



Meeting
Second Tuesday of each month
Van Matre Senior Citizens Center
1101 Spring Street
Mountain Home, AR

<http://www.ozarkearthscience.org/news.htm>
<http://www.ozarkearthscience.org>

December, 2011

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We are a member of the Midwest Federation of Mineralogy.

Sharon Waddell: Liaisons Officer - 417-256-8948

MWF Assistant Micromounter: Brenda Johnson

OBJECTS: To study and promote an interest in the earth sciences; Geology, paleontology, mineralogy, archaeology and the lapidary arts.

Meeting: On the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Van Matre Senior Citizens Center, 1101 Spring Street (Cooper Park), Mountain Home, Arkansas.

Dues: Active adults \$12.00 per year or family membership of \$20.00 per year. Junior membership is \$4.00 per year. Nonresident membership is \$8.00.

The President's Message

Here is another year ending and it seems that it was only yesterday that I was wishing you each a happy 2011. Time certainly flies by. We have accomplished much this year, but there is always room for improvement in any club. I hope that 2012 will let us find ways to do just that, in a way that will attract many others into the club, especially juniors.

Our meeting this month will be **our potluck** at **6:00 P.M.** Please bring a dish to pass. The meat is already provided for, but we need the vegetables, gravy, desserts and anything else that you think one would like. It usually takes care of itself. Just come ready to eat and enjoy yourselves. We

The President's Message continued -

will have paper plates, cups, and plastic ware, but if you prefer to bring your own utensils, that is fine also. We just ask that you show up with a good appetite. There will be a brief executive meeting before the regular meeting starts, at 5:30 P.M.

We will be playing our dirty Christmas, and Rock Bingo again. Please bring a wrapped gift, club related, no more than \$5.00, for both games so that no one is left without winning something. For those who may not know what dirty Christmas is, we draw numbers and start with number one. The person who has that number takes a gift and opens it so that everyone can see what it is. Number two then gets up and opens a gift or if they prefer, can take the gift number one opened and make number one open a different gift, etc. It goes on like that through all the numbers with people choosing gifts others have opened or keeping what they, themselves, have opened until all the numbers are gone. After a gift has been stolen three times it is frozen and the person who took it the third time gets to take it home.

I want to remind all of you, we voted on and passed that in January and February we will not have meetings because those are the two months that are usually the worst for weather and the flu in our area. However, I will do the bulletin and Dorothy and I will send it to you as usual, as we have a contract with the webmaster and can not take those two months off. So if you go to a show or on a trip, or anything of interest happens in your life that you would like to let others know about, please feel free to send the information to me for publishing. I especially would love to see photos that can go into the bulletin. If someone gives you a club related present for Christmas, please share a photo for the bulletin.

Please let me say that I hope all of you have a wonderful holiday. This is the time of year, however, when the weather can turn nasty in just a few moments. Please stay alert to the forecasts and be careful at all times so that when we do meet in March, each of you are back with us.

Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

Brenda

There are no minutes for this issue as the secretary did not show up to the meeting and no one took notes.

There will be a sign-up sheet passed at the meeting so those of you who want to bring refreshments next year can choose what month you would like. Please be ready to participate.

From the desk of Aradasa Johnson, Safety chair

Cold Weather Safety

SAFETY FIRST

by *Bill Klose EFMLS Safety Chairman*

Submitted for the November 2001 EFMLS News

http://www.amfed.org/a_safetyEFMLS.htm#coldweather

By the end of November, most areas will have had their first frost and "Indian Summer" and maybe even their first snow storm of the season, but the undaunted rockhound will continue to venture out until the ground is frozen or snow covered. Chapter 16 of the "American Federation of Mineralogical Societies SAFETY MANUAL" deals with two of winters knockout punches, frost bite and hypothermia and will be repeated here with a few of my comments in brackets where appropriate.

FROST BITE

"Frost bit" is a condition characterized by the (cutting off of circulation to and possible) destruction of superficial tissues, resulting from exposure to cold-- especially moist cold (Especially in the extremities, such as hands, feet, ears, nose, and other exposed areas of the body). (The Wind (wind chill factor) can add to the effects of cold temperatures, even when above freezing.) (Symptoms of frost bite begin as a prickly feeling on exposed areas of the skin followed by numbness and waxy looking patches.) Blanching or redness (erthema) of the affected area is prominent initially. Later, edema and superficial blisters develop and may break down and form superficial ulcers (and the skin dies and falls off) or gangrene. Severe pain is associated with this condition.

