



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>

June, 2011

President/Editor	Vice President	Secretary	Treasurer/Proof Reader
Brenda Johnson	Edward Hakesley	Janel Cotter	Dorothy Hess
1424 CR 18	821-1 Alexis Circle	467 CR 7320	1177 CR 1084
Mountain Home, AR	Mtn. Home, AR 72653	Bakersfield, MO 65609	Mtn. Home, AR 72653
870-481-5697	870-424-0956	417-274-1392	870-481-5944

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

Once again nature has played its havoc with so many areas in the mid-west that I fear as I write this message many of you may be experiencing flooding along the White River and other tributaries. I would like to start by saying that we all pray for those who lost loved ones, homes and businesses in the latest storms that have crossed the U.S. It is my hope that all of you will help in any way possible; money, other donations or blood, to help those who are still suffering. Word came to me that two of the vendors who always come to our show, Marvin and Jimmy, who live in Joplin, MO, were lucky and did not sustain any great loss from the tornado that hit there. That is a blessing in itself as it was such a monster of a storm.

The President's Message continued-

I would like to ask all of the officers and show planners to arrive early for the meeting this month so that we can start discussing the last minute plans and get things worked out that might not be finalized. If you can't make it, please notify me ahead of time so that I can make sure you get the word as to what is discussed.

Harvey and I were happy that we got to go to Tupelo, Mississippi, to do a presentation on micromounting. We were well received and all in attendance seemed to really enjoy the talk and the study of the micro minerals. More will be put in this issue on that later.

With all of the rain we have been having, I would just like to caution you about two things; the areas such as quarry's you go to collect in may be much more dangerous as you pound on anything, so if you are able to get into any place, be extra careful. Also, poison ivy and oak and sumac are growing profusely. I have been suffering for almost a month now due to coming in contact with it from mulch that we bought that had been made from oak trees, and apparently the poison ivy or whatever it was, being ground in with it. Take extra precaution for such things if you are out and about. You may never have had problems with it in the past, but you have to be exposed to break out. And--the ever menacing snakes are out too. I pulled a weed out of a flower bed and had a snake come up with it. Just be careful.

Brenda Johnson

**Minutes from the May 10, 2011 meeting of the Ozark Gem and Mineral Club
Janel Cotter, Secretary**

Club President **Brenda Johnson** called the meeting to order at 7:12pm.

Show time: **Edward Hakesley** presented a Power Point presentation "Rockhounding in New Mexico." This was an excellent production by **Edward** which included the geology and geography of the area, along with safety tips and helpful research advice in planning a "rockhound" trip.

The Treasurer's report by **Dorothy Hess**: May Balance \$1511.32. **Dorothy** also has taken care of the tax exemption issue for the club.

Sharon Waddell reported all is complete for the August show; only one dealer has yet to confirm. **Sharon** also shared news of upcoming shows in Joplin, and St. Louis MO. **Sharon** has access to purchase the book "The Fossil Fauna of Mazon Creek", if anyone is interested, please contact Sharon as soon as possible for the best deal.

Club President **Brenda Johnson** addressed the issue of insurance for club. **Brenda** contacted **Michelle Hooper** for a breakdown of coverage and discovered that the shows and meetings were

Minutes continued-

not covered, this includes the hiring of individuals to assist with the set up and breakdown at the show, leaving the club and Senior Center open for law suits in the event of any accidents. **Dorothy Hess** is contacting **Michelle** to discuss the expense of coverage for the approximate 13 days of meetings and shows. **Dorothy** will inform the club members of any new information and the issue of cost.

Raffle drawing winners included our new member **John Olsen** and **Janel Cotter**.

The next Micro Mount meeting was discussed, but a definite date was not decided.

Fantastic goodies and treats for the meeting were provided by **Gretchen Neal!** Thank you!!

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03.

Safety First

By: Michal Adamowicz, Rockhound

<http://www.mindat.org/article.php/509/Beginning+Guide+to+Mineral+Collecting>

As a beginner to the hobby or even an experienced collector, safety should be a top concern. Lets just face it, rockhounding is a dangerous hobby. You get exposed to wild animals, sharp rocks, flying debris, old collapsible mine shafts, heavy & blunt tools, sharp tool, back pain from too much rock carrying, & a infinite chance of getting scrapes, bruises, cuts, & other injuries. Here is a list of some safety equipment you should have with you when you go out there:

- 1-2 safety goggles (you might loose one or have one scratched up increasing the likelihood you might take of the glasses when you hit & chip at rock) **ALWAYS WEAR SAFETY GOGGLES WHEN YOU WORK AROUND ROCKS.** Your eyes are too precious & fragile to risk, just wear the goggles, you will be glad you did, as any rockhound will tell you. It's a bit hard to drive home when you can't see. They are about 10 -40 dollars.

