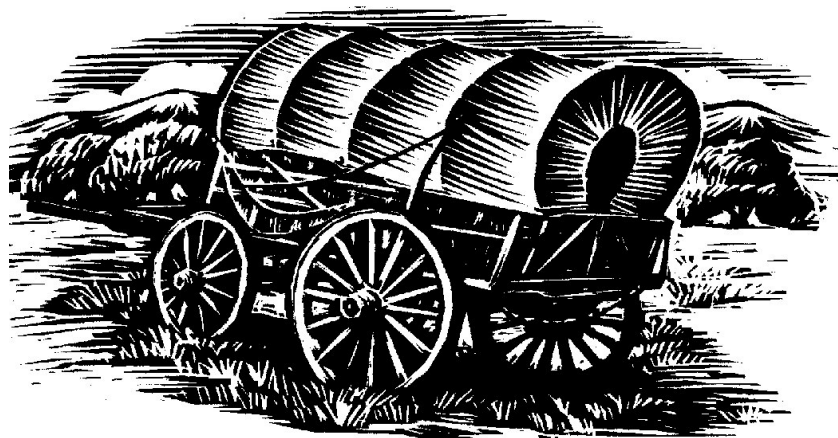


# **G THE M R O C K**

## **INDEPENDENCE GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY**

Independence Missouri



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

**VOL. 58 NO. 05**

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:** 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

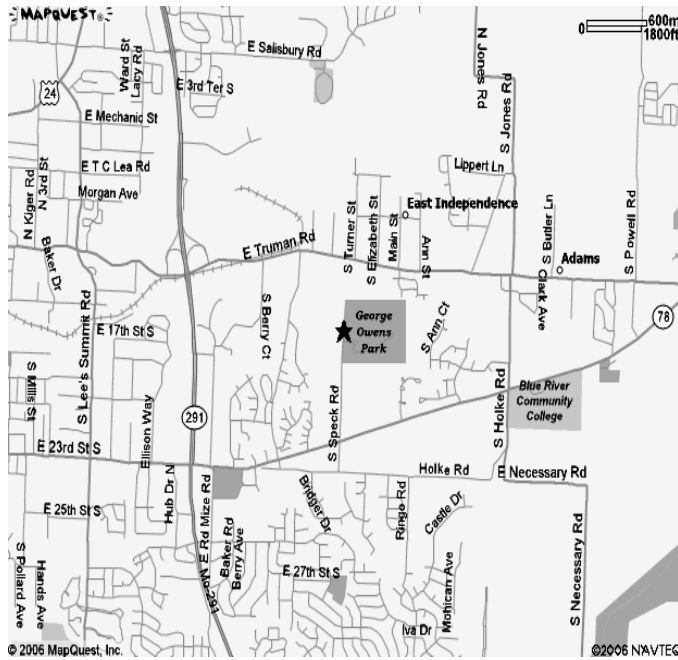
**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:** Submissions for the September newsletter to the editor no later than **August 31, 2005**

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

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



**MEETING:** May 18, 2006  
**TIME:** 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.  
**PLACE:** George Owens Nature Park



thirty members and our visitor Mark met at the fountain (literally) for an abbreviated business meeting. Molly reported \$1913.26 in the checking account with \$880 dollars being from cases displayed at the show, \$110 in donations, \$95 in dues, and \$8 for patches.

Bruce reported a field trip was planned for Lake Kanopolis on Saturday. Those wishing to go on the field trip should meet at the South end of the dam Sat at 11:00 and a trip to Lake Wilson is planned later in the day. Bruce also shared some of the specimens he had collected at Granby on the last field trip from the tailgate of his pickup.

Those attending the Association Meeting gave an Association Report. They reported attendance had been down slightly on Sunday, the day the room was evacuated for a tornado warning, but enough revenue was generated to pay the bills and have a slight profit. It was reported Kim had been elected President of the Association, Bruce Vice-President, Betsy Secretary, and Joanie Treasurer. Ray reported conducting two Lapidary Classes at the Sermon center and hopefully recruiting new members for the clubs. A motion was made by Betty to investigate getting out of our contract with the Expo Center and moving back to Front Street. The motion carried.

Mark agreed to present his program prepared for this meeting at the June meeting and our President, Rebecca, adjourned the meeting.

Kathy T., Secretary



**MAY PROGRAM**

The May program will be presented by Bruce. He will be speaking on Kentucky Fluorite.

**PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE**

*There was no President’s Message received for the May newsletter.*



**MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF IGAMS**

April 20, 2006



The club was unable to meet in the usual place because of an undiagnosed illness afflicting many residents of the center. Over



**DATES TO REMEMBER**

- 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 14<sup>th</sup> annual show, 1001 Veterans Memorial Parkway, St Charles, MO. [rrcode@nothnbut.net](mailto:rrcode@nothnbut.net)



**UPDATE YOUR MEMBERSHIP ROSTERS!**



Rebecca Bxxxxxx  
 xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx  
 new phone: xxx-xxx-xxxx



**MAY FIELD TRIP**

A field trip has been planned with the Juniors in mind. "Grown-Ups" are welcome to show up also.

We are going south to Oklahoma. Yes, for all of you who have been just pleading for an opportunity to endure northwest Oklahoma wind and sun, this is it. **May 27** is the date this is planned. Come on out to the digging area any time you get there.

The object of our search are the Hour-Glass Selenite crystals from the Salt Plains Wildlife Refuge, between Cherokee and Jet Oklahoma. The following information was taken from the website : <http://www.greatsaltplains.com>

**From Wichita...** Drive south on I-35 to Exit 222 at Blackwell. Drive west on Hwy 11 to Hwy 38. From there, turn south to the Great Salt Plains State Park...To go to the crystal digging area and Cherokee Nature Park, from Hwy 11 and 38 continue west on Hwy 11 to the flashing light at Hwy 64. Turn south 2.5 miles to Cherokee.

To reach the gate leading into the crystal digging area, from the post office at the south edge of Cherokee, go two miles south on U.S. Highway 64, to the crystal digging sign and turn east on the paved road. Continue on this road 6 miles to the gate. The visitor coming

from Jet, go six miles west on U.S Highway 64, then north on a dirt road for three miles, then east on a paved road one mile to the gate.

**Collecting Crystals**

There is no running water at the crystal area so be sure to bring some gallon jugs of water to rinse off the crystals, and also your hands when you get finished digging. It is also helpful to bring a shovel to start a new "crystal hole".

1. Use a shovel to dig a hole about two feet deep and two feet across until you reach wet sand. You may feel the shovel break through the crystals as it goes down. This can not be helped as there is no way of predicting exactly where a bed of crystals is located.
2. Allow two or three inches of water to seep in from the bottom.
3. Use your hand or a container to splash water gently against the sides of the hole. The agitated water will wash the soil away from the crystals.
4. When you find a crystal formation, continue splashing to wash it free of the supporting sand and clay.
5. At this stage of the process, the newly exposed crystals are wet and fragile. Use great care in removing them or they may break..
6. After removing crystals from sand, place them where sun and wind will dry and harden them. Egg containers or other containers may be used for transporting the crystals

**Selenite** is a crystallized form of gypsum. Chemically, it is a hydrous calcium sulfate. Gypsum is a common mineral which takes on a great variety of crystal forms and shapes. On the Salt Plains, the crystals are formed just below the salt encrusted surface. They are seldom found deeper than two feet below the surface.

Crystals take on the characteristics of their environment; the finer the soil, the clearer the crystals. Iron oxide in the soil gives the

crystals their chocolate brown color. Because these crystals form in wet soil, sand and clay particles are included within the crystal. These particles often form an "hourglass" shape, found only in this area. Other foreign objects in the soil, such as sticks, rocks, bones and even cockleburrs are sometimes included as the crystal forms.

Single crystals, penetration twins, and clusters are the typical shapes most frequently encountered in the refuge.

**SUGGESTIONS FROM SOMEONE WHOSE "BEEN THERE AND DONE THAT"**

It is almost always very windy. Remember, this is a big sandy salt flat, and sand and salt hurt like heck when the wind is blowing it into you! Tempting though it may be to go with shorts and sleeveless shirts, I would suggest long pants and a tee-shirt at least, if not a light long-sleeve shirt to cover that. Sun glasses are highly recommended. The glare from all that white is blinding after awhile. Besides, the sun glasses will help keep the sand from blowing into your eyes.

The water table is very close to the surface in most places on the Salt Flats. This is on the edge of a state park, and they usually bring in tanker trailers with water, useful for cleaning up, not recommended for drinking. Bring liquids to drink, you don't want to end up dehydrated!

