

# THE ROCKHOUND RECORD

Volume 74, Issue 8 Newsletter for the Mineralogical Society of Arizona  
October 2008



**NEXT MEETING:**  
**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10<sup>TH</sup>, 2008**  
**AT 7:00 PM**

## MEETING TOPIC & SPEAKER

OUR SPEAKER FOR OCTOBER WILL BE BILL GARDNER.

HE WILL GIVE A SLIDE SHOW ON ROCKS FROM THE PURPLE PASSION MINE.

HE WILL ALSO BRING VARIOUS FLUORESCENT ROCKS & LAMPS.



"Fluorescent Rocks" Larry Koshko, July 1982

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our meeting in September was what I'll describe as double barreled. We had scheduled a board meeting prior to the regular meeting. The board meeting started at about 5:30 pm. On the list of items to be discussed was the following:  
Old Business:

Donation to Museum, motion was made to donate \$500.00 at this time. Motion carried.

Regarding the following items of old business and the three items of new business, I asked the board to discuss and come up with an answer or form committees to work on a good solution.

Previous discussion on books located in our library at the museum resulted in a suggestion that the books be sold at a silent auction at our Christmas party in December. No motion was made or vote taken on this matter.

The other item of old business is a recurring discussion, little interest forthcoming during the hot summer months, about our storage and condition of items at Marc Watson's place in Glendale. Concerning the minerals etc. stored at Glendale, used for the Wheel for our participation at the A.L. Flagg show in January, we will definitely have to add to our supply if we plan on being at the show for more than one day. The Wheel itself needs some repair.

The items for new business include Christmas Party suggestions. Display and or use of minerals donated to our club and use for or sale of display cases in storage at Glendale. In connection with all above items our club needs members interested in our club activities whether it be the Christmas party, the A.L. Flagg show or at the meetings to step forward and sign up for at least one committee to work at solving the previously discussed business items. The persons on the present board, Lynn and Terry Dyer, Bob Holm and Betty Deming have worked together with many others and accomplished the tasks needed to keep our club active and interesting for our overall membership. Our next meeting Oct. 10, 2008 will be another opportunity to put our ideas together with our fellow club members to move our club forward.

On a subject that I have been remiss on mentioning, Gilbert Flores has submitted several puzzles for our members including juniors to solve. I appreciate his time and effort and want all of our members to win prizes. Send your completed entries, with name and address to Ed Nichols 2251 E. Garnet Ave. Mesa, AZ 85204. or e mail the down and across answers for the puzzle to my e mail...epidote555@yahoo.com. I will arrange for prizes to be awarded at our Christmas party in December. This applies to back issues of the newsletter on which we haven't awarded prizes to winners.

See all of you at our October meeting.

Ed Nichols  
President  
YeOlde Rockhound



## **ARIZONA MINERAL COLLECTOR**

### **NUMBER 113**

By Raymond Grant

Last month, I briefly described the mineralogy of Bisbee, because I had just seen the reference to the localities in the world with the most mineral species. The next couple of columns will be about other Arizona localities with a large number of species.

After Bisbee, the Arizona locality with the most mineral species would be the Tombstone area. There were 22 mines in an area about four square miles. About 150 different mineral species have been recorded from the Tombstone area. The best reference is by Sid Williams in the *Mineralogical Record*, volume 11, number 4, July-August 1980, pages 251 to 260. Just as Dick Graeme is the leading expert on Bisbee, Sid Williams when he was alive was the world's expert on the Tombstone district. He was particularly interested in tellurium minerals from everywhere in the world and it turns out Tombstone had 23 different tellurium minerals.

Tombstone is the type or co-type locality for ten minerals: cryptomelane, dugganite, emmonsite, fairbankite, girdite, khinite, oboyerite, parakhinite, schieffelinite, and winstanleyite. Sid Williams was responsible for describing and naming eight of these minerals. Sid had at least 25 more minerals from Tombstone that are all probability new minerals, but he never had time to describe them. After his death all of his laboratory, library, and unknown minerals went to the Hudson Institute of Mineralogy to be established as the Sid and Betty Williams Laboratory for Mineralogical Research. The Hudson Institute is a tax-exempt organization and is trying to raise funds to refurbish Sid's laboratory and continue his work on descriptive mineralogy.

You can find more information about the Hudson Institute at [www.hudsonmineralogy.org](http://www.hudsonmineralogy.org).