- Hard hat: Always a good idea when you work around cliffs, adits, and rock dumps. Wear the hat, better to be safe then sorry.

- Steel toed boots: they are always a good idea as they will protect your feet from falling rocks & sharp objects & they are usually more comfortable when compared to running shoes. Wear them & save your feet. It is around 50 dollars.

- Dust mask. This will help protect you from inhaling dust. Fine dust can lead to long term health

problems, so wear the mask when you chip rocks, or when you cut them. This is especially very important when you are dealing with radioactive & asbestos minerals. These can be a few dollars, or larger better respirators can be in the 50 dollar range. Don't cheap out here, radioactive or asbestos dust can be with you for life & cause many serious health problems.

- UV light goggles: this is when you use an Ultraviolet light to look for fluorescent minerals. The exposure to UV light will give you sunburn on the skin, but it can also burn your eyes if looked into the lamp directly & exposed for a short period of time. The goggles are a necessary addition to any person who wants to collect fluorescent minerals. They are in the 20-30 dollar range.

- Bug Spray: I mention this here because mosquitoes carry West Nile virus & it can cause serious health risks if you are exposed. Most mines or sites are located in the thick woods & you will most likely be bit by one (many is more likely) if you are not protected. So buy some bug spray with DEET & spray yourself with the "bug shield". It will greatly reduce the chance of being bit. Also wearing long clothing will help. This ranges in price from 4-10 dollars.

- Knee pads: Knee pads will greatly protect your knees from sharp rocks that could damage your knee, if that were to happen walking would be a large problem. They are inexpensive to buy & will greatly help you. They range in price from 5-40 dollars.

- First aid kit. Simply indispensable. This is useful no matter where you go, always have one with you on the trail & a more extensive one in the car. From cuts to breaks, it will always come in handy. They range in price from 15-40 dollars Canadian, depending how well stocked they are.

- Tough work gloves: the best are ones that are made of leather; they can shield you much more from scrapes but are a bit stiffer. They are an essential tool as you will use them VERY often. They cost around 5-60 dollars, depending on the quality & toughness.

These tools are all designed to keep you safe, so use them & you will feel much better. Your safety is very important so don't take any shortcuts with your life. In the wild only the prepared survive.

Radioactivity: This is more for the advanced collector but there is a good chance that a beginner will accidentally pick up a radioactive sample without their knowledge. As with all dangerous elements you must be aware of the dangers when handling such samples. A very important precaution is just to avoid the radio-actives, there are many crystals out there that are just as interesting & are much safer. Here are some precautions when dealing with radio-actives.

1. If you do have radio-actives, never cut the piece & inhale the dust. THIS is extremely dangerous as you can develop very serious health problems from the radiation exposure & the poison of the radioactive elements. Always wear a GOOD respirator when dealing with radio-actives; this goes the same for asbestos minerals.

Safety continued-

2. Wash hands after handling radio-actives, & never eat & keep food close to radio-actives also.
3. Never keep radio-actives in a place that you eat, spend a lot of time such as a bedroom or living room. It's probably just safer to keep them outside of your house.
4. Limit the amount of time you handle the piece & that you spend at a mine that has elevated radiation levels.
5. Try not to store radioactive in tightly closed boxes as this will allow for a dangerous gas, Radon to build up. Keep the box away from your home & well ventilated.
6. The best advice here is: Don't Collect Radioactive minerals as they are an unnecessary danger.

Here is a link to a good article by Allyson Rowan that explains radiation & minerals with much more detail. It is encouraged that you read this article. Just copy the link into any window.

<http://www.nexus08.clara.co.uk/article.RadioactiveMineralSpecimens.A4.pdf>

Now, you might wonder why anyone would want to collect radio-actives, when you read all the warnings above & in Allyson's article. Well a few reasons are that radio-actives are in their way somewhat rare, especially well formed crystals such as Thorite, Euxenite-Y, Betafite, & Uraninite. Despite of their rareness it's still best to avoid them, as they require considerable knowledge, precautions, & maintenance. There are plenty of beautiful crystals out there that are not radio-active. When you collect radio-actives you are playing with Dragons. But of course some of us will anyway. Know the risks.

Our program for the upcoming meeting will be a DVD on "The Sahara." Our theme for the Show-and-Tell Table will be Trilobites.

Refreshments this month are by **Harvey and Brenda Johnson.**

Refreshments for July will be by **Phyllis Proctor and Suzie Worley.**

We want to welcome new member **John Olsen** to the club.

