

THE SHAWNEE SLATE
LLEWELLYN ALSPACH, EDITOR

RESIDENCE: 46989 TOOLRY ROAD KONAWA, OK 74849

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O.BOX 53 SAINT LOUIS, OK 74866

EMAIL: LLEWELLYN53@HOTMAIL.COM



SHAWNEE GEM & MINERAL CLUB

NEXT MEETING
TUESDAY MAY 14, 2013 6:30PM
FIRST UNITED BANK
912 E. INDEPENDENCE ST.
SHAWNEE, OKLAHOMA

VISITORS WELCOME

Club Officers For 2013

President

Shanda McDonald

Vice President

Dianna Morris

Secretary

Robin & Anne Elliott

Treasurer

Tracie Portrey

Editor

Llewellyn Alspach

Email: llewellyn53@hotmail.com

Contributing Editor

George Finley & Mandie Briant

The Club Mailing Address

Shawnee Gem & Mineral Club

c/o Tom Morris

111 West Hickory

Shawnee, Oklahoma 74804

405-386-2314

tomor@mcloudteleco.com

The Shawnee Gem & Mineral Club is a non-profit organization. The purpose is to promote the study and appreciation of rocks, gems, minerals and fossils. We teach any and all relevant techniques and the AFMS CODE of ETHICS. We have a club library that is listed in the club directory. These books can be checked out on club nights by prior arrangement. Kept for a month and returned or pay an overdue at rate agreed on by the club.

When you are hiking or rock collecting and you run into an area of suspected illegal marijuana growing, Take a GPS reading and leave the area immediately. Gowers are armed and dangerous. Telltale signs are trash and 1" size black plastic tubings on the ground used for irrigation. Report the findings to the local Department of Public Safety.

Club Information

Meetings

Regular meetings are the second Tuesday of each month, held at the First United Bank conference room. 5:30 for juniors and 6:30 for the regular membership meetings. The First United Bank is located at 912 E. Independence Street, Shawnee, Oklahoma.

The Shawnee Gem & mineral Club is one of the clubs that make up the **OKLAHOMA STATE COUNCIL of MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES.**

It is a member of **THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN FEDERATION of MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES** and **THE AMERICAN FEDERATION of MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES.**

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Single membership.....	\$15.00
Family membership.....	\$20.00
Junior membership.....	\$6.00
Newsletter only.....	\$9.00

The Shawnee Slate is now available for free download on the club web site listed below. It is in the PDF format. Any photos or graphics in the newsletter can only be seen in color in the electronic version. There will be a year printed on your mailing label. This is the year for which your dues were last paid. Please check the year and be sure your dues are up to date. Also notify the editor if there is any mistake in your name, address, email address or dues paid status.

EXCHANGE BULLETINS WELCOME

For exchange newsletters contact the club via mailing address listed above.

Permission is granted to reprint articles only if proper credit is given to the author, Shawnee Slate and the date.

It is new and interactive! Check it out every month.

**Shawnee Gem & Mineral Club
Web Site**

<http://www.sgams.net>

2013

May Birthdays

George Finley	May 3
Tom Morris	May 22
Lanie Portrey	May 20
Glen Tutor	May 24

May Annivesaries

George and Loretta Finley May 6

Our Sick Members

Carolyn Johnson’s husband is recovering nicely from his surgery.

Please let the editor know if you or someone we know is sick.

Special Intentions

For those who are ill and ones we don’t know about. For friends and family we have lost. Those who have gone on to Rock Hound Heaven. (Our prayers are with you).

Condolences

May Refreshments

Drinks	Other
Bill Marsh	Dottie Smith

Save canceled stamps

(bring to the membership meeting)

Some people have ask me what this is for. Found a person in the RMFMS Susan Athens and ask her. She said (What I do is collect them for the Federation. We will find someone that will need them for medical help. For Example time on the kidney dialysis machine.) So; if you bring them, I will mail them to her and maybe they will help some unfortunate person in some way.

