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

September, 2010 Ozark Earth Science Gem, Mineral & Fossil Club Bulletin Page 1

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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

This year our show was better than ever. But there is always room for improvement. Our silent auction just doesn't bring in anything to speak of, ties up someone who could be working some place else, and, in some cases, causes confrontations....so I am suggesting that when we begin planning for the next show, we do away with the silent auction and use that area for another vendor. With a little planning we could get another two or three tables in that area for another vendor to set up.

The winners of our raffle drawings were: **Lori Cheney, Alton Southerland and A.J. Cantrell.** The junior prize went to **Maria Bailey.**

I want to thank **Ed Hakesley** and the **Blanchard's** for all the help in the setting up, and the tearing down and cleaning up for & after the show. You are truly a blessing.

Now that we are looking forward to fall, be thinking of places that we can take field trips. I am still working on the one to the Indiana quarry I mentioned at the last meeting. I have been in contact with the geologist who will take us in and am waiting now until he can work us into his schedule. Just be safe and remember the rules of rock hounding always. Maybe we can go to the Great Salt Plains real soon. Be thinking about it.

Brenda

**The Minutes of the August 10, 2010 Meeting
Janel Cotter, Secretary**

The meeting was brought to order at 7:05 PM.

Ed Hakesley showed “Mineral Artists” **Jeff Scovil**; a DVD of different minerals showing the complex process of photographing minerals.

There were some new guests **Jackie Gordon, Peggy Olson** and her son **Tom**, and Dorothy’s granddaughter.

Refreshments were provided by **Brenda** and **Harvey Johnson**.

No minutes from last meeting, grab bags were prepared for the upcoming show.

The club discussed the upcoming show and making last minutes adjustments. The Show is set for August 28 – 29, 2010. It was announced that we needed Silent Auction items, and set up volunteers. The set up is to begin at 7:00 a.m.

Brenda Johnson shared information concerning the Rush Program she presented to the Baxter County Historical & Genealogical Society.

Treasurer **Dorothy Hess** reported an income of \$44.00, expenditures of \$33.45 and a balance of \$1330.17 in the club account.

Brenda shared information concerning a field trip to Indiana to visit the Anderson quarry. Indiana laws and regulations on collecting are changing. The quarry is at Pendleton near Bloomington, and there are three different types of calcite to be found.

Our raffle winners this month were **Aradasa Johnson** and **Madelyn Anderson**.

On the show and tell table **Sharon Waddell** brought geodes from a recent field trip she had made, **Brenda** and **Harvey Johnson** shared auction finds from an auction they attended in Rogersville, Mo.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40

Welcome to new member
Jackie Gordon.

IT IS THE DAWNING OF THE AGE OF - SUNSHINE

By **Mel Albright**, AFMS Safety Chair

http://www.amfed.org/news/n2001_06.htm#safety

Selected by **Aradasa Johnson**, club Safety Chair

...and the moon. In their eternal dance of orbits - the sun has moved north of the equator and closer to the earth. And many people celebrate. Until late September, we're in the "spotlight" in the northern hemisphere.

But with spring and summer and the sun comes a time of high danger. Too much sunshine can be disabling or fatal.

Science reports that a major sunburn while young may bring cancer in 15-20 years. For those older, it may take several sunburns. But, there is no safety in tanning. That too leads to cancer. For all the joy of warmth and summer, the sun on skin is not a good thing.

Some people are more sensitive than others. Some, like me, can burn in only 10 minutes. Others may take 15 or 20 or 25. But no one can take as much as an hour without some damage.

Sun caused cancer is never good. But one kind can be fatal and fast. That is called melanoma. If you find a spot that is irregular, bigger than a pencil eraser, probably varied in color, or a mole-like spot that is growing - RUN to the doctor. It may be melanoma and you could be dead in a few months if it isn't treated quickly. Melanoma spreads rapidly as soon as it grows inwards enough for cells to circulate through the body. Removing it before it spreads is critical. Once it spreads, there is no cure.

There are two other types of skin cancer. These two are dangerous, but not as sudden as melanoma. If you have whitish spots and scaly spots, get checked. If you have roughened skin spots, get checked. If there is any skin damage apparent, check it out.

A personal note - I worked harvest as a youngster. I always wore a straw hat. I wore long sleeves until I tanned through the shirt. But, at 72, I still must check every 2-3 years to have actinic keratomas (small whitish spots) removed, as they are pre-cancerous. Twice, I have had to treat my face and scalp and upper chest for dangerous sun damage. I still have scars and damage on my arms and head from sun damage. So, I preach about sun safety yearly.