Tombstone is now a famous tourist location and I was told there is now a mine tour there with no collecting allowed. Most of the dumps were removed in the late 1970s when the price of silver was high, so there is very little potential for collecting new material in the district. If you have specimens or come across some they would be good to keep.

## **OCTOBER BIRTHSTONE**

Libra (Sep 23 - Oct 23)  
Scorpio (Oct 24 – Nov 22)

*By Heather Hill*

The traditional birthstone for October  
is the Opal.

The opal's crystal structure is trigonal and has a MOHS Hardness of 5.5 – 6.5; light or very light, no cleavage. Opal forms as a low-temperature deposit around hot springs (Geyselite is a form of opal found around geysers and hot springs), and occurring as small veins, crusts and nodules, like Hyalite, a clear, colorless, glassy opal.

Commonly precipitated from silica-rich solutions and also replaces the cells in wood, and skeletons of many marine organisms like the shells of clams.

They are transparent or translucent with a vitreous or pearly luster. The Opal belongs to the quartz group and can appear colorless, milky white, often hazy blue or black with splendid iridescence. Often fluorescent yellow or green in ultraviolet light. There are three groups of opal varieties: the opaque common opal - milky white, green yellow to brick red; opalescent precious opal; and orange-red fire opal.

The special characteristic of precious opals is opalescence, a rainbow like iridescence which changes with the angle of observation. The reasons are the reflection and interference effects of small amounts of finely crystalline cristobalite embedded in a siliceous jelly cement and tridymite which cause the rainbow iridescence. Opal is very fragile partly because when exposed to air and loses water it becomes filled with tiny conchoidal fractures called "crazing". The aging process can be avoided and the play of colors increased if the stone is stored in damp cotton-wool. Precious opals in various colors can be found in Australia, Romania, Hungary, Brazil, Guatemala, Honduras, Virgin Valley, Humboldt County, Nevada, Idaho and Oregon. Most black precious opals come from Lightning Ridge and New South Wales in Australia.

Fire opals are named because of the fire-red, orange color and are a variety of precious opal, reddish in hue but not necessarily iridescent. The fire opal shows no opalescence is usually milky, turbid and only rarely clearly transparent.

Fire opals occur in lava flows and commonly found in Hidalgo, Jalisco and Queretaro in Mexico, and in Guatemala, Honduras and Western Australia. Some black opals and fire opals are considered precious stones.

Wood opal, which replaces the fibers in fossilized wood without destroying the texture or detail, comes from the petrified forests of Yellowstone National Park, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and from places in Egypt and Sardinia.

Tripolite is formed of microscopic shells of diatoms (diatomites) and other organisms. Tripolite is white, chalky, fine-grained, but hard and will scratch glass. Diatomites are used as a fine abrasive, a filtering powder, in insulators and in special porcelain. Stratified masses of diatomite are found in California, Turkey and Italy.

The word "opal" is from the Sanskrit "upala" meaning "precious stone".

*SOURCES: Handbook of Rocks Minerals & Gemstones by Walter Schumann ©1993; Simon & Schuster's Guide to Rocks and Minerals Edited by Martin Prinz, George Harlow and Joseph Peters, The American Museum of Natural History ©1977, 1978; National Audobon Society Field Guide to North American Rocks and Minerals ©1979, 1988*

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## ***GOING OUT OF BUSINESS***

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Just came back from a store here in Mesa that is going out of business. They are selling all their items at 30% off. They will close before the end of November. The Perry's have been to the A.L. Flagg show and have many beautiful minerals. Address is 1235 S. Gilbert Road, Mesa, AZ

Toys, Books, Treasures is closed on Mondays and Sunday.

Open 11am til 6pm. Sat. 10am til 6pm.

Ed Nichols- YeOlde Rockhound

## **COALITION TRIP FOR OCTOBER**

*There will be a coalition field trip in Nov. to the Show Low area on Nov. 22nd.  
Details in Nov. newsletter*



### **APACHE JUNCTION COALITION FIELD TRIP TO GLOBE SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2008 GLOBE ONYX**

**MEETING PLACE:** McDonalds in east Globe on 60 at 8:00a  
Any vehicle may make this trip to the lower parking area.  
Hopefully there will be enough 4x4s to take everybody up  
the last ¼ mile.