Up Coming Shows and Events

May 17-19—JOPLIN, MISSOURI: 7th Annual Spring Rock Swap; Tri-State Gem & Mineral Society; Schifferdecker Park; 7th and Schifferdecker Ave.; Fri. 9-6, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 9-3; free admission; outdoor show, door prizes; contact Chris Wiseman, (417) 623-1180; e-mail: jmc-cwiseman@sbcglobal.net

May 25-26—FORT WORTH, TEXAS: 62nd Annual Show; Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Club; Amon Carter Exhibits Bldg., Will Rogers Memorial Center; 3401 W. Lancaster; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$5, seniors, students and military \$4, children (under 16) free; "Timeless Treasures", more than 25 dealers, exhibits, kids' games, hourly door prizes, grand prize, silent auction; contact Steve Hilliard, PO Box 418, Decatur, TX 76234, (817) 925-5760; e-mail: fwgmc@embarqmail.com; Web site: fortworthgemandmineralclub.org

May31-June2—TULSA, OKLAHOMA: Wholesale and retail show; Gem Faire Inc.; Expo Center; 4145 E. 21st St.; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$7 (3 days), children (11 and under) free; jewelry, gems, beads, crystals, silver, rocks, minerals, more than 70 exhibitors, jewelry repair while you shop; contact Allen Van Volkinburgh, (503) 252-8300; e-mail: info@gemfaire.com; Web site: www.gemfaire.com

June 7-9—COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO: Pikes Peak Gem & Mineral Show; Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society; Western Museum of Mining and Industry; 225 North Gate Blvd.; Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-5; adults \$5 (includes museum entry), children free; special meteorite exhibit, meteorite dealers, operating antique steam engine and stamp mill, kids' area, gold panning, silent auction, minerals, gemstones, jewelry; contact Kim Packham, 87 Plum Creek Rd., Divide, CO 80814, (719) 360-9665; e-mail: runninboar@hotmail.com

Here are current listings for all over the country. When you are on vacation, you might just be near a really great show. Check it out. <http://www.rockngem.com/showdates.asp>

Don’t forget

Silent auction @ May Meeting

President's Message

Joyous Greetings Fellow Rockhounds!!!!

The sun sparkles through my office window as I type this. It illuminates the beautiful treasures lining the credenza behind my desk: a cluster of dark Brazilian amethyst, a chunk of glossy West Virginia coal (thank you Tom Morris), a glittery block of white mica from St. Maries Idaho, quartz crystals from Idabel, a Tecumseh mud ball, an assortment of agates, conglomerates, and petrified wood from Sasakwa, and crinoids from Ardmore. These mementos remind me of dusty digs, dirty knees, sunny, rainy, cicada song, summer-time outings followed by cook-outs, camaraderie, laughter and stories. Yes, these treasures are rocks. They are also tangible bits of ancient earth dances; Encores of heat and pressure, liquid to solid, flowing and forming. They are eons of existence, of life and the absence of life, and life again..... and.....here they sit.....for the blink of an eye in time on my office credenza. I keep them near to remind me how amazing it is to live on this planet. They remind me how being a part of the Shawnee club plays a great part in balancing out my world. They remind me how much I love playing in the dirt. Wishing you a wonderful Month of May!!!!

With love, Shanda

Our Family Rock Adventures for April

By: The Briant Kids

It has been a crazy month around here and the weather has been even crazier. We were able to attend a field trip put on by the AGMFC. It was located near Wewoka, at a place called Tucker Hill. We collected Marine fossils from the Pennsylvanian age. We found lots of crinoids! And, we found a few snails, coral and some stuff we are not sure about.

This month we also found some rock penpals! We have been talking about our adventures with other children that love rocks! So far we have exchanged a few rocks with kids in Ohio.