THE SOLUTION? You already know - sun screen. Where? On all exposed skin - arms, face, ears, ankles, neck, and more depending on your clothes. Every time you'll be out in the sun. No exceptions. The SPF number you see on the container is a time safety factor. If I use a SPF 15 product, I'll sunburn in 150 minutes instead of 15. So, screen is not prevention, but only gives you more time before significant skin damage. So, you should also wear "shady" clothes and a hat and long sleeves. Then you can hunt rocks or hike or garden or work outdoors and be safe. Just because skin cancer is slow coming doesn't make safety less important.

Grand Gulf State Park continued--

travels nine miles underground, and re-emerges at Mammoth Spring in Arkansas. Mammoth Spring flows as much as nine million gallons of water per hour, part of it from the Grand Gulf.

The steep wall of the chasm is covered with herbaceous greenery, and from the upstream end down, the canyon gets rapidly deeper. The natural bridge, which spans the canyon at about its midpoint, is some 75 feet high at the upstream end, but the ceiling drops to about 10 feet high on the downstream side. The floor of the chasm is strewn with tumbled dolomite blocks that were once part of the cave roof, now collapsed.

The mouth of the portion of the cave that has not collapsed (at the downstream end of the chasm) is blocked only a short distance inside by mud and debris that allows the water from Brussell Branch to percolate through, but bars human access. In the early 1990's, a robot vehicle, equipped with a digging tool and remote camera, penetrated a significant distance into the cave. As a result of this reconnaissance, it was determined there is no feasible way through the massive blockage to gain access to the rest of the cave.

Early explorers were able to enter the cave. Luella Agnes Owen, in her book *Cave Regions of the Ozarks and Black Hills* (1898), recounted her explorations in the Grand Gulf. After entering the cave at the downstream end of the chasm, "The ceiling dipped so we were not able to stand straight, and the guide said he had never gone farther; but to his surprise here was a light boat which I am ready to admit he displayed no eagerness to appropriate to his own use, and swimming about it, close to shore, were numerous, small, eyeless fish, pure white and perfectly fearless; the first I have ever seen, and little beauties," she wrote. Owen used the boat to explore the underground system for a considerable distance.

Access to the deeper portions of the cave remained possible until the 1920's when a severe storm washed many downed trees and other debris into the gulf, filling the cave. Today, heavy rains fill the gulf to depths exceeding 100 feet, and the water drains out slowly over a period of several weeks.

In 1971, Grand Gulf was designated a National Natural Landmark, and in 1984, the property became a Missouri state park through a lease agreement between the L-A-D Foundation and the Department of Natural Resources. The department has laid out trails and installed boardwalks at this 322-acre day-use park, and there are many picnic sites scattered on the tree-shaded rim of the chasm.

Mastodon State Historic Site

THE KIMMSWICK BONE BED

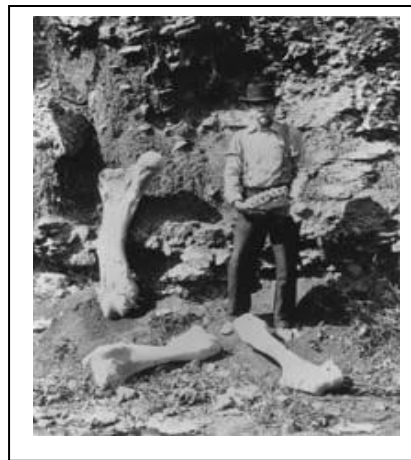
Via Missouri Department of Natural Resources www.mostateparks.com

Submitted by **Sharon Waddell**

Mastodon State Historic Site contains an important archaeological and paleontological site - the Kimmswick Bone Bed, where scientists discovered the first solid evidence of the coexistence of humans and the American mastodon in eastern North America.

At the end of the ice age that occurred from 35,000 to 10,000 years ago, the glaciers to the north were slowly melting as the earth warmed. Animals such as giant ground sloths, peccaries, and hairy, elephantlike mastodons roamed the Midwest. Paleontologists theorize that the area was once swampy and contained mineral springs. Animals that came to the springs may have become trapped in the mud, which helped preserve their bones. Early American Indians also had reached present-day Missouri by at least 12,000 years ago. For a brief period at the end of the Pleistocene epoch, the lives of humans and mastodons intertwined.

