



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>

January, 2012

President/Liaison	V. P/Programs	Secretary	Treasurer/Proof Reader
Sharon Waddell	Edward Hakesley	Brenda Johnson	Dorothy Hess
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West Plains, MO 65775	Mtn. Home, AR 72653	Mountain Home, AR 72653	Mtn. Home, AR 72653
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We are a member of the Midwest Federation of Mineralogy.

MWF Assistant Micromounter: Brenda Johnson

Historian: Sidney Johnson

Safety-chair: Aradasa 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

Greetings fellow rock hounds,

It is a new year with new beginnings. I hope all of you had a great holiday. I have the honor of being your president again. It seems like every few years I receive this honor, in other words, nobody else wants the job. I hold this club dear to my heart and as a result take an office when no one else wants it. Do you know what? It is not so bad a job. You get to conduct meetings,

The President's Message continued-

and get reacquainted with others. In addition, there is always someone to help you if you need it. Like so many of you, I cannot deny that for years I refused this honor using distance, my non-rock hound family, and my job as excuses. However, rather than have the club fold, I took on the job of help people focus on our hobby and in general get to know many interesting people. I have served as president several years ago and the rewards have justified this choice; thus, I no longer refuse when asked to hold the office.

As I contemplate the new year, I wonder what changes we will have and if we will continue to have a club. We need to get younger people involved and groom them to take over. We oldsters rise to the job when all else fails but as we age, our abilities lessen and we would gladly let others take over and let the club continue to prosper. When I joined this club back in the seventies, there were 150 members and at the age of 34, I was the youngest member. Where am I going? Within a short time, I was field trip director and involved with the club even though I did not know where to hunt in Arkansas. Club members made suggestions and we had monthly fieldtrips. In addition, as others explored and scouted, new places to go were found to hunt at, from old quarries to pastures for fossils. To have successful field trips, you the members, have to get involved. Whether it is a museum you toured, a nature walk you went on, an interesting lecture or and educational trip, pass it on, as it may make a wonderful field trip or program for the club. As in any organization, **you** get out what **you** put in. If **YOU** do not put any effort into an organization, **you** cannot expect to have a great club and we as a group have so much to offer if only we would. My goal this year is to find younger members who are willing to see this club prosper in the future. Are you willing?

Happy collecting.

Sharon

A Bench Tip from Brad Smith

TOOTHPICKS

The round, stronger toothpicks have a multitude of uses on the jewelry bench. I use them for mixing epoxy resin, for applying paste solder, with Zam for polishing in tight spots, and with a bit of beeswax for picking up and positioning small stones. They're particularly good for testing the fit of a small faceted stone in a prong or tube set finding.

More BenchTips by Brad Smith are at groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/

Or

[facebook.com/BenchTips](https://www.facebook.com/BenchTips)

From the desk of Aradasa Johnson, Safety-chair

Safer Collecting and Some Things to Make You Think!

By Andrew Brodeur, Connecticut Valley Mineral Club

http://www.amfed.org/news/n2011_02.pdf

Everything we do has a certain amount of risk involved and mineral collecting is no different. We are constantly going to remote places with rough unfamiliar terrain and once you start getting comfortable with them is when the bad stuff can happen!

Complacency will get you in trouble every time but with a little planning, maybe you won't come back with more than a scrape and sore knees.

We go to some fairly remote places and the more remote they are the more you need to be thinking about the moves you are making and staying safe, no mineral specimen is worth an injury in the field! In my opinion the most dangerous places we go as a club are the Chester emery Mines, Shaft 10 in Hardwick and the Loudville Lead Mines. Chester has steep, rough terrain, you are quite a distance into the woods and there is **NO CELL PHONE CONTACT!** Shaft 10 has similar hazards as well as snakes and if you fall there, you are going for quite a rough ride all the way to the bottom. Loudville, dangerous...? Yes Loudville has a certain amount of danger, mostly the distance away from the road and a couple rough spots depending on where you go there.