I apologize to **Aradasa Johnson** for not being able to find the Safety Article that she so graciously sent me early in the month to include in this issue. I have misfiled it in some of the many files on my computer. I will find it and use it in the next issue, if possible.

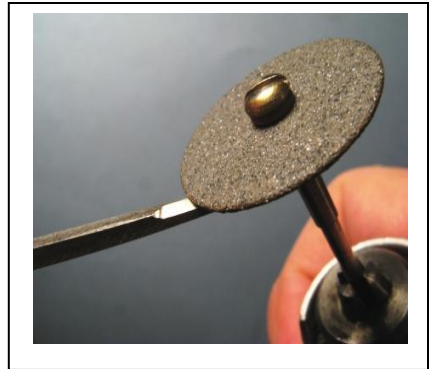
Bench Tip for the Month

MAGNETIC HOLDER FOR FILES

An easy way to keep all your files organized at the bench is to use a magnetic tool strip. They're not expensive and help keep a lot of small tools from cluttering the bench top. I got a couple of them from Harbor Freight for about \$5 each. See

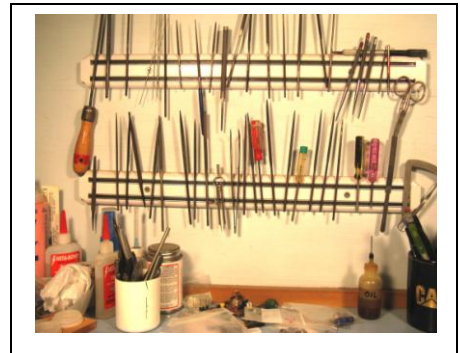
<http://www.harborfreight.com/18-inch-magnetic-holder-65489.html>

Only regret was putting some of my small drills on the magnets. The drills got a little magnetized and now stick together when I carry them in a bottle in my tool box.



FINISHING PIERCED PATTERNS

After sawing patterns there's always a little cleanup to do. Needle files (7-8 inches) can get into the larger areas, and escapement files (4 inches) can get into some of the corners. But I often find myself looking for even smaller files. Couldn't even find them at a watchmaker tools supply company, so I had to try something else. I ended up grinding down the tip of a 4" barrette file using a separating disk (or cutoff wheel) in your Dremel or Foredom.



The wheels are inexpensive and do a great job grinding steel (poor at soft metals like silver). The disks have other uses like modifying pliers and making design stamps. My preference is the one inch diameter ones as shown at

<http://www.ottofrei.com/store/product.php?productid=3919&cat=3439&page=1>

Be sure to hold the wheel firmly so nothing moves to break the disk, and definitely wear your safety glasses. A flake of steel in your eye makes for a bad day.

Used by permission

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

Why did the geologist take his girlfriend to the quarry? He wanted to get a little boulder.



GEM, MINERAL & FOSSIL SHOW

August 27 & 28, 2011

Sat. 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Sun. 10 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Van Matre Senior Citizens Center

1101 Spring Street

Cooper Park

Mountain Home, Arkansas

Gems, Minerals, Fossils

Spin & Win Games

Unique Crafts

Drawings

Grand Prize [need not be present to win]

Sponsored By:

Ozark Earth Science Gem, Mineral & Fossil Club

For More Information Call:

870-424-0956 or 870-481-5697

The History of the Corundum Hill Mine

By Fred Plesner for the *Mountain Gem*

Most of us have heard something about the Corundum Hill Mine and a few of us may have visited the site, so I shall attempt to fill in a few blank spaces about its history.

Corundum was discovered here in Macon County, North Carolina by Hiram Crisp in 1867. The Crisp family moved westward to the mountains of North Carolina in the early 1800s. Hiram and his brother James were born in Burk County, now present day Caldwell County. In 1840 the two of them decided to join their relatives in Macon County.

The Crisp families were noted as tanners and shoemakers and the two brothers brought their trade with them. They were probably the first professional tanners in this part of the state. Shortly after they arrived a Mr. Joab Moore hired them to go to what is now Clay County to tan leather for him. The two brothers returned to Franklin after a short time and met and married sisters. Hiram married Mira Dills and James married Elizabeth Dills. Hiram Crisp made his home at Cullasaja but after living there for some time he relocated his family of six children up the mountain to what is now known as Corundum Hill, it was then called the Crisp farm.

Early in the spring of 1867 Hiram was out plowing his fields when he turned up some strange rocks. Hiram had a keen interest in rocks, so he took these strange specimens to his friend Professor C. D. Smith. Professor C. D. Smith then told him that the rocks were corundum and second only to a diamond in hardness and very rare.

