



Arkansas Rockhound News



TOPAZ, November's Birthstone
November 2010

Official Newsletter of the
Central Arkansas Gem, Mineral and Geology Society

CAGMAGS

The Arkansas Rockhound News is Published monthly by the **Central Arkansas Gem, Mineral, and Geology Society**

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Website: www.centralarrockhound.org

Member of: American Federation of Mineralogical Societies
Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies

CAGMAGS
4900 Sparks Rd.
Little Rock, AR 72210

November 2010

Next Meeting: November 23, 2010 6:30 PM -
Terry Library

Call James (501-568-0315), Dave (870-255-3679) or Obie (501-337-0511) to find out about the field trip plans.

2010 Officers:

President: Mike Austen steelpony@aol.com
Phone 868-4553

Vice President: Tom Sharp
thom61847@yahoo.com

Past President: Jim Schenebeck
jsjimstone@yahoo.com

Secretary/Treasurer: Pat Kissire
4900 Sparks Rd.

Little Rock, AR 72210

501-821-2346 pkissire@sbcglobal.net

Committees / Chairs:

Programs: Pearl Roth

Library: Ann Austen

Membership: Mike Austen

Field Trips: James Burns

Show Chair: Weldon Kissire

Editor: Bill Alcott mister.bill@starband.net

Club Contact: Lenore Murray

Sunshine Chairman: Angelee Peeler

Junior Programs: Obe Willix

Webmaster: Bill Alcott

Time and Location of Meetings:

4th Tuesday of the month (January-November)
6:30 PM Terry Library, 2015

Napa Valley Drive, Little Rock, AR 7221

(Non-smoking) Visitors are always Welcome
Membership Dues \$15 Individual \$25 Family
(Yearly)

Mission Statement: The Central Arkansas Gem, Mineral and Geology Society is dedicated to promoting interest in mineralogy and the related sciences, interest in lapidary and the related arts; to encourage field trips and the enjoyment of collecting and preserving minerals as they occur in nature, and the study of geological formations, especially those of our Natural State of Arkansas. We are a small group of people that enjoy getting together to share our common interests.

2010 Meeting Schedule

July 28	August 31	September 28
October 26	November 23	

President's Message



The October club meeting had the largest group of people that I can remember. There were lots of members, new members and visitors, just what we would like to see every month. The club has gained new members every month this year, now we need to make sure to keep things interesting so they will all continue to return. Bill Alcott is now the editor for the newsletter and webmaster. Lets all give a big thanks to Phillip the out going editor for a job well done. Dave Murray will be the new show chairman for next year replacing Weldon, a big thanks to Weldon too. Elections will be held at the November meeting for the 2011 club officers, so if you want to vote or serve, show up and support your club. The club needs your help and input to keep growing and have another great year.

The November meeting is on the 23rd, the last meeting of the year. The program will be on the art of silver smithing. For those of you who just can't stand that there is no December meeting, do not worry, there will be a Christmas party this year. It will be a potluck dinner at the Kissire home. We had to give Weldon something to do now that he is no longer the show chairman. Details for the party will be worked out by the next meeting. Now that the weather is cooler I hope you all can get out there and enjoy the nice fall weather and do what we do best, hunt for those rocks.

MIKE

November Rockhounds

- Happy Birthday to club members David Dodson, Angelee Peeler, Toben Bennett, Mary Bolin, Roger Freeze, Marta Limberg, Gwen Lum, Dale Penrod, Kelly Roberts and Randy Worsham

Club and Coming Events

NOVEMBER

6: Taylor, MI. Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society's Annual Auction; Democratic Club of Taylor, 23400 Wick Rd.; Sat. 6-10, CONTACT: Cindy & Lou Talley, 30994 Dover, Garden City, MI 48135, (734) 525-1684, cindylou0202@yahoo.com.

6: Bloomfield Hills, MI. Michigan Mineralogical Society's Annual Auction; Cranbrook Institute of Science Auditorium, 39221 N. Woodward Ave.; Sat. 6:30; CONTACT: Mildred Hurt, 1211 E. Maxlow, Hazel Park, MI 48030, (248) 398-6693, georgematyas@att.net.

6-7: Midland, MI. Mid-Michigan Gemcraft and Mineral Society's Annual Show; Midland Resort and Convention Center, 1500 W. Wackerly Rd.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; CONTACT: Deb, (989) 430-4471, jackdanred1@aol.com. More information at http://www.midlandrockclub.com/index_files/Page663.htm.

13-14: Freeport, IL. North West Illinois Rock Club's Show; Highland Community College Student Center, 2998 West Pearl City Road, Parking Lot A, Building H; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4.