I think the most valuable thing you can know when you go out collecting is know where you are, sounds funny doesn't it? How many times have you headed out on a field trip following the trip leader and the only concern is not losing sight of his vehicle or the guy in front of you, you get to the location and off you go. If something happened to you or another person and you needed help, could you tell a rescuer or emergency person where you are and how to get to you? **KNOW WHERE YOU ARE!** Location, Street, and Town, three very simple and very important things that will allow help to get to you faster. You should also notice some landmarks on your way in, this will also help you tell people how to get to you. When you dial 911 from a cell phone it doesn't always go to the closest police station, it may go to the closest State Police Barracks and it may be in a different town. If you can't tell them how to get to you, you have just lost precious time and you just added being lost to the problem, and your rescuers have to try and figure out where you are and get you out too!

Safety continued-

If you need help, you need to know what to tell the people, what is your emergency? The type of injury, what is being done for them in the field, how far in the woods, adult, child, male, female, HOW BIG ARE THEY? These are all important things for the rescuers to know, getting somebody out of a rough remote location isn't just a 2 man job in fact it could take a dozen or more rescuers to get one person out of a bad situation. If you don't have a cell connection and you need to send another person for help, they will have to know all of the fore mentioned things to get to help and to lead them back to the location to help the injured person. If you can send 2 people on this mission its better just in case something happens to one of them. They should try to get to the car as fast as possible WITHOUT getting hurt in the process. Try to make a mental note of the closest house or store as you drive in to the site just in case you need to go for help and a phone.

If a person can't get up on their own after an accident, don't move them! If they aren't alert to PERSON, PLACE or TIME and other everyday things they should know, they shouldn't be moved. These are signs of a serious head injury and moving them could be very dangerous. Keep them warm, dry, and awake. If the person is unconscious try and place them on their left side so if they vomit, they don't aspirate it into their lungs. It would be a shame to get them out alive only to have them die of a respiratory infection a week later. If you have the option of staying with the injured person and calling or sending another person for help, you should do just that, getting the person and all your gear out of the woods and driving them to a hospital yourself wastes precious time in them receiving the critical care they may need, LEAVE IT TO THE PROS!

If you are collecting either alone or in a group, there is some information that should be shared before you go out. If you are going out alone or in a group, tell people where you are going and what time you plan on being back, if they are more than an hour over due you should be making a phone call to the local or state police so they can see if their vehicle is still where they planned on going. If you are leading a group, you should know who is a diabetic or allergic to bees just in case there is a problem and do they carry their meds with them? Is there anybody with you that has first aid kit or any medical training? Don't take unnecessary chances look up before you settle down to do any collecting, are you sitting under a hanging dead branch or tree? Use your head and eyes and be aware of your surroundings, know where you are and what's around you. Don't be afraid to tell the person near you if they are in a bad spot, you may see something they don't. With just a little knowledge and planning you can make your collecting trips much safer for yourself and others in your group, nothing can put a damper on a great day faster than an

Safety concluded-

injury or incident that might have been preventable. Have fun, be safe and come to the next meeting with a good story about your collecting trip.

Remember....There are no meetings in the months of January and February.

Mohs scale of Mineral Hardness

- | | |
|-------------|------------------------|
| 1. Talc | 6. Orthoclase feldspar |
| 2. Gypsum | 7. Quartz |
| 3. Calcite | 8. Topaz |
| 4. Fluorite | 9. Corundum |
| 5. Apatite | 10. Diamond |

Via Pegmatite Bulletin, Nov. 2011

Happy New Year to Each and Everyone

If you haven't paid your dues yet for this year, please fill out the following and send it to **Dorothy Hess, 1177 CR 1084, Mountain Home, AR, 72653.** She needs the dues caught up in order to get her books in order. Thank you.

MEMBER NAME _____

BIRTHDAY (Month & Day only) _____

RELATED ADULT _____ **BIRTHDAY** _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY STATE _____

ZIP _____

PHONE (____) _____ **E-MAIL** _____

**SPECIAL INTERESTS (CIRCLE): MINERAL LAPIDARY FOSSILS
FACETING JEWELRY FIELD TRIPS**

Willing to help by:

- serve as officer serve on committee help with the show
 presentation or teaching study groups social functions

- SINGLE MEMBERSHIP FAMILY MEMBERSHIP

ANNUAL DUES (January-December) ARE: \$12.00 per year single member \$20.00 per year per family or \$4.00 per year per junior.

