcites that were just lying everywhere on the surface.

After a decent interval of time, Martin and Charley took off to another area in the dump to do just a little "exploring". Good move, we turned over an area we had not previously been through, and everyone picked up some nice small galenas. A few sphalerites, maybe smithsonite and some interesting chert were found.



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DATES TO REMEMBER

- 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; swederocker@mpks.net.
- May 6-7 Rolla, MO, 11th Annual Swap, Central MO Mineral, Fossil and Gem Society, 12860 S HWY 63. gbry195@rollanet.org
- May 19-21 MWF Federation Show, Southgate, MI
- June 9-11 RMFMS Federation Show; Stillwater, OK
- August 18-20 SFMS/AFMS Show, Nashville, TN
- August 19-20 Greater St Louis Association 14th annual show, 1001 Veterans Memorial Parkway, St Charles, MO. rrcode@nothnbut.net

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ASSOCIATION REPORT

The show was a great success. Lots of dealers, lots of exhibits, lots of excitement (Especially with the evacuation of the exhibit hall due to a tornado warning). Preliminary reports indicate that the Association was able to cover the costs of the show and put a little money into the treasury. IGAMS cases brought our club a check from the Association for \$880.00, we had 44 cases put in by our members, including 8 cases put in by our Juniors.

Discussions are being held regarding a possible move in location for next year's show. There is still one year left on our contract with the KCI Expo center, and that will have to be worked out. Possible locations discussed for the show include the Three Trails Expo Center at E.87th and I-435, and the previous location on Front Street.

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UPDATE YOUR MEMBERSHIP ROSTERS!



Arnold A
xxxxxxxxxx
Kansas City, MO 64134

Timothy S and Becky G, and daughter Emily
xxxxxxxxxxxxx
Blue Springs, MO 64015

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KID'S KORNER KLUES TO MINERAL IDENTIFICATION

(HOW TO KNOW THE RIGHT NAME FOR YOUR MINERAL)

Who are you? You can answer by describing things about yourself. For example, you are 10 years old, have brown hair, blue eyes, can whistle, are skinny and are part of your family.

You can know what name a mineral has by how it is described. The following are clues to help name your mineral. These are called **properties**.

1. What shape are the crystals? (**crystal system**) Example, 6-sided=hexagonal.
2. How hard is it? (**Moh's Scale of hardness**) Example, calcite is soft [hardness 3] and quartz is much harder [hardness 7].
3. What color streak does it have? (**streak test**) Example, hematite may look brown but leaves a red line on a streak plate.
4. What color is it? (**color**) Some minerals are always the same color. Example: Azure is only blue.
5. How does it reflect light or shine? (**luster**) Example, galena is metallic and quartz is glassy.
6. What shape does it break into? (**cleavage**) Example, mica breaks into paper-thin sheets and galena breaks into little cubes.

These 6 properties are usually enough to name your mineral. You can ask more questions to learn additional properties:

7. How heavy is it compared to something of the same size? (**specific gravity**) Example, a piece of lead is much heavier than a piece of pumice of the same size.

8. Does it fluoresce (shine a different color under ultraviolet light)? (**fluorescence**) Example, yellow fluorite may fluoresce bright blue.
9. How does it act if dropped in acid? (**acid test**) Calcite will bubble in room temperature acid (use vinegar) but fluorite won't.

A mineral book will name your mineral by the answers to these questions. Compare your clues to the information listed for each mineral in the book. Example: Suppose your mineral is from a limestone quarry and could be calcite or fluorite. If it is soft (hardness 3), bubbles in vinegar, and breaks in to slightly squashed rectangles, you have CALCITE. If it is hardness 4, does not bubble in vinegar and breaks into cubes or rectangles, you have fluorite.



Have fun being a scientist!