19-21: St. Louis, MO. St. Louis Mineral & Gem Society's 53rd Annual Show; Holiday Inn Viking Conference Center, 10709 Watson Rd. (I-44 & Lindbergh); CONTACT: Melissa Perucca, 1307 Mystic Seaport, Fenton, MO 63026, (314) 861-3865, peruccam@aol.com.

20-21: Madison, WI: Madison Gem & Mineral Club's Show, "Rockin' Madison 50 Years"; Alliant Energy Center, 1919 Alliant Energy Center Way; Sat. 9:30-5, Sun. 10-5; CONTACT: Nevin Franke, Burnie's Rock Shop, 901 E. Johnson St., Madison, WI 53703, (608) 251-2601; e-mail: burniesrockshop@gmail.com; Web site: www.madisonrockclub.org

DECEMBER

At this time, no shows in December.

Central Arkansas Gem, Mineral and Geology Society Minutes for October 26, 2010

Meeting was called to order by Mike Austen, President. There were 35 present including 5 visitors – Margaret and Lewis Gray for Oklahoma City, OK, Beth Bonn and Max Burnett from Russellville and Roy Mathews from Jacksonville, and 1 new member Andy Hendricks. Ann Austen, Spud Frost and John Peeler received October birthday rocks.

Minutes and Treasurer's Report were approved as posted.

Bill Alcott was introduced as our new newsletter editor and webmaster. Send articles to him at mister.bill@starband.net.

Eight members went on the field trip to Razor Rock and had a great time which included some members getting locked in while others were locked out. There is a possible return field trip in November for those who want to go again as well as those who could not go in October. Call James Burns for confirmation and date – 501-568-0315.

Weldon Kissire and Mike Austen talked about the October show. It was our largest attendance and dealers reported a good show for them. Thanks to all who worked we had more volunteers and it really helped. Thanks to Weldon for his work on the past shows and thanks to Dave Murray for his work in the future as our new Show Chairman.

The Nominating Committee presented a slate of: President – Mike Austen, Vice President – Tom Sharp and Sec/Tres. – Lenora Murray. Other nominations can be made at the November meeting before the Election.

A Christmas Potluck is tentatively planned for December 14th at Pat and Weldon's house (4900 Sparks Road, Little Rock – 501-821-2346). More plans at the November meeting.

Mike Austen had samples of the rocks collected on the field trip to Razor Rock and Roy Mathews (one of our visitors, who had displayed his faceting at our show), told us the story behind the BIGGEST pyrite cube I have ever seen. It had been the door stop at the 1885 Opera House in Leadville, Colorado.

Best of Raffle went to: Roberta Frost – copper and Mike Howard – amethyst.

The meeting was adjourned for the program. Bill Alcott presented a sample of his recent collection purchase. Pearl Roth presented an extensive display of Silversmithing tools as a preview of our November program – a video on Silversmithing.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Kissire

INSURANCE: PLAIN LANGUAGE

By Sandy Fuller, Treasurer – Reprinted from the Midwest Federation News, Oct.2010

Our Midwest Federation Insurance carrier recently clarified our general liability coverage. The General Liability policy covers bodily injury or property damage under specific conditions.

Our policy allows clubs to engage in special events:

1. To raise funds for the club;
2. To recognize the accomplishments of the club or volunteers;
3. Contract with other parties (not employ) to organize, promote, administer, or sponsor activities for the two purposes described above;
4. To use owned or leased premises for the above activities;
5. To conduct regular club meetings of members, and gem, rock or mineral shows to which the general public is invited to attend;
6. To collect or hunt gems, rock or minerals in open fields or open air quarries, but a quarry employee must supervise quarry collecting and all minors must have adult supervision; and
7. To participate in recreational mining activities at

venues where the public is allowed. However, the policy does not assume any liability for the owner/lessor of the property in this situation.

The policy specifically excludes the following:

1. Professional or semi-professional athletic events;
2. Pyrotechnic displays or sales;
3. Racing or timed events of all kinds, including but not limited to automobile or watercraft racing, airplane racing or exhibitions;
4. Animal or mechanical rides;
5. Aircraft or watercraft, whether motorized or not;
6. Any and all mining activities, including collecting or hunting for gems, rock or minerals, in underground mines, caves or non-open-air quarries;
7. Any and all rock climbing, rappelling or caving activities; and
8. Any and all use of power tools and equipment with the exception of hand-held metal detectors and small rock polishing equipment.

This explanation does not replace the actual language of the policy, which is the binding endorsement.