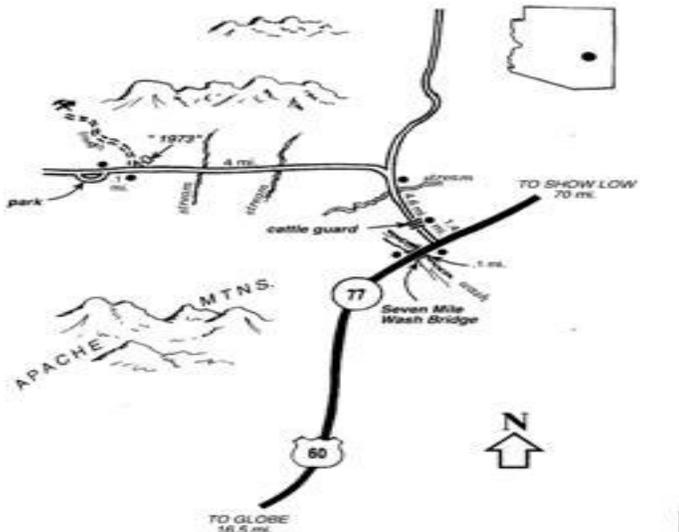
**WHAT TO COLLECT:** good quality banded onyx, solid &  
varied in color.

**BRING:** gads, chisels, pry bars, rock hammers, and sledges.  
There is some float and the material is on a hillside  
Lunch and plenty of water

**TRIP LEADER:** HARRY WARREN  
480-986-5852 or [rockharry@netscape.com](mailto:rockharry@netscape.com)

Some of the most colorful onyx in Arizona comes from this  
deposit located in the mountains north of Globe.  
To get there we use the 60 freeway. The elevation is 4,200  
so it will be cool enough. Come with a smile and enthusiasm.

#### **GLOBE ONYX**



*Map sourced from GEM TRAILS OF ARIZONA by James R. Mitchell*

## **MSA OCTOBER FIELD TRIP**

The trip I have planned for October is to a geode location, much closer to the Phoenix area than Houser geode beds in S.E. California where our club traveled a few years ago.

This location is near Lake Pleasant. We will meet just west of I-17 at 9am. Take hwy 74, Lake Pleasant Recreation area exit 223. Go left (west) of I-17.

I'll have the MSA sign on the right side of the road at that point. I'll have maps at the October meeting and at our meeting point on Lake Pleasant road (74).

Ed Nichols  
YeOlde Rockhound

# **ROCK SHOWS**

**OCTOBER 11-12, 2008**

## **PAYSON RIMSTONES ROCK CLUB ANNUAL GEM & MINERAL SHOW**

Tonto Apache Res. Recreation  
Ctr., next to Mazatzal Casino  
on Hwy. 87, Payson, AZ.

Sponsored by: Payson  
Rimstones Gem & Mineral Club.

Hours: Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4.

Admission: \$3.00, Children under 12 free.

Parking: Free

Show Chairpersons: Barry & Margaret  
Jones, Payson, AZ, 928-476-3513 or  
froggie1048@msn.com

**OCTOBER 10-NOVEMBER 2, 2008**

## **ARIZONA STATE FAIR**

Don't miss the Mineralogical Society of Arizona's special displays including recipients of MSA plaques for various displays; our first year for the Bill Trow Memorial Award and the Ben Benham Memorial Award. Also award-winning displays for Best Bead Ornamentation, and Best Adult Educational Exhibit, as well as the Memorial award for Fred LaBahn for Best Fossil Display.

***The AZ Mining & Mineral Museum  
(AZMMMR) maintains a list of  
Arizona club shows on their  
website:***

***<http://mines.az.gov/General/museum.html>***

**OCTOBER 11-12, 2008**

## **SIERRA VISTA ROCK AND GEM SHOW**

Elks Lodge, 1 Elks Lane  
Sierra Vista, AZ 85635

Sponsored by:

Huachuca Mineral & Gem Club.  
Beads, jewelry, gems, rocks, minerals,  
fossils, demos,

displays, equipment,  
and supplies, hourly raffles

Hours: Sat. 9-6, Sun. 9-4

Admission: Free

Dealer Chair:

Ingrid Baillie, 520-459-3718

**OCTOBER 18-19, 2008**

## **SEDONA GEM & MINERAL SHOW**

Sedona Red Rock

High School Cafeteria,

Hwy. 995 Upper Red Rock Loop Road,  
W. Sedona, AZ 86336.

Sponsored by: Sedona Gem  
& Mineral Club.

