

THE ROCKHOUND RECORD

Vol. 72, Issue 10

Newsletter for the Mineralogical Society of Arizona, November 2006



Upcoming Program - Tuesday, November 14, 2006

"China Odyssey, A 2-Week Tour of Discovery"
Presented by Shirley Fiske

Several of our members, Shirley Fiske, Lynne and Terry Dyer, and Deanna Smith, recently attended a trip to China to see several mineral museums. This will be a very interesting program!

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**BOARD OF
GOVERNORS**

Lynne Dyer
Terry Dyer
Bob Holm
KJ Werner

PAST PRESIDENT

Shirley Fiske
(623) 551-0882

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2006
7:00 p.m.
(replaces regular meeting)

Bishop's Restaurant
(separate dining room)
620 West Osborn
(Northeast Corner of
7th Avenue & Osborn)
Phoenix, AZ

Buffet-Style Meal
Adults - \$7.86
Seniors - \$7.17
Children (3-10) - \$3.90
Children under 3 - Free
Drinks Are Included

Questions?
Please contact
Shirley Fiske at
623-551-0882
or by e-mail at
ShirleyAF@aol.com

Happy Thanksgiving!



**Updated Contact
Information
For Gilbert Flores**

New Phone Number
(602) 421-6522

New E-Mail Address
gflores.westtech@yahoo.com

Please update your rosters.

**State Fair Award Winners
Contributed by Betty Deming and Shirley Fiske**

Martin Konig Award

Henry Dyer

Best Bola Tie - Competitive

John Colbert

Best Bola Tie - Noncompetitive

Ray Kopman

Ellis Johnson Award

Henry Dyer

Superintendents Award

Donna Baker

Bill and Jean Manney Award

Andrea Garza

**Arizona Mining and Mineral
Museum Award**

Melissa Langland - Junior

Awards Given by MSA

Bill Croegaert Memorial Award

Barbara & Sal Amato

Joe McIntosh Memorial Award

Barbara & Sal Amato

Fred Labahn Memorial Award

Jeffery Langland

Winners of Ribbons by MSA Members

Melissa Langland

Best Junior Miniatures - 1st Place

Fossils - 2nd Place

Ashley Langland, Junior

Pyrite suns - 1st Place

Single Apophyllite - 1st Place

Jeff Langland

Fossils - 2nd Place

Vandanite - 1st Place

Pyrite - 1st Place

Minerals (miniature)

Amethyst - 1st Place

Erika Richardson, Junior

Thumbnails - 1st Place

Allison Richardson - Junior

Utah fossils - 1st Place

Phil Richardson

Thumbnails - 1st Place

Arizona Minerals - 1st Place

Thank-You

Many thanks and much appreciation is extended to Betty Deming and Marc Watson, who put together our club's State Fair display case. Marc contributed some of her Quartz specimens for this display, and Betty put in the display at the fair.

**Letter from Larry Labahn
Son of Fred and Esther Labahn**

Contributed by Shirley Fiske

Last night while working late at the fire house, I typed my dad's name into the computer to see what might come up. His name was Fred Labahn. I found a listing for a memorial award in your newsletter for him. He was a very avid rockhound, and while I learned a lot about rocks when I was young and collected with him until I was 14 or so, I never developed the passion for the hobby that he had. I was certainly thankful for the time we spent together in the field, though, and have many fond memories. A few years ago I retraced a trip we took to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan when I was about 9 or so. I found many of the old mines we visited, which are still there, although abandoned. It surely brought back a flood of memories. I have a few pieces from his collection which I treasure greatly. Unfortunately, much of his collection was sold before my brother (now also deceased) or I knew it. Please tell me about this award if you can. I thank your organization for the honor that you have bestowed on him, and I know that even though he was a modest person, he would be very proud of this.

Larry Labahn
firechief104@comcast.net

EDITOR'S NOTE: Please see Shirley Fiske's reply to Larry on Page 4.