Remember, this general liability coverage protects against the negligent acts of the club and its members. It does not cover injury or property of the club or its members. The hiring of employees is also not covered under this policy.

Classified Ads

Club T-shirts



They are a Royal Blue with a large Club logo and the established club date. Sizes are Medium, Large, X-Large, and XX-Large Price is \$8 each.

Contact Mike Austen steelpony@aol.com

Phone 868-4553

.Learning to do Pearl Knotting

Pearl Roth is teaching pearl knotting classes at 939 Rector Street, Hot Springs, Ar.

Pearl knotting can be used best with any kind of round, oval, or roundish bead. call 501-623-7753.

From: Joseph Gill (gilljoseph1949@yahoo.com)

To: gilljoseph1949@yahoo.com;

Date: Sun, October 24, 2010 3 :27 :48 AM

Cc:

Subject: Free books on gems-jewelry-minerals

Hello, Gem, Jewelry and Mineral Lovers,

Please tell your club members about these FREE books ..

I am a gemologist, author and past Director of Jewelry for Sotheby's, North America.

I want to tell you about my FREE 650 page updated reference book "Gill's Historical Index To Gems And Jewelry Online - by Joseph O Gill, Aug 13 2009" Aug. 2009. More than 25,000 reference listings over a period of 350 years, 1652 - 2009 containing all works in the English language arranged chronologically and by subject, including 46 years of the Gems & Gemology from the GIA along with 7 other major gemology journals, plus all books. There are over 400 direct links to download or read the entire text on or off the internet. In an all NEW easily search able format, just CLICK - CTRL +F and type in anything: persons name, famous gem, locality, title keyword, year, etc .. Learn about gems of France, Nebraska, or Antarctica or even outer space etc., etc., etc .. IE, in five minutes learn when Richard Liddicoat President of the GIA, Gemological Institute of America, first came to the GIA and find every article he ever did, and every article that was written about Liddicoat. This Publication is being offered free and in WORD 2007 so any people can add any new or additional texts on their own copy.

There is also "Appendix 1 - Gill's Historical Index to Gems and Jewelry Online" that tells the fascinating history of this reference work, the first publication ever published by the GIA written by someone that was not a member of their own staff. It includes personal letters from many of gemology greats, ie, Liddicoat, Gubelin, etc ... You can read the letter where Richard Liddicoat, June 16 1977, was so excited that he agreed to publish this index even before he actually saw it.
(SEE DIRECT INTERNET LINKS BELOW TO DOWNLOAD FREE)

You would also probably find my "Origins of Gemology in Pictures" enlightening.

All free and 40 years of work, all for the love of gems,

minerals and the jewelry business.

Please forward this email to any other people that may be interested in gems, minerals jewelry and minerals, thanks.

I have invited the GIA to post my Index with its Appendix on any GIA web site for ALL to download.

You can feel welcome to post **BOTH** the "Index" and the "Appendix" on your web site for free distribution.

Please send me a quick email so I know you received this note.

I look forward to hearing what you think of these books. See our web site www.worldglobetrotters.com to learn about our 25 year trip around the world. Google it. We now have over 80,000 visitors from 120 countries each month. Best Regards. Joseph O. Gill BSC, GG, FGA, Gemologist & Author, Retired director of Jewelry for Sotheby's, North America

These are direct links below for FREE download of several wonderful books on gems and gemology:

- 1) Gill's Historical Index To Gems And Jewelry Online - by Joseph O. Gill, Aug 132009 - Joseph O. Gill BSC, GG, FGA, Gemologist & Retired director of Jewelry for Sotheby's, North America AT <http://www.archive.org/details/GillsHistoricalIndexToGemsAndJewelryOnline-ByJosephO.GillAug13>
- 2) Appendix 1 - Gill's Historical Index To Gems And Jewelry Online - by Joseph O. Gill 2009, - Joseph O. Gill BSC, GG, FGA AT <http://www.archive.org/details/Appendix1-GillsHistoricalIndexToGemsAndJewelryOnline-ByJosephO>
- 3) Origins of Gemology in Pictures - Gems, Precious Stones and Jewelry - by Joseph O. Gill 1976 - by Joseph O. Gill 1976 AT <http://www.archive.org/details/OriginsOfGemologyInPictures-GemsPreciousStonesAndJewelry-ByJoseph>
- 4) The Gill Collection of Historical Gem Books, Christie's, NYC, 1987-1988, Joseph O. Gill - Jewelry - This unique document is donated by Joseph O. Gill BSC, GG, FGA, Gemologist, Retired director of Jewelry for Sotheby's North America AT <http://www.archive.org/details/theGillCollectionOfHistoricalGemBooksChristiesNyc>
- 5) GEMS & GEMOLOGY - January 1934 - Winter 1980 - Joseph O. Gill collected and made PDF - Joseph O. Gill collected and made a PDF made by GEMS & GEMOLOGY - Quarterly, January 1934 - Winter 1980 Vol. XVI, No. 12 FREE Download of the first 46 years of GEMS & GEMOLOGY (192 separate PDF files). This author has downloaded each of the 192 separate PDF files and has combined them into a single, fully searchable, PDF docu ... AT <http://www.archive.org/details/GemsGemology-January1934-Winter1980>