Hours: Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4. Admission:  
Free / Parking: Free

Show Chairperson: Linda Yee.



From: Charlie Connell  
Subject: Museum Club Clean-up Day

Second Annual Museum Cleanup Day  
in November.

"I have discussed this with our Curator, Jan Rasmussen and we have come up with two dates in November. The dates are November 8th and November 22, 2008. You should discuss this with your membership at your next meeting to get a consensus of the date and who may be able to help.

The museum and associated areas have built-up trash, and things need a general spruce-up so our visitors don't get the idea that we are sloppy. This cleanup will be very similar to last year's event that was very successful. I have attached the various areas that need attention and some examples of the problems associated with each area. This year I have assigned Monday Crew people as coordinators, so no one will be on the hook for supplying individuals for that task.

Again, please discuss this with your membership and let me know when and how many can support. Remember, lunch will be served for the volunteers and the hours will go towards the annual museum volunteer recognition!"

Thanks  
Charlie Connell

Clean-up Locations:

\* Clean-up of the Bone Yard on 12th Avenue and Jefferson. This will consist of sorting minerals and placing them in the mineral holders. The area has a large number of 5-gallon buckets that need to be placed in totes, along with some equipment to be moved. We should have at least six people for this task, and it should take all morning and maybe into the afternoon.

(Coordinators: Jerry Ohlund, Dave Huber)

\* Clean-up of the Museum Pit area that is located in the basement on the West side. That is where we hand crush minerals, and store minerals and artifacts. This area has a large amount of trash, including boxes and mineral remnants that need to be removed from the Pit via the large sliding door with a jib crane that is installed outside the building. We should have at least six people for this task, and it should take all morning and maybe into the afternoon. (Coordinator: Ev Dixon)

\* Clean-up the west side of the Museum Yard in the area of the hoist house. There is a large amount of construction materials left over that should go to the dump. There is also a need to clean out the hoist house and the shed behind the hoist house. This group of individuals will also be responsible for getting the debris from the Pit and the yard area assembled. We should have at least six people for this task and this should be an all-day task.

(Coordinator: Steve Sharley)

*CONT'D ON NEXT PAGE*

We will need to use the Rack Truck Crew to take the refuse to the city dump on 27th Avenue and the riverbed. We should have four people to make sure the truck is properly loaded and driven to the dump and back. They may have to take some refuse from the Bone yard if necessary. This task should last until around 2 PM. I think the dump closes at 3PM on Saturdays.

(Coordinator: Stuart Harrah)

We will have jobs for individuals that want to work with Treasure Bags and Teacher Kits in the Museum. This will consist of making up bagging minerals for treasure bags, gluing numbers on minerals and treasure bag assembly.

(Coordinator: Kathy Connell)

I would like to get some idea how many people from your organization would be able to support the above functions.

Task Assignments:

Each area will need a coordinator, noted above, to handle any problems that come up as well as the requesting for additional support. The most important job for the coordinator is keeping the troops busy. There is nothing worse than getting several people together and they just stand around because they are getting no direction.

We need to make sure that everyone has the proper personal protective equipment (PPE) to do the job that has been assigned. This includes gloves, safety glasses and hearing protection if needed.

A safety stand down shall be conducted prior to any working being performed.

Lunch will be served to all volunteers.

## ***Arizona Mining and Mineral Museum***

**Saturday, October 18, 2008,**

**Phoenix Family Day  
at the Museum**

**Co-sponsored by the Arizona  
Mineral and Mining Museum  
Foundation**

**1502 W. Washington  
Phoenix, AZ 85007**

**Hours:**

**Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

**Free Admission and Parking**

**Demonstrations and activities  
for children will be sponsored  
by the Museum.**

**For event information call:  
602-771-1611**

**For dealer booths contact:  
Darrell Dodd at 480-575-5214**



**NEWS FROM THE TREASURER:**

*Thank you, Betty Deming, for submitting the following important information:*

Roster for 2008-2009

Everyone should have received the roster by now.

If you didn't get yours, please contact Ed Nichols at 480-636-1251 or email at [epidote555@yahoo.com](mailto:epidote555@yahoo.com) and he will send you one.