Coalition Field Trip

By Betty Deming

Saturday - November 18, 2006

Meet at Pinedale, AZ, turnoff (MM327 - Highway 260) at 9:00 a.m.

4-Wheel Drive Is Recommended

Sponsored by the White Mountain Gem & Mineral Club

Show Low, AZ - Contact Phone No.: 928-536-7209

Show Calendar

Nov. 25 - 26 - Wickenburg, AZ

Sixth Annual WOWW Gem and Art Fair

Wickenburg Community Center, 160 N. Valentine Street

Wickenburg, AZ, 85390

Sponsored by the Wickenburg Gem and Mineral Society

Admission: \$2.00

Raffle: Drawing on Sun. Nov. 26 - Tickets-\$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00

Vendor/Show Information: Lucille Burroughs, 928-684-0099

E-Mail: **gnlu@w3az.net**

From: ShirleyAF@aol.com [mailto:ShirleyAF@aol.com]
Sent: Sunday, October 29, 2006 10:18 PM
To: Larry Labahn (**FIRECHIEF104@comcast.net**)
Cc: chimes@extremezone.com
Subject: Re: Fred Labahn

Hi Larry,

Thank you for e-mailing me about your dad. My apologies for the delay in getting back with you, but I wanted to get an update on the Fred Labahn award. It is an award given to the person with the best fossil display at the State Fair. This year's award, sponsored by the Mineralogical Society of Arizona, was won by Jeffrey Langland. The award, consisting of a trophy, has been given out for several years, and is in recognition of Fred's love of fossils and the many contributions he made to our club and the earth sciences hobby in general.

It was my privilege to know Fred and Esther for several years. It always amazed me that they rarely missed driving down from Prescott for the meeting in central Phoenix. They were special people, and our club misses their contributions.

You mentioned that you have memories of collecting with your dad. Have you written down any memoirs of these trips? Speaking for the club, I know we would enjoy reading about the experiences. One of the club's major interests is in field trips. If you have anything you could share with us, please send it on to our newsletter editor. Her name is Lois Splendoria, and her e-mail is **chimes@extremezone.com**. She, and the rest of us, would enjoy hearing from you.

Many thanks,

Shirley Fiske

November Birthstones

Reprinted from the November 2006 "GNEISS TIMES"

Modern Birthstone is Yellow Topaz and Citrine.

Traditional is Citrine.

Mystical Birthstone is a Pearl.

Ayurvedic* Birthstone is Topaz.

Attributes - Wisdom, Courage, and Sincerity

In 15th century Italy, doctors used Topaz to help sores heal faster. Ancient Romans believed the gem was effective against asthma, insomnia, burns and hemorrhages.

* The ayurvedic Birthstone list is from Ayurvedic Indian Medicine - a type of medicine used for over a thousand years

President's Message

By Gilbert Flores

Is there anybody out there? OK, so maybe people in the club don't know my phone number and e-mail address. My phone number changed recently – my old phone was stolen, so you can call me at (602) 421-6522. My e-mail address is gflores.westtech@yahoo.com. I might mention that we can set up a chat room or bulletin board for free for our club website at Yahoo - just a thought.

We have four open officer and two new board positions. The officers are: President, Vice-president, Secretary and Treasurer. We have available help to transition the new officers into the positions and can be able to help at any time for MSA needs. We veterans are in dire need of new blood, fresh, clear minds (a little cluttered is ok too!), with limitless everything. The last was a joke. We all have busy schedules and it seems that there are few with the opportunity to even make our monthly meeting. The board and officers have always had their small issues with when we could meet. The next time might be in a chat room specifically to avoid any commuting time and meeting location issues.

We really need people to help with running the club. Our few activities make running this club almost automatic. The past five years have been tough on our club, but without even officers and a board, what do you think we could do? Can we even have a club? Do we even need to meet? We know that there are other clubs that can serve our interests, maybe even better than the MSA. We are on the verge of dissolution, since no one has stepped up to lend a small hand in keeping the club alive.