The first recorded report of bones of mastodons and other now-extinct animals in the vicinity of the town of Kimmswick was in the early 1800s. Private entrepreneur and St. Louis Museum owner, Albert C. Koch, Ph.D., investigated a report of bones weathering out of the banks along Rock Creek and conducted excavations in 1839. Thinking he had discovered a new animal, he named his find the Missouri Leviathan and exhibited it in the United States and Europe. Richard Owen, a comparative anatomist at the British Museum in London, convinced Koch the skeleton was nothing more than an American mastodon.



At the turn of the century, nationwide interest in the site was revived when amateur St. Louis paleontologist C. W. Beehler excavated several skulls, jaws, teeth, tusks and other fossils. Railroad tours from St. Louis brought many lay and professional visitors, particularly during the 1904 World's Fair, to visit Beehler's wood shack museum near the bone bed. Beehler's

excavations were not well documented so the recovery of stone artifacts in the deposits was not initially accepted as showing the presence of humans during the Pleistocene.

From 1940-1942, excavations by archaeologist Robert McCormick Adams from the St. Louis Academy of Science were sponsored by the Works Progress Administration. He recovered additional fossils but few artifacts. Other private excavations were made subsequent to his work. Unfortunately, many bones and tusks were given away, sold, taken by relic hunters or destroyed by later limestone-quarrying operations.

Public interest in the site was revived in the 1970s during construction of Interstate 55. A movement to save the site from future destruction was organized by the Mastodon Park Committee. Through the efforts of the committee, local legislators, private individuals, corporations and local school children, and with the help of a federal grant, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources was able to purchase the 418 acres containing the bone bed in 1976.

The department sponsored excavations of the bone bed in 1979, 1980, and 1984. In 1979, paleontologist Russell W. Graham of the Illinois State Museum provided the first solid evidence of the coexistence of humans and mastodons, as a stone "Clovis" type projectile point was found in association with mastodon bones. This was the first site in eastern North America where this association was conclusively demonstrated.

The Kimmswick Bone Bed is important in the history of archaeological discovery, as well as a rare example of a stratified ice age Paleo-Indian Clovis culture hunting activity, and one of the oldest known archaeological sites in Missouri (over 10,000 years old). Presently the Clovis culture is the earliest well-documented Native American occupation for North America. Clovis hunters may have contributed to the extinction of many Pleistocene animals. Due to its archaeological and paleontological significance, the Kimmswick Bone Bed was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on April 14, 1987.

Visitors may take the Wildflower Trail that begins next to the museum and leads to the site where the bones and artifacts were found. Until future excavations are sponsored by the Department of Natural Resources, the remnants of the bone bed site remain safely buried for generations to come.

**Refreshments will be by Ernie
Confer and Madelyn
Anderson this month.**

Reflective Writing

Reflective Writing

Read the example of reflective writing in the box. Then write a paragraph in the spaces below. Use correct sentence structure.

Did you know that rocks move? The earth on which we are standing is actually moving a few centimetres a year. Imagine how much force that these huge land masses must have! When they rub against each other, they can heat up and change the type of rocks to a totally new type. That's how Australian opals were formed from mud. I thought geology was for boring old people but I've discovered that I can have a profitable career in mining and learn a lot about the world around me.

Did you know that rocks _____

The interesting thing that happened in science the other day was _____

Our Show Set-up in Photos



Brendon Turner & Grandpa Cotter



Gretchen Neal



Madelyn Anderson & Ernie Confer



Jimmy Gadey



Wanda's beautiful beadwork



A nice vendor's table



Harvey Johnson with customer



Sharon Waddell & Roger Long setting up

Two New Programs for the MWF Library

By John Washburn

MWF News, September, 2010

The MWF Library is happy to announce the arrival of two new unanticipated programs. The first unexpected program is a remake of the former slide program entitled “Mines and Minerals of Rush, Arkansas” which was retired from the library after twenty years. The original program was produced in the early 1980’s by the Ozark Earth Science Club of Mountain Home, Arkansas. That club has updated the program and has put it on DVD with professional narration and background music. This very nice presentation has a run time of thirty minutes. **After discussing this program with Marge Collins, she suggested it be entered into next year’s AFMS program competition.** Thanks to the club for doing this, and **Brenda Johnson** for passing it along to the MWF.

What a great idea for other clubs to consider doing. The AFMS is paying to have all the AFMS winning slide programs put on DVD, but there are many slide programs in the MWF Library that are not AFMS winners. Perhaps clubs would consider updating their programs and having them place on DVD. And don’t forget to enter the updated program in the competition.