Michele Yamana, Junior Activities Chair
MWF News April 2006- Issue No 451

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INSIDE DAVID'S HEAD

David Reed, IGAMS Member

In my never-ending quest to obtain enough published geologic material to collapse the floor of my apartment (I did ask them what the structural strength, in pounds per square foot, of the floor of my future domicile was. They had no idea, and didn't understand why someone might ask such a question. Clearly, they had no experience with rockhounds.), I recently (in the last 4 months) found out about a publication full of Field Trips in the Kansas City area. It is called "Geologic Field Trips in the Greater Kansas City Area", and was a joint publication between the Mo Department of Natural Resources and the Geological Society of America (Special Publications # 11). Before you all go racing out to Rolla to buy it (like I did), it is not available through the Mo DNR publishing (www.dnr.mo.gov/geology) (free shipping & little fliers (great for kids) if you show up there!). Instead, I got my copy through UMKC,

where, in 2003, this wonderful little spiral bound book was made available to the members of the GSA (I have not joined, but judging by the quality of other Field Trip books made for them, I may have to). It is not, as the title suggests, simply a series of locations to get good rocks, but a complete geology (and bibliography!!) of Kansas City, done in tribute to Dr Richard Gentile (his class texts on geology & fossils of KC are great, but the new R.I.-70 "The Paleozoic Succession In Missouri, part 5, the Pennsylvanian Subsystem" is the triumph of a career), and includes much original (and some very old) research. I can think of no better reference for fossil hunting here in KC, other than someone walking you to a location, putting your hand on the rock, and telling you what is in it.

Tangentially, the people at the apartments may have come to appreciate my presence a little more, in that I may have had some effect in getting the blasting stopped here. My apartment is within a mile of HWY 71, and they were blasting between Red Bridge & Longview roads. At 3 pm each day, they were using a very large charge, so as to break up enough rock before the rush hours (pm, then subsequent am) for their trucks to stay busy. This charge shook me in my bed, awakening me from my nap even when the alarm clock would not, so I could get to work on time (I work 4:30pm to 1:00am in the sulfurous bowels of hell know as the IRS, listening to people ask "Where is my refund?" "I don't really have to pay this money, do I?", and my personal favorite "Are you a machine?"). I went to the apartment manager, and suggested that it might be worthwhile to contact Mo DOT, in case the foundations of the buildings were affected by the blasting (the coincidence, that this may deflect blame for the settling of the foundation of the eight family apartment block I live in away from me, is just that. Besides, since the MOM-ification (MOM coming by and imposing rules of order and aesthetics, so as to conform with basics principles of lack clutter, cleanliness, and light. Earlier, the fashion police had come by, and condemn two thirds of my wardrobe (by that, I mean every piece of clothing I had received since

age 13) as unfit for human use. Both groups would have gone much further, but they were hoping for "voluntary compliance".) of my place, few would believe that a monomaniacal collector lives there.). I even went so far as to later obtain the contact from Total Risk Management to whom Mo DOT had contracted this responsibility. Without reservation, I can recommend the use of dynamite as a substitute alarm clock, because of this experience.

Earlier I had mentioned the MO DNR R.I.-70 "Paleozoic Succession in Missouri". This 5-volume set was conceived to clarify the geology of Missouri. Its purpose was to clarify the nomenclature and geology within Missouri. From the beginning, geologic sections have been described, hillside-by-hillside, by workers in the field. There was no complete listing of the stratigraphic succession (the vertical listing of what rock is found on top of what other kind of rock, where they are found, and how old (roughly) they are) for Missouri, or for that matter anywhere else, until after 1961 when uniform standards (for states in the U.S.) were adopted (the idea of doing this internationally began in the 1980s). This requires fully searching all the geologic literature, comparing of every published & unpublished section by experts in the area, and the culling and combining of data in to one universal omnibus, which is acceptable to all workers in one state. The combining of data from states to form a nation and/or international data base are underway, but require complete data from the lower layers first (in answer to the unspoken question, yes, this does mean that the same kind of rock can have different names in different states. At least it no longer is different within and between counties. And they are working to remove this problem.). Its five titles are "Cambrian System", "Ordovician System", "Silurian & Devonian Systems", "Mississippian System", and "Pennsylvanian Subsystem". They have increased in size as volume numbers have increased. Volume 4 is 182 pages in length, volume 5 is 1,225 pages. This made volume 5 unprintable, but it is

available on CD-ROM as a large PDF file (with color pictures, too). It is due solely to the decades of work of Dr Gentile that this wonderful book ever was created. Its name reflects the current (as of 2003) international rules, as the Pennsylvanian has been downgraded to a sub-system of the Carboniferous system. If you have ever wanted to stop your car at the side of the road, and have maps and pictures showing you what the names of the different layers of rock are, and what you can find in them, you need to have this book.