Attention Junior Club Members:

We have the opportunity to do a rock exchange with the Junior members of the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club from Lincoln, Nebraska. They have about 6 or 7 active junior members. I was hoping to get a box ready at our May meeting. If you would like to participate, please bring rocks to the May meeting. We could send rose rocks, small boley agates, small (whole) mud balls, calcite crystals, quartz crystals (from our Arkansas trip coming up), fossils, petrified wood, Luna Blue agate, Luna gold agate, barite balls, well the kinds are endless. I think we need mostly rocks from Oklahoma, but some from other places are good too. If any adult members want to contribute, that would be wonderful! And during our June meeting we can divide up the rocks they send us. Sounds fun and hopefully we get rocks you guys will love for your collection. If you guys want, we can do this a few times a year.

Thanks, Mandie Briant

Shawnee Gem and Mineral Club

Meeting Minutes April 9, 2013

Shanda McDonald, club president, called the meeting to order by asking if anyone had read the minutes from the March meeting. George Finley made a motion to accept the minutes with a second by Marcus Carson.

Correspondence:

Tom Morris shared information from Online Rock Hounding Adventures who apparently have slides to be either purchased or borrowed. He had also received information for the Cottontail swap in Colorado which will be August 8-11.

Shanda received an email from a lady, Connie Scott, from Stillwater, who receives our newsletter, (Llewellyn, our wonderful editor, apparently sends our newsletters to several surrounding clubs) and was really excited about our field trip to the Lindsay A & S Forever Rock Shop.

Llewellyn received a letter from the Tulsa Rock and Mineral Society wanting people to enter displays for their show in July 13 and 14. See Llewellyn for more information if you are interested in entering a display.

A letter was received from the Ada club thanking us for attending their show this year with a special thanks to George Finley for donating items and demonstrating wire wrapping.

George gave some history about how the Ada show got started. Very interesting! Thank you George.

Old Business:

If any one has ordered t-shirts and not received them yet, see Dianna.

New Business:

George brought attention to the Jr.'s article in the last newsletter which received a round of applause. Thank you, Mandie, for helping your kids get that together. He pointed out that it would have been even nicer if our Jr. editor had gotten her heading on it.

George thanked those who donated bottle tops.

Marcus spoke to the people at Sweet Surrender Quartz Mine in Ida, Arkansas who have just opened up a new vein, pulling out lots and lots of large points and clusters. The club then entered into an animated discussion about taking a field trip to this site. May 11 and 12 was decided on.

George shared information about the McCurtain county Gem and Mineral Club who, in the past, have had a field trip in the fall to dig quartz crystals and proposed that someone find out if they still have this field trip. He suggested that the club consider going.

Sunshine Report was given by Zelda Stewart and well wishes were extended to all who had cause to celebrate in April.

Llewellyn reported on the condition of Lena Hurley who has been released from the hospital and is staying with her mother in Ada. She is receiving physical therapy to improve her ability to walk and is doing well.

Cont. Pg. 04

Cont. from Pg.03

Llewellyn reported that Carolyn Johnsons's husband is having by-pass surgery tomorrow. Please remember them in your prayers.

Shanda talked about the Medieval Fair in Norman. She also shared an idea for using polymer clay to make impressions of crinoid stems and then baking them. Sounds like a fun project.

The **Field Trip Committee** has suggested that the club pay for admission fees for club members attending field trips. This subject was discussed and it was decided that each field trip would be evaluated individually before the club agreed to pay for admission fee for the members. Even though the club intended on voting on the Ida trip so the fee would be paid for, it was overlooked in the excitement of planning the trip. So, admission fee into the Sweet Surrender Quartz Mine in Ida, Arkansas was not approved.

Mandie has been trying to reach someone from the boley agate site in Konawa, but says that she has been unable and that the gate has been shut and locked the last few times she has driven by with no one in the office.

Treasurer's Report: Tracie is still learning the ropes, but gave a wonderful report of, "We've got money," in our account. 'Nuff said!

Tom has distributed the new "Shawnee Tablet" with 2013 membership information. If you did not get one, contact Tom Morris.