Newsletters are sent by e-mail whenever possible. If you do not have e-mail, and wish to have a newsletter mailed to you monthly, please add an additional \$12.00 or more with the annual dues. (Mailing newsletters costs almost \$2.00 apiece with publishing and postage costs!) THANK YOU.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: OESGM&F Club

The Minutes of the Executive and Regular December 13, 2011 Meetings

By Dorothy Hess

Present: **Dorothy Hess, Ed Hakesley, Sharon Waddell, Madeline Anderson, Ernie Confer, and A. J. Johnson**

Executive meeting began at 5:45 P.M. and concluded at 6:30 P.M.

Ed put out two lists on the entrance tables – one for signing up to do monthly meeting refreshments in 2012 (beginning with March), and one for signing up to help with the August show positions.

Ernie and **Madeline** stated that we have four boxes of packages grab bags for the August show. We will not need to do a special meeting in 2012 to make more grab bags. However, we are all out of rock/mineral/fossil specimens for future bags, and will need more supplies to be donated.

A suggestion was made to increase vendor fees for the August show. **Sharon** informed the committee that we had increased the fees slightly for the 2011 show (6-foot tables \$12.00, and 8-foot tables \$15.00). We agreed that we should not increase table fees two years in a row.

Ernie announced that he needs physical help putting up and taking down street signs for the August show. Signs go up the Tues/Wed prior to the show, and come down as soon as possible after the show. (This will be mentioned in the regular meeting to see if anyone volunteers).

Because raffle sales at the last show were extremely light, it was suggested that we charge a very modest entrance fee for age 13 and above of only \$1.00, and to give out one raffle ticket for each person. Children age 12 and under would still be free. The committee voted to approve this \$1.00 entrance fee.

The dates for the August show in 2012 were confirmed as August 25th and 26th (Saturday and Sunday), with set-up for vendors and volunteers on Friday night the 24th. Clean-up will follow immediately after the show closes. Ed will contact the Senior Center to find out if they will be sending in their own clean-up crew on Sunday afternoon/evening following the show. (This last August the centers crew arrived before our paid clean-up crew was finished)!

Show planning: the Board will meet in April to begin show planning. **Ernie** has already placed show advertisement requests in two rock-club related magazines. **Sharon** will be mailing out vendor contracts in January. Ernie mentioned that all club flyers and notices for the 2012 show need to have the club website address added.

Ernie and **Madeline** will again purchase the grand prize for the August show. The committee voted to authorize them to spend at least \$50.00 (and up to \$100.00) for the grand prize raffle.

No regular club meetings or executive meetings are planned for January and February. If needed, Board meetings or Executive meetings can be called as needed in the interim, and can be held at Hardy's in Mountain Home.

Continued on page 11

A note from your Editor:

I want to take this time to thank you for letting me continue on as your editor for another year, and also to remind you of where all of our past historical information on our club is being housed.

As a member of the Baxter County Historical Society, I volunteer two days a week for the Baxter County Archives here in Mountain Home, and when it opened I talked to the executive committee and asked if it would be okay to house our records there. It was agreed that we would. Until then, they were in **Sharon Waddell's** attic; not a very good place for paper and photos at all.

The archives, located at 213 E. 6th Street, upstairs in the County Services Building, is a repository where we are preserving any and all important and historical information of the county; civic clubs, businesses, churches, offices, schools, photos; anything that is of importance and needs to be kept for future generations to find information from for various reasons. The Baxter County Historical Society also houses their genealogical library there for genealogists to come and research and we who volunteer will help when needed with researching.

The records can remain the property of the persons, or organization that brings them in, or may be donated to the Historical Society also. We store them properly in a controlled environment, and they are there for the use of those who may want to research or need to refer to them for other reasons. I hope we can continue to add to the collection of items that have already been housed there. With the computer age, I have been keeping a copy of bulletins to put on a disc to take in as I edit the bulletins. I don't know if they are complete as I am not sure the editor before me kept copies or not.