The closest motel accommodations are in Cherokee, I think they have one motel. The next closest is in Alva, about 25 miles. Enid is the largest city in that part of the state, that is about 50 miles, and there are plenty of motels there. There is a map of the area available at the web site:

<http://mapshare.delorme.com/Consumer/V.aspx?p=vvwhn6f36>



**From the AFMS Newsletter:** We received the following communication the other day from Charlotte & Bill Morrison, members of

the Flatirons Mineral Club in Colorado. Charlotte commented on the ongoing misuse of the word "bolo" to refer to the rockhound necktie that's so popular and the campaign that she and husband Bill have undertaken to get the situation corrected.

Bill notes...a "bolo" is a long heavy Philippine single-edged knife. A "bola" is "a weapon consisting of two or more stones or iron balls attached to the ends of a cord for hurling at and entangling an animal. (Webster's Dictionary, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition)". The bola tie is a derivation of this item.

According to Bob Jones, noted author and Sr. Editor for Rock & Gem Magazine, the bola or slide tie as it was first known, was probably developed in the early 1920's by the Indians of Arizona for their own personal use. Traders visiting the reservations tell of seeing these ties and would occasionally obtain one for themselves.

According to Mr. Morrison, one of the first to recognize the potential for treatment was Vic Cedarstaff of Wickenburg, AZ. In 1949 he developed the first true bola, which he so names after seeing the similarity between the Indian made slide tie and the South American weapon. The ties became so popular that in 1971 the state of Arizona adopted them as the "official neckware" of the state.

AFMS Newsletter  
Vol 59, Number 7



**OHIO'S LAKE ERIE IS INCLUDED IN THE DIAMOND BELT**

By Francis X. Sculley

Our Great Lakes Region is the most extensive diamond field in North American and undoubtedly contains a thousand more stones for every one discovered.

Millions of years ago, this area was planed as smooth as a billiard table by a succession of glaciers that advanced and fell back. The

southern extreme of that advance is marked roughly by the Ohio and Missouri Rivers.

Yes, diamonds have been found in the moraines (dumps of boulders) that exist on the outer limits of the glacial advance. This range is about 600 miles long, and 200 miles wide. Ohio, western Pennsylvania and New York are included in the acclaimed diamond belt; in fact, the line extends to the very source of the Alleghany River in Potter County, Pennsylvania.

Only 50 diamonds have been recovered in this area, as compared to the 100,000 picked up in the Murfreesboro, Arkansas crater. It is certain that more have been found, but due to the fact that income tax laws penalize such finds, they haven't been reported.

Unquestionably, many of the area's mountain brooks contain diamonds, yet few search for them. Someday someone will stumble upon a 35 to 40 carat diamond under the collective noses of millions.

Scores of residents in Murfreesboro have tiny glass vials loaded with diamonds which they are holding onto as their nest egg. Safety deposit boxes in the village banks also hold quite a sum.

The potential of the northern diamond field is enormous. Many of the stones have been discovered, but tossed aside because few novices can identify a "diamond in the rough." Others are so small that they go unnoticed in the sands of Lake Erie's beach. But they are there!

Is it really possible that diamonds might be found on the Ohio, Lake Erie region? The four northernmost counties of Ohio are within the Great Lakes' field. If you can find a greasy stone with a dull, rough skin, it could be a diamond. The only way to find out is to have a small "window" cut into the surface. This will enable an expert with a 10-power magnifying glass to study the find.

The clear, colorless diamond is the most valuable, but "a girl's best friend" may be pink, yellow, or even pale green. A canary-yellow diamond is a joy to behold.

Take my word for it, rockhounding is a fascinating hobby. Next summer when you're on the beach at Lake Erie, don't just look for shells, look for diamonds.

(The author, now deceased, lived in Littleton, New Hampshire.)

Via THE ROCKPILE, vol L.

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

### Discovering Ancient Oklahoma



A Spiriferid Brachiopod from the Bixoma Lake Area

Oklahoma has a rich pre-historic past. For millions of years during the Paleozoic Era (248-543 million years ago), Oklahoma was inundated repeatedly by shallow oceans alternately with periods of lush swamps until the Permian Extinction event ended 95% of the lifeforms on Earth. Coal beds formed repeatedly during this era and can be seen exposed in numerous locations in Oklahoma's geology. Oklahoma's fossils are replete with evidence of these exciting periods of change in the earth as well as the evolution of life on the planet.

<http://www.paleook.com/>