Although Hiram Crisp could not read or write, he had become somewhat learned in minerals and was so grateful to his friend for this information that he soon deeded a half interest in his farm to Professor Smith. They soon sold out their interest to the newly formed Ward - Jenks Corundum Mine Company of North Carolina for the sum of \$5,000, a fortune in those days.

In 1870 corundum mining began. The mine was the first corundum mine in the United States. Later a Dr. Lucas and his step-sons George and Frank Bidwell bought the mine. Buildings were soon erected and mining was soon underway in a big way. The mine shafts were extended to a mile in length and the mine was worked under the watchful eyes of armed guards. The material that was mined was put in a flume and washed down to the mill below where it was processed. It was then hauled to Dillsboro by Ox wagons where it was then shipped by rail to various points in the United States. The miners worked 12 hours a day and felt that their job was a gift from God, that they should have such a good paying steady job. Many people and businesses in the Franklin area benefitted from the mine. The boilers at the mill burned wood, so many farmers benefitted from the sale of firewood to the mill.

The mine was closed in 1902 and completely shut down for several years only to open again during World War I as it was the only corundum supply for the United States. Turkey, an enemy country, was the only other source of the corundum. Total production from the mine eventually exceeded 10,000 tons of corundum which was sold at \$200.00 at ton for a total sum that exceeded \$2,000,000.

In addition to the corundum produced from the mine, it also created many fine precious stones. There are stories that Mrs. George Bidwell had many fine pieces of jewelry made from stones found at the mine and at least one story that Joab Crisp found a diamond at the mine and having no idea of the stone's value, traded it for a suit of clothes. Hiram and Mira Crisp are buried at the Old Salem Cemetery and until his death he was known as the Unlettered Scientist of the South.

Source: The Franklin Press newspapers from 1972

MICRO MOUNTS

Floy and Bill Hawkins

Saturday (May 21) was so much fun for all who came to discover and listen to **Harvey and Brenda Johnson's** program about micromount gem, mineral and fossil collecting. It was exciting for our adult members, but absolutely astonishing for our junior members, the Rock Heads, to peer through the dissecting microscopes for the first time to see the wonders of the micro world. **Brenda** pointed out that the microscopic minerals have some of the most perfectly formed crystal structures. **Harvey and Brenda Johnson** are members of NMGMS, but they live in a part of the Ozarks in a town known as Mountain Home, Arkansas; a beautiful place to live but lacking in their hobby of collecting gems, minerals and fossils. They travel far and wide to collect their specimens and early on discovered the hazards of bringing tons of their precious cargo back to Mountain Home. That's when they decided to start their micromount collection. We are so fortunate to have such interesting members that are willing to share their expertise. However, I think I overheard **Harvey** say that he has been known to bring home some of the larger rocks.

Some of our members met at Danver's after the meeting to have more time to "chew the fat". That was when I discovered that the **Johnson's** do rock talks for their schools too. They understand that the future of any rock, gem, and mineral, fossil or earth science club is to bring the "World of Rocks" to youngsters. We are fortunate to have grown to a membership that has 31 juniors. Having been members of other clubs, it was our experience that meeting on week nights was not good for gaining a junior membership. Youngsters can't attend meetings on school nights, so our Saturday afternoon time seems to be ideal for gaining young people. Of course, doing the "rock talk" at schools, scouts, etc. has also helped get the word out about how much fun we have learning about Mother Earth and all her wonders. It takes perseverance and work on the part of our members to hold a "free admission" Kids' Day and to take the time to construct a float for the local Christmas Parade. We have gotten members from all of our efforts and feel it has been very worth while.

We are a "feel good" organization and we feel good when we can do workshops for various organizations and raise funds for our scholarships. It is so much fun to share our knowledge and we have such good times learning about different ways to collect our "gems". We appreciated **Harvey and Brenda** bringing this new way of collecting to the home of NMGMS. Thank you **Harvey and Brenda!**



Micro mounts continued



Editor's note---I want to thank all the members of the NMGMS for making us feel so welcomed and for so many of them who took the time off from their usual Saturday afternoon events to attend. It would be wonderful if we could meet on Saturdays too so that we could gain more members, especially juniors. They are what it is all about!

Dates to Remember

June

- 14 OESGM&F Club Meeting – 7:00 P.M. – Van Matre Senior Citizens Center, 1101 Spring Street, Mountain Home, AR**
- 10-12 Park Hills, MO, Missouri Mines State Historical Sit, Hwy 32, 1.5 miles W of US Hwy 67, Park Hills, MO**
- 11 Skokie, IL 3rd Annual Geodefest, St. Peter’s United Church of Christ, 8013 Laramie Ave. Contact Jeanie Mielechi, (773) 774-2054**

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