I would like to ask our historian to keep a file of all bulletins in the future, by year, and store them on a disc to be added to the information stored at the archives, and to prepare any photos and other items that should be preserved, to be housed there too, when it is thought necessary.

The archive is open on Tuesday's and Thursday's from noon to 4:00 P.M. or by appointment by calling 870-425-2551. There is no elevator and it is not handicap accessible at this time. We are hoping to move in the future to a one level area that can be handicap accessible.

If you know of other civic clubs who do not know of the archives, you might pass this information along to them. Many people do not know that we exist yet. Come in and visit us.

Thank you again and I hope I do not let you down as your editor.

Brenda Johnson

Arkansas Diamonds

Arkansas is blessed with an abundance of geological wonders and dig sites, from quartz crystals in the Ouachita Mountains to the Crater of Diamonds State Park (near Murfreesboro AK). Crater of Diamonds is the only diamond-producing site in the world open to the public, and stands out as a unique geological "gem" for you to explore and enjoy. You are invited to prospect in the park's diamond search area, a 37 1/2-acre plowed field that is the eroded surface of an ancient volcanic pipe that 95 million years ago, brought to the surface the diamonds and semi-precious stones lucky visitors find here today. Since the first diamonds were found in 1906, it is estimated that more than 75,000 have been found by diggers at the site.

Word soon got out about the diamonds and "Diamond John" Huddleston became famous. Thousands of people flocked to the little town of Murfreesboro, sparking a boom town atmosphere. In one year, over 10,000 people were turned away from the Conway Hotel in Murfreesboro. Soon after his find, Huddleston sold his farm for \$36,000 and this portion of the crater was closed to the public. Another portion, however, was owned by M. M. Mauney, who originated the idea of letting visitors pay to hunt for diamonds. Some diamond mining operations also began in the years after the discovery, but for many reasons, shrouded in mystery, lawsuits, fines, bankruptcy and other reasons, they were unsuccessful. Then, in 1952, a tourist operation began at the site and the mine was named the "Crater of Diamonds."

Biggest Finds at Crater of Diamonds

Name	Date	Uncut wt.	Cut wt.	Color
Uncle Sam	1924	40.23 carats	12.42 carats	white
Amarillo Starlight	1975	16.37 carats	7.54 carats	white
Star of Arkansas	1956	15.33 carats	8.27 carats	white
Star of Shreveport	1981	8.82 carats	uncut	white
Lamle	1978	8.61 carats	uncut	brown
Connell	1986	7.95 carats	uncut	white
Dickinson/Stevens	1998	7.28 carats	uncut	yellow
Cooper	1997	6.72 carats	uncut	brown
Gary Moore	1960	6.43 carats	uncut	canary
Roden	2006	6.35 carats	uncut	brown
Lee	1988	6.30 carats	uncut	white
Newman	1981	6.25 carats	uncut	white
Fedzora	1991	6.23 carats	uncut	white
Stockton	1981	6.20 carats	uncut	white
Schall	1981	6.07 carats	uncut	white
Cooper	1997	6.00 carats	uncut	brown
Kahn Canary	1977	4.25 carats	uncut	canary
Strawn-Wagner	1990	3.03 carats	1.09 carats	white

(Source: <http://www.craterofdiamondsstatepark.com/digging-for-diamonds/recent.aspx>)

During those years, thousands of diamonds were found. The most famous find was made in 1956 by Mrs. A. L. Parker of Dallas. Parker found the diamond after heavy rains had fallen on the freshly plowed field. The white diamond was 15.33 carats. It fueled "diamond fever" here again as the crater was overrun with diamond hunters.

In 1969, the crater was sold to a mining company and in 1972; the state of Arkansas purchased it. The site was developed into an 888-acre park nestled in a mixed pine and hardwood forest along the banks of the Little Missouri River. There is a visitor's center, gift shop, picnic area, restaurant (summer only), a 1.3-mile trail and 60 campsites with water and electricity.

Arkansas Diamonds continued –

Visitors may bring such tools as shovels, garden rakes and buckets with them or they may rent implements at the park. No motorized equipment is allowed. Two covered washing pavilions make the search for diamonds much easier. Each pavilion contains tubs of water, benches and tables where hunters can process the ore they unearth.