The MSA was the first club organized in Arizona, as far as I know. Many clubs and events have sprung from this organization. I feel very saddened by the fact that the numerous people with interest in this hobby aren't willing to give an extra two hours a month (less than that for the last year) to just get the club's business done.

This message is unfortunately sad and depressing. I felt that we might be able to survive the decades of decline, waiting for the baby boomer retirees to start filling our ranks and revive the club. It seems at times that we have been this close to seeing a turnaround only to find that we are still in the same rut. I hate being someone that has to harp on an issue, but forgive me: Show Chairman since 1994 (now we have no show in 2007!) board member or officer since 1992, and president or vice president for 10 years of that time.

What I would like to see more of are dates for us to get out to go collecting. Please come to our next meeting. Let's get things set up so we can get out. We have the luck of having three mild seasons, so I find it difficult to believe we can't set up a potluck/swap meet between now and May - just some things to think about.

Our annual election of officers and board members is November 14. Please call or e-mail me with your thoughts.

See you at the meeting,
Gil

REMINDER!
THE NEXT CLUB MEETING WILL BE
ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, AT 7:00 P.M.

2006 VERSION: YOU KNOW YOUR A "REDNECK"

Contributed by Tom Horton

Here is the 2006 version of..."You know your a redneck when....."

- You can entertain yourself for more than 15 minutes with a fly swatter.
- Your boat has not left the driveway in 15 years.
- You burn your yard rather than mow it.
- You think the "nutcracker" is something you do off the high dive.
- The salvation army declines your furniture.
- You offer to give someone the shirt off your back and they don't want it.
- You have the local taxidermist on speed dial.
- You come back from the dump with more than you took.
- You keep a can of raid on the kitchen table.
- Your wife can climb a tree faster than your cat.
- Your grandmother has "ammo" on her Christmas list.
- You keep flea and tick soap in the shower.
- You've been involved in a custody fight over a hunting dog.
- You go to the stock car races and don't need a program.
- You know how many bales of hay your car will hold.
- You have a rag for a gas cap.
- Your house doesn't have curtains, but your truck does.
- You wonder how service stations keep their restrooms so clean.
- You can spit without opening your mouth.
- You consider your license plate personalized because your father made it.
- Your lifetime goal is to own a fireworks stand.
- You have a complete set of salad bowls and they all say "cool whip" on the side.
- The biggest city you've ever been to is Wall-Mart.
- Your working TV sits on top of your non-working TV.
- You've used your ironing board as a buffet table.
- A tornado hits your neighborhood and does a \$100,000 worth of improvements.
- You've used a toilet brush to scratch your back.
- You missed your 5th grade graduation because you were on jury duty.
- You think fast food is hitting a deer at 65.

*Happy Thanksgiving
To One and All*

**General Meeting Minutes
October 10, 2006**

By Lois Splendoria, MSA Secretary

President Gilbert Flores called the meeting to order. Betty said that Marc Watson is not feeling well due to Arthritis and suggested that the members call on her to see how she is. Gilbert mentioned that we had planned to have something at Marc's this Fall.

Betty announced that she had put the club's display in the State Fair's mineral exhibit. The Fair starts on Oct. 13 and runs through Nov. 5. Thank you, Betty, for doing this! Joann Hesterman said that she had put two displays in the State Fair, also.

The coalition field trip to Hewitt Canyon will be on Sat., Oct. 28, the same day as the Museum Family Day. Information about the field trip is in the October newsletter. Joann circulated a signup sheet for volunteers for the Oct. 28 Family Day.

Sally presented the treasurer's report and mentioned that she had received the statement for the FAMMM dues for 2007. Gilbert said we will discuss this at our board meeting. Shirley said that the FAMMM membership was provided for in our budget. Shirley asked if we were going to have a table at the Museum Family Day, and Gilbert said "no."

Mary Bishop said that Donna McCabe, one of our past members who moved to Tucson, is in Bali right now. Donna is also putting herself through Veterinary School.