"TREATMENT": Prevention is more important by keeping warm and avoiding undue exposure to cold without adequate protection. (The best protection is to keep warm, keep moving, and keep dry. Dress in loose layers of warm, waterproof clothing, that cover exposed areas. Warm gloves and a hat are essential. Up to 80% of the bodies warmth can be lost through an uncovered head.)

"ACTIVE TREATMENT": The affected parts are to be well dried and wrapped in protective cloth or cotton, (or tuck the hands into the armpits) and allowed to gradually come up to normal or room temperature. Application of heat or direct cold is contraindicated. (Do not rub or apply snow to the frost-bitten area. The affected area can be placed in water a little above body temperature (not above 104 degrees F). Do not place hands under running water, as there will not be any feeling initially, so they could become burned. As the frost-bitten area "thaws" it is

Safety continued -

normal to feel pain or a burning sensation.) If blister formation results (do not break them), or frost bite is severe, medical attention should be sought.

HYPOTHERMIA

"MOUNTAIN SICKNESS": Exposure to cold is the precipitating factor. The main contributory factors may be contact with wetness or inadequate clothing. Predisposing factors may be alcoholism, or an underlying vascular or systemic disease (such as Diabetes or poor circulation. People taking beta blockers to lower blood pressure are especially at risk). The young and the old are especially vulnerable.

"SYMPTOMS" (The symptoms are initially uncontrollable shivering with pale and numb skin) Abnormal behavior, weakness, stumbling and falling, leading eventually to collapse and stupor. (Hypothermia is the loss of body temperature and can be life threatening.) (In severe cases, the person will go unconscious, and will have shallow breath and erratic heartbeat, and then the pulse weakens and slows.) "Watch your companion" on field trips!

"TREATMENT": (At the first signs of hypothermia, take the victim to a warm, dry place and give them hot liquids (not alcohol).) Clear and maintain airway, if patient is unconscious. Prevent further heat loss by blankets, warm rocks, or a companion in bed with the victim. A slow return to normal temperature is advisable. (Get medical attention as soon as possible if the symptoms have gone beyond the shivering stage.)

(Do not collect alone in cold weather and carry a cell phone with you if possible for emergencies. Let someone know where you are going and when you will return. Enjoy your cold weather collecting or other activities safely.)

Dues are due!

Don't forget that dues are now due for next year. Please see **Dorothy Hess** at the meeting and pay her. She will have membership applications also if you have a friend who would like to become a member.



The club has a display case we would like to sell. Below is a photo of it. If you are interested in buying it, please see **Sid Johnson** at the meeting.



It has three removable glass shelves and one fixed wooden shelf. It is 18" wide, 14" deep and 36" high. The weight is 70 pounds. The asking price is \$80.00.

Sharon Waddell has three showcases she will sell for \$50.00 each. For information on the sizes, and directions to her house, call her at **417-256-8948** after 6:00 P.M., or see her at the next meeting.

Welcome to new members Patricia Garey and her granddaughter Faith Guynes.

We will be installing new officers at this meeting. The following people have agreed to be your officers, and fill committee spots this coming year. If you would like to nominate someone from the floor you still may do so. Please just see that person before you nominate them to make sure they will be agreeable in taking the job.

President: Sharon Waddell
V.P. & Program chair: Edward Hakesley
Secretary: Brenda Johnson
Treasurer: Dorothy Hess
Safety: Aradasa Johnson
Historian: Sidney Johnson
Show-and-Tell: Mark Medley
Editor: Brenda Johnson
Proofreader: Dorothy Hess

If there is someone on here you do not want taking the job and you would feel free to do it instead, please let us know before we vote so that there are no hard feelings afterward.

I saw the following in the December, 2011 issue of *The American Legion* in their “Parting Shots” section.

A grandmother mouse took her grandchildren for a walk, and they spotted a cat coming toward them. The mice hid in some tall grass and waited anxiously. The cat didn't see them but started moving toward their hiding place.

“Woof! Woof! Woof!” the grandmother mouse cried loudly. The cat thought a dog was approaching and scampered away.

“And that, children,” the grandmother mouse said, “is why it's always handy to speak a second language.” ~

AND.....

In the classifieds: “Lost: a gray-and-white male cat. Answers to electric can opener.”

November 2011 Financial Report

Dorothy Hess, Treasurer

Last Report Balance: (October 10, 2011) **\$ 1,582.38**

Transactions for the Reporting Period: (October 11, 2011 – November 8, 2011)

Income:

Auction (October meeting fund-raiser)	\$ 237.75
Dues (2 new members)	<u>\$ 20.00</u>
Total	\$ 257.75

Expense:

Renew "Rocks & Minerals" subscription for library	\$ 61.00
Publish November newsletters	\$ 9.50
November club website fee	<u>\$ 29.95</u>
Total	\$ 100.45

Check Book Balance as of November 8, 2011: \$ 1,739.68

At the last club meeting we voted to have a book purchased and donated to the library in memory of **Truman Lee**, who passed away at the age of 85, on Sunday, October 23, 2011.