6) PERSONAL SCRAPBOOK of H. D. Morse (First Diamond Cutters in America) & Charles M. Field – compiled by Joseph O. Gill, BSC, GG, FGA - THE PERSONAL SCRAPBOOK of Henry D. Morse (Trained The First Diamond Cutters in America) & Charles M Field (Inventor of the Modern Diamond Cutting Machine) Scrapbook (& Many Extras) THE PERSONAL SCRAPBOOK OF CHARLES M. FIELD (This Scrapbook was privately sold by this author, Joseph Gill, to the GIA in May 2001) Christie's Sale of "The Gill Collection of Historical Gem Books", Oct. 21, 1987
<http://www.archive.org/details/H.D.MorseFirstDiamondCuttersInAmerC.MFieldModernDiamondCutting>

EDITOR'S NOTES:

The URL's included with this letter are incorrect and or incomplete. I had little luck getting them to work as printed, and they're nearly impossible to type in manually if you're reading this in hardcopy. There IS a solution, though: Go to your browser and type in WWW.ARCHIVE.ORG (That's .ORG, not .COM), then find the search box near the top of the page that comes up and enter "Joseph O. Gill". The list of books Mr. Gill has posted will come up, and you can browse through the list and download any or all of them. One of the files in particular is rather large, as it contains 192 issues of GEM & GEMOLOGY magazine. The file is something over 400Mb, a long download if your connection is slow. I've downloaded it and would be happy to provide it with the other files on a CD to any members that would like one.



TOP TEN VARIETIES OF LEAVERITE

10. Buddyrite – Rocks your buddy won't carry for you.
9. Parkerite – When the car is parked just too far away.
8. Wetnbright – Looks nice wet, but gets ugly when dry.
7. Bucketite – Just won't fit in the bucket.
6. Goterite – Got too much already, don't need any more.
5. Yardenite – The stuff that will look better in somebody else's yard.
4. Whatsitite – No one has a clue what it is.
3. Groanerite – My back will hurt for a week if I pick that up.
2. Moanerite – Those worthless rocks that you will be sorry you kept after you get back home.
1. Wishnite – That rock you will really wish you had later, but did not pick up.

Contact Bill Alcott at mister.bill@starband.net or 882-2526 with information for this newsletter.

Midwest Federation of Mineralogical & Geological Societies Arkansas Museums

Bauxite Museum

PO Box 242, Bauxite, AR 72011. Off I-30, 20 miles south of Little Rock between Benton and Bryant. Historical mining museum, mineral displays. Volunteer staff. Free admission, but write to schedule a visit.

Hampson Museum State Park

PO Box 156, Wilson, AR 72395, (870) 655-8622. Administered by the State of Arkansas. Artifacts from the Nodena site, a Late Mississippi Period culture

KA-DO-HA Trading Post

PO Box 669, Murfreesboro, AR 71938. Privately owned display of Caddo artifacts and mound builders culture. Open 9 AM -5 PM September-May, 9 AM - 6 PM June-August.

Matilda & Karl Pfeiffer Museum & Study Center

P O Box 66, 1071 Heritage Park, Piggott, AR 72454 Built in 1933, the beautiful Tudor Revival House incorporates the simplicity and high style of the era. The house sits as the centerpiece of 11 acres of grounds and gardens, yet it blends into the landscape as if each were a part of the other. The interior design of the house is somewhat reminiscent of a Frank Lloyd Wright house, in that it is functional, yet beautiful. **Open** Tuesday - Friday 9AM-4PM; Saturday 11AM-4PM; Groups of 10 or more by appointment only

Parkin Archaeological State Park

PO Box 1110, Parkin, AR 72373, (870) 755-2550. At the junction of US 64 and State Road 184. Managed by the Arkansas State Parks and Arkansas Archaeological Survey as a research station, museum, and interpretive center for a Mississippi village (A.D. 1000-1550) visited by Hernando de Soto in 1541.