Arlene brought her copper etching using etching solution and rubber stamps to show the club. That was really cool. Marcus instructed our Jr.s in how to identify different minerals by using a scratch test and looking at the colors of the mineral. Thanks so much Marcus!!!

Annie Elliott shared an iPhone photo of a petrified palm leaf that is on display in the Devon building, downtown, OKC. Thank you Annie.

Thanks to Bill and Zelda, Marcus and Zachary for bring chili. It was awesome. The program was presented by Marcus Carson.

Secretary,
Robin Elliott

Don't Forget Silent Auction May Meeting!!!!

Hello, I was hoping you could pass this message along at your next Rock club meeting.

My name is Benjamin Zenko. I am with Rock Of Ages NWT. My partner and I are fellow rock-hounds, and we are the holders of the mineral claim for the Acasta Gneiss, the oldest known rock on the planet, dated at ~4.03 Billion years old.

We are looking to connect with collectors who would be interested in acquiring a specimen of this rock. If there are numerous interested individuals in your club, we can definitely consider working something on a larger scale.

You can check out what we've got at our website, or work directly through me for more immediate assistance. www.rockofagesnwt.com Thanks tremendously, and have an amazing day! Ben

NATIONAL KITE FLYING MONTH, APRIL.

By George Finley

I know it's not about ROCKS. Maybe it could be if we did a few things to make your kite Rock related kind of. What got me into this is an article in a news paper about a web site for Kites. <nationalkitemonth.org> It reminded me of my younger days when living in San Diego, California during world war two. Everything was used for the war effort. There just was nothing much left over for Toys. So we made our own things to play with. I got into making Kites of different kinds. I found some wood from crates and took a old kitchen knife and split the wood into long length about a quarter inch wide and what ever length it came out to be. I made mostly two kinds of kites. A two stick and a three stick. Everything was hard to come by. As for kite string I was lucky as my mother had some extra string from her craft of crocheting. So I was able to fly my kites higher than most kids. It was this high flying of kites that got me in trouble. As my kites were interfering with the new planes on their madden flights. they were getting in their way. Have you ever seen what can happen when the back draft from a plane can do to a kite? The only thing left was string as it would destroy the kite. I happen to hear the Police officer when he told my mother that the City of San Diego that evening had pass an ordinance that we could no longer fly my kites over 100 feet of string. This was so I would no longer be too high and in the planes way. He said this was because of me. They even had a Cartoon in the San Diego Newspaper about it. I still have a copy of that Cartoon.

Back in them days we use glue made from flour to stick the paper around the string of the kites. Now days you can get all kinds of glues for almost everything. Kids could build kites and have pictures of Rock, Fossils and Gems on them. Just an idea?

I have a bad habit of saying "Go Fly a Kite", in some cases when I get a little hot under the collar. My daughter-in-law and I had a misunderstanding one day while talking on the phone. You guess it I went and said, Go Fly a Kite and hung up the phone. My son said she was real upset with me. Her Birthday was just a couple weeks away and I got an idea. I found a box and made the insides to have a folding overlapping flaps half way up inside the box. It had a round hole in the middle where I had a long yarn cord with a dollar bill about ever six inches for each year of age. At the very top of the cord was a note that said, "HERE IS A TAIL FOR YOUR KITE."

The look on her face and the fact everyone else wanted to help with pulling the cord up for the next Dollar Bill went over great. I had bought two kites for my grandsons that help set it all up. At my age I sure wish I could get a Kite tail like that! It would be a long, long tail.

DENTAL GOLD You might think that a couple pieces of dental gold would be valuable, but if you only have a small amount, it can be a problem. You might think you could melt it and roll out your own sheet. However, the trace metals that dental gold contains to make it a good material in your mouth cause it to crack if you try to forge it or roll it out as a sheet. Sending it to a refiner is expensive for small amounts of metal, so a reasonable alternative is to try incorporating it into your jewelry. If you have enough material to do a casting, that's probably the best use for dental gold. If not, try melting it on a solder pad and while molten, divide it into small pieces with your solder pick and then flow the metal again to make little gold balls for use as accents on your designs.