Truman, and wife **Ramona**, were long time members of our club until he became too ill and had to check into a home for better care. He passed away at Care Manor Nursing Home.

Truman was a WWII veteran of the Army. He, and **Ramona**, served for years in one office or another for the OESC, and she was the editor of the bulletin for several years.

The book, "*Agates: Treasures of the Earth*," by **Roger Pabian**, will be donated in his memory. A card will be sent to the family notifying them of the donation.

Meet the Quartz Family

Papa and Mamma Quartz Crystal belong to a very large family of rocks. They are called the Quartz Crystal family to distinguish them from Uncle Agate's family and aunt Opal's family, and a whole raft of cousin Quartzes. Then too, Mamma Quartz's maiden name was Rock Crystal. They came from Herkimer County, NY, and Papa often called her his little "Herkimer Diamond". She was very lovely – nicely shaped and perfectly clear and sparkling. Papa Quartz was Milky Quartz and, while he was nicely shaped too, he didn't sparkle like Mamma.

Papa and Mamma Quartz had quite a large family. First there was lovely Rose Quartz. She often bemoaned the fact that she was dumpy and didn't have Mamma's nice figure. But she was so sweet and rosy pink that no one cared about her shape. She got her healthy color from eating her Titanium every morning when she was a baby crystal.

Next came Amethyst. She took after Mamma Quartz with her nice shape and sparkling, clear color, except that Amethyst was the color of violets. She hadn't much cared for Titanium when she was a baby but she loved Manganese which gave her the lovely lavender hue.

Smoky Quartz was the oldest boy in the family. Mamma Quartz really had a time at breakfast with her babies. Each one liked a different food. Smoky wouldn't eat anything but Carbon, so he had a grayish color.

Little Citrine Quartz started out to look just like her sister Amethyst, but one day in the hot summer, she got overheated and her lavender color turned to a deep yellow. But she didn't care, really, because she was different from the others and still quite pretty.

The Quartz Crystal children had a younger brother whose name was Ferruginous Quartz, but almost everyone called him "Ferry". He was quite a handsome boy with an attractive red color which Mamma Quartz insisted was because he was such a good child and ate his daily portion of iron eagerly.

That's just about all of the Quartz Crystal family except the Ghost. He was known as Phantom Crystal and he looked like the rest of the family except that you could look right through him and see another crystal inside.

The Quartz Crystals were all quite important people. Papa Quartz was content to do just ordinary things but Mamma was a brilliant actress and little Rose, Amethyst and Citrine Quartz Crystal all grew up to be lovely jewels. Smoky and Ferruginous, the boys, took after their father and worked at ordinary jobs. Papa and Mamma Quartz were certainly very proud of their big family. -*From the Jaspilite via The Rockhounder, March 2011, via October 2011 THE STRATA DATA Via GCLFS Newsletter, November, 2011*

Micromounting

“Micromounting” is the process of preserving a small, microscopic mineral or crystal specimen by mounting it on a post (usually a toothpick) and securing it in a small, protective box. These microscopic specimens are then carefully viewed through a binocular stereo microscope. Do some searching for “binocular stereo microscopes” on the internet. You can find them for reasonable prices (less than \$200). Of course, you can also spend many hundreds of dollars purchasing one. But once you have purchased a good binocular microscope, you will have it for the rest of your life if you take good care of it.

Here are some websites that can help you get started as a micromounter.

<http://www.njminerals.org/mmhowto.html>

http://www.gamineral.org/micromount_corner.html

<http://www.gamineral.org/why-micros.htm>

From *Mini Miners Monthly*, A Monthly Publication for Vol. 5 No. August 2011, *The Quarry*, September, 2011

Before You Buy a Magnifier

By **Andrew Alden**, *About.com Guide*

After you get a rock hammer, you'll need a magnifier. The big Sherlock Holmes type lens is a cliché; instead you want a lightweight, powerful magnifier (also called a loupe) that has impeccable optics and is easy to use. Get the best magnifier for demanding jobs like inspecting gems; in the field, for quick looks at minerals, buy a decent magnifier you can afford to lose.

Using a Magnifier

Hold the lens up next to your eye, and then bring your specimen close to it, only a few centimeters from your face. The point is to focus your attention through the lens, the same way you look through eyeglasses. If you normally wear glasses, you may want to keep them on. A magnifier won't correct for astigmatism.