Toltec Mounds Archaeological State Park

490 Toltec Mounds Road, Scott, AR 72142, (501) 961-9442. Managed by the Arkansas State Parks and Arkansas Archaeological Survey. Visitor Center, A/V theater, research laboratory

University of Arkansas Museum, Fayetteville Campus, 72701

Fossil and mineral displays

ABOUT OUR HOBBY

Fulgurite - Petrified Lightning

Along the ocean beaches, sandy hills or dunes, people sometimes come across a strange hollow tube of cemented sand, sometimes in the shape of a tree branch, sometimes like a small straight rod.

This is a piece of "petrified lightning" - created in a fraction of a second when lightning struck the earth and fused the sand particles into silica glass. Scientists call these fragile objects "fulgurites" from the Latin word "FULGUR" meaning lightning.

When a bolt of lightning strikes an area of dry sand, the intense heat, with temperatures as high as 3,272 degrees C, melts the sand surrounding the stroke into a rough glass tube. In as short a time as 100-millionths of a second, a stroke of lightning pierces the earth and leaves this fused record of its searing path,. With diameters from 1/2 to 2 inches, some fulgurites are 10 or more feet long, although most are less than a foot.

They are nearly always found in pieces, for the brittle cast breaks easily if jarred, dropped or stepped upon. The inside walls of the tube are glassy and lustrous, while the outside is rough with sand particles adhering to it. They are usually tan or black, but almost transparent fulgurite has been found in Florida. They have been found in almost all parts of the U.S. - anywhere people happen to recognize what they are.

From Cabber Grabber via ESCOMO, Science News, Hy-Grader and Rockwood Rockhound News 9/94.

Don't forget to do your due, 2011 dues are due!

HINTS & TIPS

(Reprinted from the MWF Newsletter, January 2005)

Shop Safety: The clothing you wear while working with machinery is important. Aprons, sleeves, long hair, etc., can easily become caught in a belt that is not properly placed or covered. All belts should be covered in such a way that nothing can get caught in them. Rings on your fingers can get caught and tear off a finger. Watches can also get caught and pull an arm into machinery. Take time to thoroughly inspect your shop and look at each piece of machinery critically to see if anyone could possibly get hurt by operating it. Take time to fix anything that might be a hazard, either to you or anyone who might try to use your machines. Have insurance for such things?

By Bernice Achilles, Rock Writings 10/04

United States Diamond Mines and Mining



Rough diamond in matrix
Image: house.gov

Although diamonds are the most popular gemstone with United States consumers, domestic production of diamonds is very low. There is currently only one active diamond mine in the United States. This is at Crater of Diamonds State Park near Murfreesboro, Pike County, **Arkansas**. There, recreational prospectors have been finding a few hundred carats of diamonds per year since the early 1970s. However, this is a tiny amount compared to the millions of carats of diamonds consumed per year.

Crater of Diamonds is a dig-for-fee operation maintained by the State of **Arkansas**. The diamonds there are hosted in a lamproite breccia tuff and its overlying soil. Collectors pay a fee of a few dollars per day to prospect and can keep any diamonds that they find. This is the only diamond mine in the world that is open to the public. It has yielded a few significant finds: 1) the "Strawn-Wagner Diamond" - found at the Park as a 3.03 carat rough stone, it was cut to yield a 1.09 carat, "round brilliant" shape stone which received a perfect grading of 0/0/0 and stands as the most perfect diamond the American Gem Society has ever certified. 2) The "Uncle Sam" diamond, a 40.23 carat white diamond is the largest diamond ever found in North America.

At present, there are no commercial diamond mines operating in the United States. The Kelsey Lake Mine near the Colorado-Wyoming border was closed in April 2002. Estimated resources of the Kelsey Lake Mine at closure were about 17 million tons - containing approximately 4 carats of diamonds per 100 metric tons. About 50-65% of the diamonds produced at Kelsey Lake Mine were gem quality and almost one third of the gems produced were over one carat in size. The two most valuable stones reported to have been from the Kelsey Lake Mine were valued at \$89,000 and \$300,000.

There is good potential for commercial diamond production in the United States. Multiple diamond discoveries in Canada have prospectors looking at comparable areas in **Alaska** and **Minnesota**. More importantly, the Wyoming Geological Survey believes that a \$1 billion diamond industry could develop in that state. **Wyoming** has comparable conditions to the Canadian deposits and hundreds of kimberlite pipes are believed to exist. Twenty diamondiferous pipes have been discovered so far but assessment results have not been released to the public.