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UPDATE ON RICHARD’S SPUR, OKLA

The Dolese Quarry at Richard’s Spur, Oklahoma, has been a wonderful place to collect some very fine calcite and pyrite specimens, as well as a literal bone yard for Permian beasties. The beasties are, alas, the cause of the Dolese Company now permanently closing the quarry to rockhounds and amateur paleontologists. As you may recall, we had planned a field trip to the location in February that was cancelled, literally, at the last minute. There was a meeting held in Oklahoma City with representatives from University of Oklahoma, and Dolese officials. At that meeting, the company made the decision that the only collecting that will be allowed in the quarry in the future is through and by educational institutions. This is sad news for all. Friends of Minerology had planned on holding their annual Symposium in the Lawton area in the Fall of 2006.

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HEAT TREATING AGATES

Some agates respond well to heat-treating to restore colors. For example, many Lake Superior agates have lost their vivid reds and oranges. The structures are intact but the color has faded to almost uniform light tans and browns. To treat, place a layer of clean sand or kitty litter 1” to 2” deep in a Pyrex dish. Place a layer of rocks or

slabs in dish. Cover thinly with sand or kitty litter. Place in oven at 150 degrees for two hours. This drives out the moisture that could cause the stones to explode. Next, raise the temperature 50 degrees every half-hour until 500 degrees are reached. Leave on for two hours at 500 degrees. Then turn off the oven to let cool, preferably overnight. **No Peeking!** Allow container to cool completely to room temperature before opening the oven door. This process takes approximately ten hours.

Rolling Stones Beacon 01/06 via Rockwood Rockhound News Vol 35 #4

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BE SAFE – BE WELL

By Don Moore, AFMS Safety Chair

These Safety Rules are excerpted from Mr Monroe’s column in the AFMS Newsletter – April 2006.

SAFETY RULES

Jewelry making can be a most enjoyable hobby but there are certain hazards which must be avoided, and can be, by following a few simple rules.

- ✂ **Work Safely.** You can’t get by on luck.
- ✂ **Don’t polish a wire or chain on a rotary tool** without nailing the wire or chain to a board. This might wrap around the arbor and pull your hand with it.
- ✂ **Don’t set fire to your clothing** with the torch. Fuzzy sweaters are dangerous.
- ✂ **Don’t drop the torch** or fail to turn it off. An explosion might follow.
- ✂ **Don’t pour water into acid** when making pickle; pour acid into water.
- ✂ **Don’t turn over the pickle pot** or the boil pot. Keep handles to the rear.
- ✂ **Don’t put a large piece of very hot metal in pickle.** It might splash.
- ✂ **Don’t pick up the charcoal block** or hot metal until you are sure they are cool.
- ✂ **Don’t hold a piece being drilled with your hand;** the drill might slip or break or the piece might spin when the drill breaks through. Use pliers.
- ✂ **Don’t put your fingers inside any item** being polished, for example, a belt-buckle,

a ring, a bracelet, etc. Hold the work being polished between finger-tips and thumb.

- ✂ **Don't wear rubber gloves** or fingerstalls when polishing, these might wrap around the arbor.
- ✂ **Don't work without some protection for the eyes** such as plastic goggles or a magnifying eye piece, particularly when using a rotating wire brush.
- ✂ **Don't let your tie or hair get caught by the rotating arbor.** This could be fatal.
- ✂ **Don't get into contact with electricity** or belts. Don't work on a wet or damp floor.
- ✂ **Don't fail to report any apparent hazard** immediately.
- ✂ We repeat: **"Work safely. You can't get by on luck!"**

Just fail to observe these rules and you will find your situation comparable to that of the fellow whose wife had the stone-cutter carve on his tombstone, "I told you to go to the doctor".

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Pictures From The Show



A tired little rockhound.

Waiting out the Storm



Bill doing what Bill Does



Martin doing what Martin does.



Visitors in Judy's Area