Please look up your info in the roster & if there are any mistakes contact Betty L Deming at 602-242-1553 or email at

**Dues are due for 2009.  
Deadline is Dec. 31st.**

**Please either pay at the meeting or  
mail to my address:**

**Betty L. Deming  
2922 W. Claremont St.  
Phoenix, AZ 85017**

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**State Fair Oct. 10th to Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Hope everyone will be able to attend the fair this year. As always we will have a special display. This time Ed & I will display some of the minerals donated to MSA by Jack Haslup.

MSA still gives plaques for various displays. This will be the first year for Bill Trow Memorial Award. It is for Best Bead Ornamentation. Also first year for Ben Benham Memorial Award. It is for Best Adult Educational Exhibit. Still give Memorial award for Fred LaBahn for Best Fossil Display. ~ Betty Deming

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Marc Watson is in Peppertree Square. 10420 N. 89th Ave. 85345. I'm sure she would enjoy visiting with her old friends. There are no scheduled visiting hours.

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**MSA CONTACT INFO:**

President & Field Trip Coordinator  
(Club Trips) Ed Nichols  
(480) 636-1251

Treasurer and Coalition Field Trip  
Coordinator: Betty Deming  
(602) 242-1553  
Email address  
[bd\\_mac2003@yahoo.com](mailto:bd_mac2003@yahoo.com)

Secretary and Vice-President:  
Positions vacant. Interested?  
Contact Ed Nichols

Newsletter Editor:  
Heather Hill-Oliverson  
Email address:  
[sagegirl777@juno.com](mailto:sagegirl777@juno.com)

Mineral Curator: John McLaughlin  
(623) 979-5246

Librarian/Door Prizes/Hospitality  
Bob Holm (623) 247-1325

Refreshments: Lynne Dyer  
(480) 396-2393

**MSA BOARD OF GOVERNORS:**  
LYNNE DYER, TERRY DYER  
BOB HOLM, K.J. WERNER



**Say Hello to Our New  
Members!**

Ron & Darlene Matlewsky

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# MSA PUZZLE OF THE MONTH

ONE PRIZE WILL BE GIVEN TO A JUNIOR AND AN ADULT CLUB MEMBER

## M I N E T E R M S

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<p>1. miner's lamp (eng.)</p> <p>4. Ore furnace</p> <p>7. tram, wagon, corve</p> <p>10. testing location</p> <p>11. seismogram wave that follows the source pulse</p> <p>12. construct, make</p> <p>13 the ore room</p> <p>15. (sl) you catch my ___?</p> <p>17. air movement</p> <p>18. baby's bed(ing)</p> <p>21. a process for metal</p> <p>24. out____, protrude</p> <p>26. drilling assembly, abbr</p> <p>27. airway, pipe or casing</p> <p>28. ride the pine</p> <p>29. "Are you on the ___?"</p> <p>30. waste rock put back</p> <p>33. to separate using wind</p> <p>34. the mother _____</p> <p>35. spread the word</p> <p>37. smelter trash</p> <p>39. a positive end</p> <p>40. bottom out in a wet way</p>	<p>5. consolidated pyroclastic rocks, generally</p> <p>6. two or more minerals</p> <p>8. _____ From The Past</p> <p>9. steep sided vertical shaft opening at the surface</p> <p>11. a drilling sample</p> <p>14. a liquid that's mined</p> <p>16. why you don't like to go to the dentist</p> <p>19. be with you in a _____</p>	<p>20. midevil doctoring</p> <p>22. even naked moles do it</p> <p>23. mover</p> <p>25. rock that covers the ore body</p> <p>26. a type of crushing process</p> <p>29. ore too low for profit</p> <p>31. cover, to top</p> <p>32. in a state of _____ (unrest)</p> <p>33. _____ basket "file 13"</p> <p>36. The _____ And The Pendulum</p> <p>38. long steel wedge</p>																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
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<p>2. to purify</p> <p>3. cranial structure</p> <p>4. vertical hole</p>																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																		

Thanks to the following resource sites: EduMine.com, Dictionary.com, Thesaurus.com, Wikipedia.com, cmu.edu, Mindat.com and RocksandMinerals.com

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**Mineralogical Society of Arizona  
Founded 1935  
A Non Profit Organization**

**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 W. Washington, Phoenix, AZ - on the second Friday of the month, September through June (except February, which is the third Friday).

**Dues:** Adults – Single Adults \$12.00, Juniors (18 yrs. and under) -\$2.50, Families & Couples - \$20.00.

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2922 W. Claremont, Phoenix, AZ 85017**

The Mineralogical Society of Arizona is a member of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies and the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies.



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