Rock Candy

Ingredients

4 (12-oz.) glass canning jars	2 cups water
4 (7-inch) pieces clean kitchen string	10 drops Red food coloring *
4 wooden skewers or pencils	1/8th teaspoon cinnamon oil *
4 1/2 cups sugar	2 teaspoons Vanilla Extract

Preparation

1. Arrange jars in bottom of a large Dutch oven, and fill with enough water to cover jars by 1 inch. Bring to a boil over medium-high heat; boil 2 minutes (this is to sterilize). Carefully remove jars with kitchen tongs to a wire rack; cool completely, and dry.
2. Tie strings around centers of wooden skewers or pencils. Place one string in each jar, resting skewer or pencil across rim of jar, and making sure strings do not touch bottoms of jars. Set aside.
3. Bring sugar and 2 cups water to a boil in a large saucepan over medium-high heat, stirring occasionally; boil, stirring occasionally, 5 minutes. Remove from heat. Stir in food coloring, cinnamon oil, and vanilla. Let stand 5 minutes.
4. Pour about 1 cup syrup mixture carefully around skewer into each jar. Loosely cover with aluminum foil (including skewer); pierce aluminum foil several times with a skewer or knife. Let stand 10 to 14 days or until crystals form on strings. (Occasionally break up hard sugar layer on surface using a wooden skewer.) Remove strings from jars, and suspend strings between jars until crystals are dry (about 1 hour). Remove strings from skewers or pencils.

*10 drops of your favorite shade of food coloring may be substituted for red food coloring, and 2 tsp. of your favorite flavored extract, such as mint, strawberry, or orange, may be substituted for cinnamon oil.

Note: Crystals will form on the surface of the liquid. This is not a problem. Simply break them up, and scoop them out to enjoy.

Charlie Cundiff, Los Angeles, California, Southern Living

Mineral Valuating

There are no exacting standards to determine the value of minerals. An experienced person can guess a specimens price range by gathering certain information about the specimen. Certain unique properties will set it aside from other specimens of the same type. The important properties are:

Color and Intensity

A specimen with a dull color does not stand out. Intense colors quickly grab the eye and raise the value of a specimen. Rhodochrosite from Alma, Colorado, is very costly, primarily because of its appealing color. Even if the color of a mineral is not eye catching, it is still more valuable than a drab, dull specimen.

Transparency

This property is not applicable to opaque minerals. For most minerals, transparency creates a different view of the mineral. The greater the transparency, the more appealing it becomes, and thus, the greater its value.

Formation of Crystals

Almost all natural crystals are deformed, some more than others. The larger a crystal, the more it is likely to be deformed. Well formed or unique crystals will raise the value of the specimen, especially of large crystals.

Size

The size of a specimen is also very important. It is easy to buy to beautiful, well formed, not-so-common minerals without a high price tag, if they are small. Larger ones with similar properties will be quite pricey. Fairly large specimens, even of common minerals, are usually a higher value.

Luster

Luster is rarely a factor in mineral value, since the same type of minerals exhibit similar luster among each other. There are a few cases where a specimen naturally exhibits a more powerful luster than other minerals of its kind. These exceptions give the specimen a greater value.

Anomalies

Specimens of a mineral that exhibit unique, abnormal properties or are intrinsically different than normal specimens of the mineral fall under this category. Properties such as abnormal color, pseudomorphs, twinning, and odd crystals give a specimen extra value.

Presence of a Matrix

Crystals in a matrix are definitely more valuable than similar "freestanding" crystals. A matrix shows the original uniqueness of the mineral. Crystals in a matrix should always be selected over freestanding crystals.

Demand

Some minerals are valuable for the useful elements they contain. For example, many minerals composed of gold and silver may look ugly, but demand a high price because of their content.

Rarity

Obviously, rare minerals are more costly than more common ones. Extremely rare minerals have a great value, even if they look ugly. The opposite is also true. Fairly common minerals, even if nicely colored and well formed have little value because of their commonness (unless they are exceptional).