The second new program is one I have been pursuing for a couple of years. Three years ago, an article about the discovery of a fossil forest in a Danville, Illinois coal mine made the national news. I was tipped off about this by Bob Miller, President of the AFMS. I immediately contacted the Illinois State Geological Survey and arranged for one of the article’s authors to present the program to my home club members. I then asked the presenter about the possibility of having the Survey put the program on DVD.

Two New Programs continued...

After two years of pestering, it is finally completed. The program runs about an hour; a little long, but well worth the time. It was taped and recorded from a live program, so it does not have background music. The presenter is, however, a very good speaker and very informative. If your audience is familiar with coal mines and mining methods, that portion of the program could be skipped in order to get to the plate tectonics, geology, and paleontology portions. This would shorten the run time to about 45 minutes. Marge Collins suggests this program be entered in the professionally produced program competition next year.

Both of these programs are currently available, so plan to use one soon.

We are still looking for someone to fill the positions of program review and program competition, but everyone can help by passing along information on programs for which they may have become aware.

NMGMS ROCK SWAP

The North Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society is having its first Rock Swap Picnic October 30, 2010. The Rock Swap will be held at Ballard Park, West Main STREET/Highway 6, in Tupelo, MS. **We would like to invite all rock hounds from the surrounding areas to join our members for a day of great fun, trading and fellowship.** There is no charge to attend or to set up and trade. The area is located in a large covered pavilion with many picnic tables. There is also room to park and tailgate. Indoor restrooms, bike path, outdoor skate park, lake, Oren Dunn Museum and children's playground are close by. Bring something to trade or just come by to join the picnic, look around and visit with fellow rock hounds. The Swap is from 11 a.m. until dark The Park closes at 10p.m. We will also have a club auction. Bring a pot luck dish to share at the picnic lunch.

From Memphis take Highway 78 south and exit onto McCullough Blvd./Hwy.178 heading south. Go 1.4 miles to Coley Road. Turn right and continue 3.3 to West Main/Hwy. 6. Turn left and continue .2 mile to the Ballard Park entrance and go right until you come to the pavilion. The pavilion is on the west side of the lake.

If coming from the east, take Highway 78 to the Natchez Trace Parkway. Enter the Parkway and go south toward Jackson, MS and exit at Hwy. 6/West Main St.

Go west toward Pontotoc, less than a mile, to the Ballard Park entrance. The pavilion is on the west side of the lake.

Editor's note: This is a great opportunity. Please think about going to this.

Our Club Show in Photos Continued



Gayle Thies at Spin & Win



Bill Orr & Marvin



Harvey Johnson



Pattijane Torell & Barry



Dorothy Hess



Jimmy's Red Coral

Editor's note: Sidney Johnson took many pictures after the show began of customers at booths, so maybe for the next issue, I can get him to submit some of his photos of after we opened the doors for business.

Dates to Remember

September

11--TULSA, OKLAHOMA: Show, "Indian Nations Artifact & Fossil Show"; Bill Breckinridge and Harvey Shell; Oral Roberts University, Mabee Center, 81st and Lewis Ave.; Sat. 8-5; adults \$3, children 12 and under free; contact Harvey Shell or Bill Breckinridge, (918) 284-8216; e-mail: billbreckinridge2003@yahoo.com

11-12--SILOAM SPRINGS, ARKANSAS: Annual fall swap; Northwest Arkansas Gem & Mineral Society; clubhouse, Hwy. 43N; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-5; free admission; auction, kids' gem wash, silent auctions, grab bags; contact Dave Leining, (479) 787-5619; e-mail: hulagrub@aol.com; Web site: www.nwarockhounds.org

17-19--LINCOLN, MISSOURI: Show and swap; Mozarkite Society of Lincoln, Missouri; Lincoln City Park; Fri. 10-5, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-5; free admission; beading, public digs for Mozarkite; contact Ted Bollick, 1201 S. St., Clinton, MO 64735, (660) 890-4983; e-mail: kayshaver405@wmconnect.com ; Web site: www.mozarkite.com

24-26--JOPLIN, MISSOURI: 12th annual show, "Rock-a-thon"; TriState Gem & Mineral Society; Joplin Museum Complex, 504 Schifferdecker Ave.; Fri. 9-6, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 9-6; free admission; demonstrations, door prizes, dealers; contact Chris Wiseman, P.O. Box 555, Joplin, MO 64802; e-mail: jmc-cwiseman@sbcglobal.net

**Dorothy Hess
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