How Many X?

The X factor of a magnifier refers to how much it magnifies. Sherlock's magnifying glass makes things look 2 or 3 times bigger; that is, it's 2x or 3x. Geologists like to have 5 xs to 10 xs, but more than that is hard to use in the field because the lenses are very small. 5x or 7x lenses offer a

Before You Buy a Magnifier continued -

wider field of vision, while a 10x magnifier gives you the closest look at tiny crystals, trace minerals, grain surfaces, and microfossils.

Magnifier Flaws to Watch For

Check the lens for scratches. Set the magnifier on a piece of white paper and see if the lens adds color of its own. Now pick it up and examine several objects, including one with a fine pattern like a halftone picture. The view through the lens should be clear as air with no internal reflections. Highlights should be crisp and brilliant, with no colored fringes (that is, the lens should be achromatic). A flat object should not look warped or buckled—move it to and fro to be sure. A magnifier should not be loosely put together.

Magnifier Bonuses

Given the same X factor, a larger lens is better. A ring or loop to attach a lanyard is a good thing; so is a leather or plastic case. A lens held with a removable retaining ring can be taken out for cleaning. And a brand name on the magnifier, while not always a guarantee of quality, means you can contact the manufacturer. Doublet, Triplet, Coddington Good lens makers combine two or three pieces of glass to correct for chromatic aberration—what gives an image blurred, colored fringes. Doublets can be quite satisfactory, but the triplet is the gold standard. Coddington lenses employ a deep cut inside the solid glass, using an air gap to create the same effect as a triplet. Being solid glass, they cannot ever come apart—a consideration if you get wet a lot.

Via *The Ammonite*, May 2011, via *Quarry Quips* 5/2011, from *The Quarry*, September, 2011

Crystal Clear Cave

Not all caves are dark and creepy. A cave in Spain sparkles like diamonds. Geologists discovered the cave in an old silver mine. The cave is actually a giant geode filled with crystals. The sparkling space is the largest geode ever found. Most geodes are about the size of your fist. This geode is large enough for ten adults to fit inside it! The cave's crystals are made of glassy material called gypsum. The crystals are so clear, you can read a newspaper through them. Some crystals in this geode measure seven feet. That's taller than either of the Spanish scientists who found it.

From the *MWF News* 4/2011, via *Scholastic News Zone*, via *The Rockpile* 6/2011 and *The Quarry*, 9/11

PUMICE WHEELS

Pumice wheels are good for touching up a bezel after you've set the stone. The hardness is about 6 on the Moh's scale, less hard than quartz, so it shouldn't scratch any of your jaspers. However, I'd avoid or be real careful of using pumice near the softer stones like turquoise, amber, howlite, etc. If you're unsure that a wheel is pumice, test it with a piece of glass. Glass is about 5 ½ on the Mohs scale. If it doesn't scratch glass, it shouldn't scratch quartz.

More Bench Tips by **Brad Smith** are at www.groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/ or www.facebook.com/BenchTips

A Recap of Last Month's Program

Edward Hakesley gave a very good program last month and for those of you who missed it, you may want to talk with **Ed** about learning to identify minerals in the field. He brought a table full of mineral specimens that he encouraged people to handle to get a working knowledge of what they looked like and felt like and how to compare them from one another. He also brought acids, scratch plates and other tools of the trade to teach members how to do simple tests while hounding to establish what they were actually finding. This enables you to tell, for instance, if you are looking for a mineral that looks almost like another, and they are found together, which one you have actually found. Especially if you have an abundance of one or the other already in your collection and don't want to be carrying a lot of material you already have specimens of.

Thank you **Ed** for a good teaching program. I hope other members will put together programs like this in the future. After all, this is what we are all about...to teach and equip members who aren't as knowledgeable, in the field of mineralogy and geology.

Also, **Sharon Waddell** brought a short CD of our trip to the River Bluff Caverns that we took back in August of this year. It was photos showing the formations, claw marks and other scientific data that the geologist have been working on since the discovery of this cavern, and was very interesting and informative.

If any of you have similar programs you would like to share, call or see **Edward Hakesley** and let him get you on the roster for next year.

Dates to Remember

December

- 13 OESGM&F Club potluck, 6:00 p.m., Van Matre Senior Citizens Center, 1101 Spring Street, Mountain Home, Arkansas**

January, 2012

- 28 Lincoln, NE – Annual Mid-winter Swap, Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, Inc. Bethany Park Shelter House, Cotner & Vine Streets.**
- 30 – April 1 – National Fossil Exposition XXXIV, Western Hall, Western Illinois University, Macomb, Illinois.**

**Dorothy Hess
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