Those who find a stone they think may be a diamond can bring it to the visitor's center where the parks staff will determine what it is, certify and weigh it for free.

Diamonds of all colors of the rainbow can be found at Crater of Diamonds, but the three most common colors unearthed by park visitors are white, brown and yellow. Crater of Diamonds State Park is a rock hound's delight since, along with diamonds, more than 40 types of rocks and minerals can found here, too. These rocks and minerals include lamproite, amethyst, banded agate, jasper, peridot, garnet, quartz, calcite, barite, and hematite.

A news release dated 4/27/2011 is in conflict with the listing above (both articles found on the same web site), but reports the most recent big find at Crater of Diamonds. Gotta wonder what happened to the "Uncle Sam" as it is written up in Wikipedia at ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uncle_Sam_\(diamond\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uncle_Sam_(diamond)))

(MURFREESBORO, Ark.) —Many dream of finding a big diamond at Arkansas's diamond site and yesterday's 8.66-carat diamond find by Beth Gilbertson of Salida, Colorado, proves that dreams can still come true. According to Park Superintendent Justin Dorsey, "Large diamonds continue to be found here at the Crater of Diamonds State Park. Weighing 8.66 carats, this absolutely beautiful white diamond is the third largest diamond of the 27,000 diamonds found by park visitors since the Crater of Diamonds became an Arkansas state park in 1972." He said, "Ms. Gilbertson's diamond is only topped in size by the 16.37-carat Amarillo Starlight found in 1975 by park visitor W. W. Johnson of Amarillo, Texas, and the 8.82-carat Star of Shreveport found by Carroll Blankenship of Shreveport, Louisiana, in June 1981." Dorsey said, "It has been almost 30 years since we've seen a diamond of this size found at the park. And, we are all so happy for Ms. Gilbertson. "

(Source: <http://www.craterofdiamondsstatepark.com>) via News Nuggets, Oct. 2011

Minutes continued – Regular Meeting started at 7:30 P.M.

Two awards were presented to members who demonstrated outstanding dedication and commitment in 2011:

The “Service Award” was presented to **BRENDA JOHNSON** for her hard work as the Club President, as the Club Bulletin Editor, and the Club Liaison. She has also worked with other clubs to get us access to some great field trips.

The “Rockhound of the Year Award” was granted jointly to **SID** and **A.J. JOHNSON**. **Sid** has maintained a beautiful photo album recording the club’s activities and history. **A.J.** produces a monthly safety column for the club bulletin. Both **Sid** and **A.J.** open their home for regular micro-mount meetings.

Members were reminded that we need help from everyone with monthly refreshments, assignments for the August show, and ideas for field trips and monthly programs. (Sign-up forms for refreshments and the August show were on the entrance table).

Plans for upcoming programs and pre-meeting classes were discussed.

Voting for the 2012 slate of club officers was completed. New officers are as follows: President, **Sharon Waddell** – Vice President and Program Chair, **Ed Hakesley** – Secretary and Bulletin Editor, **Brenda Johnson** – Treasurer and Bulletin Proof Reader, **Dorothy Hess** – Safety Chair, **A.J. Johnson** – Historian, **Sid Johnson** – Show and Tell Table, **Mark Medley**.

November’s club minutes were read and were approved.

Dorothy Hess reported the club funds as of the meeting date were \$1,779.22.

No field trips are as yet planned for 2012, but possible destinations include the Black Rock Vulcan quarry, another fossil hunt in Kansas (5 locations visited in 2011), and a rock quarry in Tennessee.

All members and visitors were encouraged to tell their friends and family about the club, and to help increase club membership and participation, especially for beginners.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 for the December club potluck, followed by dirty Santa and bingo games with fantastic prizes!

Welcome to junior member Aiden Edwards!

Just remember: There will be no meetings in January or February. I will do another bulletin for February, and until then, have a very Happy New Year.

Brenda Johnson

**Dorothy Hess
1177 CR 1084
Mountain Home, AR 72653-6203**