Article taken from www.Minerals.net

http://www.desertusa.com/mag02/Feb/ksteel.html?utm_source=April+2013+%232&utm_campaign=April+12+Newsletter&utm_medium=email

Excellent article: recommended reading especially for girls.

http://www.desertusa.com/mag09/aug09/seldom-seen-slim.html?utm_source=April+2013+%234&utm_campaign=April+26+Newsletter&utm_medium=email

Very good story for anyone interested in the desert southwest.

Yellowstone's Super Caldera is Awake

by Judith Washburn, MWF Geology Chair

At the heart of Yellowstone's past, present, and future lies volcanism. Catastrophic eruptions occurred here about 2 million years ago, then 1.2 million years ago, and then 600,000 years ago. The latest eruption spewed out nearly 240 cubic miles of debris. What is now the park's central portion then collapsed, forming a 28 by 47 mile caldera (or basin). The magmatic heat powering those eruptions still powers the park's famous geysers, hot springs, fumaroles, and mud pots.

The spectacular Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone River provides a glimpse of Earth's interior: its waterfalls highlight the boundaries of lava flows and thermal areas. Rugged mountains flank the park's volcanic plateau. The Earth's crust beneath Yellowstone National Park is still restless. Precise surveys have detected an area in the center of the caldera that rose by as much as 86 centimeters between 1923 and 1984 and then subsided slightly between 1985 and 1989. Scientists do not know the cause of these ups and downs, but they hypothesize that they are related to the addition or withdrawal of magma beneath the caldera, or to the changing pressure of the hot groundwater system above Yellowstone's large magma reservoir.

Also, Yellowstone National Park and the area immediately west of the Park are historically among the most seismically active areas in the Rocky Mountains. Small-magnitude earthquakes are common beneath the entire caldera, but most are located along the Hebgen Lake fault zone that extends into the northwest part of the caldera. A magnitude 7.5 earthquake occurred along this zone in 1959. Yellowstone National Park was jostled by a host of small earthquakes for a third straight day on Monday, December 29th, and scientists watch closely to see whether the more than 250 tremors are a sign of something bigger to come. Swarms of small earthquakes happen frequently in Yellowstone, but it's very unusual for so many earthquakes to happen over several days, said Robert Smith, a professor of geophysics at the University of Utah. "They're certainly not normal," Smith said. "We haven't had earthquakes in this energy or extent in many years."

Smith directs the Yellowstone Seismic Network, which operates seismic stations around the park. He said the quakes have ranged in strength from barely detectable to one of a magnitude 3.8 that happened Saturday. A magnitude 4 quake is capable of producing moderate damage, he indicated. "This is an active volcanic and tectonic area, and these are the kinds of things we have to pay attention to," Smith said. "We might be seeing something precursory. Could it develop into a bigger fault or something related to hydrothermal activity? We don't know.

That's what we're there to do, to monitor it for public safety." The strongest of dozens of tremors Monday was a magnitude 3.3 quake shortly after noon. All the quakes were centered beneath the northwest end of Yellowstone Lake. A park ranger based at the north end of the lake reported feeling nine quakes over a 24-hour period over the weekend, according to park spokeswoman, Stacy Vallie. No damage was reported. "There doesn't seem to be anything to be alarmed about," Vallie said.

There is a great DVD available from the History Channel on the "Mega Disaster: Yellowstone Eruption." It presents the idea that one of America's best-loved parks may be the most geologically dangerous place in the nation. Mega Disasters explores the worst of what could happen. Stunning computer graphics and actual footage combine to create convincing pictures of the risks faced by U.S. cities. All of Yellowstone Park is the caldera of an ancient volcano that is likely to erupt again! Go to www.history.com to order.

Sources: United States Geological Survey Web Site

Source: <http://www.usgs.gov/> and various newspaper accounts

Don't forget: Silent Auction at May Meeting!