Shirley asked if we were planning to have a Christmas party this year and suggested meeting at a restaurant on the second Tuesday of December. She volunteered to find a restaurant.

Lois announced that Leo Langland would be undergoing surgery on Oct. 20.

Lynne Dyer showed some chocolate rocks that she bought at Walmart in China. The group talked about some of the interesting food that they ate while in China. Shirley announced that she will be doing the program for the November meeting on the China trip. She introduced Harvey Jong, from the Arizona Mineral and Mining Museum Foundation, who presented an excellent program on Rhodochrosite entitled "The World Through Rose-Colored Minerals." Harvey's program included a virtual tour of the Sweet Home Mine in Colorado. Harvey Jong is the webmaster for the Foundation's web site and also the secretary of the Foundation. He did the virtual tour of the Flagg Room at the Museum, which is also on the Foundation's web site. Harvey said there is an interesting video entitled

"The Red Treasure of Colorado" about the Rhodochrosite deposits there. After the program, the raffle was conducted and refreshments were served.

**Board of Governors Meeting Minutes
October 10, 2006**

By Lois Splendoria, MSA Secretary

A brief board meeting was held after the general meeting. Gilbert Flores called the meeting to order.

Participation in the October Museum Family Day

- Lois discussed some feedback she had received about the MSA's possible participation in the Oct. 28 Family Day. Shirley suggested that Gilbert call Susan Celestian to get her direction. Joann Hesterman said that the February 2007 Museum Family Day will include the Maricopa Lapidary Society Show. She suggested contacting Susan or Shirley Cote on a quarterly basis, if we are interested in participating. It was decided that our club would focus our efforts on preparing for the A. L. Flagg Show, which will be Jan. 5, 6, and 7, 2007, at Mesa Community College.

Christmas Party – It was suggested that the club contribute a flat amount to the total bill for the party. The group discussed how many people might attend. It was decided the club will partially fund the party. Shirley moved that the club put aside \$100 to be used as a partial reimbursement of the meal to the members; seconded by Bob Holm and passed.

Officers for 2007 – Gilbert said he is planning to call the members to see if anyone wants to participate as officers or board members. He asked if any of the rest of the board members would have time to help him do that. Shirley said she could help him during the weekend of the 21st and 22nd of October. He asked if we thought we would be successful in finding volunteers to be officers and board members. Shirley said we need to call people before we can make that determination.

Gilbert discussed what we will do if we cannot find volunteers for this purpose. Shirley suggested that we state that, if we cannot find officers, then we do not have a club.

Sally asked about the \$500 FAMMM renewal, and the comment was made that this was planned in the budget. It was decided that Sally would pay this. Sally also said that the Rocky Mountain Federation dues and insurance are due in October of 2006 for the 2007 year.

Since there was no more business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

LOIS SPLENDORIA
MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF ARIZONA
1502 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Address Correction Requested



EXCHANGE EDITORS:
Please send all
newsletters to the return
address listed above.

Mineralogical Society of Arizona
Founded 1935
A Non Profit Organization
www.azminerals.com

Purpose: To promote popular interest in the various Earth Sciences, and particularly the fields of Geology, Lapidary, Mineralogy, and related subjects. ID badges are available from the Treasurer.

Meetings: 7:00 p.m. at the Arizona Mining and Mineral Museum, 1502 West Washington, Phoenix, Arizona.

Dues: Families & Couples - \$20.00, Single Adults - \$12.00, Juniors (18 yrs. and under) - \$2.50. Please mail your dues to Sally Fiske, 42011 N. Astoria Way, Anthem, AZ, 85086.

Newsletter: Reprinting permission granted with proper credit given. Unless otherwise noted, articles are written by the Editor.

First Class Mail

UPCOMING MEETINGS	
Temporary Change in Meeting Night Starting in September 2006	
Tuesday	November 14



AFFILIATIONS

**Rocky Mountain Federation of
Mineralogical Societies**
www.rmfmts.org

**American Federation of Mineralogical
Societies - www.amfed.org**